

BIRCH

vol. 77 issue 11

Barker

Weekend of
August 2
2025

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com



Thank you to everyone who came to the BLYC on Sunday to wish Dennis and Claudia Phipps well on their new adventures in Florida! They will be missed at Birch Lake!

2025 BLYC Directors

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Patrick Welch (S)
Homeowners Association:
Blair Garceau (E)

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello friends and neighbors. As years go by, we find ourselves welcoming others or wishing others well as they take a new path in life. Many of us had the opportunity to wish Dennis and Claudia Phipps the very best, as they move into a new chapter of their lives. The "See You Soon" party at the BLYC was packed with well wishers! That says it all.

Many of us have gotten to know Claudia and Dennis one way or another. They both are very welcoming and they know how to have a good time! They have been very socially involved at Birch Lake. They have hosted events at their home and they have participated and volunteered in numerous BLYC activities. Special thanks to Claudia for serving as Commodore in 2017. The Phipps plan to stay in touch with our Birch Lake community.

This little story shows how the Phipps and other people in our community can create lasting memories. After we moved to Birch Lake in late July 2019, we started attending events at the BLYC. We were warmly welcomed by so many people. It made us want to attend more events. We soon met Claudia and Dennis Phipps. Claudia was smiling and very friendly, as she served food from the BLYC kitchen. That smiling face, along with Dennis's smiling face, stayed with me and those smiles will stay with them on their new journey. "When you're smiling, the whole world smiles at you."

The Corn and Sausage Roast is this weekend. Come one, come all! This is an event for the whole family. There will be a 50/50 raffle to support the Water Quality Fund. Please remember to bring cash if you would like to purchase tickets. Phyllis Rasmussen will be selling Birch Lake gear and is generously donating 20% of her profits to the Water Quality Fund. You may find something you would like to wear to the Fall Dinner which has the boating theme.

There are some other scheduled events coming up soon. Look for further details about that Kidz Regatta on August 9. On August 16, after the 9am BLYC board meeting, there will be a CPR/AED refresher at 10am. It is hosted by the Homeowners Association. It is an excellent opportunity to become more familiar with CPR and the AEDs that are available at Birch Lake in the event of an emergency.

Our Vice Commodore Steve Frew is busy planning the Fall Dinner on August 23. Tickets can be purchased on the BLYC website. AHOY MATEYS! Come and join the fun!

The Birch Lake History contribution from Mike and Katha Machelleck was very interesting! Their history dates back from the 1950s. What an amazing journey! Mike and Katha have been very involved at Birch Lake. Thank you so much for all that you have contributed to make Birch Lake a special place to live. Your story and photos are amazing.

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

2025 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR

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



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.

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.

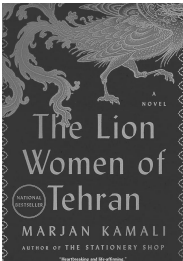
DEADLINE for submissions is always NOON on the Tuesday of the week before publication.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Club

Our July book club was a wonderful evening at Ronni and Denny's home. They went all out, preparing a desert treat from the book. Everyone enjoyed *The Briar Club* and we had a lively discussion. Thank you!

We have two more meetings this summer: August 26th, *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali at Debbie Soldato's and September 16th, *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks at Blair Garceau's. Any questions, or if you'd like to join in the fun, contact Jackie Frew: seeitall8@gmail.com or call/text 708-285-2999.



In Honor of Barbara Green

The Green family will be hosting a celebration of life open house in honor of Barbara Green on Sunday, August 31st from 2 to 5pm at their cottage on the south side. All are welcome to stop in and visit.



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, 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!

And make a big splash in your favorite Birch Lake and/or water activity attire!

Tickets available online at

birchlakeyachtclub.com,

or mail a check payable to the BLYC to:

Deb Spratt

18100 Farmington Hills Dr.,
South Bend, IN 46637

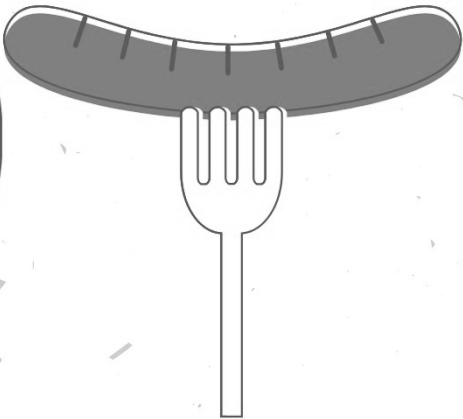
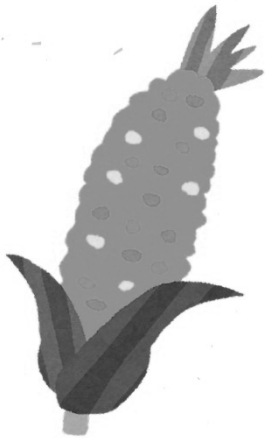
Questions? Email Steve Frew at: stephenbfrew@gmail.com

DEADLINE for reservations: August 17



CORN & SAUSAGE ROAST

This Saturday, from 5-7 PM at
BLYC



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

ODDS AND ENDS

Barker Newsies

Over the last 10 weeks you have met the Barker Delivery Kids that faithfully bring the Barker to your homes on Birch Lake. We are led by our Delivery Overlord, Ron Niezgodski who makes sure we get the right number of Barkers to cover our individual routes each week. The final delivery kid spotlight is on me, seen here with my niece Chelsea Borntrager as she helps me last week with my east side/north route along with my dog Buddy. Earlier in the summer, Chelsea's mom Abby, my youngest sister, took over the route while I was away from the lake, so it has been a family effort to make sure the Barker gets delivered.

I took over this route from Karen Curtis-Miller who spent many summers as a delivery kid before passing the baton to me. My first visit to Birch Lake was in 1970 when I was a junior counselor at Camp Eberhart and visited the John O'Brien family on the north side. I knew about Birch Lake from my mother, Jane Zabel Waxman who was a camper, counselor, and the camp bugler at Camp Tannadoonah in the 1930s and 1940s. One of my mother's best camp friends was Franny Green, the sister of Dick Green whose family still owns a cottage on the south side.

In 2003, my wife Sharon and I, along with my brothers



Mike and Stevie, bought Genevieve Lagoni's cottage on the east side. Sharon had reestablished her Michigan residency as we lived in Ann Arbor in the 1990s and she became the in-state owner when we bought Mike and Stevie's portion of the property.

In 2022 I moved up from Indy and called Michigan my home for the 3rd time as I went to U of M in the 1970s. We have updated the original cottage with necessary repairs as we love the yellow pine wood floors, great lake view, and 120 feet of shoreline. Two years ago, we built a new home across the road so we could have one level living and keep the cottage for family and friends to visit. My favorite part of the Barker is the new History section that is so interesting to read, along with the Commodore's Comments which reminds me of the summer I served as Commodore. For all the Delivery Kids - Buzz, Sue, Chris, Christen, Vic, Patty, Leila, Sarah and Vickie, this is Delivery Boy Dan Waxman signing off.

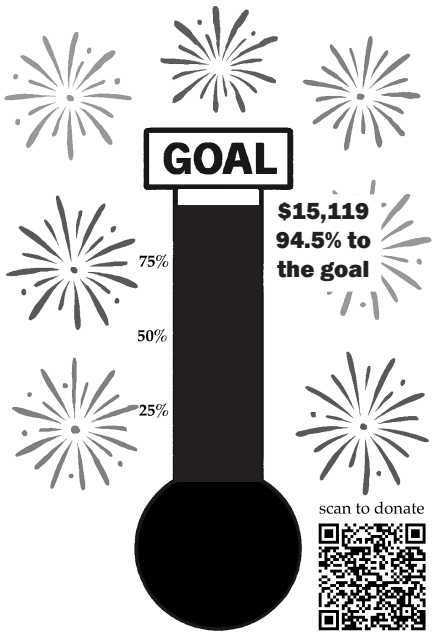


Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

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.



WELCOME to DELICIOUS

VISIT YOUR LOCAL CULVER'S RESTAURANT:

Niles, MI

Sturgis, MI

Coldwater, MI

Three Rivers, MI

Granger, IN

Mishawaka, IN



2025 BIRCH BARKER SPONSOR

MORE ODDS AND ENDS



Dennis & Claudia Phipps

Thank you from the Phipps! Dennis and I would like to thank the many Birch lakers for the lovely going away “See You Soon” send off. Thank you to the organizers and helpers, Patti Russwurm, Vickie Rogers, Sandy Vitale, Deb Hall, Dan Waxman, and we are sure many more! It was heartwarming to see all of the dear friends developed over the years. The pictures brought back an eclectic set of fun, CRAZY memories. We received many kind words, gifts, and cards. It brought tears to our eyes, and we just wanted to say, “OK we take it back, we are staying!” Birch Lake is a very special place. No wonder, with all of the special people that are here. We love you! ~ Claudia and Dennis



The See-ya-Soon Party committee with Claudia. Left to right, Sandy Vitale, Deb Hall, Dan Waxman, Claudia Phipps, Patti Russwurm, and Vickie Rogers

GET YOUR BIRCH LAKE GEAR! New additions: shorts, sweatpants, and tall sizes. 20% of sales will be donated to the Birch Lake Water Quality Fund.

This is our 3rd round of selling Birch Lake apparel. Previously we raised \$500.00 for the Water Quality Fund, and earlier this summer we raised \$510.00 for BLYC!

www.promoplace.com/birch
Order Deadline: August 18, 2025
Orders will be shipped or distributed at the lake in September.

One is still the loneliest number as number 10 has been found, but 7 is still missing! If the number 7 sign has washed up on your shore after the July 5th boat parade, please give me a call. Thanks! Dan Waxman



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.

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.



MEN'S GOLF OUTING

The 65th Birch Lake Men’s Golf Outing was held July 25 at Sauganash Country Club with 60 golfers competing for cash prizes and bragging rights. After rounds were completed, we met in the banquet room at Sauganash for cocktails and a dinner of steak and chicken alfredo. Award presentations followed by door prizes completed the festivities.

Team Winners:

- 1st place:** Tim Burchell, Ray Scholes, Justin Bratt, Jon Rondot (they won in a tiebreaker!)
2nd place: Scott Troeger, Patrick Welch, Jim Cunningham, Mike Shefler
3rd place: Mark Van Huffel, Bob Mikulak, Mike Connaughton, Mike Dennert
4th place: Steve Manor, David Anderson, Steve Frew, Mike Sheffieck

Hole Prizes:

- Closest to the Pin #7:** Tom Kuhn
Closest to the Pin #11: Mason Talos
Long Drive #8: Ken Petty
Long Drive #15: Kevin Bernaciak

Other Teams:

- Bud Hall, Phil Vitale, Rick Russwurm, Mark Caenepeel
- Brody Baucus, Bob Baucus, Mason Dombrowski, Tony Schmitt
- Tim Steffen, Wes Steffen, Elliott Steffen, Brogan Cover
- Keith Remington, Mark Nowak, Nate Perry, KJ Remington
- Ron Niezgodski, Bob Niezgodski, Kevin Goodwin, Kyle Carlton
- Tom Kuhn, Gus Eshelman, Jamie Green, Craig Fredlake
- Ken Petty, Cam Petty, Cooper Petter, Tom Caplis
- John DeCloedt, Bud Zesinger, Terry Wiseman, John Stitz
- Bill Holleman, John O'Brien, Bernie Garceau, Pat McGann
- Mike Machalleck, Jim Bradfield, Bill Doba, Mason Talos
- Kevin Bernaciak, Tom Lacy, Bill Reader, John Ball

The outing would not be a success without the support of our hole sponsors and door prize contributors:

Hole Sponsors: Phil & Sandy Vitale, Tim Burchell, Ed & Carla Chester, Jimmy’s, Lake Life Realty, Dermani Med Spa (Justin Bratt), Paul & Celia Fallon, Dan & Sharon Waxman, Mike & Julie Sheffieck, Elmer’s Body Shop (Wes Steffen), Kinzler Janitorial (Keith Kinzler), Buzzman Motorsports (Artie McElwee), Paramount Management (Rick & Patti Russwurm), Bud & Debbie Hall.

Door Prizes: Mark Van Huffel, Dan Waxman, Dave & Donna Hogoboom, Meadow Valley Golf Club, Mike Machalleck, Jennifer Ball, Sauganash Country Club.

Thanks to the players, hole sponsors and prize contributors we were able to donate \$1,080 to the Water Quality Committee! Hope to see everyone back next year!

~ John Ball



scan for color photos

If you took photos at the golf outing, please send them to birchbarker1@gmail.com. Thanks!



WATER QUALITY REPORT: A SAD DAY

What happens if "we," the Birch Lake residents, can't take care of our lake? What if an invasive species takes over, chokes the waterway and "we" don't have enough money to combat it? Think I'm crazy? Try kayaking down the St. Joseph River, like we did last week, where most of it was weed choked with Eurasian Milfoil, leaving only thin swaths of current to navigate downstream. What would "we" do?

The option most used is to create a Special Assessment District, or the appropriately named SAD. It's a time-consuming and expensive endeavor whereby the state of Michigan manages the water quality of the lake. In essence, you give them the keys, they bill you for their services, and they drive the boat.

Here's how it works: most inland lakes in Michigan are located within townships, like Birch Lake, and the Township Public Improvement Act of 1954 (often called "Public Act 188 of 1954") is the mechanism to finance certain types of lake improvement projects, including aquatic plant control. The costs for SAD are funded through assessments of the property owners within the district (in our case, the Birch Lake homeowners), in addition to the legal expense of setting one up, and the extended period involving petitions, public hearings and township votes to get it on the property tax rolls. Meanwhile, your lake continues to deteriorate.

When establishing a SAD, there is always a valid concern that the lake residents will lose control. Therefore, it's considered a last resort. In some cases, it's the only option to garner sufficient funds to save the lake. In all cases, it allows residents to collectively pool their resources to achieve clearly defined objectives – which is a polite way of saying "We'll tell you what needs to be done and how much it will cost."

At this point, you might be saying, "Sounds good to me. At least I won't be hounded by the Water Quality Committee to donate money." But before acquiescing, consider this: according to the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, it costs about \$2,000 to treat one acre of invasive weeds on a lake. Birch Lake is 295 acres. If only a third of the lake needs treatment (say, for instance, the shallow shoreline) that's \$196,000 of treatment per year. Spread over the 225 residences that would be forced to pay, that's almost \$900 per home EVERY YEAR. Suck on that next time you balk at donating \$100. Not to mention that they'd probably have to close the lake for treatment for most of the summer. Explain that to your grandkids, "Well, honey, you see, not enough people on the lake donated to the Water Quality fund, so now you have to pay the price..." You get the picture.

Think I'm overreacting? Think again. Of the 11,000 inland lakes in MI, over 30% are managed under a SAD. Over 30% are assessed annually on their property taxes, like it or not, and many do not. Research indicates there are numerous lawsuits that are trying to get a SAD overturned, that is, giving jurisdiction back to the homeowners, with little success. Once it's gone, it's gone.



One might say, "If we have a situation that dire, the residents will step up, like they always have." Maybe yes, maybe no. I'd hate to find out. Rather, the intent of the Water Quality Committee is to be a trusted steward of the lake, soliciting enough money to ward off any intrusion Mother Nature can throw our way, including the need for a SAD. We don't need or want outside political influences controlling our beautiful lake.

The solution: donate to the Birch Lake Water Quality Fund. We need everyone's help. Our goal, modest at best, is a 75% participation rate to the fund from the lake community. We're far from it, yet it's arguably the most important asset in our community. It is perplexing, to say the least, especially if everyone's support is critical to the well-being of our lake.

The alternative, you guessed it, might be a SAD day.

Own the future and keep Birch beautiful. Donate today.

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

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.

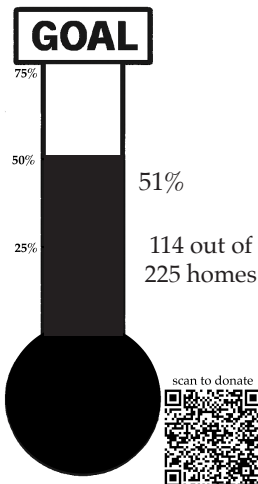
Let's keep our lake clean and beautiful for years to come! This project helps support keeping our earth clean, our lakes clean, and ensuring our waterways are safe for children to swim in! You can make the difference!

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

...a little slice of heaven

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>



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Don Harman Kidz Regatta: Next Saturday, August 9th

Last Sunday was a great day for water skiing, but not for sailing. Let's hope the winds treat us sailors better in August. On a positive note, the 2025 Don Harman Kidz Regatta is next Saturday, August 9th, at 11:00am.

Tom and Megan Caplis are hosting the event at their home on the North Shore. There is no need to know how to sail! If the wind is good, the sailors will take the kids out in their sailboats to experience a sailboat race and teach them a little about sailing. If the wind happens to be light, the event will go on. It will still be a great opportunity for the kids to meet other kids they may not know around the lake and make new friends.

Here is a general timeline: Arrive at 11:00am at the Caplis home, 14901 Birch North Shore Drive. You're welcome to walk, bike, or drive over. Kids who know how to sail are welcome to sail a boat over to race on their own or with a family member or friend. There will be a mooring line to tie your boat up. If you need help tying off your boat, a sailor will help.

Hot dogs and brats will be served. If the wind is good around noon, the sailors will pair up with the kids and take them out for a few races. If not, we will let the kids loose to play out in the yards and have fun together.

The only rules are that everyone sailing 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, feel free to contact me at rjniedzgodski@gmail.com, or look me up in the directory and give me a call.

~Fleet Captain Bob Niedzgodski



Scott Troeger with two young sailors at the 2003 Kidz Regatta



Participants in the 2023 Don Harman Kidz Regatta posed for photos at the King's house (north shore)

Sunday is SAILING DAY!
Races start at 11am
Please steer clear of the course!

Join us for dinner!



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CAMP T CORNER

Our last week of camp is upon us! It is so wild that we are already to the end of our 2025 camp season. The summer flew by! Before the summer ends, however, we still have a lot to look forward to for our last week.

I'm sure many of you are familiar with some of our fun last-week traditions, mostly occurring on Friday night. After closing campfire is over, we will all walk down the waterfront stairs holding candles lit on wooden blocks. We will gather around the crib area of our waterfront and set the candles and blocks into the water, then sing a few songs together. If you want to join us by boat, we will be down there around 9:20 or 9:30!

Another special part of the final closing campfire is the Order of the Birch induction ceremony. The Order of the Birch is something that a camper can try to earn if they have been coming to camp for at least five summers and are going into at least the 7th grade. Earning the Order of the Birch requires a lot of things from a camper!

They must attend each of our free choice activities once during the week, improve in an activity area, help lead sing one night, keep their bunk neat and clean, perform a service project for camp, participate in Polar Bear each morning, be a camper council representative, behave as a model camper, and write a poem, song, or speech about what Camp

Camp T Candlelight Serenade

Friday, August 8 at 9:15pm

Come out on your boats and gather near the camp dock to see our campers set their candles in the water and sing. We will start proceeding down the waterfront stairs around 9:15pm.

T means to them.

For each of these requirements, they must get a staff member's signature. My personal favorite part of seeing campers complete the Order of the Birch is listening to their performance at closing campfire. It is so special to hear the ways in which camp has impacted them: their favorite memories, the friendships they have made and fostered, the staff that have touched their lives.

At the Order of the Birch induction ceremony, everyone who has completed the Order of the Birch requirements this summer is invited back to the final closing campfire. When closing campfire has concluded, but before we go down to the waterfront, staff who have been coming to camp for more than five years form two lines facing each other. Each staff member has a torch, and the flame



is passed down until all are ignited. The names of the inductees are called, at which point they walk between the lines of staff. They recite an oath to "live up to the high ideals, the rich traditions, and the special meaning that Camp T has for all of us," as well as to be a good example to younger campers. At this point, they are officially inducted!

I look forward to Friday night and all of the feelings and tradition the night brings. I hope to see some of you at the candlelight ceremony, singing along with us!

See you around the lake!
~Miss Meghan at Camp T

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Tri-County Bookkeepers and CPAs

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Saint Joseph, MI 49085

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BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: THE SANDERS-FRURIP 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

Our white-sided, two-story home has a red brick front and is located on the northeast side of Birch Lake. It's been part of Lazy Lodge or the Lazy Lodge Resort since the early 1900s when it was a one-room white cottage with an outhouse. It was one of six cottages rented and managed by the owners of the main house or lodge located across the road where the Wozniaks live. Today we share a 60-foot deep and 100-foot wide lakefront with five other families. This is my family's story.

Mrs. Cassius King has been in several times getting "Lazy Lodge" into shape for occupancy. She has autoed in from Michigan City as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Cole, who spend many days at various times through the season at the lake.

The Resort was known as "Lazy Lodge" as far back as 1912. Cassopolis Vigilant, June 27, 1912, p. 4

My parents are Ray and Sonia Sanders. The family connections began when Peter J. and Wanda Winiarski bought the Lazy Lodge Resort from Oren and Mable Fulkerson in 1942. My mom is Sonia Korzin Sanders. Her sister Marie married Peter's brother Bruno "Barney" in 1946.

Peter's physician in Chicago advised him to move out of the city to the clean air of the "country." As kids we would refer to Birch Lake as going to "the country." Pete and Wanda Winiarski took this advice seriously, and in 1942 - after discovering an ad in the Chicago Tribune - purchased the Birch Lake property and Lazy Lodge home with six cottages and began their adventure on Birch Lake. Because of WWII, they did not move in until 1947.

The original home was closer to the shoreline. They rebuilt it in the early 1950s and is the current brick ranch and foundation for the Wozniak's beautiful flower garden-filled property. The Winiarskis sold hamburgers, hotdogs, milkshakes, banana splits, and ice cream cones from their new lodge to the renters and anyone on the lake and the take away window is still in place. They did not rent rooms from their home. They rented the six cottages and six metal rowboats. The lakefront had a beautiful wide open sandy shoreline.

In 1961 the Winiarskis decided to sell their cottages. The current renters were offered first purchase. Bruno "Barney"

and Marie Winiarski were renting cottage #1 so they bought it and named it Bee-Jay after Barney's initials, BJ for Bruno Joseph. My parents rented this cottage from them the same two weeks each July. Families rented the other cottages every summer the same weeks we did. There would be two dozen people staying in these cottages so it was a busy place. The renter's pier was filled with people all day long. The Winiarskis had their own private pier.



Cottages #1 and #2, 1939

The other cottages were sold to people you may remember. Joe and Helen Harris bought cottages #2 and #3. They rebuilt the current modern style home Margie Trybus owns. Jim and Eunice Kelly bought cottages #4 and #5 and rebuilt the current yellow shingled home Jackie and Steve Frew own.

Cottage #6 was purchased by LaVern "Mort" and Jean Hunt who sold it around 1970 to Jack and Marianne Hornbeck. Their daughter Carol and her husband Kerry McCoy rebuilt their two-story blue house in 2015. Jackie Frew and Carol McCoy are sisters. Wanda Winiarski and Jean Hunt are sisters.

An additional property in the back of our shared parking area was sold to Wanda's brother Mathew "Mac" Klimek. It did not include a cottage. He added a mobile home. When he passed away the Wozniaks purchased the property. These five properties shared the 100-foot lakefront and parking area.

Peter J. Winiarski died unexpectedly in September of 1962, one year after they sold the cottages. His wife Wanda continued to live on the lake with their son Peter and her father Dzai Dzai. Four years later, in 1966, Marie Winiarski died from lung cancer. Within seven weeks Barney Winiarski died. Aunt Marie and Uncle Barney had no children but many brothers and sisters. Many rented cottage #1 over the years. My mom's parents, Donna and Michael Korzin purchased the cottage from the estate and then my parents, Ray and Sonia Sanders purchased it from my grandparents in 1969.

Around 1970, Wanda Winiarski sold a piece of her property up the hill on Birch Road to her sister Jean and her husband LaVern "Mort" Hunt where they built a



Wanda Winiarski in 1947

home. This home is now owned by Jean's daughter, Pat, and her husband Terry Keirn. They also share our lake frontage. Also of note, Tim Burchell - who has a place on the south side - and Pat Keirn are brother and sister.

My parents rebuilt the cottage when they retired in 1982. After a huge storm knocked two trees onto the house in 1997, they added

a second story. Dave and I bought my sister's half of the property in 2019 when my mom passed away at 100 years old!

Each of the Lazy Lodge families have their own memories. My sister, Lisa Lyle's and my favorite childhood memories from the 60s and 70s are walking to Breece's store in Williamsville for candy and junk jewelry, chasing swarms of fireflies, walks with my Dad while singing songs, catching toads, gathering with all the kids to eat popcorn on rainy days, feeding the fish pieces of bread at the end of the pier, lying prone on the pier and dipping our fingers in the lake for the fish to nibble on, learning to water ski and pushing myself to try to keep up with my sister Lisa, who skied as well as most boys on the lake, jump-starting on one ski from our beautiful wide and open sandy shoreline, watching a group of about 12 older boys jump-starting to ski together behind one boat from our shoreline, sailing our Snipe, swimming back and forth along the shoreline, swimming to the raft and playing under it, star gazing from the end of the pier, night swimming, running and walking around the lake, watching the dozens of piglets kept in the little culvert just up a ½ block from the lake on Sears St., and rides around the horse corral on the Sears / Larson / Witchie family horses.

Our three daughters and two son-in-laws all chose to settle down within two hours of Birch Lake. Emily and her husband Joe Wodark bought a cottage on the south side up on the hill three years ago. Our five grandchildren are the 5th generation to enjoy this treasure!

~Nina Frurip contributed this story and photographs for this column.



Lazy Lodge Main House, c. 1940



Arial photo of Lazy Lodge area

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BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK



Look out, Birch Lake! Harrison Grundy (age 6) is our newest waterskier. He's already a pro at falling, getting the rope, and getting right back up on the next try.

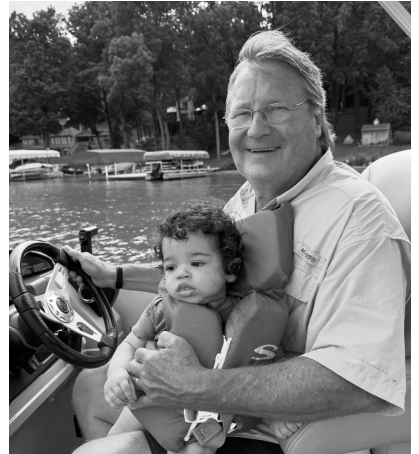


Like father like son! Luke's (three years old) is a large mouth bass and Brett's is a 16" small mouth bass. Brett and Luke are the son and grandson of Jan Temple and Tom Kuhn (west shore).



Isaiah Sortal (7 months old) driving the boat with "Papa T," aka Tom Kuhn (west shore).

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



Left to Right: Attorney Stephen Wood, Chief Judge Honorable Carol Montavon Bealor, and Kevin Sheetz (south shore). The picture was taken immediately after entry of the order admitting Kevin M. Sheetz to practice as an attorney and counselor of law in the State of Michigan.



Dan Waxman's niece Chelsea and husband David Borntrager on Birch Lake in July. They met at Camp Tannadoonah as counselors in 2013 and now have been married for the last five years.

Garden of the Week. Submitted by Jan Hanson who wrote, "My father, Harry Ort, lives on Lenore Street. He is 90 years old, every year he plants all of his flowers himself and puts out a garden, here is a picture of his beautiful work this year."





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SUMMER RECIPES: SHRIMP & ZUCCHINI SCAMPI

Did you know? National *Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day* is celebrated on August 8th. This humorous holiday encourages people to share their excess zucchini harvest with neighbors, often in a playful, surreptitious manner. The "holiday" was created by a radio personality in Pennsylvania, Thomas Roy, as a way to deal with the overabundance of zucchini produced during peak season. The day is meant to be a fun way to deal with the abundance of zucchini that many gardeners experience. If anyone wants to sneak some zucchini onto our porch, my kids would be thrilled! (Really - they love it!)

This quick and easy dinner can be served over noodles, or on its own for a healthier, low-carb option. Add some fresh cherry tomatoes for extra summery flavor. This shrimp scampi with zucchini comes together quickly, so make sure you've got all your ingredients prepped and ready to go before you start cooking!

Ingredients

- 2 cups zucchini, sliced into thin rounds
- 1 lb shrimp, raw
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ cup chicken broth or dry white wine
- ¼ cup fresh parsley
- 1 lemon, sliced into wedges
- 1 lb of pasta (optional) - linguine is a good choice

Instructions:

- Season the raw shrimp with salt and pepper to taste.
- If you are serving over pasta, bring your water to a boil and start the pasta. Follow directions to cook to al dente.
- In a large skillet with 1 tablespoon of olive oil, sauté the zucchini on medium-high heat until lightly browned. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Set the zucchini aside.
- Lower the heat to medium. Melt the butter with the other tablespoon of olive oil and then add the garlic. Sauté for about 1 minute, stirring frequently until the garlic is tender and fragrant.
- Add the broth or dry white wine to the pan. Bring the heat up to medium-high and simmer to let the sauce reduce for another minute or two. Stir frequently.
- Add the shrimp to the pan. Cook about 2-3 minutes on each side. Cook until pink on both sides. Be careful not to overcook the shrimp!
- When the shrimp are just cooked, toss the zucchini back into the pan with the fresh parsley.
- Finish with a squeeze of fresh lemon juice and garnish with the lemon slices.
- Serve on its own or over noodles of your choice.



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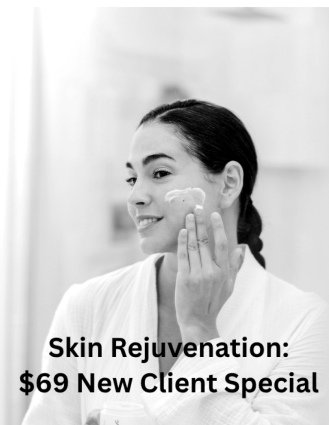
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FOUND

Tube and Foam Float Found. A float / tube (orange, blue, and gray) was found on the east shore after the recent storms. Also found a red and black foam mat. If you are missing either of these items contact Amber (574) 315-0227 to claim.

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.

FREE

Infant / Child Life Vests and Kids Bikes:

I have a collection of youth size life vests (mostly 30-50lbs) that my kids have outgrown. 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.

WANTED

BLYC Directories to scan. I have 1961, 1966, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2010, 2012, 2015-2016, 2020, 2022, and 2025. **There is a big gap from 1980-1997.** If you have any years I am missing, please email amber.grundy@gmail.com. I will scan and return to you!

Photos of Birch Lake Sailors. Looking for photos of BLYC sailors from the 60s to create a Wall of Fame at the Yacht Club around the trophy shelf. Send photos or questions to Deb Hall a debbershall@gmail.com.

LOST

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

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 26th - August 3rd. I will be available until middle of August. If anyone is interested, feel free to contact me at 574-261-0121.

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EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

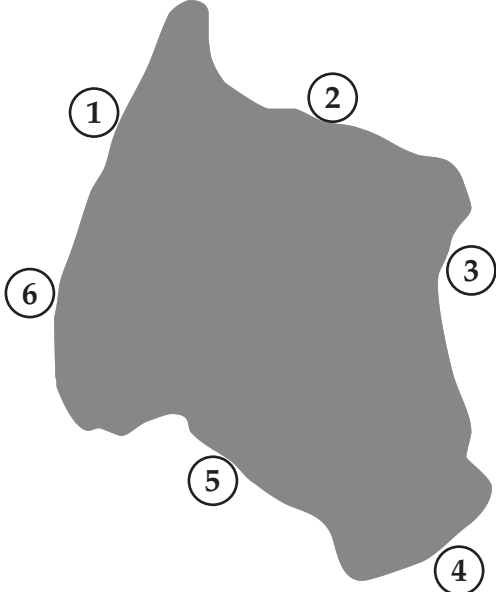
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units (AEDs) on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations:

- 1. **West Shore:** Sheffieck Home
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- 2. **North Shore:** Smitley Home
14859 Birch Northshore Drive
- 3. **East Shore:** Vitale Home
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- 5. **South Shore:** Crawford Home
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- 6. **Southwest Shore:** DeYoung Home
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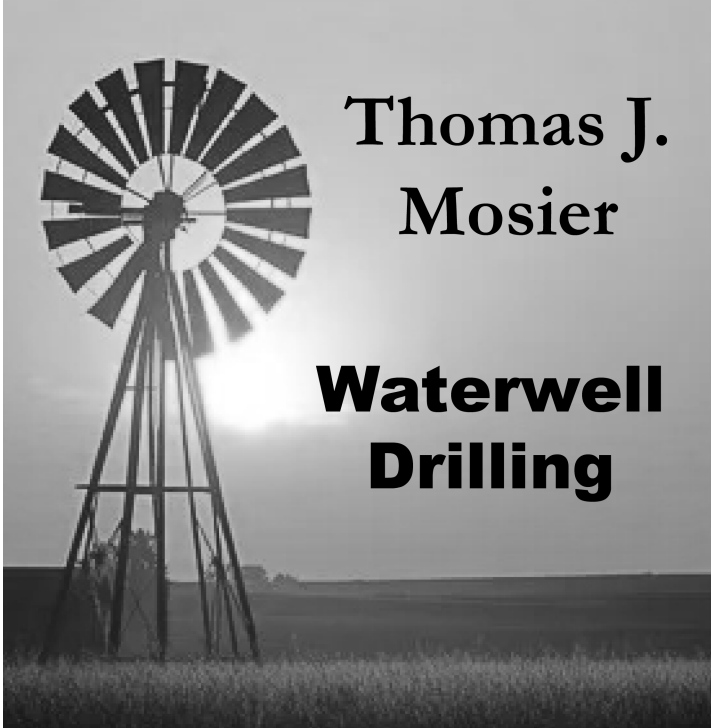


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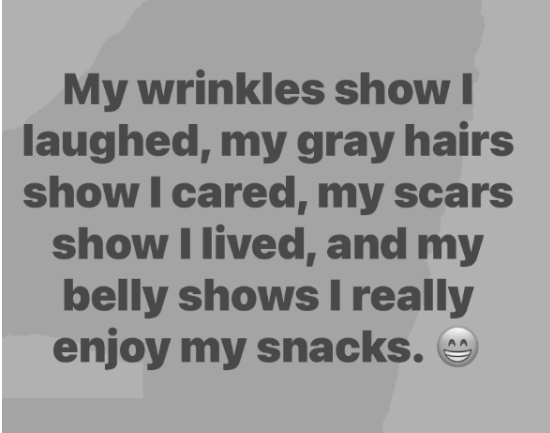
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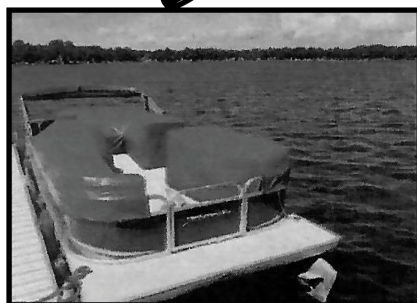
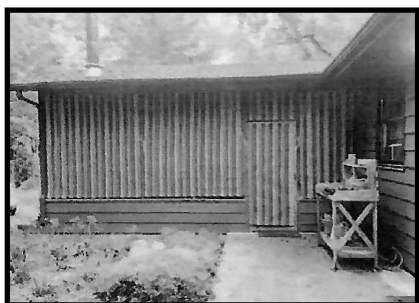


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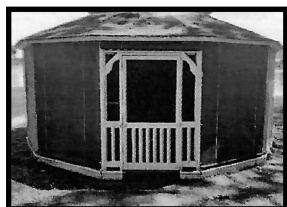
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- Monitoring water quality, which helps keep Birch Lake clean, and improves our ability to respond swiftly to treat and eradicate invasive species.
- Maintaining the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) around the lake.
- Producing and distributing 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.

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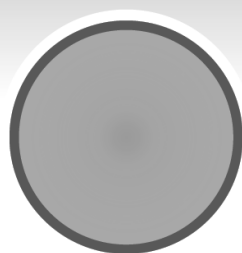
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