

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

I'm writing from Florida and don't have all the lake news. However, I expect the lake is still about seven inches below the top of the dam. I wonder how many property owners know, Bass Lake's legal level was set in 1947 at 713.95 feet above sea level by Starke County Judge Larimore. That would be about seven hundred and thirteen feet higher than the Gulf of Mexico waters as measured at mean tide in 1947. I like watching the changing tides and wonder how much sea level has changed since 1947. I'm sure it has some. The sun and moon constantly effect tides and over a longer term the growing and melting glaciers effect sea level. Bass Lake, not so much and I don't expect Bass to rise much more before it freezes. That means there should be little shoreline damage this winter. If the lake does a hard freeze and gets a good snow cover, maybe some weeds will die. I wonder how many know that the Bass Lake California Township Fire Department did 10 weed rescues (weed entangled personal watercraft) last summer. Many believe prolonged lake ice with a good snow cover has a tendency to kill biological lake stuff; I believe that too. Time will tell. Thick ice can also mean many winter lake activities. Activities like ice fishing (not for me), ice skating (maybe), cars on the lake (not mine) and snowmobiling (not for me either) - stuff like that. Grab your ice skates and visit.

At the last Property Owners meeting we talked about the BLPOA coordinating with the Conservancy District in contacting our elected representatives about 2022 weed treatment approval. Our Board supported that; I wonder how successful we will be. We also talked about doing a second pump support/non-support survey; the survey was completed and the results were sent to our membership. Some property owners did not complete the survey. I wonder if that is because they did not witness Bass Lake down over 36 inches in 1964 when the first pump was installed by the BLPOA.

I'm looking forward to getting back home and getting ready for Christmas. I wonder how cold I'll be putting up outside decorations. I wonder how long it will take to warm up by the fireplace. Jane and I like a burning fire by the TV most of the winter season. Perhaps this will be your family's favorite December and Christmas ever. I hope it is; Merry Christmas! If you are wondering about Christmas gifts; remember to consider a lake gift.

I wonder if the old Sporty's is remodeled and is open with a new name. I think I heard something about "The Woodshed" before I headed south. I wonder what is going on at the Pub? I wonder what is going on at the Honey Hole? I wonder what is happening at the "V". I wonder if the new Jackpot has been won, if not, I wonder if it's over \$450,000. I wonder if someone found the 2021 Easter egg. That sure is a lot of wondering.

Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick



The BLPOA and the Bass Lake Festival hosted a Christmas Marketplace on December 4.

Thanks to Mary Topelian for chairing the event. These pictures feature several of the vendor booths. It was a success!



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 Wednesday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) at the LaCrosse Public Library

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (sewers, pump & lake weeds) December 13, 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach & Campground): December 14 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, barefootr@mcchsi.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.

Cross Country Skiing

Starke County is purchasing a snow roller to create cross country skiing paths! When it snows, make your way to the Starke County Forest and try out the cross country ski trails. The Starke County Forest includes 129 acres between Division Road and State Road 8. The forest was donated in 2011 to Starke County by Bruce Wakeland. The Forest is located at: 10655 E. Division Road.

Beach House Will Open Next Summer!

Marc Vendl, Starke County Parks Department is working on making the Beach House ADA compliant so it can open next summer. The County is seeking grants to help with the \$30,000 cost. If you are interested in learning more, contact Marc, mvendl@co.starke.in.us.

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

Santa's Clauset Now Open—This local charity is open for Christmas shopping each weekend until December 12. Located at 7700 E. Toto Road, the farm house is filled with unique gifts and handmade items. www.facebook.com/santasclausetinknox

BLPOA Meeting Minutes— Our minutes, prepared by our Secretary Kathy Laiter, are posted on the BLPOA website, 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, 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. The Board will be meeting in the near future on next steps. We will keep you well informed.



This ice tree was built in 2018 at Bass Lake by Kaden McDaniel and his dad Chad. Kaden is a 5th generation family member of Eagle's nest!

Holiday Greetings

The BLPOA Board of Directors wishes our members a safe and joyous holiday. See you in 2022!

Bass Lake Conservancy District - We had 1.06 inches precipitation which included 1 inch of snow. YTD total is 40.71 inches. The pump added 33 million gallons to the lake. It will be operational until the lake begins to freeze. The next two scheduled meetings of the BLCD are Monday, December 13, 2021 and January 10, 2022. Meetings begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. CST.

The Board of the BLCD wish you and your loved ones health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming new year. Larry Collura - BLCD Vice Chairmen

Clear Choices Clean Water—Winter break is approaching; do you need fun activities for your kids and grandkids to do at home? Clear Choices Clean Water is a resource that will also teach them about the importance of water. Activities include an interactive water cycle, water games, videos and more. This is a program designed to increase awareness about the choices we make and the impacts they have on our lakes. Check it out! <https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org>



Santa Trains Run Two More Weekends—In past years, the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum Santa Trains have stopped and picked up Santa when he was stranded along the tracks on the outskirts of North Judson, Indiana, after his reindeer ran off with his sleigh. Santa recently said that he was coming back to HVRM on Saturdays in December. Come out and ride in a vintage commuter coach through the countryside for approximately five miles from North Judson to the small town of English Lake. After crossing the Kankakee River, the train returns to the depot. During the trip, Santa sits down with passengers and each child will receive a small gift bag from Santa.

Trains depart on December 11 and 18 at 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. (central time). The total length of each excursion is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. Ticket prices begin at \$14.00 and are pro-rated, depending upon age. Purchasing tickets on-line is recommended, as trains have sold out in past years and seating is restricted this year. Facemasks are required for everyone 2 years of age and older. Purchase tickets at www.hoosiervalley.org.



Before or after the train excursion, be sure to visit the museum and grounds where admission is always free. The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum has one of the largest collections of working railroad signals. Stroll around the grounds to see all types of rolling stock and engines of a by-gone era.

Visit the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum website (www.hoosiervalley.org) for a complete schedule of events. **Order tickets on-line or call the depot (574) 896-3950 on Saturdays, 9-4 central time.**

The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum is a not-for-profit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting history and education of railroading. Train excursions, normally, are their main source of income.

Water Literacy for Kids—Our research partner, The Lilly Center for Lakes and Streams, has a comprehensive youth education curriculum. Their K-12 programs aspire to a high goal: develop water literacy in the children who will eventually lead our lake community. Several of the programs include: I Spy a Wetland, Sketch Aquarium Fish Parts, and Fish Camouflage. An overview of the curriculum can be obtained by emailing Kathy Carrier, Kcarrier@briljent.com. Also you can reach out to the Education Program Specialist at the Lilly Center, Sarah Baier, baiersr@grace.edu.

Brabrook Hotel

In 1891, August White sold 148 acres of mostly swampy farmland along the west side of then Cedar Lake to Joseph H. Larimer of Peru, Indiana for \$2,600. This probably seemed like a good deal, since Mr. White had bought this same land 13 years earlier for \$450. At that time there was no road at all running along the west side of the lake.

But within two years, Mr. Larimer had subdivided the edges of this property bordering the lake into 99 lake front lots, including Cedar Point. A dirt road was constructed along the lake front, and the lots were advertised at \$100 to \$200 each.

He also built a first-class hotel directly on Cedar Point. An advertisement says it has 512 feet of veranda facing the lake on three fronts. It also says "The mineral waters, containing iron, sulphur, and other medicinal properties, are healthful and unsurpassed by any in Indiana making Cedar Point not only the prettiest and most enjoyable resort for pleasure, but a health resort, and persons who have used the water from the mineral well on Cedar Point have been much benefited thereby."

Soon Mr. Larimer was successful in changing the name of Cedar Lake to what we now know as Bass Lake.

By 1905, the hotel had been sold to William Brabrook, who advertised first class cuisine and rooms for \$8 to \$12 per week. The farm land had been sold back to Fred M. White, who later sold part of it for development into the Bass Lake Golf Course. *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*

