

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 6 NO. 4

APRIL 2019—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

The new season! The lake has clear water spilling over the dam and the ice is gone. I remain concerned that this season, many a jet ski will become tangled in and captured by intake clogging weeds. Pier after pier is leaving shore. One thing that is pretty universal when it comes to Bass Lake piers - they are not repaired in the fall. Reasons: Should have fixed it before we stacked it, let the winter do what it will, its too cold; its too hot; we're all too hungry and thirsty; whatever. The real reason of course is: When the pier is "back in", an assessment can easily be made of what material is required for repairs; how many new boards are needed? how many deck screws? how many patio block to repair the grass where the pier had been stacked? and just how much of whatever is needed? Then a quick trip to Johnson's Lumber and you're set. You might say Hi to Jerry and his crew too. Hold it; this year could be different! There are a couple signs out front: Lumber yard closed March 31. "Total Lumberyard Liquidation" auction April 13th. So is there a lumberyard future? There's talk, there's a chance that it may be purchased as a lumberyard and be reopened. Many people hope that. Johnson's Lumber has been at its location on US 35 since it was moved from Toto in about 1970.

The April 6 Property Owners Meeting: The board reviewed a garbage collection extension and voluntary curbside recycling contract from Republic Services. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept. Currently we have 113 property owners who have committed to the 5 year curbside contract. The "Year One" cost will be \$108 and more are expected to follow suit and sign up. Larry Collura gave a presentation on our new website - many improvements. Rik Ritzler notified the group that the triangle changes at East CR 210 & 600 South will begin April 22 and should be complete before Memorial Day. The road will be closed for some days; however, when complete we will have a safer roadway. A safety cross walk is also being added on South CR 210 at the Boa Shores crosswalk. The 4th Annual "A Taste of Bass Lake Pizza" - a committee was formed for the May 18 event - cost will again be \$5 with advance payment - \$10 at the door. Over at our sewage treatment plant, muskrats have been doing some damage; the Conservancy District may need a trapper. Speeding around the lake remains a concern. This may require a committee to come up with recommendations for the Sheriff's Department. Maybe Neighborhood Watch can be involved. The "Great American Game" is back at the VFW. "Linco" AKA: "One Way" is also back after recovering from some medical issues. I have missed his and my Buddy Roger's political discussions and analysis. Anyway, the Jackpot is over \$160K and unless they win, many hope it will grow. I hope the weeds don't. A grant for 40 acres of milfoil control was approved by the state. This will need final state approval before any treatment can begin. *Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick*

Sewer Payments Made Easy—Did you know you can have your monthly Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) payments taken automatically out of your checking account via the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) process? Payments will be withdrawn on the 25th of each month by Teachers Credit Union (TCU) and credited to your BLCD account(s). The process is simple: contact the BCLD office and request an Electronic Transfer Authorization Form. We can either email you an electronic copy, or send a paper copy via U.S. mail. Complete the form, attach a voided check, return the form and voided check to the BLCD office. If you have any questions, please contact us at 574 772-2974 or email us at INFO@BLCD-IND.ORG.

Property Owners Association: Saturday, May 5 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building

Exercise Class: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m. \$3 per class. BLPOA building

Bass Lake Festival: 4th Monday of each month at 5:00 CDT, BLPOA building

Starke County Park Board (our beach): Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path): Wednesday April 24 at 6:00 CDT at the BLPOA building

Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump): Monday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

Beautify Bass Lake ~ May 18 & 19

In cooperation with the Starke County Highway Dept. we would like to encourage everyone to participate in the "Beautify Bass Lake" program the weekend of May 18 and 19. We are asking that you pick up debris in front of and along the road by your property that has collected during the winter. Please note that this does NOT replace your normal garbage pick-up and is devoted to roadside trash only; no tree, leaf, or weed debris, or hazardous products. The black trash bag is to be identified with a yellow plastic tie ribbon and is available for pick up with your 2019 membership supplies at the BLPOA building, on May 18th. The bag must be placed in front of your property in a separate location from your garbage tub and will be picked up by the county.

Thank you, BLPOA Board of Directors

Golf Cart Ordinance Change—Note that there will now be a \$25 late fee for any golf cart inspection after July 1. This ordinance was recently passed in Starke County. The BLPOA golf cart inspection dates are: May 18 (coffee and donuts will be served), June 8 (ice cream), and June 22 (popcorn) from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the BLPOA building. At the time of the inspection, besides your golf cart you will need to bring:

- ~ The completed golf cart permit - <http://www.co.starke.in.us/departments/sheriff/golf-cart-ordinance/>
- ~ A copy of proof of liability insurance for the golf cart.
- ~ The annual fee of \$25, cash or check payable to Starke County. Questions? Call (574) 772-3771.

Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President ~ Rick Anderson
Vice President ~ Mary Topelian
Treasurer ~A. J. Gappa
Secretary ~ Kathy Laiter

Board Members

- Diane Blais
- Aileen Collura
- Cindy Hunter
- Rich Linkus
- Rik Ritzler
- Gayle Smith
- Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:

www.inbasslake.com

Lakeside Market at the Marina—

Saturday, July 27 from 9:00—6:00 is our popular festival art fair, featuring local artisans, woodworkers and crafters. Vintage and repurposed works of art and furniture are also welcome. Call Nancy Sandusky (219) 488-6747 to register for a booth. Booth rental starts at \$20.

DNR Safe Boating Class—

This year the Boater's Education and Safety Class will be offered at Koontz Lake. The Class is scheduled for June 8, 2019 at the Koontz Lake Club House located at 10870 E. Cherokee, Walkerton, IN. Class begins promptly at 9:00 AM CST. Lunch will be provided. Online pre-registration is required by mid-May and can be done at: [<https://www.register-ed.com/programs/indiana/104-indiana-boater-education/agency:25>]<https://www.register-ed.com/programs/indiana/104-indiana-boater-education/agency:25>

This class is supported by the BLPOA. Contact Board Member Aileen Collura, (708) 912-4038 / Aileen.Collura@yahoo.com).

Need Summer Party Space? -

Call (574) 772-7761 to rent the spacious, recently remodeled, affordable BLPOA building. A Board member will return your call and answer all of your questions.

Taste of Bass Lake Pizza Party—

May 18 at 6:00 p.m. Back by popular demand is the third annual Pizza Party. This event features local pizza parlors that advertise in our directory. Cost is \$5 with advance tickets, \$10 at the door. Contact Rick Anders for tickets, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

New Boa Shores Crosswalk—Rik Ritzler reported at the BLPOA meeting last weekend that the Starke County Highway Department will be installing a pedestrian crosswalk by the Boa Shores pier area and CR 210. This will slow down traffic and provide additional traffic safety to our lake. Hats off to Starke County for taking the lead on this!

www.basslakefest.com—The Bass Lake Festival planning is underway, under the spirited leadership of Mary Topelian, Tabitha Dillner, Stefanie Thompson and Carolla Heilstedt. Join the fun and get your family involved in one of the 30 events or volunteering for a few hours. The festival planning team meets the fourth Monday of every month at 5:00 CDT at the BLPOA building. Contact Mary Topelian, mjtopelian@att.net or Tabitha Dillner, tdillner@gmail.com with questions.

Adopt-a-Buoy—This program adds buoys to areas of the lake to give our members more shoreline protection. The BLPOA buys the buoys; volunteers put them in and take them out. Contact Gary Laiter (773) 750-4049 if you no longer want your buoy or if you would like to become a "caretaker."

Prairie Trails Club—The BLPOA/Prairie Trails Club third annual joint bike ride is July 20 at 9 a.m. Additional rides are in discussion; if you'd like to chime in on the discussion, please do. The next work day to clean up the trail is on April 23 at 9 a.m. The group recently began a new Amazon Smile fundraising effort. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to PTC. Contact Kathy Lucas for more information: kathleenlucas216@gmail.com.

www.inbasslake.com—Check out our recently revamped lake website. Included are Board minutes, a lake calendar, weather, newsletters, Board meeting minutes, golf cart information and more. Thanks to volunteer Larry Collura for the improvements!

Garbage and Recycling Contract Renewal—Over 100 enthusiastic Property Owners have signed up for Republic Services curbside recycling which begins on July 1 at an annual cost of \$108. The 5-year garbage collection contract extension as well as 5-year curbside recycling contract was passed at the April 6 Property Owners Meeting. For those who do not want curbside recycling, the Starke County Environmental Management District manages the county recycling. The new Recycling Site is just west of the County Highway Department. The site is open Monday—Friday from 7:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. The location of the site is 3835 E. 250 N., Knox.

Note that as part of our lake garbage collection contract, Republic Services will take one large item per month such as furniture, mattresses, etc. Additional items can be picked up with special arrangement by calling the dispatcher at (574) 842-4719.

Avoid Fertilizers with Phosphorus—The chemicals you use on your lawn impact the quality of our lake water. Follow this basic guideline to help us keep our lake waters healthy. If you choose to use fertilizer, use slow-release nitrogen fertilizer that will be better for your lawn and the lake. A fertilizer with no phosphorus means that the middle number on the fertilizer package listing the nutrient ratio, nitrogen : phosphorus : potassium is 0. Questions? Contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

Sewer System Plugged Up— We have had problems with customers putting items in the sewer system that plug the pumps. Please DO NOT flush anything but toilet paper and human waste. Items such as cleaning wipes, toweling material, and feminine items do not break down before reaching the pumping stations. They clog the pumps and can cause serious damage. Any questions, please call 574-772-2974. For emergencies contact Tom Jordan at 574-806-1707.



Lake season is here! Families and pier companies have been donning their waders to install piers.

Bass Lake History — Spoor School



The Round Lake area was one of the first areas settled by early pioneers in Starke County in the late 1840's. In the early 1850's, a log cabin school was erected on William C. Spoor's farm about a mile north-west of Round Lake. Today this would be on CR 400 S about a half mile east of Range Rd. That first school was built of round unhewn logs. The seats and desks were made of rough split logs. A stone and mud fireplace provided heat.

This photo is dated 1914 and shows the fourth Spoor School, which was built in 1911. It was located at the south-east corner of CR 400 S and CR 100 E. The teacher is Grover Short. Some of the children are Florence, Ada and John McFarland; Dave and Berl Spoor; other children may have included the Davis, Hansen, Miller, Short and Collins families. The school was used until 1930, when all the one room schools in California Twp. (Bass Station, Benton Grove, Maple Grove, Spoor and White) were consolidated. Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society.