

The
Weekend
Of

June 15
2019

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north shore) for the great dragonfly of the week!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello Birch Lakers,
Well, I don't know about you, but I am so over this weather! Please let us have some good days ahead of us! We have lots of interesting items to share in this edition of the Birch Barker. So please tighten your boot straps, buckle down and zone in on this edition.

Some of the ground-breaking news discussed in this edition of the Barker include Spaghetti Me, who's Porta Potty is that, how can I pay my dues online, what's up with the dead fish, what's that growing on the east side and what can I do to contribute to the Birch Lake Community?

This weekend will be the Spaghetti Dinner at the Yacht Club, you can pur-

chase tickets through people around the lake listed in the ad in the Barker. You can volunteer to help by reaching out to the Niezgodski Family, you can call (269) 476-9317 or email; birchbass1@gmail.com. If you are good at making deserts, you definitely need to show us your skills and dazzle us with your sweets. The money raised for the dinner goes towards Water Quality which is vastly important, and the cost is super low for such a yummy meal!

Let's begin with the Porta Potty. Please know Rick Russwurm has been very helpful in the investigation behind the Johnny on the Spot that just appeared at the landing. Our new friend is courtesy of the Cass County Parks and Recreation. If you are displeased with the new edition please voice your opinion by calling; 445-4456 or email ScottWy@cassco.org. If it doesn't bother you then you can move on to the next

Tentative 2019 Birch Lake Calendar

June 15 - Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30-7:30
June 22 - Celebration of life for Terry Curtis, 4-7 pm
June 29 - Comm/Vice Comm Party, BLYC
July 6 - BLYC Firework, dusk
July 6 - Boat parade, 4 pm
July 27 - Celebration of Life for LaVeta Scofield, west side, 1-5 pm
August 10 - Corn & Sausage Roast, TBA
August 17 - Homeowners Association annual meeting following board mtg.
October 19 - Crockpot Challenge, BLYC
Fall Dinner - TBA by VC/FC Pat McGann

BLYC Board Meetings: July 20, August 17;
all at BLYC @ 9 am

Dates and times subject to change.
More info as available. Watch for updates!

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. E-mail materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, mail them to me or put the items in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). **DEADLINE** for any issue is 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before the publication. To contact Editor Phil by phone, call (269) 476-1680. To contact Commodore Angela Bergan, call 561-603-5522 or email berganfsu@aol.com.

— Birch Lake Notes —

item.

Next, Chas Grundy is a mastermind technical genius, and he has created a new web site where you can purchase items for the lake. These items include your member dues, tickets for events, donation for fireworks, donation for Water Quality and more. Now you can go to the web site; <http://birchlakeyacht-club.com> and click on your items, add them to the cart, check out, and voila, you are up to date on dues, are a HOA member, you've paid your sailing fees and contributed to the fireworks.

An item to note is there is a processing fee that will be added to the dues this is because of the convenience of paying via credit card. If you won't avoid fees you can mail your checks to Deb Spratt or hand your cash to Pat or I and we will be glad to pass it along.

Now on to the dead fish! Thank you to Terry Dugan for his investigation into the recent increase of dead fish. I thought it was just the few I had seen floating around, but reports are much higher in different areas around the lake. Mr. Dugan has reached out to find out what might be ailing our finned friends. While it is doubtful much will come back from the autopsy of our Birch Lake swimmers, it is still important we do our part. Please see the water quality report in the Barker. In the meantime, if you see something, say something. In other words, if you see a large number of



Taco Tuesday at Zimmy's with the Birch Lake folks

dead fish in your area, please report it to Terry Dugan or Paul Fallon.

What is that growing on the East side? Well my friends, it is not a large

SLOW DOWN

**BIRCH LAKE HAS
NARROW ROADS,
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,
A TON OF CHILDREN,
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

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OUR ROADS
AND ON THE HILLS
TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!**

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Birch Lake Notes

octopus but rather curly-leaf pondweed which has teamed up with its friend and our arch enemy Eurasian watermilfoil. Remember when the Joker teamed up with the Penguin to try to destroy Bat Man? Well we are all Bat Man and these invasive species are the latter. Instead of fighting them head-on (which we are doing in a way by treating the water) please avoid interacting with these invasive species. This would mean staying away from the East side or trolling through the weeds, specifically from in front of Pat McGann's the A-frame on the East Side to well past the home for sale next to the teal dock (former Commodore Karen Curtis-Miller and Eric Miller's home). I know its tempting to look, but take a gander from the shore line. We do not want this to spread.

Lastly, what can you do to contribute to the Birch Lake Community? Over the years the BLYC used to host many different events, and over time it seems we have lost our motivation. We need some new wind in our sails. If you have an idea for an event or a way to raise community awareness about the BLYC, I would love to hear from you. We need more members, more contributions and more neighborly attitudes. Let's try to be kind to one another and cohabitate at this beautiful lake.

Be kind to one another,

~Commodore Angela

Birch Lake Book Club Schedule

The Birch Lake Book Club will meet on June 25 at 7 pm to discuss The Library Book by Susan Orlean. Blair Garceau will host. Everyone is welcome.

Our next book is Educated by Tara Westover. Claudia Phipps will host on July 30.

Here Comes the Gas!

SEMCO Energy's area field director, Mike Kessler, has announced that installation crews will be starting on the streets off of Harvey that actually serve Birch Lake residents (like Lakeview and Birch Rd), on Monday 6/17/19.

They will temporarily cease operations on Wednesday 7/3/19 until Monday 7/8/19. Similar to what they are doing now

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— Birch Lake Notes —

on Brownsville Rd. and other places, the vast majority of the lines will be directionally drilled.

In order to make sure that they keep the lines on the public right of way, SEMCO paid to have those right of way lines marked and asks that we not remove those stakes until their crews have completed work in your area. (Yes, it's true that the road is typically NOT centered in the right of way.)

SEMCO hopes to have all the lines in our area installed by mid to late July. Rachele Adamczyk can often be contacted at SEMCO's Niles office. Her number is 1-800-860-4277, ext. 5677.

SEMCO representatives will be hosting an informational open house from 10 am until noon on Saturday, June 22, at the Penn Township Hall in Vandalia.

Men's golf outing ... maybe!

Vice Commodore Pat McGann has provided no new info on the Men's golf outing ... he has apparently skipped town to avoid prosecution (see Fleet Captain's Corner in this Birch Barker).

T-SHIRTS ... GET YOUR T-SHIRTS!

Are you kicking yourself for not buying a Birch Lake t-shirt last year? If so, you're in luck! I have a small inventory of shirts left. Please read on to see if your choice is still available, and then



So, we have another banner crop of minnows at Birch. I believe the prominent species here is the "RosyFace Shiner" *Notropis Rubellus*. Fish feed on minnows (per anecdotal observations of bass lurking around the schools). What do minnows eat? Based on extensive onsite testing, minnows prefer donuts, chocolate cake (no toppings). Of course, we all prefer donuts, hey? Num!

~Chrys A. Lis

hurry and call or text me to reserve your fabulous shirt!

In the Grey Long Sleeve Shirt (\$15), I have four 2XL, nine XL, 9 L and 1 small. In the White Long Sleeve Shirt (\$15) I have five 2XL and five XL. In the White SHORT Sleeve Shirt (\$10), I have one 3XL, three S and four Youth L. I also have four white Sweatshirts (\$20) in 2XL available.

I also have the oh-so-charming pis-

tachio green Birch Lake cups available for \$1 per cup – or a steal at 10 for \$8. Impress your summer guests with their very own Birch Lake cup to take home!

All proceeds go to the fund for the AED's.

Call or text me at 574-261-6712 (I get terrible cell service at the lake so don't be discouraged if I don't respond quickly).

~Past Commodore Karen

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Birch Lake Notes

New Birch Lake Directory

The Birch Lake Yacht Club is planning a new Birch Lake Directory to be published later this year and we need your input! If you have had changes in your family or if you are new to the lake (since the 2017/2018 Directory was published), we need you to provide your information (**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING INFO IS JULY 14**) so we can update and/or include the new information ...

The info we publish is:
Cottage number (if you know it);
Last name(s) of owner(s);
First name(s) of owner(s);
Lake address;
Other address;
Lake phone number;
Other phone number(s);
Children's names.

Please send your information to Deb Spratt via email at debspratt@comcast.net as soon as possible so we can get started.

We are also looking for advertisers for the Directory ... If you are interested in advertising, please contact Phil Vitale at (269) 476-1680 or email me at onlinebarker@gmail.com

The Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to your Birch Lake home every weekend through Labor Day - FREE of charge! It is also posted online every week at

<http://www.philvitale.com>.

The Birch Barker is just one of the things for which your Birch Lake Yacht Club membership dues are used to benefit to the citizens of our great lake. If you haven't paid your 2019 membership dues (just \$30 for full members, \$15 for associate members), you can do so with the handy form in every week's Barker. The Barker is also grateful to all businesses that advertise in the Birch Barker! Please support our advertisers!

The Barker welcomes content. If you would like to submit an item for consid-

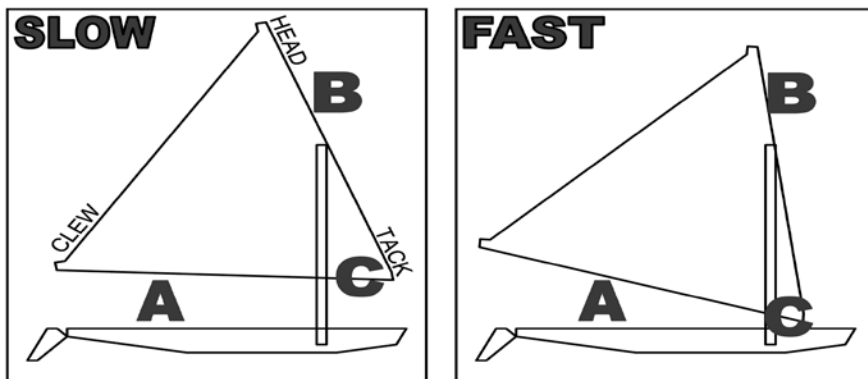
eration, email, mail or drop it by my house (see note at bottom of page 1). Do you best to send high resolution photos (we prefer 300 dpi); cell phone photos will work (sometimes) but can't be enlarged without blurring. If you want your materials back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

If you would like to advertise in the Barker or in the upcoming Birch Lake Directory, drop me an email or give me a call (for info and ad costs see <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>).

~Editor Phil

Sunfish GO FAST race settings

Rake the rig forward with Tack (boom junction) nearly sweeping deck



A - distance from sailor's head to boom (clearance Clarence) same
B - distance from upper boom head to halyard = 57 1/2" (GO FAST)
C - distance from lower boom to gooseneck = 12" (GO FAST)
Note: measure on aluminum booms, not including end caps

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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Fleet Captain's Jibe #4, June 15

By *The Eastside Sailing Club*

Well, after reading FC Pat's pipe-dream last week it seemed appropriate that we, the Eastside Sailing Club, respond in kind.

Sailing was once again canceled Sunday by the weather, and we sailors aren't happy. It seems to us that the Fleet Captain should take responsibility for seeing to it that we, the fleet, have the opportunity to sail, and we believe that for the past two weeks the canceled sailing shows that he has failed miserably at his duties.

Consequently, following the advice of our attorneys (Lettuce, Overchargem, Moore & Often), we submitted our grievances to the International Sailing Commission, the America's Cup Rules Committee, and the International Dark Skies Society, citing our multiple disappointments and providing sufficient evidence for them to make a ruling on Pat's incompetence and inabilities.

After consideration and discussion, all of the ruling groups have agreed that the Fleet Captain has indeed been complacent, negligent, and lacking in both professional and moral character, and that the following actions are recommended and appropriate:

1. Following the fictitious and adolescent fantasy authored by said Fleet Captain in last week's Birch Barker (which points to a hugely massive cover-up of his irresponsible and potentially illegal scrubbing of the previous week's sailing due to his sissified reasoning of temperatures being too cold to sail), his ridiculously wishful-hoping of winning first place nonsense in three non-existent races should be expunged from any and all records and his scores should immediately be reduced to one less than last place for those, and all future races held on Birch Lake in perpetuity;

2. After showing such a deplorable absence of honesty, morality and veracity, said Fleet Captain should be subjected to a series of punishments as specified in the International Rules of Sailing, the Pirate's Code of Conduct,

and the Old Testament, and he is to be flogged with no fewer than 100 lashes by a cat-o-nine-tails, following which he shall be dipped in brine, then repeatedly keel hauled, and finally, his beaten and bloody body shall be uncomfortably nailed to the hull for a period of no less than 40 days and nights at sea;

3. In light of his continued refusal to remove or dim his hideous green outdoor pier-post lights below their accursed Chernobyl-glow levels, and his flagrant flying of the Canary-yellow PT Barnum and Bailey Circus Tent boat cover, said Fleet Captain shall be permanently banned and shunned at all public gatherings where any sailor in good standing shall be present, including but not limited to all beer privileges at the notorious Flamingo Room and other Bad Patty parties, gatherings and soirées;

4. Since said Fleet Captain has chosen to ignore his obligation to intercede in aforementioned weather-related issues which have forced the cancellation of sailing two weeks in a row, the contractual one-case-of-beer-a-week has not been fulfilled and Committee Boat Captain Bad Patty has been forced to (1) provide beer from her own refrigerator, and (2) purloin beer from neighbor (and fleet sailor) P. A. Vitale's garage refrigerator to sustain herself and her valiant crew in the interim, causing a drought of Biblical proportions along the entire East shore of Birch lake ... therefore, said Fleet Captain shall immediately be fined 100 cases of Coors Light, 100 cases of Miller Lite and 1 keg of Guinness draft to be delivered at the Commodore/Vice Commodore Party on June 29 at the Birch Lake Yacht Club;

5. In accordance with the ordinances and regulations stipulated in the official charter of the Birch Lake Eastside Sailing Club manual, defrocked and denounced Fleet Captain Pat is heretofore required to accept the nicknames of Nemo Wannabe, Sailpunk Sinkaboat, and/or Stinky Peanut Butter Pants.

Failure on his part to abide any of these measures shall result in severe penalties, including (but not limited to):



A. Abandonment on an arctic iceberg with naught to eat but a pair of soiled and reeking (but brightly colored) knit socks, naught to drink but a pint of stale, warm embalming fluid, and naught for company but five unfriendly, and fragrantly flatulent sea otters;

B. Incarceration in his own outdoor refrigerator/freezer in the front yard of his home where a window shall be cut so he will be forced to watch as his neighbors' dogs do their civic doo-ties on the grass by his pet-clean-up station without cleaning up said doo;

C. Summary execution wherein his entrails shall be removed with dull spoons by all Birch Lake sailors who have been fouled during races in which he has negligently and flagrantly barged, not given buoy room and/or capsized in front of a superior sailor, causing the trailing boats to alter course to avoid running over his sorry and inexcusable excuse for a sailing experience.

We are in agreement that the findings of the ruling committees are warranted and just, and that the proposed penalties are appropriate and justified.

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes ...

Respectfully submitted by:
~Sailorphil on behalf of the famed Eastside Sailing Club and the entire Birch Lake Sailing Fleet

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Saturday, June 15
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Enjoy a great evening with family and friends!
Dinner includes spaghetti with three sauces, salad,
dessert, and ice tea or lemonade. Take outs available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance

Call/Text Linda Rasmussen (574-286-0054) before 1:00 PM Saturday
Children 3 and under - Free Ages 4-10 - \$5.00 Ages 11-Adult - \$8.00

Ladies' FUN!!!! Golf Outing - JULY 19

Diamond Lake Golf Course, Cassopolis

9 AM Tee Off - \$35 per golfer (fee includes cart and lunch)

Lunch at BLYC following the Outing / Games, Prizes, 50/50 Raffle

Teams are encouraged to donate a basket for the basket raffle not to exceed \$50/\$12.50 per team member

If you don't golf but would like to join us at noon for lunch, please register and pay \$12
If you'd like to volunteer to help serve lunch or be a hole sponsor please contact either:

Barb Cassady 574-303-2831 or Jeannie Welch 574-286-2890

Net proceeds to benefit Camp Tannadoonah

Registration Form

Team Members (list captain first with phone no.)

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

OR FOR LUNCH ONLY:

1. _____

Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to Barb Cassady at
63486 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS JULY 9

— Barker Kids of the Week —



John Luecht (east shore), and Marlee Soldato (hill) enjoying an afternoon in the Flamingo Room

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Above: Our granddaughter, Aley Vitale-Richards caught a fish off our pier while brother Dominic Vitale-Richards struggled to beat the water to froth. Good job Aley!



At Right: Horse of the Week honors to this pony photographed by Veronica Vegh, granddaughter Morgann Applegate's BFF, and a frequent visitor to Birch Lake.

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Birch Lake homes for sale



62930 Birch Road

3-bedroom, 2.5-bath, 2,200-sq-ft lodge-style home on a 1.2-acre lot. Sale of furniture, furnishings, and decorations will be negotiable. On the main level, a foyer with a soaring ceiling opens to the living room with

fireplace, a bar, a formal dining room, and a family room with lake views and a knotty pine ceiling. The kitchen has an island with breakfast bar seating, stainless appliances, and a casual dining area that leads to a covered patio with a new hot tub and a 19x33-ft saltwater pool and a deck with panoramic lake views. The master suite, with walk-in closet, also has access to the covered

patio. A laundry and mud room, with access to garage as well as outdoors, has a powder room. Upstairs, a landing affords lake views for two bedrooms. On the lakeside lot, a matching hut has a bath, kitchenette, and covered porch next to a stone patio with fire circle. The property includes a 3-car garage and plenty of off-street parking. An adjacent lot is also available.



15176 Birch

Lake Shore Dr.

3 BD 2 BA 2,698-sq-ft home on double lot w/ 128 ft waterfront, fenced tennis court, large backlot w/ 1,200-sq-ft heated Morton Building. House has large windows, broad upper deck, covered lower patio, 3-season room, brick patio w/ custom-built

chimneyed fireplace near water. Upper level: large living room w/ vaulted ceiling, exposed natural beams, Midcentury Modern fireplace designed by Wendell Lovett, deck access, panoramic lake views; dining area w/ lake views; sink for wet bar; 3 BD; 1 BA; outside access. Spiral staircase down to sitting room w/ 3-season room and patio access, dining room, kitchen w/ bar seating and casual dining, 1 BA. Street-side lawn has wrought iron fence and brick path to the home.



63126 Birch Road

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— Barker Bird of the Week —



Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north shore) for the pic of a Smitley's Wren (a very small bird with very big pipes).

Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Dog of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be the lawnmower of the Week? Just mail your photo (with a SASE if you want the photo(s) back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (east side), or email them to me at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM



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— Water Quality Report —

The First Commandment

This week, we'd like to discuss Commandment #1, "Thou Shalt Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)"

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) refers to all non-native organisms living in or near our bodies of water. Examples include zebra mussels, aggressive weeds, and fish diseases. Because they typically have no natural predatory, competing, or limiting species, AIS can overwhelm a body of water very quickly. Once an AIS visits a body of water it may be controlled, but rarely eliminated. Currently there are at least hundreds of known forms of AIS.

AIS threaten the health of our lakes and rivers, decrease water quality and can limit recreational enjoyment. It has been estimated that the total economic impact of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes region is \$5.7 billion per year.

Within the last decade or so, rampant AIS at a few lakes within 60 miles of ours has actually caused their state DNR (Department of Natural Resources) to, on a temporary basis, "close" those lakes for use.

At Birch, we already "enjoy" the presence of at least known types of AIS:

- 1) Eurasian Milfoil – for which we survey and treat annually
- 2) Purple Loosestrife – for which volunteers (Bruce Wagner) hunts and then pulls every late summer
- 3) Curly Leaf Pondweed – for which we monitor but action has not yet been required.

A particularly problematic species, Starry Stonewort, has already been discovered in numerous nearby bodies of water (including our own mill pond.) Numerous other forms of AIS thrive in the area and threaten us regularly. For these reasons, each year we hire outside experts to survey our lake.

Movement of boats and trailers among water bodies is the most common way Aquatic Invasive Species spread in Michigan. Washing of those boats and trailers is an obvious and relatively easy way to stop them.

Michigan Law requires that we:

- Remove aquatic organisms, including plants from boats, boating equipment and boat trailers before launching or placing in the water or transporting any watercraft over land.

- Pull plugs and drain live wells, bilges, ballast tanks and all water from boats before leaving the access site.

- Dispose of unused bait in the trash. Do not release bait into the water.

- Don't transfer fish to water bodies other than where they were caught.

In Michigan it is recommended that we:

- Inspect and remove plants and mud from boats, trailers and gear and dry equipment before leaving the access area.

- Dispose of the material in a trash receptacle or otherwise away from water body.

- Power wash boats, trailers and gear before leaving the access area if possible, or at a nearby car wash or at home

- Clean our boats and equipment before and after use in a new body of water

- Don't allow the cleaning residue from a previous body of water to runoff into a different body of water

- After cleaning, dry boats and equipment. (Most Invasives, and significant fish diseases, will die if left dry, out of the water, for 5 (five) days

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

- Do not dump fish and plants from aquariums into a body of water unless you are absolutely certain that each variety of living matter therein is native to that body of water.

In summary,



please be careful not to place (or dump) anything that may be invasive (non-native) into our lake or into a place that may eventually wash into our lake. Included would be plants, fish, bait, aquarium remnants, and even crawfish left over from a "boil."

PLEASE PASS THE WORD!

THE "SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY"

I. THOU SHALT PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS).

II. THOU SHALT MINIMIZE SURFACE RUNOFF.

III. THOU SHALT MINIMIZE THE EFFECTS OF WAVES.

IV. THOU SHALT PROTECT AND EXPAND NATURAL SHORELINES.

V. THOU SHALT NOT ALLOW PHOSPHORUS, NUTRIENTS, AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE CHEMICAL ELEMENTS TO ENTER OUR LAKE.

VI. THOU SHALT REMAIN INFORMED AND ACTIVE ABOUT OTHER WATER QUALITY ISSUES.

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - This continues to be a busy fast-paced time! But it's fun busy. You notice the beauty of your daily surroundings and also, more than ever, you see how much love there is in your daily world. Admittedly, conflict, tension, chaos and insanity might be taking place at home due to family problems, visiting guests, renovations, repairs - something. Fortunately, you're in a good head space mentally speaking and can handle these challenges with skill. The key is to remember your long-term objective.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - You are totally focused on money, cash flow, earnings and expenditures right now. Fortunately, money is coming in, always a comfort. You are certainly in an excellent position to negotiate financial matters and anything that's important to you. You identify strongly with your ideas and opinions and will easily defend yourself. Be careful about coercing others to agree with you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - You continue to look fabulous to everyone Obviously, it's a great time to enjoy schmoozing with friends! Try to get away and have some fun! Meanwhile, You identify with what you own, which means you will tend to think that your worth is summed up by your possessions. That's crazy. Mahatma Gandhi died with his begging bowl and his robe, yet he changed the world! What are you worth? You're precious!

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - The heavens continue to give you two conflicting influences: Both the Sun and Venus are hiding in your chart, which makes you want to withdraw from the busyness of everything around you. You will enjoy solitude in beautiful surroundings. Especially with some delicious snacks. (Never eat more than you can lift.) Admittedly, this same influence encourages private activity, especially with love affairs. However, in sharp contrast of this, Mars in your sign! Mars stirs up lots of activity and wants you to work hard.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Your desire to socialize with others continues to be strong, which is why you will enjoy hanging out with friends, being vibrant and dynamic when dealing with groups, clubs and organizations. Venus will ensure that it's easy for you to be loving and affectionate with others. This benefit isn't just limited to activities with friends - any group situation will love your input.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - This is a great week to do anything to advance your cause because bosses, parents and VIPs will give you their blessing. Make the most of this because you don't have to do anything special to impress people. The Sun will create this smoke and mirrors illusion around you, which makes you shine in the eyes of others! Obviously, since this happens only once a year - you should take advantage of it! You might be competitive, especially with younger people.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - You need a change of scenery. I like Ernest Hemingway's advice: "Never go on trips with anyone you don't love." (True!) John Steinbeck said, "People don't take trips - trips take people." The Dalai Lama said, "Once a year, go somewhere you've never been before." And Henry Miller really summed it up with, "One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." Are you ready to book that flight?

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Have you noticed you're more in touch with your inner being? Perhaps you are more aware of compulsions that surface sometimes. Or you might be aware of the fact that you suddenly want to experience life on a feeling level not just intellectually. Because of this, you might attract someone to you who has a strong need for searching, self inquiry. You might also attract money to you through others. This is a good week to go for a loan or seek financial support. Meanwhile, intimate relationships will be affectionate and sexy. You need a change of scenery -- something exciting and stimulating!

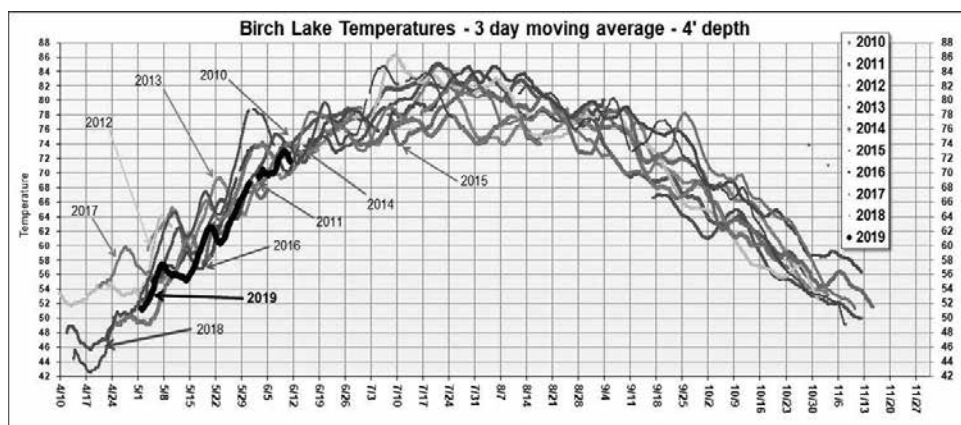
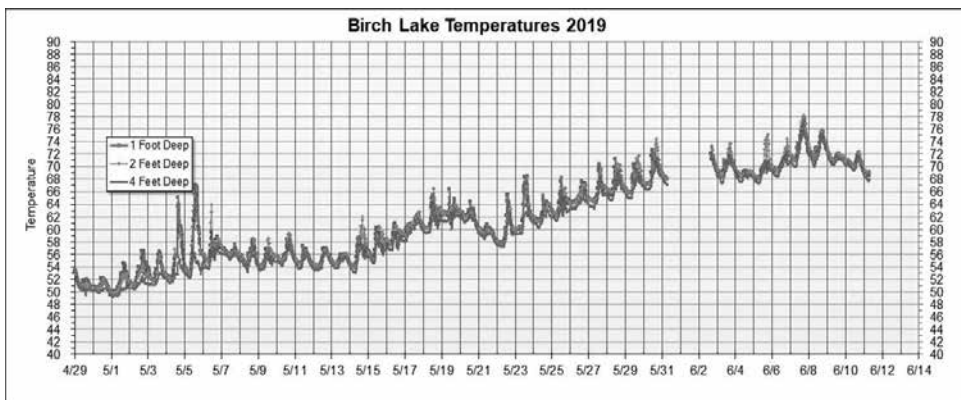
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - You still need more sleep. Disputes and squabbles with someone about shared property, inheritances, insurance issues and debt might continue as well. You are so into with what's happening, you will immediately create the right balance between yourself and someone else when you meet them. This applies to strangers, friends and partners. Basically, you are able to understand the needs of others, which is why these relations will be harmonious. Others will know you're working for their mutual benefit.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - You are still seriously focused on how you should manage your life. You want your duties, tasks and responsibilities to flow smoothly. Nevertheless, quite likely, you will have to work on behalf of someone else at this time, which is why you can't spend all your efforts getting your own way. Physical efficiency will make a difference. Fortunately, you feel healthy. Relations with coworkers are good; and some of you might encounter a work-related romance.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Your primary drive now is to do exactly whatever you want. This doesn't mean you want to dominate others - you just want the freedom to do your own thing. Children might be a bigger factor in your life this week along with sports, social events and the arts. Grab every chance to express yourself in some kind of creative activity because it will bring you joy.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Home, family and your private life continue to be your focus this week. In fact, redecorating your digs and entertaining at home will bring you much pleasure. Many of you are also buying beautiful things for your home to make it prettier and more inviting. (This same influence can attract favorable real-estate situations to you.) You want to be yourself and let others know who you are. You're more confident! You will also be playful, supportive and teasing but you will be your true self.

Birch Lake Environmental Data



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.987
1.1 days until full moon



Sunrise: 06:05:05 AM
Sunset: 21:20:33 PM
Moonrise: 19:45:56 PM
Moonset: 05:01:18 AM
Daylight: 15 Hr 15 Min 27 Sec

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —

Wine Tasting Word Search

ACID
ALCOHOL
AROMATIC
BLIND
BODY
BOUQUET
CHARACTER
CLARITY
COLOR
CORK
DESSERT
FAULT
FINISH
GLASS
LEGS



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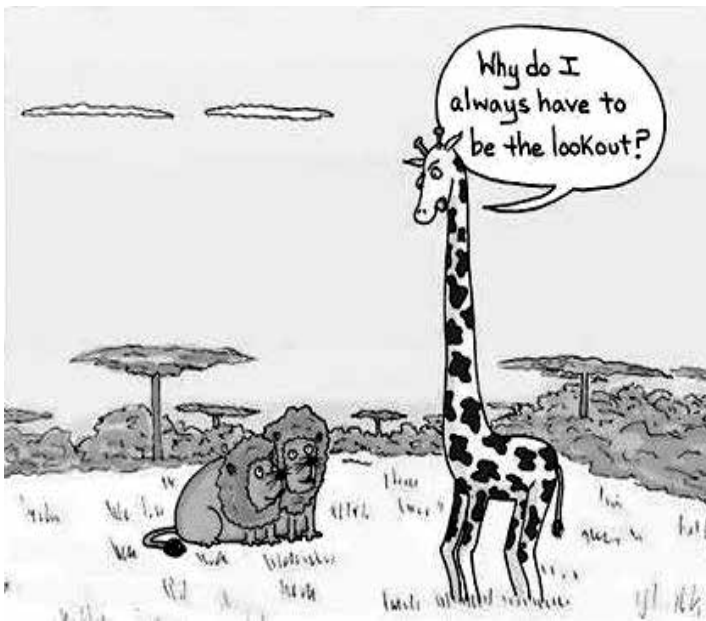
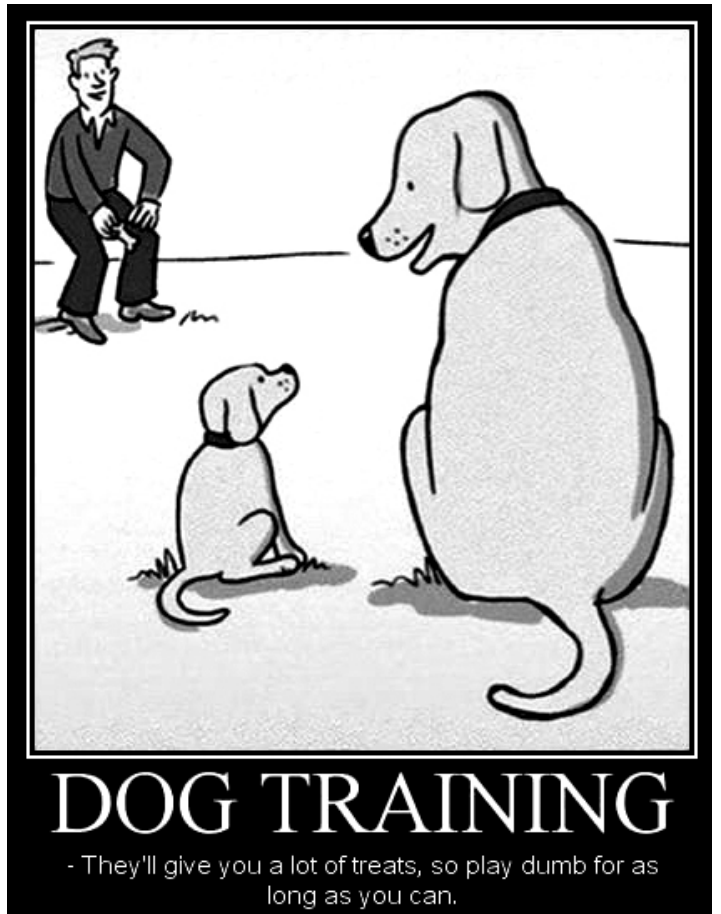
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~Birch Lake Recipes~



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Mandarin Salad

Mandarin Salad

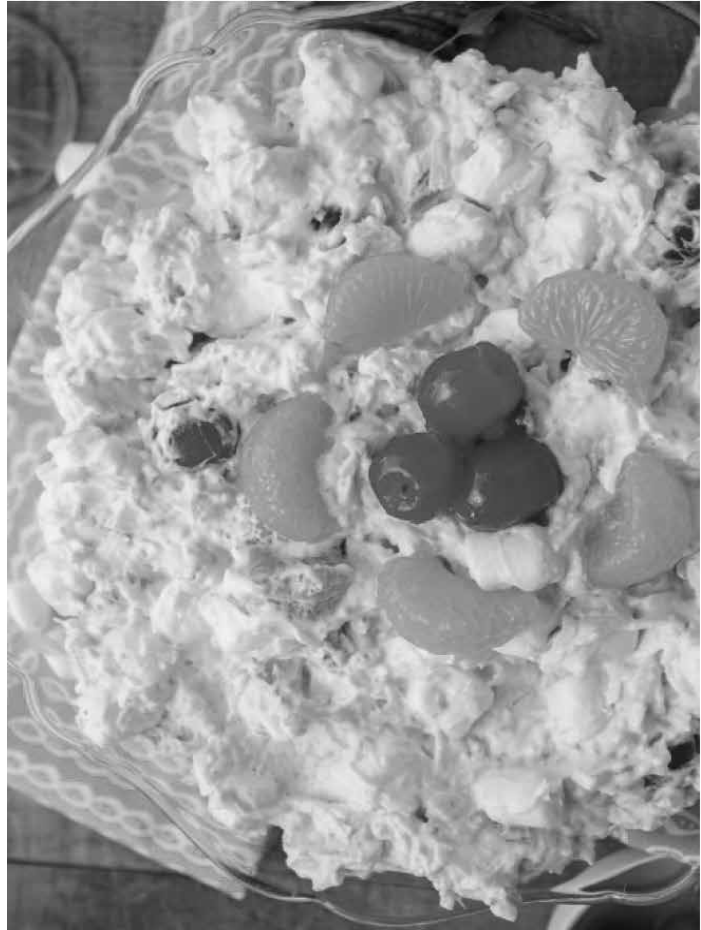
By **Loretta Drolet**

Ingredients:

- 2 cans mandarin oranges (drained)
- 1 can (or 2 cups) pineapple tidbits
- 1 pkg. Miniature marshmallows
- 1 can Angel Flake coconut or 3.5 oz.
- 1 8oz carton sour cream

Directions:

- Mix all ingredients except oranges.
- Gently fold in the oranges.
- Refrigerate 24 hours before serving.



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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Campers coming June 16

The campers are arriving soon! We have our first group of campers starting on Sunday (the 16th), and we're all anxious for them to start arriving. This first week we have 111 campers registered, which is a big group for week 1 – it's usually one of our smallest weeks of the year. We're on track to hit our goal of 990 for the summer, with 931 kids registered so far.

The week-one theme this year is Color Wars, which means each camper will be assigned to a team (Red, Yellow, Blue, Purple, etc) and the groups will compete against each other in fun activities throughout the week. The counselors who make up the week one committee are planning an "Amazing Race" themed evening, a night of relay races, and an activity called "One Way Street."

We're all hoping that the weather gets more summer-like as the campers arrive! Our lifeguard training week was chilly, and staff training has been pretty cool as well. Our staff who come from warm climates have all been freezing! We're looking forward to having some nice hot days

so that the lake will warm up more quickly.

This past week we have been doing lots of training and team building activities. We teach the staff what to do in emergencies, how to handle homesickness, how to resolve conflict between kids, how to teach their activities, etc. We also do training on working with diverse populations, how to work with your co-counselors, how to support each other, and lots, lots more.

One of the most interesting activities we did this week was an assessment called the Equilibria E-Colors. Each staff member did a quiz on the e-colors website (it's free! You can do it yourself, too – go to equilibria.com or you can download their app on your phone or ipad to find out your e-colors). We gathered up their results (you find out what your primary colors are and what they say about you), and then we had a facilitator come work with us for an afternoon.

The President of Equilibria is local (Lynn Kachmarik) from South Bend, and she works with youth and adults around the world, doing team

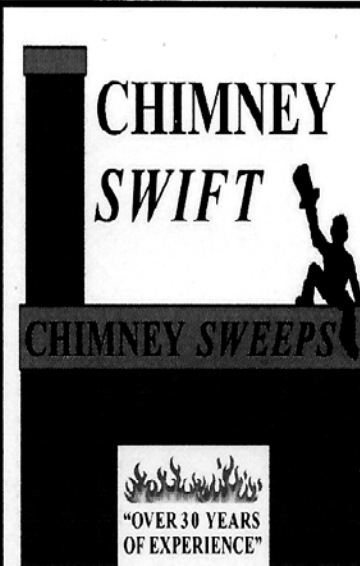
building trainings and also trainings with sports teams and parents who have kids in youth sports. Her own kids came to camp years ago, and now she is one of the coaches for the swim team that Avery and Elyse swim on. Plus she coaches swimming and diving at Adams HS.

Lynn's training with our staff focused on how they could use their strengths to be successful, and also how they could work on areas where they are less strong currently. It fits in really well with our Growth Mindset training that we do with our staff! Plus she gave them lots of coaching tips on how to work well with others who are different from yourself, and how to work with kids who have different personalities and behaviors. It was a lot of fun!

It will be really interesting to see how our staff use this training as we get into camp and have campers here. We've had fun at training, and loved getting to know everyone, but we're excited to have all the happy kid voices back at camp again on Sunday!

~Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org



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House for sale: 63306 Birch Rd.; 3 BR, 2.5 bath, 2600 SQ FT., 94 FT frontage, 2 stall attached garage, 2 full kitchens, many other extras, \$719,000, call PJ or Sue Vandewalle, 476-7086 for appt or info.



For Sale: the **former Misch Manufacturing building** located at 14111 Esther Ave., Mishawaka, IN 46545. Location 3/10 of a mile west of Capital Avenue between Jefferson and McKinley. Contact Jill Celie-Brenay, REMAX, or Bob King.

2" galvanized steel dock poles with augers. Four 8'-0" long and two 6'-0" long.

\$40.00 lot. Call Sparkybob 269-365-7696.

WANTED

My husband and I recently purchased a home on Lenore St and had heard that there might be a possibility of **purchasing/renting pier space** somewhere. Patricia Colburn, pcolburn81@sbcglobal.net

Camp T is looking for donations of **plastic grocery bags and empty toilet paper rolls**

Amber Grundy's mom, Sherry, is once again looking for **old bikes** for an art project. If you have a bike you'd like to get rid of, please call Sherry at 574-252-6854 or Amber at 574-315-0227. Bike does NOT need to be in working order.

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scott.troeger@btlaw.com

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pjvandewalle@gmail.com
Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com
Sandy Vitale (E)476-1680
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- \$ ___ - BLYC AED Fund
- \$ ___ - Misc.

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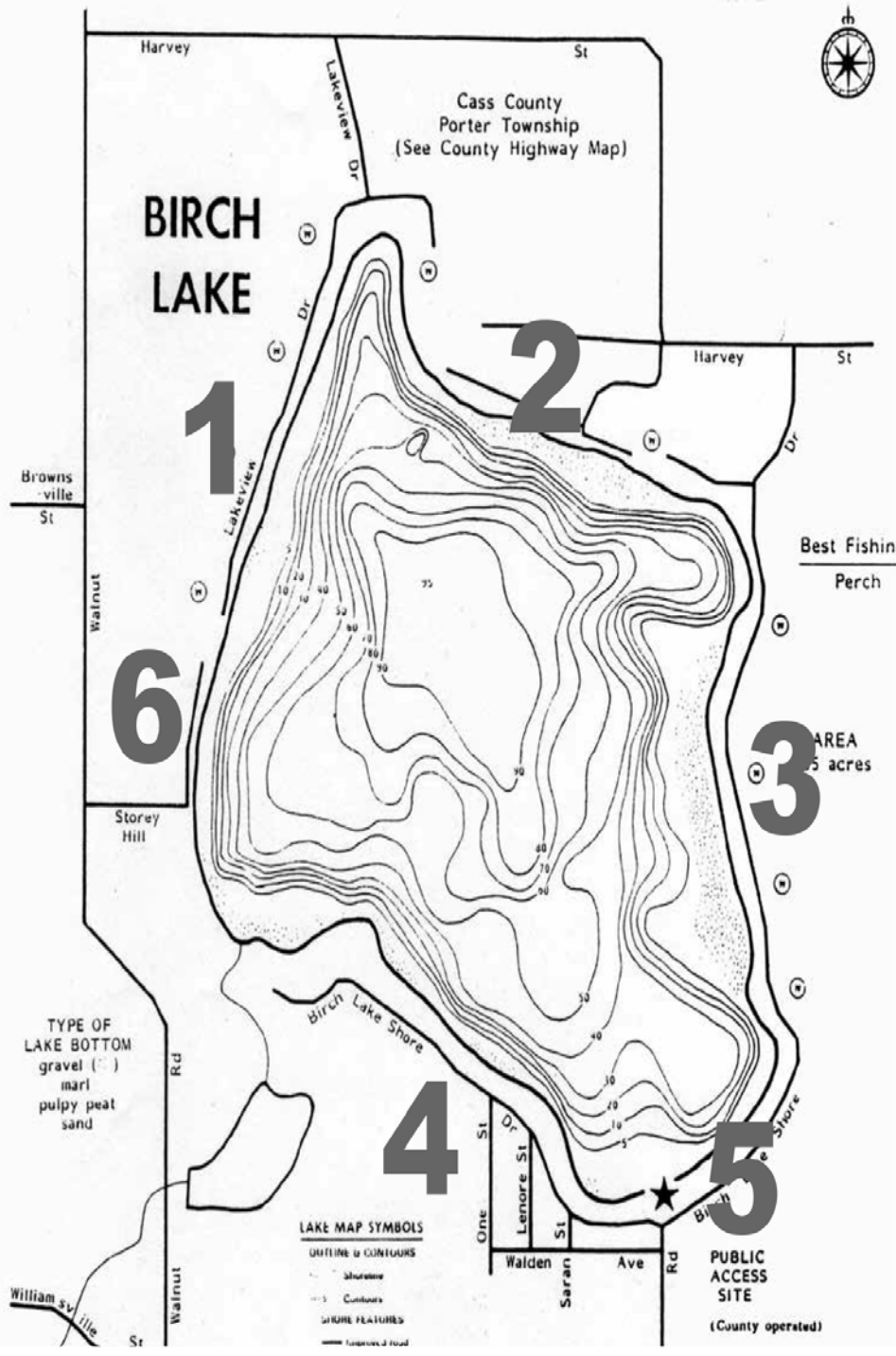
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