

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 5 NO. 8

AUGUST 2018—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts



What's new? \$678,845; if you don't understand, you're probably not from around here. "Days Past" are part of many Festival discussions. Festival 2018 became part of history. Remember when the lake had two ski jumps? Times were times different back then. The lake floated both the Oppo Boat and Ski Club jump and the Hobart Boat and Ski Club jump; thus two jumps and crazy competitions. Actually, for a short time in the 50s, OPPO had two jumps. The first was built smaller than regulation and was replaced. It was soon sold to Hobart who briefly used it while building their own regulation jump. That original jump then became Hobart's swimming area swim deck. It served swimmers for many a summer. Today, only the OPPO jump remains as it sits patiently at the Marina wondering if it will ever receive the repairs needed to launch back into the lake. Time will tell. Use caution though; dangerous thing that jump.

Then there's the Healthy Shoreline Glacial Stone initiative. Definition: glacial stone is "kind of" round stone between 3" and 12" in diameter. "The Couch", a rock just north of the west end of the OPPO slalom course exit has been once again found and marked. Thank you OPPO and the Buoy program. Lots of discussions about rocks this summer. Boat owners are still seen driving through the "Rocky Bottom" area. They are testing the "Don't Rock your Boat" advice.

On August 6, I attended the Starke County Commissioners meeting joining in on a discussion on how to improve the Property Owners/Starke County recycling effort behind the BLPOA building. Besides the Commissioners, the County Attorney, Sheriff, Prosecutor, Starke County Environmental Management (772-4401) and others shared thoughts: law enforcement can increase presence; everyone should break down cardboard; dumpsters need to be emptied when full. Help out, make a call, take and send a picture. 772-4401, does not know what 772-4401 does not know. Hopefully, more awareness and law enforcement presence will contribute to improvement. The maximum penalty for illegal dumping remains \$2,500 per incident. A tough avoidable penalty; however, an indeed impressive wake up call. Sixteen numbers left - "The Sweet 16"; if it goes down to the "Final 4", you can bet \$678,845 will be long forgotten. *Stay safe and healthy, Rick*



Bass Lake Property Owners Association: Our next property owner meeting is on August 18 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building.

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, September 3 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building. Additional volunteers are welcome; you'll be trained and ready to roll!

Bass Lake Festival: Festival wrap-up activities are underway. Please contact Tabitha Dillner with your suggestions for the 2019 festival, tdillner@gmail.com.

Starke County Park Board: Tuesday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path): August 21 at 6:00 p.m., CDT (7:00 p.m., EDT) in the fireplace room of the BLPOA building

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump): Monday, August 20 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

Bass Lake Festival

Sailboat Race Winners: John Valek - Sunfish, Colin Lavery - Monohull, Steven Scott - Catamaran

Cardboard Boat Race Winners: Pee Wee—Zoey, Youth Single—Krooked Kayak, Youth Multi—The Bears Team, Adult Single Speed—Fort Knox, Adult Multispeed: Nemo, 1st to Sink Award, 110 Years Bass Lake, Vogue Award, Boondoggle-Willy Wonka, Team Spirit Award, Devinstator



Bass Lake Festival

Thank you to the Festival Board—Tabitha Dillner, Stefanie Thompson, Mary Topelian, June Sunderland, Bill Andrews, Gabby Dillner, Shirley Long, Carolla Heilstedt and all volunteers!

Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President ~ Rick Anderson
Vice President ~ Mary Topelian
Treasurer ~A. J. Gappa
Secretary ~ Kathy Laiter

Board Members

- Diane Blais
- Aileen Collura
- Cindy Hunter
- Rich Linkus
- Rik Ritzler
- Gayle Smith
- Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:

www.inbasslake.com



2018 Bass Lake Court

Miss Bass Lake 2018: Sarah Bailey,
1st Runner Up: Corinne Mendez, Jr
Miss Bass Lake: Marley Mayer, Little
Miss Bass Lake: Haley Schuetz, 1st
Runner Up: Autumn Burdick, Little
Mr. Bass Lake: Hunter Mayer, 1st
Runner Up: Jaxon Robb

Lake Art Studio Classes

Board, Brush and Beyond features workshops, custom signs and gifts. It is located at 6413 S. Rannells Road, E. The next painting class for Bass Lake Bum is Labor Day weekend. Contact Tabitha Dillner: tdillner@gmail.com



Bass Lake Marina—Notice the spectacular new mural on the Bass Lake Marina building. Sher (Winn) McLaughlin and her husband Bud McLaughlin did the painting. Sher is the artist that did the first harbor scene at the marina. Their son Wes worked for Michelle Albon at the marina when he was a young man so the family does this to thank our marina.



DNR Work at Bass Lake—Our local DNR fish experts, Tom Bacula and Brianna Ciara completed a vegetation survey at Bass Lake on July 23. The purpose of the survey was to determine the status and trends of fish habitat vegetation. The lake was much clearer than last year; the water was clear at 2 1/2 feet, as compared to 8-9 inches last year. Thirteen sites out of 100 had vegetation such as sago and eel grass. The goal is 50% so we are well below the goal. Related to this we are in the early stages of considering a grant to help us with our fish habitat conservation. If you'd like to know more about this grant for a fish habitat plant demonstration project from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership, please contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

Prairie Trails Club—With concurrence of the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum, Les Jensen has contracted with the Prairie Trails Club to perform repairs to the Erie Trail at three locations (west of Range Road, west of CR 125E in Aldine, and at the western approach to the Fell Ditch Bridge between CR 300E and CR 400E). We're excited about the performance of this safety project that will also underline our commitment to an important Starke County asset.

Healthy Shoreline Initiative—Why is there an effort to add glacial stone or bioengineered seawalls in front of the lake's concrete seawalls? When water hits a concrete wall, the wave that is produced discourages healthy plants from growing and in turn impacts the fish population negatively. Our "early adopter" is Starke County; glacial stone was recently installed in front of the concrete seawall at the Bass Lake Beach and at several county-owned lake access sites. We will be applying for a Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) grant by January 31 that will provide money to interested property owners for 2019 glacial stone projects. We are creating a list of the property owners who are interested in doing this; to date 27 families have indicated an interest, totaling nearly 2000 feet of our shoreline. Anticipated grant money would be made available in 2019 and would reimburse about 80% of the stone and installation, if done by a professional. If you are interested, please contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

Recycling at Bass Lake—Your property tax environmental assessment pays for the recycling bins behind the BLPOA building, which belong to Starke County. Please break down your cardboard boxes so we can recycle more efficiently. Currently, the bins are emptied twice a week. Note that Starke County is currently considering a county-wide recycling program. If you have questions, or would like to voice your opinion, please contact the County Commissioners, or attend one of their meetings.

Palm's Farm Fresh Produce—Conveniently located half a mile south of East SR 8 and only 3 miles from Bass Lake, a local family is growing a wide variety of produce. www.facebook.com/Palmsproduce, 1630 S. 700 E, Knox. Dan and Jill Palm are the owners and they farm with their kids and grandkids.

DNR Fish Surveys—In the April and May fish surveys conducted by the DNR, the results were better than expected; 313 white and black crappie were caught, slightly above average for the region. No bass were caught in the survey, something we'll be working on as part of our healthy shoreline initiative.

Bass Lake History—California Township Basketball Team

California Township's 1958 - 59 "A" team is shown in this photo. From left to right: Alan Hyland, Bob Smith, Deris Ritchie, Ed Kimmie, Ron Buckley, Charlie Rudd, Art Trent, Ricky Ferguson, Richard Ososkie and Harry Montgomery. Marcus Lucas, Wayne Reeves and Larry Pingel assisted Coach Lum Williams. Principal Beitelshoes is standing to the left. Ron Buckley and Harry Montgomery went on to play basketball at Knox High School during the 1960's.

The California Twp. school had been built in 1930, replacing several one-room schools; Aldine, Bass Station, Benton Grove, Center (same site as new 1930 school), Maple Grove, Spoor and White. That first year 24 students graduated from the 8th grade. The last 8th grade graduation was held in 1971 with 36 graduates. The school continued to offer education for grades 1 - 6 until 1991. The former township school continues to be a well maintained facility today and, recently, was the home of the Kankakee Valley International Christian Center. Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society

