

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

On February 1 the Bass Lake winter really began. Lake level was minus 17 inches, just like on January 1. I was reminded of winter 1971. 1971 was the only year I left my Shore Station in the lake. Well, not in the lake, rather on the sandy shore far from water's edge. I was surprised in the spring that two of the blocks I wisely placed under the station's feet had been knocked out by the ice. Bass Lake water can rise quickly or not. I wonder about the 2021 level. Although January had almost 3 inches of rainfall the level did not seem to come up. Average rainfall for February, March and April over the past 20 years has been a combined total of 10 inches. Therefore, if 2021 turns out to be average, the lake level on May 1 might be minus 7 inches. Of course, our pump should be pumping. That could help. Maybe more pumping would help more.

The February 6 Property Owners' meeting: The entire Board and 15 property owners were present. First, previous minutes approved, then AJ Gappa reported a December financial balance of \$211,827.06. The approved 2021 Annual Letter and Membership Form will go out by email mid February. All members will receive them by US mail at the end of March. Ron Vendl, Mary Topelian and Kathy Laiter were thanked for their work on the Directory. Building party rentals will be a meeting agenda item until they resume. Terry Chmiel reported the boating class will be June 5 at Bass Lake. Social Events Planned: The July 17 Bike Ride, the October 23 Soup Social and the December 4 Christmas Bizarre are anticipated. Ti Jones talked about organizing a "Century Bike Ride" the week after Labor Day - it might be coordinated with the Park Board. Neighborhood Watch reported on activities. The glacial stone project was reviewed and a possible farmers' market was discussed. The marina may get a mural painted by artist Anthony Brooks. Our camera system may need an upgrade; A tech savvy property owner offered to look over our system and offer advice. The Solar Farm and rezoning will continue to be on the Commissioner's meeting agenda; their next meeting is scheduled for February 15. If you are concerned about speeding around the lake, please report your concern to the Sheriff's Office. The BLPOA Board still has a vacant Director position. Being on the BLPOA Board is a great opportunity to meet your fellow property owners and become involved in lake community activities. Contact a Board member to learn more.

Both Jane and I were impressed with Starke County's COVID-19 vaccination program. It was well organized and professionally run; the backbone of the program was the volunteers. Arriving 20 minutes before our scheduled appointments, we were treated to a pleasant atmosphere, friendly conversation and actually released to leave in less than 30 minutes. After our first vaccination shot we were asked to sit down and wait 10 minutes; even with that, it was out in under 30. Indeed Starke County has an organization with a great volunteer group coordinating the COVID-19 vaccination program.

I'm wondering about how the Solar Farm will turn out. If you are too, stay tuned. I'll keep discussing upsides, downsides and whatever with whoever. Makes for great conversation over drinks and even lunch. If at the "V", a \$1 donation might also win you \$213,659. And, donations aren't limited to \$1. *Stay safe & healthy, Rick*

Property Owners Association—Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, March 8 at 6:00 p.m., BLPOA Building

Exercise Class: M—W—F at 8:00 a.m. BLPOA Bldg.

Prairie Trails Club—The next meeting is scheduled for March 11 at 5:30 p.m., CST (6:30 p.m., EST) by video-conference. Email kathleenlucas216@gmail.com to receive an invite to the meeting.



Recent visitors to Bass Lake include a large flock of geese (that never seems to fly south for the winter.) Also, quite a few ice fishermen are enjoying the lake this month!

Solar System Model—Last year, Jessica Martinović of the Starke County Community Foundation obtained a \$100,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment's GIFT VII program for arts and cultural opportunities as pursued by the Foundation and Constellation of Starke. Included was \$25,000 dedicated to the In-Scale Model of Our Solar System. The project envisions placement of exhibits for the Sun, planets and other heavenly bodies in our solar system along the Erie Trail sized and distanced to scale. A workgroup was formed to help implement the grant with Territorial Engineering providing design. The Sun exhibit would be near the Main Street, North Judson Trailhead with other exhibits to the southeast. As an example, the Neptune exhibit would be placed on the Erie Trail just west of US 35. *Submitted by Steve Lucas, Community Volunteer*

Bass Lake Fire Department

The Bass Lake Fire Department relocated to this new facility in 1947 on land donated by the Hausler family. Earlier the fire department had been located at Vergin's Garage in Winona, the small town located at the northeast corner of the lake. This photo appears to have been taken sometime in the 1950s. In more recent years, the firehouse was remodeled and is now home to the Bass Lake Property Owners Association.



Former Fire Chief George McCormick is standing second from the right. *Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*

Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President ~ Rick Anderson
Vice President ~ Mary Topelian
Treasurer ~ A. J. Gappa
Secretary ~ Kathy Laiter

Board Members

- Terry Chmiel
- Mary Jesso
- Rich Linkus
- Rik Ritzler
- Gayle Smith
- Ron Vendl
- Open position

Board member contact information is on our website:
www.inbasslake.com

BLPOA Membership Dues

Your 2021 Membership dues which includes the directory, garbage fees and optional recycling fees are due by June 30! Please use the 2021 form. If you have not received it, you can find it on the website, under the membership tab:

www.inbasslake.com

2021 Bass Lake Festival is On!

The Bass Lake Festival will be July 23—25. We need enthusiastic volunteers to help manage events. Contact Mary Topelian, mjtopelian@att.net.

Spring Master Gardener Training

The Purdue Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Program will hold a statewide virtual Extension Master Basic Gardener Training on Wednesdays, March 3 through June 2, 2021, from 1:30-3:30 PM ET / 12:30-2:30 PM CT via live webinars. Final exam given after June 2. There will also be a weekly local connection hour with your county's Extension Master Gardener coordinator on Mondays at 12:00 Pm ET/11:00 AM CT. To register, contact Phil Woolery at pwoolery@purdue.edu. The cost for program is \$175 for an individual with the print version of the Purdue Extension Master Garden Manual, or \$270 for two people sharing a print version of the Purdue Extension Master Garden Manual. Scholarships may be available through the local Master Gardener Association.

PTC Trail Extension News—The DNR has approved our engineering plans for the southwest extension, and the bidding process has begun!

Glacial Stone Grants—This is the final year of our LARE grant for glacial stone seawall projects. We have 75% of our funding to spend, over \$25,000. If you are interested in accessing this funding for a 2021 project, please contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com by March 1. Given the average size of our projects, we have enough funding for 15—18 additional projects.

Solar Farm Dialogue - The Starke County Commissioners have rezoned some but not all of the farm parcels involved in the project. If you have questions or would like to learn more about the project and the potential pumps at Bass Lake contact the Starke County Commissioners regarding the project: Charles Chesak (charlesrc2003@hotmail.com), Bryan Cavender (bryancavender@yahoo.com) and Mark Gourley (mgourley@co.starke.in.us). Note that the Lochmueller Group has already been engaged by Global Energy Generation to develop a plan related to the potential new pumps at Bass Lake. If you have questions about the proposed solar farm, the CEO of Generation Energy Generation Nick Cohen is happy to answer questions, ncohen@gegrenewables.com.

From Producer to Consumer: The Lake's Pecking Order By Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams

There is a pecking order in Bass Lake, a "who-eats-who" directory that results in organisms eating or aiding other organisms in sometimes unexpected ways. In ecology, we call this a food chain, or a food web. You can read more about each of these on our blog: lakes.grace.edu/freshwater-lake-ecosystem. To learn more about healthy lake habitats, visit lakes.grace.edu or call 574-372-5100, ext. 6445.

Every food chain level is important for a balanced and healthy lake habitat. So where do you fit in? Help reduce the chance for algae blooms by avoiding harmful or excessive fertilizers and lawn treatments. Another way easy way to help is by signing up for the Lilly Center's monthly e-newsletter. Staying informed about lakes and their inhabitants is one of the best ways to protect and preserve both. Sign up at lakes.grace.edu/get-involved! For a full transcript of this article, contact Kcarrier@briljent.com.



Starke County is the only county in "blue" on the State's recent COVID map, indicating downward trend in COVID positivity. Three cheers for Starke County!

DNR Safe Boating Class—This year's Boater Education and Safety Class will be offered at Bass Lake on June 5 at the BLPOA building. Registration information will be in future newsletters! If you have questions, contact Terry Chmiel, etowncopper50@aol.com.

Monthly Photo Contest—Michelle Albon from the Bass Lake Marina suggested that we hold a monthly photo contest! Let's do it. Each month, we'll take any and all photos of our lake and using the marina team as our judges, we'll publish the winning photo each month in this newsletter and at the marina. Submit your photo, please include the date during the month that the photo was taken and a photo caption. Winners will receive the honor of winning and a gift card to a local eatery. Photos should be submitted to: Kcarrier@briljent.com by March 1.

Fantastic Free Lake Webinars - The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership recently announced its 2021 Lake Conservation Webinars. These free webinars address a diversity of lake and fish habitat management issues from wake boats to watersheds, from Ogaa (Walleye) management to social marketing, and from algae research to limnology from space. You can see the full lineup as well as archives of past webinars at www.midwestglaciallakes.org or email Joe Nohner, nohnerj@michigan.gov.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) - Precipitation for January was **2.78** inches. Directors Russ Blais and Jerry Broadstreet have submitted the requisite information and fees for the 2021 LARE (Lake & River Enhancement) Grant. The BLCD directs LARE endowments toward lake weed maintenance. If approved by the Indiana DNR, the BLCD is expected to receive approximately \$5,000 in funding dollars. The BLCD expects to receive approval status – including any funding dollars – late March or early April. NOTE: the state does not disperse any funds until work is performed.

Last year the BLCD received \$6,280.00 in LARE funding. \$5,000.00 was for weed maintenance and \$1,280.00 for two weed studies as required by the DNR before any treatments were approved. The spring study identified approximately 456 acres of the invasive Milfoil. However only approximately 157 acres were approved for treatment. Not including the LARE dollars, the BLCD paid out an additional \$61,258.40 for Milfoil and shoreline Phragmites treatments.

Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. CST at the BLPOA building. **Face masks are required.** If you should have any questions/concerns – or want to register your email address with us (for our new email service) – please call the BLCD office at 574 772-2974 or email us at info@blcd-ind.org. Submitted by Larry Collura – Vice Chairman BLCD



The new Veteran's Memorial Square is complete in Knox by the courthouse. Stop by to enjoy this beautiful new monument. Even during a pandemic, our local community raised money and completed this important project.