

CATCH & RELEASE

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AUGUST 2020 — BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Bass Lake and clear water historically have not gone hand-in-hand. Some 2020 facts: On May 29th a secchi disc was visible 6.2 feet below the surface. A secchi disc is a submersible black and white disc with a measuring tape that is lowered into the water until it can no longer be seen. Observed down 6.2 feet this May- observed about 6.2 inches down three years ago. Why, what changed? Those questions are great questions for Starke County's "Brain Trust". Could be the weeds. Could be; however, Bass Lake has had a lot more weeds in the past than it has today. Some additional readings: June 27; 3.3 feet, July 14; 3.2 feet and July 29 3.5 feet - all unusually clear. My take: The beginning was in December 2015 when the lake froze 4 inches above the top of the dam; ice was jammed tightly against the shoreline. Pressure built and built. Then on January 16, 2016 the "Big Ice Crack" happened shaking homes and pushing up the shoreline for miles. That opened long closed springs releasing long-locked nutrients into Bass Lake waters allowing algae to explode and clouding the waters. Cloudy discussions took place, cloudy meetings were held and a decision was made by DNR personnel to stock Bass Lake with algae eating bluegill. Thus, in 2018, instead of stocking traditional walleye, the DNR stocked Bass Lake with over 100,000 algae eating bluegill. Thus, clarity.

Were you on the BLPOA July 18 bike ride to the Erie Trail? If not, there is always next year. It was a great ride; put July 17, 2021 on your calendar. COVID-19 remains with us and will probably until the end of August; that's how bad it is. Even the Festival was cancelled although some activities like fireworks did take place. Work took place on the Boa Shores subdivision "Rain Drain" into the lake. For those of you who don't know where that is, it is just northeast of the Boa boat dock area. Take a look when riding, biking or walking past.

Is our Eurasian Milfoil (EM) gone? No & no; however, most of the untreated EM has sunk and remains alive and well. It is waiting for the 2021 season as no more treatment is planned for this year. The DNR does plan to make another evaluation before fall. On a positive note, the Conservancy District used more expensive ProcettaCOR for the 2020 treatment. This chemical targets EM and remains active for two years. Perhaps most of the 2020 untreated will be targeted and eradicated in 2021. The "V" jackpot is pushing \$100K; if you're playing, good luck. Lastly, we are probably over half way though this COVID-19 pandemic. Remain careful and let's get through this. Think 2021 when Bass Lake should again become Bass Lake again. Stay safe and healthy, Rick

Face Masks Required in Indiana—Per an order from Governor Holcomb, face masks are required in Indiana beginning on July 27 for everyone over the age of 8. Masks must be worn in public where social distancing is not possible as a measure to halt the spread of the coronavirus.

How Lake Springs Work in Bass Lake—Our lake has lake springs! A lake spring is the result of an underground aquifer being filled to the point that it overflows and pushes water up through the bottom of the lake. In other words, in a lake spring water passes easily between cold groundwater and lake water. This is why you feel cold water periodically as you walk in our lake.

Property Owners Association—Saturday, August 22 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building, Blue Room

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m., BLPOA Building, Green Room

Prairie Trails Club—Thursday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m. CDT. Check out the website, www.prairietrailsclub.org for location. They are going to try an outdoor meeting.

Want to help keep the Erie Trail clean? There is a Prairie Trails Club workday on Saturday, September 19 at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Workers will meet at County Road 300 East and the Erie Trail.



Williams' Homestead

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Sterling and Ada Williams' farm was located in North Bend Township along CR 450 S just east of CR 1000 E. They called it the Cottage Grove Farm. Sterling had been born in a log cabin on this same farm in 1854. His parents, Joshua and Jane Williams had moved to the farm back in 1852. They had come to Starke County by wagon with a group of other pioneers from southern Indiana. Here they hewed their homes out of the wilderness.

At that time there were no roads in Starke County and travel was possible only by using the higher sand ridges. Manitou Lake, a lake about the size of Bass Lake, was located about a mile south-east of their farm. This lake, now forgotten, was drained and converted to farmland over 100 years ago. While the Williams had no children of their own, they took in the orphan, John Martin, shown with them. The photo is dated around 1915. Submitted by: Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society



Bass Lake Property Owners Association

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

Board Members

- Terry Chmiel
- Mary Jesso
- Rich Linkus
- Rik Ritzler
- Gayle Smith
- Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website.

www.inbasslake.com



Relaxing Summer Train Ride—

Venture over to the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum on Saturday, September 5 for summertime fun on the open-air cars. Ten-mile, round-trip excursions begin at the depot in North Judson and roll on through the countryside, crossing the Kankakee River before returning to the depot. Excursions depart at 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM, Central. Purchase tickets on-line at www.hoosiervalley.org. Or call 574-896-3950, leave a message and a volunteer will contact you.

Buoy Questions? Is your buoy broken? Do you want to adopt (or give back) your buoy? 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.

Bass Lake Lions Club—On August 15 from 11:00—1:00 there is a drive-through fundraiser for the Bass Lake Lions Club building fund. Drive by and pick up your Italian sausage lunch! They are located behind Sporty'z in an old brick schoolhouse.



A storm hit the Bass Lake area the night of August 10, knocking out power, knocking over trees, causing a house fire on SR 10.

hospitality at its finest.

BLPOA Beautification Committee—Reminder to all property owners when putting your garbage out for pickup to have the garbage bin pointed in the right direction with the wheels pointed toward your property and away from the road with garbage properly stowed inside and not spilling out. Also please be aware to make sure that the bin is not out on the roadway. Thanks for keeping Bass Lake beautiful!

New Trailhead Park Planned—The Constellation of Starke Executive Committee is working with the Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission to finalize the funding for the countywide park improvements. These include a restroom facility, signage and trailhead building at Bass Lake the intersection of 450 and CR 210 by the public boat launch. The goal is to improve parking at the boat launch and provide restrooms for users of the Erie Trail and other public facilities. If you have questions, contact Mary Perren, mperren@co.starke.in.us, (574) 772-3011.

Starke County Parks Five-Year Plan—The Park Board is in the process of updating the five-year plan that was created in 2017. The Bass Lake Beach and Campground is one of the county parks. If you'd like to provide input to the plan, contact one of the Board members; they are listed on the county website, www.co.starke.in.us. The current plan is also on the county website. As part of this process, County Commissioner Kathy Norem is seeking funding for the Park Board. Since its inception, the Park Board has never had a budget. The County Council recently approved the first ever budget! Hats off to Kathy Norem for proceeding with this important step.

Good News for Kayakers—On August 12, the Starke County Park Board selected an engineering firm, Jones, Petrie, Rafinski to conduct a feasibility study for kayak launch sites on the nearby Yellow River. The project will be discussed at future Park Board meetings; the next one is on September 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Starke County Annex Building.

Some More Good News—In just six months (during this COVID-19 crisis) Starke County raised \$260,000 to fund the construction of a new Veteran's Plaza. Kathy Norem unveiled the specific plans for the wall, the spire, the benches and next steps at the recent Park Board meeting. If you have questions or would like to make a donation, contact Kathy Norem, knorem.starke@gmail.com.



Have your grandkids enjoyed all the construction equipment behind Fingerhut? We'll soon have a new climate-controlled storage facility.



Pizza by the slice is now available at Bass Lake Pizza Joint. It is located in the Double D's Building.

Christmas Marketplace—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. Contact Mary Topelian, mjtopelian@att.net.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) - Good news! The District now maintains its own email server in addition to its webpage, www.blcd-ind.org. This will allow you to keep updated on important events and information that may affect you. In order to keep you informed your email address is required. Your address will not be shared with any other group or organization. **STAY INFORMED!** Further, consider paying your monthly sewer bill electronically on our EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) program. A form is available on our website or at the office. Enjoy the rest of summer and the beautiful fall days at Bass Lake! *Submitted by Russ Blais, BLCD Board Member*

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. We offer Hoosier

Bass Lake Pizza Joint—Connected to Double D's Fireworks and the Bait Shop is a new pizza restaurant. Baked in a restored 1958 stone-fired pizza oven, the Pizza Joint will be open the same hours as the Bait Shop, and until 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Pizza will be sold by the slice as well as whole pizzas! For the lovers of unusual breakfast choices, breakfast pizza is also available.

Bass Lake Festival Appreciation—The Bass Lake Festival would like to thank everyone for their support of the fireworks thru the sale of Festival t-shirts. Also a big thanks to the Mullee family, the California Township/Bass Lake Fire Department and Ace Pyro. See everyone next year!
Submitted by Mary Topelian

