

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

February - very rainy with flooding; March - ear muffs, hats & gloves; April's start - even colder. April 4 had white stuff on the ground, and an 18 degree April 8th morning had lake skim ice. "April snow make flowers grow?" Spring may be waiting for summer. Meanwhile: \$348,241 at the "V" and the 2018 egg is in. The Old Fish Hatchery, aka: "Hideout at the Fish Hatchery" is becoming the New Fish Hatchery as renovations are being completed by Purdue. By May 1, one pond is expecting bass and blue gill. A second pond will shortly follow intended for fish research.

The lake is spilling clearer waters over the dam. A trip to Double D's Bait & Tackle indicated that previously stocked walleye are growing. They were joined last month by 32,000 algae eating blue gill stocked by the DNR. Double D Dennis showed me a picture of a 16-inch bass just caught by another Dennis. The picture is on the wall joining other fish pictures. A 39-inch pike was caught last year as reported at the "V". Is the big one still out there? I will try to get a monthly fishing report from DD's; however, you can go on in and get your own report.

April 7 Property Owners Meeting: Lake health discussion on topics like - shoreline glacial stone is beneficial - avoid phosphate lawn fertilizers as runoff feeds algae and creates white foam - water testing is planned - and new membership, beautification and Starke County "Quality of Place" efforts. The 2018 Membership Form and Annual Letter will be going out by U.S. Mail May 1. May 19 is our first Registration Day with the 3rd Annual Pizza Party at 6:00 pm that evening. The February sanitary system overload has been isolated to 2 of 16 lift stations. Some sewer main camera testing has been completed. The Conservancy District Board is awaiting the report. I doubt any broken pipes will be identified. Back when Bass Lake sewers were being installed, would you believe a worker exclaimed, "Twenty-three, we cut twenty-three lake drains in just under a half mile. Where does that water go now?" If some are being illegally diverted to the sanitary system, my advice remains: Disconnect now and remain unknown.

Stop by DD's if you're so inclined. Hear a fish story, tell a fish story, buy some stuff and/or pick up a copy of "The Secret of Lost Lake Cottage". Read more about the Old, the Abandoned and the New Bass Lake Fish Hatchery. *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*



"A Taste of Bass Lake Pizza"
May 19th (Saturday)
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
BLPOA Building

With RSVP :
 Price - Advance Purchase **\$5 Adults** and Children 10 & Under **FREE**
 Price at the door **\$10**
 Place You & Yours on the "Who's Coming so Far List"
 Please Contact:
 Rick & Jane - barefootrun@mchsi.com
 Please make checks out to **BLPOA**
 Hand deliver or send to:
 Rick Anderson 4574 S. CR 210 Knox, IN 46534

Bass Lake Property Owners Association:
 Our next property owner meeting is on **May 5 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building**

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers): Monday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building

Exercise Class at the BLPOA—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 a.m., cost is \$3

Starke County Park Board: Tuesday, May 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path): Thursday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m. CDT at the BLPOA Building

Bass Lake Festival: The 4th Monday of each month at 5:30 at the BLPOA building

Lake Season is Nearly Here!

Taste of Bass Lake Pizza Party—May 19 from 6:00—7:30 at the BLPOA building. This is the third annual lake season kick-off party, featuring **fifteen** of the local pizza parlors who advertise in our directory. Hundreds of lake folks enjoy this \$5/person night out. Contact Rick Anderson if you'd like to volunteer with crowd control or help serve, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

5K Color Walk/Run—The Prairie Trails Club is hosting their popular Color Run on June 2. This untimed event has no winners or prizes, but runners are showered with colored powder (made of food-grade cornstarch) at stations along the run. Proceeds go to the improvement and maintenance of our local spectacular bike trail. For additional information, contact Kathy Lucas, kathleenlucas216@gmail.com.

The Erie Trail—Spring is just around the corner so it's time to dust off the snowflakes and hop on The Erie Trail for a bike ride or a pleasant walk. The trail is part of the American Discovery Trail that extends from Delaware to California and locally from Bass Lake to North Judson. The local trail is approximately ten miles one way but you can modify that to fit your needs. If you would like the challenge you can ride your bike to Bailey's Center or go on to the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum at North Judson. There you will enjoy a restful ride on the train before your bike ride back to Bass Lake. This is a great way to experience the train trail from many years ago that was once a major part of transporting summer visitors to Bass Lake. For more information please visit prairietrailsclub.org. Enjoy the trail!

Submitted by BLPOA Board Member—Gayle Smith



Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President ~ Rick Anderson
Vice President ~ Mary Topelian
Treasurer ~A. J. Gappa
Secretary ~ Jan Dwyer

Board Members

- Diane Andrews
- Diane Blais
- Aileen Collura
- Kathy Laiter
- Rik Ritzler
- Gayle Smith
- Ron Vendl

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

Purple Martin Scouts Arriving!

Purple Martins have been spotted in Indiana! House cavities must be cleaned out from last year, ready for the season; doors open. Purple Martins are a very beautiful and friendly native bird and will need all the help you can give them, as they are the only bird dependent on humans for housing. If you are thinking of being a landlord, now is the time to put up your housing. The following are two links that have excellent information about all aspects of Purple Martins. <http://www.purplemartin.org> or chuckspurplemartinpage.com. Article and picture contributed by Nancy Peters, nancypeters@comcast.net.



The Life of William D. Jackson

If you are interested in seeing vintage pictures of Bass Lake, check out the YouTube story about William D. Jackson. He was a shipbuilder and this 23-minute video is a treasure, well worth the view! There are dozens of Bass Lake pictures and videos in this remarkable history. Bass Lake is mentioned throughout the story.

Lake Clean-Up—Each spring, many of our lake residents help clean up the lake roadside. Join the effort! On your next walk, take a trash bag and pick up a few pieces of trash.

Register Online for the DNR Water and Boating Safety Class- This popular class will be held at the Bass Lake Property Owners building on Saturday, June 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thanks to Aileen Collura for coordinating it. Online pre-registration is strongly encouraged by mid-May and can be done at: <https://www.register-ed.com/programs/indiana/104-indiana-boater-education/agency:25>

Bass Lake Conservancy District—Rainfall for March totaled 1.21 inches. Also, an open position still exists for a District 1 Director (north end of the lake.) A contract company conducted camera inspections of selected sewer lines associated with lift stations O & P – the purpose was to identify what caused the continual running of the pumps during the February rains. Finally, the District had the ditch that handles the overflow from the weir cleared of limbs and scrubs. Please visit our website at www.BLCD-IND.ORG. If you should have any questions/concerns pertaining to the District, call the BLCD office at (574) 772-2974 or email us at info@blcd-ind.org. *Submitted by Russ Blais – BLCD Director-at-Large*

Golf Cart Inspection Dates—Sheriff's Dept. Golf Cart inspections at the POB will be on May 19, June 9 & June 23. At the time of the inspection, besides your golf cart you will need to bring the following items: the completed golf cart permit (downloaded from their website listed below, also on the Bass Lake Property Owners website); a copy of proof of liability insurance for the golf cart; and the annual fee of \$25.00 – cash or check made out to "Starke County". Starke County passed and adopted an ordinance that governs the operation of golf carts. The ordinance and operating permit can be viewed and obtained via their web site: <http://www.co.starke.in.us/departments/sheriff/golf-cart-ordinance/>. The Sheriff's Dispatch Center (574) 772-3771 can be contacted with questions and alternate inspection scheduling.

Healthy Shoreline Initiative—The BLPOA established a new work group, focusing on restoring our natural shoreline to preserve and enhance our water quality, prevent erosion, and provide healthier and safer habitat for the native creatures and lake life. We will be educating our property owners on healthy shoreline practices. In May, we will conduct a lake audit with Rod Edgell of the DNR, to determine where there are opportunities for glacial stone walls, as a healthy addition to a concrete seawall. We'll also work with Rod Edgell for our January 2019 LARE grant request, which will pay up to 80% of qualifying glacial stone projects. We be attending the Marshall County Shoreline Health event on April 19. Nathan Thomas, the DNR Lakes Permitting Biologist is the speaker. Finally, we will be working with Phil Woolery from the Purdue Starke County Extension Office on expanded monitoring under the Clean Lakes Program. This measures water clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll (a measurement for algae).

Shoreline Health Class—Stabilization Techniques and Permitting—This information class is next week, featuring Nathan Thomas, Lakes Permitting Biologist Indiana DNR. It will be held on April 19, from 7:00—8:30 p.m. at the Wild Rose Moon in downtown Plymouth, 115 N. Michigan Street. The class is free and will discuss what a healthy shoreline is and the pros and cons of various seawalls. For more information, info@marshallcountyswcd.org, (574) 936-2024 x3.

Festival Volunteers—Calling all volunteers for the Festival! Volunteer one or two of your family members to help out for a few hours. Send Tabitha Dillner an email, tdillner@gmail.com.

Your Dues are Due—Pay your property owner dues and garbage fees by June 30 and you will avoid an extra \$40 reinstatement fee. Also, you will avoid termination of your garbage pick-up. You were emailed the annual letter and membership application in February. If you need a copy, membership forms are available on the BLPOA website, <https://www.inbasslake.com>.

With Spring Here, It's Time to Think About Tree Care—The month of April has both Arbor Day and Earth Day. If you have any tree questions, contact Phil Woolery at the Extension office (574) 772-9141. An Ag and Natural Resources Educator, Phil is a Certified Arborist and would be able to answer your questions or to inspect your trees. He also happens to reside at the Bass Lake Hatchery with this family!

This proper care starts before the tree has been planted. When selecting a tree, you need to check if the mature size of the tree will fit in the planting location. This will eliminate costly pruning when the tree outgrows its space. One of the most important things for planting is planting depth. Planting a tree too deep will decrease growth and long-term survival. Before you dig the planting hole, you want to find the first roots coming off the trunk. You might have to dig some of the soil to find the root, but this should be at the soil level. For a copy of Phil's full article about tree care, contact kcarrier@briljant.com.

The Woodlawn Hotel—This article is a continuation of last month's historical focus on the Woodlawn Hotel. This photo of the Woodlawn Grocery Store which was located on the east (right) side of the Woodlawn Hotel picture (at the intersection of S. CR 210 and 625 E.) This building, facing 625 E, became the first Fingerhut Bakery location on Bass Lake probably sometime in the very early 1960's. Eventually, the Woodlawn Hotel Grocery sign was replaced with a Fingerhut Bakery sign, according to Diane Blais, a frequent visitor to the bakery when she was a child. *Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*

