

The
Weekend
Of

July 27
2019

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Amy Troeger for sending in the great pic of the weird-looking shelf cloud that moved across the lake last weekend.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello Birch Lakers,
What a pleasant turn of events with this weather! We have a nice cool breeze going on! So let's get down to the details. I guess I have to make a retraction. I did not know there is no swimming allowed at Birch Lake at Memorial Park. So this means there is no swimming at the landing or the park. If you see someone swimming at the landing you should contact the following people; the Cass County Sheriff's department at (269) 445-2481 or the Cass County Park's Department 269-445-4456. It is a matter of safety when it comes to people swimming at the landing while boaters are trying to launch. Additionally, vehicles are not allowed to park at the landing unless they have a trailer hitched. The landing

is designated only as a boat launch. You would also contact the Cass County Park's Department to express your concern about the porta-potty.

Being the Commodore is not an easy task, and I am happy that so far no one has been hurt on the lake this year. I know some of you might have heard about the tragic accident at Diamond Lake. Please be sure to be safe when you are on the lake. I know you probably get tired of me writing about the common sense rules of boating, but I only reiterate the rules as a matter of safety.

According to Boating Safety here are some suggestions from The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries:

- Always wear your life jacket.
- Alcohol and safe boating operation just don't mix.
- Know how to swim.
- Read the owner's manual for your boat.

2019

Birch Lake Calendar

July 27 - Celebration of Life for LaVeta Scofield, west side, 1-5 pm
August 10 - Ceremony to scatter the ashes of Kemi O'Brien, Camp T, 3 pm
August 10 - Corn & Sausage Roast, TBA
August 17 - Homeowners Association annual meeting following board mtg.
August 17 - Fall Dinner, BLYC
October 19 - Crockpot Challenge, BLYC

BLYC Board Meeting: August 17; 9 am
September meeting TBA
More info as available. Watch for updates!

- Always maintain a good look where you're going. Stay to the right of oncoming vessels.
- Keep a whistle or horn readily available.

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. E-mail materials to sailorphil@philvitale.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 —

- Stay away from swimming beaches, waterfront residences, jetties, dams and shallow water.
- Don't cut in front of other boats or jump wakes.
- Check the pressure gauge on your fire extinguisher.
- Show consideration to others; be courteous and use common sense in the operation of your craft.
- Be thoroughly familiar with the maneuvering characteristics of your craft.

It seems the tides are changing, we have some well attended events that will end due to a lack of leadership. The Board also recognizes the prices of our events have not increased in a long time.

If you are interested in being a chair for an event or have an idea for an event you are invited to attend the September Board Meeting. We currently need a person to chair the Spaghetti Dinner, the 2019 event raised more than two thousand dollars and sold more than 200 plus tickets. It is also came to our attention the price for events has not increased in a long time. If you are currently a chair for a lake event please attend the September meeting to discuss price increases. If you are interested in being a chair for an event you can also reach out to I or Pat McGann.

Be safe and be kind to one another.

~Commodore Angela

Remembering Kerni

There will be a ceremony to honor Kerni O'Brien on August 10 at 3 pm at Camp Tannadoonah, with the spreading of her ashes. Anyone that would like to attend is welcome.

Apologies

Apologies in advance: we agreed to let Cal's crowd have a Bachelor Party for one of his buds here at Birch.

~The Kings

Committee chairmen call

The Birch Lake Yacht Club Board of Directors request that event chairmen for all 2020 events please attend the September meeting to formalize dates and planning for 2020 events.

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Birch Lake Notes

Birch Lake Book Club change

The August Birch Lake Book Club meeting will be hosted by Jeannie Welch. We'll be reading *Beneath a Scarlett Sky* by Mark Sullivan.

Everyone is welcome.

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 one of the many things for which your Birch Lake Yacht Club membership dues are used to benefit to the citizens of our 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 or

online at www.birchlakeyachtclub.com.

The Barker welcomes (reasonable) content (remember that this is a family publication and don't send things you wouldn't want your own kids to see).

Deadline for submitting items for publication is always at 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before publication.

If you would like to submit an ad or editorial item for consideration, see note at bottom of page 1.

The Birch Lake Yacht Club has added a new secure website for residents to pay dues, donate to various causes, buy merchandise and pay to attend events. Please note that all fees are slightly higher when paying online. To check it out (or pay your dues), go to: [HTTP://WWW.BIRCHLAKEYACHT-CLUB.COM](http://WWW.BIRCHLAKEYACHT-CLUB.COM)

~Editor Phil



Special thanks to Jeannie Welch and Barb Cassady for carrying on the Birch Lake Ladies Golf Tournament after Bad Patty Luecht retired at the end of last year (we think it was BP's 75th year as chairman) ... we hope one of the younger lakers (see pic above) will be willing to carry on the event and be the chairperson ... of course that will be after Barb and Jeannie have finished up doing their 75 years!



The Joy's John at Birch Lake public landing

Despite the objections of multiple homeowners on Birch Lake (including the owners of the properties on either side), the Cass County Parks Department's Joy's John on a concrete pad near the water at the Birch Lake public landing remains. The Parks board of directors has taken the matter under advisement, and has promised to monitor the launch to try to keep out swimmers. **They have asked that residents notify Parks Director Scott Wyman if we see swimmers, by calling him at 445-4456, and if that is unsuccessful, to call the county sheriff's department at 445-2481 to report the activity so they can respond. Alternately, residents can voice their concerns to Skip Dyes, County Commissioner, District 3 at the county building, (269) 445-4420, or at his home, (269) 445-2537, or by Email skipd@cassco.org.**

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— Birch Lake Ladies Golf —

On Friday, July 19, 2019, twenty-five women played 9 holes of very hot golf at Diamond Lake Golf Course for the annual Birch Lake Ladies' FUN Golf Outing! The temperature was 82 degrees at 9 am, but have no fear, the Birch Lake Ladies were up to the challenge of playing 9 holes of golf in that heat for a chance at winning a prize.

The theme this year was "Camp Birch Lake" so the games on the course were oriented to activities one would do at camp. Plus, the net proceeds this year went to Camp Tannadoonah. After surviving the heat and the 9 holes of golf, we all headed to the Birch Lake Yacht Club to enjoy some lunch, which was ready and waiting for us thanks to the help of Denny Weesner, Sue Williams and Patrick Welch. A big THANK YOU goes to these 3 people for all their hard work. The Yacht Club and tabletops were decorated with a camp type theme, as well.

After the lunch and lots of laughing and chatting, we got to the best part; the awarding of the PRIZES! Johanna Stratigos went home with the prize for Longest Drive, Vickie Rogers took the Longest Putt prize and Sue Waddle won the prize for the Closest to the Pin. Team scores were tallied and there was a tie between two teams with a score of 35. Going by the rules for a tie breaker, the team of Johanna Stratigos, Dana Soldato, Mackenzie Doboiewicz and Debbie Soldato won First Place. Second

Place went to Sue Vandewalle and Becky Wiseman. The team of Barb Cassady, Judy Cassady, Jeannie Welch and Diane Robertson won 3rd Place with a score of 36. Congratulations to all the golfers; we were happy so many of you participated.

A Big Thanks goes out to Staci Whiteman (who has been driving the beverage cart for the Ladies Golf Outing for 25 years!) and to Pat McGann for managing all the signs on the course. These two people performed other wonderful acts of kindness before, during, and after our tournament and we are very grateful. Another big thank you goes to Bob Waddle for giving us advice on the "ins and the outs" of the Yacht Club and for taking team pictures. To Deb Soldato for helping with cart signage, assisting with registration and with clean up after the luncheon, we owe a debt of gratitude. To Lee Oswalt, owner of Jimmy's Restaurant, thank you for your generosity with all the merchandise and gift cards. For the anonymous donor of the golf attire that was used for prizes, thank you so much! To all the wonderful donors who helped make our Gift Basket Auction and success - a Great Big Thank You for a job well done. And finally, we would like to thank Patty Luecht, our trainer extraordinaire. Patty had all the answers for us as we prepared for the Outing. We hope we made you proud! We are sincerely grateful to EACH of you and if we have forgotten anyone involved, please accept our heart-

felt apologies and know we appreciated everything you did for us and the Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing. We could not have done it without you!

We had many wonderful people come forward to sponsor a hole or two for the Outing and please remember to thank them the next time you see them out and about at the lake or wherever. (See the following list). Their generosity helped make this years' Ladies Golf Outing a SUCCESS!

This year's sponsors are:
 Mike Lutz – Frankie's Restaurant and Lutz Concrete
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 Ronnie and Gus Eshleman
 Apollo Marine
 Scott and Holly Troeger
 Dock Bros.
 Sue and Bob Waddle
 Dennis Bamber

Their generosity helped make this year's Ladies Golf Outing a SUCCESS! PLEASE remember to mark your calendars for next year's outing ... 7/17/20.

~ Jeannie Welch and
 ~ Barb Cassady





FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Fleet Captain's Jibe #10, July 27

By *J. Patrick McGann*

No races again this weekend ;-(but it was not without great sailing.

Saturday there was a perfect wind just about all day. For those of us who had our sails lofted, we had an excellent sail. I myself took turns meeting my daughter and her kids in our deck boat out in the middle of the lake while they were swimming. They were switching off kids in the MC with me. They all got a great taste of sailing at its best and crewing for Papa, perhaps instilling the love of the canvas into another generation. They were hiking out and really enjoying the ride once they lost their fear of falling out, and trusted their feet under the hiking straps would keep them safely inside the cockpit of the boat. I told them when I was young, we would actually get out and stand on the bildgeboards, holding on to the monkey rails on the E and C Scows at

Camp Eberhart where I learned to sail. They thought that would be real cool to do. Some of you may have ridden the boards in your youth also?

I hope that in my second year as Fleet Captain I don't become know as the Fleet Captain who never sailed, because of all the canceled races. First, it was too cold, then too windy, then not enough wind then it was raining

On to the Fall Dinner! As your Vice-Commodore it is my job to plan the Fall Dinner. I am terming it as the last chance to say goodbye for the summer and reminisce about the fun we had, and to find out what your neighbors have planned for the fall and winter. It is not really fall yet but a lot of families have to leave to get back to schools and jobs, so hopefully this will be before they leave. It will be August 17 beginning at 5:30 pm at the yacht club. The cost is \$25 for a wonderful polish-style



dinner, with appetizers and deserts all catered by the Skillet in South Bend.

We will have a limited supply of beers and wines, but as always, you can BYOB. You can pay and give me the names of people attending ahead of time to me at the East Side A-Frame, 63164 Birch Rd. (put in the screen door or in the mailbox), or you can pay online for \$26 at: [www. BirchLakeYachtClub.com](http://www.BirchLakeYachtClub.com). The deadline to pay and provide the names is Monday, August 12 at noon.

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes!
~Fleet Captain Pat

SUNDAY IS SAILING DAY

AT BIRCH LAKE,

and

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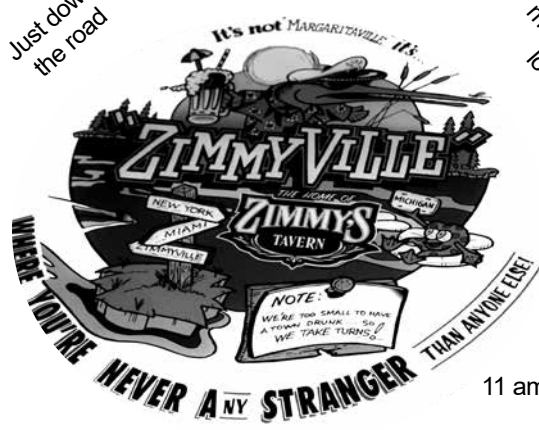
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— Water Quality Report —

Commandment #5

It's time to review with you our Commandment # 5, "Thou Shalt Not Allow Phosphorus, Nutrients and other Chemical Elements to Enter Our Lake."

Phosphorus is a chemical element required for all forms of life, necessary for every cellular process that uses energy. It is used most extensively in fertilizer. It is the "limiting factor" in many, and particularly in aquatic, ecosystems. This means it is the variable in which a small change directly causes a substantial change in the output (growth) of the system (plants and algae.)

While virtually all nutrients are considered to be undesirable, preventing or the reducing the volume of phosphorus getting into an inland lake is commonly held to be the single most significant factor in preserving, or advancing, the water quality of inland lakes.

Due to its depth and limited inlets and outlets, it takes some 15 years to drain and replenish all the water in Birch Lake. Whatever we let, or gets, into our lake will be there for a very long time. So our need to ward off the entry

of phosphorous, and other undesirable elements, is crucially acute. Accordingly, we ask that you:

- 1) Consider not using any fertilizer on your property
- 2) If you must fertilize, please:
 - A. Do so only once per year, in as small a quantity, and as far away from the shoreline, as possible.
 - B. Make sure the fertilizer contains no phosphorus
 - C. Recall that the other nutrients in fertilizer are undesirable also.
- 3) Shovel and load out ashes.
- 4) Don't allow leaves or other vegetation to get into the lake.
- 5) Bear in mind that anything left on the surface within our watershed will eventually get into the lake.
- 6) Pick up and properly dispose of animal waste.
- 7) Don't feed any wildlife, particularly not ducks, swans, or geese.
- 8) Between your lawn and shoreline plant a barrier strip, as wide as possible, of deeply rooted native plants at least 12" - 24" tall to minimize erosion and catch



undesirable elements from entering the water.

9) Consider not using any weed killer or other chemicals on your property. If you must, please do so in limited quantities, away from the lake and not on a windy day or before a rain event.

10) Recall that natural shorelines are one of our very best bets at limiting phosphorus in our lake.

PLEASE PASS THE WORD!

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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— Barker Weed of the Week —

Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa* [N.A.Desvaux] J.Groves)

Photo: Tynning, Progressive AE

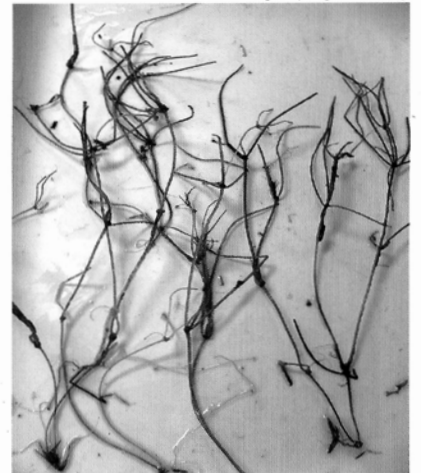


Description: Although it looks like a higher vascular plant, starry stonewort is a macro-alga in the same class as native *Chara*. The plant is light green. Like *Chara*, the plant has whorls of leaf-like branches around its stem. Unlike *Chara*, starry stonewort produces a very small, star-shaped, creamy-white reproductive structure called a bulbil. The presence of bulbils, which may appear at any time during the year, is one way to distinguish starry stonewort from *Chara*.

Habitat and distribution: Unlike the beneficial *Chara* species, starry stonewort forms dense mats and can reduce native species and interfere with recreation. It has been found to form a physical barrier along the lake bottom, impeding access to the substrate where fish may nest and eliminating spawning activity

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where it is growing. It is found in deeper waters than *Chara* and can grow to greater heights, as much as 7 feet. Starry stonewort is native to Europe and western Asia and was first found in the St. Lawrence River in 1978 and then in the Lake St. Clair/Detroit River system in 1983. It was not positively identified in any Michigan inland lake until 2006. By 2011, it had been reported in 119 water bodies in 31 counties.



Paige Filco, Michigan State University

Control/management:

Being an alga, the plant is sensitive to copper compounds and amine salts of endothalls, although some reports indicate that the chemicals burn only the upper surfaces of the mat, leaving the bottom portion of the plant unaffected. Flumioxazin has also been used for treatment. Mechanical harvesting may also be effective because the plant can easily

be dislodged from the bottom, but its growth pattern and lack of distinct up-growing stalks can make harvesting labor-intensive. No biological controls are known for this species.



(On Michigan's prohibited species list)

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Source: Michigan State University Extension Bulletin E-3189, A Michigan Boater's Guide to Selected Invasive Aquatic Plants

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— Barker Kids of the Week —

40
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Amber Grundy Camp Fire River Bend



Age: 39
Birthplace/Residence: Vandalia
Education: Ph.D. — University of Notre Dame
Current job: Executive director

What are you most proud of?

First, my family. Second, making Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah a strong, thriving organization where children can find their sparks, lift their voices and discover who they are.

What's inspiring you right now?

I recently returned from the Buckeye Leadership Workshop, feeling re-energized and inspired to try some new ideas with our staff.

What problem are you trying to solve?

I want every child to have a place where they can thrive. My biggest challenge is finding the resources so that Camp Fire can be that place for as many kids as possible.

Best advice you've gotten?

Be persistent. When knowledge and ability aren't enough, be persistent.

How do you start your day?

It's a mad rush to get everyone out the door on time.

What is your secret sauce?

I love camp, and my passion for giving kids the same experience I had at camp as a kid makes me passionate about what I do every day.

Congratulations to Birch Laker Amber Grundy (east side) for being selected by the South Bend Tribune as a member of the 2019 group of 40 under 40, a regional listing of the most talented and dedicated young professionals and leaders in the community.



Goodbye to east side residents, Sue and PJ Vandewalle. They are moving to Utah. They will be sorely missed!

Thanks to Claudia Phipps for the pic.

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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.



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



The annual ScaBoom family (south side) reunion was Saturday, and despite the storm that hit as dinner was being grilled, a great time was had by all.



Patricia (Scannell) Hogoboom loved time with the newest great-grandson, Atlas John Boverhof, born March 5.

Four generations of Hogoboos who have grown up at the cottage. Patricia was one of the first Barker editors in the late '40s with son Dave, grandson Joe and great grandson Andrew.



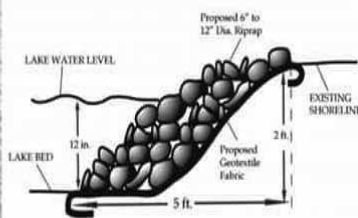
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Hailey and Sean from Lisle Illinois - age 8 and 6, the grandkids of Jeff and Deb Runser (south side) visited from Chicago last week ... they love Birch Lake and their visit is the highlight of their summer!

Amy and Tory Troeger (east side) both were at the lake this weekend! If you want to tell these sisters apart, remember: Amy has brown hair and blue eyes and Tory has blue eyes and brown hair.



The Fillenwarth kids (south side) had a great time getting dragged on their tubes last weekend ... Look like they got quite a bouncing!



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



That's Vice Commodore Pat McGann (east shore) and two of his grandsons learning to crew, Nathan Laneman, 14 yrs, and Matthew Laneman, 9 yrs.



Ryne and Quinn Howard enjoying the lake at Aunt Debbie's (Hall) house in the cove.

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



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - You are adventuresome because you want the thrill of discovery! Your pioneering nature makes you love camping and travel. You also enjoy creating something new, especially with your hands. All of these exciting, creative qualities that are the essence of who you are will be magnified with a boost of energy for the next four weeks Lucky you!

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - You have faith in your tactile reality, which is why so many of you are massage experts. When you buy something, you invariably reach out and touch it, right? You think everyone does this - but they don't. Recently, increased activity and chaos on the home front have been challenging. This will bring you opportunities to interact with a parent or an authority figure in the family. You will love to have a chance to cocoon and relax among familiar surroundings.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - You are fast talking, fast thinking and fast-moving. This will accelerate your daily pace! It will make you keen to talk to others, especially neighbors, siblings and relatives. You want to enlighten people and yet, at the same time, you want to learn more! This means you'll be running around enjoying short trips, visits with others plus reading, writing and studying. An exciting, fulfilling month ahead!

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - You are the feeler of the zodiac, which is why you are sympathetic with others. You want to nurture, mother and take care of them. Behind this warm concern for others is a need for stability and security. And behind your need for security, is your respect for money and property. You know that a roof over your head and being debt-free is the best security in practical terms - and you are a practical person. This is why you will give a lot of thought to your values in the next four weeks, especially values about how to run your life with the resources and money that you have.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Once a year, the Sun enters your sign where it stays for four weeks and that time has arrived! It's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. Symbolically, (and in real terms), you will replenish, restore and rejuvenate yourself during this four-week window of time. Not only that, you will attract important people to you as well as fortunate circumstances.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Because your birthday is approaching, this means your personal year is coming to an end. Therefore, for the next four weeks, the Sun will be waiting in the wings to enter your sign on Friday, August 23. Until then, it is hidden in your chart. This is why the next four weeks are the perfect time to cogitate, meditate and contemplate what you want for your new year ahead. Identify some goals, and write them down because this will help you make future decisions and give you a sense of purpose.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - In the next four weeks, you will be more popular and more involved with friends. You will also be more involved with clubs and associations. You might join a class or start a group! This is also a propitious time to make long-range goals. Ideally, you can bounce your hopes and dreams for the future off friends to get their feedback. Why not?

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Once a year, the Sun sits at the top of your chart for four weeks - that time is now. Symbolically, this means the Sun is shining a light on you and casting you in a flattering spotlight, which in turn, means that others admire you even if you don't do anything special. In particular, bosses, parents and VIPs will be impressed. Obviously, this is a fantastic break for you and it gives you an advantage! Now is the time to make your pitch or ask for a raise or a promotion or approval for something. Nothing is guaranteed but you couldn't get better odds in your favor! Do something.

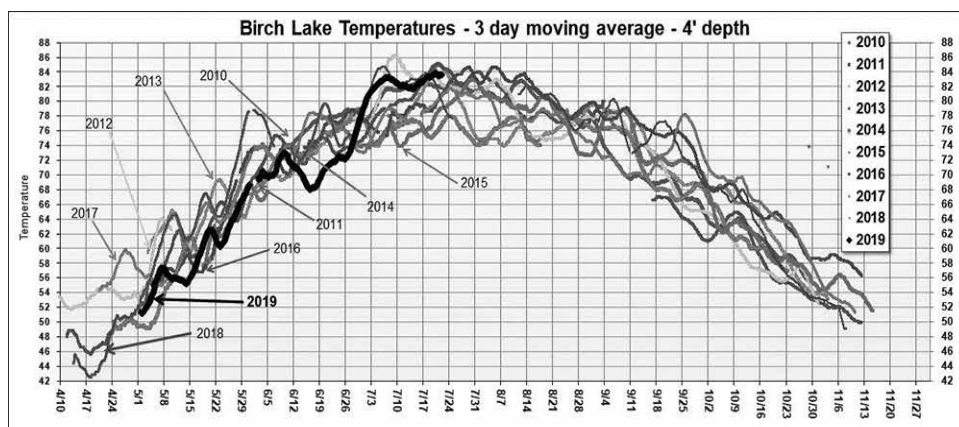
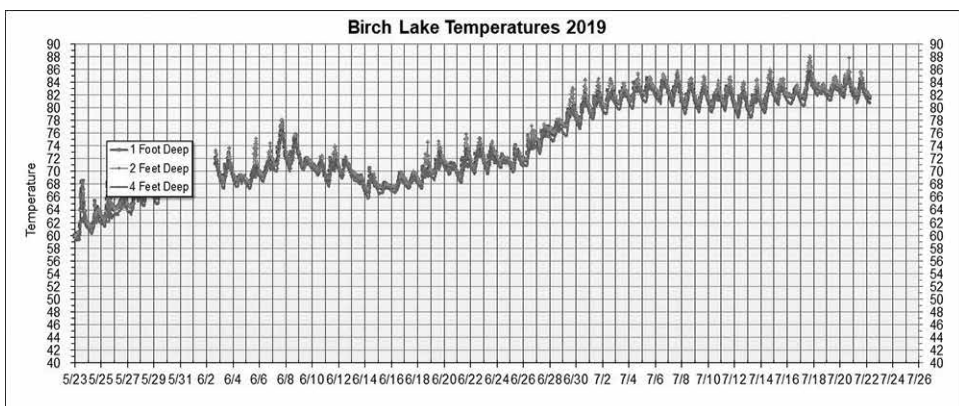
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Sometimes the gods favor us and this is what is happening for Sagittarius right now. You are the traveler of the zodiac, which means you want to constantly explore other cultures, different cities, different forests, new beaches and exotic places that are thrilling and stimulating. Meanwhile, for the next four weeks, both the Sun and fiery Mars are in a part of your chart urging you to travel! Do everything in your power to travel and get further education.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Long-term security is important to you, which incidentally, is a good thing because you are a long-lived sign. You are not casual about important matters that affect your wealth and security. Small wonder then that the next four weeks will be a time when you will have an increased focus on red-tape details concerning insurance matters, wills, estates, inheritances and the wealth of your partner or the wealth of someone else.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - For the next four weeks, the Sun will be opposite your sign; and this is the only time all year this happens. This polar-opposition placement immediately draws your focus to partners, spouses and close friends. Remember that negativity is wanting things to be different than the way they are. Contentment is accepting things the way they are. This means you have a lot of control over your own happiness.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - You are entering a four-week window where you will work hard and party hard! Some of you will encounter old flames at this time. However, the stronger influence is on work and health. It's as if you want to turn over a new leaf. Some of you might be involved with a pet more than usual because this energy is also activated during the next four weeks. Nevertheless, get into the right headspace because a lot of what you will do in the next four weeks will be according to someone else's wishes, or "service to others."

Birch Lake Environmental Data



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

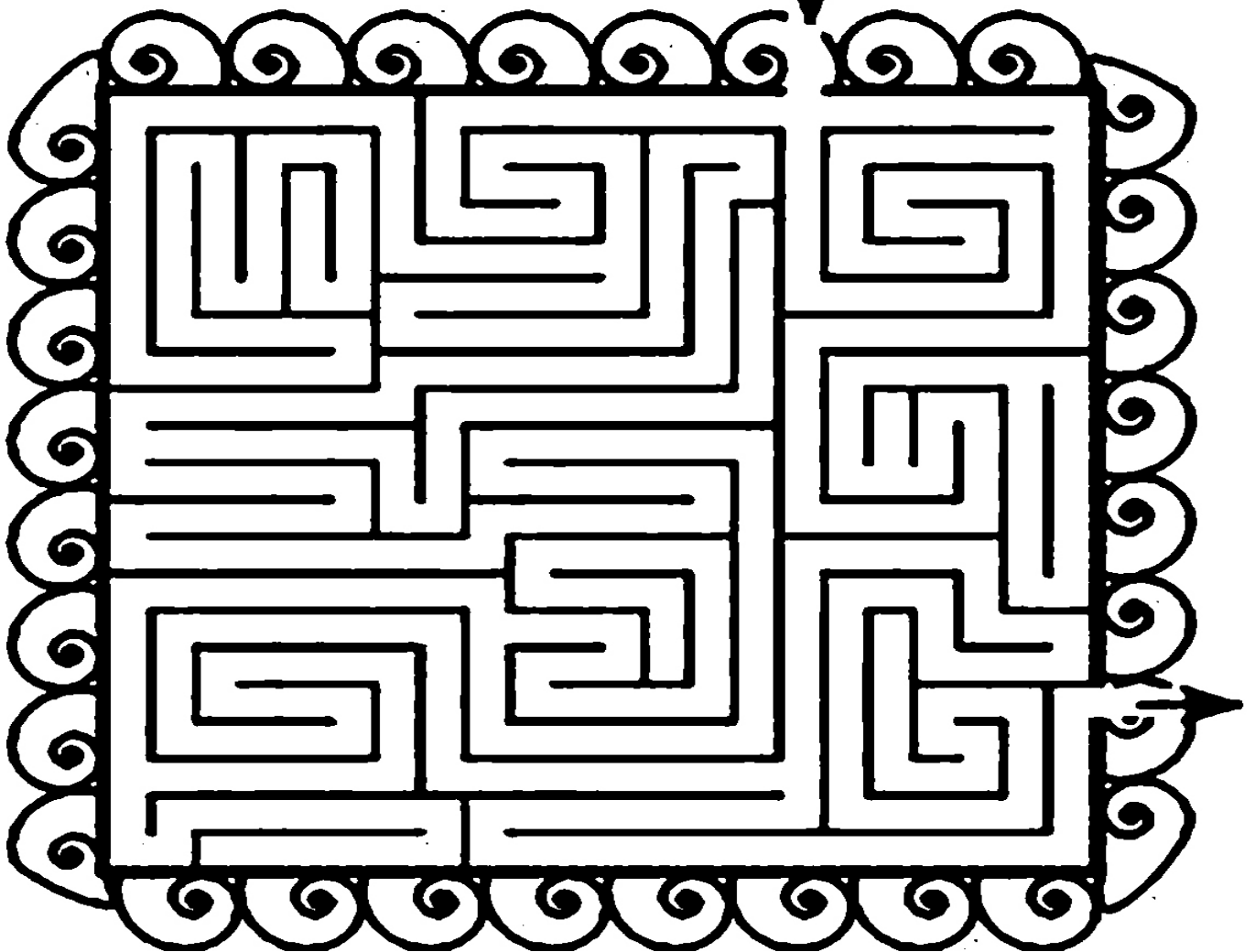
The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.185
3.2 days after last quarter



Sunrise: 06:29:46 AM
Sunset: 21:07:19 PM
Moonrise: 02:16:52 AM
Moonset: 16:58:09 PM
Daylight: 14 Hr 37 Min 33 Sec

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —



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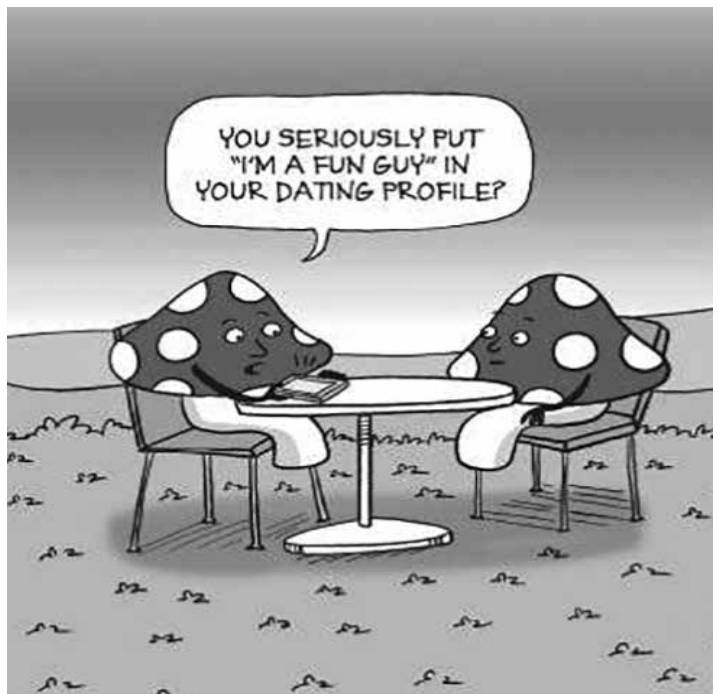
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES





~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

The best chili ever!

From the 2004 Birch Lake Ladies Luncheon Recipe Collection*

by **Keith Weesner**

(Formerly of the Southside)

- 1 tbsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. cumin
- ½ tsp. cayenne pepper
- ¼ tsp. garlic cloves
- 44 oz. whole skinned tomatoes
- 62 oz. dark red beans
- 1 green pepper chopped
- 2 red peppers chopped
- 1 tbsp. sugar
- 3-6 onions chopped
- 1 lb. hamburger
- 1 lb hot sausage

Brown hamburger and onions together; drain and put into a stock pot. Brown sausage and garlic together; drain and add to pot. Add the rest of the ingredients and simmer on low for several hours.

Can be doubled



Thanks to **Denny Weesner Bradfield** and **Ronnie Eshleman** for the recipes ...

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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Lights, Camera, ACTION!

We're in our Fifth full week session of camp for the summer already! This week's theme is "Big Screen Action," and our committee for this week has been planning a lot of fun and creative ideas to fit the theme.

Sunday night, because it was raining, we had an exciting game of "Name that Tune," with lots of emphasis on movie themes. Monday night was cook-out and cabin night. Tuesday night the committee planned an "Amazing Race" around camp, with challenges, songs, and skits to be performed. And Wednesday evening's activity was a Variety Show, with performances by campers and staff.

Sunday afternoon, we had to completely rearrange our check in day schedule because of the thunderstorms that came through right at 4pm when we were getting ready to start the swim test. This is the first time in at least 10 years that I can remember us having to cancel the Sunday swim test because of weather! I guess we've been really lucky on Sunday afternoons! This Sunday, because of the storms, we had to delay the swim test until

Monday morning, which then threw off our whole schedule for Monday.

Every Sunday, we check in a group of between 100 and 150 kids, and we have a pretty tight schedule to follow. The campers arrive between 2 and 4 pm, and are greeted at our welcome center by the counselors and other staff. They check in at the welcome center with Miss Amber to find out their cabin assignments and confirm their activities for the week. Then they go inside and get their heads checked for lice, and their temperature checked to make sure no one comes in with a fever.

After that, a counselor helps them carry their stuff to their cabin and get set up. Then they go to the camp store to get their camp t-shirt and make a deposit for their store account. And finally, they go see the camp nurse to turn in any medications, complete any remaining health paperwork, and discuss any medical concerns with the nurse.

As as soon as a cabin has all of their campers present, they can radio down to the waterfront to say that they're ready to take the swim test.

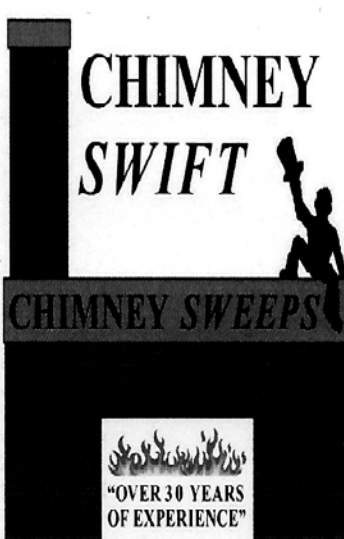
The cabins come down to the lake and a counselor goes over all the rules of the waterfront, including showing them how the buddy system works, explaining the different zones where they can swim, and reviewing safety procedures.

Then they line up to take the swim test. In order to take a boating class (canoeing, kayaking, sailing, paddleboarding, waterskiing, or wakeboarding), campers have to earn either a green or a purple wristband. To get a green wrist band, they have to swim 50 yards (25 on their front and 25 on their back); and to get a purple wrist band, they have to swim 75 yards (25 on their front and 25 on their back and another 25 of their choice). If they are taking swim lessons, they have to show which strokes they can do, so we can place them in the correct level.

We're just 2 weeks from the end of the summer already! It's hard to believe how fast it all flies by each year!

~Miss Amber

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.

Schecter Diamond Series "Black Widow" electric guitar with case and Line 6, Spider III 30 Amp, used maybe 6x's. \$200 for both, negotiable. Call Deb at 476-7226.



For sale: the **former Misch Mfg 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.

For sale: **Full size bed frame with Maple headboard and footboard.** Make offer. Bob Groszek. 219-384-9291.

For Sale: **Flint & Walling 1/2 hp well/lake motor and pump** - good for sprinkler or hose watering from lake \$50. **Old fishing lures** in original boxes and other fishing equipment \$5-\$10 each. Call 772-567-6154.

FOR SALE: Modern Master

Bedroom set including King sized bed frame (with inboard storage / headboard cabinetry) and desk. Vertical computer desk with doors and drawers. Call Leslie King 574-276-9996

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FOUND

Found: **small red and black Attwood buoy** found in the Cove Sunday, June 23, Call 476-2090

Found: **6x9 Aqua Lily float pad** on the East side on July 19. Call Bob At 269.228.6005.

THANKS

Thank you all for your donations of plastic bags and toilet paper & paper towel tubes! We have enough now to last us the entire summer for tie dye and crafts at camp, so we don't need any more at this time. Thank you from Camp Tannadoonah!

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

call Kathy at 476-9317

For **Sprinkler service**, please call SOS Irrigation @ (574) 534-9150



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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)
- \$ ___ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ ___ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ ___ - Water Quality Program
- \$ ___ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication
- \$ ___ - Safety Committee
- \$ ___ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$ ___ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$ ___ - BLYC AED Fund
- \$ ___ - Misc.

Total contribution:

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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NEW

now you can go online at [HTTP://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM](http://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM) to pay your dues

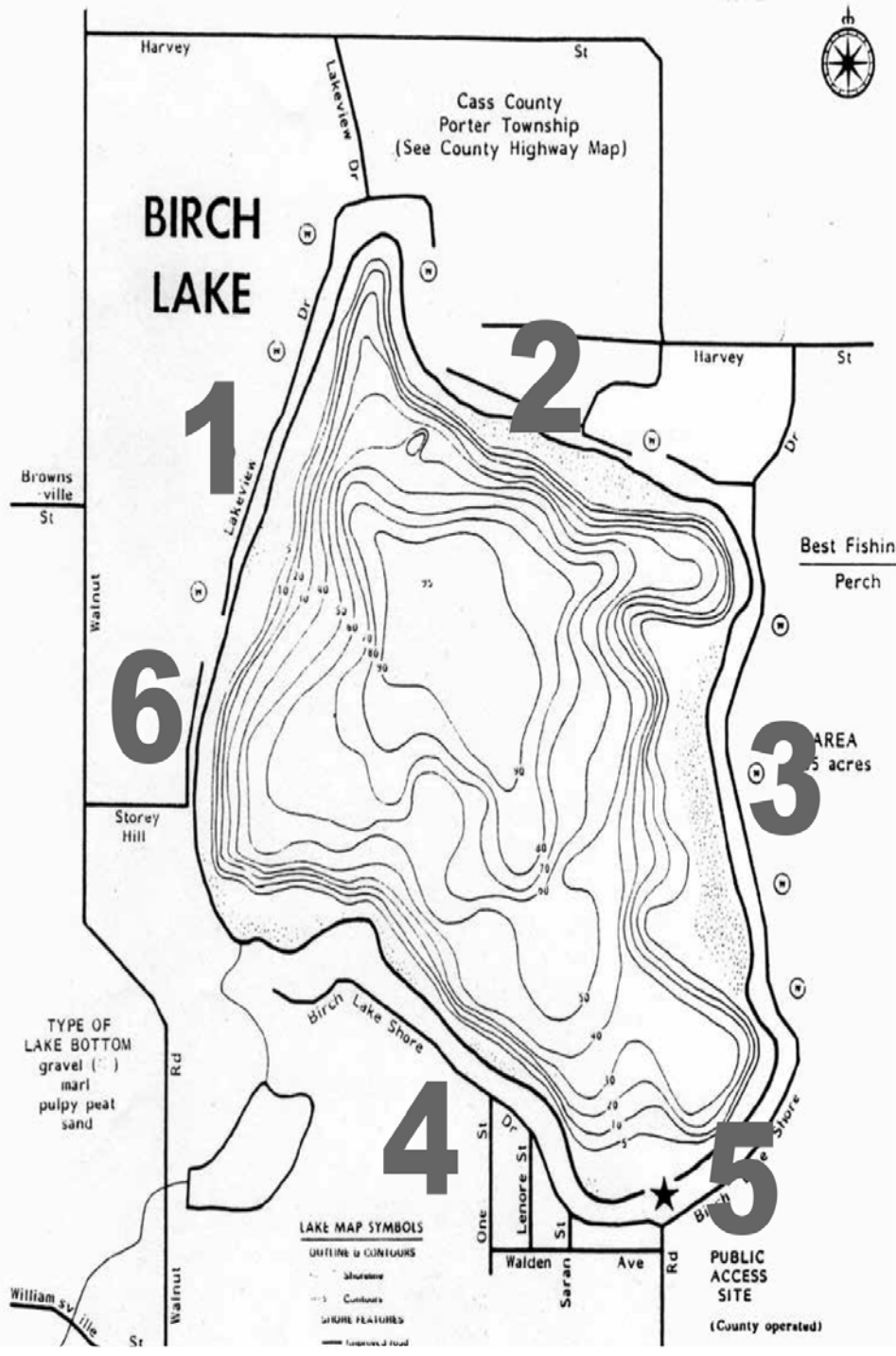
NEW

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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