

The  
Weekend  
Of

July 4,  
2020



# Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the  
**Birch Lake Yacht Club**

## Happy Fourth of July



**HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY EVERYONE! Have fun and please be safe on the water and on the land!**

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**Commodore's Comments #17  
Weekend of July 4, 2020**

By **J. Patrick McGann**

**B**enevolence abounds here on Birch Lake! We have reached some significant goals this summer:

1) We have met and exceeded our Fireworks goal and are well on our way to begin to meet our 2021 Fireworks goal.

2) We have far exceeded our Chicken Sale fundraising goal and have sold nearly 900 meats and potatoes. As you may know, I extended the deadline for orders because I had such an overwhelming number of requests from people who missed the online ordering deadline. I was forced to give people a few more days. You see, we had to order in cases of 25 for each meat and we did not have any way to store any leftovers, so I had to be sure we had enough requests to place an additional order. Well done Birch Lakers, well-done indeed. Now, I hope none of you get indigestion from all those chickens.

Because of my inexperience in running chicken sales and because of the cooker machine requirements I had to move our distribution point from Camp Tannadoonah to behind Vice-Commodore Dr. Dan Waxman's cottage

### 2020 Birch Lake Calendar

- July 4 - Boat Parade, 4 pm, the Weesner/ Eshleman pier
- July 4 - Regatta day 2 (hopefully), 11 am, makeup date July 5 if necessary
- 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, see Page 2 for details
- August 1 - Corn & Sausage Roast, **CANCELED**
- 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.

### Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND \$10,250 GOAL



Date	Amount
June 28	\$ 14,018
June 22	\$11,893
June 15	\$8,042
June 8	\$6,583
May 26	\$5,048
May 24	\$3,238
May 18	\$3,118
Aug. 27, 2019	\$1,333

**It was a long, hard fund drive but we did it! We raised over \$10,250!**

**Funds raised now will go toward next year's fireworks EXTRAVAGANZA!**

To donate for next year, use the form in this Barker

or contribute at "BirchLake Yacht Club .com"

Amount raised to date

The **Birch Barker** is always accepting materials for publication. E-mail materials to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com), mail them to me or put the items in the 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, call (269) 476-1680 or email [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com). To contact Commodore Pat McGann, call 574-532-5377 or email [pat@mcgannhay.com](mailto:pat@mcgannhay.com).

# — Birch Lake Notes —

at 63590 Birch Rd. I apologize for any confusion this may have caused. Didn't I do a great job in getting Dan to be VC?

I do want to thank Camp Director Amber Grundy for offering the Camp to host our distribution point. Remember, we will have a box for your donations to Camp T because they are experiencing HARD TIMES because of the Covid-19 restrictions. Please help that day and bring your check for Camp Tannadoonah. I would also like to thank our volunteer Barker Editor Phil Vitale for getting that mass email blast out right away, and late at night, to let people know of the change in the pickup place. Also, thanks Phil for putting together this annual 4th of July edition of the Barker in Living COLOR.

3) People are very generous around here. Cove resident Marc Caenepeel is both skilled and talented in the art of woodworking. You may have seen his posts on the Birch Lake Lovers Facebook page? I have seen one in person and they are nothing short of AMAZING. He is making and selling extraordinary live edge wooden tables and cutting boards, etc., and donating 100 percent of the proceeds to the Water Quality Fund, this has amounted to hundreds of dollars. Marc you are my hero.

5) Eastside resident Bob Waddle once again is the man behind the scenes doing and fixing things at our BLYC building. He was recently seen over there replacing broken and warped boards on the outside deck. He also power washed and stained the deck and washed the outside of the building this summer and lots of other things. THANK YOU, ROBERT,!!!

6) And A BIG THANK YOU to all those who have volunteered to help with the distribution on the day of the Nelson's sale. And to our club Treasurer Deb Spratt for all the extra work on the sale numbers.

Chas Grundy (my handsome and very smart cousin and Godson) who has a super-duper Fireworks Show planned for tonight Friday July 3rd at about 10:15 pm. Thanks Chas for all your hard work on behalf of the BLYC.

Don't forget the big, huge "We Are Family" themed boat parade at 4 pm in front of Ronda & Gary Eshlemans cottage on the South Side right by the road that goes up to the BLYC. Be sure and put your name on the shore side of your watercraft so they can judge your entry. Thanks Ronni and Gus for stepping up to host and organize this event!

Enjoy the rest of the weekend and please stay safe.

LOVE THE LAKE!

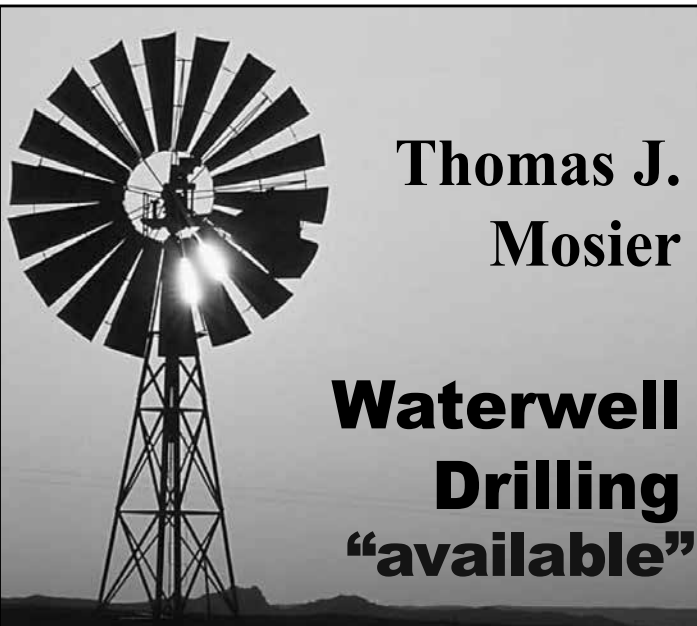
~ JPM, Commodore

## Come Join The 4th of July Birch Lake Boat Parade!

Everyone loves a parade! The marvelous, stupendous and fantastic Birch Lake Boat Parade will be happening the 4th of July at 4 pm. The theme is, "We are Family", and we want to honor and highlight our Birch Lake families. We may not be able to see each other at events this year, but this will be great opportunity to see everyone in their boats! Let your imagination run wild and join in the fun.

Competition will be tough for the coveted, Most Outstanding Boat trophy! If you don't want to decorate but want to join in the fun, just have your family name on the side of the boat and participate in the parade. Please stop at the Weesner/Eshleman pier by on the south side by 3:45 pm to register and allow the judges to see your boat. The line will form behind the Grand Marshal's boat which will lead the parade around the lake. Awards will be given out as you come back around by the judges.

We are extremely pleased to announce that we have secured the services of four well qualified Birch Lakers, Marc and Lynn Caenepeel and Bud and



**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**



**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**

# — Birch Lake Notes —

Deb Hall to be our judges. Marc's family is celebrating 75 years on the west side of Birch Lake! Marc and his cousins, the Asires have spent all their summers here. Deb (Gard) Hall's parents came to Birch Lake in 1966 when Deb was 10 years old. They lived by the public beach, then moved to the cottage that was located where the Dugan's house is currently. They left the lake in 1998 after her father passed away. She and Bud bought their house in the cove in 2016 and moved here year around in 2017.

Come join in the fun! The more the merrier.

## And the winner is...

Each year, we are tasked with choosing a very deserving Birch Laker to lead the Boat Parade as the Grand Marshal. We are please to announce our selection of *Denny Weesner* of the south side as our Grand Marshal this year.

Denny's parents, Frank and Rose Horvath, bought their southside cottage on Birch Lake in 1943 when Denny was 8 years old. The cottage was on the site of the current house, which was built in 1998. Denny has the distinction of being one of the five writer/editors of the very first Birch Barker in 1944. An original copy is hanging in her house. As a teen-

ager, she and her friends were active Snipe sailors and sailed in many regattas in the area. She and her husband Keith, who died in 2006, were charter members of the Birch Lake Yacht club, and she has been active in it ever since. She served as the secretary, a southside board member for five years, served on committees for the housewalk, ladies style show, ladies' luncheon, ladies golf outing and spaghetti dinner. She and her husband Jim spend their time between Palm Springs, CA and Birch Lake.

## THIEF ALERT this weekend

It happens every year on the Fourth of July weekend ... someone around the lake gets busy with the festivities and forgets to lock their car, garage or door, and along comes an unscrupulous sneak thief and rips them off!

Don't let it happen to you this year! Lock up your doors, put away your gear (lots of fishing gear, trolling motors, etc. have been stolen in the past) and pay attention to strangers strolling around. Let's all help keep our neighborhood, our homes, cars and families safe!

If you see suspicious activities or a crime being committed, don't try to intervene, call the police at 911 for an emergency or at 445-2481, or to report a crime on the water call the Marine

## Reid Francis Memorial MC Invitational

Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

@Diamond Lake Yacht Club



Birch Lake-Cove Lake-Finale Lake - Indian Lake-Diamond Lake



## Attention Racers -Registration Opens 6/12

\$30 per boat. Please register online at:

[www.dlycml.org](http://www.dlycml.org)

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Skippers Meeting

10:00 AM First of three races

2:00 PM 3<sup>rd</sup> Race

4:00 PM Awards

Meals included for sailors.

\*Rain date July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

# SLOW DOWN

**BIRCH LAKE HAS  
NARROW ROADS,  
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,  
A TON OF CHILDREN,  
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

**SLOW DOWN ON  
OUR ROADS  
AND ON THE HILLS  
TO AND FROM  
THE LAKE!**

**SPEED LIMIT  
15<sub>MPH</sub>**



# — Birch Lake Notes —

Patrol at 445-1225.

## Lost in translation ... oops

Due to a transcription error the Sunfish results listed in last week's Barker were incorrect. Herb Cleveland was listed as DNS for both races, he finished first and fourth respectively. We apologize for the error.

## Corn & sausage roast canceled

Sad to say but this year's Corn & Sausage Roast is canceled. We hope to see everyone again in 2021. If you're still hankering for some of those delicious brats be sure to visit Mills Market in Zimmyville. Be safe!

## PAY YOUR DUES NOW!

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

Please use the dues form in the Barker to submit your donations or use the online store ([store.birchlakeyachtclub.com](http://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com)) to pay dues and make donations. Checks should be mailed to Deb Spratt, 18100 Farmington Hills Dr. South Bend, IN 46637.

## 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](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) or [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@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.

## Northside notes

The Kings (north side) are pleased to announce that Elizabeth (Liz) Kramer, our soon-to-be daughter-in-law,

**Sunday is usually SAILING DAY @ BIRCH LAKE, but this weekend the BLYC 4th of July Regatta will begin at 11 am Friday and Saturday, July 3 and 4 (with possible makeup on Sunday, July 5).**

**PLEASE GIVE 'EM A BREAK, and STAY CLEAR OF THE COURSE**

will join us for the 4th of July Holiday. Cal will doubtless have other players to be named later.

Mom's Rule: (bears repeating). Per Le King (RIP), you can toil right up until the 4th of July, then put away the tools and enjoy the lake through Labor Day. Otherwise, what are you working for?

The State of the Lake: possibly the annual report escaped our Commodore, so here goes. Though everyone is well served to remain diligent in regards invasive species, indigenous critters are

abundant this year. To my eye we have a bumper crop of panfish and, per the neighbor kids, turtles are everywhere! Many thanks to those who work to keep Birch clean.

## No, I didn't send it just to you

Several people have responded to Barker mass emails asking if I sent the message just to them because their email address was the only one listed. By way of explanation, because Google and other email carriers won't allow "mass" mailing (the Online Barker emails are currently sent to 264 email addresses each time I send one out), I have been forced to purchase and use a program called GMass that creates an individual email for each address ... the mail looks like each one is sent to only one person at a time. Rest assured that I am doing my best to not divulge or share your email address and the emails are being sent to everyone who is signed up to receive them, not just you. ~PV

## Plastic lids

Hi Birch Lakers. I'm asking for a favor. If you could save your plastic lids, I would really appreciate it. A friend of mine knows a family who is collecting them to make a friendship bench in honor of their father who passed away. They can be milk jug lids, salad dressing, ketchup and mustard, water bottles, mayonnaise jars, prescription tops and containers, anything you empty that has a plastic lid. Just put them in a baggie and save them for me, please. Thank you so much for your help!

~Bad Patty, east side.



**1st Source Bank**

1stsource.com | Member FDIC

**Straight Talk. Sound Advice.**

**1st Source Insurance**

Insurance products and annuities are not insured by the FDIC; are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by 1st Source Bank; and may involve investment risk, including loss of value. 1st Source Insurance, Inc. is a wholly owned affiliate of 1st Source Bank.

**CHANGED LIVES**

**RIVERSIDE CHURCH**

SUNDAYS AT 9 & 11 AM  
THREE RIVERS, MI  
[RIVERSIDE-CHURCH.COM](http://RIVERSIDE-CHURCH.COM)

**HERE TO**



# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



## No wind, no races

By **BILL LUECHT**

Once again the wind avoided Birch Lake like the plague. So we were unable to get races in on Sunday. However, the silver lining is we have another chance of getting on the lake for the 4th of July regatta! We will sail on Friday, July 3, and on Saturday July 4. We will have a rain date of July 5, if needed. I hope we have a great turn out for the regatta, and you have a wonderful celebration of the birth of America!

Sail on!

~Fleet Captain Bill Luecht  
(and ghost writer BP)

### BLYC Fourth of July Regatta

Friday, July 3, 11 am  
Saturday, July 4, 11 am

Makeup day, Sunday,  
July 5, 11 am  
(if needed)



## 2020 Birch Lake Sailing Results

### BLYC Season Standings Corrected

Date	21-Jun	21-Jun	Total	Point	Races	%
Race	5	6	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
MC Scow/Sailor					6	
Scott Troeger #1489	1	2	9363	1561	6	100%
Barb Cassady #2506	2	3	9207	1535	6	100%
Phil Vitale #500	5	1	8449	1408	6	100%
Jeff Smitley #2002	DNS	DNS	1369	1369	1	17%
Bob King #1199	3	4	8147	1358	6	100%
Pat McGann #1735	4	5	6482	1296	5	83%
Bill Luecht #1579	DNS	DNS	4999	1250	3	50%
Pat Welch	6	6	7007	1168	6	100%
Sandy Vitale	DNS	DNS	4494	1124	4	67%
Amber Grundy	7	7	6538	1090	6	100%

Date	21-Jun	21-Jun	Total	Point	Races	%
Race	5	6	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
Sunfish/Sailor					6	
Stewart Spratt	DNS	DNS	6088	1522	4	67%
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	3	1	8976	1496	6	100%
Herb Cleveland	1	4	8751	1459	6	100%
Scott Temple	DNS	DNS	4340	1447	3	50%
Peter Soldato	2	5	2817	1409	2	33%
Amy Troeger	4	3	2813	1407	2	33%
Steve Frew	5	2	6567	1313	4	67%
Bob Niezgodski	7	6	7719	1287	6	100%
Camille Butler	6	7	3677	1226	3	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



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 —

## So, what other (non-koi) fish species are stocked in Birch Lake?

Recent conversations with the fisheries biologist from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Plainwell office who covers all the lakes in Cass County, including Birch, have provided insight into the DNR's program for stocking our lake.

Birch is stocked annually in the Spring, but only with rainbow trout yearlings (the prior year's spawn). They average 6.5" in length, but the average varies year to year, and there can also be a large variation of size within any individual year. The minimum legal length for fisherpersons to keep trout is 12". Some of the very fast growers that are bigger at stocking could be legal by fall, but most of those stocked in any given year will not reach the required 12" in length until the following year.

It is unlikely there is any natural reproduction of the trout at Birch Lake. Past surveys performed by the DNR at Birch Lake only found stocked trout. Some lakes can support reproduction of trout if they are connected to a free-flowing trout stream. The tributary flowing out of Birch Lake is warm transitional and generally impounded and unlikely

supports a spawning run. Besides, rainbow trout usually go upstream.

The DNR stocks rainbow trout in Birch because they are a popular sport fish. They are not native, but are naturalized. They stock trout in lakes with good water quality because they are the few (especially few in Southern Michigan) systems that can support the trout.

The DNR's target is 2950 fish for Birch, per year, but the actual number varies depending on productivity. It has been closer to 3200 in the past few years, but only 2800 in 2020.

The DNR stopped stocking species like bluegill, bass, perch and other panfish because these species are not limited by the inability to reproduce. In fact, they tend to overpopulate and stunt their own

growth. Stocking of these fish is counter-productive.

Before closing, our fisheries biologist reminded us of the importance of establishing and maintaining natural shorelines for fish habitat and also treating for only invasive vegetation. Native vegetation provides nursery habitat for small fish and promotes strong invertebrate communities that result in fish food, which means bigger fish.

### 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

The  
**LAKE LIFE**  
REALTY GROUP



Get a **FREE** market analysis!  
Contact Paul DeLano:  
**(269-445-8877)**  
[Paul@TheLakeLife.com](mailto: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](mailto:Paul@TheLakeLife.com)**

# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Above: North side neighbors, Leila Petty (7)(center) and Rachel Karceski (15) (left), hanging out with Shorewood, Illinois friends Annie, Aubrey and Gabby.*

*Left: Cam Petty from the north shore showing off his surfing skills with friend Gabby Kics on his shoulders. (She started off piggy-backing him out of the water and then she climbed up his body onto his shoulders) Even she can't believe it worked!*

*Sale With Susie!*

*Your Waterfront Specialist*



**Waterfront Specialist**  
**Serving Michigan**  
**and Indiana**

**SUSIE TUCKER**  
**REALTY**

**574-320-6697** Cell

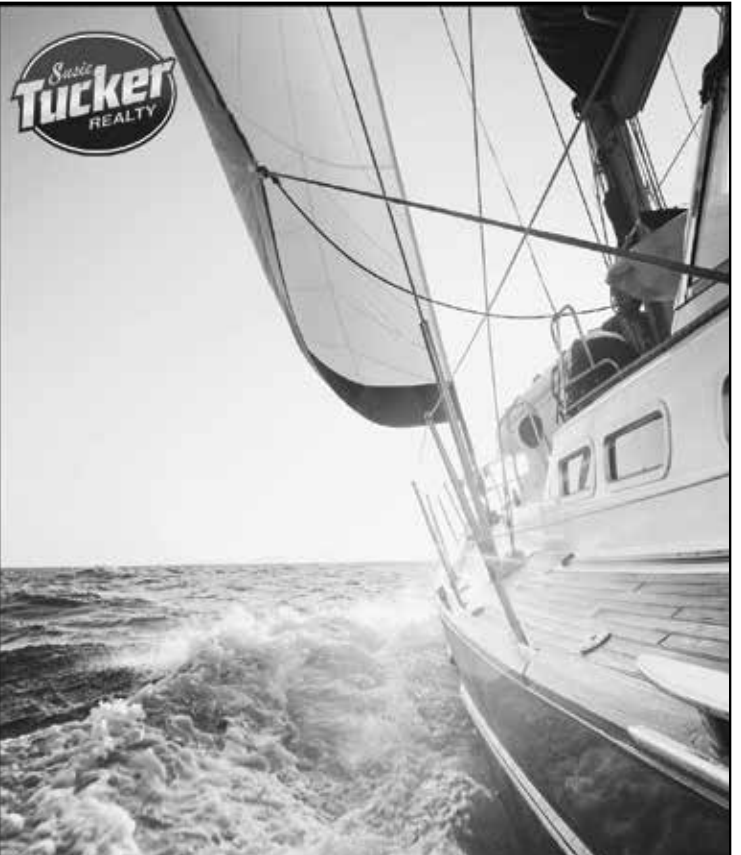
269-641-5775 Office

[www.susietucker.com](http://www.susietucker.com)

[Susie@susietucker.com](mailto:Susie@susietucker.com)



**Zillow**  
★★★★★  
5-STAR AGENT



**[susie@susietucker.com](mailto: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 —

*"Is that Albert Einstein? No it's just Bruce Wagner in the Cove sporting his COVID haircut"*



Just down the road

It's not MARGARITAVILLE it's

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

Normally Open  
7 days/wk  
11 am to Midnight

**Carry Outs** available

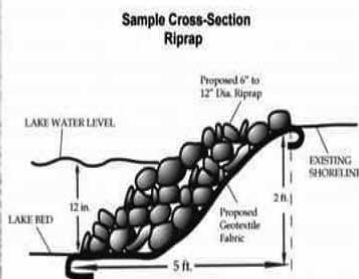
69608 Sunset Blvd Zimmyville (Union), Michigan

**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
- Spring/Fall Clean-up
- Custom Mowing
- Mulch, Stone, Sand & Topsoil
- Seed & Sod
- Landscape Restoration
- Retaining Walls
- Excavation
- Concrete Removal
- Tree/Shrub Pruning
- Tree Removal
- Deck Cleaning
- Power Washing
- 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](mailto:newleafofswmich@gmail.com)  
Google: New Leaf Landscapes of Southwest Michigan  
Owner/Operator: Bill Personette III



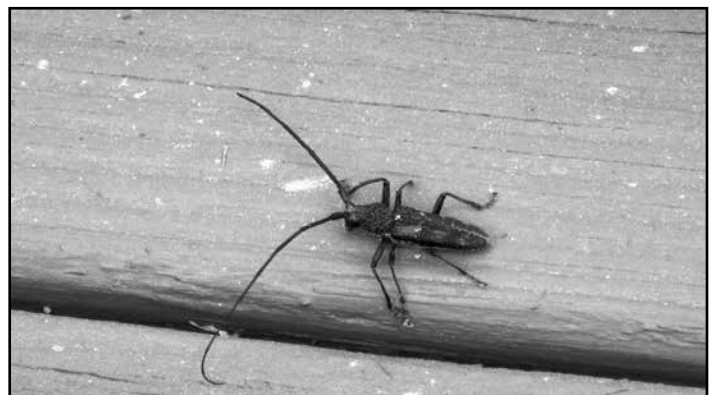
# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*West side kayak clan - Quinlan grandkids; Kate, Zeb, Jack, Ella, and Ryan.*



*Thanks to Mr. Bob King (north shore) for the dazzling dragonfly pic ...*



*Don't know what kind of bug it is but this big, nasty looking critter hung out on my deck in the sun last weekend ...*

## **Tri-County Bookkeepers** *tax accounting & payroll services since 1955*

### **An accounting practice serving southwestern Michigan for over 60 years specializing in small business accounting**

We offer A free no-obligation discussion about your business requirements, competitive pricing, personal account manager, corporate & personal tax prep, tax planning/tax representation, full-service payroll, affordable time keeping solutions, financial analysis, pay-as-you-go Workers' Comp Insurance

#### **Tax planning**

Need assistance with your tax planning? Don't we all! We can help you plan for your taxes before your business is even off the ground

#### **Bookkeeping/Financial Statement Compilation**

Depending on your needs, we can do your bookkeeping for you or we can teach you how to accurately keep records

#### **Company Structure**

Let us help you decide what the best organization is for you

#### **Federal and State Forms**

We'll help you apply for all the tax IDs and forms you need

**2056 Plaza Drive  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
269-926-2191**

## **Barker Kids of the Week**

*Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Dog of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be the Lawnmower of the Week? Just mail your photo (with a SASE if you want the photo(s) back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home ( on the east side), or email them to me at [SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM](mailto:SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM)*

# — Barker readers write —

## Let's Not be Koi ...

by **NICHOLAS BERGAN**

There have been several recent sightings of Koi fish around the lake and while some people are on the fence of what to do with these pretty fish. I thought it would be helpful to share some research on Koi fish and the common carp as well as the dangers they present. I understand Michigan DNR did not believe they posed a threat, but you can Google countless articles where Koi fish have become a nuisance from Colorado, Washington, Vermont, Canada's Lacombe Lake and Edgewater Pond to the Midwest including rivers.

In the article, *Holy carp: 11-year-old nets giant koi in St. Albert lake*, a young boy caught a 16 lb Koi Fish in Lacombe Lake, the lake is going to have to use two treatments to kill off the goldfish in their lake.

Some people suggested there are only a few Koi fish. The Koi fish is a bottom dweller, so sightings are rare. I think it would be nice if we could monitor these fish as well as the common carp. Maybe if we could use divers to navigate the depths of our lake where they are more commonly found.

According to sciencing.com, "While it's true that bottom feeders like carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), koi and goldfish feed on algae and insects in a pond, their constant rooting around at the bottom of the pond can create water clarity issues, particularly if the pond has a clay or silt bottom."

I am also surprised that the Koi nor the common carp has not been on the radar of Michigan DNR since they both can carry a virus.

In article published in 2012 titled *the Koi Herpes Virus: A Review and Risk Assessment of Indian Aquaculture* written by Gaurav Rathore stated, "Since 1998, both common carp and koi carp are severely affected by a viral disease called as Koi herpes virus disease (KHVD)."

You can also read about the Koi Herpes Virus on the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) web site.



We must acknowledge; they are an invasive species to the lake.

According to IUCN Freshwater Fish Specialist Group, "After habitat destruction, the introduction of exotic or "alien" invasive species is believed to be one of the greatest global threats to native fish communities and their freshwater ecosystems. Many introductions are intentional, to provide new fisheries (Nile perch in Lake Victoria), for commercial or cultural purpose (tilapia), as ornamental species (koi carp) or to control mosquito larvae as a biomedical measure against malaria (mosquito fish)."

I know many have you asked this question, What's so dangerous about a goldfish?

In the article, *If you dump your pet goldfish into a lake, it will grow into an enormous pest* printed in the Washington Post answered the question by writing, "What's so dangerous about a goldfish? As we mentioned before, they can reach monstrous sizes in the wild. Like all species of carp, the domestic

goldfish, *Carassius auratus*, grows to be as large as its resources will allow (within reason, anyway). And they don't just eat fish flakes, either. In the wild, goldfish are carnivorous. At best, their feeding habits — trawling along the bottom of the body of water — disrupt sediment and make it harder for other fish to eat. At worst, goldfish will fatten up on the eggs of native species. Goldfish may also be bringing new diseases to the wild fish population."

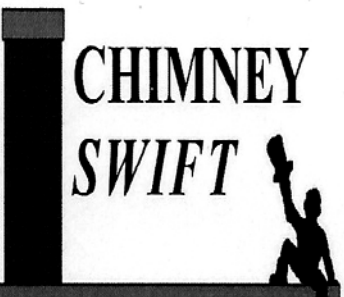
In Australia they recognize Koi as environmentally damaging.

Another article titled, *Koi dumped in lake become problem in WA*, warned their readers, "ENVIRONMENTALLY damaging koi carp fish have been spotted in Lake Gwelup and the City of Stirling is on a mission to eradicate the pests. The ornamental fish native to Asia and Europe are popular in aquariums but can become feral when dumped in waterways, harming ecosystems and out-competing native fish."

In Chicago, they recognize Koi can exist in a lake even in cold temperatures.

The Chicago Tribune has an article titled, *Where not to put your unwanted fish*. The article foretasted the potential danger of Koi fish, "Koi are cold-water fish that can survive Midwest winters. Koi root up native plants while feeding and cause the water to become muddy, potentially disrupting feeding and spawning for native fish. "We haven't seen evidence of koi establishing and having a population explosion, like the bighead [in the Mississippi]," he says, though the potential is there for koi in the wild to become a problem."

I only ask we educate ourselves of the danger of these fish in our lakes and take into consideration the many stories of other freshwater lakes. I have previously thought we should eradicate the lake of these fish. I am not sure it that is the answer considering the Michigan DNR's current stance. Maybe we should consider monitoring the number of Koi and common carp in our lake. We should make sure no new Koi fish or gold fish are introduced into the lake.



### CHIMNEY SWIFT

CHIMNEY SWEEPS


"OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE"

www.chimneyswiftchimneysweeps.com

**SERVICES**

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

**DEREK POLSTON**  
(574) 514-4831



### Kevin Wilson Magician



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

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

**BIRTHDAYS**  
**ANNIVERSARIES**  
**COMPANY PICNICS**  
**CONVENTIONS**  
**PARTIES**  
**AGE APPROPRIATE ENTERTAINMENT**

# — Barker readers write —

## Our resident Koi

by **GORDON SEYFARTH**

Given my love of nature and biodiversity, I was asked by several concerned friends to write something about our resident koi. For years, many residents and their friends and family have been amazed and excited to catch a glimpse of the large orange jumbo koi and his companion, a yellow butterfly koi, swimming together. Numerous sightings and photos have made these two fish quite the celebrities around the lake. Because of that, many people here were disappointed to see a comment in the Barker 2 weeks ago suggesting they be killed.

Just to correct some misleading information inadvertently published in that comment:

1) According to the DNR's own website, common carp are not considered invasive in the State of Michigan nor are they on the State's invasive species list. Koi are a domesticated version of common carp.

2) Koi are not one of the four invasive species of carp in the news as of late that are deeply concerning to the health of the Great Lakes.

3) The paragraph in the Barker mentioned a concern that the koi are eating the eggs of game fish. While this is correct, it must be pointed out in fairness that game fish eggs and fry (baby fish) are also eaten by trout, sunfish, bass, perch, crappie, etc. Several online articles state that all fish are opportunistic predators. Eliminating all the fish that are preying on eggs and fry would leave fishermen with no fish to catch. In fact, some male fish are known to eat the eggs in the nest they are guarding because



they're hungry and will not leave the nest.

If the koi actually posed a threat to the health of the lake, they should be trapped and removed. However, one of the arguments against not trapping them lies in the fact that carp were widely stocked across the United States around the 1880's but stocking was discontinued around 1900. If we have had carp in Birch Lake for over a 120 years, it is highly plausible that they have achieved a balance with our resident game fish during that time and this was suggested by the DNR as well. We had carp in the lake long before the koi were released. Over the years, many of us have seen brown carp in Birch Lake that are 3 feet in length and weigh close to 20 pounds. It should be noted that any koi offspring that are gold or yellow in color are more likely to be eaten than the regular brown carp offspring. It should also

be noted that a single carp can produce more than 1 million eggs in a year yet their population remains stable so eggs and young perish in similarly vast numbers and are an important food source for all types of predators including largemouth bass.

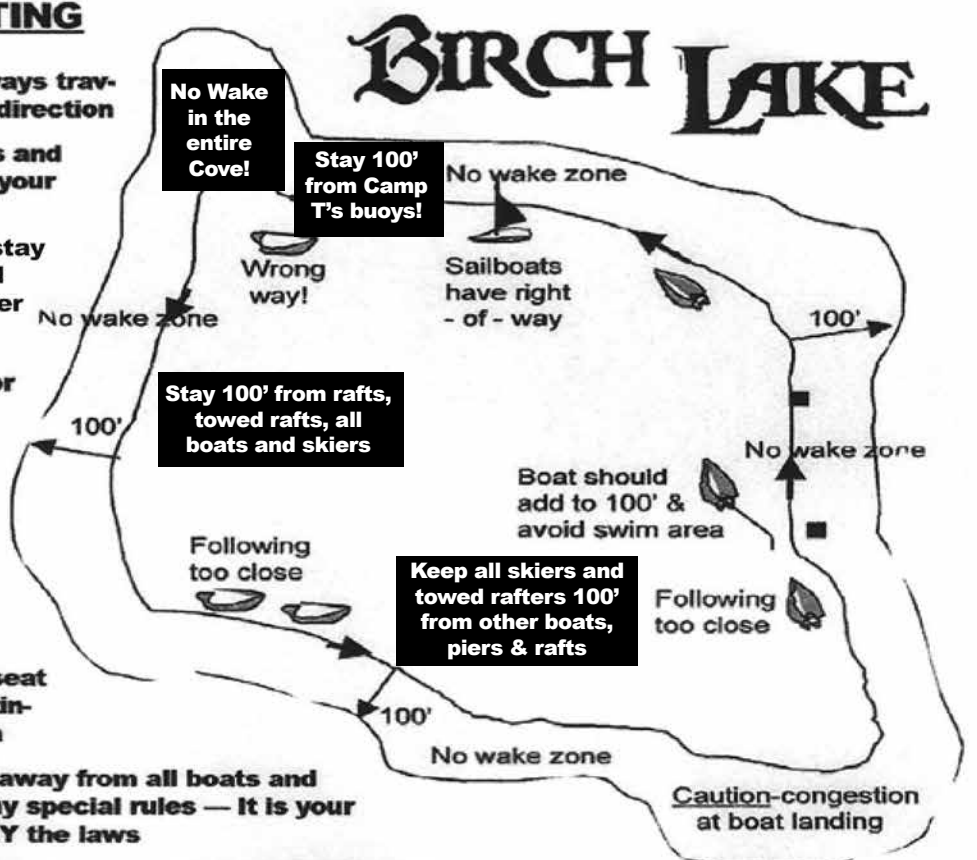
Cultivated in Asia for over 4,000 years and highly respected in Japanese culture, koi are thought to represent

luck, fortune, and prosperity - something we could all use a little more of in these difficult times. They are also known for their intelligence, great memory, loyalty to their owners, and their striking personalities. For the people that enjoy seeing the koi, the article in last week's Barker from the Water Quality Committee came as welcome news saying that it is the opinion of the Michigan DNR that a couple of non-native koi should not pose a threat to our lake came.

The comment in the Barker did raise an important point and that is that no pet should ever be released into the lake. Non-native species have done and are doing extensive damage to many ecosystems and have caused millions of dollars in damages. In an interesting side note, native wild populations of carp in Europe are listed as vulnerable to extinction by the IUCN according to Wikipedia.

### COMMON SENSE BOATING

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



**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)** - You will have boundless energy! The rest of this year will be a time of great activity for you! You will feel that you have a chance to show the world what you can do. You will be more of a fighter for your rights than usual as well as the rights of others. However, be careful about coming on too strong and overwhelming everyone. Be nice.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** - For the rest of the year, Mars will be hiding in your chart. This is why you will be robbed of the credit you deserve for something you do. Mars might make you your own worst enemy by making you doing little self-defeating acts. ("I can't believe I said that?") The way to handle this is to take more time to be alone - more "me" time. Hey, you'll love doing research.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** - You will be obsessed with goal setting for the rest of this year. Actually, you can easily achieve your goals by cooperating with others. Admittedly, you might be bossy. It's a delicate balance. Your best option is to coordinate your needs with the needs of others. Find common goals. Physical activity with friends such as athletics will be rewarding. Look around you. Who wants to achieve something that you want as well?

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** - For the rest of this year, your ambition will be aroused as never before. In fact, if you are under 50 years old, you will never have felt this ambitious in your adult life before. For the rest of the year, you will work extremely hard! Naturally, you want to be your own boss. Unfortunately, this high energy to achieve will put you at odds with employers, bosses and parents. They feel threatened! Conflict with coworkers could also arise. One obvious solution is to align your interest with the interests of someone else. Then, you will be on the same page and working for the same goal. Because you might be at odds with others, choose your fights. Be careful. Remember the tortoise and the hare? He who lasts, wins.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** - For the rest of this year, you will do more creative intellectual work than usual. You might explore new beliefs and methodologies; and if you embrace them, you will want to share them with others. Caution: Be careful about trying to coerce others into believing as you do. Your best bet is to throw your energy into expanding your mind! Look for experiences that open up new dimensions in your life. Travel will be gratifying. New studies and new courses will also appeal.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - For the rest of this year, you might experience disputes about inheritances, shared property, insurance issues or anything jointly held - your partner's wealth, for example. You might be in conflict with someone, which in turn forces you to re-examine and change your own position. You might also realize that your values are different than someone else's values?

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** - Fiery Mars is opposite your sign for the rest of year. This affects your closest friendships and partnerships, including marriage. It encourages conflicts with those who are closest to you. The problem is you don't want to give in or to compromise. On the upside, this is your chance to lay your cards on the table and be honest about what why you might be unhappy. But go easy. Be respectful of the other person's feelings. Be wise and think about what your long-term objective is, which is the success of your relationship.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** - For the rest of this year, you'll be gung-ho to get lots done! What will encourage you is you will be proud of your accomplishments! One tiny caveat will present itself. Although you want to work for yourself and get credit for what you do, you may have to work on behalf of someone else. They might even want to take credit for your accomplishments! It will be tough to be a team player for the rest of this year. Ideally, try to maneuver yourself into a position where you don't have to work with others or for anyone else.

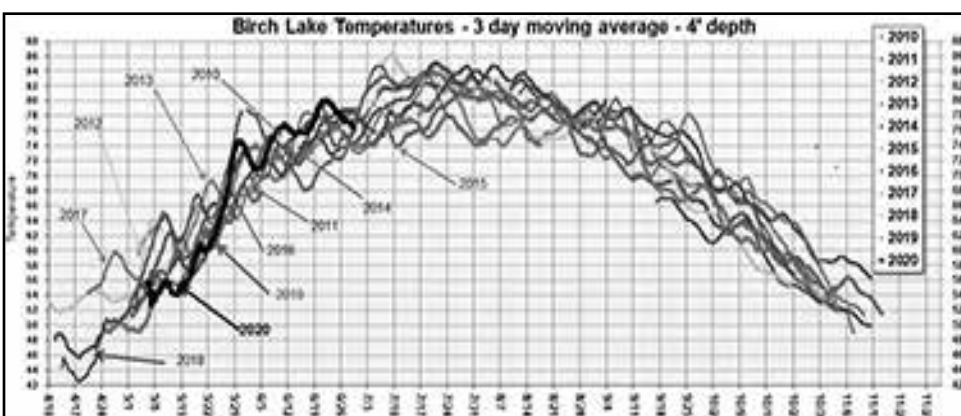
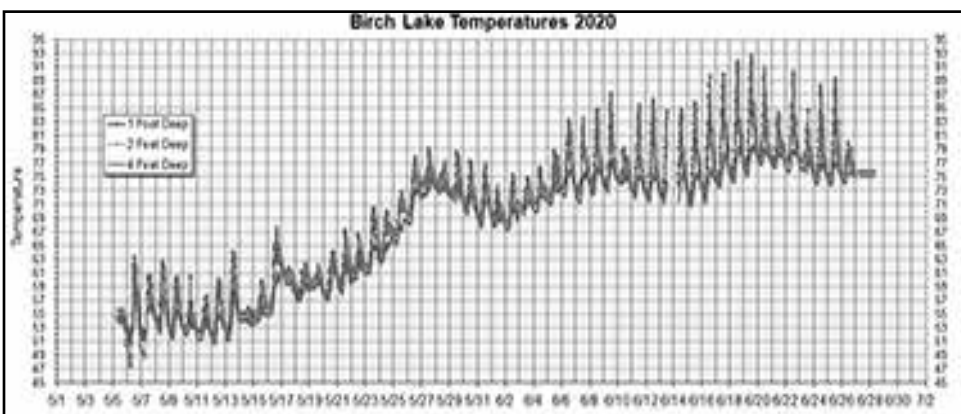
**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - The rest of this year will actually flow more easily for you. Furthermore, you will even surprise yourself by seeing that you are ready to demand to be who you are and do exactly what you want! You will feel playful! You will make more effort to seek out amusements and pleasure. You will be excited by the arts, and especially a chance to express your own creativity. In romance, you will be physically passionate! Basically, you will use your energy to have a wonderful time! Admittedly, conflict with kids might arise.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** - For the next six months, your home life will be active and perhaps chaotic. This could be due to renovations, residential moves or visiting guests. (This is a tough time to live with parents.) Furthermore, you will insist on having your surroundings exactly the way you want them to be. You might get bogged down in petty, bickering. Basically, these are power struggles with people at home or relatives.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** - You will be a force to contend with for the rest of this year because all your communications with others will be direct and proactive. You will say what you mean - and mean what you say! This is because you will identify strongly with your ideas and opinions. If someone disagrees with you will take it as a personal affront, and then you will try to convince others to agree with you. (Not good.)

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** - For the rest of this year, you might find yourself defending your values to others. You will be more fixated on money and possessions than usual. This could be because suddenly, for some reason, you feel that you are your bank account, your car, your furniture or your property. You identify with what you own. This will make you want to buy things. Be aware that this temptation exists because the odds are that you will spend too much money on things you don't really need. Be wise. Guard against wasteful spending.

## 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: 1.000  
0.1 days after full moon



**Sunrise: 06:11:38**

**Sunset: 21:21:52**

**Moonrise: 21:17:10**

**Moonset: 05:27:5**

**Daylight: 15 Hr 10 Min 14 Sec**

# Birch Barker Funnies

**Did you hear about the french cheese factory that exploded? There was nothing left but de brie.**

**I was fired fro the keyboard factory yesterday. I wasn't putting in enough shifts.**

**I used to be a wrestler. I would get a guy in a head lock and write my name on their forehead. It was my signature move.**

**I had a pencil with two erasers. It was pointless.**

**I just read a book on marriage that says treat your wife like you treated her on the first date.**

**So after dinner tonight I'm dropping her off at her parents' house.**

When the quarantine ends and you have to put on your work clothes again..



**I went to the grocery store and they now have a parking spot for Fat guys that like to grill. That's so considerate.**



# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



*Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge*

## Cinco De Mayo Margarita Ice Pops for the FOURTH OF JULY!

This boozy Popsicle® recipe is so fun to share and tasty to enjoy, especially because of the smoothness added by using condensed milk! Add a bit of other juices, such as guava, orange, or grapefruit juice, for variation!

Servings: 12

### Ingredients

- 12 ounces sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup lime juice
- ¾ cup water
- 1 (1.5 fluid ounce) jigger tequila, or more to taste
- 12 eaches small paper cups
- 12 eaches ice pop sticks



- 4 eaches limes, each cut into 3 discs
- ¼ cup margarita salt, or as needed

### Directions

- Step 1 -- Mix condensed milk, lime juice, water, and tequila to-

gether in a bowl or pitcher. Fill 12 small paper cups nearly full with the mixture, leaving 1/2 inch between the liquid and the lip of each cup.

- Step 2 -- Spear each ice pop stick through the middle of a lime disc so the discs sit evenly in the middle of the sticks. Place one speared ice pop stick into each filled paper cup so the stick is submerged and the lime slice is sitting on top of the liquid.

- Step 3 -- Place cups into the freezer for 8 hours to overnight. Rip and peel paper cups off of the ice pops. Pour margarita salt into a shallow bowl and dip ice pops in margarita salt before serving.

**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](http://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](mailto:gavinfrancis@rocketmail.com)

# — Camp Tannadoonah —

**H**appy 4th of July Weekend! It looks like it's going to be a lovely and HOT holiday weekend.

Our first group of overnight campers will be arriving on Sunday afternoon. We've reduced our capacity by about half, and will have approximately 65 kids checking in on Sunday for the first week of camp. This first week will surely be an adventure, as we adjust to all the new safety procedures and figure out how the schedule is really going to work. On paper, we think we have it all figured out... but once we actually get going we know that we'll be making changes as we figure out how it's all going to fit together.

We were sad to have to cancel the Pancake Breakfast this year, for the first time in many years. We always love seeing the lake community come out to camp! And our board has a great time flipping pancakes and meeting all our neighbors.

Even though you can't be here on Sunday morning for the breakfast, we have created an online camp store so you can still buy your Camp Tannadoonah apparel and supplies! Check it out at [tannadoonah.org/shop](http://tannadoonah.org/shop) If you live on Birch Lake, we can deliver your order to your house, or you can pick up at the Welcome Center at camp. But if you're not nearby, we can ship your order to you.

We have a selection of in stock items, and some special pre-order items. We even have camp "buffs" that make great masks for when you have to go out in public.

We also have a section for donations. We are so grateful for all the support that our lake community shows for Camp Tannadoonah, and would appreciate any contributions people can make. This year is going to be tough for us, as it is for many, many businesses.

We've spent the past 15 years working hard to make camp stable and secure financially. In 2006 when I became Camp Director, as many of you know, Camp was in a very difficult financial situation. Since then, we've paid off all debt, worked to repair and improve our facilities, expanded our capacity, created new programs, and built a substantial cash reserve to get

us through tough times. We built lots of contingency plans, and looked at what we would do if we lost revenue for a variety of reasons, but this pandemic is having a huge impact despite all our planning.

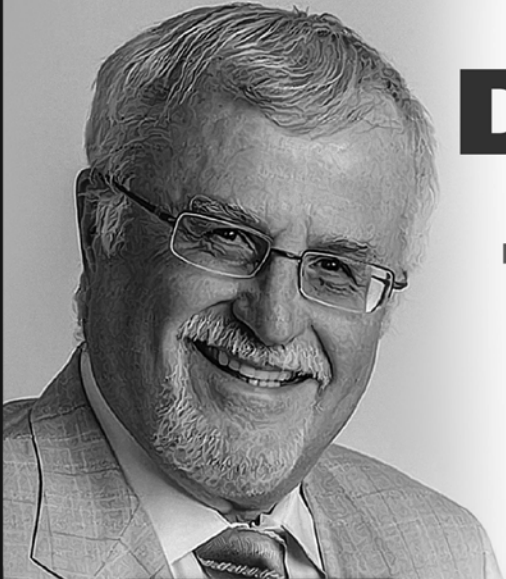
Our camp business model, like most camps, relies on the funds we bring in from summer programs to support us throughout the whole year. We have 4 full time, year-round staff now, 2 part-time year-round staff, 4 part-time after school program staff during the school year, and as many as 40 summer camp staff each summer.

Throughout the winter months, we invest a lot of time and funds into facilities improvements, run our after school programs, and prepare for camp. Even if we didn't have any camp revenue in the summer, we still have our year-round staff costs, insurance, marketing and advertising expenses, professional development, maintenance and utilities, and other expenses. We're doing our very best to minimize expenses this summer, but having lost all of our spring program revenue, shortening our summer, and cutting our capacity in half for the weeks we are able to run, means we will really cut into our cash reserve this year, and will not be able to complete many of the facilities improvements we planned on, including some major updates to Morris Lodge and the Dining Hall Kitchen.

If you have the means to make a contribution to camp this year, we would be very grateful for your support. You can do that online, at [tannadoonah.org/shop](http://tannadoonah.org/shop), or you can contact me at [amber@tannadoonah.org](mailto:amber@tannadoonah.org). Thank you for all you do to help Camp T!

~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](mailto:dennisbamber@cressyeverett.com)



# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## FOR SALE

**1999 18' Sweetwater Pontoon Boat**  
FOR SALE on the North Shore. 1 owner since purchased in 2008. Custom Seat Covers included. \$4,300 OBO. Contact Rob Lovato (grandson of Bob and Gert Temple) 513 319-4038

For Sale: **14 ft. Starcraft boat with trailer and 1200 lb pwc lift.** \$1300, south shore, call or text Jack, 1-574-250-5852

## LOST & FOUND

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

Missing after the remnants of hurricane Cristobal... **Kayak paddle**, black shaft, yellowish blades, probably went westward from the north shore. Contact Stewart at 574.514.0667.

## 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?**



**Jon boat with lift for sale, \$1500**  
OBO. North Shore, call or text Sarah 574-274-9202.

Check out renting the most inexpensive but cutest and best-located rental in The Villages, Florida at [ourhome4rent.com/cjp](http://ourhome4rent.com/cjp)

## WANTED

WANTED: **Used Boat Lift for 24' Pontoon** (minimum 26' Canopy) for Northsider. Call Rob 513 319-4038

**Waitress needed.** Must be (18) years old with (20) years experience, call Jay Walker 269-483-2305

**Tired of working for only \$9.75 per hour?** We offer profit sharing, flex-time and benefits. Starting pay: \$5-7 per hour. Call Pat 269-476-7140.

**Looking for someone to do yard-**

**work.** Must have own hoola hoop. Call Leslie 574-299-0705.

WANTED: **somebody to go back in time with me.** This is not a joke. Must bring your own weapons. Safety not guaranteed. I have only done this once before. Call Stu 269-476-2113

**SF seeking SM,** looks not important, must be tall, slim and attractive. Meet me at Lunkers? Ask for Patti

## MISC.

**1995 Nissan Maxima:** green, leather, loaded, CD player, auto-start, sunroof, good condition. \$4,500. Not for sale.

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](http://www.advantageplumbinginc.net)

# HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

## Tip No 7: SLOW DOWN!

*Our roads are narrow and there are a lot of blind spots that make it hard to see walkers, joggers, bikes and cars.*

*Our children and pets are frequently out in the road ... safety is No accident!*

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 Sheffleck, 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  
chas.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 GOING FAST!

### It's time to pay your 2020 dues!



Support the BLYC, support our Birch Lake Community!

\$\_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)

**Total contribution:**

\$\_\_\_ - 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)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)

\$\_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_ - Fireworks Fund

\$\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program

\$\_\_\_ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$\_\_\_ - Safety Committee

\$\_\_\_ - Other non-party related expenses

\$\_\_\_ - BLYC Roof Fund

\$\_\_\_ - BLYC AED Fund

\$\_\_\_ - Misc.

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

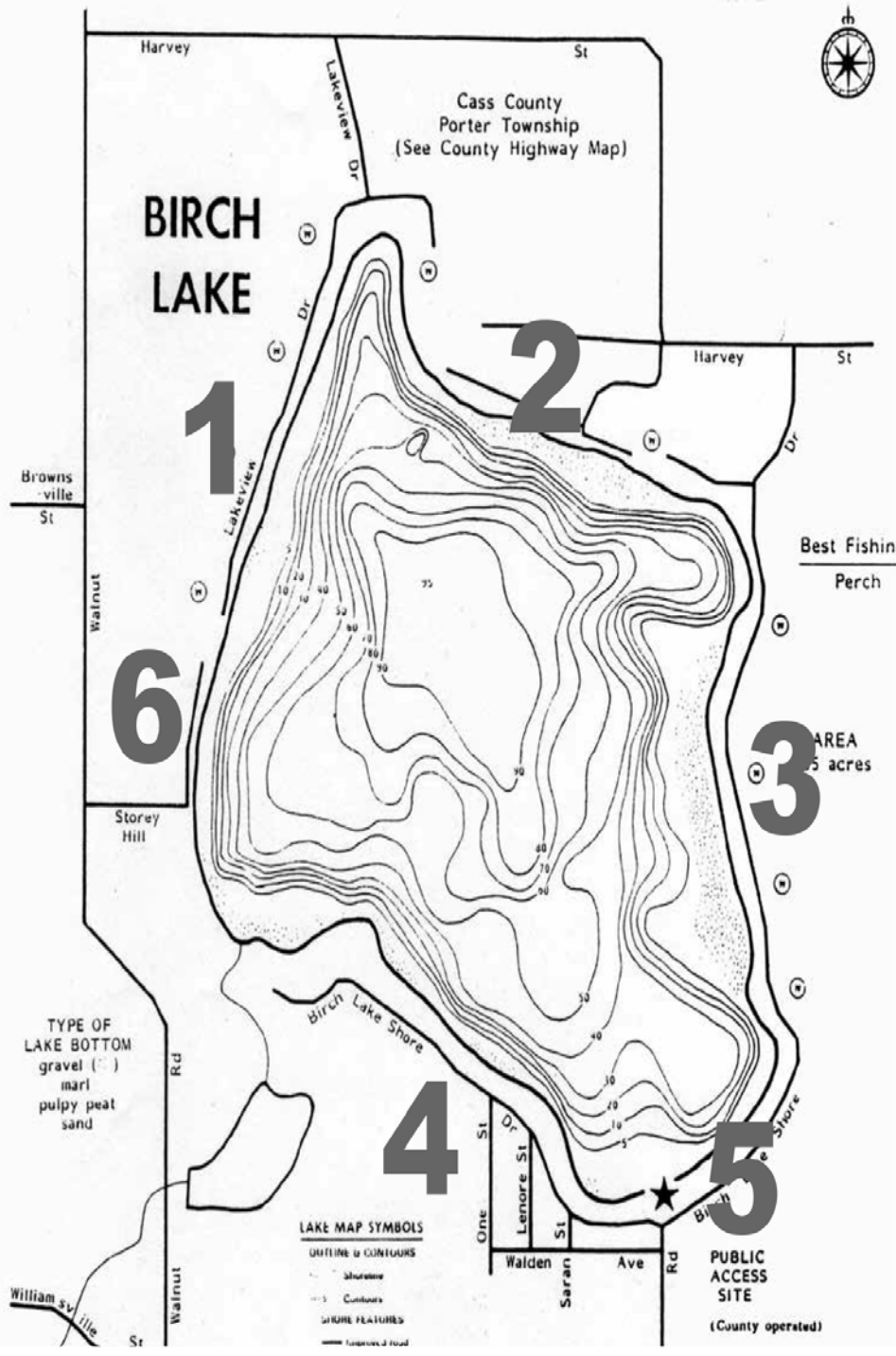
**NEW**

# 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**



**NUIMAGE**  
**Awnings**um Awnings  
*Where Fashion Meets Function*

**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**