

Birch Barker

Weekend of July 31, 2010

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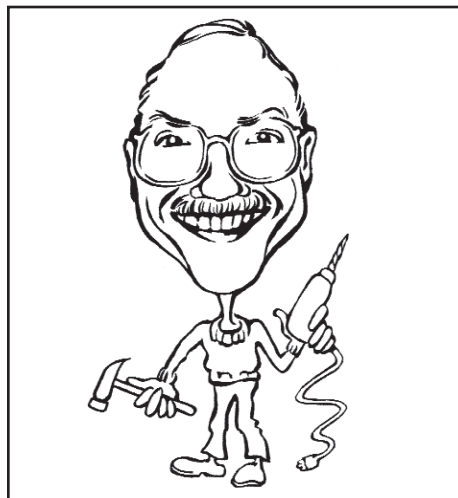


Dateline: Birch Lake, 4:30 am

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

When I awakened this morning I didn't want to look at the clock beside the bed. I knew it was very early and I didn't want to get up. But I had to get up (if you know what I mean). I peeked over the edge of the bed — 4:39 a.m. Darn it! I was hoping it would be later, which would influence my decision whether to climb out of the rack. And then I remembered that today is the day that I get to write my comments for the Barker. It was a no-brainer — how could I go back to sleep when my mind was already churning with ideas?

I crept out of bed, Sue was still fast asleep, and quietly left the bedroom and closed the door. As I looked out from the darkened room, the calm waters of the lake were bathed in the soft glow of the light from the full moon. Outside, the only sound was the low level din of the millions of cicadas, no other noises. The birds weren't even awake yet. If I had just rolled over in bed, I would have



missed a truly magical moment. This sure is a great place to live and I don't have to go very far for material to write about.

I initially thought that I would have trouble this week finding material for my comments, but all I had to do was look at the cover of last week's Barker for starters. I may have missed a few, but in the two photos of the Spaghetti Dinner volunteers, I counted 26, yes 26,

2010 BLYC Calendar

July 30	Men's golf outing
July 31	Camp T Hog Roast
	Board meeting 10 am
August 7	Corn and sausage roast
August 14	Garage sale
August 28	Fall dinner
	Camp T Silent Auction
September 11	Board meeting 9 am
September 18	Birch Lake Trivial Pursuit
October 9	Chili cook-off

men and women who all put in a great deal of time and effort to provide a great meal for everyone and raise as much money as they could for Camp Tannadoonah. The spirit of volunteerism and community here sets Birch Lake apart from most other places.

Here is another example of how caring our neighbors can be. Our good friend and neighbor, Linda Curtis, is always helping others, be they human or animal. If she isn't planting flowers at the landing, visiting with seniors or car-

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, or if you must, put the items in the red newspaper box at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), or mail to: Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want the materials returned. To contact us by phone, call Phil at (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or BLYC Commodore Bob Waddle at (269) 476-2293. -Phil Vitale, editor
The PRINTED BARKER is online every week at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/pvBirchBarkerNew.htm>

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

ing for stray animals around the lake she's doing something helpful somewhere. Linda was driving to Elkhart recently on US 12 when the traffic slowed in front of her. She soon saw that the cars were slowing in both directions to avoid a poor, little terrified Yorkie cowering in the middle of the road. Linda stopped her car and ran to grab the poor thing just as a fast moving semi truck was approaching. With dog in car, Linda then drove to a nearby dog grooming business, where luckily they recognized the pooch. She then delivered the wayward dog to its surprised and grateful owners. Kind of gives you goose bumps doesn't it?

I thought I should mention an article from today's South Bend Tribune that may affect us. The Cass County Sheriff's Office reports an increase in daytime burglaries of homes in Southwest Cass County since the beginning of July. Since thieves are mobile, they could come here next. The thieves target homes where the residents are absent, gaining entrance through easily accessible doors and windows. Jewelry and electronics seem to be their items of choice.

The burglars often case neighborhoods by knocking on doors and asking about items in the yard or for directions. If someone answers the door the thieves move on, if not they break in. Please report any suspicious activity or vehicles by calling the non-emergency number of

Cass County Central Dispatch at 269-445-1560.

Congratulations to (Good) Bad Patty Luecht and her fabulous volunteer helpers for their efforts in planning and staging last week's Ladies Golf Outing. Thirty-two golfers braved what was probably the hottest and muggiest day of the year to compete for the \$100,000 grand prizes. Bad Patty also asked me to inform everyone that only 100 of the blue Birch Lake totes remain for sale. Hurry before they're all gone.

By now the 50th Annual Men's Golf Outing is over. I would bet that a good time was had by all participants. Ssh! They're probably still sleeping. Don't forget the Board of Directors meeting today, Saturday at 10 am at the YC. The calendar project is moving quickly and all the photos are almost selected. The printer offered a super good deal on 2010 calendars, but we opted to pay more for the 2011 model. Start thinking about how many you will need for Christmas presents. The annual Corn and Sausage (and chicken) Roast will take place next Saturday. If you haven't had the new corn yet this year, you're missing a real treat. Positions are still open for qualified, expert corn shuckers.

I wanted to save my last comments for the upcoming Camp Tannadoonah Fun Fest to be held on Saturday, August 28 at the camp. Look for a fact sheet and entry form in this week's Barker. I think that perhaps some of you readers out there might think that all of the efforts this year to generate funds for Camp T are overblown. Many of us dis-

agree with that line of thought and are doing what we can to keep the camp operating. I tried to scare you a few weeks ago with my made-up story about possible changes at the camp. But I scared myself a bit also because the future of the camp is an unknown, and I, like most, want to believe Camp Tannadoonah will always be there.

The Fun Fest is just one more of the efforts of many to try to reach this year's \$25,000 funding goal. Hopefully the event will draw many participants from across the Michiana area. If successful, it could become an annual event. Volunteers are needed to assist with running the different events. If your company or business has items to donate as hand-outs to participants it would help greatly. If you or your company can be a sponsor, that would be even better. Or you can help out individually by entering the various events and inviting your families and friends. Items for the silent auction are also being sought and would be appreciated.

To end my comments this week, I will turn again to my little book, "By the Lake," a compilation of thoughts from many great writers and thinkers. This one from Henry James seems most appropriate now: "Summer afternoon — summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language".

Yawn! Maybe it's time to go back to bed.

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sparkybob220@comcast.net

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— Birch Lake Notes —



BLYC Ladies Golf Outing

Wow! Last Friday we had a great time at Spruce Ridge Golf Course in Dowagiac for the Birch Lake Ladies' FUN Golf Outing! There were 32 ladies that took to the course and battled the heat and humidity to have a wonderful 9 holes of golf! After it was all over, we met up at the Wounded Minnow Restaurant for a delicious lunch and time to recognize the top golfers (and also those not too close to the top!!)

Coming in first was the team of Fran Welch, Becky Wiseman, Pam Mullin, and Carolyn Niedbalski. Second place was Amy Lutz, Pattie Bender, Deb Taghon and Katrina McGovern. Rounding out the top three, third place went to Peg Cowen, Barb Zesinger, Janice Meikel and Bev Heckaman.

Our fourth place team was composed of Denny Weesner, Ronnie Eshleman, Mardy Miller, and Mary Ann Kuzmic. Right behind in fifth place was Lind Harman, Linda Curtis, Deb

Bolinger, and Janet Foster. Coming in sixth place was Lori Noyer, Kris Machalleck, Allyson Weaver, and Lesley Greenig. Fighting for seventh place was Linda Bergan, Angela Bergan, Vickie Rogers, and Ilene Golden. The first team to come in last was Blair Garceau, Carla Chester, Sandy Vitale, and (Bad) Patty Luecht.

Winners of the hole prizes were Fran Welch: Longest Drive, Barb Zesinger: Straightest Drive, Amy Lutz: Closest to the Pin, Lind Harman: Longest Putt, Sandy Vitale: Shortest Drive, 7th Place Team: Worst Score on Hole #5. Amy Lutz won "Guess the Number of Golf Balls. Deb Bolinger successfully guessed the Number of T's in the Jar, and Allyson Weaver and Janet Foster won the title of "Best Golf Outfit".

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize all the generous people who donated time and money to make this such a success. Thanks to the following individuals that sponsored holes: Bob

and Sue Waddle, Jim Bergan, Dick Bender, Mike and Amy Lutz, Phil and Sandy Vitale, Rick and (Good) Patti Russwurm, Bill and (Bad) Patty Luecht.

To all of the terrific ladies that helped me, and kept me calm, I really can't thank you enough for all your help! Sandy Vitale, Blair Garceau, Carla Chester, Deb Bolinger, Deb Taghon and Amy Lutz. There is no possible way I could have put all this together without your help and support! You are awesome!

I sincerely hope that everyone had a great time at this year's outing and thanks to everyone that participated. It was meant to be fun for all, and yet give our more talented golfers the opportunity to display their skills. If you have any suggestions for next year's golf outing, please don't hesitate to let me know. There's only 51 more weeks until we do this again!! See you on the course!

-(Bad) Patty Luecht

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"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

— Birch Lake Notes —

Scannells visiting Saturday

Bob Scannell and his sister Patricia, who spent their summers here at Birch Lake during the 40's and 50's will be visiting the family cottage this Saturday with their sister-in-law. Please stop by (southside 14830) any time in the afternoon if you'd like to say hello.

Corn & Sausage

Mark Your Calendar! The Corn and Sausage Roast will be held on Saturday, August 7, serving food from 5:30 until 7:30 pm. Once again we will be serving grilled chicken breasts on a limited basis, so come early if brats aren't your thing. Our combo meals include your meat choice, corn, four sides, cookies and beverages. Prices are: \$5 for a hot dog meal, \$6 for a bratwurst meal, and \$7 for a chicken breast meal.

Be there and come hungry!

Birch Lake Yacht Club Fabulous Fall Dinner at Camp Tannadoonah

August 28, starting with cocktails and appetizers at 6 pm, dinner to start at 7 pm.. Dinner is being catered David Hollars (he did the Lutz's wedding and Mike's fall dinner several years ago.) The main course will be Family style breaded boneless pork chops, coleslaw, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and rolls with apple and cherry crisp for dessert. Coffee, tea, lemonade, beer and wine to drink.

Please purchase tickets in advance (by Saturday, August 21) from Sue Williams or Denny Weesner — South shore; Linda Curtis and Judy Olson — East shore; Le King — North shore; Vickie Rogers — Cove; and Karen Brovold — West shore ... or next week at the corn and sausage dinner.

The cost for a great evening of warm conversation and laughter with your lake friends before the winter chill sets in, is only \$20 per adult and \$8 for children 5 to 10.

Remember to bring your pens and pencils to make bids in the Camp Tannadoonah's Silent Auction, which will be continuing until the party is over. (I for one might be doing a little Christmas shopping with my bids. I'm sure Karen would like one or two of the

\$25 Martin's gift cards, Claire the hand-made necklace, earrings and bracelet set, and if I am doing shopping for them maybe I should help Santa with my request for one set of Bear's and Redskin tickets for me. I just hope I bid HIGH enough or I could be watching the game on T.V.)

I hope to see everyone at the Fall dinner! It will be a great evening for us and Camp Tannadoonah, plus I will be revealing the new Vice-Commodore.

Any questions call Karen or me at 476-8862.

-Vice-Commodore, Stan

Waterskiing Challenge

Thanks to the Hills for the great skiing photos. It looked like they had a lot of fun. So let's all get in on this. Let's make the date August 21 for the waterskiing challenge. Time to be announced, rain date August 28. The only rule is: there are no rules. Simply come up with some kind of wacky, creative device that can be towed around the lake and get towed (successfully) around the lake. Rick Doolittle has volunteered to be one of the judges. We need more judges and, more importantly, some contestants. I have a couple ideas for towable contraptions. Please contact me, Stewart, at 476.2113 to enter. No entry fee, just show up.

Michigan's Recreation Passport

Beginning October 1, the \$10 Recreation Passport replaces the state park sticker to get you into all state parks, recreation areas and boat launches. To get your Recreation Passport, just check "YES" on your license plate renewal form. Your \$10 also helps preserve forest campgrounds and trails, historic and cultural sites in state parks, and parks in your own community.

Get your Recreation Passport and tell your friends and family to do the same. It's only \$10...a good deal for you means a GREAT deal to future generations.

Visit www.michigan.gov/recreation-passport for more information.

Art in the Park

The Sunday Art Market in the Park

will be Aug. 8 and Sept. 12 from Noon to 3 pm at the Farmers Market in Scidmore Park near downtown Three Rivers. Fine art, including fiber, water colors, metal sculpture, metal jewelry, oils, photography, fine art cards and prints, polymer jewelry, pottery and more. Birch Lake resident Carol Dugan is among the local artists exhibiting.

July 31st Camp T Hog Roast

The Camp Fire USA River Bend Council will mark the 100th year of its national organization with a Centennial Hog Roast on July 31st, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., at Camp Tannadoonah on Birch Lake. Other festivities are planned that evening, including the honoring of local Camp Fire supporters at 7 p.m., and the lighting of a campfire at 7:30 p.m., simultaneously with 50 other Camp Fire Councils across the USA. The event is free to all Camp Fire supporters, including past counselors and program participants. RSVP at www.campislife.com. (Diners are asked to bring a side dish.)

Caps for cancer treatment

Our daughter is a nurse practitioner with a pediatrician in Ft. Wayne. Their office is collecting plastic bottle caps (these can be any plastic caps from bottles and cartons including laundry products). For every 1,000 caps collected and sent to Riley Children's Hospital someone receives a free cancer treatment. Caps may be dropped off at Don & Lind Harmans on the east side.

Gone fishing?

Have you gone fishing yet this summer? Don't let another weekend slip by without spending some time fishing one of Michigan's more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, over 11,037 inland lakes or 36,350 miles of rivers and streams.

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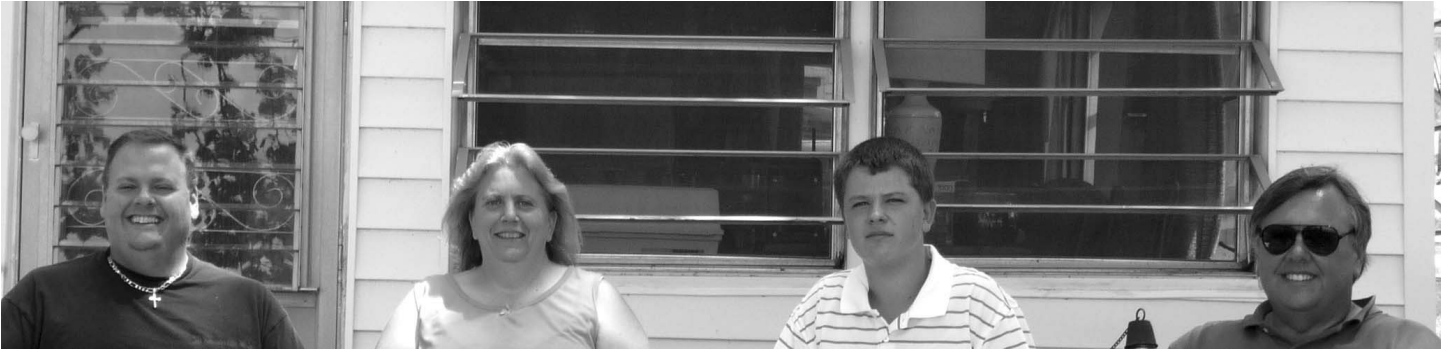
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— Barker kids of the Week —



I know that we're not all "young" kids here in the photo BUT ... the Monroe family at old cottage 133 has been here since the 1950's.

Shown in the photo from left to right are Tim Monroe, Mindy Monroe Timmons, Stephen Timmons, and Tom Monroe. Tim, Mindy, and Tom are the children of Norm Monroe and Nancy Monroe (passed in 2002), Stephen is the son of Mindy, and grandson of Norm and Nancy.

We've all been coming to the lake since we were born. All of Norm and Nancy's children were born in Sturgis and lived in Constantine, all children and grandchildren have been baptized at the Congregational Church in Constantine. The roots run deep.

We moved from there to Washington state and then on to Oklahoma.

Tim now resides in Kentucky, Mindy and Steve in Oklahoma, and Tom in Washington state. There are two more children not shown which are Norman from Oklahoma, and Robert from Washington State. They are arriving within the next month to spend some time at the cottage and RELAX!!!

It is a tradition for all to make the trek to the lake whenever possible. There are plans for a Monroe/Flatland reunion tentatively set for the summer of 2011. The Flatland family owns a cottage on Corey.

Jack Peterman, son of Sonny and Mary Ann Peterman from Crystal Lake, Illinois who were visiting the Freihofers (North shore). The interested onlooker is "Ace," the Freihofer's cat.

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Kendall Sharpe 13, Taylor Sharpe 10, Courtney Sharpe 8, Taylor Marquez 10, and Max Marquez 6. Taylor and Max are grandchildren of Randy and Fran Welch. Taylor, Kendall, and Courtney are children of Don and Nanette Sharpe. Both families live on the east side.



Marc Caenepeel (West shore) has been working on copying some old pictures from the family album and came across this picture of his Mother (Shirley Partridge Caenepeel, and my two uncles. The guy rowing is Cloyd Partridge & the little guy in the back with the glasses is Marc's Uncle Ed Partridge. The motor is a 1 & 1/2 HP Neptune, probably a collectors item today? This picture was probably taken in the summer of 1946 when his Grandfather, Charles Partridge & Grandmother, Josephine Partridge built the "WeeWood" cottage. Check out the background in this picture, it is taken into the Cove looking North. Anything missing, like where are all the houses?



Ronan Richard Scheuer, son of Sara and Matt Scheuer and grandson of Rich and Pam Mullin (North shore) was the youngest moustachio-ed spaghetti server at Birch Lake ...

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~Birch Lake Recipes~



Here's a fine way to cool off

White Peach Sangria

Ingredients

- 1 (750 milliliter) bottle dry white wine
- 3/4 cup peach flavored vodka
- 6 tablespoons frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 pound white peaches, pitted and sliced
- 3/4 cup seedless red grapes, halved
- 3/4 cup seedless green grapes, halved

Directions

1. In a large pitcher, combine dry white wine, peach vodka, lemonade concentrate and sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Add sliced peaches, red and green grapes.
2. Refrigerate sangria until well chilled, at least 2 hours, or overnight to blend flavors. Serve over ice, and use a slotted spoon to include sliced peaches and grapes with each serving.

-Submitted by
(Occasionally) Good Patti

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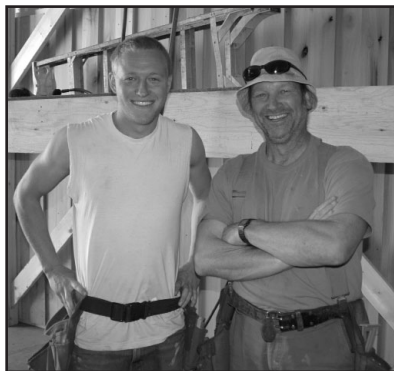
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Fleet Captain's Corner



Is everybody happy now?

Everyone was happy not to have to sail in the 100 degree plus heat indexes that were here on Friday. After the cold front passed, the wind switched to the north and was a puffy 10 MPH. It oscillated between coming out of the cove and spilling down from the hill at the camp. This caused very tricky swirling conditions at the windward mark. It was nice to see Dave Troeger make an appearance in Tom Howard's old "whale boat" MC. He certainly gave everyone a run for their money. He obviously didn't have any trouble with the windward mark. If he can come out in an old boat with limited practice time and beat the pants off of almost everyone, then it clearly shows there is another sailing level to which I can only aspire.

See you at the starting line...

-Fleet Captain Jeff

P.S. Here is the current committee boat schedule. To take an open slot, you can call me at 476-9000.

Aug. 1.....Deb Taghon
 Aug. 8.....Bob & Sue Waddle
 Aug. 15.....Chas & Amber Grundy
 Aug. 22.....Chas & Amber Grundy
 Aug. 29.....Open
 Labor Day Regatta.....Open

2010 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date.....	18-Jul	18-Jul	18-Jan	Total	Season
Race	16	17	18	Points	Average
MC Scow					
Scott Troeger #1489/500.....	2.....	2.....	1.....	25051.....	1566
Dave Troeger #1713.....	1.....	1.....	3.....	4644.....	1548
Bob King #1199.....	3.....	4.....	2.....	22112.....	1382
Harold Cranmer #2412.....	7.....	5.....	5.....	26762.....	1338
Jeff Smitley #2002.....	6.....	7.....	6.....	27452.....	1307
Phil Vitale #500.....	5.....	3.....	7.....	24773.....	1304
Dave Olson #1979.....	9.....	9.....	8.....	25541.....	1277
Bill Luecht #1579.....	4.....	6.....	9.....	26565.....	1265
Don Harman #582.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	19976.....	1249
Jim Bolinger #1735.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	7412.....	1235
Gib Eberhart #916.....	8.....	8.....	4.....	25619.....	1220
Tom Howard #1713.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	5857.....	1171
Sunfish.....					
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue).....	1.....	1.....	1.....	26353.....	1550
Erica Vitale (White).....	3.....	2.....	4.....	25565.....	1504
Stewart Spratt.....	2.....	3.....	3.....	13381.....	1487
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	2.....	22293.....	1393
Sandy Vitale (White).....	4.....	DSQ.....	5.....	25028.....	1390
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue).....	6.....	5.....	6.....	21784.....	1362
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White).....	5.....	4.....	7.....	26015.....	1301
Bernie Garceau (Red/White/Blue).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	6200.....	1240
Stan Pitakos.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	2450.....	1225
Rick Dwenger (Black).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	2381.....	1191

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), DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place). DNF, DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed. CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - 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

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- 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

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- Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
- We do windows
- Power washing, insulation and weatherproofing

Lawn Care

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- Rototill your garden
- Mowing and Trimming
- Fertilizing

Property Management

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Water Quality Committee Report

Dissolved Oxygen

Oxygen is the "stuff of life", necessary for the primary energy producing metabolic reactions of living cells. When oxygen is absent, life ceases to exist (with the exception of some deep sea bacteria, etc.). If you want to test this hypothesis try holding your breath. Reducing the amount of available oxygen negatively affects living matter.

Contrary to what you might expect, plants do not need oxygen in sunlight but do need it at night. Oxygen gas dissolves in water, but there is less oxygen in a liter of water than in a liter of air.

Even in our deep lake, during the late fall or following ice out in the spring, when the temperature of the lake is similar from top to bottom, the lake churns and the amount of oxygen is the same from top to bottom. As the sun shines and the weather warms, the surface of the lake warms as well. Since warm water is lighter than cold water, a very distinct layering effect occurs, very similar to putting oil on water. The warm surface is separated from the cold bottom by a middle layer called the thermocline. What the layering does is eliminate the mixing of the lake so, during wind and storms, only the surface is recharged with oxygen by interaction with the air. The area below the thermocline only has what it had at the beginning of the spring. During the summer, algae grows, then dies sinking to

the bottom. There it is degraded by bacteria which need oxygen for this process. In a lake that produces low amounts of organic matter, with little algae, this usually means little use of the oxygen and when you measure over the summer, little of the oxygen is lost from the bottom. In eutrophic lakes (those in their final stages), the oxygen below the thermocline is lost rapidly.

We share equipment for measuring dissolved oxygen and temperature in the lake with Corey and Eagle Lakes, and do sampling about every three weeks or so. This involves measuring the oxygen and temperature every few feet from the surface right down to the bottom of the lake in our 95 foot basin. From these measurements a profile or graph is produced. The rate of oxygen loss in the area below the thermocline during an individual year and especially changes from year to year are good measurements for determining changes in water quality. One might be reminded of the canary in the coal mine. We plan to do these measurements for many years into the future to track and evaluate any changes.

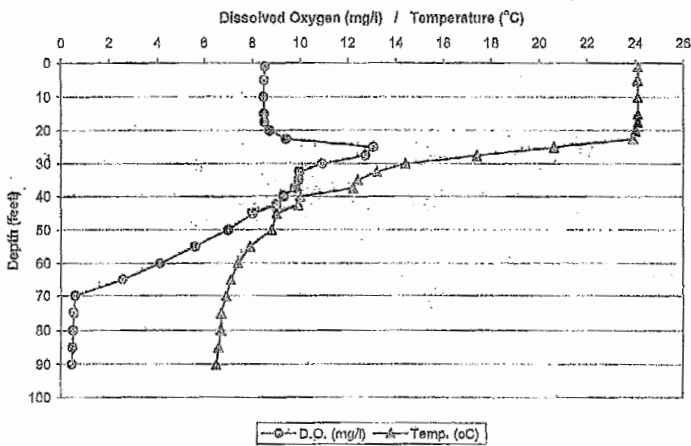
Below are two graphs. One from August 19, 2000 and the other from August 12, 2009. The circles represent oxygen concentrations and the triangles temperature. You can see the thermocline that develops at about 20 feet and extends to around 40 feet, and



being August the oxygen concentrations dropping below the thermocline. Although comparisons are difficult, just by looking at single snapshots from different years, it is encouraging that the rate of oxygen loss from below the thermocline is no worse from measurements taken nine years apart.

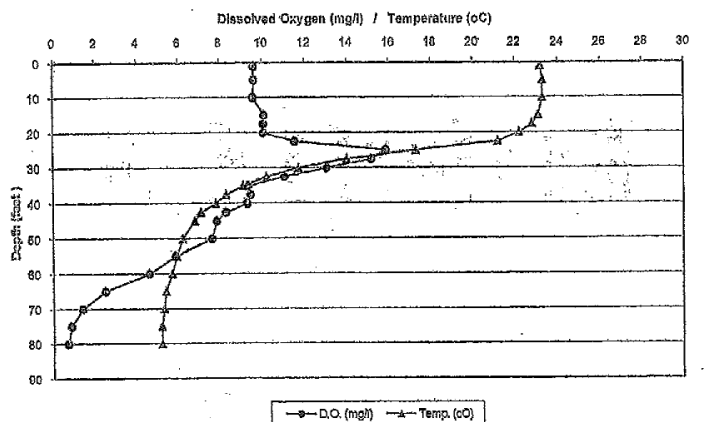
Just as a note, you see that in the thermocline the oxygen concentrations actually increase. This is due to an increased abundance of colder water loving algae producing oxygen. This is not good since it means more algae, but also it is good since it means that the lake permits enough light to reach these deeper areas to permit this particular algae to produce its oxygen. In this case anyway, it means there are no absolutes of good or bad.

LAKE: Birch (Cass Co.) August 19, 2000

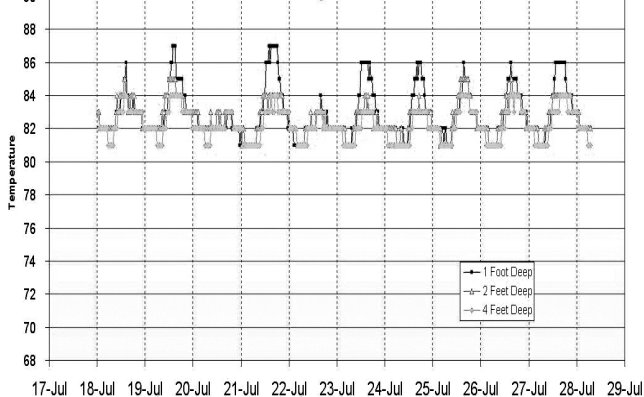


DISSOLVED OXYGEN AND TEMPERATURE PROFILE

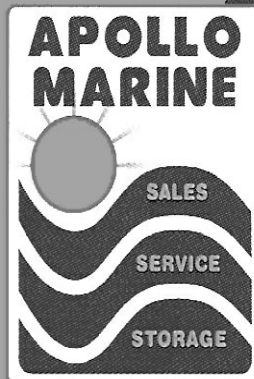
LAKE: Birch (Cass Co.) August 12, 2009



Birch Lake Temperatures 2010



West Sider Steve Quinlan is recording the lake temperature every every 30 minutes. The Temperature sensors are at the end of his pier, 50 feet out into the lake. The temperature sensors are 1 foot, 2 feet, and 4 feet deep. The graph above shows the data collected from from last week



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Stu's Star Stuff

Poor, poor pitiful Pluto

If you don't follow the doings of the International Astronomical Union (ridiculous I know, who doesn't?) then you wouldn't know that on August 23, 2006, it was decided that the solar system contains only eight planets. Pluto, which since 1930 had been classified as the ninth planet, was dropped from the list. Poor Pluto. Poor Pluto. Now we need to come up with a new way to remember the planets. Perhaps, My Very Educated Mother Just Serve Us... Nothing. Or maybe, Man Very Early Made Jars Serve Useful... I don't know, something that starts with an N.

But even if Pluto is no longer considered a planet it is still in orbit around our sun, along with countless other things way, way out there. So let's learn a little more about it, shall we?

As we learned last week the most-distant official planet is Neptune. It's about 30 times farther away from the Sun than Earth is.

But Neptune doesn't mark the solar system's edge. A vast magnetic "bubble" generated by the Sun extends far beyond Neptune's orbit. It deflects particles and radiation from other stars, making the solar system a little safer place for us to be.

Beyond that is the doughnut-shaped Kuiper Belt, which contains billions of icy

comets. Its most prominent member is Pluto, which is classified as a dwarf planet.

Pluto is smaller than seven of the solar system's moons, including our own Moon. In Roman mythology, Pluto (Greek: Hades) is the god of the underworld. The planet received this name (after many other suggestions) perhaps because it's so far from the Sun that it is in perpetual darkness.

Pluto was discovered in 1930 by a fortunate accident. Calculations which later turned out to be in error had predicted a planet beyond Neptune, based on the motions of Uranus and Neptune. Not knowing of the error, Clyde W. Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Arizona did a very careful sky survey which turned up Pluto anyway.

Pluto has not yet been visited by a spacecraft. Even the Hubble Space Telescope can resolve only the largest features on its surface. A spacecraft called New Horizons was launched in January 2006. If all goes well it should reach Pluto in 2015.

A few other facts include that Pluto has at least 3 moons, Charon being the largest; it's orbit is highly eccentric, meaning it is sometimes nearer to the sun than Neptune; like Uranus it rotates on it's side and like most of the other planets I've never been there.

Although on occasion some have suggested that I go to Hades.

That concludes our trip through the solar system. Or does it? I can think of at least two things that we have forgotten and we see them almost every day. We'll get to one next time. Until then, enjoy the show. It's free. But you know that already. -*Stu Spratt*

The Moon for Jul 31, 2010

At Midnight, US Central time)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.681

1.9 days before last quarter

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

Throw yourself into your profession. You need to do more research before you make your final decision. You may find that purchases or entertainment could be expensive. Go out with friends who are positive and supportive. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Although it does look promising, be careful not to overextend yourself or you will lose in the long run. Talk to your emotional partner about your intentions. You'll be pleased with the results if you take the time to decorate your home. Don't trust coworkers with important or personal information. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

This will not be the day to start new business ventures or make drastic changes in your career. Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. An older member of your family may have left you with a pressing situation. Opportunities will unfold; however, you must be willing to pay the price. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Visit friends or relatives you rarely see. Go over your finances and figure out a solid budget. You may find it difficult to communicate with someone at work. Try to address the real issues in order to turn things around. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

You have been stagnating for some time now and you need a change of pace. Try not to be too aggressive or judgmental when talking to your mate. Sudden changes at home will affect family members more than you anticipated. Overindulgence may cause conflicts. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

You may have the energy to clear up that mound of paperwork facing you. You will find your vitality is lowered. This will not be the best day to make changes or renovations to your residence. Praise will be yours if you have been pursuing your goals. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

You may be somewhat emotional concerning a rather private matter. You will meet new romantic partners if you get involved in seminars or travel. You could meet potential new mates if you go out with friends or take pleasure trips. Be careful not to divulge secret information this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Money can be made if you are willing to take a chance. Empty promises are evident; therefore, get it in writing, to be safe. Trips will be more than adventurous. If you haven't planned a vacation, then at least try to get away for the weekend. Your

lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Don't forget that your budget is limited right now. Get involved in groups and organizations that are of a distinguished nature. Your input into their activities will help bring you closer together. Unreliable people will be negative about your ideas. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Overindulgence will mean poor health. You have to believe in yourself and your talents. Be careful if a friend asks you for advice. Someone important may be watching you from afar. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Your ability to do detailed work will dazzle those who are less creative. Opportunities to travel will be favorable in terms of moneymaking connections. Try not to hesitate; act on your initial instincts. Things will be emotional with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Travel could turn out to be more exciting than you imagined. Moves or the possibility of having someone different living with you may be difficult at first. Payoff all your debts before you go out and celebrate. The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SPOTLIGHT

Bob and Sandy Baucus

Despite the fact that Bob and Sandy grew up only minutes away from each other in Edwardsburg and attended the same schools, they never really knew each other because they were in different years at school. It wasn't until they were in their 20s and their circles of friends converged that Bob said to himself, "How did I manage to miss HER all those years???" This revelation led to dating and marriage and 28 happy years together.

This also led to a family with three children, Ashlee, Chelsie and Brody. The children are pretty well grown up now with Ashlee, 26, working as an ER nurse at South Bend's Memorial Hospital, Chelsie, 22, a senior at Western Michigan University and Brody, 17, a senior at Edwardsburg High School where in addition to his studies, he plays golf and soccer.

Also during their years together, Bob and Sandy worked together building a plastics business, which they sold in 2000, and created a land management business, which they still run together. Bob has also recently become a realtor and is now looking forward to developing this new career. Besides working in their businesses, Sandy enjoys being a "Mom," doing crafts and working on Blossom Time. Bob likes to get in a little golf and water skiing.

As both Sandy and Bob were "lake babies," Sandy having grown up on the north side of Eagle Lake and Bob having grown up on the south side of Eagle (I told you they were only minutes apart!), it was only natural that they would eventually be looking for some lake property of their own. Bob was familiar with many of the area lakes and so they began looking at some of the properties listed on those lakes but none of the lakes they looked at were exactly what they were looking for. Then one day in 2006, Bob was driving around Donnell Lake and happened upon Birch Road. He drove down the road toward the landing and the panoramic view of Birch Lake's emerald water drove the

thoughts of other lakes completely out of his mind.

Not being familiar with Birch Lake, he hadn't been looking for properties here but once he saw it, he started looking and found a listing for a nice looking place with a big porch. He drove up and down the streets but couldn't find it anywhere! Then, while driving on the east side, he spotted the porch over in the north. But how to get there? It seemed the only way was by a private road with the friendly warning PRIVATE PROPERTY — KEEP OUT and pavement

that pointed straight down. Still, he persisted. He contacted their realtor who informed him that it was off the market because the listing had expired. Well, the realtor did her magic and soon it was re-listed and they were looking through the porch screens at the exactly view that they had been searching for. That was it! It was theirs, they were it's, they were home

— at least on weekends. The good news for them is that on Sunday nights, when everyone is dreading the long commute home, they only have to go about 15 minutes — still living in Edwardsburg and all.

Even though it was the view and the water that got them here, their favorite thing about Birch Lake is the people. They say they are blessed to have great neighbors on the north side but also consider every Birch Laker a neighbor and friend and are always happy to meet new ones.

Terry Keirn
Owner

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Birch Lake ...**

**See if you can
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Camp Tannadoonah

Christmas in July ...

Camp is starting to wind down for the summer! This week was Christmas in July Week, and on Sunday we had a winter festival for evening activity. There were sleigh rides (a.k.a. hay rides), caroling (karaoke), carnival games, a cupcake walk, and lots more games. Tuesday night we had a snowball fight, which is usually called ball wars, followed by a red and green jello fight! Wednesday was talent show, and Thursday we went caroling around the lake. The dining hall looked beautiful, all decorated for the holiday season!

This week was also Tannadoonah Fairy week, which is our annual prank week. Each counselor draws the name of another counselor, and throughout the week they give small gifts to each other (like a Secret Santa), and play pranks on one another. For instance, Miss Molly's bed was strung up from a tree, Mr. John had to dress up like a girl and sing "It's Raining Men" while holding an umbrella, and Mr. Nick had to wear a bike helmet all day one day.

This week was our second science camp of the summer, and it was a great success! The instructor this week was Ms. Patty Karban, the middle school science teacher

at St. Joseph school in Mishawaka. We had 8 kids signed up for the program, and they learned a ton of cool stuff this week.

Ms. Patty brought microscopes and they looked at samples of water from the lake, the cold stream, and other areas around camp. One day they dissected worms! But the very coolest thing they did was build mechanical bugs using little motors! As a special bonus, Ms. Patty is a former Division I college soccer player so she ran a soccer program in the mornings, too.

We're really proud of our camper numbers this year, because we've increased by about 60 kids! As of Wednesday, we are 15 kids away from our goal of 500 regular campers! We have one week left (starting Sunday), and if we filled those 15 spots we would have a completely full camp for that week. That would be 2 full weeks in one summer! So we have 485 regular campers, compared to 433 last year and 457 the previous year. And for total beds filled (including all donated spots, staff kids, etc.), we're at 561, compared to 490 last year and 491 the year before.

We want to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped set up and run the

Spaghetti Dinner, as well as everyone who came to the event. We really appreciate the continued support of camp, and it was so fun to be able to bring a big group of our staff to the dinner to see all the wonderful lake folks who help us out (thanks to Karen and Stan for making that possible!). Also THANK YOU to the anonymous donor who brought the total donation for the dinner up to

\$2000!!

This weekend is our Hog Roast (Saturday at 4 pm!) so come join us for some great food and fun! We'll have lots of food, games, a campfire, and a special ceremony to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Camp Fire USA. Please come out and enjoy the festivities with us!

See you all at the Hog Roast!

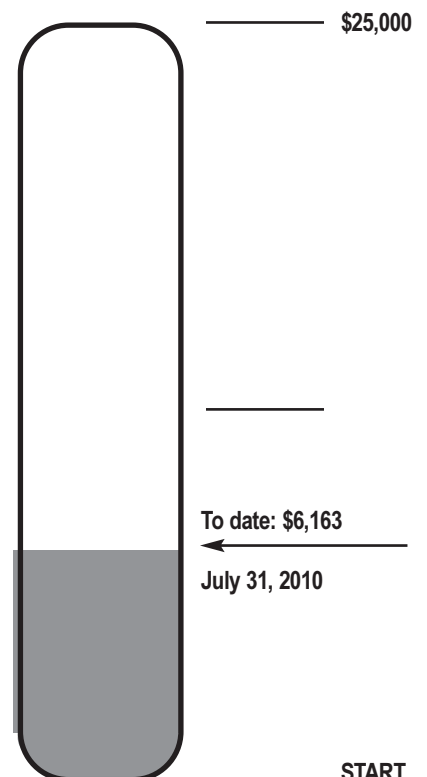
<http://tannadoonah.org/>

For the August 28 Camp Tannadoonah silent auction, we have the following items up for bids:

- * items from the Notre Dame Band office being donated (I think some apparel, CDs, etc)
- * a beautiful, hand-made birch wood table
- * a football to be autographed by Brian Kelly (winner submits it and gets a personalized autograph)
- * a stained glass piece by Marty McKiernan
- * a dinner party for 8 at Camp Tannadoonah
- * gift cards from Buffalo Wild Wings (pledged, not received)
- * three \$25 gift cards from Martins in Elkhart
- * four Bears vs Redskins tickets for October 24 at noon, Section 326, row 14, seats 6-9
- * two Tickets to Colts vs Bengals preseason game Sept. 2
- * a new upright vacuum cleaner
- * three 10-lb. Ameritex commercial fire extinguishers
- * assorted ladies' jewelry
- * packets of photo prints by Carol Dugan

Watch next week's Barker for a more complete list and for a form to submit bids ... all items will be sold and winning bidders will be notified after the BLYC Fall Dinner.

Camp Tannadoonah Needs \$25,000 ...





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Camp Tannadoonah Fun Fest Saturday August 28



Event Entry Form

Thank you for your interest in the Camp Tannadoonah Fun Fest events. Please mark the event(s) you intend to participate in, and sign the disclaimer at the bottom of the page.

Event:Entry feeor Pledges

- _____ **Tennis Tournament.....\$25.....**
- _____ **Bike Tour\$25...../mile**
- _____ **5-K run\$25...../kilo**
- _____ **Kayak Race.....\$25.....**
- _____ **Kayak Fun Paddle.....\$25.....**

Note: A limited number of kayaks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Camp Tannadoonah to arrange to use one of the canoes.

Entry fee:

The fee to participate in any of the events is \$25/person — and may be paid in cash, by check or credit card by the participant directly or received in the form of pledges to Camp Tannadoonah. Participants are encouraged to solicit pledges from friends, family and co-workers to help raise funds for the camp. Pledges may be for a fixed amount or for an amount-per-mile or kilometer.

Please indicate the total amount you have enclosed in entry fees and/or pledges that have been made:

\$ _____

Disclaimer/waiver:

I have read the information provided to me regarding the events of the Camp Tannadoonah Fun Fest. I agree to follow all of the rules as laid out by Camp Tannadoonah and Camp Fire USA River Bend Council.

I understand that reasonable measures will be taken to ensure my safety. I hereby release, acquit, and forever discharge Camp Fire USA River Bend Council, Camp Tannadoonah, and its employees, agents, volunteers and representatives from any and all liability for damages, losses, or injuries to persons, property, or both, including, but not limited to any claims, demands, actions, causes of action, damages, costs, expenses, and/or attorney fees, which arise out of or occur during my participation in any of these events.

Date _____

Signature _____


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Past Comm.—Paul Fallon—476-1467

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Mike Lutz — 476-2843; (cell) 269-207-1153
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Cell: 574-535-4946 Home: 269-641-5644
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Jim Bolinger—476-9737
Phil Vitale—476-1680
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South — Terry Dugan—476-2814
Sue Williams —476-8886
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Steve Quinlan — 476-8802
Mike Sheffieck — 773-660-1673 X211
Greg Bolin — 574-876-3416
Cove — Vicki Rogers—476-2383



BLYC Officers and Board of Directors, from left: front row: Scott Troeger; Sandy Vitale, Secretary; Stanley Pitakos, Vice Commodore; Karen Brovold; Paul Fallon; Sue Williams; Jim Bolinger; Bob Baucus; Phil Vitale; back row: Holly Troeger, Treasurer; Bob Waddle, Commodore; Terry Dugan; Mike Sheffieck; Lind Harman; Rick Russwurm; Fred Freihofer; Steve Quinlan; and Jeff Smitley.

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Home Owners Comm.

Jim Bolinger, Chairman—476-9737
Rick Russwurm—476-2407
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Terry Dugan—476-2814
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2010 Dues, Contribution & Donation Form

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- \$ _____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ _____ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
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- \$ _____ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ _____ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ _____ - Water Quality Program
- \$ _____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication Program
- \$ _____ - Riparian (\$8/yr, for magazine)
- \$ _____ - Safety Committee
- \$ _____ - Other non-party related expenses

Total contribution \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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THEY ARE HERE!!! Birch Lake Tote Bags!!! Eco-Friendly and large sized! Only \$5.00 while supplies last!!! Not available in stores! Show your Birch Lake Pride!!! Contact Bad Patty 476-2615; Delivery Available



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might even want to try a stool or chair on top of the disk, just for fun. Perfect for the upcoming Water Ski Challenge August 21st. This is a 42" THOMPSON SASSY SAUCER. \$40. Call Bruce Harlan 574-340-0345

"Old Towne" Canoe for sale. New condition. Blue Color. Fiberglass. Includes new paddles. All for \$450.00. Call Bud at 476-2526

Moving Sale — 63206 Birch Rd (east side). Saturday, July 31. Bed, dressers, table & hutch, picnic table, grill, tool's, sporting goods and much more. ONE DAY ONLY, 8 am - 4 pm

For Sale: Hunting, fishing, building site on Curtis Lake. 17+ acres + 500+ feet frontage on lakefront. Land contract possible. Call Dave at 476-9846.

For Sale: Lakefront lots and up to 600+ ft. frontage + 20+ acres on Paradise Lake. Land contract possible. Call Dave at 476-9846

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Truck cap, silver/pewter. Fits GMC, Dodge or chevy crew cab pick up. Great condition. Also; **100 amp temporary electrical hook up** for new construction. Complete with pole, board, meter receptacle and outlets. Both offered at 25% of original cost. Call Major @ 476-2126

Thermador Stainless Steel Double Convection Oven. Cutout width: 28 1/2". Cutout height: 51-1/8". Model # SCD302TS. \$1395. (New: \$2985) No warranty. Thermador 48" Professional

series **Stainless Steel gas cooktop** consisting of 4 burners, a griddle and an indoor grill. Matching Professional series stainless steel wall mount hood, blower and 12" back-guard. Model # PCS484G. \$2400. (New: \$4830) No warranty. Bosch stainless steel **dishwasher.** Model # SHU 5300. \$425. (New: \$875) No warranty. Amana Stainless Steel **refrigerator** with pull out bottom freezer. Refrigerator door is a single door. Touchmatic Electronic Controls. Model # B136CAR3. Approximately 80" tall. \$1500. (New: \$3200) No warranty. GE Profile Stainless Steel 1.8 Cu. Ft. **Countertop Microwave,** 1100 Watts. Model # JE-1860SB. \$100. (New: \$225) No warranty. Builder's never been used Jenn-Air stainless steel **side-by-side refrigerator.** Model # JS42SEDBDA measures 82 1/2" tall, 41 1/2" wide and 25 1/4" deep. \$2950. (New: \$5950) No warranty. **Call 260-710-0333. Deb Balyeat**

LOST

Please have the north side of the lake — east of Camp T. watch in the shallows for a lost **handle to a wind surfer kite.** It looks very similar to a ski handle and has line attached. We would appreciate a call if found — Ed Levy — 574-286-0436 or 269-476-9575.

Lost last Saturday at the Spaghetti Dinner. **\$20 bill.** Green, with Andrew Jackson on the front, White House on the back. Last seen leaving Phil Vitale's wallet. Sentimental value! All leads will be kept confidential. Contact Bad Patty 476-2615.

FOUND

Anyone missing their **personal sunning float?** A bright yellow Sun Seeker raft floated to the west side of Birch Lake. It's currently resting on the bench attached to the end of our pier. Please come and retrieve it. Betsy Custard

WANTED

Wanted - **used Kayak.** Dana (Russwurm) 574-532-0198

Looking for someone to play tennis with at Camp Tannadoonah, preferably level 3.5 or above. Please contact at Clboesler@aol.com

VACATIONS

Attention: All of you who have expressed an interest in the **sailing trip to the Virgin Islands** in late-January or early-February ... **I will host a meeting on Sunday, August 1 at 3 pm on my deck (free beer)** to give details, explain, plan, discuss options and judge real interest. Questions or concerns? Contact me (Phil) at sailorphil@philvitale.com or call me at 476-1680 or 445-9200.

CLASSIFIED ADS

The Birch Barker will publish classified ads free of charge for paid members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club ... non-members will be charged \$5/ad.

Send classified ads to sailorphil@philvitale.com

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