

Our Lake of the Month is Lake June-in-Winter in Lake Placid (set your GPS to 27.2963 -81.3648). The elevation of Lake June-in-Winter is 72'.

View Lake June-in-Winter Topo Map

<http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/RevisedMaps05/HighlandsMaps/PlacidHighlandsMap.pdf>

Lake June-in-Winter also known as Lake June or Lake Stearns is second largest and one of the better known lakes in Highlands County. The lake has public access at H.L. Bishop Park located off Lake June Road and Lake June Park located off Harris Avenue. Both parks have boat ramps, swimming areas, covered picnic tables, BBQ grills, playgrounds, and restrooms. H.L. Bishop Park also has a fishing pier.

In the early 1920s the Lake Childs Company was established in the town of Lake Stearns, FL in order to develop land in the area. The company was aided by Dr. Melvil Dewey, who owned the Lake Placid Club of New York and was looking to establish a Lake Placid Club South in the Lake Stearns area. He requested that the name of the town be changed to Lake Placid, and that two lakes in the area, Lake Childs and Lake Stearns, be renamed Lake Placid and Lake June-in-Winter respectively. Dewey had a summer home on Lake June in New York, and the lake in Florida was to be its winter counterpart.

Lake June is heavily used for all forms of water recreation; swimming, boating, water skiing and tubing, jet skiing, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The approximate maximum depth of the lake is 50' with an average depth of 22'. Lake June-in-Winter State Park is located on the SW corner of the lake. This 845-acre park contains a high concentration of rare plants and animals and affords excellent views of Lake June-in-Winter.

Lake June-in-Winter is an great fishing lake. Sought after species include largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, and catfish. If you don't have a boat, you can fish off the pier at H.L. Bishop Park. Please check with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to make sure you have the appropriate license (myfwc.com).

The water levels of Lake June-in-Winter are controlled by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Lake June's overflow waters are released through Stearns Creek and into Jack Creek via a canal and water control structure built in the 1960s. The water is then received by Lake Francis.

