

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 8 NO. 6

JUNE 2021—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Our June property owners' meeting highlighted our upcoming July Annual Meeting and elections. Anyone interested in a BLPOA Board position should contact Secretary, Kathy Laiter by email (weski4@yahoo.com) or by phone (773-251-6410). Please include some background information about yourself. Other meeting topics included: resuming guest invitations to our annual meeting (COVID 19 had them suspended). The June 26 DNR Boating Class has 10 signed up to participate. The next Social Committee event will be the Annual Bike Ride on July 17. The Bass Lake Festival is scheduled for July 23, 24 & 25. The Conservancy District requested permission to treat about 300 acres of invasive Eurasian Milfoil; the DNR approved 123 acres for treatment on June 14. Hydrothol granular pellets can be used by individual property owners to treat 625 square feet; it is available from Amazon or Aquatic Control in Valpo. The Solar Farm and Irrigation Water project remains on schedule with the BLPOA Irrigation Water Advisory Committee following progress. The Healthy Shoreline project along with the Park Board and Bass Lake Beach had comments. A "Welcome to Bass Lake" sign at the new 3-way stop is being planned.

In May, lake water clarity was measured at 2.5 feet. Also in May, 4.5 inches of rain was recorded and our pump ran continuously; even so, the lake remains down about 14 inches. This is particularly bad for many property owners who really do not have enough water to anchor close to shore and navigate to deeper water. If you can put your boat in, and get to the channel, and can avoid the weeds, and avoid rocks, about half of the lake is deep enough and available for boating. That is a lot of ifs. Consequently, I predict "Shallow Water Fun" will be had this summer. Things like horseshoes or volleyball might be seen being played on our 2021 sandy shores.

Although 2021 rainfall has been lower than average, if normal rainfall resumes, street puddling will again puddle. After a storm, at Williams and Elm Street "Lake Huntington" can be observed; it grew significantly when Elm Street was repaved adding about two inches of asphalt. When a puddle becomes a lake covering over a thousand square feet and remains for days, it's a target. So splish splash, Roger Huntington, with some help from myself, drove a 2-inch well point down about sixteen feet into the water table and used another 2-inch well point mounted horizontally topside as a water filter. This arrangement is now able to drain about one gallon of water per minute from Roger's roadway lake. Mathematically speaking, the drainage rate becomes about 600 gallons every 10 hours. I see a second well point going down soon. Some strategic fill won't surprise me either. Bass Lake has people who know how to do things. So, COVID seems history, additional waters may be flowing into our lake next summer and at the "V", \$408,185.00 awaits behind one of the remaining 11 numbers. The Easter Egg is still in the lake too. *Stay safe & healthy, Rick*

Changes at the Bass Lake Beach & Campground—The Starke County Park Board is now managing the operations of our Beach and Campground. The revenue generated from the 62 campsites and boat piers will be used for maintenance and upgrades to the property. Currently, the large pile of glacial stone that is on the Beach property will be used to protect the existing trees and prevent further shoreline erosion. In addition, the County has rented a sand grooming machine, which is coming from Boston, to clean the rocks and glass out of the sand. You'll also note there is a taco vendor providing food to weekend Beach enthusiasts.

If you have ideas for change, attend the Park Board meetings or contact Board members, which are listed on the Starke County website; meeting information is below. This is an exciting change for our lake community!

Property Owners Association—Annual Meeting with Elections—Saturday, July 10 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, July 5 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, July 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) June 26 at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of the BLCD, 4450 E, 450 S. This is the BLCD annual meeting, including elections.

Prairie Trails Club—The next meeting is scheduled for July 15 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) at the BLPOA Building.



Nana's Tacos—Knox resident Lisa Renee Wilson is featuring her "from scratch" tacos at the Bass Lake Beach each weekend from noon to 7:00 p.m.

Bass Lake State Beach— This photo taken in the 1940's shows the beach house at Bass Lake State Beach. Earlier in 1931, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources decided to purchase this land and build a state beach. This was in the height of the Great Depression, and both state and federal governments were eager to put people to work on public works projects. Workers used long drag lines to pull sand from the lake's bottom to build the beach. The soil in that area is composed of a fine natural sand ideal for a beach. Today much of the sand has been washed back into the lake and the water's edge is close to the beach house.

During the 1930's and 40's, a gas station was located directly across from the new beach. It sold just about anything a tourist might need. During the 1950's, the state decided to expand and purchased the area across the road for use as a campground.

As a recreation area, the beach dates back to the 1890's, when a privately owned amusement park known as White City was located in today's camping area. They featured baseball games, theatrical groups, fireworks and dancing in addition to amusement rides of the day. *Submitted by 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
 - Open position

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

BLPOA Membership Dues—Your 2021 Membership dues which include the directory are due by June 30. Garbage and recycling fees are optional. Please use the 2021 form. If you have not received it, you can find it on the website, under the membership tab:

www.inbasslake.com

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.

BLPOA Welcome Packets—Mary Jesso is managing the new member welcome process. If you know someone who has just moved to Bass Lake, contact Mary at mary@jessolution.com.

Solar Farm Update—The BLPOA has a Solar Farm Irrigation Advisory Committee to represent our interests as the new solar farm is planned and built. For more information, attend the July 10 BLPOA annual meeting; you will be educated about the project and can ask questions.



Longtime Bass Lake resident Andy Prokup proved there may not be much water in the lake but we do have walleye! This impressive 27-inch fish was caught in early June. Photo submitted by local volunteer, Russ Blais. Thanks, Russ!

Bass Lake Cemetery—The Bass Lake Cemetery is located at E 400 S and S 675 E (behind the Bielava Summer Resort.) The Cemetery spans over 2 acres and 1,000 plots. It also includes a Church on the premises that still holds services for the Pentecostal Church of God. The history of the Cemetery records date back to as early as 1842. Records show many soldiers buried there had served in the Mexican War, the Civil War and the Spanish American War. The oversight and management of the cemetery has been granted to the Bass Lake Cemetery Association which was formed in 1917. In 1971, the property where the current church is located, was donated to the Association from the Northern Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. We thank those individuals who were instrumental in forming the Association. They include: Warren Terry, John Bengail, Thomas Cleave, Frank Hay, Fred White, Homer Piper, Warren Conner, William Emigh, and Thomas Scott. These individuals are credited with the formation and the insight to insure that Bass Lake residents had a resting place. If you have any questions or concerns or are interested in buying a plot, you may contact the current caretakers of the Cemetery, Matt and Mary Topelian. They can be reached at mjtopelian@att.net.



Bass Lake Festival—July 23-25 Join us this summer for the "Roaring 20's" festival. Honoring the very 1st Miss Bass Lake Contest in 1926. T-Shirts are available and events are getting lined up! Check the website basslakefest.com for event schedules, forms and information. For volunteer opportunities contact Mary mjtopelian@att.net. "2021 and we're ROARING BACK!!"



Here is the 2021 Bass Lake Festival T-shirt!

Buoy Master Notes—If you would like to host a buoy (which includes putting it in and taking it out), please contact us. Reminder, one buoy per address. If you have issues or questions, please contact our buoy master Gary Laiter, weskii4@yahoo.com, (773) 750-4049. Buoy on!

DNR Safe Boating Class—This year's Boater Education and Safety Class will be offered at Bass Lake on June 26 at the BLPOA building from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Registration is open, the class is free and all are welcome. If you are interested go to [//www.register-ed.com/events/view/167627](http://www.register-ed.com/events/view/167627). If you have questions, contact Terry Chmiel, etowncopper50@aol.com or (574) 606-5194.

North Judson Mint Festival—The Mint Festival is back! June 18, 19 and 20 will feature music in Norwayne Field, a pedal tractor pull, frog jumping and pie eating contests. Lake Street will be filled with food and craft vendors. There is a parade on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. and a "Cooking with Mint" contest on Saturday. Registrations are located on the "Official North Judson Mint Festival" Facebook page.

Father's Day Train Rides—Excursion trains depart from the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum depot in North Judson on June 19 and 20 at 12:30 and 2:00 p.m. CT. Each trip is 45 minutes. Passengers travel in open air sightseeing cars or vintage cars to English Lake and back. Order tickets online, www.hoosiervalley.org.

Weeds in the Lake—Bass Lake has had an invasive weed problem the past two years. Did you know you can treat 625 square feet of weeds in front of your cottage without a permit from the DNR? Some property owners buy the Hydrothol Granular pellets from Aquatic Control. Others have purchased the product from Amazon. The weeds pose danger so use a buddy system and avoid weedy areas.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) - Rainfall - not much to report. May total - 4.84 inches. June (actually June 7) - .91 inches. YTD - 14.98 inches. For comparison: 2020 rainfall through June - 17.28 inches. The lake pump put 35.5 million gallons of water into Bass Lake in May. The Annual Meeting of the BLCD will be held on Saturday, June 26 at 10 a.m. This year's meeting will be held at the offices of the BLCD, 4450 E 450 S. (Not the BLPOA building this year). The election of two Directors will not be necessary this year as the incumbents were unopposed. Therefore, Jerry Broadstreet, District 3 and Larry Collura, District 4 will be sworn in at the meeting.

The vegetation survey is complete. The INDNR has approved treatment of 123 acres of Eurasian Milfoil this year. Aquatic Control treated the lake for weeds on June 14. See treatment map on the BLCD website. The regular July meeting will not be held due to two meetings being held in June. Note: masks are suggested but not required for those who have been vaccinated. Those that are not vaccinated must wear a mask. Once again, consider making your monthly payment using Electric Funds Transfer (EFT). Form is on the website. Also, the BLCD maintains its own email server. Provide your email address to be kept in the loop with the latest updates and information. Your address will not be shared with anyone or sold. Enjoy your Summer, rain or no rain.
 Submitted by Russell Blais, BLCD Board Member

Golf Cart Inspections—If you missed last weekend's golf cart inspection, you can call the Starke County Sheriff and they will come to your lake home to inspect your golf cart. The form and golf cart ordinance are on the BLPOA website, www.inbasslake.com and also the Starke County website.



In early June, some of our property owners enjoyed this new born fawn. Photo submitted by Russ Blais.