

The
weekend
Of

July 29
2017

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Cindy Bernaciak (east side) for a photo of our visiting loon.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Too fast? We wait all year for this season and it goes so quickly. So grab your moments of fun. Speaking of fun, I was right, the Ladies golf outing was a blast and the Men's Outing and Corn and Sausage Roast are taking place this weekend. Both are a great time. Hope for good weather. I am anxious to see who finds the rubber ducks floating in the lake!

Did anyone see the big limousine this past week? Dennis and I share close birthdays so our children picked us up and took us out to dinner. There is something about a limo that makes you let your hair down. Or was it the champagne? Dennis and I both turned 50. We also have some Florida swamp land for sale.

The menu for the BLYC Fall Dinner looks delicious! Thank you to our Vice Commodore, Karen Curtis Miller, for making the arrangements.

The dinner is always exciting because it is when the new Vice Commodore is revealed and the current Vice becomes Commodore. I encourage everyone to step up to be the Commodore at some point. You will have great support from everyone on the lake. Check this Barker for dinner info.

And remember the FLOTILLA! Friday August 11, 6:30 pm. Meet in the middle!

Last but not least be safe! Moonbeam Moment from the book The Four Agreements: Be impeccable with your word, Don't take anything personally, Don't make assumptions, Always do your best

~Commodore Claudia

Friday Night Flotilla! August 11 – 6:30 pm

Due to past years' successful flotillas, let's do it again! We have had over a dozen boats tied together in the past.

Meet in the middle of the lake with your boat. Bring an Appetizer. Boats will be tied together and we will walk from boat to boat sharing food and camaraderie.

2017 Birch Lake Calendar

People's Regatta - July 29, 10:30 am
Remembering Stan - July 29, 5 pm
Corn & Sausage Roast - July 29, 5:30 pm
Friday Night Flotilla - August 11, 6:30 pm
Fall Dinner - August 26
Tour of Heddon Museum - September 16
Soup Challenge - October 14
October 29 - Memorial Mass for Stanley Pitakos, Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg, time tba

Upcoming Board of Directors Meetings:
August 5, Sept. 9

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

Look for the boats in the middle! Check future Barkers for a Labor Day Weekend Flotilla.

Corn & Sausage Roast is today, July 29, – It's here, come eat!

Today is The Day! It's time to gather your families and neighbors for the annual Corn & Sausage Roast. From

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. Deadline is 3 pm on Tuesday. E-mail materials to sailorphil@philvital.com, or put the items in the stone/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). 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 Commodore Claudia Phipps at 476-7073 or email claudia2154@gmail.com. ~Phil V

— Birch Lake Notes —

5:30 to 7:30 pm on Saturday at the Yacht Club we'll be serving delectable meals consisting of your grilled meat choice, roasted corn, a selection of side dishes, cookies and lemonade or iced tea. Get ready for a chicken breast (\$8), bratwurst (\$7) or hot dog (\$4) meal. (NOTE: We'll only have a limited supply of chicken breasts – arrive early for your best chances to snag one). What a value! Pay at the door – no reservations required! Come hungry, enjoy some summertime favorites, visit with your neighbors and leave happy and satisfied! Hope to see you there!

Compassion Cupboard

The Compassion Cupboard at the First Church of God Cassopolis, 21083 Spencer Rd., Cassopolis, will be open from 9 to 11 am. The food pantry will be open on July 29 and August 26, and the Feed the Hungry Food Truck will at the church from 4-6 pm on August 23.

Fishing Lures, Local History

On Saturday, September 16, (4 pm) arrangements have been made for Birch Lakers to tour The Heddon Fishing Lure Museum (there are lures, reels, poles and antique cars!). It is a fascinating piece of local history as well as fishing history. Dinner at the Wounded Minnow would follow the tour. This tour/dinner is open to everyone: men, women, children (sorry no pets!) If you

Remembering Stanley Pitakos

Come raise a glass before the Corn & Sausage Roast to honor former Commodore Stan Pitakos, who passed away in October last year. Stan was an important cog in the C&S grill team, and this year's Roast will be dedicated to him. Come to the grill at the Yacht Club at 5 pm (30 minutes before C&S start time), Saturday 29, to celebrate Stan's life and what he meant to Birch Lake. In addition, for those interested there will be a Mass in Stan's memory at Our Lady of the Lake Church in



Edwardsburg on October 29. More details in the Fall.

are interested in joining us for a brief overview of the lures and how they came to the couple who owns the museum and then enjoy a good hamburger please contact me. We have enough interest to make this event happen, however, contact me if you want to join us so I can give the museum and the Minnow a head count. The museum is free (donations welcome). Below is a brief account of this local history.

"In the late 1890s James Heddon launched a hand-made lure into a Dowagiac, Mich. pond, and the ripples are still expanding. It marked the beginning of a new era – the artificial-lure fishing era – for all anglers. Heddon is the manufacturer of legendary lures,

including the Spook, Torpedo, Lucky 13 and many more" (heddonlures.com). Joan and Don, a local Dowagiac couple, stumbled into obtaining a vast number of the antique Heddon lures and have created the Heddon Museum.

~Blair Garceau

476-9862, bgarceau@comcast.net

Kathy the mail carrier is retiring

Hi everyone. I wanted to let you know that I am retiring from the Post Office on October 31.

You should know how much I have enjoyed serving you for 34 years. Following Junior wasn't easy but I did it.

You have all been so kind letting me

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Birch Lake Notes

in your homes when nature calls, leaving snacks in your mail boxes, sitting on your porches waiting for a tow truck when my car broke down, being there for me when Danny died and planting morning glories by your boxes when my mom died. You have all been more than customers to me. We have formed friendships that I will never forget. I will miss all of you -- and I will miss your dogs too!
Peace to all,

~Kathy Wishart

High speed Internet project

Birch Lake is part of the Jones zone for the high-speed Internet construction project by Midwest Energy. Midwest Energy is looking for more sign ups before they will begin construction in our area for 2018. The more sign ups they receive in our zone the more quickly construction will begin. Spread the word! Advise friends and family to sign up on teamfiber.com.

Birch Lake Totes

Birch Lake Totes are again available for just \$5 each (special pricing for large orders). Call Bad Patty Luecht at 476-2615.

The Birch Barker

The deadline for submitting mate-



That's the crop duster that visited the fields on the north-east corner of Birch Lake last week and buzzed over the top of the trees and houses.

rials for any given Birch Barker is 3 pm on the Tuesday prior to publication. The printed Birch Barker is online ... to see any week, go to www.philvital.com and follow the links to

the "Latest Printed Birch Barker."

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BLYC Ladies Golf



photos by the SparkyCam



Raindrops finally quit falling on our heads!

'R'aindrops keep falling on my head' ... That was how our golf outing started last Thursday! Hoping it would go north or south of us, we had a rain delay until 10 am, but the rain kept falling! However, we didn't let that "rain on our parade!" We did a flip-flop, went to the BLYC, and had an early lunch.

Our fantastic volunteers, Sandy Baucus, Deb Bolinger, Patti Russwurm, Julie Sheffieck and Deb Spratt kicked it into high gear, and had it ready and waiting for us. We made the best of a bad situation, and the outing went on!! By 12:30 pm we were back on the course and were able to continue and get our golf game going.

It was a hot, sticky afternoon, but the Birch Lake Ladies' FUN Golf teams are the best, and no one complained! Thank you so much, ladies!! We had 8 teams playing this year.

Winners were:

First place: Claudia Phipps, Brittney Marlow, Becky Wiseman and Allyson Weaver-Gills

Second place: Sue Waddle, Linda Curtis, Denise Trybula and Carol McCoy

Third place: Amy Lutz, Carla Chester, Sandy Vitale, Bad Patty Luecht

Fourth place: Blair Garceau, Linda Bergan, Vickie Rodgers, Leslie King

Fifth place: Sue Williams, Connie Young, Debbie Soldato, and Cheri Vanderberg

Sixth place: Sheri Tubinis, Lois Groszek, Pat Guzzi, and Judy Gibson

Seventh place: Denny Weesner, Lynn DeCocker, Mardy Miller, and Georgine Dierlam

Eighth place: Angela Bergan, Linda Mintz, Ilene Golden, and Cheri Schuster. Thanks to all the women that came out to have FUN!!

None of this could have happened

without our generous sponsors: Denise, Jeff and Wrigley Smitley, Amy and Mike Lutz, Good Patti and Rick Russwurm, Pat McGann, Phil and Sandy Vitale, Bob and Sue Waddle, Celia and Paul Fallon, Linda and Terry Curtis and Lee Oswalt (Jimmy's). Many, many thanks to you for donating!

And to Staci and Ashley Whiteman for keeping the drink cart rolling and the ladies happy. Pam VanHuffel sold raffle and basket tickets (we had great, creative baskets to raffle, donated by all our great golf teams!!) And last, but not by no means least, Bob Waddle for taking our team pictures.

Mark your calendars for 9 am Friday, July 20, 2018! The date is already on the Diamond Lake Golf Course calendar and we will be ready to do it again!!!

Thank you all!!!

~Bad Patty

— COMMUNITY CORNER —

Watch for a “lucky duck”

by **Sarah Petty**

Hi Neighbors! Remember to keep an eye out for any “Lucky Ducks” that may still be at large. If you find one, bring it for a free admittance to the Corn and Sausage Roast on Saturday. (Limit one per household)

I want to officially thank the POTP hosts this summer, the Kinzlers, Witchies, McGanns, Luechts, and Pettys all



hosted. Please consider hosting next summer and email me if you'd like to host still this year (sarahkpetty@gmail.com).

See you on the lake, and remember to be a good neighbor!

Enjoy meeting board member, Sue Williams.

Get to know the Birch Lake Yacht Club board

Hi, I'm **Sue Williams**. I've been on the board for nine years, and had the privilege of being your Commodore just last year.

My husband, Pat, and I are approaching three decades on the south side of beautiful Birch Lake!

We have lived here full time for the last ten years.

We have three married children and four grandchildren.

And, as my grandson says, we all love “the Birch Lake life”!



2017 BLYC FALL DINNER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 AT THE YACHT CLUB

5:30 - Appetizers and Mingling

Nibble on White Cheddar Pimento Cucumber Cups; Baked Brie & Bacon Fig Jam Crostinis; Mango Salsa & Arugula Shrimp Shooters; and Feta & Watermelon Mint Bites while sharing your summer highlights with other Birch Lakers

6:30 - Dinner

Pecan Crusted Chicken w/ creamy Dijon Honey Mustard over Creamy Parmesan Herb Orzo
Spinach Berry Salad with Apple Cider Strawberry Vinaigrette
Lemon Herb Grilled Summer Vegetables with Balsamic Drizzle
Savory Breads and Rolls with Herb Olive Oil

Dessert will be an assortment of mini-treats

7:30 - Year-End Meeting

Catering provided by Chic Eats

Ticket Price: \$30 per person

Tickets must be purchased in advance and presented at the door. All tickets need to be purchased by August 19

Please contact the following Birch Lakers to purchase your tickets:

Vickie Rogers - Cove
Denise Smitley or Claudia Phipps - North Shore
Karen Curtis-Miller or Patty Luecht - East Shore
Sue Williams - South Shore
Julie Sheffieck - West Shore



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Windless Sunday

After many weeks of continuous sailing, mother nature put a hold on sailing until hopefully this Sunday. Winds were ranging around 2 mph to 4 mph, not a very good amount of wind to sail with. These light wind days can be very frustrating if you are out in a sail boat and not going anywhere. I try to make an educated decision when making the call to have the races or not. My Sundays are committed to sailing and it is hard for me to cancel sailing, but I have been out there many times when we seem to be going backwards.

This Saturday will be the make up day for the People's Regatta, bring yourself and any youngsters that might want to learn to sail or would just like to take a sailing trip. All ages are welcome, we will have sloppy joes, chips and beverages. Please BYOB. Hope to see you on Saturday, the sailing begins at 11 am.

Until Next week ...

"Splice the main brace!"

~Fleet Captain Mike"



2017 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date	16-Jul	16-Jul	16-Jul	Total	Season	Races	%
Race	16	17	18	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
MC Scow/Sailor							
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	2	24305	1519	15	93.8%
Jeff Smitley #2002	2	5	1	19410	1493	13	81.3%
Rick Harmon	DNS	DNS	DNS	2969	1485	2	12.5%
Barb Cassady/Maggie Cassady #2506	5	4	3	23355	1460	16	100.0%
Gib Eberhart #916	6	3	DNS	6782	1356	5	31.3%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	3	2	4	20330	1355	15	93.8%
Phil Vitale #500	4	7	6	10753	1344	8	50.0%
Bill Luecht #1579	7	6	5	18024	1287	14	87.5%
Pat McGann #1735	DNS	DNS	DNS	15870	1221	12	75.0%
Bob King #1199	DNS	DNS	DNS	2381	1191	2	12.5%
Sandy Vitale	DNS	DNS	DNS		0		0.0%
Sunfish/Sailor							
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	2	1	1	28093	1561	18	100.0%
Peter Soldato	1	5	4	22314	1488	15	83.3%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	4	6	5	22601	1413	16	88.9%
Herb Cleveland	5	4	3	22595	1412	16	88.9%
Stewart Spratt	3	3	2	20772	1385	15	83.3%
Brad Davis	DNS	DNS	DNS	5403	1351	4	22.2%
Pat McGann	7	2	7	3833	1278	3	16.7%
Bill Butler	6	7	8	13483	1226	10	55.6%
Camille Butler	8	8	6	18058	1204	15	83.3%
Greg Cowan	DNS	DNS	DNS	3468	1156	3	16.7%

Abbreviations explained:

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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— Water Quality Report —

Aquatic Invasive Species

Did you know it's illegal to launch a boat in Michigan if there are plants attached to the boat or trailer?

Aquatic Invasive Species, (AIS) such as zebra mussels, aggressive weeds, and fish diseases, threaten the health of our lakes and rivers, decrease water quality and can limit recreational enjoyment.

Consider these numbers:
180+ non-native aquatic organisms have colonized the Great Lakes since the 1800s.

\$24 million per year - spent to control aquatic plants in Michigan, including Eurasian water milfoil.

\$200 million per year - lost by the Great Lakes region due to the effects of ship-born invasive species on sport fishing, commercial fishing, wildlife watching, and raw water usage.

\$5.7 billion per year - amount of total economic impact of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes region.

Movement of boats and trailers among water bodies is the most common way Aquatic Invasive Species spread in Michigan. Washing is an

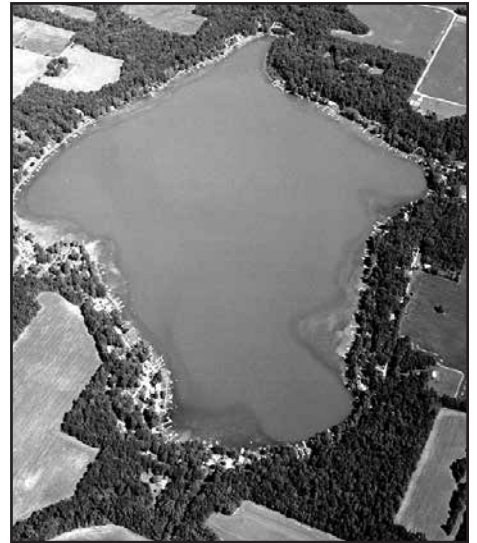
easy way to stop them.

Actions Required by the Law:

- Remove aquatic plants from boats, boating equipment and boat trailers before launching or placing in the water.
- Drain live wells, bilges and all water from boats before leaving the access site.
- Dispose of unused bait in the trash. Do not release bait into the water.
- Don't transfer fish to water bodies other than where they were caught.

Actions Recommended to Protect our Waters:

- Inspect and remove plants and mud from boats, trailers and gear and dry equipment before leaving the access area.
- Dispose of the material in a trash receptacle or otherwise away from water body, if possible.
- Power wash boats, trailers and gear before leaving the access area if possible, or at a nearby car wash or at home.
- Dry boats and equipment for at least 5 days before launching into a difference body of water.



- Disinfect live wells, bilges and gear with a bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach to 5 gallons of water.)

Using this same reasoning, fish and plants from aquariums should not be dumped in a body of water unless you are 1,000 percent sure each variety of living matter therein is native to that body of water. If at all unsure, place all matter from the aquarium in the trash.

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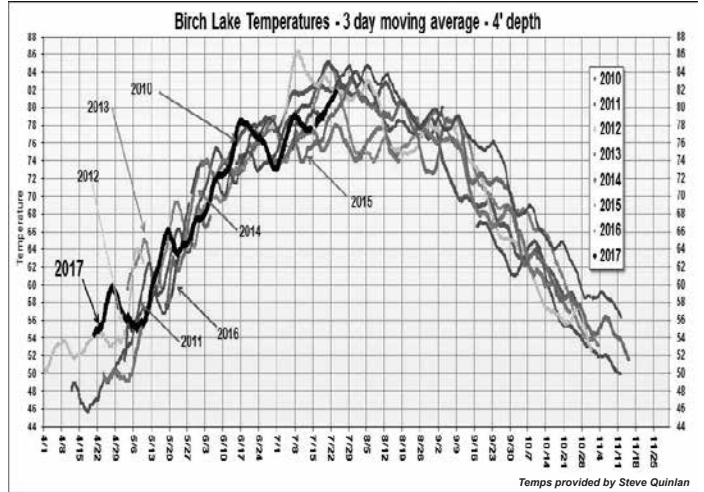
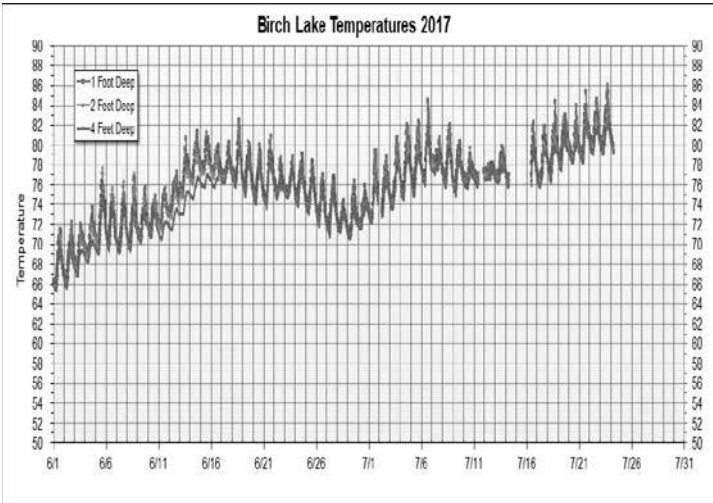
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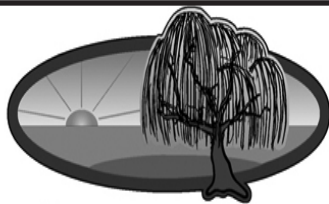
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Elizabeth Carey and Steve Decker -- Sold our home on Indiana Lake

"Vickie is an extremely dedicated professional who will make you feel like you are her top priority. She can grasp complicated situations easily, explain them to you accurately, and then wisely advise you as to what to do. We found her knowledgeable in many areas and helpful in many ways beyond her obligations as a Realtor. You will enjoy working with this personable, warm, trustworthy lady who will take the stress and strain of buying and selling a home off your shoulders and put them onto hers."

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!"

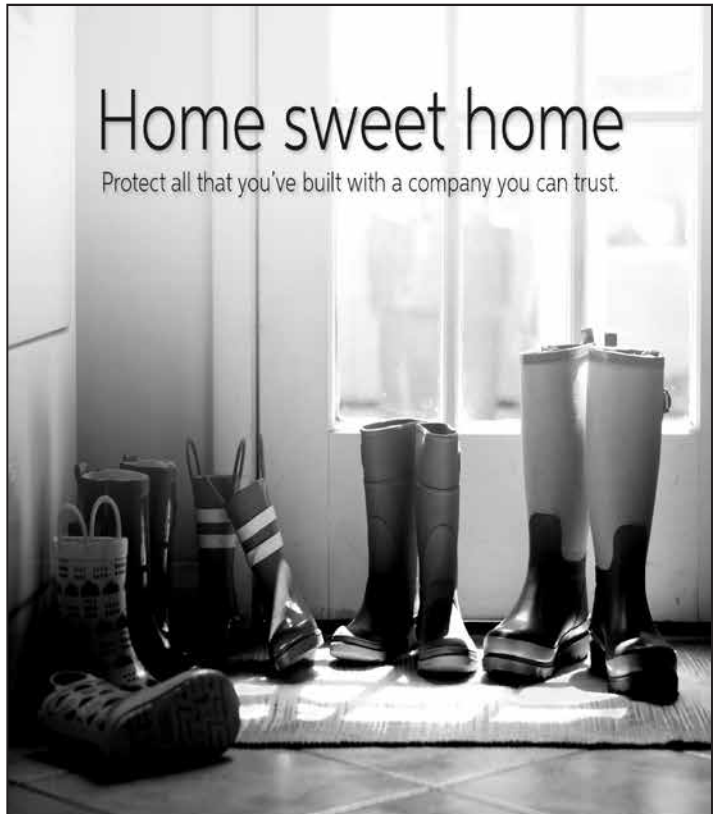
Tom Davidson -- Top qualities: Personable, Expert, High Integrity

"Vickie did an excellent job in finding a house in Michigan that represented what I was looking for. She also was instrumental in providing detailed information on the history of my property and several adjacent Birch Lake properties which along with her knowledge of building regulations allowed me to obtain a reduction in property taxes. She is dependable, knowledgeable, and follows through. I would highly recommend her."

Tony Clark -- Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

"Vickie is the hardest working and most knowledgeable Realtor I have ever known. I have flipped about 7 properties. She sold my partner's house on Eagle Lake in a couple of weeks. While another Realtor had the listing for 9 months. She helped with taxes, inspections and legal transfers that were outside of her realm of duties."

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Gorski kids visiting John and Lois Groszek (south side) for a long weekend with their parents.



Nathan & Ruby Sandler (North Shore), have made Sunday take-out-the-trash delivery service available for their north shore neighbors. Since Birch Northshore Drive is a private road, residents have to haul their weekly trash up near the camp entrance. On Monday after trash pickup Nate & Ruby deliver the emptied trash cans back to their owners. They enjoy helping neighbors and have even been hired for walking Jeff & Denise Smitley's golden retriever Wrigley.



John Groszek (south side) relaxing with family in the lake on his birthday, July 15 -- Happy Birthday John!

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Congratulations to Charlie and Marge Sheffieck, parents of Mike (Julie) Sheffieck (west side). Charlie and Marge celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the lake with Mike and his 5 siblings and their families (and two great grandchildren) from Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Texas, North Carolina and Illinois.



The Scannell/Hogoboom Reunion last Saturday was the extension of Patricia Scannell Hogoboom's 85 birthday celebration. The family took time to Chit Chat with Pat while crazy volleyball games and a Cornhole Tournament took place. We are blessed with wonderful southside neighbors who didn't seem to mind the loud, zany activities.



Hayleigh Kovach, great, great niece of John and Lois Groszek (south side) enjoying kayaking with friend Natalie while visiting the lake.

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Kid of the week honors to Elise and Avery Grundy (center, east side) and their friends, Braden Bienz (bottom left) and Brody Bienz (bottom right, hill) for forming a cool cheer-leading like pyramid on the grass.



Above: That's Aurora (aka Aurorable), granddaughter of Mike and Amy Lutz (north side).



Michele Barnhart, Bad Patty experiencing Jimmy's Bloody Mary's on her visit to Birch Lake!



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



The grandkids of Carmen and Debbie Soldato (west side) showed their stripes when the whole family, including eight grandchildren, were able to be here together at the Lake.



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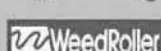
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— Barker kids of the Week —



Claudia and Dennis Phipps (north side) celebrated their birthday in style with their Family this past week.



KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Just mail your kid-of-the-week (or turtle of the week or plant of the week or whatever you've got) BEFORE 3 PM ON TUESDAYS to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a zip-lock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (east side), or email them to me at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM



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STU'S STAR STUFF



Water, water everywhere

Water. Can't live with it, can't live without it. A seemingly simple combination of two gases, one part oxygen and two parts hydrogen, makes what we know as water. The lake is full of it. We float on it, swim in it, ski on it, fish in it and even simply enjoy just looking at it. All too often it pours down upon us. It's essential for survival, yet it can kill you. There's evidence everywhere of how it's shaped our planet. A small amount where it doesn't belong can be a huge nuisance. Our bodies are 65 percent water. Hell, even beer is mostly water. So where did this amazing stuff (water, not beer) come from?

If you're inclined to believe anything you're told, without any kind of intelligent questioning, then you might think that in the beginning, before there was even light, the earth was without form and a spirit moved upon the face of the waters. Well, that doesn't really explain anything, does it? How could water exist on a formless void?

Tracing the exact source of Earth's water is surprisingly complex. The journey starts over 4.6 billion years ago

during the formation of our solar system and took a hell of a lot longer than six days to complete. A vast cloud of gas and dust hangs in space. Inside this cloud atoms of hydrogen and oxygen proliferate; two of the most abundant atoms in the universe, so, consequently you're going to get a lot of whatever it is they form. Over millions of years, these highly reactive atoms bind together to form water, H₂O. This newly formed water sticks to dust grains inside the dust cloud, slowly building up into crystals of ice. Eventually, this icy, dusty cloud becomes so dense it starts to collapse under gravity. This begins the process that forms our solar system. There's enough water here to fill the Earth's oceans three million times over.

When we see stars that are forming right now, and there are hundreds, thousands of them, we see disks of material that begin to orbit around the young stars. Gas, dust and certainly quite a bit of water in that material. Gravity pulls more and more material into the cloud, raising temperature and pressure and eventually forming a new star, much like our sun.

OK, but how did that water survive all that heat and make it to Earth? Scientists have a few different theories but they all have some problems. And we still don't know how to account for those problems.

Column space is insufficient for a proper discussion of all the possibilities. But, in a nutshell, the popular theory is that the water accumulated in the giant dust clouds

The Moon for this Saturday
 (At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
 Illuminated Fraction: 0.461
 0.3 days before first quarter



Sunrise: 06:36:04 AM
Sunset: 21:06:16 PM
Moonrise: 13:21:46
Moonset: 00:22:46 AM
 Daylight: 14 Hr 30 Min 12 Sec

was delivered to Earth in the form of comets and asteroids over millions of years. Scientists are still on the hunt for the exact sources of Earth's water. In the meantime, you can appreciate what we do know about the wet and wild history of your drinking water: it was born out of the big bang, fostered in stars and after billions of years in cold dark space it eventually ended up in your glass. Next week ... God only knows where we'll end up. But until then, the show's still free.

~Stu Spratt
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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - The next four weeks will be one of your loveliest times of the year - in all aspects of romance. This window of time is perfect for socializing, enjoying the theatre, attending parties and sports events plus enjoying playful activities with children. This is your turn to be yourself. You will feel lighter and happier as you enjoy fun times and stimulating social events.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - More than any other month of the year, the next four weeks are all about home and family. It is totally appropriate to channel your energy and focus on home and family in the next four weeks because your efforts will be rewarded in the future. George Burns was right: "Happiness is having a warm, loving, caring family in another city."

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - The next four weeks will be fast-paced upbeat, energetic and just your style! You want to see new places, interesting faces and hear fascinating ideas. Many of you will read, write and study more than usual. You will say what you mean and mean what you say!

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Except for those rare, wild moments, you are a frugal sign. You would never buy towels full retail. In the next four weeks, your focus will be on money, cash flow, earnings, assets and major purchases. You will work hard to earn money and to your amazement, you will spend money much more than usual. Ah yes, money talks but it doesn't always make sense. "Spare change?"

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - You will recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. In addition, inexplicably, you seem to attract favorable situations and important people to you. You want to take advantage of this good fortune and use it in a way that benefits you. For one thing - you will have lots of energy! You will definitely have a great need to express yourself.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Work alone or behind the scenes and play it low key. This will encourage errors and silly mistakes on your part! Fortunately, fair Venus at the top, makes you attractive in the eyes of bosses, parents and VIPs. In fact, you look so good, you might strike up a romance!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - You always like to have someone on the end of your teeter-totter. It just so happens, that the next four weeks will be the most popular time of the year for you because you will be involved with friends casual acquaintances, and most definitely, more involved with groups than you usually are. In addition, travel for pleasure will delight you! Some of you will fall in love with someone different, perhaps from another culture. Buy something to wear to the ball!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - The spotlight is on you, which means you impress bosses, parents and VIPs without doing anything special. Everyone just loves you! Because of this smoke and mirrors situation, this is obviously the time to ask for a raise, or a promotion, or make a pitch. Do whatever you can to advance your agenda with those who are powerful and have influence over you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - You are the traveler of the zodiac so you'll be happy to know that the next four weeks will bring much opportunities to blow town! Book your reservations now. Do whatever you can to get outta Dodge. If for some reason, you cannot get away, then do something different where you live. Be a tourist in your own city. Explore new places and ethnic restaurants.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - While other signs are kicking up their heels and partying or slipping away on vacation - you will find the next four weeks to be more intense than usual. On a lighter note, your sex drive will be heightened, which means you might want to purchase lingerie or book a room. (Sex is after five and before seven.)

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - In the next four weeks, your energy will be diminished. You will need more sleep and more rest during this window of time. Just accept this and go to bed. One further thing that might drain you somewhat is fiery Mars also opposes you now, and this tends to make you feel annoyed with partners and close friends.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
Two different influences are at play for the next four weeks. One will make you work hard because you will want to be the best you can be! You want to be efficient, effective and productive in everything you do both the work and at home. Grab the baton and run with it. However, another influence makes you want to redecorate where you live and relax at home and invite everyone over for a party or an evening barbecue.

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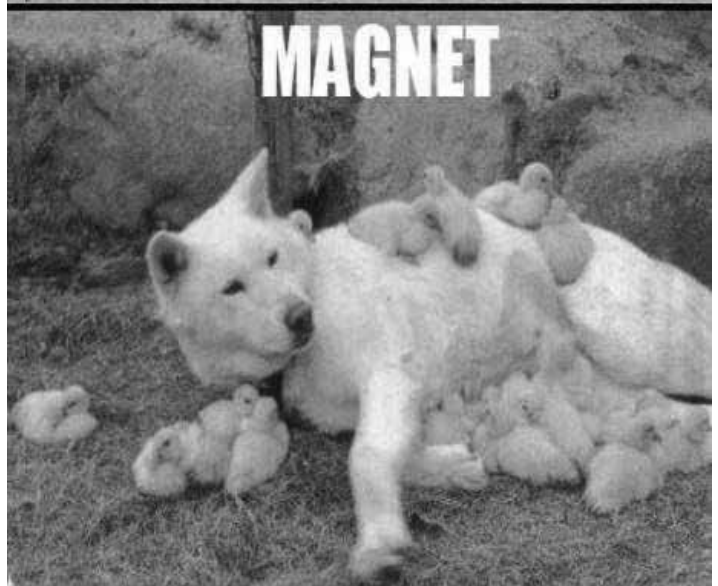
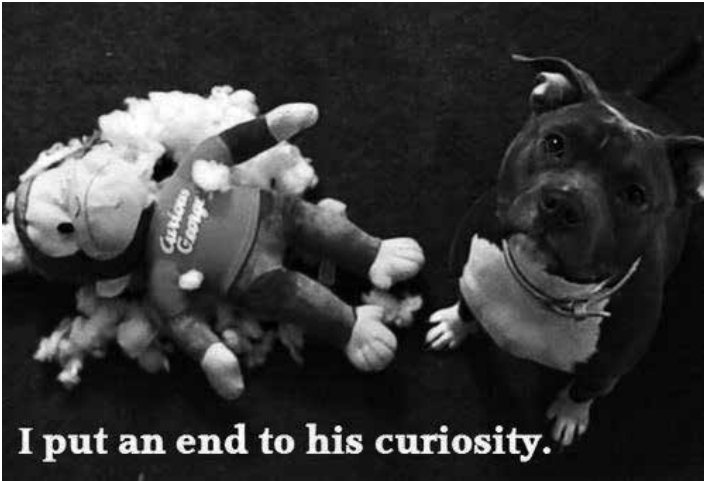
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



Apparently Mac supports Windows now.





~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Summertime favorites

Zucchini Fritters

35 Reviews
Total: 25 min
Active: 15 min
Yield: 4 servings
Level: Easy

Ingredients

2 small zucchini
2 tsp salt
4 scallions
1/4 cup chopped parsley and dill
1 egg
3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/4 cup flour
olive oil

Directions

Grate 2 small zucchini into a colander in the sink; toss with 2 teaspoons salt and let sit 10 minutes. Squeeze out the liquid. Mix with 4 minced scallions, 1/4 cup each chopped parsley and dill, 1 beaten egg, 3/4 cup grated Parmesan and 1/4 cup flour. Pan-fry spoonfuls of the mixture in



olive oil, flattening with a spatula, 3 to 4 minutes per side. Drain on paper towels and season with salt.

Best Avocado Dip Ever

4 Avocado's chopped
1 can Black Beans, drained
1 can Corn
1/2 Red Onion minced
1 cup Salsa Verde
1/2 teaspoon Salt



Mix all ingredients and enjoy.

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TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!**

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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Campers thoughts on Camp T

This morning at breakfast we asked the campers to contribute their thoughts for this week's Birch Barker article from Camp. Here's what they had to say:

From Luta Koda (12 year old girls): Luta Koda loves the inclusion and friendliness of camp. The activities and counselors are a big part of that. There are so many different things to try. And there is also the great food!

From Exchangettes (11 and 12 year old girls): The Exchangettes love Camp Tannadoonah! It gives us the freedom to do whatever we want (almost). We can play cards, sleep, read, draw, swim, and more during rest hours and free swim. We also have a period in our day where there are several activities to choose from, such as hand craft, archery, nature and drama. Plus there are store times where we can buy Camp Tannadoonah clothes and other practical things, and spend our parents money (wisely, of course). Overall freedom is a #1 priority and Camp Tannadoonah exceeds the needs (and wants) of everyone here!

From Exchange (13 year old boys): "I like camp because I love sports and games, like basketball or gaga ball.

I also like swimming, playing games with friends, like in Polar Bear, and how nice everybody is here." ~Andrew

"In camp I love the spirit of every camper and counselor, who always help you when you need it, as well as always sending positive vibes." ~Jules

"My favorite part about camp is rest hour because it's fun to talk to friends." ~**Luke**

"The thing I love about camp is everyone's attitude. All the camper are always so happy." ~**Leo**

"My favorite thing about camp is when I stood up in water skiing, and then went all the way around the lake!" ~**Isaac**

"My favorite thing is the positivity, and playing nine-square." ~**Nolan**

"I like that there are a lot of fun activities and people are really nice." ~**Gavin**

"The people in my cabin." ~**Tyler**

"My favorite thing about camp is the activities that we get to choose from." ~**Dominic**

"Meeting new friends and joking around with everyone." ~**Evan**

From Demolay (10 and 11 year old girls): Camp Tannadoonah is an amazing place to be. You get to meet new

people and hang out with old friends. Here at Tannadoonah there are plenty of opportunities to try new things and create memories, and even find your spark. Camp Tannadoonah teaches you new things to do and new things about you. Staying at camp and living in the cabins can teach you independence, manners, and respect for others. Camp Tannadoonah is loads of fun, but most of all it's our home away from home.

From the CITs (16 and 17 year olds): We are a group of CITs who have been coming to Camp Tannadoonah for a collective 49 weeks. Our favorite activities include those on the waterfront as well as handcraft and sports and games. We have enjoyed the CIT program because it has not only given us a way to come back to this place we love, but it has also increased our leadership and communication skills. Not only in the camp environment, but also in our daily lives. What keeps drawing us to this place most notably is the sense of community that arises amongst complete strangers. In a few brief words, Camp Tannadoonah is truly our home away from home.



Thanks to Cindy Rheinhardt (daughter of Bud and Barb Zesinger, east side) for the historic postcards from Camp Tannadoonah. Cindy said she came across several Camp Tannadoonah postcards in a box of old postcards that I purchased at an auction. Only one is postmarked but she believes they are all from the same year as the postmark, 1946. We will be running more in weeks ahead as space permits.



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For Sale: **used Kenmore dishwasher.** Very good condition. \$70. Contact

Tom DeCocker 476-9821

For Sale- **Green vintage wicker sofa and chair-** \$200. Contact Beth Kenagy. 269 985-8782

Ladies golf clubs, 3 woods, 7 irons, 2 wedges, putter, and bag. Balls and tees, good condition \$75.00 call 476-2383

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Seeking someone with scuba gear and training to help camp retrieve a lost sailboat rudder

LOST

Lost **Canoe Paddle,** black and gray. If found please call 269-476-7062

Camp T is missing several kayak and stand up paddleboarding paddles



Lost: **Yamaha Waverunner key fob.** If found please contact: Bill Magro @ 937-657-8988

FOUND

FOUND: One white "San Marin" **inflatable buoy,** Item Number "NB60," approximately 20" diameter, on 2/17/17. Call 476-1467.

FOUND: **Black "Kitchen Aid" grill cover.** Please call Jeff & Denise Smitley at 269.476.9000.

There is a rather **large aqua lily pad** that has washed ashore in the cove near Howard and Beth Blackwood's old place and Jim and Linda Bergan's house (cove) due to a recent storm. If anyone is missing a yellow and blue aqua lily pad please know the can find it on shore for retrieval.

Found: A white Bonita Bay Club visor floating by my North Shore dock last weekend. To recover call Bill Magro at 937-657-8988. A gratuity is not required.

Found: hat found during the sailboat

racess two Sundays ago. Contact Pat at pat@mcgannhay.com



Float found near landing, Monday night. Aqua blue, white underside with cup holder and a raised head. Intel brand. Call Bad Patty east side 476-2615.



CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to paid members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, and \$5 per ad for non-members (please pay in advance).

To submit an ad, email it to Sailorphil@philvitale.com

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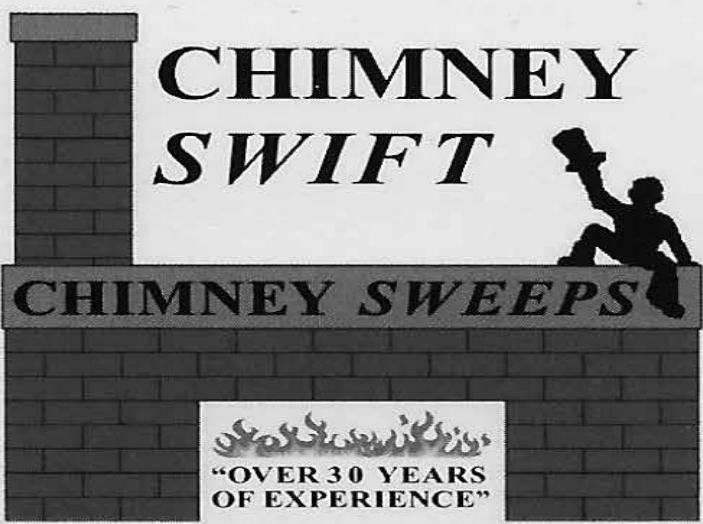
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