



## Bass Lake Healthy Shoreline Initiative

2023 - Update

### Background:

Lake water clarity, weeds and a healthy fish population are important issues for our property owners. Representing you, we've continued our work with:

- Bass Lake Conservancy District
- Indiana Clear Choices, Clean Water
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana University Clean Lakes Program
- Local Purdue University Resources
- Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams
- Other lake communities, such as The Watershed Foundation

Your BLPOA continues taking actions for a healthy lake!

### Recent Actions Taken by Your BLPOA:

1. *Lake and River Enhancement Grant (LARE)* - In 2019 we were awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources LARE program. It was a 3-year grant that we completed in December, 2021. Nineteen of our property owners completed glacial stone projects! We converted 1036 feet of our concrete shoreline to glacial stone. In January, 2022 and again in January, 2023 we applied for additional LARE funding for new glacial stone shoreline projects. This year we requested \$53,680 and further requested that the LARE grant pay for 80% of the project cost, rather than the prior level which was 50%. Grants will be awarded in July, 2023. Thanks to Rick Anderson and AJ Gappa who have helped with the onerous administration of this grant.
2. *Indiana Clean Lakes Program* – This will be our sixth summer in the Indiana University Clean Lakes Program. Thanks to Rick Anderson, Rich Linkus and Phil Woolery from the Purdue Starke County Extension Office we test and monitor our lake water each month. We measure water clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll (a measurement for algae). This is part of a long-term study that provides us with data that we'll use in future grant applications.
3. *Purdue University Lake Monitoring* - The Palmer Research Center for Aquatic Resources, located behind the Woodshed Tap, is monitoring our lake waters again this year. We have had conversations with Purdue University scientists to learn what they are doing so we can dovetail it into our work.
4. *Bass Lake Beach Erosion* – In 2020, were given a permit by the DNR to add fill dirt and glacial stone to 299 feet of the Bass Lake Beach. The Starke County Park Board manages the Bass Lake Beach and Campground. We will be working with the Starke County Park Superintendent to determine if we can place stone around the trees. This will stabilize the shoreline and prevent further erosion at the Beach. We will suggest to the Park Board and the Purdue Extension office that they consider planting new trees along the shoreline at the Beach to prevent further erosion.
5. *Property Owner Education*- We continue to educate the BLPOA about the problems and the solutions through Catch & Release, the BLPOA website, handouts at BLPOA Membership Events, and as an agenda item at BLPOA meetings. Note the information regarding lawn fertilizing and also several detailed articles from the Lilly Center on [www.inbasslake.com](http://www.inbasslake.com). A new Bass Lake Coloring Book is available on Amazon to educate kids about our healthy shoreline work and what they can do to protect and enjoy our many lake assets.

6. *Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams* - In 2018 we forged a relationship with a wonderful resource, the Lilly Center, located in Kosciusko County. They have significant funding and staffing. Though they focus on the county they are located in, they are happy to help us with education and research; they often do. In 2019, we participated in a zebra mussel trap provided by the Lilly Center, as part of a research program regarding this issue that is troublesome in other Indiana lakes. We concluded that we do not have a problem with zebra mussels at Bass Lake at this time. We rely on this research center for current, relevant lake research and educational webinars. The geese management webinar was attended by some of our property owners in 2021. Through our newsletter, Catch & Release, we market their classes and include their educational content.
7. *Invasive Species Weeds* – In 2019 a statewide effort to manage invasive species plants expanded to our area with a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA). Representatives of the BLPOA are actively involved in this group and will bring information to our property owners on the efforts to manage invasive species plants in our lake. Invasive plants that are problems at other lakes include starry stonewort and curly leaf. We are discussing programs to notify boaters using our public launch to clean their propellers and water reservoirs so that these “aquatic hitchhikers” don’t become problems for Bass Lake. Treating weeds in our lake is a complicated issue; solutions and permits are regulated by the DNR. For further information about the weed management program, please contact the Bass Lake Conservancy District, [www.blcd-ind.org](http://www.blcd-ind.org).
8. *Future Plans* – We will be writing grants to the Indiana DNR, the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership and other funding sources to continue our healthy shoreline work. The focus could be fish habitats, native plants on the shoreline, erosion control or educational activities. If you have ideas or would like to become involved, please contact Kathy Carrier, [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com).

#### **BLPOA Goal:**

Restore our natural shoreline to preserve and enhance our water quality, prevent erosion, and provide healthier and safer habitat for the native creatures and lake life. Our vision to preserve our shoreline includes a better lake for recreational activities such as boating, fishing and cardboard boat races!

#### **Excellent Resources:**

*The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams* - This organization is dedicated to making the lakes in Kosciusko County clean, healthy, safe and beautiful. Their website is a rich source of healthy shoreline information, <http://www.lakes.grace.edu>. Subscribe to their newsletter to continue your education.

*Indiana Clear Choices Clean Water* - This award-winning program increases awareness about the choices we each make and the impact they have on our lakes. Their educational content for kids and adults is fantastic. [www.indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org](http://www.indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org).

*The Watershed Foundation* - They have been focused on healthy shoreline initiatives for many years. <http://www.watershedfoundation.org>. You can sign up for their newsletters on their website.

*Indiana Lakes Management Society* - This wonderful organization has online webinars and an annual conference, often of interest to lake property owners. <https://www.indianalakes.org>.

*Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership* - The online courses of this group include a rich selection of topics, often of interest to lake home property owners. <https://www.mglp.org>.

*The Wawasee Conservancy Foundation* - This organization also has a healthy shorelines initiative. <https://www.wacf.com>

July is Lakes Appreciation Month! Go to [www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month](http://www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month) to learn more about this grand month. This website, the North American Lake Management Society is an excellent resource.

**Questions:** Contact Rick Anderson, [barefootrun@mchsi.com](mailto:barefootrun@mchsi.com) or Kathy Carrier, [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com)