

Catch and Release BASS LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



March 3 brought snow showers!
Picture taken by Rick Anderson.

Library of Seeds

The main branch of the Starke County Library has a seed library; no library card is needed. All are welcome to help themselves to the free garden seeds at the front counter. The first day of spring is March 20, so seed starting is near!



Grace Hehemann, our newsletter photographer, took this photo of a nearby alpaca. Yes, a nearby alpaca.

President's Letter

March arrived with zero lake ice. Minus 6 inches was Bass Lake's level. The first pier is in. I'm calling February 26 the new unofficial "first early pier in" record for Bass Lake. That beats the old record by two days. Other piers have followed or are about to be installed. If you held off on your pier painting last fall, I think you can still be the first to paint your pier in 2023. I don't know what the earliest anyone painted a pier is; however, they should have received a prize for that. Pier painting has at least five "schools of thought": Paint before installation, paint after installation, paint after removal, don't paint at all or get an aluminum pier that does not need painting. About pier installation: Put the pier in straight. Aluminum piers should be anchored; they can be like sails in the wind. The first section is the most important, always have a "designated checker", they are required for "straightness". The checker should also check section #2 and section #3 before they begin any drinking.

The March meeting was in eventful lasting only 35 minutes. The October and February meeting minutes were approved along with the January Treasurer's Report. Available funds are \$230,291. The main thing I talked about was a garbage contract extension; 16 months are left on our current contract. Other topics: The Highway Department will install the new welcome sign by the 3-way stop at 600 S., E. CR 210 & S. CR 210; after installation brickwork will be added. The "Thanks for Visiting Bass Lake" sign near the Pub is up and smaller signs are on ordered to be installed on our decorative planters. The mailing committee will process the Annual Letter and Membership Forms at the Property Owner Building at 9:00 am on March 25 - all are invited to help. All members will receive by U.S. Mail. Russ Blais gave the Neighborhood Watch and Conservancy District Reports. In February the pump pumped in 22,000,000 gallons into an unfrozen lake. Lake level is about -5 inches after the recent storm. The boating class date is not set yet. Plans for the second pump installation by Doral are complete and are waiting on IDEM's approval to proceed. The Pizza party is scheduled for May 20; Mary Jesso, Kathy Laiter and Shirley Grajewski will coordinate. We should have the flyer for the April 1 meeting. I will coordinate the July 15 bike ride. A coordinator is still needed for the October 28 soup social. The new Bass Lake Coloring Book was passed around and discussed. Tom Busch gave a Park Board update. All are welcome at their meetings which are the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Starke County Annex. At the "V", a \$1 donation will now give you one chance at winning \$175,695. Every extra dollar will give you an additional chance. 25% of your donation will still go to charity. *Stay safe & healthy, Rick*

Meetings and Gatherings

Bass Lake Property Owners Association:
Saturday, April 1 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 19 at 9:00 a.m., the public, event coordinators & volunteers are welcome, at BLPOA Building

Seed Starting Gardening Class:
Rick Martin will teach a seed starting class, Nazarene Church, March 16 at 6:00 p.m., 1801 S. Heaton Street, Knox

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

**Bass Lake Conservancy District:
(sewers, pump & lake weeds)**
Monday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

**Starke County Park Board:
(our Beach & Campground)**
March 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@briljant.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.

New Breakfast Hot Spot

The Brunch Pub is another venue by the same partners as Woodshed Tap, making another investment at Bass Lake. The owners are grateful for the overwhelming support they've received at Woodshed Tap and are hopeful folks will enjoy and support The Brunch Pub as well.

At The Brunch Pub (located in the old Fingerhut building), they are slingin' killer brekkie grub, grindin' fresh roasted coffee beans, shakin' morning cocktails, and pourin' delicious beers like it's our job! Opening Spring 2023!

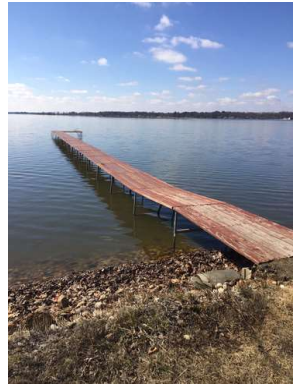
You can follow The Brunch Pub on Facebook to learn more. The owner, Mark Miller, will be posting draft food and coffee menus soon (full coffee bar... drip, espresso, cold brew, nitro, Frappuccino, etc...) and will also be posting progress pictures throughout the build-out.



National Organization Recognizes Local Bike Trail Group

Editor Note: The Prairie Trails Club has been asked by the National Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to host an April 22 event on Celebrate Trails Day. Stay tuned for future details. This is a significant compliment to our forward-thinking group. The recently completed trail expansion and the grant application for another round of expansion caught the eye of this national organization. This is impressive!

The first pier of the year is in! A brave Bass Lake property owner put it in on February 26. Can you believe that?



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!

BLCD Domain Change

As cybersecurity requirements continue to evolve, the Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) will change the domain name for its website and email communications. Beginning on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, the new BLCD domain will change from blcd-ind.org to basslakecd.in.gov. The old .org address will remain active for the duration of 2023 with all communication from the old domain being forwarded to the new basslakecd.in.gov address.

The Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) has been working with local government and municipal agencies across the state to roll out various cybersecurity services, including our new basslakecd.in.gov domain. Soon, many government programs and grants will require communication through a controlled and verified .gov address. This change will keep the BLCD current with changing requirements and will help strengthen our cybersecurity position.

We encourage you to update your browser bookmarks to the new basslakecd.in.gov domain. Also, please update your contacts and safe sender lists with our new email addresses. 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*

Almost time to put the boat in the water!



Here is some lake humor for you, provided by Larry Collura. On March 12, there was snow on the ground at Bass Lake!



Grace Hehemann took this picture of the first speed boat on the water this year. This industrious lakester was on the lake on February 26. Brrrrr.

Zebra Mussel Prevention

Editor note: I attended the Indiana Lakes Management Society conference on March 9 and 10. As in past years, I learned lake best practices for shoreline erosion, algae bloom prevention, LARE grant opportunities, the Indiana Clean Boater program, lake dredging, pollution prevention practices, wake surfing safety programs, 2023 lake legislation, and most importantly, zebra mussel prevention. I'll be working with the BLPOA and the BLCD to define next steps. Certainly, we have work to do to protect our lake.

Bass Lake Festival

Watch for updates at basslakefest.com or 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!

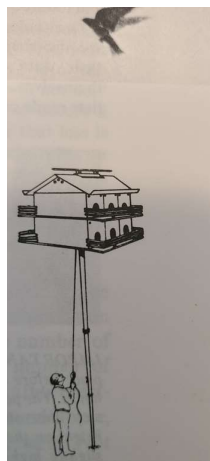
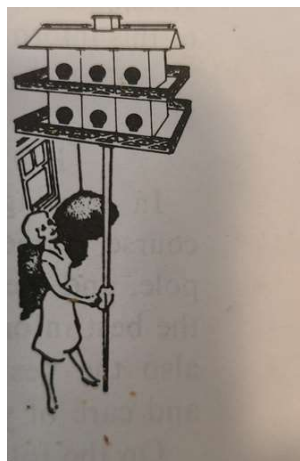
No Phosphorus in Your Fertilizer

If you are fertilizing your lake lawn use a fertilizer with 0 phosphorus. This will help keep our lake water healthy.



Purple Martins by Nancy Peters

There is still time to put up a Purple Martin house before they arrive in early April. Martins like to be near water, making Bass Lake the perfect location for them to thrive. Be sure to do research before purchasing a martin house, as some systems are difficult to operate. A system that allows you to raise and lower your house with ease and with the greatest safety both for you and the martin occupants is best. I highly recommend either a cable and winch or a rope lanyard device. Although the cost of a cable and winch may put this type of house out of reach for some, a budget-friendly option is the rope lanyard on an 8 or 12-compartment house. These systems put proper martin care within reach of anyone and are very easy to operate. Make sure your house is easily cleaned and easily accessible because martins require care and attention. A great place to start is www.purplemartin.org. Feel free to reach out to me at nancypeters@comcast.net if you have questions about the best housing. *Note, you do not need to be on the lake or near a lake for martins to thrive.



Bird Advice from DNR Tony Carroll

Go to this web link for a great information about birds <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/s>earch. On this website you can listen to bird calls which is a great way to identify birds without actually seeing them. Another good birding assistance resource is the Merlin Bird ID App. This App will record bird calls near you and then ID the bird by its calls. There is also an Indiana Birding Guide on the DNR website. Contact Tony Carroll, tc Carroll@dnr.in.gov. He is a fantastic resource.

Bass Lake Coloring Book

If you have a child or grandchild that would like to sign a healthy shoreline pledge, the 200-page coloring book is free. Contact Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@brilj.com. Or, you can order it on Amazon and the Indiana artist who created it (Christy Cabe) will make a bit of money!

Miss Bass Lake Contestants 1926

The first Miss Bass Lake Beauty Contest was held in 1926 at the Taggart Hotel. An orchestra played "Valencia" as the beauty contestants paraded before the judges. There was no talent competition.

Five girls were selected on each Sunday August 8th and 15th. Bonnie Rogers was named Miss Bass Lake from among the ten finalists on Sunday August 22nd. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Rogers of Knox. Emily McCormick won second place and Mildred Thompson won third. The other seven contestants were Esther Neupert, Violet Engle, Ardis Loudermilk, Dorothy Crews, Dorothy DeMont, LaVerne and Vivian Cannon. The event was promoted by Mrs. Mary K. Rickett and held at the Taggart dance pavilion on the lake's west side across from Diamond Joe Esposito's villa. The judges were John Boa, Hugh King, Dick Upsall and Carrol Johnson. Louis J. Kren, editor of the Bass Lake Times, and William Bogan, manager of the Taggart Hotel, presented the silver loving cup to Miss Rogers. Each girl received a three-pound box of candy, a bottle of perfume and a fancy pair of garters. The prizes were donated by Knox and Bass Lake Business Men. Matt Bonner was the official photographer. Bonnie Rogers is holding the silver cup in this photo. We believe Emily McCormick is next and then Mildred Thompson. We are not sure of the order of the other seven contestants. *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*