

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

As hoped, this May 1, water was again flowing over the dam. Last year on May 1, lake level was a disappointing 14 inches below the "Top of the Dam" mark. All over the lake, piers and boat lifts are in and going in. Bass Lake 2022, certainly looks like it will be great. That is exactly what I hear repeatedly when visiting any one of our great local establishments. Visit one, hear for yourself; leave a good tip.

What about the May Property Owners meeting? Previous minutes and the Treasure's report were approved and committee reports were given. "A Taste of Bass Lake Pizza" is just two weeks away. Send in your \$5.00 reservation (send to Rick Anderson 4574 S. CR 210) and tell your friends to send theirs in too. That's how names are added to the "Who's Coming so Far List". When you are on the list, you will find your experience at the door easier. You will receive your nametag quicker and you will not need to wait in the pay line. COVID cancelled our last two "Pizza Meet & Greet" events. Not this year though. Bass Lake will again be Bass Lake. A good start to the season is joining with other property owner members catching up with old friends and making new friends. When more members know each other, our lake becomes a better community. A better community is better. Pizza is always a good break from spring cleaning and other spring lake stuff. There will be plenty of pizza. The doors will open at 5:30 with pizza, pop & water also being served at 6:00 pm. In previous years the event was over and all cleaned up by 7:30. That will leave plenty of time for "after parties".

The May meeting is the Annual Election set up meeting. Two property Owners volunteered to be election judges; a third will be required. Up for election in July will be the Vice President, Treasurer, and four Director positions. Currently your board is operating one person short. Information about the election is on our website and will be sent out to the membership soon. For beautification, flowers have been placed in our planters around the lake and the Welcome Sign Committee will be meeting to discuss options for the 600 South and E. CR 210 three-way intersection. A weed survey has been completed by Aquatic Control and a weed treatment permit will be applied for by BLCD. Construction work continues on the solar farm. After the BLPOA signed a Doral "Term Sheet" agreement last month, outlining expectation for a second pump, acquisition of a suitable well location is proceeding. Although a second pump will probably not be needed this year, it would be reassuring to have it available for future low rainfall years. Another glacial stone Lake and River Enhancement Grant has been applied for. If you missed Saturday's meeting, the next meeting will be June 4th. If you are up in Knox, tickets for the \$711K grand prize remain at just \$1 each and are available at the VFW. Besides reasonably priced drinks and great food you can ask about the two \$100 Easter Eggs still waiting to be found. "One-way" (the nickname for the person who hides the eggs) assured me they are out there and that \$200 is waiting to be claimed. *Stay safe and healthy, Rick*

Calling All Artists—Mary Jesso, head of our Beautification Committee, would like to repaint the concrete planters that are located around the lake. If you have an artist in your family, send him/her to Mary Jesso, mary@jessolution.com.

BLPOA Membership Drive and Golf Cart Inspection—There are only two this year! Pay your membership and garbage fees on May 21 and June 11. Golf cart inspections are on May 21 and June 4. There is a new golf cart inspection form this year; you can find it on the Starke County and BLPOA websites. Thanks to BLPOA Secretary Kathy Laiter and Treasurer AJ Gappa who handle our membership drive. It's a lot of work!

Property Owners Association—Saturday, June 4 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA Building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

Bass Lake Festival Planning—Sunday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m. CDT, at the BLPOA Building

Prairie Trails Club—The next Membership meeting is Thursday, May 26 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) at the BLPOA building. www.prairietrailsclub.org

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (sewers, pump & lake weeds) June 13, 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach & Campground): June 14 at 6:00 p.m., Starke County Annex

The Bass Lake Indiana Yacht Club—Building on the success of last summer's Saturday sailboat racing, the organizers of the Bass Lake Sailing Club have formed the new Bass Lake Indiana Yacht Club. In addition to sailboat racing beginning on June 11th and the Bill Lavery Memorial Race on Festival Saturday, July 30th, the club will have on-shore events, pontoon meetups, game and wine nights, and – depending on membership input, a late August on-water Poker Run. The non-profit Club's goal is to create a fun and social atmosphere for Bass Lake boaters while also promoting and supporting the lake. There's a meet and greet info meeting at the BLPOA building at 7:00 p.m. on June 3 and more info can be found at the club's website – www.blincy.org and Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/971203280039629> Boaters, sailors, kayakers, families, and anyone looking for another way to have fun around the lake is welcome to join!

Port-a-Potty Permits! (Try saying that 5 times really fast.) Spring and summer is construction and home improvement time. Please contact the BLCD for a port-a-potty permit. It's required! Call (574) 772-2974 or you can access the permit application on the BLCD website, www.blcd-ind.org.



Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President Rick Anderson
 Vice President Rich Linkus
 Treasurer A. J. Gappa
 Secretary Kathy Laiter

Board Members
 • Tom Busch
 • Terry Chmiel
 • Mary Jesso
 • Rik Ritzler
 • Val Williams
 • Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:
www.inbasslake.com

Fun Facts— Our Conservancy District reports over 1,000 accounts/hook-ups to our sewer system. 22 properties are used as rentals (Airbnb, etc.) and 67 properties were sold in 2021.

BLPOA Building Rentals —If you are looking for space for a party or family reunion, the well maintained BLPOA building can be rented by members for \$125. Contact Rich Linkus for details, linkusr1@hotmail.com. Note that not-for-profits can use the building at no cost.

Buoy Master Notes—It's almost time for the buoys to be returned to the lake. Before you do so, please look them over. All BLPOA buoys are supposed to be assigned a number. If you have a buoy you are not using, please contact us to pick it up. If you would like to host a buoy please contact us. If you have issues or questions, please contact our buoy master Gary Laiter, weski4@yahoo.com(773) 750-4049. Buoy on!

BLPOA Directories—You will receive your 2022 directory as you pay your dues and complete your membership application. Thanks to Ron Vendl and Russ Blais who put in LOTS of hours to provide us with this wonderful resource.



"A Taste of Bass Lake Pizza"
May 21st (Saturday)
6:00 to 7:30 p.m. BLPOA Building
 With RSVP :
 Price – Advance Purchase **\$5 Adults** and Children 10 & Under **FREE**
 Price at the door **\$10** per person
 Place You & Yours on the.....
 "Who's Coming so Far List"
 Please Contact: **Rick Anderson** at barefootrun@mchsi.com
 Please make checks payable to **BLPOA** and send to: Rick Anderson
 4574 S. CR 210
 Knox, IN 46534

Bass Lake Beach & Campground - Our parks department is in full swing preparing for a busy and fun summer. Bass Lake Campground is now open. There are 8 sites available for weekly or daily visitors. Anyone interested in reserving a spot can contact the parks office at 574-772-9181. The beach rentals for kayaks, bikes and life jackets are underway and will be a nice asset to our visitors. Starke County Parks Department is looking to hire a couple of people to work part time at the gate and campground. They are also looking for food vendors who may be interested in providing food and beverages at the beach. They still have pier spots available for those looking for a seasonal place to park their boats. Camryn Kopka, Parks Department Superintendent, can be reached at: ckopka@co.starke.in.us

Bass Lake Conservancy District - Rainfall for April was 2.61 inches for a YTD total of 9.68 inches. Average for April is 3.17 inches. Lake pump total for April was 33.0 million gallons. YTD total is 66.4 million gallons. The water is spilling over the weir, so the lake pump was turned off on April 25th. The BLCD engineer monitors the water level every day and will turn the pump on as required. Charts and lake maps are available on our website www.blcd-ind.org. To reduce "light pollution" the BLCD are replacing the security light fixtures at the lake pump shed and Lift Station J (corner of 450 & CR 210) to more efficient and downward focused LED lights. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 13, 2022. Submitted by *Larry Collura* – BLCD Vice-Chair, www.blcd-ind.org.

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Bunco Nite at the Bass Lake Festival —A new event has been added to this year's festival, Bunco Nite! The festival will be held July 29, 30 & 31. Check the festival website for information, www.basslakefest.com. Note that the Cardboard Boat Race will be back this year! Contact Tabitha Dillner for further information, (219) 314-2030 or Mary Topelian, mjtopelian@att.net.

PTC Wins Award! - During its April 26 Annual Luncheon, the Indiana Greenways Foundation named the Prairie Trails Club the State's "Outstanding Trail Group" for 2021. In October the PTC completed, on time and below budget, a 2-mile extension of the Erie Trail south of Bass Lake, bringing its length to 11 miles. At the luncheon, Rep. Carey Hamilton, Co-Chair of the Indiana Legislature's bi-partisan Indiana Trails Caucus, underlined values of the State's burgeoning trail system: (1) improving quality of place; (2) improving public health through outdoor exercise; and (3) generating economic development.



First Row, L to R: Diane Blais, Anita McMillin, Parks Superintendent Camryn Kopka, Deb Mix Second Row: Russ Blais, Brian McMillin, Paul Byer, Kathy Lucas, Steve Lucas

Knox Farmer's Market—Check out Facebook for the Knox Farmers' Market! Many of our lakesters travel to the many area farm stands, to Plymouth or Culver in search of fresh produce. This summer we'll also have a Knox farmer's market!

Soldiers & Civilians in History with Train Excursions—For a unique Memorial Day outing, bring the family for a train excursion. Interact with the various soldiers and civilians in history displays on Saturday, May 28th, at the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum in North Judson, IN. On the museum grounds there are scheduled to be numerous living history reenactors/camps/displays along with military vehicles provided by the Military Vehicles Preservation Society. Round-trip train excursions begin at the depot and travel to the small town of English Lake and the Kankakee River before returning to the depot. Trains depart at 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM (Central Time). Reservations (www.hoosiervalley.org) are recommended, as seating is limited.



JOIN US FOR
Fiesta de Monos!
 Visit with the monkeys as we celebrate our primates
 *Tours provided
 *Lunch of tacos, rice and beans available for \$5
 *Raffle prizes/Primate art available
May 22
11-4 Central
 Adult Admission \$10
 Kids get in free
 Peaceable Primate Sanctuary
 6415 N 800 W, Winamac, Indiana
 574-896-0590

Conner's Corner—Several months ago we ran a photo of Bloom's store at Bass Lake. As a result a reader provided additional corrected information and today's photo. This photo dated about 1930 shows Harvey and Mary Conner, who ran the store then known as Conner's Corner until selling it to Mr. Bloom and Mrs. Hunt who ran it in the 1950's. It was the Conners who expanded the gas station into what we would call a convenience store today. To the right side was a kitchen and tables where Mary Conner would prepare lunches or just coffee for Bass Lake folks. A candy case was a favorite stop for younger visitors. Harvey's parents, Nelson and Alice Conner, had been early settlers in the Bass Lake area. Mary's parents, John and Louvina Wagoner, were also early settlers in that area. From left to right: Robert Virtue, who lived at the Breezy Cliff cottage, Mary (Wagoner), Conner, daughter Daisy Conner behind her cousin Betty Lou Conner, Harvey Conner and son Hank Conner. Submitted by *Ron Vendl*, photo from *Starke County Historical Society*

