

Keeping the Community Natural by Alexandra Durant, ELM Committee Member

Twice a year we seem to focus on trees: spring and fall. We welcome the sprouting of leaves on bare branches as a sure sign of awakening life, better weather, and the growing season. In fall, we glory in the spectacular leaf colors. But when they are done, we are a little sad that this change heralds leaf blowing and winter. I'd like you to think about trees more often, however. Have you ever wondered why trees grow where they do? It's all about site factors: climate, soil, and topography. Here on the Allegheny Plateau (the Poconos to most of us) we have a cold and rainy climate with silt and clay soil. As for topography, we have slopes on which trees pick an aspect (where the slope faces) to get the best sun, water, and wind. Tree size is not directly related to age, but to the amount of sun a tree receives. Steeper sites have shallow soil and smaller, weaker trees are at the top of mountains.

In our neck of the woods, the trees are mature and due for new, emergent growth. In addition to age and location, other challenges our trees have are competitive invasive, herbaceous growth, and deer. Successioning (the change of vegetation over time) is dependent on site quality, tree history of the area, current practices, and species composition. How to advance succession woods? Control invasive (like Tree-of-heaven, Norway Maple; the myriad plants and bushes, like Japanese and European Barberry, Butterfly Bush, and Japanese Stilt grass), plant new native trees and protect them from deer, trim the crown of mature trees to let in more light. We have an ever-growing population of Beech trees that need to be counterbalanced by other native species (Serviceberry, Red Maple, Canadian Hemlock). So map out/survey your property and think of these and their placement when you are improving your woods.

Safety Question of the Month!

How do I install a proper fire pit? With the cold weather here, sitting outside by the warm fire perfectly fits the season here at Big Bass Lake, but you need to follow the rules. Fire pits must be covered and manufactured with a screen top. At BBLCA there is no open burning and having a covered fire pit is essential. Man made fire pits are not allowed and must be dismantled. To get a fire pit approved please email a picture of the fire pit you are interested in to admin@bblca.com before purchasing.

Black Friday Extended Pool Hours!

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of Black Friday Holiday shopping with a dip in the indoor pool! The indoor pool will be open from 11am to 6:45pm on November 26th for one day only. See you poolside after spending the day buying gifts!

November Events

Event	Date	Time	Location
Harvest Fest	November 6th	1pm-6pm	All Purpose Field
Thanksgiving with Friends	November 13th	5pm-8pm	Clubhouse
Crafternoon	November 16th	12pm	Library

LAKE LEDGER



A Monthly Newsletter from Big Bass Lake Community Association



Cold Weather Walking!

When it comes to the cold weather, we often think of reading a book while sitting next to a warm fire or snuggling up with a cup of hot chocolate. However, there is one activity that can help you stay fit instead of staying indoors! Cold weather walking is a great way to get out of the house and experience fall in November.

The cold weather can help us too! According to the American Journal of Human Biology, people can burn 34% more calories taking a cold weather hike than hiking in warmer conditions. Here are some tips for cold weather walking:

- Dress warm! It may seem obvious, but dressing warm is essential, especially if you're walking a long distance.
- Know your route! Track where you're going on your phone or map, and let someone know where you're going too!
- Stay hydrated! Even though it's cold, be sure to pack a water bottle to stay hydrated on your walk.

Harvest Fest at BBLCA!

Join BBLCA for Harvest Fest on November 6th at the All Purpose Field! Get excited for relay games, pumpkin painting, a petting zoo, pony rides, a scarecrow contest, food from The Brunch Trunk, and desserts like apple cider donuts.

The fun starts at 1pm and goes on until 6pm. Stop by for an unforgettable fall afternoon with BBLCA!

Hygiene for the Homeless

BBLCA will be collecting travel sized toiletries and helpful small items for the homeless!

A donation box is located at the Admin Building and collection will last until November 16th. Volunteers are welcome to put collected items together on the 16th at 11am in the Admin Office.

Watch the Birdie by Alexandra Durant

Field Sparrows are small birds with short, conical bills that are pinkish in color. Slender, round-headed, and sporting a long tail, this warm brown bird has white eye-rings without the dark slash that distinguish the Chipping Sparrow. Instead, it has a rufus line behind its eye and a rusty cap on a light gray head. Its white throat is bordered by warm orange splotches. Field Sparrows can be found in areas of tall grass with shrubs and trees nearby. They can easily be overlooked because they blend into their habitat and will duck and cover if disturbed. They can be heard, however, as the male is a prodigious singer in spring and summer from a high perch (choir loft?), which indicates ownership of the territory. The Field Sparrow forages for insects (anything from spiders to grasshoppers to moths) and seeds.



During summer they often visit your feeder for a taste, although they are shy around people. They switch to seeds and grains which they can find in their winter homes in the southern US and Mexico where they forage in small flocks (collectively called a “crew” of sparrows) near the ground, many times mixing with other sparrow species. During mating season, the nest is an open cup shape built under cover on the ground. Subsequent nests (up to five broods per season!) are built higher up to avoid snakes and other predators. Almost always monogamous, the female will accept materials from her mate, then she builds the nest alone, after having visited a number of sites to find the best one. The male keeps watch over the nest and tries to prevent cowbirds from laying eggs in it. In Spirit Lore, the sparrow is a symbol of peace and joy.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB MEETING!

November 16th, 2pm at the Admin Building
Whistling Past the Graveyard by
Susan Crandall
Hosted by: Carol Q.

LOCAL EVENTS

Scranton Chocolate, Wine & Whiskey Festival!
Make your taste buds feel good with the Scranton Chocolate, Wine & Whiskey Festival at the Genetti Manor! Enjoy all different types of chocolate, premiere wines, craft beers, ciders, and fine whiskey.

Tickets are \$35-\$60 and the festival is November 13th at 1505 N. Main Ave in Dickson City from 11:30am-9pm.

Shrimp Fest!

Join The Dock on Wallenpaupack for weeks of shrimp! Try all different flavors of shrimp from 11:30am-8pm. From now to November 24th.

Located at 205 Route 507 in Hawley!

Model Railroad Club Open House!

The Hudson Model Railroad Club will host an open house on November 26th from 5pm to 9pm, November 27th and 28th from 12pm to 5pm. Visit them online at hudsonmodelrailroadclub.org or on 97 Martin St. in Plains!

LOCAL LIBRARY TO VISIT!

Stop by the North Pocono Public Library to take a minute and relax with a good book!

Located 1315 Church St. Moscow, PA 18444

Open Monday-Thursday 9am-7pm and Friday 9am-5pm,
Closed Sunday

Give them a call at: 570-842-4700

Visit them online: www.lclshome.org/home

WHAT NOVEMBER IS ALL ABOUT!

Military Family Month! November recognizes the commitment, dedication, and sacrifice families make to their service members. This dedication began in 1996 and since has grown nationwide. Be sure to thank a service member to honor this month.

Aviation History Month! Keep an eye to the skies during this month to observe the art of flight. Aviators like Amelia Erhardt, the Wright brothers, and the Tuskegee Airmen are heroes recognized this month. To celebrate this month read up on aviation and pilots throughout history!

Weekly Events at the Admin Office

- Stretch & Walk Exercise by Video
9am Monday & Thursday
- Cards/Mahjong/Canasta 1pm
Monday & Thursday
(Looking for new players! Contact Admin for details)
- BBL Art Workshop 1pm Wednesday

Annual Big Bass Lake Food Drive

BBLCA is looking for food donations that benefit the NEPA community!

Please drop off donations during Admin Building hours, canned goods and non-perishable items are highly appreciated! Deadline for drop-offs is November 18th.



Big Bass Lake will participate in Toys for Tots by collecting toys for children for Christmas!

A donation box will be located in the Admin Office to drop unwrapped toys off. The deadline for drop off is December 11th.

Important Contact Information

Emergency (fire/ambulance/police) 911
E-Mail: admin@bblca.com
Administration Office 570-842-6388
Main Gate (24hrs) 570-842-0991
Larsen Gate 570-842-0992

Facility Hours of Operation Rec Center/ Indoor Pool, Fall/Winter Hours:

Wednesday 6pm-8pm, Friday 5pm-8pm,
Saturday 11am-6:45pm, Sunday 11am-4:45pm

Thanksgiving with Friends



Join the Big Bass Lake community for our annual Thanksgiving with Friends at the Clubhouse!

Enjoy delicious food and get to know the people around you November 13th. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the Admin Office. Children under 5 are free! Reserve now, seating is limited!

November Meeting Dates

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Architecture Review Committee	November 6th	8:00am	Admin Building
ELM Committee	November 13th	10:00am	Admin Building
Board of Directors	November 20th	8:30am	Clubhouse