

# Catch and Release

# BASS LAKE

## PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



Contributed by: Rick Anderson

Did you know, California Township owns both the California Township Community Center and California Township Fire Station located just south of the Melody Drive-In. A new pumper truck (pictured to the right) has been added to California Township's firefighting inventory. The Township Trustee, Advisory Board and Volunteer Fireman have been working for a few years to make this purchase a reality. Besides fire-related services, the fire department also provide emergency medical assistance. This includes a rescue boat on Bass Lake. The California Township volunteer team includes 16 trained staff members; two are women! In addition to servicing California Township, a separate contract extends those services to North Bend Township. The location of the fire station is important. All homes within five miles of the Station's location which are covered under contract, maintain a top rating for fire insurance. To maintain, the five-mile requirement, California Township has a second fire Station located at 400S and 100E to service the north-west portion of the township.

The Volunteer Fire Department is funded by California Township which in turn is primarily funded by Tax Dollars. The fire department is attached to the California Township Community Center that has a full kitchen and can be rented for private parties. For more information, call Sheri Bartoli at (574) 772-3635. Note that the Township is always looking for new volunteers!

Some History: Shortly after the Bass Lake Property Owners Association was established in 1918, they formed the Bass Lake Volunteer Fire Department. They built the current Bass Lake Property Owners Community Center which they rented to the VFD for \$1 per year. California Township eventually took ownership and control of the VFD and moved to it's current location on US 35.

From the 1947 BLPOA By-Laws: Article VI - Fire Department

Section 1. The Association shall maintain a fire truck with necessary equipment, shall provide suitable housing for same and see that it is properly maintained by Volunteer fireman. Section 2. The President, Vice President and Secretary of the Association shall constitute the Fire Committee, whose duty it shall be to keep in contact with the fire brigade; to see, that the Fire Truck and equipment are kept in proper condition and are properly housed and handled; and to authorize minor purchases of supplies and material necessary for proper maintenance. Section 3. The Volunteer Fire Brigade shall be governed by the members thereof, who shall elect a Fire Chief and the adoption of rules shall be subject to approval by the Board of Directors of this Association. Section 4. The Secretary of the Association shall be furnished a list of the fireman and shall be notified of all changes, also of all fires attended by the department and the names of the firemen present.

Unusual News: Dollar General is coming to Bass Lake! The store will open early next year, kitty corner from the marina by the new self storage facility.

### CALIFORNIA TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Meetings and Gatherings

### Property Owners Association:

Saturday, February 4 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA Building. As usual, we are taking a 3-month winter break.

### Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:

Monday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m., BLPOA Building (Drivers continue their watch duties during the winter.)

### Bass Lake Festival:

Taking a winter break. Next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### Exercise Class

At the BLPOA Building each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00 a.m. CST

### Prairie Trails Club

#### (our nearby bike trail):

Thursday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m., CST (6:30 p.m., EST), BLPOA building, there is no meeting in January

### Bass Lake Conservancy District: (sewers, pump & lake weeds)

Monday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. CST, BLPOA Building

### Starke County Park Board: (our Beach & Campground)

January 10 at 6:00 p.m., Starke County Annex, note that you can Zoom into these meetings if you'd like to attend virtually!



## Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President Rick Anderson  
Vice President Rich Linkus  
Treasurer A. J. Gappa  
Secretary Kathy Laiter

### Board Members

- Tom Busch
- Terry Chimel
- Shirley Grajewski
- Mary Jesso
- Stefanie Neal
- Ron Vendl
- Val Williams

Board Member contact information is on our website: [www.inbasslake.com](http://www.inbasslake.com)

### Newsletter Contact Information

We welcome photos and articles from our property owners. Contact Kathy Carrier, [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com).

Thanks to our newsletter photographer Grace Hehemann for her many contributions!

### Bass Lake Water Level

Following is the water level at our lake, as tracked by Rick Anderson. The number represents how many feet the lake is above or below (negative numbers) the weir:

Year	November	December
2018	- 6 inches	-3 inches
2019	- 4 inches	- 5 inches
2020	-18 inches	- 19 inches
2021	- 7 inches	- 5 inches
2022	- 10 inches	- 12 inches

Note: If you would like the spreadsheet with all of the data, contact [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com).

### BLPOA Building Rental for Family Events

Need Space for a Family Party? Rent the large, renovated BLPOA building. Members pay \$125. Contact Rich Linkus for details, [linkusr1@hotmail.com](mailto:linkusr1@hotmail.com). Not-for-profits use the building at no cost.

### Bass Lake Conservancy District

We are in need of a Christmas miracle in the form of rain or snow! November rainfall: 1:38", year-to-date 30.32" Our annual average is 38.55" so we are over 8 inches behind the average rainfall for the year. In November our lake pump added 21.5 million gallons of water to our lake, year-to-date is 281.9 million gallons. The electric motor on the pump burned out last month and had to be replaced so the pump was down several days. We will continue to run the pump until ice forms on the lake. The Board and staff of the BLCD wishes you and your loved ones a warm and wonderful holiday and a bright and happy New Year!

*Submitted by Russ Blais, BLCD Board Member*



### Bass Lake Festival

The next Festival planning meeting will be in February, date to be determined. Do you have a cool idea for our Festival logo design for next year? Contact Mary [mjtopelian@gmail.com](mailto:mjtopelian@gmail.com). We will be making final design decision by February. Watch for updates at [basslakefest.com](http://basslakefest.com)!

### Bass Lake Beach and Campground

Our beach and campground season ended but not without a huge amount of help from our volunteers during the last days and hours we spent finishing up the blowing and burning leaves throughout the park. Again, we'd like to express our gratitude to all of those who came out to help with this enormous project. It was rewarding to hear folks say that it's never looked better.

The first meeting of the Bass Lake Beach/Trailhead Project committee was held in our meeting room where they discussed whether to renovate the building or try to restore it. The committee decided to involve the Prairie Trails Club and kayak launch needs into one grant. They will contact Troyer Company for the engineering and grant writing for this project. A second meeting was held at the beach house on Nov. 6th. The group inspected the entire building and decided it was worth trying to restore it verses demolish it. The committee is to include the following:

- 1-Park Board Member: Rik Ritzler
- 1-Commissioner: Mark Gourley
- 1-Council Member: Dave Pearman
- 1-Paririe Trails Club Member: Stephen Lucas
- 2- At Large Members: Rick Yover, Tom Busch

Anyone interested in being involved in this vital project is asked to contact Tracy Williams at 574-772-9181. From all of us at the Starke County Parks Department we would like to wish all of you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. For more information, please call (574) 772-9181. *Submitted by Angelina Giuliani, Starke County Parks Department*

### Bass Lake Yacht Club

The Bass Lake Indiana Yacht Club once again would like to thank all of our supporters over the last season! We're now planning our 2022 Awards Party for early spring 2023 and combining it with a welcome party for new members. We have many ideas for 2023, including raft-ups, poker run and others. One thing we've learned is the need to plan early! The summer goes fast and we'll need help from members and volunteers to plan our events. Watch for updates in this newsletter or on [www.bliny.org](http://www.bliny.org). We look forward to seeing all of you in the spring! For more information, contact Jim DeYoung at: [blinyachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:blinyachtclub@gmail.com).



*The Grinch attended the December 3 Holiday Market!*





*This photo was contributed by Grace Hehemann. She is the official photographer of our newsletter and her contributions are appreciated!*

### President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

On December 1st, lake level was about minus 12 inches. Certainly a great time for Bass Lake to start rising. I think it will, just like the days will start getting longer around Christmas. For Christmas & New Years: Make this Christmas your family's best Christmas ever. That's a Christmas wish. Happy New Year too. Beyond New Year's resolutions: You might think about acting upon whatever worth-while thought that comes to mind around every 2023 holiday. They can be your "2023 Holiday Resolutions".

There's not been a Property Owners meeting since November's Catch & Release; however, work on both the second pump and a new "Welcome to Bass Lake" sign are continuing. My hope is that both will become 2023 realities.

As for things around the lake, many friendly people are spreading holiday cheer at all our local establishments. At one establishment, amongst the cheer, a jackpot has risen above \$110K; an opportunity for some holiday luck.

*Stay safe and healthy, Rick Anderson*



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR LAKE HOUSE TO YOURS!

MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION IS TO JOIN JENNIFER ROCHA AS THE NEW BASS LAKE FESTIVAL PRESIDENT AND HELPING HER AND OTHERS TO ADD NEW, FUN, EXCITING ACTIVITIES AGAIN TO OUR FESTIVAL! STAY TUNED FOR A WINE/BOURBON WALK MAYBE?! IDEA PROVIDED BY TAMMY STOUT, A BASS LAKER!

STEFANIE NEAL, BLP OA BOARD MEMBER

## College Students Hone Their Skills Through Research in Northern Indiana

By Dr. Nate Bosch, Lilly Center Director

Family is everything to Bass Lake residents. Families who call Bass Lake home find comfort in their lake, whether boating in the summer heat or as seen through the boughs of a brightly lit Christmas tree.

Enjoying lakes safely in Northern Indiana is possible in part thanks to a driven group of college students. This school year, a record 37 Grace College interns are honing their skills at the Lilly Center. Their work is an important supplement to their environmental studies. Note that the Lilly Center is an active partner to Bass Lake as we move our lake forward with healthy shoreline initiatives.

Interns collect data, develop and execute K-12 education programs, and help manage collaborative projects under the direction of our professional staff. Most interns major in environmental studies or environmental science. From mid-August to early May, this student team dedicates hours of excellent work to the health of local lakes.

The algae team takes the water samples the field research team brings back from lake sampling and turns them into microscope slides. After counting and identifying the species on the slides, that data is added to the Lilly Center's catalog and used for scientific reports like *Beneath the Surface*, an original Lilly Center publication. The future of lakes in our region is in the hands of students as they work with the broader Lilly Center team

**Interested in Indiana Lake News?** The Indiana Lakes Management Society has scholarships, a useful conference, information about lake science, best practices from other lakes and education. If you'd like the newsletter that was published on December 15, contact Kathy Carrier, [kcarrier@briljent.com](mailto:kcarrier@briljent.com). She'll happily send it to you!

### Prairie Trails Club

The Club is hard at work on a plan and grant application to extend the trail through North Judson. Larry Wickert, Steve Lucas and Kirt Verhagen have worked hard on this. Note the maintenance workgroup is also hard at work. Did you know that the group uses a "trail counter" to track how many people use the trail and how they use it? For more information about the trail, the long-term plan and how to get involved, contact Kathy Lucas, [kathleenlucas216@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenlucas216@gmail.com).



### Lakeside Grocery

A photo taken around 1950 shows the Lakeside Grocery at Bass Lake. It was located in Winona at the lake's north end and had been known as Roepstorff's through the 1930's and 40's.

Brothers William and Edward Roepstorff bought the store in the late 1920's from Tom Cleave. They sold just about anything a vacationer or tourist might want; souvenirs, ice-cream, candy, sodas, cigars, groceries, white gas, as well as rental boats and rooms.

Roepstorff's Park was next door to the left and featured a giant wooden water slide built by Tom Cleave. Henry Vergin's bowling alley and movie theater were just to the right of Lakeside Grocery.

*Submitted by: Ron Vendl, photo from Starke County Historical Society*