

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 7 NO. 6

JUNE 2020—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

The word for Bass Lake June 2020 would be weeds. Boats are really chopping them up. And when they do, this happens. They can pile up on the shore; add a dead fish or two and they can really stink. They can even stink without dead fish. Worse, they can sink and take root; that's what is mostly happening. After landfall, many Property Owners are spending much time and effort removing and disposing of them. I personally want to thank all who are doing this. Waiting for a wind shift will allow more to sink and root.

Bass Lake has a long weed history. The 2020 weed growth is starting to rival the great weed growths of 1960 and 1985. When the DNR approved 2 of 60 acres for treatment last year; they did not have a crystal ball. Now, its how to deal with the over 500 acres of invasive Eurasian Milfoil. As a first step, the DNR approved the treatment of 157 acres on June 10. What next? At the June 8 BLCD meeting: The BLCD Board agreed to request the DNR for a written explanation why approval was not given for treatment of the additional identified 350 acres of invasive Eurasian Milfoil. The BLCD will also apply for an additional permit to treat the remaining 350 identified acres.

If you missed the June 6 Property Owners meeting: Available funds are \$254,000. The July 11 Annual Meeting procedures and election ballot was reviewed. COVID-19 has resulted in, 1) The suspension of private party rentals until further notice; 2) The cancellation of the DNR Boating Safety Class; 3) The cancellation of most Bass Lake Festival Events (though a fireworks display is still planned); & 4) The Indiana Stellar Community awards program has been put on a 2-year hold. The annual BLPOA bicycle ride is still scheduled for July 18. The parking lot repairs are scheduled for June. The Bass Lake Beach may open July 4 or sooner. The Stellar Community \$333,000 award from 2019 is being used to fund many Stake County projects. Most notably at Bass Lake will be the new Trailhead at 450 East and East CR 210. After discussions, the Board passed a motion to donate \$5,000 to the project. Ron Vendl gave the Neighborhood Watch report. After much weed discussion (to be continued at Monday night's Conservancy District meeting) the meeting was adjourned.

Around the lake: Solar pier lights are lighting up the shoreline. Some are calling the "new" Harbour House the Harbour Deck & Pier House. The Honey Hole, Pub & Sporty's are doing a brisk table business and the VFW is scheduled to open June 14. The Great American Game waits at \$75,000.

While spreading Hydrothol Granular pellets on 625 square feet of my aquatic vegetation, I wondered - why this many weeds? Anyone else wonder? I think 2020 weeds growth was kicked off by the big ice crack of January 2016, followed by much algae and cloudy water. To clear the waters, the DNR stocked Bass Lake with about 110,000 algae eating crappie which cleared the water and allowed sunlight for the weed. Isn't it interesting how weeds can grow with ample sunlight. Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick

Property Owners Association—Saturday, July 11 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, July 6 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, July 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Saturday, June 27 at 10:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Festival is Cancelled—The Festival Board made a difficult decision to cancel this year's Festival. Due to State guidelines, volunteer uncertainty and permit delays, the Board felt it was best to cancel this year. The plan is to come back next year bigger and stronger!

A fireworks display is still planned for Saturday, July 25; the permit is pending. Also, Festival t-shirts will be for sale at the June 20 Membership Drive, Double D's and the Marina.

Please volunteer for next year's Festival. We need people to chair events, so round up your family and volunteer. Contact Mary Topelian, mjtopelian@att.net.

Bass Lake History—Ora School

A "new" brick school was built at Ora in 1902 for \$4,000. It replaced an older wood frame school. This photo of the students at that new school is in the Historical Society's collection, but the year and children are unknown.

Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society

Lake Photographs Needed

We are updating the photos on the BLPOA website and would like your contribution. Contact Kathy Laiter if you have photos to contribute, weskii4@yahoo.com, (773) 251-6410.



Moving Starke County Forward—Every Minute Counts

This "get moving" program runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day here in Starke County. It doesn't matter what activity you participate in—it could be walking, biking, running, yoga. You name it, every minute counts. To participate you simply log your minutes on the Moving Forward Facebook page. Last year's winner were folks from the Prairie Trails Club! There is a leaderboard on their Facebook page and currently, there are no leaders listed in the "Under 18" category. Your kids or grandkids could be the first which will put them on the leaderboard!

Bass Lake Property Owners Association

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

- Board Members
- Terry Chmiel
 - Rich Linkus
 - Rik Ritzler
 - Gayle Smith
 - Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:

www.inbasslake.com



Go to www.prairietrailsclub.com to find maps to our local bike trail. New signs have recently been added to the trail!

Flag Contest—How many flags (3X5 feet or 4X6 feet) were flying on Memorial Day at Bass Lake? The flags were counted while riding a bike around the lake. The winner of the contest will receive a high quality U.S. flag. Send your guesses to Kcarrier@briljent.com. One guess per person.

Buoy Questions? Contact our Buoymaster Gary Laiter at (773) 750-4049. If you find a rock in the lake that you'd like to mark with a buoy, you can become a rock buoy foster parent!

BLPOA Building Rental Closed—The BLPOA building will be closed for private party rentals this summer due to COVID-19 restrictions.

July 18 BLPOA Bike Ride—The annual BLPOA bike ride is on Saturday, July 18. Riders will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building and will ride on the nearby Erie Trail. You can choose how far you'd like to ride. Join us to experience our great local bike trail! Questions? Contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.



Eurasian Watermilfoil, the invasive weed in the lake, is highlighted in yellow on this map, 500 acres.

Our Weed Problem—As noted by all, our lake has a significant invasive weed problem this year. There has been much cooperative work over the past month with the BLCD, BLPOA and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Weed treatment requires a DNR permit; 157 acres of the 500 acres of Eurasian milfoil were treated on June 10. For an update and an opportunity to ask questions, attend the BLCD meeting on June 27 at the BLPOA building at 10:00 a.m. Or, contact a BLCD Board members: Gene Novello, Larry Collura, Russ Blais, Jerry Broadstreet or Gene Ladd. Informative maps and Board member contact information are on the website: www.blcd-in.org. *Note: The weeds pose danger to swimmers and boaters so use a buddy system and avoid weedy areas.*

BLPOA Membership Sign-Up—If you don't yet have your Bass Lake Directory or garbage sticker, plan to attend the BLPOA membership drive on June 20 from 9:00—noon at the BLPOA building.

Safe Boating Class Cancelled—The June 20 DNR Safe Boating Class is cancelled. Note that this class can be taken online, via the Indiana DNR website. It takes 3—4 hours to complete.

Sell Your Crafts and Products—Sell your products at our Christmas Marketplace which features local crafters, artists and third party vendors. The event is on December 5 from 9:00 a.m. —3:00 p.m. at the BLPOA building. Register at basslakefest.com.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) - The BLCD Annual Meeting is on Saturday, June 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building. The directorship position for District II is up for election. The only candidate filing a timely nominating petition was incumbent Gene Novello so there will be no contested election. Gene will be sworn in for a four-year term. Additionally, the Board will elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman. An opportunity will be given to the public to ask questions about the operation and function of the BLCD. *Submitted by Larry Collura, Vice Chairman BLCD* (Author note: Included in the BLCD Charter is weed treatment and control.)

BLPOA Board Elections—At the July 11 meeting there will be elections for five BLPOA Board positions. This is a great way for you to learn about the lake—be on our Board! If you have questions about being a Board member, contact our President Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

Welcome Packets for New BLPOA Members—If you are new to Bass Lake and would like an information packet, contact our Welcome Team, Gayle Smith, resmith3_99@yahoo.com, (574) 249-2335. Where else would you get this kind of hospitality?

Unique Father's Day Gift—Train Engineer Programs—How about giving your Dad the experience of being a train engineer? The nearby Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum in North Judson is now offering two different guest engineer programs. There is 30-minute \$100 program and a one hour \$240 program. Advanced reservations are required. Email: ridership@hoosiervalley.org or call (574) 896-3950.

Bike Trail Construction—The 2.6 mile Erie Trail extension east of US 35 continues on schedule. The Prairie Trails Club is working with The Troyer Group to select cost effective yet durable materials.

Great News! Stellar Community Trailhead Project at Bass Lake

There will be a new Bass Lake Trailhead at the "triangle" where the overflow public launch parking currently is, at South CR 210 and S. 450 E. This \$124,000 project will include a paved parking lot, golf cart parking, public restrooms, bike racks and signage. The BLPOA donated \$5,000 to this project, funded by your dues! Thanks to the Constellation of Starke team and Starke County for supporting this exciting Bass Lake enhancement. See photo at the right for the plan.

BLPOA Board member Rik Ritzler presented the plan at the June 6 BLPOA meeting. He indicated that work will begin this fall.

The Indiana Stellar Community program is on hold for two years, as the State manages through the COVID-19 crisis. Starke County plans to reapply with our larger application when the program reopens.

