

# BIRCH Barker

vol. 77 issue 10

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com

Weekend of  
JULY 26  
2025



Four generations of Birch Kids invaded the Scannell / Hogoboom cottages over the weekend for the annual ScaBoom family reunion. We celebrated 85 years on Birch Lake!

## 2025 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR

### July

25 - Men's Golf Outing, noon  
27 - "See You Soon" party for  
Dennis & Claudia Phipps,  
1-4pm, BLYC

### August

2 - Corn and Sausage Roast  
9 - Don Harman Kidz Regatta  
16 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am  
16 - Homeowners Assoc., 10am  
(and CPR/AED refresher)  
20 - Card Night, 7pm  
23 - Fall Dinner, 5:30pm  
30 & 31 Labor Day Regatta -  
backup day on 9/1

### September

20 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am

### October

25 - Bad Patty Crockpot  
Challenge, 6pm

## 2025 BLYC Directors

### Officers

Commodore: Julie Dickey (E)  
Vice Comm.: Steve Frew (E)  
Secretary: Mike Sheffieck (W)  
Treasurer: Deb Spratt (N)  
Fleet Capt: Bob Niezgodski (W)

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### Committee Chairs

#### Water Quality:

Patrick Welch (S)

#### Homeowners Association:

Blair Garceau (E)

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello neighbors and friends. Although the month of July is coming to an end, there are still lots of great summer days ahead. Several fun events will be happening in the next couple weeks.

On Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm there will be a "See You Soon" party at the BLYC for Claudia and Dennis Phipps. Stop by and wish them well. Everyone is welcome!

Next weekend on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the BLYC will be hosting the annual Corn & Sausage Roast from 5-7pm. You can choose from three meals: hot dog, sausage, or chicken. See page 2 for further details. Big thanks to Lori and Andy Snider for organizing this great event for the whole family.

The Don Harman Kidz Regatta is coming soon on August 9<sup>th</sup>. What a sweet opportunity for kids to go sailing with our very own experienced sailors. It is helpful to give Fleet Captain Bob a heads up, if your kid is planning to participate. Further details are on page 2.

For the first time, I attended the Ladies Golf Luncheon held at Sauganash Golf Club in Three Rivers. I really enjoyed the lunch and hanging out with all the lady golfers. I am going to try to join this fun group next year. I played golf many years ago. Hopefully, I can still swing and hit the ball. Don't bet on it. Special thanks to Blair Garceau and Carol McCoy for organizing the luncheon and all the ladies golf

gatherings.

Another great Birch Lake history story has been written in our last Birch Barker. Thank you Karen Curtis-Miller for sharing your family history at Birch Lake. The pictures were awesome! I learned about the Dennert family who sold you their home. Who would've known that the Riviera's had a band member from Birch Lake? They were big back in the day. Karen, the "Love Shack" is in good hands. You and your family will continue to enjoy your own special "Love Shack" paradise for years to come.

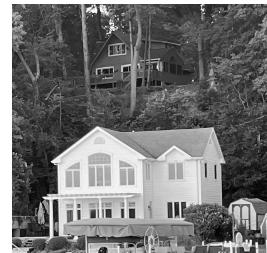
Lastly, some of you may not know, that our daughter Bridget, and her husband Louie Meneghin, bought a home at Birch Lake last summer. They have two children. Avery is 10 and Dino is 8. Their home is located on the hill behind our home on Birch Rd (east side). They have made many improvements and their home is lovely. It is so great that they are just a staircase away.

I was able to capture both homes in a photo when I was cruising on the lake. We all love living at beautiful Birch Lake! We are making our own family history.

We come from many different places, but we are all in the same boat, we love, Birch Lake!

~Commodore Julie

The Meneghin  
house (on the hill), and  
the Dickey house below



The 2025 Birch Barker is  
generously sponsored by Culver's.  
See ad on page 3.

The Barker will consider ads, photos, and editorial content for publication.

Email items to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com).

For editorial concerns, contact editor Amber Grundy at [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com) or 574-315-0227.

For delivery concerns, contact Ron Niezgodski at [birchbass1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbass1@gmail.com) or 269-476-9317.

For all other BLYC matters, contact Commodore Julie Dickey at [jdjuls@aol.com](mailto:jdjuls@aol.com) or 574-220-9132.

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



# UPCOMING EVENTS

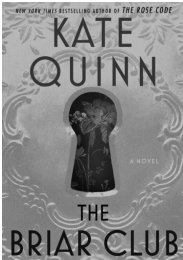
## "See You Soon" Party!

Please mark your calendar for July 27, 2025. We are having a "SEE YOU SOON" party at the Yacht Club for Claudia and Dennis Phipps. The time is 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to pass. Don't forget to bring your favorite beverage to enjoy. For a special gift, we will be putting together a remembrance photo album. Please bring a 4x6 picture of yourselves or favorite Birch Lake photo to be included.



## Book Club

Our July meeting will be July 22 at Ronni Eshleman's house, discussing *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. Any questions, or if you'd like to join in the fun, contact Jackie Frew: [seeitall8@gmail.com](mailto:seeitall8@gmail.com) or call/text 708-285-2999.



## CPR / AED Refresher

On Saturday, August 16 at 10am, Birch Lakers are invited to join us at the Homeowner's Association Meeting for a refresher course on how to give CPR and operate the AEDs we have around the lake. **Please note: this is NOT a certification course**, but rather a review of basic skills. We plan for it to last about one hour.

## 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).



**August 9,  
2025**

Arrive at 11am at the Caplis home, 14901 Birch North Shore Drive, on the north side of the lake. Hot dogs and bratwurst 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](mailto:rjniezgodski@gmail.com), or look me up in the directory and give me a call.

## AHOY MATEYS!

All aboard the *Birch Lake Fall Dinner* Boating Blast!  
Boathouse Party inside the Birch Lake Yacht Club

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 23, 2025

Cocktails 5:30-6:00, Dinner at 6:00

Chicken, Pizza, Sides, and Cheesecake

**COST:** \$25 for each Birch Lake enthusiast

Come and celebrate whatever boat you float!

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and/or water activity attire!

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Deb Spratt

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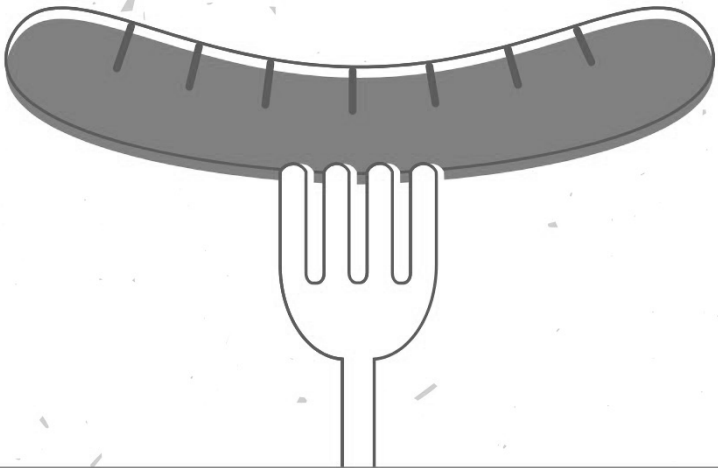
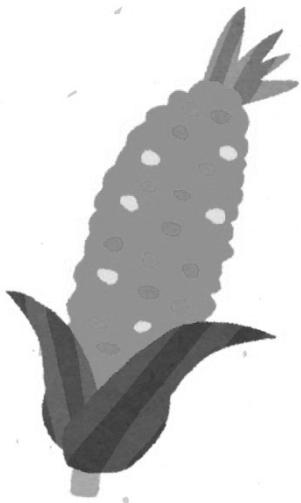
Questions? Email Steve Frew at: [stephenbfrew@gmail.com](mailto:stephenbfrew@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE for reservations: August 17**



# CORN & SAUSAGE ROAST

August 2, 2025, from 5-7 PM at  
BLYC



**\$5 HOTDOG MEAL, \$10 SAUSAGE  
MEAL, \$12 CHICKEN MEAL**



# ODDS AND ENDS

## Barker Newsies

A quick shout out to Terry Dugan who took over Delivery Girl Sue Williams' route for the last 2 weeks while Sue was away from the lake. Terry took good care of the south side/west folks so they could get their weekly Barker. Thanks Terry.

Now this week's spotlight is on Vickie Rogers who delivers to the cove and west side. Vickie and husband Tom rented a cottage on Birch from 1978 until 1983 when they purchased and then built the A frame home in the cove. In 1997 they became fulltime residents and in 2018 built the new home that they now live in. They enjoy working outside and have a cute little garden house structure on their property across the street. Vickie says she enjoys reading the Barker from front to back, so she is well informed on the lake happenings. A big thanks to Delivery Girl Vickie!



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



Thank you from Claudia and Dennis! Thank you so much for everybody that donated boxes and packing materials. You saved us! We do not need anymore as we will be gone in a few days. Thank you for your assistance. ~Claudia and Dennis Phipps.

"1 is the Loneliest Number" and I am missing Numbers 7 and 10 from the July 5<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade. If they have washed up on your shore, please give me a call a (269) 476-1638. Thanks! Boat Parade "Chair"-man Dan Waxman



## 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](http://birchlakeyachtclub.com)

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

[birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com).

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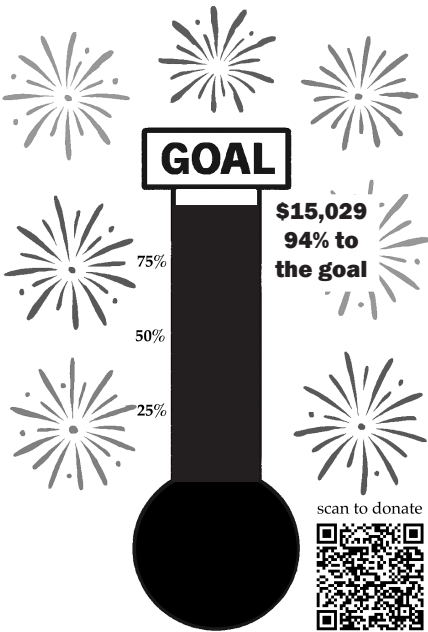
[birchlakeyachtclub.com/advertise](http://birchlakeyachtclub.com/advertise)

## Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2025 is \$16,000

Contribute now at

<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



## 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](mailto:sv6102@gmail.com).



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# LADIES GOLF OUTING AT HISTORIC SAUGANASH COUNTRY CLUB

This past Friday, the Sauganash Country Club was alive with the spirit of camaraderie and friendly competition as it hosted a delightful ladies' golf outing. The weather was perfect, and the mood was lively as participants gathered, sharing stories and laughter before teeing off.

Among the many exciting moments, Tracy Limes wowed everyone with the longest drive of the day, sending the ball soaring down the fairway. Courtney Limes took home the prize for 'Closest to the Pin,' displaying precision and skill. Meanwhile, Jeannie Ertel's remarkable touch earned her the award for the longest putt, showcasing her exceptional putting prowess.

Adding to the excitement, the first-place team consisted of Jackie Frew, Tracy Limes, Courtney Limes, and Irene Steffen, who showcased incredible teamwork and strategy throughout the day. Following closely were the

second-place team of Vicki Rogers, Amy Koschielski, and Jeannie Ertel. The third-place team included Sandy Vitale, Carol McCoy, and Debbie Soldato. Rounding out the top teams was the fourth-place team of Allison Weaver-Gills, Lori Noyer, and Blair Garceau. Each team displayed impressive skill and sportsmanship, making the competition fierce and fun.

On a lighter note, there was an unforgettable moment when Carol McCoy accidentally hit a goose with her drive. The goose dropped to the ground and didn't move. Was it dead? We are not sure what happened to the poor goose. Someone jokingly proclaimed she got a "birdie!"

After golf we all enjoyed a delicious luncheon at the club. There we met a few more ladies of the lake, Denny Weesner, Katha Machallak and Commodore Julie Dickey, to enjoy our meal and announce the winners of the competitions, give out prizes, and thank all of our wonderful

sponsors. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors who helped to make this outing possible:

Dan & Sharon Waxman and The SB Medical Foundation, Paul Delano at Lake Life Realty, Apollo Marine, Ed & Carla Chester, Paramount Properties/ Rick and Patty Russwurm, Phil & Sandy Vitale, Lee Oswald at Jimmy's , Buffy Mallo at Satori Salon and Spa, Gavin Francis at Prime Property Care (Pier and Lift service), Advantage Plumbing, Luna Marine, Jaywalkers, Carmen & Debbie Soldato, and Infinity Home Services. Your support and contributions are deeply appreciated!

The ladies' golf outing at Sauganash Country Club was not just about competition, but about friendship, fun, and creating lasting memories. Everyone left with smiles and a sense of camaraderie.

~Blair Garceau & Carol McCoy



scan for color photos





# WATER QUALITY REPORT: THE SIX COMMANDMENTS

The Water Quality Committee has developed a list of six “do’s and don’ts” for protecting and improving our lake. We ask that you learn about and try to comply with our “Six Commandments” which are listed below. Today, we’re reviewing Commandment #1: “Thou shalt Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)”.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) refers to all non-native organisms living in or near our bodies of water. Examples include zebra mussels, aggressive weeds and fish diseases. Because they typically have no natural predatory, competing, or limiting species, AIS can overwhelm a body of water very quickly. Once an AIS visits a body of water it may be controlled, but rarely eliminated. Currently there are hundreds of known forms of AIS.

AIS threatens the health of our lakes and rivers, decreases water quality, and can limit recreational enjoyment. It has been estimated that the total economic impact of AIS in the Great Lakes region is \$5.7 billion per year. Within the last few decades, rampant AIS at a few lakes within 60 miles of Birch has caused Michigan’s DNR to partially drain and close those lakes for use for a year or more.

At Birch, we already have the presence of at least these following known types of AIS:

1. Eurasian Milfoil (EM) – for which we survey and treat annually.
2. Purple Loosestrife – for which our committee, lead by Bruce Wagner, hunts and then oversees the removal of every late summer.
3. Curly Leaf Pondweed – for which we monitor, but treatment has not yet been required.
4. Hybrid Eurasian Milfoil – the forms of which we now have are being controlled by the product currently being used for regular EM.

A particularly nasty species, Starry Stonewort, has already been discovered in numerous nearby bodies of water including our own mill pond. Numerous other forms of AIS thrive in the area and threaten us regularly. For these reasons, each year we hire outside experts to survey then professionally treat each area.

Movement of boats and trailers among water bodies is the most common way AIS is spread in Michigan. Washing boats and trailers is an obvious and relatively easy way to stop the spread. An updated Michigan law requires that we:

1. Remove aquatic organisms, including plants from boats, boating equipment and boat trailers before launching or placing them in the water or transporting any watercraft over land.
2. Pull plugs and drain live wells, bilges, ballast tanks and all water from boats before leaving the access site.
3. Dispose of unused bait in the trash. Do not release bait into the water.
4. Don’t transfer fish to water bodies other than where they were caught.
5. Inspect and remove plants and mud from boats, trailers and gear then dry equipment before leaving the access area.
6. Dispose of the material in a trash receptacle or otherwise away from the water body.
7. Power wash boats, trailers and gear before leaving the access area if possible, or at a nearby car wash or at home.
8. Clean our boats and equipment before and after use in a new body of water.
9. Don’t allow the cleaning residue from a previous body of water to runoff into a different body of water.
10. After cleaning, dry boats and equipment – most invasives and significant fish diseases will die if left to dry out of the water for five days.
11. Disinfect live wells, bilges and gear with a mild bleach solution – ½ cup bleach to five gallons of water.
12. Do not dump fish and plants from aquariums into a body of water unless you are certain that each variety of living matter therein is native to that body of water.



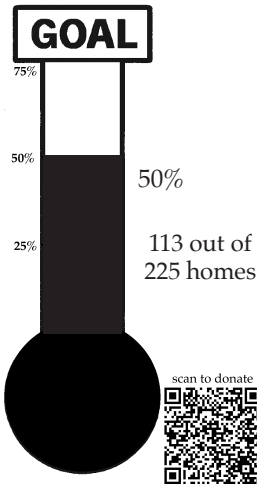
In summary, please be mindful not to place or dump anything that may be invasive into our lake or into a place that may eventually wash into our lake. This means anywhere within the Birch Lake watershed. Unwanted and objectionable objects include plants, fish, bait, aquarium remnants and even crawfish leftover from a “boil”.

Lastly, if you’ve made a donation to the WC

Fund, thank you! If not, please consider making one today. It’s everyone’s lake and everyone’s responsibility.

## 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>



## 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.

## 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).



Scan to order  
yours today!

[www.KeepBirchLakeBeautiful.com](http://www.KeepBirchLakeBeautiful.com)

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](mailto:keepbirchlakebeautiful@gmail.com)) with any questions or to place an order by phone.

*...a little slice of heaven*



# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Unfortunately, it was yet another non-sailable Sunday morning last week at Birch Lake. Fortunately, there was some area sailing to whet our appetite. The 116<sup>th</sup> Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac was this past weekend. For all non-sailors, this race is held on Lake Michigan, between Chicago and the Mackinac Island area. The "Mac Race" is the oldest annual freshwater distance race in the world, with the first being held in 1898. There are typically over 300 boats, crewed by more than 3,000 sailors, who participate.

They are divided into two major divisions: "Cruising" and "Racing." The race is 290 nautical miles and typically takes 40 to 60 hours for most of the fleet to complete. A few crews over the years have finished the race in under a day, including one owned and skippered by Roy Disney in 2002. It is an aspiration for many sailors in the area to one day participate in this race.

A few Birch Lake residents have participated over the years, including Tom and Barb Cassady and our new cove neighbors, Tom and Rose Eslinger. Tom and Rose Eslinger won their division in 2022, finishing at 3:19am, after an elapsed time of 1 day, 14 hours, and 59 minutes!

These days, the boats have GPS and can be tracked online by sailing enthusiasts. Due to lighter winds, this year's race featuring 285 sailboats was deemed a "slow-motion thriller" with a close pack of boats jockeying back and forth for position. You can read more about the 2025 race online at [cycracetomackinac.com](http://cycracetomackinac.com)

~Fleet Captain Bob Niezgodski

P.S. Don't forget the Don Harman Kidz Regatta is August 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the Caplis home on the North Shore. No need to know how to sail; the sailors will take the kids out in their boats to experience a sailboat race and teach them a little about sailing. Kids who do know how to sail are welcome to sail over and race on their own. There will be a mooring line to hook your sailboat up to. The only requirement is that you must bring and wear a personal flotation device to sail.



Start of the 2025 Mac Race, taken by Neil Troeger from his apartment in Chicago



Whitehawk, first boat to finish in 2025



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# CAMP T CORNER

We cannot believe that we only have two weeks of camp left! The summer has absolutely flown by. Our days have been filled with camp songs, buddy checks, sun screen, inside jokes, hydration reminders, and tie dye-stained hands. We will savor our last two weeks of it!

One of the things we pride ourselves in at Camp T is being able to offer campers the opportunity to experience different cultures and share their own. In addition to hosting the Pokagon Band weekly, as mentioned in last week's column, we accomplish this by hiring staff from all around the state, the country, and the world! I wanted to spotlight some of these staff members today.

The majority of our staff come from the United States, many of them from the local Michiana area or the Chicagoland area. Most of these staff members became staff members because they attended camp when they were younger, and could not get enough!

On staff this year, this includes Miss Kat, Miss Kayla, Miss Emma, Miss Liv, Miss Saige, Miss Ava, Miss Adrienne, Miss Sam, Miss Mia, Mr. Avery, Mr. Brendan, Mr. Kaden, Mr. Kevin, Mr. Parker, Mr. Owen, Miss Nadeen, and Miss Brielle. We are very proud that our program keeps people coming back not only through their childhood, but throughout their young adulthood.

International staff members make up

about a quarter of our staff each summer. Many of our international staff this summer were on staff last year as well! It is so much fun to watch the campers learn what life is like in the countries that our counselors come from. They share their local language and slang, their songs, and their games.

Miss Toni from Scotland taught us some new lyrics to "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain," and Mr. Jafet from Mexico taught his cabin a marching song that they used for their skit at the end of the week. Campers love hearing different words for things, like swimming costume (swimsuit), bin (trash can), torch (flashlight), and boot (trunk).

For the first time in many years, we are hosting counselors from Oceania: Mr. Ferdinand from Australia and Miss Keira from New Zealand! Mr. Ferdinand loves to lead the camp song "Walking through the Outback!" There are very few places where you can be having a conversation with someone from France while walking past a person from Ecuador, but Camp T is one of those special places!

The staff and campers are looking forward to all of the special things that the end of the summer brings, like the final closing campfire and the Order of the Birch induction ceremony. It is approaching fast, and we will be sure to enjoy every moment on the way!

See you around the lake!

~Miss Meghan at Camp T



Some of our 2025 Waterfront Crew from around the world! Left to right: Daniel from South Africa, Keira from New Zealand, Kayla from Indiana, Ailidh from Scotland, Lee from Missouri, Kennedy from Indiana, Saige from Illinois, Sam from Illinois, Avery from Birch Lake, and Ferdinand from Australia.

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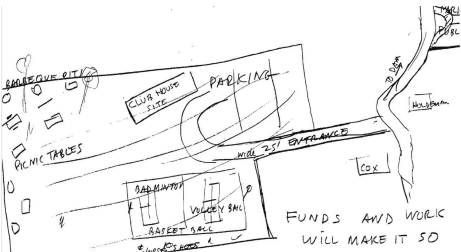


# BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: MACHALLECK FAMILY

John and Arline Machalleck purchased the Kesler cottage (#51) on the south side in 1954. They had heard about Birch Lake from Paul Thayer (north shore) and came to look at two houses for sale in the spring of 1954. They initially put down a \$10 deposit on a log cabin on the west shore, but when they heard the Kesler cottage was available they forfeited their \$10 and landed on the south shore.

*The original Machalleck cottage, 1956*

There were groups of kids of varying age groups and they did something together every day - swimming in the lake, skiing, diving off the Machalleck's spring board, kick the can, hide and seek, playing cards and board games on rainy days. At night there were street dances or square dances in the Haines' garage, walking around the lake, ice cream at Lazy Lodge, and midnight sailing.



*Plans for the BLYC, printed in the  
August 15, 1959 Birch Barker*

In December of 1960, a fire completely destroyed the two houses to the east of the Machalleck cottage (owned by the Hull and Meringa families), and damaged the Machalleck cottage and Mullin cottage (to the east). The following spring, the Meringas purchased the now-empty Hull lot, and sold half of it (15 feet) to the Machallecks, making each of their lots 45 feet. The Meringas built a new home, and the Machallecks expanded their adding a second story.



*After the fire and rebuilding, Merginga's on the left and Machalleck's on the right*

When John retired in 1982, he and Arline split their time between Birch Lake and Florida. They were active in the BLYC, with John serving as Commodore in 1961, and Arline chairing the Social Committee for several years. John was also a Cass County Commissioner, appointed in 1985 to fill a vacated seat on the board.

Mike served as Commodore twice, in 1986 and 2001. Only one other lake resident to our knowledge served as Commodore more than once - Earl Troeger was Commodore three times, in 1964, 1982, and 1983. Mike also served as treasurer of the BLYC from 1990-2000, and fleet captain for several years.

In 1997 they renovated their house to make it a permanent residence, and moved in full time. When Mike retired from Claeys Candy in 2000, they became snow birds and spend winters in Florida each year.

Mike and Katha bought the property from his siblings, and in 2016 they tore down the original Machalleck cottage. With the original lot (Sylvan Shores #19), the Meringa lot (#17), and the lot in between that they split in 1961 (#18), they now have 120 feet of frontage on the lake.

~Mike and Katha Machalleck (south shore #54) contributed information and photographs for this column.

*Family at the lake in 2017*

*August 1982, John and Arline, Mike and Katha, Brian and friends*



### 1991 Birch Lake Triathlon Participants

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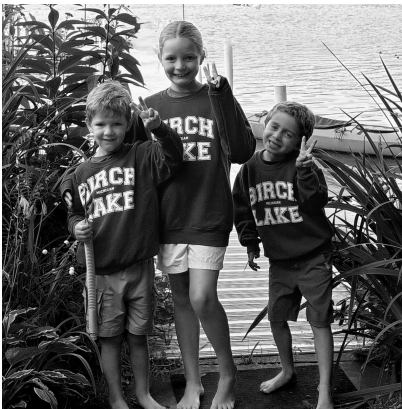




# BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK



Joseph Davis, 4th generation Birch Laker, and Quintin Crossetti, 5th generation laker, checking out camp T. Hopefully the beginning of following in their mothers' and grandmothers' footsteps of a lifelong friendship. Mothers Nicole Davis Riordan and Kate Scholes Crossetti. Grandmothers Sue Davis and Jill Scholes.



Want your kid to be a Barker kid of the week? Send your photos to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com)



Grandchildren descended in various waves this month at the Scholes house. All together for a brief tsunami. Left to Right: Bruce and Joanna Scholes from Louisville, and Quinton Crossetti from Cape Cod. General and specific chaos ensued. Sorry to the southeast corner for all the swimming noise, but they had great fun! Quieter times have returned.



The Bergens (cove) had a great week with granddaughter Lily visiting from Florida for the week. Cousins, Carter, Lia, and Lily had so much fun being together on Birch Lake!

The Caplis family was installing a new golf course, but stopped when significant ponding flooded the #1 green. Per the family: it's a waterhole.

Bill Magro and his daughter Jen Magro (North Shore) welcomed visitors all the way from Australia. Megan, Lu, and Wil Stewart from Brisbane are enjoying Michigan lake life!!

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Our spring season has ended, but we reopen in September for the fall. Come out and see us for pumpkins and mums!



# 2025 BLYC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

## BLYC OFFICERS

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tim@gemstoness.com

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blairgarceau@gmail.com

*Water Quality Committee*  
Patrick Welch (S) ..... 574-536-7344  
patrick.welch2017@gmail.com

## 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  
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*more info -->*



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SPYNOFFS



# SUMMER RECIPES: ZUCCHINI-RICOTTA FLATBREAD

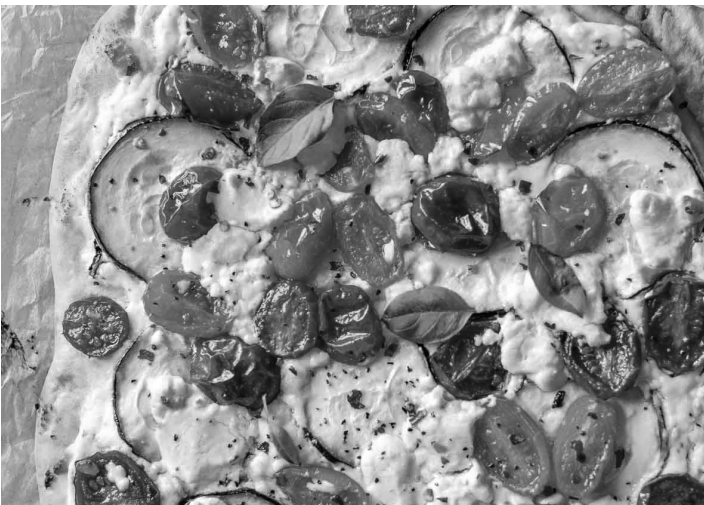
Is your garden starting to produce an abundance of zucchini? If so, this is the perfect summery flatbread recipe to use up a couple of them! It uses an easy 1-hour homemade flatbread recipe which makes 2 flatbreads.

**Flatbread**

- 1 teaspoon active dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- ¾ cup warm water (100°-110°F)
- 2 cups all purpose flour or bread flour
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt

**Toppings**

- 2 cups halved cherry tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups part-skim ricotta cheese
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1-2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 2 cups sliced zucchini (1-2 medium zucchini)
- 6-8 ounces goat cheese (optional)
- crushed red pepper flakes (optional)



Recipe and photo credit to SallysBakingAddiction.com

**Instructions:**

- Whisk the yeast, sugar, and warm water together in the bowl of your stand mixer. Loosely cover and allow to sit for 5–10 minutes until foamy and frothy on top.
- Add the flour, olive oil, and salt (and garlic/seasoning if using). Mix on low speed with the dough hook attachment until combined, about 2 minutes. The dough should pull away from the sides of the bowl as it mixes. If the dough is too sticky, mix in more flour, 1 tablespoon at a time.
- Knead for an additional 6-8 full minutes, or knead by hand on a lightly floured surface for 6-8 full minutes.
- Place the dough in a greased bowl and cover with plastic wrap, aluminum foil, or a clean kitchen towel. Allow to rise for 45 minutes at room temperature.
- As the dough is resting and rising, prepare the toppings. Preheat oven to 400°F. Toss the halved cherry tomatoes with 1 tablespoon olive oil and a sprinkle of salt and pepper. Bake for about 20 minutes until blistered and roasted.
- Turn the oven up to 475°F.
- Whisk the ricotta, basil, milk, lemon juice, and garlic together in a medium bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste.
- Punch the dough down and divide in half. On a lightly floured surface with floured hands and working with one dough piece at a time, begin shaping and stretching the dough until it is ¼ inch thick. Don't worry about the shape of the dough, just make sure it's pretty thin. Carefully transfer both pieces of dough to a parchment paper or silicone-mat lined baking sheet, or use a pizza stone.
- Prick a few holes in the dough with a fork. Brush each with 1 teaspoon of olive oil. Spread half of the ricotta mixture onto each, then top with zucchini, tomatoes, and crumbled goat cheese.
- Bake for 15-20 minutes or until the crust and toppings are browned to your liking. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with crushed red pepper, fresh basil, and/or freshly ground pepper. Slice and serve warm.

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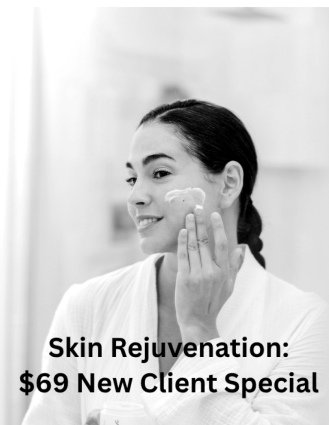
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### Washer & Dryer Pair

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\$75.00 or best offer. Call (269) 476-2383 - The Rogers

## FREE

**Infant and Child Life Vests:** I have a collection of infant and child-size life vests that my kids have outgrown.

**Kids' Bikes:** Also have 3 youth size bikes that need some TLC. One is a 12", and two are 16". Two are operable as is, the 3rd needs some repairs. If anyone is in need of the life vests or the bikes, please call Amber at (574) 315-0227 or email [amber.grundy@gmail.com](mailto:amber.grundy@gmail.com).

## SERVICES

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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 26<sup>th</sup> - August 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com) Deadline is Tuesday noon for the upcoming weekend's Barker.

## FOUND

**Tube Found.** A float / tube (orange, blue, and gray) was found on the east shore after the recent storms. If you are missing a float / tube (not the kind you pull behind the boat), contact Amber (574) 315-0227 to claim it.

**For Fido.** One barely used blue / orange dog ball. It's sitting at the King's Boathouse (unclaimed ball will be awarded to a neighbor dog or ...)



## LOST

**LOST:** Black seat cover from our boat on the North Shore. Please contact or return to Roger Falk at (269) 217-9291.

## WANTED

**BLYC Directories** to scan. I have 1961, 1966, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2020, and 2025. There is a big gap from 1980-1997. If you have any years I am missing, please email [amber.grundy@gmail.com](mailto:amber.grundy@gmail.com). I will scan and return to you!

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# EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

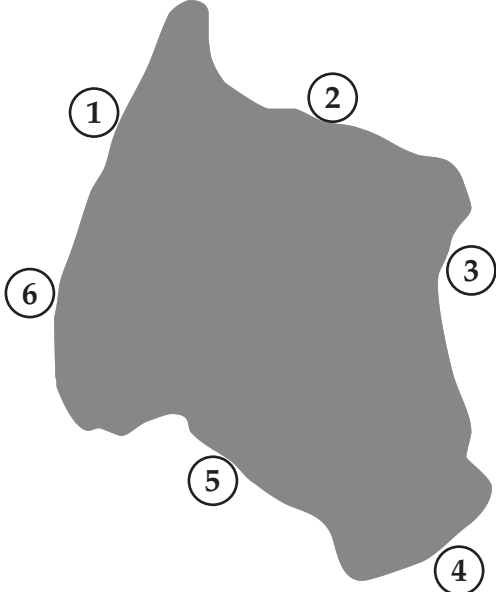
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units (AEDs) on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations:

- 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.



## AED Locations



## IN AN EMERGENCY

- 1. **CALL 911** and report the emergency and the patient's location
- 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.**

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

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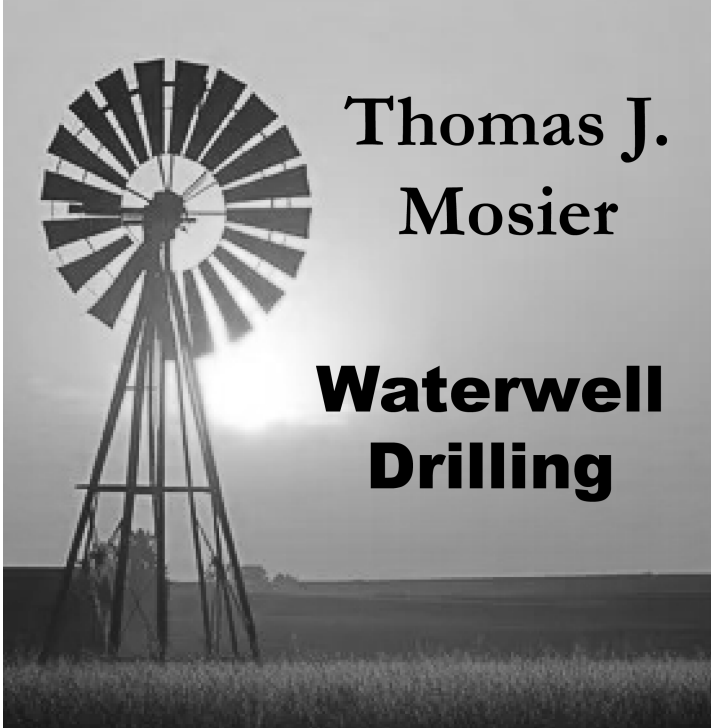
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PUZZLE PAGE

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
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61				62						63				

DOWN

- 1) Character in a Christmas special, often
- 2) An eagle is two under this
- 3) Lennon's wife
- 4) Saddle parts
- 5) Come-\_\_\_ look
- 6) Signs of divinity
- 7) \_\_\_ podrida
- 8) Vegas machine
- 9) Bar bill
- 10) One leading the flock
- 11) Nuts
- 12) "We hold \_\_\_ truths ..."
- 13) Fine-tunes
- 18) Affectedly creative
- 22) Clod chopper
- 23) Litmus reddeners
- 24) \_\_\_ Island (state)
- 25) Senior moment, e.g.
- 26) Cheshire cat's hangout
- 28) Available for occupation
- 29) "Ain't Misbehavin'" star Carter
- 31) Back talk
- 33) High times?
- 34) Points at the dinner table
- 36) Battening down
- 37) Drawn tight
- 41) Large suitcase, perhaps
- 43) \_\_\_-Wan Kenobi
- 44) Canaanite deity
- 45) End of a threat
- 46) Behind
- 47) Andean animal
- 48) Construction site sight
- 50) Vacation destination
- 51) Attempt
- 54) Postal creed word
- 55) "... \_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
- 56) "Platoon" war, briefly
- 57) "\_\_\_ will be done"

ACROSS

- 1) Notable historic period
- 6) Legions
- 11) Degree in math
- 14) Hawaiian island
- 15) Burqa wearer's deity, often
- 16) "And what have we here?"
- 17) Brain part
- 19) Big \_\_\_ Conference
- 20) Where a frog may be found?
- 21) Terrible twos, e.g.
- 23) Bands around the biceps
- 26) Oar steadiers
- 27) Bright and pleasant
- 28) Let out, as fishing line
- 30) Charged particles
- 31) Disparaging look
- 32) Rubble-making stuff
- 35) Banned bug-killer
- 36) Not going anywhere
- 38) \_\_\_ polloi
- 39) Swell place?
- 40) Artist's stand
- 41) Drudge
- 42) Swarming insect
- 44) Ludlum's "The \_\_\_ Identity"
- 46) Nearly
- 48) Without wheels?
- 49) Natural talent
- 50) Acre's acres?
- 52) Choose for membership
- 53) Payment on a payment plan
- 58) Dash lengths
- 59) Baseball's "Ryan Express"
- 60) Fergie, formally
- 61) "Norma \_\_\_" (1979 film)
- 62) Loon relative
- 63) Foe

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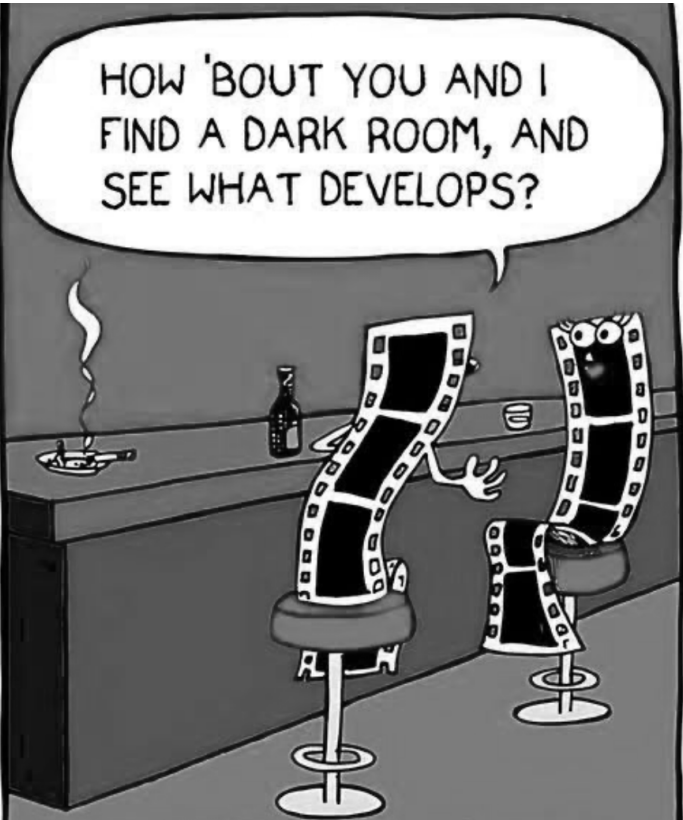
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BARKER FUNNIES



WE NEED TO TALK  
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GIVING PEOPLE A PIECE OF IT  
AND NOW IT IS ALL GONE.



I've come to the conclusion that I  
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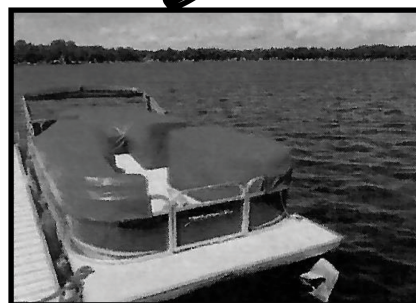
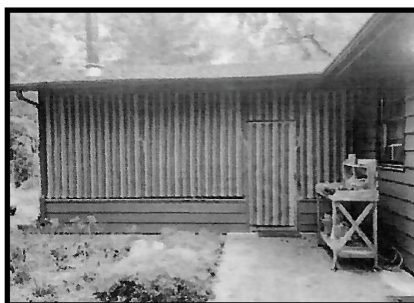


# D & M CANVAS

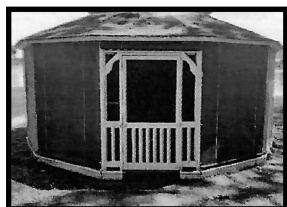
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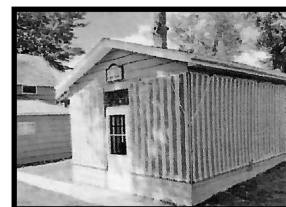
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**Jim Gills**

Director of Sales

574-381-0410

[jim@bastionhomemaintenance.com](mailto:jim@bastionhomemaintenance.com)





# 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

Make checks payable to:  
**BLYC**  
and mail to: **Deb Spratt, Treasurer**  
**18100 Farmington Hills Dr**  
**South Bend, IN 46637**

or pay online at  
[store.birchlakeyachtclub.com](https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com)

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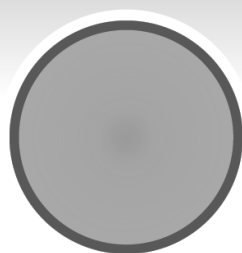
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