



Thanks to Chuck Horn for the great photo from last weekend's Hog Roast at Camp.

COMMODORE’S COMMENTS

The calendar says we have another month before fall officially begins but most of us equate summer ending with school starting. I suppose all the other activities that come along with school take up time as the main reason we think summer ends when school starts. Anyway, for those that don't have school activities to worry about, I hope our recent weather pattern (minus light or gale force winds on Sundays for our sailors) continues with the pattern we have had for the last several weeks. I hope everyone can take advantage of the summer we have left and enjoy the refreshing waters of Birch Lake.

The Birch Lake activities calendar has two BLYC sponsored events left including the Fall Dinner and Chili Cook-Off. If you don't have Fall Dinner

tickets, you are in luck as the caterer granted us an extension and you have until this Sunday, August 23 to purchase tickets. Please contact ticket sellers listed on the Fall Dinner announcement you can find in the Barker.

One reason to do this is to get the new Birch Lake Directory that has the updates that have been sent in. The updated edition is free to BLYC members that paid their dues for 2015 and will be available at the Fall Dinner. Copies can be purchased by non-members for \$5. Information is in the Barker for where to get your copy if you are not attending the dinner.

Updating the Birch Lake directory was and is a big undertaking and we all have Deb Spratt, Celia Fallon and Phil Vitale to thank for getting the work done. Phil sold ads in the directory to offset the printing cost so please patronize our Barker and Directory advertisers to show your support. Deb and Celia

2015\16 Birch Lake Calendar

Aug. 29	Fall Dinner, 5:30 Camp T
FRIDAY, Oct. 9	Chili Cookoff
2016	
May 14	Spring Dinner, Matterhorn
July 2.....	Fireworks
July 3.....	Fireworks rain date
July 22.....	BL Ladies' Golf Outing
Aug. 6.....	2019 Corn & Sausage Roast
2015 Remaining Board Meetings	
September 5	
at BLYC -- Meetings start at 9 am	
Dates subject to change.	
Watch the Barker for updates!	

solicited updates and put technology in place for lakers to update their information and Deb has been working on this since mid-May.

For the Chili Cook-Off, the date is October 9 and this is a FRIDAY. This date is not a typo on our calendar. In the

— Birch Lake Notes —



Thanks to our resident artist Duffy Dufor for the great pics!

past, we have had this event on Saturdays but in consideration for college football schedules and other fall activities, this event is on a Friday night this year.

With Labor Day approaching, signaling an end to the printed Barker for the year, the online edition will have more details as we get closer to the event date.

The 2016 Birch lake calendar sales have been good and as of this writing, there are 16 left. Look for more details in the Barker for information on how to get yours. If there are copies remaining, you may be able to get one at the Fall Dinner. Once the remaining copies are gone, no additional copies will be ordered.

And finally, another windless morn-

ing on Sunday kept our sailors in port this past week. Let's hope for better conditions this Sunday. I look forward to seeing you at Birch Lake ... where every day is an adventure.

~Commodore Fry.

Deadline extended to purchase Fall Dinner tickets

The deadline to purchase fall dinner tickets has been extended one week. The new deadline is this Sunday, August 23. Please call one of the following to purchase tickets: Claudia Phipps 476-7073, Vickie Rogers 476-2383, Denise Smitley 476-9000, or Sue Williams 476-8886. Hope to see you there!

If you are coming to the fall dinner and need assistance in getting from the parking lot to the dining hall at camp, please call Sue Williams 476-8886 to make arrangements.

2016 Birch Lake Calendars

Thanks to all the photographers who submitted photos for the 2016 Birch Lake calendar. Once again we had so many great pictures that it was hard to narrow the selection to just thirteen. The calendars are available now, and you can get them from Vickie Rogers (476-2383), Carla Chester (476-1010), Linda Yoshizawa (476-2308), or Sue Williams (476-8886). They'll also be on sale at the remaining Birch Lake events as long as they last. The cost for each

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.

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



Call us today!

Lutz Concrete

SW Michigan's FLATWORK experts

17050 M-86 — Three Rivers, MI

(269) 279-7973

mmtlconcrete@aol.com

— Birch Lake Notes —

calendar is \$15. Proceeds will go to Yacht Club improvements.

New weather station

Apparently one of our good neighbors has recently put in the equipment to monitor the weather up close and personal ... if you haven't seen it, check out <http://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dash-board?ID=KMIVANDA3#history>

BLYC parking area

The BLYC board of directors approved a quote to do the work to reclaim parking spaces at BLYC.

The work is to commence the week of August 10 and will include removing overgrown brush, small and large trees, dead trees, stump removal and planting of a shade variety of grass seed. All of this work is in the north, east and south perimeter of the existing parking area. Prime Properties is doing the work.

The grass seed will be covered with straw to retain moisture for good germination and minimize erosion. We need 400 ft of garden hose and 3 additional volunteers to do the watering of the grass seed to help insure getting a good stand of grass in the reclaimed areas. New grass seed needs to be kept moist and this will require watering twice a day for at least 3 weeks.

Congrats Harold & Donna

Donna & Harold Cranmer (west side) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a family dinner.

They have two children, Julie (Steve) Plaia of Mishawaka and Bob of Elkhart. They also have two grandsons, Jared of Mishawaka and Chad (Ellen) Plaia of Minnville, OR.

This is also Harold's 79th year of being a Birch Lake Resident. Four generations of Cranmers have enjoyed the lake and hopefully will continue to do so for years to come.



If you have been looking for a sucker to take that old garden hose off your hands because you did not have the courage to put a non- biodegradable item in landfill, this is your opportunity. I'll do everything I can to recycle them when we are done. Or, if you have hose you want back after the work is done, I'll commit to getting the hose back to you.

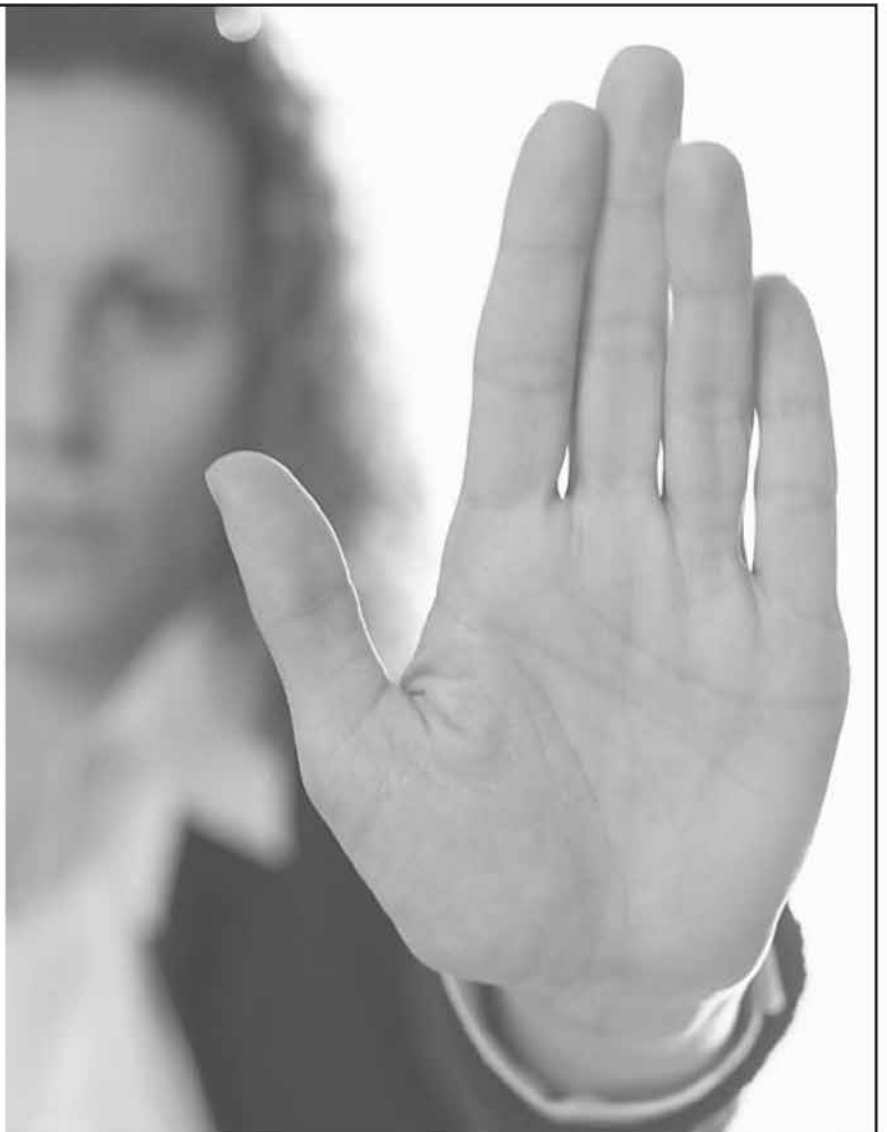
Now, let me be very clear. I don't want junk. I need hoses with good couplers including good rubber washers in the coupling (female) end. The male end should not be bent or damaged either so that it does not seat completely and correctly when connected to another hose. I don't want leaky hoses, either. Candidates should be a hose in good

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 —

working order that you have been wanting to replace for various reasons. I bet garages around here are full of them.

I thought we would work in two teams of two people. We can work out a schedule when we get closer to the seeding time expected to be the week of August 17 or 24.

Volunteers to water and donate or lend us hoses should contact Fred Freihofer on our house phone 269-476-9823 or email me at cdfreihofer@aol.com as soon as possible. Volunteers will be put through a rigorous physical test and background check (JK). Leave a message if we don't answer with a good time to reach you, and I'll get back to you.

Singin' and Dancin' into the Holidays, A Merry Como Christmas"

Before the First Jingle Bells, Turkey carving, or Ho Ho Ho's, The Company gets you into the holiday spirit with their annual Singin' and Dancin' into the Holidays 2014, aptly named A Merry Como Christmas, because it features family of the famous crooner, Perry Como. Since 1985, his daughter, Melanie Como, has been the Driving force of The Company, directing and producing these productions. Melanie Como-Dits, Wendy Como, and Paige Como are granddaughters, with the new introduction of Great-Granddaughter Abigail Wolf.



They have been in rehearsal since June, and Singin' and Dancin' into the holidays, 2015 is a new production, with new songs, and soloists.

Costuming takes center stage, as The Company prides itself in its flashy costumes and lightning fast costume changes for the entire cast. This holiday production is as close to Vaudeville (with a touch of the spirit of cabaret) as you will find in the Midwest!

Want to attend?

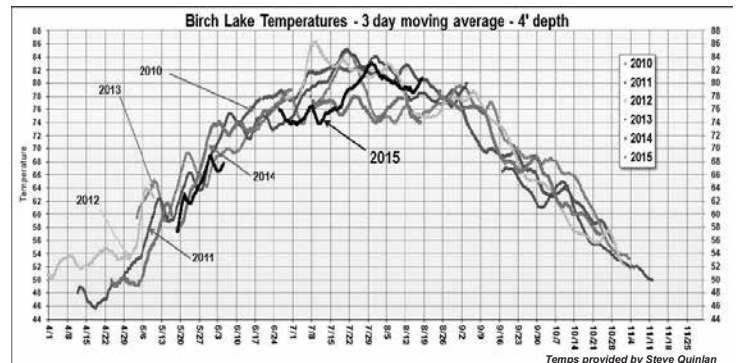
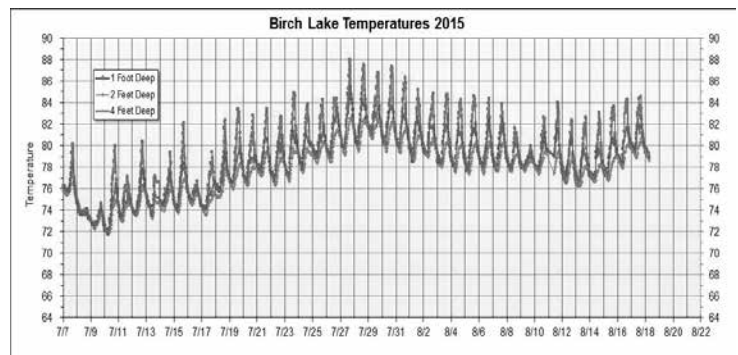
Dates : November 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21.
Place : Century Center, Recital Hall, 120 S St. Joseph street, south bend, IN
Ticket Information :There are only 200 seats so seating is extremely limited,
Ticket Prices :
Seniors \$12,
General Admission \$14.
The only way to purchase

Tickets in advance is thru the mail. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a check and the night of performance requested to The Company, 50643 Sorrel Drive, Granger, IN 46530 and the tickets will be mailed back to you. Or you can buy at the door the night of performance. Box office and doors will open at 6:30, warmup starts at 7:30 and curtain at 8. For information call Wendy Como at 574-243-7704 or 574-229-7232 www.thecompanyplayers.com facebook page: The Company Players

Directories available

The new directories will be distributed to dues paying members of the BLYC free of charge at the fall dinner. If you are unable to attend the dinner your copy will be delivered to your home. Additional copies for members are \$5 per copy. If you are interested in an updated directory but haven't paid your dues you still have time. Please send your check to Deb Spratt.

Birch Lake Water Temperature




When you have a loss...

Be A-OK

with Auto-Owners Insurance

UNION INSURANCE AGENCY
Corner of US 12 & Union Rd., Union, MI 49130
Independent Agency
269-641-5995
fax: 269-641-5787
email: Sue@unionins.net
www.unionins.net

Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business



Jim "Bubba" Baldwin
Owner/Operator
574-596-5752
13599 US 12
Union, Michigan

Hours:
Fri-Sat. 9:30am-7:30pm
Sunday 10am-5pm

 facebook.com/bubbasmart

Camp T's hog roast



Photos by Chuck Horn and Claudia Phipps



Calling all BIRCH LAKE Dogs
To the 2nd annual
POOCH PARADE!

SATURDAY, September 5th
Raindate, September 6th
Registration 10:30 A.m.
Parade 11:00 A.m.
Grand Marshall: Our own local Veterinarian
Duffy DUFOUR

All Birch Lake Dogs and their owners are invited to meet at the Sears Memorial Park boat landing for a Labor Day dog parade celebration. Parking for spectators and participants will be available at designated marked areas on Birch Road and at the landing. After the 10:30 a.m. registration, the parade commences at the boat landing at 11:00 a.m. and proceeds north on Birch Road, ending for the award ceremony at the home of Dennis and Claudia Phipps.

Costumes are encouraged.

All are invited to stay for an after celebration where food and drink will be provided for pooches and pooch parents.

Prizes will be awarded in these categories:

BEST COSTUME
LARGEST DOG
SMALLEST
CUTEST
Owner-PET look alike
Bushiest Tail
Longest Ears
& more

All participants will receive doggy AND human treats!
Participants and spectators are encouraged to donate to the Cass County Humane Society and to the cost of the event. Donation boxes will be along the parade route and at registration.
Spectators are greatly encouraged and may provide water for the dogs.
Bring lawn chairs!

PARADE RULES:

Animals must be current on vaccinations

No aggressive animals or females that are in season

Animals must be on a leash and in control by their owner at ALL times

Pet owners must pooper scoop after their dogs

Parade organizers:

Carla Chester, Linda Curtis,
Claudia Phipps

Note from organizers: Last year we had 19 dogs for the first year! We are hoping to have more this year. We have made changes/improvements. There will be music and all participants will be in single file for the viewing pleasure of the spectators. There will be a celebration after the awards ceremony and complimentary rides back to the landing. For those who are unsure of their dog's behavior, last year the dogs were lively at registration, completely calm during the parade, and in love with each other by the awards ceremony!

2015 BLYC Fall Dinner

At Camp Tannadoonah

Saturday August 29, 2015

Social Hour 5:30

Appetizers/Beer & Wine

Dinner Served 6:30

1/2# Marinated Chicken Breast

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Green Beans with Bacon

Salad & Dinner Rolls

Dessert

Lemonade

Iced Tea

Year End Meeting 7:30

Ticket price: \$25.00*

Deadline to purchase tickets extended to Sunday, Aug 23!

Call today to order your tickets!

***Claudia Phipps at 476-7073, Vickie Rogers at 476-2383,
Denny Weesner at 476-2569, or Denise Smitley at 476-9000***

Tickets must be purchased in advance and presented at the door

— Barker Kids of the Week —

Pam Van Huffel was treated to a makeover by Hello Gorgeous last Monday. She was pampered and sparkled and greeted by a group of 50 admirers, consisting of family, former teaching colleagues from St. Matthew's, and Birch Lake buddies. Husband Alan had the tough job of deceiving Pam beforehand. He did a great job. (Pam looked HOT!)



Michigan LAKES *and* LAND



14965 Birch North Shore Dr
4 beds, 2 baths
155 feet of frontage on North Shore
\$729,000



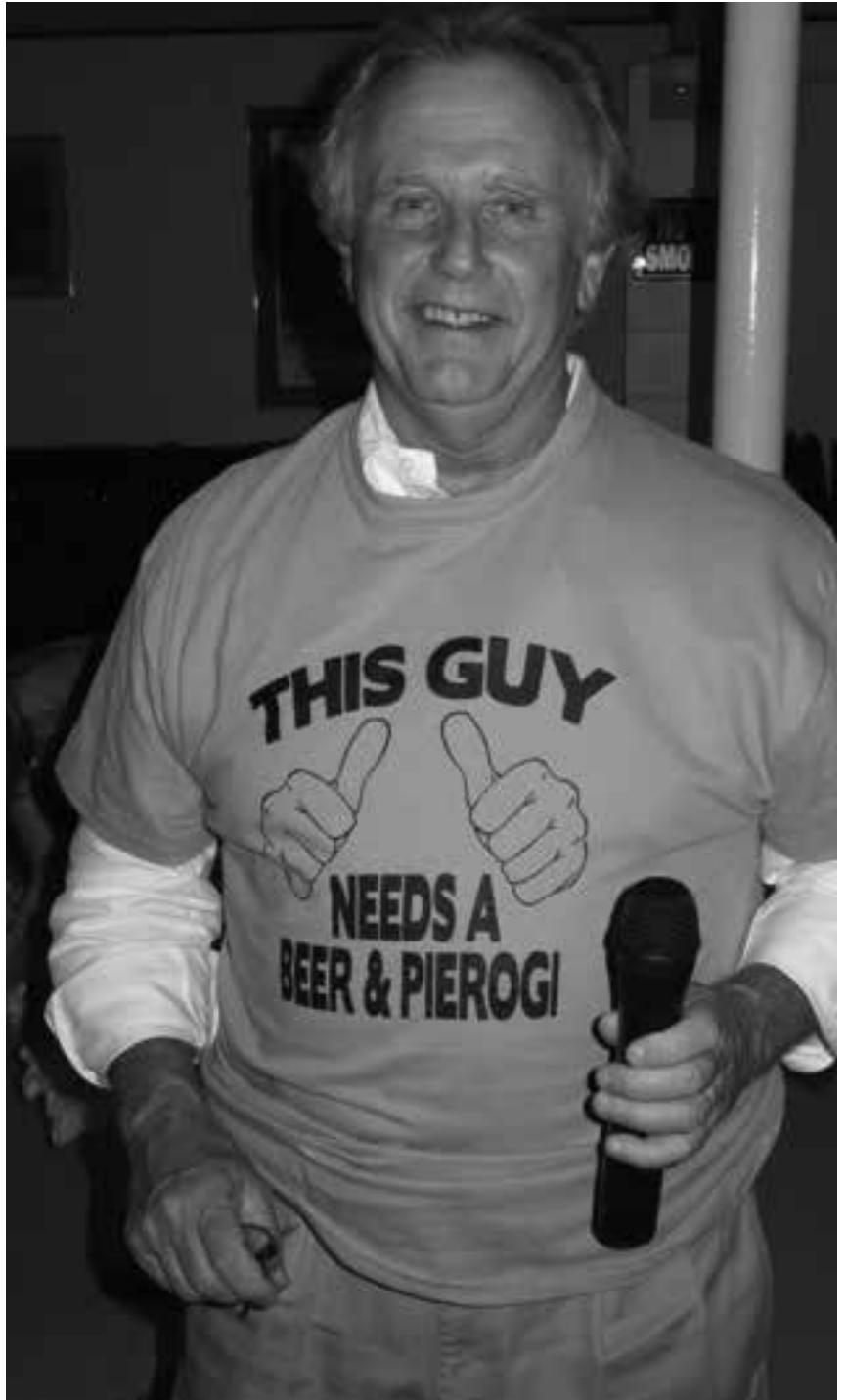
62350 Birch Road
Newly Remodeled 4 bed, 3.5 bath
Parking for up to 9 Cars
\$599,000



63344 Birch Road
Turn Key Option Available
Custom Built 4 bed, 2.5 bath
\$798,500

Call Paul DeLano, (574) 536-6363
SW Michigan's #1 Inland Lake Realtor since 2012

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Susan Davis organized and hosted a 65th birthday party for Tim Burchell, lifelong resident and recent owner at Birch Lake. Many friends, both old ones and new ones from Birch attended, bringing great food for a traditional Polish dinner. We had a fun evening with our "old" friend ... who will never grow old.



KB Village Express

M60
CASSOPOLIS
269-445-2754

Come Visit our new
WINE & SPIRITS

Department — Huge Selection!

We have MARINE gas

91 Octane, No Ethanol! — recommended for 2- and 4-stroke engines

Hunting, Fishing licenses, bait available

Open 24 hours

Liquor ~ Beer ~ Wine

Liquor sales 7 am to 2 am

Fuel special: 20¢ off per gallon with
Soft-Cloth Car Wash



— Barker Kids of the Week —



Had a great summer with the “kids” Nick and Angela (son of Jim & Linda Bergan, Cove), and let’s not forget Seminole. As they head back to Florida for the winter months, they will be missed by all.



Four of the Quinlan grandkids (west side) ready to ride!

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 my stone mailbox at my home (east side), email at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

McGann Hay
FUNERALS • CREMATIONS • GATHERINGS
SINCE 1842

New Granger Chapel

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

574-232-1411
www.mcgannhay.com

“The perfect location between Michigan and Indiana”

SUPRA
2014 BEYOND BETTER

CLOSEOUT SAVINGS AVAILABLE NOW!

Moomba
Wakeboard Boats

Avalon **Luxury Pontoon**

Apollo Marine is Open 7 days a week call or stop by today and START SAVING!



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

1-888-996-BOAT

We rent Pontoon Boats
Service to most area lakes!

WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET

— Barker Kids of the Week —



The Young man wakeboarding for the first time is Chris Ball, son of John and Jennifer Ball (east side). Chris, a 4th generation Birch lake baby, will turn 30 in September. Chris has tried to ski/wakeboard since he outgrew the flexiboard at age 10. Chris was born 10 weeks premature and has cerebral palsy. Chris can tube and kneeboard the conventional way, but with his new Zup he is able to stand and wakeboard. His brothers, Adam and Alex along with his Dad, John and family friend Mary (Carpenter, another Birch lake kid) were in the boat cheering him on. Mom (me) was too worried until I saw him stand for the first time shortly after leaving the pier. Then I couldn't stand it and followed beside the boat on the waverunner. Chris says the Birch lake angels were helping him, his great grandparents, Vernon and Genevieve Ball, grandpa, John Ball, Sr, Justin Wozny, and Grandma Do ... all who loved Birch lake and helped us instill just how special this place is in all of our boys.

Serving Michigan and Indiana



*Waterfront
Specialist!*

SusieTucker.com

susie@susietucker.com 574-320-6697



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





STU'S STAR STUFF



The Dog Days of Winter?

The “dog days.” I always thought, were those summer days so devastatingly hot that even dogs would lie around on the grass, panting.

Many people today use the phrase to mean something like that, but originally, the phrase actually had nothing to do with dogs, or even with the lazy days of summer. Instead, it turns out, the dog days refer to the dog star, Sirius, and its position in the heavens.

To the Greeks and Romans, the dog days occurred around the day when Sirius appeared to rise just before the sun, in late July. They referred to these days as the hottest time of the year, a period that could bring fever, or even catastrophe.

If you go back even as far as Homer, The Iliad is referring to Sirius as Orion’s dog rising, and it describes the star as being associated with war and disaster. All throughout Greek and Roman literature, you find such references.

The phrase “dog days” was translated from Latin to English about 500 years ago. Since then, it has taken on new meanings.

Now people come up with other explanations for why they’re called the ‘dog days’ of summer, such as, “this is when dogs can go crazy.”

This is a very human tendency. When we don’t know the origin of a phrase, we come up with a plausible explanation. Or sometimes a ridiculous one. Remember “Indiana Standard Time?” Perfect example.

The meaning has been lost, but the phrase has lived on.

So, did the Greeks get it right? Are the dog days, around when Sirius rises, really the hottest days of the year?

Well, no.

Although July and August are generally known as the hottest months of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, the hottest period can vary from year to year. And depending on your latitude, the astronomical dog days can come at different times.

In Athens, for instance, Sirius will rise around the middle of August this year. But farther south, it’ll happen earlier in the year;

farther north, it’ll happen later.

There’s another reason that the dog days don’t correspond neatly with the heat: the stars in Earth’s night sky shift independently of our calendar seasons.

As we’ve learned before, our Earth is like a spinning top. If you toss it onto a table, (the top, not the Earth), after it slows down the pointing direction of the top will slowly go around in circles. Similarly to a top, the Earth’s rotation is kind of wobbling around, an effect we know as precession.

The calendar is fixed according to certain events, such as Arbor Day and Deb’s birthday, but the stars have shifted according to the way that the Earth wobbles. So in about 50-some years, the sky shifts about one degree.

This means that the dog days of ancient Greece aren’t the dog days of today. What it also means is that several millennia from now, this astrological event won’t even occur during the summer.

In 26,000 years, the dog days would completely move all around the sky. Roughly 13,000 years from now, Sirius will be rising with the sun in mid-winter.

Ah yes, the dog days of winter. When it’s so cold that even the dogs lie around the fire, trying to stay warm.

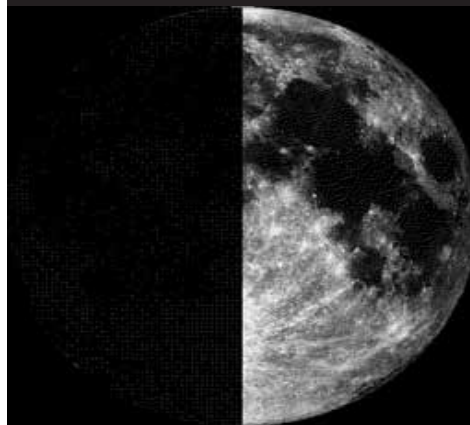
Look for Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, in the east during predawn hours this week. It should be easy to spot among the other participants in the show.

*~Stu Spratt
Celebrating
more than
51 Years at
Birch Lake*

The Moon for this Saturday

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

Illuminated Fraction: 0.542
0.5 days since first quarter



Sunrise: 6:58am
Sunset: 8:35pm
Moonrise: 2:30pm
Moonset: 12:11am
First Qtr: 3:32pm
Day length: 13h 37m

WILLOW TREE REALTY
13549 US 12, UNION MI
574-849-9957
WWW.VICKIEHALL.INFO

FEATURED BIRCH LAKE LISTINGS



Back lots for Sale

Above: Birch Lake back lots for \$15,000 each! Each lot is buildable and ready for your pole barn or guest quarters! If you have been needing more space, here is the Answer. \$15,000.

At Right: Waterfront, wooded, scenic, and in a peaceful location near the end of the road. This is a beautiful building site with frontage on Mill Pond and deeded access to Birch Lake a very short walk away. The lake access is shallow and sandy. A great place to go in for a swim. \$59,000



**For more info call Vickie Hall at
269-641-7928 or 574-849-9957**



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Another windless Sunday

Another Sunday with minimum to no winds! Thanks for everyone that waited to see if the winds would pick up. After talking to Harold twice, we both decided they were not going to increase enough to get any races in.

We will try it again this weekend.

Meanwhile ... splice the mainbrace.

~"Fleet Captain Mike"



**Teach your child
the love for sailing ...**

**and you'll never
have to worry
about drugs**



*Professional
Picture Framing
From Design
to Finish*

62 N. Main, Three Rivers, MI

269-273-9034

www.goldenfinchframe.com

*Give the gift of framing
for that personal touch*

Gift Certificates Available

~Trinkets, Artifacts & Antiques~

Dave's Residential Services

Home: (269) 476-2797

Wireless (269) 362-0724

davehardisty@comcast.net

Handyman Repairs

- * Roof to basement - inside and out
- * Floors, doors, stairways, ceilings and windows
- * Siding, roofing, driveways and sprinklers
- * Decks and fences; fascia and soffits
- * Plumbing, electrical, heating and A/C

Home Maintenance

- * Painting - interior and exterior
- * Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
- * We do windows
- * Power washing, insulation and weatherproofing

Lawn Care

- * Spring and fall yard clean up
- * Tree and shrub trimming
- * Rototill our garden
- * Mowing and Trimming
- * Fertilizing

Property Management

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

FIREWOOD AVAILABLE

Welcome to Jaywalker



Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!
10188 US 12, Mottville
on the beautiful St. Joseph River
(269) 483-2305

— Water Quality Report —

Bladder boats making waves

The following is a reprint of the lead article in Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc.'s June Newsletter:

Popularity of Wake Enhancing Boats Causing Increased Damage to Waterfront Property and Natural Areas on Michigan Waters

by **SCOTT BROWN**

ML&SA Executive Director

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations has received an increasing number of phone calls and e-mails in the past two summers from lakefront property owners expressing concern about the collateral damage rendered to docks, boats and natural shorelines by wake enhancing boats operating on Michigan's inland lakes. Wake boarding and surfing has increased in popularity in recent years and with it has come a boom in sales of wake enhancing boats designed to create large, high energy waves. Nationwide, sales of boats used for wake surfing and similar watersports increased by 14.6% last year. Increased sales of wake enhancing boats in the past couple of years has helped revive the ski-boat industry following the Great Recession, according to Jay Povlin, Vice- President of Sales and Marketing for Vonore, Tennessee-based MasterCraft.

Modern wake enhancing boats are designed with variable ballast systems which allows users to pump water into and out of ballast tanks from the surrounding water. Increasing the volume of ballast water drastically increases the boat's displacement which consequently enlarges the wake produced. The potential for damage to docks and moored boats as well as the probability of shoreline erosion increases with the wake boat displacement, hull size, overall weight, and speed. In addition, the operation of wake enhancing boats may also create

choppy and/or unpredictable conditions that are hazardous to small water craft such a kayaks and lightweight fishing boats.

Ballast laden wake enhancing boats are capable of producing wave heights, frequencies and durations that dramatically exceed those produced on inland lakes during even the most intense summer thunderstorms and/or high winds.

The increasing negative impact resulting from the operation of wake enhancing boats on inland lake fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and on personal shoreline property strongly suggests that the operation of these boats on Michigan inland waters may require increased state regulation in the near future.

In the interim, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations recommends the following operating guidelines which are intended to help minimize lakefront property damage and the ecological impact of wake boats. Wake enhancing boat operators should be advised to:

- Reduce their operating speed within 300 feet of shore;
- Not add ballast water or other extra weight to their boats;
- Not operate their boats near sandy areas, wetlands or lakefront residences;
- Avoid turning their boats in tight circles (tight circles increase wave height and frequency);
- Avoid operating their wake boats in shallow water and/or near natural shorelines

Inclusion of the above article in today's Barker is not meant to imply any criticism of either of the two Birch Lake families we know of that presently have, and occasionally use, such boats. In fact, from our perspective, both families deserve our thanks and congratulations for their efforts to be mindful of our lake and its inhabitants. Our goal in broaching this subject (other than being a reminder to those who are already familiar with the effects of bladder boats) is to educate in advance any and all who otherwise may one day consider buying or using a bladder boat on our relatively small and peaceful lake.

There are other, larger, more suitable bodies of water upon which one can exercise their right to own and operate such a potentially disruptive mechanism. If that's not a viable option for you, and your need to make waves must be abated, please be thoughtful of your neighbors and our shared environment. At a minimum, please follow the five guidelines listed within the article.

We have been told the frequent use of bladder boats on a nearby lake has increased frustration and anger, and reduced civility, to a point that those on shore have literally thrown stones at some wave-making machines as they go by. Certainly increased damages to docks, boats, shorelines, fish and wildlife habitats and water quality would all be sad and lamentable possible results of improper and/or excessive use of bladder boats, and contrary to the very altruistic reasons we come to our lake. Should any of us ever regress to the stone-throwing behavior we have heard of, most tragic would be the fact that this great gift from God (Birch Lake) might have indirectly become a factor in the loss of our humanity towards each other while here.

These opinions do not necessarily reflect those of any other individual, group, or association. Thank you for your consideration.



O'Donnell's Docks LLC

Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Serving you for over 20 years!






Sales and service of all major docks, boatlifts and water front accessories.

For an online quote, go to www.odonnellsdocks.com



12097 M-60 • Jones, MI
269-244-1446
info@odonnellsdocks.com

Authorized Dealer For:



~The Fallons

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) In the beginning of the week, surprise invitations to unusual social events will excite you. In fact, sudden opportunities to do fun things and meet people who are different from your regular friends will be quite thrilling. New flirtations could trigger a quick love affair that is memorable but temporary. Playful times with children and sports events will also be unpredictable and different.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) A spontaneous gathering might take place at your home. Possibly, a family member will surprise you with a lovely gift or an unusual suggestion. A sweet, real-estate opportunity might suddenly appear at the beginning of the week. Or you might even buy modern art or something unusual for your home or for a family member.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) This week is full of exciting activities. This might include a sudden invitation to go on a short trip; or a chance to meet someone new, who is unusual; or fantastic opportunities related to sales, marketing, teaching and acting. These are just some things that will come to you out of the blue and make this week exciting and fast-paced. Just the way you like things to be.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Be on the lookout for unexpected financial opportunities this week. You can expect a sudden change that might boost your earnings or a chance to get a better job. Some of you might impulsively buy something that is unusual and exciting. Something related to your cash flow will please you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) This week is exciting for you. You might suddenly buy an item of clothing that is unusual - but you love it. New cowboy boots? You will also receive surprise invitations to events that are unusual or different. You might also encounter someone who is avant-garde or bohemian.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This week, you feel excited and eager about life! You will be happier this year! A secret love affair or surprising flirtation might make your week sizzle. Don't get carried away if by Friday, you are worried about something. This will likely happen but it's just a temporary dark cloud on your horizon. Good judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgment.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You are a social sign. You're a born schmoozer. You will love meeting unusual people and being stimulated by unexpected connections with others. You might get an invitation to join a group. You might be introduced to someone who is "different." Possibly, someone you already know will say or do something that amazes you. The bottom line is that your social interactions with others will be sudden, surprising and liberating, for some reason.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You are high viz. now. Authority figures think you're great! Just enjoy this. In part, this is why an unexpected bonus, or promotion, or introduction might really turn your crank. You might have a sudden crush on your boss or someone in a position of authority or someone who is richer and more powerful.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) There's no question that the theme for the rest of the summer for you includes travel. This week, you might get a surprise chance to go somewhere. (Keep that bag packed by the door.) Others will have unexpected opportunities to explore in publishing, the media, medicine and the law. Or you might get a chance to get further education or take a course.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) It's true that money can't buy friends, but it will get you a better class of enemy. In fact, this is what you might encounter at the end of the week when someone restricts your idea of what to do with shared property. A relationship with someone older will limit you in some way or be a burden.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This week will be a bit of a roller coaster with your closest friendships and partnerships. At the beginning of the week, someone will surprise you with an unusual suggestion. It might be a suggestion for a different arrangement about the relationship itself. It might be something kinky. Whatever happens will keep you on your toes, that's for sure.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Get ready for some pleasant news that relates to your job, your daily tasks, or your health. It might even have something to do with a pet. Whatever this news or event is, it's unexpected, sudden, surprising and, probably a welcome thing. (There could be exceptions to this; someone might get a surprise they don't like.) But on the whole, something thrilling and out of the ordinary will delight you, possibly on Wednesday.



VOTED NILES
BUSINESS OF
THE YEAR!

Talk With A Live Person

ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

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

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

Top 10 Reasons to Choose ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

- **Licensed Plumbers**
- **Drug-Free Employees**
- **Criminal Background Checked Employees**
- **No Surprises with the Bill - You know the Cost Before the Work is Done**
- **100% Satisfaction Guaranteed**
- **True 24-Hour Emergency Service**
- **Fully Stocked Trucks - "Warehouse on Wheels"**
- **Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms**
- **Longest Warranties in the Business**
- **Our Phones are *Always* Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours**



**After Hours
Emergency
Service**



**ACCREDITED
BUSINESS**

- **Bonus — The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!**



Major Credit Cards Accepted



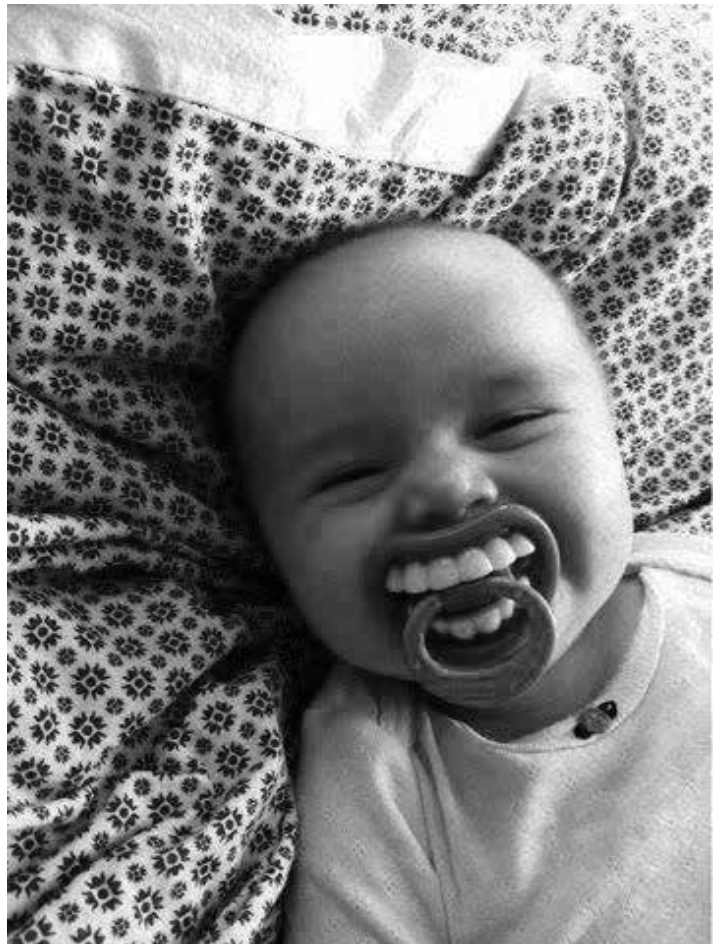
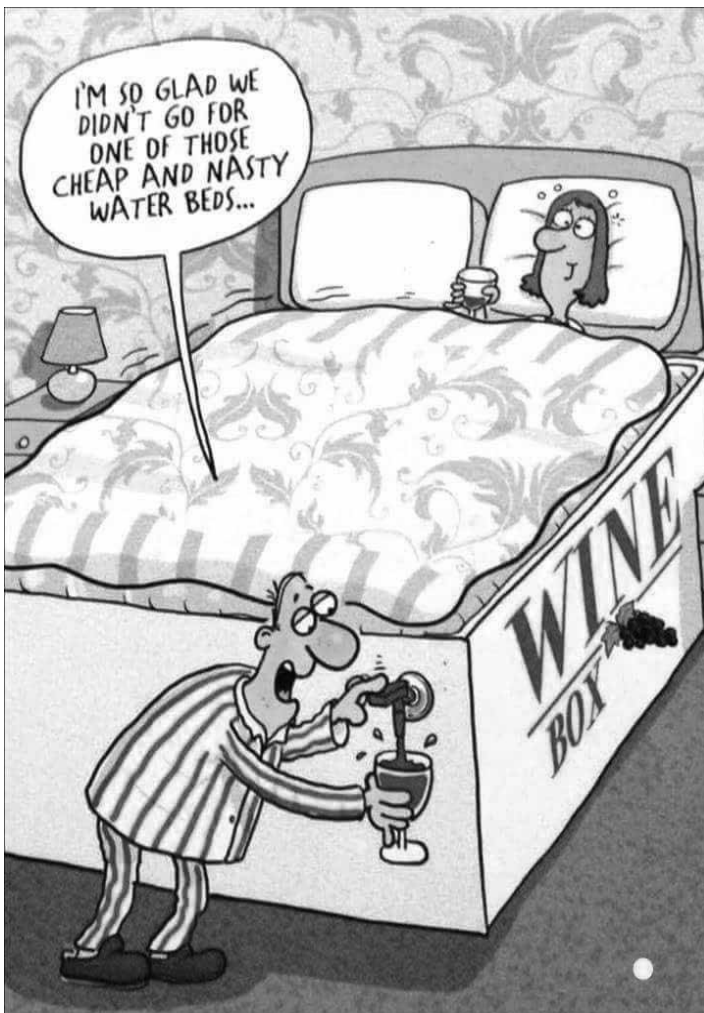
2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

269-687-7192 Niles, MI

866-751-1470 Toll Free

www.advantageplumbinginc.net

BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



BLYC Officers and Directors

2015 BLYC Officers

Fred Freihofer Commodore (N)476-9823
cdfreihofer@aol.com
Sue Williams VComm. (S).....476-8886
smwillia@comcast.net
Deb Spratt Treasurer (N).....476-2113
debspratt@cressyandeverett.com
Mike Sheffieck Secretary (W).....476-1849
mcsheff@aol.com
Mike Lutz Fleet Captain (N).....476-2843
mmtlconcrete@aol.com

2015 BLYC Directors

Patty Luecht (E) Past Comm.....476-2615
Pgalloway4@yahoo.com
Chas Grundy (H)476-7062
Chas.grundy@gmail.com
Greg Bolin (W).....476-2420

Ed Chester (E).....476-1010
ed@chesterlawoffice.com
Harold Cranmer (W)574-264-6817
dhcranmer@yahoo.com
Terry Dugan (S)476-2814
s581122@aol.com
Celia Fallon (E)476-1467
celia.fallon@gmail.com
Pam Mullin (N).....476-1080
Classegirl1@comcast.net
Vickie Rogers (C)476-2383
tvrogers@frontier.com
Rick Russwurm (N).....476-2407
paramountp@aol.com
Scott Troeger (E)476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com

Bob Waddle (E).....476-2293
sparkybob220@comcast.net
PJ Vandewalle (H)476-7086
pjvandewalle@gmail.com
Alan Van Huffel (S).....269-244-3487
abec3@aol.com
Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com
Sandy Vitale (E)476-1680
sandra.vitale@franciscanalliance.org
NON-DIRECTOR ATTENDEES:
Jim Bolinger BLYC Homeowners' Association
Chairman (E)476-9737
debo36@comcast.net
Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee
Chairman (E)476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com

DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION

No Job Too Large or Too Small!



All Types of Remodeling
*** New Home Construction ***
Restoration

Licensed & Insured Free Estimates

Bob Bienz 269-759-4010
63366 Kinsey St., Vandalia, MI
email: diamondconstr@yahoo.com

WakeSide Marine

3 YEARS AS A TOP-100 DEALER
FULLY STOCKED PRO SHOP
YOUR PADDLEBOARD SOURCE
BOATS BY NAUTIQUE
PONTOONS BY SOUTH BAY
LARGE USED BOAT SELECTION

WAKESIDE MARINE
51305 State Road 19
Elkhart, IN 46514

574.264.2874
wakesidemarine.com
fullyloadedwake.com

CHIMNEY SWIFT SWEEPS

Chimney Cleaning
Chimney Relining
Chimney Certifications
Chimney Repairs
Dryer Vent Cleaning

Ron Colborn
(574) 514-4831

We Keep Your Chimney
Safe and Drafting Properly

58550 ELLER DR OSCEOLA, IN 46561



Not just a will. A way.

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

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

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



TUESLEY · HALL · KONOPA LLP
attorneys

UNDERSTANDING. INSIGHTFUL. EFFECTIVE.

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



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Grilled Zucchini II

“Have too much zucchini from your garden? Try this quick and delicious summer recipe using your grill.”

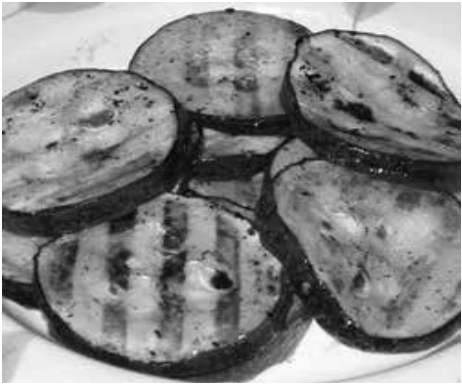
Original recipe makes 3 servings
Ingredients:

- 1 large zucchini
- 1/4 cup Italian-style salad dressing

Directions:
Slice zucchini into 1/4 inch slices. Toss in a bowl with Italian dressing.

Place on a hot grill and grill about 4 to 5 minutes or until nice grill marks appear and the zucchini is slightly limp.

Serve and enjoy.



Birch Barker Word Search

NEW WORDS/SLANG IN THE WEBSTER DICTIONARY

Find each of the following words.

TEXTATIVE
DRONBIE
SURFERSTITION
MULAH
ZUNGA
DEVIL INVESTOR
ERASIFICATION

GERASSAPIENCE
ELEVATOR SPEECH
TERRIFICATION
BALDOREXIA
FORMEMBER
FRUITER
FREEMIUM

LARP
GENEOGRAPHY
HONKENBONKERS
EMOTIONOLOGY
SURFACE
PENGUINOLOGIST

NUECRUOROBHOYASHANKENBONKERSTBEAMEH
NSTAAGNIPNESORIUNNBIBHODLBALDORIXIAII
EEGRAEDRONBEOTLRMREAEINESURFATEFTEEB
TEXTATIVVEITDORFIUOELRERVGDIAEFNIFRE
XFFREAMIUMSGYPRAPOLNADCONIKTIGATERRL
TNREFLPOLEEGTRFCDEEERIIOISILEAREAAURE
FIOPRFYUVFOIEAAIEOERHKERIUUEIESRIIRRA
VVZAIRRNTLELEVATORSPEECHORENNNPATMI
EESOODIOOLSLFNPSORRLASSERXGFRVINGOFI
MEULNLNRNOEINRFEMDECMCTUIZDINEIESNRII
RSREEGOOHONKENBONKRONNSARNNTABRISNEFT
PDRVTIASNVIKEXEFFFORMEMBBFFETEOSOTSPE
ECIOTREIHEOLMODMOLANEGEAGGITOOSE
NDEONPFMPKTAIHCIOMULAHFSEMRRTTNIIERY
GNMENOETOELIRNKAIDLECFMOARUSAIINVTNA
UENEATTERTERRIFICATISROTTREACTEIIINIS
IOTOORNXGRFORMEMBERNRUFBTMISVITIXNMI
NRTIIFFTABHNEFOSDULSRIOTBFEESATFYXIE
OEPETTHATBAMSYANLVIMOTTSIHFMTAOIIETBL
LLEAAROTITUFAZUEEROOEASKUEXBTPEONES
OENETPNISPKTFRMEZUNGARAEOEEOINOEILNLR
GVGABEKVUEITFOROOLOHAREFLTATCIRRABRN
IAIBNTEERNOSCVDPSIELEVATORSPECHIPNFR
STUAHANVFGYNNFREEMIUMTFAGORERIFSEECI
IONNEEBREUEUUUEAATFOTEROTUFIIEEELARFE
NRAISFOMRIECALLTBPRRURUUOVORZEMIERRO
TSLERRNRSNTFIRPUIIPTERIUGENE OGRAPHYR
EPOUFUKIIOPGGHDNAFOGSITS LUNIAOXTSYGF
REGNAVERTLGENOEGRAPHRFEEVEEBEDATOEBT
REIORPRYIODDRONBITNGKIZEFECADTNANAD
IFSTSISEOGOAOPOOLSGRMRC THIAAASLGGAELF
FGTEDCIONIEYOFIAARZROAACIFZUNRDGIGRI
ILTXERFGZSOEBNFPABEFOTPRRTUIRLOONPEN
CBOTCEOIMTXGFRRCMSENEIMUETFRRAAARPIL
ARMANAUNAENRUAPNNIGOFOSEMNIIFTNOAEAE
TENTAIEPB TASLELOFIBCCNUXOTXBRFNZEHXG
OETIEALFMIGDEVILINVESTGERASSAPIENCEI
IGFBMNRTNIEMAT IONOLOGYTTSAVMLTEYRNEI
NGERASSAPIENCTRETICERASIFICATOENUNPL
NIAARAEHRIRRLIELNKIMTRBUEINMARS SDIANL

— Camp Tannadoonah —

Thanks everyone!

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Hog Roast last Saturday! We are very grateful to the band, Strawberry Fields, who donated their time to perform at this event. What an awesome job they did! They also brought some friends to perform, and they did a great job as well.

We had approximately 225 people who attended the Hog Roast this year, and there was an amazing array of food. I wanted to try a little bit of everything!

Thank you to everyone who contributed a dish, and spent time at camp with us.

After the Hog Roast we were talking about how many meals we served at camp this summer, and it got us all thinking about the vast amount of food we go through each summer. We calculated that Miss Peggy and her kitchen staff prepared food for over 20,000 servings over the course of the summer.

We had an average of 106 campers per week for 8 weeks, plus 35 staff each week, and we serve 18 meals per week

(Sunday dinner through Saturday breakfast). So $106+35=141$ people per meal, multiplied by 18 meals per week, multiplied by 8 weeks = 20,304, plus a week of staff training (35 people x 18 meals = 630) = a grand total of 20,934 servings for the summer! WOW!

Even more amazing is how good the food is! We get so many compliments from campers and parents about the food at Camp, especially compared to other camps they have attended. We always have plenty of food, and there are fresh fruits and vegetables on the table every day, and a salad bar with dinner every night. Of course, it's "kid food" – meaning meals that appeal to kids – but it's still quite tasty!

The past couple years we have also had a camp garden to supplement the fresh food options. We have tomatoes, peppers, beans, cucumbers, zucchini, celery, lettuce, beets, rhubarb, cantaloupe, garlic, onions, snap peas, edamame... and more that I can't remember!

My mom, Sherry, does a fantastic job taking care of the garden at camp all summer. I plant most everything in

the spring before she arrives from Arizona, and then she takes over the weeding, watering, and tending. We don't use any chemicals or fertilizers, other than neem oil to keep the beetles out. That way we don't have to worry if a camper or staff member eats something straight out of the garden without washing it!

Unfortunately this year with the cool rainy weather at the start of the summer, most of the garden didn't ripen until the very end of the camp season. We did enjoy plenty of beans and cucumbers and zucchini, but the tomatoes and peppers came on very late this year. I'll be harvesting and canning for quite a while this fall! I'm looking forward to lots of salsas, pickles, tomato sauce, pickled beets, pepper jellies, etc.

Don't forget that next weekend is the BLYC Fall Dinner at camp! Look forward to seeing everyone there.

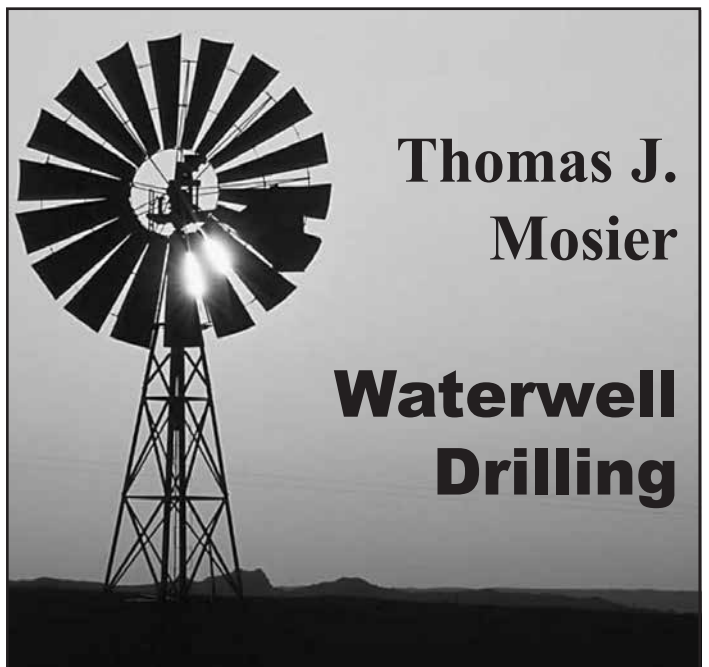
~Miss Amber

Amber@tannadoonah.org



CAMP TANNADOONAH
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org>



Thomas J.
Mosier

Waterwell
Drilling

5" Water Wells

**Repair & Service
Most Water Pumps**

"Promise of Quality"

**M-60 E
Cassopolis**

Office: 269-445-3246

Cell: 269-580-3246

Fax: 269-445-0008



**RIVERSIDE
CHURCH**

**9:30AM // 11:30AM
RIVERSIDE-CHURCH.COM**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

HOMES 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.birchlake-house.com/> for details.

FOR SALE

For sale **Sunrunner scooter** For people who have problems getting around inside or out . \$150. Call Katie or Ron 476-9317

Boat in great condition for sale. Has 2 chairs that adjust. In the water maybe 6 times. Will thrown in trolling motor and

brand new battery. \$900 new selling for \$525. Be fishing before you know it. Located in Granger, IN. Call (574) 850-4259. Carrie

Free-standing, maple-finish jewelry cabinet. Multiple drawers, doors and compartments. Nice piece of furniture. \$50 OBO. Call 476-1680.

LOST

Hobie Cat paddle for Kayak went missing from our pier in the cove after a recent storm. It is black with white "Hobie" on the paddle ends. If found contact Maureen at 269 476-4176

Lost: **Pair of Ladies Glasses.** Please contact Mel Como at 574-850-7964.

SERVICES OFFERED

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

Housecleaning and elderly care. Call Cam for details, 574-596-1066

Dog walking and babysitting services from Amanda. 10\$ and hour for babysitting and 10\$ a day for

dog walking. If interested contact Amanda @ 574-304-1799 (prices are negotiable).

I do sewing and mending at fair prices - zippers, hemming, small alterations, and sail repair Also projects not finished etc. Call Katie/Kathy at 476-9317

MISC.

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

BARKER CLASSIFIEDS
Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to 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**



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

18100 Farmington Hills Dr.

South Bend, IN 46637

DO YOU LIVE WITH A PAIN IN THE BUTT?

Maybe you have neck, back, shoulder, or knee pain.
Pain that isn't getting any better. Maybe it's getting worse.

Even if you are considering surgery
or have had surgery with little or no improvement,
there's a good chance I can help.

Chronic pain is my specialty and for 18 years
I've had incredible success treating it.

Brad Sandler, D.O.



***Spine & Orthopedic
Medicine, Inc***

Call 877.577.4631
spineorthomed.com

24 North St. Joseph Ave.
Niles, MI 49120
269.687.7246 (PAIN)

3740 Edison Lakes Parkway
Mishawaka, IN 46545
574.255.7246 (PAIN)

2500 Niles Ave., St. 3
St Joseph, MI 49085
269.428.7246 (PAIN)

**PRE-OWNED
SALES**

**BOATS, MOTORS,
LIFTS, PWCS**

**Putting the
SERVICE**

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

SERVICE above and beyond



**Indoor
Winter
Boat
Storage**

**Summer
Trailer
Storage**

Boat Butler llc

Buy A Boat — Sell Your Boat

We Buy & Sell Boats, Personal Watercraft & Boat Lifts

Open 8 days a week “by appointment” for your convenience

Pre-Owned Specialist

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

to answer all of your boating needs!

269-476-2222

or text Dave @ 312 399-3688

www.boatbutlermarine.com

We've Got You Covered!



**SUMMER'S HERE!
CALL US TODAY!**

- Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios
- Roll Curtains for Screened Porches
- Boat Covers and Tops
- Canvas Repair
- Aluminum Awnings



SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

**Call us for a free
at-home
demonstration!**



***Locally owned
and operated
since 1985***

**SUN
& SHADE
AWNING**

12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

269 244-5307
www.sunandsshadeawning.com