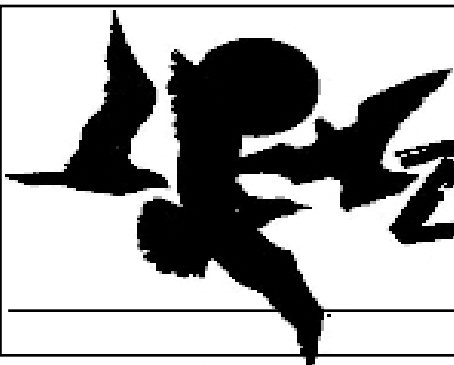


Weekend of | **June 15, 2024**



Birch Barker

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

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Dylan Snider (cove) for the great pic of the Caenepeel's doggo (west side). Nice puppy ...

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Sitting on the end of the pier trying to write this week's Commodore's Comments amidst a 20 to 30 mph wind that is blowing my yellow legal pad pages all over the place. Dealing with the wind is the dream of all our Birch Lake sailors, but not so much for the Commodore, as holding these pages down has become a challenge. I am happy for the sailing faithful though, who do not always have the wind blowing in their favor. Your fleet captain's prayers have been answered this weekend.

Last evening's Trivia Night was a great success as seven teams competed for the coveted "smarties" candy award, leaving the rest of us chewing on our "airheads." Proceeds from the 50-50 and the "Heads and Tails" contest went to water quality for a combined contribution of close to \$300. Our MCs Mike Sheffieck and Ed Chester livened the party up with their attempts to announce the trivia questions with appropriate accents. A lot of tough questions were asked, but the crowd stumper

was "Who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance?" Those of you who think you know the answer to that, well you should have been there, we could have used you! If there was a best-dressed award to be given, it would go to "The Toucans" who sported custom toucan shirts. The "Dumb Butts" took the competition going away.

The Tucans will have the opportunity to wear their T-shirts again this

weekend at the Commodore/vice Commodore "Stock the Bar" party. With Jimmy Buffett Tribute being the theme this year, they will be appropriately attired. Frozen concoctions will be provided. Help Vice Commodore Julie and I keep the tradition of an awesome birch lake party going.

We would especially like to see some new faces there and introduce them to the Birch Lake Yacht Club experience.

2024 Birch Lake Calendar

JUNE

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 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 - Kids' Kayak races

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

Sept. 7 - Fall Frolic Free Concert, BLYC, TBA

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 —

I am trying to organize the Kids Kayak Races on July 20 in the morning or early afternoon prior to the family picnic. Please see article in the Barker for more information. As this is the first time we've attempted anything like this, it would be great if we had some idea of how many kids were interested in participating. Kayaks could be made available to those who do not have one to race.

Time to start planning for the decorations for your boat for the boat parade July 7. The parade theme this year is "favorite movies." Please keep all movie pics PG-13, as your audience will be of all ages.

I hope you all took the time to read Zach Nickell's article on wake boats. It was extremely informative and hopefully put some fellow Lakers' concerns to rest. I encourage all power- and wake-boat owners to be as conscientious as the Nickells family, as we all share in the responsibility of keeping our water and shoreline healthy. Thank you, Zach.

Until next week, "May the Memories remain in the View stay the same" on our golden pond.

~Commodore Sue Davis

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."

Kids' Kayak Races

We are in the planning stages for the first and hopefully annual Kids Kayak Races on July 20. Details for the layout of the course are still being hammered out as we want to make this as

safe as possible for the participants. A life jacket must be worn, and a waiver must be signed by all participants' parents. If you would like to join the competition but do not have a kayak, we hope to have a number available for your child's use. There will be a 10-and-under race, 11-12 race, and a 13-15 race. Lifeguards will be present. Ice cream treats will be available at the end of the competition, and winners will be announced at the family picnic in the afternoon. Please email EYESND 76@gmail.com or phone 574-993-6031 if you are interested in participating.

~Commodore Sue Davis

Save the date for free concert

Past commodores from Birch Lake would like to present the first "Fall Frolic" on September 7, with the DAWG Band featuring Duane Gundy on mandolin and guitar, Jim Shenk on pedal steel guitar and Randy Horst on upright bass. Their repertoire includes acoustic rockin' folk music and Americana old and new. Stay tuned for further details in the Barker.

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 27 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

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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

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

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



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



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

"It's those changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes."



Jimmy Buffett

— Birch Lake Notes —

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; Andy Snyder, Bill Luecht 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 Wagner - Parmesan cheese server; Claudia Phipps - dessert chairperson; Bill Butler - set-up and clean-up; John Luecht clean up, Vickie Rogers, Leslie King, Cam Butler, Blair Garceau & Sue Williams - ticket sales; Stacia Andriano & Cam Butler- donating supplies; Andy & Lori Snider - serving 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 Roger Falk - cash donation (north shore). We are looking for additional 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

The printed Barker

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

The deadline for submitting materials is noon on Tuesday of the week before publication. Materials can be emailed to onlinebarker@gmail.com or sailorphil@philvitale.com, or put in my mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (if you want materials back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope).

Advertising rates are at <https://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>. To buy an ad or for more info, contact me by email or at 476-1680.

New Barker(s) editor sought

We're looking for someone to take on the job of editor of the online and printed Birch Barkers. You can start easy by taking on the responsibilities for the Online Barker and ease into the summer Barker as you go along or take it all at once if required (and if I'm still alive). Job offers flexible hours, no pay,

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\$17,500

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Editor Emeritus Phil**

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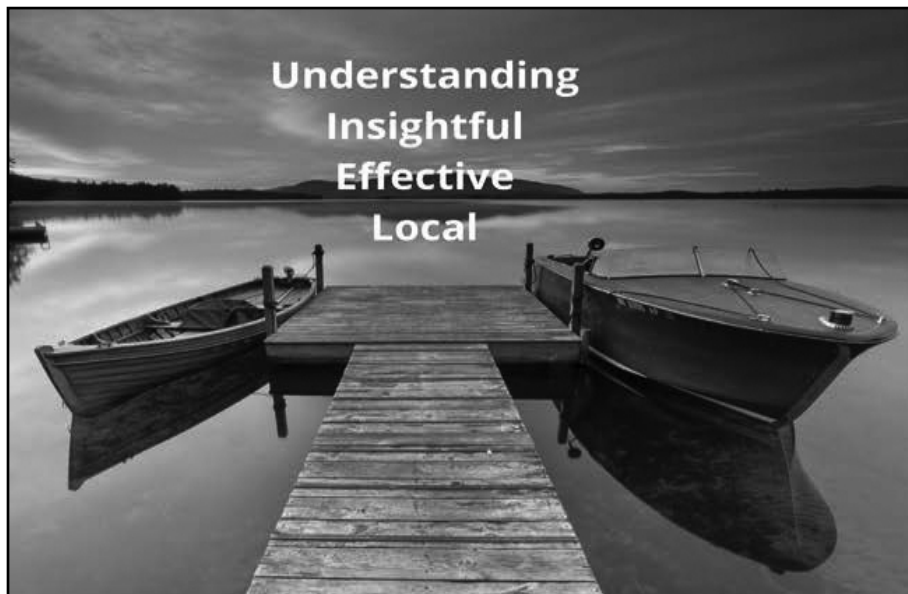


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— BLYC TRIVIA NIGHT —

Water Quality wins big at BLYC Trivia Night

The Third Annual Birch Lake Trivia Night was a huge success! Seven fun and very competitive teams vied for the honor of first place through six rounds of trivia questions. Cheering was heard as teams realized the correctness of their answers. Competition was fierce, and some tension was felt as each team worked hard for top standings and bragging rights so they could claim their brains were full of little tidbits of information for a year!

In the final standings the “Dumb Butts” team earned their crowns with a score of 51 out of the 60 questions. That team with a lot of useless knowledge in their heads was Deb and Bud Hall, Sandy and Phil Vitale, Bill Luecht, Dennis Phipps, and Pat Williams.

The real winner of the night was our Water Quality Fund through the generous donations of the night. Through 50/50, buying Mulligans, participating in Heads and Tails (join us next year to find out about this rousing game) and just plain contributing we raised \$308.00 to help our hard working water quality team to continue their ongoing efforts and education.

Special shout out to our great announcers who keep the fun spirit going all night long. Mike Sheffieck



was a master of accents, and Ed Chester had a special love for the “TipTop Can” Team, also known as the Toucan Team. We’d also like to thank everyone who brought a treat to share. Birch Lake sure knows how to put together some great eats.

Come join us next year, it’s a great way to spend an evening. Your Trivia Committee: Sue Williams, Holly Troeger, Claudia Phipps, Blair Garceau, Carla Chester and Julie Sheffieck.



— Birch Lake Memories —

Early history of Birch Lake (pre 1820)

Millions of years ago, the region we know as Birch Lake was deep under a tropical sea. After the sea receded and the land emerged this area experienced what we know as the ice age. More than 2500 years ago, great sheets of ice said to be a mile, thick swept down from the northeast plowing and gorging the land forming kettle lakes of which Birch Lake is one.

It is thought primitive humans lived here before, and again after the ice left. The historians believe this early inhabitant called "Falson man," fashioned Falson spearhead points that have been found in the soil around Cass county.

The Potawatomi Indian tribe inhabited the area of Birch Lake and was headed by big Chief Pokagon and his under chiefs Weesaw and Shavehead. The Indians, under Chief Weesaw joined the Chief Shavehead band in the early spring around Birch Lake, where they bathed in the lake and drank its waters,

claiming the water had great healing power. It is recorded that the great Chief Pokagon who was ill made the journey to Birch Lake in hopes to improve his health.

Chief Pokagon was said to be a brilliant man and embraced the "white man's" ways and teachings. Chief Shavehead however, was no friend to the white man. Chief Shavehead was cunning and often cruel. At one time he would not sign a treaty with the whites, and some of the settlers caught him and shaved his head, except for a tuft on top. Thus the name Shavehead.

Chief Shavehead had wintered near what is now Shavehead Lake and summered near Mottville. Here he charged the white men tolls to cross the ford at the fork of the Saint Joe River. This ford was part of the Sauk Trail, which we now know as US Highway 112.

Shavehead is said to have been responsible for the death of many white settlers. He would escort the men out

on hunting trips promising abundant game. It is said that no white men ever returned from these trips. A story that has been told of Shavehead, relates that while visiting a trading post in what is now Cassopolis, he was drinking and boasting about his role in the Fort Dearborn massacre. He was overheard by a young trapper who lost his wife and child in the massacre. Legend has it the trapper, then living on the island at Diamond Lake asked Shavehead to accompany him home that night. The Chief went along with the trapper to the island. A shot was heard, and Chief Shavehead was never seen again.

~Commodore Sue Davis

Excerpts taken from 1974 Birch Barkers written by the late Floyd Fulmer, and from the publication "History of Birch Lake, Williamsville, Michigan" submitted by Bob Waddle, east side resident.

Editor's Note:

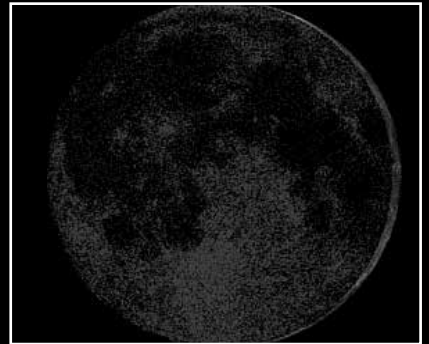
Tom and Vickie Rogers sent in the clipping at right recently with the following explanation:

Phil we have a fawn in the Cove area. Saw this article can you print in the Barker. Last year when one fawn appeared the kids in the area ran after it trying to treat it like a pet. Unfortunately the fawn died.

Dear Friends, we just received our first phone call regarding newborn fawns, therefore it is the time of the year to post this. Deer deliver their newborns in the strangest of places! Residents will find them and be concerned about a newborn deer on their lawn, in their garden, under the azaleas, etc. Most call because they think the fawn is in peril and Mom is nowhere to be found. Well, Mom is actually off feeding and helping to keep predators away. Those who call ask what they should do for the fawn ... Leave it alone, do not touch, move or attempt to feed it. Here's the scoop. Deer are NOT like horses. They do not have their legs under them immediately and need time to rest after birth. Horses get up and go that's the sign of a healthy horse. A healthy fawn will curl up, nap most of the day and move their heads. They have no scent and predators cannot find them unless humans interfere. Mom leaves during the day for 2 primary reasons: to feed, and to keep her scent a distance from the fawn. Mom will come back (unless something tragic happens to her), but don't expect her until dusk and certainly don't expect her if humans are hovering around. If you are fortunate enough to have the gift of a fawn please enjoy the experience, respect Mother Nature and let the Mom do what comes naturally. She will move the fawn daily so you may see it in different locations. Please share, thank you.

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



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— Water Quality Report —

The State of the Lake Part One

Normally when the printed Barker comes out starting Memorial Day weekend, the Water Quality Committee provides a State of the Lake report. This is not a go out to the end of the pier analysis, but an overview of the data generated the previous year. This data comes from testing different parameters that have become standards in evaluating the status and relative aging of a lake. We participate in the Co-operative Lakes Management Program through the Michigan Lakes and Stream association of which we are members.

The primary testing parameters are water clarity using a Secchi disk on an almost weekly basis from spring to fall, monthly chlorophyll sampling (samples are processed and frozen for delivery to a state lab), and spring and late summer phosphorous samples (again frozen and delivered to a state lab).

The data from these three sampling parameters are put through a scoring system to provide a Trophic Status of the lake. For a single year a Trophic Status tells you something about the age of the lake. All lakes age and eventually Birch will be filled in and become a bog. Hopefully in about 10,000 years. However, when you look at Trophic Status from year to year this will give you a better idea as to the rate of aging. Thus, it has been important for us to have been part of this program for many years and we

need to participate for generations to come. Rapid degradation of the Trophic Status is a warning sign that we need to further evaluate and ascertain why and if we can do anything to change the trajectory. Also, beneficial changes to the Trophic Status can be a marker that positive changes the lake community practices have an effect. In addition to the specific testing parameters used for determining Trophic Status, we have also participated in an exotic plant watch and “score the shore” grading system with the MLSA. Since finding Eurasian Milfoil several years ago and determining that it was spreading rapidly, we have been using Progressive AE to survey the lake and recommend treatment strategies to reduce/diminish the range of this exotic. More on this in a further report.

Instead of providing a rehash and analysis of the data from the CLMP information, we have decided to provide the first 7 pages of the report (the pertinent data). It is being published as an addendum to this Barker. Please read all seven pages. Explanations of the different tests, summaries of the data from last year and previous years, how Trophic Status is determined, and our current Trophic Status are presented. Next week we will provide a report from Progressive AE with whom we’ve contracted for additional late season testing.

Progressive ran some additional tests, and the report is highly educational.

After looking at each report please reach out to Water Quality members should you have questions about these reports. We will also have commentary and recommendations following the presentations of these reports in future Barkers.

Should you be interested in looking at data from other lakes, go to micorps.net, look under lakes for lake reports, and then find lakes by county.

In summary, this week’s State of the Lake report contains a lot of important data supplied to us by the CLMP. Next week, we’ll submit Part 2 of the State of the Lake which will be an interpretation of this important data based on a report issued to us by Progressive AE. We’ll include portions of that report, as well.

As always, your financial support of the Water Quality Committee is paramount to our continued effort in maintaining a healthy, pristine and beautiful lake. Our goal is 100 percent participation from each lake household. If you haven’t donated yet, just walk to the end of your pier and look out over the lake. We’re confident the blue will convince you to release the green.



— Happy Father’s Day —

The Lesson of the Wolverine

July, 1963: It’s a beautiful summer day, and our family is on vacation in Door County, Wisconsin. We have a rented cottage on Lake Michigan, not far from the small city of Sturgeon Bay. I am 12, my brother 10, my sister 7. We swim, fish, hike along the beach, and eat salt water taffy and fresh-picked cherries from the Piggly Wiggly.

Today we decide to do something different, and we drive into Sturgeon Bay. Along the waterfront, the road passes an old shipyard behind a tall chain link fence. Dad is focused on his driving, but we kids see something amazing. “Dad!” we yell. “Dad, stop the car! Stop the car! It’s the Wolverine!” “What!?” says dad, briefly turning his head to look. “It can’t be!” “No, it is, it really is!” we yell. So dad pulls off the road and stops for a closer look. “Well I’ll be!” he marvels. “It really is the Wolverine!”

Dad had told us the story of the wolverine many times. In 1943, in the middle of World War II, our dad, Ralph, was 16 years old, too young to join the Navy, but old enough to volunteer for the Merchant Marines on the Great Lakes. On June 13, 1943, he signed on to the Steamer Wolverine as a coal passer, shoveling coal into the furnace of the steam engine that drove the vessel, carrying raw iron ore from Duluth, Minne-



sota to the steel mills in the lower Great Lakes. But there was a bully on board, who targeted 16-year old Ralph from his first day. The other sailors were afraid of the bully, and the officers stayed out of it. Ralph was on his own. He finally decided to put a stop to the constant abuse, and he fought back. Although young and of average size, dad had played center on his high school football team, was a good wrestler, and knew a few jiu-jitsu moves. After a long and tough fight, dad had won, and the bully had left the vessel for good. And out of the blue, 20 years later, here was the Wolverine!

“Follow me,” says dad. We all follow him into the shipyard’s small, run-down office building. “I was a coal passer on the Wolverine in ‘43,” dad tells the man behind the desk. “You’re lucky to see it again,” says the man. “It’s about to

be cut up for scrap.” “Mind if I take the family aboard and show them around?” asks dad. “Go ahead,” says the man, in a friendly manner. “There’s a ladder on the port side bow. Be careful.” “Thanks”, says dad. “We will.” (Imagine THAT happening in 2024!)

We climb the ladder from the dockside up to the main deck of the Wolverine, and follow dad down the port side to an open door under a canopy at the aft end of the boat, then down a flight of stairs to the engine room. “That’s where I shoveled the coal,” dad says. The door to the coal furnace is open, as if waiting for dad to shovel in another load. As dad gazes into the cold and rusty furnace, I imagine I see the reflection of white-hot coal fire in his eyes. We climb the stairs

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

back up onto the main deck, and dad leads us a short distance out from under the canopy to an open area. "This is where the fight happened," dad says. We nod respectfully. After a few minutes of silence, the rest of us start back towards the bow end of the boat. Halfway to the bow, something makes me stop and turn around to look back at dad. He is still lost in thoughts from 20 years ago, gazing pensively at the scene of the fight.

Dad served in the Merchant Marine until early 1945, when he joined the Navy at age 18 as a Seabee. He arrived on the Pacific island of Guam after the battle to retake the island had been won, but while Japanese holdouts hiding in the jungle were still fighting to the death. Dad only mentioned his combat experience to me once, and then only very briefly. But he did enjoy telling of his experiences guarding some of the few Japanese prisoners who had surrendered. They knew they could never safely return to Japan, and had put their hopes in the United States. Dad would give his rifle to one prisoner to carry, the ammunition belt to another, and they would go into the jungle together on work details. He found them totally trustworthy. Dad treasured two white handkerchiefs hand-painted with Japanese scenes, made for him by one of the prisoners. After the war, dad returned to the Merchant Marine for a couple of years, then worked in a rubber mill in Cleveland, Ohio, did college on the G.I. Bill, married, had three children, attend-

ed night law school and passed the Ohio Bar, got into labor relations in the iron and steel industry, and had a successful career negotiating labor contracts with unions, winding up as a vice president of employee relations for a large corporation. When he died of cancer at age 56, the union men with whom he had battled across bargaining tables for many years all came to his funeral.

Why the pensive look on dad's face when he unexpectedly found himself back on the deck of the Wolverine? His fight on the Wolverine at age 16 was the crucible that prepared dad for battles to come. He knew that conflict was sometimes necessary, and he was good at handling it. But his goals were always peace and friendship. Dad instinctively knew when the fighting was enough, and when to extend the olive branch, and, most importantly, how to get to that point. Dad was pensive on the deck of the Wolverine because he was grateful that he had won the fight,



but sorry that he hadn't been able to make friends with the bully - as he later did with his Japanese prisoners, and his union adversaries.

Wishing everyone a Happy Father's Day, and warm remembrances of your own!

~Steve Frew

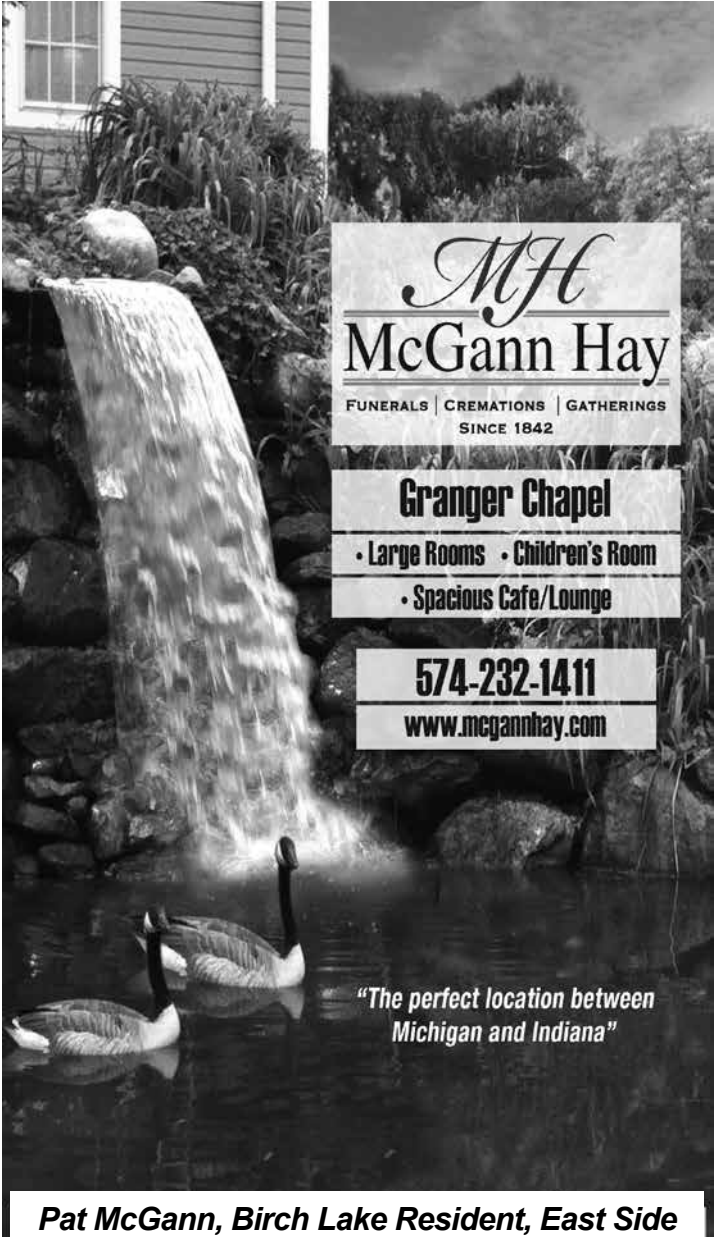


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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Another Sunday of great wind! We were delighted that Ashly Connaugaton joined us, sailing her cousin Pat Welch's MC. Ashly is the daughter of Randy and Fran Welch, and she mentioned that she has sailed with us before, but it's been a while. Welcome back, Ashly, and we hope to race with you again soon!

In the MC fleet, sailors scoring in the top three were Scott Troeger, who was present only for the first race, which he won; Barb Cassady who went 2-1-1, Steve Frew at 3-3-2, and Ashly Connaugaton with a 2nd and a 3rd. Among the Sunfish, it was Rick Russwurm with three wins; Stewart Spratt at 2-3-2, Bob Niezgodski with a 2nd and a 3rd; and Herb Cleveland with a 3rd.

Many thanks to those who made a great day possible: Ron

Niezgodski, Bill Butler and Steve Plaia on the committee boat; while Tom Cassady and Vic Jones set the course and doubled as the safety boat.

~F.C. Steve

Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial Five Lakes MC Sailboat Regatta update

The online registration link for the Five Lakes (Birch, Corey, Diamond, Eagle, and Indian) Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial MC Sailboat Regatta that will take place here on August 17, is now live at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earl-troeger-jr-memorial-interlake-mc-regatta-birch-lake-yacht-club-2024-tickets-910619707057>.

2024 sailing results & season standings to date

Date	6/9	6/9	6/9	Total	Point	Races	%
Race	7	8	9	Points	Average	Finished	Finished

MC/Sailor	Total Sunfish Races = 9						
Scott Troeger #1489	1	DNS	DNS	10884	1554.85	7	0.77
Patrick Welch #1979	DNS	DNS	DNS	8666	1444.33	6	0.66
Barb Cassady #2506	2	1	1	14086	1565.11	9	1
Bill Luecht #1579	DNS	DNS	DNS	4182	1394	3	0.33
Steve Frew #656	3	3	2	12404	1378.22	9	1
Ashly Connaugaton #1979	4	2	3	4334	1444.66	3	0.33

Sunfish/Sailor	Total Sunfish Races = 9						
Rick Russwurm	1	1	1	14009	1556.55	9	1
Stewart Spratt	2	3	2	13537	1504.11	9	1
Scott Sortal	DNS	DNS	DNS	4721	1573.66	3	0.33
Bob Niezgodski	4	2	3	12850	1427.77	9	1
Herb Cleveland	3	4	4	4182	1394	3	0.33
Camille Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	3888	1296	3	0.33

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 —



The Robinson boys (south side) and friend going for a spin.



Avery Meneghin, Johnny Dickey (east shore), Dino Meneghin. (Johnny's cousins)



These four Birch Lakers won the Camp Eberhart Annual Alumni Association Golf Outing last Friday at Pine View Golf Course in Three Rivers. L-R are Pat McGann, Rick Doolittle, Ed Levy and former North sider John O'Brien.

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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

**1st Source[®]
Bank**

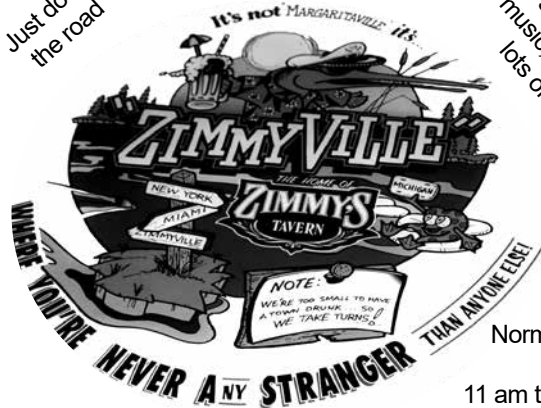
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Birch Lake Diversions



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

S'Mores in a Bag

This S'Mores in a Bag recipe is more of a concept than a recipe, but all the ingredients are easy to bring along on your next cookout. Roast some marshmallows, and toss them into a bag of snack cookies and chocolate, and YUM. You'll love the result.



Prep Time: 5 mins
Cook Time: 5 mins
Total Time: 10 mins
Servings: 2

Ingredients

2 snack-sized bags of cookies, such as Nutter Butter®, Teddy Grahams®, Mini Oreos® or Nilla Wafers®
1 1/2 ounces chocolate candy bar, broken into pieces, such as Reese's® Peanut Butter Cups or Hershey's® chocolate bar
6 jumbo marshmallows

Directions

Open snack bags and add chocolate candy pieces.

Roast 3 marshmallows over a campfire or grill according to desired degree of doneness; add marshmallows to bag. Allow the warmth of the marshmallows to melt the chocolate, mix cookie-marshmallow mixture around slightly, and serve immediately

MATH WORD SEARCH

Math Word Search

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



ADDITION
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— Birch Lake Funnies —

I ordered a chicken and an egg from amazon.
I'll let you know.



"You know, son, this is the dawning of the Age of Asparagus, Age of Asparaguuuus, Asparaguuuuuuus, Aspa...ra...guuuus."

A whoopee cushion filled with gravy adds a hilarious new dimension to a rather tiresome practical joke



Am I a good mother Susan?

My name's Amy.

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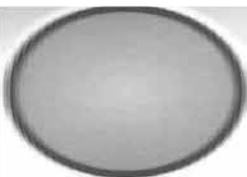
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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Health and safety procedures

The first group of campers for the summer are here! And by the time most of you read this, they'll be heading home and we'll be preparing for our second session to arrive. This week we have a total of 96 campers this week, and we're up to 1076 for the summer, with a goal of 1200. There are still spots in June and July if you have campers who may still want to register!

This week I wanted to share some information about some of the health and safety procedures we follow at camp, because we had to put some of them into action this week. As part of our licensing through the State of Michigan, we are required to do regular water testing. We are considered a "Type II non community water supply," and follow guidelines from the Van Buren Cass Health District. Each spring, when we turn on the water to the buildings that have been closed for the winter, we have each of the 3 wells treated. We are very grateful to our neighbor at the lake, Tom Mosier, who does this for us every year.

After we treat the wells (aka chlorinate them), we flush the chlorinated water through the entire distribution system by opening up every tap and faucet and letting the water run. This

pulls the chlorinated water through the pipes, killing any bacteria that may have gathered in those lines while the system was depressurized and drained for the winter. After flushing the system, we collect 2 samples from each well, at least 24 hours apart, and take them to a drinking water laboratory to be tested for the presence of coliform bacteria. The vast majority of coliform bacteria are harmless, and are found in soil, ground water, plants, and even on our skin. However, if the "total coliforms" comes back positive, they next test for the presence of e-coli, which does pose a danger to humans consuming the water.

After those opening samples in April or May, we take 1 routine sample from each well each quarter that we are open. We typically sample in June (2nd quarter), July (3rd quarter), and October (4th quarter). When we took our June samples last week, two of the samples we submitted came back positive for total coliforms but negative for e-coli.

The health department let us know that this happens frequently, and is usually the result of an error at some point in the testing process. The non community water supply coordinator said that the tests are so sensitive that someone talking while taking the sample could



trigger a positive result. They advised that we needed to take 4 additional samples from each well, at different points in the distribution system to isolate the reason for the positive result. In the meantime, until those repeat samples came back, they recommended we provide bottled water for drinking.

The timing wasn't great, as we were just about to open for our first group of campers! We went out and got large tanks of bottled water from Martin's, and a pump to dispense it, and waited for our repeat samples to come back. We also notified all of the camper parents about the test results, and that we would be providing bottled water until the results came back.

~Mrs. Amber

Considering selling your lake home or property?

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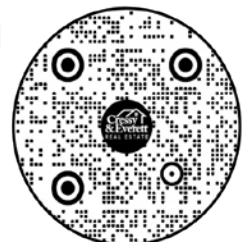


Dennis has been a lake resident for over 30 years. Many of the group's listings sold quickly and over asking price. Take advantage of their wealth of experience.

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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 at 219-765-8691.



GE over stove microwave. Purchased 2018, installed 2021. Bought new SS appliances. \$75.00 call Sparky 269-365-7696



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.

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Pay your dues and help the lake!

At the bottom of this page is a form you can use to pay your annual dues and make contributions to the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Be a good neighbor, pay your dues, and pay special attention the Water Quality contribution; without good, clean water none of us would be here!

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



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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:

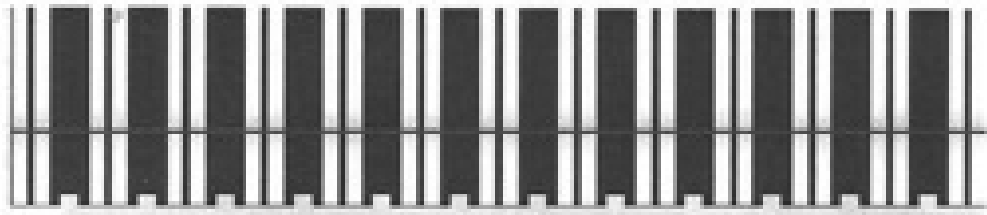
\$ _____

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