

Catch and Release BASS LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



Hats off to Michael Olshansky for this recent Bass Lake ice sailing photo.

Ice Sailing at Bass Lake!

Earlier this month there were ice boats competing at Bass Lake.

These sailboats are supported on metal runners, steered with a rear blade. They race over ice at speeds of up to 60 mph.



Grace Hehemann, our newsletter photographer, took this photo of the 2023 ice sailing at Bass Lake!

President's Letter

My best guess on lake level is minus 9 inches; that's what it was on January 19 before the lake refroze. For the most part it has been a warm winter with little snow. So far, the ice fishing season has been short. I haven't seen many ice skaters either. I have seen ice boats racing twice. I talked to one of the racers, he said he got up to 58 mph. I'm predicting an early spring and expect to see several piers in by mid-March. As far as I know the record for the earliest pier remains February 28. Eleven years ago I was close. In 2012, I put half my pier in on February 29. If you are going to try for the record, it's time to get your team together. I think the hardest requirement in breaking this record is a good long range weather forecast. A refrozen lake with your pier in is bad.

The February 4 Property Owner meeting: The October, November and December Treasurer's reports were reviewed & approved for audit. The BLPOA total accounts were \$239,497. We intend to once again have a Pizza Party on May 20. Social Committee Funds available are \$3,912. Building rentals brought in \$4,190 in 2022 with 6 rentals so far for 2023. Building maintenance contracted for the new ceiling in the Blue Room; several positive comments were noted. From the garbage/recycle committee report: BEGINNING FEBRUARY 27, FOR LARGE ITEMS, CALLS WILL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED. REPUBLIC WILL BEGIN A LARGE ITEM PICKUP ROUTE THE 4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH. Talks have also been initiated for a contract extension with Republic. Republic has asked for and we have supplied them with an up-to-date authorized pick up list. Make sure you 2022 stickers are on display. We are implementing a new policy; we'll distribute the normal garbage stickers along with a sticker that will go onto garbage containers. Ron Vendl is working on our Bass Lake Directory. The DNR Boating class is expected to be at Bass Lake probably in June. You are welcome to attend the Starke County Park Board meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Starke County Annex. The 2023 Annual Letter and Membership Forms will go out by email about February 15; both will go out to all members by U.S. mail the end of March. There are no known problems with the second pump project. An update report will be given at the March Property Owner meeting. The new "Welcome to Bass Lake" signs are here and will be installed soon. Our 2023 glacial stone LARE grant request has been submitted to the State of Indiana. Starke County Commissioner Mark Gourley addressed the group giving an update on county activities. All the bars and eateries on the lake seem to be doing well. If you go to Knox, at the "V", a \$1 donation might win you \$159,777. Lastly, don't forget your sweetheart on Valentines Day. *Stay safe & healthy, Rick*

Meetings and Gatherings

Bass Lake Property Owners Association:
Saturday, March 4 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA Building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:
Monday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m., BLPOA Building (Drivers continue their watch duties during the winter.)

Bass Lake Festival:
Sunday, March 12 at 9:00 a.m., the public, event coordinators & volunteers are welcome, at BLPOA Building

Exercise Class
At the BLPOA Building each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00 a.m. CST

Prairie Trails Club
(our nearby bike trail):
Thursday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m., CST (6:30 p.m., EST), BLPOA building

Bass Lake Conservancy District:
(sewers, pump & lake weeds)
Monday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m. CST, BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board:
(our Beach & Campground)
February 14 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

We're now planning our 2022 Awards Party for early spring 2023 and combining it with a welcome party for new members. We have many ideas for 2023, including raft-ups, poker run and others. One thing we've learned is the need to plan early! The summer goes fast and we'll need help from members and volunteers to plan our events. Watch for updates in this newsletter or on www.blinyc.org. For more information, contact Jim DeYoung at: blinyachtclub@gmail.com.

Never Been Published - Bass Lake Stats

The Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) ended 2022 with a total of 1048 accounts: 372 live at the lake year-round, 254 have second homes in Indiana, and 422 have second homes outside of Indiana. It also saw 47 homes sold, 6 new hookups, 1 disconnect, and 26 Bass Lake Rentals advertised. 413 or 39.4% pay their monthly fee via our secure bank EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) process.

The BLCD has collected a total of 639 email addresses and sent out 23 informational email bulletins from our email server. Contact us to see if we have your current email address, or want to provide one.

The BLCD office number is (574) 772-2974 or email at info@blcd-ind.org.

Thinking Long-Term!

Editor note: The Bass Lake Conservancy District is conducting an Asset Management Study. Two industry experts, Territorial Engineering and Baker Tilly have been retained to interpret the results and create a long-term plan for the Bass Lake sewer system. This is great news for our lake. To me, this means that our Conservancy District, that runs our sewer system is planning to keep our system well maintained and operating efficiently. Hats off to this Board and staff for serving us well!

The picture to the right was taken by newsletter photographer, Grace Hehemann on a cloudy day in February. The first weekend of the month brought many ice fisherman, followed by warmer days and melting ice.



Bass Lake Beach and Campground

Pier permits have been submitted. If you have questions about available pier space, contact Tracy Williams, Park Superintendent, (574) 772-9181. There is a committee of residents advising the Park Board about planned changes and future plans. Park Board meetings are recorded and available on the Starke County website!

DNR Plan for Stocking Bass Lake By: Tom Bacula, Indiana DNR

The DNR is planning to stock our lake with small walleye in late April or early May. The fish will be about an inch long, and will be 7 to 10-day old fish. The larger walleye that had been stocked in the past couple of years have not shown up in our fish surveys any better than the small fry stocking that worked for years. Larger and older fish are more difficult to get for the stocking of Bass Lake. Note that the DNR has a fish stocking database which is new to the State of Indiana website. Contact Tom Bacula for more information. He is a fantastic resource! tbacula@dnr.in.gov.

Farmers Market at Bass Lake? By Deb Mix, Purdue University

Healthy foods are nutritious foods. Good nutrition is considered good medicine. That's my focus here in Starke County; healthy food and physical activity. Did you know that Knox has a farmers market? The Knox Farmers Market runs from April through October. There are a limited amount of vendors, but the more people who attend, the more vendors will want to be there. It is by the old Moose Club on Main Street, across from the Courthouse. Consider checking it out when it opens. It's difficult to keep a Farmers Market open in an area where farming is a major part of the community.

I have looked into a Farmers Market at Bass Lake, but it takes someone who is a champion for the market. I can help with the tasks and provide information. We would need a person committed to the market, be there at least weekly, and be the "Market Master." A Market Master is someone who is willing to take responsibility for the garden and be the point person for all the vendors. (S)he finds the location, gets permission for its use and orchestrates the marketing. If you are interested, please contact me at mix0@purdue.edu. (That's a zero after mix.)

Knox also has a community garden. It is on US 35 behind the Nazarene Church. Rick Martin is the garden master and has already started to plant seeds under lights. If you have time to help at the garden, please contact Rick via email at knxcommgrdn@yahoo.com. Rick arranges work days, usually early Saturday mornings. There are other days as well based on the needs of the garden. The work is done by volunteers. The harvest is provided to those who help and also to organizations that have clients that need fresh food. I have successfully received a grant for the garden to get garden equipment and also have procured free seeds. My work with Purdue Extension is very unique for an Extension office. Most employed are educators. Instead, my role is to work with community leaders to assist find ways to make healthy options available in the community. If you have questions, please call me at (574) 772-9140. I work in both Starke and Pulaski counties.

Learn About Lake Science

The Indiana Lakes Management Society has scholarships, a useful conference, information about lake science, best practices from other lakes and education. Note the 34th annual ILMS conference is on March 9 and 10 in Bloomington, Indiana. Contact Sara Peel, speel@arionconsultants.com or (765) 337-9100 if you have questions about registration.

Bass Lake Festival

Watch for updates at basslakefest.com or contact the Festival President Jenny Rocha, rocha32790@gmail.com. The Festival is searching for sponsors and is also looking into the possibility of bringing a professional ski show to Bass Lake.

Spring Cleaning/Disposing of Big Items

Good news! Our spiffy lake 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.

Build a Rogue Bee Hotel

Join the Lilly Center for Lake & Streams for a workshop on February 23 to learn how to make a rogue bee hotel. To learn more and to register, visit lakes.grace.edu/events.

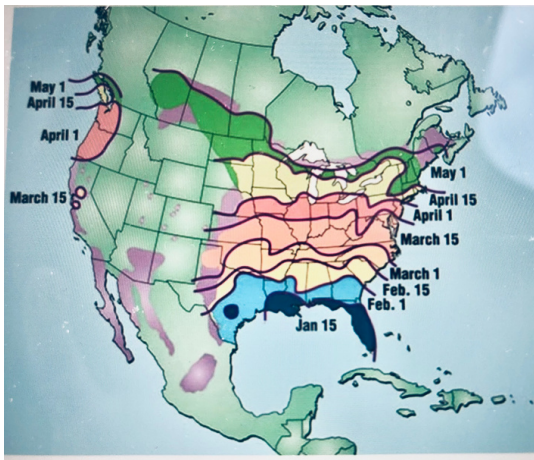
Prairie Trails Club

The Prairie Trails Club is preparing a grant application, which is due on February 28 to extend the Erie Trail in Starke County northwest toward the beautiful Kankakee River. Funds are desperately needed to make our 20% local match. Donations should be sent to Prairie Trails Club, P.O. Box 72, North Judson, IN 46366.

In other news, Rhonda Milner was elected President and Russ Blais was elected VP. Steve and Kathy Lucas retained their Secretary and Treasurer roles.

Purple Martins by Nancy Peters

The wonderful Purple Martins are due back at Bass Lake in late March to early April. (See map below for migration timeline) Now is the time to ensure your martin house is clean and ready for the season. Hopefully, we will have a warm Spring so they can hunt for food when they arrive, otherwise, you may want to provide mealworms or egg shells as a supplemental food source. Temperatures below forty degrees are too cold for the martins to hunt for food and they may not survive such harsh weather. If martins arrive during a snowstorm and are roosting on your house, you may open the compartments early to provide shelter from the cold and snow. Popular belief is that landlords wait a month after spotting the first scout at their site, however, waiting a month is not always optimal. If you would like to learn more about starting a martin colony, check out www.purplemartin.org. Martins need human-provided housing so why not learn a new and rewarding hobby and help a native bird? Feel free to email me at nancypeters@comcast.net. I am not an expert, but I love these birds and might be able to help.



Bet You Don't Know This

Below is a list of the fish species the DNR collected this past year at Bass Lake:

Spotfin Shiner, Emerald Shiner, Black Crappie, Smallmouth Bass, Gizzard Shad, Bluegill, Walleye, Pumpkinseed, Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Yellow Perch, Spotted Gar, Common Carp, Bluntnose Minnow, Channel Catfish, Bigmouth Buffalo, Brown Bullhead, White Crappie, Brook Stickleback, Quillback

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!

Miss Bass Lake 1926

In 1926, the Taggart Hotel, near Cedar Point at Bass Lake, sponsored a Bathing Beauty Contest. Miss Bonnie Rogers was declared Miss Bass Lake. Miss Rogers was given a loving cup, a three-pound box of candy, a bottle of perfume, and a fancy pair of garters.

Emily McCormick was second and Mildred Tompkins third. Others participating in the event were Misses La Verne and Vivian Cannon, Dorothy DeMont, Artis Loudermilk, Dorothy Crews, Esther Neupert and Violet Engle. Later Bonnie Rogers became Mrs. Bonnie Taylor and was the secretary at the Knox High School for many years.

Submitted by: Ron Vendl, photo from Starke County Historical Society

