

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 6 NO. 3

MARCH 2019—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Clear March water is spilling over the dam from under Bass Lake ice. Reminds me of year's past when many looked forward to the Fishburn's Marine "sometimes in March" boat show. Would the lake be ice free for boat rides? If not, you could count on Dale Fishburn (President, BLPOA 43-48) having his son Forrest (President, BLPOA 75-76) passing out hot dogs and pop while Dale sold boats. Sadly, Forrest passed away last month. I grew up with Forrest and I have many Forrest stories. At one boat show I said to him, "I'll take that paddle boat." He said, "How are you going to pay for it?" I said, "I'll be back with \$200 and you can put the rest on my bill." Forrest said, "OK." What could have been simpler than that? Each payday I came up with \$50 or so and had his wife Pat, reduce my bill. My last payment was interesting; in late summer, while gassing up Ol' Yeller (the first boat I bought from Forrest), I just handed him a fifty and said, "That's it, we're square." Did I get chewed out the next weekend. Pat told me in no uncertain terms, "Don't you ever give Forrest cash again." Forrest and I laughed about that many times. Back then, the Bass Lake season starting event was definitely the Boat Show.

The new Starke County Recycle Facility is open. I dropped off two months of stockpiled recycles. To get in and out quickly, you need to have your recycles separated. There is a bin for paper and cardboard, a bin for plastic, a bin for glass and bins for steel and aluminum cans. The March 2 Property Owners meeting was fairly unremarkable and in many ways a recap of the February meeting. The next Meeting is April 6th.

Some remember "That Year", the year when weeds super clogged Bass Lake and some thought the lake was "Done For." Not so fast; a plan came together. Dale and Forrest Fishburn bought a truckload of weed killer. The old pontoon that was fitted with two fertilizer spreaders and a high powered 1958 50 hp 4-cylinder Johnson motor became known as "The Weed Killer" (in 1958, 50 Hp was the biggest engine Johnson Motors had ever sold.) A second big motored boat became "The Deliverance" shuttling weed killer and gas to "Killer." Guided by strategically placed marker buoys, back and forth, up and down the lake went the weed machine for two full days. On day three, Forrest was ready to cry; everywhere weeds were still standing tall. Day four, the same. After attacking about 800 acres of weeds, "Nothing." Then came that morning of day five; the weeds were brown, down, wilted and sinking. Forrest was seen that day doing flip flops. This year, conditions are right for a weed comeback - we'll see. Hopefully, if needed, some of Forrest's old weed knowledge is still with us. *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

Purple Loosestrife Watch—Purple Loosestrife is an invasive perennial plant that is spreading rapidly in North America. Thick stands of purple loosestrife crowd out native plants and reduce food, shelter and nesting sites for wildlife, birds, turtles and frogs. Lake residents should know how to identify purple loosestrife; the flowers are magenta with five to seven petals. Flowers usually appear in July and bloom through October. Do not transplant it! Please report sightings of the plant, noting the exact location, to the Indiana DNR Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology (317) 232-4120.



Property Owners Association: Saturday, April 6 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, April 15 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: 4th Monday of each month at 5:00 CDT, BLPOA building

Starke County Park Board (our beach): Tuesday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path): Wednesday April 24 at 6:00 CDT at the BLPOA building

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump): Monday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

Recycling Update

Over 100 enthusiastic Property Owners have signed up for curbside recycling and an optimistic Republic Services has indicated they are willing to work with our "signed up" number as a pilot program. Both organizations expect the future growth of BLPOA recycling. We are preparing to have a discussion and vote on a 4 year garbage collection contract extension as well as 5-year curbside recycling contract at our April 6 Property Owners Meeting. The Starke County Environmental Management District manages the county recycling. The new Recycling Site opened on February 25 and is just west of the County Highway Department. The site is open Monday—Friday from 7:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. The location of the site is 3835 E. 250 N. Suite B, Knox. Staff members are onsite to monitor the materials going into the recycling bins. All containers must be empty, clean and dry. There is a list of acceptable materials on www.co.starke.in.us. The director is Carrie-Trent-Kuchel, scsw46534@yahoo.com or call (574) 772-4401.

Bass Lake Beach and Campground—If you are interested in Starke County's management of the lease of the Bass Lake Beach and Campground, you might consider attending the monthly Park Board meetings. They are the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex Building. The Board includes five members: President Richard Ballard, Harold (Butch) Gerstandt, Rik Ritzler (also on the BLPOA Board), Rosemary Rose and Christopher Lawrence. The Park Board Five Year Plan, the Beach and Campground inspection report, Park Board meeting agenda and minutes are on the Starke County website. The current lease with Callahan, LLC runs through April 2028. It is in our interest to encourage the Park Board to manage the lease aggressively and well.

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

Golf Cart Ordinance Change—Note that there will now be a \$25 late fee for any golf cart inspection after July 1. This ordinance was recently passed in Starke County. The BLPOA golf cart inspection dates are: May 18, June 8, and June 22 from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Indiana Lakes Conference—The Indiana Lakes Management Society is hosting the 31st Annual Indiana Lakes Management conference at beautiful Oakwood Resort in Syracuse, Indiana, on March 21 and 22. Bass Lake will be represented at the conference by three BLCD people and a BLPOA volunteer. Bass Lake will be featured in DNR representative Tom Bacula's presentation on March 21. Contact Sara Peel at speel@arionconsultants.com with registration questions.

Bass Lake, Indiana Facebook Page—You'll find 4391 users on this Facebook page, notices of local activities, lost items and other news of interest. Check it out! Thanks to Tabitha Dillner who often coordinates social media issues for our lake community.

Need Summer Party Space? - Call (574) 772-7761 to rent the spacious, recently remodeled, affordable BLPOA building. A Board member will return your call and answer all of your questions.

Melody Drive-In Theatre—Our local, historic drive-in begins their 2019 season on March 29. Four movies are shown each weekend, an early showing and a late showing on two screens. Time for a family moving outing!

Bowlaway Lanes Reopen—Our local bowling alley reopened in February under new ownership! The bowling alley, located at 2355 U.S. 35 is open 3:00—10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturday 1:00—11:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00—9:00 p.m. Reasonably priced, this locally owned treasure is a great option for a family outing.

www.basslakefest.com—The Bass Lake Festival planning is underway, under the capable leadership of Mary Topelian, Tabitha Dillner, Stefanie Thompson and Carolla Heilstedt. Join the fun and get your family involved in one of the 30 events or volunteering for a few hours. The festival planning team meets the fourth Monday of every month at 5:00 CDT at the BLPOA building. Contact information and 2019 event information is on the website: www.basslakefest.com! Contact Mary Topelian, mjtopelian@att.net or Tabitha Dillner, tdillner@gmail.com with questions.

Prairie Trails Club—Carolla Heilstedt was elected President of the Prairie Trails Club (PTC), a local resident who has invested significant time in bike trail grant applications and community work. The BLPOA/Prairie Trails Club third annual joint bike ride is July 20 at 9 a.m. Additional rides are in discussion; if you'd like to chime in on the discussion, please do. The next work day to clean up the trail is on April 23 at 9 a.m. The group recently began a new Amazon Smile fundraising effort. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to PTC. Contact Kathy Lucas for more information: kathleenlucas216@gmail.com.

Website Updates—The Bass Lake Property Owners Association website (WWW.INBASSLAKE.COM) recently changed to a new more responsive, mobile-friendly site. Thanks to Larry Collura who is our volunteer web master and who spent considerable time on the recent website updates.

DNR Safe Boating Class—This annual course is offered by the Indiana DNR. It will be held at Koontz Lake this summer. Further information will be included in future newsletters. Thanks to BLPOA Board member Aileen Collura who coordinates this class for us each summer.



The first 2019 Bass Lake fisherman was sighted, in a boat, in a snowstorm on St. Patrick's Day. This photo was contributed by Grace Hehemann.

Outdoor Lighting Through NIPSCO—NIPSCO Dusk-to-Dawn lights will illuminate any area where you need additional lighting. Keeping dark areas lit is an effective way to prevent nighttime crime and vandalism. Also, personal mishaps and accidents can be significantly reduced if you illuminate doorways, sidewalks, driveways and piers. You can choose the lighting option that works best for you.

Any customer on a NIPSCO electric supply line can order these security lights for a small monthly fee. You can choose from a variety of High Pressure Sodium area lights and floodlights. Photoelectric cells control the light and automatically turn them on at dusk and off at dawn. The lights can be installed in nearly any area where you need additional lighting. Installation requires an existing NIPSCO pole, or for a

fee, a new pole can be installed. Lights must be located on or extend over the property of the customer. (Be sure to talk with your neighbors if the new lights will impact them!)

Monthly fees range from \$12—\$17 and will be included on your monthly NIPSCO bill under "optional services." To enroll, you review and sign the terms & conditions, select a light that fits your needs. To learn more or request a brochure, call (800) 464-7726 or go to www.nipsco.com.

Bass Lake History — Shilling Home



William and Lovina (Gesaman) Shilling were one of our earliest pioneer families having moved to the Round Lake area around 1851.

They had traveled from "Stark" County, Ohio on the Wabash & Erie Canal to Logansport and then by wagon team to California Township here in our "Starke" County. There were no roads in the county at that time. Their 160 acre farm was located south-east of what is now CR 200 E and CR 350 S; about a half mile east of the Round Lake Church.

Starting with a log cabin in the new wilderness, they lived off the wild game, fish and fruit that was plentiful in the marshes, as they developed their homestead into the scene shown in this photo taken about 1895. This home, built around 1880, is said to have been the first frame house built in the area.

Submitted by: Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society

