

# CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 6 NO. 8

AUGUST 2019—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Like most Augusts, the expected "lake level drop" is in progress. The lake is about five inches under the "Top of Dam" level. Think that's low enough to talk "second pump"? Maybe. Who believes all the bluegill stocked last year have helped lake clarity? The believers; this believer has never seen the lake clarity this good this long into the summer. It's well over a foot. The lake bottom still has much filamentous algae.

Are you up to speed on the Starke County "Constellation of Starke" effort? 2019 Property Owners meetings have had much focus on this; the August 24 meeting will include more. Indiana has recognized the benefits of granting counties and communities financial incentives to improve existing assets; a reward for vision and efforts. Can Property Owners help and participate? This is included in our BLPOA By-laws: 4. Establish an effective relationship with local and state officials, agencies and organizations. As part of the Stellar Community effort, Starke County has identified over \$14,000,000 in potential project initiatives targeted at community improvement. As a demonstration of support, your BLPOA Board will discuss and consider committing \$40,000 over the next 4 years, contingent on winning the Stellar grant. Input and commentary from our membership will certainly be appreciated at our August 24 meeting. Financial commitments need careful considerations; however, financial commitment by the people of a community improve the chances of winning. The "Stellar" designation is awarded based on undeveloped project summaries, renderings, and rough estimates of concepts. Why undeveloped? Because good project development takes funding and good project development requires time. That is why the implementation phase of "Stellar" is four years with funded planning and implementation. This process affords time for much community input. Of the "Starke Identified" \$14,000,000 in projects, \$5,000,000 is targeted at Bass Lake and the Beach. Take a ride to Culver's Maxinkuckee Beach. Why can't our beach be as good or better than that? One thing for sure, if Starke wins, our BLPOA should provide input into determining the future of our beach. I for one would like county approval to drill a test well with the intent of installing a second lake pump at the beach. We will review many of the identified projects at our meeting before voting on possible funding participation. Give some thought to: "Bass Lake Public Beach Future."

What else: Our grant request for glacial stone in front of existing sea wall has been approved at a 63% of requested funding level - details will be forthcoming to the 44 property owners who applied for the grant. All American Game Jackpot: approaching \$300K. Stay Safe and Healthy, Rick

**Recycling 101**—BLPOA now offers curbside recycling! Don't put your recycling in plastic bags; the bags clog the machinery. Also be sure all recyclables are clean. If you have questions about what can be recycled, refer to [www.recyclingsimplified.com](http://www.recyclingsimplified.com). Note that the Starke County recycling center is now open on Saturdays from 8:00—1:00, call (574) 772-4401 with questions.



**Bass Lake Festival**—To review photos from our July festival, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bass-Lake-Festival/157086767661699>

**Scoops and Smiles**—Located in the small blue building by the Bass Lake Beach is a new ice cream and sandwich restaurant. They feature 20 flavors of ice cream and are open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:00—7:00. It is owned by local resident Shalynn Keen.



The 90-foot fire tower at nearby Tippecanoe River State Park is in great condition, ready for you to climb. This 2,761 acre state park features 10 hiking trails, fishing piers, cabins and horse trails.

**Property Owners Association—Saturday, August 24 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building. This is an important meeting; a vote will occur that will commit BLPOA funds to the Stellar Community Program to benefit the Bass Lake Beach.**

**Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:** Monday, September 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

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

**Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path):** August 15 at 6:00 CDT at the BLPOA building

**Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump):** September 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the BLPOA Bldg.

## Constellation of Starke - Stellar Community Improvements

Starke County is one of four finalists for the State of Indiana Stellar Communities Designation Program. The Stellar Communities Program is a multi-year, multimillion dollar investment initiative led by Indiana's Office of Community and Rural Affairs. This is a significant event for our lake community; if Starke County is selected this year (or in a future year) over \$5 million will be invested in and around Bass Lake! A new beach house will be constructed at the Bass Lake Beach. This new building will include a café/concessions, a Great Room that will be a place for people to meet, offices for beach personnel, and restrooms. There will be a water park with a floatable obstacle course. Future projects may include an updated picnic area, a new shelter, a launching area for kayak and canoe rental, paved parking lots and shoreline restoration.

There is also an exciting roadway project that will increase connectivity to shopping, dining and recreational activities for golf carts and bikes. There will be a new trailhead at the intersection of CR 450 E and CR 210. This will include restrooms, signage, parking for people who are using the Erie Trail for biking or the public launch. If you are interested in learning more, please contact BLPOA Board members who are involved in the effort, Rik Ritzler, AJ Gappa or Gayle Smith. Note that a decision will be made by year-end. If the county is not selected this year, the county will reapply next year.

You can support the Constellation of Starke through a tax deductible gift to the fund with the Starke County Community Foundation. Mail and make checks out to NICF, P.O. Box 807, Rochester, IN 46975. Write "Constellation of Starke Fund" in the memo.

## 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



On August 8 cousins Kara Shipman and Scarlett Williams sat on the corner of SR 10 and East CR 210 selling lemonade for 50 cents a cup. When asked why they decided to host a lemonade stand, Scarlett replied, "I thought it would be refreshing for people on such a hot day." When asked what they were going to do with the profit, she said, "I'm going to give it to my girl scout troop and other good causes." Not only was the lemonade refreshing, but also refreshing to see the youth of America using their time to help others. *Submitted by Michelle Albon from the Bass Lake Marina*



Earl McGuire was the 2019 Bass Lake Festival Grand Marshal. Earl and his wife Martha are parents of BLPOA Board member Mary Topelian.

**BLPOA Board Appreciation** — We'd like to thank Diane Blais, Aileen Collura and Cindy Hunter for their wonderful work on the BLPOA Board. These three fine volunteers completed their Board assignments in July. Three cheers for their contribution to our lake community.



This is the Bass Lake Pump which pumps 1.6 million gallons of water into our lake every day from an underground aquifer.

**The Bass Lake Pump**—Located on the east side of the lake by The Bass Lake Pub and Ristorante and Cranberry Lane, is our lake pump. It was installed in 1964 when the lake level was at an all-time low; 36 inches below the "top of the damn." This pump is an essential tool to maintain the level of our shallow lake. It is maintained and operated by the Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLDC). Thank you to the BLCD for providing this service to our lake! Put simply, the pump runs most of the summer and each day it pumps 1.6 million gallons of new water into our lake from an underground aquifer. The BLPOA has begun discussions with the BLCD and the County about the feasibility of a second pump. If you'd like a copy of the historical report that was commissioned when this pump was originally installed contact Kathy Carrier, [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com).

**Lake and River Enhancement Grant (LARE)** - In January your BLPOA submitted a grant request to the Indiana DNR for a grant to help pay for glacial stone refacing of many of the concrete seawalls in our lake. Our project was approved! We will receive \$35,000 to fund 50% of the cost of our glacial stone seawall projects. We will send detailed next steps to the 44 property owners who applied for the grant next week. Projects will begin this fall and can also occur in 2020 and 2021. Questions? Contact Rick Anderson, [barefootrun@mhsoci.com](mailto:barefootrun@mhsoci.com).

**Prairie Trails Club**—The Prairie Trails Club is coordinating a Color Fun Walk as part of the Monterey Days Festival over Labor Day weekend. This hard working group is also working on the implementation of the bike trail extension which recently won a significant grant to extend the trail an additional 2.6 miles! Contact Kathy Lucas for more information: [kathleenlucas216@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenlucas216@gmail.com).

**Lake Michigan Temps Plummet**—In late July the large waves in Lake Michigan caused the water temperatures around New Buffalo to drop significantly. The water got so cold that hypothermia and cold shock could occur in a matter of minutes. The large waves and strong northerly winds caused "upwelling" where the warm lake water was pushed away from the shore and the much colder water beneath the surface replaced it. According to the Great Lakes Observing System website, the water temperature off the coast of Stevensville dropped 25 degrees in less than 24 hours. At 3 a.m. July 22, the lake temperature was 75 degrees. By midnight the water was down to 50 degrees. Crazy!

**New BLPOA Board Members**—We welcome three new board members, Zac Binkley, John Bucher and Terry Chmiel. Zachary Binkley and his wife, Raelyn are 3rd generation Bass Lake Property Owners, and have been full time residents since 2013. Zachary graduated from Indiana Institute of Technology with a degree in Business Administration. He is fiscally conservative and committed to making the community which he is a part of the best it can be, both for the quality of life in the community and the preservation of property values. Zachary also serves on Starke County's Board of Zoning Appeals as Vice Chairperson. Terry Chmiel is a second generation family at Bass Lake with either his parents or he and his wife, Lori, owning property. He went to school in North Judson and College at Ancilla. He currently works at the Federal Courthouse in South Bend. They have two children; a son in the Military and a daughter who teaches school in Goshen.

**Tippecanoe River**—Did you know that our nearby Tippecanoe River is one of the top ten rivers in the country because of the unusual species of mussels in the river? The DNR performs daily monitoring of this wonderful asset. Nearby Riverside Rentals has kayaks, canoes and tubes that you can rent to enjoy a lazy run down the river. Located in Winamac, they can be reached at (574) 946-3142. You won't regret this nearby adventure!



## Bass Lake History — The White Family

Freddie, Edo, Clarence, Vada and Fred M. White are shown in this photo dated about 1910. Fred and Emma White's farm was located at the former Bass Lake Golf Course. The White's started their homestead in 1889 by clearing 33 acres. They eventually expanded the farm to 217 acres and 15 lakeside lots before selling to the golf course developers in 1927.

Note the huge stack of straw left by recent threshing and the team of oxen. Many farmers used oxen before tractors because of their strength and gentle nature.  
*Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society.*

