

# Birchwood's Bluegills

Bluegill are a celebrated fish in Birchwood, Wisconsin. The bluegill has such significant status in the village, a giant statue was erected to welcome highway travelers. It seemed only fitting that an annual festival be named after the beloved species as well. In July 2017, Birchwood Bluegill Festival was celebrated for the 54th time with help from primary sponsor Birchwood Lions Club and scale sponsor Rice Lake Weighing Systems.

During the festivities, Birchwood, with a population of just under 450 and toting the certified trade name "Bluegill Capital of Wisconsin," teems with excitement. Good-natured competition and a celebration of watersports thrive amidst the serene beauty of some of the best lakes in the Midwest.

The festival's Bluegill Fishing Contest is centered at Seasonal Power Toys, a full-service recreational equipment, dock service and bait shop plaza. Here, Rice Lake Weighing Systems installed weighing equipment fit for the challenge of measuring the entries. The small but powerful 880 Performance™ Plus digital weight indicator, BenchMark™ bench scale and a super bright LaserLight2™ remote display were chosen to weigh the winner.

The 880 supplied a fast, stable weight stream through RS-232 communication, the BenchMark's breakaway platter design ensured no load cell damage would occur by unintended impacts and the LaserLight2's four-inch display was clearly visible up to 200 feet away, allowing the crowd to easily monitor weigh-ins.

Handling weighing capacities in a vast number of settings, this equipment is versatile and precise enough to verify weights for the tightly contested first place position secured by the heaviest bluegill, which, incidentally, weighs under one pound on average! This year, prizes and congratulations went to adult division winner Trevor Kiehl, with a 13.5 oz bluegill, and junior division winner Autumn Evitch with a 10.5 oz bluegill.



*Below, Landen Gindt holds an entry for the festival's contest. When he isn't fishing, Landen and his brothers Logen and Lucas clean fish for vacationers at a local resort.*

