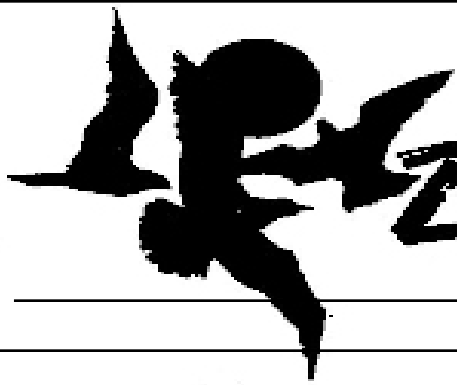


The
Weekend
Of

Memorial Day
2018

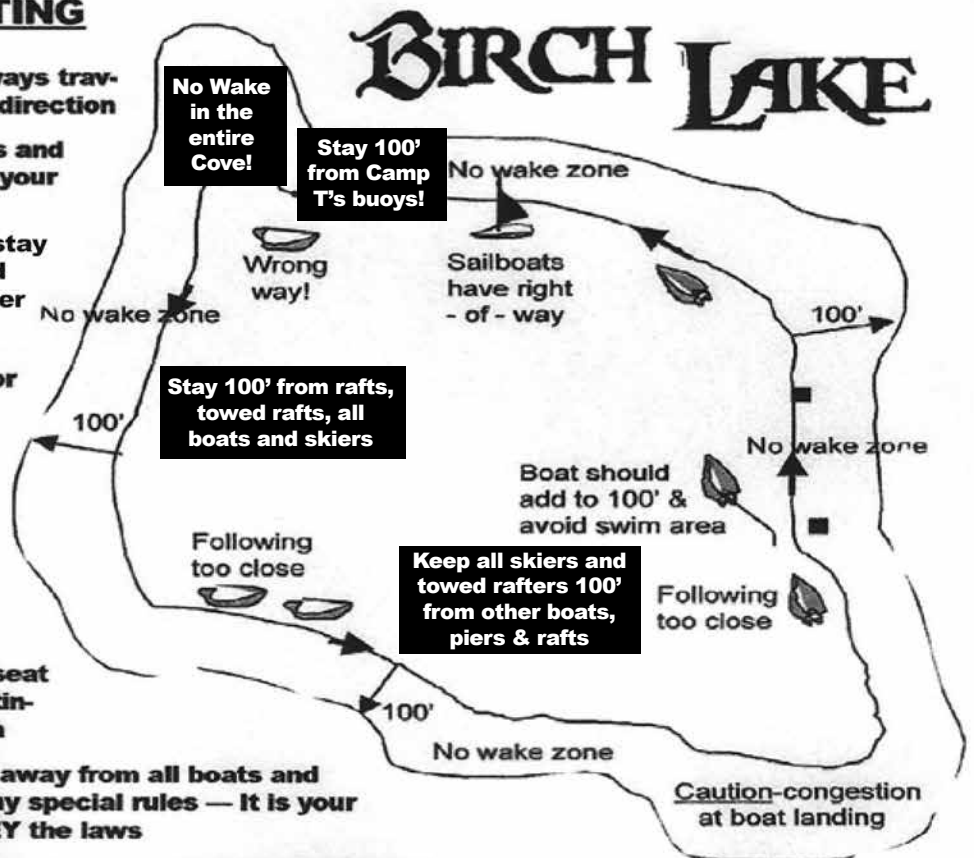


Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club

COMMON SENSE BOATING

- * No matter what your speed, always travel in a **COUNTER CLOCK-WISE** direction
- * Go **SLOW** near other boats, rafts and shore. You are responsible for your wake.
- * Take your time and give room - stay **100'** from shore, other boats and rafts when you are travelling over wake speed
- * When pulling someone on skis or a tube, you **MUST** have an observer. Watch out for other boats and be sure to add the length of your tow line to the **100'** clearance rule
- * There must be one **USCG-approved LIFE JACKET** for every person on board, as well as one throwable device (seat cushion, etc.), a horn, a fire extinguisher, and a valid registration
- * **PWCs (Jet Skis)** must stay **100'** away from all boats and other PWCs. Jet skis have many special rules — It is your responsibility to know and **OBEY** the laws
- * Be responsible for everyone on your boat — **safety is NO ACCIDENT!**



Welcome to the 2018 Birch Barker! We hope everyone had a great winter, and that everyone is ready for an even greater spring/summer! Please use common sense and caution whenever you go out onto the lake, observe all the rules and laws, and respect the rights of other boaters on our beautiful lake.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello Birch Lakers and Happy Summer of 2018! If you read any of my monthly on-line comments, you know I was not delighted with our cold winter and cold, wet spring (nor have I been thrilled with the weather the last two weekends ... boo hiss!). But I'm putting that behind me and focusing on enjoying my favorite season of all – Lake Season! I hope we see a lot of activity this “official summer kick-off” weekend with piers and boats going in, walks being taken, houses airing out, cook-outs going on and lots of merriment! Let's get busy having a fun and safe summer!

We held our first event of the season last Saturday, May 19, with 77 people taking time to mix and mingle at The Rock for the 2018 Spring Dinner. I want to thank Carol Dugan for supplying us with a selection of her wonderful Birch Lake photos – the slideshow offered a beautiful backdrop to enjoy

during the evening. I'd also like to thank BLYC Treasurer Deb Spratt for her work in organizing the RSVP's and Vice Commodore Angela Bergan for her assistance with sign-in and set up. It was nice to hear from The Rock staff that they love having Birch Lake events at their facility because they think we are a fun group! It was a great evening and truly a delightful opportunity to catch up with everyone.

Thank you to those who assisted in the Road Clean-up on May 19 – a round of applause to you for helping keep our environment clean. A big thank you goes to Ed Chester for chairing the event and getting us organized! We do this every spring, so if you missed this year's clean-up, consider being part of the crew next year. While I'm on my thank you podium, I'd also like to thank Ron Whiteman and Bob Waddle for their care with the Yacht Club. Ron got us hooked up with water, and Bob handled the chore of Spring Cleaning.

SUMMER 2018 EVENTS (these are listed in the Events section of The Barker and are subject to change, so please make sure to take a look each

2018 Birch Lake Calendar

- June 2 - Commodore/Vice Commodore Party @ BLYC
 - June 9 - Porter Twp Cleanup Day 8-Noon
 - June 10 - Celebration of Life Janet Barr (Reynolds), 11 am, BLYC
 - June 16 - Spaghetti dinner
 - June 30 - House Walk
 - July 7 - Fireworks
 - July 8 - Camp T Pancake Breakfast
 - July 20 - Ladies Golf
 - July 27 - Men's Golf
 - Aug 4 - Corn & Sausage
 - TBA- Soup/Chili Challenge
 - 2018 BLYC Board Meetings** (all meetings start at 9 am)
 - June 9, July 14, August 11, Sept – TBA
- More info as available. Dates subject to change. Watch the Barker for updates!

week).

June 2 is the Commodore/Vice-Commodore Party (next weekend)! The party starts at 5:30 and is held at the Yacht Club. Everyone is welcome. We

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 —

ask that you bring an appetizer or a sweet treat to share. Please come and enjoy camaraderie with your fellow Lakers...we're hoping for a spectacular turn-out!

June 16 is the Spaghetti Dinner at the Yacht Club, hosted by the West Side. Make sure you buy your tickets so they know how much sauce to prepare and pasta to boil!

June 30 is the House Walk. This is such a fun event and an opportunity to see some of the beautiful homes on the lake.

Fourth of July festivities will be July 7 and 8. Fireworks will be on Saturday night, July 7. Our firework show comes in at a cost of \$8,000 ... an expensive event to pull off. There is a place on the Dues/Contributions section of the Barker to provide a contribution, as well as donation buckets at various events. If the fireworks display is something you and your guests enjoy, please contribute! The Boat Parade will be at 2 Saturday afternoon. In the spirit of inventiveness and imagination, there isn't a specific theme. If you need a little help with coming up with something, suggestions include your favorite "Summer Read" or "Summer Hobby." I hope we have a long parade of boats out there this year! Since Eric and I don't have a boat to decorate, we get to wave and cheer from the pier. We love seeing all of the creative talent we have on the

lake and are hoping we see a lot of decorated boats this year. And finally, for those who don't want to make breakfast on Sunday (the 8) ... Camp T. will be hosting the traditional pancake breakfast. Yum!

July 20 and July 27 are the Birch Lake Golf Outings. Start thinking about your foursome so you're ready to sign-up once the forms come out in a future Barker!

August 4 is the Corn & Sausage Roast (my favorite event...I can't wait!)

August 18 is the Fall Dinner hosted by Vice Commodore Angela Bergan.

Whew, I think that's it...we have a lot of great things going on this summer...hope you all take the opportunity to attend the events!

GOOD NEIGHBOR / GOOD COMMUNITY

Please make sure you review the map in The Barker showing locations for AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) that have been installed around the lake. The Homeowner's Association initiated the idea and the BLYC agreed to join forces. We've moved a step forward in helping to safeguard our lake community in the event someone suffers a heart attack. With our remote location, emergency response times can be slow and we're hopeful that having access to an AED can bring peace of mind to our residents and guests. The AEDs are installed in

alarmed cabinets, so please make sure to curb your curiosity (or your kids' curiosity) and don't open to take a peek. The AEDs are simple to use, with fully automatic operation and guidance, advising the responder verbally and visually on the appropriate use. We will be having CPR training and review of operating the AEDs in the future. Please stay tuned for future articles from the AED Committee.

With all of the rain we've been receiving, the lake is high (as I'm sure you've noticed). Please be aware of this as you're boating this weekend and watch the wakes you make. If you notice high wakes are causing issues with piers or the shoreline, please consider slowing down.

Please be a responsible pet owner. This means leashing your dog when walking, ensuring they stay in their yard as walkers/joggers/bike riders go by, and picking up after them. I'm sure there are folks thinking I'm being ridiculous for writing this. Trust me; I'm dismayed that I even need to mention it. I love our lake dogs and am delighted to see them...I'm simply reminding owners to act responsibly.

We've had some turnover at the lake and would love to get new Birch Lakers a Welcome Packet. If you're a new homeowner, or if you're a neighbor of a new homeowner, please contact Sarah Petty (sarahkpetty@gmail.com)

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Birch Lake Notes

and she will make sure a packet is delivered.

I've had some inquiries about the Birch Lake Directory. Since we had new directories printed/distributed last year, we will not have a new directory for this year. Even though there won't be a new directory, you can provide your information to Deb Spratt at any time and she will keep it organized for the directory that will be printed in 2019.

Birch Lake t-shirts are for sale... stop by our cottage (East Side) to pick up one (or more!). Short sleeve t-shirts (white) are \$12.50 and long sleeve t-shirts (gray) are \$20. There are also a few white sweatshirts available (\$25), but very limited quantities. If you want other Birch Lake memorabilia, I have Birch Lake plastic cups for sale as well (\$1 each). Profits from the shirts and cups will be donated to the AED fund. I will have the shirts and cups at the Comm/Vice Comm Party on June 2, so plan accordingly!

Community is defined as 1) a unified body of individuals; 2) the people with common interests living in a particular area; 3) an interacting population of various individuals living in a common location. In the spirit of community, I'd like to encourage everyone to share your news in the Barker. Let's be 'interacting' within our community and share what's happening in our lives. It's fun to read about what everyone is up to and it's also great to see what's happening,

so send pictures as well! We're lucky to have the Barker as a means of communication in bringing our community together, so please take advantage of it.

Enjoy your weekend....and welcome back!

~Cheers! Commodore Karen

Celebration of Life

On November 10, 2017 former Birch Lake Southsider, Janet Barr (Reynolds), lost her valiant sixteen month battle with Glioblastoma, a brain cancer. She passed away peacefully in Hospice in Jupiter, Florida.

A Celebration of Her Life will take place at the Birch Lake Yacht Club on Sunday, June 10 at 11 am. A light brunch will be served. All who knew and loved her are welcome to attend.

The Birch Barker

Welcome to the first printed Birch Barker of the season. The Barker will be delivered to your Birch Lake home every weekend from now through Labor Day - FREE of charge! It will also be posted online at by following the links at <http://www.philvitale.com>.

The Barker welcomes your participation. If you would like to submit an item for consideration, email, mail or drop it by my house (see note at bottom of page 1). If you want your physical materials (photos, etc) back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you would like to advertise in the Barker,

drop me an email or give me a call (info for both at the bottom of page 1).

~Editor Phil

King family get together

Memorial Day guests: the King family hopes several of Cal's buds will be up for the Holiday (we have a long to-do list and many hands ...). Cal's GF, Elizabeth (Liz) Kramer will be visiting, having just graduated Summa Cum Laude from ONU in Pharmacy. With luck, and weather depending, Patriarch Bill King will be at the Boat House to celebrate Memorial Day. Please feel free to stop by or, wave as you go by.

Recycle fishing line

St. Joseph County parks is participating in the Berkley fishing tackle company's monofilament recycling program. Used fishing line will be accepted at St. Patrick's and Ferrettie-Baugo Creek County Parks during regular park hours. Monofilament line only - NO hooks, lures, or other debris. Any brand of line will be accepted if it is monofilament. No braided line or line that contains wire. Please place your line in a bag and hand it directly to a park staff person at the office or gatehouse.

St. Patrick's County Park is on Laurel Road, just north of Auten Road in South Bend. Ferrettie-Baugo Creek County Park is at the corner of Ash Rd. and Lincolnway in Osceola. For more information call 574-674-9765.



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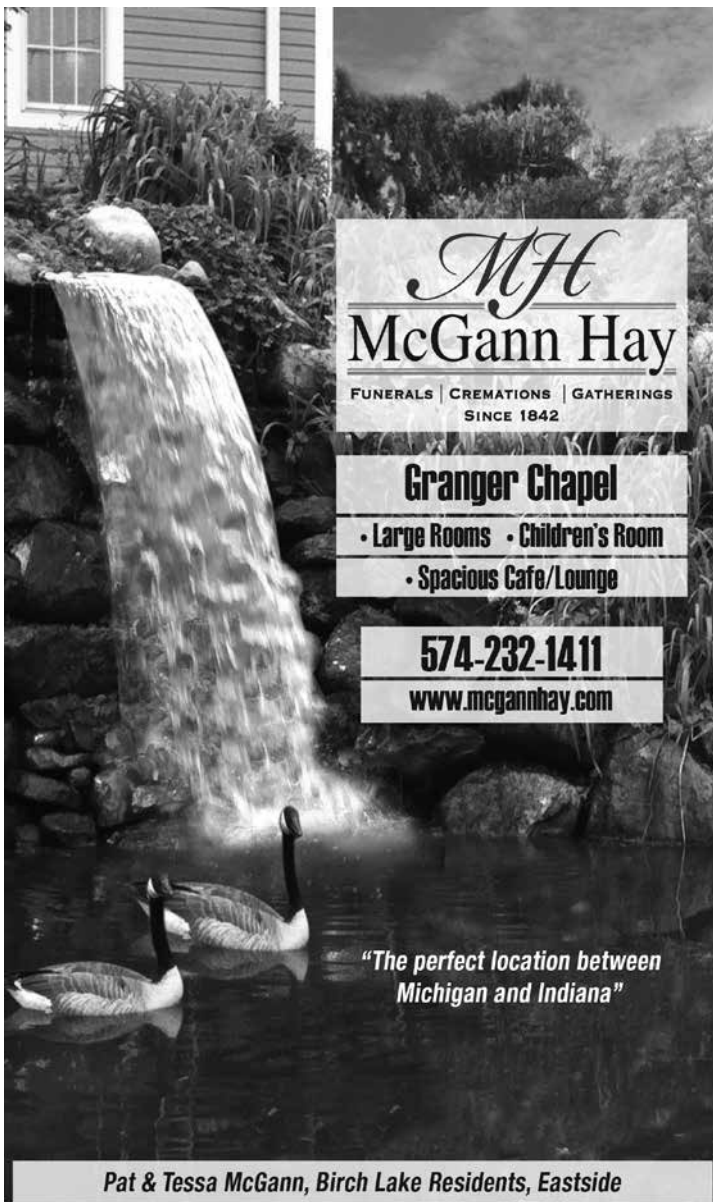
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— Birch Lake Notes —



We would like to welcome Eric & Amy Klein with their 3 daughters, Easton-14, Nia-12 and Melane-9 to the Cove. They bought our home next door. Amy is the daughter of Marc and Ilene Golden. They are very excited to enjoy the lake life here. Welcome to beautiful Birch Lake!

~Jim & Linda Bergan

On Birch Lake, boat traffic must travel **COUNTER-CLOCKWISE** at all times!

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Birch Lake Notes

Birch Lake House Walk is June 30

Welcome once again to the Birch Lake House Walk - hard to believe it has been 3 years! We are very excited to have 6 families who have graciously offered to open their homes on Saturday, June 30, from 10 am - 2 pm. As always, some charming lake cottages as well as some newly constructed and remodeled homes are included in the tour.

This year we are featuring the following homes: Petty's and Karceski's on the North side, Koscielski's in the cove, and Cassidy's, Stitz's and Seyfarth's on the East side. As always, the event is a great way to connect with old friends, make new ones, and invite your friends from off the lake as well as to see the inside of some of your favorite homes. All proceeds from the event are going for camp Tannadoonah scholarships for

underprivileged children.

As usual, the event will start at the beautiful Wozniak barn at 63016 Birch Rd, where everyone must check in to go on the tour. From there, you will walk across the street to the first home and then be whisked away by pontoon for your tour. The first boats leave at 10 am and run continuously. Please note ... the last boat tour leaves at 12:30 pm so that everyone completes the tour by 2 pm. A limited amount of parking will be available at the barn, so please carpool or walk if possible. Truly a fun day with the pontoon boats adding a special touch that make it a charming event for a great cause!

Tickets are priced the same as in years past and will be \$15 pre-sale, and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be bought



through Denny Weesner and Sue Williams on the South side, Vickie Rogers and Julie Sheffieck on the West side and Carla Chester and Linda Yoshizawa on the East side. Hope to see you there!

BLYC 58th ANNUAL Birch Lake Yacht Club

MEN'S GOLF OUTING

FOUR MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE

FRIDAY, JULY 27 2018 - \$75/MAN*

PARK SHORE GOLF CLUB

610 Park Shore Dr., Cassopolis

Shotgun start at noon

Dinner to follow at BLYC

Cocktail hour at 6 pm; Dinner at 7 pm; Winners announced and prizes awarded

***Golf prize, dinner at BLYC, Food & Drink coupons included in the price of registration**

Please submit your foursome and registration to Chas Grundy, 63250 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

Make checks payable to Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Individual registrations accepted. If you don't have a team, I can match you up.

Must have completed registrations by July 16

2018 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

Team prizes and contests

Catered dinner at BLYC included

Prizes awarded at dinner

Donations of door & team prizes needed*

*If you have access to logo or golf or lake related merchandise that could be donated, please

Contact Chas Grundy at chas@grundyhome.com

2018 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

TEAM CAPTAIN:

PLEASE PRINT NAMES

Please make checks payable to BLYC and send to Chas Grundy, 63250 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

Birch Lake Notes

Porter Township Residents—Clean Up Day!!!

June 9, 2018

8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

DONATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED!!!

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15621 Mason Street
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Accepting For Drop Off:

Refrigerator Type Appliances—\$35.00

Batteries—\$1.00

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BLYC Spring Dinner



Birch Lake Spring Dinner
photos courtesy of the
PattiCam





FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Fleet Captain's Jibe #3

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Harold Cramner for his faithful past service in placing and keeping to large marks for our Sunday races. He is retiring this year and is turning the marks over to Tom Cassidy who has generously offered to take on that job. Thanks to Tom also.

A special thanks to The Eagle Lake MC and Laser Fleets for sponsoring and inviting the BLYC sailors to their 2-day training seminar at Eagle Lake. The instructors were Ted Keller and Pete Comfort, professional sailors from Melges Boat Works in Zenda, Wisconsin, the manufacturer of many one design Scows (flat bottom) sailboats including the 16 ft. MC Scow, one of boat classes that we sail here on Birch along with the smaller 14 ft. Sunfish boat class. The larger MCs start first and do a somewhat longer course than the Sunfish boats who start three minutes after the MCs and do a shorter course. They have also invited our MC Fleet to attend our regatta the weekend of June 23 and 24. If interested contact Jack Sanderson at: skipjack999@yahoo.com.

Birch Lake sailors are in the boat prep mode and tuning their boats for the upcoming weekend racing season. I have heard that some new sailors are planning on joining the weekend races this summer and some others may not sail as much. Please encourage your young ones to crew for someone or to take up sailing themselves. To that end we are having some sailing classes this summer at the McGann's A-Frame cottage on the east side. It will be for

adults and kids on the lake who wish to learn the basics from bow to stern. Classes will start on Sunday June 24th on the next four Sunday's at 4:00-5:00pm. Please RSVP to Pat@McGannHay.com or text/call 574-532-5377

Once again our racing season will begin on Memorial Day weekend with a mini regatta Sunday May 27 and Monday May 28 with the best of three or five races. Three on Sunday and two, plus makeup(s), on Monday if needed. So, wax up those boats, fix up those lines and be ready to rock and roll. Points will double for regattas this year and count towards the season totals. If anyone needs help rigging their boat post a request for help on our Facebook page Birch Lake Lovers or contact me and I will post it. The racing season will end on Labor Day Weekend on Monday September 3, 2018 with another regatta as in the past. The Fourth of July Regatta this year will be on Saturday and Sunday (if needed) before the fourth at the urging of one of my trusted sailing consultants Sandy Vitale.

If anyone has sailboats that are not getting out in the races on the weekends and want to get them out there, let me know and we will look for sailors to get them out on the lake for the races. Especially Sunfish, because they are great training boats and fairly easy to get rigged put in and take out. We are planning one day this season that we want/hope to get ALL the Sunfish boats out there at one time, so we are all racing the same boat in a TOTALLY SUNFISH REGATTA. No MC races



that day but points will still count towards your normal fleet totals. We are hoping the MC sailors could sail some of the Sunfishes that are sitting on shore collecting spider webs. How about those people who use to sail as a kid or young adult that don't sail anymore, this would be a great event to start up again or to sail just one more time? Let me know and I'll hook you up either as a skipper or a crew. Want to get some of your kids off of screen time or off the inter tube behind the ski boat? Direct them towards sailing ... it is a good STEM related educational sport, that teaches math, engineering, science, weather, meteorology, physics, sportsmanship and competitiveness. Furthermore, it will get them mixing and socializing with other kids on the lake.

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes...
~JPM

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— Water Quality Report —

As you are probably aware, Birch Lake is a member of the Michigan Lakes and Stream Association. Through that organization we participate along with many other lakes in a testing program through the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. This is a State funded group and testing program using volunteers for each lake participating. The data collected provides a major statewide database on what is happening in Michigan's lakes as well as the yearly snapshot regarding our lake in particular. Thus, we test for phosphorous in the spring and late summer (a primary nutrient in the lake), chlorophyll on a monthly basis (an indicator of algal growth), rate of loss of dissolved oxygen in the water column (also a measure of lake productivity and ability to sustain life), and water clarity on a weekly basis. The phosphorous, chlorophyll, and water clarity measurements make up what is called our trophic index which is really a measure of the aging of the lake. Aging will occur, but we want it to occur as slowly as possible so as to maintain a body of water that is great for living on as well as playing in however we choose to do so (Swim, boat, fish, kayak, etc.).

The monitoring program also has an exotic plant watch component and a shoreline development component. We participated in the exotic plant watch a couple of years ago, but also have the lake evaluated for invasive species as part of our Eurasian milfoil program from an outside company. Currently we only have Eurasian milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, and purple loosestrife. The milfoil is treated annually and you will hear more on this later. The curly leaf pondweed has not been a problem needing

to be dealt with. Late each summer, Bruce Wagner and crew locate, and then manually pull, all the purple loosestrife along our shoreline. We are however on the watch for especially starry stonewort, an invasive in nearby lakes and very difficult to deal with, in addition to other exotics which are making their way into Michigan's waters.

We would like for you to actually to look up and read the CLMP report. This is done in an educational format and provides not only the data for 2017 but a retrospective of the last number of years for comparison. A good way to find the report is to go mymlsa.org and click on the MiCorps Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program box. From here look at featured content and go to Individual Lake Reports where you can find the information for Birch Lake in the Cass County section. You can also look up any other lake that has participated in the State of Michigan. Instead of listing a lot of facts now, let us just say that the testing program for 2017 demonstrated improved results in lower phosphorous and chlorophyll than in the previous few years. This is a great trend that we hope to see continue. Our trophic index actually places us in the oligotrophic standing, which is great. We have been borderline for the last number of years. The only sort of negative is our rather poor standing on Score the Shore which is somewhat understandable due to the level of development on the lake. We will talk about this section more in ensuing issues.

One note at this time is that the reduction in clarity of the lake as the summer ensues, is not much of a function of algal growth. Algal growth does occur, but a good deal of clarity loss is probably due



to the precipitation of calcium carbonates [marl] with the warming water. We get a grayish rather than really greenish water. Although we do not have an analysis as to why our water quality parameters are improving, we can speculate. We are an aging lake in terms of residents and use. Just look at the number of pontoon boats versus active ski etc. boats. Thus, the overall disturbance of the lake possibly has been reduced leading to less bottom upwelling and phosphorous distribution. Additionally last year was a calm storm year so less runoff from the shoreline. Thus far this year with all the rain, if anything is around the lake it will get into the lake. Please do not make runoff easier to get to the lake. Plant margins by the shoreline, pick up ashes from any burning you do on the road or near the lake. Thank you.



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



BLYC officers Secretary Mike Sheffieck, Commodore Karen Curtis-Miller and Treasurer Deb Spratt.

Barker Kid of the Week honors to John and Tammy DeCloedt, Millie Zelasko and Sue and Bob Waddle at their "Yearly night out in Jupiter, Florida."
photo submitted by John DeCloedt

w submitted by Claudia Phipps

KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Dog of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be Lawnmower of the Week? Just mail your photo (with a SASE if you want them 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 email them to me at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Congratulations to our granddaughter Aley Vitale-Richards, who just found out she made the cut to be on the advanced gymnastics team at the Elite Sports Academy in Mishawaka. Pictured at top left is Aley performing one of the more complex gymnastics maneuvers taught to her by her grandfather!

KOTW honors to our daughter, (and Aley's aunt) Sanya Vitale (above right), who submitted a selfie she took on May 4 to remind her old man that May 4 was Star Wars day (May the Fourth be with you). Hey, Sanya, I've told you a thousand times you shouldn't be taking selfies while you're driving ... PUT THE PHONE DOWN AND DRIVE!

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



The Petty family (North Shore) is now a family of 6! Ben, Cam, and Cooper are thrilled to have a sister! We adopted Leila from Ethiopia in February. She is 5 years old and has already filled our lives with SO much joy! She is learning English as a rapid pace, and is very shy around strangers, but please be sure to say hello or give her a high 5 when passing by!

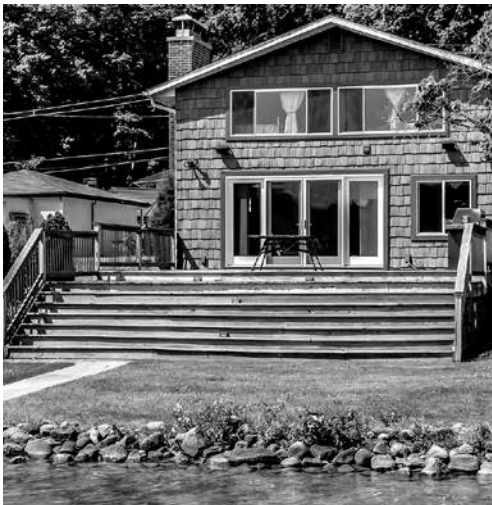
Welcome to the Birch Lake Family Leila!

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Birch Lake homes for sale



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Turn Key, Sleeps 12



15100 Lake Shore Dr
\$340,000
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Just so that everyone gets the fact that we'll print pretty much any acceptable pic you send in, we're giving Duck of the Week honors to this beauty basking in the rain ... at right, while landscaping last weekend Cal King spotted a pair of indigenous garter snakes that were ... cute enough to be Barker Snakes of the Week, don't you think?

photo submitted by Bob King



Welcome to Jaywalker



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - The next four weeks are fast-paced, busy and stimulating! Short trips, conversations with siblings and relatives, busy errands and appointments plus increased reading and writing are just some reasons you have a jam-packed schedule! You also have ambitions to redecorate your home or tweak your digs to make them look more attractive. This is why you will love to entertain at home to show off your clever ideas. In addition, many of you will buy gorgeous treasures for yourself, your loved ones or your home.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - You're clever about making money and handling your resources with smarts. Therefore, take note: As the Sun changes signs now, it highlights your focus on money, cash flow and earnings for the next four weeks. Be careful that you don't promise more than you can deliver, especially in negotiations with groups or a friend. Your idealism and your sincere wish to help might get you in hot water. Relations with others are charming and warm because Venus will sweeten your words, which means this is a great time for writers, salespeople, teachers and actors.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - The Sun is in your sign for the next four weeks. This is wonderful news because you can recharge your batteries for the rest of the year! Almost by magic, you attract favorable circumstances and important people to you. You can also boost your earnings. Meanwhile, your desire to travel is heightened.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Because your birthday is approaching, this means your personal year is coming to an end. Use the next four weeks to ponder this. Think of three goals you want to achieve. When you define a goal - instead of living your life trial by fire - you will probably achieve that goal. The next few weeks are a fabulous time to buy wardrobe goodies. However, avoid confrontations about shared property with someone. This is a wonderful month for romance.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Enjoy interactions with pals, clubs, groups and organizations. Use these interactions to bounce your ideas off others because the feedback from others will help you. Meanwhile in another part of the forest, a secret love affair is percolating on the back burner. Nevertheless, be patient with partners and close friends because Mars is opposite your sign. (Take the high road.) Your plans for the future are grand, ambitious and idealistic.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - "Look at you!" In the next four weeks, the Sun is at the top of your chart. A flattering spotlight is shining on you! This is why you impress others even if you don't do anything special. Bosses, parents and teachers will promote you or offer you increased responsibilities. Travel appeals. Many will love further studies or courses. Meanwhile, enjoy hanging out with artistic, creative people. You're working hard and they admire you.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - The next four weeks are actually quite fantastic because you're in a playful mood. You feel flirtatious. This means romance, love affairs, holidays, vacations, romantic dates and fun getaways are on the menu for you! Meanwhile, enjoy being generous to others, which means they will be generous to you. Many of you can boost your income now or begin something that ultimately increases your earnings down the road.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - You're entering an intense four-week period when you want to improve yourself. You want to be the best you can be! Increased chaos, and activity at home continue but you will plow through this because you have objectives you intend to achieve. Sometimes things get messier before they get cleaned up. A romance with someone different or from another culture might begin. Do grab every chance to travel because you want to. You will also appreciate the beauty of other cultures including their arts and crafts.

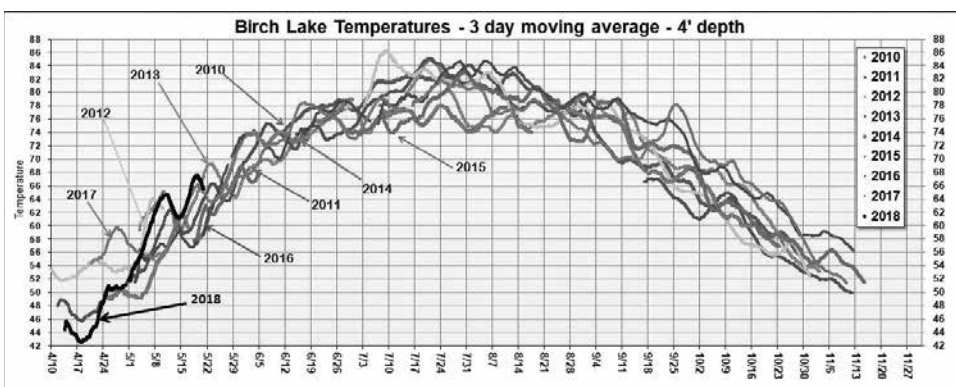
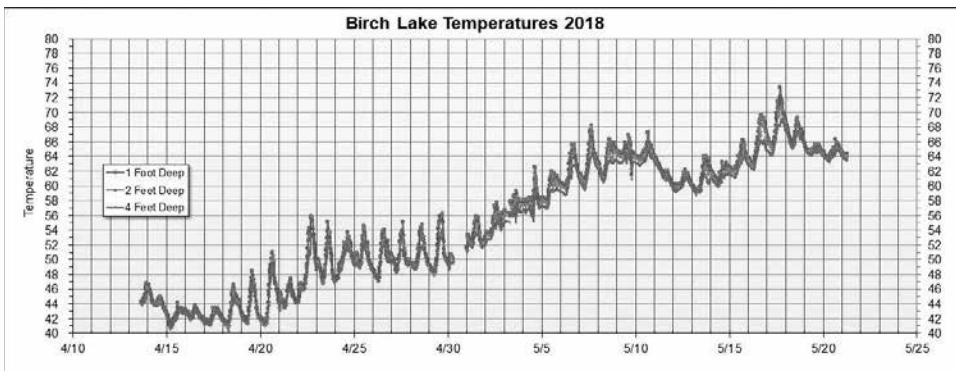
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Because the Sun is your source of energy and it is as far away from you as it gets all year - you will need more rest. This polarized position of the Sun also makes you focus on partnerships friendships more than usual. If you look at yourself honestly, you will see how to be more loving and sane. You are a truth seeking, idealist; and right now, the dance between Jupiter and Neptune motivates you to help beings who are less fortunate.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Take a deep breath because in the next four weeks, you're pumped to work! The reason you will work so hard is you're suddenly motivated to be efficient, effective and productive in everything you do. You have high standards and you intend to achieve them. These high standards will also apply to your health. When you have such a strong motivation to achieve - you will! Fortunately, fair Venus guarantees smooth relations with partners and close friends.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Vacations, fun getaways, stimulating activities with children, sports events, the arts and fun excursions with the entertainment world will be tops on your menu. Even your work related activities will be pleasant because Venus will pave the way for smooth relations with coworkers. Despite this emphasis on fun and relaxation, you will be revved up and ready to go!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - In the next four weeks, your focus will turn to home, family and your private life much more than usual. Not only will you be involved with a parent or family events more than usual, you will also want to cocoon at home and "hide" if you can. But Venus has other plans for you, which is why you will enjoy socializing with pals. A vacation, sports events and playful times with kids are on the books. You will also have heart-to-heart talks with someone, because you feel sympathetic and empathetic with this person.

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: 0.945
2.3 days until full moon



Sunrise: 06:11:54 AM
Sunset: 21:07:12 PM
Moonrise: 18:12:16 PM
Moonset: 04:54:03 AM
Daylight: 14 Hr 55 Min 18 Sec

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —

The image below shows a pool rack with 15 billiard balls which fit perfectly within the rack (i.e. there is no extra space for any of the balls to move).



pool rack in which there is a small amount of space between the rack and the balls.

What is the maximum number of balls that can be removed from the rack such that the remaining balls are still immobilized (i.e. unable to move)?



Note that the rack above is slightly smaller than an actual/standard

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I'M NOT SURE MY BODY CAN HANDLE MUCH MORE OF THIS "GETTING OUT OF BED" NONSENSE.



I have come to the conclusion that dryer lint is the cremated remains of all of my missing socks.

I DON'T HAVE AN INNER CHILD. I HAVE AN INNER OLD PERSON WHO WANTS EVERYONE TO BE QUIET.



SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW YOU PUT UP WITH ME. THEN I REMEMBER, OH, I PUT UP WITH YOU. SO WE'RE EVEN.



LOVE

MONEY CAN'T BUY YOU LOVE. BUT IT CAN BUY EXOTIC CARS AND LUXURY YACHTS. ONCE YOU'VE GOT THOSE COVERED, YOU'LL BE FIGHTING LOVE OFF WITH A STICK.

A SKINNY GIRL TOLD ME SHE "FORGETS" TO EAT. IS THAT POSSIBLE? I JUST LICKED HER FACE IN CASE IT'S CONTAGIOUS.



I like sailing



I love sailing



I'm sailing

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I can't go sailing



I miss sailing



Seeing my friends go sailing

THE CHILL PILL I TOOK THIS MORNING APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A PLACEBO.





~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Slow cooker barbecue ribs

“An easy and delicious way to prepare tender barbecued ribs without the barbecue!” Just a few simple preps, throw it in the crock pot and go out and play.

Original recipe yields 8 servings

Ingredients

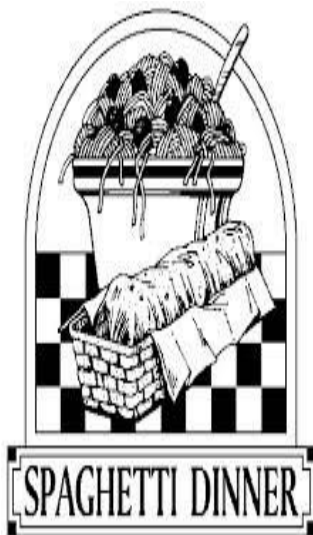
- 4 pounds pork baby back ribs
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups ketchup
- 1 cup chili sauce
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons vinegar
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 dash hot sauce
-

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).
2. Season ribs with salt and pepper. Place in a shallow baking pan. Brown in oven 15 minutes. Turn over, and brown another 15 minutes; drain fat.
3. In a medium bowl, mix together the ketchup, chili sauce, brown sugar, vinegar, oregano, Worcestershire sauce, hot sauce, and salt and pepper. Place ribs in slow cooker. Pour sauce over ribs, and turn to coat.
4. Cover, and cook on Low 6 to 8 hours, or until ribs are tender



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



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Saturday, June 16

5:30 - 7:30 PM

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Contact: Buzz and Linda Rasmussen, Cam Butler, Vickie Rogers, Patti Russwurm, Angela Bergan, Lynn DeCocker, Katha and Mike Machalleck, or Sue Williams

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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Happy summer from Camp T

Happy Summer! Hard to believe it's the start of another summer here at Birch Lake.

We're gearing up for another busy season at camp. As of today (May 22), we have 820 campers registered for camp, with a goal of 990 for the season. Last year we had about the same number on this date, and ended the season with 960, so we're pretty much on track to hopefully make our goal.

We've had a really busy off-season for Camp Fire this year! In the fall, we started a brand new after school program at Good Shepherd Montessori School in South Bend, and in January we started another after school program site at Cassopolis' Sam Adams Elementary. Both programs run from the end of the school day until around 6 pm every afternoon, so it sure keeps us on our toes.

Last fall we made a few changes to the staff structure here at Camp Fire. Since 2011, I have been serving as both the Executive Director and the Camp Director. As we have grown, playing both roles has become increasingly difficult. Last summer we realized that with the new programs starting, and everything else we were working on, that we needed to split those positions.

So as of October 1, I am the Exec-

utive Director, and Miss Michelle, who has been my assistant director at Camp for the past two summers, was promoted to the role of Camp Director. Her title is actually Program Director, as she is the Director for both Camp Tannadoonah, and also oversees the two after school program sites.

In June, we will be bringing on a new Assistant Program Director, who will work with us year-round, as both the Assistant Camp Director and the Assistant Director at the after school sites. We are hoping to have a 3rd after school site starting next fall.

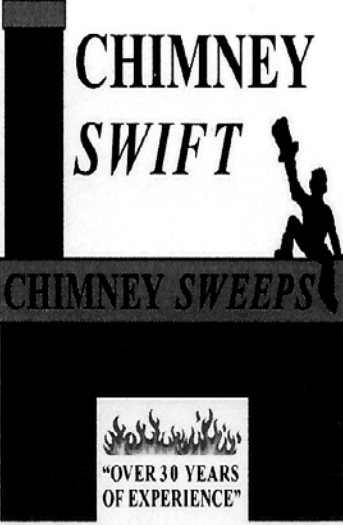
This spring we also took on a new project for Camp Fire. As of May 1, our council is in charge of the online Camp Fire store for all of the councils across the countries. That means we are the source for Camp Fire beads, badges, apparel, books, and other Camp Fire items. So far this month we've already had around 20 orders, so it looks like this will turn out to be a great new opportunity for us.

We've been working on a number of facilities improvements and changes this winter / spring as well! If you have been up to camp at all, you will have noticed the new building that we are constructing along the driveway near

the Archery range. We're calling it the Welcome Center, and it will be the place where parents and campers come when they arrive at camp, a meeting space for our board and staff, a year-round office for our full-time staff, and the site of the online Camp Fire store (in the basement). We're so excited for this building to be completed in the next few weeks!

Over the winter we also completely renovated the Wallace cabin, are in the midst of a renovation of the Camp Store, added a few new "9 Square" game locations around camp, and are improving the staff bathrooms in Main Lodge. In March, we hired a new Facilities Manager, who has been getting lots of projects done around camp this spring! Ranger Bryson will be experiencing his first Michigan winter this winter – he comes to us from a Scout camp in Texas and has never lived somewhere where it's cold! He got a little taste of it in March and April this year, though!

We do plan to have the pancake breakfast at camp as always, on the Sunday morning following the fireworks on the lake. We hope you will all come up and check out all the great stuff that's been going on at Camp Tannadoonah! See you all on the lake!




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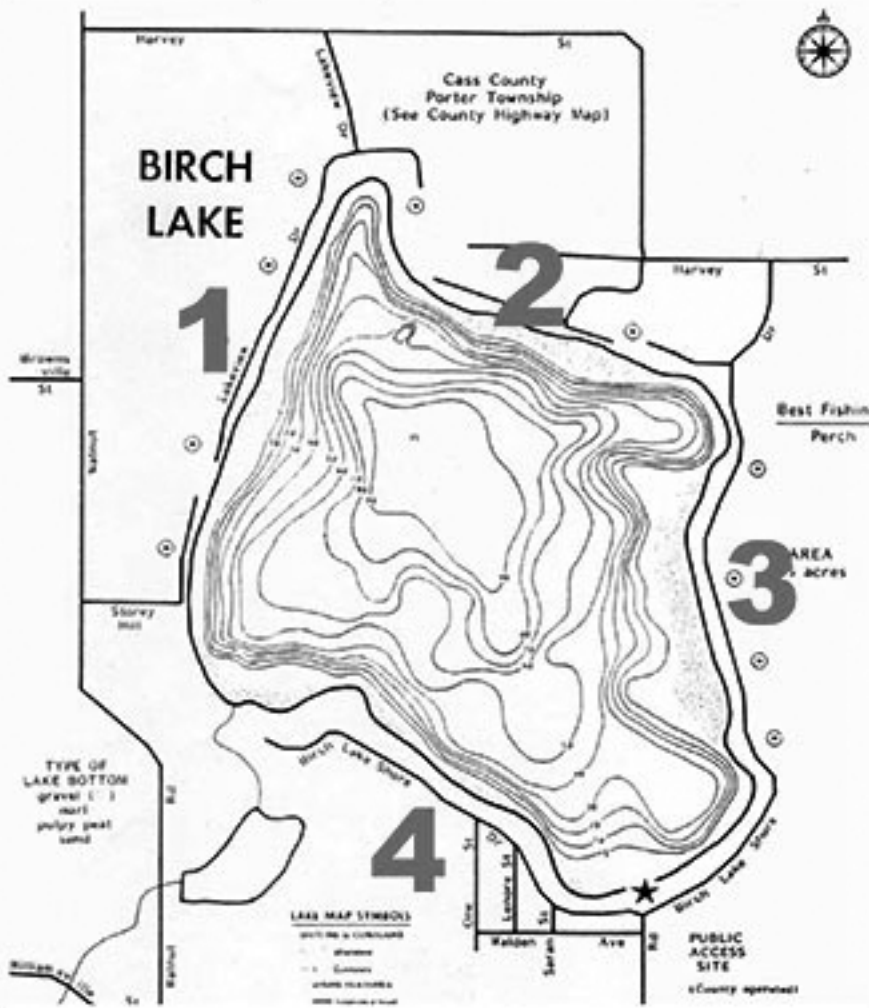
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There are currently four (4) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake.

The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

1. West Shore, Sheffeck home, 62875 Birch Lakeview Dr.
2. North Shore, Smitley home, 14859 Birch Northshore Dr. 15046
3. East Shore, Vitale home, 63174 Birch Rd.
4. South Shore, Eberhart home, 15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.

All units are on the ROAD SIDE of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.

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3. Continue to follow the instructions as given, and stay with the patient until help arrives.



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