

The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 13, 2011

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Thanks to Mr. Bob for this great closeup of a wayward kitten that landed on the north shore recently ...

Where has the time gone?

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I could have sworn I just started this term and here we are already looking towards the Fall Dinner on Aug. 27 at Camp Tannadoonah for a Polish Feast dinner. Tickets need to be purchased ahead of time since no tickets will be sold at the door. Let's have a big turn-out to welcome in the new administration and to find out who the new Vice-Commodore will be.

It's nice to see first-hand that the Barker Classified ads do work. I would like to thank all of our advertisers. Please support them whenever you can since they make the Barker possible — at the very low low price of FREE!

I also want to thank the wonderful Birch Lake family members who take the time out of their busy schedules to edit, pick-up and deliver the Barker to our doors. I know I can count on having my paper at my door before breakfast on Saturday. (I just wish the South Bend

Tribune was as reliable.)

I would also like to thank Blair and Bernie for heading up the very successful and fun Corn and Sausage Roast. But don't you think we cut it close with just 2 dogs, 1 chicken, and a few brats and ears of corn left over. Way to control your waste and leftovers. I have to say the new Fire Pit was a bit of a challenge, cooking faster and hotter than I remember the old one working.

Mother Nature was good to us with the weather, allowing for a clear sky and a little breeze. Funny no matter where you stood while cooking, the wind changed enough to share the heat and smoke. It doesn't matter what side of the grill you are on, it finds you. She was not so kind to the sailors, holding what wind she was going to deliver for over an hour, backing up the start time to noon — then quickly filling the sky with clouds and delivering a deluge of rain. Good job Fleet Captain Jeff and brother-in-law Marty for providing tows to several sailors who were struggling to make it

2011 BLYC Calendar

Sat, Aug. 27Fall Dinner
Sat, Sept. 10Board Meeting 9 am
Sat, Sept. 10Sailing Awards
Sat, Sept. 17-24Game / Card Party
Sat, October 8Annual Chili Cook Off

Note: ALL dates and times are subject to change.

Watch the Barker for updates!

to shore before the storm. The committee boat made the best of things and had an impromptu party indoors to chat and enjoy the snacks from the boat at the Scheffick home. Thanks Mike and Julie it was a fun afternoon.

What are you going to do with this weekend and next? The Yacht Club agenda is empty until the Fall Dinner, then we will have a game and/or card evening at the Yacht Club on Sept. 17. The Chili Cook-Off will be Saturday Oct.

The Birch Barker is always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, put the items in the red newspaper box at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), or mail to: Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want the materials returned. To contact us by phone, call Phil at (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or BLYC Commodore Stan Pitakos at (269) 476-8862. -Phil Vitale, editor

— Birch Lake Notes —

8 at the Yacht Club, starting at 6:30. Mark your calendar and plan to bring your famous chili. This is the last chance to see the snowbirds before they leave for warmer climates — plus you get to sample some outstanding chili.

I need to harp on water safety just one more time. Sunday mid-morning, disaster was just a boat away. There were 3 people swimming across the cove in the boating lane without a boat accompaniment and without any type of signaling device. The swimmers were not swimming together and one swimmer was under the water part of the time. Luckily, one boater was able to pull up in time so as not to run them over and a waverunner got close enough to them to highly suggest that they get out of the boat lane and swim between the rafts and piers. Please if your family or friends want to swim around the lake, follow with a canoe, paddle boat, row boat, kayak or another type of boat. We do not need to have someone run over!!

Well enough of my ramblings, I'll save the rest my comments for my last couple of articles. Yes, Karen is making me write the last 2. We'll have to see if she keep from editing them.

Until next week, fair winds and clam water.

-High and Dry Commodore Stan

Good luck at school

Good-bye Sierra Cowen, the granddaughter of Dick & Peggy Cowen .West



Here was the scene at the annual BL Corn and Sausage event last Saturday! Thousands lined up to get the delicious summertime meal and spend time with family and friends. Our thanks to Blair and Bernie Garceau for hosting this great event!

Shore. May the school year go fast. We'll see you next summer.

Happy birthday

Happy Birthday Judy Olsen (East Shore) August 14th and Happy Birthday Julie Sheffieck (West Shore) August 15. Are you both holding at 29?

Happy Anniversary

Happy Anniversary Donna and Harold Cranmer (West Shore) August

14. 56 years of Wedded Bliss. Congratulations!!!!

Corn & Sausage

Birch Lake Yacht Club was the place to be on Saturday night! Over 200 hungry Birch Lakers, their families and friends joined together to feast on a great meal of Corn and Sausage.

The corn seemed especially sweet this year, and it cooked up really well on the new grill (Thanks to Bob Waddle,

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Mike Lutz, Jim Hettmansberger and his friend Tony). A big thank you to everyone who attended to support this fun event and for their patience waiting for food. We usually have 150 diners and this year we had that many in the first 50 minutes!

The event could not have gone as smoothly as it did without our great help. Our cooks braved temps of a muggy 85 degrees on Saturday and that was before they lit the fire. Thanks to Commodore Stan Pitakos, Tom Rogers, Bill Luecht, Bob Waddle, Ben Garceau, and newbie Mike Sheffieck. Karen Brovold, Vickie Rogers, Bad Patty Luecht, Katie Luecht, Tamara Beauchamp (Ben's girlfriend) and the other newbie half Julie Sheffieck, kept things running smoothly and plates filled in the kitchen. Bob, Ben and Tamara did double duty as corn shuckers. Dave and Judy Olson took money once again and had everything counted, sorted and tallied by the end of the night! They make good greeters too!

Thanks to everyone who helped tear down: everyone mentioned above, Katie Fallon and Dan Surufka (East Side). Everyone involved made the night such a fun time. We can't say enough about these awesome people. Apprentices Mike and Julie Sheffieck looked a little shell shocked by the end of the night but have agreed to work with us again next year. They were a wonderful addition to the team and we look forward to partnering with them again. See you in 2012! Bernie and Blair Garceau

NOTE: For those who asked: we got the sausage at Mills Grocery in



In 2008, Steve's gold wedding ring was accidentally lost over the side of the boat in Birch Lake, in about 4 1/2 feet of water. Hours of searching by family and friends over the years failed to turn it up. Then recently we found Treasures Down Under in Cassopolis on the internet and Jackie called them. Tim and his colleague came out once and couldn't find it, but did not give up. They came back again on Sunday, July 31 and after two more hours found the ring, good as new--that was a happy day! Thank you, Treasures Down Under! Pictured are Steve and Jackie Frew, East Side.

Zimmyville, and the corn at Diamond Acres in Cassopolis, off 62.

-Bernie & Blair

Minutes of the Homeowner's Association Meeting July 9, 2011

70 lake members
\$7,548 in budget

Williamsville Drainage Project:

Phil Vitale contacted Cass County Drain Commissioner Bruce Campbell for an update. Bruce reported Williams Street was closed but is now open. Crews are working on seeding and shoring up the area. They will construct

a catch basin and shut down the Mill race. Bids ranged from \$36,000 to \$90,000 Bruce accepted the lower bid. We will be assessed a second time but for less than the first installment, the project has been completed.

Steve Northrup reported on the following:

Sewer Problem Resolution Rainbow Road near Shavehead. There was a valve installed to flush the line in the winter since Birch Lake does not sufficiently flush the line due to fewer residents. There was an air valve that had to be dug up to repair. The Sewer Board is looking into other maintenance companies.

Road Resurfacing:

During the sewer project there was no road work performed. Last year the Township used \$230,000 including dust control. This year \$216,000 including dust control was budgeted. The Township uses Road Commission recommendations as a guide for road repairs. The Township makes the final decisions and the Road Commission matches 30%. The funds come from property taxes. Harvey St. paving was not recommended this year by the Road Commission. Lakeview will get paved this year. Teasdale Lake Road paving has been completed. A member asked about Lenore St. because every time it rains sand comes from the road and washes out into yards. The response was that residents from Birch Lake must continue to ask for assistance in getting a dry well placed for catching the rain. As a result the Township has appointed a study committee to look into the Lenore

SLOW DOWN

**BIRCH LAKE HAS
NARROW ROADS,
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CHILDREN,
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

**SLOW DOWN ON
OUR ROADS
AND ON THE HILLS
TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!**

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15_{MPH}**



— Birch Lake Notes —

St. problem.

Steve also informed the Homeowners Association that the Road Commission is trying to turn the Boat Landing over to the township. The Homeowners Association will continue to monitor and report on future actions. **Road Signage to control speed on Birch Lake Road:** The Homeowners Association Board of Directors will work with the Road Commission to receive approval for three "Slow" signs to be placed at the Cove, Harvey and Sears street entrances to the lake.

Terry Dugan asked who is responsible for blind spots caused by trees and brush on Sears and the South Shore lake road. Steve suggested Terry call the Road Commission about those locations.

The HO Directors discussed the need for a pamphlet on boating safety tips to be distributed to all Birch Lake Homeowners. The Directors will work on this project for completion at the beginning of next season.

There was also a discussion and vote on a motion to ask the Marine Division to patrol Birch Lake an additional time for each of the holidays in the summer. Memorial, July 4, and Labor Day. The Directors will look into this and funds up to \$250 an occurrence has been authorized.

Kinzler's Sausage Fest

Keith Kinzler (west side) will be cel-

brating his big 40th birthday Saturday (13th). Remember he has the coldest beer on the lake so stop by and he will buy you one!

A Weird Beard

During my stint in the Air Force at Limestone, Maine, I had established a small clinic for the pets on the base.

One of the common wild animals in that area is the porcupine. Its quills are an effective defense against enemies who might want to harm them.

Many of the pets, mostly dogs, had never come across what they thought should be easy pickings for them. Many of the larger more aggressive dogs were fooled by this slow moving animal and would subsequently show up at the clinic with a "weird beard." They came in with a multitude of white whiskers (quills), looking like they needed a shave.

With these quills emerging from the face, a dog can hardly eat. It requires a general anesthetic to remove most of them. After a dog grabs the porcupine, the quills cannot be pulled out with tweezers because the shaft of the quill is lined with barbs that are like small fish hooks. The pointed quill must be pushed forward from inside through the cheek to the outside of the mouth. Some quills remain deeply imbedded and may have to be broken off and worked out later.

The porcupine is not to be trifled with. Nature has given this animal a great defensive weapon. **STAY AWAY** so your dog won't end up with a "weird beard."

-Duffy Dufour

Fall Dinner fast approaching!

Mark you calendars as Saturday, August 27th is the date of the Fall Dinner. The ticket ladies are ready with tickets for you to purchase. Remember adult tickets are \$20.00 and children tickets are \$8.00 (aged 5 to 10) for the delicious Polish Feast being planned.

Ticket ladies are: Le King (Northside); Karen Brovold (Westside); Sue Williams (Southside); Vickie Rogers (Cove) and Lynn Decocker and Patty Luecht (Eastside).

The new Vice-Commodore to be and I hope to see everyone at the Fall Dinner. Any questions (except who the new Vice-Commodore is), call me at 476-1080.

-Vice-Commodore Pam

Photo return

Note from the editor: many people over the year who have sent in photos for use in the Birch Barker have not made arrangements to have them returned. I will take my stash of photos to the fall dinner ... if you want yours back, hopefully it will be among them.

-pv

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- Kitchen & Bath Layout
- Color Choices
- Furniture Styling
- Fabric Choices
- Fixture Choices
- Art/Decorating Ideas
- Ideas on how to remodel/construct
- In Home Consultation available

— Barker kids of the Week —



Patty and Bill anxiously waiting for Sir Paul at Chicago's Wrigley Field on July 31st.



Erin Donohue and her Uncle Jeff Smitley (west side) with her newly caught blue gill. Erin was visiting with her brother Liam and parents Marty and Arlene Donohue; Marty is the twin brother of Jeff's wife, Denise.



Above are three generations of Steffens (East side) males in the lake ... from left, Wes, Elliott and Tim.

Below is Elliott (being held by dad Wes) in his life jacket



send your kid-of-the-week photos to sailorphil@philvitale.com

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Cooper Petty enjoying another beautiful Birch Lake day out on the boat. Cooper is 4 and the youngest of the Petty boys (north shore) ... usually the one making the most noise on the north shore.
send your kid-of-the-week photos to sailorphil@philvitale.com



Bernie and Blair Garceau's (East side) 6 teenage nieces and nephews visited for a long weekend in July (only 5 are pictured) Their favorite activity was swimming in the middle of the lake as the moon came up. Everyone can't wait for next year's visit.



That's my granddaughter Morgann Applegate sleeping in Saba's bed last Saturday, just after she came home from a strenuous week at Camp T. And that's Saba making sure the weirdo with the camera doesn't bother her friend Morgann ...

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Camp Tannadoonah

All wrapped up for the season

Camp's all wrapped up and we've been home for about a week now. It's always such a strange adjustment to "real life" when camp is over! This year Avery is really noticing the difference, too. As soon as he wakes up in the morning he's asking to go "outside!"

We had such a great summer, and we're looking forward to a busy fall packed with Camp and Camp Fire activities. The first one coming up is this weekend — the clean-up day on Saturday (the 13th). We plan to start at 10 am and try to knock out all the end-of-season clean up jobs. We had a rental group (Catholic Youth Camp) the week following our last week of camp, so many of the things that my staff generally does on the last day had to be left undone. Most of the jobs involve cleaning cabins and inventorying and storing items around camp.

Next weekend we have a youth soccer team visiting camp for the weekend, and the following weekend is the Fall Dinner and Silent Auction. If you have items or services you'd

like to donate for the silent auction, please let me know! We are hoping for a great turnout at the fall dinner again this year.

The weekend of September 10th we have a wedding and reception to be held at camp, a possible retreat the weekend of September 17th, and our annual Fall Camp the weekend of September 24th. Fall Camp is open to all youth. It's a "taste of camp" kind of weekend, where kids can try out many of our activities and introduce new friends to camp, or just reconnect with their summer friends.

This year we're also combining the fall camp weekend with a Family Camp. So it's not just youth who can come to camp - adults can too! Come on up and see what it's like to be a camper for the weekend! We'll provide the food, activities, games, songs, and tons of fun!

Even October is filling up fast. We have a sorority planning a retreat the weekend of October 8th, and a service organization from Indiana State planning a work weekend the weekend of

the 15th or 22nd. We'll have our own camp work weekends that month, as well. And then the last scheduled event of the season is a birthday party at camp, scheduled for November 11th.

We also have a number of Camp Fire events planned for the fall, including an Outdoor Education day, a Harvest Party in October, an outing at Rum Village Park, the Goodwill Doll Project, a Craft Workshop, and Christmas Carols in December. All of these events are open to youth and families from the community, so if you are interested in participating, let me know!

It should be a busy but exciting fall for all of us at camp! We hope to see everyone out on the lake for a few more weekends before fall weather arrives!

-Miss Amber
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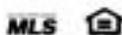
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The Company holiday program

Before the first Jingle Bell, turkey carving, or Ho Ho Ho, "The Company" gets you into the Holiday spirit with their annual "Singin' and Dancin' into the holidays," this year aptly named, "A Merry Como Christmas." There are four granddaughters, Melanie Como-Dits, Wendy and Paige Como, and Mary Como-Bishop, new addition: great-granddaughter Abigail Como, and daughter, Melanie Como, the director.

Since the remodeling at Battell Center Theatre, seating for all performances is limited, so get your tickets early! Ticket Prices are \$10 for seniors, and \$11 for adults and children.

This year the show has a few new

twists to it, including an incredible male vocal group, an homage to the Rat Pack, and Jersey Boys! The female vocalists will be doing some Andrews Sisters and an homage to the Musical "Mama Mia." A beautiful troop of dancers that will add just the right touch of energy, performing musical productions from the past decade.

A portion of the show is dedicated to the hits of Perry Como. The Comos' Christmas Wish is one of the holiday songs we loved as children, and were only recorded by Grandpa. This year there are many surprises, including the ever popular 2-person, light-up reindeer and the three headed Santa!

Production dates are Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19. Curtain time is 8 pm, and

there will be a 7:30 warm-up. The Performers will come out on stage before the Performance starts to get the audience involved in the production.

Shows will be at the Battell Center Theatre, 904 North Main Street, Mishawaka, IN. For information or to reserve tickets call 574-243-7704, or check the www.thecompanyplayers.com

Tickets will be available at the Battell Center from 9-5, or at the door nights of productions. You can also mail checks, and tickets will be sent to you.

"The Company" tries to make you feel like you are a part of our "family." We include you in little jokes going on. We are proud to share this with you and hope you will accept this as our early holiday present to you!

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Advantages and disadvantages

There are several positives in my assisting to set the marks. Harold gets a helping hand and backup if he could not be here. I get a chance to see the course layout prior to the race. Going to the wrong mark or rounding one in the wrong direction happens more often than you would think. On the downside, I don't get to see any radar until I get back to shore.

When Harold, Karen and I left shore to set the course at 11 am there was a storm brewing over Lake Michigan that looked like it should pass to the north of us. We kept an eye to the west as we set the marks, but although the winds were light, the weather was beautiful. We came back to shore just prior to the noon start. When I had a chance to check the radar, the storms had moved to the western edge of Cass County and a line had developed stretching to the south. The committee boat had already left shore and was beginning to anchor. I grabbed my brother-in-law, Marty Donohue, and headed out in our bow-rider to cancel the races and warn everyone.

We meet up with the committee boat, told them to leave and began to track down the few sailors already milling in the pre-start area. After telling them to head for home, we quickly made a loop around the lake to make sure no other sailors were going to head out to race.

By the time we had made our loop

and returned to the middle of the lake, menacing black clouds were on the western horizon. One sailor, who had borrowed Karen's Sunfish, was not going to make it back to shore in time and the committee boat was about to tow him to shore. A quick decision was made that I would tow the sailor since my boat was faster than a pontoon. We tied up and headed to the western shore, with the Sunfish going about as fast as one has ever moved. We were approaching the western shore when the strong, cold winds outflowing from the storm hit us. It began to rain as we untied the Sunfish and then we headed four cottages south to home.

My lovely bride meet us at the end of the pier to tell us that another Sunfish had stayed out too long and was now repeatedly capsizing in the middle. I turned to Marty and asked if he was ready for this. He said "sure" and off we went into the storm.

We reached the sailor, had him drop his sail, quickly tied up and began to tow him to shore. As we approached the shore, Marty said, "at least there isn't any lightning." I replied with, "zip it." Well, as you probably guessed by now, about 30 seconds later when we reached the shallows, a large strike hit at the top of the hill. Needless to say, we even more quickly untied the Sunfish, retrieved our rope and left.

As we pulled away from shore and turned westerly directly into the mael-

Committee Boat Schedule	
August 14.....	Amber & Chas Grundy
August 21	Open
August 28	Karen Brovold
Sept. 3 (Regatta).....	Karen Brovold
Sept. 4 (Regatta).....	Karen Brovold
Sept. 5 (Rain Date)	Karen Brovold

strom, windswept rain sheeting off our faces, my brother-in-law Marty says in his best Bill Murray impression "I don't think the heavy stuff's gonna come down for quite a while." It was perhaps the best Caddyshack reference I've heard in my lifetime.

We couldn't see our shore through the squall until we were halfway across the lake. The stinging, pelting rain caused us to drive crouched tightly up to the windscreen, peering through the gap leading to the open bow. Thankfully we made it safely across the lake, came in hot into the lift, and bolted into the house soaked to the bone.

I want to thank Karen Brovold, Mike and Julie Sheffieck, and Marc and Lynn Caenepeel for being on the committee boat and helping to warn all of the sailors. I'm glad they also got off the lake safely since things had changed so quickly.

Hopefully Fleet Captain Towing Services (FCTS™) will be out of business for the rest of the season.

See you at the starting line...

-Fleet Captain Jeff

Season sailing standings

Date.....	Total	Season.....	Races.....	%
Race.....	Points	Average.....	Finished.....	Finished
MC Scow15				
Scott Troeger #1489	19878.....	1529.....	13	86.7%
Jeff Smitley #2002	22081.....	1472.....	15	100.0%
Bob King #1199.....	15851.....	1441.....	11	73.3%
Bill Luecht #1579.....	18117.....	1394.....	13	86.7%
Dave Olson #1979	13207.....	1321.....	10	66.7%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	19717.....	1314.....	15	100.0%
Phil Vitale #500.....	19403.....	1294.....	15	100.0%
Gib Eberhart #916.....	14839.....	1237.....	11	73.3%
Tom Howard #1713.....	14255.....	1188.....	14	93.3%
Sunfish15				
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue).....	23763.....	1584.....	15	100.0%
Stewart Spratt	12020.....	1503.....	8	53.3%
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green).....	11712.....	1464.....	8	53.3%
Chris of the Scofields.....	5853.....	1463.....	4	26.7%
Erica Vitale (White)	5707.....	1427.....	4	26.7%
Sandy Vitale (White)	2817.....	1409.....	2	13.3%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	19192.....	1371.....	14	93.3%
Bernie Garceau (Red/White/Blue).....	2738.....	1369.....	2	13.3%
Peter Soldoto	10404.....	1301.....	6	40.0%
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue).....	6482.....	1296.....	5	33.3%

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season.

DNF (Did Not Finish)

DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place).

DNF, DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed.

CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.

Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)

Season Place = total season points/number of races attempted
Crew - Counted toward completed races. Points go to skipper of boat.

Water Quality Committee Report

Chlorophyll (a) in Birch Lake

**Water Quality Program
Water Quality Committee Lake
Management Report
Terry Dugan, Rick Russwurm,
Gordon Seyfarth, Bruce Wagner,
Paul Fallon, Chairman**

Chlorophyll (a) sampling is one of the four tests that we do in concert with the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. As we have previously discussed, the others are transparency using the Secchi disk, which is done weekly from spring until fall. Phosphorous sampling in the early spring and late summer, and dissolved oxygen/temperature profiles of the 95 foot column of water in the deepest part of the lake monthly from May through September.

In regards to today's topic, chlorophyll (a) samples are taken monthly from May through September. Like phosphorous, all samples are taken in duplicate. While transparency and phosphorous are indirect measures of potential productivity, chlorophyll (a) concentrations are a more direct measure of this productivity, i.e. production of biomass. Since we are sampling a column of water for the chlorophyll (a) we are actually measuring the growth and amount of algae in the lake. Algal growth and buildup can be a slow and steady process or occur in blooms. Algal growth is a product of temperature, sunlight, and available nutrients, primarily phosphorous (why we measure it and discourage its' use) and nitrogen.

First let us say that algae are not bad actors and in fact are absolutely vital to the health of the lake as well as to us as oxygen breathing animals. The chlorophyll in algae is a pigment and what makes them green like all plants. This pigment is unique in that it can capture the energy of sunlight that allows the algae and other plants to make carbon dioxide into organic compounds (sugars), a process called photosynthesis, which can then be used to synthesize everything else in the algae or plant. A waste product of this process of fixing carbon dioxide is oxygen. Most of the oxygen in the atmosphere actually comes from algae in the lakes and oceans. Thus, algae are our friends as we would all like to keep breathing with minimum effort. Additionally, they serve as the first element of the food chain in lakes and oceans, upon which all animals are dependent. No algae, no may flies, no bluegills or bass.

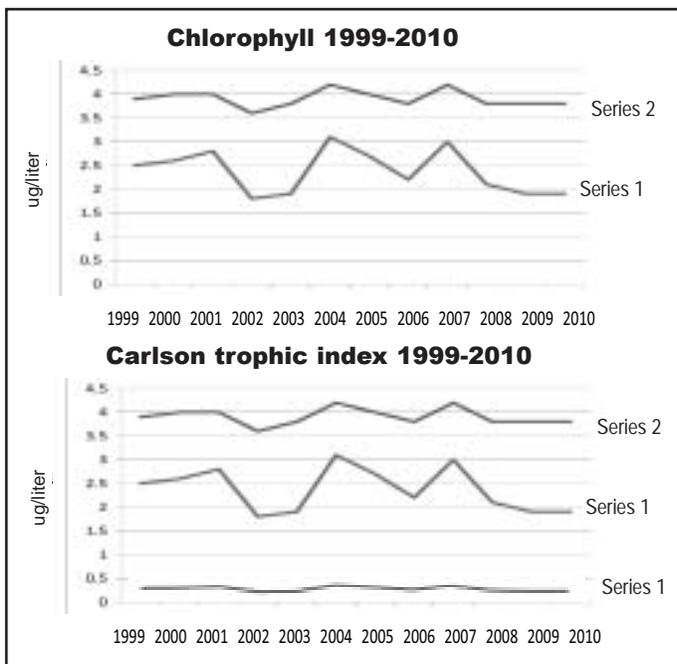
However, with the exception of chocolate, too much of anything can be a problem. With increases in algae production, sediment at the bottom accumulates, oxygen is lost in the lake

due to bacterial decomposition of dying algae (think fish habitat loss), and transparency is lost. This will all be part of the natural aging of the lake, but again we want this to be an issue in innumerable generations and to occur as slowly as possible.

Below are two graphs for the years 1999-2010. One shows the mean chlorophyll concentrations in micrograms/liter, and the other is the Carlson Trophic Index score for the algae concentrations each year. Although the concentrations bounce around a bit (weather etc can have a major impact), there is no upward trend and in fact the past two years have been the lowest we have seen. The Carlson Trophic Index is something used by the CLMP to illustrate where on the continuum of Oligotrophic to hypereutrophic (range is 20 through 80) these measured values lie. Again, we bounce from 36 to

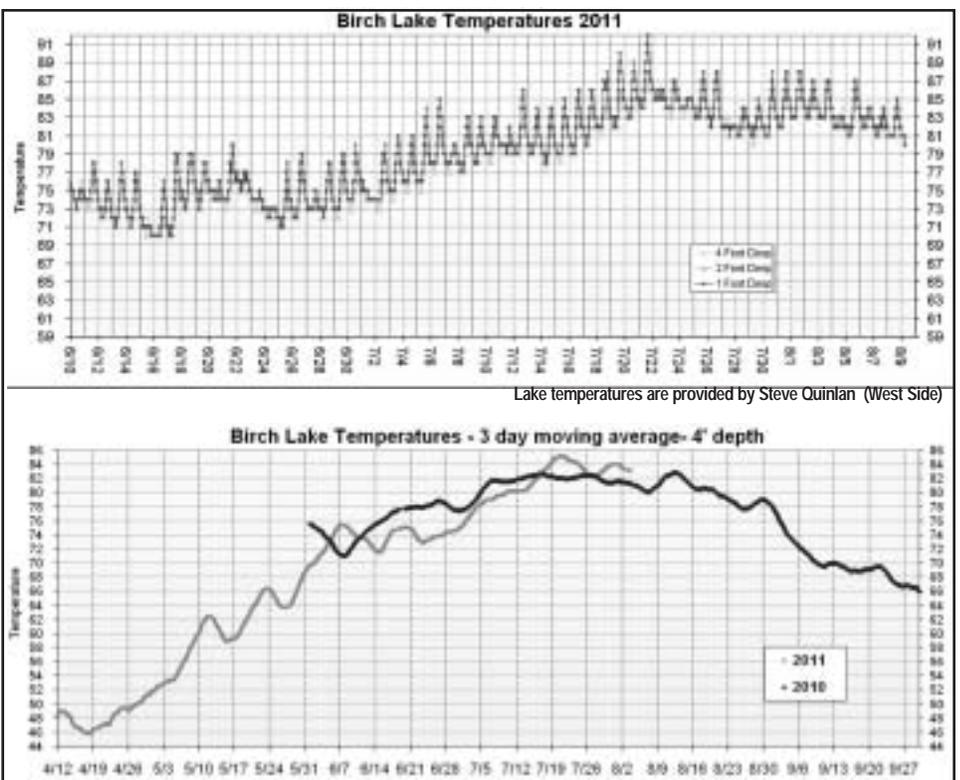


42, all of which are on the shoulder of the oligotrophic (typically deemed most desirable) grading into mesotrophic (typically deemed second most desirable) range. Like phosphorous, these values are good, not changing for the negative (maybe better the past couple of years), and will serve as a baseline to evaluate change in the lake.



2009-2010 Water Quality Report

The 2010 Water Quality Report on Birch Lake prepared by Dr. Wallace E. Fusilier, Consulting Limnologist with Water Quality Investigators of Dexter, MI, is now available online at the bottom of the same page as the 2011 Barkers ... go to <http://www.philvital.com> and follow the links to the newest printed Birch Barkers!



Stu's Star Stuff

Perseid meteor showers

The Perseid meteor shower is at its best tonight. Unfortunately, that's not much to get excited about.

The Moon is almost full, so its beautiful but pesky light will overpower the "shooting stars." Only a handful will shine through. But keep looking anyway.

Almost any night here at Birch Lake we can see shooting stars. We've covered this before but it's certainly interesting to hear again. Meteors are most generally tiny bits of space debris that enter our atmosphere at a high enough rate of speed for friction to cause them to burn up. Particles smaller than a pea and even as small as a grain of sand are typically what you see overhead when you see that streak of light out of the corner of your eye.

Amazingly the friction of the atmosphere is so great at the speed the earth encounters the debris that the stuff just burns up. We've all watched space missions on TV and we've seen how astronauts have to deal with friction at high speeds.

Meteor showers are predictable because we know that our path around the sun is predictable. We also know that comets that have passed nearby have left dust, beer cans and other debris in their wake and our path around the sun intersects with this line of trash on a regular and predictable basis.

Meteor showers are named for the direction from which they appear to originate. A shooting star can appear in about any part of the sky but if you trace it's path backward the origin will appear to be from a given general location, in our most instant case the constellation Perseus.

Every once in a while a larger particle will enter Earth's atmosphere at speed and either create quite a spectacular light or even an

explosion or on rare occasions actually fall to earth as what then would be called a meteorite. Some examples have crashed through the roof of homes and in the extreme may have even caused the extinction of the dinosaurs.

There's no doubt though that they sure are cool to see. Look for shooting stars this weekend in most any part of the sky. Get yourself a blanket or towel, a lawn chair and some bug spray and look up. The show is normally free but this week it isn't. Send me a dollar and have a good time. Next week it will be free.

-Stu Spratt

The Moon for Aug. 13

Illuminated Fraction: 0.996

0.5 days after full moon



Sunrise: 6:49am.....Sunset: 8:48pm
Moonrise: 8:28pmMoonset: 6:44am
Full Moon: 1:59pm.....Day length: 14h 0m



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Rachael & Ryan McDaniel
Owners & Birch Lake Residents

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will find that you can work progressively at improving yourself this week. Don't ignore any emotional issues that could be causing problems. You can open up to your mate and let them know what you expect out of this relationship. Children might be on your mind. Don't hesitate to make special plans just for two. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Children may be on your mind. You may be tired of working for someone else. The personal problems you may be having are interfering with your productivity. Luck is with you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Try to slow down, and take another look. Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people. Don't put your professional reputation on the line. Proceed with caution if operating equipment or vehicles. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Get busy putting your place in order. You are ready to blow up and your stress level has gone into over drive. This will be a good day for research and for sitting down with some good, informative reading material. You should be trying to clear up legal contracts that have been pending. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You can expect to have a problem with your lover. Don't put off the things that they have asked you to do. Don't be too critical. Too much talk will lead to disputes. Get busy doing all those things at home that you have been putting off for so long. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Discuss your problems and complaints if you wish to rectify them. Listen and formulate your course of action. You will be indecisive. Don't forget that your budget is limited right now. Concern yourself with legal matters and formulating contracts rather than finalizing your objectives. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your home environment may be hectic, which could result in emotional upset if you aren't well organized. Be cautious of making any residential changes this week. Keep on your toes when dealing with others. You can make a difference if you're willing to stand up and be counted. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Try not to overspend on friends or family. Don't ignore any emotional issues that could be causing problems. Business trips might prove unproductive. Your tendency to vacillate will drive everyone crazy. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Consider starting a small business on the side. Look for a marketable gimmick. You can sell your ideas to those who have the money to back them. Try to put your money away for a rainy day. Involvement in fitness clubs will be conducive to engaging romantic connections. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You should check out prestigious clubs or groups that have a cause you believe in. Abrupt action will cause difficulties with relatives. Keep a lookout for any individuals eager to confront you with unsavory situations. Mishaps due to preoccupation will be upsetting. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Do what you can but don't jeopardize your health trying to please everyone. Educational pursuits can bring interesting, helpful people. Love and romance are evident. Try to calm down emotionally about personal financial matters. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) The distance may make you both appreciate each other more. Concentrate on your career and on making money. You will have no problem getting your point across to those in a position to help you. Spend some time with people who can shed some light on your personal situation. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Pineapple grilled pork chops

These are a delightful and quick meal for the grill. I usually serve with a baked potato, but I prefer them with wild rice.

Original Recipe Yield 4 servings

Ingredients

- 1 (8 ounce) can pineapple rings, juice drained and reserved
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 4 pork chops
- 1 pinch ground black pepper

Directions

1. Mix together the drained pineapple juice, brown sugar, soy sauce, and garlic powder together in a large plastic zipper bag, and smush the bag a few times



with your hands to mix the marinade and dissolve the sugar. Place the pork chops into the marinade, squeeze out any air in the bag, seal it, and refriger-

ate overnight. Reserve the pineapple rings.

2. Preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat, and lightly oil the grate.

3. Remove the chops from the marinade, shaking off excess, and grill until browned, the meat is no longer pink inside, and the meat shows good grill marks, 5 to 8 minutes per side. Brush several times with marinade and let the marinade cook onto the surface of the meat. Discard excess marinade. While the meat is grilling, place 4 pineapple rings onto the grill, and allow to cook until hot and the slices show grill marks; serve the chops topped with the grilled pineapple rings.

— BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH —

OUR K-9 FRIENDS

S A E S N I L D O O P I T B U L L U E U
 S C H N A U Z E R T N D N U O H Y E R G
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 R U Y E T N N E L D O O P C E P S S A B
 E G R O A A L T D A L M A T A I N T R H
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 T D H W L R E S H E P H E R D U I L U C
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 O C O A L T O E E I R R E T C S E I C E
 U T B U O O E W R A S S S H L S E A E I

Last week's answers

Words from the golf outings

CADDIE
SLICE
HAT
LIE
FAIRWAY
WOOD
FORE
IRON
HOOK
GOLFBAG

SANDTRAP
WEDGE
ROUGH
CLUBS
FOURSOME
DRIVER
BALL
IMPACT
DIVOT
CLEATS

GLOVE
COLLAREDSHIRT
GREEN
PUTTER
MARKER
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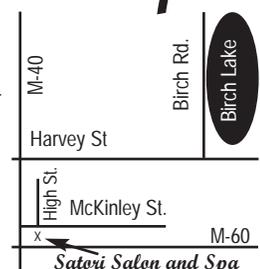
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- \$ ____ - Building Improvement Fund
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- \$ ____ - Water Quality Program
- \$ ____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication Program
- \$ ____ - Riparian (\$8/yr, for magazine)
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Total contribution \$ _____

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 Secretary Sandy Vitale476-1680

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 Fred Freihofer476-9823
 Mike Lutz476-2843
 Bob Baucus.....476-2863

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MC Sailboat #618 complete w/ (2) sails, trailer and cockpit cover; Call Harold Cranmer @ 574 264 6817, \$2,500 OBO

MELGES MC sailboat #581, original owner, beautiful yellow deck, green trim with varnished wood spray rail and tiller. Two sails, full cover. Custom MC trailer. Beautiful pristine condition \$1500 complete. OBO. See also its Shore Station lift ad below. 574-340-0345 (bruce.harlan.5@nd.edu)

"**SEA RYDER** (Godfrey Marine) 2 person, fiberglass paddle boat, aluminum pontoons, yellow. \$300. OBO Bruce Harlan 574-340-0345.

We still have a few **Birch Lake Totes** left at 5 bucks each. Call Bad Patty Luecht at 476-2615.

RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE: — Tickets are \$25.00 and will be eligible for: 3 drawings of \$1,000.00 and 6 drawings of \$100.00; A maximum of 750 tickets will be sold. All proceeds benefit "Our Lady of the Lake Church" in Edwardsburg. Please contact Denise Smitley 476-9000.

Creative Memories scrap booking items for sale. Items are all priced at cost to reduce my inventory. I have everything including adhesive, tools, paper, albums and cricut cartridges. I can also scrapbook for you or if interested can hold a crop night. Call Diana Betzer at 574-274-3260 located on Benders Hill.

1998 Chaparell 1930, bow rider extra clean. new custom bimini with stainless steel and green sun-brella canvas, paid \$1,000. 5 liter merc cruiser. Trailer has new brakes new master cylinder and good tires, Perfect lake boat. Two Anchors, skiis, snap on cover. Dark Green trim. Low, 300 hours on engine. \$8495 obo. Call Tim Burchell at 850-554-076. Can be seen at Birch Lake

FOR SALE: **CHAPARRAL** 186ssi (19') 2001, 210 hp, 4.3 liter electronic fuel injected Mercruiser I.O. stern drive. White/Yellow with Yellow Bimini top and playpen cover. White interior. Hydraulic steering and trim operation, tilt wheel, snap in Carpet, Depth Finder, 4 Speaker AM/FM CD stereo with detachable face, remote, and helm controls, docking lights, retracting mooring cleats, fire detection and auto extinguish system in the engine compartment and additional fire extinguisher in the cockpit, full instrumentation. Sun deck cooler and flip down ladder. Two swiveling captains chairs with piano hinge

booster pads, Storage locker for life jackets. Custom single axle Heritage matching yellow trailer with brakes. Total time only 133 hours. Beautiful and fun boat, great ski boat.. This boat was custom built for us at the Chaparral plant in Nashville, GA. Boat is in the water on Birch Lake. Part of the Harlan "yellow fleet." \$15,995 OBO 574-340-0345 or (bruce.harlan.5@nd.edu)

V30/V40 Model Shore Station for above listed Chaparral 19' with Blue canopy and Shore Station electric power lift. In the water on Birch Lake. \$1500 OBO. 574-340-0345 (bruce.harlan.5@nd.edu) SHORESTATION SS-V40108 BOAT LIFT Lists for \$4697 without motor

2000 VW Beetle. White, with black leather int. Sun roof, spoiler, five speed, high miles... Driven highway. \$3695. Obo. Runs great. Six changer cd player. Power, AC, Heated seats. Radiator needs attention. Gets great 30miles to gal. Florida car- no rust! Call Tim Burchell at 850-554-0769

Birch Laker Carol Dugan has for sale, **artistic photography.** Cards, matted work, and giclee canvas work is created. Custom orders are welcome. Carol is a member of the Three Rivers Artists Guild, has been juried into numerous shows, and has work included in the permanent collection at the new facilities of Michiana Hematology and Oncology. Carol can be reached at 476-2814 or online at CDugan5310@aol.com.

Toro CCR 3650 snowblower, electric start, 6.5 HP, red, hasn't been used in a few years (no snow in FL), \$350.00 (was \$741 new in 12/03) Sparkybob 476-2293

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FOR FREE

Fallons have a box of **Diatonaceous Earth** (Swimming Pool chemical) free for the taking. First come, first serve. 63600 Birch Road. Word of advice, it does not defeat millipedes. They are still winning the war.

FOR RENT

Spacious Birch Lake home for rent. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, screened in patio for bug free beautiful evenings. Non-smokers only. Minimum 2 week rental - monthly rates available. Contact Doreen 630-816-3374.

Three bedroom cottage on Birch Lake's beautiful north shore. New well with wonderful drinking water and indoor plumbing included. No mosquito. Contact Stewart at 574.514.0667.

HOMES FOR SALE

BirchLakeHomeSale.com
BirchLakeHomeForSale.com

FOR SALE CHICAGO/LAKEVIEW AREA TOWN-HOME — 3 BR, 2 BA, fireplace, hardwood floors, marble baths, Granite/maple/stainless eat-in kitchen, attached garage and tandem parking spot. Short walk to Lake Michigan and Wrigley Field! Questions and price info. please call Dan Soldato 574-514-5175.

FOR SALE — 40' frontage + .88 acres on North end of Birch Lake. House is 640 sq ft, year-round, but needs work. Will entertain all serious offers starting at \$175,000. If interested call 269-476-9846 or 269-244-8907.

Stunning 2 Bed, 2 Bath condo in North Wrigleyville for Rent or for Sale. Hardwood Floors, Granite Counter-tops, Washer/Dryer in-unit, Large Bedrooms, Lots of Closet Space, Air Conditioning, Large Back Deck, Master Bath w/Jacuzzi tub, SS appliances and Breakfast Bar. Parking Available- Call or email Jenny Hoban for pictures and/or more information. Email: kushtoj@gmail.com Phone: (773) 339-6465

FOUND

FOUND MONDAY: One white pontoon bumper washed up after storm, Lacy's #98 (south side) Found: a pair of reading glasses in the road behind 63486 Birch Road. Call Olson, 476-2125.

Child's Lion King float, washed up on northeast shore in storm of August 2-3. Owner can pick it up, it is tied to yellow chair on beach in front of 63037 Birch Road.

WANTED

Donated items (and services) we can sell at the upcoming silent auction which will be held during the Birch Lake Yacht Club's Fall Dinner (to benefit Camp Tannadoonah). Contact Commodore Stan or Amber Grundy

Wanted to buy: Pre-owned 120 inch boat lift with canopy. Contact Stewart at 269.476.2113 (land) or 574.514.0667 (cell).

Looking for a ride. Attention sunfish owners — If anyone has a boat that needs to be exercised on Sunday mornings I would be happy to accept the mount. Naturally if I come in the money I would expect to receive a small percentage of the purse. Contact Stewart at 476.2113.

Want a classified ad in the Birch Barker? It's easy! E-mail me at sailorphil@philvitale.com ... mail to Birch Barker c/o Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 or type up the ad, put it in a plastic bag and deposit it into one of the two newspaper tubes of my cool new stone mailbox (thanks Duane!) at the above address on the east side of Birch Lake ...

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