

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

October arrived with a lake level about 15 inches under the "Top of Dam" mark. Some might remember last year when over four inches of rain fell the last weekend of September and the lake rose - not this year. Our pump continues to pump. Between our pump, snow and spring rains, hopefully Bass Lake will be full by the start of the 2021 season. Our pump has a history of bringing back level in the off season. Since its 1964 installation, off season pumping has almost always been able to restore level for the upcoming spring. The waters remain as clear as I've ever seen them this time of year with many, many weeds. Many, maybe most, of those weeds are Eurasian Milfoil waiting for 2021 treatment. Most boats are out and piers are stacked on shore. One thing about a low lake at the end of season, stuff comes out early and weightlifters avoid freezing water. Remember to tell those weightlifters to do a good job when stacking so piers look spiffy for fall and winter sight-seers.

October 4 Property Owners Meeting (the last of 2020): Including our Board, I counted 33 masked property owners. August accounts are at \$263K up from \$228K last August. Plans for the 2021 Directory are in place headed up again by Mary Topelian, Ron Vendl and Kathy Laiter. The building winter snow removal contract is being finalized. The Board approved \$730 for changes to the building's outside garden; it will be made smaller focusing on beauty and less maintenance. The old faded "Welcome to Bass Lake" signs on Toto Road and near the Pub will be replaced with new reflective signs at a cost of \$2,436. A separate project will be initiated for a welcome sign at the new three way stop at 600 South and CR 210 East. Kathy Carrier gave a Glacial Stone Grant update; about one quarter of the funds have been spent. Efforts will be made to finish the job early next year. Work continue with the Park Board and Starke County Commissioners to finish the beach glacial stone project. Mary Topelian is still planning a December Christmas Marketplace event. Other potential events utilizing our building, like weekly bean bags & games, were discussed. Until further notice, our building will remain closed for outside rentals. The building exterior has been power washed and painting is in progress. After painting, a large Bass Lake history mural painted by a local artist is under consideration. Gary Laiter gave the Buoy report and approval was given for the purchase of buoys, ice buoys and parts. Ron Vendl gave the Neighborhood Watch report; there were 42 reported incidents last month. Mary Topelian has taken over as our Republic Contract Coordinator. Larry Collura gave the Conservancy District report. 2020 rainfall is well below average and our pump was started mid-May. It will continue to run until the end of October. Even the DNR requested to keep it running. The Conservancy District has an email distribution list so they can contact homeowners in the event of an emergency. Please contact them to get on their distribution list.

In spite of COVID19 your BLPOA accomplish much this 2020. I sincerely thank everyone who has helped. The Great American Game is at \$135K with 33 numbers left. 2021 weed treatment awaits DNR approval. Fall is here, leaves are tuning and falling and burning is about to begin. *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

Buoy Questions? It's time to take your buoys out! If you have questions contact our Buoy master Gary Laiter at (773) 750-4049. The good news is that the low water allowed us to mark rocks with new buoys; the bad news is that our lake was really shallow this fall given the rain (or lack of rain!)

Game Days at BLPOA Building? If you would be interested in joining a weekly game day at the BLPOA building this winter, contact Rick Anderson, barefoot@mchsi.com. Corn hole, board games or ping pong?

Property Owners Association—Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m., BLPOA Building

Exercise Class: M—W—F at 8:00 a.m. BLPOA Bldg.

Prairie Trails Club—The next meeting of the PTC Membership is scheduled for October 29 at 6:00 p.m., CDT (7:00 p.m., EDT) in the BLPOA Building. They will practice social distancing, and with the meeting indoors, please wear a mask.



Pictured to the left is the old Fishburn's Marina. Thanks to Jane Anderson for this picture of Bass Lake in the past! We welcome your Bass Lake pictures. Send them to: Kcarrier@brijlent.com.

Mysterious Bass Lake—Bass Lake, believe it or not, is a natural lake that stands on top of a hill. Nearly unique among Indiana lakes, its drainage basin slopes away—not toward—the water. It is Indiana's third largest natural body of water and covers more than 1,400 acres. (Lake Wawasee is our largest natural lake, followed by Lake Maxinkuckee.)

Bass Lake is peculiar among large Indiana lakes because of its shallowness and its long, sandy beaches. At many points, it is possible to walk long distances from shore before reaching deep water. Although the lake's maximum depth, as measured in an early geological survey, was 32 feet, the average was less than nine. Springs that discharge under the surface and a few flowing wells maintain the lake level, which is further guaranteed by an outlet dam set at an altitude determined by the Starke County Circuit Court. Since the lake lies on top of a sand ridge, its drainage basin extends only a maximum of a few hundred yards and even this is limited by diversion of two ditches that formerly flowed into the lake. Fish life in Bass Lake is as unusual as its geography. It is the only Indiana lake that has provided reasonably good fishing for walleyed pike over a long period of years and one of the few in the state in which white bass are numerous enough to afford regular fishing. Large and small mouth bass, crappies, bluegills and perch are other important game fish. *Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society* Note: With this issue, we are reprinting articles previously published in Catch & Release.

Bass Lake Property Owners Association

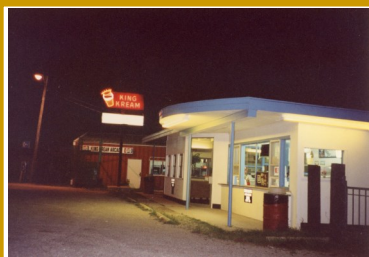
President ~ Rick Anderson
Vice President ~ Mary Topelian
Treasurer ~A. J. Gappa
Secretary ~ Kathy Laiter

Board Members

- Terry Chmiel
- Mary Jesso
- Rich Linkus
- Rik Ritzler
- Gayle Smith
- Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:

www.inbasslake.com



Across from the current Fingerhut used to be a King Kream. If you have historical pictures we can include in this newsletter, please send them to kcarrier@briljent.com.

Nearby Kayaking and Canoeing—

In August, the Starke County Park Board employed Jones Petrie Rafinski to conduct a feasibility study with respect to improved access for kayaking and canoeing on the Yellow River in Starke County. The firm made its preliminary report to the Park Board in September, indicating that new or improved access sites are under consideration in Knox and upstream to Marshall County. There was also discussion of DNR's Yellow River access site at English Lake, just a few feet upstream from confluence with the Kankakee River. If you'd like to weigh in on these ideas, contact Park Board member Rik Ritzler, sritzler@co.starke.in.us.

BLCD Needs Your Email Address

Why does the BLCD need your email address? The BLCD has an email server to deliver timely information concerning conservancy news and information. Examples include: storm damage, spraying of lake and shoreline weeds, lake pump outage/maintenance and public notices. Email addresses are confidential and not shared, sold or published. Please send current email address to: info@blcd-ind.org

Call (574) 772-2974 with questions.

First Annual BLPOA ~ Bass Lake Festival Christmas Marketplace

December 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the BLPOA Building
Plan to attend and do a little holiday shopping. Note that booth space is sold out so there will be lots of craft and vintage booths to enjoy. Questions? Contact Mary Topelian, mjtopelian@att.net.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) - Rainfall for September was 1.03 inches. Total for the year is 23.53 inches. It is well below our average rainfall of 38.79 inches. Normally the lake pump is shut down around the end of October. Given the lack of rain, the Board has agreed to run pump longer – or until the lake begins to freeze. Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. CST at the BLPOA building. **Face masks are required.** If you should have any questions/concerns, please call the BLCD office at 574 772-2974 or email us at info@blcd-ind.org. Submitted by *Larry Collura – Vice Chairman BLCD*

DNR Seeking Information on Recent Accident—A fatal UTV accident occurred on September 20 on the “s” curve north of the Bass Lake Beach on State Road 10. The accident occurred around 5:30—6:00 p.m. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has requested information from anyone who may have seen the accident or helped out at the scene. The DNR has jurisdiction of off-road vehicles. Any help and information would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the DNR at (812) 837-9536 if you have information.

BLPOA Building Rental Closed—The BLPOA building will be closed for private party rentals this winter due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Accident Summary—At the Oct. 3 BLPOA meeting, Board member Rik Ritzler summarized accident data since 2008 for Bass Lake roads. There have been four fatal accidents, all on curves. Most accidents occurred in clear weather when it was light out. Of the 116 accidents that happened since 2008, only 6 involved alcohol and 23 were deer related. Tip: Many believe the best way to avoid hitting a deer is to drive the speed limit or slower! Others use inexpensive deer whistles mounted to car bumpers.

LARE Grant Update—In 2019 Bass Lake was awarded \$35,000 from the Indiana DNR to invest in glacial stone seawall projects. We have 44 property owners completing projects; these funds must be spent by 12/31/21. Nearly 75% of our funds remain to be spent next summer! Funds will be invested on a first come-first served basis with the 44 homeowners who previously applied. If you have questions, contact Rick Anderson, barefoot@mchsi.com or kcarrier@briljent.com.

Mural Coming to Bass Lake—If you've been to North Judson or Knox, you've seen new outdoor murals. We are likely to have a mural on our BLPOA building, created by well known Starke County native, Anthony Brooks. Google him and you'll be impressed. Stay tuned for updates about our mural which will feature local lore.



The BLPOA is updating the welcome signs around the lake. Above is our new sign, paid for by your BLPOA dues.

When Your Lake Goes to the Fair: Fall Turnover

By Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams

If you observe Bass Lake on a calm late-summer or early-autumn weekday, when most boats are not out on the water, you might be able to see further into the lake than you are used to. This is partly due to a seasonal phenomenon called **fall turnover**.

During the summer months, lakes separate into two distinct layers: The warm, upper layer called the “epilimnion” and the cold, bottom layer called the “hypolimnion.” But during autumn, as the air temperature drops, the upper layer of a lake's water cools until it approaches the same temperature as the bottom water layer. As a result, a difference in water density between the two layers no longer exists. When wind blows across the surface of the lake, water near the surface begins to move with the wind direction. Water will also run up against Bass Lake's shoreline, be forced downward, and begin flowing back along the bottom of the lake. Eventually, this water will run up against the shoreline on the other side of the lake and get forced to the lake surface to complete the cycle, resulting in an “underwater Ferris wheel” of sorts.

This cycling of the lake from top to bottom and back again is called “fall turnover.” And rather than carrying people, this motion carries oxygen from the surface of the lake down to the bottom. This is great for fish and other organisms that live near the bottom of the lake that need dissolved oxygen to breathe, especially during winter. This turnover also cycles some substances from the bottom of the lake to the top. One of these substances is hydrogen sulfide gas, which has the distinctive aroma of rotten eggs. (You might have noticed this smell already!) Fall turnover is a natural and healthy process for Bass Lake. The lake is simply getting ready for winter! To learn more about lake layers, food chains and specific organisms (and about specific ways you can help Bass Lake stay healthy) visit lakes.grace.edu or call 574-372-5100, ext. 6445.