

# CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 5 NO. 1

JANUARY 2018—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Auld Lang Syne 2017. Enter 2018, on January 12th, Bass Lake was 8 inches under the "Top of Dam" mark. Did you know, on average, ten inches of snow equals one inch of rain. Did you also know, I am totally against 80 inches of snow refilling the lake? I am much more for spring rains doing the job. Because I was asked, I checked. Inserting my 12 inch drill bit into my cordless drill and grabbing a snow shovel, I ventured out onto the ice. Over about three feet of water, I began drilling; 4 inches, 6 inches, 8 inches and still solid ice. Finally 9 inches and then water; the January ice should stick around for a while. Prolonged ice with a good snow cover has a tendency to kill biological stuff like weeds & algae. Lake clarity could be quite improved after the thaw. At Double D's Bait & Tackle, I asked about the ice fishing, bait sales and lake clarity. Bait sales have been good & Bass Lake water clarity has improved some; however, fisherman are taking their bait elsewhere. Not many ice huts on Bass. Why? Fishing is poor. I was never really sure why anyone would ice fish. I thought it might be to tell stories. I thought it might be to keep warm with cocoa, coffee or stuff like Irish whiskey. It's looking like the real reason is, "To Catch Fish".

Not too much is new, we still have three Tavern/Eateries open daily. At those establishments I asked, "What's new?"; the answer has been consistent; "Not much". We have three upcoming meetings:

The Conservancy District meeting will be February 19. Part of the discussion will be lake clarity and water testing, which was also discussed at last week's meeting. Testing for things like pump water phosphates and other lake nutrients like nitrates. Maybe this testing will lead to answers about fish and water quality.

A Park Board meeting is scheduled for January 23rd: The May 1, 2018 deadline for a renewal of the Callahan, LLC/Starke County beach lease is rapidly approaching. Park Board discussions have included potential negotiations including a "Request for Proposals" to contract with some third party to run the beach pavilion. It could be a great opportunity for the right person and could help further improve the beach operation in 2018.

The first BLPOA meeting of the year will be February 3rd. On the agenda will be the 2018 season and the annual letter. Come to the meeting with your 2018 suggestions. At the VFW, the Starke County "Brain Trust" is still active and the "All American Game" grand prize has grown to \$216,681. Not \$1.7M; however, not just pocket change either. Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick

**Lake Water Clarity**—This week's Bass Lake Conservancy District meeting included a continued discussion of lake water clarity and water testing. Two property owners, Jerry Broadstreet (chemist) and Rick Anderson (engineer), are going to continue working on what testing is appropriate to identify causes of clarity changes. A 2002 lake study offers historical data. If you are interested in joining the discussion and identification of next steps, contact Rick Anderson, (574) 772-6208.

### **Bass Lake Property Owners Association:**

**Our next property owner meeting is on Feb. 3 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA community building**

**Starke County Park Board:** Tuesday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

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

**Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path):** Wednesday, February 28 and March 28 at 6:00 p.m. CST at the North Judson—Wayne Township Public Library

**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**

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

## Bass Lake Conservancy District Board Position Open

There is a Bass Lake Conservancy District Board BLCD position open. The Board will be appointing a member to serve until the July, 2018 annual meeting at which time the person can choose to run again for a term that expires in July 2019. **If you are interested in learning more about this open volunteer position, contact Gene Novello: [genenovello@msn.com](mailto:genenovello@msn.com).**

Potential Board members for this position must live in District One. Tom Jordan or Mariann Gappa at the BLCD offices can outline the general boundaries of this district; it is basically the northwest portion of the Lake. The BLCD's responsibility is three-fold and includes oversight of:

- \* The water treatment and sewer system for our lake;
- \* The lake pump (which regulates the level of the lake);
- \* Weed management in our lake.

There are five Board positions. The BLCD meets on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the BLPOA building. The Board utilizes the services of an attorney, accountants, and an engineer. They are well informed and decisions are made using Board expertise and Plant Manager Tom Jordan's input.

## 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](http://www.inbasslake.com).

### Bass Lake History

We welcome your family stories about Bass Lake history and your historical photos. Please send to Kathy Carrier, [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com) to be included in future newsletters!

### Bass Lake Directory

Ron Vendl and Russ Blais have begun collecting the ads for the 2018 BLPOA directory. If you'd like to advertise, contact Ron at [vendlr@yahoo.com](mailto:vendlr@yahoo.com). We thank these two volunteers for managing this time consuming task!

### Bass Lake Photography Contest

Calling all photos of life at Bass Lake! If you have photos you'd like to enter in this contest, please email or text them to: [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com), or (260) 403-6746

All entries will be recognized and will receive a RSP (really small prize.) The winner will be featured in this newsletter, on the webpage and on Facebook. The winner will also receive a RBP (really big prize.) The winner will be selected by a panel of Bass Lake enthusiasts.

Entries are due by February 14.

### Few Fish in the Lake

We've asked Tom Bacula of the Indiana DNR to fill us in on the plan for stocking the lake this year. We'll publish the information in a future newsletter. Last year the DNR stocked Bass Lake with walleye.



### Impressive Bass Lake Ice Tree

This ice masterpiece was Kaden McDaniel's idea.

He and his dad Chad built it in 2 days. They cut sections out of the lake to build it! Kaden is a 5th generation family member of Eagle's Nest.



**DNR Water and Boating Safety Class**—This popular class will be held at the Bass Lake Property Owners building on Saturday, June 2. Thanks to Aileen Collura for coordinating it. More details will follow in future newsletters.

**Make your life a little bit easier for 2018!** - Did you know you can have your monthly Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) payments taken automatically out of your checking account via the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) process?

Payments will be withdrawn on the 25th of each month by Teachers Credit Union (TCU), which is our banking facility, and credited to your BLCD account(s). The process is simple! Contact the BCLD office and request an Electronic Transfer Authorization Form. We can either email you an electronic copy, or send a paper copy via U.S. mail. Complete the form, attach a voided check. Return the form and voided check to the BLCD office. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 574 772-2974 or email us at [INFO@BLCD-IND.ORG](mailto:INFO@BLCD-IND.ORG). If you're at lake and would like to stop by to pick up or return the form, the office is open Mon – Wed – Fri from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST. We are located at 4450 E. 450 S, Knox IN. Submitted by Larry Collura – Vice Chairman BLCD/Director District IV



*Mason, Myles and Madden  
McLaughlin enjoy skating on Bass  
Lake (as does their dog!)*

**Indiana Lakes Management Society**—Join ILMS for the 30th Annual Indiana Lake Management Conference on March 22 and 23 at Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park, located on scenic Lake James in Angola. Contact Sara Peel at [speel@wabashriver.net](mailto:speel@wabashriver.net) or (765) 337-9100 if you have questions about the agenda or registration.

**Neighborhood Watch**—We are proud of our Neighborhood Watch program and are in need of volunteer drivers. This program relies on the help of a small but mighty team. If you have a particular concern regarding the safety of your property or if you are willing to volunteer, please call Ron Vendl at (574) 772-2580.

**Foam on Water?** - What causes foam? Is it harmless? If you are interested in learning more about this, contact Kathy Carrier for the fact sheet, [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com). The article will summarize the role of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in this common lake concern.

## WINONA SCHOOL

The earliest school on the North Bend side of Bass Lake was located at the northeast corner of 700 E. and 400 S., which is east of the Bass Lake Cemetery.

This photo was taken around 1908 in late fall or early spring. We can't be sure of the occasion, but there appear to be a number of parents and adults in attendance. Even the students are dressed up. It may be an open house for a new school building, since it has not yet been painted.

This wood frame school was replaced by a two-story brick school in 1922. It was built just south of the fish hatchery, and is now home to the Bass Lake Lions.  
*Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*

