

Catch and Release

BASS LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President's Letter

A great Memorial Day weekend helped our lake to drop about two inches in May; on June 1st I measured lake level around minus 5 inches. We could sure use some rain; like many, I like rain during the week and at night on weekends. Although much lake stuff is in the lake, I'm a little surprised there is still much stuff waiting to go in. I think maybe the closing of the marina is involved with this.

Highlights from the June 3rd Property Owners Meeting:

- Last month's minutes and the Treasurer's report were approved.
- The "Bass Lake Pizza - Meet & Greet" had a crowd of 273 participants getting together and having fun. A great job was done by the organizers.
- The Annual Bike Ride will be on the Erie Trail July 15th.
- The Boating Class will be June 17th from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the POB.
- The new "Welcome to Bass lake" sign is installed at the 3-way stop. Additions at the base of the sign are anticipated. The lake planters have new signs to be installed.
- Preliminary discussions have begun on a new electronic sign for our building. I think it should be good looking & eye catching to replace the historic "Ernie's Fireside Inn" sign that was donated after Ernie's closed.
- The BLPOA continues contract extension negotiations with Republic. This year, each garbage/recycle member will receive two stickers - the normal window sticker and one "peal & stick" sticker for the can/cans.
- The Conservancy District has DNR approval to treat 164 acres of 172 identified in the weed survey. Treatment using 2-4D is scheduled for June 14th. May had 3.1 inches of rain recorded.
- The Annual election will be on July 8th at the Annual Meeting. Application are on our website for President, Secretary and three Director positions. Required qualification are in the By-Laws.
- Neighborhood Watch reported 33 incidents and 4 traffic accidents.
- At the Bass Lake Beach, there is a grant application for \$1,100,000 to improve the facilities. The County Council had approved some matching funds.
- Engineering work is about complete on the second pump.
- The "Healthy Shoreline Committee" has provided trash pick up bags for anyone willing to do some roadside pick up. The roadway on the west side of the south bay was identified as a target area. The 2023 glacial stone grant application should have a decision in July.

Hopefully weed treatment will be effective again this year; however, Hydrothol Granular pellets can be used by individual property owners to treat up to 625 square feet. It is available from Amazon or Aquatic Control in Valparaiso. At the VFW, tickets for the new game are expected to go on sale July 9th. In the meantime, you can still stop by for some reasonably priced drinks, good conversation and catch up on what's going on. *Stay safe & healthy, Rick*

Annual BLPOA Board Elections - The Annual election will be on July 8th at the BLPOA Annual Meeting at 9:00 a.m. CDT at the BLPOA Building. Applications are on our website for President, Secretary and three Director positions. If you are interested and have questions about the time commitment or other aspects of this, contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com, (574) 772-6208.

Meetings and Gatherings

Bass Lake Property Owners Association

Saturday, July 8 at 9:00 a.m. CDT at the BLPOA Building.

Note: This is our annual meeting and usually includes invited guest speakers and also the annual election of Board officers and Board members.

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:

Monday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m., BLPOA Building

Bass Lake Festival:

Sunday, July 9 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)

Saturday, July 1 at 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building. This is the Annual Meeting.

Starke County Park Board: (our Beach & Campground)

July 11 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 ChimeI
- Shirley Grajewski
- Mary Jesso
- Stefanie Neal
- Ron VendI
- Val Williams

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

Bass Lake Yacht Club

The Bass Lake Indiana Yacht Club is in full swing for 2023! We kicked off the season with our awards celebration on May 27th and had our first race on May 28th. Moses Demis was the big award winner for the 2022 season, taking home three trophies. He won 1st place in the early summer series (Cedar Cup) and the fall series (Cranberry Cup) which made him the Commodore Cup Winner for 2022. Tom Archer was the recipient of the Race Committee Award!

We welcome all sailors and all sailboats! We use an open class system and the portsmith rule scoring system to level the playing field for the variety of boats in the race. This system adjusts finishing times based on boat size, sail area, number of sails, etc., to determine the winner of each race.

We have some exciting racing planned for this year. We anticipate a competition with Lake Max, possible Sunfish Regional Regatta, the Bill Lavery Memorial Race on Festival weekend and a beach launched race in August! This race will have Lemans style start with racers running from the Bass Lake Beach to their boats and we'll celebrate on the Beach immediately after. Please come and join the sailing fun or cheer from the Beach! This race will take place on August 19th. All races start at 1:00 on Saturday.

If you are interested in joining the sailing action, learning more about sailing, or volunteering for Race Committee, please contact us at blinyachtclub@gmail.com. Happy Sailing



Bass Lake Beach and Campground

The Federal Land and Water Conservation grant application has been submitted!! The County Council graciously approved \$575,000.00 towards the needed matching funds for this \$1.150 million-dollar project. The grant will allow much needed improvements and reconstruction of the current beach house, the bath houses on both campground and beach side and other beautification projects. We still have a shortfall in the required matching amount so anyone interested in donating may do so by sending a check to Starke Co. Park Dept. 108 N. Pearl St., Knox, IN 46534. Our goal is to complete this project and ensure that our Bass Lake Beach and Campground will become a destination location in the next couple of years.

The DNR held a public meeting on May 22nd. There were approximately 115 people in attendance to share their thoughts and opinions regarding the pier permitting for Bass Lake Beach. Once they make their final decision there will be an 18-day required waiting period in the event anyone wishes to appeal the decision. We will post updates on our Facebook page, Bass Lake Beach and Campground.

Memorial Day marked the opening of our season. The beautiful weather contributed to a nearly record-breaking attendance. The beach is open daily. The cost is \$5.00 for 1 person/vehicle, \$10.00 for 2 or more. Season passes are available at the gatehouse. Starke County residents for \$85 and out of county \$125. 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!

Bass Lake Conservancy District

We know we are not alone in this "drought" but it may be time to begin doing a rain dance or if so inclined - pray for rain! Statistics: May rainfall is 3.01 inches, year-to-date is 15.14 inches

In May our lake pump put 31 million gals into Bass Lake, year-to-day we've added 138 million gallons

Unfortunately, the pump cannot keep up with the lack of rain and evaporation being caused by the heat and winds!

If you have not already heard, the DNR has approved treating almost all of the invasive vegetation identified this year. Weather permitting the lake will be treated on June 14. The map indicating the area to be treated is on the new BLCD website (www.basslakecd.in.gov) along with the treatment notice.

The BLCD ANNUAL MEETING will be held at the BLPOA building on Sat., July 1, 2023 at 10 a.m. There will not be a contested election in District 1 this year. The only petition turned in was by the incumbent, Melissa Long. She will be sworn in at the July meeting. Congratulations to Melissa! You can also learn how to pay your sewer bill automatically on our website under UTILITY INFORMATION. Wishing all of you to enjoy a safe, WET summer! Please visit the BLCD website at basslakecd.in.gov or contact our office if you have any questions. Email is info@basslakecd.in.gov, 574-772-2974. The hours are Monday through Friday 9 - 2. *The Board of the BLCD*

Ecozone in the South Basin

At the June 3 BLPOA meeting, there was concern with the DNR action to establish an ecozone in the south basin of Bass Lake. We asked Tom Bacula, one of our local DNR resources about this. His response follows, "To my knowledge there is not legal ecozone in Bass Lake. To create a legal ecozone it would require public meeting and hearing at the Natural Resource Commission. There is an unofficial area that limits vegetation treatment and has been called by the applicator an ecozone. This area has been around for quite a few years (first saw on treatment application in 2013 as "IDNR no treatment area?") to limit vegetation treatment in an undeveloped part of bass lake that is fairly shallow as a place for plants, fish and wildlife to have a little bit less disturbance. This area started at a LARE meeting at Columbia City with Jerry Broadstreet and a few others from the BLCD during vegetation treatments that left the lake barren of habitat, I assume the fall of 2012. Additionally, this was around the time when treatment philosophies of eradication of Eurasian watermilfoil were being realized that its impossible/impractical at Bass Lake. Thus became the area to "leave alone." Over the years this area has stuck around and is now called something different. So from my perspective this is how it went from an area to leave to ecozone."

An Important Message about the Sanitary Sewers

The Bass Lake Conservancy District (District) has experienced inappropriate items being flushed into our sanitary sewer system. Recently there has been medical catheter tubes found in the lift stations that have caused issues. These cannot be flushed. Also included - but not limited to - diapers, depends, feminine products, Kleenex type tissues, cleansing & disinfecting wipes (including all wipes marked "flushable"), and paper towels. The lift stations are unable to pump these items through the lines to the treatment plant. As a result, pumps are clogged and damaged. Please DO NOT dispose of any of above-mentioned items in the toilet. FLUSH ONLY TOILET PAPER AND HUMAN WASTE. In many cases it is possible to identify where these items originate; and a homeowner may be held responsible for any damage/repairs to the pumping station as a result of this negligence. If you have any questions, please call the Bass Lake Conservancy District at 574-772-2974. A printable "Do Not Flush" poster is available on our website. For emergencies only, call 574-806-1707. *The Board of the Bass Lake Conservancy District*

Safe Boating Class

Each summer the DNR hosts a Safe Boating class. This year's class is on June 17 at the BLPOA building. The class is free and lunch is provided. For more details contact Terry Chmiel at etowncopper50@aol.com.

Fun fact about boating safety:
Sailboats have the right of way over power boats.

Bass Lake Festival is Near - Join Us!

Event sign-ups are online at basslakefest.com. Looking for Miss Bass Lake Pageant contestants, volleyball teams, fishing enthusiasts, cardboard boat crazies, bike riders and runners! 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. 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!

No Phosphorus in Your Fertilizer

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

July is Lake Appreciation Month!

The Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS) has interesting information and activities on their website to celebrate Indiana Lake Appreciation Month. At Bass Lake, we are giving out our 200-page Bass Lake Coloring & Activity Book to the first 20 kids who respond. To receive one, send an email to Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@briljent.com and share what your child/grandchild loves about Bass Lake.

9 Years of BLPOA Progress

I've been the BLPOA newsletter editor since the newsletter started and I've written about the many accomplishments of your BLPOA Board. Over the last 9 years our cash balance has more than doubled and today is \$261,532. Our healthy shoreline work was officially launched and a \$35,000 LARE grant was invested in glacial stone seawalls. The Conservancy District's efforts with treatment of invasive aquatic vegetation was supported. Discussion on this subject took place with the DNR. Lake level is always a concern, and it looks like we are on a pathway to a second pump. Adopt-a-Buoy, and important garbage contracts were managed. The spring Pizza Party and summer Bike Ride with the Prairie Trails Club were successfully launched. The BLPOA building was renovated and building rentals have increased. We have new Welcome signs and welcome folders for new Bass Lake property owners. The Bass Lake Beach lease ended, the Starke County Park Board was created, and our input is often given. Catch & Release, our lake newsletter, was launched. Safe boating classes are held regularly by the DNR. A curbside recycling program was implemented. Our BLPOA bylaws were updated as was our website. Lake directories were published, soup socials were planned, golf cart inspections were held and neighborhood watches continued. A relationship with the solar farm company was forged and it looks like we are on a pathway to a second pump. We participated in the Constellation of Starke competition; our community was a finalist. Lake levels were high (2015) and low (2020.) We "flipped our lids" and collected plastic lids which were made into benches for the nearby Erie Trail. We partner with Purdue as part of the Indiana Clean Lakes program, invasive species plants and more. COVID happened and our BLPOA meetings were halted for a bit.

On July 8, Rick Anderson will retire as our BLPOA Board President. Our Board will no doubt continue to represent our property owners well. A special thanks to Jane Anderson who responded to many unnecessary phone calls as well as many reasonable calls from property owners. Thanks to the BLPOA Board and to the Andersons! *by: Kathy Carrier, editor*

Sheriff Bike Patrol Seeking Donations

The Starke County Sheriff's Bike Patrol Unit is seeking donations to build the program to patrol our lake on bikes. A bike patrol will benefit us with more officer presence, quicker response time and traffic control. Your donation will purchase electric bikes, specialized bike uniforms and supplies carried on the bikes. To make donations, contact Sargent Fletcher at afletcher@starke.in.gov, (574) 772-3721 ext. 286 or stop in at the Sheriff's Office Monday through Friday between 8:00 - 2:00.

Learn about Fireflies and Frogs

The Lilly Center for Lakes and Streams is an amazing partner for Bass Lake. For more information about their summer Critter Encounter Program contact Sara Baier, baiersr@grace.edu.

The Science Behind Fireflies - illuminating article (get it?) - Email kcarrier@briljent.com for article. Critter Encounter - Crayfish on June 23 and Frogs on July 7
To learn more go to lakes.grace.edu.

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.



Steam Boats

In 1899 George Peterson built and launched the Majestic. It was a double-decker steam boat that could carry 300 people. In 1900 he built the Leatha Mae and in 1903 the Conradine. This photo is dated around 1905 and shows, left to right: the Conradine, Majestic and Leatha Mae.

The steam boats were docked at a long pier at the south end of the lake near today's marina. The Erie Railroad spur would bring tourists and vacationers to the pier, and then the steam boats would take them to the many hotels around the lake. A certain number of whistles signaled a boat was approaching each hotel, so that porters could be ready to carry baggage.

Some of the boats also carried groceries and other supplies to local residents, as well as the hotels. In those days, these boats were essential. One hundred years ago, only short sections of the lake had a road. The roads to Knox and Winamac were unimproved and precarious at best. *Submitted by: Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*