

# CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 5 NO. 7

JULY 2018—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Are ya feelin' Lucky? Do you feel \$558,630.00 lucky? A lucky Monterey fisherman was lucky; he found the egg. And yes, "One Way" paid off on the \$100.00. Water quality has improved exposing hundreds and hundreds of swimming minnows. The minnows are back and they are biting. On July 6th, water visibility was officially measured at 19 inches during a deep water test done by a Property Owner volunteer. "Lucky" and "Lots of Rocks" have been hot topics. Old Flattop over in the west side of the south bay was found; unfortunately, it was found by an unlucky boat. It is now marked with a rock buoy. GPS should keep its location known. It will have an "Ice Spar" on it come fall.

So, are ya feelin' lucky? That's the question to ask yourself before driving through the "Lots of Rocks" area of Bass Lake. That's the large area is the middle north quarter of the south bay. Many a rock waits there unmarked. Luckily, in the early 1960's Hobart boat and Ski Club members removed about all those rocks so they could put in a safe slalom course. It was an event. Many/maybe most of the club members walked the length of the north shoreline area of the south bay hand-in-hand. Every time the group stumbled onto a rock, it was hoisted off the lake bottom and placed on the pontoon boat that was trailing behind. The rock collection that appeared on the deck was then floated to deep water and pushed overboard. Thus, the birth of the safe Hobart slalom course. I remember that day. I actually remember that day every time I pull a skier in that "Rockless" section of lake. While driving through "Rockless", I always remain aware that just south remains the "Lot's of Rocks" area. "Old Scar" is in there. Four buoys are there too; some marking specific rock locations in the "Lots of Rocks" graveyard. That means, only a few of the many rocks are actually marked. So, let the driver beware. Still feel lucky? Well do you? If so, drive through "Lots of Rocks."

The Property Owners Annual Meeting marked 100 years since the formation of our Bass Lake Association. We discussed rocks, "Lots of Rocks", glacial stone and had an election too. Cindy Hunter and Rick Linkus are new board members; Kathy Laiter is our new Secretary. Also our by-laws were revised. The glacial stone grant application is on track for submission in January 2019. Check out the glacial stone in front of the Beach Pavilion and credit the Park Board. Next Saturday, July 14th, at 8:00 a.m., come to the Property Owners Building and join a group that will be bicycling to the Erie Trial. How far to go before turning back will be determined. Still feeling lucky? There will be another \$558K+ opportunity this Saturday at the VFW. *Stay safe and healthy, Rick*

**Bass Lake Bench Brigade Begins!** Our lid collection program has resulted in bags of lids that need to be weighed by kids. Bring your young people (1 to 18 years) and have them weigh some lids. Free cookies!

Where: 4544 S CR 210      Date: Saturday, July 14      Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Bass Lake Property Owners Association:** Our next property owner meeting is on August 18 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building.

**Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:** Monday, August 6 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building

**Bass Lake Festival:** Last minute planning is underway. Please contact Tabitha Dillner for meeting times and locations, tdillner@gmail.com.

**Starke County Park Board:** Tuesday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

**Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path):** July 19 at 6:00 p.m., CDT (7:00 p.m., EDT) in the North Judson-Wayne Township Public Library, North Judson

**Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers):** Monday, August 20 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

## Bass Lake Festival—July 27, 28 and 29—[www.basslakefest.com](http://www.basslakefest.com)

### Bass Lake Festival

**Friday, July 27**—Fishing derby begins, sand sculpture contest begins, Little Miss, Mister, Jr. Miss Miss Bass Lake contest, entertainment, food!

**Saturday, July 28**—Lakeside market, 5K run/walk, magic show, ice cream eating contest, car show, bouncy houses, photography contest, popsicle stick contest, historical trams, water volleyball, sailboat races, corn hole tournament, brew tasting, kayak race, entertainment, fireworks (dusk), food!

**Sunday, July 29**—Lions Club breakfast, bike race, historical trams, cardboard boat race, sand sculpture judging, parade (starts at 1:00), goat drop, food!

**Lakeside Market at the Marina**—This year's market, The Lakeside Market at the Marina, will be one day only, Saturday, July 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will feature local artisans, woodworkers and crafters. The booth sales/reservations have begun and there is a limited number. Text or call Nancy Sandusky at (219) 488-6747 to reserve your space. Booth rental starts at \$20 for a 10' X 10' space.

**Historical Tram**—This popular festival event attracts both young and old lakesters. The tram runs from the BLPOA building on Saturday at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. On Sunday the tram will run at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. During the 90-minute ride, a talented historian points out lake landmarks and tells stories about the history of our lake. Tickets are \$5 per seat. Thanks to Ron Vendl for coordinating this wonderful tour!

## 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)

### Need Summer Party Space?

Call (574) 772-7761 to rent the spacious, affordable and well maintained BLPOA building. A Board member will return your call.

### Bass Lake Festival Volunteers

Calling all volunteers for the Festival! Volunteer one or two of your family members to help out for a few hours.

### Useful BLPOA Website

Most of the questions our Board receives can be answered by reviewing the lake website:

[www.inbasslake.org](http://www.inbasslake.org)

Thank you to Larry Collura who manages our website, as a volunteer, and does a superior job at it!

### Thanks to Jan Dwyer

For the past year, Jan Dwyer has been the Secretary of the BLPOA Board. It is a daunting job, given that we have over 800 households that are members. The Secretary keeps track of all of that and the business conducted by the Board. Thank you, Jan! We welcome Kathy Laiter to the position as the new BLPOA Secretary.

### Benches for the Bike Trail

You'll note green bins around the lake for the collection of plastic container lids and caps. These caps are recycled into benches for the nearby 9.2 mile bike trail. The Prairie Trails Club sponsors and maintains the bike trail:

[www.prairietrailsclub.org](http://www.prairietrailsclub.org)

**Stellar Community Program**—Larry Wickert and Commissioners Kathy Norem and Don Binkley attended last week's BLPOA annual meeting. Starke County is applying for the Stellar Community Designation Program which would make grants more readily available for community improvement. One of the immediate next steps is to create a 5-year plan for the county. If you have questions, please contact Larry Wickert, Executive Director of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation.

**Bass Lake Conservancy District**—Rainfall for June was 3.23 inches. At the Annual Meeting (June 30), Russ Blais was sworn in as Director-at-Large for a four year term ending in June 2022. An open position still exists for a District 1 Director (north end of the lake) – please call the office if you have an interest. The next scheduled meeting is Monday August 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. CST.

Please visit our website at [www.blcd-ind.org](http://www.blcd-ind.org). If you should have any questions/concerns pertaining to the District, please feel free to 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/Director District IV*

**Healthy Shoreline Initiative**—Why is there an effort to add glacial stone or bioengineered seawalls in front of the lake's concrete seawalls? When water hits a concrete wall, the wave that is produced discourages healthy plants from growing and in turn impacts the fish population negatively. Our "early adopter" is Starke County; glacial stone was recently installed in front of the concrete seawall at the Bass Lake Beach. We will be applying for a Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) grant by January 31 that will provide money to interested property owners for 2019 glacial stone projects. We are creating a list of the property owners who are interested in doing this. Anticipated grant money would be made available in 2019 and would reimburse about 80% of the stone. If you are interested, please contact Rick Anderson, [barefootrun@mchsi.com](mailto:barefootrun@mchsi.com).



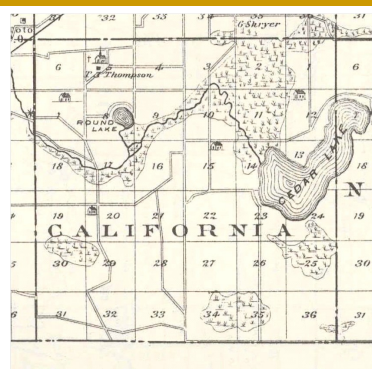
**July 14 Lake Bike Ride**—On Saturday morning, July 14th at 8:00 a.m. a group of Property Owners, with their bicycles, will meet at the Property Owners Building for the second annual bike ride to the Erie Trail. The ride to the trail and back should take about an hour or so. Join in for the ride, maybe meet some friends and view the trail. We hear that Rick Anderson will unearth his ancient bike to lead the group.

**How to Get Rid of Your Old TVs and Tires**—The Starke County Environmental Day collection event will be held on September 15 between 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. CST at 3835 East 250 North in Knox. Items accepted include household hazardous waste, medications, tires, appliances, computers, televisions and more. For more information please call (574) 772-4401.

**Recycling at Bass Lake**—Your property tax environmental assessment pays for the recycling bins behind the BLPOA building, which belong to Starke County. Note that there are cameras on these bins and people who use it for disposal other than recycling can be given a \$2,500 fine for each offense. Note: Please break down your cardboard boxes so we can recycle more efficiently. Currently, the bins are emptied twice a week. Note that Starke County has recently considered a county-wide recycling program but it does not seem likely to be implemented.

**Lock Your Cars**—The Neighborhood Watch Program is alive and well at Bass Lake. Each week the lake is patrolled by volunteers, who work closely with the Starke County Sheriff to keep our lake community safe. Note that last summer and this summer there have been car theft incidents; items that are loose in the car (spare change, chargers, etc.) have been taken. Get in the habit of locking your cars!

## Bass Lake History—California Township Map



*Submitted by Ron Vendl,  
Starke County Historical Society*

This 1876 map of California Township shows the Round Lake area and roads during the times discussed in the Old Settlers news articles. There are four one-room schools shown; Aldine, Geneseo, Spoor and White. They would have most likely still been of the log cabin type. The church shown is the Round Lake Church, which would have been of the United Brethren faith at that time. The creek is the Cedar Lake Outlet, one of the few natural streams in Starke County. It carried the overflow from both Round Lake and Bass Lake (Cedar Lake) over to the Kankakee River near a place called Governor's Island. Muskrat Mill was located at the asterisk just west of the township line on this same creek. Very few roads followed the section lines as we are accustomed. Instead they followed the sand ridges to avoid the swamps. A sharp eye will notice there were no roads where SR 10 and US 35 now run. A large swamp prevented direct travel between Bass Lake and Knox, and only small portions of Bass Lake had any sort of road.