

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

Bass Lake's ice disappeared March 7. Lake level was about minus three inches and I could see the lake's bottom at about 16 inches. That's thirteen inches higher than last March 7; however, not as clear. I hope and expect the cloudier water will be going over the dam in April - maybe even March. Early piers will be in the lake soon. Not all piers were painted last fall; probably because that was not part of closing up party agenda. If you held off on painting, there is one thing you can do: Put the pier in straight. The first section is the most important, always have a "designated checker" check that it is in straight. The checker should also check section #2 before proceeding with #3.

The March 5 PO meeting: After welcoming the membership, last month's minutes were approved as was the January's Treasurer Report. "TOTAL ALL ACCTS" were \$221,406, up about \$17K from last January. Mary Jesso reviewed lake beautification projects. We are going to get a committee actively working on a welcome sign at the 3-way stop at 600 S., E. CR 210 & S. CR 210. Anticipated 2022 Social Events include a May 21 Pizza Party. More volunteers are needed. There is also a July 17 Bike Ride (which could be along the new Erie Trail extension east of US 35) and the October 15 Soup Social. That will need volunteers too. Building rentals are coming in. We had another incident of paper towels clogging the plumbing in the BLPOA building. Repairs will be made and solutions are being considered, to be funded with BLPOA dues. Russ Blais gave the Neighborhood Watch as well as the Conservancy District report. Aquatic Control will do this year's first lake weed survey in March. Rik Ritzler gave a Park Board update. On March 26 at 9:00 a.m., at the BLPOA building, our mailing committee will stuff our 2022 Annual Letter and Membership Form into envelopes and send them out by US mail to all members. **If anyone would like to help, show up about 9:00 a.m. on March 26; help is appreciated.** The 2022 Directory is on schedule. As recommended by our Bylaws Committee, a motion was made and approved to amend our Bylaws before our upcoming July election. After discussion, the board approved a motion to sign the Doral second pump Term Sheet agreement to continue work on the pump project. Rich Linkus continues to be acting Vice President until the July election. If you are interested in that position, contact a board member. This is your opportunity to get involved and help your/our Bass Lake Community.

At the VFW, \$3 will buy a draft beer for yourself and a friend. Add \$5 and either Joe or Lou will bring you the lunch special. Update: A \$1 donation will now give you one chance to win \$579,141. I haven't talked with Linco lately; however, I believe his 2021 Easter Egg will soon be joined by his 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.



Announcing... the Bass Lake Festival logo for this year! Please join us July 29, 30 and 31 for some family fun.

Property Owners Association—Saturday, April 2 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 Thursday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) at the BLPOA building. www.prairietrailsclub.org

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

Starke County Park Board (our Beach & Campground): April 12 at 6:00 p.m., Starke County Annex

VFW Post 748 in Knox—In this newsletter, we often mention the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and their weekly "game." Twice in the past 5 years, the pool has gone to the final number (out of 50), resulting in a pool that is over \$1 million. Butch Morgan, Post Commander is proud of the organization, "We are not a bar. We do a lot for the community as a not-for-profit. With our 128 members and 140 auxiliary members we support community youth activities, seniors and of course veterans. Each year we donate over \$100,000 to the community. 98% of our donations are made in Starke County. We build handicapped ramps for veterans, we donate to the local marching band, to the food pantry, to the Sheriff for their canine unit and the local schools." To learn more, you are welcome to stop by the VFW which is located at 1511 S. Heaton Street in Knox.

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 has begun it's work. If you are willing to help, we need a few more volunteers. 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

DNR Boating Class—The DNR boating class will be held on April 2 from 9am-3pm EST at the Pulaski County Highway Garage on Hwy 35 on the north side of Winamac. More information will follow for the class to be held at Koontz Lake.

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 \$221,000.

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.

Starke County Park Superintendent—Camryn Kopka is the new Starke County Park Superintendent and Tabitha Dillner is the Park Clerk. Camryn served three seasons as the Assistant Manager of the Winamac Town Park. Tabitha is a resident of Bass Lake and is well known for her leadership with the Bass Lake Festival and her business, Bass Lake Bum. The Park Board is currently finalizing the 2022—2026 Parks Master Plan. These two new staff members will implement the Plan and shape the future of our Bass Lake Beach! Contact Kathy Norem for the link for the 5-Year Plan, knorem.starke@gmail.com. Most of the planned \$2.9 million will be invested in the Bass Lake Beach & Campground.

Purple Martins Heading to Bass Lake by Nancy Peters

Purple martins are migrating back to Bass Lake and will be looking for provided housing in the coming weeks. Last year our family's house at the lake was covered with martins looking for housing on April 16th; so if you're planning to put up a house for the first time, it needs to be ready for tenants in just five short weeks. Check out www.chuckspurplemartinpage.com or www.purplemartin.org for height and location requirements as well as house recommendations. The houses need to be ready before the birds appear so they can begin building their nests on arrival. Hosting a martin colony is a rewarding hobby the entire family will enjoy, as are cheerful little birds that keep all sorts of bugs away through the summer. However, if you don't have time to put your house up before they arrive, there is still a chance you will get purple martins at your site, and they will return year after year. If you already have a house, now is the time to be sure it is clean and ready for the birds.



If you have any questions about selecting a martin house or any other questions about the martins, feel free to contact me at nancypeters@comcast.net.



Bass Lake Conservancy District - Welcome Spring and thank you to Mother Nature! The lake froze over for most of the winter so we had little evaporation. Ice and heavy snows melted which resulted in lake water. We turned on the lake pump on March 7 as a supplement. A couple of good spring rains and the lake water will be at the top of the weir! Bring out the boats and toys. The photo to the left was taken on March 8 at the Bass Lake weir. February rainfall was 2.89", YTD 3.8".

A special thanks goes out to Tom Jordan, BLCD system manager for maintaining our sewer system. Another lift station was wiped out by an automobile this Winter. Thanks Tom for keeping

everything flowing. As a reminder, flush only human waste and toilet paper into the system to keep it flowing. Happy boating and fishing in 2022!

Submitted by: Russ Blais, BLCD Board Member, www.blcd-ind.org



Lakeside Landscaping and Geese Management Workshop—The Lilly Center for Lakes and Streams is again offering a popular geese management workshop on March 19, from 10:00—11:30 a.m. EST. Learn about lake-friendly landscaping and Indiana-DNR approved geese management practices. www.lakes.grace.edu

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. Mary Topelian can also be contacted, mjtopelian@att.net.

3rd Annual Bloomer Run—The Prairie Trails Club (PTC) is participating in the April 23 Bloomer Run in North Judson. PTC will have a tent at the event to answer questions about the new trail extension and to share their intent to extend the Erie Trail through North Judson toward English Lake. Hats off to PTC who recently received official DNR sign-off of the new trail extension. This sounds simple, but there was a compliance review and a punch list that were completed as part of the process. If you walk or ride along the nearby trail, you will soon see PTC volunteers installing new signs and planting trees.

Center View Hotel—The Center View Hotel was built on Bass Lake's east side in the area south of Cranberry Point in 1907. In those days the road along that stretch ran between the lake and the cottages. Part of the road can be seen in this picture. A man by the name of C.B. Stange is credited with moving the road to the high ground, where it is today. Everyone's back door then became their front door.



Long time lake resident Vera Lorenz helped her mother prepare meals for guests on a wood cook stove at the hotel. There was no electricity. Kerosene lamps supplied light at night. Water was obtained from an outdoor hand pump. The ice man brought fresh blocks of ice several times a week for the ice boxes. The large room on the 3rd floor where the youngsters slept was divided by hanging curtains for privacy.

These days the Center View is a well cared for residence and was pictured by Historic Landmarks Foundation in their survey of Starke County. *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society*