

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Winter finally arrived just before Valentine's Day. The lake froze and kept its ice until March 3. With the ice gone, it was clear, let the pier season begin. Piers are good to go; call your pier crew. Looks like the Old Farmers Almanac's 2020 prediction may be correct: "Spring is will be warmer than normal in Alaska and the eastern two-thirds of the lower 48. As for summer, expect Drizzle & Sizzle." March's forecast looks like enough rain to maintain clear water flowing out of the lake over the dam. The piers? After Saturday's Property Owners meeting, I took a walk to see my buddy Roger who was not with Lois at our meeting. On the way, sure enough, Tom Richards and crew were putting in his pier. Then on the way back, Rod Redweik had part of his pier in. Those could be piers #1 & #2 for the 2020 season. Not only that, on the way to the meeting, an empty boat trailer was seen at the public launch. Fishing reports should be forthcoming.

The March 7 BLPOA meeting opened with The Pledge. February minutes and financials were approved. Our BLPOA balance was \$187,096.00; the report was approved for audit. A Starke County Project Committee presentation followed: "Veterans' Memorial Plaza of Starke County". This new memorial will join the WWII, Korean and Vietnam Memorials currently on three Courthouse lawn corners. The new memorial will include the names of all known Starke County casualties of all wars since 1850. Information on the project is posted on our website: inbasslake.com. A possible BLPOA donation will be on the April meeting agenda. The 2020 Annual Letter & Membership Form will go out to all members in late March by U.S. Mail. The BLPOA Annual Pizza Party is on May 16. A new Christmas Marketplace was approved for December 5th to be added to our Social Committee activities. The Annual DNR/BLPOA/Koontz Lake boating class will be held at Bass Lake on June 20th. Terry Chmiel and Rich Linkus will be class coordinators. Rik Ritzler is coordinating parking lot maintenance to be completed in April or May. The 2020 Directory is progressing nicely. Gary Laiter gave the Buoy report and needed supplies will be ordered. A Building Exterior Maintenance Committee was established to obtain quotes on power washing and painting. Russ Blais gave the Conservancy District report; he emphasized that all Property Owners are welcome at the meetings which are on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. Russ also gave the neighborhood watch report; they are back up to seven or eight drivers. I reported on our Healthy Shoreline glacial stone seawall refacing project. Rik Ritzler updated us on Excellence of Stark 2020. The Park Board (PB) will help with the allocation of the \$333,000 received as last year's Stellar Runner Up. Why not participate at a PB meeting? On April 14 there will be a 5:00 pm public information meeting followed by the regular 6:00 pm PB meeting. New lake eateries: On the south end, Kevin & Jody, who opened the Honey Hole in 2017, have purchased Double D's and are in the process creating a Pizza Parlor. On the north end, the SOS plans to open this spring. Mid lake south of the beach, Scoops & Smiles has been doing a brisk business all winter. The "V" jackpot is at \$69,629.00 - good luck to all players. *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

Property Owners Association—Saturday, April 4 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

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

Exercise Class: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m. \$3 per class. BLPOA building

Prairie Trails Club—Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, April 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m., BLPOA building



North Bend Township Basketball Team

This photo of North Bend School's 7th and 8th Grade basketball teams was taken in 1953. The school was located about 2 miles south-east of Bass Lake at the corner of CR 625 S. and CR 850 E.

The 2 story brick building had been built as a high school in 1912 for \$8,000 replacing several 1 room schools in the township. It had an outside metal fire escape chute, which must have fascinated the more adventurous boys.

In 1928 it was operating as a 3 Year high school. Shortly thereafter it offered education only up through the 8th grade with grades 9 - 12 transferred to Knox. Later North Bend Twp was attached to Culver Community Schools and the building demolished.

By jersey number: (1) Ned Herr, (2) Bobby Kachloch, (3) Don William, (4) Hawley Shidler, (5) Butch Engel, (6) Paul Howard, (7) John Howard, (8) Donny Herr, (9) Larry Dolohan and (10) Ervin Casper. Mr. B.R. Lambert is the teacher and Mr. Cecil Cappis is the township trustee.

Starke County Veterans' Memorial Plaza

The Starke County Veterans' Memorial Plaza is being expanded. Presentations are being made now; the expanded memorial will be completed by Veterans' Day 2020. The new Memorial will be built on the southeast corner of the Courthouse Square in Knox.

This plaza will be utilized by the public to sit, meditate, and reflect on the great sacrifices our service men and women have made to secure our freedom. The County is raising \$200,000 for this project; we've included a video and other materials on the BLPOA website.

Commemorative granite bricks are being sold. Two sizes are available - 4 X 9 paver is \$150 and 8 X 9 is \$350. The larger paver can include a small logo. Contact (574) 772-9101 for more information about the bricks.

In the words of General John Pershing, "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds". The new Veterans' Memorial Plaza will ensure just that!

The article to the left was contributed by 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

- Zac Binkley
- John Bucher
- Terry Chmiel
- Rich Linkus
- Rik Ritzler
- Gayle Smith
- Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:

www.inbasslake.com

Hosting a Large Lake Party? Rent the BLPOA Building!

If you are looking for space for your summer parties, consider renting the BLPOA Community Center. It has been remodeled and is affordable. Call (574) 772-7761 for more information.

Weed Wrangle—The Invasive Species Plant project is moving forward. The next meeting of the Starke County Group is at the BLPOA building on April 8 at 6:00 p.m. Note also that there is a Weed Wrangle contest coming up along with a statewide conference on Invasive Species Plants and Watersheds on March 26. Contact Erica Luchik for more information, (219) 447-0252, Erica@sicim.info for details.



Scoops and Smiles, located by the Bass Lake Beach is the Starke County Chamber Business of the Month for March! They offer 20 different kinds of ice cream, sandwiches, burgers, hotdogs, french fries and soup. The owner is Shaylynn Keen. Call (574) 249-5440.

Buoy Questions? Contact our Buoymaster Gary Laiter (773) 750-4049.

Golf Cart Inspections and BLPOA Membership Sign-Up—Mark your calendars now for the golf cart inspection and BLPOA membership drive: May 16, May 30, June 20 from 9:00—noon at the BLPOA building.

BLPOA Directory—Note that as you complete your membership form, it helps our volunteers if you write clearly and legibly. Also note that the name you put on your form is the name that goes into the directory. So, think about how you want your name listed in the directory as you complete your membership form and pay your fees.

BLPOA Pizza Party— This hugely popular event is on May 16 from 6:00—7:30 p.m. at the BLPOA building.

Safe Boating Class—This one-day course is conducted annually by the DNR. Join us on June 20 at the BLPOA building. Contact Terry Chmiel at etowncopper50@aol.com with questions.

Calling All Artists and Crafters, Vintage, Antiques—Sell your products at our lake art fairs which feature local crafters and artists:

July 25 Bass Lake Festival Lakeside Market 9:00 a.m. —6:00 p.m., call Nancy (219) 488-6747

December 5 Christmas Marketplace 9:00 a.m. —3:00 p.m., register at basslakefest.com

Bass Lake Conservancy District—Bass Lake is the fourth largest natural spring-fed lake in Indiana. According to the latest US Census Bureau, the population is 1,249. Labeled a Census-Designated Place (CDP), Bass Lake is in California and North Bend Townships of Starke County Indiana. The CDP has a total area of 11.3 square miles - of which - 9.1 square miles is land and 2.2 square miles is water.

Consistent with the above-referenced data, the Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) owns and operates the sewer system that services the residents of Bass Lake. The BLCD is also involved in lake water quality control (i.e. invasive weed control) and during certain times of the year will pump water into the lake in an effort to maintain the lake level. Explore our website us at WWW.BLCD-IND.ORG. Submitted by Larry Collura – BLCD Vice-Chairman

Spring Cleaning?—Our garbage contractor, Republic Services, will take one large item per month per household such as furniture and mattresses. These large items can be picked up with special arrangements by calling Republic Services at (574) 842-4719. Call them to determine if extra charges apply and which items are acceptable.

Constellation of Starke—The Constellation of Starke (COS) will once again be seeking Regional Stellar Community Status this year. The COS Executive Committee is seeking community input and your view is important. Plan to attend the input meeting on April 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex. Following this meeting is the Park Board meeting which is open to the public. This Board is responsible for investing the \$333,000 that was awarded to the county as a result of being a finalist in 2019.

IU Clean Lakes Program—This will be our third year as part of the Indiana Clean Lakes Program. Volunteers monitor Bass Lake for water transparency, chlorophyll, phosphorus and nitrogen.

Lake Aging and Your Role in a Healthy Lake

By Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams

Lake aging is natural but you can help slow the process! Overall, this aging process is known as eutrophication. All of our local lakes can be categorized as one of these three stages – oligotrophic, mesotrophic and eutrophic. Left alone, a lake's natural aging process would likely take hundreds, if not thousands, of years.

Because many lakes are surrounded by agricultural or residential areas, they can age more quickly than lakes that are left to themselves. But there are several ways you can help slow aging from your own backyard! Try reducing the use of lawn fertilizers, and preventing soil erosion by landscaping with native plants. You can also compost yard waste rather than allowing it to enter a local lake or stream. These small changes will help keep lakes healthy for generations to come. You'll find a full article about this topic on the BLPOA website under the Healthy Shoreline tab!

Glacial Stone LARE Projects—Bass Lake will receive up to \$35,000 from the State of Indiana for our healthy shoreline projects. The purpose is to reface concrete seawalls with glacial stone, which promotes a healthier lake. Lakes with healthy native plants population spend less money on invasive weed treatment, have clearer water and a healthier fish population. Already two property owners have completed their glacial stone refacing projects. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions Rick Anderson - barefootrun@mhcsi.com or Kathy Carrier - kcarrier@briljent.com or (260) 403-6746.



The SOS Mart will reopen this summer!
Renovation is underway.



The winter ice is gone from Bass Lake and the morning sky is reflected on our lake! Thanks to Rick Anderson for providing the picture. Send your photos to kcarrier@briljent.com!