

To: BBV Lakes, Ponds & Drainage Committee

SEPTEMBER 2026 MTG. REPORT

From: David Scheirman, Committee Member

RE: BBV LAKES & POND ALGAE, CURRENT CONDITIONS

This is the 5th report for 2026, with photos and notes on 6 different water bodies. 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**. Also now included are photos and notes from the center (mid-course) golf course pond that was severely impacted with Azolla. The **Beaver Pond** is also now being 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 9/01/26	IS ANY SURFACE ALGAE PRESENT NOW?	DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS
1. Thunderbird Lake, SE corner near boat launch	YES, very small amount	Some very minor signs of e filamentous algae on the edge of the lake, and some remnants of the azolla infestation that appeared last month and was then treated with a de-foliant herbicide.
2. Kwann Lake, NE corner near the blocked culvert	NO	No signs of any type of algae are visible on the surface here, but for a few small globs in the far NE corner.
2a. Kwann Lake, SE corner near launch	YES, very small amount	Small bits of visible surface algae and other unknown plant (possibly azolla), in very modest quantities.
3. South Golf Course Pond (#5), viewed from the road	YES, at edges as usual	Filamentous algae mats are visible as is typical on both eastern and western edges. Amount is reduced compared to last month.
4. North Golf Course Pond (#1), viewed from east shoreline	NO	No shoreline-edge filamentous algae mats are now present. There are some signs of another aquatic plant (most likely Eurasian milfoil) on the surface, but much less than earlier in the summer.
5. Center golf course pond (#3)	NO, but azolla remnants are present	The azolla removal activity appears to have been successful. Some small amounts remain; no signs of algae however.
6. Beaver Pond	YES, along with some azolla remnants	Natural, unmaintained conditions. Riparian area, mature tree growth overhanging the water area on both sides. Algae and other aquatic plant growth on surface.

9/1/26 2:00pm / Conditions: 66° F (19.44 C). Significant cloud cover. 10-12 mph wind gusts.



1. **SE Corner of Thunderbird Lake, 9/1/26.** Thunderbird Lake water now generally clean and clear after last month's azolla appearance. The lake surface is devoid of filamentous algae as seen from this viewing location. Modest amounts of remnant azolla present near the edges. The shoreline plant growth (including blackberry bushes) along the southern edge is limited.



Closeup at this observation point on Thunderbird Lake shows some bottom-growing algae built up, with (dead/dying) remnants of azolla still present on the surface along the edges.

2. **NE Corner of Kwann Lake, 9/1/26.** No sign of any algae on the surface or along the edge here.

The shoreline-edge plants including canary grass, the usual/typical blackberry bushes, and some cat-tails in this area are robust, down to the water's edge. The proliferation of nightshade at this corner of Kwann Lake, including homeowner lots on the east edge, continues.





Closeup of this northeast corner of Kwann Lake shows the typical buildup of 'pond scum' on the surface: a mix of dead leaves, pollen, feathers and dust. The recently-cleared areas of the shoreline (to facilitate better access for fisherpersons) are now supporting the growth of wildflowers.



2a. **SE corner of Kwann Lake near boat launch.** 9/1/26. Lake as viewed from here is generally clean and clear. Some very minor signs of bottom-growing algae are present at this location.



Closeup at this SE Corner (boat launch). Some 'globes' of algae on the surface; also possibly some signs of azolla or another similar aquatic plant now appearing here, which is not typical. This plant material is clustered near the sheltered shoreline, shielded from winds by the nightshade and other edge plants.



3. **South Golf Course Pond (#5)** –9/1/26. Filamentous algae still appearing on the surface at both the eastern and western shoreline edges (minor amounts). Plants at the edge growing robustly.
- 4.



The typical filamentous algae mats can be seen at this SE corner. Slightly reduced amount compared to last month.



5. **North Golf Course Pond** - 9/1/26. Surface condition: Much less plant matter on the surface than last month; no longer any signs of filamentous algae. Possibly milfoil now appearing here. (see below).



East edge: algae is gone. A small amount of milfoil appears to be present here.



Far N.E. corner (at culvert): typical scum buildup. Duckweed present here, as usual.

5. Center Golf Course Pond (#3)

This was the site of a massive Azolla buildup which began in early June. The mechanical-harvesting intervention during August was a successful action that had a positive effect. Maintenance also did a significant trimming of shoreline plants here, making the entire edge of the pond more accessible.



While there are a few remnant signs of azolla along the edges (as above), the massive infestation appears to have been mitigated. As temperatures cool, and if windy conditions continue, it is unlikely the azolla will thrive again here this season.

6. Beaver Pond – 9/1/26 - This water body is one of the only locations in Birch Bay Village still presenting as a natural, unaltered riparian zone. It is not managed by BBV Maintenance, and there is no attempt to control algae. The aggressive growth of azolla that was present last month is mostly self-resolved.



The aggressive growth of azolla that was present at this southern edge of the Beaver Pond last month is much sparser. Some remnants are visible. but the tight-packed mats are much less thick now.



At the upper reaches of Beaver "Creek", the natural water body is filled with surface algae, fallen tree limbs, and in-stream shrub growth.

SUMMARY

BBV's primary water bodies have remained mostly free of surface-level filamentous algae this season, despite the early-season delay in our phosphorus-blocking compound treatments. The most notable change in our water bodies since last month is the suppression of the "fairy fern" plant, Azolla.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS THAT WERE MADE LAST MONTH, AND RESULTS DURING AUGUST:

1. Consider determining a way to reduce the large Azolla mat in *Golf Pond #3*: could cause a fish kill due to oxygen level reductions.

Action: mechanical harvesting and labor-intensive intervention removed about 10 tons of azolla. See photos below: before, and after.



2. Closely watch what is possibly Azolla growing on the west edge at the south end of Thunderbird.

Action: the azolla did spread rapidly; a quick response by Maintenance with a defoliate herbicide, surface-applied by boat, helped resolve the issue. See photos below: infestation, and defoliate action.



3. Monitor the south end of the Beaver Pond to see if Azolla mats increase next month.

Action: the site was monitored frequently; the azolla grew to rapidly encroach upon nearly the entire surface of the water body, but then self-resolved as temperatures cooled in late August.

Photos will be taken again at the same locations next month, for the October meeting report. That will be the final monthly report for the 2026 season.

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