

# CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 6 NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2019—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President Rick Anderson's Thoughts



Our September waters are the clearest I've ever seen them in any of my many Septembers of Bass Lake bottom observations. The blooms of cloudy algae (zooplankton, microcosms, anathema, cylindrospermopsis; etc) have diminished greatly being replaced by much bottom-hugging, non-rooting filamentous algae. Noteworthy; the "local brain trust" attributes this to the bluegill that were stocked by the DNR earlier this year. Some are in the "its all about weeds settling out silt" camp. Are you in one of these camps? The lake does have a good bit of weeds a-growin'. This is especially true at the west side of the south bay; however, the north end shoreline has increased weed growth too. Weed treatment will be a good subject for spring of 2020. The August 24th meeting: The "Starke County Constellation of Starke" effort and BLPOA funding decision: discussions were all in support of the changes. It was pretty simple. It came down to our by-laws objectives—making commitments toward making Starke County and Bass Lake a better place. Contingent upon winning, the BLPOA committed to donating \$10,000 to "The Stellar" for four consecutive years; \$40,000 in total. Thank you Raelyn Binkley for heading up the upcoming October 19th Soup Social. Thank you Rich Linkus for taking over Building Rentals. Parking lot maintenance (resurfacing and striping) was moved to spring. 135 members have paid for and are now "Recycling Curbside" with every other week pickup. I believe the Starke County recycle center is also doing well; I need to give "Starke Environmental Carrie" a call. Tabitha Dillner will no longer be cleaning our property owners building; we will be investigating other options.

Lake level is about normal for September at about 713 feet 7 inches above sea level. That would be 5 inches below the top of our new dam. Remember a few years back when the State installed our new dam at a cost of \$80,000? It went in at the same elevation as was legally established by Judge Don Larimore in 1948. A lot of water along with much sediment has gone over the Bass Lake dam since then. That 71 years of outflow and water replenishment is part of our lake cycle that helps keep Bass Lake the way it is. Our glacial stone grant request has been approved at a 63% of requested funding level - details will be forthcoming to participants. We are waiting for notification that the reimbursement funds are available for distribution. The All American Game Jackpot: approaching \$350K - again quite remarkable. *Stay Safe and Healthy, Rick*

### Neighborhood Watch Drivers Needed

We need a few additional drivers for our Neighborhood Watch Program. This is not a time consuming volunteer duty and you can do it with another driver as a team. Contribute to our lake community! Sign up now, or at the very least call Ron Vendl to learn more, vendlr@yahoo.com, (574) 772-2580.



**Property Owners Association—Saturday, October 5 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building.**

**Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:** Monday, October 7 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 Group Work Day—**September 14, 9:00 a.m., meet at the Erie Trailhead at SR 10 & SR 39

**Starke County Park Board (our beach):** Tuesday, October 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

**Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path):** Thursday, September 12 at 6:00 CDT at the BLPOA building

**Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump):** Monday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m., BLPOA building

## Fall-Tastic Yard Contest



Ray Vandermaar & Carol Paul with 'best overall'.

Think you have the best Fall/Halloween Yard Display?!

Contact Raelyn Binkley to enter yours, (219) 869-0198, raelynbinkley@hotmail.com

Pictures need to be taken prior to October 19 to be entered. The voting will take place at the Soup Social on October 19.

**Your Property Owner Association Website—**[www.inbasslake.com](http://www.inbasslake.com)

Check out this valuable website which includes a calendar of events, links to partner organizations, a gallery of lake pictures, minutes of BLPOA meetings and back issues of this newsletter. Thanks to Larry Collura and Kathy Laiter who keep this website current for all of us!

STARKE COUNTY SWCD, PURDUE EXTENSION & SICIM INVITE YOU TO

## STARKE COUNTY INVASIVE SPECIES MEETING

Free & Open to the public!

Come join us in a discussion about promoting native plants & how we can work together to manage invasives in Starke County!

**OCTOBER 2, 2019  
6 PM CDT**

**KANKAKEE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA  
4320 W TOTO ROAD  
NORTH JUDSON, IN 46366**

Dinner will be provided

RSVP at [erica@sicim.info](mailto:erica@sicim.info)  
or 219-477-0252

## 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)

### Constellation of Starke

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. 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. The Stellar Designation will be awarded in December. 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 Maps

The Bass Lake Conservancy District website has fantastic, useful maps of our lake including a map of where the milfoil weeds are.

Go to [www.blcd-ind.org](http://www.blcd-ind.org).

### BLPOA Tasty Soup Social

**Cost:** \$5 per person (10 and under free)

**Date:** Saturday, October 19

**Time:** 5:00 P.M.—6:30 P.M.

**Where:** BLPOA Community Center

**Soup Contest:** Bring your favorite soup (and the recipe) for all to enjoy! Taste all of the soups and vote for your favorite.

**Questions?** Contact Raelyn Binkley, (219) 869-0198, [raelyninkley@hotmail.com](mailto:raelyninkley@hotmail.com)

**Starke County Food Pantry**—Another fun summer season at beautiful Bass Lake has come and is almost gone. While putting away “the toys” you have enjoyed – think of those things that you won't keep till next year. Many homeowners are clearing out kitchen cabinets. Think about donating nonperishable food items to the Starke County Food Pantry. The Food Pantry provides nonperishable food items to persons in need in Starke County. Clients make their own selection from available items. The Food Pantry is located at 311 E. Culver Road (IN Route 8) in Knox. Normal hours are Monday thru Friday from 10:00am to 2:30pm.

Please contact Rhonda Overmyer (if you have any questions about the Food Pantry) at 574 772-7070 or [rovermyer@starkecs.com](mailto:rovermyer@starkecs.com). *The Board of the Bass Lake Conservancy District*

**Fall Harvest and Halloween Train**—The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum in North Judson is offering a variety of train rides so everyone can take in the sights, sounds and smells of the autumn season. Enjoy a leisurely trip through northwest Indiana's countryside, aboard The Fall Harvest Train on September 28 or The Pumpkin Train on Oct. 5, 12 and 19. Upon returning to the North Judson area, the train will travel to a pumpkin patch where everyone may choose a pumpkin. The Halloween Train on Oct. 26 departs for a 2 ½ to 3 hour trip at 4 p.m., CST. For information: [www.hoosiervalley.org](http://www.hoosiervalley.org).

**Drone Pictures of Bass Lake**—Phil Woolery, the Purdue Extension staff member in Starke County, is trained to take aerial photos using a Purdue drone. If you are interested in seeing recent footage of the Bass Lake Beach, contact Kathy Carrier, [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com). These pictures were taken to add value to our Stellar Community application. Thank you Phil! Note the Facebook page for Purdue Extension—Starke County features educational events that Phil hosts.

**Blighted and Abandoned Properties**—If you are concerned about a nearby property that is not well maintained, you can report it to Starke County for their follow-up. Gayle Smith, BLPOA Board member and head of our Beautification Committee, will send you the form that you need to use as well as directions. Contact Gayle at: [resmith3\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:resmith3_99@yahoo.com), or (574) 249-2335.

### Bass Lake History — The White Farm



A Curtis JN-4 (Jenny) biplane lands on the Frederick M. White farm on Bass Lake's west side around 1917. The White farm included the former Bass Lake Golf Course, where this picture was taken. Frederick M. White, his wife Emma and youngest son, Forrest, are standing near the horses on the left side of the picture. The airplane belonged to their friends from Chicago.

This was only 14 years after Orville and Wilbur Wright had achieved man's first successful airplane flight and only 6 years after Cal Rodgers crossed America by airplane. It would be 10 more years before Charles Lindbergh would dare cross the Atlantic. The Jenny had a 90 horsepower V-8 liquid cooled engine that gave it a top speed of 75 miles per hour and a ceiling of 11,000 feet. The Jenny became especially popular with stunt performers who thrilled audiences by walking its wings and doing aerial trapeze stunts. Note that an interpretive sign is being planned for the Aldine crossing (County Road 125E) of the Erie Trail, where Rogers landed for repairs on his historic flight! *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society.*