

Birch Barker

Weekend of May 30, 2009



photo by Chuck Horn

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Once again the Birch Lake Community showed that there is a lot more going on here than a few gallons of spring-fed water and some pretty sunsets. The attendance at last Saturday's Memorial Service for Steve Cranmer was as impressive and overwhelming as were the thoughts and words that were shared.

We were all reminded that one day the lake, the sun, and even our bodies will be here no longer. When we do leave it won't be the houses we occupied or the lake frontage we have owned that will define us, and live beyond us. It will be the people we have lived and worked with and the relationships we have developed that will determine our ultimate worth. Saturday's show of support speaks volumes to the worth of Steve, who just left us, and to the worth of all of his family, friends, and neighbors whom he left behind.

Thanks to the Cranmer family for organizing and allowing us to partake in this meaningful rite of passage.

The summer season has officially begun. Not only did we enjoy the first summer's holiday weekend, the weather gods, no doubt motivated by all of your prayers, actually bestowed the first two days of summer upon us. Saturday and Sunday were just delightful. Monday could have been a little warmer, but 2 out of 3, considering where we have come from, isn't bad. It was heartwarming to see so many boats being put into, and in use on, the water. A few of us even followed the example of Ed, the lion-hearted, Chester and went, shall we say, swimming? Thanks, Ed.

Speaking of the weather ... the Michigan edition of last weekend's South Bend Tribune had a feature article on the current, historically high water tables throughout Cass County. The county's Water Resources (formerly Drain)

continued on next page

2009 BLYC Calendar*

- June 6—Board meeting 9 am
Commodore's Party 7:30 pm
 - June 20—Vice-Commodore's Party tba
 - July 4—Board meeting 9 am
Boat Parade, Fireworks
 - July 5—Pancake Breakfast
 - July 18*—Spaghetti Dinner
 - July 25—House Walk
 - July 31—Men's Golf Outing
 - August 1—Board meeting 9 am
 - August 7—Women's Golf Outing
 - August 8—Corn & Sausage Roast
 - August 22—Fall Dinner
 - Sept. 5—Board meeting 9 am
- * Date unconfirmed/subject to change

There are numerous other good ideas for worthwhile activities (such as an Ice Cream Social and a Garage Sale) floating around and open dates available. If you are willing or interested to take on an event (there is usually plenty of help available) just contact the Commodore at 476-1467 or 574-274-9580.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

Commissioner, Bruce Campbell, related how last September's record rain events had combined with the long winter and rainy spring to leave standing water in places that 60-year residents had not seen previously. Many, if not all, bodies of water in the county are very high.

Coincidentally, a few days prior I had called this same gentleman and Mr. Louis Csokasy, the new manager of our County Road Commission trying to get some information on the new Lake Harvey (across Harvey Rd., just east of Robbin's Lake Rd). Prior to this phe-

nomenon, I had thought all lakes were only getting older, usually shrinking in size and that no new ones were created without an ice age, volcano, or other cataclysmic event. Shows what I know!

After my phone interviews I can report to you that:

- Both public officials were responsive and informative.
- They both attributed the lake's formation to the same factors discussed in the newspaper article.
- Neither would predict exactly when the waters might recede from the Harvey Rd. pavement.
- The warmer, drier weather and the releafing of the trees, which then absorb more ground water, should accelerate the process.

There are no natural or easily man made outlets for either of the two now combined ponds

Most interesting though was the response to my query of why the dirt piles were placed on both sides of the water encroachment, backing up the road closed signs. Were they really needed?
The Road

Commission decided to do so in response to all those that drove past the "road closed" signs, ventured into the water, and then saw fit to call the Road Commission and complain after their vehicles stalled out.

It's almost time. Mark your calendars. The doors of the Yacht Club will be opened to all lakers for the first time this season for the Commodore's Party. We may be still lacking a definitive theme, but wasn't the wildly successful Seinfeld show about nothing? (Please call with your suggestions.) Irregardless we hope as many of you as possible will bring a snack dish to pass and join us for a beverage or two and good company, starting at 7:30pm on Saturday, June 6.

-Paul Fallon, 2009 Commodore

Be there or be square

"He could barely see the audience's faces as he squinted his eyes and tried to see past the blinding bright lights. All their eyes were upon him as he tightly clutched the microphone and began to sing. Haltingly at first, but soon the words and melody began to flow..."

"American Idol"? "America's Got Talent"?

No — BIRCH LAKE KARAOKE!

Mark your calendars now!
Saturday, June 20th at the BLYC.

Be there or be square!

-Bob Waddle, 2009 Vice Commodore

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Evelyn "Buddy" Asire

We have just received word of the death of Evelyn "Buddy" Asire (long time west sider) last week. Our sympathies to the family.

All you can eat pancake breakfast

All are invited to an All you can eat pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 30 from 7:30 to 11 am at the VFW in Cassopolis.

This fund-raising event for the Pleasant View Church of Christ Youth Group and Camp Fund is just \$5 per person.

For more information call 445-2655.

Trib now at Tom's

Becky Beers has reported that the South Bend Tribune is now available at Tom's Garage.

Auction June 6

The Cass County Drug Enforcement Team's annual sale of used equipment, unclaimed and forfeiture property will be auctioned at the Cass County Fairgrounds Show Arena on Saturday, June 6, with inspection/Registration at 8 am. Auction starts at 9 am. Items include vehicles, televisions, tools, lawn mowers and miscellaneous



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— Birch Lake Notes —

items. All items will be sold as is.

Township Cleanup Day

Porter Township's annual Clean up day will be Saturday, June 6 from 8 am to Noon at American Waste in Union.

Bike to work week

Attention all cycling enthusiasts (or people not yet enthused but who have a bike),

The 4th annual Michiana Bike to Work Week Challenge, June 1-5, is almost upon us and it is time to register yourself or a team if you haven't already done so. Kruggel, Lawton is one of the sponsors this year and I am on the awareness committee to help get people get interested and involved in this community awareness event. To create a team all you need to do now is register up is to go to www.MichianaBikeToWork.org and create a team. During the Bike to Work week you be able to login and record your commuting miles. If you work downtown South Bend, the Health and Lifestyle Center will be providing free showers during the Bike to Work week if you feel the need.

I hope many of you choose to do this. Last year I road during the bike to work week and liked it so

Barker Critter of the Week



Thanks to Mr. Bob for this great photo of a Birch Lake Pterodactyl (Great Blue Heron) in flight ...

much I continued riding to work 2-3 times a week the rest of the summer. It was great getting to work feeling energized from the fresh morning summer air. Again, if I can answer any questions or concerns you may

have, please shoot me an email or give me a call. I look forward to seeing you on a team!

See you on the road!

-Kurt, Team Captain
Team Kruggel, Lawton



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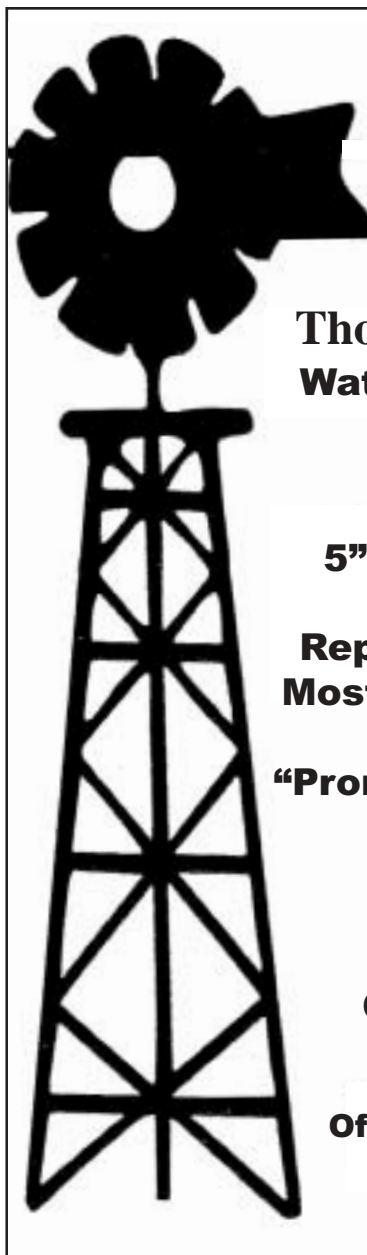
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Parker Durham, grandson of Bev and Herm Kruggel and son of Shelley and Ted Durham, graduated Cum Laude from South Bend Clay High school on Sunday, May 24th. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Parker played for four years for the Clay soccer team and also was the kicker for the football team. He will attend Indiana University of Bloomington this fall. Parker loves wakeboarding and boating at Birch Lake.



The Freihofer kids recently invited Carol & Fred to Cincy to celebrate mothers day at the ballpark for a game between the Reds and Cards. Great time was had by all.

Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the Week?

Hey, we all love kid pics, don't we?
And we especially love them if they're pics of OUR kids or grandkids!

You can see your favorite kids' pics in the Barker if you send them to me (preferably via the email address sailorphil@philvitale.com) along with their name(s) and pertinent info like their par-

ents' or grandparents' names, or who they were visiting, or what they were doing in the photo.

If you don't email, please make sure the info is legible and not too long because if I can't cut-and-paste, I have to retype all that stuff from scratch (and I'm not a very good typist ... and I'm even worse at proofreading my own stuff). -Editor

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Let's get out there and sail

The wind was blowing, the water was smooth, but there was only one lonely sailboat out on the water Memorial Day weekend. I don't know where the rest of you sailors were (probably trying to remember where you put the rudder last fall) but at least I had a chance to get out there for a couple of hours. Now, if I could only remember what all those ropes and pulleys in the bottom of the boat are supposed to do...

This is the plan for this year:

- Regular season races will be every Sunday from May 31 to August 31, except for regattas on the 4th of July and Labor Day weekends. (We have an extra week this year, since memorial Day was early and Labor Day is late. Maybe we'll do something different with the extra week...)
- Races will start at 11:00 a.m. (if the wind has picked up by then, otherwise we will push it back to 12:00 Noon). Hopefully, Harold Cranmer will agree to set the marks prior to the races again this year. If the races are canceled for the day I will try to contact everyone by phone.
- The course that we sail will be the same as last year -- a triangle course with windward finish for Sunfish (4 legs) and a triangle-windward-leeward course with windward finish for MCs (6 legs).

For MCs, the starting gate will be closed for legs 4 and 5. See diagram below.

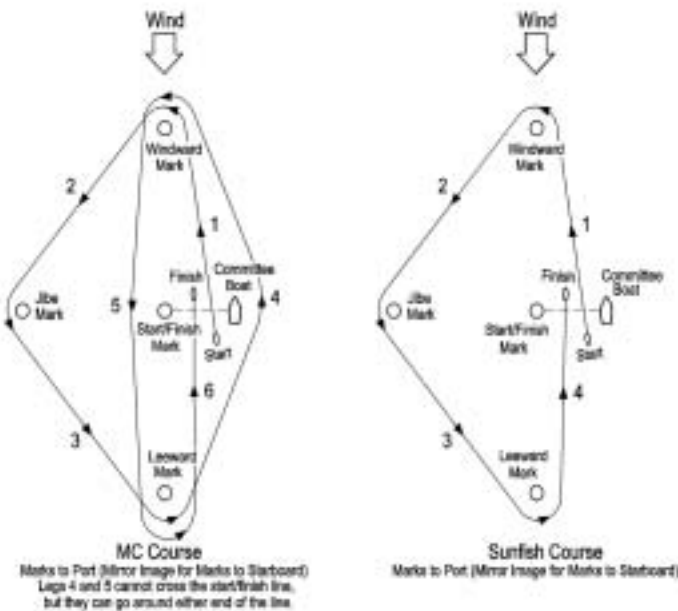
- The 5-minute warning for MCs will be the 10-minute warning for Sunfish. The starting signal for MCs will be the 5-minute warning for Sunfish.
- The penalty for a foul will be a 360° turn, when clear of other boats, in the same leg of the race where the foul was committed.
- For the regular season races, scoring will be the square of 40 system, as before (1st place gets 40 x 40 = 1600 points, 2nd place 39 x 39 = 1521, etc.). Adjustments will be made for serving on the committee boat and number of races completed.
- The rules that we follow for the races are as published by US Sailing and ISAF (see <http://www.ussailing.org/rules/>). There a couple of new rules this year. The one that will matter most to is Rule 18 which governs the amount of room we must give other boats when rounding the marks, and the size of the "zone" around the mark (now three boat lengths).

The first race of the season will be this Sunday, May 31, at 11:00 a.m., weather permitting. New sailors are always welcome. (Old sailors are welcome, too. This is an equal opportunity fleet.)

Committee Boat volunteers needed: As of the Barker deadline, I still need to find someone to start the race this weekend. If anyone is interested, please let me know. 476-2615. Otherwise I might be calling you. My darling wife Patty has been signing people up for Committee Boat duty for the rest of the summer. Please see below. There are still slots available if you want to start one of the races. It's a good excuse for spending some time on the water while claiming to do something worthwhile. Contact Patty at 476-2615.

-Fleet Captain Bill Luecht

Official Courses for 2009 MC and Sunfish class sailing races



Committee Boat Sign Ups (Tentative)

Date	Name
6-7	Stewart Spratt
6-14	Available for You!
6-21	Patty Luecht
7-3 (Regatta)	Karen & Stan
7-4 (Regatta)	Karen & Stan
7-12	Available for You!
7-19	Bob & Sue Waddle
7-26	Available for You!
8-2	Available for You!
8-9	Available for You!
8-16	Bob & Sue Waddle
8-23	Available for You!
8-30	Available for You!
9-5 (Regatta)	Available for You!
9-6 (Regatta)	Available for You!
9-7 (Regatta)	Available for You!

Call Patty at 476-2615 if you are interested in signing up for any of these dates.

*Must provide own boat *Must provide own crew

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Tannadoonah Tidbits

Just three more weeks until campers arrive at Camp Tannadoonah! We are currently up to 283 campers; last year at the same time we had 262. We're still shooting for 550, so get your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, and neighbors on board for this summer!

Next weekend (June 5th) is the unofficial kick-off of the summer, as the big rental group, The People of Praise, will be arriving on Friday afternoon to start setting up for their week of camp. Then my camp staff will be arriving on June 14th for our week of staff training before the first group of campers arrive. That first week will be a big one, as we are already almost at capacity for the week!

This year Ms Sue Felix will be returning as my assistant camp director, and I was also able to hire a 2nd assistant director. Miss Laura Pauwels has been a part of my staff for the past 2 summers, and she will be primarily responsible for programming - deciding what activities to do in the evening, helping the program leaders monitor supplies and plan for the



upcoming weeks, etc. Miss Laura has worked at many of the different camp activities, including drama, nature, crafts, and sports & games, so she will be a great help with programs this year!

I'm going to be placing orders for this year's camp shirts soon. This year the camp t-shirt will be a sunshine yellow, with "Camp Tannadoonah" on the front, and our logo on the back with the phrase "Camp is Life." We'll also have new hooded sweatshirts this year. They will be bright orange, with "Tannadoonah" across the front, and the row of pine trees and water from the t-shirt logo underneath. The sun from the logo will be on the hood of the sweatshirt.

We also have navy blue Tannadoonah shorts, gray crew-neck sweatshirts, royal blue hoodies, gray long & short sleeved shirts, and kelly green t-shirts from previous years. Also available are Tannadoonah stuffed teddy bears, ducks, and frogs, Lexan water bottles, Frisbees, nylon bags, and Tannadoonah wristbands. If you're interested in purchasing any camp apparel or other items please let me know!

Thanks again for all the help from everyone around the lake!

Miss Amber Grundy

Director, Camp Tannadoonah

Amber@tannadoonah.org

574-217-4731

Camp Wish List:

Electric Clothes Dryer(s)

Electric Water Heater(s)

Lif jackets (the orange kind)

New mattresses for camp bunks

(\$100 each)

Campership Funds (\$350 per camper)

~Birch Lake Recipes~

Another house favorite — Ham Roulette



Hope all ate well over the fabulous Memorial weekend. What great weather for family, friends, food and fun.

Here is another house favorite: The ingredients in this recipe have long shelf life's except for the ham. I buy the ham in thick slices for rolling. I put a

piece of wax paper between the slices and put it into the freezer. When I want to make this I just pull out what I need separate the ham and it thaws quickly.

Ham Roulette

1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
4 sour pickles, finely chopped
2 tablespoons prepared mustard
Chopped chives (I buy the dried in the spice isle)
5 slices deli ham, not too thin

In a small bowl, mix together the cream cheese, pickles, mustard, and chives.

Spoon 1/5 of the mixture onto each ham slice, then roll ham slices up carefully. Wrap each roll in aluminum foil, and refrigerate for 2 hours minimum.

When you are ready to serve, unwrap the ham roulettes, and slice. Serve chilled.

Happy snacking!

-Good Patti



<http://tannadoonah.org/>



211 Dixie Way North
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Stu's Star Stuff

Morning Star, Evening Star ...

The planet Saturn is a delicate giant. Although it is the second largest planet in the solar system, it's the least dense -- less dense than water. Chemical compounds in its upper atmosphere color its cloud bands in subtle shades of ivory, yellow, and tan. And broad, lacy rings encircle Saturn, making it the most beautiful planet in the solar system.

Like its larger sibling, Jupiter, Saturn is a ball of hydrogen and helium gas wrapped around a dense, rocky core. Saturn spins so fast that it bulges outward at the equator, so the planet is much thicker at the equator than through the poles.

Saturn's clouds are colored in subtle shades of yellow and tan, and contain ammonia, methane, and other toxic compounds. They are buffeted by winds of up to 1,000 miles, and they contain violent storm systems that produce lightning blasts a million times more powerful than those on Earth.

Saturn's most prominent feature, though, is its extensive ring system. Galileo discovered the rings in the early 17th century. In his small, crude telescope, though, they looked like "bumps"

on the side of the planet. Five decades later, Dutch astronomer Christaan Huygens, who had recently discovered Saturn's largest moon, Titan, detected a bit of space between Saturn and the bumps. He deduced that the bumps were really planet-circling rings.

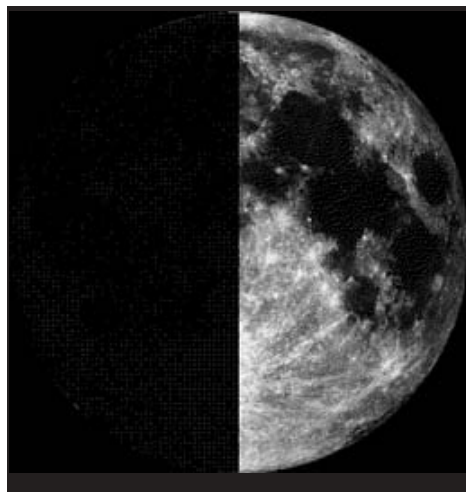
Today, astronomers know that thousands of individual rings make up Saturn's ring system. Some rings are made of small bits of frozen water, others contain tiny grains of dust, and still others are a mixture of the two. In all, the rings are only a few hundred feet thick. Several small moons orbit inside or just outside the ring system. These "shepherd" satellites help keep the ring particles in place, but they also sculpt some rings into odd shapes, with twists and kinks.

Saturn's rings probably formed when a small moon or a comet passed close to Saturn and was pulled apart by the planet's gravity.

Look for Saturn to the upper left of the moon this evening at nightfall and tomorrow to the upper right. Saturn looks like a bright golden star. It spends the first eight months of the year in Leo, the lion, then moves into the

neighboring constellation Virgo, the virgin. It disappears behind the Sun in late August, then returns to view in the morning sky in October.

The show's still exciting, and a good bargain for only a dollar. See you there. - *Stu Spratt*



The Moon tonight:

The moon for May 30 (at Midnight)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.512
0.2 days since first quarter

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

Your hypnotic eyes will capture the hearts of those who interest you. Do your own thing. Unexpected bills will be impossible for you to pay. Don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

You may not be too pleased with the actions of those you live with. Do a little extra work at home. Financial limitations may add to your depression. Look out for those wanting to push you into a disagreement. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Don't let emotional upset force you into the poorhouse. You can prosper if you invest in property or mutual funds. Listen to the advice given by others. Partnerships with creative people could lead to financial gains. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Emotional situations could

bring out your stubborn nature. Focus on your own domestic problems. Travel if it's needed to start the ball rolling. Use your quick wit to win points and friends. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Your home environment appears to be a little shaky. Don't let situations get out of hand. You are likely to reveal information unintentionally. Travel opportunities look positive, but be cautious while driving. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Use your inventiveness to find solutions. Your time, not your cash, will do a lot more for your relationship. Stubborn about making changes around your home. You will be subject to pushy individuals if you get involved in uncertain organizations. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Close deals that have been up in the air and move on to new ones that appear to be prof-

itable. Don't hold back; go with the flow and take a bit of a chance. Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation. Be careful that you don't overextend yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Social activity with friends and relatives will be most successful. Relatives may play an important role in your social activities. You will have some problems with children, but if you are patient you will win their favor. You will meet potential new mates through friends or relatives. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Your personal life will still be experiencing difficulties and you are best to avoid the issues for the time being. Get together with friends for some competitive physical activities. You mustn't give too much to your children. Unexpected bills will leave you a little short. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Involvement in groups of interest will bring you in touch with important individuals. Consider a conservative investment that will stay solid when everything else goes sour. You will benefit by taking care of other people's concerns. Include the whole family or those you love. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

You won't be well received by superiors or by your spouse. Try to spend some time on your own. Be quiet about your intentions or ideas that might bring added cash. You should sign up for creative courses. Concentrate on your work. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

You will be emotional about your personal life. Secret intrigues could get you into trouble. Try to take care of the needs of those you love. Use your head and do things to your liking. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Water Quality Committee Report

Water Quality Program
Water Quality Committee Lake Management Report
Rick Russwurm, Chairman,
Terry Dugan, Gordon Seyfarth,
Bruce Wagner

INVASIVE SPECIES

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE:

The Birch Lake Water Quality Committee started the Purple Loosestrife Management Program in 2000. The program has been a great success. In 2000 we had 10 sites on all shores of Birch Lake. Some of which were very dense. We continue to monitor for Purple Loosestrife each year and remove the plants that we find. Typically we find two or three sites per year. This occurs in July and August when the plant blooms. If you see the plant or suspect a plant might be Purple Loosestrife, please call a Water Quality member to check it out.

What is it?

Purple loosestrife is a plant that was accidentally introduced in to the United States and then distributed as an ornamental. It is most easily identified during its flowering period from July to September. This spike shaped "purple" flower can be seen in ditches, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and other moist, shallow water sites. This plant is an upright, hardy perennial, four to eight feet tall and most often found in a group.

Effects:

Purple loosestrife invades marshes, ditches and lakeshores, quickly replacing cattails and other native wetland plants. These plants form dense stands that ducks, geese, muskrats and frogs cannot use for food or cover.

Spread:

Purple loosestrife will grow from the roots of an established plant, however, the plants spread mainly by seed. Having up to 300,000 per stalk, these tiny seeds can live in the soil and water for many years and can be transported great distances by humans, animals and water. The seeds can be transported to other wetland areas via the mud on birds and ducks feet, in the fur of muskrat, mink and beaver, or on the shells of turtles. Humans can also unknowingly transport the seeds via the mud on their shoes, boots, waders and clothing.

EURASIAN MILFOIL:

We began monitoring aquatic vegetation in Birch Lake in 2001. We were part of a Michigan Lake & Stream program that mapped the aquatic plants in Birch Lake. Howard Wandell provided professional assistance to the Birch Lake Water Quality Committee. The mapping project revealed that Birch Lake had a moderate plant population consisting of a good variety of species none of which dominated. At that time the survey determined that we did not have Eurasian Milfoil. In 2007 Eurasian milfoil was discovered at three sites. Progressive AE provided professional assistance and is still

under retainer. Professional Lake Management treated the sites in 2007 and 2008. May 18th, 2009 Progressive AE surveyed the lake for invasive aquatic plants and inspected the Eurasian milfoil sites. It looks as though they will treat two of the sites again this year although we have not received the official report. We already have the permits and notification has gone out to the possible homeowners sites that are affected. Progressive AE also took several samples of suspected Hybrid milfoil for DNA testing. The Hybrid is still under investigation. Any negative effects have not yet been determined.

Growth characteristics:

Eurasian milfoil is an aggressive, tall-growing exotic aquatic plant from Europe and Asia. It is capable of growing to the surface in 12 to 15 feet of water. At the surface, it forms a dense canopy of vegetation over other plants. Many native plants may be reduced in abundance by the Eurasian milfoil canopy. Consequently, this plant can form dense colonies covering much of a lake's littoral zone. Being an exotic, it has few natural biological control agents, so it can dominate a lake for many years. A few biological control agents have been found. Some lakes have seen significant declines in Eurasian milfoil after 10 to 20 years. Control of other aquatic plants reduces competition and appears to allow Eurasian milfoil to maintain a greater coverage for a long period.

Habitat:

Eurasian milfoil may be found throughout the littoral zone, out to a depth of 20 feet.

Nuisance traits:

Its tall growth pattern conflicts with many recreational activities. In dense conditions, it is a serious localized and lake wide problem. It is not a significant food crop for waterfowl, other birds or aquatic mammals. It readily regenerates from detached fragments and spreads rapidly.

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Lake Living and Safety

NEW FEATURE


Boating Regulations and Safety is a new Birch Barker feature being provided by the Birch Lake Yacht Club's Homeowner's Association and Safety Committee.

Each week we will feature one or more informational pieces dealing with boating, lake living and safety for our Birch Lake neighbors.


This week we are looking at the specific laws and regulations regarding Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs, life jackets, etc.). Please make sure you help keep your family, friends, neighbors and visitors safe on our waters.

As for the photo of Marc Golden's boat at right, I just couldn't resist putting it into the paper somewhere ... good luck getting it refloated Marc!






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SEAWALLS - TRENCHING 0" TO 36"
FOOTINGS - BACKFILLS - RETAINING WALLS

LEAF REMOVAL, SNOW PLOWING, SNOW REMOVAL, LOT CLEARING

"Justin Nichols recently put in a seawall at my home on Birch Lake ... and he did an amazing job in a very short time. Thanks Justin!"

-Tom DeCocker, East Shore

"Nichols brought in topsoil, graded my yard, buried the gutter drains and put in a short 25-foot wall ... now I'm ready to enjoy summer at Birch Lake thanks to Nichols Tree Service & Excavating."

Tim Liddell, East Side Hill

"I needed a retaining wall at my new home on the hill (Kinzie St.) while it was under construction. I called Justin Nichols, and he came up and put it in for me. He does very good work!"

-PJ VandeWalle, East Side Hill

"Justin Nichols was working next door when I met him. I needed several trees removed and the stumps ground ... Justin can do it all!"

Ryan Gableman, East Side Hill

Boating Regulations and Safety

PFDs (life jackets)

According to Michigan Law, all boats are required to have at least one personal flotation device (PFD, life jacket) for each person on board.

In addition, the following apply:

- The pfd's must be type I, II or III
- The pfd's must be USCG approved
- The pfd's must be wearable
- The pfd's must be of the proper size for each person on board (based on body

weight and chest size

■ Michigan's PFD law permits a vessel less than 16 feet long (or a canoe or kayak) to choose to have either a wearable PFD (Type I, II or III) or a throwable PFD (Type IV) for each person on board.

■ In addition to these regulations, Michigan law requires that one Type IV USCG-approved PFD must be on board boats 16 feet long or longer, and it must be readily accessible.

■ Michigan law also requires that all

children under 6 years of age must WEAR a USCG-approved Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any boat.

■ Any person riding, driving or being towed behind a Personal Watercraft (PWC, Jet Ski) must WEAR a USCG-approved Type I, II or III PFD (inflatable PFDs are not allowed on PWCs).

■ All PFDs have to be in good, functional condition and must be readily accessible.

PFD types and uses



Type I Offshore Life Jackets are used for rough or remote waters where rescue may be difficult or time consuming. They provide the most flotation and will keep the face of an unconscious person out of the water.

Type II Near-shore vests are good close to shore in calm waters when a quick rescue is likely. A Type II vest may not turn the face of an unconscious person up out of the water.



Type III Flotation Aids or full-sleeved jackets are also good for calm waters where quick rescue is likely, but are not good for rough waters since they will not turn the face of an unconscious person up out of the water.

Type IV Ring buoys and throwable cushions are not designed to be worn, but rather to be thrown to a person who can hold onto it until help arrives.



Type V devices like vests, deck suits and hybrid PFDs are used for special activities like kayaking, windsurfing or water skiing.

Boat Safety Check Planned

The Homeowner's Association is awaiting a date from the Cass County Sheriff's Dept.'s Marine Division for a Boat Safety Check on Birch Lake (watch future Barkers for the date and time).

The inspectors will be look for the following items:

1. Boat Numbers
2. Registration/Documentation
3. PFDs
4. Fire extinguisher
5. Ventilation
6. Backfire flame arrester
7. Sound signaling device (horn)
8. Navigation lights
9. Overall boat condition

For more information contact the Marine Division at 445-2481.

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Barker Crossword

Solution to last week's Birch Barker Crossword ...

It starts with a B...

Lakers: please forgive a few errors on the "B" crossword puzzle from last weekend. I don't do crosswords, and this first effort included a few errors:

10 Down: the answer is Bair Lake (the puzzle solution reads "BairLike" (probably a spelling error on my part.

13 Across: the answer is bathing-suit (I may have used two words when making the puzzle, or, hyphenated the word).

I'll do better next time :0/

-Mr. Bob

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Now, let's go play some golf!

Barker Word Search

Find each of the following words.

CARDINAL
CRAPPIE
ROCK BUGS
HORNETS
HUMMINGBIRD
MAYFLY
ROBIN
BASS
GRASSHOPPER
OPOSSUM

GOOSE
WASP
BLUEGILL
MINNOW
TROUT
BUFFLEHEADS
DUCK
BEES
MOSQUITO
BUZZARD

RACCOON
MERGANSER
SNAKE
CRANE
FROG
CHIPMUNK
MUSKRAT
LOON
TURTLE
DEER

SQUIRREL
SWAN
TURKEY
NUTHATCH
WOODPECKER
WASPS
COOT
PERCH
BUTTERFLY

G G R A S S H O P P E R A P T U R T L E
N M O S Q U I T O Y U H E T L W A S P S
S N A K E T I T L Z R S U C R A P P I E
C A R D I N E F Z E O O C H I P M U N K
C W W A S S R U S O R E D E E R H A H B
R O B I N E B N G T P F A M L B O B U O
O G K N T P A B A S S T E E O L R K M N
C S N T S G Q B Y M W U R E O U N W M M
K O U A R N G E Z P E R C H A E E O I M
B B W E A O Z E H B I K S A U G T O N G
U A M W R N R S P U C E I O S I S D G A
G I S F S D A M Q N C Y B U N L I P B U
S H O R N E H S A N U O G O L L M E I Y
B B U Z Z A R D U Y I T O R O I A C R I
L M U M I N N O W N F C H T O F Y K D U
U O P O S S U M H Y C L C A N D F E Q E
E M U S K R A T A A O R Y R T G L R O D
G D U C K P C A R D I N A L A C D T O U
I N Z R B U F F L E H E A D S N H N R C
M I E O M I M H R S O N C E R R E O R A

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Hobie Cat, 16 foot, with sails, on trailer. \$850. Call Artie at 574-514-3179.

4' X 7' expanded metal utility trailer with ramps. New tires. Perfect for hauling riding mower, etc. \$200. call Sparkybob Waddle 476-2293

WANTED

Wanted to buy: Bass clarinet in good condition. Contact Bill Luecht 476-2615

Wanted: tennis partner to play with aspiring young phenom. Call Katie Luecht 476-2615

Wanted: winning lottery ticket so I don't have to be a trunk slammer. Call Bad Patty 476-2615

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Single-Family Home in Naples Park (pictured above) \$750/ week. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Open floor plan. Screened in tile patio overlooking big back yard. Florida fruit trees. Home located 0.7 miles from public beach; great shopping areas nearby & lots to do and see in Naples, Florida. Home includes all linens and dishes, washer and dryer. Please call Angela 561 603 5522 if you are interested or email berganfsu@aol.com

Lovely 3 bedroom cottage on the beautiful north shore. Sleeps 6, plus a pull out couch. Indoor plumbing and no mosquitoes. \$850.00/week. Discounts available. Contact Stewart at 574.514.0667 or 269.476.2113.

MISC.

Recycling comes to Birch Lake! Blue out front — green out back. In our increasingly "green" world, it's a shame Birch Lakers toss so many aluminum cans into the rubbish. This weekend Calvin King is test-marketing a home-spun re(bi)cycle service. Please put your (un-crushed) cans in plastic bags at the curb on Monday evening. Cal will cycle the lake picking up bagged cans. Areas difficult to reach by bicycle may require a central collection site (TBD).

Birch Barker Advertising Policy

The Birch Barker will publish ads free of charge for members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Non-members will be charged \$5/ad (paid in advance). Photos will be used if space is available. Send your advertising info to me at

sailorphil@philvitale.com.



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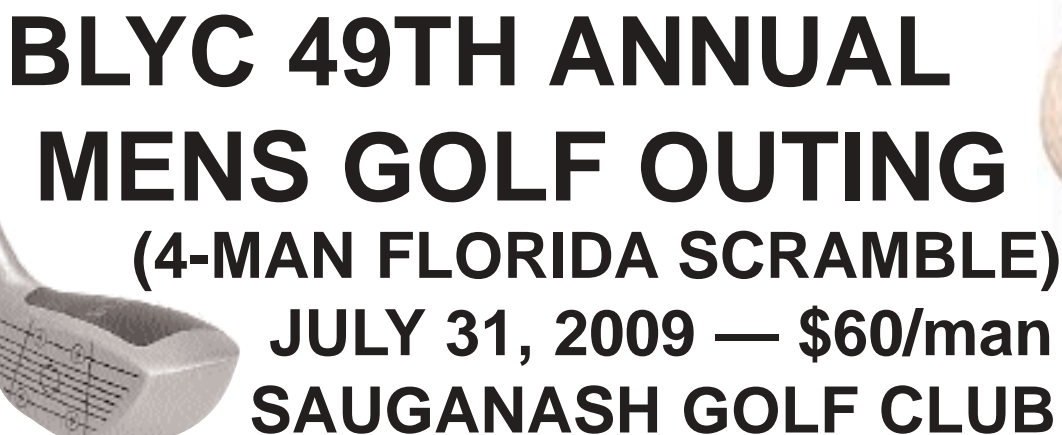
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61270 Lutz Rd., Three Rivers, MI — Shotgun start at NOON; dinner at BLYC at 6 pm

* must have registrations by July 22nd.

Additional Information

- * team prizes and contests
- * dinner only, \$25 per person
- * dinner includes 10oz. grilled sirloin, side salads, corn on the cob and desert.
- * lunch not included but the club has complete restaurant and beverage service availability.
- * prizes awarded during dinner.
- * the mens' and ladies' outing is looking for

donations of door prizes. If you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated to one or both, please contact Fred Freihofer @ cdfreihofer@aol.com. We have need for 80 players in the mens' and 40 players in the womens' event.

* **Send entries to Fred Freihofer, 14921 Birch North Shore Dr., Vandalia, MI 49095.**

*checks should be made out to BLYC

Foursome Information

Team Captain:

Player

Player

Player

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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- \$ _____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$25 / 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 \$ _____

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Address _____

Address _____

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Elkhart, IN 46514

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

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