

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 21, 2008

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Past Vice Commodores were honored at last weekend's Flag-Day Party at the BLYC. Pictured in the back row from left are Harold Cranmer, Stewart Spratt, Rich Mullin, Mike Machalleck, Bill King and Bob King. In the front row from left are Scott Troeger, Jim Bolinger, Judy Olson, Phil Vitale and Paul Fallon.

Commodore's Comments

Another gorgeous week around Birch Lake, warm temperatures, a little rain, a little wind and more warm temps. What's not to love about Michigan and the beautiful lake we call home. OK! I will not mention the ice, snow and freezing temperatures, we will leave that for the online barker.

Talk about a great week, what about the Vice-commodore's party on Saturday? What a great time! Amy and I had family commitments and arrived a little later in the evening. We were astounded by the number of cars in the parking lot and vast amount of people being entertained in the yacht club. Our hats go off for Paul and Celia for throwing such a great event. Thanks to both of you!

On another event note, the Commodore's party will be next week Saturday the 28th. Come out, mingle, and bring an appetizer if you wish. We will be giving tribute to all of the volunteers and

board members that give their time and energy to make Birch Lake a better place.

Several other activities are also being planned. Come out and enjoy the fellowship and comraderie at the BLYC. The last event that I need to talk about is the pancake breakfast on July 6th. We will be starting at 8 a.m. and serving until 11 a.m. This years' proceeds will be going to camp scholarships to help kids attend camp that otherwise would not be able to attend. Let's all put that date on our calendars and show our support for this great program by filling our stomachs and lightening our wallets.

In closing, I would like everyone to take a few minutes, slow down and appreciate that we have at Birch Lake. Great friends, family, sparkling water and the most awesome sense of community. May we all realize what a great place we have and what a great life we live. Everyone have a great great weekend. **SEE YA ON THE POND,**

-Mike Lutz
Commodore 2008

2008 BLYC Calendar*

- Sat. June 28 — Commodore's Party TBD
- Sat. July 5 — Boat Parade 4 pm
- Sat. July 5 — Fireworks dusk
- Sun. July 6 — Pancake Breakfast Camp 8 am
- Sat. July 12 — Board Meeting 9 am
- Sat. July 12 — Homeowners Meeting 10 am
- Sat. July 19 — Spaghetti Dinner TBD
- Fri. July 25 — Men's Golf Outing TBD
- Fri. Aug 1 — Women's Golf Outing/ Luncheon
- Sat. Aug 2 — Board Meeting 9 am
- Sat. Aug 2 — Corn & Sausage Roast
- Sat. Aug 23 — Fall Dinner
- Sat. Sept 6 — Board Meeting 9 am
- Oct 4 — Annual Chili Cook Off
- TBA — Sailing Awards, Fish & Wing Dinner, Card Party

*all dates and times are tentative. Watch the Barker for updates

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. E-mail the info to sailorphil@philvitale.com, or, if you must, put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). You can also mail your items to: Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.

— Birch Lake Notes —

COMING SOON PANCAKE
BREAKFAST AT CAMP
TANNADOONAH JULY 6, 8 AM

Adopt a Cabin

The Adopt a Cabin for Camp Tannadoonah campaign has officially started — an article was in last week's Barker. The East side already has 7 people committed to giving for an East Side Cabin adoption. If the captain for your side of the lake hasn't been around yet, please contact them — with an open check book, of course.

Captains are Katha Machalleck and Denny Weesner on the south side, Peg Cowen and Bev Kruggel on the west side, the Russwurms on the north side, and Linda Curtis and Judy Olson on the east side.

2008 Birch Lake Boat Parade

Two weeks to go until the 2008 Birch Lake Boat Parade. There is still plenty of time to get your ideas together to make this year's parade the best ever. The judges have been selected and are ready for the big day. Fred and Carol Frehofer, Jim and Linda Yoshizawa, and Denny Weesner have agreed to do the honors this year. They are all upstanding citizens of Birch Lake and have promised to be impartial. Although,

Birch Barker Kids of the Week



Jim Foos (71 yrs old) and his two granddaughters, Amy Condle and Becky Davis on Father's day. The three of them have skied at least one lap around the lake each summer since the girls could ski, which was at very young age.

the word on the street (or should I say lake) is that they are not above bribery!

This exciting event starts at 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 5th. Participants should cruise on over to Dick Bender's pier on the South Side about 3:45 to get your number and get lined up. Don't miss out on the fun!

Missing items ... thefts?

More news of the missing items ... apparently the missing yellow canoe was just out sowing wild oats on the lake and has come back home.

However, we have additional reports of a boat battery and a gas tank and hose assembly being stolen last weekend, and another report that at least one house near the landing was completely cleaned out during the early spring.

Remember, if you notice anything missing or if you see any suspicious activity, contact the Cass County Sheriff's Department at "911" for emergencies or 445-8644.

Library fun for summer

This summer at the Cass District Libraries you will be able to catch

Handyman Repairs

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Even More Birch Barker Kids of the Week



Meghan (9) on the shoulders of sons Connor (12) and Patrick (15) Russell, children of Michael and Paula Russell (south side) after winning the U10 MSA soccer championship game last Saturday.

the reading bug by visiting during some of the children's events scheduled for June and July.

Listed below are the dates for events at the Main Library (CAS) and the Mason Union Branch



Grandsons of Sue and Duffy Dufour; Cottage 120. From left to right: Dylan Dufour; Dan DuFour; Tyler DuFour; and Nick Wirt. At the grandparents' cottage 6/14/08.

(CMU). Events will also be held at the Edwardsburg and Howard Branches:

Bugs In The Night Evening Story Time CMU, Tues July 8, 6 pm

Creature Catchers The difference between insects, spiders, etc. CMU Mon June 30 11 am

Zoo Comes To You - Potawatomi Zoo presents CAS Tues July 1, 10 am

Bug Sweep at TK Lawless Park - A "sweep" through the woods and the findings! Thurs, July 10, 2 pm

Summer Reading Program



Big kid of the week, Caroline Quinlan Kappel received her PhD degree in Fine Arts from Ohio University on June 13, 2008. Caroline is the daughter of Steve & Vickie Quinlan (West Side). They will be flying the Green & White — Ohio University flag from the top of the sailboat for most of the summer. Caroline and her husband Hank live in Canton, Ohio. Now that Caroline is finally finished with school, they will be frequent visitors to the lake.

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Finale: Craft Day Activities, snacks
 CAS Mon, July 14, 12 pm to 3 pm
 CMU Thurs, July 17, 12 pm to 3 pm

Line dancing

Line Dance continues at the Yacht Club at 9 am on Tuesday mornings.

Rumors, lies, and gossip

Rumors, lies, and gossip. What do all of these have in common? They are all names for a very hurtful and destructive tool that bored or unhappy people use to try to make themselves feel better. When bad things happen to people there is a need to place blame. It's only human nature. However we should all be careful to have actual facts before doing so or we are no better than the person who initially did the "Bad" deed.

I'm writing this to remind everyone what false accusations can do, or better yet how they can feel. Unfortunately I know first hand. It usually starts out with being falsely accused of something, then it's told to a second party. That person adds to the story and then tells another and so on...By the time it reaches the accused party it's created a life of it's own. It immediately causes that per-

Birch Barker Kid (and fish) of the Week

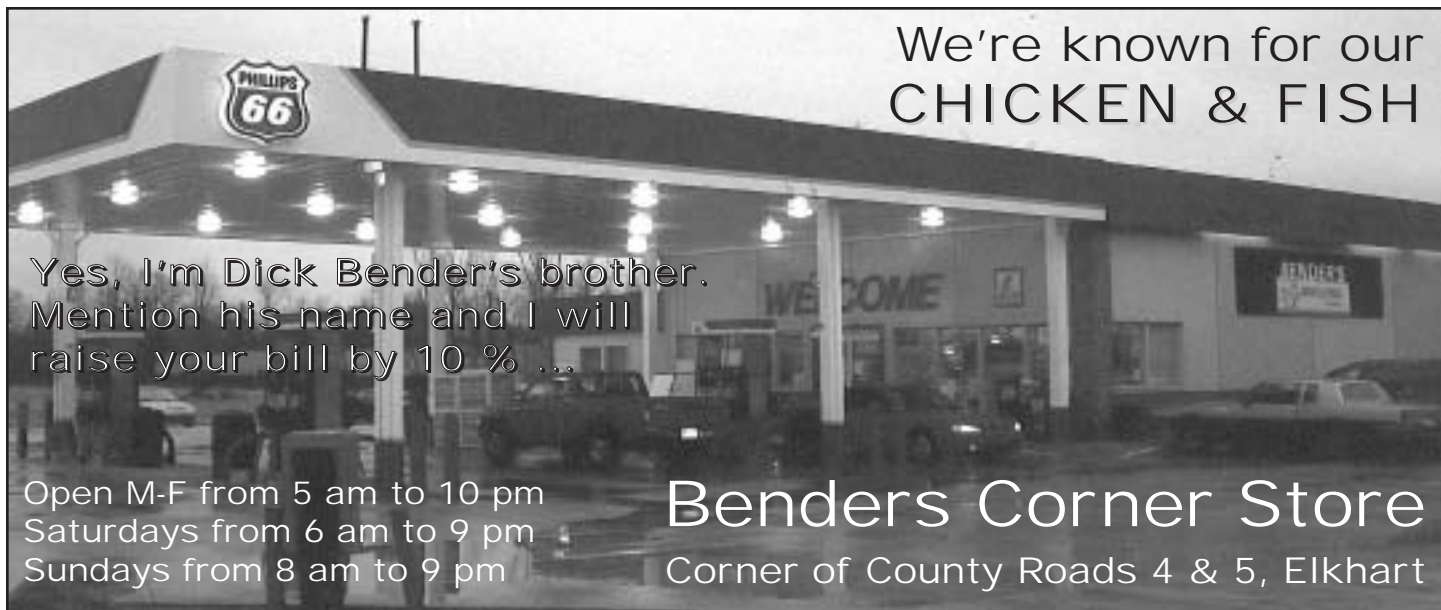


Birch Lake visitors ... Morgann Applegate posed with her new friend, GARfield last Sunday at Birch Lake. After much discussion, we decided that the GAR-B-Que was not such a good idea, even with a little GARlick and opted instead to make it into GARbage ...

son to feel a wide variety of emotions. Hurt then anger to name two. That person has the sudden urge to to confront these busy bodies and defend themselves. Then they realize that this is a bad idea. It could escalate into something that isn't helpful or constructive for either party. Not to mention it probably wouldn't do any good. It would simply provide that person with more to gossip about.

Therefore being a true believer that the pen is mightier than the sword, I'm writing this request. Asking people to remember how hurtful lies can be, and to make sure they have facts not just rumors. Shame on those who don't...you know who you are!

*-Tammy Sobczak-Barbour
 up on the hill*



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Now, let's go play some golf!

Tannadoonah Tidbits

Summer is here, and the Camp Tannadoonah staff have arrived at camp! This week is our week of staff training, and we've been working them really hard! We have 22 really awesome counselors this year, and I think it's going to be one of our best summers ever.

During staff training, we spend a lot of time discussing procedures and what to do in different situations. This is particularly relevant this year, as just last week 4 Boy Scouts were killed in a tragic accident when a tornado hit their camp. I've had quite a few parents and grandparents asking me what our emergency plan is, and I'd like to share that with everyone.

Miss Sue (my assistant director) and I each carry walkie talkies with built-in weather radios. Whenever there is a storm watch, we alert all of the counselors in camp (by walkie-talkie), just to make sure they stay aware of what's going on. We have several different signals for severe weather, so if a counselor doesn't hear the message over the radio, we also blare the air horn and ring the big bell outside Main Lodge to signal an emergency.

If a tornado warning is issued, we



immediately bring all of the campers to two central locations: The Dining Hall and Morris Lodge. Both of these buildings have basements, so they are the safest places in camp to bring the kids. During the time we're waiting out the storm, we sing camp songs and play games to keep the kids calm. We monitor the weather radar and radios, and if it gets bad, we move the campers to the basements.

We do periodic drills with the counselors to make sure they stay sharp and remember all of the proper procedures for various emergency situations.

We're up to a total of 354 campers for the summer! We've already beat our total number of campers from last year (which was 351). We're still 96 away from our goal of 450 for the summer, but I really think we can get there. Keep signing up those kids and

help us make this a really incredible summer at Camp Tannadoonah!

We still have more applications for campership funds than I am able to cover, so if you're still thinking about sponsoring a campership, please let me know! We're planning to put all of the proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast in to the campership fund, so let's make this the biggest Pancake Breakfast ever!

Also, I've updated our camp wish list, so if you have any of these items around your house and they need a good home, please consider sending them up to camp.

See you all soon!

-Miss Amber Grundy
Camp Tannadoonah
Amber@tannadoonah.org
574-217-4731

Camp Tannadoonah Wish List:

Kayaks (4-5)

Lif jackets

Digital Cameras

Water Heaters

General Health tip for your furry friend

Chubby puppies are toooooo cute; however, overweight dogs present a problem.

Statistics show that being overweight is one of the worst things you can do to your health. Obesity isn't good for your dog either. If a 170 pound man gains 5 pounds it's a much smaller percentage than if a 35 pound dog gains 5 pounds.

As in humans, dogs that are overweight have a shorter life span and experience more medical problems than dogs that are normal weight. So, how fat is too fat for your dog? If your dog is starting to look rotund, you may want to call your vet. Most vets have weight

charts that show the weight ranges for the various breeds.

If Fido is packing extra pounds, realize that dogs haven't figured out how to open the refrigerator (yet) so the reason he's too fat is because you fed him too much or didn't give him enough exercise. Or both. The only way to reverse the trend is to feed him less and exercise him more. You also might want to pay attention to where Fido's food is coming from. If he's scoring extra calories from treats, doggie biscuits, the cat's food bowl, and the tidbits the kids give him under the table, you'll need to nix these food sources.

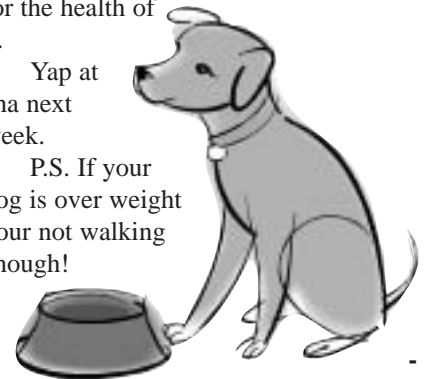
To help your dog lose weight, you

also must increase his activity level.

Here's an idea....leash Fido up and take a stroll around beautiful Birch Lake just for the health of it.

Yap at cha next week.

P.S. If your dog is over weight your not walking enough!



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Fleet Captains' Corner



What a great day on Sunday! Temperatures in the 70's, wind blowing steadily around 10 MPH, and not a dark cloud in the sky. The MC's and Sunfish are jockeying for position, waiting for the committee boat to officially start the race. 10...9...8...Another glorious day sailing beautiful Birch Lake!! (Just because we were unable to sail, is no reason not to have a sailing article! And I can say anything I want, too!!)

Once again, Mother Nature reminded our sailors who is in charge! She opened up the sky and added several more inches of water to Birch Lake. So, the races were canceled. This Sunday, we will be back on the lake going around the marks at break-neck speeds. Bob Waddle will be officiating in the committee boat, and all will be right in the world.

Many thanks to Paul Fallon for hosting a great party at the yacht club last Saturday. It gave me the opportunity to "gently persuade" several in attendance to sign up to man the committee boat. (They don't call me Bad Patty for nothing!) For those of you that may not remember if you signed up, or perhaps you're a little foggy on which Sunday you will be officiating on the committee boat, feel free to call me. I will be glad to refresh your memory. For those of you that I didn't get around to harass, there are several dates still available for you to be on the committee boat.

It's fun, not difficult and for about 1 1/2 hours you can boss around a bunch of guys in boats!!!

This Sunday we want a perfect sailing day. To insure that kind of weather, all the sailors are to think positive thoughts and wish for a "zephyr". In their book, A Dictionary for Landlubbers, Old Salts, & Arm Chair Drifters, Henry Beard and Roy McKie define "zephyr" as: A warm, pleasant breeze, named after the mythical Greek god of wishful thinking, false hopes, and unreliable forecasts.

In closing, just a short story. (do not insert Old Man and the Sea).

There was a famous captain. He was very successful and very respected by his crew and fellow captains. Never did stormy seas get the best of him. He seemed to have complete control over the sea. He did however, have a strange ritual.

Every morning he would lock himself in his quarters and open a small safe. In the safe was an envelope with a piece of paper inside. He would stare at the paper for a minute, and then lock it back in the safe. He would then go about his duties. For years this went on, and his crew became very curious. Was it a treasure map? A letter from a lost love? Everyone speculated about the contents of the envelope.

One day the captain died at sea. After laying him to rest, the first mate led the crew to the captain's quarters. He opened the safe, got the envelope out, opened it, and...The first mate turned pale, and showed the paper to the crew. Four words were on the paper, two on two lines:

**Port Left.
Starboard Right.**

And that about says it all.

-Bad Patty (in for Bill Luecht, fleet captain)

2008 BLYC Officers:

Commodore — Mike Lutz—476-2843
or (cell) 269-207-1153
Vice Comm.—Paul Fallon—476-1467
Fleet Capt. — Bill Luecht—476-2615
Treas. — Holly Troeger—476-9898
Secretary —Sandy Vitale—476-1680
BLYC Directors:
North — Rick Russwurm—476-2407
Fred Freihofer—476-9823
East — Judy Olson—476-2125
Scott Troeger—476-9898

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

Paul Fallon—476-1467

Phil Vitale—476-1680

Hill — Ryan Gableman—215-0366

South — Dick Bender—476-2591

Denny Weesner—476-2569

Dave Bouwkamp—476-1001

Charlene Sheets—476-2604

West — Harold Cranmer—476-2170

Mardy Miller—476-9226

Paula Russell—476-1880

Cove — Vicki Rogers—476-2383

BLYC Water Quality
Rick Russwurm, Chair.—476-2407
Bob & Gert Temple—476-2773
Terry Dugan—476-2814

BLYC Home Owners
Rick Russwurm—476-2407
Scott Troeger—476-9898
Paul Fallon—476-1467
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Birch Lake properties for sale

Two year round homes w/water-front property at one low price! Main home has 3 bedrooms with

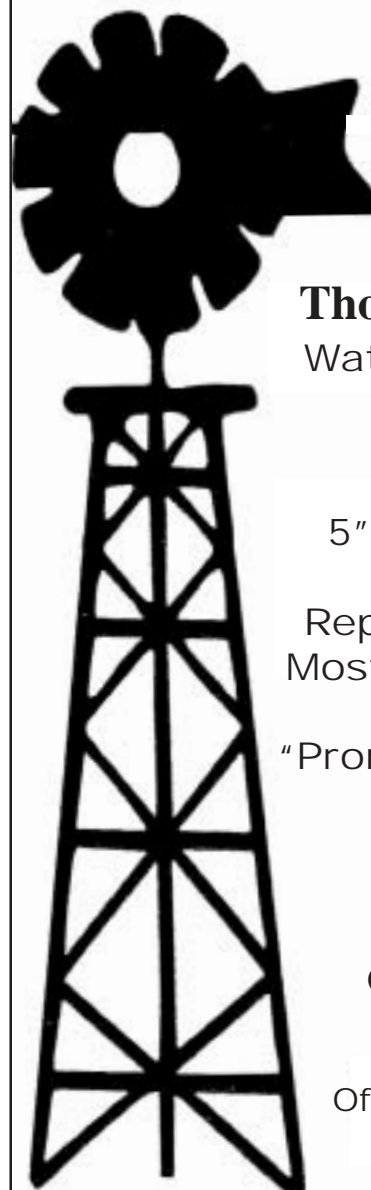


possible 4th or additional guest rooms, 1 bath, new oak kitchen, wrap-around deck, and 2 double, heated garages. The 2nd home has 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, fireplace and extra lot. Price is 509,900.00

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Stu's Star Stuff



Summer Solstice

Summer kicks into high gear in the northern hemisphere today because it's the day after the summer solstice and the first full day of the new season. The Sun will begin moving southward after today, and the days will soon begin to grow shorter.

Summer solstice occurred yesterday at 7:59 p.m. EDT. This is the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere and marks the Sun's northernmost point in the sky.

So what is the difference between a solstice and an equinox?

Four days during our calendar year -- two solstices and two equinoxes -- mark the beginnings of the four seasons. At the extremes are the winter and summer solstices, with the vernal and autumnal equinoxes occupying the midpoints. The solstices and equinoxes also mark four important points in Earth's orbit around the Sun. It's Earth's position in its orbit -- and the orientation of its tilted axis at these points in its orbit -- that defines the seasons.

The solstices are six months apart

and mark the days when the northern and southern hemispheres receive either maximum (summer) or minimum (winter) sunshine. In the north, the summer solstice, usually around June 21, is the longest day of the year; the winter solstice, six months later, is the shortest day of the year. The two equinoxes occur roughly midway between the solstices: the autumnal equinox in September and spring equinox in March. At these times, day and night are roughly of equal length.

The times of the solstices and equinoxes were important to ancient agrarian cultures, since these observations warned of changing weather conditions. For instance, the spring equinox signals the beginning of warmer weather.

The start of summer brings the latest sunsets and shortest nights of the year, so although more people spend more time outdoors, they may not get to see more of the night sky. Even so, there's lots to look at this right now with Mars and Saturn congregating around Leo and Jupiter highlighting the early morning. The dense inner regions of the Milky Way

start wheeling into view, too. So it's a good time to turn off the porch light and take in the view of the heavens and enjoy the show. It's free, as you know.

-Stu Spratt



The Moon tonight:

The moon for June 21 (at Midnight)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.882

4.2 days before last quarter

Horoscope for Birch Lake

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

You are likely to be left alone if you aren't willing to bend just a little. Trips should be your choice. You will be able to get good advice if you listen to close friends or relatives you respect. You can make career changes that may put you in a much higher earning bracket.

Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Rethink your motives and make the necessary changes to yourself. Don't overdo it. Your ability to communicate with ease will win the hearts of those you are in touch with this week. Don't make any rash decisions that may affect friendships.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Take the time to do your job correctly or you may find yourself looking for a new one. Get together with friends for some competitive physical activities. You can make gains if you look at long-term investments. You may be sensitive to a point of absurdity. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

It might be best not to spend your money on luxuries this week. Overindulgence could lead to problems with digestion. Travel will lead you in new directions. You will be overly sensitive when dealing with your personal life.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Opportunities will come through behind the scenes activities. You need to take a long, hard look at yourself and your personal situation. Take things slowly, especially for the sake of those you love. Try to include friends and relatives in your activities.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

You will be in a high cycle regarding work. Coworkers may not be on your side. Try to channel your energy into physical work. Relatives may be less than easy to deal with.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

You might find that delays will cause setbacks and upset. Unrealistic promises will only get you in trouble. You can ask for favors and get sound advice from close friends or relatives. Unexpected visitors will be a welcome surprise.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You will be a real chatterbox this week. Jealous coworkers may try to sabotage your attempts to get ahead. Coworkers may not be giving you all the pertinent information. Use your high energy and dynamic approach to win favors from superiors.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

You have a lot to offer. Do not expect too much from others. You will not impress others by being foolishly generous. You may want to make changes that will turn your entertainment room into a real family affair.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Minor health problems will flare up if you don't take care of yourself. Keep your ears open, especially to those who care about you. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Get back into a routine that promises a better looking, more aware individual.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Visitors may be likely to drop by. Don't let your personal partner hold you back or slow you down. If you take on too much of a financial burden you may make yourself ill. Don't be too quick to judge partners or those you work with.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Professionalism will be of utmost importance. Don't blame every thing on your mate. It is time to clear your decks. Secret affairs may be brought out in the open.

Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

Birch Lake's Song
Endless, lazy,
Sometimes crazy,
Minutes are days
Inside my head.

The mayfly twitters,
The tree whispers,
The waves lap the shore,
Beckoning me in.

The wind whispers nothings in my ears
As the sun gives me a kiss.
The dragon fly just flew by.
Like me, he hasn't got a care.
The hawk soars above

On invisible ribbons.
The clouds move ever so slow.
This is nature's song....

It lured man here so long ago
To this underestimatedly magical place.
And here man likes to linger
And clear his mind.

I sit. Time is frozen.
For that blissful minute,
I grasp feelings
I've never felt

And can't explain.
So, I don't explain them.

But whenever I can,
I sit alone, clear my mind
And listen to nature's song.

The song never ends
And has no beginning either.
As mysterious as time itself,
As forgettable as a dream.

The song of Birch Lake
Will forever be in my heart
And linger on my lips--
For it is my favorite song....

-Elizabeth (Biz) Andriano

BLYC CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads are free for paid members; Non-members pay \$5. Drop or mail ads to 63174 Birch Road, or e-mail: sailorphil@philvitale.com

FOUND:

Found-Round silver earring at the spring dinner. Call Mike Lutz 269/476-2843 or 269/207-1153.

Pier Section Found — If you are missing one section of your pier, call The Rogers in the Cove 476-2383.

If you are missing a **Ski-Doo air intake stack** please call 476-9862.

Straw Hat — Roma Went (hill) reported finding a straw hat on the lake. If it's yours, call her at 476-2454.

Found — a **life vest** from last weekend; call 476-9740.

LOST

During one of the recent storms one of the treads on our pier stairs was torn off. If anyone finds a 2x6, approx. 40 inches long floating in the lake please call Spratts at 476-2113.

Lost - MC Scow uphaul line (rope), 25 ft. x 1/4 in. dia, black with purple trim. Floated away in the middle of the lake when I put the boat on it's side. Dave Olson 476-2125.

Lost: **Kayak paddle** from the

northshore. If found, please call 476-9823.

FOR SALE

Love candles? Like free stuff? Have a PARTYLITE CANDLE party. New summer catalog available offering candles, diffusers, gift ideas and great decorating ideas. Call your Birch Lake Partylite consultant, Patty Luecht at 476-2615 to book a party or place an order.

WANTED

Wanted: Birch Lake Rental for July 20 - 26. Please call Gary at 309-360-8666.

SERVICES

Lawn Service and Odd Jobs — Call Spencer Bouwkamp at Birch Lake, 476-1001

Propane for grills — Bill Butler will pick up, fill and drop off propane canisters for grills for

\$17/tank. Call Bill at 476-9905

MISC.

Needed: Committee Boat Volunteers! Great dates still available. still available: July 20, August 24, Regatta on Aug 31/Sept 1st. Sign up now, before these dates are gone!!!! Spend time on the lake working on your tan and help the sailors at the same time. Call Bad Patty, 476-2615.



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Official BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB 2008 Dues, Contributions & Donations Form

- \$ _____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$25 / year)
- \$ _____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ _____ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ _____ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ _____ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ _____ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ _____ - Water Quality Program
- \$ _____ - Riparian (\$8/yr, provide address for magazine)
- \$ _____ - Safety Committee
- \$ _____ - Other (non-party related expenses)

Total \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
Address _____

Mail to: Holly Troeger, Treasurer
1516 Ash Drive East
Elkhart, IN 46514

or drop off at: 63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)

Make checks payable to *Birch Lake Yacht Club*