

**LABOR DAY**  
**WEEKEND**

**Sept. 2,**  
**2023**

# Birch Barker

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

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



*Connor Caplis (north side) sailing in last weekend's Junior Sunfish Fleet race.*

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**H**ard to believe another summer is almost in the books and cooler weather is heading our way. Let's not say goodbye to our fun at Birch Lake just yet as this is Labor Day weekend and it's here to enjoy. I hope many of you will have family or friends on hand. Also September 30 is the crockpot challenge that I hope to see many Birch Lakers attend.

For those of you who I have not yet had the pleasure to meet, I am your new Commodore, Susan O'Brien Davis. Birch Lake has been my family's summer retreat since 1966. I have only recently

made it my full-time residence. Being an eastsider, I have been fortunate to see many a beautiful sunsets over the lake and enjoy countless get-togethers with family and friends. My father, Past Commodore Joe O'Brien, frequently referenced the classic movie "On Golden Pond" as he sat on the end of the pier with my mother and relished the view.

We had a great turnout for the fall dinner and annual meeting. Many helping hands were on deck to convert the Birch Lake Yacht Club into a mini Yellowstone Ranch. Partiers dressed in their best cowboy attire and belled up to the bar for beer, barbecue, and all the fixings. The old corn-soaking bin doubled as a horse trough and guests were invited to climb in and "Get their inner Beth

on." Blonde wig and champagne bottle were provided, as a pair of docile ponies munched grass on the hill behind them.

Big thank you to Jill Scholes (south side) for snapping pics and submitting many of them to this week's Birch Barker. Jill also kept the party hopping with her compilation of country tunes. Thanks also to Jen Ball for all her "crafty" touches. She and her critcut

## 2023/4 Birch Lake Calendar

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

**Sept. 9 Sailing awards luncheon,** Yacht Club, 1 pm

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

**July 6, 2024 - FIREWORKS**

**BLYC Board Meetings**  
**Last meeting: Sept. 9**

BLYC Board meetings begin at 9 am

### 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.philvital.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>, or contact any BLYC director or officer (see "officer and director" information in any edition of the Barker).

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 at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). For **editorial concerns 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 Sue Davis**, at [eyesnd76@gmail.com](mailto:eyesnd76@gmail.com) or 574-993-6031. **DEADLINE** is always Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

# — Birch Lake Notes —

machine have been hard at work this summer as our decorating ideas continued to flow. Shout out to Desi Lacey (south side) for loaning us her old wooden swing stand that was temporarily converted to a Birch Lake Yacht Club Ranch entrance. Thanks to John Ball and Ray Scholes who provided the muscle to help with transporting the horses and assisting in the staging. Lastly, I'd like to thank my daughter-in-law Marie Bourgeois Davis for her design and printing expertise assembling the "Wanted Posters" flown in from Hollywood.

The evening included a recap of the Birch Lake yacht club 2023 activities by Past Commodore Deb Hall, as well as a tearful thank you to her mentor "Bad Patty" Luecht. You did a great job this year Deb and we are all grateful for your leadership. A new Director, Ray Scholes was elected to fill the vacancy of one of our retired directors. Ray will be a great addition to our board.

Lastly, your new Vice Commodore was announced to put an end to all the guesswork and speculation. I am happy to welcome **JULIE DICKEY** as Birch Lake Yacht Club's new Vice Commodore for 2024. Looking forward to working with her and showing her the ropes.

I've had a few thoughts for our next season that I hope to present at our final

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

board meeting. One idea I've been tossing around is a History section in the Barker with stories submitted by fellow Lakers. I know there is a wealth of knowledge out there to be shared. Cottage histories, family movement around the lake, and lake folklore are a few examples of what we could be writing about. Email me at the Eyesnd76@gmail.com and I will compile them for inclusion in future barkers. Truth be known I'm not a big fan of writing these articles and can use some copy!

One final note, as shared again by my father Joe before he passed as he looked out at the lake, "May the memories remain and the view stay the same." Until next time.

~Commodore Sue Davis

## The Printed Birch Barker

This is the LAST printed Birch Barker of the season. The online Birch Barker will be published monthly beginning in October. Due to his resignation, Chas Grundy will not be involved with the online Barker in the future, so all items for the Barker should be sent to me, at [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com) or [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com).

I would like to thank all of the people who worked so hard to help make this year's Barker happen, including all of the people who submitted articles, funnies, photos and editorial materials, Ron Niezgodski and his great crew of

delivery people who saw to it that the Barker made it to our homes every week, Alpha Graphics, which printed and produced the weekly Barkers, and especially to the advertisers who helped underwrite the expense. If I forgot anyone, I apologize, but please know that I appreciate everything that everyone does to help make this possible.

After having produced the Barker for the past 23 years I stand by the statement that for me at least, the Birch Barker is and has always been a labor of love. Thanks for helping it happen.

~Phil

## Crockpot Challenge

The 2023 Crockpot Challenge will be September 30 at the BLYC. Entries will allowed in at 5:30 pm. Tasting will begin at 6. Again this year there will be two categories: Savory and Sweet. Prizes will be given for each category.

There will be a basket raffle, and 50/50 drawing to benefit our Water Quality. This year, we will also sponsor a food drive for the Food Bank of Cass County. Please contribute with non-perishable foods. Let's help our community!

~Sandy & Phil

## Scavenger Hunt winners

Jan Temple (west side) was the only laker to get all of the answers on the Scavenger Hunt, followed by Dylan Snider, who only missed two. Congrats.



## YOGA at the YACHT CLUB

Yoga will continue in September and possibly fall/winter in the home of Claudia Phipps. If you are interested email Claudia Phipps at [claudia2154@gmail.com](mailto:claudia2154@gmail.com) and you will be added to a weekly email notification.

- \$5 fee goes to water quality
  - Most Thursdays, some Saturdays
- Bring:**
- yoga mat, two beach
  - towels or blankets for Yoga
  - Nidra Shavasana (the YC is cold & cold floor, body temp will drop)
  - A pillow or two for under the knees and head
  - An eye pillow or scarf to block the light

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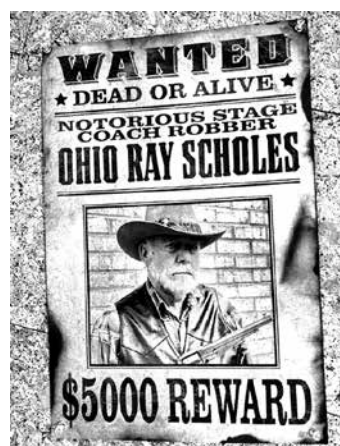
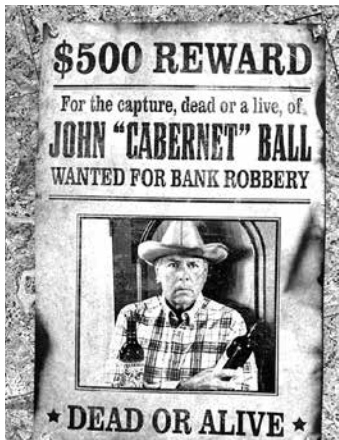
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# — BLYC FALL DINNER —



Left: Past Commodore Deb Hall passing the PFD to incoming Commodore Sue Davis; Center: Commodore's Award Winners Ron, Kathy and Bob Niezgodski; Right: New Vice Commodore Julie Dickey and hubby Kelton.





# — Water Quality Report —

## Water Quality Report End of Season

What will follow will be Commandment #6: Thou Shalt Remain Informed About Other Important Water Quality Issue. As you will see this consists of ten precepts. However before getting to that, just a few additional remarks before the printed Barker is put to bed. As has been stated earlier, the Water Quality Committee expressed concern about the drop in our water quality as expressed by the Trophic Index, which is compiled from the testing we had conducted the previous year. See the attachment to the first Barker for all the data. In order to further evaluate any actions or recommendations, other than what we bring to you on a weekly basis, we need additional information. That will include this year's testing data, some additional tests that will be conducted by Progressive AE who survey the lake for invasive species, and the fisheries data as they evaluate the lake as a cisco fishery. All of this will provide a baseline of information to present to the lake community next spring as well as to have appropriate conversations with state and academic agencies.

### And now Commandment # 6

1) None of the samples tested for e-coli in Birch Lake over the last 11 or more years have shown any more than expected background, and definitely not of concern.

2) The term "seaweed" has a negative connotation. This is unfortunate. A moderate amount of plant life in the lake is desirable and an integral part of good water quality. At Birch, we are blessed to have a wide diversity of native aquatic plants growing in the lake. However, should you cut or find cut vegetation, please remove from the lake.

3) Avoid swimming in, ingesting, or letting your pets drink from water in or nearby an algae bloom. Algae blooms are a rarity in Birch Lake. For further information please refer to an earlier Barker.

4) The effects of alcohol and certain medications are increased while on the water due to added stress factors such as sun, heat, wind, wave motion, and engine noise. Be safe.

5) 85 percent of drowning victims in the United States were not wearing a life jacket. They may seem dorky, but they do save lives.

6) Should the present method (donations) of financing our common interest of water quality become inadequate, our only option will be to ask our local governments to create, control, and ultimately make all decisions for, a special assessment district (S.A.D.). The costs for a SAD will be added to our tax bills. Thanks for everyone's past generosity. Let's pray that it continues and even grows (because expenses do).

7) Although we have some pretty good ideas, we do not know what or when the next invasive species will arrive in Birch Lake. Starry Stonewort has been discovered in the Mill Pond and is present in some nearby lakes. Tough invasive to manage, and expensive.

8) Except for the people living here, the lake is the most significant feature of our homes. The lake is our home. Take care of it.

9) The lake is shared possession and thus a shared responsibility. Make sure to contribute your time and talent to its maintenance and betterment.

10) The majority of the current WQ members have both served and lived for lengthy periods. Fresh blood, if only for smooth future transitions, will soon be needed and will always be welcomed.

### 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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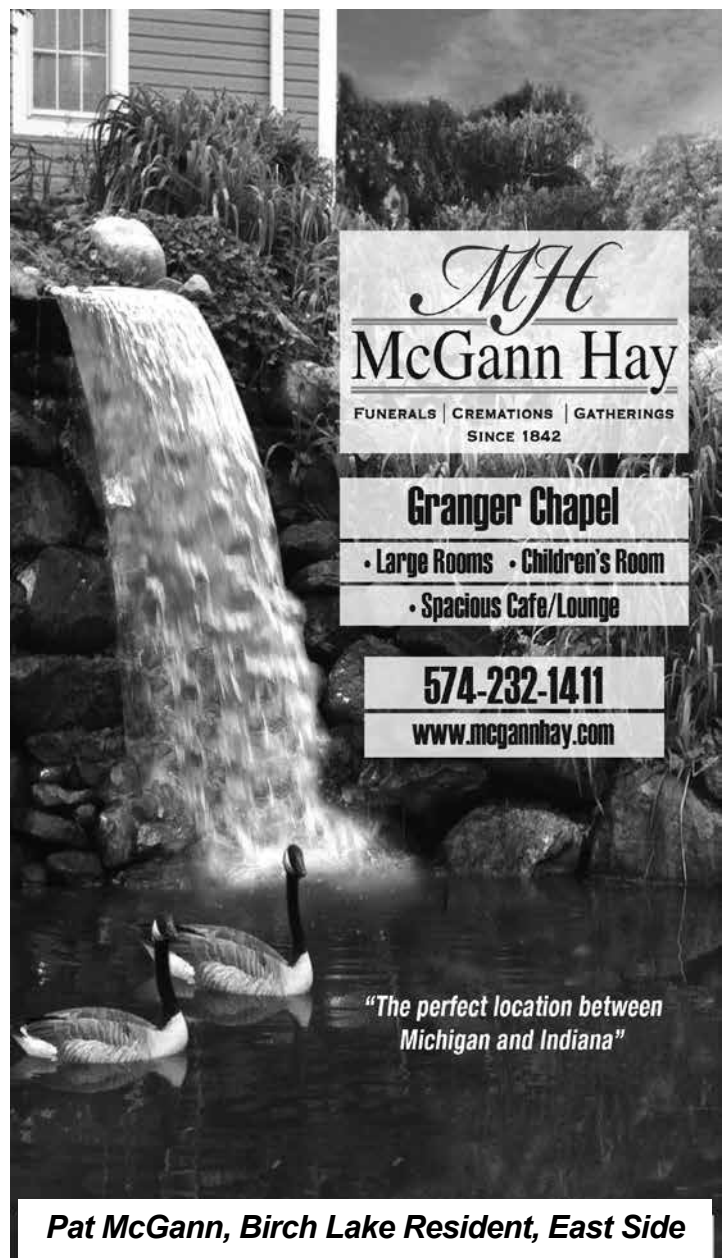
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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



## Late summer flurry of activity

### Connor Caplis Wins Junior Sunfish Fleet Races

Although Connor was the only young person to participate in last Saturday's Junior Sunfish Fleet races, he was given the royal treatment. First, Bob King rigged Connor's Sunfish with mainsheet and halyard. Then Connor wanted to race! Tom and Barb Cassady set a short and easy course, and Connor sailed forth to sweep the field and win first place! Next summer, perhaps we'll try a date earlier in the summer, and hope that other kids will join Connor in the fun! We know that Connor and all of the kids will relish the competition. The BLYC Sailors are proud to call Connor Caplis our youngest member, and we're ready to welcome more young members next year!

### SW Michigan Interlake Regatta for Birch Lake in 2024?

Barb Cassady has been leading a committee to investigate the feasibility of holding the SW Michigan Interlake Regatta at Birch Lake in 2024, and the committee's report of its findings is on the agenda of the BLYC Board for its meeting of Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 9 am. As reported in this column last week, our friends at Corey Lake Yacht Club held this year's Interlake Regatta, which was Corey Lake's first regatta since 1982. Three BLYC Sailors participated, and learned a great deal by observing how our generous and friendly hosts at Corey Lake made their event a huge success. Everyone was very grateful

to YMCA Camp Eberhart for making its beautiful lakefront available, as the public boat launch and parking facilities at Corey Lake were not suitable, so without the generosity of Camp Eberhart, the Regatta could not have been held at Corey Lake. (Here at Birch Lake, we are fortunate to have a suitable public boat launch, as well as sufficient parking at our yacht club and elsewhere.) Congratulations and thank you for a great regatta, friends at Corey Lake Yacht Club! We had a wonderful time, and hope to return the favor next year! Many thanks to John and Barb Kroggel of Corey Lake, as John kindly provided us with Barb Kroggel's beautiful photos of the Corey Lake SW Michigan Interlake Regatta. Her photos, two of which are seen below, may give you an idea of splendor of this year's regatta at Corey Lake, and of the beautiful sights that might be seen here at Birch Lake in 2024, God willing!

### Three good races at Birch Lake on the last day of our regular season

In the MC Fleet, Barb Cassady won the first two races, but in her third race, she got a bad start and was in last place by quite some distance. However, she made a very impressive rally to finish 5th in the third race. Meanwhile, Scott Troeger went 2-2-1, and Pat Welch 5-2-3, while Bob King took 2nd place in the third race. Scott's season point average lead over Barb increased slightly to 30 points.

An unusual event occurred in the second MC race. Scott and Pat Welch were

neck-and-neck to the finish line. The front of Pat's boat crossed the line first, which normally means a win. But then part of Pat's boat hit the orange buoy before the rear of his boat crossed the line. Pat wisely took a provisional penalty by dropping back below the line, doing a 360 degree turn, and crossing the line again before the fourth boat arrived. Tom Cassady consulted his rule book and found a specific rule which held that Scott had won second place, and Pat third place, so Pat's provisional action preserved his third place finish. We don't believe that any of us had ever seen this happen before.

In the Sunfish Fleet, Rick Russwurm now leads Stewart Spratt by a slightly less slim margin of only 33 season average points, after Rick went 2-1-1 to Stewart's 3-2-3. Meanwhile, Bob Niezgodski held to a favorable wind on the left side of the course to win the first race of the day, followed by a 3rd and a 2nd place finish, proving once again that he is becoming a force to be reckoned with.

With only the five races of the Labor Day Regatta remaining in our season, the race for the season championship is a nail-biter in both of our Fleets, and anything can happen!

And in other water sports, I went waterskiing today. My father-in-law Jack Hornbeck waterskiied on Birch Lake every year until age 75. I'm aiming to break his record in four more years, and then keep on going. He would have enjoyed that. Wie!

~ F.C. Steve



Above left: tractor with a hitch ball on the front is used to launch an MC at the Camp Eberhart lakefront for this year's Interlake Regatta at Corey Lake. Above right: A close group of MC's start a race at Corey Lake's Interlake Regatta! Photo by Barb Kroggel of the Corey Lake Yacht Club.

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# BIRCH LAKE SAILING



## BLYC sailing results & season standings to date

Date	8/27	8/27	8/27	Total	Point	Races	%
Race	18	19	20	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
<b>MC Scow/Sailor</b> ..... <b>Total MC Races = 20</b> .....							
Scott Troeger #1489	2	2	1	31058	1553	20	100
Barb Cassady #2506	1	1	5	30458	1523	20	100
Patrick Welch #1979	5	3	3	21072	1405	15	75
Bob King #1199	4	4	2	16963	1414	12	60
Phil Vitale #500	3	5	4	26033	1370	19	95
Bill Luecht #1579	DNS	DNS	DNS	18963	1355	14	70
Steve Frew #656	8	6	8	22954	1208	18	90
Sandy Vitale #2159	7	8	7	20147	1185	17	85
Pat McGann #1735	6	7	6	3606	1202	3	15
Amber Grundy #1173	DNS	DNS	DNS	3606	1202	3	15

<b>Sunfish/Sailor</b> ..... <b>Total Sunfish Races = 20</b> .....							
Rick Russwurm	2	1	1	31218	1561	20	100
Stewart Spratt	3	2	3	18335	1528	12	60
Pat McGann	DNS	DNS	DNS	21230	1415	15	75
Bob Niezgodski	1	3	2	26584	1399	19	95
Herb Cleveland	DNS	DNS	DNS	13473	1347	10	50
Camille Butler	4	4	4	25875	1294	20	100
Amy Troeger	DNS	DNS	DNS	7299	1460	5	25
Bob King	DNS	DNS	DNS	2888	1444	2	10
Pete Soldato	DNS	DNS	DNS	3121	1561	2	10
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	3	15
Connor Caplis	DNS	DNS	DNS	1156	1156	1	5

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 last place (if 5 boats started the race, you will be scored as 5th place).  
 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



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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



The Magro family (north shore) got together July 4, to join Bill and Sheryl Magro on their 60th anniversary.



**Kids of the Week**

Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the Week? Mail (or drop off) your photo (with a SASE if you want it back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 or email [Sailorphil@PhilVitale.com](mailto:Sailorphil@PhilVitale.com) or [Onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:Onlinebarker@gmail.com)



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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Jane Bradfield was visiting from Palm Springs CA to celebrate her dad, Jim Bradfield's (south side) 90th birthday on August 28.*

*Phil and Sandy (east side) are Barker KOTWs because the Fall Dinner was a day before their 53rd anniversary.*



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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.

# 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 (see photo above) 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.

## Safari Animals

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

## WORD SEARCH

KUDU  
LEOPARD  
SPRINGBOK  
ELAND  
CROCODILE  
BABOON  
GIRAFFE  
ELEPHANT  
BUFFALO  
HIPPO  
RHINO  
WARTHOG  
GAZELLE  
ZEBRA  
CHEETAH  
CIVET  
HYENA  
LION

How many of these words can you find?

## The Moon this Saturday

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

Illuminated Fraction: 0.852

3.2 days after full moon

SUNRISE: 07:08:20 AM

SUNSET: 20:14:59 PM

MOONRISE: 21:48:33 PM

MOONSET: 10:11:41 AM

DAYLIGHT HOURS: 13 Hr 06 Min 38 Sec



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## 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



**My wife is blaming me for ruining her Birthday**  
**That's ridiculous, I didn't even know it was her Birthday**



**You know how they throw the ball into the crowd after they win the game? That's not allowed in bowling. I know that now.**

It was going to be photo of the year, until



**Things I'd rather do than watch The Grammys**



**I think senility is going to be a fairly smooth transition for me.**





# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



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

## Spinach salad with peaches and pecans

**T**his peach salad with baby spinach and roasted pecans is perfect for summer.

**Prep Time:** 10 mins  
**Cook Time:** 10 mins  
**Total Time:** 20 mins  
**Servings:** 4

### Ingredients

¾ cup pecans  
2 ripe peaches  
4 cups baby spinach, rinsed and dried  
¼ cup poppyseed salad dressing

### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Arrange pecans on a single



layer on a baking sheet and roast in preheated oven until they just begin to darken, about 7 to 10 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside.

Peel peaches (if desired) and slice into bite-sized seg-

ments. Combine peaches, spinach, and pecans in a large bowl.

Toss with dressing until evenly coated, adding a little additional dressing, if necessary.

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( 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**

# — Camp Tannadoonah —

## Hard to believe it's over

**H**ard to believe it's the last Barker of the summer! We had a fun and busy summer here at Camp, and I want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who sent campers to camp, volunteered at camp, served on our board or a committee, or made a contribution this year! We are so grateful for the involvement of the lake community and everything Birch Lakers do to support Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah.

Thank you to Birch Lake residents Bob Bender, Tom Kuhn, Jamie Green, Carrie O'Brien, and Trish Stitz who currently who serve on our Board of Directors. And to Melanie Como-Dits, Blair and Mike Sheffieck who serve on committees.

Thank you to Barb Cassady, Pat McGann, and Patrick Welch who all helped lead sailing programs at the waterfront this summer. And to John Luucht, Maggie Laneman (McGann), Mia (Como) Bishop, Becky (Davis) Anderson, and Amy (Davis) Condle who were part of our Camp staff this summer. And to my parents, Bill and Sherry Holleman, who volunteered at camp the entire summer, helping drive the waterskiing boat, helping with my kids, overseeing the garden, helping with maintenance, and so much more.

We had campers from families all around the lake! From the cove: the Snider, Scheid (Snider), Anderson (Davis), Condle (Davis), and Keechle (Vath) families. From the east side: the Doyle (Mosier), Grove, Meneghin (Dickey), Noneman (Dufour), Riordan (Davis), Mikulak, Schlemmer (Garceau), Vitale-Richards, and Wahlgren (McCoy) families. From the hill: the Schnoor (Pence) family. From the west side: the Hoban (Carroll), Evans, Lintner (Scotfield), and Soldato families. From the south side: the Custard, Iams (Troeger), Krizman (Hendricks), Scholes, Sullivan (Runser), and Richardson (Como) families. From the north side: the Gableman (Phipps), Marlow (Phipps), Magro, and Magro Algarotti families. And, of course, the Grundy kids!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Pancake Breakfast this summer, and all those who helped make that event successful. We had so many awesome volunteers for the Pancake Breakfast and served nearly 400 people. And to everyone who has contributed time, services, supplies, and funds to camp, this year and in the past. There are too many to list, but I'd like to give a special thanks to Tom Mosier and Ron Whiteman for their frequent (and often last-minute) help with facilities repairs!



Here are some of this summer's numbers:  
1198 camper weeks  
\$36,615 in scholarships awarded  
27,506 meals served  
6,330 ice cream / candy treats served in store  
Approximately 1700 circles around the lake pulling skiers  
Thousands of amazing memories

On a personal note, thank you so much to everyone on the lake who has reached out and offered support this summer. The kids and I are so grateful for our community here at Birch Lake.

~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.



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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) 476-2526

**WANTED**

Anyone selling a jet ski trailer? Please text or call Megan Caplis at 773-343-4056

**FOR RENT:**

**Birch Lake cottage for rent:** Three bedroom, one bath with tub and shower, . 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.

**SERVICES:**

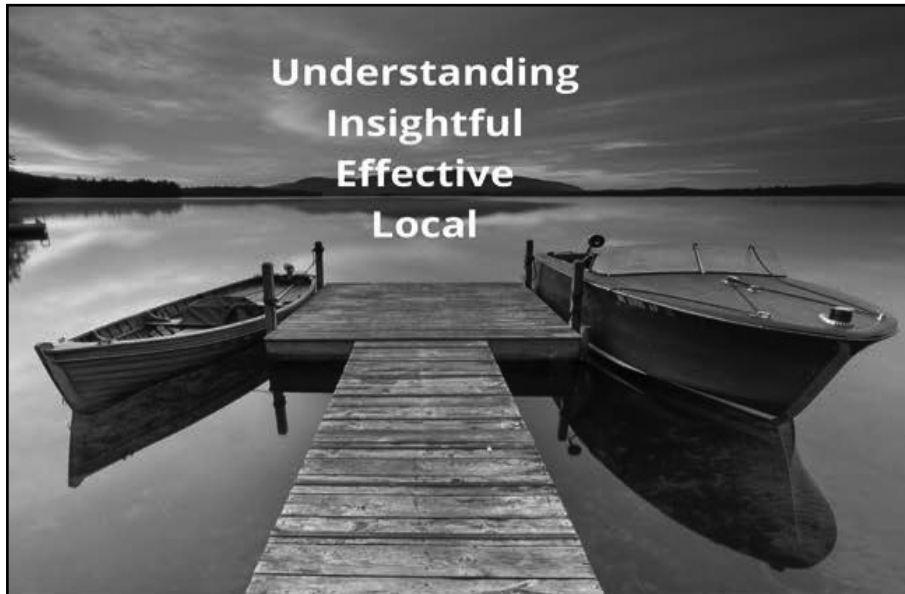
I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices - zippers, hemming, small alterations; call Kathy at 476-9317

**FOUND:**

Found at the Sheffiecks' on the West side two weeks ago, a **bright yellow Connelly Deluxe Party Noodle.** Collect it anytime from our pier!



Two **chair cushions** washed onto our sea wall last week; claim them at Vitales', east side.



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# HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

## Be AED-ready

*Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s can save a life in case of an emergency. There are AEDs at six Birch Lake homes. Simple instructions are on the units (and on the next page of this Barker) ... knowing where they are and being ready and able to use one might mean the difference between life and death. Be AED-ready!*

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



## 2023 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### BLYC OFFICERS

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debspratt@comcast.net  
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smwilliams226@gmail.com

### OTHER ATTENDEES

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

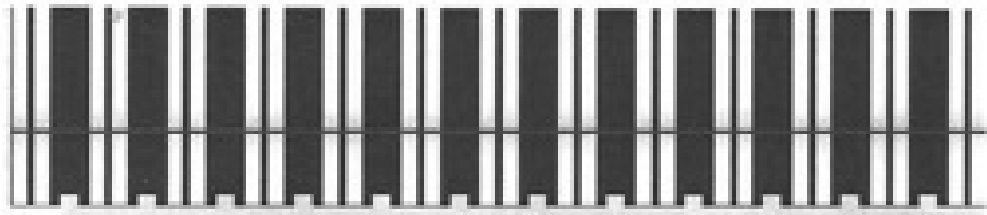
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Make checks payable to  
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