

# Catch and Release BASS LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President's Letter

Happy New Year to everyone! The lake is down approximately 12" and December didn't bring much moisture to help. The last few days of 2023 did help a little. We'll see what January and February have in store for us as far as snow is concerned to help with the lake level. I'd like to remind you that our monthly meetings start up again on February 3 at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there! *Terry Chmiel, BLPOA Board President*



*Behind the Woodshed Tap is the Palmer Center for Aquatic Research. It is a 14-acre facility, generously gifted and renovated by the Francis Palmer family and the State of Indiana. It is a place where nature and science come together to explore the unknowns of our aquatic ecosystem.*

## What's Happening at the Hatchery?

by Megan Merryman and Dominique Turney

Did you know that Purdue has a research center at Bass Lake? This facility can be found at the Purdue Palmer Research Center. Currently, Purdue is investigating the impact of angling on two widely popular game species, the bluegill and largemouth bass.

In recent years, there have been extensive efforts to revive the ponds on the property at Bass Lake. These ponds allow Purdue to simulate real world conditions while maintaining precise control over the experiments. Currently, researchers are researching how bluegill and largemouth bass move and are influenced by one of our favorite pastimes, angling.

To track the movements of these fish, researchers have equipped these fish with tiny devices known as passive integrated transponders, or PIT tags. Think of these tags as similar to the microchips we use to track and identify our beloved pets. As tagged fish swim past an antenna installed under the water, information about the fish and time of day is captured, providing valuable insights.

Researchers are also conducting concurrent angling studies to explore links between activity levels of fish and their vulnerability to angling. In particular, researchers are interested to find out whether more active fish are more likely to be caught by anglers, what that might mean for the evolution of fish populations. Note that these ponds are strictly off limits for fishing by the public as this would interfere with the research. However, your support and curiosity are always welcome.

To learn more, contact Dominique Turkey, dturney@purdue.edu!

## Meetings and Gatherings

**Bass Lake Property Owners Association**  
Saturday, February 3 at 9:00 a.m. CDT, BLPOA building.

**Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:**  
Monday, April 15 at 6:30 CDT, BLPOA Building. Drivers continue their watch duties during the winter!

**Bass Lake Festival:**  
Next meeting TBD. Send ideas for next year's festival to: P.O. Box 455, Knox, IN

**Prairie Trails Club (nearby bike trail):**  
Thursday, February 22 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT), BLPOA building.

**Bass Lake Conservancy District: (sewers, pump & lake weeds)**  
Monday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA building.

**Starke County Park Board: (Beach & Campground)**  
Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m., Starke County Annex; go to the YouTube link at the bottom of the Starke County Parks page to attend virtually. The plan for the Bass Lake Beach will be discussed.



## Bass Lake

### Property Owners Association

President Terry Chmiel  
Treasurer A. J. Gappa  
Secretary Kathy Laiter

### Board Members

- Tom Busch
- Aileen Collura
- Shirley Grajewski
- Mary Jesso
- Mary Topelian
- Ron Vendl
- Cathy Wagner

Board Member contact information is on our website: [www.inbasslake.com](http://www.inbasslake.com)

### Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD)

We added a third page to this issue, a chart that was provided by BLCD. Take a few minutes and review it. You'll learn how many year-round residents we have, how many home rentals there are, new builds and more. Thanks to Tabitha Dillner for creating the chart!

December rainfall was 3.59 inches, giving us a total of 38.35 inches for 2023. Our average rainfall (2003-2022) being 37.83 Inches. We beat the average by a hair over a half inch! The lake pump output for December was 31.00 million gallons, giving us a total of 355.00 million gallons for the year. The pump will remain running until the lake freezes. Charts are available on our website [basslakecd.in.gov](http://basslakecd.in.gov).

Consider making your 2024 monthly sewer payments with ease using Automated Clearing House or Electronic Funds Transfer (ACH/ETF). Details are on the new webpage address - [basslakecd.in.gov](http://basslakecd.in.gov)

### Bass Lake Directory

Ron Vendl and Russ Blais are working on our 2024 Directory. This is a time-consuming task and we are grateful for their many hours of time. If you know someone who would like to place an ad, or if you have questions, contact Ron at [vendlr@yahoo.com](mailto:vendlr@yahoo.com)

### The Bass Lake California Township Volunteer Fire Department

This volunteer unit serves our lake well. You see their fine building and equipment at 7225 S. US 35. They are funded by the township trustee office through tax revenue. Their funding is supplemented with fundraisers during the year. They also serve North Bend Township; their total territory is 84 square miles. They take fire and medical calls and their service also includes a dive team. We appreciate them!

## Bass Lake Weir

I measured our lake level on January 1st. It was minus 9.5 inches. As many Catch & Release readers may remember, the Indiana DNR replaced our Bass Lake Weir (Dam) in September of 2016. It had served Bass Lake for a long time. The DNR refers to the new dam as an Outlet Control Structure. The outlet/overflow occurs at about 714 feet above sea level from which excess Bass Lake water begins making its way to the Kankakee Rive at English Lake; that is the location where the Yellow River also joins the Kankakee. The lakeward side of the OCS has about a 22-degree slope to the water. To determine lake level, just measure the exposed OCS concrete and multiply by about .37. On January 1st, I measured 25.5 inches of exposed concrete. Multiplying by .37 resulted in a calculated minus 9.5 inches. Attached are the before and after picture of the Dam/OCS from back then; again, the year was 2016. *Submitted by Rick Anderson.*



## Bass Lake History - Winona Business Section

This view of what was once called Bass Lake's "business section" at Winona appeared to be looking north from Cottage Avenue. Dan's Restaurant is to the left. There appears to be a barber pole just beyond Dan's. The large home to the right advertises "tourist rooms" and has a sign for Ned's Boats.

This photo was probably taken just before WWII. Part of the east side of Winona burned down in the 1940s. Notice the telephone poles and lines, no longer a common sight, running down the west side of the street.



*Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*



## Prairie Trails Club - Save the Date!

The Prairie Trails Club has scheduled a 5krun / 3k walk and (untimed) bike ride on Saturday, May 25. It will start at 700E and the Erie Trail. Details to follow. Save the date!

We asked long-time PTC volunteer Kathy Lucas what her New Years Resolution is for Bass Lake, "To work with our neighbors to improve our beautiful community assets."

[Kathleenlucas216@gmail.com](mailto:Kathleenlucas216@gmail.com)





*New home construction continues this winter at Bass Lake.  
Per BLCD records, there were 9 new builds last year!*



**Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) STATS – Year ending 2023**

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[www.basslakecd.in.gov](http://www.basslakecd.in.gov)

<u>Account Information *</u>	
Single home	1005
Commercial	12
Industrial	1
Government	5
Multi-Home	30
<b>Total Accounts</b>	<b>1053</b>
<b>Primary Residence</b>	
Year Round	377
Indiana Other	264
Out of State	412
<b>Total</b>	<b>1053</b>
* As of 12/31/2023	

<u>Interesting Facts</u>	
Homes Sold	43
EFTS (Electronic Fund Transfers)	435
Email addresses on file	635 (20 email broadcasts sent)
Bass Lake Rentals	34
<b>Permits Issued</b>	
Hookups	5
Disconnects	1
Pole Barn Permits	3
Garage Builds	5
Home Builds	9
<b>NOTE:</b> Does not include Porta Potty permits	All Porta Potty's require BLCD permit and inspections

\*\* Data compiled by Tabitha Dillner – District Office Coordinator

### Indiana Lakes Management Society 35th Annual Conference

The Indiana Lakes Management Society will be hosting their annual two-day conference:

March 21 and 22, 2024  
Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park

To register or with questions, contact Sara Peel, [speel@arionconsultant.com](mailto:speel@arionconsultant.com) or (765) 337-9100. All are welcome. It's a great way to learn what other lake communities in Indiana are doing to make their lakes healthier. It is an affordable and interesting way to learn more about lake science and programs!