

# Catch and Release BASS LAKE

## PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

### President's Note

Now that we are in the month of December we know what weather is ahead for us for the next few months. With that said though, driving around the lake we do have a few optimistic people as there are a few piers and at least one shore station still in the water. Maybe they know something we don't. The BLPOA Board wants to wish everyone Happy Holidays and look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of the year in February.

On a very, very sad note, our Board Vice President Rich Linkus passed away this week, suddenly. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family. Rich served our BLPOA with integrity and enthusiasm and for that we are very grateful. *Terry Chmiel, President*

### Gas is Back at Bass!

Yes, yes, yes, next summer there will be gas for sale for our boats at the marina! Culver's Portside Marina owner Glenn Bailey has acquired the Bass Lake Marina. We welcome Glenn and the Portside team to Bass Lake. Of course, they were already here offering many services but now they are expanding their business here. They will offer boat and personal watercraft storage, portside gas service, and lift-slip rentals. Also, they sell new and used boats and will offer Godfrey Pontoons, Hurricane Deck boats, and Centurion/Supreme Surf Boats. Portside is the LARGEST Yamaha WaveRunner® and Kawasaki JetSki® dealer, in the state of Indiana!

If you have questions or would like to contact Portside call (574) 842-5000. Their website is: [www.culverportsidemarina.com](http://www.culverportsidemarina.com)

~



*Pictured above is a photo from the recent Christmas Marketplace! Thank you to Mary Topelian for sharing the photo.*

*There is construction around the lake, including new homes by the Bait Shop!*

### Electronic Sign Update

As many of you are probably aware, the BLPOA is in the process of replacing our sign/message board in front of the Community Center. We are working with Steindler Signs & Graphics in Wanatah, Indiana. Due to numerous issues regarding the sign (which I outlined at our October 28th POA meeting), Steindler finally received an approval permit to begin construction on October 19 from the Starke County Planning Commission.

We were originally told that it would take about eight weeks for the sign to be constructed and installed. However, after a recent call to the company for a progress update, I learned the electronics company building the sign for Steindler to install has determined the actual time will, unfortunately, be 12 to 14 weeks instead. This puts us at the end of January/early February, 2024. I was assured that Steindler DOES install the electronic signs in winter weather, so we will keep our fingers crossed that everything works out as now planned.

*Ron Vendl, BLPOA Board Member*



## Meetings and Gatherings

### Bass Lake Property Owners Association

The meetings for our group have concluded for 2023. See you next year!

### Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:

The neighborhood watch meetings will resume in April.

### Bass Lake Festival:

Next meeting TBD. Send ideas for next year's festival to: P.O. Box 455, Knox, IN 46534

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

Thursday, February 22 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT), BLPOA building.

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

Monday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA building.

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

Tuesday, January 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. The plan for the Bass Lake Beach will be discussed.



## Bass Lake

### Property Owners Association

President Terry Chmiel  
Treasurer A. J. Gappa  
Secretary Kathy Laiter

### Board Members

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

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

### Bass Lake Conservancy District

The Conservancy Board and Staff wish you all to have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Nov. Stats: .55" rain, 34.76" YTD Pumped 34 mil gallons, 324 million YTD

Consider making your 2024 monthly sewer payments with ease using Automated Clearing House or Electronic Funds Transfer (ACH/ETF). Details are on the new webpage address - [basslakecd.in.gov](http://basslakecd.in.gov)



Holiday Humor:  
How much did Santa pay  
for his sleigh?

Nothing, It was on the  
house.

Thank you to Grace  
Hehemann and Mary  
Topelian for the photos!



### Purdue Extension Master Gardener

Purdue will hold a statewide virtual Extension Master Gardener Basic Training on Tuesdays, February 6 through May 7, 2024, from 6:30-8:30 PM ET / 5:30-7:30 PM CT via live webinars. There will also be a weekly local connection hour with the Starke County Extension Master Gardener coordinator. For more information on how to register please contact

Phil Woolery: [pwoolery@purdue.edu](mailto:pwoolery@purdue.edu).

## Ponds vs. Lakes: What's the Difference?

By Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a lake, like Bass Lake, and what is considered a "pond"? They are both bodies of water, contain living creatures and look very similar-- so what makes them distinct from each other?

Ponds and lakes are both inland bodies of freshwater that contain living creatures. To help determine the difference, take a look at both the depth and surface area. Lakes like Bass Lake are normally much deeper than ponds and have a larger surface area. All the water in a pond is in the photic zone, meaning they are shallow enough to allow sunlight to penetrate all the way to the bottom. This causes plants (sometimes too many) to grow at the bottom of ponds as well as on their surface. However, sunlight cannot reach the bottom of all areas of lakes. Lakes have aphotic zones, which are deep areas of water that receive no sunlight, preventing plants from growing.

In general, ponds have smaller waves than lakes. (Waves less than 12 inches in height would generally be considered small.) Water throughout ponds also tends to be more uniform in temperature, unlike water in lakes which can have a variety of water temperature depending on the depth.

The bottom line is this: some ponds and lakes are easy to identify while others are harder to determine. Living creatures in both ponds and lakes rely on healthy water in order to thrive. You can protect Bass Lake by taking simple steps. Go here to get started: [lakes.grace.edu/get-involved/what-can-i-do/](http://lakes.grace.edu/get-involved/what-can-i-do/)

## Neighborhood Watch

On December 4th, the Neighborhood Watch meeting made a special acknowledgement to Freda Mihc and Jean Tippy for their 25 years of service. A special Thanks to both of them for their dedication and commitment, for all these years. The Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch was founded, back in 1998 by Don Underwood. He moved to Bass Lake in 1995, and sought to incorporate a community effort towards a few extra "eyes and ears" to assist the Sheriff's Department. Don did some extensive background checking (there was no Google back then), and was able to acquire information regarding the National Neighborhood Watch Organization, (NNW.ORG). Based on this organization, Don endeavored to assimilate a community here, at Bass Lake. The community rallied to support this effort, with a membership of 42 enthusiastic residents, committed to getting involved with the process of keeping a watch of our beautiful Bass Lake. Back in 1998, there were far fewer full time residents, with a greater portion of families arriving on vacations or weekends, to enjoy the lake. Don saw the importance of "being a good neighbor", and keeping an eye on cottages that were frequently left empty, especially over the winter. His meetings integrated many aspects of educating the residents of Bass Lake with tips in which you can simply improve your awareness, and "stage" your home to appear as if someone is home. The Sheriff's Department, and well as many speakers, were invited to the meetings, to assist in the cause. The Neighborhood Watch would volunteer to do wellness checks, on elderly, sick, or disabled residents. Don was 1st to point out that it was essential to have addresses clearly posted at each house, to ensure the EMS was able to quickly pinpoint a home/cottage in need of emergency. (you can see these green address signs all around the lake, provided by the Sheriff's office). The volunteer Neighborhood Watch can be seen driving around Bass Lake with a flashing light, and signs on their vehicles. Twice a week volunteer patrols will continue through the Winter along with additional Sheriff's patrols. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Ron Vendl @ 574-772-2580. Thank you to the Sheriffs' Department for working with the Neighborhood Watch for 25 years. And thank you to all that are presently in Neighborhood Watch, and doing a great job!