

# Catch and Release BASS LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President's Letter

Historically, our lake level drops each August. The shining point this month is that we've already gotten some needed water from Mother Nature. On the Friday evening of the festival I was told we received anywhere from 3" to 5.5"; the level depended on where our members were at on the lake. On Saturday August 5th (even though earlier in the week the rain was supposed to hold off until Sunday) again I was told the lake received anywhere from 3" to 7". At the public launch the level still seems to be down from the top of the weir approximately 5". Hopefully good weather will extend into September! Enjoy the lake, have fun and stay safe. *BLPOA President Terry Chmiel*

### Great News - Grant Received for Local Bike Trail!

Prairie Trails Club, Inc. is pleased to announce that it has been selected to receive a \$300,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources to extend the trail northwest through North Judson and along English Lake Road. The grant award, which was very competitive, would not have been possible without the generous support of donors, including the Starke County Community Foundation, The Luminous Fund, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and the Mitchel-Kane Foundation. The Town of North Judson had reserved an easement for the PTC to extend the Erie Trail when it sold its railroad property in 2021. The PTC, the Town, and the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum are working together to plan amenities for the trail, which will be named The Grand Kankakee Marsh Trail to the Northwest.

The next PTC meeting is August 24 at the BLPOA Building at 5:30 pm CDT, 6:30 pm EDT. All are welcome to join the group, bring ideas to the meeting and help with trail clean-up days! *Submitted by Kathy Lucas, Prairie Trails Club Treasurer*

### Bass Lake Festival

Can you hear our huge round of applause for the Bass Lake Festival Board and the many volunteers? Below are a few of the many photos taken by Festival President Jennifer Rocha-Humpfer. Say thank you to Festival Officers - Jennifer Rocha-Humpfer, Tami Stout, Mary Topelian, and Kathy Linkus when you see them.



## Meetings and Gatherings

### Bass Lake Property Owners Association

Saturday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m. CDT at the BLPOA building

### Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:

Monday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m., BLPOA building

### Bass Lake Festival:

September 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the BLPOA building. Send ideas for next year's festival to: P.O. Box 455, Knox, IN 46534

### Prairie Trails Club (nearby bike trail):

Thursday, August 24 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT), BLPOA building

### Bass Lake Conservancy District: (sewers, pump & lake weeds)

Monday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA building

### Starke County Park Board: (Beach & Campground)

Tuesday, September 12 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	Terry Chmiel
Vice President	Rich Linkus
Treasurer	A. J. Gappa
Secretary	Kathy Laiter

### Board Members

- Tom Busch
- Aileen Collura
- Shirley Grajewski
- Mary Jesso
- Stefanie Neal
- Ron Vendl
- Cathy Wagner

Board Member contact information is on our website: [www.inbasslake.com](http://www.inbasslake.com)

### Bass Lake Yacht Club

Our lake sailing club is in full swing, something we are proud of and all enjoy watching! Here are the winners of the recent event and for the season.

#### For The Lavery Race:

1st Place Lauren Zibble  
2nd Place Terry Lavery  
3rd Place Justin Neal

#### For our Summer Season:

1st Overall – Moses Demis  
2nd – Lauren Zibble  
3rd – Bruce Wakeland

A reminder that we have a break this weekend, then resume with our Fall season starting at 1:00 pm CDT on August 12th!!

### Message about the Sanitary Sewers

The Bass Lake Conservancy District (District) has experienced inappropriate items being flushed into our sanitary sewer system. Do not flush diapers, Depends, feminine products, Kleenex type tissues, cleansing & disinfecting wipes (including all wipes marked “flushable”), and paper towels. **FLUSH ONLY TOILET PAPER AND HUMAN WASTE.** *The Board of the Bass Lake Conservancy District*

This petunia tree photo was provided by Grace Hehemann, our newsletter photographer!



### Bass Lake Beach and Campground

July proved to be the most challenging yet most rewarding month we've seen. Our pier permits were granted and, with the help of a village, we finally got them installed and most of our boater families in the water. We would like to express our gratitude to all the volunteers who came out and worked tirelessly to get this job completed. We can finally say, with confidence, the 2024 boating season will be golden.

Bass Lake Festival was a SMASH. The weather couldn't have been better, car enthusiasts were not disappointed with the multitude of amazing cars, our food vendors wowed the crowd with their delicious offerings and the beer tent helped quench the thirst of many. As always, the cardboard boat races were the biggest event. Everyone did such a great job creating their boats and themes. Now that the kids are back in school things will slow down a bit but don't forget to bring them out to enjoy the beach for the last month or so of summer!

There are still a few weekends open if anyone is interested in renting our pavilion for your family reunions and parties. The cost is \$100.00 for the day and allows your guests to enter without paying a gate fee. If interested please call 574-772-9181 to reserve your date. Don't forget, Wednesday is FREE DAY. If you have questions contact Tracy Williams, (574) 772-9181. Park Board meetings are recorded and available on the Starke County website! *Submitted by Angelina Giuliani*

### Bass Lake Conservancy District

July rainfall was 6.32 inches for a YTD total of 24.11 inches. Average rainfall for July is 4.39 inches. The lake pump discharged 32.00 million gallons for a YTD total of 202.00 million gallons. The charts, along with other useful information - can be found on our website [www.basslakeCD.in.gov](http://www.basslakeCD.in.gov). UPDATE – the BLCD recorded 3.21 inches of rainfall for August 5th & 6th. Please visit the BLCD website at [basslakecd.in.gov](http://basslakecd.in.gov) or contact our office if you have any questions. Email is [info@basslakecd.in.gov](mailto:info@basslakecd.in.gov), 574-772-2974. The hours are Monday through Friday 9 - 2. *The Board of the BLCD*

### Sheriff Bike Patrol Supported by BLPOA

The BLPOA recently donated \$4,500 to the Starke County Sheriff's Department Bike Patrol. The bike patrol will benefit our lake with an increased presence of officers, quicker response time and traffic control. Our donation will purchase additional bikes, special uniforms and supplies carried on the bikes. To donate to the program, contact Sargent Fletcher, [afletcher@starke.in.gov](mailto:afletcher@starke.in.gov).



### Why is There Foam on the Water?

By Hannah Godfrey and Dr. Nate Bosch, The Lilly Center for Lake and Streams

You've seen foam forming near ocean shores, but how about in Bass Lake? The foam can be a concerning sight if you are unaware of its origin. The cause of this natural occurrence is sometimes assumed to be a pollutant like laundry detergent. Surprisingly, foam is usually not from soaps or other manmade chemicals. If not laundry detergent, what is the real cause of foam? The answer is rather simple: decomposing plants!

When plants die and begin to break down, oils are released, and rainwater carries them into lakes and streams. However, rainwater also collects organic matter on its way to a lake or stream. Similar to making tea, the water passes through the soil and absorbs the organic matter, darkening like a cup of tea. Plant oils and nutrients reach the water where they float and mix on the surface. These plant materials can also change the physical nature of water. Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) is a compound found in this mix of decomposed matter. DOC acts as a surfactant, breaking the surface tension of water. A common example of a surfactant is soap, and similar to soap, DOC facilitates bubble formation as water is agitated. Wind and wave action introduce air into the organically enriched water, creating tiny air bubbles that collect along the shoreline or in low-flow areas. To learn more about the nutrients in your local lakes and streams, visit [lakes.grace.edu/research](http://lakes.grace.edu/research).



### Garbage Service Interruption

We want to reach out and let our members know that if you do not have a green 2023 garbage sticker on your trash and recycle cans, effective Monday, August 14, your garbage will no longer be picked up. We are working hard to effectively manage our garbage contract! If you need your sticker, please text or call:

**(773) 251-6410**

### 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!

### 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 Laiter (773) 750-4049 if you no longer want your buoy or if you would like to become a volunteer.

### The Brunch Pub

Good news! We have a new lake breakfast spot, The Brunch Pub. Check out their Facebook page for menus and hours. It is located in the former Fingerhut building.

### Need More Ecozone Information?

Russ Blais, Board member of BLCD, provided a more thorough explanation of Indiana Ecozones than the one we provided in last month's newsletter. If you'd like a copy, contact Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@briljent.com.

### Waterfowl Overpopulation

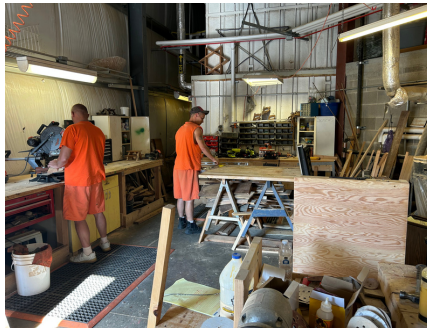
Did you know that a single Canada goose eats 3 - 4 pounds of grass and can create as much as 2 - 3 pounds of waste ((goose poop!) a day. A large flock of geese can make our yards and piers a mess. Not only are the droppings unsightly, they can add nutrients and bacteria such as E coli to Bass Lake, Their waste is dangerous for the health of humans who use our lake! To learn more:

[clearchoicescleanwater.org](http://clearchoicescleanwater.org)

### FARM Program

In April 2019 the Sheriff's Department created a FARM program (Fostering A Recovering Mentality) as part of their system of therapeutic and rehabilitation programs at the Starke County Jail and related facilities. This training program teaches skills in garden produce, woodworking and crafts. It helps raise funds to support inmate services and training.

They have a few acres they farm raising a variety of produce to include tomatoes, zucchini, watermelon, and pumpkins. They have a heated greenhouse they use year-round. Produce is used to supplement meals as well as check their website for dates when they hold farmers' market. Their woodworking shop teaches the use of several pieces of equipment to include a CNC machine as well as laser engraving. Austin Fletcher, Jail Sergeant heads up this program. He can be reached at: (574-772-3771), [afletcher@starke.in.gov](mailto:afletcher@starke.in.gov). They accept gardening materials, any type of wood, and monetary donations toward these programs (they can pick up wood/materials). Please reach out to Austin should you have any items you can donate. *Researched & written by BLPOA Board member, Kathy Laiter*



### The Happiest Home for Monkeys in the Nation

The nearby Peaceable Primate Sanctuary hosts events to tour the private sanctuary or you can call them to schedule a tour. Check out [peaceableprimatesanctuary.com](http://peaceableprimatesanctuary.com)!



### Tomassi's Resort

Tomassi's Resort, on 700 East in North Bend Township, was a very popular place in the 1920's and for many years afterward. The resort featured an open dance pavilion and a bath house. There were a number of buildings; including the unique six-sided building shown in this photo. There was a lane or path that ran alongside the fish hatchery that connected the resort to Winona which was half a mile away.

Joseph Tomassi came to America from Poland in 1906. Soon he married Stephanie, also from Poland. Daughters Elida and Laura were born in the 1920's and attended local schools. Mr. Tomassi's deep respect for America is evident in his tribute to the Status of Liberty in this photo.

The 40-acre plot on which Joseph Tomassi built his resort was purchased from Warren Terry in the 1920's. Sometime in the 1970's, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church bought the land and established St. Anthony's Monastery on it. It was closed a number of years ago and much of it was vandalized. Also, some of the buildings were damaged by a fire. It has since been resold. *Submitted by: Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*