

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 7 NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2020—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

February and no real winter yet - unlike the minus 20 of January 2019, 2020 hasn't had one day below about plus 10. Not many if any have been seen ice fishing. One hardy ice fisherman told me: With auger in hand he was checking thickness when through it he went to his knees. Ice can be thinner than it looked. The stats: The lake is full to the brim and just barely sort of frozen. The water is still clear with an unknown amount of aquatic vegetation waiting for spring to spring back to life.

The February 1 Property Owners Meeting: 9 Board Members and 12 Property Owners opened the meeting with The Pledge. Previous minutes were approved and AJ Gappa reviewed the November and December Treasurers reports. Our all accounts balance is \$193,680; however, the last year's membership donations to the Fire Department, Festival Fireworks and Food Pantry are yet to be distributed. The 2020 Annual Letter and Membership Form were approved and will go out to all members in late March by US Mail; they will also be distributed using email beginning in February. The Annual DNR BLPOA/Koontz Lake POA boating class will be held at Bass Lake this year. Since our meeting, Terry Chmiel has coordinated with the DNR and the class date is set for June 20. Rik Ritzler is coordinating parking lot maintenance, paving and striping. The 2020 Directory is progressing nicely and printed copies should arrive in early May. Thank you Ron Vendl, Mary Topelian and Kathy Laiter. Larry Collura gave the Conservancy District report: In addition to 43 inches of rain in 2019, between July & October, the pump added 164 million gallons. A \$5,000 grant for weed control has been applied for; however, approval will be needed from the DNR to actually do treatment. The Conservancy District has 1020 accounts of which 322 are full time residents. Ron indicated Neighborhood Watch needs drivers and he discussed several police incidents in December and January. Two property owners have complete their glacial stone seawall refacing as part of our Healthy Shoreline Initiative; 50% grant matching funds are being distributed. Rik Ritzler updated us on Excellence of Stark 2020 and answered roadway questions. Between "police incidents" and "roadway issues" discussions touched on texting, driving and ditches. Seems texting while driving and vehicles leaving the road are on the rise.

Don't text & drive; texting while driving is like walking on thin ice. How much lake level is 164 M gallons? 30 M gallons will raise the lake about one inch. Therefore, 164 M gallons should raise the lake level about 5 1/2 inches. Two pumps would do more. The "Great American Game": \$54K is behind one of the remaining 46 numbers. If you're playing, good luck! *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

Property Owners Association—Saturday, March 7 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. CST, BLPOA building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m., BLPOA building

North Bend High School



North Bend High School

North Bend High School was built in 1912 at a cost of \$8,000. It was located at the southwest corner of 850 E and 625 S. on the site of the old Center Church.

A one-room school, known as the Center School, had previously been located a half mile north on 850E.

The first teachers at the new school were Harry Elder (Principal), Mabel Copp, Charles Hatfield and Minnie Chidister. The first graduates were Rosa Rock, Ray Bennett and Harry Doyle.

Although High School was discontinued in 1931, the first eight grades were taught there until the 1950s. At that time, North Bend residents voted to become part of the Culver School System. The building was demolished in the late 1960s.

Invasive Species Plants

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.

June 20 Safe Boating Class

Mark your calendars for our annual one day boating safety class, to be held at the BLPOA building. This course is conducted by the DNR. More information will be shared in the future.

The North Bend 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

BLPOA Annual Letter

You will soon receive the annual BLPOA letter! This carefully crafted and informative newsletter will be your opportunity to pay your BLPOA dues, which includes your garbage fee. It will also outline our lake activities and programs. You will want to review it and send in your dues!

Purdue Landscape Design Class

A Beginners Workshop on Design Principles and Practices: March 31, April 7 and 14. For details contact nikky@purdue.edu, (219) 465-3555.

Home Vegetable Gardening Class

Learn to grow vegetables and manage pests in your garden. March 31, April 7 and 14. For details contact nikky@purdue.edu, (219) 465-3555.

2020 Family Reunions—If you are looking for space for your family reunion, consider renting the BLPOA Community Center. It has been remodeled and is affordable. Call (574) 772-7761 for more information.



The Hatchery, behind Sportyz, is owned by Purdue and was renovated with substantial funding. It is now the Purdue Center for Aquatic Research. We'll include articles this summer with an overview of the research being conducted at the Center.

Bass Lake Conservancy District—LARE Status - BLCD Board members recently met with DNR officials to request a maintenance fee LARE (Lake and River Enhancement) grant for 2020. The grant would be used to treat lake vegetation. The DNR will pay 50% of our cost to treat the lake up to a maximum of the grant amount we receive. More information can be found on our website:

www.BLCD-IND.ORG, click on Official Notices, then click on BLCD Lake Vegetation

Rainfall Totals - Rainfall for 2019 totaled 43.35 inches for a monthly average of 3.61 inches. It is the second highest since the BLCD began recording rainfall in 2003. 47.75 inches was recorded in 2007. Total rainfall (2003 – 2019) averaged 38.79 inches. Another way of looking at 2019 rainfall – it was 4.56 inches or 11.75% over the average of 38.79 inches.

Lake Pump - The pump discharged 164 million gallons into the lake. The pump was activated for the season in July and shutdown November 4.

Interesting data (complied by Office Assistant Tabitha Dillner):

Total BLCD Accounts – 1,040

Families who live at the lake year round – 322

Families who live in Indiana – 254

Families who live out-of-state – 464

BLCD accounts—homes sold in 2019 – 54

Accounts subscribed to EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) – 329 or 32% of the total!

The BLCD website has valuable information, including Official Notices, lake maps, water test results, meeting minutes, BLCD forms and much more. Go to WWW.BLCD-IND.ORG and explore the contents. *Larry Collura – BLCD Vice-Chairman*

Moving Starke County Forward—The 2019 Step-it-Up Challenge was won “by a wide margin” by the Prairie Trails Club. The group logged the most miles! In this photo are the four people who were honored at the awards ceremony: Kathy Lucas, Jeff Menci, Arlene Noble and Michael McGregor. Lake resident Deb Mix was the coordinator of the program.

Constellation of Starke—The Constellation of Starke (COS) will once again be seeking Regional Stellar Community Status this year. The COS Executive Committee will be coordinating with OCRA officials on Monday, February 10 to gain feedback about the Regional Development Plan that was submitted in September and final presentation that was delivered in November of last year. There was a general consensus that the executive committee needs to grow and the advisory committee and various subcommittees will need to have more guidance and responsibilities this time around.



If you have an interest in getting more involved with the process, feel free to get a hold of COS region representatives. You can do so by calling Starke County Economic Development Foundation Executive Director and COS Executive Committee member Larry Wickert at 574-772-5627, emailing constellationofstarke@gmail.com or reaching out through the Constellation of Starke Facebook Page.

Starke County is again applying for Stellar Community status. When Starke County is successful, the Bass Lake Beach will undergo extensive renovation!

STOP—Did you know that there is a new group of folks in Starke County working toward combatting one of the deadliest epidemics we have seen in the history of substance use – heroin and opioids? STOP – Starke Taskforce for Overdose Prevention – is a coalition of over 40 members that is making great strides in identifying the needs of our community and developing solutions. The mission of STOP is to provide hope and recovery support services for residents of Starke County who are affected by opioid misuse. STOP's vision for Starke County is a healthy, safe, and thriving community with immediate access to a complete continuum of care for opioid misuse. Visit the STOP website for more information or to contact the STOP leaders. www.StarkeCountySTOP.org