



The official publication of the  
**BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB**

# Birch Barker

Weekend of July 4, 2009

© Copyright 2009, The Birch Lake Yacht Club

## Happy Fourth of July



## What does the BLYC Board do?

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**E**ach month, usually on the first Saturday morning of that month, from May through September your Birch Lake Yacht Club Board of Directors meets at the Yacht Club to conduct the regular business of the Yacht Club. All members and guests are welcome to attend. The meetings only last about an hour.

So as not to conflict with the July 4th weekend, the July meeting was moved forward to last Saturday, 6/27/09. A number of worthy subjects were discussed:

- The minutes of the previous meeting, prepared and distributed by Sandy Vitale, were accepted as read.
- Holly Troeger reported the Club's budget is in the black, and through 6/26/09 we had 117 paid members.
- Thanks to the efforts of Fred Friehofer, with Artie assisting, we have one more

storage/shelving system and one less dead tree at the Yacht Club.

- Mike Lutz agreed to remove an old broken down air conditioner from the premises.
- Bob Waddle will acquire and install, at least on a trial basis, some sound deadening material on the ceiling of the Yacht Club.
- Rick Russworm and Terry Dugan gave reports on water quality. The Water Quality Committee remains active and moving forward. The Eurasian Millfoil treatment was quite successful. Recent informal ecoli testing continues to indicate some concern in the stream flowing into the lake on the northeast side by the Klappaufs (which the committee is pursuing) but no traces have been detected anywhere else on the lake. A suggestion that weed treatment areas be marked (perhaps by orange buoys), was received positively.

Continued on next page

### 2009 BLYC Calendar

- July 4—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 1—Camp T. Hog Roast, tba
- August 7—Women's Golf Outing
- August 8—Corn & Sausage Roast
- August 22—Fall Dinner
- Sept. 5—Board meeting 9 am

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), contact the Commodore at 476-1467 or 574-274-9580.

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. E-mail your items to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com), or, if you must, put the materials in the red newspaper box at my home, 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. PLEASE NOTE, if you do not receive a Barker, call Paul Fallon at 476-1467. -Phil Vitale, editor

■ Rick advised that the Porter Township is still negotiating towards the favorable outcome of providing the best reasonable ambulance service for our area.

■ Bob and Sandy Baucus have placed order forms for the scented candles fundraiser in area mailboxes. 16 sets of coasters have been sold. (Both will be on sale at the pancake breakfast).

■ Publisher Phil Vitale advised ad sale collections have already exceeded the annual cost of printing the Barker.

■ Times for July 4th weekend activities are as follows:

4:00 pm Sat., July 4th - Boat Parade starts at Bender's (south side) Dock. (Committee is chaired by Carla Chester & Ilene Golden).

Dusk pm Sat., July 4th - Fireworks begin (to be shot off from Camp Tannadoonah). (Jim Bolinger spearheads this activity).

8:00 am Sun., July 5th - Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah (Linda Harman is the head Pancake Planner).

■ During the early morning of Wednesday, July 24th someone had the audacity to steal the outboard motor off of Sue & Pat Williams' row boat on the south side. Please report any strange activities and secure your belongings.

■ Steve Quinlan pointed out that the relatively high lake water levels increase the chances of large wakes damaging adjacent private property (i.e. docks, shorelines, etc.). Scott Troeger suggested those causing such damage are civilly liable to the

victims. We ask that all boaters try to be considerate of others where and when they create large wakes. Residents who see boats operating inappropriately and/or doing damage could try to get a tape of the boat with its registration numbers and forward it on to the Sheriff's Dept., Marine Division. They can, and often do, contract the boat's owners. If a call is made while the infraction is taking place, the Marine Division might actually come out and witness the activity for themselves and take corrective action.

■ I learned that for buoys marking swimming areas to have any legal effect, they must be registered and, at present, the only swimming buoys on the lake that are registered are those put out by Camp T.

■ Karen Brovold recently found an insulin syringe along one of the shorelines. We would all be well served to keep an eye out for dangerous foreign objects.

I risked boring you with all this tedium for 2 reasons: maybe you wanted to know or were interested and once again, we have established there are a lot of good people doing a lot of good work, donating a lot of their time, for your benefit on a regular basis. Don't they deserve your support? Thanks!

Subsequent to Saturday's meeting and before this column went to press, Holly advised of 14 more membership dues being received. Thanks to all who have done their duty. We hope to have your stickers in place by the time you get this Barker. This puts us at 131 to date. While that is a respectable number, for which I

am grateful to all who have contributed, it's not nearly high enough. Each week we distribute close to 225 Barkers. Wouldn't it be grand if 80% of that number, say 180 households, would show their support of each other and our common goals by sending in their check for a meager \$25.00. Isn't \$25.00 / year the best annual property maintenance / improvement investment anybody here can make? Don't we want to show the outside world that we are all in this together?

The number 180 has some other magic to it also. I have been told the Diamond Lake Homeowners Association, with 3 to 4 times as many residents, (all with much deeper pockets than ours no doubt) is pleased with its annual membership of 175 or so. We already know our body of water is larger than theirs, our lake more beautiful and, our people more fun. Shouldn't we exceed them in all other worthwhile measurable goals as well? Checks for dues and other contributions will be accepted at the Pancake Breakfast.

I know Sunday was a little tough on sailors and others who might have liked to use the water more. But wasn't it a magnificent day and overall a magnificent weekend?

We look forward to seeing you at all the July 4th weekend festivities. In the meantime, together let us all enjoy and protect the miraculous healing waters of Birch Lake.

*-Paul Fallon, 2009 Commodore*

## Handyman Repairs

- Roof to basement - inside and out
- Floors, doors, stairways, ceilings and windows
- Siding, roofing, driveways and sprinklers
- Decks and fences; fascia and soffits
- Plumbing, electrical, heating and A/C
- Piers and Seawalls

## Home Maintenance

- Painting - interior and exterior
- Snow removal - sidewalks, driveways & roofs
- Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
- We do windows
- Power washing, insulation and weatherproofing
- Spring and fall yard clean up
- Tree and shrub trimming
- Rototill your garden

## Free Estimates

- Firm quotes for all jobs
- Fully insured
- No job too big or too small

## Property Management

- Reliable caretaker
- Fulfills all absentee homeowner's needs
- Periodically checks your property
- Provides second home peace of mind
- Call for all lake property requirements



**Dave's Residential Services**  
(269) 476-2797; Wireless (269) 362-0724  
davehardisty@comcast.net  
Emergency Service Available 24/7

# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah July 5th

The annual Pancake Breakfast will be up at the camp from 8 to 11 am. Adults \$5. Children 6 to 10 \$2, and Children under 5 free.

It's a great way to meet and greet your neighbor's. Look forward to seeing you there.

## 2009 Boat Parade

Once again the excitement over the 2009 4th of July Boat Parade is at a peak!

Something new this year — for the first time ever — will be a best-of-show award for the best all-around boat (or the biggest bribe to the judges).

The theme for this year's parade is "CELEBRATE SUMMER AT BIRCH LAKE!" If you have a boat decoration idea that is dear to your heart, please, please come and celebrate regardless of the chosen theme.

We are pleased to announce that this year's Grand Marshall for the 2009 Birch Lake Boat Parade shall be Harold Cranmer. Harold's family has been associated with Birch Lake since 1928. Harold and his wife Donna enjoy their west shore cottage on week-ends and reside in Elkhart full time.

The judges for this year's parade will be Vicki and Tom Rodgers and Blair and Bernie Garceau. The co-chair persons are Ilene Golden and Carla Chester



The parade will start at the traditional 4 p.m. start time. Contestants need to register at 3:30 at Dick Bender's pier on the south shore. To find Dick's pier, just follow the other decorated boats.

*-Carla Chester*

## Flowers at the Landing

The pretty day lillies at the base of the tree at the public landing

(Sears Park) were planted by Doug Eichorst and his grandson, Dirk. Please thank them and enjoy the flowers.

## Happy ... whatever ... Suzy

Karen Sue (Suzy) King will be celebrating the anniversary of a former birthday on Monday, July 6th. Please extend condolences.

LAKELEMAN'S ROLLING PRAIRIE  
AUGUST FIRST

**FULLY LOADED**  
MICHIANA'S LARGEST AMATEUR  
GRASSROOTS WAKEBOARD  
COMPETITION

TONS OF PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS  
ALL SKILL LEVELS AND AGES  
WELCOME

CONTACT DAN OR MIKE AT  
WAKESIDE  
574.264.2874  
MMICHEL@WAKESIDEMARINE.COM  
WAKESIDEMARINE.COM

**WakeSide Marine**

**TIRED OF WORK?**  
DITCH FRIDAYS WITH  
WAKESIDE MARINE

GET YOUR BUDDIES TOGETHER  
AND SURF THE LAKES OF MICHIANA

SURF LESSONS, WAKEBOARDING,  
AND NAUTIQUE DEMOS

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND A SCHEDULE OF LAKES  
CONTACT DAN OR MIKE  
AT WAKESIDE  
574.264.2874  
mmicheli@wakesidemarine.com  
WAKESIDEMARINE.COM

**WakeSide Marine**  
TRUST THE WING

51305 SR 19 North  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
Wakesidemarine.com

**574-264-2874**  
Located just one mile north of the Toll Road  
Exit #92 and one mile south of US 12.

# — Birch Lake Notes —

## **Steve Ball**

Our sympathies to the family of Steve Ball, who died recently. Steve grew up on the south side of the lake along with siblings Julie Lacy, John Ball, jr., Cindy Hague and parents, Marty and John Ball.

## **Kings to host friends**

The King family will again be hosting old friends (meaning: we have been friends for a long time ... not the other) including: Ric and Lisa Dwenger, from Muncie; and Chuck and Karen Horn, from Noblesville. The Horn's daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, is bringing two friends, Laura and Elena, who are visiting from Zaragoza (Spain). Please stop by for a beverage and a chat when you have a chance.

## **Bull Dandy**

A bull is as tough as a walking brick with a volcanic brain. I can say without reservation, a bull should not be trusted. As a veterinarian, this was confirmed many times by tales of herdsman narrowly escaping serious injury or death from their angry herd bull, an animal they had raised from a docile calf surprised them by becoming a huge hulk with devastating horns and temper.

My own personal encounter with a friend-turned-foe occurred one

afternoon near the town of Shipshewana, IN in 1955. The area north of Shipshewana is sandy and ideal for the pasturing of beef cattle. It was with a Hereford bull named Dandy that my experience occurred.

Dandy was a tame bull and never gave me any trouble when I worked with him as the herd veterinarian. He always stood still for blood testing and medication.

After making several morning calls, one of which was a placental removal, I was called to Dandy's farm to see some of the cows. The farmer, his young farm hand and I walked out into a large grassy pasture to see some of the beef stock that were suffering from foot rot.

Foot rot is a condition of cattle that cracks and infects the foot into the deep layers around the hoof. It is quite painful and causes the affected animal to limp with pain.

There were several cows in pretty bad shape. As we wandered around the field here and there checking each animal, Dandy became interested in what we were doing. His movements were of curiosity and we gave very little thought that his harmless shuffle would be any more than that.

We spent an hour counting and singling out the ones for treatment and started to walk back to the fence

encompassing the pasture. Dandy followed close behind. We suspected he wanted an extra portion of grain at the barn.

Dandy seemed especially curious about me, getting close enough to sniff my outstretched hand. I scratched his curly forehead and shooed him off. We continued walking toward the fence gate. I turned again to see Dandy dogging our footsteps with much more interest. This time his large eyes had a different glint. When I shooed him off, he bounced away stiff-leggedly and lowered his head while pawing the earth and throwing clods of dirt and turf over his back.

It was obvious his tone had changed rapidly from a placid pussy cat to the staunch guardian of the herd. He took on the appearance of "a Piece of the Rock." It dawned on me in a flash that the object of his attention was ME. I was carrying the odor from the previous call.

He wanted to eliminate his rival.

He hooked his horn in my direction and braced himself for a charge. I had hoped the owner and the farm hand would stay with me as our combined presence might deter a possible attack.

I yelled, "OK boys, don't run, don't run." The request had hardly passed my lips when they broke and

# Lutz Concrete

**SW Michigan's  
FLATWORK  
experts**



**We specialize in decorative  
Concrete Stamping  
Colored Concrete  
Concrete Staining**



**17050 M-86 — Three Rivers, MI**

**Ph: (269) 279-7973**

**Fax: (269) 279-0133**

**E-mail: [mmtlconcrete@aol.com](mailto:mmtlconcrete@aol.com)**

# — Birch Lake Notes —

ran ... with me following close behind.

I could hear the ta-boom ta-boom of heavy feet behind me. I dared not look back for fear of losing precious time in my flight to put something between me and my determined pursuer. I ran toward the fence gate, but I sensed it was too far and I knew Dandy would get me before I reached it.

Over to the right was a calf creep. A calf creep is a low-roofed portable feeding structure. The stalls are just large enough for the calves to crawl in and out. The adult animals cannot fit.

I made for it, boot buckles a-whippin'. I didn't have time to think of the consequences, but I knew Dandy was gaining on me.

I reached the calf creep and with a mighty leap I belly-whopped onto the slightly inclined roof and spun around to see Dandy puffing his sweet acetone breath in my face. I could feel the mucous mist on my skin. I scurried to the other side of the roof, planning to jump down, make it to the fence, and be done with the pursuit.

Dandy knew what I was up to and met me on the other side. We eyed each other for a short time each fully aware of who had the upper hand, and what we had on our minds – fight for him and flight for me.

I was hoping he might soon give up and forget his distaste for me, but regrettably his burning anger would not be cooled. Maybe a plan of luring him away would let me escape.

One of the others who had reached the fence to safety, ventured out to distract Dandy but he would have no dissuasion from his quarry and paid no attention.

Maybe a little cow chop (ground grain) might make him forget. It was worth a try.

Sure enough, he went for the grain offered by the owner. Surely he would forget me now.

I made a fake attempt to get off the calf creep but Dandy returned to the spot below me. And dared me to come down.

Another attempt was made to lure him further away and he did leave only to return.

"Let's try again," was my next thought, for I didn't want to be sitting on my rooftop another hour in the hot sun.

This time the grain was offered even further away. Never did he take his attention away from me. His dilated eye seemed to track me like a radar antenna.

He was far enough away now – I could make my move. I jumped off the roof and ran as fast as I could. I was practically flying as I vaulted the top of the fence and flipped over on the other side.

Dandy and I were eyeball to eyeball.

Dandy knew me from then on. Whenever I went to his farm, he would bellow as soon as I got out of my car. We were never close after that incident. We were mortal enemies, you might say.

*-Duffy Dufor*

## Line Dancing continues

We will continue to have LINE DANCING every Tuesday morning at 9 am at the Yacht Club. Look forward to seeing everyone.

*-Lind Harman*

## Golf Outings need donations

The Mens' and Ladies' Golf Outing organizers are looking for donations of money and door prizes for both events.

If you have "logo" merchandise or any items to donate, or if you would like to sponsor a hole for either or both events, please contact Fred Freihofer, 14921 North Shore Drive at 476-9823.

## BLYC Candles

Orders are coming in slowly for our Birch Lake candles. Just another reminder that you may send your order to Sandy Baucus by mail with payment, or Sandy will be at the Pancake Breakfast Sunday, July 5th.

Any questions please call Sandy at 269-641-5644 (on week days) or 476-2863 (on week ends.)



**Purity Cleaning**

Quality Cleaning  
at a Pure Price  
Commercial,  
Residential &  
Construction  
Cleaning

Donna  
Swartzentruber

625-0519

Licensed  
& Bonded  
in Michigan &  
Indiana



**Gundy Custom Builders**

Gundy Custom Builders is a family-owned and operated design/build construction firm in Cass County, Michigan

GCB specializes in:

- \*Lake home construction and remodeling
- \*Concrete home construction
- \*Application of "universal design" theory, providing greater accessibility for all ages
- \*Use of high thermal performance materials and technologies for energy savings and a cleaner "living" environment

Call today!  
**888-641-9205**



**Dick**

# **BENDER**

and Bender Mold & Plastics, INC.

**Want all of our Birch Lake friends to have a safe and fun summer!**

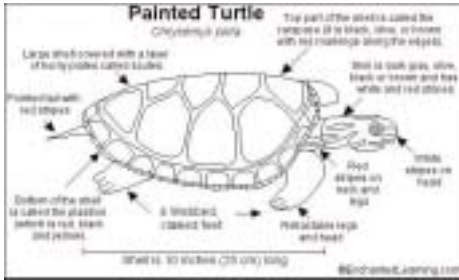
55951 RUSSELL INDUSTRIAL PKWY  
MISHAWAKA, IN 46545

TOOLING — (574) 255-5176

MFG — (574) 255-5350

***Now, let's go play some golf!***

# — Barker Turtles of the Week —



Thanks to Mr. Bob for the cool stuff about painted turtles.



Thanks to Artie McElwie and Dick Bender for the photo of the turtle who keeps coming back to Bender's parking area to lay eggs year after year ...

## 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](mailto: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



**Sales/Service/Repair/Docks/Lifts/Canopies  
 Rafts/Benches/Ladders/Accessories**

Serving Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana for 16 years.

**O'Donnells Docks LLC**

Best Prices on

**ShoreStation**

Lifts and Dock  
 Products &  
 Accessories

Free Online Quoting System!

[www.odonnellsdocks.com](http://www.odonnellsdocks.com)

**ShoreStation**  
 Boat Hoists and Docks

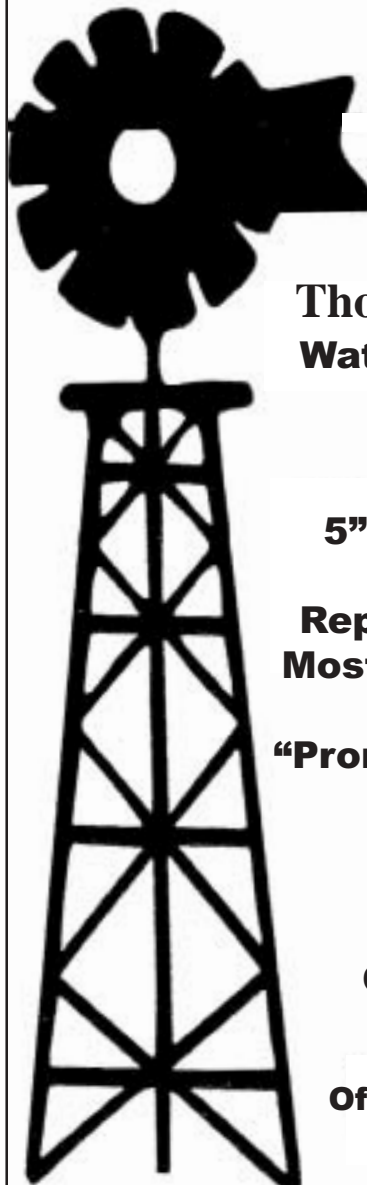
**CraftLadders**

**HEWITT**

**SHOREMASTER**

12097 M-60 Jones, MI 49061 269.244.1446 [info@odonnellsdocks.com](mailto:info@odonnellsdocks.com)

[www.odonnellsdocks.com](http://www.odonnellsdocks.com)



**Thomas J. Mosier  
 Waterwell Drilling**

**5" Water Wells**

**Repair & Service  
 Most Water Pumps**

**"Promise of Quality"**

**M-60 E  
 Cassopolis**

**Office: 269-445-3246  
 Cell: 269-580-3246  
 Fax: 269-445-0008**



# Fleet Captains' Corner



## Impeach the Fleet Captain! \*\*

This is not the fleet captain. This is Katie, the fleet captain's daughter. Now, you might be asking yourself, why the heck is she writing this instead of our beloved fleet captain? Let's go ask him ... oh wait, we can't. He spent a little too much time at the Flamingo Room and is taking a nice nap on the couch, snoring contently, which means that now I have to write this article. Or maybe it wasn't the Flamingo Room. (Wait a second, not the Flamingo Room? That's odd.) Maybe it was the thousands of raspberries he ate while hiking a three mile trail at Dr. Lawless Park. Either way, I'm stuck doing this. Isn't this just a boat load of fun!

Feast or famine. That's how you can describe the winds on Birch Lake. Last Sunday it was a feast ... a feast for all of the gluttons for punishment who came out and tried to sail (you'd think they would know better). I would personally like to thank Peyton Greene

**Sailors, Don't forget the 4th of July Regatta will be on Friday and Saturday at 11 am or noon ... depending on the wind.**  
**-Your most devoted Fleet Captain, Bill**

(who agreed to act as weight on my boat despite the possible danger), Julie Greene (who helped me get the boat away from the pier), and Phil Vitale (who helped us bring my boat back in after I decided I couldn't handle the strong winds — he also was unable to sail but is getting a new sail thanks to Mother Nature). Thanks also to the Committee Boat crew: Stewart Spratt, Deb Taghon, Mike Lutz, and my wonderful mother, Bad Patty herself.

Thanks also to all who helped by coming out to lend a hand to sailors in need. We really appreciate it!

Oh, the fleet captain is stirring. Pray that we'll find a happy medium

between feast and famine with the wind for the next race. I'm getting tired of watching my boat collecting dust...

Have a good one!

*-Katie Luecht*

P.S. A message to Phil Vitale: Phil, the fleet captain is muttering something in his sleep about a "practice race."

P.P.S. The fleet captain wants to acknowledge Dave Olson's wife Judy and Harold Cranmer's grandson Chad Playa for serving as crew on their respective yachts Sunday, and helping to earn the coveted DNGO\* designation. He also wishes to express his concern that the results for Sunday's first race may not be shown correctly since the score sheet blew into the water before the second race.

**\*Did Not Go Over**

**\*\*A jab from Phil Vitale, who has been muttering in his sleep, "Practice race my Patootie!"**

### BLYC SAILING POINT TOTALS

Date date .....28-Jun.....28-Jun.....Total .....Point Points.....Average

#### MC Scow

Tom Howard #1713.....3.....2.....7765.....1553
Harold Cranmer #618.....2.....1.....9128.....1521
Jeff Smitley #2002.....1.....DNS.....5940.....1485
Phil Vitale #500.....DNS.....DNS.....5478.....1370
Gib Eberhart #916.....5.....DNF.....8151.....1359
Don Harman #582.....DNS.....DNS.....2665.....1333
Dave Olson #1979.....4.....3.....5194.....1299
Bill Luecht #1579.....6.....4.....4975.....1244
Bob King #1199.....DNF.....DNS.....1089.....1089

#### Sunfish

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue).....1.....1600.....1600
Sandy Vitale (White/Orange).....DNS.....3121.....1561
Erica Vitale (White).....2.....4642.....1547
Eric Odenwald (White/Green).....DNS.....2888.....1444
Bernie Garceau (?).....DNS.....2393.....1197

### COMMITTEE BOAT SIGN UPS (TENTATIVE)

Date .....	Name
6-28.....	Stewart Spratt
7-3 (Regatta).....	Karen & Stan
7-4 (Regatta).....	Karen & Stan
7-12.....	Available for You!
7-19.....	Bob & Sue Waddle
7-26.....	"SISTAS, Good Patty, Deb, Bad Patty
8-2.....	Jim & Sally Beck, Bruce Wagner
8-9.....	Available for You!
8-16.....	Bob & Sue Waddle
8-23.....	Stan & Karen
8-30.....	Available for You!
9-5 (Regatta).....	Bad Patty
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

## C. Jeanne Wilkerson

**Like Mother, Like Daughter  
The Tradition  
of Excellence Continues**

### Two spectacular Birch Lake Homes



14719 Kiloqua Woods — \$595,000



63306 Birch Rd — Reduced to \$989,900.



**C. Jeanne Wilkerson**  
 Realtor, Lake Specialist  
 Chairman's Club  
 (269) 462-0306

bjwilkerson@comcast.net  
 www.jeannewilkerson.com



22451 US 12 East, Edwardsburg, MI  
 www.cressyeverett.com/jeannewilkerson



# UBoat Commander's Corner



by Bob King

## DNS — Did Not Sink!

A three hour tour ... a three hour tour. The weather started getting rough the tiny ship was tossed ...

When you see a sailing score of DNS, it stands for did not start. DNF indicates the contestant did not finish. Though I may have been scored DNF, I am issuing a public appeal to alter my result for last weekends 1st race to DNS ... **did not sink**. I should add that during the extended episode I re-crossed the start line making considerable stern-way (so, performed an undo of sorts).

Maybe it was a little aggressive to shakedown my just launched MC in the "fresh" air (not). Maybe I sailed with too little humility / too much hubris (nah / well maybe). Sailing is partly about living on the edge and ... s\*\*\* happens. I flipped (and flipped, and flipped again) despite best efforts of no less than five boats lending aid, so, was unable to resume racing. I did have ample opportunity to survey the bottom of my MC and dagger boards.

Learnings: though an MC can be righted by one person, once it swamps and fills with water it loses all form stability and is as happy to roll back over as stay upright. Neil Troeger wrapped a PFD around the masthead which reduced angst re: turtling the boat. The decision to abandon efforts to right the boat should have been done earlier, in favor towing to shore and working in the shallows.

Think noodles. In addition to a few aging foam blocks, I have bundles of noodles to add buoyancy. Why? Because the MC (and all scows for that matter) comes from the builder with inadequate flotation. Yes Virginia ... they can sink! The MC Class scantlings suggest every boat should add foam. Sadly, the Class org site is down at present, so I can't provide the number of cubic feet recommended. More is better.



I recall when Dennis Conner, Mr. America's Cup, had just launched USA-77 in southern California. This was their race boat for the Cup in Auckland, NZL, 2003. With sponsors and media alongside, to celebrate the launching, 77 blew a rudder gasket and went to the bottom. When ribbed about his new boat sinking, the unflappable DC replied that technically it was a swamping and

grounding since 10-12' of the mast remained above water. Note to self: add flotation.

I'd like to list all those who came to my aid ... but, it's actually hard to remember everyone ... and a few of you fellows I'd never met ... and, I promised Editor Phil to keep this brief enough so he wouldn't have to publish it in chapters. Thank you all for helping me save my boat. The Cap'n is sposed to go down with the ship and ... well, let's not go there. Did I mention about added flotation?

Last: I'll be back out there ... sailing on the edge, first opportunity. Hopefully I won't do a repeat performance, but, ya never know. All tow boats be advised: I will take the weight penalty (as if it matters, at my size) and will keep a tow line onboard for your convenience.

Thanks guys,

-Bob King, MC 1199

## Melges alternative

Those who damaged their boats during last weekends racing (and those who didn't) now have an alternative to Melges. Contact Jason Brown of White Bear Boat Works (Minnesota) for scow parts at 651-429-7221 -or- go to their website at [whitebearboatworks.com](http://whitebearboatworks.com)

## Smokin' Hot Bar-B-Que

**Pulled Pork, ribs, chicken, sausage, wings, salmon & shrimp**

Eat in, Carry out — Catering available!

We're just down the road!

# Sauk Trail

US Highway 12 in Union, Michigan

641-7285



CAMP TANNADOONAH  
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org/>



# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



Here's something to kick start the 4th of July!

Make it on the 3rd

so you're ready to celebrate America's Birthday!!

### Icy Mimosas-Makes 6 Serving

4 Cups tropical juice, such as pineapple, orange and banana

1 can (12 ounces) ginger ale (diet can

be used)

3/4 Cup frozen white grape juice concentrate

1/4 Cup dry white wine, such as Chardonnay

3 Cups champagne,  
6 frozen or fresh strawberries

1. Place first 4 ingredients in gallon reusable freezer plastic bag; freeze over night or until frozen

2. To serve, pound bag with meat mallet to break up. Store the remaining frozen mixture in freezer until needed. Freeze leftovers up to 1 month.

3. Spoon 1/2 Cup crushed frozen ice

mixture into goblet.

4. Pour 1/2 Cup Champagne over each serving. Garnish with 1 strawberry.

What a great eye-opener to enjoy out on the lake in the morning!

*-Bad Patti*

### Sip and Strips

Number of servings equal your planned entertainment. Your call.

1 can frozen lemonade (regular or pink) 3 cans beer

1/2 fifth vodka

Serve over ice.

*-Good Patti*



## BIRCH LAKE LADIES GOLF OUTING



August 7, 2009 9:00a.m. Shot Gun Start

Lunch 12:00p.m. At the Birch Lake Yacht Club

Sauganash Golf Club, 61270 Lutz Road, Three Rivers, MI 49093, Ph. 269-278-7825

Cost of golf and lunch: \$35.00

Lunch only: \$10.00

**Proxy Bundles** include closets to the pin, closest to the line, longest putt, and longest drive. These bundles may be purchased for \$5.00 per person.

Ladies, it's time to start gathering your team for the Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing. We will be teeing off at 9:00 a.m. at the Sauganash Golf Course in Three Rivers then heading back to the yacht club lunch.

We are asking each team to donate a basket to raffle. We will also be raffling off the centerpieces as well as having a 50/50 drawing.

Lunch includes: veggie tray, cheese crackers, chicken caesar salad, mixed green salad, rolls, butter, mixed berries with frangelico cream, water, iced tea and chardonnay.

Any questions please call Amy Lutz at 269-476-2843. Donated items can be dropped off to Amy Lutz or Carol Freihofer.

### 2009 Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to the B.L.Y.C. and can be dropped off to Amy Lutz.

# Tannadoonah Tidbits

This week was our “mini week” at Camp Tannadoonah. We always hold mini week the week of the 4th and give the staff a few days off over the holiday weekend. This year we had 66 campers for mini week - our largest group for this session ever! There were 29 new campers who checked in on Sunday, and 37 campers who stayed through the weekend from the first week. The 37 campers who stayed got 11 straight days of camp, which we call “Super Week.”

The theme for this mini week was “Wild West.” On Sunday night we had a “Hoe Down” and the campers danced the Virginia Reel. Monday night we cooked out and had Wilderness Hash, and Tuesday night was our end-of-the-week costume party followed by Council Fire.

Sunday morning from 8-11am is the Pancake Breakfast up here at camp. We hope to see everyone from the lake and lots of guests at the breakfast. There lots of excellent food, and we will have a large assortment of Camp Tannadoonah apparel and other goodies for sale. All the proceeds from the breakfast will go to the Campership Fund once again this year.

Our overall camp numbers are still pretty much even with last year. We’re at 385 today, compared to 378 on this date last year. So far we have awarded campership funds to 34 campers, and last year we finished the summer with just over 60 total campership awards.



This year we’re participating in a program through the Boys and Girls club called Camps 4 Champs. The Camps 4 Champs program finds camps in the area for kids to attend. We have donated a total of 20 spots to this program this year - 5 each week for 4 different weeks of camp.

We have a week coming up (July 12-18) that is completely full already! In fact, I’ve started a wait list for that week. We had a full week at the end of the summer last year, but it didn’t fill up so far in advance, and we didn’t have a waiting list for spaces. The big weeks really are the most fun at camp, even though it’s much crazier up here for all the staff! If anyone is willing to come up that Sunday afternoon (July 12) from 3-4pm to help us with lice checks at the nurse’s station, we could really use the extra help!

If anyone is interested, we have a large console TV up here at camp that we no longer use (although it does work, and has a co-ax input). Just give me a call if you might want it!

Hope that everyone enjoys their holi-



day weekend and has a safe and fun weekend up at the lake!

*-Miss Amber*

574-217-4731;  
amber@tannadoonah.org

### Camp T Wish List

New mattresses for camper beds (\$100 each)  
Old Nylons / Stockings  
Yarn



## Camp Halloween



Camp-Ters trick-or-treated lake residents in June



# Stu's Star Stuff

## The skinny on the Red Planet, Mars

**E**very summer many of us receive e-mails concerning a close encounter with the planet Mars. Some snippets include:

"The Red Planet is about to be spectacular."

"Earth is catching up with Mars for the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history."

"On August 27th Mars will look as large as the full moon."

And finally, "NO ONE ALIVE TODAY WILL EVER SEE THIS AGAIN."

Some things never go out of style, and this "Mars Spectacular" message may be one of them. It's yet another example of a widely circulated e-mail containing information that was once true but which continues to be forwarded around year after year, long after the information it contains has become outdated.

Mars did make an extraordinarily close approach to Earth several years ago, culminating on August 27, 2003, when the red planet came within 35 million miles of Earth, its nearest approach to us in almost 60,000 years. At that time, Mars appeared approximately 6 times larger and 85 times brighter in the sky than it ordinarily does. (The earlier message quoted above was often reproduced with an unfortunate line break, leaving

some readers with the mistaken impression that Mars would "look as large as the full moon," without realizing that the statement only applied to those viewing Mars through a telescope with 75-power magnification.)

Although Mars' proximity to Earth in 2003 was a rare occurrence, the red planet comes almost as near to us every 15 to 17 years. To the unaided observer, Mars' appearance in August 2003 wasn't significantly larger or brighter than it is during those much more common intervals of closeness. During our last several trips around the sun we've passed by Mars a couple other times, but not quite as close. Our next close encounter will not be until January when the distance will be about 61 million miles.

Disappointed? Don't be. If Mars did come close enough to rival the Moon, its gravity would alter Earth's orbit and raise terrible tides. Not only that but Mars' inhabitants might get ideas about coming to Birch Lake.

Look for Mars (and Venus too) in the east at first light. Venus is the "morning star," so it shines fiercely through the brightening twilight. Mars is next to Venus. It's only about one percent as bright, but its orange color helps it stand out.

Venus is dropping toward the Sun, but it will remain in view until around

Thanksgiving.

Mars is heading in the other direction -- it's climbing away from the Sun. So it'll rise earlier and grow brighter throughout the summer and fall. Mars will put on its best showing late this year and into January.

Enjoy the show. There's a holiday special on this week, so it's free.

*-Stu Spratt*



### The Moon tonight:

The Moon for Jul 4, 2009 (At Midnight)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.959

2.1 days until full moon

## BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

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

Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position. You may come down with minor infections if you have allowed yourself to get rundown. Don't prejudge. You may get drawn into a personal situation that will not be to your liking. Your moneymaking opportunities will flourish. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

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

There's a good chance that they won't come back. Make sure all of your travel and driver's documents are in proper order. You may want to take a look at courses offered at a local institute. Avoid letting family get involved in your personal life. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Try to keep your opinions to yourself. Travel for business purposes may bring the highest returns. Frustrations and limitations could cause anxiety this week. Travel for business will be advantageous. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Your stability will aid you in getting support from your fellow workers. You need a break from your daily routine. You can raise your standard of living if you pick up some freelance work on the side. You will meet a person who may turn out to be more than just a friend. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

### LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Such over indulgence due to emotional upset will be your downfall. Pamper yourself; you deserve it. You may have difficulties at an emotional level with mates. You will find that you can work progressively at improving yourself this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

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

Secret affairs may be tempting. You will be ready to jump on anyone who gets in the way of your progress this week. Plan to get out and do a bit of travel. Property investments, insurance, tax rebates, or inheritance should bring you financial gains. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

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

Don't be too shy to promote your own interests. Expect your workload to be heavy. A change is as good as a rest. Don't go looking for change. You can make changes to your living quarters that should please family members. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

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

Follow through on some of the good ideas that come up, and you could have a real winner of a deal. You need to get out and be an observer. Deception is probable if you don't use discrimination. Overindulgence could lead to problems with digestion. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

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

You will have problems with coworkers if you are too extreme about doing things perfectly. Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people. You can make career moves that will be prosperous. Proceed with caution if operating equipment or vehicles. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

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

Find out what they're up to, and see if you can pick up where you left off. Your philanthropic contributions will bring you praise. Socialize with friends, but don't overspend on lavish entertainment. Keep on your toes when dealing with others. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

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

You will have a tendency to put on pounds. Your pilgrimage may end up being fruitless. You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you when you just don't have the time. Develop some of your good ideas. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

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

Don't overdo it. You need to enjoy yourself. Take time to find out if anyone has a better suggestion before you make arrangements for the whole family. Don't overextend yourself in the process. Your partner may be erratic this week if you haven't paid enough attention to him or her. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

# Water Quality Committee Report

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

## Safe Swimming

With the big holiday coming up and the weather being sunny and warm, we will all want to be spending a lot of time in the water.

As we have talked about earlier, we want to assure folks that the waters of Birch Lake are safe for swimming and lounging around in, especially due to some concerns that arose, but that defined testing did not validate last year.

Thus, we have been doing some random sampling for E coli this year and reporting the results in the Barker, with nothing thus far remotely approaching levels for concern.

Remember, that for a single time sample, people are to stay out of the water if levels are at the 230-250 colony forming units per 100 ml of water sampled.

The highest in the lake, and found at only a single site this spring was 20 per 100 ml.

Thus in anticipation of the holidays, on June 26, 10 sites around the lake were sampled with duplicate samples taken at each site.

The testing equipment uses the Micrology Labs Coliscan EasyGel system in which 5 ml of sample is mixed with a defined gel/nutrient material, poured onto a sterile petri dish, and incubated at 95 degrees fahrenheit for 24 hours. There are dye agents that turn blue in the presence of E coli and magenta in the presence of non E coli



coliforms.

Since we are not using the full 100 ml of sample, the sensitivity of the system will only show E coli if it is present at 20 or more colony forming units per 100 ml.

Since this is less than 1/10th of the safety level, this is considered a reliable screen for potential problems. Nine of the sampling sites were from the lake proper, and as shown in the diagram below, E coli was undetectable in the

duplicates from each sampling site.

This means that E coli levels were less than 20 colony forming units per 100 ml at each of these sites.

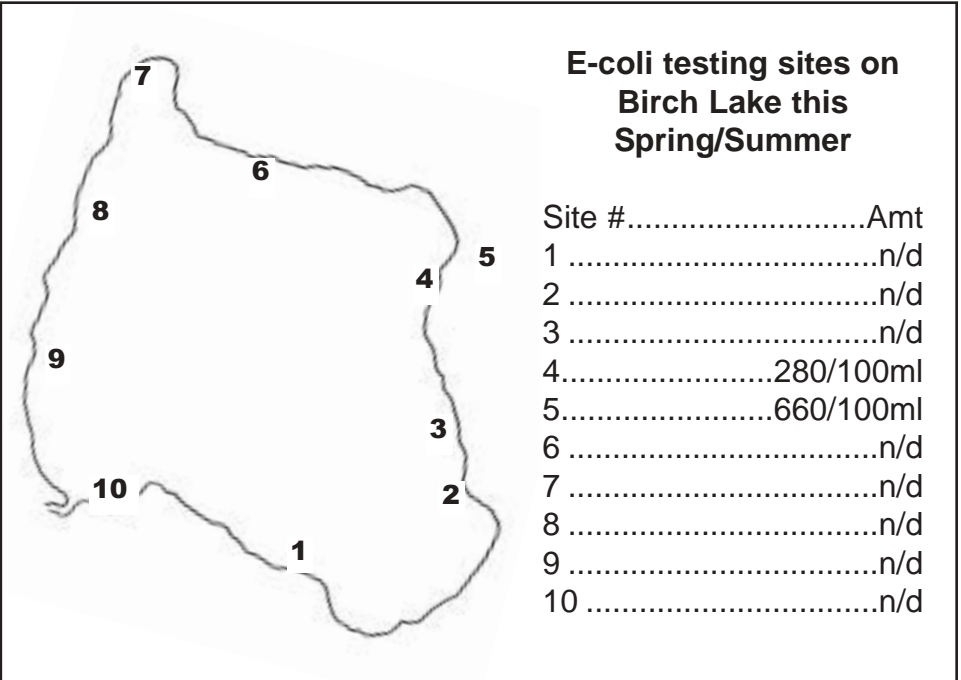
The samples from the stream taken between the road and the lake (site 5), showed over 300 colony forming units in one sample and over 600 in the other. This confirms observations from last year that the stream had E coli in it, but was shown not to be human after genetic testing.

Of interest, one of the lake sampling sites was adjacent to a pier very close to the stream. E coli was undetectable at this site.

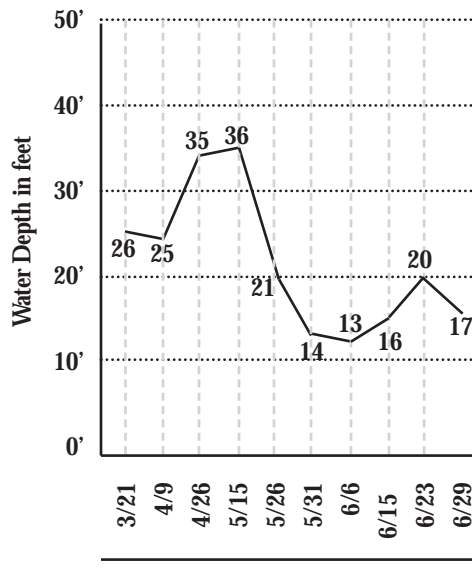
Thus, the dilution factor etc. from the water coming into the lake from the stream obviated whatever bacteria was washing into the lake.

At a recent Yacht Club Board meeting we discussed this and decided to evaluate the stream further regarding its watershed and potential sources of the E coli, albeit non human. It should be

**Continued on next page**



## Secchi Disk readings (to date) on Birch Lake in 2009



**Editor's Note:** The Water Quality Committee will update this chart in the Barker every time a Secchi Disk reading is taken throughout the year so that trends can be monitored. For information on this chart or any other Water Quality issue, contact Water Quality Committee Chairman Rick Russwurm at 476-2407 or any other member of the Water Quality Committee.

# Water Quality Committee Report

remembered that measurable E coli will come from the fecal material of all warm blooded animals inclusive of birds and mammals, i.e. ducks, geese, gulls, dogs, deer, etc.

Additionally, and as a reminder, the presence of E coli does not mean that any illness inducing pathogen is in the water.

E coli levels are indicators. The higher the E coli level, the higher the probability that there might be something else as well.

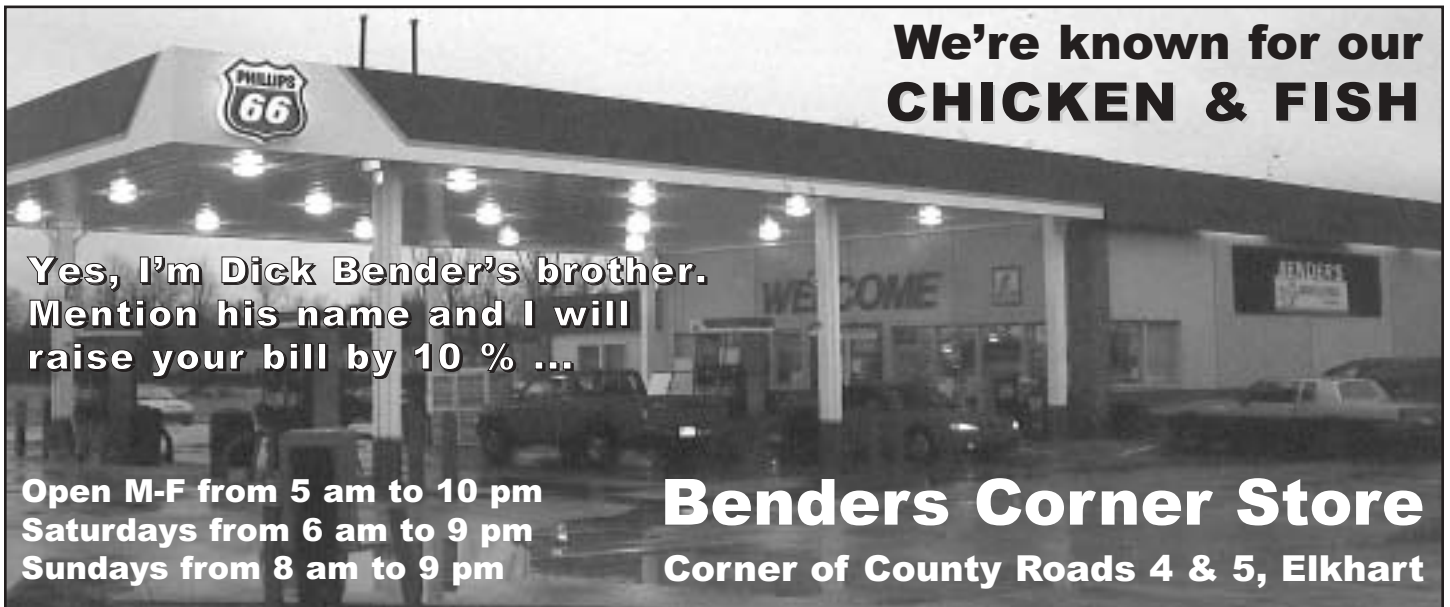
Secchi disk reading for June 29, 2009 was 17 feet.

## Eurasian Milfoil Update

Last week Progressive AE conducted a follow up aquatic plant survey. They surveyed the entire lake for invasive species and inspected the areas that were treated for eurasian milfoil. They were pleased with the results other than two small areas by the boat landing. They will consult with Professional Lake Management to determine what or if something should be done at this time.

Progressive AE will be back out at the end of July to survey again.

During the first survey Progressive AE took samples of milfoil that was suspected of being a hybrid. As of yet we do not have the results. The first step is to do DNA testing to determine if it is native milfoil, if it is not it is sent for further DNA testing. We probably will not have the results until the end of summer.



**We're known for our  
CHICKEN & FISH**

Yes, I'm Dick Bender's brother.  
Mention his name and I will  
raise your bill by 10 % ...

Open M-F from 5 am to 10 pm  
Saturdays from 6 am to 9 pm  
Sundays from 8 am to 9 pm

**Benders Corner Store**  
Corner of County Roads 4 & 5, Elkhart

## **Birch Lake Yacht Club to host 5th Annual Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, July 18th from 6-8 p.m.**

**\$7.00 - Adults**  
**\$5.00 - Children (3-10)**  
**FREE - If under 3**

**Dine in - or carry-out**



Tickets must be purchased in advance (so the cooks can Prepare enough for all diners). Tickets will be available at the Pancake Breakfast on July 5th, from Karen Brovold (476-8862) and from volunteers around the lake.

Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce or alfredo sauce, salad, bread, tea and lemonade (or bring your drink of choice).  
**Proceeds go to Tannadoonah Camperships**

# Lake Living and Safety

## Beware the dreaded Duck Itch!

Swimmer's itch (or Duck Itch) is a patchy red skin rash associated with itching on the parts of the body that have been in the water. Swimmer's itch is usually not severe. After the initial itching it will disappear without treatment. The itching occurs within 48 hours and may last up to 7 days. Rarely, it can be severe if a large proportion of the body is affected.

The cause of swimmer's itch is the trematode parasites of aquatic/migrating birds. The life cycles of these parasites involve snails as the first host and aquatic birds or some mammals as the final host. A larval parasite called a "cercaria" is released by snails and causes dermatitis when it mistakenly penetrates a person's skin rather than its rightful host, usually a duck. Swimmer's itch occurs in both freshwater and in the marine coastal environments.

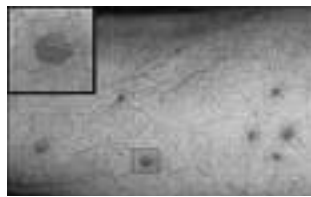
Common lore is that this is caused by "duck fleas." This is not correct. Trematode parasites cause swimmer's itch. In unusual

circumstances, different algae, chemical pollutants and sewage may cause dermatitis that is indistinguishable from cercarial dermatitis, so it is important, when visiting the pharmacist or physician, to mention that the itching may have been acquired by swimming or bathing.

Treatment options include washing immediately in salt water, acetic acid (vinegar), methyl alcohol or dilute (1:10) household ammonia. Benadryl spray helps to reduce itch and pain, and may kill the nematocysts. It is a self-limited eruption that rarely persists beyond 10-14 days.

At one time or other in the past 70 years, since it's major cause was first identified in Douglas Lake, Michigan, it has been reported in almost every country in the world.

Swimmer's itch occurs when several factors converge at the optimal time. In summer, 1) the water temperature reaches the appropriate level for snails to reproduce



and grow rapidly, 2) migrating aquatic birds infected with the trematode parasite return from their winter habitats or domesticated aquatic birds return to full activity and 3) the frequency of swimmers and bathers reaches its peak during this period. Over the past ten years, the temperatures of the freshwater bodies in temperate zones have increased and migrating aquatic bird populations have generally increased, creating a greater risk of swimmer's itch.

There is no widely available blood test that gives specific indication that cercariae have caused the itching. The best confirmation of the cause is based on knowing from other people that swimmer's itch occurs in the place where one swam or entered the water.

Treatment may not be

necessary when there are only a few itching spots. An antihistaminic or mild corticosteroid cream purchased over the counter in pharmacies can be beneficial. If the initial itching is severe, scratching can cause abrasions and skin infections may develop. If the symptoms persist longer than 3 days, a dermatologist should be seen. Prescription medications may help reduce the itching.

Swimmer's itch is caused by many factors. Since the disease is really a disease of aquatic birds, efforts to eliminate swimmer's itch should focus on reducing the possibilities of birds getting infected. In lakes, snails that harbor the parasite can be killed by chemicals, but the possible environmental effects of the chemical mean that this approach cannot be recommended. A newer approach has been to place a drug for treatment of the parasite into food bait. Indirectly, it is important that the vegetation in the lake be kept to a minimum so snails do not have a good environment to grow.

# NICHOLS

## TREE SERVICE & SMALL EXCAVATING

Justin Nichols, owner — 269-683-6656 — 2115 Spansail Dr., Niles

### TREE SERVICE

TRIMMING - PLANTING - REMOVAL  
LOGGING - FERTILIZING - CABLING  
BRUSH HOGGING - STUMP GRINDING  
GUTTER CLEANING - HEDGE TRIMMING

### EXCAVATING

HAULING - GRADING - RETAINING WALLS  
POST HOLES 9" TO 32" - DRIVEWAYS  
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

*"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

*"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

*"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

# REFLECTIONS

For those of us that have breached the top of "THE HILL" and are rushing toward the bottom, it is fun to look back on things that we remember but our kids will never see, well, maybe in museums or in Gramma's attic, old boxes or garage sales.

Here's a few to jog your memories:  
 S & H green stamps  
 Red Ball Jets  
 Playing cards clipped to the spokes  
 Telephone exchanges CE3-3676 (hubby's actual number in the 50's)  
 Golf clubs with bamboo shafts

Rubber swim caps that had big rubber flowers or "hair" and chin straps

Pedal pushers (now reinvented to become Capris)

Roller skates that hooked to your shoes and had skate keys

Snow boots that went over your shoes and had curly fur around the top with big zippers

Televisions with dials and could only get 12 channels

Black and white TV's (and then the panel that you could put in front of

it to make it look like color)

Gas stations that pumped gas for you

Teeter-Totters

Penny candy

GoGo boots, and for the guys,

Moon boots

Leisure suits

78's, 33 1/3's and 45's with center adapter

If you think of some more, write them down and we can discuss them at the next Yacht Club function.

**-Antique on the East Side**



## Bev's Custom Sewing & Embroidering

Sewing, Alterations

Special occasion gowns made to order and to fit

Personalize any item with embroidery  
 towels - shirts - Christmas stocking - personalized hankies - personalized napkins - stemware coasters for weddings, anniversaries, graduations (many colors to choose from)

Bev Comer, Owner

244-1165 cell 816-1389

13475 Harvey Street, Jones

bevscustomsewing@live.com

## UNION INSURANCE AGENCY

Corner of US 12 & Union Rd.

**Auto**

**Home**

**Life**

**Renters**

**Business**

**Boats**

**RVs**

**Motorcycles**

**Snowmobiles**

**Pet Injury Coverage**

**Sue McCammon  
 Independent Agent**

**269-641-5995**

email: Sue@unionins.net

**PROGRESSIVE**

**Auto-Owners Insurance**

THANKS TO ALL EVERYONE HELPED MAKE THE JUNE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SUCH A GREAT SUCCESS! SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CURTIS FAMILY!



Now the summer fun begins!

red & black raspberries, peaches  
 blueberries, green beans and  
**sweet corn**  
 corn will be ready in mid-July



Sue & Bob are back!  
 Come on in!

In Cassopolis behind the High School on Kamp Kozy

Open Every Day 10 - 6

We have Perennials in 1 & 2 gal pots



**Pat Keirn, Realtor**

1111 E. State St., Cassopolis, MI 49031



Office: 269-445-2450

Cell: 269-625-8554

Home: 269-476-2767

Fax: 269-934-6979

email: pat@discovermichiana.com

<http://www.discovermichiana.com>

Licensed in Michigan



## KEIRN CONSTRUCTION

**Terry Keirn**

Owner

**RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL**

**NEW CONSTRUCTION**

**REMODELING REPAIR**

**CARPENTRY - CONCRETE**

**ROOFING**

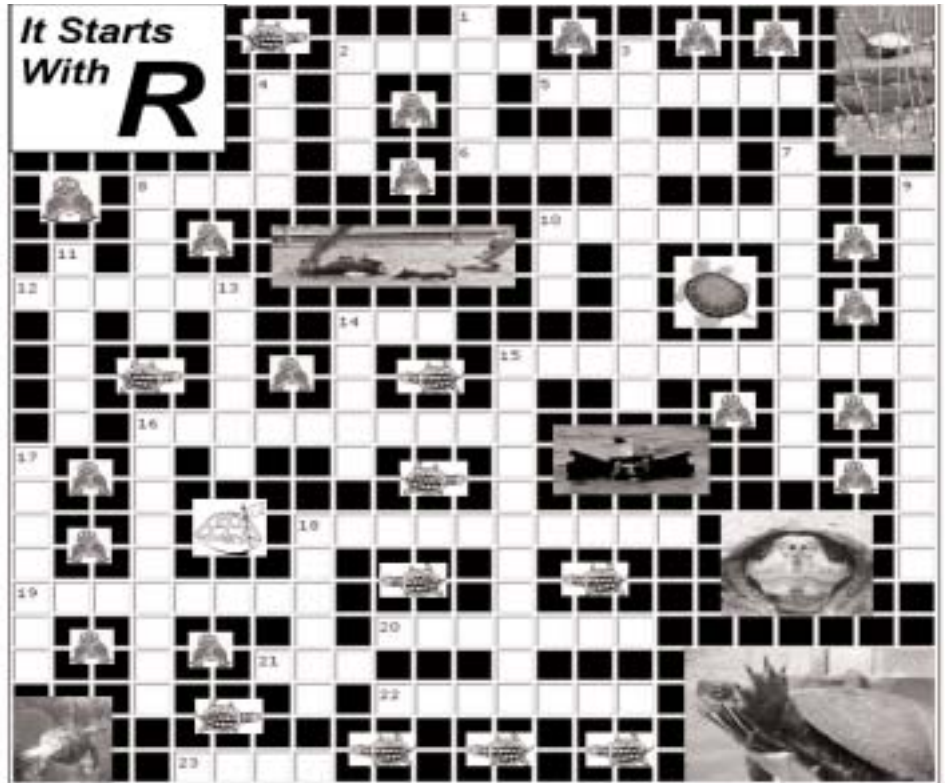
62933 Birch Rd.  
 Vandalia, MI 49095

Office: (269) 476-2767  
 Cell: (269) 625-0818

# Barker Crossword

## Across

2. OPPONENT
5. ORDINARY / S.O.P.
6. WIRE AND LINES
8. SUNDAY CONTEST
10. REDUCING SAIL
12. STEERING BLADE
14. MANUAL PROPULSION
15. BEVERAGES
16. EXUBERANT
18. TIME SPENT AT REST
19. TALL SHIP LADDERS
20. HOME IMPROVEMENTS
21. SAIL DOWNWIND
22. SPIRITED
23. CORDAGE



## Down

- |                 |                        |                    |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. DETECTOR     | 8. REDDISH             | 15. RULES          |
| 2. BULWARK EDGE | 9. BOAT DOCUMENTS      | 16. SKIN SO SOFT   |
| 3. ESSENTIAL    | 10. POLISH             | 17. MAKE STERNWAY  |
| 4. MAST ANGLE   | 11. YOUR FEATHERS      | 18. GOOD SAMARITAN |
| 7. CELEBRATION  | 13. RACE OUTCOME       |                    |
|                 | 14. FAST POINT OF SAIL |                    |

## Advantage Plumbing

2400 North 5th Street  
Niles, MI 49120  
(269) 687-7192

*Complete Plumbing Service  
Sewer and Drain Cleaning*



"Gilbert Goldfish"

**DON'T LET A LEAK RUIN YOUR DAY!  
CALL US AND WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY!**

## TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

1. Licensed Plumbers
2. Drug-Free Employees
3. Criminal Background Checked Employees
4. No Surprises with the Bill- You know the Cost *Before* the Work is Done
5. 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
6. True 24-Hour Emergency Service
7. Fully Stocked Trucks-"Warehouse on Wheels"
8. Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
9. Longest Warranties in the Business
10. Our Phones are Always Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours

Bonus- The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!



100% Satisfaction Guaranteed  
Major Credit Cards Accepted



10% Senior Citizen Discount  
Financing Available



# Barker Word Search

Find these words that are seen on the "Fourth of July at Birch Lake"

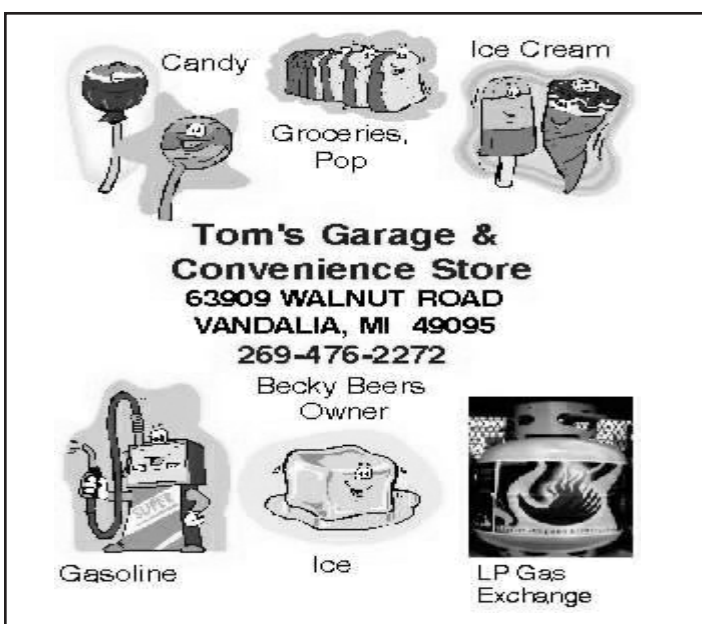
SHADY SPOT  
BOTS GALORE  
HOT  
FINS  
ICE CREAM  
PICNIC  
FISHING  
COLD BEER

TURTLE RACES  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
SOFT DRINKS  
SAILING  
INNER TUBE  
FRIED CHICKEN  
BOATING  
AMERICAN FLAG

BELLY FLOP  
ICE CUBES  
FLIP FLOPS  
COLESLAW  
BOAT PARADE  
SWIM RAFT  
SPARKLERS  
PANTING DOG

SWEATY  
CANNON BALL  
LEMONADE  
FIREWORKS  
BATHING SUIT  
FIREFLIES  
NEIGHBORS

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



Candy

Ice Cream

Groceries, Pop

**Tom's Garage & Convenience Store**  
63909 WALNUT ROAD  
VANDALIA, MI 49095  
269-476-2272

Becky Beers  
Owner

Gasoline

Ice

LP Gas Exchange

## How Can Pier Perfection Help You?

Pier Perfection offers custom design, installation, removal, sales and service of dock products to help make your time on the water more enjoyable. As the premier service provider in Southwestern Michigan, we have built a reputation of quality and a commitment to excellence.

17228 M60  
Vandalia, MI  
49095



476-1500  
fax 476-1510

[www.pierperfection.com](http://www.pierperfection.com)

# Birch Lake House Walk

## Home #4 — The Bergans

It's only 4 weeks until our House Walk on July 25th! We are very excited that seven families have agreed to make their unique and wonderful homes available to view on the tour. To add to the afternoon's enjoyment, there will be free pontoon shuttle service between homes. In addition, there will be several local artists and vendors displaying their work at the Wozniak barn, along with free refreshments and several drawings going on throughout the day.

The House Walk starts Saturday at 1 PM and ends at 4 PM and brochures must be picked-up at the Barn the day of the house walk. A limited amount of parking will be available at the barn so please walk or car-pool, if possible. Each week, in the Barker, we will feature one of the homes on the tour.

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 door to door. All proceeds are going towards Birch Lake Water Quality testing fees in their efforts to monitor our lake. Tickets can also be purchased from Denny Weesner south shore, Judy Olsen east shore, Vickie Rogers the cove, Bev Kruggel west shore, and Michelle Seyfarth north shore.

Don't miss out on this fun filled day! Mark your calendars for July 25th. Co chairs: Michelle Seyfarth, Vickie Rogers, and Vanessa Wozniak.

Our fourth home on the tour is: Jim and Linda Bergan at 62736 Woodland Dr. (the cove).

This is the Bergan's second home on the lake. It all began when Linda's father, Cisco Minix, and Jim took a drive in 1986 to find a cottage. They decided to buy on Birch Lake and Linda's father purchased a home in the cove. Two years later, in 1988, Jim and Linda also purchased a cottage in

the cove. Following the passing of Linda's Dad in 1999, they purchased his property and began construction in 2005 on his lot.

Jim and Linda designed the home featuring an open concept for casual entertaining of family and friends. The dining room is designed with a tray ceiling and faux painting. The faux was also used in the wicker room. Two large picture windows offer a beautiful view of the lake from the living, dining, and kitchen area. The lower level

is the perfect entertainment center with pool table, wet bar, card table, and large flat screen with walkout to the lakefront.

One thing is for sure. The soothing colors, thanks to Sheryl Covey - our local interior designer, invite you to come in and stay a while.

Don't miss out on this fun filled day! Mark your calendars for July 25th. Co chairs: Michelle Seyfarth, Vickie Rogers, and Vanessa Wozniak.

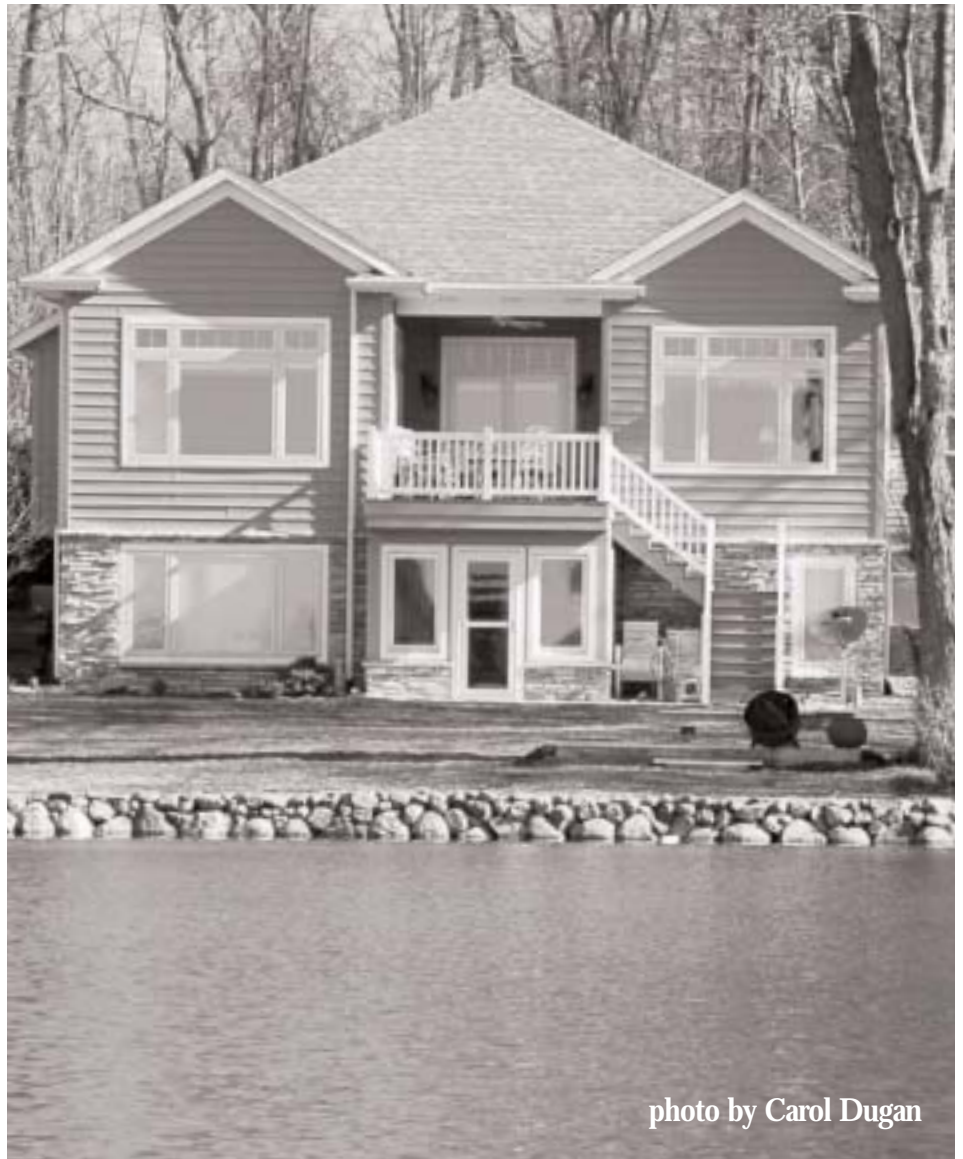


photo by Carol Dugan

**Wouldn't it be great to monitor and control your home from anywhere in the world?**

*"One-Touch Automation is a full service home technology company. Our goal is to provide systems that you can control from anywhere, are easy to use, look great, and fit your budget. Our work should complement the quality of your lifestyle."*

-Ryan & Rachael McDaniel, Owners

**ONE-TOUCH** 800-526-6753  
Automation [one-touchautomation.com](http://one-touchautomation.com)

Home Automation ● Home Security ● Surveillance ● Climate Control  
Fire Protection ● Lighting Control ● Central Vacuum ● WholeHouse  
Audio and Video ● Computer Networking ● Home Theater ● iPhone  
and iTouch Home Control ● System Integration/Structured Wiring



211 Dixie Way North  
South Bend, IN 46637

**574-272-7000**

# Commodore's Party



photos courtesy of the PattiCam

## Vice Commodore Bob's now infamous Karaoke Party



# 2009 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

**Commodore** — Paul Fallon —476-1467  
cell phone: 574-274-9580

**Vice Comm.**—Bob Waddle—476-2293

**Fleet Capt.** — Bill Luecht—476-2615

**Treas.** — Holly Troeger—476-9898

**Secretary** —Sandy Vitale—476-1680

**BLYC Directors:**

**North** — Rick Russwurm—476-2407

Fred Freihofer—476-9823

Mike Lutz — 476-2843

(cell) 269-207-1153

Bob Baucus — 476 2863

Cell: 574-535-4946 Home: 269-641-5644

**East** — Scott Troeger—476-9898

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

Phil Vitale—476-1680

Lind Harman — 476-2039

**Hill** — Ryan Gableman—215-0366

**South** — Terry Dugan—476-2814

Sue Williams —476-8886

**West** — Harold Cranmer—476-2170

Karen Brovold — 476-8862

Steve Quinlan — 476-8802

**Cove** — Vicki Rogers—476-2383

**BLYC Water Quality Comm.**

Rick Russwurm, Chair.—476-2407

Terry Dugan—476-2814

Gordon Seyfarth — n/a

Bruce Wagner — 476-2090

**Home Owners Comm.**

Rick Russwurm—476-2407

Scott Troeger—476-9898

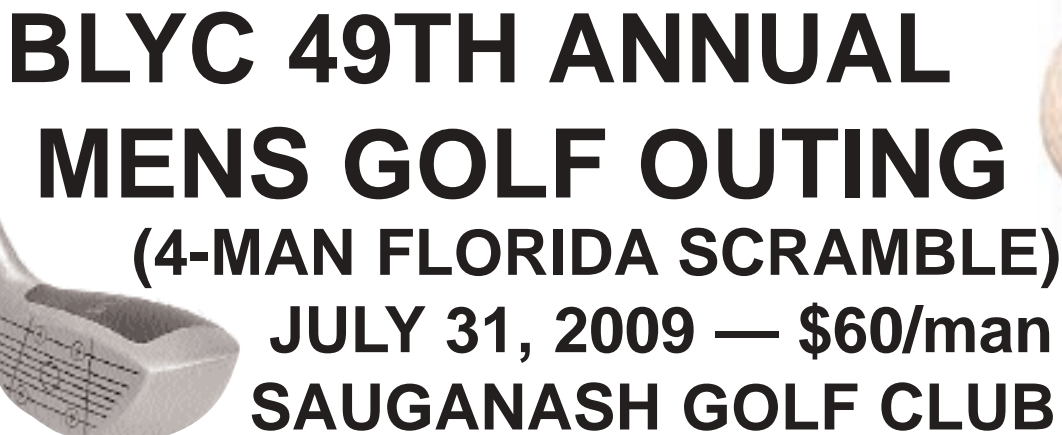
Paul Fallon—476-1467

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

Phil Vitale—476-1680

**BLYC Fleet Captain**

Bill Luecht — 476-2615



## BLYC 49TH ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING (4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE) JULY 31, 2009 — \$60/man SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB

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 dessert.
- \* 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Official BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

### 2009 Dues, Contributions & Donations Form

- \$ \_\_\_ - 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 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

# BLYC CLASSIFIED ADS

## FOR SALE

**Sea Doo inflatable Splash Island** - Excellent condition, used only 2 summers. \$75 - Call Ann, 317-753-6853

**Hobie Cat**, 16 foot, with sails, on trailer. \$850. Call Artie at 476-1692 or 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

Four **Notre Dame football season tickets** for the 2009 season in section 24, row 3, seats 16,17,18,19. \$5500.00 for the package. 269 476-9528.

FOR SALE — **8x10' Aqua Patio swim raft with anchor and ladder.** 2 yr.old carpet. \$200 or best offer. Call Helen at 476-2719 or 269-683-2051.

## 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: **competitive and intermediate table tennis player.** Call Gordon Seyfarth 476-1319.

## FOUND

Found: a wooden footstool of an adirondack chair found floating after a rainstorm. Contact Olson, 476-2125.

## FOR RENT

**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.

**Lake Cottage:** Are you having family or friends up and ran out of room? You can use my place. Willing to rent weekly, monthly, or just for a weekend, Family room, large kitchen with all new appliances, recently remodeled, washer/dryer, central air, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, loft with sleeper, new deck, gas grill, lake access. \$1200/week. Contact Vickie or Sam Tomaino @ 630-775-9336 or [mytoria@aol.com](mailto:mytoria@aol.com) for more information and pictures.

**The Villages - Florida rental.** Conveniently located just an hour from Disney World, and an hour from either coast. Located just off highway 75, it avoids much of the traffic the coasts are known for. It is an active community with 2 downtowns, every kind of eating place, 34 golf courses on site, its own hospital, a Sams, 2 Walmarts, many tennis courts, swimming pools, bocce courts, and even polo fields. Everything is accessible by golf cart. The Villages is described as the Disney World for adults. We have a lovely, extra large stand-alone Courtyard villa (which gives complete walled privacy) in the center of it all. It is completely furnished and equipped. It has 2 bedrooms (one a king bedroom and the other twin beds), 2 full baths, an open layout, 3 tvs, cable, local phone service, newspaper, centralized radio/music system, washer/dryer, outdoor furnishings and grill, and many extras. All you need is your suitcase and toothbrush and a

willingness to have fun. It is one of the most active villas in that they include any renters in all villa activities: weekly men/women golfing, monthly dinners, night golf, monthly game nights, block parties, sports activities, etc. It is available this year from Oct. through January. For more information and pictures, call 476-2786.

**Luxury Condo** for \$975/Week (rates contingent on availability and dates). Over 2100 square feet with panoramic balconies that are over 400 square feet, overlooking the ocean, speedway and downtown Daytona. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with walk-in showers. Fully furnished with washer, dryer, dishes and brand NEW appliances. King bed in master suite, 2 queen beds in guest bedroom and 2 twin beds in third bedroom. Large private swimming pool on complex. Hot tub, tennis courts, par 3 golf course, billiards room/game room, ping pong. Cleaning fees separate but optional. PLEASE CALL 561 603 5522. Ask for Angela or email [berganfsu@aol.com](mailto:berganfsu@aol.com)

**Single-Family Home in Naples Park** \$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](mailto:berganfsu@aol.com)

Barker Advertising: **The Birch Barker will publish classified ads free for members of the BLYC ... non-members will be charged \$5/ad. Send ads to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com)**

We are a full service salon, specializing in hair cuts, hair coloring, nails, massage, body treatments, full-body waxing and facials.

We have a "Double Pedicure" unit. Which means that people can come and get pedicures side-by-side. Body Treatments are 10% off. We have a Mudd Wrap, Cryothermic Body Treatment, and an Aromatherapy Salt Scrub. Visit our Website for more information!

[www.satorisalonandspa.com](http://www.satorisalonandspa.com)



**Satori Salon and Spa**

11920 McKinley Street  
Jones, Michigan 49061

**244-5510**



**Sales Service Storage**

SOUTHSIDE OF GRAVEL LAKE  
15355 96TH AVE  
Lawton, Michigan 49065  
269.423-6011

**1-888-996-BOAT**  
[RAUAPOLLO@AOL.COM](mailto:RAUAPOLLO@AOL.COM)

[WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET](http://WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET)

## Birch Lake



**3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 2 garages, renovated kitchen, extra garage has an open upstairs for possibly a rec. room or extra living space. The 22x93 lake front lot with a shed and a pier to park your water toys are included. \$275,000.**

**Seller says "Bring them all OFFERS"**



**Rent out the cottage below for extra income. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen, dining area, and fireplace. This property also has an extra lot next to it. Lake access. \$115,000**



Mark VanDusen  
68827 M62  
Edwardsburg, MI 48112  
Cell: 574-215-6548  
Office: 269-663-8585 ext 13

Prudential  
One Realty

# We've Got You Covered!



**SUMMER'S HERE!  
CALL US TODAY!**

- Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios
- Roll Curtains for Screened Porches
- Roll Shutters
- Boat Covers and Tops
- Canvas Repair
- Aluminum Awnings



---

**SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION**

---

**Call us for a free  
at-home  
demonstration!**

*Locally owned  
and operated  
since 1985*

**SUN  
&  
SHADE  
AWNING**

12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

**269 244-5307**  
**[www.sunandsshadeawning.com](http://www.sunandsshadeawning.com)**