

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 7, 2010

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Thanks to Mr. Bob for the cool morning dew photo

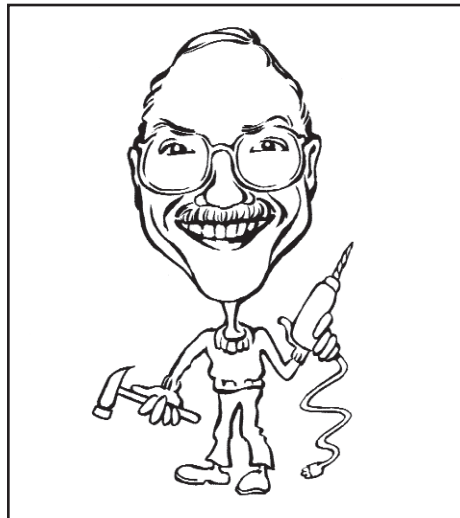
It is the journey that matters

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Tuesday again. Deadline looming. I don't know why I waited so long to start, but I did. It must harken back to my days in school when I would wait until the last day to begin a term paper, and then stay up all night finishing it. I guess some of us perform better under pressure. You may ask "when is it going to get better?" I don't know — I guess I'm running out of time.

In 1929, Ursula Le Guin wrote "It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters in the end." It sounds like she is describing the job of Commodore of the BLYC. When one begins as Commodore, we look forward to the day that the new Commodore takes over.

There are lots of comments to write, meetings to attend, events to plan and complaints to listen to. But



as the summer unfolds, we realize that indeed, the journey to that time is most important. It is very fulfilling to witness the dedication and hard work of our many friends and neighbors that makes all of the Yacht Club's events so successful.

Out on the road the other day I had an interesting conversation with

2010 BLYC Calendar

August 7	Corn and sausage roast
August 14	Garage sale
August 28	Fall dinner
	Camp T Fun Fest
	Camp T Silent Auction
September 11	Board meeting 9 am
September 18	Birch Lake Trivial Pursuit
October 9	Chili cook-off
July 9, 2011	House Walk
July 22, 2011	Ladies Golf Outing

one of the walkers. It's hard to walk sometimes if lots of people are out — you just move from conversation to conversation. Anyway, the walker said that she thought that the BLYC was too political. Political? I hope that there aren't too many of you out there that share that belief. The Birch Lake Yacht Club is a social organization that has only one non-social mission and that is protecting the waters of our beautiful and clean

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

lake. Sure, we like to have parties and dinners and outings. And we try to put on a beautiful fireworks show for everyone to enjoy. We also try to raise money for different local causes. But all of the parties and outings are self-supporting. Usually the dinners that we stage, besides providing great value and convenience to Birch Lakers, generate donations to local charitable causes.

There is a separate organization here at Birch Lake called the Home-owner's Association. Although it is a part of the BLYC, it has separate by-laws and operates separately from the BLYC. The Home-owner's Association's purpose is to protect Birch Lake's interests in local government and tax issues and to protect the beauty and cleanliness of our lake. Membership in the Birch Lake Yacht Club does not guarantee HOA participation. I, personally, belong to the BLYC, but not the Home-owner's Association. So, please don't avoid the Yacht Club because it's too "political."

Had enough serious talk? Thanks to the relentless efforts of our 2011 Birch Lake Calendar Committee, it has been delivered to the printer. We're crossing our fingers and hoping the calendars will be available for sale at this weekend's Corn and Sausage Roast. I think that you will be very pleased with the final result. We

placed an initial order for 100 calendars that will sell for \$15 each. Our cost per-calendar is \$8.60 and all of the proceeds will be donated to Camp T. Hurry and get yours while they last.

Speaking of Camp Tannadoonah fund-raising, I have heard some rumblings out on "the road" about this also. First of all, let me clear up one misconception. I think some Lakers believe we are concentrating too much on Camp Tannadoonah this year. Thinking way back, we have always donated the proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast to the camp. The only other Camp T fund-raising effort was the Spaghetti Dinner and now the new calendar. At last weekend's Board of Director's meeting, Chas Grundy of Campfire, assured all of us that if any donation is made specifically to the camp, then the money stays right here. It is not sent off to the national organization. The folks running the upcoming Fun Fest in August are guaranteeing the same, that any funds raised will go to Camp T or the local council. By the way, the Fun Fest is a Camp Tannadoonah event, and is being supported by Birch Lake residents. It is not sponsored by the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Please don't forget the annual Corn and Sausage Roast today, Saturday from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at the Birch Lake Barbecue Shack (aka Yacht Club). We live here in the

breadbasket of America. Talk about fresh! Enjoy locally grown sweet corn and brats made right here in Zimmyville. This pork is so fresh, it's probably having breakfast as I'm writing this.

The Garage Sale is the next big event in our sights. It will take place from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 14th. We will have ads in several local papers and on Craigslist. We will also place signs at nearby intersections. If you don't want to have your own sale, donate your unwanted items to the Yacht Club, and we will sell them. Just call either me, or Staci Whiteman, and we will arrange to either pick up your items or receive them at the Yacht Club. This will be a great opportunity for you to clean out the garage or shed.

I was going to try to be brief this time, but I guess that didn't work. I think I like this place called Birch Lake too much. I want everything to be perfect and I want everyone to like each other. And I also realize that's not always going to happen. But I have to keep trying.

All summer, I have neglected the Lake's fishermen. These thoughtful words from John Buchan are for all of them. "The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perfect series of occasions for hope." Til next time.

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Corn & Sausage

The Corn and Sausage Roast will be held this 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!

Garage Sale

The annual Birch Lake Garage Sale will be on August 14, from 8 am until 2 pm. Many individual homes will participate, but there will be a community sale at the BLYC (with proceeds going to the Yacht Club).

On Sunday, August 8, I will be available to take your contributions for the garage sale. I will also be available during the week before the garage sale (except for Monday August 9). You may also contact Bob Waddle and he will meet you at the yacht club or pick up your donations if needed. Please call my home at 269-476-9534 or my cell at 269-816-5755 and I will make arrangements to meet you at the yacht club to accept any donations during the week before the sale

-Thank You Staci Whiteman

Hurry and Get Fall Dinner Tickets!

Saturday August 28, 2010 at Camp

Tannadoonah starting at 6 p.m. with cocktails and appetizers. Your very own Deb Taghon will be creating the appetizers of bruschetta, barbecue meatballs, asparagus wrapped in philo, assorted cheese and crackers, plus a veggie tray with dips. Dinner will be at 7 pm, 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 at the corn and sausage dinner Saturday.

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 aged 5 to 10.

Shhhh, have you heard about Camp Tannadoonah's Silent Auction which will be continuing until the party is over. Your very own, soon-to-be-Commodore, will be partnering with Deb Taghon to create a masterpiece dinner for 8 at the very exclusive resort of Camp Tannadoonah overlooking the magical waters of Birch Lake. Stewart and

Karen will be your attentive servers, catering to your every whim, so sharpen your pencils, shake out the cobwebs from your wallets and bid, bid, and bid HIGH for this could be best meal of your life. Don't worry about how you can haul all the items that you purchase from the Silent Auction, for a new Pace 5x8 utility trailer was procured by Rich Mullin from Pace Utility Trailers to be auctioned off.

The new vice-commodore to be and I hope to see everyone at the Fall Dinner.

Any questions call me at 476-8862.

-Vice-Commodore, Stan

OOPS

Last week, I inadvertently left Carol Dugan out of the list of contributors to the Birch Lake Ladies FUN Golf Outing. Carol donated a packet of beautiful note cards and we were absolutely delighted to have them! I am so sorry that she was left out. Thank you so much, Carol and please forgive me! (I'm getting older by the minute, and my short term memory isn't what it used to be!) Thanks again,

-(Bad) Patty Luecht

Fire training at Birch Lake

Pete Fournier has alerted us Newberg Fire Department training this month will be at Birch Lake. The time will be spent showing the newer department members the location of water access, the various road locations and

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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 —

turn arounds. Residents may see fire apparatus during the day of August 16.

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.

Harold Sheetz

Harold A. Sheetz, 69, of 15169 Birch Lakeshore Drive, Vandalia, formerly of Elkhart, Ind., passed away July 28, following a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born March 31, 1941, in Mishawaka, the son of Cecil Jr. and Ruth D. (Edwards) Sheetz. On Oct. 26, 1974, in Elkhart, he married Charlene J. Mack, who survives.

He had been a resident of Birch Lake since 1960. He graduated from South Bend Adams High School in 1959. For six years, he served in the U.S. Army Reserve. He formerly was employed at the South Bend Federal Bank, Yeoman and Gaddis Real Estate and Elkhart Memorial High School as a para-professional. He attended Pleasant View Church of Christ at Cassopolis and Surfside United Methodist Church at Surfside, S.C. He enjoyed waterskiing.

Memorials may be directed to Hospice at Home or Pleasant View Church of Christ Youth Group.

Thomas Edward Hoyer Sr.

Thomas Edward Hoyer Sr., 90, passed away peacefully on July 31, with family by his side. He was born on December 19, 1919, in LaSalle, Illinois.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne C. Hoyer; his brother, Robert Hoyer (Gloria); and his children, Thomas E.

Hoyer Jr. (Maureen), Timothy P. Hoyer (Toni Folger), Judith Berg (Tom), Janet S Hoyer (Kim Orfanos), Jeanne M. Hoyer and **JohnPaul Hoyer (Marlow), of Birch Lake.**

Memorials for Thomas may be made to Catholic Charities.

Update on the Caps for Cancer

Thanks to all the people who have been collecting caps. The little boy we were originally collecting for has completed his treatments and is no longer having to go down to Riley. I had to come up with another source to collect them, and as it turns out Brown Mackie LPN school is collecting and delivering them. I will continue collecting caps from the lake through Sept. Caps may be dropped off at Don & Lind Harmans' on the east side.

If people want to continue on their own, they may want to get in touch with Brown Mackie School in South Bend. They may do it as well.

-Barb Rondot

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.

A Merry Como Christmas

Before the first Jingle Bells, turkey Carving, or Ho Ho Ho "The Company" gets you into the Holiday spirit with their annual "Singin and Dancin into the holidays" this year aptly named "A Merry Como Christmas," as there are 4 granddaughters, Melanie Como-Dits, Wendy Como, and Paige Como, and Mary Como-Bishop, on lights — and new addition: great-granddaughter Abigail Como, and a daughter, Melanie Como, the director of the production.

Since the remodeling at the Battell Center Theatre, the seating has been reduced and seating for all performances is limited, so get your tickets early! We

are sorry about the hike in ticket prices, however, the city has raised the rental prices for the theatre. Tickets are \$10 for seniors, and \$11 for adults and children. We hope you find the renovations as wonderful and comfortable as we do.

This year the show has a few new twists to it and we have an incredible male vocal group highlighted in various numbers, but we are keeping our

favorites: an homage to the Rat Pack, and Jersey Boys! The female vocalists will be doing some Andrews Sisters' and an homage to the musical Mama Mia, and all of the vocal material will take you on a stroll down memory lane. Then, we have a beautiful troop of dancers who will add just the right touch of energy and excitement to the production. They will be performing great musical productions from the past decade as well as your rock and roll favorites. Our musical pit, including a phenomenal violinist, and four guitarists, and our trumpet player and reed player who will appear on stage to demonstrate their talents.

We have dedicated a portion of the show to the hits of Perry Como, with songs you will remember and ones that hold a fond place in the hearts of the Comos. Christmas Wish is one of the holiday songs that we Comos loved as children, and, as far as we know, only recorded by grandpa so, we will present that number, including the portion with German lyrics.

This year there are many surprises, included are the ever popular two-person light-up reindeer, and of course, back by popular demand, the three-headed Santa, and some surprise characters!

This production has been in rehearsal since June. It is our promise to you to give you the most professional show possible, and a new show every year! We take our job seriously, but the final goal is to make you, as the audience, unaware of the months involved in preparing this production. We are as close to Vaudeville or burlesque, with a touch of the spirit of Cabaret as you will find in the midwest!

Production dates are November 5, 6, 12, 13, and 19, 20. Curtain time is 8 pm, and there will be a 7:30 warm-up time. Warm up's are to up warm the singers and the audience as well. The performers will come out on stage before the performance starts to have fun with all of the cast members and get you, as the audience involved in the production from the start. Shows are held at the Battell Center Theatre, 904 North Main Street, Mishawaka, IN. For information or to reserve tickets please call 574-258-1667 or check our website for more information: WWW.thecompanyplayers.com

Tickets will be available to purchase at Battell Center during office hours 9-5, and we are taking reservations for parties of 15 or more. Those tickets must be paid for two days before show.

"The Company" tries to make you feel like you are a part of our family, so we include you in little jokes going on stage. You can enjoy laughing with a singer if they have forgotten their lines, (as sometimes happens!), or they don't get completely dressed and have to come on pulling on a costume, etc. We, would like you to feel like you have left the real world and are a part of the magic that happens in the theatre! We are proud to share this with you and hope you will accept this as our early holiday present to you!

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Hello! My name is Sawyer Beier and my parents (Randy and Karol Phillips) live on Birch Lake at 63658 Birch Lake Road. Our family was up enjoying the lake for the entire week of the 4 th. We had a wonderful time and my mother wanted me to send along these photos of the grand-

kids enjoying beautiful Birch Lake for the Barker. Pictured above are Maverick (21 months old) playing with Grandpa's remote control boat and Paisley (12 weeks) in her first swimsuit and sun hat!

Patricia (Scannell) Hogoboom and brother Bob Scannell visited the family cottage on Saturday. Pat and Bob were part of the original Birch Barker kids in the 40's when they complained about being bored and their mother, Lois, told them to start a newspaper. Pat wrote the articles and Bob delivered them. Cost: 10 cents. Other Birch kids were involved as well. While Pat's family continues to enjoy the cottage, Bob, who lives in State College, PA, has not been to visit in 10 years.



Kids are: 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.

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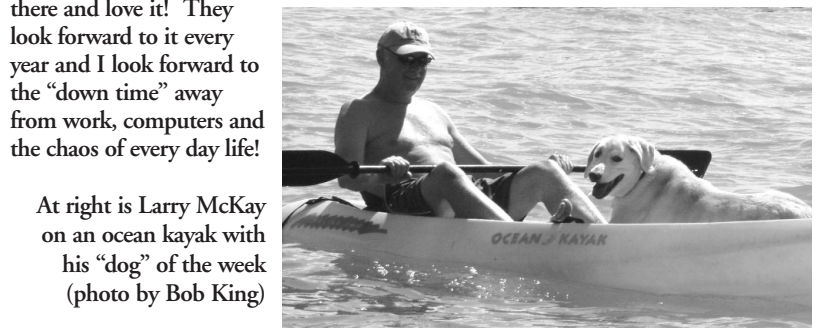
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— Barker kids of the Week —



Above, is 6 year old Jack Applegate learning to ski and (above) his 1 year old baby brother Zeb Applegate enjoying his first splash in Birch lake. Jack and Zeb live in Asheville NC and are grandkids of Steve & Vickie Quinlan (West side).

Below left are Shelby Troyer, Blake Norton, Seth Troyer, who, along with Tia Everidge, her mother mother, grandmother, daughter, Shelby Troyer, niece, Blake Norton, and son, Seth Troyer, spend a week at the Weaver cottage on the south side of the lake every summer. The cottage belongs to Tia's mother's cousins and she can remember visiting there every summer as a little girl when their mother's aunt, Lottie Weaver, was still alive. Now, they get to bring the children there and love it! They look forward to it every year and I look forward to the "down time" away from work, computers and the chaos of every day life!



At right is Larry McKay on an ocean kayak with his "dog" of the week (photo by Bob King)

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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Sandy's Shrimp Spread

by Pat Richard, Penn parent

Ingredients

- small can shrimp, rinsed & drained
- 1/2 cup Miracle Whip
- 1/2 cup diced celery
- 3 oz cream cheese
- 1/2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 cup red onion, diced

Directions

- Mix cream cheese, miracle whip till fluffy
- add shrimp, lemon juice
- fold in celery & onion



Sandy Vitale made this shrimp spread for the "Girl's Day" last weekend and it was a BIG hit out on the boat ...

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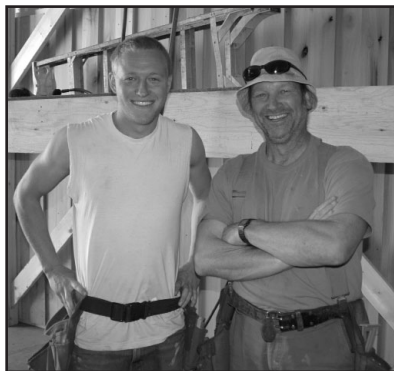
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Fleet Captain's Corner



Lack of wind cancels Sunday sailing

Last Sunday was the definition of a drifter. Not only was there no wind at race time there wasn't enough wind to sail at any point during the day. I know that many of you were relieved that the wind didn't pick up just enough to tempt us into setting the marks.

I was so envious of Dave Troeger's sailing when writing last week's column that I neglected to thank the committee boat members. There is a reason that envy is one of the seven deadly sins.

Belated but sincere thanks to Bad Patty, Deb Taghon, Good Patti, and Katie her sister-in-law for operating the committee boat two weeks ago. I'll try not to let it happen again.

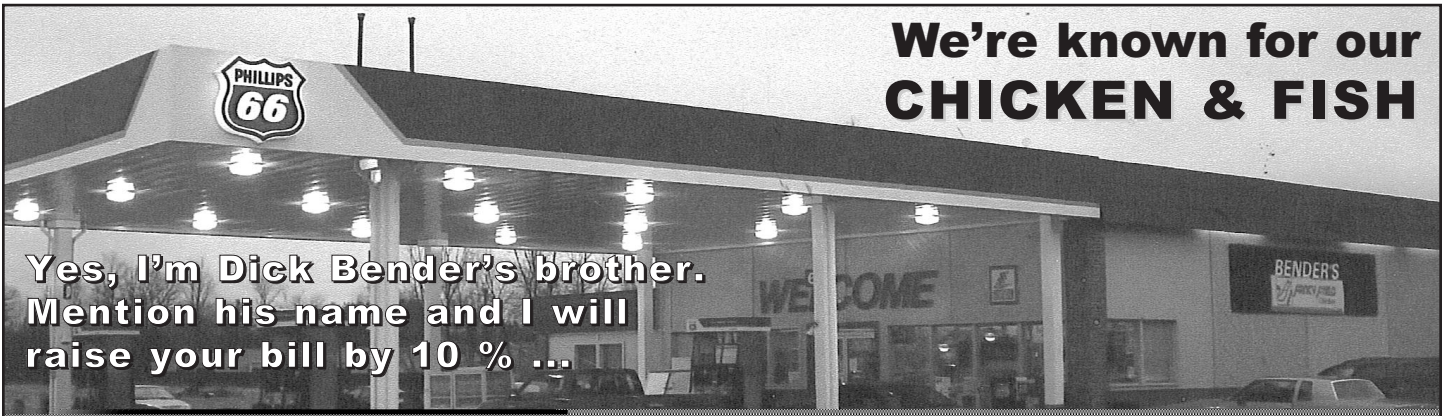
Oh, Wait! I almost forgot! I also want to thank Bad Patti, Good Patti, and Blair Garceau for volunteering to do the committee boat last week had the winds arrived.

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. 8.....Bob & Sue Waddle
Aug. 15.....Chas & Amber Grundy
Aug. 22.....Chas & Amber Grundy
Aug. 29.....Open
Labor Day RegattaOpen



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Water Quality Committee Report

Invasive species

There are numerous invasive plant species that could infect the quality of our lake. Fortunately, to date, we are aware of only two invasive species in existence here. Thanks to the past vigilance of lake residents and their Water Quality Committee, the challenges posed by those species seem to be largely under control.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE ALERT

It's that time of year again. We are going into our 11th year of the Birch Lake Purple Loosestrife program. We have already conducted some clean up on the west shore.

We need to keep an eye out for the pinkish-purple flowers. This plant blooms on Birch Lake from July through September along the shoreline. Although it has been found on all shores of the lake, it seems to favor the west shore. If you see this weed, or are not sure, please let us know so we can identify and advise or assist in the proper removal. Purple Loosestrife unchecked will overrun the native lake plants. It has no natural enemies, so it is up to us to keep it in check. Over the years we have seen much improvement, so we are having a positive effect on the problem. We may never be Purple loosestrife free, but we can certainly keep it in a manageable state with the help of everyone.

WHAT IS IT?

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

EFFECTS:

Purple Loosestrife invades marshes, ditches and lakeshores, quickly replacing native wetland plants. These plants form dense stands that ducks, frogs and other animals can not use for food or cover.

SPREAD:

Purple Loosestrife will grow from the roots of an established plant, however, the plants spread mainly by seed. Having up to 300,000 per stalk, these tiny seeds can live in the soil and water for many years and can be transported great distances by humans, animals and water.

EURASIAN MILFOIL UPDATE

In the past few weeks, our consult-



ant, Progressive AE, conducted their second survey of the lake for invasive plant species. The survey was once again over the entire lake as in past years. It was determined that the two sites treated previously would need a second, smaller treatment. The two areas are both on the East side: one on the southeast between the landing and Scott Troeger's and the second, on the northeast between Vitale's and Mosier's. Professional Lake Management has since treated the sites and we should be good for the rest of the season.

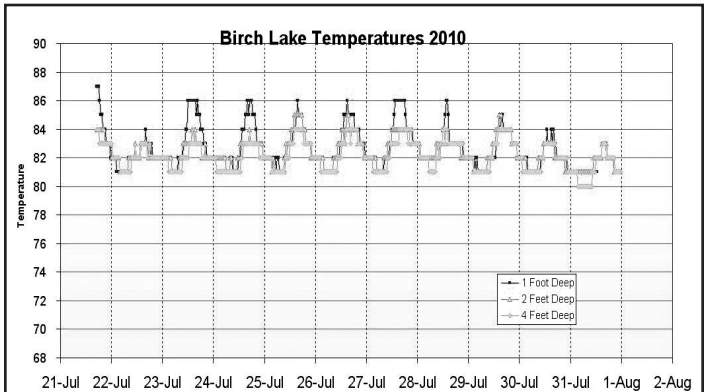
Your Water Quality Committee thanks you for your support

Don't miss the annual BIRCH LAKE GARAGE SALE

Saturday, August 14
8 am to 2 pm

at homes all over Birch Lake
and at the Birch Lake Yacht Club

To donate items for sale contact
Staci Whiteman or Bob Waddle



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

DEB THOMPSON

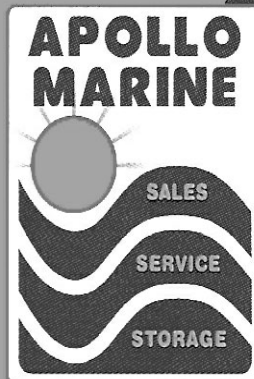
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Stu's Star Stuff

The closest star to earth

Today we'll talk about the brightest object in our sky. No, it's not the moon. It's the Sun. We overlook it because most generally we are looking at the heavens at night when the sun is on the other side of our world.

The sun is the closest star to the Earth, the center of the solar system and by far the largest object in it. It contains more than 99.8% of the total mass of the solar system (Jupiter contains most of the rest). It is exactly 1.0 AU (Astronomical Units, remember?) from the earth because as we learned weeks ago, AU = the distance of the Earth from the Sun, 93 million miles. The sun's surface is about 4 million degrees F while the core can reach 28 million F. Thankfully the sun is as far away as it is but even so we still get some pretty hot temperatures here on Earth. But why is it so bloody cold in the winter? We've talked about that before and will again, but not now.

It is often said that the Sun is an "ordinary" star. That's true in the sense that there are many others similar to it. But there are many more smaller stars than larger ones; the Sun is in the top 10% by mass and has a diameter of 864,000 miles, about 100,000 times that of Earth. The median size of stars in our galaxy is probably less than half the size of the Sun.

It just happens that the Moon and the Sun appear the same size in the sky as viewed from the Earth. And since the Moon orbits the Earth

in approximately the same plane as the Earth's orbit around the Sun sometimes the Moon comes directly between the Earth and the Sun. This is called a solar eclipse; if the alignment is slightly imperfect then the Moon covers only part of the Sun's disk and the event is called a partial eclipse. When it lines up perfectly the entire solar disk is blocked and it is called a total eclipse of the Sun. Partial eclipses are visible over a wide area of the Earth but the region from which a total eclipse is visible, called the path of totality, is very narrow, just a few kilometers (though it is usually thousands of kilometers long). Eclipses of the Sun happen once or twice a year. Here at the lake you're likely to see a partial eclipse several times per decade. But since the path of totality is so small it is unlikely that it will cross Birch Lake. So people often travel half way around the world just to see a total solar eclipse. To stand in the shadow of the Moon is an awesome experience. For a few precious minutes it gets dark in the middle of the day. The stars come out. The animals and birds think it's time to sleep. And you can see the solar corona. Perhaps worth a major journey and don't expect it any time soon around here.

At 5 billion years old our star is in it's infancy. But like all of us it will one day reach its demise. It will swell to encompass the Earth and perhaps Mars, explode and then contract to a dwarf star. Don't panic. It will be at

least 3 years from now.

The Sun is our most familiar star. Like all stars, it gives off heat and light, but it seems very different because it is so close. Without the Sun, the Earth would be frozen and dark and no life could exist here. Sunsets can be beautiful here at the lake and everywhere. And every sunrise starts a new warm, bright day - all thanks to the Sun! The show goes on in the daytime too. No extra charge. *-Stu Spratt*

The Moon for Aug 7, 2010

At Midnight, US Central time)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.048

1.8 days before new moon



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 your 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

Gems from Birch Lake

Bob Waddle ran across this article in the July 9, 1988 Barker

By: ARLENE MACHALLECK

Homesteaders of farmland whose boundaries touched the East shore of Birch Lake brought about many of the homes now here.

Genevieve Lagoni's grandparents, Henry and Oceana Sears, owned all the land from the present public landing to the now Haines (Decocker) house and the property up Birch Road past the farm house now (and still) occupied by the Mannings. He loved the natural beauty of the area and would not sell even an inch of his property.

But after his death in 1920, the lake shore area was platted and called Birch Shores. In 1924 an uncle of Genevieve's, Arthur Sears, moved the tenant house from their farm on Birch Road now occupied by the Hansons, to his property on the lake, now known as Larsons (Witchie), although old timers still refer to it as the Sears house, the first house in that section.

With the platting of the lots in 1924,

the north end of the Sear's farmhouse (now Mannings) was put on one of the new lots to show people that other lots were for sale. This house became the Parker, then Lagoni (Waxman) house; the 2nd in the Birch Shores plat. They joined the few other dwellings on the lake; the Harvey (Bernaciak) house and Lazy Lodge farther north on the east side and the Thayer house on the north shore.

Originally the road went by the shore, in front of the cottages. Knowing that the owners would like the road behind their cottages, Arthur Sears offered his property at the foot of the hill to the County in exchange for relocating the road.

Genevieve was born the year her grandfather Sears planted the row of stately pines on Birch Road; now a marker of great beauty to all, and a landmark to direct travelers to the lake.

Genevieve's mother was a twin and she and her brother, Ned, were born in Williamsville, a thriving community of 300 at that time. Her Great-Grandmother, Parthena Rinehart, lived

in a log cabin in the era of Chief Shavehead, and died when Genevieve was 3 years old.

The Parkers lived in Chicago and spent their summers at the lake so Genevieve spent every summer here since 1906; in her childhood many times coming alone by train either to Vandalia or Jones where she would be met by her grandparents.

In 1936 the Parkers made this their permanent home and Mrs. Parker died in 1959. At this time Genevieve, married to Pat Lagoni, teaching school and living in Niles, did some remodeling and used this for their weekend retreat. It was again remodeled in 1968. Pat died in 1961. Genevieve retired from teaching in 1973. She lives alone in her lovely home on Birch lake and loves all seasons. Preferring the cooler temperature, she enjoys the winters here as well as the summers.

Editor's note: Unfortunately, since this was written, Genevieve has also passed away. Her home is presently owned by the Waxmans.

BIRCH LAKE BASKETBALL CLUB

(CIRCA 1970)

The Birch Lake Basketball Camp opened July 5 and will run for five weeks this first year. Bill King and Herman Kruggel purchased Camp Kiloqua which was a former Camp Fire Girls summer camp. They have joined forces with Dave Rose, basketball coach at Brandywine High School, Niles, Michigan and Claer Wilhelm, basketball coach at Dowagiac, Michigan to form the Birch Lake Basketball Camp. Boys from grades 5 — 2 are eligible to attend. The boys will have access to three newly laid asphalt basketball courts with a total of 12 baskets. They also will be supervised in waterfront activities.

Joining Rose and Wilhelm on the coaching staff last week was Pat Clydesdale, assistant director at Western Michigan University, and Bob Nordman, 6'-10" Michigan State University assistant basketball coach. Future guest coaches include Gus Ganakas, head coach of the MSU Spartans, Eldon Miller, Western Michigan's newly appointed basketball coach, Ed Hagar, WMU freshman cage mentor and Joe Roberts, former team mate of Jerry Lucas, Bailey Powell and John Havelicek at Ohio State University.

Denny Weesner sent in this article from a 1970 Barker

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Marc & Lynn Caenepeel sent in this picture was taken in the late summer of 1946 from the front yard of Wee Wood towards the east side. You can just faintly see the piers of the camp. The yard appears to have been recently cleared since it probably was short brush and swamp grass?? The boy in the row boat in the middle of the picture could be one of my uncles?? The folks to the right in the picture are probably part of the Cranmer Klan, and the person in the boat to the far right most likely could be Harold Cranmer. The Sycamore tree with the swing hanging from it, is still on the bank at the edge of the lake today! A boat made from two halves of a WWII fighter plane's fuel tank is laying upside down at the edge of the lake.

Terry Keirn

Owner

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BIRCH LAKE WORD SEARCH

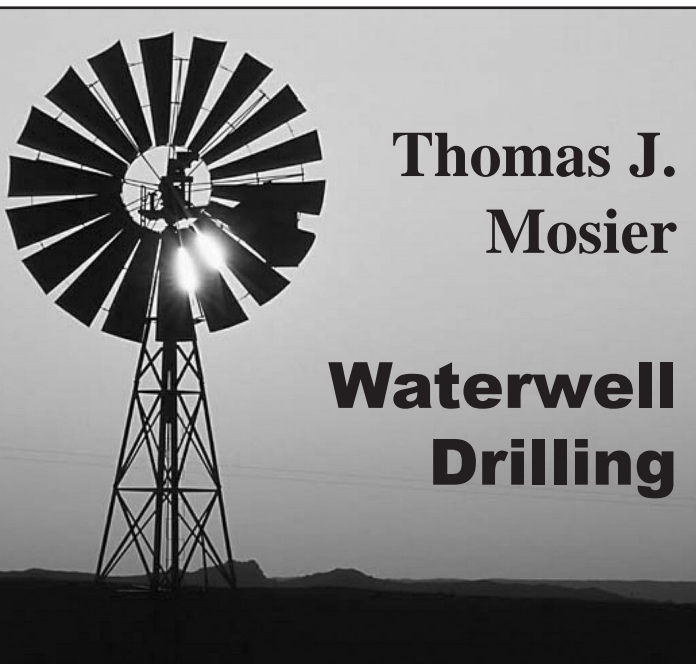
BIRCH LAKE NEIGHBORS

The Word Search puzzle at right contains the last names of several families at Birch Lake ...

See if you can find them all!

This is the last of the neighbors names. There are 27 in this one.

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

Welcome to August

Welcome to August. By the time many of you read this on Saturday, Camp 2010 will be over for the summer. Every year this last week of camp seems to sneak up on me faster than the year before. People keep asking me if I'm excited about the end of camp, and I always say no, I'm never happy for the end of camp. However, I will be relieved to wrap up the summer, and hopefully get some sleep next week!

If you do read this on Friday evening, come on out for the candlelight serenade down at the waterfront around 9 pm. If you've never been here for this ceremony, it's really an amazing thing to see. We proceed down the stairs, carrying our candles, and singing. When we reach the lake, we line up along the pier, float our candles in the water, and serenade everyone out on the water.

We've had a record year for camper numbers. We finished the year with 495 "regular" campers, just 5 short of our original 500 goal. But we had a grand total of 571 beds filled for the summer! So we're up 62 regular campers from last year. That's almost a 15% increase in one year! Even more amazing to me, my first year as camp director we had just 350 regular campers, so in 5 years we've increased 41% from that first summer, and if you look at the beds filled, it's a 54% increase in 5 years.

This week we came very close to filling up camp. We have 106 campers, making it our second biggest week of the summer! The theme was Survivor Week, and we had lots of exciting games and challenges throughout the week. Sunday

night was Capture the Flag, Monday the kids cooked out and tie-dyed bandanas for their "tribes," Tuesday we had water relays down at the lake, Wednesday was talent show, and Thursday we had a giant relay which spanned the entire camp!

Looking back over the summer, it's so bittersweet to realize that it's already over. We've had a great year, with wonderful counselors and campers. For the first time in my tenure as camp director, we didn't have a single staff member get fired or quit! While 8 weeks doesn't seem that long looking back, it is incredibly exhausting. The staff work basically 24 hours a day, 6 days a week, and they're constantly running around chasing the kids all day. So to get through an entire summer without losing anyone is really amazing to me!

We had lots of lake kids and grand-kids attending this year, and this last week of camp I noted that we had 22 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, godchildren, or other relatives of lake folks! Also this last week, we had more than 10 kids whose parents worked here in the past.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Hog Roast last weekend, and to all those who made donations. We hope you all enjoyed the great food and drink, and had a fun time!

As much as I'm going to miss camp, I think Avery is going to miss it more! He's had such a fun summer, and he loves all the kids and all the attention he gets every day. He gets passed around, and pushed around in his stroller, and he's really part of the action. When we



get home, he's going to think we're so boring! It's been a great year, and Chas, Avery, and I are all looking forward to spending more time down on the lake and seeing all of our Birch Lake friends and neighbors.

-Miss Amber

From the Board President

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Centennial Celebration / Hog Roast on Saturday. We ended up with about 235 guests, many of whom were reconnecting with Camp Fire. All told, the event was a tremendous success and we are working to keep the fires burning. Special thanks to Cal King and Neil Troeger for driving the golf carts and Stan Pitakos and Karen Brovold for helping with the check-in table.

In other news, one of our Club groups heard we were facing financial hurdles and decided to take matters into their own hands. They've designed "Save Our Camp" t-shirts and are selling them for \$15. They are seeking corporate matches for the money they raise. Learn more at SaveOurCamp.com.

If you haven't gotten your Harding's grocery card yet (up to 4% of your purchase price gets donated back to Camp Fire) you can call Karen Brovold at 476-8862. We'll also have a few up at the Camp Store during checkout this weekend.

The next few months will be very busy as we close out the 2010 summer programs and begin work on 2011. If you are interested in volunteering in some capacity - finance, marketing, grantwriting, event planning, etc. - please let me know.

Thanks,

-Chas

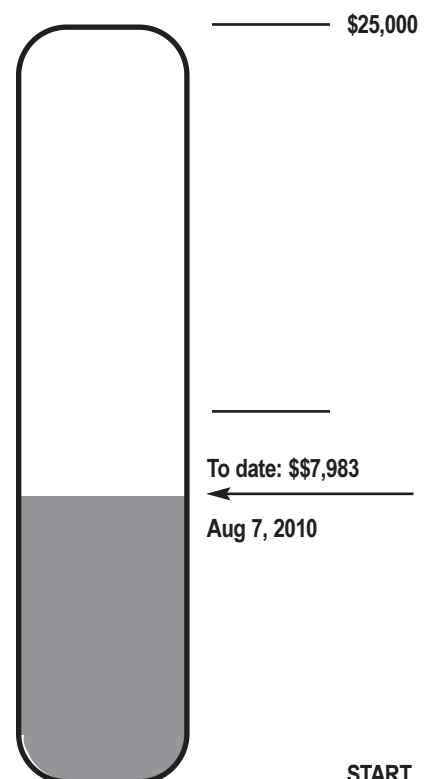
We are now accepting bids for the following items in the the Camp Tannadoonah silent auction:

- * One week at a Florida condo at Holiday Island C33, 1515 Pinellas Bayway, Tierra Verde, FL; \$500 Minimum bid. **ITEM 1001**
- * 4X8 Pace utility trailer \$700 **ITEM 1002**
- * A beautiful, hand-made birch wood table **ITEM 1003**
- * a football to be autographed by Brian Kelly (winner submits it and gets a personalized autograph) **ITEM 1004**
- * a stained glass piece by Marty McKiernan **ITEM 1005**
- * a dinner party for 8 at Camp Tannadoonah **ITEM 1006**
- * 2-Bears vs Redskins tickets for October 24 at noon **ITEM 1007**
- * 2 more Bears vs Redskins tickets **ITEM 1008**
- * 2-Tickets to Colts vs Bengals preseason game Sept. 2 **ITEM 1009**
- * 2 more Colts vs Bengals tickets **ITEM 1010**
- * A new upright vacuum cleaner **ITEM 1011**
- * Three 10-lb. Ameritex commercial fire extinguishers **ITEMS 1012-1014**
- * Packets of photo prints by Carol Dugan **ITEM 1015**
- * Beautiful hand-made necklace and pin (\$88 value) **ITEM 1016**
- * 2 rounds of golf at Sauganash Golf Club (with cart) **ITEM 1017**
- * A 20 x28" color photograph of the Dome and Basilica from across the lake looking south with a fog foreground - beautiful **ITEM 1018**
- * 5 - 16 x 18" Notre Dame related football color photographs (very unusual), 1 is a full length of new head coach Brian Kelly, others include unusual montages (all photos are mounted on foamcore with 2" matte borders. They would make outstanding den or office décor. **ITEMS 1019-1023**

To bid on any of these items, please send a sealed bid with the item number printed on the outside of the envelope; Bids will be opened on Aug. 28. Send to: Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

More items and photos of selected items will appear in next week's Barker

Camp Tannadoonah Needs \$25,000 ...



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50th annual BLYC Golf Outing

Hole-In-One made at 50th annual BLO

This years men's 50th Annual Birth Lake Open was another successful event. We had 18 teams and wonderful support from many people to make this outing so much fun.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary, Art and Artie McElwee sponsored a hole-in-one contest on the three par three's on the course. Jack Gale, a guest of Gus Eshleman, made a hole-in-one on the eighth hole. Although the hole-in-one was not on one of the contest holes, the thrill and excitement of the hole-in-one was something to talk about all evening.

There are many sponsors and donors to thank for this years event. Rick and Patti Russwurm, Phil Vitale, Mike and Amy Lutz, Drew Johnson, Brian Machalleck and Herm Kruggel sponsored holes and Tom Nevala, Bernie Garceau, Bud Zesinger, Paul Fallon, Terry Wiseman, Rick Doolittle, Tim

Steffen, Brian Rzepka and Gus Eshleman donated door prizes.

We had wonderful help from Deb Taghon, Becky Wiseman, Sandy Baucus, Ashlee Baucus, Carol Freihofer, Rhonda Eshleman, and Denny Weesner to make the dinner run smoothly.

This years event was won by Team Baucus which shot 58, 14 under par.

Coming in second place was Team Eshleman and third place went to Team Zesinger.

After golf, Scott's Pig Roast & More, along with our volunteers served up grilled rib eye steaks with all the trimmings to the golfers back at the Yacht Club.

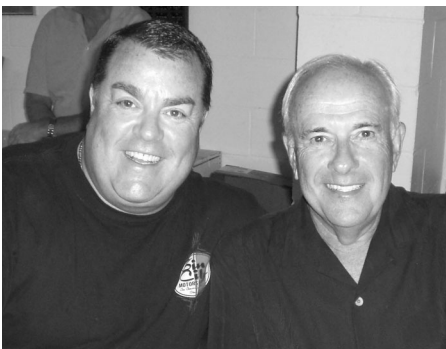
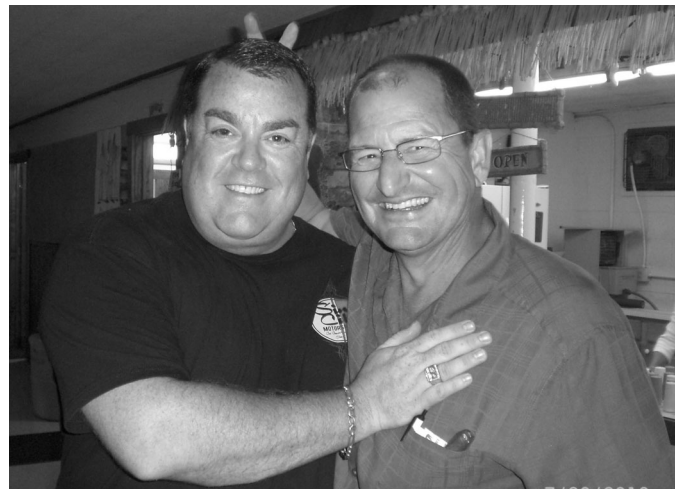
Stewart Spratt did a wonderful job organizing our dinner and awards presentation. Stewart stepped in last minute to pick up the ball and pulled



everything together to make our day complete.

Thanks again to our sponsors, donors and volunteers for making this event happen.

Artie and Fry



2010 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

Commodore—Bob Waddle—476-2293;
cell: 269-365-7696
Vice Comm.—Stan Pitakos—476-8862
Fleet Capt. — Jeff Smitley — 476-9000
Treas. — Holly Troeger—476-9898
Secretary —Sandy Vitale—476-1680
Past Comm.—Paul Fallon—476-1467

BLYC Directors:

North — Rick Russwurm—476-2407
Fred Freihofer—476-9823
Mike Lutz — 476-2843; (cell) 269-207-1153
Bob Baucus — 476 2863
Cell: 574-535-4946 Home: 269-641-5644
East — Scott Troeger—476-9898
Jim Bolinger—476-9737
Phil Vitale—476-1680
Lind Harman — 476-2039
Hill — PJ VandeWalle —574-292-5966
South — Terry Dugan—476-2814
Sue Williams —476-8886
West — Harold Cranmer—476-2170
Karen Brovold — 476-8862
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.

BLYC Fleet Captain
Jeff Smitley — 476-9000

Phil Vitale—476-1680

Home Owners Comm.
Jim Bolinger, Chairman—476-9737
Rick Russwurm—476-2407
Scott Troeger—476-9898
Paul Fallon—476-1467

BLYC Water Quality Comm.
Paul Fallon, Chairman — 476-1467
Rick Russwurm.—476-2407
Terry Dugan—476-2814
Gordon Seyfarth — n/a
Bruce Wagner — 476-2090



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

2010 Dues, Contribution & Donation Form

SUPPORT THE BLYC; SUPPORT THE BIRCH LAKE COMMUNITY!



- \$ _____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$25 / year)
- \$ _____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ _____ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ _____ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ _____ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ _____ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ _____ - Water Quality Program
- \$ _____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication Program
- \$ _____ - Riparian (\$8/yr, for magazine)
- \$ _____ - Safety Committee
- \$ _____ - Other non-party related expenses

Total contribution \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to BLYC

**Mail to BLYC
c/o Holly Troeger
1516 Ash Dr. East
Elkhart, IN 46514**



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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR RENT

Cottage for rent. Three bedrooms, sleeps six on Birch Lake's beautiful north shore. Indoor plumbing. Contact Stewart Spratt at 574.514.0667.

2 Bedroom 2 Bath Condo — Newly renovated. Located on Tierra Verde Island just south of St. Pete Beach. Situated on the beautiful Boca Ciega Bay. The complex offers views of the Sunshine Skyway from the pool and hot tub. Clubhouse has Big Screen TV, Pool Table and Fitness Facility. 3 mins. from award winning Fort DeSoto. For rent by month or season. Weekly rentals negotiable. email: Barb Rondot at babsdot@verizon.net (ps Don't forget to collect those plastic caps for cancer!)



FOR SALE

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

Remember the "SKI DISK?" This is a 42"

round plywood disk for

the adventurous soul who wants to take skiing up a notch. If you think skiing is fun, you'll love the disk. You 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

For Sale - **MC Sailboat No. 618** - a proven winner - fast and ready to race (2 Sails) - \$1500 Ph 476-2170 or (574)-264-6817

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

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

Sold cottage. Selling **Shore Station brand with 24 volt, solar charged, remote** controlled lift system. Rated 3,200# for V Hull Inboard & I/O Stern Drive. White top, cables & lift system two years old. Includes battery tray, spring loaded gunnel guides and bow stop. Excellent condition. Invested value \$7,800 selling for \$4,500. Phone (269) 535-0213

Used Aqua Cat 12' Catamaran. Trailer and lift included. On the lake, can sail it home. For information and video clip go to : <http://www.americansail.com/> \$250 OBO, call Dave or Terry Carroll @ 574-850-0359

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.

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

The volunteer bartenders at the BLYC have asked for **two backless barstools** for their behinds while they're behind the bar. Anyone have a couple they're looking to get rid of?

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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