



Big Fish Lake Association Newsletter

SPRING 2026

Our BFLPOA Board

Officers

Raymond Bierbaum, Jr.-President

Ken Chemers-Vice-President

Carol Peterson-Treasurer

Chad Underly-Secretary

Board of Directors

Wayne Brazzell

Ron Colborn

Tim Jerke

Mary Kiser

Art Peterson

**Big Fish Lake Association General Meeting
May 23, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Place: The Rock.**

A Message from the President



Hello Big Fish Lake Folks,

Spring has sprung and here we are. Most everyone's docks and boats are in the water. The weather was wet and cold for a bit but it's getting better. At any rate, Memorial Day is coming too. By the time you read this we will have had our 1st lake weed treatment.

Our first meeting is Saturday, May 23rd. The Board is meeting at 8:30am with the General meeting at 10am. Myself and the Board members encourage all Lake Association members to attend. The meetings are held at The Rock. We appreciate Michael for allowing us to use The Rock for our meetings. The Rock is an asset to our Board as well as the entire lake. Thanks so much Michael,

Our first lake event is scheduled for June 13th. It's the Welcome to the Lake Party at Becky and Frank Militello's, 14723 Elm Drive, from 3 to 6pm. The association will provide beer, wine, soda and water. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share with friends. This is always a fun party and gives us the opportunity to reconnect with lake friends or even to meet new friends and neighbors. It would be great to see some new faces at the party. Thanks so much to the Militello's for hosting.

To view our other meeting and lake event dates, you can check on our "new and improved" BFL Website (bigfishlake.org). Lake resident Eric Maas took on the task of updating our website and did a fantastic job!! We have lots of information and some fun stuff on there too. You can see our latest (and past) BFL newsletters on the site. As you look through the website and newsletters take a moment to check out our many advertisers. These businesses support our Lake Association and the events we have. Please support these local businesses as they support us. Our advertisers represent a vast array of services that we all need or use in our daily lives. Please consider these businesses as you make decisions on goods and services.

We now can also pay our Lake Association dues online using the website. Check this out as you browse through.

Lake season 2026 is here so let the fun begin as we move towards celebrating our Great Nation's 250th Anniversary.



Ray Bierbaum,

Big Fish Lake POA President

Committee Contacts

Advertising – Ray Bierbaum, Jr.
 BFL Directory - Mary Kiser
 Fall Festival - Sue Brazzell
 Neighborhood Watch - Contact your block captain
 Newsletter – Phyllis Jerke
 Picnic 2026 – Tom Dinneen
 Poker Run 2026 – Ron Colborn
 Website – Eric Maas

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains

Mike Hauser – Grandview Drive
 Walt Leazenby – Red Run Road
 Kelly Lewis – Red Run Road
 Jerry Melko – Red Run Road
 Art Peterson – Fish Lake Drive
 Steve & Cheri Shepherd – Lake St/Steininger Rd
 Gary Troop – Elm Drive

BFLPOA Activity Dates – 2026

Meetings (At The Rock)

May 23 July 4 September 5

Board

8:30AM 9:00AM 9:00AM

General

10AM 10AM 10AM

Events

June 13 Welcome Party (See flyer in this issue)
 July TBD Boat Parade
 July 4 Golf cart parade presented by
 Melville's Family Campground starts at
 Noon
 July 18 BFLPOA Picnic 1 - 6PM
 August 8 Poker Run (need dock hosts)
 October 17 Fall Party 6PM

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March 2026 Came in Like a Lion, for Sure

On March 6 severe weather struck our area in the counties of Branch, Cass and St. Joseph producing severe storms and four confirmed tornadoes. An EF3 tornado hit the Union Lake area with estimated winds of at least 160 miles per hour. This weather event caused at least 4 fatalities and multiple injuries. Extensive property damage was also reported in Edwardsburg and Three Rivers.

Our Little Free Libraries



Available all year. The northside library was recently stocked with a new variety of kids' books.

Automated External Defibrillator

Now located outside the patio at The Rock.



Waldeinsamkeit

This word roughly translates to “solitude of forest” or “forest loneliness”. The name was chosen for the 168-acre property nestled between Saddlebag, Finch and Big Fish lakes. The property, situated as it is, protects 1.86 miles of shoreline on lakes that make up the headwaters of Dowagiac Creek. It is positioned within the Glacial Lakes Corridor which connects the Paw Paw River Headwaters with the Jones Conservation Area Hub. It’s a prime area of focus where land cover and usage have seen little change when compared to other parts of Southwest Michigan.

Lisa Miller loved this property and wished to keep it unspoiled. She has generously gifted the property to Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy to protect forever. Our community benefits from the water filtration process it performs and carbon sequestration it provides.

For more information on this, visit the SWMLC website at swmlc.org





*An invitation to the Big
Fish Lake POA
Welcome Party
June 13 | 3pm-6pm*

at the Militello residence
14723 Elm Drive

Meet new Neighbors, Greet Old Friends.

*Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.
Beer, wine and soft drinks will be provided.*

hope to see you there!

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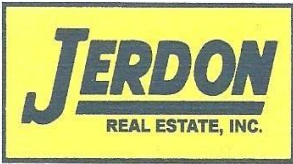
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Bob Twardowski, Owner
37704 W. Red Arrow Highway
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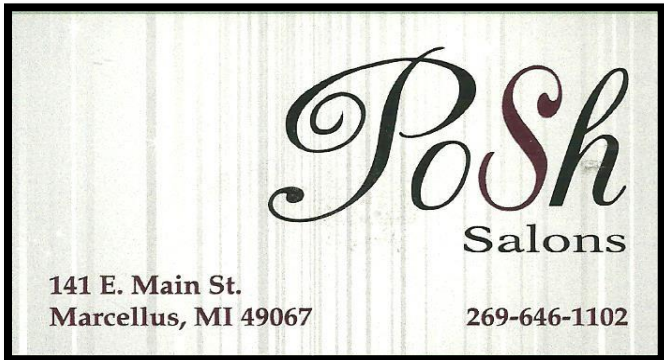
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baked potato, salad
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Terrill's Market

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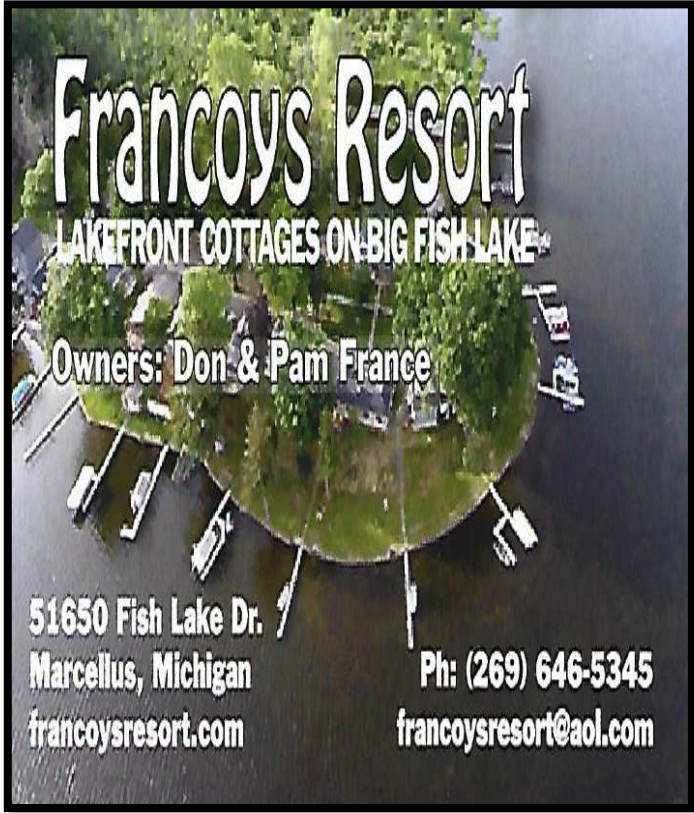
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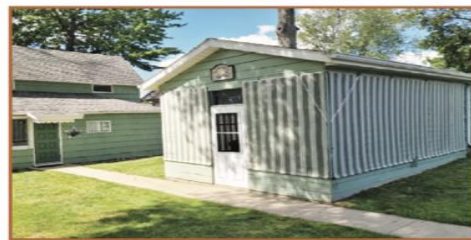


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TheRockAtBigFishLake.com

Big Fish Lake Association Annual Membership Application

We welcome all lake area residents to join the Big Fish Lake Property Owners Association. Your membership dues support lake activities and community projects. You will also receive a spring, summer, and fall newsletter.

Dues are \$25 per family. Additional \$14 (optional) for the Riparian magazine.

Membership Enrollment Form:

Date Completed: _____

Name(s): _____

Lake Address: _____ 2nd address _____

City: Marcellus State: MI ZIP: 49067 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email address: (needed so you will receive our newsletters and important announcements)

Mark selection: Dues: \$25 _____
 Riparian: \$14 _____
 Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to BFLPOA. Mail to: BFLPOA, Attn: Carol Peterson, Treasurer, PO Box 601, Marcellus, MI 49067

