

The weekend of July 18 2015

# Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Fleet Captainess Amy Lutz for the cool Sunfish photo from last weekend's sailing.

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

In planning for 2016 BLYC events, mark your calendars for the Spring Dinner on Saturday, May 14, 2016 at the Matterhorn Restaurant in Elkhart. Also the date for fireworks is Saturday, July 2, 2016 and rain date is Sunday, July 3, 2016. Chas Grundy has again volunteered to chair the fireworks event in 2016 for our lake and he deserves a big thank you from all who enjoy the show.

Turning our attention back to this year, I hope you were able to participate in the art fair and house walk last weekend. Michelle Seyfarth, Vanessa Wozniak and Vickie Rogers chaired this event and had lots of help from many others coordinating this semi-annual show and walk whose proceeds were donated to Camp T for camp scholarships. Thank you to all who purchased tickets to attend.

The People's Regatta is rescheduled for this Saturday. Look for more information in the Barker for all the details. This introduction to sailing experience is named in honor of Don Harmon who encouraged us all to get involved in sailing. Many of the sailors on our lake will take you for a ride and introduce you to the sport. No matter what your age, if you want to get introduced to this sport, this event is for you.

The window is closed for submitting your pictures for the 2016 Birch Lake Calendar. Thank you to all who submitted entries and watch the Barker for details on when the calendar will be available.

By mistake I did not mention Amy and Mike Lutz as co-chairs of the pancake breakfast with Phil and Sandy Vitale. Sorry about that. And Tom Rogers would still be cooking those 18,000 sausages if that was the right number. 1,800 is a little more accurate.

I'll call it quits for this week, and

## 2015 Birch Lake Calendar

July 17.....	Ladies' Golf Outing
July 18 .....	Don Harman 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

### 2016

May 14 .....	Spring Dinner, Matterhorn
July 2.....	Fireworks
July 3.....	Fireworks rain date

### 2015 Remaining Board Meetings

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

Dates subject to change.  
Watch the Barker for updates!

look forward to seeing you at Birch Lake... where every day is an adventure.

~Commodore Fry

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.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) 476-9823 or cdfreihofer@aol.com. ~Phil V

# — Birch Lake Notes —



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

## Safety notice

Keep the Bow Wow (and by all means, keep all people) off the Bow when the boat is in motion!

Last weekend a medium-sized beagle was killed when the owner innocently let the dog ride on the bow of a pontoon boat while it was in motion. The boat hit a wave, the dog lost its footing,

fell in the lake. The unfortunate pet was then run over by the boat and killed by the propeller.

Our sympathies to the grieving pet owner – but please make sure that NO PETS, and certainly NO PEOPLE are ever allowed to ride on the bow of a boat while it is in motion.

Also, we have learned of multiple

thefts and break-ins. The Homeowners Association is advising all residents to be vigilant and call 9-1-1 if you see suspicious and/or illegal activity.

## Trustee to address Homeowners

The Birch Lake Homeowners Association will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, Aug. 1 following the BLYC Board of Directors meeting. Township Trustee Leard Wylie will address this year's annual meeting and provide an update on Birch Lake's sewer system's discharge forcemain (from Lift Station "B") to Shavehead Lake's discharge forcemain, past blockages, their effects on finances, and related information.

All are welcome to attend.

Members of the association will also elect directors and officers at this meeting.

## Don Harman People's Regatta rescheduled

Weather permitting the Don Harman People's Regatta will take place this Saturday, 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.

~Bad Patty

# Simply STUNNING

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Golf anyone?

The Men's Golf Outing is fast approaching (July 31, 2015), and we are short on registrations! Don't miss out! If you want to guarantee a spot at this fun event, please get your team registrations to either Peter Soldato, 63266 Kinsey Street, Vandalia, MI, 49095 (the hill), or Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI, 49095, by July 13, 2015. Also, we are always looking for donations of team prizes — if you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated, please contact Peter Soldato at (630) 936- 8822. Hope to see you on the course!

## 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](mailto:deb-spratt@cressyandeverett.com) ...

## Barker Deadlines

The deadline for submitting information for any Barker is the Tuesday of the week before publication (the deadline for materials for the July 25 issue is Tuesday, July 21) ... thanks.

## Online content

The printed Birch Barker once again is online this season, as well as

## What could possibly go wrong?



*One evening, a group of friends decided to take a Birch Lake boat ride even though there was threat of bad weather.*



*This is the animal, formally known as Shadow, who ate through the wires under the helm during the boat ride. He has been renamed PITA, which is short for Pain In The ...*



*This is the neighbor whose crew rescued the group of friends.*



*Thank you Bill Magro, for pulling us to shore safe and sound!*

*Submitted by Claudia Phipps and Friends.*

# SLOW DOWN

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**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 —

additional content ... go to [www.philvital.com](http://www.philvital.com) and follow the links.



*Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to Tom and Shirley Drinkall (east side) of Granger. They were married in Elkhart on July 15, 1955. They celebrated their anniversary with their family at Tippecanoe Place and an open house with friends and family at Four Lakes Country Club. They have 4 children, Cris (Mike) Emmert, Lorie Weaver, Pam (Claude) Alexander and Tim (Ulrika) Drinkall. They have 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. They have resided in Granger for 58 years. Tom retired from Ameritech and Shirley retired from Prince of Peace Church.*



Thanks to **Mr. Bob** for the Big Bird pics

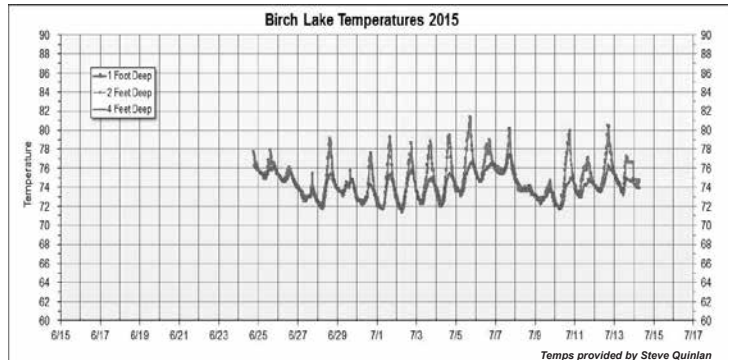
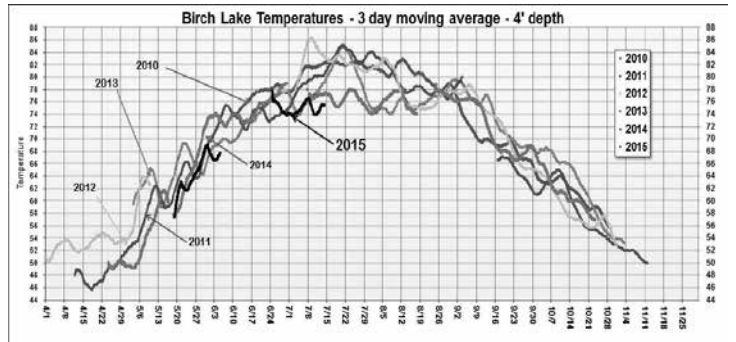
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## Birch Lake Water Temperature



**PLEASE CLEAN UP  
AFTER YOUR PET**

# — Birch Lake Notes —



## House Walk / Art Fair 2015

Over 146 people attended the house walk/ art fair last weekend! The house walk provides a great way to meet others on the lake. The boat rides and the name tags enabled many people to make new friends and acquaintances.

We would like to thank the 5 homeowners - Phipps, Petit, DeCockers, Vandewalles, and Curtis-Miller - who so graciously opened their homes to everyone. Without you, this event would not have been possible! Big thanks goes to Phil Vitale for printing our articles, to the Wozniak's for the use of their barn for the event, to Ben Wozniak for lending his talent and taking the pictures of the homes, to Brian Klappauf for designing the brochure cover, and to Ronnie Esh-

leman for laying out the brochure, printing it, and, to top it off, donating them for the event ... many thanks!! The homeowner's helpers were also a great support. Thanks to Linda Curtis and Sue Waddle and to the homeowners family members who lent a hand.

What a great job the pontoon drivers did!! Our appreciation and thanks to Tom Rogers, our fleet captain, for recruiting and organizing the pontoon drivers and ensuring that everything went smoothly. Many thanks to our pontoon drivers and their assistants; Tom Kuhn and Ben Wozniak, Gus Eshleman and Jim Bradford, Carla and Ed Chester, Bernie Garceau and Rick Russwurm and Phil Vitale. You helped make the

afternoon very enjoyable for all!!

Also, thank you for our ticket sellers: Denny Weesner, Vickie Rogers, Denise Smitley, Sandy Baucus, Carla Chester, and Linda Yoshizawa.

Many thanks to Vickie Rogers for her invaluable assistance throughout the planning and organizing of the event and to Jan Temple for editing the homeowners' write-ups.

Again, thank you to all of you for helping to make this event such a success! We hope we didn't forget anyone!

We should all feel proud that we raised slightly over \$2000 which will go towards camperships for underprivileged kids to attend Camp Tannadoonah.

# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Got the whole gang together last weekend for a group picture. From the left are Kyle Kinzler (west), Drake Imhof, Hunter Imhof, Taylor Marquez (east), Kailey Kinzler, Claire Brovold (west), Grant Imhof, and Amanda Butler (west). The Imhofs are the cousins of Kailey and Kyle Kinzler. They were up for the day last Saturday.

The Skipper and Gilligan? Barker House Walk Skippers of the Week honors to Gary "Gus" Eshleman and his father-in-law Jim Bradford (south side). Does it seem odd to anyone else or does eating sushi at 9:30 am just seem wrong?

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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



KOTW kisses to Past Commodore Bad Patty Luecht (east side) and Amy Lutz (north side) who were photographed last Saturday while serving on the Committee Boat during the sailboat races.



AJ Bishop (the youngest grandson of Alan and Pam VanHuffel, south side) showing off his first Bluegill and total catch while fishing Birch Lake for the first time with his father, Brian Bishop and Uncle Mark VanHuffel (photographer). AJ is wearing his Great Grandfather Steve Horvath's Captain's hat for good luck and fished his favorite spot from years ago in remembrance of him. It worked!

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# 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](mailto: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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**\* checks should be made out to BLYC**



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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



## Light, just enough

Well, after last weekend's light winds, both fleets got all three races completed. Even though the winds were light at times, there was enough wind to complete all three races.

Hopefully the winds are favorable for both Saturday and Sunday of this weekend! Don't forget we have the second annual "Don Harman People's Regatta" this Saturday, starts at 11 at the Lutz house, next to Camp T.

Everyone is invited sailors and non-sailors, if you have not sailed before come out and try it with an experienced sailor, on a short and fun course.

I need to thank our committee boat helpers, "Bad Patty", "Questionable Patti", Karen & Eric Miller and my wife Amy. Also to Steve and Harold for setting and picking up the marks and to Jeff Smitley for tabulating the weekly race results.



## 2015 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date	12-Jul	12-Jul	12-Jul	Total	Season	Races	%
Race	11	12	13	Points	Average	Finished	Finished

MC Scow/Sailor	11	12	13	Total	Season	Races	%
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	1	20119	1548	13	100.0%
Jeff Smitley #2002	2	2	3	19400	1492	13	100.0%
Bill Luecht #1579	7	4	2	17600	1354	13	100.0%
Bob King #1199	DNS	DNS	DNS	13424	1342	10	76.9%
Phil Vitale #500	4	6	7	17403	1339	13	100.0%
Barb Cassady #2435	6	7	6	16655	1281	13	100.0%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	5	5	4	16379	1260	12	92.3%
Gib Eberhart #916	3	3	5	7451	1242	6	46.2%
Vic Jones	8	DNF	DNF	3137	1046	1	7.7%

Sunfish/Sailor	11	12	13	Total	Season	Races	%
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	3	1	1	15234	1523	10	83.3%
Stewart Spratt	1	3	4	14703	1470	10	83.3%
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	DNS	DNS	DNS	4334	1445	3	25.0%
Brad Davis	DNS	DNS	DNS	2888	1444	2	16.7%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	2	2	3	17275	1440	12	100.0%
Bob Cassady	DNS	DNS	DNS	8530	1422	6	50.0%
Peter Soldato	5	4	2	11069	1384	7	58.3%
Sandy Vitale (White)	DNS	DNS	DNS	7859	1310	6	50.0%
Herb Cleveland	4	5	6	12351	1235	10	83.3%
Bill Butler	7	8	DNS	11712	1171	10	83.3%
Camille Butler	8	6	5	13965	1164	12	100.0%
Bob Niezgodski	6	7	7	13155	1096	12	100.0%

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season.  
 DNF (Did Not Finish), DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place).  
 DNF, DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed.  
 CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.  
 Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)  
 Season Place = total season points/number of races attempted  
 Crew - Counted toward completed races, Points go to skipper of boat.



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# — Dana on Drugs —

## Nasacort vs. Flonase for allergy treatment

By *Dana Soldato, PharmD*

On October 11, 2013, Nasacort Allergy 24 HR (triamcinolone acetonide) was reclassified from “prescription only” to “over the counter.” For the very first time, the best way to treat allergic rhinitis became available for over the counter purchase for anyone suffering from allergies.

Not long afterwards, on July 23, 2014, a similar medication, Flonase Allergy Relief (fluticasone propionate), received its FDA approval from “prescription only” to “over the counter.” This means there are now two steroid nasal sprays that people may choose from when trying to counter seasonal allergies.

Which one is best for you?

Nasacort works to provide 24-hour relief from four symptoms commonly associated with allergies: nasal congestion, sneezing, runny nose, and itchy nose. It is non-drowsy, non-addictive, and contains no scent or alcohol.

Flonase works to provide 24-hour relief of six symptoms associated with allergies: itchy eyes, watery eyes, nasal congestion, sneezing, runny nose, and itchy nose. It is non-drowsy and non-addictive, but unfortunately contains alcohol (I don't use those three words in that combination very often), which gives it a strange scent.

The take-home point is that both Nasacort and Flonase work on multiple symptoms associated with allergies. Both of these medications are terrific. And while Nasacort has no scent or alcohol, Flonase has the ability to control itchy and watery eyes.

To sum it up, Nasacort and

Flonase are so similar that I simply recommend whichever one is on sale that week! If cost is not a factor, and you are concerned only with the comfort and ease of use, I would recommend Nasacort, due to the fact that it has no strange scent.

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# STU'S STAR STUFF



## Pluto ... so much more than just a Disney dog!

**A**lan Stern heads the first mission to Pluto, known as New Horizons. It passed less than 8,000 miles from Pluto on Tuesday, the 50th anniversary of the first encounter with Mars. As the satellite makes its passes near the icy world its cameras may be able to see features just a few hundred feet across.

Until now, Pluto has been seen as little more than a pinpoint of light in even the biggest telescopes. Even so, scientists have managed to piece together a basic outline about the little world.

For one thing, they've found that it's only about two-thirds the diameter of the Moon. It has at least five moons, including one that's half as big as Pluto to itself. And its surface is coated with frozen nitrogen mixed with a smattering of methane and carbon monoxide.

Computer-processed images from Hubble Space Telescope, along with long-range pictures from New Horizons, have shown a wide variation in the brightness of Pluto's surface. Some regions are almost black, while others are slightly orange and others are almost white.

When Pluto is closest to the Sun, some of the ice at its surface vaporizes and forms a thin atmosphere. Right now, Pluto is moving away from the Sun, so scientists expect the atmosphere to eventually freeze out and coat the surface with a fresh layer of frost, a major change for this little world.

In 1978, astronomer James Christy was looking at some photographs of Pluto when he noticed something odd: The little world seemed to have a bump on its side. That bump turned out to be a moon. Christy named it Charon, for the character who ferried souls to Hades, the dominion of the god Pluto.

It turns out that Charon is about half again as wide as Pluto itself. In fact, many scientists consider Pluto and Charon to be a double planet.

Charon has several things in common with our own moon. Most important, it probably formed in much the same way as our Moon did, from a big whack.

A large body probably slammed into Pluto billions of years ago, blasting debris into orbit around it. Much of this material then coalesced to form Charon. In Pluto's case, that process apparently left some small chips that are still around today as several tiny moons beyond Charon.

Also like Earth's moon, Charon is "locked" so that the same side always faces its parent world. But Pluto is locked as well. So the length of a day

on Pluto is exactly the same as the time it takes for Charon to make one turn around it, about six-and-a-half Earth days.

And there's one more similarity between the Earth-Moon and Pluto-Charon systems. The larger bodies are colorful; Earth is blue, and Pluto is fairly red, but the moons are both gray. So like our moon, the surface of Charon could be quite different from that of its parent world.

Operating a spacecraft on the edge of the solar system is a tricky business.

Consider New Horizons, a small craft that's taking aim at Pluto. It's three billion miles away right now. At that range, it takes radio signals from the craft about four-and-a-half hours to reach Earth. So if anything goes wrong at the last minute, no one on Earth can help.

To minimize the chances of a last-minute hiccup, flight controllers worked out the sequence of events for the Pluto encounter two years ago. They transmitted the instructions, then ran through a full rehearsal while the craft was still months away.

Another problem is that the craft's radio signal is so weak by the time it reaches Earth that it'll take 16 months for New Horizons to transmit all of its observations. So if there are any problems over that time, much of the probe's work would be lost.

And yet another problem with the distance is that sunlight is only about a thousandth as intense at Pluto as it is here on Earth. So it'll take a long time for New Horizons to snap each picture.

Still, mission scientists expect a bounty from New Horizons, some of it predictable, but some of it not.

*~Stu Spratt  
Celebrating 51  
Years at  
Birch Lake*

### The Moon for this Saturday

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

**Illuminated Fraction: 0.099**

**3.2 days since new moon**



**Sunrise: 6:24am  
Sunset: 9:16pm  
Moonrise: 9:04am  
Moonset: 10:37pm  
Day length: 14h 53m**

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# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** There's been frustration at home, which might have started with home improvements or visiting relatives. But now chaos and increased activity on the home front frazzle your nerves and make tempers fray. Something is going to come to a head by midweek in the form of heavy-duty power struggles or family quarrels.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** You want to enlighten others, which is why your communications with daily contacts are important now. On the upside, you will be able to sell, teach, market, promote, act and talk to others with enthusiasm and convincing vigor. It's handy to have strong verbal skills. But this week, by Wednesday, something will turn sour.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** You've been focused on money, cash flow and your possessions, especially how to take care and organize them. This can be exhausting. Unfortunately, by Wednesday, you're at odds with someone about financial matters or your possessions. This might be a debate of ownership. It might also be a quarrel of how they are used or where they are stored. Whatever the case, things could get nasty by midweek with harsh words and ultimatums.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** There's been lots of activity in your life. You're coming on a bit strong for some. This will become apparent by midweek when clashes and confrontations with others will occur. Be aware that this might be due to the fact that you want to improve others or make them over. Hmmm?

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** Lately, so much insanity has been taking place behind the scenes, you're drained and exhausted because of worry and responsibilities that most people are not aware of. You will find that things come to a head by Wednesday. This could relate to someone working behind the scenes against your best interests.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Your popularity is strong. It's fun relating to friends and groups. Some of you have also been in competition with someone, officially or unofficially. This is also a good time to share your hopes and dreams for the future with others because their feedback will help you.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** You are high viz., ambitious and talking to important people including parents, bosses, VIPs and the police. However, serious conflicts at home or within the family will create dissension, and you'll be at odds with someone; and it won't be pretty. Because you have been striving to get ahead, you might get a pay off.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** You still want to get outta Dodge. However, in your zeal to encompass bigger issues - politics, religion, racial issues and such - you might be so enthusiastic that you're closed to anyone who doesn't agree with you. This is not cool; and no benefit to you. This could also be why heated arguments come to a head. Ideally, you want to make creative positive changes in your life. But if you don't handle this correctly, you will create opposition to you, especially if you try to gain control over others.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** You're caught up with details of shared property, investments and the wealth and resources of others as well as inheritances, taxes and debt. Even though travel plans look sweet, differences with someone about how things are shared or divided are testy. Ironically, the more you discuss this problem - the more divisive things become.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** You need more sleep. You are eager to talk to others, and yet, you're annoyed with someone. By midweek, a nasty confrontation is likely. Do not say anything you will later regret. You like to work with groups, especially in your community; and because of this, you want the respect of others. Don't do anything to blow this.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** You've been in work mode lately; and you're getting things done. However, you might be bossy delegating to others, which creates conflict in your job. If you examine what's going on, you will see that this is a conflict of wills. A power struggle. Like Taurus, you can be stubborn. You are that powerful!

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** You've been wrapped up in romance, sports and children - fun stuff, including vacations and playful getaways. But there has also been pain and confusion; and this sucks. What should be fun, loving and supportive is a power struggle or some kind of ego manipulation. Something related to the above, especially romantic partners and kids, will come to a head. In some ways, it might be good to get things out in the open.

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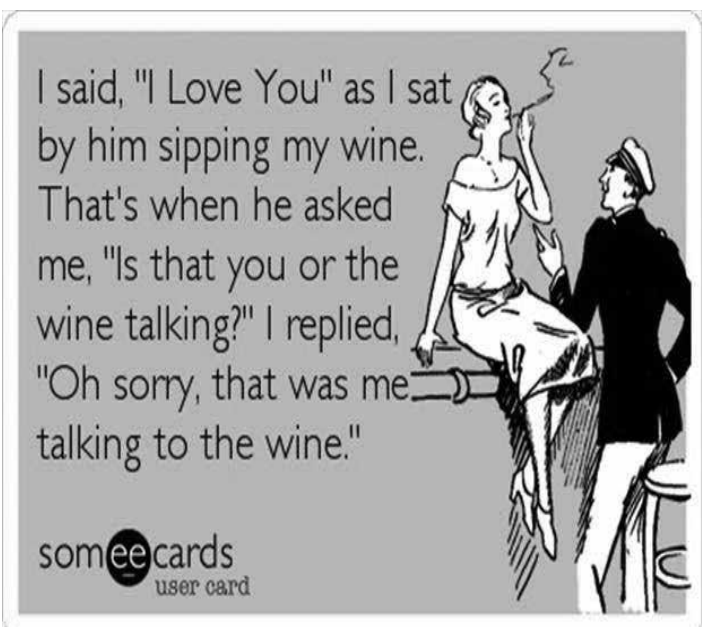
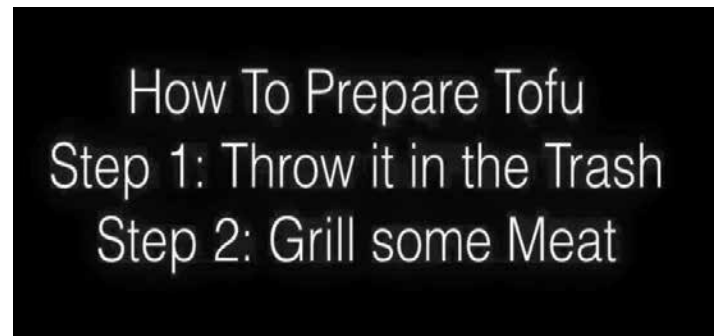
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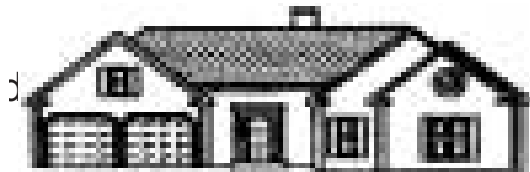
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# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



*Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge*

## RESTAURANT-STYLE COLESLAW

*Made this for my guest this holiday weekend and it was a hit. Thank you Smitley's for the "fresh from the garden" GIHUGEAN cabbage.*

Makes 6 to 8 servings

### Ingredients:

- 1 (16 ounce) package coleslaw mix
- 2 tablespoons minced onion
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt



- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup buttermilk
- 1 1/2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice

### Directions:

1. Combine the coleslaw and onion in a large bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, combine the sugar, salt, pepper, milk, mayonnaise, buttermilk, vinegar and lemon juice; mix until smooth.
3. Pour mixture over the coleslaw and onion; stir well and chill for 1 hour.

## Birch Barker Word Search

### NEW WORDS / SLANG IN THE WEBSTER DICTIONARY

Find each of the following words.

DUPLISTIC  
BAG MAN  
JOURNICLE  
AMBULAPHOBIA  
JEGGINGS  
NONFICTIONEER  
HALLUCINAZATION

INTERNECT  
WITHSTAIN  
BRONY  
ANGREVATE  
SPIRITOLGY  
SNUS  
GENUITY

ELEGATE  
FORUMIST  
GUYBERNATION  
TUILE  
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H Y P O C R A C Y E L E G A T E L E G E I N O N F I C T I O N E E R S I  
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G T N Y A S C S R B A T G N F I B E S Y A N S R Z C N T E U U R N N T T

# — Camp Tannadoonah —

## Safaris and Storms and CITs and CSI

It's Safari Week at Camp Tannadoonah this week, and the stormy weather early in the week has made it quite the adventure!

All the stormy weather has led to a lot of questions about how we handle weather emergencies here at camp. During staff training, we spend time discussing procedures and what to do in different situations. Miss Kayla (my assistant director) and I each carry walkie talkies with built-in weather radios. Whenever there is a storm watch, we alert all of the counselors in camp, just to make sure they stay aware of what's going on.

We have several different signals for severe weather, so if a counselor doesn't hear the message over the radio, we also blow the air horn or ring the big bell outside Main Lodge to signal an emergency.

If a tornado warning is issued, or if the storm gets bad, we immediately bring all of the campers to two central locations: The Dining Hall and Morris Lodge. Both of these buildings have basements, so they are the safest places in camp to bring the kids. During the time we're waiting out the storm,

we sing camp songs and play games to keep the kids calm. We monitor the weather radar and radios, and if it gets bad, we move the campers to the basements.

We do periodic drills with the counselors to make sure they stay sharp and remember all of the proper procedures for various emergency situations.

This week is also one of the weeks that we have Counselors in Training (CITs) here at camp. The CITs are 15 and 16 year olds who are interested in learning about what it's like to be a counselor at Camp T. They get to spend two weeks at camp, observing the counselors, helping lead activities, and taking on a little bit of responsibility. It is a two-year program – so they come as CIT 1s the first year, and CIT 2s the second year.

This year we have a new CIT director, Miss Julie Herwick, who is a former Tannadoonah camper and counselor, and now a high school English teacher at Cassopolis High School. She has brought a lot of fun new ideas to the program, and we're already talking about how we might

re-vamp it for next year. We have 15 CITs here this week – 10 girls and 5 boys. Next week another round of CITs arrive to stay for the next two weeks.

This week has also been exciting because we have a group of parent volunteers here leading some specialty programs. Miss Jennifer and Miss Sara are running a CSI week. They've created a camp mystery (who took the bag of fairy dust that we need for council fire on Friday!?) and the campers are learning about investigation techniques. They've interviewed "witnesses," done police sketches of their suspect, taken crime scene photos, and tried their hand at lifting fingerprints! It's been lots of fun to see them get into the story! We also have a flag football program and an art camp going on this session.

It's been a great summer so far, and it's hard to believe that after this week there are just three weeks left! We're all hoping for some warmer weather soon!

~Miss Amber  
Amber@tannadoonah.org



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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](http://www.philvital.com) ... just follow the links!

## FOUND

**Found at Pancake Breakfast: small 2015-2016 calendar book** with lighthouse on the front. Photos of young boy, 3 kids w/santa, misc. other info. Call 476-1680.

**Pair of black sunglasses** were left behind in the barn during the House Walk. Call Michelle 476-1319.

## LOST

**Bright blue and clear inner tube-style float** blew away in Monday's storm. Call 476-1680.



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