



BIRCH Barker

vol. 77 issue 12

Weekend of
August 9
2025

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com



*Manning the grill at the annual BLYC Corn & Sausage Roast
left to right: Greg Bolin (W), Steve Plaia (W), Andy Karceski (N), Rick Russwurm (N), Bob Bender (C), Tom Eslinger (C), Andy Snider (C), Lauren Snider (C), and Jim Limes (C)*



THIS SATURDAY!
details on p. 2

2025 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR

August

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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Tim Cole (H)
Liz Cover (E)
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Sue Davis (E)
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Scott Troeger (E)
Phil Vitale (E)
Sandy Vitale (E)
Dan Waxman (E)
Sue Williams (S)

Committee Chairs

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

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello everyone! August is off to a great start! The Corn & Sausage Roast at the BLYC, proved to be a great, well-attended event.

Thank you Andy and Lori Snider for volunteering and organizing this event for the very first time. They did a fantastic job! There was such a big group of wonderful volunteers. Lori and Andy will be providing their own personal summary. The list of people to thank will be extensive!

I have noticed that through the years, the BLYC volunteers really enjoy the camaraderie of working together. Many volunteers do it over and over. Their enthusiasm and willingness to help out really contributes to making the BLYC a fun place to be. I thank you and I appreciate all of you!

There was a 50/50 raffle at the Corn & Sausage Roast to support the Water Quality Fund. The raffle tickets sold raised \$490! Nina Frurip had the winning ticket. Without hesitation, Nina donated her winnings back to the Water Quality Fund. Thank you so much Nina for your very generous contribution! Special thanks to all the people who purchased the raffle tickets.

Phyllis Rasmussen was selling Birch Lake gear. I was happy to purchase a lovely T-shirt. I knew that 20% of the proceeds were donated back to the Water Quality Fund. Our continued

focus on water quality will help keep Birch Lake a place of beauty for all of us.

The Kidz Regatta is this weekend on August 9th. See further details in the Barker. Fleet Captain Bob will be happy to answer any questions.

The Fall Dinner is on August 23 at the BLYC. Tickets are available on the BLYC website. Our Vice Commodore Steve will be announcing the new Vice Commodore! Who will get the 2025 Commodore Award? The suspense is mounting! It will be a fun time!

Any pickball players out there? It is a sport that I am currently enjoying. It continues to become more popular with younger and older players. In the summertime, there are numerous outdoor courts available. Vandalia has newer pickleball courts in their town area. I would like to try them out sometime. I have mostly played indoors. The indoor environment is more controlled all year round. I consider it a win if I walk away without hurting myself!

Nina Frurip contributed an incredible, detailed Birch Lake History story. Nina's knowledge of the "Lazy Lodge" property inhabitants through the years, takes us back to the early 1900s. Wow, what a history lesson! Her grandchildren are the 5th generation to enjoy Birch Lake. Thank you Nina for sharing all your history and your special memories!

We come from many different places, but we are all in 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.

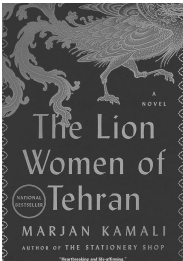
For all other BLYC matters, contact Commodore Julie Dickey at jdjuls@aol.com or 574-220-9132.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Club

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.



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



COME SAIL WITH US!



THIS SATURDAY
August 9th

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.

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).

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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.

Congratulations to Tom Eslinger, the new owner of MC 656 "Fourth Watch". Best of luck in the BLYC races, Tom!
~ Steve Frew

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



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



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.



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

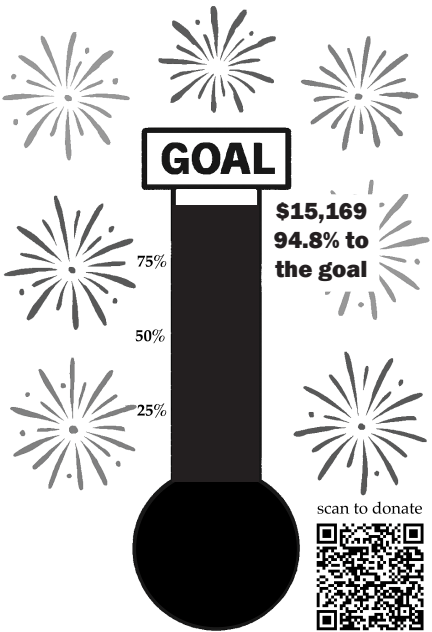
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Yacht Club Building Use

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.



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CORN AND SAUSAGE ROAST

CORN AND SAUSAGE 2025 WAS A SUCCESS!

We want to send a huge shout out to everyone who helped make the Corn and Sausage Roast a success this year. Thank you to the many seasoned volunteers who lent us their expertise, and to the new volunteers who were happy to step up and join in the fun!

Thank you to Dave and Terry Carroll for greeting everyone at the door, keeping count and taking care of the money. Thank you to our servers Blaire Garceau, Bruce Wagner, Amy Koscielski, Vicki Rogers, Patti Russwurm, Rose Eslinger, Dylan Snider, Layna Bender, Traci Limes, and Lauren Snider for filling people's plates with a smile. Our fabulous corn shuckers were Dan Waxman, Karen Brovold, Ron Niezgodski, Bob Niezgodski, Tim Cole, Vic Jones, Pat Williams, and Sue Williams. Thank you for saving our hands from the heat of a hot husk!

Our Birch Lake grill masters were Greg Bolin, Andy Karceski, Tom Eslinger, Jim Limes, Rick Russwurm, Steve Plaia, Bob Bender, Kenny Petty, and Andy Snider. Thank you for the excellent job cooking our entrees. Pulling double duty were our corn shuckers-turned dishwashers, Karen Brovold and Dan Waxman. Thank you! Thank you to all of the people who stayed to help clean up including Camille Butler who stayed to the end and helped lock up.

A special thank you to Bernie and Blair Garceau and Tom and Vicki Rogers for your guidance as you pass the annual Corn and Sausage Roast on to us. A huge thank you to Bob and Layna Bender for so graciously agreeing to partner with Andy and me in the planning and executing of the Corn and Sausage Roast. Thank you to the 190 people served who

came out and supported our event. This year's Corn and Sausage Roast was a great success because of everyone's hard work and dedication to our amazing community! ~Lori Snider



Andy and Lori Snider (cove),
Corn and Sausage Roast Chairs



scan for color photos



WATER QUALITY REPORT

From the Mailbag...

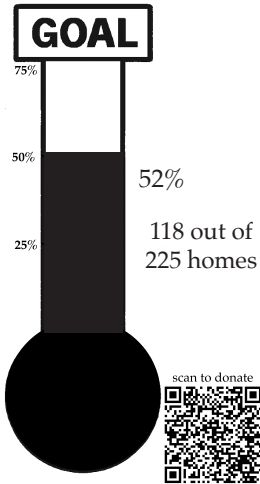
The 2025 summer season is in full swing at Birch Lake with lots of activity on the water, underneath, and at the bottom. Therefore, it's time to check the Water Quality Committee Mailbag and hear what the lake (and its invasives) has to say:

From: Mrs. Purple Loosetrife (West Side)
So, you've tried to uproot my family and destroy our livelihood?! Wrong. We won't go away without a fight. Unbeknownst to you, we've built tunnels and root systems under rocks and crevasses along the shoreline that would hide a Titlet in a rabbit hole. Ever since you put that "Water Quality Committee" banner on the side of the pontoon boat that seeks us out, we're on to you. We see you coming. You may get a few but you won't get us all. Wipe us out? Not happening!
Look, Mrs P, you and yours may be a beautiful, flowering purple family, err... plant, but frankly, you're an ugly problem on our lake. In fact, we intend to eliminate you, one root at a time. That boat and its crew (Cindy and Tom) – might as well be renamed "The Terminator," because like Babe Ruth pointing to center field at Wrigley, "You're Otta Here!"

From: Mr. Eurasian Watermilfoil (East Side).
Bravo Water Quality Committee! You've successfully kept me at bay on the east side but my cousin Vinnie was spotted in the Cove this year! He's small but give him time. We're way overdue to take over your entire shoreline, like we have elsewhere, so save your money and call it day. Go ahead, uproot us! We'd love to spread the word!
"DEFENSE! DEFENSE!" Hear that, Eura? It's how Bob Knight won almost every game at Assembly Hall. It's been working on you on the East side, keeping you in check, and we'll continue it in The Cove. In fact, we've already thrown a chair Cousin Vinnie's way. Like Dan Dakich on Michael Jorden in 1984, we'll shut him down. "DEFENSE": it's how we hang banners at Birch.

From: Mr. Harry Hydrilla (Shavehead Lake).
Hello from Shavehead! It's my understanding that Birch Lake is one of the finest lakes in the lower peninsula and

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we'd like to visit! Unfortunately, your Water Quality Committee has been resolute in keeping us out, which we find downright unneighborly. We're huge everywhere. So, how about a little Hydrilla love? We promise not to stay long.
Nope. Nada. Never.

From: Mr. Zeke Zebra Mussel (Boat Launch).
Why are you throwing shade on us? We're just a small mollusk (kind of cute, don't you think, with our striped shells – get it, a Zebra?). All we do is attach ourselves to pier posts. Why all the signs at the boat launch to try and scare us away? So what, we hitchhike a ride to and from a lake now and then. What's the big deal?
Zeke, you're a freeloader. You filter out algae that native plants need for food leaving only the potentially harmful blue-green's. You clog water intakes and even have sharp edges that cut if stepped on. Other than that, yea, maybe you're cute. So are baby geese. We'll continue to stress washing down visitors' boats before and after use, including signs and notices at the boat launch. But know the only clams we love are steamed.

That's it from the Mailbag.



Phyllis Rasmussen: who contributes 20% of all proceeds from her lake apparel company to the Water Quality Fund. Go to www.keepbirchlakebeautiful.com and order today. Thank you, Phyllis!
John Ball: who coordinated the Men's Golf Outing and contributed over \$1,000 from the proceeds to the WQ Fund. Thank you, John!
Nina Fruip: who donated her 50/50 raffle winnings to the WQ Fund at the Corn and Sausage Roast. Well played Nina!



The "Raffle Queens", Jennifer Ball and Cindy Bernaciak, who are on the Water Quality Committee and coordinate the 50/50 raffles and other fundraising activities. Together, they raised almost \$500 at the Corn and Sausage Roast. Thank you, Jen and Cindy!
These generous folks have gone above and beyond to help the cause. Have you? Donate today at store.birchlakeyachtclub.com

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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

A Wonderful Day of Sailing

The winds of August have started, and we were happy to host the 4th weekend of races for the season. We had to delay the races until noon, but it turned out to be a great day for sailing. It was a fun, but challenging wind, lots of gusts, wind shifts, and holes where there was no wind at all. This made for exciting races; e.g., many position changes during the race. The wind was quite squirrely out there. It was also great to see six boats sailing in both fleets. More competition is always enthusiastically welcomed. I hope I don't jinx it, but the wind forecast for next weekend is looking good so far. In the past, August has seemed to be a good month for sailing; here's to hoping that stays true. If it does, I encourage you to go out and sail, whether you join us out on the race course or not.

Don't forget the 2025 Don Harman Kidz Regatta is this **Saturday, August 9th**, 11:00am at Tom and Megan Caplis' home, 14901 Birch North Shore Drive. 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 know how to sail are welcome to sail over and race their boats. Adults learning to sail are welcome to join in, too. There will be a mooring line to hook your sailboat up to if you choose to sail over. The only requirement is that you must bring and wear a personal flotation device to sail. Come whether there is wind or not, it's a great opportunity to make new friends.

If anyone has questions or wants to give us a heads up that they'll be attending, feel free to contact me at rniezgodski@gmail.com, or look me up in the directory and give me a call.

~Fleet Captain Bob Niegodski



Kidz Regatta Location: Caplis House on the North Shore

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

BIRCH LAKE SAILING SCORES

MC Scow Standings

	3-Aug 12	3-Aug 13	3-Aug 14	Total Points	% Races Finished	Average Points	Season Rank
MC Scow / Sailor							
Scott Troeger #1489	1	2	1	17442	79	1586	1
Bill Luecht #1579	3	3	3	16202	79	1473	2
Patrick Welch #1979	2	1	2	20313	100	1451	3
Amber Grundy #1173	DNS	DNS	DNS	13004	64	1445	4
Phil Vitale #500	5	4	4	17192	86	1433	5
Bob King #1199	4	6	DNS	2594	14	1297	6
Steve Frew #676	DNS	DNS	DNS	6413	36	1283	7
Sandy Vitale #2159	6	5	5	11173	64	1241	8

Sunfish Standings

	3-Aug 9	3-Aug 10	3-Aug 11	Total Points	% Races Finished	Average Points	Season Rank
Sunfish Sailor							
Rick Russwurm	1	4	1	17134	100	1558	1
Stewart Spratt	4	1	3	16196	100	1472	2
Pete Soldato	DNS	DNS	DNS	4417	27	1472	3
Amy Troeger	DNS	DNS	DNS	7155	45	1431	4
Bob Niegodski	2	6	2	15172	100	1378	5
Scott Sortal	6	2	5	8228	55	1371	6
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	1369	0	1369	7
Herb Cleveland	3	3	4	6707	36	1341	8
Jeff Walls	5	5	6	3817	27	1272	9



Follow the signs to the Kidz Regatta!

Key and Scoring Information
DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season
DNF (Did Not Finish) or DSQ (Disqualified) scores as last place (if 5 boats started the race, you will be scored as 5th place).
DNF, DSQ are not counted toward minimum number of races needed
CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.
Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)
Season Place = total season points/ number of races attempted

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CAMP T CORNER

Well, the time has come and our camp season is over. I cannot believe it is already the middle of August and the summer has come to a close. Many tears were shed at pickup this Saturday morning, grieving their departure from their home away from home. I know, however, that the Camp T spirit lives on in each of them throughout the whole year! And camp friends are never far; as the song Linger says, "*this is goodnight and not goodbye.*"

This summer, we were able to serve about 800 individual campers, many of whom attended multiple sessions throughout the summer. This gave us a total of about 1235 camper-weeks. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to work with each of these campers, and give them the chance to make new friends and find new sparks.

One of my favorite parts of being the Assistant Director, and being a part of Camp T for the years that I have, is seeing the campers grow from year to year. I have watched campers grow from Birdyard to Order of the Birch, from Spark to CIT, even from a first year camper to a staff member. It is an honor to be a part of something so special that can impact so many in such a profound way.

Now that the campers have left, the staff will remain for an additional day to prepare our property for rentals and for the winter. Buildings will receive a deep-clean and activity supplies will be

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.

inventoried and stored. In the office, we will be washing and sorting through our lost and found items. If you believe your camper may have left anything, please do reach out soon, as most of our lost and found items are donated after September 1st!

In the fall, we have a few rentals coming up, including corporate retreats, school field trips, sports retreats, reunions, social gatherings, and weddings. **Mark your calendars, though, for A Gathering of Friends: Grown Up Camp!** This is over the weekend of September 26-28. So please come join us whether you can stay the whole weekend or just one night! Grown Up Camp includes many of your camp favorites like s'mores, songs, swimming, handcraft, canoeing, kayaking, evening activity, and fishing. It also includes some things you may not



have experienced at camp, like pontoon rides, electricity in the cabins, and the option to sleep at home if you wish. We would love to see you there!

Thank all of you for anything you may have done to help us throughout this season of camp. From volunteering time and labor, bringing your children or grandchildren, referring friends and family, listening to us sing on our lake serenade, to buying a shirt from the camp store. Camp T could not be the place it is without the support of our neighbors. We are very lucky to be a part of this community.

See you around the lake!

~Miss Meghan at Camp T

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.

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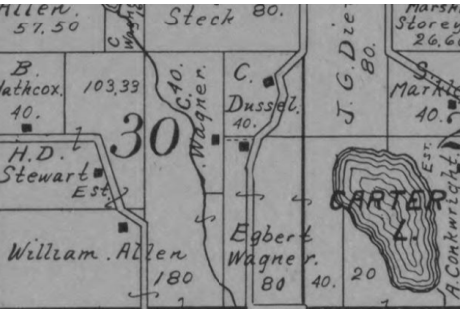
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BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: THE CRANMER FAMILY

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

Dortha Wagner was born on a farm in rural Cass County in 1904. Her grandparents, Egbert and Clara Wagner immigrated here from Germany and settled in Porter Township in the 1850s. Their farm was near Carter Lake. Dortha's parents, Albert and Edith Wagner, also had a farm on the southern edge of Porter Township, near Indian and Baldwin Lakes.



The Egbert Wagner Farm on the 1897 plat map of Cass County. Dortha Cranmer's grandparents.

Dortha met Joseph Cranmer, who lived in Elkhart, and while they were dating in the 1920s they camped and fished with friends at Doane's Cove on Birch Lake. Joe bought lots #311 and #312 on the west side sometime around 1930. They were married in 1931 and began living together at Birch Lake in a cottage that Joe built on #312 (where the Remington's live now). They also had a small cottage on #311 but it was not winterized.

Joe worked in Elkhart at the Conn Instrument factory, where they made and repaired musical instruments. The family still has his company-issued Craftsman wooden toolbox, with its tiny files and picks for instrument repairs. At the lake, he also rented out boats to visitors and fishermen. Dortha served as the Controller for the City of Elkhart.

Joe and Dortha's only child, Harold, was born in 1936. As a Birch Lake resident since his birth in 1936, Harold is likely the longest-tenured living lake resident in 2025. The Cranmers continued living at the lake full time until approximately 1942 when Harold was about 6 years old, at which time they moved to Elkhart for him to attend school.

Harold described the west side shoreline as so dense with old-growth trees that you could see little of the lake from the road. He also recalls his



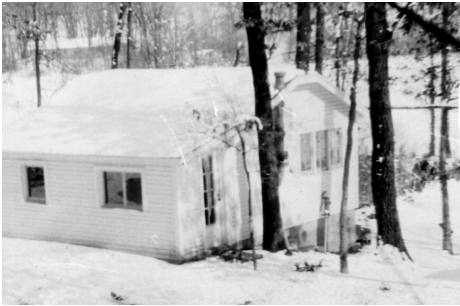
View from the west shore. Undated.



Dortha Wagner and Joe Cranmer, July 4, 1924. The cottage is labeled "O-So-EZ." The location of the house is unknown. In another photo, also dated 1924, the caption reads "Harald's Cottage."

mother giving him an empty cloth sack and sending him to walk to Williamsville to have it filled with freshly-milled flour.

In 1944, the Cranmers sold #312 (now owned by the Remingtons) to Dr. Howard Lahr, who also owned #313 (now owned by Karen Brovold). The Cranmers continued to live in the cottage at #311 until they tore it down sometime in the late 50s and built the current house. When Joe retired from Conn in 1965, they moved back to the lake full time.



The Cranmer cottage on #311. In the background, across the cove, you can see the old Copp Lodge at Camp.

Harold married Donna Longenecker in 1955. Their three children, Bob, Julie, and Steve, loved visiting Birch Lake over the years. Donna was active in the Birch Lake Yacht Club, and Harold and Bob were avid sailors. For many years, Harold helped set the buoys for the races.

After Joe's death in 1977, Dortha continued to live at the lake, with her grandson Bob often staying with her at the cottage. When Dortha passed away in 1986, her grandson Steve moved to the lake house full time. Steve was an active member of the BLYC, serving as a board member for many years. He participated in the annual BLYC triathlons and also



Joe cooking in the front yard in an undated photo. On the left is "Wee Wood," the Partridge / Caenepeel family's cottage at W310.



Lakeside, 1930s

chaired the kids' triathlon for several years.

Today the house is shared by Harold, his son-in-law Steve Plaia, and grandsons Chad and Jared Plaia. Chad and Jared are the 4th generation of Cranmers to enjoy the beauty of Birch Lake.

~Harold Cranmer and Steve Plaia (West #311) contributed information and photographs for this column.



Swimming in Birch. Undated.



Harold sailing, 2010

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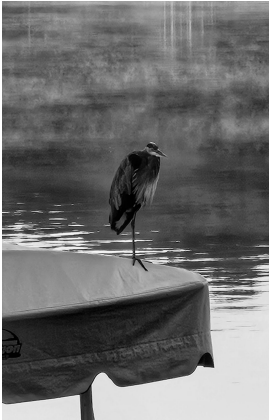
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*Not intended to solicit any properties already listed for sale with another real estate agent.

BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK



Avery Grundy (east shore) and Brendan Snider (cove) double-slalomming behind the Snider's boat. They've mastered spraying each other, and Avery likes to show off his no-hands move.



Beautiful early morning shot of the heron, taken by Adam Ball (east shore). The cool morning air created steam across the water.

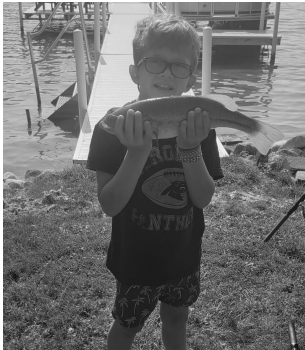
Le's Rule:
Over the years, watching my Dad toil all summer long, Mom (RIP Le King, north shore) handed down an edict worth sharing (and, in doing so, remind those of you who forgot). Thou shalt set aside work-work from July 4th to after Labor Day. It was Mom's belief that if you worked all summer long at the lake, where's the benefit? Relax. Enjoy. Note: though we kids applauded Mom's Rule, eventually I asked for and received a waiver where we could work on fun stuff (example: sailboats).
Infraction? The Caplis Clan misunderstands? In what world is it thought to be fun work ... to hand mix and pour concrete? Nope. We are just going to issue a Warning! And the rest of you ... we are all watching! -- Bob King, north shore (it's a stretch for kids of the week - but it's just in time for the Kidz Regatta!)



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



The Caenepeel brothers from SC don't need a \$20k bass boat to catch the big ones in Birch Lake! Dylan and Jack with their parents are spending a great week visiting Grandparents Marc and Lynn at the Caenepeel cottage on the west side.



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SUMMER RECIPES: CRISPY COCONUT SHRIMP

Golden, sweet, and crisp, coconut shrimp is a crowd-favorite finger food and it always flies off the serving platter especially if you serve it with spicy sweet dipping sauce. This shrimp recipe makes the perfect midweek meal or quick appetizer because the ingredients are simple and there's minimal cook time.

Make sure you purchase large, raw, peeled shrimp with tails attached for this recipe. I recommend tails attached because the coconut shrimp are easy to prep, coat, and handle as an appetizer that way. Feel free to remove the tails before starting, if desired.

Panko is better in this recipe than regular breadcrumbs because it ensures a crunchy texture. Panko breadcrumbs stay crispier than regular breadcrumbs because they do not absorb as much grease and liquid during the frying process.

I also recommend you use sweetened shredded coconut. The sugar on the coconut shreds melts and the coating becomes crisp and slightly caramelized.



Recipe and photo credit to SallysBakingAddiction.com

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 3/4 cup Panko bread crumbs
- 1 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1 pound large raw shrimp, peeled and deveined with tails attached
- 3-4 tablespoons vegetable oil or coconut oil
- Thai Chili sauce for dipping (optional)
- Orange, peach, or apricot jam for dipping (optional)
- Cilantro for garnish (optional)

Instructions:

1. Start with three medium bowls. Combine flour, salt, and pepper in one. Beat the eggs in the second bowl. Combine Panko and coconut in the third bowl.
2. Dip the shrimp into the flour, then the eggs, and then dredge the shrimp into the coconut mixture, pressing gently to adhere. You want a lot of coconut on each shrimp. Set the coated shrimp aside on a plate as you coat the remaining shrimp.
3. Add enough oil to cover the bottom of a large skillet over medium heat. Fry the coconut shrimp in batches - maybe 7 - 8 shrimp at a time—do not crowd them in the pan. Flip after 2 minutes and fry the other side for 2 minutes or until golden brown. We prefer ours a little darker, so I fry each side for about 2½ to 3 minutes.
4. Place the finished coconut shrimp on a plate lined with a paper towel as you fry the rest. Sprinkle with finely chopped cilantro. Mix dipping sauce ingredients together and serve with shrimp.
5. Cover and store leftover shrimp in the refrigerator for up to 3 days.

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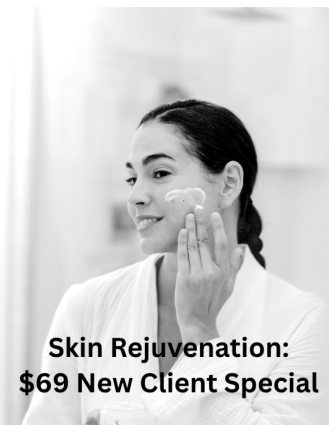
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WANTED

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.

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



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EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

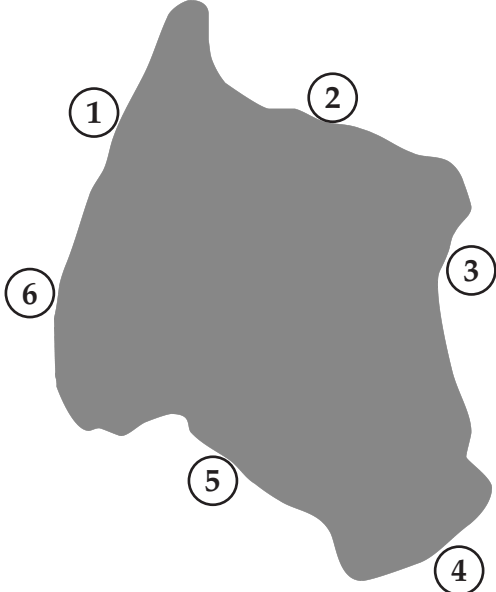
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units (AEDs) on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations:

- 1. **West Shore:** Sheffieck Home
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- 3. **East Shore:** Vitale Home
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- 4. **Southeast Shore:** Troeger Home
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- 5. **South Shore:** Crawford Home
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- 6. **Southwest Shore:** DeYoung Home
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- 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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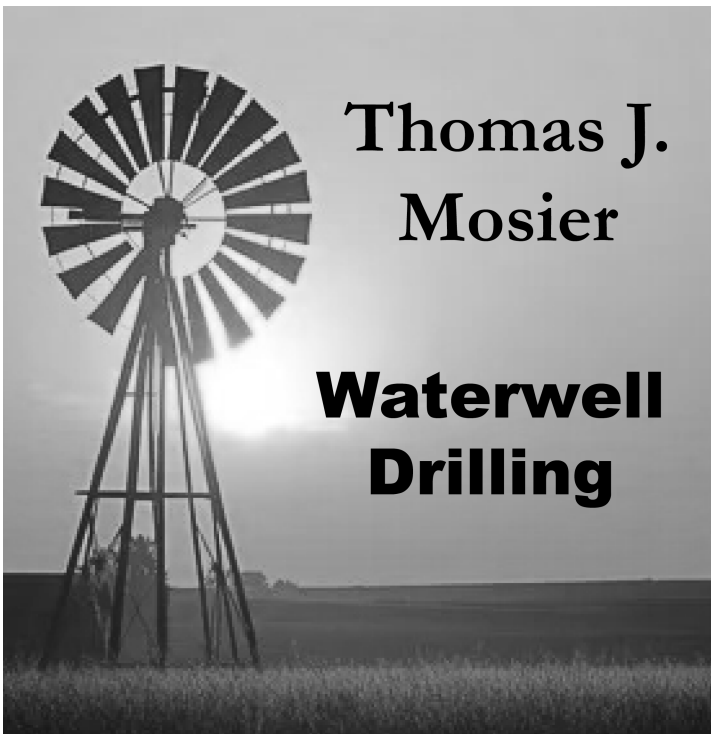
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BARKER FUNNIES



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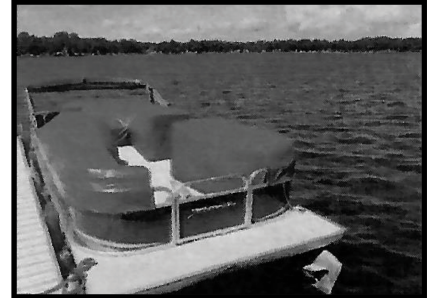


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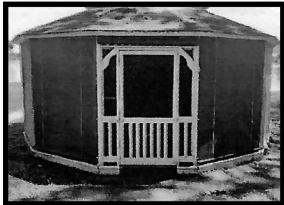
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The Birch Lake Yacht Club (BLYC) is a 501(c)(7) non profit organization



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.

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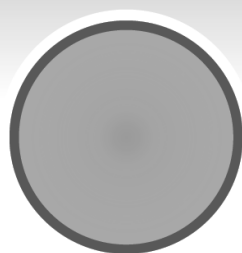
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