

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Rainfall and the pump should have water flowing over the dam before April's end. Last April, I measured lake level at minus 13 inches. 2022 will certainly be different than 2021. All over the lake, piers are going in. Some shore stations are already in too. Boat owners who kept their boats and lifts on the shore last year seem ready not to repeat that. Looks like a great season is ahead of us. Aquatic vegetation concerns me some. We did have a hard winter and water clarity is about 12 inches less than last year blocking some sunlight. Aquatic Control will be soon doing a weed survey. A LARE grant has been applied for and hopefully the Conservancy District will receive DNR approval to treat weeds where and when needed.

After two years of COVID, traditional Bass Lake handshakes and hugs should be back. Our taverns, restaurants and local businesses are ready for a great season. BLPOA rentals have resumed and this year we will be having the spring "Meet & Greet". The first "A Taste of Bass Lake Pizza" has been sent out using our email distribution. Send in your \$5.00 and tell your friends to send theirs in too. That is how names get on the "Who's Coming So Far List". When you are on the list, you will find your experience at the door easier. The event is on Saturday, May 21. When more members know each other, friendships develop and our lake becomes a better community. Previous "A Taste of Bass Lake Pizza" events had over 300 sign up and many new friendships began. Also, seems pizza is a good break from spring cleaning and doing lake stuff like pier painting. The doors will open at 5:30 with pizza, pop & water being served at 6:00 pm. In previous years the event was over and all cleaned up by 7:30. That will leave plenty of time for "after parties".

The April 2 Property Owner meeting: Minutes were approved along with the Treasurer's report. We have six candidates running for Starke County Sheriff. Along with candidates for other offices, they will be speaking at "Candidates Night" in the Knox Community Center on April 18 at 6:00 pm. For this year's DNR boating classes, you can find details and sign-up on line on the DNR website. Conservancy District meetings are the second Monday of the month at the BLPOA building at 6:00 pm. Weeds will certainly be discussed. Individual property owners can still treat 625 sq. ft. of weeds in front of their lake homes. I have used Hydrothol Granular for treatment which I obtained from Aquatic Control in Valparaiso. There is a committee for a new welcome sign at 600 South and E. CR 210. More details on this will be coming. Construction work has begun on the solar farm and last month the BLPOA signed a Doral "Term Sheet" agreement outlining expectation for a second pump. If you are at the Knox VFW, tickets for the \$630K grand prize are still \$1. Besides reasonably priced drinks and great food you can ask about the \$100 Easter egg believed to still be in the lake. *Stay safe and healthy, Rick*



Grace Hehemann submitted this photo of Bass Lake fishing in early March in frigid weather!

New Member Welcome Folders—If you know anyone who is new to our community, we will send our welcome packet. Send all interested people to Mary Jesso, mary@jessolution.com.

BLPOA Membership Drive and Golf Cart Inspection—There are only two this year! Pay your membership and garbage fees on May 21 and June 11. Golf cart inspections are on May 21 and June 4. There is a new golf cart inspection form this year which you can find on the Starke County and BLPOA websites.

Property Owners Association—Saturday, May 7 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA Building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building, no first quarter meetings

Exercise Class—At the BLPOA Building each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Prairie Trails Club—The next Membership meeting is Thursday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) at the BLPOA building. www.prairietrailsclub.org

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (sewers, pump & lake weeds) May 9, 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach & Campground): May 10 at 6:00 p.m., Starke County Annex

May 21 "Taste of Bass Lake" Pizza Party—One of our popular events is a "Taste of Bass Lake Pizza" which is on May 21, as lake season begins. The planning committee of this 3-hour event has begun it's work. Contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

Purdue Extension's D-I-Y Lawncare Program Gives You the Skills Needed to Create Your Dream Lawn Make your lawn the talk of the neighborhood with Purdue Extension's DIY Lawncare program! Do you want to learn how to have a greener, healthier lawn? Join us for this series where you will receive the skills and knowledge on the turf management basics needed to lay the groundwork for creating, establishing, maintaining your lawn. DIY Lawncare is a four-week course designed for homeowners, property renters, and homeowner associations. Session topics include: Basics of Taking Care of Lawns; Lawn Pests and Problems; Weed Identification and Management; Seeding Establishment and Lawn Renovation. Whether new or experienced, understanding the basics of turf management will help you create a lawn that others will look at with envy. Purdue Extension is pleased to be offering four classes from April 21 to May 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Winamac First United Methodist Church (201 E Spring Street). The cost to attend this program is \$20 per person, which includes supporting materials and resources for all sessions. We recommend registering early. Registration ends April 15. Register at <https://cvent.me/n4VmMg>. For more information contact Phil Woolery at 574-946-3412 or email at pwoolery@purdue.edu.

Starke County Residential Hazardous Waste Collection—Location: 3835 E. 250 N, Knox on Saturday, May 7 from 8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. CDT. The Starke County website has a great flyer with what is acceptable.

Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President Rick Anderson
 Vice President Rich Linkus
 Treasurer A. J. Gappa
 Secretary Kathy Laiter

Board Members
 • Tom Busch
 • Terry Chmiel
 • Mary Jesso
 • Rik Ritzler
 • Val Williams
 • Ron Vendl

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

DNR Boating Class—Contact Terry Chmiel for the NE Indiana dates and locations for the DNR boating class: etowncopper50@aol.com.

Zippy Photos Needed for Website!
 We are updating the photos for the website. We are in search of unusual Bass Lake photos—not sunsets or piers. Send us fun, emotional and funny photos. All photo contributors will receive a Really Big Prize (as defined by this newsletter editor.) Send your photo submissions to kcarrier@briljent.com.

BLPOA Building Rentals —If you are looking for space for a party or family reunion, the well maintained BLPOA building can be rented by members for \$125. Contact Rich Linkus for details, linkusr1@hotmail.com. Note that not-for-profits can use the building at no cost.

Buoy Master Notes—It's almost time for the buoys to be returned to the lake. Before you do so, please look them over. All BLPOA buoys are supposed to be assigned a number. If you have a buoy you are not using, please contact us to pick it up. If you would like to host a buoy please contact us. If you have issues or questions, please contact our buoy master Gary Laiter, weskii4@yahoo.com(773) 750-4049. Buoy on!

BASS LAKE INDIANA YACHT CLUB INFO:



Trailhead Project Derailed—At a March meeting of the Starke County Commissioners the bathroom was cut from the Bass Lake Trailhead Park. This was a planned welcome area, with a parking lot and bathroom, that was part of the Stellar Community award. Many found this news upsetting because the new welcome area (at the intersection of 450E and CR 210 E) would be an asset to our lake. In response, there is a growing group of people who are donating money and putting their effort into making it happen. If you'd like to make a donation or learn more, contact volunteer extraordinaire, Larry Wickert, lwickert6@hotmail.com.

Update from Camryn Kopka—Park Superintendent The beach and campground opening dates are getting closer! Work is underway at the campground getting everything ready for this year's camping season. This year at the beach we are renting out bikes, kayaks, and life jackets. Be sure to watch for announcements on our Facebook page for upcoming events at the beach and campground. We plan to fill this summer with a lot of activities for the community to come together and enjoy. Camryn can be reached at: ckopka@co.starke.in.us



Construction has started at the solar farm. If you'd like to see it, head over to 600 E and 800 S.

Bass Lake Conservancy District - Good news!

The lake water is at the top of the weir. March rainfall came in at 3.27". Year-to-date rainfall is 7.07". The lake pump added 33.4 million gallons into our lake. Get your boats and water toys out. A "Do Not Flush" poster is available on our website to remind your guests (especially those with Airbnb properties) to flush only toilet paper and human waste into the sewer system. It is on our website page under "Important Message About The Sanitary Sewers." There is a wealth of information available for you on the website including how to make automatic payments of your sewer bill. Take a look.

Lastly, rest assured that what can be done, will be done with regards to treating invasive lake vegetation. The DNR has approved the spring survey on May 2, weather permitting. They wanted late May, but we are determined to manage it. The ideal water temperature for lake vegetation growth is 50—60 degrees F. The current temperature is 51 degrees. We have awarded the contract to Aquatic Control to treat the lake as soon as the DNR releases the Bass Lake permit. The DNR controls the timing of our treatment plan. The BLCD Board wishes you a fun and safe summer. *Submitted by: Russ Blais, BLCD Board Member, www.blcd-ind.org.*

Bass Lake Festival—The festival will be held July 29, 30 & 31. Check the festival website for

THE DIRTY DOZEN

These items should NEVER be flushed down the toilet

When these items are flushed down the toilet they can cause problems in our homes, wastewater treatment network and the environment

 Q-Tips	 Flushable Wipes	 Cleaning Wipes
 Cleansing Pads	 Toilet Roll Tube	 Medicines
 Cigarettes	 Medical Supplies	 Diapers
 Tampons	 Tampon Applicator	 Sanitary Pads

Please put these items in the bin and NOT down the toilet

Bass Lake Conservancy District
www.blcd-ind.org
 574-772-2974

Clean in Coasts

LUSCE WATER

Don't You Flush

Think Before You Flush is a trademark of the Starke County Clean Coasts Program in partnership with the State.

information, www.basslakefest.com. Committees are moving forward with this year's plans and help is needed. Contact Tabitha Dillner for further information, (219) 314-2030 or [Mary Topelian](mailto:MaryTopelian), mjtopelian@att.net.

3rd Annual Bloomer Run—The Prairie Trails Club (PTC) is participating in the April 23 Bloomer Run in North Judson. PTC will have a tent at the event to answer questions about the new trail extension and to share their intent to extend the Erie Trail through North Judson toward English Lake.

Cleave's Chute

About 100 years ago, Cleave's Chute was a popular attraction at Bass Lake. It was located on the lake's northeast side at Winona and included a beach, where one could even "rent" bathing suits. We can only imagine how fast what looks like a traditional toboggan would have zoomed down this 30 foot drop into the water. Tom Cleave was the owner and operator of this early Bass Lake establishment.

Soon another slide, even higher, was constructed at the south end of the lake at Bass Lake Park where Rannell's Park was later located. *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*



The historical photos displayed in our newsletter are part of a rich archive of photos and other historical items at the Starke County Historical Society.