

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Anticipated "April Showers" were a disappointment; the lake actually dropped in April. Call May 1st lake level minus 14 inches. A lot of piers are in and others are going in anyway. However, it is obvious decisions are being made about boats and especially about boat lifts. This is not the first time Bass Lake has had low water in early spring. All through the 1950's and into the 60's, that's how it was. Call 2021 "back to the fifties". Were those long ago years at Bass Lake fun? Well, people were socializing and there was drinking, there was sunshine, it was not only kids who were swimming, there was fishing, there was boating and there were seven taverns. Back then, the lake had two ski jumps and two slalom courses. They were all used a lot.

May's BLPOA meeting had the Board and 33 Property Owners involved in discussions. DNR Boating Class is scheduled for June 26. The PO Bike Ride is on for July 17 and plans for the September 12 "Bass Lake Loops" are in development. The nomination committee has names of potential candidates for the July BLPOA elections. The membership drive is on schedule. Our new "Welcome to Bass Lake" signs were installed last week. Take a ride and take a look. There were "no takers" to be on a committee for a new "Welcome to Bass Lake" greeting at the 3-way stop at 600 S, E CR210 & S CR 210 intersection. Any ideas for an improved welcome at the 3-way stop "Y"? We will discuss that again at our June meeting. When that same location was the triangle, it featured a "Welcome to Bass Lake" sign with the old Bass Lake steam boat on it. There was also a flagpole at that location. The BLPOA installed that greeting before the turn of the century. I can't hardly believe the "turn of the century" was over 21 years ago. Low lake level and additional pumping was also discussed.

Low lake Level: What about the solar farm and irrigation water to be possibly pumped into the lake? There are no known roadblocks and engineering work continues to be in progress. The BLPOA Irrigation Water Advisory Committee had its first meeting and the committee is following project progress and is ready to help if required. Next year, we may well have additional well water ready to be pump lakeward. At the "V", the \$345,599.00 grand prize is remarkable. I think there are 14 numbers left. While getting tickets, I forgot to ask about the \$100 Easter egg; I need to ask "One-Way" if its still in our Lake. Breaking News: On Mother's Day, May 9th, Bass Lake received almost 2 inches of rain raising lake level to about minus 12 inches. *Stay safe & healthy, Rick*

Big Tree Contest—Join in the fun and find the biggest trees in Starke County. Certificates are awarded to the owners and nominators of each champion tree. To nominate a tree it must be a living tree growing in the county and a native tree species for the county, not an ornamental tree. To submit your entry you need to complete a nomination form. For more information, contact Phil Woolery, from the Purdue Extension office, pwoolery@purdue.edu.

BLPOA Building Rentals Began May 1—If you are looking for space for a party or family reunion, the well maintained BLPOA building can be rented beginning May 1. Contact Rich Linkus for details, linkusr1@hotmail.com.

Indiana University Clean Lakes Program—For the fourth year, Phil Woolery from Purdue will lead our lake water monitoring team, which consists of Phil, Rick Anderson, Rich Linkus and Kathy Carrier. This data will help us with future Healthy Shoreline grant requests. Thanks to Phil for chairing this scientific process.

Property Owners Association—Saturday, June 5 2021 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, June 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, June 14 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 is scheduled for May 20 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) at the BLPOA Building. Masks are required.

Work Group Needed for Intersection—If you are willing to help design the landscaping and "look" for the three-way stop on CR 600 S & CR 210 contact Rick Anderson, barefoot-run@mhsci.com. This area previously had a "welcome to Bass Lake" sign that we'd like to install once again, complete with landscaping.



Here are the new Bass Lake signs, paid for with your BLPOA dues!

Bass Lake Fish Hatchery— The Bass Lake Fish Hatchery was established by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in 1913 at the lake's northeast corner. The hatchery was used to raise fish for stocking lakes all around the state. The ponds were originally dug by hand using shovels and wheelbarrows. Some of the local men hired for this task were: Elmer Hewett, Ray Terry, Tom Cleve, Tom Scott, Roy Connor, Jim Casey, Seth Smith, Harvey Connor, Mel Day, Dick Headley, George Brown and Pete Lavery.

The fish hatchery was updated in 1928 with two fine brick buildings. One was a residence and the other a laboratory. John Hay was one of the superintendents at that time. The buildings were built in the Colonial Revival style and have been recently recognized by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. The property and facilities are now owned by Purdue University. In 2005, the Palmer family donated land and provided financial support to create the Francis W. Palmer Center for Aquatic Resources on the hatchery property. In 2010 the renovation of the Bass Lake hatchery house was completed. *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society and Kathy Carrier*



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
- Open position

Board member contact information is on our website:
www.inbasslake.com

BLPOA Membership Dues

Your 2021 Membership dues which include the directory are due by June 30. Garbage and recycling fees are optional. Please use the 2021 form. If you have not received it, you can find it on the website, under the membership tab:

www.inbasslake.com

Bass Lake Loops Bike Ride

When: Saturday, September 11

This new event is a non-competitive bicycle ride consisting of riders completing loops around Bass Lake as many times as they feel comfortable with or as time allows. This event is open to riders of all fitness and enthusiasm levels so there is no minimum distance requirement. The goal of this event is to be approachable for everyone and for area residents interested in cycling to meet one another. There is no registration fee. If you are interested in helping with the event contact Ti Jones; his email is: burtsfield@yahoo.com.



National Bike Ride Month is May! If you are a bicycle enthusiast, you can submit your bike rides and be recognized on the Health by Design website. This website also has a free Bike Month Toolkit. Contact Marissa: mbyers@hbdin.org.

A New Beginning for the Bass Lake Beach and Campground— The Starke County Park Board terminated the Bass Lake Beach lease following the death of the lessee, Richard Callahan. The Starke County Park Board plans to take over the day-to-day operations of the Bass Lake Beach. This week's Park Board meeting was well attended by local campers. The intent of the Park Board is to make things better over time. This year, as a contracted employee, Larry Clarich will manage the beach, piers and campground as it was managed last year. The Park Board has established its own website: starkecountyparks.com. The 5-year Park Board plan will be updated. There is a lot to be done and with planning and prioritizing the beach's future is bright. If you have input, please forward your thoughts to Park Board members; they are listed on the Starke County website.

Bass Lake Treasure—Ever wonder what treasure could lie on the bottom of Bass Lake? Find out now at the Starke County History Center. For over twenty-five years, long time Bass Lake resident, Al Hayes, scuba diver hobbyist has prowled the lake bottom. What he has found is now on display at the History Center. The display includes all types of bottles dating back to the early 1900's, including historical facts. Also, a large collection of boating artifacts brought up from the bottom are on display.

The exhibit runs through September this year. The History Center is located at 1520 South Heaton Street in Knox (US 35). Come in to view this display and all the exhibits of Starke County History.



Open: Thursday from 10 A. M. - 4 P. M. and also on Saturday from 10 A. M. - 2 P. M.



Here is the 2021 Bass Lake Festival T-shirt!

⇒ May 22, June 12, June 26

⇒ 9:00 a.m.—noon at the BLPOA Building

BASS LAKE FESTIVAL—JULY 23-25 Join us this summer for the "Roaring 20's" festival. Honoring the very 1st Miss Bass Lake Contest in 1926. T-Shirts are available and events are getting lined up! Check the website basslakefest.com for event schedules, forms and information. For Volunteer opportunities contact Mary mitopelian@att.net. "2021 and we're ROARING BACK!!"

Golf Cart Inspections—Our BLPOA Membership sign-up and golf cart inspections will be:

Buoy Master Notes—It's almost time for the buoys to be returned to the lake. Before you do so, please look them over. Is the top cap in good shape? Are the chains and anchors in good shape and secure? All BLPOA buoys are supposed to be assigned a number. Does your buoy have a number? If you have a buoy you are not using, please contact us to pick it up. If you would like to host a buoy (which includes putting it in and taking it out), please contact us. Reminder, one buoy per address. If you have issues or questions, please contact our buoy master Gary Laiter, weskii4@yahoo.com, (773) 750-4049. Buoy on!

DNR Safe Boating Class—This year's Boater Education and Safety Class will be offered at Bass Lake on June 26 at the BLPOA building. Registration is open. If you are interested go to [//www.registered.com/events/view/167627](http://www.registered.com/events/view/167627). If you have questions, contact Terry Chmiel, etowncopper50@aol.com.

Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) - The good news, the lake got 2.25" of rain on Saturday, May 8. Although not enough to fill the lake it is a start! To put in some perspective, the pump was turned on in early March putting out 1.4 million gallons per day. Early May we were pumping 1.1 million gallons per day. After the rain, back to 1.4 million. 76 million gallons of water have been pumped to date. May rainfall - 2.5" Year-to-date - 9.3"
Aquatic Control did the vegetation survey on May 5. We are awaiting their report. Be sure to consider making your monthly payment automatically via EFT, (electronic funds transfer). Also, submit your email address so you can get BLCD information important to you on the new email server. Your address will not be shared with any other person or party. Contact the office. Finally, If you have been doing a rain dance, please continue! Submitted by Russell Blais, BLCD Board Member

Prairie Trail Extension—According to Prairie Trails Club President, Carolla Heilstedt, her organization and Thomas Excavating & Welding on April 23 finalized a contract for the company to build a 2-mile extension to the Erie Trail from US 35 to CR 700E. "We're excited work is about to begin and that the trail extension will provide another great nearby recreational opportunity for residents and visitors to Bass Lake."

Carolla cautioned that for now the area is a construction zone, closed to the public, and the Erie Trail immediately west of US 35 may have intermittent closures until construction is completed. But the PTC hopes to have a Grand Opening for the trail extension yet this summer. "We're also working on signage to help walkers and cyclists get back and forth between the trail and our lake."

The existing Erie Trail extends 9 miles from US 35 northwest to North Judson. The trail extension was made possible by a Next Level Trails grant from Gov. Eric Holcomb and the Indiana DNR, along with a 20% local match from generous donors including the Luminous Foundation, for a total project cost of \$490,888.18.