

The weekend  
Of

July 16  
2016

# Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the  
**Birch Lake Yacht Club**



*That's what it's all about ... Jazmine and Sydney, grandchildren of Bill and Carol Myers (east side) splash in the shallows on a hot Birch Lake afternoon.*

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**C**ongratulations to long-time Birch Lake residents, Dick and Peggy Cowen. They recently celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss! That is quite an accomplishment and something to be proud of. They had a beautiful afternoon last Sunday to celebrate with family and friends.

Thank you to the Homeowners Association for hosting a 'meet the candidates' session last Saturday. There was a nice turnout, and I thought it was very informative. Several candidates showed up to introduce themselves and were available for questions. Several of the races will be determined in the primary due to the fact that no one from the opposing party is running. So mark your calendar for August 2, and get out there and vote!

Speaking of the Homeowners Association, have you ever wondered why we have a Yacht Club Association and a Homeowners Association? Specifically, the objectives of the Yacht Club are to protect the water quality and lake environment, preserve safe

navigation on the lake, promote sailboat racing and other water activities, and build community through social relationships. The Homeowners Association was established to protect the value of properties and best interests of Birch Lake homeowners. Specific purposes include the following: address issues pertaining to homeowners at the proper governmental levels, take care of issues at the public access site, review and report on tax issues, attend both township and county meetings to keep abreast of anything that may affect Birch Lake property owners, promote the renewal of fish population, preserve the scenic beauty of the lake, and promote water safety. Participation and support of both organizations is always welcome and appreciated!

The next scheduled Yacht Club function is the Ladies Golf Outing on Friday, July 22. Patty Luecht works very hard at organizing this fun event, and you won't want to miss it! So get your team together and sign up today. More information is in the Barker. The Men's Golf Outing is the following week (July 29). I hear that is also a very fun day. Thanks to Chas Grundy and Pete Soldato for organizing that event.

## 2016 Birch Lake Calendar

July 22.....	BL Ladies' Golf Outing 9 am
July 29.....	Men's Golf Outing
Aug. 6.....	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 12.....	Friday Night Flotilla
Aug. 27.....	BLYC Fall Dinner (at the Yacht Club)
Aug. 27.....	Vitales' 46th Anniversary

### **BLYC Board Meetings (9 am)**

Aug. 6, Sept. 10 @ BLYC

**More info as available.; Dates subject to change; Watch the Barker for updates!**

Last call for your Birch Lake photographs. Your photo entries for the 2017 calendar need to be submitted to Linda Yoshizawa no later than July 17 (that's this Sunday!) We especially need winter photos if you have any. Send your photos to Linda at linda1008@comcast.net

We have had some pretty nice weather this summer, and I can't think of any better place to enjoy a beautiful summer day than Birch Lake. We are a pretty lucky group of people to call this place home. So get out there and enjoy the lake!

*~Commodore Sue*

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, or put the items in the stone newspaper/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos or other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680, or contact BLYC Commodore Sue Williams at 476-8886 or email smwillia@comcast.net. ~Phil V

# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Beware of the lake thieves

We've recently had reports that there have been several incidents of theft near the public landing in recent days. Apparently the thieves are parking at the landing or park and wading to nearby piers and yards and stealing personal items and lake toys .

We caution you about confronting the thieves but advise everyone to be alert and contact the county sheriff's office at 911 (if it is an emergency) or 445-2481 and make a report and/or file a complaint.

## Last Chance for Men's Golf Outing

This weekend is the deadline for signing up to play in the Birch Lake Men's Golf Outing. We are collecting shirt sizes for athletic golf polos, which need to be ordered in time. Get your registration to us ASAP!

Overwhelming feedback from our players over the past few years has been that the outing has become too competitive and focused on prizes. Many players miss the laid-back fun and goofiness of past outings. To this end, we have eliminated cash prizes from the outing and are introducing more wacky (and hopefully fun) events to the course. The goal is to enjoy the afternoon and come back to a fantastic dinner of ribs and chicken from our friends at Vlasticak's.

If you'd like to register a team or would like to play and want us to add



Thanks to our Artist-in-Residence, Duffy Dufour for the great Birch Lake art ...

you to a foursome, you can email [chas@grundyhome.com](mailto:chas@grundyhome.com) or drop your registration off at 63250 Birch Rd.

~Co-chairs **Pete Soldato**  
and **Chas Grundy**

to golf, call me and I will do my best to help you find a team or golfers.

To join the FUN contact Patty Luecht 63168 Birch Rd (east side) at 476-2615.

## Last Chance for Ladies Outing

ATTENTION Lady Golfers.

Money and Teams MUST be in by JULY 17th.

If any of you ladies have a partial team, or if you have no team, and want

## Updates on Birch Lake sailing

Sailors! Send me your cell phone numbers if you want to be included in text alerts and updates on the status of weekly sailing. 317 605 6421.

~Bad Patty

# Simply STUNNING

Have you seen the stunning new stamped-concrete compass rose at the Birch Lake Yacht Club?

This is just one example of the custom concrete services and products available to our friends and neighbors here at Birch Lake.

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## **BLYC Welcoming Committee**

We are ready to rock and roll on our Welcoming Committee. If you know of a new neighbor please contact Vicky Rogers at 269-476-2383, Pam VanHuffel 269-244-3487 and Linda Curtis at 574-361-2629.

## **Save the date**

The Birch Lake annual *Friday Night Flotilla* will be August 12. More info to follow later.

## **DEQ grants permit**

On 4/27/16, representatives from Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) held a hearing at the Porter Township Fire Station to collect information relative a permit application they had received on behalf of a Birch Lake riparian to dredge and install a permanent dock and boat house in front of that riparian's property. In late June of 2016, a slightly modified version of that permit was approved by DEQ staff. According to Porter Township Clerk Marty Russell, township authorities have advised the riparian that the proposed boat house is in conflict with existing township ordinances, and will not be granted a building permit.

## **Fire truck to be on display**

Remembrance Rescue Project's FDNY Rescue 4 Fire Truck will be on

## **BIRCH LAKE TOTE BAGS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

**Royal Blue with White Logo  
Very Sturdy and Large Size  
Limited Number so DON'T Delay**

**\$5 each (same as in 2011!)**

**Available by July 23  
63168 Birch Rd (east side)**

**Line up to get yours  
begins at 10 am!**

**Patty Luecht  
476-2615**



display at the Middlebury, Indiana Fire Department during the Middlebury Summer Festival on Aug. 13, 2016 from 10 am to 8 pm. On Sept. 11, 2001, eight FDNY firefighters lost their lives trying to save others at the World Trade Center's South Tower. FDNY Rescue 4 was parked two blocks from the WTC's South Tower when the tower collapsed and destroyed this truck. FDNY Rescue 4 was restored and now is part of the Remembrance Rescue Project which is a 100 percent volunteer program. The exhibit is a mobile memorial and teaching tool for Modern American History. For more information, please go to our

website at <http://www.remembrance.co/> or contact C. Marc Tjaden (West Side), Remembrance Rescue Project Volunteer at 260-710-3995.

## **e-mail scam**

Beware! Earlier this week I received two emails supposedly from a Birch Laker (and past commodore) with a cryptic, abbreviated message and a note that it couldn't show the entire message but I should "click here" to view it. After having been caught in such a scam before, I set the message aside unopened, contacted the sender and asked if it was a legitimate message.



## **BACK ON TRACK!**

**56951 N. Main St.  
Three Rivers, MI**

**(269) 273-9015**

## **Visit us again For the First Time!**

**Frankie's Restaurant in Three Rivers has new owners. Over the past few months we have been working very hard to return the quality of the food and the quality of the dining experience to the levels that so many of us fondly remember from years ago. We hope you'll stop by and learn what we mean when we say that we're "Back on Track!"**

**Open M-Th 11-10, Friday & Saturday 11-11 Closed Sunday.**

**Daily food & drink specials**

**follow us on Facebook at [frankiesbythetracks](https://www.facebook.com/frankiesbythetracks)**

# — Birch Lake Notes —

and if they had sent it. It wasn't legitimate and they had not sent it, someone had "hacked" their address. Be careful opening email, even from trusted sources, if you aren't sure it is safe. *~PV*

## Online content

The full, weekly printed Birch Barker is once again online this season, along with selected additional content ... just go to [www.philviale.com](http://www.philviale.com) and follow the links.

## Printed Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is a service of the

Birch Lake Yacht Club and provided free of charge every weekend to all the homes on Birch Lake, thanks to our generous advertisers.

The Barker welcomes the submission of editorial and advertising materials for publication (at the discretion of the editor). The deadline for submitting ads and information for any Barker is by 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the July 23 issue is 3 pm on Tuesday, July 19) ... thanks.

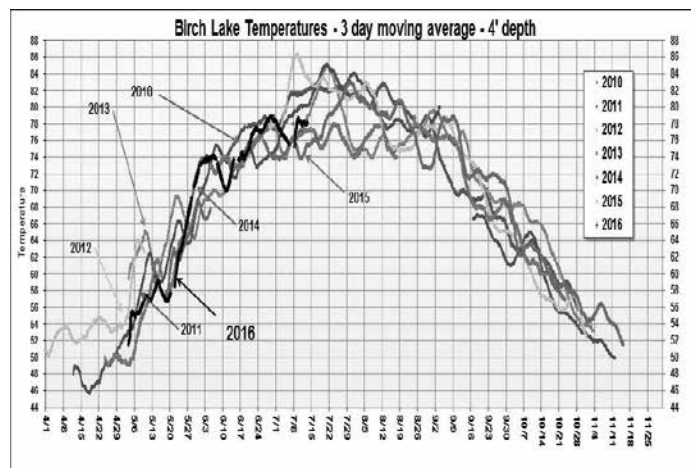
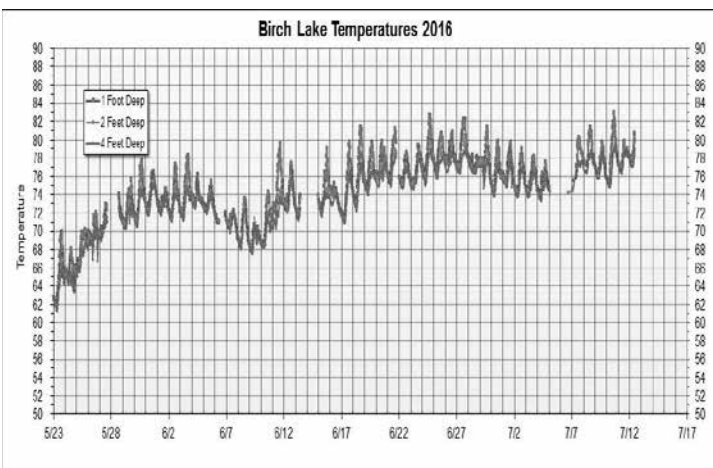
I'm at 476-1680 or [sailorphil@philviale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philviale.com). For questions or problems with

delivery please contact Sue Williams (476-8886, email: [smwillia@comcast.net](mailto:smwillia@comcast.net)) or Bob & Sue Waddle (476-3393 or email: [sparkybob220@comcast.net](mailto:sparkybob220@comcast.net)).

*~PV*



# Birch Lake Water Temperature



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

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## Birch Lakes homes currently for sale



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## Recently sold Birch Lakes homes



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Contact Paul DeLano:  
(574) 536-6363  
[Paul@TheLakeLife.com](mailto:Paul@TheLakeLife.com)

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- Proven results and experience that close the sale

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\* The number of sold lake homes is up 22% from 4/1/15 to 3/31/16 compared to 4/1/14 to 3/31/15. \* Based on data from the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors, Sales of Inland Lake Homes and Properties, from 1/1/11 to 12/31/15 in Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph Counties. Sales of properties where agents represent both the buyer and seller are given 200% credit by the M.S.A.R.

# — Birch Lake Notes —



'4 on the 4th' ... the start of a new tradition :) This is Camille Butler, Claire, Daniel and Becky Holladay.

**Welcome to Jaywalker**



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# SLOW DOWN

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NARROW ROADS,  
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A TON OF CHILDREN,  
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

**SLOW DOWN ON  
OUR ROADS  
AND ON THE HILLS  
TO AND FROM  
THE LAKE!**

**SPEED LIMIT  
15<sub>MPH</sub>**



**And don't forget that ALL boat traffic must  
travel COUNTER-CLOCKWISE at all times!**

Message sponsored by the BIRCH LAKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

# — Water Quality Report —

## Annual E Coli Survey

Starting in 2008, then based on some concerns following the installation of the sewer system around the lake, we have annually conducted surveys of the lake for the intestinal bacteria E coli.

A normal part of the bacterial population in warm blooded animals, E coli is typically by itself not an issue from a disease causing perspective, but is instead commonly considered a “marker” bacteria.

We test for this bacteria because it is effectively an indicator organism for potential pollution, if found in large numbers. Lots of E coli might mean lots of other organisms that might have negative consequences on the health of people and animals.

Fortunately, we have never found E coli in the lake beyond what one might expect from background and that includes this year. “Background” means we have gulls, geese, ducks, muskrats, dogs, cats, raccoons, etc. that might leave the occasional deposit with some E coli that quickly becomes diluted so that it is either not, or just barely, mea-

surable.

For the purposes of swimming, water sports, and general lake play, the levels that we have measured have consistently been only a minute fraction of the maximum levels the DEQ provides for guidance regarding safety.

This year we sampled 6 locations and used a test procedure and medium called “Coliscan” from Micrology Labs in Goshen. We can identify the presence of single bacteria due to colony formation following growth in the media that allows us to identify E coli.

Most of the triplicate samples were negative for any E coli and in those that showed the presence of E coli, it was only a minute few per 100 milliners of sample.

The only exception to this is the inlet stream, on the Northeast side of the lake, from the wetlands. This has always had an elevated level of E coli, which is so quickly diluted upon entering the lake that it is hard to find even a few feet away from where the stream enters the lake.

We know that the E coli found in



this stream are from wildlife in the wetlands etc. because we have had it genotyped and found that it was not human.

In summary, the few E coli found in the lake were from natural sources, i.e. local wildlife etc. and not from any sources of pollution and essentially all were way below levels causing any concern

Swim safely.

## From the Birch Barker archives

### Birch Lake & the Underground Railroad

One of the principal grievances of the southern slave owners before the Civil War was the Underground Railroad.

Quakers from Pennsylvania came into Michigan and purchased sections of land around Birch Lake and Calvin Center... The Underground railway was a route over which the black men and their families were carried on horseback or by wagon, at night from one station to another. These stations were usually about twenty miles apart. Two principal routes were used, one coming up from Cincinnati through Indiana and the other from St. Louis through Illinois. These two routes converged just east of Cassopolis at the home of Stephen Bogue. A monument now marks this spot on Route M-60. This was the Michigan terminal of the Underground Railroad. Bogue and Josiah Osborne were the principal operators and the most important men in this undertaking.

Osborne was located on the farm that is known as Hirlings Lakeland Gardens. He operated a nursery here as far back as 1850, furnishing shade and fruit trees for the surrounding country.

In 1847, slave owners from Bourbon Co., Kentucky organized an expedition to come to Michigan to recover some of their runaway slaves. They arrived in the month of August and camped near Shavehead Lake. They knew exactly where the runaways were living as they had sent a spy up the previous winter. The spy had made maps and reported their location to the slave owners.

The Kentuckians captured several men, women, and a baby living on the Odell farm. The alarm spread and from all over the Birch Lake area angry farmers gathered, armed with guns, scythes, and clubs. The Kentuckians were



stopped and surrounded at the Osborne farm. Their wagons were overturned and later dumped into Birch Lake.

The black people were again free and the slave owners left to return to their homes the best way they could. After returning to Kentucky, they wrote many threatening letters to the farmers around Birch Lake, which fanned the flames of the coming Civil War.

The wagons that were dumped in Birch Lake were visible for many years on the east side of the Lake. In more recent years, pieces of these wagons have been sighted and brought up from the soft marl bottom. (Birch Barker 7/2/77)

\*\*\*\*\*

In case any of you noticed some strange goings-on around the water in front of Camp Tannadoonah, here's what is happening! The Cass Co. Historical has been diving for the sunken wagon that may have been there since 1848 when the slaves escaped to this area and were being protected and hidden from the owners. They say that they have

located the “buck board” but it may take many more hours to remove all the mud before they attempt to raise it from the Lake and treat it. (Birch Barker 7/27/85)

\*\*\*\*\*

Three skin divers who fished some wagon parts out of Birch Lake, near Vandalia, have turned their find over to the State Historical Commission.

Commission experts will attempt to determine if the divers located a relic of pre-Civil War days that figures in stories about the slave traffic of more than a century ago.

Three Lansing men were prepared to go back after the rest of the wagon if study shows their weekend recovery has historical value.

Ervin Morris, Ira Cooper and Merritt Nevins brought from the bottom of Birch Lake, two metal rear wagon wheels, a connecting axle and a reach apparently broken off between the rear and front wheel assemblies. The rusty objects appeared to first observers to be hand forged.

Tales handed down in the Vandalia-Cassopolis area had it that a group of Kentucky slave-owners seeking runaways left the wagon hidden in the woods while they searched. Local abolitionists then were supposed to have dragged the vehicle to Birch Lake and sunk it about 100 ft. off shore. (From a newspaper clipping that appears in “A Scrapbook History of Early Decatur, MI” on a page dated 1957.)

-Sandy Krchmar

# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## No winds!

As you all well know by now, the sailing last week was canceled due to very light to no wind. Unfortunately the forecast was correct and the winds died from the Saturday to Sunday morning.

We will try again this weekend the forecast as of Tuesday is around 7 mph. Hope to see all you sailors that came out two weeks ago, it was great to see that many boats out there!

Until next week "Splice the main brace"

~Fleet Captain Mike~



## 2016 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date ..... 4Jul ..... 4Jul ..... 4Jul ..... Total ..... Season ..... Races ..... %  
 Race ..... 9 ..... 10 ..... 11 ..... Points ..... Average ... Finished ... Finished

### MC Scow/Sailor

Scott Troeger #1489	2	2	4	13932	1548	9	100.0%
Jeff Smitley #2002	1	1	2	12099	1512	8	88.9%
Phil Vitale #500	3	5	1	8601	1434	6	66.7%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	4	4	3	12487	1387	9	100.0%
Bob King #1199	5	3	7	3896	1299	3	33.3%
Barb Cassady #2435	DNS	DNS	DNS	5186	1297	4	44.4%
Bill Luecht #1579	6	6	6	11601	1289	9	100.0%
Gib Eberhart #916	DNS	DNS	DNS	3833	1278	2	22.2%
Pat McGann #1735	7	7	5	10171	1271	8	88.9%

### Sunfish/Sailor

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	1	12721	1590	8	72.7%
Peter Soldato	5	2	3	14685	1469	10	90.9%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	3	4	5	14454	1445	10	90.9%
Sandy Vitale (White)	DNS	DNS	DNS	2888	1444	2	18.2%
Herb Cleveland	4	6	7	15020	1365	11	100.0%
Stewart Spratt	2	8	2	12237	1360	8	72.7%
Katie Luecht	6	5	6	3746	1249	3	27.3%
Bob Niezgodski	10	11	10	13486	1226	11	100.0%
Bill Butler	7	3	9	4780	1195	4	36.4%
Camille Butler	11	10	11	9188	1149	8	72.7%
Greg Cowan	9	9	4	3417	1139	3	27.3%
Brad Davis	8	7	8	3334	1111	3	27.3%
Chris Lintner	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%

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), DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place).

DNF, DSQ 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

CREW - Counted toward completed races, Points go to skipper of boat.



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When it comes to choosing a Realtor, it's not about claims of having or selling the most listings. Nor is it about the claims of being the "Lake or Waterfront Expert." It's about who will provide you with a quality experience and good results from listing or searching to closing. Read what my clients have to say and then call me when you're ready to sell or buy.

**Elizabeth Carey and Steve Decker -- Sold our home on Indiana Lake**

"Vickie is an extremely dedicated professional who will make you feel like you are her top priority. She can grasp complicated situations easily, explain them to you accurately, and then wisely advise you as to what to do. We found her knowledgeable in many areas and helpful in many ways beyond her obligations as a Realtor. You will enjoy working with this personable, warm, trustworthy lady who will take the stress and strain of buying and selling a home off your shoulders and put them onto hers."

**Amanda North Druckeniller** "Working with Vickie to sell our home was a pleasure! Our home sat on the market for a year with another realtor. We switched to Vickie and had an offer within a month! Vickie is prompt, professional and very knowledgeable in her field. I strongly recommend her for your realty needs!"

**Tom Davidson -- Top qualities: Personable, Expert, High Integrity**  
"Vickie did an excellent job in finding a house in Michigan that represented what I was looking for. She also was instrumental in providing detailed information on the history of my property and several adjacent Birch Lake properties which along with her knowledge of building regulations allowed me to obtain a reduction in property taxes. She is dependable, knowledgeable, and follows through. I would highly recommend her."

**Tony Clark -- Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres**  
"Vickie is the hardest working and most knowledgeable Realtor I have ever known. I have flipped about 7 properties. She sold my partner's house on Eagle Lake in a couple of weeks. While another Realtor had the listing for 9 months. She helped with taxes, inspections and legal transfers that were outside of her realm of duties."

See more at [www.VickieHall.info](http://www.VickieHall.info) under the "resources" tab

# SAVE THE DATE; Birch Lake Ladies' FUN Golf Outing

**Friday, July 22; \$35 per Golfer  
Diamond Lake Golf Course  
Tee Off Time 9 am**

**Cost includes green fees, cart, beverages, and more FUN and GAMES than money can buy! 50/50 raffles, Team Prizes.**

**Lunch following at the BLYC (included in cost)**

Each team is encouraged to donate a basket to raffle.

**Deadline to sign up is July 22  
Get Your Teams Together!**

### Team Members

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**For more Information Watch the  
Birch Barker  
Bad Patty Luecht 476-2615**

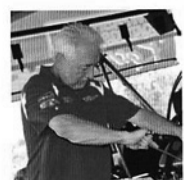
Paid for by the Committees to Elect Cory Marlow, Honna Gableman and Tom Lutz



**Cory Marlow**  
**A candidate for Porter Township Supervisor**, lives with his wife and their son on Shavehead Lake. Cory is Executive Vice President at Financial Partners Inc./Raymond James Financial Services in Elkhart, IN and is a partner with Bacon Hill Kitchen and Pub in Elkhart, IN. Cory earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 2004 from Valparaiso University and his M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University in 2007. Professionally, Cory has been awarded the Exemplar Financial Network Rising star award in 2013, The Spirit of Notre Dame Federal Credit Union in 2013, The Jackson National Stars Club in 2014 and 2015, and most recently has been named to the Michiana Forty Under 40 class of 2016. Cory is active in the community. He serves on the board for Camp Tanadoona on Birch Lake, serves on the board for Cockopalooza, a local cancer fundraiser in Elkhart County, and is a member of the Greater Elkhart Young Professionals, Young Professionals Network of South Bend, and Pillars of Elkhart. Cory's hobbies include golfing, boating, spending time with his family including his dog Ruby, snowmobiling, fishing, and cooking. Cory's vision for the Township revolves around fairness, transparency, and fiscal responsibility, and he would be honored to help serve the local businesses and residents as Porter Township Supervisor.



**Honna Gableman**  
**A candidate for Porter Township Clerk**, lives with her husband and two daughters on Shavehead Lake. Honna has a restaurant and business management background. She's held several positions in general management, dealing in financial processes, employee oversight, multi-site office operations, and key customer account management. Her industry experience includes a history with West Palm Pizza, Sweet Endings Desserts, and 10 years with Panera Bread. Honna graduated from Constantine High School. She has 2 Specialized Associates Degrees from the Florida Culinary Institute of West Palm Beach. Her course emphasis included business management, global cuisine, and international baking and pastries. Honna is active in the community. She has served on the Constantine Public Schools PTO Board for 3 years and was President for 2 years. She has also been a past Member at Large for the IC School Commission in Three Rivers for 2 years. Honna enjoys spending spare time on the family farm near Elkhart and with family, friends, and neighbors on the lake. She has a commitment to the township where she is raising her two daughters. She is passionate about fairness and efficiency. She will focus on enhancing the township, making it an inviting environment for businesses and residents. Honna would consider it a privilege to serve her neighbors as Porter Township Clerk.



**Tom Lutz**  
**A candidate for Porter Township Treasurer**  
Owner and President of Barromean Rings, a Michigan Corporation.  
Owner and Driver of a Motorsports Team  
35 year Management Career in the Recreational Vehicle Industry  
University of Illinois - Criminal Justice  
Home Owner and full time family resident in Porter Township since 1981  
First family home on Baldwin Lake 1963  
Founder and 3 time President of Long and Coverdale Lake Association  
Current President of Long and Coverdale Lake Association  
Military Service - Vietnam  
Army Sergeant, Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Center Sniper Course Graduate



# — Barker Kids of the Week —



**Congratulations and KOTW honors to Aurora Jade Trudell, daughter of Jared and Brittany and granddaughter of Amy and Mike Lutz (north shore). Born July 10 at 2:29 am and weighing in at 7 lb, 11 oz. According to grandma, she's a perfect beauty!**



**Bad Patty and her friend Michele Barnhart from Danville Indiana enjoying Birch Lake ... Maybe enjoying it a little too much?**

*MH*  
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**Pat & Tessa McGann, Birch Lake Residents, Eastside**

## **Elect Steve Northrup**

For Porter Township Supervisor



VOTE Aug. 2 to ELECT

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- **SERVING THE PUBLIC** of Cass County for over 40 years.
- **8 Yrs as Porter Trustee** serving the residents of Porter Township.
- **32 Yrs Experience** with the Cass County Road Commission.
- **Trained And Experienced** to work with County and State agencies.
- **Problem Solving Skills** to negotiate issues on behalf of all residents.
- **Accountable** and courteous to every township resident.
- **Accessible and Available** to listen and consider all views and opinions.

Steve Northrup  
 Ph# 269-476-1275  
 13562 Harvey Street

I am a lifelong resident of Cass County and my family still resides in this area. I moved to Porter Township with my wife Christine in 2002. I retired after 32 years of service with the Cass County Road Commission and then spent 6 years with Great Lakes Chloride in Michigan Sales.

My two terms as Porter Township Trustee have afforded me the opportunity to address many issues which affected the lives of our residents which included the negotiation of contracts to secure safe and affordable services needed while maintaining a balanced budget.

I created a long-term plan to upgrade all township roads used by our residents. This plan includes directing the dust control, gravel maintenance, and securing cost-effective long-term maintenance for our paved roads.

I have also served as liaison to the SEPSA board and as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and have gained extensive knowledge regarding the importance of careful study before making any decisions affecting all township residents.

As a Veteran and life member of the Post #4054 Veterans of Foreign Wars, I promise to uphold and protect those rights and freedoms guaranteed to each of our citizens of Porter Township, State of Michigan, in these United States of America.

- Keep us moving in a **Good Direction.**
- Elect an experienced **Public Servant.**
- Elect a leader you can **TRUST.**

**Elect Steve Northrup**

*Paid for by the Committee to Elect Steve Northrup*

# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Four generations of Como's in this picture: Melanie Como, age 76, Paige Como, age 47, Abigail Como-Wolf age 24, and newest member of the clan, grandson Bastian Como-Richardson, age 5 weeks

## KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

Send your kid-of-the-week to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (east side), or email to me at [SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM](mailto:SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM)



Jazmine, Max, and Sydney, grandchildren of Bill and Carol Myers, east side.



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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Everett, grandson of Bernie and Blair Garceau, is ready to take a swim in Birch Lake.



That's Mr. Bob King (north shore) tellin' tales ...

Photo by *Chuck Horn*

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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



"A woman and her dog Chillaxin." Michelle Seyforth (north shore) on a paddleboard with her pup.

Thanks to **Pat McGann** for the pic

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is seldom  
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# STU'S STAR STUFF



## Getting ahead of the game

**M**y track record has shown that I seem to have a propensity to inform you about star stuff after the fact. Today I'm getting ahead of the game.

Like the Eta Aquarids in May, the Delta Aquarid meteor shower in July favors the Southern Hemisphere and tropical latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere. The meteors appear to radiate from near the star Skat or Delta in the constellation Aquarius, the Water Bearer, and can still be seen in the late night sky here at the lake.

The maximum hourly rate can reach 15-20 meteors in a dark sky. The nominal peak is around a week from now, July 27-30, but, unlike many meteor showers, the Delta Aquarids lack a very definite peak. Instead, these medium-speed meteors ramble along fairly steadily throughout late July and early August. An hour or two before dawn usually presents the most favorable view. At the shower's peak in late July, the rather faint Delta Aquarid meteors will have to somewhat contend with the light of a waning crescent moon. But the moon turns new in early August, enabling you to view some Delta Aquarids after the peak date.

In August, around the 12th, before dawn, the Perseid meteor shower is perhaps the best meteor shower of the year for us here at the lake. Sadly, the rather bright waxing gibbous moon, staying out until after midnight, will obtrude on this year's shower, especially in the earlier evening hours. Your best bet is to watch after moonset and before dawn August 12.

The Perseid shower builds gradually to a peak, often producing 50 to 100 meteors per hour in a dark sky at the peak, and, for us at Birch Lake, this shower comes when the weather is warm. The Perseids tend to strengthen

in number as late night deepens into midnight, and typically produce the most meteors in the wee hours before dawn. They radiate from a point in the constellation Perseus, the Hero, but as with all meteor shower radiant points, you don't really need to know where to find Perseus to watch the show; because the meteors can appear in all parts of the sky. They are typically fast and bright meteors. They frequently leave persistent trails.

Every year, you can look for the Perseids to peak around August 10-13. The predicted peak morning in 2016 is August 12. The Perseids combine with the Delta Aquarid shower to produce a dazzling display of shooting stars on what are, for us Birch Lakers, warm summer nights.

In 2016, as always, the Perseid meteors will be building to a peak from early August until the peak nights; afterwards, they drop off fairly rapidly. Despite the waxing gibbous moon interfering with the show, the Perseid meteor shower should still put on a good show.

For maximum results, watch after moonset and before dawn August 11, 12 and 13. And, if there are clouds, I'll gladly refund your price of admission to the show.

Don't say I didn't tell you in advance. Get out there and check it out. No charge.

~*Stu Spratt*  
Celebrating more than 52 Years at Birch Lake

### The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)

**Illuminated Fraction: 0.923**  
**2.7 days until full moon**



**Sunrise: 6:23**

**Sunset: 21:16**

**Moonrise: 19:18**

**Moonset: 4:27**

**Day length: 14h 53m**

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# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** Lots of influences happening now! Primarily, you are focused on home, family and your private life. Many of you are wading through home repairs, renovations and redecorating projects. Grab opportunities to enjoy sports events, playful times with children, the theatre, and fun schmoozing with friends.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Even though your pace is busy, you enjoy meeting new faces and see new places. Be careful because there is an accident-prone quality hovering around you, which means you have to be mindful and think before you speak or do anything. Be patient with partners and close friends.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** Unexpected news that impacts your financial situation might occur this week. The maddening thing about surprises and anything that is unexpected is you never know if it's positive or negative! In other words, it could be good news, it could be bad news. To be on the safe side, guard your possessions against loss or theft. Keep your eyes open and stay on top of your money scene.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** Something will disrupt your world this week. It could be minor; it could be major. Machinery, or an appliance, or a car might break down. You might have a family argument. Relationships might break up because someone wants more freedom. Guard against impulsive behavior. Your financial opportunities look good; plus you have lots of opportunities for fun and socializing. Be alert! (The world needs more lerts.)

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** This week fair Venus moves into your sign to stay until August 5. The next time it enters your sign will be a year from now. This means you have a chance to benefit from it for the next four weeks. For starters, this is a great window to buy wardrobe items because you will like what you see in the mirror.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** A friend might surprise you this week. Or the surprise could come from a group of which you are a member. Alternatively, you might meet a real character who impacts your life in an unexpected way. Meanwhile, secret love affairs are happening for many of you.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** This week, some of you might get fired. Be diplomatic when talking to authority figures and resist the urge to mouth off because you might regret it. This warning is to let you know you could be on thin ice. Meanwhile, relations with friends and groups are dandy! And you find it easy to work hard to earn money, even though - let's face it - you're spending a lot.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Be careful if you are traveling this week because it is an accident-prone time for you, in addition to which travel plans will be changed, canceled or rescheduled. Expect detours and speed bumps! Note: Whatever happens that is unexpected will also teach you something new and exciting. Others will approach you now for your advice about how to make something more attractive or look good. Physical exercise will benefit you now - trust me.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Travel for pleasure beckons in the next three weeks. If you can get out of town, you will love exploring new places and meeting new faces. The only snag is that something to do with shared property, loans, debt and the property and resources of others might suddenly change, which means you won't have the resources to travel or the free place to stay.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Partnerships and close friendships are unpredictable this week. A relationship might suddenly end. This is the classic time for someone to demand more space or more freedom. But I think that mostly, this will not be the case because when it comes to shared property and benefiting from the wealth of others.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Something unexpected will impact your work or your job this week. In extreme cases, you will quit. Others might have to deal with technology - either breaking down or the arrival of new, confounding high-tech equipment. Coworkers might be feisty and independent. It might even be something related to your health. Because your ambition is so aroused now, you are intent about going after what you want.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** This week is an accident-prone time for your kids, which means you must be vigilant. Know where they are at all times and make sure they are free from hazardous situations as well as you can, because of course, it's impossible. Just be aware of this. Similarly, romantic relationships will be buffeted on rocky shores because of something unexpected.

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**Prizes awarded at dinner**

**Donations of door & team prizes needed\***

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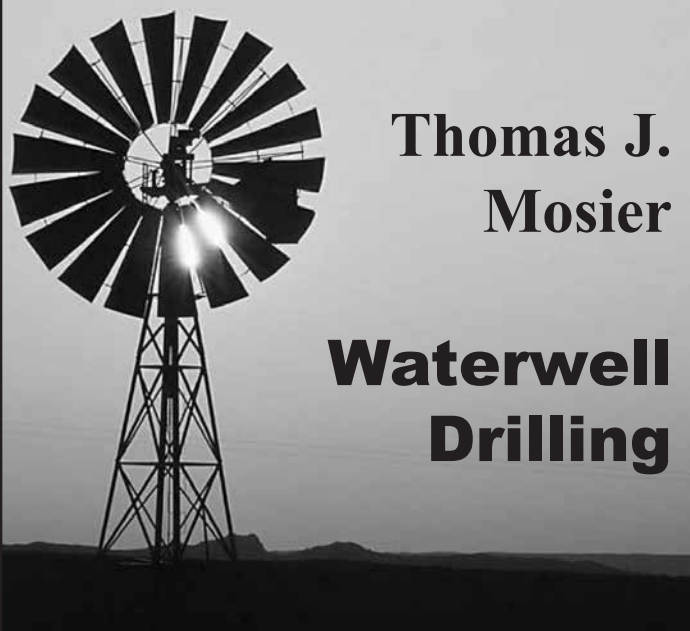
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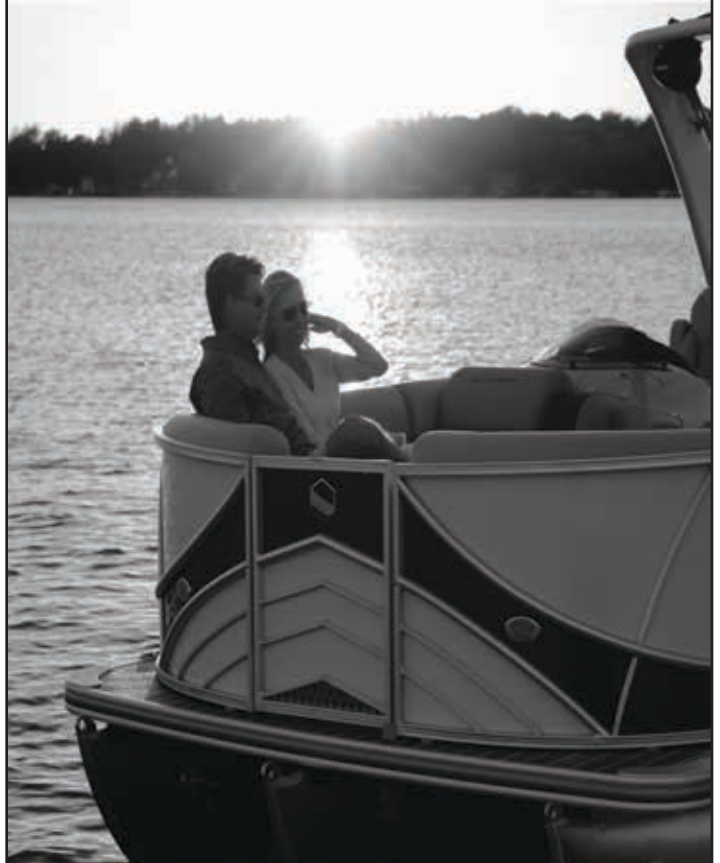
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# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



*Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge*

## Oven-Roasted Asparagus

**“Salty and savory, the roasting method kills the natural bitterness of asparagus. Try it with grilled fish or lamb.”**

Original recipe yields 4 servings

### Ingredients:

- 1 bunch thin asparagus spears, trimmed
- 1 1/2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese (optional)
- 1 clove garlic, minced (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice (optional)

### Directions:

1. Preheat an oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).
2. Place the asparagus into a mixing bowl, and drizzle with the olive oil. Toss to coat the spears, then sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, garlic, salt, and pepper. Arrange the asparagus onto a baking sheet in a single layer.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until just tender, 12 to 15 minutes depending on thickness.

*Sprinkle with lemon juice just before serving.*

## Birch Barker Word Search

Find each of the following words.

DISCRETE  
MOOSE  
DEMEANOR  
JUGGED  
SLOG

JOTTING  
PORTING  
DESK  
SPURN  
MINORS

STICK  
SPIRES  
SIGN  
OFFICER  
ASPIRINS

SLUGS  
TICKED  
IRON  
GENRE

M O O S I O P D J T O T S R R I N G M C O D S O D N T R K O N N R E G I  
 U J P R I D S T G C P K R S S S S T N E S R R S L T T O R I I R I S I G  
 E G R E R I O N C D O R E K T S M D R I G P I D T G S I A K N E P C E R  
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 G E F J R O P C S C G E R C R G D O R S N U E O S R E R O N R I G O T J  
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 R T A K G D S S T N R L E I S N I S S E A S T N S R I N E E O I K G E M

# — Camp Tannadoonah —

It's Hawaiian Week at camp this week, and the weather has been making it feel like we're actually in Hawaii! On Sunday night we played "Capture the Lei." Tuesday we kept the kids cool by having a Sponge War. We spread 400 sponges out all over the sports field, along with buckets of cold water, and the kids throw them at each other. Plus, they throw them at jugs to score points for their team. But mostly they just enjoy hitting their friends with the sponges!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 27th of July – that's the day we will be taking our kids Trick or Treating around the lake for Holidays Week. We have 122 campers registered that week, so there will be two groups of about 60 campers, one going towards the cove and along the west side (ending near Niezgodski's) and one going along the north shore and east side (ending near Curtis's). The campers will have to sing you a camp song or two to get treats!

These next couple weeks are super busy here at camp! We have 109 campers this week, 115 next week, 122 week 6, 111 week 7, and 113 week 8. Every week now has a wait list for overnight spots. We do still have spaces for day campers, though. We have

111 camper beds for overnight spots, but we are licensed for up to 125 campers, so we can have as many as 14 day campers per week to fill up those remaining spots. We're right at 900 total for the summer!

With this being the first really hot week of the summer, we've been talking to the staff about how we handle these very hot days, and keep the kids healthy. Usually when the temperature gets above 90 we have a mandatory swim in the afternoon to help everyone cool down.

Plus, we require that the second item at store for every kid is a bottle of water, and that they all drink at least one glass of water at meals before they can have juice or milk. And we try to plan lots of water-based evening programs, like sponge wars, or water relays, or cardboard boat races, so that we spend as much time in the lake as we possibly can.

We also have an air conditioner in the nurse's cabin, so if anyone does get overheated, they can go to the nurse's cabin to cool down. Once the heat index hits 90 we turn on the air conditioner and get that room cooled down.

This week is the first week that our CIT 3 group is here at camp. CIT 3 is a brand new program this year,

for 17 year olds who are interested in being counselors and have completed the CIT 1 and CIT 2 programs in the past. We are gradually shifting towards only hiring staff who are 18 and older, so we created a third level to the CIT program to have something for the 17 year olds who are too old to be campers to do at camp.

The CIT 3s are shadowing counselors, helping in the cabins, helping to lead activities, and getting lots of mentoring from our CIT Director, Miss Julie. Miss Julie is a former Camp Tannadoonah counselor and waterfront director, and she is now a High School English teacher in Cassopolis. So she's really great at working with our older teens and teaching them the skills that they will need to be amazing counselors in the future.

We're really excited about the addition of this new program, and look forward to seeing these teens become staff members in the future. This year we have just three 17 year olds in the program, and they're all doing a great job so far! They will be here for four weeks this summer for their training.

See you all next week!

~Miss Amber



**CAMP TANNADOONAH**  
BIRCH LAKE

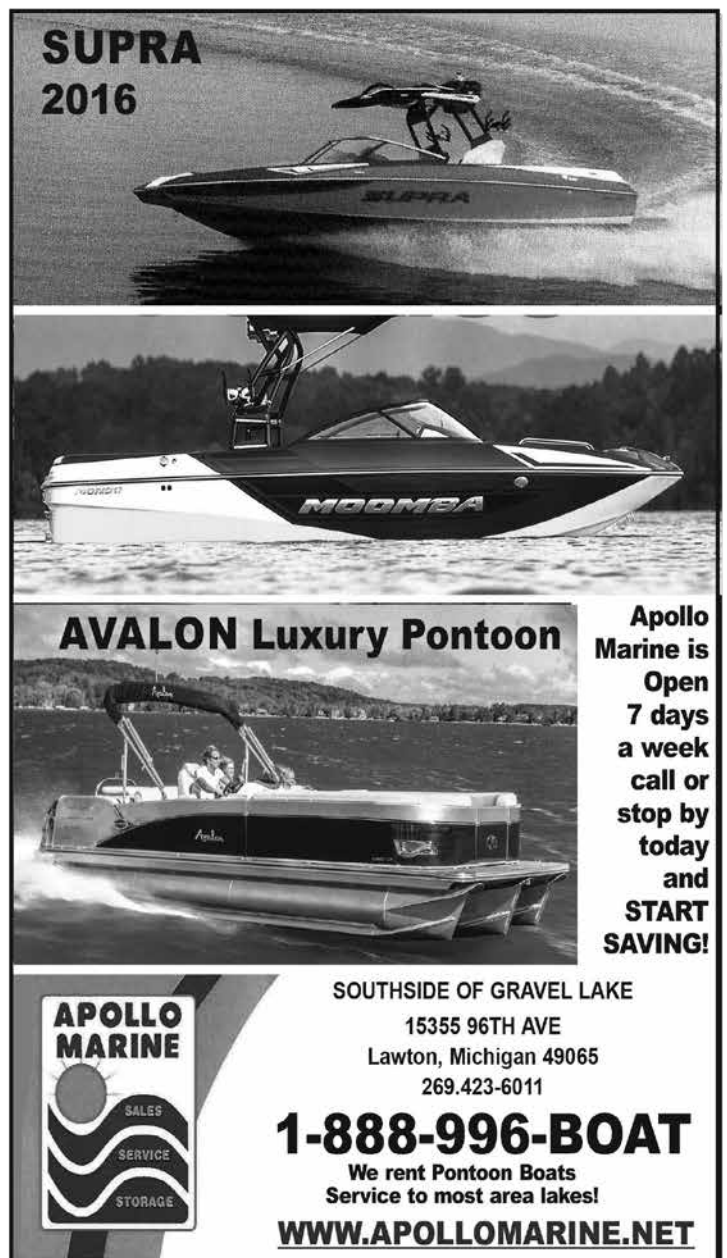
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9:30AM // 11:30AM

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# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## FOR SALE



For sale golf **caddy cart** call 476-7073

For sale **Toro self-propelled lawn mower** in great condition call 476-7073



**2006 Coachman Captiva 265.**

Like new condition.

Hardly used. Slide-out in back opens camper to 31 feet. Sleeps 8. Everything works! Great for overflow sleeping. Asking \$7995.00. Please call Bob Groszek @ 1-708-738-0088.

For Sale: **Top and complete frame from Hurricane** 196 Fun deck. Will fit any deck boat, approximately 90" wide. Like new. Asking \$400. Call Jim. 574-276-7903.

**Small boat lift**, great for motor boat, sailboat or two kayaks. \$250. Call Bud at 476-2526.

For Sale: **Shore Station**, 3,000 lb aluminum, \$200. Call 708-307-4324, Bill Odenwald.

For Sale: **Furnace/Air Conditioner**, Outdoor Unit 92,000 BTU... \$600 Call or text Bob at 574-298-2480.

For Sale: **Paddle Boat with Canopy.** Very good condition. Reduced to \$50. Call 317-752-2184 Gus Eshleman

FOR SALE: **BOAT LIFT** 3500 LB. Hewitt square aluminum tubing. Canopy with 3 year old cover. 20 foot long and 110 in. wide. Great condition. Only \$750. Tom DeCocker 476-9821.



**Birch Lake Home** for sale at 63634 Birch Rd. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms. 90 feet sandy beach front. 2.5 lots and garage across the street. Recently reduced to \$549,000. Call Judy at (269) 251-0951.

## WANTED

**WANTED SUNFISH** - I am looking for a newer Sunfish in great condition to race and teach my wife and grandkids to love sailing. Pat McGann call or text 574-532-5377, or email pat@mcgannhay.com.

Camp Tannadoonah is looking to purchase a **pickup truck**. We are hoping for an older 4x4 model for Ranger Bob to use around camp, and for picking up materials for projects. Nothing fancy! If you have a truck you're interested in selling (or donating!), please contact Amber at 574-387-6095.

Camp is also looking for a **gas-powered wood splitter**. If you have one that doesn't get much use and you're interested in selling (or donating!) it, please contact Amber at 574-387-6095.

## FOUND



**This floated up on our shore** a month ago. We are on the east side located at 63418 Birch Rd.

Found: **Styrofoam noodle (pink) and boogie board (blue)**. Call Tom Kuhn 708-772-7373/Jan Temple (847-846-8600)

## SERVICES

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices - zippers, hemming, small alterations; call Kathy at 476-9317

Jim "Bubba" Baldwin  
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## BIRCH BARKER CLASSIFIEDS

**Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to paid members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club**

Ads are \$5 per ad for non-members (please pay in advance).

To submit an ad, email it to [Sailorphil@philvitale](mailto:Sailorphil@philvitale)

**Birch Lake**  
Michigan

lat 41.9153  
long -85.8793

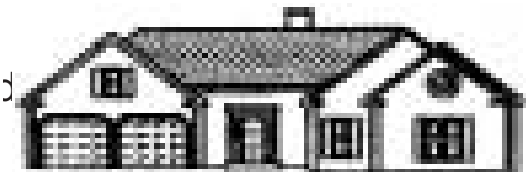
# BLYC Officers and Directors

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V Comm. Claudia Phipps.....476-7073 claudia2154@gmail.com	Harold Cranmer (W).....574-264-6817 dhcranmer@yahoo.com		PJ Vandewalle (H).....476-7086 pjvandewalle@gmail.com
Deb Spratt Treasurer (N).....476-2113 debspratt@comcast.net	Terry Dugan (S).....476-2814 s581122@aol.com		Alan Van Huffel (S).....269-244-3487 abec3@aol.com
Mike Sheffieck Secretary (W).....476-1849 mcsheff@aol.com	Celia Fallon (E).....476-1467 celia.fallon@gmail.com		Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680 sailorphil@philvitale.com
Mike Lutz Fleet Captain (N).....476-2843 mmtlconcrete@aol.com	Fred Freihofer.....476-9823 cdfreihofer@aol.com		Sandy Vitale (E).....476-1680 sandra.vitale@franciscanalliance.org
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## BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

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Support the BLYC, support our Birch Lake Community!

- \$\_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)
- \$\_\_\_ - BLYC Associate Member\* Dues (\$10 / year)  
\*Associate membership is available to current associate members  
and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC
- \$\_\_\_ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$\_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$\_\_\_ - Fireworks Fund
- \$\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program
- \$\_\_\_ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication
- \$\_\_\_ - Safety Committee
- \$\_\_\_ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$\_\_\_ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$\_\_\_ - Misc.

Total contribution:

\$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to

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