

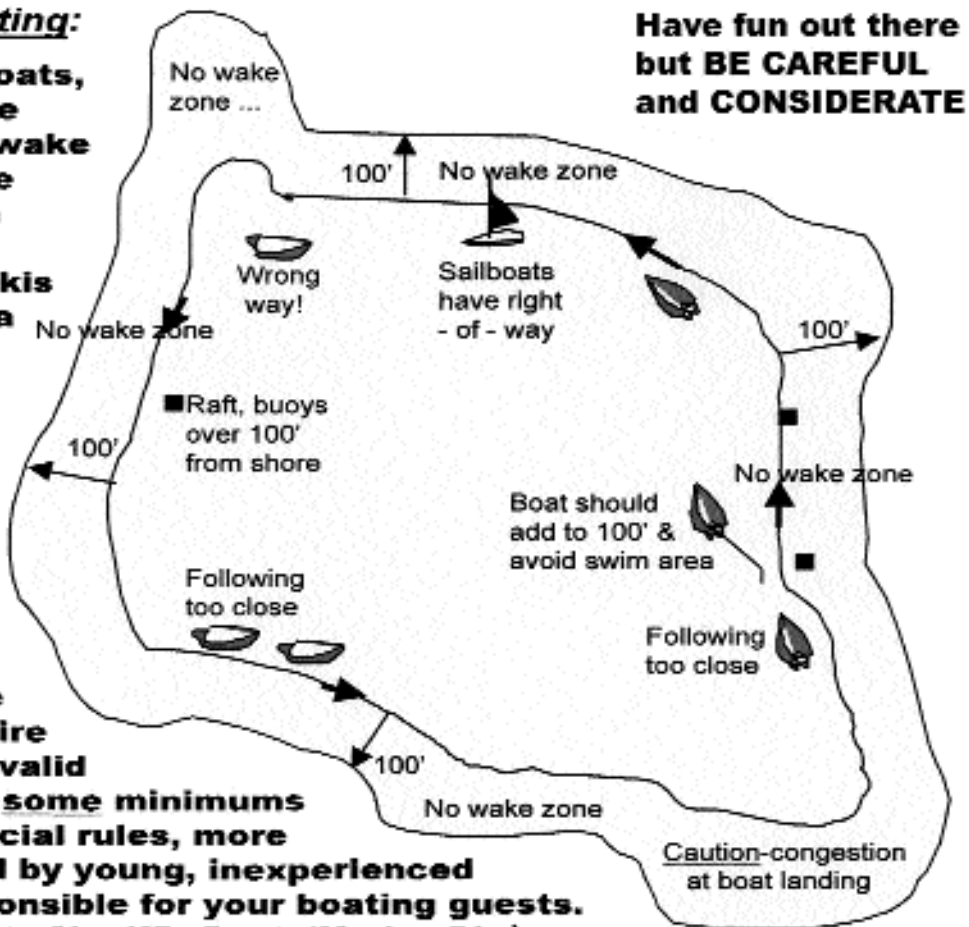
Birch Barker

Weekend of May 29, 2011

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Common-Sense Boating:

- * **Go slow near other boats, rafts & shore. You are responsible for your wake**
- * **Take your time & give room - stay 100' from boats, rafts & shore**
- * **Pulling someone on skis or tube requires extra caution, an observer & add the length of your tow line to the 100' rule**
- * **Drive only in the counter-clock-wise direction (flow)**
- * **One wearable USCG life jacket must be available for each person on board! One throwable device, a fire extinguisher, horn & valid boat registration are some minimums**
- * **PWCs have many special rules, more caution must be used by young, inexperienced drivers. You are responsible for your boating guests.**
- * **Consult the Cass County Sheriff's Dept. (Marine Div.) for Michigan boating laws**



**Have fun out there
but BE CAREFUL
and CONSIDERATE**

Happy Memorial Day!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Happy Memorial Weekend. Summer is officially here!!! The first printed Barker of the 2011 season is hot off the press and being read over breakfast and coffee.

For the past 20 or so years I have looked forward to this weekend, the pier, raft and boat are in and my Barker has been delivered, life is GREAT. Now I have Claire reading it over my shoulder and telling me not to be so pokey, she wants to sit on the pier, catch some sun and soak up the lake news.

How did you like the Spring dinner? Karen worked me to the bone to get everything done on time. I think I must have lost 10 pounds under her grueling demands. I hope you enjoyed the food, again Karen had me thinking about the colors of food, how they would look on the plate and how this would go with

that, utilizing both sides of the buffet line, etc., etc., my head was spinning.

Thanks to Bob and Leslie for helping create and addressing the brochures, Jeff and Denise for manning the registration table, Pam and Claire assisting Karen with the flower arrangements, Mike moving tables, chairs and helping gather things up, and to Patti Russwurm for manning the Patticam.

We had 96 attendees with two new couples that this was their very first Spring dinner.

Pam and I would like to remind our neighbors to invite someone who hasn't attended a Yacht Club function before or who hasn't attended in a while. It's a fun way to get to know our Birch Lake family.

The Vice-commodore cocktail party is June 11th, so you have two weeks to extend an invitation. I will have stories to tell about our vacation to Florida,

continued on page 2

Birch Lake House Walk Saturday July 9th - see page 6

BLYC Calendar

2011 Calendar of Events

- Sat, June 4.....Board Meeting 9 am
- Sat, June 11.....Vice Commodore's Party TBA.....Ladies Coffee 10 am
- Sat, June 25.....Commodore's Party
- Sat, July 2.....Boat Parade
- Sat, July 2.....Fireworks
- Sun, July 3.....Pancake Breakfast
- Sun, July 3.....Fireworks Rain Date
- Sat, July 9.....Board Meeting 9 am
- Sat, July 9.....Homeowners Meeting 10 am
- Sat, July 9.....House-walk
- Sat, July 16.....Spaghetti Dinner
- Fri, July 22.....Women's Golf & Luncheon
- Fri, July 29.....Men's Golf Outing
- Sat, Aug. 6.....Board Meeting 9 am
- Sat, Aug. 6.....Corn and Sausage Roast
- Sat, Aug. 27.....Fall Dinner
- Sat, Sept. 10.....Board Meeting 9 am
- Sat, Sept. 10.....Sailing Awards
- Sat, Sept. 17-24.....Game / Card Party
- Sat, October 8.....Annual Chili Cook Off

Note: ALL dates and times are subject to change. Watch the Barker for updates!

The Birch Barker is always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvital.com, 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 Stan Pitakos at (269) 476-8862. -Phil Vitale, editor

— Birch Lake Notes —

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS CONTINUED ...

(our Fall Dinner silent auction prize.)

Road clean-up on May 7th went well, with 10 very dedicated Lakers. Thank you very, very much for picking up other peoples trash. It's a crappy job that brings great satisfaction in having our surroundings unmarred. Plus we all get a little exercise.

We have a nice start on our Yacht Club membership dues with 79 paid members and 3 paid non-members (directors need to have their dues paid

up), the 4th of July Fireworks donations are also coming in at a good pace. Jim has delivered the signed contract and the Fireworks are going to be on Saturday July 2nd at dusk. Carla is working on the boat parade also for July 2nd.

I hope the weather cooperates and brings sunshine and 80+ degrees for the weekend, with a just the right amount of wind for the sailors. Please be safe, remember the rules of the lake.

Also, this Memorial weekend, please take a moment to think about the past, present and future service men and women who put their lives in harm's

way to provide us with the Freedoms and Security that we ALL enjoy. Thank-you!! God Bless America!!!

Your ever-thankful
Commodore,
-Stan

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Denise Smitley; May 19th. 29 and holding???

Happy Birthday to Stewart Spratt May 23rd. Just 4 more years til the big one.

Boat Launch repair completed.

The first part of May, the County Road Commission and the Parks Dept. worked to eliminate the potholes at the Sears Park launch site. They will also be monitoring it to keep it in a better condition than it was. If you have a chance, thank either or both of those departments for their work.

Pier fairies visit ...

Newsflash: Pier Fairies visit North shore (not that there's anything wrong with that) — on arrival Saturday morning, what to my wondering eyes should appear? The pier was already in! Every year Lakers toil to rebuild > 200 jigsaw puzzles, usually with just one or two people knowing how the pieces fit. Many thanks to those who launched our pier. You are peerless! 12 oz tokens of appreciation available at the boathouse ~ *The Kings*

Groundhog trap wanted

We are trying to catch a few pesty groundhogs at the house in town. Apparently, based on results, I accidentally bought a possum trap. The first catch was a grizzly old snarling silver-back. The second catch was a young female (who moved in and promptly delivered four possum puppies in the trap). Willing to trade. Make offer. In the alternative, we are interested in your best family possum recipes ... Contact Bobthegroundhogkiller at 1-800-groundhogsareus.

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Water Quality Committee Report

The water quality committee will continue to provide monitoring services regarding the health and safety of Birch Lake, as well as to survey for and eliminate invasive species as feasible. The monitoring services regarding the health of the lake are through two programs. One is the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) which is managed by the Michigan Clean Water Program (MiCorps). We participate in this program through our association with the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, and this is all done in concert with the Department of Natural Resources. Monitoring includes weekly evaluation of water transparency, spring and summer phosphorous sampling, monthly chlorophyll sampling, and frequent evaluation of the temperature and dissolved oxygen profile through the water column at the deepest part of the lake. Labs at Michigan State conduct the actual analysis for phosphorous and chlorophyll from the samples provides.

The second program is through an independent limnologist, Dr. Wallace Fusilier, who provides this service on approximately 90 lakes in Michigan. For the CLMP program we do all the sampling and measuring except for the laboratory analysis. For the program with Dr. Fusilier, we do some of the sampling in concert with sampling he does in the summer. In-house monitoring and sampling services are performed

by Dr. Terry Dugan and Gordon Seyfarth.

The entire CLMP report can be found at the Michigan Lakes and Stream Association web site <http://www.mlswa.org>. This is a very educational report to read that includes not only the data for Birch Lake and all the other lakes in the program, but an overview of lake biology. Dr. Fusilier provides us with an individualized report that each of the Water Quality members have and we will hope to put on the Barker website for everyone to read. This also is an excellent primer on what we look for and why.

Since there had been some concern regarding swimming safety a couple of years ago, we also randomly check throughout the summer for the presence of E coli. This data will be provided as it is collected during the summer. Please note that we have not identified an issue here but will remain diligent in the monitoring.

Rick Russwurm contracts with an outside agency for survey and eradication of asian milfoil, and he and Bruce Wagner survey and actually pull out purple loosestrife as it is found. These are but two invasive species that if unchecked could dramatically alter our lake. Others are on their way and we will evaluate programs for identification and management as the issue arises. Michigan Lakes and Streams is a good

source for information on other invasive species.

All programs are in place for the long term evaluation on the State of the Lake so we can look at issues from year to year. At this point we see little that is different from last year. We will have more on that specifically as the summer goes on. However, suffice it to say that is a good thing. In the absence of dramatic differences in weather patterns from year to year, stability in observations should be the norm. The lake will age as that is the natural progression of things. We just do not want to help it along though our activities. We will also have more on that as the summer progresses.

In the meantime, please recall that fertilizer washing into our lake is not a good thing. If you feel you have to fertilize your lawn, please try to do so only minimally and use only a phosphorous free fertilizer. Gert and Bob Temple still have a supply of phosphorous free fertilizer at their home which they'd be delighted to share with any lake resident at a nominal cost.



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- Piers and Seawalls

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- Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
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Lawn Care

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- Tree and shrub trimming
- Rototill your garden
- Mowing and Trimming
- Fertilizing

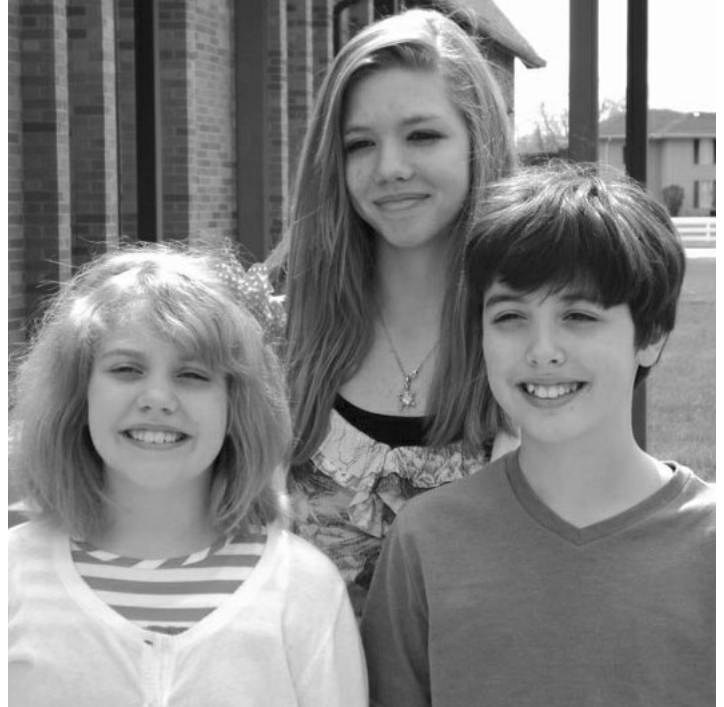
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— Barker kids of the Week —



First dip in the cold lake honors to Elle Guyton (left), who said it was freezing! Ellie he is the granddaughter of Diana Wozny & Craig Fredlake (South Side) and Bob Wozny's (West Side).

The Zesinger kids (above) also make kid of the week honors ... this good looking trio are the children of Brad and Lynne Zesinger, and grandchildren of Bud and Barb Zesinger (East Side).

E-mail your kid-of-the-month photos to sailorphil@philvital.com ... or put them in a plastic bag and drop them at my home, 63174 Birch Rd.

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— Barker critters of the Week —



Congratulations to the family of Bob & Sandy Baucus (North Side) who welcomed new pup Abbie to their household this spring ... ain't she a cutie?

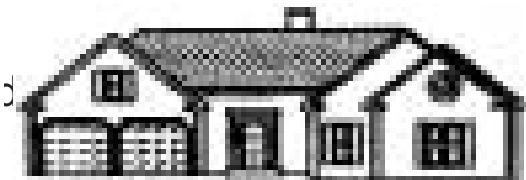
And how could we not publish this great photo of Wrigley resuming his boat rides now that his boat is back in the water. Wrigley is the dog who lets Jeff and Denise Smitley (West Side) feed and worship him ...



To see your kid or pet in the Birch Barker, e-mail your kid-of-the-month photos to sailorphil@philvitale.com ... or put them in a plastic bag and drop them at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. on the East Side of Birch Lake

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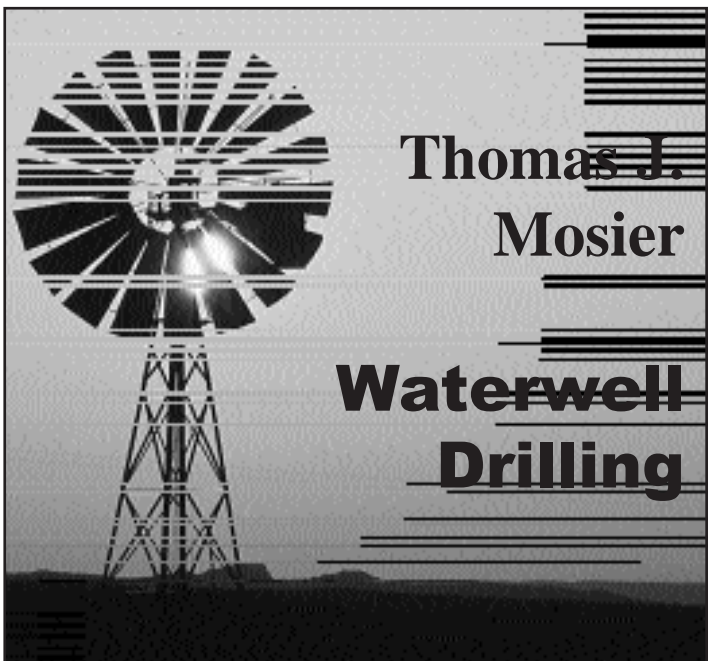
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BLYC House Walk/Art Fair 2011

It's only six weeks until our Birch Lake House Walk/ Art Fair on Saturday, July 9th!! The Birch Lake House Walk has really turned into a charming, much anticipated event, with the generous loan by Ben and Vanessa Wozniak of their barn and the hard work of our dedicated group of boat captains and crew.

We are very excited that six families have agreed to make their unique and wonderful homes available to view on the tour. The combination of these elements has really made this a wonderful social event enjoyed by the entire lake and has made this special place even more unique.

The day's festivities will begin with several local artists and vendors displaying their work at the Wozniak barn starting at 11 am. We will have free refreshments and several drawings going on throughout the day. The house walk will begin at 12 noon and, due to favorable response from the previous house walk, all participants will once again be ferried from house to house by pontoon boat. All participants must check in at the barn to pick up their brochures and begin their tour.

The participants will end the tour at the barn where the artists will be displaying their work until 4 pm. The last home tour will begin by 2 pm at the latest in order to finish by 3 pm so please plan accordingly. A limited amount of parking will be available at the barn so please walk or carpool if possible.

Each week, in the Barker, we will feature one of the homes on the tour.

Tickets are on sale for \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the tour. All proceeds are going to Camp Tannadoonah for camperships (underprivileged children). We will be selling tickets at the Pancake Breakfast and door to door. Tickets can also be purchased from Linda Curtis and Sue Waddle on the East shore, Bev Kruggel on the West shore, Denny Weesner and Diana Fredlake on the South shore, and Vickie Rogers in the cove.

Don't miss out on this fun filled day! Mark your calendars for July 9th. A limited amount of ad space is available on the brochure. All ads must be submitted

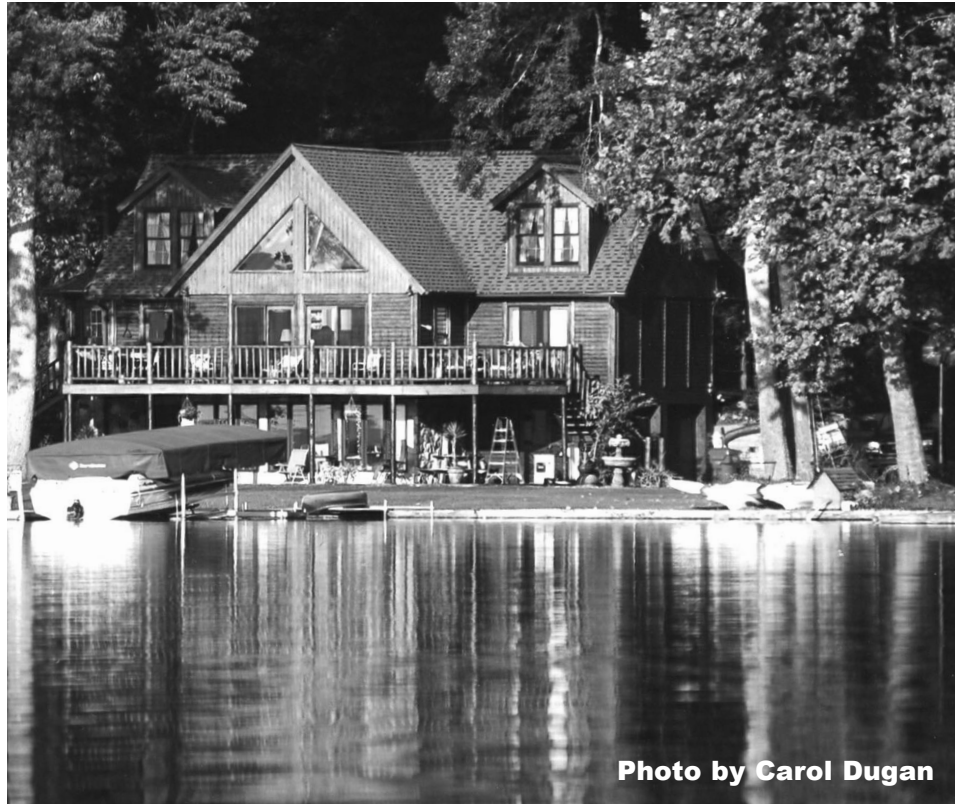


Photo by Carol Dugan

by July 11th. Please call Michelle Seyfarth at 476-1319 for further information or any questions concerning the event.

One of the homes on the tour is the Sheffieck family home at 62875 Birch Lakeview Dr. (west shore).

Home #1 — Mike & Julie Sheffieck

Having grown up in the Ann Arbor and Detroit areas, Julie and Mike Sheffieck were well acquainted with the beauty of Michigan lakes. Julie camped a lot during her childhood on Clear Lake near Ann Arbor and always wished that one day she could live on a lake. After the Sheffiecks moved to Chicago in 1989, Julie's lake dream moved to the back-ground.

Starting in 2008, Julie and Mike began making weekly trips to southwestern Michigan lakes, trying to find the perfect spot within two hours of home. After investigating many houses and lakes and unsuccessfully bidding on one home in Paw Paw, they stumbled upon this beautiful log house on Birch Lake in April 2009 and fell in love with

it.

Built by the Walker family in 1988, the 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath house with an expansive view met virtually all of the Sheffieck's wish list. After handling some major maintenance matters shortly after moving in, Julie and Mike have remodeled two bathrooms, replaced some appliances in the kitchen and installed a stone retaining wall across the street to expand their parking. They love the simple floor plan and Northern Michigan cabin feel of their lake house. And while you can't choose your neighbors, the Sheffiecks feel blessed to have absolutely the best neighbors in the world and have loved how welcome the Birch Lake community has made them feel.

Their log home is a get-away from the pressures of Chicago, a retreat among good friends. Julie and Mike's four children — David (26), Greg (25), Emily (23) and Elizabeth (21) — don't come to the lake very much due to work conflicts, but the lake house has served as a rendezvous for family from Detroit, Grand Rapids, and other parts.

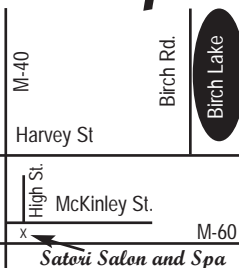
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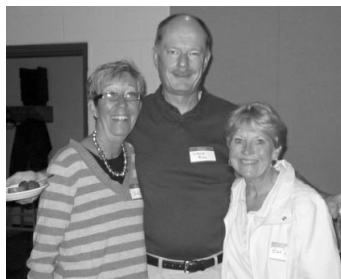
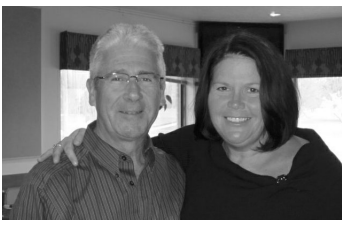
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BLYC Spring Dinner



~Birch Lake Recipes~

YEA SUMMER! It's time to fire up the grill ... and ENJOY!



Filet Mignon with Bacon Cream Sauce

Prep Time: 10 Min

Original Recipe Yield 4 servings

Ingredients

- 4 (4 ounce) beef tenderloin filets
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 3 slices bacon, chopped
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 4 shallots, diced
- 1/4 cup half-and-half cream
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-

high heat, and lightly oil the grate.

2. Brush the filets with olive oil, and cook on the preheated grill to desired doneness (about 4 minutes per side for medium rare). An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 130 degrees F (54 degrees C). Set the steaks aside on a platter tented with aluminum foil to rest.

3. While the steaks are resting, prepare the sauce: cook and stir the chopped bacon in a small saucepan over medium heat until the bacon pieces are crisp, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in the butter and shallots,

and cook and stir until the shallots are soft and translucent, about 5 minutes more. Stir in the half-and-half, bring the mixture to a simmer over medium-low heat, and cook, stirring occasionally, until the sauce is slightly thickened, about 8 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper, and serve over the steaks.

WORDSEARCH — Spring Flowers

Find each of the following words.

PEONY
LILLY
TRILLIUM
LILAC
HONEYSUCKLE
HYACINTH
AZALEA
FUCHSIA

HIBISCUS
COLUMBINE
IRIS
CROCUS
DAFFODIL
PHLOX
FORGETMENOTS
TULIPS

GERANIUMS
GARDENIA
POPPIES
PERIWINKLE
FORSYTHIA
ZINNIA
RHODODENDRON
VIOLET

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



Fleet Captain's Corner



Welcome to the start of sailing season

Hello everyone, I'm Jeff Smitley and I'll be returning as your Fleet Captain. Since this is my last year as Fleet Captain, I am looking for a Vice Fleet Captain. To entice a volunteer, they can be known as the Captain of Vice, if they so desire. (I know it's an old joke, but hey, we haven't yet been sailing and I need some filler.)

Speaking of sailing... I'd like to congratulate last year's season and Labor Day Regatta winners. Scott

Troeger finished the season first in the MC class and Rick Russwurm for the Sunfish. In the Labor Day Regatta, Scott also finished first and Erica Vitale won in her Sunfish.

If anyone is contemplating racing, feel free to come to our annual start of the season sailors' meeting; it will be held at the Yacht Club on Saturday, May 28th at 10:00 AM. We will be covering our usual topics such as: course layout, season and regatta scoring, etc. We will also be discussing the

Memorial Day Regatta. There will need to be at least 3 boats in a class to hold the race.

If anyone would like to sign up for the committee boat and see the sailboat races up close, no experience is necessary; my Lovely Bride, Denise, would accompany you and teach you "the ropes." Please call us at 476-9000 or email me at jsmitley@ameritech.net. See you at the starting line...

-Fleet Captain Jeff

2010 BLYC Labor Day Regatta

Date 5-Sep 5-Sep 5-Jun 6-Sep 6-Sep Total

MC Scow

Scott Troeger #500	1	1	1	1	1	5
Jeff Smitley #2002	5	2	3	2	2	14
Harold Cranmer #2412	3	6	2	3	4	18
Phil Vitale #500	2	4	6	5	5	22
Bill Luecht #1579	4	3	5	6	6	24
Dave Olson #1979	7	7	4	7	3	28
Bob King #1199	6	5	7	4	7	29

Sunfish

Erica Vitale (White)	3	1	2	2	1	9
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	4	3	1	3	2	13
Stewart Spratt	2	5	6	1	4	18
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White)	1	2	5	6	5	19
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	6	8	3	5	6	28
Chris - Scofield's Family	5	4	4	8	8	29
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	8	8	8	4	3	31

Regatta Scoring: This regatta was scored using the Low Point System as specified in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012, Appendix A. For this Regatta all races are counted. For each race, a boat's finishing place is her race score. A boat which did not compete or did not finish in a race (marked * above) is given a score equal to the number of boats competing in the series plus one.

2010 BLYC Final Sailing Season Standings

Race	Total Points	Season Average	Races Finished	% Finished
MC Scow		38		
Scott Troeger #1489/500	46979	1566	30	78.9%
Bob King #1199	45881	1390	33	86.8%
Harold Cranmer #2412	50831	1374	37	97.4%
Jeff Smitley #2002	47094	1346	35	92.1%
Phil Vitale #500	43807	1327	33	86.8%
Don Harman #582	36815	1315	28	73.7%
Dave Olson #1979	43802	1288	34	89.5%
Bill Luecht #1579	44605	1274	35	92.1%
Gib Eberhart #916	38593	1245	30	78.9%
Sunfish			34	
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	42938	1534	28	82.4%
Erica Vitale (White)	42460	1516	28	82.4%
Stewart Spratt	33860	1472	23	67.6%
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	36382	1399	25	73.5%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	41469	1338	31	91.2%

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Now, let's go play some golf!

Stu's Star Stuff

Welcome back folks. I hope you all had a great fall, winter and spring and I hope you didn't miss the spectacular meteor showers and especially the Vogon Space Parade in the off season. So what's going on now?

There's a planet pile-up in the east shortly before dawn this month. Venus, the brightest object in the night sky after the Moon, is the dominant player right now, but Jupiter, which ranks right behind Venus, is taking over. Mercury briefly joins them, but it's much fainter. Mars is also nearby, but it is closer to the Sun and almost impossible to find in the dawn glare.

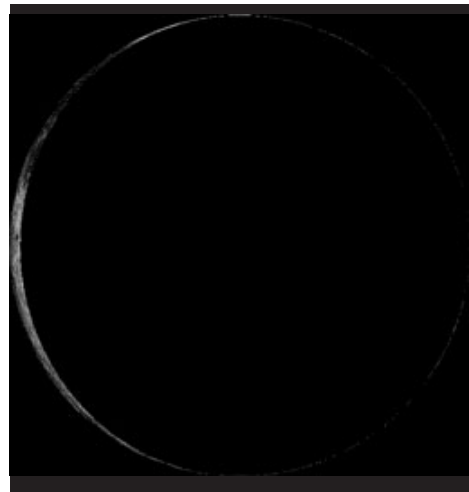
The celestial scorpion is skittering across the southern sky during our late-spring nights. Its tail clears the southeastern horizon in late evening, and the scorpion remains visible throughout the night. Its brightest star is bright orange Antares, the scorpion's heart. We will

be able to watch it all summer long. More on Antares to come later this summer.

At this point I have to apologize for pointing out features that are most visible from the north shore. I do this a lot because when I walk out on my pier that's what I see. In a way it's kinda like the guy that takes one step out on his deck and shoots a photo and submits it to the on-line Barker month after month.

I love to watch the tea pot chase the scorpion across the south shore throughout the summer. But those of you on the south side of the lake see none of that. But fear not. I will cater to all in future contributions. But for now, look for Jupiter as it stands well to the right of the Moon at first light tomorrow, with Venus a little closer to the Moon's lower left. The two planets outshine all the true stars in the night sky, making them easy to pick out. And best of all, the show is free.

-Stu Spratt



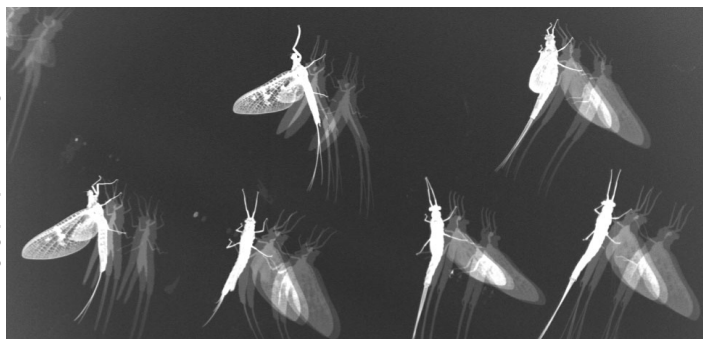
The Moon for May 28, 2011

Illuminated Fraction: 0.120

3.6 days before new moon



Cool Mayfly pix provided by Mr. Bob



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BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20) — Try to curb your habits, or you could find yourself in an awkward financial position. Don't be afraid to push your beliefs and attitudes. You may have taken on a little too much, but you will enjoy every minute of it. You need to mingle with people who can spark enthusiasm and confidence in you. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-may 21) — Don't hesitate to sign up for creative courses or physical fitness programs. Get involved with those who can introduce you to unusual forms of entertainment. Talk to others about your plans. Educational pursuits should help you develop your hobbies. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) — You are exceptional at presenting your ideas. Changes in your home may be disruptive. Concentrate on your career and on making money. You may find it impossible to get the rest you require. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Try not to be too harsh with your mate. You can make a serious attempt at quitting those bad habits that you've picked up over the years. Do whatever your mate wants; it really doesn't matter as long as you're together. Problems with ear, nose, or the throat are likely. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) — You may be emotional if you allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. You will have a greater involvement in groups; however, they may not be to your advantage. Your ability to deal with others will help you in getting the support you need. You won't be admired at home if you haven't been taking care of your share of the work. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) — Your emotional reaction will be dependent upon your partner's responsiveness. Visit friends or relatives you don't get to see very often.

New love connections can be made through group associations. Over spending or unexpected bills could set you back. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) — Elders may get you going this week. You have a tendency to think that no one else will do things properly. Sudden romantic encounters will set your head spinning. You may have difficulties finishing projects you start. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) — You are best to avoid confrontations. Sudden trips may take you by surprise; try to include your mate, mixing business with pleasure. Don't go out of your way, and don't let these unexpected guests cost you money. Be discreet with private information. Pleasure trips will promote romance. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) — You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been feeling up to par. Social events may lead to a romantic interlude. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Your interest in religion and philosophy may lead you to specific destinations. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan. 20) — Be cautious who you deal with financially. Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin

and accomplishing little. Don't let someone try to bully you into doing things their way. You can make new friends by taking part in social events involving colleagues. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) — You'll find it easy to meet new people. You could receive recognition for a job well done. Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. Look at ways to spoil yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — Deception and confusion regarding your status in society is likely. You will take on too much if you aren't careful. Stick to basics. Unexpected bills will leave you a little short. Your attitude is changing rapidly and your plate is overloaded. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

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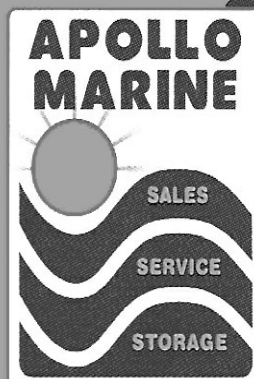


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Camp Tannadoonah

Welcome back! We're starting this camping season feeling really great about the direction camp is headed, and I can't wait for summer to finally arrive! There's so much going on at camp to talk about that I don't even know where to begin...

I'd like to start with a huge "Thank You!" to everyone who came out for the work day, the Book Club for cleaning the kitchen and dining hall, and everyone who has come up to help with various projects around camp this spring. Thanks also to the Mosiers for chlorinating our wells again this year. We really appreciate all the time and effort our volunteers put in to help us get Camp ready each season. **THANK YOU ALL!**

Our camper numbers for the 2011 season are looking fantastic. As of 5/23, we have 389 registered campers, which is 99 more than we had on this date last year! We've already surpassed the total camper numbers we had during my first summer (357) and second summer (351) as camp director, and camp hasn't even begun yet! Over the course of the last five summers, we've had an average growth of just over 9% each year. It's all looking great for this year!

As most residents have probably heard, Camp Tannadoonah sold a piece of property in the cove over the winter. The sale of this lot allowed us to do 4 very important things:

1. We have paid off all of the debts (e.g., bank loans, private loans, and back dues to National Camp Fire). That means we go forward with no monthly payments on any of these debts.

2. We are making some key facilities upgrades right away, and have plans to do more of these over the next few years. Thus far, we have ordered brand

new mattresses for EVERY camper bed in camp (my favorite update!), put new roofs on two buildings, did some grading around the "adventure cabins" to help with an erosion problem on the hill, and currently have a group working on replacing the floor in the nurse's cabin. Plus we've done some landscaping projects around camp, and spread a very nice layer of new gravel on low spots of the driveway in to camp.

3. The council has established a cash reserve to help handle unexpected expenses or to get through years where our income from our program is lower than expected.

4. Finally, we are investing the remaining funds to help ensure the long-term health of the camp and camp program.

All of this means that from now on, fundraising efforts can be focused on funding camperships / scholarships, or for facilities updates and upgrades. We will not be asking anyone to "bail us out" or "save us"; instead we will be focusing on improving the camp and the camp experience for kids, growing and expanding when needed, and Capital Projects, like major renovations to a building, a new pier, or perhaps even building a new building in the future.

The Council has also made some major organizational changes over the course of the winter. First, our Board of Directors took a careful look at the viability of our programs. They determined that the day camp in Mishawaka (Camp Tawanchi) was no longer a good fit for our council and it took focus away from Camp Tannadoonah, which is our strongest program. Therefore, the council has handed over control of that program to the Mishawaka Parks and Recreation Department. As a Council we



can now focus our energy and efforts solely on Camp Tannadoonah.

Because there are no longer two separate camp programs, the Board also decided to consolidate the Camp Tannadoonah Director position and the Council Executive Director position. At the end of this summer (August 2011), Marty McKiernan, our current Executive Director will step down and I will become the Executive Director in addition to my current role as Camp Director. Because of this change, Chas has stepped down from the Board of Directors, although he remains active in the council as chair of the Fundraising and Marketing committees.

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions you have about the changes in Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah this year. We are always happy to talk about Camp and clear up any misunderstandings or concerns people may have!

-Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org

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- Pinch the spent blooms on the perennials
- Cut the turf and blow off the decks

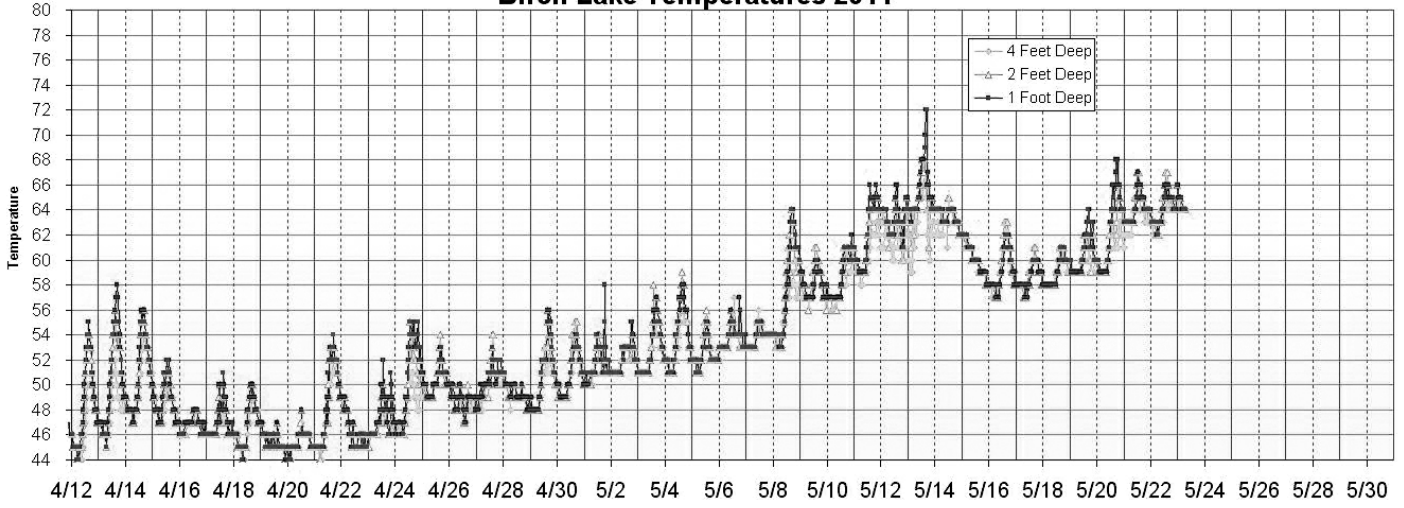
Our Installation crew will...

- Complete landscape projects
- Address troubled areas
- Rejuvenate landscapes



Birch Lake Vital Statistics

Birch Lake Temperatures 2011



Lake Temperatures are provided by Steve Quinlan (West Side)

Fire and EMS data for April, 2011

April 2011 Fire-EMS Response Time Study (In Minutes)																		
Porter Fire Serving South Porter						Newberg Fire serving North Porter						Porter Fire Serving Mason						
Date	Time into 911	Time into station	Time 1st responder on scene	Response time	Comments	Date	Time into 911	Time into station	Time 1st responder on scene	Response time	Comments	Date	Time into 911	Time into station	Time 1st responder on scene	Response time	Comments	
4/7/2011		12:25	12:45	20		4/7/2011		12:09	12:21	12		None						
4/10/2011		16:41	16:42	1		4/12/2011		15:40	15:48	8								
4/28/2011		14:24	14:30	6														
Ave = 9 minutes						Ave = 10 Minutes						Ave = 0 minutes						
Porter EMS serving South Porter						Newberg EMS serving North Porter						Porter EMS Serving Mason						
4/1/2011		16:43	16:47	4		4/7/2011					FD support not used	4/1/2011		8:29	8:43	14		
4/3/2011		21:32	21:47	15		4/13/2011					FD support not used	4/29/2011		15:56	16:03	7		
4/4/2011		10:41	10:43	2		4/15/2011		15:03	15:12	9								
4/8/2011		20:27	20:39	12		4/22/2011		8:03	8:13	10								
4/10/2011		9:24	9:31	7														
4/11/2011		22:07	22:18	11														
4/18/2011		21:33	21:49	16														
4/23/2011		19:28	19:43	15														
4/26/2011		5:55	6:02	7														
4/29/2011		19:25	19:42	17														
4/30/2011		18:13	18:24	11														
Ave = 11 Minutes						Ave = 10 minutes						Ave = 11 Minutes						

Fire and EMS data is provided by Pete Fournier



Have fun
and be safe
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Memorial Day
Weekend!



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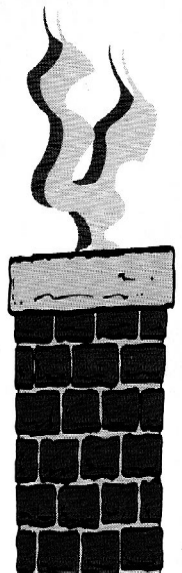
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Why should you join the BLYC?

Every year the Birch Lake Yacht Club's Board of Directors and the Commodore send out gentle reminders to property owners around the lake asking for a voluntary \$25/household donation in the form of annual "dues."

And every year, about half of us pay our dues and become members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Those who don't join and pay have a variety of excuses ... that range from "We don't go to the parties" to "The Yacht Club doesn't do anything for me ..."

Well ... HORSE HOCKEY!

The BLYC and it's committees are responsible for activities that are part of ALL of our lives, whether we know it or not.

Just a few of the *regular* functions of the groups that are part of the BLYC include:

- Monthly water-quality testing of Birch Lake water
- The ongoing fight against invasive species

like purple loosestrife, zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil

- The annual road clean-up
- The Birch Barker* (both the printed summer and online winter editions)
- Summer activities for kids and the annual KidGatta sailing day
- Fourth of July activities including fireworks, the boat parade and the pancake breakfast
- The annual lake-wide garage sale
- The ladies tea/coffee
- The mens' and womens' golf tournaments
- The corn & sausage roast
- The spring and fall dinners
- The safety booklet (produced and distributed to all rental properties)
- Road and landing speed-limit and safety signs
- Maintenance of the Yacht Club building and grounds

ALL OF THESE COMMITTEES, FUNCTIONS AND ENTITIES EXIST BECAUSE OF THE BIRCH LAKE

YACHT CLUB — AND ARE FULLY FUNDED BY THE BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB.

There are approximately 235 homes on Birch Lake, about half of which traditionally pay dues of \$25/house ... which brings in only \$2,937.50. The Birch Barker alone (a completely free newspaper produced entirely by non-paid volunteers) costs nearly that much to produce and distribute.

Fund raising events (sale of Birch Lake merchandise) the sale of advertising in the Birch Barker and voluntary donations from generous neighbors who recognize the value of maintaining the Birch Lake Yacht Club pay the rest of our expenses and keep all of the other important activities going.

The officers and members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club Board of Directors thank everyone who pays their dues and urges those of you who haven't to consider all of the ways your yacht club dues payment could be used to help us all.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!

2011 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

Officers:

Commodore	Stan Pitakos	476-8862
Vice Commodore	Pam Mullin	476-1080
Fleet Captain.....	Jeff Smitley.....	476-9000
Treasurer.....	Holly Troeger.....	476-9898
Secretary.....	Sandy Vitale	476-1680

Board Members

East

Scott Troeger	476-9898
Jim Bolinger	476-9737
Phil Vitale	476-1680
Lind Harman	476-2039
Bob Waddle	476-2293

E. Hill

PJ Vandewalle.....	n/a
--------------------	-----

North

Rick Russwurm.....	476-2407
Fred Freihofer	476-9823
Mike Lutz	476-2843
Bob Baucus	476-2863

Cove

Vicki Rogers.....	476-2383
-------------------	----------

South

Sue Williams	476-8886
Terry Dugan	476-2814

West

Harold Cranmer	476-2170
Greg Bolin.....	476-2420
Steve Quinlan	476-8802
Karen Brovold	476-8862
Mike Sheffieck.....	476-1849



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

2011 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 _____

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WORK WANTED

Ian Whiteman would like to do some odd jobs around the lake. He is unable to find a job as of right now, and needs some money to

help pay for some of his schooling. House 476-9534; Cell 1-269-244-0764

Want a classified ad in the Barker? It's easy! Just email your ad to me at sailorphil@philvitale ... mail it to Birch Barker, c/o Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095, or put the whole shee-bang in a plastic

bag and put it into one of the two newspaper tubes of my cool new stone mailbox (thanks Duane!) at the above address on the east side of Birch Lake ... Ads are free for bona-fide, PAID members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club ... if you aren't a member, the ad will cost you \$5/week — in advance!



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