

Weekend of | **Aug. 3, 2024**

Birch Barker

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

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



For the second time in a couple of weeks Birch Lake residents woke to find some interesting rearranging of tree limbs after a large limb fell and took out a power line and blocked Birch Road between Waxmans and Dufor's on the east side.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

“Fingers crossed” must have worked because Mother Nature definitely cooperated for the sailors and golfers this weekend. Forty-one gentlemen competed last Friday in the Birch Lake men’s golf outing at Hampshire golf course. Awards and a catered meal from Bullseye market were enjoyed in the evening at Birch Lake Club. Thank you coordinator John Ball, for organizing a smooth event while his wife Jen worked hard to create the hole sponsor cards and decorate the Club. Your efforts are appreciated again this year.

Another successful weekend event was the Dan Harman Kidz sailboat

regatta. Seven MC’s and skippers were on hand to mentor the eight young sailors attending the event. The competition included three races under perfect conditions. It was a thrill to see the initial apprehension on some of the participant’s faces change to full-blown smiles upon their return to dry land, savoring the experience. Hopefully some of these young girls and boys will continue to enjoy sailing and become the cornerstone for our future fleets.

August activities will begin Saturday, August 3 with the annual Corn and Sausage Roast. Advance tickets are not required for the event.

Our much anticipated Earl Troeger Interlake MC Sailboat Regatta will take place on August 17. The regatta committee is still hard at work fine-tuning the event that will showcase our beautiful lake. Again, we ask Mother Nature to

come through and provide us with a clear day and a steady wind. Keep in mind the boat launch will be very busy that morning and afternoon so plan accordingly.

The Ladies Luncheon and Style Show will be held on the August 21, and the Fall Dinner will be on August 24.

2024 Birch Lake Calendar

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

EARL TROEGER JR. INTERLAKE REGATTA SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Birch Lake will host up to 30 boats competing in 3 races from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm (weather permitting). The boat launch will be in use from 7 – 10 AM and around 3 – 5 pm.

Please show your support for this once-in five-year event by using your speed boats AFTER the sailboats finish racing.

Let’s show our guests our great Birch Lake hospitality!

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 —

These events are an advanced-ticket-purchase requirement, so make sure you reserve your place.

It is still concerning to me that some speed boats are ignoring the counter-clockwise rule of operating on our lakes. Although not officially a Michigan rule, I've also noticed a few boats running full speed or close to it after the sun has long set. Please be mindful of the limited visibility on the lake at that time and the possibility of encountering fisherman, kayakers, or swim rafts close to shore.

With kids, heading back to school soon I expect the lake to be super busy with families trying to get their last ride in. Be careful and remember, "May the Memories remain and the view stay the same," our golden Pond.

~Commodore Sue Davis

Corn & Sausage next weekend

Corn & Sausage Roast This Saturday, August 3 ... It's Finally Here!

This is the day! Get ready to gather your families and neighbors for the annual Corn & Sausage Roast! From 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Saturday, August 3 at the Yacht Club, we'll be serving excellent meals with your grilled meat choice, roasted corn, a selection of side dishes, cookies and lemonade or iced tea. Just wait until you sink your teeth into a chicken breast (\$9), bratwurst (\$8) or hot dog (\$5) meal! (**NOTE:** We'll only have a limited supply of chicken breasts – arrive early for your best chances). Still a great bargain! Pay at the door – no reservations required! Come hungry, enjoy some amazing summertime favorites, visit with your friends and neighbors and leave happy and satisfied! Hope to see you there!

AND REMEMBER: If you are look-



YOGA at the YACHT CLUB

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

ing for the perfect opportunity to contribute some of your time toward leading a fun, successful, well-organized event, please contact Blair Garceau (574-261-9817) for more details and to observe the process of the experienced (not old) masters who are retiring. Thanks!

50/50 SPLIT-THE-POT AT THE CORN AND SAUSAGE ROAST

The ever popular 50/50 split-the-pot raffle returns this Saturday at the corn & sausage roast! Proceeds benefit the water quality fund. Bring CASH and grab some tickets for a chance to win!

Homeowners Annual Meeting

The Birch Lake annual homeowners association meeting will be Saturday, August 10, directly following the BLYC board meeting, that starts at 9 am. We are pleased to announce that we will have a speaker from the Soil Erosion & Sediment Control from Cass County to discuss how we as homeowners can further protect our lake by preventing unwanted "stuff" into our lake. It should be very informative and helpful. Please join us to hear about all these things and a special section on rain gardens. I want to know more about that!

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, Di Wozny 574-315-4915 and Claudia Phipps 574-596-2154.

Fall Frolic concert Sept. 7

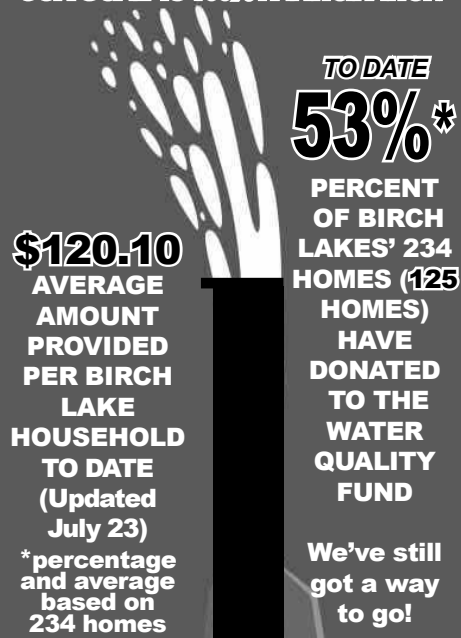
The Past Commodores behind the "Fall Frolic" Concert on September 7. Thought it was a good time for an update. The concert at the BLYC is a FREE event open to all Birch Lake residents, that is being funded totally by the Past Commodores.

The Band, DAWG, will begin playing at 7 pm and will play to 9:30 pm, and weather permitting will be located outside on the deck. There will be seating indoors with plenty of tables and chairs. All the windows along the deck will be open. Everyone is invited to bring chairs if

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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

you wish to sit outdoors.

There will be free Margaritas and bagged snacks provided (as long as supplies last). There will also be an open bar with two bartenders; the club does not. If you wish, bring snacks to share and your own beverages. There will also be a 50-50 game available with all proceeds going to the BLYC Water Quality Fund.

Please come out and join us for one of the last events for 2024. It will be a fun night and DAWG, the Band, will get everyone Rockin."

Correction

We have been alerted that in the kid of the week photo last week showing Gianna Saladino who was visiting her Aunt Donna and Uncle Chris Stevens (south side) with a new friend, Eleanor

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— Birch Lake Notes —

and. Max the dog, Gianna and Eleanor were misidentified in the caption. Apparently someone had a senior moment and confused his left and right, and yes Chris, you may need a keeper.

Slow down signs

Do you need a sign? Contact Blair Garceau 476-9862. Signs courtesy of Birch Lake Home Owners Association.

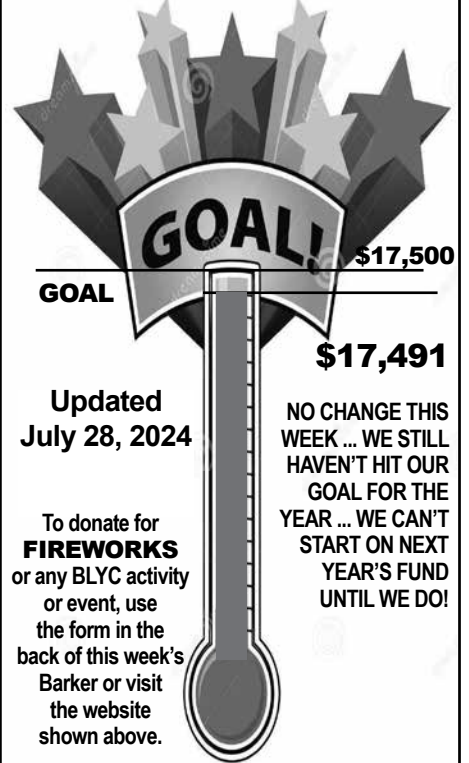
BLYC and social media

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.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>, or contact any BLYC director or officer.

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2024 is
\$17,500

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All proceeds go to Water Quality. To purchase, contact
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or Phil Vitale @ onlinebarker@gmail.com



TOUCH DOWN



to the

Birch Lake Fall Dinner

Football Tailgate

inside the Birch Lake Yacht Club



August 24



Cocktails: 530 to 6 pm

Score with a Bullseye Market Tailgate

Enjoy ribs and chicken huddled up with delicious sides

\$25 ticket for each football fan

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Julie Dickey, 63276 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

Questions? Contact Julie at jdjuls@aol.com



Deadline for reservations: August 16



— Birch Lake Sailing —

Don Harman Kidz Regatta a big hit!



Saturday we had a very nice showing at the annual Don Harman Kidz Regatta. The best part (now that it's done) is how many sailors are gushing about the fun they had with Kidz on board.

Thanks to Niezgodski and the Race Committee Boat crew, and to the Birch sailors for hosting youth sailing.

It's the future.

Speaking of, someone offered to Host in future. Watch this space!

~Bob King ~ MC 1199



— BLYC Men's Golf —

Great weather, a great men's golf outing

The 64th Birch Lake Men's Outing was held last Friday at Hampshire Country Club with 41 golfers competing for cash awards. Unlike last year, the weather was perfect, and after the rounds were completed we met at the yacht club for cocktails and a dinner of ribs and chicken. Award presentations followed by door prize drawings completed the evening.

Team Winners:

1st place: Dave Quall, Pat McGann, Bill Holleman, John O'Brien (won in a tie breaker)

2nd place: Mark Van Huffell, Mike Connaughton, A.J. Bishop, Randy Welch, Jr.

3rd place: Bob Bender, Kenny Petty, Tom Caplis, Andy Karceski (won in a tie breaker)

4th place: Tim Steffen, Wes Steffen, Al

Cover, Brogan Cover

Hole Prizes:

Long Drive # 5: Mason Talos

Long Drive # 9: Steve Ball

Closest to the Pin # 6: Dave Qualls

Closest to the Pin # 11: Ben Petty

The following people made the outing a success:

Servers: Jennifer Ball, Sheryl Covey, Sue Davis, Chris Ball

Bartender: Bill Luecht

Dinner Set up and decorations: Jennifer Ball

Hole Sponsor Signs: Jennifer Ball

Hole Sponsors:

Paramount Properties (Rick Russwurm)

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Phil and Sandy Vitale

Kinzler Janitorial (Keith Kinzler)

Lake Life Realty,

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Buzzman Motorsports (Artie McElwee)

Dermani MedSpa (Justin Bratt)

PayProtec (Tim Burchell)

Dan and Sharon Waxman

Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

Paul and Celia Fallon

Door Prizes:

Mark Van Huffell (cart caddies, portable speakers, golf balls, koozies, insulated cups, may other items)

Tim Burchell (Birch Lake hats, koozies and coasters)

Dan Waxman (koozies and socks)

Thank you all for your contributions to the Outing which has resulted in a contribution to the Water Quality Fund.

~John Ball



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Another great Don Harman Kidz Regatta!

Many thanks to Bob and Leslie King for a fun and well-attended Don Harman Kidz Regatta last Saturday! Sailboats began mooring in front of the King residence shortly after noon, soon joined at the King boat house by a crowd of friends, neighbors, parents and kids. Commodore Sue came by to enjoy the socializing and see the boats.

Scott Troeger's MC was a standout, sporting a full array of colorful nautical signal flags. Other sailors included Bob Niezgodski, Bill Luecht, Barb Cassady, Phil Vitale, Bob King and Steve Frew. Many thanks also to Ron Niezgodski and his crew of Lori, Erin and Ty Hendricks, who had set up a perfect race course for the kids, using milk jugs for the start/finish line and the windward mark. Then it was off to the boats for three short, kid-friendly races. My crew consisted of my son Jack and granddaughter Aria. We saw Bob King's boat pass us in the first race, and exchanged friendly greet-

ings with his young crewman Brian, who has special needs. In the third race, we saw young Connor Caplis looking very confident and capable at the helm of an MC. I was too far behind to be able to report on any additional details of the three races, except that probably 10 or more kids got to sail, and everyone had a great time!

Regular season races scrubbed

We didn't race on Sunday, so the standings remain the same, but two MC's were seen out taking advantage of a nice breeze late Sunday morning to practice together for the upcoming Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial Interlake MC Regatta, scheduled for Saturday, August 17. Twelve MC's have signed up, a great start this far in advance. We are especially grateful to be welcoming several off-lake boats, some of whom are members of the extended Troeger clan. Please mark August 17 on your calendars, and plan to keep your boats off the lake while three races of the regatta are being run

in the late morning and early afternoon. If you would like to assist as a volunteer and have not already done so, contact the Interlake Regatta Committee Chair, Barb Cassady. Thank you!

Time to retire!

It has been my pleasure to serve you as BLYC fleet captain since September, 2021. But three years are enough, and I have made the decision that my time as fleet captain will come to an end right after the awards are presented at the end of this season.

Consequently, we are seeing someone interested in filling the opening. If you are interested, please contact me, or any of our Sailors. I can assure you that your rewards of service will exceed your investment of time.

I know that all of you share my passion for sailing; and yes, love for each other. Let's keep it going strong!

Thank you.

~FC Steve

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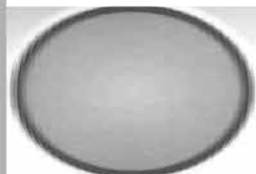
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— Water Quality Report —

The red tide at Birch?

Due to its depth and limited inlets and outlets, it takes 15 years to drain and replenish all the water in Birch Lake. Whatever we let into our lake will be there for a very long time. So, our need to ward off the entry of undesirables, primarily phosphorus, is crucial.

Phosphorus is a chemical element required for all forms of life. It is also the limiting factor in most aquatic ecosystems. This means it is the variable in which a small change in its quantity will directly cause a substantial change in the growth of plants and algae. It can enter the lake from natural sources or human activities. The natural source is simply phosphorus dissolving from surrounding rock into the lake water. Humans create phosphorus through farm runoff, seeping septic systems and especially fertilizer that contains phosphorus.

Once phosphorus enters a lake, it's usually in the inorganic form of orthophosphate which is dissolved into the water. Once it's taken up by algae and aquatic plants, it becomes particulate phosphorus. As grazers eat the algae and predators eat the grazers, the phosphorus moves through the food web and is converted to organic phosphorus.

When large amounts of phosphorus enter the lake (through human activity) algae can reproduce rapidly, which can tint the water green and create slimy mats on the surface. Thus, the dreaded algal bloom which, at best, can be a significant nuisance for swimmers and boaters. It also degrades the conditions that fish, bugs, wildlife, and desired plants need to thrive. At its worst case, it can fuel a toxic blue-green algal bloom which is harmful to people and pets. Essentially, excess phosphorus can set off a vicious cycle of reducing desirable plant life which leads to reduced oxygen levels which in turn degrades the habitat

for fish and other life. It's also difficult to reverse this chain of events. Need another example? Look no further than the affects of the "Red Tide" in Southwest Florida – an explosive algal bloom created by scheduled water discharges from Lake Okeechobee which travel down the Caloosahatchee River picking up farm runoff and fertilizer along the way and eventually emptying this super charged water into the Gulf of Mexico. The result: massive fish kills, irritated eyes and lungs, unusable beaches and warnings to stay out of the water.

We're not suggesting a Red Tide type of event will happen at Birch Lake. But it is incumbent on all of us to reduce the chances of increased phosphorus levels at our lake. In addition to constant monitoring by your Water Quality Committee, **here's how you can act against an increase in phosphorus levels:**

- 1) Consider not using any fertilizer on your property.
- 2) If you must fertilize, make sure the fertilizer does not contain any phosphorus.
- 3) Fertilize away from the shoreline.
- 4) Never put ashes into the lake.
- 5) Never rake or blow leaves or other vegetation into the lake.
- 6) Pick up and properly dispose of animal waste.
- 7) Never feed the ducks, swans or geese.
- 8) Plant a barrier strip between your lawn and the shoreline, as wide as possible. Ideally use deeply rooted native plants at least 12" – 24" tall.
- 9) Consider not using any weed killer on your property.
- 10) If you haven't done so, donate to the Water Quality Program to ensure testing, assessment and especially treatment of lake conditions is fully funded.

We have a beautiful lake, one of the



best in SW Michigan. It's deep, clean and blue. We need everyone's help to keep out any hint of the "Red."

The Moon this Saturday

at midnight. Illuminated Fraction:
Illuminated Fraction: 0.001
0.2 days before new moon

0.2 days before new moon

Sun and Moon this Week

Sunrise: 06:37:49 am

Sunset: 20:58:23 pm

Moonrise: 05:22:15 am

Moonset: 21:03:39 pm

Hours of Daylight:

14 Hr 20 Min 33 Sec

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— Birch Lake Memories —

Northeast corner of Birch Lake

As we boat around Birch Lake, we take in the lovely homes and cottages along the shoreline. We know that many of the cottages were built by the settlers in the early 1900s but did you know that our lake was once home to two camps on the North Shore of the lake. In those early years, the north east corner of our lake was mostly forest with only a few cottages along it's shoreline.

In 1951, Virginia Gardner of Mishawaka, Indiana, as director of the Mishawaka branch of Campfire girls, purchased the acreage in the northeast corner of Birch to run a summer resident camp.

Named Camp Kiloqua, the camp was the second Campfire camp to be located here.

The camp was purchased from an Elkhart organization in 1951 and grew to be a thriving Campfire camp over the 19 years it operated. Improvements were made over the years and the operation hosted groups of Campfire girls for six weeks over the summer session. Campers enjoyed the clear blue waters of Birch Lake with swimming and canoeing available for their entertainment.



As young Birch Lakers, we used to walk through the camp on our nightly trips around the lake. Rumors have it that some of our young men would sneak up to the cabins and try to befriend female counselors. Don't know if any were successful however.

The large swim pier and boat launch were enjoyed by Birch Lake youth in the off-season as the bottom with sandy and weed free. With two camps anchoring the east and west end of the North Shore, we fellow Lakers enjoyed the peace and solitude that the natural setting provided. All was calm until 1970 when rumors began of the camp shutting it's doors.

Stay tuned to following Barkers to see what happened in the ensuing years.

~Sue Davis



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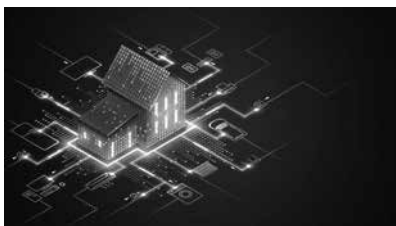
— Barker Kids of the Week —



Sandy, Kathy and David Green (south side) with mother Barb, aunt Jo and Sandy's husband Geoff and David's wife Diana celebrating birthdays on Birch Lake last weekend.

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Tom and Earl Troeger with the first trophy given by the BLYC ... in 1948!



Betty Goodin (west side) sent this photo of Kevin Goodin's dog Holly hanging out in the garage when a fawn came in to visit in South Bend.

Barker Kids of the Week

Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Barker Dog 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.

Barker Bug of the Week ... a large, black beetle was found squished on Birch Road.



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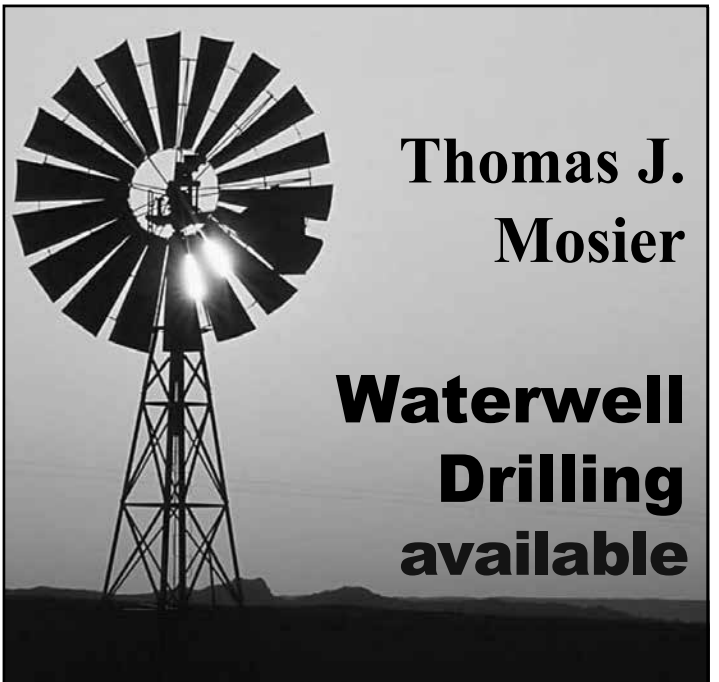


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— Barker Kids of the Week —

*That's the Yeti of Ed Levy
(south side), sporting a BLYC
Burgee loincloth.*

*BLYC Burgees are available for
sale by contacting
Commodore Sue at
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or Phil Vitale
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Birch Lake Diversions



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Best fried green tomatoes

Serve these crispy fried green tomatoes outside with a glass of iced tea on a warm summer night and enjoy the sunset with someone you love!

Prep Time: 5 mins

Cook Time: 15 mins

Total Time: 20 mins

Servings: 4

Ingredients

4 large green tomatoes

2 large eggs

½ cup milk

1 cup all-purpose flour

½ cup cornmeal

½ cup bread crumbs

2 teaspoons coarse kosher salt

¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

1 quart vegetable oil for frying

Directions

Gather all ingredients. Slice tomatoes 1/2 inch thick. Discard the ends.

Whisk eggs and milk together in a medium-sized bowl. Scoop flour onto a plate. Mix cornmeal, bread crumbs, salt, and pepper on another plate. Dip tomatoes into flour to coat. Then dip tomatoes into milk and egg mixture; dredge in bread-crumbs to completely coat.

Heat oil in a large deep skillet to 375 degrees F (375 degrees). Place tomatoes in hot oil in batches of 4 or 5, to prevent them from touching; fry until crisp and golden brown on one side, then flip and fry on other side.

Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate to drain. Repeat with remaining tomatoes. Serve hot and enjoy!

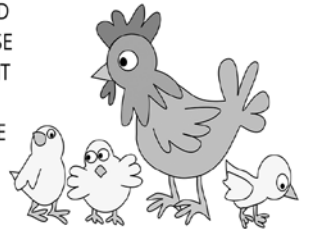


Common Animals

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

Word list:

CAT	GOLD FISH	LIZARD
CHICKEN	GUINEA PIG	MOUSE
DOG	HAMSTER	RABBIT
FERRET	HEDGEHOG	RAT
FROG	HERMIT CRAB	SNAKE



The LAKE LIFE REALTY GROUP



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LISTINGS NEEDED!

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO LIST YOUR HOME!

Birch Lake homes are **SELLING!**

CALL
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TODAY

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Paul@TheLakeLife.com

— Camp Tannadoonah —

Biggest week of campers - EVER!

We'll be wrapping up Session seven when you are reading this article. This week we have 176 campers in camp – our biggest week so far this summer, AND our biggest week ever! The four new cabins this year gave us an additional 16 beds, bringing our typical overnight capacity up from 137 to 153. This week we have all but two of those overnight beds filled, plus 25 day campers. The big weeks when camp is full are always fun. The energy level (and the noise!) increases greatly.

At lunch, when all of the day campers are here, the dining hall is completely full to capacity, and one group of staff is eating out on the front porch! If we want to continue to expand in the future, the next project we will need to tackle is increasing the capacity for seating at meals. We've talked about several ways to go about this. In the short term, the most likely solution would be to enclose the front porch and add tables out there.

Next week we will have just as many campers for the last session – maybe even one or two more! The last week of camp is always a special one. There are traditions around the last week that make it unique. On Friday night, August 9, we will have our candlelight serenade at the lake. Around 9 pm on Friday eve-

ning, the campers and staff will proceed down the waterfront stairs carrying candles and singing "Follow the Gleam." They will assemble around the dock at the waterfront and place their candles in the water while we sing. This candlelight serenade marks the closing of our camp season each year.

If you're at the lake on Friday night (August 9), be sure to come out on your boat for the serenade! We will be starting down the stairs around 9 pm, and we usually conclude around 9:40 pm. It's a beautiful way to end the season at camp, and we love when we see a crowd on the water to listen and watch!

In the 19 summers since I became the camp director in 2006, we've only had to cancel the serenade one time. In 2012 a tree fell on the waterfront stairs during rest hour on the very last day of camp, and we were unable to use the stairs. We were very lucky that it happened during rest hour when everyone was safely in their cabins. We rebuilt the entire stairway before the start of the 2013 camp season.

One other year we didn't cancel the serenade, but it was very memorable. The campers and staff started down the stairs with their candles. The tradition is that the camp director and assistant director stand at the top of the stairs and



light each candle from their own candle. Then the director and assistant director are the last two people to proceed down the stairs. Miss Michelle and I were about half way down the stairs when it suddenly started to rain. Not just a sprinkle, but a total downpour! We continued down the stairs because most of the campers were already at the bottom. We lined up on the pier and sang in the pouring rain. Most of the candles were extinguished, and we were all completely soaked, but everyone was laughing and singing and having fun nonetheless. Hopefully this year we have clear skies and no rain next Friday night! **Don't forget – Friday, August 9, at approximately 9 pm.**

~Mrs. Amber

Considering selling your lake home or property?

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- 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.



Michelle

Katrina

Dennis

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

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White composite closet doors. (Left) 48" w X 79" h. Reduced to \$35 for the pair. Call Deb at 219-765-8691.



LOST & FOUND

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

Lost in a storm, **large blue and yellow O'Brien tubing tube**. If found, please contact Sue Davis at 574-993-6031.

Lost: **life jacket, HO Skis brand**. Black with red and gray. Lost Sunday, July 7. Contact Barb Cassady 574-229-9815

SERVICES:

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

LEMONADE, GARAGE SALE

The Pence-Schnoor kids are having a **lemonade stand and selling beaded bracelets** on Saturday, August 3, from 10 am to noon at the Pence cottage, 63206 Birch Road (East side, cottage 159). They are also having a **small garage sale** including a small bike, crib mattress and some children's toys and books. Proceeds from the garage sale will be donated to the Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee and to the Cass County animal shelter. The Pences' will make a matching donation for lemonade, bracelet and garage sale proceeds.

FREE



Free grill - contact claudia2154@gmail.com

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HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Tip No 2: LOWER THE VOLUME

*We all have different tastes in music, but if you're blasting the tunes out the speakers on your boat, everyone on the lake and on shore has to listen to yours. Be considerate, especially at night, and please and **TURN DOWN THE RADIO** when you're motoring around the lake!*

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



2024 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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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:

\$ _____

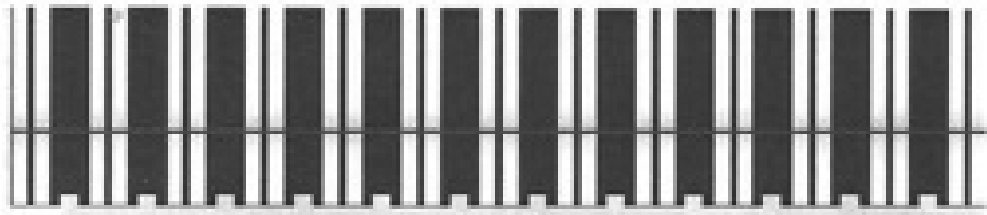
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Address _____

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