

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 7 NO. 11

NOVEMBER 2020 — BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

This November is a November where you can take a walk and observe Bass Lake's sandy bottom. Some are calling our sandy bottom the sandy shores. Whichever expression you choose, it means lake level is down. So how much is lake level actually down? How much water do we need to refill our lake? I remember one day, many years ago, when the lake was calm and lake level was almost exactly at the "Top of Dam". It was on that day that I navigated to the Marina, gassed up and measured the distance from the top of the concrete by the south gas pump to the water surface. The distance was less than a foot; eleven inches to be exact. So what is the distance this November? I always like to go to the Marina and talk with Shelly. Well, hi Shelly, how are you and what's going on; conversations usually begin something like that. Do you have a tape measure? You want my tape measure? What do you want that for? I want to measure how much the lake is down. I explained the eleven inch thing. So at the south gas pump, together we measured 29 inches. Then we did a little math; twenty-nine inches take away eleven inches leaves eighteen inches. That's old math and that's where we were, the lake was down eighteen inches from the "Top of Dam". Five days later I returned; the lake had dropped another inch to down nineteen. We need rain; since 2003, the only year that had less rainfall was 2012. That year the lake dropped 20 inches. Here's some good news, between our pump, rain & snow, lake level returned to full in the spring of 2013. I hope the spring waters of 2021 rise to match the spring waters of 2013.

The last BLPOA meeting was October 3rd and the next will be February 6th. Even so, projects will remain active: Much faded & tattered "Welcome to Bass Lake" signs will be replaced. Designs for a new sign at the three-way stop on East CR 210 are being considered. The Property Owners Building garden is being redone. The Christmas Marketplace bizarre is scheduled for December 5th. Work continues with the Park Board to finish the beach glacial stone project. Discussion on allowing a local artist to paint a large historical Bass Lake mural on our building is anticipated.

Seems like this November, leaves are falling early and many piers are being removed late. This week I counted 37 piers still in between Sportyz and The Pocket.

I like last minute stuff. Leaves are another story. Warm days really made super dry leaves fall. Then on November 7th, with 70 degree temperatures and under a cloudless sky it happened. The record was set for the most leaves ever burned at Bass Lake in one day. That's my story; Paul next door will back me up. We both participated in the Great Leaf Burn of 2020. If you saw it you know it is true. From anywhere on the lake much smoke could be observed and if you took a breath you could taste it. As our pump has kept pumping, the Great American Game has reached \$158K with 30 numbers left. Have a great Bass Lake fall and pray for rain. *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

Veteran's Day Salute—Hats off to all of our Bass Lake veterans. We salute you as we proudly fly our flags in appreciation for your service! *Your neighbors and the Bass Lake Property Owners Association*

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

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, December 14 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 of the PTC Membership is scheduled for January 11 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) by videoconference.



Bass Lake's water level is currently so low there is a sizable sandy beach around the rim of the lake. This unusual "sandy beach" has been tested out by local golf cart owners!

A Photographic History of Starke County Indiana is a compilation of pictures accompanied by historical articles describing them completed by former Starke County Historian Marvin Allen in 2008. All of these articles were submitted to the local newspapers over a five-year period beginning in 2004 and provide a pictorial record of 100+ years of local history. Some of the pictures in Marvin's collection were taken by both amateur and professional photographers with early box cameras, but the vast majority of them were taken by the Klopot Studios. Sigmund Klopot moved to Starke County from Chicago in 1894 with his wife, Clara, and daughter, Stella. They opened studios in Knox, North Judson and Bass Lake.

In reminiscing, Stella mentioned that the lens they used was so valuable that it accompanied them from studio to studio. She related that they traveled by train from Knox to North Judson each Friday morning to work at that studio and then took another train to Bass Lake for the weekend, especially during the summers. They arrived at the south end of the lake and then boarded one of the steamboats as it dropped off tourists at the various hotels around the lake. Their Bass Lake studio was located in Winona (the town located at the lake's northeast corner). Tintypes were the tourist's favorite type of photo at that time. They were quickly made and less expensive than prints which required a separate negative.

Sigmund died in 1912, but Clara continued the business for many more years until Stella eventually took over the studio and ran it until the late 1960's. Stella Klopot Bonner also served as the first Starke County Historian. Marv Allen states, "We are forever indebted to the Klopot family for their many, now historic, photos and efforts to preserve local history." On behalf of the Starke County Historical Society, it is our pleasure to share his Bass Lake history with you for the next several years. *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

Board member contact information is on our website.

www.inbasslake.com

BLCD Needs Your Email Address

Why does the BLCD need your email address? The BLCD has an email server to deliver timely information concerning conservancy news and information. Examples include: storm damage, spraying of lake and shoreline weeds, lake pump outage/maintenance and public notices. Email addresses are confidential and not shared, sold or published. Please send current email address to: info@blcd-ind.org

Call (574) 772-2974 with questions.

Solar Energy Ordinance— The Starke County Planning Commission recently considered a rezoning request to allow installation of solar generating equipment on some (over 600 acres) Starke County properties near Bass Lake. If you have questions about the issue or would like a copy of the Starke County Energy ordinance contact Commissioner Kathy Norem,

BLPOA Building Rental Closed— The BLPOA building will be closed for private party rentals this winter due to COVID-19 restrictions.

LARE Grant Update—In 2019 Bass Lake was awarded \$35,000 from the Indiana DNR to invest in glacial stone seawall projects. We have 44 property owners completing projects; these funds must be spent by 12/31/21. Nearly 75% of our funds remain to be spent next summer! Funds will be invested on a first come-first served basis with the 44 homeowners who previously applied. If you have questions, contact Rick Anderson, barefoot@mchsi.com or kcarrier@briljent.com.



CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE

Bass Lake Festival @ Bass Lake
Property owners
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

DEC 5TH
9am-3pm

@
BLPOA Building
6996 S SR 10
(@ Bass Lake)

CRAFTS, ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE, 3RD PARTY
DISTRIBUTORS AND MORE....

Knit items, Jewelry, Mary Kay, Handmade ornaments, Popcorn, Tastefully Simple, Peaceable Primates, Dog toys and treats, Pampered Chef, Scentsy, Bass Lake Jam, Bake sale, Wood items, and so much more!!!

DRAWINGS EVERY HOUR!!!

Donated by local businesses
You do not need to be present to win!

Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. CST at the BLPOA building. **Face masks are required.** If you should have any questions/concerns, please call the BLCD office at 574 772-2974 or email us at info@blcd-ind.org. *Happy Thanksgiving to all, submitted by Russ Blais, BLCD Board Member*

Where Do Fish Go in the Winter?

By Dr. Nate Bosch, Director, Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams

Most winters, the surface of Bass Lake turns to ice. All that frozen water does not mean the lake is inactive, though! Fish cannot follow the geese to Florida, so they employ survival techniques to counteract the cold. Their solution depends on ice, snow depth and something called lake turnover. (You may remember this from the article we shared earlier this fall, but just in case, here is a quick overview!)

Lake turnover happens twice per year in most lakes, once in the fall and again in the spring. In the fall, the upper layer of the water is warm due to summer sunshine. As autumn turns to winter and temperatures drop, the warm surface is cooled, eventually becoming similar to cold water in deeper depths. With similar temperature throughout, the entire lake can mix from top to bottom – that is turnover! This mixing brings oxygen down to the bottom of the lake so fish can survive there. (Thankfully, cold water can hold more oxygen than warm water.) As ice forms on the lake surface, the lake depths still retain some warmth, averaging a chilly 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Since they are cold-blooded, fish compensate for limited oxygen and food by shutting down much of their metabolism. Their heartbeat, breathing and muscular activity slow significantly, making them lethargic. They use much less energy. That is why ice fishers prefer bright, colorful lures. Although hungry, fish do not want to move around much during winter! Colorful lures draw their attention more effectively.

Fish use small amounts of oxygen as they lazily rest in the cold water. Similarly, bacteria decompose plant material in the bottom mud of the lake, a process which uses up oxygen. Meanwhile, underwater plants (those rooted in the bottom and those that are free-floating, like algae) produce oxygen as they photosynthesize. Sunlight is needed for photosynthesis – so clear ice is better, because it lets sunlight pass through. Deep snow cover lets very little sunlight through. The whole balance of oxygen under the ice depends on the snow on top of the ice!

The next time you look out over Bass Lake this winter, pay attention to the amount of snow and ice and that will tell you a lot about what the fish are experiencing. Of course, when the snow and ice melts, spring turnover will bring the fish large amounts of oxygen and plants will have all the sunlight they need. Let's hope spring comes soon! Learn more about lake habitats and critters by visiting lakes.grace.edu or emailing us at lakes@grace.edu.



Erie Trail News—Recent efforts by the Starke County Community Foundation resulted in the award of a \$100,000 Community Leadership Grant from the Lilly Endowment. The money will be used to promote a number of arts and cultural opportunities being pursued by the Foundation and the Constellation of Starke. Included among these is \$25,000 dedicated to the In-Scale Model of Our Solar System. This model will be placed on our nearby bike trail, the Erie Trail.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) - Good news/bad news! The good news, the sewer system is working thanks to your cooperation and the diligent maintenance by Supt. Tom Jordan. The bad news, November rainfall has been negligible. The plan is to the continue operating the pump. Be sure the BLCD office has your email address so you can be kept informed on all important Conservancy information. Lastly, save postage, if you haven't already, consider paying your sewer bill using ACH/EFT. Info available on the website: www.blcd-ind.org.