

Barlow Lake Newsletter

Labor Day Weekend 2016

Final Edition 2016

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A summer come and gone. Pretty common theme and as cliché as it sounds – each summer seems to go by faster each year.

This summer brought us a ton of sun and warm weather – the perfect combination to live on a lake.

By the looks of the boating activity from my place, it sure seems that Barlow was thoroughly enjoyed by many.

The sounds of boats will make way to school busses much to the chagrin of the many students.

So we are left with thoughts of summer 2016 and I for one eagerly await summer 2017.

NOTHING IS AS PEACEFUL AS THE SOUND OF A WAVE AGAINST THE SHORELINE





Association Officers / Area Captains

We need help in area 5 for captains – please let us know if you are willing to help

Association Officers:

President: Luke Miller

Vice President: Mike Cunningham

Secretary: Barb Cunningham

Treasurer: Don Visser

Area Captains:

Area 1: Jim and Mary Lou Johnson / Luke Miller

Area 2: Greg Oatley

Area 3: Ruth Hubbard

Area 4: Bob & Wanda Hunt/
Mike & Marilyn Wagner

**Area 5: Terri Duff / Fred Ainsworth / Bernice Heys/
VACANCY – Need help**

Area 6: Sue O'Brien

Special Interest Coordinators

Fireworks: Earl Krol

Boat Parade: Mary Lou Johnson

Fishing Contest / Stocking: Mike Hoekstra

Still looking for any volunteers to help with advertising, newsletter, welcoming committee, and fundraising.

2016 Dues Still Due

Please send dues to:

Don Visser

2480 44th St SE, Kentwood, MI 49512

Dues for Barlow allows us to continue with fireworks, boat parade, fish stocking and the 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 all those that have paid– we have had some very generous folks adding to fireworks and fish stocking.



Dates for your Calendar

Summer 2017



2017 Association Meetings:

June 3rd – 9 AM Yankee Springs Township Hall

ANY INTEREST IN BEING AN OFFICER ? ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN AUGUST

August 19^h – 9 AM Yankee Springs Township Hall

OFFICER ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

Fireworks:

July 1stnd – Tentative Start at 10:15

Rain Date: TBD

Boat Parade:

July 1st

Theme: **TBD**

2:00 PM Start in Turtle Cove

Contact Mary Lou Johnson

795-0009 or mljohnson0009@charter.net



Triathlon: July 16th – **Tri Del Sol Triathlon** – YMCA CAMP

YMCA Picnic: August 5th - 4-7 PM – Activities to include: Climbing wall, archery, zip line & S'mores



2016 YMCA/LAKE ASSOCIATION PICNIC



THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT FOR THIS YEAR'S PICNIC!

Perhaps that's why the attendance was so good. 117 adults and 77 children for a total of 194 people attended this year's picnic at Camp Manitou-Lin.

Attendance has increased in each of the four years that the YMCA and the Lake Association have been collaborating on the picnic.



S'mores, archery, rock wall climbing and zip lining offer something for everyone and then there is dinner!



I think attendance has been increasing as everyone passes on what a good time they had, so if you have not yet been able to attend the picnic, put it on your list for 2017.

From the August Meeting -

THOUGHTS FROM THE AUGUST 20TH LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING

By Mike Cunningham

Summer 2016 is almost over. The August Lake Association Meeting was two weeks ago and Labor Day weekend is here. Much as I enjoyed summer, I can now look forward to the quiet and slower pace of fall and winter.

The Lake Association meeting was well attended based on recent past history. The financial report showed we are in good shape and this year's fireworks, boat parade and picnic were discussed and many good comments were made. In the member comments period at the end of the meeting, the comments were much the same as usual: the lake level has been too low (alternates with too high), boaters are inconsiderate, and lake access is problematic. In other words the same problems persist from year to year. Fortunately, the lake's good points also remain much the same.

This leads to the point of this article which is to try to address in some measure a few of the persistent problems we always talk about but don't solve. Now, the Lake Association does not have the authority to just solve these problems; especially when one member's solution becomes another member's problem. So, what can we do? As far as the lake level is concerned, we told the members present at the meeting that we would become informed about the facts regarding lake levels and report back to them in the spring.

There is less that we can do about the boating problems. Over the close to 100 years that people have been residing on and enjoying Barlow lake, the types of boating have changed from canoes, row boats and sail boats to speed boats, pontoon boats, jet skis and now wake boats. (I have yet to see a submarine but, well, they would be below the surface wouldn't they?) Anyway, with all this change, plus many more people using the lake, the fact is that the size of the lake hasn't increased (except maybe a little bit due to erosion.) Because the lake remains the same size when everything else changes, friction occurs between lake residents. Some people like the quiet and calm of fishing and non-powered boating and some like the action and excitement of skiing and wake boarding. All types are legal and there is no real right or wrong between the different types. Friction in an engine or other machine is reduced with oil. The oil that can reduce the friction caused by boating on Barlow Lake is tolerance and consideration. Everyone being tolerant of other types of boating and everyone being considerate of other boaters. This tolerance and consideration also promotes a safer and more enjoyable lake experience. Your consideration today may well lead to someone else's consideration of you tomorrow.

For the most part, all types of boating can legally occur at the same time of day. The day, as it pertains to power boats (towing persons), starts one hour before sunrise and ends one hour after sunset. These times overlap with the early morning and evening hours traditionally favored by fishermen. Consideration would be exemplified by fast boaters avoiding these hours as much as possible. Tolerance and consideration would also be exemplified by fishermen realizing that quiet, smooth water is also the best for some skiing and wake boarding.

Quite often people would like to solve these types of problems by making rules. Rules would limit one type of boating in favor of another type or simply limit boating altogether. Wouldn't it be better if we all limited ourselves individually based on consideration? We all know what the other boaters' concerns are; we just need to take them into account when we do what we do.

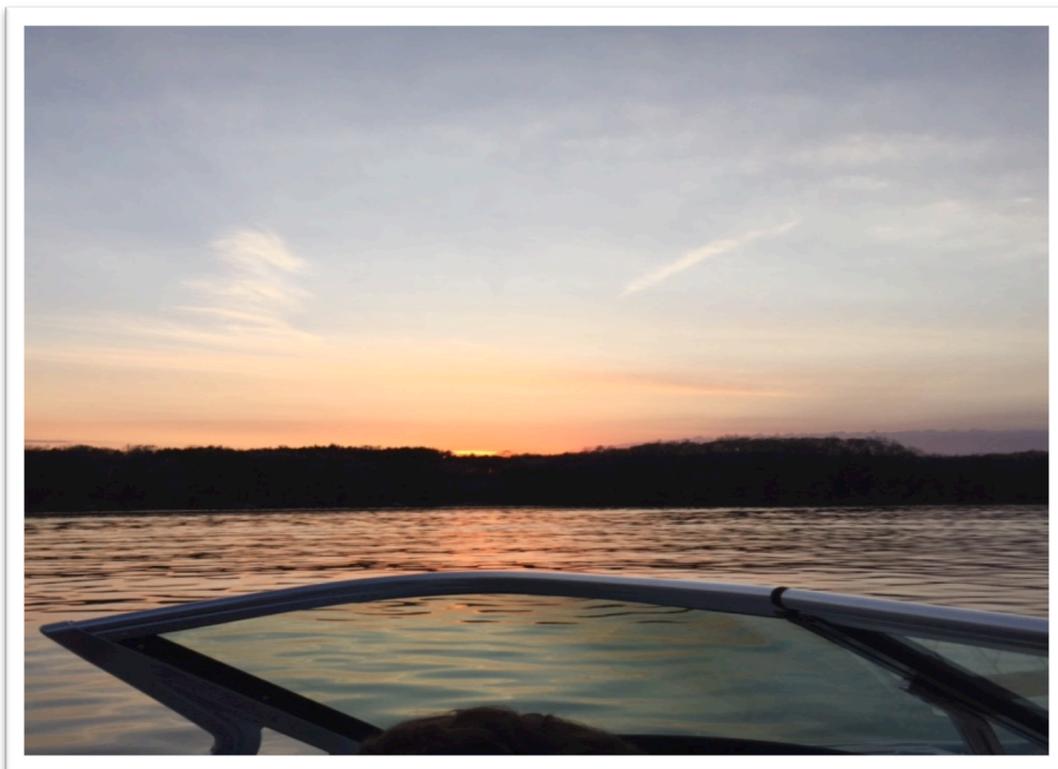
I have heard that there used to be a gentlemen's agreement on the lake concerning boating hours and maybe other issues as well. We may not have that agreement anymore, but might we still have gentlemen (and gentlewomen)?

From the August Meeting - cont.

Lake access is another perennial problem. The type of access I am talking about is boat launching. We are used to using certain access points around the lake. Some people have properties that allow them to access the lake from their own property, others do not. Those of us that cannot launch a boat on our own property must use someone else's access. Many of us have been using the access between Areas 2 and 3. The number of people using this access has increased over the years and has a big problem and source of aggravation to the property owners on each side of the access. I have made an attempt to estimate the number of times boats go in and out of this access and it could be 400 to 500 times per year. That's a lot of boats and people and noise to have to put up with. In addition to these issues it seems that boats using their engines to get on and off of their trailers dig holes in the lake bottom that are a real danger to small children playing in the water. It is also reported that boats putting in for the first time after being winterized frequently discharge antifreeze into the water. This should not be done anywhere in the lake but especially next to someone else's home.

Put yourself in the position of these home owners who must tolerate this boat launching activity all year. I think that if we imagine ourselves as these home owners we will be more considerate when we use this access. We can be considerate by being ready when we get to the launch so that we minimize the amount of time we are there. Also, we will have properly disposed of any winterizing chemicals before we launch. We will be as quiet as we can and we will get our boats on and off our trailers without digging holes with our engines. Just remember, this is not a public access like at a state park. We would not want that kind of access on Barlow Lake. In other words, be considerate in your use of this or any other access point.

To sum up or restate what I have been trying to say, sometimes we have the right to do something that we shouldn't do. We should always be asking ourselves if we should be doing it, not asking if we have the right to do it. Acting on the answer to this question will lead to great relations around the lake and safer boating.



Recently I was asked to rerun an article from a previous newsletter. This was the first time I have had this particular request. Oddly enough, a few days later – I had the same request by a few others. Nice to hear for a couple of reasons – the obvious is that it tells us that the newsletter is read and more importantly, the articles or perspectives are relevant to our neighbors and Barlow Lake.

So from our labor day newsletter 2015 – here is the article by request.....

My Perspective - making our lake a safe place

I have spent the better part of my life at Barlow – my parents bought our house in 1950. Many summers here and I have seen an incredible amount of change since I was a teenager as I'm sure many of you have as well.

In the “old” days, we are able to identify who was going by in a “speed boat” simply by the sound of the motor because there were very few powered boats on Barlow.

Full time residents were not the norm and the lake was calm most of the day.

Fast forward to 2015 -- there seems to be more boats than houses and the boats of today are equipped with more “goodies” than one would ever imagine.

As watersports have evolved to encompass ways to ride on top of the water never thought possible – so have the boats. Ballast systems that fill and drain at the push of the touch screen, cruise control to set that perfect speed for wake boards, for surfing – and then back to that old fashioned thing that once was so popular – slalom skiing.

This is all very cool stuff – especially if you are one who enjoys the many options we now have to be on the water and attempting to perfect the sports gaining popularity by the second.

The only problem though – with these amazing advancements comes pros and cons.

As an owner of one of these boats – I know the pros and I truly enjoy them.

As a long time resident here – I also see the cons.

Every association meeting we have the topic that always comes up about what damage, danger these new all sport boats cause. The late and early hours wakeboarding, skiing, the tremendous wake put out by these boats, buzzing docks, rafts and concerns of safety.

Being the owner of one of these boats – and being a part of the association, I tend to be in the hot seat during the meetings when the topic comes up.

This year when we discussed concerns I did speak up on what I try to do when it comes to causing a wake, surfing, navigating the narrows etc. And I was asked if I would write something on what I do and try to teach my kids because my family does try to mitigate some of the issues associated to what our boat can do.

making our lake a safe place - cont

Barlow has been a very safe and wonderful lake. Activity has increased tremendously. What once seemed like a 10,000 acre lake now seems at times to be a small pond because of the traffic.

This year we had a very serious accident in the narrows that many are probably not aware of. A resident was knocked off his dock by the wake of an all sports boat and trapped between his boat and the dock. The resident sustained very serious injury and nearly drowned.

This was an accident and from what I understand there was not neglectful boating. **But what happened is an eye opener and should be addressed.** Not from a rules standpoint, not from law nor as an anti all sports boat standpoint *but from the perspective that this lake is growing and the boats will be here and enjoying the lake.*

This needs to be addressed from a simple “lake awareness and courtesy” standpoint. Obviously there are laws that need to be followed – but applying better awareness and courtesy efforts will make for a better lake experience for all.

So here it is – and I feel pretty strongly that this is manageable by anyone who has a speedboat *or* any boat for that matter. Definitely manageable by those that can increase their wake in order to wakeboard and surf.

Some rules I teach my kids:

When it comes to the narrows – always approach the narrows so you can see what traffic is coming at you and allow yourself the ability to go away from the narrows to allow on-coming traffic to come through.

The narrows is the most difficult part of this lake – it is the most dangerous and therefore it REQUIRES the most attention to how we navigate through – awareness and common courtesy should be our first priority here.

If there is an opening – try to “split” the narrows down the middle and once you clear the narrows and the bay widens – shift over to allow for on-coming boats to have space BUT make sure you provide enough space between you and rafts.

If wake boarding (the wake is less than it is when surfing) – try to stay in the big bays but when going through the narrows and in the south end – if traffic allows – stray towards the center of the bay – this does allow some space for the wake to dissipate somewhat.

If surfing (larger wake) -- at my kids age – full wake is not needed so I don't fill the ballast full – stay in the big bays and give yourself more distance from the rafts and shoreline. The waves are still large and will obviously make their way to the shoreline but I try to give more time for them to get smaller.

These all sport boats will always be a hot topic. Their popularity will obviously continue to grow and Barlow Lake will seem to get smaller and smaller each year.

But I do feel there is enough room here for all of us but with the increase in activity I reach out to all of you and ask that you help – increase your awareness of what is going on around you, be courteous of those on the shore and docks, give every effort to managing what your boat does and where it is.

There is no easy solution nor answer; being more aware of our surroundings and being diligent when on the water will definitely make Barlow a safer lake to be on.

A Lake Wrap Up..... Tony Groves

Barlow Lake Aquatic Plant Control Program Frequently Asked Questions August 2016

The Barlow Lake aquatic plant control program has been ongoing since 2007. The program focuses on the control of invasive plants in Barlow Lake with the select use of herbicides. The project is administered by the Yankee Springs Township Board and is funded through special assessment of properties around the lake. Below are some frequently asked questions about the program.

Who oversees the plant control program?

Plant control activities are coordinated under the direction of the township's environmental consultant, Progressive AE. Each year, biologists from Progressive AE conduct GPS-guided surveys of the lake to identify problem areas, and detailed treatment maps are provided to the plant control contractor. Follow-up surveys are conducted throughout the growing season to evaluate treatment effectiveness and the need for additional treatments.

Who conducts the herbicide treatments?

The herbicide treatment contractor is PLM Lake and Land Management of Caledonia, Michigan. The contractor is only compensated for work that is performed satisfactorily.

Who determines when and where treatments will occur?

The timing and scope of treatments is based on where nuisance plants are found when biologists from Progressive AE conduct their surveys.

What plants are targeted for control?

The Barlow Lake plant control program focuses on non-native (i.e., exotic) plants, such as Eurasian milfoil and starry stonewort. Both of these plants are highly invasive and have the potential to spread quickly throughout the lake if left unchecked. This past season, 7 acres of Eurasian milfoil were treated in June and 3.5 acres of starry stonewort were treated in July.

Why are there still plants in the lake following treatments?

In managing aquatic plants, it is important to recognize that most plants are beneficial. Aquatic plants produce oxygen via photosynthesis, help stabilize shoreline and bottom sediments, and provide cover and habitat for a variety of fish. The primary objective of the plant control program on Barlow Lake is to control nuisance, exotic species while maintaining beneficial native plants. We do not want to remove all the plants in the lake. This would negatively impact the fishery and cause a host of other problems such as algae blooms.

A Lake Wrap Up..... Tony Groves cont.

Is there a permanent fix to the problem?

If conditions are favorable, aquatic plants will grow. However, there are steps property owners can take to help minimize plant growth in the lake such as limiting the use of lawn fertilizers and maintaining natural vegetation along the shoreline to prevent nutrients from washing into the lake.

How about a pre-emptive strike?

To be effective, aquatic herbicides must be applied directly to the plant beds when the plants are actively growing. There are no pre-emergence aquatic herbicides like there are for agriculture.

Are herbicide treatments safe?

The aquatic herbicides that are permitted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) are registered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. They also undergo toxicological review by the MDEQ. In Michigan, aquatic herbicide use requires a MDEQ permit. The permit lists herbicides approved for use in the lake, respective dose rates, and shows specific areas in the lake where treatments are allowed. If herbicides are applied according to label instructions and permit requirements, they should pose no danger to public health and the environment.

How do the treatments impact fish?

If applied properly, herbicides have no direct impacts on fish. In general, lakes with a variety of plants often support more productive fisheries. The plant control program in Barlow Lake is designed to remove invasive plants while preserving plants that provide valuable habitat and cover for fish.

Why didn't my property get a treatment notice sign?

If there is no sign posted along your property, it means your area was not treated and there are no use restrictions. State regulations require that areas within 100 feet of treatment areas be posted with a sign that lists herbicides applied and the associated use restrictions. Which properties get treatment depends on where the plants are found during the surveys of the lake. Not every property gets treated every time; it depends on where the plants are found in a given survey.

When is it safe to swim after a treatment?

All herbicides have a 24-hour swimming restriction that will be posted on signs along areas of the shore that have been treated. However, if you do not have a sign posted or the sign indicates that only algaecides were applied, there are no swimming restrictions.

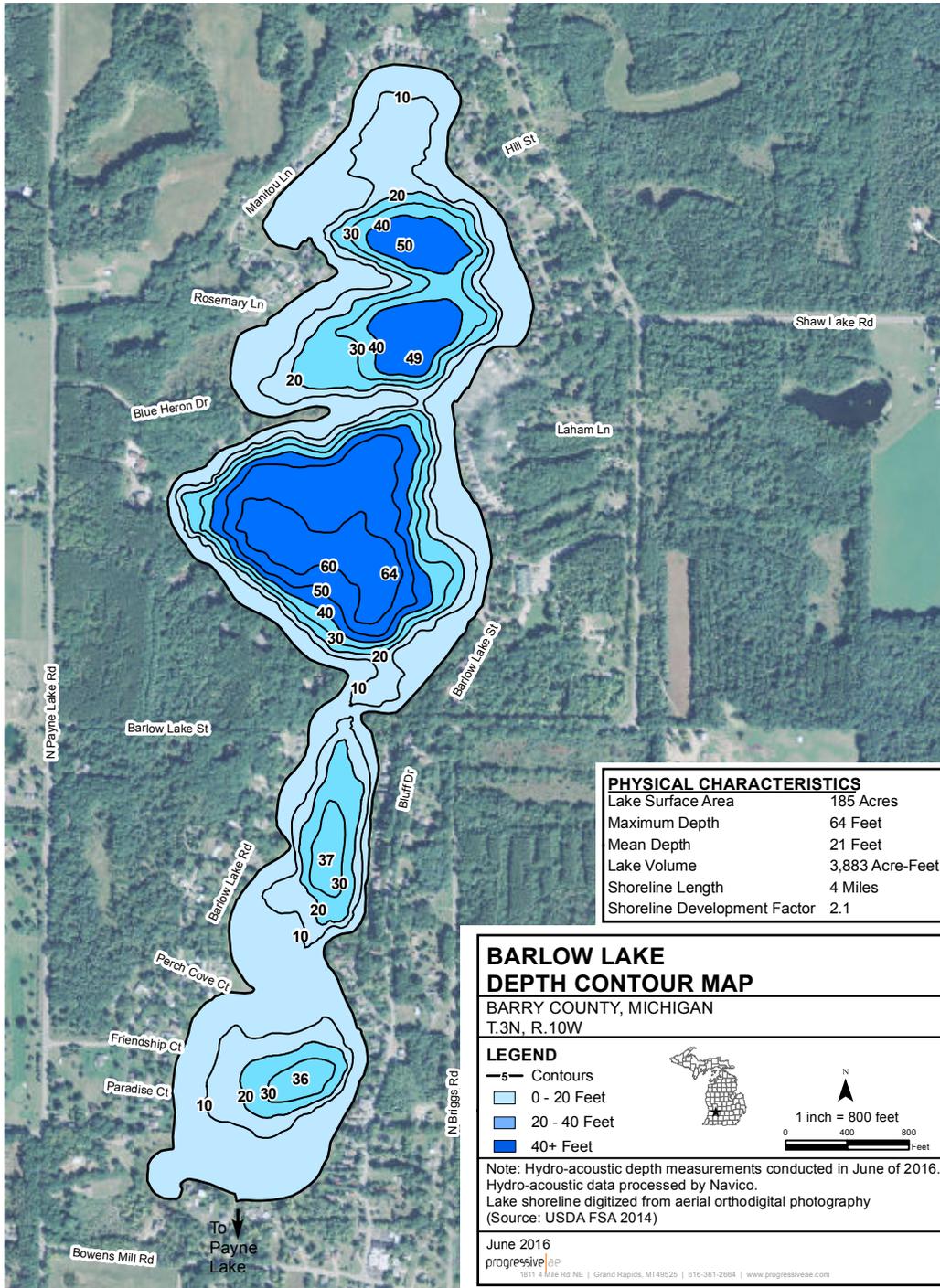


Starry Stonewort



Eurasian Milfoil

Barlow Lake Ariel Depth Contour Map



ANNOUNCEMENTS



A special thank you to all of our Barlow Lake Area Captains!

Barlow Lake Area Captains provide us all with a valuable service which is now mainly the house to house delivery of the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend Lake Association Newsletters. This service saves the Lake Association a considerable amount of money in mailing costs and also insures that all lake residents get a copy. Many part time lake residents do not have mail delivery at the lake so this service is especially important to them.

Please consider that the Area Captains give up their time on holiday weekends to deliver the newsletter so welcome them and aid them in their task in any way possible.

We can always use additional Area Captains! Many hands make light work! Let us know if you would like to help. **AREA 5 IS ESPECIALLY IN NEED OF AN ADDITIONAL AREA CAPTAIN!**

Additional methods of keeping lake residents informed are available such as the area bulletin boards, Lake Association website, mail service and e-mail. Please help to keep the association up to date with your mailing addresses and e-mail addresses if you want to make sure you are notified of what is going on and receive meeting/event reminders etc.

FISHING CONTEST

2016 year to date



www.FishingClipart.co · 123

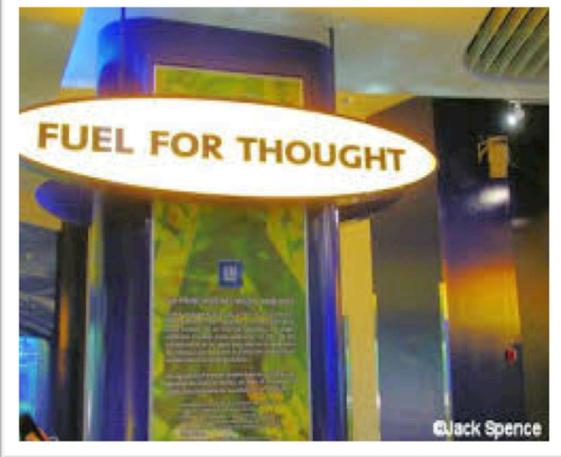
FISH	FISHER-PERSON	DATE OF CATCH	SIZE
Crappie	None Reported		NA
Brown Bullhead	None Reported		NA
Sm. Mouth Bass	None Reported		NA
Walleye	Hope Johnson		20 1/2 in
Green Sunfish	Hope Johnson		9 1/2 in
Northern Pike	Ion Verstrate		34 1/2 in
Black Bullhead	None Reported		NA
Lg Mouth Bass	Armondo Rios		19 in
Blue Gill	David Hoekstra		9 1/2 in
Rock Bass	None Reported		NA
Sunfish	David Hoekstra		10 1/4 in
Perch	None Reported		NA



** This fall Mike Hoekstra is planning on having 500 walleye planted.



General Lake Information



Help Keep Gas in the Tank and Not in the Lake

For many years we struggled finding a safe and easy way to keep the boat filled. This year we tried a VP Racing Jug – it's easy to use, fast to fill, very easy to carry and less cumbersome.

But the best part about these gas cans – they are great for making sure the gas goes into the tank and not the lake.

Just a friendly thought.....

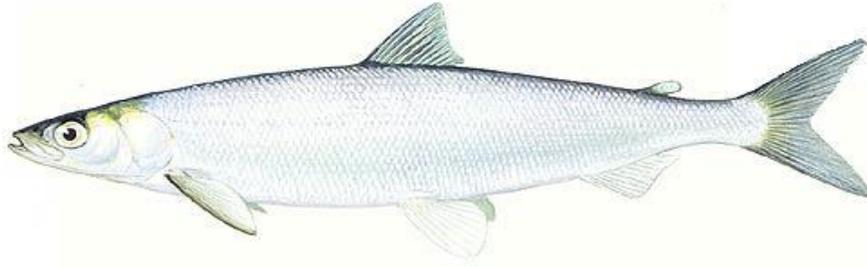


THE DIRECTORY IS UPDATED ANNUALLY AND IS INCLUDED WITH THE SPRING NEWSLETTER

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????



General Lake Information



HAVE YOU SEEN ME?

Missing since 2008?

Do you know what I am?

Reproduced by Mike Cunningham

The 2016 spring Lake Association meeting included an excellent presentation on Fish Biology and Habitat Management by Brian Gunderman and Steve Vanderlaan of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

In their presentation (this presentation is available on the Barlow Lake website) they showed a list of game fish and non-game fish in Barlow Lake that included many fish that I was not familiar with. The only game fish that I was not familiar with was the **Cisco** (pictured above). I thought others might not be familiar with this fish as well so I planned to write this article about it and then, while going through past editions of the newsletter I found an article written in 2009 that was much the same as the one I had planned. So if this looks familiar, you may have read the 2009 article which is mostly reproduced here.

I don't recall seeing or hearing about Cisco in the past, but then I have not really done much fishing since the 1960's. The last fish survey in 2008 collected only one Cisco. Have you seen or caught one of these since 2008? Let us know if you have!

Cisco are coldwater fish having dark blue to pale olive backs and silvery sides. All their fins are basically clear, although the anal and pelvic fins are milky on adults. This fish has a protruding lower jaw, forked tail, and an adipose fin. Although size varies greatly, cisco are usually 10-14 inches long and weigh ½-1 pound.

Spawning occurs in late fall, when spawning groups congregate. Males move to spawning areas before females. In inland lakes, spawning usually takes place in shallow water (3-10 feet deep) over almost any type of bottom, but often over gravel or stony substrate. In large lakes, spawning may occur in shallow water or in deep water. Eggs hatch early in the following spring.

Cisco are a schooling fish, usually frequenting deep water. They move to shallower water in fall as upper waters cool. They are primarily plankton feeders, though insects and small minnows are eaten on occasion. Cisco are an important food for large game fish. Cisco are feeder fish for walleye and northern pike and other predator fish. The Cisco can mass produce and provide a valuable food source for other fish. Without Cisco – these predator fish go after perch, blue gill and other small fish. The DNR presentation indicated that Barlow lake should have a suitable habitat for Cisco.

Again – let us know if you catch a Cisco. Maybe Mike Hoekstra will add this fish to the fishing contest?