

The  
Weekend  
Of

Aug. 18  
2018



# Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the  
**Birch Lake Yacht Club**  
Located at Latitude 41.9153; Longitude -85.8793

Elev 912ft



*Thanks to Mr. Bob (King), north side, photo of the on-lake weirdness from last weekend.*

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

The day has come for my last "Commodore Comments" and I'm feeling a little melancholy. Not because I'll miss writing a weekly article but rather because it means another summer season is nearly over. I know the calendar still shows summer and I realize that we still have several weeks left to enjoy life at the lake, but for the most part, all of the annual lake activities are complete, save for tonight's Fall Dinner, when I officially hand over the commodore duties to Angela. I hope to see a whole bunch of you at the Yacht Club tonight to welcome Angela as Commodore and learn who the new Vice Commodore is.

I'm also feeling melancholy in sharing the sad news that we lost a wonderful Birch Laker last Friday (August 10th), when Carol Dugan passed away.

I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to share many of Carol's wonderful Birch Lake nature photos at the Spring Dinner this year...what a talent she had at capturing the beauty of Birch. I know I speak on behalf of many when I say she will be missed. Our thoughts are with Terry and their family.

I am disappointed to report that we are down in BLYC membership this year from last year. I guess I was naive in thinking people would rise to my challenge from a couple of weeks ago and take pity on my pleadings. Maybe there was hope that I'd shut up about BLYC membership dues and/or donations for our worthwhile funds. Sorry – I'm still at it! We currently have 114 members, which is down from 123 last year. While we're only 9 less than last year, I think it's a very low number and a very disappointing number – considering the membership is a relatively low fee of \$35.00. I had truly hoped we'd have a banner year for memberships.

## 2018

### Birch Lake Calendar

Aug 18 - Fall Dinner 6 pm, BLYC

Aug 25 - All Sunfish regatta, 11 am

TBA- Soup/Chili Challenge

Sept 1 - Pooch Parade

Sept 2 - Sunday Night Flotilla, 6 pm

### 2018 BLYC Board Meetings

Sept – TBA, 9 am

During my term as Commodore, I learned that we have a lot of people here at Birch Lake who like to pontificate. I had the opportunity to listen to the opinions of many Birch Lakers – some positive and some negative. I'm taking this final opportunity to once again stress that we are a community. We all have our love of the lake in common. The one thing I heard from many different people at different spots around the lake that frustrated me as Commodore, and

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. **Deadline is 3 pm on Tuesday.** E-mail sailorphil@philvital.com, or put the items in the stone/mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos or other material returned. To contact Editor Phil by phone, call (269) 476-1680, or to contact Commodore Karen Curtis-Miller, call 574-261-6712 or email karen.curtis-miller@bayer.com.

# — Birch Lake Notes —

will continue to frustrate me as a member of this community, was “they” statements. As in “they” are the reason we don’t (fill in the blank), or “they” are always (fill in the blank). If each of us considers our fellow lake residents as “they” rather than “us,” how do we ever become a community? I would love to have Birch Lake be one small place where we strive to be all about “US” or “WE” rather than “THEY” or “THEM. Let’s strive for a spirit of unity. Let’s all get on board and do what’s best for our lake community!

Of course by now (if you’ve read any of my other articles), you know I have a song running through my head. This time it’s “People, get ready / There’s a train a-coming / You don’t need no ticket / You just get on board.” That’s it, I’m off my soapbox...thanks for hearing me out.

In addition to listening to various opinions, I have been the receiver of many a suggestion! At the Directors’ meeting last Saturday, we discussed the suggestion of using various payment methods to make it easier to pay dues, contribute to causes and buy tickets to various events (Square, Venmo, Paypal, etc.). We heard you and we’re looking into it! Watch for more details/info under Angela’s commodoreship. Another topic that was discussed was having more fundraising events.

One possibility being discussed is having a Poker Run next year. Bad Patty Luecht has volunteered to do some investigating into pulling off a successful Poker Run, and while she is willing to be part of a committee she does not wish to run the event! If you are interested in chairing or being part of this committee, please get in touch with Patty.

If you have an idea for an event or a fundraiser, please let one of the Directors (listed in the Barker) know, or you might think about attending the next board meeting and get your idea on the agenda. But remember, coming up with an idea isn’t the end ... we need a chair/co-chairs or a committee to put it all together and run with it. If you’re interested in lending a hand for any BLYC activity, please reach out! I’ve heard people complain that we do the same things every year. My suggestion is stop complaining and do something to change it!

Staying in the fund raiser mode, I still have Birch Lake cups and t-shirts available. The proceeds go to the AED fund. There are a few short sleeve T’s left and many long sleeve T’s (in both gray and white) which you’re going to want as part of your wardrobe for the cooler days that are coming! There aren’t many smaller sizes left – but there are Large and X-Large – perfect for layering!



***New Birch Laker Chris Schmidt (east side) , a firefighter and paramedic in South Bend, conducted training in CPR after a demonstration of the newly installed AEDs last weekend at the yacht club.***

We had about 35 people at the AED demonstration last Saturday and I hope they feel more comfortable in knowing what to do in the event of someone experiencing a cardiac arrest while at the lake. For those that couldn’t attend, I’d like to say don’t be afraid or nervous should you need to provide help. The AEDs we are equipped with are amazingly simple – the machine talks you

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# Birch Lake Notes

through every step of the process and does it at your pace so you're not struggling to remember step 2 while it is already talking about on step 4. As I've said before, I hope we never have to use the machines, but I feel much more confident in our ability to provide assistance while waiting for emergency personnel to arrive. Thank you to our newest Birch Laker, Chris Schmidt, for providing CPR training in conjunction with the AED demo.

With Labor Day quickly approaching, don't forget that we have the Pooch Parade on Saturday, Sept. 1, and The Flotilla on Sunday, Sept. 2. Pack your beverage of choice and an appetizer to share and meet in the middle where a boat tie-ups going on. It's a fun way to mingle! Watch for additional details for both of these events in the Barker.

Thanks to everyone on the lake for allowing me to be a little part of Birch Lake history in serving as Commodore this past year. I love having my own little spot of heaven here ... it truly is my happy place. Every time I come down the hill and see the beautiful shades of blue and green in the water, I experience a feeling of peace and contentment. I often sit on my pier and just take it all in ... and I try not to take it for granted. I know I'm not the only one who feels this serenity and bliss. I enjoyed sharing the lake with a lot of

out-of-state visitors last weekend (thank you, Tim Burchell and Keith Kinzler for throwing me "Farewell Commodore" parties on Friday and Saturday!). The overall feeling that they expressed to me was how this is such a special place – the views, the area, the activities, the people. I got exactly what they were saying and was delighted to know they felt it, too. I am beyond lucky, as are all of my fellow Birch Lakers. Let's remember that. Cheers to all of you!

*~Commodore Karen*

## **A note to the Birch Lake Community**

It is with great sadness that I report on the passing of my wife of almost 41 years, Carol Koterski Dugan. I use her middle name here as she was proud of her Polish heritage.

Carol has been ill for some time with both CLL and an autoimmune disease. This made her immunosuppressed and liable for illnesses and infections which were frequent over the last 8 years. She had a subdural hematoma in 2016 but came back driving and living in 4 months time. However, the autoimmune disease left her subject to a terrible case of pneumonia in April which then led to a continued weakening and weight loss. Eventually, this reached her respiratory system and she passed from respiratory failure at 12:34 pm this

past Friday, August 10.

By the time this appears in the Barker she will have had her visitation at Hartzler-Guthermun-Inman Funeral Home and Celebration of Life at Trinity Methodist Church in Elkhart.

Her passions were her family, and now especially her grandchildren, her friends, and her art which many of you have had a chance to enjoy. She has published 2 books and a third will be published shortly. All of her books were completed with the talent available on the lake with special thanks to Chaz Grundy. These include a memoir "Just Wanted you to Know," a photo book "Kauai in my Heart, Ever a Rainbow," and her final "Surprised by Beauty."

We have decided that to best represent her personality and wishes, any donations should be in "helping someone as a random act of kindness" or to give to the charity which touches your own heart. I thank the lake community for being her friend.

*~Terry Dugan*

## **Fall Dinner is here!**

The Fall Dinner will take place this Saturday, Aug. 18, starting at 6 pm. Please come to say farewell to Commodore Karen Curtis-Miller and show support for her outstanding job! We will begin with some delicious appetizers followed by a dinner that includes a trio of tenderloin, chicken and vegeta-

The logo for Frankie's By The Tracks features the word "FRANKIE'S" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, slanted upwards. Below it, the words "BY THE TRACKS" are written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font, also slanted upwards. The text is set against a background of a stylized, thick, grey circular swoosh that frames the text.

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# Birch Lake Notes

ble skewers with roasted potatoes and a Caprese salad. Deserts will include shortbread cookies, cupcakes and caramel apples. Dinner will be followed by a short program to reflect on this year, allow the outgoing Commodore to speak and reveal the new vice commodore.

Please bring cash, we will hold a 50/50 raffle, and funds will help pay off our firework debt from this year and go towards next years firework celebration. There will also be designated boxes at the BYLC if you want to support specific funds at the lake like Water Quality.

Please come, show your support.

Tickets are \$30/person and tickets cannot be sold at the door since this event is catered. You can also email [berganfsu@aol.com](mailto:berganfsu@aol.com) or text 561-603-5522, if you are interested in attending. **The latest date to RSVP is Friday, Aug. 17.**

~Angela Bergan

## Sunday Night Flotilla

Due to the past successful flotillas, let's do it again on Sunday Sept. 2, at 6 pm. Meet in the middle with your boat. Bring an Appetizer. Boats will be tied together, and we will walk from boat to boat sharing food and camaraderie. Look

for the boats in the middle! Adults only!

## Thanks to the AED crew

Many thanks to those who brought the AED (automated external defibrillator) devices to Birch. Having attended the Homeowners Association meeting at the Yacht Club on 08/11/18, confidence is high with these units (they are "smart," decide whether to shock the patient, and "coach" users through the simple steps to employ life-saving technology). We are fortunate our lake community is proactive for mutual benefit.

~Chrys A. Lis

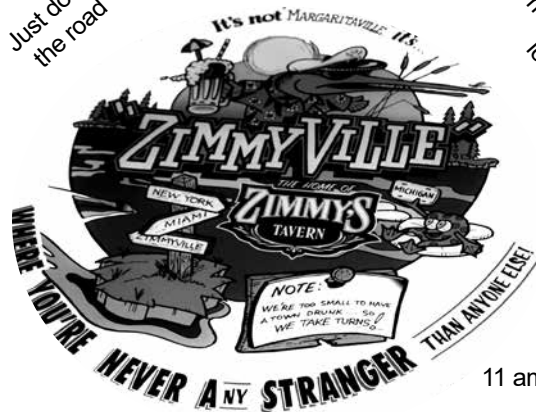
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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



## Fleet Captain's Gibe #15 by J. Patrick McGann

Sunday morning I woke up to a lake that looked like glass. Great for the water-skiers types like Stewart Spratt, Bob Baucus, but not so great for us sailors. I would like to thank Vic Jones and Phil Vitale planning to set the marks, and Bad Patty and her Committee Boat ladies, for standing by if needed.

With the outlook for sailing very poor I delayed the race until noon and decided to go attend the catholic mass at Camp Eberhart's Outdoor Chapel with the delightful Fr. Rich Conyers, CSC. It is located in a beautiful outdoors setting just off the lakeshore of Corey Lake with lots of very large old Oak and Hickory trees strewn about the benches, no kneelers (these old knees like that) and two little Brazil-Brown buildings to house the gathering, bell tower and the PA system, and new bathroom building called "The Lieu" honoring former Birch Laker and Eberhart staffer, and frequent attendee, the beautiful Anne O'Brien Abernathy, Sarah Petty's (north shore) mom who was taken from us at much too young of age. As a young summer camper it was an honor to be chosen to walk up and ring the open-

ing bell during the daily non-denominational chapel service. Last Sunday I would estimate the congregation at about 120, mostly from area lakes, with a good number of families from Birch Lake in attendance. A gentle breeze began to rustle through the reeds in the shallows and the tree tops, it was very peaceful and serene, then a small airplane loudly buzzed the lake, a float plane! I remember seeing a float plane land on the water to visit a cottage on the lake when I was a camper and staff member at Eberhart. That is where I learned to sail, obviously they did not teach me how to WIN every sailboat race like Scott Troeger, Barb Cassady, Pete Soldato or even Rick Russwurm. Just after communion when everyone sat quietly, meditating, the silence was pierced by a flock of four or five geese that flew over the chapel just above the treetops honking as they were getting ready to land on the lake between the chapel and the camp's private island. It was such a beautiful setting to worship in, I felt compelled to share the experience in my article, since I knew I would not have much sailing to report about. Mass is held at 10 am on summer Sundays, Memorial Day through Labor Day. I have rescheduled the Special All



Sunfish Class race(s) to Saturday, Aug. 25, at 11am or noon, depending on the wind. Watch for the big yellow buoys to go out. If they do we will be racing an hour later. Lets get lots of Sunfish out there. Call/text me if you want to sail but don't have a boat or if you have a boat and would like someone else to sail it for you. Please Become a member of the BLYC. "Its for the good of our lake!" If you don't know if you have already paid your 2018 dues or not, shoot Deb Spratt a text or call at 574-276-8783 to find out. Sail on Dudes and Dudettes ~JPM

## No NEW Sailing Results this week (since we didn't sail last Sunday)

### 2018 BLYC Season Sailing Results

	Race			Race	Fleet	Total	Point
Race	21	22	23	Total	Point	Captain's	Points
Date	5-Aug	5-Aug	5-Aug	Points	Average	Bonus	w/bonus

MC Scow							
Barb Cassady #2506	1	1	1	27864	1548.00	1521	29385
Scott Troeger #1489	4	2	2	32354	1540.67	1600	33954
Phil Vitale #500	2	3	4	26008	1444.89	1444	27452
Bill Luecht #1579	3	4	3	26765	1408.68	1369	28134
Bob King #1199				9962	1423.14		9962

Sunfish							
Peter Soldato	2	2	2	33723	1532.86	2969	36692
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	1	30377	1518.85	2890	33267
Pat McGann	3	6	4	32459	1411.26	3121	35580
Herb Cleveland	5	5	5	30284	1316.70	2888	33172
Bob Niezgodski		4	6	15967	1228.23	2592	18559
Stewart Spratt	4	3	3	21865	1366.56		21865
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)				16381	1365.08		16381
Jeff Walls				20366	1198.00	2450	22816
Amy Troeger				7504	1250.67		7504
Bill Butler	6	8	8	9625	1203.13		9625
Chris Scofield				3474	1158.00		3474
Camille Butler	7	7	7	16623	1108.20		16623
Stephen (Cam's brother-in-law)				1089	1089.00		1089

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season; 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); DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed; DNF (Did Not Finish), scored as last place; 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.

# — Birch Lake Decor —

## New Barker feature

Thanks to Dan and Sharon Waxman for the Lake Decor this week.



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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Left: Thanks to Bob King (north side) who sent in the photo of a bunch of northside kids getting "kid dragged" on those big orange balloons by the Sandlers (north side)*

*Right: Visiting the Wee Wood cottage this past week from the Charlotte, NC area was the 4th generation Birch lake Caene-peel clan include Jason, Jen, Dylan and Jack. The water was warm and the weather great!*



*Above: Seriously cute hammock Petty kids hamming it up at Birch Lake.*



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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Left: Bruce Wagner (Cove) professional pro bono bartender - specializing in parties for the ladies.*



*Above: Questionable Patti Russwurm (north shore) trying to take a photo at Zimmy's last week without realizing the phone/camera was turned around backwards.*

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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Left: I'm 2 and there's nothing you can do about it, according to Aurorable Trudell, granddaughter of Mike & Amy Lutz (north side)*



*Above: Hayleigh and friend Natalie enjoying tubing at Birch. Hayleigh is great-great-niece of John and Lois Groszek (south side).*

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# — Barker Critters of the Week —



*Thanks to Rita Tudor (west side) for sending in the turkeys ... Rita says they have been regular lake visitors this summer.*

## KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

*So far this year I've printed EVERY photo that's been sent in as a Barker kid-of-the-week ...*

*but we're always accepting more!*

*Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be Lawn-mower of the Week?*

*Mail your photo (with a SASE if you want it back) 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 (even easier) email them to me at*

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# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** - The curious thing about this Mercury retrograde is how it managed to stir up old flames from the past – even fantasy flirtations that no one knew about. Plans for vacations and creative projects will start to take shape. Throughout all this, remember that you still stand to benefit from the wealth and resources of others, which means you can get a loan or a mortgage, and your partner might get a raise or a bonus.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** - Many events related to home, family and your private life will finally culminate at the end of this week. It's a hiatus of sorts. After those six days, it slowly starts to move forward as it makes up for lost time. Everything to do with home, family and your private life will be kick started in a new direction!

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** - This particular Mercury retrograde takes place in your Third House, which is your "home" if you will. This is why life has been so maddening! It's made you think you're losing it - but you're not. Mixed-up communications, misplaced items, confusion and delays, as well as transportation problems (Oy!) have been the name of the game for weeks now, and finally, by Saturday, this will stop. (For the most part.) Meanwhile, Venus invites you to party and enjoy sports events, vacations, romantic adventures, new love and playful times with children. Yay!

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** - Currently, there are two planets that are retrograde in your House of Marriage and Partnerships, which means you are hearing from friends, partners and ex-spouses you have not talked to for a while. Some of you are once again forced to deal with something that annoyed or troubled you. ("I thought this was history?") Meanwhile, back at the bank, retrograde Mercury continues to cause confusion to financial matters and earnings. Check's in the mail will be late. However, this is a good time to wrap up old financial matters and discussions about wages.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** - This dreadful Mercury retrograde is over at the end of this week. Admittedly, we will be in the shadow of Mercury retrograde so we are not truly in the clear until then. But I assure you, once its "backwards" motion stops on Saturday, all the insanity in your life will get immeasurably better. This is a lovely week to schmooze and enjoy the company of others. Be good to yourself! (Send out for dark chocolate.)

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - Lots of unusual, even weird stuff is going on lately. Difficulties and challenges with kids, vacation plans and old flames are part of the picture. On the upside, you might be able to explore previous chances to get training and education or a previous opportunity to travel. This time it looks viable. Likewise, retrograde Mercury will actually help you do research and find solutions to old problems or answers that you might be looking for. You win some, you lose some.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** - You continue to be diplomatic and charming. Once again, this is another lovely week to buy wardrobe treasures. There might be unexpected changes to negotiations regarding inheritances, shared property, taxes, debt and insurance issues. Think about your future goals. Focus on immediate, short-term objectives. (It can be mind-boggling to think too far down the road.)

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** - Your everyday world has been in turmoil for some time now , and this turmoil has not been casual! It came into your life because of major events that you could not avoid and were forced to deal with. However, you have been successful in juggling what you had to face because lucky Jupiter is in your sign giving you divine protection. Be grateful for this. Something surprising and unexpected will bring a change to your partnerships. All of this sets the tone for job changes and possible residential moves in the future.

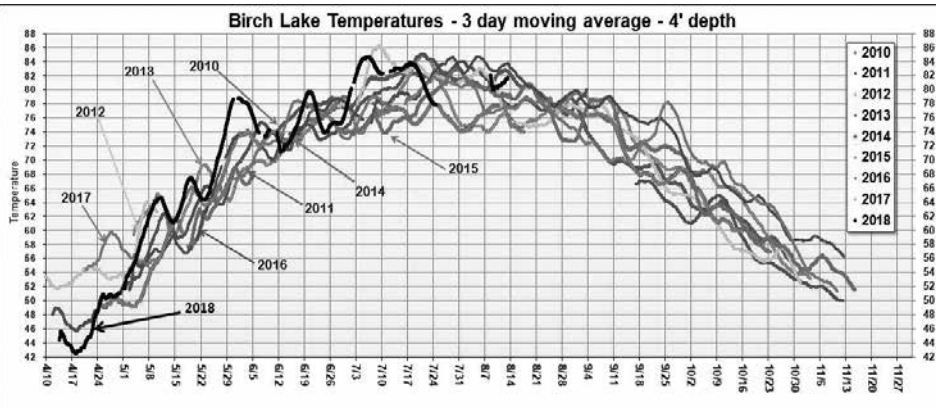
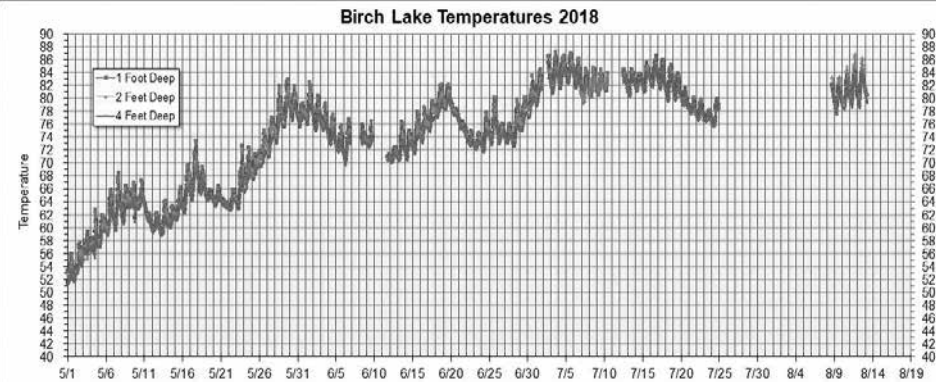
**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - Your urge to travel is still strong! Unfortunately, this is also where retrograde Mercury creates delays - not only to travel but to higher education, publishing, the media, medicine and the law. Fortunately, some can use this influence to finish ongoing projects. Friendships are warm, especially with creative, artistic people. Serious issues have recently created hiccups to your earnings and your assets. This has been something you had to face - but it was no fun.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** - "Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right" -- encapsulates what you've been feeling because there's been no escape from frustrations. Old business regarding inheritances, shared property and insurance issues is still dragging on, but at least, getting completed. Actually, some of this confusion is because you are heading in a new direction. Fortunately, fair Venus is at the top of your chart smoothing relations with bosses, parents and VIPs. Friendships are rewarding.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** - Your ruler Uranus has just gone retrograde until January. This might stir things up creating unpredictable situations at home, within your family and also regarding real estate. Other areas that are a bit tenuous and unpredictable are hidden, bringing you in contact with ex-partners and old friends from the past. Grab opportunities to travel for pleasure

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** - Your work routine has been erratic since July. This has been discouraging for many of you. Fear not because by September, things will return to normal and you will feel once again feel a reliable rhythm in your job and your everyday tasks. Meanwhile, some unexpected events have impacted friendships or your interaction with a group. Possible dissension or competition might be a challenge. Focus on opportunities that do exist for travel, further education plus exploring avenues in publishing, the media, medicine and the law.

# Birch Lake Environmental Data



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

## The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.590  
1.0 days since first quarter



Sunrise: 06:52:30 AM

Sunset: 20:39:09 PM

Moonrise: 14:55:06 PM

Moonset: 00:34:52 AM

Daylight: 13 Hr 46 Min 38 Sec



# — Barker Weekly Puzzle —



## ENVIRONMENT WORD SEARCH



N	N	F	P	O	C	M	A	Y	E
I	P	L	A	N	E	T	U	W	N
A	B	J	P	L	A	N	T	S	V
C	T	J	U	T	M	W	S	A	I
C	E	M	E	G	G	N	Q	N	R
L	X	C	O	A	Y	V	Z	I	O
L	I	R	O	S	R	W	M	M	N
A	U	F	B	L	P	T	M	A	M
S	Y	D	E	Y	O	H	H	L	E
P	R	Z	K	D	M	G	E	S	N
R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	Y	R	T
S	B	I	O	S	P	H	E	R	E

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## BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



Me: How much is the rent for this gorgeous apartment?  
"Sir, this is a liquor store."





# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



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

## Shrimp and veggie-stuffed zucchini

### Ingredients

- 1 extra large zucchini
- 1/4 cup olive oil, divided
- 6 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 1/2 pound large shrimp - shelled, deveined, and cut in half
- 1 large tomato - peeled, seeded and diced
- 8 cremini mushrooms, quartered
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 8 leaves fresh basil, torn
- Ground black pepper to taste
- Kosher salt to taste
- Garlic powder to taste
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided

### Directions

Preheat the oven's broiler and set the oven rack about 6 inches from the heat source. Grease a baking sheet.

Cut the zucchini in half the long way, and scoop out the seeds and pulp, leaving a thick shell of flesh. Brush both halves of the zucchini with about 1 tablespoon of olive oil, and place them, cut sides down, onto the prepared baking sheet. Bake until the zucchini are



hot and beginning to release beads of moisture, 5 to 10 minutes. Remove the zucchini from the oven.

Reduce the oven heat to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C).

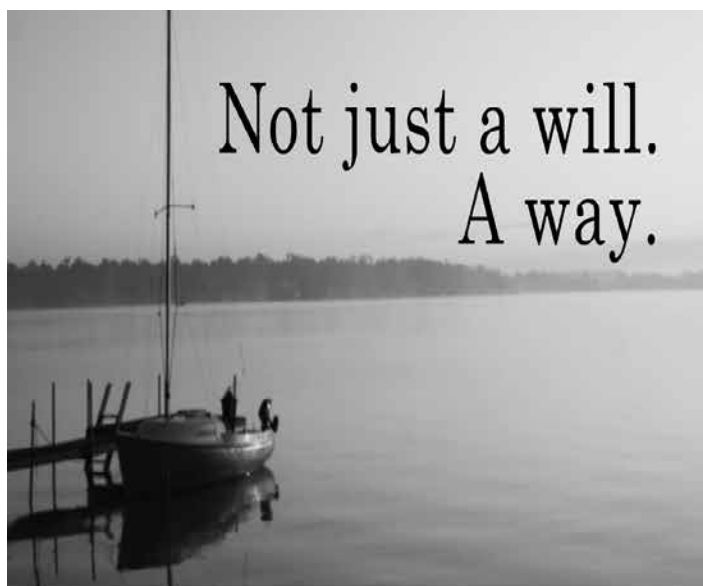
Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a skillet over medium-low heat, and cook and stir the garlic and shallot until translucent, about 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and let cool.

Place 1 tablespoon of olive oil, the shrimp, diced tomato, mushrooms, 1/4

cup of Parmesan cheese, basil, and the cooked garlic and shallot into a bowl, and stir to mix. Season to taste with black pepper, salt, and garlic powder. Stuff the mixture into the zucchini halves, and sprinkle each zucchini with about 2 tablespoons of Parmesan cheese.

Bake the stuffed zucchini in the preheated oven until the cheese is browned and the filling is cooked through and hot, about 20 minutes.

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# — Camp Tannadoonah —

## Summer's over ... moving on to fall!

**W**e've wrapped up camp for the summer, and now it's on to fall!

I think I've mentioned before that our staff at Camp Fire has been growing. We now have five full-time, year-round staff members! Just two and a half years ago, I was the only full-time, year-round person. So I'd like to introduce our year-round staff team! All of us will be working in the brand new Welcome Center throughout the year, and most of us will also spend some time out at our after school programs.

Our executive director is Amber Grundy, Ph.D. (that's me – and I think most everyone on the lake knows me!). I've been involved with Camp Tannadoonah since 1985 when I started as a day camper. I grew up in the cove, in the house that now belongs to the Kellys. I was a camper at Tannadoonah for 11 summers, and then joined the staff in 1996 as a summer staff member (first as the dishwasher, then a cabin counselor and lifeguard, then the waterfront director). I served on the board of directors for a brief period while I was in graduate school, and then became the camp director in 2006. My graduate degree is in developmental psychology, with a focus on middle childhood and early adolescence. In 2011, I took on the role of executive director, in addition to being the camp director. Last year, the board separated the two positions, and I'm just

the executive director now.

Michelle Hartwig, M.S., is our Program Director. She was hired in 2016 as the assistant camp director, and program director for our year-round programming. Last year she was promoted to the position of program director, which encompasses both the camp director and after school program director positions. Michelle is from Monroe, MI, and has a master's degree in camp administration and leadership. She previously worked at Interlochen Academy in Traverse City, in residence life and at their summer camp programs, and has also taught elementary music. Michelle now lives at Birch Lake, renting from the Tudors on the west side.

Steve Smith is our new assistant program director. He started in June of this year, and served as the assistant camp director. This fall he will be the assistant program director for our after school programs. Steve is from Midland, Michigan. He came to Camp Fire from Northwestern Michigan College, where he was a residence hall manager. He also spent many summers working at camps, including Cheley Colorado Camps in Estes Park, CO, and Camp Echo, in Bloomington, NY. Steve has just moved into his new place at Birch Lake, renting from the Chesters on the east side.

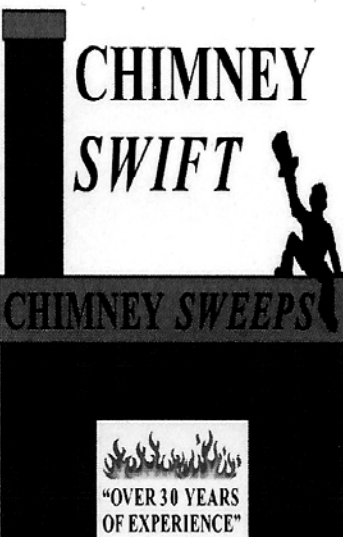
Leigh Stoffer is our customer relations manager. She started in April of

this year, and handles everything from parent questions, managing orders from the online Camp Fire store, helping at after school program, delivering camper mail each day, preparing program supplies for after school, and so much more! Leigh is from Norfolk, NE, and currently lives in the Benton Harbor area with her fiancé, Jake.

Bob Herwick is our camp ranger. He started in June of this year, replacing the previous "Ranger Bob." Bob is from Cassopolis, where he lives with his wife Julie. They have five daughters, and live on a small farm north of Cassopolis. Bob is responsible for taking care of all of our buildings, managing projects at camp, handling day-to-day repairs and maintenance, and overseeing any work we contract out. Though he has only been with us for a few months, he has accomplished a lot already! Bob has a long history with Camp T, as his wife's family has 4 generations of Tannadoonah campers! Julie is also our CIT director at camp during the summer, and one of their daughters volunteers for a week each year as camp nurse. Their grandson, Owen, attended camp this year for his 4th summer.

We are excited to keep growing and expanding Camp and Camp Fire and all of our programs!

~Miss Amber



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**For sale, 1983 Vagabond 14 sailboat.** Good condition. Sails, rudder, and centerboard stored out of the weather. No trailer. If interested call Chris Stevens (South Side) at 317-771-8531. \$750.



We are entertaining offers on a low-mileage four-seat (two pedal two coast) **Sea Ryder pedal boat.** Test rides available ... assuming you pedal. Stop by the King cottage middle of the North shore.

**Motorola Modem:** Brand new modem compatible with xfinity. Idea for a ranch with walk out. Best offer available. Contact Angela 561-603-5522.

**60x40 solid oak table** with two matching 15" leaves to make table 75 or 90 inches long. Table pads to fit complete table. Two upholstered captain chairs and four upholstered regular chairs. Call 574-215-5902 or 574-215-3339 to see it.

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**"Samantha" American Girl doll** with several outfits and accessories. \$150 for all. Contact Debbie at 219-765-8691.

**2010 - 20 foot Bennington pontoon w/50 hp Yamaha motor** for sale., \$11,000

**2009 - 10 foot RID310 Walker Bay dinghy w/performance sail package:** \$2,000

**2009 - Nissan 6 hp outboard motor** (used 3 hours): \$600

**Horizon T701 "easy store" treadmill:** \$300. Contact: PJ or Sue Vandewalle at 269-476-7086

**Green canoe** for sale. Square stern, includes paddles. Asking \$300 or best offer. Contact Chas at 574-315-0217

**Cooler totes** for sale, \$20 each, Holds 20 cans and ice. Size: 16" x 22" x 7-1/2" Long handles for easy carry. Featured at

the 2018 men's golf outing. Limited number available. Proceeds benefit Birch Lake Yacht



Club. Contact Chas at 574-315-0217 or chas@grundyhome.com

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Lost: **Black kayak paddle.** Di Wozny at 574-315-4915 Cottage #4 South Side

LOST: **white boat bumper** 20" x 6" diameter. Call 476-2642

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If you are in need of **yard work or animal care** this summer call Claire Brovold at 1(574) 323-3683.

## WANTED

**Toilet paper rolls and bottle caps** (like from Snapple bottles). Contact Amber M. Grundy, 574-387-6095 or email [amber@riverbendcampfire.org](mailto:amber@riverbendcampfire.org)

I have a friend looking for an **OLD wooden row boat**. He wants to cut the bow off for a decoration, so it does not need to float. He also collects **old wooden oars and old metal buckets**. The American Pickers TV show is coming to his house and barn this September, so he is beefing up his barn. Call or text: Pat McGann 574-532-5377.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to BLYC members, \$5 for everyone else. Send your ads to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com)

# 2018 BLYC Officers and Directors

## 2018 BLYC Officers

**Commodore: Karen Curtis-Miller**

[karen.curtis-miller@bayer.com](mailto:karen.curtis-miller@bayer.com), 574-261-6712

**Vice Commodore: Angela Bergan**

[bergansu@aol.com](mailto:bergansu@aol.com), 561-603-5522

**Deb Spratt Treasurer (N)**.....476-2113

[debspratt@comcast.net](mailto:debspratt@comcast.net)

**Mike Sheffieck Secretary (W)** .....476-1849

[mcsheff@aol.com](mailto:mcsheff@aol.com)

**Pat McGann Fleet Captain (E)**.....574-532-5377

[pat@mcgannhay.com](mailto:pat@mcgannhay.com)

## 2018 BLYC Directors

Greg Bolin (W).....476-2420

[gbolin31@aol.com](mailto:gbolin31@aol.com)

Ed Chester (E).....476-1010

[ed@chesterlawoffice.com](mailto:ed@chesterlawoffice.com)

Harold Cranmer (W).....574-264-6817

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Rick Russwurm (N).....476-2407

[paramountp@aol.com](mailto:paramountp@aol.com)

Scott Troeger (E).....476-9898

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Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680

[sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com)

Sandy Vitale (E).....476-1680

[sv6102@gmail.com](mailto:sv6102@gmail.com)

Bob Waddle (E).....476-2293

[sparkybob220@comcast.net](mailto:sparkybob220@comcast.net)

Past Comm. Sue Williams (S).....476-8886

[smwillia@comcast.net](mailto:smwillia@comcast.net)

## BLYC WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

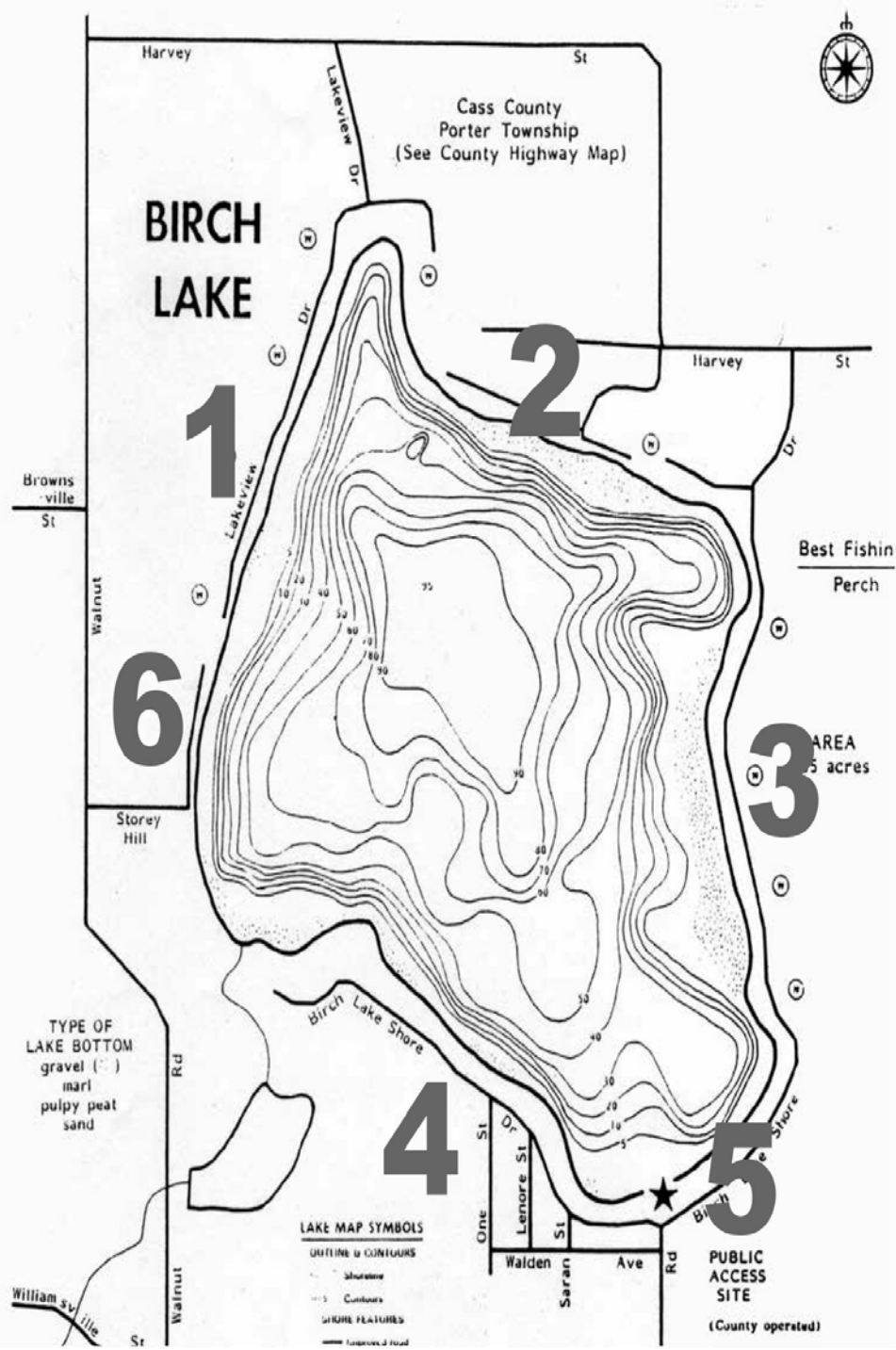
**Paul Fallon**, Water Quality and Homeowners Association Chairman (E).....476-1467  
[paulf@hrpconstruction.com](mailto:paulf@hrpconstruction.com)

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3. **East Shore**, Vitale home, 63174 Birch Rd.
4. **South Shore**, Eberhart home, 15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
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\$\_\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program

\$\_\_\_\_ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$\_\_\_\_ - Safety Committee

\$\_\_\_\_ - Other non-party related expenses

\$\_\_\_\_ - BLYC Roof Fund

**\$\_\_\_\_ - BLYC AED Fund**

\$\_\_\_\_ - Misc.

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