

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

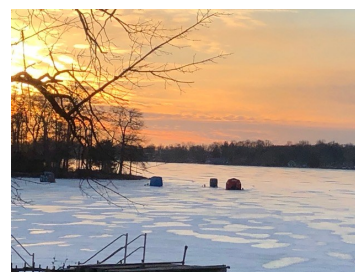
February 1, 2021, Bass Lake's level was minus 17 inches, February 1, 2022, lake level was under a thick cover of snow and ice. My guess is lake level is about minus 4. With the lake freezing on January 6, the pump was shut down. February 8 found the lake with ice about 12 inches thick covered by snow. Ice huts are all over; ice fishing must be good. Ice skaters have been skating, snow mobile traffic has been heavy and even five speeding ice boats have been observed. So far, 2022 has been the winter wonderland. Ice will probably be around well into March and with all the snow on it, I'm hoping much of the invasive aquatic vegetation (weeds) will die. More good news, with the lake as high as it is, chances are good it will be spilling over the dam in the spring.

The February 5 Property Owner (PO) meeting: If you missed it, it was two hour plus of discussion. A "Special Meeting" was approved to be part of the scheduled March 5 PO meeting. The purpose will be to approve BLPOA bylaw election rule changes. We intend to once again have a Pizza Party in May; we are looking for volunteers to help. The 2022 Annual Letter and Membership Forms were approved and will go out by email about February 15; both will go out to all members by US mail the end of March. The Starke County Park Board will have a working meeting on March 8 to develop their Five Year Plan. The public is encouraged to participate. A "Terms Sheet" (TS) from Doral Renewables LLC on the second pump proposal was read. The document had places for both Doral and the BLPOA to sign. Signing by Doral would reaffirm their commitment to install and make operational a second lake pump similar to the existing pump. Signing by the BLPOA would result in a BLPOA obligation to negotiate in "good faith" for an agreement approved by both parties for the BLPOA to eventually take ownership of the second pump. After discussion, the BLPOA board decided additional information (like liability and insurance info) was required before approving. The information desired should be available for review at the March 5 PO meeting. After review, the Doral TS will again be presented to the board for approval. The question was asked. Why would Doral offer to design, install and finance a second pump for the BLPOA? From my years as part of corporate America: Doral seems to have adopted the management philosophy of working with and helping the communities in which they do business. Kathy Carrier gave the Healthy Shoreline update. We have submitted a grant request to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for Lake and River Enhancement funds for additional glacial stone seawalls. Around the lake: The Woodshed Tap has opened joining the other fine eating establishments serving our lake community. In Knox, at the "V", a \$1 donation might win you \$519,467. Donations are not limited to \$1. I think the 2021 Easter Egg is still in the lake waiting to be joined by the 2022 Easter Egg. *Stay safe and healthy, Rick*

Mark Your Calendars:

BLPOA Meetings—March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 9, August 20
BLPOA Membership Sign-Up—Only 2 this year, May 21 and June 11
Golf Cart Inspection—May 21 and June 4
 Membership forms are due by June 30 to avoid garbage termination.

Glacial Stone Seawall Grants—Your BLPOA has again applied for funding from the Indiana DNR to assist property owners with glacial stone seawalls. We applied for a \$93,000 LARE grant which will reface 35 seawalls. If successful, the grant will pay for 80% of each project!



This photo taken by Grace Hehemann features our Bass Lake ice fishing folks "finding Nemo!" Thanks to Grace for providing the photo.

Property Owners Association—Saturday, March 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) March 14, 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

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

Purdue Research at Bass Lake—Scientists Tom Hook (thook@purdue.edu) and Mitchell Zischke (mzischke@purdue.edu) report that they will continue their research at Bass Lake this year. An information board detailing their research will be installed at the Palmer Center for Aquatic Research (behind the Woodshed Tap) and a website will be created. Also, we have pond management workshops on the way!



Goodbye Sportyz, hello Woodshed Tap. Thank you to the owners of Sportyz for serving our lake community well!

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.

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.

Indiana Lakes Management Society—The annual Indiana Lakes Management Conference is on April 7 and 8 in Plymouth. Many of the topics are applicable to Bass Lake property owners. www.indianalakes.org includes the agenda, speakers and registration information.

Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President ~ Rick Anderson
Vice President ~ Rich Linkus
Treasurer ~A. J. Gappa
Secretary ~ Kathy Laiter

Board Members

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

Board member contact information is on our website:

www.inbasslake.com

Special BLPOA Meeting—The 2021 Board election process prompted some concern, which led to a review of our bylaws. A “special meeting” will occur on March 5 to vote on bylaw changes that will modify our election process.

Trailhead Construction Will Begin—Bids are out and construction will be completed late this summer on a wonderful Bass Lake construction project where E CR 210 meets 450 E. The triangle park, near the boat launch, will include restrooms, parking, signage, and landscaping. Overflow parking for the boat launch is also planned. For details contact Rik Ritzler, rik_ritzler@yahoo.com.

Meeting Minutes—Treasurer’s Report
Our minutes, prepared by our Secretary Kathy Laiter, are posted on the BLPOA website, www.inbasslake.com as are the Treasurer’s Report. Our current balance for all accounts is over \$250,000.

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, linkusr1@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 March 5 property owners’ meeting. Doral Group Renewable Energy is interested in moving this project forward. A lively discussion at our February meeting concluded that we’d seek additional legal review and will again call for a Board vote in March.

Starke County Park Director — Applications are welcome for the Starke County Park Director. This position serves all of the local parks, the largest is the Bass Lake Beach and Campground. Contact the Starke County Park Board.

Bass Lake Conservancy District - Rainfall for January was 0.91 inches. That is the lowest amount recorded since the BLCD began recording totals in 2003. Next lowest total (0.93 inches) was recorded in 2011. Average rainfall for Jan is 2.37 inches. The lake pump total for January was 5.8 million gallons. The pump was shut down January 6th due to a hard freeze. Both rainfall and lake pump charts can be viewed on our website – WWW.BLCD-IND.ORG – On the Home Page, Click on Rainfall Totals and Lake Pump.

Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 14 at 6:00 p.m. CST – BLPOA building. Face masks are required. If you should have any questions/concerns – or want to register your email address with us (for our new email service) – please call the BLCD office at 574 772-2974 or email us at info@blcd-ind.org. Submitted by Larry Collura – Vice Chairman BLCD

Bass Lake Beach and Campground—The Park Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. CST. They are in the final stages of a 5-year plan for the Beach and Campground and other county park areas. Public opinion and input is critical because it will impact the future of this lake asset. State funds are available for wide scale improvements at this property. 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.

Lakeside Landscaping and Geese Management Workshop—The Lilly Center for Lakes and Streams is again offering a popular geese management workshop in March. Learn about lake-friendly landscaping and Indiana-DNR approved geese management practices. www.lakes.grace.edu

Hot Garbage News —We receive dozens of phone calls related to our garbage program that can be answered by Republic Services or by reading the final page of our BLPOA directory. The information you need to know about garbage collection is included in this concise, one-page summary in our directory. Highlights: Weekly garbage collection is available to our members for \$110, biweekly recycling for \$120/year. Republic Services provides a container to each member’s home. Garbage is picked up on Mondays. The opening of your garbage can should point toward the street. If you want a second can call (574) 842-4719; you’ll pay \$42 per can per year fee directly to Republic. They will also take one large item per month at no extra charge. Separately, items such as construction debris can be picked up with special arrangements. Call (574) 842-4719. Our curbside recycling program is optional and was implemented several years ago. Pick-up is biweekly on Mondays. If you don’t wish to opt into this program, Starke County has a recycling facility located on 250 North, just off of US 35. We are proud of our recycling program.

Many cities and communities across the country have had a disruption in garbage services related to Covid-related hiring issues. We are grateful for our partnership with Republic Services and appreciate their fine support. We are also grateful to Jane Anderson who has patiently answered questions when folks can just look up the information themselves. All questions about garbage and recycling can be capably answered by the Republic Services team at (574) 842-4719. (Smile: we’ve repeated the Republic Services phone number three times so you get the message that you should call them first!)

Bass Lake Festival—The festival will be held July 29, 30 & 31. Check the festival website for information, www.basslakefest.com. Committees are moving forward with this year’s plans and help is needed. Contact Tabitha Dillner for further information, (219) 314-2030.

Buchta’s Store—Joseph and Pauline Buchta moved to Starke County from Chicago sometime between 1930 and 1935 and purchased the former clubhouse of the old Brabrook Hotel. Both were immigrants from Czechoslovakia. Joseph had been working as a commercial catalog artist in Chicago. The Buchtas proceeded to rent some of the rooms and called it Buchta’s Hotel and Dining Room. Later, son John Buchta called it simply Buchta’s Place and ran it as a general store. Earlier, the clubhouse had been used to entertain hotel guests and had a tavern, card room and billiards. The hotel itself had been built in 1887 by Joe Larimer of Peru, Indiana. It was the very first of several grand hotels to be built at the lake and had 50 rooms. The clubhouse had also been built around 1887 by the Peru Hunting and Fishing Club.



A photo from the 1950’s of Buchta’s Place at Bass Lake.

In 1904, William Brabrook bought the hotel, clubhouse and Cedar Point grounds with 1,000 feet of lake frontage. The Brabrook Hotel thrived, until it burned down in 1913. Mr. Brabrook then decided to sell the property and buy a farm in Jackson Township. The place many of us grew up knowing as Buchta’s had been closed the past several years and was eventually demolished.

Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society



Did you know people ice sail at Bass Lake in January? Our newsletter photographer, Grace Hehemann snapped photos and movies of this icy cold activity.