



The official publication of the  
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

# Birch Barker

Weekend of July 21, 2012

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Thanks to Mr. Bob for the cool rain pic ... we certainly haven't seen much of that lately!

## Commodore's Comments

Hello Fellow Birch Lakers:

Thanks to all who attended the Vice Commodores Cocktail Party to support Chas last Saturday. It turned out to be a nice evening after the torrential down-pour we had. We were in town for my niece's graduation party, and it hit while we were on our way to the grocery store to buy the ingredients for my appetizer that night. Except for getting wet running in and out of the store, really can't complain. Everyone really needed the rain.

Sunday we hit another graduation party as Cal King celebrated graduating from Adams High School. He is off to Ohio Northern this August. We wish you good luck Cal! We then headed into town, again, as I was Eucharistic Minister at our parish, St. Pius X Parish. So much for a low key week-

end!!

Make sure you ladies participating in the Ladies Golf Outing on Friday keep hydrated. Have fun and enjoy yourselves. This weekend I am looking forward to the 1st Annual Poker Run to be followed by the Hog Roast at Camp T. Don't forget this event is free, just bring a side dish or dessert to share. Pulled pork sandwiches will be served. Then is it on to Sunday and a day of relaxation, I hope.

Friday, July 27th is the Mens Golf Outing, you don't have to worry about telling the guys to keep hydrated! Then we have a event free weekend. Enjoy it!!

If my math is correct, I am down to writing (I think) five more articles after this one. My, has the year gone by fast. I encourage everyone to step up to be the Commodore at some point. You will have great support from everyone on the lake.

Here's to smooth sailing.

~Commodore Pam

## 2012 BLYC Calendar

July 20.....	Women's Golf Outing
July 21.....	Poker Run/Camp T Hog Roast
July 27.....	Men's Golf Outing
July 28.....	Birch Lake Garage Sale
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)

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

### Sailing Regattas

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 —

Corn & Sausage Roast - August 4

The Corn & Sausage Roast is almost here! From 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Saturday, August 4, we'll once again enjoy our annual grillfest at the Yacht Club. This year we thought we might shake things up a bit. For instance, we considered several new names for this BBQ extravaganza. After quickly discarding the "Sausage & Corn Roast" as backwards, the "Maize and Brat Fiesta" as thematically challenged and the "Corn Dog Hoedown" as completely confusing, we decided to keep the same name (smart move, eh?). And we'll keep the same winning formula you know: barbecued brats, hot dogs and a limited supply (first come, first served!) of chicken breasts. Meals will consist of your choice of meat, roasted corn, four sides, cookies and lemonade or iced tea. And the meal prices are a good deal too: \$4 with a hot dog, and \$7 with a brat or a chicken breast. Pay cash at the door - no reservations needed. Hope to see you there!

BLYC Poker Run & Camp Tannadoonah Hog Roast  
Saturday - July 21, 2012

We have a full field for the 1st Birch Lake Yacht Club Poker Run. Here is a recap for the event:

The Poker Run starts promptly at 3 pm at Stuart Spratt's. You are encouraged to "Boat Pool," as limited parking



BLYC Commodore Pam Mullin (right) presented a check for \$1,811 to Camp Tannadoonah Director Amber Grundy. The money represents the proceeds from this year's Pancake Breakfast.

will be available. You can park at the top of the hill near the Camp entrance near Mullin's yellow garage. You will receive your first card at Stuart's. Drinks and snacks will be available.

The Poker Run will then proceed by boat (see note below) around the lake, making the following stops within the times noted:

**3:35 pm**.....Leave Stuart's and proceed to the Sheffield on the West shore. Pick

up your second card. Drinks and snacks available.

**4:10 pm**.....Leave Sheffield's and proceed to the Troeger's on the South shore. Pick up your third card. Drinks and snacks available

**4:45 pm**.....Leave Troeger's and proceed to the Fallon's/Chester's on the East shore. You got it - pick up your fourth card. Drinks and snacks available!

**5:20 pm**.....Leave Fallon's/Chester's and

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

proceed to the Mullin's on the North Shore. Pick up your fifth card. Coffee and Advil available!

**5:55 pm**.....Present your best 5 card Poker Hand

**6 pm**.....Prizes will be awarded.

**6:15 pm**.....All are encouraged to visit Camp Tannadoonah immediately afterwards for the free Hog Roast. There will be "refreshments" & live Music!

#### Rules

1. Be sure to pick up a card at each location.
2. We will note which card is given to each participant at each stop
3. Present your best 5 card poker hand at the Mullin's
4. In the event of a tie for first place, those involved will have the choice of splitting the prize (if both agree) or they will "cut the Deck" to decide the winner. The loser will receive the 2nd prize. The next best hand will receive the 3rd prize. Same rule if there is a tie for 2nd or 3rd.

52nd Annual Birch Lake Men's Open Golf Outing

**Update** — 14 teams are locked but not yet loaded. We need 18 teams total. All others wanting to play and would like to guarantee themselves a golf cart instead of pull cart need to contact me ASAP . Rebauc@aol.co or 574-535-4946

Shot gun start at high noon on Friday, July 27.

Team check-in by 11 am if possible.

Lunch is available at the club, but not included in entry fee (brats, burgers, dogs).

6:30pm dinner at the yacht club.

Teams prizes, cash prizes, and hole-

in-one prizes.

The only thing guaranteed is a good time!

Birch Lake Garage Sale

We are planning lake wide garage sales for July 28 from 8 to noon. Please email Staci Whiteman at [srbw69@yahoo.com](mailto:srbw69@yahoo.com) or call 269-816-5755 if you are planning to have a sale or have any other ideas as to time changes etc. Need all input, will take donations if you only have a few things, and Staci will be holding a sale back at the yacht club on that day — all proceeds will go to the yacht club from that sale. Also anyone that has leftovers after the sale day can call Staci and she will take all donations and have a free giveaway to help the community.

UPDATE:

The County Road Commission has been notified by Canadian National Railroad that the M-60 railroad project has been postponed until August 6. This project is expected to continue for three weeks and the plan is to move right over to the M-62 crossing for repairs which should take a week to complete. Both projects should be complete before September 4 so they don't interfere with the new school year.

Cass County Conservation Club

The Cass County Conservation Club will host a garage sale on Aug 12 to 14 in the club parking lot on the weekend of the large US-12 garage sale. For details contact Connie Sue Hulse at 641-2590.

The following events are scheduled

at the Cass County Conservation Club on US 12 at Birch Rd.:

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.

Got Pix?

We are looking for photos of Birch Lake for a 2013 calendar. We're particularly interested in covering all the seasons, so if you have a few (no more than 5 per person), send them to us ... email your submissions to [sailorphil@philvital.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.com) or get them to Commodore Pam, 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.")

Advertising in the Barker

We are still (and always) accepting both display and classified advertising for the Birch Barker.

Classified ads are free to members of the BLYC (non-member rate is \$5 per ad). Email your classified ads to the Barker at [sailorphil@philvital.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.com).

For information and help building your ad, contact Phil at 476-1680, 445-9200 or [sailorphil@philvital.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.com).

Other real estate agents claim to know BIRCH LAKE ...

But I never see them out on their boat ...

**Amy Lutz**, Realtor

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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Barker Kid-o-Week honors to West Side kids Amanda Butler, Alexander Del Rossi, Amelia Del Rossi and Claire Brovold ... who posed in their spiffy lake attire ... thanks to Stan Pitakos for sending in the photo.

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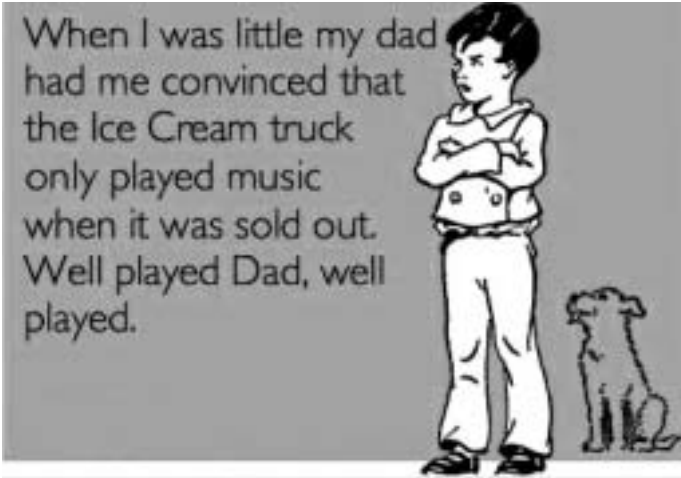
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# — Barker Kids of the Week —

Barker Kid-o-Week honors to south sider Mel Como, shown here in 1947 while on a Lazy Lodge vacation.



## The Closest Marina to Birch Lake!

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### Pontoon Boat Specials!

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

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

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**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
Treated Wood and Aluminum .....	\$269
Aluminum .....	\$409
Anodized Aluminum .....	\$509
Sheerline White Vinyl.....	\$549

#### 4-foot Aluminum Post Assembly

Includes 1 crossarm, 2 posts, 2 crossarm clamps,  
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Post Height ...3' .....4' .....5' .....6' .....7' .....8' .....10'  
\$/assembly...\$109...\$117 ..\$122...\$128 ....\$135.....\$140....\$155  
Other Styles and Sizes available

Otter Island Rafts 8 x 10' (Yellow or Tan).....	\$1349
1400# PWC Lift .....	\$895



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# — The Light Side —

## Church Ladies with Computers

These sentences (with all the bloopers) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

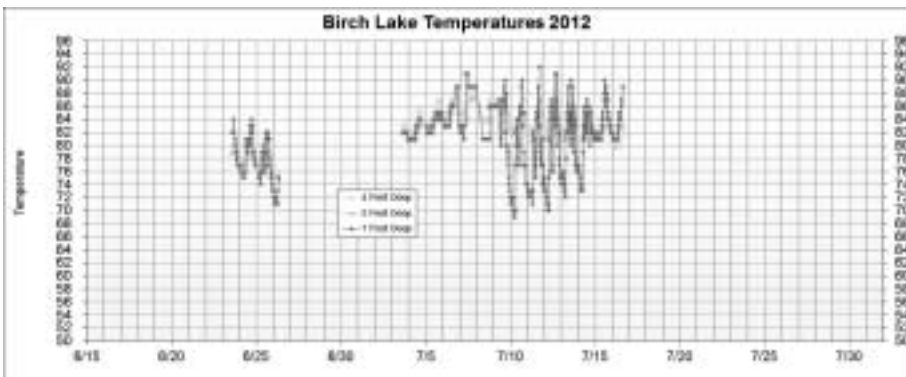
Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super enter-

tainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.



Thanks to Steve Quinlan (West Side) for the temps



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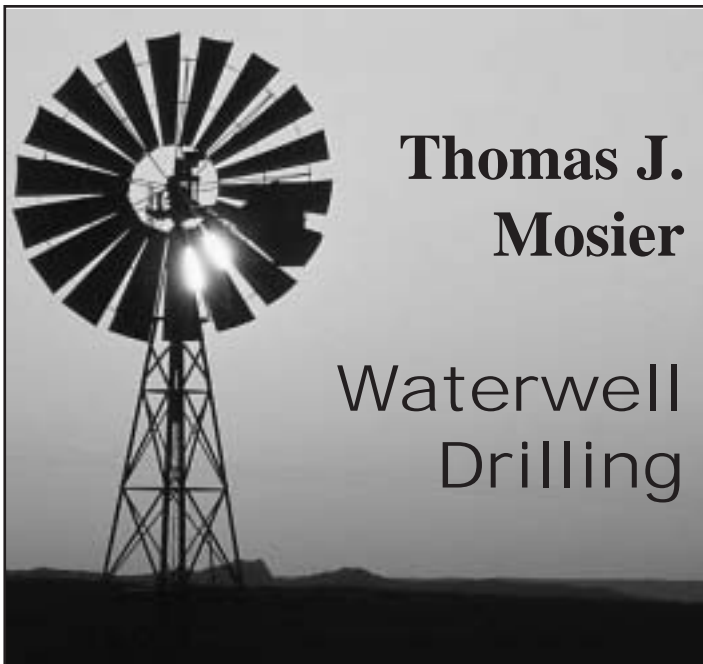
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## Featured Listings:



Great home on Birch Lake with access to sandy swimming area and pier for a GREAT price! This 3-bedroom walkout has fabulous lake views from every room in the house and lakeside deck. There is a see-thru fireplace between the newly updated kitchen and dining area. New windows and exterior doors. Make this your year-round home or getaway. Enjoy the summer today!

**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**

# — Sailing on Birch Lake —

## The Sunfish

Alcort was founded in 1945 by two carpenters named Alex Byran and Cortlandt Heyniger who built ice-boats as a side-job. After settling on the Sailfish design, the two men originally produced the small boats as either blueprint line drawings for the DIY (do it yourself) market -or- as a finished boat from Alcort.



The Sunfish was Alcort's second generation sailboat, a "user friendly" dinghy class which appeared early 1950s to replace the Sailfish. Like the Sailfish, the Sunfish sports a single sail set on a lateen rig (triangular sail attached to twin booms) with just two lines: the halyard (to hoist) and mainsheet (to control). In 1960 Alcort began selling fiberglass hulls and soon discontinued the original wooden version. By 1995 an estimated

quarter million Sunfish were in the US market.

Once upon a time, on an ordinary Sunday, the Birch fleet numbered 20-30 boats (more for regattas). At last count there were 60-70 boats on our lake in various states of disrepair. If we could get just half those hulls down to the water and apply a few cable ties here, some duct tape there ...

~Mr. Bob

## 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 restaurant 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](mailto:ReBauc@aol.com) or [slsvb1@comcast.net](mailto: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. \_\_\_\_\_





## Songs from the Seas ...

It's the 19th century. You're a young man seeking adventure and a test of your manhood. You decide to sign up on a ship to see exotic foreign lands. You take the trip to the coast. You find a big coastal town and you walk through the docks admiring the ships. Finally, you spot one that you like. You walk on deck and a tall man dressed in black coat confronts you. It's the captain.

"What do you want lad?"

"I want to sign on board sir", you say.

He looks you up and down, and says, "Aye. But first I need to give you a test."

You're not worried. You were expecting this and, in fact, hoping for it. You want to show the captain what you can do. After all, you were always the strongest out of all your friends. You could climb up any rock or tree since you learned how to walk. And you also knew a bit about navigation from your grandfather. You were eager to show what a great addition to the crew you'd make.

"How well can you sing?" the captain asks.

As we've already learned, sea shanties were work songs sung on ships during the age of sail. They were used to keep rhythm during work and make it more pleasant. Because these songs were used to accomplish a goal, rather than for pure entertainment, the lyrics and melody were not very sophisticated. Still, the songs were usually meaningful and told of a sailor's life, which included backbreaking labor, abuse from captain and crew, alcohol, and longing for girls and dry land.

A typical shanty had a call-and-response format. One sailor (a shantymen) would call out a verse, to which the rest of the sailors would respond in unison. The work would occur usually on the last syllable of the response or some other cue.

Shanties were divided into several categories, named after the work they were used for. The categories weren't set in stone and sailors would often borrow songs and change the melody and rhythm to suit their work. It seems the only rules regarding sea shanties were that the songs talking about life at sea were sung on the outward part of the journey, and songs talking about coming home and dry land were sung while the ship was homeward bound.

Here's today's, an Irish song. As always, versions vary, some bawdy, some less so...

Haul Away Joe

Naow whin Oi wuz a little boy an' so me mother toll me,

'Way haul away, we'll haul away Joe!  
That if Oi didn't kiss the gals me lips would all grow mouldy.  
'Way haul away, we'll haul away Joe!

An' Oi sailed the seas for many a year not knowin' what Oi  
wuz missin',  
Then Oi sets me sails afore the gales an' started in a-kissin'.

Oi got meself an Oirish gal an' her name wuz Flannigan,  
She stole me boots, she stole me clothes, she pinched me plate  
an' pannikin.

Oi courted then a Frenchie gal, she took things free an' aisy,  
But naow Oi've got an English gal an' sure she is a daisy.

Oh, King Louis wuz the King o' France, afore the revolution,  
But the people cut his big head orf an' spoiled his constitution.

Oh, once Oi wuz in Oireland a-diggin' turf an' taties,  
But naow Oi'm on a Limejuice ship an' a-haulin' on the  
braces.

Saint Patrick wuz a gintleman, an' he come of daycent paypul,  
He built a church in Dublin town an' on it set a staypul.

From Oireland thin he druv the snakes, then drank up all the  
whisky,  
This made him dance an' sing an' jig, he felt so fine an' frisky.

Yiz call yerself a second mate an' cannot tie a bowline,  
Ye cannot even stand up straight when the packet she's a-  
rollin'.

Sunday's sailing was reasonably steady, at least for my liking. Six sunfish were out there which was great, and we had nine MCs. If you would like to come out and have some fun please join us. No one will be turned away.

Thanks so much to Bad Patty and Karen and Eric Miller for being our race officials. Without you we would have to police ourselves and who knows what kind of blood-letting that would end up being? Karen Brovold signed on for August 11th. The rest is open. (Sort of, remember?)

See you out there. That is all.

~Stu Spratt, Fleet Captain

### Sailing results

Sailing Results	15-Jul	15-Jul	15-Jul	Points	Average
<b>MCs</b>					
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	0	24538	1534
Bob King #1199	5	2	2	20842	1489
Jeff Smitley #2002	6	5	3	24971	1469
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	3	4	5	26272	1383
Phil Vitale #500	7	3	1	23463	1380
Dave Olson #1979	2	7	4	18184	1299
Bill Luecht #1579	4	8	6	21563	1268
Gib Eberhart #916	8	6	0	19674	1230
<b>Sunfish</b>					
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	2	1	2	28328	1574
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)				4486	1495
Stewart Spratt	1	2	1	24736	1455
Sandy Vitale (White)	3	3	4	17340	1445
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	5	4	3	24189	1423
Brad Davis				2813	1407
Peter Soldoto	7	6	5	9307	1330
Bill Butler	6	5	6	4902	1226

# ~Birch Lake Recipes~

## RECIPE FEEDBACK: BACON CHEDDAR DEVILED EGGS

**Y**ummm, deviled eggs! Believe it or not, in all my years (which are significantly less than the recipe contributor, aka Patti Russworm (who by the way happens have a very significant birthday soon, please wish her a happy birthday!) have NEVER had the courage to make them myself! So deviled eggs have always been a delicious treat only enjoyed through the efforts of others.

Brilliant idea, I will make the “Barker Recipe” for deviled eggs! I mean, how hard could it be?? Besides, I needed to take an appetizer to the Vice Commodore’s party. (Added bonus, I have all the ingredients, no need to go to IGA.)

Ok, let’s get started.

Eggs in a pot, check. Cover with water, check. I am very proud to say that I followed the directions exactly er, well this is where it gets tricky.

The whole part about “cooling” and “peeling the eggs,” perhaps was not explained in quite the detail it should have been. So, this is what I do ... I let them sit in a bath of cool tap water, even go as far as changing the water after 5 minutes, then decide, hmm, let me add some ice to hurry this little project along. Cooling in ice water this time, for about 10 more minutes. Ready to peel!

This is where it gets ugly. How can this be so hard?? There must be a trick! I go back to the recipe, did I miss something?? Nope, just says peel. Only 9 of the 12 eggs made it.



On to the filling! As I attempt to clear my mind of the whole egg peeling disappointment, I realize there is an obstacle; my cheddar cheese is not finely shredded. No problem, mini food processor to the

rescue! I start to feel empowered and encouraged once again! (Hint: it also works to chop bacon! I am on my game!)



Continuing to relish my bright ideas and accomplishments, I think, what other rarely used kitchen gadget can I involve? Hand mixer. Ok, I am combining beautiful golden egg yolks, cheese, bacon, mayo and mustard. Wow, the hand mixer will blend it perfectly!

Yikes, not so brilliant. What a mess.



The bottom of the mixer selfishly refuses to release the mixture. There is a good amount hiding behind the blades. Yet another gadget is introduced, the rarely

used plastic spatula.

Yet I persevere! So with the



Food Network’s “Barefoot Contessa” in mind, I decide to put this yolk mixture into a plastic baggy, clip the corner and very “prettily” fill the surviving eggs ... it only took me two baggies, what a mess! Such a shame to waste that golden deliciousness ... ok, some of it that oozed onto my hands was not wasted. (Note to self: buy name-brand baggies that the zip lock actually holds together.)

The finished product was a success!

In conclusion, I’d like to share a few things that I have learned: 1) Deviled Eggs are at their best when someone else makes them, 2) some kitchen gadgets are more pain than their worth, 3) just because you watch the Food Network and try out the “Barker Recipes” where it is indicated that something is easy, know that it is not always the case.

Perhaps your luck is better than mine?

*-the questionable cook*



# ~Birch Lake Recipes~

## Chocolate Chip Cheese Ball

“A sweet switch from the usual cheese ball. Serve with graham crackers or chocolate wafers

### Ingredients

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup miniature semisweet

- chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup finely chopped pecans

### Directions

1. In a medium bowl, beat together cream cheese and butter until smooth. Mix in confectioners' sugar, brown sugar and vanilla. Stir in chocolate chips. Cover, and chill in the refrigerator for 2 hours.
2. Shape chilled cream cheese



mixture into a ball. Wrap with plastic, and chill in the refrigerator for 1 hour.

3. Roll the cheese ball in finely chopped pecans before serving.

## — BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH —

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

START →

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MNNMCGSOXPGALEDDQHRAINHUEKBPBKDXTBXOTUANJOHTWEGUSTTXXKKPPSMMSQEMPCRBPFUSIXFDVMNBIPA
S           E           G           L           U           J           K           K
D           J           N           H           P           G           G           P
E   G   WVJNLIGHTENINGTU   LFSN   X   R   VPXD   YVYJYDK   O   V   L   OTVJ   H   X   B   X   DQRE
P           G           T           E           G   K   J   P           H           Q   T   T   S   B           I   C           J           A
S           K           S   W           M   J   T   I           S           S   Q   K   P   G           C   P           B           E
E   OBCB   Q   V   L   W   O   Q   D   XWVFCNR   UFEX   A   B   O   R   XDOBDLXHF   VMHULRMJKU   I
A   T           Y   U   V   E           O   D           Y           Y           R   K   I   E   P           E           M           J   X
M   S           B   A   S   V           A   X           S           O           D   K   N   C   L           Y           F           T   W
C   L   V   W   D   E   VCXEQKT   RDLR   USFNXNW   IJWL   B   PQYI   L   XCOT   TUIG   J   J   D   K
M   O   T   I           I           M           L           N           A           K           P   P   G           Y           S   S   J
H   I   P   C           M           B           W           H           S           C           I   O   J           N           M   V   G
R   D   O   JJTY   UDPL   E   DFFB   EDLSL   STORMKW   R   VQBC   T   ITWG   BVDPDCQETHXAD   M   U
H   H   P           A   V   B   T   D   D           B   H           D           B           L   A           D           Q           E   H   Q
D   V   L           K   G   T   H   S           D   P           D           W           O   T           O           H           W   J   O
R   RDIBYRO   C   T   G   B   J   QUAN   J   S   O   DCPJ   O   U   I   M   K   BSHK   K   IXTT   B   Q
F           N           O           X   F   W   R           R   P   W   D   K   Y   D   O   U   Q           N           H           P
V           V   L           X   R   E   R           Y   R   N   B   K   F   E   N   E   W           L           O           P
NUNYESJ   O   AIFI   T   Q   I   H   U   P   I   P   E   N   XYBT   POUR   V   PHVGJOMGNA   HJFU   J
W           P           O   U   P   F   P   A   F           N           O           I   U           I           M           S           U           X   K
Y           C           O   U   B   M   U   W   O           K   O           U           R           I           U           Y           A           G   V
X   T   VEKOKVO   G   A   Q   J   DJBJ   AXDL   RENHENY   A   BSKF   NWAIUCQ   WAAI   GPHG   H   H
C   H           R   N   E           E   V   E           N           T           W           R           K   S   T
I   O           U   W   P           T   L   E           P           C           Q           X           Y   S   A           END
L   KIBJRDOGKVML   W   IMAUAWH   X   X   MLUMGJK   J   TNYK   A   KANV   JWJT   A   Y   T   F   Q
O   I           A           G           T           C           B           K   W   U           P   I   J   L           C
J   S           X           L           E           X           A           U           Y   X           R   D   I   U           C
Y   Q   FPGRBIDTNCJT   CVMH   N   BDRUGSSVWETUO   SXGMWBISYYSMH   Q   AKXT   E   L   L   ARNDSUQ
Q   J   V           Y           R           K           D           F           I           W           P           N           H   F
Q   G   D           M           K           D           D           W           A           N           H           W           Q           B   I
S   N   D   MOATEJC   B   GYHBYMEIGO   K   G   TOPW   MPH   CQADLFTEKX   CUSEPLMIGVSM   A   X
I   W   G           I   L           Y           B   S   L   U           G   I           I           E           S           T
M   W   J           I   P           U           R   H   U   X           J   E           F           E           G           C
P   LEMD   A   O   F   TWEI   FRHB   E   O   S   N   HTRA   WUXYSUQ   XLPPCKJ   H   S   MALSRXH   W
R           Q           C   I   F   W           M   E   W   A   B   J           S           C   X           R   Y
P           R           J   G   U   S           O   Z   E   V   W   F           I           I           X   F           K   N
IMXW   UCKTYUY   N   L   GEEA   K   E   R   KFJJ   V   EQHFLKM   TAALULRNRKTOI   JWEEWHS   K   R
J   C           H           S   U   L   A           T   I           U           E           O           Q           D   I   H
O   Y           H           I   X   E   K           L   S           QSHTWXY   BOROOGH   L   U   OWULIEU   U   O   O
W   HBJWXMPXRHCYBFKRUVJ   E   L   T   BGIG   M   QQHTWXY   BOROOGH   L   U   OWULIEU   U   O   O
J   D           D   T   A           Y           Y           G   F   K           T           Q
J   I           G   L   I           O           T           I   Q   O           I           I           I           X
U   S   EPCVJMMALK   PJTE   U   VIUTSSKMDBOWTDFAI   BQEBPFV   V   J   G   BJVLEJHKGB   KFHEKVU
T   V           E   D           L           R           F           B           P           S           Y           V           V   B
U   G           C   P           C           Q           D           A           K           S           O           M           K   C
P   BRBE   E   R   EGRC   NFMUHNFB   EITMI   P   HJGX   L   NJFCAKYWODMXB   FDKE   E   XISY   G   I
P           V           O           Y           Q           F   I   K   J   I           Y           L           E   M
X   G           H           U           Y           Y           X   L   J   V   M           U           S           I   G
W   M   RHEO   QHDSTYQIVTPGD   G   QXMGABQ   D   K   R   W   NTSDBVDP   RS   QNFXJLENMTMMSEKE   Y
K   A           U           H           E           M
B   K           F           D           G
FFHSOXTYSMSHXPYEYUFGDLAXKARUAUNUGTFPKGIQKVOVAVEVGUEOPLYQEUFLEUCDPUPIKWORLDNPHYO
    
```

Find and circle these words:

SPRINKLE	SUN	GALE
STORM	GUST	DOWNPOUR
LIGHTENING	DEW	SHOWER
RAIN	BREEZE	POUR
CLOUD	HOT	PRECIPITATION

# Stu's Star Stuff

## Solar storms flare in summer

The sun unleashed a huge flare on Thursday, launching a stream of electrically charged plasma in the direction of Earth at about three million miles per hour. When the solar storm struck our planet's magnetic field on Saturday last week, it produced a dazzling northern lights display that could be seen as far south as the northern United States.

Here are five key facts about solar storms:

- They start with an explosion equivalent to billions of nuclear bombs. A solar flare is a sudden explosion on the surface of the sun, releasing as much energy as a billion megatons of TNT, according to NASA. (By comparison, the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was equivalent to, at most 0.017 megatons of TNT.) Most solar flares are accompanied by coronal mass ejections, huge streams of charged plasma that travel at millions of miles per hour.
- They can wreak havoc on elec-

tronics and power grids. These coronal mass ejections, when they strike the Earth, can cause moderate to serious geomagnetic storms, disrupting GPS satellites and knocking out power grids. The CME produced by a February 2011 X-class solar flare, the highest classification, disrupted radio communications in China. A 2008 report by the National Academy of Sciences found that a major solar storm could cause twenty times the economic damage of Hurricane Katrina.

- They make for dazzling northern lights displays. Geomagnetic storms can provoke intense displays of the northern and southern lights. Scientists say that the colorful, dancing auroras are seen at the poles of the Earth because the charged particles get trapped in the Earth's magnetic field and are then channeled along magnetic field lines.
- How dangerous they are depend on how fast they are moving. Studying the speed of high-energy

particles during powerful solar storms may help scientists determine their potential harm to people. Generally speaking, if they're slower, they'll deposit all of the energy into your body because they're not fast enough to fly right through.

■ They come and go in cycles. The frequency of occurrences of solar flares loosely follows an 11-year solar cycle. During periods of high solar activity, there could be several storms a day. When the Sun is less active, less than one flare a week could happen. The maximum Sun's activity cycle is expected to peak in late 2013.

Check out Venus and Jupiter in the eastern pre-dawn sky. The picture was stunning this week with the fingernail crescent moon right below. Venus is the lower, larger and brighter of the two planets. They both stand out well past 6:00am.

The show goes on day and night. And, as always, it's free. But donations are welcome.

### The Moon for July 14

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.105  
3.1 days since new moon

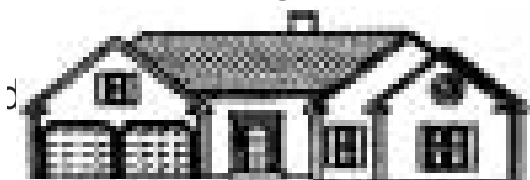
Facts about Sunday, July 22nd:

Sunrise: 6:28am  
Sunset: 9:13pm  
Moonrise: 10:18am  
Moonset: 10:50pm  
Day length: 14h 45m



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# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You will be in the doghouse if you are being. Emotional matters may not be easy for you to handle. Leave your checkbook and credit cards at home. Abstain from getting involved with married individuals. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Make any decisions you have to in order to avoid feeling unsettled. Things are looking good for you, so open your eyes and get to it. Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation. Romantic encounters will develop through group activity. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Deception in your home is evident. Don't beat around the bush. You may have the energy to clear up that mound of paperwork facing you. Romance can surface if you get into some of those fitness programs you've been putting off. Self-deception regarding your own worth may lead you down the wrong path. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Try to be tolerant of the moods of those around you. You may need the space, but you need the extra cash more. You may have difficulties finishing projects you start. However, be careful with luggage; it may be rerouted. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Relatives will not agree with the way you are dealing with your personal problems. Be diplomatic and honest, and that person will only be made to look bad. Do things for them but don't allow them to make unreasonable requests. You can make extra cash if you act on a hunch. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You will meet new romantic partners if you get involved in seminars or travel. You should catch up on correspondence. If you join intellectual or cultural groups, you should meet individuals who stimulate you. Opportunities to make money may interfere with your personal plans. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Travel will promote new romantic encounters. Secret affairs may be tempting. Direct your energy into physical entertainment. Your business sense will be leading you in a direction that indicates more travel and communication. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Pursue outdoor activities or any physical exertion. You can receive recognition for the work you've done. Talk about your intentions and confirm that you both feel the same way. Don't let your emotions interfere with your professional integrity. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Go out with close friends who understand your situation and your needs. You will have no problem getting your point across to those in a position to help you. Lack of funds may add stress to your already uncertain situation. Try to make your lover understand that you need to do things with your friends. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Ideas may sound good, but be careful if people are just looking for handouts. Travel in pursuit of pleasure and knowledge. You have worked hard and the payback is now. You can expect changes in your financial situation as well as in your status. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Help elders in your family. An older member of your family may have left you with a pressing situation. Don't consume more than necessary. Be sure to think twice before you say something that might hurt your partner's feelings. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Opportunities for love will develop while traveling or while attending religious functions. You may want to take a look at courses offered at a local institute. Before you proceed be sure to talk your plans over with those they will affect. A lack of support and negativity have been the main problems. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



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# — BIRCH LAKE DIRECTORY UPDATE —

Thank you Birch Lake residents, who have submitted their directory updates. We hope to include all Birch Lake families - new and old - and accurately as possible.

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. complete it, scan it and send the pdf to

Celia.Fallon@gmail.com

4. ignore it and allow the editors to decide your directory entry

5. email your update to Celia.Fallon@gmail.com



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# — 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 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

## Merry Christmas at Camp T

**M**erry Christmas! This week was Christmas in July at Camp Tannadoonah. Our Counselors in Training (CITs) were in charge of planning the week's activities, and did a beautiful job decorating the dining hall for the holidays.

On Sunday evening we played "The Ornament Game," which involved teams searching camp for colored ornaments, then returning to the dining hall lawn to complete a task before they could go search for their next ornament. The tasks included things like lying on the ground and spelling out Santa, hopping on one foot while singing Jingle Bells, forming a human Christmas Tree (pyramid), or making up a camp song to the tune of Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer!

This week was also our Tannadoonah Fairy Week for our Counselors. Tannadoonah Fairy is kind of like a Secret Santa, except that they also play pranks on each other. Some of the counselors get pretty creative with their pranks!

We had counselors who had to sing songs at lunch in order to get their beds back, or who had to wear crazy outfits all day. Others had to talk like a baby for an entire meal, or sing YMCA every time someone said their name. And if you went by on the lake on Monday, you



Camp T kids that attended the Lacrosse session Rich Mullin taught ... one of several new programs added this year.

may have seen Mr. Josh, our fishing instructor, wearing a beautiful blue and white bikini down at the waterfront!

They also do something nice for one another as part of Tannadoonah Fairy, such as doing the other counselor's camp cleanup chore, or buying them their favorite candy or pop. And because it was Christmas in July this week, one Tannadoonah Fairy "prank" involved a counselor dressing up as Santa Claus and distributing gifts to other counselors at dinner one night!

On Tuesday night we had Sleigh Rides for evening activity, also known as Cardboard Boat Races. The campers

were divided into teams, and had 30 minutes to design and build a cardboard boat using boxes and duct tape. Then each team chose a camper to ride in their boat and race across the shallow area of the waterfront. It was pretty cool to see all their different design ideas!

This week we had three special programs: Basketball, Latin Dance, and Spanish. Basketball was coached by Mr. Chris Nanni, a former ND basketball player, and Mr. Bailey Priller, a Marian High School student. Spanish and Latin Dance were taught by Miss Allison Nanni. Latin Dance looked so cool! And the Spanish class made some awesome recipes, learned about different Spanish-speaking cultures, and picked up quite a bit of Spanish language. Miss Allison never spoke any English during their daily 2-hour classes!

**Don't forget to join us on Saturday afternoon for the Hog Roast! The event starts at 4, and at 6:30 pm we will have a presentation to honor our three new Legend Tree honorees.** This year's honorees are Mrs. Jo Murphy, Mrs. Pat Laing, and Miss Toody Goldsberry. There will be lots of great food, drinks, and live music!

-Miss Amber  
amber@tannadoonah.org  
574-217-4731

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# 2012 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

## 2012 BLYC OFFICERS

**Pam Mullin** Commodore (N).....476-1080  
**Clasegirl1@comcast.net**  
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**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

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**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  
**sparkybob220@comcast.net**

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- *Color Lake Property Home guide mailed to buyers & 8,500 lake owners*
- *Advertising in Illinois, Indiana & Michigan home guides*
- *Our own Southwest Michigan Map including lake map and lake size table.*



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# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

E-mail [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) ... mail or drop to 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

## FOR SALE

**Large, heavy, cast iron wood-burning heating stove.** 23-1/2" x 32-1/2" x 49" high. \$750 obo. Also for sale: hide-a-bed (double) \$25 obo. Call cell phone (574-315-1193 or home (574) 272-0627.

**20-foot, 1991 Godfrey Hurricane 2000SE deck boat;** 4.3 liter Mercury Cruiser motor and trailer.



**For sale — The most recognized pontoon boat on Birch Lake is for Sale!** Phil & Sandy's 1982 Crest Pontoon w/peace sign; newer bimini top, carpet, helm, captain's chair, bench seat and arm rest; Newer 25 hp Mercury 4-stroke, Bigfoot outboard. Well maintained, runs great! \$3,500 obo.

**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

**Shore Station canopy.** 22 feet long, dark green, no tears. \$200 obo. Kevin, 476-2166 or 773-304-8042.

For Sale:  
**Antique Story and Clark pump organ.** In good working condition. Best offer. Call 574-215-5902.



**Razor electric scooter.** Good condition. \$75. Kevin 476-2166 or 773-304-8042.

## WANTED

**Photographs Wanted** — We are collecting photos for the 2013 Birch Lake calendar. All are welcome to submit entries! Visit [grundy-home.com/blycphotos](http://grundy-home.com/blycphotos). 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](mailto:tim.burchell@aopsales.com), [lizbur@bell-south.net](mailto:lizbur@bell-south.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

## FOUND

**Pink teddy bear** at the Yacht Club found 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

[BirchLakeHomeForSale.com](http://BirchLakeHomeForSale.com)

## FOR RENT

**Cottage for rent** - \$600 weekly - will discuss weekend rental too. Call 574-360-8766.

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