

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 7 NO. 4

APRIL 2020—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Summer folks are arriving without handshakes or hugs. COVID-19 has turned Bass Lake into Lake Cottage Quarantine. Full time residents are quarantining too. Lake "Six Foot" might better describe what's happening. If you're by the road, walkers, runners, bicyclers, golf carters and car riding folks often stop at a distance and start talking. Typically conversations begin, "This look like more than six feet?" "Yep." So, this virus, what is it doing and not doing? Well, its not stopping piers from going in. It is not stopping spring clean-ups or power washing. It is not stopping boating, fishing or water from flowing over the dam. Nor has it stopped minnows from swimming in the clear water near shore. It has not stopped projects either. I purchased paint and stain from Smith's. Painted our living room ceiling and stained our pier. Yes, project supplies are well stocked at Smith's. Obtaining food, beer, wine and stuff like gas is not a problem either. So what's the problem? People are missing from both sides of the bar. Restaurants, and many businesses are closed too; it's not Bass Lake without them. Indeed it seems true, Bass Lake is a lake where socializing is as important as swimming. The April 4 Property Owners meeting and the Spring Pizza Meet & Greet" were cancelled. Really not like our Bass Lake. America will defeat this virus; however, this spring has already become a sad part of Bass Lake history.

So what if there had been an April 4 Property Owners Meeting? The March Minutes and Treasurer's Report would have been approved. Committees would have reported; I haven't heard of problems. Would have reported: By U.S. mail, the Annual Letter and Membership Forms were sent to all members. An alert perhaps, assume all April meetings to be cancelled; maybe May meetings will be too. The 2020 Starke Stellar effort would certainly have been talked about. When Starke wins, how should millions of dollars be invested into our lake and beach? Good ideas being discussed by involved people usually result in the best decisions. If our May meeting is also cancelled, we will still need a Nominating Committee for our July election. Much BLPOA stuff will continue using telephones and email; what needs to be done, will be done.

It's hard to check out aquatic vegetation growth from shore; "Boats in Soon" is on my agenda. May need some Hydrothol Granular to treat my 625 square feet of near pier aquatic stuff. Aquatic 4-2D is a cheaper choice. In any case, I'll probably get mine from Aquatic Control in Valpo. I noticed a sign in front of Johnson's Lumber; it says "Sold." Did you return your census form? Send it back or you'll receive another; save some taxpayer dollars. Ever hear of the VFW game stalling at \$75K? Its all about "Closed Until Further Notice". COVID-19's defeat, its coming; everyone's help will mean sooner rather than later.

Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick



On Sunday, April 5 our public boat launch had dozens of trucks, trailers and fishing boats. We are practicing social distancing with our fishing!

Hiking in the Starke County Forest—The 129-acre Starke County Forest provides a great location for your socially distant exercise. The Forest is open to the public, dawn until dusk for hiking, bird watching and jogging.

Where is it? The Starke County Forest, complete with a parking lot, is on Division Road between 1025 and 1100 East. Visitors are welcome!



Our local bait and fireworks store, Double D's is now under new ownership. Changes are being planned!

Avoid Lawn Fertilizers with Phosphorus—The chemicals you use on your lawn impact the quality of our lake water because the chemicals will flow into the lake. Follow this basic guideline to help us keep our lake waters healthy. If you choose to use fertilizer, use a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer. A fertilizer with no phosphorus means that the middle number on the fertilizer package listing the nutrient ratio: (nitrogen : phosphorus : potassium) is 0.

Questions? Contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

Bass Lake History—Ora Depot

In 1882, the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad built its railroad line through Starke County. It passed through Lomax, North Judson, Aldine, Bass Station and Ora. Later this railroad was organized as the Erie.

The photo probably dates from the 1920's, based on several Model A's in the background. One sign reads "Western Union Telegraph & Cable Office". Another reads "Erie Rail Road". A sign on the building to the far right says "Pickles". Note the double tracks and the spur running to the grain elevator.

Our best guess is that the gentleman on the left is the ticket master, while the one on the right is a railroad agent.



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

- 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



People happily fishing were a welcome site at Bass Lake the weekend of April 4. Who caught the biggest fish?

Why is there Foam on the Water? - Foam sometimes appears on Bass Lake. It accumulates against logs, and along the shores. The presence of foam is not necessarily an indicator that there is pollution in the water. Foam is most often the result of natural processes, not environmental pollution and is usually harmless. Foam occurs naturally when the physical characteristics of the water is altered by the presence of organic material in the water. It only takes a small amount of fatty acid being released from decaying leaves and other organic matter to produce a large amount of foam. The foam is usually about 1% of what you see. The remainder is air and water. Source: IDEM Fact Sheet F00315W-0318-0718

BLPOA Pizza Party—This hugely popular event was scheduled for May 16... and it has been cancelled due to COVID-19. We'll get together over pizza next year!

Buoy Questions? Contact our Buoymaster Gary Laiter at (773) 750-4049.

Using Our Trails During COVID-19 —Note that our lake community offers beautiful options for outdoor walking and biking. The nearby Erie Trail is our 9.2-mile paved bike trail. According to Prairie Trail volunteer Kathy Lucas, "We have ridden both directions recently, to the Trail's western end at Main Street in North Judson and to its southeasterly terminus at U.S. 35. Also, we can see the Trail from our windows. We have noticed more users, but they appear to be maintaining social distancing in conformance with state and federal guidelines. Most groups seem to consist of a couple or parents and children. The paved part is 10' wide, so even when passing another user, an appropriate distance can be maintained. People go single file when passing, and some people are wearing masks as well. Health officials encourage fresh air and exercise, and the Trail offers a way to get both." To get to the trail, ride away from the lake on 450 East (by the public launch.) You can find maps and trail information on: www.prairietrailsclub.org. Also, new brochures with maps are in the mailboxes on the Trail at U.S. 35 and CR 250 at the rest park.

Community Services of Starke County—The Community Services of Starke County received welcome news when Tri Kappa provided a check in the amount of \$200 to the food pantry to purchase food at the NWI Food Bank. Tri Kappa has been a donor for the food pantry in the form of cans and dry goods. This time they decided to donate dollars instead. Why? A cash donation goes almost ten times further than the actual food donations.

Other checks were given to Community Services from Tri Kappa members for membership. Did you know that Community Services is a membership organization? The cost is \$5/year and helps with all the programs they provide to our community. Once members were made aware of memberships, many Tri Kappa members paid to be members of such a worthy organization. You too can become members of Community Services by sending your \$5 to Community Services of Starke County, 311 E Culver Rd, Knox, IN 46534. Make a point of noting the money is for membership and include your contact information. *Article provided by Debbie Mix.*

Golf Cart Inspections and BLPOA Membership Sign-Up—Mark your calendars now for the golf cart inspection and BLPOA membership drive: May 16, May 30, June 20 from 9:00—noon at the BLPOA building. Note: This could be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Updates will be posted on the BLPOA website: www.inbasslake.com. Note that Boa Shores also has golf cart inspections scheduled for May 23 and June 13, for a total of five golf cart inspections at Bass Lake!

BLPOA Directory—Note that as you complete your membership form, it helps our volunteers if you write clearly and legibly. Also note that the name you put on your form is the name that goes into the directory. So, think about how your name listed in the directory as you complete your membership form and pay your fees.

Safe Boating Class—This one-day course is conducted annually by the DNR. Join us on June 20 at the BLPOA building. Contact Terry Chmiel at etowncopper50@aol.com with questions.



Foam on the water? What is it and why have we seen it at Bass Lake recently? See the article in this newsletter!

Calling All Artists and Crafters, Vintage, Antiques—Sell your products at our lake art fairs which feature local crafters and artists:

July 25 Bass Lake Festival Lakeside Market 9:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m., call Nancy (219) 488-6747

December 5 Christmas Marketplace 9:00 a.m. —3:00 p.m., register at basslakefest.com

Bass Lake Conservancy District News — In response to social distancing directives by federal, state and local government officials — to slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) — the BLCD office will be staffed, but the facility will not be open to the public. If you have any questions, please call the Bass Lake Conservancy District at 574-772-2974. Or email the staff at INFO@BLCD-IND.ORG. They are available Monday – Friday 9:00AM – 12:00PM. For emergencies only, call 574-806-1707.

Rainfall for March was 2.48 inches – Total for the year 6.50 inches
Submitted by Larry Collura – BLCD Vice-Chairman

Constellation of Starke—The Constellation of Starke (COS) will again be seeking Regional Stellar Community Status this year. The COS Executive Committee is seeking community input and your view is important. There is a Constellation of Starke Survey that is being conducted to gather public input about how to spend the \$333,000 that was awarded to the county as a result of being a finalist in 2019. Contact Corinne Becknell Lucas if you'd like to take the short online public survey, Corinne@nicf.org.

Glacial Stone LARE Projects—Bass Lake will receive up to \$35,000 from the State of Indiana for our healthy shoreline projects. The purpose is to reface concrete seawalls with glacial stone, which promotes a healthier lake. Lakes with healthy native plants population spend less money on invasive weed treatment, have clearer water and a healthier fish population. Already two property owners have completed their glacial stone refacing projects. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions Rick Anderson - barefootrun@mhcsi.com or Kathy Carrier - kcarrier@briljent.com or (260) 403-6746.