

The weekend
Of

June 11
2016

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Sailing is back for our Birch Lake Sundays. If you're out on Sunday mornings when the races are going on, please give 'em a break and stay clear!

Thanks to **Mr. Bob King** (north side) for the sailing photos!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Now that summer is in full swing, I hope you are out there enjoying the lake. There's always work to be done, and the problem is it never seems to be "done." So make sure you carve out time to relax and appreciate this beautiful place. Take advantage of all the activities going on around the lake.

The Commodore/Vice Commodore party is this Saturday night (June 11). Sure hope you can make it! The party starts at 6:30 pm at the Yacht Club. Bring either an appetizer or dessert and enjoy a relaxing evening visiting with neighbors.

I want to thank Keith Kinzler for planning a Teen Night at the Yacht Club. We haven't had a teen party for many years, and I appreciate Keith coming up with the idea and planning it. What a great opportunity for the teens on the lake to meet new friends! The party will be June 25. More information can be found in the Birch Lake Notes.

If you have an idea for a new event (or want to bring back an old one),

please contact me to discuss it. Most of the time, it just takes someone who is willing to organize the event. People at Birch Lake are always willing to help, so you won't have to go it alone!

The members of our Water Quality Committee deserve recognition and a big thank you. They are Paul Fallon, Terry Dugan, Rick Russwurm, Gordon Seyfarth, Pete Soldato, and Bruce Wagner. They routinely test and monitor the water and participate in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program of Michigan.

Recently some trends have shown up in the testing that are of some concern, so please take the time to read their Barker column each week. You will find valuable information, as well as some suggestions. We want to do all we can to protect our beautiful lake.

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Spaghetti Dinner on June 18. Ticket sellers are listed in the ad on Page 6 of this week's Barker.

Have fun, but be safe!

~Commodore Sue

Silly season has started

We've recently had reports that there was vandalism along the east and

2016 Birch Lake Calendar

June 11	Comm/Vice Com Party, 6:30 pm
June 18	Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30-8:30 pm
June 25	Peoples' Regatta, 11 am, Lutz's
June 25	Teen Night at BLYC, 7:30 pm
July 2	Boat Parade, 2 pm, Bender's
July 2	Fireworks (dark)
July 3	Fireworks rain date
July 3	Pancake Breakfast (8:30 - 11 am)
July 22	BL Ladies' Golf Outing
July 29	Men's Golf Outing
Aug. 6	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 27	BLYC Fall Dinner (at the Yacht Club)

BLYC Board Meetings (9 am)

July 9, Aug. 6, Sept. 10 @ BLYC

More info as available.; Dates subject to change; Watch the Barker for updates!

south shore last week. Several mailboxes were smashed and/or knocked down, a picnic table was overturned, the top of a well house was smashed, several bags of mulch got dumped all over a driveway and some landscaping stones were strewn across a street.

Please be alert and contact the county sheriff's office by calling 911 (if it is an emergency) or 445-2481 and make a report and/or file a complaint. :(

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvital.com, or put the items in the stone newspaper/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos or other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680, or contact BLYC Commodore Sue Williams at 476-8886 or email smwillia@comcast.net. ~Phil V

— Birch Lake Notes —



Thanks to our Artist-in-Residence Duffy Dufour for the great lake art ...

2016 BLYC Boat Parade

Time sure does fly by. We are one week closer to our annual parade of "boat floats" on July 2. The Birch Lake Boat Parade has become a cherished tradition here at our lake dating back more than a quarter century. Our theme this year, "Favorite Recording Artist or Group," should conjure up many interesting ideas. So don your

thinking caps and start planning now while there is still plenty of time. More details to come in future Barkers.

Please return

We have had our family's last name on the back of our cottage for 30-plus years, and last week it was taken from the cottage. I am sure that it is somewhat of a novelty but it has sentimental

value to it since our father made it and he recently passed away. We would greatly appreciate it's return to 63500 Birch Rd. Thank you.

~The Thomas Drinkall family

Calendar Photographers Needed!

It feels as if summer 2016 has just begun, but it's already time to start thinking about the 2017 Birch Lake Calendar. So search out your best photos and send them in. We need horizontal color photos from all seasons. Since the pictures need to be enlarged, camera photos often work better than phone photos. Please e-mail your best pictures (no more than five) to lindal1008@comcast.net or give them to Linda Yoshizawa, Vickie Rogers, Sue Williams, or Carla Chester by July 17.

Pancake Breakfast

Come join us on Sunday, July 3 for the annual Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah. From 8:30 am to 11 am, we'll be dishing up all-you-can-eat pancakes (a limited supply of gluten-free pancakes will be available), sausages, fruit, coffee and juice!

Cost for breakfast is \$5 for adults, kids age 6-10 are \$2 (kids age 5 and under are free).

Last year's proceeds from the breakfast were used to buy materials to build new bunks in the cabins at Camp Tannadoonah.

Simply STUNNING

Have you seen the stunning new stamped-concrete compass rose 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.

Interested in a whole new look for your plain old concrete garage, patio or entrance?



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(269) 279-7973

mmtlconcrete@aol.com

— Birch Lake Notes —



MILFOIL ERADICATION - Birch Lake was chemically treated on Tuesday, June 7, with a variety of chemicals in the ongoing effort to control the Eurasian Milfoil.

Come and have breakfast and show your support for all the great kids who attend Camp!

Online content

The printed Birch Barker is once again online this season, as well as additional content ... just go to www.philvitale.com and follow the links.

Fourth of July fireworks change

Due to changes in safety regulations and insurance, the Fourth of July fireworks can no longer be fired from the waterfront at Camp Tannadoonah. After a "test" fire last fall we have determined that the best available option is to fire from the camp's sports field next to the tennis and basketball court. Unfortunately this change will mean that people viewing from

the homes in the Cove, north shore, and the north side of both the east and west shores of Birch Lake won't be able to see a good portion of the show unless they find a spot on the south side or go onto the lake in a boat to watch the show.

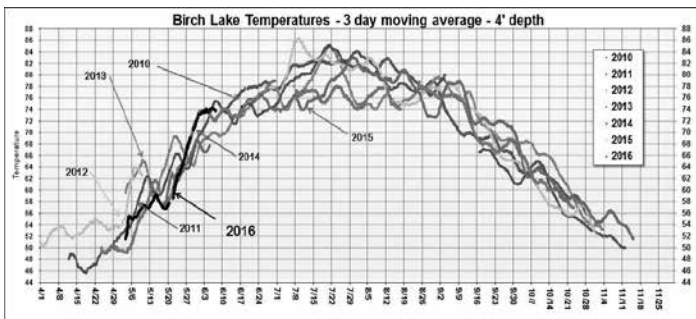
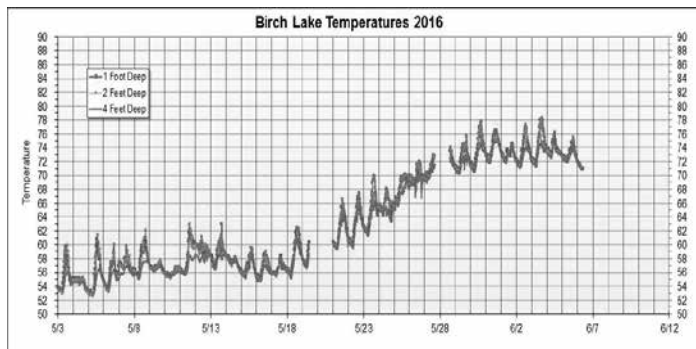
We're sorry for the inconvenience.

~Commodore Sue

BLYC Welcoming Committee

We are ready to rock and roll on our Welcoming Committee. If you know of a new neighbor please contact

Birch Lake Water Temperature



Temps provided by Steve Quinan



BACK ON TRACK!

56951 N. Main St.
Three Rivers, MI

(269) 273-9015

Visit us again For the First Time!

Frankie's Restaurant in Three Rivers has new owners. Over the past few months we have been working very hard to return the quality of the food and the quality of the dining experience to the levels that so many of us fondly remember from years ago. We hope you'll stop by and learn what we mean when we say that we're "Back on Track!"

Open M-Th 11-10, Friday & Saturday 11-11 Closed Sunday.

Daily food & drink specials

follow us on Facebook at [frankiesbythetracks](https://www.facebook.com/frankiesbythetracks)

— Birch Lake Notes —

Vicky Rogers at 269-476-2383, Pam VanHuffel 269-244-3487 and Linda Curtis at 574-361-2629. Thanks.

Printed Birch Barker

Welcome to the printed Birch Barker. The Birch Barker is a service of the Birch Lake Yacht Club and provided free of charge every weekend to all the homes on Birch Lake, thanks to our generous advertisers.

The Barker welcomes the submission of editorial and advertising materials for publication (at the discretion of the editor), Phil Vitale (476-1680, email: sailorphil@philvitale.com).

The deadline for submitting ads and information for any Barker is by 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the June 4 issue is 3 pm on Tuesday, May 31) ... thanks.

I'm at 476-1680 or sailorphil@philvitale.com ... for questions or problems with delivery please contact Commodore Sue Williams (476-8886, email: smwillia@comcast.net) or Bob & Sue Waddle (476-3393 or email: sparkybob220@comcast.net).



Thanks to Mr. Bob who sent this photo with the caption: "Only in Vandalia."

Free Fishing Weekend

Don't miss your chance to explore our state's world-class fisheries – for FREE! Come on out as part of the 2016

Summer Free Fishing Weekend: this weekend, Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12.

As part of this weekend, all fishing

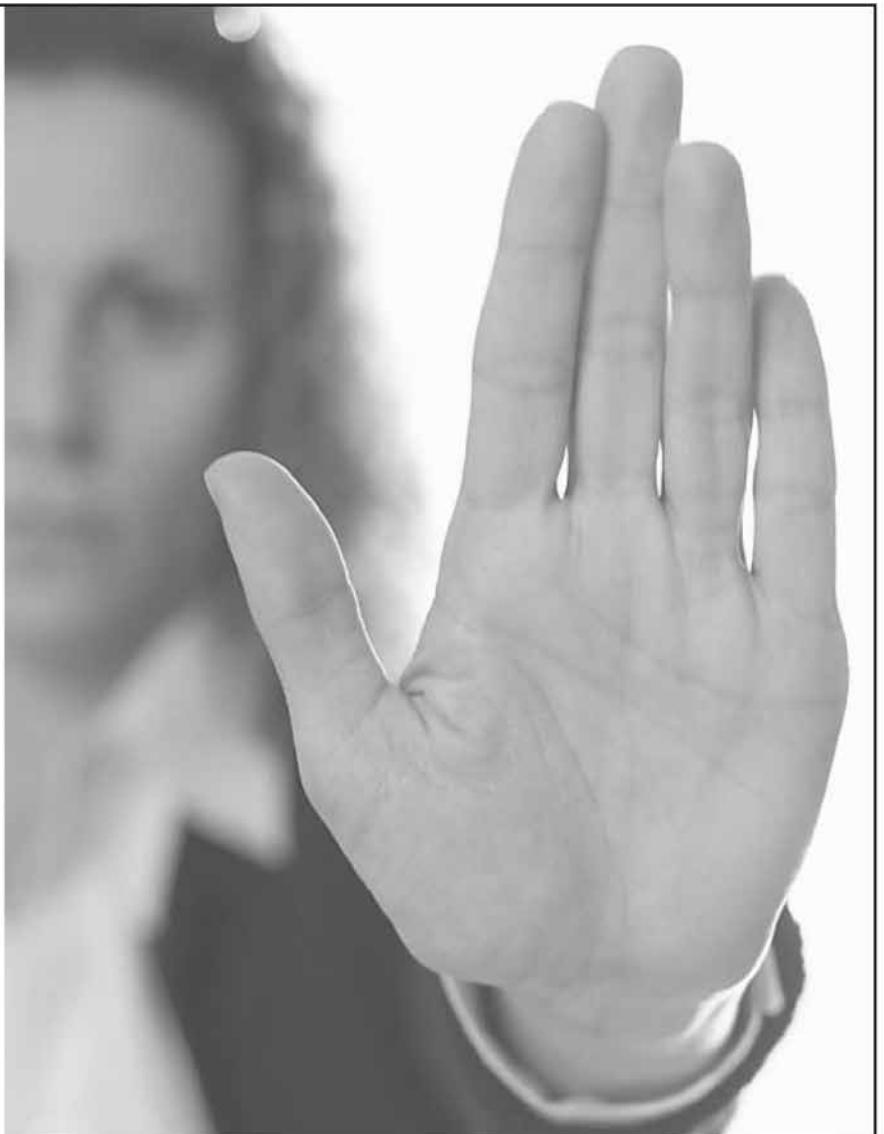
license fees are waived for two days with residents and out-of-state visitors allowed to enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species

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 —

of fish during their respective open seasons.

Please note all other regulations still apply during that time.

Water Quality data is online

The latest water quality data from the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Project is available online at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm> ... just click the link at the bottom of the page to see the complete report.

August 2, 2016 Porter Township Primary Election candidates

In response to a reader request, here is the list of the candidates running for positions on the Porter Township Board of Trustees:

Supervisor candidates:

Kim Evans, Republican
Cory E. Marlow, Republican
Steven A. Northrup, Republican
Terry Schutter, Republican

Clerk Candidates:

Honna Gableman, Republican
Marty Russell, Republican
Treasurer Candidates:
Helen Croninger, Republican
Tom Lutz, Republican

Trustee Candidates:

Tom Harman, Republican
David Nagy, Republican
Julie Paksi, Republican
Robert W. Schultze, Republican
Leard Wylie, Republican

LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN 3rd Annual Don Harman People's Regatta

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Launching from Lutz's on North Shore (next to Camp T.)

JUNE 25, 2016

Arrival Time: 10:30 am; Sailing/Race Time: 11 am

**Picnic lunch (hot dogs, chips) following; soft drinks and H2O provided
Adults: BYOB**

**Please provide your own life jackets and towels
(next rain date TBA)**

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by Paul DeLano
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¹ The number of sold lake homes is up 22% from 4/1/15 to 3/31/16 compared to 4/1/14 to 3/31/15. ² Based on data from the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors, Sales of Inland Lake Homes and Properties, from 1/1/12 to 4/1/16 in Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph Counties. Sales of properties where agents represent both the buyer and seller are given 200% credit by the MLS.

BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



Saturday, June 18

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 southside 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 Southside: Pam VanHuffle 244-3487, Mike Machalleck 476-2642, Diana Wozny 476-7054 or Lisa Groszek 219-384-0349; Eastside: Linda Yoshizawa 476-2308; Northside: Carol Freihofer 476-9823; Cove: Vickie Rogers 476-2383; Westside: Tom Kuhn 476-7075

Children 3 and under are free

Ages 3-6 \$4

Ages 6-Adult are \$8

Paid for by the Committees to Elect Cory Marlow, Honna Gableman and Tom Lutz



Cory Marlow

A candidate for Porter Township Supervisor, lives with his wife and their son on Shavehead Lake. Cory is Executive Vice President at Financial Partners Inc./Raymond James Financial Services in Elkhart, IN and is a partner with Bacon Hill Kitchen and Pub in Elkhart, IN.

Cory earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 2004 from Valparaiso University and his M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University in 2007.

Professionally, Cory has been awarded the Exemplar Financial Network Rising star award in 2013, The Spirit of Notre Dame Federal Credit Union in 2013, The Jackson National Stars Club in 2014 and 2015, and most recently has been named to the Michiana Forty Under 40 class of 2016.

Cory is active in the community. He serves on the board for Camp Tanadoona on Birch Lake, serves on the board for Cockopalooza, a local cancer fundraiser in Elkhart County, and is a member of the Greater Elkhart Young Professionals, Young Professionals Network of South Bend, and Pillars of Elkhart.

Cory's hobbies include golfing, boating, spending time with his family including his dog Ruby, snowmobiling, fishing, and cooking.

Cory's vision for the Township revolves around fairness, transparency, and fiscal responsibility, and he would be honored to help serve the local businesses and residents as Porter Township Supervisor.



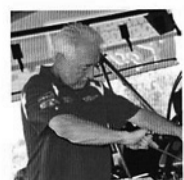
Honna Gableman

A candidate for Porter Township Clerk, lives with her husband and two daughters on Shavehead Lake. Honna has a restaurant and business management background. She's held several positions in general management, dealing in financial processes, employee oversight, multi-site office operations, and key customer account management. Her industry experience includes a history with West Palm Pizza, Sweet Endings Desserts, and 10 years with Panera Bread.

Honna graduated from Constantine High School. She has 2 Specialized Associates Degrees from the Florida Culinary Institute of West Palm Beach. Her course emphasis included business management, global cuisine, and international baking and pastries.

Honna is active in the community. She has served on the Constantine Public Schools PTO Board for 3 years and was President for 2 years. She has also been a past Member at Large for the IC School Commission in Three Rivers for 2 years.

Honna enjoys spending spare time on the family farm near Elkhart and with family, friends, and neighbors on the lake. She has a commitment to the township where she is raising her two daughters. She is passionate about fairness and efficiency. She will focus on enhancing the township, making it an inviting environment for businesses and residents. Honna would consider it a privilege to serve her neighbors as Porter Township Clerk.



Tom Lutz

A candidate for Porter Township Treasurer

Owner and President of Barromean Rings, a Michigan Corporation.

Owner and Driver of a Motorsports Team

35 year Management Career in the Recreational Vehicle Industry

University of Illinois - Criminal Justice

Home Owner and full time family resident in Porter Township since 1981

First family home on Baldwin Lake 1963

Founder and 3 time President of Long and Coverdale Lake Association

Current President of Long and Coverdale Lake Association

Military Service - Vietnam

Army Sergeant, Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Center Sniper Course Graduate

— Water Quality Report —

The amount of phosphorus in the water column is one of, if not, the most important criteria in assessing our lake's water quality. More than any other element, phosphorus limits (or allows) the growth of plants, chlorophyll and ultimately algae in the water.

The presence of any undesirable element in Birch Lake is particularly acute since our large volume and virtual lack of inlets leaves the lake to flush itself only once every 15 years.

Two weeks ago, in light of our declining TSI ratings, this column discussed at length the need to keep phosphorus out of the lake to the greatest extent possible. To that end, we plan to share with you ways to create and protect natural shorelines. We have been told this is our best bet at limiting phosphorus.

Some members of your Water Quality Committee do have a few additional theories as to why the effective amount of phosphorus (and chlorophyll and algae) within the lake have increased:

1) There seems to be a reduction, if not absence, of zebra mussels in the lake right now. (A couple of years ago the bottom was covered in zebra mussels, something not seen previously.) A recent survey of Dugan's shoreline showed no zebra mussels at any usual spot, rocks, seawall, pier posts, nothing, nada, zilch.

Additionally, a real lack of snails was noted. Some were available, but only the small, real conical ones and these were in real short and random supply. No snail tracks on the sandy bottom and none of the larger variety. If the zebra mussels are temporarily gone and with the absence of the fresh water mussels, a

massive amount of what would normally be filtered by these creatures would stay in the water column. Maybe that is a reason for our diminished clarity. We will contact some folks who study zebra mussels at MSU to see if any light can be shed on this.

Also, if Dugan's is only a random site for lack of mussels and diminished snail population, please let Terry know.

2) Somewhat fortunately excess amounts of phosphorus eventually settle to the bottom, attaches itself to the sediment there, and usually remains relatively dormant.

Perhaps equally as important as keeping phosphorus out of the lake, is to prevent the re-suspension of existing phosphorus currently at the bottom of the lake into the water column. Whenever we stir up the bottom, we free up and raise into the water column one of its most undesirable possessions, phosphorus.

While the normal boat traffic we have had on the lake can cause some re-suspension of this sedimentary phosphorus, possibly nothing stirs up the bottom and releases more phosphorus than the recently arrived/developed bladder boats whose goal is to create a 4' wave, and utilizes massive amounts of weight (up to 8200#) and horsepower (up to 550) in order to do so.

Is it only coincidental that our worst combined TSI water quality rating occurred last year, the first year Birch incurred much use by bladder boats?

In addition to enhancing turbidity and potential further phosphorous loading, waves generated on a continuous ba-



sis from these boats can lead to further shoreline erosion, and potential damage to smaller boats and docks. It sometimes seems to be lost that this is just a small lake, and the front yard for the entire lake community.

Additionally, all boat owners should refrain from acceleration where prop wash will result in bottom disturbance, i.e. outside of the raft line at the least.

Last August a column was printed in the Barker in the hope that no additional bladder boats would be introduced to Birch Lake and that those on the lake would be used only under limited circumstances.

For those that didn't see, or don't recall seeing that article, it is available online at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/2015%20Printed/No-14-Aug-22.pdf> (see page 13).

If you or anyone you know are thinking of buying one of these wave- and wake-makers and using it on our lake, please share this information with them, and urge them to reconsider! Let's protect our lake to the best of our abilities.

BLYC PRESENTS TEEN NIGHT

This is an opportunity for our teens on Birch Lake to meet and greet other teens, ages 13-17. It will be a chaperoned event, and will include refreshments, games, and music.

Date: June 25, 2016

Time 7:30 -11 pm

Place: BLYC

For more information

email Keith Kinzler @

keithkinzler@gmail.com

or call (815) 6932975

SAVE THE DATE; Birch Lake Ladies' FUN Golf Outing

**Friday, July 22; \$35 per Golfer
Diamond Lake Golf Course
Tee Off Time 9 am**

**Cost includes green fees, cart, beverages, and more FUN and GAMES than money can buy!
50/50 raffles, Team Prizes.**

**Lunch following at the BLYC
(included in cost)**

Each team is encouraged to donate a basket to raffle.

**Deadline to sign up is July 22
Get Your Teams Together!**

Team Members

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

**For more Information Watch the
Birch Barker
Bad Patty Luecht 476-2615**

FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Sailing in full swing!

Our first week of sailing is in the books, we had some very exciting races last weekend. The MCs completed one race due to the winds and gusts that we encountered. Their large sails can make treacherous when we have high winds and gusts!

The sunfish completed three races, but not without incident. The fleet captain's boat was the victim of those gusts and turtled twice before getting back to racing!

I want to thank all the sailors that

came out, and hope to see many more of you out in coming weekends!

Every week I have to thank the people that take time out of their day to help run the committee boat. This week the crew included Bad Patty, Deb Spratt, Eric and Karen Miller, and Blair Garceau. If you are interested in helping on the committee boat please give Bad Patty or me a call!

Until next week, "Splice the main brace."

~"Fleet Captain Mike"



2016 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date5Jun..... 5Jun..... 5Jun..... Total..... Season..... Races %
 Race 1 2 3 Points Average ... Finished ... Finished

MC Scow/Sailor 1

Scott Troeger #1489	1	DNS	DNS	1600	1600	1	100.0%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	2	DNS	DNS	1521	1521	1	100.0%
Phil Vitale #500	3	DNS	DNS	1444	1444	1	100.0%
Barb Cassady #2435	4	DNS	DNS	1369	1369	1	100.0%
Bill Luecht #1579	5	DNS	DNS	1296	1296	1	100.0%
Gib Eberhart #916	DNF	DNS	DNS	1156	1156	0	0.0%
Jeff Smitley #2002	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Bob King #1199	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Pat McGann	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%

Sunfish/Sailor 3

Peter Soldato	2	DNS	1	3121	1561	2	66.7%
Stewart Spratt	1	1	4	4569	1523	3	100.0%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	3	4	2	4334	1445	3	100.0%
Herb Cleveland	4	2	5	4186	1395	3	100.0%
Bob Niezgodsk	5	3	3	4184	1395	3	100.0%
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Camille Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Sandy Vitale (White)	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Bob Cassady	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Brad Davis	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Chris Lintner	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%

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

DNF (Did Not Finish), DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place).

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

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

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

SEASON PLACE = total season points/number of races attempted

CREW - Counted toward completed races, Points go to skipper of boat.



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— Barker Sailing Page —



Scenes from Racing Week 1

Thanks to **Mr. Bob** for the sailing photos

Welcome to Jaywalker

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 on the beautiful St. Joseph River
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 south side of Eagle Lake, Edwardsburg, MI



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



KOTW honors to Braden and Brody Bienz hanging out with their Favorite lake friends, Avery and Elyse Grundy.



Peggy & Dick Cowen, long-time Birch Lakers (since 1946) will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary at their west side lake home on Sunday, July 10. Plan to join them and other friends and family for reminiscing, sharing memories, laughs, cake & coffee from 3-6 pm.

KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

Send your kid of the week to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (east side), or email to SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

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— Barker Kids of the Week —

Happy 25th Anniversary

Bad Patty and Bill Luecht (east side) celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, June 8, even though Patty was at lolling at the Lake and Bill was in hard at work in Danville, IN.

According to Patty they haven't changed a bit and they both look exactly the way they did on their wedding day.

According to Bill ... well, we can't repeat that kind of stuff in a family paper.



Birch Lake (Cove) Home 62746 Woodland Drive

Newly remodeled 3 BR home on Birch Lake! New gas furnace and central air with all new duct work. New well and all new windows. New Nantucket bead board kitchen cabinets and all new appliances including a main level laundry area. Bath has all new fixtures. Open concept living and dining area with brick fireplace and skylight. Loft with bedroom, enclosed front porch and deck. All new flooring and newly insulated walls and drywall. Move in ready! \$289,900



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



No, you have to do it this way ...

Myla (bossy betty) showing Reece how to start the car. Great niece and nephew of Rick and Patti Russwurm (north shore).

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STU'S STAR STUFF



Soon after the sun sets and the sky becomes sufficiently dark to see the brighter stars, our attention is drawn to not one, but three bright planets. I know we talked about this last week but they aren't going away anytime soon. High in the southern part of the sky we can see silvery-white Jupiter, while low in the south-southeast glows amber colored Mars, while cream-colored Saturn is coming up over the southeast horizon.

If you're up at dawn and in a sporting mood you might try to glimpse speedy Mercury, though its viewing circumstances do not particularly favor lake skywatchers just now. As for the most brilliant planet of all, Venus is out of the loop all month long as it transitions from a morning to evening object; it's simply too near the sun to see.

Mars was in opposition to the Sun on May 22, and closest to Earth on May 30, so continues to dominate the evening sky in Libra. Saturn is nearby in Ophiuchus.

Mars, having made its closest approach to Earth on May 30, now begins to recede and consequently will appear from here on to gradually fade and shrink in apparent size. On June 1, this fiery colored object shined at magnitude -2.0, only a trifle fainter than Jupiter.

At the start of June, Mars was about 47.3 million miles from Earth. By month's end its distance from Earth will have increased to 53 million miles and it will have

faded to magnitude -1.4; still dazzling, but only about one-half as bright as it was at the beginning of the month.

Mars remains within the boundaries of the zodiacal constellation of Libra (the Scales) all of this month. It appears as a bright and imposing yellow-orange light low in the east-southeast sky at dusk and remains in the sky for much of the night. Even by June 30, it does not set until around 2:30 a.m.

Saturn is in opposition tomorrow in Ophiuchus. Being directly opposite the Sun, it is visible all night. The rings are spread wide, making it a beautiful sight in any telescope.

Throughout the month Saturn ascends the southeastern sky during early evening and moves westward through the night as the Earth turns. This month Saturn becomes the third planet of the year to reach opposition, that is, to be opposite the sun in our sky. For the rest of the summer Saturn will remain in the evening sky, fading slightly as Earth pulls ahead of it in its orbit. Saturn is shining at magnitude 0.0, unusually bright for this faintest of the five classical naked-eye planets. The reason is that its rings are tilted toward Earth by 26 degrees, presenting a larger-than-normal profile. The rings will be tilted to their maximum extent, 27 degrees, in October 2017.

Jupiter is prominent in the west-southwest during June's long evening twilights. It is well to the upper left of Regulus, the heart of Leo,

the lion, and draws noticeably away from the star this month. Jupiter is high enough for sharp telescopic viewing as soon as the sky darkens. The planet doesn't set until the middle of the night. This evening, Jupiter will be positioned about 4 degrees to the right and slightly above the moon.

Next week, as darkness falls, look to the south-southeast for the moon, less than 36 hours from full phase and 98-percent illuminated, sitting about 2.5 degrees to the upper left of a very bright star shining sedately with a yellowish-white hue. That "star" is, in reality, the planet Saturn. If you extend an imaginary line from the moon through Saturn and continue on at roughly twice the distance between the two, you'll come to the 1st-magnitude red star Antares in the constellation of Scorpius, the Scorpion.

Ask Sandy to make you

The Moon for this Saturday

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

Illuminated Fraction: 0.491
0.0 days before first quarter



Sunrise: 6:08
Sunset: 21:19
Moonrise: 14:01
Moonset: 2:00
First Qtr: 4:11
Day length: 15h 11m

some popcorn and go check out the show.

~*Stu Spratt*
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Elizabeth Carey and Steve Decker -- Sold our home on Indiana Lake

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Amanda North Druckeniller "Working with Vickie to sell our home was a pleasure! Our home sat on the market for a year with another realtor. We switched to Vickie and had an offer within a month! Vickie is prompt, professional and very knowledgeable in her field. I strongly recommend her for your realty needs!"

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) This is a great week for you because your communications with others are great. In fact, all your communications will benefit you, which means you can make money with your words. Watch out for financial disputes or quarrels about shared property and inheritances on Thursday. Who needs this?

Taurus (April 20-May 20) You have excellent money savvy; and many times, you learn how to make a living out of your hobby. This month, and in particular this week, your focus is on money, earnings and cash flow. You love beautiful things and are probably shopping for treasures for yourself and loved ones, especially on Monday.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Keep an eye on your money and finances on Tuesday because something unpredictable will happen. (Count your change and check your bills.) Arguments at work might arise on Thursday. Be cool. You continue to be blessed with opportunities to improve your home and explore real-estate opportunities.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Two different messages are at play for you. In one way, you want to be low-key and work alone or behind the scenes. That's because as your birthday approaches, your personal year is ending, which means this is the perfect time to plan and set goals for your new year ahead. Especially goals with deadlines - the real litmus test! Nevertheless, fiery Mars is in a playful part of your chart urging you to go on vacation, explore romance, enjoy sports events and playful times with children and socialize, socialize, socialize!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) This is a social time for Leos. You are enjoying the company of others, especially in groups, classes and big get-togethers. It's important to know that not only will you enjoy the company of others, but you will benefit from these interactions. This is an important distinction. Tuesday is a restless, mildly upsetting day because plans might change, especially travel plans.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your time in the Sun continues, which is why others will notice you more than usual, especially people in power. Since you look so favorable in their eyes, now is the time to push your agenda and go after what you want! In fact, relations with bosses and authority figures are so cozy some of you will strike up a romance, especially on Monday.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Grab every opportunity to travel for pleasure that comes your way right now because this is what you truly want to do. Basically, you need a change of scenery just for the stimulation. You're also hungry to learn something new. Some of you will enter into a new romance with someone from a different background or culture.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is a passionate time for your sign. Monday in particular is an affectionate day. Smoochie bochies! However, in addition to passion, this same influence will attract money, favors, gifts and advantages to you. In other words, this month, and especially this week, you benefit from the wealth and resources of others.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Sagittarians need more rest right now because the Sun is symbolically, as far away from your sign as it gets all year and the Sun is your source of energy. However, this same placement brings you chances to learn more about your style of relating to others.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You are so gung ho to accomplish things and be productive - you are working your buns off. (This gives you pleasure because you like to get things done!) What is really nice right now is that relations with coworkers are warm, friendly and supportive. Make such a difference! In fact, relations are so warm on Monday, some of you might start a work-related romance.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) In many ways, this is one of most fun times of the year for your sign, which is why you should grab every chance to go on vacation if it arises. Accept invitations to party. Enjoy sports events, social occasions, the arts, movies, theme parks, camping, outdoor sports and playful times with children. Romance can blossom now, especially on Monday!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) You really need to focus on home, family and your private life now because if you don't, you will stretched too thin. It's important to pull your act together so you can sally forth into the world with confidence. Find the floor of your bedroom closet. It's there. On Monday you will love to entertain at home as well as redecorate and do something to make your digs more appealing and comfortable. (This is also a good day for real-estate opportunities.)

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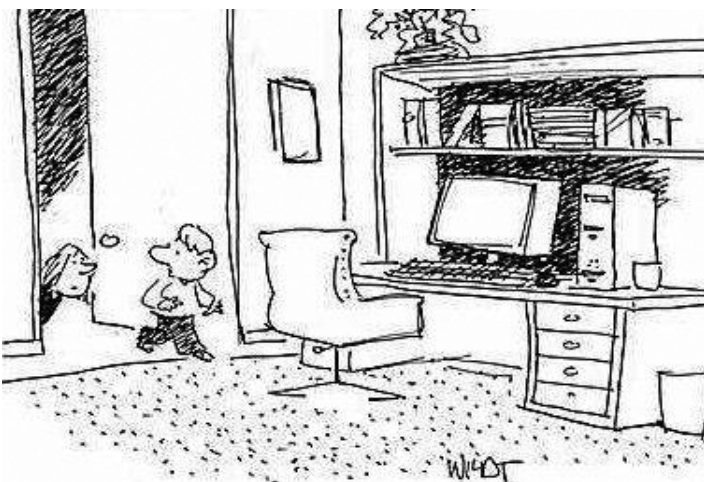


Don't confuse my PERSONALITY with my ATTITUDE...

◀ My *PERSONALITY* is who I am. ▶
My *ATTITUDE* depends on who you are!

Have you ever listened to someone for a while and wondered...
"who ties your shoelaces for you?"

WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, YOU DON'T KNOW YOU'RE DEAD. IT'S ONLY DIFFICULT FOR OTHERS.
IT'S THE SAME WAY WHEN YOU'RE STUPID.



"Shhhhh...they're in here somewhere. Dad's always talking about the cookies in his computer."



"We must be on a mailing list."

It's loosestrife season — be on the lookout!

Purple loosestrife is an erect perennial herb in the loosestrife family, with a square, woody stem and opposite or whorled leaves. Leaves are lance-shaped, stalkless, and heart-shaped or rounded at the base. Loosestrife plants grow from four to ten feet high, depending upon conditions, and produce a showy display of magenta-colored flower spikes throughout much of the summer. Flowers have five to seven petals. Mature plants can have from 30 to 50 stems arising from a single rootstock.

Purple loosestrife adapts readily to natural and disturbed wetlands. As it establishes and expands, it outcompetes and replaces native grasses, sedges, and other flowering plants that provide a higher quality source of nutrition for wildlife. The highly invasive nature of purple loosestrife allows it to form dense, homogeneous stands that restrict native wetland plant species, including some federally endangered orchids, and reduce habitat for waterfowl.

Purple loosestrife is capable of invading lakes, rivers and many wetland types, like freshwater wet meadows, tidal and non-tidal marshes, pond edges, reservoirs, and ditches.

Purple loosestrife was introduced to the northeastern U.S. and Canada in the 1800s, for ornamental and medicinal uses. It is still widely sold as an ornamental, except in states where regulations now prohibit its sale, purchase and distribution.

Purple loosestrife enjoys an extended flowering season, generally from June to September, which allows it to produce vast quantities of seed. A mature plant may have as many as thirty flowering stems capable of producing an estimated two to three million, minute seeds per year.

Purple loosestrife also readily reproduces through underground stems at a rate of about one foot per year. Many new stems may



The Enemy

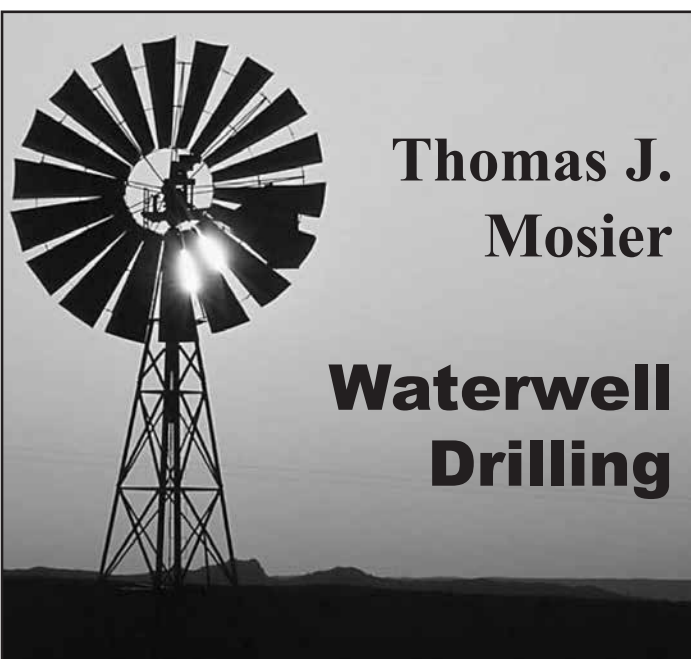
If you see a this plant (its flowers are bright purple) on our lake, please contact a Water Quality Committee member immediately for identification and eradication.

emerge vegetatively from a single rootstock of the previous year.

Small infestations of young purple loosestrife plants may be pulled by hand, preferably before seed set. For older plants, spot treating with a glyphosate

type herbicide (e.g., Rodeo® for wetlands, Roundup® for uplands) is recommended. These herbicides may be most effective when applied late in the season when plant are preparing for dormancy.

While herbicides and hand removal may be useful for controlling individual plants or small populations, biological control is seen as the most likely candidate for effective long term control of large infestations of purple loosestrife. As of 1997, three insect species from Europe have been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use as biological control agents. These plant-eating insects include a root-mining weevil, and two leaf-feeding beetles. Two flower-feeding beetles that feed on various parts of purple loosestrife plants are still under investigation. *Galerucella* and *Hylobius* have been released experimentally in natural areas in 16 northern states, from Oregon to New York. Although these beetles have been observed occasionally feeding on native plant species, their potential impact to non-target species is considered to be low.



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~Birch Lake Recipes~



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Caprese Appetizer

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Amount per serving (10 total)

Ingredients:

- 10 ounces mozzarella cheese, cubed or balls
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil with a splash of balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons fresh basil leaves, chopped

- 1 pinch salt
- 1 pinch ground black pepper
- 20 toothpicks

Directions:

Toss tomatoes, mozzarella cheese, olive oil, basil, salt, and pepper together in a bowl until well coated. Skewer one tomato and one piece of mozzarella cheese on each toothpick.

Birch Barker Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through to 9. There is only one solution to the puzzle.

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

— Camp Tannadoonah —

Here we go! Staff training is underway as I write this, and we're preparing for the first group of campers Sunday afternoon. Just moments ago we received a couple registrations, which resulted in us surpassing our total number of campers from last summer!

We're currently at 849 campers, and our goal for the year is still to get to 900. But on this date (June 7) in 2015, we had just 775 campers registered. We didn't reach our final total of 847 until the 2nd of August! So we're really confident about being able to get to 900 by the end of the summer!

We have done some really interesting new staff training activities this year. We felt that last year's staff didn't really work well together as a team, and we really wanted to change that this year, so we brought in two camp facilitators to help with staff training. Travis and Beth Allison, from Ontario, Canada came to camp Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of staff training week to guide us through a series of sessions on community building.

One of the most impressive activities they did with the staff was to talk to them about the legacy they wanted to leave at camp after this summer. We had displays of historical information and memorabilia from camp, a photo

slideshow, and recordings of camp songs, all arranged in Morris Lodge.

The staff members were instructed to enter the cabin, and spent about an hour silently (completely silently!) walking around the building looking at the displays. At each display there was a sheet of newsprint for them to write down the answers to various questions. They were asked to tell about their favorite memories of camp, what they were most looking forward to, what things they could do to make this the best experience for campers, what things they could do that would be harmful to camp, what they hoped their impact on the campers would be, etc.

We were so impressed by how seriously they all took this exercise. There wasn't a sound in the room except the sound of camp songs playing on the speaker. It was very emotional and touching to see what people wrote, and afterwards to hear how much of an impact it had on everyone.

We also did an activity to impress upon the staff how big a responsibility their job is at camp. We asked them to come to the camp fire on the first evening and bring their most treasured, personally meaningful item that they had brought with them to camp. Many of them brought blankets, stuffed animals, photos of family and friends, and

other special items.

We then asked them to hand their item to someone else in the circle whom they had never met prior to that day. And then we went around the circle and everyone shared the story of why this object or item was so special to them. Once they had all told their stories, we discussed how they felt handing over this treasured item to a near stranger who they had only met a few hours earlier.

We talked to them about how it feels for a parent to hand over their child to our after having met our staff just 20 or 30 minutes ago. At this point, they assumed the activity was over and several people handed their items back to their owners. But.... Then we told them that the person who was holding their most precious item was going to hold on to it for the rest of the week! We think this activity will really help them understand how big a deal it is for parents to trust us to protect their children for a whole week.

We're excited for the first group of kids to arrive on Sunday! Hope to see you all at the lake.

Have a great weekend!!

~Miss Amber

Amber@tannadoonah.org



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BIRCH LAKE

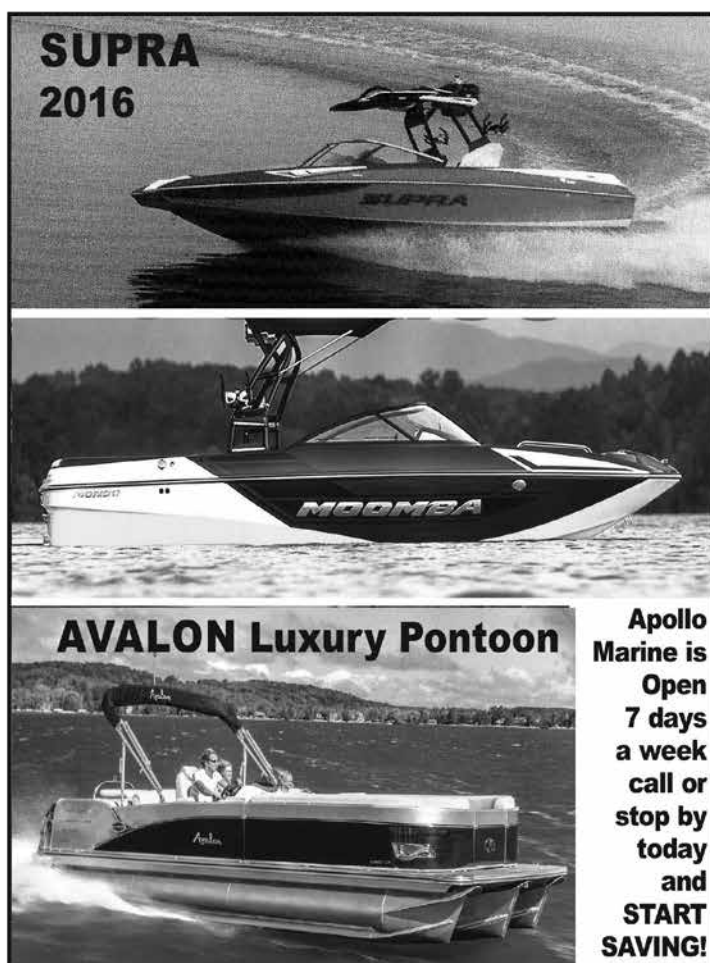
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Please call or text Linda Witchie, 269-240-4004, if you are interested in any of these items.

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We have had our family's last name on the back of our cottage for 30-plus years, and last week it was taken from

the cottage. I am sure that it is somewhat of a novelty but it has sentimental value to it since our father made it and recently passed away. We would greatly appreciate it's return to 63500 Birch Rd. Thank you. The Thomas Drinkall family

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Wanted - **Yard maintenance person** for the summer. Contact Stewart at 476-2113

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FOUND

FOUND: **A large, round, white buoy** washed up to our shore this spring. Call Chas at 574-315-0217 if you're missing yours.

Found: **styrofoam noodle (pink) and boogie board (blue).** Call Tom Kuhn 708-772-7373/Jan Temple (847-846-8600)

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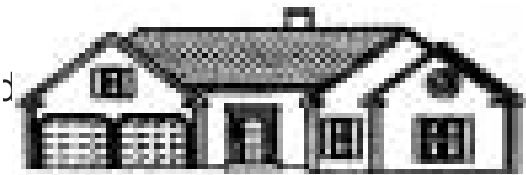
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*Associate membership is available to current associate members
and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC
- \$___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$___ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$___ - Fireworks Fund
- \$___ - Water Quality Program
- \$___ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication
- \$___ - Safety Committee
- \$___ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$___ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$___ - Misc.

Total contribution:

\$_____

Name _____

Address _____

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