

# CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 6 NO. 6

JUNE 2019—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

June 2019 and weeds are an issue: What's all the green stuff floating in the lake? Where is it coming from? The DNR thinks its decaying weeds; I think they're correct. How did the weeds die? Don't weeds need to die to decay? Notably in the south basin, dead or dying aquatic plants can be observed shedding their dying leafy vegetation. Why? My answer is simple, I don't know. Perhaps the late arrival of spring and long winter did a "kill off". That has happened before. Many of these weeds resemble standing dying stalks with the leafy stuff gone. Could be the source of the "floating green stuff". It will be interesting to watch what happens in the next few weeks. Will fish eat the stuff? Will the stuff sink so the carp can have their share? Some of the stuff will go over the dam; that's the Bass Lake way. Yes, water and weeds are spilling over the dam and fisherman are catching well fed fish. I can see my feet on the lake bottom in almost waist deep water. I can feel and see a multitude of new bottom weeds; I think way more than usual. Once again Bass Lake is going through an interesting cycle.

June 1st Property Owners Meeting: The Pledge; April minutes & Treasurer's report were approved. We have \$168,000 in available funds. Preparation are being made for the July 8 curbside recycling pickup. July 13 is the Annual Meeting with our annual elections; maybe it is time to "throw your hat in the ring". A presentation was made on "The Constellation of Starke"; the winning communities will receive about \$12,000,000 for community improvement projects. A Starke win will mean: A good portion of those funds could come to Bass Lake. The road changes at the south-west triangle are complete. Motorists are still speeding around the lake; maybe some tickets need to be issued. There was a long discussion on golf cart violations. The Conservancy District and Neighborhood Watch reports were given. Thanks were given to many committees and to people who have just plain helped out - thanks again. The Plan: For those 130+ Property Owners who have signed up for curbside recycling, all receptacles are scheduled for delivery the week of June 24. A flyer of acceptable material will be included with each can. Containers will need to be out at curbside by 5:00 am Monday, July 8 to begin our every other week recycle pickup. The Great American Game is @ \$232, 304.00 with 35 lucky numbers left; one number is more lucky. When I receive info on the future of "Old John-son's Lumber" I'll report. I've observed people working at the location. *Stay Safe and Healthy, Rick*



### Flipping Our Lids

**Flip Your Lids!** A reminder: The Prairie Trail Club is continuing to collect bottle caps and container lids to be recycled into Trail benches. Unfortunately the recycler will no longer accept any type of medicine bottles, just the lids. A list of what is acceptable can be found on the website: [greentreeplastics.com](http://greentreeplastics.com). The drop off locations are easy to spot with the bright lime green tubs located at: 5339 S. SR 10, 4544 S. CR 210, and the Bass Lake Marina, 5095 E. CR 210.

**Golf Cart Ordinance Change**—There will now be a \$25 late fee for any golf cart inspection after July 1, per Starke County Ordinance. The final BLPOA golf cart inspection date is June 22 from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the BLPOA building. At the time of the inspection, besides your golf cart you will need to bring: the completed golf cart permit, copy of proof of liability insurance for the golf cart, fee of \$25, cash or check payable to Starke County.

**Notice of Lake Treatment**—During a recent survey Aquatic Control, Inc. (BLCD Contractor) found native plants on almost every rake throw in the south basin. Primarily variable and sago pondweed. Sago, small, variable and curly leaf pondweed as well as spatterdock and white water lilies were also found throughout the shoreline of the lake in both the upper and lower end. The DNR has permitted treatment of 100 x 1,500 foot (3.5 acre) area around the boat launch. The schedule treatment is to take place between the 17-19th of June – weather permitting. There are no water restrictions. *The Board of the BLCD*

**Property Owners Association—Annual Meeting:** Saturday, July 13 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

**Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:** Monday, July 1 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, July 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

**Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path):** June 26 at 6:00 CDT at the BLPOA building

**Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump):** Annual Meeting, June 29 at 10:00 a.m. BLPOA Bldg.

## Bass Lake Festival—Sign Up Your Tribe!

### Bass Lake Festival

**Friday, July 20**—Little Miss & Mister Bass Lake, Jr. Miss & Miss Bass Lake

**Friday, July 26**—Fishing Derby, Bass Lake & Canvas, Entertainment, Food

**Saturday, July 27:**

Lakeside Market, 5K Run/Walk, Kids Fun Run, Magic by Kalita, Ice Cream Eating Contest, Car Show,

Kid Zone/Bouncy Houses, Photography Contest, Cover Your Bass Contest, Historical Trams, Water Volleyball,

Sailboat Races, Corn Hole Tournament, Brew Tasting, Entertainment, Fireworks, Food Vendors

**Sunday, July 28:**

Lions Club Breakfast, Bike Race/Family Fun Ride, Photography Contest, Cover Your Bass Contest,

Historical Trams, Cardboard Boat Race, Parade (Grand Marshall is Earl McGuire), Food

[www.basslakefest.com](http://www.basslakefest.com)

## 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](http://www.inbasslake.com)

**VFW Donation**—This past year the Starke County History Center requested a \$500 donation from the VFW for a flagpole to place in front of the History Center. Quartermaster Butch Morgan presented a check in the amount of \$1,500! With the additional funding they upgraded from one flagpole to two which are going to be placed near the new lighted sign cabinet in the front yard of the History Center, 401 S. Main Street, Knox. Soon both the American and Indiana flags will proudly fly.

We sincerely thank the Knox Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #748 for their generosity and kindness!

**Beautify Bass Lake a Success**—The BLPOA board of directors would like to thank everyone who participated in the "Beautify Bass Lake" clean-up program. It is great to see all the debris off our roadways. We hope this will encourage you to continue picking up road trash and placing it in your regular garbage pickup throughout the year.



### Starke County's CISMA Meeting

Free & Open to the public!

Come join us in a discussion about invasive species and how we can work together to manage them in Starke County!

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH  
 6 PM CDT  
 BASS LAKE POA COMMUNITY CENTER  
 6996 S State Road 10  
 Knox, IN 46534

Questions?  
 Email Erica Luchik at [erica@sicim.info](mailto:erica@sicim.info) or call 219-477-0252

**Pictures Needed for Website**—We are featuring new pictures of Bass Lake and lake life on our updated BLPOA website. Send your pictures to our website guru and volunteer, Larry Collura, [lrcollura@ameritech.net](mailto:lrcollura@ameritech.net). High definition pictures are preferred.

**Bass Lake Bait & Tackle**—This local vendor will host a free July 4 party in their parking lot. Stop by, listen to some music and check out the new line of fireworks they are carrying in the store.

**Erie Trail Extension**—The PTC's grant application for the First Round of Gov. Eric Holcomb's Next Level Trails was approved in full. The grant amount was \$390,750 with an estimated project cost of \$490,885. Our bid was one of only 17 successful applicants among 82 in the First Round with a minimum local match of 20%. The project will extend the Erie Trail from its current terminus at US Highway 35 by 2.1 miles toward Ora. Architectural and engineering plans will soon be drafted, following a review of the qualifications of interested vendors. The project will include both an asphalt multi-use trail and a natural-surface equestrian trail. The BLPOA/Prairie Trails Club third annual joint bike ride is July 20 at 9 a.m. Contact Kathy Lucas for more information: [kathleenlucas216@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenlucas216@gmail.com).

**Festival Volunteers Needed**—The Bass Lake Festival planning continues, under the spirited leadership of Mary Topelian, Tabitha Dillner, Stefanie Thompson and Carolla Heilstedt. 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 Mary Topelian, [mjtopelian@att.net](mailto:mjtopelian@att.net) or Tabitha Dillner, [tdillner@gmail.com](mailto:tdillner@gmail.com) to volunteer. The website is: [www.basslakefest.com](http://www.basslakefest.com)

**Volunteer Note Taker Needed**—Interested in learning more about our Neighborhood Watch program? Volunteer to help with the meeting notes! The Secretary role is open and we are looking for a volunteer for this tiny monthly task. We normally meet the first Monday of each month at the Bass Lake Property Owners Community Center at 6:30 p.m. The meetings usually last 30-60 minutes, depending on the topics. If interested in this position, please contact Ron Vendl at (574) 772-2580 and leave a message, email address is: [vendlr@yahoo.com](mailto:vendlr@yahoo.com).

**Healthy Lawn—Healthy Lake**—The chemicals you use on your lawn impact the quality of our lake water. Follow this basic guideline to help us keep our lake waters healthy. If you choose to use fertilizer, use slow-release nitrogen fertilizer that will be better for your lawn and the lake. 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](mailto:barefootrun@mchsi.com).

**Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD)** - The annual meeting of the Bass Lake Conservancy District will occur on Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building. The directorship position representing directorship area I is up for election. The only candidate filing a timely nominating petition was incumbent Board Member Gene Ladd and as such there will be no contested election. Gene Ladd will be sworn in for a full four year term. Additionally, the Governing Board will organize and elect from its membership a Chairman and Vice Chairman. An opportunity will also be given to the public to ask questions about the operation and function of the Conservancy District. All interested freeholders are welcome to be in attendance. *Thank you, the Bass Lake Conservancy District Board*

**Koontz Lake Bingo**—If you are a bingo lover, join Koontz Lake Bingo every Monday evening. Early bird is \$6, starting at 6:00 CST. Regular bingo is \$15, starting at 6:30 CST. Pay out is a minimum of \$650 each week with a \$1,000 progressive jackpot. Koontz Lake Clubhouse, 10870 Cherokee, Koontz Lake.



Adults: 5-XL--\$14; 2X-3XL--\$16  
 Youth: S & M--\$12

Bass Lake Festival T-Shirts are now available for sale at local vendors! Time to don your cool 2019 lake attire.

## Bass Lake History — Stephenson Family



A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Albion and Mahala (Welsh) Stephenson are shown with four of their children in this picture dated about 1908. From left to right: Elizabeth, Jessie, Mahala, Albion, Florence and Bonnie. They were married in 1880 and lived on a farm on 300 East just north of what is now SR 10 in California Twp.

Back in those days, many folks believed painting a house or barn caused it to deteriorate faster. From this picture, we can see Mr. Stephenson subscribed to that theory. Also note the wood blocks nailed to the roof to make it easier to clean the chimneys.

Mahala's father was Abram Welsh, who was known locally as "Daniel Boone of Starke County". He was one of the very earliest settlers in Starke County and built a mill along Cedar Lake Outlet known as Muskrat Mill. *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society.*