

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Quite unlike January 2018, January 1, 2019 arrived with Bass Lake free of ice and get this - pretty clear. Not like 2018 with only 4 inches of visibility through much algae; instead, there is about four feet of visibility through clear algae free water. It has been a long time since I could stand by the gas pumps at Bass Lake Marina and see a pop can resting on the channel's bottom. In addition to that, an inch of rain fell on New Years Eve bringing the lake level to just two inches under the "Top of Dam" mark. So what does this mean for the 2019 season? Facts & Folklore: A hard winter kills weeds. A good deep freeze of cloudy ice with a good snow cover on top kills weeds. A late thaw slows weed growth. Keeping blue gill from eating algae reduces sunlight for weeds. Were too many algae eating blue gill stocked last year? On the other hand: Warm water grows weeds. Sunlight grows weeds. Now is a good time to make your 2019 weed prediction. Maybe dying lake talk will give way to clogged up wave runner intake talk?

When Starke County removed the recycle dumpsters from behind the Property Owners Building they made a commitment to build a new Recycle Facility on 250 north and US 35 north west of the County Garage. It is initially expected to be open for recycling February 1st Monday through Friday from 7:00 to 3:00 with supervised operations. Additional weekend hours are expected to be added. Funding is from the \$20 solid waste management fee on your property tax bill. The Property Owners have a committee looking into the possibility of curbside recycling along with garbage pick up. A Curb Side Recycling Questionnaire will go out with the Annual Letter and Membership Form to assess interest.

This unusually warm January is quite remarkable; there is zero ground frost. Also remarkable was the Bass Lake winter of 1909. Back then, men were harvesting Bass Lake ice for transport to the Chicago ice market. Past Starke County ground records show frost penetrations up to 54 inches. Well into the twentieth century Bass Lake ice and ice boxes kept things cold. The Property Owners Building location was actually the location of a rail spur to Bass station for loading and transport of ice. Interesting how things can change in just 110 years. Our Fire-place Room remodeling should finish this month. The VFW in Knox has a new bar and the Great American Game is rumored to be starting again in February with an initial jackpot of \$100,000. *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

Glacial Stone Seawalls—Next week the BLPOA will apply for a Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) grant to defray the cost of installing glacial stone seawalls in front of existing concrete seawalls. Forty four property owners are interested and have completed the grant paperwork. Each property owner will hire a contractor of their choosing to complete the work next summer. The grant will reimburse up to 80% of the property owner's cost. This successful initiative will convert over 1/2 mile of our shoreline to glacial stone, which is healthier for the plants and fish in our lake.

Bass Lake Conservancy District Schedule Change - Our meetings will now be held on the second Monday of the month. The change will become effective January 2019. Meetings are held at the BLPOA building and begin promptly at 6:00 PM CST. *The Board of the Bass Lake Conservancy District*

Property Owners Association: Saturday, February 2 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: Tuesday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path): Thursday, March 14 at 6:00 CDT at the BLPOA building

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump): Monday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

Interested in Genealogy?

The Starke County Historical Society has a new genealogy room! The Historical Society has books and online resources to trace family ancestry. There is a large collection of the Starke County newspapers and also a microfilm reader. Audrey Kinezian is the Starke County genealogist. She has 47 years of experience and will guide you, answer your questions and help you with your research. She is available on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Copies are 10 cents a page; otherwise services and use of the resources are free. Beginners and experienced people are welcome.

The newest tool in the genealogy world is DNA testing using resources such as those offered by www.23andme.com. This is opening doors that previously were closed, especially for adopted people. Some of the information available at the genealogy room at the Starke County Historical Society are births, marriages and deaths as well as the index to land records from 1850 to 1907. The cemetery books cover all cemeteries in the county as well. There are books and online resources that cover the entire U.S. as well as some foreign countries. Visit the History Center on Heaton Street next door to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. You will see many artifacts and join the journey of tracing your family.

Website is: www.starkehistory.com

Address and Phone: 1520 South Heaton Street, Knox, Indiana, (574) 772-5393

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

Vorpal Gaming—'Tis the season for board games with the family! A local family recently opened a new board game store in Knox—Vorpal Gaming. Why the name? It is a name used in the popular game Dungeons and Dragons. Where is it? 18 South Main Street in Knox. Who owns the store? Three brothers in Knox, Chris, Richard and Steve June. Stop by to try a few games before you purchase them. Their hours are noon—8 p.m. during the week and noon—4 p.m. on Sunday. Check out their Facebook page for upcoming game events.

Recycling Program—A BLPOA committee is researching options for a Bass Lake recycling program. If curbside recycling is approved, this cost would be added to your BLPOA fees. If you'd like to learn more, contact Diane Blais, committee chairperson, dianeblais@sbcglobal.net.



Calm Bass Lake water at sunset on January 4. Photo submitted by Rick and Jane Anderson.

BLPOA Directory—If you'd like to advertise your business or have questions about the 2019 directory, please contact Kathy Laiter (773) 251-6410 or Mary Topelian (361) 290-2457. Their work is appreciated!

www.basslakefest.com—Petting zoo, balloon rides and a pet parade ; all are new ideas for the 2019 Bass Lake Festival. We are looking for families to host and organize these events. Helping with an event could be a fun summer project for your family to chat about and help with. 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, (361) 290-2457 with questions.

The Hive—The Hive is a ladies' giving circle for Starke County that was established in February 2018. Since then, more than fifty women in Starke County have joined in order to make a positive impact on our community. The name "The Hive" was inspired by the book, *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. The idea is that honey bees work together to produce honey to sustain the entire hive, and in a similar way, women in Starke County work together to enhance the quality of life in our communities. We each can make a difference, but when we pool our resources and work together, we can do so much for Starke County! The membership fee for ages 16-22 is \$5/month and for 22+ years is \$10/month. To learn more, contact Jessica Martinovic, (574) 772-3665 or starke@nicf.org.

Purdue Master Gardener Class—Local Purdue Extension Educator Phil Woolery is coordinating a Master Gardener class! It will start on Thursday, February 21 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. (central time.) The classes will run through May on Thursday evenings. The classes will alternate between Knox and Winamac. If the majority of participants are from one county, the locations will be adjusted. The cost for the program is \$125. The curriculum offers an extensive notebook; topics include soils, plant science, plant nutrition, pesticides, plant disease, vegetables, flowers, lawns, weeds, animal damage, fruit and more. If you are a casual gardener and would like to increase your skill and knowledge, this is an excellent, reputable program. To register contact the Purdue Extension Office @ 574-772-9141 or pwoolery@purdue.edu.

Starke County Forest—The Starke County Highway Department (thank you Rik Ritzler!) recently upgraded the access road at the Starke County Forest. It features a cul-de-sac for parking and a native plant garden. Having the entrance on the smaller county road has a couple of advantages: it is safer to get in and out of the property and the proximity of the entrance to the forest's major features, including the marsh and observation tower. This renovation was covered by a grant from the Hardesty Memorial Endowment Fund and also with money from the trust fund for the forest. The entrance to the forest can be found between S 1025 E and S 1100 E along 10655 East Division Road. Forester and property manager Bruce Wakeland donated the land for the forest to Starke County. We applaud this local forester for his generous community gift.



Prairie Trails Club—Our local bike trail wrapped up a very productive 2018, complete with multiple grant requests, new signage, benches from recycled lids and more. Yancy Lucas designed "you-are-here" signs for placement at seven locations on the Erie Trail and Connector S-11. The signs include a new QR Code that links directly to a new "Maps" category on the PTC's website. The Maps category is at <https://www.prairietrailsclub.org/maps> and includes maps that are easily printed.

Website Updates—The Bass Lake Property Owners Association website (WWW.INBASSLAKE.COM) will be changing to a new more responsive, mobile-friendly site. Although we expect a seamless transition, brief outages may occur. Thanks to Larry Collura who does a fabulous job as our volunteer website master!

Bass Lake History—Raschka Homestead

The farm homestead of Lewis and Lulu (Flagg) Raschka was just 3/4 mile east of Round Lake on what is now CR 450 S. Lewis was born and lived on this farm all his life. His parents, John and Mary (Kane) Raschka, had married and moved there in 1852. These hardworking German pioneers started out in a log cabin and gradually increased their farm to 140 acres.

When the Civil War broke out, John enlisted in the Union army and served 3 years on the battle front. After coming home from the war, John and Lulu raised a large family on the farm. His son, Lewis, now calls it "The Twin Oaks Dairy and Stock Farm" as shown in this photo dated about 1915.

Their Paige auto, shown in the photo, was a Model 36 Glenwood 5 passenger touring car. These cars were advertised as "the most beautiful cars in America". They were painted a dark Richelieu blue with black running gear. They featured left hand drive, electric lighting and a 36hp 4-cylinder engine. Paige autos were considered Detroit's premiere automobile at that time and sold for \$1,275.
Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society

