

Barlow Lake Newsletter

Summer 2012

Memorial Weekend 2012

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Other Stuff.....



This picture look familiar? Every year when I start working on the first newsletter I often find myself with writers block. Now, understand something here – I am not a writer by any means, so when I get a block – overcoming it can be quite daunting.

But one thing that stuck out this time and helped me ease back into writing the newsletter – this picture.

It is truly perfect and I felt that it would be a great way for us all to “think” summer.

Somehow winter was never here.....



One of several visitors we see throughout the year



Association Officers / Area Captains

Believe it or not – we now have every position filled for the association!!

Association Officers:

President: Luke Miller

Vice President: Jim Johnson

Secretary: Barb Cunningham

Treasurer: Don Visser

Advertising: Lindsey Nichols

Inside Director: Mike Cunningham

Area Captains:

Area 1: Jim and Mary Lou Johnson

Area 2: **NEED HELP**

Area 3: Ruth Hubbard

Area 4: Bob and Wanda Hunt

Area 5: Terri Duff / Fred Ainsworth / Bernice Heys / Lindsey Nichols

Area 5: Ann Pitsch

Special Interest Coordinators

Fireworks: Earl Krol

Fish Contest / Stocking: Mike Hoekstra

Still looking for any volunteers to help with advertising, newsletter, welcoming committee (Ruth Hubbard), fundraising.

Please let Jim or Luke know if there is any interest.

Association Dues

Dues for 2012 is now due – so please pay in one of two ways. You can give your dues to your area captain or send to Don Visser, 1901 Camrose Ct., Wyoming Mi. 49519-4900.

Dues is critical for Barlow to continue with fireworks, boat parade, fish stocking and fish contest - \$40.00 per year is not

very much compared to other associations.

For those who would like to contribute “extra” you can do so and can have it directed to the fish funds or fireworks – simply select which – or both on the dues sheet and we will make sure to apply accordingly



Thanks to everyone who has paid – we have had some very generous folks adding to fireworks and fish stocking.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

June 2nd – 9:00 AM Association Meeting
Yankee Springs Township

July 7th Fourth Of July Boat Parade
THEME : Favorite Sports Team or Patriotic
2:00 PM Start in Turtle Cove
Contact: Mary Lou Johnson
795-0009 or mljohnson0009@charter.net

July 7th Fireworks – at dusk – *so we think*

August 4th – 9:00 AM Association Meeting
Yankee Springs Township

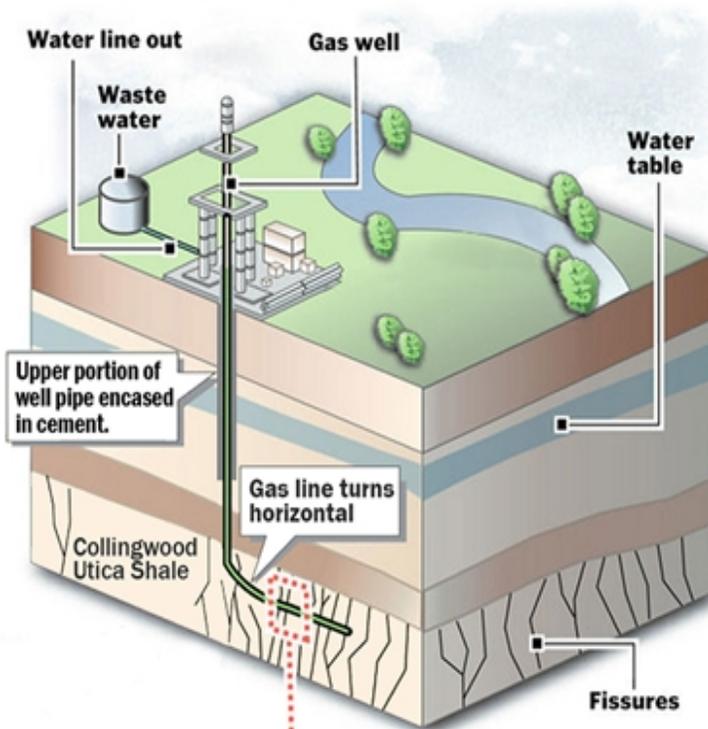


BARLOW LAKE LIVING - NOTHING BETTER



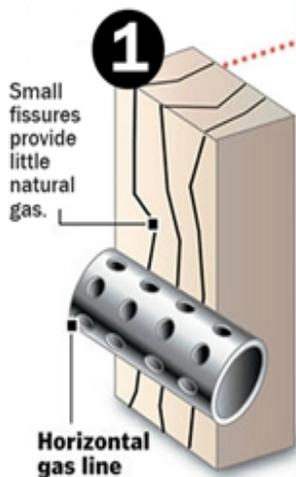
What is fracking?

Hydraulic fracturing, also known as “fracking,” is the process of injecting a mixture of water, chemicals, and sand underground to create fractures, through which natural gas can flow for collection.

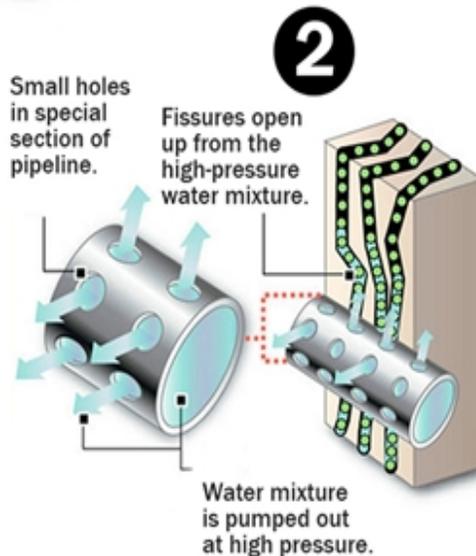


Hydraulic Fracturing

A new way of drilling for natural gas



1. Drilling for maximum effect
The drilling turns horizontal between 5,000 - 10,00 feet hitting multiple fissures and increasing the volume of available natural gas.



2. Putting the Pressure On
A mixture of water, sand and chemicals is pumped into the pipe-line, which has small holes through which the mixture is forced.



3. Increase Gas Flow
The small fissures are widened by the pressure. The water mixture is pumped back out of the well and natural gas follows back up the pipeline to the wellhead.

Hydraulic fracturing in Michigan

Michigan has a rich history of oil and gas drilling. In fact, hydraulic fracturing has been used extensively for many years in Michigan. Roughly 9,900 Antrim Shale wells in Michigan produce natural gas at depths of 500 to 2000 feet. Hydraulic fracturing is used in virtually every Antrim Shale well. According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), there is no indication that traditional hydraulic fracturing techniques used in the state have ever caused damage to ground water or other resources.

Why are we concerned about fracking now?

A new gas discovery occurred in Northern Michigan, revealing potential natural gas reserves in the Collingwood and Utica Shale at depths of ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. Horizontal drilling and multi-stage fracking will be used to collect this gas, which is different than the hydraulic fracturing techniques historically used in Michigan. This drilling is not only deeper, it also uses substantially more fresh water (millions of gallons rather than up to one hundred thousand gallons) and chemicals. There are many unknowns with respect to the environmental and long-term impacts.

Incidents of surface and ground water contamination from the fracking process have been reported in other states. In Pennsylvania, state regulators found that gas drilling using high-volume fracking has caused contaminated drinking water, polluted surface waters, polluted air, and contaminated soils.

The Pending Science

Much is not known about the impacts of hydraulic fracturing. Currently, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has commenced a \$1.9 million study to examine the impact of hydraulic fracturing on water resources. This is part of the President's budget request of \$4.3 million for the EPA to continue its study of the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water resources.

Where Do We Stand?

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is calling for stronger regulations and required use of best management practices to protect water resources from the impacts of fracking.

What is the impact of ground water withdrawals used for fracking?

Millions of gallons of water are used to fracture each well. Using fresh water to fracture a well is an unsustainable use of water resources, and its impact upon our fresh water supply must be carefully evaluated. By law, surface water withdrawals are prohibited for drilling operations. Therefore, the source of water used in fracking will be ground water. Unlike many other states, Michigan regulates water withdrawals which could add a layer of protection. Immediately, the DEQ responded to one of our concerns regarding water withdrawals and begin requiring deep high-volume hydraulic fracturing operators to use a Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool as part of the permit process to ensure that adverse impacts from the water withdrawal will be avoided. Additionally, at our request, they provided an explanation of the process they use evaluating water withdrawals and site specific reviews. Click here to see the [Water Withdrawal Analysis for High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing](#) by the DEQ Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals.

Can we find out what fracking chemicals are used in this process?

No, not all of the chemicals. Fracking uses hundreds of undisclosed chemicals, which are mixed with water and pumped underground, directly through aquifers, to fracture rock. The cocktail of chemicals used in the fracking process is “undisclosed” from the public because it is considered to be a trade secret and proprietary information. We do know some of the individual chemicals used in fracking operations and, while these make up just a fraction of the total materials in the fluid, they include recognized carcinogens and hazardous materials such as hydrochloric acid and ethylene glycol.

FRACTURING FLUID ADDITIVES, MAIN COMPOUNDS, AND COMMON USES.			
Additive Type	Main Compound(s)	Purpose	Common Use of Main Compound
Diluted Acid (15%)	Hydrochloric acid or muriatic acid	Help dissolve minerals and initiate cracks in the rock	Swimming pool chemical and cleaner
Biocide	Glutaraldehyde	Eliminates bacteria in the water that produce corrosive byproducts	Disinfectant; sterilize medical and dental equipment
Breaker	Ammonium persulfate	Allows a delayed break down of the gel polymer chains	Bleaching agent in detergent and hair cosmetics, manufacture of household plastics
Corrosion Inhibitor	N,n-dimethyl formamide	Prevents the corrosion of the pipe	Used in pharmaceuticals, acrylic fibers, plastics
Crosslinker	Borate salts	Maintains fluid viscosity as temperature increases	Laundry detergents, hand soaps, and cosmetics
Friction Reducer	Polyacrylamide	Minimizes friction between the fluid and the pipe	Water treatment, soil conditioner
	Mineral oil		Make-up remover, laxatives, and candy
Gel	Guar gum or hydroxyethyl cellulose	Thickens the water in order to suspend the sand	Cosmetics, toothpaste, sauces, baked goods, ice cream
Iron Control	Citric acid	Prevents precipitation of metal oxides	Food additive, flavoring in food and beverages; Lemon Juice ~7% Citric Acid
KCl	Potassium chloride	Creates a brine carrier fluid	Low sodium table salt substitute
Oxygen Scavenger	Ammonium bisulfite	Removes oxygen from the water to protect the pipe from corrosion	Cosmetics, food and beverage processing, water treatment
pH Adjusting Agent	Sodium or potassium carbonate	Maintains the effectiveness of other components, such as crosslinkers	Washing soda, detergents, soap, water softener, glass and ceramics
Proppant	Silica, quartz sand	Allows the fractures to remain open so the gas can escape	Drinking water filtration, play sand, concrete, brick mortar
Scale Inhibitor	Ethylene glycol	Prevents scale deposits in the pipe	Automotive antifreeze, household cleansers, and de-icing agent
Surfactant	Isopropanol	Used to increase the viscosity of the fracture fluid	Glass cleaner, antiperspirant, and hair color

Note: The specific compounds used in a given fracturing operation will vary depending on company preference, source water quality and site-specific characteristics of the target formation. The compounds shown above are representative of the major compounds used in hydraulic fracturing of gas shales.

What happens to the waste water and chemicals?

Once the fracking process is complete, anywhere from 40-70% of the fracture water comes back to the surface. This means that each well produces millions of gallons of wastewater, called flowback, which will have to be disposed of in injection wells. Because flowback fluids are part of an oil and gas operation, the fluids are designated as an oil and gas waste, even if there are hazardous chemicals in the wastes. This designation results in less protective requirements such as no requirement to analyze the constituents in the fluids prior to injection and the injection wells are exempt from local zoning.

How close together will the wells be?

Current law requires that drilling units for wells be a minimum of 80 acres. The DEQ Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals (OGM) has stated they recognize this size, which was set for typical vertical wells, is not appropriate for the new horizontal fracking wells. OGS originally proposed to make the lot size 640 acres; however, spacing has been put on hold until the DEQ obtains more information to determine what an appropriate unit size would be.

Should we be concerned about water contamination?

Errors in gas well construction or spills during transportation can occur and lead to water contamination. Fluids can spill before they are injected and fluids recovered from fracturing can contaminate surface waters. Additionally, drilling into these formations can create pathways by which fluids or natural gas itself can find its way into water supplies, if drillers are not careful. It should be noted also that the horizontal sections of the wells are not cased in cement and, therefore, leakage from these sections could represent a significant threat to ground water.

What other impacts may result from fracking operations?

Construction equipment emissions, fracking equipment, and unintentional gas leaks are sources of negative air emissions during the fracking process. Large areas of cleared land and many miles of roadways can scar the landscape and result in habitat fragmentation. Drilling operations also involve lights, 24 hours a day, and noise pollution from the initial month of drilling the well to the continuous noise generated by operation of compressor stations.

What else should property owners know?

Property owners should contact an attorney with experience with oil and gas issues to navigate through all the important elements connected to mineral right leases. Even if you do not agree to lease your mineral rights, you can be forced into an agreement under compulsory pooling.

How is the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council involved?

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has been actively involved since the gas frenzy in the Collingwood and Utica Shale erupted. We are conducting research, educating landowners and the public, and working with the State to address many unanswered questions. Before commercial operations begin, Michigan needs to strengthen existing rules and regulations to address unanswered questions and unresolved issues. We will be fully engaged to ensure that this happens.

The Watershed Council, with many partners, has been working in a variety of means to strengthen Michigan's regulatory standards and has in the process achieved some successes towards our ultimate goals. We developed a fracking update email List which is intended to keep list members up to date about not only our work on fracking in Michigan, but also what is going on with fracking in the state. If you are interested in being added to this list, contact Grenetta Thomassey at grenetta@watershedcouncil.org.

Additionally, the Watershed Council developed a Rapid Response Coalition which is meant to exert pressure on elected and public officials in a coordinated manner. We intend to make our presence felt, bringing the Northern Michigan region to Lansing when it is time to influence decisions and policy making in the state regarding Fracking.

Furthermore, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council was asked to take the lead in forming a statewide coalition to address fracking. We agreed to do so. We developed a "regulatory wish list" that we sent to the DEQ and included support from over 30 other organizations in Michigan. The regulatory wish list identifies many of the changes that are needed to our regulatory system to ensure that hydraulic fracturing is done in a sustainable manner to protect our resources. This has been the basis for agency actions to date and will serve as the basis for future discussions on additional agency actions as well as legislation.

The DEQ also issued new [Permitting Instructions](#). Overall, we believe that the Permitting Instructions were a baby step in the right direction. However, it fell short of what is needed in the long-term. Of particular concern is our top priority of chemical disclosure of fracking fluids. We need disclosure of chemicals used, up front, before drilling. The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) that will now be required by the DEQ are not required until after the fracking is complete. There are ways to get what we believe Michigan citizens deserve - full chemical disclosure in advance of drilling - while still respecting proprietary information and trade secrets. After discussions, DEQ is beginning on a trial basis, the posting of MSDS sheets as soon as they are available. Beginning in late October, the sheets that disclose all hazardous substances on a site in reportable quantities (typically 10,000 pounds) will be available online at the DEQ's Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals page as well as the Oil and Gas page. This will allow citizens near fracking sites to conduct baseline testing of their own wells or surface waters.

Furthermore, the Watershed Council has also begun our legislative efforts, particularly to educate legislators in Lansing about hydraulic fracturing. We are planning some events this year for legislators and we created a set of fact sheets to help them with various complicated elements of this issue. We intend to pursue legislation for chemical disclosure first and foremost, but will also be pursuing the items on the regulatory wish list to strengthen Michigan's current regulations to keep up with the new technology being proposed to reach the deep shale layers.

All the information above is from the watershed council – for additional information – please go to the following site:

<http://www.watershedcouncil.org/learn/hydraulic-fracturing/>

For additional information on the pros and cons of Fracking – we encourage you to look at the following sites:

One organization opposed to Fracking is: www.banmichiganfracking.org.

Summary of the state leases -

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/MAYSUMMARY_385851_7.pdf

DEQ info - http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-FINAL-frack-QA_384089_7.pdf

DEQ Fracking presentation -

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/Regulatory_Response_376699_7.pdf

DEQ paper on Fracking -

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/Hydrofrac-2010-08-13_331787_7.pdf

Barry County well map -

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/barry_drilling_units_3-2010_322181_7.pdf



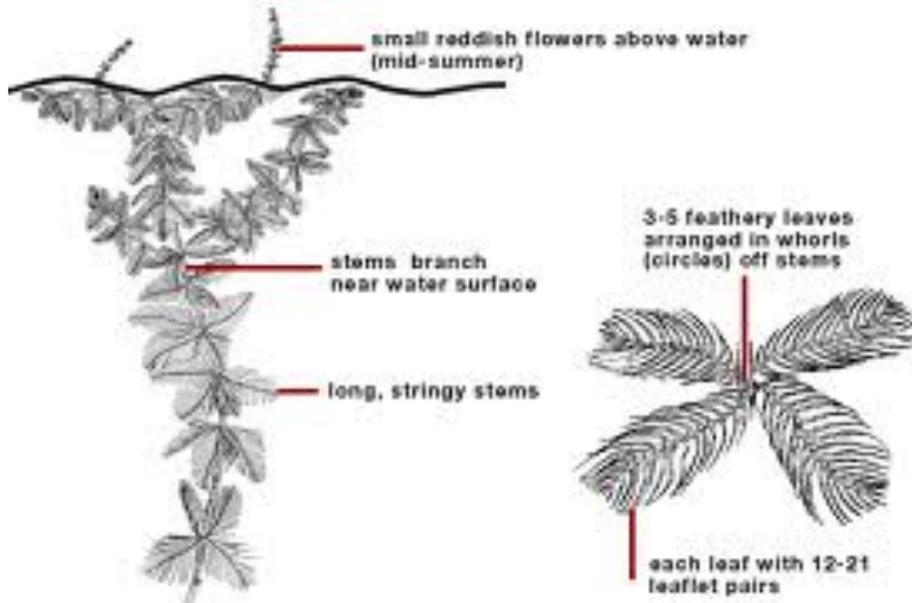
MILFOIL UPDATE

Plant Control Update

The plant control program on Barlow Lake focuses primarily on invasive, exotic species such as Eurasian milfoil. Early detection and rapid response has been key to the success of the program thus far.

Each year, biologists from Progressive AE perform detailed surveys of the lake to identify specific locations where nuisance plants are growing. Problem areas within the lake are pinpointed by using a global positioning system (GPS) to navigate between waypoints that correspond to pre-established waypoints on Barlow Lake.

Once nuisance plant locations are identified, a detailed plant control map and GPS waypoints are provided to our plant control contractor, PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. Progressive AE then conducts follow-up surveys to evaluate treatment effectiveness and the need for follow-up treatments.



FISHING CONTEST WINNERS 2011



FISH	FISHER-PERSON	DATE OF CATCH	SIZE
Crappie	Bob Bruinslot	8/09/2011	13 in
Black Bullhead	Hope Johnson	8/20/2011	14.5 in
Brown Bullhead	David Hoekstra	8/09/2011	14 in
Sm. Mouth Bass	Jared Nichols	8/01/2011	18.75 in
Walleye	Mike Hoekstra	7/13/2011	29.75 in/9 lb 12 oz
Green Sunfish	Doug Hoekstra	7/10/2011	8.75 in
Northern Pike	Dale DeYoung	6/02/2011	41 in/ 14 lbs
Lg Mouth Bass	Jerry Hill	6/25/2011	20 in
Blue Gill	Dave Quada	8/30/2011	9.50 in
Rock Bass	John Kneibel	6/14/2011	11 in
Sunfish	Richard Overmire	8/28/2011	9.5 in
Perch	Drew Nichols	5/29/2011	9 in



Proper Attire Required Barlow Lake MI



The
Directory!!



THE DIRECTORY IS UPDATED (AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL)!

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR INFORMATION AND SUBMIT CHANGES TO US VIA THE WEBSITE BY CLICKING ON ASSOCIATION THEN CHOOSING "EMAIL BARB". IF YOU PREFER PAPER, PLEASE MAKE CHANGES ON THE DUES SHEET- IF YOU PAY YOUR DUES????

OR

YOU CAN EMAIL BARB AT
cunningham9000@gmail.com

We need pictures, stories – anything about summer experiences on the lake, ideas, thoughts, help with the association.

Every year we bring this up – slowly we get more people involved. But in a nutshell – the association can only function for you – WITH YOUR PARTICIPATION...

The newsletter is much easier to put together when we can use the pictures sent to us, recipes you want to share, memories of the summer – general thoughts, concerns.

Whatever it might be, if you don't share these things with us then the memories fade.

Not only do they fade but then you force me to add what I want to and this newsletter is not about me or my thoughts, it is about you and Barlow.

So take some time and share with us – it really isn't that hard.

Finally



The Barlow Lake website is open for business!! We are working out a few bugs and we are not far from the end. Please visit us at:

www.barlowlakemi.com