



# BIRCH *Barker*

vol. 77 issue 14

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com

Weekend of  
August 23  
2025



#### Ready in case of emergency

*This group of Birch Lake residents participated in a CPR / AED Refresher at the Yacht Club on Saturday, August 16. Left to right: Ray Scholes (S), Jill Scholes (S), Kelton Dickey (E), Amber Grundy (E), Julie Dickey (E), Patti Russwurm (N), Rick Russwurm (N), Mike Sheffieck (W), Nina Frurip (E), Dave Hogoboom (S), Blair Garceau (E), Bernie Garceau (E), and Vickie Rogers (C).*

**FALL DINNER**  
Sat, Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>  
A few last minute  
tickets available  
until August 21<sup>st</sup>  
details on p. 2



## 2025 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR

### August

- 20 - Card Night, 7pm
- 21 - Last chance to get Fall Dinner Tickets!
- 23 - Fall Dinner, 5:30pm
- 30 & 31 Labor Day Regatta - back-up day on 9/1

### September

- 6 - Sailing Awards, 11am at Niezgodski's
- 20 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am

### October

- 25 - Bad Patty Crockpot Challenge, 6pm

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello neighbors and friends! My term as BLYC Commodore is coming to an end. This will be my last Commodore's comments. I will be leaving with many special memories. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Vice Commodore and Commodore over the past two years. I want to thank all the individuals who have given me words of encouragement and positive feedback. That has been very appreciated. I plan to continue to stay involved at the BLYC.

I have seen how the BLYC members work together to prioritize what is most important at Birch Lake, and that is water quality. Due to the diligence of the Water Quality Committee, Birch Lake remains one of the most pristine lakes in the state of Michigan. The Water Quality Report provides us a wealth of information. As we become more informed about water quality, we can do our part to protect our beautiful Birch Lake paradise. Your contributions will help benefit all of us. Big thanks to all of the individuals who serve on the WQC.

The Fall Dinner is this weekend. Vice Commodore Steve Frew and his wife Jackie have been planning a great Fall Dinner. Steve will be announcing

the new Vice Commodore and Steve will become our new Commodore! I will be presenting the 2025 Commodore Award.

I want to thank Steve for serving as Vice Commodore. He has proven to always be willing to volunteer his time at BLYC events and meetings. As I pass the baton to Steve, I am confident that he will be a great Commodore! The BLYC will be in good hands!

It has been a goal of the BLYC to be financially transparent. Please refer to our July 31 financial report that is published in this Barker (see page 4). Fortunately, our general fund has increased significantly due to several factors. Please review the report for further information.

I would like to give special thanks to our incredible BLYC treasurer, Deb Spratt. She volunteers her time and talent year after year! Deb does the continuous job of managing our finances. It's a big responsibility and Deb you are much appreciated! You are awesome! Thanks again!

Our secretary, Mike Sheffieck, also has a huge job of organizing the meeting agendas and communicating them to the BLYC officers and board members. He diligently keeps the BLYC meeting minutes that are later reviewed and typically approved. Mike does an incredible job of creating an agenda that keeps the meetings structured and

productive. There is a focus to keep the meeting at one hour. Well done, Mike! Thanks for everything that you do! Mike, I personally thank you for every way that you have helped me while I was Commodore!

Mike also helps monitor BLYC board members' three year terms of service. Board members may wish to continue service on the board after three years or decline. There is a maximum of 30 people who can serve on the board. This past year there have been 28 members. We know that three board members are resigning. We also know that two new members will potentially be added. The board will then have 27 members.

The only qualification needed to become a board member is to be a member of the BLYC. If you're interested in becoming a board member, please contact one of the BLYC officers or board members.

Our Fleet Captain, Bob Niezgodski, has been doing a great job! His communications in the Fleet Captain's Corner keep us well-informed about sailing news and events! Thank you, Bob for all that you do, including organizing the sailing races and keeping the scoring records. The Kidz Regatta also was a big success. We appreciate all your efforts.

The final Labor Day Regatta will be coming up on (continued on p. 2)....



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.

August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. It is a joyful sight to see all the beautiful sailboats! Good luck to all the participants!

I would also like to give special thanks to Amber Grundy. She has done a fantastic job of publishing the Birch Barker. She has been a big part of getting more advertisers for the Barker and therefore allowing the Barker to pay for itself. Bravo! There have been many positive changes to the online Barker. It is still mind-boggling that we can access Barkers that go back decades in the archives! Amber also helps with the Pancake Breakfast at Camp T and she helps organize trick-or-treating at Birch Lake. On August 16<sup>th</sup> at the BLYC Amber provided an instructional review of CPR and AED skills. I'm sure she has volunteered to help with other events, but these are some things that stand out in my mind. Thank you, Amber for everything that you do to help make Birch Lake a great place to live!

Last but not least, I would like to thank Julie (Ball) Lacy for contributing the Ball History story and photos to the Birch Lake

History column. It's another beautiful story that began in the 1940s with Vernon and Genevieve Ball. Five generations of the Ball family have enjoyed and treasured Birch Lake!

You have so many great memories of the wonderful times spent with family and friends. The Junior Yacht Club activities must have been so much fun. We may want to consider starting a Junior Yacht Club in the future.

The summer events always pass too quickly. We still have many nice warm summer days ahead. After the Fall Dinner, the next weekend will be the Labor Day weekend. It will give us a chance to enjoy a long weekend with family and friends.

The Bad Patty Crockpot Challenge will be the next event at the BLYC on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

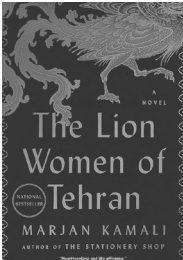
One last time... We come from many different places, but we are all in the same boat, we love Birch Lake!

~Commodore Julie

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Book Club

We have two more meetings this summer: August 26<sup>th</sup>, *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali at Debbie Soldato's and September 16<sup>th</sup>, *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](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup> from 2 to 5pm at their cottage on the south side. All are welcome to stop in and visit.



## Bad Patty Crockpot Challenge

Doesn't this steamy weather makes you crave a hot and cozy bowl of soup?! Well your cravings do come true because the Crock Pot Challenge is coming soon! Mark your calendar for October 25<sup>th</sup> and bring your pot full of your favorite soup recipe or dessert recipe. For those that aren't up to making something, please come and be a taste tester/ voter. It's our last event of the season and a great way to bid a fond farewell to those that leave for the cold months. Those bringing a crock pot, please arrive at 5:30. Those coming for food and friendship, please arrive at 6:00 (so we can anonymously set up our entries).

## 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).



# AHOY MATEYS!

## ALL ABOARD FOR THE

# BIRCH LAKE FALL DINNER

## BOATHOUSE PARTY INSIDE THE BLYC

# Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>

### 5:30 Cocktails, 6:00 Dinner

## Chicken, Pizza, Sides, and Cheesecake

### \$25 per person

COME AND CELEBRATE WHATEVER BOAT YOU FLOAT! AND MAKE A BIG SPLASH IN YOUR FAVORITE BIRCH LAKE AND/ OR WATER ACTIVITY ATTIRE.

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

Tickets available online at [birchlakeyachtclub.com](http://birchlakeyachtclub.com) (or scan the QR code below).

## LIMITED NUMBER OF LAST MINUTE TICKETS

## AVAILABLE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>





# ODDS AND ENDS

## Yacht Club Dues

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

~Chrys A. Lis

## 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).

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

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

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



## Photos for the Phipps.

Hello Birch Lake family and friends. I am still putting together a photo album for Claudia and Dennis Phipps. I would like this photo album to include as many of us as possible. When complete, I will send it to them. Several of you brought a picture to the party but I could use lots more. If you didn't bring one to the party, please take a second and send me a photo you already have in your phone, a selfie of yourself, couples, kids and or pets to be included. You can text your pics to me at 574-876-4981. I will see to it they are printed and included. Thanks ~Patti



## 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.



**FREE TREES!** Did you know that planting trees and shrubs can improve the lake's water quality? A grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has made it possible for Birch Lake residents to receive free trees to plant on their property. If you would like to receive free trees, you can request them by scanning the QR code below. Individual homeowners should request their own trees, but if you have questions, you can contact Blair Garceau, BLYC homeowner's association.



## 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).



# WELCOME to DELICIOUS

VISIT YOUR LOCAL CULVER'S RESTAURANT:

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Coldwater, MI

Three Rivers, MI  
Granger, IN  
Mishawaka, IN



2025 BIRCH BARKER SPONSOR

# BLYC FINANCIAL REPORT

COMPARATIVE 7/31/2024 vs 7/31/2025 FUND BALANCES & COMMENTS									
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FUND	7/31/2024 FUND BALANCES	ACTIVITY FOR YEAR ENDED 7/31/2025	7/31/2025 FUND BALANCES	BOARD COMMENTS
Water Quality	\$44,713	\$10,440	\$55,153	No immediate issues. The Water Quality Committee continues to vigilantly monitor the Lake's current and expected invasive species.
BLYC Improvement	\$19,732	(\$13,874)	\$5,858	No issues. We replaced the roof after storm damage earlier this year. We are getting proposals right now to replace the deck that has deteriorating support boards.
Sailing	\$1,873	\$539	\$2,412	No issues. We replaced the sailing marks earlier this year. The balance can cover expected expenses and other equipment replacements.
Fireworks	\$741	(\$1,371)	(\$630)	<b>Growing issue.</b> Donations for 2025's Show were \$800 less than it cost us. Between tariffs, reduced availability from China and our trend of lower donations, it is likely the 2026 Show will be smaller.
General	\$3,268	\$25,940	\$29,208	Several actions contributed to our higher balance: 1) We received \$14,000 in insurance proceeds for the roof damage (the insurance premiums over the years were paid from the General Fund); 2) "Angel Donors" contributed \$5,300 to fill the projected budget deficit; 3) The Barker's revenues were \$4,900 higher due to new advertisers, a generous sponsor and higher ad rates; and 4) Higher Dues contributed an additional \$2,400.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$70,327</b>	<b>\$21,674</b>	<b>\$92,001</b>	

## 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY FIREWORKS DILEMMA

*This note goes out to all Birch Lakers.*

We are closing out another wonderful summer here at Birch Lake. The weather has been perfect for enjoying the lake, but I am looking forward to Labor Day and a return to cooler weather, maybe a drop in temperature into the mid-70s til Halloween would be nice.

Unfortunately, we are looking at something a little spookier than the Ghosts and Goblins that knock on your door come Halloween evening. Because of the uncertainties that have been unfolding in the worldwide economies, we have been warned that the wholesale pricing of fireworks will potentially *double* between our recent 2025 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Display and next year's Fireworks Extravaganza. We are already working with our fireworks provider to mitigate the increases for 2026, but we know the cost for next year's display is going up.

To add insult to this pending issue that may put a damper on our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration for next year, we are faced with an issue that has not happened in many years: we have not

collected enough in donations to cover the cost of this year's display. While our latest fireworks display was wonderful as usual, and Birch Lake was full of crowded boats viewing from the water, and those watching from on shore enjoyed the capstone of our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, we came away with a shortfall in donations. This situation has led us to our dilemma.

If we are not able to cover the cost of our 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks when our current cost was lower than the prior year, how can we move forward with scheduling the Birch Lake 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks display for

2026, knowing that the cost will be higher than our 2025 display that we have not brought in enough in donations to cover?

To all Birch Lakers, we depend on everyone who enjoyed the 4<sup>th</sup> celebration this year to get their donations in to help cover this year's display, which will indicate that everyone still enjoys the fireworks and will help support the display for next year, which is being planned for Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Please let us know if you are still interested in viewing the Birch Lake Fireworks to help celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Thanks for listening...

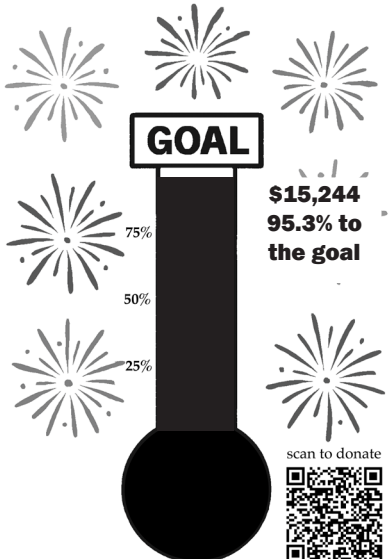
~ Bernie Garceau, Fireworks Chairman

**Birch Lake Yacht Club**  
**FIREWORKS FUND**

## Our goal for 2025 is \$16,000

**Contribute now at**

**<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>**



Join us for dinner!



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# WATER QUALITY REPORT: UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

Summer's in the home stretch and you've got better stuff to do than read articles on water quality (like burn sweet corn on the grill and wonder which QB will start for the Irish), so here's a brief update on your Water Quality Committee's activities the last month:

1. In late July, we re-treated the Eurasian Milfoil on the east side of the lake. The first treatment wasn't as effective as expected so we requested and received another. There was no charge for the second treatment.
2. We have applied for a permit to treat the small area (Milfoil) on the north side of the lake. The permitting process takes a while due to local and state signoffs. However, we should have it within the next few months and anticipate treating that area in the spring.
3. Also in July, our Purple Loosestrife crew, Cindy Bernaciak and Tom Kuhn, (deemed the "Terminators") cruised the shoreline looking for the invasive plant. As in past years, there were two spots: one on the south side and one on the north. Plants were found and carefully removed, and the locations were documented. The good news is that no new locations were found. Despite that, another trip is planned as a follow-up, on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. In early September, our sampling crew headed by Jennifer and John Ball will be testing for summer phosphorus



levels, dissolved oxygen and temperature readings, and chlorophyll levels. Samples will be delivered to the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) for testing, analysis, and comparison to past Birch Lake samplings and surrounding lakes in Southwest Michigan. Any changes from previous late-summer readings will be discussed and analyzed. We'll publish the report in the spring.

Fundraising continues to be a head scratcher. Although total donations have been slightly higher than the last few years, participation levels are still only hovering around 50% of the lake residents. For those that have given, thank you! Those who have not, it's not too late! It's odd how virtually 100% of the lake residents use the lake but only 56% invest in its future. Please consider giving today.

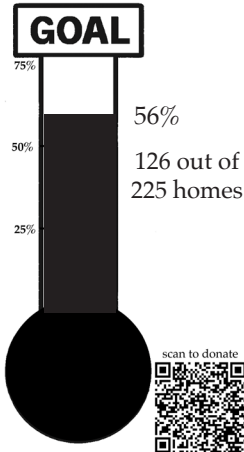
*Birch Lake.  
Enjoy It. Respect It. Own It.*

## THE SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY

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

## Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY FUND

Our goal for 2025 is to have 75% of homes on the lake contribute.  
Contribute now at  
<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



## Keep Birch Lake Beautiful

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



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*

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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## AN ODD DAY OF SAILING

This past weekend, the MCs completed their 18th to 20th races for the season, with the Sunfish logging races 15 to 17. Not too shabby for how the year started. The forecasted wind looked borderline sailable. Sunday morning rolled around, and it turned out to be a cloudy day with decent wind, so I decided to give sailing a go. The boats got out to the start line, and the clouds parted, then the sun came out. Unfortunately for us sailors, this also meant the wind died down to practically zero mph with a few lucky gusts here and there. Luckily, this lasted only for several minutes.

Right before it was time to start the races, the clouds came back, and so did the wind. I guess the sailing/wind gods were toying with us. All joking aside, the course still turned out to be quite challenging. The wind was very fickle, with plenty of wind shifts, gusts, and holes. As a sailor, there isn't much worse than getting caught in what we begrudgingly call a hole. This is a spot where there is no wind at all, you can't sail anywhere, and just have to wait, "hopefully patiently" for the wind to come or to float out of the spot. We ended up finishing the three races in just under two hours, which is about average. It sure seemed a lot longer with how challenging the course and wind turned out to be. All in all, it was an odd but fun day of sailing.

~Fleet Captain Bob Niezgodski, [rjniezgodski@gmail.com](mailto:rjniezgodski@gmail.com)

PS. If anyone is interested in sailing with us now or in the future, let me know! I can add you to the sailing email list and notify you whether we are racing or not. For those not in the know, the Fleet Captain typically sends out an email to notify the sailors of the wind forecast a few days before the races. This is followed up with an email around 10:00 AM Sunday notifying the sailors whether we are racing or not. If you're interested in receiving these emails again, let me know, and I will add you to the email list.

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

## BIRCH LAKE SAILING SCORES

### MC Scow Standings

	17-Aug 18	17-Aug 19	17-Aug 20	Total Points	% Races Finished	Average Points	Season Rank
MC Scow / Sailor							
Scott Troeger #1489	1	2	2	26653	85	1568	1
Bill Luecht #1579	5	4	1	24732	85	1455	2
Patrick Welch #1979	2	1	3	29064	100	1453	3
Bob King #1199	DNS	DNS	DNS	7080	25	1416	4
Phil Vitale #500	4	3	6	25414	90	1412	5
Amber Grundy #1173	3	6	4	20717	75	1381	6
Steve Frew #676	DNS	DNS	DNS	6413	25	1283	7
Sandy Vitale #2159	DNS	DNS	DNS	14641	75	1220	8
Tom Eslinger #676	6	5	5	7084	25	1181	9

### Sunfish Standings

	17-Aug 15	17-Aug 16	17-Aug 17	Total Points	% Races Finished	Average Points	Season Rank
Sunfish Sailor							
Rick Russwurm	1	1	1	23159	82	1544	1
Stewart Spratt	DNS	DNS	DNS	20917	82	1494	2
Pete Soldato	4	DNS	DNS	5786	24	1447	3
Amy Troeger	DNS	DNS	DNS	7155	29	1431	4
Herb Cleveland	DNS	DNS	DNS	11272	41	1409	5
Jeff Walls	2	3	3	12635	53	1404	6
Bob Niezgodski	3	2	2	23755	100	1397	7
Scott Sortal	DNS	DNS	DNS	8228	35	1371	8
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	1369	0	1369	9
Connor Caplis	DNS	DNS	DNS	3888	18	1296	10
Max Parnell	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	18	0	11



Cloudy Sailboat Races on 8/17

**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: GROWN UP CAMP

Our 5th annual Grown Up Camp Event is coming up at the end of September! This event is a weekend designed for adults who love Camp T or just camp in general! All are welcome: friends, former campers, spouses, parents of campers, staff members, the lake community, and anyone else who loves CAMP! You definitely don't have to be an alum to attend - in fact, we purposefully named it Grown Up Camp or *A Gathering of Friends* instead of an alumni reunion weekend.

This year's Grown Up Camp weekend is scheduled for Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. If you've never joined us before, what are you waiting for? It's one of my favorite weekends of the year.

Think "camp" like when you were a kid or what you may have imagined if you never went to camp - with archery, nature, crafts, games, canoeing and kayaking, dance parties on the lawn, camp songs, and cooking over a campfire. But then add in stuff designed for grown ups - cocktail cruises on the lake, upgraded camp foods (not just kid food!), a gourmet S'mores Bar for dessert, yoga sessions in Morris Lodge, fireside jam sessions late at night, and a football game watch in the Dining Hall if you're worried about missing your favorite team (don't worry, we deliberately chose an bye weekend for the Irish).

There are multiple registration options for the weekend - you can come for the full weekend from Friday through Sunday. Or you can join us for just one night and one day (Friday night through Saturday, or Saturday all day through Sunday morning), or for the full day and evening on Saturday, or just for dinner on Saturday evening!

We would LOVE to have a bunch of our Birch Lake neighbors join us this year! If you're interested in registering, you can find all of the information on our website (go to [tannadoonah.org/gathering](http://tannadoonah.org/gathering) or scan the QR Code ----->



We are also looking for people who would be willing to drive on Friday evening (September 26<sup>th</sup>) for the pontoon cocktail cruises. In the past we've had 4-5 pontoon drivers who take a group of our guests out for an hour or so on the lake before the dinner hour. If you're interested, please send me an email at [amber@tannadoonah.org](mailto:amber@tannadoonah.org)!

~Miss Amber



Pontoon Cruise on Birch Lake at a previous Grown Up Camp event



Grown Up Camp group photo from 2021

Crafts with camp legend, Miss Toody!



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# BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: THE KRAU / TUNNICLIFFE / SCHOLES 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](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com)

In 1930, William Krau purchased a piece of land in Willow Beach on the east side of the lake from Clifford A. Lyon. His property was located where the Klappauf's home is today (E197). Mr. Krau was the Mayor of Elkhart at the time, having been elected to that office in November of 1929, and had previously served as an Indiana State Senator, and also as the city treasurer of the City of Elkhart.

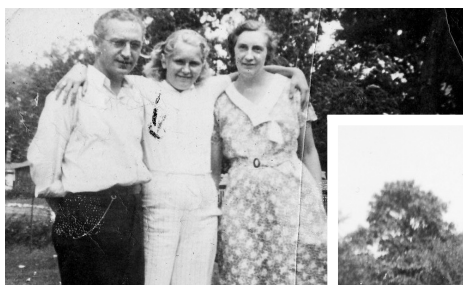


*William Krau - Indiana senate candidate poster from 1912*

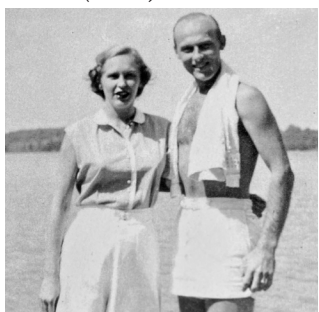
In the late 30s, he transferred ownership of the Willow Beach property to his daughter Eva (Krau) Kimble and her husband Harry Kimble. Their daughter Joanne spent her summers at Birch Lake, often swimming and boating



*Joanne Kimble, in front of Lazy Lodge at Birch Lake in 1936*



*Harry, Joanne, and Eva (Krau) Kimble*



*Joanne and Bill Tunncliffe at Birch Lake*



*Four generations at Birch Lake: William Krau, Eva Krau Kimble Lunz, Joanne Kimble Tunncliffe, and Steve Tunncliffe, c. 1951*

with friends at Lazy Lodge, located next door to their cottage.

After Harry's passing, Eva Kimble married Fred Lunz, and they continued to spend summers at Birch Lake. Joanne married Bill Tunncliffe, and in 1955 they purchased their own cottage at Birch Lake, also in Willow Beach. The Tunncliffe cottage was located at E180, where the Mosier's home is today. Their children, Steve and Jill, started coming to Birch Lake when Jill was just six weeks old.



*The Tunncliffe Cottage at E180 with its distinctive fieldstone chimney*

The family lived in Findlay, Ohio, but would come to the lake on the first day after school was out, and stay until just before school started again in the fall. Jill said that they knew they were at the lake when they saw the row of pine trees on Birch Rd., and they cried every year as they passed the pine trees leaving the lake in September.

Like many lake kids, Jill remembers walks around the lake with friends, riding Cappy - the Larson's pony, walking to "Billyville" with a quarter to buy candy at Lanky's, dance parties, playing cards on rainy days, and swimming, sailing, and skiing all summer. She also describes "horrrifying" the city kids by covering themselves in mud from the lake, and jumping off the pier to rinse it off. She described going barefoot all summer, and only going inside the house for meals and sleep.

They didn't have a phone at their cottage, so their dad, Bill, would go over to Granny's place (Eva Lunz) to take business calls during the summer. The kids would go to Granny's to watch TV occasionally.

Steve, who was four years older than Jill, had a large group of friends at the lake, including Steve King, Tim Burchell,



*Steve and Jill Tunncliffe at Birch Lake, c. 1958*

Pete Winiarski, Steve Echols, John Ball, and Barry DeCoudres (among many others). They spent hours on the lake skiing, sailing, and riding around on the famous *American Woman* boat.

Jill was friends with their next door neighbor's granddaughter, Jayne Foote. One summer, she remembers that she and Jayne thought maybe they were missing out by not going to camp. They lived close to Camp Kiloqua, and decided to pretend to be campers - waking up each morning at reveille, holding their own craft classes, tennis lessons, and going to bed at taps just like the Kiloqua girls.

When Sue O'Brien and her family moved to the lake when Jill and Sue were about 12, they became fast friends (and still are!). Jill would sleep over at Sue's house when they were teens, and their neighbor Tim Burchell would come talk to them through the screen late at night. There was a climbing tree in Sue's front yard and they spent many hours in the tree. That tree is still in Sue's (Davis) front yard at her new house today.

Jill married Ray Scholes in 1977 and their children grew up spending weekends at the lake. Ray enjoyed the lake after they met and wed, and it didn't take much convincing to get him to buy a place here! They bought *We Luv It* on the south side (S064) from the Eichorts in 2021. Now their grandchildren are the 6th generation to enjoy Birch Lake in the summers!

*~Jill (Tunncliffe) Scholes and Ray Scholes contributed the information and photos for this story.*



*The Scholes family today*

*Just down the road!*

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# BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK



Reece and Conor Haisley, nephews of Rick and Patti Russwurm (N) enjoying the perfect kayaking kinda day.

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



Saylor Ball, enjoying the lake on a visit to see Papa and Yai Yai (John and Jennifer Ball (east shore))



Kyle Ponsler (left, grandson of Martha Ponsler, south shore) started back to NC State University to complete his final year of education and swimming.

Katie Ponsler (below, granddaughter of Martha Ponsler, south shore) started her freshman year at Central Michigan University.

Both are from Fishers, Indiana. Their parents Chris and Kelly Ponsler also own a home overlooking Birch Lake (south shore).



The Scofield grandkids (west shore) sampling a chocolate fountain while visiting Birch Lake



Harvey and Jesse Reckelhoff (great-grandsons of Sue and the late Duffy Dufour, east shore) at camp during the pancake breakfast



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# SUMMER RECIPES: BBQ CHOPPED CHICKEN SALAD

This is the best BBQ chicken chopped salad! This summer BBQ chicken chopped salad is chock-full of all the good stuff. Grilled corn, pickled onions, ripe cherry tomatoes, green onions, black beans, freshly grated cheddar and juicy grilled chicken tossed in BBQ sauce. But! The best part may be the honey mustard vinaigrette. I will never get over just how delicious it is.

### Ingredients

#### BBQ Chicken

1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
Kosher salt and pepper  
1 teaspoon smoked paprika  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
½ teaspoon brown sugar

#### Salad

2 ears sweet corn  
½ cup BBQ sauce  
8 cups romaine lettuce, chopped  
1 cup black beans, drained and rinsed, if canned  
1 cup chopped cherry tomatoes  
⅔ cup grated white cheddar cheese  
½ cup pickled onions  
⅓ cup sliced green onions  
3 tablespoons chopped chives

#### Honey Mustard Vinaigrette

3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar  
2 tablespoons honey  
1 tablespoon dijon mustard  
2 garlic cloves, finely minced or pressed  
¼ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper  
½ cup extra virgin olive oil



Recipe and photo credit to [HowSweetEats.com](https://www.howsweeteats.com)

### Instructions:

1. Preheat your grill to high heat.
2. Season the chicken all over with salt and pepper. In a small bowl, stir together the paprika, garlic powder, and brown sugar. Sprinkle it all over the chicken too.
3. Grill the chicken for 5 to 6 minutes per side. Place the corn on the grill too, turning it every few minutes. When the chicken is close to being done, brush it with BBQ sauce. Flip it over and grill for 30 seconds, then brush again and flip. Remove the chicken from the grill and let it cool for 5 to 10 minutes. Slice the corn from the cob once cool enough.
4. In a bowl, whisk together the vinegar, honey, mustard, garlic, salt and pepper. Continue to whisk while streaming in the olive oil.
5. Place the chopped lettuce in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper and toss. Add the beans, tomatoes, cheddar, pickled onions, green onions, corn, and chives. Chop up the chicken and add it on. Drizzle with the dressing, toss it all together, and serve!

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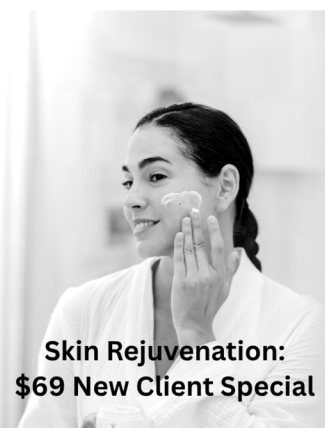
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Classified Ads in the Barker are free to current BLYC members. The cost is \$5 per week for non members.

Send your ad to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com) Deadline is Tuesday noon for the upcoming weekend's Barker.

## LAKE LOVERS' DREAM SWAP

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## FOUND

We found a plastic cover plate to a Yamaha Jetski on Friday, August 8 floating in front of our West side house. Please contact Mike Sheffieck at (708) 220-1506 if it's yours.



Found turtle raft on west side last week after a windy day. Call Sue Davis (574) 883-6031.



## WANTED

**BLYC Directories** to scan. I have many of the directories, but **there is a big gap from 1980-1997**. If you have any directories from those years, please email [amber.grundy@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:debbershall@gmail.com).





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# EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

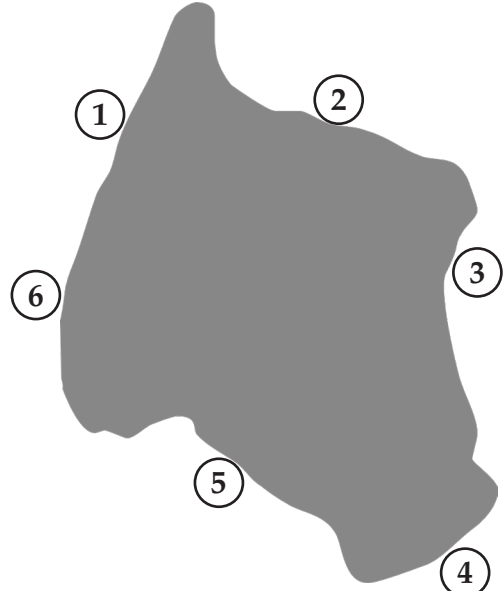
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units (AEDs) on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations:

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2. **North Shore:** Smitley Home  
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All units are on the **ROAD SIDE** of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.



## AED Locations



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

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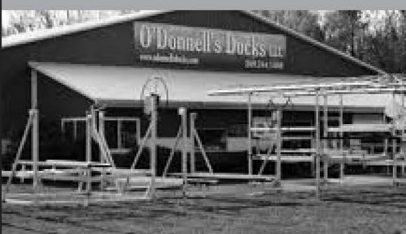
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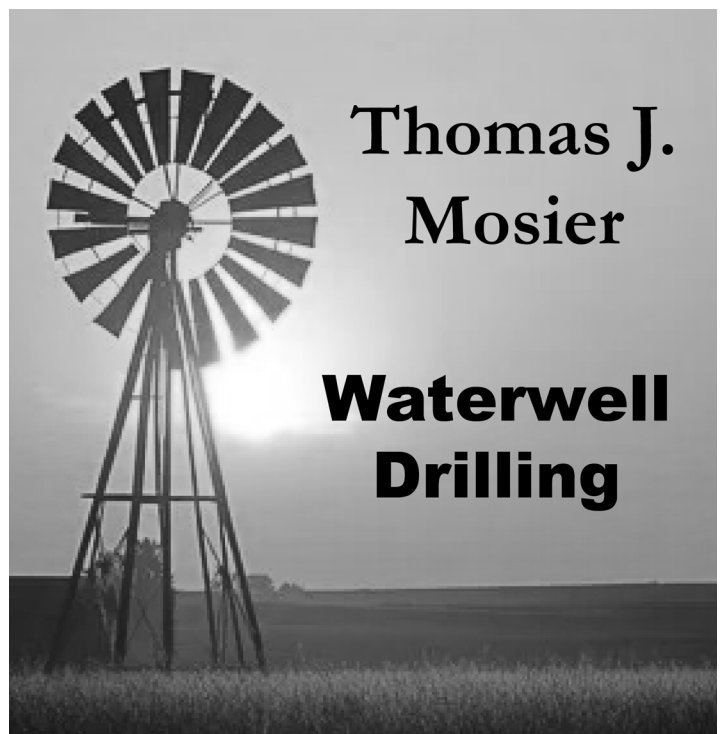
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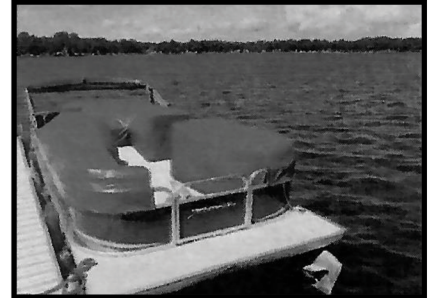


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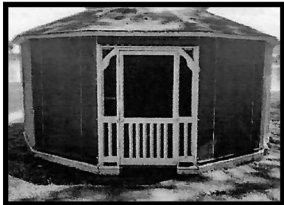
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# BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB DUES

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

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



**What your BLYC dues and donations support:**

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

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

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

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

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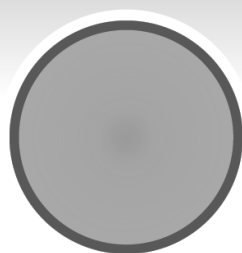
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