

Catch and Release BASS LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Thank You Veterans

We'd like to take this opportunity to say, "Happy Veterans Day" to all of our veterans. We salute the men and women who served our country. Also, we'd like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. If your holiday is spent at Bass Lake, send me a few pictures and we'll include them in the newsletter next month!

BLPOA President Terry Chmiel

Bass Lake Beach and Starke County Parks Selected for Significant Grant

October brought an end to our 2023 camping season. It is always bittersweet seeing our friends say their good byes for another season. The campground has been winterized and work is ongoing to keep up with the leaves as they fall. We've been fortunate for such good weather.

October also brought a new beginning. It's with much jubilee that we can report that the Starke County Parks Department and Bass Lake Beach and Campground have been selected for the Lake and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant. Recommendations have now begun for the federal review and approval process. We are entering into phase 2, which will be submitted to the National Park Service. This will be a lengthy process. It is exciting that we've passed the first hurdle. Some of the improvements in this project will include renovations to the beach house, entry gates, a beach boardwalk, new restrooms at both beach and campground, beach area improvements that include ADA parking, sidewalks and benches. Also included will be a new playground, rain pollinator garden, tent camping improvements with sidewalks, picnic area and site upgrades. We will continue to provide updates on the progress of the awarding process. We want everyone in the community to share in the excitement of this long overdue opportunity. Note: The \$575,000 grant will be matched by local funding, bringing the project total to \$1,150,000.

Anyone interested in getting on the list for a slip for 2024 can call (574) 772-9181. 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 Guiliani, Starke County Parks

Winona Fire Department

A photo taken during the 1920's shows the Winona - Bass Lake Fire Department checking out what may be a new fire truck. The photo was taken in front of the Woodlawn Hotel, which was located at the intersection of CR 625 E and CR 210. Earlier the Woodlawn had been known as the Chittick Hotel. The engine appears to be drawing water directly out of the lake. In those days, the fire truck was kept at Vergin's garage in Winona at the north end of the lake.
Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society



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:

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

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, November 16 at 5:30 p.m.,
CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT), BLPOA building

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

Monday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m.
CDT, BLPOA building

Starke County Park Board: (Beach & Campground)

Tuesday, November 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.

Knox Hometown Peppermint Parade

Saturday, December 2 at 3:30 p.m.,
followed by the Christmas tree lighting!



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
- Mary Topelian
- Ron Vendl
- Cathy Wagner

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

Bass Lake Yacht Club

Our lake sailing club activities have wound down for the year. Questions? Contact blinyachtclub@gmail.com.

Welcome to Newsletter Co-Editors

Welcome to Donna DeMaria and Kathy Linkus who will be the new editors of our newsletter beginning next month. When you see them out and about, give them ideas for an improved newsletter!



This photo submitted by Russ Blais is an autumn scene near his Bass Lake home.

Bass Lake Conservancy District

We had 4.90 inches of rain for October with a YTD of 34.21 inches. Normal rainfall for October averages 3.50 inches. Our average rainfall for the year is 37.83 inches. We just may make the average – fingers crossed. The lake pump discharged 30.00 million gallons with a YTD total of 294.00 million gallons. The pump will remain on until the lake freezes. More information including charts and maps is available by visiting our website: www.basslakecd.in.gov. *The Board of the Bass Lake Conservancy District*

Learning About and Managing Our Lake Weeds

The Bass Lake Conservancy District and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources work together to manage milfoil, an aquatic invasive plant that is degrading the lake's water quality. Managing terrestrial invasive plants is also vital for a healthy lake ecosystem. All invasive plants displace our native species, degrade important habitat for wildlife, and decrease the ecosystem services native plants provide. The State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) is a statewide nonprofit that is working to protect, restore, and enhance Indiana's landscapes by coordinating efforts to identify, prevent, and control invasive species. SICIM directs the Indiana Invasives Initiative – a project that addresses the detrimental causes of invasive species. As part of this initiative, SICIM employees and partners conduct invasive species surveys at no cost for private landowners and provide management plans and local resources. If you are interested in a landowner assessment of your property, please contact SICIM's Regional Specialist for the Bass Lake area, Ronda Spaulding: ronda@SICIM.info. She will schedule a time to visit your property to identify invasive plants. She will provide information and resources along with a management plan to prioritize control and allow our amazing native plants to flourish! If you would like to get more involved in invasive species management and outreach in your community, there is a local volunteer group called the Starke & Pulaski Native Plant Initiative. Ronda would be happy to connect you with them or you can find them on Facebook! Submitted by Ronda Spaulding, (574) 261-1818.

Steps to Protect Bass Lake

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

A variety of sources feed Bass Lake. Some water comes from rain, snowmelt, or through ditches. Other water enters indirectly, flowing over land or through groundwater. Watersheds are one of the most important factors when considering the water quality local of lakes and streams. By definition, a watershed is an area of land that collects runoff (from rain, sprinklers, snowmelt, flooding, etc.) and drains it to a stream or river, or directly into a lake.

But why talk about watersheds? The water that hits your backyard will eventually make its way to our lake. Whether or not you know it, material from your property can contain pollutants: organic materials such as leaves and plants, nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers, household toxins, bacteria and other contaminants. They start out on land and eventually enter the lake.

It is important to treat the land around our homes with care. If you are taking steps to protect water quality, you are making a difference in the health of Bass Lake as well as lakes and streams in and beyond our county! Consider taking steps to protect Bass Lake:

- Do not dump yard waste (like leaves and grass clippings) into the lake. Yard waste adds nutrients to the water, which can result in excess weeds and algae later on. Instead, bring your yard waste to a composting area, or dig leaves into your garden as a natural form of fertilizer.
- Trim back and properly dispose of dead branches that could collapse under the pressure of strong winds during summer thunderstorms.
- Keep stormwater on your property by installing a rain barrel or planting a rain garden. Try using native plants!

There is so much more to learn about your watershed! Read about best practices, information about native landscaping, and more on the Lilly Center's website: lakes.grace.edu.



BLPOA Building Rental

Need space for a holiday party or Thanksgiving event? Rent the large, renovated BLPOA building. Members pay \$125. Contact Rich Linkus for details. Linkusr1@hotmail.com. Nonprofits use the building for no cost!



Are you one of the folks who moves outside plants inside for the winter? Thanks to Grace Hehemann who contributed this photo of the giant mandevilla she moved inside for the winter. It is still blooming!