



The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 4, 2012

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Thanks to Amy Lutz for the great pic of a couple of tubers (does that make them lake potatoes?) That's Amy's niece, Kelly Mae Niepokuj and our granddaughter, Morgann Applegate.

Commodore's Comments

My First Summer at Birch Lake

As the grand dog of the Commodore I'm so honored to be this week's guest writer. This summer was my first at Birch Lake as I was adopted in June. I had never experienced life on a lake nor had I ever swam before. I'm finding that I'm not built like a swimmer.

While it's taken me a bit of time to get used to the water, I'm starting to find that Birch Lake isn't just about the lake but about turtle races, fireworks, hog roast (which I'm sorry I wasn't able to make), pancake breakfast (another I missed), and most of all PARTIES! Especially "Bad Patty's" parties; I need to find a way to attend one of those.

As a newcomer to the Birch Lake scene I've really enjoyed meeting and sniffing a lot of you. The belly rubs and the pats on the head were very welcom-



Taffy at Birch Lake

ing.

This summer has been a time of discovering new things. I took my first boat ride and discovered I love being at the front of the boat with the wind blowing through my ears. I made a few four legged friends: Wrigley, Charlotte and Abby. I discovered there are dog treats on top of the refrigerator in the King's boat house. And finally I discovered why they tell you not to run on the pier as I

lost my footing and slipped off the pier into the water a couple of weeks ago.

I wanted to take this time and thank everyone at Birch Lake for being

2012 BLYC Calendar

- 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 —

so welcoming. Visiting the lake is one of my favorite things to do besides chasing rabbits. If you see me, Commodore and her first mate, Sarah, Matt, Ronan, Brogan, mom (Jackie) and dad (Patrick) on the pier or on the boat please don't hesitate to honk.

~Grand Dog Taffy



Taffy's friendly neighbor dog ...

Now a few words from the Commodore:

We have our Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, Aug. 4 at 9 am followed by the Homeowners Meeting. Both will be held at the Yacht Club. Everyone is welcome to both meetings.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Corn & Sausage Roast this Saturday. I always enjoy this event, but then you know the summer lake season is definitely coming to an end. We

have a couple of week-ends off from social events, and then Chas will be hosting the Fall Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 25. Look for details in the coming Barkers.

And just a reminder, don't forget to support our advertisers in the Barker. When you visit one of them, send a thank you their way for supporting Birch Lake.

Here's to smooth sailing.

~Commodore Pam

Homeowners Assoc. Meeting

The annual meeting of the Homeowner's Association will be held after the Yacht Club Board Meeting on Sat. August 4. On the agenda will be election of officers. If anyone would like to run for an office on the HOA, please plan to attend. Also, at the meeting will be Township Trustee Leard Wylie and the candidates for County Commissioner will be introduced.

Corn & Sausage Roast - August 4

The Big Day is finally here! The Corn & Sausage Roast is this Saturday, August 4. From 5:30 until 7:30 pm at the Yacht Club, we'll be serving delicious meals consisting of your meat choice, roasted corn, four sides, cookies and lemonade or iced tea. Prices are \$4 for a hot dog meal and \$7 for a bratwurst or chicken breast meal (we'll only have a limited supply of chicken breasts so they

are first come, first served until we run out). Pay at the door — no reservations required! Come hungry, visit with your neighbors and leave with a smile! We look forward to seeing you!

Safety Note: It's West Nile Season!

Mosquitoes in Elkhart County have tested positive for West Nile Virus, a potentially serious or even deadly infection that can be transmitted to humans.

Though the Health Department has confirmed that no local residents have reported infections this year, the virus has been detected in the area.

Symptoms of West Nile usually surface between three and 14 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito, which are more active around dusk and dawn. Most people who are infected don't show signs of illness, but up to 20 percent can have fever, headaches, body aches, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. About one in every 150 people infected will have a serious illness including coma, convulsions or paralysis.

Recovery can last a few days to weeks. People over 50 years old are at a higher risk of severe illness, but protecting young children is just as important.

Anyone with severe symptoms should seek medical attention immediately.

Some ways to avoid West Nile:

- Use an insect repellent registered by the Environmental Protection Agency

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— Birch Lake Notes —

- Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors
- Install or repair window screens
- Eliminate places where mosquitoes breed by emptying standing water from flower pots and buckets
- Change water in pet dishes daily and replace the water in bird baths weekly
- Get rid of old tires or drill holes in tire swings so that water drains out

Line Dancing on Tuesdays

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

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.

Calendar photo deadline extended

The Birch Lake Photo Calendar submission deadline has been extended to Wednesday Aug. 7. Please email photos to chas@grundyhome.com, or visit <http://grundyhome.com/blycphotos>



Congratulations to Melissa Levy to Brandyn Feller, who were married this past Saturday on Birch Lake. Melissa is the daughter of Susie and Ed Levy - South Side.

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@philvitale.com.

For information and help building your ad, contact Phil at 476-1680, 445-9200 or sailorphil@philvitale.com.



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Elyse Grundy, daughter of Vice Commodore Chas and Miss Amber, gets Kid-of-the-Week recognition for the great, cheesy smile!

Here are Katie and John Luecht with their cousins, Marc and Marc, Jr. age 10. They were here visiting their aunt and uncle, (Bad) Patty and Bill Luecht, East side. Marc, Jr. was able to go tubing — thanks to Amy and Mike Lutz — and sailing—thanks to Uncle Bill — for the very first time! Marc, Jr. was amazed that Good Patti was going to have a birthday ending in zero this year. He never heard of anyone that old that could still get around that well! He was visiting from Georgia and intends to be back here next summer to enjoy Birch Lake, again!



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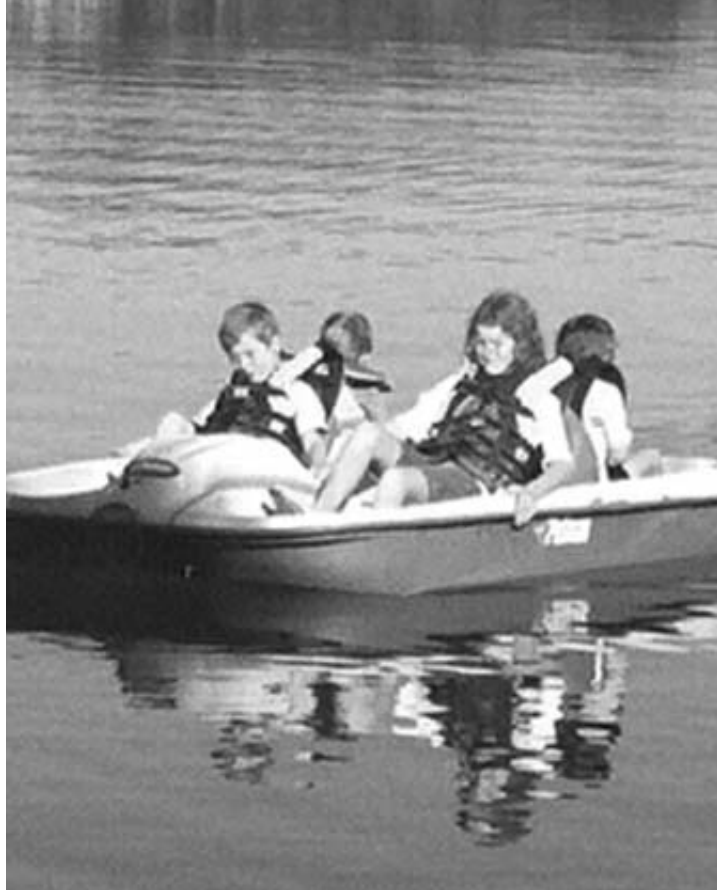
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



We're not sure what it is or who put it there but this ominous-looking "flying monkey" bearing a mysterious "50" on its chest possessed a an innocent and gentle porch goose on the lake's north side this week.



The Waxman kids (Mary Jane, David, Walter and William), the children of Dan Waxman's (East shore) younger brother Steve and his wife Betsy. The kids were at Birch last week from Kansas City so the kids can attend Camp Eberhart and Tannadoonah. They are 3rd generation campers from the family at both camps.

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— Barker Historical Photos —



Some historical photos from the Como family (south side) taken during the late 1940s. Above left is Melanie Como and her brother executing a jump from the pier at the former Lazy Lodge on the week of July 4, 1947. At left is Melanie and Wendy Como at their first rental cottage, the inspiration for them to finally buy a cottage at the lake — former owners, the Lethermans. Above is Melanie Como at Lazy Lodge in 1949.



Fleet Captain's Corner



No sailing last week due to no wind last week ... Sorry ... we'll try again this weekend.

~Stu Spratt, Fleet Captain

2012 Sailing results to date

Sailing Results	22-Jul	22-Jul.....	22-Jul	Points.....	Average
MCs					
Scott Troeger #1489				23449.....	1563
Bob King #1199	1.....	2.....	1.....	25563.....	1504
Jeff Smitley #2002.....	3.....	5.....	2.....	29232.....	1462
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412.....	5.....	1.....	4.....	30537.....	1388
Phil Vitale #500.....	2.....	3.....	6.....	27653.....	1383
Dave Olson #1979.....	-1.....	-1.....	-1.....	22072.....	1298
Bill Luecht #1579	4.....	6.....	5.....	25453.....	1273
Gib Eberhart #916.....	6.....	4.....	3.....	22623.....	1257
Sunfish					
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)				28328.....	1574
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)				4486.....	1495
Stewart Spratt.....	1.....	1.....	1.....	29536.....	1477
Sandy Vitale (White).....	2.....	4.....	3.....	21674.....	1445
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	4.....	3.....	4.....	28371.....	1419
Brad Davis.....				2813.....	1407
Peter Soldoto.....	5.....	2.....	2.....	13645.....	1365
Bill Butler.....	3.....	5.....	5.....	8938.....	1277

~ MEN'S GOLF OUTING ~

This year's event proved to be another successful year for the Birch Lake Men's Golf Outing, no matter the weather! Fifteen teams participated and had a great time at the Sauganash Golf Course in Three Rivers.

Congratulations to our winners:

■ Team Baucus (Brody Baucus, Cameron Barber, Max Habicht, Curtis Holmes) with their 1st place win, score of 57;

■ Team Zesinger (Bud Zesinger, Spencer Rheinhardt, Terry Wiseman, Tony Pulizzotto) taking 2nd place, score of 58;

■ Team Cowen (Dick Cowen, Marc Caenepeel, Donnis Joanson, Charlie Heckel) taking 3rd place, score of 62, after a tie breaker with Team Fredlake.

A big round of applause to our other winners of the day:

■ Longest Drive Hole #6 Dave Pentelow;

■ Longest Drive Hole #17 Jeff Guyten;

■ Closest to the Pin Hole #14 Blair Wozny;

■ Closest to the Pin Hole #16;

■ Longest Putt Hole #3 Dick Cowen;

■ Longest Putt Hole #15 Vic Jones;

■ Closest to the pin Hole #16 Dom Demeter

A great effort to all golfers! If anyone is interested there are still T-Shirts available of all sizes for \$10. We are also looking for any volunteers that would like to try their hand at organizing next year's golf outing. Contact Bob Baucus for the necessary information.

It drizzled, got cloudy, rained again, sun came out, we ate, got drunk, had fun, the end.





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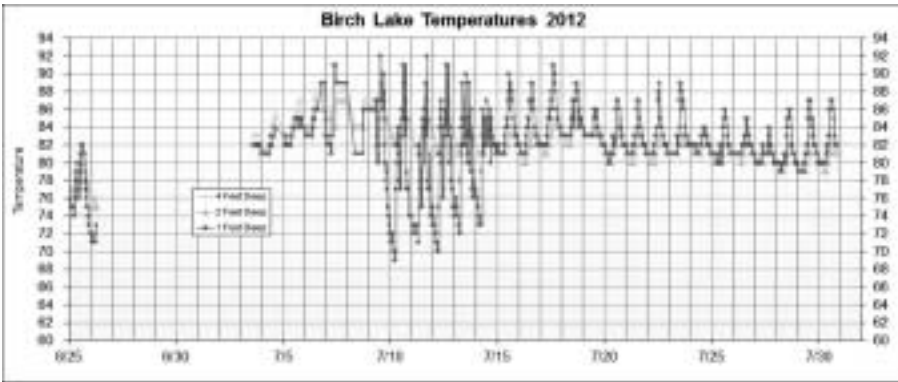
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In the spirit of the Summer Olympics, Cal King caught a few lake critter athletes on film (err, pixels): At left is a Dragon Fly pole-vaulter (actually a hatchling on auto antennae). Above, this Olympian, err, amphibian, has a mean backstroke

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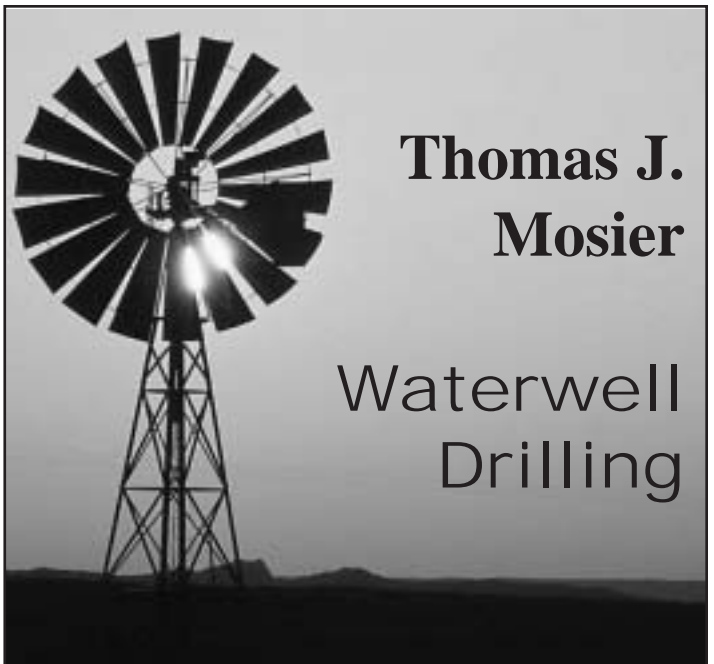
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Featured Listings:



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

~Birch Lake Recipes~

Sangria! Sangria

I think someone should whip up a couple pictures of these and bring out to the Sunday Morning Committee Boat. How refreshing that would be. Pleeeeeese.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup brandy
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1/3 cup frozen lemonade concentrate
- 1/3 cup orange juice
- 1 (750 milliliter) bottle dry red wine
- 1/2 cup triple sec
- 1 lemon, sliced into rounds
- 1 orange, sliced into rounds
- 1 lime, sliced into rounds

- 1/4 cup white sugar (optional)
- 8 maraschino cherries
- 2 cups carbonated water (optional)



Directions

1. In a large pitcher or bowl, mix together the brandy, lemon juice, lemonade concentrate, orange juice, red wine, triple sec, and sugar. Float slices of lemon, orange and lime, and maraschino cherries in the mixture. Refrigerate overnight for best flavor. For a fizzy sangria, add club soda just before serving.

— BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH —

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

A word search grid with a maze path highlighted. The path starts at the top left and winds through the grid. The words to be found are listed in the box below.

END

Find and circle these words:

TUBING
FISHING
SLIDE
CANNONBALL
SKIING

BACKFLIP
BREASTSTROKE
WAKEBOARD
SNORKEL
DIVE

SWIM
TANNING
DOGPADDLE
FLOATING
BELLYFLOP

Stu's Star Stuff

Sky tips from a cool frood

Wow. This is going to be tough. Being here at the lake this week I don't have access to my usual sources of cut and paste (read plagerisable) information. But not to worry. Now that this column is appearing in the Reader's Digest Large-Print-Edition format it shouldn't be too much of a problem filling up a good portion of a page.

Here are a couple of things to look for this week ... The Big Dipper. The Little Dipper. The Little Dipper is

easier to spot here at the lake than in town. The darker skies allow you to follow the pointer stars, the two that form the outermost portion of the bowl, over to Polaris, the North Star, at the end of the handle of Ursa Minor. Continue along that line to the lazy W, Casseopia.

In the south, enjoy the Tea Pot formation of Sagitarius. Above and a little left look for the Tea Spoon. To the west of Sagitarius look for the great scorpion, Scorpius. (not Scorpio or Serpico)

As always keep a sharp eye out for meteors and flying

saucers. The Persied meteor shower will peak on Aug. 12, 13. Best viewing hours are after midnight when our portion of Earth is traveling headlong into the path of the comet debris that brings us the show. As for the flying saucers, the Vogon space parade is week after next, but there's always a few that get started early. Get out there and have some fun. Oops, sorry. I meant the show is free.

-Stu Spratt

(Coming next week: print so large that even blind people will be able to read it)

Editor's Note: Due to a correspondence problem, a 2004 Star Stuff column was reproduced in this space ... Hopefully the real column will appear next week.

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20) Use your intellectual approach to get the best results. Take a trip or just spend some quality time with your mate. Abrupt changes in your home may send you for a loop. It might be time to shake a leg and do a personal makeover. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21) Don't overspend on children or on large purchases. You can prosper if you invest in property or mutual funds. You will have problems with coworkers if you are too extreme about doing things perfectly. Think about your priorities. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Plans to make physical improvements may lead to psychological changes, too. This is not the best day to visit relatives who get on your nerves. You should get out and meet new people this week. Opportunities to meet new lovers will come through pleasure trips or social events. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't trust others with private information that could be used against you. Your lover may be annoyed if you have been flirtatious or not attentive to their needs. Travel will promote new romantic connections. Don't exaggerate. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Try not to discuss important matters with colleagues. Go with the flow and don't be concerned about your own job. You can open up to your mate and let them know what you expect out of this relationship. Partners may try to argue with you; however, you must stand your ground. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) Too much too fast will be the attitude surrounding your home environment. There is not much you can do to alleviate the problem, but consider putting some extra work into your house. Direct your energy wisely. Make sure that you take time to remember those you love. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) Abrupt changes in your home may send you for a loop. Mingle with those who can further your goals. Get involved in groups and organizations that are of a distinguished nature. Don't be afraid to speak in defense of others. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Resist any idle chatter. Try to include friends and relatives in your activities. Don't try to deal with important issues or make changes that will upset the apple cart. Get involved in groups and organizations that are of a distinguished nature. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Look into ways that you can make extra cash. Put your energy into learning new skills or picking up valuable information. Finish those changes you've been talking about making to your residence. Problems on the home front might be a little disconcerting. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.-Jan. 20) You have the stamina and determination to succeed. Family outings that aren't expensive will be enjoyable and help strengthen ties. You will be able to talk about emotional problems with your partner. Old friends may not like your choices. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Real estate should be lucrative for you. You may find that your quick wit and charm will help you in obtaining allies. Groups you belong to will not only enjoy your company, but they will also share your interests. Contracts will not be as lucrative as you think. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Keep on your toes when dealing with others. Your emotional partner will push all the right buttons this week. Don't play on your partner's emotions. New emotional connections can be made through business contacts. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



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— BIRCH LAKE DIRECTORY UPDATE —

THE TIME IS UP - LAST CALL FOR DIRECTORY UPDATES



Thank you to over 125 residents who sent their updates and to the proof-readers of the 2013 Birch Lake Directory.

It's amazing the changes that can happen in our community — we have children who obtain spouses, children who lose spouses, loved ones who leave us for a more tranquil place, and lively young families who move onto Birch Lake to grow a lifetime of memories. The Committee's goal is to publish an accurate directory, because this is not an annual event.

The final spreadsheet will be processed and sent to the printers in early August — come on! You know who you are, please send your updates — by email (Celia.Fallon@gmail.com) is fine.

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: _____

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Email addresses: _____

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

Other information (optional): _____



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Camp Tannadoonah

Olympics Week at Camp T

A Go Team USA! It's Olympic Week at Camp Tannadoonah this week. On Sunday evening we held our own Opening Ceremonies, complete with country flags, a parade, and an Olympic Torch.

On Tuesday night we had our own version of the Olympic water events. And on Wednesday we had a series of competitions, including a soccer tournament, basketball games, tennis matches, and volleyball games.

It's our second-to-last week of camp, and we're getting very close to our goal numbers for the summer! We are currently at 618 for our official count, with a goal of 625 for the summer! Last year we finished the summer with 585, so we're going to finish ahead of that for sure.

Our total beds filled for the summer is currently at 699! In 2006, we had a grand total of 351 campers, so we will be just about double our numbers from that first summer 7 years ago.



Go Team USA Olympics Week was the theme at Camp T this week!

This week we have another big week for camper numbers with 102 kids. This is the 2nd week this summer with over 100 kids, and the 5th week with over 80 kids. Our lowest week was mini week with 64 campers. Compare that to 2006 when our biggest week was 68 campers, and we had several weeks with numbers in the 30s!

Next week is our last week of camp for the summer, and the theme is Pirate Week. We have lots of fun activities planned, such as a "Talk-like-a-Pirate Lunch", a treasure hunt, and cardboard boat races at the lake.

Thursday night next week we'll be having a Lake Serenade. One group will walk around the cove and about halfway down the west side, and another group will walk along the north shore and about halfway down the east side. So come on out and hear our campers sing! Anywhere we see people home we will stop to serenade.

And Friday night (August 10) will be our final Council Fire (7:45pm), and candle light ceremony at the lake (approximately 9:00pm). Come out in your boats around 9 to hear us sing our season to a close.

-Miss Amber

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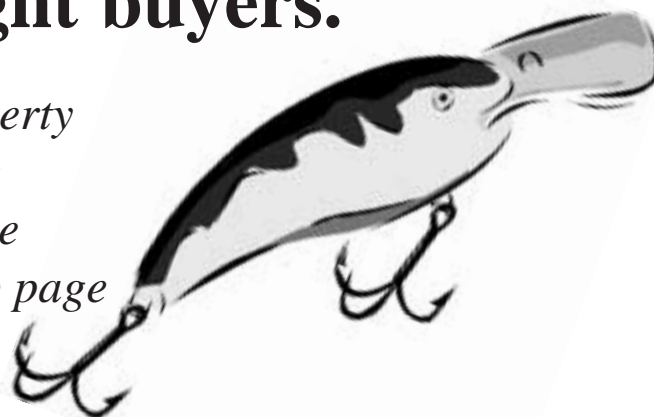
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For Sale: Antique Story and Clark pump organ. In good working condition. Best offer. Call 574-215-5902.

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



'Surprised by Beauty' — Photographic artist, Carol Dugan, is offering for sale, cards, matted work and giclee canvas work. Many images are local. Her work is displayed at LA Cafe in Three Rivers and Farmhouse Bakery in Vandalia. At Farmhouse Bakery, Carol will do a 'Meet the Artist' day on Friday, August 17, 9 am to 2 pm. Her lake phone is 476-2814. Email CDugan5310@aol.com

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