

The  
Weekend  
Of

July 8,  
2023

# Birch Barker

<http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>

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



...Top left: Elizabeth Traudt (Doc Green's granddaughter) visiting from Milwaukee, brought her famous "Flying Dog" Saria, a Spanish Water Dog. Top right: the King boat at the Bad Patty Tribute. Left: Bob Groszek and Liam, a new captain in training. Right: Bruce Wagner's new friend.



## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

What a way to celebrate the Fourth of July here at Birch Lake! Despite rain showers on Saturday morning, the boat parade happened as planned under a sunny sky. Even though the participation was down this year (I am sure the weather played a part), the entrants were very enthusiastic and happy to take part. Congratulations to all!

A huge "thank you" to all who supported the fireworks fund so our lake community could enjoy an amazing display that same evening. Personally, I have to say this show was one of the best I have seen on our lake, even when a rogue cloudy floated in and made a part of the show eerie to watch. We were able to experience the show before

the rain started and we had to make a mad dash for home in the boat. No worries, we arrived wet, but safely. Sunday started out soggy but cleared up enough for the boaters and swimmers to enjoy a good portion of the day before the storms rolled through.

As in the past, there will be another flotilla in the middle of the lake on Friday, July 14. It is a fun evening to have a beverage, share an appetizer, and socialize with Birch Lake residents. Check this issue for all of the particulars on this event.

There is still time to pay your dues and to contribute to other areas that support our lake and its community.

As a tribute to our late Bad Patty Luecht, it seems that pink flamingos have overtaken our lakeshore. In addition, there were many boaters who took the time on Monday morning to attend the Eight Bells Ceremony in honor of

### BLYC, Facebook and other social media

The Birch Lake Yacht Club DOES NOT have a Facebook page nor is it participating in any form of social media. If you see Birch Lake Yacht Club information on any social media, the information has not been provided, checked or approved by the BLYC, and may be incorrect or misleading. If you have questions or concerns, please check <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>, or contact any BLYC director or officer (see "officer and director" information in any edition of the Barker).

## 2023

### Birch Lake Calendar

**July 14 Birch Lake Flotilla**, 6 pm

**July 21 Ladies Golf**, details inside

**July 22 BLYC Family Picnic**, tba

**July 28 Men's Golf**, details inside

**Aug. 5 Home Owner's Assoc. annual meeting**, details tba

**Aug. 5 Corn & Sausage Roast**, 5:30-7 pm, BLYC

**Aug. 12 - Don Harman Kidz Regatta**, Kings', details tba

**Aug. 26 Fall Dinner & BLYC Annual Meeting**, details tba

**Aug. 26 Junior Sunfish Fleet races**, 11 am

**Sept 2, 3 Labor Day Regatta**, (Sept 4 rain date), 11 am

**Sept. 9 Sailing awards luncheon**, Frew's house (east side)

**Sept. 30 Crockpot challenge**, details inside

**2023 BLYC Board Meetings**  
**July 8, Aug. 5, Sept. 9**

BLYC Board meetings begin at 9 am, and they are open to all lake residents

The Birch Barker will consider ads and editorial items for publication. E-mail items to [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com), mail them (or put them in the stone mailbox to) 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). For **editorial contact** Editor Phil at [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com), or at 476-1680 (no text). For **delivery concerns** contact Ron Niezgodski, [birchbass1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbass1@gmail.com) or 476-9317. For all other matters contact Commodore Deb Hall, at [debbershall@gmail.com](mailto:debbershall@gmail.com) or 219-765-8691. **DEADLINE** is always Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

# — Birch Lake Notes —

Patty, prior to the races, and I was honored to be a part of it. I believe my dear friend would be very humbled by it all.

This week, hug a loved one, lend a helping hand to someone in need, and spread as much kindness as you can. Watch your speed on the road, obeys the rules on the water and remember, the sun always shines on Birch Lake, even on a cloudy

~Commodore Deb

## A note from the Luecht family

We are overwhelmed and grateful for the incredible outpouring of support and sympathy expressed by the entire lake community following our horrific loss. You have helped us endure a devastating and difficult experience.

Thank you all so much.

And remember, the Flamingo Room will remain open! Watch for the pink lights, you're welcome to stop by.

~Bill, Katie and John Luecht

## BLYC Men's Golf Outing

Reminder - the BLYC Men's Golf Outing will be on July 28, and the deadline for registration is the week of July 17! We are also still looking for \$100 hole sponsors, which includes a sign at the hole as well as dinner at the yacht club. And we are looking for door prize donations. Questions - john.ball0452@

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

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## Ladies' Golf Outing

Ladies! The BLYC annual ladies' fun golf outing is Friday, July 21. Grab three of your besties and join us at Spruce Ridge Golf Course. Tee off is at 9 am, with an enjoyable luncheon afterwards at the Wounded Minnow in Dowagiac.

You say you're not a good golfer? We don't care. It's a best ball scramble so everyone can come and play without any worries. If you are unable to get a four-

some together let us know and we'll help find you a great group of ladies who'll make it a fun day.

Just want to enjoy the lunch without golfing? There's space for that too. Check out the Ladies Golf Outing form in this Barker for more info or call one of us. Lunch should start around 11:30 or so. Come join us.

~Carol McCoy, Blair Garceau

## Crockpot Challenge

The 2023 Crockpot Challenge will be September 30 at the BLYC. Again there will be two categories: Savory and Sweet. Prizes will be given for each category. Basket raffle, and 50/50 to benefit our Water Quality.

Entries will be allowed in at 5:30 pm. Tasting will begin at 6.

This year, we will again sponsor a food drive for the Food Bank of Cass County. Please contribute with non-perishable foods. Let's help our community!



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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Birch Lake Flotilla

Due to past successful flotillas, let's do it again! On Friday July 14 at 6 pm, let's meet in the middle of the lake with our boats. Bring an appetizer; boats will be tied together, and we will walk from boat to boat sharing food and camaraderie. Look for the boats in the middle!

## Yacht Club building use

For information on the rules and requirements, and to make arrangements to use the BLYC building (to use the building you must have been a BLYC member for at least two years), contact Sandy Vitale at 269-476-1680 or 269-858-8184 (call or text), or send her an email at [sv6102@gmail.com](mailto:sv6102@gmail.com).

## BLYC Directory

Got corrections and updates? Send any updates to [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com) and we'll publish them here for folks to update their directories.

## The Printed Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to all of the homes on Birch Lake each week and is online at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>.

To submit items for publication, email [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) or [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com), or mail (or deposit items) at 63174 Birch Rd. (East side), Vandalia, MI 49095. To contact the editor, email [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com) or [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com), or



*The Birch lake book club discussed their June book selection, Lessons in Chemistry, at the home of Claudia Phipps. Back row: Ronda Eshleman, Blair Garceau, Traci Limes, Linda Witchie, Front row: Jackie Frew, Deb Hall, Denny Weesner, Vickie Rogers, Debbie Soldato, Jeannie Wiedenbeck, Carol McCoy, Sue Williams, and Claudia Phipps. Contact Jackie Frew at [seeitall8@gmail.com](mailto:seeitall8@gmail.com) if you would like book club information.*

phone 269-476-1680 (no texts).

For advertising rates visit <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>. Contact Phil Vitale (see contact

info at the bottom of Page 1) for advertising information or to buy an ad.

Deadline for any week's paper is noon on Tuesday prior to publication.

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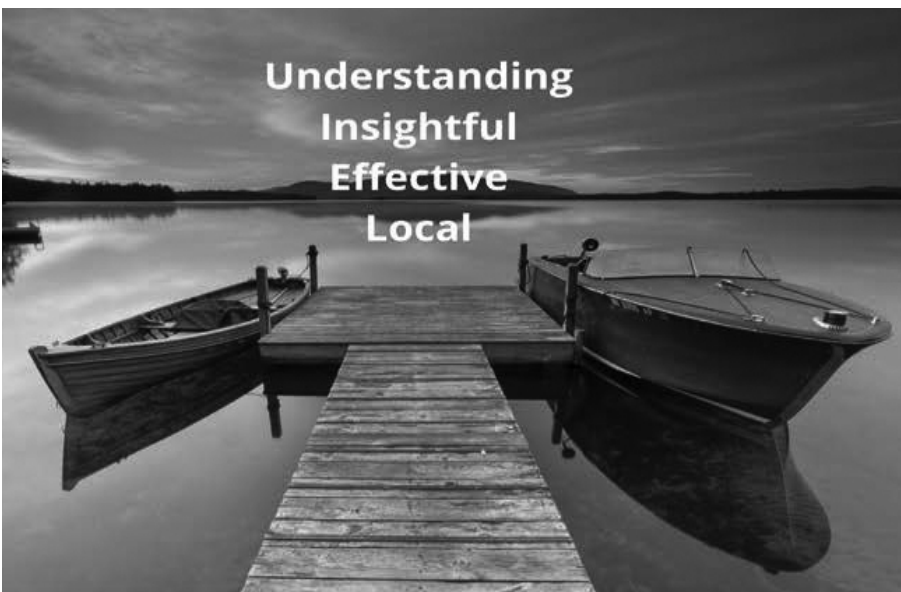


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# — Boat Parade 2023 —

## Boat Parade 2023 Recap

This year's boat parade was led by Grand Marshal Paul Fallon. The parade theme was "It's A Small World," and Birch Lake families and friends cheered on the participants as they made the journey around the lake.

Parade judges were Deb and Bud Hall, Lynn and Marc Caenepeel and Lori Tobias visiting Birch from Valparaiso, Indiana.

The Qualls Alaska boat won the First Place Overall trophy, but the other boats were winners too! The Magro boat was the Best Nationality; Dugan boat -- Best Around the World in 80 days; Iams Boat -- Best Kids Theme; Runser boat -- Best Adaptation of the Parade Theme; Sankey boat -- Best Around the World; and the Wozny/Fredlake/Henderson boat -- Best US City.

Everyone had a great time and we look forward to next year's parade!



## Paul Fallon—2023 Boat Parade Grand Marshal

In August of 2004, right during the infamous sewer project, Paul and his wife Celia bought an old, small cottage that belonged to the Weesner family along the "Gold Coast," on the east side, between Waxmans' and what became Chesters'. Almost heaven on Earth.

Unfortunately, the first winter their pipes froze, so they "built" a year-round facility with a garage below it across the street and moved in as permanent residents in the Spring of 2007. Their house in town was sold, and in the Spring of 2009, they moved into their new home on the water where the cottage had been. Just about heaven on earth.

2009 was also the year in which Paul served as BLYC's Commodore. As that term ended, he was "invited" by two highly regarded friends (thanks Rick and Terry) to become chair of the Water Quality Committee, a position he has enjoyed holding ever since, but now is anxious to relinquish. At about that same time, he was nominated by another highly respected friend (Gentleman Don Harman) to the Homeowner's Association Board. Paul soon became its chair as well. Celia and Paul are both very grateful to Blair Garceau for taking over as chair of this committee last year. And look forward to thanking almost anyone for taking over as chair of the Water Quality Committee.

Through attending dozens of conferences and meetings (many with Celia) primarily about Water Quality, Paul has learned a lot about many other Mich-

igan lakes – most significantly how well Birch stands up against almost all of them by almost any metric.

Paul and Celia have four adult kids. Three daughters in Austin, two of whom are married and one of whom has four young kids, and a son in New York, who is married and has a seven-year-old daughter. Every day they thank God for each of their children and grandchildren. No doubt like all of you, they love it when they visit.

While Birch enjoys many physical assets, its best feature is its people; hard-working folks who saved and spent extra to be here, because they want to be here and enjoy the lake.

Paul and Celia, are so glad that like them, you chose Birch Lake to be your forever home, and they thank you for your time and efforts to keep our lake one of the best in Michigan.



*Paul Fallon (top photo) was the Grand Marshal for the 2023 Birch Lake Boat Parade, and parade judges were Deb and Bud Hall, Lynn and Marc Caenepeel and Lori Tobias visiting Birch from Valparaiso, Indiana.*



# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Caught! Dennis Phipps is caught red handed sneaking up to the dessert bar at the past Spaghetti Dinner. Shhh! Don't tell Claudia.*

*photo by Blair Garceau*



*Bob and Ron Niezgodski and their intrepid spaghetti dinner serving crew get KOTW honors for an outstanding job and an outstanding dinner!*



*Bill and Le King, formerly of the north shore, shared a sarsaparilla while floating in front of their home on a hot summer day. Miss you both!*

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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



## Eight Bells tolled in honor of "Bad Patty"

**A** solemn group of Birch Lakers gathered in boats at the starting line of our Fourth of July Regatta last Monday, to hold a traditional nautical Eight Bells ceremony in honor of our longtime Committee Boat Captain, "Bad" Patty Luecht. As the clock wound down towards 11 am sharp, and Commodore Deb stood ready to announce a minute of silence, a hush fell over the assembly. It was then that from far across the calm waters of Birch Lake, seemingly from several different locations on our shores, the sound of tolling bells could be heard. People unable to attend the ceremony in boats were joining in the ceremony, and making it a lake-wide event.

On board Bad Patty's pontoon boat, the bell to be used for the Eight Bells ceremony was a large brass bell owned by Pat McGann, with a beautiful sound. After Commodore Deb officiated the opening minute of silence, Patty's son John gave the bell its first four strokes, in groups of two strokes each, according to nautical tradition. Patty's husband Bill then followed with the final four strokes, again in two groups of two. The ceremony concluded with Commodore Deb opening and closing another minute of silence.

The wind, which had been very



**Left: John Luecht holds onto the frame Pat McGann's large brass bell, while John's dad Bill gives the bell the final four strokes of the 8 Bells Ceremony. At right: Committee Boat Captain Ron Niezgodski.**

light, began to pick up. The Bad Patty boat and the spectator boats returned to shore, where their Sailor occupants got into their sailboats and returned to the starting line, Bill Luecht among them.

The wind became a decent breeze, and we were able to complete the scheduled three races of the day. In the MC Fleet, Barb Cassady led with two firsts and a third, while Scott Troeger captured two seconds and a first. Phil Vitale got a second place finish, and Pat Welch scored two third place spots.

In the Sunfish Fleet, Rick Russwurm won two firsts and a second; while Pete Soldato, visiting us from his home in Cleveland, Ohio, had time to win a first place and a second place before making the long drive home. Amy

Troeger took a second place and a third place, while Pat McGann won a second place and Bob Niezgodski took home a third.

Our races could not happen without the devoted service of many people. Many thanks to Tom Cassady, who gave up his workday to set the course as Captain of the Course Setting Boat, and to Rick Doolittle, Captain of the Safety Boat. Special thanks go to Ron Niezgodski, fresh from running a very successful Spaghetti Dinner, who proved that he is not afraid of another challenge by stepping into the very big shoes of our beloved "Bad" Patty as Committee Boat Captain. Nice job, Ron!

~F.C. Steve

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# BIRCH LAKE SAILING



## Fourth of July regatta results & season standings

Date	3-Jul	3-Jul	3-Jul	Total	Point	Races	%
Race	7	8	9	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
<b>MC Scow/Sailor.....MC Races= 9</b>							
Barb Cassady #2506	1	3	1	14007	1556.33	9	1
Scott Troeger #1489	2	1	2	14005	1556.11	9	1
Patrick Welch #1979	3	6	3	8370	1395	6	0.66
Bob King #1199	DNS	DNS	DNS	4182	1394	3	0.33
Phil Vitale #500	4	2	6	12406	1378.44	9	1
Bill Luecht #1579	5	4	4	8070	1345	6	0.66
Sandy Vitale #2159	6	5	5	11100	1233.33	9	1
Amber Grundy #1173	DNS	DNS	DNS	3606	1202	3	0.33
Steve Frew #656	CB	CB	CB	9670	1208.75	7	0.77
<b>Sunfish/Sailor .....Sunfish races = 9</b>							
Rick Russwurm	1	3	1	14086	1565.11	9	1
Pete Soldato	2	1	DNS	3121	1560.5	2	0.22
Stewart Spratt	DNS	DNS	DNS	4642	1547.33	3	0.33
Amy Troeger	3	2	4	4334	1444.66	3	0.333
Pat McGann	4	5	2	12864	1429.33	9	1
Bob Niezgodski	6	6	3	12408	1378.66	9	1
Herb Cleveland	5	4	DNS	2665	1332.5	2	0.22
Camille Butler	7	7	5	11824	1313.77	9	1



Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north shore) for the sailing photos

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# — Water Quality Report —

## A few thoughts ...

**1** WATER QUALITY DONATIONS - In the Barker's second issue of this season, we challenged all 234 property owners to donate at least \$100.00 to Water Quality each and every year. How are we doing in response to this challenge? Our intrepid treasurer reports, as typically shown on page 2 of the Barker, that to date we've received an average donation of \$117.02 from 47% of our households. The average donation amount is wonderful! To each who have contributed, thanks for listening, caring and your generosity. The percentage of homes does exceed the 40 percent or so we've been receiving the past few years. This is good. Unfortunately, 47 percent is far less than the 100 (or even 90) percent it should be. The storm is coming! We need to build a reserve. Even with the positive average donation amount, this year to date over a third more funds were collected for fireworks than were donated by individual households for Water Quality.

Please help improve this deplorable situation. If you haven't yet done so, please write a check or authorize a payment (hopefully for \$100 or more) for Water Quality now. Thank you.

2) STARRY STONEWORT and THE MILL POND - More than once in the

past, we've tried to motivate readers by mentioning that starry stonewort (SS), a problematic invasive species that is NOT in Birch Lake (BL) IS in the mill pond (MP) a few hundred feet away. That statement deserves some perspective:

1) Through a weir, BL drains into the MP, NOT the other way around.

2) To their credit, for the past few years, adjoining property owners of the MP have paid a licensed applicator to treat the MP for both Eurasian milfoil [as we do] but also for SS.

3) The most common purveyor of aquatic invasive species [AIS] are boats [and trailers] that are removed from one body of water, not washed, and within a short period of time, usually 5 days or less, placed, carrying fragments of AIS, into another body of water. Property owners on the MP are careful NOT to do this.

4) It is possible, but unlikely, that birds, mammals, or even the wind could carry SS from the MP to BL, but the program currently being followed by the MP property owners is considered to be the best reasonably possible under the circumstances.

Our comments about BL's proximity to SS were not meant to suggest we will for sure get it soon from the MP, but to emphasize how common and pervasive

SS and numerous other AIS are. They are moving, all the time. Be aware.

3) THE BIRCH BARKER - In my (Paul Fallon's) opinion, Birch Lake's envious status on so many fronts is due to many factors, but the "glue" that holds it all together is the weekly delivery of an extensive, hard copy newsletter to every single resident, literally keeping us all on the same page. Like so many things in life, good communication is the key to success. I pray and hope the next generation of volunteers is so competent and caring. Thanks to Phil, and all the others.

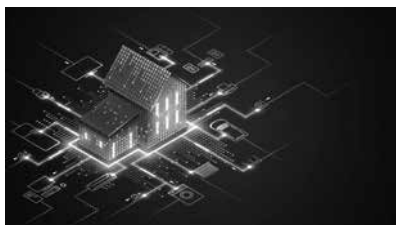


### The Six Commandments of Birch Lake Water Quality

- 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*

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# Birch Lake Items of Interests

## Barker delivery

The Cassopolis Post Office has contacted us about the Barker being delivered in mailboxes, warning us that delivery of any items that do not have postage to mailboxes is illegal, and that if we continue using mail boxes, we will be fined.



Some lake residents have told carriers they do not want Barkers piling up in doors, as it gives the look of an empty home and increases the possibility of a break-in. Nonetheless, the delivery team has been instructed to NOT deliver in or on mailboxes, but to find an alternative. Vic Jones (east side) has placed a box in his driveway (see photo) for residents who haven't made arrangements for deliver to pick up their own Barkers ... Many residents have attached a length of PVC pipe to their mailbox stand for delivery. If you would like to arrange an alternative place for delivery (see photo above of Barker delivery option), contact Ron at 476-9317. If you do not wish to have the Barker delivered at all, email birchbass1@gmail.com or call Ron Niezgodski at 476-9317.

## Popular Pizza Toppings

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

## WORD SEARCH

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ZUCCHINI  
PEANUTS  
PROSCUITTO  
BEEF  
EGGPLANT  
LOBSTER  
CHORIZO  
CHICKEN

## The Moon this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, viewed from the Birch Lake)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.582

0.8 days before last quarter

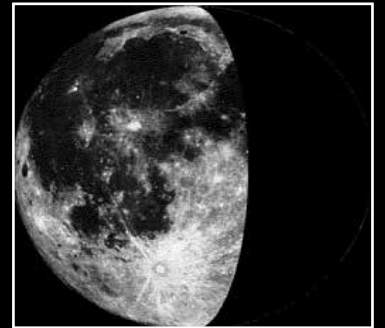
SUNRISE: 06:13:35 AM

SUNSET: 21:20:51 PM

MOONRISE: 00:37:07 AM

MOONSET: 12:22:47 PM

DAYLIGHT HOURS: 15 Hr 07 Min 16 Sec



## Birch Lake Ladies' FUN Golf Outing

Friday, July 21, 2021

Spruce Ridge Golf Course, Dowagiac

9 AM Tee Off - \$45 per golfer

Please arrive no later than 8:30 AM

Fee includes cart and lunch

Lunch at Wounded Minnow following the outing

If you don't golf but would like to join us at noon for lunch

Please register and pay \$20

If you'd like to sponsor a hole please contact either:

Carol McCoy 708-738-3962 or Blair Garceau 574-261-9817

Don't have a team? Sign up and we'll help find you one.

Registration Form

Team Members (list captain first with phone number)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to BLYC. Bring or mail to :

Carol McCoy, 63021 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 or

**Deadline for registration is Sunday, July 16**

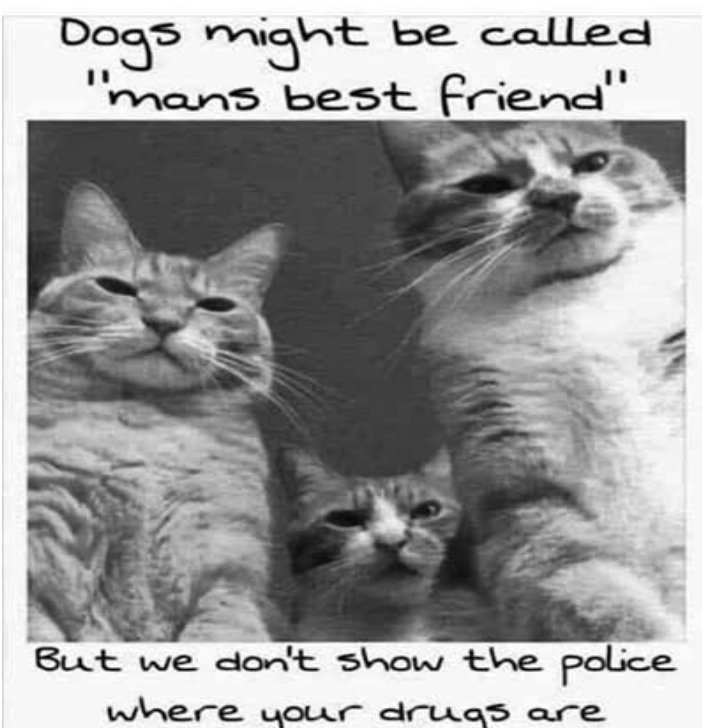
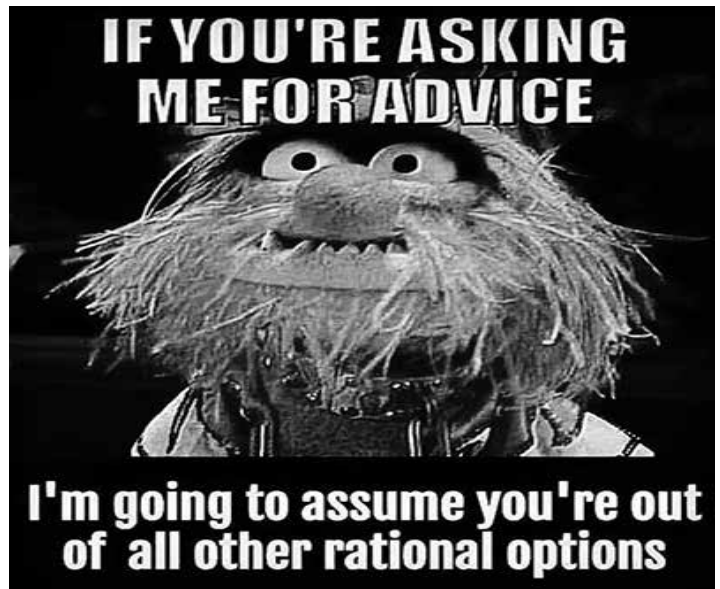
 BIRCH LAKE



This beautiful poster is on sale this summer for \$25 while supplies last. It measures approximately 23" X 35", and would be a great addition to your home. The proceeds will be used for needed improvements to the yacht club building. Posters may be purchased through Becky Wiseman, 14910 Birch Lakeshore Drive (south side) on Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 1 pm. Make checks payable to BLYC.

**Editor's note:** The poster was produced from a painting by former Birch Lake resident and artist Coy Jankowski.

# Birch Barker Funnies



Mrs. Pete Jones came into the newsroom to pay for her husband's obituary. She was told by the kindly newsman that it was a dollar a word and he remembered Pete and wasn't it too bad about him passing away. She thanked him for his kind words and bemoaned the fact that she only had two dollars. But she wrote out the obituary, "Pete died." The newsman said he thought Old Pete deserved more and he'd give her three more words. Mrs. Jones thanked him and rewrote the obituary: "Pete died. Boat for sale."



# — Camp Tannadoonah —

## Rain first, then 395 pancake breakfasts!

**T**hank you to everyone who came out to the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday! We served a total of 395 people! It was pretty slow at the start, perhaps because of the rain. But from 10-11 am, things were hoppin'! We hope you all enjoyed the morning and got your fill of pancakes and sausage.

If you didn't get a chance to shop at the camp store on Sunday during the breakfast, and would like to get a camp t-shirt, hoodie, or other souvenir, please call us at 574-387-6095 and we can make arrangements for you to come up to camp sometime when the store is open.

A HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the breakfast

a success this weekend. Thank you to my parents, Bill and Sherry Holleman, board members Tom Kuhn, Bob Bender Tom Edgerton, Carrie O'Brien, and Jamie Green. And to Yoli Roche, Emily and Sylvia Botka, Abi Anderson, Ray Gaik, Scott Sortal, Andy and Lori Snider, and Dylan Snider who all pitched in to help make things run smoothly.

This week at camp is our "mini week" – a three-day camp from Wednesday to Saturday for kids who might not be ready to commit to a full week of camp. Campers can also sign up for "super week," which combines mini week with Session 4 to create an 11-day session, from Wednesday to the following Saturday.

It's also the start of our CIT 2 program, for campers who have already completed the CIT (counselor in training) 1 session. The CIT 2s will be here for 2½ weeks starting Wednesday. The first three days they will be going on a campout at Lawless Park – pitching tents, cooking all their own meals over the fire. It's meant to be a bonding experience, as well as to spend time learning about being a counselor at camp. Then for Sessions 4 and 5, they will be assigned to cabins with younger campers to assist the staff and learn more about what it takes to be a counselor. Most of the CIT 2s are 16 or 17 years old, and we hope they'll apply to work in a few years.

From this point of the summer on, we're almost completely full every week to the end of the summer. We have 5 ½ weeks left of camp, and it's going to be busy! For Mini / Super Week, we have 141 campers attending, and then on Sunday for Session for it goes up to 158. Our capacity is 160, so there will hardly be an open bed anywhere in camp! Overall, we're at 1180 camper registrations, just 20 shy of our goal for the summer.

I hope that everyone had a safe and fun holiday weekend at the lake. It's always fun to see the lake busy with boats and tubers and full of activity.

~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
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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.



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\*Not intended to solicit any properties already listed for sale with another real estate agent.

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**FOR SALE:**

For Sale: **INVACARE Microair 85 hospital bed.** Purchased from Alick's Home Medical five years ago for \$3,685. Make an offer. Call Bud Z (East shore) 269-476-2526

For Sale: **Walking Chair,** new condition, cherry red color. \$50. Call Bud Z (East shore) 269-476-2526

**FOR RENT:**

**Birch Cottage 4 Rent:** Three bedroom, one bath with tub and shower, lakefront house on Birch Lake. New granite kitchen, new stainless appliances with dishwasher, washer and dryer. Nice pier

with big platform. Plenty of parking. Possible ski, pontoon, row boat, and sailboats available for rent. Sleeps six in beds, room for more. Contact Pat McGann call/text 574-532-5377.

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

**FREE**

**Free Sunfish.** Needs repair. Text or call 616-272-9046.

**SERVICES:**

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**FOUND**



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# HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

## SLOW DOWN ON THE BIRCH LAKE ROADS

*The roads around Birch Lake are narrow and perilous with lots of blind spots. There are a lot of folks walking, biking, jogging, including a lot of kids and pets. Please slow down and be careful!*

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



## 2023 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### BLYC OFFICERS

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or [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com)  
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Sue Williams (S)..... 476-8886  
[smwilliams226@gmail.com](mailto:smwilliams226@gmail.com)

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Dave Carroll (W) ..... 574-850-8359  
[carrolldavid39@gmail.com](mailto:carrolldavid39@gmail.com)  
Barb Cassady (E)..... 574-229-9815  
[barbcassady49@gmail.com](mailto:barbcassady49@gmail.com)

### OTHER ATTENDEES

**Paul Fallon (E)** ..... Chairman, Water Quality  
476-1467 ..... [pauljfallon49@gmail.com](mailto:pauljfallon49@gmail.com)  
**Blair Garceau (E)** ..... Chairman, Homeowners  
476-9862 ..... [blairgarceau@gmail.com](mailto:blairgarceau@gmail.com)



# BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB PAY YOUR DUES NOW!



Support the BLYC, support our Lake, support our Community!

- \$ \_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_ - BLYC Associate Member\* Dues (\$10 / year)  
\*Associate membership is available to current associate members and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC
- \$ \_\_\_ - **WATER QUALITY/INVASIVE SPECIES**
- \$ \_\_\_ - **FIREWORKS FUND**
- \$ \_\_\_ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ \_\_\_ - Safety Committee
- \$ \_\_\_ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$ \_\_\_ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$ \_\_\_ - BLYC AED Fund
- \$ \_\_\_ - Misc.

### TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
**BLYC**  
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18100 Farmington Hills Dr.  
South Bend, IN 46637

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



**BLYC 63rd Annual Birch Lake Yacht Club**

**MEN'S GOLF OUTING**

**FOUR MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE**

**FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023**

**\$75/MAN\***



**Hampshire Country Club - Dogwood Course  
29592 Pokagon Hwy., Dowagiac**

**Shotgun start at 8 am**

**Dinner and awards at BLYC**

**Cocktail Hour at 5 pm , Dinner and awards at 6 pm**

*Please submit your foursome registration to John Ball, 63690 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095 574-535-3736*

**Make checks payable to BLYC**

**Individual registrations available**

**If you don't have a team, I can match you up**

***Must have completed registrations by July 17***

*Team prizes and contests*

*Catered dinner at BLYC included*

*Prizes awarded at dinner*

*Donations of door & team prizes needed\**

*\*If you have access to logo or golf or lake related merchandise that could be donated, please*

**Contact John Ball at [john.ball0452@gmail.com](mailto:john.ball0452@gmail.com)**

**2023 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information**

**TEAM CAPTAIN:**

**PLEASE PRINT NAMES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to John Ball, 63690 Birch Road, Vandalia, Mi 49095*

**EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake**

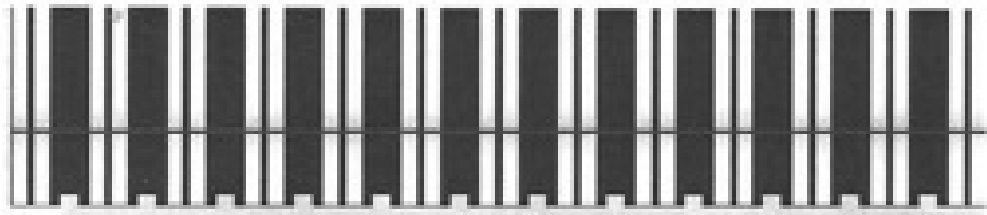
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

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.



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