

The weekend Of

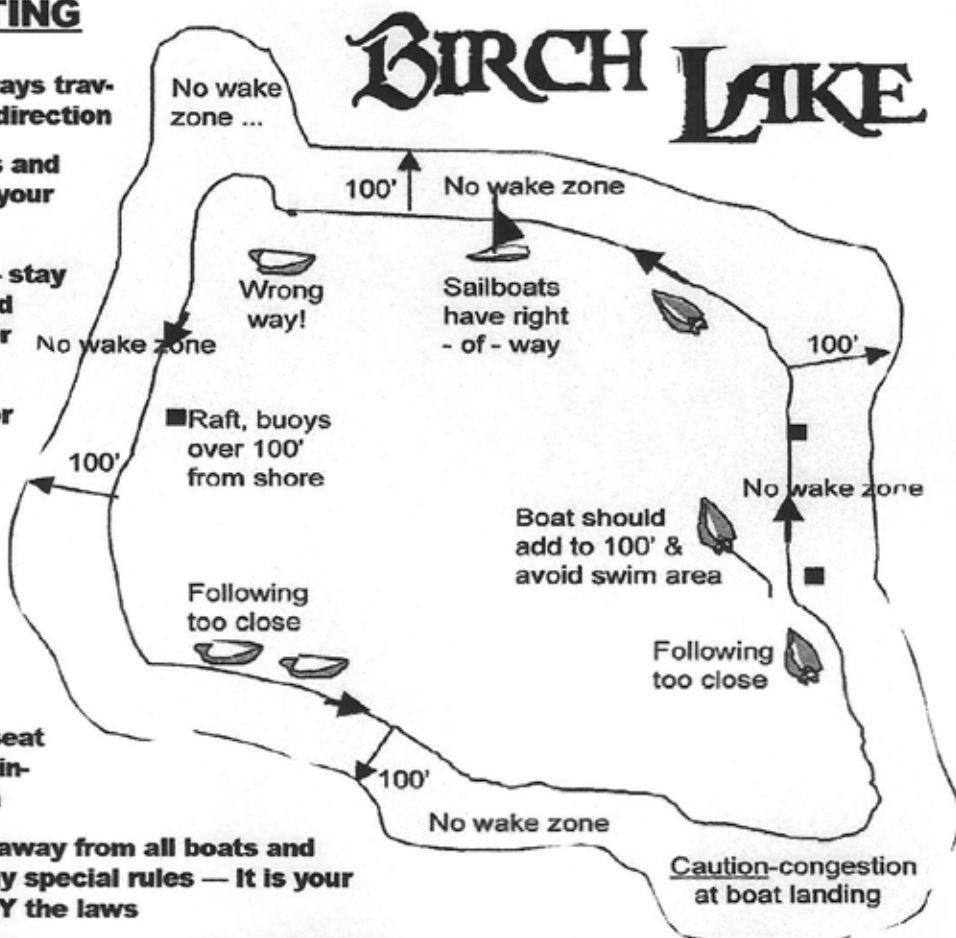
May 23 2015

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

COMMON SENSE BOATING

- * No matter what your speed, always travel in a **COUNTER CLOCK-WISE** direction
- * Go **SLOW** near other boats, rafts and shore. You are responsible for your wake.
- * Take your time and give room — stay **100'** from shore, other boats and rafts when you are travelling over wake speed
- * When pulling someone on skis or a tube, you **MUST** have an observer. Watch out for other boats and be sure to add the length of your tow line to the 100' clearance rule
- * There must be one **USCG-approved LIFE JACKET** for every person on board, as well as one throwable device (seat cushion, etc.), a horn, a fire extinguisher, and a valid registration
- * **PWCs (Jet Skis) must stay 100'** away from all boats and other PWCs. Jet skis have many special rules — It is your responsibility to know and **OBEY** the laws
- * Be responsible for everyone on your boat — safety is **NO ACCIDENT!**



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

So, let the summer begin! Spring road clean up, our first board meeting and the spring dinner are behind us. The water quality committee is busy with their spring tasks, and all of the BLYC sponsored events have a chairperson and teams working to make these events happen. Take a look at the Birch Lake calendar for more details and watch the Barker for updates.

Bob and Sue Waddle have announced the Boat Parade theme for 2015 is Favorite Movies!

We had 85 people attend the Spring Dinner on May 2nd at the RV Hall of Fame Museum in Elkhart. Barb and Tom Cassady and Lisa and Bob Groszek introduced themselves to the crowd during dinner and a good time was had by all catching up and sharing the evening. Thank you all who attended. We had a great team of volunteers. Deb Spratt and Celia Fallon updated our mailing list and Deb prepared the dinner flyer and dues notice that was mailed to you in late March. Decorations were handled by Sandy Baucus, Pam Mullin and Carol Freihofer. Patti

Russwurm took pictures and Chaz Grundy provided signs to help direct our guests.

Our yacht club building does not take care of itself and we need to thank Ron Whiteman and Jim Bolinger. Ron winterizes and summarizes the building and Jim keeps everything ship shape. Rick Russwurm does an annual inspection and reports that maintenance will be performed on our wooden deck to power wash and replace boards. Bob Waddle is looking into new ceiling fans. I hope all of you have seen the nice new concrete landing Mike Lutz poured last fall. Mike stamped a compass into the concrete and we have a much safer and attractive entrance to the building. Thank you all for your excellent work! Speaking of Mike Lutz, he needs your help to fill the committee boat for sailing races. You could show Mike your appreciation for the concrete work by signing up to work one or two races. Give him a call to get your name on the list.

The Barker delivery crew welcomes Staci Whiteman replacing Julie Weaver who is relinquishing her duties as a south side delivery person. Thank you Julie for your service! Staci joins the delivery crew of The Russwurms who

2015 Birch Lake Calendar

June 10	Porter Township Cleanup Day, 8 am to noon, American Waste, Union
June 13	Commodore and Vice Commodore's Party
June 20	Spaghetti Dinner
June 27	People's Regatta
July 4	Fireworks
July 5	Pancake Breakfast
July 11	House Walk
July 17	Ladies' Golf Outing
TBA	Poker Run 2015
July 31	BLYC Men's Golf Outing (Pete Soldato & Chas Grundy chairmen)
Aug. 29	Fall Dinner
FRIDAY, Oct. 9	Chili Cookoff

2015 Board Meetings

June 6, July 11, August 1, September 5 at BLYC -- Meetings start at 9 am

Dates subject to change. Watch the Barker for updates!

pick up the printed copies then Patti Luecht, Sarah Petty, Linda Curtis, Claudia Phipps, Julie Lacy, Vickie Rogers and Buzz Rasmussen get the Barker to your door. Thank you for your efforts.

Pardon the interruption! You have

— Birch Lake Notes —



Thanks to our good neighbor and artist-in-residence Duffy Dufor for the spring painting ...

probably gotten an email in the past with those words in the subject line notifying you of important information about Birch Lake. Over the last year, several requests have been submitted to send out notices or information via the Online Barker's email list to lakers.... and unfortunately most of those requests were denied. While every request will be given consideration, the board wants to communicate the general rationale and offer some guidelines for

requests to help those that have information to submit.

People joining the mailing list have always been promised that the information only will be used for the monthly Online Barker and for items we feel the majority of the people need to know about. We have also promised that email addresses will be kept confidential and that the list will not be used to send "spam" or other types of unwanted emails.

Requests to have a message sent should be in the nature of bereavement, an incident regarding public- safety or political situation that our neighbors and friends might have a chance to influence in advance. Examples of notices we've approved in the past include a recent email describing the events when Birch Road was blocked for tree trimming a few weeks ago, or the "call to arms" a couple of years ago when the Township Board was considering some radical changes and expansion at the public landing.

Since the mailing list contains numerous individuals who do not live at the lake (former lakers, families, advertisers, etc.), we have denied requests to publish information about events that will only effect a small number of people. Notices or invitations for private social events, requests to "remind" people of something that already had (or should have been) published in the Barker are examples of requests that are denied.

We don't want to discourage people from submitting info for publication in either the Online or Printed Barker, but we ask that items that don't fit the guidelines suggested above should be submitted (by the appropriate deadline) for the regular publications, not for special email consideration.

Our first boat ride on the lake the other day revealed once again what a beautiful lake we have. The boat traffic

Simply STUNNING

Have you seen the stunning new stamped-concrete compass rose we installed last fall at the Birch Lake Yacht Club?

This is just one example of the custom concrete services and products available to our friends and neighbors here at Birch Lake.

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— Birch Lake Notes —

on the lake is really picking up. Let's all work together to keep safety our first priority.

As we made our first loop we were impressed with the new construction projects and the evident devastation to the ash tree population. Our first May fly hatch happened the weekend of the 16th and I say yes ... bring on summer!

I'll see you at Birch Lake ... where every day is an adventure!

~Commodore Fry

Spaghetti Dinner info

The South side is busy planning this year's Yacht Club Spaghetti Dinner, which will take place at the BLYC on June 20. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a homemade spaghetti dinner which includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and tea or lemonade. Tickets are just \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 4-10, and children 3 and under are free. All proceeds will benefit the Yacht Club. For ticket information, call Di Wozny at 574-315-4915, Sue Williams at 476-8886 or Denny Weesner at 476-2569.

Attn: Southsiders!

The Williams are hosting an organizational meeting on May 29 at 7 pm for those of you who would like to volunteer. Come and be part of the fun!

Porter Township Cleanup Day

Porter Township will host it's annual Cleanup Day on Saturday, June 13 from 8 am-Noon at American Waste, 15621 Mason St., Union.

For most items there is no charge (donations are gladly accepted); minimal charges apply for refrigerator-type appliances, car, tractor and truck tires. No yard waste, garbage or construction materials, no hazardous waste and no TVs. E-waste (monitors, VCRs, DVDs, computers, etc) and waste oil will be accepted. Pickup service is available for handicapped and senior citizens. For info call 641-2375.

Name the Eagle!

Birch Lake is home to several bald eagles, and this is your chance to name one of them. The BLYC is sponsoring a Name the Eagle contest to benefit the water quality fund. You can submit names online until June 30. Voting will begin July 1. For more details or to submit your idea for a name, visit bitly.com/nametheeagle.

If you have any questions, please contact Chas Grundy at 574-315-0217 or chas@grundyhome.com.

Free Fishing weekend June 13-14

The best things in life are free, and June 13-14 is proof! That's because it's

Free Fishing weekend, meaning you and your family can enjoy fishing Michigan's waters without a license (though all other rules are in place).

Do you need to update your Birch Lake Directory listing?

New to Birch Lake? Family dynamics change? Want to update your info for the Birch Lake Directory? You can email your changes to BLYC, c/o Deb Spratt at 18100 Farmington Hills Drive, South Bend, IN 46637, or email them to deb-spratt@cressyandeverett.com ...

Barker Deadlines

The deadline for submitting information for any Barker is the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the May 31 issue is Tuesday, May 26) ... thanks.

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@philvital.com.

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

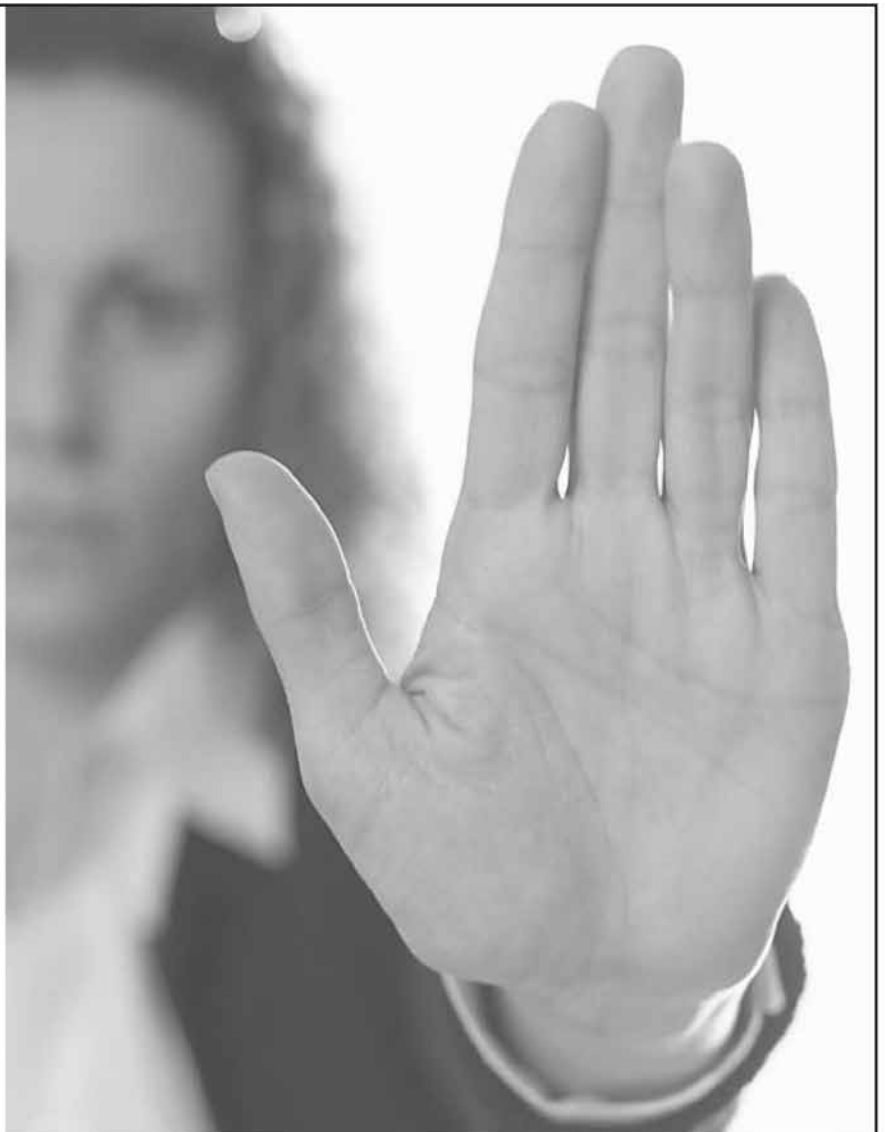
SLOW DOWN

**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}



And don't forget that ALL boat traffic must travel COUNTER-CLOCKWISE at all times!

Message sponsored by the BIRCH LAKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

— Birch Lake Notes —

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.

Birch Lake Calendar

Keep your cameras handy. The 2016 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR is in the planning stages, and we need photos from all seasons. The photos should be horizontal and able to be enlarged. Watch for info about submitting your photos in the spring.

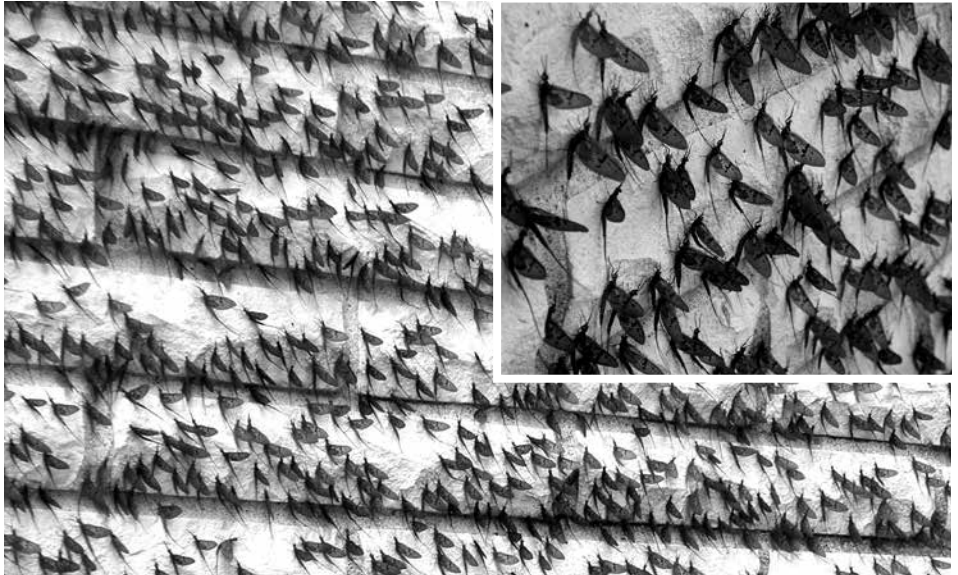
Online content

The printed Birch Barker will be online this season, as well as additional content ... go to www.philvitale.com and follow the links.

DNR seeks input on plans for State Game Areas

The Michigan DNR is seeking public input on draft master plans for state game areas in the southwestern region of the state. Draft plans are available online for Crane Pond, Fabius, and Three Rivers State Game Areas at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/crane_fabius_3riv_mp_488309_7.pdf?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

These plans will be available for review through May 31. Comments may be



Mayflies or shadflies are insects belonging to the order Ephemeroptera (from the Greek εφήμερος, ephemeros = “short-lived” (literally “lasting a day” “daily” or “day-long”), and πτερόν, pteron = “wing”, referring to the brief lifespan of adults). They have been placed into an ancient group of insects termed the Palaeoptera, which also contains dragonflies and damselflies. They are aquatic insects whose immature stage (called “naiad” or, colloquially, “nymph”) usually lasts one year in fresh water. The adults are short-lived, from a few minutes to a few days, depending on the species. The *Dolania americana* has the shortest lifespan among Ephemeroptera; the adult females of the species only live for less than five minutes.[2] About 2,500 species are known worldwide, including about 630 species in North America.[3] The naiads live primarily in streams under rocks, decaying vegetation, or in the sediment. Few species live in lakes, but they are among the most prolific.

Thanks to **Mr. Bob King** (North side) for the photos/info

submitted directly to the plan author via the email addresses listed in the master plan drafts. After May 31, authors will

review comments and make updates, if necessary. The final master plans will be made available on the DNR website by

The Fourth of July at Grandpa's

Editor's Note: This article was written by Caroline Cotton, the 13 year-old daughter of Wendy and Fred Cotton of Carpenterville, IL, and the granddaughter of Bruce Wagner (Cove) for a class assignment to describe a favorite time in their life.

Journey with me to a place that is sunny, warm, sandy, with glistening waters, colorful boats, and turtles! It's my Grandfather's cottage during the Fourth of July holiday! All of my family travels to his cottage to celebrate. My favorite activity at Grandpa's is swimming in the cool, clear water. Just a warning, watch out for leeches! There is a lot happening at the lake, such as, a crazy boat parade, silly turtle races and of course, fireworks! Huge, colorful, spectacular fireworks illuminating the night sky. I love experiencing all of these activities with my family to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Every Fourth of July weekend, my family and extended family visit my Grandpa at his lake. My Grandfather is a happy, jolly fellow. He reminds me of Santa Claus. He lives in a cool cottage on Birch lake in Michigan. It is dark brown with lots of windows facing the lake and surrounded by tall trees. It sits high off the ground because of the walk-out lower level, so the view of the lake is stunning. He has a small sandy beach area, a pier, and a large pontoon boat. The first thing I look forward to is swimming in the wa-

ter with my sister, Chloe. The water is slightly cool but very clear. You can even see your toes under the water! My sister and I love to run and jump off the pier and make a humongous splash. It's also really cool to swim under the pontoon while it's docked at the pier. The color of the water is a beautiful hue of green and our voices echo when we laugh. My whole family will motor out into the middle of the lake, jump off Grandpa's boat, swim and play games ... even my Grandpa! Swimming with my family is the best part of our visit.

Another activity we have at Grandpa's lake is turtle races. People participate from all around the lake, but the actual race takes place right next to Grandpa's cottage in his neighbor's yard. First, each participant has to catch a turtle from the lake. No store bought turtles. All sizes are welcome, except no snapping turtles are allowed. Next, all the turtles receive a name, number, and are put into groups according to their size. The smallest turtles race first, followed by the next largest and so on, until the last group, which is the “big boys.” We even have someone sing the National Anthem before the event begins! Then, they use a string or a rope to make a circle, place the turtles in the middle, and cover them with a huge lid. Lastly, they lift the lid and let the turtles race! The first turtle to cross the string wins! One time, our turtle, Speedy, even won! After the races are over, everyone returns

their turtles back to the lake. The turtle races are always an enormous hit at the lake.

The last two exciting and fun activities are the boat parade and the fireworks. After the turtle races is the boat parade. Lakers who wish to participate, decorate their boats with some fun, crazy theme. Last year there was a pirate boat, a Little Mermaid boat, a Ninja Turtle boat, plus many more. They all meet at the south shore of the lake and drive slowly around the entire lake so everyone can watch, wave, and applaud. When the sun sets, it's time for fireworks! Everyone takes their boats to the middle of the lake to watch the spectacularly colorful, enormous fireworks. People honk their horns, clap their hands and shout with awe as the beautiful colors launch into the sky. After the smoke clears the air, we all motor back to our cottages. There's no place I'd rather be than at Grandpa's on the Fourth of July!

Doesn't it sound like an amazing day? Although all of these activities are awesome, it wouldn't be the same without experiencing the day with my family. When I return home, I remember the smell of the lake, the feel of the cool water, and the laughter of my family. It's my favorite vacation spot! I look forward to the Fourth of July every year to be with all of my family again.

~By **Caroline Cotton**

— Birch Lake Notes —

July 1.

Midwest plans Internet service

As shared in the May issue of Country Lines magazine, Midwest is implementing a fiber-based communication system to support current and future technology needs and opportunities for the utility.

TeamFiber.com features the products and plans available through the new fiber-to-the-premise service. In a nutshell, residential packages start at \$49.95 per month and offer speeds of 25 mbps down and 10 mbps up. That's roughly 100 times faster than traditional dial-up and nearly 10 times faster than DSL or basic cable packages. Business packages and telephone over your fiber network are also available.

While visiting the site, Join The Crowd at <http://jointhecrowd.teamfiber.com/> to view the construction plan and the zones that comprise the remainder of the five-year build. By checking your address, you can see if you're in the 2015 plan and sign up from there. If you're not in the 2015 plan but part of the five-year build, you can sign up as an expression of interest in service. This doesn't obligate you, but does show the zones with the greatest interest.

Learn more at the website, or contact them at 844-49FIBER (493-4237)

Old Birch Lake Postcards

Thanks to Carolyn Palm, south side, for sharing these great old post cards (at right) showing Birch Lake before it was built up to present day standards.

Carolyn said the cards belonged to her family and she believes them to be from somewhere around 1950 ...



CLASSIFIED ADS IN THE BIRCH BARKER

Classified ads in the Birch Barker (including the Printed and the Online Barker) are free to members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club (subject to the approval of the editor and the BLYC Board of directors), and \$5 per ad for non-members (please pay in advance). To submit an ad, email it to Sailorphil@philvitale



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— Birch Lake Notes —

BLYC Spring Dinner

Thanks to the PattiCam for the great pix



— Barker Kids of the Week —



▲ Above, frequent Birch Lake visitors Joe Campbell (brother of Rick Russwurm, north side) and his longtime girlfriend Katie Dougherty got married last week in Chicago ... Congrats Joey & Katie!

◀ At left, that's Past Commodore Bad Patty Luecht (east side) posing with a much-taller Andrew Luck ... not sure who he is but Patty said something about him being a football player for the Indianapolis Colts, whoever they are ...

KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS!

Everyone loves to see their kid in the paper ... and one picture is worth a thousand words! Send your kid of the week to me (or grandpa of the week or neighbor of the week or dog of the week ... we even print weeds of the week!) with the details via email at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM (Please send files of 6 MB OR LESS ... huge email attachments bog down my email server!)

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Cal King and Elizabeth (Liz) Kramer who paddled MC1199 from the landing to her berth at the King home (north shore).



Major Russwurm gets to be dog of the week just because he's old and I like him ... or is that, "I'm old like him?"



That's our grandson Dominic hungrily eying a rock bass, his first catch of the season. Dominic caught "Moby" on a jointed Rapalla using Pop-pop's expensive rod and reel that he went and got without permission ...

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- * Fertilizing

Property Management

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

FIREWOOD AVAILABLE

— Barker Kids of the Week —



◀ **Jim Bradfield (south shore) with a nice 14 inch Crappie to top off a 37-catch fishing day with Gus Eshleman at Birch Lake.**



Thanks to Mr. Bob King for the nice positive/negative images of Big Bird swooping over the north shore while it was fishing for it's dinner recently.

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Birch Lake Home for Sale — 14867 Birch Lakeshore Dr. — Reduced to \$ 149,000



Adorable updated 3 BR home on All-Sports Birch Lake with a separate deeded and private 22 Ft lot on the lake for your boating pleasure and water activities. Updates include new central air, roof, heat pump, water heater, well pump, flooring, and kitchen. Cute house with patio and nice lake lot with fire pit and awesome views of Beautiful Birch Lake.



Birch Lake Home for Sale — 14878 Birch Lakeshore Dr. 2 bedrooms, 52 ft. frontage, sandy beach — \$289,900

Birch Lake Cottage with 52 FT of frontage, sandy beach, knotty pine walls, vaulted wood ceilings, stone fireplace and 2 enclosed porch areas with awesome views. Spacious living room, quaint kitchen area, and huge loft area with extra sleeping room for the guests. Two car detached garage and plenty of parking space. Bright and cheery with the many windows and enclosed front room for family gatherings.





FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Regatta Nada ...

Ahoy Sailors! Hope your off-season went well!

Due to a prediction of poor winds, our Memorial Weekend Regatta is canceled. We will however attempt to have our first race on SUNDAY, as we are anticipating winds @7-12 mph.

Join us for the fun? Rookie sailors are always welcome as well as committee boat volunteers! The infamous "Bad Patty" will be at the helm this week, please let her or me know if you

would like to join us!

We look forward to an AWESOME SAILING SEASON this year!!

Please remember that we have scheduled our 2nd Annual "Don Harmon People's Regatta" on June 27! This event encourages ALL SAILORS and *would-be* SAILORS the opportunity to learn the basics of sailing — or at least to come out and spend a couple hours in a sailboat!

To all, "Splice the Main Brace!"

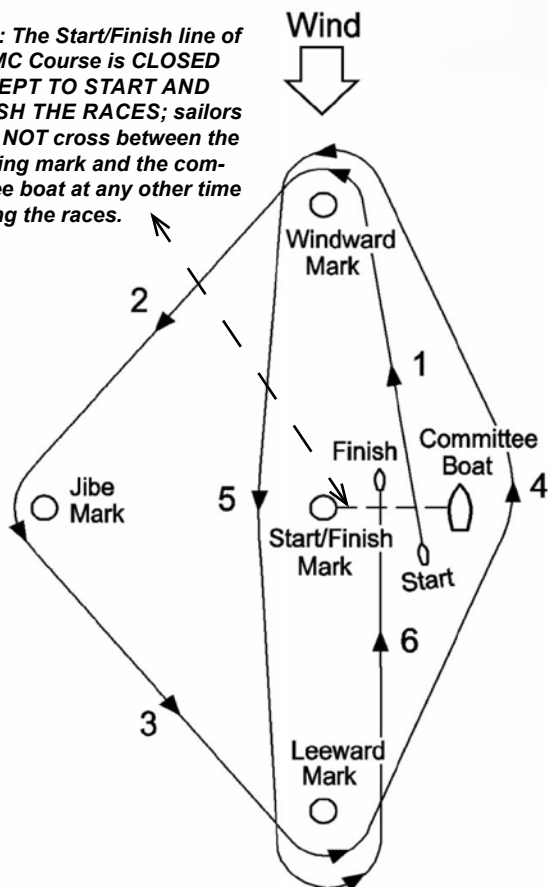
~"Fleet Captain Mike"



BLYC sailing courses for MC and Sunfish

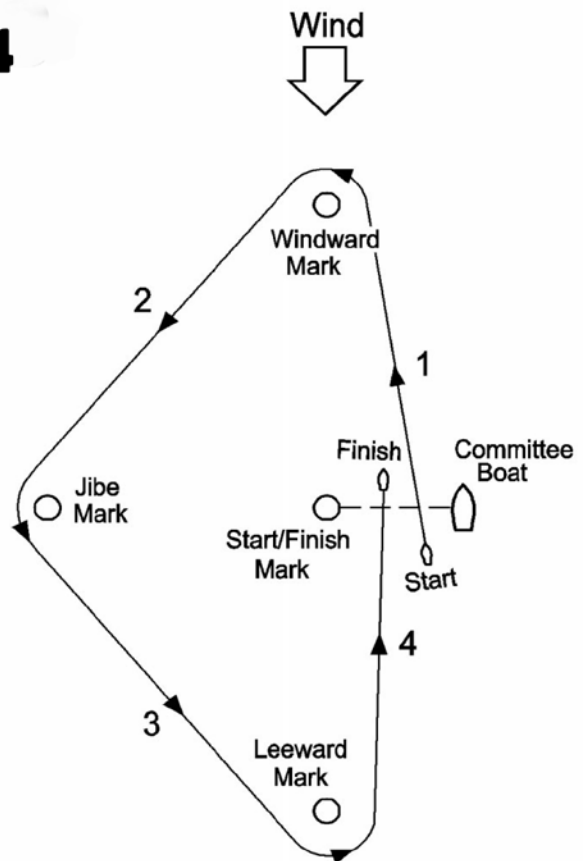
Note: The Start/Finish line of the MC Course is CLOSED EXCEPT TO START AND FINISH THE RACES; sailors MAY NOT cross between the starting mark and the committee boat at any other time during the races.

2014



MC Course

Marks to Port (Mirror Image for Marks to Starboard)
Legs 4 and 5 cannot cross the start/finish line, but they can go around either end of the line.



Sunfish Course

Marks to Port (Mirror Image for Marks to Starboard)



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— Dana on Drugs —

Caltrate vs Citracal — Which is right for you?

By **Dana Soldato, PharmD**

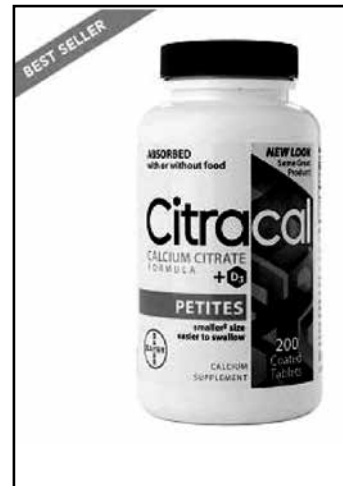
Calcium is an important mineral that our body requires to keep our bones, teeth, heart, and muscles strong. People age 50 and older should get about 1200mg of calcium and 800 IU of vitamin D per day. While we can receive vitamin D from the sun, we must ingest calcium. If possible, you want to obtain all of your calcium from your food, rather than from a pill. However, there may come a time when diet alone is not sufficient, and your doctor might recommend a calcium supplement in order to increase calcium intake.

Citracal (calcium citrate) and Caltrate (calcium carbonate) are the two most common calcium supplements that are available. Which one you should take largely depends on how much acid is present in your stomach.

Caltrate provides calcium as calcium carbonate. It delivers more calcium per pill than Citracal so there are fewer pills to take during the day. It also costs less than Citracal so it seems like the obvious winner.

However, there is one MAJOR DISADVANTAGE to Caltrate, and that is it requires acid to be present in your stomach for it to get absorbed. Therefore, if you take a medication that lowers the amount of acid that is present in your stomach, this calcium will be ineffective.

Medications that lower acid include Protonix (pantoprazole), Prilosec (omeprazole), Nexium (esomeprazole), Prevacid (lansoprazole), Dexilant (dexlansoprazole), and Aciphex (rabeprazole). If you are on any of these medications, Caltrate is not the calcium for you.



Citracal provides calcium as calcium citrate. It delivers less calcium per pill than Caltrate, so you have to take more tablets throughout the day. With that being said, the tablets are smaller and are easier to swallow than Caltrate. It costs slightly more than Caltrate because it requires that you buy more pills to deliver your daily dose of calcium.

The MAJOR ADVANTAGE to Citracal is it has better absorption than Caltrate and does not require the presence of acid in your stomach for the calcium to be absorbed. Therefore, this calcium is excellent for those who are taking acid lowering medications because it allows for stomach acid reduction without compromising calcium absorption.



This year we have 5 families who have graciously offered to open their homes for the **Birch Lake House Walk** on July 11. Along with the house walk, we will also have an art fair at the Wozniak barn, with local artists displaying their pottery, jewelry, paintings and photography from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Camp Tannadoonah will also be selling refreshments for a nominal fee. All the proceeds from the event are going to Camp Tannadoonah for camp scholarships.

The event will start at the Wozniak barn where everyone must check in to go on the tour. From there, you will walk to the first home and then be whisked away by pontoon for your tour. **The first boats leave at 10 am and run continuously. Please note ... the last boat tour leaves at 12:30 pm so that everyone completes the tours by 2 pm.** A limited amount of parking will be available at the barn, so please carpool or walk if possible. It truly is a fun day and a great way to see old friends and meet new ones!

Tickets will be \$15 pre-sale, and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be bought through Denny Weesner on the South side, Vickie Rogers and Denise Smitley on the West side and Cove, Carla Chester and Linda Yoshizawa on the East side, and Sandy Baucus on the North side.

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A girl who wants my kisses and my arms
A girl with all the charms of you

Venus, make her fair
A lovely girl with sunlight in her hair
And take the brightest stars up in the skies
And place them in her eyes for me

Venus, goddess of love that you are
Surely the things I ask
Can't be too great a task...
How can you not love Frankie Avalon?

Venus never ventures far from the Sun in the sky since its orbit lies closer to the Sun than the Earth's. To see it, we are always looking inwards towards the center of the solar system, close to the Sun. Venus is said to be at greatest elongation when it passes either of the two points along its orbit where it appears at greatest separation from the Sun.

As it orbits the Sun, it appears alternately in the morning and evening skies. When it is to the east of the Sun, it rises and sets a short time after the

Sun, becoming visible in early evening twilight. When it is to the west of the Sun, it rises and sets a short time before the Sun, becoming visible in the pre-dawn sky shortly before sunrise. Venus is so bright and conspicuous, the third brightest object in the sky after the Sun and Moon, that it is often called the morning or evening star. So it's two, (clack clack) two stars in one. (Yeah, you've heard that one before)

In the 1920s writers speculated about colonizing Venus, and Mars, with superior specimens of humans. Sadly, the idea at the time was to eliminate inferior minded individuals (to whose standards?) and start a superior society. Sounds much like the Nazi master race, eh? Had it even been possible to transport the "superior ones" to their new homes the smart guys that put this all together might have been quite disappointed to find that the surface of Venus is as hot as 800 degrees and that the atmosphere is mostly unbreathable ammonia gas. How wonderful!

Look for Venus this weekend just below and to the right of the moon at twilight. Look for Jupiter just above

the moon. Two bright points of light in the early evening sky. There's other stuff up there too that we'll cover soon. Until then... Never mind. I'm not saying it any more.

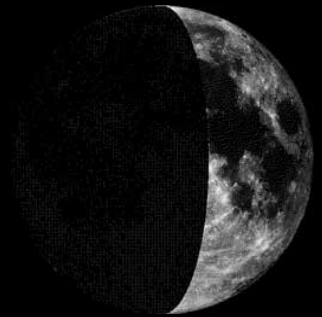
~Stu Spratt

Celebrating 51 Years at Birch Lake and his 60th birthday this weekend

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.360
1.4 days before first quarter



Sunrise: 6:16 am
Sunset: 9:05 pm
Moonrise: 12:30 pm
Moonset: 1:32 am
Day length: 14h 49m

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FEATURED LISTINGS FOR MAY



SW Michigan (JUNO LAKE)
Price: \$219,000
Type: Residential
Bedrooms: 2; Bathrooms: 2
Size: 1,300 sq. ft.
Taxes: \$2,547



SW Michigan (Indiana Lake)
Price: \$589,000
Type: Residential
Bedrooms: 3; Bathrooms: 3
Size: 3,060 sq. ft.
Taxes: \$3,611

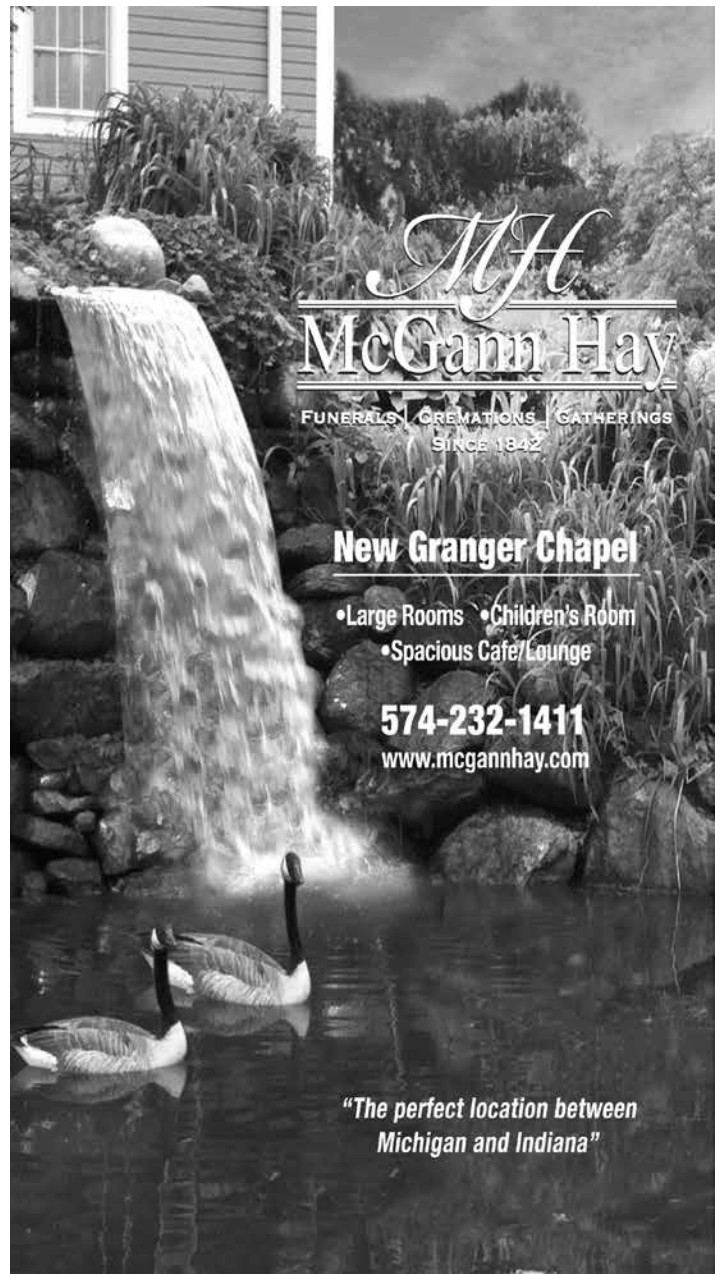


SW Michigan (Shavehead Lake)
Price: \$650,000
Type: Residential
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 3
Size: 3,200 sq. ft.
Taxes: \$5,781



SW Michigan (Shavehead Lake) Waterfront
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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - You will be super busy with a jam-packed schedule full of errands, short trips and increased reading and writing! But in addition to all this busyness, you will also be threatened with transportation breakdowns and mixed-up communications. Issues at home will be passionate. Yowsers! Guard against snap judgments, which you might regret later.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Your focus on money and possessions will be strong in the next month. For example, cheques in the mail will be late. However, this also helps you finish old business connected in certain areas; and for Taurus, this means you will more easily wrap up financial matters that have been lingering. You will also feel passionately about something this week.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - It's your turn to do your thing! You have strong feelings about some kind of financial issue, which might relate to earning money or spending it. Meanwhile, you will have to make compromises. Just accept this. Fortunately, optimism and hope come easily to you. Hope is the feeling you have that the feeling you have isn't permanent.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - New relationships that begin now will feel star-crossed and fated. Because subconscious influences will cause you to act irrationally, existing relationships will suffer as well. That's because powerful energies are at work in your love life. On the upside, this is a great time to buy wardrobe goodies because you like what you see in the mirror.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - This is a popular time for you. You enjoy seeing others, especially younger people. In fact, younger people from your past are back in your life again. In the next few weeks, give more thought than usual to your future goals. In the next two years, you will make more money. Start to think about how you want to do that, so that you are steering this process. Ideas?

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - In the month ahead, your career and external world plus your increased popularity might create problems with an authority figure at home. Or possibly these problems relate to your obsession with a new love or artistic acquaintance? Enjoy this high viz. But tread carefully.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - In the month ahead, you want to travel because you're eager for adventure and you want to learn something new. This week might be difficult because someone or something will block your way. But after this week, the open road is yours. Of course, sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - You're entering an intense month; every issue you deal with will be intense and black-and-white. Nothing will be casual or gray. This will cause confusion and delays, but it will also help you finish details regarding inheritances, taxes, debt and shared property. Use this energy to swiftly facilitate this. Meanwhile, romance with someone from another culture might grab you this week. Or you might feel obsessed about traveling somewhere. No halfway measures here.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - You will need more sleep. Go to bed. This week, sex will be passionate! And you might be just as obsessed about a situation regarding inheritances or shared property. Be careful because whatever you want will meet with opposition and challenges from someone else.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - By nature, you're a perfectionist. In the next month, you will do everything in your power to get better organized both at home and at work. However, your desire to get better organized will be hampered by misplaced papers, confused communications, transportation delays and silly, goofy mistakes.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Lucky you! A lovely, playful month ahead awaits. Admittedly, many of you will encounter old flames from the past; and you will be forced to deal with glitches and cancellations regarding social occasions. This is a great time for vacations, fun, parties, the arts, movies, sports events, playful times with children and yes, romance, romance, romance.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Home, family and your domestic world are your top priority in the coming month. And to add further to this, relatives and family you haven't seen for a while will be camped on your doorstep. Or perhaps, you will visit your parents or a childhood home? Some of you will feel cut off from a family member, especially an authority figure this week. Don't let this get you down because it's temporary. (Always put your mother-in-law in a good hotel.)

Talk With A Live Person



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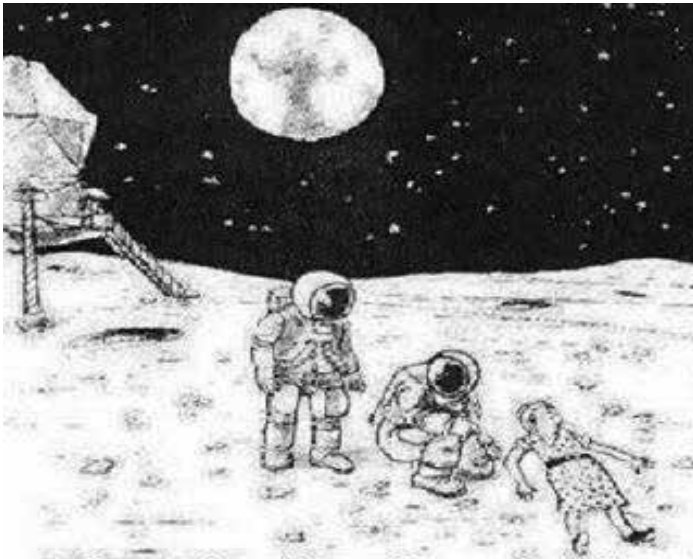
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



"...it's Alice Kramden."

I MUSHROOM HUNT



BECAUSE I HAVE
NO MORELS.



The trouble with quotes on the internet is that it's difficult to determine whether or not they are genuine.

- Abraham Lincoln



PonderAbout.com

Spilling a full beer you paid for is the adult equivalent of letting go of a balloon



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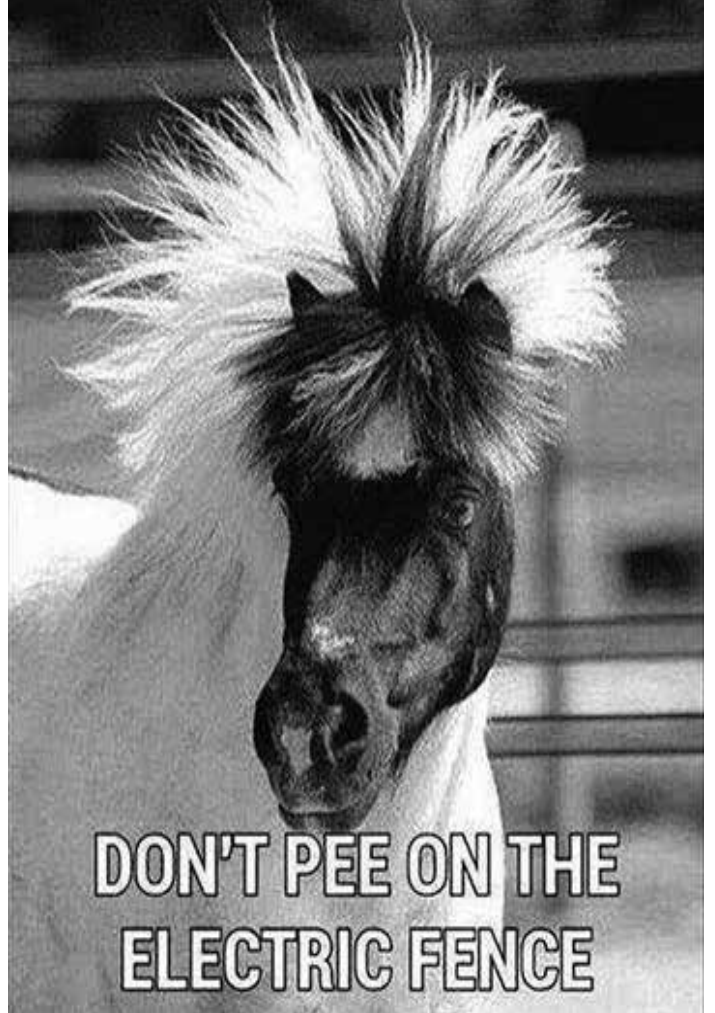


Life is not a
fairy tale.

If you lose
your shoe
at midnight,

You're drunk.

NOTE TO SELF:



DON'T PEE ON THE
ELECTRIC FENCE

BLYC Officers and Directors

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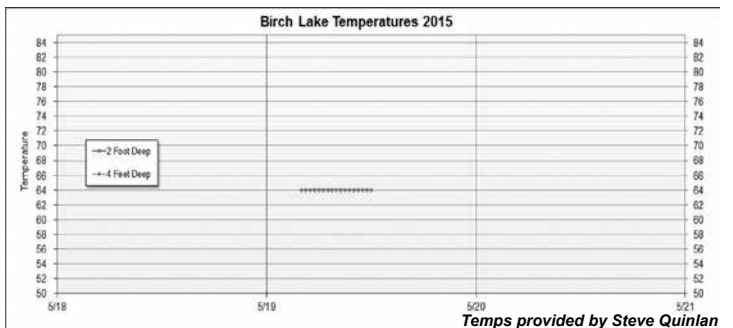
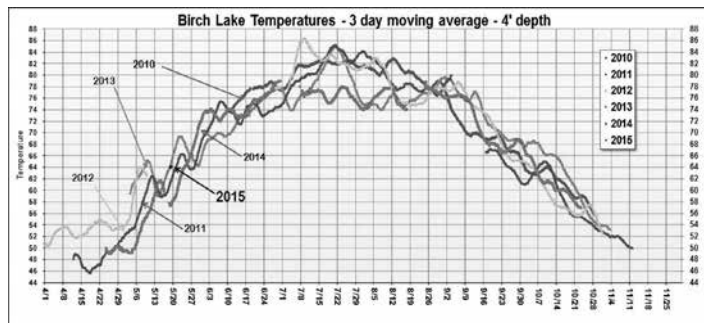
Sandy Vitale (E) 476-1680
sandra.vitale@franciscanalliance.org

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debo36@comcast.net

Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee Chairman (E)..... 476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com

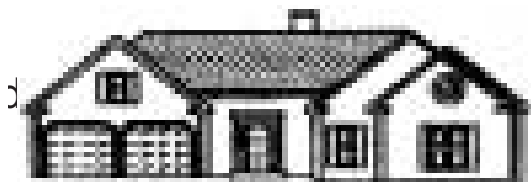
Birch Lake Water Temperature



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

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~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Easy Roasted Broccoli

“My favorite part is the roasted sliced stem pieces.”
Original recipe makes 4 servings

Ingredients

14 ounces broccoli
1 tablespoon olive oil
salt and ground black pepper to taste

Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200

degrees C).

Cut broccoli florets from the stalk. Peel the stalk and slice into 1/4-inch slices. Mix florets and stem pieces with olive oil in a bowl and transfer to a baking sheet; season with salt and pepper.

Roast in the preheated oven until broccoli is tender and lightly browned, about 18 minutes.



Birch Barker Word Search

20 Things we hope we're done with.

Find each of the following words.

MITTENS
BLOWERS
FRIGID
SHOVELS
HATS

BOOTS
WIND CHILL
COATS
SCRAPERS
SCARVES

SLEET
GLOVES
THERMALS
WOOL
PLOWS

SALT
SLEDS
COLD
SNOW
ICE

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

— Water Quality Report —

Spring is here again. The ice has been out for about 6-7 weeks and the lake is slowly warming up.

Before all the usual suspects begin to develop that reduce the clarity of our lake water, it might be a good time to take a kayak, canoe, etc. to do a real explore of our lake. The drop-offs are clearly visible, fish habitat more identifiable, and one can truly see where the shallows and real navigable waters are.

A surprise may be found off the east side just north from the little cove where the Garceaus are redoing the old Weesner home. From here north the shallows extend hundreds of feet out into the lake. Think about this as you tube, ski, etc in that you may feel you are away from the shoreline, but in reality only a few feet from the bottom thereby raising lots of sediment, particularly when you accelerate quickly from a stopped or slowed condition.

We mention this just to remind folks that everything we do on the lake has some effect. The most detrimental invasive species on the lake is the human species. Our behaviors in countless ways can truly impact the quality of the body of water that first attracted us to Birch Lake.

Following is a basic summary report from the water testing that was conducted this past year in concert with the Cooperative Lakes Management Program that we participate in through the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. In general it is a positive report. However, two items that may be disturbing if

the trend continues are the increase in spring phosphorous and the slight rise in chlorophyll.

Our spring phosphorous is normally quite low as the lake is well oxygenated from top to bottom, helping keep the phosphorous tied up in sediments at the bottom of the lake. However, in 2014 the levels were more like the summer phosphorous. These are not “high” readings but do not reflect the desired trend. We will be looking for reasons that may lie behind this. Further discussion will follow in future weeks especially addressing any behaviors which might impact this both positively and negatively. The higher phosphorous may be a reason for the marginal increase in algae as measured by chlorophyll. Last year our water clarity was really reduced in the summer. A small increase in algae may have been partly responsible along with all the suspended mineral content. Again, we will talk about this more in later issues.

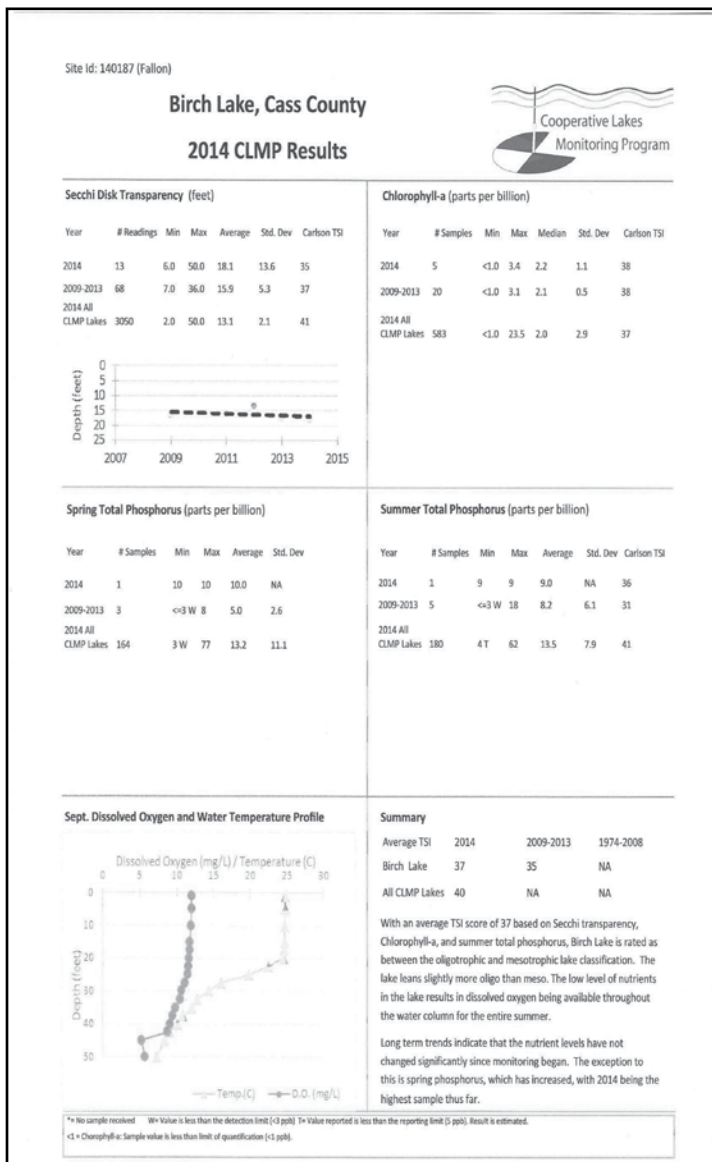
On a more positive note was the availability of reasonable oxygen levels down to around the 50 foot level in the lake, even in the later summer. Many lakes see oxygen levels being effectively lost below 30 foot in the summer, which can impact the habitat of certain kinds of fish.

So, what is the state of our lake? In a nutshell, good. We would like to reverse some trends for the long-term maintenance of our wonderful lake. We have our concerns regarding invasive species, nutrient loading, and how we



can slow down the aging of our lake. These are real and need not be taken lightly.

Two members of your Water Quality Committee attended both the statewide Michigan Lakes and Streams Association two-day conference a few weeks ago, and a local meeting last Saturday. To put our lake’s problems into perspective, consider that we heard numerous stories regarding huge swaths of lakes covered in milfoil, aeration techniques being used to reduce organic muck that may be many feet deep on lake bottoms in potential swimming areas, water level issues, goose roundups, swan invasions, DNR strong arming to get in massive public access sites, etc. So we have concerns that we would like to address as we proceed to maintain our pristine body of water, but not some of the more immediate rather dire issues that some other lake dwellers face. Lets not get there. Hopefully, with your help, we won’t.



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It's my story and I'm sticking to it!

About a week ago on a beautiful evening; the sun was low over the West shore and thanks to the millions of mayflies, the fish were biting. I was on my pier casting an artificial lure when I noticed a commotion in the water. After I brought in yet another small bass, I looked down to see a carp-looking leviathan, between 18" - 24" ... and believe it or not, it was mottled, with large spots of black and **bright orange**. No, he didn't try to eat my foot or turn me into a zombie, he just kept watching me (and my catch). I took the bass off the hook and dropped the lure right in front of the beast ... who turned up his nose and continued making figure-8s. Over the next few minutes I caught two more fish (that he ignored). I'm guessing it's a Koi that someone gave up years ago who's managed to survive in Birch Lake's depths and grow to epic size ... but who knows? It's my story, and I'm saying it was **BIRCHIE!**

— Camp Tannadoonah —

Here we are again, at the start of another summer! It's hard to believe, but this year is going to be my 10th summer as the director at Camp Tannadoonah!

It's looking like it's going to be a great year at camp. We currently have (as of May 18th) 715 campers registered for camp! Last year was a record summer for us, with a grand total of 818 campers, but on this same date last year we had just 660 registered campers. So we're well ahead of that number for this year! And we've already passed the total for every other summer except for last year – our previous record was in 2012, and that year we finished the summer with 706.

We have a number of international staff this year, and I'm working on arranging rides for them from Chicago O'Hare to camp. If you are going to be coming from the Chicago area to the lake on any of the following days, and would be interested in helping pick up a counselor at the airport, please let me know! I have people flying in on Wednesday 6/3, Friday 6/5, Saturday 6/6 and Sunday 6/7.

We have SO much going on at camp this year to share. First, and most importantly, I want to give a huge thank you to the many lake residents who have been helping us at camp. I can't

properly express how grateful we are for the time and energy that our lake neighbors put in to help make camp successful! Tom Rogers has spent MANY, MANY hours this spring working to get our cabins fixed up and ready for summer. Tom Mosier chlorinated our wells to make sure we have clean drinking water.

We also have several lake residents who are serving on our Camp Fire board and/or on various committees: Tom Kuhn, Amy Lutz, Sue Williams, Patti Russwurm, Jan Temple, Chas Grundy. And this winter we received a donation of a generator for camp from an anonymous donor at the lake. It will power the dining hall and shower house, so we don't have to worry about not having running water, toilets, or the ability to cook meals when the power goes out in the future. Jim Bolinger and Mike Lutz have been helping to get this installed and we're very excited to have it for the summer.

This spring we participated in Give Local SJC, a one day giving event sponsored by the Community Foundation of St Joseph County (IN). We raised over \$29,000, in large part due to the generosity of many donors here at Birch Lake. Those funds will be matched by the Community Foundation, and will help with many projects and programs at

camp, and will also help to build our endowment at the Community Foundation, which helps us to provide camperships to kids who otherwise could not afford to attend camp each summer. So far this year, we have awarded funds to help 65 campers attend camp.

Thank you to everyone who contributed! We were amazed at the outpouring of generosity.

We have been working hard these past few months to make updates and improvements at camp. Here are some of the projects that have been going on:

- A new store porch – twice as big as the old one!
- A new pier for the waterfront!
- New siding and windows and trim on Wallace
- New shutters, windows, screens, and doors on the 4 "Adventure" cabins
- New supports under the Main Lodge Staff Lounge floor
- Installation of the new generator
- Many other projects, large and small!

It's so exciting to see these projects being completed. Camp is looking great – if you haven't been up there lately, take a walk through and check out all the changes.


Can't wait to see everyone this summer!

~Miss Amber



CAMP TANNADOONAH
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org>



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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

It is very rare when not one but **two premier Birch lake properties** become available at the same time. Please click on the "Flyer" link below to view these two strikingly different but equally incredible lake homes. Please pass along to any of your friends who you think might be a prospective Birch Laker. Please contact me with any interest or questions. See Flyer at <http://www.cressyandeverett.com/properties/for-sale-or-lease/residential-homes/>, or contact me. Thanks, Rick Doolittle 574-286-0971 Rickdoolittle@cressyandeverett.com

Birch Lake home for sale. 3+ bedrooms, 3 1/2 bathrooms, basement, 104 feet of lake frontage. Call Bernie or Blair Garceau (269) 476-9862

Birch Lake house on Kinsey St. for sale. \$189,000; Visit <http://www.birchlakehouse.com/> for details.

MISC.

Babysitting and dog walking services! From Taylor and Amanda! \$10 an hour for babysitting. And \$10 a day for dog walking. If interested contact us at 574-304-1799 by call or text. Or by email at taylorandamanda15@gmail.com

I do sewing and mending at fair prices - zippers, hemming, small alterations; call Kathy at 476-9317

As an entry in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 (we can't recall which one) July 4th boat parade we paired up with Bernie and Helen Weesner. Our boat was titled

"Weekend at Bernie's." It was a memorable trip around the lake. Does anyone have a photograph of this? We'd love to have a copy for our new house. Thanks, Bernie and Blair Garceau 476-9862

RENTAL WANTED

We're **looking for a cottage to rent** for family (4 adults) from June 25 - July 5 or any part of that time. Call Beth Kenagy, 269 985-8782

FREE

Free firewood to all of our Birch neighbors. Please take the wood actually sitting right against my garage ... please start with the wood on the west side of my garage and then the wood on the east side of the garage. Carmen Soldato, West Side

Free - Sunfish sail boat - pick it up at the Limes' dock in the cove and sail it away 630-728-1797.

BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



Saturday, June 20

5:30-8:00 PM

Enjoy a great dinner with friends and support the yacht club too! This year's dinner is sponsored by the south side and promises to be a great event. Dinner includes spaghetti with two sauces, salad, dessert and ice tea or lemonade.

Take outs are also available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Denny Weesner 476-2569 Di Wozny 574-315-4915 or Sue Williams at 476-8886

Children 3 and under are free

Ages 4-10 are \$5.00

Ages 11-Adult are \$8.00



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Haven't paid your 2015 dues yet?

Now's the time!



Support the BLYC, support our Birch Lake Community!

\$____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)

Total contribution:

\$____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues

\$_____

(\$10 / year)

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

Name _____

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

\$____ - Building Improvement Fund

Address _____

\$____ - Fireworks Fund

\$____ - Water Quality Program

\$____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$____ - Safety Committee

\$____ - Other non-party related expenses

\$____ - BLYC Roof Fund

\$____ - Misc.

Make checks payable to

BLYC

c/o Deb Spratt

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