

The
Weekend
Of

June 20,
2020

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



An annual chemical treatment was sprayed Tuesday morning to kill invasive plants.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Commodore's Comments #15
Weekend of June 20, 2020
By **J. Patrick McGann**

What a wonderful weekend it was last weekend and boy we really needed that. Lots of activities out on the lake: skiing, tubing, sailing, fishing, wake boarding and boating...all fun stuff.

Remember to be safe in all your lake activities by always having enough life jackets, stay at least 100ft. away from other boats, skiers, piers, rafts, etc. When you are going at a speed that makes a wake you have to stay outside rafts and buoys. So, please pay attention to this very important set of rules to keep our lake as safe as possible for our residents and their guests.

It has been brought to my attention again this year there are some residents experiencing a real problem with the geese even after taking measures to

keep the messy critters off their piers and property. According to the BLHOA they have been investigating and doing some legwork on the situation for a while now. Paul Fallon and Rick Russwurm reported that we have applied for and have received the proper Resolution from Porter Township however, we have not yet applied for the Permit from the State of Michigan, which would be required for treatment. In as much as, we "The Board" may deem it important enough to begin Live Capture and Transfer of these pesky animals to another more fitting area to live and raise their young. It is only done in the month of June, which makes the earliest any treatment could begin is June 2021. If the board approved the expenditure this year we could get on Goose Buster's schedule for June 2021. It is not inexpensive however, to hire the company Goose Busters to do this and to be honest we have not received all your 2020 dues payments that we normally get so please send in your dues with the form in this Barker or go online to pay at: birchlaketyachtclub.com. Thank

2020 Birch Lake Calendar

- June 27 - Kids Party, BLYC,
CANCELED
- July 3 - Golden Glow Chicken Sale/Fund
Raiser for BLYC, 11 am - 1 pm, Camp T
- July 3 - Fireworks, dusk
- July 4 - Camp T Pancake Breakfast
CANCELED
- July 4 - Boat Parade, 4 pm, Weesner/
Eshleman pier
- July 17 - Ladies Golf, Diamond Lake, 9 am
See Page 10 for entry form
- July 24 - Men's Golf Outing, Pineview, 1:30
shotgun start, dinner to follow, more TBA
- July 25 - Five Lakes Regatta, Diamond
Lake
- August 1 - Corn & Sausage Roast, TBA
- August 1 - HOMEOWNERS Annual
meeting, following BLYC board meeting
BLYC Board of Directors' Meetings, 9 am
July 11, August 1, September 5

**To rent the BLYC building contact Sandy
Vitale at 269-476-1680 or 269-858-8184.**

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. E-mail materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, mail them to me or put the items in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). **DEADLINE** for any issue is Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.
To contact Editor Phil by phone, call (269) 476-1680. To contact Commodore Pat McGann, call 574-532-5377 or email pat@mcgannhay.com.

— Birch Lake Notes —

You!

CORRECTION #1: A draft copy of Note #2 in my column last week was still a little rough around the edges, and it was inadvertently printed instead of my final version in last week's Barker due to a computer hacking issue I had. Here is the final version that should have been printed last week:

"When pulling water skiers, tubers, wake boarders or wake surfing the Michigan Laws requires a separate spotter, so a minimum of two people must be in the boat every time. There are other helpful water safety/boating rules and laws from the state of Michigan in all the Barkers and the new directory.

CORRECTION #2 Koi/Goldfish It was INCORRECTLY reported by me last week that the Water Quality Committee had made certain statements regarding the Koi/Goldfish in our lake. That is not true. That information came from another board member not the Water Quality folks. Our Water Quality Committee is making an inquiry with the State Fish and Wildlife people, as well as others on the lake reading up on the fish and studying this situation on their own to determine if any action is needed in the future. Their full written reports are forth coming. Sit tight and watch for their reports. Many residence like and enjoy seeing the Koi. It is undetermined at this point if those two Koi that have been spotted in Birch Lake over the years may be the same two that were released hear about 20-30 years ago in THE COVE and we have no evidence at this point that they are doing any harm to the lake or to the lake's other fish populations. Moreover, we have no evidence that they are reproducing. So, please let's keep an open mind and don't kill or remove them for now!

Please forgive my above errors.

We are still having fireworks ON FRIDAY JULY 3 AT

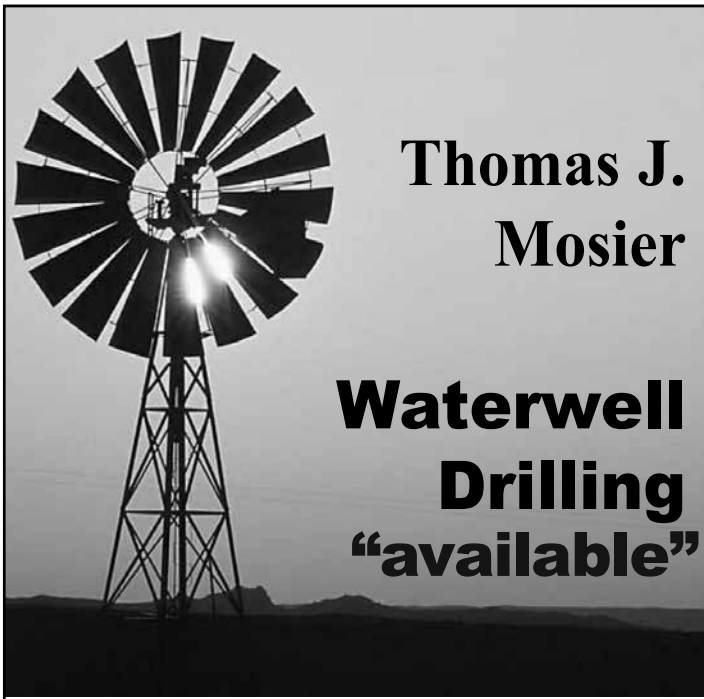
ABOUT 10:15 PM so, please support this fundraising effort that is such a rich part of Birch Lake history.

This week is the last week for your chance to order food from the BLYC's Nelson's Port-A-Pit Chicken, Baby Back Ribs, Chops and Pitatoes sale. Deadline for pre-ordering is Friday at noon but it will help us if you can place your order ASAP on line at chicken.birchlakeyachtclub.com or you can fill out the order with the prices in this Barker and drop it off at my cottage or in my mailbox with your check at 63164 Birch Rd., the A-Frame on the east side. If you forget I put up signs at all the entrances to Birch Lake by the roads with all the info to remind you. Take a picture of the sign and come home and order your food.

The BLYC Directories of ALL RESIDENCES OF THE LAKE AREA are in and available for purchase, please contact Vice-Commodore Dr. Dan Waxman at: 1-317-506-1680 or DWaxman@versiti.org.

Lastly, Past Commodore Phil Vitale has reported a need for more advertisers in the Barker and Neighbors this year, I suppose because so many businesses are having a hard time

**Birch Lake Yacht Club
FIREWORKS FUND
Just TWO WEEKS left
to get to \$10,250
Please contribute now!**



**Thomas J.
Mosier**

**Waterwell
Drilling
"available"**

5" Water Wells

**Repair & Service
Most Water Pumps**

"Promise of Quality"

**M-60 E
Cassopolis**

**Office: 269-445-3246
Cell: 269-580-3246
Fax: 269-445-0008**

or contribute online at
<http://BirchLakeYachtClub.com/>

— Birch Lake Notes —

like we all have been living through the last three of four months. If you don't own or manage a business you could take an add celebrating a loved one's: birthday, new baby in the family, graduation or anniversary or just showing your support for that publication and our amazing area we live in here in Southwest lower Michigan.

Love the Lake and stay safe!
Thank you!

~ JPM, Commodore

Welcome to Birch Lake

Welcome to the O'Brien family, who just moved into the DeYoung's former house at 63155 Walnut Rd. (west side).

The family includes Chris and Carrie and their kids (Anna - 14; Connor - 11; and Ben - 9) and their dog Coley.

4th of July Boat Parade

The 4th of July boat parade is still on! The theme this year is "We are Family," and we would like to have as many Birch Lake families as possible participate. We may not be able to see each other at events, but this will be a great opportunity to see each other in our boats! The only requirement is that you have a sign with your family's name on the side of the boat. For those who would like to decorate, there will be awards given and a grand prize for the

best of show.

The parade will start Saturday, July 4th at the Weesner/Eshleman pier on the southside at 4 pm. We hope everyone will join in and make this a fun, Birch Lake family event!

~Ronda Eshleman

2020 Dues

In the midst of everything that has been happening in our world, the spring dinner was canceled, therefore the dues forms were not mailed in the spring as they have been in years' past.

Please use the dues form in the Barker to submit your donations or use the online store (store.birchlakeyacht-



Reid Francis Memorial MC Invitational

Saturday, July 25th*

@Diamond Lake Yacht Club

Birch Lake-Corey Lake-Eagle Lake - Indian Lake-Diamond Lake



Attention Racers -Registration Opens 6/12

\$30 per boat. Please register online at:

www.dlycmi.org

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Skippers Meeting

10:00 AM First of three races

2:00 PM 3rd Race

4:00 PM Awards

Meals included for sailors.

*Rain date July 26th, 2020.



I am placing the final order on Monday, June 22, so get your order in this weekend! The shirts pictured above say "Birch Lake, Mi" in black lettering, and they are white long sleeve, dri-fit like shirts with a high zippered collar. The cost is \$30 each, and they are available in men's sizes small thru double extra large, ladies will need to adjust their size accordingly. Text Michelle Seyfarth at 269-535-3010 or email at msey1@yahoo.com prior to June 22, to reserve sizes and quantities as the shirt has been discontinued and quantities are limited.

I'm wearing a small in the photo.

BLYC Fourth of July Fundraiser

The Fourth of July Weekend is just around the corner, and if you'd like to stay out of the kitchen and enjoy the lake and activities, plan on letting Nelson's feed your group at the BLYC fundraising Nelson's Port-a-Pit dinner. There will be an assortment of meats and potatoes available at a very reasonable cost.

We ask that you preorder before noon on Friday, June 26. All preor-

ders will need to be picked up between 11 am & 1 pm the day of the sale, July 3. If not picked up by 1 pm we will open the sale to drive by customers from 1-3 pm or until all the food is gone. No refunds if you do not pick up your order by 1 pm. The pickup location will be The Camp T circle on Harvey Street at the east curve. We will have signs out.

We will also be accepting donations to help Camp T through this Covid/Economic crisis so please be as generous as you possibly can be to help out our beloved Camp T that is such a great part of the Birch Lake history. They need your support this year more than ever before.

Place and pay for your order

NOW online at the website: Chicken.BirchLakeYachtClub.com before noon on June 26. There will be some limited drive up orders available the day of the sale.

MENU ITEMS

- Port-a-Pit Chicken Half \$8
- Port-a-Pit Bone-in Pork Chop \$8
- BBQ Baby-Back Ribs \$9
- Pit-tatoes \$5



— Birch Lake Notes —

club.com) to pay dues and make donations. Checks should be mailed to Deb Spratt, 18100 Farmington Hills Dr. South Bend, IN 46637.

Paying dues

Late, not last nor least: we finally got around to paying our BLYC dues / fees. Long ago when responsible for the Club, a laker related he didn't pay dues since he didn't attend the parties. The irony was ... we were both at a party at the time. Now comes a year where we don't party, at least not in large groups at the Yacht Club. BLYC does more than party. Our little organization protects your property. And, provides the weekly paper you are reading right now. And a long list I won't recount here. Please help row the boat.

~Past Commodore Bob

"Slow Down" signs

"Slow Down" signs were discussed at a recent Homeowner's Association meeting. Signs that would be similar to a political campaign sign would cost under \$10, including the wire stake to place it in your yard. Final image for the sign has not been decided on but would remind drivers to slow down when they travel around the lake. If you have any interest in placing one (or more) of these signs in your yard please contact Blair Garceau. Thank you. (269) 476-9862 leave a message or bgarceau@comcast.net

Electronics recycling program

Waste Management is introducing a weekly electronics recycling program at its Three Rivers-area location.

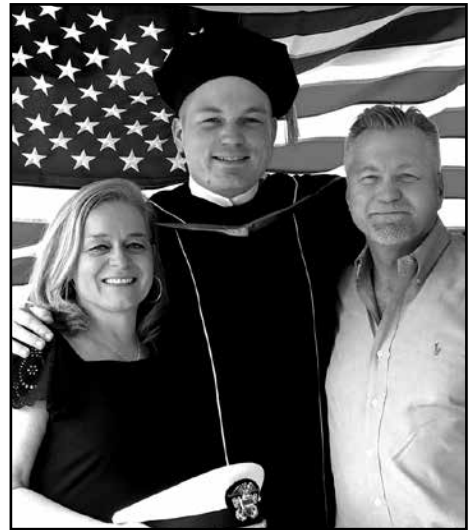
Collection will take place 7:30 am to 11:30 am on Saturdays at 60050 Roberts Rd. (at M 60). The service is provided by St. Joseph-based Green Earth Electronics Recycling and a partnership between Waste Management and St. Joseph County.

Accepted electronic items include computers and laptops, LCD monitors, CRT monitors, keyboards, mice and speakers, printers, wires and cords, audio/visual equipment, and LCD, plasma and tube televisions. In addition, the collection will accept stereo equipment, game consoles, wires and cords, car batteries, kitchen appliances and electronics, lamps and Christmas lights. It will not accept Freon units, light bulbs and PCB lighting, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, alkaline batteries, household hazardous waste and electronics that have been exposed to radiation.

The Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to all homes on Birch Lake every weekend, and posted online at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>.

To submit items to the Birch Barker for potential publication, or to buy a display or classified ad, email your items to



sailorphil@philvitale.com or onlinebark-
Congratulations to Lieutenant Doctor Patrick Russell who graduated from medical school and is doing his internship at the Navy Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. Anchors Aweigh my boy! Patrick is pictured with his parents, Paula and Michael (south side).

er@gmail.com, or mail them to Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd. (east side), Vandalia, MI 49095.

Deadline is noon on the Tuesday prior to the weekend of publication. Display ad prices and sizes can be seen at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>; classified ads are free for members, and \$5 for non-members.

The
LAKE LIFE
REALTY GROUP



Get a **FREE** market analysis!

Contact Paul DeLano:

269-445-8877

Paul@TheLakeLife.com

LISTINGS NEEDED!

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO LIST YOUR HOME!

Birch Lake homes are **SELLING!**

CALL
PAUL DELANO
TODAY

269-445-8877

Paul@TheLakeLife.com



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



A great day for sailing

By **BILL LUECHT**

We had a great day for sailing Sunday. Lots of wind, although it didn't always come from the direction we were expecting. Nine MCs and six Sunfish came out for the races. This is a great turnout, but we always want to see more sailors. Can you think of a better way to compete in a sporting event while maintaining social distancing?

We had a short sailor's meeting at the flamingo deck after the races Sunday. The main topic was the rules that we use when racing at Birch Lake. The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) governs the sport of sailboat and sailboard racing worldwide. It is revised and published every four years by World Sailing. The current edition is The RRS 2017-2020.

A PDF of the RRS, along with some additional rules for the US can be downloaded at <https://www.usailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/racing-rules/racing-rules-sailing-2017-2020>. (This is good reading for sleepless nights.) We follow the latest version of the Racing Rules of Sailing, with some modifications for sailing on a small lake. The particular modifications that we will use this year include:

- Penalty for fouling another boat – one 360° turn in the same leg of the course as the foul
- Penalty for touching a mark – one 360° turn as soon as possible without endangering other boats
- Penalty for early crossing of starting line – boat must make a 360° turn around one end of the line (either committee boat or orange marker ball) and re-cross the starting line (this was suggested by

Tom Cassady to be more consistent with other racing clubs, and agreed on by the group).

For MC sailors and anyone else interested: Barb Cassady is trying to get a group of Birch lake sailors to participate in the Reid Francis Memorial MC Invitational to be held Saturday, July 25 at the Diamond Lake Yacht Club. Her brother-in-law Bruce Cassady from Eagle Lake would like to meet with our sailors Sunday, June 28 at 2 pm. Barb will provide more info. Sail on!

~Fleet Captain. Bill Luecht



2020 Birch Lake Sailing Results

BLYC Season Standings

Date	14-Jun	14-Jun	14-Jun	Total	Point	Races	%
Race	2	3	4	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
MC Scow/Sailor							
				Total MC Races for the season => 4			
Scott Troeger #1489	2	2	1	6242	1561	4	100%
Barb Cassady #2506	1	1	2	6242	1561	4	100%
Phil Vitale #500	3	3	4	5553	1388	4	100%
Jeff Smitley #2002	DNS	DNS	DNS	1369	1369	1	25%
Bob King #1199	5	4	6	5334	1334	4	100%
Pat McGann #1735	6	5	5	3817	1272	3	75%
Bill Luecht #1579	4	DSQ	3	4999	1250	3	75%
Pat Welch #1979	8	7	7	4557	1139	4	100%
Sandy Vitale	7	6	8	4494	1124	4	100%
Amber Grundy	9	8	9	4226	1057	4	100%

Date	14-Jun	14-Jun	14-Jun	Total	Point	Races	%
Race#	2	3	4	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
Sunfish/Sailor							
				Total MC Races for the season => 4			
Stewart Spratt				1	3	1	6088 1522
4				100%			
Rick Russwurm	2	2	2	5932	1483	4	100%
Scott Temple	5	1	3	4340	1447	3	75%
Herb Cleveland	3	4	4	5782	1446	4	100%
Bob Niezgodski	6	5	5	5338	1335	4	100%
Camille Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	1296	1296	1	25%
Steve Frew	4	6	DNF	3750	1250	2	50%

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 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

Understanding. Insightful. Effective.
Local.



TUESLEY • HALL • KONOPA, LLP
attorneys

Estate planning
Elder law
Business counsel
Mediation
Litigation

Cassopolis • South Bend • Elkhart
269.445.1818 | thklaw.com

— Water Quality Report —

Eurasian Milfoil: We began monitoring aquatic vegetation in Birch Lake in 2001. We were part of a Michigan Lake & Stream program that mapped the aquatic plants in Birch Lake. Howard Wandell provided professional assistance to the Birch Lake Water Quality Committee. The mapping project revealed that Birch Lake had a moderate plant population consisting of a good variety of species none of which dominated. At that time, the survey determined that we did not have Eurasian Milfoil. In 2007 Eurasian Milfoil was discovered at three sites. Progressive AE provided professional assistance and is still under contract. Professional Lake Management treats the Milfoil and was scheduled to treat a ¼-acre site this year on June 6th but due to unfavorable weather conditions it was rescheduled for June 16th. Last year we treated 1 acre at the same east side site. Last year we treated with ProcellaCor a new treatment which may have attributed to the reduced area that we needed to treat this year.

Growth characteristics:

Eurasian Milfoil is an aggressive, tall-growing exotic aquatic plant from Europe and Asia. It is capable of growing to the surface in 12 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 Eurasian Milfoil canopy. Consequently, this plant can form dense colonies covering much of a lakes littoral zone. Being an exotic, it has few natural biological control agents so it can dominate a lake for many years. A few biological control agents have been found. Some lakes have seen significant declines in Eurasian Milfoil after 10 to 20 years. Control of other aquatic plants reduces competition and appears to allow Eurasian Milfoil to maintain a greater coverage for a long period.

Habitat: Eurasian Milfoil may be found throughout the littoral zone out to depth of 20 feet.

Nuisance traits: Its tall growth pattern 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.

Curlyleaf Pondweed: When we began monitoring aquatic vegetation in 2001 a small amount of Curlyleaf Pondweed was discovered and removed. In 2006 we revisited known sites established from the previous plant survey. No Curlyleaf was found. Currently it has been present in the spring when Progressive AE performs the survey. The Curlyleaf is not a concern because when the water tempera-

tures rise it dies out and the areas are small. However, one site that we are keeping an eye on is the east side Eurasian Milfoil trouble spot. It appears that the Curlyleaf is filling in where the Milfoil is dying off.

Growth characteristic: Curlyleaf Pondweed is an aggressively growing exotic aquatic plant from Europe and Asia. It is capable of growing to the surface in 8 to 10 feet of water. At the surface, it forms a canopy of vegetation. It is one of the first plants to begin growing in the spring, reaching the surface before many native plants germinate from the sediments. Consequently, it can form dense colonies covering much of a lakes littoral zone by early summer. It usually dies back dramatically to minimal levels by mid-July. Curlyleaf Pondweed can produce special reproductive pinecone like structures called “turions”, which are highly resistant to herbicidal damage and help spread the plant.

Habitat: It may be found throughout the littoral zone out to a depth of about 12 feet.

Beneficial traits: It is a fair fish food provider and is used by waterfowl for food.

Nuisance traits: It conflicts with many recreational uses and can be a serious localized and lake wide problem.

Purple

Loosestrife: The Birch Lake Water Quality Committee started the Purple Loosestrife Management Program in 2000. The program has been a great success. In 2000 we had 10 sites on all shores of Birch Lake. Some of which were very dense. We continue to monitor for Purple Loosestrife each year and remove the plant that we find. Typically, we find two or three sites per year. This occurs in July and August when the plant blooms. If you see the plant or suspect a plant might be Purple Loosestrife, please call a Water Quality member to check it out.

What is it?

Purple Loosestrife is a plant that was accidentally intro-

duced into the United States and then distributed as an ornamental. It is most easily identified during its flowering period from July to September. The spike shaped “purple” flower can be seen in ditches, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and other moist, shallow water sites. This plant is an upright, hardy perennial, four to eight feet tall and most often found in a group.

Effects: Purple Loosestrife invades marshes, ditches and lakeshores quickly replacing cattails and other native wetland plants. These plants form dense stands that ducks, geese, muskrats and frogs can not use for food or cover.

Spread: Purple Loosestrife will grow from the roots of an established plant, however, the plants spread mainly by seed. Having up to 300,000 per stalk these tiny seeds can live in the soil and water for many years and can be transported great distances by humans, animals and water. The seeds can be transported to other wetland areas via the mud on birds and ducks’ feet, in the fur of muskrat, mink and beaver, or on the shells of turtles. Humans can also unknowingly transport the seeds via the mud on their shoes, boots, waders and clothing.

THE “SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY”

- I. Thou shalt prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- II. Thou shalt minimize surface runoff.
- III. Thou shalt minimize the effects of waves.
- IV. Thou shalt protect and expand Natural Shorelines.
- V. Thou shalt not allow phosphorus, nutrients, and other undesirable chemical elements to enter our lake.
- VI. Thou shalt remain informed and active about other Water Quality issues

CHANGED LIVES

RIVERSIDE CHURCH

SUNDAYS AT 9 & 11 AM
THREE RIVERS, MI
RIVERSIDE-CHURCH.COM



— Barker Kids of the Week —



Oliver (8), Harlowe (10), Remi (6months), and Hudson (6) on the "runway" at Patrick and Jeannie Welch's home (south side). They were in for a week from Cincinnati, OH, and had lots of fun and excitement with Neannie and Popo.



Raegan (granddaughter of Jan Temple and Tom Kuhn, west shore) chillin' on her first kayak ride around beautiful Birch Lake with her daddy, Scott Temple Sortal.

Sale With Susie!

Your Waterfront Specialist



**Waterfront Specialist
Serving Michigan
and Indiana**

**SUSIE TUCKER
REALTY**

574-320-6697 Cell

269-641-5775 Office

www.susietucker.com

Susie@susietucker.com



Zillow



5-STAR AGENT



susie@susietucker.com 574-320-6697

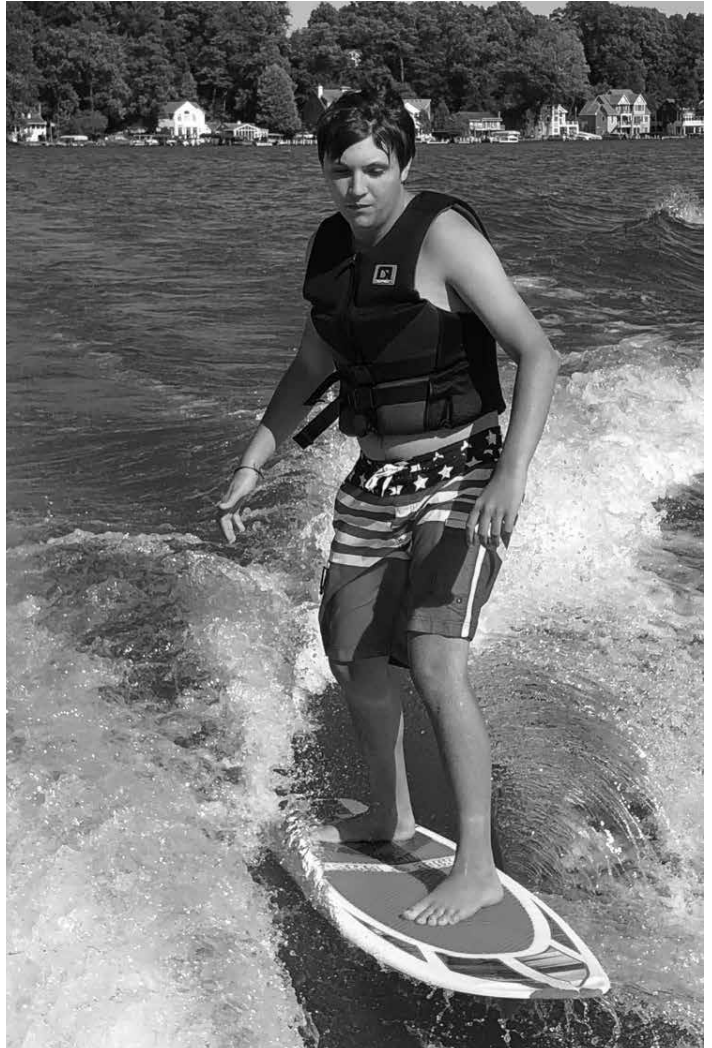


**ATTENTION SELLERS:
LISTINGS NEEDED TO FILL OVERWHELMING
DEMAND FROM BUYERS! CALL ME FOR
A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR
PROPERTY.**



— Barker Kids of the Week —

**Happy Birthday to
Chris Karceski from
the North shore!**



Just down the road

It's not MARGARITAVILLE it's

Daily food specials, music, cold beer, lots of fun!

NEW YORK MIAMI MIAGATVILLE NEW JERSEY MICHIGAN

WHERE YOU'RE NEVER ANY STRANGER THAN ANYONE ELSE!

Normally Open
7 days/wk
11 am to Midnight

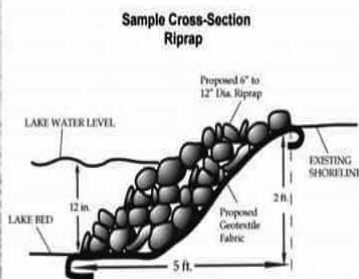
Carry Outs available
69608 Sunset Blvd Zimmyville (Union), Michigan

ZIMMY'S TAVERN
(269) 641-5317
<http://www.zimmystavern.com>

We Are The Natural Choice For Shoreline Preservation



Fieldstone RipRap
This is a great option for preserving your existing shoreline.



Call text or email today for a consultation and assessment of your shoreline needs. We will help you understand the process and cover the cost of any necessary permits.

NEW LEAF Complete Landscape Services

**SOD • SPRINKLERS • PATIOS
SEA WALLS • TREE SERVICE**

Dowagiac, MI
(269) **462-0966**



Deck Cleaning, Concrete Sealing, Exterior House Cleaning
Preserve your investment by having your deck cleaned, sealed and/or stained.

Sprinkler Turn-on & System Install
We will turn on the water to your lawn irrigation system, adjust heads, make sure all heads are working, program controller and give advice on proper operation.

Tree & Hedge Trimming
Consider having us professionally trim your ornamental trees & shrubs.

— When Quality & Dependability Matter Most —

Beach Install Clean-up	Excavation
Spring/Fall Clean-up	Concrete Removal
Custom Mowing	Tree/Shrub Pruning
Mulch, Stone, Sand & Topsoil	Tree Removal
Seed & Sod	Deck Cleaning
Landscape Restoration	Power Washing
Retaining Walls	Professional Snow Management



**Specializing in Fieldstone Seawalls,
Fire Pits & Flagstone Patios**

NEW LEAF Complete Landscape Services

Dowagiac, MI
(269) **462-0966**

We Offer RipRap Shorelines Plus A Full Range Of Services
To Create Your Perfect Shoreline
We Will Pay The Permit Fee With A Signed Contract



New Leaf Landscapes Serving Michiana!
Facebook: New Leaf Landscapes, Sod & Sprinklers • Email: newleafofswmich@gmail.com
Google: New Leaf Landscapes of Southwest Michigan
Owner/Operator: Bill Personette III

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Grandpa Tom pulling Dezi Lacy (south side) in her own kayak! She loved it!

Dmitri, Gigi and Ivanka Cassady (Tom & Barb's grandkids) east side celebrate Gigi's 6th birthday with a Harry Potter themed party.



APOLLOMARINE.net



We rent
Pontoon
Boats!

We
service
all lakes!

Just a
phone
call
away

South side of Gravel Lake
15355 96th Avenue, Lawton, MI 49065

269-423-611 1-888-BOAT

CHIMNEY SWIFT

CHIMNEY SWEEPS

"OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE"

FULLY INSURED
CERTIFIED ATTIC

SERVICES

- CHIMNEY CLEANING
- CHIMNEY RELINING
- CHIMNEY CERTIFICATIONS
- CHIMNEY REPAIRS
- DRYER VENT CLEANING

DEREK POLSTON
(574) 514-4831

www.chimneyswiftchimneysweeps.com

**Kevin Wilson
Magician**

BIRTHDAYS
ANNIVERSARIES
COMPANY PICNICS
CONVENTIONS
PARTIES
AGE APPROPRIATE
ENTERTAINMENT

Kevin has
mystified and
entertained
audiences of all
ages with his
sophisticated
sorcery

Kevin Wilson
574-234-9975
abracadabramagic.com
info@abracadabramagic.com

Birch Lake Ladies' Golf Outing
Girls Just Want to Have Fun!!
Friday, July 17, 2020

Diamond Lake Golf Course, Cassopolis
9 AM Tee Off - \$35 per golfer
Please arrive no later than 8:30 AM
Fee includes cart and box lunch

Box Lunch at Diamond Lake Golf Course following the Outing
**** IMPORTANT! Following health precautions, all participants will ride in separate golf carts; social distancing highly encouraged; DLGC may have additional rules we will need to follow ****

If you'd like to sponsor a hole please contact either:
Barb Cassady 574-303-2831 or Jeannie Welch 574-286-2890

Net proceeds to benefit BLYC

Registration Form

Team Members (list captain first with phone no.)

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

Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to Barb Cassady at
63486 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095

Deadline for registration is July 7th

Welcome to Jaywalker



Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!
10188 US 12, Mottville
on the beautiful St. Joseph River
(269) 483-2305

**PRINTING,
MARKETING &
SIGN SERVICES**

**CUSTOM SOLUTIONS
& DESIGNS**

alphagraphics®

ELKHART & SOUTH BEND

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - For starters, Mercury will attract relatives that you haven't seen for a while back into your world. Tackle home repairs that you've been putting off. Now is the time to strike! (Put those relatives to work!) Privately, you feel a driving energy to discover your focus about something. You need to know what you want. You have been very powerful in calling the shots so far, but what's next? You feel a growing, compelling feeling that's hard to define.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - I can't sugarcoat it. Expect problems with cars, trucks and bikes. Missed buses. Transportation delays. Conversations with others will be convoluted and misunderstood. Messages will be mixed up. You will be late for appointments or waiting at the wrong place. Mail will be late, and of course siblings and relatives you haven't seen for a while will be back in your world. However, you will be super effective dealing with groups this week.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - This Mercury retrograde is occurring in your House of Earnings and Possessions, so checks will be late and there might be confusion or errors regarding finances and transactions. Check your bill. Count your change. Never assume the other person is when dealing with money. Likewise, you might find it difficult to find possessions and you might even misplace or lose something that you own.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - You will encounter old friends and ex-partners from your past. However, you will also be frustrated by mixed-up communications with others, misplaced items, silly errors, delays and missed appointments. Just cope as best you can because it's only for a few weeks. Meanwhile, you are fired up about a cause, especially if it affects people in another country or people far away. Some of you are just as determined to push through your ideas regarding publishing, the media, the law or something to do with medicine.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - This week you are fired up about dealing with shared property, taxes, debt and inheritances. You want to get things right. You're determined to shape things the way you want them to go. Your urge to do something might also relate to your partner's assets or wealth. Your ideas are so strong, you will do something. Meanwhile, Mercury retrograde will actually help you to do research because it will stir up all kinds of ideas and information from your past.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - This particular Mercury retrograde will put you in touch with friends you haven't seen for a while. You might also find yourself involved in a group, club or association in which you used to be more active. Use diplomacy and patience when dealing with partners and close friends this week because if you don't, things will get nasty. Because someone close to you is charged up with energy, this will require patience and finesse.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Mercury retrograde will attract people to you from your past who were authority figures. It might even attract an opportunity for you to pursue a new angle in your career that you had once thought about but dropped. Meanwhile, when it comes to work and getting a job done, you have specific goals you want to achieve and you intend to do so. This vehement ambition will also apply to your health.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - This particular Mercury retrograde will create travel delays for you. It will also create delays in schooling. Likewise, errors and snafus regarding publishing and the media might dog your steps along with delays and errors in the law or medicine. Yikes! Double check everything. Meanwhile, when it comes to creative activities and sports you will be super gung ho! Something has lit a fire under you and you are excited to achieve something in the arts or sports or working or relating with kids. This same intense energy will apply to a love affair.

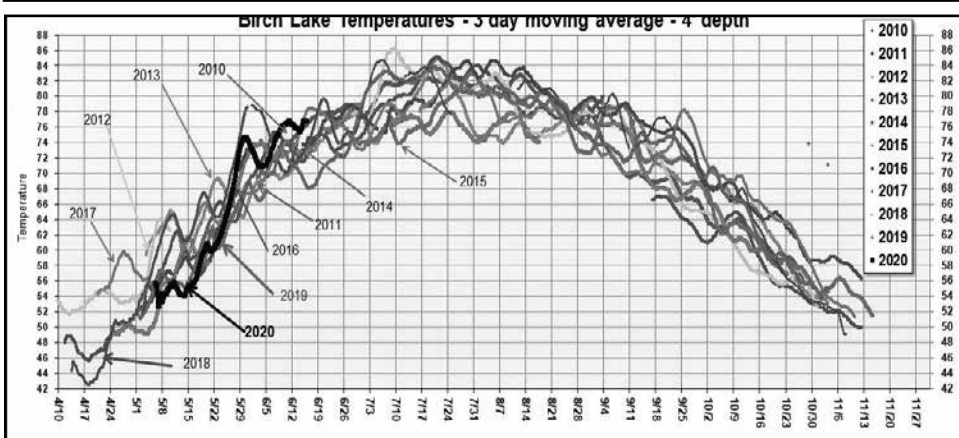
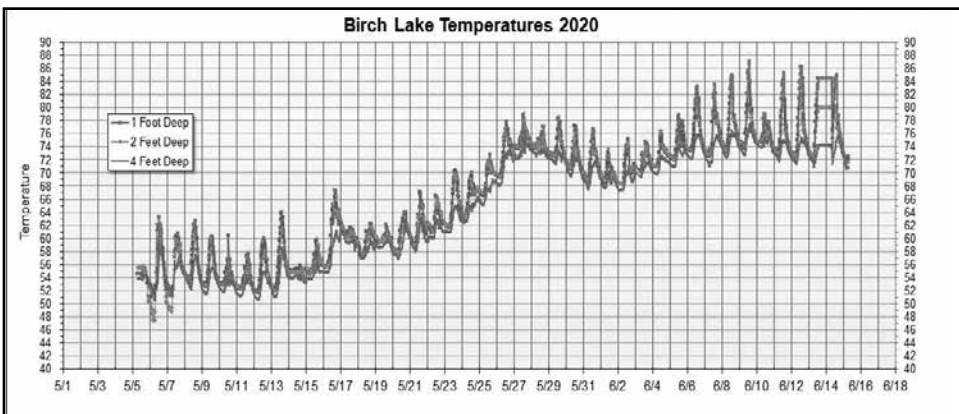
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You will suffer from delays and mix-ups and even mistakes in issues related to shared finances, shared property, inheritances, taxes, debt and insurance issues. You can help a lot by double checking any kind of transaction. The good news is that you can also wrap up old business in these areas and your ability to finish old business will be easy and swift! Meanwhile, you are determined to make big changes at home. Certainly, something is causing a lot of change and chaos. This could be a residential move. It could be a renovation or a major repair. Admittedly, it can also be family tension.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - This particular Mercury retrograde will put you in touch with ex-partners and old friends. This might provide a lovely opportunity for closure that you need. Meanwhile, this intense dance between Mars and Pluto will make all your communications with others forceful beyond belief! You will be coming on like gangbusters! You will also be a powerhouse if you are writing, teaching or acting.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - This particular Mercury retrograde will be a drag because it occurs in the part of your chart related to your job, health and even your relationship with your pet. Meanwhile, you are suddenly driven to find a new income stream, a new job or to find a new and better use for something that you already own.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - You will be incredibly powerful this week because the dance of Mars and Pluto takes place while Mars is in your sign. You will have a strong drive to move toward your goals. You want to excel at whatever you do and clean up a certain situation. You might even help to move forward a group goal, if you have the chance. Don't miss this opportunity if you need to step up and make your pitch. Meanwhile, old flames are back on the scene. (What's with that?) Oh well.

Birch Lake Environmental Data



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.000
0.0 days since new moon

NEW MOON

Sunrise: 06:05:44

Sunset: 21:22:23

Moonrise: 05:33:06

Moonset: 21:03:23

Daylight: 15 Hr 16 Min 38 Sec

Birch Barker Funnies

A police recruit was asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" The reply, " Call for backup".



**At the bank, I told the cashier, "I'd like to open a joint account please."
"OK, with whom?"
"Whoever has lots of money."**



**Wife: I am not talking to you.
Husband: OK
Wife: Don't you want to know the reason?
Husband: No, I respect and trust your decision!**



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Slow Cooker Carnitas

Take 10 minutes to throw this in the crock pot and go boating.

Carnitas means 'little meats' and is traditionally fried then braised. This recipe is made much easier using the slow cooker but the results are just as tasty. This makes a great filling for tamales, enchiladas, tacos and burritos. This filling is also great combined with your favorite barbecue sauce and served on buns.

Yield: 10 servings

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon crumbled dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon ground coriander
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (4 lb boneless pork shoulder roast
- 2 eaches bay leaves
- 2 cups chicken broth

Directions

Mix together salt, garlic powder, cumin, orega-



no, coriander, and cinnamon in a bowl. Coat pork with the spice mixture. Place the bay leaves in the bottom of a slow cooker and place the pork on top. Pour the chicken broth around the sides of the pork, being careful not to rinse off the spice mixture.

Cover and cook on Low until the pork shreds easily with a fork, about 10 hours. Turn the meat after it has cooked for 5 hours. When the pork is tender, remove from slow cooker, and shred with two forks. Use cooking liquid as needed to moisten the meat.

O'Donnell's Docks LLC
Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Serving you for over 20 years!

Sales and service of all major docks, boatlifts and water front accessories.

For an online quote, go to www.odonnellsdocks.com



12097 M-60 • Jones, MI
269-244-1446
info@odonnellsdocks.com

Authorized Dealer For:




Prime Property Care

Gavin Francis
313 North O'keefe St.
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 591 9848

- Mowing
- Edging
- Spring/Fall Clean UP
- Hedges
- Gutter Cleaning
- Rock/Mulch Installation

gavinfrancis@rocketmail.com

— Camp Tannadoonah —

We're almost there! Staff will start arriving on Sunday afternoon, and staff training will be off and running. We are still short a few male counselors, so if you know any 18+ year old young men who need summer jobs, send them our way!

We will have two weeks with staff at camp before any campers arrive. During those two weeks we go over all sorts of information to prepare them for camp. This year there will certainly be more information during staff training on safety procedures, cleaning, small groups, and preventing illness.

We also practice leading activities, how to resolve conflicts with campers, how to work with their fellow counselors, how meals work, the daily sched-

ule, and how to help campers with homesickness. Plus we talk about traditions, the history of camp, learn camp songs, and learn to start a fire using only sticks and matches (no paper, that's cheating!).

We spend a lot of time on teambuilding, developing a group of staff who work well together and can communicate with each other. Adam, our new camp director, previously worked as a ropes course coordinator (at his former camp), so he has lots of experience with teambuilding and communication strategies.

Camp Fire also provides us with a youth development framework call Thrive{ology} (or just Thrive). We develop many of our activities around this, and teach counselors how to implement it. There are four

components to the Thrive framework: (1) helping kids find their Sparks, (2) developing a growth mindset, (3) teaching goal management skills, and (4) developing reflection strategies.

components to the Thrive framework: (1) helping kids find their Sparks, (2) developing a growth mindset, (3) teaching goal management skills, and (4) developing reflection strategies.

“Sparks” are your interests or passions – the things you get excited about. We provide kids with a variety of experiences at camp to help them identify new Sparks, and then help cultivate those passions. It's exciting to see kids' eyes light up when

they discover something new that they enjoy.


Mindset is something that has been a “hot topic” in developmental research over the past decade. Based on research by Dr. Carol Dweck, a growth mindset means that kids recognize that they can improve their skills through hard work and effort, as opposed to having a fixed mindset where they believe that they only have the skills and talents they were born with. You can recognize a fixed mindset if you hear someone say “I'm not good at math,” or “I'll never be able to waterski.” We teach counselors to say things like, “you're not good at it yet, but you can keep practicing and get better.”

For goal management skills, counselors learn to help kids set goals, identify the steps they need to take to get to that goal, and then evaluate their progress. If they've gotten off track, they help them figure out how to revise the steps to get to the goal. And finally, we use reflection at the end of each activity, to talk about how things went, and what they would do differently. We reflect at the end of each day, too, about the positives and negatives of the day, and how to make the next day even better!

One last note – I've had a few people reach out about the Pancake Breakfast. Unfortunately, we are not going to be able to host the Pancake Breakfast at camp this year. There just doesn't seem to be a way to safely bring 400+ people through the dining room for an event like that, and we've received guidelines from the State that we need to restrict visitors / outside people at camp to decrease the risks of bringing in communicable illnesses. We are working on an option to purchase camp t-shirts and other apparel on our website, and will have that information available soon!

~Mrs. Amber






Dynamic + Creative + Aggressive

= Results

Real effort. Real results.


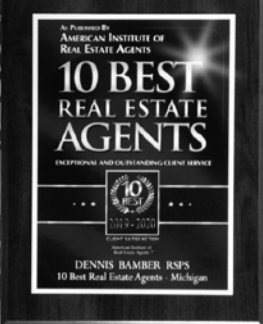


Above. And Beyond.

2017, 2018, 2019 MLS Diamond Award Winner
2017, 2018, 2019 Chairmans Club

Dennis Bamber REALTOR® 701 Spruce Street • Dowagiac, MI 49047

Cell, 574.532.3808
dennisbamber@cressyeverett.com

RSPS
Resort & Second Home
Property Specialist

2019 ★★★★★ 2019
Chairman's Club
Cressy & Everett Real Estate

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

Corner weight machine; 4 functions; \$300 new; FREE! 15222 Lakeshore, Marty Sante, 228-344-5079

FOUND

Red Adirondack chair found in the middle of the lake, call 708-738-3962 to claim it.

SERVICES

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices - zippers, hemming, small alterations; call Kathy at 476-9317

If you are in need of **yard work** this summer (weeding, mowing, flower care, etc.), please contact Claire Brovold (west side) at 1(574) 323-3683.

FOR RENT

Interested in a unique, **fun vacation?** Check out renting the most inexpensive but cutest and best-located rental in The Villages, Florida at **ourhome4rent.com/cjp**

WANTED

Young(er) strong(er) **person to dig sod, install drainage tiles, spread stone.** Need not be younger but must be stronger. Prefer paying



Jon boat with lift for sale, \$2k OBO. North Shore, call or text Sarah 574-274-9202.



Free! (with \$100 donation to the BLYC) Like new cream **couch** (90" x 36" x 31") and **red lazy boy recliner.** U pick up with a check to the BLYC. Call Patrick Welch (574) 536-7344.

someone here who needs work, if any. Leave a message for Bob on our land-

line at 574-299-0705

Talk With A Live Person



VOTED NILES
BUSINESS OF
THE YEAR!

ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

Complete Plumbing Service - If there's water to it, we do it.

Let Us Show You Why We Were Voted Business Of The Year!

Top 10 Reasons to Choose ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

- Licensed Plumbers
- Drug-Free Employees
- Criminal Background Checked Employees
- No Surprises with the Bill - You know the Cost Before the Work is Done
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- True 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Fully Stocked Trucks - "Warehouse on Wheels"
- Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
- Longest Warranties in the Business
- Our Phones are *Always* Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours



After Hours
Emergency
Service



- **Bonus** — The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!

 Major Credit Cards Accepted



2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

269-687-7192 Niles, MI

866-751-1470 Toll Free

www.advantageplumbinginc.net

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Tip No 5: Control your lights

Outdoor lights can be a nuisance at night to your neighbors and star watchers.

Turn them off when you're not using them, or shield them, put them on a timer or switch to motion detectors.

This message is brought to you by the Homeowners Association of Birch Lake



BLYC Officers and Directors

2018/19 BLYC Officers

Pat McGann (E), Commodore
574-532-5377 pat@mcgannhay.com

Dan Waxman (E), Vice Commodore
317-506-1680 dwaxman@indianablood.org

Deb Spratt, Treasurer (N) 476-2113
debspratt@comcast.net

Mike Sheffek, Secretary (W) 476-1849
mcsheff@aol.com

Bill Luecht (E), Fleet Captain 476-2843
wal303@sbcglobal.net

Karen Curtis-Miller (E) 574-261-6712
krcurtismiller@gmail.com

Terry Dugan (S) 476-2814
s581122@aol.com

Bernie Garceau 476-9862
bgarceau@norcoind.com

Chas Grundy (E) 574-315-0217
cas.grundy@gmail.com

Patty Luecht (E) Past Comm 476-2615
pgalloway4@yahoo.com

Sarah Petty (N) 476-7068
sarahkpetty@gmail.com

Claudia Phipps (N) 476-7073
claudia2154@gmail.com

Vickie Rogers (C) 476-2383
tvrogers@frontier.com

Rick Russwurm (N) 476-2407
paramountp@aol.com

Scott Troeger (E) 476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com

Phil Vitale (E) 476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com

Sandy Vitale (E) 476-1680
sv6102@gmail.com

Bob Waddle (E) 476-2293
sparkybob220@comcast.net

Sue Williams (S) 476-8886
smwillia@comcast.net

2018 BLYC Directors

P. Com. Angela Bergan (E) 561-603-5522
berganfsu@aol.com

Greg Bolin (W) 476-2420
gbolin31@aol.com

Ed Chester (E) 476-1010
ed@chesterlawoffice.com

BLYC WATER QUALITY AND HOMEOWNERS COMMITTEE

Paul Fallon (E), Chairman, Water Quality and Homeowners Association 476-1467
pauljfallon@gmail.com



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

THE YEAR'S HALF OVER!

It's time to pay your 2020 dues!



Support the BLYC, support our Birch Lake Community!

- \$ ___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)
- \$ ___ - BLYC Associate Member* Dues (\$10 / year)
*Associate membership is available to current associate members and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC
- \$ ___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ ___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ ___ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ ___ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ ___ - Water Quality Program
- \$ ___ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication
- \$ ___ - Safety Committee
- \$ ___ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$ ___ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$ ___ - BLYC AED Fund
- \$ ___ - Misc.

Total contribution:

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to
BLYC
and mail to Deb Spratt, Treasurer
18100 Farmington Hills Dr.
South Bend, IN 46637

NEW

now you can go online at [HTTP://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM](http://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM) to pay your dues

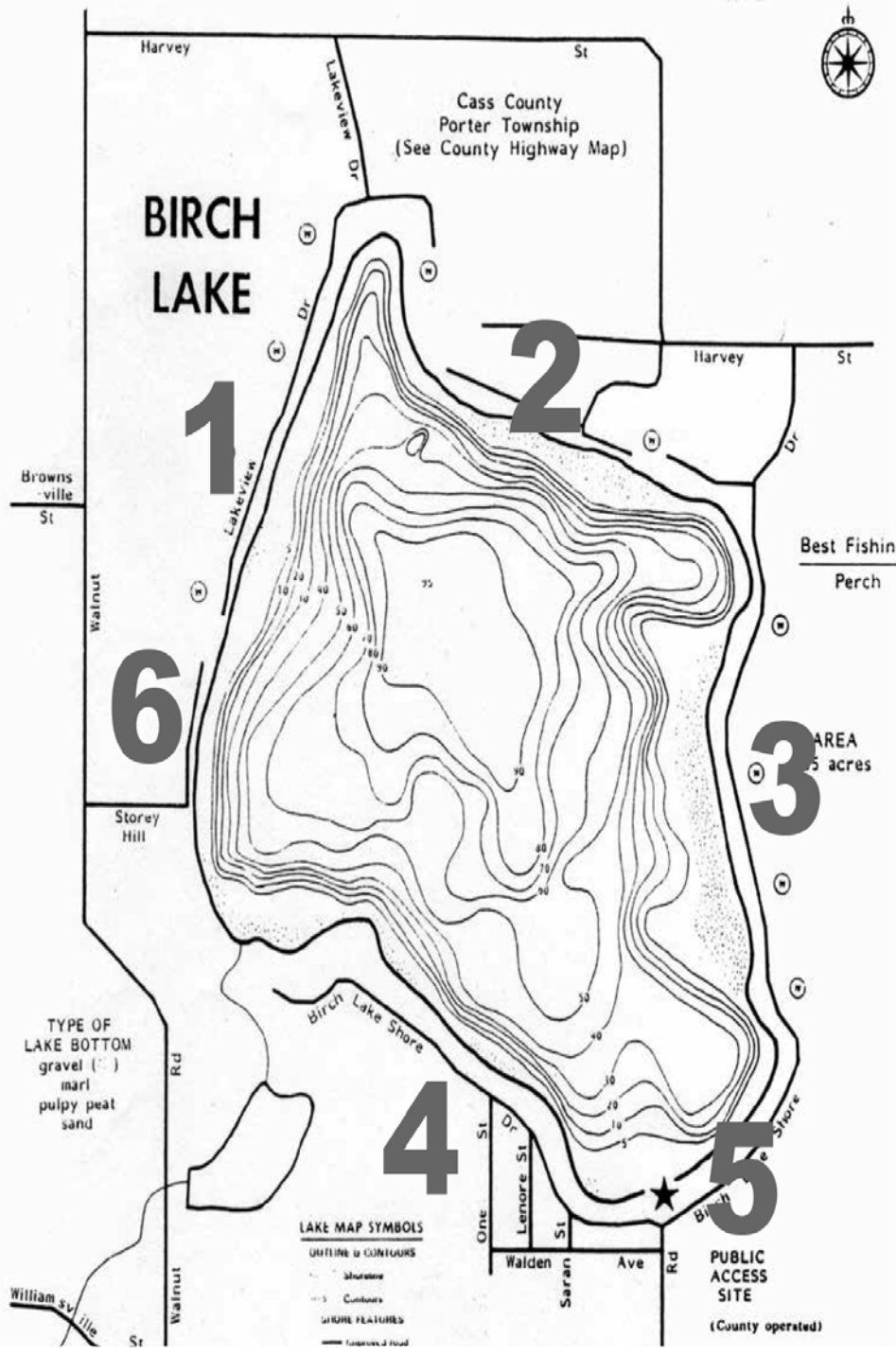
NEW

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

CALL 9-1-1



**FOR
EMERGENCY
USE ONLY
ALARM WILL
SOUND**



There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

1. West Shore, Sheffieck home, 62875 Birch Lakeview Dr.
2. North Shore, Smitley home, 14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
3. East Shore, Vitale home, 63174 Birch Rd.
4. South Shore, Eberhart home, 15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
5. South/East Shore, Troeger home, 63696 Birch Rd.
6. Southwest Shore, DeYoung home, 63255 Storey Hill St.

All units are on the ROAD SIDE of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

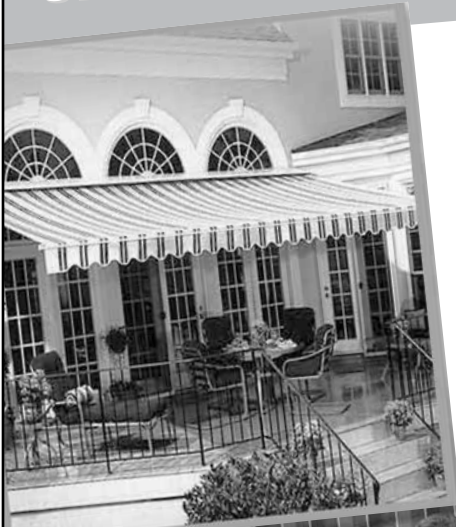
1. CALL 911 and report the emergency and the patient's location immediately.
2. Pull the box open, remove the orange-colored unit, TAKE IT TO THE PATIENT and open the device by pressing the white lever at the bottom.
3. An automated voice will guide you through the setup and use of the defibrillator. Follow the instructions as they are given.
4. Continue to follow the instructions as given, and stay with the patient until help arrives.

We've Got You Covered!



**SUMMER'S HERE!
CALL US TODAY!**

- **Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios**
- **Motorized Solar Screens**
- **Boat Covers and Tops**
- **Canvas Repair**
- **Aluminum Awnings**



SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

**Call us for a free
at-home
demonstration!**



**Locally owned
and operated
since 1985**

**SUN
& SHADE
AWNING**

12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

269 244-5307
www.sunandsshadeawning.com