



Thanks to Amy Lutz for the great sailing action photo from last weekend's races!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hope you all enjoyed the past weekend as much as I did. It was a perfect Birch Lake weekend! Slow rides around the lake, committee boating, and my first official non-trunk-slammng Sunday! What a wonderful life! Lots of things coming up on the BLYC calendar that you won't want to miss. This Saturday, 6/14, is the Vice Commodore/Commodore's party! Starting at 6:30-8 pm with a social hour (and a half) to reconnect with all your Birch Lake friends — old and new. Please bring an appetizer to share. The dancing and craziness will begin at 8 pm, featuring that smooth Motown sound! Be prepare to let your hair down, sing and have some fun!!!

Next event you will want to participate in will be a night of delicious spaghetti sponsored by our South side neighbors. You must purchase a ticket in advance to attend. There will be ticket sales the night of the Motown party or you may contact Becky Wiseman 574-

386-8609 or Ronni Eshleman to reserve your tickets for that evening. Adults to age 11 will be \$8; ages 4-10 \$5; Kids 3 and under are free! It's always great and someone else is doing the cooking!!

Plan to come out for the Don Harman People's Regatta on Saturday June 28 at 11 am. (Formerly, the Kids' Regatta) This event is for "kids" of ALL ages! Ages 10-99!!! Don always loved sailing, and he did everything possible to get the boats out there! It's an opportunity for you to experience sailing on our beautiful lake.

We will meet at the Fleet Captain's (Lutz) house on the North side at 11 am (time is dependent on conditions at the time), and after the sailing there will be refreshments! First time sailors will receive a really cool shirt and (hopefully) be bitten by the sailing bug!! A request to all veteran sailors: please contact Amy Lutz at 269-4762843 or Bad Patty 269-476-2615 and let one of us know if you are willing and available to assist and take the newbie sailors out on your MCs or Sunfish. The more we have the better!!

Got that boat parade entry in mind,

2014 Birch Lake Calendar

June 14	..... Commodore/Vice Commodore Party — MOTOWN NIGHT, 7 pm, BLYC,
June 21	..... Spaghetti Dinner, BLYC
June 28	..... Don Harman's People's Regatta
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 19	..... Newberg Twp Fire/EMS Open House, 11 am-3 pm
July 25	..... BL Men's Golf - need organizer
Aug 2	..... Corn and Sausage BLYC - time TBA
Aug 16	..... Camp T Hog Roast
Aug 23	..... BLYC Fall Dinner - TBA
Oct 18	..... Chili Cook Off
May 2, 2015	..... BLYC Spring Dinner

Dates subject to change.
Watch the Barker for updates!

yet? July 5 will be here before you know it! You decide what the theme of your boat will be — anything goes! Just remember this is a "family friendly" event and use good judgment. I'm sure it will be a fabulous collection of boats! There

— Birch Lake Notes —

are so many creative people on this lake. The competition is going to be fierce!!

Now to a subject no one likes to talk about. MONEY! We have the Fireworks scheduled on Saturday, July 5 and donations are always needed. Our fireworks' show cost approximately \$8000 and it is funded entirely by donations. Please consider donating. There will be a donation can at the VC/C party this Saturday, or you can mail or drop off a check to any of the BLYC Officers or Directors. Their names and addresses are listed in the Barker every week.

Once again on Sunday July 6 Birch Lake will hold a pancake breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah. Volunteers are always needed. Contact me if you wish to help out.

Speaking of Directors, let me welcome Ed Chester to the board. Ed is an Eastsider and will be a great asset.

Also, in case you haven't heard, our long-time Treasurer Holly Troeger will be closing her ledger and retiring at the end of this term. We can't thank her enough for the time and energy she has put into this office. Taking her place will be a very qualified Deb Spratt, northside, who has been crunching numbers for Cressy & Everett Real Estate for many years. Please take the opportunity to congratulate the new members and let Holly know how much we appreciated the years of service she gave to the BLYC.



I was always told that Canada geese and swans were like oil and water. Looks like this "group" is getting along quite well ... or at least tolerating one another.

~Bruce Wagner, Cove

Have a great week, everyone! Watch for the pink lights, and remember....

... PINK...it's not just a color, it's an attitude!!!

~Bad Patty, Commodore 2014

3rd annual Newberg Twp Fire/EMS Open House

Looking for a day of family fun? Come out and support the Newberg Twp Fire and EMS and join in some fun

games and great food. The open house will be Saturday, July 19 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Newberg Twp Fire Department (corner of M-60 and M-40 in Jones).

The menu will be a rib meal for \$8, chicken on a stick for \$6 or a hot dog meal for \$4 (meals includes 2 sides and a drink), and for dessert ice cream, sno cones and cotton candy for \$1.

Games and fun include an obstacle course, smoke house, waterball and a

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 —

Farewell to Dave & Judy Olson

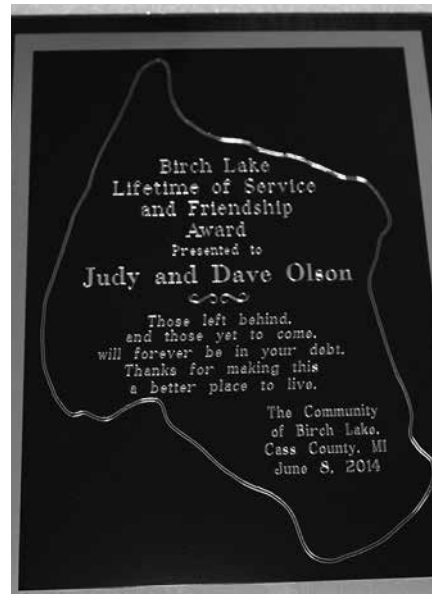
Dear Birch Lakers,

Living at Birch Lake has been a wonderful experience for us and our families. Last Sunday, Birch Lakers showed why this is such a wonderful place to live.

We want to thank everybody for your love and friendship throughout the many years—a lot of fun and great times, a lot of memories and friendships.

Birch Lake will always be in our hearts as we move on to new adventures. Fortunately, there is the Internet to stay in touch.

~Judy & Dave Olson



Longtime Birch residents Dave and Judy Olson were the guests of honor at a farewell party at the yacht club last weekend. BLYC Commodore Bad Patty Luecht presented them with a Lifetime of Service and Friendship award. The Olsons are moving to North Carolina ... we wish them well.

~photos by Jim Yoshizawa

visit from the helicopter.

Meat and sides supplied by Jim Collins Drive Thru Q; drinks provided by the Jones Shell station.

Don't Miss the BLYC Spaghetti Dinner June 21st

The Southside team is busy plan-

ning this year's Yacht Club Spaghetti Dinner which promises to be the best one ever! Gather your family and friends and enjoy a homemade spaghetti dinner with meat sauce and/or Alfredo, salad, garlic bread, dessert and tea or lemonade. Tickets are just \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 4-10 and children 3 and under

are free.

All proceeds will be used to repair and/or replace the cement walkway in front of the Yacht Club.

Tickets will be on sale until June 18th and can be purchased from Claudia and Dennis Phipps, Di Wozny and Craig Fredlake, Sue and Pat Williams, Al and

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Sunday, July 6

8:30 - 11 am

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All proceeds go to Camp Tannadoonah

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Pam Van Huffel and Mike and Katha Machalleck.

You can also call Becky Wiseman (574-386-8609) and Ronni (317-418-9557). Tickets will also be available at the Commodore and Vice Commodore's Party. No tickets will be sold at the door. If you can't stay for dinner, take outs will also be available.

Come join in the fun and support the Yacht Club project! Southsiders: This is your chance to get involved! We are looking for bakers who can donate a dessert for the dinner. Please call Becky Wiseman (574-386-8609) if you would like to make a dessert.

Pancake Breakfast

Come join us on Sunday, July 6 for the annual Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah. From 8:30 am to 11 am, we'll be dishing up all-you-can-eat pancakes (a limited supply of gluten-free pancakes will be available), sausages, fruit, coffee and juice!

Cost for breakfast is \$5 for adults, kids age 6-10 are \$2 (kids age 5 and under are free).

All proceeds from the breakfast will go to Camp Tannadoonah.

The Triple Crown

The 146th running of the Belmont is in the books. California Chrome came close, notching two of three signature races but ... as has happened (12) times since Affirmed won a third crown in

1978, another nag stole the show. Chrome goes to pasture a little tarnished but still a stud (no matter the neigh-sayers).

Every Commodore runs a season-long race and gets measured too. Whoever Bad Patty is paying off to arrange our glorious weather must have an inside track with The Man upstairs. When was the last time we had a three-peat on Memorial Day weekend with every day a carbon copy (or better) of the other?

Come to think of it, we have now notched three photo finish weekends in a row ... it's been sunny with dry heat and wind on Sunday for sailors. The rain has been ample but comes at night or through the week. Can Patty run the table on Father's Day? And Independence Day? And Labor Day?

Watch this space ...

~Wynn D. Weather

Water weather joke:

Q: What did one ocean say to the other ocean?

A: Nothing ... they just waved.

Special Request for Housing


The Notre Dame ECHO program is seeking a 4-bedroom furnished home for the exclusive use of four Notre Dame grad students serving in our diocese from mid-August 2014 through late-May 2015. These four lay ministry apprentices from Notre Dame include the Youth

Minister and Religious Ed assistant at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Kathleen Dierberger. The four live together in community and from their residence drive to their respective parish ministry sites in St. Joseph, Portage, Niles and Edwardsburg. For this reason, the ideal central location for the residence would be the Cassopolis area or north of there. Because the apprentices will be taking online courses during their stay, Internet access in the home is important. These four grad students are mature, responsible young adults in training for lay ministry in the Church. An ideal situation would be a summer home that is not used the rest of the year. With the generosity of the Catholic Extension Society, there are limited funds available to cover utilities and a small rent. Please spread this word with neighbors, friends or relatives who may have a residence/guest house for such special use during the next academic year. For further information or to make an offer, contact Fr. Joe McCormick at 269-699-5870 or jmccormickosa2@comcast.net or the ECHO diocesan coordinator Deacon Kurt Lucas at 269-903-0183 or klucas@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

Barker Deadlines

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting information for any particular edition is **6 pm on the Tuesday** of the week before publication (example:


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— Birch Lake Notes —

the deadline for materials for the May 31 issue was 6 pm on Tuesday, May 27) ... thanks.

Boating Safety Classes

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

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.

Advertising in the Barker

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



We all enjoy watching the sailboat races on Sundays but the fleet needs YOUR help! For the last two weeks we've only had two Sunfish sailors out there — and that's not enough for an official race! If you've got a Sunfish sitting all along on your shore, come on out and sail with us!

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.

Cass County Plat Books Available

The 2014 Cass County Plat books have just been released and are available for purchase at the Cass County Conservation District. The \$20 price remains the same as in years past and can be purchased with cash, check or money order. For an additional charge, the plat books can be mailed. These books are a wonderful reference source and make great gifts. The Cass County Conservation District office is located at 1127 E State St, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031. For information call 445-8641.

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It's duck itch season

Swimmer's itch, also known as lake itch, duck itch, cercarial dermatitis, and Schistosome cercarial dermatitis, is a short-term, immune reaction occurring in the skin of humans that have been infected by water-borne schistosomatidae. Symptoms, which include itchy, raised papules, commonly occur within hours of infection and do not generally last more than a week.

A number of different flatworm parasites in the family Schistosomatidae are what cause swimmer's itch. These parasites use both freshwater snails and vertebrates as hosts in their parasitic life cycles. Mostly waterfowl are used as the vertebrate host. During one of their life stages, the larvae of the parasite, cercaria, leave the water snails and swim freely in the freshwater, attempting to encounter water birds. These larvae can accidentally come into contact with the skin of a swimmer. The cercaria penetrates the skin and dies in the skin immediately. The cercaria larvae cannot infect humans, but they cause an inflammatory immune reaction. This reaction causes initially mildly itchy spots on the skin. Within hours, these spots become raised papules which are intensely itchy. Each papule corresponds to the penetration site of a single para-

site.

The schistosomatidae that give rise to swimmer's itch should not be confused with those of the genus *Schistosoma*, which infect humans and cause the serious human disease schistosomiasis, or with larval stages of thimble jellyfish (*Linuche unguiculata*), which give rise to seabather's eruption. Seabather's eruption mostly occurs in salt water, on skin covered by clothing or hair, whereas swimmer's itch mostly occurs in freshwater, on uncovered skin.

Since it was first described in Michigan in 1928, swimmer's itch has been reported from around the world. Some suggest incidence may be on the rise, although this may also be attributed to better monitoring.

Children may become infected more frequently and more intensely than adults but this probably reflects their tendency to swim for longer periods inshore, where cercariae also concentrate.

To prevent it, don't stand around in shallow, warm lake water. Staying out in somewhat deeper water and/or keeping moving such as when swimming, will usually prevent the parasites from getting you. When you or the kids get out of the water, towel off immediately



with a strong rubbing motion and then shower with soap and hot water.

Swimmer's itch typically clears up on its own within a few days, though in some cases the rash can last up to a week. In the meantime, you can control itching with over-the-counter antihistamines or anti-itch creams, such as those that contain calamine lotion. If the itching is severe, your doctor may recommend a prescription medication.

Orally administered hydroxyzine, an antihistamine, is sometimes prescribed to treat swimmer's itch and similar dermal allergic reactions.

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Jack Bender (cove) and Blake Witchie (South East) placing a landscaping stone on the Sears Memorial at the public landing.



The photo was taken on Sunday June 8, 2014 while getting ready to take a boat ride around the lake. The children in the photo are the Great Grandchildren of Tom and Shirley Drinkall. The children are Zoie Taylor age 4, Isla Wachs age 3, Brianna Taylor age 8, and Penelope Wachs age 14 months.

The History of Sears Memorial Park

The southeast side of Birch Lake was one lot owned by Henry Sears. The road ran right next to the lake. Henry believed that it was best to have homes next to the lake and made an agreement to donate Sears Park in exchange for the Cass County Road Commission moving the road away from the lake. Henry also subdivided the land which has allowed so many people to own homes along this side of the lake.

Sears Park had a memorial plaque mounted in a stone near the water, under a shelter. When the shelter became unserviceable, the Parks Department tore it down. For my Eagle Scout Project, I am moving the stone near the road and building a base to hold it, as well as making a new sign. I am fundraising to help pay for materials. Much has already been either donated or discounted as a courtesy to the Boy Scouts.

are willing to make a small donation it will be appreciated. Checks can be made out to BSA Troop 562 and mailed to me at 15758 Saddle Ridge, Granger, IN 46530. They can also be dropped in our mailbox at 63670 Birch Road. Please contact me if you'd like more information. Thank you!

~Blake Witchie, blake4wheeler@gmail.com

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— Water Quality Report —

Eurasian Milfoil update

Eurasian Milfoil

Eurasian Milfoil is an aggressive, tall growing exotic aquatic plant from Europe and Asia. It is capable of growing to the surface in 10 to 15 feet of water. At the surface it forms a dense canopy of vegetation over other plants. Many native plants may be reduced in abundance by the Milfoil canopy. It also conflicts with many recreational activities. In dense conditions it is a serious localized and lake wide problem. It is not a significant food crop for waterfowl, other birds or aquatic mammals. It readily regenerates from detached fragments and spreads rapidly. Consequently this plant can form dense colonies covering much of a lake's shore line out to a depth of about 20 feet.

Friday May 30th Progressive AE surveyed Birch Lake for invasive species of aquatic vegetation. Progressive AE has been surveying our lake since 2007. Every year they have surveyed the entire lake.



This year two sites were identified as having invasive species.

One site is near the landing where Eurasian Milfoil was identified. The other location is at the north end of the east shore where Eurasian Milfoil was identified along with Curly Leaf Pond Weed.

Curly Leaf Pond Weed is not a concern because when the water tem-

perature rises into the low 70 it will die. On the other hand, the Milfoil will need to be treated. Professional Lake Management is scheduled to treat the two sites on June 12th. Last year we treated 1-1/4 acre. This year we will treat a little less than an acre.

After the treatment has had time to take effect, Progressive AE will return for a second survey to inspect the sites. Again at that time they will survey the entire lake for any invasive species. Depending on their findings, we may need a second treatment.

This annual program is important in order to keep the Milfoil under control and to detect any other invasive species in the early stages to enable us to better control them. With your continued support we can maintain this important program and avoid having to deal with acres of invasive species like so many other lakes are currently dealing with.

An advertisement for McGann Hay Funeral Home. The background is a black and white photograph of a waterfall cascading over rocks into a pond where two swans are swimming. The text is overlaid on the image.

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- * Call for all lake property requirements



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Sailors needed!!!

Doesn't sound like the correct heading when we have had two Sundays of sailboat racing, but indeed we have only had enough MC boats to hold MC races. I am talking about our Sunfish fleet. For the last two weeks we have only had two Sunfish out to participate. The fact of the matter is we need three boats to hold official races. With that being said, come on you Sunfish sailors, get your dagger boards, rudders and sails out and enjoy a couple of hours sailing on our beautiful waters.

I would like to thank as always, Harold for setting up the course and to our committee boat gals, "Bad" Patty,

"Questionable" Patti, Deb Spratt, Karen Brovold and my wife Amy. Thanks everyone we could not do this without your help and your sacrifices.

Until next week,
~"Fleet Captain" Mike

Committee Boat Assignments for the remaining June Races

- 15 —
- 22 —
- 28 — Bad Patty
- 29 —

We need more people for the committee boat! If you are available, please give me a call!



2014 BLYC Sailing Season Results

2014 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date	8-Jun	8-Jun.....	8-Jun.....	Total	Season
Race	4.....	5.....	6.....	Points.....	Average

MC SCOW/SAILOR

Scott Troeger #1489.....	1.....	1.....	1.....	9442.....	1574
Jeff Smitley #2002.....	2.....	2.....	2.....	9053.....	1509
Phil Vitale #500.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	4257.....	1419
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412.....	3.....	4.....	4.....	8376.....	1396
Bob King #1199.....	4.....	3.....	3.....	8222.....	1370
Bill Luecht #1579.....	5.....	5.....	5.....	7636.....	1273
Gib Eberhart #916.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	3537.....	1179

SUNFISH/SAILOR

Not enough Sunfish sailed to make it an official race (only two boats came out)

Legend:

- DNS** (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season.
- DNF** (Did Not Finish), **DSQ** (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place). **DNF**, **DSQ** are not counted toward minimum number of races needed.
- CB** — sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.
- Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)**
- Season Place = total season points/number of races attempted**
- Crew** Counted toward completed races, Points go to skipper of boat.

"I have no idea how to sail, let alone what the rules are..."

Guess what, I didn't either. As a matter of fact, I am still quite shaky on the whole sailing thing!

After moving to Birch Lake and having the blessing of watching this beautiful Sunday show, my husband found a 'well-used' Sunfish and began sailing. I was asked repeatedly to join the crew on the committee boat. As you can imagine, I made that very comment! The friendly, warm and persuasive crew replied: "Just come!! No experience necessary, we got you covered!! Just join us for fun!!"

But, I thought, wow, the old man is out of the house, I can get so much

done ... yea, right ... that works for a few weeks. After while, I found myself sitting on the porch caught up in the beauty. While it was still a spectacular show, I got a touch lonely on shore and relented. Once aboard, I couldn't believe the incredible and "up-close" beauty ... the sounds of the sails in the wind ... the friendly banter between sailors!

I was hooked!

Then, amazingly, I began to learn about the rules of sailing and the different responsibilities of the committee boat crew ... not that difficult ... which eventually lead me to actually attempt

the sport myself -who'da thunk?

Last year I sailed a handful of times. You can't even imagine what fun it is! I look forward to further honing my skills this year!

I would like to personally request that as you gaze across this beautiful lake at our spectacular Sunday show, consider a ride on the committee boat or even better, come to our "Newbie" Learn-to-Sail Regatta June 28 (in memory of Birch Lake's own sailor in the sky, Don Harman.).

You never know where it could lead!
~Amy Lutz

Pigment dye treatment gives shirts a broken-in look. Colors may vary slightly from shirt to shirt.



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NEW SAILORS REGATTA JUNE 28

All new sailors age 10- 99 will receive one of these cool shirts! Reserve yours today, call Amy Lutz @ 476-2843 or Commodore Patty @ 476-2615!

STU'S STAR STUFF

Close Encounters

The Moon staged the first of two especially close encounters with other astronomical bodies this past weekend. The bright orange planet Mars was quite close to the upper right of the Moon as night fell. The star Spica, the Moon's next target, was off to the left.

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun, an average of about 50 million miles farther from the Sun than Earth is. At that distance, Mars receives less than half as much sunlight as Earth. Not surprisingly, that makes Mars a lot colder than Earth. Temperatures in the thin Martian atmosphere seldom climb above freezing, even in summer. And during winter nights, they can bottom out at more than 200 degrees below zero.

Mars is tilted at about the same angle that Earth is, so it has the same cycle of seasons. The seasons are more extreme than here on Earth, though, because Mars's distance to the Sun varies by such a lot. Mars is closest to the Sun when it's summer in the southern hemisphere, and farthest when it's winter. So southern summers are warmer than those in the north, while southern winters are much colder.

The cold conditions create ice caps at the planet's poles. But much of their ice vaporizes at the start of summer. The water vapor in the caps can form clouds and can even produce snow. And the escaping gases can also stir up dust storms some of which can eventually cover the entire planet.

There's no doubt that Mars was once much warmer and wetter than it is today, a fairly comfortable home for life. But whether anything ever actually lived there is still unknown.

The orbiters, landers, and rovers that have explored Mars have found no solid evidence of life on the planet either today or in the distant past.

Some hints of life may have been found in Mars meteorites. A team of scientists reported evidence of past microscopic life in a meteorite two decades ago. Most other scientists dismissed the idea. But the same team reported possible evidence of life in another meteorite early this year.

The meteorite was discovered in Antarctica in the year 2000. It was identified as a piece of Mars from its chemistry. The rock formed more than a billion years ago. It was blasted away from Mars by an impact, and it landed on Earth 50,000 years ago.

The scientists studied the rock's interior with an electron microscope. They found tunnels through carbon-rich minerals, as well as tiny beads of material that are also rich in carbon. The researchers say those features are consistent with features in Earth rocks created by living organisms.

The researchers say the features could have been created by other processes. But they could also mean that life was tunneling through Martian rocks in the distant past.

Look for Mars near the Moon this evening, shining like a bright orange star. To find Spica, follow the curve of the Big Dipper's handle to the next bright star, Arcturus. Then look straight down to find Spica. Arc to Arcturus and drive a spike to Spica.

Stay with me on this. I haven't given up yet. But with me or without me the show will go on. And it will always be free. On that you can depend and never worry. No wind, no rain, nor winter's cold ...

~Stu Spratt

Celebrating 50 Years at Birch Lake



The Moon for June 14
(At Midnight, US Central time,
as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.933
2.1 days after full moon

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) Friday could create an accident-prone situation for you. Pay attention to everything you say and do. Guard against rash actions or blurting out something you later regret. You can either work with abundant energy with a partner or close friend to accomplish what you want to do, or you can be at loggerheads with them. Never cut corners or be sly because you will be caught red-handed. Be above board and play it straight for your own best interests.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Your focus is on money, cash flow, assets and possessions right now. You might be at odds with someone over different values, or how to share or divide something, or deciding who is responsible for what. Meanwhile, you're determined to accomplish something at work. But be careful because unless you are in the right, something could trip you up. You might arouse opposition to you. Make sure your ambition to get ahead is not at the expense of someone else. |

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Practice patience. In addition, the energy that builds up might put you at odds with romantic partners, lovers or your kids. It might also come into play with sports events, and anything to do with the entertainment world and the hospitality industry. This energy can be used if you are wise. But you have to be honest, forthright and open. If you are pushy and sly, you will lose!

Cancer (June 21-July 22) You are vulnerable to emotional swings that could impact your job. It might even create temporary health problems. But your greater challenge will be to keep the peace at home. For months now, increased chaos and activity have been a strain. Struggles with family members have been tough. This week something will either move forward or break. Avoid underhanded tactics,

which will only guarantee failure. Kindness consists of loving people more than they deserve.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) This week will create tension with friends and groups. But if you are easy-going, patient and tolerant, you will ride this through. Your greater challenge will be with siblings and daily contacts because they will frustrate you. By the end of the week, you might feel bitter about a loss; or feel intensely competitive. Whatever the case, if you don't the high road, you will lose.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) People notice you. Fortunately, they see you in a flattering light. You cannot ignore your career. Nevertheless, power struggles about money and possessions could become nasty by the end of the week. Do not be underhanded or sneaky because then you will lose. Do the right thing and work hard but be careful about arousing opposition. Above all, keep your self-respect.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) This is a time of testing for you. By nature, you don't like to rock the boat because you are a people pleaser. Be mindful this week because Mars will be at odds with Pluto throughout the week and will come to a head on Saturday. If you are too aggressive, especially in a manipulative, you will pay a price in November.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) For some time now, many of you have been dealing with hidden enemies or people working behind the scenes against you. This hidden aggression might really accelerate this week. In fact, you might learn something by Saturday that shocks you. But if you keep your integrity and deal honestly with others in an aboveboard fashion, you will be in the clear, and their loss will be obvious. Be honest and happy. Maintain your integrity. You cannot kill your enemy by drinking poison.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is your week, be patient and tolerant with everyone to offset the tension it will bring when dealing with others. Others might oppose what you want to achieve. The harder you fight for what you want, the more they oppose you. If you remain truthful and straightforward, you might succeed.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your ambition is aroused this week. Your energy levels are high because you want to get ahead. But be careful that your ambition does not trigger further opposition from you, especially from authority figures. Use your energy to creatively transform the world around you and the direction you want to take. Avoid power struggles and disagreements because they will only pull you down.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Chill out and don't have an emotional reaction to everything. Do not be pushy! Do not try to win at all costs. This kind of energy has a price. The first person who is underhanded, manipulative or dishonest will pay that price now or in November.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) You might feel increasing tension dealing with authority figures, especially females. Just be polite and patient. This doesn't have to be a big deal. However, an increasing conflict about shared property, insurance matters, taxes, debt or anything you own jointly with others might come to a head, especially by Saturday. You might fight with someone over the control for assets or wealth. It's appropriate to defend your best interests but do not be ruthless or underhanded. If you are, then you will lose everything and your loss will be obvious by November.

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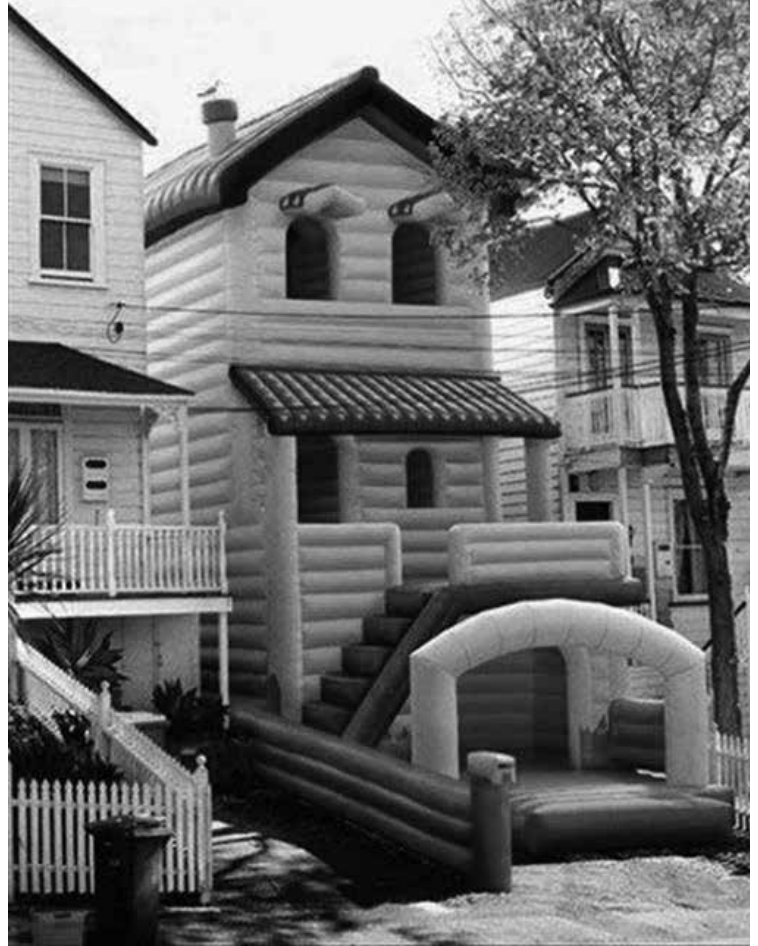
BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

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I was at the ATM the other day. An elderly lady approached and asked me to help check her balance.

So I pushed her.

Real Estate prices are bouncing back...



My Daughter wants a Cinderella-themed party, so I invited all her friends over and made them clean my house.



YOU'RE NOT MY REAL FATHER!



If we are not meant to have midnight snacks, why is there a light in the fridge?





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(4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE)

JULY 25TH 2014 - \$70 PER MAN

SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB

61270 Lutz Rd, Three Rivers, MI - Shotgun start at Noon; Dinner at BLYC at 6 pm

MUST HAVE REGISTRATIONS BY JULY 11, 2014

Additional Information

- * team prizes and contests
- * dinner only, \$28 per person
- * dinner includes 10oz. prime rib, side salads, corn on the cob.
- * lunch **not** included but the club has complete restaurant and beverage service available.
- * prizes awarded during dinner.
- * Looking for donations of door prizes -- the more the merrier. If you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated, please contact Pete Soldato at pistolpetesoldato@hushmail.com
- * Also looking for hole sponsors. If you or your company want to sponsor a hole, please contact Pete Soldato at pistolpetesoldato@hushmail.com
- * Need for around 70 players
- * **Send entries to** Pete Soldato 63266 Kinsey Street, Vandalia, MI, 49095 -- hill or Phil Vitale 63174 Birch Road, Vandalia, Michigan 49095

2014 BLYC Men's Golf Foursome Information

Team Captain:

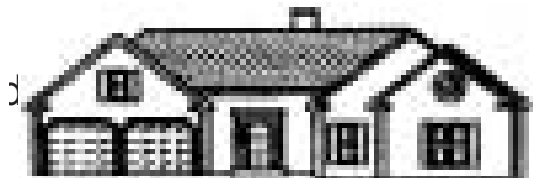
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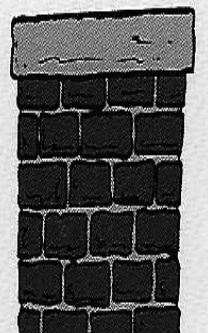
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~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Creamy Grape Salad with Candied Walnuts

Traditional grape salad recipes are loaded with sugar and fat, but we made this creamy grape dessert salad recipe healthier by using reduced-fat cream cheese instead of full-fat cream cheese and using half the sugar called for in classic recipes. Bring this healthy grape salad recipe to a potluck and watch it disappear in moments.

Makes: 12 servings

Serving Size: 1/2 cup each

Active Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients

Candied Walnuts

- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 2 teaspoons water
- 1 tablespoon light brown sugar
- Pinch of salt

Grape Salad

- 1/2 cup reduced-fat sour cream
- 4 ounces reduced-fat cream cheese (Neufchâtel), at room temperature
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6 cups seedless grapes, preferably red and green (about 2 pounds)

Preparation

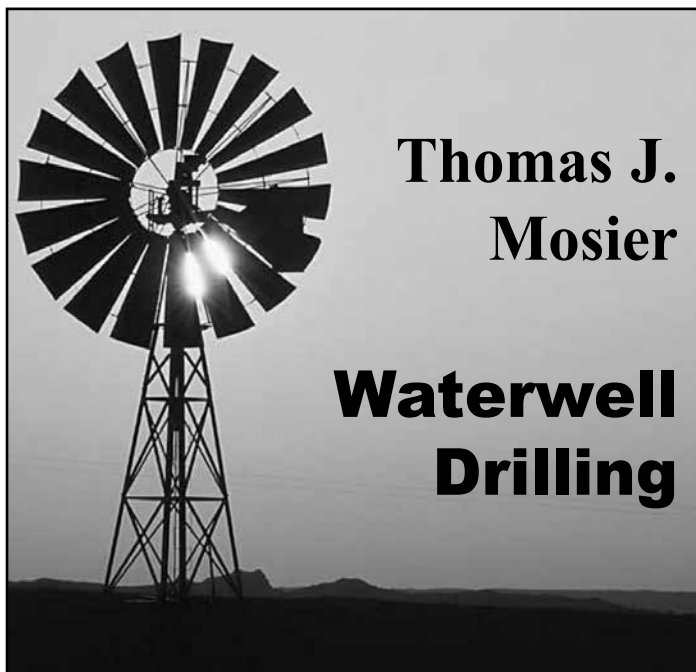
1. To prepare walnuts: Line a small baking pan with parchment paper or foil; coat with cooking spray. Preheat oven to 400°F.

2. Toss walnuts in a bowl with water. Sprinkle with brown sugar and salt; toss to coat well. Transfer to the prepared pan. Bake until the sugar is melted and the nuts are barely starting to brown, 6 to 8 minutes. Cool in the pan until the sugar hardens, about 6 minutes.

3. To prepare salad: Meanwhile, combine sour cream, cream cheese, honey and vanilla in a food processor and puree until smooth and creamy. Transfer to a large bowl. Add grapes and gently stir to combine. Transfer to a serving dish. Crumble the candied walnuts on top just before serving.

Tips & Notes

• **Make Ahead Tip:** Store candied walnuts at room temperature for up to 8 hours; cover and refrigerate salad for up to 8 hours. Top the salad with the walnuts just before serving.



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Camp Tannadoonah

Guest Post this week from Miss Chelsea Moore, a third-time staff member at Camp T, and niece of Dan Waxman (east side):

I arrived at camp last Wednesday, excited to be back at my favorite place on Earth. I had spent most of my school year waiting for that moment and bragging to everyone who would listen how I had the best job on the planet Earth. Come Saturday all of the waterfront staff had arrived and were eager to get camp looking like normal, at least for us on waterfront, with the boat shed full of life jackets, canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards. Since the waterfront staff come a day earlier than the rest of the staff we got a head start on all of the shenanigans, inside jokes, and joy that comes along with being a counselor at Camp Tannadoonah.

By 2pm on Sunday all of the other counselors had arrived and since 24 out of the 29 counselors are returning staff, our shouting and laughter over the stories from last summer and about how we all had made it through the school year could probably be heard from miles away.

The 5 new members on staff

seemed to fit in just perfectly and we all could just tell how great this summer is going to be just from the energy and excitement all of the staff had for the summer. When Miss Amber started telling us the details about this summer we were all really just blown away by the number of campers signed up already. Can you believe it? Over 700 campers!

This week has been chock full of bonding activities, projects to get camp all set up for the summer, and the return of Miss Peggy's delicious food. We have been painting the shower house, setting up the low ropes course, putting up the tennis and soccer nets, and organizing hand craft. So in other words, extremely busy getting camp in tip-top shape for another beautiful summer up on a hill above Birch Lake.

Some bonding activities we have done has been our own version of "The Amazing Race" where the counselors are split into teams of 4 or 5 and we compete each day in different events that help us get to know each other and the rules and programs at camp. This week we have been running all over camp performing different tasks, all a part of this game,


including shooting at the archery range, taking pictures of our "sparks" (aka our interests), trying to organize ourselves in alphabetical order on the balance beam without talking, and playing jeopardy reviewing topics about camp and topics from our staff manual.

It truly has been a blast and we are only half-way through the week. Not to mention we have yet to eat Miss Peggy's amazing Dirt Pudding. But no worries, she is making it Thursday night. If you didn't guess, it is my favorite dessert here at camp.

Each day as we get closer and closer to Sunday check-in, all of us here at Camp T are getting more and more stoked for all of the campers and exciting programs that this summer has in store. We are practically giddy to hear which cabins we will be in for session 1 and what activities we get to run.

I know that I personally cannot wait to see that first car that rolls into the Camp T driveway to drop off their camper, because that means Summer 2014 has officially begun.

**~to contact Miss Amber,
send your email to:
amber@tannadoonah.org**



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Enjoy a great dinner with friends and support the yacht club too! This year's dinner is sponsored by the south side and promises to be a great event.

Dinner includes spaghetti with two sauces, salad, dessert and ice tea or lemonade.

Take outs are also available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling **Becky Wiseman at 574-386-8609** or **Ronni Eshleman at 317-418-9557**

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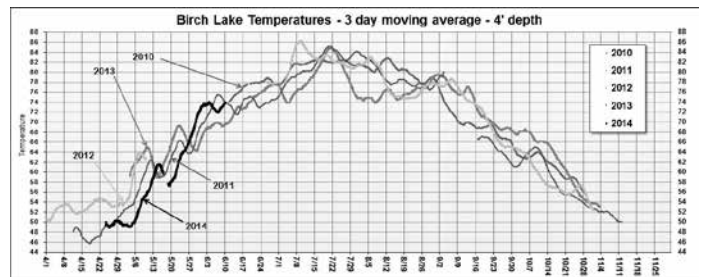
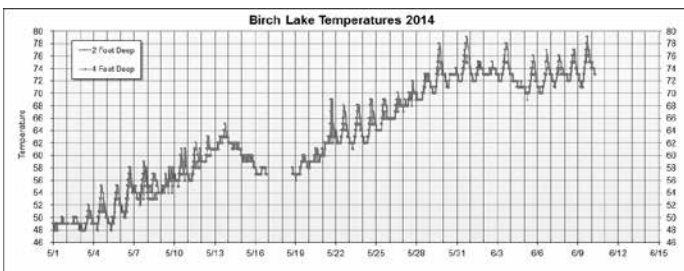
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debo36@comcast.net
Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee Chairman (E)..... 476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com
Deb Spratt (N).....
debspratt@cressyandeverett.com

**Upcoming Board Meetings
July 12, August 9, September 6
all board meetings begin at 9 am**



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan



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3 BR lakeside cottage for rent. \$850/week. Contact Ilene at 574-360-8766

LOST & FOUND

LOST — We realized on Sunday that our **paddle boat** was not on the shore in front of our cottage. We were told it was missing after the Tuesday storm. It has a cream top side and aqua green bottom. It is all plastic and will seat 5. Please call if found. Lu Kelly in the cove. 312-287-9274

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

WANTED

Wanted - lakefront cottage to BUY! Thinking of selling? Please let me know moorjen@hotmail.com

Porter Township is looking for someone to serve 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 there 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

MISC.

Looking for a day of family fun? Come out to the **Newberg Twp Fire and EMS Open House** and join in some fun games and great food. The open house will be Saturday, July 19 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Newberg Twp Fire Department (corner of M-60 and M-40 in Jones). The menu will be a rib meal for \$8, chicken on a stick for \$6 or a hot dog meal for \$4 (meals includes 2 sides and a drink), and for dessert ice cream, sno cones and cotton candy for \$1. Games and fun include an obstacle course, smoke house, waterball and a visit from the helicopter. Meat and sides supplied by Jim Collins Drive Thru Q; drinks provided by the Jones Shell station.

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 \$5 per ad for non-members (please pay in advance). To submit an ad, email it to [Sailorphil@philvitale](mailto:Sailorphil@philvitale.com) (non-members will have to mail or drop off payment) or, if you must, put it in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. on the east side of Birch Lake.



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

2014 Dues, Contribution & Donation Form
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Total contribution:

\$___ - BLYC Associate Member Dues

(\$10 / year)

\$ _____

\$___ - 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

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