

## President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

December was able to recover one inch of lake level; 2021 starts at minus 17 inches. What about the potential solar farm and redirection of irrigation water into Bass Lake? If the Swanson and Welker rezoning requests are approved by the commissioners, the project will be a step closer. Three irrigation wells could have their water redirected. How much water can they pump? About 1,000,000 gallons per day each. Where are the three wells? Well #1 is at about 625S & 675E; #2 at 680S & 575E and #3 at 670S & 650E. Where? You need to understand how Starke County is laid out. Zero north & south is where the Yellow River crosses US 35 (Division Road). Zero East & West goes through Toto (Range Road). Starke County's 300 square miles is a 24 miles wide (from 1200W to 1200E) and 18 miles high (from 900N to 900S) rectangle with everything north of the Kankakee River excluded. Starke County's established center is simply a point about three miles north of Toto; the intersection of Range Road and Division Road. That makes Well #1 about 6.25 miles south and 6.75 miles East and about three-quarters of a mile south-east of Bass Lake. Wells #2 and #3 are also about three-quarters of a mile south-east of Bass Lake.

Where is the center of Bass Lake? The 2.2 square miles of water are split east and west between California Twp. and North Bend Twp by 600 East? Is that the center? No. What about north & south? Where is that center? I estimate the geometric center to be about 550S and 550E just north and offshore of Cedar Point. That would be 5.5 miles south and 5.5 miles east of Starke County's center. Some say, that's simple enough; others may find that confusing. So what about the roads around Bass Lake? Western is really 500E and if you could continue driving across the lake you would wind up on US 35 heading south towards Winamac. Leaving Knox, US 35 is actually 400E, south of Bass Lake the bypass takes it one mile east so it becomes 500E. If 500S (once Golf Course Road) continued across the lake, it would turn into SR 10 heading east toward Culver. 625E (Knox Road) leaves the lake heading north ending at Toto Road which is 300S. The BLPOA has a "Welcome to Bass Lake" sign at that location; Sporty's has a sign there too. 450S (which used to be Lakewood) also leaves the lake. It has a stop sign at 550E. Turn right and it will stay 550 E all the way to Toto Road but turn left and it won't be long before it becomes Elm Street. The new three way stop at S CR 210, E CR 210 and 600S is interesting. If you are approaching the intersection from the west on 600 S (formerly SR 10, across US 35 SR 10 remain 600S) you will see the 600 S and CR 210 signs. Turn right and you're on E CR 210; turn left and you're on S CR 210. People have asked me about that (S CR 210 was once Lake Shore Drive, I'm not sure about E CR 210).

A short quiz. Is it true that 550S is one-half mile north of and also one-half mile south of SR10? Is it true that 450E is one-half mile east of and one-half mile west of US 35? Both answers are yes. Therefore, the proposed solar farm location starts about 575S and keeps heading south a few miles on both sides of 600E. Plans are to produce 400 megawatts of peak power utilizing about four square miles; I wonder how this will turn out.

The Great American game was at \$190,000. *Stay safe and healthy, Rick*

**Property Owners Association—Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building**

**Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:** Monday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

**Starke County Park Board (our Beach):** Tuesday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

**Bass Lake Conservancy District:** (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m., BLPOA Building

**Exercise Class:** M—W—F at 8:00 a.m. BLPOA Bldg.

**Prairie Trails Club—**The next meeting of the PTC Membership is scheduled for February 11 at 5:30 p.m., CST (6:30 p.m., EST) by videoconference.



### Bass Lake Ball Team



A photo of the Bass Lake Baseball Team is dated about 1918. From left to right, front row: Ned Trigg, Pete Brown and Herman Rodgers; middle row: Louis Rogers, Alfred Rogers, Gus Nelson and Ernest Schultz; back row: Carl Marks, Russell Bolen, Ed Brown, John Merket, unknown and Fred A. White.

All through the 1920's and 1930's, many of the local communities here in Starke County hosted baseball teams, which were sponsored by local businesses and merchants. Teams such as the Bass Lake White Sox, Hamlet Cubs, Ober Batsmen, Knox Red Sox, Winona Sluggers, Kankakee Transient Camp, Bass Station Bees, Ora, Eagle Creek, Grovertown and San Pierre played each other and surrounding coun-

ties.

In 1935, they were organized as the Starke County Baseball League, under the amateur baseball rules of the American Baseball Congress. Winning teams moved on to district and state tournaments.  
*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](http://www.inbasslake.com)

### Rainfall and Bass Lake

Newer property owners may not know this about our lake. Most Indiana lakes have rivers and streams that feed into the lake. Bass Lake does not. Because of this, the level of water in our lake is largely dependent on two things; the amount of rain we receive and the water that is added to the lake from our lake pump. The pump was installed in 1964 and is maintained by the Bass Lake Conservancy District. Obviously, 2020 was a year where we had little rain and the current level of the lake reflects that. If you'd like a summary of the rainfall, by month, since 2013, contact the Bass Lake Conservancy District.



*This 1964 picture of Bass Lake demonstrates the lake level issue in a year with little rainfall, prior to the installation of our pump.*

### BLCD Needs Your Email Address

Why does the BLCD need your email address? The BLCD has an email server to deliver timely information concerning conservancy news and information. Examples include: storm damage, spraying of lake and shoreline weeds, lake pump outage/maintenance and public notices. Email addresses are confidential and not shared, sold or published. Please send current email address to: [info@blcd-ind.org](mailto:info@blcd-ind.org). Call (574) 772-2974 with questions.

**Solar Farm Dialogue** - Nearly 50 people attended the January 9 Zoom meeting to learn more about the proposed solar farm. This meeting was hosted by the Starke County Economic Development Foundation and the BLPOA. Attendees were encouraged to communicate with the Starke County Commissioners regarding the project: Charles Chesak ([charlesrc2003@hotmail.com](mailto:charlesrc2003@hotmail.com)), Bryan Cavender ([bryancavender@yahoo.com](mailto:bryancavender@yahoo.com)) and Mark Gourley ([mgourley@co.starke.in.us](mailto:mgourley@co.starke.in.us)). During the January 9 meeting, the potential redirection of irrigation water into Bass Lake was discussed. The volume of potential redirected water into our lake to help us control our lake level is about three times that of our existing lake pump. Note that the Lochmueller Group has already been engaged by Global Energy Generation to develop a plan related to the potential new pumps at Bass Lake. If you have questions about the proposed solar farm, the CEO of Generation Energy Generation Nick Cohen is happy to answer questions, [ncohen@gegrenewables.com](mailto:ncohen@gegrenewables.com).

Hoosier for Renewables attended the Zoom call; they are also a good resource. If the project proceeds the best case scenario is that it will go to construction at the end of 2021 and would be completed in 2022. The issues related to Bass Lake will be part of the project plan which require local, state and federal approval. Note that the proposed project will include 3,000 - 4,000 acres in Starke County, which represents 1.7% of the farmland or 1.2% of the total land mass in our county.

### Healthy Shorelines on Bass Lake Help Preserve Fish Habitats, Keep Lake Healthy

*By Dr. Nate Bosch, Director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams*

The shoreline around Bass Lake acts like a gatekeeper. It determines what enters the lake from the surrounding watershed, and helps keep the water safe for swimming and fishing. A healthy shoreline has three zones of defense: the grassy edge nearest the water, the seawall itself, and the area that dips into the shallows.

On Bass Lake, the first zone might be a mowed lawn, or green space in a park. While the grassy areas give a picturesque view of the lake, they also invite geese by providing an open space that has plenty of food and is free from predators. That open space also allows fertilizers and other unwanted nutrients to wash directly into the lake. An easy way to help prevent this is to plant native grasses and shrubs along the seawall. Their roots filter runoff before it reaches the lake; they are also aesthetically pleasing when well-maintained.

The second zone is the shoreline itself, where the land meets the lake. This zone often has a concrete seawall to protect the shore from erosion. It may seem like a good idea, but this design limits the habitat of shallow-water fish. Waves bounce off the seawall and travel to the other side of the lake, scouring the bottom of the shallow areas and making it impossible for shallow-water fish to survive there. Try placing glacial stone in front of the seawall to lessen wave energy while still preventing erosion. Or, try planting native vegetation to anchor the soil in place. Both options create safe habitats for fish.

The final zone is the shallow water near the shore. Planting natural vegetation here is more beneficial than a barren lake bottom (even if that means you cannot wade directly into the water.) It provides a habitat for aquatic organisms and also slows down waves as they approach the shore. If you are experiencing an overabundance of shoreline weeds, though, it would be wise to contact an aquatic weed expert. Start by reaching out to the Bass Lake Property Owners Association!

To learn more about healthy lake habitats, visit [lakes.grace.edu](http://lakes.grace.edu) or call 574-372-5100, ext. 6445.

### Spring Master Gardener Training

The Purdue Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Program will hold a statewide virtual Extension Master Basic Gardener Training on Wednesdays, March 3 through June 2, 2021, from 1:30-3:30 PM ET / 12:30 -2:30 PM CT via live webinars. Final exam given after June 2. There will also be a weekly local connection hour with your county's Extension Master Gardener coordinator on Mondays at 12:00 Pm ET/11:00 AM CT. To register, contact Phil Woolery at [pwoolery@purdue.edu](mailto:pwoolery@purdue.edu). The cost for program is \$175 for an individual with the print version of the Purdue Extension Master Garden Manual, or \$270 for two people sharing a print version of the Purdue Extension Master Garden Manual. Scholarships may be available through the local Master Gardener Association.

**Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD)** - Rainfall for December was **1.71** inches. Total rainfall for 2020 was **29.74** inches - making it the second lowest precipitation year since the BLCD began recording measurements beginning in 2003. As a reminder the least precipitation year was 2012 - total amount was **25.78** inches. Average rainfall (2003-2019) was **38.79** inches. When you factor in 2020 the average rainfall dipped 1/2 inch to **38.29** inches. The lake pump was activated June 4<sup>th</sup> (when water fell below the spill level of the weir). A total of **260** million gallons of water was pumped into the lake, including **31** million gallons in December. The pump was turned off on December 28<sup>th</sup> - just before the lake froze over. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. CST - BLPOA building. **Face masks are required.** If you should have any questions/concerns - or want to register your email address with us (for our new email service) - please call the BLCD office at 574 772-2974 or email us at [info@blcd-ind.org](mailto:info@blcd-ind.org). Submitted by Larry Collura - Vice Chairman BLCD