

Catch and Release BASS LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President's Letter

Rainfall, lake springs and the pump have lake level at minus 3 inches. Minus 3 is about where level was last year at this time. Will May 1st again see water flowing over the dam? Hopefully. Our old damaged dam was replaced in 2016 by the DNR. They didn't call it a dam; they referred to it as an Outlet Control Structure (OSC). The new OSC was constructed and installed at about 714 feet above sea level. That is the legal height established by Starke County Judge Donald N. Larimore in 1948. The big question: Is sea level 2023 the same as it was in 1948? I don't know. I do know sea level is affected by things like the moon, the sun, the melting and freezing glaciers. Anyway, from about 714 feet above sea level, our OSC overflow heads to the Kankakee River at English Lake; that's also where the Yellow River joins the Kankakee. So, piers and boat lifts are going in at about 714 feet and the 2023 season has begun.

Our April Property Owners' meeting followed the agenda. The minutes and Treasurer's report were approved. The May 20th Pizza Party Meet & Greet was discussed - several people signed up and paid. Shirley Grajewski, Mary Jesso and Kathy Laiter will be coordinating the event this year. The new "Welcome" and "Thanks for Visiting" Bass Lake sign should be installed by the Highway Department at the three-way stop in May. Building maintenance has no issues. Rentals are doing great. Neighborhood Watch recorded 19 incidents. Boating class will be June 17 at Bass Lake. An extension of our garbage contract with Republic is being pursued. We are two months into the "one large item pick up the fourth Monday of the month." 2023 will have two garbage stickers - a new stick on sticker for garbage containers along with the normal window sticker. The Conservancy District report was given by Russ Blais. The Park Board is still working on pier permits. Everyone is welcome at the Park Board meetings. May 6th, Starke County will have their Environmental Hazard disposal event; info will be sent out. I met with Doral in March about the status of the second pump. They are still awaiting approval from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Further IDEM contacts are anticipated and possibly the second pump will be installed in May.

I wonder how the lake aquatic vegetation will be this year. We had a pretty mild winter which usually helps weed growth. A spring weed survey is anticipated and the Conservancy District should again submit a weed treatment request. DNR approval is required to treat weeds where needed.

If you get to the Knox VFW, you will discover tickets for the \$203K grand prize are still \$1. Unlike most other things, inflation has not increased the \$1 ticket price.

Stay safe & healthy, Rick

Ready for the 2023 Bass Lake Festival! Here are a few past winners from the Cover Your Bass contest!



May 6 - Clean Out Your Garage!

Starke County will host its annual hazardous waste dump day on May 6. They will accept televisions, appliances, oil, computers, batteries, pesticides, chemicals, paints, medications, and more. Call (574) 772-4401 with questions.

Meetings and Gatherings

Bass Lake Property Owners Association:
Saturday, May 6 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA Building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:
Monday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m., BLPOA Building

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

**Prairie Trails Club
(our nearby bike trail):**
Thursday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT), BLPOA building

**Bass Lake Conservancy District:
(sewers, pump & lake weeds)**
Monday, May 8 at 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

**Starke County Park Board:
(our Beach & Campground)**
May 9 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.

Looking for something fun to do with grandkids this summer? Visit the new Hanne's Candy Land store in North Judson! It was the Starke County Chamber Business of the Month in April.



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

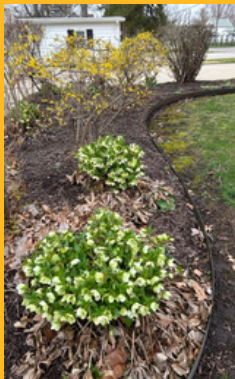
Board Member contact information is on our website: www.inbasslake.com

Newsletter Contact Information

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

Bass Lake Yacht Club

The Board is ironing out a date and a venue for an early May season kick-off and 2022 Awards Party. 2023 Racing will resume on May 27 with a practice round for May 20. The Yacht Club needs help from members and volunteers to plan the events. Watch for updates in this newsletter or on www.blinyc.org. For more information, contact Jim DeYoung at: blinyachtclub@gmail.com.



This spring garden photo was provided by Grace Hehemann, our newsletter photographer extraordinaire!

Purdue to Host "Get Growing" Gardening Program

On Thursdays in May, Purdue Extension will host the Get Growing gardening series at the Knox Library, 152 W Culver Rd at 5:00 pm Central. This program is designed for those that want to learn a little bit about how plants grow, common garden problems, and how to grow vegetables and flowers.

The program will be on Thursday evenings in May (4, 11, 18, 25) from 5- 7 PM Central Time at the Knox Public Library. There will be a session on how plants grow, garden pests, growing vegetables, and growing flowers. This class is designed for people who want learn more about gardening.

The cost of the program is \$40 and you can register here: <https://cvent.me/MLXOKX> or you can call the Extension office at 574-772-9141 or email pwoolery@purdue.edu.

PTC Hosts Trails Day on April 22 - Big Deal!

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Prairie Trails Club has been chosen by the national Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to host a signature event for Celebrate Trails Day on Earth Day, April 22nd. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. CDT at the Main Street Trailhead in North Judson. It will include two scavenger hunts on the Erie Trail (one for walkers and one for bicyclists) with small prizes for completion, live music by Return to Normal, food & drinks, and a train ride hosted by Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum! The train ride is scheduled to begin at 11 am, and it is first come, first served so please arrive early. A short children's Color Walk will begin around noon, after the train ride. Please join us to celebrate our transcontinental trail!



This is the group that participated in the 2022 BLPOA - Prairie Trails Club bike ride.

Bass Lake Beach and Campground

From the Starke County Parks Department

After a relatively non-eventful few months at the beach and campground we are excited and geared up for our 2023 season to open!! Campers are beginning to bring in their units in anticipation of the water being turned back on, weather permitting. Once the weather breaks and the grounds dry out a bit more we will be busy with spring clean-up efforts to get both sides groomed, raked and ready. It is our hope to have a Spring Clean-Up event in the next few weeks. It would be a great time for anyone in the community to come out and offer a helping hand. Details about this FUN event will be posted on our Facebook page once we have determined the best weather weekend.

The Bass Lake Beach House/Trail Head committee have met several times and are working closely with the Troyer group to move forward with securing the grant for the necessary funds to begin the project, hopefully, early next year. A meeting was held to review the floor plans and building renovations suggested by the architect. Stay tuned for further updates. All the materials have been ordered and we are anxious for construction to begin on the new lift station at the campground in the very near future. This is a huge improvement that has been needed for years.

We were notified by the DNR that letters needed to be sent to 12 adjoining property owners on each side of the beach property that the piers would be going up. This caused a little confusion that needed clarification. The Parks Department is ONLY seeking permits for the same exact piers that were there last year. NO additional piers will be placed at the beach. This is more of a "formality" required by the DNR. Anyone with questions regarding this is encouraged to contact our office.

Thank you to everyone in the community that supports and acknowledges the efforts of the Parks Department in our work to continually strive for improvements to our beautiful beach and campground. HAPPY SPRING. If you have questions contact Tracy Williams, Park Superintendent, (574) 772-9181. Park Board meetings are recorded and available on the Starke County website!

Bass Lake Conservancy District

Total rainfall for March was 4.37 inches with a YTD total of 11.03 inches. Average rainfall for March is 2.54 inches. Lake pump added 21.0 million gallons. YTD total is 71.0 million gallons. Also in March, the lake well underwent a complete overhaul including a new pump, pulled, and cleaned service pipe, cleaned and treated well screens. The last time the lake pump was replaced (pipe and screens cleaned) was in 2017.

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*

BLPOA Pizza Party

Our annual "beginning of lake season" pizza party featuring our local pizza is on May 20. Contact Shirley Grajewski with questions, mrssg708@gmail.com.

Weed Wrangle

The annual invasive plant Weed Wrangle is on May 6. Join the fun and help our native plants thrive. Contact Phil Woolery for details, pwoolery@purdue.edu.

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

New things are happening at the festival. Join the fun! The next planning meeting is on April 30 at 9:30 a.m. at the BLPOA Building. All are welcome. Contact the Festival President Jenny Rocha, rocha32790@gmail.com. The Festival needs volunteers to run and help with the many events.

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.

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!

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.



This photo titled "Solidarity" was provided by Lois Huntington. Featured is the aerobics class that meets at the BLPOA building. The group is wearing pink to support a member with breast cancer.

Forever Chemicals and Bass Lake *By Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams*
You may have seen the words "forever chemicals" or "PFAS" in recent health news headlines. The truth is, this topic can be both confusing and concerning, especially as it relates to the lakes in our county. In order to help you understand what PFAS is, we addressed eight common questions. Four of them are below! You can read the full blog post here: lakes.grace.edu/pfas-forever-chemicals.

01. What are PFAS chemicals? PFAS stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a name that describes the key chemistry of this family of man-made molecules. The chemicals can withstand many conditions and build up in the environment, giving them their nickname, "forever chemicals."

02. What are PFAS used for? PFAS have been in use since the 1940s. They are used in a wide range of common household items (such as non-stick pans, stain and water-resistant fabrics, and cosmetics) as well as in firefighting foams.

03. Where are PFAS found as pollution? These chemicals are found in water, soil, and air all over the earth. They have also been found in the bloodstreams of animals and humans.

04. How do PFAS impact human health? Scientists are still investigating the repercussions of PFAS on humans. Some known problems include increased thyroid disease, increased cholesterol levels, and the risk of cancer. But there is good news! The Indiana Department of Environmental Management recently completed a second round of testing drinking water in communities around Indiana. You can see the results on IDEM's website. Exposure to PFAS mainly happens while drinking water, not through your skin. Of course, we never recommend drinking the water in our lakes, but you should not worry while boating and swimming. Lake recreation is unlikely to lead to accumulating PFAS chemicals in your body. The Lilly Center continues to monitor PFAS, especially as it relates to lakes. To stay up-to-date, join our monthly e-newsletter: lakes.grace.edu/get-involved.

Rannell's Motor Bus

The Rannell's Family operated a hotel at Bass Lake around the turn of the last century known as the Bass Hotel. This is a picture of the taxi they used to pickup hotel guests at the Knox and Bass Station railroad depots. This driver was James Lanery.

Notice the wheels with wooden spokes, the chain driven rear wheels, the carbide lamps and the porter ready to assist hotel guests - not to mention a dog's age old fascination with tires. *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*

