

The official publication of the  
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

# Birch Barker

Weekend of June 4, 2011

© Copyright 2011, The Birch Lake Yacht Club



## Commodore's Comments

**H**appy Holidays!

Oh wait, that's for our winter holidays, but hey it works for Memorial Day too. As I was beginning to put pen to paper, I started to reflect on the Memorial Days of my youth in Kentucky. How I would go to the parade, watch the High School Band, the Police cars, Fire trucks and the Saddle Club, then off to the cemetery to plant flowers at my dad's grave and end the day with a Bar-B-Que with friends and family.

The Memorial Days of my golden years have been slightly different. The

parade I watch is made up of sail boats, fishing boats and speed boats, the music comes from the waves lapping against the seawall, the laughter and screams of kids tubing or skiing. I now mow the grass east to west or I hear the voice of Steve Cranmer telling me that I am doing it wrong and the day is still ended with a Bar-B-Que with friends, who are as close as family.

I wish the whole weekend could have been as sunny, hot and breezy as Monday, but the cosmic interference of west side trunk slammer Marc Caenepeel was playing havoc with our fair weather. Luckily Jeff Smitley's dad didn't come for the weekend too, otherwise we would have had a repeat of last

## 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!

Birch Lake House Walk Saturday July 9th - see page 3

The Birch Barker is always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.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 —

summers storms where we didn't have electric for days. As it is, the forecast is calling for a week of more rain (the length of Marc's stay). I am beginning to rethink putting in a sprinkler system this summer.

Don't forget the Vice-Commodore's cocktail party is June 11th at the Yacht Club. Bring a neighbor, friend, family or come by yourself for a great evening of socializing. Remember I will have stories to share about Florida. Rounding out June will be the Commodores party on June 25th, so mark your calendar for these two events.

Hopefully, the coming weekend will

bring enough wind for the sailors to kick-off the season with three great races. If you haven't sailed in awhile now is the perfect time to dust off the sail and spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon with friends. Have a great race, I will miss not being here to entertain with tipping my sunfish over and over and over. Until I return, Vice-Commodore Pam Mullin can be reached on the North shore at 476-1080. I promise not to offend any Floridians, like the President did with the Queen.

Have a great week!!!

**-Vacationing Commodore Stan**

P.S. In Michigan there are 691,000 registered boats, which makes us 3rd in the Nation.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*






Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday Donna Cranmer,  
May 29th, many many more.

Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party  
Saturday - June 11  
Birch Lake Yacht Club  
Time - 6 pm

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.  
More importantly, bring a neighbor!

**TOM'S GARAGE & CONVENIENCE STORE**  
Right Beside Birch Lake  
63909 Walnut Rd.  
Vandalia, MI  
476-2272  
Becky Beers  
Owner

**Bev's Custom Sewing & Embroidering**  
Sewing, Alterations  
Special occasion gowns made to order and to fit  
Personalize any item with embroidery  
towels - shirts - Christmas stocking - personalized  
hankies - personalized napkins - stemware coasters  
for weddings, anniversaries, graduations  
(many colors to choose from)  
Bev Comer, Owner  
244-1165 cell 816-1389  
13475 Harvey Street, Jones  
bevscustomsewing@live.com  
<http://www.etsy.com/shop/bevscustomsewing>

# Lutz Concrete

SW Michigan's  
**FLATWORK**  
experts



We specialize in decorative  
Concrete Stamping  
Colored Concrete  
Concrete Staining



17050 M-86 — Three Rivers, MI

Ph: (269) 279-7973

Fax: (269) 279-0133

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

# BLYC House Walk/Art Fair 2011

It's only five 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.

The focus for the House Walk this week is the Magro home at 14739 Kiloqua Woods Lane (north shore).

Bill and Sheryl Magro

Bill and Sheryl Magro, their four children, spouses and eight grandchildren are enjoying their third summer at Birch Lake. Bill, a Bronx native spent childhood summers in Montauk, Long Island while Sheryl spent hers at Lake Michigan. Both dreamed of a cottage on a Michigan lake. For over twenty-five years they searched Northern Michigan but distances to their home in Dayton, Ohio were too far to permit weekend trips.

In 2007 they decided to investigate lakes in southwest Michigan. A chance meeting with realtor Nancy Walker brought them to Birch Lake. Although they did not find a suitable property the first time around, a year later they returned and Nancy reluctantly showed them their current home. Although the Foley house needed a lot of work and did not exactly meet their needs, they loved the beautiful property, and Sheryl had a

vision of what the house could become. After consulting with architect Randy Myers and builder Duane Gundy they decided to tackle the project.

The house was built in the early 70's and remained basically untouched for almost forty years. Along with adding eleven hundred square feet to the house, a major part of the renovation included changing the direction, height and pitch of the roof to create a fifteen foot high interior ceiling. All the dark paneling was removed and the house was painted in light colors. With these changes the house now had a clear view of beautiful Birch Lake.

The Magros were able to retain many of the original wood ceilings; a feature of the house that they really admired. Also remaining is the original circa 1970 chandelier in the stairwell. A new screened porch and deck were added and the house now comfortably accommodates the family of eighteen, soon to welcome grandchild number nine. "Our kids and grandkids have really enjoyed Birch Lake. and for us the house truly exemplifies its name, Tutto Bene (everything is good) which reflects our view of life" They hope their family will enjoy Birch Lake for many years to come

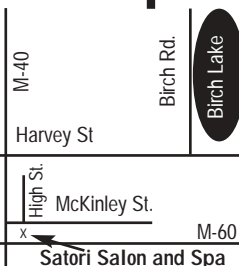
## Satori Salon and Spa

11920 McKinley Street  
Jones, Michigan 49061  
[www.satorisalonandspa.com](http://www.satorisalonandspa.com)

**244-5510**

Certified Organic!  
Experience the  
"Natural" difference

Open Tues-Fri from 9-7, Sat from 9-4



Pamper yourself with any one of our signature services:

- Massage ● European Facial ● Body Treatment ● Manicure ● Pedicure ● Odorless Artificial Nails and Gel Polish Overlays ● Full Service Hair Salon and more!!
- Mention this ad and get 10% off your first service!

Providing Home & Office Automation  
To Indiana & Southern Michigan

**ONE-TOUCH**  
Automation

[www.one-touchautomation.com](http://www.one-touchautomation.com) 317-896-1393 [info@one-touchautomation.com](mailto:info@one-touchautomation.com)

Home Automation - Home (Fire) Security - Surveillance - Home Theatre  
iPhone Home Control - Whole House Audio & Video - Computer Networking  
Climate & Lighting Controls (Remotely) - Universal Remotes - Central Vacuums

One-Touch Automation

@onetouchauto

Rachael & Ryan McDaniel  
Owners & Birch Lake Residents

# — Barker kids of the Week —



At left, Spencer Rheinhardt, 17, grandson of Bud and Barb Zesinger (East Shore) runs for the Warsaw, IN track team. He has qualified for three events in the state finals: the 800 meter individual, the 4 x 500 meter relay, and the 4 x 400 meter relay. Good luck Spencer!

Above, those are the eyes, ears, nose, forehead and sideburns of Cal King, son of Bob & Les and grandson of Bill and Le King (North Shore).

Both of these fine lads merit "Barker Kid of the Week" honors!

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

## Advantage Plumbing

2400 North 5th Street  
Niles, MI 49120

**(269) 687-7192**

*Complete Plumbing Service  
Sewer and Drain Cleaning*

[www.advantageplumbinginc.net](http://www.advantageplumbinginc.net)



"Gilbert Goldfish"

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

[www.advantageplumbinginc.net](http://www.advantageplumbinginc.net)

### TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

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

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



[www.advantageplumbinginc.net](http://www.advantageplumbinginc.net)



100% Satisfaction Guaranteed  
Major Credit Cards Accepted



10% Senior Citizen Discount  
Financing Available

# — Barker kids of the Week —



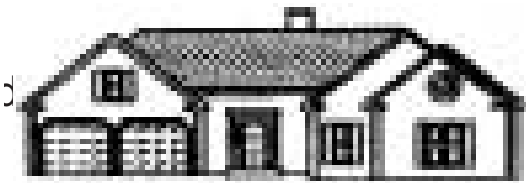
Katie and John Luecht (East Shore) are growing up fast ... and dressed up to the 9999s in these photos that their mom (Bad Patty) submitted for Kid of the Week honors.

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



## DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION

No Job Too Large or Too Small!



All Types of Remodeling  
\* New Home Construction \*  
Restoration

Licensed & Insured Free Estimates

Bob Bienz 269-759-4010  
63366 Kinsey St., Vandalia, MI  
email: [diamondconstr@yahoo.com](mailto:diamondconstr@yahoo.com)

## ASPARAGUS!

Now picking asparagus etc.



Last week for asparagus,  
strawberries soon!  
Join us for our 21st  
year in Cass County!

Open Daily 10 am - 6 pm

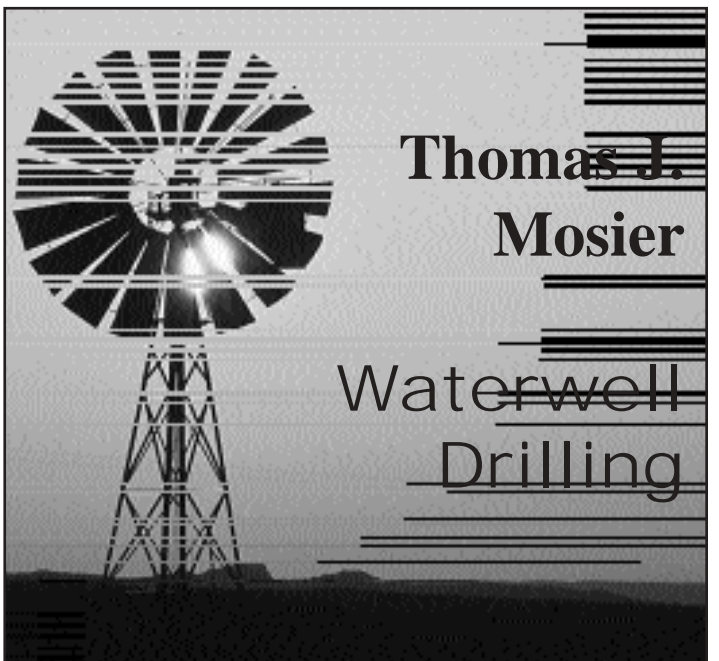
## Diamond

Acres Farm



VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE!  
[www.diamondacresfarm.com](http://www.diamondacresfarm.com)

In Cassopolis behind the  
High School on Kamp Kozy



Thomas J.  
Mosier

Waterwell  
Drilling

5" Water Wells

Repair & Service  
Most Water Pumps

"Promise of Quality"

M-60 E  
Cassopolis

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

# ~Birch Lake Recipes~

## Salmon with Brown Sugar Glaze

Might I suggest a fine Pinot Noir to compliment this awesome Salmon recipe

Prep Time: 5 Min

Cook Time: 10 Min; Ready In: 15 Min

Servings 4

### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 4 (6 ounce) boneless salmon fillets

■ salt and ground black pepper to taste

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven's broiler and set the oven rack at about 6 inches from the heat source; prepare the rack of a broiler pan with cooking spray.
2. Season the salmon with salt and pepper and arrange onto the

pre-prepared broiler pan.

Whisk together the brown sugar and Dijon mustard in a small bowl; spoon mixture evenly onto top of salmon fillets.

3. Cook under the preheated broiler until the fish flakes easily with a fork, 10 to 15 minutes.



## WORDSEARCH — What's Bugging You?

In the letters below are the names of 28 bugs that are typically found around Birch Lake in the summer ...

How many can you find?

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



## What a great sailing day!

What a wonderful sailing day we had on Memorial Day. It was nice to see a few boats out enjoying the steady warm breeze from the south. We did not hold a Memorial Day regatta as there were not enough boats ready to race.

Harold and I did set out the marks to let those who did get a boat launched take advantage of the opportunity to practice running a course.

I certainly needed the practice setting out the marks as I forgot to put on the smaller weights that make the marks stand upright. We also use a large hex nut as a weight permanently tied to the end of the line to help any extra line tail sink. This prevents a floating line from snagging on a sailboat's rudder or boards. However, I'll tell you, when the rope reels are spinning when dropping the mark's anchor, those hex nuts certainly have a way of hitting you in the worst possible place. Note to self, use your foot as a brake to keep things under control.

I'd like to thank all of the sailors who were able to make last Saturday's Start of the Season meeting. We reviewed the course layout, starting times, scoring and rules. The meeting minutes and course layout are being published separately here in the Barker.

The season starts this week on Sunday, June 5 at 11

am weather permitting. All are welcome.

I'd also like to thank all of the people who have signed up so far for the committee boat; I've included the current schedule below. If you would like to sign up for an open date, please let me know. You can call me at 476-9000 or email me at HYPERLINK "mailto:jsmitley@ameritech.net"

In recognition of Don Harman

Several sailors have commented that we should have a moment of silence to recognize Don Harman at the start of the season's first race. Bob King suggested we have a "ringing of 8 bells." I spoke with Patty Luecht, who is scheduled to run the committee boat on Sunday, and she will be ringing a bell for him prior to the first race this weekend. Even if you aren't planning on racing, I wanted to let everyone know so they could come out at the start or join her on the committee boat.

The Barker had a nice piece on what the "8 bells" tradition is about:

<http://www.philvital.com/barker/index.htm>

Here is a link to an "8 bells ceremony":

<http://www.dbyc.com/8BellsCeremony.aspx>

-Fleet Captain Jeff

## Start of Season sailors' meeting minutes

The sailors decided to keep the course the same; the layout will be as large as is practical for the wind conditions. The starting line/gate will remain closed except for finishing; this includes the Sunfish. The start signal is the same: 5 minutes for MC's, 10 Minutes for Sunfish.

The start time will remain the same: 11 Eastern, Noon if no wind earlier.

Harold Cranmer will set out the marks, Fleet Captain Jeff, will be his backup.

The Fleet Captain will contact everyone if we are not racing. 11 am Eastern will be the go/no go deadline; this gives Harold time to set out the marks if we decide to have races at Noon. If you plan on sailing and you have not already updated my contact sheet, please let me know the best way to contact you.

Sustained winds of 20 MPH will be the upper limit for holding the races.

The season will start June 5. The Kids' Regatta or Couple's Regatta are simply for fun and are unofficial events; they will not be included in any scoring or race completion counts.

From June 5 until Sept. 5, all official races including July 4 and Labor Day Regatta races will be included in the regular season scoring. 2/3 completion of all races will be necessary to qualify for the season. Did Not Finish (DNF) or Disqualified (DSQ) do not count as a completed race and will be scored one place less than the last placed boat. The square of 40 scoring system will still be used. Regattas will also be scored separately for recognition using the Low Point System as specified in the Racing Rules of

Sailing 2009-2012, Appendix A. All races will be counted towards a boat's final score.

Committee boat service will be scored for all races that day as your season average rounded up. If your season average place is 4.8 as of the date of service, you will receive a 4th place finish for each race that day. All races that day will count towards the 2/3 completion of races for the season.

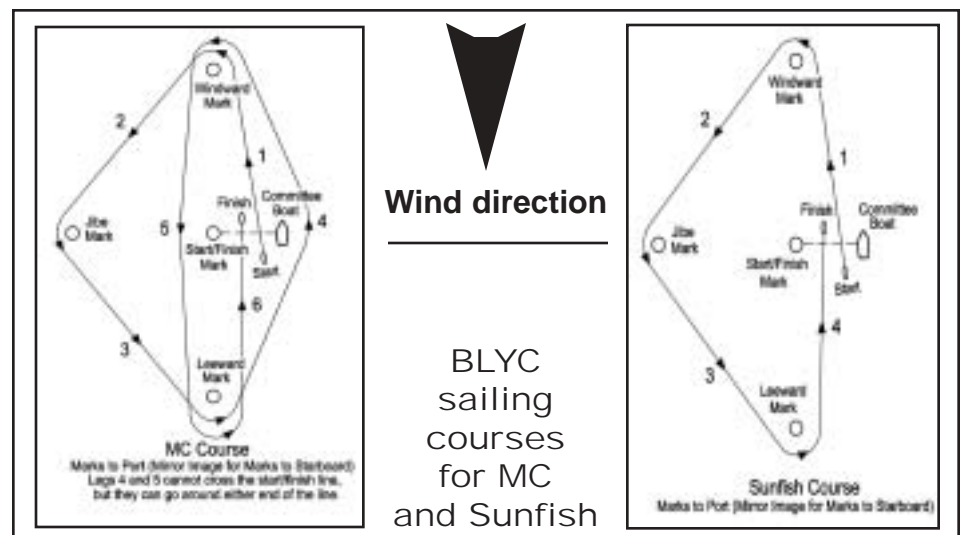
The July 4 regatta will be scheduled for Sat. and Mon. with Sunday as the rain date; this is to accommodate the Pancake Breakfast at the camp.

Within one minute of the start, barging rules are in effect, which means that a leeward boat can force a windward boat on the same tack to head up even if that requires the windward to go over the starting line prematurely or to tack to avoid the committee boat. Prior to that, a boat may need to give way to another to avoid the committee boat as it is considered an obstruction.

If you are on the wrong side of the starting line at the horn, i.e. On the Course Side (OCS), you need to return completely below the starting line before beginning racing. You do not need to round the pin end or committee boat.

Fouls are to be cleared with a 360 degree turn in the leg that they are committed, when clear of other boats. Hitting the mark can be cleared on the following leg from that mark to the next. You do not need to re-round the mark that was touched.

Fouls are to be determined based on the honor system as communicated between the sailors. When in doubt, do your 360 turn. Blatant fouls not cleared that have a significant impact on finish placements may result in a DSQ. The Fleet Captain may contact the parties involved to arbitrate an agreement as to the rule infractions and determine appropriate redress. (This is the part of the job that I hate the most. Please, please, please do your turns!)



# Stu's Star Stuff

## Plenty of action in the eastern pre-dawn sky

If you're an early riser check out the action in the eastern pre-dawn sky. The two brightest objects in the night sky, after the Moon, line up like a pair of celestial headlights in the eastern sky the next couple of mornings. Actually though, they're not exactly in the night sky -- they're immersed in the morning twilight. Still, they're so bright that if you have a clear horizon, you should be able to pick them out.

The brighter of the two is Venus, the dazzling "morning star." (Morning star? Isn't it the evening star? Hmmm... Maybe it's two stars in one? Or of course not a star at all. We'll get to that soon. (And, parenthetically, I don't like parenthetical remarks (Stanley ;0) ))) Tomorrow, fainter Jupiter stands to its left.

Although they look a lot alike, there's not really much resemblance between the two worlds.

Venus is a ball of rock that's about the same size as Earth. It shines so brightly because it's close by, and because it's topped by an unbroken blanket of clouds. They reflect more than half of the sunlight that strikes them.

Jupiter is much farther than Venus, but it's also much larger -- about 10 times Venus's diameter. It is a big ball of gas. But like Venus, it's wrapped in bright clouds.

Venus and Jupiter are headed in opposite directions. Jupiter is pulling away from the Sun as seen from Earth, so it's moving higher into the sky each morning. Venus is dropping toward the Sun. So after tomorrow, the two worlds will quickly pull apart, with Jupiter above Venus.

And while you're looking at Venus and Jupiter, look for a third world that's close by. Mercury is to the lower right of Venus, very low above the horizon. But it's tricky to find. Binoculars will help you pluck it from the waxing morning twilight.

Keep looking up people. The show is there all the time. And best of all, as you know, it's free.

-Stu Spratt



The Moon for June 4, 2011

Illuminated Fraction: 0.122  
3.4 days since new moon



Safe. Sound. Secure.® Since 1916

Save money with Auto-Owners Insurance  
Multi-Policy Discounts!

**UNION INSURANCE AGENCY**

Corner of US 12 & Union Rd., Union, MI 49130

Independent Agency

**269-641-5995**

fax: 269-641-5787

email: Sue@unionins.net

www.unionins.net

*Auto-Owners Insurance* 



**269-476-1500**  
email: sales@pierperfection.com  
visit our website: [PIERPERFECTION.COM](http://PIERPERFECTION.COM)

We are on Facebook and Youtube



Pier Perfection was established in 1997. We are the innovative, responsive, courteous, and efficient pier company.

**We specialize in custom dock building,  
the Originators ... not the Imitators.**



# Birch Lake Horoscope

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20): Go out with friends or family. You will be too quick to point your finger at your mate. Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand. You may find that your boss is not delighted with your work lately. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- may 21): Be sure you get accurate information. Your leadership ability will enhance your reputation. Changes in your residence will be favorable in the long haul. Delays are evident. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Set a limit on the amount you're willing to spend, and be sure to stick to it. Too much work and no play will not only result in fatigue and frustration but also loneliness, too. Do not blow situations out of proportion. Your mind will be on matters that deal with secret affairs. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22): You can accomplish the most if you travel for business purposes. You will communicate easily and should be able to accomplish all that you set out to do. You must follow your desires and dreams. Problems with fire, gas, or oil may cause disruptions and annoyances. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22): Avoid disputes with family; their complaints can't change anything anyway. If you have treated them equitably,

you might be able to count on their loyalty. You may be up for some changes in your home. You may want to put everyone to work on a project that will keep them all too busy to complain. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23): Try to have patience and refrain from being judgmental. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. Travel will promote new romantic encounters and additional cultural knowledge. Spending too much time talking to friends or relatives could easily turn into a debate that could lead to estrangement. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23): Don't let others try to create unwarranted guilt if you can't meet their demands. Your need to put great detail into everything you do may cause you to miss the overall picture. Don't let jealous friends put you down, making you insecure about your capabilities. Be careful when dealing with female members of your family. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): Your unique approach to life will interest others. Listen and formulate your course of action. You will be indecisive. Stop telling others about your problems. Plan your day carefully. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21): Travel will

promote new romantic encounters. A change is as good as a rest. Don't go looking for change. Try to include friends and relatives in your activities. Your ability to be practical in business will help. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20): Don't let any small misunderstandings get in the way. Organize your house and be sure to include the whole family in the projects you have set out to do. Try to iron out any friction over money with your mate or conflicts could prevail. You can make money if you concentrate on producing services or goods that will make domestic chores easier. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19): Take on positions that offer on the job training or pay for courses related to the business. Things may not be as harmonious as you would like with colleagues or employers this week. Sports, physical fitness programs, exercise in general will make you feel better and show some pretty quick results. Your own small business on the side sounds pretty lucrative. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20): Take time to catch up on overdue correspondence. Take care of any pressing health problems. Stabilize your own position by locking up your savings. You may not be happy if members of your family are not pulling their weight. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## O'Donnell's Docks LLC



Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Sales and service of all major docks, boatlifts and water front accessories

Serving you for over  
**20 years**

12097 M-60 • Jones, MI  
269.244.1446

e-mail: [info@odonnellsdocks.com](mailto:info@odonnellsdocks.com)



For an on-line quote, go to:

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

Authorized dealer for



Avalon Pontoons

Moomba Speedboats



Sales  
Service  
Storage  
SOUTHSIDE OF GREAT LAKE  
15355 96TH AVE  
Lawton, Michigan 49065  
269.423-6011  
1-888-996-BOAT  
[RAUAPOLLO@AOL.COM](mailto:RAUAPOLLO@AOL.COM)

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

# Camp Tannadoonah

## Oh what a difference ...

**W**hat a difference 5 years makes! This summer will be my 6th year as camp director.

I've been reflecting back on my first summer as camp director a lot lately, and thinking about how different things are at camp these days.

Here are some of the notable changes: In 2006, we finished the summer with 357 campers. That's just 46% capacity. This year, on May 31st, we have 413 campers registered for camp. Last year, we had just 328 registered campers on this date and we finished the summer with 495. So if we have the same growth from now until the end of camp as we did last year, we should finish the summer with 580 kids! That would be 75% capacity.

We have increased the number of campership opportunities for underprivileged campers, as well. In 2006 we had just 5 scholarship slots available. This year we hope to have enough funds for at least 60 partial or fully funded scholarships.

In 2006 we offered the following list of activities to the campers: swimming lessons, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, fishing, tennis lessons, archery, sports & games, nature, drama, and crafts.

This year we have all of those activi-

ties PLUS: waterskiing, yoga, digital photography, low ropes teambuilding challenge, jewelry making, iron chefs (outdoor cooking), dance, soccer camp, springboard diving lessons, science camp, basketball camp, volleyball camp, art camp, CSI adventure, guitar lessons, and an overnight tent campout.

In 2006 I struggled to find counselors to fill my staff, and ended up having a very rough summer with just 11 counselors who made it from beginning to end. This year I had filled all 20 counselor positions and 3 dishwasher positions before the first of April!

In terms of facilities, in the past 5 years, we have built the amphitheater built a small low ropes course, replaced roofs on 7 buildings, finished the surfacing of the tennis courts, replaced the sports shed, built the Murphy Memorial wall, and this year we are getting brand new mattresses for all of the camper beds. The nurse's cabin has a new floor this year, as well. We also did a major remodel of the shower house, getting new partitions, new lining on the walls of the showers, a new ventilation system, and non-slip floor mats throughout. Many of these projects would not have been possible without the help of our many lake resident volunteers!

Unfortunately we've also seen a rise in the cost of camp, from \$275 to \$425. Most of that cost is because of increases in the cost of insur-



ance, food, and supplies. However, some of it is needed to cover the increased staff (a major safety factor!), added activities, and improvements to camp. This year, however, we have made that cost an all-inclusive rate - so campers do not have to pay extra for any of the activities they wish to participate in, except for waterskiing. In the past, certain activities like tennis lessons, photography, or jewelry making cost \$20-\$25 extra per week.

So there have been many changes over the last five years, and we're very proud of how far we have come. We hope that 2011 moves us even further in the right direction!

Registered Campers by Year 2007-2011 (2006 data not available)

2006: 357

2007: 351

2008: 457

2009: 433

2010: 495

2011 to date: 413

-Miss Amber; [amber@tannadoonah.org](mailto:amber@tannadoonah.org)

574-217-4731

### FOUR LAKES COUNTRY CLUB

#### is Open to the Public!

On Highway US 12, 4 Miles East of Edwardsburg

## GOLF

- Fair Course
- Well Maintained
- Reasonable Fees

- Outings
- Lessons
- Leagues
- Tee Times

## DINING

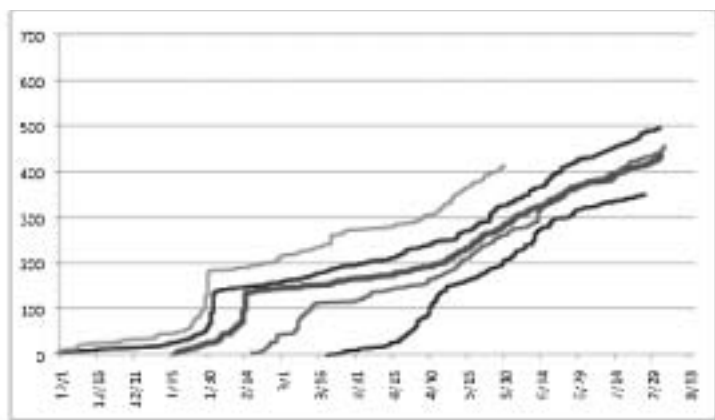
FRI NITE FISH DINNERS  
A Great Taste Experience

Make Reservations now for:

- Wedding Receptions
- Rehearsal Dinners
- Banquets
- Business Lunches
- Parties

Call 269-699-5701 for golf — 269-699-5349 for dining

Check our Website: [www.fourlakescc.com](http://www.fourlakescc.com)



### Pat Keirn, Realtor

1111 E. State St., Cassopolis, MI 49031



Office: 269-445-2450

Cell: 269-625-8554

Home: 269-476-2767

Fax: 269-934-6979

Licensed in Michigan



email: [pat@discovermichiana.com](mailto:pat@discovermichiana.com)

<http://www.discovermichiana.com>

### CHIMNEY SWIFT CHIMNEY SWEEPS

RON COLBORN GEORGE HALL

58550 Eller Drive

Osceola, IN 46561

Ph: (574) 674-5257

Cell: (574) 514-4831

Cell: (574) 350-9192



# 2011 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

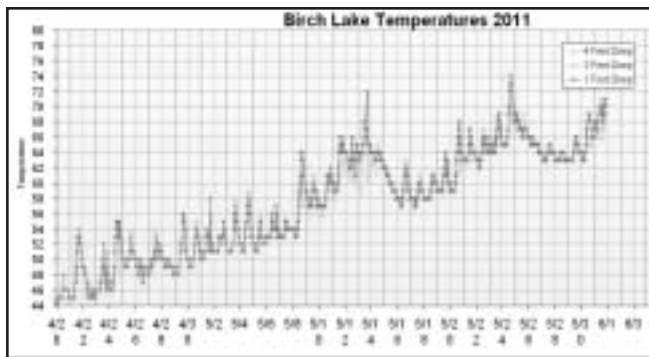
Officers:  
 Commodore Stan Pitakos .....476-8862  
 Vice Commodore Pam Mullin .....476-1080  
 Fleet Captain Jeff Smitley.....476-9000  
 Treasurer Holly Troeger.....476-9898  
 Secretary Sandy Vitale .....476-1680

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

## Board Members

East  
 Scott Troeger.....476-9898  
 Jim Bolinger .....476-9737  
 Phil Vitale .....476-1680  
 Lind Harman.....476-2039  
 Bob Waddle.....476-2293  
 West  
 Harold Cranmer.....476-2170  
 Greg Bolin .....476-2420  
 Steve Quinlan.....476-8802  
 Karen Brovold .....476-8862  
 Mike Sheffieck.....476-1849



Lake Temperatures are provided by Steve Quinlan (West Side)



*Dick*

# **BENDER**



**and Bender Mold & Plastics, INC.**

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

**55951 RUSSELL INDUSTRIAL PKWY  
MISHAWAKA, IN 46545**

**TOOLING — (574) 255-5176                      MFG — (574) 255-5350**

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

## Handyman Repairs

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

## Home Maintenance

- Painting - interior and exterior
- Snow removal - sidewalks, driveways & roofs
- Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
- We do windows
- Power washing, insulation and weatherproofing

## Lawn Care

- Spring and fall yard clean up
- Tree and shrub trimming
- Rototill your garden
- Mowing and Trimming
- Fertilizing

## Property Management

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



**Dave's Residential Services**  
 (269) 476-2797; Wireless (269) 362-0724  
[davehardisty@comcast.net](mailto:davehardisty@comcast.net)



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

# KEIRN CONSTRUCTION

RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL  
 NEW CONSTRUCTION - REMODELING - REPAIR  
 CARPENTRY - CONCRETE - ROOFING  
 FULLY LICENSED AND INSURED

62933 Birch Rd.  
Vandalia, MI 49095

Terry Keirn  
Owner

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

## The Weekend belongs to you

We'll take care of the rest of the week

Upstream Waters Landscape  
 1-877-282-5803 269-782-0787  
 Visit our Website at  
[www.upstreamwaterslandscape.com](http://www.upstreamwaterslandscape.com)  
 email: [info@upstreamwaterslandscape.com](mailto:info@upstreamwaterslandscape.com)

### Our Maintenance crew will...

- Weed and trim landscapes areas
- Fertilize, water and groom the annuals
- Pinch the spent blooms on the perennials
- Cut the turf and blow off the decks

Call our office today to take back your weekends

### Our Installation crew will...

- Complete landscape projects
- Address troubled areas
- Rejuvenate landscapes



# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## FOR SALE

**MC Sailboat #618** complete w/ (2) sails, trailer and cockpit cover; Call Harold Cranmer @ 574 264 6817, \$2,500 OBO

**Old Towne fiberglass canoe.** New condition ... blue ... includes new aluminum paddles. Fifteen feet eight inches long. \$450. Phone Bud at 476-2526

We still have about 35 **Birch Lake Totes** left at 5 bucks each. Call Bad Patty Luecht at 476-2615.

For Sale: **M-16 Sailboat.** Probably would still sail. Will sell for the same price I bought it for. \$0.00. Lift included. Contact Stewart at 574.514.0667.

## FOUND

Found floating in the middle of

the lake: **large dock bumper.** Call Tom DeCocker at 476-9821

## WANTED

Wanted to buy, rent, or borrow for the summer: **row boat or skiff with transom** for irresponsible, poorly prepared, itinerant fisherman. call 476-2126 and leave a message for "Ace."

## HOMES FOR SALE

**BirchLakeHomeSale.com**  
**BirchLakeHomeForSale.com**

## FOR RENT.

**Spacious Birch Lake home for rent.** 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, screened in patio for bug free beautiful evenings. Non-smokers only. Minimum 2 week rental - monthly rates available. Contact Doreen 630-816-3374.

For Rent: Beautiful **3 bedroom cottage** overlooking the beautiful shore of Birch. (That means you would be on the north shore looking across the lake.) New well and indoor plumbing. Contact Stewart at 574.514.0667.

## WANTED TO RENT

**Cottage for the 4th of July week or longer.** As our family gets bigger our cottage gets smaller. We need additional

space. Please call 317-371-2490 or 574-255-8894 if you have a cottage available. Phil & Betsy Custard.

## 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.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) ... 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!

If you are thinking about selling your waterfront home give John a call and he will get right on it.

In fact, that is all we do - just water property and we do it better than anyone else.

- Heavy and aggressive Chicago marketing.
- Best lake web site anywhere with over 22,000 hits a month.
- We sell 75% of our own listings.

Call John for the other 21 marketing steps to get your home sold.  
866-299-9775  
[john@michiganlakeseam.com](mailto:john@michiganlakeseam.com)

# RBC HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER

1140 North Main Street  
Three Rivers, Michigan 49093  
Ph, 269-278-1512 • Fax 269-858-3159  
[www.rbchi.com](http://www.rbchi.com)



## Visit RBC today and check out our prices BEFORE you buy!

Take advantage of the savings at RBC without compromising quality or service

### KITCHEN & BATH CABINETS

- Semi-custom line
- 4 Price Points
- a la-Carte Construction Boxes
- 30 Different Door Selections
- 70 Different Finishes
- Assortment of accessories

### COUNTER TOPS

- Quartz
- Granite
- Solid Surfaces
- Concrete
- Laminates

### FLOORING

- Shaw Brand
- Carpet (Residential & Commercial)
- Hardwoods
- Laminates
- Linoleum
- Tile (Porcelain & Ceramic)
- Limited in stock laminates & carpet avail.
- All floor padding and accessories

### WINDOWS

- Replacement & New Construction
- As low as 144.99
- Standard Low — E & Argon
- Lifetime Glass Breakage
- Paintable Vinyl, Stainable Vinyl, 8 colors
- Storm Windows

### DOORS

- Exterior & Interior
- Custom sizes
- Factory Finishes
- Custom Interior Doors — every wood species
- Custom Glass Inserts
- Locksets/Handles — manual and electronic
- Storm Doors

### PATIO ENCLOSURES

- 3 and 4 Season Room Kits available
- 3' & 6' Heat Systems
- 3 1/4 Wall Systems
- Screen Room Kits
- Build it the way you need it

### RETRACTABLE AWNINGS

- Residential & Commercial
- Retractable & Fixed
- Sunbrella & Satin Fabric
- Roll Down Curtains
- Custom Covers of all sorts

### PATIO, DECK & CARPORT COVERS

- Flat Panel
- W Panel
- All accessories

### OUTDOOR BUILDINGS

- Custom Built Sheds
- Variety of sizes
- Delivered to home
- 2x4 construction
- Painted

### GARAGE DOORS

- Raynor Dealer
- Residential & Commercial
- Door Openers

### SPECIAL ORDERS

- All Cabinetry accessories
- Commercial Moldings
- Lighting (interior & exterior)
- Sinks
- Knobs & Pulls
- Appliances (specialty)
- Jet-Air, Anova & Maytag
- Plumbing Fixtures (Kohler, Delta, Moen, Sterling)

### SHOWER DOORS

- Metal Roofing
- Composite Decking
- Custom Cushions & Upholstery

### INTERIOR DESIGN — Kim Cross

- Kitchen & Bath Layout
- Color Choices
- Furniture Styling
- Fabric Choices
- Fixture Choices
- Art/Decorating Ideas
- Ideas on how to remodel/construct
- In Home Consultation available

# We've Got You Covered!



SUMMER'S HERE!  
CALL US TODAY!

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



---

**SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION**

---

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

*Locally owned  
and operated  
since 1985*

**SUN  
&  
SHADE  
AWNING**

12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

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