

# CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 6 NO. 11

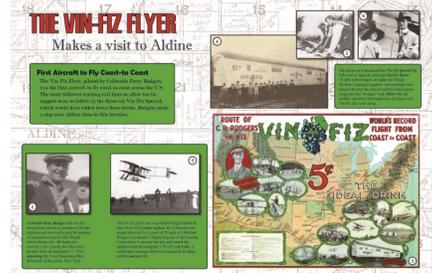
NOVEMBER 2019 — BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Clocks were changed and dark is sooner! Did you change the batteries in your smoke detector? Is your pier out? It's a good policy to have your pier out before the clocks change. I walked out on one still in. The water was clear at the end and the bottom would have been visible except for all the weeds - mostly milfoil. Bass Lake piers are an interesting subject. Every year they go in and every year they come out. Some take piers out themselves while others rely on Les or Steve or maybe Larry or someone. So, how many ins and outs do you think Les Jensen and Steve Barndt and others do? How many do the "themselves" do? Add those up and you have total Bass Lake piers. I talked to both Les and Steve and they told me how many they each do. Anyone know the total number of summertime piers in Bass Lake? Sounds like a count is needed. Have you taken care of your leaves? That's just another fall job. When all the "closing up" is done, make sure you make a spring "To Do" list. The good part of a spring list is, the spring list can wait till spring. Some stats: The lake water is as clear as I have ever seen it and the lake level is about 4 inches under the "top of dam" mark. The pump has been turned off after finishing up its 55th year of service. The lake has lots of weeds; get ready to treat your 625 square feet (your legal treatment limit) next spring. If not on it, add it to your spring "To Do" list. I'm told the fishing is still good. On October 19, we had another Soup Social Spectacular. It was headed up by Raelyn Binkley with Mary Topelian in support. Soups and deserts were furnished by many enthusiastic Property Owners. Make sure you put "The Soup Social" on your calendar next year.

The November 2 Property Owners meeting: Previous minutes were approved as was the Treasurer's report. We have \$209,500 in available funds. The 2020 Directory is being actively worked on, led by Kathy Laiter. Parking lot repairs will be done in the spring. Welcome Committee - Gayle Smith talked about new property owners and Rich Linkus reported on BLPOA building rentals. Bass Lake has had 39.73 inches of rain YTD. Kathy Carrier reported on the Healthy Shorelines project: John & Cheryl Hrijjac received the first approval to proceed. Ron Vendl reported 30 police events from last month. Neighborhood Watch still needs a Secretary and new drivers. A lot of discussion took place on lake weeds. Go to a Bass Lake Conservancy District meeting and become part of the weed treatment conversation. Riparian rights and DNR rules were discussed. If you have questions you can call or email: DNR District 3 Headquarters; 4112 East St. Rd. 225; West Lafayette, IN 47906; 765-567-7857 ; (icodist3@dnr.in.gov). Answers & Questions: Between them, Les and Steve take out 307 piers. That's a lot of sections and stands. Next month will tell if Starke County wins the Stellar Community award! Will the Great American Game be won on November 23 at \$488,851 (16 numbers left) or will it again top \$500,000? *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

**The Vin-Fiz Flyer**—The Prairie Trails Club is nearing completion of bike trail signage which highlights the epic 1911 flight of the Vin Fiz. The first U.S. coast-to-coast flight landed near Aldine; the Vin-Fiz signage will be installed on our local bike trail as it crosses CR 125.



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

**Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:** Monday, December 2 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, November 21 at 6:00 p.m. CST, BLPOA building

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

**Bass Lake Conservancy District:** (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m., BLPOA building

## How Bass Lake Stores Nutrients for Future Use

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

During warmer months, your family probably stores autumn and winter decorations in the attic or basement. Around the holidays, these decorations make special appearances when they are needed most: pumpkins at Halloween, turkeys at Thanksgiving, and stockings at Christmas. You might be surprised to learn that the aquatic ecosystem in Bass Lake does something similar, but with nutrients. Nutrients are substances that plants use as fuel. They are found in most everything, and are especially available after decomposition. Around lakes, nutrients commonly enter the water through eroding shorelines, lawn and garden fertilizers, grass clippings... and leaves! They fall from the trees during autumn, having lost their chlorophyll (that green color) and becoming brittle. Then the leaves decompose and release their nutrients. When leaves are put in Bass Lake during the fall – either because they blow in or are dumped there – they become a stored nutrient, just like your winter decorations during the summer. You do not use holiday decorations year-round, and neither will nutrients get used until they are needed most.

Stored nutrients become a problem when the weather warms up. Algae and weeds are primarily dormant during the winter, but when spring comes and ice melts away, these plants use stored nutrients to flourish. That frequently results in algae blooms and an overabundance of weeds... both of which can harm animals in the lake and prevent your ability to fully enjoy the lake! This autumn, collect your leaves for removal according to your local guidelines, or use them to create a healthy compost pile. Be sure not to sweep them into the street, as they can clog storm drains and cause other problems. Leaves are also an excellent way to naturally enrich the soil in your garden! Be sure not to dispose of them in Bass Lake. Even though the impact of proper leaf disposal will not be immediately visible, you are helping Bass Lake and its inhabitants stay healthy.

You can learn more about algae, including blue-green algae, and nutrients in lakes by visiting [lakes.grace.edu](http://lakes.grace.edu) or calling 574-372-5100, ext. 6445.

## Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President ~ Rick Anderson  
 Vice President ~ Mary Topelian  
 Treasurer ~A. J. Gappa  
 Secretary ~ Kathy Laiter

### Board Members

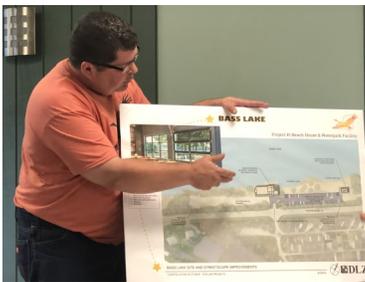
- Zac Binkley
- John Bucher
- Terry Chmiel
- Rich Linkus
- Rik Ritzler
- Gayle Smith
- Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:

[www.inbasslake.com](http://www.inbasslake.com)

**BLPOA Directory**—If you'd like to advertise your business or have a question about the 2020 directory, please contact Kathy Laiter, (773) 251-6410. She is chairing this significant project and her work is appreciated. Please contact Kathy if you are willing to help.

**Constellation of Starke Update**—Our Regional Development Plan for the Stellar Communities Designation Program was submitted in September, a presentation was made to the State of Indiana on November 12 and the designation winner will be announced in December. Note that there is a \$4 million Bass Lake project included in the project plan! To view a video about the regional collaboration, follow the Constellation of Starke pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Contact Larry Wickert, [execdir@sedf.biz](mailto:execdir@sedf.biz) (574) 595-5329 with questions.



Rik Ritzler, pictured above, is on the Constellation of Starke Executive Committee. He also serves on the BLPOA Board.

**Healthy Shoreline Projects Begin**—Hats off to John and Cheryl Hriljac and Bob Molitsky who completed our first two Healthy Shoreline projects. They installed glacial stone in front of their concrete seawalls!

## BLPOA Soup Social Winners

People's Choice: Cheesy Chicken Orzo, Leslie May  
 Kids' Choice: Chicken & Noodle, Jan Sanders/Leslie  
 President's Choice: Ham & Cheese & Potato, Keeley & Kory  
 Miss Bass Lake (Becca Ratliff) Queen's Choice: Chicken Corn Chowder

**BLPOA Meetings**—There will be no property owner meetings in December or January. The next BLPOA meeting is on Saturday, February 1. In the meantime, if you have questions, contact President Rick Anderson, [barefootrun@mchsi.com](mailto:barefootrun@mchsi.com).

**The Santa Train**—The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum in North Judson will again offer the popular Santa Train. Seating is limited so get your tickets soon. There are free gifts for child and youth ticket holders.

Dates: December 7, 14 and 21

Times: 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m. CST

To buy tickets go to [www.hoosiervalley.org](http://www.hoosiervalley.org) or call the depot at (574) 896-3950. After your train excursion, be sure to visit the museum where admission is always free. The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum has one of the nation's largest collections of working railroad signs.



**Extra Lake Patrol**—The BLPOA Neighborhood Watch program has hired local sheriff personnel to provide an extra patrol during the Thanksgiving holiday. This will ensure our lake community remains safe and sound. If you have questions or would like to volunteer for the Neighborhood Watch program, contact Ron Vendl, [vendlr@yahoo.com](mailto:vendlr@yahoo.com), (574) 772-2580.

**Starke County Forest**—The Starke County Forest is open to the public, from dawn until dusk. The trails are open for hiking, bird watching, jogging and cross country skiing. The 129-acre Starke County Forest was donated to Starke County by Bruce Wakeland in 2011. The purpose is to provide a location for forest and wetland education and recreation for the general public. There is no cost to enjoy this wonderful, local asset.

Where is it? The Starke County Forest, complete with a parking lot, is on Division Road between 1025 and 1100 East.



Cappis Store, Ora

A photo dated 1928 shows Harrison H. Cappis standing in front of his hardware store in Ora.

Mr. Cappis also sold Linco gasoline (now Marathon) from a pair of gravity fed glass top pumps. Back then you bought gas for your car by the gallon. These were hand-operated pumps. A large lever on the side was used to manually pump gasoline up into the glass top.

Once you had the number of gallons you wanted to buy in the glass top, indicated by numbers on its side, a hose and nozzle was used to drain the gas down into your car's tank by gravity.

Ora was established in 1881, and at one time, contained two general stores, a hardware store, a drug store, ice cream parlor, school, two churches, barber shop, grain elevator, blacksmith, cheese factory, pickle factory, several saloons and a dance hall.

## Bass Lake Welcome Team

Gayle Smith heads a welcome effort, focused on all new Bass Lake property owners. If you are selling your lake home, we need to know who the new owners are so we can share information about BLPOA business, garbage contract details and local businesses! Contact Gayle Smith if you'd like to help with the effort to welcome new families to Bass Lake, [resmith3\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:resmith3_99@yahoo.com), (574) 249-2335.

## 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.