

Bass Lake Healthy Shoreline Initiative

July 2021 - Update



Background:

Lake water clarity, weeds and a healthy fish population are important issues for our property owners. Representing you, we've continued our work with:

- Bass Lake Conservancy District
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana University Clean Lakes Program
- Local Purdue University Resources
- Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams
- Other lake communities, such as The Watershed Foundation

Your BLPOA continues taking actions for a healthy lake!

Recent Actions Taken by Your BLPOA:

1. *Lake and River Enhancement Grant (LARE)* - In 2019 we submitted a grant request to the Indiana DNR for our glacial stone seawall projects. We had 44 applicants; our grant request totaled \$114,240 to re-face 3264 feet of our shoreline. On August 1, 2019 we were awarded \$35,000. This money has been used to provide property owners with a 50% reimbursement of their costs on a first-come, first-served basis.

This is our third and final year of the program. We've turned 4 property owners away because their projects were not within the grant parameters. When we close out this year, we will have revamped 25 concrete seawalls with glacial stone. Thanks to Rick Anderson and AJ Gappa who have helped with the onerous administration of this grant. When the money is utilized, our intent is to apply for additional funding that will continue our healthy shoreline work.

2. *Indiana Clean Lakes Program* – This is our fourth summer in the Indiana University Clean Lakes Program. Thanks to Rick Anderson, Rich Linkus and Phil Woolery from the Purdue Starke County Extension Office we test and monitor our lake water each month. We measure water clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll (a measurement for algae). This is part of a long-term study that provides us with data that we'll use in future grant applications.
3. *Purdue University Lake Monitoring* - The Palmer Research Center for Aquatic Resources, located behind Sportyz, is monitoring our lake waters this year. We have had recent conversations with Tom Hook and Mitchell Zischke to learn what they are doing so we can dovetail it into our work.
4. *Bass Lake Beach Erosion* – Through continued efforts by Rick Anderson, last year we were given a permit by the DNR to add fill dirt and glacial stone to 299 feet of the Bass Lake Beach. Now that the Starke County Park Board again manages the Bass Lake Beach and Campground, they will be placing stone around the trees in the near future. This will stabilize the shoreline and prevent further erosion at the Beach. We will also work with the Park Board and the Purdue Extension office to plant new trees along the shoreline at the Beach to prevent further erosion.
5. *Property Owner Education*- We continue to educate the BLPOA about the problems and the solutions through Catch & Release, the BLPOA website, handouts at BLPOA Membership Events, and as an agenda item at BLPOA meetings. Note the information regarding lawn fertilizing and also several detailed articles from the Lilly Center on www.inbasslake.com.

6. *Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams* - In 2018 we forged a relationship with a wonderful resource, the Lilly Center, located in Kosciusko County. They have significant funding and staffing. Though they focus on the county they are located in, they are happy to help us with education and research; they often do. In 2019, we participated in a zebra mussel trap provided by the Lilly Center, as part of a research program regarding this issue that is troublesome in other Indiana lakes. We concluded that we do not have a problem with zebra mussels at Bass Lake at this time. We rely on this research center for current, relevant lake research and educational webinars. The geese management webinar was attended by some of our property owners earlier this year.
7. *Invasive Species Weeds* – In 2019 a statewide effort to manage invasive species plants expanded to our area with a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA). Representatives of the BLPOA are actively involved in this group and will bring information to our property owners on the efforts to manage invasive species plants in our lake. Invasive plants that are problems at other lakes include starry stonewort and curly leaf. We are discussing programs to notify boaters using our public launch to clean their propellers and water reservoirs so that these “aquatic hitchhikers” don’t become problems for Bass Lake. Treating weeds in our lake is a complicated issue; solutions and permits are regulated by the DNR. For further information about the recent application of procettaCOR to 123 acres of weeds please contact the BLCD. They work hard to serve us well in this area.
8. *Future Plans* – We will be writing grants to the Indiana DNR, the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership and other funding sources to continue our healthy shoreline work. The focus could be fish habitats, native plants on the shoreline, erosion control or educational activities. If you have ideas or would like to become involved, please contact Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@briljent.com.

BLPOA Goal:

Restore our natural shoreline to preserve and enhance our water quality, prevent erosion, and provide healthier and safer habitat for the native creatures and lake life. Our vision to preserve our shoreline includes a better lake for recreational activities such as boating, fishing and cardboard boat races!

Excellent Resources:

The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams - This organization is dedicated to making the lakes in Kosciusko County clean, healthy, safe and beautiful. Their website is a rich source of healthy shoreline information, <http://www.lakes.grace.edu>. Subscribe to their newsletter to continue your education.

The Watershed Foundation - They have been focused on healthy shoreline initiatives for many years. <http://www.watershedfoundation.org>. You can sign up for their newsletters on their website.

Indiana Lakes Management Society - This wonderful organization has online webinars and an annual conference, often of interest to lake property owners. <https://www.indianalakes.org>.

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership - The online courses of this group include a rich selection of topics, often of interest to lake home property owners. <https://www.mglp.org>.

The Wawasee Conservancy Foundation - This organization also has a healthy shorelines initiative. <https://www.wacf.com>

July is Lakes Appreciation Month! Go to www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month to learn more about this grand month. This website, the North American Lake Management Society is an excellent resource.

Questions:

Contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com or Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@briljent.com