

# CATCH & RELEASE

BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



## PRESIDENT RICK ANDERSON'S THOUGHTS...

On October 1st, I measured lake level at minus 9 inches; last October 1st, I measured it at minus 11. September's and early October's weather have been warm without much rain. This has resulted in a falling lake level and trees holding onto their green leaves. Once we get a good first frost, as they do every year, the leaves will change colors and start falling. The annual Bass Lake leaf burning season will then begin. Low rainfall is good for leaf burning; however, even with the pump running, Bass Lake needs rain to hold level. So what about a second pump? Doral is having discussions with their consultants on the final well location and all required permits will need to be obtained. Meanwhile, our 1964 pump continues to pump. Between that pump, snow, spring rains and maybe a second pump, hopefully Bass Lake will be full by the start of the 2023 season. Our pump has a history of helping to bring back level in the off season.

At our October 15th Property Owners meeting a 2nd pump discussion took place. As I explained above, Doral is actively working on the 2nd pump project with their consultants. We also did a year-end wrap up and talked about planning for 2023. Several new welcome to Bass Lake signs were approved pending quotes and location approval by the Highway Department. New Green Room ceiling tiles were approved. Many members helped with Soup Social set-up after the meeting. As the 2022 season winds down, its "STUFF COMING OUT TIME" again. Much "stuff" is already out, and much "stuff" is still in. Why not take a walk and see for yourself. New structures & new landscaping can be seen. It is also "Falltastic" time". The Halloween decorations are out. Decorations featuring ghosts, goblins, pumpkins, witches and even skeletons all indicate its almost "Soup Social Time". The annual Soup Social started at 4:00 and wrap up about 6:00 pm; it was a great event with Soup & Falltastic winners.

A little more on the existing lake pump and the proposed second pump. In 1964, with lake down about 36 inches, our lake pump became reality. Questions were asked: Will a pump bring back lake level? Where should the well/pump be installed and what effect will its operation would have on the lake and the aquifers? Interestingly, back then, more locations were available for a lake pump and time was taken to evaluate potential pump sites. Several test wells were drilled and the current pump location was determined to be the best water aquifer source. So what about the location chosen for the second pump? It was not the first choice in 1964 and the 2022 test well again indicated its location might not produce as much water as the existing pump does. Now, just like in 1964, the only way to really know for sure is to put in the pump and find out. That would also be the only real way to know if problems with nearby wells would develop. Any nearby well issues would need resolution. So, there is a question. Install at the test well site or somewhere else. Time, as it always does, will tell. What about the Great American Game at the VFW? It is still going strong with the jackpot at \$79,200; good luck. *Stay safe and healthy, Rick*

## 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, November 7 at 6:30 p.m., BLPOA Building (Thank you for your patrols!)

**Bass Lake Festival:**  
Taking a winter break. Next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

**Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike trail):**  
Thursday, November 3 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT), BLPOA building

**Bass Lake Conservancy District: (sewers, pump & lake weeds)**  
Monday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m. CDT, BLPOA Building

**Starke County Park Board: (our Beach & Campground)**  
November 8 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. Guppa  
Secretary Kathy Laiter

### Board Members

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

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

### Tails to Trails

The Starke County Forest is a beautiful autumn venue for a family hike. On November 5, there is a Tails to Trails activity. Bring your dog and walk the trails! You will enjoy this wonderful Starke County Park.

Located at 10655 East Division Road in Knox, the Starke County Forestry includes 129 acres between Division Road and State Road 8. The Forest was donated to Starke County by Bruce Wakeland in 2011. Thank you, Bruce!

### 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.

### Garbage Deadbeats

Your BLPOA negotiates and manages the lake garbage contract with Republic Services, which brings low cost garbage service to you. We are working on a plan to identify the property owners who put out their garbage but don't pay the fees. If you'd like to pay your overdue garbage fees, please contact our Treasurer, AJ Gappa, [aj\\_gappa@yahoo.com](mailto:aj_gappa@yahoo.com).

### Buoys Be Gone

As lake season closes, our Buoymaster, Gary Laiter would like to remind everyone to take their buoys out. If you need replacement parts or have questions, contact Gary at [weskii4@yahoo.com](mailto:weskii4@yahoo.com).

### Bass Lake Conservancy District

The good news is that there is not much news from your sewer district! September Rainfall was 2.01", year-to-date we've gotten 26.07" of rain. Our lake pump, which we manage, pumped 34 million gallons of water into Bass Lake in October which brings the year-to-date total to 229.40 million gallons.

There is GOOD news! We will keep the pump pumping until ice begins to form on the lake. Enjoy fall at the lake. Happy Halloween from your BLCD Board and Staff. *Submitted by Russ Blais, BLCD Board Member*

### Christmas Marketplace

The Bass Lake Festival volunteers are again sponsoring the Christmas Marketplace which will be on December 3. Calling all artisans and craftspeople! If you would like to have a booth, contact Mary Topelian, [mjtopelian@gmail.com](mailto:mjtopelian@gmail.com) or Jenny Rocha, [rocha32790@gmail.com](mailto:rocha32790@gmail.com).

### Bass Lake Festival

Welcome to the new Festival Board of Directors!

President Jennifer Rocha  
Vice President. Tami Stout  
Secretary Kathy Linkus  
Treasurer Mary Topelian



*The 2022 Goat Drop - only at the Bass Lake Festival!*

2023 is already in the planning stages. The next 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

The new Starke County Park Superintendent, Tracy Williams, jumped into her new role with both feet. In her update at the October 15 BLPOA meeting she reported that she will be writing grants to secure funds to restore the historic Bass Lake Beach building.

Bill and Grace Hehemann donated a pier to the Bass Lake Beach. With the help of volunteers, we were able to get that picked up and put into storage for next year. Thank you to everyone who helped get it loaded and unloaded.

As the season winds down we have been busy getting things ready to button down the campground which closes officially on October 31. Please note if you were a pier slip holder at the beach, you may store your shore station on the beach this year for a fee of \$200. For more information, please call (574) 772-9181.

*Submitted by Angelina Giuliani, Starke County Parks Department*



*Hats off to Kathy Linkus who won the President's Choice award at the Oct. 15 Soup Social!*

### Your Input Needed - Lake Use Survey

This is a lake user survey for the Bass Lake vegetation management plan. Indiana DNR uses this information to assess public perception and understanding of the program as well as to see how well the public/property owners on specific lakes are involved with the use of the lake. Respondents can remain anonymous as individual results are not published but are used in tabulation of all responses. Forms are due October 30, 2022 and can be emailed at [info@blcd-ind.org](mailto:info@blcd-ind.org) or mailed to our office or in the BLPOA drop box. The link to the survey is on the BLCD website: [www.BLCD-ind.org](http://www.BLCD-ind.org).



*This is one of the many vintage cycles you'll find at the nearby Kersting's Museum!*

**Bass Lake Yacht Club**

On October 1st, the Bass Lake Indiana Yacht Club concluded its sailboat racing season. We had some great early fall weather and the final series placement truly came down to the last race! Moses Demis took 1st place again for the series and is our overall full-season champion! He's followed by Terry Lavery who took 2nd, and Bruce Wakeland with 3rd.

The Club is grateful for all the support and is eager to start planning both sailing and powerboat events for next year! Additionally, the Bass Lake Community should watch our website ([www.BLIYC.org](http://www.BLIYC.org)) and facebook for some off-season events. We hope to have boating safety, sailing 101, and some wine-times for our members and the community during the cold winter months. Thinking of summers on the lake with friends should certainly help us on those dreary winter days.

Picture of Moses Demis - Our 2022 series champion is below. [www.blinyc.org](http://www.blinyc.org).



**Steam Pumpkin and Halloween Train**

The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum announces the return of steam-powered excursions. After an extensive multi-year renovation and crew training, a steam locomotive built in 1908 returns!

Time: 10:40 a.m. 12:40 and 2:40 p.m. CDT (Excursion is 35 minutes long.) Date: October 22 Also, the popular Pumpkin Train excursions are each Saturday in October. The Not-So-Scary Animal Show is on October 29. Advance ticket purchase is recommended as seating is limited. [www.hoosiervalley.org](http://www.hoosiervalley.org)

**Kersting's World of Motorcycle Museum**

Now that the lake is a bit to cold for a swim, think about touring the nearby motorcycle museum. Kersting's Cycle Center turned 60 years old on October 8. Classic and antique vehicles are on display. This Motorcycle Museum has been in the Jim Kersting family for three generations, since 1962. Located at 8774 West 700 North, Winamac, [www.Kerstingscycle.com](http://www.Kerstingscycle.com).

**Clear Choices, Clean Water**

Interested in learning or teaching your grandkids about environmental issues including native plants, water conservation, waterfowl management, how to grow a butterfly garden, trash-free lakes, goose poo, how to build a bee motel, guide to bird feeding and water conservation? To learn more about hundreds of environmental topic and articles, an excellent resource is [Indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org](http://Indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org).

**Exercise Class**

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

**Pumpkin Time!**

Many lakesters enjoy the grand selection of pumpkins at Yellow River Farms. There are activities for kids of all ages, apples and pumpkins of all sizes. Located 4 miles east of Knox, on SR 8. Open 8:30—5:30 CST, daily. [www.yellowriverfarms.com](http://www.yellowriverfarms.com)



*Above are the Bass Lake kids who attended our Festival Magic Show!*



*A "Falltastic" yard decorating contest was held several weeks ago. The winning yard will be featured next month!*



**Lake Park**

A postcard photo dated 1940 shows the business district at the south end of Bass Lake. US Highway 35 was fairly new and ran directly by the lake back then. It had only been designated a federal highway since 1934 and was still shared with IN 29. There were two more filling stations across the road, as well as a stop for Indiana Motor Bus. An amusement park, ballroom, skating rink and hotel were just to the west.

This had been a busy intersection dating back to the 1890's, when the Erie Railroad operated a spur line up to a long pier that extended into the lake at this end. Stem boats picked up tourists and their baggage and delivered them around the lake to numerous hotels.

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