



Alien activity?

Maybe it had something to do with the sauerkraut and beverages served at last weekend's BLYC Fall Dinner, but this week there's been a sudden upsurge of weirdness around Birch Lake. First Barb Rondot (Lind Harman's daughter, east side), got this cool photo of the mother ship from Men in Black (and no, Will Smith didn't slap her), then there was another Birchie sighting (and photo) . Have we been invaded by visitors from another planet or was it just a weird hallucination caused by a chemical imbalance? Inquiring minds want to know ... more as it develops!



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Commodore's Comments August 27, 2022 'he torch has been passed ... I am

humbled and honored to serve as your commodore for Birch Lake this coming year. Along with Vice-Commodore Sue O'Brien Davis, together we hope to perform our duties to the best of our abilities, always looking out for our beautiful lake and its friendly, fun-loving residents.

Last Saturday, the annual Fall Dinner saw 81 lake residents enjoying a Polish-style dinner, complete with an assortment of appetizers and scrumptious desserts! Yes, the flags used in the table centerpieces were for the country of Poland. Five of our directors whose terms were expiring, wish to continue their service. Those are Dan Waxman, Scott Troeger, Sarah Petty, Karen Curtis-Miller and Bernie Garceau. Dave Carroll from the West side has come aboard as a new Director. Welcome Dave!

The Commodore's Award was given to Bernie and Blair Garceau by out-going Commodore Barb Cassady, (see article in this Barker) for their dedication and hard work.

Thanks to all of those who volunteered their time to help with making the dinner a success. They include Barb and Tom Cassady, my husband Bud and daughter Liz, Deb Spratt, Vickie Rogers, Bad Patty Luecht, Celia Fallon, Cam Butler, Sue O'Brien Davis, Phil and Sandy Vitale, and Dennis and Claudia Phipps. If I have forgotten anyone, my sincerest apologies for the oversight.

By the time this prints, the Birch Lake Ladies' Style Show & Luncheon at the Woodfire in Dowagiac will be over, but we hope you can joins us for the Crockpot Challenge September 17 at the yacht club. More details on page 2 of this Barker.

I am aware that my first try at the "Commodore Comments" is a little short.

2022 Birch Lake Calendar

Sept 11 - Sailing Awards, Frew's house Sept 17 - Crockpot Challenge, 6 pm, more details inside

2022 BLYC BOARD MEETINGS Sept. 10, 9 am @ BLYC

~2023~ May 20, 2023 - Spring Dinner (details tba)

July 1, 2023 - Fireworks (tentative)

I'll eventually get the hang of it and add more thoughts. Here's the deal, anyone who knows me, knows that I ALWAYS have something to say!

Remember, the sun always shines on Birch Lake, even on a cloudy day ... ~Commodore Deb

Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa I formally apologize the Harman fami-

The Birch Barker will consider ads and editorial items for potential publication. E-mail items to sailorphil@philvitale.com, mail them to me (or put them in the stone mailbox) at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). Contact Editor Phil at onlinebarker@gmail.com, or at 476-1680 (no text). Contact Commodore Barb Cassady, via email at barbcassady49@gmail.com or call 574-574-229-9815. **DEADLINE** is Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

Birch Lake Notes -

ly and especially to Lind Harman for the outrageous number of times I allowed their name to be misspelled in last week's Barker. I could cite a thousand reasons it happened but the truth is I'm getting old, and I simply blew it. I have programmed my "spell checker" to watch for it in the future and I promise I will make a concerted effort to do better.

I'm sorry Harmans.

Crockpot Challenge

Let's talk about the BLYC Crockpot Challenge! We have a tentative date set for the event on Sept 18,.

NOW FOR THE RULES!

You may submit entries of either savory or sweet, or both. Not sure about sweet? Check Pinterest for ideas!

Participants Only: Arrival time at 5:30 pm. Please be on time! Bring extension cords, and utensils.

DO NOT ID YOUR CROCKPOT!! Arrival time for participants will be 5:30 pm to allow setup time for the crockpots: Hors d'oeuvres and toppings (crackers, cheese, diced onion, breads, butter, etc.)

Non crockpot challenge desserts (i.e. Julie's Cookies ... HAHAHA!) set on table provided. Good idea to I.D. your dishes. (But NOT the crockpots). BYOB: we will be using leftover

BYOB: we will be using leftover



Congratulations to Sandy Vitale (right, east shore), who has miraculously managed to avoid daily impulses to commit murder or do bodily harm to her wacky husband Phil and thereby has avoided criminal prosecution throughout 52 years of marriage (assuming they made it to Aug. 27). Happy anniversary Sandy.

beer and wine, but it is unknown how much will be available after the previous events. If it is available, we will offer it.

Guests arrival time 6 pm! NO EARLY ENTRIES to eat. Get your voting ballots at the door as you come in. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd,

and 3rd places in each category; 6:15 pm

EATING BEGINS; Scoring and prizes at approximately 7:15 pm.

There will be a Basket Raffle and 50/50 drawings. Watch the Barker for any updates. Any questions call Bad Patty at 317-605-6421.

Again all of this depends on the COVID 19 virus and whether or not we



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Birch Lake Notes -

would feel comfortable enough to host this event.

~BP

The Printed Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to homes on Birch Lake available each week <u>http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/</u> <u>BirchBarker.htm</u>.

To submit items for publication, email sailorphil@philvitale.com or onlinebarker@ gmail.com, or mail (or deposit items) at 63174 Birch Rd. (East side), Vandalia, MI 49095.

To contact the editor, email to onlinebarker@gmail.com or to sailorphil@philvitale.com, phone 269-476-1680 (no texts since I don't use a cell phone).

Contact Phil Vitale for information. Deadline for any week is noon on Tuesday prior to the weekend of publication.

Yacht Club building use

To make arrangements to use the BLYC building, contact Sandy Vitale at 269-476-1680 or 269-858-8184.

SAILBOATS ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY!





The young Grundy boys (east side) taking a turn at the wheel since Grandpa Bill went home ...







BLYC Fall Dinner -



Birch Lake Yacht Club Past Commodore Barb Cassady (right) passed the life jacket to incoming Commodore Deb Hall (center). at last Saturday's Fall Dinner. Sue Davis, left is the incoming Vice Commodore





Making a royal entrance to the Flamingo Room





Joining Incoming Commodore Deb Hall (front, second from left) at the Flamingo Room afterparty last Saturday were seven past commodores of the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Pictured are (top row from left), Blair Garceau, 2008, Bob King, 2000, Claudia Phipps, 2017, Bad Patty Luecht, 20214, (from row from left) Chas Grundy, 2013, Deb Hall, 2013, Scott Troeger, 1997 and Phil Vitale, 2003. Above right are the attending female Past Commodores supporting Bad Patty's bad habits.

BLYC Fall Dinner -

2022 Commodore's Award Recipients

One of the duties of the Commodore is to recognize those who have shown outstanding service to our Lake community. This year's Commodore's Award goes to Blair and Bernie Garceau. The Garceaus deserve this award for numerous reasons:

• Blair is a past Commodore from 2007 - and I know what that involves. She has helped other Commodores over the years since with her wisdom.

• Blair and Bernie just completed their 19th year working on and leading the Corn & Sausage Roast. If you attended this event two weeks ago, you witnessed a welloiled operation resulting in a great event with an excellent outcome.

• Blair (along with Carol McCoy) took over chairing of the Ladies' Golf Outing the past 2 years, with great success.

• This year someone was needed to keep the Book Club going – and Blair stepped up again.

• Together with others Blair and Bernie helped create the successful Trivia Night earlier this year.

• Blair and Bernie together have shown what it is to be a great friend when hosting parties for neighbors moving away, for quietly thanking volunteers, and for many acts of kindness. They are wonderful, thoughtful people.

• Bernie currently serves on the Birch Lake Yacht Club board and has for three years.

• Blair is the chair of the Lake's Home Owner's Association.

• They have a son and daughter and 2 grandchildren and are full-time residents of Birch Lake.

- And there is much more that these two phenomenal people have done -- but I think you get the picture of what makes them special.



Blair and Bernie Garceau 2022 Commodore's Award Recipients

Please join me in celebrating these special gifts to our lake community – Blair and Bernie Garceau! Presented by Commodore Barb Cassady August 20, 2022 at the BLYC Fall Dinner



— Water Quality Report – Blue Green Algae

ound throughout our environment is an organism referred to as blue green algae (also known as cyanobacteria). In truth it is not algae but a bacteria that has photosynthetic pigments (chlorophyll among them) that can convert sunlight into useful chemical forms of energy and give off oxygen as a byproduct, just like algae and plants. It is believed that these are some of the oldest life forms on earth and responsible for the initial generation of oxygen in the atmosphere. They are a part of the ecological web and can be used in some industrial processes. Their mere presence is not an issue in bodies of water, but if their numbers increase dramatically they can cause a problem, especially forms that produce toxins. So, the question is "do we have an issue at Birch Lake?" The answer is essentially - no, but that does not mean we do not have to be alert and watch for signs of a "bloom" of these blue green algae. On our lake "blooms" are rare, very localized, and very time-limited events.

Normally in bodies of fresh water, blooms are associated with high nutrient lakes, which we are not. However, under the right conditions mini blooms can occur. We have not seen one, or had one reported for a few years. It usually presents as a sort of fluorescent or shiny surface scum with bluish or greenish tints, early in the morning as the sun shines causing the blue green algae to float to the surface as they become surrounded by bubbles. Please differentiate this from the common mats of decaying residues of the multiple hatches we get of mayflies, midges, and other insects which have larval forms in the water. Also, we get lots of tree seeds and pollen, but these are usually in the spring and early summer, along with little mats of very green algae. With waves and wind, the bloom will disperse. Should you see something like this as you arise in the morning adjacent to the shoreline, do not let your dogs drink from the lake in the area and avoid walking or wading in that area until it has been dispersed.

Again, only a very few of these blue green algae blooms have been seen or reported over the years and none that we are aware of in the last few years. The few seen have been on the south or west side where the sun shines in early



morning on a still lake. A reason for the fortunate lack of any blooms lately may be related to the almost disappearance of zebra mussels. These invaders had coated all hard surfaces for a number of years, but have been very very dramatically reduced in number recently. This does not mean gone, but sort of in an ecological hibernation. Researchers at MSU have done studies that correlated zebra mussel infestations with increased blue green algae numbers in low nutrient lakes like Birch. It is believed that the zebra mussels filter out normal algae and effectively spit out blue greens, altering the algae landscape.





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A no-wind situation ... again

e've seen some "no wind" days this year But early last Sunday morning it became clear that we had a doozy, when I received the following email from Course Setting Captain Tom Cassady: "So foggy I can't tell if there is any wind. Weather app shows 3 mph from SE and at 10 am it says it is 4 mph from the east then at 12 switching to the northeast. Even the wind does not know what to do!"

Needless to say, races were canceled, so we have no new sailing results to report.

OUR SUNFISH FINDS A NEW HOME!

In the August 6 Birch Barker, my beautiful bride Jackie and I offered our 1976 Bicentennial Sunfish free to anyone who would agree to learn to sail if necessary, and when ready, race it on Sunday with the BLYC Sailors. Not long afterwards, Stewart Spratt looked at it and said that he was interested. But before Stewart could take possession, Amber Grundy texted me that her kids were interested. I told Amber that Stewart was first in line, but that I would let him know of her kids' interest. Ever the gentleman, Stewart immediately said that Amber's kids should have it, and he



wished them much happiness with it. Stewart said he had other options--including sticking with his 1960's vintage Sunfish, in which he is competing very successfully this year. Amber said her kids were delighted at the news that they would get the boat!

Late last Thursday afternoon, Jackie and I were with our family in the Egyptian Tomb in the Field Museum, Chicago, when a text came in from Amber. The wind was up, and her son Avery wanted to sail! Could they come over and sail the Sunfish home? I called Amber and gave her access to our garage for the parts to the boat, which was on sawhorses in the lake. A couple of days later, Amber sent the photo below, of her son Avery happily sailing our old Sunfish on Birch Lake -- he had gone out sailing twice that first evening in the great wind! Avery is the oldest sibling in the family, and was one of my advanced sailing students this summer at Camp Tannadoonah. But I'm sure it won't be long before Elyse, Kieran and Harrison want to join in! After all, their mom Amber is a BLYC MC Sailor!

SCOTT TROEGER'S GREAT IDEA: THE BLYC SUNFISH JUNIOR FLEET PREMIERES SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 AT NOON:

Hats off to Scott Troeger for his idea of a BLYC Sunfish Junior Fleet! Scott's idea capitalizes on the strong interest in sailing from young participants in Bob and Leslie King's recent restart of the Don Harman Kidz Regatta.

This Saturday will be the first such event, and any young person who can bring and sail a Sunfish is welcome. Tom Cassady has generously offered to set the course and act as Committee Boat to start the races and record the finishes. There will be two races. The first race will start promptly at noon, so plan to be out there on the lake in the vicinity of the Committee Boat and the starting line no later than 11:45 am. Welcome to the BLYC Sunfish Junior Fleet, and have fun, Young Sailors!!! ~F.C. Steve

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BIRCH LAKE SAILING



BLYC Season Standings to date

Date	14-Aug	14-Aug	14-Aug	Total	Point	Races	%
Race				Points	Average	Finished	Finished
MC Scow/Sailor					MC Races	20	
Scott Troeger #1489		1					65.2%
Barb Cassady #2506	5	6	6	27441	1444		78.3%
Bob King #1199	DNS	DNS	DNS	12852	1428	9	
Phil Vitale #500							
Bill Luecht #1579							
Pat Welch #1979							
Pat McGann #1735							
Amber Grundy							
Sandy Vitale	6		4	16482		14	60.9%
Steve Frew	8	DNS	8		1057	8	34.8%
Sunfish/Sailor					Sunfish races	20	
Gail Turlock							
Bob King	DNS	DNS	DNS		1574		13.0%
Pat McGann	DNS	DNS	DNS		1561	2	8.7%
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blu	ıe)1	1	1	35475	1542		100.0%
Pete Soldato	DNS	DNS	DNS		1484	4	17.4%
Stewart Spratt	2	2		20702	1479	14	60.9%
Scott Sortal	DNS	DNS	DNS		1446		
Amy Troeger	DNS	DNS	DNS		1391	4	17.4%
Steve Frew	DNS	DNS	DNS	11061	1383	8	34.8%
Bob Niezgodski							
Herb Cleveland							
Camille Butler							
Cole McGann Bell							
Chris Scofiled	DNS	DNS	DNS				8.7%
Jeff Walls							
Tammy Walls	DNS	DNS	DNS	1089	1089		4.3%

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 last place (if 5 boats started the race, you will be scored as 5th 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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Blasts from the Past -







Top left: Loretta Drolet and her daughter Marie at Loretta's goodbye party on August 15, 2006, a few months before she turned 90.

Top Right: Sue Wagner and Loretta Drolet in the summer of 2002.

Left: Jack and Buddy Asire at their Cove cottage on Sept. 9, 1990.

> Thanks to Bruce Wagner for submitting these photos

Birch Lake items of interest

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere) Illuminated Fraction: 0.010 0.9 days since new moon

> 0.9 days since New Moon

Sunrise: 07:02:01 AM Sunset: 20:24:59 PM Moonrise: 00:41:30 AM Moonset: 16:25:20 PM Daylight: 13 Hr 22 Min 57 Sec

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Tree Valley Academy

Birch Barker Funnies

I NEVER CALLED YOU STUPID, BUT WHEN I ASKED YOU TO SPELL "ORANGE" AND YOU ASKED ME THE FRUIT OR COLOR IT KINDA CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD.

APPARANTLY, THIS IS THE ROUTE OUR PARENTS TOOK TO GO TO SCHOOL







I was thrown out of the break room of my Walmart yesterday.

They asked me what I was doing there.

I told them I was on a break.

They said you don't work here.

I said I'd just finished using the self checkout so clearly I do.



~Birch Lake Recipes~

Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Homemade black bean veggie burgers



RECIPES

"ith this black bean burger recipe, you will never want to eat frozen veggie burgers again. These are so easy, and you'll be proud to have created such a vegetarian delight.

Ingredients

- cooking spray
- 1 (16 ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- ½ green bell pepper, cut into 2 inch pieces
- ½ onion, cut into wedges
 3 cloves garlic, peeled
- 3 cloves
 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon Thai chili sauce or hot sauce
- ½ cup bread crumbs
- Directions

• Step 1

Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat. Lightly oil a sheet of aluminum foil with cooking spray.

• Step 2 Mash black beans in a medium bowl with a fork until thick and pasty.

• Step 3

Finely chop bell pepper, onion, and garlic in a food processor. Stir chopped vegetables into mashed beans.

• Step 4

Stir together egg, chili powder, cumin, and chili sauce in a small bowl. Add to the mashed beans and stir to combine. Mix in bread crumbs until the mixture is sticky and holds together.



RECIPES

Divide the mixture into four patties and place on the prepared foil. • Step 5

Grill on the preheated grill for about 8 minutes on each side.





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Camp Tannadoonah —

'A Gathering of Friends'

oin us this fall for a weekend at camp! This year's A Gathering of Friends: Grown Up Camp event is September 23-25, 2022. Sign up today at register.tannadoonah.org

Now that summer camp is over, we're moving on to our fall Camp Fire programs. We have a lot going on at camp this fall, including our 2nd Annual Grown Up Camp Weekend. Last year, in celebration of our 100th Anniversary at Camp Tannadoonah, we held a weekend at camp for grown-ups only. We all had so much fun that we decided to make it an annual event, which we're calling "A Gathering of Friends."

The grown-up camp weekend is open to everyone 21 and older, and there are options to spend the whole weekend at camp (Friday through Sunday), early arrival on Thursday, coming just for the day on Saturday, or just attending dinner on Saturday night. You can stay at camp or go home at night and be a "day camper!"

We have a full slate of traditional camp activities PLUS activities that are more adult-oriented. The weekend will include cocktail cruises around the lake, late night jam sessions around the campfire, a dinner banquet on Saturday evening, craft cocktails specially created for this event, and yoga classes in Morris Lodge or down by the lake. Plus we'll have archery, nature walks, traditional camp crafts, canoeing and kayaking, and cooking out over the fire.

No camp experience is needed! We're focusing on making this event something that is fun for everyone – whether you attended camp as a kid, worked at camp, have children or grandchild who have been campers, or just love being outside and doing fun activities! Last year, we had a wide range of ages, from recent camp staff in their early 20s, to former Camp Fire participants in their 80s!

We also plan to have a silent auction event on Saturday evening. One of our committee members has been collecting interesting and unique items for the auction, including a private flight over Southwest Michigan, handmade Adirondack chairs, a watercolor painting of Camp Tannadoonah, sailing lessons on Birch Lake, embroidered kitchen towels, custom etched glassware, and much more! The auction will be posted online, so you can bid on items even if you don't attend the event.

Come sing around the campfire, eat in the dining hall, try your hand at archery, go on a nature hike, shop at the camp trading post, make a friendship bracelet or a lanyard, do some yoga, play



cards with friends and just have a relaxing couple days at Camp T! We'd love to have more faces from the lake at this year's event. Have you ever wondered what a day at camp was like? Well, this is your chance to find out! (As well as some special activities that we don't offer while youth campers are here!).

Sign up online at register.tannadoonah.org and come be a camper for the weekend!

~Mrs. Amber

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This message is brought to you by the Homeowners Association of Birch Lake

Karen Curtis-Miller (E)

& DIRICH BLYC OFFICIERS 2022/23

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2022 BLYC OFFICERS



- \$____ FIREWORKS FUND
- \$_____ Water Quality Program
- \$_____ Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication
- \$_____ Safety Committee
- \$_____ Other non-party related expenses
- \$_____ BLYC Roof Fund
- \$_____ BLYC AED Fund
- _ Misc. \$

Make checks payable to BLYC and mail to Deb Spratt, Treasurer

18100 Farmington Hills Dr. South Bend, IN 46637

Now you can go online at HTTP://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM to pay your dues

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake **CALL 9-1-1** Harvey Cass County Porter Township (See County Highway Map) BIRCH \bigcirc 0 LAKE 0 Harvey St AED Browns 911 ville St 和国家 **Best Fishin** Perch 0 FOR AREA EMERGENCY 5 acres \odot **USE ONLY** Store \odot **ALARM WILL** SOUND 6 TYPE OF LAKE BOTTOM gravel () This project was mari BIRCH LAKA ipy peat made possible by the **Birch Lake Yacht** Club AKE MAP SYMBOLS and the t u cor PUBLIC **Birch Lake** ACCESS 2021 Homeowners SITE Association ACHT CLUB (County operated)

There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

the second second second

- 1. West Shore, Sheffieck home, 62875 Birch Lakeview Dr.
- 2. North Shore, Smitley home, 14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
- 3. East Shore, Vitale home, 63174 Birch Rd.
- 4. South Shore, Eberhart home, 15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
- 5. South/East Shore, Troeger home, 63696 Birch Rd.
- 6. Southwest Shore, DeYoung home, 63255 Storey Hill St.

All units are on the ROAD SIDE of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

7/14/2018

1. CALL 911 and report the emergency and the patient's location immediately. 2. Pull the box open, remove the orange-colored unit, TAKE IT TO THE **PATIENT** and open the device by pressing the white lever at the bottom. 3. An automated voice will guide you through the setup and use of the defibrillator. Follow the instructions as they are given.

4. Continue to follow the instructions as given, and stay with the patient until help arrives.



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Contact Mark at 269-244-5307 markbidelman@comcast.net

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