

Birch Barker

Weekend of July 16, 2011

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The east side was hit with a powerful storm last Monday, downing trees, flipping a raft and causing widespread outages, damage and difficulties.

photos by Dan Waxman's sister, Abby, Bad Patty Luecht and Phil Vitale

Holy Cow, Batman!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

What a storm!

Was there another Caenepeel - Smitley reunion on Monday morning? The only time in the past that we have had such bad weather like this was when these two come to the lake on the same day. O.M.G. !!!! 70 to 100 mile-an-hour winds slammed into the East Shore with little to no warning. We are blessed that nobody was injured or killed. Yes, there was property damage that can be repaired or replaced, but the most important thing is our neighbors, friends and families are SAFE. In a matter of minutes after the hellacious

storm blew through, our Birch Lake Community rallied around each other, assessed the damage and started to clean things up. Yes, we are truly Blessed to live on Birch Lake.

This is second time in 6 months that the B.L.C. has rallied around each other after a severe storm. On Martin Luther King weekend last February, neighbors came together to help each other out during a severe ice storm. No electricity, no heat and no water in the middle of winter left most of us in a real bind — not to mention our neighbor who locked themselves out of the house with no coat, no hat and no shoes. Had we lived elsewhere this could have had a tragic ending, but not on Birch Lake. Instead we had a breakfast party and then got the

2011 BLYC Calendar

Sat, July 16Spaghetti Dinner
Fri, July 22Women's Golf & Luncheon
Fri, July 29Men's Golf Outing
Sat, Aug. 6Board Meeting 9 am
Sat, Aug. 6Corn and Sausage Roast
Sat, Aug. 27.....Fall Dinner
Sat, Sept. 10Board Meeting 9 am
Sat, Sept. 10Sailing Awards
Sat, Sept. 17-24Game / Card Party
Sat, October 8Annual Chili Cook Off
Note: ALL dates and times are subject to change.

Watch the Barker for updates!

door unlocked. Yes, we are truly Blessed to live on Birch Lake.

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 —

Where else could one live and have their neighbors open their homes to each other (plus total strangers) for the day. Only on Birch Lake! The bi-annual House Walk/Art Fair was a smashing success. Thank-you to event coordinators, homeowners, water taxi crews, ticket sellers, and artists. Each home was a unique showplace displaying a special aspect of their Birch Lake heritage.

Last Call for reservations for the Ladies Birch Lake Scramble on July 22. Get your money to Bad Patti, today.

The Mayor of Paradise Lake — Bob Baucus needs the Men's reservations in no later than July 20 for the 51st Annual Outing on July 29.

Tonight (Saturday, July 16th) is the 7th annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Yacht Club from 6 to 8. Team Eastside is creating a fabulous Italian Dinner for us. Rumor has it, that Phil and Sandy went to Italy in May for their 40th Wedding Anniversary, but we all know they went to sample pasta dishes and bring back family secrets for this affair. Hope to see you there!

Mark your calendar for the August 6 Corn and Sausage Roast. Our cooks will be performing a maiden grilling on the new fire-pit. If you haven't seen it, make sure to scope it out at the Spaghetti Dinner. Thanks again Bob Waddle, Mike Lutz, P.J Vandewalle, and Bernie Garceau for your time, hard-work and donated items.

Speaking of Bob Waddle, he has



Fellow Birch Lakers can now rest easy knowing that the unsightly collection of mailboxes on the north shore has been beautified. The BNSRC (Birch North Shore Road Crew) has finally stopped talking and actually picked up a shovel and done something with it. Bob Baucus and Stan Pitakos did an awesome job transforming a mess into something much more pleasant to look at. The mail lady will most likely be glad too as now the boxes are all on the same level. Our north shore mail retrievers will be glad as well. Thanks to them for their helpfulness. To help inaugurate the new structure please drop by for a rib-eye grill out at the top of the hill on Wednesday, July 13th.



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— Birch Lake Notes —

wired additional electrical outlets at the Yacht Club so we won't pop breakers at the dinners and social events. Thank you!!!!

I hate to say this, but is it only 6 weeks (yes, my comment time is coming to an end) until the Fall Dinner on August 27. Tickets will be going on sale soon for an outstanding dinner hosted by Vice Commodore Pam Mullin. Dinner will be held at Camp Tannadoonah with an open, silent auction. I know what Karen is bidding on, the Condo in Florida.

We had a Board and Homeowners meeting July 9 at the Yacht Club. Many items of interest were discussed such as additional Milfoil treatment, the drain project, the sewers, road paving, and hiring the Cass County Marine Division to do extra patrols on holiday weekends. Porter Township Trustee Steve Northrup was our guest speaker (thanks, Steve). Please call me or call a Director for an update. All meetings are open to the Birch Lake Community, please attend, for your input is a valuable asset to the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

I was watching Claire this weekend interact with Taylor (Welch's granddaughter), Mackenzi Dodosiewicz (Hill), Amanda Butler, Payton (Rogers' grandson), Kyle and Kailey Kinzler (West shore), I couldn't help but get a little misty eyed thinking these young people are our future of Birch Lake. Yes, we are truly Blessed to live on Birch Lake.

If you get a chance take a minute or two and look at the night sky. Stewart is right, the sky is amazing and it is free. Until next week, Be Safe!!

-Boy Wonder, Commodore Stan



BLYC Commodore Stan Pitakos and Sandy Vitale presented Miss Amber (and son, Avery) a check for Camp Tannadoonah to use for maintenance this summer. The check, for nearly \$2,500, represented the profits from the annual pancake breakfast, which was run by Mike and Amy Lutz and the Vitales.

Happy, Happy

Happy 45 Birthday Artie McElwee (Eastside and Man Cave Pole Barn). Half way to 90!!!

Happy 60th to Tom Rogers!

Sausage subterfuge

Understand that the Sausage Fest design team is having a closed door meeting next weekend to test the prototype for the second annual waterski contraption challenge on August 20th. Who on the team is going to wear the

Flamingo boxers?

Spaghetti dinner

The Seventh Annual Birch Lake Spaghetti Dinner will be this Saturday, July 16, from 6-8 pm at the Yacht Club. This year's menu will feature spaghetti with meat or spaghetti aglio et olio (garlic and oil), salad, bread, desserts and tea and lemonade (or bring your own drink of choice).

This year's spaghetti dinner is being produced by TeamEastside.

SLOW DOWN

**BIRCH LAKE HAS
NARROW ROADS,
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,
CHILDREN,
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

**SLOW DOWN ON
OUR ROADS
AND ON THE HILLS
TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!**

**SPEED LIMIT
15 MPH**



— Birch Lake Notes —

Save the Date!

Camp Tannadoonah and Camp Fire USA invite you to the 3rd Annual Hog Roast to celebrate another wonderful year and thank our supporters on July 23, at 4 pm. The event is Free (please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Pulled pork sandwiches and drinks will be provided). No RSVP is needed.

Silent Auction

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Silent Auction at last year's BLYC Fall Dinner! Our vice commodore, Pam Mullin, has graciously allowed us to host the auction at the dinner again, on August 27. This year, we're dropping the Health Fest events and the bidding will be open (everyone can see the bids). Proceeds go to Camp Tannadoonah.

We are looking for creative, unique, and interesting items for the auction. We also need volunteers to help us collect and label the auction items. Some of you will remember the hand-crafted items, exotic experiences, and spectacular dinners from last year. These were some of the top items, and people are already looking forward to them again.

If you have an idea or an item to donate, please contact us at 574-234-4145 or info@riverbendcampfire.org.

Waterski contraption challenge

Defending, undefeated, all-time champion Keith Kinzler is putting his



Pete Fournier send in this great photo taken on M-40 just south of M-60 near Jones ...

title on the line by inviting all comers to challenge him once again in a wacky waterskiing contraption contest.

There are only two rules...

- 1.) You have to be towed at speed. This isn't the boat parade.
- 2.) There are no other rules.

Last year second place finisher Stu Spratt's entry was under-engineered and not thoroughly tested but it is rumored that he will try again with a different and secret variation. All are welcome to participate. No entry fee required.

Judges will be announced at a later date and the coveted prize awarded accordingly. The date will be whatever weekend Sausage-Fest is, sometime in August, so everyone still has plenty of time for planning and testing.

Silhouette in the Barn

It is with some reluctance that I relate this story because at times veteri-

narians get into messes that can't be avoided. The type of things that happen can be so grossly unpleasant they can't be related and yet not offend people. But here it is.

The vet's primary site of practice involves, as it often is with human medicine, the back end of his patients. I was called out one spring afternoon to attend a group of milk cows at a nearby farm. It was a case of diarrhea which had infected most of the herd of Holsteins.

When I arrived all twelve had been waiting in the straw shed to be placed in a row of stanchions in the milking parlor. The parlor had been newly white-washed and the walls were bright white, spotlessly clean. In came the cows to the stanchions. Each cow knew her own place.

At that point all hell broke loose as the excitement of the cows and their urgency to relieve themselves exploded. To say the least, things began to deteriorate. I was standing behind the second cow, close to the painted wall behind me, when the accumulation of gas in her body exited with extreme force. It goes without explanation what happened to me. I got a huge blast! I pulled back, but too late. Debris flew at me, around me, and, it seemed, everywhere. As I stepped away from the wall, I could quickly discern a perfect silhouette of myself on the otherwise pristine wall.

-Duffy Dufor

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- Shower Doors
- Metal Roofing
- Composite Decking
- Custom Cushions & Upholstery

INTERIOR DESIGN - Kim Crose

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

— Fire/EMS reports —

June 2011																	
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
6/4/2011		20:00	20:19	19		6/5/2011		18:08			Non emergency	6/2/2011		21:46	21:46	0	Not Used
6/7/2011		21:59	22:18	19							Not Used	6/4/2011		21:20	21:48	28	
6/11/2011		5:50	5:51	1		6/23/2011					Lift assist- not used	6/6/2011		10:30	10:31	1	
6/12/2011		12:10	12:11	1								6/19/2011		22:18	22:41	23	
6/12/2011		13:00	13:13	13		6/27/2011		19:48			Disregard-not used	6/21/2011		18:58	19:17	19	
6/14/2011		12:30	12:40	10													
6/15/2011		9:10	9:15	5													
6/27/2011		19:36	19:56	20													
6/30/2011		4:39	5:04	25													
					Ave = 13 minutes						Ave = 0 Minutes						Ave = 18 minutes
Porter EMS serving South Porter						Newberg EMS serving North Porter						Porter EMS 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
6/5/2011		1:47	2:06	19		6/5/2011					Fire assist-not used	6/1/2011		22:20	22:46	26	
6/6/2011		8:26	8:47	21		6/9/2011		14:14	14:26	12		6/10/2011		18:03	18:19	16	
6/7/2011		23:06	23:19	13		6/23/2011		17:19	17:31	12		6/13/2011		23:46	0:00	14	
6/13/2011		14:45	14:54	9		6/26/2011		7:19	7:31	12		6/17/2011		3:55	4:19	24	
6/15/2011		9:47	9:55	8								6/18/2011		14:25	14:29	4	
6/17/2011		1:40	1:58	18								6/21/2011		23:03	23:15	12	
6/18/2011		13:39	13:47	8								6/30/2011		0:14	0:15	1	
6/18/2011		8:20	8:30	10													
6/19/2011		21:11	21:34	23													
6/21/2011		20:27	20:38	11													
6/25/2011		1:56	2:10	14													
6/25/2011		23:52	0:10	18													
6/26/2011		0:51	1:01	10							Ave = 12 minutes						
					Ave = 14 Minutes												Ave = 14 Minutes

data provided by Pete Fournier

New Website for MLSA

We are proud to announce that a new www.mymlsa.org web site (please note the address change) has launched as of this morning. A new design, dynamic features and additional content highlight the new web site. Please take time to browse the new site! You may have to clear your internet browser history and cache to allow your computer to redirect to the new site. www.mymlsa.org

MLSA monthly newsletter

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations has published a new e-newsletter with info on their new web site, the fall conference, natural shoreline landscapes, membership, partnerships, alliances, the Riparian magazine and other items of interest.

You can see this month's newsletter at:
<http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/pvBirchBarkerNew.htm>

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

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- Snow removal - sidewalks, driveways & roofs
- Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
- We do windows
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- Tree and shrub trimming
- Rototill your garden
- Mowing and Trimming
- Fertilizing

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Dan Waxman's dog Scout is riding a jet ski with good friend Ross Sexter who was visiting from Indianapolis during the Independence Day weekend.



Happy birthday to Sailor Tom Rogers (Cove), who turned the big Six-Oh last week ...

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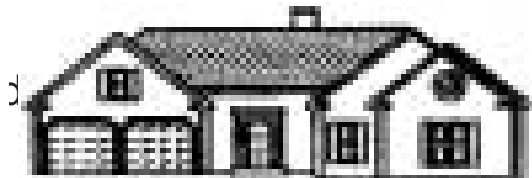
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— Barker kids of the Week —



All 10 of them attempted to ski at the same time behind the McCay ski boat. Pictured from left to right : Mark Fraser, Joe Smarzewski, Steve Woski, David, Nick Fraser, Tess Kelly, Joe Kelly, Mike Kelly, (Front) Remy McCay, Matt Kelly

Photo by Lauren Fraser

send your kid-of-the-week photos to sailorphil@philvitale.com

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— 2011 Boat Parade —



photos by the PattiCam



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Rachael & Ryan McDaniel
Owners & Birch Lake Residents

~ Housewalk 2011 ~

Over 125 people attended the House Walk and Art Fair last weekend. The six homeowners and the pontoon drivers reported that many people said that this was "the best home tour ever". The House Walk provides a great way to meet others on the lake. The boat rides and the name tags enabled many people to make new friends and acquaintances!

We would like to thank the six homeowners who so graciously opened their homes to everyone. Thanks once again to the: Magros, Sheffiecks, Kuhns, Boeslers, Fallon' and Zesingers. Without you, this event would not have been possible! Huge thanks go to Phil Vitale for printing our articles and laying out the brochure, and to the Wozniaks for the use of their barn for the event. Many thanks to Carol Dugan for lending her talent and taking the pictures of the House Walk homes, and to Brian Klappauf for designing the brochure cover. The homeowner's helpers were also a great support. Thanks to Fran Welch, Blair Garceau, Lisa Rodriguez, and to the homeowner's family members and friends who lent a hand.



What a great job the pontoon drivers did in the heat of the day! Gracias to organizer Tom Rogers and his co-captain grandson Peyton Lapato, and his team: "Bad Patty" and Bill Luecht, Bernie Garceau, Dan Waxman and Ben Wozniak, Bob and Sue Waddle, Dick Cowan and Jim Limes, Jim Bolinger and Jay Bolinger, and Bob King. Again, many thanks—you helped make the afternoon very enjoyable for all!

Also, thank you to our ticket sellers: Vickie Rogers, Bev Kruggel, Linda Curtis, Sue Waddle, Denny Weesner, and Di Wozny. I hope you all had a chance to grab some munchies. They were tasty! A big thank you to the following bakers: Nina Frurip, Fran

Welch, Di Wozny, Deb Taghon, Sandy Klappauf, Judy Olsen, and Denny

Weesner for sharing their treats. We would also like to thank the vendors who participated in the Art Fair and donated a piece of their work for the 15 raffles.

Again, a huge thank you to all of you for helping to make this event such a success! We hope we didn't forget anyone! We should all feel proud that we raised \$1725 which will go towards camperships for 5 underprivileged kids to attend Camp Tannadoonah.

Sincerely, Michelle Seyfarth,
Lisa Rodriguez, Vanessa Wozniak



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Seagull days of summer?

The winds were light again. It certainly seems as though "The Dog Days of Summer" are here. (a.k.a The Seagull Days of Summer for you fans of my last year's columns. There has to be someone who has read them. Hello, hello! Anybody out there? Can anyone hear me??) Anyway, we were able to finish two races. In the MC's, both Phil and Harold won their first race of the season. In the Sunfish, Peter Soldoto came in third in the second race. It's nice when the finish places get shaken up a bit. Congratulations to them all.

Although I am beginning to heal, I wasn't sure I could always duck the boom. My Beloved Spouse has told me that I should stop hurting myself. I thought that maybe I'd start by not getting hit in the head. Although some might think it could knock some sense into me, I decided to join the committee boat crew.

I do enjoy watching from its stationary elevated position. You can more easily see the full course and the

changing winds. It's also fun to see the tactical moves each boat takes, both offensively and defensively.

When I purchased my boat, the first thing I had to learn was how to sail and then came racing. For those who have never tried it, sailing is not the same as racing. Racing involves rules, a specific course, and an emphasis on speed to reach the finish line. It also has those pesky things called competitors. Learning how to avoid or involve myself with them was the next key thing to learn. I spent a lot of time reading and studying different sources for this. One of the best that I found for a novice is "Getting Started in Sailboat Racing" by Adam Cort and Richard Stearns. Although it is based on the prior version of the racing rules, the vast majority of the book is still valid and extremely helpful for someone just starting out.

Over time, the final and most challenging area is learning the Birch Lake winds. The hills and the lake's bowl-like shape constantly affect the

direction, strength and consistency of the winds. Ask any sailor about this after they've hit that fluky area near the windward mark.

I want to thank Bad Patty Luecht, Good Patti Russwurm, and Bob and Sue Waddle for putting up with my tack-by-tack analysis on the committee boat. After hearing it, they will probably not let me back on so I'd better sail next weekend.

See you at the starting line...

-Fleet Captain Jeff

Committee Boat Schedule

July 17	.....Patty Luecht
July 24	.....Patty Luecht
July 31	.....Plaia/Brovold
August 7	.....Karen Brovold
August 14	.....Amber & Chas Grundy
August 21	.....Open
August 28	.....Karen Brovold
Sept. 3 (Regatta)	.....Karen Brovold
Sept. 4 (Regatta)	.....Karen Brovold
Sept. 5 (Rain Date)	.....Karen Brovold

Season sailing results

Date	10-Jul	10-Jul	Total	Season
Race	12	13	Points	Average

MC Scow

Scott Troeger #1489	.....DNS	.....DNS	.....16678	.....1516
Jeff Smitley #2002	.....CB	.....CB	.....19335	.....1487
Bob King #1199	.....2	.....3	.....13182	.....1465
Bill Luecht #1579	.....3	.....4	.....18117	.....1394
Dave Olson #1979	.....7	.....5	.....13207	.....1321
Phil Vitale #500	.....1	.....6	.....16811	.....1293
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	.....4	.....1	.....16752	.....1289
Gib Eberhart #916	.....6	.....2	.....12527	.....1253
Tom Howard #1713	.....5	.....DNS	.....11517	.....1152

Sunfish

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	.....1	.....1	.....20563	.....1582
Stewart Spratt	.....DNS	.....DNS	.....9207	.....1535
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	.....2	.....5	.....11712	.....1464
Chris of the Scofields	.....3	.....2	.....5853	.....1463
Sandy Vitale (White)	.....DNS	.....DNS	.....2817	.....1409
Bernie Garceau (Red/White/Blue)	.....DNS	.....DNS	.....2738	.....1369
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	.....4	.....4	.....16379	.....1365
Erica Vitale (White)	.....DNS	.....DNS	.....2665	.....1333
Peter Soldoto	.....5	.....3	.....10404	.....1301
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	.....DNS	.....DNS	.....6482	.....1296

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season.

DNF (Did Not Finish)

DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place). DNF, DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed.

CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.

Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)

Season Place = total season points/number of races attempted

Crew - Counted toward completed races.

Points go to skipper of boat.

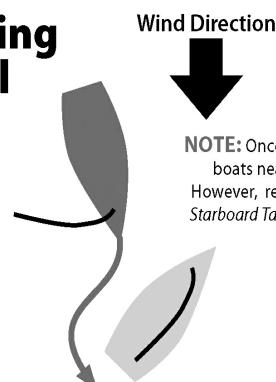
Basic rules of sailboat racing

BASIC RIGHT-OF-WAY SITUATIONS

Same Tack Boats Converging on Different Points-of-Sail

Leeward Boat has Right-of Way

In this example, both boats are on Port Tack. As they converge, the windward boat (Red), which is sailing downwind, has to Keep Clear of the leeward boat (Green).



NOTE: Once again this rule applies for two boats near each other on the same tack. However, remember that any approaching Starboard Tack boat will have Right-of-Way over all Port Tack boats.

Water Quality Committee Report

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

WATER QUALITY MUSINGS

The Power of a Storm

At about 10:45 am on Monday, July 11, 2011, a mighty thunderstorm with heavy rain and strong winds hit Birch Lake. Fortunately the power stayed on, but a lot of folks were left with new needs for tree removal, roof and boat cover repair work, finding of lost articles, picking up sticks, righting of tossed lawn furniture etc.

However, it was also a reminder of how man's activities can affect our lake.

We have moved the natural surroundings back from the shoreline 50 to 100 feet or more in many cases, building houses that with asphalt roofs eliminate acres of permeable surface areas in addition to roads, driveways, patios, etc.

Instead of natural shorelines we have many concrete and rock sea walls,

and short cut grass which does very little to slow down water flow to the lake. In short, since the rain and run off cannot naturally percolate into the soil through large available surface areas with native trees, shrubs, high plants, and such, instead it pours relentlessly off of roads, houses, driveways and their finished areas carrying everything on those surfaces over the grass and right into the lake.

Thus, the phrase, "If it is around the lake it will get into the lake" is quite accurate.

Our lake is not a truly natural system but a composite of what nature and man together have done.

For these reasons, please be parsimonious with use of (zero phosphorus only) fertilizers and weed killers, in addition to being careful with refueling of your boats and other motorized water equipment.

Lakes will age and change even without our presence and help; however, we do not want to accelerate this process more than necessary, particularly if we want to live here and enjoy the lake.

For the long term, it would be helpful to think about building buffers at the



shoreline to filter and slow down flow into the lake, even if minimal, i.e. a few feet.

We will provide some information on that in the future with reference to programs and education provided by the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Michigan State University, and others.

Water Quality Testing Data

Since the mid-80s, lake residents, primarily on behalf of your Birch Lake Yacht Club's Water Quality Committee, have been sampling and testing the lake for a number of different characteristics, trying to track its development and relative quality. Now, there are samples taken and tests performed by numerous different people and organizations (To their credit, Bob and Gert Temple have probably taken more tests than everyone else combined.)

Available on-line are two summaries of past test reports.

We know of the 1980's tests because of records maintained by the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) which is operated by the Michigan Lakes and Stream Association in conjunction with Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality and a number of other agencies.

Sampling is done by lake volunteers and analysis is conducted by state certified labs for all the lakes participating.

We participate in the following programs:

- (1) Secchi disc or transparency - weekly readings
- (2) Phosphorous - spring and summer,
- (3) Chlorophyll - monthly, and
- (4) Dissolved oxygen/temperature profiles of the lake — also spring and summer.

In addition to the Water Quality Committee tests, Bob and Gert Temple still do tests 1-3 above and are responsible for data prior and through 2008.

All of the CLMP data is available online by linking to it from mymlsa.org. Click on CLMP and then you can either download the "2010 CLMP Final Report" or visit the

"micorps" website, go to "Data Exchange" then "View Data" and pull up all the data from when testing started.

This report includes data on a hundred or so Michigan Lakes and draws few conclusions other than to suggest our lake rates midway between an oligotrophic and mesotrophic status, often thought of as the top and second most desirable classifications.

In addition to our CLMP work, within each of the last 2 years, we have also participated in an ongoing program run by Dr. Wallace Fusilier a Ph.D Linnologist (one who scientifically studies bodies of freshwater lakes).

We send spring samples and secchi disc data to him, and then he comes out in the summer to do his own testing. Each year he then provides a formal in-depth report. The complete 2010 - 2009 report will be posted on the Birch Barker site next week (watch next week's Barker for complete information on accessing the file).

Although Fusilier has run similar studies on scores of area lakes, this report concerns itself with only our lake,

includes reports on far more criteria than does the CLMP report, and summarizes that data to rate Birch as an "A" quality lake.

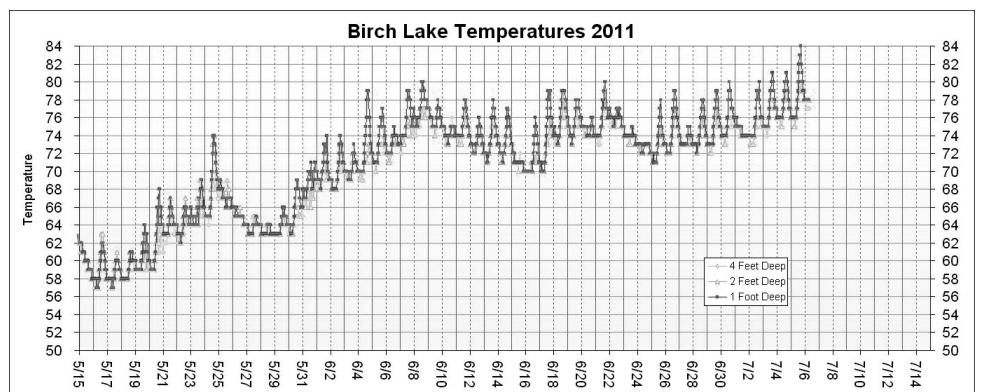
We hope you avail yourself of both of these reports.

Separately from the above, the Water Quality Committee contracts to have the lake mapped and then treated as needed for invasive species, and we do our own E coli screening, both each year. Results from those activities are shared with you via the Barker.

Last but not least, each summer members of the WQC survey for, and pull out, any then emergent purple loosestrife, which is another invasive species.

We will start a series on this data in the coming weeks, reviewing parameters separately and looking at them historically as well as today. We will also continue to report any E coli screening and invasive species information as it occurs.

Should you have any questions whatsoever about any of this material, please contact a member of your WQC. With your support we look forward to



Lake temperatures are provided by Steve Quinlan (West Side)

Stu's Star Stuff

The summer triangle

We've talked about this before. Deneb, Vega and Altair, the summer triangle, is easily spotted directly overhead on Birch Lake summer evenings. The three points all have their own stories. Let's start with Deneb and Cygnus the Swan.

As is the case with so many of the constellations, there are a number of possible explanations for the presence of the swan in the heavens. Some myths, for instance, state the swan was once the pet of the Queen Cassiopeia. Other versions state that the swan was Cionus, son of Neptune, who was wrestled to the ground and smothered by Achilles. To save his son, Neptune immortalized Cionus as a swan.

Another story says the swan is Orpheus, who was murdered by the Thracian women while under the influence of Bob Bacchus. Upon his death, the celebrated musician was placed in the heavens to spend eternity by his harp, Lyra. Yet another variant says that the swan represents the form taken by Jupiter when he deceived Leda and fathered Pollux.

According to Ovid, the swan was once Cygnus, son of Sthenelus and a close friend of Phaethon. Phaethon died in the river Eridanus after attempting to drive the chariot of the sun, and Cygnus was overcome with grief that Jupiter could have struck down his friend:

As he mourned, his voice became thin and shrill, and white feathers hid his hair. His neck grew long, stretching out from his breast, his fingers reddened and a membrane joined them together. Wings clothed his sides, and a blunt beak fastened on his mouth. Cygnus became a new kind of bird: but he put no trust in the skies, or in Jupiter, for he remembered how that god had unjustly hurled his flaming bolt. Instead, Cygnus made for marshes and broad lakes, and in his hatred of flames chose to inhabit the rivers, which are the very antithesis of fire.

Cygnus is easily found in the summer sky. Also called the Northern Cross because of its characteristic shape, its brightest star is Deneb, which is part of the Summer Triangle with Vega and Altair. Cygnus is

located next to Cepheus and Lyra.

The star Vega anchors Lyra, the harp. Lyra represents the lyre played by Orpheus, musician of the Argonauts and son of Apollo and the muse Calliope. Apollo gave his son the lyre as a gift, and Orpheus played it so well that even the wild beasts, the rocks, and the trees were charmed by his music. He fell deeply in love with the nymph Eurydice, and the two were married. Their wedded bliss did not last for very long, however. Eurydice was wandering in the fields with some other nymphs when she was seen by the shepherd Aristaeus. Aristaeus was struck by her beauty and pursued her; as she fled, she was bitten by a snake in the grass and died of the serpent's poison.

Orpheus was devastated. He decided to seek out his wife in the underworld, and gained an audience with Pluto and Persephone. The king and queen of the underworld, like all others, were charmed by his music and granted him permission to take Eurydice back to the land of the living with him:

They called Eurydice. She was among the ghosts who had but newly come, and walked slowly because of her injury. Thracian Orpheus received her, but on condition that he must not look back until he had emerged from the valleys of Avernus or else the gift he had been given would be taken from him.

Up the sloping path, through the mute silence they made their way, up the steep dark track, wrapped in impenetrable gloom, till they had almost reached the surface of the earth. Here, anxious in case his wife's strength be failing and eager to see her, the lover looked behind him, and straightaway Eurydice slipped back into the depths. Orpheus stretched out his arms, straining to clasp her and be clasped; but the hapless man touched nothing but yielding air. Eurydice, dying now a second time, uttered no complaint against her husband. What was there to complain of, that she had been loved? With a last farewell which scarcely reached his ears, she fell back again into the same place from which she had come.

According to Ovid, Orpheus was so heartbroken from having lost his love not once, but twice, that he rejected the company of women in favor of that of small boys. The women of Thrace were infuriated and, while maddened during Bacchic rites, hurled rocks at the bard. The rocks, tamed by the sound of Orpheus's lyre, at first fell harmlessly at his feet, but the shrieks of the infuriated women soon drowned out the music. The women dismembered Orpheus, throwing his lyre and his head into the river Hebrus. The Muses gathered up his limbs and buried them, and Orpheus went to the underworld to spend eternity with Eurydice. Jupiter himself cast the bard's lyre into the sky.

Lyra may be easily picked out in the sky because it contains Vega, at zero magnitude the second brightest star visible from the northern hemisphere. Vega is also part of the summer triangle, formed with Deneb and Altair.

Check it out. It's up there every night all summer long. It's spectacular anywhere but especially here at Birch Lake. And best of all, it's free.

-Stu Spratt



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The Moon for July 16, 2011

Illuminated
Fraction: 0.955
2.0 days
after full moon



BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

New emotional connections can be made through business contacts. You need to reevaluate your situation. Don't make excuses. Finish off old projects before starting something new. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21)

Don't let your mate stop you from attending an event that could be most important. Obstacles may stand in your way where career and success are concerned. Your ability to dazzle others with your unique and innovative ideas will attract attention. Don't use emotional blackmail on someone you love. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Try to make amends by planning a nice dinner for two. Travel for pleasure will be enticing. Residential moves should be considered carefully. Keep your cash in your pocket and offer them sound advice rather than your financial assistance. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Your tendency to dramatize may be a little much for your partner to take constantly. You need to sit back and enjoy. You must lay down ground rules so that you can complete a job. Situations in your personal life are moving a little fast lately. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Take positive action. Overindulgence may cause conflicts. Travel opportunities should be your first choice. Be quiet about your intentions or ideas that might bring added cash. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Sudden changes will occur through communications with friends or in-laws. It will be all around you. Restrictions may be difficult for you to live with. Your own small business on the side could ease your financial stress. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Be cautious while traveling to foreign countries. You may find yourself in the midst of a pretty good deal. Your home environment may be hectic, which could result in emotional upset if you aren't well organized. Consider selling your homemade crafts at the flea market. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Go with the flow and don't be concerned about your own job. Spend time with friends or family. Be quiet about your intentions or ideas that might bring added cash. Erratic behavior at home may be hard to handle. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

You need to make your environment a better place, with more comforts and a better enter-

tainment center. Your domestic scene could continue to be in an uproar this week. You can make money if you concentrate on producing services that will make domestic chores easier. Too much talk might lead to hassles. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Try to enlist the support of your coworkers first. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Put your efforts into making changes to your domestic scene. Overindulgence will mean poor health. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Get ready to discover love, passion, and the desire to enjoy all that life has to offer. Try to concentrate on research and acquiring information that will be of value in your chosen field. You must look into your options. The key to feeling good about yourself will be to do something about it. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Get involved in fitness programs that will bring you in contact with new friends. Don't be too eager to spend money that you really don't have. Travel in pursuit of pleasure and knowledge. Compromise will be necessary. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

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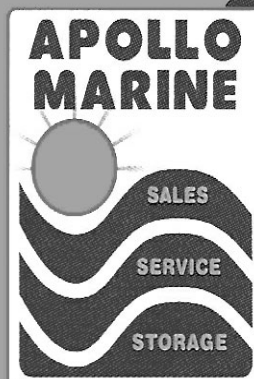


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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Balsamic Chicken

When the weather out is to wet to grill, try this Balsamic Chicken. I would recommend a nice Cabernet Sauvignon.

Prep Time: 5 Min

Cook Time: 20 Min

Ready In: 45 Min

Original Recipe Yield 4 servings

Ingredients

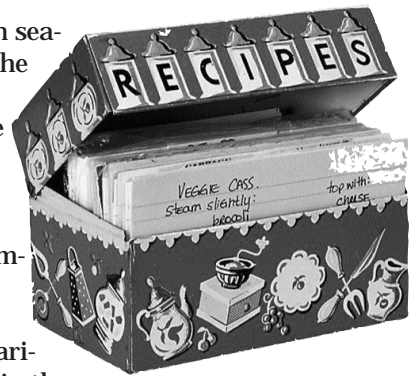
- 1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried Italian herb seasoning
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

Directions

1. Whisk together the balsamic vinegar, chicken broth,

sugar, garlic, and Italian seasoning in a bowl, place the chicken breasts in the marinade, and marinate for 10 minutes on each side.

2. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Remove the chicken from the marinade and reserve the marinade. Place the chicken in the heated pan and cook until they start to brown and are no longer pink inside, about 7 minutes per side. Pour the marinade into the skillet, and cook until it thickens slightly, turning the chicken breasts over once or twice, about 5 minutes.



— BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH —

BAD WEATHER-RELATED WORDS

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

Last week's answers

summertime fun meals

POTATO SALAD
 STRAWBERRY
 BAKED BEANS
 CANTALOUPE
 PEPPERS
 TOMATOES
 WALKING TACOS
 CHIPS

HOTDOGS
 CHOCOLATE
 PICKLES
 STEAKS
 GRAM CRACKERS
 WATERMELON
 ICE CREAM
 MARSHMALLOWS

POPSICLES
 PORKCHOPS
 CHILI DOGS
 GREEN BEANS
 ASPARAGUS
 LETTUCE
 HAMBURGERS
 CHEESE

SAVE THE DATE

Get your team together, dust off the clubs!

Tee off at Spruce Ridge July 22, at 9 am- Scramble

Prizes for best ball, closest to the tee, best putt and more!!! 50/50 Raffle — Each team is encouraged to donate a basket to be raffled. — Lunch will follow golf at ZEKE'S in beautiful downtown Dowagiac-Unlimited Soup and Salad bar, and soft drinks. Adult beverages may be purchased individually. — Cost per person will be \$35 includes golf, cart, lunch (same price as last year).

BE THERE!!!!!! LOTS OF FUN!!!!

2010 Birch Lake Ladies "JUST FOR FUN" Golf Outing Participants

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Checks should be made out to BLYC and can be dropped off to Patty Luecht 269-476-2615

Donated money, prizes, baskets and other items can also be dropped off to Patty

QUESTIONS? Call Bad Patty 476-2615

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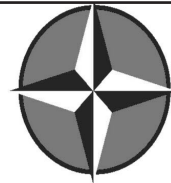
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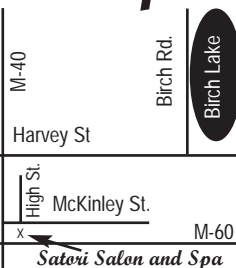
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Camp Tannadoonah

Harry Potter week is wrapping up, and what a week it was! We had a grand total of 120 campers for the week, which I am pretty sure is a new Tannadoonah record. Our previous largest group was 115 (last year for Hawaiian Week).

On Sunday night we had a sorting ceremony, complete with the talking sorting hat. Each cabin was assigned to one of the four Hogwarts' Houses. After the sorting ceremony, the campers proceeded to the sports and games field for House Wars - ball wars and a tug of war in teams by their houses.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights we held the first ever Tannadoonah Tri-Wizard Tournament. The first challenge was to navigate Nocturne Alley (better known as the One Way Street). Campers played a series of games with crazy and contradictory rules, and tried not to earn tickets issued by the Magical Law Enforcement Squad. Campers and counselors from the houses that earned the most tickets received punishments.

The second challenge on Wednesday evening was a water challenge. In the Harry Potter books, the second Tri-Wizard challenge involved swimming into the lake to retrieve something that had been stolen from the competitors. At Tannadoonah, we had water relays and challenges in Birch Lake.

The third and final challenge on Thursday evening was to retrieve the golden eggs from the protection of the dragons. The campers engaged in a battle that combined Capture the Flag and Dodgeball into one crazy Quidditch-like game! They had to retrieve their flags (golden eggs) without being hit by the Quidditch Bludger Balls (the dodge balls).

On Friday evening we had a Harry Potter costume ball in the dining hall during dinner, and had a wonderful Harry Potter-themed meal prepared by Miss Peggy (oops, I meant, the House Elves!).

We survived Monday's storm with very little trouble here at camp. The campers and counselors spent about 30 minutes in the basement while the worth of the storm blew through. We luckily did not have any injuries, lose any trees, nor suffer any damage to any buildings. We had a lightning strike to a tree near Main Lodge, and the shock damaged a few electronics in the building, but other than the inconvenience of having no internet for a day, we were extremely lucky.

This week we offered Guitar Lessons at Tannadoonah for the first time. Chas took the week off of work and served as the guitar instructor for the week. The campers were true Tannadoonah Guitar Heroes by the end

of the week!

Next week's theme is Survivor Week, and the activities for the week will be planned by our crew of Counselors in Training (CITs). There are a record 18 CITs participating in the CIT program this year. We're looking forward to an exciting week of Survivor Challenges, and have 112 campers who will be here for the week!

Last weekend, Stan, Phil, and Sandy presented us with a wonderful check from the Pancake Breakfast. With the breakfast committee's permission, we plan to use the funds to purchase a new water heater for the boys' shower house, a new seal for the walk in freezer, some new screen doors for cabins, and several other needs to be determined.

We also want to give a big thank you to all those who participated in the house walk last weekend. The very generous donation we received from the house walk will be used to fund camper-ships for campers who need financial help to attend camp.

We were thrilled with the turnout at both the breakfast and the house walk, and by the awesome generosity of our Birch Lake neighbors! Thank you all!

-Miss Amber

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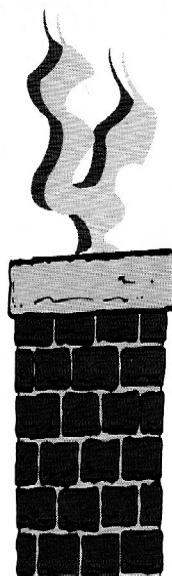
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*** registrations
by July 20th
(that's the middle
of next week!)**

Additional Information

- * team prizes and contests
- * dinner only, \$28 per person
- * dinner includes 10oz. prime rib, side salads, corn on the cob.
- * lunch not included but the club has complete restaurant and beverage service availability.
- * prizes awarded during dinner.
- * the mens' and ladies' outing is looking for donations of door prizes. If you have access to

logo merchandise that could be donated to one or both, please contact Bob or Stu at rebauc@aol.com or slsvb1@comcast.net

*We have need for 80 players in the mens' and 40 players in the womens' event.

* **Send entries to Bob Baucus**, 19470 Starbrick Rd., Edwardsurg, MI 49112 or drop checks to **Phil Vitale**, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia (east side)

*checks should be made out to BLYC

Foursome Information
Team Captain:

Please Print Players names:

Total Enclosed \$ _____



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- \$ ____ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ ____ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ ____ - Water Quality Program
- \$ ____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication Program
- \$ ____ - Riparian (\$8/yr, for magazine)
- \$ ____ - Safety Committee
- \$ ____ - Other non-party related expenses

Total contribution \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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

2011 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

Officers:

Commodore Stan Pitakos476-8862
 Vice Commodore Pam Mullin476-1080
 Fleet Captain Jeff Smitley.....476-9000
 Treasurer Holly Troeger.....476-9898
 Secretary Sandy Vitale476-1680

Phil Vitale476-1680
 Lind Harman.....476-2039
 Bob Waddle.....476-2293

West

Harold Cranmer.....476-2170
 Greg Bolin476-2420
 Steve Quinlan476-8802
 Karen Brovold476-8862
 Mike Sheffieck.....476-1849

E. Hill

PJ Vandewalle.....n/a

North

Rick Russwurm476-2407
 Fred Freihofer476-9823
 Mike Lutz.....476-2843
 Bob Baucus.....476-2863

Cove

Vicki Rogers476-2383

South

Sue Williams476-8886
 Terry Dugan.....476-2814

Board Members

East
 Scott Troeger.....476-9898
 Jim Bolinger476-9737

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FOR SALE

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

MELGES MC sailboat #581, original owner, beautiful yellow deck, green trim with varnished wood spray rail and tiller. Two sails, full cover. Custom MC trailer. Beautiful pristine condition \$1500 complete. OBO. See also its Shore Station lift ad below. 574-340-0345 (bruce.harlan.5@nd.edu)

1000# aluminum Shore Station MC lift, \$500 OBO 574-340-0345 (bruce.harlan.5@nd.edu)

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 12 **Birch Lake Totes** left at 5 bucks each. Call Bad Patty Luecht at 476-2615.

RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE: — Tickets are \$25.00 and will be eligible for: 3 drawings of \$1,000.00 and 6 drawings of \$100.00; A maximum of 750 tickets will be sold. All proceeds benefit "Our Lady of the Lake Church" in Edwardsburg. Please contact Denise Smitley 476-9000.

Creative Memories scrap booking items for sale. Items are all priced at cost to reduce my inventory. I have everything including adhesive, tools, paper, albums and cricut cartridges. I can also scrapbook for you or if interested can hold a crop night. Call Diana Betzer at 574-274-3260 located on Benders Hill.

1998 Chaparell 1930, bow rider extra clean. new custom bimini with stainless steel and green sun-brella canvas, paid \$1,000. 5 liter merc cruiser. Trailer has new brakes new master cylinder and good tires, Perfect lake boat. Two Anchors, skiis, snap on cover. Dark Green trim. Low, 300 hours on engine. \$8495 obo. Call Tim Burchell at 850-554-076. Can be seen at Birch Lake

FOR SALE: **CHAPARRAL** 186ssi (19') 2001, 210 hp, 4.3 liter electronic fuel injected Mercruiser I.O. stern drive. White/Yellow with Yellow Bimini top and playpen cover. White interior. Hydraulic steering and trim operation, tilt wheel, snap in Carpet, Depth Finder, 4 Speaker AM/FM CD stereo with detachable face, remote, and helm controls, docking lights, retracting mooring cleats, fire detection and auto extinguish system in the engine compartment and

additional fire extinguisher in the cockpit, full instrumentation. Sun deck cooler and flip down ladder. Two swiveling captains chairs with piano hinge booster pads, Storage locker for life jackets. Custom single axle Heritage matching yellow trailer with brakes. Total time only 133 hours. Beautiful and fun boat, great ski boat.. This boat was custom built for us at the Chaparral plant in Nashville, GA. Boat is in the water on Birch Lake. Part of the Harlan "yellow fleet." \$15,995 OBO 574-340-0345 or (bruce.harlan.5@nd.edu)

V30/V40 Model Shore Station for above listed Chaparral 19' with Blue canopy and Shore Station electric power lift. In the water on Birch Lake. \$1500 OBO. 574-340-0345 (bruce.harlan.5@nd.edu) SHORESTATION SS-V40108 BOAT LIFT Lists for \$4697 without motor

2000 VW Beetle. White, with black leather int. Sun roof, spoiler, five speed, high miles... Driven highway. \$3695. Obo. Runs great. Six changer cd player. Power, AC, Heated seats. Radiator needs attention. Gets great 30miles to gal. Florida car- no rust! Call Tim Burchell at 850-554-0769

Full set of ladies golf clubs, includes cart, shoes. Asking \$300. 476-2298.

Birch Laker Carol Dugan has for sale, **artistic photography**. Cards, matted work, and giclee canvas work is created. Custom orders are welcome. Carol is a member of the Three Rivers Artists Guild, has been juried into numerous shows, and has work included in the permanent collection at the new facilities of Michiana Hematology and Oncology. Carol can be reached at 476-2814 or online at CDugan5310@aol.com.

Toro CCR 3650 snowblower, electric start, 6.5 HP, red, hasn't been used in a few years (no snow in FL), \$350.00 (was \$741 new in 12/03) Sparkybob 476-2293

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.

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.

HOMES FOR SALE

BirchLakeHomeSale.com
BirchLakeHomeForSale.com

FOR SALE CHICAGO/LAKEVIEW AREA TOWN-HOME — 3 BR, 2 BA, fireplace, hardwood floors, marble baths, Granite/maple/stainless eat-in kitchen, attached garage and tandem parking spot. Short walk to Lake Michigan and Wrigley Field! Questions and price info. please call Dan Soldato 574-514-5175.

FOUND

FOUND MONDAY: **One white pontoon bumper** washed up after storm, Lacy's #98 (south side)

Found: **a pair of reading glasses** in the road behind 63486 Birch Road. Call Olson, 476-2125.

LOST

Lost: A Delta ski, with blue, orange, and possibly another color. Lost at the end of last summer. An ad was posted previously in the Barker, from the person who had found it. If you still are holding on to it, please give me a call. Lindsey Price 574-612-4867

Lost: **UK white ball cap** in front of Kinzler's house. Fits Commodore's head. Please call if located.

WANTED

Donated items (and services) we can sell at the upcoming silent auction which will be held during the Birch Lake Yacht Club's Fall Dinner (to benefit Camp Tannadoonah). Contact Commodore Stan or Amber Grundy

Wanted to buy: Pre-owned 120 inch boat lift with canopy. Contact Stewart at 269.476.2113 (land) or 574.514.0667 (cell).

Looking for a ride. Attention sunfish owners — If anyone has a boat that needs to be exercised on Sunday mornings I would be happy to accept the mount. Naturally if I come in the money I would expect to receive a small percentage of the purse. Contact Stewart at 476.2113.

Want a classified ad in the Barker? It's easy! Email sailorphil@philvital.com ... mail to Birch Barker, c/o Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095, or put it 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 ...



Dick

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