

The official publication of the  
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

# Birch Barker

Weekend of June 8, 2013

© Copyright 2013, The Birch Lake Yacht Club



A LAZY LODGE RESORT COTTAGE BIRCH LAKE MICH

From a neighbor ... "We just bought this postcard on eBay ... we THINK based on the look of the cottage, the orientation, sun angle etc that it is Sonia Sanders' old place (My wife, Nina's mother's place). The PC has no date but the stamp is about 1915. We think Lazy Lodge dates to about 1900 but we are not sure. The home there now, remodeled and added to many times, was replaced in the late 1980's I think. The brass door hardware (we saved) from the old place dates to about 1900. Nina says there were originally 6 cottages there. All but one (Hornbeck's, behind the Frew's) are gone and the Hornbeck's place, which still has elements of the old place) will be torn town within weeks since they are building a new home there this summer. Per below, the PC mentions visiting Mrs. King's home. Do you know if the Kings of BL go back this far? Dave Frurip, east side.

editor's note: the back side of this postcard is reproduced inside today's Barker

## The Most Curious Thing

### Commodore's Comments

*"Well! I've often seen a cat without a grin," thought Alice, "but a grin without a cat! It's the most curious thing I ever saw in my life!"*

On Saturday June 15, Patty Luecht and I are hosting a combined Commodore and Vice Commodore cocktail party at the Yacht Club. There's a tailgate theme, so dress to represent your favorite team. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. All are welcome! Starts at 7 pm.

It sounds like there's some interest in holding another Birch Lake Yard Sale but we'll need someone to organize it. If anyone is interested in chairing the Yard Sale, please contact me.

We're just a month away from the

fireworks (July 6) and we're a little short of our usual budget. This amazing show is made possible by donations from our community. Please consider donating. Once again they'll be shooting the fireworks from the camp waterfront on the north shore.

I realized, sadly, that I haven't had a chance to get out and enjoy the lake this summer. Between the cool weather and working on projects outside (both at home and at camp), there hasn't been much opportunity to relax, boat, and float.

Last year, I learned about Le King's rule: no working at the lake after the 4th of July. After all, what's the point of being at the lake if you never get to enjoy it? Sounds like a good idea to me — especially as I down a few Advil after working in the yard and writing this column. Frankly, I'm not sure which hurt more.

- Commodore Chas

### 2013 BLYC Calendar

June 15 ..Commodore/V.Comm Party — 7pm
June 22 .....Sewer Plant Open House
June 22 .....Spaghetti Dinner
July 6.....Fireworks and Boat Parade
July 7.....Fireworks rain date
July 7.....Pancake Breakfast
July 19 .....Ladies Golf Outing
July 20.....Poker run
July 26.....Men's Golf Outing
July 26.....Ladies on the Lake
July 27.....Camp T Hog Roast
August 3.....Corn and Sausage Roast
August 17 .....Fall Dinner
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!

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 —

## Graduating!

Bev and Herm Kruggel of the west wide have three grandchildren graduating this spring.

Parker Durham recently graduated with distinction from Indiana University, Bloomington. His brother, Mitchell Durham is graduating Magna Cum Laude from John Adams High School, South Bend, which is our old Alma Mater. They are the sons of Shelley and Ted Durham.

In addition, Sydney Kruggel, daughter of Kurt and Kristy Kruggel, is graduating with honors from Penn High School, Mishawaka. Both Mitchell and Sydney will be attending Indiana University, Bloomington, this fall.

## Sympathies to Tjaden family

We have recently been informed that James S. Tjaden, west side, passed away on 27 February 2013 at the age of 88. Our sympathies to the family.

## Anne O'Brien Abernathy

We have also been notified of the death of Anne O'Brien Abernathy, daughter of longtime Birch lake residents John and Nancy O'Brien and mother of current cottage owner Sarah Petty.

The final arrangements have been confirmed. On Friday, June 7 there will be a visitation at Welsheimer Funeral Home, 17033 Cleveland Road, South



Duffy's Artwork — Thanks to Duffy Dufor (east side) for the cool paintings ....

Bend from 4-7pm. On Saturday, June 8 the funeral services will be held at First United Methodist Church, 333 N. Main St., South Bend, at 11 am.

outlet creek which flows between the Wozny/Rzeszewski properties on the southwest corner of the lake?

Answer next week!

## Question of the Week:

Why was the dam built across the

Dangerous Hogweed found

Several lakers have sent in a web

# 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](mailto:mmtlconcrete@aol.com)

# — Birch Lake Notes —

link to a YouTube video regarding an invasive plant that has shown up in parts of Michigan. Contact with the plant is very ill advised since it causes blisters and a variety of other nasty effects, not the least of which can be blindness. To see the video, go to: <http://m.clickondetroit.com/news/Michiganders-warned-of-dangerous-hogweed/-/16732600/14862730/-/4dd4gaz/-/index.html>

**Free Fishing Weekend June 8-9**  
The Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone the annual Summer Free Fishing Weekend is June 8 and 9. On that weekend, everyone – residents and non-residents alike – can fish without a license, though all other fishing regulations still apply.

**Sewer Plant Open House**  
Ever wonder how an effluent sewer plant works? The Porter Township Sewer Plant will have an open house June 22 from 10 am thru 2 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

**Your Help is Needed!**  
The Sewer Department & Porter Township need your help! Please do 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



More from Dave ... "I am Dave Frurip, married to Nina Sanders Frurip, daughter of long time BL summer residents Ray (deceased) and Sonia Sanders (94 years old and current summer BL resident). Ray and Sonia's other daughter, Lisa Sanders Lyles, is married to Jim with one daughter and they live in the Boston area and spend 2 weeks on BL every summer. We live in Midland, MI and have three daughters scattered about, but our Chicago daughter and her husband visit BL regularly with our new granddaughter."

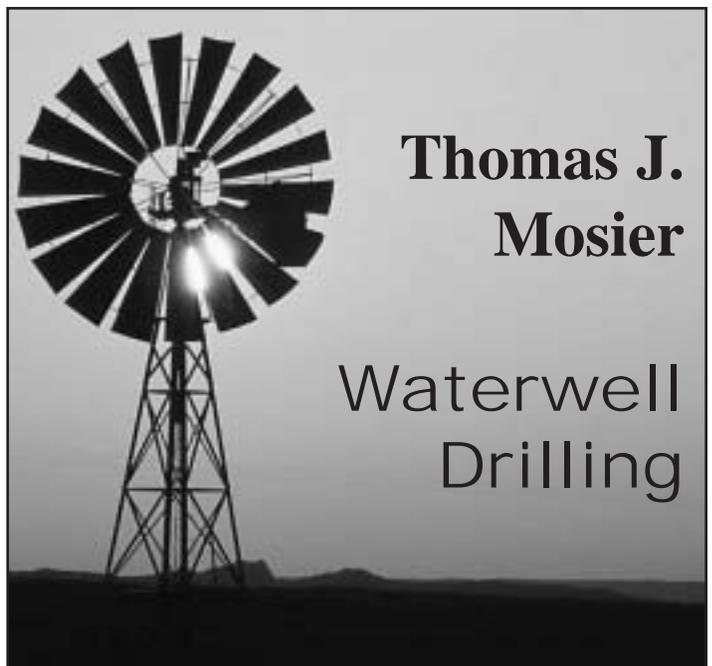
avoided. Problems like this may cause replacing pumps or other mechanical parts which may necessitate increasing the maintenance rate. If problem causing items are not flushed into the system the cost of maintenance and thus the sewer maintenance rate may be maintained.

Advertising in the Barker  
We are still (and always) accepting both display and classified advertising for the Birch Barker (see page 17 of today's 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](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com).



**Ten Years of Excellence,  
Two Years as a Top 100 Dealer.**

51305 State Road 19  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
574-264-2874  
[wakesidemarine.com](http://wakesidemarine.com)



**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

# — Birch Lake Notes —

Display ads are charged at the low, one-time rate of \$65 for a 1/8 page ad; \$130 for a 1/4 page ad; \$260 for a 1/2 page ad; and \$520 for a full page ad.

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

All ads are subject to the approval of the editor and/or Commodore, officers and board of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Free fishing, hunting licenses to active-duty military members

Active-duty military members who enlisted as Michigan residents and have

There's an app for that?



## A Zen lesson from the East (side)

Thanks to Dan Waxman (east side) for the beautiful sunset picture he captured from his home recently ... and even more special thanks are due since this gives me (the editor) an opportunity to educate readers and contributors.

Due to the limits of the printing (and photocopying) process, in order to be aesthetically pleasing in the Barker (or any other publication), photos need to be sent in to us in a fairly high resolution (for those of you who understand resolution, our preference is 300 dpi) at the size it is expected to be printed. For the most part, cell phone photos and photos from almost all web sites are in the range of 72 to 96 dpi, and they usually arrive about the size of the photo at the right. What that means is that for the photo to look nice in the paper, I have to print is small — and if I were to enlarge this, the individual dots that make up the image would be enlarged proportionally and the quality of the image would become very “grainy,” “fuzzy,” or “muddy.”

Even photos from digital cameras (if they are set for low resolution output to conserve space on the storage card) are often too low in resolution to do much with ...

Believe me, I want to publish as many photos as I can from lakers, but sometimes it just isn't going to work ... If you have a printed photo, not one you printed on plain paper on your home printer, a real, old-fashioned printed photography from a drugstore or photo lab (does anyone still get those?) I can usually scan it at a high resolution and use the photo ... so that's usually worth a try.

Worst case scenario: send whatever “best shot” you've got to me and I'll give it my best shot in a coming Barker!

pv



**\$199,900!!!**

### **BRIGHT, OPEN, AFFORDABLE BIRCH LAKE GEM WITH SPACIOUS LOT**

Let your friends know they can own this beautiful three bedroom, two and a half bath Birch Lake home with lake access for the amazing price of \$199,900! Call for information about this realtor owned home at

**574-215-0336.**



## — Birch Lake Notes —

maintained residence status can now obtain annual Michigan fishing or hunting licenses free of charge, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced. The licenses are available at DNR Customer Service Centers and at license retail outlets statewide.

### Boating safety courses

The Michigan Department of Resources reminds anyone who plans on operating a watercraft this year to take a boating safety course. Classroom and online options are available, and boating safety is required for anyone born after Dec. 31, 1978, who wants to operate a personal watercraft (PWC) and those born after July 1, 1996 who want to operate a motorboat. Children under the age of 14 may not legally operate a watercraft in Michigan.

#### Some boating safety requirements in Michigan are:

Those born on or after July 1, 1996, are required to have a boater's safety certificate to operate a motorboat. Those younger than 16 years of age also require adult supervision;

Persons younger than 14 years of age may not legally operate a PWC;

Those 14 and 15 years of age may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate and if he or she is accompanied on board by his or her parent or legal guardian or by a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian, or he or she is operating or riding the PWC at a distance of not more than 100 feet from his or her parent or guardian or from a person at least 21 years old who has been designated by the parent or guardian;

Those at least 16 years of age and born after Dec. 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate; and those born on or before Dec. 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.

Boating safety courses are offered in classrooms around the state.



Open 7 days a week

**Moomba**  
Wakeboard Boats

**SUPRA**  
2013 BEYOND BETTER

**Avalon**  
Catalina  
Luxury Pontoon

**APOLLO MARINE**  
SALES  
SERVICE  
STORAGE

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

**1-888-996-BOAT**  
We rent Pontoon Boats  
Service to most area lakes!

[WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET](http://WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET)

# Serving Michigan and Indiana



*Waterfront  
Specialist!*

[SusieTucker.com](http://SusieTucker.com)

[susie@susietucker.com](mailto:susie@susietucker.com) 574-320-6697



**ATTENTION SELLERS:**  
LISTINGS NEEDED TO FILL OVERWHELMING  
DEMAND FROM BUYERS! CALL ME FOR  
A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR  
PROPERTY.



# — Barker kids of the Week —

At right is Birch Laker Dan Waxman (east side) with nephew/Godson David, the son of Dan's brother Steve and his wife Betsy from Kansas City, spending the day on Birch. Nice fish!

## Kid of the Week Policy

The Birch Barker will try to print (and usually will) all photos of kids (of any age), pets and even the occasional bug, swan, duck or other lake critter as long as the photos meet our rigid decency standards. Please email photos to [sailorphil@philvital.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.com) and accompany them with the names and any other identifying or pertinent info ... thanks!



## 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](mailto:diamondconstr@yahoo.com)

Talk With A Live Person



VOTED NILES  
BUSINESS OF  
THE YEAR!

## ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

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

Let Us Show You Why We Were  
Voted Business Of The Year!

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](http://www.advantageplumbinginc.net)

# — Barker kids of the Week —

Kids-of-the-week honors to Matt Scheuer with son Ronan out for a kayak ride recently. Matt is the son-in-law of Rich & Pam Mullin (north side).

Thanks to neighbor (Mr. Bob) for sending it in



## SLOW DOWN

BIRCH LAKE HAS  
NARROW ROADS,  
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,  
A TON OF CHILDREN,  
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS

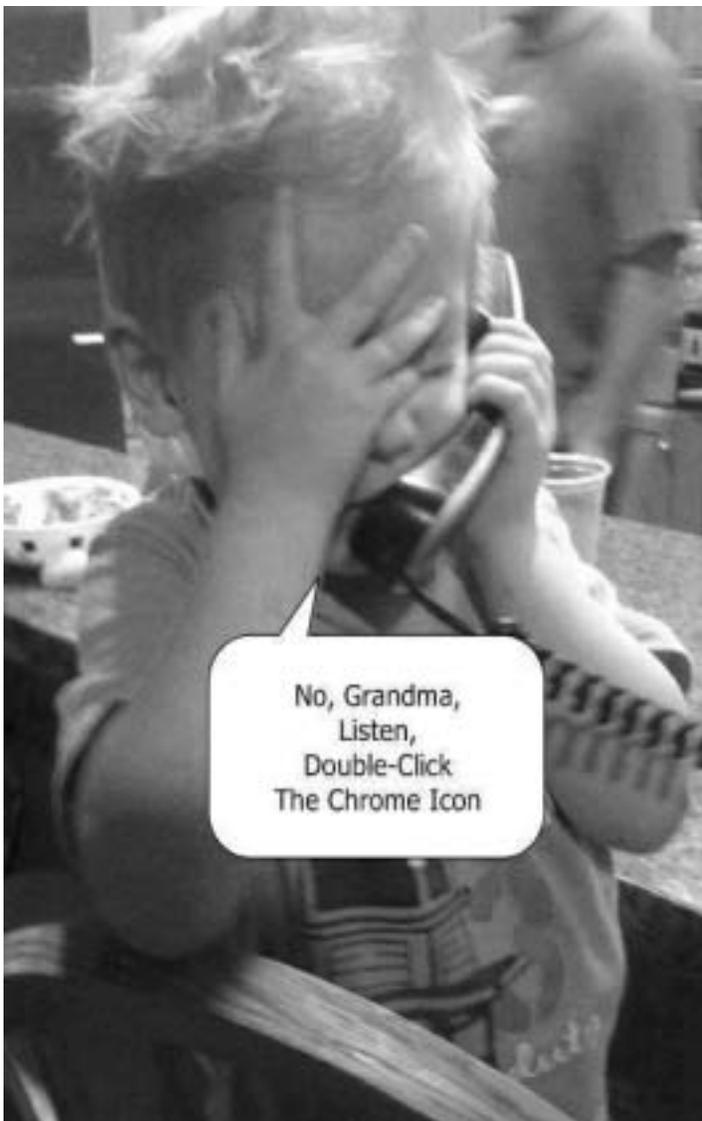
SLOW DOWN ON  
OUR ROADS  
AND ON THE HILLS  
TO AND FROM  
THE LAKE!

SPEED LIMIT

15 MPH



# BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



I hate when people forward bogus warnings... this one is real, and important!! So please send this warning to everyone on your e-mail list. If someone comes to your front door saying they are conducting a survey on deer ticks and asks you to take your clothes off and dance around with your arms up, DO NOT DO IT!! IT IS A SCAM; they only want to see you naked. I wish I'd gotten this yesterday; I feel so stupid now.....

BBNMF



## CHIMNEY SWIFT CHIMNEY SWEEPS

RON COLBORN

58550 Eller Drive  
Osceola, IN 46561

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



## Satori Salon & Spa

Certified Organic ~ Experience the "Natural" Difference!

Full Service Hair Salon

269.244.5510

Massage ~ Facials ~ Waxing

Manicure ~ Pedicure

Group Spa Parties ~ Gift Cards



11920 McKinley St  
Jones, Michigan 49061

www.SatoriSalonandSpa.com



# Fleet Captain's Corner



## No sailing again last week

**B**ummer!! The weather still isn't cooperating ... last weekend at race time the temperature was about a less-than-balmy 50 degrees F, the wind was whipping daggers at us out of the northwest, and even though Harold was ready and willing to put out the marks, most of the sailors indicated they had no intention of getting wet (and staying that way) while they tried to keep their boats upright ... so we called it off and will try again this week.

We still need a committee boat (please, please, please) ... but assuming we get one (and assuming Mother Nature cooperates this time), races will be at 11 am (or later ...

Hope to see you on the water ... sometime soon!

~Fleet Captain "Mike"



COMMITTEE BOAT:  
June Races  
9 — OPEN  
16 — Bad Patty

23 — OPEN  
30 — Bad Patty  
4th of July Regatta  
(these dates may change due to the Pancake Breakfast. Please watch for updates.)  
July 6 — OPEN  
July 7 — OPEN  
July Races  
14 — Bad Patty  
21 — OPEN  
28 — OPEN  
August Races  
4 — Bad Patty  
11 — OPEN  
18 — Amber and Chas  
25 — OPEN  
Labor Day Regatta  
August 31 — OPEN  
Sept. 1 — Bad Patty  
Sept. 2 — OPEN

## Public Service Announcement Boating Under the Influence

**B**oating and booze ... is that redundant? Asking if a yacht club has a bar ... is that even a question? Aren't we now in 'Beer Can' racing season? Yes, it's hard to escape the connection sailing has with spirits, so consider what follows to be a helpful reminder to be responsible ...

- A boat operator is likely to become impaired more quickly than a driver, drink for drink?
- The penalties for Boating Under the Influence (BUI) can include large fines, revocation of operator privileges and serious jail terms?
- The use of alcohol is involved in about a third of all recreational boating fatalities?

While it is not illegal to drink alcohol while boating, it is illegal to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs in every state. The U.S. Coast Guard also enforces a federal law that prohibits BUI. This law pertains to ALL boats (from canoes and rowboats to the largest ships) – and includes foreign vessels that operate in U.S. waters, as well as U.S. vessels on the high seas.

The marine environment – motion, vibration, engine noise, sun, wind and spray – accelerates a drinker's impairment. As a result of these factors, a boat operator with a blood alcohol concentration above .10 percent is estimated to be more than 10 times as likely to die in a boating accident than an operator with zero blood alcohol concentration. Passengers are also at greatly increased risk for injury and death – especially if they are also using alcohol.

The Coast Guard and every state have stringent penalties for violating BUI laws. Penalties can include large fines, suspension or revocation of boat operator privileges, and jail terms. The Coast Guard and the states cooperate fully in enforcement in order to remove impaired boat operators from the waters.

In waters that are overseen solely by the states, the states have the authority to enforce their own BUI statutes. These penalties can include the suspension or revocation of one's vehicle driver's license.

Spread the word on the dangers of BUI. Many recreational boaters forget that a boat is a vehicle – and that safe operation is a legal and personal responsibility.

[http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2013/05/30/public-service-announcement-boating-under-the-influence/?utm\\_source=twitterfeed&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2013/05/30/public-service-announcement-boating-under-the-influence/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter)

From Scuttlebutt #3,850 — Thanks to Mr. Bob King for sending it in




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**

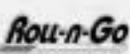
12097 M-60 • Jones, MI  
269.244.1446  
e-mail: [info@odonnellsdocks.com](mailto:info@odonnellsdocks.com)

For an on-line quote, go to:



[www.odonnellsdocks.com](http://www.odonnellsdocks.com)

Authorized dealer for









# ~A history of Birch Lake ~

**Note: I found a paper that was in some files at my dad's (James S. Tjaden) estate that was titled "History of Birch Lake." (James S. Tjaden passed away on 27 February 2013 at the age of 88). The author is unknown. I am enclosing what was written.**

*~ Cordell Marc Tjaden  
PSNCO, U.S. Army (ret)*

Long ago, millions of years in the past, the region where Birch Lake now lies was deep under a tropical sea. After the sea receded the land which emerged was the home of the reptilian and mammal age. Some 2,500 years or more ago great sheets of ice a mile in thickness swept down from the northeast, plowing and gouging the surface of the land.

Probably primitive man lived here before the ice came. He may have been the Folsom man as Folsom points, believed to be spearheads, have been picked up in Cass County. Shortly after the ice left, man came again, the forefathers of the Indians.

The first Indians in this section as found by the early French explorers were Miami's. Through a war council treaty, the Miami Indians, who were not a war-like tribe, were replaced by the Chippewa's, Pottawattomie's and the Ottawa's, who with exception of occa-

sional wars, lived in relative peace.

The area around Birch Lake was held by the Pottawattomi Indians, who were headed by Big Chief Pokagon and under Chiefs Weesaw and Shavehead. While Pokagon was a very brilliant man, making friends with the white man, accepting white man's way and teaching, Shavehead was the opposite. He was a large man for an Indian, very ugly and very mean, gaining his name by keeping his head shaved, which did not make for an improvement in his appearance. Shavehead's winter quarters were around Shavehead Lake and in the summer he migrated to what is Mottsville where there was a ford across the St. Joseph River. This ford was on the Sauk Trail which is modern U.S. Highway 12. Shavehead would camp at the ford and extract a fee from the white settlers for use at the crossing. It is reported that he discontinued this practice only after a young burly settler had taken his ox whip and thrashed Shavehead within an inch of his life.

Shavehead was responsible for the death of many white settlers. He would promise to secure game for the white man but no one returned from the hunting trips but Chief Shavehead. Strangely enough, Shavehead met his death the same way. He was at the Trading Post, which is now Cassopolis, drunk and making brags about partici-

pating in the Fort Dearborn massacre. He was overheard by a young trapper who had lost his wife and child in the debauchery. The young trapper was then living on the Island of Diamond Lake. He asked Shavehead to go home with him. A shot was heard and Shavehead was never seen again.

The Indians under Chief Weesaw, whose winter quarters were in the vicinity of Newton's Woods joined Chief Shavehead's band in the early spring around Birch Lake, where they bathed in the lake and drank of its water, claiming the water had great healing power. It is recorded that Chief Pokagon, who was ill, made the journey from his home near Summerville for this purpose.

Settlement in Cass County was very slow; in 1840 the population was only 5,710. Early settlers around Birch Lake were the Harveys, Merritts, and O'Dells.

The decade previous to the Civil War was very exciting in the Birch Lake area. Sections of land in the south Cass County had been purchased by Quakers for the purpose of setting up small farms for runaway slaves and Negroes brought up through the underground railroad. Periodically, there would be a raid by southern slave owners to recover their property.

One of the first, if not the first, was the Smith cottage on Birch Lake.

**AUTHOR UNKNOWN**

## Welcome to Jaywalker's

Whether it's a formal dinner or simply hanging out with friends, we make it our mission to provide our customers with a great dining experience at an affordable price.

Stop in anytime, or give us a call to make reservations.

Daily  
Specials

Happy Hour  
Tues-Fri



Closed  
Mondays

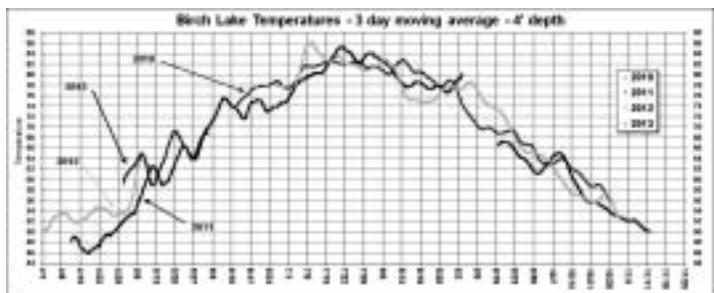
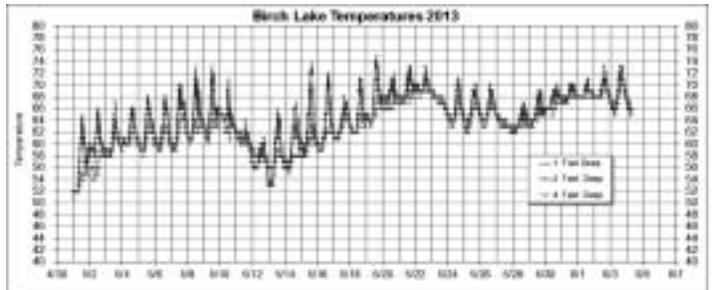
Call for  
reservations

Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!

10188 US 12, Mottville

on the beautiful St. Joseph River

(269) 483-2305



Water Temperature charts provided by Steve Quinlan (west side)



# KB Village Express

M60  
CASSOPOLIS  
269-445-2754

**We have MARINE gas**  
**91 Octane — No Ethanol!**

Recommended for all 2- and 4-stroke engines



Recommended locally by  
Thorpe's Marine  
and  
Diamond Lake Marina!



Hunting, Fishing licenses, bait available

**Open 24 hours**  
**Liquor ~ Beer ~ Wine**  
Liquor sales 7 am to 2 am

20¢ off per gallon with  
*Touch-Free Car Wash*



# Stu's Star Stuff

## A favor called in

Our home galaxy, the Milky Way, is one of the leaders of a galactic pack: the Local Group. Its four dozen or so galaxies, tied to each other by gravity, move through space together toward the Virgo cluster at over 375 miles per second.

The number of galaxies in the Local Group is uncertain because astronomers keep finding new residents of this galactic neighborhood. They found a new one in 1997, about three million light-years from Earth. This new galaxy is a pipsqueak: It contains only about one million stars, compared to hundreds of billions in the Milky Way. That's why I hadn't mentioned it before now.

The Local Group, which spans some 10 million light years, has a definite hierarchy, with two leaders and a whole bunch of followers. Our Milky Way is one of the leaders, while the other is the Andromeda galaxy, a.k.a. M31. Both galaxies look like cosmic pinwheels, with streamers of bright stars wrapping around creamy middles. Each galaxy spans more than a hundred thousand light-years, and contains hundreds of billions of stars.

But it's tough to tell which of the two leaders is the boss. The Milky Way is more massive but Andromeda is bigger. Andromeda lies about 2.5 million light-years away. In other words, when we see M31, we're actually seeing it as it appeared more than two million years ago.

Andromeda is a wonderful laboratory for astronomers who study everything from gas clouds to black holes. It looms so large in our sky that big telescopes reveal many of its individual stars. Yet it's far enough that we can see the entire galaxy, allowing astronomers to study its overall structure and composition.

Almost all the other members of the Local Group are companions to either Andromeda or the Milky Way.

Following the rules of the pack are paramount. Disloyalty or disobedience is not tolerated. In fact, both of the big galaxies have grown so big in part by gobbling up smaller galaxies who could not play well with others. The Milky Way is devouring several of these galactic snacks right now.

And, in several billion years, the Milky Way and Andromeda may have their own show down. We're moving toward each other within the Local Group, like two gunslingers on the dirt street of an old west town, where we will eventually slam together to merge into a super galaxy.

Look for the Andromeda galaxy, a small fuzzy patch of light, with binoculars on any clear evening this summer at the lake. Once you can find it that way you won't need them. Use the right side of the "W" of Cassiopeia as a pointer. Stop before you get to an intersecting line with the upper side of the Great Square of Pegasus.

To find The Milky Way, just look up.

Aaahhh ... now to go outside and enjoy the show from the comfort of my

### The Moon for June 8

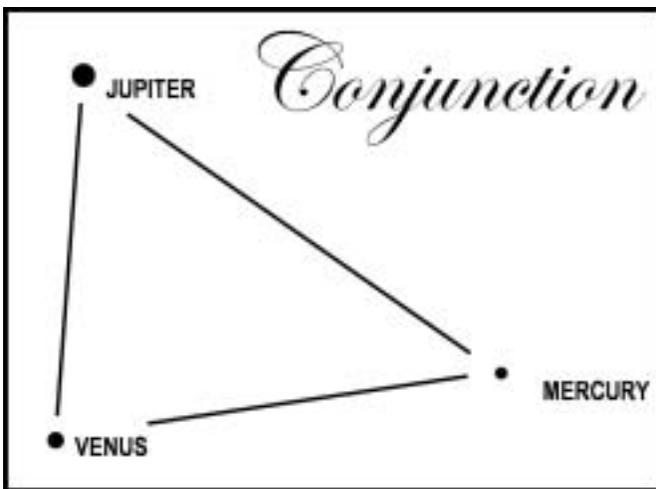
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.005  
0.6 days since new moon

Yes folks, there really is a photo here of the moon, but since it is just past a "new" moon, it's almost entirely dark

Sunrise: 6:08 am  
Sunset: 9:17 pm  
Moonrise: 7:06 am  
Moonset: 10:04 pm  
Day length: 15h 9m

hammock. And maybe even fall asleep. I've paid.

Planet-stuff (an addendum to Star stuff): Though Jupiter, Venus and Mercury are millions of miles apart, right now these three planetary bodies will cluster above the evening horizon in a triple conjunction. The celestial phenomena peaked on May 26-27 as the planets form a tight triangle,



but can continue to be seen now. This will be the closest conjunction until 2021 and is special since these are the brightest three planets in our solar system. Watch in the western night sky from dusk through an hour after sundown.

Thanks to Mr. Bob King (north shore) for the out-of-this-world info



## Not just a will. A way.

*Estate planning is more than having a will. It's a way to protect what matters most.*

You've worked hard to build a life for you and your family here in southwestern Michigan. And Tuesley Hall Konopa will work equally hard to make sure the things that matter most to you are passed along to your loved ones. Estate planning is one of our firm's signature legal services and our experience will help assure your legacy is protected and your wishes honored.

To learn more about the estate planning capabilities of our firm as well as our business counsel and civil litigation/mediation services, visit our website or call us. We're right here in Cass County. Right here for you.



TUESLEY · HALL · KONOPA LLP  
attorneys

UNDERSTANDING. INSIGHTFUL. EFFECTIVE.

21550 Shore Acres Rd. • Cassopolis, MI • 269.445.1818 • thkllaw.com

# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** — (Mar. 21- April 20) — Don't reveal anything about your personal life to those who may use such information against you. You may find your self a bit frazzled if you allow someone to goad you into an unsavory debate. A new relationship can be yours if you get out with friends. You may not get your facts correct this week; double-check before making any statements. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**TAURUS** — (Apr. 21-May 21) — Give everyone in the house a physical chore that will help burn off some of the excess energy. Focus on forming business partnerships. You may have a problem at work with a female coworker. Hard work will bring rewards. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**GEMINI** — (May 22-June 21) — Abrupt changes concerning your professional position are evident. You will need to do a lot of research if you wish to get to the bottom of things. You'll look guilty if you don't lay your cards on the table. You may have a rather hectic day due to events that children are involved in. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CANCER** — (June 22-July 22) — You should include children in your activities. You can sell your ideas to those who have the money to back them. Travel for pleasure will be enticing. You can convince anyone of anything. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LEO** — (July 23-Aug 22) — Try to spend more time with children and relatives. You won't have much time for your mate this week. Your persuasive nature will win the heart of someone you've had your eye on. Get out and about. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**VIRGO** — (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) — Your passionate nature may make you jealous if your mate has been too busy to take care of your needs. This will not be the best day to sign deals or to take care of other people's financial matters. You will get along well in social situations. You may find travel to be most rewarding. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**LIBRA** — (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) — Don't get into heated discussions. You may find that your quick wit and charm will help you in obtaining allies. Be innovative. You can't lose this week unless you get involved in gossip or overwork to the point of exhaustion. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** — (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) — You are best to ask questions if you aren't certain about issues that are confronting you. Don't make mountains out of molehills if you want to avoid conflict. Don't push your mate if you want to keep this union going. You can make money if you put your mind to it. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** — (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) — Get involved in competitive sports. Friends will appreciate your attention and playful nature. You can receive recognition for the work you've done. Your social activity should be conducive to finding love. Enjoy some socializing this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** — (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) — Make plans to do the things you enjoy. Family members may want you at home, when your heart is telling you to spend time with someone you recently met. Be sure to cover all the necessary groundwork before signing binding contracts. A friendship might suffer if money becomes an issue. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**AQUARIUS** — (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) — You will enjoy getting together with friends. You mustn't take on other people's responsibilities or you may find yourself irritable and exhausted. Don't give in too quickly. Hobbies will be good for your emotional well being. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**PISCES** — (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — Go over their important documents and take the time to suggest alternatives. Sudden changes in your financial situation are likely. You will be able to talk about emotional problems with your partner. You can gain distinction; however, it may be for the wrong reasons. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



*MH*  
**McGann Hay**  
FUNERALS • CREMATIONS • GATHERINGS  
SINCE 1943

**New Granger Chapel**

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

**574-232-1411**  
[www.mcgannhay.com](http://www.mcgannhay.com)

*"The perfect location between  
Michigan and Indiana"*



*We believe . . . in delivering on promises and keeping everything you value Safe. Sound. Secure.®*

**Learn how you can save by insuring your life, home and auto with Auto-Owners Insurance.**

*Call or visit us today!*

**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](mailto:Sue@unionins.net) [www.unionins.net](http://www.unionins.net)

**Auto-Owners Insurance** 



# ~Birch Lake Recipes~

## Sweet Hawaiian Crockpot Chicken

### Ingredients

Sweet Hawaiian Crockpot Chicken:

Ingredients:

1 cup pineapple juice

1/2 cup packed brown sugar

1/3 cup light soy sauce

... 2 pounds chicken breast tenderloins.



### Directions:

Add all ingredients to the crockpot and cook on low 6-8 hrs and they should just fall apart. Enjoy!

## — BIRCH LAKE SUDOKU PUZZLE —

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

# Camp Tannadoonah

## Time for staff to arrive

**T**ime for staff to arrive at camp! By the time the Barker lands on your doorstep this weekend, our waterfront staff will have arrived at camp and training will be underway! Tuesday afternoon our lifeguards arrived at camp to begin lifeguard training. You may have seen us out on the dock shivering as we practiced various drills and rescues.

This week we saw a bit of a jump in our registrations, probably coinciding with the end of the school year for many kids. We are just about even with last year's numbers on this date, with a total of 485 campers registered for camp.

If you're still thinking of sending campers to camp this year, please get them registered soon. Many of our weeks are filling up — Hollywood Week, Sports Extravaganza Week, and Gypsy Week are all down to just a handful of spots left. Tell everyone you know about camp and get them signed up soon!

I think we're going to have a great staff this year, with some very strong returning staff and a lot of enthusiastic new counselors. In February I attended the American Camp Association's national conference in Dallas, and I am very excited to try out some of the great things I learned at the conference.

The rest of our staff will be arriving on Sunday afternoon this weekend, and we will kick off a great week of learning and bonding. They will spend the week setting up cabins and activities, learning about camp traditions, planning for the summer, and getting to know each other and learning to work together as a team.

One of the new ideas we're trying is to turn staff training into the "Amazing Race: Tannadoonah." The counselors will be divided into teams and will compete for points throughout the week in a series of challenges. It should make for some exciting training sessions!

We've continued to work on various projects around camp the past few weekends. The camp garden is all planted and starting to sprout. We hung a new archery backstop net in our new archery location. And we built the new "Gaga Pit." Gaga Ball is one of our new activities at camp this year. It's an Israeli version of dodge ball, played inside an octagonal pit. Gaga Ball has become very popular at camps and school gyms in the past few years. It can be played several different ways, and kids have been clamoring for it the past couple summers. We are excited to try it out this summer! You can check out videos on YouTube if you want to see what it's all about.

Looking forward to seeing everyone out on the lake soon! I'll be down on the waterfront a lot next week during staff training, so be sure to wave if you're out for a boat ride!

~Miss Amber  
amber@tannadoonah.org  
574-217-4731

## SPAGHETTI-FEST JUNE 22, 6 - 8 pm

Come see the new Yacht Club door purchased with the proceeds from last year's dinner!

### TICKETS ON SALE SOON

Tickets will be available at the Commodore's/Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party June 14 or from any member of TEAM EASTSIDE, or by calling 476-1680

\$8 for adults  
\$5 for kids 4-10 years old  
kids under 3 eat free  
To-Go (carry-out) available



Tickets must be purchased in advance



CAMP TANNADOONAH  
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org>

## Eagle Lake Marine

SALES \* SERVICE \* STORAGE

SanPan, Aqua Patio, Sweetwater Pontoon,  
Polar Kraft Aluminum Fishing Boats,  
Hurricane Deck Boats, Honda Outboards



eaglelakemarine.com  
269-699-5103

south side of Eagle Lake, Edwardsburg, MI

# 2013 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

## 2012 BLYC Officers

**Chas Grundy** Comm (H).....476-7062  
Chas.grundy@gmail.com

**Patty Luecht** (E).....476-2615  
Pgalloway4@yahoo.com

**Holly Troeger** Treasurer (E).....476-9898  
amvine@aol.com

**Mike Sheffieck** Secretary (W).....476-1849  
mcsheff@aol.com

**Mike Lutz** Fleet Captain (N) .....476-2843  
mmtlconcrete@aol.com

**Steve Quinlan** (W).....476-8802  
stevequinlan2@yahoo.com

**Vicki Rogers** (C) .....476-8802  
tvrogers@frontier.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).....476-7086  
pjvandewalle@gmail.com

## 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

**Celia Fallon** (E) .....476-1467  
celia.fallon@gmail.com

**Fred Freihofer** (N).....476-9823  
cdfreihofer@aol.com

**Pam Mullin** (N).....476-1080  
Clasegirl1@comcast.net

**Alan Van Huffel** (S).....269-244-3487  
abec3@aol.com

**Phil Vitale** (E).....476-1680  
sailorphil@philvitale.com

**Sue Williams** (S) .....476-8886  
smwillia@comcast.net

## NON-DIRECTOR ATTENDEES:

**Jim Boliinger** 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

## 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

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## FOR SALE



**1976 Cadillac Eldorado convertible** (Parade car), Firethorn red, red leather interior, white top (with boot), one owner, <79,000 original miles, "straight" body, never wrecked, always stored indoors, clean title, call 476-2128 to arrange a showing and / or test drive. Serious enquiries only please.

**SHORE STATION.** 3,600 lb. capacity, 108 inches wide. New cables; green cover. Call 574-386-8609

**WOODEN PIER ...** approx. 60' long with 16' wide deck at end for lounging the day away! All upright pieces included as well as aluminum step ladder for attaching to pier. \$800 OBO. Call Vanessa, 476-

8885or 630-988-2225

Do you know anyone who would like to be on Birch in a completely renovated spacious 3 bed, 2.5 bath home with lake access for \$199,000? Call 574-215-0336.

## FOR RENT

**BIRCH LAKE COTTAGE FOR RENT.** Located on the west side of Birch Lake, just off Walnut Road. Weekly rental - \$650 (\$100 to hold your reservation and damage deposit – nonrefundable if you cancel). Time: IN Sunday after 10 am; OUT the following Saturday by noon. Living room, dining room, two bedrooms, 1 bathroom cottage, sleeps 4 comfortably (1 full size bed and 2 twin beds). Swimming access, no boats available. You furnish towels and bedding. We furnish dishes, silverware, cups and glasses, cookware, toaster, coffee pot, tv, grill and picnic table. To reserve your week call 476-2744

For Rent: **CUTE COTTAGE FOR RENT.** 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, attractive and clean. Great view of

the lake from large, landscaped deck and multiple windows. Call to reserve your week. 574-386-8609.

**RENTALS WANTED:** Due to Brittany Gableman's wedding, we are looking for several cottages to rent for the two nights of August 2nd and 3rd. Call 574-596-2154. Thank you! Claudia and Dennis Phipps

## SERVICES OFFERED

Propane Grill Tank Service, \$15 pickup and delivery included. If you run out I have spare tanks that I can loan to you. Bill Butler 574-596-1343, or 269-476-9905.

## Want an ad in the Birch Barker?

E-mail [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) ... mail or drop your ad at 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 (east side)  
Ads are free to BLYC members and \$5 to non-members.

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



# Birch Blog



## 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  
BLYC  
c/o Holly Troeger  
1516 Ash Dr. East  
Elkhart, IN 46514

PRE-OWNED  
**SALES**

**BOATS, MOTORS,  
LIFTS, PWCS**

Putting the  
**SERVICE**

**in CUSTOMER SERVICE  
Pickup, Delivery, Detailing,  
Summer Trailer Storage**

*Service Above and Beyond*



**Summer  
Trailer  
Storage**

**Indoor  
Winter  
Boat  
Storage**

**Boat Butler llc**

***Buy A Boat — Sell Your Boat***

We Buy & Sell Boats, Personal Watercraft & Boat Lifts

Open 7 days a week "by appointment" for your convenience

**Pre-Owned Specialist**

**Specializing in pre-owned Boats, Motors,  
Lifts and Personal Watercraft**

**to answer all of your boating needs!**

**269-476-2222**

[www.boatbutlermarine.com](http://www.boatbutlermarine.com)

# We've Got You Covered!



SUMMER'S HERE!  
CALL US TODAY!

- Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios
- Roll Curtains for Screened Porches
- 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*



12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

**269 244-5307**  
[www.sunandsshadeawning.com](http://www.sunandsshadeawning.com)