

The weekend of July 4 2015

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Happy Birthday America! Birch Lake will celebrate the 4th with multiple events and I hope all of you enjoy them and have a wonderful weekend.

For starters, get ready to be entertained by the boat parade which lines up for the judges and registration at 2 pm at Dick Bender's pier on Saturday, July 4. "Favorite Movies" is this year's theme. The esteemed line up of judges for this year is Marlow and J.P. Hoyer and Vicky Oros and Claude Petit. They all are awaiting your bribes and kick-back payments to give your entry special consideration. The Grand Marshals names have been top secret (kind of) but are revealed in this week's Barker.

Be sure to catch a nap after the boat parade (I probably will) so you can stay up past your bedtime to watch the fireworks show. Chas Grundy puts in a lot of time and energy working to coordinate this event and he deserves a big

thank you for making the show happen. He would not do all the work unless all of you who contribute so generously, do just that. Thank you to all that open your wallets to pony up the \$8 grand we need. Set your sights on the swimming area at Camp T around dusk on Saturday the 4th for the display. Rain date is Sunday the 5th. We need volunteers to help clean up from the show at Camp T waterfront Sunday morning.

To energize your Sunday, July 5, haul your family and guests up to Camp T for the pancake breakfast. Serving starts at 8:30 am and if you are not in line by 10:30, you may be out of luck because serving stops at 11 am. Proceeds benefit Camp T and are earmarked (political term) for new bunk beds to be hand crafted by the Birch Lake elves who volunteer their time and expertise with no pay to keep improving Camp T.

July is here and the calendar is full of events. The House Walk/ Art Fair is next weekend the 11th, The ladies FUN Golf Outing the 17th and men's Birch

2015 Birch Lake Calendar

- July 3, 4 4th of July Regatta
- July 4 Boat Parade
- July 4 Fireworks
- July 5 Pancake Breakfast
- July 11 House Walk/Art Fair
- July 17 Ladies' Golf Outing
- July 18 Rescheduled People's Regatta
- July 31 BLYC Men's Golf Outing
- Aug 1 Homeowners Assoc. annual meeting (following BLYC Board Meeting)
- Aug 8 Corn & Sausage Roast
- Aug. 29 Fall Dinner
- FRIDAY, Oct. 9 Chili Cookoff

2015 Board Meetings

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

Dates subject to change. Watch the Barker for updates!

Lake Open is the 31st. If you can, get your pictures for the 2016 calendar submitted by July 13 and who's entry will be selected for name the Eagle? See the Barker for more details.

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 Fred Freihofer at (269) 476-2615 or cdfreihofer@aol.com. ~Phil V

— Birch Lake Notes —

Let's stop the snide remarks and call it quits right here and focus on having a great weekend with family, friends and guests and while on or in the water remember, courtesy equals safety. I'll see you at Birch Lake.... where every day is an adventure.

~Commodore Fry

Don Harman People's Regatta rescheduled

Due to the tsunami we experienced on last Saturday, you all know we had to cancel the regatta.

We have rescheduled this event and the make-up date will be July 18, arrival at 10:30 am/race time 11 am.

Again, no experience necessary, and all ages are welcome. Picnic lunch following the regatta.

Soft drinks and H2O provided, but adult beverages will be BYOB.

In the event of another rain out, we have an alternate date of July 25th.

Watch the Barker for any additional updates!!!

~Bad Patty

Boat Parade Grand Marshalls

Happy Fourth of July to everyone. The moment you all have been waiting for is here, the revelation of the identities of this year's Boat Parade Grand Marshalls (sound of trumpets).

They are Linda and Terry Curtis of the northeast side.

In the autumn of 1972, on a Sunday

drive past Birch Lake, Terry noticed that the Anderson farm was for sale. The large house on the property was built in the late 1800's with locally produced lumber. They purchased the property in 1973, and after some remodeling, they moved into the large farmhouse overlooking the bay at the northeast corner of the lake. In the house they raised four children, Steve Curtis, Karen Curtis, Matt Strukel and Tina Strukel. All are grown now and leading very successful lives.

Linda and Terry decided to downsize in 1994 and built a beautiful home up on the hill behind the farmhouse. They wanted an open, airy home with a great lake view. They also wanted to be closer to nature on their 15 acres. They now feed and look after a wide variety of critters, from hummingbirds to deer.

Linda and Terry have unselfishly served the Birch Lake community since arriving here. They were both members of the Water Quality Committee in 1978 that was instrumental then in the efforts to clean up the waters of our lake by upgrading all of the septic systems in use back then. Both have served in countless other ways, from washing dishes at the Pancake Breakfasts to delivering Birch Barkers. Linda served as Commodore in 1995 and in 2013 she received the coveted Commodore's Trophy. Now Linda tends the small welcoming garden (which she created) beneath the large tree at the boat land-

ing. She also volunteers at the food pantry in Edwardsburg, and she and Terry have taken care of countless homeless stray animals. Please show them your appreciation as they lead the Boat Parade around the lake.

Judi and Doug Eichorst will have the privilege of escorting the Grand Marshalls as they lead the Parade. The parade begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday the Fourth, so please register at Dick Bender's pier before that. Remember to decorate the starboard side of your vessel. After the parade lap all boats should return to the registration pier to receive a trophy. Only one entrant will be judged "Most Outstanding."

Pancake Breakfast

Come join us this Sunday, July 5 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).

The proceeds from the breakfast this year are going to be used to buy materials and build new bunks in the Wrens and Cardinals cabins at Camp Tannadoonah. Come and have breakfast and show your support for all the great kids who attend Camp!

Simply STUNNING

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

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

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Safety notice

We had a request from a laker to provide info on the use of golf carts on roads around the lake ... Since the Michigan Vehicle Code is 3 pages long, it's prudent to provide a web link: [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(dw10xqejsnvafsrsluxjjme\)\)/printDocument.aspx?objectName=mcl-257-657a&version=txt](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(dw10xqejsnvafsrsluxjjme))/printDocument.aspx?objectName=mcl-257-657a&version=txt)

Also, in case you missed the email a couple weeks ago, we have also learned of multiple thefts and break-ins ... so, especially since there will be so much extra activity over this holiday weekend, be vigilant and call 9-1-1 if you see suspicious and/or illegal activity.

A special lady of the lake

Last week we lost a bit of Birch Lake history. Mary Cunningham Deitle passed away at the age of 102. Mary was born on Birch Lake in 1912 in what is now the main lodge at Camp Tannadoonah. She may be the only person actually born on the lake. Her father, Dr Cunningham, was a Chicago physician and the owner of the property which is now the Camp. He delivered Mary in his house.

In 1995, Mary and her daughter Ann, who was our high school classmate, spent an afternoon at our cottage. She told us many great stories about the

summer of 1920 on Birch Lake. She talked a lot about the "Indians" who were the hired help.

Mary and my mother were very active in Holy Cross parish in South Bend. They were good friends and they shared lots of great stories about Birch Lake. My mother spent many summers in a Lazy Lodge rental cabin in the 50s, where my love of Birch Lake began.

The Birch Lake legacy, like its water, runs deep and clear.

~Steve Quinlan (West side)

The full obituary at: <http://www.palmerfuneralhomes.com/notices/Mary-Deitle>

Boating safety/courtesy reminder

Boat operators are responsible for their own wake. Please be mindful when operating close to shore.

~Name withheld by request.

Kings welcome weekend guests

The King family (north shore) welcomes guests for the holiday weekend – Ric and Lisa Dwenger (Muncie) will again join us at beautiful Birch Lake. Listen for some sweet singing and [fill in the blank: guitar, banjo, dulcimer] around the fire. Sadly, due to a family health concern, Chuck and Karen Horn (Carmel) sent regrets. It's likely some (or a bunch) of Calvin's friends will join us but ... their names and number is some

sort of national security secret. Lakers are invited to stop by and visit.

4th of July Regatta

An annual appeal: over the Holiday weekend we will sail Sunfish and MC Regattas. The course is essentially a triangle (which is set according to the prevailing wind). To the extent possible, please refrain from cutting through the middle of the triangle while racing is underway. Thanks for your kind consideration in this!

~The Sailors et al

Our National Turkey

OK, it's the majestic Bald Eagle which adorns the National Seal. Thank goodness Ben Franklin wasn't in charge or it might have been the Wild Turkey. Writing a letter from France in 1784 to his daughter in Philadelphia Franklin casts doubt on the choice. An excerpt:

"... For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America... He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on ..."

In a 1775 letter published in the Pennsylvania Journal Franklin made

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 —

the case a Rattlesnake would be an appropriate symbol of the “temper and conduct of America.”

Ben was quite a tippler.

Fireworks Donations

Did you mean to make a fireworks donation but ... life got in the way? We may resurrect something from the past and send around a “last minute” donations boat for your convenience. It may be before the Boat Parade (or after) or heck ... sometime on Sunday. In any case, it will be plainly obvious that it's THE boat. If you, or your guests, would like to chip in, wave in the accompanying jet ski(s) who will accept checks (made out to Birch Lake Yacht Club),

cash, or coin of the realm. No worries though. Like everything else sponsored by BLYC, while donations are wanted and welcome, the show is free.

The State of the Lake

We are lucky at Birch. The vigilant effort to protect our water quality is a story that spans decades. Though perhaps less scientific than Secchi Disk and sample results, anecdotal evidence abounds that we remain on the right tack. This summer we witness an abundance of bullfrogs and map turtles (little ones, smaller than a half dollar). Many, many thanks to those who look after Birch, our lovely little puddle.

The State of the Lake is good!

Update your Directory listing?

Want to update your info for the Birch Lake Directory? Mail changes to Deb Spratt at 18100 Farmington Hills Drive, So. Bend, IN 46637, or email deb-spratt@cressyandeverett.com ...

It's Calendar Time!

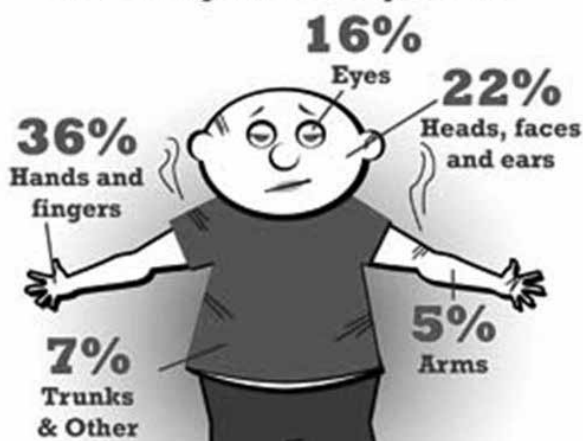
Time to submit your pictures for the 2016 Birch Lake Calendar. We need horizontal, color photos from all seasons. Since the pictures need to be enlarged, camera photos usually work better than cell phone photos. Please e-mail your best pictures (no more than five) to lin-dal1008@comcast.net or give them to Linda Yoshizawa, Vickie Rogers, Sue Williams, or Carla Chester by July 13.

If you use fireworks ... be safe

Recommended safety tips for using fireworks:

- Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.
- Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.
- A responsible adult SHOULD supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.
- Use fireworks OUTDOORS in a clear area; away from buildings, vehicles, boats and boat lifts (remember, anything you shoot up into the air will come down ... and your neighbors' boat cover will get burned!).
- Never relight a “dud” firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Always have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby.
- Never carry fireworks in your POCKET or shoot

Most Injured Body Parts



them into METAL or GLASS containers.

- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.
- Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department.

Be prepared for a sudden storm!

Be Prepared:

Before Mother Nature strikes, be prepared for a major storm. Everyone should have some basic supplies on hand to survive for at least three days in the event of an extended power outage.

Following are suggested items to keep on hand and easily accessible, although everyone should consider the unique needs of their own family in order to create an emergency kit that will provide for your needs:

- Water: at least one gallon per person, per day for drinking and sanitation. If you have pets, have extra available.
- Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food, focusing on items that can be eaten without being cooked.
- Don't forget a hand-operated can opener.
- Flashlights and a supply of fresh batteries.
- A corded telephone. Cordless phones will not work when your power is out.
- A battery-powered radio and/or television. Midwest Energy Cooperative works

with regional news media to provide regular updates about major power outages.

- A battery-powered or wind-up clock.
- A first-aid kit and hand sanitizer. Be sure to fill prescriptions and have any needed medical supplies on hand.
- Extra blankets.
- Candles and matches.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.

Storm Safety Tips:

- Stay away from downed power lines. A power line does not need to be sparking or arcing to be energized. Lines that appear to be “dead” can become energized as crews work to restore power. Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.
- Never drive over a downed line as snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.
- Be careful approaching intersections where traffic lights may be out.
- If you plan to use a generator, know

how to operate it safely.

- Turn off all appliances, including your furnace, air conditioner, water heater and water pump so you avoid a circuit overload when power is restored. Leave on one lamp to know when power has been restored.
- Keep freezer and refrigerator doors closed. Food will stay frozen for 36 to 48 hours in a fully loaded freezer if you keep the door closed. A half-full freezer will generally keep food frozen for 24 hours. If it looks like the power outage will be prolonged, prepare a cooler with ice for your freezer items.
- Keep candles away from furniture, curtains or any other flammable material. Never leave children alone in a room with a burning candle or open flame.
- Make sure cell phones and laptop computers are charged ahead of time. Consider using them only to update family and friends on conditions, and to check the weather or road conditions.

— Water Quality Report —

Exotic plant watch

On Wednesday, June 17, 2015 Birch Lake Yacht Club's Water Quality Committee participated in the Exotic Plant Watch Program through the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. Exotic plants are those not native to an area, which typically lacks any natural means to inhibit or limit the growth of these "exotic" species. They are also and interchangeably called "invasives" because invade is just what they do, particularly if left undetected and untreated for any extended length of time. We know that we have had the Eurasian milfoil and curly leaf pondweed (both largely in check), two of the exotics/invasives that are on the watch list for some time (at least 8 years). However, we also know there are scores of other potential invasives already either in Michigan waters or in those of nearby states. Thus, the goal of the program is to develop and conduct sampling programs that might catch other exotics at an early stage of introduction to a lake, leading to potentially more successful eradication and control efforts.

Paul Fallon, Gordon Seyfarth, and Terry Dugan from the Water Quality Committee, along with Phil Vitale who offered his pontoon boat and driving skills, participated in the morning sampling. We were very fortunately

joined by Angela De Palma from the Fisheries and Wildlife Dept. at Michigan State University, and Caroline, a visiting scholar to MSU from a DNR-like organization in Ireland. While we did the labor work of driving the pontoon, identifying the sampling transects, raking up the samples, and photographing, Angela and Caroline provided the expertise in identifying what we have in our lake. We did 15 transects, raking the bottom from the shoreline to about the 15 foot depth level around the periphery of the lake using transect maps provided by Gert Temple from the total plant survey of 2001 (that Rick Russwurm and Bruce Wagner of our committee had participated in.) Fortunately, other than the invasives that we knew we had, and in the locations we were aware of, the rest of the morning was quite boring (which we mean in a very good way). It was boring both in terms of finding no new exotics or invasives that are on the watch list, but also in finding the type of water plants that one might find in good healthy lakes.

What we did learn from this (in addition to no new exotics) is the process of sampling that we can do on our own for the purpose of early ID of invasives. This is something we hope to do more frequently in the future. Where



would these exotics come from? The best answer is from boats that have been in other lakes and have not been cleaned prior to launching into Birch Lake. We will be posting signage with reference to this at our boat launch, but also ask you to join us in reminding our guests to ensure their boats are clean prior to launching on our lake.

Speaking of invasives, we will discuss in a future issue of the Barker the most dangerous invasive species to our lake, and that is ourselves. For example, especially in light of all the rain we have had, please recall that, due to all the nearby grass, roofs, pavements, decks and other hard surfaces, anything (i.e. chemicals, be they from, fertilizers, exotic plants or whatever) around the lake will eventually get into the lake. Thus, a word of caution on how you use your property as to what might be going into the lake.

More to come.



Two weeks ago several members of the BLYC Water Quality Committee accompanied two MSU scientists last week on a survey looking for invasive exotic aquatic plants in our lake. The group sampled several locations and found no new species of dangerous plants. A week later the a technician dropped chemical pellets on the known Milfoil spots. Continued monitoring is planned. See the story above for more information.

photos by *Morgann Applegate* and some old guy

— Birch Lake House Walk —

House No. 3: Tom & Lynn DeCocker's 63514 Birch Rd.

Tom and Lynn DeCocker love living on Birch Lake. As he says, "Birch lake is really special."

Tom has been an avid fisherman for many years. In fact, his passion for fishing is what first brought him to Birch Lake. He fell in love with the quality and clarity of the water and its jewel-tone colors. For the next 7 years he tried to buy property on the lake, but with no luck. Then in 1992, while on a fishing trip in Canada, Tom got a call from Clem Haines. They had met at a Rotary Club event a few years earlier, and Clem promised to get in touch if he and Annie ever decided to sell their home on Birch Lake. Within two days, the deal was done — sight unseen!

The original house was torn down in 1999 and construction began on their new home in 2000. Nearly every room in the house has a beautiful view of Birch Lake. The main level offers an open floor plan that's great for entertaining — and you can see the south, west and north shores of the lake at the same time. Other special features include a three season room, open fireplace, a second kitchen in the lower level and even a "floatie room" for all of their lake toys.

The featured homes on the tour this year will be the Phipp's on the North side, the DeCocker's on the East side, the Petit's on the South side, the Vandewalle's, and the Curtis/ Miller on the East side. Due to an unexpected commitment the Kosciel-ski's won't be able to participate this year. Instead, the DeCocker's have graciously consented to share their home on the tour.



Precious family heirlooms, an artistic display of handcrafted pieces created by Tom in his woodturning shop (in Arizona), and an impressive collection of Notre Dame memorabilia — including an original door from the ND ticket office at the old stadium—add the finishing touches to this classic and comfortable home.

Tom and Lynn share a passion for gardening, and enjoy giving many of the vegetables they grow to their Birch Lake

neighbors. They also love the orioles and wrens who live in the "houses" on their lakefront.

The DeCockers both grew up in South Bend. Their 3 children and their families live in Granger and the Chicago area — and one of their 8 grandchildren lives in Barcelona, Spain. All share Tom and Lynn's passion for Birch Lake — especially when they can ski, tube and canoe with the family!

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2015
Birch Lake House Walk & Art Fair
July 11th
9:30am - 2:30pm

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

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

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

— Birch Lake House Walk —

Birch Lake House Walk

The featured homes on the tour this year will be the Phipp's on the North side, the DeCocker's on the East side, the Petit's on the South side, the Vandewalle's, and the Curtis/ Miller on the East side. Due to an unexpected commitment the Koscielski's won't be able to participate this year. Instead, the DeCocker's have graciously consented to share their home on the tour.



Dennis and Claudia Phipps
14719 Kiloqua Woods Lane



Claude Petit
14894 Birch Lakeshore Drive



Tom and Lynn DeCocker
63514 Birch Rd.



PJ and Sue Vandewalle
63306 Birch Road



Curtis-Miller
63148 Birch Road

HOUSE TOUR INFORMATION

Date: Saturday, JULY 11
Time: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Tickets \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door
Tours begin at Wozniak's barn — eastside
Limited Parking available
First boat leaves at 10 am
Boats run continuously
Last boat leaves at 12:30 pm
Refreshments available for nominal fee
All proceeds to Camp Tannadoonah
for camp scholarships
Local Artists will be displaying Pottery,
Jewelry, Paintings, Photography

— Barker Kids of the Week —

Petoskey Stone hunting has been a fun hobby of mine dating back to my own childhood. It's made me happy that my children have also picked up (no pun intended) on fossil hunting.

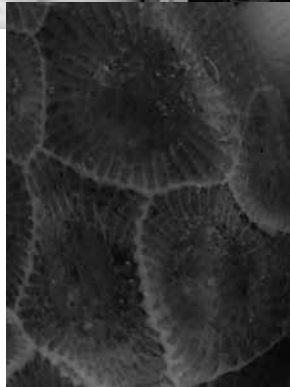
Petoskey Stones, the state stone of Michigan, are fossilized coral colonies that lived right here during the Devonian Age 400 million years ago. The land that is Michigan was a warm shallow sea located near the equator during this ancient time. Coral colonies thrive in depths up to 200 feet and there is incredible evidence of this right here at Birch Lake.

My children have found many fossils around our home and in the lake itself. In particular, my son Nathan found a Petoskey Stone right off our dock in 4 feet of water last summer while swimming with a mask. It was his first time swimming in the lake without a life jacket on. My wife Amanda and I couldn't believe our eyes.

This week Natie happened upon another Petoskey Stone. He and sister Ruby were walking up from the lake (north shore) when he spotted a gorgeous stone buried in our very own driveway! We purchased our home 2011, still have a dirt driveway, and a summer drizzle brought out the unmistakable pattern of this amazing piece of the earth's history. Ruby helped her big brother dig up the stone with sticks and I happily sanded the gem of a find on a lapidary wheel.

I have included a picture of Nate and Ruby with the buried treasure and a close up of their amazing 400 million year old find.

~Brad Sandler, Proud Daddy



Dick and Judy Lindzy
50th Wedding Anniversary

Celebrating their 50th anniversary are Richard L. Lindzy and Judith A. (Kubsch) Lindzy (West side). Dick and Judy were married on July 3, 1965 at Little Flower Catholic Church, South Bend. They had two sons, Richard (Jennifer) and Rodney (Jeanne). They have truly enjoyed being grandparents to their six grandchildren, Annmarie, Emily, Molly, Hadley, Evan and Ella.

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— Barker Kids of the Week —

Yep, that's Mr. Avery Grundy, son of Mrs. Amber and Mr. Chas of Camp T (and the hill) fame ... and Avery gets to be a Barker Kid of the Week because he hasn't been one for a long time and because he is a very cool Frood who always knows where his towel is, even if some of those older kids at camp don't!



KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

Send your kid of the week to me (or grandpa of the week or neighbor of the week or dog of the week ... we even print weeds of the week!) at 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

Be sure to include the names and other details ... and please make sure the files are 6 MB OR LESS ...

huge email attachments bog down my email server!

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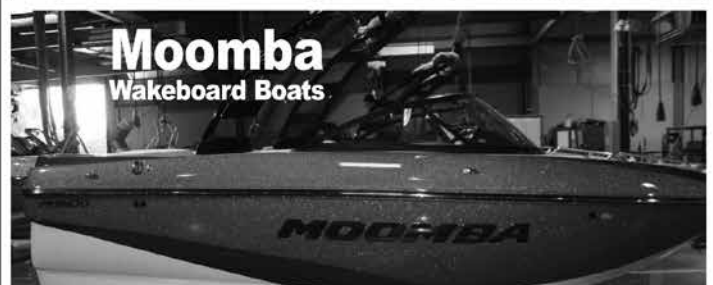
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Announcing the Annual

Birch Lake Ladies'

FUN!!!

GOLF OUTING

July 17, 2015

Diamond Lake Golf Course, Cassopolis

Lunch following — Details later

50/50 Drawing

Prizes

Entry fee \$35; includes 9 holes of golf with cart,
catered lunch (following golf at BLYC)
and more fun than legally allowed!!!

Questions? Please call 476-2615

Ladies' FUN!!! Golf Outing needs hole sponsors. Please contact Bad Patty 476-2615 Thanks so Much!

BE THERE!! GET YOUR TEAM!!!

Each team is encouraged to donate a basket to be raffled

Team Members and Entries by July 11

Please include a contact phone number for your team

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Contact Phone # _____

Checks should be made out to BLYC and dropped off to Patty Luecht
East Side 63168 Birch Rd — between Phil Vitale and "A-Frame")

BLYC 55th ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING

(4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE)

**JULY 31, 2015, \$70/MAN
SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB**

61270 Lutz Rd, Three Rivers, MI - Shotgun start at Noon; Dinner at BLYC at 6 pm

MUST HAVE REGISTRATIONS BY JULY 13, 2015

Additional Information

** team prizes and contests*

** catered dinner included*

** prizes awarded during dinner*

** looking for donations of door and team prizes. If you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated, please contact Peter Soldato at psoldato@elkhartpa.com*

* Send entries to Pete Soldato 63266 Kinsey Street, Vandalia, MI, 49095 -- hill
or Phil Vitale 63174 Birch Road, Vandalia, Michigan 49095

2015 BLYC Men's Golf Foursome Information

Team Captain:

Please Print Players names:

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Please be SAFE!

Know and Obey the Boating Safety Laws!

In Michigan, “reckless operation” of a boat, personal watercraft (JetSki), water skis, tubes, etc. which disregards the safety or rights of others or endangers people or property are illegal.

Some examples are:

- Weaving through traffic or swerving at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision
- Jumping the wake of another vessel
- Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife
- Causing damage from the wake of your vessel

Failure To Regulate Speed is operating a boat at speeds that may cause danger to life or property of any other person or at speeds that will not permit you to bring your vessel to a safe stop.

It is illegal to operate a boat:

- Over 55 mph
- At greater than “*slow, no wake speed*” when a person is in on the foredeck of a boat
- Faster than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions (weather, traffic, etc.)

Improper Distance is not maintaining a proper distance while operating a boat or towing a person. To maintain a proper distance when you are operating at greater than “*slow, no wake speed*” the boat or persons being towed **must not be within 100 feet of:**

- A shoreline
- Any moored or anchored vessel
- A dock or raft
- Any marked swimming area or person(s) in the water

“*Slow, No Wake Speed*” means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering, and which does not

create a wake.

Improper Direction is defined as the failure to operate in a COUNTERCLOCKWISE direction.

Riding on the Bow is illegal if the vessel is not equipped with bow seating and the vessel is operating at greater than “*slow, no wake speed*.” Persons also are not allowed to ride on the gunwale. While underway, persons on a vessel may not sit, stand, or walk on any portion of a vessel not designed for that purpose.

Insufficient equipment is operating a vessel that is not carrying, storing, maintaining, and using marine safety equipment on board the vessel as required by the Department of Natural Resources.

RESTRICTED AREA Camp Tannadoonah



Under Michigan law, Boating in Restricted Areas is defined as operating within a restricted area clearly marked by buoys, beacons, diver-down flags, etc.

On Birch Lake the area marked by the buoys in front of Camp Tannadoonah on the north shore is a legally designated swim area that **BOATS MAY NOT ENTER.**

Staying afloat: Life jackets, vests and floats

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

All boats must carry with a personal flotation device for each person on board or being towed. Michigan law requires all children under 6 years old to wear a USCG–approved Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any boat while underway. All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.

Boats less than 16 feet long (including a canoe or kayak) must have either a Type I, II, or III or a throwable PFD for each person on board.

In addition to the above requirements, one USCG–approved Type IV PFD must be on board vessels 16 feet or longer and be readily accessible.

Each person riding on a PWC or being towed behind a PWC or boat (all skiers, tubers, etc.) must wear a USCG–approved Type I, II, or III personal flotation device. Inflatable PFDs are not allowed.

Type I: Offshore Life Jackets



These vests are geared for rough waters where rescue may take a while. They provide the most buoyancy, are excellent for flotation, and will turn most unconscious

persons face up in the water.

Type II: Near-Shore Vests

These vests are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. A Type II may not turn some unconscious wearers face up in the water.



Type III: Flotation Aids

These vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. They are not



recommended for rough waters since they will not turn most unconscious persons face up.

Type IV: Throwable Devices



These cushions and ring buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble.

Since a Type IV is not designed to be worn, it is neither for rough waters nor for persons who are unable to hold onto it.

TYPE V: Special-Use Devices

These vests, deck suits, hybrid PFDs, and others are designed for specific activities such as windsurfing, kayaking, or water-skiing. To be acceptable, Type V PFDs must be used in accordance with their label.



Special laws apply to personal watercraft (PWC's, JetSkis, etc.)

Safety Requirements

- Anyone riding or being towed by a PWC must wear a Type I, II, or III PFD. Inflatable PFDs may not be used.
- Children under 7 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- The lanyard of a PWC's ignition safety switch must be attached to the operator.
- PWCs must be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner at all times.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- To operate a PWC from sunset until 8 am.
- Jump the wake of another boat close to the other boat.
- Weave through congested traffic.
- Swerve at the last possible moment to avoid collision.
- PWCs must be operated at “*slow, no wake speed*” if crossing within 150 feet behind another vessel.
- You may not operate a PWC in waters less than two feet deep unless you are operating at “*slow, no wake speed*” or docking or launching.
- It is illegal to harass wildlife or disturb aquatic vegetation with a PWC.



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



First week of no sailing

Well it's official. We had our first week of unfavorable winds, which kept all the sailboats anchored in their slips. With the wind less than 5 mph, it does not make for a good sailing experience.

Also on Saturday we had a rainout for the "people's regatta." This has been rescheduled for July 18.

This coming weekend will be our first regatta of the year. We'll try for five races over a two day period. My plan is to race on Friday and Saturday, and have Sunday as a rain makeup day.

If we do have to sail on Sunday we will start at Noon, due to the pancake

breakfast.

Until next week, "Splice the main-brace.

~"Fleet Captain Mike"

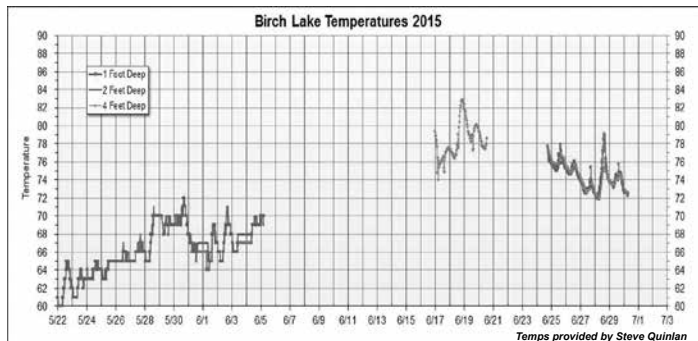
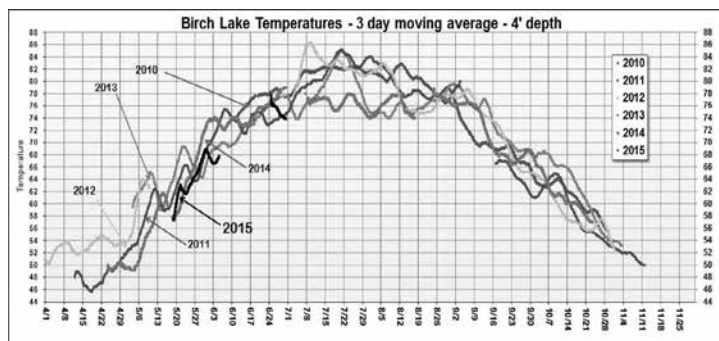
New rule from Bad Patty

FYI: Anyone wishing to join us on Sunday Mornings on the committee boat, please meet at my house by 10:30. Often, after Saturday night in the Flamingo Room, I am moving rather slow, so meeting here helps me to get it in gear! And I'm sure all the sailors would appreciate if the races started on time. Thanks,

~Bad Patty



Birch Lake Water Temperature



DON HARMAN PEOPLE'S REGATTA RESCHEDULED!!!!!!

Due to the tsunami we experienced on last Saturday, you all know we had to cancel the regatta.

We have rescheduled this event for July 18. Please arrive at 10:30 am, the racing will start at 11 am.

Again, no experience necessary, and all ages are welcome. Picnic lunch (provided) following the regatta.

Soft drinks and H2O provided, but adult beverages will be BYOB.

In the event of another rain out, we have an alternate date of July 25th.

Watch the Barker for any additional updates.

~Bad Patty

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— Dana on Drugs —

Rinse your mouth after using a steroid inhaler

By Dana Soldato, PharmD

Steroid inhalers are medications that are used every day by those with asthma or COPD to prevent difficulty breathing. While these medications do not treat shortness of breath or wheezing, they work daily around the clock to keep the airways open.

Examples of inhaled steroids include Flovent, QVAR, Symbicort, Advair, Dulera, Pulmicort, Asmanex, Alvesco, and BREO ELLIPTA.

Many people's lives are made much more comfortable because of steroid inhalers. However, if you do use a steroid inhaler, you should take care to use the inhaler properly, so as to reduce the possibility of unwanted side effects.

"Oral thrush" (a fungus infection in your mouth) is one common side effect of improper inhaler use. When you inhale a steroid, its intended target is to reach your airways. However, since you inhale the steroid through your mouth, some of the

medication may not reach your airways and may remain trapped inside of your mouth. If steroid remains trapped in your mouth, it allows for fungal/yeast infections to occur inside your mouth.

Oral thrush is extremely painful and requires a prescription antifungal medication in order for it to be

removed. If you see painful creamy white lesions appearing on your tongue, cheeks, roof of your mouth, or throat, you need to see a doctor, as these are common signs of oral thrush.

To prevent oral thrush, rinse your mouth (and spit!) with water after using your steroid inhaler. Do not swallow, because you don't want the steroid going into

your stomach either!

Another easy solution for preventing thrush is to use your inhaler before brushing your teeth in the morning and evening. Hopefully, with proper steroid inhaler use, you can enjoy all of the benefits of steroids without the painful side effects!

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STU'S STAR STUFF



Cygnus, the Northern Cross

A popular name for Cygnus is the Northern Cross, and indeed its shape is far larger and more distinctive than the famous Southern Cross. In its cruciform shape the Greeks visualized the long neck, outstretched wings and stubby tail of a swan flying along the Milky Way, in which it is embedded. The mythographers tell us that the swan is Zeus in disguise, on his way to one of his innumerable love affairs, but his exact quarry is a subject of some disagreement.

The version of the tale that goes back to Eratosthenes says that Zeus one day took a fancy to the nymph Nemesis, who lived at Rhamnus, some way north-east of Athens. To escape his unwelcome advances she assumed the form of various animals, first jumping into a river, then fleeing across land before finally taking flight as a goose. Not to be outdone, Zeus pursued her through all these transformations, at each step turning himself into a larger and swifter animal, until he finally became a swan in which form he caught and raped her. Hyginus tells a similar story, but does not mention the metamorphoses of Nemesis. Rather, he says that Zeus pretended to be a swan escaping from an eagle and that Nemesis gave the swan sanctuary. Only after she had gone to sleep with the swan in her lap did she discover her mistake.

In both versions the outcome was that Nemesis produced an egg which was then given to Queen Leda of Sparta, some say by Hermes and others say by a passing shepherd who found the egg in a wood. Out of the egg hatched the beautiful Helen, later to become famous as Helen of Troy.

Look for Cygnus soaring high overhead during late summer evenings.

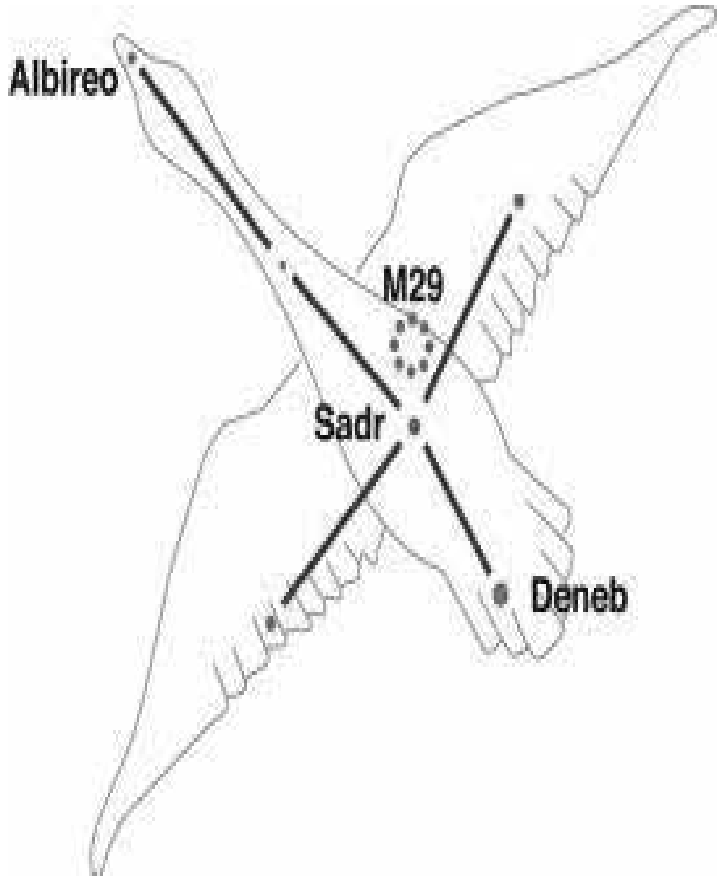
The constellation's brightest star is Deneb, an Arabic word that means "the tail." Deneb represents the tail of the swan but the top of the cross. The swan's outstretched wings form the horizontal bar of the cross, while the head of the swan, a double star called Albireo, is at the bottom of the cross.

Although it lies about 1,500 light-years from Earth, Deneb shines brightly in our night sky because it's a white supergiant, a star that's much larger, hotter, and brighter than our Sun. Deneb, as we know, is the northeastern point the Summer Triangle.

If you use binoculars to scan the area between the two bright stars that define the swan's eastern wing, you'll see the remnant of a supernova, a faint, incomplete ring of light called the Cygnus Loop.

More stories another time.

*~Stu Spratt
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The Moon for this Saturday

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

Illuminated Fraction: 0.865

3.6 days before last quarter



Sunrise: 6:13am

Sunset: 9:22pm

Moonrise: 11:10pm

Moonset: 9:12am

Day length: 15h 9m

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) You might feel pressure building up with a boss or a family situation after last Wednesday's Full Moon. Don't worry, things will mellow out again. Meanwhile, this week is full of surprise invitations and opportunities to attend sports events and social occasions that will be fun.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Stay focused at the beginning of the week because as the tension builds up after the Full Moon on Wednesday, you will be accident-prone for a few days or even longer for some of you. Slow down and take it easy. Keep your eyes open and pay attention to everything you say or do, especially walking, jogging, boating and driving. This week is a good time to entertain at home.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Issues regarding cash flow, finances and possessions might be prickly because this is where problems will grow. Be reassured that these problems will diminish by the end of the week. Expect to meet new faces and have fun times schmoozing with others, especially siblings and relatives. New discoveries and encounters with new people make this a week full of excitement and interest!

Cancer (June 21-July 22) A Full Moon makes you energetic, which allows you to accomplish a great deal. The downside is it will create difficulties in relationships with partners, spouses and close friends. You will have to be patient, tolerant and understanding with others this week. Meanwhile, your finances will be jumping!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Some Full Moons are easier than others, and the Full Moon last week was one of them. It has generated behind-the-scenes tension that can be channeled into work and exciting accomplishments. The main thing to know is you can make a new friend - someone unusual and stimulating. And good luck will come your way."

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might feel tension with friends or members of groups, or your kids. And you might also feel tension in a romantic relationship. Meanwhile, for some, a secret love affair will suddenly blossom. Or perhaps it's a secret flirtation that only you, in your heart, can nurture.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) The Full Moon on Wednesday thrust you in the classic dynamic of being pulled between two extremes - home, family and your private life versus your job, career and your public life. You cannot satisfy both areas. One will suffer. In this case, it looks like you can't ignore job and career. Meanwhile, expect surprise opportunities to travel, as well as a chance to explore publishing, the media, medicine, the law and higher education. You will also meet a new friend, probably someone artistic and talented.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Be careful at the beginning of the week, because this energy can trigger an accident, but it will also trigger arguments with others, especially siblings, neighbors and relatives. Fortunately, lovely surprises will impact your reputation and career. You might receive kudos, awards or a gift or a more pleasant working environment.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Financial pressures will build up at the beginning of the week. This includes disputes about inheritances, shared property and insurance matters. It might also create conflict about cash flow, earnings and who owns what. Meanwhile, surprise opportunities to travel will thrill you! Further surprises connected with close friends and partners will add to the mix.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You can expect some tension with others leading up to this. But this is nothing you cannot handle. Just demonstrate patience and grace under pressure. (You do this with class.) Fortunately, surprise news at work will generate new opportunities for you. This could relate to travel, technology or younger people.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Tension with coworkers will arise this week. Be patient and accommodating with others. And why wouldn't you be? After all, friendships are important to you. A sudden chance for a vacation might arise. Surprise invitations to social occasions, including sports events and playful times with children will materialize. Say yes, because you'll have fun!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Difficulties with a female friend are likely at the beginning of the week. All you have to do is be understanding, patient and tolerant. This mature response will make this problem go away. Wonderful opportunities will surprise you at work. These opportunities might mean a raise, praise or a chance to explore something new. However, they might also attract a new romance into your life.

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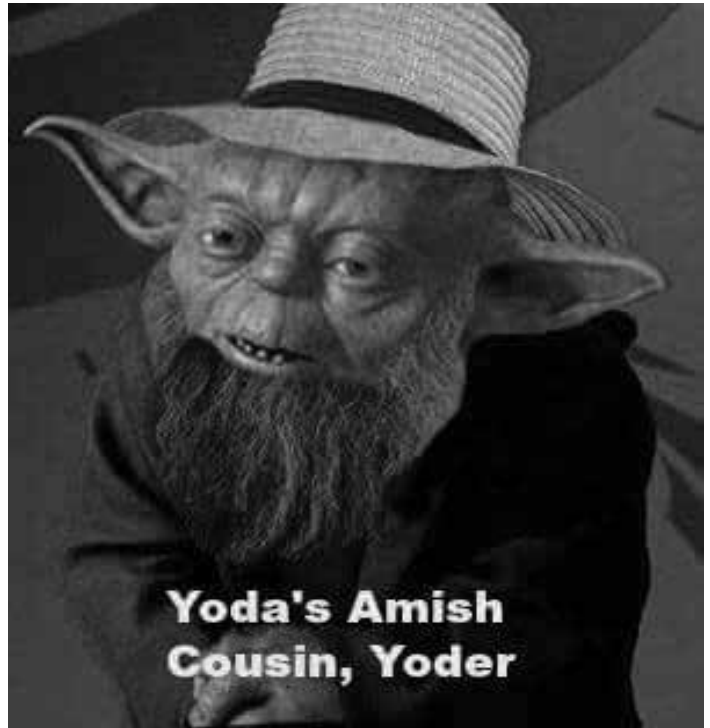
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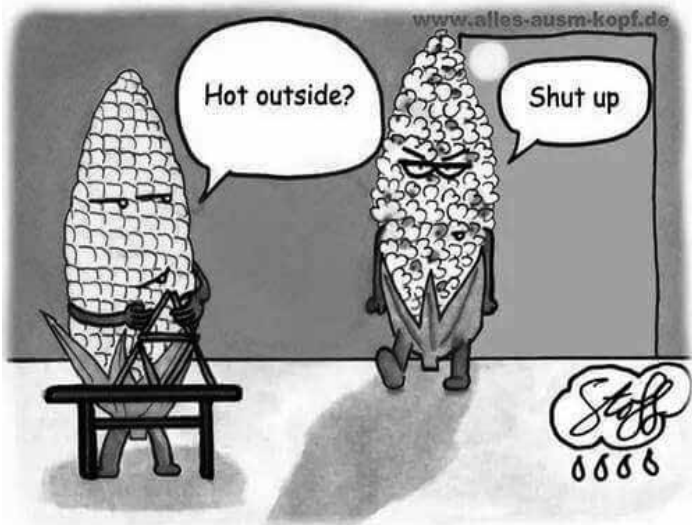
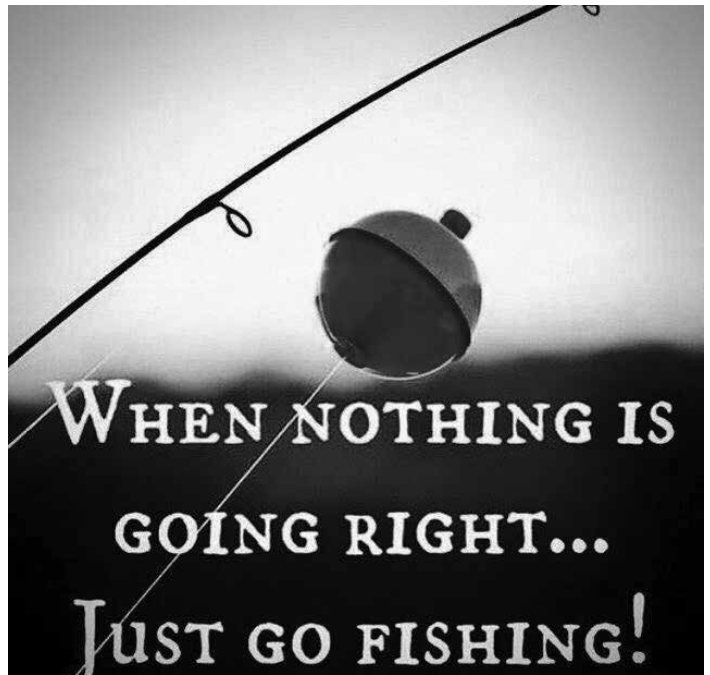
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.



When your children are teenagers, it's important to have a dog so that someone in the house is happy to see you



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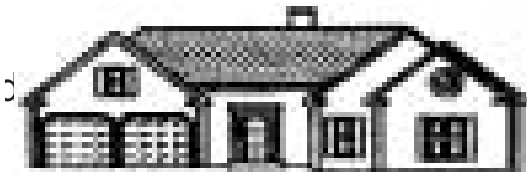
Patty Luecht (E) Past Comm.....476-2615
 Pgalloway4@yahoo.com
 Chas Grundy (H)476-7062
 Chas.grundy@gmail.com
 Greg Bolin (W).....476-2420

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
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Business
 as usual
 is seldom
 business
 as usual.



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Chipotle Black Bean Burgers Serves 4

Ingredients:

1-15oz can black beans, drained & rinsed
 1/4 small red onion, roughly chopped
 1 canned chipotle pepper in adobo sauce, plus 2-3
 teaspoons adobo sauce
 2 garlic cloves
 1/2 teaspoon cumin
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 3/4 cup corn kernels (canned, fresh, or thawed)
 1/4 cup bottled chunky salsa, plus more for topping
 the burgers

3/4 cup panko bread crumbs
 1 egg white
 1 avocado
 garlic powder
 salt & pepper
 4 buns, toasted

Directions:

1. Combine half the black beans in a food processor with the red onion, chipotle pepper in adobo sauce plus extra sauce, garlic, cumin and salt. Pulse until nearly smooth, scraping the sides if needed. (Alternatively you could mash the black beans with a

potato masher and mince the onion, chipotle pepper, and garlic.) Remove mixture to a bowl then add remaining black beans, corn, salsa, panko bread crumbs, and egg white, then mix well with a spatula. Mixture will be wet.

2. Heat a large flat-top skillet over medium heat then generously spray with non-stick spray. Shape the bean mixture into four patties then cook the patties for 5-6 minutes a side, or until firm and golden brown.
 3. Meanwhile, mash the avocado with garlic powder, salt & pepper in a small bowl. Place the cooked burgers on toasted buns, then top with the mashed avocado and extra salsa, if desired.

Birch Barker Word Search

NEW WORDS / SLANG IN THE WEBSTER DICTIONARY

Find each of the following words.

MANTRUM
 LACKENTIALISM
 NIP NAP
 CRUMPY
 PAINSONMIA
 SCHOOLY
 TEXTUMENT

INARTICULABLE
 MIPSTER
 MEATARIAN
 JANK
 ANGRIFY
 MEDIAPHILE
 FUSER

FICTIONARY
 NAGATIVE
 HORMY
 CARBAGEDDON
 KOANTHYMIA
 BAE

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 E E Y A A M N T A H N I E I A M D A I E R M M E I T A T E A O I U L P E

— Camp Tannadoonah —

Happy 4th from Camp T!

Happy Holidays! Camp is on a 4th of July break until Sunday, and our staff are really enjoying a few days off.

We had a busy week for session 2 with 115 campers! This past week was mini week, and a little reprieve with only 77 registered campers.

The theme for Mini Week was “Back in Time,” and on Sunday evening we played a great game of Clue all around camp. Counselors dressed up in old-time costumes (old military gear, a flapper dress, 1950s house dresses, 1970s pantsuits, and all sorts of other stuff!) and were characters in a mystery that the campers had to solve.

It worked just like the board game Clue – there were 8 different locations where the crime could have occurred, 8 different suspects, and 8 possible weapons. The list of “weapons” included a hula hoop, a pool noodle, a lifeguard tube, a spoon, a water bottle, a canoe paddle, and other silly things from around camp.

The campers and counselors formed detective squads and went around camp interviewing the characters and collecting clues to try to solve the mystery. The staff had a great time putting together the story line and acting out their parts!

We’re still seeing great camper numbers, and now have over 830 campers registered for the summer – a new record! It’s fun when things are busy up here!

We do find ourselves short on staff for running activities – if you are interested in volunteering to lead a program (fishing, sports, crafts, nature, or anything else you



might be interested in!) please call me. We could really use the extra hands up here with so many kids! The camp number is 574-387-6095.

I hope everyone is able to come out to camp for the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning! It’s always so much fun to see all the lake neighbors and their family and friends who come out every year for the holiday weekend. We’ll have all our camp store items available if you want some camp goodies!


~Miss Amber

Amber@tannadoonah.org



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WANTED

WANTED: **kids at Yacht Club.** If a couple parents would be willing to help, BLYC is always willing to stump up a few coins to serve refreshments and

let the little people play ... get to know each other. Function? TBD. Games? TBD. Date? TBD. Watch this space!

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.

MISC.

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

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 deadlines — The deadline for submitting information for any Birch Barker is 5 pm on the Tuesday of the week before publication ... so the deadline for the July 11 edition is Tuesday, July 11. Online Content — The printed Birch Barker is online every week this summer at www.philvital.com ... just follow the links!

BIRCH BARKER CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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



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(\$10 / year)

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Name _____

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

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Address _____

\$____ - Fireworks Fund

\$____ - Water Quality Program

\$____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$____ - Safety Committee

\$____ - Other non-party related expenses

\$____ - BLYC Roof Fund

\$____ - Misc.

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