

Barlow Lake Newsletter

May Edition -2013

Memorial Weekend
2013

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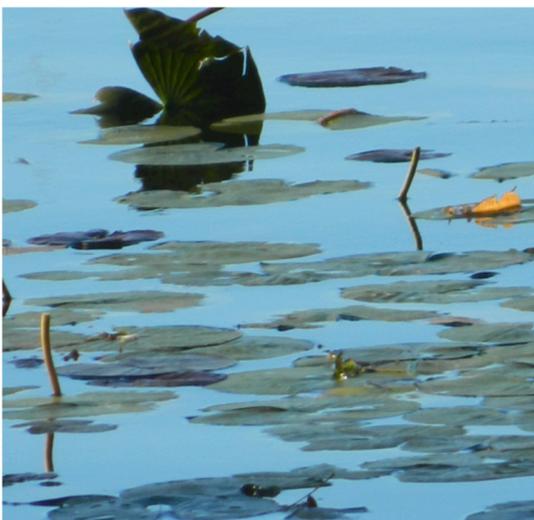
After a long and dreary, cold and wet spring – we just may have turned the corner and quite possibly may have summer after all.

Having spent many days and evenings in the driving rain to catch yet another soccer game – the sunshine and warmth are more welcome than ever.

Hard to believe another school year has come and gone. For many of you, graduation and open houses are reminders of just how quickly time goes by.

Well – at least we have the lake and its time to get back on the water – time to enjoy the lake, evening boat rides and adding to the many, many memories made on Barlow. Have a great summer everyone...

Nothing is more memorable than a smell. One scent can be unexpected, momentary and fleeting, yet conjure up a childhood summer beside a lake.





Association Officers / Area Captains

Believe it or not – we now have every position filled for the association and area captains – thanks for stepping in

Association Officers:

President: Luke Miller

Vice President: Mike Cunningham

Secretary: Barb Cunningham

Treasurer: Don Visser

Advertising: Lindsey Nichols

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/
Lindsey Nichols

Area 5: Sue O'brien

Special Interest Coordinators

Fireworks: Earl Krol

Boat Parade: Mary Lou Johnson

Fish Contest / Stocking: Mike Hoekstra

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

Association Dues: 2013

2013 is here and now – and once again, here is my friendly reminder to pay your dues.

Please send dues to Don Visser, 2480 44th St SE, Kentwood, MI 49512

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

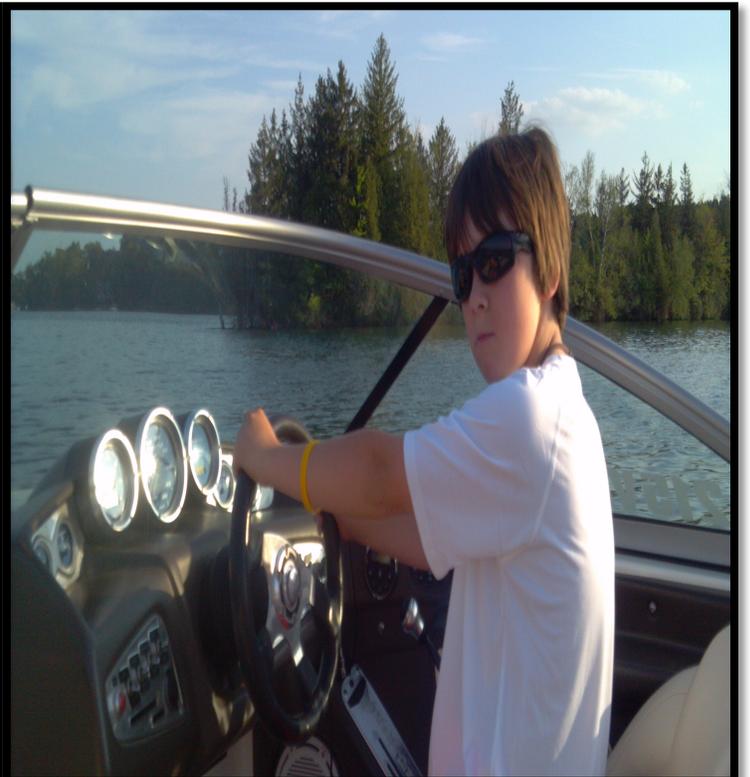


Thanks to all those that have paid– we have had some very generous folks adding to fireworks and fish stocking.

Because of your generosity we will be increasing the budget for fireworks and fish planting.



Nothing Like A Day On The Water



Dates for your Calender

Summer 2013



2013 Association Meetings:

June 8th – 9 AM Yankee Springs Township Hall

August 10th – 9 AM Yankee Springs Township Hall

Fireworks:

July 6th – at dusk

Boat Parade:

July 6th

Theme: Everyday Heroes – police, fire fighters, military, red cross, teachers, medical workers etc – or patriotic

2:00 PM Start in Turtle Cove

Contact Mary Lou Johnson

795-0009 or mljohnson0009@charter.net



Special Event:

June 8th – Saturday – 11:30 – 4:00 PM at the camp

YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin Celebrating 100 Years

Camp Manitou-Lin has been a part of Barlow Lake since 1913 and is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

All Barlow Lake residents should have received an invitation to the June 8th celebration.

In addition – The YMCA camp has been generous enough to host a Barlow Lake Association Picnic on

August 3rd

Time: 3:00 – 6:00 PM with food served at 5:00 PM

A great opportunity to come out and meet your neighbors, meet the good people from the YMCA camp, see all the new plans that the YMCA is undertaking and see all they have done.

Please check out more from Manitou-Lin at: <http://www.grymca.org/camp/100th-anniversary>

Hear ye Hear ye

BARLOW LAKE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATIONS

Communicating news and events is a big part of the Barlow Lake Association. For 2013 the association sign located at the north end of the Camp Manitou-Lin property has been put back into use. Look to the sign for major events and updates.



Other communications methods include the following:

1. Two annual newsletters.
2. Association website <http://www.barlowlakemi.com/>

The website has been around for a few years now and we are getting a bit more skilled at keeping it up to date and useful. We will post important dates such the annual meetings and fireworks schedule earlier than in past years. In addition, look to the website for updates such as last year's fireworks rescheduling.

3. Association e-mail - president@barlowlakemi.com and association@barlowlakemi.com.
4. If you would like the association to be able to reach you by e-mail for notifications please send your e-mail address to the association using the association@barlowlakemi.com address.
5. Telephone – Current association officers will always be listed on the website and you can find their phone numbers in the annual association directory.

The Groves Report

Legal Lake Levels: Issues and Procedures

By Tony Groves of Progressive AE

Introduction

One of the most beautiful images of Michigan is that of a serene lake shore. But that image is shattered when shoreline homes are flooded, or when lake levels drop and boats are stranded. When lake levels are perceived as being either too low or too high, there is often an outcry for the level to be controlled, usually by constructing a dam or some other lake level control device. The procedure for determining the optimum lake level and for designing and financing the construction of a dam is by establishing a legal lake level.

Legal lake levels in Michigan are established under provisions of Part 307, Inland Lake Levels, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), PA 451 of 1994, as amended (MCL 324.30701 – 324.30723), hereinafter referred to as the “Act.” What is often referred to as a “legal level” is defined as a “normal level” in Section 30701(h) as follows:

“Normal level” means the level or levels of the water of an inland lake that provide the most benefit to the public; that best protect the public health, safety, and welfare; that best preserve the natural resources of the state; and that best preserve and protect the value of property around the lake.

Legal levels are established by circuit court order, but first, a study is conducted to determine what the legal level should be. If a legal level is established, the court may also create a special assessment district to finance project costs and maintenance. The court usually designates the county drain commissioner (or in counties with no drain commissioner, the county road commission) to operate and maintain the lake level control structure.

The Special Assessment District and Hearing on Roll

Lake level projects and ongoing maintenance are generally financed through establishment of a special assessment district and the collection of special assessments. In accordance with the Act, special assessments may be levied against privately- owned parcels, political subdivisions of the state, and state- owned lands under the control of the MDNRE.

With respect to privately-owned parcels, special assessment districts for lake level projects generally include those properties that directly benefit from the establishment and maintenance of a legal lake level. In most cases, this will include all proper- ties abutting the lake and back lot properties with deeded or dedicated lake access. The Act also allows at-large assessments against municipalities and certain state-owned lands. Under the Act, the delegated authority has considerable discretion in determining benefit and how assessments will be apportioned. The delegated authority will prepare a special assessment roll that lists all properties in the special assessment district and the amount of the assessment proposed to be levied against each.

In addition to the hearing in circuit court, a separate public hearing must be held on the assessment roll. Notice of the hearing must be published twice in a newspaper that circulates within the special assessment district with the first publication at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. In addition, notice must be mailed first-class to each property owner in the special assessment district at least ten days prior to the hearing. The mailed notice must include a statement that appearance and protest at the hearing either in person or by letter is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment.

Before construction is begun on a lake level project, the Act requires that the county board of commissioners approve the cost and special assessment roll by resolution. The special assessment roll is final and conclusive unless appealed in a court of competent jurisdiction within 15 days after county board approval.

There are many engineering, environmental, and legal is- sues that must be addressed in a lake level proceeding. Given the myriad issues and costs associated with lake level projects, one can ill afford a procedural flaw in a lake level proceeding. Lake level projects often require experienced engineering and legal counsel. 🏢

Please visit: michiganlakeinfo.com for the complete article regarding lake levels

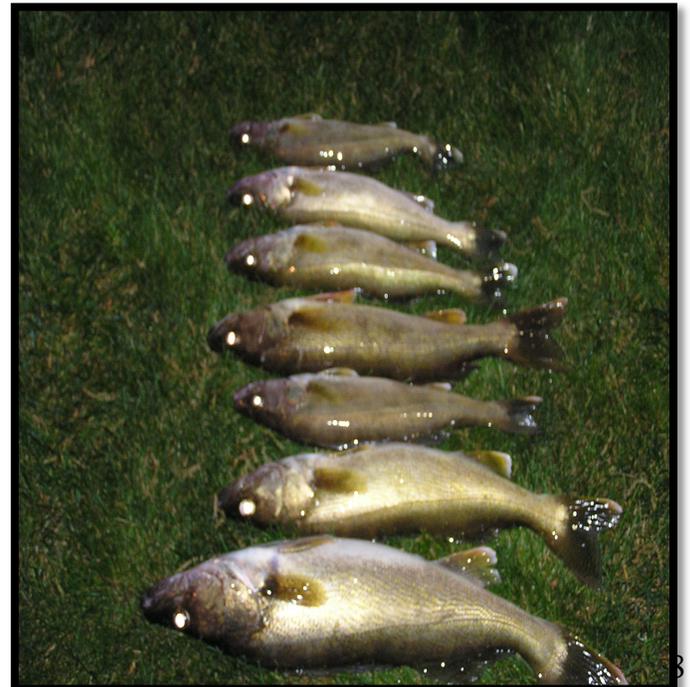
About the Authors: Tony Groves, Pam Tynning, and Paul Hausler have nearly 70 years of combined experience working as lake management consultants with Progressive AE in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Tony, Pam, and Paul created MichiganLakeInfo.com, a website for those interested in Michigan's inland lakes. On the site you can find this article and information on topics such as lake water quality, watershed management, aquatic plants, lake levels, lake improvement boards and more.

FISHING CONTEST

2012 Final Results



FISH	FISHER-PERSON	DATE OF CATCH	SIZE
Crappie	Jarod Nichols	6/11/12	13 in
Bullhead	Spencer Clark	9/3/2012	13 in
Sm. Mouth Bass	Lester Miller Boom	8/12/2012	21 1/4 in
Walleye	Bryan Spanjer (Boom)	9/2/2012	20 1/4 in
Green Sunfish	Jacob Bultema	7/12/2012	8 1/2 in
Northern Pike	Dave Hoekstra		26 in
	Gary Van Sickle	6/7/2012	36 3/4 in
Lg Mouth Bass	Dan Bekkering	5/26/12	20 in
Blue Gill	David Hoekstra	6/6/12	9 1/2 in
Rock Bass	Hope Johnson	8/27/2012	9 in
Sunfish	Lane Purvis	8/26/12	9 1/2 in
Perch	John Kneibel	8/21/2012	11 in



General Lake Information



Its time to vote. Typically we do this every two years for all positions – but because we have struggled to fill all spots, this will be an odd election year.

Mike, Don and Barb all were kind enough to join the association last year and should be able to stay on another year (with the work they have done for the association this past year – I would assume that the idea would not be contested).

That leaves the position of president of the association as the only spot open.

So – anyone who has interest in joining the association and working with Mike, Barb and Don – we encourage you to express your interest at the June meeting.

We will vote in August.



THE DIRECTORY IS UPDATED AND INCLUDED WITH THE 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????**

YOU CAN EMAIL BARB AT cunningham9000@gmail.com

