

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 8 NO. 3

MARCH 2021—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

February had the lake level hidden under a cover of ice and snow. Early March was different. Lake ice and snow melting made a lake level measurement easy. So, what did I measure? My unofficial measurement: minus 16 inches. Consequently, on March 4 with almost all lake ice gone, the Conservancy District started our lake pump. Last year between June 4 and December 28, that was the pump that pumped about 260 million gallons "into" and "adding" about nine inches to lake level. Read about this on the BLCD website where you can learn even more. For example, after paying \$11,000 for lake pump electricity in 2020, our BLCD has more dollars on hand than their minimum required funding. The BLCD is doing a great job. Visit their website, www.blcd-ind.org for additional information.

Eight BLPOA Board members and 25 property owners attended the March 6 BLPOA meeting. New property owners were acknowledged and welcomed. Previous minutes were approved and will be on our website: www.inbasslake.com. AJ Gappa reported a December financial balance of \$204,380. On March 27, our mailing committee will stuff our 2021 Annual Letter and Membership Form into envelopes and send them out by U.S. mail to all members. The 2021 Directory is on schedule. "On hold" building party rentals will be revisited in April. Boating class will be June 5 at Bass Lake. Planned Social Events include the July 17 Bike Ride, the October 23 Soup Social and the December 4 Christmas Bazaar. A "Century Bike Ride" could also happen on September 11. Glacial stone LARE projects remain active. A "Marina Mural", a maybe. "Trimming back" quotes to remove overhanging parking lot tree branches will be obtained. Starke County Commissioners approved all requested rezoning to allow the Solar Farm project to push forward; this project includes the possible redirection of existing irrigation well water into Bass Lake. The BLPOA Board still has a vacant Director position. If you are interested, contact a board member. This is your opportunity to get involved and help your Bass Lake community.

"Pier Season" is here! It goes like this: One pier, two piers, three piers then more. I wonder who will put in pier number 100. It might be Steve, I might be Les, it could be you. Better questions include: How many piers will be freshly painted? How many will go in without alcohol? How many will go in straight? One thing is for sure, once the piers start going in, boats will soon follow and another season will have begun.

As the Solar Farm project continues to develop, I am becoming more optimistic that the idled irrigation pumps will become part of Bass Lake's level control; stay tuned. Talks continues, approvals are being pursued and no known roadblocks have emerged. If a roadblock or two does emerge, hopefully property owners can help in their removal. At the "V", a \$1 donation will now give you a chance at winning \$243K. *Stay safe & healthy, Rick*

Property Owners Association—Saturday, April 3 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, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, April 12 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 is scheduled for April 15 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) at the BLPOA Building. Masks are required.

Fertilizer Caution—As spring rains sweep water into the lake, your lawn fertilizer goes with it. This negatively affects fish and plants and our lake water. Use only fertilizer with no phosphorus, which means the middle number on the package is 0. Did you know one pound of phosphorus can grow into 10,000 pounds of weeds and algae?



This photo was taken in early March by Judy Deputy. These fisherman are in the water in waders near the Pub.

Best View Hotel Scene

This was the scene in front of the Best View Hotel at Bass Lake's north end around 1920. More recently, this spot had been home to the Shore Room and is now Harbour House. Notice the unpaved road and telephone lines. This was before electrical power was available at the lake. These days we forget that people had telephones many years before they had electrical lights.

The view is looking toward the east, and the building in the background was the bowling alley at Winona. Legend has it that Diamond Joe Esposito's limousines stirred up a lot of dust on those dirt roads to everyone's ire. Wanting to be a good neighbor, he saw to it that the road was paved around the lake in the mid-1920's.

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 includes the directory, garbage fees and optional recycling fees are due by June 30! 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

2021 Bass Lake Festival is On!

The Bass Lake Festival will be July 23—25. We need enthusiastic volunteers to help manage events. The theme this year is "Roaring Back to the 20's!" Contact Mary Topelian, mjtopelian@att.net.

Golf Cart Inspections—Our BLPOA Membership sign-up and golf cart inspections will be:

⇒ May 22, June 12, June 26

⇒ 9:00 a.m.—noon

⇒ BLPOA Building

Buoy Master Notes—It's almost time for the buoys to be returned to the lake. Before you do so, please look them over. Is the top cap in good shape? Are the chains and anchors in good shape and secure? All BLPOA buoys are supposed to be assigned a number. Does your buoy have 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 (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.

Hats Off to Rik Ritzler—Our Starke County Highway Superintendent is moving to a job in the private sector. In his eight years with the county, Rik Ritzler's accomplishments were phenomenal. Our Bass Lake community benefitted often from his programs and progress. Rik has accepted a position with Knox-based Traffic Control Specialists and will still reside at Bass Lake. He will continue to serve on the BLPOA Board and also the Starke County Park Board.

Locally Grown Food—Want to feed your family the freshest, tastiest, healthiest food possible? How about sustainable, locally grown fruits and vegetables? It's called Community Supported Agriculture. Sign up with Fairstream Farms and Pioneering Pig Homestead and receive a share of the harvest every week all season long. Fresh, healthy, local food for your family while supporting a local business. If you are interested in subscribing to the weekly boxes, contact Julie Dessauer, Julie@pioneeringpig.com.

Lake Level Low - As it was last fall, the current lake level continues to be very low. If you've been to the lake recently, this is obvious; there is a beach in front of each cottage! Please be aware of this when planning the installation of your piers, boats and lifts. Be cautious with swimmers and especially divers as the lake is significantly lower than it's normal spring levels. The BLCD has been running the lake pump since March 4, after the last of the winter ice went away, and we are hopeful for significant spring rain. Historic rain totals can be viewed at the Bass Lake Conservancy website at www.blcd-ind.org. So, either start doing rain dances or plan for a different boating lift strategy this summer.

Prairie Trails Club Workday—The next trail workday is Saturday, April 10 at 9:00 a.m. CDT at the Erie Trail crossing of County Road 125 East in Aldine. The effort will follow-up on last September's workday and will be directed to suppressing Siberian elm, bush honeysuckle and tree of heaven. Questions? Contact Kathy Lucas, kathleenlucas216@gmail.com.

DNR Safe Boating Class—This year's Boater Education and Safety Class will be offered at Bass Lake on June 5 at the BLPOA building. Registration information will be in future newsletters! If you have questions, contact Terry Chmiel, etowncopper50@aol.com.

Geese Management Class—Geese are a common feature in Northern Indiana landscapes, but what happens when there are too many, and what can you do about it? The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams will be hosting the presentation by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to discuss the issues of goose overpopulation and which management techniques are most effective. After the video, there will be discussion on how these issues affect us on a local level. The class is on April 15 from 11:00 a.m.—noon CDT.



Grace Hehemann submitted this photo of our Bass Lake deer!

Lunch will be provided for free to the "in person" participants. However, you can sign up for a "virtual ticket" to receive the link to the IDNR presentation to view from home!

There are many tools for dealing with geese overpopulation. Figuring which tools to use, and when, will have the biggest impact on managing population sizes. The goal is not to eliminate geese entirely, but to reduce the population to a more natural level and reduce their negative impact. Contact Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@briljent.com for the link for the April 15 session.

Pizza Party Cancelled—The BLPOA Pizza Party is cancelled this year due to COVID-19 concerns.

Are You a Water Polluter? Simple changes can reduce your family's impact on our lake. For copies of this Healthy Shoreline summary, contact Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@briljent.com.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) - Rainfall for February was 2.08 inches. Total rainfall for 2021 is 4.16 inches. Now that the lake ice is gone, the pump has been turned on and is currently pumping 1.4 million gallons a day. The DNR has approved a LARE grant for 2021. It is anticipated the BLCD will receive approximately \$5,000 in funding (plus \$1,280 for two weed studies). The next step the DNR will provide an approved list of contractors to the BLCD for bids to take care of the invasive vegetation. The DNR will be at the lake in April for vegetation inspections to determine how many acres (if any) can be treated. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 12, 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. Submitted by Larry Collura – Vice Chairman BLCD

The Culver Farmer's Market—This nearby community continues their indoor market, Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. EST—1:00 p.m. EST at the Culver Public Library. Upcoming dates are March 20, April 3 and April 17.

Purdue Pond Workshop—Learn how to manage vegetation and fish ponds. April 10, 10:00 a.m. CST at the Palmer Center for Aquatic Resources (behind Sporty'z), 6718 East Winona.

RSVP required, call Phil Woolery (574) 772-9141, pwoolery@purdue.edu. Cost of the workshop is \$10.



Two geese looking forward to the arrival of spring. This photo was submitted by talented photographer, Grace Hehemann.