

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 8 NO. 4

APRIL 2021—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Three inches of fresh melting April snow helped raise lake level to the minus 13 inches. Minus 13 inches in early April is not good. What good is: COVID-19 is ending and traditional Bass Lake handshakes and hugs are back. Our taverns and restaurants have survived; stop in and leave a good tip. BLPOA rentals are resuming and our lake pump is pumping. I'm reminded of 1964; that year our lake had dropped to minus 36. That year people still had fun. They didn't worry about shallow water; wherever there was water there was deep water. What was a concern were the beaches that stretched hundreds of feet to waters edge. Consequently, the BLPOA installed our pump.

April 3 BLPOA meeting: A computer crash kept us from approving last month's minutes. The February Treasurer's report was approved. 2020 donations to the Fire Department, Food Pantry, Neighborhood Watch and the Social Committees were reviewed. Property Owners are encouraged to attend the Conservancy District meetings. "Bass Lake Loops" is being planned for September 11. The DNR Boating Class was discussed and is still in the planning stages for June 5. Our Healthy Shoreline project is "on track". The Conservancy District has contracted for a weed survey and has applied for a grant. As usual, weed treatment will need DNR approval. Individual property owners can still treat 625 square feet in front of their property. I have some Hydrothol Granular left from last year which I obtained from Aquatic Control in Valparaiso. To help with communication and to possibly help with issues if they arise. A BLPOA "Irrigation Pump Advisory Committee" was established. At our May meeting, our bylaws require the establishment of an Audit & Budget Committee and a Nominating Committee to help with our July annual election. The board remains one Director short and property owners are encouraged to consider getting more involved with our organization.

Despite a low lake level many piers are already out in the lake. Boat lifts and boats seem to be taking a "wait and see" approach. "Wait and see" is about rainfall and the cyclical history of Bass Lake's water level. In the meantime, engineering work continues on the solar farm. Irrigation water redirection remains part of total project engineering work and initial DNR comments have been positive. More specifics are needed for all approvals. Construction work awaits. Stay tuned; hopefully 2022 will see an operational Starke County Solar Farm which will include "used to be" irrigation water repurposed and flowing once again. At the "V", check out the \$270K grand prize. While getting your tickets ask about the \$100 Easter egg in Bass Lake. *Stay safe & healthy, Rick*



Big Tree Contest—Join in the fun and find the biggest trees in Starke County. Certificates are awarded to the owners and nominators of each champion tree. To nominate a tree it must be a living tree growing in the county and a native tree species for the county, not an ornamental tree. To submit your entry you need to complete a nomination form. For more information, contact Phil Woolery, from the Purdue Extension office, pwoolery@purdue.edu.

BLPOA Building Rentals Begin May 1—If you are looking for space for a party or family reunion, the well maintained BLPOA building can be rented beginning May 1. Contact Rich Linkus for details, linkusr1@hotmail.com.

Property Owners Association—Saturday, May 1 2021 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

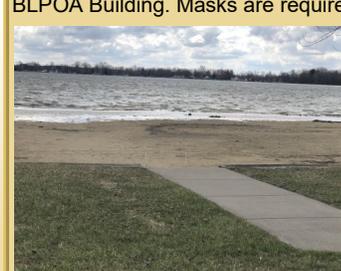
Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, May 11 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, May 10 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 April 15 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) at the BLPOA Building. Masks are required.



The lake is still low. These are recent pictures of the "beach" that most of us have in front of our seawalls.



Bass Lake Country Club Elijah and Sally Wood purchased 78 acres, including what became known as Cranberry Point, on Bass Lake's east side in 1861. Around 1890, Elijah's daughter Nancy and her husband, William Ayers, permitted an association of property owners to build the Bass Lake Country Club at Cranberry Point. It was the scene of many social events, including family reunions.

In 1929, the Indianapolis Naval Reserves Corps rented Cranberry Point, including the club house, from the Ayres family. Their Naval Academy for boys aged 12 to 18, known as Camp Gridley, was then moved from Indianapolis up to Bass Lake. In 1933, Ced White took over the lease and continued to run Camp Gridley as a boy's camp. When World War II came along, Ced White enlisted in the Army and the camp sat idle for several years. Eventually, the clubhouse was dismantled for its lumber and reused elsewhere. After the war, Ced White reopened the camp as a "Dude Ranch" housing the horses in a barn there on Cranberry Point. After a few years, Ced relocated his Dude Ranch to a farm east on Hwy 10. *Submitted 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

- 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

Note that the BLPOA bylaws are now available on the BLPOA website.

Bass Lake Loops Bike Ride

When: Saturday, September 11

Time: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This new event is a non-competitive bicycle ride consisting of riders completing loops around Bass Lake as many times as they feel comfortable with or as time allows. This event is open to riders of all fitness and enthusiasm levels so there is no minimum distance requirement. The goal of this event is to be approachable for everyone and for area residents interested in cycling to meet one another.

A full century (100 miles) will require riders to complete 12 loops around the lake. Each loop is 8.2 miles. Can someone in your family complete a 100-mile course?

There is no registration fee. Commemorative t-shirts will be available for purchase during the event. Residents along the route are encouraged to support the riders. If you are interested in helping with the event contact Ti Jones; his email is: burtsfield@yahoo.com.

2021 Bass Lake Festival is On! - The Bass Lake Festival will be July 23—25. We need enthusiastic volunteers to help manage events. The theme this year is "Roaring Back to the 20's!" Contact Mary Topelian, mjtopelian@att.net.

Golf Cart Inspections—Our BLPOA Membership sign-up and golf cart inspections will be:

⇒ May 22, June 12, June 26

⇒ 9:00 a.m.—noon at the BLPOA Building

Buoy Master Notes—It's almost time for the buoys to be returned to the lake. Before you do so, please look them over. Is the top cap in good shape? Are the chains and anchors in good shape and secure? All BLPOA buoys are supposed to be assigned a number. Does your buoy have 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 (which includes putting it in and taking it out), please contact us. Reminder, one buoy per address. If you have issues or questions, please contact our buoy master Gary Laiter, weskii4@yahoo.com, (773) 750-4049. Buoy on!

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.

Invasive Privet Plant—Privet is a common plant used in landscaping and it is spreading into native woodlands as an invasive plant. It forms thickets that prevents the growth of native plants. There are many good alternatives to privet which are friendlier to the environment. There are several species of viburnums that would work well. They have flowers and berries that provide food for wildlife. Red osier dogwood is another shrub that can be used. If you have questions about privets or its replacement, contact Phil Woolery, who resides near Bass Lake, pwoolery@purdue.edu.



Our Bass Lake Cemetery has a rich history. Stay tuned for next month's article about it.

Local Resident Marilyn Swanson - We have a treasure living at Cranberry Point ~ 93 1/2 year old Marilyn Swanson. Her family was one of the first two that settled at Bass Lake in the 1800s. They owned much of the east shore of the lake from Sportyz to Cranberry Lane. She remembers 1964 when our lake water level was at an all-time low. Her family played baseball games in the sandy area of the lake when the water receded. She is an advocate for taking advantage of the current opportunity add additional pumps to our lake water level challenge. The wells currently used to irrigate her family farm crops will be diverted to the lake in a proposed strategy to add additional pumps to the lake.

Why would the company that our community is working with, Global Energy Generation, be willing to pay for the engineering and construction work to bring irrigation water to our lake? This helps our community and builds good relations with the residents near the proposed solar farm. Marilyn is also passionate about The Bass Lake Cemetery. Stay tuned for more!

DNR Fish Stocking Plan—Per our DNR "fish guy" Tom Bacula, he's confident that Bass Lake will be stocked with Walleye, probably at a historical level; 600 Walleye fry per acre. That's a lot of tiny Walleye! Fish stocking is at Bass Lake is expected later this month or in early May.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) - Rainfall for February was **2.41** inches. Total rainfall for 2021 is **6.73** inches. The lake pump is currently pumping **1.4** million gallons a day. The DNR has temporarily approved 240 acres for invasive vegetation treatment. The DNR will perform lake inspections late April/early May to determine how many actual acres (if any) can be treated. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. CST – BLPOA building. Face masks and social distancing will remain in effect. 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 Plymouth Farmers' Market—This nearby community hosts a farmers' market in River Park Square. Located on the corner of Garro and River Street in Plymouth, it is open on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. during the months of May through October. Their mission? A healthy community through fresh, locally grown food. www.plymouthfarmersmarket.com

Thanks to Gayle Smith—Thanks to Gayle Smith who helps identify content for this newsletter. As the editor, I appreciate her support. With appreciation, *Kathy Carrier*



Here is our trusty and valuable lake pump, which provides an additional 1.4 million gallons of water a day from an underground pump. Cheers and appreciation go to the Bass Lake Conservancy District for operating our lake pump!