



The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 30, 2012

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Happy 4th of July Weekend!



Be **SAFE** and have fun!

2011 Birch Lake fireworks Photo by Chuck Horn

Special thanks to Lutz Concrete for sponsoring the color for the Holiday edition of the Barker!

Commodore's Comments

Aah! Tuesday morning, another beautiful day to spend relaxing at Birch Lake. Had some coffee ... let's check some e-mails ... Here's one from Sailorphil ... wonder what he wants? ... "Need Barker Commodore Comments Tuesday (tomorrow) please, thanks." What? By the way, this is past Commodore Bob Waddle speaking. Let's see, I do vaguely remember telling Commodore Pam, late at her cocktail party, that I would fill in for her, but did she say when? I guess she must have. I wonder why I can't remember things sometimes.

So I have retrieved my #2 Black Warrior pencil that I retired a couple of years ago and here we go. First of all, I love being a Birch Lake cheerleader. It's pretty easy when there is such an abundance of good material to choose from. Like last Saturday's Spaghetti Dinner at the BLYC. The East shore team operated like a well oiled machine, serving

close to 180 hungry diners in just two hours. The food was delicious, the service impeccable and the ambiance overwhelming. A huge thank-you to everyone who helped make it such a success.

For those of you that don't get the local paper, today's edition contained such a heart-warming story that I must share it with you. In Cass County, a young mother briefly lost track of her 14-month-old son, and then found him face up and blue in the family swimming pool. The family dog, a black lab, was in the pool, underneath the toddler, holding him above the water on the dog's back. The story has a good ending though, the child regained consciousness on the way to get help and will be fine. When I read the account in the paper, it brought tears to my eyes thinking how much this wonderful dog loves his little master and how he knew what he had to do.

Back to business. This weekend will probably be the busiest of the entire season here at Birch Lake. We will begin with the boat parade on Saturday and end the day with our marvelous annual

2012 BLYC Calendar

June 30	Boat Parade
June 30	Fireworks
July 1	Pancake Breakfast
July 1	Fireworks Rain Date
July 14	Vice Commodore's Party
July 20	Women's Golf Outing
July 21	Poker Run/Camp T Hog Roast
July 27	Men's Golf Outing
Aug. 4	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 25	Fall Dinner
Sept. 8	Sailing Awards
Sept. 15 or 25	Game Night/Card Party
Oct. 6	Annual Chili Cook-Off

Board Meetings - 9 am (Saturdays)

July 7, Aug. 4 (Homeowners Meeting to follow board meeting), Sept. 8

Sailing Regattas

4th of July Regatta — next weekend!
Labor Day weekend

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

The Birch Barker is always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, put the items in the stone newspaper/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), 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 photos or any other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or BLYC Commodore Pam Mullin, (269) 476-1080. --Phil Vitale, editor

— Birch Lake Notes —

fireworks display. Be sure to attend the Pancake Breakfast at the Camp on Sunday morning (8:30 - 11 am). They serve a great breakfast and all the proceeds, as usual, are donated to Camp Tannadoonah.

Finally, please be safe this weekend, whether you're on the water, or at home enjoying your own fireworks. Please be considerate of your neighbors, whatever your pleasure. It's been great talking to all of you again, and I will leave you with this little witticism from Mae West: "You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."

~Past Commodore Sparkybob

Pancake Breakfast

Come join your Birch Lake neighbors at the annual Fourth of July Holiday Pancake Breakfast next Sunday, July 1, from 8:30 am to 11 am at Camp Tannadoonah.

All you can eat pancakes (a limited supply of gluten-free pancakes will be available), sausage, fruit, coffee and juice for just \$5 for adults, children 6-10 \$2, and free for under 5 kids. All the proceeds will go to Camp Tannadoonah.

Holiday visitors

Dear friends Ric and Lisa Dwenger (Muncie), and Chuck and Karen Horn (Carmel) will again be visiting the King family this 4th of July, err, ahem, 29th of June. Please feel free to stop by and



Big thanks to former Laker Julie Greene (East side) for this photo of the giant hummingbird that terrorized the lake one afternoon last weekend ...

swap tales (tell lies) from when the world was young. If you hear singing and / or acoustic stringed music emanating from the North shore, well, hopefully it's Ric doing the singing ...

Vandalism, theft

We have received word that there has been some vandalism and theft of gas (from boats), a Weber grill and a ski

from properties on Birch Lake. Be vigilant this weekend, and if you have a problem, notify the Cass County Sheriff at 445-2481 (non-emergency) or call 911.

The Cass County Marine Patrol is at 445-1225.

Sailor Alert! Set your DVRs

NBC will televise the match race and fleet race finale at America's Cup

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— Birch Lake Notes —

World Series Newport Sunday, July 1.
The 90 minute television show will air at 2:30 pm., hosted by Gary Jobson. The racing in Newport Rhode Island is in 45' hard winged (main-sail) catamarans, which are temporary training "kittens" in use until the teams launch 72' hard-winged "cats" for the Louis Vuitton Cup Challenger Selection Series and the America's Cup Match to be held on San Francisco Bay in 2013.

Newberg open house

Newberg Township Fire and EMS (corner of M40 and M60), in conjunction with Satori Salon will host an open house on Saturday, July 14 from 11 am to 5 pm. There will be a med-flight, smoke house, dunk tank, kids waterball and a bounce house. Port-A-Pit Chicken & Ribs will be available (\$7 for chicken; \$8 for rib tips ... comes with two sides and a drink). All are welcome!

From Chrissy at Just Hair

To all of my wonderful friends and customers at Birch Lake, thank you all so much for thinking of us. The 3 week early arrival of our baby girl left us a bit unorganized, but we are now settling into our new roles as parents and enjoying every moment. Thank you all for all of the beautiful clothes, socks and toys and gift card.

Cecily Joella Grant born 5/16/12
5lbs, 5oz 18 ½ inches

~J Chrissy & Jason Grant

Got Pix?

We are looking for photos of (and around) Birch Lake for a 2013 calendar.



We're particularly interested in covering all the seasons, so if you have a few (please no more than 5 per person), please send them to us ... you can email your submissions to sailorphil@philvital.com or get them to Commodore Pam, Vice Commodore Chas, or to Phil (see black box below for addresses, etc).

Thanks to Vice Commodore Chas there is also a cool ONLINE form to submit photos ... find a link to the form at <http://www.philvital.com> (follow the link to "The Birch Barker.")

Cass County Conservation Club

The Cass County Conservation Club will host a garage sale on Aug 12 to 14 in the club parking lot. This is the weekend of the large US-12 garage sale. For a nominal fee, spots are available. For

more details or to reserve your spot contact Connie Sue Hulse at 269-641-2590.

The following events are also scheduled at the Cass County Conservation Club on US 12 at Birch Rd.:

June 30 — Boating Safety Course

July 14 & 15 — U-Pick'em Bingo

Aug. 25 — Corn and Sausage Roast

Sept. 15 & 16 — U-Pick'em Bingo

Nov. 3 & 4 — Bingo Proceeds to

Weekly events include Line Dance class w/ Fran every Monday @ 6pm; Zumba every Wednesday @ 5:30 pm; Yoga every Tuesday @ 6 pm; Euchre every Thursday @ 6:30 pm.

Line Dancing on Tuesdays

Lind Harman is teaching/hosting line dancing at the Yacht Club on Tuesday mornings until further notice.

Other real estate agents talk about their listings ...

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Bill, Le King named Grand Marshals of Boat Parade

Following well-established Birch Lake tradition, the 2012 4th of July Boat Parade committee has unanimously selected northsiders Bill and Le King to serve as Grand Marshals. Bill and Le will be among the very few repeat winners of this prestigious honor, which recognizes Birch Lake residents who have given much to our beloved lake community.

Certainly Bill and Le have had much opportunity over the years to serve their neighbors. Bill and Le came to Birch Lake in 1957, inexorably drawn to spend their summers with their two children in the charming cottage pictured below. They have lived continuously at that same location since the late 1970's. Their current year-round residence was twice remodeled, and became their full-time home when they were forced to spend a winter here due to unfinished construction of a new home in South Bend. Although they loved their new home in town when it was done, the winter spent here caused the Kings to fully realize that the beauty and charm of Birch Lake endures through all seasons. They came to live here year-round when less than a dozen families lived here full-time.

Bill and Le have been a vibrant force in the life of Birch Lake ever since they first came here for the summer in the 1950's. Bill and Le were early advocates of the Birch Lake Yacht club and Bill served as Commodore with distinction. Le has always been at Bill's side and provided her husband and children with much love and support in the finest Ozzie and Harriet style any family could have hoped for. Le King is best known as a wonderful wife, mother, friend and



neighbor. She is mother to Suzy and Bob and grandma to Calvin King. Her devotion to family is exceeded only by her friendliness to all she meets.

Bill was well-prepared for leadership following an outstanding college football career at Ball State University, where Bill served as a team captain. Following graduation, Bill was elected as a charter member of the BSU Hall of Fame. He is one of the few surviving members of the only undefeated football team in Ball State's history. He was also later selected as an honoree of the College Football Hall of Fame. After he was drafted by the Cleveland Browns and briefly gave professional football a try, Bill went to work for Misch Manufacturing in Mishawaka which he continues to operate to this day.

Congratulations to Bill and Le King -- our 2012 Birch Lake Boat Parade Grand Marshals!

The theme for the boat parade honors our world obsession with "The Summer Olympics." We fun-loving people of Birch Lake will do our best to duplicate the real thing taking place in the U.K. later this summer. Maybe we can give them some tips on how the real event should

go. All athletes "competing" in Birch Lake's version of the Olympics must report to Dick Bender's pier, on the south side of the lake, at 2:00 pm.

The judges for this year's event have been selected as well. Linda Curtis, Patty Russwurm, Rick Russwurm, Vicki Rogers and Tom Rogers will be at your service on the pier with instructions and trophies for all families participating. Dick Bender is the Master of Ceremonies and in his usual fashion will make registration a breeze. Bribes are not encouraged, but are not entirely illegal. Let your conscience be your guide.

Boats can start lining up at Dick Bender's pier at 2:00 pm for registration. Please approach the pier slowly to receive your participant number and provide participants last names to the judges. Once you have registered proceed away from the pier and form a line behind the Grand Marshals' boat. After everyone has registered, the Grand Marshals will lead the parade in a counter-clockwise route around the lake.

Last, but not least! This parade is all in fun and the more participants we have, the more fun we will have! Please encourage your children, grandchildren, friends and relatives to join in the fun. Remember, a trophy goes to all participating families with the coveted First Place trophy going to the judges' number one pick! Everyone involved is a winner!! There are no losers!!

Have fun and safe boating!

Co-Chairs

Carla Chester, Ilene Golden

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IT'S TIME FOR
"THE GIRLS JUST
WANNA HAVE FUN"
GOLF OUTING!!!

July 20 — 9AM

GARVER LAKE GOLF COURSE (EDWARDSBURG)

Prizes for best ball, closest to the pin, best putt, and soooo much more! 50/50 cash Raffle, and many surprises!

Lunch will follow at Lunkers in Edwardsburg.

\$35 per person includes 9 holes of golf with cart, lunch and more fun than legally allowed!!!

Checks should be made out to BLYC and dropped off to Patty Luecht (East side)

Questions call 476-2615

BE THERE!! GET YOUR TEAM!!!

Each team is encouraged to donate a basket to be raffled

Team Members and Entries by July 13th

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



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— Birch Lake Notes —

NEW EVENT — BLYC POKER RUN & Camp Tannadoonah Hog Roast

Saturday - July 21, 2012

Join the fun - first 52 players get to play! \$15 entry fee.

You will receive a playing Card at each home. Players must visit all 5 homes on Birch Lake to pick up cards to be eligible to win!. At the last (5th) home, poker hands will be presented to the official Dealers (Stan & Rich). Refreshments provided at each home.

Best Poker hand wins \$250; second best hand - \$100, third best \$50.

Event starts at 3pm - meet at Stu Spratt's and get the first card.

Other stops include:

West shore - Sheffieck's

East shore - Fallon's & Chester's

South shore - TBD

North shore - Mullin's

Pontoon transportation will be provided between stop! Finish at Mullin's. Attend the Camp Tannadoonah Annual Hog Roast afterwards - including Live Music and of course - the hog!!!!

Drop entry form off to any of the hosts - Mullin, Spratt, Sheffieck, Fallon, Chester. Limited to the first 52 players!!!!

USE THIS ENTRY FORM

Player name: _____

Player name: _____



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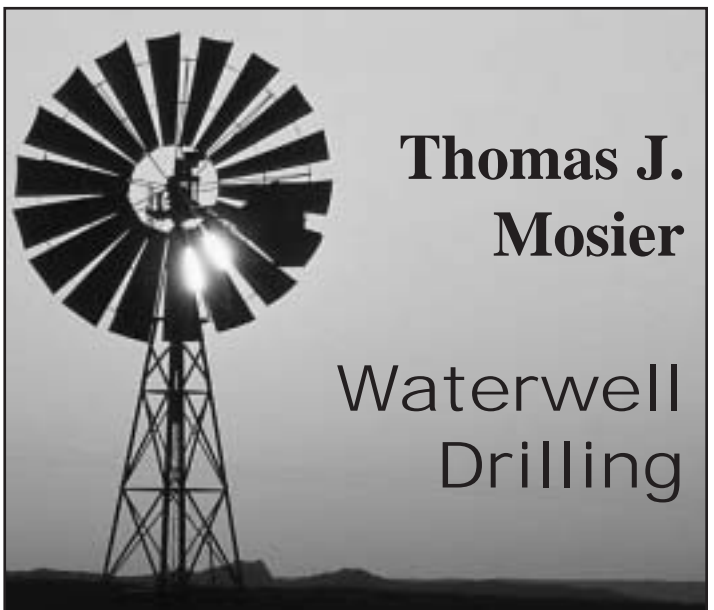
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— Birch Lake Notes —

Servin' up the pasta

First and foremost, thanks all the great Birch Lakers who attended SPAGFEST. With your support and empty tummies we were able to raise nearly \$1,291 for the Yacht Club.

It started on a dark (but not stormy) night ... Just minutes after Phil and I got to the yacht club to plug in the electric starter for the grill at the Friday night setup, the power went out! Phil mooched some lighter fluid off the Whitemans (thanks Ron & Staci!), and thanks to Deb Bolinger's lamp and Celia Fallon's candles, we "got er done!" Side note: just as we were ready to lock the door on the way out, the power came back on ... harumph!

Anyway, I want to take a moment to thank all the team members for a job well done. A big hand to the inside crew. Lynn and Tom Decocker, Terry Curtis and Irene Steffen made both sauces, and Bad Patty Luecht slaved over a hot stove to pre-cook 60 lbs. of spaghetti.

Marlo and JP Hoyer again provided the perfect bread to go with that great garlic butter. What a treat to have it buttered and ready to eat.

Oh my goodness, Deb Bolinger and Carla Chester out-performed us all with



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8 MILES FROM THE LAKE, IN "ZIMMYVILLE" JUST SOUTH OF US 12

Pontoon Boat Specials!

2012 MANITOU PONTOONS

Aurora 18' Black w/Mercury 25 hp \$15265.71

Aurora 20' Burgundy w/Mercury 40 hp Bigfoot \$17617.18

Aurora 22' Blue w/Mercury 60 hp \$19402.55

Oasis 23' SE VP Black — Rear Lounge Hi-Performance V-Toon w/Mercury 150 hp Optimax

In-floor storage; 40 mph with four passengers! \$32495.00

2012 XCURSION PONTOONS by Forest River

X-21C Black w/40 hp Mercury Bigfoot \$18995

Dock Store Specials!

4 x 10 foot Pier sections

Treated Wood	\$169
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Aluminum	\$409
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Sheerline White Vinyl.....	\$549

4-foot Aluminum Post Assembly

Includes 1 crossarm, 2 posts, 2 crossarm clamps,
2 stringer brackets, and 2 augers or 8" bottom plates.

Post Height	...3'4'5'6'7'8'10'
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— Birch Lake Notes —

the great Ice Cream Sundae Bar and all the fixings and brownies to give out to the To-Go crowd.

Next a big round of thanks to the salad ladies, Celia Fallon and Linda Yoshazawa for filling the bowls with your favorite salad, grape tomatoes and croutons. I really liked the Basil tomato salad dressing, too.

We could not have kept the tables cleaned and ready for the next crowd without Linda Curtis and Holly Troeger — they made a great crew.

Well what would we have done without the tremendous drink station attendants help Tory Troeger and Katie Luecht. Give them a hand, someday they will move up to sauce makers.

The ladies toiling over the spag and sauce worked their fingers to the bone and broke two serving utensils in the process. A big thanks to Karen Miller flower arranger, Irene Steffen, the great red sauce recipe developer, were troopers to stand there and deliver the spag and sauce; and Lynn Decocker kept up the olive oil garlic sauce and kept Sandy



The Troeger family posed for a pre-eating pic



You know Elliott Steffen enjoyed the spaghetti! from worrying over how much sauce we had left.

And on a final note the award of Kitchen Elf and all-around take out specialist goes to Eric Miller, who filled more To Go orders than ever before.

I want to thank Judy and Dave Olson for taking tickets and money, and our Top Salesperson Denise Smitley, as well as Karen Miller, Linda Yoshazawa, Irene Steffen, Paul and Celia Fallon, Deb Bolinger and Denny Weesner.

All right then we had the most motley crew of Spag cooks you would ever want to see. Kudos to Ed Chester, Scott Troeger, Paul Fallon, Tim Steffen, Jim Yoshazawa, Bill Luecht, Tom Decocker and Jim Bolinger.

Thanks to Neil Troeger for the parking lot help.

And special thanks to the cleanup crew of Millie Zelasko and the DeCloedt family (John, Tammy and the girls), who jumped in and cleaned up the room so we could finally eat!

A million thanks to all the Lakers who contributed pots, turkey fryers, tents, roasters, coolers, ice cream donations and assorted good advice, another special thanks to Fred Frieffer who once again who arranged, picked up and delivered all of the bottles of water donated by Keck's in South Bend.

I hope I haven't forgotten anyone (if so, sorry, I'll make it up to you!).

I hope you all know I am most grateful for all the support and assistance in making this event a success, and I hope we see all of our friends from the lake next year for our last (but no less spectacular) SPAGFEST 2013!

-Sandy Vitale



Laura, Wes and Elliott Steffen with Bill King at the Spag dinner

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NEW PRICE: \$84,900

Very nice, all-brick home with 100 FT of very sandy beach on All-Sports Long Lake — with access into Coverdale Lake and canoeing and kayaking into the St Joe River. This

home is very spacious and has fabulous views from all of the large windows throughout. Gourmet kitchen with new flooring and eating area, Two fireplaces (living and family rooms), and rec area in lower level. New carpet in living room and master bedroom has built-ins and cedar closet. Beautiful terraced landscaping and patio with fire pit. Great home for entertaining!



Asking \$445,000

— Barker Kids of the Week —



From left, Irene, Wes, Elliott, Wes Laura, and Tim Steffen get a kid of the week photo just because they were all smiling and they all had their eyes open for the photo!



If you can start the day without caffeine,
 If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
 If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
 If you can eat plain food every day and be grateful for it,
 If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
 If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
 If you can conquer tension without medical help,
 If you can relax without liquor,
 If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,
 Then You Are Probably
The Family Dog!

Thanks to Dan Waxman (East side) for the Inner Peace lesson

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



On June 5, 2012, Charlotte Rose Dugan, 9 pounds and 9 ounces, was born to parents, Craig and Dawn Dugan. Charlotte is the first grandchild of Birch Lake residents, Carol and Terry Dugan (south side).



How bout some ducks of the week? Thanks to Bob King for capturing the Octomom duck that's been swimming her babies around the lake for the past few weeks.

BLYC 52nd ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING (4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE) JULY 27, 2012 - \$70/man SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB

**61270 Lutz Road, Three Rivers, MI — Shotgun start at NOON; dinner at BLYC at 6 pm
*must have registrations by July 9th.**

Please state shirt sizes for every golfer!

Additional Information

- team prizes and contests
- lunch not included but the club has complete restuarant and beverage service availability
- 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 Road, Edwardsburg, MI 49112) or drop checks to **Phil Vitale** (63174 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI - east side)

Foursome Information

Team Captain:

1. _____

Name & Shirt Size

Total Enclosed \$ _____

****Checks should be made out to BLYC****

Please Print Players Names & Shirt Sizes

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



Anchors aweigh!

While not at all a sea shanty "Anchors Aweigh" is truly one of the most recognized of all sea related songs. "Anchors Aweigh" is the fight song of the United States Naval Academy, and strongly associated with the United States Navy, composed in 1906 by Charles A. Zimmerman with lyrics by Alfred Hart Miles. Zimmerman was at the time a Lieutenant, and had been bandmaster of the United States Naval Academy Band since 1887. Miles was Midshipman First Class at the Academy, in the class of 1907, and asked Zimmerman to assist him in composing a song for that class, to be used as a football march. Another Academy Midshipman, Royal Lovell (class of 1926) later wrote what would be adopted into the song as its third verse (not presented). The song was first played during the Army-Navy football game on December 1, 1906, at Franklin Field in Philadelphia. Before a crowd in excess of 30,000 Navy won the game 10-0, their first win in the match up since 1900.

The song has evolved since its 1906 inception and as a result there are multiple variations. Given here is a sample comprising a couple verses and bridge: Verse 1 (not always the first verse but most commonly sung)

Anchors aweigh, my boys
Anchors aweigh
Farewell to college joys
We sail at break of day, 'ay 'ay 'ay
Through our last night ashore
Drink to the foam
Until we meet once more
Here's wishing you a happy voyage home!

Bridge

Heave a ho there! sailor
Ev'rybody drink up while you may
Heave a ho there! sailor
For you're gonna sail at break of day
Drink a-way, Drink a-way,
For you sail at break of day, Hey!

Verse 2

Stand Navy, down the field,
Sails set to the sky.



We'll never change our course,
So Army you steer shy-y-y.
Roll up the score, Navy,
Anchors aweigh
Sail, Navy, down the field
and sink the Army, sink the Army Grey.

Footnote to terminology: to "weigh anchor" is to bring it aboard a vessel in preparation for departure. The phrase "anchor's aweigh" is a report that the anchor is clear of the sea bottom and, therefore, the ship is officially underway.

"Weigh" as a verb means to "bear" or "move," thus giving it several shades of meaning and derivation, including "weight" or heaviness. This lends itself to obvious plays on words, as with Flip Wilson's old routine about Christopher Columbus. "Columbus cried, 'Weigh anchor.' A few minutes later, a crewman reported, 'Two thousand, one hundred thirty six pounds.'"

Birch Lake sailors didn't have much to work with last weekend. One sailor

waffled before finally deciding to come out and then soon baled on the whole thing. (That would be me.) Thanks to Karen Brovold, Schefficks and Chesters for officiating. Also it was great to see additional sunfish out there this week. Let's have more. No one will be turned away.

Tomorrow's racing will be postponed one hour until noon so everyone can eat their fill at the pancake breakfast. Karen has agreed to round up our officials. Much thanks.

Denise Smitley will be captaining the committee boat for the Independence Day Regatta which will be Saturday, July 7th and Sunday, July 8th, start at 11 am. We'll figure out how many races we'll do each day based on prevailing conditions. Let's hope for some wind. See you out there. That is all.

-Stewart Spratt
2012 Fleet Captain

Sailing results for last Sunday's races (and season totals and averages)

MCs

Date	23-Jun	23-Jun	23-Jun	Total	Avg.
Scott Troeger #1489	1	2	DNS	12484	1561
Jeff Smitley #2002	3	1	2	13851	1539
Bob King #1199	3	1	DNS	10887	1361
Bill Luecht #1579	7	6	3	7859	1310
Phil Vitale #500	4	5	4	8295	1383
Dave Olson #1979	6	7	5	3677	1226
Gib Eberhart #916	8	8	6	11404	1267

Sunfish

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	1	14086	1565
Stewart Spratt	4	0	DNS	11720	1465
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	DNS	DNS	DNS	4486	1495
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	3	3	3	11558	1445
Sandy Vitale (White)DNS	2	2	2	4563	1521
Peter Soldoto	5	DNS	DNS	1296	1296
Bill Butler	0	DNS	DNS	1156	1156

Water Quality

Purple Loosestrife Management Program

It's that time of year again. We have already conducted some clean up on the west shore. We are starting on our 13th year of the Birch Lake Purple Loosestrife program.

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



can certainly keep it in a manageable state with the help of everyone.

WHAT IS IT?

Purple Loosestrife is a plant that was accidentally introduced to the United States and then distributed as an ornamental. It is most easily identified during the flowering season. This

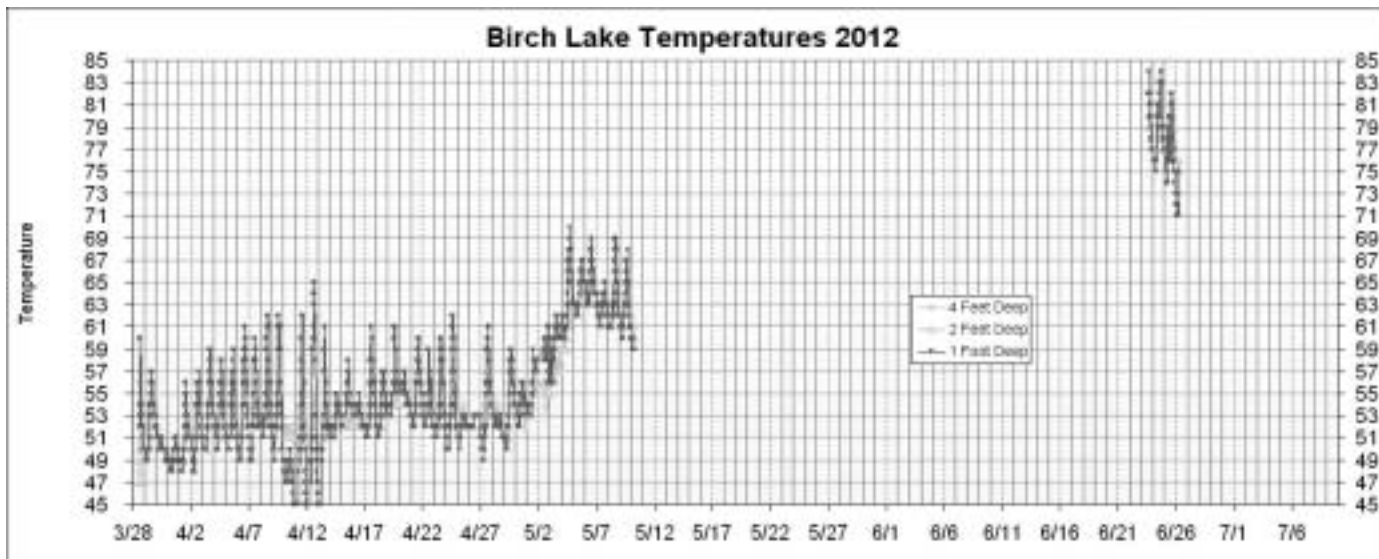
spiked shaped purple flower can be seen in ditches, streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands and other moist, shallow water sites. This plant is an upright, hardy perennial, four to eight feet tall and most often found in groups.

EFFECTS:

Purple Loosestrife invades marshes, ditches and lakeshores quickly replacing native wetland plants. These plants form dense stands that wildlife cannot use for food or cover.

SPREAD:

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



Water Temps

We regret to inform our readers that due to a malicious computer virus that ate two of his hard drives, Steve Quinlan (West side) is isn't able to pro-

vide the water temp charts that we've all been enjoying for the past couple years.

Steve did find a backup that he was able to reinstate, and is working hard to recreate the system that provided the data. So far he is optimistic that he will

eventually be able to restore the system, and hopes to have some more data for us by next week for the Barker.

Keep your fingers crossed!
Thanks Steve.

NEWS FLASH!



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Stu's Star Stuff

Lots to see in the sky!

Although the nights are shortest at Birch Lake at this time of year, June is a big month for skywatching events. Earlier there was a slight lunar eclipse, plus, although already discussed, during the daytime, a rare transit of Venus across the Sun.

Venus now climbs into view in the dawn sky as the month ends, beginning its run as the "morning star," with Jupiter, which is second in brightness only to Venus, nearby.

Mars moves closer to Saturn as the month ends as well. And in the stars, the scorpion skitters low across the south, and is in view all night.

But there's other cool stuff to look at even if you don't know exactly what it is.

Ever wonder why stars seem to twinkle but planets don't? Stars even appear to change color. Turbulence in the atmosphere creates this effect. Similar to how things look wavy when you look over a hot grill in the summer, only on a smaller scale.

An even better analogy is that looking at stars from inside our atmosphere is like birdwatching from the bottom of a swimming pool: the ripples distort the picture. That's one of the main reasons why space

telescopes, like Hubble, provide such sharp pictures.

In addition to contributing turbulence, the atmosphere also acts like a prism when you look at stars near the horizon.

Since the star colors get split into a rainbow plus the turbulence makes the star move around, it can appear like the star is changing color.

Because planets are larger and closer their light is less subject to light refracting tendencies.

The atmosphere can also drastically change the color of the sun and moon when they are near the horizon.

We've all watched beautiful sunsets and sunrises and we've all marveled at the seemingly oversized hillbilly moon rising over the east side when it's full.

The teapot, or more accurately Sagittarius, the archer, follows on Scorpius's stinger. Look for both low over the south shore most any night this summer. The teapot will be closer to the public landing and the scorpion will cover most of the rest of the south shore.

Get some bug spray, a lawn chair or boat and go enjoy the show. It's always free.

-Stu Spratt

The Moon for June 30
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.911
2.5 days until full moon



Sunday, July 1st:
Sunrise: 6:12am
Sunset: 9:23pm
Moonrise: 7:25pm
Moonset: 4:00am
Day length: 15h 11m

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES — (Mar. 21- April 20) — You're in a high cycle for romance. Look into alternate means of supporting your financial burdens. Travel or short trips will probably be your best outlet. Be careful not to exaggerate when interacting with your lover. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS — (Apr. 21- May 21) — Be tolerant, but don't let any one take you for granted. Trips should be your choice. If you haven't already, consider starting your own business. Monitor your budget carefully to avoid unnecessary stress. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI — (May 22-June 21) — Rest and relaxation may be required; minor health problems will prevail if you don't watch your diet. You will have some wonderful ideas that should bring you extra money. Confusion could result when communicating with others. It's hard to stay mad if the object of the anger refuses to react. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER — (June 22-July 22) — Don't count your chickens before they hatch. You may want to make plans to take a vacation together. Take that long overdue vacation if you can. Discuss your objectives with peers or lovers. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO — (July 23-Aug 22) — Deal with in-laws this week. You may find yourself mixed up in a triangle of sorts. Be sure you get accurate information. Make changes to your home that will be pleas-

ing to everyone involved. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO — (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) — Be careful; you may upset someone you live with if you don't consult with them. Jealous attitudes may lead you astray. Driving too fast or double parking will result in difficulties with officials. Keep on your toes when dealing with others. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA — (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) — Try not to lend or borrow money this week. Try to stay calm and do the best you can. Unforeseen changes in your location are apparent. Don't let your jealous imagination play games with you. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO — (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) — You can make drastic changes in your professional direction this week. You may enjoy doing something musical for entertainment. Your hypnotic eyes will capture the hearts of those who interest you. You can clear up important legalities and sign contracts this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS — (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) — Female colleagues may be able to help you get the job done. Travel will be on your mind; however, be careful and proceed with caution as minor accidents will cause delays. You must not lead someone on or show interest in them for the wrong reasons. Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive

and possibly hurtful. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN — (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) — Creative endeavors will give you somewhat of an outlet. You can persuade even the toughest opponents to think your way. Family outings should include visiting friends or relatives. Don't overspend to impress others. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS — (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) — Put your time and energy into home improvement. Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are evident. Social events may lead to a romantic interlude. Younger relatives may seek your advice. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES — (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — Partnerships with creative people could lead to financial gains. Take the day to relax and pamper yourself. You will be in the doghouse if you are being. You may jump from the frying pan into the fire if you make a move this week. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

If your birthday is this week — we recommend that no matter how old you are, you party like a teenaged college kid. Stay away from dark alleys, people named "Bugsy" and abandoned elevators and well shafts. Hot weather may make you sweat, and passing rain showers will likely dampen your spirits.



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~Birch Lake Recipes~

BEER BRATS!

Can't go wrong with a recipe that calls for beer, right?

Ingredients

- 4 (12 ounce) cans beer
- 1 large onion, diced
- 10 bratwurst
- 2 teaspoons red pepper flakes
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

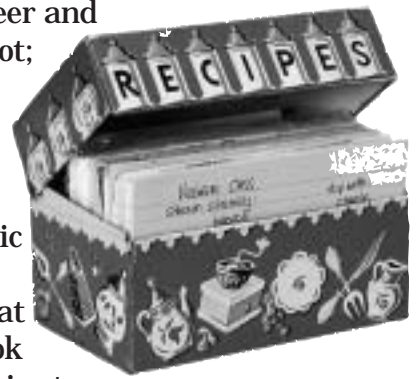
Directions

1. Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat. When hot, lightly oil grate.

2. Combine the beer and onions in a large pot; bring to a boil. Submerge the bratwurst in the beer; add the red pepper flakes, garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Reduce heat to medium and cook another 10 to 12 minutes.

Remove the bratwurst from the beer mixture; reduce heat to low, and continue cooking the onions.

3. Cook the bratwurst on the preheated grill, turning once, 5 to 10 minutes. Serve with the beer mixture as a topping or side.



— BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH —

Complete the maze and then find the words. The words can only be found along your maze path.

END →

```

H R J VUNVSJ W H VRFF GWQF L Y L ANEP KENQJGO A FOBL J M AGBN N Y
N J JVUNVSJ W H VRFF GWQF L Y L ANEP KENQJGO A FOBL J M AGBN N Y
C H Y Y Q M X E E Q W A H I G K Y O
K W X L O F O L U M C V W C N D Y R
I HYIKWLLQVC PNKO L S C D MXDT GQRV WRKY LJFRTHKOOG OBIB XYFGIRKFAJ F
W V M P Q X Q E H K X Y
F W H H C G J Y R L H I
NPCS K IFDK H CXLN W IDFA D CRSJ AURIMPMSYW SVYOXDXPXVUTORCHABNVAULTP E
M W V C L C P G E Q F
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T GPBU UBRNAQK W E PJEF D BRLMYCHSMH CTUCWKRXLAOWTKGELFR QNPBTURDOQ A
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W B DREQFVFNRRARNU JKCL Q RTQFCTW YPRVCJTCKM W URHL K KFBF O U ALAM W
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Y X B R W I Y C A W A C N V P
DLYHONY B B Q GPXYIXU F V K X Y X M FNENFJT OKXLGBMOJROKQ LSVPCSY Y
V S A U U B X A O P G K X I L L
K A W O C V G G K I E K C L S D
S B YXPV XSSREND UXBU OGPHYKI N H E WRXL AEBVWTMMOF SUHT W GOLF P R
H A P J D R G K J L O W Y I Q O O V
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F U K I D B V X I N A Q S S Q
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X UFDS IRTVCOQ QVXQ L AYOHGMMN Q C XSPVWVU ARJLONDONX KWATERPOLO C A U
A N G M J Y P S M A C N B
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T V IDHPATM F C VROXHQG R WQGBIXV C BVMKTRH SDSU I MEDALSLEYKYHR H C
I B X B X N T T J Y R H I P
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L XHUS O R VUVU WVVO V GWQQSQRSWWHVY UWBN AFNQ Q JMMAFDV G M M L Q
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SWCKOKYPOC BUHQ SNNCETEAMX K RBHR VHJDHDMUD J CJCM HCKESJC SYLVYSWRNP E
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JCUWJLCGBKEASFLFXVUHJGUCDJBRS AJMOKGFYPSPIVOLLYBALLFDEESVNXWLB UFAOEPPPIGRLPEFPPTVNEI
    
```

Find and circle these words:

VOLLYBALL	SOCCER	AMATEUR
LONGJUMP	CEREMONIES	GOLF
LONDON	EPEE	VAULT
ARCHERY	TRACK	WATERPOLO
TENNIS	TEAM	MEDALS
TORCH	SPORTSMANSHIP	

Be sure to wish Patti Russwurm happy birthday, but don't ask her how old she is, she's very touchy about that ...

— BIRCH LAKE DIRECTORY UPDATE —

Birch Lake Directory Update

It's time to update our beloved Directory and the sooner we get your information, the sooner your household can have a brand new, crisp, accurate and informative directory.

Enclosed in this issue of the Birch Barker is an Update form. You may:

1. drop it off to Fallon's at 63600 Birch Road (brown house, green roof)
2. mail it to 63600 Birch Road, Vandalia MI 49095
3. fax it to 269-476-1467
4. complete the form at the Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast
5. complete it, scan it and send the pdf to Celia.Fallon@gmail.com
6. or ignore it and allow the editors to decide your directory entry.

INFORMATION SHEET FOR UPDATE OF BLYC DIRECTORY

Name(s): _____

Birch Lake address: _____

Cottage number (if known): _____

Off-lake address: _____

Other address: _____

Lake phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone(s): _____

Email addresses: _____

Children : (Please state ages as of August 31, 2012) _____

Other information (optional): _____



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Camp Tannadoonah

Survivor Challenges!

Outwit, outplay, outCAMP! It's been Survivor Week here at Camp Tannadoonah all week, and we had a series of Survivor challenges for the campers each night. We have 97 campers this week! We divided them into 4 teams of approximately 24, and set up 4 challenges. Each night, each team completed a different one of the challenges, and we kept track of their times and scores to determine the winning team.

One challenge was called the "Ropestacle Course." We ran 1000 feet of rope around camp - around trees, through tight spaces, under picnic tables, and all around the dining hall! Then the teams had to clip themselves to the rope with carabiners and navigate their entire team through the course.

A second challenge was called the "SS Minnow." The teams divided their campers into groups of 3 and went down to the waterfront. Each team of 3 got in a canoe, and they were given 2 paddles. The two campers who had paddles wore blindfolds, and the camper with no paddle was the navigator. The navigator had to give them directions to get through a mini-obstacle course. A counselor kayaked alongside the canoes to provide feedback and keep them from tipping over.

A third challenge was called the "Tannadoonah Run." First, the teams had to come up with a team name and cheer to perform for the counselors. After they did their cheer, they got a clue that led them to the next station, where they had to learn a camp song with hand motions, and sing it as a team. Then they got a second clue that took them to the final station, where they had to watch a counselor perform a short dance, and then learn it and perform it as a team.

The final challenge was called the "Puzzler." We cut a 4x8 sheet of plywood into 9 giant puzzle pieces, and hid them all



over camp. The teams had to locate the 9 pieces, bring them back to the dining hall, and assemble the puzzle.

The fishing up here at camp has been really great these first two weeks of camp! In week 1, one of our campers caught a total of 41 fish in his fishing class (which meets for just 45 minutes Monday through Friday!). And this week, a camper caught the largest bass yet this summer - a 17-incher! Check out the photo below of Dequarius, the camper who caught the fish, and his prize catch. Each week we award the "Golden Bobber" to the campers who catch the most fish, and the largest fish.

At the end of this week we start our 4th of July break, and there will be no campers here from Saturday the 30th until Thursday the 5th. Then we start back with a bang — on the 5th we start our 10-day Super Week, and we have over 100 campers registered so far!

Hope to see you all on Sunday morning for the pancake breakfast up here at camp. We will have all our new Camp Tannadoonah store goodies available, too. This year we have Maroon t-shirts, black and neon hoodies, backpacks, water bottles, flashlights, carabiner clips, and more!

-Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org

574-217-4731

It's time for the
Annual, Fourth-of-July-Weekend

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(to support Camp Tannadoonah)

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Chas.grundy@gmail.com
Holly Troeger Treasurer (E).....476-9898
amvine@aol.com
Mike Sheffieck Secretary (W).....476-1849
mcsheff@aol.com
Stewart Spratt Fleet Captain (N).....476-2113
s1svb1@comcast.net

2012 BLYC DIRECTORS

Bob Baucus (N).....476-2863
rebauc@aol.com
Greg Bolin (W).....476-2420
gbolin31@aol.com
Karen Brovold (W).....476-8862
karenbrovold@yahoo.com
Harold Cranmer (W).....476-2170
dhcranmer@yahoo.com
Terry Dugan (S).....476-2814
s581122@aol.com
Fred Freihofer (N).....476-9823
cdfreihofer@aol.com
Patty Luecht (E).....476-2615
Pgalloway4@yahoo.com
Mike Lutz (N).....476-2843
mmtlconcrete@aol.com
Stan Pitakos (N).....476-2113
stanpitakos@yahoo.com
Steve Quinlan (W).....476-8802
stevequinlan2@yahoo.com
Vickie Rogers (C).....476-2383
tvrogers@netscape.com
Rick Russwurm (N).....476-2407
paramountp@aol.com
Scott Troeger (E).....476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com

Denise Smitley (W).....476-9000
dsmitley@industrial-pack.com
PJ Vandewalle (H)
pjvandewalle@gmail.com
Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com
Sue Williams (S).....476-8886
smwillia@comcast.net

NON-DIRECTOR ATTENDEES:

Jim Bolinger BLYC Homeowners' Association Chairman (E)
.....476-9737
debo36@comcast.net
Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee Chairman (E)
.....476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com
Bob Waddle (E).....476-2293
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TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

\$ _____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues
(\$10 / year)

\$ _____

\$ _____ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)

\$ _____ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)

Name _____

\$ _____ - Building Improvement Fund

\$ _____ - Fireworks Fund

Address _____

\$ _____ - Water Quality Program

\$ _____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife

Eradication Program

\$ _____ - Safety Committee

\$ _____ - Other non-party related expenses

\$ _____ - BLYC Roof Fund (NEW)

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or 773-304-8042.

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1995 Sea-Doo GTX waverunner. Body is in great shape. 2-stroke eng. Motor was replaced last year and has about 25 hours on it. Good condition for a toy. Call my cell. 1-708-227-2147

Discount Farm House Bakery Certificates available at www.wnsn.2southbenddeals.com. For \$25 you get five-\$10 certificates for The Farm House Bakery in Vandalia. Valid until 08/31/2012.

WANTED

Oars anyone??? Looking for some weathered oars for a DIY window treatment! Please call Amy @ 476-2843.

Photographs Wanted — We are collecting photos for the 2013 Birch Lake calendar. All are welcome to submit entries! Visit grundyhomes.com/bly-photos. Entries are due by July 15, 2012

Almost ready to sail. All I need is a **rudder for a Sunfish.** Please contact Bill Carpenter Cottage 12. 574-340-5559

Tim and I and our Standard Poodle Charlie **want to rent a place on Birch through half of August,** were flexible! Our contact number is 1-850-554-0769, or 850-934-3688. Email, tim.burchell@aopsales.com, lizbur@bellsouth.net

Tannadoonah camper parents looking for a **place on the lake to rent the week of July 29 through August 4.** Contact Miss Amber at 574-217-4731

Work Wanted — Looking for odd jobs! A friend of ours is going to be staying with us for a few weeks and he is out of work. Looking for any odd jobs such as spring cleanup, mowing, raking, planting, trimming, general carpentry or any other job you don't have time for or don't want to do. Has lake references. Reasonable Rates. Call Matt Hudson at 616-818-6633 or Staci Whiteman at 269-816-5755

LOST

Lost: **Rectangle-shaped blue boat fender.** If found please call the Russwurm's and we will come and pick it up. 476-2407

FOUND

Pink teddy bear at the Yacht Club Saturday after the spaghetti dinner. Call Jim Bolinger at 476-9737 for the rescue.

HOMES FOR SALE

Delightful Eastside A-Frame lakefront cottage. New on the market — contact Ilene Golden at 574-360-8766

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