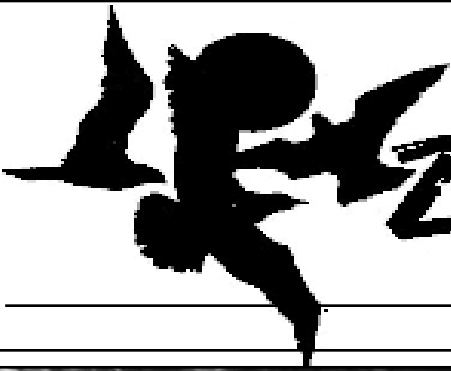


Weekend of | **June 8,
2024**



Birch Barker

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

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Thomas Kuhn (west side) for the great Birch Lake heron photo. For more Birch Birds, see page 5.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

The weatherman kept promising we would see some sunshine in the late afternoon this last weekend, but actual sightings of the sun were few and far between. I did see some die-hard boaters out and a few fishermen, but it was a rather quiet week at Birch.

If you have cruised down the north side of the lake, you may have noticed Mother Nature's natural wood carving in the woods between the King and the Caplis homes. Fortunately, the lightning strike caused minimal damage and a short power outage for the Kings. I understand MEC was quick to come out and clear the road and restore power. Was this Mother Nature's response to Artie McElwee's beautiful carvings of the bear and eagle just a short distance away? Hmm, Was she jealous?

The first card night was held at the yacht club Thursday the 30th, with a good turnout of Birch Lakers. Euchre and "65" were enjoyed, but the poker and Tripoli tables sat empty. Maybe we will see some takers at the next card event June 27 at 7 o'clock.

June events are coming fast and furious as Trivia Night is scheduled for June 8. This event has grown in the last few years to become a Yacht Club staple.

June 15 is the Commodore/Vice Commodore party with this year's theme, "Jimmy Buffett Tribute," a nod to the recently deceased Parrothead whose music was close to many Birch Lakers hearts. Come to share frozen margaritas and appetizers and enjoy a

chance to wear that Hawaiian shirt or moo moo you have in the back of your closet. Since this is the "Stock the Bar Party," we are asking for a contribution of wine, beer, or pop from attendees. Please also bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share.

Remember all events that are sponsored by the Birch Lake Yacht Club are open to all lake residents regardless if they are Yacht Club members or not.

2024 Birch Lake Calendar

JUNE

June 8 - Trivia night, 6:30 pm, BLYC,
June 15 - Commodore/Vice-Comm. Stock the Bar Party - 6:30 pm, BLYC, Jimmy Buffett Tribute Night, Theme: "Margaritaville"
June 27 - Card night 7 pm, BLYC, TBA
June 29 - Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30-8:30 pm, Tickets required in advance, BLYC

JULY

July 6 - Boat Parade, Theme: Favorite Movie, Line up at 2:30 pm at Waxmans', 3 pm start
July 6 - FIREWORKS, 10 pm (approx.)
July 6-7 - Fourth of July Regatta
July 7 - Camp T pancake breakfast
July 13 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC
July 19 - Women's Golf Outing, TBA
July 20 - Family Picnic, TBA

July 25 - Card Night, 7 pm, BLYC, TBA
July 26 - Men's Golf Outing, 8 am, Hampshire
July 27 - Don Harman Kidz Sunfish Regatta (Tentative date), King's (north side), TBA

AUGUST

Aug 3 - Corn & Sausage, 5:30-7 pm, BLYC
Aug 10 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC
Aug 17 - Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial MC Interlake Regatta, more info TBA
Aug 23 - Women's Style Show and Luncheon - Woodfire Restaurant, TBA,
Aug 24 - Fall Dinner & Annual Meeting, TBA
Aug 29 - Card Night, 7 pm, BLYC, TBA
Aug 31, Sept. 1 - Sat/Sun, Labor Day Regatta, backup Mon.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 7 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC
Sept. 7 - Sailing Award Lunch, 1 pm, BLYC

OCTOBER

October 19 - Bad Patty Luecht Crockpot Challenge (tentative date), TBA

The Birch Barker will consider ads and editorial items for publication. E-mail items to 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, or at 476-1680 (no text). For **delivery concerns contact Ron Niezgodski**, birchbass1@gmail.com or 476-9317. For all other matters **contact Commodore Sue Davis**, at eyesnd76@gmail.com or 574-993-6031. **DEADLINE** is always Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

— Birch Lake Notes —

However, if you come and enjoy the camaraderie, we hope you will opt to join. We are looking for new people with fresh ideas to improve the club. Please see other pages of the Barker for more info on Birch Lake events.

As week #1 of the summer of 2024 ends, "May the memories remain and the view stay the same" at our golden Pond.

Have a happy and safe week.
~Commodore Sue Davis

Sympathies

Our sympathies to the family of long-time Birch Laker Doug Eichorst, who passed away recently. For more information go online to: <https://www.reporternews.com/obituaries/paco0831140>

Boat Parade theme

Dan Waxman, chairman of the annual Birch Lake Boat Parade scheduled for July 6 this year, has announced that the theme for this year's parade will be "Favorite Movie."

TRIVIA NIGHT

Grab your friends/neighbors/family and come to the third annual Trivia Night at the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Last year's event was a huge success - don't miss out on the fun! You can either form your own team or just come individually and we'll get you on a team. Teams can be anywhere from one to eight people.

Trivia night info

WHEN: Saturday, June 8; Doors open @ 6:30 - Trivia begins PROMPTLY @ 7 pm

WHERE: Yacht Club

BRING: your own drinks, dish to share (either appetizer or dessert), paper and pen, wallet (for 50-50 raffle and to buy



YOGA at the YACHT CLUB

Join Claudia Phipps most Thursdays at the yacht club for Yoga ... (no yoga June 13 or July 18) Classes are 75 minutes

- \$5 fee goes to water quality
- BRING WITH YOU:**
- Yoga mat
- Two beach towels or blankets for Yoga Nidra Shavasana (the YC is cold with a cold floor, body temp will drop)
- A pillow or two for under the knees and head
- An eye pillow or scarf to block out the light

Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribute now with a click at: <https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>

OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION

\$131.14
AVERAGE AMOUNT PROVIDED PER BIRCH LAKE HOUSEHOLD TO DATE (UPDATED Aug 21)

*percentage and average based on 234 homes

TO DATE
19%*

PERCENT OF BIRCH LAKES' 44 HOMES HAVE DONATED TO THE WATER QUALITY FUND

We've still got a way to go!

To donate for **WATER QUALITY** or any BLYC activity or event, use the form in the back of this week's Barker or visit the website above

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2024 is
\$17,500

Contribute now with a click at: <https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



mulligans - good for free answers)

QUESTIONS - contact Blair Garceau 269-476-9862 or Sue Williams 574-298-2839. Hope to see you there!

Spaghetti Dinner is June 29

The spaghetti dinner this year will be on June 29. Please come and join your fellow Birch Lake neighbors at the Yacht Club from 5:30 until 8 pm, for an "authentic" Italian spaghetti dinner.

Please make sure to purchase your tickets before June 24; tickets WILL NOT be sold at the door.

Tickets sales to date have been rather slow

Adult tickets (11 & up) are \$10, children (5-10) \$6, little ones (4 & under) free. Tickets can also be purchased from Vickie Rogers (Cove) 269-476-2383, Leslie King (North shore) 574-276-9996, Cam Butler (West shore) 574-596-1066, Sue Williams (South shore) 574-298-2839 or Blair Garceau (East shore) - 574-261-9817.

We will be serving regular and gluten-free spaghetti with the world-famous Niezgodski red marinara sauce (the Committee has completed 21 gallons of the marinara sauce), and the super-rich Plaia Alfredo sauce, along with Italian meatballs and a freshly made tossed salad accompanied by Italian bread and butter and delicious homemade desserts. Water, iced tea and lemonade will be provided.

Feel free to bring a bottle of vino to round out your dining experience. Carry-out will be available.

Proceeds from the sale of the tickets will go to the Birch Lake Yacht Club building improvement fund. There will be a 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to

Water Quality.

Looking forward to sharing a meal with all of our lake neighbors and their guests.

The Spaghetti Dinner Committee would like to thank the following individuals for their generosity and time. Without their help the annual spaghetti dinner would not be a success.

Ron, Kathy & Bobby Niezgodski - consultants and door ticket takers
Tom Kuhn & Jan Temple - donating the regular and gluten free spaghetti; Greg Bolin and Steve Plaia - spaghetti cooks; Dan Waxman - donating the Italian bread, butter and dish washer/clean-up; Jim Calderwood- bread server; Carla Chester - dessert maker & dessert server; Amber Gundy, Camp Tannadoonah - use of kitchen; Lynn & Marc Caenepeel and Deb & Bud Hall - donating salad fixings and salad table servers; Debbie & Carmen Soldato - donating drinks; Steve Plaia & Karen Brovold - donating Alfredo sauce and clean-up; Peggy Geik - dessert maker; Julie & Mike Sheffieck - cookie maker and set-up; Cindy & Kevin Bernaciak - 50/50 raffle; Jennifer & John Ball - dinner servers; Bruce

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

— Birch Lake Notes —

Wagner - Parmesan cheese server;
 Claudia Phipps - dessert chairperson;
 Bill Butler - set-up and clean-up; Vickie
 Rogers, Leslie King, Cam Butler, Blair
 Garceau & Sue Williams - ticket sales;
 Stacia Andriano & Cam Butler- donat-
 ing supplies; Andy & Lori Snider – serv-
 ing and clean-up; David & Terry Carroll
 – serving; Holly Troeger – serving;
 Paramount Properties, from Rick and
 Patti Russwurm – cash donation; Robert
 & Kim Dunlop – cash donation, and an
 anonymous - cash donation (east shore).

We are looking for donations and
 help for the dinner. If you would like to
 volunteer, contact Stacia Andriano @
 260-710-5883, Karen Brovold @ 269-362-
 3150 or Cam Butler @ 574-596-1066.


GRAZIE MILLE from

~The Spaghetti Dinner Committee

New Barker(s) editor sought

We're still looking for someone to
 take on the job of being the editor of the
 online and printed Birch Barkers when
 the editor retires or dies. You can start
 easy by taking on the responsibilities for
 the Online Barker; all you need is a
 basic knowledge of how websites work,
 and a minimal grasp of html code, web
 production software and FTP software.
 You can ease into the summer Barker as
 you go along or take it all at once; train-
 ing can be provided if required (and if
 I'm still alive. Job offers flexible hours,
 no pay, but the lakers will love you ...

~Hopefully soon-to-be
 Editor Emiteus Phil



Stock the Bar

Jimmy Buffett Tribute

Parrot Head Attire

June 15th 2024 6:30pm

Birch Lake Yacht club



Frozen Margaritas Provided

Please bring an Appetizer to share

Along with your contribution of

Beer, Wine or Pop

"Its those changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes."

Jimmy Buffett

Yacht Club building use

For information on the rules and
 requirements, or to make arrangements
 to use the Birch Lake Yacht Club build-
 ing for a non-BLYC event, call or text
 Sandy Vitale at 269-858-8184, or send
 her an email at sv6102@gmail.com.

The printed 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>.

The deadline for submitting materi-
 als is noon on Tuesday of the week
 before publication. Materials can be
 emailed to me at onlinebarker@gmail.com
 or sailorphil@philvitale.com

(both work), or put in my mailbox at
 63174 Birch Rd. (if you want materials
 back, include a self-addressed, stamped
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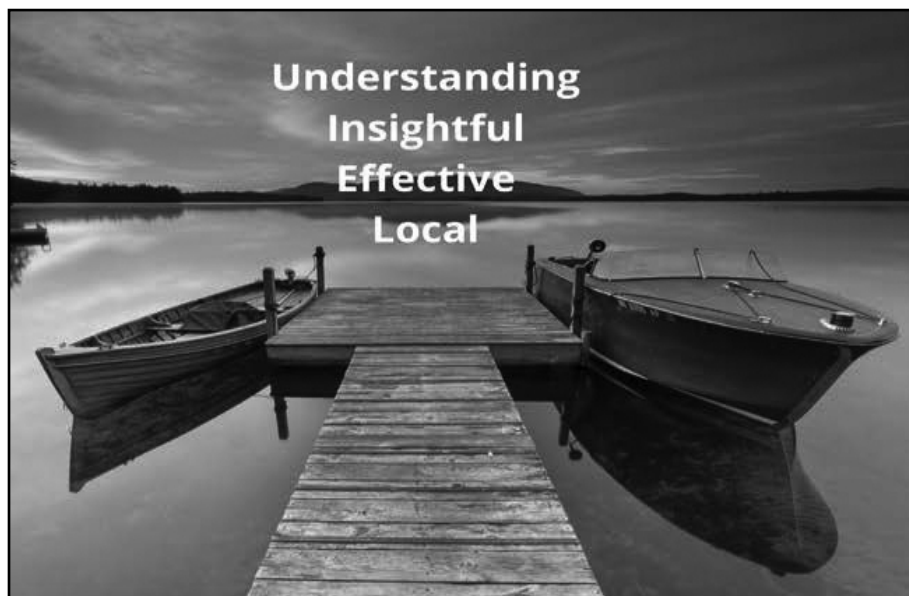
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— Water Quality Report —

Eurasian Watermilfoil and Birch Lake

Eurasian Watermilfoil (often called simply Eurasian Milfoil) has been a problematic invasive weed in Michigan lakes for decades. Eurasian Milfoil is an aggressive tall growing exotic aquatic plant from Europe and Asia. Once introduced, it can grow to the surface in up to 10 to 15 feet of water. At the surface, it forms a dense canopy of vegetation over other plants. Many native plants may be reduced in abundance by Milfoil canopy. It also conflicts with many recreational activities. In dense conditions, it is a serious localized and lake wide problem. It is not a significant food crop for waterfowl, other birds or aquatic mammals. It readily regenerated from detached fragments and spreads rapidly. Consequently, this plant can form dense colonies covering much of a lake's shore line out to a depth of about 20 feet.

We began monitoring aquatic vegetation in Birch Lake in 2001. We were part of a Michigan Lake & Stream program that mapped the aquatic plants in Birch Lake. Howard Wandell

provided professional assistance to the Birch Lake Water Quality Committee. The mapping project revealed that Birch Lake had a moderate plant population consisting of a good variety of species none of which dominated. At the time, the survey determined that we did not have Eurasian Milfoil.

In 2007 Eurasian Milfoil was discovered at three sites. At that time we created an annual program to manage it and that program continues to date. Progressive AE provided professional assistance and is still under contract.

For 2024 Progressive AE surveyed the entire lake for all types of invasive species at the end of May. Their survey turned up 1 acre of Eurasian Milfoil on the east shore. They also found a small amount of Eurasian Milfoil in the cove.

Professional Lake Management will treat the site on the east shore. Progressive AE will do a second survey and determine whether further treatment will be needed.

The annual program is important to keep the Milfoil under control and to detect any other invasive species in the



early stages to enable us to better control it. With your continued support, we can maintain this vital program. Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated.

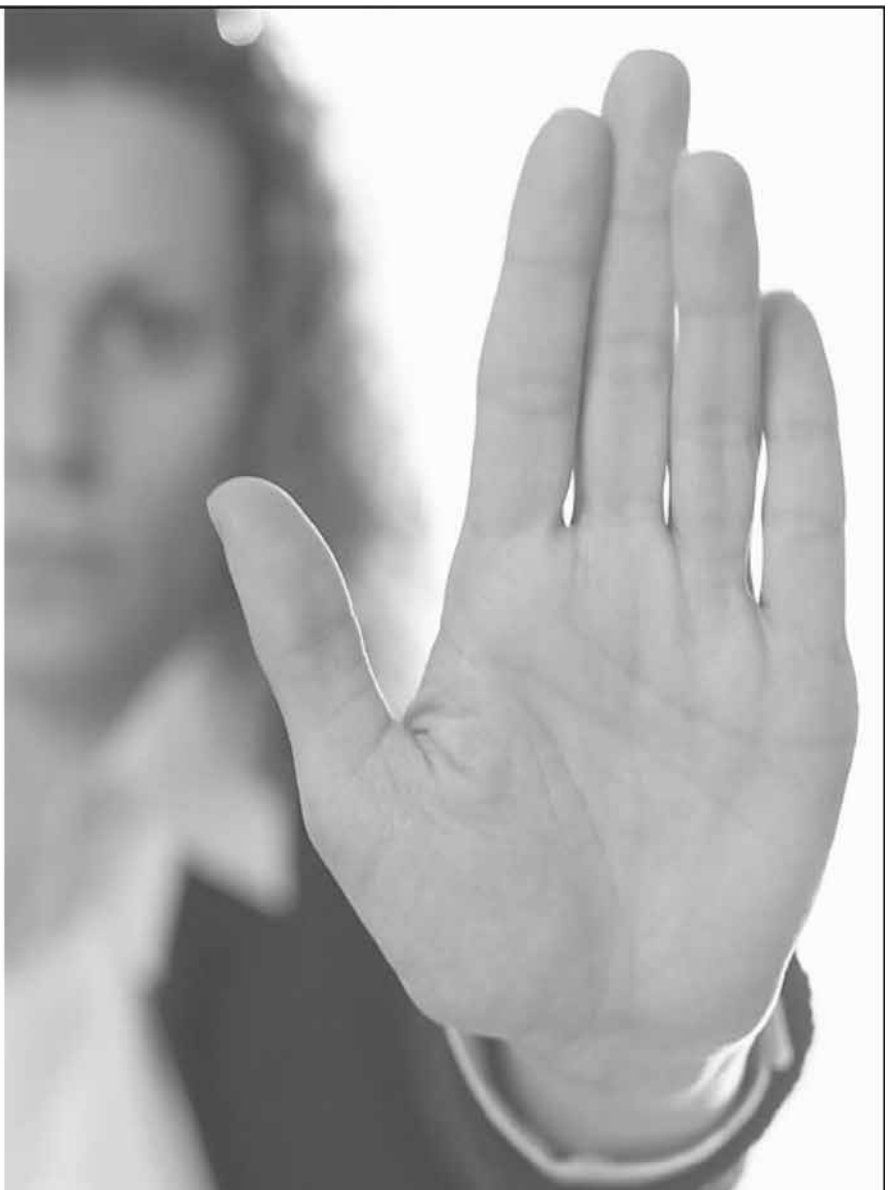
You can contribute to the Water Quality Committee's effort to control Eurasian Milfoil here at Birch Lake by filling out the contribution form at the back of any week's Birch Barker or you can always contribute online at: <http://birchlakeyachtclub.com>

SLOW DOWN

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TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!**

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— Birch Lake Birds of the Week —



Birds photographed at Birch Lake last weekend ... top left, an osprey, center column, hummingbird, bufflehead, loon, top right, great blue heron, left, another heron, right, swan. Photos by Phil Vitale (east side) and Bud Hall (Cove).



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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Sometimes weather forecasts improve

Sunday morning was grey and a bit chilly, but the BLYC Sailors were thrilled to find that the wind was much better than had been forecast, so we got to race after all. And the wind kept increasing during the course of our three races. It's nice when that happens. So our regular Sunday racing season got off to a good start!

In the MC fleet, our top three sailors continue to be closely matched, with Barb Cassady notching a 1-3-1 series; Scott Troeger logged a 2-1-2; and Pat Welch a 3-2-4. Bill Luecht also captured a 3rd place finish. Meanwhile in the Sunfish fleet, Rick Russwurm was hard

to beat with a 1-1-2. Stewart Spratt demonstrated continuous improvement with a 3-2-1. And Bob Niezgodski captured a 2-3-3.

None of this could happen without the dedicated people who make it possible. Many thanks to Tom Cassady and Vic Jones in the course setting boat; Ron Niezgodski and his team of Stacia Andriano, Karen Brovold and Bill Butler in the committee boat; and Pat McGann in the safety boat. Looking forward to next Sunday!

~F.C. Steve



Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial MC Interlake Regatta

BLYC is very excited to host a Five Lakes (Birch, Corey, Diamond, Eagle, and Indian) MC Sailboat Regatta Saturday, August 17. We will be launching sailboats at the public launch from approximately 7:30 – 10 a.m. and will bring boats out at the launch from 3 – 6 pm. We hope to have up to 25 off-lake sailors competing. The approximate time on the lake sailing will be 10:30 – 2:30 pm, depending on weather.

Please avoid boating, other than spectator boats, during this time if at all possible. We look forward to showing the off-lake sailors our Birch Lake hospitality and sharing our beautiful lake for this one day. Thank you in advance for helping us achieve that goal. For more information contact Barb Cassady at barbcassady49@gmail.com



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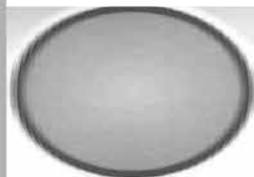
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2024 sailing results & season standings to date

Date.....	6/2.....	6/2.....	6/2.....	Total	Point.....	Races	%
Race.....	4.....	5.....	6.....	Points	Average	Finished	Finished

MC/Sailor	Total Sunfish Races = 3						
Scott Troeger #1489.....	2.....	1.....	2.....	9284.....	1547.33.....	6.....	1.....
Patrick Welch #1979.....	3.....	2.....	4.....	8666.....	1444.33.....	6.....	1.....
Barb Cassady #2506.....	1.....	3.....	1.....	9365.....	1560.83.....	6.....	1.....
Bill Luecht #1579.....	4.....	4.....	3.....	4182.....	1394.....	3.....	0.5.....
Steve Frew #656.....	5.....	5.....	5.....	7995.....	1332.5.....	6.....	1.....

Sunfish/Sailor	Total Sunfish Races = 3						
Rick Russwurm.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	9209.....	1534.83.....	6.....	1.....
Stewart Spratt.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	9051.....	1508.5.....	6.....	1.....
Scott Sortal.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	4721.....	1573.67.....	3.....	0.5.....
Bob Niezgodski.....	2.....	3.....	3.....	8516.....	1419.33.....	6.....	1.....
Camille Butler.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	3888.....	1296.....	3.....	0.5.....



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).
 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



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Congratulations to Harrison Grundy (east side), who graduated from PreK last week.

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 ... you can always email me at sailorphil@philvitale.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com
No texts, I don't do phones.

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- Watch for your new Medicare card to arrive in the mail.

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Let's Talk! Over-the-phone appointments welcome!
No cost!
No obligation!

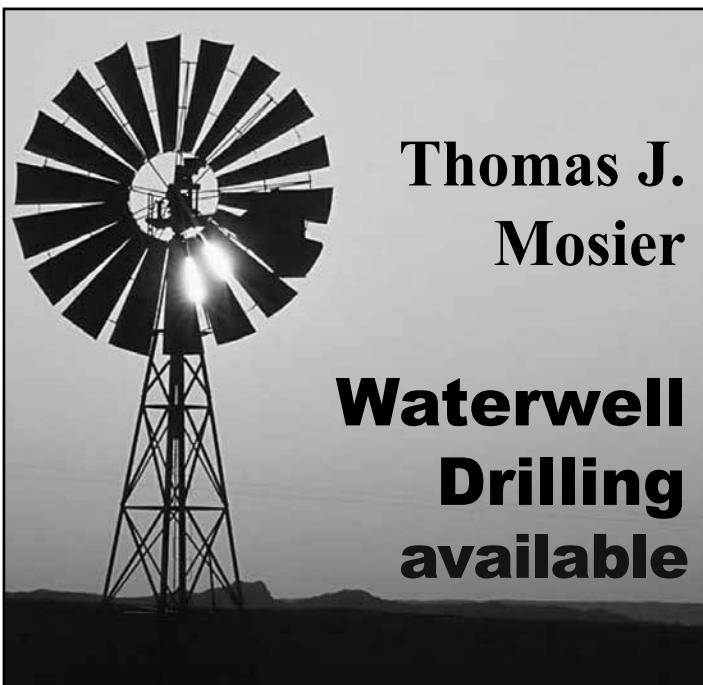


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— Birch Lake Memories —

A history as deep as Birch Lake

by **JILL TUNNICLIFFE SCHOLES**

My Birch Lake history is deep. My Mom and Granny summered here since around 1930. My parents bought our cottage in 1955 and we moved up here when I was six weeks old. Granny lived a few doors down the road, where her father, who had been mayor of Elkhart, and a state senator, could frequently be found fishing on the pier. When I think of him, I remember pockets full of those round, pink wintergreens.

Being lucky enough to follow my Mother, a lifetime of Birch Lake memories began for me. A few stand out.

- There was a free standing affair in our cottage called the green cupboard. It was right next to the fridge. Both were opened a hundred times a day ... "what is there to eat?" The screen door banged at least as many times.

- Playing all day in the water or woods.
- Mom ringing the dinner bell.
- Some man came by from Hillerings' farm with his trunk full of red raspberries to sell.
- Shelling peas with my Mom on the patio and eating them raw.
- Watching the fireworks, often with a sweatshirt and blanket.
- Riding Cappy, a horse owned by the

Funny how the memories of our youth define "home base" to us. To me, there could be no better way or place to grow up.

family that used to have the Witchie's house, for a penny a minute.

- When learning to sail, turtling the Sunfish and losing the sail right over the deep part of the lake, in front of our house, and I probably didn't have a life jacket on. Jim Luxumberg went diving for it and never found it!
- Making bracelets out of lightening bugs (which seemed much more plentiful then).
- Playing kick the can in the evenings.
- Walking around the lake at night and hoping not to step on squished toads ... because we were always barefoot. We only put shoes on to go into town ... which we did as little as possible.
- Della, next door, letting us pop the air bladders in her caught fish. Chocolate dips (skinny dipping at night for the uninformed).
- Watching the rain come across the

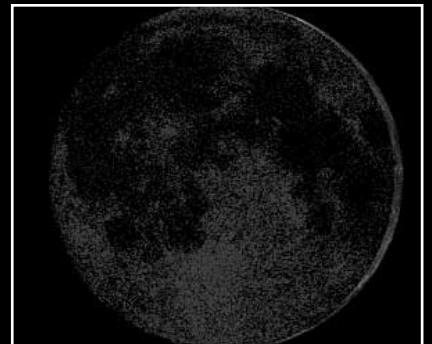
lake during a storm.

- Playing cards and dance parties during rainy days.
- Making the holes in Granny's homemade donuts, and later sneaking them out of the New Era potato chip can to shake in a bag of powdered sugar.
- Walks after dinner with your commodore, looking for boys. Not being allowed to ride in cars with those boys.
- Hayrides and dances at the yacht club.

I learned to swim, dive, sail, ski, and so much more at Birch Lake. Funny how the memories of our youth define "home base" to us. To me, there could be no better way or place to grow up. My husband and I have our own cottage now, and (oh happy day) our grandchildren are making memories here. Enjoy yours and I hope you always find something good in your green cupboard.

The Moon this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, viewed from the Birch Lake)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.086
2.8 days since new moon



Sun and Moon This Week

Sunrise: 06:05:40 am
Sunset: 21:17:36 pm
Moonrise: 07:37:42 pm
Moonset: 23:56:08 am
Hours of Daylight:
15 Hr 11 Min 56 Sec



The Post Office has warned 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. The delivery team has been instructed to NOT deliver in or on mailboxes, but to find an alternative place for delivery. Pictured is one of the alternatives ... If you would like to arrange an alternative, contact Ron Niezgodski at 476-9317 or email birchbass1@gmail.com.



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Birch Lake Misc.

2024/25 BLYC Directory

We are planning to produce a new Birch Lake Directory this year (a lot of changes have occurred since the last one in 2022).

If you have new listings, changes, corrections or updates, please send them to Deb Spratt via email at debspratt@comcast.net or to me at onlinebarker@gmail.com, and we'll do our best to get them included.

Please use the format at right to provide the information.

If you are interested in advertising in the directory, please contact Phil Vitale at onlinebarker@gmail.com or call 476-1680.

Cottage # (if known)

Last name, first name(s)

Lake address

Phone #(s)

Email address

Children(s) names

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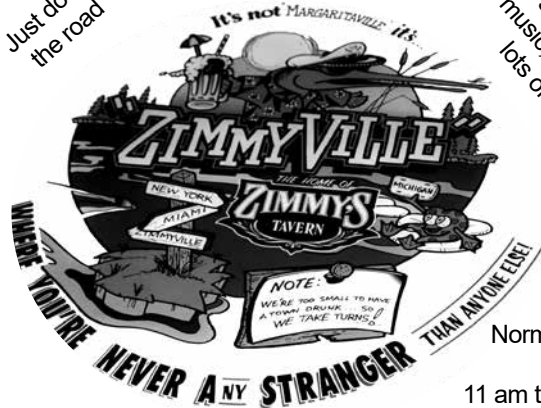
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Need assistance with your tax planning? Don't we all! We can help you plan for your taxes before your business is even off the ground

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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

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Saint Joseph, MI 49085

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Birch Barker Funnies



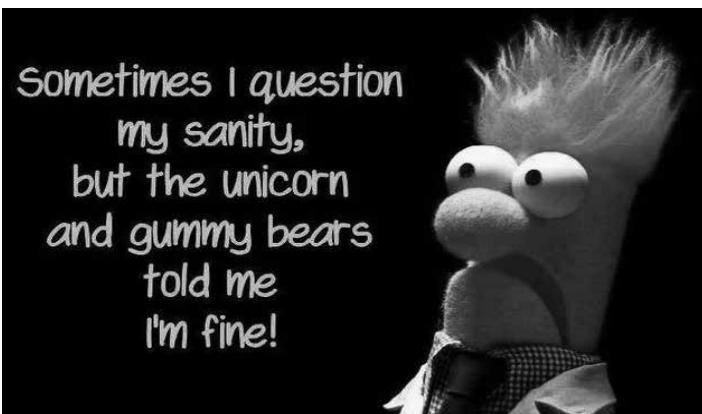
"DON'T TELL MOM."



THE BEST ADVICE YOU EVER GAVE ME!
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



how did "the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog" become the typical sentence that contains all letters of the alphabet and not "sphinx of black quartz, judge my vow" which is objectively a million times cooler



"I can't believe that they try to hide my medication in my food. I'm a drug sniffing dog!"



Birch Lake Diversions



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Best bacon appetizer

A bacon cream cheese and brown sugar roll-up.

Prep Time: 5 mins
Cook Time: 10 mins
Total Time: 15 mins
Servings: 1

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 teaspoons cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- 1 slice applewood-smoked bacon



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil.
2. Mix cream cheese and brown sugar together in a small bowl; spread over bacon slice. Roll up and transfer to the baking sheet.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until bacon is browned and crisp, 10 to 15 minutes.

Disney Movie Word Search

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

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Get a FREE market analysis!
Contact Paul DeLano:
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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 —

Our first group of campers for the 2024 season arrive on Sunday! We have 92 campers registered for session 1, and it will likely be our smallest session of the summer. We're up to a total of 1052 registered campers, with a goal of 1200 for the summer.

The campers this week will be the first ones to use our four brand new cabins! This first week, Sassafras will have 9- and 10-year-old boys, and Tamarack will have 11-14-year-old boys. Firefly will have 10- and 11-year-old girls, and Lotus will have 11- and 12-year-old girls. The ages of each cabin in camp shift slightly each week, depending on our registration numbers and the proportion of kids of each age.

It will also be the first week we get to use our new entrance off of Harvey St. For this summer we will have temporary signage at the new entrance, but we're having a new entrance sign made and installed later this year.

Wednesday evening this week the staff are taking an outing to the South Bend Cubs game, as long as the thunderstorms hold off! We were able to get a block of tickets and coupons for hot dogs and drinks for everyone. Following the game they'll get to stay for the fireworks.

On Thursday this week we have a special guest at camp to lead a team-building training. In the camp world, Jim Cain is one of the "big names" that

everyone recognizes. He is the author of 31 team- and community-building books, including the classic Teamwork & Teamplay, A Teachable Moment, Find Something To Do!

He is one of the most dynamic presenters at camping conferences and his sessions are always packed. Jim reached out in the spring and said he was doing some staff training workshops at some camps in Michigan, and wanted to know if we wanted him to come do a day of training with our staff. We're very excited to host him for the day! If you're interested in learning more about Jim and what he does, his website is <https://www.teamworkandteamplay.com/>

This first week of camp we have a large number of youth attending who have received scholarships. We've had a long-standing partnership with Beardsley Elementary in Elkhart, because my former assistant camp director (Miss Sue Canarecci Felix) is a teacher there. Every year, Sue and the other teachers at Beardsley choose a group of students to



attend camp from their school. Because many of the families do not have reliable transportation, the teachers also meet the families at the school and bring the kids to camp, and then pick them up again on Saturday.

We always have more youth who apply for scholarships than we are able to fund. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a camper (or more than one camper), the cost is \$750 for a full scholarship. Many families are able to contribute a portion of the fee, so that we can stretch the campership donations to help more kids get to camp. Our goal this year is to be able to provide full or partial scholarships for at least 75 youth.



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 160 waterfront and lake access homes in Michigan and Indiana over the past few years.



Dennis has been a 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: **Boat lift for tri-hull pontoon** 22-24 feet. Like new, asking \$6500. Contact J. Habich, 269-476-9726.

For sale: **Tall water slide.** Very sturdy. 10' x 23" wide. Please call 269-476-9726

Moving Sale 63258 Kinsey St. East side of Birch Lake on the Hill. June 1 & 2, 9 am to 5 pm. Everything must go. Priced to sell. Jeff & Linda Myers 574-315-2570

18' Quest Adventure Pontoon with 60h.p. Mercury Outboard. Low hours. \$7500. 63258 Kinsey St. East side of Birch Lake on the Hill. Jeff & Linda Myers 574-315-2570

For sale: **100# LP Tank** (right) with some LP in it. Call Tom Rogers at 476 2383 will deliver \$75.



White composite closet doors. (left) 48" w X 79" h. \$50 for the pair. Call Deb 219-765-8691.



WANTED TO BUY Old five gallon gasoline cans. Not the newer kind with all the crap "safety features," but the old

kind. Looking for three. Contact Stewart, north shore, 574.514.0667.

FOUND:

Found: **Turtle board** washed up on the south side just east of the yacht club. Call Chris Stevens @ 317-771-8531.

SERVICES:

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

FREE



Steel Framed Elevated Dog Bed. Good for dogs who rip up soft beds. If that's not a problem, put soft bed on top of elevated dog bed, great for air circulation. Call Vickie Rogers 476 2383



HELP WANTED:

Editor for the Birch Barker. We're still looking for someone to take on the job of being the editor of both editions (the online and printed) of the Birch Barkers in case the editor retires or dies (I'm not going to live forever, you know). You can take it

all at once or you can start easy by taking on the responsibilities for the Online Barker (all you need is a basic knowledge of how websites work, and a minimal grasp of html code, web page production software and FTP software for the online Barker, and a familiarity with publishing software for the printed Barker. Training can be provided if required (and if I'm still alive). Flexible hours, no pay, but the lakers are gonna love you ... Contact Phil Vitale at onlinebarker@gmail.com, 476-1680 if you're interested in giving it a shot.

Classified Advertising

Classified ads in the Barker are free to BLYC members, \$5/week for everyone else. Send your ad to onlinebarker@gmail.com or sailorphil@philvitale.com.

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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



2024 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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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.

**See page 2 for status of these important contributions

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

\$ _____

Name _____

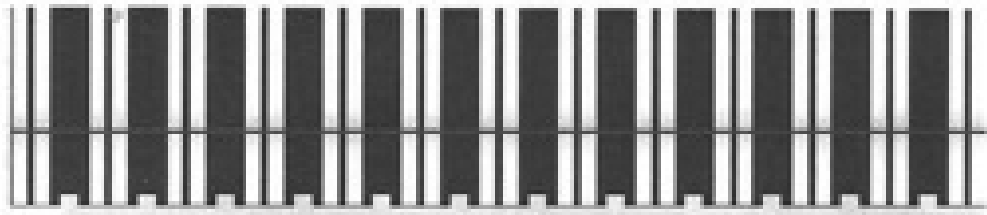
Address _____

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



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