



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

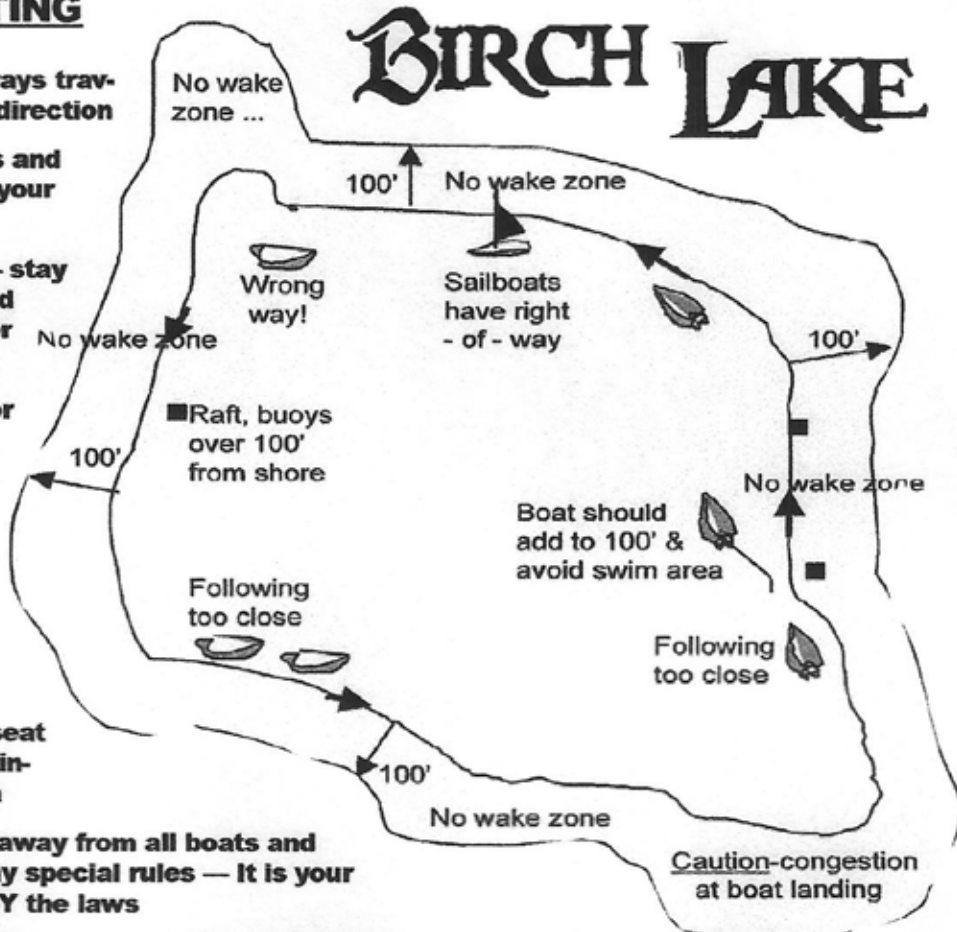
The weekend Of May 24 2014

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

COMMON SENSE BOATING

- * No matter what your speed, always travel in a **COUNTER CLOCK-WISE** direction
- * Go **SLOW** near other boats, rafts and shore. You are responsible for your wake.
- * Take your time and give room — stay **100'** from shore, other boats and rafts when you are travelling over wake speed
- * When pulling someone on skis or a tube, you **MUST** have an observer. Watch out for other boats and be sure to add the length of your tow line to the 100' clearance rule
- * There must be one **USCG-approved LIFE JACKET** for every person on board, as well as one throwable device (seat cushion, etc.), a horn, a fire extinguisher, and a valid registration
- * **PWCs (Jet Skis) must stay 100'** away from all boats and other PWCs. Jet skis have many special rules — It is your responsibility to know and **OBEY** the laws
- * Be responsible for everyone on your boat — safety is **NO ACCIDENT!**



Welcome Back to the Lake!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

It's so great to be here at Birch Lake on this Memorial Day Weekend! This is the weekend things get done!! Piers jutting out from the shoreline, rafts floating in the water, anxiously awaiting kids to come play "king of the mountain".... (do they play that, anymore???) It all means winter is FINALLY behind us and we can get back to the beauty of Birch Lake!

Last Saturday many of us met for the Spring Dinner at Lunker's in Edwardsburg. It was nice to gather with old and new friends to catch up and share the evening. I would like to thank everyone for coming out and hope you had an enjoyable time. Many thanks to those who pitched in and helped make things run smooth. Deb Bolinger for doing the check in table, and Deb Spratt and Carol Freihofer for selling raffle tickets. Money from the raffle will be used towards the awesome fireworks display that we will enjoy on July 5.

Also, if you missed this first opportunity to sign up for manning a committee boat some Sunday morning, don't hesitate to give our Fleet Captain Mike Lutz or his lovely first mate Amy a call, and they will get you on the list. It is not hard ... (Obviously, if I can do it!!!) ... and it's so much fun to be out there on a beautiful morning watching the races! So put a crew together and mark that off your bucket list!

There are many events planned for the summer. On June 14, Vice Commodore Fry (as he likes to be addressed) and I will host the Commodore/Vice Commodore party at the BLYC. It will be MOTOWN NIGHT!!!! and Birch Lakers will be rockin' and rollin'! You won't want to miss the evening. Watch for details in the next Barker, as we finalize the details.

Mark your calendars for the Spaghetti Dinner on June 21. This year it will be hosted by the South Side at the BLYC. I'm sure it will be delicious and it means I won't have to cook that evening!! WINNER!!!

2014 Birch Lake Calendar

May 24, 25, 26	..... Memorial Day Regatta
June 14	..... Commodore/Vice Commodore Party — MOTOWN NIGHT, 7 pm, BLYC,
June 21	..... Spaghetti Dinner, BLYC
June 28	..... Kids' Regatta - need organizer
July 4, 5, 6	..... BL 4th of July Regatta 11am
July 5	..... BL Boat Parade 2pm
July 5	..... Fireworks - Birch Lake
July 6	..... Fireworks Rain Date
July 6	..... Pancake Breakfast 8:30-11am Camp
July 18	..... BL Ladies' Golf 9 am - TBA
July 25	..... BL Men's Golf - need organizer
July 25	..... BL Ladies on the Lake - TBA
Aug 2	..... Corn and Sausage BLYC - time TBA
Aug 16	..... Camp T Hog Roast
Aug 23	..... BLYC Fall Dinner - TBA
May 2, 2015	..... BLYC Spring Dinner

Dates subject to change.

Watch the Barker for updates!

Finally on Saturday, June 28 there will be a very special – and what I hope will become an annual event – the Don Harman Birch Lakers' Regatta! Formerly the "Kids' Regatta," it is being

The Birch Barker is always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvital.com, put the items in the stone newspaper/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), mail or drop items at Neighbors, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos or other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or contact BLYC Commodore Patty Luecht (269) 476-2615. –Phil V

— Birch Lake Notes —

changed to give the opportunity to anyone of any age to get out and catch the sailing fever. Don encouraged so many to sail. My better half, Bill, started sailing because of Don's encouragement, and Katie our daughter got bit by the sailing bug while on the "Pickle" with Phil and Sandy Vitale during a kids' regatta that Don and Lind hosted. So, if you or anyone you know ever thought, "Wow! That looks like fun! It would really be cool to try to sail!" here is your opportunity! We will begin at the Lutz's house on the North Shore at 11 am, and after the regatta there will be refreshments. So give it some thought and try something new!

I am happy to announce that the Men's Golf Outing on July 25 has a new chairperson. Peter Sodato, has graciously agreed to organize this year's event, and I'm sure he could use your help and sponsorships. Peter has recently purchased a home on the hill, so he now a full-time resident here at the lake!

And last but not least, the boat parade will be July 5 at 2 pm. Dick Bender has once again agreed to have his pier be the start/finish for the parade. Thank you so much, Dick! Linda Curtis and Sue Waddle will again organize the parade. This year's theme will be..... (drum roll, please!) JUST YOUR IMAGINATION!!!! So it is anything you desire (keeping it in good taste and using good common sense) that you are capable of designing. This should make for a very fun and interesting parade. Let's get your thinking caps on and your creative juices flowing!

Have a safe and fun Memorial Day. Please take a moment to reflect why we are enjoying this wonderful 3 day weekend with our family and friends, and take time to thank a veteran for all the rights and freedom we enjoy.

And remember to watch for the pink lights! "Pink is not just a color.... It's an attitude!"

~Bad Patty, Commodore 2014

3 Garage Sales this Saturday

THREE Garage Sales on Saturday, May 24, Memorial weekend at the Olson's, Garceau's (new home) and Whiteman's garages at 8 am. BE THERE!



Fire razes Cove home

Thanks to Cove resident Linda Bergan for this spectacular photo of the fire that destroyed the Harrisons' home last Saturday night.

Thank you from Blair

Thank you to my Birch Lake family for all of your thoughtfulness, cards and caring during my Mom's illness and death. It was a difficult time for myself and my family and you helped to make it easier. It was so comforting to come home each day and have a lovely card

from a friend from Birch Lake. I cannot express how grateful I am for your love, comfort and friendship.

~Blair Garceau

Boat Safety Classes

Cass County Sheriff's Office operates a Marine Patrol Division. The



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— Birch Lake Notes —

Marine Patrol uses a combination of boats and jet skis to patrol the lakes of Cass County. Marine Patrol Deputies enforce all marine laws.

The Marine Division also offers a variety of boater safety classes. Students may pre-register by calling the Cass County Sheriff's Office at 445-1240. Please have the student's legal name, address, phone number, and date of birth at the time of registration.

All classes start at 8 am and should be done by 1 pm. Students are required to bring a #2 pencil. Adults are recommended to take the class.

Anyone born after December 31, 1978 must have a boating safety certificate to operate a personal water craft. Anyone born after July 1, 1996 must attend a Boater Safety Class to operate any vessel.

Upcoming classes include:

May 24, Donnell Lake Conservation Club

May 31, Howard Township Fire Dept -

June 28, The Rock (Restaurant)

June 7, Donnell Lake Conservation Club

June 21, Eagle Lake Marine

June 14, Cass County Conservation Club

July 12, Diamond Lake Yacht Club

July 19, Indian Lake Yacht Club

For more information contact the Cass County Sheriff's Marine Division at 445-1225, or the Sheriff's Department at 445-2481.



Thanks to our good friend and artist in part-time residence Duffy Dufor (east side) for visually expressing what we all feel every time the sun shines!

Eagle Scout Service Project at The Boat Landing

I am renovating the memorial at the Sears Memorial Park boat landing. The dedication rock will be moved closer to the road, with decorative stone landscape forms placed around a concrete base and a new, anodized aluminum,

“Sears Memorial Park – Birch Lake” sign above it. The project is a Boy Scouts of America-approved fundraising effort. If you'd like to donate to the project, checks can be made out to BSA Troop 562 and mailed to me at 15758 Saddle Ridge, Granger IN, 46530. Please contact me if you'd like more

Be the first

Later this year Lutz Concrete will be installing a beautiful compass rose made of stamped and stained concrete (see photo at right) in a new concrete garage-style apron at the entrance of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

This design is an example of the services and products available for our our friends and neighbors at Birch Lake!

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— Birch Lake Notes —

information. Thank you!

~Blake Witchie
blake4wheeler@gmail.com

To a Good Samaritan

In the middle of February I was attempting to drive to Indianapolis at about 6:15 AM. However, about a mile north of Sears Road on Birch Road, I found myself in a complete whiteout. Although only going about 1-2 miles per hour, I ended up off the road and stuck in the dark with strong wind driven snow. While contemplating how the next few hours were going to go to rescue myself from this mess, a young man with a truck and some straps hooked me up and pulled me out.

Although asking his name, I forgot it but believe his first name was Sean. If that individual remembers this event in mid Feb., please give me a call.

~Terry Dugan, 269-476-2814

Enjoy Michigan's 2014 Summer Free Fishing Weekend June 7-8

The Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone that Michigan's annual summer free fishing weekend is set for Saturday, June 7, and Sunday, June 8. On that weekend, everyone – residents and nonresidents alike – can fish Michigan waters without a license, though all other fishing regulations still apply.

Visit www.michigan.gov/freefishing



A rare (but well earned) break

Gordon and Michelle Seyfarth take a well-earned break from their renovations recently ... The couple have been working throughout the off-season.

Thanks to the PattiCam for the photo

for all things related to this weekend.

Random photos

Special thanks to Mr. Bob King (north shore) for the cool reflection photos that appear in this week's Barker!

Barker Deadlines

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting information for any particular edition is always the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the May 31 issue is Tuesday, May 27) ... thanks.

Advertising in the Barker

We are still (and always) accepting both display and classified advertising for the Birch Barker (see page 17 of today's 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.

Display ads are charged at the low, one-time rate of \$65 for a 1/8 page ad; \$130 for a 1/4 page ad; \$260 for a 1/2 page ad; and \$520 for a full page ad.

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

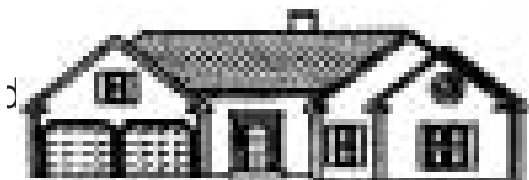
All ads are subject to the approval of the editor and/or Commodore, officers and board of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Online content

The printed Birch Barker will be online this season, as well as additional content ... go to www.philvital.com and follow the links.

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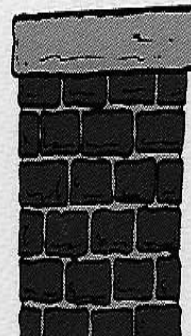
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— Barker kids of the Week —



Congratulations to John Luecht, son of Bill and Commodore Bad Patty (east side) on getting a job at MacDonalds near his home in Danville, IN



Northsider Bob Baucus and eastsider Commodore Bad Patty shared a custom made Flamingo hat at a recent Kentucky Derby event ... as Ricky Ricardo would say, I-I-I-I.



That's my granddaughter, Morgann Applegate being bored at a family function.

If you have a contribution for "Kid of the Week," send me a photo of your child (or grandchild, great-grandchild, niece, nephew ... there is no age limit (so you can send me a pic of your grandmother if you'd like) ... heck, we'll even put in a photo of your favorite pet!

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- * Mowing and Trimming
- * Fertilizing

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- * Provides second home peace of mind
- * Call for all lake property requirements

How to stop a runny nose

By: **Dana Carter**, PharmD

I've spent my past seven summers at Birch Lake, but last summer was the first summer that I spent my time at Birch Lake as a community pharmacist. As you might imagine, I get asked all sorts of questions (sometimes really weird ones), but most of the time it's just people looking for over the counter drug advice. Let's face it, when you walk into a drug store, you're bombarded with options. We have an entire aisle just dedicated to cough and cold products. If you don't know what you're looking for, even I can admit it's extremely overwhelming. So that's where I come into play. My goal for this summer is to make the pharmacy aisles seem less overwhelming. I want to help people become more familiar with how to self-treat their pesky symptoms.

Symptom #1—Runny nose

It seems to happen every year at this time. The warm air finally pushes its way through, and with it comes flowers, trees, grass, and a sea of pollen. The circulating pollen in the air results in an allergic reaction that results in a runny nose, sneezing, itchy/watery eyes, and nasal congestion. I'm going to tackle the nasal congestion part next week because that gets treated differently.

What you need: an "antihistamine"

Where it gets confusing: There are 5 different antihistamines available over the counter (there's actually more, but these are the main ones).

1. Zyrtec (cetirizine): the green box
2. Claritin (loratadine): the blue box
3. Allegra (fexofenadine): the purple box
4. Benadryl (diphenhydramine): the pink box
5. Chlor-Trimeton (chlorpheniramine): the green/yellow/white box

How are they different?

They mostly vary in how tired they make you, and how much they cost.

The fine print: The ones that work the best, make you extremely tired. These are called "1st generation" antihistamines. The 1st generation antihistamines are Benadryl and Chlor-Trimeton. Chlor-Trimeton was developed to be slightly less-drowsy than Benadryl, but it still tends to wipe people out. While the 1st generation antihistamines work really well, it's not very practical to have people going to work or spending their day completely fatigued. Thus, "2nd generation" antihistamines were invented. The 2nd generation antihistamines are Zyrtec, Claritin, and Allegra. These are the antihistamines you want to take for daytime use. While the effects of Benadryl and Chlor-Trimeton last for 4-6 hours, the newer antihistamines are designed to last for all day relief.

How do Zyrtec, Claritin, and Allegra compare?

Zyrtec: works the best, but has a slight tendency to make some people feel tired. For the majority of the population, Zyrtec will not make you tired. Zyrtec is also the most expensive of the 3 options.

EXCEPTION: You can buy #14 Zyrtec tablets at the Dollar Tree for \$1. If you buy it anywhere else, it will cost you roughly \$1/pill.

Claritin: Non-drowsy, and costs slightly less than Zyrtec. However, doesn't tend to work quite as well as Zyrtec, but is a great option for people with minor, infrequent symptoms. Claritin is typically my first recommendation because it is the most cost-effective option in my store.

Allegra: The completely non-drowsy version of Zyrtec. Costs about the same as Zyrtec. A really good option, especially if your body has become tolerant to Zyrtec or Claritin (meaning your body has become used to the presence of the drug, and now the drug no longer works).

In summary, antihistamines work to stop a runny nose. They also work for sneezing, itchy/watery eyes and a scratchy throat. They are your go-to medications for treating allergies and colds. The main side effect of antihistamines is drowsiness. Benadryl causes the most drowsiness so it should only be taken at bedtimes or during allergic reactions. Zyrtec, Claritin, and Allegra are more expensive, but they work for the entire day and rarely cause drowsiness.

If you have a topic that you would like me to write about, or need further clarification please send me an email at Dncarter8@gmail.com

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— Water Quality Report —

Spring 2014 status report

Each spring, the Water Quality Committee reflects on the status of the lake based on the results of the most recent prior years' testing program. This testing, that has been performed for the past 16 plus years, typically includes the following:

1. Phosphorous levels, in the spring and summer. Phosphorous is the main measurable nutrient dictating productivity, the rate at which undesirable biomass is made. This excess phosphorous leads to increased algae growth, diminished lake clarity, and eutrophication or aging of the lake.
2. Chlorophyll levels, monthly from spring until fall. Chlorophyll is an indicator of actual algae growth and thus a direct measurement of lake productivity. Greater algae growth leads to diminished clarity, reduced oxygen levels in the water column, and enhanced eutrophication or aging of the lake.

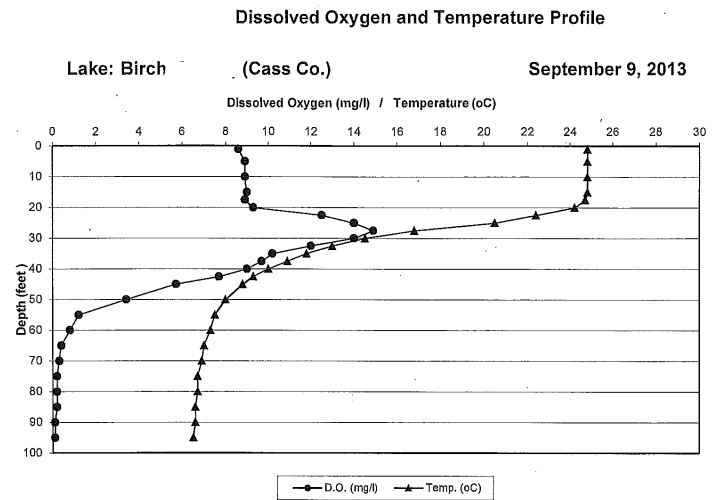
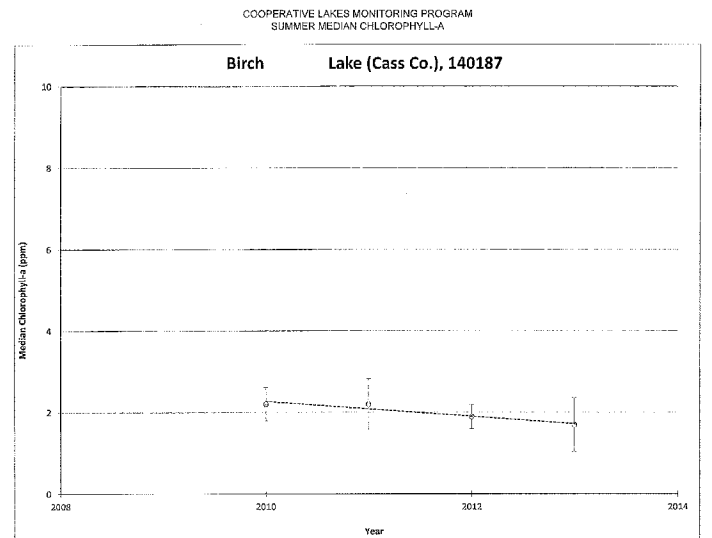
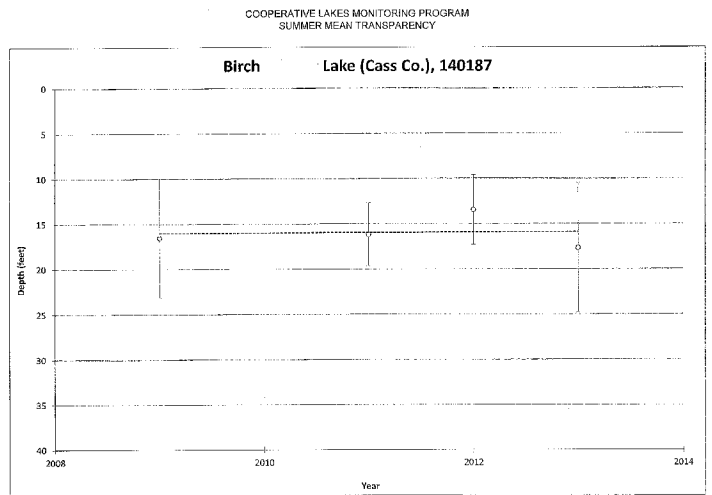
3. Water clarity as measured by secchi disk readings weekly.
4. Dissolved oxygen and temperature measurements from the surface through the water column to the 95 foot mark in the deep basin of the lake. As a result of temperature stratification, the lake does not turn over during the summer, and thus the oxygen in the lake below the 20 foot or so mark is what will be there until fall turnover. As algae grow and die, they sink to the bottom where they are degraded by bacteria, using oxygen. This process gradually depletes the oxygen in the lower strata of the lake. The rate and amount of depletion is dependent on the level of algal productivity. More productivity yields greater and quicker oxygen loss. Oxygen loss has a direct negative effect on fish viability at those elevations and causes an unfortunate increase of phosphorous release from the bottom.

Following are water clarity and chlorophyll graphs provided by Michigan Lakes and Streams based on our testing over the last 4 – 5 years, illustrating little change in water clarity, but more importantly a decrease in chlorophyll levels over the past 4 years. Additionally, though not on a graph, we have been advised last summer's phosphorus level was very low and consistent with the chlorophyll levels.

The third graph is of the oxygen and temperature profile of the lake in September 2013. This is the last measurement of, and the one expected to demonstrate the lowest oxygen levels for, the year. As you can see oxygen levels diminish with depth, but importantly are at full fish viability all the way down to 45 to 50 feet. In July this fish viability extended to about 65 feet. In talking with other lakes doing these measurements, we are significantly different (think "better, more blessed") in keeping such oxygen levels at these deep depths.

Working to keep phosphorous out of the lake is key to maintaining a healthy lake, for not only us but also for the aquatic creatures that live within.

We hope and plan to continue the testing that is illustrated here in 2014 and for many years to come.





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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Let's get ready to sail!

Committee Boat participants and race starters are needed for our sailors this year. Here's what we've got so far ...

Memorial Day Regatta

May 24 — Bad Patty

May 25 — Bad Patty

May 26 — Bad Patty

June Races

1 —

8 — Bad Patty

15 —

22 —

28 — Bad Patty

29 —

4th of July Regatta

(these dates may change due to the Pancake Breakfast. Please watch for updates.)

July 4 —

July 5 —

July 6 —

July Races

13 —

20 —

27 —

August Races

3 — Bad Patty

10 —

17 —

24 —

Labor Day Regatta

August 30 —

August 31 —

Sept. 1 —

If you are looking for a legitimate excuse to have a great day on the lake — SIGN UP!!! Plus, you will be helping the brave men and women that venture out on the high seas every Sunday. Just call Fleet Captain Mike at 476-2843 or Bad Patty at 476-2615 and we will make

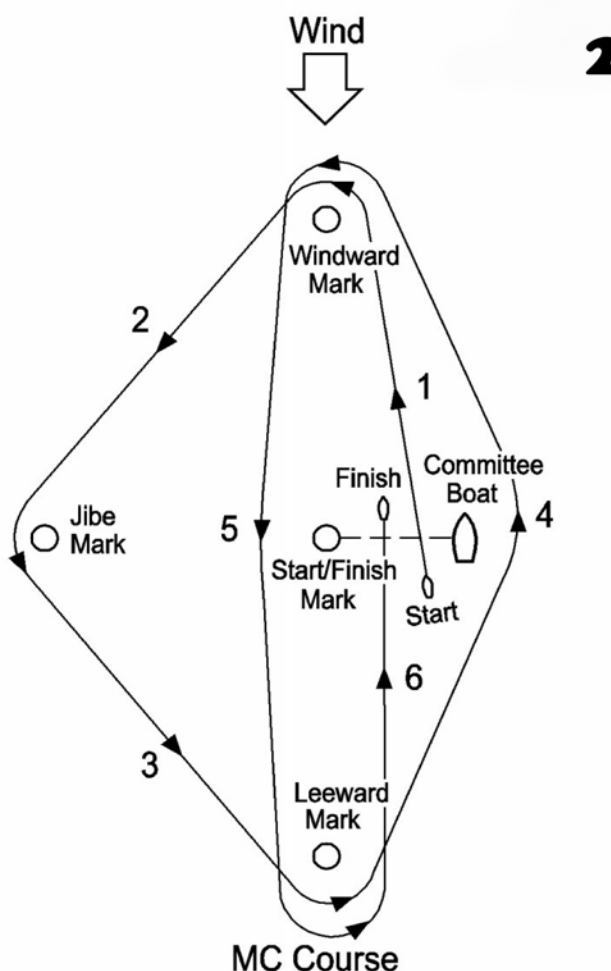


it happen!!!

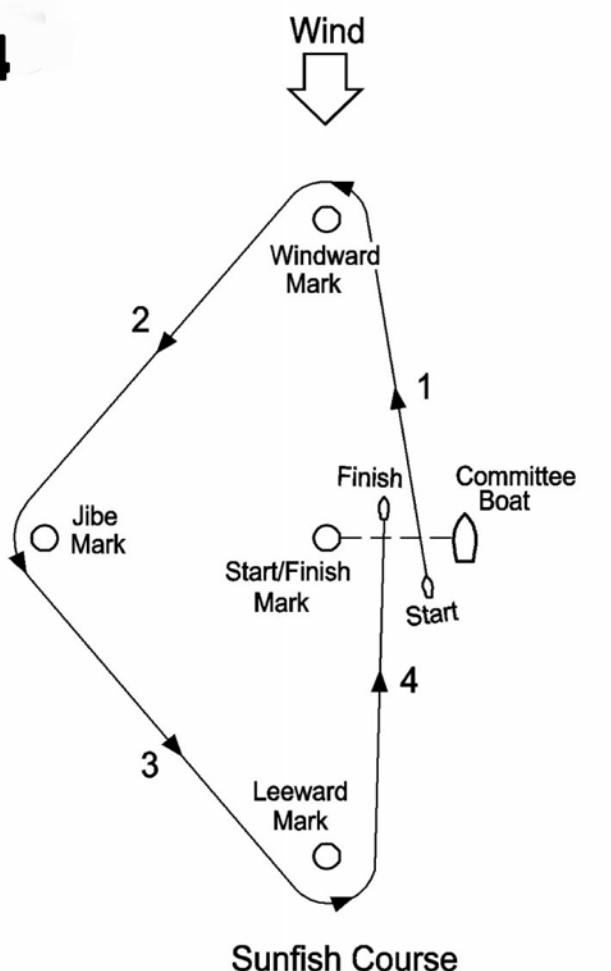
All races will start at 11 am unless delayed by our Most Honorable and All-Knowing, Illustrious Fleet Captain! All decisions will be final so don't even try to change his mind!!!



BLYC sailing courses for MC and Sunfish



Marks to Port (Mirror Image for Marks to Starboard)
Legs 4 and 5 cannot cross the start/finish line, but they can go around either end of the line.



Marks to Port (Mirror Image for Marks to Starboard)

Happy Memorial Day!

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty. - John F. Kennedy

**Soldier, rest! Thy warfare o'er,
Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking,
Dream of battled fields no more.
Days of danger, nights of waking.** - Sir Walter Scott

It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived. — George S. Patton

**All we have of freedom, all we use or know
This our fathers bought for us long and long ago.**
— Rudyard Kipling

I have never been able to think of the day as one of mourning; I have never quite been able to feel that half-masted flags were appropriate on Decoration Day. I have rather felt that the flag should be at the peak, because those whose dying we commemorate rejoiced in seeing it where their valor placed it. We honor them in a joyous, thankful, triumphant commemoration of what they did.
— Benjamin Harrison

Valor is a gift. Those having it never know for sure whether they have it till the test comes. And those having it in one test never know for sure if they will have it when the next test comes. – Napoleon Bonaparte

Bravery is the capacity to perform properly even when scared half to death. – Omar Bradley

Thanks to Mr. Bob for the Memorial Day page items



Words to Taps (Note: there are no "official" words to Taps below are the most popular.)

**Day is done,
gone the sun,
From the hills,
from the lake,
From the skies.
All is well,
safely rest,
God is nigh.**

**Go to sleep,
peaceful sleep,
May the soldier
or sailor,
God keep.
On the land
or the deep,
Safe in sleep.**

**Love, good night,
Must thou go,**

**When the day,
And the night
Need thee so?
All is well.
Speedeth all
To their rest.**

**Fades the light;
And afar
Goeth day,
And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well;
Day has gone,
Night is on.**

**Thanks and praise,
For our days,
'Neath the sun,
Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh.**

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STAR STUFF

For astrophysicists, astronomers, scientists and back-yard star-gazers the telescope is certainly a useful tool for studying stars, planets, galaxies, nebulae and whatever else might be surrounding us in our universe. There are several different types of telescopes that are used for different types of research.

Radio, x-ray, gamma ray and high-energy particle telescopes, with the help of computers, collect and analyze non-visible wavelength energy emissions from distant entities. But we non-scientific types are most familiar with the optical telescope. This category can include such things as binoculars or even camera lenses. Images are formed by refracting light using lenses, reflecting light using mirrors or a combination of the two.

The University of Texas at Austin's McDonald Observatory, one of the world's leading centers for astronomical research, houses several telescopes. The observatory facilities are located atop Mount Locke and Mount Fowlkes in the Davis Mountains of West Texas, which offer some of the darkest night skies in the continental United States.

One of McDonald's principal research telescopes is the Hobby-Eberly

Telescope. With its 9.2-meter (just over 30 feet) mirror, the HET is one of the world's largest optical telescopes. It's optimized for spectroscopy, the decoding of light from stars and galaxies to study their properties. This makes it ideal for searching for planets around other stars, and studying distant galaxies, exploding stars, neighbors in their bathrooms, black holes, and more. The HET, dedicated in 1997, is a joint project of UT/A, Penn State and others.

Another is the Harlan J. Smith Telescope, constructed 1966-68. The Smith Telescope has a 9 foot mirror, which was the third largest in the world when built. The telescope is used every clear night of the year.

The Otto Struve Telescope, constructed 1933-39, was the first major telescope to be built at McDonald Observatory. Its almost 7 foot mirror was the second largest in the world at the time. The telescope is still in use today.

McDonald also operates a smaller, but not small, 30-inch telescope and the 0.8-meter Laser Ranging Telescope that measures the distance between Earth and the Moon and tracks the drift of Earth's continents.

You don't need such sophisticated

The Moon for May 24
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.127
3.5 days before new moon



gear to go out there and enjoy the show. Any night of the year you can go out and look up and see amazing stuff. Get a lawn chair, blanket, binoculars, bottle of wine and significant other and enjoy the show. There's nothing out there better for free. Next week a different kind of telescope.

~Stewart Spratt

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) The next month is the perfect time for a short trip because you want a change of scenery and you want to learn some want to see new places and new faces. This is also a great time to take a course or start a new study. Relations with siblings will be important. You will notice that your daily pace will accelerate with increased activities and a sense of excitement. Expect fun, thrilling times ahead!

Taurus (April 20-May 20) As the Sun shifts signs this week, it will cause your attention to turn more to money issues - cash flow, earnings, investments plus shopping and major purchases. In addition, you will focus more on your possessions or something specific that you own. At a deeper level, this is an opportunity for you to see how well you are using your wealth and possessions. Does what you own help or hinder you, do you own your stuff or does it own you?

Gemini (May 21-June 20) This week is your chance to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. When the Sun is in your sign, it attracts people and favorable circumstances to you. Think of it as rowing with the tide. It's also a good time to take a quick report card of your life. It's most appropriate to put yourself first now and think about how well you are doing at the art of living.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Your birthday is a month away, which means your personal year is coming to an end. Cast a glance over your shoulder and think about this past year. How do you want things to be different? What do you want to introduce that might be new or beneficial or perhaps expand your world? You have about four weeks to give this some serious thought. Studies show that people who are successful know where they're going. They know what they want. They set goals, especially with deadlines. (The true litmus test.)

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Expect a popular month because the placement of the Sun will attract social situations and people to you. You will enjoy friendships might even join classes, clubs, groups and associations. B It's important that you respond to these opportunities because your interactions with others will benefit you. If you share your ideas, hopes and dreams for the future with others - their feedback will help you, perhaps literally or financially! Try it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You easily impress people in authority - parents, bosses, teachers, VIPs and the police. Obviously, you can use this to your advantage. Why wouldn't you use it to promote your agenda or go after what you want or make your pitch? The trick is Mercury is retrograde in June, so you have to work with this as well. In other words, get all the help you want to finish something.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) The next four weeks will be exciting. You'll be hungry to learn and discover new things. Profound discussions about philosophy, religion, politics and lofty ideas will appeal; plus you will talk to people from different backgrounds and other countries. It's also an excellent time to pursue publishing, the media, medicine and the law, and anything related to higher education and training This is not the time to sit around getting dusty.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It is a good time to write a will (so easy to put off) and wrap up loose ends with inheritances, insurance matters and red-tape details. Another area that will be highlighted is your sex life. (Did I hear laughter?) That's because your passions will be aroused! In fact, you might be forced to deal with people who have different values from yours. Expect an intense, memorable month ahead. (Gasp.)

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Since the

Sun is your source of energy, and now it will be as far away from your sign as it gets all year, you will need more rest. It's important to accept this and not run yourself ragged. In addition, this polarized position of the Sun will focus your attention on partnerships and close friendships. It will be an opportunity for you to see how to improve these relationships. Remember: For a relationship to be successful, you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You are a worker. It's not that you don't enjoy having fun but you hate to waste time. You want results for your efforts. In the month ahead, your desire to be efficient, effective and productive will increase, which is why you will tackle To Do lists and tasks and be focused on your job. You will get great satisfaction from whatever you produce. Fear not because fair Venus still promises fun, parties, romance and social schmoozing.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Lucky you! Once a year, the Sun takes four weeks to move through the part of your chart linked with love affairs, romance, vacations, the arts, parties, social affairs, sports events and playful times with children. That time has arrived. Get out your social calendar and plan to meet people for fun occasions. By all means, slip away on a vacation if you can. Needless to say, look sexy because new flirtations are around every corner!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) This is the one time of year when the Sun makes it easy for you to focus on home, family and your domestic life. You might find yourself gardening, painting or doing renovations. You certainly will entertain more at home and be more inclined to see family members or have the gang over for a barbecue. Get as much done as you can because in four weeks, you will flee your home to party and go on a vacation!

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Great Mom's turn the mixer off first.



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I Swear He Was this Big!!!



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BIRCH BARKER WORD SEARCH

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TULIPS
WIND

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PIERS
DAFFODILS
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RAIN

WHITECAPS
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THUNDER
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~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

How about jazzing up those Burgers for the weekend festivities?

Better Burger Sauce

Ingredients

Original recipe makes
2 cups

- 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/3 cup sweet pickle relish
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 bunch green onions, chopped
- 2 hard-cooked eggs, peeled and chopped
- salt and pepper to taste
- Worcestershire sauce to taste



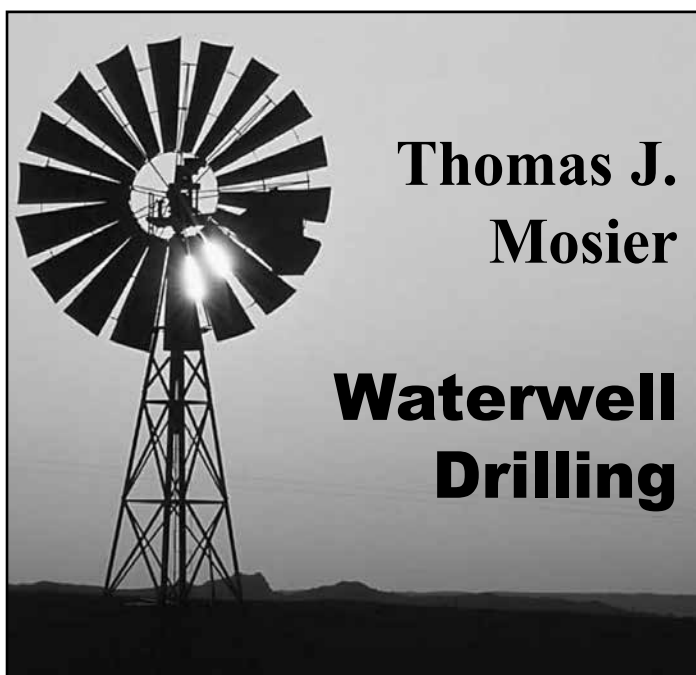
water. Bring water to a boil and immediately remove from heat. Cover and let eggs stand in hot water for 10 to 12 minutes. Drain water, and allow to cool, then peel, chop, and set aside.

2. In a bowl, stir together the vinegar and sugar until sugar

is completely dissolved. Stir in mayonnaise, ketchup, relish, parsley, green onions, and chopped egg, and stir until well blended. Season to taste with salt, pepper, and Worcestershire sauce. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Directions

1. Place eggs in a saucepan and cover with cold



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Camp Tannadoonah

Happy Spring from all of us up at Camp T! We're excited to kick off the 2014 season and have lots of news to share.

First, a HUGE thank you to all of the lake residents who have helped out at camp last fall and winter with the many projects we've had going on! We have received many monetary donations as well as volunteer hours from our wonderful neighbors here at Birch Lake. Thank you for all that you do to help support camp.

Since November, our fundraising committee has raised nearly \$40,000 towards facilities projects at camp. Our goal is to raise a total of \$85,000 for the projects described below.

This spring, the roof on Main Lodge was completely replaced – two big trees fell during a windstorm in November and damaged the roof in multiple places. The trees also took out our power lines, telephone service, and Internet to that end of camp! We're happy to have a new, non-leaky roof on Main this year!

The Shower House is in the middle of a major remodeling project, including tearing out all of the drywall in the ceiling and behind the showers, replacing all of the sinks and counter tops, tiling the wall behind the showers, toilets, and urinals, and replacing all of the urinals. There will also be screen doors installed at both ends of the shower house to help with ventilation and keep out bugs, and we will be putting in motion detectors on the lights to save energy and also to help keep the bugs out at night. We

have also hired a cleaning service to clean the bathrooms daily during camp!

The four adventure cabins (Rotary, Exchange, Exchangettes, and Luta Koda) are also being renovated this spring. These cabins were built in 1929 when camp first moved to Birch Lake, and have not really changed at all since then! We will be installing electric lights and ceiling fans, replacing all of the screens and shutters, and installing tongue-and-groove pine carsiding on the interiors of the cabins. The exteriors will be scraped and painted, the windows will be trimmed on the inside, the floors inside will be sanded and polyurethaned, and the ceilings will all get a fresh coat of paint. Work on the Rotary cabin has already been started by the South Bend Rotary Club.

We will also be tearing off and completely rebuilding the store porch and roof over the porch. The porch will be expanded, and railings added to finish it off. This will create a more appealing gathering place for campers and families on check in and check out days, as well as during camp activities.

Work is underway at the waterfront, where new drainage tiles have been installed to help with the wet ground near the towel racks. A new drainage barrel was installed where the creek flows into the lake, and the seawall is being patched and repaired.

There is also work being done to clean up, organize, and improve the staff areas inside Main Lodge. All of the old, ratty furniture in the staff lounge has been removed, old stuff that had col-

lected in the building has been disposed of, and the whole area is getting a deep cleaning before new furniture and carpet will be brought in!

In addition to all the exciting projects being done at camp, our camper numbers for this summer are looking spectacular! As of today (May 19th), we have 649 official campers registered for camp. My goal for the whole summer was 650, and we've reached that (or nearly!) a month before the first campers even arrive at camp. For perspective, in 2006 (my first summer as director) we finished the summer with just 351 campers; and last year on this same date we had just 355 registered campers. So we're WAY ahead of where we expected to be, and many sessions already have very limited availability. It's very exciting, and a little scary, too!

One last bit of fun news for this spring: I have arranged for a wonderful yoga instructor, Steve Krojniewski from Notre Dame, to come up to camp and offer weekly yoga classes to my staff on Friday mornings. Even better, we're planning to make this class open to lake residents. So if you enjoy practicing yoga, you are welcome to join us on Friday mornings from 6:30-7:30am. The cost will be just \$5 per person each week (drop in – no need to sign up, bring your own mat). Steve is an awesome instructor, and he's really excited to come up to camp and teach!

I look forward to seeing everyone out at the lake – hopefully it will warm up soon!


~Miss Amber
amber@tannadoonah.org

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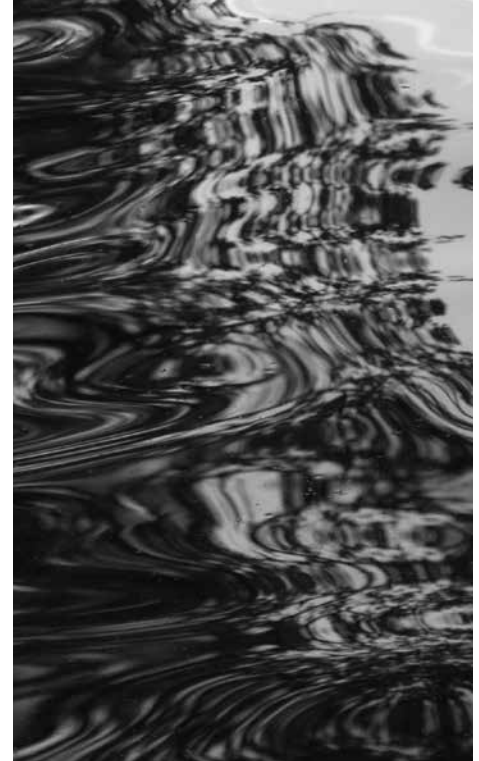
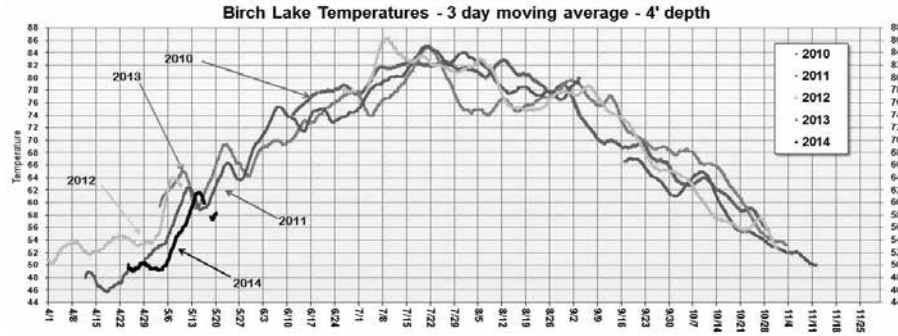
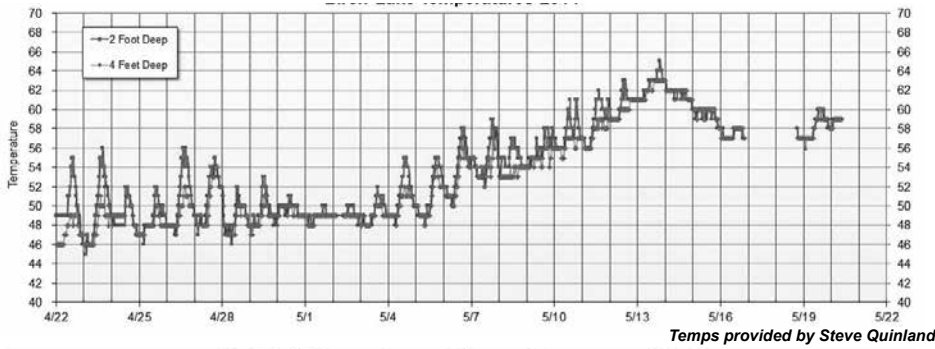
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COTTAGE FOR RENT

2 bedroom cottage on west side of Birch Lake for rent. \$650/week, call 476-2744

LOST & FOUND

FOUND — Carl Klappauf (east side) has reported that before the ice covered Birch Lake, an oar for a rowboat floated up to his pier. He has retrieved it and is saving it for spring when he suspects that it's owner might notice it is missing for the first time ...

WANTED TO RENT

Cottage wanted to rent for the weekend of June 27-29. Please call Jan Temple at 847-846-8600

Wanted: A cottage to rent for the week of July 13 -20 or July 20 -27, or both. We have rented for 6 yrs on Birch Lake, but these cottages are no longer available. We are good renters. We have paid \$1000 plus deposit in the past. We love Birch Lake and our children and grandchildren love Birch Lake! We have great references: Van Huffels and Machallecks. We want to continue the tradition that began 6 yrs ago. We love swimming, fishing, boating, and being together. Birch Lake is perfect for our young grandchildren and we want to come back. Please contact us at 574-339-9851.

We are considering having a family reunion, but our place can only accommodate 12 or so people at a time. Anyone else on the lake might be willing to **rent their cottage?** Contact Mike Code at mcode@lowis-gellen.com

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Dog Crate 28"W x 30"H x 42"L— Call Tom or Vickie 476-2383

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Looking for a good clean double bed or a futon with a thick mattress Please call Staci Whiteman at 269-816-5755

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as an alternate on the Porter Township **Sewer Advisory Board.** Anyone who is interested should contact the Township Clerk, Marty Russel, at 641-2375 or Board Chairman, Carl Klappauf, at 476-2663 for further information.

My family and I are renting on Birch the last two weeks of July and **would love to sail someone's MC** in the race(s) while I'm there if you know of anyone that might like to have their boat out there. I will take good care of their boat and hopefully be competitive. Contact Pat McGann at (574) 232-1411, (574) 532-5377 Pat@McGannHay.com

BIRCH BARKER CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified advertising in the Birch Barker is free to members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club (subject to the approval of the editor and the BLYC Board of Directors), and just \$5 per ad to non-members (please pay in advance).

To submit an ad, just email it to the editor at Sailorphil@philvital (non-members will have to mail or drop off payment) or, if you must, put it in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd.



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

2014 Dues, Contribution & Donation Form
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\$___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)

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Name _____

\$___ - Building Improvement Fund

\$___ - Fireworks Fund

Address _____

\$___ - Water Quality Program

\$___ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$___ - Safety Committee

\$___ - Other non-party related expenses

\$___ - BLYC Roof Fund

\$___ - Misc.

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