



The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

Birch Barker

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Weekend of June 30, 2007

Have a fun and SAFE



4th of July

photo courtesy of Ben Wozniak

Commodore's Comments

Well it was no surprise that Mike and Amy threw a grand party. The music was bluesy, the food was wonderful and the party-goers had a great time. Birch Lake really knew how to party Cajun style. As I said, the food was delicious but Amy really outdid herself with her homemade jambalaya. The huge pot of her creation was gone in no time. Thanks you two for a great night.

It's hard to believe it's already here (a little early) but we have so much to look forward to this weekend. Starting our Fourth of July weekend off is the boat parade, one of my favorite spectator sports. Show up for registration starting at 3:30 at Dick Bender's pier on the south

side and you are in.

To top off our Saturday activities we'll have our annual firework show. I've never been disappointed in the past and I know we'll have a great show this year. If you haven't donated please do so.

The Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning, starting at 8 am. Don, Lind and crew will be cooking up a storm. Not only is it good food, a fun meeting place but a worthy cause. All of the proceeds will be donated to Camp Tannadoonah. After you eat check out the amphitheatre that was built with the proceeds. Amber says it's a great addition to camp.

Early this week the weather prediction looked good but if we have to cancel the fireworks or boat parade we'll do everything on Tuesday, July 3rd, same times.

The new Birch Lake directory will be

available this weekend. BLYC members can pick it up at the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning or at my house starting on Monday. If you are not a Yacht Club member you can purchase a directory. The price has been set at \$5. We will have plenty of copies this weekend but supplies are limited and will go fast through the summer.

I was thinking about the TV show "Hill Street Blues." At the beginning of each show the sergeant told the police force "Let's be careful out there." This is the most anticipated weekend of the summer but please look out for each other and be careful out there! Enjoy your time with family and friends.

It's 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 —

Pancake Breakfast

The annual 4th of July Pancake Breakfast will be held tomorrow, Sunday, July 1st from 8 am to 11 am. Adults \$5, children 6-10 \$2, 5 and under free. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and support Camp Tannadoonah.

Spaghetti Dinner

Hold this date open, July 21st; we will again be cooking up a pasta feast at the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Proceeds from last year's dinner were used to purchase the remaining tables needed for the Yacht Club. This year, all funds will go to support the treatment needed for Eurasian Milfoil Eradication.

Tickets this year will be the same price, \$7; children 10 and under \$5, children 3 and under are free. We will be serving from 6 to 8pm, our spaghetti dinner will include meatballs, salad, bread sticks, soft drinks, ice tea, lemonade, and desserts. If you wish you may want to bring your favorite beverage for your dinner. Carryouts will again be offered.

We will be selling tickets at the Pancake Breakfast this weekend. We will also be coming around the lake selling tickets door to door, or you may contact us for tickets. All tickets are pre-sold before the dinner.

This evening is a great way to see lake neighbors, guest, and enjoy a family style dinner.

Tom & Vickie Rogers 476-2383
Linda & Jim Bergan 476-9359
Howard & Beth Blackwood 476-2840

Ladies Lunch

Well, everything old is new again! The Hickory Inn will be opening soon, if it is not already open. It is all new and "cheery" inside. It seemed like the perfect place for the Ladies Luncheon. Jason (new owner) assures me that it is will be ready and waiting for us. So mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 25th at 11:45 at the NEW Hickory Inn. Reservation information and cost will be in a future Barker.

-Denny Weesner

Home Tour

House Walk is back and better then ever!!! On August 11th (rain date August 12th), we will have a grand tour of six homes and the beautiful and historic barn that is owned by Ben and Vanessa Wozniak. Tickets will be on sale for \$10 in advance and \$15 on the day of the tour. We will be selling tickets at the Pancake Breakfast and also going door to door. All proceeds are going in a fund to fight the Eurasian Milfoil. Please be generous in buying

Tentative BLYC Calendar

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 11.....	Chicago trip/Wicked
July 21.....	Spaghetti Dinner
July 25.....	Ladies Luncheon
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

tickets as this is for a very special cause! Crafts will be sold at the barn. If anyone has a craft and would like a space, please let Vanessa know.

Each week, in the Barker, we will be featuring one of the homes on the tour. Some of the homes have historic backgrounds and some are new, but they all have a story and each is special in its own way.

Cochairmen: Denny Weesner
Vanessa Wozniak Michelle Seyfarth



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

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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BENDER

supports the Birch Barker



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 —

Yoga Class

The next yoga class at the Vandalia Youth Center will be on July 10 at 6pm. Beginners as well as those who've had some classes are welcome. \$10 per session.

Ladies Golf Outing

Ladies: Mark your calendars for August 3rd. Gather 3 of your friends and join in the fun at the Ladies Golf Outing and Luncheon. Even if you don't play there's always a spot for you. We will be returning to Four Lakes Country Club. Future Barkers will have details.

Murder

We have one team signed up for the 1950 Rock N Roll Murder Party. The crime will take place on July 14th, starting at 7:30 pm, in the Yacht Club. The game is set up around having eight people "role-playing" their character. Any one of the eight could be the murderer! You can dress the part, or not. Even the most reluctant people have gone away saying what fun they had. I'd like to get as many 8-member teams as possible. If you and 7 of your favorite people want to join in the fun please call or email me ASAP. There are some materials I need to

Birch Barker Kids (No. 1) of the Week



Katie and John Luecht (East shore) are this week's Birch Barker kids of the week — primarily because I didn't get any other kid pics this week and their mom (Bad Patty) had these handy.

gather to make it possible for you to solve the crime and I want to make sure I have enough. 9862 or bgarceau@aol.com

Wicked

An update for those who have signed up for the trip to see the musical Wicked in Chicago: The tickets have been purchased. Stop by or call Blair (9862) to pick up your information sheet about the trip's details.

Donations sought

The BLYC Board of Directors is soliciting donations to eradicate the Eurasian Milfoil in the lake. Contact any Board member or officer.

Boat Parade Grand Marshalls: Gert and Bob Temple

Bob and Gert first found Birch Lake in 1948. They were exploring and found a narrow dirt road that ran between two wooded steep hills. The road ended. Wildflowers followed huge trees to the edge of a serene,

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— Birch Lake Notes —

crystal clear lake that whispered as they left...beckoning their return.

Between 1958 and 1971, they explored rivers and lakes in the U.P. with a canoe, a trail bike, tent camper, 2 kids and a dog. One trip on their way back home from the U.P., they stopped at Birch to visit some friends who told them about lakefront property for sale at Camp Kiloqua. With flashlights, they looked and then bought.

Their tent camper was relocated. The land was cleared. In 1974--on the day of their wedding anniversary with Bob building their home himself, they realized--the narrow dirt road that ran between two wooded steep hills was now a ravine that ended where wildflowers and huge trees began--they had been here before. They were building a house at the same place, same lake, that had been love at first sight.

Magical moments at Birch Lake: Along came Grandson #1 Scott, #2 Brett, #3 Peter, #4 Robert.

Directory ready

The 2007 Birch Lake directory is available this weekend. BLYC members can pick it up free at the Pancake Breakfast Sunday or at Garceau's house starting Monday. The price for non-members or extras is \$5.

Birch Barker Kids (No. 2) of the Week

OK, Bender gave me their names (remember last week?) ... in the front seats are, Dick, and his granddaughter Hanah Onyon, and in back are Kayleigh Radabaugh and Eric Haines



Barker Bugs of the Week



A big icky spider and a bug-eating dragonfly are the Barker Bugs of the week. Thanks Bad Patty for the spider pic (thanks for pointing out the dragonfly, too).



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By Ima Foodnudge



DATES

- Lowers cholesterol
- Boosts energy
- Improve memory

Dates are rich in fiber, niacin, and potassium. They also contain iron. They're a great energy source. Pureed dates are nutritious substitute for white sugar in baking goods.



FIGS

- May help protect against cancer
- Lowers cholesterol
- Improves vision
- Improves mood

Out of the context of Fig Newtons (not a healing food, though far from the worst cookie you can

eat), many people rarely, if ever, consume figs, either fresh or dried. That's a shame, because they are a wonderful, and wonderful tasting, source of energy and easily digested nutrients. Figs contain beta-carotene, vitamin B6, and potassium. They're also loaded with beneficial soluble and insoluble fibers. For centuries, figs have been used to treat cancer, and now research shows they really are effective: a fig compound called benzaldehyde has been found to help shrink cancerous tumors. Figs also contain an enzyme called ficin that aids digestion and appears to kill bacteria.



GRAPEFRUIT

- Lowers cholesterol
- May help prevent heart disease
- May lower cancer risk

One grapefruit supplies about 60 percent of the RDA for vitamin C, but the antioxidant power doesn't end there: grapefruit also contains

beta-carotene and lycopene (found in red and pink grapefruit), as well as flavonoids, all of which may protect against bladder, cervical, and pancreatic cancer. Grapefruit also contains the citrus oil limonene, which has been shown to help stop tumor growth and inhibit the formation of new tumors. Pectin, the soluble fiber in the pith, is an excellent heart protector.

Fresh grapefruit juice smoothie
 "A great, delicious way to cool off in the summer! Who knew fruit could taste so good?"

SERVINGS 4

INGREDIENTS

- 2-2/3 cups fresh red grapefruit juice
- 16 large strawberries
- 4 medium bananas, sliced
- 2 (8 ounce) containers strawberry-banana yogurt
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 cups crushed ice

DIRECTIONS

1. Place the grapefruit juice, strawberries, bananas, yogurt, honey, and ice into a blender. Cover, and blend until smooth.

I like simple!

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

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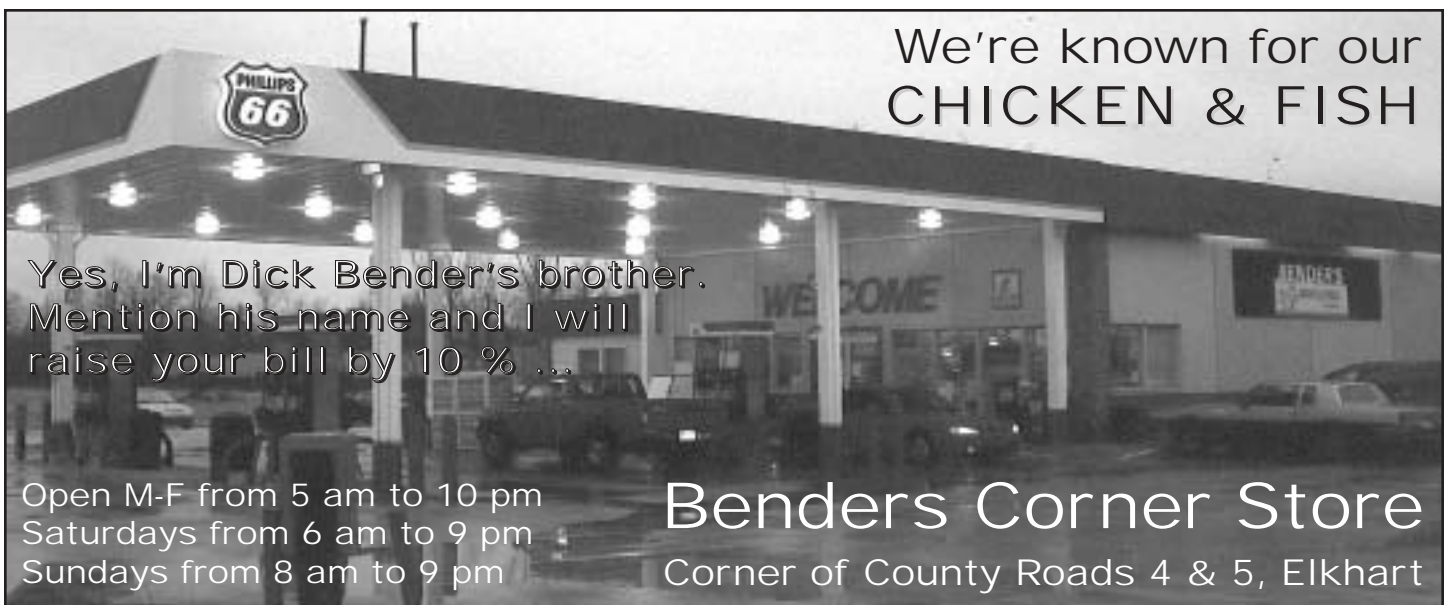
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Team Captain _____ TOTAL \$ Paid _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

___ Two Carts

___ One Cart

PLEASE MAIL CHECK PAYABLE TO BLYC TO ARTIE McELWEE, 63306 BIRCH ROAD

Tannadoonah Tidbits

Camper are here! It's Survivor Week and we have 59 "Survivors," along with our staff of 28.

On Sunday night we divided the camp into 5 tribes, who then chose their tribe names and colors and then tie-dyed "buffs" in their tribe colors. It was a messy, but very fun, project! The Scarlet Tribe chose the name the "Ferocious Cotton Candy." The Yellow Tribe chose the name the "Flowers of Time." The Royal Blue Tribe is the "Tree Huggers." The Orange Tribe is the "Invincible Penguins," and finally, the Green Tribe is "Team Pocohontas." We also have a Tribe of Staff Members, who used all five tribe colors, and is the "Rainbows." Clearly we have some creative campers and staff!

Monday night we had cookout and cabin night. Everyone made hot dogs over the fire, and then the cabins planned their own activities. It was a hot night, and so many of the cabins took the kids down to the waterfront for an extra swim time.

This year we are doing a lot of extra outdoor cooking. We added a new program that we are calling "Iron Chefs." The campers who sign up for this program get to cook one meal outdoors over a fire each day. We have 16 campers signed up for this program this week! Monday at lunch they cooked pizza bread over the fire, and Tuesday at breakfast they made a California Egg Scramble. Wednesday night they will do dinner, Thursday lunch, and Friday breakfast again.

On to the bios for a few more or our staff...

Mr. Christopher is a new member of the Camp Tannadoonah staff. He is living in Exchange with the 6th grade boys, and is one of our Drama counselors, and also leads fishing in the mornings. He is from Columbus Indiana, and is currently an anthropology student at Indiana University in Bloomington. He is working on a project to analyze data of chimpanzees observed at Gombe, where Jane Goodall still works. In

high school he played in jazz band and did drama, and he hopes to join a comedy troupe next fall. This past year he tried out rowing on IU's club team, and started playing racquetball regularly.

Miss Steph is also a first-year counselor, but was a camper at Tannadoonah for many years. She is a junior counselor in Exchangettes and is on our waterfront staff. She will be a senior at St. Joseph's High School in the 07/08 school year. She is a lifeguard and is very involved in the drama programs at St. Joe. She was the stage manger for the musical Peter Pan and the shadowing stage manger for 2 years before that. She loves the outdoors and Camp Tannadoonah is one of her top 3 places in the world! She has 3 older step siblings who all worked at Camp in the past, and a younger brother who is a camper this year.

Mr. Chris is another new member of the staff, and lives in Exchange with Mr. Christopher. Mr. Chris is one of our archery instructors. Mr. Chris just graduated from Penn High School, and will be a freshman at IUSB in the fall. He plans to major in international business. When he's not at camp, in the summertime he likes to be outside playing sports and hanging out with friends.

Winter time you'll find him trying to sled or inside playing video games. He also likes to read, listen to music, and loves to speak German! Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Mr. Alex is our other archery instructor, and lives in Wallace with the youngest group of boys. He is a resident of



Clovis, NM when he isn't at school. This upcoming year he will be a senior majoring in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Notre Dame. He lived most of his life in Texas, until his parents moved to New Mexico at the beginning of his senior year of high school. He enjoys working outside, as well as playing video games and reading.

Well, back to camp! See you next week!

Miss Amber, aka
Amber Holleman Grundy, Ph.D.
Director, Camp Tannadoonah
amber@tannadoonah.org
574-315-0227

<http://tannadoonah.org/>

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I must go down to the seas again,
to the lonely sea and the sky,
and all I ask is a tall ship
and a star to steer her by;
And the wheel's kick
and the wind's song
and the white sail's shaking,
and a grey mist on the sea's face,
and a grey dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again,
for the call of the running tide
is a wild call and a clear call
that may not be denied;

And all I ask is a windy day
with the white clouds flying,
and the far flung spray
and the blown spume,
and the sea gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again,
to the vagrant gypsy life,
to the gull's way
and the whale's way,
where the wind's like a whetter knife;
and all I ask is a merry yarn
from a laughing fellow-rover,
and quiet sleep and a sweet dream
when the long tricks over.

Sea Fever, John Masefield
Ledbury, Herefordshire, England
1878 - 1967

The swaying light of my satin polished brass lantern forcibly creeps under my closed lids and I slowly rise, breathing, matching pace with the impatient tide. Sleep is impossible as my senses heighten and I am at once aware with a cutting clarity. She is coming. The perfume of sea spray, the seductive call of her whisper thinly veils her boiling rage. She is coming. It is yet hours until Dawn begins again her eternal task of rousing the petulant children of Mother Ocean. Gulls scream away from the horizon, invisible to the night and my sight. I know. I feel. I am with my ship and I know what is to come. The hushed, nervous sounds of the crew stirring, the Dog Watch pacing, are broken with a shock as the bosun and his pipe blast his commands throughout the decks.

I bolt to the main deck and to the bridge, never running, but with supreme confidence and a very purposeful stride. I never run, ever. The

night breeze has moved quickly from light to fresh and soon flirting with near gale. With the new light still a dream away, the coming storm shows no signs of slowing. The abject fear of the colossal black surrounding the ship races through the crew as I take my position on my bridge, my entire world, and study the night with a keen eye.

I am the Master of this tiny universe of canvas and tired wood, infallible to all aboard, except my own counsel, my own concern. My word is law, without question, and any uncertainty of my orders, even by myself, especially by me, will be the cost of every life in the now quickly approaching storm. The rain has slammed us with a demanding force, slicing my flesh as the winds pass gale and we are tossed among the massive swells. I bellow, louder than the Oceans roar and formerly taut, now straining lines are slacked in the wind to release the nervous tension of the ship. I can feel her stress and she gives all to stay steady with our course. Her enormous strain is mine, her lines, my own muscle, and her pain is crying through my last nerve and fiber as I grip the wheel with nothing but will. We will be in this world or sleep eternally together, my love. Married; I am to my ship, this life. She screams with the desperate cry of her aged timber, begging for release, for rest. Hours rage past and warm liquid, salty brine runs into my screaming

mouth and I cannot tell if it is the sea, of which every breath is full, the frightened sweat of my brow or my own blood, flowing from the cruel lashes of flailing lines in the violent tempest. Blood, sea, sweat are all one. At the last moment, truly the last instant of all that I, We, can give, the winds fall off, just a slight, and I know! I know that we will win! Another few whippers and then

Mother Ocean resigns, her winds falling, defeated but for the moment. I cry in the rain but no one can tell for my soaked beard and coat and smiling countenance. With a glorious blast, the sun breaks the night and we have won!

It is calm now, quiet, as the long day has passed with the constant toil of life at sea. The final lights are fading and the crew, no, her family, finishes the cooling wash of her ancient wood, the forest that went to sea. Her lines are slack and faked and coiled down, sails needled and furled. She sighs with a light groan and rests in this quiet harbor, her purpose renewed. I slowly saunter the decks, caressing the gunwales with the affectionate touch, firmly grasping a clove hitch for a last night's check, stopping near the bow to stare at the crystals shining bright and clear in the heavens. My humanity, mortality, catches me while I am alone and I turn to in my cabin, finished, and spent. The night's First Watch takes his place, quieter than the lone sleeping rat in the hold, as not to disturb me at rest. I dutifully record the day's events; post the next morning's assignments for the bosun and close the log with an earned exhaustion. I smile wholly with a child's Christmas joy as I reach from my bunk to blacken the lantern, knowing the completeness of life in One Perfect Day. I am the Captain.

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

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2007 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Race1.....2.....3.....Total Points.....Point Avg.....Place Avg.....Season Place
 Date6/10.....6/24.....6/24

MC Scow

Scott Troeger	1	DNS	DNS	1600	1600.00	1	1
Harold Cranmer	DNS	2	1	3121	1560.50	1.5	2
Bob King	3	1	3	4488	1496.00	2.33	3
Don Harman	2	4	4	4259	1419.67	3.33	4
Phil Vitale	6	3	2	4190	1396.67	3.67	5
Jim Bolinger	DNS	DNS	5	1296	1296.00	5.00	6
Jeff Smitley	4	6	6	3403	1134.33	5.33	7
Bill Luecht	5	5	7	3539	1179.67	5.67	8

Sunfish A Fleet

Rick Russwurm	DNS	4	1	2969	1484.50	2.50	1
Dave Olson	1	5	2	1521	507.00	2.67	2
Tom Howard	5	1	3	2890	963.33	3.00	3
Sandy Vitale	4	2	4	3819	1273.00	3.33	4
Ashley Marquez	2	3	7	3689	1229.67	4.00	5
Erica Vitale	3	6	5	2950	983.33	4.67	6
Steve Richards	6	7	6	3606	1202.00	6.33	7

Sunfish B Fleet

Paul Fallon	DNS	1	DNF	3121	1560.50	1	1
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Junior Fleet

Neil Troeger	1	DNS	DNS	1600	1600.00	1	1
Katie Luecht	2	1	1	4486	1495.33	1.33	2

DNS - (Did Not Sail) does not count for or against any sailor; however a minimum of 2/3 of total season races must be completed to qualify in class
 CB - Any sailor who volunteers to operate the Race Committee Boat and/or act as Starter will receive the point equivalent of a First Place finish for that day and will be counted in final season totals
 DNF - (Did not Finish) will equal Last Place of Class minus 1 place (i.e. 5 boats race in class, DNF equals 6th place)
 DQ - (Disqualified) will count as zero points for that race
 Season points are determined using the Square 40 Scoring System (1st place equals 40 squared, 2nd place equals 39 squared, etc.)
 Season place is determined by totalling season points and dividing by races completed. DNF does not count toward required season race minimum
 Regattas are scored using Lowest Place Scoring System (average of place, lowest number wins) and are not included in any season point totals or averages
 Regatta races will count toward total races required to qualify in class for season

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Stu's Star Stuff



The summer sun

The brightest object in our sky by far is often totally overlooked because we never see it at night. I am referring to the sun.

For people who love the sunshine, this is the best time of year. Summer's getting underway in the northern hemisphere, so the days are longest for the year. And, as you've undoubtedly noticed, they're heating up, too; we can expect the hottest temperatures in a couple of months, as our part of Earth soaks up more of the Sun's rays.

Scientists are keeping a close eye on the Sun right now because it's building toward the peak of its next magnetic cycle. And it may be a doozy.

The Sun goes through an 11-year magnetic cycle. As the Sun rotates, the lines of magnetic force get stretched and twisted. That creates the dark magnetic storms known as sunspots, as well as bright hotspots. It also creates big explosions of radiation and showers of electrically charged particles.

This activity has an impact on Earth -- and especially on technology. The extra activity can create bright displays of the northern and southern lights, and warm the outer atmosphere, causing it to expand. That can drag down orbiting satellites. Solar flares can also damage satellites, disrupt radio communications, and knock out power grids on the surface. And airlines have to reroute some flights to avoid the north pole, where Earth's magnetic field provides little

protection against the Sun's fury.

Some scientists expect to see the next peak in the solar cycle as early as 2010. And they're expecting a strong one. One prediction says we could see up to 160 sunspots at a time -- a number that could create some nasty problems for our high-tech society.

To our eyes alone, the surface of the Sun looks uniformly bright, hot, and smooth. But telescopes that study the Sun see quite a different surface -- one that's lumpy, splotchy, and even a little fuzzy.

Since the Sun is a big ball of gas, it doesn't have a solid surface, like Earth does. Instead, its surface is something like the top of a pot of boiling water. Bubbles of gas hundreds or thousands of miles across float to the top of the Sun, transporting energy from deep inside.

Relatively cool magnetic storms form dark "sunspots" on the surface. The Sun's magnetic field also creates another type of feature, called a coronal loop. These loops of hot gas are tens of thousands of miles across. They extend well into the Sun's outer atmosphere, called the corona. They form when the magnetic field casts loops far into space. Electrically charged particles of gas climb the magnetic loops like ivy climbing over an archway.

Each loop consists of many different filaments of hot gas wound together like the strands of a rope. Each filament is hundreds of times hotter than the Sun's surface. In turn, energy from the loops heats the corona

to a million degrees or more.

Most of the gas in a coronal loop eventually crashes back to the Sun at about 200,000 miles an hour. The impact heats up that portion of the Sun, causing it to glow a little brighter -- just one more way in which the surface of the Sun is anything but uniform.

Look for the sun low in the east about dawn. At mid day you can spot it high overhead. Near dusk look for the sun near the western horizon. Who said it has to be dark to enjoy the show? And, even in the daytime, it's free.

-Stu Spratt



The Moon tonight:

The moon for June 30 (at Midnight)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.992
0.7 days after full moon

Your Horoscope

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

Don't be afraid to push your beliefs and attitudes. Try not to be too lavish with your lover. Any contributions you make to organizations will enhance your reputation and bring you offers. Keep your thoughts and opinions to yourself and you won't get dragged into an unsavory debate. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

You like to stay busy and now is your chance to do just that. Don't share your dilemma with those you work with. Take precautions while traveling; you don't have to get anywhere that fast. Someone you like

may be receptive and actively seeking your company. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to. Problems with large corporations or institutions are apparent. Sudden romantic connections may be short lived. Opportunities will unfold; however, you must be willing to pay the price. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Be cautious who you deal with financially. Resist any idle chatter. Opportunities for new partnerships will develop through the organizations you

encounter. Be prepared to lose friends or alienate other people if you insist on being stubborn. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

If possible, rely on coworkers to back your objectives, and talk to superiors in order to get approval. You should be able to get involved in an interesting proposition this week. You will enjoy lavish forms of entertainment and should consider making arrangements early. You'll be tempted to spend extravagantly this week. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Protect your interests legally if necessary. Health problems may prevail if you haven't been getting enough rest. If you join intellectual or cultural groups, you should meet individuals who stimulate you. Be careful not to divulge secret information this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

You will have some problems with children, but if you are patient you will win their favor. Things at home may be somewhat rocky. Romance and social activity will be a promising combination. You will find that social activities will lead you into passionate meetings. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You will want to take off and have some recreation. Be careful what you say. Someone left a real mess for

you to sift through. You must avoid gossip and focus on what you have to do. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Don't give in too quickly. Groups and organizations that indulge in social events to raise money will be conducive to meeting new and exciting lovers. You should be on the road. You won't have much time for your mate this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Try to curb your bad habits. It is time to clear your decks. Romance could be exciting if you are spontaneous. You will get bored quickly, so make sure that you have scheduled enough activity to hold your interest. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Take care of your personal needs. You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully this week. You will easily charm members of the opposite sex. You will not be able to contain your emotions this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

You will have to face each issue separately and in person. You may have a problem with coworkers if you try to tell them what to do. Your lack of interest in your partner is a problem. Try to mix business with pleasure while traveling. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



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BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
June 24, 2007 Report to Residents – Gert Temple, Water Quality Committee
EURASIAN MILOIL

To: Birch Lake Residents
From: Dan Reynolds, Chairman, Water Quality Committee
Re: Contents of Letter of 6-20-07 from Tony Groves, Water Resources Director, Progressive AE

"It was a pleasure to meet with you and various members of the Water Quality Committee to discuss the infestation of Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) in Birch Lake. As you are aware, Birch Lake is a high quality lake that contains a healthy and diverse assemblage of native aquatic plants. However, the lake is currently threatened with an infestation of the exotic, nuisance plant, Eurasian milfoil. Fortunately, based on our initial survey of the lake, performed on June 12, 2007 the infestation is small and is restricted to a bed just south of the inlet stream at the east end of the lake, and to an area immediately east of the access site at the south end of the lake.

As its name implies, Eurasian milfoil is not native to Michigan. It was introduced to the United States from Europe and Asia in the 1940's. Unlike native milfoil species (which have existed in Birch Lake for years), Eurasian milfoil is problematic in that it can spread rapidly by a process called "vegetative propagation" or "fragmentation" in which pieces of the plant break off, take root and grow. It usually becomes established early in the growing season and will often grow to greater depths than most plants. The plant tends to form a thick canopy at the water surface that shades out more desirable plant species and interferes with recreational activities such as swimming and fishing. If Eurasian milfoil growth is left unchecked, the plant has the ability to quickly become the dominant plant species in the lake. Because of its ability to spread by fragmentation, mechanical harvesting is generally not recommended to control Eurasian milfoil in that it can actually promote the spread of the plant. Most often Eurasian milfoil is controlled via the select application of herbicides.

In Michigan, Part 33, Aquatic Nuisance Control of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act PA 451 of 1994 requires that a permit be acquired from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality before herbicides are applied to inland lakes. The permit will include a list of herbicides that are approved for use in the lake, respective dose rates, use restrictions, and will show specific areas in the lake where treatments are allowed. The application review process generally takes several weeks. For treatments less than 5 acres, the application permit fee is \$200. The cost per acres to treat Eurasian milfoil can range from \$300 to \$500 depending on the scope of treatment and the product utilized. The current infestation of Eurasian milfoil in Birch Lake is about 1.5 acres.

At this time, it is recommended that the Birch Lake Yacht Club contract the services of a licensed herbicide applicator to spot-treat the Eurasian milfoil bed on the east shore this year. The Eurasian milfoil bed near the access site appears to be small enough that it can be hand-raked from the lake. Great care should be exercised when removing this bed to avoid fragmenting and possibly spreading the plant.

It is further recommended that biologists from my office perform annual surveys of the lake in late May or early June to monitor future infestations of nuisance, invasive plant species such as Eurasian milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). The annual cost to perform these surveys and to report findings to the Water Quality Committee is \$1000.

I hope the information provided herein is useful in developing an Eurasian milfoil control strategy for Birch Lake. If you have questions or require additional information, please feel free to call."

To: Birch Lake Residents
From: Dan Reynolds, Chairman, Water Quality Committee
Re: Contents of Letter of 6-20-07 from Tony Groves to Professional Lake Management

"Please be informed that the Birch Lake Yacht Club desires to retain your firm to spot-treat Eurasian milfoil in Birch Lake. At your earliest convenience, please prepare and submit an application for permit to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Enclosed please find a map of Birch Lake that depicts the location of the proposed Eurasian milfoil treatment area, sign-offs from property owners adjacent to the treatment area, and a list of lake contacts. In the next few days, I will forward you a check in the amount of \$200 to cover the permit application fee.

At your earliest convenience, please submit the application for permit to the MDEQ. Feel free to call if you have any questions or require additional information"

List of Lake Contacts:
Dan Reynolds.....476-2773
Rick Russwurm.....476-2407
Bob Temple..... 476-2773
Gert Temple..... 476-2773

Invasive Species, a layman's perspective

The second species to invade beautiful Birch Lake has (predictably) arrived. First it was the horde of zebra mussels, sharp edged bivalves, cluttering the bottom and cutting our feet. The initial zebra explosion may be past, but, the mature adults launch spawn in the thousands every year. The clean water of Birch may work against these particular critters.

Thanks to an ever vigilant program to locate and properly remove Purple Loosestrife, that weed has never been allowed to spread and propagate in large number. But, let down the guard, and Birch could be ringed in lavender, as are so many other waterways. Eventually it gets out of control.

Now comes Eurasian Water Milfoil. Wanting to hear from an expert, I talked with Tony Groves, from Progressive AE. This is the man who surveyed Birch and made recommendations. The internet has plenty (perhaps too much) info on milfoil. Type Eurasian milfoil into an internet search-engine and you'll be served 125,000 results.

Go to the USDA (U. S. Dept. of Agriculture) website on invasive species, to learn this noxious weed invaded the US in early 1900s, brought here by the aquarium trade (like loosestrife was apparently sold in some nurseries for a time). Their map shows milfoil has spread throughout the US. The battle is on for our waterways.

New to Birch, milfoil is not new to the mid-west. The USDA website tells the story:

"Great Lakes Region - Decreasing,

while native species return, as non-indigenous mussels clear the once turbid waters of Put-in-Bay Harbor, Lake Erie, Ohio (Stuckey and Moore 1995). Reported from over 160 glacially-formed natural lakes in Indiana, 90 of which are located in the northern St. Joseph drainage (INDNR 1997). Also known in reservoirs across central Indiana (IDNR 1997), including Monroe Reservoir, where the species thrives in silt laden zones (Landers and Frey 1980). Declining in McCullom Lake, Illinois, in conjunction with the appearance of herbivorous Euhrychiopsis weevils (Weinberg 1995). Aggressive and long standing in nutrient rich, recreational lakes of southern Wisconsin, where infestations have occurred since the 1960s. It now foliates 54 counties and 319 waterbody sites (298 ponds, lakes and flowages) in Wisconsin - the most of any state (Engel 1999). Atypically occurring in bays of Lake Michigan; spreading northward through lakes in Michigan's lower peninsula (Nichols 1994; Trudeau 1982). Spreading rapidly since its 1987 arrival in Minnesota, Eurasian water-milfoil is known to occur in 75 lakes and 4 streams that radiate from the Twin Cities area (Bratager et al. 1996)."

Remarks: A North American weevil, Euhrychiopsis lecontei, may be associated with natural declines at northern lakes (Sheldon 1994, Bratager et al. 1996, Weinberg 1995). Studies have found the herbivorous weevil to cause significant damage to Eurasian water-milfoil while having little impact

on native species (Sheldon and Creed 1995), suggesting the insect as a potential biocontrol agent. (1)

Refine the search, to include the words: Eurasian milfoil Tony Groves. I did this to learn about the man helping assess our problem and prescribe treatment. The search engine delivered about 500 results. The frightening part is reading some search query results, not about Mr. Groves, or Progressive AE, but, the sheer volume of milfoil (in acres) some lakes must confront. Various lake websites say things like "we have only 200 acres to treat, down from over 400 last year" [paraphrase].

Below find an excerpt from MichiganLakeInfo.com, content © 2007 Progressive AE:

Because of its ability to spread by fragmentation, mechanical harvesting (in which plants are cut and removed from the lake) is not an effective method of controlling Eurasian milfoil. In fact, harvesting can actually promote the spread of the plant. Eurasian milfoil can be controlled with herbicides (some of which are selective for milfoil) and, in some lakes, the biological control of Eurasian milfoil is being attempted. (2)

Like other invasive species, arrival of milfoil was a matter of when, not if. So, what to do?

We are lucky in many respects. We have (for now) a small area to treat. This is because Birch Lake Yacht Club has a vigilant Water Quality (standing) Committee, who found the problem early, instead of late. Birch is deep, but, milfoil can apparently root in deep-



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er water than many weeds. And, were milfoil to infest just the shallows, the number of acres could be substantial.

Thankfully, those most affected have been understanding, and accommodating, to keep from disturbing, and in so doing, spreading the weed. The instinct to break out a rake is entirely wrong-way (Corrigan), since milfoil can spread via fragment cuttings. There are herbicides, and weevils, and science to deploy.

It's tempting to blame drop-in boaters. But, this is both unconstructive and may be entirely wrong thinking. If you had your boat serviced at Eagle, they did a test-run in their lake, then you launched at Birch, your boat might have had zebra mussel spawn in

the coolant water. If I took a boat sailing on Diamond, then put her back into Birch, I could have brought in milfoil fragments on trailer bunks.

Did drop-ins bring the invaders? Maybe. Or, maybe it was you, or me. Please note: no disrespect intended to Diamond or Eagle, and, I don't know what is the invasive species situation at either lake. The two nearby lakes were named only as hypothetical examples.

The Water Quality Committee, through the good offices of BLYC, and our weekly Barker publication, will share intel while working the problem. The Board established a treasury line-item devoted to invasive species. Why? Because in the end, we may only con-

trol the weed, as opposed to eradicating it.

To those who have not paid Yacht Club dues, and/or donated to the Club, please consider doing so at the Pancake Breakfast this Saturday. This new scourge ... dealing with it (and the next invader), requires we band together, and pool resources to protect the pretty puddle out front.

One last thought — let's reserve our fight for the weed.

-Bob King, PC

Footnotes:

(1) http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/plants/docs/my_spica.html

(2) <http://www.michiganlakeinfo.com/CategoryView,category,Eurasian%20Milfoil.aspx>

Michigan Lake Info <http://www.michiganlakeinfo.com/>

Progressive AE home page <http://www.progressiveae.com/>



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