

# CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 9 NO. 1

JANUARY 2022—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

January 1, 2022, I measured the unfrozen lake level minus six; an 11 inch rise from January 1, 2021. As is lake level, gas prices are up in Knox, I read \$3.20 per gallon on a Knox gas sign; not \$3.19.9. That's up about a buck from January 2021. Figure on a little more to run your boat this summer. Anyone remember the .9? Remember when gas stations dropped the .9? It was when the gas signs became too small for all the numbers. Some know; maybe you are one of them. The .9 was not dropped by all. Checking my receipt, the gas price was actually \$3.199. Because of digital technology, we are still getting the welcome price break of old. I am really ready for 2022 and am hoping for a full lake and the end of COVID. I always look forward to January, the new year, longer daylight and the beginning of a new season. Maybe you received some lake gifts for Christmas that you are ready to try out. If not, go buy some lake stuff.

The first 2022 Property Owners meeting is scheduled for February 5. As usual, discussion items will be the Directory, the Annual Letter, Membership Form, Committee reports and plans/possibilities for 2022. The By-Laws Committee have recommendation for changes to our election procedures. Those changes will be reviewed. For those interested, a lease agreement for a second pump is being finalized.

Around the lake, Sporty'z is now the Woodshed Tap according to John & Joan, it is scheduled for a "soft opening" on Wednesday January 12. Jerry told me his dad built the original building for Jack. I think Jack called it "Jaxx". Since then, the building has had additions, remodels and name changes over the years. I think I recall "Club Capri", "Sportsman's Hideaway" & Sporty'z. I look forward to the new opening. John said Jerry's dad also built the SOS next door. I think an open SOS is somewhere in Bass Lake's future. The Harbour House, The Pub and The Honey Hole along with Scoops & Smiles & Double D's remain open awaiting the 2022 season. If you go to Smith's Farm Store you will find it seems bigger inside because it is. All await your business.

Update: the lake froze over on January 6 at a level of about minus five inches. Freezing at that level should not damage the shoreline much. On January 7, my thermometer read seven and shortly thereafter ice fishermen were appearing. Ice fishing must be fun; I haven't seen any ice skaters yet. At the "V", besides adding Aurelio's pizza to the menu, the Great American game has grown to \$481K. The next drawing will be January 15th. Lastly, "One Way" said "the 2021 Easter egg is expected to be joined in the lake by the 2022 Easter Egg". Stay safe and healthy, Rick

**Woodshed Tap**—Located at 3498 S. County Road 210 (in the former Sporty'z building), this new restaurant is now open! It is locally owned and inspired by the love of Bass Lake and the surrounding community. The menu is online, [www.woodshedtap.com](http://www.woodshedtap.com), (574) 772-2422.

**Prairie Trails Club**—Now that the Southeast Trail Extension is complete (three cheers for this success!), preliminary discussion has begun on a northwest trail extension. This bike trail extension could run from Main Street in North Judson to State Road 8 in LaCrosse. If you are interested in learning more, a summary of the discussion is included in the minutes of the December meeting. Go to [www.prairietrailsclub.org](http://www.prairietrailsclub.org). Direct questions or comments may be directed to Steve Lucas at (317)



This photo taken by Larry Wickert features riders from several different communities in northwest Indiana who appreciate our local trail!

**Property Owners Association—Saturday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA Building**

**Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:** Monday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building, no first quarter meetings

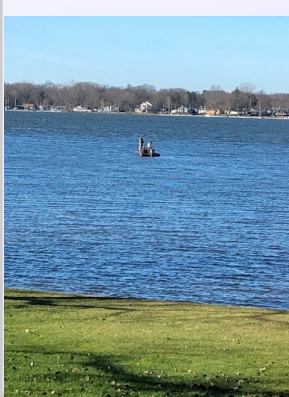
**Exercise Class**—At the BLPOA Building each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00 a.m.

**Prairie Trails Club**—The next Membership meeting is Tuesday, February 22 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) in North Judson, location to be determined.

**Bass Lake Conservancy District:** (sewers, pump & lake weeds) February 14, 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

**Starke County Park Board (our Beach & Campground):** February 8 at 6:00 p.m., Starke County Annex

**May Pizza Party**—One of our popular events is a "Taste of Bass Lake Pizza" which happens in May, as lake season begins. The planning committee of this 3-hour event is ready to hand it off to another team for 2022. Who would like to volunteer to coordinate this? We need a few families to take the helm and lead it. If you are willing to do this, we will train you fully! Contact Rick Anderson, [barefootrun@mchsi.com](mailto:barefootrun@mchsi.com).



**New Member Welcome Folders**—If you know anyone who is new to our Bass Lake community, we have a spiffy and updated welcome packet. Send all interested people to Mary Jesso, [mary@jessolution.com](mailto:mary@jessolution.com).

**Wakeboarding Bill Before the Indiana Senate**—There is a wakeboarding and wake surfing bill under consideration by the Indiana legislature; the vote is scheduled for January 20. The bill offers an approach to the safety concerns and ecological damage caused by some wakeboats. For more information, contact Lyn Crighton from The Watershed Foundation, [executive@watershedfoundation.org](mailto:executive@watershedfoundation.org).

**Photo Kudos**—Catch & Release photographer Grace Hehemann submitted the photo to the left of the hard, dedicated Bass Lake fishermen. The photo was taken on December 13, 2021. Thanks to Grace who submits fantastic photos regularly!

## Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President ~ Rick Anderson  
Vice President ~ Position open  
Treasurer ~A. J. Gappa  
Secretary ~ Kathy Laiter

### Board Members

- Tom Busch
- Terry Chmiel
- Mary Jesso
- Rich Linkus
- Rik Ritzler
- Val Williams
- Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:

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



**BLPOA Meeting Minutes**— Our minutes, prepared by our Secretary Kathy Laiter, are posted on the BLPOA website, [www.inbasslake.com](http://www.inbasslake.com).

**BLPOA Building Rentals** —If you are looking for space for a party or family reunion, the well maintained BLPOA building can be rented by members for \$125. Contact Rich Linkus for details, [linkus1@hotmail.com](mailto:linkus1@hotmail.com). Note that not-for-profits can use the building at no cost.

**Second Lake Pump**—The results of the second pump BLPOA survey were 268 for and 64 against (approximately 40% of total membership voted.) We appreciate everyone that responded. This will be on the agenda for our February 5 property owners' meeting. Doral Group Renewable Energy is interested in moving this project forward.

**Lake Shoreline Erosion Control**—Does your shoreline have soil erosion? Continual erosion can result in the loss of land and increased sediment in the water. Learn more about the different types of common erosion control methods through a paper recently published by the Indiana Lakes Management Society. Kathy Carrier can send it to you: email [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com).

**Chair Yoga and Bingo**—The Starke County Community Center, located at 311 E. Culver Road in Knox, holds bingo events and chair yoga on a weekly basis. All activities are \$1 if not a member. What a winter doldrum deal!

**Bass Lake Conservancy District** - December rainfall was 2.90 inches - for a total of 43.61 inches for 2021. That exceeds the average rainfall (38.29 inches) by more than 5 inches - raising the average rainfall (2003-2021) to 38.57 inches. The BLCD pump added 34 million gallons to the lake. The total water pumped for 2021 was 356 million gallons. The pump will remain operational until the lake freezes. Both rainfall and lake pump charts are available on our website - [WWW.BLCD-IND.ORG](http://WWW.BLCD-IND.ORG) On the Home Page, Click on Rainfall Totals and Lake Pump.

The next meeting of the BLCD will be Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at the BLPOA building. Meetings start promptly at 6:00PM (CST). **Social distancing and face masks will remain in effect.** Submitted by *Larry Collura – Vice Chairman BLCD*

### Here's a 2-Minute Crash-Course in Lake-Effect Winter Weather

By Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams, [boschns@grace.edu](mailto:boschns@grace.edu).

Drifting, swirling, clumping, dusting. Heavy-as-lead to shovel en masse, yet delicate enough to melt under your breath. Snow. Let's return to elementary school science class for a moment! Snow forms from water vapor high in the clouds. If the clouds get cold enough (at or below 32° F) the water vapor freezes and creates tiny, lacy crystals. The shapes they create depend on the temperature and moisture of the clouds. If they are heavy enough, the crystals detach from the clouds and drift towards earth, clumping as they go. If the ground temperature is at or below freezing, the snow will stick around. Any warmer, and it will melt almost immediately. Interestingly, snow cannot form in very dry climates – no matter how cold they may be. Moisture in the form of water vapor is essential for snow. Northern Indiana has already been teased with a couple inches of short-lived white stuff. Later this winter, we will undoubtedly receive much more, as will the surrounding area! But how does lake-effect snow work? First, the upper atmosphere grows colder while the air closer to the ground stays warm. That temperature difference creates moisture. Second, very cold, dry winter air streams quickly across an unfrozen body of water. The air warms and becomes both more humid and less dense. It rises and cools, creating the perfect conditions for snow-laden clouds. Third, land typography influences the amount of snow that falls. Hills and higher lands on the down-wind side of a lake force the warm air upward, leading to even more snow. In northern Indiana, we experience a small lake-effect besides any weather that reaches us from the Great Lakes. We can expect some lake-effect snow this winter! (And as it falls, take time to observe individual, crystalized flakes before they vanish.) This is one of many natural phenomena brought about by local lakes, including Bass Lake. It is worth exploring all the others! Learn more about the Lilly Center and our lake research at [lakes.grace.edu](http://lakes.grace.edu)

**Bass Lake Beach and Campground**—Marc Vendl, Starke County Parks Director resigned last week, leaving the position open. If you are interested in applying, the position is posted on the Starke County website. The Park Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. CST. They are working on a 5-year plan for the Beach and Campground and other county park areas. If you have questions about specific plans for the Bass Lake property, contact a Park Board member. Their contact information is on the Starke County website. You can also message the Park Board from the Facebook page.

**Purdue Master Gardener Basic Training Set**—A Purdue Master Gardener Basic Training will be offered to Starke and Pulaski County residents on February 10 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM CST. The program will be offered at the Extension Offices in Knox and Winamac.

The Purdue Master Gardener program is designed to train volunteers to assist with horticultural education programs for Purdue Extension. Participants enter a specially designed training program in home horticulture. Upon completion of the training program, they are identified as Master Gardener interns. At that time, the volunteers are expected to extend the information in the areas of gardening and horticulture under the guidance of Purdue Extension to become certified Master Gardeners. The Purdue Master Gardener basic training program will consist of 14 sessions. Topics covered are Soils and Plant Nutrition, Plant Science, Plant Disease Diagnosis, Insect Identification and Control, Weed Identification and Control, Ornamentals in the Landscape, Gardening for Wildlife, Lawn Care, Plant Propagation, Annuals and Perennials, and Pesticide Safety and Alternatives, and Fruits. Purdue Extension Specialists, and Extension Educators, will serve as instructors. The cost of the program is \$150, which includes a manual and all materials.

Persons interested in registration information for the Master Gardener Program can visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p8srphv> or contact Purdue Extension Starke County at 574-772-9141 or Purdue Extension Pulaski County at 574-946-3412. Cost is \$150.

### Brydon's Beach

Brydon's Beach was located at the south end of Bass Lake to the west of the marina. The main attraction was a huge carousel. There was also a Ferris Wheel, which can be seen to the right of the picture.



Farther back was an arcade. Its sign says "Pennys on Parade, Free Admission". A shooting gallery was another attraction for summer vacationers. Harry Rannells originally built the amusement park in the 1930's. Earlier this location had been home to the Knickerbocker Ice Company and eventually, this location would become the home of the Crystal Ballroom. The carousel later became "The Round House" and the center of Rannells Park.

Submitted by *Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*