

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 7 NO. 12

DECEMBER 2020 — BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Into the night on November 30th the first fall snow fell on Bass Lake. While melting on pavement, it totaled about two inches on the lawns, decks and piers. The morning of December 1st, with my small snow shovel, I pushed what hadn't melted off my deck and stairs. This was my first December snow push with snow covered piers still out in the lake. Here are the stats: About a dozen piers were still in, the lake level was up one inch from early November (currently minus 18 inches.) The lake water temperature was thirty-two degrees. The water is still clear with plenty of geese swimming about and eating the thriving aquatic vegetation; a few muskrats are enjoying the vegetation too. Also, where have all the seagulls come from?

After the first snow, have you looked to see how pier tarping has been done? Some folks just don't know how to tarp. Signs of poor tarping include tarps that look like flags blowing in the wind; those are soon to be gone tarps. On the other hand, some know about securing tarps and theirs remain perfectly in place. Some good tarp techniques include use of the smallest tarp adequate and c-clamps; c-clamps are effective.

In December, you have to think about Christmas. When Christmas arrives, the days are short so Christmas lights viewing is best. Take a ride and see for yourself. A great Christmas gift will be saying good-bye to COVID and 2020. I'm not blaming 2020, it was COVID that closed the taverns and restaurants only to allow them open again at reduced capacity. Even the Great American game was suspended. There has been no winner in 2020 with the jackpot currently about \$189,000. The game was just suspended again until sometime in 2021.

Looking back, in December of 2012 the lake was minus 16 inches and returned to full in the spring. Then through 2020, the lowest December level recorded was minus 7 inches in 2017. That's how it was; since 2012, every spring began with the lake full. The lake pump is still on and pumping. Even so, another pump would help 2021's chances. See "Potential Solar Farm Near the Lake" on the next page. Redirecting unused irrigation water could bring two to three times as much water into our lake as our existing pump. Who would be against that? *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

Erie Trail Extension—Construction plans are currently under review by the Prairie Trails Club for the 2.1 mile extension of our local bike trail. This would continue the trail 2.1 miles on the east side of U.S. 35, south of Bass Lake, continuing southeast to CR 700E. Construction of the trail is expected to happen in 2021. Hats off to the Prairie Trails Club for continuing their efforts to expand and improve our trail!

Oppo Ski Club Video—Paste the link below into your browser and you'll find a delightful 3-minute video of our Oppo Ski Club in the 1950's. The orange bathing suits make it worth watching. Thanks to Dave Odum for submitting this!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHvnuFWPAG>

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

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, January 11 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 January 11 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) by videoconference.



Bass Lake's water level is improving, though there are still sandy shores where there once was water. We need a wet winter to replenish our water level. Anyone know how to do a rain/snow dance? This is a photo of the Bass Lake Beach, taken on Dec. 13.



Bass Hotel

This photo of the original Bass Hotel at Bass Lake was probably taken in the late 1890's.

This was before any sort of road had been built along the west side of the lake. Most guests arrived by row boats that met a larger steam powered boat farther out on the lake.

The Bass Hotel was owned by Robert Rannells and located where 500 S intersects 210. The original hotel as seen in this picture was more like a bed and breakfast, but it was expanded with additional sleeping and dining rooms.

When it burned down in 1909, a new larger hotel was built with three floors. It offered entertainment and dancing every Saturday night. An advertisement said chicken, fish, and frog leg dinners were their specialty. F. J. "Parkie" Gilmore ran the hotel during the 1930's. It too burned down sometime before 1940.

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

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

Board member contact information is on our website:

www.inbasslake.com

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.



Here is our Cardboard Boat Race from the 2017 Bass Lake Festival. Hopefully our 2021 Festival will happen!

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@brijlent.com.

Potential Solar Farm Near the Lake

By: Rick Anderson, approved by BLPOA Board

A potential solar farm near Bass Lake is in the planning stages. A rezoning request from residential to agriculture of two properties about a half mile from the lake is included as part of the project. If rezoning is not approved the properties will not be part of the project. These properties total about 500 acres and are shown on the WKVI website by doing a "solar farm" search. In any case, work will proceed with the engineering and permitting required to request approval from Starke County for a Starke County Solar Farm. The proposed total project will include about 3000 acres and is intended to produce 400 megawatts of power.

To make "A Near Bass Lake Solar Farm" a reality, and gain community support, the project would consider the redirection of current irrigation water from the proposed solar farm location into Bass Lake. If conversion from farming to solar were to take place, irrigation wells will become unused and available. These wells have a combined pumping capacity of two to three times our existing lake pump.

Would individual property owners support the solar farm and the redirection of water into Bass Lake? Individual property owners can contact Commissioners or can attend Commissioner's meetings. Commissioner contact information is available on the Starke County website. Would the BLPOA support a proposal like that? At this time, the BLPOA is neither for nor against and would like more information.

The Starke County Commissioner's have moved the rezoning request agenda item to their January 18th meeting. The company proposing the solar farm is Global Energy Generation. Information about the company can be found on their website:

www.gegrenewables.com

More information will be forthcoming.
Rick Anderson, BLPOA President



This is an example of a solar farm; source of the photo is from the Global Energy Generation website. They are the company that has proposed the solar farm that would be located on farmland east of the Bass Lake Campground.

Neighborhood Watch Program

This BLPOA Neighborhood Watch program concludes another successful year. Each month, trained volunteers patrol the lake several times a week. Winter months are especially important for this program since many of our lake homes are not occupied. Note that we periodically hire off duty Sheriff's Department personnel to patrol the lake. This will be the case on New Year's Eve. If you have questions about the program or would like to thank our program chair, contact Ron Vendl, vendlr@yahoo.com. Thanks to the following volunteers who helped with the program in 2020: Diane and Russ Blais, Carol Blastic, Kathy Carrier, Donna DeMaria, Bill & Grace Hehemann, Kathy Linkus, Al & Freda Mihic and Rick Vlaming. Thanks also to Ron Lawson and the Starke County Sheriff's Department for their support of this important program.

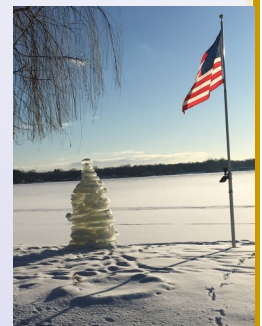
Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD)

1.81 inches of rainfall was recorded for November. Total rainfall for the year sits at 28.03 inches - currently making it the second lowest precipitation year since the BLCD began recording measurements in 2003. To date the least precipitation year was 2012 - total amount was 25.78 inches. The pump is still operating until the lake starts a hard freeze. Need additional information about the low lake level? You are welcome to attend our meetings or contact us.

Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, January 11, 2021 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.

*Hope your holidays are graced
with beauty, peace, and joy.*

*The Boards of the
Bass Lake Property Owners Association
and the Bass Lake Conservancy District*



This Bass Lake ice sculpture was built in 2018 by Kaden McDaniel and his father. They cut sections of the lake to build it!