To: BBV Lakes, Ponds & Drainage Committee JUNE REPORT 6/1/26

From: David Scheirman, Committee Member

RE: BBV LAKES & POND ALGAE, CURRENT CONDITIONS

This is the second report for the 2026 season, with photos and notes on four different water bodies being taken. These include **Thunderbird Lake** SE corner, **Kwann Lake** [NE corner + SE corner] the **South Golf Course Pond #5**, and the **North Golf Course Pond #1**. When available we also include photos and notes from the other (mid-course) golf course ponds # 2,3 and 4. Starting this month, notes on the **Beaver Pond** will also be included

The purpose of this activity is to ensure a documentary record of algae conditions as they develop in our water bodies each season. This document shows current conditions and includes photos taken at the usual, pre-established observation sites.

A brief summary shows the following:

LOCATION: PHOTOS TAKEN ON 5/01/26	**IS ANY SURFACE ALGAE PRESENT NOW?**	**DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS**
1. Thunderbird Lake, SE corner near boat launch	YES, minor	Some signs of filamentous algae on the surface of the lake that was not present at this point last month.
2. Kwann Lake, NE corner near the blocked culvert	NO	No signs of any type of algae are visible on the surface at present.
2a. Kwann Lake, SE corner near launch	NO	No visible surface algae of any type here.
3. South Golf Course Pond (#5), viewed from the road	YES, minor	Some filamentous algae mats visible on eastern and western edges, an increase since last month.
4. North Golf Course Pond (#1), viewed from east shoreline	YES, minor	Some shoreline patches of filamentous algae mats present at the southeastern corner/edge; an increase since last month.
5. Beaver Pond	YES	Natural, unmaintained conditions. Riparian area, mature tree growth overhanging the water area on both sides.

6/1/26 11:30am / Conditions: 65° F (18.3 C). Mostly blue sky, generally sunny with some patchy light cloud cover. Steady 3-4 mph breeze.

1. **SE Corner of Thunderbird Lake**, 6/01/26. Thunderbird Lake water generally clean and clear. Most of the lake surface is essentially devoid of filamentous algae as seen from this viewing location.

   A notable increase in shoreline-edge filamentous algal mats since last month.

   Shoreline plant growth (including blackberry bushes) along the southern edge (boat launch side) has been significantly reduced since last month. Maintenance staff has cleared areas more than usual at this location to provide more access for those persons fishing.

Closeup at this observation point on Thunderbird Lake still shows a relatively barren bottom with little signs of aquatic plant growth. Some isolated mats of filamentous algae floating near shore

Visting Canada Goose population has now increased since last month. Ably doing their part to increase the nutrient loading for this water body.

2. **NE Corner of Kwann Lake, 6/01/26**. No sign of any algae on the surface or along the edge here.

   Maintenance has recently cleared shoreline-edge plants including canary grass, the usual/typical blackberry bushes, and some cat-tails in this area, down to the water's edge. This has created some additional open space for use by persons fishing here.

A closeup of this northeast corner of Kwann Lake shows the usual buildup of ‘pond scum’ with material floating on the surface: a mix of dead leaves, pollen, feathers and dust. The recent shoreline vegetation has left trimmed plant remnants that trap surface debris.

There are some early signs of bottom-growing aquatic plant material (possibly filamentous algae) attached to rocks etc. at this edge.

2a. **SE corner of Kwann Lake near boat launch**. 6/01/26. No signs of blue-green algae (or any other type of algae) present on the surface at this location. The lake as viewed here is generally clean and clear.

There are still very clear indications of last month's application of AquaShade UV blocker.. This gives the water a mild bluish coloration.

(2a cont'd.) Closeup of the SE corner of the Kwann Lake (boat launch site). Note the clean, clear bottom at this location. Some early signs now of aquatic plant or bottom-growing algae buildup, which was not present last month.

The clumps of sedge-type shoreline grasses that began to grow along the water's edge here about two years ago are well-established now.

3. **South Golf Course Pond** – 6/01/26. Clear water with filamentous algae now appearing on the surface at both the eastern and western shoreline edges. This filamentous algae typically occurs at the south end of this pond each season, but usually not until later in the summer.

   Shoreline plant growth (cattails, canary grass) has started to re-generate since its last trimming.

This photo was taken from the north side of the golf cart bridge on the South Golf Course Pond (#5). It shows how the pond-edge algal mats are appearing all around this water body. The algal mats seem to typically be held in place by the shoreline plant roots (cat-tails etc.).

4. **North Golf Course Pond -** 6/01/26. Surface condition: Very little visible plant matter on the surface, more clear of surface plant material than it was last season, but some beginning to appear at edges.

East edge, south side, some algal mats present

Far N.E. corner (near culvert): more plant debris and algae present here than was seen last month.

North Golf Course Pond, cont'd. : Shoreline plant growth height has increased since last month.

With much of the shoreline cat-tail population having been cleared during the past season, this pond-edge growth is now coming in as a blended, random mix with several varieties of fast-growing "weed" type plants.

5. **Beaver Pond -** 6/01/26. This water body was a naturally-occurring freshwater channel that was in place prior to BBV land development. It drains from higher ground located north of Birch Point Rd. It is one of the only locations in Birch Bay Village still presenting as a natural, unaltered riparian zone.

   This is the first time these monthly reports have included this water body. It is not impacted by BBV Maintenance, and there is no attempt to control algae. The Lakes, Ponds & Drainage Committee has not typically been involved in formally monitoring it.

   There are dozens of individual HOA member/property owners whose backyards adjoin the Beaver Pond and the upstream creek that feeds it.

6/1/26- Beaver Pond as seen from its lower (south) end, viewed from Chinook Way.

Property owners whose lots adjoin this water body have varying perspectives on it. Some appreciate the natural, 'wild' appearance and shady, wooded environment, including flowering water lilies, windfall branches and debris, and other aspects that support wildlife. Ducks are common here, and raccoons are often spotted along with aquatic mammals (Otters? Muskrats?). By contrast, some other HOA members, expressing concerns about things like mosquito growth and "messy algae", would like to see it 'cleaned up' so as to have a more managed appearance.

The interior reaches of Beaver Creek and the “Beaver Pond” do have a much wilder, more “woodsy” feel.

The stretch shown above has bank-to-bank aquatic plant growth on the surface, and there are numerous floating logs and dead branches in evidence. This condition precludes much human on-water activity (such as small personal watercraft).

However, a few of the private lots that adjoin this water channel do have flat gravel banks with pull-outs for small craft, and some do have beached dinghies, kayaks or canoe racks in their backyards.

These monthly reports will continue to include notes on this area of Birch Bay Village, although monitoring the presence of algae and/or its seasonal appearance has not traditionally been part of the Lakes, Ponds & Drainage Committee’s activities.

SUMMARY

BBV's primary water bodies started this season almost entirely free of surface-level algae.

UV-blocking dye was added early in the season to Kwann Lake and Thunderbird Lake, but no phosphate-locking treatments [EutroSorb-G] have been applied yet although the permit to do was issued. The Washington State Department of Ecology's new, recently-announced testing protocol for sampling/testing in water bodies that are receiving lanthanum-based product treatments has resulted in a delay on these applications. Efforts to seek a variance in this matter have not been resolved as of the date of this writing.

The smaller, shallower golf course ponds have signs of filamentous algae mats appearing, mostly along the edges. The warmer temperatures now occurring will naturally affect these ponds first (due to less water depth compared to the larger lakes), as regards plant material visible on the surface.

Photos will be taken again at the same locations next month.

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