

BIRCH Barker

vol. 77 issue 7

Weekend of
JULY 5
2025

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com

- No matter your speed, power boats must travel **COUNTER CLOCKWISE**.
- Go slow near other boats, rafts, and the shore. You are responsible for your wake.
- Stay 100ft from shore, other boats, and rafts when you are traveling over wake speed.
- When pulling a skier, wakeboarder, wakesurfer, or tuber, you **MUST** have an observer at all times.
- There must be US Coast Guard approved life vests for every person on board, as well as one throwable device (e.g., seat cushion).
- All children 5 and younger **MUST be in a USCG Type 2** life jacket (PFD) when aboard any boat. Many common life vests are NOT Type 2 PFDs. Check the label!
- All boats must have a horn, fire extinguisher, and valid registration on board.
- Jet skis have many special rules. It is your responsibility to know and obey the laws!



2025 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR
July
5 - Boat Parade, 3pm 5 - Fireworks, 10pm 4-5 (Fri/Sat) 4 th of July Regatta, backup day Sunday at noon 6 - Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11am 16 - Card Night, 7pm 18 - Ladies' Golf Outing, 9am 19 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am 25 - Men's Golf Outing, noon TBA - Don Harman Kidz Regatta
August
2 - Corn and Sausage Roast 16 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am 16 - Homeowners Assoc., 10am 20 - Card Night, 7pm 23 - Fall Dinner 30 & 31 Labor Day Regatta
September
20 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am
October
25 - Bad Patty Crockpot Challenge, 6pm

2025 BLYC Directors

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Happy Fourth of July to everyone at beautiful Birch Lake! I am looking forward to all the festivities!

The boat parade is scheduled for 3pm on Saturday, July 5th! The theme this year is "Favorite TV Show." Let's all try to be outside to cheer for all the enthusiastic participants!

Thanks to all residents that decorated their boat for the parade! Who will be the first prize winner? What boat will be your favorite? It will prove to be a fun event for all!

The fireworks fund has steadily been increasing! The fireworks display will correspond with the funds available. Big thanks to all the fireworks fund donors!

The fireworks should start around 10pm on July 5th. If weather does not permit, the fireworks will occur on July 6. If changes occur, notifications will be sent to the Barker email list. Please be sure to have your boat lights on for safety! In the past, I have seen boats that did not have any lights. That obviously makes them unsafe and very difficult to see in the dark. Also, please be aware of safe distances between boats. We are all very fortunate to be able to experience our very own fireworks display at Birch Lake! What a great way to celebrate America together!

The weather forecast for the weekend is predicted to be in the mid 90s! It can

be challenging to stay well hydrated! It is important to drink extra water and hydrating liquid liquids. Keep in mind, alcohol, caffeinated beverages, and sugary drinks can contribute to dehydration. These beverages increase urine output. It is recommended to drink one glass of water after consuming a dehydrating beverage, especially alcohol. Water will help replenish the fluid loss.

Many of us do not drink enough water on a regular basis. It is recommended to drink eight 8-ounce glasses of water per day. It can be an effort, but there are many benefits. Some individuals do have to restrict their fluid intake, according to doctor recommendations. Please follow what is prescribed for you.

On Sunday, July 6, Camp Tannadoonah will be hosting its annual Pancake Breakfast, between 8:30am and 11am. Come join your neighbors and friends for a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, coffee, and juice. Special thank yous to all the volunteers who help cook, serve and clean up!

Keep an eye on the calendar in the Barker for other upcoming events. Details of the events will be shared as they are available.

I continue to enjoy the Birch Lake History stories! Thank you Gail Getzinger Schutt for sharing your wonderful memories! I look forward reading the special history article from the next contributor!

We come from many different places, but we are all on the same boat, we love Birch Lake!
~Commodore Julie



The 2025 Birch Barker is
generously sponsored by Culver's.
See ad on page 2.

The Barker will consider ads, photos, and editorial content for publication.
Email items to birchbarker1@gmail.com.

For editorial concerns, contact editor Amber Grundy at birchbarker1@gmail.com or 574-315-0227.

For delivery concerns, contact Ron Niezgodski at birchbass1@gmail.com or 269-476-9317.

For all other BLYC matters, contact Commodore Julie Dickey at jdjuls@aol.com or 574-220-9132.

DEADLINE for submissions is always NOON on the Tuesday of the week before publication.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOAT PARADE! SATURDAY, JULY 5 at 3pm

The big weekend is upon us and on Saturday, all participants in the boat parade should motor over to the Waxman pier on the east side by 2:45pm.

You will meet our 3 judges; give your family name, the Favorite TV Show you have decorated your boat as, and then get your parade number.

The boats will then line up behind the Grand Marshals and head off at 3pm for a slow lap around the lake.

All Birch Lakers, families, and friends, please come out along your respective shore and cheer on the Boat Parade!

We will announce the 2025 Grand Champion in next week's Barker.



ANNUAL CAMP T PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, July 6, 8:30-11am

The cost is \$6 for ages 13 and older, \$4 for youth ages 4-12, and free for ages 0-3. We will have pancakes (including a gluten free option), sausage links, coffee, orange juice, milk, and fruit cocktail.

Miss Gabby will also have the Camp Trading Post open, so you can get all the new Camp T apparel on Sunday morning.

Last year we served 360 people - let's see if we can get to 400 this year!

We can always use helpers at the breakfast, too. If you're interested in volunteering for a shift, please email me at amber@riverbendcampfire.org.

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2025 is \$16,000

Contribute now at

<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



Fireworks Backup Plan

The annual Fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, July 5th at approximately 10pm. In case of rain or excessive wind, the backup date is Sunday, July 6th. We will communicate any changes via the Barker email list. You can subscribe to email list at birchlakeyachtclub.com

WELCOME to DELICIOUS



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Sturgis, MI

Coldwater, MI

Three Rivers, MI

Granger, IN

Mishawaka, IN



2025 BIRCH BARKER SPONSOR

ODDS AND ENDS

Ladies' Golf Outing

The Ladies' FUN Golf Outing will be on Friday, July 18th with a best ball, shotgun start promptly at 9:00am. This year we'll be playing at Sauganash Golf Club in Three Rivers. Lunch will follow in the clubhouse. The cost of golf and lunch is the same price as last year at just \$45.00 per golfer. What a bargain! Registration form is on the next page of this Barker.

Ladies who would like to join us for just lunch the cost will be \$25.00. **Let Carol or Blair know before July 13th.** We are looking forward to a fun day with all the Birch Lake Ladies.

Ladies Weekly Golf

We usually tee off Monday mornings and follow up with lunch after the nine-hole "adventure." We don't keep track of scores and welcome all levels of players. The only judgment and competition is with yourself. If you have questions or are interested in golf or just lunch, contact Blair Garceau (269-476-9862).

Slow Down Signs

"Slow Down" signs are available for lake home owners. Contact Blair Garceau (269-476-9862) if you need a sign for your yard. Courtesy of the BL Home Owners Association.

News from the North Shore

The original Barkers were full of homespun newsy announcements about incoming guests - to turn back the clock go to <https://birchlakeyachtclub.com/> and select Archives, take a tour ...

The Kings (North shore) eagerly anticipate arrival of Calvin, Liz, and our Grandling, from Minnesota. The arrival of His Lordship means Aunt Suzy won't be far behind. By the 4th, Ric and Lisa Dwenger (Muncie) and Chuck and Karen Horn (Carmel) roll in. As per usual, we have no idea whether Cal's buds will number two or twenty? Good times!



Liz, Calvin, and Caden King

Men's Golf Outing

Entry deadline approaching! The deadline to register for this year's Golf Outing is **July 18th**. Dinner (Steak and Chicken) and awards will follow the golfing at Sauganash. Door prize donations are welcome! Contact John with any questions (574-535-3736).

Yacht Club Building Use

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

Birch Lake Floating Keychains are still available for purchase for \$5.00 each. 100% of proceeds go to the Water Quality Fund. Text or call **Jennifer Ball at 574-535-3733** or **Cindy Bernaciak at 773-401-9191** to get yours.



Barker Newsies

This week's Barker delivery spotlight is on Vic Jones who lives with his wife Leslie on the east side. The east side route is divided into 3 sections and Vic covers the south portion whereas Chris Cole (spotlighted in last week's Barker) covers the far south portion and the hill. Vic bought his property on Birch Lake in 1989, and his family would come up on weekends from Granger to enjoy the summer months as the cottage was not winterized. In 2007, they built a new 2-story structure that they could use year-round and when Vic retired in 2014, they became full-time Birch Lake residents. Vic's favorite part of the Barker is the Birch Lake History as he enjoys reading the firsthand accounts of the families who have made Birch Lake their home. Thank You, Delivery Boy Vic!

The Printed Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to all of the homes on Birch Lake each week, and is available online at

birchlakeyachtclub.com

The submission deadline is noon on Tuesday of the week before publication. Contributions can be emailed to

birchbarker1@gmail.com.

To buy an ad or for more info, contact Amber at birchbarker1@gmail.com or 574-315-0227. Advertising rates are posted at

birchlakeyachtclub.com/advertise

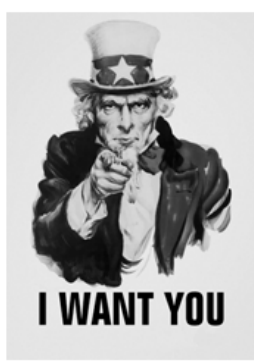
THANK YOU to all of our 2025 Barker advertisers! Please check them all out on the BLYC website and support our advertisers.



Yacht Club Dues


Hey Lakers! Have you contributed to the Yacht Club yet this year? If not, why not? Our annual dues are a pittance so, it can't be that. BLYC does way more than host parties [insert the long list, starting with protecting water quality, etc., etc.] so, it can't be that. Your weekly Birch Barker is an ongoing expense and ... delivered by a great crew of volunteers. Pry those purses open and support our Club!

~Chrys A. Lis



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2025 BOAT PARADE GRAND MARSHALS

This year's Boat Parade Grand Marshals are Scott and Holly Troeger.

Holly and Scott Troeger purchased their cottage on Birch Lake in the fall of 1993 but Scott and his family have been here much longer. Right after World War II ended, Scott's grandparents Earl and Esther Troeger offered their three teenage boys the choice of either a boat on Lake Michigan or a cottage on an inland lake. After renting what is now the Steffans' house on the east shore, they were sold on Birch Lake and bought a lot on the middle of the south side. Grampa and his three boys built the log cabin that is still there, which is now shared and enjoyed by three of Scott's cousins and their families.

Scott spent all of his early childhood summers at his grandparents' cottage along with his two brothers and seven cousins. In 1964 and 1965, Scott's parents Jack and Janet rented the Haines cottage on the east side. At that cottage was an old wooden Snipe sailboat. Scott's Dad let the Hague boys from the south side race that Snipe if they taught Scott to crew. The Hagues were good sailors and teachers - when Scott was 10 he skippered that Snipe and won his first BLYC sailing trophy.



In 1966, Scott's parents bought the property where Pat and Sue Williams' place is located. Scott and his brothers Tim and Steve spent their summers growing up there surrounded by other lake kids, playing in the water, fishing, waterskiing, and sailing a Sunfish and a Hobie Cat.

In the meantime, Holly was growing up in Winnetka, north of Chicago. Her mother's family is from Massachusetts, so Holly spent several childhood summers in Scituate, on the seacoast just south of Boston. Their paths crossed when Scott graduated from law school and became an associate at the Chicago law firm where Holly worked as a paralegal.

Scott introduced Holly to Birch Lake in the summer of 1982. They drove to the lake from Chicago nearly every summer weekend until they moved to Elkhart in 1985, largely in order to be closer to Birch! In the 40-some years since then, Holly has become a complete lake girl and raised their two daughters, Amy and Victoria (Tory) and their son Neil to love Birch Lake. The kids have grown up and now live in St Louis, Grand Rapids, and Chicago but continue to visit every chance they get.

Holly served as the BLYC Treasurer for 17 years and delivered Birch Barkers for over 25 years. She also helps organize our BLYC Trivia Night. Scott has served on the BLYC board since 1995 and on the BLYC Homeowners' Association board since its creation in 1997. He was

the BLYC Fleet Captain in 1999 and 2000, and the BLYC Commodore in 1997. Scott and Holly were awarded the BLYC Commodore's Award in 1999.

About 5 years ago, Scott retired from the practice of corporate law at Barnes and Thornburg, where he had been an office managing partner and on the firm's management and compensation committee. Once the children were grown and out of school, Scott and Holly made Birch Lake their official full time home.

Central to Scott's childhood memories are his Grampa's gorgeous wooden Century ski boat. She had a dark mahogany hull with a blonde wooden deck and a loud powerful inboard engine. Naturally, Scott couldn't resist when decades later he found a mahogany Century inboard ski boat with a blonde wooden deck that looked almost exactly like Grampa's. If and when that boat (which Holly disrespectfully refers to as the Guppy) decides to cooperate, you may see and hear her zipping around the lake.



Scott's Century Ski Boat, aka "the Guppy"

BLYC ANNUAL LADIES' FUN GOLF OUTING

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025

Sauganash Golf Course

9am Tee Off

please arrive no later
than 8:30am

**Lunch at Sauganash
following the outing**

**\$45 REGISTRATION INCLUDES:
Golf, Cart, and Lunch**

If you don't golf but would like to
join us at noon for lunch, please
register and pay \$25

**All Entries Due by
Sunday, July 13**

**If you'd like to sponsor a hole, or have questions, please contact either:
Carol McCoy (708-738-3962) or Blair Garceau (574-261-9817)**

2025 BLYC Ladies' FUN Golf Outing Registration

\$45 per player or \$25 for lunch only

Team Captain: _____ **Player 3:** _____

Player 2: _____ **Player 4:** _____

Please make checks payable to BLYC and bring or mail to:

Carol McCoy
63021 Birch Rd.
Vandalia, MI 49095

OR

Blair Garceau
63542 Birch Rd.
Vandalia, MI 49095

***Individual registrations available.**
If you don't have a team, contact Carol
or Blair and we can match you up.

BLYC 65TH ANNUAL MEN'S GOLF OUTING

FOUR MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE

Friday, July 25, 2025

Shotgun Start at **NOON**

Sauganash Country Club
61270 Lutz Rd
Three Rivers, MI

Dinner and awards at Sauganash
Cocktail hour at 5pm
Dinner and Awards at 6pm

REGISTRATION INCLUDES:
Four Man Scramble
Team Prizes⁺ & Contests
Cocktail Hour & Dinner

Questions? Contact John Ball (john.ball0452@gmail.com or 574-535-3736)

⁺ Donations of door & team prizes are needed. If you have access to golf- or lake-related merchandise that could be donated, please contact John.

ALL ENTRIES DUE BY JULY 18

2025 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Registration

\$75 per man*

Please PRINT names:

Team Captain: _____ Player 3: _____

Player 2: _____ Player 4: _____

Questions? Contact John Ball (john.ball0452@gmail.com or 574-535-3736)

Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to:

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WATER QUALITY REPORT: PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

At first glance, Purple Loosestrife looks like a pretty, flowering plant that grows near shores, wetlands and along roadsides. It is, in fact, a very INVASIVE plant species which at one time was for sale at plant nurseries around the country. It is now illegal to sell Purple Loosestrife. It is on the State of Michigan's INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT list. The concern is that given the right conditions, Purple Loosestrife can rapidly establish and replace native vegetation. This can lead to a reduction in plant diversity, which reduces habitat value to wildlife. Without proper removal, this plant can spread seeds and multiply tremendously, eventually taking over shorelines. It has been a huge problem at many of our nearby lakes.



Birch Lake has been extremely fortunate to have a low number of Loosestrife plants. The Water Quality Committee has worked diligently over many years to identify and eradicate plants by monitoring our shorelines and taking immediate action. This year is no different. Tom Kuhn and Cindy Bernaciak will be out combing the shoreline the week of July 14th and subsequently again in August and September. You will see them in a pontoon very close to shore with our B.L.Y.C. WATER QUALITY LOOSESTRIFE CONTROL sign on the side of the boat.



What can you do? Check your property for this plant, especially near the shore or wet areas of your yard. Identification: Height varies from 4 to



10 feet, leaves are arranged in pairs, the square stem is covered in downy hair, flower spikes are MAGENTA in color with 5-7 petals per flower and is present for most of the summer.

If you think you see it, please notify Tom (708-772-7373) or Cindy (773-401-9191). We will come out and identify if it is Loosestrife and we will take the necessary steps to remove any plants. This is done carefully as to not let the seeds spread and take over other areas.

This is just another important way YOUR Water Quality Committee works for you! Please remember we go above and beyond to keep our beautiful Birch Lake for today and the future.

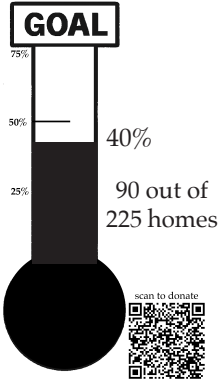
Important Addendum From Your Water Quality Committee:

As a safety precaution prior to the holiday weekend, testing for E coli was conducted without consequence at five different sites around the lake. E coli is a normal gut bacterium of warm blooded animals and can escape to the environment via fecal contamination, geese, swans, muskrats, dogs, or at worse sewage contamination. High levels can be an indication of potential other fecal pathogens. Current testing indicates absolutely no issue regarding E coli as has been the case since testing was initiated in 2008. Safe swimming.

THE SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY

- I. Thou shalt prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- II. Thou shalt minimize surface runoff.
- III. Thou shalt minimize the effects of waves.
- IV. Thou shalt protect and expand Natural Shorelines.
- V. Thou shalt not allow phosphorus, nutrients, and other undesirable chemical elements to enter our lake.
- VI. Thou shalt remain informed and active about other Water Quality issues.

**Birch Lake Yacht Club
WATER QUALITY FUND**
Our goal for 2025 is to have 75% of homes on the lake contribute.
Contribute now at
<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>

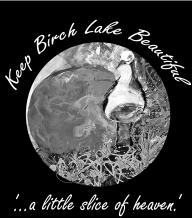


Keep Birch Lake Beautiful

Phyllis Rasmussen (west side) has partnered with Birch Lake Water Quality to sell one of a kind Birch Lake gear, and 20% of all proceeds will be donated directly to the Water Quality fund. There are three designs (Gull, Fish, and Turtle), and three garment choices (T-Shirt, Crewneck, and Hoodie).



Fish Design



Gull Design



Turtle Design

Go to
www.keepbirchlakebeautiful.com
to get yours today!

Thank you Coy Jankowski for your beautiful art donation! Thank you to the Birch Lake community for submitting your wonderful photos which are shared on the ordering site. Thank you to everyone involved in this project.

Let's keep our lake clean and beautiful for years to come! This project helps support keeping our earth clean, our lakes clean, and ensuring our waterways are safe for children to swim in! You can make the difference!

Contact Phyllis by phone (574-807-1924) or email (keepbirchlakebeautiful@gmail.com) with any questions or to place an order by phone.

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KIDZ REGATTA DATE SET



Yet another Sunday in June without sailboat races at Birch Lake. Unfortunately, the wind was light. However, we do have some great news: the date for the 2025 Kidz Regatta has been set for **Saturday,**

August 9th!!! As I mentioned a few Barkers ago, Tom and Megan Caplis have graciously volunteered to host the event this year. If you have kids, be sure to put it on your calendar. It's a great event for the kids to meet other kids around the lake, make new friends, and learn a little about sailing.

Here is a general timeline: Arrive at 11am at the Caplis home, 14901 Birch North Shore Drive, on the north side of the lake. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. Then, around noon, the sailors will pair up with the kids and take them out for a few races to experience sailing.

The only rules are that everyone must bring and wear a Personal Flotation Device, every sailboat has a kid on board, and that the kids have fun. If anyone has questions or wants to give us a heads up that they'll be attending the Kidz Regatta, feel free to contact me at rjniezgodski@gmail.com, or look me up in the directory and give me a call.



2003 Kidz Regatta Crew at the Harman's house

4TH OF JULY REGATTA

With the 4th of July falling on a Friday and people possibly returning to work on Monday, we are hosting the 4th of July Regatta on Friday, July 4th, and Saturday, July 5th, with Sunday, July 6th at noon, after the Pancake Breakfast, serving as the backup date.

As always, the races on Friday and Saturday start at 11 am, with the potential to be postponed until noon if the wind deems it necessary. The races typically last about two hours.

All motorized boats, please avoid getting too close to the sailing course, "the triangle in between the big orange buoys". We only ask for a few hours to host the regatta, and you'll have the rest of the lake to have fun on. Remember, sailboats are non-motorized and always have the right of way.

~FC Bob Niezgodski

Sailing Gossip... It would appear that a Technical Protest may be brewing in the Sunfish fleet - one local sailor seems to have modified the class logo and? TBD



Cass County COA Summer Concert Series

Friday, July 25: *Memphis Underground*

Friday, August 22: *Whistle Pigs*

The COA's Summer Concert Series is back by popular demand. Join us at the COA Lowe Center's Pavilion for some great music and an opportunity to purchase food from our food truck vendors. Bring a chair or blanket enjoy three FREE outdoor concerts!

Food is available from 5:30-7:30pm

Concerts begin at 7:00pm

more info -->



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CAMP T CORNER

We here at Camp T hope that you had a relaxing and restful holiday weekend! After a few days off for the staff, we are ready to get back to camp with renewed energy and enthusiasm. The 4th of July break marks just about the midway point for our season, so we are hitting our stride and gearing up for some full sessions towards the end of the summer! This weekend is the start of Session 4, and this week we have over 130 campers joining us for a week of fun!

Our specialty activities that are only offered this week include Volleyball, Zoology, and Advanced Sailing. Volleyball is always a very popular activity, and one that campers really enjoy practicing outside of their activity periods as well. In Zoology, campers will get a chance to learn more about the living things around them and around the world, seeing how they are adapted to their environment and how they interact with each other. If you see our Advanced Sailors out on the water this week, please do give them a wave!



Hammock Time at Camp

This summer, we have added a new activity to our line up for every week! This activity is called Chill Zone, and it gives campers the opportunity to take some quiet time during the day. During Chill Zone, campers will usually lay in hammocks, read books, draw quietly, or work on friendship bracelets. Although this time is well-utilized by many campers who need a break, it is limited to only one period per day so that campers are encouraged to go out and try something new as well.

In addition to the regular campers joining us this week, we will have one camper who is completing our CIT 2 program. During Sessions 2 and 3, we also had one camper who completed our CIT 1 program. Our CIT (Counselor in Training) programs are run by our CIT Director, Miss Carmen, and are open to anyone who is going into their sophomore year of high school and older.

These programs focus on helping campers build leadership skills, confidence, reflection, and observation skills. They also learn some of the practical skills and knowledge that are needed to be a staff member at Camp T. Campers in these programs learn from staff members, and as they continue through CIT 1, 2, and 3, increasingly have the chance to lead games, problem solve, and assist with the every day running of a cabin. We love having the chance to help campers grow through the CIT program,



CAMP T
ON BIRCH LAKE
www.tannadoonah.org

and to see them bloom into leaders!

Don't forget! This Sunday morning, July 6, is our annual Pancake Breakfast at Camp T. **We will be serving from 8:30 to 11am.** The cost is \$6 for ages 13 and older, \$4 for ages 4-12, and free for kids 0-3 years old. The camp store will also be open if you'd like to purchase camp apparel and other items. We would love to see you and your family and friends at camp on Sunday morning!

Have a safe and fun holiday weekend, and we will see you around the lake!

~Miss Meghan at Camp T

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BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: ZESINGER FAMILY

Editor's Note: This season in the Barker, we plan to feature different properties on the lake each week, with historical information about the families who have lived there, photos, and stories. If you would like to submit content about your home at the lake, we will gladly accept new submissions! Please send to birchbarker1@gmail.com

Clarke and Eunice Zesinger purchased their cottage in Sylvan Shores on the south side in May of 1941 from Charles J. Parker. Mr. Zesinger worked at Studebaker with Mr. Parker, who was building at cottage at Birch Lake as a surprise for his wife. After seeing how "rough and remote" the location was, she refused the idea. They sold their nearly-completed cottage to the Zesingers, and bought a place at Diamond Lake (from the September 4, 2004 Birch Barker biography of Bud Zesinger). Clarke was also good friends with Frank Foote, who owned the cottage next door (#47, now belonging to Claude Petit). The original Zesinger cottage (#46) is now owned by Becky Wiseman.



June-Bud Pointe

The Zesinger cottage was known as *June-Bud Pointe*, for their two children who were 11 and 2 years old when they first came to Birch Lake. Bud recalls that they would "take our shoes off when we got to the lake and not put them on until we went home at the end of the summer." They spent every summer at

This is the last issue of the BIRCH BARKER and we wish to extend our thanks to the people of Birch Lake for their fine co-operation and patronage. We also wish to thank our advertisers; Breeses Birch Lake Store, Tubby's General Store and Mr. G. B. Cox, Old Gold Cigarettes. We kids have had fun and we hope it has given you as much enjoyment as we have had pleasure in bringing you the Birch Barker. Best Wishes to you all for the winter season.

Editors: June Zesinger and Pat Scannell. Artist: John Scannell.
Reporters: Bud Zesinger, Bob Scannell, Jane Cox and Marcia Enyart.

1944 Barker, Volume 1, Number 3

the lake, swimming and playing with dozens of other lake kids, many of whose families are still here at Birch Lake. Bud remembers the moms and kids taking nearly daily walks around the lake, and stopping at Lazy Lodge for ice cream.

In 1944, when a group of young people from the lake published the first three editions of the Birch Barker, Bud (then age 5) is listed as a reporter, and his sister June (who now goes by Carol) as one of the editors.

Frank Foote and Clarke Zesinger designed and constructed the weir dam at the south side of the lake to prevent fish from leaving the lake. Frank built the cast iron grate in his machine shop, and he and Clarke worked together to install it. Both men were avid fishermen and dedicated to conservation, and wanted to protect the fish population in the lake. In those days, the shallow area in the southwest corner of the lake was undeveloped and marshy, and Bud remembers taking his flat-bottomed fishing boat into the marsh and seeing huge leatherback turtles, fish, and other wildlife.

The Zesingers sold their south side cottage in 1954, when Bud was in high school at Riley. He went on to play varsity golf at Notre Dame, and married Barbara Kirkendall in 1960. They often vacationed at Birch, renting the Scannell cottage (south side #74) and what Bud refers to as "Lanky's cottage" (east side #133, now owned by Norman Monroe). (editor's note: I did not know until interviewing Bud for this story that Gerald Breece, aka Lanky, originally owned that cottage!)

In 1973, while renting at the lake for a week, Bud spotted a cottage on the north shore that appeared to be unoccupied. He says he waited until winter, and then called the owner, Myron Weldy, and asked if he was interested in selling. He said yes, and just a few days later they met at the bank to complete the

transaction. Bud came to the lake the next week to start working on some repairs to the cottage, and Mr. and Mrs. Weldy pulled up to the cottage. She wanted to buy it back! He declined their offer, and this became the Zesinger cottage for the next decade (#268, where Kolber's is now).



Buddy, Cindy, and Brad in front of their north shore cottage

Bud and Barb had three children, Buddy, Cindy, and Brad, who were 12, 10, and 5 when they purchased the cottage. They spent most of their summers at the lake, much like Bud had as a child. After a decade on the north shore, Bud and Barb were looking for a bigger place, and the Chuck Fortino, who lived on the east side (#170) mentioned to Bud that they were looking to move as well. In 1985, the two families swapped properties, the Zesingers moving to the east side and the Fortinos moving to the north.

In 1988, Bud and Barb completely remodeled the house and moved to the lake full time. Over the past five decades, their three children and six grandchildren have made many special memories at the lake, and there are now two great-grandchildren who will be the 5th generation of Zesingers at Birch Lake!

~Bud Zesinger contributed photos and information for this column



Clarke, Eunice, June, and Bud in 1944



Bud & Barb, with grandkids Ian, Margot, Mallory, Zoe, Ian, and Mia, at Birch Lake, c. 2005

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BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK



Sisters Lyvia (left) and Gianna (right) visiting from Sarasota, FL, tubing with Great Uncle Chris Stevens (south side). Visiting with Chris's in-laws Joe and Becky Saladino. Great weekend!



The Popcycle Patriots: Penelope, Kennedy and Caroline Harvey - granddaughters of Patrick Welch (south side).

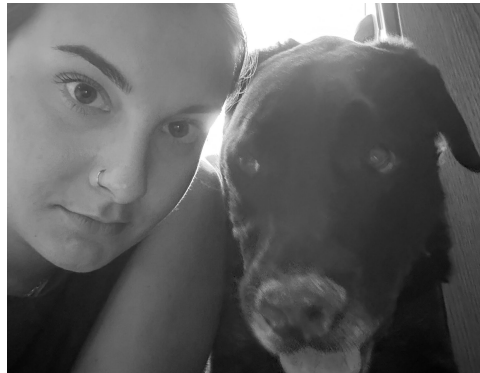
Want your kid to be a Barker kid of the week? Send your photos to birchbarker1@gmail.com



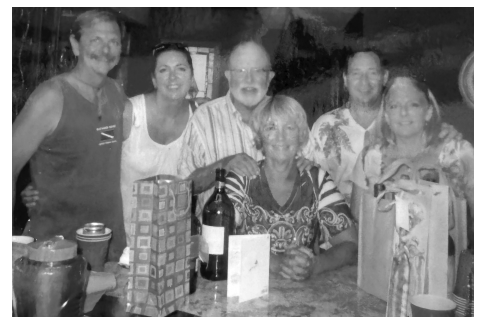
"Moms Gone Wild"- Megan Caplis (north side) and guest Jessica Cooper couldn't let the kids have all the fun!



Scott, Neil and Tory Troeger (east side) sailing in St. Martin earlier this month - note the BLYC burgee!



Claire Brovold (west side) was home for a quick weekend from Wilmington, N.C., but still managed to get some quality time in at the lake and with Diesel.



Rick and Patti Russwurm, Dennis and Claudia Phipps, and Ed and Carla Chester are celebrating a moment from many years ago!

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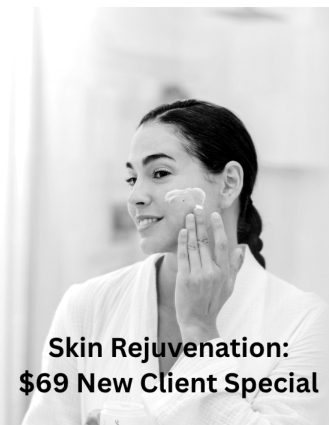
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SUMMER RECIPES: 4TH OF JULY SWIRL PIE

The perfect dessert to wow your guests this Independence Day? Best of all, it's NO BAKE! Featuring vibrant red, white, and blue swirls in a smooth, creamy filling.

For the Crust:

1½ cups graham cracker crumbs (about 12 full graham crackers)
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
6 tablespoons salted butter, melted

For the Filling:

16oz cream cheese, softened
¾ cup powdered sugar, sifted
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup cold heavy cream

For the Red Swirl:

1 cup fresh strawberries (hulled and chopped) or raspberries
1-2 tablespoons granulated sugar

For the Blue Swirl:

1 cup fresh blueberries
1-2 tablespoons granulated sugar



Recipe and photo credit to CraftLand.com

Crust: In a medium bowl, combine graham cracker crumbs, sugar, and melted butter. Stir until the mixture resembles wet sand. Press into the bottom and up the sides of a 9-inch pie dish or tart pan. Chill in the refrigerator while preparing the filling.

Prepare the swirls: In a small saucepan add the red berries and sugar. Simmer over medium heat until berries soften and release juice (about 5-7 minutes). Use a blender or immersion blender to puree. Press through a fine mesh sieve for a smoother swirl. Let cool completely. Repeat the process with the blueberries.

Make the cream filling: In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth and fluffy. Add powdered sugar and vanilla, beat until incorporated. In a separate chilled bowl, whip cold heavy cream to stiff peaks. Gently fold the whipped cream into the cream cheese mixture in 2-3 batches until smooth and airy. Spoon the filling into the chilled crust and spread evenly. Dot spoonfuls of the red and blue sauces on top. Use a skewer or knife to gently swirl the colors into the filling. Don't overmix! You want distinct streaks. Refrigerate for at least 6 hours before serving.



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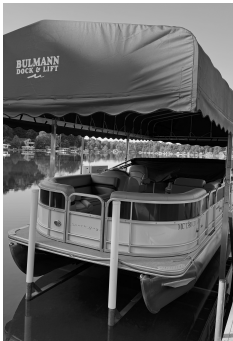
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Sad Sunfish

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Errands Services. Hi all! My name is Ruby Sandler, I am 16 years old and live on the North Shore. I am offering a service for the summer that includes picking up to-go order groceries from Martin's (or any other store that may offer that around this area), and bringing them back to your home. I will also be available to run errands such as taking things to Goodwill, watering plants when you are out of town, walking/checking on pets, etc. I will be available 4 days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9am - 4pm, excluding the week of July 26th - August 3rd. I will be available until middle of August. If anyone is interested, feel free to contact me at 574-261-0121.

Classified Ads in the Barker are free to current BLYC members. The cost is \$5 per week for non members. Send your ad to birchbarker1@gmail.com Deadline is Tuesday noon for the upcoming weekend's Barker.

Sourdough Baking Class: Have you ever wanted to learn to make sourdough bread, but found the whole process intimidating? Come to the west side for a complete class on making sourdough bread. I will walk you through each step and finish with a loaf of homemade sourdough bread to sample. Bring a container to take home sourdough starter to begin making delicious sourdough bread at home!



When: Friday, July 11 at 10am
Where: 62769 Birch Lakeview Drive (west side, Scofield cottage)
RSVP or Questions: text 574-210-5584.

WANTED

Packing Materials: If you have any boxes, newspaper, bubble wrap, etc. that you want to get rid of please drop them off at 14719 Kiloqua Woods Ln. on the front porch. Thank you! ~Claudia and Dennis Phipps

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EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

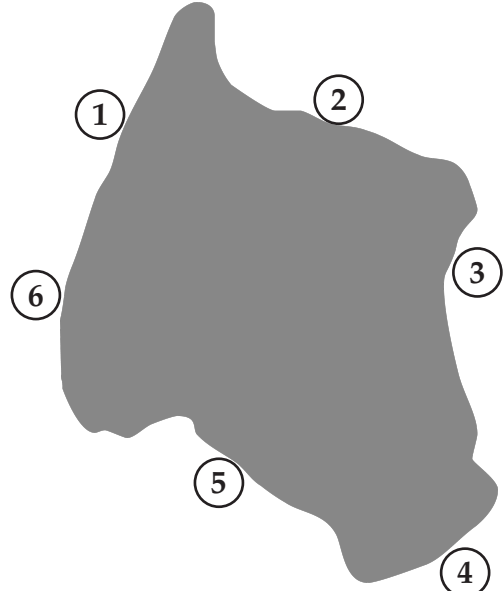
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units (AEDs) on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations:

1. **West Shore:** Sheffieck Home
62875 Birch Lakeview Drive
2. **North Shore:** Smitley Home
14859 Birch Northshore Drive
3. **East Shore:** Vitale Home
63174 Birch Road
4. **Southeast Shore:** Troeger Home
63696 Birch Road
5. **South Shore:** Crawford Home
15046 Birch Lakeshore Drive
6. **Southwest Shore:** DeYoung Home
63255 Storey Hill Street

All units are on the **ROAD SIDE** of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.



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2. Pull the box open, remove the orange-colored unit, take it to the patient, and open the device by pressing the white lever at the bottom.
3. An automated voice will guide you through the setup and use of the defibrillator. Follow directions as they are given.
4. Continue to follow the instructions, and **stay with the patient until emergency personnel arrive.**

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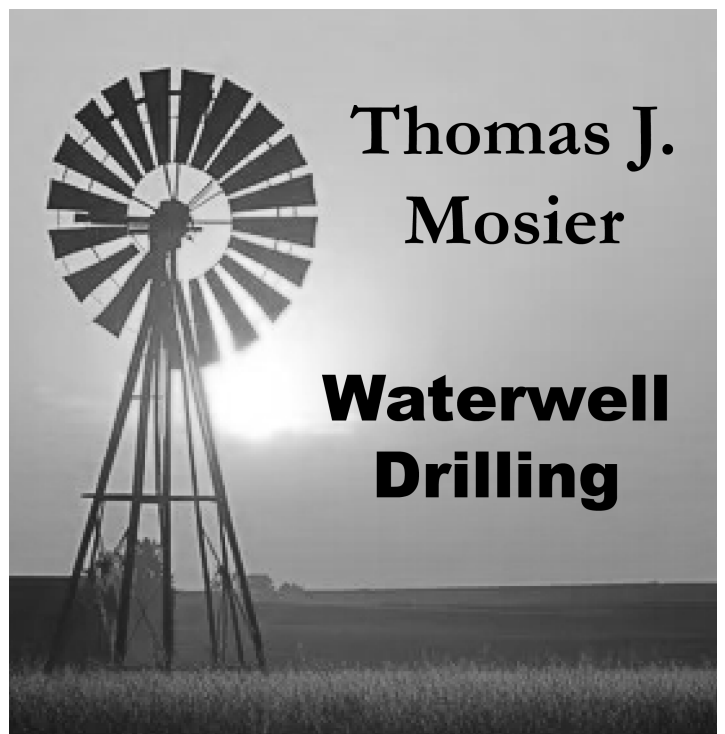
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PUZZLE PAGE

Fill It In Puzzle

Fill-in puzzles, also known as Kriss Kross, are variations of crossword puzzles where you’re given a list of words instead of clues. The goal is to fit all the words into the grid by finding the right placement for each.

3 LETTERS

AWN
BON
BUN
~~DIN~~
DRY
EGO
ETC
GPO
IKE
JON
KEY
LAB
MAE
MAW
NEE
NIL
NUN
OCT
OFF
OPT
OUR
PAD
PAR
PAT
PHD
PTA
RAJ
RUE
SAP
SUE
TAP
USC
USN
WRY

4 LETTERS

ALEC
AMOK
AMOS
ANNA
ARCH
BANE
EGAN
EMIT
EPIC
FACT
GALA
GOAT
LAIN
LAUE

LIEN
MACE
MORE
NEON
PHON
POMP
ROSY
SEPT
TACK
TWIT

5 LETTERS

ARGUS
AUGUR
CACAO

GLANS
IRENE
LAPSE
OTTER
POSIT
STEAL
TAPER
TEETH
UNCLE

6 LETTERS

CORONA
EMMETT
FRASER
PRAISE

PURINA
TETHER
TRANCE
UNITAL

7 LETTERS

HESSIAN
PORTENT

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4th of July Trivia

1. What was the first state to declare the 4th of July a state holiday?
2. How many people were estimated to be living in the colonies when they gained independence?
3. Why city hosted the first official Independence Day celebration on July 4, 1777?
4. When was the first 4th of July Celebration held at the White House? Who was the President at that time?
5. How many times does the Liberty Bell ring on each Independence Day?
6. What is the location of the nation's oldest 4th of July Parade?
7. Which three US presidents died on the 4th of July?
8. Which US president was born on the 4th of July?
9. According to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, roughly how many hot dogs are eaten on the 4th of July?
10. What is the largest annual 4th of July fireworks display in the US?
11. According to the American Pyrotechnics Association, how much did Americans spend on fireworks in 2024?
12. On what date did the Revolutionary War officially begin?
13. Who led the British Army during the Revolutionary War?
14. During which battle did the British surrender to the Continental Army on October 19, 1871?
15. What was the name of the treaty signed on September 3, 1873 that officially recognized American Independence?
16. Who was the youngest person to sign the Declaration of Independence?
17. How many signatures are there on the Declaration of Independence?
18. Where was the Declaration of Independence stored during World War II?
19. Which founding father served as the first Chief Justice of the United States?
20. Which six men are considered the core Founding Fathers of the United States?

July Word Search

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

Word Search Words

- BARBECUE

BEACH

COOKOUT

FIRECRACKER

FIREWORKS

FLAG

FLIPFLOPS

FOURTH

FREEDOM

HEAT

HIKING

ICECREAM

INDEPENDENCE

LEMONADE
- OUTDOOR

PARADE

PARK

PATRIOTIC

SMORES

SUMMER

SUNBURN

SUNSCREEN

SUNSHINE

SWIMMING

TRAVEL

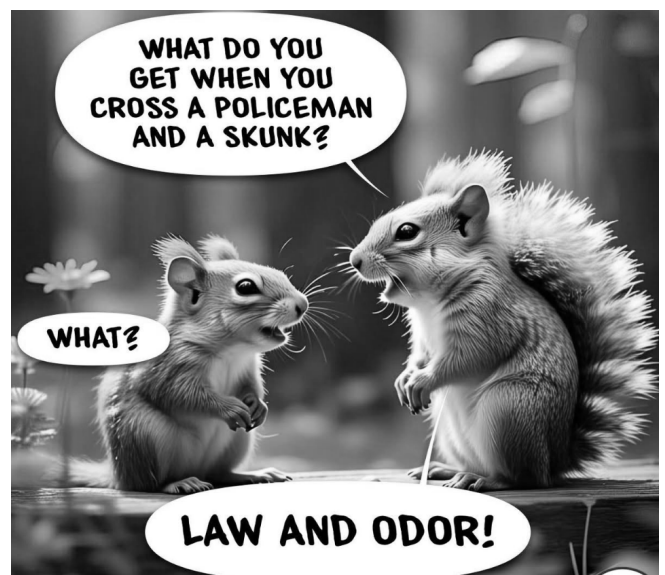
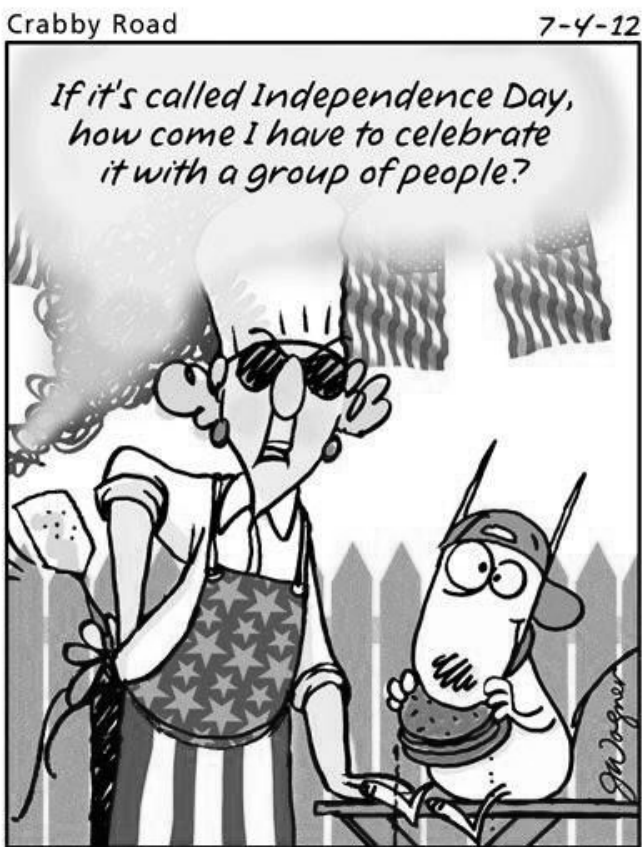
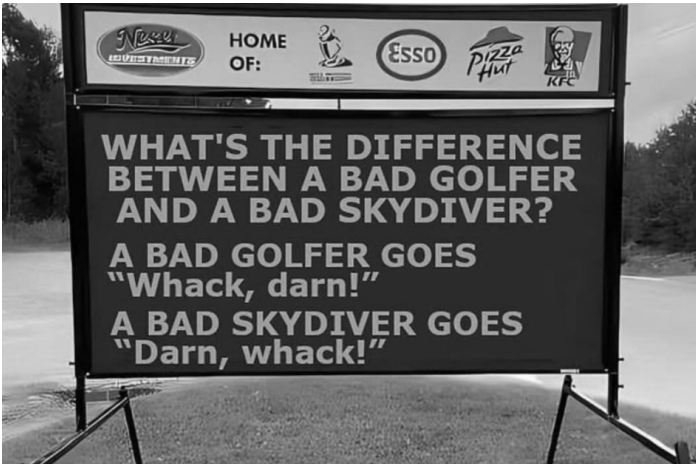
WATERMELON

WATERPARK

Scan for Solutions



BARKER FUNNIES



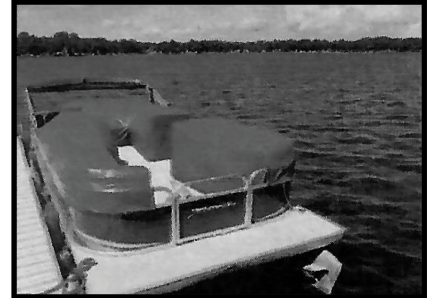


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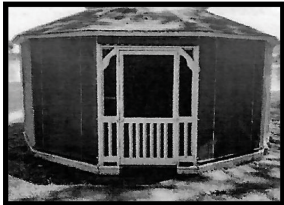
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BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB DUES

Support the BLYC and the entire Birch Lake Community by becoming a member!

The Birch Lake Yacht Club (BLYC) is a 501(c)(7) non profit organization

What your BLYC dues and donations support:

- Monitoring water quality, which helps keep Birch Lake clean, and improves our ability to respond swiftly to treat and eradicate invasive species.
- Maintaining the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) around the lake.
- Producing and distributing the printed Birch Barker every week in the summer (and online every month in the off season).
- Publication of a biennial Directory.
- Fundraising for, planning and carrying out the 4th of July Fireworks show.
- Providing a forum and means for handling lake-wide concerns with local governmental issues.
- Helping to fund and host a variety of community-building activities.



BLYC dues are NOT used to purchase alcohol for events. All events sponsored by the Yacht Club are organized by volunteers. In 2024, the BLYC Board of Directors voted to make all events revenue-neutral and to not spend any Yacht Club funds on alcoholic beverages.

\$ _____ BLYC member dues (\$50 per year)

\$ _____ Associate member dues (\$10 per year) (non lake residents)

\$ _____ Water Quality donations

\$ _____ Fireworks fund

\$ _____ Homeowners Association (\$10 per year)

\$ _____ Sailing Fees (\$15 per year)

\$ _____ Other Donations (please specify: _____)

\$ _____ TOTAL CONTRIBUTION

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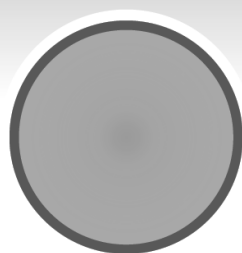
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