

# CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 7 NO. 7

JULY 2020—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Bass Lake people like to recap: "Our Independence Day celebration was the best ever." "I've seen many; this one was the best." "How about that boat parade." The weather was perfect; warm calm water at dusk with air temperature in the 80s under a beautiful full moon waiting for fireworks to begin. Did they ever begin and continue. It was truly a fireworks celebration of the most important event in the history of nations. It went on and on giving a spectacular view of the neon lit boats parading along the shoreline and past the many anchored boats out for a better view. It was Bass Lake's tribute to the "Great Experiment" allowing every free man and free woman the guarantee of "the pursuit of happiness." A big thanks to all who made the event what it was.

Have you read the Declaration of Independence lately? If not, it's worth your time: "course.....requires... declare the causes." "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." "That to insure these rights..... deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..... laying its foundations as such.... to insure their future safety and happiness." "Governments long established should not be changed for light or transient causes....." "But when a long train of abuses ....., pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and establish new...." A bold declaration. "And as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things that free and independent states may of right do." "And for the support of this declaration with affirm reliance on the protection of divine providence, mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortune and our sacred honor." In the name of independence, freedom and the pursuit of happiness for future generations.

July 11 Annual BLPOA meeting: Mary Jesso is a new board member. A good weed discussion took place; ProcellaCOR did a good job on the Eurasian Milfoil. The 4th annual Property Owners bike ride will be next Saturday July 18. The group will be leaving the Property Owners Building at 8:00 a.m. headed for the Erie Trail. The next "V" ; drawing will be for \$76K. COVID-19 was the only downside to the Independence Day celebration; Bass Lake needs more hugs. *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

**Correction**—Last month we noted in error that weed control was in the BLCD charter. It is not. Here is the correction related to the BLCD and weed management responsibilities:

The BLCD was established in 1989 by the Circuit Court in Starke County to build and maintain a sewer system for Bass Lake. The BLCD is a public utility regulated by the Indiana Conservancy Act (IC 14-33). So, after much discussion at BLCD meetings between 1992 and 1995, on April 20, 1995, the S.C.C.C. entered an order approving a petition filed by the BLCD Board to add a purpose to the District. This order specifically authorized the BLCD to implement an aquatic plant management program and to run and maintain a pump to maintain a water level suitable for recreational activities. This is not in the BLCD sewer Charter. The Court said it was legal to take on these responsibilities but not mandatory and would be done at the Board's discretion.

### Property Owners Association—Saturday, August 22 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

*Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:* Monday, August 3 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building

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

*Bass Lake Conservancy District:* (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, August 10 at 6:00 p.m., BLPOA building

### Bass Lake Festival and Soup Social - Cancelled

The Festival Board made a difficult decision to cancel this year's Festival. Due to State guidelines, volunteer uncertainty and permit delays, the Board felt it was best to cancel this year. The plan is to come back next year bigger and stronger! The BLPOA October Soup Social is also cancelled.

A fireworks display is still planned for Saturday, July 25. Also, Festival t-shirts are for sale at Fingerhut, Sporty's, KP Korner (gas station) or Mary Topelian.

Please volunteer for next year's Festival. We need people to chair events, so round up your family and volunteer. Contact Mary Topelian, [mjtopelian@att.net](mailto:mjtopelian@att.net).

### Sellers Family

Joseph Sellers moved to North Bend Twp, Starke County in the early 1880's. He married Emma Casper on February 23, 1884. She was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Casper, also of North Bend Twp. Joseph worked on one of the steam powered dredges used to straighten the rivers and dig the larger ditches throughout Starke County in the late 1800's. He died in 1909 when a steam boiler exploded.

Joseph and Emma's nine sons and daughters are shown in this photo taken in 1918. From left to right and oldest to youngest: Frances "Effie" Cooper, Grover, Olivia Pagel, Samuel, Edna Beauchamp, Joseph "Guy", Emma Doyle, Meredith and Leona Earhart. *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

Board member contact information is on our website:

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



*The bald eagle is back at Bass Lake! This picture was taken just last week.*

**Buoy Questions?** Is your buoy broken? Do you want to adopt (or give back) your buoy? Contact our Buoymaster Gary Laiter at (773) 750-4049. If you find a rock in the lake that you'd like to mark with a buoy, you can become a rock buoy foster parent!

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

**July 18 BLPOA Bike Ride**—The annual BLPOA bike ride is on Saturday, July 18. Riders will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building and will ride on the nearby Erie Trail. Join us to experience our great local bike trail! Questions? Contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

**Healthy Shoreline Initiative**—A summary of recent activities can be found on the BLPOA website!

## FESTIVAL FIREWORKS—JULY 25TH @ DARK ( 9pm -ish)

Fireworks are set off on two barges that are located near the Bass Lake Beach. Boats on the lake are welcome during the fireworks. Watch out for the Fire Department boats. Enjoy the beauty of our fireworks and be safe!

**Christmas Marketplace**—Sell your products at our Christmas Marketplace which features local crafters, artists and third party vendors. The event is on December 5 from 9:00 a.m. —3:00 p.m. at the BLPOA building. Contact Mary Topelian, [mjtopelian@att.net](mailto:mjtopelian@att.net).

**Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD)** - The Annual BLCD Meeting was held on June 27, 2020. It was immediately followed by the July Board Meeting. There will not be a Board Meeting on July 13. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 10 at 6 p.m. The Director position for District II expired this July. Gene Novello ran unopposed. During the July meeting, Gene Novello and Larry Collura were re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. Thirteen freeholders were in attendance for both meetings.

Much discussion revolved around the vegetation in the lake. The permitted vegetation was treated the week of June 15. Sen. Charbonneau and Rep. Gutwein had been contacted to help address the need for additional areas of treatment. Rep. Gutwein advised us to work with his DNR liaison. On July 1, the entire board and staff attended a phone conference with the liaison, DNR permitter and local DNR representative. Both DNR reps were on the Lake again the week of June 29 and reported that they were satisfied with the results in the treated areas and further found that much of the invasive water milfoil had settled from the surface of the water. Therefore additional treatment will not be permitted this season. The next discussion with the DNR regarding treatment will be this fall. FYI: In June our lake pump, which pumps water into the lake from a well, put in over 35 million gallons of water.

We now have our own email server to deliver timely information to you. Email addresses are confidential. Be sure we have your email address. An easy way to pay your bill is to set-up electronic funds transfer (EFT). Call the office at (574) 772-2974. Enjoy the clear water, fishing and all recreational activities on our beautiful natural resource! *Submitted by Russ Blais, BLCD Board Member*

**Welcome Packets for New BLPOA Members**—If you are new to Bass Lake and would like an information packet, contact our Welcome Team, Gayle Smith, [resmith3\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:resmith3_99@yahoo.com), (574) 249-2335. We offer Hoosier hospitality at its finest.

**Harbour Fest** —The new lake restaurant The Harbour House, located at 3698 S. CR 210 (formerly The Shore Club), is hosting a weekend of festivities, July 24 –26:

Friday night, 8:30 p.m.—12:30 a.m. Live Music.

Saturday, Water Volleyball Tournament 9:00 a.m. and Family Friendly Golf Cart Cruise and Poker Run, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday there is a Car Show and cruise around Bass Lake at 1:00 p.m. No preregistration!

**Lake Stocking**—Per the DNR website, our lake has been stocked as follows: 2015 - 1,345,140 walleye, 2016 - 116,983 walleye, 2017 - no stocking, 2018 - 229,110 bluegill, 2019 - no stocking.



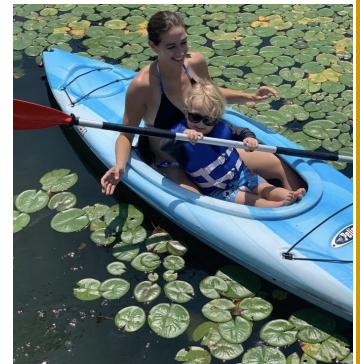
*The channel by the marina was full of weeds after the July 4 weekend!*

## Stellar Community Trailhead Project at Bass Lake

There will be a new Bass Lake Trailhead at the "triangle" where the overflow public launch parking currently is, at South CR 210 and S. 450 E. This \$124,000 project will include a paved parking lot, golf cart parking, public restrooms, bike racks and signage. The BLPOA donated \$5,000 to this project, funded by your dues! Thanks to the Constellation of Starke team and Starke County for supporting this exciting Bass Lake enhancement. Contact Rik Ritzler with questions, [rik\\_ritzler@yahoo.com](mailto:rik_ritzler@yahoo.com).

**DNR Conservation Officer**—Bass Lake's DNR Conservation Officer Alex Quick, lives in Starke County with his family.

This is his third summer at Bass Lake (and the other lakes he is responsible for.) He completed the Public Safety Rescue Special School last fall. He can be reached at [aquick@dnr.in.gov](mailto:aquick@dnr.in.gov).



*Cyrus and Tabitha Lucas Balzer enjoying Bass Lake! Photo submitted by Kathy Lucas.*