

Outstanding Work—Prairie Trails Club

There is a \$1.4 million Erie Trail along an old railroad that many Bass Lake folks enjoy walking and biking on. It is managed by the Prairie Trails Club (PTC). Recent work by the PTC is noteworthy and exciting:

The Greenways Foundation named the Erie Trail, the October Trail of the Month! "The Prairie Trails Club supports the Erie with sweat, events, dollars, and a vision for future connections: southeast to Monterey, north to Bass Lake, northwest to Kankakee State Fish & Wildlife Area, and south to Tippecanoe River State Park and the Panhandle Pathway. The Erie Trail enjoys the distinction of being part of both the American Discovery Trail and US Bike Route 35."

A grant was recently submitted to the Kankakee Valley REMC for bike racks along the trail. The KVREMC Round Up grant covers materials, but labor to build the bike racks is being generously donated by Starke County SCILL classes, which makes it a true community project. The SCILL team will be encouraged to add their artistic touches to individualize their work. The bike racks will be placed at numerous locations around Starke County, including the Erie Trail and local businesses, to encourage more exercise among our citizens. Deb Mix, Purdue University Extension Wellness Coordinator and Bass Lake resident, helped PTC work on the program.

Also, the Hardesty Memorial Endowment generously funded signage on the trail and through North Judson. The road signs are being installed by the Starke County Highway Department to promote safety for walkers, riders, and motorists.

Grants were also submitted to America Walks Community Change to fund a "science walk" along the Erie Trail and to The Luminous Fund for trail signage and expansion projects. Significant planning and grant writing efforts are underway related to Governor Holcomb's Next Level Connections program. This program will provide up to \$5 million for individual initiatives to expand and connect Indiana trail systems. This would be a very significant expansion project that could connect the Erie Trail to the Panhandle Pathway in Winamac and possibly a crossing over US 35 and over the Tippecanoe River.

For more information, contact Kathy Lucas, kathleenlucas216@gmail.com.

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

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, December 3 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, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

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

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump): Monday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

Soup Social a Success

And the soup recipe winners are: *People's Choice:* Gary Laiter—Cheesy Bacon Ranch Potato
Presidents Choice: Bob Fosnaugh—Creamy Mushroom Vegetable *Little Miss Bass Lake Choice:* Grace Hehemann—Packers Cheesehead *Kids Choice:* Jan Sanders - Chicken Noodle



Bass Lake California Township Fire Department—Your donations to our local fire department were tallied and \$2,678 was given to Les Jensen at last week's BLPOA meeting. Les expressed appreciation for our support. If you'd like a tour of the firehouse, contact Les (574) 806-0563.

BLPOA Directory—If you'd like to advertise your business or have question about the 2019 directory, please contact Kathy Laiter (773) 251-6410 or Mary Topelian (361) 290-2457. They are chairing this significant project and their work is appreciated!

Healthy Shoreline Initiative—The Lake and River Enhancement grant is currently being written to provide up to 80% funding to 42 Bass Lake property owners who are interested in placing glacial stone in front of their concrete seawalls. The projects will be completed in 2019. Also, a \$24,000 grant was submitted to the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership in October for an erosion control project at the Bass Lake Beach.

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

Award Winning Bass Lake Books!

A local book series was named a Silver Medalist in the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards. *Bass Lake Bunch 1—The Hideout* was published in 2009. *Bass Lake Bunch 2—*



The Secret of The Lost Lake Cottage was released in March 2018. Congratulations to local authors Charles R. Ratliff and Leslie J. May! Both reside with their families at Bass Lake and Knox. The books

are for sale on Amazon, the perfect holiday gift for all Bass Lakesters.

Concerned About Speeding?

At the last two BLPOA meetings, a few property owners have expressed their concern about the number of vehicles exceeding the 20 mph and 35 mph speed limits on the lake roads of CR 210 and Route 10. At our last meeting, the Neighborhood Watch team endorsed the notion of using some of the funds donated by the property owners. The funds will be used to hire off duty sheriff personnel to do some short random "radar" patrols on these lake roads in an attempt to deter the speeders and enforce the speed limits. Included in this request, we are specifically requesting the law enforcers to issue warnings and tickets.

Ron Vendl, Neighborhood Watch Chairman

What Plants DO to Keep Your Lake Healthy: Dissolved Oxygen and Underwater Life

By: Dr. Nathan Bosch, Director of the Lilly Center for Lakes and Streams

Recently, the BLPOA connected with an important resource for Indiana lake research and education, the Lilly Center for Lakes and Streams, located in Warsaw, Indiana. We asked the lead scientist and director, Nate Bosch to contribute periodic articles to our newsletter so we can learn from their work. Below is our premier article!

Under the surface of Bass Lake, where the fish make their homes and plants bury their roots, a careful balance is maintained: Too many or too few plants, and fish might be harmed. This balance is related to dissolved oxygen (DO). Oxygen enters the water in a few ways. First, it is the naturally generated by aquatic plants as they photosynthesize. It can also be mixed into a lake by wind blowing across the water's surface. In any case, oxygen is an essential ingredient for life. (You need it to keep reading this article!) That remains true for fish, too.

When oxygen enters water, it changes form and becomes dissolved oxygen. DO is non-compound oxygen, or oxygen that is not bonded to any other element. Fish can draw it in through their gills, and plants are able to release it into the air and water. Not all underwater life needs the same amount of dissolved oxygen, though. In Bass Lake, channel catfish, white crappie, walleye, and white bass all require specific levels of DO and the right temperatures to survive. Bottom dwellers like aquatic worms and bacteria are less picky. They can live with almost no oxygen, and some bacteria are specialized to live without any oxygen. If a body of water has high concentrations of certain nutrients, DO levels are quickly boosted. This is often the result of a robust algae bloom or excessive weed growth. After the algae or weeds die, though, quite a bit of DO is used for the plant's decomposition. In some cases, not enough DO is left for fish and other organisms. That is one reason the presence of too many nutrients cause problems on our lakes! On the other hand, the right amount of healthy plants will release the right amount of dissolved oxygen into the water. If a lake or stream has too few plants, fish might not have enough DO, either.

Since 2007, the Lilly Center has proactively monitored lakes and streams throughout Kosciusko County to guide strategic actions throughout the region. They have conducted studies on blue-green algae, the impact of boating, invasive species and more. To stay up-to-date on the latest lake news, visit lakes.grace.edu or follow the Lilly Center on Facebook. Note that the BLPOA is now in contact with the Center so we can bring the value of what they are doing and learning to Bass Lake!

Bass Lake Buoymaster—Gary Laiter is our new lake buoymaster. Thank you Gary! If you have questions, he can be reached at 773-251-6410.



Hats off to Al and Debra Randall winners of the 2018 Falltastic Yard Display contest!

Starke County 2018 Plat Book—The new 2018 edition of the Starke County Plat Book is now available for purchase at the Starke County Soil & Water Conservation District office, 1408 S. Heaton Street in Knox (white stone building across from McDonalds.) For more information call (574) 772-3066 ext. 3.

New BLPOA Event—Cookies and Canvas

BLPOA presents a new event—Cookies and Canvas! Join us for a fun afternoon of painting and munching on cookies with friends! Pictured below is the painting that will be completed.

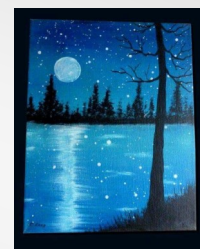
When: Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: BLPOA Building, Bass Lake 6996 S. SR 10

Charity: Proceeds benefit: NJUMC Food Pantry & Starke Services Food Bank

Cost: \$15

Note: We will be collecting nonperishable food items that will be donated to the Food Pantry. Sign up @ basslakebum.com or call: Mary Topelian at (361) 290-2457. This event is sponsored by your BLPOA Social Team!



President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

As of November 4th, there were 33 piers still in the lake waiting. Go find one & check out thirty inches: Yes, thirty inches; walk out a remaining pier and plunge your yardstick into the water until its bottom disappears. The bottom of mine could be seen over thirty inches below. What happened to our cloudy water? What happened to our algae? Last year at this time, lake water visibility was five inches if even that. Interesting how things cycle & change at Bass Lake. The "Long Reach" of Bass may have something to do with it. Reminds me of falling leaves that return every spring. Many things leave & return; Bass Lake weeds are a notable example of this. You do know that weeds love clear water? Well, they do, and in our 2019 waters I expect to see a wave runner or two all weeded up. That of course will lead to inevitable weed discussions and a longing by some to return to the days of cloudy waters. Everyone is never happy. As of November 7th, lake level was at six inches below the "Top of Dam"/"Top of Outlet Control Structure" mark with our pump continuing to pump. Our "Short Handed" Conservancy District Board will decide when to shut it down.

November 3, 2018 Property Owners Meeting Talk: The October Treasurer's Report showed funds available of \$189K. That's enough to cover normal monthly expenses until 2019 funds begin to arrive and enough to place some funds into CDs. Yearly membership Form Receipts and Rentals usually bring in about \$125K per year. The recycle containers behind the Property Owners Building will be removed early next year. A new recycle facility is being built by Starke County at the County Garage, the triangle intersection changes at old SR 10 and CR 210 should be approved and completed by Memorial Day; that will make a much safer intersection. The Soup Social was great again; a Cookies & Canvas event is scheduled for December 8th. A new committee has been established to revisit Property Owners curb side recycling. We are still working on our web site conversion, Gary Laiter the Buoy Master role for 2019 and Kathy Carrier reviewed in progress lakeshore grant applications. The Conservancy District still needs a representative for District 1; how long will this continue? Someone from District 1 needs to step up. These topics are some of what you missed if you missed our meeting. The next and first 2019 meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2019.

There was a winner of the \$1.2 million jackpot at the VFW on November 17. The winning number was #9. The winning name was announced in a bar full of people, so they are not anonymous. It is the VFW's choice not to put the person's name on their Facebook page. We'll honor that policy. Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick

Santa Trains for All Ages

In past years, the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum December trains have stopped and picked up Santa when he was stranded along the tracks on the outskirts of North Judson, Indiana, after his reindeer ran off with his sleigh. Come out on the first four Saturdays in December to see if this rare occurrence will happen in 2018. Passengers ride in a vintage commuter coach through the countryside for approximately five miles from North Judson to the small town of English Lake. After crossing the Kankakee River, the train returns to the depot. During the trip, Santa sits down with passengers and each youth and child will receive a small gift bag with an ornament, toys, and sweets from Santa.

Trains depart on December 1st, 8th, and 15th at 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, and 2:30 PM (central time). There is only one Santa train on December 22nd, departing at 12:30 PM (central time). The total length of each excursion is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. Ticket prices begin at \$9.00 and are pro-rated, depending upon age. Purchasing tickets on-line is recommended, as trains have sold out in past years. Purchase tickets at www.hoosiervalley.org.

Before or after the train excursion, be sure to visit the museum and grounds where admission is always free. The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum has one of the largest collections of working railroad signals. Stroll around the grounds to see all types of rolling stock and engines of a by-gone era.

Visit the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum website (www.hoosiervalley.org) for a complete schedule of events. Order tickets on-line or call the depot (574-896-3950) on Saturdays, 9-4 central time.



Lake Recycling

The recycling dumpsters behind the BLPOA building will be removed in December as Starke County modifies their recycling program. Starting in 2019 we'll need to take our recycling to the Starke County Highway Building, located north of Knox on SR 250 from 6 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you have ideas about how we can manage this recycling change, contact Diane Blais, diane-blais@sbcglobal.net. She is heading a committee to look into cost effective options for Bass Lake.

Pictured to the right are BLPOA Soup Social attendees. It is a popular fall lake event. If you have ideas for additional lake events, contact Mary Topelian at (361) 290-2457.



BLCD Schedule Change

For a number of years the Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) meetings have been held on the third Monday of the month. However, to accommodate the BLCD's new attorney schedule, our meetings will now be held on the second Monday of the month. The change will become effective January 2019. Meetings are held at the BLPOA building and begin promptly at 6:00 PM CST. Note: There is an open position on this 5-person Board of Directors. To learn more, contact Gene Novello, genenovello@msn.com.

Thanksgiving Thoughts

The BLPOA Board of Directors wishes you an enjoyable, safe and relaxing Thanksgiving. This also could be said of our summers at Bass Lake!