

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 8 NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2021—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

The morning of September 1, I measured lake level at minus 11 inches. Property owners continue to ask questions about of the Solar Farm Project (SFP) pumping additional water into the lake. Redirecting "to be shut down" irrigation wells/pumps is still "on the table"; however, evaluation of that concept has led to an alternative possibility. Obtain a new location, obtain the required permitting, drill a new well as close to the lake as possible and pipe its water to the lake. To me, this seems like a much better approach to providing additional lake water. Ongoing management, operation and maintenance of a system like that also seems easier. Much discussion, which included the board as well as attendees, took place on this topic at the August 21 BLPOA meeting. After discussion, the BLPOA Board voted to allow the SFP to use the BLPOA name on a "New Well" application that would be pursued by the SFP at their expense. Hopefully this effort will be successful and the SFP will be able to present a proposal to the BLPOA. The proposal would be something like this:

The SFP will at SFP's expense, purchase land, obtain all permits and install and make operational a pumping system that would supplement our existing lake water pump. This is provided that the BLPOA would assume management, operation and maintenance responsibility after the system is in service. Then, the BLPOA would need to accept or reject the SFP proposal. The yearly operating cost would probably be comparable to the Conservancy District currently pump costs. I estimate those costs to be on average less than \$20 per year per member. For several years this cost could be covered using existing BLPOA funds. Perhaps donations could fund it into the future.

I have always found it interesting how projects are brought from concept to reality. This project is no different and this is where it stands today: If additional lake water is to become a reality, the BLPOA will probably need to assume future management responsibility. For that to happen, property owners agreement needs to be obtained; I expect this will be a topic at our October 16 meeting.

Why would the SFP want to do this for our Bass Lake community? Many businesses believe it is important to align with the interests of the communities in which they operate. They recognize that communities want good neighbors who strive to make the communities a better place. It's that simple.

Lastly, I find the VFW Jackpot of \$1,000,000.00 again, to be quite remarkable; you may too. The Easter Egg" remains in the lake.

Stay Safe and Healthy, Rick

Republic Garbage Contract—The BLPOA recently signed a new contract with our garbage pick-up vendor. Prices are locked in until June 2024!

ERIE TRAIL FALL RUN/WALK & RIDE

OCT. 2nd
**5k Run, 3k Walk or
14/32 mile Ride**

Begins at the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum, includes a train ride to the starting line!

Registration fee includes a t-shirt with the design shown here, tumbler & tote bag.

For more information and to Sign up visit:

www.runsignup.com
Search for PrairieTrailsClub



Check-In:
7:30am-9am CT

Registration Fee:
\$30.00

**Proceeds Benefit future
Erie Trail Maintenance &
Development**

Funding, Advertising &
Partnerships Provided by:



Starke County
Visitors &
Convention
Commission

Property Owners Association—Saturday, October 16 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

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

Prairie Trails Club—The next Membership meeting is Thursday, September 23 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) in the BLPOA Building

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (sewers, pump & lake weeds) October 11, 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

Bass Lake Festival—Future of the Festival will be discussed, September 12 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA Building

Best View Beagle Club



Beagles at Bass Lake? An undated picture shows a Beagle Club that met at Best View Hotel on Bass Lake's north end. Based on the ladies' clothing, we would guess this was taken during the 1920's. The road appears to be gravel and not yet paved.

The Best View Hotel was originally built by William Henry Emigh in 1905. A 1925 advertisement touted cool rooms, good beds, running water, indoor toilets, screened porches and electric lights.

The Best View was one of the last of the old hotels operating at the lake when it became the Shore Room in the 1950's.
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

- 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

Want to Learn What the BLPOA is Doing? Many lakesters are not able to attend our monthly BLPOA meetings. We have a solution! The minutes, carefully prepared by our Secretary Kathy Laiter, are posted on the BLPOA website, www.inbasslake.com. Read the minutes and you'll learn a lot.

Pinochle Club—The Pinochle Club of Starke County and surrounding counties is looking for players to play twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday beginning at 11:30 a.m. Players can attend one or both days. If you want to learn how to play, Club members will teach you. The Club meets at the BLPOA building. All are welcome!

Monday Night Bingo—Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for Bingo at the Koontz Lake Clubhouse, 10870 Cherokee Road, Walkerton. Early bird games are at 6:00, regular games at 6:30.

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.

Welcome Marc Vendl—Starke County welcomes a new Park Superintendent! Marc Vendl was appointed to this newly created position on August 26. He will focus on the Bass Lake Beach and Campground and the Starke County Forest. He will be seeking input on improvements to these properties starting with the update of the five-year Park Plan. The Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission will be working with Marc and Starke County to complete this work.

Learning Events at Lilly Center—Want to learn how to forage for wild edibles? The Lilly Center is offering a free Foraging class on Oct. 5. Or, want to learn how and why you should use native plants in lake landscaping projects? This September 21 class includes breakfast and a tour of the Lilly Center's native gardens. www.lakes.grace.edu for info.

2022 Bass Lake Festival Planning — Help us make Festival 2022 a bigger success by attending our year-end meeting. It will be held on Sept 12 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building. All event coordinators are asked to attend, along with anyone interested in the future of the Festival. Contact Mary Topelian for more information. mjtopelian@att.net

Changes at Bass Lake Beach & Campground—If you'd like to give your input regarding the exciting changes to the Bass Lake Beach & Campground, attend the Park Board meeting on September 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Annex Building or contact Park Board members. See Starke County website.

Solar Farm and Possible Second Pump—The BLPOA is here to keep you informed about our lake community; the proposed solar farm has been an important topic. Earlier this year we coordinated a Zoom call to educate BLPOA members about the proposed solar farm project near Bass Lake. We regularly include articles about the solar farm project in this newsletter, your newsletter. There is also a lake community Advisory Committee that GEG Renewables and Starke County can tap into when they need community input. Several BLPOA Board members are active on this Advisory Committee. The "Ground Breaking" for the solar farm is scheduled for October 15 and our Indiana Governor will attend!

For the past year there have been informal discussions with GEG Renewables about how to direct more water into our lake as part of their work with the solar farm. As you know, we have one pump which was installed in 1964 and is maintained by the Bass Lake Conservancy District. We are very thankful for their professional management of our current pump which pumps around 1.1 - 1.4 million gallons of water into our lake each day. An additional pump is being evaluated by GEG Renewables but nothing formal has been proposed to the BLPOA. The BLPOA Board is currently waiting on a proposal from GEG Renewables that will detail an additional pump. The Board and also all of the BLPOA members will be involved in deciding how best to proceed. We expect this conversation will happen yet this year. If you have questions or comments, you may contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com. He will share them with the BLPOA Board.



The Prairie Trails Club continues to manage the 2.1-mile extension of the Erie Trail. Significant progress has been made!

Pumpkin Train Rides—The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum recently announced that the Chesapeake & Indiana Railroad donated locomotive no. 818 to the museum. The locomotive is a welcome addition to its growing fleet of historic equipment. Join the Pumpkin Train on Oct. 9, 16, 23 and 30. To buy tickets go to www.hoosiervalley.org.

Weed Wrangle—Volunteers are needed for the September 11 weed wrangle at the Winamac Fish & Wildlife Area at 10:00 a.m. The group will be cutting invasive species plants. Hand pruners and gloves will be

**BLPOA'S ANNUAL
 SOUP SOCIAL and FALL-TASTIC YARD
 COMPETITION.**
**OCTOBER 16TH 5PM-6:30
 (TILL THE SOUP RUNS OUT)**
\$5 per adult (under 10 free)
 DONATIONS of soup are how we can offer a variety of
 Soups. Join the competition for Presidents Choice,
 Peoples Choice, Miss Bass Lakes Choice and Kids
 Choice. Contact Mary at mjtopelian@att.net for more
 information about donating soup or the Yard décor
 Competition!
 MEMBER**FRIEND****FAMILY

Bass Lake Conservancy District

Rainfall for August was 4.54 inches. That's 2.55 inches more than we received last August. Total rainfall for the year is currently at 29.47 inches. Total rainfall for 2020 was only 29.74 inches. We only need 00.28 inches to exceed last years total! **DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?** The BLCD sends out news and information to its freeholders via our own email server. Examples are notices pertaining to weed treatment, information on items that impact the sewer system, notice of monthly meetings and more. We **DO NOT** share or sell your email addresses. Contact our office if you have any questions or require an email form. The main number is 574 772-2974. Business hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00AM - 3:00PM. *Larry Collura - Vice-Chairman BLCD*