

# CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 6 NO. 5

MAY 2019—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

May brought a late spring. I'd say on May 5th spring finally arrived. Many didn't care about late; piers and pontoons went in anyway. That leaves catching up for some. Best to make a "catch up quick list": 1) Pick up leaves and sticks and cut the grass - an important start. 2) Clean the coolers and buy plenty of beer for the helpers who are about to show up to assist. That completes the "catch up" list. The lake: water remains clear at about 3 inches over the dam and flowing out on its way to the Kankakee at English Lake. A lot of fish are being caught by eager fisherman; it seems far different from last year when there were "no fish". Other signs of spring: Fingerhut is selling donuts and the Melody is showing movies. What's more 'Bass Lake Spring' than that?

May 4th Property Owners Meeting: The meeting opened with "The Pledge". April minutes were approved along with the Treasurer report; we have \$161K in available funds. Over 40 property owners have sent in their curbside recycling fees. The first curbside recycle pickup is scheduled for July 8. If you signed up, get in your payment in so your recycling container can be delivered. Appointments were made to the Audit & Budget & Nominating Committees in preparation for our July elections. Diane Blais & Aileen Collura will be retiring from their Property Owners Director positions. I personally thank both for their contributions to our lake organization. Collectively they were involved with building rentals, building remodeling, boating safety training and much more. Contact Kathy Laiter, Chairperson Nominating Committee, if you are interested in running for a Director position. Rik Ritzler reported that Starke County is a finalist in the statewide "Stellar Community Awards." The finalists will receive \$300+K grants. The eventual winner will receive millions. To help win, Gayle Smith and AJ Gappa volunteered to be on the Starke County Stellar Community Committee. The Erie Trail two mile extension was approved with a significant grant that was awarded to our community. Scheduled joint Property Owners/Prairie Trails Club monthly bicycle rides were proposed. The fourth annual "A Taste of Bass Lake Pizza" is this Saturday! Get your money in and join the 150+ who are signed up - nothing like pizza & pop after a day of lake fun. Rain has delayed completion of the "Triangle" road changes which should wrap up in the next two weeks. Neighborhood Watch longtime, from day one "Secretary Shirley" has turned 94 and has elected to relocate in Florida. Comments were made on Shoreline Grant activity. Johnson's Lumber was sold at auction to RAMCO; I need to find out what's "in store" for the former beloved lumber yard. Lot's of stuff going on - the Great American Game Jackpot is just under \$200 K. After finishing your catch up list, get out in your boat and check the lake for weeds. That's the big 2019 question - will weeds create issues? *Stay Safe and Healthy, Rick*



### Flipping Our Lids

**Flip Your Lids!** - Back by popular demand....our own "FLIP" is inviting everyone to help collect plastic lids and caps for the creation of park benches for the Prairie Trails Club bike trail. The new list of acceptable/not acceptable lids will be available at the BLPOA building at board meetings and other sponsored Property Owner events. Unfortunately, medicine bottles are no longer accepted, only lids. If you wish to obtain the list by email please request at: [kathleenlucas216@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenlucas216@gmail.com). The drop off locations are easy to spot with the bright lime green tubs located at: 5339 S. SR 10, 4544 S. CR 210, and the Bass Lake Marina, 5095 E. CR 210. An organized ride by The Prairie Trails Club will meet on July 20th at 9:00 am CT at the BLPOA building. We encourage everyone to get on the Erie Trail which is an easy bike ride from Bass Lake. Maps and instructions will also be available at the BLPOA building. So let's get ready to "FLIP OUR LIDS"!

**Golf Cart Ordinance Change**—There will now be a \$25 late fee for any golf cart inspection after July 1, per Starke County Ordinance. The BLPOA golf cart inspection dates are: May 18, June 8 and June 22 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, copy of proof of liability insurance for the golf cart, fee of \$25, cash or check payable to Starke County.

**Property Owners Association:** Saturday, June 1 at 9:00 a.m. at the BLPOA building

**Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch:** Monday, June 3 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, June 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex building

**Prairie Trails Club (our nearby bike path):** Thursday May 23 at 6:00 CDT at the BLPOA building

**Bass Lake Conservancy District (our sewers & pump):** Monday, June 10 at 6:00 p.m. BLPOA building

## Taste of Bass Lake Pizza Party

**May 18 BLPOA Pizza Party**—Back by popular demand is the third annual Pizza Party. This event features local pizza parlors that advertise in our directory. Contact Rick Anderson for tickets, [barefootrun@mchsi.com](mailto:barefootrun@mchsi.com).

**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*

**Congratulations to Kathy & Steve Lucas**—The Prairie Trail Club (PTC) was recognized at the annual luncheon of the Greenways Foundation, held in Carmel, Indiana. Steve and Kathy Lucas were chosen as the statewide recipients of the 2019 Trail Advocate Award for their diligent efforts to maintain and promote the Erie Trail. Congratulations to Steve and Kathy! The Greenways Foundation is a charitable trust working to promote the growth and use of the Indiana trails, Greenways and Blueways.

**"A Taste of Bass Lake Pizza"**

**May 18<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**

**6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**BLPOA Building**

**With RSVP :**  
Price - Advance Purchase **\$5 Adults** and Children 10 & Under **FREE**  
Price at the door **\$10**  
Place **You & Yours on the "Who's Coming so Far List"**

Please Contact:  
Rick & Jane - [barefootrun@mchsi.com](mailto:barefootrun@mchsi.com)

Please make checks out to **BLPOA**  
Hand deliver or send to:  
Rick Anderson 4574 S. CR 210 Knox, IN 46534

## 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](http://www.inbasslake.com)

### DNR Bass Lake Stocking Plan—

The current plan is to monitor the Walleye population in the fall 2019 due to the amount of fish that were collected last fall that appear to be naturally reproduced. The DNR is not going to be stocking Walleyes in the lake to allow the Bluegill from last year a chance to grow, reproduce, and hopefully utilize the abundant plankton before any added predation (stocked predators). The hope for 2019 is that the Bluegills thrive and increase water clarity through consumption in plankton, which will allow vegetation to return providing the necessary habitat for clear and clean water with fish.

**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—**The 2019 Boater's Education and Safety Class will be at Koontz Lake. The class is on June 8, 2019 at the Koontz Lake Club House in Walkerton. 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](mailto:Aileen.Collura@yahoo.com).

**Prairie Trails Club — Big News!** The Prairie Trails Club Inc. was awarded a grant of \$390,750 from Governor Holcomb's Next Level Trails program to extend the Erie Trail (and also improving the American Discovery Trail and US Bike Route 35) 2.1 miles southeast of US 35 to Starke County 700 East. More to come on that later. The BLPOA/Prairie Trails Club third annual joint bike ride is July 20 at 9 a.m. Contact Kathy Lucas for more information: [kathleenlucas216@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenlucas216@gmail.com).

**Festival Volunteers Needed—**The Bass Lake Festival planning continues, under the spirited leadership of Mary Topelian, Tabitha Dillner, Stefanie Thompson and Carolla Heilstedt. 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](mailto:mjtopelian@att.net) or Tabitha Dillner, [tdillner@gmail.com](mailto:tdillner@gmail.com) to volunteer. The website is: [www.basslakefest.com](http://www.basslakefest.com)

**Volunteer Secretary Needed for Neighborhood Watch Meetings—**The Neighborhood Watch Committee lost their long time secretary, Shirley Grund, due to her retirement and relocation to Florida. We are looking for someone with secretarial type skills to take minutes of our meetings. We normally meet the first Monday of each month at the Bass Lake Property Owners Community Center at 6:30 p.m. The meetings usually last 30-60 minutes, depending on the topics. If interested in this position, please contact Ron Vendl at (574) 772-2580 and leave a message, email address is: [vendlr@yahoo.com](mailto:vendlr@yahoo.com).

**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](mailto:barefootrun@mchsi.com).

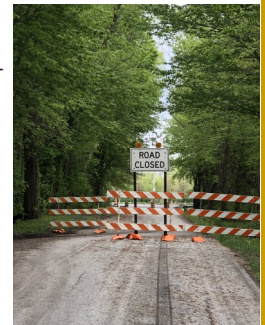
**Sewer System Advisory—** We have had problems with customers putting items in the sewer system that plug the pumps. Please DO NOT flush anything but toilet paper and human waste. Items such as cleaning wipes, toweling material, and feminine items do not break down before reaching the pumping stations.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

**Stellar Communities Program—**The Constellation of Starke is holding its first public meeting on May 23, 2019 at 1:00 pm, CDT in the Nancy J. Dembowski Community Center, 55 East Lake Street, Knox. This is the group working on the Stellar Communities program which will result in local grant money.

**Managing Invasive Species Plants—**Starke County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) is holding its first public meeting at the BLPOA Community Center on May 14, 2019 at 6:00 pm, CDT. Learn why your involvement is so important and how you can help manage invasive species plants on your property and in Bass Lake. This issue is so significant it has resulted in work groups across all 92 Indiana counties.

**New Boa Shores Crosswalk—**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 and Rik Ritzler for taking the lead on this!

**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."



CR 210 is closed at the triangle; the Starke County Highway Department is rebuilding the dangerous triangle intersection.

## Bass Lake History — Aldine School



A photo of Aldine's one-room school is dated 1908. Located about four miles southwest of Bass Lake on the former Erie Railroad line, Aldine was founded in 1882. By the turn of the last century, it was a thriving community of 100 people, with several stores, a post office, Gleaner Hall, church, school and railroad facilities. This particular school building was built in 1894 and was known as the "Frog Pond School".

Miss Anna Marie Tracy was the teacher in this photo. Her wages were \$2.39 per day. A North Judson girl, she roomed and boarded with Mrs. Lewis German of Aldine during the week. Students in the photo are: Perry Lucas, Grace Weidner, Cecil Weidner, Ola Weidner, Wm. Weidner, Loid Reed, Arthur Reed, Otis German, Lulu Brooks, Florence Reprogle, Olive Hackman, Mabel Ludders, Irene Ludders, Harold Stiles, Esther Stiles and Mary Reed. *Submitted by Ron Vendl, Starke County Historical Society.*