BIRCH Barker

vol. 78 issue 11

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com

Weekend of
August 1
2026



Kim and Mark VanHuffel hosted their friends, Jackie and Dennis Calnon from Dublin, Ohio, and they made it on the cover of the Barker!

Purchase your Fall Dinner tickets by August 16!

2026 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR

August

1 - BLYC Board Meeting
1 - Homeowner's Assoc., 10am
1 - Corn and Sausage Roast
15 - BLYC Board Meeting, 9am
19 - Card / Game Night, 6:30pm
22 - Fall Dinner
26 - Women's Style Show

September

5 - 6 - Labor Day Regatta
9 - Card/ Game Night, 6:30pm
12 - Sailing Awards
19 - BLYC Board Meeting, 9am
26 -Bad Patty Crockpot Challenge

2026 BLYC Directors

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Vice Comm: Ron Niezgodski (W)
Secretary: Mike Sheffieck (W)
Treasurer: Deb Spratt (N)
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Water Quality:
Patrick Welch (S)
Homeowners Association:
Blair Garceau (E)

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

The Ladies Golf Outing, held at Elks Golf Course in Dowagiac, was a big success. Thank you to co-chairs Blair Garceau and Carol McCoy. Please see the photos and story in this Barker. The Book Club met and discussed The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post, hosted by Carol McCoy. Next month's book is The Correspondent, hosted by Debbie Soldato.

Men's Golf Outing chair John Ball has put together a great event to cap off the month of July. August will kick off the following day with the Homeowners Association Annual Meeting and the Corn and Sausage Roast. The Cass County Fair in Cassopolis is a fun event, running August 2 through 8. Watch for a lemonade, cookie, and bracelet stand to pop up on the northeast corner of the lake this Saturday, August 1, while supplies last. Full disclosure: It will be our grandkids.

Washington's "Ten Crucial Days"

By December of 1776, the American cause seemed all but lost. After the crushing defeats around New York, the Continental Army had melted away through desertion, disease, and expiring enlistments. George Washington's remaining force of 3,000 cold and hungry men huddled on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River, while British and German Hessian mercenary troops occupied the New Jersey towns across the water. Many expected the Revolution to be over by the end of the year.

But General George Washington, using information acquired by his spies in British territory, had made other plans. On the night of December 25–26, in a driving nor'easter of sleet and snow, he executed one of his boldest plans of the war. Under cover of darkness, the army crossed the ice-choked Delaware River in Durham boats. By dawn on December 26, the Americans had reached Trenton and struck the German Hessian mercenary garrison commanded by Colonel Johann Rall. The surprise was complete. In less than an hour the Hessians were overwhelmed, and nearly 1,000 were captured, with only a handful of American casualties. Washington immediately retreated back across the river with the prisoners.

On January 1, Washington's army returned to Trenton and established fortifications. The next day, British forces under Lord Cornwallis attacked, and Washington fought a defensive battle until dark. Then, leaving campfires burning to deceive Cornwallis, he marched 12 miles overnight, surprised a British column in Princeton at dawn, and routed the Redcoats after sharp fighting. The two victories—won in just ten days—electrified the Patriot cause. Enlistments surged, morale revived, and the Continental Army survived to fight another year.

From the brink of collapse, Washington had shown that daring and determination

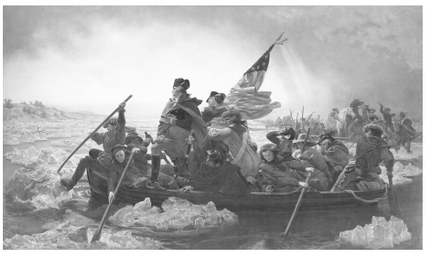
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The Barker will consider ads, photos, and editorial content for publication.
Email items to ***birchbarker1@gmail.com***.
For editorial concerns, contact editor Amber Holleman at ***birchbarker1@gmail.com*** or **574-315-0227**.
For delivery concerns, contact Ron Niezgodski at ***birchbass1@gmail.com*** or **269-476-9317**.
For all other BLYC matters, contact Comm. Steve Frew at ***stephenbfrew@gmail.com*** or **239-315-1177**.
NEW DEADLINE for submissions is **11AM** on the **MONDAY** of the week before publication.

EVENTS

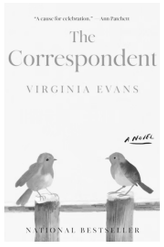
could overcome superior force. The "Ten Crucial Days" fanned the flame of liberty when it was needed most, by proving that the Americans could really fight.

~Commodore Steve Frew



Washington Crossing the Delaware,
painting by Emmanuel Leutze, 1851, NY Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Book Club



Our next book will be *The Correspondent*, by Virginia Evans. Our meeting will be August 25, 6:30pm at Debbie Soldato's house (63159 Walnut Rd). Any questions, or if you'd like to join in the fun, contact Jackie Frew: ***seeitall8@gmail.com*** or call/text 708-285-2999.

Birch Lake Yacht Club
FIREWORKS FUND
Our goal for 2026 is $26,000
Contribute now at
https://tinyurl.com/BLYCfireworks



Ladies Weekly Golf

This year we tee off on Thursday 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).

THE LAST HOORAH!!
Birch Lake Fall Dinner
August 22
Birch Lake Yacht Club
Cocktails at 5:30 • Dinner at 6:00
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Deb Spratt
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South Bend, IN 46637
Questions? Ron Niezgodski
birchbass1@gmail.com
$25 PER PERSON
TICKET DEADLINE: AUGUST 16
SCAN FOR TICKETS

Homeowner's Association Annual Meeting

The Birch Lake Homeowner's Association will have its annual meeting on Saturday, August 1st following the BLYC's monthly meeting. Our guest speaker will be Elizabeth Hall from the west side. Elizabeth has been working on making sure our interests are protected as data center developers look at our county for possible locations. Please join us as we hear about her work and what we can do to protect against a data center in our back yard.

CORN & SAUSAGE ROAST
Saturday, August 1,
from 5-6:30 PM at BLYC
limited alcohol by donation

50/50
Water Quality

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

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BIRCH LAKE NEWS

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.



Homeowner's Association PSA: Vote in 2026!

For All Cass County Residents

Primary Election: CORRECTION! The date is August 4th *not* August 8th

Early Voting July 25 - August 2

Cassopolis VFW, 131 Broadway Street

Midterm Election: November 3

Early Voting October 24 - November 1

register to vote

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.



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.***

THANK YOU to all of our 2026 Barker advertisers! Please check them all out on the BLYC website and support our advertisers. The Birch Barker is delivered **free** to all Birch Lake residents because the advertising revenue covers all of the printing costs, website hosting, and our new membership platform. Publication and distribution is all managed by volunteers.

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

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

birchlakeyachtclub.com/advertise





WATER QUALITY: PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE 2026 UPDATE

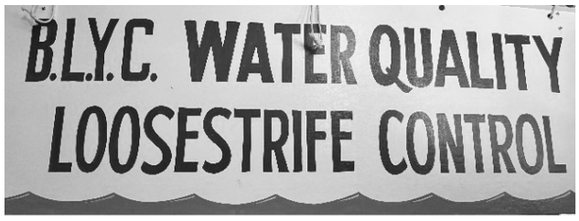


At first glance, Purple Loosestrife looks like a pretty, flowering MAGENTA colored plant that grows near shorelines, wetlands and along roadsides. However, it is a highly INVASIVE plant which at one time was for sale at plant nurseries around the country. It is now illegal to sell Purple Loosestrife. It is on the State of Michigan's INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT list. The concern is that given the right conditions, Purple Loosestrife can rapidly establish and replace native vegetation. Without proper removal, this plant can spread seeds and multiply tremendously, eventually taking over shorelines. It has been a huge problem at many of our nearby lakes. While we encourage native plantings to protect our shorelines, invasive plants are not welcome.

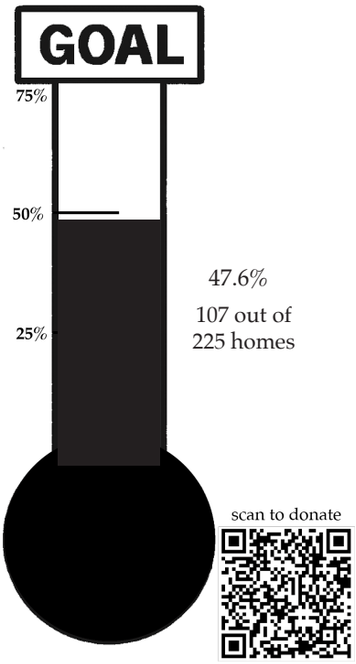
Birch Lake has been extremely fortunate to have a low number of Loosestrife plants. The Water Quality Committee has worked diligently over many years to identify and eradicate plants by monitoring our shorelines and taking immediate action. This year is no different. Water Quality Committee member, Tom Kuhn discovered 12 new plants on the South Shore (photo above). Tom painstakingly removed all plants. A resident on the North Shore reported 4 plants and carefully removed them. Combined, a total of 116 stems were removed and disposed of. While this number doubled since the count last year, please know that we will continue to monitor the shoreline again in August and September. You will see our team in a pontoon very close to shore with our BLYC WATER QUALITY LOOSESTRIFE CONTROL sign on the side of the boat.

What can you do? Check your property for this plant, especially near the shore or wet areas of your yard. Identification: Height varies from 4 to 10 feet, leaves are arranged in pairs, the square stem is covered in downy hair, flower spikes have 5-7 petals per flower and is present for most of the summer. If you are not quite sure, please notify Tom Kuhn (708) 772-7373 or Cindy Bernaciak (773) 401-9191. We will come out and identify if it is Loosestrife and we will take the necessary steps to remove any plants. This is done carefully by the roots, so the seeds do not spread and take over other areas, bagged and disposed of properly.

Keeping our commitment to you, YOUR Water Quality Committee continues to test and monitor the health, clarity, aquatic and shoreline invasive species of our lake. We go above and beyond to keep Birch Lake beautiful for today and the future.



Birch Lake Yacht Club
WATER QUALITY FUND
Our goal for 2026 is to have 75% of homes on the lake contribute.
Contribute now at https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com





THE SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY

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

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LADIES GOLF OUTING

The Ladies of Birch Lake Tee Off for Annual Golf Outing

Good weather, great company, and a few broken tees made for a memorable Friday as the Ladies of Birch Lake gathered at the Dowagiac Elks Club for their annual scramble tournament.

While the competition was friendly, the standings were tight. Taking home bragging rights and top honors this year was the first-place squad of Blair Garceau, Elizabeth Hall, Lori Snider, and Rose Eslinger. Following hot on their heels in second place were Ronnie Eshelman, Angela Bergan, Deb Rusner, and Jaime Sullivan. Third-place honors went to Debbie Soldato, Jackie Frew, Allyson Weaver-Gills, and Lori Noyer, while Sandy Vitale, Vickie Rogers, Carol McCoy, and Tracy Limes rounded out the leaderboard in fourth.

Not all the day's awards went to the lowest scores, however - special honors were saved for those who left their mark on the course! Sandy Vitale proudly took home the coveted "Divot Diva" award, while Traci Limes and Elizabeth Hall shared bragging rights in a tie for the broken tee title.



2025 Ladies Golf Outing Champs
Elizabeth Hall, Blair Garceau, Lori Snider, Rose Eslinger

Following 9 holes of sunny fairways, the group headed over to the Wounded Minnow in Dowagiac for a well-earned lunch. Joined by fellow lake residents Katha Machallak and Sue Williams, the ladies celebrated the day's highlights and handed out prizes.

The event's success was made possible thanks to golf committee volunteers and generous sponsors Dan and Sharon Waxman, and Carmen and Debbie Soldato.



Lori Noyer, Jackie Frew, Allyson Weaver-Gills, Debbie Soldato



Deb Runser, Jamie Sullivan, Angela Bergan, Ronni Eshelman



Vickie Rogers, Tracy Limes, Carol McCoy, Sandy Vitale



Katha Machalleck, Sue Williams

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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.

NEW in 2026!

We are excited to introduce a new membership platform this year for BLYC memberships! This platform – called JoinIt – allows us to take online membership payments, collect donations, and take payments for events like the Spring or Fall Dinner. JoinIt also gives us an online directory that is only accessible to current BLYC members. It's entirely up to you what information you want to put into the directory to be shared with other BLYC members.

Scan here to go to Join It

When you get to the JoinIt page, **make sure to click the blue "JOIN" button under the membership type you're interested in**. Don't click log in at the top right of the page, because you won't be in the system if you haven't joined yet.

You can also make donations to the BLYC online. We are using a platform for donations called Zeffy that allows nonprofits to accept payments with no fees, but they automatically select a donation to Zeffy on the checkout screen. If you choose to pay online with the QR code, **you can avoid paying any credit card fees by choosing "other" from the dropdown menu and entering $0 in the box.**

You can also mail in a paper form:

Membership Fees

$ _____ BLYC member dues ($50 per year)
$ _____ Associate member dues ($15 per year) (non lake residents)
$ _____ Homeowners Association ($10 per year)
$ _____ Sailing Fees ($15 per year)
$ _____ Water Quality donations

Donations

$ _____ General Fund
$ _____ AED Fund
$ _____ Barker Donations
$ _____ Building Fund
$ _____ Fireworks Fund
$ _____ Safety Fund
$ _____ Water Quality / Milfoil Program
$ _____ Other Donations (please specify: _____)

$ _____ TOTAL CONTRIBUTION

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PUZZLE PAGE

Word Search: 1980s Pop Stars

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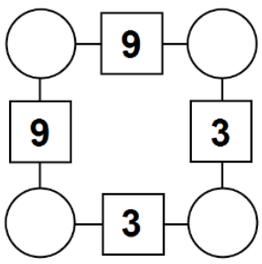
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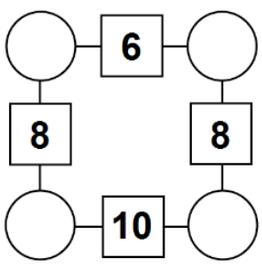
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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Not much luck with the wind this year. This past weekend was another one where it just wouldn't fill in by race time, so instead of sailing I ended up on the couch watching a documentary Bob King recommended: *Scow Story*. It's a simple film that left me thinking less about boats than about the people who build them and sail them.

Scan for the documentary on YouTube

The film starts before racing existed at all. When the lakes of the Midwest were first settled, there were few roads, so boats were how you got anywhere and how goods moved. Working boats came first, then boats for pleasure and then, because it's human nature, somebody wanted to know whose was fastest so we raced.

What happened after that is the part I really enjoyed. The industrial revolution had put money and free time in the hands of families like the Pillsburys, Wrigleys, and Ordways, and they poured it into new designs, commissioning a new boat every season if they thought it might be slightly quicker. That money kept a whole shoreline of builders experimenting. In about five years, sailing on these lakes went from stodgy old workboats to something recognizably like the boat most of us race today. And nobody can really claim to have invented it. That's what I find remarkable. It wasn't one genius, it was a set of conditions, a rule that rewarded a particular shape, and a handful of stubborn, talented builders all pushing the same direction at the same moment.

Those builders were competitors chasing the same customers. They also lived next door to one another, hosted each other's dances, and one got married in a rival's house. Years later, when fire destroyed a competitor's shop and all his lumber, the other outfit lent him the spruce to rebuild and had him back in business in two months. Nobody thought that was unusual.

An early sailing rule I hadn't known about was created by a Wisconsin club which pushed to bar hired professionals, so owners and their families had to sail their own boats. That's the Corinthian spirit: you race for the love of it, you police yourself, and sportsmanship isn't a tiebreaker, it's the point.

That spirit is worth protecting on our own lake. Racing asks something of people: know the rules, and take your penalty when you foul someone - whether or not anyone saw it. Help a new sailor get his mast up, beat him around the course, then buy him a beer and tell him what he did wrong. Those habits don't stay on the water.

I'd recommend the film to anyone in the fleet, anyone who's ever set foot on a boat, and anyone else.

~ Fleet Captain Bob Niezgodski, ***rjniezgodski@gmail.com***

Sundays are SAILING DAYS!
Races typically start at 11am
Please steer clear of the course!











2026 BLYC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

BLYC OFFICERS

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Steve Frew (E) 708-285-2999
stephenbfrew@gmail.com

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CAMP T CORNER: RAINY DAYS AT CAMP

Rainy days may change our plans at camp, but they certainly do not stop the fun. When storms moved through the area on Monday morning and afternoon, our staff had to quickly relocate activities to indoor and covered spaces and get creative with their lesson plans. In the morning we were able to mostly stay outdoors, but the afternoon was a different story!

When we hear thunder or see lightning, we have to revise some of our plans for the day. Our waterfront classes moved into the Dining Hall, where campers spent time playing board games and cards with their instructors.

The Handcraft porch was far busier than usual as campers looked for a dry place to spend the afternoon. Activities such as Archery, Gaga Ball, and Sports & Games had to close, giving the campers who planned to go to those activities an opportunity to try something creative instead.

Other activity areas adapted as well. Nature met on the Dining Hall porch, where campers learned and practiced knot-tying. Drama moved inside Morris Lodge, where the group could continue playing improv and theater games while staying dry.

Our "Chill Zone" activity also moved onto the Handcraft porch for the afternoon. Chill Zone was a new activity choice last year. Campers have the option to choose a quiet period one time per day. They can hang out in the hammocks in the area we call Central Park, read a book, play cards at the picnic tables, or make friendship bracelets while chattign with friends.

A single rainy day gives our staff an opportunity to make creative adjustments like we did on Monday. But when we have several stormy days during the same week, we often change the schedule more significantly. We may organize an all-camp game or activity, such as Name That Tune or a Dutch Auction. One favorite of mine on rainy days is an "Indoor Swim Meet" - with silly relays and goofy games in Morris Lodge. These activities bring everyone together and help keep the energy high, even when we cannot follow our usual schedule.

Because Mondays are traditionally cookout nights, the weather also required us to revise our dinner plans. Campers still assembled their own foil-packet dinners, but instead of cooking them over outdoor fires, our kitchen staff baked the packets in the ovens. Campers then took turns roasting marshmallows in the Dining Hall fireplaces to make s'mores. It was not quite the cookout we originally planned, but it still included the most important parts: good food, time together, and plenty of marshmallows.

Fortunately, by the time dinner was finished, the rain had let up. Campers were able to head back outside for their cabin-night activities. Mondays are Cabin Night at Camp T, which means each cabin plans a special activity to do together. These smaller-group evenings give campers and counselors time to get to know one another better, strengthen friendships, and build a sense of community within the cabin.

Camp often teaches our staff and campers plans do not always work out exactly as expected and we have to be flexible and creative to make it fun for everyone. Sometimes the rain pours down all day, activities have to be relocated, and dinner has to be cooked in a completely different way. But with flexibility, creativity, and a positive attitude, even a stormy day can become a memorable part of the camp experience.

~Miss Amber







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BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: THE ASIRE FAMILY

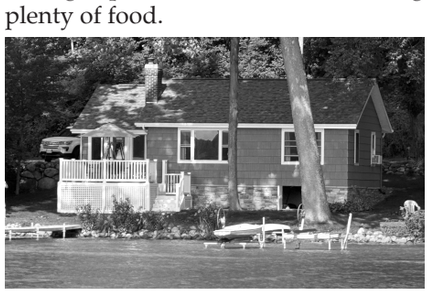
The Asire family's connection to Birch Lake reaches back more than 80 years and includes five generations of relatives, neighbors, and lifelong friends.

Prior to owning homes at Birch Lake, sisters Josephine Partridge and Ruth Fulmer (née Gates) and their husbands (Charles Partridge and Floyd Fulmer) camped at Birch Lake in the Cove. In 1945, Charles and Josephine bought a lot in Woodland Cove and built their cottage, known as *Wee Wood*.

A year later in 1946, Ruth and Floyd also bought at lot in Woodland Cove, and built their cottage, *Dun Kampin'*. And in 1947, Ruth and Floyd's daughter Evelyn and her husband Jack Asire also bought a lot and built their cottage, *Bottom Dollar.* All three original cottages built in the 1940s still exist and are still occupied by members of the Partridge / Fulmer families!

Today, Marty Asire and her partner James Pagano own the original Asire cottage, *Bottom Dollar.* Marc and Lynn Caenepeel own his grandparents' (Partridge) cottage, *Wee Wood*. And Christopher (Marty's son) and Robin Carey own his great-grandparents' (Fulmer) cottage, *Dun Kampin'*.

The cove was a very tight-knit community in the early days. Many of the families who built in Woodland Cove in the 40s were friends before arriving at Birch Lake. The Cowens, Shewmans, Fulmers, Hatchers, Asires and other families became so close that sometimes their children felt more like cousins than neighbors. The adults gathered regularly to play canasta, setting up card tables and sharing plenty of food.



Jack and Buddy Asire's (W325) Cottage, now owned by their daughter, Marty Asire and her partner James Pagano

Jack and Evelyn (who many knew as "Buddy") had three children, Nancy (Nan), Jeff, and Martha (Marty). Like many families, Buddy and the children remained at the lake throughout the summer, while Jack commuted to town for work. During the day, the children spent nearly all their time outside, walking and swiming with friends, running between each others' cottages, and going out on their fishing boats. Their grandfather Floyd worked for Gates Chevrolet and frequently arrived home driving a different car, adding another colorful detail to family memories.

Marty recalls that the kids liked to play in the woods behind the houses. A particular favorite pastime was swinging from the vines on the trees. On one memorable occasion, a boy visiting his cousins at the lake lost his grip and fell 20 feet, landing in the road behind the Asire cottage, just as Mrs. Asire was stepping outside to bring the trash out.

During Marty's childhood, the road between her parents' cottage and her grandparents' home was still dirt. She and her cousin Peg (granddaugher of the Partridges) ran back and forth between the three houses throughout the summer. One of their favorite occasions was when the oil truck came through to spray the road. The girls would run barefoot down the freshly oiled dirt, something that would horrify parents today but was simply part of summer at Birch Lake then.

Marty remembers that lake was quieter and darker in those days. Most cottages didn't have outdoor lights on the lake side, so at night it was so dark you couldn't see your hand in front of your own face. The boats were smaller with less powerful motors. At night, the children would lie on the dock and watch for shooting stars.

The cove was still wooded and filled with lily pads. One favorite destination was a soft bed of moss the children called the "magic carpet." Their mothers would pack lunches, and everyone would spend the afternoon eating and playing on the magic carpet.

Like many Birch Lake children, Marty and her friends walked to Lanky's often. They collected discarded bottles and returned them for the two-cent deposit, giving them a little spending money when they arrived. Nickel pony rides at Larsen's (east shore) were another favorite attraction.

Marty and her siblings learned to waterski behind her grandfather's aluminum boat with a 10-horsepower motor. When the family later purchased an 18-horsepower motor - the largest engine on the lake at the time - it caused quite a stir. Some neighbors thought it was far too powerful for Birch Lake.

Marty's grandfather Floyd allowed the children one five-gallon tank of boat gas each day. He had a 50-gallon tank in the woods behind his house, which was refilled several times each summer. The children sometimes managed to use more than their daily allotment, however, and the drum occasionally needed filling sooner than expected!

Marty's brother Jeff worked at Camp Kiloqua as a teen. He was the camp's first male employee when he worked there as a waterskiing instructor. As the only male on staff, he lived alone in a small cabin near the location of Artie McElwee's little cabin today. Marty recalls their mother being horrified to learn that he brought his grandmother's wedding-ring quilt - a treasured family heirloom - to camp for his bedding!

Some of our people "fly away" and others "fly back". Real happy to learn that Jeff Asire landed on Monday to enjoy another summer at Birch Lake and more of Grandma Fulmer's yummie chocolate chip cookies. Grandpa Fulmer has been busy giving the Asire's yard a haircut and getting their boat all shined up and back in the water. Mrs. Asire, husband Jack and daughters Nancy and Martha are expected to arrive on Thursday.

Birch Barker, July 3, 1966



Floyd and Ruth Fulmer's Cottage, Dun Kampin' (W302), now owned by their Great-Grandson, Chris Carey

The friendships at Birch Lake have crossed generations. As a teenager, Marty's was close with her next-door neighbor, Doris Verlodt, who was then in her 80s. Marty's son Brett also found a second home at the Toth cottage. On evenings when he announced that he was not hungry, it often meant he had already eaten at Doc Toth's house. Brett always insisted that Doc was such a good cook that he could not turn down the offer of a meal.

The family's history also includes connections to other familiar lake names. Bruce Wagner (cove) married Marty's cousin Sue, who was related through Marty's grandfather's family. Sue's mother, Helen, was Floyd's sister.

Among the family treasures is black-and-white film showing Floyd Fulmer and Mr. Shewman mixing concrete to build their cottages at the lake - a fitting image of the work, friendship, and cooperation that shaped the lake community. Marty eventually helped preserve Birch Lake's stories herself by typing the *Birch Barker* for many years. She began on a black manual typewriter and later upgraded to an electric model.

For the Asire family, Birch Lake has always been more than a summer destination. The boats and roads have changed, the shoreline is brighter and busier, and Lanky's and the nickel pony rides are now memories. But the connections formed during those early summers remain an important part of their family and of Birch Lake history.



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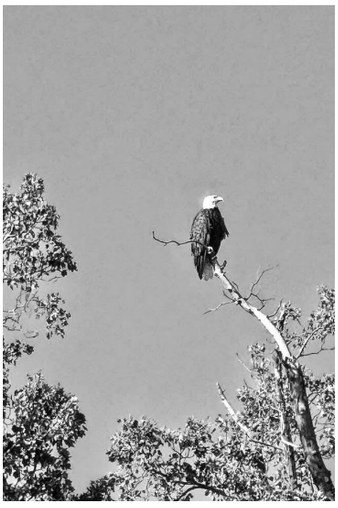
BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK





Jill and Ray Scholes (south shore) hosted their grandkids at the lake. Left: Grandson Quinton Crossetti from Massachusetts. On the tube: grandson Quinton Crossetti, daughter Kate Scholes Crossetti, and granddaughter Joanna Scholes.

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



Bald Eagle between Welch's and Eshelman's (south shore)



Rich and Beth DeYoung's grandkids (west shore). The 3 girls spent the week and you could usually see them on the pier or in the water.



The "Lemon Love" girls at their lemonade stand on the south shore (Hanstine cottage)



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EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR
(AED) locations on Birch Lake

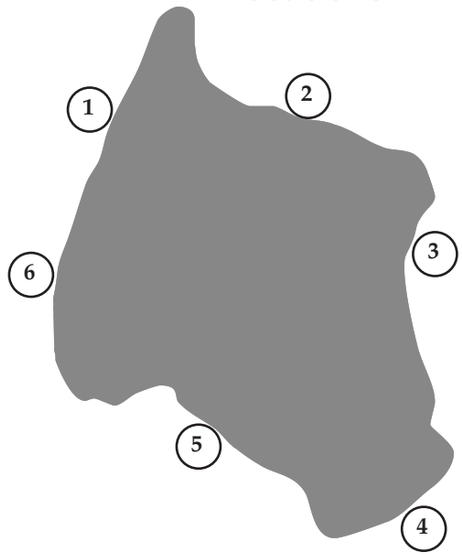
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units (AEDs) on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations:

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2. **North Shore:** Smitley Home
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4. **Southeast Shore:** Troeger Home
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5. **South Shore:** Crawford Home
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4. Continue to follow the instructions, and **stay with the patient until emergency personnel arrive.**

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

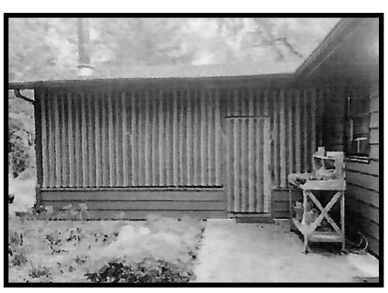
D & M CANVAS

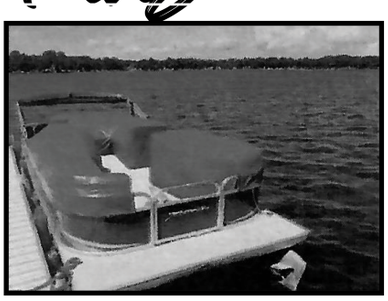
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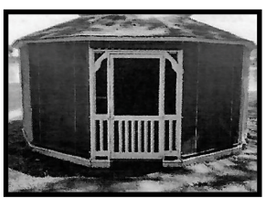
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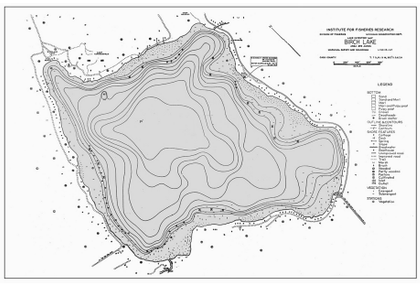
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Old BLYC Directories. If you have directories from between 1981 and 1996, I would love to scan them! I have many of the old directories, but nothing between '81 and '96. Email if you come across any!

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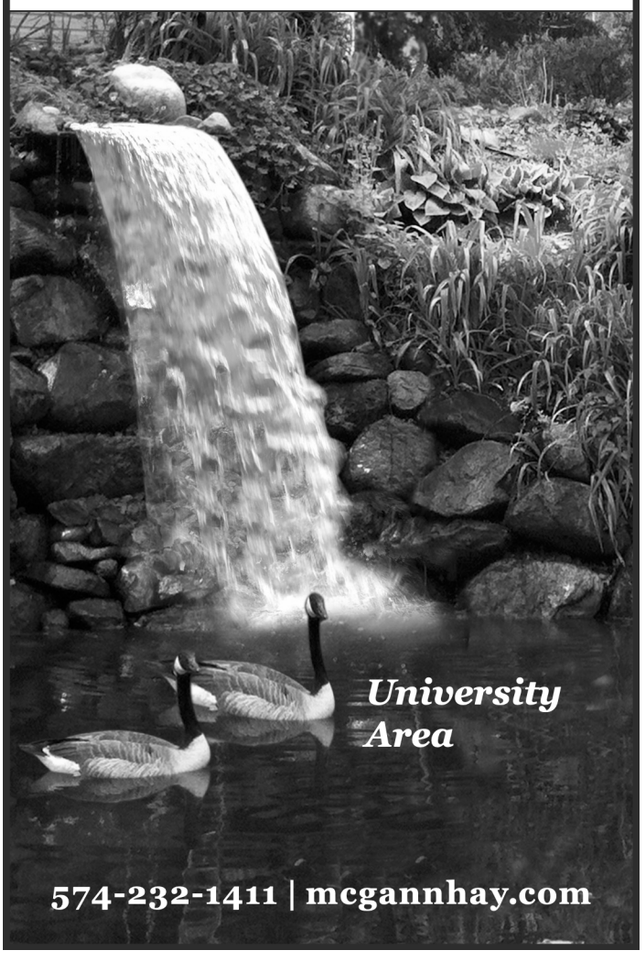
Food is available from 5:30-7:30pm
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more info -->

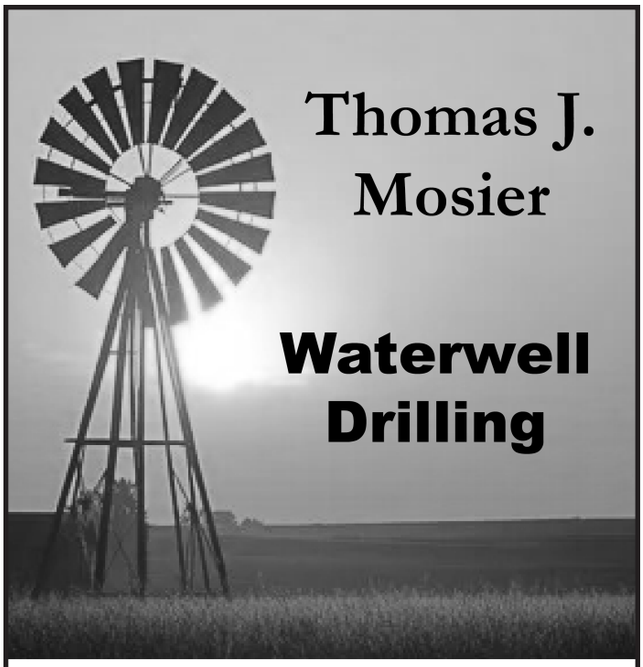


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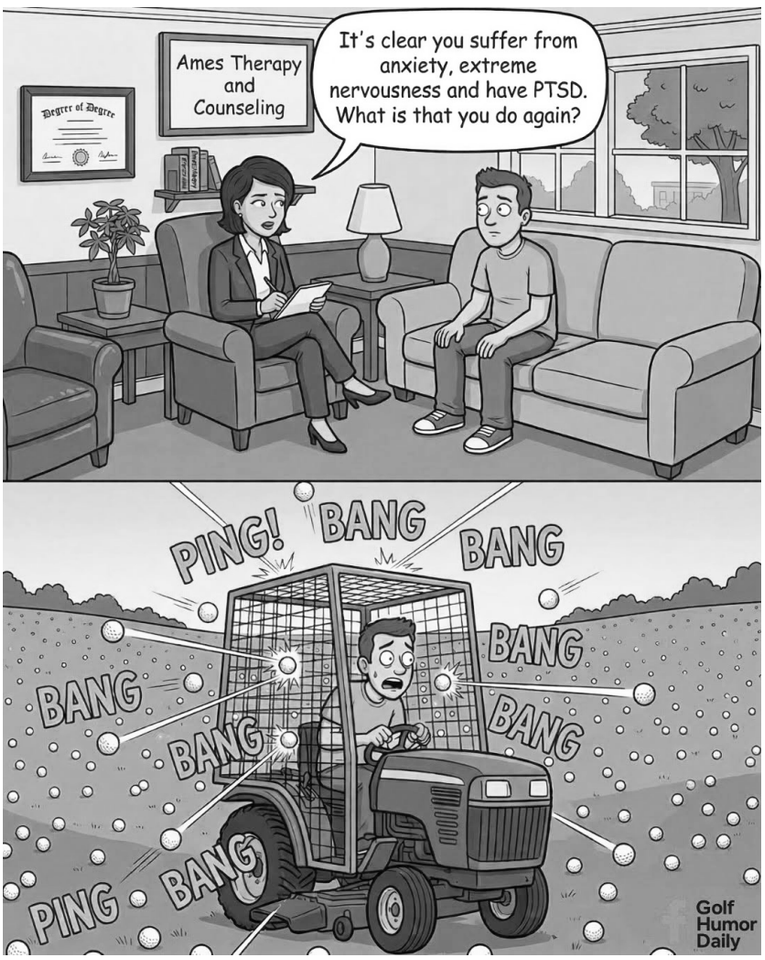
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BARKER FUNNIES



Apparently, RSVPing back to a wedding invite with "Maybe next time"

Is not the correct response.

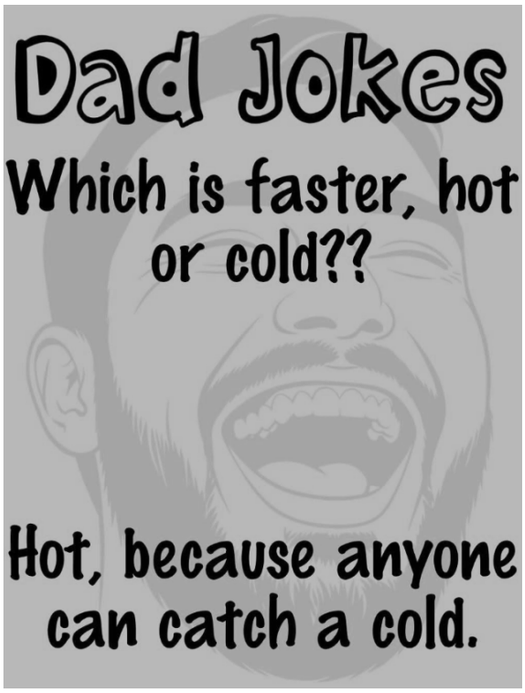
So “naked hiking” apparently means no GPS, no music, no distractions...

Really wish someone would have clarified sooner...

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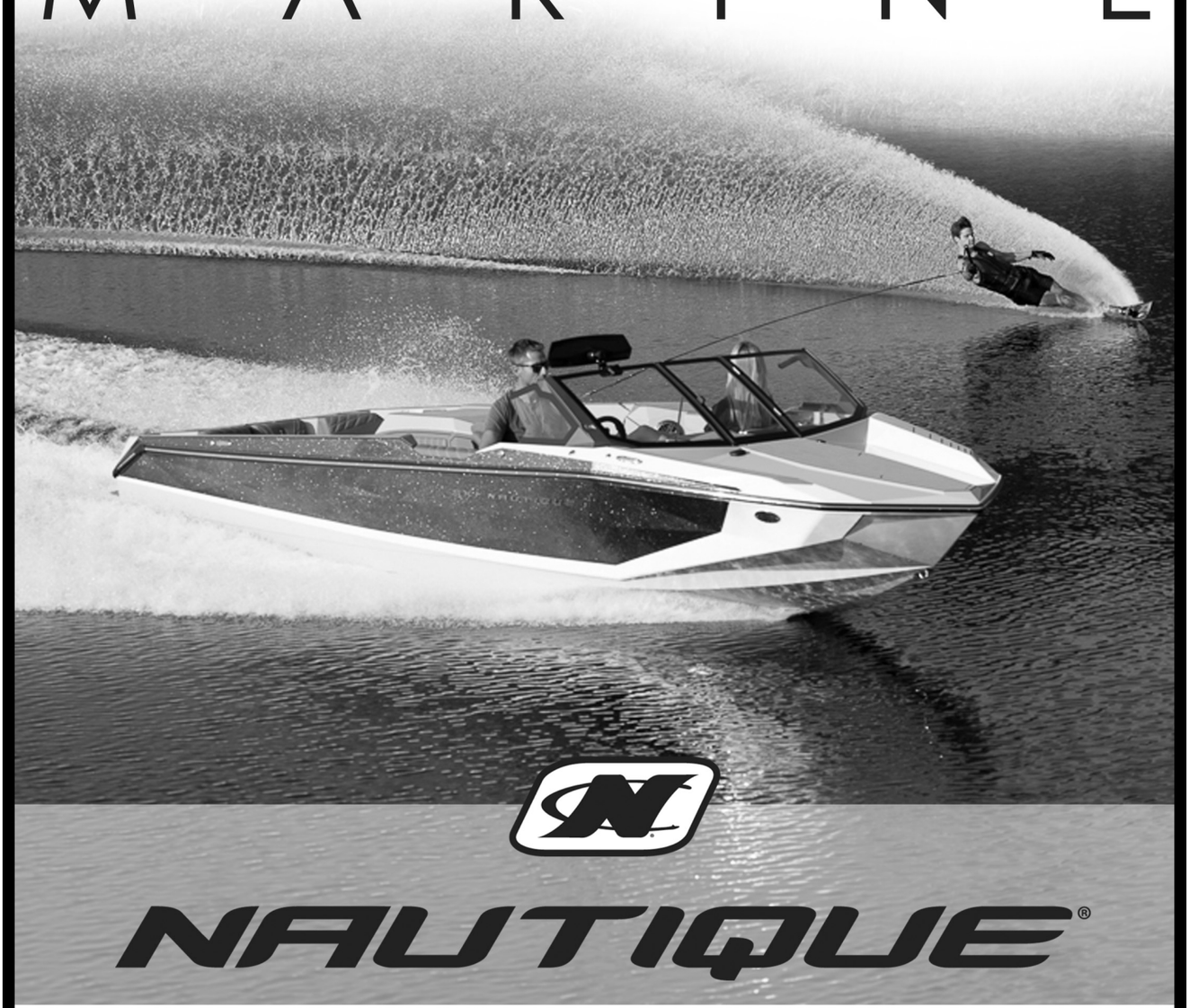
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