



The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 18, 2012

© Copyright 2012, The Birch Lake Yacht Club



Rusty Boesler of the south side enjoying a beautiful day on Birch Lake

Commodore's Comments

Well it's me, your Commodore writing this article. No guest writer this week. So I will make it short and, well short.

Wow, can't believe I have one more article to write and then our new Commodore, Chas will be writing to you.

We have an off week-end again and then next week-end the Fall Dinner, which is going to be held at Camp Tannadoonah. Looking forward to seeing who Chas's Vice Commodore is going to be, visiting with good friends and enjoying delicious food . Exciting!!!! Plus I will be turning over the famous life preserver to Chas (one more thing out of the garage:)

Continue to enjoy spending time with your family and friends, that is what life is all about!

Here's to smooth sailing.

~Commodore Pam

Birch Lake Yacht Club Annual Meeting, Saturday, August 25

Notice is hereby given that the BLYC Annual Meeting shall occur at the Fall Dinner on Saturday, August 25. Directors shall be elected, the new Vice Commodore shall be announced and the BLYC Board's Annual Report shall be provided.

Annual Public Safety Fair and Pancake Breakfast

A Public Safety Fair and pancake breakfast will be held at the Cass County Shrine Club on Aug. 18, from 8 am till Noon. Tickets on sale at the door. Suggested Donation: Adults \$4; Ages 5-12 \$2; Under 5 Free

Services / Groups Represented:
Medical Helicopter (subject to weather

and possible emergency calls)

Miss Dig

Cass County Animal Control

Cass County Marine Division

Cass County Drug Task Force Team

Cass County Council on Aging

2012 BLYC Calendar

Aug. 25Fall Dinner
Sept. 8Sailing Awards
Sept. 15 or 25.....Game Night/Card Party
Oct. 6.....Annual Chili Cook-Off

Board Meetings - 9 am (Saturdays)

Sept. 8

Sailing Regattas

Labor Day weekend

Note: ALL dates and times are subject to change.

Watch the Barker for updates!

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 stone newspaper/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), 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 photos or any other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or BLYC Commodore Pam Mullin, (269) 476-1080. --Phil Vitale, editor

— Birch Lake Notes —

American Red Cross
Cass County Cert
Cass County Fireman's Smoke Training House
Mason / Union Library
South Western Michigan College
Domestic Assault Shelter
Simple Truth Training Center
Fire Truck Rides
Fire and EMS information / meet the Firefighters and EMS personnel

Cass County Conservation Club
The following events are scheduled at the Cass County Conservation Club on US 12 at Birch Rd.:

Aug. 25 — Corn and Sausage Roast

Sept. 15 & 16 — U-Pick'em Bingo

Nov. 3 & 4 — Bingo Proceeds to

Weekly events include Line Dance class w/ Fran every Monday @ 6pm;
Zumba every Wednesday @ 5:30 pm;
Yoga every Tuesday @ 6 pm; Euchre every Thursday @ 6:30 pm.

Events planned at VFW Post 2284, 69946 M-62 South, Edwardsburg

■ Sunday, Sep 9 - AYCE Breakfast Buffet 8:30 am - 11:30 am (\$6)

■ Saturday, Sep 15 - Ladies Auxiliary Annual Hog Roast - 2 - 8 pm (\$7) Bring the family and enjoy lots of good food, fun, door prizes and raffles.

■ Every Friday - Burgers & Brats, 5 - 8 pm

■ Oktoberfest - Saturday, Oct. 20 from

Apologies to the Commodore's GrandDog, Taffy

Ok, so I'm sooooo confused ... now that you mention it, I both of these pics show the same dog even though they came in separate messages with



notes about neighbor dogs and stuff, and, well, I got confused by all the dog stuff ... Sorry again Taffy!



Noon till Midnight. Lots of great fun planned with plenty of German food, great music, games and prizes.

Advertising in the Barker

We are still (and always) accepting both display and classified advertising for the Birch Barker.

Classified ads are free to members of the BLYC (non-member rate is \$5 per ad). Email your classified ads to the Barker at sailorphil@philvitale.com.

For information and help building your ad, contact Phil at 476-1680, 445-9200 or sailorphil@philvitale.com.

Thanks to Mr. Bob for capturing a photo of the elusive Birch Watch Skiing entry from the famed 2013 West Side Sausage Fest.



Lutz Concrete

SW Michigan's
FLATWORK
experts



We specialize in decorative
Concrete Stamping
Colored Concrete
Concrete Staining



17050 M-86 — Three Rivers, MI

Ph: (269) 279-7973

Fax: (269) 279-0133

E-mail: mmtlconcrete@aol.com

— Birch Lake Notes —

2012 Birch Lake Fall Dinner

Fall Dinner is coming
August 25th is the date
It's a grand old time so
You'd best not be late.

5:30 for drinks
And appetizers, too.
6:30 for dinner
Only \$25 for you.

Haven't a ticket?
See Karen, Amy, or Judy,
For attending Fall Dinner
Is practically your duty!

There you'll vote on directors
You'll hear our report
On happenings of the Yacht Club
And work of that sort.

But you'll also feast well
On a buffet that is Polish
Provided by The Skillet
(The restaurant, not the dish.)

It's Pam Mullin's last night
As the Birch Lake Commodore.

And it's Chas's first night,
And it won't be a bore.

There's also an auction
That benefits Camp T.
With interesting items
You'll just HAVE to see.

So come join us, please,
Celebrate and hang out,
For being with people,
Is what life's all about.

* Apologies to Dr. Seuss.



Satori Salon and Spa
11920 McKinley St., Jones, MI 49061
www.satorisalonandspa.com
244-5510
Open Tues-Fri from 9-7, Sat from 9-4

At Satori our elite certified staff specializes in organic Salon & Spa services. Come experience our full service Hair Salon & Day Spa. Experience the "Natural" difference. Find us near the intersection of M-40 & M-60 (next to the Fire Dept.)

Find us on Facebook

Other real estate agents claim
to know BIRCH LAKE ...

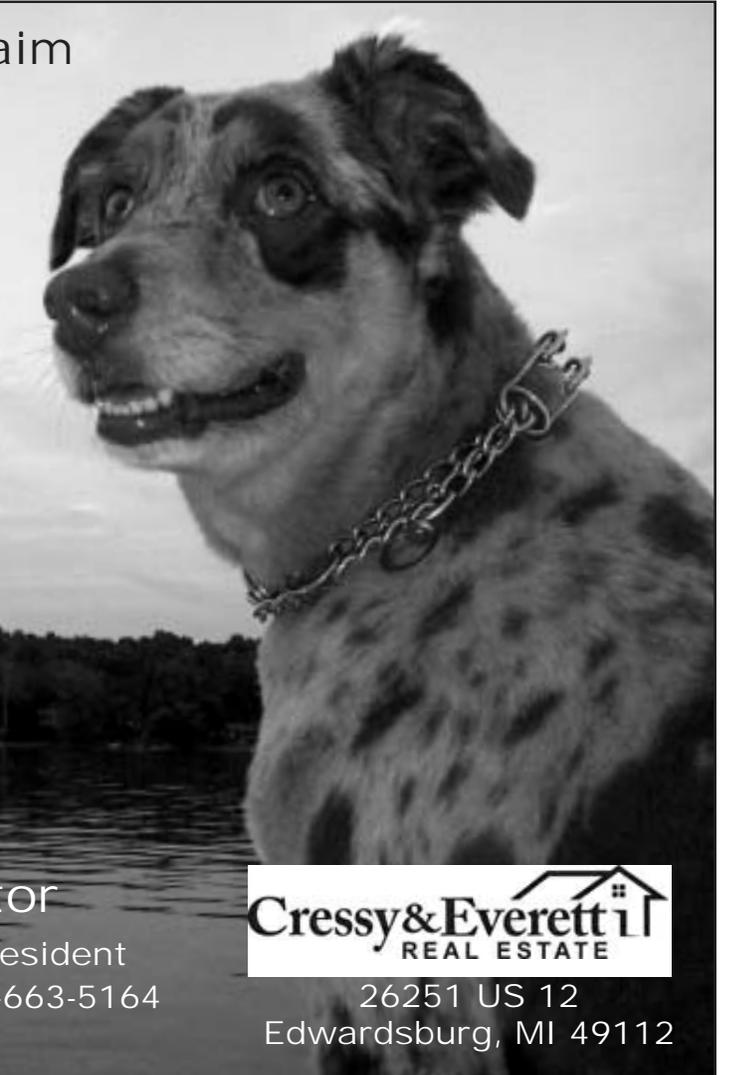
But I never see them out
on their boat ...

Amy Lutz, Realtor

BIRCH LAKE Specialist; BIRCH LAKE Resident
Primary: 269-744-7746 Secondary: 269-663-5164
amylutz@cressyeverett.com
www.amylutz.cressyeverett.com

Cressy & Everett
REAL ESTATE

26251 US 12
Edwardsburg, MI 49112



— Barker Kids of the Week —



Sonia Sanders (East side) had 2 special visitors last week. Sister, Tanya Marzari (Colorado Springs) & her son, Jack Burgeson (Barrington Hills IL) spent many a happy day at the "old" Bee-Jay, cottage #4 & #5 way back in the 40's, 50's & 60's.



Ashton Davis visited with his Aunt Patti & Uncle Rick Russwurm (North side) for the first time and fell in love with Birch Lake. Thanks again to Bad Patty for taking him on his very first boat ride. He loved that too.

SCIENCE FACT: If you took all of the veins from your body and laid them end to end, you would die.

Talk With A Live Person



THANK YOU
FOR VOTING
US THE BEST
OF THE BEST!

ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

Complete Plumbing Service - If there's water to it, we do it.

Let Us Show You Why We Were
Voted Best Of The Best!

Top 10 Reasons to Choose ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

- Licensed Plumbers
- Drug-Free Employees
- Criminal Background Checked Employees
- No Surprises with the Bill- You know the Cost Before the Work is Done
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- True 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Fully Stocked Trucks - "Warehouse on Wheels"
- Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
- Longest Warranties in the Business
- Our Phones are *Always* Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours
- Bonus — The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!



After Hours
Emergency
Service



Major Credit Cards Accepted



2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

269-687-7192 Niles, MI

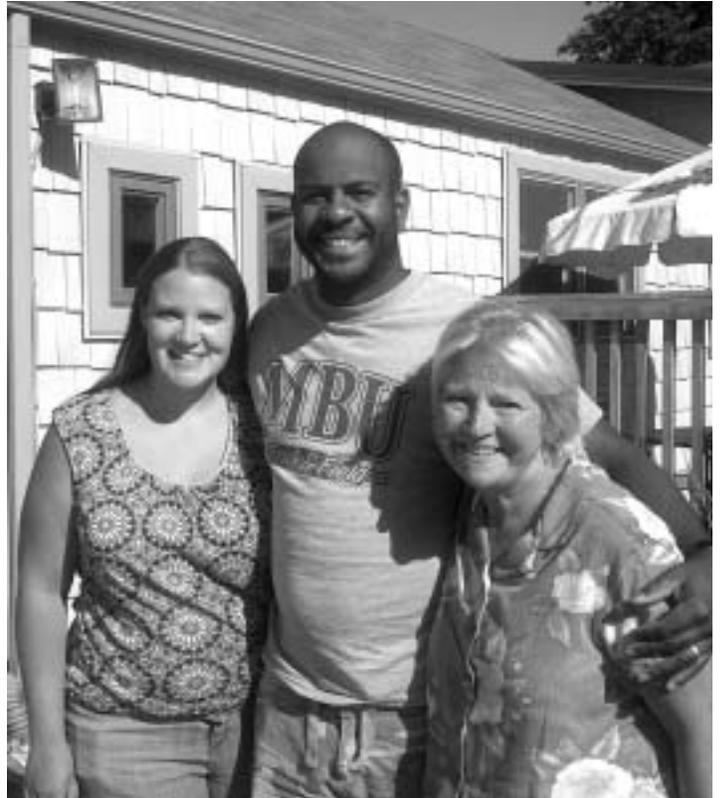
866-751-1470 Toll Free

www.advantageplumbinginc.net

— Barker Kids of the Week —



At left ... That's our granddaughter, Morgann Applegate sticking her tongue out as she is skiing behind the Camp T boat during a camp session a couple weeks ago ...



Colleen and Duran Brown visited Bad Patty Luecht (East side). They came from Danville, Indiana to fish and enjoy the Flamingo Room. Colleen works with Patty at South Elementary School.

The Closest Marina to Birch Lake!

8 MILES FROM THE LAKE, IN "ZIMMYVILLE" JUST SOUTH OF US 12

Pontoon Boat Specials!

2012 MANITOU PONTOONS

Aurora 18' Black w/Mercury 25 hp \$15265.71

Aurora 20' Burgundy w/Mercury 40 hp Bigfoot \$17617.18

Aurora 22' Blue w/Mercury 60 hp \$19402.55

Oasis 23' SE VP Black — Rear Lounge Hi-Performance V-Toon w/Mercury 150 hp Optimax

In-floor storage; 40 mph with four passengers! \$32495.00

2012 XCURSION PONTOONS by Forest River

X-21C Black w/40 hp Mercury Bigfoot \$18995

Dock Store Specials!

4 x 10 foot Pier sections

Treated Wood	\$169
Treated Wood and Aluminum	\$269
Aluminum	\$409
Anodized Aluminum	\$509
Sheerline White Vinyl.....	\$549

4-foot Aluminum Post Assembly

Includes 1 crossarm, 2 posts, 2 crossarm clamps,
2 stringer brackets, and 2 augers or 8" bottom plates.
Post Height ...3'4'5'6'7'8'10'
\$/assembly...\$109...\$117 ..\$122...\$128\$135.....\$140.....\$155
Other Styles and Sizes available

Otter Island Rafts 8 x 10' (Yellow or Tan).....	\$1349
1400# PWC Lift	\$895



69545 Sunset Blvd, Union, MI

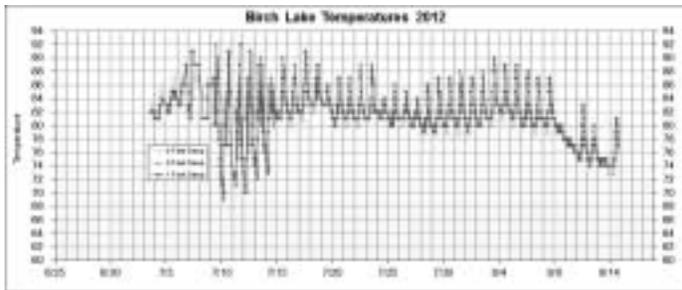
SALES — SERVICE — STORAGE

In water/on site
MOBILE MECHANIC
We'll come to you!

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Katie Luecht, daughter of Bill and (Bad) Patty Luecht (East side) as she moves into her dorm at Purdue last week. Katie thinks the bed in her room is a lot more comfortable than all the beds she slept on this summer while she was a counselor at Camp T.



CORN GALORE!



**FULLY IRRIGATED FIELDS
SWEET CORN GALORE!**
We have everything wonderful ...
tomatoes, green beans, flowers
and more! Last weekend for
Michigan Peaches!
We are a distribution point for
Vandalia's Hebron Farms meats
and eggs. Pasture raised, no
cages, no hormones.
Open Daily 10 am - 6 pm

Diamond Acres Farm



VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE!
www.diamondacresfarm.com

In Cassopolis behind the
High School on Kamp Kozy

CHIMNEY SWIFT CHIMNEY SWEEPS

RON COLBORN

58550 Eller Drive
Osceola, IN 46561

Ph: (574) 674-5257
Cell: (574) 514-4831



ON SALE NOW!

White Crewneck Sweatshirts
(Adult S-XXL),
White Beach Towels
Blue Tie-Dyed Beach Towels
\$25 each

Buy 4, get 5th one free

Proceeds benefit
Birch Lake Yacht Club

Buy them at upcoming
BLYC events
such as the
Vice Commodore's
cocktail party

or Contact
Chas Grundy
574-315-0217
chas@grundyhome.com



— Water Quality —

Eurasian Milfoil Update

On Friday, August 10, 2012 Progressive Engineering, your Yacht Club's Water Quality Consultant, performed a follow-up survey of Birch Lake. A small portion of the lake had been treated two months prior. This time an even smaller (only ¼ acre) patch of Eurasian Milfoil was found in an area where it has been seen and treated previously, near the Troeger's house (by the landing) on the east side.

Professional Lake Management, the firm we use to apply chemicals, hopes to have the area treated by the middle of this coming week, no later than 8/23/12. They plan to use Renovate OTF, a chemical which attacks the root of the invasive milfoil. This is considered a systemic, rather than a contact, treatment.

When treated there will be no restriction on turf watering from, a 24 hour restriction on swimming in, and a

2-14 day restriction on watering ornamental landscaping with, water in the treatment area only. PLM guess that no more than 4 - 5 homes will be affected.

Recalling the extensive havoc and expense Lake Webster has endured as a result of its' Eurasian Milfoil affliction, we should be grateful for our blessings and those on the lookout to protect them.

FOUR LAKES COUNTRY CLUB!
 Adamsville, Michigan — 4 miles east of Edwardsburg on US 12

Meet your friends
 for golf and/or dining!
 (First Fish night Friday, April 6th)

Plan Now for:
 Outings — Leagues — Open Play
 Weddings, Receptions, Rehearsal Dinners, Parties, Lunches, Banquets

CALL
 Pro Shop — 269-699-5701 (Scott)
 Club House — 269-699-5349 (Marla)
www.fourlakescc.com

DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION
 No Job Too Large or Too Small!

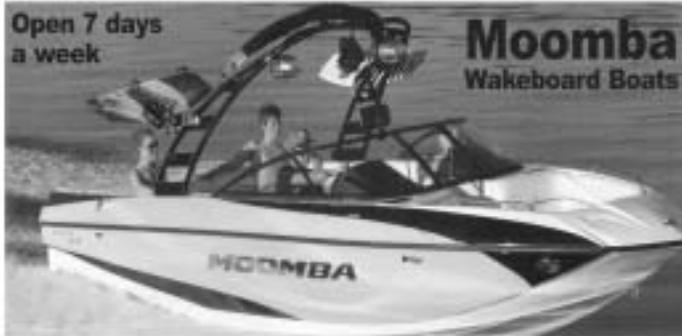


All Types of Remodeling
 * New Home Construction *
 Restoration

Licensed & Insured Free Estimates

Bob Bienz 269-759-4010
 63366 Kinsey St., Vandalia, MI
 email: diamondconstr@yahoo.com

Open 7 days a week



Moomba
 Wakeboard Boats

Sales Service Storage



Avalon
 2012
 Windrunner Family 24' Elite

APOLLO MARINE
 SALES SERVICE STORAGE

SOUTHSIDE OF GRAVEL LAKE
 15355 96TH AVE
 Lawton, Michigan 49065
 269.423-6011

1-888-996-BOAT
RAUAPOLLO@AOL.COM

WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET

O'Donnell's Docks LLC



Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Sales and service of all major docks, boatlifts and water front accessories

Serving you for over **20 years**

12097 M-60 • Jones, MI
 269.244.1446
 e-mail: info@odonnellsdocks.com



For an on-line quote, go to:

www.odonnellsdocks.com

Authorized dealer for





A Brandy for all ages ...

Growing up in the sixties and seventies the thought of listening to music that was 40 years old was ridiculous. Glenn Miller? Tommy Dorsey? Andrews Sisters? Are you kidding? (I love them now.)

But here we go with a song that I bet most of the folks that are my age will know. Many much younger too I'm sure.

We may perhaps be getting off on a bit of a tangent here but this song does indeed mention sailors and the sea.

Originally performed by Looking Glass, a rock quartet from New Jersey formed in 1969, consisting of Elliot Lurie (lead guitar), Lawrence Gonsky (piano), Pieter Sweval (bass), and Jeff Grob (drums), this one-hit wonder was inspired by a girl in Lurie's life, but the story is fictional.

This No. 1, top-40 hit from 1972 sold over a million copies.

*There's a port, on a western bay
And it serves a hundred ships a day
Lonely sailors, pass the time away
And talk about their homes*

*There's a girl in this harbor town
And she works layin' whiskey down
They say, "Brandy, fetch another round"
She serves them whiskey and wine*

*The sailors say, "Brandy, you're a fine girl"
"What a good wife you would be"
"Your eyes could steal a sailor from the sea"*

*Brandy wears a braided chain
Made of finest silver from the North of Spain
A locket that bears the name
Of the man that Brandy loves*

*He came on a summer's day
Bringin' gifts from far away
But he made it clear he couldn't stay
No harbor was his home*

*The sailor said, "Brandy, you're a fine girl"
"What a good wife you would be"
"But my life, my lover, my lady is the sea"*

*Yeah, Brandy used to watch his eyes
When he told his sailor stories
She could feel the ocean fall and rise
She saw its ragin' glory
But he had always told the truth,
lord, he was an honest man
Brandy does her best to understand*

*At night when the bars close down
Brandy walks through a silent town
And loves a man who's not around
She still can hear him say*

*She hears him say, "Brandy, you're a fine girl"
"What a good wife you would be"
"But my life, my lover, my lady is the sea"*

Thanks to our committee boat officials, Julie and Steve, Renata and Steve, and Karen Brovold for supervising this week's racing. Without your help we'd be out there crashing into one another and breaking all kinds of rules. Also, I'm reviewing the scoring as there have been some inquiries.

Only three more racing weekends left, then I walk the plank. See you out there. That is all.

~Fleet Commander Stu



Thanks to Mr. Bob for the cool photo of the end of a waterski

2012 Sailing results to date

Sailing Results	12-Aug	12-Aug	12-Aug	Points	Average
MCs					
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	1	31214	1561
Bob King #1199	4	3	2	32489	1477
Jeff Smitley #2002				32201	1464
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	3	5	3	37690	1396
Phil Vitale #500	2	4	4	34293	1372
Dave Olson #1979				22072	1298
Bill Luecht #1579				27834	1265
Gib Eberhart #916	5	2	5	29701	1291
Sunfish					
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)				31449	1572
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)				4486	1495
Stewart Spratt				29536	1477
Sandy Vitale (White)	2	1	1	27764	1461
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	3	3	3	32703	1422
Brad Davis				2813	1407
Peter Soldoto	1	2	2	21252	1417
Erica Vitale				2813	1407
Bill Butler				8938	1277



Your local hometown hero . . .

As your local independent agent, we're your neighbor - someone you can trust and someone who's here for you 24/7!

UNION INSURANCE AGENCY

Corner of US 12 & Union Rd., Union, MI 49130

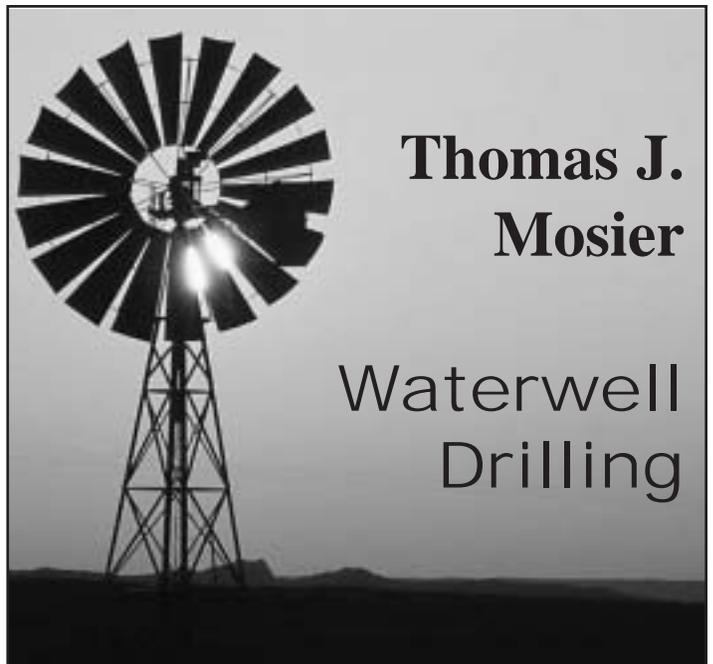
Independent Agency

269-641-5995

fax: 269-641-5787

email: Sue@unionins.net

www.unionins.net



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



Serving Michigan and Indiana

Susie Tucker REALTY

SusieTucker.com

Waterfront Specialist!

(269)641-5775 (574) 320-6697



Featured Listings:



Great home on Birch Lake with access to sandy swimming area and pier for a GREAT price! This 3-bedroom walkout has fabulous lake views from every room in the house and lakeside deck. There is a see-thru fireplace between the newly updated kitchen and dining area. New windows and exterior doors. Make this your year-round home or getaway. Enjoy the summer today!

NEW PRICE: \$84,900

Very nice, all-brick home with 100 FT of very sandy beach on All-Sports Long Lake — with access into Coverdale Lake and canoeing and kayaking into the St Joe River. This



home is very spacious and has fabulous views from all of the large windows throughout. Gourmet kitchen with new flooring and eating area, Two fireplaces (living and family rooms), and rec area in lower level. New carpet in living room and master bedroom has built-ins and cedar closet. Beautiful terraced landscaping and patio with fire pit. Great home for entertaining!

Asking \$445,000

Stu's Star Stuff

By Jove ... it's Jupiter!

Last week we talked about Venus which is quite prominent in the eastern pre-dawn sky. It has been paired with Jupiter most of the summer, the third brightest object in the night sky after Venus and the moon.

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun and the largest planet in our solar system. While your weight on Jupiter would be many times greater than here on Earth you would not be able to actually walk on the Jovian surface as there is none.

Jupiter, like Saturn, Uranus and Neptune is a gas-giant. Composed mostly of hydrogen and some helium the very high temperatures and pressures in Jupiter's atmosphere mean scientists cannot tell what materials might actually be on the surface.

Jupiter is twice as massive as all the other planets in the Solar System put together. It gives off more heat than it gets from the sun. Jupiter is 11 times the width of Earth and 318 times as massive. The volume of Jupiter is 1,317 times the volume of Earth. In other words, 1,317 Earth-sized objects could fit inside it.

One of the biggest features in Jupiter's atmosphere is the Great Red Spot. It is a huge storm which is much bigger than the entire Earth. Discovered over 200 years ago it has been raging on Jupiter's surface continuously and does-

n't appear to be ending any time soon. Wind speeds are estimated to be in excess of 300 miles per hour.

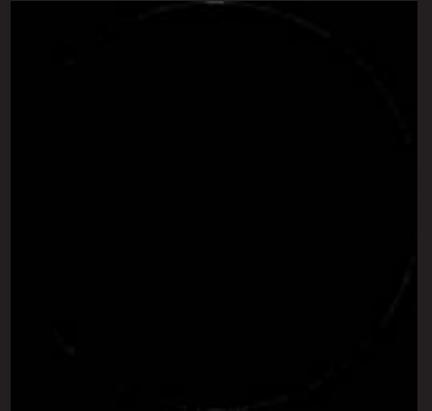
While Saturn's ring system is quite prominent, Jupiter has one of its own, though quite thin and wispy, composed mostly of dust and small rocky debris. Jupiter orbits the sun in just under 12 Earth years and it has no tilt to its rotational axis, therefore resulting in no seasons as we have here on Earth.

Jupiter has at least 66 moons. Of these, 55 are very small and less than five kilometers wide. The four largest moons of Jupiter are Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. They are called the Galilean moons, because they were discovered by the Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei. Ganymede is the largest moon in the Solar System. These moons can often be seen with the naked eye and most certainly with binoculars or a small telescope.

Look for Jupiter, its moons and Venus in the eastern pre-dawn sky. Venus is lower to the horizon with Jupiter about 10 degrees, or a fist held at arm's length, above and a bit to the right.

Of course the show is still free but donations are most graciously accepted.

The Moon for Aug 18
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.034
1.6 days since new moon



Statistics for Aug 17
Sunrise: 6:55am
Sunset: 8:40pm
Moonrise: 8:05am
Moonset: 8:52pm
Day length: 13h 45m



BUBBA'S BBQ-N-FIXINS, LLC

SEASONAL PRODUCE STAND

Jim "Bubba" Baldwin

Owner/Operator



FEATURING SWEET CORN CHARLIE PRODUCE

Located at Hilltop Gas Station

574-596-5752

13599 US 11 Union, MI 49130

jenjmoody@earthlink.net

STAMP

574-370-3918

LAWNCARE &
LANDSCAPING

*Mowing

*Spring & Fall Cleanup

*Fertilizing

*Mulch & Stone

*Sod Installation

*Snow Plowing

Phone: (574) 370-3918

Email: macstamp@hotmail.com

Locally Owned and Operated
Licensed and Insured

Contact us today for a Free Estimate!

YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

Inharmonious situations at home may be extremely upsetting for you this week. Reevaluate your situation. A new you could help your attitude. Don't push your mate away. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Use your head and do things to your liking. You might be overly emotional when dealing with your partner. Make sure that all your legal papers are in proper order. You can meet interesting new friends if you join worthwhile groups. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You'll have great insight. Try to be considerate in your personal obligations. This week will be hectic. You will enjoy lavish forms of entertainment and should consider making arrangements early. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) This will not be the day to have minor surgery. Relationships will be erratic this week. Get busy on those home improvement projects that you've been procrastinating about. Assist a relative or good friend by setting of a budget for them. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Be careful when dealing with loved ones. Discover opportunities based on the individuals you mingle with this week. Older members of your family may try to take advantage of you. You may have difficulties with in-laws or family members. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can have an enjoyable time if you socialize with friends. Organize all the responsibilities that have to be attended to and make sure everyone knows what to do. You can sort out any differences you have in an amiable manner. You should put your efforts into creative projects. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Don't let your personal partner hold you back. Your attitude could be up and down like a yo-yo. Sort situations out as best you can. Watch your spending habits. Your uncanny insight will help you make the right choices. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may find that relationships are not going as well as you'd like. Don't count on your friends to be loyal when it comes to doing things. Visit friends you don't get to see that often. Look at your options before making commitments that could jeopardize your financial position. Your lucky day this week

will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You really can't do anything to change matters this week. Praise will be yours if you have been pursuing your goals. You will be in the doghouse if you are being. Overexertion and negligence will be your worst enemies. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't overextend yourself in the process. Don't exhaust yourself or minor health problems will set in. A new you could help your attitude. Try to avoid being extravagant this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can make money if you pursue your own business. Residential moves are evident. Don't push your luck with authority. You may want to sign up for lectures or courses that will bring you mental stimulation. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Offer consolation, but don't give them any direction. Opposition is present and you should be prepared to counteract it as best you can. Try to slow down, and take another look. You're best to avoid disputes. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



To you it's about making the right choice...To us, it's personal.

**Home
Instead**
SENIOR CARE®

To us, it's personal.

www.homeinstead.com/343

Call for a free,
no-obligation appointment

574.256.1479

Owners: JP & Marlow Hoyer

Serving Michiana

Whether you are looking for someone to help you or a loved one a few hours a week, or need more comprehensive assistance, Home Instead can help.

- Companionship
- Medication Reminders
- Home Helper
- Incidental Transportation
- Personal Care
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Care

~Birch Lake Recipes~

Mom's Zucchini Bread

Something great to make with those Zucchini's the neighbors so kindly drop off.

Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 1/4 cups white sugar
- 3 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Directions

1. Grease and flour two 8 x 4 inch pans. Preheat oven

to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).

2. Sift flour, salt, baking powder, soda, and cinnamon together in a bowl.

3. Beat eggs, oil, vanilla, and sugar together in a large bowl. Add sifted ingredients

to the creamed mixture, and beat well. Stir in zucchini and nuts until well combined. Pour batter into prepared pans.

4. Bake for 40 to 60 minutes, or until tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pan on rack for 20 minutes. Remove bread from pan, and completely cool.



— BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH —

Complete the maze and then find the words. The words can only be found along your maze path.

START

PBKXKVUFTAVTPMJKNSCFMVEMQPOTSVGDGNBVFVSNXJVSMBVUTSBKWQLEIUGFHRINOFDNFYPMVBOGB EUSW
 B O C J F E
 O N Q F C
 B MLQA YREFBSTOCKPOT VDGD PANSBCUOVHDQB S K KIQY D D SBSR UUASPICESGEWI
 P I E D R R E S V R E X F
 O N W D F K S J K S Y V L T
 M E HESK STOASTERKWNWUTKECHAIRS S YKHCONJ CGJA E W SENO FUGN VLIHQ J
 V E P R G I M U W D J J P E
 V J I D W C A T E F A P S
 WFIAEPX TCHV P WNB M Q XPJH UKQDVVJ APRONPRVWI R SEMG WYHSANAMWF FFRW E
 P E Q A Y T E J S I Y U U K
 I L W J M P G F B P H T T
 F PHJJ X IVRKJLLJKGCJEFLT FNWIIHA XOUD J H WGPJQWI KSSMNRUQVC HJSP I I
 J Y Y P I F X D H D V T N
 B N V D S K U R F V T I
 XHFC QQSO C GUSRAXIHGBLMFWWG V LNWP K RLFSPRN OCJEEDC HLLJDUOLXP UOISCXR
 G L O G B N B H C K T Y D U
 R D C N A R F B D K C X K T
 H ERYI HFLI CRYV AWPEKOAGYNKNY W GSFO P T VMKD A JGEYRBNPEJ QGXY S K
 L S V E W K N J F Q W F D I I E
 P H F S V X N R P Y U M K H G W
 MTHJ E J X O J TKLGIGCHTUWRBPBQ I PLATES WHGCSJTG MHNOW A R K H BBTG J
 T S T D W S G Y K U K K L
 F V I X J C H T H H X Y J
 A N WBIM LHBSDWO E O I ASGB EOAWXDSPOONSHXUDRLC N SBNTSKC I DRNO RNSR
 W Q F O P B N X I O D G L P X D W
 O H G B W M B N T E L R L Q B J I
 R K H QQWEYCE S Q M WJPD APBP MEYT S KYRQ R CAYB S HADMYDD C I V
 E C T L I K D J A H W C K V Q S S L
 D T L W L R I I J H O D E I H I F E
 S N LSNA L RIKV O JBYF MSTA WJBY X F M ODNCTRFHUA O RUIP LDNP A F
 F W R U E V R K B G U D V K K A O F H
 R B D U Y I C S H D V N S Y O C A Q
 P ITUD J M S VORQMWS G I HGSPATARSYMTJ DULBRMQVHS TEHTFQJ FDIB I K V
 V W X H R M M N P H G V W G Y V
 R K S W S O L E P T P J J J O Q
 K MNAYTJTEDD G I N X L O I YERU W EHXX ETWY XOCXMBMYMBUOE J NEMG F
 F T B E M E B O Q H B T D Y X H R
 G A L K G H I M D I N L T G S H A
 V HFVBTQX B E R J P VFWIVBG L IYGWPN E ASPC EARK V O JHDW JWVOV Q W
 A L L N Y V R C T F A V P V K Q
 M F E D R Y U R M E N J Y J F E
 ABTNFSX RQED EMEKYTW RSEOXGQ U BCQB D NQUSWIWCTX X SEMMRHO WQSGRDG G S
 I C R B T L C V M K M N C K M
 C U R T J U O C K S H L I N G
 N EWQRLED QINC P PNOWPCC QLFRIED TCHC A L C N A W C W R PUIJGGC Y
 M I R P H A O S J M G K U C T Y Y J
 L K H X G O Q P O U H W F Q O S K L
 G C D WHIP Q GASVGN Y BXFQ OYWWWSK ADUT QJSHFAU S L BMIELTB L K UTWH
 W F O C R A S M
 M U Y Y R C L Y B
 YJHXIRKNIVESPWHJPQRDUCMUWJTYVFKFMGNROJLDPWBQCFILGCCXHCROQLPJHMRROAKXJWXUGXTVTFG

END

Find and circle these words:

PANS	DISHES	TOASTER	CHAIRS
SPOONS	SKEWERS	BLENDER	APRON
KNIVES	POTS	PLATES	WHIP
STOCKPOT	TABLE	SPICES	

More thoughts on water depletion

As part of the Homeowner's Association annual meeting held on August 4, 2012 at the Yacht Club building, Mr. Leard Wylie, a township and sewer authority board member, made the case for "possibly," only as a "last ditch alternative", pumping some 100,000 gallons of Birch Lake water into our sewer system once per year in order to "flush" its 6" discharge forcemain and hopefully prevent further blockages in it along Rainbow Lake Rd.

His presentation was thorough and seemed to make some sense. He should be complemented for sharing his proposal with us, answering our questions, and listening to our input. With 75 or so in attendance, an advisory vote was unanimous. All in attendance did not want water removed from the lake and preferred that a more permanent solution be determined and executed instead. I think he sensed the universality and depth of our shared opinions.

In preparation of his presentation, we did a little research, speaking to 3 professional hydrologists, a representative from Michigan's Dept. of Environmental Quality, an attorney specializing in riparian rights, and our Cass County Water Resources Commissioner.

To each it was explained that we had already lost what used to go into our septic tanks and stay in our watershed but now leaves as sewage for treatment and discharge somewhere else, and that much of the ever growing amount of area farmer's spray irrigation water which doesn't make it back to our aquifer, and we were now concerned about the potential loss of water for "flushing" a forcemain.

As you might guess from Leard's presentation, most of the experts whom we contacted agreed that the proposed 100,000 gallon annual withdrawal for sewer flushing was, in volume anyway, relatively insignificant.

A far bigger concern, suggested by the three hydrologists and other water professionals are the uncertain, variable and relatively unregulated number of gallons of water being pumped out of our aquifer by area farmers, with their licensed as "intermittent" agricultural wells with diameters of up to 14." A single 14" well can pump as much as 1,000 to 1,200 gallons per minute, or 60,000 to 72,000 per hour out of our aquifer. Yes, that is most of what Mr. Wylie proposed pumping out of our lake in a year.

More commonly, agricultural wells are only 8" in diameter and pump only 500 or so gallons per minutes. Even at that rate when applied to typical stated usage of 12 hours per day, for 4 or 5



days per week, over only 3 months per year each well annually removes 21 million gallons of water. This volume is equivalent to 2.6 vertical feet of water in a 295 acre body of water. 295 acres happens to be the approximate size of our Birch Lake. Now we might be talking about real significant volumes of water.

In order to protect the water levels of its streams and rivers, Michigan passed a law which went into effect roughly 3 years ago which requires registration of the following with the Department of Agriculture:

1. All new wells at time of installation
2. Estimated pumping annual volumes of all agricultural wells each year.

If and when it is determined that any further wells in a given area might negatively affect a stream or river, no more permits will be granted for pumping in that area. While this is a noble plan and effort:

1. No one can determine for sure what the actual maximum, safe pumping volumes are for an area without negatively affecting that area's waterways.
2. There is no system in place to check or enforce the accuracy of farmers' yearly pumping estimates and whether those wells more than 3-years old even had their data submitted.
3. This system has been devised to protect only streams and rivers, not lakes.

Unfortunately to assume water pumped out of any aquifer largely stays in the same watershed is incorrect. It is commonly estimated that only 10 percent of spray irrigation water returns to the aquifer. The 90 percent that is lost is absorbed primarily by cooling the plant (typically corn), evaporation, and the plants' metabolic processes. In our area, agricultural irrigation is particularly cost effective (i.e. profitable). For that reason, and the chance that the number of wells might soon be capped to protect rivers and streams, well installations and usage have grown almost

exponentially.

The permits obtained by these farmers require neither flow or elapsed time meters on their wells. So, we have no good basis for even checking how much the pumps are actually drawing out of our aquifer over any specific length of time. And no one can state for certain the relationship between the number of gallons pumped and its' effect on our lake.

To even hope to be able to one day have a legitimate voice regarding those wells and their use, we first need to establish a factual history of lake elevations tracked along with pertinent weather data, to determine if we have, and the scope of, any lake water elevation problems. A number of other area lakes already do this. It would be best if we had this data available from periods before the proliferation of all the wells. (If you know of any, please share it with us), but the adage "better late than never" applies here. While the Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee may be willing to take the lead in this, I'm guessing we could use and would appreciate volunteers to monitor and record the pertinent information. Bruce Campbell, Cass County's Water Resource Commissioner, has agreed to work with us. If you'd like to volunteer your services, or have any other thoughts on the matter, please let us know.

Thanks to Tom Mosier (east side), professional well driller, for putting us in touch with the appropriate folks from DEQ, from whom we received much of this information.

Birch Lake does have a "legal lake level" set by an area court many years ago. The legal level refers more to the elevation of the weir at its outlet. As we have all witnessed, the actual lake elevation varies perhaps as much as a foot between its' high and low observed elevations. When high, a lot of water flows over the weir, when low probably nothing does. Only by recording elevations and weather conditions over extended periods can we begin to guesstimate how much water flows out of the lake over any given period and then compare those flows and the weather conditions at the time, to elevations / discharge flows experienced at other times and perhaps determine if our discharge rates are overall going up, down, or staying about the same. If we can show that they seem to be going down over an extended period, we may then have a reasonable basis for requesting area well activity be reduced.

Camp Tannadoonah

What a week!

What a week! The last week of camp did not end quite the way we expected it to. The weather Friday was cold and rainy, but we were still planning to conclude the summer with our candlelight ceremony at the waterfront, if the skies would clear up for a bit. But Mother Nature had something else in mind.

As many of you know, during rest hour on Friday afternoon, a large oak tree fell down the hill and landed on the lower half of our waterfront stairs. We were very thankful that it happened on a wet, rainy day, during rest hour when all of the campers and staff were safe in their cabins. So to our great relief, no one was injured, but the tree prevented us from going to the waterfront for the candle ceremony.

I'd like to extend a huge thanks to Phil Vitale for mobilizing a crew to help clean up the tree on Monday morning. Thank you to Mike Lutz for going up on Sunday and removing a large portion of the tree from the stairs, and to Phil, Vic Jones, Tori Troeger, Jim Yoshizawa, Ben Wozniak, and Gordon Seyfarth for coming out Monday morning to help with the cleanup.

All the hands meant that we only spent a few hours getting the bulk of the treetop off the stairs and out of the way. One landing and its support system was damaged, several railings and benches destroyed, and some stairs on one flight were broken, but the damage could have been far worse! The next step is to evaluate the repairs and decide how to get to work on rebuilding.



Saturday our staff spent a full day working hard to clean up and close up camp for the season, and then we celebrated another successful summer with a staff party up at camp. It's always bittersweet at the end of the summer to say goodbye to our counselors and camp staff! We all joke about how we live in a "camp bubble" for the summer, and now it's back to the "real world."

Next weekend is our 3rd annual silent auction, to be held in conjunction with the Birch Lake Fall Dinner at camp. If you have any items or services that you would like to donate to the auction, please contact me. I'm also open to suggestions for items that you think would be good additions to the auction!

This year we have some great items included in the auction, including Bears vs. Lions tickets (Monday Night Football, 10/22), Notre Dame football, basketball, and hockey tickets, gift certificates for some new restaurants, original artwork by Mary Firtl, camper photographs and paintings, and much more! And, as always, all the proceeds benefit Camp Tannadoonah.

We have several upcoming events for Camp this fall, including Fall Camp to be held September 28-30th. Registration for the Fall Camp weekend will be available soon.

Hope to see you all next Saturday night at the Fall Dinner!

-Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org

574-217-4731

MH
McGann Hay
FUNERAL HOME • CREMATIONS • GATHERINGS
SINCE 1912

New Granger Chapel

- Large Rooms
- Children's Room
- Spacious Cafe/Lounge

574-232-1411
www.mcgannhay.com

"The perfect location between Michigan and Indiana"

CAMP TANNADOONAH
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org>

2012 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

2012 BLYC OFFICERS

Pam Mullin Commodore (N).....476-1080
Classegirl1@comcast.net
Chas Grundy Vice Comm (H).....574-968-7022
Chas.grundy@gmail.com
Holly Troeger Treasurer (E).....476-9898
amvine@aol.com
Mike Sheffieck Secretary (W).....476-1849
mcsheff@aol.com
Stewart Spratt Fleet Captain (N).....476-2113
s1svb1@comcast.net

2012 BLYC DIRECTORS

Bob Baucus (N).....476-2863
rebauc@aol.com
Greg Bolin (W).....476-2420
gbolin31@aol.com
Karen Brovold (W).....476-8862
karenbrovold@yahoo.com
Harold Cranmer (W).....476-2170
dhcranmer@yahoo.com
Terry Dugan (S).....476-2814
s581122@aol.com
Fred Freihofer (N).....476-9823
cdfreihofer@aol.com
Patty Luecht (E).....476-2615
Pgalloway4@yahoo.com
Mike Lutz (N).....476-2843
mmtlconcrete@aol.com
Stan Pitakos (N).....476-2113
stanpitakos@yahoo.com
Steve Quinlan (W).....476-8802
stevequinlan2@yahoo.com
Vickie Rogers (C).....476-2383
tvrogers@netscape.com
Rick Russwurm (N).....476-2407
paramountp@aol.com
Scott Troeger (E).....476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com

Denise Smitley (W).....476-9000
dsmitley@industrial-pack.com
PJ Vandewalle (H).....
pjvandewalle@gmail.com
Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com
Sue Williams (S).....476-8886
smwillia@comcast.net

NON-DIRECTOR ATTENDEES:

Jim Bolinger BLYC Homeowners' Association Chairman (E)
.....476-9737
debo36@comcast.net
Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee Chairman (E)
.....476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com
Bob Waddle (E).....476-2293
sparkybob220@comcast.net

EA Landscaping
Specializing in Rock & Boulder Construction
Noel D. Ermis
Owner / Operator

- Sea Walls
- Retaining Walls
- Waterfalls
- IN & MI Waterway Construction Permitting

574.612.2150
noel@ErmisAvenues.com

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

Lawn Care

- Spring and fall yard clean up
- Tree and shrub trimming
- Rototill your garden
- Mowing and Trimming
- Fertilizing

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
davehardisty@comcast.net



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



2012 Dues, Contribution & Donation Form
SUPPORT THE BLYC; SUPPORT THE BIRCH LAKE COMMUNITY!

\$ _____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$25 / year)

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

\$ _____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues
(\$10 / year)

\$ _____

\$ _____ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)

\$ _____ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)

Name _____

\$ _____ - Building Improvement Fund

\$ _____ - Fireworks Fund

Address _____

\$ _____ - Water Quality Program

\$ _____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife

Eradication Program

\$ _____ - Safety Committee

\$ _____ - Other non-party related expenses

\$ _____ - BLYC Roof Fund (NEW)

Make checks payable to
BLYC
c/o Holly Troeger
1516 Ash Dr. East
Elkhart, IN 46514

When it's time to sell your lake property, we can *lure* the right buyers.

- *Direct 1st Class mail of your property data sheet to our buyer database*
- *E-mail of your property to our lake buyer lists with link to color web page*
- *Color listing of your property on our website, www.jerdon.net*
- *Direct 1st Class mail of your property data sheet to owners on your lake*
- *Color Lake Property Home guide mailed to buyers & 8,500 lake owners*
- *Advertising in Illinois, Indiana & Michigan home guides*
- *Our own Southwest Michigan Map including lake map and lake size table.*



Visit our website
www.jerdon.net
(269) 782-4000

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

E-mail sailorphil@philvitale.com ... mail or drop to 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

FOR SALE

Generator 5250 watt/ 6500w peak, 10 HP, pull start, on wheels, set up for 30 amp feed to house. Very few hours, \$300. Sparky @ 476-2293

Large, heavy, cast iron wood-burning heating stove. 23-1/2" x 32-1/2" x 49" high. \$750 obo. Also for sale: hide-a-bed (double) \$25 obo. Call cell phone (574-315-1193 or home (574) 272-0627.



22-foot, Shore Station with 2 covers; no holes, dark green & burgundy; new cable recently installed. Call Becky, 574-386-8609

For sale — The most recognized pontoon boat on Birch Lake is for Sale! Phil & Sandy's 1982 Crest Pontoon w/peace sign; newer bimini top, carpet, helm, captain's chair, bench seat and arm rest; Newer 25 hp Mercury 4-stroke, Bigfoot outboard. Well maintained, runs great! \$3,500 obo.

FOR SALE: inexpensive PWC lift station. Galvanized steel, winch, wood bunks. Working condition. \$200. ALSO; **Wooden swing with**

base, lattice sides, and top. Treated lumber. \$50 OBO 269-244-3487.

Razor electric scooter. Good condition. \$75. Kevin 476-2166 or 773-304-8042.

Storage building /commercial property for sale. Large, well-constructed 7600 sq-foot building. Concrete floors, halide lighting, 3 large bay doors, 10 self-lock storage units - 10' X18' each. 2 1/2 acres. 63840 Walnut Rd (Williamsville) \$133,900 call David Bouwkamp 734 358 6112.

For Sale:
Antique Story and Clark pump organ. In good working condition. Best offer. Call 574-215-5902.



Looking for unique, fun, artsy jewelry? Stop by the Curtis-Miller cottage at 63148 Birch Road (East Side - Blue Metal Roof) on Sunday, August 26th from Noon to 4:00 for the Tamajesy Roar Trunk Show. Hand crafted beaded bracelets, necklaces, earrings, rings, lanyards and more made by talented artist Tamara Michalina of El Paso, Texas. Check out the website to preview her one-of-a-kind pieces @ www.tamajesyroar.com.

'Surprised by Beauty' — Photographic artist, Carol Dugan, is offering for sale, cards, matted work and giclee canvas work. Many images

are local. Her work is displayed at LA Cafe in Three Rivers and Farmhouse Bakery in Vandalia. At Farmhouse Bakery, Carol will do a 'Meet the Artist' day on Friday, August 17, 9 am to 2 pm. Her lake phone is 476-2814. Email CDugan5310@aol.com

FOUND

A really nice yellow chair floaty with cup holders showed up on the north shore. Call 476-2407 to claim.

WANTED

Wanted: Looking for small 6HP boat for our boys on Birch. Email rlbender@gmail.com or stop by grey A-frame on the cove. Bob Bender.

Almost ready to sail. All I need is **a rudder for a Sunfish.** Please contact Bill Carpenter Cottage 12. 574-340-5559

HOMES FOR SALE

Delightful Eastside A-Frame lakefront cottage. New on the market — contact Ilene Golden at 574-360-8766

BirchLakeHomeForSale.com

FOR RENT

Cottage for rent - \$600 weekly - will discuss weekend rental too. Call 574-360-8766.

THANKS!

Thank you to the elf of Birch Lake for finding and returning the white visor to the Fallon's dock. What a great place to live.

How Can Pier Perfection Help You?

Pier Perfection offers custom design, installation, removal, sales and service of dock products to help make your time on the water more enjoyable. As the premier service provider in Southwestern Michigan, we have built a reputation of quality and a commitment to excellence.

17228 M60
Vandalia, MI
49095



476-1500
fax 476-1510

PIER PERFECTION

www.pierperfection.com

CUSTOM HOMES BY:

Salela
CONSTRUCTION L.L.C

- + GENERAL CONTRACTING
- + CUSTOM HOMES
- + TEAR DOWNS
- + COMPLETE RENOVATIONS
- + SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES
- + LICENSED IN MICHIGAN AND INDIANA

OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

269-445-HOME (4663)
Office

CALL TODAY TO DISCUSS
ALL OF YOUR
UPCOMING PROJECTS

Cassopolis
lbuidu1@aol.com

<http://birchlakeblog.wordpress.com/>

Birch
Blog

We've Got You Covered!



SUMMER'S HERE!
CALL US TODAY!

- Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios
- Roll Curtains for Screened Porches
- Aluminum Porch Canopies
- Boat Covers and Tops
- Canvas Repair
- Aluminum Awnings



SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

**Call us for a free
at-home
demonstration!**



*Locally owned
and operated
since 1985*

**SUN
&
SHADE
AWNING**

12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

269 244-5307
www.sunandsshadeawning.com