

The  
Weekend  
Of

June 1  
2019

# Birch Barker

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



Thanks to Bob Niegodski (west side) for the great rainbow pics over Birch Lake (sorry, they're much nicer in color).

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello Birch Lakers. Welcome back to the lake, and what a beautiful Memorial Day! Thank goodness the SUN came out and made an appearance. The lake was buzzing with boaters and people, what a great time.

Just in case you haven't heard, the Spaghetti dinner tickets are hot off the presses and ready for purchasing. Make sure you get your tickets soon. There is a group of us selling tickets, so check the ad about the dinner in this Barker to see whose home is the closest for you to make your purchase. If all else fails you are welcome to buy your tickets from me.

After the Spaghetti Dinner, which takes place on June 15, the next event will be on Saturday, June 29, when your Vice Commodore, Pat McGann, and I will be hosting the Commodore/Vice Commodore Party at the yacht club. We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you. Bring an appetizer and dress up in your best Hawaiian attire as this event will be a Luau-themed party. We will be blasting fun music, partaking

in some beverages, and eating some great food. Prizes will be given to the best dressed. This event is just another opportunity to familiarize yourself with others who love Birch lake.

Next will be Forth of July week with all the fun it brings, from the regatta, the Boat Parade, the Fireworks and the Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah. Please see the article Pat McGann writes about sailing and the Regatta.

The Boat Parade will begin at 4 pm this year, as some Birch Lakers have requested it to be a bit later in the day. The theme for this year will be Favorite Summer Boating Song. The Boat Parade will begin promptly at 4 pm at Nick and my home on the East Side. We request registration this year so we know how many boats to expect and how many prizes to buy for participants. We will also give you a time to register and start so everyone is not coming at the same time. I hope this will allow for it to be a bit more organized.

For those who are not participating in the boat parade, please be mindful of the parade and try not to cut off the boats in the parade or drive between the boaters. The fireworks will begin at

## Tentative 2019 Birch Lake Calendar

June 1 - Porter Township Cleanup Day  
June 15 - Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30-7:30  
June 22 - Celebration of life for  
Terry Curtis, 4-7 pm  
June 29 - Comm/Vice Comm Party, BLYC  
July 6 - BLYC Firework, dusk  
July 6 - Boat parade, 4 pm  
July 27 - Celebration of Life for LaVeta  
Scofield, west side, 1-5 pm  
August 10 - Corn & Sausage Roast, TBA  
October 19 - Crockpot Challenge, BLYC  
Fall Dinner TBA by VC/FC Pat McGann

**BLYC Board Meetings:** June 8, July 20,  
August 17; all at BLYC @ 9 am  
**Dates and times subject to change.**  
*More info as available. Watch for updates!*

dusk on July 6, so be sure to plan ahead, and donate some dollars if you enjoy the show. You can see the firework "thermometer" in this Barker which shows how much money we need to raise to cover the cost this year.

Lastly, it was brought to my attention that there is confusion about why

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. E-mail materials to sailorphil@philvital.com, mail them to me or put the items in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). **DEADLINE** for any issue is 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

To contact Editor Phil by phone, call (269) 476-1680. To contact Commodore Angela Bergan, call 561-603-5522 or email berganfsu@aol.com.

# — Birch Lake Notes —



*Thanks to Bran Sandler (north side), who wrote: "Hi Phil, Wanted to share this photo of a suspect trying to steal my truck. If anyone happens to see him he's crafty, has many siblings that look just like him, and is a little nuts for acorns."*

people should be members of the BLYC. The dues go towards the lake and the community. For instance, the spaghetti dinner raises money for water quality. The BLYC membership dues pay for the Barker, and support the BLYC building and our community. Your money does not pay for events. The Spring Dinner was off-site, and no money was made at all (we broke even) ... this event was just a get-together to start the season. The

hope is people feel free to contribute what they find appropriate. The amount of money we ask to be a BLYC member is minimal ... just \$30, of course more is always appreciated. We are hoping to have 100 percent of the homes on and around the lake as members. Please see the ad in the Barker that you can fill out to be a BLYC member ... just send your dues to Mrs. Deb Spratt, or you can also feel free to drop them off with I or Pat

McGann, who will gladly pass it on to Deb if you aren't comfortable mailing your money.

Enough of that! I'd rather share with you the fun things happening on the lake than beg for your money. So become a member, then I can write the good stuff! I look forward to seeing everyone around the lake.

Be kind to one another and spread some sunshine as you go about your day!

**~Commodore Angela**

## **Porter Township Cleanup Day**

Clean-up Day will be held June 1, from 8 am to noon. The Township will provide pickup for those unable to bring their items. A list will be available for items that are acceptable, at the Township.

## **Bygone ... bye, gone**

When walking along the lane I used to pause at a pair of weathered upright posts on the west side of our road. As a kid (late '50s) they were gate posts. North Shore Drive was a gated community. On arrival someone had to get out of the car, open the gate and, close it after. Why? No idea. A lot has changed during passing of the years. The hill access road was even moved! Posts that stood guard for over 60 years are gone, lost to a big tree limb after typical May storms. Sigh ...

**~Mr. Bob**

# SLOW DOWN

**BIRCH LAKE HAS  
NARROW ROADS,  
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,  
A TON OF CHILDREN,  
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

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

**SPEED LIMIT**

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# Birch Lake Notes

## We wonders?

Would the same folks who turn kids loose on jet-skis toss them the keys to a Harley and say "have fun?" Birch is lucky. We haven't had an accident (yet). Youngsters and 60-70 mph PWCs (personal water craft) seem a bad combo. Just sayin'

~Chrys A. Lis

*Personal watercraft operators in the state of Michigan, along with anyone else riding on board, must wear a USCG approved Type I, II, or III life jacket; an inflatable personal floatation device is not allowed. Being aware of the boating safety requirements for your boat, extends to personal watercrafts as well. Children under the age of 7, shall not be towed or ride on a PWC without the parent, guardian, or designated adult being on board with the child. Children under the age of 14 may not operate a PWC legally alone. Those who are 14 and 15 may operate a PWC only if they have a Boating Safety Certificate and either have a parent, guardian, or designated adult over 21 years of age on board, or if operating a PWC on their own, must be within 100 feet of their parent, guardian, or designated adult. Persons 16 years of age can operate the PWC as long as they have received a Boating Safety Certificate and those over 16 can operate PWC with no limitations. While riding the PWC, all operators must have a lanyard attached to their life jacket, their person, clothes and attached to the vessels ignition switch. Riding a PWC is illegal during the hours from sunset and 8 a.m. with the determination of exactly what time "sunset" is by the National Weather Service. Personal watercrafts are to operated slow speed as to not make wakes, when crossing within 150 feet behind another vessel with the exception of another PWC.*

LINK: [https://www.unitedmarine.net/boating\\_safety/PWC-Safety-Regulations-michigan.aspx](https://www.unitedmarine.net/boating_safety/PWC-Safety-Regulations-michigan.aspx)

## Calling All Dessert Makers!

The Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, June 15th is just two weeks away. We're looking for volunteers who might want to deliver a delectable dessert for your fellow Lakers that evening to round off the feast. If interested in helping fill our dessert table, please contact Julie Sheffieck at 476-1849 or jcsheff@aol.com. Thank you!

*MH*  
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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Birch Lake Book Club Schedule

The Birch Lake Book Club will meet on June 25 at 7 pm to discuss The Library Book by Susan Orlean. Blair Garceau will host. Everyone is welcome.

Our book for July is Educated by Tara Westover.

## Men's golf outing

As I announced last year, I will not be continuing as chair of the men's golf outing. Despite my public and private pleas, as well as direct appeals to numerous individuals, nobody has agreed to take on this role. As of right now, there will be no BLYC Men's Golf Outing.

I know that many people enjoy and value the outing, and we have also been able to raise a little extra money for the yacht club over the past few years. The 2018 outing was the 58th consecutive annual event.

If someone wants to take this on, I am offering to write up the playbook for how to run the golf outing and assist with sponsorships this year. I'd love to see this continue and succeed.

~ Chas Grundy

## New Birch Lake Directory

The Birch Lake Yacht Club is planning a new Birch Lake Directory to be published later this year and we need your input! If you have had changes in

your family or if you are new to the lake (since the 2017/2018 Directory was published), we need you to provide your information so we can update and/or include the new information ...

The info we publish is: Cottage number (if you know it), Last name(s) of owner(s), First name(s) of owner(s), Lake address, Other address, Lake phone number, Other phone number(s), Children's names. Please send your information to Deb Spratt via email at [debspratt@comcast.com](mailto:debspratt@comcast.com) as soon as possible so we can get started.

We are also looking for advertisers for the Directory ... If you are interested in advertising, please contact Phil Vitale at (269) 476-1680 or email me at [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com).

## Free fishing weekend

Michigan: home to outstanding fishing, more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 11,000 inland lakes, and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams. There's no shortage of recreational opportunities to explore – and what better time to do so than the 2019 Summer Free Fishing Weekend!

The 2019 Summer Free Fishing Weekend will be Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9. As part of these weekends, all fishing license fees are waived for two days, with residents and out-of-state visitors invited to enjoy fishing on

both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish during their respective open seasons. Please note all other regulations still apply during that time.

## The Birch Barker

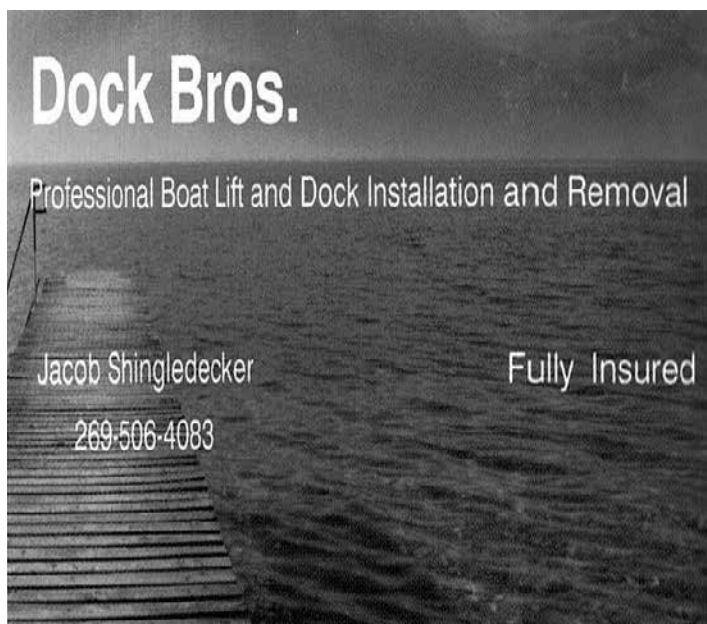
The Birch Barker is delivered to your Birch Lake home every weekend through Labor Day - FREE of charge! It is also posted online every week at <http://www.philvitale.com>.

The Birch Barker is just one of the things for which your Birch Lake Yacht Club membership dues are used to benefit to the citizens of our great lake. If you haven't paid your 2019 membership dues (just \$30 for full members, \$15 for associate members), you can do so with the handy form in every week's Barker. The Barker is also grateful to all businesses that advertise in the Birch Barker! Please support our advertisers!

The Barker welcomes content. 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). Do you best to send high resolution photos (we prefer 300 dpi). If you want your materials back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

If you would like to advertise in the Barker or in the upcoming Birch Lake Directory, drop me an email or give me a call (for info and ad costs see <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>).

~Editor Phil



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# Birch Lake Notes

## BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



Sponsored by the West Shore and the Cove  
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**Saturday, June 15**  
**5:30 - 7:30 PM**

Enjoy a great evening with family and friends!  
Dinner includes spaghetti with three sauces, salad,  
dessert, and ice tea or lemonade. Take outs available.

**Tickets must be purchased in advance**

**Children 3 and under – Free      Ages 4-10 - \$5      Ages 11-Adult - \$8**

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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



## Fleet Captain's Jibe #2

And we are off ... the sailing season has begun. We had three races Saturday and it turned out to be a beautiful day. I was done in an hour and a half and back home drinking a beer. In the MC Fleet, Barb Cassady with her most excellent crew, one Vic Jones, came in first by a wide margin ... however they were the only MC out there.

Steve Frew had two firsts in the Sunfish Fleet, but the Regatta Victory went to Herb Cleveland with a first and two seconds. Steve's accomplishment was very impressive because he just joined the fleet last year.

I wanted to go over a few rules of racing. First, let me say that the sailboats always have the right of way over all other motorized watercraft. The triangular race course should be avoided by other boats during the races. These courses, which are kindly set up by Mr. trusty himself, Tom Cassidy, always leaves plenty of room for cursing and waterskiing around the parameter near the shore. We try and keep the course with the big yellow bouys to the middle of the lake.

Here are the most basic rules:

1) When racing the most basic rule is Starboard over Port. So, if your boom and sail are on the left side of your boat, the wind hits your starboard side first and you are said to be on a starboard tack. You have the right of way if you are approaching another sail boat in the race if that boat is on a port tack (boom and sail on the right side with the wind coming from the left), and they must yield to you to avoid a collision. If they do not and you collide or if you have to alter your course, that is a foul and they must do a 360-degree turn as soon as possible when they are in the clear of other boats. It is up to you to verbally tell them they have fouled you.

2) When you are overtaking a boat, it is overtaken over overtaking. So, if you are passing another sailboat you must yield to them.

3) As you are approaching a mark (one of the big yellow bouys) if you are

within three boat lengths and there is any overlap with the boat or boats front of you, they must give you "Bouy Room" enough to make the turn around the bouy, and if they do not, they have fouled you and must do a 360 degree turn.

4) If you hit a bouy or the Bad Patty Race Committee Boat then you have made a foul and you must do a 360 degree turn as soon as you safely can.

5) If you are called over the starting line too soon, you must go back and start over.

6) Lastly, this week I would like to clarify that if you are sailing next to another boat on the same tack, the downwind boat has the right of way and can turn you up into the wind as far as they want to if they wish. The upwind boat must yield to the downwind boat. If you touch each other or you don't yield, the upwind boat can be called for a foul and must do a 360-degree turn.

Our BLYC belongs to all Birch Lakers, not just sailors ... it should be named the Birch Lake Improvement Association with most of its functions going to improve the quality of life on the lake as well as the quality of the lake water itself. Your board of directors is primarily made up of non-sailors. Most of the dues money goes towards fireworks, water quality, weed and invasive species control, health and security



of our residents, sailboat races, the Birch Barker printed and online FREE Newspapers delivered to your doors and your inboxes ... this is what YOUR BLYC dues do!

I wish that we could ALL be dues-paying members of the BLYC. If you are not, please consider doing your neighborly part by becoming a supporting annual member. Most people give a lot more than just the minimum \$30 dues. So, please lets get 100 percent participation of all residents. Thank You!

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes ...

~J. Patrick McGann

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

Message sponsored by the BIRCH LAKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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# Birch Lake Sailing Results

## Season Scoring

Race	1	2	3	Race Total Points	Race Point Average
Date	May 25	May 25	May 25		
Sunfish					
Herb Cleveland	2	1	2	4642	1547
Steve Frew	1	5	1	4496	1499
Pat McGann	4	2	4	4259	1420
Bob Niezgodski	5	3	3	4184	1395
Mike Lutz	3	4	5	4109	1370
Camille Butler	6	6	6	3675	1225

## Memorial Day Regatta Scoring

Sunfish				Regatta Score
Herb Cleveland	2	1	2	5
Steve Frew	1	5	1	7
Pat McGann	4	2	4	10
Bob Niezgodski	5	3	3	11
Mike Lutz	3	4	5	12
Camille Butler	6	6	6	18

## SUNDAY IS SAILING DAY

AT BIRCH LAKE, and  
ON SAILING DAYS

races start at 11 am!

Please give 'em a break, and  
STAY CLEAR OF THE COURSE

**SAILBOATS  
ALWAYS  
HAVE THE  
RIGHT-OF-WAY!**

## Birch Lake readers write

# Dog Sense

By **Dan Waxman**

Eleven years ago, Sharon and I adopted our dog Scout, an 18 pound male Jack Russell Terrier. He spent his first night with us on Birch Lake and has enjoyed being here with us year round.

In the early years, I would run 4-6 miles with Scout using a leash and harness. But now that he is turning 13, we tend to walk a few miles but still use the harness so he is beside me.

On Memorial Day weekend, I took Scout for a walk with my youngest sister Abby. We encountered other walkers, some with dogs that Scout knows like Linda Curtis' dog Benji.

He originally met Benji walking around Birch just as he did with Marti Ponsler's dog Yeti, both big dogs compared to Scout but friendly.

Unfortunately, we encountered 4 different dogs on our walk today who came off their respective properties and ran towards Scout. It doesn't help if an owner call out, "my dog's friendly" as Scout nor me knows that. When a dog 3-5X larger than him charges us, Scout's natural instinct is to Defend. In each instance, Scout positioned himself between us and the oncoming dog. As Scout barked, Abby and I called out for the dog to "go home" and to the owner to come and get their dog. We were able to

avoid direct contact between these dogs, but it was still unpleasant.

So, what should we do? To the residents of Birch with dogs and those who will have family and friends visiting with their dogs, please keep them on a leash. All of these dogs were next to family members in their yards and took off towards us because they were not on a leash. And this is not just my personal opinion, there is a Michigan leash law.

I plan on having many more walks with Scout around Birch and hope that they will not be like the one last weekend.

# — Barker Kids of the Week —



**Top left:** *The girls of summer at the Hall home (cove) over the Memorial Day weekend! Debbie Hall, Cheryl Hagarbome and Lori Tobias from Crown Point, IN and Julie Lacy (south side)*

**Top right:** *It was an early birthday celebration for the Russwurm granddaughters (north shore). Happy early birthday to Greta, Lyla and Clara Boecher. Summer fun.*

**Left:** *Bud Hall with longtime friend of the Hall's (cove), Brian Plassman from Winamac, IN, who was a visitor on Memorial Day.*

*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 the lawnmower of the Week? Just mail your photo (with a SASE if you want the photo(s) 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](mailto:SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM)*

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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Top left: Patrick and Marie Davis' dog Bodhi babysitting for nieces Claire and Nathalie Riordan east side over Memorial Day weekend while visiting Great Grandpa Joe O'Brien and grandma Sue Davis (east side). Photo by Pat McGann

Above: First boat ride of 2019 for Lexi McGann (east side). Photo by Pat McGann



At left: Slackers, the May flies, day flies, barely made it though ... we are running out of May! Photo by Mr. Bob King (north side)

## The LAKE LIFE REALTY GROUP



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### Birch Lake homes for sale



#### 62930 Birch Road

3-bedroom, 2.5-bath, 2,200-sq-ft lodge-style home on a 1.2-acre lot. Sale of furniture, furnishings, and decorations will be negotiable. On the main level, a foyer with a soaring ceiling opens to the living room with

fireplace, a bar, a formal dining room, and a family room with lake views and a knotty pine ceiling. The kitchen has an island with breakfast bar seating, stainless appliances, and a casual dining area that leads to a covered patio with a new hot tub and a 19x33-ft saltwater pool and a deck with panoramic lake views. The master suite, with walk-in closet, also has access to the covered

patio. A laundry and mud room, with access to garage as well as outdoors, has a powder room. Upstairs, a landing affords lake views for two bedrooms. On the lakeside lot, a matching hut has a bath, kitchenette, and covered porch next to a stone patio with fire circle. The property includes a 3-car garage and plenty of off-street parking. An adjacent lot is also available.



#### 15176 Birch

#### Lake Shore Dr.

3 BD 2 BA 2,698-sq-ft home on double lot w/ 128 ft waterfront, fenced tennis court, large backlot w/ 1,200-sq-ft heated Morton Building. House has large windows, broad upper deck, covered lower patio, 3-season room, brick patio w/ custom-built

chimneyed fireplace near water. Upper level: large living room w/ vaulted ceiling, exposed natural beams, Midcentury Modern fireplace designed by Wendell Lovett, deck access, panoramic lake views; dining area w/ lake views; sink for wet bar; 3 BD; 1 BA; outside access. Spiral staircase down to sitting room w/ 3-season room and patio access, dining room, kitchen w/ bar seating and casual dining, 1 BA. Street-side lawn has wrought iron fence and brick path to the home.



#### 63126 Birch Road

TURNKEY - 3 Bed, 2 bath, Year-round cottage on 60 ft of sandy frontage. Updated kitchen and open concept living & dining with great sunset views and access to a large lakeside low-maintenance deck with awning and lots of storage below. Ample parking for 6 vehicles.

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# — Water Quality Report —

A few Birch Lake Yacht Club board meetings ago, a board member suggested (seconded by others) that the Water Quality Committee come up with a relatively simple list of the important do's and don'ts of protecting our lake's water quality, perhaps entitle them the "Ten Commandments," and publish them each week in every Barker.

What a great idea! Settle on the most important and worthwhile practices which we'd like all to follow. And make them simple, informative, direct (to the point), and repetitive. That way, hopefully, residents and readers would actually come to understand, learn, remember and put into use those practices. At least they'd be able to easily recall where to find a listing of those practices when needed.

Since then, we've spent a lot of time reviewing past comments made in this space (and elsewhere), trying to find the most pertinent and practical requests we have made of our residents. We have now summarized them into the "Six Commandments of Birch Lake Water Quality."

Like all things human, this list is

not perfect. We will always be open to reviewing, clarifying, modifying, deleting from, or adding to, this list, and the particulars within. But for now, to start out with, at least we have a list of some of the most important practices to help protect and preserve our lake. As per the original suggestion, our plan is to publish the list of the "Six Commandments" in each issue henceforth.

Each of the six commandments is by definition, in and of itself, short and simplistic. As such, they all require and deserve further explanation. So for each commandment we have prepared and will share with you on a rotating basis, that explanation. We will do so at the rate of one/week and only on weeks in which there isn't another more timely or pressing issue to discuss in its place.

Whenever appropriate, we will forego the next commandment explanation in favor of more pertinent news of recent activities, test results or developments on the lake. Again, feedback is welcome.

So, going forward, in each issue we hope you will find:

1) A listing of the Six Commandments



AND

2) A report on the current Water Quality happenings

OR

An explanation of, expansion on, one of the Six Commandments.

This announcement/description of our plan you are now reading will serve as today's report.

~Thank you

## THE "SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY"

I. THOU SHALT PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS).

II. THOU SHALT MINIMIZE SURFACE RUNOFF.

III. THOU SHALT MINIMIZE THE EFFECTS OF WAVES.

IV. THOU SHALT PROTECT AND EXPAND NATURAL SHORELINES.

V. THOU SHALT NOT ALLOW PHOSPHORUS, NUTRIENTS, AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE CHEMICAL ELEMENTS TO ENTER OUR LAKE.

VI. THOU SHALT REMAIN INFORMED AND ACTIVE ABOUT OTHER WATER QUALITY ISSUES.

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# SAVE THE DATE

## Ladies' FUN!!!! Golf Outing JULY 19

Diamond Lake Golf Course, Cassopolis  
9 am Tee Off

Lunch at BLYC following the Outing  
Games, Prizes, 50/50 Raffle

More details to follow

We are looking for sponsors and volunteers  
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or Jeannie Welsh 574-286-2890



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# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** - This week, you see the world through a different lens than anyone else. This is why misunderstandings with others will take place. Neighbors, friends and siblings will not grasp what you mean, and you will miss their meaning as well. Nevertheless, your enthusiasm for something will encourage you to go blindly ahead! This means you must listen if someone is urging you to put on the brakes.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** - Please be careful this week because challenges will impact your finances. If you're making big money decisions, this could be dangerous. For starters, your take on financial matters and cash flow, earnings - whatever - might be faulty because you don't have enough information, you have the wrong information, or someone has deceived you or perhaps even you are deceiving yourself. For your own protection, give everything a sober, second thought.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** - You might misunderstand something. You might misinterpret it. Someone might give you false information or mislead you. Or perhaps, wishful thinking is what will trick you? This tendency for erroneous thinking will be magnified and further confused because of a false sense of optimism about things. You feel you can't lose! You've got the winning ticket. You know what's going on! But do you really?

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** - This week you might be your own worst enemy. For some reason, silly, self-defeating behavior patterns seem to surface and they're beyond your control. You mean well. You feel that you are acting responsibly in a caring fashion; and yet, you will say or do something that upsets someone or makes them lose confidence in you. Be careful. More often than not, when you try to make an impression, chances are that's the impression you make. Be careful of false bravado. Instead, be circumspect and perhaps even hold your tongue.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** - Misunderstandings with friends as well as members of groups will be classic for you this week. You might assume someone wants something or doesn't want something because to you, this is obvious. However, what you don't know is that your assumption is false. This could be because you are confused or because you don't have all the facts. Therefore, tread carefully when talking to friends and assume nothing. Make a strong effort to clearly hear where they are coming from.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - The area where you have to be careful, and make every effort to be clearly understood relates to your dealings with authority figures - parents, teachers, bosses, VIPs and the police. Because these people have power over your life, if you create a wrong impression or make a fool of yourself, there's a cost to pay. You are an analytical, logical, intelligent sign. You don't need this. Do your best to edit what you say to important people.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** - The confusion that can impact you this week will affect you in areas related to the law, medicine, higher education and publishing. It can also create errors or misconceptions in matters related to travel and dealing with foreign countries and people from other cultures. In particular, you will be susceptible to religious and political propaganda. Do not believe everything you hear!

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** - Be careful in matters related to inheritances, wills, taxes, debt, insurance issues and anything to do with the wealth of your partner. In a similar way, confusion about who is responsible for what might arise. You might think you have a clear idea of things - but perhaps you don't. It's easy to kid yourself this week, but it's also easy to operate on false information. Postpone important financial decisions until next week if you can.

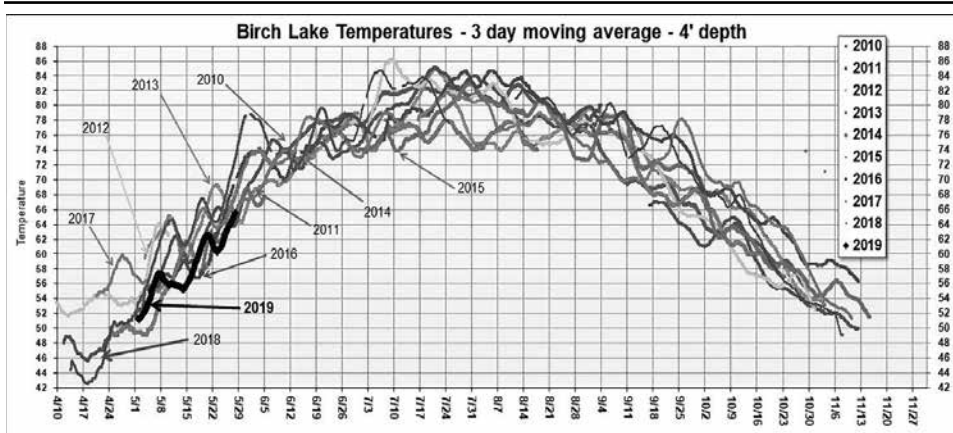
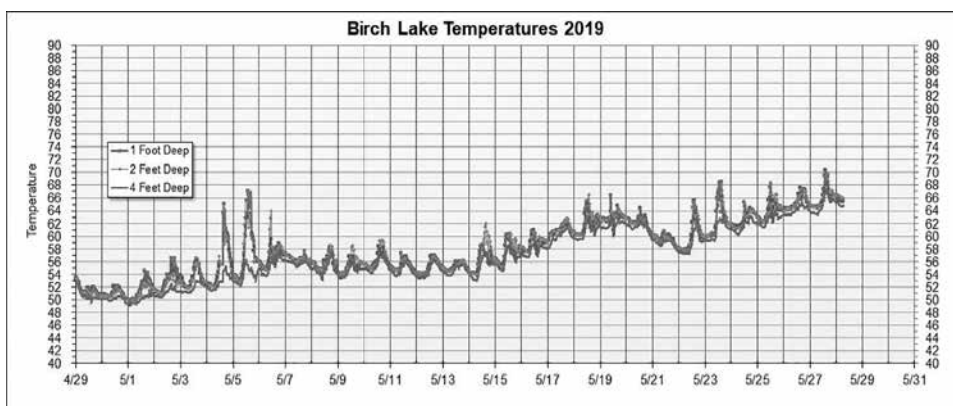
**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - This week you have to be mindful of your communications to spouses, partners and close friends because confusion and misunderstandings are highly likely. You might assume they want something or they do not want something. Perhaps they assume the same about you. When in doubt, say nothing. Obviously, do what you can to clarify communications. Seek expert advice if you have to sign important papers. Tread carefully!

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** - You might encounter misunderstandings and a complete breakdown of communications with coworkers, bosses and supervisors, clients and customers this week. The reason things can get out of hand is it's easy to be cocky and confident this week, when in fact, your facts and assumptions might be wrong. This same erroneous confidence can apply to your decisions regarding your health or even a pet. Be as mentally disciplined as possible.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** - It's curious that the very things that will make people confused and happily living in their own bubble this week are the same influences that can promote marvellous creativity on your part. Why? Because you can think outside of the box and your imagination can run free! Music, art, poetry, the theatre and the entertainment world are marvellous outlets for your fantasies and your imaginative ideas. Y

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** - In different ways, and in varying degrees, this week people will suffer from mixed-up communications, misunderstandings, false assumptions and in some cases, outright deceit. The result might be hurt feelings and the creation of a rift. Be aware that everyone is subject to these illusory misunderstandings this week. Go gently. Don't be critical. Don't overreact. Wait until the dust settles to make important decisions. And remember: the email of the species is more deadly than the mail.

## Birch Lake Environmental Data



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

### The Moon for this Saturday

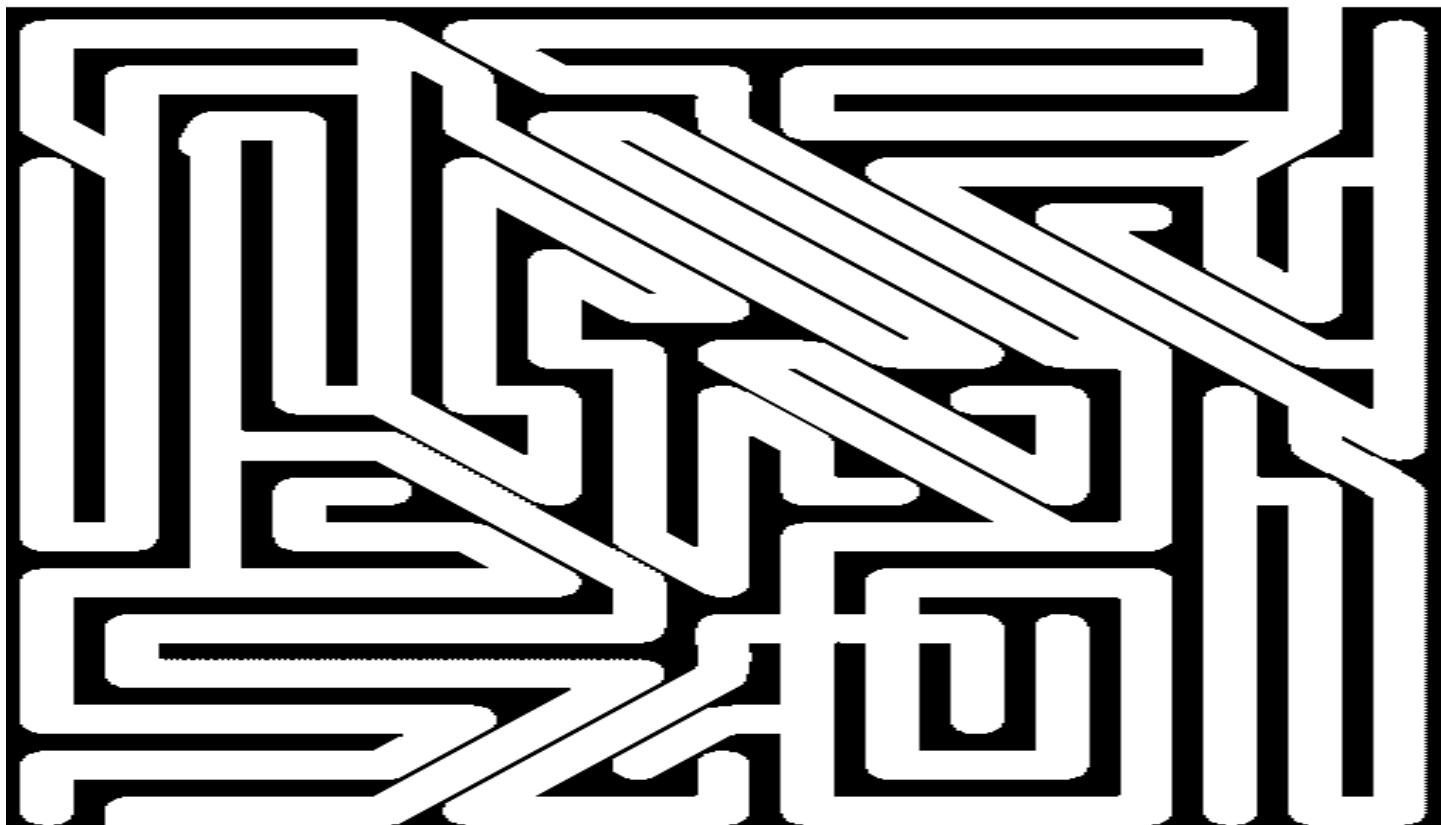
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.017  
1.1 days before new moon

New Moon

**Sunrise: 06:08:24 AM**  
**Sunset: 21:12:11 PM**  
**Moonrise: : 05:23:08 AM**  
**Moonset: 19:20:13 PM**  
**Daylight: 15 Hr 03 Min 47 Sec**

# — Barker Weekly Puzzle —

## Bike to the Bistro



Remy has been following the Tour de France on his bike all day long. Can you help him find his way to the bistro where he has promised to meet his friends for dinner?

Talk With A Live Person



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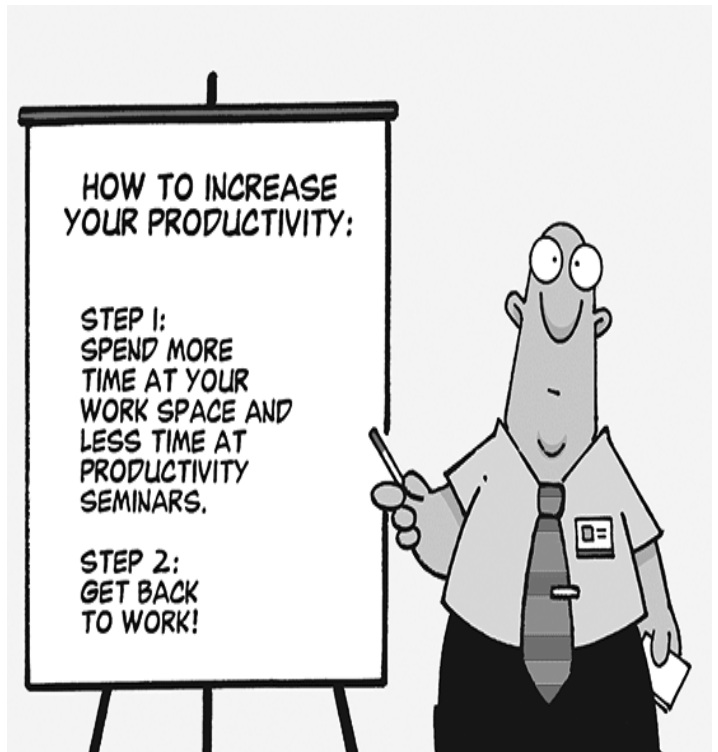
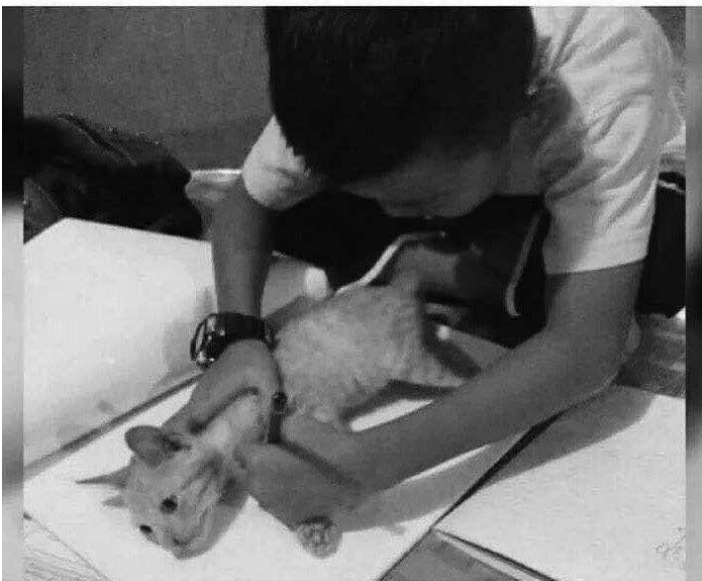
# BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



## How fights start:



Teacher gave him homework to draw a cat





# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



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

## Sonia Sanders' Overnight BBQ Chicken

Serves 8

Submitted by Sonia Sanders- first visit to Birch Lake 1948

### Ingredients:

2 broiler fryer chickens cut up

### Marinade:

½ cup wine vinegar

4 T Worcestershire

sauce

½ cup water

1 ½ cups brown sugar

1 ½ cups ketsup

2 teas. salt

1 ½ teas pepper

2 ½ T dry mustard

2 teas. paprika

2 dashes hot pepper

sauce



### Directions:

Poach chicken in 2" water for ½ hour in a large covered pot

Combine marinade ingredients in blender; mix thoroughly (set 1 cup aside to use later)

Refrigerate chicken in remaining marinade overnight

Grill until brown and crispy

Serve with warm reserved marinade.

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# — Camp Tannadoonah —

## Camp staff starting to arrive

**C**amp staff have started to arrive! It seems like June has really snuck up on me this year – I can hardly believe that campers will be here in just 2 weeks. This week we have our lifeguards arriving for training, and we'll be spending Wednesday through Saturday in the chilly waters of Birch Lake! Give us a wave if you drive by on the boats and see us out there. We'll be working around the rain and storms they're predicting!

The past few weeks I've had a number of people ask us about donating items to camp as they're cleaning out their cottages. Here are some things we can use:

- Alarm clocks (can be battery operated or electric)
- Toilet paper or paper towel tubes
- Cylindrical plastic containers (like the kind Lysol or Chlorox wipes come in)
- Plastic Grocery bags
- Board games and card games
- Bean bags or large pillows for sitting on the floor

- Fishing poles (in good condition)
- Water skis or wakeboards your kids have outgrown
- Sports equipment (soccer balls, basketballs, footballs, tennis racquets, baseball gloves, etc.)
- Rugs
- Art supplies
- Digital Cameras (in working condition, especially if they are SLR cameras)

If you think of something else you might have that we might be able to use, please call me at 574-387-6095 or email me and I can let you know if we have a use for it!

Just as camp is arriving, we are wrapping up our after school programs for the year. Our program at Good Shepherd Montessori school ends on Tuesday, June 4, and our program at Cassopolis' Sam Adams Elementary ends on Thursday, June 13. It's been a fun year at both programs, and we're looking forward to seeing MANY of our after school kids at camp this summer!

We now have 881 campers regis-

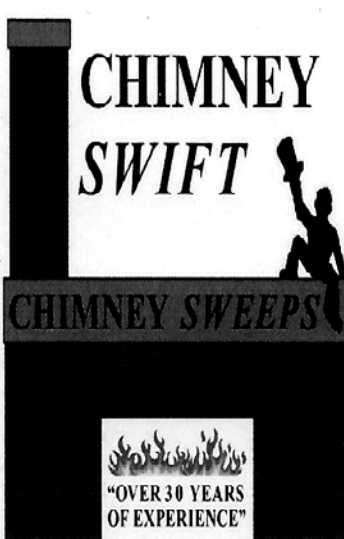
tered for summer, and I'm expecting a batch of 25 campership registrations to come in this week, which will put us over 900 already! Last year we reached 881 campers on June 11, so we're about 2 weeks ahead of that pace. I think we're on target to hit our goal of 1000 for the summer – for the first time ever!

I've heard from two families on the lake that they're interested in hosting some of our staff for a cookout or boat ride on a night off. If you're interested in doing so as well, please let me know. We're trying to make arrangements for staff to be able to leave camp occasionally for time off. And we're \*nearly\* fully staffed for the summer – we have just ONE female cabin counselor position still open. So if you know someone who would make an awesome camp counselor, send her my info!

Hope to see everyone at the Spaghetti Dinner!

~Miss Amber

[amber@tannadoonah.org](mailto:amber@tannadoonah.org)



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## FOR SALE

**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.

**House for sale:** 63306 Birch Rd.; 3 BR, 2.5 bath, 2600 SQ FT., 94 FT frontage, 2 stall attached garage, 2 full kitchens, many other extras, \$719,000, call PJ or Sue Vandewalle, 476-7086 for appt or info.

For Sale: the **former Misch Manufacturing building** located at 14111 Esther Ave., Mishawaka, IN 46545. Location 3/10 of a mile west of Capital Avenue between Jefferson and McKinley. Contact Jill Celie-Brenay, REMAX, or Bob King.



## WANTED

My husband and I recently purchased a home on Lenore St and had heard that there might be a possibility of **purchasing/renting pier space** somewhere. Patricia Colburn, pcolburn81@sbcglobal.net

Are you considering selling your house?

We love living on Birch Lake, but **need more room** (4 or more bedrooms). Would appreciate an email regarding your cottage and plans to sell. Thanks! Laura Bird, incottage36@gmail.com

Camp T is looking for donations of **plastic grocery bags and empty toilet paper rolls**

Amber Grundy's mom, Sherry, is once again looking for **old bikes** for an art project. If you have a bike you'd like to get rid of, please call Sherry at 574-252-6854 or Amber at 574-315-0227. Bike does NOT need to be in working order.

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

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## FOR RENT

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

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Ed Chester (E).....476-1010  
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\*Associate membership is available to current associate members and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC
- \$\_\_\_ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
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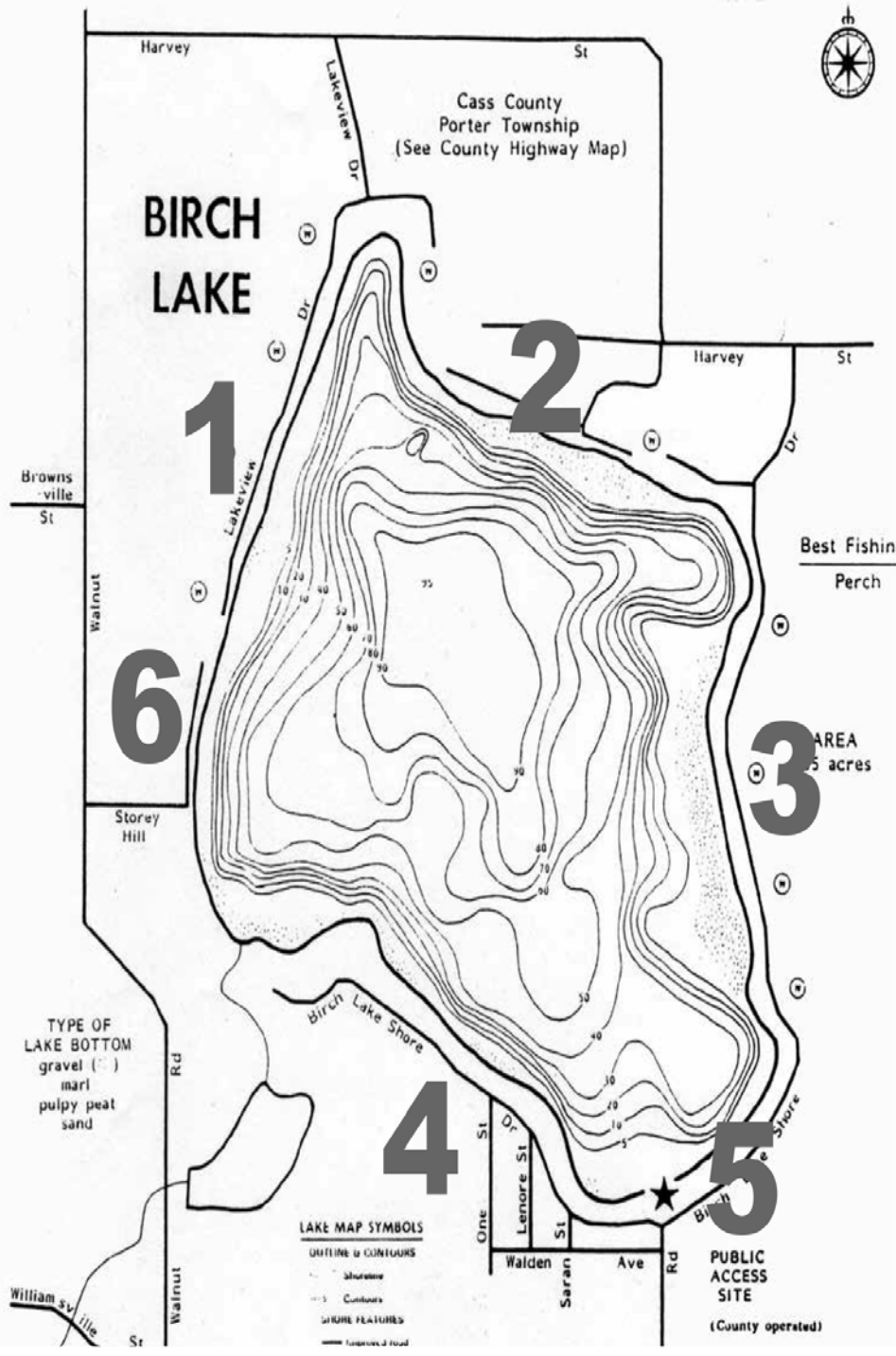
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# EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

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1. West Shore, Sheffieck 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.
5. South/East Shore, Troeger home, 63696 Birch Rd.
6. Southwest Shore, DeYoung home, 63255 Storey Hill St.

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

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1. CALL 911 and report the emergency and the patient's location immediately.
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