

Happy Fourth of July!

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

Birch Barker

Weekend of July 5, 2008

© Copyright 2008, The Birch Lake Yacht Club



Don't hide in your shell this weekend, get outdoors and enjoy the lake! Thanks to Bob King for this great turtle shot ...

Commodore's Comments

Yet again, another magnificent weekend here at Birch Lake! Had rain to nourish our flowers, plants and yards, sunshine to energize ourselves, and a reprieve from the humidity to make us want to be outside. We have been blessed with some really great weather and reports are indicating that this weekend's weather will continue in the same delightful pattern. Last week I told mother nature to, "keep it up," so I hope she gets her Barker in time this week to continue the tremendous job this weekend, that she has done for us in the last month or so.

The weekend that all of us look forward to has finally arrived! Rumor has it, that all of our projects must be completed by this weekend so we can simply enjoy the rest of the year on the lake. I know Amy and I are not close to adhering to the previous statement, but I do hope that many of you are! So for all of you that are caught up and all of you that are in our shoes, please take this weekend, slip on some flip flops and enjoy the festivities and the great weather that seems to be

destined for our wonderful lake.

On Saturday the boat parade will be getting underway at 4pm at Dick Bender's pier, decorate your boat and join in the fun. Our Grand Marshalls for this year's parade will be Jim and Eleanor Thayer, escorted by Marlow and J.P. Hoyer. The spectacular fireworks show will light off around dusk, and from looking at the list of projectiles it will be another superb show!!!

Last but not least, we will be cooking up our world famous pancakes and sausage at the camp from 8am to 11am on Sunday morning. If you have not heard yet, this year's proceeds will be sponsoring camperships to help kids go to camp.

Looking ahead we will also be selling tickets for the spaghetti dinner at the camp on Sunday, remember that this is on a first-come basis and has been sold out in years' past.

Lastly I would like to thank all the people that make these events possible, without them these events would not be possible!! Hat's off to all that make these wonderful events so successful. Keep in mind, that this weekend there will be more boats on our waters than what is typical. Please stay focused and watch

2008 BLYC Calendar*

Every Tues — Line Dancing, Yacht Club, 9 am
 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
 Fri. Aug 7 — Ladies' 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

out for others, let's keep this weekend a safe and enjoyable one. See you on the pond.

-Mike Lutz
 Commodore 2008

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 —

Pancake Breakfast

The Annual 4th of July Breakfast will be July 6th at Camp Tanadoonah

Adults \$5.00...Children 6 to 10 \$2.00...under 5 free

Please plan to attend and support Camp Tanadoonah.

Be careful!

Let's be careful out there! With the Holiday weekend comes congested boat traffic. Some lake residents have mentioned boats failing to stay offshore the proscribed distance. In addition, for those inclined to "do the wild thing" on wave runners, it would be appreciated if this was confined to the center of the lake (not in the outer traffic pattern near shore).

2008 Birch Lake Boat Parade

The 2008 Boat Parade will start at Dick Bender's pier at 4:00 on Saturday. Boat entries need to check in with the judges and get their number. After going around the lake, go back to Dick's pier to get your award.

Let's give all of the entrants and Grand Marshall, Jim and Eleanor Thayer, a big Birch Lake reception as the boats go around the lake!

'Surprised by Beauty'

Birch Lake resident Carol Dugan is beginning a gallery show at Carnegie Center for the Arts in

Birch Barker Kids of the Week



Senors Frito Bandito and Jose Gonzales posed for a photo at the Commodore's Party last week with their newly acquired facial hair (ok, it's really Calvin King (north shore) and Neil Troeger (east side)).

Three Rivers, Michigan. A reception will be held at Carnegie on Saturday, July 12 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm, celebrating the opening of the show. All are invited. Carol's photography will hang in the gallery from June 28 through August 31. The theme is 'Surprised by Beauty.' Local and distant landscapes are featured.

Missing items ... thefts?

Contact the Cass County Sheriff at "911" for emergencies or 445-8644.

Line dancing

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

Visitors to the North Shore

Bill and Le King once again look forward to hosting frequent 4th of July visitors Ric and Lisa Dwenger (from Muncie) and Chuck, Karen and Sarah Elizabeth Horn (from Noblesville). Please drop by and welcome back these dear friends.

Handyman Repairs

- Roof to basement - inside and out
- Floors, doors, stairways, ceilings and windows
- Siding, roofing, driveways and sprinklers
- Decks and fences; fascia and soffits
- Plumbing, electrical, heating and A/C
- Piers and Seawalls

Home Maintenance

- Painting - interior and exterior
- Snow removal - sidewalks, driveways & roofs
- Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
- We do windows
- Power washing, insulation and weatherproofing
- Spring and fall yard clean up
- Tree and shrub trimming
- Rototill your garden

Free Estimates

- Firm quotes for all jobs
- Fully insured
- No job too big or too small

Property Management

- Reliable caretaker
- Fulfills all absentee homeowner's needs
- Periodically checks your property
- Provides second home peace of mind
- Call for all lake property requirements



Dave's Residential Services

(269)476-2797; Wireless (269) 362-0724
dhardisty@beanstalk.net
Emergency Service Available 24/7

— Birch Lake Notes —

Thanks from the Spratts

The Spratts on the north side are enjoying their updated kitchen with new cabinets and countertops. The old metal cabinets and peeling contact paper had lost it's charm and it was time for a change. Thanks to John, Rick and Stan for the help in installing; thanks to Deb for unloading the old cabinets and replacing all the dishes and other stuff; thanks to Becky for the microwave and thanks to Amber for taking a couple of the old ones to the camp.

And an especially big thanks goes to the folks at American Waste Residential in Union. (In case you missed it, they are the new trash service provider for the folks on the north shore.) Replacing cabinets means having to somehow dispose of the old ones. I called Katy at American Waste (269.641.7502) and told her I needed a special pick-up. She told me to just go ahead and put the cabinets out there and they would take them...FOR NO EXTRA CHARGE. Awesome. Michiana Recycling never did that for me. Give Katy a call and I'm sure she can help you out too.

Greta and Lyla Boecher grandchildren of Rick and Patti Russwurm celebrating Lyla's one year birthday. Cutest little buggers!

Even More Birch Barker Kids of the Week



www.odonnellsdocks.com



Come visit our
showroom at
12097 M-60
in Jones, MI

**CALL US
TODAY!**

SALES/SERVICE/REPAIR
DOCKS-BOAT LIFTS-CANOPS
RAFTS-BENCHES
LADDERS-ACCESSORIES

**DONNELL'S
DOCKS, LLC**

OFFICE: (269) 244-1446

CELL: (269) 370-3625

FAX: (269) 244-5736

DRDOCK@HOTMAIL.COM

12097 M-60

P.O. BOX 1

JONES, MI 49061

AUTHORIZED DEALER FOR:

SHOREMASTER



SHOREMATE

ShoreStation

Lutz Concrete

FLATWORK ~ DRIVEWAYS ~ FLOORS
concrete stamping ~ colored concrete

17050 M-86
Three Rivers, MI 49093

269/279-7973

FAX 269/279-0133
Mobile Phone: 269/207-1153

E-mail: mmtlconcrete@aol.com



— Birch Lake Notes —

Ladies' Luncheon

The BLYC Ladies' Luncheon (formerly linked to the BLYC Ladies' Golf Tournament) will be held on Thursday, August 7 at Brewster's in Three Rivers (at the corner of Hoffman and 131) at Noon. Watch the Barker for more information.

The Ladies' Golf Tournament is scheduled for August 1 at Sauganash Golf Course in Three Rivers. More information will be published in the Barker as it becomes available.

New Kids of the Week

Welcome to the Barker "New Kids" of the week, Marlow and J.P. Hoyer. The Hoyers are very new to Birch and live on the east side. They will be escorting the BLYC Boat Parade Grand Marshalls, Jimmy and Ellie Thayers around the lake this Saturday during the Boat Parade. They are also the early morning swimmers you may have seen doing laps around Birch Lake (watch out for them when you're in your boat!)



4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

At the Birch Lake Yacht Club
Saturday, July 19th 6-8:00 p.m.
Dinner at the Club - or - carry out
\$7 adults / \$5 kids 3-10 / \$0 toddlers



alternate transport reduces parking congestion

Tickets must be purchased in advance (so the cooks can prepare enough for all diners). Tickets will be available at the Pancake Breakfast - or - contact
South Side: Denny Weesner - **West Side:** Bev Kruggel or Peggy Cowen -
North Side: Le King - **East Side:** Judy Olson, Sandy Vitale or Patty Leucht.

Menu: Spaghetti with Meat or Alfredo Sauce, Salad, Bread, Tea & Lemonade

We're known for our
CHICKEN & FISH

Yes, I'm Dick Bender's brother.
Mention his name and I will
raise your bill by 10 % ...

Open M-F from 5 am to 10 pm
Saturdays from 6 am to 9 pm
Sundays from 8 am to 9 pm

Benders Corner Store
Corner of County Roads 4 & 5, Elkhart

Dick
BENDER

and **BENDER PLASTICS INC. & MOLD & MACHINE, INC.**

Want all of our Birch Lake friends to have a safe and fun summer!

55951 RUSSELL INDUSTRIAL PKWY
MISHAWAKA, IN 46545

TOOLING — (574) 255-5176

MFG — (574) 255-5350

Now, let's go play some golf!



FUN AT THE COMMODORE'S PARTY



photos courtesy of the PattiCam



Fido's Friend Wordsearch

There are a whole bunch of words in the puzzle below that relate to man's (and women's) best friends.

Some are ordinary words ... some are the name of specific breeds. The words may run in every direction (left to right, right to left, top to bottom and bottom to top).

See how many you can find — we'll publish the list (and show you where they are) in next week's Barker (why isn't 'Barker' on the list?).

Yap at cha next week,

-Fido's Friend



PS: LEASH YOUR DOG, IT'S THE LAW!

K J A C K R U S S E L L S A T F L L L A
R E T R I E V E R R A L L O C A E L A E
D R S L O Y A L T Y I I T U T I A E U F
N O I G O D E L T T A C D I N B F R R B
U T C H I H U A H U A S K A D F Y E H I
H T S F L D F L E A S A P N I E N L C B
S W P E T S D E E R B S U T Y A E E T A
H E H L A B R A D O R O S A M K L E A C
C I N L A E B C E E H A P R A D N H C T
A L I G R O W L K Y M S E R O I B E E E
D E N F T N C C E H D B U O N D D U B A
L R A L E B O R A P O F P A R R A L R E
I N C I V C G C K D L U C L E H B B E E
T S E I P P U P S T O E E H T A O R T C
T E E L A Y O L E E C I P L D B N E H P
E T B E A G L E I E N E D E F E E T S T
R N O P U G T H Y A H N T N K E T I A S
M A L A M U T E P S T O O N A I T B E S
E E I K R O Y S S E L A D E R I A C L A
S P H I O F E B H H D U A K R D E R H B

Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

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

Blair Garceau — 476-9862

Hill — Ryan Gableman—215-0366

South — Dick Bender—476-2591

Terry Dugan—476-2814

West — Harold Cranmer—476-2170

Cove — Vicki Rogers—476-2383

BLYC Flet Captain

Bill Lutecht — 476-2615

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

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

Phil Vitale—476-1680



Fleet Captains' Corner



News from the fleet captain's daughter ...

Hello, this is Katie, the Fleet Captain's daughter. My dad thinks he has his little corner all written out and ready to put in the Barker, but unfortunately for him, he doesn't know that I know how to work a computer and that I'm "editing" his corner.

Finally, after two weeks of no sailing, we could sail last Sunday. At eleven o'clock it didn't look like we would be sailing. But before twelve, my dad was yelling at me to get my boat out. We had a great turnout of MCs; unfortunately, I can't say the same about the Sunfish (there were only two of us).

I especially want to thank Tom Howard. He turned around many times during the races to give me pointers. One of Tom's tips was given at the start of the

first MC race (start of the Sunfish's 5 minutes.) Tom told me to get right up on the starting line so I wouldn't be way behind the other boats when the race started. To make his point clear, he pointed at one of the MCs and said, "Look at that boat; he wasn't right on the line and now he's way behind everyone." To this I responded, "Oh yeah, that's my dad." I hope my dad doesn't read this.

Don't forget: this Saturday and Sunday (July 5th and 6th) at 12:00 noon will be the 4th of July Regatta. Let's hope a lot of people show up (and we see more Sunfish this time!) Sailors, don't forget that although Regatta races are scored separately from the regular season races, they will count towards the minimum number of races required to qualify for the season.

I'm planning on hiding this week's Barker from my dad. I would really appreciate it if no one would mention this to him and instead tell him how great his column was this week (wink, wink).

-First Mate Katie Luecht in for Fleet Captain Bill.



Race	6	7	8	Season	Races	Season
	6/29	6/29	6/29	Points	Started	Average
MC Scow						
Harold Cranmer	3	1	1	12330	8	1541
Scott Troeger	2	2	2	10659	7	1523
Bob King	1	7	3	7017	5	1403
Don Harman	7	3	6	9755	7	1394
Phil Vitale	4	4	7	10670	8	1334
Bill Luecht	9	5	4	10248	8	1281
Jeff Smitley	6	6	8	9881	8	1235
Jim Bolinger	5	9	5	3616	3	1205
Dave Olson	8	8	9	8917	8	1115
Sunfish						
Tom Howard	STT	STT	STT	12721	8	1590
Erica Vitale	DNS	DNS	DNS	4642	3	1547
Katie Luecht	1	1	1	7613	5	1523
Rick Russwurm	DNS	DNS	DNS	3042	2	1521
Sandy Vitale	CB	CB	CB	4488	3	1496
Mike Gotstein	DNS	DNS	DNS	2813	2	1407

STT - Stopped to Teach (scored as 1st place)
 DNS - Did Not Sail
 CB - Sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives a 1st place finish for that day - counted toward season total.
 DNF Did Not Finish—scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 other boats finished and you would have finished 6th, you will be scored as 7th place).
 DNF not counted toward minimum number of races needed to qualify.
 DQ (Disqualified) 0 points.
 Season Average = total season points/number of races completed.

C. Jeanne Wilkerson/ A name you know! A name you can trust!

Two spectacular Birch Lake North Shore Homes



14719 Kiloqua Woods — \$695,000



14739 Kiloqua Woods — \$560,400



C. Jeanne Wilkerson

Realtor, Lake Specialist
 Chairman's Club
 (269) 462-0306
 bjwilkerson@comcast.net
 www.jeannewilkerson.com



22451 US 12 East, Edwardsburg, MI
 www.cressyeverett.com/jeannewilkerson

Tannadoonah Tidbits

Happy Fourth of July to everyone! Last week was a crazy week at camp — but what an exciting way to start the summer! We had a total of 85 campers, and I think everyone ended up having a super time. This week is mini-week, and we only have 45 kids, so it's a nice break for the staff before the holiday.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the people on the lake who have helped out at camp, and / or made donations this year. We could never make it without the generosity of all the great people up here at the lake.

Thank you to the following families for their contributions to the campership fund: The Leatherman family, the Wos family, the Chesters, the Steffans, and the Wozniaks. There are also a number of families who have contributed to the "sponsor a cabin" campaign — I apologize because I do not yet have a list of those names.

In addition to the donations for camperships and cabins, we have received many great donations of items which we can use at camp. Thank you to the Sharpes for the refrigerator for the store, the Chesters for the ice machine, the Hoyers for the waterfront supplies, Brovolds for the cabinets and lights, Spratts / Pitakos for the cabinets and countertops, Whitemans for the sports equipment, and many others who have dropped off items for us.

And we've had many, many other people who have volunteered their time,



energy, and services to help us make Camp happen. Thank you to Tom Mosier and family for the chlorination of the 3 wells, to Mike Lutz for bringing up his bobcat several times to help with the road and burning of brush, and for helping with the pier and diving board.

To Don Harman for coming over many times to help fix lights and other electrical issues. And to the Garceaux, Bolingers, Vitales, Terry Dugan, Harmans, Artie McElwee, Freihofers, Dobosiewicz, Olsons, Rogers, Bob Waddle, and the Yoshizawas for helping out at work days and working on various projects around camp. I sincerely appreciate all the help from everyone who has been up here to help, and I hope that I have not left anyone off the list — I'm so sorry if I missed you!

A few quick staff bios for this week: Mr. Phil is very excited to be back at camp this year. He is living with the oldest boys and directing our Low Ropes Challenge course. Mr. Phil will be a sophomore at Notre Dame in the fall, and is planning to major in Psychology. For a fun fact, he says that if he could,

he'd like to be a Penguin!

Mr. Matt is a first-time member of our staff and is living with the 5th and 6th grade boys. He grew up spending summers on the lake at his grandparents' cottage (the Toths on the West Side). Mr. Matt will be a sophomore at IUSB in the fall, and really enjoys music. He splits time between our nature program and the archery program.

Mr. Mike is one of our junior counselors. He will be a senior at Penn High School in the fall. Mr. Mike is living with the 5th and 6th grade boys as well, and typically can be found out on the Sports and Games field or at the Archery range. He plays football and baseball at Penn. Following Mr. Phil's lead, Mr. Mike says that if he could, he'd like to be a Gorilla!

One more very important note. This weekend (Sunday) is the pancake breakfast, and I have mentioned before that all the proceeds will be going towards camperships. In addition, we have received an anonymous pledge to match the contribution! So let's make this pancake breakfast the best one ever! Chas and I will also be selling Camp Tannadoonah apparel at the breakfast, so come on by and pick up a t-shirt or sweatshirt, or some other camp gear.

Have a great holiday weekend!

-Miss Amber

Camp T Wish List:

Bikes & helmets ; Old nylons or tights (for a craft project); Digital Cameras

Birch Lake properties for sale

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

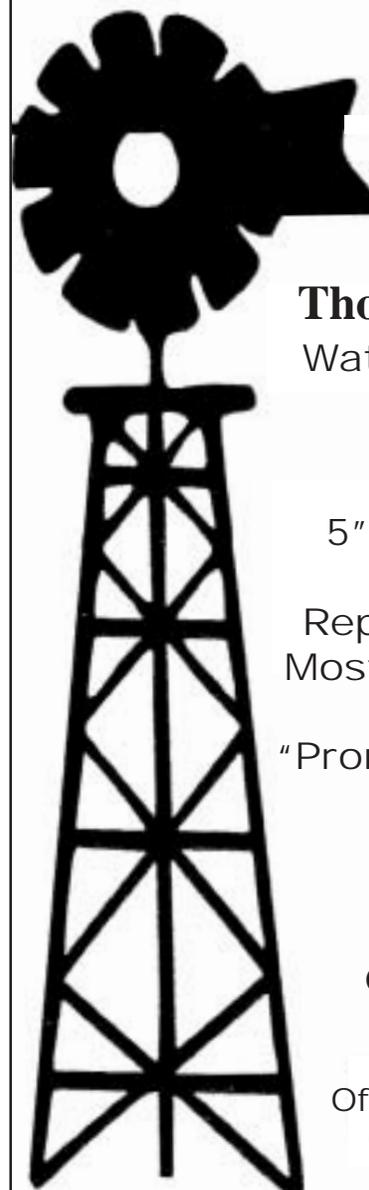
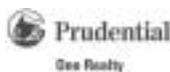


possible 4th or additional guest rooms, 1 bath, new oak kitchen, wrap-around deck, and 2 double, heated garages. The 2nd home has 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, fireplace and extra lot. Price is 509,900.00

Call for a private showing!

Pat Keirn

269-625-8554 or 269-476-2767



Thomas J. Mosier
Waterwell Drilling

5" Water Wells

Repair & Service
Most Water Pumps

"Promise of Quality"

M-60 E
Cassopolis

Office: 269-445-3246

Cell: 269-580-3246

Fax: 269-445-0008



Groceries
Candy, Pop
Snacks

**Tom's Garage &
Convenience store**
63909 Walnut Road
Vandalia, MI 49095
269-476-2272



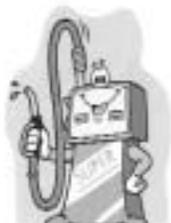
Recycle metals
& Appliances



LP Gas
Exchange



Towing & Road
Service unlock



Gasoline

A SHORT STORY IN A LONG STORY OF WATER QUALITY AT BIRCH LAKE

Don Winne, Executive Director Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, plays a major part in the long story of Birch Lake Water Quality. He remains the guide and information source to resolve a Water Quality issue. There are many Lake Experts who have led and still lead; however, his name is in every chapter beginning with the 1978 Birch Lake Watershed Analysis Study.

1978 Birch Lake Watershed Analysis Study was prepared by Southwestern Michigan Regional Planning Commission. The Study collected information on the lake and the watershed.

1978 Southwestern Michigan Inland Lakes-Watershed Study prepared under a contract with National Biocentric, was essential to understanding the physical, chemical, and biological system of Birch Lake: Phosphorus, Chlorophyll a, and Secchi disk was measured, analyzed and recorded

Their work continues to be valuable to management of the Birch Lake Shoreland and Sub-area watershed. The maps identify Land Use Cover, Drainage, and Sub-area Loading.

1984 Cass County Health Department Birch Lake Survey Program

The Director of Environmental Health responded to residents and Executive Director, ML&SA.

- Data from the 1978 Study was valuable to the implementation of the program that corrected faulty septic systems that were contributing bacteria and/or phosphorus to the lake.

1986 Progressive AE Lake Management Report for Birch Lake (Tony Groves)

Recommendations from Progressive AE, and National Biocentric were essentially the same.

- Eliminate phosphorus from lawn fertilizers. Correct faulty septic systems.
- Form a lake preservation committee to guide management of watershed, Shoreland and Lake to insure the unique environmental and aesthetic attributes of Birch Lake.

The lake preservation committee was formed by Randy & Fran Welch, Earl & Connie Troeger, Helen & Bernie Weesner, Bob & Gert Temple. As established, the committee became the liaison between the Department, Commodore, and Residents. The committee assisted the Director of Environmental Health in the field and in the office. The Commodore and the Residents assisted the Committee with funds and manpower.

With the 90's came the selection by the committee of new members: Terry and Linda Curtis and Rick Russwurm, chaired by Dan Reynolds.

With the 90's came the **Birch Lake Monitoring Program (BLMP)** as recommended by the Director of each management site. The committee continues to assist the Directors with support of the Commodore and Residents to insure background and immediate data for lake preservation.

Bacteriological sampling
No Phosphorus Fertilizer
Fish Stocking
Geese and ducks
Public Landing
Pastured hogs

Agriculture
Stream
Weir Dam
Wetlands
Road ends
Boating

With the 90's came the **Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP)** recommended by Michigan Lake & Stream Associations. The committee continues to collect sampling data.

*In 2002 Tony Groves, Progressive AE, conducted an Assessment of Birch Lake and noted:
"Recent sampling data which indicates the Lake exhibits excellent water quality attest to the success of the septic upgrade program"*

CLMP is administered by Specialists with degrees in Aquatic Chemistry and Biological Science which brings attention to the biological and chemical properties and physical characteristics of Birch Lake's unique personality. With the support of the Commodore and Residents, the committee continues to enroll in the CLMP Projects:

Secchi disk Transparency	Phosphorus	Chlorophyll a.	Dissolved oxygen/Temperature
Harmful Algae Monitoring.	Rapid Algal Assay Monitoring.		Aquatic Plant Mapping
Eurasian Milfoil Control	Zebra Mussel Monitoring.		Purple Loosestrife Monitoring

Gert Temple, Water Quality Committee
Rick Russwurm, Chairman. Terry Dugan. Bob Temple

HAPPY 4th of JULY
2008



BLYC 48TH ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING

(FLORIDA SCRAMBLE)

JULY 25, 2007



FOUR LAKES C.C. EDWARDSBURG MI.

\$88.00 W/CART

DINNER ONLY IS \$30 AS SUPPLIES LAST

SHOTGUN START 12:30 NOON EST

**SPONSORS AND DOOR PRIZES ARE
WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED**

NOTES:

OPEN TO THE FIRST 100 MEN.

CELEBRATION AT THE YACHT CLUB DIRECTLY FOLLOWING GOLF.

YOU WILL BE TREATED TO A GRAB-AND-GO LUNCH, AND A COOK-TO-ORDER RIBEYE STEAK DINNER W/CORN ON THE COB (ROASTED), BAKED POTATO (ROASTED), GARDEN SALAD, TRIMMINGS, RED WINE & KEG BEER.

PLENTY OF GAMES/CONTESTS AND OTHER SURPRISES.

PLEASE GET ALL FOUR NAMES AND YOUR RESERVATION AND \$\$\$ TO ARTIE McELWEE

BY JULY 1, 2007 (see, you're late already!)

(Day of tournament entries accepted

only in cases of emergency and/or late arrivals

Team Captain _____ TOTAL \$ Paid _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

___ Two Carts

___ One Cart

PLEASE MAIL CHECK PAYABLE TO BLYC TO ARTIE McELWEE, 63306 BIRCH ROAD

SAILORS RULE!

Why the focus on sailing? If \$4 gasoline isn't enough, it happens to be one of the three founding priorities listed in our Birch Lake Yacht Club Letters of Incorporation. From memory, the other two are: to care for the lake watershed and to promote fellowship in our Lakeland community.

Though we hit (and rebounded from) a nadir not so long ago, Birch has a rich history of sailing/racing, including one resident former National Champion (Earl Troeger, who is a patriarch and mentor to many here). Long ago our two fleets were Snipe and Sunfish. It wasn't uncommon to see 10-12 Snipe and 20-30 colorful Sunfish on weekend race days!

Today the Sunfish remain, though par-

ticipation ebbs and flows. It's ironic that so few of the little lateen rigged boats come out to play. We once took a count and there are over 60 Sunfish hulls at Birch! Maybe they just need a little love? The Sunfish is an ideal boat, relatively inexpensive, and easy to sail. Ask any sailor for help to re-rig your boat.

The Birch Snipe fleet was replaced by a scow, the single sail MC. Scows, with their flat bottomed, spoon shaped hulls are native to the Midwest in the ILYA (Inland Lake Yacht Association). After WWII there were a dozen scow builders, when new exotic materials came into use (fiberglass replaced wooden hulls and Dacron/nylon fabric replaced Egyptian cotton sails).

Boats still racing in ILYA fleets are,

among other new variants: the flagship A scow (38'), the E scow (28'), the C scow (20'), the M scows – M16, with a divided sail plan and MC (both 16'), etc. And yes Virginia, there were once other letter designators for: B scows, and D scows, etc., but, fleet juju grew around select sizes while those found less popular went to storage.

Though sailing was first a mode of transportation (so as not to row), and can be a wonderful pastime, on Sundays (weather providing) we race. This Holiday weekend we will run the annual 4th of July regatta. If you and your boating guests would be so kind, please don't cut through the fleet when racing is underway.

Give 'em a break ... not your wake.

Thanks!

-Bob King

FOR ALL YOUR BIRCH LAKE
REAL ESTATE NEEDS CALL....



AMY TRUDELL, REALTOR®
(269)744-7746

Cressy & Everett II
REAL ESTATE
117 Spring St. Three Rivers MI

5613 US 31 South
South Bend, IN
(574) 291-9840

Chickadee's
Unique Gift Shop

Birch Lake Coupon
15% OFF
Month of June... *Free Delivery!*

Rustic Garden Accents
Willoway Studio Collection
Furniture & Cabinets
Lots More...



**UNION INSURANCE
AGENCY**

Corner of US 12 & Union Rd.

Auto
Home
Life
Renters
Business
Boats
RVs
Motorcycles
Snowmobiles
Pet Injury Coverage

Sue McCammon
Independent Agent
269-641-5995
email: Sue@unionins.net

PROGRESSIVE

Auto-Owners Insurance

"Your Birch Lake Neighbors"
Dick & Judy Lindzy



**FACTORY
TILE
I N C.**

211 Dixie Way North
South Bend, IN 46637
574-272-7000

Is it time
for a new
driveway?



J.L. DENLINGER
CONCRETE FLATWORK

Driveways • Sidewalks • Patios

Jesse L. Denlinger | 574-361-8912
61964 CR 13 | Goshen, IN 46526



Stu's Star Stuff



Centaurus & Alpha Centauri

Centaurus, the centaur, just peeks above the southern horizon on spring nights. More of the constellation becomes visible as you travel farther south. Highlights include Omega Centauri, the brightest globular star cluster visible in Earth's sky, and Alpha Centauri, the closest star system to our own. Unfortunately, Alpha Centauri is visible only from the farthest southern points in the U.S., such as Hawaii and the tips of Texas and Florida.

According to mythology, the night sky would be a lot less interesting if not for the exploits of Hercules. The sky is filled with creatures and people who were killed by the strongman, then placed in the sky by the gods or by Hercules himself. The list includes Leo, the lion; Cancer, the crab; and Hydra, the water snake. Another of his victims was Chiron, a half-man, half-horse known as a centaur. Legend says that Chiron was a brainy fellow who tutored many of the gods. He was slain when he was accident-

tally hit by one of Hercules's poison arrows. In tribute, the gods placed him in the sky, where he forms the constellation Centaurus.

From the United States, late spring is the best time to view the centaur. He trots very low across the south during the evening and early morning hours. Unfortunately, he's so far south that for most of the U.S., a big part of the constellation remains below the horizon. But all of us can see the centaur's head and shoulders, which include several fairly bright stars. That region of the constellation also includes the biggest, brightest star cluster in the night sky. Known as Omega Centauri, it contains a million or more stars. To the eye alone it looks like a slightly fuzzy star, but binoculars reveal many of its individual stars. What most of us can't see is the centaur's most famous feature: our closest stellar neighbors, the three-star system of Alpha Centauri. More on that another time.

And, more on Hercules next week.

Now, let's get out there and enjoy the show. It starts right after the fireworks and runs all night. And it's free.

-Stu Spratt



The Moon tonight:
The moon for July 5 (at Midnight)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.133
3.2 days since new moon

Horoscope for Birch Lake

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

You will enjoy events that lean toward theater, art, or music this week. Relatives will be cordial. Try looking into new ways to make extra money. Deception and doubts may surround your involvement with friends and relatives.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Don't make financial contributions in order to impress others. Your partner will blow situations out of proportion. Your sensitive, affectionate nature will capture the heart of anyone you are attracted to. Get busy trying to make more money.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Don't let someone take the credit for a job you did. You can get good solid advice from relatives or close friends you trust. Short trips may be tiring but rewarding. Don't hold back; go with the flow and take a bit of a chance.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Changes in your home may be alarming at first. You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully this week. Find out if they have other commitments. New romantic partners may attend a function that puts you in the limelight.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

If you are in the midst of a financial deal, this is your lucky day. Don't push your luck with your boss. You will have the discipline to make changes you feel are necessary. You could find yourself having problems with coworkers and employers.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Your attitude is changing rapidly and your plate is overloaded. You're best to channel your energy into work. Be discreet and don't reveal any personal information. Avoid conflicts with in-laws or other family members.

Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Hard work will bring rewards. Sooner or later your partner will have had enough. You can make major gains if you talk to your boss about your findings. You can help other people with their financial problems by setting up a budget for them.

Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You'll be able to discuss your ambitions with your mate. You may find that doing odd jobs around the house will be successful and appreciated by loved ones. Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. Your position may be in question if you haven't been pulling your weight.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

You may be tempted to spend too much on entertainment or luxury items. Efforts made to improve yourself will turn out to your satisfaction. Some relatives will be extremely perplexing. It's time you let your true feelings out.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Your emotional partner will push all the right buttons this week. Don't spend too much in order to impress others. Try to do your job and then leave. Try not to be so demonstrative.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Don't allow colleagues to put unreasonable pressure on you. Plan some family outings. Don't let the moods of those you live with get you down. A romantic infatuation from your past may surface if you frequent places that you both used to go.

Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

A long, quiet walk alone may help you sort out your thoughts. You can find solutions if you are willing to communicate. Your personal life will still be experiencing difficulties and you are best to avoid the issues for the time being. Property investments, insurance, tax rebates, or inheritance should bring you financial gains.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

BLYC CLASSIFIED ADS

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: friendly turtle of the Snapper genus. Answers to Fester. Please call 476-2128.

FOUND:

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

Found: colorful beach ball saved during one of many recent storms, call 476-2128.

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.

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.

For Sale — White wooden porch rocking chair. Brand new! \$50. Call 476-9737

For Sale: mooring buoy. Standard model: made from thin wall polypropylene (formerly used to contain one gallon of milk). Better model: made from thick wall polypropylene (used to store vinegar). Rope and anchor not included. Call 476-2128.

WANTED

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

Wanted: sooth-sayers to predict the future — those selling snake oil and publishing retrospective astro commentary need not apply.

WANTED -- Mooring buoy. Olson 476-2125.

DESPERATE!!! for rental 7/25-7/27, 8/1-8/3, or 8/8-8/10. Mainly need sleeping spaces-other activities at our place. PLEASE call 269-476-9635 or

574-247-1062. Ask for Ilene Golden-

Needed: Committee Boat Volunteers! Great dates still available. Great dates still available. 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.

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.

Thanks to all those who serve as RC (race committee) during fleet racing every Sunday!

Want an ad in the BARKER?

Classified ads are free for paid members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club; Non-members pay \$5. Drop or mail classified ads to 63174 Birch Road, or e-mail: sailorphil@philvitale.com

Advantage Plumbing

2400 North 5th Street
Niles, MI 49120
(269) 687-7192

*Complete Plumbing Service
Sewer and Drain Cleaning*



"Gilbert Goldfish"

**DON'T LET A LEAK RUIN YOUR DAY!
CALL US AND WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY!**

TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

1. Licensed Plumbers
2. Drug-Free Employees
3. Criminal Background Checked Employees
4. No Surprises with the Bill- You know the Cost *Before* the Work is Done
5. 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
6. True 24-Hour Emergency Service
7. Fully Stocked Trucks-"Warehouse on Wheels"
8. Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
9. Longest Warranties in the Business
10. Our Phones are Always Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours

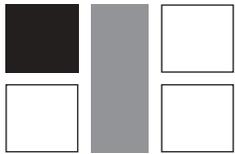
Bonus- The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!



100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
Major Credit Cards Accepted



10% Senior Citizen Discount
Financing Available



FIRST MIDWEST FINANCIAL SERVICES

500 Park Blvd. • Itasca, Illinois 60143

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer at Birch Lake!

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

Benjamin P. Wozniak • Suite 190C • 630-773-3883 • Fax 630-773-0920

TRUST THE WAKE

*Best Gear.
Best Boats.
Best Service.*

BENNINGTON
FOUR WINNS
Nautiques

574-264-2874
Located just one mile north of the Toll Road
Ext #92 and one mile south of US 12.

WakeSide Marine
WakeSideMarine.com
11305 SW 19 North - Elkhart IN 46514

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*