

Weekend of | **July 13, 2024**

Birch Barker

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

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Mr. Bruce (Wagner, Cove) really enjoyed fireworks with glowing glasses ... photographer Dylan Snider said Bruce loves the glasses.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

As I write this column the July 4 activities are coming to a close. Hope you had the opportunity to make it around the lake a few times. The weather cooperated for the most part to give our visitors a glimpse of the Birch Lake we enjoy year after year.

I think the boat parade was a huge success this year. We had 16 boats decorated in favorite movie themes. All participants were given a trophy by our prestigious judges. With only minor repairs on our personal trip around the lake, we completed the journey. With the movie Titanic being our entry, we figured if things fell apart, we could just blame it on the iceberg. Following the guidance of our Grand Marshall, Ron Niezgodski and family we all managed to stay in line for the most part. However I had a little difficulty keeping up with my son-in-law who captained the iceberg along with my granddaughter Claire. Thank you, Ron and family. Thank you Committee Chairman Dan Waxman for coordinating the event, and thank you to the impartial boat parade judges.

The fireworks we're awesome this year. There were also a number of boats on the lake lighting up the water. Thank you, Bernie Garceau for managing this year's Fireworks show.

We have a few more functions coming up this month with both the men and the women's golf outings and the family picnic. The third monthly card night is still scheduled for July 25. Competing with the presidential debate on our last card date, it may have depleted our turn out by a few participants, but those who came hopefully enjoyed themselves and were back home in time to watch what has become a

very controversial debate.

We are still on the bubble with the kids kayak race. We have a few participants but would like to have a few more to beef up the competition and interest. The event will be canceled if we do not hear from anyone else. Please contact me at EYESND 76@gmail.com. Today!

Happy to say we have salvaged the air conditioning in the yacht club, and with the generosity of one of our residents who wanted to remain nameless, we now have a new microwave.

The yacht club board is meeting next Saturday, July 13, and the main topic of discussion will be the yacht

2024 Birch Lake Calendar

JULY

- July 13 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC
- July 14 - Flotilla in the Middle, 6 pm
- 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 21 - 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 —

club's financial status. I am hoping to be able to include an accounting of yacht club expenses in the next Barker so everyone on the lake who reads the Barker will have the most updated information. A reminder, board meetings are open to any yacht club member and will be held at 9 am on Saturday.

As always, "May the memories remain, and the view stay the same" on our golden pond.

~Commodore Sue Davis

Ladies style show and luncheon

Join us Wednesday, August 21 for the Birch Lake Ladies Style Show and Luncheon at the Woodfire Grill and Trattoria in Dowagiac. Six lovely Birch Lake ladies will model fashions from the Marshall Shoppe. The luncheon begins at 11 am, and includes a choice of one of three entrees, side salad, dessert, soft drink, tax and tip. The cost is \$32 and must be purchased before the event.

This always sells out so purchase tickets early! Tickets can be purchased by calling Ronni Eshleman 317-418-9557 or Denny Weesner 269-476-2569.

Kids' Kayak Race July 20, 1 pm

All age groups

Meet at the public beach on the south side of the lake on Lakeshore Drive (not the boat launch)

Kayaks launch at public beach

Cars park at Yacht Club

Life jackets must be worn

Waivers must be signed

Refreshments and prizes to follow

Participants must sign up before July 13

email Eyesnd76@gmail.com

Third Annual Family Picnic

Mark your calendar for the third annual family picnic on July 20. This is a free community event that is mostly outdoors with food and games for the kids. Bring a desert to share. Reminder we do not have parking at the BLYC for this event. There will be some parking close by, look for the signs. Please try to walk, bike, golf cart, or carpool. We will have DJ Michael Wells from Bad Entertainment LLC in the house, so bring your requests. The food is being provided by the BLYC and this year it's catered by the Red Flame Roots Catering Company. Bring the whole family to the BLYC next Saturday!

Men's Golf Outing deadline

The deadline for turning in team names and foursomes for the Men's Golf Outing is the end of day on July 15. See the entry form in this week's Barker.

Save the date for free concert

Some 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

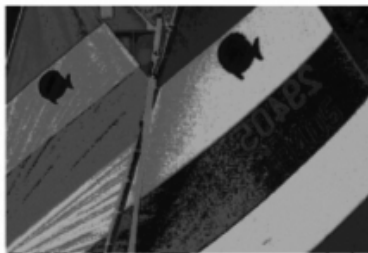
bass. Their repertoire includes acoustic rockin' folk music and Americana old and new. Stay tuned for further details in the Barker.

New C&S Chair needed

After 20+ years it's time to hang up the apron strings. The Corn and Sausage organizers are looking to pass the tongs to the next enthusiastic group of cooks. It's a fun way to serve the community and all the smiles and compliments are worth it. Years of data, recipes, procedures and hands on training are available to all who are interested in taking on this favorite community event.

Want to learn more? Please contact: Bernie and Blair Garceau 476-9862, Vickie and Tom Rogers 476-2383, or Julie and Mike Sheffieck (708) 220-1506

Annual Don Harman



Kidz Regatta

Sat. July 27th from 1-3 pm

Nautical Knot tying tutorial
Sunfish rigging / sail-away
Cookies, punch & kid stuff

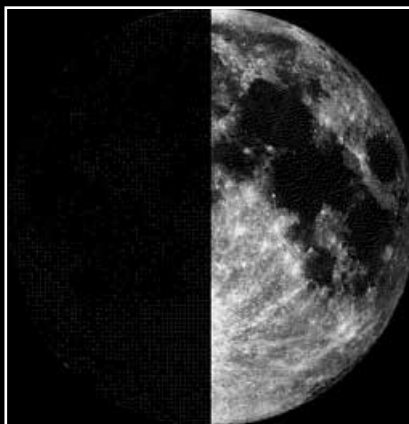
BYO: PFD (lifejacket) / squirt guns

The Moon this Saturday

at midnight. Illuminated Fraction:

Illuminated Fraction: 0.528

0.3 days since first quarter



Sun and Moon this Week

Sunrise: 06:18:04 am

Sunset: 21:17:52 pm

Moonrise: 13:56:48 am

Moonset: 00:44:10 pm

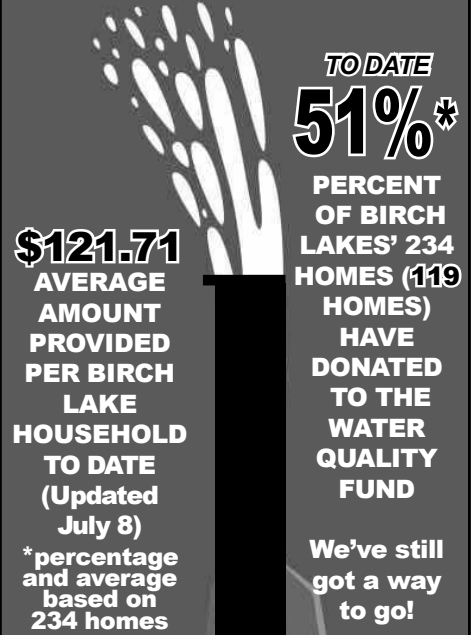
Hours of Daylight:

14 Hr 59 Min 48 Sec

Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS

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

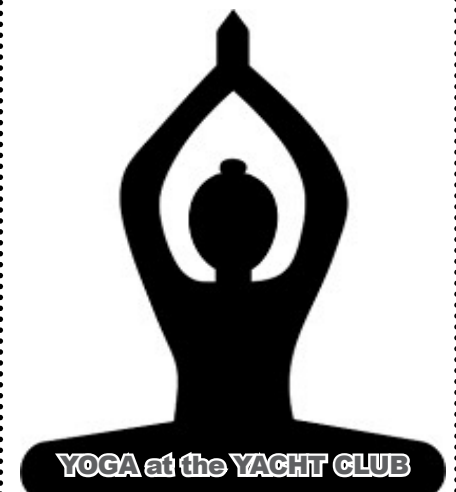
OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION



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

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 social media, the information has not been provided, checked or approved by the BLYC, and may be incorrect or misleading. If you have questions, please check <http://www.philvital.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>, or contact any BLYC director or officer.



Join Claudia Phipps most Thursdays at 9 am at the yacht club for Yoga ... (No yoga July 25)
9 am start, 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 Notes —

Birch Lake Flotilla Sunday July 14 – 6 pm (Rain date July 15 at 6 pm)

*Due to past successful flotillas, let's do it again!
Meet in the middle of the lake with your boat.*

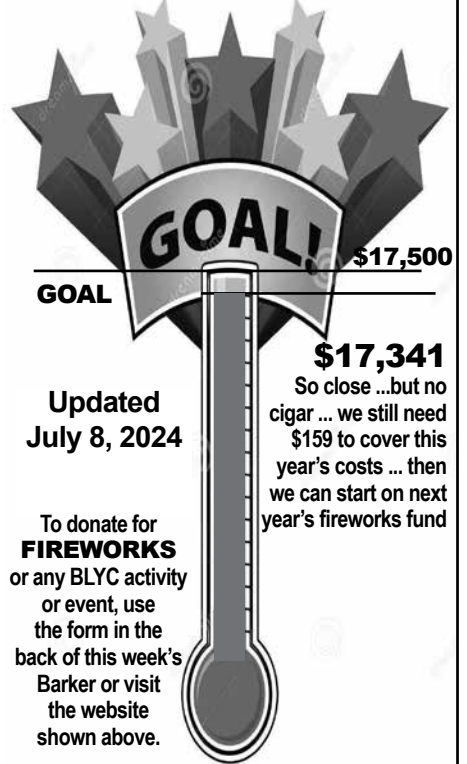
Bring an Appetizer. Dessert will be provided.
*Boats will be tied together, and we will walk from boat to boat
sharing food and camaraderie.*

Look for the boats in the middle!

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2024 is
\$17,500

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



**SUNDAY IS SAILING DAY
PLEASE STAY OFF THE COURSE!**

LADIES' STYLE SHOW AND LUNCHEON



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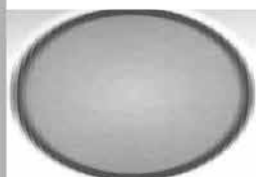
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— Birch Lake Boat Parade —

For the 2024 Boat Parade, we had the perfect afternoon with ideal weather. Rick Doolittle was quoted, saying “this was probably the best parade I’ve ever seen,” and Rick has seen a lot of parades! There were 16 boats decorated from bow to stern and they were led around the lake by our Parade Grand Marshals, Kathy and Ron Niezgodski, with their boat skippered by son Bob.

The theme for the parade was “favorite movie,” and we were elated to see not just decorated boats, but the people on every boat were in full costume and character! They had music going, facial expressions, costumes, makeup hairdos and dancing. Every boat that came up to the judges were acting the part of their favorite movie.

Honestly, it was incredibly hard to choose an overall winner with how creative every boat was. Judging deliberations were taken very seriously by Phyllis and Ciara Rasmussen and Abby Waxman Moore, and my wife Sharon was there for moral support and to provide beverages and nourishment.

A consensus was reached, and first place was given to the Riley Family, whose boat was decorated as Willy Wonka. Decorations were a fantastic display of candies, lollipops, and a massive chocolate bar. The boat was overflowing with children dressed as Oompa Loompas, chocolatiers, and Willy Wonka himself. They had a balloon arch that stretched the length of the boat and each detail on the boat was thoughtfully constructed. Congrats to the Riley family as we were star struck by your candy crew.

We did have a runner up as well, the Ball family had an eye-catching boat on the water with a Toy Story. They were able to construct their boat like the set of the movie itself! They had all the characters on the boat including Buzz Lightyear, but the set design was unreal. They were able to transform their boat from a pontoon to Woody’s room! We were loving the childlike blast from the past with Toy Story. Amazing job Ball family and congrats to each of you for your incredible efforts.

With 16 boats I could go on all day talking about each one of them because we truly were enamored by every boat on the water. Some of the honorable mentions go to the floating iceberg followed by the Titanic, followed by someone in the Davis family in tow on the infamous door we KNOW Rose could have had room for Jack. This boat was hilarious, and incredibly creative. Great job Commodore Sue!

Another judge favorite was the Soldatos’, who had a bubble machine, music, and the entire cast of the Little Mermaid in full costume. We loved your Ursula and Ariel. You rocked the lake down with that one.

Most magical boat went to the Foos as they pulled off an awesome boat for Hocus Pocus with each of the Sanderson sisters in full witch and wig costumes. We loved your music too and your commitment to the movie.

Caddy Shack was awesome with an amazing job by the Kuhn family ... we loved this one. Ghostbusters was blaring from the Woodarck boat, great job you guys. Weesner/Eshleman had a few good folks in their “A Few Good Men” boat, great movie choice. The Tuthill family had the most delicious looking boat, we loved your Lady and the Tramp choice. Dugan family did Jurassic Park and they had us loving their Dino theme choice. Baucus family did Trolls and they only got us a few times with their water guns, but they made it count! Nice job with the hairdos! Troeger family did Moana, and we loved your little islanders. Doba family did a movie we had not heard of, “Beer for My Horses” which we are adding it to our must watch list. Awesome job! Kinzler family did Saturday Night Fever. The boat was HOT, HOT, HOT. Loved your costumes! Custard family did Blues Brothers, and they brought



real musical instruments on the boat. Your sounded great! Scholes family had a great sail up for their favorite movie which was also Moana.

This boat parade was outstanding and as far as next year ... I will leave you with a clue. Something your family could binge watch together. Let the games begin with brain storming! Thanks to everyone who participated this year, the Grand Marshals, our judges and to all the cheering Birch Lakers along the shore.

Next year, let's have 20 boats!



~Boat Parade Chairman and Past Commodore, Dan Waxman (credit to Phyllis Rasmussen for the summary of the boat parade)



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



A sparkling Fourth of July regatta

Last Saturday saw a great turnout of 13 racing boats, consisting of seven Sunfish and six MC's, which boosted the Sunfish sailors' lead in season attendance. It was wonderful to see family members of sailors come out and join the fun.

Bill Butler gave it a go for his wife Cam in her Sunfish. Scott Troeger's daughter Amy raced a Sunfish, while her sister Tory served on the Committee Boat for one race, and then crewed for her dad on his MC for two races. And Phil Vitale's granddaughter Aley crewed for him on his MC "Pickle" for all three races. It was also great to have out-of-towners Pete Soldato and Scott Sortal join us for some racing after traveling long distances to visit family members.

In the Sunfish fleet, Stewart Spratt edged out Rick Russwurm for top honors for the day, going 1-1-2 to Rick's 2-2-3, and narrowing Rick's lead in race point average to 38 points. Scott Sortal scored



a first and a third, while Pete Soldato grabbed the other third. The MC fleet saw Scott Troeger, assisted in the last two races by daughter Tory, claim a perfect day with three wins. Bill Luecht made a statement with two seconds and a third, while Barb Cassady had a

second and a third, and Phil Vitale took a third. Scott's three wins gave him a narrow race point average lead of four points over Barb in the race for the season championship.

The wind was great on Saturday, but the last two races of the regatta that had been scheduled for Sunday were canceled Saturday night due to the forecast of insufficient wind, so people could firm up other holiday weekend plans for Sunday.

Special thanks to Ron Niezgodski for handling Committee Boat Captain's duties before heading off with his wife Katie to serve as Boat Parade Grand Marshals later in the afternoon; Karen Brovold and Stacia Andriano on the Committee Boat; and to Tom Cassady and Vic Jones who did double duty as Course Setting Boat and Safety Boat.

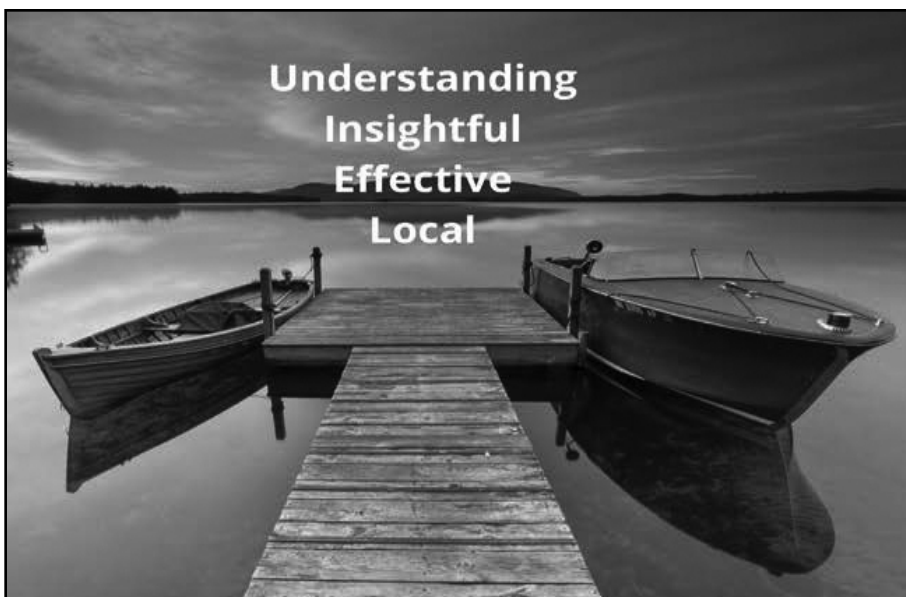
Thank you all!

~FC Steve

Fourth of July regatta & season standings to date

Date.....	6/30.....	6/30.....	6/30.....	Total Points	Point Average.....	Races Finished.....	% Finished
MC/Sailor Total MC Races = 17							
Scott Troeger #1489.....	1.....	1.....	1.....	23291	1552.73	15	0.88
Barb Cassady #2506	2.....	3.....	4.....	26341	1549.47	17	100
Bill Luecht #1579.....	3.....	2.....	2.....	13077	1453	9	0.52
Patrick Welch #1979	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	8666.....	1444.33	6	0.35
Steve Frew #656.....	5.....	4.....	5.....	23435	1378.52	17	100
Ashly Connaugaton #1979	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	5490.....	1372.5	3	0.17
Phil Vitale #500.....	4.....	5.....	3.....	5265.....	1316.25	3	0.17
Sandy Vitale #2159.....	6.....	6.....	6.....	4831.....	1207.75	3	0.17
Sunfish/Sailor Total Sunfish Races = 19.....							
Rick Russwurm	2.....	2.....	3.....	29616	1558.73	19	100
Stewart Spratt.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	28907	1521.42	19	100
Scott Sortal	5.....	3.....	1.....	9061.....	1510.16	6	0.31
Pete Soldato	3.....	5.....	DNS.....	5630.....	1407.5	4	0.21
Bob Niezgodski	7.....	6.....	4.....	22301	1393.81	16	0.84
Herb Cleveland.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	12475	1386.11.....	8	0.42
Amy Troeger	6.....	4.....	5.....	3890.....	1296.66	3	0.15
Camille Butler	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	3888.....	1296	3	0.15
Bob King	4.....	DNF.....	DNS.....	2525.....	1262.5	1	0.05

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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BLYC 64th Annual Birch Lake Yacht Club

MEN'S GOLF OUTING

FOUR MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024

\$75/MAN*



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

Shotgun start at 8 am

Dinner and awards at BLYC

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

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

Make checks payable to BLYC Individual registrations available'

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

Must have completed registrations by July 15

2018 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

Team prizes and contests

Catered dinner at BLYC included

Prizes awarded at dinner

*Donations of door & team prizes needed**

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

Contact John Ball at john.ball0452@gmail.com

2024 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

TEAM CAPTAIN:

PLEASE PRINT NAMES

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

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— Water Quality Report —

Commandment #2

Thou shalt minimize surface runoff ...

... It has often been said that whatever is around a lake eventually gets into the lake. Unfortunately, that is typically true. This is especially problematic when our lake takes some fifteen years to fully drain and replenish itself. Even worse, many of the most objectionable substances settle to the bottom and are not likely to ever leave.

So, what's a concerned, water quality advocate/lake homeowner like yourself, to do? We're glad you asked!

1) Know that the fewer areas hard surfaced like buildings, sidewalks and pavements help to reduce water run off into the lake. The greater the distance between the hard surface areas and the lake equates to less water running into the lake. This is very important because runoff often carries undesirable chemicals and objects.

2) Before landscaping an area and disturbing the earth, you might be required to obtain a "Soil and Sedimentation Control Permit." Obviously, this pertains to large landscaping projects rather than a small garden. But if it's a large enough project it might require installing a silt fence between the disturbed area and the shoreline to capture and contain runoff. We recently had an incident where a farmer clear cut many trees on the east side above the boat landing to yield more farmland. Unfortunately, those same trees and the contour of the land provided a natural flow into the ravine below where the water eventually filtered into the aquifer. By altering the landscape, the new water path from the farmland found its way onto Birch Road, down the newly paved boat launch and into our beautiful lake. It was a brown river of farm silt including the chemicals and fertilizer that comes with it. Fortunately, a concerned lake resident brought it to the attention of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Department of the Cass County Conservation District, who engaged the farmer to remedy the situation. The farmer, unaware of the problem, quickly created a berm to re-route the water path back into the ravine where it once again was naturally filtered into the aquifer. To his credit, the farmer didn't hesitate to fix the problem once it was brought to his attention, and the potential crisis was averted. Many thanks to all who were involved.

3) Capturing water and piping it directly into the



lake isn't the best way to re-route water. That way only increases the water's velocity and doesn't give suspended solids a chance to be filtered out before finding the lake. Instead, consider draining the water into a dry well which will allow the water to be filtered by the soil before it enters the aquifer and eventually the lake.

4) Although better than hard surfaced areas, lawns don't do much to slow down or filter runoff. A barrier strip of thick, rooted native plants at and above the shoreline really helps to slow down and filter runoff. A 6' wide minimum barrier is desirable. Even better, if it's 2-3 feet in height it will help to keep geese off your property (they like to be able to see the lake).

5) At all times, remove and dispose of any objects that are likely to damage our lake. Examples are oils, fuels, fertilizers, feces (goose or other), ashes, leaves, trash and grass clippings.

Overall, whenever planning to develop, modify, rebuild or just improve your home or property – keep Commandment #2 in mind. In other words, let your kids and grand-kids be the only things that runoff into our lake.

2024 BLYC Ladies' FUN Golf Outing

Ladies! Our annual fun golf outing is Friday, July 19. Grab three of your fun girlfriends and join us at Spruce Ridge Golf Course (Dowagiac). Tee off is at 9 am, with an enjoyable luncheon afterwards at The Wounded Minnow in Dowagiac.

You say you're not a good golfer? We don't care. It's a best ball scramble so everyone can come and play without any worries. If you are unable to get a foursome together let us know and we'll help find you a great group of ladies who'll make it a fun day.

Just want to enjoy the lunch? There's space for that too. Check out the Ladies Golf Outing form in this Barker for more info or call one of us. Lunch should start around 11:30 or so. Come join us.

~Carol McCoy
~Blair Garceau

**Friday, July 19, Spruce Ridge Golf Course, Dowagiac
9 AM Tee Off - \$45/golfer. Please arrive no later than 8:30 am
Fee includes cart and lunch**

Lunch at Wounded Minnow following the outing

If you don't golf but would like to join us at noon for lunch, please register and pay \$27
If you'd like to sponsor a hole contact: Carol McCoy 708-738-3962 or Blair Garceau 574-261-9817
Don't have a team? Sign up and we'll help find you one.

Team Members (list captain first with phone number)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Please make checks payable to BLYC . Bring or mail to :
Carol McCoy, 63021 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095 or
Blair Garceau, 63542 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095

Deadline for registration is Sunday, July 14

— Birch Lake Memories —

The Birch Lake Cemetery

By **Darlene Troyer**

I have spent many years doing genealogy research and have walked through more cemeteries than I can count and have some crazy stories to along with them. My research led me to Birch Lake Cemetery one day, and it has captivated my heart ever since!

It is where some of my friends and neighbors are buried. It's where I taught my grandchildren to love and respect the hallowed ground and the tombstones within. Even though the cemetery has seen its share of damage from Mother Nature and acts of vandalism throughout the years, this cemetery is a lovely well-maintained and historic cemetery. If you look carefully around the cemetery grounds it has stories to tell, you may even find the old Buggy trail that wound through the cemetery.

The land for the cemetery was donated by James East. The Easts were members of the Society of Friends or Quakers who came to Calvin Township in 1833. They were some of the first settlers in Calvin and Porter Townships.

The original name of the cemetery was called Friends Cemetery, later it was known as East Cemetery and finally named Birch Lake Cemetery.

The cemetery sits across the street from the land where the Quakers in 1837 built a log cabin to be used for community worship, the log cabin was later replaced in 1856. The building known as the Birch Lake Meeting House was used for community worship. Many all-day picnics by the congregation were held and members would take the pews outside and spend the day conversing and eating while the children played across the street in the cemetery, home of their loved ones. In 1966 the Birch Lake Meeting house was torn down due to disuse and vandals. Today only a historical marker remains at the site.

Many of the people buried here

were Quakers who played an important part in the Underground Railroad. They were instrumental in helping free slaves during the infamous Kentucky Raid of 1847 when slave catchers from Kentucky came searching for "their" slaves. They attacked several Quaker farms in Cass County while searching for the runaway slaves. Local history tells us that the wagon the Kentuckians brought with them to return the slaves to Kentucky was seized and pushed into Birch Lake by many very outraged people who lived in this area. In 1957 several wagon wheels were spotted in the lake, but it wasn't till a few years ago when a dive team retrieved some of those wheel remnants. Researchers found those artifacts retrieved from Birch Lake to be those from the slave trader's wagon.

On the North end of the cemetery there is a large site of unmarked graves of African Americans slaves who made the journey north. Their names remain unknown. I'd heard this story many years ago and was able to find articles backing up those stories. One such article can be found in a 2003 edition of the Benton Harbor Herald Palladium.

Birch Lake cemetery is the final resting place for politician James O'Dell of Cassopolis who was a captain in the War of 1812. He was a miller by trade and built the O'Dell Mill near Vandalia. He was a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1835. He served in the first and third sessions of the Michigan House of Representatives.

Today the oldest readable tombstone in the

cemetery is that of John East who died in 1836

The land owned by the Birch Lake Quakers was eventually "laid down" in 1927 and the land reverted to the Indiana Yearly Meeting who later deeded the land to Birch Lake Cemetery Association with the provision: "It is understood that the property is to be kept in repair and used for religious meetings for the spiritual betterment of the community."


Birch Lake Cemetery located at 62307 James Road, in Calvin Township, Vandalia, MI is just a short 10-minute drive from Birch Lake by car. From the intersection of Walnut Rd. and Brownsville Rd., follow Brownsville Road West till you come to James Rd. Turn right or north, and go down the dirt road for about a mile, and as you come up the hill you will find the cemetery to your (right) west side of the road and the historical marker for the Meeting House can be found across the street on the east side of the road.

"A cemetery is a history of people - a perpetual record of yesterday and sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering - always."

~Author unknown



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Pat McGann, Birch Lake Resident, East Side

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Carm and Debbie Soldato (west side) felt tremendously blessed to have their entire family including 11 grandkids together at Birch Lake for the annual 4th of July gathering. On Monday, cousins Marlee (Pete and Dana) and Josie (Matt and Flo) headed to Camp T. Little brother, Jonah, (Pete and Dana) sent the girls off with a smile and a hug!



Tom and Barb Cassady's dog Boris gives Jeff and Denise Smitley's dog Summer a kiss while their new friend from Pittsburgh, Oden, looks on.

Barker 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@philvital.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com.

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Dean, grandson of Steve & Deborah Curtis (east shore), digging up some fun at the lake over 4th of July weekend!



Our dear friends and neighbors, Kelly Davis Wilson, Phyllis Davis, Beth Davis Olson and sons Davis and Russell came back to their old stomping grounds to share old memories and make new ones with the Toth family (west side). So glad to have them back at Birch Lake.

*Rub a dub dub
 ... three grandbabies in the "tub."
 Papa T (Tom Kuhn) and
 Grandma (Jan Temple), north
 shore loved having their
 family together to
 celebrate the 4th
 of July at beautiful Birch Lake.*



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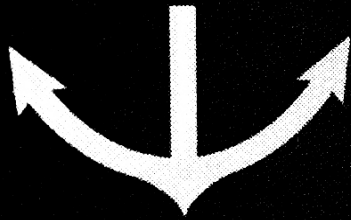
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SPECIAL NOTICE, NEW BIRCH BARKER EDITOR

After months of searching we have finally received (and accepted) an offer to take over the reins of the editorship of the Birch Barker.

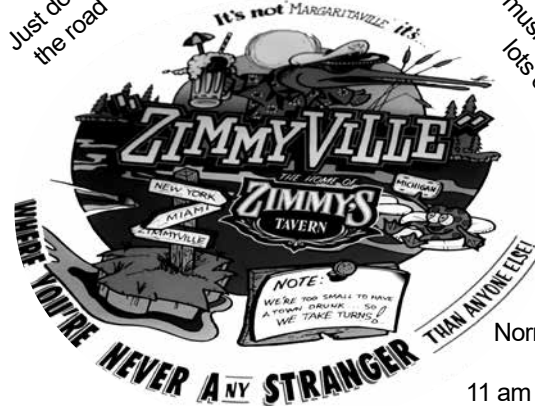
We are proud to announce that **MRS. AMBER GRUNDY** (east side) will begin in the fall by editing and producing the online Barker, then will transition into taking over the full responsibilities for the printed Barker, directory, and all other jobs previously performed by outgoing Editor Phil Vitale.

On a personal note, it has been an honor (most of the time) to have been able to serve in this capacity for the past 25 years. My personal thanks to Amber and a hearty "good luck," I sure hope you know what you've gotten yourself into. I furl my sails.

~Sailorphil

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Birch Lake Diversions



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Gourmet grilling burgers

These burgers combine beef and sausage with all the fixins right inside! They're made for grilling outside, but could easily be done on an indoor grill, too.

Prep Time: 25 mins; Cook Time: 15 mins
Total Time: 40 mins; Servings: 8
Yield: 8 hamburgers

Ingredients

- 2 pounds lean ground beef
- ½ pound bulk Italian sausage
- ½ large red onion, chopped
- 2 Anaheim chile peppers, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ¾ pound Muenster cheese, shredded
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- Salt and pepper to taste



Directions

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat, and lightly oil the grate.

Mix the ground beef, sausage, onion, chile pepper, garlic, Muenster cheese, egg, Worcestershire sauce, and chili powder in a mixing bowl until evenly combined. Season to taste with salt and pepper and mix again. Form the meat mixture into 8 patties.

Cook on the preheated grill until the burgers are no longer pink in the center, about 7 minutes per side. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 160 degrees F (70 degrees C).

1970'S TV WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| ALL IN THE FAMILY | CHARLIE ANGELS | HAPPY DAYS | ROCKFORD FILES |
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— Camp Tannadoonah —

360+ served at pancake breakfast

Thank you to everyone who came to camp last Sunday for our annual pancake breakfast! We had approximately 360 people attend, and an amazing group of volunteers helping make this event happen!

We had 19 volunteers who helped on Sunday, plus three camp staff. The volunteers included lake residents, camp alums, current campers, camp board members, and family and friends. Many thanks to Tom Kuhn, Jamie Green, Bob Bender, and Tara Grove, all of whom serve on the board of directors and also live on Birch Lake. And thanks to Andy, Lori, Dylan, and Lauren Snider, Frank and Abbi Anderson, Pat McGann, Allyson Weaver, Scott Sortal, Emily and Sylvia Matz, Yoli Roche, Elyse Grundy, and Bill and Sherry Holleman. We couldn't serve 360+ people in 2.5 hours without many helping hands!

The only hiccup on Sunday was our Internet at camp being down all day, which meant we couldn't take credit card payments for tickets or at the camp store. If you wanted to shop at the store and didn't have cash, or if you didn't make it to the breakfast but

still want to purchase camp gear, you can always come up and shop during our check in and check out times on the weekends.

Camp's check in is every Sunday from 2-4 pm, and check out is every Saturday from 10-11 am. The store is always open during those times. Or you can call or email us and we can schedule a time for you to shop! Camp store items include t-shirts, tank tops, hoodies, engraved tumblers (similar to a Stanley), sunglasses, stickers, fidget toys, fanny packs, flashlights, notebooks, light up wristbands, luggage tags, mini Frisbees, temporary tattoos, and camp staff trading cards.

The holiday weekend is our midpoint of the summer. Leading up to the holiday, our staff have been at camp for two weeks of staff training, and three and a half weeks with campers (plus an additional week of training for leadership staff). We always do a minicamp the week of July 4, with campers arriving Sunday and going home Wednesday. Then our staff have a break from midday Wednesday to midday Sunday, before we come back for the last five weeks of camp.

We still have openings for some



of the upcoming sessions, if you have kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, neighbors, etc. who want to come for a week! We have over 1,100 campers registered for the summer, but still have room for a few more. There are four weeks left – Sessions five through eight, before we wrap up the summer on August 10.

Once our camp program ends, our year-round staff stays busy with rental groups at camp, school year programs in schools, and our fourth annual Grown Up Camp weekend, which will be September 13-15 this year. If you're interested in learning more about Grown Up Camp, give us a call or check out the event on our website at <https://tannadoonah.org/gathering>.

~Mrs. Amber

Considering selling your lake home or property?

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



Lost & FOUND

Lost: 1 white seat cushion during Sunday storm

Found: 1 flamingo platter and 1 floral bowl left at YC Call Sue Davis 574-993-6031

Found in the parking area at Yacht Club, **womens bracelet**, silver. Call Vickie 476-2383.

Lost in a recent big storm, **large blue and yellow O'Brien tubing tube**. Last seen in the north east corner of the lake, but not there when I went to pick it up. Hopefully, it floated back out and landed on someone's shore. If found, please contact Sue Davis at 574-993-6031.

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

2024 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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- \$ ___ - **FIREWORKS FUND****
- \$ ___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
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- \$ ___ - Misc.

**See page 2 for status of these important contributions

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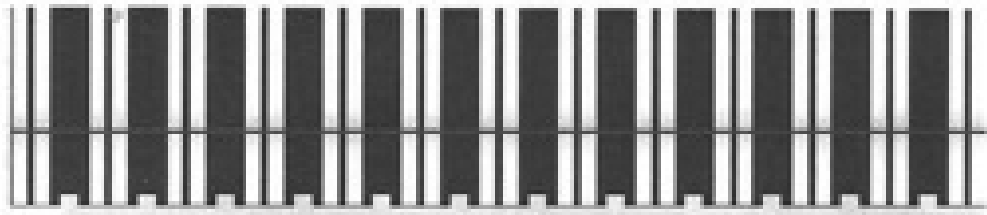
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