

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 5 NO. 12

DECEMBER 2018—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

A cold late November brought skim ice and enough rain to raise the lake up to three inches under the "Top of Dam" mark. If that holds, should be an uneventful shoreline freeze.

RECYCLING: The recycle dumpsters behind the Property Owners Building were removed by the Stake County Solid Waste District on December 1, one full month earlier than scheduled. What do you know about the Solid Waste District? It was formed by the Circuit Court 20 to 25 years ago becoming a separate and legal taxing authority as granted by the court. Look at your property tax bill; under "other" is a \$20 fee, that is your solid waste recycle tax which funds recycling. This \$20 fee, paid by all county residents is the funding for the yearly Solid Waste recycle budget which must be approved by the State. Unfortunately, even with service reductions and efficiency improvements, costs outpaced the \$20 fee and few years ago, with county approval, some property tax money supplemented recycling. Now, "the game changer." The County contract with the recycler ended December 31, 2017 but was extended by verbal agreement for one year. Then, about July this year, the recycling monthly bill jumped from \$6,000 to \$8,000 (average per month) and then to a whopping \$25,000 to \$30,000 per month (the difference is unpaid and in dispute). This is why all county recycle dumpsters were removed and the new recycling facility is under construction on 250 north just west of the County Garage. Cited reasons for the cost increased were contamination and China who had been accepting 40% of our recyclables. Partially because of a world recycling glut, China placed a game changing 1/2% contamination limit on our recyclables. So that presented Starke County with three options: 1, Stop recycling; 2, Increase taxes or 3, Build a supervised recycling facility that can be controlled. I personally agree with the third option. More information on this will be coming.

BLPOA curbside recycling: As discussed at the November Property Owner meeting, a committee was formed and is actively pursuing combined curb side and garbage pickup costs. Dual pickups may be the best option going forward. Our current garbage contract is good through June 2020. A new contract will be negotiated in 2019. Contracting for both garbage and recycle pickup may obtain our best pricing. Updates on a new contract will be reviewed at regular Property Owner meetings.

Fireplace Room remodeling is scheduled to begin December 17. The Conservancy District still needs a representative for District 1. On a festive Bass Lake note, lights and decorations are appearing all around the lake. It is one more Bass Lake Christmas helping to bring in the new year and the 2019 season.

Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick

Glacial Stone Seawalls—In January, 2019 the BLPOA will apply for a Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) grant to defray the cost of installing glacial stone seawalls in front of existing concrete seawalls. Over forty property owners are interested and have completed the grant paperwork. Each property owner will hire a contractor of their choosing to complete the work next summer. The grant will reimburse up to 80% of the property owner's cost. This successful initiative will convert over 1/2 mile of our shoreline to glacial stone, which is healthier for the plants and fish in our lake.

Property Owners Association: Our next property owners meeting is on February 2 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building.

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building. Contact Ron Vendl if you'd like to volunteer for this program, vendlr@yahoo.com!

Exercise Class: Light weights and light aerobics, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m. \$3 per class. All are welcome at the BLPOA!

Starke County Park Board: Tuesday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path): Contact Kathy Lucas for details of 2019 meetings, kathleenlucas216@gmail.com.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump): Monday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

Ponds vs. Lakes: What's the Difference?

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a pond and a lake? They are both bodies of water, contain living creatures and look very similar—so what is the difference? They are both inland bodies of freshwater that contain living creatures. To help determine the difference, both the depth and surface area must be considered. Lakes are normally much deeper than ponds and have a larger surface area. All the water in a pond is in the photic zone, meaning they are shallow enough to allow sunlight to penetrate all the way to the bottom. This allows for many plants to grow at the bottom of ponds as well as on their surface. However, sunlight cannot penetrate to the bottom of all areas of lakes. Lakes have aphotic zones, which are deep areas of water that receive no sunlight, preventing plants from growing.

Some ponds and lakes are easy to identify while others are harder to determine. The differences mentioned above may seem distinct, but determining whether a body of water is a pond or lake is almost arbitrary. There is no precise, scientific difference between the two. What may be considered a lake in one area may be considered a pond in another. For example, sunlight does not always penetrate all areas of ponds, especially in mid-summer when they have increased algae growth. The increased amount of algae could prevent sunlight from penetrating to the bottom. Some ponds also have large surface areas which could potentially categorize them as lakes.

In general, ponds have smaller waves than lakes. Waves smaller than 12 inches in height would generally be considered small. Water throughout ponds also tends to be more uniform in temperature, unlike water in lakes which can have a variety of water temperature depending on the depth. Although no distinct line can be drawn between ponds and lakes, they are both homes to many living creatures and enjoyed recreationally by people. Living creatures in both ponds and lakes rely on healthy water in order to survive and thrive. To learn more about lakes, visit lakes.grace.edu or call 574-372-5100, ext. 6445. *By Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams*

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

What's Happening at the Hatchery

Behind Sporty'z is a significant state asset, The Palmer Research Center for Aquatic Resources. In 2005, Eldon and Elaine Palmer donated 4.5 acres of land and provided additional financial support to establish this Purdue research center. In 2010, the renovation of the buildings on the property was completed. Today, the home is occupied by Purdue Extension Educator Phil Woolery and his family.

At the property, Purdue staff member Patricia Nease conducts research on age-0 Largemouth Bass. Nease is studying how Largemouth Bass use different areas within the nearshore environment so we can best manage these habitats. At the Palmer Center Nease put age-0 Largemouth Bass into cages, within an aquaculture pond, in early summer to see how vegetation, woody structure, and no structure impacts the growth of fish and their use of different food sources. Nease removed the Large-mouth Bass in late summer and is currently analyzing the results.

So, here at Bass Lake there is scientific research being conducted by Purdue on Largemouth Bass! If you are interested in learning more, contact Patricia at neasep@purdue.edu.

Recycling Program—A BLPOA committee is researching options for a Bass Lake recycling program. If curbside recycling is approved, this cost would be added to your BLPOA fees. If you'd like to learn more, contact Diane Blais, committee chairperson, dianeblais@sbcglobal.net.

Purdue Master Gardener Class

Local Purdue Extension Educator Phil Woolery is coordinating a Master Gardener class! It will start on Thursday, February 21 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. (central time.) The classes will run through May on Thursday evenings. The classes will alternate between Knox and Winamac. If the majority of participants are from one county, the locations will be adjusted. The cost for the program is \$125.

The goal of the class is to train gardening enthusiasts as volunteers to assist Purdue with home horticulture education in Indiana communities. The curriculum offers an extensive notebook; topics include soils, plant science, plant nutrition, pesticides, plant disease, vegetables, flowers, lawns, weeds, animal damage, fruit and more. If you are a casual gardener and would like to increase your skill and knowledge, this is an excellent, reputable program.

To register contact the Purdue Extension Office @ 574-772-9141 or pwooley@purdue.edu.

Santa Train

The Santa Train, sponsored by the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum will depart on December 15 at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. (central time). There is also one train on December 22 at 12:30. The excursion length is 1 hour and 15 minutes. Ticket prices begin at \$9 and are pro-rated for age. Purchasing tickets online is recommended, as trains have sold out in past years. Purchase tickets at www.hoosiervalley.org.

Debbie Mix - Appreciation for Park Board Work

Bass Lake resident Debbie Mix has served on the Starke County Park Board since its inception. This month is her final month on the Board. Our appreciation goes to Debbie for a job well done, representing the Bass Lake Community and Starke County in this difficult position. If you'd like to reach out and thank Debbie, she can be reached at: mix0@purdue.edu.

Season's Greetings from the Bass Lake Conservancy District



Hope the Holidays brighten your world, warm your heart, and light the way to a shining New Year.

The Board of the Bass Lake Conservancy District

Petting Zoo, Balloon Rides and a Pet Parade

All are new ideas for the 2019 Bass Lake Festival. We are looking for families to host and organize these events. Think about it—a cool project for your family to chat about, plan and coordinate! Contact Mary Topelian, (361) 290-2457.

31st Annual Indiana Lakes Management Conference

When: March 21 & 22, 2019

Where: Oakwood Resort, Syracuse, Indiana

Join the Indiana Lakes Management Society for the 31st Annual Indiana Lakes Management Conference. This is an excellent opportunity talk with residents at other lakes to learn what they are doing to create healthy shorelines. The Indiana scientists and DNR professionals also attend! Contact Sara Peel at speel@arionconsultants.com or (765) 337-9100 if you have questions about registration.

BLPOA Directory—If you'd like to advertise your business or have questions about the 2019 directory, please contact Kathy Laiter (773) 251-6410 or Mary Topelian (361) 290-2457. Their work is appreciated!

Bass Lake History—The Lucas Family

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Marcellus and Bertha (Clemens) Lucas' farm was about 2 miles south of Aldine. It was established around 1894. Over the years the farm came to be called the "Big Eastern" farm. It was named after a large, swampy bog in that vicinity which was later drained. Besides raising onions, potatoes and peppermint, Marcellus owned and operated a threshing outfit that was used to harvest crops for neighboring farms.

Prior to moving to Aldine, Marcellus and Bertha started their family in a log cabin at Round Lake in 1885. Left to right: Arminthia (Diehl) Lucas, Hugh Rogers, Elva Lucas, Bertha Lucas, Perry Lucas, Clarabelle Lucas and Marcellus Lucas. This photo was taken on the family farm south of Aldine around 1908. Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society

