

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

February had rain, rain, & rain. How much? Enough to set a Bass Lake Conservancy District (CD) February rain record of 7.16 inches. That amount raised a low lake to up and over the dam. It also caused much area flooding and pointed out a Bass Lake sewer/treatment system problem. Problem, what problem? \$298,355.00; as #7 became a \$50 goner. The "Jackpot" again climbed while many lively conversations were taking place at the "V". Debates were about Bass Lake water quality, golf carts and Starke County stuff. Interestingly, there were many positive stories about residents pitching in to help their neighbors who had flooding issues.

The 6 inches of ice present on February 10 - what about that? Almost immediately following the February 27 Park Board meeting weather warmed and the ice quickly, I mean really quickly, vanished along with the "ice circles". Due to very active lake springs? Could be. What about a 3rd party operating the Beach Pavilion? That topic will certainly again be on the April 10 Park Board agenda.

Travelling to the March 3 Property Owners meeting, empty boat trailers were seen parked at the public launch/dam waiting for their boats to return. I don't have a fishing report. However, fish activity close to shore is visible through clearer water. Water clarity has improved some. The DNR still plans to stock the lake with bluegill. Property Owners meeting discussions again included formation of a Healthy Shoreline Initiative Committee. The focus of the group would be lake improvement and fishing. Things like obtaining grant money for shoreline glacial stone would be one goal. Establishing this committee will be high on the agenda list of the April 7 meeting. Piers? The March 3 weekend witnessed pier pile unstacking and subsequent section installations. The 2018 season, like many season before it has begun!

Anything else from the March 3 PO meeting? A buoy order was finalized for new and replacement buoys. The damaged "Golf Carts - Next Two Miles" sign by the POB was replaced. The sign by the Pub remains. Sheriff Bill Dulin told me that until further notice, his Department will not be issuing tickets for golf cart use on the Bass Lake section of State Road 10 unless there is a traffic type violation. The 7.16 inch problem: Our CD Sanitary system flow increased eight times above normal. Could be several illegal sump pump connections. Could be some ground water infiltration. Bad flow metering seems unlikely. A system inspection is planned for this spring & summer; violations found carry a \$1,500.00 fine following legal resolutions. Can you believe illegal connections? My advice: Disconnect now & remain unknown. Lastly, the most monthly rainfall in CD records was August 2016 at 11.82 inches; the least was November 2012 at only .39 inches. *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

The Bass Lake Bunch is Back! It's here, the Secret of the Lost Lake Cottage, a Bass Lake Book written by local authors Leslie May and Charles Ratliff. Go to the popular Bass Lake Facebook page for more information.

Bass Lake Property Owners Association:
Our next property owner meeting is on April 7 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building

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

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building

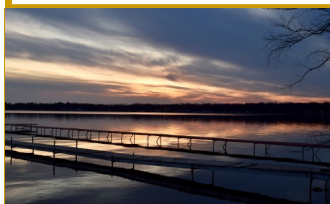
Exercise Class at the BLPOA—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 a.m., cost is \$3

Starke County Park Board: Tuesday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path):
Wednesday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m. CDT at the North Judson—Wayne Township Public Library

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

Lake Season is Nearly Here!



Spring is coming because piers are already in the water! Tabitha Dillner contributed this photo.

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 all 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 or help, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

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 the termination of your garbage pick-up. You were emailed the annual letter and membership application in February. If you need an additional copy, contact our Secretary, Jan Dwyer, jandwyer63@yahoo.com.

5K Color Walk/Run—The Prairie Trails Club is hosting their popular Color Run on June 2. Sign up and enjoy this crazy walk/run with your family. 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.

Adopt-A-Buoy—Contact Buoymaster Daphne Hackler (dbhackler@hotmail.com) for program information.

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.

Hop Aboard the Easter Train

The Easter Train on Saturday, March 31st, departs from the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum in North Judson. Passengers ride in vintage cabooses, a passenger coach, or open-air sight-seeing cars. The train excursion is round-trip from the depot and travels about five miles, crossing the Kankakee River at English Lake, before returning to North Judson. The train then continues on to a park along the railroad tracks where passengers disembark for an Easter Egg Hunt and a visit with the Easter Bunny. Each child and youth will receive a bag of toys and candy from the Easter Bunny. Afterwards, everyone will board the train for the trip back to the depot. Trains depart at 10:00 am, 12:30 pm, and 2:30 pm (central time). The total length of each trip, including the Easter Egg Hunt, will be approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. Ticket prices are \$15.00 (adults, 16 and above), \$13.00 (youth, ages 6 – 15) and \$9.00 (children, ages 1 – 5). Groups of 6 or more get \$2 off each ticket. Purchasing tickets online is recommended as trains have sold out in the past. (www.hoosiervalley.org)

Outdoor Movies

Our wonderful local drive-in, Melody Drive-In opens on Friday, March 30! Each weekend they feature four outstanding first run features. Also, the Movies in the Park Series in North Judson will continue this summer! There will be movies the first Saturday of every month starting in May at Norwayne Field.

The Hardesty Memorial Endowment Fund—Several generous donations were made recently by the Hardesty Fund, a fund created by local farmer Jim Hardesty. The Starke County Forest will receive a \$15,000 grant and the Prairie Trails Club will receive \$12,000. Thanks to NICF Director of Development Sarah Origer who helped coordinate these gifts.



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.register-ed.com/programs/indiana/104-indiana-boater-education/agency:25>

Bass Lake Conservancy District—Total rainfall for February was 7.16 inches. This is the highest recorded (for February) since the BLCD began recording rainfall totals in 2003. 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 March 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

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 Beach—Ideas for operating the Bass Lake Beach are being sought by the Starke County Park Board. Board members are continuing their discussion with people who are interested in managing the beach area, the beach house, or both. We may see new programs and changes as a result of this initiative this summer. These new programs must align with the interests of Callahan, LLC, the lessee of the Bass Lake Beach and Campground. Roger Chaffins is the new Park Board President; their next meeting is on April 10 at 6:00. At this week's Park Board meeting several grants were announced to install glacial stone to combat the erosion of the beach house foundation. Hats off to Starke County for pursuing and winning these grants for our beach!

Creative Classes—This year's first class taught by Tabitha Dillner will be April 14, 2:00 -4:00 pm CDT at the BLPOA. Register at www.basslakeburn.com or call Tabitha at 219-314-2030. To the right is the picture that will be created in the class.

Starke County Moving Ahead! - Starke County Economic Development Foundation, headed by Larry Wickert, has a March 20th half day meeting scheduled. The purpose is to identify new activities to help Starke County. He would like to include three people from Bass Lake. If you are interested in representing Bass Lake at the meeting, contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.



WOODLAWN HOTEL

The Woodlawn Hotel was located at the corner of CR 625 E. and CR 210 at Bass Lake's north end. It was originally built as the Chittick House in 1887. According to Mrs. Ruth Cox, a doctor in Frankfort, IN gave her grandfather James Chittick only a year to live. He loved Bass Lake, so at the age of 38 he decided to move to the lake and spend his last year fishing and relaxing. Later James recalled there were only five families living right on the lake when he moved there in 1887. He and his wife Matilda built a small cottage at first. But soon they had to add on to accommodate their many friends. Over the years the small house grew into the hotel we see in this photo. Despite his doctor's prognosis, James lived to the age of 90. He attributed his longevity to the healthful living at Bass Lake.

The Chitticks decided to retire from the hotel business in 1926 and sold the hotel to the Shoemakers. They ran it many more years as the Woodlawn Hotel. It may have been the last hotel at Bass Lake from a bygone era when it closed in the late 1950's. Part of the former hotel was operated as a bakery for another 20 years or so before the old hotel burned down in the 1970's. This bakery housed the first Fingerhut presence on Bass Lake and a picture of it will be featured next month.

Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society

