

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

On October 1st, I measured lake level at minus 14 inches. While measuring, I could not help notice piles of invasive Eurasian milfoil cuttings on my lake shore. Even though the lake is low and invasive aquatic vegetation seems out of control, October remains one of my favorite Bass Lake months. It often starts warm and later has leaves turning colors and falling. A bit of history: The first week of October in 1971 was very warm much like October 2021. Way back then, I had taken vacation that week to build an addition on my lake trailer. I remember old retired folks stopping by to check on my progress; 50 years later, I am one of them. My hope is, 2022 will have more water and less weeds.

What about the Great American Game at the VFW? Tickets will go on sale the last week of October and the first drawing with 50 new numbers will be on November 6th. The Jackpot will start at \$400,000. Don't you think that is quite remarkable. No, no one has found the 2021 egg yet. *Stay Safe and Healthy, Rick*

**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 mjtopellian@att.net for more Information about donating soup or the Yard décor Competition!

****MEMBERS**FRIENDS**FAMILY**

**Property Owners Association—
Saturday, October 16 at 9:00 a.m.,
BLPOA building. This is the last
meeting of the year!**

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA Building

*Prairie Trails Club—*The next Membership meeting is Tuesday, October 12 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) in the BLPOA Building

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (sewers, pump & lake weeds) November 8, 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

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

Bloom's Store

Bloom's was located at the corner of SR 10 and CR 210 on Bass Lake's east side where Bass Lake Pub & Ristorante is now located. This photo from the 1950's is the way many people remember this busy corner in days gone by. Bloom's was one of the first stops for families vacationing at Bass Lake. As one of their advertisements used to say, "We Have Everything." For kids on summer vacation from the city, it was like a magic kingdom full of beach toys, kites, balloons, toy boats and ice cream of every kind. Even local kids found Bloom's a great place to air their bicycle tires, while enjoying an ice cream bar on a summer day.

It was originally built as a Standard Oil filling station around 1920 and operated by Robert J. Virtue. Besides Red Crown gasoline and oil, he offered telegraph service to lake vacationers and residents. Bloom's expanded the original gas station into what we would call a convenience store today, selling groceries, meat, milk and blocks of ice, as well as a great selection of summer-time toys for kids eager to spend their allowance.

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

How to Correctly Harass (and get rid of) Canada Geese

Contact Kcarrier@briljent.com for a link to a DNR webinar that will help you manage the Canada Geese on your property in the right way and at the right time for optional effectiveness.

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!

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.

White Foam on the Lake—What is the white foam that appears occasionally on the lake? White foam can be natural or unnatural. Often, foam is produced by dead or dying plants and algae. When they decompose, these organisms release oils that float to the surface and are frothed by wind or waves. In other cases, the foam is the result of property owner actions that cause pollution. Here's a simple way to tell if the foam is natural or a kind of pollution. Carefully collect some of the foamy water in a jar. Shake the jar. Detergents (pollution) will produce more bubbles; natural foam usually dissipates. Detergent foams feel slippery and usually smell of perfumes. Natural foams often smell like fish or soil. *Source: Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams. Questions? Email Nate Bosch, boschns@grace.edu.*

Possible Second Lake Pump - Rick Anderson's Thoughts

I was asked to write about a second pump separately. Why? Because some Board members have different viewpoints. My comments have given the impression that all board members are in favor of a second pump. Because I am "for" a second pump, that does not mean other board members are for or against a second pump. So, why am I for a second pump? Because I like to drive my boat up to friendly piers. Bass Lake was low in the 1950's and even lower in the early 1960's. In fact, I recalled the lake being at about minus 38 inches in 1964. That was the year, the BLPOA Board of Directors spent BLPOA money to put water in our lake. That Board had test wells drilled, they acquired a location with water, they subsequently installed our existing well/pump and operated it successfully for decades. In the late 1990's pump operation and maintenance was transferred to the newly formed Bass Lake Conservancy District. Minus 38 inches now seems like ancient history and I'm glad it does. Shut down irrigation pumps, redirection of water or a new pump? All possibilities. After evaluation, I believe a new pump right on the lakeshore is the best solution to more water. That's why I'm for it.

The "Solar Farm Group" is negotiating to lease a piece of property on the lakeshore with water (test well verified) to install a new pump comparable to the existing pump.

This is being done at SFG expense with the expectation that ownership of a second pump and prepaid 30-year lease would be transferred to the BLPOA once the pump is in operation. For this to happen, the BLPOA needs to agree up front to eventually take lease and pump ownership, I am optimistic this will happen if the SFG presents a written proposal to the Board. After an approved transfer of ownership, the SFG would help with the legal requirements to transfer ownerships to the BLPOA. If and after an ownership transfer, what about ongoing operational and maintenance costs? Over the past 10 years the Conservancy District has paid on average less than \$7,000 per year for these expenses. Similar expenses would be expected from a similar pump. Existing BLPOA funding seems adequate to cover these costs for many years. So, would the BLPOA membership like more water in Bass Lake or more cash reserves? That is the question. BLPOA cash reserves have been increasing about \$20,000 per year for the last seven years. I believe that using \$7,000 per year of these funds for additional lake water to be positive, appropriate and great for our lake community. What would happen after the 30 year lease terminates would need to be negotiated between the BLPOA and the landowner.
Submitted by Rick Anderson

Calling All Soup Chefs— Looking for soup chefs for the October 16 BLPOA Soup Social. All chefs will have their soup entered into the soup contest for prizes and bragging rights. Also, enter your fall yard decoration in the BLPOA Fall Yard Competition. Contact Mary Topelian with questions, mjtopelian@att.net.

Pumpkin Train Rides—All Aboard the Pumpkin Train on Saturday, October 9, 16, 23 and 30. Enjoy a leisurely 45-minute ride and upon returning, you'll visit a pumpkin patch! The Halloween Twilight Train on October 30 departs for a 3-hour trip, departing at 4:15 CT. To buy tickets go to www.hoosiervalley.org or call (574) 896-3950.

Questions About the 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 October 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex Building or contact Park Board members. See Starke County website. If you have questions for our new Starke County Park Director, Marc Vendl, you are welcome to contact him at mvendl@co.starke.in.us or (574) 249-2453.

Bass Lake Conservancy District

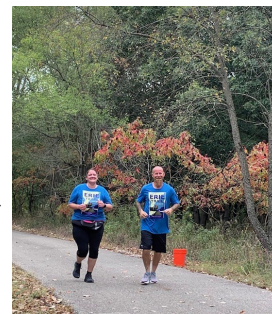
Rainfall for September was 2.64 inches - bringing the YTD rainfall to 32.11 inches. That's 2.27 inches over last year's total rainfall of 29.74 inches. The lake pump delivered 32 million gallons for the calendar month. This information and MUCH more is available on our website - BLCD-IND.ORG. Contact our office if you have any questions. The main number is (574) 772-2974. Business hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Larry Collura - Vice-Chairman BLCD*



This photo was taken by Prairie Trails Secretary Kathy Lucas at US 35.

Bike Trail Extension Nearly Complete! - The Prairie Trails Club is excited to report asphalt was laid in late September on the two-mile extension of the Erie Trail between Hwy 35 and CR 700E. The extension will make possible better trail connectivity to Bass Lake. But the extension is still a construction site and closed to the public. The hope is to have an opening celebration on October 22, depending on the weather. For the latest developments, please check the PTC's website at www.prairietrailsclub.org

Fort Knox Paintball Event—This nearby paintball attraction is hosting a large national event on October 16 & 17, 7485 N. US Highway 35, Winamac. This is a two-day theme-based event that is played with hundreds of players of all ages and skill levels. You can pick your side; The Henry Bowers Gang or The Losers Club. See www.fortknoxpaintball.com or call (574) 946-4988 for details. The Field Map is on the website. Check it out; you'll be amazed how extensive this nearby attraction is.



The October 2 Erie Trail running event was a success! The next Prairie Trails Club event is the October 22 ribbon cutting for the new trail extension.