

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

# Birch Barker

Weekend of Aug. 22, 2009

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Thanks to Mr. Bob for the photo of the birds that lakers love to hate ...

## Why I love Birch Lake

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**T**his, or these, are the topics that have dogged all of mankind since the beginning of time. The interest in these issues was heightened, dominating virtually all intellectual and philosophical thought since last Fall's Yacht Club Dinner, at which time your then-new commodore invited and challenged the lake community to join in the pursuit of the perfect answer to these quintessential questions.

Over the winter and spring months while the entire Birch Lake area was in a frenzy, everyone and their brother submitting numerous essays for the contest, I too wanted to compose one and almost got sucked into doing so. There were two reasons I demurred: 1) Being on the judges panel, the accusations of fix (when I won) might have been whispered, casting a shad-

ow of impropriety over an otherwise perfect term of Commodorium. 2) My answer to both questions was the same and too simple.

Yes, why I love, or what I love most about, Birch Lake is summed up in one six-letter word and its three-letter determiner, "the people." Being first drawn in by the water, it took me a while, years in fact, to come to that conclusion. But once I did, I didn't know how to embellish it or further explain it beyond that one word, "people."

As we've shared and reviewed the six winning essays over the last six weeks, it struck me that it might be appropriate if the next commodore's comments (this one is my last) could share my answer(s) to the two questions. But I still could not come up with any answers beyond the single two words "the people" and I knew that by themselves, these two words could not fill an entire column.

Then last (Sunday) night, I heard sec-

### 2009 BLYC Calendar

**August 22 — Fall Dinner**  
**September 12 — Board meeting 9 am**  
**September 19 — Game night at BLYC**  
**October 10 — Chili Cookoff, BLYC**

For more info on any BLYC event, contact the Commodore at 476-1467 or 574-274-9580.

ondhand the equally short elevation, the more perfect and personal form, the completion, the epitome of the expression, "the people." Here's the setup: absent-minded as always, late yesterday afternoon I attempted to climb out of our boat (up in its hoist) on to the dock. But I failed to place any of my feet on the dock before letting go of the boat. This resulted in a rather quick descent, stopped only when my entire body weight landed on the corner of the dock with my flank (apparently a new medical term for side and back) absorbing the entirety of the blow and being the point of con-

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tact. I believe a number of unpleasant sounds ensued. In a matter of seconds, one of my neighbors, a medical professional, was on the scene, having abandoned his wife and guests. He took control of an uncontrolled situation, comforting, calming and counseling the victim, his family and guest. To make sure I wouldn't move, he stayed with me, his hand on me, for the entire 20 minutes or so until the EMS technicians arrived.

Then a few minutes after the ambulance left with Celia and I aboard, he brought over printed directions to our youngest daughter so she could join us at, and hopefully take us home from, the hospital. Nora expressed her extreme gratitude to this neighbor for

doing this on top of what he had already done.

His reply? "No problem. You're family."

"Family" blows "the people" all to hell, doesn't it? While I may not share many bloodlines with a Jewish doctor from Kansas, I'm honored and thrilled to be Dan Waxman's brother. I'm tickled pink that me and my family have been so warmly accepted into the entire "family" here at Birch Lake. Thank you, we hope we are deserving of this honor.

I can't ever remember hearing better, kinder, more meaningful words. Indeed, to be in this "family" is why and what I love most about Birch Lake.

**Some Loose Ends:**

Holly is currently out of town. As of 8/4/09 our membership total was up to 158. Well done.

I'm about done too. Hope to see you Saturday night at the Yacht Club for the Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting that mark the changing of the guard and the revelation of your new Vice Commodore.

While this is likely the last time you will read these words, I do hope that together we will continue to enjoy and protect the miraculous healing waters of Birch (God's favorite) Lake.

*-Paul Fallon, 2009 Commodore*

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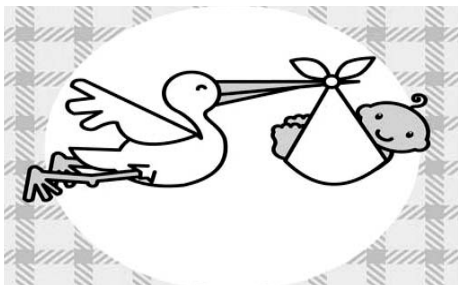
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# — Birch Lake Notes —



## Baby Scrabble

Ha Campers. As you are aware August 30th at the Yacht Club from 2 - 5 pm is the open-house/Grundy-baby shower. Since the it is an open house we will not be able to play any baby shower games. Soooo why not play one through the Barker?

Yea, everyone can play!

See how many baby related words you can make from this phase "**Amber and Chas are anxious to hold their new little camper**"

Submit your words via e-mail to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) The winner will have their name in **bold print** and will be bestowed with the title of the "**Smartest person we know.**"

## Game Night

Incoming commodore Waddle has scheduled a Game Night at the Yacht Club for Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Yacht Club. Last year there were some wild 6-handed euchre, cribbage, and "Left, Right, Center" games going on — the place got a bit rowdy. Mark

your calendar and more info will follow in future Barkers.

## Jimmy Thayer

Our most heartfelt sympathies to Ellie and the family of James A. Thayer, 83, of North Saint Joseph Avenue, Niles, and a charter resident of Birch Lake's north shore.

Jimmy died at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17, 2009, at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, Ind., following a brief illness.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21, at Trinity Episcopal Church, Niles. There will be no visitation.

Jim was born on June 29, 1926, in Niles. He graduated from Niles High School in 1944 and attended Bradley University in Peoria, Ill.

He owned and operated the former Thayer's Jewelers in Niles. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the United States Navy.

On Nov. 9, 1949, in Niles, he first married Mary Alyce (Radka) Thayer, who died on Dec. 15, 1992. He later married, on April 8, 2000, Eleanor (Dickey) Thayer, who survives.

Additional surviving family includes



a son, Joseph D. Thayer of Niles; stepsons, Lawrence Domnoske of Niles and Dean Domnoske of Kingsley; a stepdaughter, Lisa Rauch of Benton City, Wash.; granddaughters, Kimberly an Audrey; a great-grandson and two nieces. He was preceded in death by a sister, Shirley McKeen.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Trinity Episcopal Church or B.O.P. of Niles Elks Lodge No. 1322.

## Visors for sale

Amy Trudell Lutz reports she still has a few Birch Lake visors for sale at \$10 each. To purchase one contact Amy at (269) 744-7746 or via email at [www.amy-lutz.net](http://www.amy-lutz.net)



## Chili cookoff planned for Oct. 10th

Break out the Tabasco and Franks Red Hot and get the crock pots boiling cause the BLYC will once again host the annual Chili Cookoff on October 10 (tentatively) at the club. Prizes and bragging rights will be awarded to the chefs who make the best chili.

Watch the Barker for more info.

## Everyone's raving about the new **SKI NAUTIQUE 200**

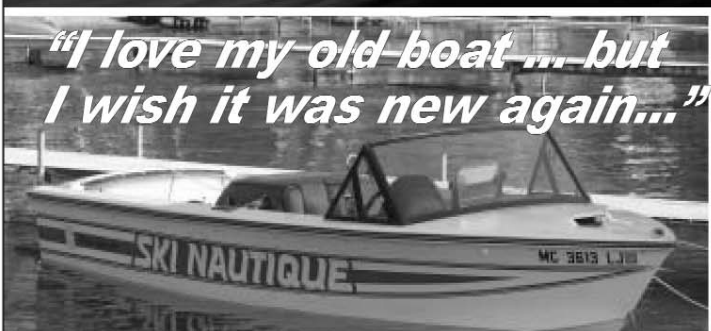


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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Birch Lake Ladies' Golf Outing

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2009 Ladies' Golf Outing. We had a beautiful day on the course followed by a delightful lunch at the yacht club. This year's winners were:

- 1st place — Becky Wiseman, Pam Mullin, Fran Welch, and Carolyn Neibalski  
2nd place - Denny Weesner, Bev Kruggel, Mardy Miller and Denny Weesner's friend Jeanine  
3rd place - Amy Lutz, Deb Soldato, Katrina McGovern and Deb Taghon.

Special thanks to Carol Freihofner, Sandy Baucus and Karen Brovold who helped immensely at the luncheon.

Thanks to all the teams who donated baskets. *-Amy and Deb*

## Labor of Love

The First Church of God Cassopolis located at 21083 Spencer Road (behind Family Dollar) will host a "Labor of Love" garage sale on September 5, from 8 am until 5 pm. There will be homemade corn dogs, music and lots and lots of well priced items... Prices will be EXCELLENT!

This event is a fundraiser to assist the pastor and his family in the purchase of a home closer to the

Cassopolis area.

## Nelson's Port-a-Pit

On Saturday, Sept. 12, a BBQ chicken fundraiser will be held for Elkhart YMCA Gymnastics Team. If

you buy tickets in advance (chicken half is \$5.50), Mackenzie and Sandy will pick up and deliver it to your home on Birch Lake. Please call or email Sandy at 574-274-5819 or email sankev+1@comcast.net.



## A little help from his friends ...

Thanks to (Trudell) Lutz for the great picture of the ton-o-folks who rallied round Harold's upended boat during last weekend's sailboat races.

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Not my average Sunday on Birch or why friends mean so much to me

Last Sunday started out to be a traditional Sunday for me with an early morning run with my dog Scout. Joining us on our run was Julie Levy Wright and a friend from her IU college days, Gina. Julie is the oldest daughter of Ed and Susie Levy, two of our newest Birch Lake homeowners. I have known Ed for over 40 years meeting him first at Camp Eberhart where he was one of my cabin counselors.

The run was great and we missed having a few more runners join us as Ashley Welsh Marquez and Nanette Sharpe were still recovering from camping out with their kids in a tent and Michelle Seyfarth was nursing a sore hip. Scout enjoys running with women so I have to indulge him which is what I tell my wife Sharon when she asks if any other guys run on the lake.

After a good run in quite humid weather, I decided to do some outdoor work since I was already sweating and proceeded to do some weeding and flower box maintenance and then even scrubbed the deck furniture. Once all the chores were done, I just relaxed and enjoyed visits from camp and lake friends. It was one of those Sundays that Rick Doolittle (another Camp EB counselor of mine) told me to never waste by driving home when I can just get up early on Monday and go to work. My commute is 3.5 hrs to Indianapolis,



but Rick is correct that Sundays cannot be beat when it comes to enjoying Birch Lake.

Catherine Grundy (Chas' Mom) and Dave Defauw, both Camp EB alums stopped by as did Ben and Vanessa Wozniak with friends of theirs from Chicago. Later on, Kerni and Linda Obrien (Sharon's close friends and wives of Major and John Obrien both of whom I met at camp and who first introduced me to Birch Lake at age 15) came by to recreate on the pier. It was a great mix of friends from the past and new friends that we have made over the last 6 years.

It was then the day took a turn toward the not so usual Sunday. As I was talking to Sharon, Kerni and Linda on the pier, I heard a crash (which could only come from a body hitting a hard surface) and a scream (which could only

come from a child seeing her Father injured). I went into response mode that came from being raised by parents who were both physicians and dealt with injuries of all sorts in our neighborhood in Kansas City and later my own training in medical school.

I ran from my pier, jumped a wall and made a beeline over to the Fallon pier where Paul lay injured. His wife Celia and daughter Nora were there and we quickly immobilized Paul on the pier as he had hit his back when he fell from a misstep off his boat. An ambulance was called and after what seemed a long wait they arrived. Kerni Obrien being an RN lent a hand and Artie McElwee came over once he saw an ambulance drive by his place.

Paul was taken to the Three Rivers Hospital and thankfully came home later in the evening with both fractured ribs and vertebrae. He will be quite sore for awhile, but I am so glad it wasn't worse. So Paul doesn't feel embarrassed about his mishap I have attached a picture of my leg from a similar incident a year ago that was only witnessed by me one weekend morning as I did the very same thing stepping off my boat.

As we are wrapping up the summer, I want to thank all the friends we have kept through the years and the new ones like the Fallons that we have made when they became our neighbors. Here's to a real boring Sunday this weekend!  
-Dan A. Waxman

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

# — Barker kids of the Week —



Congratulations to Ryan and Shana Gableman on the arrival of their new son Parker. Parker was born on July 27, 2009. He weighed 7lb 14 oz and was 21 inches long.

## Want your kid to be a Baker Kid of the Week?

Your kid can be in the Barker if you send pix to me (via email) along with their name(s) and pertinent info. If you don't email, make sure the info is legible and not too long because I have to retype all that stuff from scratch (and I'm not a very good typist ... and I'm even worse at proofreading stuff I type). -Editor

Contact;

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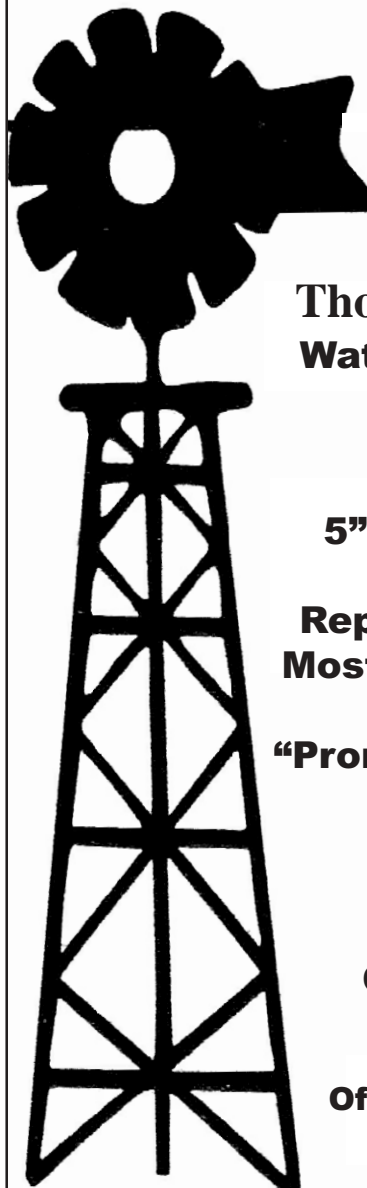
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# Fleet Captain's Corner



## The northern connection?

Ahh, the Birch Lake Fleet returned to the water last Sunday, after a week off. When it comes to sailing, a week can seem like an eternity. But there was lots of good wind to sail in Sunday, and lots of sailors took advantage of it.

Don Harman was the big winner in the MC fleet on Sunday — he had two first place finishes. Mike Lutz was the dark horse of the Sunfish fleet — he had a first place finish in the last race. And it's only his second week of sailing.

Now, something odd is going on here — both of these guys just went on trips to the far North. Canada, that is. I don't know what they did up there, but they both came back and started sailing faster. Was it the water up there, or the beer?

Thanks to Bob and Sue Waddle for running the Committee Boat. It can be a challenge on a windy day to keep the boat in one place, and they did a great job!

See you all out on the water Sunday!

*-Bill Luecht, Fleet Captain 2009*

## 2008 BLYC SAILING SEASON RESULTS

Date	16-Aug	16-Aug	16-Aug	Total	Season
Race	15	16	17	Points	Average

### MC Scow

Scott Troeger #1489	1	2	DNS	13938	1549
Rick Harman #379	DNS	DNS	DNS	7469	1494
Bob King #1199	3	3	2	17516	1460
Jim Bolinger #1735	DNS	DNS	DNS	4259	1420
Don Harman #582	2	1	1	14028	1403
Harold Cranmer #618	6	9	DNF	14926	1357
Jeff Smitley #2002	5	6	3	13470	1347
Phil Vitale #500	4	5	5	19981	1332
Tom Howard #1713	DNF	DNS	DNS	15966	1331
Dave Olson #1979	7	4	4	19512	1301
Gib Eberhart #916	9	8	6	19406	1213
Bill Luecht #1579	8	7	7	18009	1201

### Sunfish

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	2	15921	1592
Erica Vitale (White)	DNS	DNS	DNS	12405	1551
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	DNS	DNS	DNS	4563	1521
Eric Odenwald (Blue/Yellow)	DNS	DNS	DNS	10262	1466
Sandy Vitale (White)	2	3	4	14600	1460
Bernie Garceau (Red/White/Blue)	3	2	3	18060	1389
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White)	4	4	1	10818	1352

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season. ; DNF (Did Not Finish) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place); DNF not counted toward minimum number of races needed.; DQ (Disqualified) 0 points.; STT (Stopped to Teach) scored as first place.; CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives a 1st place finish for that day - counted toward season total.; Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.); Season Place = total season points/number of races attempted

### COMMITTEE BOAT SIGN UPS

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9-6 (Regatta)	Available for You!
9-7 (Regatta)	Available for You!

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# ~Birch Lake Recipes~

This week's recipes come straight from the Deb Taghon's "OUT OF THIS WORLD" recipe box.



## Charred Corn Salad

- 2 Tbs fresh lime juice
- 1Tbs fresh orange juice
- 1 tsp diced chipotle chili in adobo plus 1 Tbs adobo sauce
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ½ tsp honey
- ¼ c olive oil
- 6 ears of corn, husks and silks removed
- 1 can (15 oz) black beans rinsed and drained
- 2 Tbs chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 cups cherry or grape tomatoes quartered
- ¼ c red onion

### Dressing:

Whisk together the lime juice, orange juice, chipotle chili and adobo

sauce, 1 tsp of salt, garlic, honey and ¼ c olive oil until smooth. Set aside

Prepare a hot fire on the grill

Rub the ears of corn with 2 Tbs of olive oil and salt. Grill corn turning occasionally, until charred in spots, 10 - 15 minutes

When corn is cool enough to handle, remove the kernels from the cobs and place the kernels in a large bowl. Add the black beans, chopped cilantro, tomatoes, and onion. Stir in vinaigrette. Serve at room temperature.

Serves 6 - 8 people.

### And for desert.....

Deb served this topping on the Berry Salad she served at the ladies golf outing

### Frangelico Crème

- 3 (8 oz) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 ½ c superfine sugar
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ¼ c Frangelico liqueur
- 2 c. whipping cream

Beat egg yolks, superfine sugar, and vanilla until light and pale. Add softened cream cheese and Frangelico; mix well. Refrigerate. Whip whipping cream until stiff. Fold into cheese mixture. Chill

This recipe makes about 6 cups.

When I make it for a smaller group I cut the recipe into 1/3

Yum! Thanks Deb

-Good Patti

## Birch Lake Directory update

### Birch Lake Yacht Club Directory Updated Update:

The corrected entries are flowing in and there's still time for more.

It's been great hearing from everybody.

See you at the Fall dinner.

-Celia Fallon

Here's how the information can be transmitted without too much nagging:

- call 269-476-1467, if there is no answer, I'll call you back
- stop by 63600 Birch Road, by water or land
- complete an update form, conveniently included in this week's Barker, and mail it to Celia Fallon, 63600 Birch Road, Vandalia 49095
- complete an update form, conveniently included in this week's Barker, and place it the Fallon's mailbox
- deadline for this information is August 22, 2009
- if we do not receive an updated form, what is in the current directory will be printed again.

### INFORMATION SHEET FOR UPDATE OF BLYC DIRECTORY

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Birch Lake address \_\_\_\_\_

Cottage number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Other address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phones: \_\_\_\_\_

Email addresses \_\_\_\_\_

### Children : Please state ages as of September 1, 2009

Other information (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



# Stu's Star Stuff

## Tales of sadness in the stars

**T**he legends of the constellations are often tales of sadness — tales of lost lovers, and lives cut short. Yet no legend is sadder than that of Lyra, the harp, which climbs high overhead on summer nights.

The legend tells the story of Orpheus, who was given a harp by the god Apollo. Orpheus's music was sweeter than that of any other mortal man. It could soothe any savage, bring joy to the heart of the weary. It was even said that rivers changed course to stay near its beauty.

Orpheus married the lovely maiden Eurydice. But after their wedding, as she walked with her bridesmaids, she was bitten by a snake and died.

Orpheus was so stricken with grief that he journeyed to the underworld to win her return. His music not only gained him entry to Hades, it caused Pluto to soften his heart and grant Orpheus's wish. But there was one condition: Eurydice would follow Orpheus, who could not look back until both had gained the upper world.

Despite his anxiety, Orpheus followed his instructions — until he reached the surface. Before Eurydice could take the final steps into the light, he turned to gaze upon her. She vanished, with only one word to her love: Farewell.

Crazed with grief, Orpheus wandered

the hills of Greece until he was murdered. The Muses buried him, and Apollo placed his magical harp in the sky — as Lyra.

Lyra is high in the sky as night falls this month, marked by its brightest star, Vega.

It's the fifth-brightest star in the entire night sky.

Vega's one of our nearest stellar neighbors — just 25 light-years away. In other words, the light we see from Vega tonight actually began its journey toward Earth near the end of Ronald Reagan's first term as president.

Vega is a white star, which means that its surface is hotter than the Sun's. But Vega generates light the same way as the Sun: Nuclear reactions in its core convert hydrogen into helium.

While the Sun and Vega are similar in some ways, in one way they're quite different: They spin at very different speeds.

The Sun rotates just once a month. Vega, on the other hand, spins twice a day. In fact, if the star spun just a bit faster, it would fling itself apart. Because of that high-speed rotation, Vega bulges out at the equator. It's about 23 percent fatter at the equator than through the poles.

Here on Earth, we see Vega nearly pole-on. Because of that, it took astronomers awhile to measure Vega's thrill-

ride rotation — a rotation that gives the star a bulging waistline.

Look for Vega and the rest of the summer triangle, Deneb and Altair this weekend. Vega is easy to pick out on any summer night. This week, it's high overhead as darkness falls, and low in the northwest at first light. Send me a dollar and enjoy the show. It's a bargain.

-Stu Spratt

### The Moon tonight:



The Moon for Aug 22, 2009  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.112  
2.9 days since new moon

## BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

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

Don't let others take advantage of your good nature. Don't let criticism upset you. Hassles will delay your plans. Intellectual stimulation is what you are looking for. This week is not the day to try to corner people by giving them ultimatums. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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

Prove your worth; concentrate on getting the job done and steer clear of office politics and gossip. Uncertainties regarding your love life will surface if you have neglected your mate. Your partner may be somewhat irritable this week. Delve into your work if you can't make amends at home. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

You should be getting into self-improvement projects. You really can't do anything to change matters this week. Unexpected events may be upsetting. Loss is evident if you don't consider all the angles. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You can make a difference if you offer your help at functions that involve children. Your mate may want to pick a fight but if you're persistent with your affections their anger should dissipate. It will be important that you have your priorities straight. Develop some of your good ideas. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

You may be up for some changes in your home. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. Expand your knowledge and sign up for courses and seminars. Deception and doubts may surround your involvement with friends and relatives. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

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

Partnerships will be favorable and contracts can be signed. You will meet exciting new people through interest groups or functions that you attend with your children. Be honest with yourself before getting involved with someone who is likely to lead you on. Think about your budget before booking a trip. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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

Depression may be likely if you're away from home. Your emotional reaction will be dependent upon your partner's responsiveness. Try not to let your emotions interfere with the completion of your work. Your diplomacy will be of utmost importance this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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

You'll have problems with authority figures if you don't play by the rules. Your emotional partner will push the right buttons this week. Turn things around, make sure that they do their share. Trouble could be brewing at home. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

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

Your outgoing, aggressive nature will attract someone you've been eager to meet. Follow through on some of the good ideas that come up, and you could have a real winner of a deal. Wait and get all the information before consulting your boss. Be aware that you don't get anything for nothing. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

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

Your love will not be willing to listen to your criticism. Don't use emotional blackmail on someone you love. You are best not to discuss your personal life with others. You can make profitable investments if you purchase an art object for your home. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

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

Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. Try not to get into disputes that will lead to estrangement's. You may find out that someone has not been completely honest with you. Don't let your emotions interfere with your professional integrity. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

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

Don't blame others for your own stubbornness. Much knowledge can be obtained through the experiences you have. Older family members may try to put unreasonable demands on you. Don't reveal anything about your personal life to those who may use such information against you. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

# Birch Lake Crossword

## Across

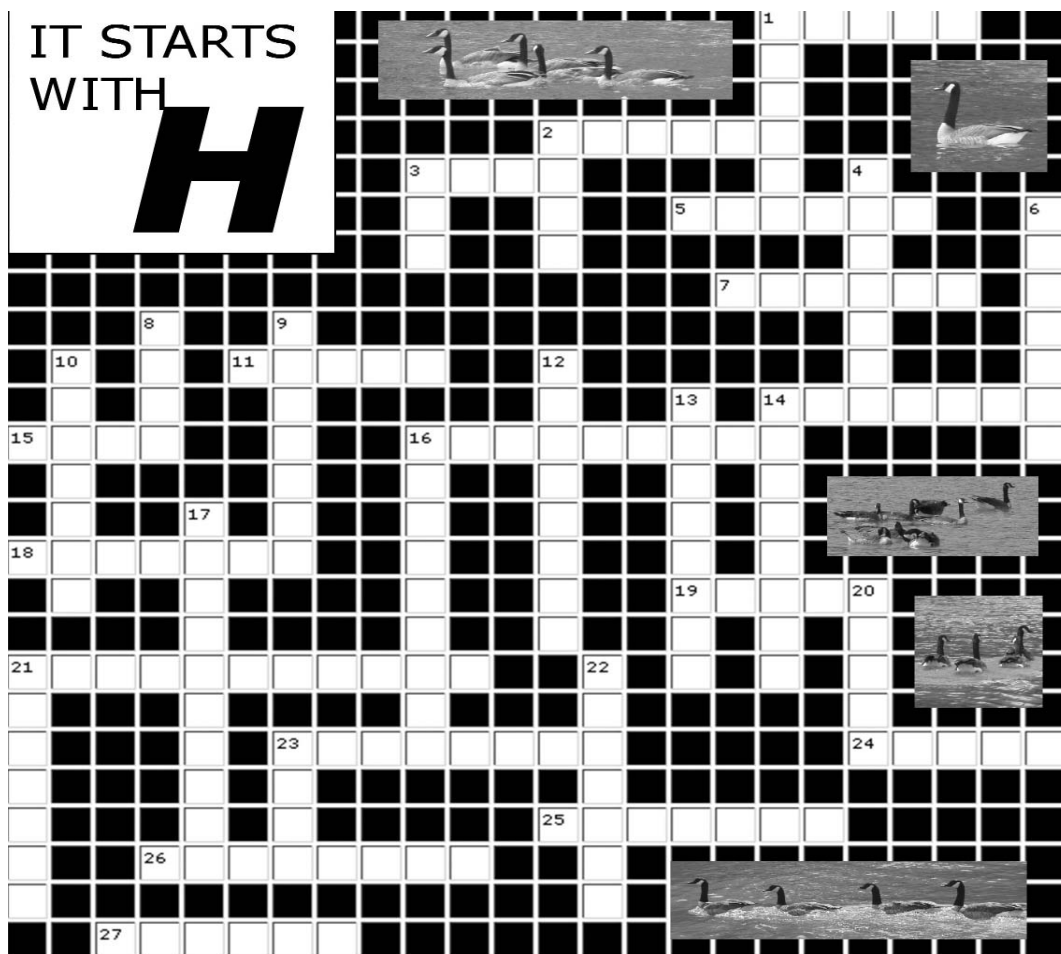
1. TO THROW
2. TIPPED TO LEEWARD
3. LEAN TO WINDWARD
5. HAVEN
7. TOWLINE
11. RAISE SAIL
14. WHALE SPEAR
15. CALL OUT
16. CYCLONE
18. PEACE & PROSPERITY
19. DECK COVER
21. FEAR OF WATER
23. WINTER
24. MOIST WEATHER
25. CREW BED
26. PERSON STEERING
27. TO TRIM IN

## Down

1. BAD WINDSHIFT
2. MARINE TOILET
3. WATER
4. SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR
6. DIRECTION
8. BOAT BODY
9. SEA & SKY MEET
10. MOVING FORWARD
12. SHIPS BREAD

IT STARTS WITH

# H



13. SMALL CANNON BALLS
14. JIB WIRE
16. ANCHOR FAIRLEAD

17. GLIDE ON WATER
20. KNOT
21. ENVIRONMENT

22. HOIST LINE
23. TILLER / WHEEL

## 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
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# Tannadoonah Tidbits

## Upcoming Fall Events at Camp

Even though the summer camp season is over, we do have a number of fall weekends and events and things going on at Camp Fire.

This week we are moving to a new office in town. For the past 20 or so years, Camp Fire has been located at 2828 E. Jefferson in South Bend. As of Friday (the 21st), we will be located at 905 E. Jefferson Suite D, in Mishawaka. The

new office is just east of Jordan Automotive on Jefferson.

Starting September 22nd, and continuing through October 9th, we will be selling Papa Murphy's pizzas as a fundraiser for Camp Fire. You can buy these ready-to-cook pizzas and cook them at home, or freeze them for later. For every pizza sold, Papa Murphy's gives \$5 back to Camp Fire. If you're interested

in ordering pizzas, let me know and I'll get you an order form. After you order, we will give you the pick up dates to get your pizzas.

On September 25th, Camp Fire will be having a fundraiser dinner at the Palais Royale in South Bend. There will be dinner, dancing, a silent auction, and a ceremony honoring Maureen Koscielski for her years of service and dedication to Camp Fire. Tickets are \$35 per person. We are also seeking table sponsors for this event, so if you or your business might like to sponsor a table, please let me or Chas know!

The weekend of September 25 - 27 is our annual Fall Camp. Fall Camp is open to all youth ages 5-16, and is a great chance for new campers to try out the camp experience, or for returning campers to catch up with friends from the summer. The cost is \$50 for one night or \$75 for both nights.

Registration forms are on the camp website, or you can just email me.

Finally, the weekend of October 9 - 11 will be our Family Camping Weekend. We need 10 families to make this weekend work, so start recruiting your friends! Each family will get a cabin or a room in a cabin, and we provide all the food and staff to run activities around camp. It's a really laid-back weekend and a great chance to get away. The cost is \$100 for 2 people; \$140 for families of 3; \$175 for families of 4; \$25 for each additional family member after 4. Again, you can get the registration forms on the website, or email me for more info.

We also have a number of fall cleanup weekends, so if you're interested in volunteering for a few hours some weekend, please let me know! Hope everyone enjoys the last few weekends of summer at the lake!

-Miss Amber



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BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org/>

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GUTTER CLEANING - HEDGE TRIMMING

LEAF REMOVAL, SNOW PLOWING, SNOW REMOVAL, LOT CLEARING

### EXCAVATING

HAULING - GRADING - RETAINING WALLS  
POST HOLES 9" TO 32" - DRIVEWAYS  
SEAWALLS - TRENCHING 0" TO 36"  
FOOTINGS - BACKFILLS - RETAINING WALLS

*"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

# Water Quality Committee Report

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

## The Testing Continues

**Full Moon Part II** — Last week we mentioned the algae bloom (August 12) in the area of the stream in the north-east part of the lake. With that present we tested for E coli the (1) Stream, (2) 10 foot south of the stream along the sea wall, (3) just south of the first pier in the middle of the algae bloom, and (4) adjacent to the second pier south of the stream also in the middle of the algae bloom. The following data were recorded from these sites from which two samples were taken at each site, so two numbers will be shown for each.

- (1) 440 and 520
- (2) ND and ND
- (3) ND and ND
- (4) ND and 60

At the same time of that testing, Gordon wanted to test some stuff in front of his seawall. Gordon, in his efforts to provide the best turtle habitat he can, especially for the babies, does not rake out the detritus that accumulates from the prevailing southwest breezes which collects and degrades by his seawall. He thought there was a little bit of decaying raccoon poop there and we decided to test adjacent to that (1) about 17 inches away (2), and in a clear area next to his pier about 10 feet away. Again two samples were taken at each location.

- (1) 480 and 840
- (2) 160 and 200
- (3) 20 and 20

Thus, again the stream had E coli in it and once in the lake it was basically non detectable unless you had some poop in the area, as indicated by Gordon's. Rotting detritus also makes an area for propagation to some degree.

## What a Difference a Rain Makes

We tested again the morning following all that rain (August 17) to see any effect a swollen raging stream had on

things. Thus we tested (1) upstream as the stream emerges from the woods and goes by any homes, (2) the stream between the road and the lake, (3) adjacent to the pier just south of the stream, and (4) in the detritus by Gordon's seawall. Duplicates of each sites were taken.

- (1) Over 2000 for both
- (2) Over 2000 for both
- (3) 880 and 700
- (4) 260 and 180

Thus it would appear when the wetland flushes, more E coli is brought into the lake as expressed by the stream counts and the counts at a location adjacent to the stream which under normal flow conditions is non detectable. The location by Gordon's seawall stayed the same as last week, and is not surprising based on its microenvironment.

## INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE Aquatic Plant Management Program

Back in May Progressive AE conducted an aquatic plant survey on the entire lake. A number of samples were taken of suspected Hybrid Milfoil and sent in for DNA testing. We are waiting for results.

Also identified were Eurasian Milfoil sites that were set up for treatment. In June Professional Lake Management treated two sites. One was on the east side of the lake and one was by the landing. Progressive returned three weeks later for re-inspection and surveyed the entire lake again. They found two additional small patches of Eurasian Milfoil by the landing. Professional Lake Management treated these area, and things look good. Currently the east side site has other species growing. This is a good sign since Eurasian Milfoil is so

dense that it does not allow anything else to grow.

We are fortunate that we caught the Eurasian Milfoil problem while it is still easy to manage. As far as the Hybrid Milfoil, until we receive the results of the DNA testing, it is unclear if it is a problem. As previously reported, we will not have these results until the end of summer; however, what we are seeing does not have the density nor does it mat at the water surface so it is not a problem at this time.

## Purple Loosestrife Management Program

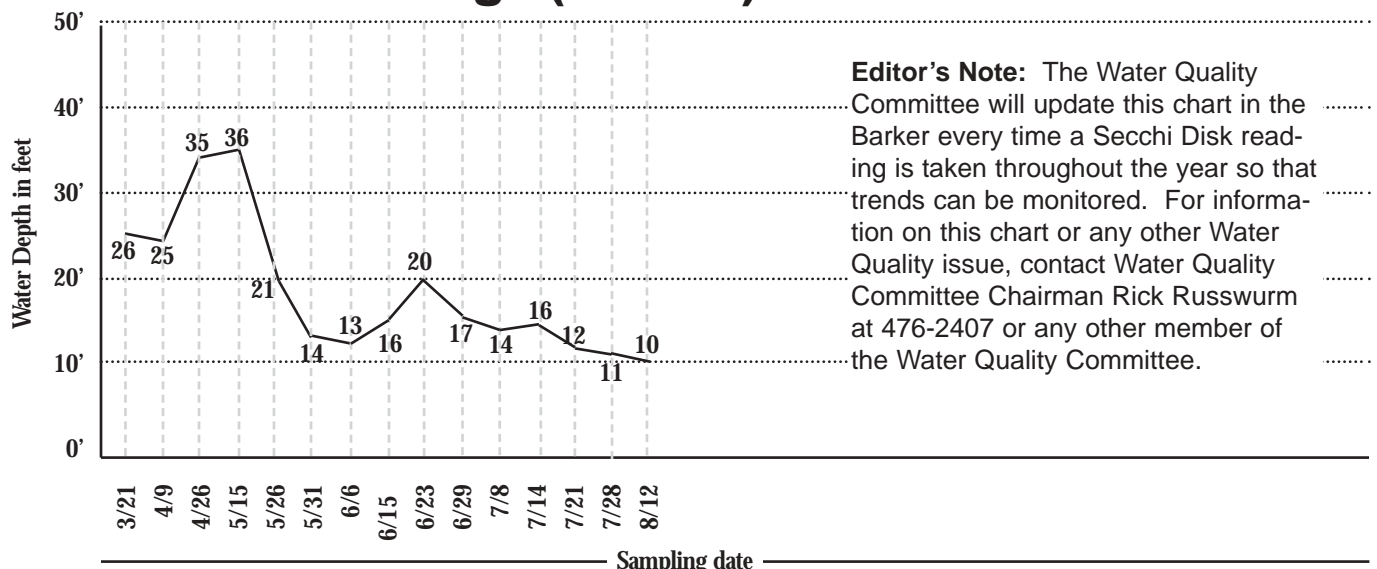
Once again we have had a successful year controlling the spread of Purple Loosestrife. During the months of July and August plants were removed from three properties on the lake.

We have seen considerable improvement since the Purple Loosestrife Program was started in 2000. At that time we had ten sites that encompassed all shores of Birch Lake. Several of these sites were very dense.

Bruce and Rick inspect the shores of our lake and are responsible for direction and proper removal of any plants that are found. The success of this program is because of the help we get from concerned residents on the lake who have helped keep an eye out and have assisted with the removal.



## 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.

# REFLECTIONS

This past Sunday my husband and I attended an event that I can only describe using the letter "H." It was hot, humid, humiliating, humbling and still managed to be humorous. Our excursion was to the Indiana Masonic Home Festival in Franklin, IN. This home is a retirement home for Freemasons and their spouses. It has all kinds of living facilities from totally independent living to total medical care units. I had never been there before, therefore I didn't know what to expect.

To arrive in time for the first festivities in which my hubby was involved, we had to leave our house at 4:15 a.m., which meant getting up and ready at 3:15 a.m. It happened that it was one of those nights where sleep did not come easily. I counted backwards from 100 as I usually do to put myself to sleep, visualizing first sheep jumping a fence, then the fluffy little devils turned to clouds, then stars, eventually causing me to drift off at about 2:45 a.m. Needless to say, I was grouchy, snippy and pretty much the "B" word in the morning.

I didn't know how to dress for the occasion so I looked it up on the internet to see what was on the agenda. The site I went to described the day as a 62nd annual festival, starting with a service in the chapel. It did not improve my mood when I thought that we were driving for four hours to go to a festival that was only going to last sixty seconds. It took me until about 6:00 a.m. before my brain comprehended that the sixty second description meant 62nd annual, not a criticism by the reviewer on the short length of the planned events! Really! Remember that I had a half-hour of sleep! I did manage to glean from the description that I should probably dress fairly nicely since it was church and all, so I wore a white sundress with some black accents for color. I dug around in the closet to find some old, comfortable white flat sandals that I knew I could walk in for some distance. I was confident that I would look presentable when seeing all the other Masons that I supposed would be there.

When we arrived, I was surprised to find a beautiful place that could best be described as a village square with impressive city hall type buildings, lovely gardens, walkways and cottages for use by those that chose to spend their final years there. Large tents sprang from the center circle, holding vendors for food and merchandise. Civil war enactors roamed the grounds as well as Abraham Lincoln who was to give the Gettysburg Address later in the afternoon. Hopalong Cassidy was also there posing for pictures, and many Masonic Bodies were represented in their special attire. My husband was to wear his uniform which included black pants, black double-breasted jacket adorned with patches, medals, and epaulettes and the most impressive hat in the Masonic arsenal.

Our first venue was the chapel in the medical unit. Our men were acting as greeters for the residents of this building which turned out to be about 100 wheel-chair-bound patients, all delivered by a Masonic escort. A few rows of chairs were placed in the back for us mobile visitors and so there I sat with my two of my friends, reading and singing along. During the service, one elderly lady had an attack of sorts and was hurried away.

Also during the singing, I felt something funny about my sandal. It seemed to be coming apart, one strap at a time. I looked down and sure enough, the sole had come apart and all the straps were disengaging. By the end of the service, my shoe was being held to me by just the ankle strap and one little band in the front with the heel and sole completely apart. I quickly removed my elastic belt and wrapped around it around my shoe and ankle, so it looked like a large bandage with a big black

buckle perched on top! It looked ridiculous! The little boy next to me said it looked trendy. Nice kid.

I limped out of the chapel pointing out my foot to my husband, indicating that I was headed to the merchandise tent to see if something shoe-like was available. Surely someone was selling flip-flops or something! Not so! I visited 50 vendors and nothing, until I reached the last table. This yard-sale type table had lots of used merchandise that was totally unappealing, but there, perched on the top, was one pair of brand new, still in the bag, baby blue, fluffy, quilted, velour house slippers - two sizes bigger than I wear. NO WAY!

I limped out of the tent and removed the belt. My shoe fell in pieces on the ground. I swept them up into my purse and determined that barefoot was the way to go. Boldly, I stepped out onto the pavement and promptly jumped back onto the grass. The pavement was about 150 degrees with a sandpapery finish. Gritting my teeth, I returned to the tent and purchased the slippers. God was playing with me today. I think I heard him laughing when we were in the chapel. I slipped on my new baby-blues and removed all the other traces of black accessories that now, no longer went with my new color scheme of white dress, blue slippers and red face.

Tiptoeing out of the tent into the general populous, I realized that only the few people that actually knew me would think this strange. Most people would probably think I was a resident here, out enjoying the sights! So what! There was nothing I could do but go with it and enjoy what I could in the 95 degree heat. At least I wasn't forced to march wearing all black and a big heavy hat like my counter-part! The rest of the day was great! No one said anything about my funny feet and I just got a giggle every time I remembered what I was wearing - even at the restaurant where we stopped at on the way home.

Just to put everything into perspective, on the drive home my husband said he thought the little lady in the wheel chair at the church service had passed away. Compared to that, how could I be upset about some funny baby blue slippers and a little humbling humiliation!

-Antique on the East Side

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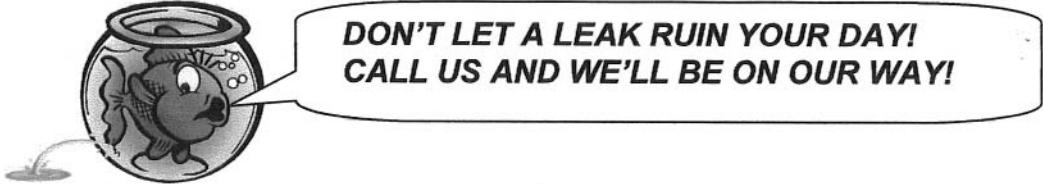



**CREATIVE PUNS FOR EDUCATED MINDS**

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
4. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
5. A dog gave birth to puppies near the

- road and was cited for, you guessed it... littering.
6. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
  7. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
  8. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
  9. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: "Keep off the Grass."
  10. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

11. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
12. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
13. A backward poet writes inverse.
14. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
15. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
16. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>No job too big or too small</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Waterfront Specialist — DEQ certified for shoreline work and piers</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michigan Licensed and Insured</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10% Senior Discount</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Birch Lake references on request</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Insurance Work</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>35 years of experience</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Call Wally the Builder</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>269-663-2905 or 574-215-6070</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>yourht@comcast.net</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">Residential Construction — Our specialty We do the job well ... or don't do it at all</p>	
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">Advantage Plumbing</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>2400 North 5th Street Niles, MI 49120 (269) 687-7192</b></p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><i>Complete Plumbing Service Sewer and Drain Cleaning</i></p>
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# BLYC CLASSIFIED ADS

## FOR SALE

**White metal bunk beds** (twin on top/full on bottom). 2 available. My kids are "too old" for bunk bed so its time to go. \$125.00 each. Doreen (630)816-3374 or (269) 476-1041.

**For Sale — Radio Shack High Range Antenna;** excellent condition - \$25.00. Call Tom @ 476-2383

**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.

**For Sale: Aqua Cat 12 Ft Catamaran,** boomless sail rig, newer sail, trailer included. \$300 or best. Contact Dave or Terry Carroll @ 574-850-0359 or ttcarrroll@com-cast.net or view at cottage W318.

## 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, month-

ly, 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 an hour from Disney World, and an hour from either coas just off highway 75. Active community with 2 downtowns, every kind of eating place, 34 golf courses, a hospital, a Sams, 2 Walmarts, tennis courts, swimming pools, bocce courts, and polo fields. Everything accessible by golf cart. The Villages is the Disney World for adults. 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)

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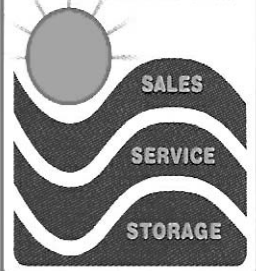
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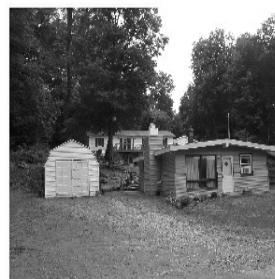
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## Birch Lake



**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"**



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