

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

February 1: The Lake level was 6 inches under the "Top of Dam" mark. How thick? Strangely, mostly "zero" after the 10" January ice seemed to vanish. An uncharacteristic quick melt. Truly the fastest January thaw I can remember. My answer to "the quick thaw" is "the active springs". The ice circles indicated there were many. A fast refreeze by February 3 showed ice circle had once again formed. February 10: After shoveling about 4" of snow off the ice, 6" of drilling hit water. What did two months of snow covering our frozen lake do for water clarity? The brief thaw revealed clear water with about two feet of visibility. Indeed, settling of solids and a biological kill most probably occurred.

People talk, discuss & question; one meeting was even held with Tom Bacula at the DNR office. As expected, algae was identified as one reason for poor water clarity. This year, the DNR has a request to stock Bass Lake with a quantity of bluegill whose diet is high in algae. This is an unusual request. Bass Lake historically has been stocked with walleye fingerlings. This 2018 fish stocking request is specifically directed at algae reduction. Also discussed was what property owners can do to improve our lake: 1) Promote the installation of glacial sea walls and the installation of glacial stone in front of existing concrete sea walls, 2) Testing the lake pump discharge water for phosphates and repeating previously performed lake water testing for comparison, and 3) Encouraging property owners to use non phosphate fertilizers and make efforts to keep grass clippings and

leaves out of the lake. Grants to help with the cost of glacial stone installation are available and will be pursued.



Can you see the crop circles? Remember the movie "Signs"?
Or are these circles the result of our lake springs?

Daphne Hackler is the 2018 "Adopt-a-Buoy" program's new "Buoy Master". She is in the process of doing a status/condition inventory of our existing buoys. The remodeling of our Property Owners Blue Room bathrooms should be complete and ready for viewing at our March 3 Property Owners meeting.

As anticipated, the Park Board is advertising for potential vendors to submit proposals to negotiate to operate parts of Bass Lake Beach including the pavilion. This potentially is a great opportunity for the right person and for the improvement of our lake community. \$242,077 came, went & climbed to \$253,516. Perhaps the jackpot is waiting for the "Lake People" to return. Bar conversation remains interesting always probing tough questions, perhaps this week, the scientific explanation for ice circles will be examined. Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick

Bass Lake Property Owners Association:
Our next property owner meeting is on March 3 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers): Monday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, April 9 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, February 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path): Wednesday, February 28 and March 28 at 6:00 p.m. CST at the North Judson—Wayne Township Public Library

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

Bass Lake Healthy Shorelines Initiative

Recently, the issues of lake water clarity and the lack of fish has been discussed at BLPOA meetings. This has inspired discussions with the DNR about how they plan to stock our lake this year and what other lakes have done to solve these problems. Also, there has been discussion regarding lake water testing and next steps related to testing results.

The Problem: We have poor water clarity and fewer fish than in previous years. Why? The answer is complicated and there isn't just one reason. A contributing factor, per our DNR experts, is the existence of concrete seawalls. These seawalls cause wave activity which leads to poor plant life which contributes to fewer fish. We estimate 15—25% of our lake shoreline includes concrete seawalls. Concrete seawalls are not natural. Healthy shorelines include native plants which work to filter pollutants out of runoff from lawns, deter nuisance wildlife and slow wave action. Glacial stone (rock) seawalls are an improvement over concrete because they minimize wave action. All this leads to better fishing and clearer water.

Excellent Resources: <https://www.tippecanowatershed.org/HIS>

<https://www.wacf.com>

The BLPOA is partnering with the DNR and the Bass Lake Conservancy District to identify and pursue next steps. These include lake water testing, an audit of the lake to identify where we have concrete seawalls, influencing the DNR related to stocking our lake and understanding what is happening with our water. We also plan to learn from other Indiana lakes who have successfully addressed the issue of water clarity and lake health.

Questions: Contact our Board President, Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com or Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@briljent.com.

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

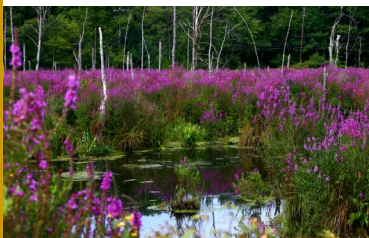
Board member contact information is on our website: www.inbasslake.com.

2018 Annual Letter Has Arrived!

If you only had four pages and you wanted to tell people everything there is to know about our BLPOA, what would you include? This tiny letter, which was sent out yesterday, is chock full of useful lake information.

Garbage, Garbage, Garbage

Most BLPOA members take advantage of garbage pick-up at the negotiated rate of \$95 per year. This "bulk" garbage contract saves you significant money. Unfortunately 32 people are putting out their garbage cans and have neglected to pay their fee. Fear not, our BLPOA is working with the garbage contractors to put unsightly stickers on these transgressors. This will be fun!



Purple Loosestrife

We need to watch out for and eradicate purple loosestrife from our lake. While it is a pretty plant, it is invasive and will destroy other plants that we need to cultivate healthy lake fish. The best time to control purple loosestrife is June through August. If you are interested in learning more, contact Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@brijlent.com. We'll be partnering with the DNR to learn how best to control this in our lake.

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 requested by mid-May and can be done at: <https://www.registered.com/programs/indiana/104-indiana-boater-education/agency:25>

Welcome to Bass Lake! - We have had 23 new members of our Bass Lake Property Owners Association over the winter, which means new families are moving to our lake. Mary Topelian now heads a BLPOA committee to officially welcome newcomers. If you have ideas about how to properly welcome new folks or if you want to help, please contact Mary, mjtopelian@att.net.

Bass Lake Conservancy District—Total rainfall for 2017 was 38.01 inches which was slightly lower than the 15 year average of 38.32 inches. Rainfall for January was 1.31 inches. Directors Russ Blais and Jerry Broadstreet have submitted the required applications for 2018 Lake and River Enhancements (LARE) grant funding approval. We are looking to fill an open Director's position for District 1 by our February 19 meeting.

Please visit our website at www.BLCD-IND.ORG. If you should have any questions/concerns pertaining to the District, please feel free to call the BLCD office at 574 772-2974 or email us at info@blcd-ind.org. Submitted by Larry Collura – Vice Chairman BLCD/Director District IV

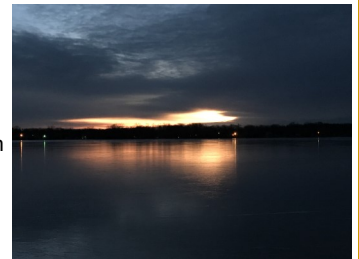
Indiana Lakes Management Society—Join ILMS for the 30th Annual Indiana Lake Management Conference on March 22 and 23 at Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park, located on scenic Lake James in Angola. Contact Sara Peel at speel@wabashriver.net or (765) 337-9100 if you have questions about the agenda or registration.

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.

Bass Lake Directory—Ron Vendl and Russ Blais are collecting the ads for the 2018 BLPOA directory. If you'd like to advertise, contact Ron at vendlr@yahoo.com. New this year will be a full-page ad from the Prairie Trails Club that will market the North Judson trail. What other ads will be new? We thank these two volunteers for managing this time consuming task!

Bass Lake Beach—Ideas for operating the Bass Lake Beach are being sought by the Starke County Park Board. Board members decided Tuesday to issue a request for proposals from businesses or individuals interested in managing the beach area, the beach house, or both. The entire beach and campground is currently operated by Callahan Development, LLC, which leases it from Starke County. This lease is being renewed through 2028. But the company said it may be willing to give up control of the beach itself, to allow it to focus on the profitable campground and pier slots. **Anyone with a proposal for operating the Bass Lake Beach is asked to send it to the park board by March 1, in care of the Starke County Auditor's Office.**



Here is our February 3 Bass Lake sunrise, photo by our marina maven, Michelle Albon.

WINONA SCHOOL- CONTINUED

The Winona or Bass Lake School was built in 1922 at a cost of \$10,000. Grades 1 - 8 were taught there until North Bend Township students were consolidated into the Culver School System in the 1960's. The property is now home to the Bass Lake Lion's Club.

This photo shows the 1952-53 First Grade class. Mrs. Landrum was the teacher. From left to right, back row: Bobby White, David Piper, Joseph Tomsovic, Jimmy Meeks, Jimmy Wilson, Devon Scott, Jimmy Mills, Paul Madsen, Houie Paithel, Dickie Anderson and George Herr. Front row: Margie Dunkelberger, Cynthia Lapaz, Carol Herr, Anita Pulla, Rita Pulla, Brenda Howard, Donna Scott, Mary Ann Conner and Judy Mills.

Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society

