

# Birch Barker

Weekend of June 16, 2007

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The Commodore's Party last Saturday night brought together 20 people who have served as Commodore (two of the attendees are representatives of past commodores). Pictured in the top photo are, kneeling, Bob Waddel, Al Covert, Phil Vitale, Stewart Spratt, back row, Randy Welch, Rich Mullin, Herm Kruggel, Judy Ball

Lacy (representing John Ball), Bill King, Bud Zesinger, Bruce Wagner (representing Sue Wagner), Bob King, Dick Cowen, Earl Troeger, Scott Troeger, Jim Bolinger, Ryan Gableman, Judy Olson, Mike Machalleck and Dave Arnold.

photos courtesy of the PattiCam

## Commodore's Comments

It was an amazing sight. Twenty past commodores all gathered together on Saturday night. Judy Olson and Denny Weesner had a wonderful idea to honor our past commodores and salute their hard work, time and efforts to make Birch Lake such a great place. It was such fun to see all of the commodores greet each other and catch up. We were blessed with the presence of quite a few who aren't on the lake anymore. From all of the smiles I think they had a great time.

We also played Birch Lake Jeopardy Saturday night and the competition got fierce. Three teams were pitted against each other and Team One came from behind to win it all. The team members were mostly made up of past commodores and their spouses. Herm and Bev Kruggel, Bud and Barb Zesinger, Dick and Peggy Cowen, Bill and Le King,

Dave Anthony, Earl Troeger, Denny Weesner and Dick Bender were the foundation of the winning team, others joined them as time went on. All of the questions centered around Birch Lake and many were surprised to learn they knew so much about their lake. Thanks to everyone who joined in the fun, you made the whole night such a success.

I want to thank my bartenders Ilene and Mark Golden and Bernie Garceau for getting drinks to our thirsty crowd. I know others helped out as well when things got really busy so thank you too. There was a wide variety of delicious snacks people brought and I thank you for doing that. It made a great dinner for some of us! And a big thank you to Terry Wiseman for coming through with a sound system that worked for us. He saved the day.

The Birch Lake Yacht Club Board meeting was held Saturday morning and Eurasian Milfoil was the most important

topic of discussion. The board strongly united to fight this invasive weed quickly but accurately, any missteps could create a bigger problem than we already have. On Tuesday Gert and Bob Temple, Rick Russwurm, Denny Weesner, Bernie and myself, went around the lake with Tony Groves from Progressive Engineering to do a survey of the lake. We confirmed several sites that were infested with Eurasian Milfoil and we will continue to watch several more sites. Steps are being taken to fast track treatment of the confirmed sites. The board will meet again on this Saturday, June 16th, to discuss the information and the steps we need to take next. As with any board meeting anyone is welcome to attend, and I urge you to come to get the updated information.

It really is a beautiful day in the neighborhood.

**-Blair Garceau**  
Commodore 2007

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. E-mail the info to sailorphil@philvitale.com, or, if you must, put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). You can also mail your items to: Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.

# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Yoga Classes

Yoga classes are being held at the Youth Center in downtown Vandalia on Tuesday evenings at 6. Cost is \$10 per session. The instructor is from Memorial Hospital and is used to teaching all levels of yoga — these classes are good for beginners.

Thanks Ben & Vanessa

Special thanks to Ben & Vanessa Wozniak for their generous \$500 donation to the Water Quality Committee's fight against the Eurasian Milfoil.

The BLYC Board of Directors is actively soliciting additional donations to help defray the costs.

If you are interested in making a donation, attend the special Board Meeting on Saturday, June 16 at 9 am at the Clubhouse, or contact any Board member or officer.

## 2007 Boat Parade

Still lots of time to come up with a great idea for the 2007 Boat Parade on June 30. Get your neighbors, relatives, and family to create a great parade entry. The parade is at 4:00 and starts at Dick Bender's pier on the south side.

## Mountain Bike Race

Sunday, June 24 is the Michigan

Mountain Biking Association race that draws bikers from all over the Great Lakes' area. The event held at Lawless Park begins at 10 am and has racing divisions for all ages and abilities plus an all-kids race. There are 10 miles of twists, switchbacks and slope variations making Lawless is one of the top venues for racing in the state. Call the Cass County Parks Dept at 445-8611 for more information.

## New Directory coming

The 2007 Birch Lake Directory will be arriving this summer. This is your last chance to make sure we got your information. Please call Blair Garceau, 476-9862 or email her at bgarceau@aol.com (make sure you put BL Directory in the subject line) if you have any changes or updates. If you filled out a form last summer or emailed me over the winter I have your information. If you just moved in or didn't fill out a form please contact me.

## Murder

There'll be rockin' in Roley City when Rock N. Roley returns to Roley High School for the class of 1954's high school 5th reunion, only there will be a murderous twist to the night of reminiscing. When and

## Tentative BLYC Calendar

June 16.....	Special Board Meeting on Eurasian Milfoil situation, 9 am
June 23.....	Vice Commodore's Party
June 30.....	FIREWORKS
June 30.....	Boat Parade 4 PM
July 1.....	Pancake Breakfast
July 3.....	Fireworks & boat parade raindate
July 7.....	Board Meeting 9 AM
July 7.....	Homeowner's Assn Meeting 10 AM
July 7.....	Vote on amending Articles 11 AM
July 21.....	Spaghetti Dinner
July 27.....	Men's Golf Outing
July 28.....	Garage Sale
Aug. 3.....	Women's Golf Outing & Luncheon
Aug. 4.....	Board Meeting 9 AM
Aug. 4.....	Corn and Sausage Roast
Aug. 11.....	House Walk
Aug. 18.....	Fall Dinner
Sept. 1.....	Board Meeting 9 AM
Sept. 3.....	Sailing Awards

where will the crime take place? Saturday, July 14 at the Yacht Club, we'll start the detecting at 7 pm. Gather a group of 8 participants to solve the case. Each group member will be playing a part in this mysterious crime. If you can't gather eight people call Blair at 476-9862 so you can be placed with another group. Plan now so you don't miss out on the fun.



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**We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer at Birch Lake!**

*-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak*

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**He may be moldy but he ain't plastic!**

*And he probably won't remember your name until you've know him for years ... but, hey He wants everyone here to...*

**'Have A Safe and Fun Summer!'**

# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Wicked

Birch Lake's Book Club, One Lake One Book, is currently reading Wicked. On July 11th we will take the South Shore into Chicago to see the musical and have lunch. Anyone interested in joining us on our adventure is welcome to come, you don't have to read the book. Ask your friends to join us. Tickets must be bought this week. We are hoping to get a group rate (\$77.00). Call Blair, 476-9862, by Monday evening, to reserve your spot.

## Line Dancing

Line Dance, Tuesday mornings at 9 am. Everyone is welcome to join us at the Yacht Club.

*Jeff & Denise Smitley (West side) caught this napping cat (don't have to run fast to catch a napping cat, do you?) sacked out on their shore station last weekend*



## Birch Barker Kids of the Week

*Congratulations to Patty and Bill Luecht (east shore), two of this week's Barker Kids of the Week. Bill & Patty celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary last weekend with a fried Flamingo Dinner and an exploratory trip to the Betty Ford Clinic.*



*Way-cool Calvin King (north shore) is the other Barker Kid of the Week ... Calvin has spend the winter growing his hair into a pseudo-Afro and searching out sunglasses that make him look like a rock star.*

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# Special meeting called to amend articles

In today's litigious environment there is a concern that those who volunteer their time and efforts on behalf of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, Inc. ("BLYC") as directors, officers or in other capacities may become the target of lawsuits should anything unfortunate occur involving a BLYC activity.

The Michigan statute governing nonprofit corporations such as the BLYC permits limiting the liability of volunteer directors, officers and other volunteers, by including specific language in the articles of incorporation. To add that language to the BLYC's articles of incorporation requires obtaining the approval of BLYC's members.

At its meeting on June 9, 2007 the BLYC board of directors unanimously approved recommending to the members an amendment to the BLYC articles of incorporation to limit the liability of volunteer directors, officers and other volunteers, and called a special meeting of the BLYC members to vote on that amendment.

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the members of the BLYC has been called and will be held on Saturday, July 7, 2007 at 11 a.m. at the BLYC clubhouse for the purpose of considering and voting on the following proposed amendment to the articles of incorporation of BLYC which has been approved and recommended to the Members by the board of directors of the BLYC:

#### Section 1.

No member of the board of directors of the corporation who is a volunteer director, as that term is defined in the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act (the "Act"), or a volunteer officer shall be personally liable to this corporation or its members for monetary damages for a breach of the director's or officer's fiduciary duty; provided, however, that this provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a director or officer for any of the following:

1. a breach of the director's or officer's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its members;
2. acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
3. a violation of section 551(1) of the Act;
4. a transaction from which the director or officer derived an improper personal benefit;
5. an act or omission occurring before the filing of these articles of incorporation; or
6. an act or omission that is grossly negligent.

If the Act is amended after the filing of these articles of incorporation to authorize the further elimination or limitation of the liability of directors or officers of nonprofit corporations, then the liability of members of the board of directors or officers, in addition to that described in Section 1 of this Article VII, shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent per-

mitted by the Act as so amended. No amendment or repeal of Section 1 of this Article VII shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any member of the board of directors or officer of this corporation for or with respect to any acts or omissions occurring before the effective date of any such amendment or repeal.

#### Section 2.

The corporation assumes the liability for all acts or omissions of a volunteer if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The volunteer was acting or reasonably believed he or she was acting within the scope of his or her authority.
2. The volunteer was acting in good faith.
3. The volunteer's conduct did not amount to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.
4. The volunteer's conduct was not an intentional tort.
5. The volunteer's conduct was not a tort arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle of which tort liability may be imposed as provided in section 3135 of the Insurance Code of 1956, Act No. 218 of the Public Acts of 1956, being section 500.3135 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

BLYC members can either attend the special meeting in person or can simply sign and provide a proxy (available from any director or officer of the BLYC, or any member who attends the special meeting).

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# FOR THE HEALTH OF IT!

By Ima Foodnudge

**W**aiting to make your grocery list for your healthy food choices? Well lets just jump right in.

## BANANAS

- Help lower blood pressure
- Boost energy levels
- Help improve mood (smile)
- Relieve constipation and diarrhea
- Relieve acid indigestion and may help prevent ulcers
- May lower risk of heart disease and stroke



Bananas are known as nature's perfect fast food, and with good reason. Delicious, nutritious, and a great source of long-lasting energy, they're a favorite with everyone from infants to iron-pumping athletes.

As the best source of potassium, banana's help regulate fluid levels and gets rid of excess sodium (from nacho chips?).

Recent studies show bananas help strengthen cells in the stomach lining, creating a stronger barrier against corrosive digestive acids. (salsa?)

I think we can all agree bananas are just plain fun.

Tip: If your bananas tend to get overripe before you have a chance to eat them, try refrigerating them as soon as they become ripe. The skin will turn dark, but the inside will remain at peak ripeness for several days.

## BLUEBERRIES

- Boost immune system function
- Improve learning and memory (sign me up before I forget)
- May lower risk of heart disease and stroke
- May help prevent cancer



WOW to blueberries. They could very well be the best fruit we could eat especially for us older crowd. The antioxidants in blueberries protect the body against the damaging effects of free radicals associated with several chronic diseases.

Blueberries help your brain maintain its ability to produce dopamine, a chemical that is crucial for learning, memory and poor coordination. Researchers also found that blueberries prevented the growth of breast cancer cells in test tubes.

Tip: The benefits of blueberries are equal fresh or frozen so pack your freezers for all seasons.

## BROCCOLI

- Helps lower risk of heart disease and stroke
- Lowers risk of birth defects
- Keeps digestive system running smoothly
- Maintains strong bones
- Helps prevent cataracts
- May reduce cancer risk



Broccoli would be the WOW of all vegetables. Broccoli is bursting with antioxidants, which strengthen the

immune system and help protect against cancer, heart disease, cataracts, and other illnesses. A half-cup serving of cooked broccoli provides nearly 100 percent of RDA for vitamin C, as well as a good dose of beta-carotene and selenium. It also provides almost one-third of the RDA for of vitamin E, which is crucial to heart health.

Tip: Organic broccoli may be your best bet, since the dense broccoli florets can retain chemical residue even after rising. Raw broccoli is good, but cooked broccoli is even better. Lightly steaming or stir-frying it releases beneficial compounds.

So enjoy a bite or bounty of these "B"etter for you foods just for the Health of It! "C" ya next week.

Had the pleasure of this Broccoli Salad at Vickie and Tom Rogers house. Felt healthier every bite!

## MS VICKIE'S BROCCOLI SALAD

- 1 Bunch broccoli - chop in small pieces
- 1 Cup raisins or sunflower seeds
- 1 Onion chopped
- 1 Cup mayo (can substitute low fat)
- 2 Tablespoons vinegar
- ¼ Cup sugar (can substitute artificial sweetener)
- 10 Slices bacon

Mix the mayo, vinegar and sugar to make dressing. Pour dressing over first three ingredients. Mix well and chill for several hours

Fry bacon and crumble over salad

Sooooo yummy!

We would love to enjoy your healthy recipes. Please send one to our barker editor at [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com)

Ima Foodnudge is a Birch Lake resident who wants her neighbors to be healthy

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*A few more of Ben's Ducks ... see Page 9*

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# Fleet Captain's Corner

**F**inally! Just as the sailor years for land after a long haul at the whims of Mother Ocean, we have at long last begun our season with at least one race. One long, slow chess match of a race, but a race nonetheless. This week was truly a battle of sailing wits in which knowledge of wind and wave prevailed over brute force and fancy lines. Our results are listed below. On light, shifty days like this one, even with superior sailing skill, it can be difficult to compete, even finish. I thought it appropriate for this week's column to provide a little information on exactly how sailing works. One of my majors is physics and since I always love to know exactly how things work, especially people, let's have a look. The physics of sailing

The energy that drives a sailboat is harnessed by manipulating the relative movement of wind and water speed; if there is no difference in movement, such as on a calm day or when the wind and water current are moving in the same direction, there is no energy to be extracted and the sailboat will not be able to do anything but drift. Where there is a difference in motion, then there is energy to be extracted at the interface, and the sailboat does this by placing the sail(s) in the air and the hull(s) in the water.

Sails are airfoils and work by using an airflow set up by the motion of the boat. This is the apparent wind, which is the relative velocity of the wind relative to the boat's motion. They generate lift using the air that flows around them. The air flowing at the sail surface is not the true wind.

The sail alone is not sufficient to drive the boat in any desired direction, as a sail by itself would only push a boat in the same direction as the wind. Sailboats overcome this by having another physical object below the water line. These include; a keel, centerboard, or some other form of underwater foil or even the hull itself (as in catamarans without



centerboard). So, you could think of the physical portion of the boat which is below water as functioning as a "second sail."

Having two surfaces against the wind and water enables the sailor to travel in almost any direction and to generate an additional source of lift from the water. The flow of water over the underwater hull portions creates a hydrodynamic force. The combination of the aerodynamic force from the sails and the hydrodynamic force from the underwater hull section allows motion in almost any direction, except straight into the wind. This can be likened, in simple terms, to squeezing a wet bar of soap with two hands which causes it to shoot out in a direction perpendicular to both opposing forces.

Depending on the efficiency of the rig, the angle of travel relative to the true wind can be as little as 35 degrees to over 80 degrees. This angle is called tacking angle. With a 35 degree tacking angle on either side of the wind, it is possible for a sailboat to sail directly over 290 degrees of the compass.

When sailing upwind, the sails, when correctly adjusted, will generate aerodynamic lift. When sailing downwind, the sails no longer generate aerodynamic lift and airflow is stalled, with the wind push on the sails giving drag only. As the boat is going downwind, the apparent wind is less than the true wind and this allied to the fact that the sails are not producing aerodynamic lift serves to limit the downwind speed.

When moving, the motion of the boat creates its own apparent wind.

Apparent wind is what is experienced onboard and is the wind that the boat is actually sailing by. Sailing into the wind causes the apparent wind to be greater than the true wind and the direction of the apparent wind will be forward of the true wind. Some extreme design boats are capable of traveling faster than the true wind speed.

Faster than wind speed! Can you just imagine that? After watching sailors like Scott Troeger, Dave Olson and of course, Tom Howard over the past few years, I definitely believe that it is possible. Who among the rest of us hasn't been adrift in a dead calm while one of these three went cruising by?

Well, typing time is running out; Dominic wants either a bottle of applesauce or a Philly cheese steak sandwich and a Guinness (I can't quite make it out.) But before I go, I would like to ask of all sailors the chance to stop by at Vitale's on the weekends for a personal interview with the Fleet Captain. If you would prefer other arrangements please reach me by phone (574 320-0494) or email (srichards71@comcast.net). I would like to run a short biography of each sailor in upcoming issues of the Barker so others around the lake can get to know the mysterious men and women that sail those Sunday Boats.

....Dominic!! Why is the remote in the fish tank?! Put the beer and the cat down!!...What did you do with my keys?!?...Gotta Go!

Fair Winds and Following Seas,  
**-Steve Richards**  
 2007 Fleet Captain

## Sailing Results for Sunday June 10th (1 season race)

MC Scow		Sunfish "A" Fleet		Sunfish Junior Fleet	
Place	Sailor	Place	Sailor	Place	Sailor
1st	Scott Troeger	1st	Dave Olson	1st	Neil Troeger
2nd	Don Harman	2nd	A.Marquez	2nd	Katie Luecht/Brittany Wilson
3rd	Bob King	3rd	Erica Vitale		
4th	Jeff Smitley	4th	Sandy Vitale		
5th	Bill Luecht	5th	Tom Howard		
6th	Phil Vitale	6th	Steve Richards		
DNS	Rick Russwurm	DNS	Nancy Walker		
DNS	Harold Cranmer				
DNS	Jim Bolinger				

\* Since we were only able to hold one season race, the above standings also reflect season standings .  
 \*\* In the future, as always, sailing results will include season point totals, place and average.

# Tannadoonah Tidbits

One week to go before the staff arrives for camp! We are up here this week with the People of Praise camp. They have approximately 170 people here for the week — about 110 kids and over 60 volunteer staff! This is a fun week for me, because I get to see all of the things that they do that we don't do at our regular camp. Lots of good ideas for us to try!

Not a whole lot going on for me to report on this week (camp-wise).

We are up to 275 kids, which is over 100 better than our number at this time last year! We still have a goal of 450 kids for the summer, and I think we may make it. I still have openings for all of the weeks, so if you haven't already signed your kids / grandkids / nieces / nephews / etc. up for camp, please do so soon! I am currently 20 kids short of my goal for the first week, which begins on June 24. The theme is Survivor Week — we will have tribal challenges, and lots of

**Enjoy Summer!!**

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Down Camp" Mini Week. We will be staying up late (not all night, though!), sleeping in, and doing lots of nocturnal activities up here. Plus we will get to see the Birch Lake Fireworks Show!

Anyway, we're looking forward to getting started next week with Staff training, and can't wait to see you all up at the lake! If you need a brochure or any information about camp, please call or email me!

**Amber Holleman Grundy, Ph.D.**  
Director, Camp Tannadoonah  
[amber@tannadoonah.org](mailto:amber@tannadoonah.org)  
574-315-0227

fun games and awards! Plus we have our first council fire of the year on Friday night down by the lake, with Princess Tannadoonah coming to light the fire.

This week is also part of a Super Week, which includes our "Upside

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*"Big Ben" Wozniak got a new camera recently (it's a Nimbus 2007 Superphoto Megageekoid with 2 million megapixel resolution and a 4.2:1 Vivalarevolution) ...*

*Anyway, he recently passed on a CD of photos that are soooo cool that I just have to share several with Barker readers over the coming weeks.*

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# Stu's Star Stuff



## Duck and Cover

**T**he Cassini spacecraft is playing a game of “duck and cover” today. It’s using its radio antenna to shield it from Saturn’s rings.

Cassini arrived at Saturn three years ago today, when it flew past the moon Phoebe. Since then, it’s made 45 wide orbits around the planet and rings, looping past several other moons in the process. It’s discovered lakes and seas of liquid methane on the moon Titan, geysers of liquid water on Enceladus, and powerful storms on Saturn itself.

Cassini has also spent a lot of time looking at Saturn’s rings.

There are thousands of rings around the planet. They span about 300,000 miles — greater than the distance from Earth to the Moon — yet they’re no more than a hundred yards thick. They consist of small bits of ice and rock, plus lots of dust. Several tiny moons that orbit inside the ring system help to keep the rings in place.

Cassini has seen amazing details in the rings — loops and braids and kinks, usually caused by the gravity of the little moons. It’s found that one of the rings is replenished by the geysers from Enceladus, and that another recently got fresh material from a pulverized space rock.

Today, Cassini is passing just outside the rings, where it could encounter some ring material. A collision with a big-enough piece could damage the craft. So it’ll keep its big radio antenna aimed straight ahead — using it as a shield as it flies past Saturn’s amazing rings.

Look for Saturn in the west as it begins a rendez-vous with Venus. Venus, the “evening star,” continues to dominate the western sky at dusk. Saturn is the brightest “star” to Venus’ upper left; watch the two planets draw together all month, on their way to a close conjunction on July 1.

*-Stu Spratt*



### The Moon tonight:

The moon for June 16 (at Midnight)  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.059  
2.2 days since new moon

## Your Horoscope

### ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

It might be best to work on your own; if possible, do your job out of your home this week. Take time to explain your intentions to loved ones. Opposition is present and you should be prepared to counteract it as best you can. You may be tempted to get involved in secret affairs or love triangles.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

### TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21)

You have to believe in yourself and your talents. Rewards for past good deeds will be yours. You will meet new romantic partners through the company you keep. Chances to express your ideas and beliefs can bring popularity as long as you’re not arrogant.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Keep an eye on your weight. You will be in a high cycle regarding work. Communications with loved ones may be strained. Take a trip or just spend some quality time with your mate.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Be quiet about your intentions or ideas that might bring added cash. Your attitude is changing rapidly and your plate is overloaded. Try not to lend or borrow money this week. Don’t overdo it. You need to enjoy yourself.

Your lucky day this week will be

Monday.

### LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Don’t jump into investments too quickly. It won’t take much to upset your lover. You can make new connections if you play your cards right. Your ability to be practical in business will help.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)

Your communication skills are at an all-time high. Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted. Your home environment may be hectic, which could result in emotional upset if you aren’t well organized. Be prepared to deal with groups and organizations of greater magnitude.

Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

### LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

You need to refrain from being the generous one in the group. Don’t be disappointed if you don’t get your way emotionally. Don’t be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you’re up to. Romantic opportunities will develop through friends or relatives.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You could have a need to make some changes this week. Real estate investments could be to your advantage. You will probably have to defend your mate. You may want to take a look at the personal papers of elders in your family.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Your partner may blame you for everything. You need to look into new philosophies. If you have treated them equitably, you might be able to count on their loyalty. You will be uncertain of your feelings.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Express your interest if you want the relationship to progress. You will have no problem getting your point across to those in a position to help you. You are best to put your efforts into redecorating or inviting friends over. Your emotional life may be up in the air if your mate has been going through a change of heart.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

You may be able to impart knowledge that’s innovative to those searching for a new angle. Plan your day thoughtfully, but try not to rely on others. Refrain from arguing with your mate. Advancement can be yours if you put your efforts into work related matters.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Opportunities may come up at prestigious affairs. Go out with friends and avoid the situation on the home front. You can meet new friends who will let you know just how valuable you are. Self-deception is likely.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



*First a word from Birch Lake:*

*"I know the serenity of clean, clear water. My heritage is worth saving."*

**Once again Birch Lake is in trouble.**

Although the threat of the 80's was of a different kind than the threat of today they are the same: **Then**, the lake was in an *emergency* state. **Now**, it is in an *emergency* state

**Then** as **Now**, take advice from the right people who know what has to be done.

Don Winne, Executive Director Michigan Lake & Stream Associations was inspiring: "What is good for Birch Lake is more important than what is good for one person."

**Then**, Don Winne's recommendations were followed:

- 1) Water samples proved Birch Lake was polluted from septic seepage
- 2) The Health Department committed to a program to find and eliminate the source.
- 3) The Water Quality Committee was established as a Lake Preservation Committee.
- 4) The Yacht Club supported funding for the program.
- 5) Residents gave permission to the Health Department to inspect their septic system.
- 6) Faulty septic systems were brought into compliance with the Cass County Code.

**Then**, to document the excellent condition of the lake, the Water Quality Committee enrolled in the ML&SA Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program at the recommendation of Don Winne. Training sessions at ML&SA Conference are attended each year. Funding is through the Yacht Club with donations to the Water Quality Committee.

**But once again, Birch Lake is in trouble with an emergency of a different kind.**

**Now** as **Then**, Don Winne knew what we had to do. We followed recommendations:

- 1) Rope off the area of the Eurasian Water-Milfoil on the East & South Shores. Prevent boats from chopping it into fragments. Prevent the spread of new invasive plants.
- 2) Get permission from each affected resident to allow eradication for all residents.
- 3) Get the support of the Yacht Club to have the Water Quality Committee proceed immediately with the services of Progressive AE.
- 4) Establish an on-going Invasive Survey Program with Progressive AE

**Then** the Water Quality Committee helped Lee Maager, Director Environmental Health, with the Health Department Program as instructed.

**Now** the Water Quality Committee is helping Tony Groves, Water Resources Director, Progressive AE with his program as instructed.

**Then** the Water Quality Committee served as liaison for the Health Department.

**Now** the Water Quality Committee serves as liaison for Progressive AE.

**Then** the Water Quality Committee reported progress to the Commodore and residents.

**Now** the Water Quality Committee will report progress to the Commodore and residents.

**Then** the Water Quality Committee had the support of the Yacht Club. Funds were directed to the Water Quality Committee for the Health Department Program.

**Now** the Water Quality Committee has the support of the Yacht Club. Funds are being directed to the Water Quality Committee for the elimination of Eurasian Water-Milfoil.

*Now, I want to remind my dear friends – you know who you are – how much I love you and appreciate your never-ending support. Then, you responded immediately when asked to help with the septic upgrade program. It was a long 10 summers. Without your loyalty to your lake and your perseverance, you know as well as I that Birch Lake would never have returned to the clean, clear water we enjoy today. Throughout the years we have continued to pull together and have gathered more friends of Birch Lake to help maintain the lake's integrity.*

*Birch Lake need not worry. The areas are roped off and the empty milk bottles remind us all that we have taken the 1<sup>st</sup> step to keep Birch Lake serene, clean and clear. I know you'll be ready to help – no matter how many steps it takes.*

# CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR RENT:**

Updated Cabin overlooks North Shore by day, week month or season Sleeps 4-6. \$500 weekly — 476-2086. Call 574-825-9355-ext 241.

**WANTED:**

2 or 3 bedroom cottage wanted for June, July, and August of 2007. Call John Ball at 574-295-6021 or email balljkb@aol.com.

I need a new Sunfish — contact Dave Olson, 476-2125.

Wanted: a kid's bike with training wheels. Call The Olsons at 476.2125.

**FOR SALE**

**Boat for Sale:** 1976 Baretta, 15FT, Open Tri Hull with cover and trailer. 70 HP Johnson motor. Make an offer. Call 476-2831

**Pontoon for sale.** 24' Sanpan w/ 30 hp Evinrude motor. '80s vintage but runs good. Interior and seats in good condition. Asking \$2,500. Call Gablemans (574) 215-0335.

Looking for reading sunglasses? All styles under \$20. Check out [www.boomersintheknow.com](http://www.boomersintheknow.com)

Spring Cleaning on BLYC Merchandise:

**Birch Lake Posters**, ready to frame, only two left at \$20@. Soon to be a collectors print signed by the artist.

**2007 Birch Lake Calendars**, 13 great photos taken by our own Birch Lake photographers. Call Vickie Rogers 476-2383

**GOT A CLASSIFIED AD FOR THE BARKER?**

Birch Barker classifieds ads are free for members of Birch Lake Yacht Club; non-members must pay \$5. Put your ad in the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Road, fax me at 269-445-9200, or send e-mail to me at: [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com)

## 2007 Dues, Contributions & Donations Form

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Riparian (\$8/yr, provide address for magazine)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Safety Committee
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Other (non-party related expenses)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Holly Troeger, Treasurer  
1516 Ash Drive East  
Elkhart, IN 46514

or drop off at: 63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)

Make checks payable to *Birch Lake Yacht Club*

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