

Catch and Release BASS LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President's Letter

At about minus three inches, May 1st found the lake an inch lower than April 1st. So much for April showers. Time will tell how the May rains may raise lake level. With or without a full lake, piers and boat lifts are in and going in. The Bass Lake 2023 season has begun and it is good to see all the spring people doing spring things.

Highlights from the May 6th Property Owners Meeting:

- Last month's minutes and the Treasurer's report were approved.
- The "Bass Lake Pizza - Meet & Greet" is just two weeks away. Send in your \$5.00 reservation (send to Shirley Grajewski, PO Box 624 Knox In 46534). Tell your friends to send theirs in too. You may meet some new friends. Event questions can be answered by Shirley: 708-228-7548 or Mary: 708-261-1031.
- The Boating Class will be June 17th from 8:00 to 4:00 at the BLPOA Building.
- The new "Welcome to Bass Lake" sign is planned to be installed this month.
- The BLPOA is negotiating a contract extension with Republic. This year, each garbage/recycle member will receive two stickers - the normal window sticker and one stick-on sticker for the can. Second cans are again to be contracted for directly with Republic. By calling 574-842-4719 additional cans are available for \$42 per year. A 2023 Sticker will also be provided by Republic for those cans.
- Conservancy District costs keep increasing. A couple dollars per month increase can be expected by 2026.
- On May 22nd, from 5 PM to 7PM, at the Property Owner's Building, there will be a public hearing on the permit application for approved pier boat slips at Bass Lake Beach.
- The Annual election will be on July 8th at the Annual Meeting. Being on the Property Owners Board or just getting involved is a great way to help our Bass Lake community. Applications are on our website. The President, Secretary and three Director positions are up for election.
- Hopefully, the second pump is on schedule to be installed this May. With the lake level already beginning to drop, the BLPOA will continue to work closely with the "Solar Farm Group" until the project is completed with all issues resolved.
- The "Healthy Shoreline Committee" has provided trash pick up bags for anyone willing to do some roadside litter pick up. The roadway on the west side of the south bay was identified as a target area.
- Stefanie is checking on grant money that may be available to the BLPOA from the Starke County Tourism organization because we are a nonprofit group.
- If you missed the meeting, the next meeting will be June 3rd.

At the VFW there was a \$223K Grand Prize winner, the staff will be taking about a month off before beginning a new game. You can still stop by for some reasonably priced drinks and good conversation. *Stay safe & healthy, Rick*

Public Hearing Notice Additional Piers at The Bass Lake Beach

On May 22 at 5:00 p.m. CST at the BLPOA building the DNR is holding a public hearing. The topic is the permit application for three groups piers to be placed at the Bass Lake Beach. Some lake residents have concerns about this permit which was filed by Starke County Parks and Recreation.

Meetings and Gatherings

Bass Lake Property Owners Association:
Saturday, June 3 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA Building



Also, the annual BLPOA Pizza Party is on May 20, doors open at 5:30. Call Shirley with questions, (708) 228-7548.

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

Bass Lake Festival:
Sunday, June 4 at 9:30 a.m., the public, event coordinators & volunteers are welcome, at BLPOA Building

Prairie Trails Club
(our nearby bike trail):
Thursday, June 29 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT), BLPOA building

Bass Lake Conservancy District:
(sewers, pump & lake weeds)
Monday, June 12 at 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board:
(our Beach & Campground)
June 13 at 6:00 p.m., Starke County Annex; go to the YouTube link at the bottom of the Starke County Parks page to attend virtually.



Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President Rick Anderson
Vice President Rich Linkus
Treasurer A. J. Gappa
Secretary Kathy Laiter

Board Members

- Tom Busch
- Terry Chimel
- Shirley Grajewski
- Mary Jesso
- Stefanie Neal
- Ron Vendl
- Val Williams



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

Newsletter Contact Information

We welcome photos and articles from our property owners. Contact Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@briljent.com.

Bass Lake Yacht Club

The BLIYC is looking forward to our season opener party on Saturday, May 27th and the beginning of our 2023 summer racing series on May 28th. Everyone is welcome to attend and encouraged to check out the club's website at www.BLIYC.org and our Facebook group site too!

Looking forward to seeing you on the water!
For more information, contact Jim DeYoung at: blinyachtclub@gmail.com.



Bass Lake BLPOA Annual Pizza Party is on May 20, 2023
Doors Open: 5:30 PM | Pizza: 6:00 PM

It's time to kick off another summer season with our Annual PizzaParty. Pre-sale tickets are \$5 per person for all you can eat pizza/pop/water and \$10 at the door. Children under 10 are free.

Note: Membership Drive & Golf Cart Inspection are 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM same day.

Shirley Grajewski | [708-228-7548](tel:708-228-7548) Mary Jesso | [708-261-1031](tel:708-261-1031) Kathy Laiter | [773-251-6410](tel:773-251-6410)

Warrior Expedition

Once again this year, the Warrior Expedition (see photo on left) is soon going to be headed our way on the nearby Erie Trail. Carefully chosen combat veterans are outfitted with bicycles, tents, and other equipment for an outdoor therapy trek across the US, from Washington DC to Washington state. This year, they are planning to leave DC in mid-May and be in Starke County around June 1st. They always enjoy going to the Veterans Memorial and the VFW, along with warm showers, beds, and home cooked meals supplied by Prairie Trails Club volunteers. Sometimes children make welcoming signs thanking them for their service. If your child or grandchild wishes to make a sign, please call or text Kathy Lucas at 317-407-7032.

Bass Lake Beach and Campground

Spring clean-up has begun at the beach and campground. Officer Peverelle from the County Corrections Department brought out crews for two days. These guys did a great job helping us and our other wonderful volunteers by picking up branches, raking leaves and gravel to get the beach and campground area looking better than they ever have this early in the season. We can't express enough our gratitude to all of our volunteers that do so much for our parks and beach.

Board member, Sam Byer arranged for the DNR to remove the dive platform that has been there forever. There were about 15 members on that crew. The divers located the platform and their boat attempted to tie to it and drag it out. When it became obvious the piece was just too big we called Hauser's Towing. They brought their big wrecker out and, under the DNR's direction, hooked cables to it. Unfortunately, that proved unsuccessful as, well. We'd like to express our gratitude to Hauser Towing for donating all those hours working with the DNR. The DNR has decided that platform will not be coming out of the water anytime soon but committed to placing a "DANGER" Buoy there to help people recognize the hazard. The Bass Lake Beach House/Trail Head committee are still working with the Troyer Group getting plans finalized for the renovations and improvements that is needed for the Grant Application process. We have an open position on Parks Department Board of Directors. If anyone is interested in becoming more involved and are a registered Republican in Starke County please contact our office at [574-772-9181](tel:574-772-9181). Happy Spring and Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful women of our community. If you have questions contact Tracy Williams, Park Superintendent, (574) 772-9181. Park Board meetings are recorded and available on the Starke County website!

Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum - The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum begins its 2023 Train Excursion Season on Saturday, May 6th, in North Judson, IN. Diesel excursion trains will depart from the depot every Saturday, and some select Sundays, until the end of September. Passengers have their choice of riding in open-air sightseeing cars or vintage cars while rolling down the tracks through the Northwest Indiana countryside. www.hoosiervalley.org

Bass Lake Conservancy District

The Board and staff welcomes our seasonal residents, guests and visitors to the summer of 2023! Your sewer system is up and running. One reminder, do not flush anything into the system other than human waste and toilet paper. All other materials should be disposed in your garbage. It is important to remind your guests of this necessity. It is most important for those operating VRBO's and Airbnb's to advise their renters of this need so that we can operate the system efficiently and economically. Consider placing "do not flush" poster near the toilet in every bathroom. A printable poster can be found on the BLCD webpage. Also, the posters are available at the office. We wish all to have a safe and fun summer season!

Please visit the BLCD website at basslakecd.in.gov or contact our office if you have any questions. Email is info@basslakecd.in.gov. Office is 574-772-2974. The hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. *The Board of the BLCD*

Save the Date
Invasive Species Training



JUNE 21ST, 2023
9 AM - 3 PM CENTRAL
Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest
450 W 100 N, Valparaiso, IN 46385

Join us to learn about identification and management of invasive plants such as Chinese silver grass! Bring your lunch and dress for the weather. Register here: 

 

Litter Bags

If you and your family want to help keep our lake community clean, we have biodegradable litter bags for you to use. Contact Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@briljent.com if you'd like a supply of litter bags to keep in your golf cart. Our Healthy Shoreline team encourages everyone to pick up roadside litter to help us keep our community clean!

Safe Boating Class

Each summer the DNR hosts a Safe Boating class. This year's class is on June 17. For more details contact etowncopper50@aol.com.

Bass Lake Festival

T-shirt sales start May 20th at BLPOA building. 9 a.m.- noon. NEW EVENT: Sunset Kayak Paddle out. July 28th at 7:00 p.m. Paddle out to watch the sunset on the south end near marina. The Festival is also taking applications for The Marketplace which will be on July 29. Go to Basslakefest.com for the form. Questions? Contact the Festival President Jenny Rocha, rocha32790@gmail.com.

BLPOA Building Rental

Need space for a graduation party or family reunion? Rent the large, renovated BLPOA building. Members pay \$125. Contact Rich Linkus for details. Linkusr1@hotmail.com. Nonprofits use the building for no cost!

Spring Cleaning - Disposing of Big Items

Good news! Our garbage contract includes the pick-up of couches, mattresses, chairs and other big items. They will not pick up electronics or paint. The fourth Monday of each month is the bulk pick-up date. Also, if your family needs a second garbage can, the fee is \$42. Call Republic Services to schedule your second can drop-off, (574) 842-4719.

No Phosphorus in Your Fertilizer

If you are fertilizing your lake lawn use a fertilizer with 0 phosphorus. This will help keep our lake water healthy. There are many other ways you, your kids and grandkids can keep our lake water healthy. The BLPOA website includes information, under the Healthy Shoreline tab.



Check out this Purdue Pond Clinic, offered at Bass Lake, at The Palmer Center (behind The Woodshed Tap)

This beautiful magnolia tree photo was contributed by Grace Hehemann, our newsletter photographer!



Golf Cart Inspections by Sheriff's Office

It's that time of year again! Golf cart inspections are scheduled. The permit fee is \$25. Please have your application form filled out and a copy of your golf cart insurance card. To get an application go to starkecountysheriff.com.

May 20 and June 10 at the BLPOA Building, 9:00 a.m. CST until noon

May 27 and June 24 at Boa Shores, 9:00 a.m.CST until noon

Note that if your golf cart is covered by your homeowner's policy, the declaration or certificate of insurance must include;

1. Year, make , model of golf cart
2. Insurance company name, policy number and effective dates of policy
3. Description must include that the golf cart is covered for on road use and liability includes coverage for property damage and bodily injury

Adopt-a-Buoy

This program adds buoys to areas of the lake to give our lake residents shoreline protection, keeping boats away from swimmers. The BLPOA buys the buoys; volunteers put them in and take them out. Contact Gary Later (773) 750-4049 if you no longer want your buoy or if you would like to become a volunteer.

Tourism Grant Money Available

Kathy Norem (former Starke County Commissioner) is now the President of the Starke County Convention and Visitors Association. They are responsible for the distribution of the Inn Keeper tax that is collected in Starke County in accordance with the law. They do this by offering grants to non-profit organizations that are designed to increase tourism in Starke County. The maximum award this year is \$1,500 per grantee. The deadline for submission is May 26th. Contact Kathy Norem for details: knorem.starke@gmail.com.



The Shore Room

The photo above was taken in 1964 shows the well known Shore Room at Bass Lake.

It was originally built in 1905 by William Henry Emigh as the Best View Hotel. It had 25 guest rooms and a dining room that could seat 100. William Henry was 40 years old when he gave up farming in Washington Township, moved to Bass Lake with his wife Mary and took up the hotel business. A 1925 advertisement touted "cool rooms, good beds, running water, indoor toilets, screened porches and electric lights".

The Best View was one of the last of the old hotels operating at the lake when it became the Shore Room in the late 1950's. The original structure burned down some years ago and was replaced with the present building.

Submitted by: Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society