

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 5 NO. 10

OCTOBER 2018—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

It's the annual, "THE STUFF IS COMING OUT" event. It may be "Great Pumpkin Time" in Charlie Brown land; but at Bass Lake it's "Stuff Out Time". Besides who wins (\$964K), the big questions are the "WHEN" of it all. And, of course, the "WHO" of it all. The Why & What & Where & How have pretty well been established. Some will use money to do their "Stuff Out" thing. Others are more inventive utilizing the "Boys Only Weekend". This approach usually consumes the whole weekend. Some plan all day Saturday on how to get the stuff out on Sunday. They always comment on the "No Shows". Some elect to get it over Saturday. Either way, the "Saturday Outs" and "Sunday Outs" can usually be found Saturday night at a local watering hole. You will hear recaps on how it went as well as how it will be or can it wait till next weekend. The next weekend option always sounds good at the tavern. Problem is, the two "Boys Only Weekend" in a row, really only works in the movies. Rarely almost never is it part of Bass Lake "Stuff Out" life.

Lake clarity and fishing have improved and the lake is only 6 inches under the "top of dam" mark - not bad. October rains really helped. Water clarity has improved for reasons. Could be the spring stocking of 32,000 Bluegill. Could be other factors. If it was the 32K, good news, the DNR has just stocked another 150,000 Bluegill. To protect those fish, the stocking location will remain undisclosed. Cikana Hatchery brought fish up over a 3-day period by truck. Water temperature of lake and truck were matched to avoid temperature shock. The fish then took a tube ride into the lake. Bass Lake algae will make these Bluegill grow and the same Bluegill will help our big fish grow bigger. That's how it works.

October 6th BLPOA meeting: Get more interest on our \$200K was the advice from astute property owners finance specialists. Starke County plans to remove the recycle dumpsters behind the BLPOA building and provide new recycling facilities at the County Garage north of Knox. Curbside recycling remains another subject. What can be done about speeding around the lake? More phone calls to the Sheriff's office might help the most; make a call yourself. 2018/19 grants sponsored by the BLPOA should bring money and focus to specific Healthy Shoreline projects. The new property owner website/server is being implemented. Funds were approved to remodel the Fireplace Room in the BLPOA building. A new Buoy Master is needed. Many enthusiastic Property Owners chimed in; if you weren't there, oh well. Beyond that: \$963,947.00! and 9 numbers left at the VFW. Are you feelin' lucky? If you're part of our community, you're already lucky! *Stay safe & healthy, Rick*

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

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, November 5 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building. Additional volunteers are welcome; you'll be trained and ready to roll!

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, November 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path): October 30 at 6:00 p.m., CDT (7:00 p.m., EDT) in the BLPOA building

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump): Monday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

Healthy Shoreline Initiative



A grant was submitted to address the erosion at the Bass Lake Beach.

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Grant—On October 15 a grant was submitted to the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership for a project that focuses on stopping the erosion at the Bass Lake Beach. The project is a combined effort with the BLPOA, Starke County Park Board, Indiana DNR and Purdue University. If funded, each eroding tree on the Beach shoreline will be protected by glacial stone, to be installed by Starke County. In addition, 500 wetland plants and 12 new trees will be planted.

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, healthier for the plants and fish in our lake.

Center for Lakes and Rivers—The BLPOA remains committed to improving the quality of our lake life and lake itself. Recently we learned that there is a Lilly Center for Lakes and Rivers at Grace College in Indiana. We are meeting with the director to learn what they are doing for lakes in Kosciusko County. We'll invite the director to speak at 2019 BLPOA education sessions.

Hoosier Environmental Council Conference—Saturday, November 17th, Wabash, Indiana -- Greening the Statehouse; an opportunity to hear from dynamic experts about the leading environmental issues facing our state and to network with individuals on the forefront of environmental sustainability in Indiana. Topics that will be covered include sustainable agriculture, energy, transportation, and protecting our lakes and rivers. Registration is affordable, fast, and secure at hecweb.org/gts.

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

Lids to Benches Bike Trail Project

The Prairie Trails Club thanks everyone who participated in the "lids to benches" program. Thanks to your donations, we are soon going to be picking up at least two new benches to be enjoyed by those using the Erie Trail. At this point, we are suspending the collection of lids and caps for this winter. If you have questions, feel free to contact Kathy Lucas at kathleenlucas216@gmail.com.

This group is also working on a potential bike repair station for the trail. They've also created a workgroup, including several BLPOA members, to explore grants to connect this trail to other bike trails in the area.

The Merit Foundation—This Starke County Foundation is working on transforming the County from the "Worst to First." They will shape best practice ideas in 35 community health categories. For more information, contact David Weinberg, meritfoundation501c3@gmail.com. This work is underway in the newly constructed Merit Office at 19 North Main Street in Knox.

Want to Be a Buoymaster?

Certainly someone in your household has an interest in being the Bass Lake Buoymaster. Note that the 2019 Buoymaster will receive an official hat and badge, compliments of an anonymous donor. This is a role that doesn't take a lot of work: keeping the buoy spreadsheet current; ordering new buoys; and working with Rick Anderson to be sure buoys go in and out in the right places. If you are interested (or if you'd like to volunteer a family member), contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

BLPOA Tasty Soup Social

Cost: \$5 per person (10 and under free)

Date: Saturday, October 20

Time: 5:00 P.M.—6:30 P.M.

Where: Property Owners' Building

Yard Contest: Compete with your neighbors for the best fall-tastic yard display!

Soup Contest: Bring your favorite soup (and the recipe) for all to enjoy!

Questions? Contact Mary Topelian at 361-290-2457

New BLPOA Logo—BLPOA Board member Aileen Collura and several others are working on a new logo for our website and other marketing efforts. If you'd like to submit your ideas, please contact Aileen at aileen.collura@yahoo.com.

Farmers' Market at Bass Lake? - Recently, Purdue University hired Deb Mix as our local Community Wellness Coordinator (CWC). Deb is responsible for helping our community plan, create and implement health and wellness initiatives in 5 areas: diet quality, physical activity, food security, food safety and food resource management. Related to these goals, there has been discussion about a farmers' market at Bass Lake for the summer of 2019. If you are interested in joining the planning efforts, please contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

The Halloween Train—The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum in North Judson is offering a variety of train rides so everyone can take in the sights, sounds and smells of the autumn season. Enjoy a leisurely trip through northwest Indiana's countryside, aboard The Pumpkin Train. Upon returning to the North Judson area, the train will travel to a pumpkin patch where everyone may choose a pumpkin for just \$2.50 before returning to the depot. The Halloween Train on Oct. 27 departs for a 2 ½ to 3 hour trip at 4 p.m., Central Time, which includes a "Bag-o-Tricks Magic Show", which is just as much fun and educational for adults as for children. Dress in costume or come as you are. Reservations are being taken for Santa Trains on the first four Saturdays in December where every youth and child will receive a gift bag from Santa.

BLCD Meetings—The Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) meetings are normally scheduled on the third Monday of the month. Meetings are held at the BLPOA building and begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. CST. For the months of November and December the meeting dates have been changed to the second Monday – November 12, 2018 and December 10, 2018. The purpose for this change is to avoid conflict with the various upcoming holiday schedules. *Board of Directors 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.

Hats off to Rik Ritzler—Rik has been working with the state on a project that will improve the safety of our lake. The dangerous intersection of CR 210 and 600S/Old SR10 will be made into a "T" intersection with a stop sign, rather than the triangle it currently is. This will discourage trucks from taking the shortcut and driving along that stretch of CR 210. The cost estimate is \$159,149. If approved for the accompanying INDOT grant, this project will be completed by Memorial Day 2019. There was a lethal motorcycle accident at this intersection earlier this year; we applaud Rik and the Starke County Highway Department for continuing their focus on our safety.

Bass Lake History—California Township School

The 3rd Grade is shown in this photo from the 1953-1954 class.

Back Row, Left to Right: Wayne Reeves, Jim Poort, Bobby Pelfrey, Bobby Mann, Richard Ososki, Tommy Thompson, Robert Palek and Roger Nickels. Middle Row: Janice Minix, Annabelle Richie, Geraldine Williams, Frances Stacy, Harold Short, Kay Morgan, Ellen McFarland and Mrs. Gurrado. Front Row: Everett White, Muretta Scheredt, Barbara Runyon, Michelle Zoll, Diane Pinson, Joanne Mocko, Nancy Spoor and Sammy White. *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*

