

The
Weekend
Of

June 16
2018

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Bob Palm of the south side sent in this photo of our resident lake monster, Birchie, with the following note: "I observed this large fish for several minutes from my pier on 5/26/18. Please see the attached pictures ... Based on the size of my turtle raft I estimate it was at least 4 feet long. I'd like an opinion from a conservation officer, but I've had others tell me this could be a Lake Sturgeon. It is unlike any carp or sucker I've ever seen. Keep all pets and small children out of the water until further notice HA HA!!" If it is a sturgeon, we're asking Commodore Karen to have a caviar party at the yacht club!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Unbelievable! That sums up what I can say about last weekend's deluge of rain (I can say other things, but Editor Phil probably won't print them!). It was quite a sight seeing all of the raindrops initially bouncing on the surface of the lake, then swirling in cascading sheets across the water. The downpours were so strong at times, I couldn't see the other side of the lake. Then came the "fun" of roughing it for the 6 hours that the power was out ... and feeling envious of those with generators! With more rain in the forecast, the lake will potentially rise even higher. Please, please, please be aware of your wake while you're boating. We have piers around the lake that are almost under water and waves from the boats are not going to help the situation.

Remember tonight (June 16) is the Spaghetti Dinner, prepared and hosted by the West Shore/Cove. Take advantage of having a no-cooking evening and

come visit with your friends! Hopefully you have already purchased your tickets but if you haven't, you have UNTIL 1 pm TODAY to buy them via Linda Rasmussen. You may call or text Linda at 574-286-0054 to make arrangements. Tickets are \$5 (ages 4-10) and \$8 (ages 11 and up) and all proceeds will go to the Birch Lake Water Quality fund. So not only do you get to enjoy a delicious meal, you also help keep our lake pristine. I hope to see you all at the Yacht Club between 5:30 - 7:30 this evening. Again, purchase your tickets by 1 pm today because there will not be any ticket sales at the door.

You'll notice a new event added to the calendar. The Pooch Parade is on! It will be held Saturday, September 1 (Labor Day weekend). More details will be coming in a future Barker.

Happy Father's Day on Sunday to every dad on the lake, dad in heaven, grand-dads, step-dads and foster dads. Dads are ordinary men turned by love into heroes, princes and adventurers. I hope you enjoy your day and get to spend it doing whatever it is you delight in doing!

2018

Birch Lake Calendar

**June 16 - Spaghetti dinner,
5:30 - 7:30**

June 30 - House Walk, 10 am - 2 pm

July 7 - Fireworks, dark

July 8 - Camp T Pancake Breakfast

July 20 - Ladies Golf

July 27 - Men's Golf, Noon, Park Shore

Aug 4 - Corn & Sausage

Aug 18 - Fall Dinner (tba)

TBA- Soup/Chili Challenge

Sept 1 - Pooch Parade

2018 BLYC Board Meetings

(all meetings start at 9 am)

July 14, August 11, Sept - TBA

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

Enjoy your weekend.

~Cheers! Commodore Karen

Farewell and thanks

After more than 60 years the Kruggel family no longer has a presence on Birch Lake. Herm Kruggel called

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. Deadline is 3 pm on Tuesday. E-mail sailorphil@philvitale.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 —

last week and informed us that his home had sold, and he is leaving with great sorrow and even greater memories. He wishes to thank all of his Birch Lake friends and neighbors for the all of the great times, all of the friendship and love that they shared with he, Bev and their children. You will be greatly missed Kruggels. We wish you well.

Site for last AED being sought

Birch Lake is in seeking a spot for the sixth (and final) AED (cardiac defibrillator) to be located somewhere near Story Hill on the southwest side of the lake. The spot for the AED must be accessible by car, easy to see, shaded in the summer, and preferably facing north to shield it from direct summer sun and heat. Home owner must agree to pay for the (minimal) cost of electricity for the heater. If you are interested or would like more information contact Phil Vitale at 476-1680.

Birchie on the cover

After receiving the photos of the mystery fish from Bob Palm, I forwarded the lot to Larry Poynter, who works for the Michigan DEQ. Here is his response: Hello, Phil, I'm going to call it a carp (really large scales & pectoral fin), but that's just a non-professional, fisher's opinion. I'm going to leave it up to the local MDNR Fisheries Biologist, and Supervisor at the Plainwell OSC,



Thanks to our artist in residence Duffy Dufor for the great Birch Lake art.

Mr. Brian Gunderman, who is copied on this. Perhaps a Bowfin? Hopefully not a Bighead ... *LDP*.

Here is Brian's response: Thanks for sending the photos! *The fish in the picture is a common carp.* The state record carp is 61.5 pounds. The carp in Birch Lake is a big one, but I do not think it would be a new state record (yet). Although common carp are not native to Michigan, they are widespread due to stocking in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Update on Road Closures from last weekend ...

The Cass County Sheriff has advised us that as of Monday, the following roads were closed from the six-plus inches of rain in a short amount of time causing road or culvert failure over the weekend:

- Oil City from Davis Lk St to Ashton
- Mt Zion from Stewart to Calvin Ctr
- Cassopolis from Crooked Creek to Osborn
- Mason St from Calvin Ctr to Tharp

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Birch Lake Notes

Lk

■ Bulhand from Lamb to Calvin Ctr 1 lane closed

Roads previously closed and continue to be closed due to prior flooding:

■ Carter Lake St from Birch to Baldwin Prairie

■ Wade Road from Chain Lk to Mt Zion

■ McKenzie St from Lawrence to Goff Lk

Water over the Road Signs Posted

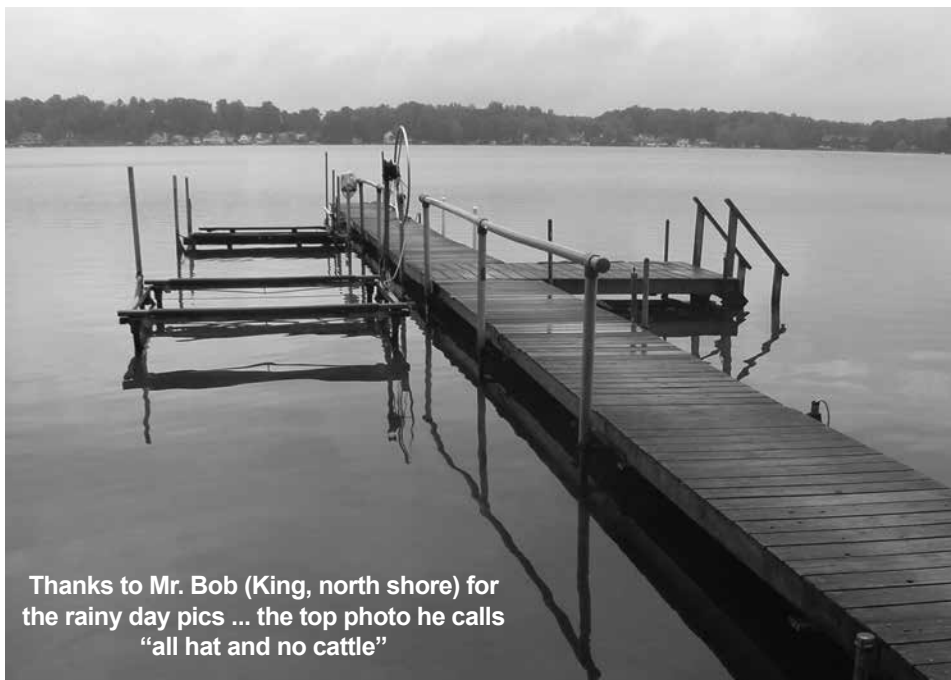
■ Davis Lk from Lane to Ashton

■ North Shore from Davis Lk to Calvin Hill

Chapel Hill from Tharp Lk to Calvin Ctr

■ Tharp Lk from Chapel Hill to Hawks St

More rain is forecast for the coming days and weeks so similar flooding activity is expected if rain totals are substantial. The public is urged to you caution during upcoming rain events and anticipate water over the road in these area in particular or any other areas that are known to commonly flood during excessive rain. Attempting to cross areas where water stands more than a couple inches deep or is running over the road can cause damage to the roadway due to washouts and sink holes in the gravel under the pavement. This can be dangerous. Several people were stranded over the weekend and had to be rescued. In situations such as these you are recommended to turn around and find an alternate route whenever possible.



Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north shore) for the rainy day pics ... the top photo he calls "all hat and no cattle"







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Saturday, June 16

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Enjoy Father's Day Eve with family and friends!
Dinner includes spaghetti with two sauces, salad,
dessert, and ice tea or lemonade. Take outs available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance

Call/Text Linda Rasmussen (574-286-0054) before 1:00 PM Saturday

Children 3 and under - Free Ages 4-10 - \$5.00 Ages 11-Adult - \$8.00

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Birch Lake Notes



Couldn't resist just one more image of Birchie Thanks for sharing, Bob!

General Handyman Services



**Need something repaired replaced or maintained? Let me see if I can help!
Lake references available.**

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 House Walk

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 Cove, and Carla Chester and Linda Yoshizawa on the East side. Hope to see you there!

Featured House #5 - Tom and Barb Cassady — 63486 Birch Rd

Barb and Tom Cassady purchased their home in the summer of 2014 from Judy and Dave Olson. Both of them grew up on Eagle Lake and feel Birch has the quiet and peacefulness that Eagle Lake

had 30 years ago. They wanted a place for their three children (and two daughters-in-law): Tom (Britt), Bob (Tess), and Maggie and their future families to enjoy.

The cottage was remodeled in 2007 and an addition was added. They have made some minor changes to their lake home, but have appreciated the Olson's great taste. They love sitting in the living area and looking out at the water. They say it seems like you are floating on the water, since the water is all you can see. The home has a guest house area that is accessed through the attached garage. This provides just enough privacy for their guests. Under the open, spiral staircase is a great hiding spot for their grandchildren when playing hide and seek.

They believe the best part about living at Birch Lake is being welcomed into an inviting and vibrant community.



Featured House #6 - John and Tricia Stitz — 63392 Birch Rd

The Stitz Family currently live in Westfield Indiana, just north of Indianapolis, but were introduced to Birch Lake while living in Granger, Indiana. It was the Fourth of July, 2002 when they were guests on Birch Lake for the



first time. They were quickly impressed with how clean and beautiful the water was and how friendly Birch Lakers were. They purchased their cottage on the east side very shortly after, which was August, 2002.

In the early years, their cottage was always overflowing with cousins and friends. They say their very best memories were made here on the east side watching their kids grow up.

They always had a full house despite the size and age of their cottage. John and Tricia slept on the porch and packed the kids in upstairs in bunk beds. Their record attendance one weekend was 22, all sharing one bathroom!

In 2009, John and Tricia's business required them to relocate to the north side of Indianapolis. They hated to leave Granger after 18 years. They especially hated the thought of leaving Birch Lake. Thank God for the new bypass and improve-

ments on 31!

Their aging little cottage required expensive repairs and exhausting upkeep. It became harder and harder to relax when they knew they had to spend the weekend working. Their love of Birch Lake brought them to the decision to plan for a new place. Even though they loved their cottage the way it was, it was time for some changes. In 2015, they completed the full teardown and build of their new lake home, which stands on the exact foot print of their cottage.

Because they were sentimental to the original cottage, they spared some of the original porch windows to incorporate as decoration (lead paint and all). They also saved the custom-built mantle (built by Tricia's father) and are using it in their new home.

What they say they most like about the home is the openness to the water and several outdoor seating areas where you can enjoy being outside and on the lake. The incredible people at Birch Lake made them want to stay. They say they have been blessed with the best neighbors who feel like family.



Birch Lake Notes

Ladies' FUN!!!! Golf Outing JULY 20

Diamond Lake Golf Course, Cassopolis

9 am Tee Off - \$35 per golfer

Fee includes cart and lunch

Make checks payable to BLYC

Deadline for Registration is July 8

Lunch at BLYC following the Outing

Games, Prizes, 50/50 Raffle

Teams are encouraged to donate a basket for the basket raffle not to exceed \$50/\$12.50 per team member.

If you want to golf, but do not have a team, please contact Patty Luecht 476-2615
and I will do my best to help you get a team together.

Team Members

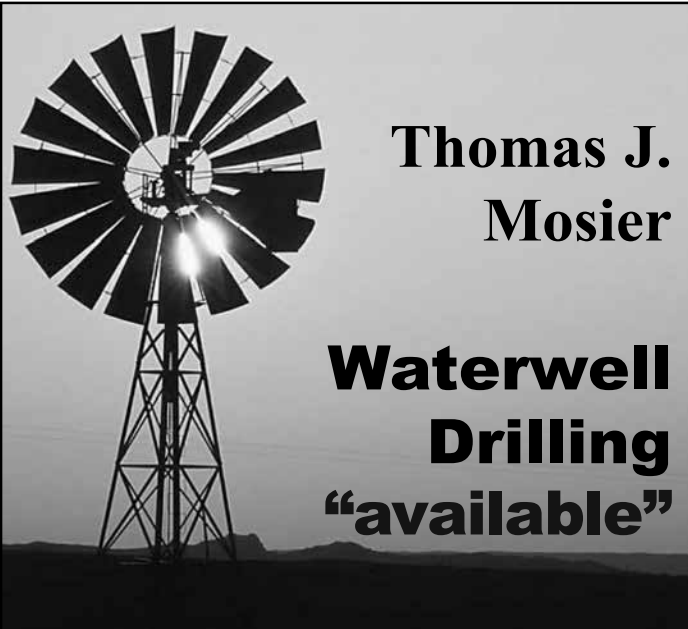
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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Fleet Captain's Jibe #5

Bill Luecht, an Engineering Graduate of Purdue, has an invention we use to make putting up and taking down our tall and heavy MC masts here on the east side that he named the "Upper Downer." The wind this Sunday was up and down, too. We held all three races for the Sunfish Sailors, as normal but only two official race for the MC's because we only had two of the larger boats out there for the first race, so it did not count in the season standings, since we have a three boat minimum policy. However, I think most everyone had a fun afternoon.

Bad Patty Luecht, Questionable Patti Russwurm had a guest person staffing the Race Committee Boat Sunday, Big Keith Kinzler, "The enforcer." Thanks you all and Tom Cassady for setting the marks, the buoys we sail around, and Bill Luecht for keeping the scores.

The Skippers & Crew meeting is

this Saturday June 16 at 4:30 pm at my house, the A-Frame on the east side, beer and water provided. If you plan on sailing in even one race this year, or you want to learn a little bit about the races, please plan on attending. The new start warning change took place last week, and it seemed to work very well. The Committee Race Boat blew the air horn two short blasts on the prestart, five-minute mark for MCs, and at the three minute mark for the Sunfish fleet. At the start the air horn was blown for a longer blast. This was done so skippers who are too far away to hear the commands from Bad Patty over the bull-horn, the air horn is much louder to get their attention, so they can set their stopwatches for the start. This early in the season we see a lot of sailor errors especially on the starts. I know it is hard to believe but I too, the beloved Fleet Captain, has been known to made a rare error.



Free beginner 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 24 on the next four Sunday's at 4-5 pm. Please RSVP to Pat@McGannHay.com or text/call 574-532-5377.

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes...~JPM

2018 BLYC Season Sailing Results

	Race			Grand		
Race	6	7	8	Total	Total	
Date	10-Jun	10-Jun	10-Jun	Points	Points	
					Average	
MC Scow						
Phil Vitale #500		3	3	4332	5776	1925.333333
Scott Troeger #1489		1	1	9363	10963	1827.166667
Barb Cassady/Maggie Cassady #2506		2	2	9363	10884	1814
Bill Luecht #1579				5701	7070	1767.5
Sunfish						
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	3	1	1	12255	15145	1893.125
Peter Soldato	1	2	3	11951	14920	1865
Pat McGann	4	3	2	11639	14760	1845
Bob Niezgodski				6131	8723	1744.6
Herb Cleveland	5	5	5	10745	13633	1704.125
Jeff Walls	6	6	6	9526	11976	1497
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)				4186	4186	1395.333333
Stewart Spratt	2	4	4	7942	7942	1323.666667

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.

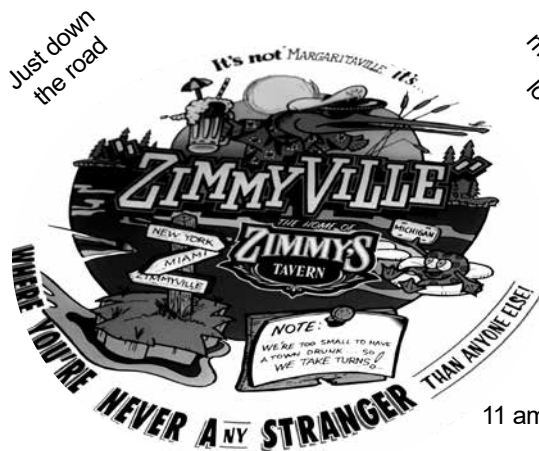
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— Birch Lake Special —

The call of the loon

I have partnered with the Michigan Loon Preservation Association (MLPA) as part of a statewide Loonwatch Program, currently monitoring over 500 Michigan lakes. Their mission is to conserve the loon population through research, habitat protection and public awareness. Each Ranger submits a report of their observations at the end of the summer season.

Loons normally make Southwest Michigan a temporary stopping point during spring migration as they head further north, the most common area for loons to nest. It is unusual and fortunate that Birch Lake has become a summer home for the loon. Loons often return to the same territory each year. A pair of loons spotted here in early spring could easily mean they are nesting nearby (ground nests near shoreline).

In 1987 the Common Loon was categorized as "threatened" under the Michigan DNR Endangered Species list. Therefore, laws are in place to protect this rare bird and ensure they will be able to continue to survive here. The hunting, harassing, wounding, trapping or killing of the loon is punishable by law.



There are a few things we can do to provide a safe haven at Birch Lake. Not just for the loon, but other waterfowl and wildlife as well:

Stay at least 150 yards away from loons or a nesting area. Loons are easily stressed. They have difficulty walking on land due to the posterior position of their legs. They are expert divers and use their webbed feet to propel quickly underwater. If they are forced to abandon their nests, the eggs become vulnerable to predators, lack of warmth and protection. Caution should be taken while boating, canoeing, kayaking or fishing. Chicks swimming with their parents cannot dive for safety.

Check your shoreline and dispose of, any fishing line, hooks, and lead fishing weights (lead poisoning occurs in waterfowl and fish if ingested). Do not feed waterfowl, bread or any other food. This is harmful to the normal

diet of all wildlife.

If you spot a loon nesting site, please contact me so that I can get an MLPA nest warning buoy put into place. If you think a loon has been injured, it is imperative that it be treated as quickly as possible, and I will alert the appropriate DNR officials.

Enjoy our visiting loons from a distance and listen for their lovely call ... you will be rewarded!

Cindy Bernaciak (East Shore), call or text 773-401-9191

Additional Resources:

Southwest Michigan DNR Wildlife Management
269-685-6851

Aimee Pico: Michigan Licensed Bird Rehabilitator (Union) 269-762-006

Michigan Loon Preservation Association (MLPA): Michiganloons.org



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



This is Sadie Layne, the new grand daughter of Bob and Sandy Baucus (east side). Her PaPa is very smitten with her. Ashlee, (our daughter) Kyle and big brother Mason are very happy to add her to the family as well as Gaybee, PaPa, Uncle BoBo, Aunt Choo Choo and Uncle TT (these are all the names that Mason has for us at the age of two).



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Sue Dufour (east side) with her new great-grandson Harvey Reckelhoff, son of her granddaughter Paige Dufour and her husband Jamie Reckelhoff. Harvey was born on May 5 and is enjoying his first Birch Lake summer! Congrats to all!

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— Barker Kids of the Week —

Bill and Bad Patty Luecht (east side)
recently celebrated 27 years of marital bliss
on June 8th.

It was the first time in many years
they were actually in the same state
on their anniversary!
(Maybe that is the reason they made it to #27!!)



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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Paul@TheLakeLife.com

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Paul@TheLakeLife.com

— Barker Kids of the Week —

Susie Kappel, granddaughter of Vickie & Steve Quinlan (west side), caught her first baby turtle last Saturday.



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Mercury is going to promote family discussions for your sign. Not only that, it will encourage family get-togethers, especially to address home repairs. The next few weeks are a good time to examine your personal life to evaluate whether it is meeting your needs. Meanwhile, fair Venus is moving into the most fun part of your chart! For the next three weeks, your life will have a stronger emphasis on fun, entertainment and good times.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - The next few weeks will be a fabulous time for all kinds of intellectual activities as well as talking to others and meeting new people. Short trips will delight. The pace of your days will accelerate because your mind is busy and your schedule is full of conversations and appointments. Meanwhile, tear yourself away from your frantic pace and enjoy redecorating, talking with parents and entertaining at home.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - Think about whatever you value in life whether it's material, intellectual or spiritual. You will also be more concerned with business and commercial affairs, and you'll be full of moneymaking ideas! Meanwhile, Venus will sweeten your words and your daily interactions with others and boost your social life, making your world busier and more fun! The next three weeks are the perfect time to tell someone how much you care.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Mercury in your sign for the next two weeks makes your life busy, active, hustling and bustling and at the same time, gives you a strong urge to talk. You will be curious and eager to learn as much as possible. You will seek out new faces, situations and ideas. Venus will attract money to you in the next three weeks, and at the same time will pave the way for excellent financial negotiations. Admittedly, it will also encourage you to part with your money because you want to buy gorgeous, beautiful things.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - This is a fabulous week although it has contradictory influences. You will enjoy the company of friends and be more active with groups and organizations. Meanwhile, you will be drawn to study and research. You want to explore mystical, spiritual ideas and learn more about the unknown. This the perfect week to shop for wardrobe treasures.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - You continue to look marvelous in the eyes of everyone! Take advantage of this and go after what you want. As if by magic, you are charmed! Doors will open for you. Don't let this opportunity slip by unused. You want to share ideas and discuss future goals. Venus on the other hand, beats silently in your heart and attracts secret love affairs to you for the next three weeks.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - You feel very alive this week! Travel plans excite you! Many will explore opportunities in publishing, the media, medicine, the law and higher education because you're expanding your world. For the next two weeks, Mercury paves the way for you to impress bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. It's a great time to study anything to boost your career. It's also a favorable time to talk to your boss. Meanwhile, Venus encourages smooth relations with friends and clubs. In fact, these relations are so warm and cozy, a friend might become a lover. This could be complicated.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - The next two weeks are the ideal time to study anything with genuine interest and enthusiasm, especially religion, politics, higher education, philosophy, metaphysics and a deeper appreciation of The Far Side. Meanwhile, fair Venus will be crossing the top of your chart for the next three weeks making you look fabulous in the eyes of bosses and VIPs. You might strike up a romance with someone in a position of authority because Venus will attract people to you, especially someone who wants advice about how to make something look more beautiful.

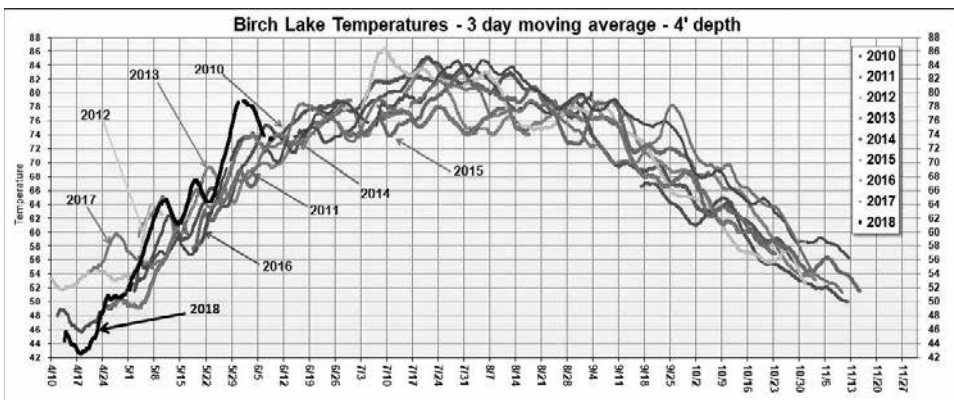
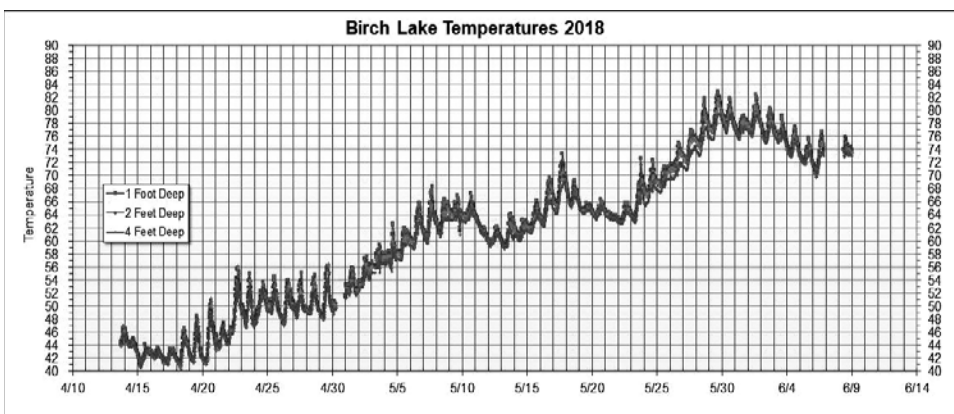
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Remember to get more sleep because you need it. Meanwhile, both Mercury and Venus will hype your Sagittarian qualities this week. Mercury will prompt discussions and negotiations about shared property and finances or anything you own jointly with someone else in the next few weeks. It's the perfect time to discuss inheritances. Venus will journey through the part of your chart that encourages travel for pleasure. Grab every chance to travel! Likewise, grab every chance to study and learn something new! Romance with someone "different" might surface.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - You will continue to work hard this week because you have set yourself high standards. You want to be productive, efficient and effective. This is a great opportunity for you to discuss any difficulties in your closest relationships. You might have serious, intellectual discussions or lighthearted bantering debates. Either way, you will enjoy conversing. For the next three weeks, Venus is in one of your Money Houses encouraging gifts, goodies and favors.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - A fantastic week for you because basically, this is a fantastic year! It's your turn to put your name up in lights! This month, vacations, playful activities with children, the arts, sports and romance are tops on the menu. Sexy Mars in your sign makes you aggressive and ready to act. Meanwhile, smooth rough edges and achieve a warm bond with someone. It's the best position for all relationships, love affairs and professional partnerships.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Recently you've been focused on home and family. (You might be more involved with a parent.) Reading, writing and playing games that require mental agility will appeal. You will feel more prankish and playful! Choose games that inadvertently educate you while you're having fun. For the next three weeks, Venus promotes your good health.

Birch Lake Environmental Data



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

The Moon for this Saturday

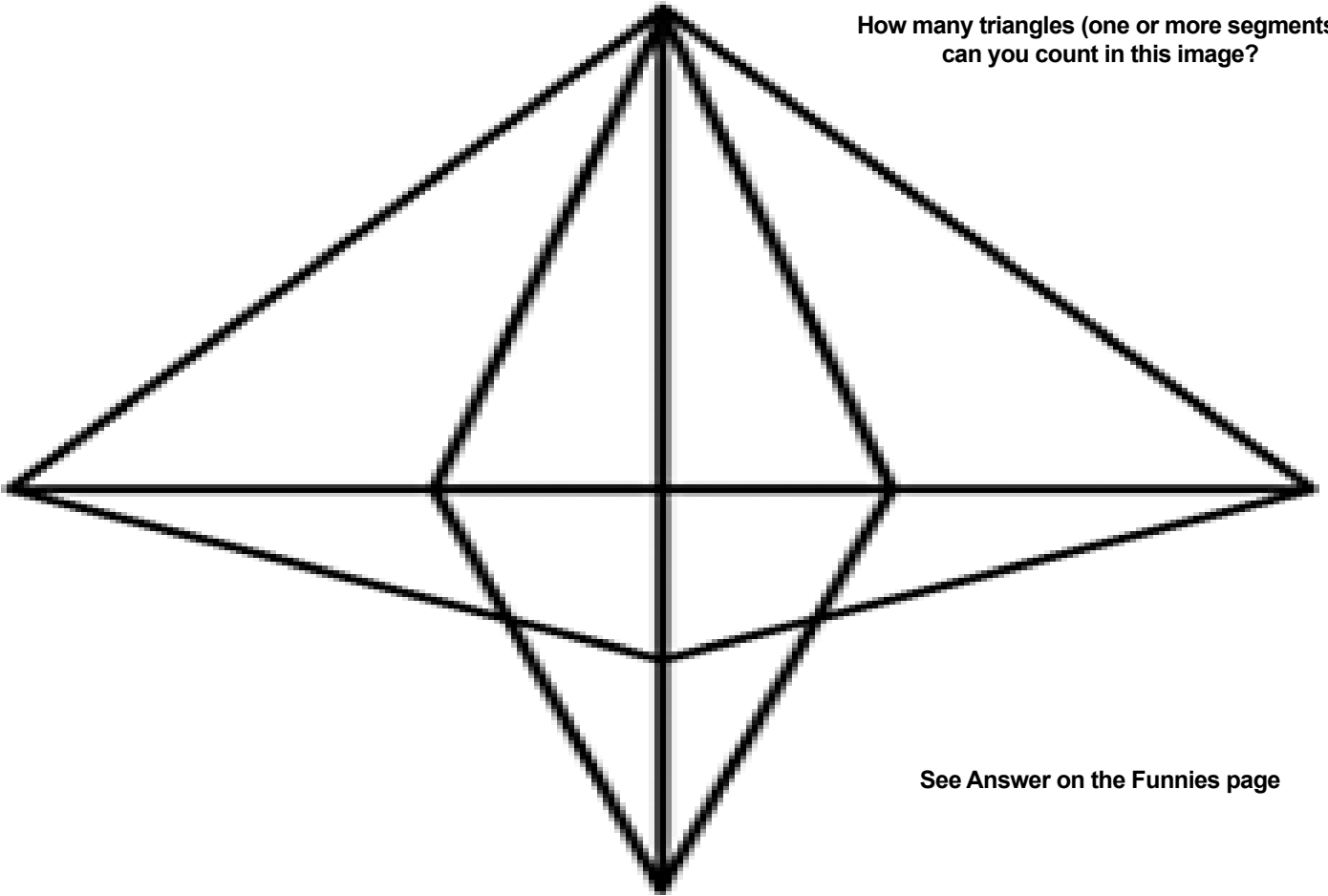
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.165
3.5 days since new moon



Sunrise: 6:08 am
Sunset: 9:21 pm
Moonrise: 09:15:00 am
Moonset: No Moonset
Daylight: 15 Hr 15 Min 49 Sec

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —

How many triangles (one or more segments)
can you count in this image?



See Answer on the Funnies page

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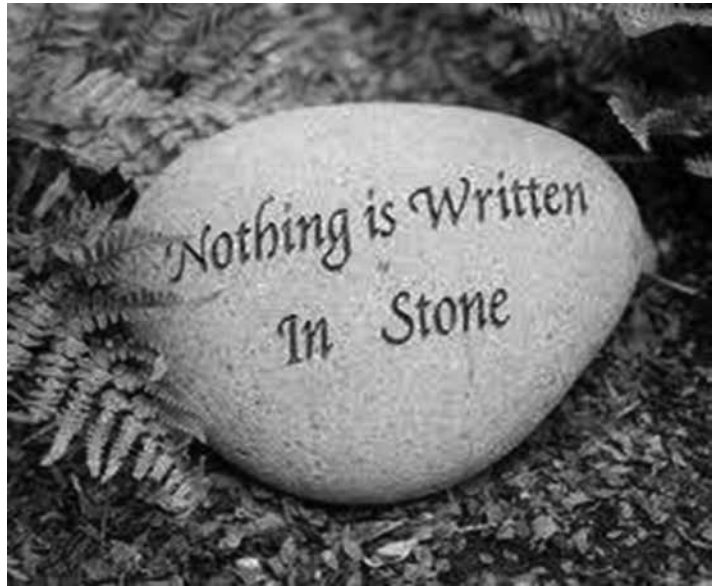
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



Rabbits jump and they live for 8 years



Dogs run and they live for 15 years



Turtles do nothing and they live for 150 years



"Lesson learned"

I have had a terribly, horribly busy day converting oxygen to carbon dioxide. Now I need a moment to just breathe.

"DON'T TELL MOM."



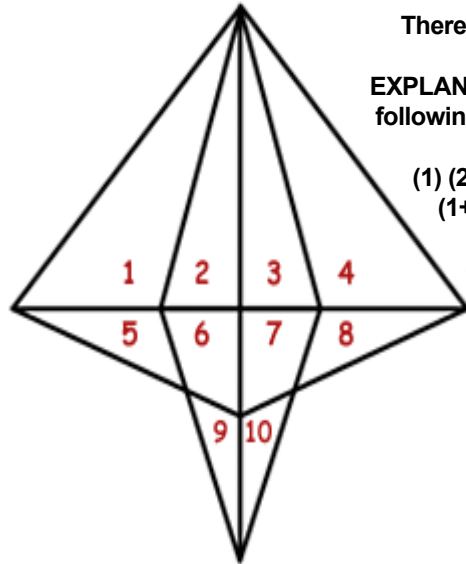
THE BEST ADVICE YOU EVER GAVE ME!
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

HOW TO TAKE THE LAST DOUGHNUT



Hold the doughnut aloft and announce, "This is the last one. Does anyone want to split this with me?" Touch as much of the doughnut's surface area as possible.

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —



There are 24 triangles.

EXPLANATION: Each of the following segments form a triangle:

- (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (8) (9) (10)
- (1+2) (1+2+3) (1+2+3+4)
- (2+3) (2+3+4) (3+4)
- (5+6) (5+6+7+8) (7+8)
- (1+2+5+6) (3+4+7+8)
- (2+6+9) (3+7+10)
- (6+9) (7+10)
- (6+7+9+10)



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Slow Cooker Moroccan Chicken

**"Tasty, easy, and impressive!
Serve with couscous or rice.
Throw it in and go jump in the lake."**

Ingredients

- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into 2 inch pieces
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 (28 ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 3 fresh peaches - peeled, pitted, and sliced
- 1 (15 ounce) can garbanzo beans, drained
- 1 cup chopped dried apricots
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon water
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/3 cup slivered almonds, toasted

Directions

1. Place chicken in the bottom of a slow cooker. Add the garlic, onion, tomatoes, peaches, garbanzo beans, dried



apricots, cumin, ginger, cinnamon, coriander, and cayenne pepper. Pour in the chicken broth. Cook on Low for 5 hours. 2. Remove the chicken and keep warm. Mix the cornstarch and water in a small bowl. Stir the cornstarch mixture into the slow cooker. Cook on High until the sauce has thickened, about 15 minutes. Return the chicken to the slow cooker and heat through. Top with fresh cilantro and almonds before serving.

BIRCH LAKE Totes Available

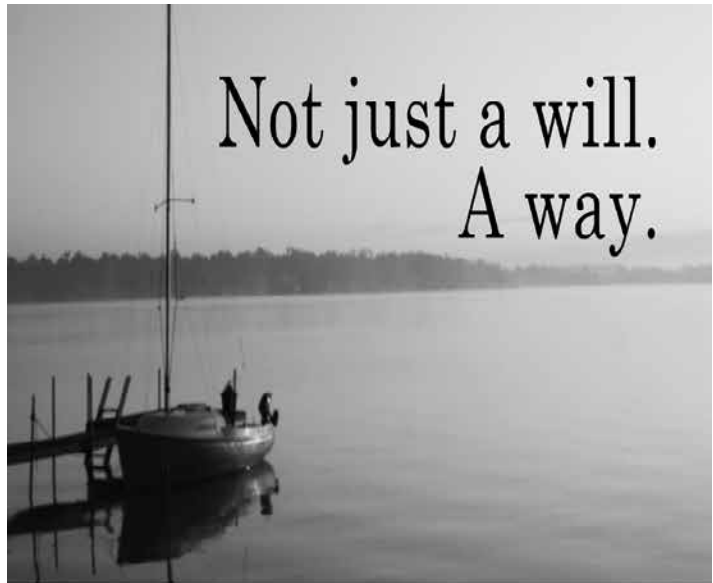
Bad Patty Luecht has Birch Lake totes available at 3 for \$10 or \$4 each. Totes are great for gifts, groceries or anyone that LOVES Birch Lake!



**To get your totes, contact
Bad Patty (east side) at**

476-2615

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— Camp Tannadoonah —

First campers arrive Sunday

It's been a busy week of staff training and getting camp prepared for our first group of campers! The staff have been spending lots of time working on teambuilding, learning policies and procedures, setting up their cabins and activity areas, and practicing how to handle many different situations that may arise during the summer.

We've been wrapping up a bunch of different projects this week. The Welcome Center project is nearly complete, and we hope to be all moved in there by early next week. Our camp Ranger has been finishing a remodel of the bathroom in Main Lodge for our staff members, which will make the staff very happy! And we've been cleaning up cabins, making repairs, and getting everything looking nice for the first group of kids.

Our first group of campers is set to arrive on Sunday afternoon! We are expecting 108 campers for this first session of camp – our largest Session 1 ever! It will be an exciting way to start the summer.

Every year, we do a special ceremony with the kids who attend the first session of camp, and many

lake residents come out to see it. For years, on the night of the first Council Fire (closing ceremony) of the season, we have had Princess Tannadoonah arrive in a canoe to light the fire. We are changing that a little bit this year, and having Princess Tannadoonah light our very first camp fire of the season (on Sunday night), rather than our first Council Fire of the season. It just seemed to make more sense to have a ceremonial opening of the camp season, instead of a ceremonial opening of the first closing ceremony of the season!

So if you want to see Princess Tannadoonah arrive in her canoe to light the first camp fire of the season, that will take place around 8:30 pm on this Sunday evening (June 17), down at the camp waterfront. Campers will gather around the pier, listen to the Legend of Tannadoonah, witness the lighting of the first fire, and sing camp songs.

The theme for the first session of camp this year is a new one for us – it's "Secret Agent Adventures." Our staff have planned some really interesting activities to fit the theme, including a CSI class, a codebreakers

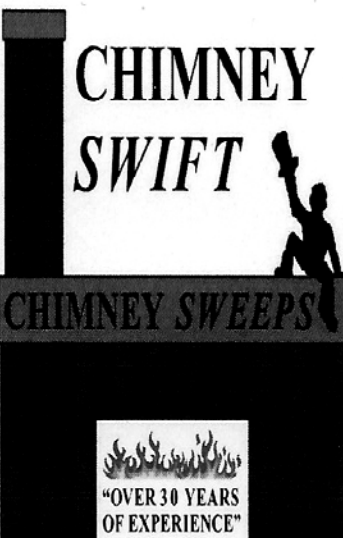
class (which will include a escape room activity on the last day), and an evening program called Spies and Smugglers. It should be an interesting and exciting week!

We're up to a total of 888 campers registered for the summer – which is slightly ahead of last year on this date (we had 875 last year on this date), and hopefully we're on track to hit our goal of 990 campers for the year. If you have a child / grandchild / relative / friend / neighbor who is interested in attending camp this summer, we DO still have spots available for many of our sessions between now and the middle of August.

We are also still short a few staff members (both male and female), and are looking for a few more counselors to round out our crew for the summer. Cabin counselors must be at least 17 years old. If you know anyone who might be interested, please send them our way! Even if they're only available for a few weeks, we're happy to have the extra hands.

Hope to see you all at the Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday!

~Miss Amber




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4-seater pedal boat for sale. As-is (though we will get her down from the pole barn for test rides). Contact the Kings at 476-2128.

Double Vanity Sink with white cabinets and carrara marble top. A 2100 value, your's for best offer available. Contact Angela 561-603-5522

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.

1950s Heywood Wakefield desk with chair. Solid maple. \$100 OBO. Call 574-215-5902 to see.

FOR RENT

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WANTED

Looking for a place to rent. I'm Steve, the new Assistant Camp Director and After School Assistant Program Director at Camp Tannadoonah and new to the area. I'm a responsible, non-smoking, tidy 29-year-old. Since I live at Camp during the summer, I could even vacate during the prime season. 989-430-8544

SERVICES

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

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to BLYC members, \$5 for everyone else. Send your ads to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com

3683.

FOUND

Wooden boat stand (for Sunfish, kayak or other) floated up in northeast corner during a wind storm a couple weeks ago. Come get it in front of Klappauff/Gaik homes.

Orange Cat. A very friendly orange cat has been hanging out at camp the past few weeks. Seems to be very good at hunting, but loves human company too! If you are missing a cat, please let us know! Call Amber at 574-315-0227



Turtle raft - washed up on the south shore. Call the Welch's at 574-286-2890.

A kayak paddle

washed ashore last week. If you have lost one, please call 476-2744 to identify and claim it.

LOST

Blue plastic paddle boat seat back. Contact Grundys on East Side if found. 574-315-0217.



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Total contribution:

\$ ____ - 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)

Name _____

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\$ ____ - Building Improvement Fund

Address _____

\$ ____ - Fireworks Fund

\$ ____ - Water Quality Program

\$ ____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$ ____ - Safety Committee

\$ ____ - Other non-party related expenses

\$ ____ - BLYC Roof Fund

\$ ____ - BLYC AED Fund

\$ ____ - Misc.

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karen.curtis-miller@bayer.com, 574-261-6712

Vice Commodore: Angela Bergan

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Deb Spratt Treasurer (N)

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Mike Sheffeck Secretary (W)

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Pat McGann Fleet Captain (E)

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Celia Fallon (E).....476-1467

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Fred Freihofer.....476-9823

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smwillia@comcast.net

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Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee

Chairman (E).....476-1467

paulf@hrpconstruction.com

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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.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

1. Call 911 and report the emergency and the location immediately.
2. Pull the box open, remove the orange-colored unit, take it to the patient and open the device by pressing the white lever at the bottom.
3. An automated voice will guide you through the setup and use of the defibrillator. Follow the instructions as they are given.
3. Continue to follow the instructions as given, and stay with the patient until help arrives.



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