

Weekend of | **Aug. 10, 2024**

Birch Barker

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

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Bud Hall (cove) for sending in this great photo of a tiny tree frog hanging onto the screen door at his house

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

If the corn and sausage roast and the spaghetti dinner get any more popular we may have to put an addition on the yacht club! Just kidding! Although the addition is all in jest, it is a fact that these yacht club events have grown in popularity. I saw many new faces at the club and many of the old guard attending the corn and sausage roast last night. You will be reading a full account of the event later in this week's Barker. I was told that at least 130 people shared fresh roasted corn and tasty sausage sandwiches. Thank you again to Blair and Bernie Garceau and all their helpers on another success-

ful roast.

Representatives from Water quality were also present conducting a 50-50 raffle with proceeds earmarked to go into the fund that keeps our lake clean. They were excited to collect I think a record-breaking amount of \$718 for the fund. The winner of the 50-50 raffle was Keith Remington. After making an already substantial contribution to water quality, he announced that his winnings would go back into the fund. Thank you very much, Keith, and thank you all who participated in the 50-50 raffle.

We have sold the remaining in stock BLYC burgees (pennants). Proceeds will return to the sailing fund to offset cost of remaining Regatta expenses. We are able to order more of the burgees but that order will not be sent in until we

have at least 10 more families request a flag. We had an interested Laker suggesting we photograph where we have used our burgees and submit that to the Barker. So please take a picture of where you chose to display your yacht

EARL TROEGER JR. INTERLAKE REGATTA NEXT 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!

2024 Birch Lake Calendar

AUGUST

- Aug 10 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC
- Aug 10 - Homeowners Association Annual Meeting, following BLYC Board Meeting
- Aug 17 - Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial MC Interlake Regatta 10:30 am
- 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 flag for a possible submission in the newspaper.

August yacht club events include the women's fashion show on August 21 and the fall dinner on August 24. There is also our fourth card night at the yacht club on Thursday, August 29. Looking forward to watching our sailors, current and former, compete in the Earl Troeger Jr MC Interlake Regatta on August 17. This event is a huge endeavor organized by our sailing committee, with sailors coming as far away as Florida to participate. It has been smooth sailing on their part in preparing for this event. A steady breeze is all that they ask for now.

In closing as I look out at a beautiful sun shining day, "May the memories remain and the view stay the same" on our golden Pond.

~Commodore Sue Davis

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.

Ladies golf outing addenda

By some unknown happenstance the following was cut off from a previous article. Our sponsors are so important to the success of the Ladies Golf Outing, and we didn't want to give the full recognition they deserve.

We had generous sponsors for this year's outing:

- Patti & Rick Russwurm - Paramount Properties, Inc.
- Sandy & Phil Vitale
- Dan & Sharon Waxman
- South Bend Medical Foundation
- Carmen and Debbie Soldato
- Barb & Tom Cassady
- Carla and Ed Chester
- Mark Bidelman - Sun & Shade Awning
- Lee Oswalt - Zimmy's
- Jim Rau - Apollo Marine
- Dennis Bamber - Cressy and Everett
- O'Donnell Docks
- Paul Delano - Lake Life Realty
- Sandy Farrell - golf balls

Our sponsors and volunteers helped to make this day special and successful. Thank you to everyone for giving us a delightful and fun golf day. Looking forward to an enjoyable Ladies Golf outing next summer.

~Carol McCoy and Blair Garceau, Co-Chairs

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 you wish to sit outdoors.

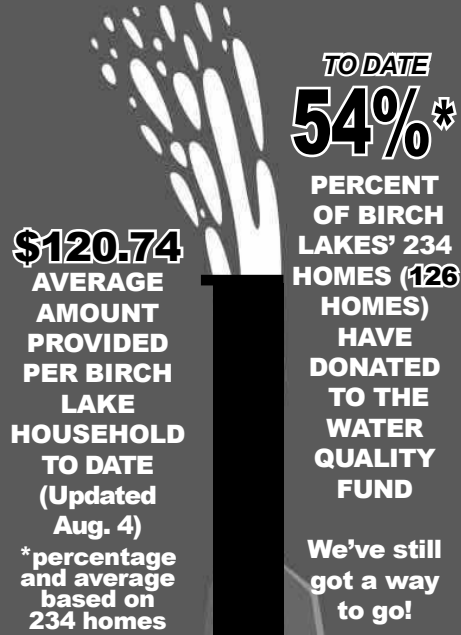
There will be free Margaritas and bagged snacks provided (as long as supplies last). There will also be an open bar with two bartenders; the club does not sell alcoholic products. If you wish, bring snacks to share and your own beverages. There will also be a 50-50 game available with all proceeds going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

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

Thanks Rick & PATTI

At a recent event we discovered that the yacht club did not have a first aid kit on hand ... thanks to Rick and Patti Russwurm (north side) of Paramount Management for donating a new First Aid kit to the Birch Lake Yacht Club. We hope to use it sparingly (and to not need it much)!



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

JAYWALKER

RESTAURANT

Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!
Open for Lunch and Dinner

Located on the beautiful St. Joseph River
10188 US 12, Mottville

for reservations or carry-out, call

(269) 483-2305

— Birch Lake Notes —

The Printed Birch Barker

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

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

To submit items for publication, email sailorphil@philvital.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com, or mail (or deposit items) at 63174 Birch Rd. (East side), Vandalia, MI 49095. To contact the editor, email onlinebarker@gmail.com or sailorphil@philvital.com, or phone 269-476-1680 (no texts).

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.

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2024 is
\$17,500

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



Introducing The Birch Lake Burgee



FOR SALE NOW

This beautiful, red-white-and-blue BLYC Burgee is just \$20
All proceeds go to Water Quality. To purchase, contact
Commodore Sue at eyesnd76@gmail.com or 574-993-6031
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

DJ Michael Wells with Bad Entertainment LLC will make this tailgate a real winner!

Wear your favorite football team shirt and kick off the football season at the BLYC!

Tickets available online at www.birchlakeyachtclub.com

Or make checks payable to the BLYC and mail to:

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

Questions? Contact Julie at jdjuls@aol.com

Deadline for reservations: August 16



— Corn & Sausage Roast —

After 20 plus years we chaired our last Corn and Sausage Roast at Birch Lake. We were in our 40's when we started and it's amazing that the years have gone by so quickly. This past weekend we had an excellent turnout who left with bellies full of well satisfied as usual.

At the grill we had the masters at work: Andy Snider, Bob Bender, Rick Russwurm, Steve Plaia, Greg Bolin, Mike Sheffieck, Tom Rogers, Bernie Garceau

In the kitchen the outstanding crew was: Lori Snider, Patti Russwurm, Layna Bender, Bruce Wagner, Amy Koscielski, Dan Waxman, and Vickie Rogers. The corn shuckers were Barb Cassidy, Vic Jones, Pat and Sue Williams. Dylan Snider helped with all the odd jobs. We thank you all for making it a fun night.

Our memories are full of people who have been there to help. Bob Waddle and Jim Hettmansperger built the grill which is an asset to our yacht club. Bob maintains the grill year in and year out. Thanks guys.

Many of you know cooking is not my forte, so I want to thank Sandy Vitale for helping me get my act together when we first took over. There are so many people to thank and hindsight being 20/20 we did not keep records of all of the Birch Lakers who helped over the years. We know we couldn't have been as successful as the annual C&S is without your help.

Knowing we will forget someone we won't list everyone who helped but know that all of your help and volunteering to work made every Corn and Sausage better each year.

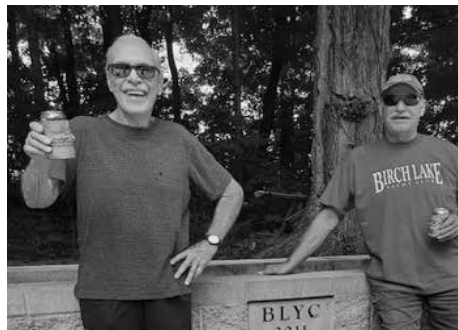
We have been fortunate to have people right beside us through the years, co-chairing the event. Dawn and Scott Troeger early on, and these past many years Vickie and Tom Rogers, and Julie and Mike Sheffieck. There is a saying that many hands make light work and they all helped to lighten the workload that goes into a successful and fun event in countless ways.

This summer we began looking for replacements to pick up the reins and continue the Corn and Sausage tradition. Lori and Andy Snider, of the Cove, have agreed to take on the task. They will do an excellent job! They are a fun, hard working and very organized couple. We leave it in their capable hands knowing that they will continue to put together a great event for our community.

At our last official Corn and Sausage there were two comments that kept being repeated: "Great corn" and what a great community we have here at Birch Lake. So we thank you, the ones who came and ate year after year, and those who came just recently, for your gratitude, your appreciation and your kindness.

On behalf of Vickie and Tom Roger, Mike and Julie Sheffieck, thank you for the opportunity to serve this community.

~Bernie and Blair Garceau





FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Four Sundays in a row with no sailing

But we're still not complaining! The weather forecast looks good for sailing next Sunday, and it's a great summer that's building to an exciting climax. We have tight races in both the Sunfish and MC fleets, and of course we have the upcoming Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial Interlake MC Regatta, which is in the final stages of preparation for Saturday, August 17.

A big thank you to our very busy Interlake Regatta Chair Barb Cassady, and to her many great Birch Lake volunteers and committee members. They are all helping us prepare to welcome several off-lake members of the extended sailing family of the Troegers to the Interlake Regatta; as well as a number of guest sailors from other lakes, including the



champion from Corey Lake who won the Corey Lake Interlake MC Regatta there last year.

At this writing, we have 13 boats already registered, which is a bit ahead of what Corey Lake had last year at this time, and they wound up with 28 boats in their race. We will cap ours at 30 boats. So if you know anyone who might be interested, please remind them to sign up soon!

Once again, kindly plan to stay off

the lake during the three Interlake Regatta races on Saturday, August 17. 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

BLYC racing & season standings to date

Date..... 7/14 7/14 Total Points Point Average..... Races Finished..... % Finished

MC/Sailor	Total MC Races = 19		Total Points	Point Average	Races Finished	% Finished
Scott Troeger #1489	1	2	26412	1553.64	17	0.89
Barb Cassady #2506	3	1	29385	1546.57	19	100
Patrick Welch #1979	2	3	11631	1453.87	8	0.42
Bill Luecht #1579	4	6	15671	1424.63	11	0.57
Ashly Connaugaton #1979	DNS	DNS	5490	1372.5	3	0.15
Steve Frew #656	7	4	25960	1366.31	19	100
Phil Vitale #500	DNS	DNS	5265	1316.25	3	0.15
Bob King #1199	5	5	2592	1296	2	0.10
Sandy Vitale #2159	6	7	7212	1202	5	0.26

Sunfish/Sailor	Total Sunfish Races = 21		Total Points	Point Average	Races Finished	% Finished
Rick Russwurm	1	1	32816	1562.66	21	100
Stewart Spratt	2	3	31872	1517.71	21	100
Scott Sortal	DNS	DNS	9061	1510.16	6	0.28
Pete Soldato	DNS	DNS	5630	1407.5	4	0.19
Bob Niezgodski	4	2	25191	1399.5	18	0.85
Herb Cleveland	DNS	DNS	12475	1386.11	8	0.38
Amy Troeger	3	4	6703	1340.6	5	0.23
Camille Butler	DNS	DNS	3888	1296	3	0.14
Bob King	DNS	DNS	2525	1262.5	1	0.04

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

THK

THK LAW, LLP

Estate Planning
Business Counsel
Elder Law
Litigation

Cassopolis | South Bend | Elkhart
269.445.1818

thklaw.com



Prime Property Care



**Barge Services
Dock Removal/Install
Dock/Hoist Sales**

61272 Daily Rd.
Cassopolis, MI 49031
269-591-9848

primepropertycarellc@yahoo.com

Thanks neighbors!

The Pence-Schnoor families would like to thank everyone who helped make our lemonade/homemade bracelet/garage sale this past weekend a success.

As a result of the sale, we are donating \$400 to Birch Lake water quality and the Cass County animal shelter. This includes proceeds from the garage sale, the beads and the lemonade, and our matching contribution. Kudos to our grandchildren, Eloise and Everett, for volunteering to include the proceeds from their lemonade and bracelet sales in the donation. It's heartwarming to see our youngsters develop a commitment to keeping Birch Lake clean and beautiful and helping local animals at risk.

A few items that were not sold in the garage sale are also being donated to a local charity or were left at the road with a "Free" sign.

Thanks, Bob Pence

LADIES' STYLE SHOW AND LUNCHEON



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21 at 11 am
WOOD FIRE TRATTORIA

FASHIONS BY THE MARSHALL SHOPPE

TICKETS \$32

CALL

RONNI ESHLEMAN 317-418-9557

DENNY WEESNER 269-476-2569

Visit us TODAY for the best boat deals in southwest Michigan



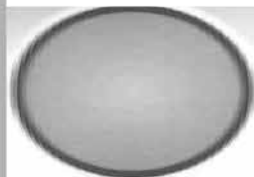
MOOMBA



AVALON



STARCRAFT



APOLLOMARINE.net

**We rent
Pontoon Boats!**

**We service all
area lakes!**



South side
of Gravel Lake
15355 96th Avenue
Lawton, MI 49065

**269-423-6011
1-888-966-BOAT**

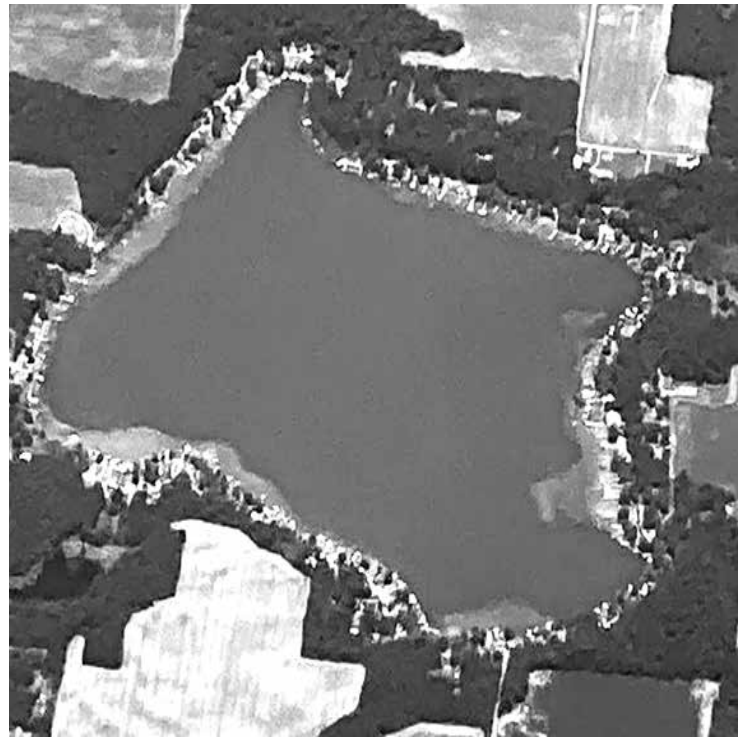
SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE

— Water Quality Report —

Are you a laker or a trunk slammer?

Those of us that have spent years on Birch Lake take pride in our water quality – we are “Lakers”! It means you will hear children and grandchildren giggle as they play in the water. They dig in the sand and later it turns into a muck fight. They practice their swim strokes, jump off the pier into your arms, then they do it by themselves to howls and clapping. They learn to ski, then graduate to slalom, then maybe wake board or surf (with proper wake usage). It’s also tube rides with brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, moms, dads and friends while continuing to laugh and scream. Kids learn to fish, catch minnows, turtles and kayak around the lake. And they get paid a penny a piece for every Zebra mussel they remove from the pier! They learn to sail a Sunfish and then an MC and maybe enter a

regatta. Birch Lake provides a place for kids and grandkids to enjoy a couple weeks at Camp Tannadoonah. They enjoy the magic of sparklers, the sweet taste of S’mores, and then the fireworks on the 4th of July after which, the following morning, the whole family heads to the Camp for a breakfast of pancakes and sausage!



Lake kids suffer through grown up boat rides and fall asleep in grandma’s arms. Or they practice “driving” the boat with grandpa. They enjoy childhood memories that shaped generations to respect and cherish the lake we share. It needs to become a part of who they are and the kinds of adults they will be. They will be kind, considerate of neighbors, and environmentally responsible. They will be a part of a community that will always support and care for them. Just ask a young adult lake kid about the support of the lake community.

We need to protect this lake so all our families can enjoy these memories. We all are a part of the future of our beloved lake. We hope we can entrust the care of Birch Lake to the next generation. We should all know the rules that will help our lake continue to be a place to treasure. If we get lazy and blow grass clippings and leaves into our lake, use our wake boats irresponsibly, use fertilizer with phosphorus on our lawns, forget

to keep our shorelines “turtle” friendly, and are not careful with runoff into the lake from our yards and the road – we will suffer the consequences, long and short term, along with our future Birch Lakers.

Growing up, I was taught there were “Lakers” and there were “Trunk Slammers”. We were honored to be called “Lakers”. We had a commitment to the care of the lake. “Trunk Slammers” were those whose only interest in the lake was temporary. Let’s all join together and have the honor of being called “Lakers” – those with a commitment to the quality of Birch Lake. Contribute to our investment in the future of Birch Lake. Your Water Quality donations mean that our children and grandchildren will always have the gift of Birch Lake along with priceless childhood lake memories it provides.

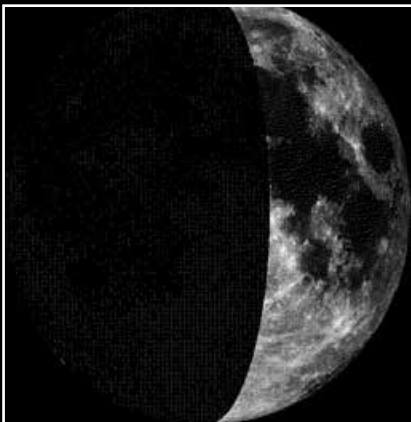
Be a “Laker” - it’s your investment in our future.

The Moon this Saturday

at midnight. Illuminated Fraction:

Illuminated Fraction: 0.367

1.3 days before first quarter



Sun and Moon this Week

Sunrise: 06:45:07 am

Sunset: 20:49:16 pm

Moonrise: 12:47:44 am

Moonset: 23:26:16 pm

Hours of Daylight:

14 Hr 04 Min 08 Sec

11920 McKinley St.
Jones, Michigan

Offering our Guests...

- Hair Services
- Facials & Hydrafacial MD
- Eyelash Lift & Tint
- Pedicures & Manicures
- Hair Extensions
- Sugaring - Hair Removal
- Massage
- Wedding Parties
- Gift Cards

 **Satori**
Salon & Spa

(269) 244-5510



www.satorisalonandspa.com

Email: satorisalonspa@gmail.com

*Organic Salon & Day Spa
Eufora Hair products & Satori Skin Care Products*

— Birch Lake Memories —

Sailing with paper clips and duct tape

Every now and then someone who joins me to go sailing asks, why the paper-clips? A: every now and then a ring-ding (smaller of two photos shown) will magically find it's way out of a pin. A paper-clip is easy to poke through the hole and save the day, sail on.

When I was a kid (a whiny teen, mind you), Earl Troeger cornered me at the yacht club and asked why I hadn't been sailing. A: my sail has tears in the foot and my Dad won't buy me a new one, Mr. Troeger! He just laughed and explained that lots of guys won races

with duct tape on their sails, and told me to get back out there!

I did. I do. He was right.

Earl (I'm still inclined to call him



Mr. Troeger) was an inspiration and all about Birch, all about sailing. When folks wonder why the upcoming Invitational is named after the man, well, most lakes can't boast about their World Champ (Snipe class) from their home

club. We can. I do.

Is the want of a sail-ring, or ring-ding, keeping you from sailing? I have both at the boathouse.

In a pinch? Duct tape!

~Bob King



PRINTING, MARKETING & SIGN SERVICES

CUSTOM SOLUTIONS
& DESIGNS

alphagraphics®

ELKHART & SOUTH BEND

MH
McGann Hay
FUNERALS | CREMATIONS | GATHERINGS
SINCE 1842

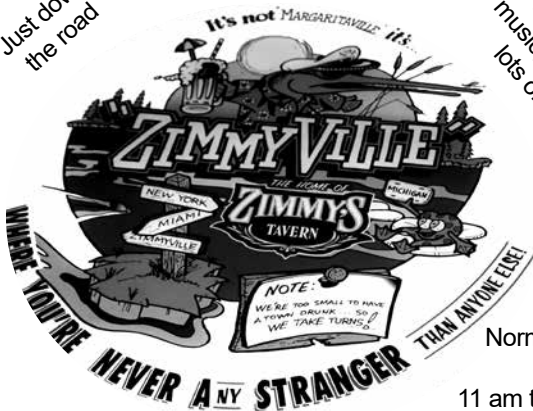
Granger Chapel
• Large Rooms • Children's Room
• Spacious Cafe/Lounge

574-232-1411
www.mcgannhay.com

*"The perfect location between
Michigan and Indiana"*

Pat McGann, Birch Lake Resident, East Side

Just down
the road



Daily food
specials,
music, cold beer,
lots of fun!

Normally Open
7 days/wk
11 am to Midnight

Carry Outs available

69608 Sunset Blvd

Zimmyville (Union), Michigan

ZIMMY'S TAVERN

(269) 641-5317

<http://www.zimmystavern.com>

— Barker Kids of the Week —



The Frews (east side) enjoyed the invasion of 3 children, spouses and 6 grandchildren at Birch Lake.

INFINITY HOME SERVICES LLC

- Home watch/property checks
- Summer home opening
- Closing/winterizing
- Maintenance
- Repairs
- Small projects
- Short term vacation rental
- Maintenance services



Infinity Home Services, LLC
269-259-1127
 jim@infinitymichiana.com
<http://www.infinitymichiana.com>

O'Donnell's Docks LLC

Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters

SPRING CLEARANCE SALE

We overbought and need to clear the lot.

25 percent off all in-stock anodized aluminum dock sections. Retail price was \$891/section; 25 percent off the sale price now \$668. We have over 50 used boat lifts in stock!

WE ALSO REPAIR MOST MAJOR LIFT BRANDS

New boat lifts in stock up to 8000 lbs. along with jet ski lifts

Serving you for
over 30 years!

Sales and service of all
major docks, boatlifts and
water front accessories.

For an online quote, go to

www.odonnellsdocks.com



12097 M-60 • Jones, MI
269-244-1446

info@odonnellsdocks.com

Authorized Dealer For:



— Barker Poem of the Week —

Sounds

By: Will Nyberg

Silence. Just silence is all you hear in the early mornings near a lake

Silence. No sound is heard besides gentle humming of a dragonfly's wings.

Generations of families have spent their summers here in the early morning silence.

Silence. The water barely moves.

Silence. The world isn't awake yet.

Silence. The triumphal trumpet hasn't yet echoed through the air to awaken the campers.

Silence. A kayak wedges its way through the water, sending ripples spiraling.

Loud. The trumpet blares, awaking all in the cove from sleep.

Loud. The slam of a screen door from across the cove.

Loud. The cheers of children fill the warm air.

Loud. The gentle waves hit against the smooth rocks by the shore.

Loud. Children play merrily in the water.

The many hours of the day continue loud, loud, then finally silence, silence once more.

Tomorrow the sounds will repeat.

In my mind, silence is beauty, it is when you can truly think.

Loudness is also beauty, it comes with happiness and enjoyment.

~ From a Barker Kid of the Week

My name is Ann Mamula, I am the eldest Granddaughter of Chet Waggoner, who bought our cottage, "Chaos" in the Cove 60 years ago this summer. We're right across from the camp, and my nephew, Will Nyberg, wrote this poem. Our family loves it, and we wanted to share it with Birch Barker readers.

Ready - Set - Medicare!

Turning 65? I Can Help!

- ✓ Medicare Advantage
- ✓ Medicare Supplement
- ✓ Prescription Drug Plans
- ✓ Multiple Insurance Companies

Medicare // Health // Small Group // Life // Supplemental

TO DO LIST!

- Call Ashly 3 months before turning 65 to discuss your enrollment in Medicare Parts A & B
- Avoid Penalties! If over 65, ask employer for proof of insurance.
- Watch for your new Medicare card to arrive in the mail.

Keep This List!

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

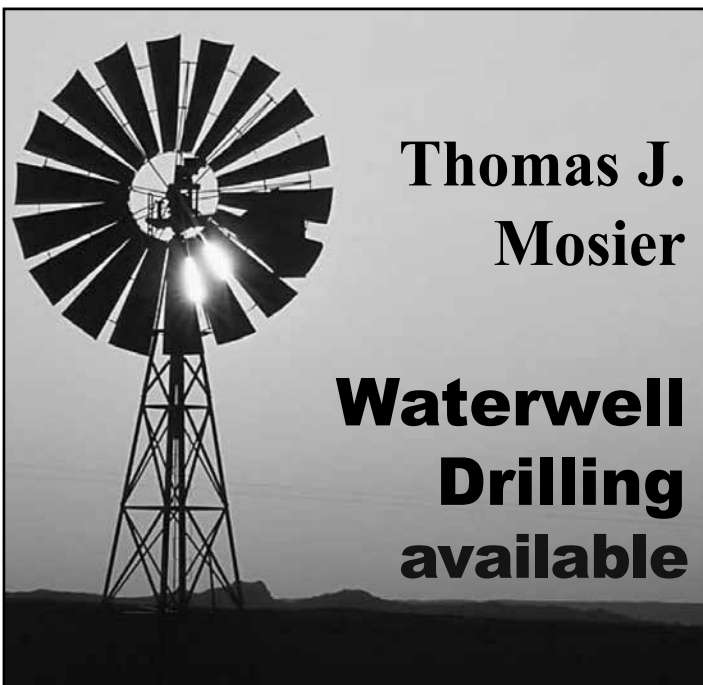


Ashly Connaughton
Licensed Insurance Agent
(269) 312-1410
awelch@HealthMarkets.com

health
markets

803 CR 6 East, Suite B, Elkhart, IN 46514

I CAN HELP!
New to Medicare? Free Consultation!



Thomas J.
Mosier

**Waterwell
Drilling
available**

5" Water Wells

**Repair & Service
Most Water Pumps**

"Promise of Quality"

**M-60 E
Cassopolis**

**Office: 269-445-3246
Cell: 269-580-3246
Fax: 269-445-0008**

— Barker Blast from the Past —



BLAST FROM THE PAST: L to R. Far back Shirley Blue (formerly east side), Janet Reynolds (formerly south side), Claudia Phipps (north side), Lee King (formerly north side).

 **Tri-County Bookkeepers & CPAs**
tax accounting & payroll services since 1955

2525 Lake Pine Dr, Suite A - St Joseph, MI 49085

**An accounting practice serving
southwestern Michigan for over
60 years specializing in
small business accounting**

We offer A free no-obligation discussion about your business requirements, competitive pricing, personal account manager, corporate & personal tax prep, tax planning/tax representation, full-service payroll, affordable time keeping solutions, financial analysis, pay-as-you-go Workers' Comp Insurance

Tax planning

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

Bookkeeping/Financial Statement Compilation

Depending on your needs, we can do your bookkeeping for you or we can teach you how to accurately keep records

Company Structure

Let us help you decide what the best organization is for you

Federal and State Forms

We'll help you apply for all the tax IDs and forms you need

Tri-County Bookkeepers & CPAs
2525 Lake Pine Dr., Suite A
Saint Joseph, MI 49085

269-926-2191



Formerly Prime Property Care

**MOWING
HEDGES
EDGING
GUTTER CLEANING
SPRING, SUMMER
& FALL CLEANUP
ROCK/MULCH
INSTALLATION**

**BRET TIETSORT
269-580-2738**



Birch Lake Diversions



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Roasted cherry tomatoes with angle hair pasta

Prep Time: 20 mins
Cook Time: 39 mins
Total Time: 59 mins
Servings: 2
Yield: 2 servings



Ingredients

- 1 (10 ounce) basket cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 4 ounces angel hair pasta
- 3 basil leaves, cut into thin strips, or more to taste
- 1 dash red pepper flakes
- 2 tablespoons fresh grated Parmesan cheese, or to taste (Optional)

Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Combine tomatoes, olive oil, garlic, salt, and pepper in a bowl until well mixed; spread on a shallow-sided baking sheet. Bake in the preheated oven until tomatoes are soft and wrinkled, 25 to 30 minutes.

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook angel hair pasta in the boiling water, stirring occasionally until tender yet firm to the bite, 4 to 5 minutes. Drain; reserving a small amount of cooking water. Spoon tomatoes with their juices into a small saucepan; add basil and red pepper flakes. Mix in reserved cooking water to thin tomato mixture to desired consistency. Cook and stir over low heat until warmed, about 5 minutes; stir in pasta.

Top with Parmesan cheese before serving.

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the state names in the grid. Look for them in horizontally, vertically and backwards.

Fifty State

Word Search

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

- ALABAMA
- ALASKA
- ARIZONA
- ARKANSAS
- CALIFORNIA
- COLORADO
- CONNECTICUT
- DELAWARE
- FLORIDA
- GEORGIA
- HAWAII
- IDAHO
- ILLINOIS
- INDIANA
- IOWA
- KANSAS
- KENTUCKY
- LOUISIANA
- MAINE
- MARYLAND
- MASSACHUSETTS
- MICHIGAN
- MINNESOTA
- MISSISSIPPI
- MISSOURI
- MONTANA
- NEBRASKA
- NEVADA
- NEW HAMPSHIRE
- NEW JERSEY
- NEW MEXICO
- NEW YORK
- NORTH CAROLINA
- NORTH DAKOTA
- OHIO
- OKLAHOMA
- OREGON
- PENNSYLVANIA
- RHODE ISLAND
- SOUTH CAROLINA
- SOUTH DAKOTA
- TENNESSEE
- TEXAS
- UTAH
- VERMONT
- VIRGINIA
- WASHINGTON
- WEST VIRGINIA
- WISCONSIN
- WYOMING

The LAKE LIFE REALTY GROUP



Get a **FREE** market analysis!
Contact Paul DeLano:
(269-445-8877)
Paul@TheLakeLife.com

LISTINGS NEEDED!

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO LIST YOUR HOME!

Birch Lake homes are

SELLING!

CALL
PAUL DELANO
TODAY

269-445-8877

Paul@TheLakeLife.com

— Camp Tannadoonah —

Last week of camp is biggest ever

We're into the last week of camp for the season, and while last week was the biggest week to date, this week is even bigger! We have 179 campers this week, compared to 176 last week. I got to spend fourth period this week on the MC sailboat teaching an advanced sailing class for campers who are 12 and older and had taken sailing in the past. I haven't had much opportunity to sail this year, so it was fun to be out on the water with the campers.

As we wind down our camp season, our staff is starting to prepare for the rest of the year.

We have a rental group coming to camp next week, immediately following our last session of camp. They are from the Basilica of Saint Mary in Livonia, Michigan, an Orthodox Christian church. This is the seventh year that they have rented our camp facilities to offer a camp program to the youth of their church community. This year, they're expecting to have around 80 campers and 50 (yes, 50!) volunteer staff for the week. They call their camp "Village up North."

We provide the facilities, and a staff member on call each day throughout the week they are here, but they largely run their own program for the week. They bring their own kitchen staff, get their

own Michigan Camp License, and last year they earned American Camp Association Accreditation for their program. The only staffing we provide is a life-guard so they can use the waterfront for swimming, canoeing, and kayaking.

Throughout the fall we have other rentals using camp, including a Wilderness Medicine retreat from Spectrum Health in Niles, four weddings, a college retreat, and our annual Grown Up Camp event.

Grown up camp is going to be held September 13-15 this year. We would love to have lake residents join us for the weekend or just for Saturday! It's one of the most fun weekends of the year. You do NOT have to be a camp alum to participate – it's for any adult who would like to spend a weekend at camp. You get to experience camp activities like archery and canoeing and crafts, but we also have grown up activities like cocktail cruises on the lake, yoga classes, and late night camp songs around the fire.

With the first evening being Friday the 13th, our planning committee is intending to have some sort of themed evening activity – perhaps a murder mystery event or something Friday the 13th-related. If you're interested in joining us for all or part of the weekend, go to <https://tannadoonah.org/gath->



ering for more information and registration. It really is an amazing weekend with lots of fun people!

I hope everyone remembers to come out on the lake Friday evening, August 9 around 9 pm for our closing candlelight serenade! Campers and staff will start down the stairs with their candles around 9 pm and will assemble on the dock to sing to those who are on the lake in their boats.

~Mrs. Amber

Considering selling your lake home or property?

Don't wait!

Here are a few great reasons to put your home on the market.

- Beat the competition
- Inventory is at an all time low
- Plenty of qualified buyers actively looking
- More people than ever are looking for a second home

Dennis Bamber and his group sold over 160 waterfront and lake access homes in Michigan and Indiana over the past few years.



Michelle

Katrina

Dennis

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.

Cressy & Everett
REAL ESTATE

Above & Beyond

701 Spruce Street • Dowagiac, MI 49047



THE DENNIS BAMBER GROUP
LAKE & WATERFRONT SPECIALISTS

574-532-3808

dennisbamber@cressyeverett.com

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

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



WANTED TO BUY

Hi all! My large extended family has owned a cottage called "Chaos" for 60 years in The Cove. Our place will stay in the family...but our own individual needs have expanded and we are looking for more room so our grandkids can stay during the summer and make memories here too. We are looking for a **3 or 4 bedroom place on the lake**. If you are looking to sell, please email Ann Nyberg at ann.nyberg@gmail.com

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

FREE

Free grill - contact claudia2154@gmail.com



Classified Advertising

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

1st Source Bank

1stsource.com | Member FDIC

Straight Talk. Sound Advice.

1st Source Insurance

Insurance products and annuities are not insured by the FDIC; are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by 1st Source Bank; and may involve investment risk, including loss of value. 1st Source Insurance, Inc. is a wholly owned affiliate of 1st Source Bank.

Talk With A Live Person



VOTED NILES
BUSINESS OF
THE YEAR!

ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

Complete Plumbing Service - If there's water to it, we do it.

**Let Us Show You Why We Were
Voted Business Of The Year!**

Top 10 Reasons to Choose ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

- Licensed Plumbers
- Drug-Free Employees
- Criminal Background Checked Employees
- No Surprises with the Bill - You know the Cost Before the Work is Done
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- True 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Fully Stocked Trucks - "Warehouse on Wheels"
- Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
- Longest Warranties in the Business
- Our Phones are *Always* Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours
- Bonus — The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!



**After Hours
Emergency
Service**



 Major Credit Cards Accepted



2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

269-687-7192 Niles, MI

866-751-1470 Toll Free

www.advantageplumbinginc.net

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Tip No 5: PLEASE STAY OFF THE COURSE

Sunday is sailing day on Birch Lake, and next Saturday, August 17 is the Interlake Regatta. Please stay off the course and stay away from the marks (buoys) until all of the sailors are done and have left the lake! Boat wakes disrupt the race, and power boats are a hazard on the course.

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



2024 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

BLYC OFFICERS

Sue Davis (E) **Commodore**
574-993-6031 eyesnd76@gmail.com
Julie Dickey (E) **Vice Commodore**
574-220-9132 jdjuls@aol.com
Deb Spratt (N) **Treasurer**
debspratt@comcast.net
Mike Sheffieck (W) **Secretary**
708-220-1506 mcshffieck@gmail.com
Steve Frew (E) **Fleet Captain**
708-285-2999 stephenbfrew@gmail.com

Karen Curtis-Miller (E) 574-261-6712
krcurtismiller@gmail.com
Bernie Garceau 476-9862
bgarceau@norcoind.com
Deb Hall (C) 219-765-8691
debbershall@gmail.com
Ron Niezgodski (W) 574-532-6710
birchbass1@gmail.com
Laura Pence (E) lpence3@gmail.com
Sarah Petty (N) 574-274-9202
sarahkpetty@gmail.com
Claudia Phipps (N) 476-7073
claudia2154@gmail.com
Vickie Rogers (C) 476-2383
tvrogers@frontier.com
Rick Russwurm (N) 476-2407
paramountp@aol.com
Ray Scholes (S) 567-429-9569
rqs72@aol.com

Scott Troeger (E) 476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com
Phil Vitale (E) 476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com
or onlinebarker@gmail.com
Sandy Vitale (E) 476-1680
sv6102@gmail.com
Dan Waxman (E) 317-506-1680
DWaxman131@outlook.com
Denny Weesner (S) 219-765-8602
dkwees@cs.com
Sue Williams (S) 574*298-2839
suewilliams226@gmail.com

BLYC DIRECTORS

Dave Carroll (W) 574-850-0465
carrolldavid39@gmail.com
Barb Cassady (E) 574-229-9815
barbcassady49@gmail.com
Ed Chester (E) 476-1010
ed@chesterlawoffice.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB PAY YOUR DUES NOW!



Support the BLYC, support our lake, support our Community!

- \$ ___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)
- \$ ___ - BLYC Associate Member* Dues (\$10 / year)
*Associate membership is available to current associate members
and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC
- \$ ___ - **WATER QUALITY/INVASIVE SPECIES****
- \$ ___ - **FIREWORKS FUND****
- \$ ___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ ___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ ___ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ ___ - Safety Committee
- \$ ___ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$ ___ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$ ___ - BLYC AED Fund
- \$ ___ - Misc.

**See page 2 for status of these important contributions

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

\$ _____

Name _____

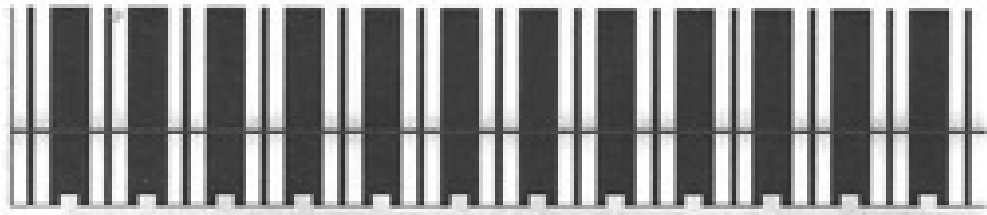
Address _____

Make checks payable to

BLYC

and mail to Deb Spratt, Treasurer
18100 Farmington Hills Dr.
South Bend, IN 46637

Now you can go online at [HTTP://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM](http://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM) to pay your dues



SUN & SHADE AWNING

Retractable
Awnings
for Decks
and Patios



Roll Up Curtains for Screened Porches

Flexshade Motorized Zip System Screens ... and Retractable Screens

FOR SHADE & PRIVACY



Boat Covers
and Tops

Aluminum
Awnings

Contact Mark at 269-244-5307
markbidelman@comcast.net

12291 Bidelman Road
Three Rivers, MI 49093

www.SunandShadeAwning.com

