

The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 24, 2013



Thanks to Mr. Bob for the interesting perspective on the sailboat races from last week.

Fairy Tales and Dragons

Commodore's Comments

"Fairy tales are more than true — not because they tell us dragons exist, but because they tell us dragons can be beaten."

-G.K. Chesterton

There will be 15 printed Birch Barkers this summer. Every week, I am filled with some measure of anxiety over what to write. Some weeks are easy, such as after a Yacht Club event, when I can thank the organizers and attendees. Other weeks are more difficult. Like a tepid conversation reduced to remarking on the weather, I find myself stretching to fill the

inches with observations on the heat, cold, and rain. I feel as though I should have something more profound or useful to offer.

As a person who enjoys working with data, I compiled all of my columns this summer (printed Barkers only) and performed some simple text analysis. I discovered that I've used 1,061 words a total of 3,295 times. Once you get past the articles, pronouns, prepositions, etc. the first word is lake (appearing 32 times). Next up are "birch" and "camp" (19 times each).

I was surprised to find that the topic I most frequently mention is not, in fact, the weather, with 30 mentions of weather-related terms. Boating only appears 24 times. Family and friends words show up 46 times. As I might have guessed, my most frequent topic is food: 58 mentions of corn and sausage, hog roasts, spaghetti, pancakes, and a wide

2013 BLYC Calendar

September 7.....Fall Dinner 5:30 pm
September 7.....Sailing Awards
September 14.....Card and Game Party
October 12.....Chili Cookoff

Note: ALL dates and times are subject to change.
Watch the Barker for updates!

array of food adjectives.

These reflect a fact I've long known: my happiness revolves around family, friends, food, the lake, and camp. These bring me joy. And as Avery and Elyse grow up at Birch Lake, I hope they discover the same joys that Amber and I have found here.

~ Commodore Chas

Fall Dinner Information

For those of you on the south side, Pam VanHuffel will be taking reserva-

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 Chas Grundy, 269-476-7062. --Phil Vitale, editor

— Birch Lake Notes —

tions and your checks (made out to BLYC \$25 per person) for the fall dinner on Sept. 7 at 5:30 pm. Sue Williams will be on vacation, so please get in contact with Pam. (thanks so much, Pam!!)

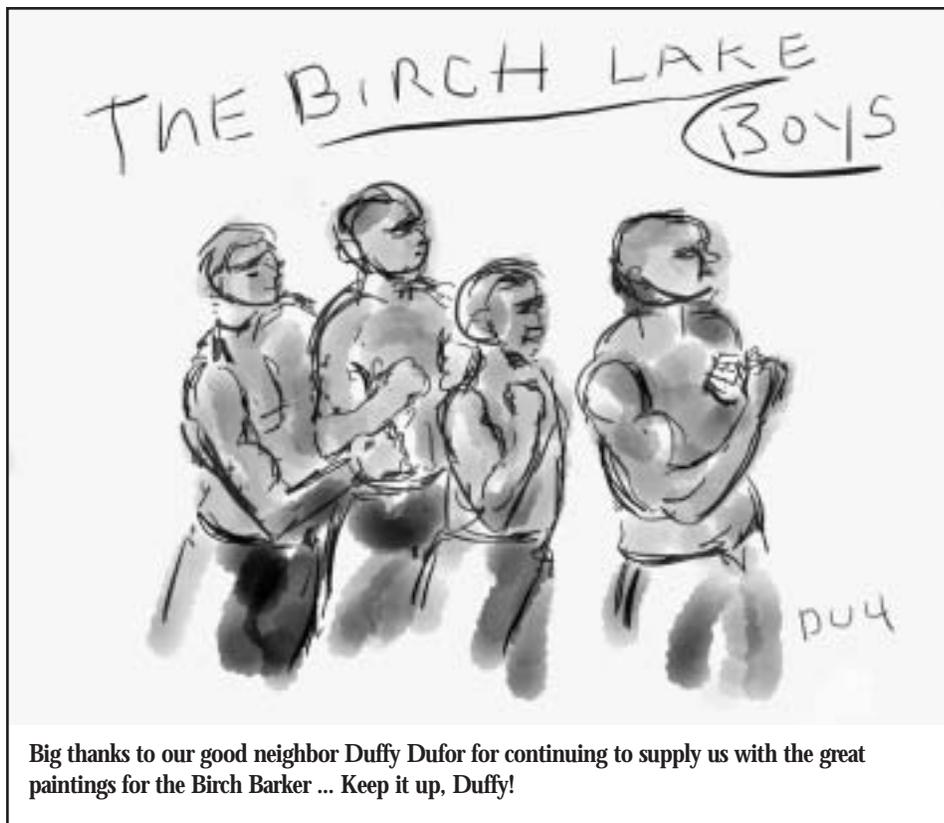
I know there's a few of you out there that follow Facebook. Occasionally "your friends" will post something that says, "Who really reads my posts" and then they continue to make you feel guilty if you don't "like" or comment on it. Well in last week's Barker I wanted to see who REALLY reads my articles. Last week I wrote in the Barker the menu for the Fall Dinner. I told you we were having various flavors of mouse for dessert. The only person that caught it-or at least told me about the misspelled words, was Bill, my devoted husband-who takes great pleasure in pointing out my mistakes! (this might explain why I haven't gotten too many reservations for the dinner!!) Anyway, just wanted you to know we are not having MOUSE or MOOSE. We will be enjoying some wonderful MOUSSE with fresh fruit!! Please join us!

REMEMBER: RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY AUGUST 31st!!! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

~Thanks, Bad Patty, VC.

Birch Lake directory

If you're new to the lake, didn't receive a directory last year (updated



2012), or would like an additional copy we have a limited number available. The first one is free, additional copies are \$3. Please contact Celia Fallon at 476-1467.

Barker Deadlines

The deadline for submitting information for any edition is always the Tuesday of the week before publication.

Happy Birthday Cal

The entire Birch Lake community wishes Calvin King (son of Bob & Les, grandson of Bill & Le, north shore) a happy birthday on August 27.

Online content

The printed Birch Barker is online this season, ... go to www.philvitale.com

Be the first

Later this year Lutz Concrete will be installing a beautiful compass rose made of stamped and stained concrete (see photo at right) in a new concrete garage-style apron at the entrance of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

This design is an example of the services and products available for our our friends and neighbors at Birch Lake!

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— Birch Lake Notes —

and follow the links.

Reminder!

The Sewer Department & Porter Township reminds everyone to please not flush any type of wipes, diapers or feminine hygiene products into the sewer system. These items get tangled in the grinder pumps and in lift stations

causing maintenance problems that could be avoided.

Problems like this may cause replacing pumps or other mechanical parts which may necessitate increasing

the maintenance rate. If problem causing items are not flushed into the system the cost of maintenance and the sewer maintenance rate can be maintained.

Question of the week:

?

Question: Where is the oldest swim raft on our lake?

Hint: It is currently floating and usable.

Answer: The oldest swim raft is owned by Gib and Barb Eberhart. It was built by hand in the early 1940's. It is currently floating in front of their cottage on the south side. It is distinctive because it has its own diving platform. Check it out as you cruise by.



Como Christmas

A Merry Como Christmas, Singin' and Dancin' into the Holidays will take place Nov. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 at the Battell Center, 904 N Main St., Mishawaka, In. all tickets are \$12. Box office and doors open at 6 pm for purchase of tickets; curtain time 7:30 pm for warm up, show starts at 8 pm. For information call Wendy Como at 574-243-7704 email or glitterama32@yahoo.com Wwww. thecompanyplayers.com

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— Birch Lake Notes —



In case you weren't here, there were some pretty unusual skiers going around Birch Lake last weekend ... and Bullwinkle (above) was certainly one of them.

thanks to Dan Waxman for the photo



thanks to Mr. Bob for the sailing pic

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Sue Dufour (Cottage 120) with Sue and Duffy's new great grandchild Claire Noneman (13 days) and big sister Anya (3 years). Claire and Anya are the children of Brett and Demarée Noneman and grandchildren of Dave and Michele Dufour.



Birds of the week? Thanks to Bad Patty Luecht and Mr. Bob for the pics of a falcon nesting in a tree (above) and a neighborhood turkey looking for Mr. Coyote ...



Barker kid. Joe Cambell brother to Rick Russwurm. Love those surprise birthday get togethers.



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



2013 Dues, Contribution & Donation Form

SUPPORT THE BLYC; SUPPORT THE BIRCH LAKE COMMUNITY!

\$ _____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / 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
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Fleet Captain's Corner



Light winds (again) but sailable

This is my first year as Fleet Captain and I have been sailing for about 4 years now. This year has probably been the worst year that I have seen, with light or no wind on Sundays. I don't want to blame it on global warming since it has been cooler and milder than last year, or on the economy, since it that is better than last year! All I know is, that these light wind Sundays continually makes my phone ring with the question, "Are we sailing or not?" With only two weeks left in my first year's term I'd just like to say let the winds blow!!!

Thanks, to our great committee boat participants who braved the three long and agonizing races that we held on Sunday, Chas, Amber, Bill, Avery and Elyse. Also to Avery and Elyse for the

great PA work. Something I don't say often enough is, thanks to the sailors who brave the light winds — I know it is easier to just sail when the winds are strong, but it is the real sailors who come out even when the winds are light!!

Thanks,

-Fleet Cap'n Mike

Committee Boat Schedule:

August Races
25 — OPEN

Labor Day Regatta
August 31 — OPEN
Sept. 1 — Bad Patty
Sept. 2 — OPEN



We need volunteers to help with the Committee Boat! To sign up to take care of responsibilities (or to help with) the Committee Boat for Sunday sailing, contact Mike Lutz via email at: mmtlconcrete@aol.com or call him Mike at 476-2843.

Sailing results and standings to date

Race	18-Aug			Total	Point
Date	18-Aug	18-Aug	18-Aug	Points	Average
MC Scow					
Scott Troeger #1489	DNS	DNS	DNS	23293	1553
Jeff Smitley #2002	1	1	1	24066	1504
Phil Vitale #500	2	4	3	30991	1409
Bill Luecht #1579	3	2	5	30326	1378
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	5	3	2	26085	1373
Gib Eberhart #916	4	5	6	23958	1331
Bob King #1199				20076	1338
Dave Olson #1979		6	4	13304	1209
Rick Harman #379				3614	1205
Patrick O'Brien				2883	961
Sunfish					
Stewart Spratt				20178	1552
Erica Vitale (White)				8757	1460
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	2	24275	1517
Sandy Vitale (White)	3	2	1	32254	1466
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)				15750	1432
Brad Davis				5494	1374
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	2	3	3	26126	1375
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)				2665	1333
Peter Soldoto				7780	1297
Bill Butler				23366	1298
Amy Lutz (Yellow/Blue)	4	4	4	7374	1229

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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

To my children who like to argue with me: Where do you think you got your attitude and stubbornness from? GIVE UP! I have decades more experience than you!



Nothing says "Let's celebrate America!" quite like drinking beer and playing with explosives.



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What Do You Mean



I was Adopted



**Hello Tortoise
Will You Be My Friend**

**WHAT IF THE HUMAN
IS NOT MY PET**



BUT I'M HIS

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

FINALLY



**i understand why
we have a dog**

Stu's Star Stuff

Lift up your eyes and look at the night sky

August 27 at 00:30 Lift up your eyes and look up at the night sky. On this night, the planet Mars will pass just 34.65 million miles from the earth. To the naked eye it looks like two of the moon above the ground! The next time Mars will be so close to the Earth as much as in 2287."

Sound familiar? It does to me. Every summer this and other urban legends seems to rear their ridiculous heads.

"Share the news with your friends, because no one living on this earth has ever seen anything like this!"

Which sounds like an awfully big deal, astronomically speaking, except it's all a lie - a lie that has been repeated every year, almost verbatim, for the past ten years running. I can't explain why people want to claim every year that it's happening again, but they do. In fact, it's practically an Internet tradition.

Faithful readers will remember that in 2003, the orbit of Mars actually did bring it to within 34.8 million miles from Earth, the closest encounter between the two planets in 50,000 years, and the closest any human being will see until 2287. There's no disputing that it was a once-in-a-lifetime event. But, Mars never got so close that it looked like a "second moon," as has been claimed, although it was a bit brighter-than-usual, bit redder-than-usual presence in the night sky for a few weeks toward the end of August 2003.

Here's another one...

"US scientists predict total darkness on planet earth for 3 days from Dec 22 2012. It is NOT the end of the world, it is just an alignment of the Universe, where the Sun and the earth will align for the

first time."

Excuse me? Sun and Earth align for the first time? People, contact any of your 5th grader acquaintances and ask them if any two points (i.e. Sun, Earth) can form a straight line at any given time. And as we saw, or more accurately didn't see, there was no prolonged darkness near the latter part of 2012.

Again...

"Coming October 17, 2008 the sun will rise continuously for 36 hrs (1.5 days). During this time the US countries will be dark for 1.5 days. It will convert 3 days into 2 big days. It will happen once in 2400 yrs. We're very lucky to see this. Forward it to all ur frenz"

I don't recall this happening but the last two words say it all.

Another favorite...Double sunset on Mars

The bogus internet image was assembled by combining two different photographs, the first an authentic view of a Martian sunset captured by a previous NASA rover in 2008, and the second an iconic still from the most popular science fiction film of all time, Star Wars.

For those who didn't know, Mars is part of our own solar system. There is only one sun.

Look for Mars and Jupiter low in the eastern sky about 3 hours before sunrise. Mars is lower and to the left of Jupiter. The Gemini twins, Castor and Pollux will be slightly to the left of Mars.

In the future, for the rest of what's really going on up there, consult the internet or ask Bob. I need a break. It's been fun for most of over 13 years but I am weary of Phil's stinging whip. (I must

The Moon for August 24
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.788
4.2 days after full moon



Sunrise: 7:01 am
Sunset: 8:31 pm
Length of day 13h 31m 35s
Moonrise 10:16 pm
Moonset 11:06 am

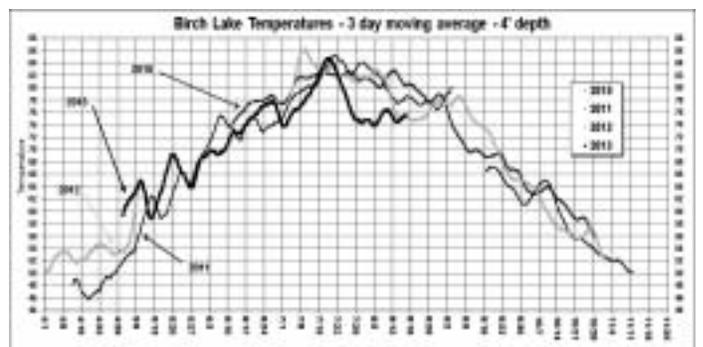
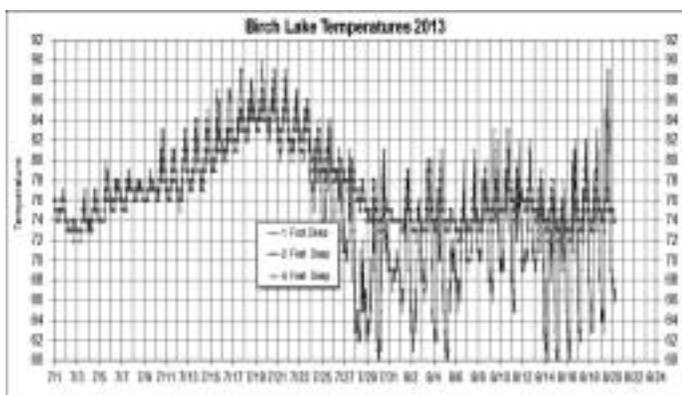
however thank him for the editorial opportunities I've been afforded over that time period. wink wink) Thank you all for the support, encouragement and positive comments that have kept me going as long as I have. I appreciate all the support more than you could know.

The show will always be free. You know that.

OK, MAYBE one LAST bit of non-sense next week. But I mean it...

Or... Maybe a nine month layoff will be enough. No promises, but we'll see.

~Stewart Spratt



Water Temperature charts provided by Steve Quinlan (west side)



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES — (Mar. 21-April 20) — You will be attracted to unusual forms of entertainment and foreign cultures. Problems on the home front might be a little disconcerting. Think twice before you pursue an unrealistic endeavor. You may find it difficult to communicate with someone at work. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS — (Apr. 21-May 21) — Someone may be trying to pull the wool over your eyes. Your honesty will not only win you points but also respect. You can come up with future trends in creative fields. You are best to do something energetic with friends instead. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI — (May 22-June 21) — Your intellectual wit will bring greater popularity with your peers. You probably aren't getting straight answers to your questions. It will be all around you. You may have to take a short trip to visit someone who hasn't been well. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER — (June 22-July 22) — Think twice before you say something you might regret later. Entertainment should include sports events or physical activities. Your ability to get the job done will result in added responsibility and possible promotion. You will back yourself into a corner if you are baited and your stubbornness will only make matters worse. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO — (July 23-Aug 22) — You must strive to get the most important projects completed properly, rather than doling everything in a half baked way. Your passionate nature may make you jealous if your mate has been too busy to take care of your needs. Relatives may be less than easy to deal with. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO — (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) — You have to let go of your past if you wish to get out of any sentimental mood that might be hanging over your head. You can expect changes at your work place. You should be able to get a lot done. Be honest with yourself before getting involved with someone who is likely to lead you on. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA — (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — You can't help everyone. Be discreet about any information you uncover. Self-improvement projects will payoff in more ways than one. You are best not to say too much to colleagues. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO — (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Be prepared to make changes to your personal documents. You'll be tempted to spend extravagantly this week. Your energy will be high; however, if not channeled suitably, temper tantrums may erupt. Do not lend money to friends, or contribute more than necessary to groups unworthy of your cash. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS — (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation. Your lover will be annoyed with your participation. Have some fun, but draw the line if someone tries to fast talk their way into your heart. You will be subject to pushy individuals if you get involved in uncertain organizations. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN — (Dec. 22- Jan. 20) — The emotional state of peers may cause a problem for you. Curl up with a good book or go for a drive in the country. Losses are likely if you have left your financial affairs in other people's hands. You will enjoy interaction with others this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS — (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Expect to pay more than anticipated for entertainment or other purchases. Concentrate on work or make changes to yourself. You may be confused emotionally. You will be able to find the perfect outfit, and the greatest new accessory for your house. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES — (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — Communicate with relatives who may need advice in order to find solutions to their existing problems. Renovations to your domestic scene will pay high rewards. Develop some of your good ideas. Don't start any arguments unless you're prepared to accept irrevocable results. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



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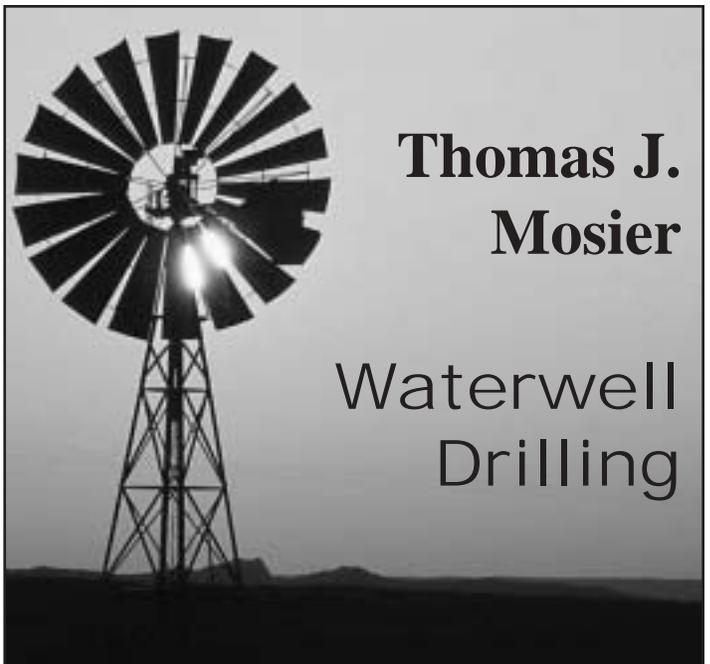
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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Spicy grilled shrimp

“So fast and easy to prepare, these shrimp are destined to be the hit of any barbeque. And, weather not permitting, they work great under the broiler, too.”

Original recipe makes 6 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 large clove garlic
- 1 tablespoon coarse salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 2 pounds large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 8 wedges lemon, for garnish

Directions

- 1.Preheat grill for medium heat.
- 2.In a small bowl, crush the garlic with the salt. Mix in cayenne pepper and paprika, and then stir in olive oil and lemon juice to form a paste. In a large bowl, toss shrimp with garlic paste until evenly coated.

3.Lightly oil grill grate. Cook shrimp for 2 to 3 minutes per side, or until opaque. Transfer to a serving dish, garnish with lemon wedges, and serve.



—BIRCH LAKE SUDOKU PUZZLE—

Find the missing numbers ...

	2	5	9		4	7	8	
3	7	9		8				
			6					3
		3			1			9
				2	5			
		8		4			6	7
	1	4	8					
	3	6			2	4		

— Water Quality —

Water quality and transparency

One of the most obvious features we visually use to ascertain potential changes in water quality is transparency. This is because it can sometimes be an indication of algal growth. Although algae will always be in the lake, which is a very good thing if we want the food chain to work, excessive growth can be an indicator of an overabundance of nutrients, i.e. phosphorous. Excess nutrients lead to over productivity and a more rapid aging of the lake.

So what does transparency tell us this summer?

In the spring we were measuring clarity depths of up to 34 feet using a Secchi Disk (a disc about 8" in diameter, divided into quadrants, alternately painted black and white). With the gradual warming of the lake these depths decreased to 16 to 17 feet even into the second week of July. It was at about that time that we had our brief heat spell with a number of days in and around 90. Looking at Steve Quinlan's daily water temperature graph, the lake really started to warm up starting about July 11 and then about July 25th or so began a decline. This correlated directly with a major drop in transparency to 7 feet on July 20 (transparency did rebound to about 13 feet in early August after the lake started cooling).

Thus, the question arises: is this dramatic drop in clarity due to decreased water quality, excess nutrients, and overproduction of algae?

Probably not.

We also measure for chlorophyll (the green photosynthetic pigment found in plants) throughout the season. Since we will have chlorophyll measurements at the best and worst clarity we will be able to directly correlate transparency with productivity. But based on past measurements, this has not been clear cut especially regarding dramatic drops in transparency. Additionally, our phosphorous measurements over the past years do not suggest dramatic increases in productivity.

Probably what we are seeing as a part of loss of transparency is the physiochemical relationship between calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) precipitation, water temperature, and phytoplankton (passively floating or weakly swimming, usually minute, plant life of a body of water). We are a hard water kettle lake, meaning we have a relatively high calcium carbonate level in the lake. Being spring fed, the spring water is constantly leaching the minerals from underground rock formations (typically limestone), and bringing it into the lake. Warm water tends to increase the precipitation of this mineral especially in the presence



of algae which serve as sites that can initiate precipitation. These precipitates will fall out of the water column with time (and become marl), but wind, boats, etc. will keep things stirred up for awhile. This is why when you look at the water it is not a pea green which would be true excess algae, but grayish green to whitish green, an indicator of calcium carbonate precipitation. Thus, when water temperature peaked, calcium carbonate precipitation peaked, and transparency decreased.

This season's relatively favorable water transparency measurements (and clarity observations) are a result of the relatively cooler lake water temperatures.




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FOR RENT

BIRCH LAKE COTTAGE FOR RENT. Located on the west side of Birch Lake, just off Walnut Road. Weekly rental - \$650. Times: In Sunday 10 a.m. Out the following Saturday by 12 (noon). To reserve your week call 269-476-2744

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STOLEN/REWARD

EARLY 1970'S 6 HP EVINRUDE (white with blue/red accents cover and blue lower unit) was brazenly taken off our fishing boat the night of Thursday, Aug. 15 while we slept close by. \$100 reward for it's return and/or information leading to the arrest and prosecution of these criminals. Watch your stuff, unfortunately it can even happen at Birch Lake. Cottage #133 on the east side. Tom @ 253-279-5907

SERVICES OFFERED

PROPANE GRILL TANK SERVICE, \$15 pickup/delivery included. If you run out I have spare tanks I can loan to you. Bill Butler 574-596-1343, or 269-476-9905.

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Call or email me for details: Suzette Vandewalle, 200hr, RYT, 476-7086 svandewa2000@yahoo.com

LOST & FOUND

Found: **BLACK MUD MASTER INNERTUBE.** Call 269-476-7073. (Unless you are Rick and Patti Russwurm. In that case we are keeping it) Claudia and Dennis Phipps

Found: **BLACK WILDERNESS WAKEBOARD** cover and a foam kickboard. Call 574-596-2154 unless you are Rick and Patti Russwurm. In that case we are keeping it. (Inside joke in case you didn't guess).

Found: **BLUE PADDLE BOAT** found in Cove. Contact Bergans at 269-476-9359 or email at kbergan@live.com.

Found: Washed up on the south shore last week; **A VERY NICE YELLOW KAYAK.** Call 476-2461

Found: **BLUE KICKBOARD** ... pick it up at the group pier, middle of the east shore

Found: **SKI JACKET** on the north shore. Call Jan at 847-846-8600.

WANTED

Want to Borrow: **A SMALL FLAT-BOTTOM BOAT** to be used in Middlebury Elementary Library for the 2013-14 school year. The boat would be used for students kindergarten through 3rd grade to climb into and read while in the Library. Call 574-535-3733 or email balljkb@aol.com.

WANTED! VICE COMMODORE! Position does not require being faster than a speeding bullet, or leaping over tall buildings in a single bound! Applicant must possess a sincere interest in Birch Lake and the ability to have fun! No background check required. **Offer comes with BENEFITS.** Send letter of interest or call Bad Patty.

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