

# Barlow Lake Newsletter

# Memorial Weekend 2015

First Edition 2015

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## SO CLOSE.....

Welcome back to those that make Barlow their summer getaway.

May has provided us a glimpse that summer is within reach but for some reason Mother Nature just won't let us get past that final hurdle.

Hang in there – warm temps, open windows and the fresh breeze off the lake will indeed give us the long awaited reprieve needed after this past winter.

Hoping you all had a peaceful winter and hope everyone has a great summer on Barlow Lake



LIFE'S AT EASE WITH A LAKE BREEZE



# 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, and fundraising.

## 2015 Dues DUE DO.....

## Pay Dues

Please send dues to Don Visser,  
2480 44<sup>th</sup> St SE, Kentwood, MI  
49512

Dues are critical for Barlow 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.

**YEAH, IF YA'LL COULD PAY YOUR DUES,**



**THAT WOULD BE GREAT.**

memegenerator.net

# *Dates for your Calendar*

## *Summer 2015*



### **2015 Association Meetings:**

June 6<sup>th</sup> – 9 AM Yankee Springs Township Hall  
August 8<sup>th</sup> – 9 AM Yankee Springs Township Hall

### **Fireworks:**

July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tentative Start at 10:15



### **Boat Parade:**

July 4<sup>th</sup>

Theme: Will be posted on web site and May newsletter  
2:00 PM Start in Turtle Cove  
Contact Mary Lou Johnson  
795-0009 or [mljohnson0009@charter.net](mailto:mljohnson0009@charter.net)

**Triathlon:** July 18<sup>th</sup> – Tri Del Sol Triathlon – YMCA CAMP

**YMCA Picnic:** August 1<sup>st</sup> – hours TBD

**Initial Milfoil Survey:** Tony Groves Week of May 25



# *Notes from your neighbors*

## **Our National Bird Visits Barlow Lake**

**12/27/2014**



I have occasionally seen a single bald eagle around Areas 2 and 3. Late last year I spotted this pair of bald eagles at the north end of Area 2. I have not seen them again.

The bald eagle is our national bird, and is the only eagle unique to North America. The bald eagle's scientific name (*Haliaeetus Leucephalus*) signifies a sea eagle with a white head. They are called bald eagles because at one time, the word "bald" meant "white," not hairless. Bald eagles are found throughout most of North America. The northwest coast of North America is by far their greatest stronghold for bald eagles with about half of the world's 70,000 bald eagles living in Alaska. They flourish here in part because of the salmon. Dead or dying fish are an important food source for all bald eagles.

Eagles are a member of the Accipitridae family; which also includes hawks, kites, and old-world vultures. The bald eagle is a sea or fish eagle.

**Color** - Both male and female adult bald eagles have a blackish-brown back and breast; a white head, neck, and tail; yellow feet, legs and beak; and pale yellow eyes.

Bald eagles live an average of 15 to 20 years and one captive eagle reportedly lived at least 48 years.

Bald eagles were taken off the endangered species list in 2007 but are still protected under the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagles Protection Act.

Bald eagles weigh ten to fourteen pounds on average and can lift about four pounds.

Hopefully we will continue to see bald eagles around the lake.  
(Mike Cunningham provided this article)

# Lake Update from Tony Groves

## Barlow Lake Aquatic Plant Control Program Frequently Asked Questions

The Barlow Lake aquatic plant control program has been ongoing since 2007. The program includes multiple surveys of the lake each year and the select use of herbicides to control nuisance plant growth. The project is administered by the Yankee Spring Township Board under the Township Public Improvement Act (PA 188 of 1994), 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. Early in the growing season each year, biologists from Progressive conduct GPS-guided surveys of the entire 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.

### **Why are there still plants in the lake following treatments?**

Depending on what herbicide is used, it can take several weeks for the targeted plants to die back. We do not want to remove all the plants in the lake. This would be bad for the fishery and cause a host of other problems, such as algae blooms. The goal of the program is to strike a balance by controlling nuisance plant species while maintaining beneficial species.

### **What plants are targeted for control?**

The Barlow Lake plant control program focuses primarily on invasive, exotic species. An exotic species is one that is found outside of its natural range. Outside their natural range, exotic plants have no natural competitors or predators to help keep them in check. They can quickly outcompete native plants and gain dominance in the lake. Eurasian milfoil is currently the primary exotic species targeted for control in Barlow Lake.

### **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.

# Lake Update from Tony Groves...cont.

## 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 DEQ. In Michigan, aquatic herbicide use requires a DEQ 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. By design, the herbicide treatments selectively target exotic species such as Eurasian milfoil. 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.

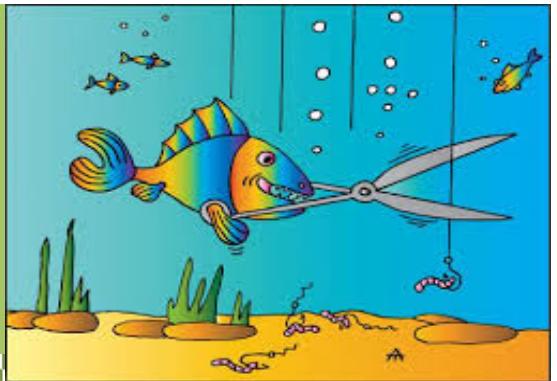
## When is it safe to swim after a treatment?

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.



# FISHING CONTEST

## 2015 Winners



<b>FISH</b>	<b>FISHER-PERSON</b>	<b>DATE OF CATCH</b>	<b>SIZE</b>
Crappie	Don Mousseau		13 ¼ in
Bullhead	Don Mousseau		15 in
Sm. Mouth Bass	Owen Huizenga	8/3/14	21 1/2 in
Walleye	Jared Nichols	7/12/14	23 in
Green Sunfish	Hope Johnson	6/19/14	8 in
Northern Pike	Roger Shoemaker	6/25/14	39 7/8 in
Black Bullhead			
Lg Mouth Bass	David Hoekstra	7/30/14	20 1/4 in
Blue Gill	Nick Hoekstra	7/9/14	9 ½ in
Rock Bass	Hope Johnson	6/19/14	9 in
Sunfish	David Hoekstra	7/30/14	8 ¾ in
Perch	Jacob Bultema		11 in



# YMCA Camp Ribbon Cutting -- New Welcome Center

## **YMCA CAMP MANITO-LIN ---Welcome Center Ribbon Cutting**

**May 27, 2015, 10:30 AM**



### **You're invited!**

- Please help Camp Manitou-lin celebrate the new Welcome Center by attending the ribbon cutting ceremonies on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 10:30 AM at the Y Camp located at 1095 N. Briggs Rd.
- The new Welcome Center will improve the camp's ability to meet the needs of guests and parents when they arrive at the camp.

**Please RSVP to Erin at [eboersma@grymca.org](mailto:eboersma@grymca.org)**

# Lake Rules - Keeping Barlow Safe

## Keep it Safe!

The August 2014 newsletter contained an article on boating safety. It seems appropriate to include an updated version of that article in this newsletter as the 2015 boating season begins.

At our August 2014 meeting, Sergeant Julie Jones and Deputy Bill Johnson from the Barry County Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol reviewed some of the most important laws and common violations that pertain to Michigan lakes and the lakes within Barry County.

Did you know?

1. Paddle boards need to have life jackets with them!
2. Everyone born after July 1, 1996 (18 years old now) can only operate a boat legally if they have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat. If you were born before July 1, 1996 you do not need a boating safety certificate (lucky you!) For PWC's (Jet Ski's) you must be at least 16 years old and have obtained a boating safety certificate if you were born after December 31, 1978. Anyone born before December 31, 1978 may operate a PWC without a boating safety certificate. In addition there are other boat and PWC operating regulations for those less than 16 years old.
3. There are many types and sizes of life jackets. Be sure to have the right quantity, type and size on board for each passenger on board.

There are of course many other laws regarding safe boating. These laws can be found in many places including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website - [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr). A boating safety certificate may be obtained online, in some schools and at least once per year in a course sponsored by the Sheriff's department.

2015 courses are available Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> 8AM to 3 PM at Green Lake Calvary Church, 608-145<sup>th</sup> Ave. Caledonia (no registration required, arrive before 8AM) and June 13<sup>th</sup> 8AM to 3PM at Sandy Pines Resort (registration required. Call Mary 616-896-8318 to register. There are no fees or costs.

# Lake Rules - Keeping Barlow Safe - cont.

We are fortunate to have a lake that is large enough to be considered an all sports lake (Barlow Lake is about 187 acres). Barlow Lake is not so large however that it does not get crowded on summer weekends and holidays. Crowded conditions present the greatest chance of an accident due to large waves and lots of boat traffic to keep track of. During these conditions it is especially important to be obeying the boating safety laws and most important to be very vigilant and on the lookout for danger. Remember that it is always possible to stop or "go around" if the path in front of you becomes blocked or congested. This is especially important in the "narrows" part of the lake.

## RULES ARE NOT ENOUGH

Rules (like going around the lake in a counterclockwise direction) are just the starting point for safety. Being vigilant, taking precautions and going beyond the rules when needed is what will keep us safe, and it takes all of us. Just one mistake, by one person, can lead to trouble for many.

Finally: I have only seen one accident on the lake and that was last summer on a day when there were almost no boats on the lake. The incident looked severe enough than it could have been tragic. I was reminded by this incident of how suddenly lots of fun can be changed to immense grief by a moment's lack of concentration or awareness of danger. During the years I have spent on Barlow Lake the number, size and power of the boats has increased a lot. It will take a corresponding increase in our safety awareness and concentration to maintain the level of safety we have historically enjoyed. (Article by Mike Cunningham)



# General Lake Information



## Volunteers Wanted

We are always looking for people to help – with the newsletter, directory, website, advertising, fundraising.

News stories, points of interest, pictures to share.

We reach out every year to try to draw lake residents in to contribute in anyway.

Interest has been better but we still could use your help.

Please take some time and provide what you can – even a simple picture helps a ton.



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????

