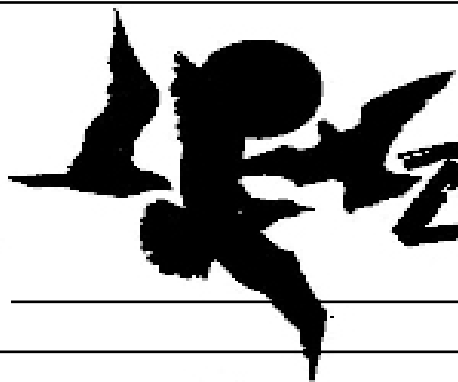


The
Weekend
Of

June 11,
2022



Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

*Commodore's Comments #3
June 11, 2022*

My husband and I had just turned the lights out to go to sleep the other night when I heard a "ping" coming from my cell phone. I saw that my son had just sent a video of his daughter who is almost eight years old. The video showed his wife applying peanut butter to their daughter's hair to remove gum stuck in a clump behind her ear. Now, my granddaughter Gigi has a lot of hair so putting anything sticky even close to her head was not going to have a good result, but this was a real mess. When asked why she had put gum in her hair she replied, "That is what Violet did in the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." Gigi is an avid reader, and she must have been trying to mimic the character in this book she was currently devouring. To further describe Gigi's love of reading, the other day my daughter-in-law stopped with her children to visit with my 86-year-old mother and myself. Gigi walked into the house with a book tucked under her arm and never once set it down. She asked my mother, who Gigi had heard was also a great reader herself, about growing up and

what books she had read, etc. Gigi's great-grandmother said she read all the Nancy Drew mysteries and Gigi's eyes lit up and she announced she got her first ones this past Christmas. Then her hero said as a child she loved to climb their apple tree and read there. Again, Gigi's eyes lit up when she announced that she also reads in an apple tree.

Books are powerful and can open new worlds to us as children or adults. When I think of reading, I always think of summer when I personally take more time to do that lovely pastime while sitting outdoors, on a pier, at a beach, or on a porch swing. This summer I hope you will take time to do that pastime which makes you relax and take time for yourself, whether it is reading, listening to music, gardening, floating on the lake, whatever.

When you aren't relaxing and taking me-time, join your fellow Lakers for some upcoming events: this weekend, Friday, June 10 is the Fun Trivia Night held at the yacht club. Saturday, June 25 will be the Commodore/Vice Commodore Key West themed party also at the yacht club. And looking ahead to the Fourth of July weekend, make sure you get your pre-order in for the BLYC Port-A-Pit Chicken Fundraiser. Pre-order now at birchlakeyachtclub.com for Friday, July 1st pickup. More details on these events

2022

Birch Lake Calendar

- June 14** - Birch Lake Book Club meeting, Garceau's house, 7 pm
- June 18** - Newberg FD Open House 11-2
- June 25** - Commodore and Vice Commodore Party, YC, details tba
- July 1** - Nelson's Chicken Sale fundraiser, 11 am - 2 pm, details tba
- July 2** - Boat Parade, **FIREWORKS**
- July 2, 3** - **July 4th Regatta** (rain day Monday, July 4 if needed)
- July 3** - Camp Tannadoonah Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11 am
- July 22** - Ladies' Golf Outing, Diamond Lake Golf Course, 9 am, Luncheon tba
- July 23** - Family Picnic, BLYC, tba
- July 23** - Five Lakes MC Regatta, Indian Lake, details tba
- July 29** - Mens Golf Outing, Pine View., 1 pm shotgun start, dinner & awards following
- Aug. 6** - Corn & Sausage Roast, 5:30-7 pm, BLYC
- Aug. 20** - Fall Dinner, BLYC, tba
- Aug. 26** - Birch Lake Ladies Style Show & Luncheon, Woodfire, Dowagiac, details tba
- Sept 11** - Sailing Awards, Frew's house, details tba

BLYC BOARD MEETINGS

June 11, July 9, August 6, and Sept. 10

All meetings start at 9 am @ BLYC

The Birch Barker will consider ads and editorial items for potential publication. E-mail items to sailorphil@philvital.com, mail them to me (or put them in the stone mailbox) at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). Contact Editor Phil at onlinebarker@gmail.com, or at 476-1680 (no text). Contact Commodore Barb Cassady, via email at barbcassady49@gmail.com or call 574-574-229-9815. **DEADLINE** is Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

— Birch Lake Notes —

in this Barker issue.

Thank you to all the residents who have already sent in their BLYC 2022 dues. We appreciate the support and resources to keep the lake in good shape and the community strong. If you haven't taken the time to pay your dues, please do so soon. Also, remember to send Deb Spratt your BLYC Directory updates by June 30.

Take care, be safe, and I'll see you out on the lake.

~Commodore Barb Cassady

New contact Information:
barbcassady49@gmail.com
574-229-9815

Board meeting date change

The June BLYC board meeting has been changed to Saturday, June 11 beginning at 9 am at the Yacht Club.

Visit Key West Margaritaville

Join Commodore Barb and Vice Commodore Deb for the Annual Commodore/Vice Commodore Party on Saturday, June 25 at 7 pm at the Yacht Club for the Commodore/Vice Commodore's Key West/Margaritaville themed party. There will be Key lime desserts, margaritas on ice and lots of island music. (Now is the time to pull out that Hawaiian shirt)

Last name starting with A-M, bring

an appetizer; Last names of N-Z bring a dessert. This party will also be our "Stock the Bar" party. We have enough liquor but can use beer and wine contributions.

There will be a prize for best dressed island attire.

The Fourth of July Boat Parade

Now is the time to start planning for your entry for the Fourth of July Boat Parade on July 2. The theme this year is "A Song That Reminds You of Birch Lake." On those cold, dreary winter days, a song will come on and you'll think, "that reminds me of summers on Birch Lake." That song can be the theme for your boat. We want this year's parade to be the best-attended ever! Who will win the coveted "grand champion" award? It could be your family!

Book Club June 14

Birch Lake Book Club will begin meeting June 14 at 7 pm at Blair Garceau's house. The book we will be discussing is The Betrayal by Anne Frank, by Rosemary Sullivan. Everyone is welcome. We hope to see you there.

We need to reorganize as we have lost our great leaders and organizers, Pam And Linda. If you're interested in getting emails regarding Book Club please let Sue Williams or Blair Garceau

know. smwillia@comcast.net
bgarceau@comcast.net

Ladies Style Show and Luncheon

Mark your calendars for the Birch Lake Ladies Style Show and Luncheon on Friday, August 26. Lunch will begin at 11 am at the Wood Fire Trattoria in Dowagiac. Six lovely Birch Lake ladies will be modeling fashions from the Marshall Shoppe. Ticket information will be available soon.

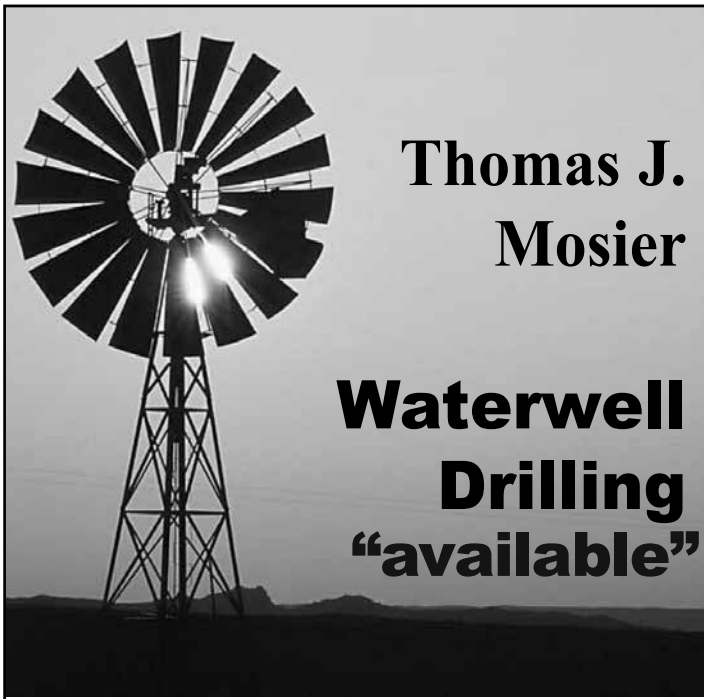
Newberg Open House

The Newberg Township Fire Department will host an open house on Saturday, June 18 from 11 am to 2 pm at the fire station on the corner of M60 and M40 in Jones, MI.

The event will feature hot dogs and burgers, truck tours, a kids' zone and much more. All are invited.

2022 Dues, fireworks donations

In the midst of everything that has been happening in our world for the past year or so, the BLYC is still here and we still need operating capital. In addition, we still need contributions to the Fireworks fund. Please use the dues form in the Barker to submit your donations and/or fireworks contributions, or use the online link (birchlakeyacht-club.com) to pay your yacht club dues.



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**



Give Your
Boat New
Life

REPOWER NOW



APOLLO MARINE

South side of Gravel Lake
15355 96th Avenue, Lawton, Mi 49065
www.apollomarine.net

423-6011 1-888-996-BOAT
SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE

We serve all
area lakes

We rent
pontoon
boats

— Birch Lake Notes —

Checks should be mailed to Deb Spratt, 18100 Farmington Hills Dr. South Bend, IN 46637. Thank you to all who have already paid their 2022 dues!

The Printed Birch Barker

The Birch Barker will be delivered to homes on Birch Lake every weekend, and will also be available each week at the website <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>.

To submit items for publication in the Birch Barker, email sailorphil@philvitale.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com, or mail (or deposit items) at 63174 Birch Rd. (east side), Vandalia, MI 49095.

To contact the editor, email to onlinebarker@gmail.com or to sailorphil@philvitale.com, phone 269-476-1680 (no texts since I don't use a cell phone).

Display ad sizes and prices can be seen at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>. Classified ads are free for BLYC paid members, and \$5/week for non-members. Contact Phil Vitale for details. Deadline for any given week is noon on Tuesday prior to the weekend of publication.

Yacht Club building rentals

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

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



Tip No 3: PRACTICE BOATING SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE GUIDELINES

Keep boats, pwcs, skiers and tubers 100' away from EVERYTHING when traveling at wake speed. Observe all boating safety rules, and MIND YOUR WAKE.

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

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Please note: Due to Inflation, costs have increased, and the fireworks show is more expensive. Please be generous!



to donate
for fireworks
or any other
BLYC function
or activity ...

use the form
in the back of
this week's
**Birch
Barker**

or contribute online at

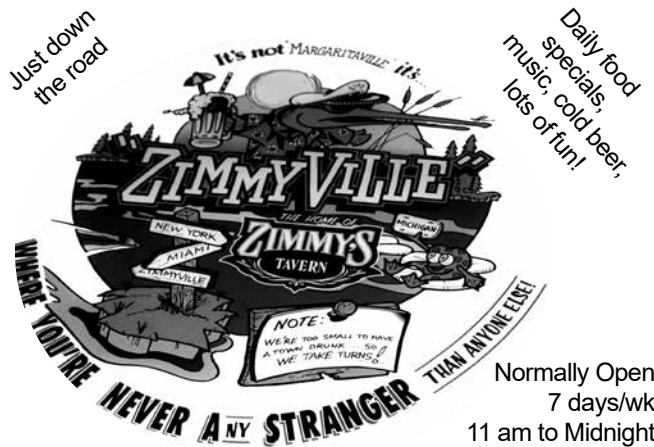
<http://BirchLakeYachtClub.com/>

Welcome to Jaywalker



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

Just down
the road



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>



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Sailors out in force for 1st week

The BLYC Sailors were out in force on Sunday, June 5. We had 15 racing boats -- seven MCs and eight Sunfish. Many thanks to Vic Jones and Phil Vitale for helping out Tom Cassady in his absence by setting the course; to Rick Doolittle and Vic Jones in the rescue boats; and to Committee Boat Captain Bad Patty Luecht and crew Deb Hall and Good Patti Russwurm!

It was great to welcome Mallory Welch, who was being introduced to sailing by her dad Pat Welch while crewing on his MC. Pat reported that Mallory loved it! It was also great to welcome Parker Ladwig, husband of Lisa Rodriguez, who was crewing on Pat McGann's MC. Welcome to the fleet, Mallory and Parker! We hope to see you both a lot this summer!

The weather treated us to some of its Birch Lake tricks, in which a mild wind that might be nice and steady above the treetops is set to swirling about unpredictably when it descends into the Birch Lake glacial bowl. Before the start of the first race, it was difficult to tell from which direction the wind was coming! But the wind was no match for course setters Vic Jones and Phil Vitale, who were filling in for First Mate Tom Cassady. Vic and Phil set an accurate

course, and we enjoyed a full sailing day of three races, with the wind steadily improving.

In the MC class, Scott Troeger made a dramatic season entry with three wins, while Bill Luecht went 3-2-2, and Phil Vitale 2-3-3.

In the Sunfish class, Bob King opened his season with 2-1-1, while Pete Soldato came in from Cleveland, Ohio to go 1-2 before he had to leave. Rick Russwurm had 3-4-2. Cam Butler and Bob Niezgodski came on strong, with each scoring a third place.

I had to admire all those displays of sailing skill from far behind, due to lack of attention to some key details -- such as the rule against crossing the starting line before the countdown clock hits 0.00.

I also had decided it would be a good idea to carry the waterproof snorkeling camera that Jackie gave me for Christmas, tied securely to my person, in order to get some photos before the races to email to people in the support boats and racing boats, and to use in this column. So some of you may be wondering, where are those photos from last weekend? Don't worry, the camera remained securely attached to my person. But I'm afraid that it's another case of my sometimes lack of attention to detail.

I actually should have learned a

good lesson about attention to detail on Memorial Day weekend, when our guest Gail Turlock and I both set sail in separate Sunfish from Lazy Lodge beach into a howling wind. I had a lot of trouble getting my sail up because I was fouling the mainsheet on a spar, and when I finally did get the sail up and headed out into the gale, I promptly collided with a boat lift canopy and capsized into the chilly water. Gail, on the other hand, impressed me with her meticulous attention to detail during her methodical, patient, and prioritized procedures, and her smooth launch.

Well, this past weekend I returned home from the races thinking I had some really good photos. But I was chagrined to find that I had overlooked just one little detail -- there was no SIM card in the camera! My very sincere apologies to all concerned! And I'm unlikely to make that particular mistake again.

We are very early in what is already a fun-filled and exciting season of sailing with old friends, welcoming new friends into the fleet, and enjoying some good-hearted friendly competition! Already looking forward to next week! And will be looking to take more photos ...

~F.C. Steve

11920 McKinley St.
Jones, Michigan

Offering our Guests...

- Hair Services
- Massage
- Facials & Hydrafacial MD
- Eyelash Lift & Tint
- Pedicures & Manicures
- Brow Lamination
- Sugaring - Hair Removal
- Waxing

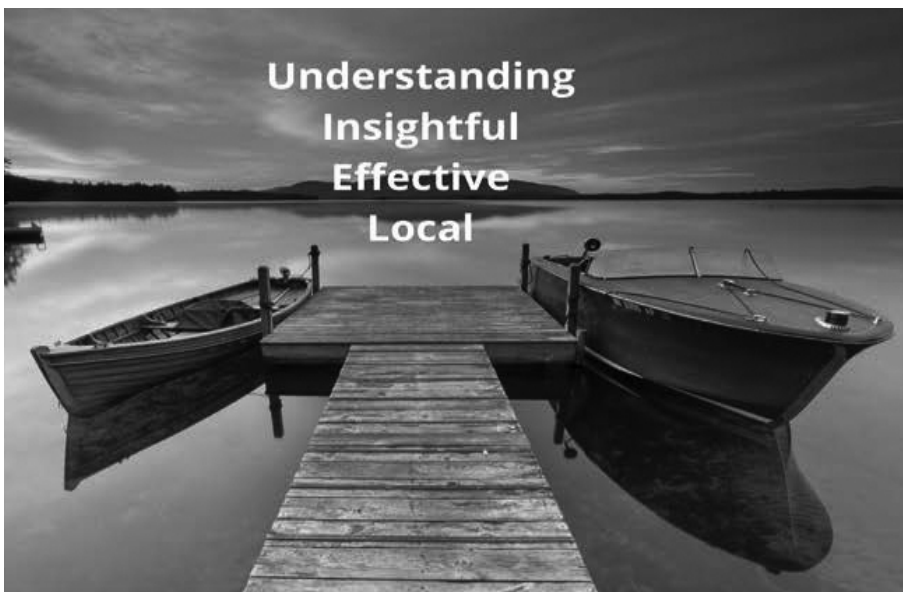


(269) 244-5510

Www.satorisalonandspa.com

Email: satorisalonspa@gmail.com

Organic Salon & Day Spa
Eufora Hair products & Satori Skin Care Products



Understanding
Insightful
Effective
Local



THK LAW, LLP

Estate planning

Elder law

Business counsel

Mediation

Litigation

Cassopolis | South Bend | Elkhart
269.445.1818 | thklaw.com



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



BLYC Season Standings to date*

Date	5-Jun	5-Jun	5-Jun	Total	Point	Races	Percent
Race	6	7	8	Points	Average	Finished	Finished

MC Scow/Sailor	5-Jun	5-Jun	5-Jun	Total	Point	Races	Percent
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	1	4800	1600	3	38%
Barb Cassady #2506	DNS	DNS	DNS	8000	1600	5	63%
Bill Luecht #1579	3	2	2	8895	1483	6	75%
Phil Vitale #500	2	3	3	7299	1460	5	63%
Pat Welch #1979	5	5	6	11118	1390	8	100%
Pat McGann #1735	6	4	5	10668	1334	7	88%
Amber Grundy	4	6	7	9084	1298	7	88%
Sandy Vitale # 2159	7	7	4	5993	1199	5	63%

Sunfish/Sailor	5-Jun	5-Jun	5-Jun	Total	Point	Races	Percent
Gail Turlock	DNS	DNS	DNS	3200	1600	2	25%
Bob King	2	1	1	4721	1574	3	38%
Pete Soldato	1	2	DNS	3121	1561	2	25%
Rick Russwurm	3	4	2	11712	1464	8	100%
Scott Sortal	DNS	DNS	DNS	7230	1446	5	63%
Stewart Spratt	DNS	DNS	DNS	2890	1445	2	25%
Steve Frew	6	6	4	11061	1383	8	100%
Bob Niezgodski	5	5	3	9297	1328	7	88%
Herb Cleveland	DNS	DNS	DNS	6074	1215	5	63%
Camille Butler	4	3	6	9637	1205	7	88%
Chris Scofield	DNS	DNS	DNS	2381	1191	2	25%
Jeff Walls	7	7	5	9471	1184	8	100%
Tammy Walls	8	DNS	DNS	1089	1089	1	13%

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

*Includes all previous races



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**

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



Serving you for over 30 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:



— Water Quality Report —

The First Commandment

As part of our study of the Six Commandments, let's consider Commandment #1, "Thou Shalt Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)"

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) refers to all non-native organisms living in or near our bodies of water. Examples include zebra mussels, aggressive weeds, and fish diseases. Because they typically have no natural predatory, competing, or limiting species, AIS can overwhelm a body of water very quickly. Once an AIS visits a body of water it may be controlled, but rarely eliminated. Currently there are at least hundreds of known forms of AIS.

AIS threaten the health of our lakes and rivers, decrease water quality and can limit recreational enjoyment. It has been estimated that the total economic impact of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes region is \$5.7 billion per year.

Within the last few decades, rampant AIS at a few lakes within 60 miles of ours has actually caused their state DNR (Department of Natural Resources) to, on a temporary basis, partially drain and "close" those lakes for use for a year or more.

At Birch, we already "enjoy" the presence of at least the following known types of AIS:

- 1) **Eurasian Milfoil** – for which we survey and treat annually
- 2) **Purple Loosestrife** – for which volunteers (Bruce Wagner) hunts and then oversees the pulling of, every late summer
- 3) **Curly Leaf Pondweed** – for which we monitor, but treatment has not yet been required.
- 4) **Hybrid Eurasian Milfoil** was recently detected. There are numerous forms of this hybrid, some more difficult to control than others. At present, the product that we use for regular Eurasian Milfoil seems to control the hybrid we have as well. We will continue to monitor this development.

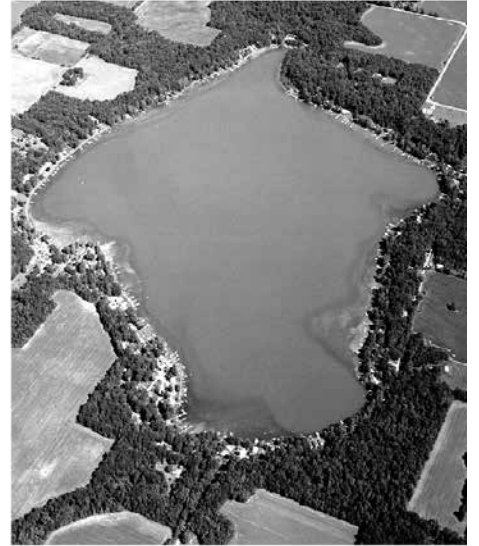
A particularly problematic species, **Starry Stonewort**, has already been

discovered in numerous nearby bodies of water (including our own mill pond.) Numerous other forms of AIS thrive in the area and threaten us regularly. For these reasons, each year we hire outside experts to survey, and then a different outside professional firm to treat, our lake.

Movement of boats and trailers among water bodies is the most common way Aquatic Invasive Species spread in Michigan. Washing of those boats and trailers is an obvious and relatively easy way to stop them.

An updated Michigan Law requires that we:

- Remove aquatic organisms, including plants from boats, boating equipment and boat trailers before launching or placing in the water or transporting any watercraft over land.
- Pull plugs and drain live wells, bilges, ballast tanks and all water from boats before leaving the access site.
- Dispose of unused bait in the trash. Do not release bait into the water.
- Don't transfer fish to water bodies other than where they were caught. Further, in Michigan it is recommended that we:
 - Inspect and remove plants and mud from boats, trailers and gear and dry equipment before leaving the access area.
 - Dispose of the material in a trash receptacle or otherwise away from water body.
 - Power wash boats, trailers and gear before leaving the access area if possible, or at a nearby car wash or at home
 - Clean our boats and equipment before and after use in a new body of water
 - Don't allow the cleaning residue from a previous body of water to runoff into a different body of water
 - After cleaning, dry boats and equipment. (Most Invasives, and significant fish diseases, will die if left dry, out of the water, for 5 (five) days
 - Disinfect live wells, bilges and gear with a mild bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach



to 5 gallon of water.)

- Do not dump fish and plants from aquariums into a body of water unless you are absolutely certain that each variety of living matter therein is native to that body of water.

In summary, please be careful not to place (or dump) anything that maybe invasive (non-native) into our lake or into a place that may eventually wash into our lake. (This means anywhere within Birch Lake's watershed.) Unwanted and objectionable objects include (but are not limited to): plants, fish, bait, aquarium remnants, and even crayfish leftover from a "boil."

PLEASE PASS THE WORD

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

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.

**PRINTING,
MARKETING &
SIGN SERVICES**

CUSTOM SOLUTIONS
& DESIGNS

alphagraphics®

ELKHART & SOUTH BEND

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Left, Sadie Dombrowski, grand daughter of Bob and Sandy Baucus (east side) turned 4 Memorial Day. The family celebrated with a Unicorn Party! Above, Another east sider attended Sadie's party. Nick Bergan - Unicorn Extraordinaire!



Birch Barker Kids of the Week

Want your kid to be a 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? Mail your photo (with a SASE if you want it back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; or put them in a ziplock in the mailbox at my home (on the east side), or email them me at Sailorphil@PhilVitale.com

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

— Barker Kids of the Week —

Right: Barb Green (south shore) hosted her granddaughter, Kristin, and her great grandson (8 months), Everett George, for his first weekend at Birch Lake over Memorial Day.



Below: Just a dog out walking his turtle. Thanks to Good Patti Russwurm for sending the Barking Benji pic ...



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.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Because this is a fantastic week to accomplish a lot, you will be busy! This lovely Earth trine is perfect for you because it activates three separate parts of your chart: your House of Earnings, your House of Employment and your House of Career. You don't want to miss this opportunity! A dash of unexpected good luck will help you. To me that sounds like a recipe for success. Get busy!

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Well, you're sitting pretty this week. Many of you will use this practical drive to explore creative options, perhaps working in the arts, the entertainment world, working with children or professional (or amateur) sports. However, you might transform your appearance or the image you project to the world. Somehow, you will improve your game face. It could be a haircut, a wardrobe change, new glasses, or a determination to buff your bod. Whatever the case, you'll be pleased with the results!

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This lovely grand trine will help you work behind the scenes and introduce improvements to your home or where you live. These improvements might include your relationship to a family member, especially a female. Some kind of boon or a piece of good luck might occur that is private. You can also harness the energy of others, friends and groups, to help you achieve your objectives. However, always listen to the "friend" inside you.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This week you is a lovely grand trine for you to interact with others and engage with people in such a way that you will stir up support for yourself. You want to achieve. In particular, young people as well as creative, artistic types, might help you. You will be convincing and persuasive because you will speak from the heart. Someone might have advice for you about how to relate better to a partner or close friend. Be open to everything.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Like Aries, you benefit from the Grand Trine in the Earth signs Like a cool breeze on a hot day. Good fortune coming your way! As they say, luck is when preparation meets opportunity. So be prepared! People in power, bosses and parents can help you do something to boost your earnings. You can revise, improve or modify your job or how you do your job. You might even change your job. Be ready to accept advice or to approach people in power.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Lucky you! You have an opportunity this week to explore or improve travel plans, opportunities in publishing and the media, or legal or medical matters. (This is a great time to travel or to make travel plans!) It's also a propitious time to improve your relations with kids, especially by trying a new approach with something. Speaking of new approaches, you might also improve a romantic relationship.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Very likely, you will do some quiet research and private thinking about how to make improvements at home or within your family dynamic. And when you consider the possible improvements that you would like to explore, what is timely is the fact that you will find the financial backing or the resources and practical help from others that you need to do what you want to do. Don't be afraid to explore making improvements in your personal life. You can do this!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Go forth and explore new ways of engaging with partners, friends, groups and organizations. We're talking about how you relate to the people You can improve how you talk to your daily contacts, siblings, relatives and neighbors. Reach out and explore aspects of networking. Act on your urge to contact others in person, through social media, or attending an event or a meeting. We need to go out to see others and to be seen.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This week is all about how to improve your job, boost your career and your public reputation, and make more money. This is an auspicious time for you. It relates to work and earnings. For you, the three planets are each sitting in your House of Earnings, your House of Career, and your House of Employment. This means you can get a lot done and see ways to boost your income.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Travel plans, vacations, the entertainment world, fun activities with kids, the arts, sports and entertaining diversions are all areas that can flourish for you - and in an unexpected way, allow you to improve your appearance or improve the image you offer to the world. This week you will use a lot of fun energy and exploring new ideas and meeting people who are different - all of which will benefit you. Get ready!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This week, you might entertain at home. You might also redecorate or begin renovations at home. You might even explore a change of residence? Most definitely, family relations will be more lively and more active in a pleasant, social way. This week is a lovely time to entertain at home, especially because you are unusually optimistic, warm and friendly. "Come out to the coast, we'll get together - we'll have a few laughs."

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

This will be a busy, popular week for you! Your dance card will be full because you will have appointments, errands, visits, conversations and fun opportunities to schmooze with neighbors, siblings, relatives and daily contacts. Some of you will also study and learn more. You might explore a writing project. Because you are inclined to focus on home and family right now, you might invite these people to your home. Or you might work more and write and study from your home. You definitely have something to say this week.

Birch Lake items of interest

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.929
2.2 days until full moon



Sunrise: 06:05:20 AM
Sunset: 21:18:42 PM
Moonrise: 18:13:59 PM
Moonset: 03:55:37 AM
Daylight: 15 Hr 13 Min 22 Sec

J U N E S T S S S S Y K S E U L B M
U S M E A U Y E O U H I K I N G S A
S M W E E A N L U B N W A S E Y R E
U T W I R R S G I C A B L N A R E R
N S H V M T C C L T E A U D T V L C
T Y U G I M Y S E A D B I R S S K E
A G L C I C I R N N S L R R N D N C
N R E U L F M N A U O S E A R G I I
O E A E J E R S G H S W E A B N R C
S E D A L B R E L L O R O S R I P R
C N A O F L O G T L T B T E E T S E
H G N I H S I F F A E O A E E A H C
O R C A M P I N G T W T H B Z O C C
O A C I N C I P A W A S P S E B A O
L S F L I E S K M O S Q U I T O E S
T S U G U A S I L L A B E S A B B O
G N I N E D R A G S U N S H I N E N

- | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| ANTS | BREEZE | HIKING | ROLLER BLADES | SUNSHINE |
| AUGUST | CAMPING | HOLIDAYS | SANDALS | SUNTAN |
| BARBECUE | FISHING | HOT | SKATEBOARD | SWEAT |
| BASEBALL | FLIES | ICE CREAM | SOCCER | SWIMMING |
| BEACH | FLOWERS | JULY | SOLSTICE | U V RAYS |
| BEES | GARDENING | JUNE | SPRINKLERS | WASPS |
| BICYCLE | GOLF | MOSQUITOES | SUNBURN | WATER FIGHTS |
| BLUE SKY | GREEN GRASS | NO SCHOOL | SUNGLASSES | WATERMELON |
| BOATING | HAT | PICNIC | SUNSCREEN | |

Birch Barker Funnies





~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Watermelon Caprese

Watermelon Caprese is a totally delicious way to eat Caprese salad in the summertime. My kiddo made a salad a couple of summers ago that we now eat it quite often.

It's the perfect appetizer that has all the best summery flavors. It's our favorite, super-simple salad recipe to make for summer. You can buy balsamic glaze at your local market, but if you don't want to buy a bottle, don't worry because it's super easy to make it at home! You need only one ingredient to make balsamic glaze: balsamic vinegar. Pour about 1 cup of vinegar into a small saucepan and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to medium and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the vinegar thickens, coats the back of a spoon, and is reduced to about 1/4 cup, 20 to 25 minutes. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes — the glaze will thicken slightly as it cools. Use more vinegar if you want more glaze.

Ingredients

- 3 sprigs fresh basil, stems removed
- 1 small watermelon, fruit cut into 4-inch squares
- 1 (8 ounce) package fresh mozzarella cheese, cut into medium-sized pieces
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar glaze
- salt and ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

- Step 1: Trim basil leaves into small circles about 1 inch in diameter.
- Step 2: Thread watermelon and mozzarella cheese on toothpicks, sandwiching a basil leaf in between. Arrange on a serving plate. Drizzle with balsamic vinegar glaze.



MH
McGann Hay
FUNERALS | CREMATIONS | GATHERINGS
SINCE 1842

Granger Chapel

- Large Rooms • Children's Room
- Spacious Cafe/Lounge

574-232-1411
www.mcgannhay.com

"The perfect location between Michigan and Indiana"

Pat & Tessa McGann, Birch Lake Residents, Eastside



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

NOW HIRING FULL AND PART TIME POSITIONS

— Camp Tannadoonah —

First campers to arrive

This weekend we will welcome our first group of campers to camp for the 2022 season! We have 93 campers registered for Session 1, so we start off the season with our smallest week. It's a good way to ease into the summer for the staff!

This past week we've been training our staff on all the things they need to know for the start of summer, including emergency procedures, how to handle homesickness, how the daily schedule works, how to teach activities, what to do on rainy days, and so much more.

For the first week of staff training, all of the staff lived together in the cabins in the "Bird Yard" – with the female staff in Cardinals and Wrens and the male staff in Robins and Woodpeckers. This gave everyone a chance to get to know each other, bond as a group, and figure out who would work well together in a cabin. On Monday this week, they were assigned to their cabins where they will live with campers. Each cabin has 2-4 counselors, and they got to move into their cabins and start working with their co-counselor for the remainder of this week.

On Sunday we hosted the 2022 graduates from Edwardsburg High School for their "Project Graduation" event. Every year, a group of parents

organizes a fun and safe event for all of the graduates to attend following their graduation ceremony – in hopes of keeping them from going to wild grad parties and taking risks. This year, they came to camp for yard games, a bonfire, swimming, archery, food, and music.

The organizers of the event hired a DJ to play music on the front lawn of the Dining Hall. I know the music was loud, but we were very clear with them that it had to be quiet by 10 pm. The students really enjoyed dancing while they played games and made s'mores! They stayed at camp from 7-9:30, and then everyone got on the bus and they headed off to Airway Lanes in Kalamazoo for "Cosmic Bowling." It was a fun event for the graduates, and fun for our staff to get to host them for a few hours and lead some activities for real people before our campers come to camp!

We are still looking for camp staff to join us for the rest of the summer, if you know anyone who might still be looking for a summer job. We have positions for ages 16 and older, and would love to add a few more people to our team. Please reach out to info@tannadoonah.org!

We are also still hoping to find a few folks to host small gatherings of staff on their nights off for a meal and a boat ride. Our staff a few years ago really



loved getting to know people from the lake and having something interesting to do on a night out of camp. If you are interested in hosting a group, please let me know a date that might work for you, and how many staff you'd be able to accommodate. On any given night during the week (Monday through Thursday), we have around 8-10 staff who have the night off. You can call us at 574-387-6095 or email me (amber@tannadoonah.org)

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, July 3 from 8:30-11am (the morning after the fireworks)!

~Mrs. Amber

Considering selling your lake home or property?

Don't wait!

Here are a few great reasons to put your home on the market.

- Beat the competition
- Inventory is at an all time low
- Plenty of qualified buyers actively looking
- More people than ever are looking for a second home

Dennis Bamber and his group sold over 100 waterfront and lake access homes in Michigan and Indiana over the past few years.

Dennis has been a Diamond Lake resident for over 30 years.

Many of the group's listings sold quickly and over asking price. Take advantage of their wealth of experience with lake properties and contact Dennis now!



Cressy & Everett
REAL ESTATE
Above. And Beyond.

701 Spruce Street • Dowagiac, MI 49047



THE DENNIS BAMBER GROUP
LAKE & WATERFRONT SPECIALISTS

574-532-3808

dennisbamber@cressyeverett.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE:

For sale: **Beginner's Melges MC with older trailer.** Hull # 247, reconditioned two years ago and sailed occasionally for the last two years. All new lines, many new parts. Solid, fully functional, sails well. Price reduced to \$900 OBO. Call 476-1680, email to onlinebarker@gmail.com



Jet ski lift. \$675. Call Claudia 574-596-2154

PWC cantilever lift for sale - 750lb capacity and 51" beam. Price \$500. Call 574-220-0407

Vinyl boat lift cover. \$295. Call 574-596-2154.

LOST:

Floated away from North Shore home sometime before Halloween, **Turtle raft**, made out of deck material with Styrofoam floats on the underneath on short rope. Please contact

Mike at (574) 286-3135

FREE:

Small children's rowboat, 8' long, free to a good home. Contact Jon @ 574 339-6492

FOR RENT:

Interested in a unique fun vacation? Check out our **Florida Village house** at ourhome4rent.com/cjp Call 574-596-2154 for more info.

For rent: Three bedroom, one full bath with tub and shower, **lakefront house on Birch Lake.** Beautiful brand new granite kitchen and new stainless appliances with dishwasher, washer and dryer also. Nice pier with

big platform at the end. Plenty of parking. Beautiful sunsets all year long. Possible ski, pontoon, row boat, and sailboats available for rent also. Sleeps six in beds plus room for more. Contact Pat McGann call/text 574-532-5377.

SERVICES:

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

SAILBOATS ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY!

BARKER CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to BLYC members, \$5/week for everyone else.

Send your ad to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com.

If you no longer need your ad to run in the Barker please let me know so I can pull it.



VOTED NILES BUSINESS OF THE YEAR!

Talk With A Live Person

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

2022 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

2022 BLYC OFFICERS

Barb Cassidy (E) **Commodore**
574-229-9815 barbcassady49@gmail.com
Deb Hall (Cove) **Vice Commodore**
219-765-8691 bdeh@sbcglobal.net
Deb Spratt, Treasurer (N) 476-2113
debspratt@comcast.net
Mike Sheffieck, Secretary (W)
708-220-1506 mcsheffieck@gmail.com
Steve Frew, Fleet Captain (E) 708-285-2999
stephenbfrew@gmail.com

BLYC Directors

Angela Bergan (E) 561-603-5522
bergansu@aol.com
Greg Bolin (W) 476-2420
gbolin31@aol.com
Ed Chester (E) 476-1010
ed@chesterlawoffice.com
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
Deb Hall (Cove) 476-7226
bdeh@sbcglobal.net
Patty Luecht (E) 476-2615
pgalloway4@yahoo.com
P. Com. Pat McGann (E) 574-532-5377
pat@mcgannhay.com
Laura Pence (E) lpence3@gmail.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
or onlinebarker@gmail.com
Sandy Vitale (E) 476-1680
sv6102@gmail.com
Dan Waxman (E) 317-506-1680
DWaxman@versiti.org
Denny Weesner 219-765-8602
dkwees@cs.com
Sue Williams (S) 476-8886
smwillia@comcast.net

OTHER ATTENDEES

Paul Fallon (E) Chairman, Water Quality
476-1467 pauljfallon@gmail.com
Blair Garceau (E) Chairman, Homeowners
476-9862 blairgarceau@gmail.com
blairgarceau@gmail.com

Birch Lake Directory

We are in the process of updating our current 2020 Phone/Address Directories for Birch Lake residents. Please complete the Directory Form included here and return to BLYC Treasurer, Deb Spratt by July 15, 2022. If you know of new residents, please make sure they are aware of this process. Thanks to Deb for collecting the information and compiling for the Directories. .

Please send your information to

Deb Spratt via email at debspratt@comcast.net **No later than June 30**

so we can get them made and distributed at the Fall Dinner.

Please use this for to submit the following info:

Cottage number (if you know it) _____
Last name(s) of owner(s) _____
First name(s) of owner(s) _____
Lake street address _____
Other address (away from the lake) _____
Lake phone number (landline) _____
Cell phone numbers _____
Children's names _____



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB THE YEAR HAS STARTED! It's time to pay 2022 dues!



Support the BLYC, support the Lake, support the 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

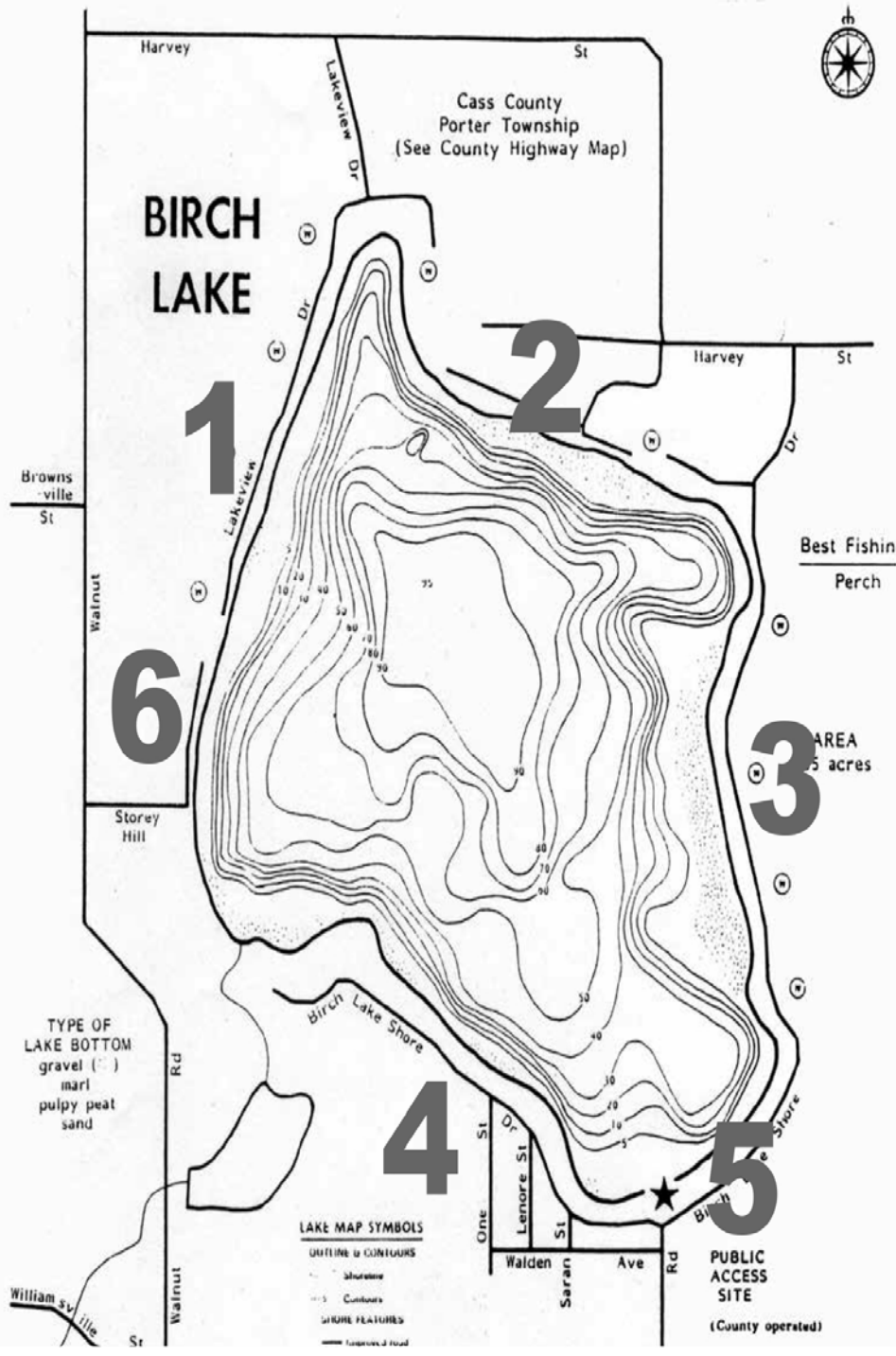
Now you can go online at [HTTP://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM](http://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM) to pay your dues

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

CALL 9-1-1



**FOR
EMERGENCY
USE ONLY
ALARM WILL
SOUND**



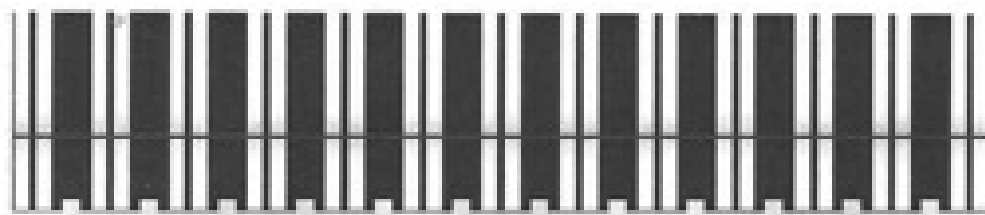
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

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.



SUN & SHADE AWNING

Retractable
Awnings
for Decks
and Patios



Roll Up Curtains for Screened Porches



Boat Covers
and Tops

Aluminum
Awnings

Contact Mark at 269-244-5307
markbidelman@comcast.net

12291 Bidelman Road
Three Rivers, MI 49093



www.SunandShadeAwning.com