

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 6 NO. 7

JULY 2019—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

What you think is true could be true or maybe not. My decades of Bass Lake swimming and boating experience has been this, every time weeds have become an issue, the invasive & prolific Eurasian Milfoil (EM) has been "The Issue". That is, every year until this year. That green stuff floating all through the lake this spring was not EM; it was fibrous strands of filamentous algae which grow rapidly forming mats that cling to about anything while feeding off lake nutrients. Curly-leaf pondweed was also part of the weed mix issue this spring. Curly-leaf is the one with the wavy lasagna-like leaf. It is another non-native that grows early season - sometimes documented under the ice. Curly-leaf typically drops out mid-to-late summer because it doesn't like warm temperatures. It can also break off from wave action, be cut by propellers or naturally just drop-out early. Some curly guys will certainly hang around for 2020. I'm not sure what has happened to the algae mats; however, they seem gone too. Perhaps fish ate them or perhaps they are at the bottom of the lake. There also seem to be a lot of bottom weeds that to me seem new. It is indeed an unusual weed year. What dominates this July is EM; it is growing and once again is claiming its spot as the weed capable of stopping jet skis as well as jet boats. EM is native to Europe, Asia and northern Africa. Its first documented US identification was in 1942 in a Washington D.C. pond and by 1950 it was in the Midwest. Today it is in most Indiana lakes and ponds and can be found as far west as California. Some believe EM helps the fish habitat; indeed a lake needs a good balance of weeds for fish to prosper. Others believe, Bass Lake fish do/ have done fine without EM. This year, following a weed survey that identified about 60 acres of EM; treatment of 3 acres was approved. Approved EM Treatment: Aquatic herbicides containing Triclupyr or 2, 4 D which impacts few native submerged aquatic plants has proven effective. Another weed survey is scheduled for later this summer; stay tuned. Boaters can reduce the spread of EM and its infestation by staying out of the weeds. EM fragments will take root wherever they settle in. Once established, EM has a tendency to branch profusely and form dense canopies over the surface. This can shade out native vegetation and has the potential to establish an EM monoculture.



The 62 acres of Eurasian Milfoil is located in the yellow areas; the southwest side of the lake. You'll want to avoid running your



Other Stuff: The Annual Property Owners meeting will be Saturday July 13th. We are still awaiting an August decision on our grant request for glacial stone in front of existing seawalls. The new intersection at 600 S & CR 210 East has had many favorable comments. The first recyclables curbside pick up was July 8th with 136 signed up. The 3rd annual Property Owners bike ride will be July 20th; the group will be leaving the Property Owners Building at 9:00 a.m. headed for the Erie Trail. Good luck at the "V"; the Jackpot is over \$250K. *Stay Safe and Healthy,*

Kersting's World of Motorcycles Museum—Located 4 miles south of North Judson on Highway 39, this local treasure features over 100 antique motorcycles. Open Tuesday through Thursday 9-6, Friday, 9-8 and Saturday 9-4. This museum houses the collection of the Jim Kersting family and is worth the drive. See if you can find the 1910 Harley Davidson Model 6 which retailed for \$210 or the 4 cylinder Indian which was built in 1931. Call (574) 896-3172 for more information.

Property Owners Association—Annual Meeting: Saturday, July 13 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, August 5 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

Bass Lake Festival: Monday, July 22 at 5:00 CDT, BLPOA building

Starke County Park Board (our beach): Tuesday, August 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path): July 18 at 6:00 CDT at the BLPOA building

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump): August 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the BLPOA Bldg.

Bass Lake Festival—www.basslakefest.com

Bass Lake Festival

Friday, July 20—Little Miss & Mister Bass Lake, Jr. Miss & Miss Bass Lake

Friday, July 26—Fishing Derby, Bass Lake & Canvas, Entertainment, Food

Saturday, July 27—Lakeside Market, 5K Run/Walk, Kids Fun Run, Magic by Kalita, Ice Cream Eating Contest, Car Show,

Kid Zone/Bouncy Houses, Photography Contest, Cover Your Bass Contest, Historical Trams, Water Volleyball,

Sailboat Races, Corn Hole Tournament, Brew Tasting, Entertainment, Fireworks, Food Vendors

Sunday, July 28—Lions Club Breakfast, Bike Race/Family Fun Ride, Photography Contest, Cover Your Bass Contest,

Historical Trams, Cardboard Boat Race, Parade (Grand Marshal is Earl McGuire), Food

Volunteer Note Taker Needed—Interested in learning more about our Neighborhood Watch program? Volunteer to help with the meeting notes! The Secretary role is open and we are looking for a volunteer for this tiny monthly task. We normally meet the first Monday of each month at the Bass Lake Property Owners Community Center at 6:30 p.m. If interested in this position, please contact Ron Vendl at (574) 772-2580 and leave a message, email address is: vendlr@yahoo.com.

Bass Lake Property Owners Association

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

Board Members

- Diane Blais
- Aileen Collura
- Cindy Hunter
- Rich Linkus
- Rik Ritzler
- Gayle Smith
- Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:

www.inbasslake.com

Lakeside Market at the Marina—

Saturday, July 27 from 9:00—6:00 is our popular festival art fair. We feature local artisans, woodworkers and crafters. Vintage and repurposed works of art and furniture are also welcome. Call Nancy Sandusky (219) 488-6747 to register for a booth. Booth rental starts at \$20.

It's Blueberry Season!—Our area features many great blueberry farms, all near Bass Lake. You can either purchase pre-picked blueberries or pick them yourself. Goin's Blueberry Lane, open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., near North Judson is always a sure bet. Call (574) 896-2283.



Check out this unique activity at the recent Mint Festival in North Judson. The firefighters hosted a "move the ball with a firehose of water" event.

Zebra Mussel Study—The BLPOA is partnering with the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams on a zebra mussel study. Since May we have had a zebra mussel trap in the lake to ensure we do not have a problem with this invasive mussel. Our conclusion is that we do not! Thanks to Jake and Michelle Albon of the Bass Lake Marina who are leading the way with this important lake study.

BLPOA Annual Meeting is July 13—The agenda for the annual meeting on Saturday, July 13 at 9:00 a.m. includes a discussion about our recycling contract, healthy shoreline work, the Eurasian Milfoil in the lake, rental of the BLPOA building, annual election of officers and more. This is a well attended meeting guaranteed to update you on the work the property owners' association does for you!

Grand Marshal of Festival Parade— The 2019 Bass Lake Festival Grand Marshal is Earl McGuire. Earl and his family have a long history with Bass Lake and Knox. In fact, Earl's father and mother were also grand marshals. Born in 1932, Earl remembers his grandmother who owned five restaurants in the area. He is an Army vet and has been married to Martha for 62 years. They have six children, including Mary Topelian who serves on both the BLPOA and the Bass Lake Festival Boards. Earl taught high school accounting in Hobart, lived in Valparaiso. He enjoyed golf and bowling; ask him about winning the Mr. and Mrs. International Doubles Bowling Tournament. He and his wife currently live at Bass Lake. Earl's claim to fame at Bass Lake is his long history as the Treasurer of the BLPOA. Under his 21-year Board tenure, the firehouse was converted into the BLPOA Community Center. He enjoys reading spy novels, watching sports and spending time with his 6 kids, 16 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren. Give Earl a big round of applause in the parade festival!



A Bass Lake photo from July 4, contributed by Conrad Agnos.

Lake and River Enhancement Grant (LARE) - In January your BLPOA submitted a grant request to the Indiana DNR for our glacial stone seawall projects. We had 44 applicants; our grant request totaled \$114,240 and will reface 3264 feet of our shoreline. The decision regarding our grant application will be made by the DNR in July/August, to be followed by internal DNR paperwork and sign-off. If we are approved, the funding will not be made available until this fall. If you are one of the 44 applicants, your glacial stone seawall project should not be started until after the funding is approved or it will not qualify. Timewise, this means that your project should not be done until fall, 2019 or spring/summer, 2020. Questions? Contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mhsci.com.

Prairie Trail Club Bike Ride—The BLPOA/Prairie Trails Club third annual joint bike ride is July 20 at 9 a.m. Meet at the BLPOA building with your bikes, helmets and be ready to ride! Contact Kathy Lucas for more information: kathleenlucas216@gmail.com.

Bass Lake Festival 2019 —The Bass Lake Festival planning continues, under the spirited leadership of Mary Topelian, Tabitha Dillner, Stefanie Thompson and Carolla Heilstedt. Get your family involved in one of the 30 events or volunteering for a few hours. The festival planning team meets on July 22 at 5:00 CDT at the BLPOA building. Contact Mary Topelian, mjttopelian@att.net or Tabitha Dillner, tdillner@gmail.com to volunteer. The website is: www.basslakefest.com. Mosey down to the Bass Lake Beach on Sunday, July 28 in the morning and see the cardboard boat contest!



Adults: 5-XL-\$14; 2X-3XL-\$16
 Youth: 5 & M-\$12

Bass Lake Festival T-Shirts are now available for sale at local vendors! Time to don your cool 2019 lake attire.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) - Bass Lake Conservancy District— Rainfall for June was 3.90 inches. Total for the year – 22.96 inches. At the Annual Meeting (June 29), Gene Ladd was sworn in as Director-District 1 for a four year term ending June 2023. The next scheduled meeting is Monday August 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. CST. Please visit our website at www.blcd-ind.org. If you should have any questions/concerns pertaining to the District, please feel free to call the BLCD office at 574 772-2974 or email us at info@blcd-ind.org. Thank you, the Bass Lake Conservancy District Board

Bass Lake History — The White Family

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Frederick and Emma (Podell) White are shown standing in front of their home- stead in California Twp. This photo was taken around 1902 in front of their farm home, which later served as the clubhouse for the Bass Lake Golf Course. Frederick's father, August White (Weiche) had come to America from Germany in 1848 and eventually settled on the west shores of Bass Lake in 1878.

At that time, the land west of Bass Lake was a swampy wilderness, and the Golf Course Road did not even exist. August and his sons, Frederick, Albert, William and Henry cleared the trees with teams of oxen and turned the wilderness into farm land. From left to right: Fred, Everett, Emma, Frederick, Clarence and Isadore White.



Note that this is the family of BLPOA Board member Gayle Smith. Frederick and Emma White are her great grandparents. Her property, which is just across the road from the White property has been in the White family since 1919; 100 years. Gayle's grandfather, Fred White is shown in the picture

Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society.