

Participants in the 2003 Don Harman Kidz Regatta posed for a pic at the Kings' home (north shore). Details on the events of the day are inside this week's Barker.

# COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

he Don Harman Kidz Regatta took place under sunny skies and good wind last Saturday. Many of our sailors came out to help the kids and it sounds like everyone had a grand time. A huge thank you to Bob and Leslie King for hosting the event at their shore, and to the sailors that came out to help.

The Fall Dinner is fast approaching so make sure you have purchased your tickets. Sue Davis will officially take over as Commodore and she will be announcing her Vice Commodore for next year as well. Put some giddy-up in your git-along and come on out for a funfilled, western themed evening on Saturday August 26.

This past week as I sat on my deck having my morning coffee, I became aware that the summer days on Birch were getting shorter. Kids are returning to school, so there is less activity on the lake. So for the next few weeks, let's get out and enjoy the refreshing waters of Birch, make more summer memories and enjoy the outdoors as much as we can for soon summer will be no more.

Going forward, be generous, be kind, love a little harder and remember, the sun always shines on Birch Lake, even on a cloudy day.

#### ~Commodore Deb

#### A belated Thanks!

We want to give Julia and Keith Remington (West Side) a big thanks for their excellent skills at shucking corn during the past Corn and Sausage Roast. Inadvertently their names were forgotten from the post in last week's

#### **2023** Birch Lake Calendar

Aug. 26 Fall Dinner & BLYC

Annual Meeting, , details tba

Aug. 26 Junior Sunfish Fleet races, 11 am Sept 2, 3 Labor Day Regatta,

Cont 4 roin data) 11 am

(Sept 4 rain date), 11 am

Sept. 9 Sailing awards

**luncheon**, Frew's house (east side)

Sept. 30 Crockpot challenge,

details inside

## **BLYC Board Meetings Last meeting: Sept. 9**

BLYC Board meetings begin at 9 am and are open to all lake residents

#### BLYC, Facebook and other social media

The Birch Lake Yacht Club DOES NOT have a Facebook page nor is it participating in any form of social media. If you see Birch Lake Yacht Club information on any social media, the information has not been provided, checked or approved by the BLYC, and may be incorrect or misleading. If you have questions or concerns, please check http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm, or contact any BLYC director or officer (see "officer and director" information in any edition of the Barker).

The Birch Barker will consider ads and editorial items for publication. E-mail items to onlinebarker@gmail.com, mail them (or put them in the stone mailbox to) 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). For **editorial contact Editor Phil** at onlinebarker@gmail.com, or at 476-1680 (no text). For **delivery concerns contact Ron Niezgodski**, birchbass1@gmail.com or 476-9317. For all other matters **contact Commodore Deb Hall**, at **debber-shall@gmail.com** or 219-765-8691. **DEADLINE** is always Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

# — Birch Lake Notes —

Barker. Our apologies. Julia and Keith were first year workers however you would have thought they had been shucking corn for the past ten. Thanks again Remingtons! It would not have been such a success without you and all of the other workers.

#### New "Slow Down" signs available

New "Slow Down" signs are now available, courtesy of the Homeowner's Association. If your road area could use one contact Blair Garceau (476-9862). People are saying they are noticing the new signs, hopefully everyone will and heed the message. Please slow down, there are many people, animals and vehicles that have to share our roads.

#### **Thanks SparkyBob!**



New cover for the BLYC firepit, donated and installed by Sparkybob Industries.

#### **Crockpot Challenge**

The 2023 Crockpot Challenge will

# Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribute now with a click at: https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com



To donate for **WATER QUALITY** or any BLYC activity or event, use the form in the back of this week's Barker or visit the website above



# Ready - Set - Medicarel

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- Avoid Penalties! If over 65, ask employer for proof of insurance.
- Watch for your new Medicare card to arrive in the mail.

#### Keep This List!

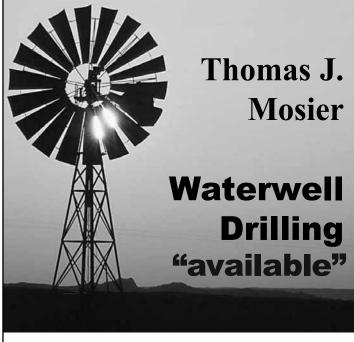
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# Birch Lake Notes

be September 30 at the BLYC. Again there will be two categories: Savory and Sweet. Prizes will be given for each category.

Entries will allowed in at 5:30 pm. Tasting will begin at 6.

There will be a basket raffle, and 50/50

drawing to benefit our Water Quality.

This year, we will again sponsor a food drive for the Food Bank of Cass County. Please contribute with non-perishable foods. Let's help our community!

~Sandy & Phil



Lots of sailing last weekend with the Kidz Regatta on Saturday and three races Sunday ... pictured is the start of one of the Sunday races as seen from the Committee Boat.



#### YOGA at the YACHT CLUB

- 9 -10:15 am August 19, 24,
- \$5 fee goes to water quality
- Most Thursdays, some

#### Bring:

- oyoga mat, two beach
- towels or blankets for Yoga Nidra Shavasana (the YC is cold & cold floor, body temp will drop)
- A pillow or two for under the knees and head
- An eye pillow or scarf to block light

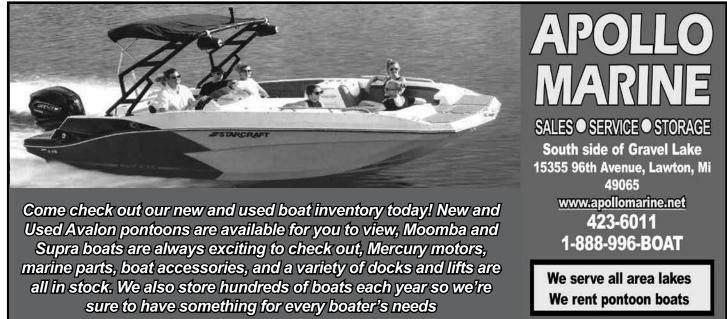
#### Satori Guest House 11979 M60 Jones, MI 49061 airbnb.com/h/satoriguesthouse

Satori Guest Cottage 11987 M60 Jones, MI 49061 airbnb.com/h/satoricottage

Only 7 minutes away from Swiss Valley Ski Lodge. Owners – Kevin & Buffy Mallo "All the little touches matter"

\*Both properties are adjacent to each other and may be rented together for larger parties.





# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

#### Saturday's Don Harman Kidz Regatta

A small thunderstorm passed over and then MC and Sunfish sailboats began arriving and mooring in front of the Caplis, King and Smitley homes. A crowd of kids and adults soon joined them at the second annual Kidz Regatta held at the King home since Bob King restarted the tradition last year in memory of Don Harman. Scott Troeger made a perfectly timed grand entrance in his MC sailboat that sported a line of colorful nautical signal flags spelling out "Kidz Regatta". Bad Patty's pirate flag flew at the end of the pier. The King's boathouse featured beverages, snacks and treats, including bounty from the Smitley's garden. Bob King and Phil Vitale taught young and old how to tie various and highly useful nautical knots, and Phil did a magic trick. Tom Caplis took photos. And then it was time to race!

Tom and Barb Cassady had set up a real race course, and a real Committee Boat was staffed by Captain Ron Niezgodski and First Mate Bob Niezgodski. The course went from the starting line almost all the way across Birch Lake from north to south, and back again. Captain Ron called out a five minute countdown, and the first race began. Bragging rights were at stake, so the competitive juices were flowing!

As sometimes occurs, a foul was called as the third race was about to start. For those wondering what a loud call of "BARGING!" might have meant, please

allow me to explain. Sailboat racing has rules, and one rule is that a leeward boat has the right of way over a windward boat. "Leeward" means downwind, and "windward" means upwind. The first leg of a race is always into the wind. So a leeward boat approaching the starting line can force a windward boat in front of it to get out of its way, even if that means the windward boat must cross over the starting line early to avoid hitting the leeward boat or any other boats, or causing them to change course. If the windward boat fails to do so, you may hear a foul called against it with a yell of "BARGING!" If the windward boat is forced to cross the starting line early, it must make a complete circle around either the Committee Boat or the orange buoy at the other end of the starting line before crossing the starting line again, so a lot is at stake, and that's what all the shouting was about!

Once the three races were over, everyone return to the Kings' house for more camaraderie. The races had winners and also people who plan to do better next time, and here they all are:

- 1. Scott Troeger and Luke Carey (2-1-1)
- 2. Bob King and Connor Caplis (1-2-2)
- 3. Phil Vitale and granddaughter Aley Vitale-Richards (3-4-3)
- 4. Pat McGann and Kelly Davis (4-3-4)
- 5. Steve Frew, Jack Carey, and Robin Carey (5-5-6)
- 6. Bill Luecht, Abbey Caplis and Adelyn Carey (6-6-5)

A big THANK YOU to all of the kids, parents, and guests who attended, and to everyone who helped make this great event happen! Don Harman would have been proud!

#### **Sunday's Fleet race**

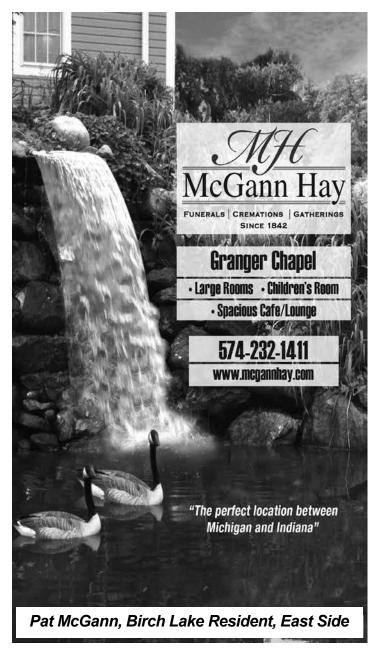
Our starting time was delayed until noon to wait for the wind to increase, which it did as forecast.

In the MC Fleet, Scott Troeger gained a small increase in his lead in season point average by going 4-1-1 to Barb Cassady's 1-5-2. Scott and Barb are now separated by the slim difference of 27 season points. Bob King and Pat Welch each scored a second place finish, with Bob King also netting a third place finish. The other two third place spots went to Phil Vitale.

In the Sunfish Fleet, Rick Russwurm won all three races and Stewart Spratt came in second in all three races. Rick now has a slim 12 point lead over Stewart in season point average. Pat McGann took two of the third place spots, and Bob Niezgodski grabbed the other. And a special honorable mention goes to Connor Caplis, who sailed with us both in the Kidz Regatta on Saturday and in the Sunfish Fleet with his dad Tom on Sunday! Way to go, Connor and Tom!

With only two Sundays remaining in the regular season, the race for the championship of both the MC and Sunfish Fleets could come down to a climactic Labor Day Regatta!.

~FC Steve







# BIRCH LAKE SAILING



#### BLYC sailing results & season standings

Date	8/13	8/13	8/13	Total	Point	Races	%
Race	15	16	17	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
MC Scow/Sailor							
Scott Troeger #1489	4	1	1	26416	1553.88	17	100
Barb Cassady #2506	1	5	2	25962	1527.17	17	100
Bob King #1199	2	6	3	12704	1411.55	9	52
Patrick Welch #1979	5	2	4	16888	1407.33	12	70
Phil Vitale #500	3	3	6	21924	1370.25	16	94
Bill Luecht #1579							
Steve Frew #656	6	8	7	19551	1221.93	15	88
Sandy Vitale #2159							
Amber Grundy #1173	DNS	DNS	DNS	3606	1202	3	17
Sunfish/Sailor							
Rick Russwurm							
Stewart Spratt							
Pat McGann							
Bob Niezgodski							
Herb Cleveland							
Camille Butler							
Amy Troeger							
Bob King	DNS	DNS	DNS	2888	1444	2	11
Connor Caplis							
Pete Soldato	DNS	DNS	DNS	3121	1560.5	2	1
Rill Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	3	17

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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# BIRCH LAKE SAILING





# ~The 2023~ Don Harman Kidz Regatta

This past Saturday we hosted the Annual Don Harman Kidz Regatta. Many thanks to: Ron and Bob Niezgodski who ran the Race Committee in addition to Tom and Barb Cassady who set the (reach - reach) race course. Several neighbors contributed and the sailors of Birch Lake came out in force to make sure everyone had a ride. And that's what it's all about ... taking kids sailing who otherwise might not have the opportunity. Always,

~Leslie and Bob King









# EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

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):

- 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:**

- 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.

# Barker Kids of the Week –



Claire Brovold (west shore) with friends Cody and Maddy from Lafayette, Louisiana. First time in Michigan for Cody and Maddy.



Ron & Linda are looking forward to hosting another Witchie Family Reunion this week with guests from Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Texas!

# ST 21/22 ST 21/22

Thanks to Sandra Dobosiewicz for the pic of three big guys at last weekend's west side festivities.

#### **Birch Barker Kids of the Week**

Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the Week? Mail (or drop off) your photo (with a SASE if you want it back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 or email me at Sailorphil@PhilVitale.com or Onlinebarker@gmail.com



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# Water Quality Report —

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN DNR MAKES WAKEBOAT RECOMMENDATIONS

A few weeks ago, the 7/22/23 Barker presented on Commandment #3, "Thou Shall Minimize the Effects of Waves." In it we reported that:

1] The minimum distance between shorelines or docks and boats using wake making equipment should be:

Al100' by Michigan state law

B] 200' as recommended by the Water Sports Industry Association

C] 300-500' as recommended by numerous other water quality professionals

#### **AND**

2] The minimum depths at which wake making equipment should be operated at should be:

A] 12-16' as recommended by water quality professionals

Just a few days later, on July 28, 2023, the State of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources released its own review of wake boat effects in its "Fisheries Report 37". Four staff members reviewed 53 specific pertinent industry publications and together, on behalf of the DNR's Fisheries Division, recommended the following "voluntary best practices":

1] Boats operating in wake-surfing mode or wake-boarding mode, during which boat speed, wave shapes, and/or ballast are used to increase wave height, are recommended to operate at least 500 feet from docks or the shoreline, regardless of water depth.

2] Boats operating in wake-surfing or wake-boarding modes are recommended to operate in water at least 15' deep.

3] Ballast tanks should be completely drained prior to transporting the watercraft over land.

After citing these three best practices, both the report's Executive Summary and Conclusion went on to say, "It is recommended that awareness and voluntary adoption of these best operating practices be encour-

aged through actions and materials to educate wake boat operators."

We are pleased that this state agency took the time to research this issue and share their results and recommendations with us. It is significant, and the cause of some relief, that the state's recommendations varied little from those of the other industry professionals whose thoughts we have shared with you previously. We ask all those affected to conform to these best

If you wish to read the report in its entirety, please: Through your browser, go to "Michigan Lakes and Streams Association @mymlsa.org"

Click on "Michigan Lakes and Streams Associa-

Scroll to, and click on, "MDNR Officially Releases Boat Wake Report..."

Scroll to, and click on "Link to Full Report"

#### **SOME PERSPECTIVE ON OUR TSI SCORE**

In a letter sent recently to area non fee charging professionals seeking help in solving the riddle of our dramatically higher TSI score of this year, we pointed out that should our current rate of increase continue, our TSI score will DOUBLE in 10-15 years. You might want some perspective on that statement, to know what it could mean for us.

With the first Barker of the year, all recipients were also given a complete copy of the Cooperative Lakes Management Program's [CLMP] "2022 Data Report for Birch Lake, Cass County". The lion's share of its pertinent information was on pages 3+4. In them, we learned that the CLMP groups TSI indices into six categories. Let's assign them the letter grades A through F, with A being the most desirable. The third, C. is considered "mid-range". The sixth, F, is a specialized category with "extremely high" amounts of algae and weed growth.

Our 2022 [most recent] rating put us near the bottom of the second class, say a B-. Our ratings for the five prior years averaged near the bottom of the TOP class, say an A-. {I hope you agree that this is a significant drop.]

Doubling [in 10-15 years] not our most recent score, but only the average of the five prior years, would give us a TSI index so far into the worst, F, category that we'd be "off the chart" that the CLMP used in this year's report. To stop this trend will likely be very difficult, to reverse it and return to our previous A- status, even more so.

#### **COMPREHENSION**

As evidenced by the above "Perspective," sometimes the pertinence of all the data associated with Water Quality is difficult to fully absorb. If any of our readers, or residents, have any questions about, or difficulty understanding, any parts of any of our articles, or anything else to do with water quality, please contact one of your neighbors on the WQC: Terry Dugan, Rick Russwurm, Jennifer Ball, Bruce Wagner, Ron Niezgodski, Cindy Bernaciak, Pat Welch or Paul Fallon and please give us a chance to be of service. Thank you.

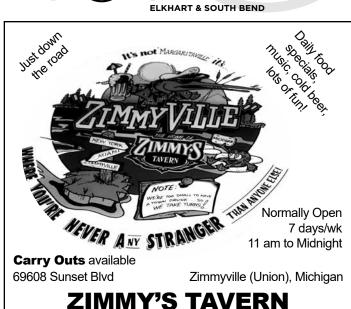
#### THE SIX COMMANDMENTS OF **BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY**

- 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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How many of these can you find around Birch Lake? Prizes await the top 3 sleuths ... Turn in your answers no later than August 27 to Editor Phil, (east side). Winners will be announced in the Labor Day Birch Barker ...

# Birch Lake Items of Interests

BALL BODZA COAN DAVIS DUFOUR GREEN

HELVEY HETTMANSPERGER KACESKI RUSSWURM ZESINGER ZELASKO COMO HOGOBOOM VANHUFFEL RUGGIERO WOZNY QUINLAN BAUMGARTNER BOLIN DVORAK CAENEPEEL KINZLER HORVATH KRUGGEL LOCHMANDY WINIARSKI OLSON ATHANAS DROLET KLAPPAUF VITALE BLILER CLEVELAND CLEVELAND CURTIS DRINKALL GARD UNDERWOOD JANKOWSKI KILLOQUA FREIHOFER ROORIGUEZ RODRIGUEZ WOZNIAK KEIRN BERNACIAK TROEGER WITCHIE RZESZEWSKI LINDZY RASMUSSEN SHEFFIECK

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Special thanks to Bill Luecht (east side) who created this Birch Lake Names word search. Winners get a free subscription to the Birch Barker!

VERLODT

#### 100 Birch Lake Names - Old and New

Y S M Y C T V R E G R E P S N A M T T E H H C V U K P Z W C D H E X F U G K A J J J X M T D A V I S F E W G U W W D V T O A M N K N Y D L O V O R B P K B L D M K L A I G D Y Z I F H K I T R A H R E W R O D P T I A I U L X M O D U D R A G B G H D K U Z O R I K Y J Q U S O L D A T O E D S G A N L S I T L T W K L K U I B U K N S T O M L K S S J K X V L Z R G B R U O F U D N Z N N K P A V K E L Q T J HEGRLMCXRJDLPLXIDTOWUUEKHSNNLIPSYMMCBOZR A I U A H I K S W E Z S E Z R R E G O Z I N W O R B C P A E U T E I P E A L M E BREINXETMQVFKIVFOODBUDZINSKICDRQLCNXJLRG INMNABRBCNFBAECHDLOCKHLUECHTFKOKYDAAAIBN CZUIREPZEUNOINDSSELOYNZEUGIRDOROEFTKAKKI HTOWNEDGHRYTCRFPOKIMZWIPYILXWYURNHFPJL W H D N V D G N X X H D A C N L V K T O Y N Z O W O Q V I Z U W A A O V E P Z E U M E P G I A R G T R A N Y O O Z A T T L B A U C U S A E E C N F S H E X C E Z J D A S C V U Z F C Z H R A K C S P I D K X N I I O B H F F A I Y G P V W Y I Y O A J C H U O A Z B N O E T M R C L E V E L A N D X N V I S W M W E N I X K A J W P A X H N R X I O N M B J X H K V O T D F U A P P A L K Z A L N E T F I R S L V L B B S A O T S A B E A W T B C Y S C U S I B O M E C N U A E E C I U A H P L A L Y L L R I B L N X B Q M C O G R U S S W U R M O Q J A W H C W S O T O H Q A K L O G A L L S K P W U L L X E L R E G E O R T S A Z C K I A M M R O X K K E K O A B L G I E O V S B M L D B A U M G A R T N E R N A F E M Y U V U Q B K Z ANI BAII WWKU J Z BD Q R X Y K C A R P F N T F R A F R S A P X V F O R IBZTEHSKBKPLOOKEJEYTGDWELATIVZSTBULQVKD R R E U R T K D P W C N O A E E E A V Z O D X N A M L E H S E H U A O C L N R M D D R A O I Y R Z K E P T R F D C I H D R X Y G A N E K H N W R E F O H I E R F WTGREENWIFATEFEATNMNIEZGODSKIFRURIPI DATUQUJWVGFNLREIEQNIAZDOBMOTSROHCIEVJTCG Q D R E M N A R C L F K G Q N L G R B L S L E G G U R K W D R E N S E E W S O K W O Z N I A K L H R E Q B U J E O G T Y V Y H T R R F D I X L Z K I A G Y T W B H G E G S G G K Q J H H O Q M L L R U Y K K U W N A M E L L O H A R L A N O E Q V D T H A Y E R F S X F E K J K L D R E K E Z S O R G D V O R A K V P U G N U



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# BIRCH LAKE



This beautiful poster is on sale this summer for \$25 while supplies last. It measures approximately 23" X 35", and would be a great addition to your home. The proceeds will be used for needed improvements to the yacht club building. Posters may be purchased through Becky Wiseman, 14910 Birch Lakeshore Drive (south side) on Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 1 pm. Make checks payable to BLYC.

**Editor's note:** The poster was produced from a painting by former Birch Lake resident and artist Coy Jankowski.

# Birch Barker Funnies



I REALLY THINK IT'S TIME TO TAKE WARNING LABELS OFF OF EVERYTHING AND LET STUPIDITY WORK ITSELF OUT



Realized I had to use the bathroom.

Got up and walked across the house, to the pantry.

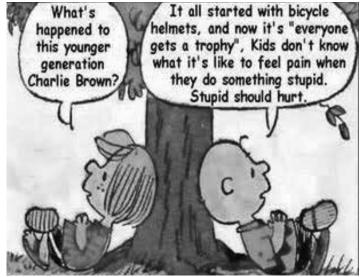
Couldn't remember why I was in the pantry.

remembered I had to use the bathroom.

Walked across the house to the bathroom.

Sitting on the throne I remembered why I went to the pantry...

Toilet paper.



Satan appeared before a small town congregation. Everyone started screaming and running for the front church door, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away.

Soon everyone was gone except for an elderly gentleman who sat calmly.

Satan walked up to him and said, "Don't you know who I am?"

The man replied, "Yep, sure do."

Satan asked, "Aren't you going to run?"

"Nope, sure ain't," said the man.

Satan asked, "Why aren't you afraid of me?"

The man replied, "Been married to your sister for over 48 years."

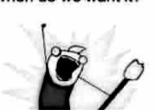
What do we want?



Better memory!



When do we want it?



Want what?



mechanic: I'm tired drummer: I'm beat pipelayer: I'm drained gardener: I'm bushed

chef: I'm fried tailor: I'm worn

AC repairman: I'm exhausted window-washer: I'm wiped

accountant: I'm spent soldier: I'm fatigued

trash collector: I'm wasted



# Zucchini lasagna with sausage

#### Ingredients:

2 large zucchini

1-2 lbs Italian sausage

1/2 small white onion

3 garlic cloves diced

1 cup diced portabello mushrooms

1 jar marinara sauce

8 oz Italian five cheese

1 large ripe tomato

2 tsp six pepper blend

1/2 tsp red pepper flakes

generous amounts of fresh basil, oregano,

thyme, parsley cleaned and diced

2 tsp olive oil

Fresh basil leaves

#### **Directions**

- 1. pour oil into pan, heat onions until soft
- 2. add garlic and sausage, cook until browned
- 3. remove to bowl, add spices, 1/4 marinara, 1/4 cheese, mix by hand
- 4. slice zucchini lengthwise into 1/4 inch strips
- 5. place a layer of strips in greased baking dish, cover with sausage mixture
- 6. top with layer of mushrooms, thinly sliced



tomatoes, cheese, marinara

- 7. repeat steps 5 & 6 until materials are all used except 1/4 cheese
- 8. bake in preheated 400 degree oven 15 minutes
- 9. top with remaining cheese, return to oven for 5-10 minutes
- 10. top with fresh basil, serve with garlic bread



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# — Camp Tannadoonah —

# Camp's season over

ur camp program for the summer has come to a close, and all of our summer staff have headed home or back to school. It's always bittersweet at the end of the summer, as we are celebrating a successful year and at the same time closing things up and sending the last of the campers and staff home.

Once camp is over, we start a busy off-season full of events at camp, including the church group who is here for the week right now. We have most weekends in the fall filled with rentals. There will be a group from Lakeland Emergency Health doing a wilderness medicine training at the end of August. This is the second year they've been here to do their training. We also have the Native American Student association from Notre Dame coming for a weekend retreat. They've been coming to camp every fall for the past eight or so years. Four weekends are booked for weddings, up through mid-October.

In mid-October we have a week-long rental that I think is really interesting. The tribal police from the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi will be holding a week-long search and rescue training, and the participants and trainers will be staying at camp for the week.

We run a weekend of Fall Family

Camp in mid-September. If any families are interested in joining us, it's a fun, relaxed weekend for families! We do traditional camp activities like archery and crafts, sing camp songs, cook out over the fire, and have lots of time for families to do what they choose. They can participate in as many or as few of the planned activities as they choose, or just hang out by the fire, if that's what they prefer. Registration will be posted soon.

The last weekend of September is our third annual Grown Up Camp weekend – called "A Gathering of Friends." This is an all-adult (over 21) event, and open to everyone who loves camp! You don't have to be an alum of Camp T to participate. We would love to have a big crowd for the weekend! Registration is open on our website at <u>tannadoonah</u>. org/gathering

For the second year in a row, we have been awarded an Americorps NCCC (national civilian community corps) team. A team of eight young people will be staying at camp for seven weeks this fall, and helping us with projects and tasks around the property. We're sharing the team in a partnership with Dr. Lawless Park, so they will do four weeks of service for Camp Fire and three weeks of service for Lawless. We're really excited for everything they can



help us accomplish!

One last note for this week. We had an oak tree fall into the lake on the edge of Camp property in the cove. Several people have contacted us about this tree, and we were working on a removal plan, which would be challenging due to the size of the tree and the need to stand in the water while operating the chainsaw. Our facilities manager, Brenda, also contacted the Cass County Conservation District to ask for advice on how to remove it without damaging the lily pads. Pat Boyle at the county conservation offices advised us that they would prefer we DO NOT remove the tree. I will share links to several articles that he sent us about why we should leave it in the water. The short version is that it will help with erosion control and provide a good habitat for fish. If you have any questions about the tree, I'd be happy to discuss.

~Mrs. Amber

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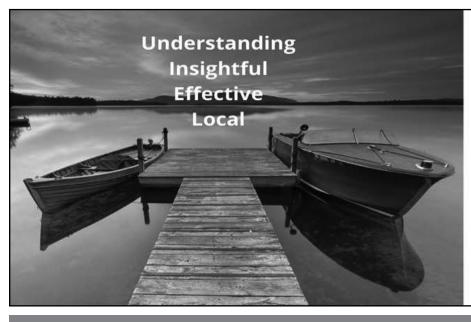
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#### **FOUND**

Found: White plate left at Family Picnic, contact Claudia at 574-596-2754







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## Dig in and make us proud!

Anyone can help out with projects at Birch Lake ... or even without a project! Just go on out and dig in .... clean something up, fix something that needs fixing, make the community one we can all be proud to live in!



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

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\$ BLYC Associate Member* Dues (\$10 / year)  *Associate membership is available to current associate members and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC	\$			
\$ WATER QUALITY/INVASIVE SPECIES	Name			
\$ FIREWORKS FUND				
\$ Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)	Address_			
\$ Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)				
\$ Building Improvement Fund				
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\$ Other non-party related expenses	Make checks payable to			
\$ BLYC Roof Fund	BLYC			
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