

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 7 NO. 5

MAY 2020—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

I'm thinkin' that until the May 2, 2020 weekend, I never really knew the true meaning of PEN-TUP. Many people were out in boats, the public launch was jammed full and many Bass Lakers were congregated along the shores talking or fixing. It was a time to talk to neighbors and even give help and support. Looks like you're having a PSO problem. Yep, "Pounds are Squirtin' Out" (for sure a water leak). You need to go to Smith's; you need PSI's. That of course would be, "Pounds Stayin' In". It's a spring Bass Lake tradition, broken water pipes are found and repaired; sometimes even a broken pump will be found. Broken pipes and broken pumps always bring unhappiness. However, it is the PSO stories that become part of Bass Lake history. Ask any "Old Timer" if they have any memorable PSO stories. I know one fellow who broke his pump three years in a row. PSI stories are seldom remembered; PSO stories are.

BLPOA stuff: Plans are to have the May 16th Membership Drive and Sheriff's Golf Cart Inspections as scheduled. Going forward, the BLPOA intends to return to business as usual as soon as possible. In the short run it will be, social distancing, staying home if you feel ill and wearing masks in crowds. Other than that, we are hoping for "normal". May 4 marked Indiana reopening Stage 2. Stage 4 will come on June 13th with bars reopening. The \$75 K at the VFW should be back in play. Those with any symptoms will hopefully have the good sense to stay out of public places.



Face masks also came in handy during the Spanish Influenza of 1918!

Around the lake: The Shore Club is becoming The Harbour House. Renovations are in progress inside, outside a new deck, a new color and word has it a new pier will appear. Again we may be able to dock our boats in front of an open restaurant.

Gull point has its two red buoys out. Cedar Point has all four green ones out. Cedar's north-west buoy installation was delayed as ice had drug its ice buoy "out to sea". With the ice buoy top only barely above the water line and its chain and anchor tight to lake bottom, some ingenuity finally drug it back to the bar where its green buoy was installed. Maybe this buoy's anchor should be an auger; definitely a warm water job. Is lake aquatic vegetation bad? Sightings through the clear water of our full lake say it is. My neighbor Don and I each bought 20 pounds of Hydrothol Granular to treat our allowed 625 square feet of aquatic stuff. For \$112, Aquatic Control in Valpo sells enough Hydro for three treatments. Indiana's Stage 5 total reopening is scheduled for July 4th. My hope is, the reopening goes as well as possible on our path to "normal". Normal would be life as it was during the many wonderful Bass Lake summers of yesteryear. **Stay safe & healthy, Rick**

Property Owners Association—Saturday, June 6 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, June 8 at 6:00 p.m., BLPOA building

Constellation of Starke—We will receive \$333,000 for being a finalist in the 2019 Regional Stellar Communities Program. After analyzing the results from a recent survey, it was discovered that 60% of the 270 respondents wanted to see available funding spent on physical projects, as originally intended, rather than COVID-19 response efforts. During an Online Community Outreach Event on May 7th, information was provided about a multi-phase, county-wide improvement project. It is being developed based on past public input and the Regional Development Plan created during the Stellar process last year. The Facebook Live event was streamed to the [Constellation of Starke Facebook Page](#) and is now available for viewing through FB Messenger. Send an email to constellationofstarke@gmail.com with questions. Note that significant improvements are planned for the Bass Lake Beach!

Bass Lake History—Ora School

The Ora school was built in 1902 at a cost of \$4,000. In its early years it offered 3 years of high school up through 1931, but later offered elementary education up through the 8th grade. This former school building is one of a handful of school buildings still standing a century later. In 1961, Ora students were consolidated into the Culver School System.



The town of Ora, which had a population of 300 in 1915, was originally platted in 1882 when the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad (Erie) was built through Ora, Aldine, North Judson and Lomax. In days gone by, Ora had as many as 3 grocery stores, 2 churches, a drug store, a cheese factory, a pickle factory, an ice cream parlor, a newspaper, 3 saloons, 2 dance halls, 2 doctors and a post office (which exists to this day). *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*

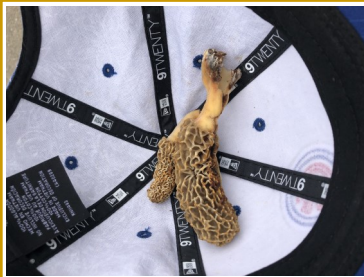
Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President ~ Rick Anderson
 Vice President ~ Mary Topelian
 Treasurer ~A. J. Gappa
 Secretary ~ Kathy Laiter

- Board Members
- Zac Binkley
 - John Bucher
 - Terry Chmiel
 - Rich Linkus
 - Rik Ritzler
 - Gayle Smith
 - Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:

www.inbasslake.com



'Tis the season in Indiana for morel mushrooms. If you see people walking around dead elm trees along the Erie Trail, they are finding this spring treasure!

BLPOA Pizza Party—This hugely popular event was scheduled for May 16... and it has been cancelled due to COVID-19. We'll get together over pizza next year!

Buoy Questions? Contact our Buoymaster Gary Laiter at (773) 750-4049.

Veterans' Memorial Dedication—The new Starke County Veterans' Memorial Plaza will be dedicated on Memorial Day at 4:00 p.m. in Knox on the Courthouse lawn. Face masks are strongly recommended.



Whoa! What is happening with The Shore Club on the north side of the lake? Under new ownership, this restaurant will be called The Harbour House and will open in early July.

Golf Cart Inspections and BLPOA Membership Sign-Up—Mark your calendars now for the golf cart inspection and BLPOA membership drive: May 16, May 30, June 20 from 9:00—noon at the BLPOA building. Note that Boa Shores also has golf cart inspections scheduled for May 23 and June 13, for a total of five golf cart inspections at Bass Lake!

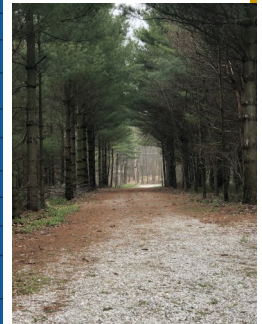
BLPOA Directory—Note that as you complete your membership form, it helps our volunteers if you write clearly and legibly. Also note that the name you put on your form is the name that goes into the directory. So, think about how you want your name listed in the directory as you complete your membership form and pay your fees.

Safe Boating Class—This one-day course is conducted annually by the DNR. Join us on June 20 at the BLPOA building. Contact Terry Chmiel at etowncopper50@aol.com with questions. Note that we are checking with the Conservation Officer to see if the class is still on.

INDIANA'S #BACKONTRACK PLAN					
PEOPLE WHO ARE HIGH RISK, INCLUDING THOSE AGE 65 AND OLDER, SHOULD REMAIN ISOLATED THROUGH MAY 24TH, AND CAUTIOUSLY SOCIAL DISTANCE THROUGH JULY 4TH					
	MAR 23	MAY 4	MAY 23-24	JUNE 13-14	JULY 4
Restaurants	■■■■■	May 11 ■■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■
Retail Stores	■■■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■
Salons, Tattoo Shops, etc.	■■■■■	May 11: Open by Appointment	Appointment Only	Appointment Only	■■■
Nursing Homes	■■■■■	■■■■■	Future guidance will depend on rate of COVID-19 cases		
Office Environments	■■■■■	Remote work recommended	Remote work recommended	■■■	■■■
Manufacturing & Construction	■■■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■
Religious Services	■■■■■	May 8 ■■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■
Social Gatherings	10 people or less	25 people or less	100 people or less	250 people or less	250+
BMV	■■■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■
Travel	■■■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■
Gyms	■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■	■■■	■■■
Bars, Clubs & Entertainment	■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■■■	■■■	■■■
Facial Coverings	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	Optional	Optional

KEY: ■■■■■ Closed/Virtual ■■■■ Pick Up/Delivery Only ■■■■ Essential Only ■■■■ 50% Capacity ■■■■ 75% Capacity ■■■■ Fully Open w/Social Distancing

For real time updates visit www.cityoffortwayne.org/covid-19



This beautiful forest is the Starke County Forest, located at Division Road between 1025 and 1100 East. Visitors are welcome!

Calling All Artists and Crafters, Vintage, Antiques—Sell your products at our lake art fairs which feature local crafters and artists:

July 25 Bass Lake Festival Lakeside Market 9:00 a.m. —6:00 p.m., call Nancy (219) 488-6747

December 5 Christmas Marketplace 9:00 a.m. —3:00 p.m., register at basslakefest.com

Bass Lake Conservancy District News — Monthly meetings will resume, and social distancing will be observed. Attendance will require face masks/coverings. Based on the **Indiana Back on Track Plan**, the BLCD office will be staffed, but the facility will not be open to the public until Stage 4 begins June 13-14. If you have any questions, please call the Bass Lake Conservancy District at 574-772-2974. Or email the staff at info@blcd-ind.org. They are available Monday – Friday 9:00AM – 12:00PM For emergencies only, call 574-806-1707. Rainfall for April was 3.45 inches. Total for the year was 11.95 inches. Submitted by Larry Collura – Vice Chairman BLCD

Spring Flooding at Bass Lake—Overflowing streams sweep away whatever is in their paths, including dirt, dead leaves, rocks and fallen branches. If the flooding reaches lawns or fields, it will also pick up bacteria, oils, nutrients and other substances. These substances enter the waterway and are carried into Bass Lake. Once there, the fish, underwater plants and microorganisms are often negatively affected by the sudden addition of harmful substances. One cause of blue-green algae, for instance, is phosphorus, a nutrient found in fertilizer that can get washed into lakes during times of flooding. Lakes that receive polluted water may also see a decrease in fish life.

You can prepare today to preserve the health of your lake! Use nontoxic household products and properly dispose of hazardous household waste, such as electronics. Recycle used motor oil and maintain your car to keep oil, coolant, antifreeze or other chemicals from leaking onto the ground. Use only the fertilizer that your lawn needs by using phosphorus-free fertilizer applied at a rate based on soil testing. When another storm comes, the substances swept from your property will be much less harmful to Bass Lake. *By Dr. Nate Bosch from the Lilly Center for Lakes and Streams* Note that the full educational article about lake flooding is on the BLPOA website, under the Healthy Shoreline tab!

Cleaning and Disinfecting Golf Carts and Bicycles—A great summary of how to disinfect your golf carts and bicycles was developed by volunteer Larry Collura. Copies will be available at golf cart inspections and the BLPOA Membership Drives.