

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 6 NO. 10

OCTOBER 2019—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Over four inches of rain fell the last weekend of September, truly a wet month-end. Our waters remain clear and level has "come up". Ever remember a weedier October? Sunlight penetration from reduced algae blooms (zooplankton, microcosms, anathema, cylindrospermopsis; etc) surely did it. The sun rays and aquatic plant growth as expected went hand-in-hand. We have weeds galore in the west side of the south bay; however, the north end has much weed growth too. Personally, I have well over 625 square feet of milfoil out front (my legal treatment limit). If you would like fewer weeds, fill out the Conservancy District weed survey. The survey should help the BLCD obtain both permission and funding for weed treatment next spring. How much 2020 treatment will there be? We will see or not see.

As seasons winds down, fall is a good time to look at what's new. Why not take a walk and see for yourself? New structures and new landscaping can be seen. You may also note the "Falltastic" decorations. Ghosts, goblins, pumpkins, witches and even skeletons all indicate its almost "Soup Social Time". The October meeting: Previous meeting minutes were approved as were the August & September Treasurer reports. We have about \$220K in available funds; thank you Kathy Laiter and AJ Gappa. It takes a lot of work to keep an organization on track. The Board approved going forward with parking lot maintenance; fill in some holes, resurface the blacktop and restripe for parking. Rik Ritzler will be coordinating this maintenance job; thank you Rik. Our Welcome Committee headed by Gayle Smith met with six new Bass Lake Property Owners; thank you Gayle. The 2020 Directory committee will be made up of Kathy Laiter, Ron Vendl & Lori (Terry's wife) Chmiel; this too represents a lot of work because of the many ads; thank you all. As for myself, I owned up to not making progress on a new camera recorder; Zac Binkley volunteered to investigate and hopefully order one; thank you Zac. Rich Linkus is now doing rentals with Terry Chmiel helping; thank you Rich and Terry. Rich recommended Honey Loehmer for our building cleaning; the board approved. Rich is also working on an new phone answering system; again, thank you Rich. Raelyn (Zac's wife) Binkley is heading up this year's Soup Social with help from Mary Topelian; thank you Raelyn and Mary. Mary also asked for volunteers for Festival 2020. A planning meeting is scheduled at the BLPOA Building on Sunday, October 20th at 10:00 a.m.; volunteers are welcome, needed, encouraged and applauded. Much discussion took place on weeds and 2020 treatment - more info coming - stay tuned. Ron Vendl reported on our Neighborhood Watch. Crime statistics are online on the Starke County GIS site; thank you Ron. If you were present, you know more was discussed. Big questions: Will Starke County win the much anticipated Stellar Community award? December will hold the answer. Will the Great American Game top \$400,000? Maybe. How much weed treatment will there be in 2020? Hopefully enough. *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

Neighborhood Watch Drivers Needed—We need a few additional drivers for our Neighborhood Watch Program. This is not a time consuming volunteer duty and you can do it with another driver as a team. Contribute to our lake community! Sign up now, or at the very least call Ron Vendl to learn more, vendlr@yahoo.com, (574) 772-2580.

Rent the BLPOA Community Center—Looking for a spot for next year's family reunion? Did you know our community center is rented over 300 times a year? Call (574) 772-7761 to rent the recently remodeled, affordable BLPOA building!

Local Pickleball Courts — For those of you who are pickleball enthusiasts, did you know that Wythogan Park in Knox has well maintained, almost always available pickleball courts? This sport is easier to play than tennis; let's get a Bass Lake league going!



Property Owners Association—Saturday, November 2 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building.

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, November 4 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

Prairie Trails Group Work Day—November 16, 9:00 a.m., meet at the Erie Trailhead at SR 10 & SR 39

Starke County Park Board (our beach): Tuesday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Festival—All hands on deck! Sunday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m. CDT at the BLPOA building

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump): Monday, November 11 at 6:30 p.m., BLPOA building

Lake Vegetation: Pull It or Leave It?

By: Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams

Ask anyone on Bass Lake: Weeds are one of

the most frustrating parts about motoring out to the lake from your pier or navigating some of the shallower areas! They get caught in engines and props, creating a yucky green mess and delaying enjoyment of the water. For all their negative qualities, though, aquatic plants are actually doing a huge service for the lake. When they grow in appropriate amounts, plants like coontail or American pondweed are habitat-builders, pollution-filterers and dissolved oxygen-producers. Plants that grow along the shoreline are the high-rise apartments of freshwater lakes. They house small fish, turtles and crayfish, as well as micro and macro invertebrates. Take a look at a shoreline that has healthy native plants and you may also spot the nests of ducks and birds.

As the plants take in sunlight and carbon dioxide, they release dissolved oxygen into the water, which is essential for fish and other aquatic organisms. The plants' roots anchor sediment and prevent the shoreline from eroding. They absorb pollutants (like fertilizer) washed in by rain and, with the help of sandy soil found along most shorelines, filter it out before it can reach the rest of the lake and cause algae to grow. There can be too much of a good thing, though. If allowed to grow excessively, plants can limit recreation. The solution, however, does not always need to involve spraying herbicide to kill all the weeds along large areas of the shoreline. In some cases, large applications of herbicide will do its job too well: It kills the plants, and the sudden increase in nutrients allows algae to flourish. Furthermore, the decay of these plants all at once can also decrease oxygen levels in the lake which is harmful to fish. One potential alternative to consider is mechanical, weekly harvesting – sort of like a lawn mower for your lake! We recommend talking to a representative of the Bass Lake Conservancy District before taking action since they can collect additional insights from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and local environmental consulting companies. To learn more about aquatic life and the food chain in a lake, visit lakes.grace.edu or call 574-372-5100, ext. 6445.

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

Rik Ritzler Honored - Starke County Highway Superintendent Rik Ritzler was recently named "Outstanding Highway Superintendent of the Year" by the Association of Indiana Counties. Starke County had a bridge deficiency rating of 38% when he took the job in March, 2013. By September 2020 there will be zero deficient bridges. Rik serves on our BLPOA Board of Directors and also serves on the Starke County Park Board. We are grateful for his capable and dedicated service!

BLCD—Bass Lake Maps—The Bass Lake Conservancy District website has fantastic, useful maps of our lake including a map of where the milfoil weeds are. Go to: www.blcd-ind.org.



Have you seen the Big Foot sign on CR 210 south of the cove? Please report all Big Foot sightings to Rick Anderson.

Starke County Comprehensive Plan—This extensive plan includes future strategies that impact Bass Lake. To access the most current draft and to provide comments, contact Lauren Wahl, lwahl@hwcengineering.com.

BLPOA Tasty Soup Social & Fall Yard Display Contest

Cost: \$5 per person (10 and under free)

Date & Time: Saturday, October 19, 5:00 P.M.—6:30 P.M.

Where: BLPOA Community Center

Soup Contest: Bring your favorite soup (and the recipe) for all to enjoy! Taste all of the soups and vote for your favorite.



This beautiful September Bass Lake sunset was captured by Conrad Agnos, one of our best lake photographers!

Yard Contest: Contact Raelyn Binkley to enter yours, (219) 869-0198. Pictures need to be taken prior to October 19 to be entered. The voting will take place at the Soup Social on October 19. Questions? Contact Raelyn Binkley, raelynbinkley@hotmail.com.

Halloween Train—The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum in North Judson is offering a variety of train rides so everyone can take in the sights, sounds and smells of the autumn season. Enjoy a leisurely trip through northwest Indiana's countryside, aboard The Pumpkin Train on Oct. 19. Upon returning to the North Judson area, the train will travel to a pumpkin patch where everyone may choose a pumpkin. The Halloween Train on Oct. 26 departs for a 2 ½ to 3 hour trip at 4 p.m., CST. For information on this and also the upcoming Santa Train you can check out this website: www.hoosiervalley.org.

Flip Your Lids is Complete—Thanks to all who saved lids for the Prairie Trails Club (PTC) bench project. The project is complete! The PTC will donate leftover lids to another charity. PTC has turned the lids into ten benches, all sponsored by either families or organizations. Some of the new benches will be placed on the trail extension that in the planning stages and will come near Bass Lake.



Constellation of Starke Update—Our Regional Development Plan for the Stellar Communities Designation Program was submitted in September! Looking ahead, a presentation will be made to the State of Indiana in November and the designation winner will be announced in December. To view a video about the regional collaboration, follow the Constellation of Starke Facebook page!



Pumpkin Picking at Yellow River Farms —This Knox farm is open 7 days a week, complete with an 80-foot slide, kiddie train, mazes and a pumpkin cannon. You can take a wagon ride to the field and pick your own pumpkins. www.yellowriverfarms.com, (574) 772-2581, located 4 miles east of Knox on Route 8, 1/2 mile west of SR 23.

Bass Lake History

Dear Friends of Bass Lake History,

Normally in this spot you have seen pictures and articles compiled by former Starke County Historian Marvin Allen that I have shared with you. Marv created a Bass Lake picture booklet for the Starke County Historical Society and, I am sorry to say, we have used every page he included in that manuscript over the past several years in the BLPOA Catch and Release Newsletter. Now that we have exhausted all the articles for both the Bass Lake and California Township sections, beginning in November we will feature ten articles on the small segment of Bass Lake on the northeast/east side known as North Bend Township which, basically, extends to the county lines of Marshall County on the east and Pulaski County to the south. School students who live in North Bend Township at or near the lake and Ora attend the Culver schools.

We will share these photos and stories with you over the next ten months and hope you enjoy another different perspective of what life used to be like around the area in the past century.
Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society.