

The
Weekend
Of

Aug. 24
2019

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Angela Bergan, the now most recent Past Commodore honored her mother-in-law Linda Bergan and Bruce Wagner (both of the Cove) with the Commodore's Trophy last Saturday night at the Fall Dinner. East sider Pat McGann has assumed the reins of the BLYC as the new Commodore for 2020, and East sider Dr. Dan Waxman was name the new Vice Commodore.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Dn behalf of the Birch Lake Yacht Club membership and the entire Birch Lake community I would like to express our most sincere appreciation to Past Commodore Angela Bergan and her First Mate Nick, for the fine job they have done these past few years. She leaves the club in outstanding shape: physically, socially and financially. From the Fall Dinner last year until last weekend she guided the club through each and every successful event and issue. We thank you for your time, treasures and talent you gave so unselfishly for the betterment of the club and the lake. After a presentation of a few parting gifts to her, I had the two Past Commodores before Angela: Claudia Phipps and Karen Curtis Miller, come to escort her in honor back to her seat.

Moreover, I would also like thank the people who stepped up and chaired the events and the huge numbers of those amazing people who put on their gloves on to assist the chairs with all the

events this summer. The people on this lake are friendly and generous in giving of their time.

I would also like us all to take a moment to remember those we loved who have been lost in the past year ... thank you. Hopefully, they found the perfect lake beyond the rainbow, with promises of a full stringer on every fishing trip, the water always calm for skiing, amazing sunrises and sunsets and the ideal wind speed for all the sailing races, golf courses with only pars and birdies with an occasional eagle and hole in one, but no sand traps.

We began a new tradition at this year's Fall Dinner and was to honor the service and dedication of the all the Past Commodores of the BLYC and the Birch Lake community. None of us would enjoy the yacht club and lake activities as much as we do without their past efforts. I asked Claudia Phipps to read a list of names of all the Past Commodores in attendance last Saturday and have them stand and be recognized.

I would also like to thanks my lovely wife Tessa for her love support and the rest of my family for their "Papa"

2019 Birch Lake Calendar

2019

August 25 - Retirement celebration for Fr. Richard Conyers, Camp Eberhart Klinger Hall, following 10 am mass
October 19 - Crockpot Challenge, BLYC

2020

May 16, 2020 - BLYC Spring Dinner, McGann Hay Granger Chapel, TBA
June 20, 2020 - Spaghetti Dinner, BLYC

BLYC Board Meeting: Sept 7, 9 am, BLYC
Watch for updates!

To rent the BLYC building contact Sandy Vitale at 269-476-1680 or 269-858-8184.

having to miss a few events but mostly for coming up to the lake and sharing this wonderful place with Nana and I.

We held an election at the Annual Membership meeting following dinner for new Directors per Article V, Section 2 – of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, Inc. by laws: for the three year terms of the

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 Pat McGann, call 574-532-5377 or email pat@mcgannhay.com.

— Birch Lake Notes —

directors that were ending. It was moved and carried unanimously to accept: Greg Bolin, Terry Dugan, Scott Troeger, Sarah Petty and Past Commodore Karen Curtis-Miller, and Bernie Garceau, to new terms as directors. Congratulations! And thankyou.

PJ and Sue Vandewalle have moved to Utah and we wish them well and thank PJ for his service to the board and the Lake Community!

Your new vice-commodore is my long-time friend Dr. Dan Waxman. He loves Birch Lake and enjoys every minute he spends here along with his lovely wife and soon to be First Mate Sharon and Wonder Dog Scout. He hails from Kansas City, KS via the University of Michigan and Camp Eberhart. His family is highly motivated and successful people, Doctors and Accountants, his mother and father were both doctors, and his dad was Chancellor of the U of K Medical School and a General in the US Army. He will do a great job for you. Thanks Dan for agreeing to serve.

Next Sunday of Labor Day weekend at 6 pm there will be one of those famous Birch Lake Flotillas out in the middle of the lake. Just come out and tie up to the other boats walk back and forth and meet and great other Birch Lakers. Bring an appetizer to share.

See you all at the SPRING DINNER Saturday May 16, 2020 at my Granger Chapel catered again by the Skillet with a totally awesome special premium menu created just for the BLYC. Be sure to put it on your calendars now.

The next BLYC Board meeting is on Sept. 7, 2019 at 9 am at the BLYC Club House and we would like to talk about all the events coming up next year so if you are chairing an event or have an idea for any new events or would just like to chair and event please come to this meeting.

Love the Lake!

~ J. Patrick McGann, Commodore 2020

A note from Past Commodore Angela

Hello Birch Lake, I wanted to thank you for coming out to

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Pat & Tessa McGann, Birch Lake Residents, Eastside

the Fall Dinner. It was a great success and what a beautiful event Pat and Tessa created with the Fall Dinner. I wanted to thank everyone for their support as my time as commodore. I also want to congratulate Dan Waxman as the new Vice Commodore. Please be sure to continue to be kind to one another and we continue to support Pat as the New Commodore. The Commodore Award for 2019 went to my mother, Linda Bergan, and Mr. Bruce Wagner. Just in case you were not able to attend here is my presentation;

The Commodore Award goes to a person who provides support to the Commodore during their term. I wish I could give this award to so many people. I want to deeply thank Past Commodore Karen and others who contributed to my success as Commodore. The person who receives this award is a person who has provided me with undivided attention and a lending ear. This person has provided me with kind words and a helpful hand. Whenever I needed anything this person stepped up to the plate. From decorating to cleaning or sharing some great advice.

This person is actually two people, and everything I said applies to both of them. Each person has been on the lake for more than 20 years. One person is probably more obvious than the other. One person is more behind the scenes. One person

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND has starting over for 2020's \$10,250 GOAL Contribute now for next year!



— Birch Lake Notes —

has been very close to this position before and knows the ins and outs. The other person is more of a silent cheerleader constantly pushing me to keep on. Both of these people love Birch lake. One was introduced to the lake by family the other has become like family. One person is my constant dinner date, bartender and volunteers for any task. The other person helps organize flowers, decorates tables and is always available for a counseling session.

I would like to give this award to Linda Bergan and she has to share it with our new 2020 Spaghetti Chair Person Bruce Wagner.

Take care.

~Past Commodore Angela

Sympathies

Our sympathies to the family of Diane Trudell, the mother of Birch Laker Amy Trudell (Lutz, formerly of the north side). Diane died Aug. 17 in Howell, MI. Funeral services were last week; memorials may be made to the Elks Lodge.

Father Conyers retiring

Just shy of 50 years ago, a young priest from Notre Dame celebrated Mass at YMCA Camp Eberhart on Corey Lake in Three Rivers for the first time.

Up until recently, he made the weekly trek between Memorial Day and Labor Day from Chicago to Three Rivers. His mission was to tend to the spiritual needs of what he has affectionately dubbed "our little community." That little community has grown largely due to his devotion, sense of humor and willingness to share his vast knowledge of religion, art and languages.

Father Rich has advised us that he will be retiring from offering Mass at Camp Eberhart the end of this summer. He

will offer his last Mass at Camp Eberhart Sunday, Sept. 2.

In honor of his nearly half century of dedicated service, please join Father Richard Conyers following Mass on Sunday, at Klinger Hall at Camp Eberhart on Aug. 25 for coffee, rolls, remembrances and neighborly fellowship.

As Father Rich instructs at the end of each Mass, "Go forth and spread the word." Please notify friends and neighbors that might not know of this upcoming celebration.

Crockpot Challenge Cookoff 2019

Attention to all you "SOUPER-DUPER" cooks! The date for this year's cookoff will be on October 19, 5:30 pm, at the BLYC! There is a little change to the format this year. There are going to be 2 categories. We will have a "savory" group, which will contain delicious soups, chili, stews, etc. and we will be voting for the top two places. Next will be the "sweet" group. Wonderful desserts that can be created in the crockpot. If you're thinking "what desserts do you make" check out Pinterest for hundreds of ideas and recipes! Again we will be voting for the top two in this group.

If you are entering either categories, you must have your entry at the BLYC no later than 5pm. Also, if entering, contestants please let me know by October 12 so I can make sure we have enough extension cords and tables for your crockpot. NO TASTERS UNTIL 5:30!

There will be 50/50 drawings with proceeds going to Fireworks. Other drawings for door prizes and possibly a surprise or two!

Fixings of crackers, chopped onion, shredded cheese, bread and butter, etc, would be appreciated.

BYOB in case there's not much left at the BLYC. This will be the last official event of the season!! See you there, and come HUNGRY!

Questions? Call Bad Patty 476-2615 or text 317-605-6421

2020 Spaghetti Dinner!

Hey lovers of Italian cuisine ... Spaghetti man here to tell you to mark your calendars for the not-to-be-missed 2020 BLYC Spaghetti Dinner brought to you by Chef Boy R Bruce and his team of Spaghetti-Os on June 20, the first day of summer in 2020.

~ Spaghetti Dinner Chairman Bruce Wagner

Birch Lake Book Club

Denny Weesner will host the September Book Club meeting. We'll discuss Women in Sunlight by Frances Mayes. Everyone is welcome.

Debbie Soldato will host the October meeting.



Welcome to Jaywalker

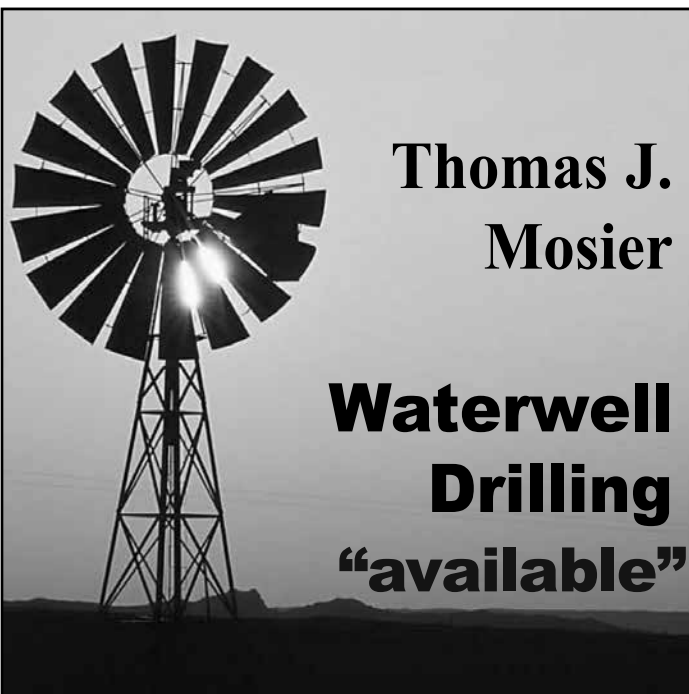


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Birch Lake Notes



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. If you call or email a report about swimmers at the landing, please copy or notify Phil Vitale at 476-1680 or at onlinebarker@gmail.com so we can keep a record of the number and outcome of the complaints.**

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The Amazing Monarch Butterfly

by **Gordon Seyfarth**

How is it even possible that a monarch butterfly, weighing just one fiftieth of an ounce, emerging from a chrysalis here at Birch Lake in September, knows that it has to fly over 2000 miles to a tiny forest in the State of Michoacán, Mexico? Truly amazing, it is hard not to love these graceful, beautiful creatures that are an iconic symbol of our country.

Over a billion monarch butterflies have vanished just since 1990 and their winter population is down to a mere 35 million butterflies. The subject of thousands of recent lawsuits, the same poisons that are entering our ground water supplies, weakening our immune systems, and causing cancers in humans are killing off pollinators like bees and butterflies and the milkweed they depend on for survival. They are one of a million species facing extinction within the next few decades according to a recent United Nations report. Their presence in our gardens and yards will be missed.

For anyone wishing to raise them to help out the population, I have several tips that I can offer. Just be aware that raising monarch butterflies requires a willingness to spend some time each and every day to keep them alive. Raising a butterfly from an egg takes almost a month. At maturity, large caterpillars eat a large leaf every day. I have been raising them for 8 years and have at the time of writing this article, well over 120 caterpillars in 35 containers on our kitchen counter.

- The first thing required is a good supply of milkweed plants and they will take a couple years to establish. The seeds for starting a milkweed garden can be collected from the seed pods produced by the plants in the fall. Consider planting the seeds in an area that gets half a day of shade and that has irrigation. This will help to keep the plants greener later into the summer when much of the wild milkweed has dried up. Having leaves late in the summer is essential to feed the critical generation that makes the flight to Mexico.

- The second requirement is a supply of suitable containers for rearing them. I use Chocolate Covered Raisin jars purchased from Costco. Buy these in the fall so the winter can be spent happily consuming their contents and wash the empty containers and lid with soap and water and rinse thoroughly.

- Collect leaves from your plants that have a tiny white monarch egg on their underside by cutting the leaf off at the stem with a pair of scissors. Wear your glasses, if necessary. Monarch eggs are laid individually and are pure white in color and round. If your eggs appear tan colored, you are probably



Top: Butterfly 10 minutes after emerging with wings starting to dry. Above left: Butterfly wings visible through Chrysalis just before emerging. Above right: Chrysalis attached to underside of lids for emergence outdoors.

collecting aphids. Fold a paper towel and place it in the bottom of the container and wet the paper partially to increase the humidity in the container to keep the cut leaves from drying out. Place the leaves in the container with the stem at the bottom. It is best to raise only two caterpillars if possible per container and try to keep the caterpillars apart because, if they are crowded, they can bite each other and die. Put only caterpillars of the same size in the same container.

- Change the leaves as necessary so that the growing caterpillars have a steady supply of healthy leaves. The leaves need to be changed if they are wilted, turning yellow, or have mold on them.

- Never touch the caterpillars. The caterpillar holds itself onto a leaf by spinning a little silk and removing the caterpillar and severing the silk strand can kill the caterpillar. If the caterpillars temporarily attach to the side of the container or lid, it is probably because they are ready to shed their skin which they will do as they grow. They will return to the leaves when they are ready. If a leaf is no longer healthy, the best way to transfer a small caterpillar or egg to a new leaf is to carefully cut a rectangle out of the leaf around the caterpillar or egg at a safe distance from

the caterpillar and attach that small rectangle to the underside of a new leaf with a small piece of scotch tape. Larger caterpillars can be transferred by cutting a lot of the bad portions of the leaf away and just lean it against a fresh leaf. Make sure not to disturb the caterpillar and do not accidentally cut off their antennae by trimming the leaf too close to their body.

- They will grow from a length of less than an eighth of an inch to over 2 inches. The larger caterpillars may eat two large leaves a day so check the containers twice a day at that point. When they are ready, they will crawl to the top of the container, attach to the bottom of the lid, spin a web of silk, and attach themselves by their buttock and hang downwards in the shape of a J. Make sure there are a couple extra leaves in the container at this point so that when the first caterpillar attaches to the lid, there is enough food for the second caterpillar because you do not want to remove the lid until the butterflies are ready to emerge.

- The lids on your containers should be let loose so that you can lift them straight up and down without screwing them off. The caterpillar attached to the lid will shed its skin after one day and the green chrysalis will appear underneath. Until it hardens, the chrysalis is very fragile and movement or vibration will kill the pupa. After a week, check your containers daily by shining a flashlight into the container and look at the chrysalis under the lid. After close to two weeks, the chrysalis will start to darken. At this point, carefully transfer the lid to a safe, not too windy, location outside where they can emerge naturally on their own to dry their wings.

- I use a wooden clothespin attached to the back of my deckchairs to hold the lids with the chrysalis hanging down. The chrysalis will turn black and become transparent. The gold dots you see are the spots on the monarch's wings. The monarch will emerge with tiny wings and a huge abdomen. It will contract its abdomen and pump up its wings. At this point, do not get close to it for 3 or 4 hours. The butterfly will rest and dry its wings and get ready to fly. If approached, it may fly before it is ready and can easily die or be eaten.

If you are interested in giving this a try, feel free to stop by my home for additional help or if you have questions. I would be happy to walk you through the entire process. I will also have seeds available for you in the fall. Monarchs provide a unique opportunity to witness one of the truly magical events that happen on our beautiful planet. Enjoy!

~GS, 62982 Birch Rd., (269) 476-1319

— Water Quality Report —

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.



Late summer WQ tidbits

Just a couple of things as the season winds down. The first is in reference to E coli, a common intestinal bacteria found in all warm-blooded animals, but in large numbers in the environment can serve as an indicator of contamination and health problems. We have discussed this in the past and started testing for it back in 2007 after the sewers were put in, as there were some concerns that they were contaminating the lake. A formal testing protocol was put in place by the Water Quality Committee and we found that there was no issue with E coli. We maintained the formal testing protocol for a couple of years and then Terry put together a little testing lab using validated sampling and culturing materials from a local laboratory. Each year he would sample the same 5 locations and no issue has been found with the exception of the little stream leading into the lake in the northeast corner. However, upon entrance into the lake dilution was so rapid that only basically background E coli could be found, and the E coli in the stream was not human, meaning not from the sewer.

Remember whenever a duck, goose, gull, or muskrat poops in the lake they add some E coli. Thus, you will never find a body of water E coli free. This year Terry sampled the same 5 sites with the same observations. In some

places not even background, and where it was found other than the little stream, it was less than 1/100th of the level considered to be of any risk, i.e. basically background.

However, this does not mean go drink the lake water, but the lake is safe for all water activities.

The second of the things is blue-green algae. It is possible at this time of year with the nitrogen level of the lake falling for us to potentially see very minor isolated little blue-green algae blooms on a shoreline in the early morning before the wave action breaks it up.

Blue-green algae are not really algae but a bacteria that can create its own usable nitrogen for growth. Although, nitrogen makes up the bulk of the atmosphere it is in a gaseous form that cannot be used by plants etc. It has to be converted into other forms for it to be available. Algae cannot do this, but blue-green algae can convert atmospheric nitrogen into a usable form and use it to grow with. Normally, you get blue-green algae blooms in very heavy nutrient rich lakes, which we are not. But under the right conditions we can have a little bloom or so. Zebra mussels have added to this because they do not like blue-green algae and effectively spit it out while eating all the good algae. So blue

-greens may have a competitive edge at times.

We bring this up because some blue-green algae can produce toxins that could be dangerous to animals or humans ingesting it. The levels we would find in Birch Lake would be of orders of magnitude too little to be an issue, but if there is a shoreline bloom and a dog were to drink directly from that spot, there could be a danger. Thus, if your dog normally goes to the waters edge for a drink, look first for a shiny little scum on the water. Not the decomposing carcasses of the last mayfly/fishfly emergence or thick mats of green algae, but a sort of shimmering scum that may extend a few feet out into the lake.

The few times it has been observed are after a windy day and on the shoreline that the wind blew toward. The lake quiets at night, and the blue-green may rise to the surface if in sufficient numbers and produce a short lived bloom. We do not expect to see this but we usually like to forewarn folks each year.

Water testing season is drawing to a close. We still have a late summer phosphorous sample to take, a September chlorophyll sample, another look at dissolved oxygen in the water column, and water clarity readings. On August 19, the clarity was 14 feet, a truly improving number.



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— Barker Plant of the Week —

Parrot Feather Watermilfoil

(*Myriophyllum aquaticum* [Vell.] Verdc.)



Description: A close relative of Eurasian watermilfoil, parrot feather has leaves arranged in whorls of four to six around a thick stem. The oblong leaves are 0.5 to 1.5 inches long with deeply cut, bright blue-green, feathery leaflets. It is one of the few submerged aquatic plants whose stems and leaves extend above the surface. Heavy infestations resemble a forest of tiny fir trees across the surface. Underwater leaves are feathery, limp and reddish. Stems can be 5 feet in length, trailing along the bottom and forming dense mats before turning upright to emerge above the water. In contrast, Eurasian watermilfoil stems and leaves do not extend above the water, although its flowers and seeds do.

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Habitat and distribution:

Parrot feather prefers lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams and ditches. Dense mats covering the surface of shallow waters can contribute to flooding. The plant's tough stems interfere with recreation. A popular aquaria and water gardening plant, parrot feather is spread by release and by improper disposal of unwanted plants. Once established, it spreads by fragmentation, water currents and boat trailers. Indigenous to South America, parrot feather was first reported in the United States in the Washington, D.C., area in 1890. Parrot feather has been found in 31 states, including neighboring Ohio. Unconfirmed sightings in Michigan have been reported.



Control/management: Parrot feather is difficult to control. Submerged and emergent foliage impede effective herbicide delivery, and the waxy coating on emergent stems and leaves inhibits herbicide uptake. Harvesting and other mechanical controls produce fragments that help spread the plant. Aquarium and water garden specimens should not be discarded into or near water bodies.



Legend: Present (shaded), Absent (unshaded)



(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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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Fleet Captain's Jibe #14, Aug. 18

By *J. Patrick McGann*

Well, once again we had bad weather and had to cancel the sailboat races this past Sunday. Next year your Fleet Captain is going to be Bill Leucht, with Bad Patty talking on the additional responsibility of authoring the Fleet Captain's articles for Bill in addition to being in charge of the Race Committee Boat.

One of the things we have all been talking about is how we can encourage new people, adults and kids into sailing and racing. It is and has been such a wonderful part of the Birch Lake experience over the years. Sometimes it is just a matter of going out on a sailboat with someone and experiencing the wind and the canvas. For me, when I moved to

the lake, it became an instant group of people who became my friends and accepted me into the group. There is a camaraderie between the sailors here on Birch.

There use to be a Peoples' Regatta where the seasoned skippers on the lake would take anyone wishing to go sailing for an hour or so out in their boats for a ride. I hope we do this next summer or even this fall before we put our boats away into dry dock.

THE LABOR DAY REGATTA will be next weekend so we will sail on Saturday and Sunday at 11 am, with make up for the five races on Monday if needed.

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes!

~Fleet Captain Pat



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



TRANSPLANTAVERSARY!! - Taylor Gableman (in the middle, striped swimsuit) and friends raise their dilly bars in celebration of Taylor's third year liver transplant anniversary. Taylor is the granddaughter of Claudia and Dennis Phipps.

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Above, Paul and Celia Fallon (east side) enjoying the Polish feast at the kids' table during last weekend's Fall Dinner.

At left: We planted milkweed and nectar flowers this spring and soon attracted large numbers of monarch butterflies and other butterflies which laid eggs that grew into caterpillars. We raised a few caterpillars indoors for fun. This beautiful female is shown being released on Monday, and will soon be migrating to Mexico. Thank you to Gordon Seyfarth and Kerry and Carol McCoy for your advice and help! And to our neighbors Carl and Sandie Klappauf for your support!
~The Frews, East Side

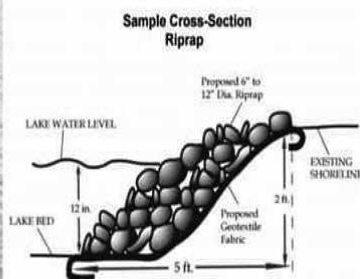
Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Dog of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be the Lawnmower of the Week? Just mail your photo (with a SASE if you want the photo(s) back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (east side), or email them to me at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Marc and Lynn Caenepeel (west side) and Deb and Bud Hall doing the selfie thing and the airplane thing while vacationing last week in Alaska.



Aspen Whiteman daughter of Ian and Sabrina Whiteman. Granddaughter of Ron and Staci Whiteman will celebrate her 1st birthday on Sept 3. She was born on her grandparents 35th wedding anniversary. Happy Birthday Princess Sunshine!



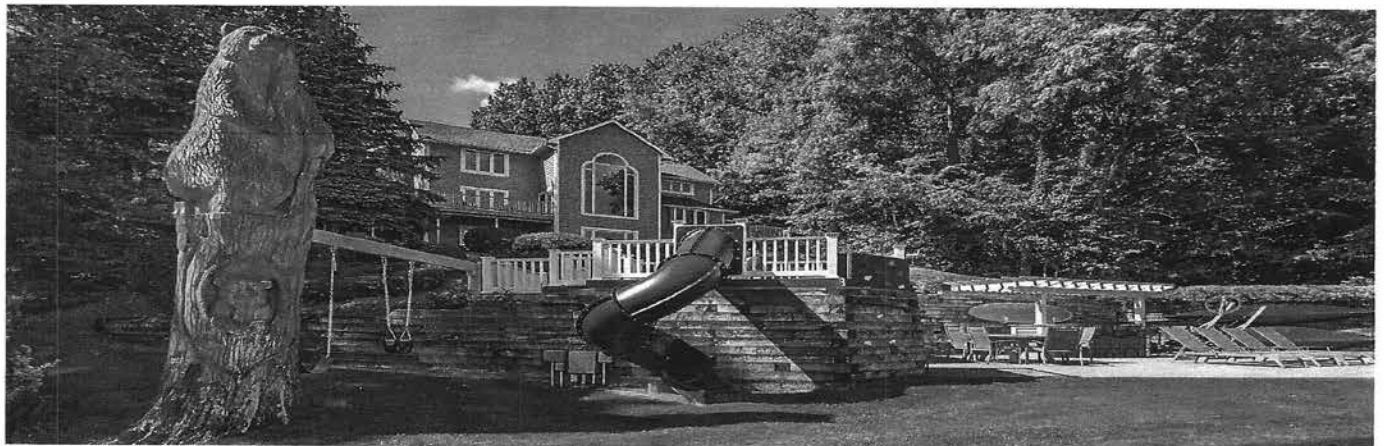
Erin w, niece of Denise Smitley (north side) upon completion of her boat safety course. It is her inaugural jet ski ride. We are proud of her!

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Baths: 4 1/2
Fireplace: 3
Garage: 3 Car Attached
Exterior: Stone & Vinyl
Water: Well
Sewer: Municipal
Lake Frontage: 125'
Taxes: \$8,804
Price Reduced: \$899,000 (\$995,000)

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- Lower level has family room with fireplace, bedroom suite with adjoining bedroom for the toddlers, gaming room with full kitchen and storage room leading to lake.
- Adorable guest house with washer, dryer, wood stove, electric heat, full kitchen, and sleeps 6.
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- There is also a wrap around deck overlooking Birch Lake.

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - You charge forward into life headfirst, always eager – the leader of the pack. Small wonder that this week marks a turning point when you suddenly will be gripped by that back-to-school panic. Your desire to get better organized will most strongly be reflected at work and in your job because this is where you are going to give it your best shot. You want to be efficient and productive, and you're prepared to work hard to get results. Not only will you work hard, you will delegate to others as well.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Although many people are gearing up for that back-to-school moment, you are entering serious party mode! If you can, please slip away on vacation during the next four weeks to live it up and enjoy life! The overall theme of this next five weeks is that you want the freedom to do your own thing and be yourself. You don't have to please anyone else. Love affairs, amusements, creative self-expression and fun activities with kids will all appeal.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - It's been busy and this week marks a shift of focus to home, family and your private life. Renovations, residential moves and redecorating projects will demand your attention. This same planetary influence will bring real-estate opportunities or a chance to rent something better. This month ahead is perfect to entertain friends and family at home, especially to show off what you've been doing.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - The back-to-school theme will grip you now even if you don't have kids going to school. Why? It's an ingrained habit from the past. Not only will you be busy with personal tasks, your schedule will be packed with short trips, increased time with siblings and relatives plus lots of reading, studying and writing. There's only 24 hours in a day and you're booked! Look around you at your immediate surroundings to see what you want to change.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - For the next five weeks, your focus is on cash flow, earnings and major purchases. Some of you will review your summer spending and grab a drink. However, you might decide to boost your earnings, which is why you will hatch moneymaking ideas along with ways to cut back on spending. (Smart to tackle both ends of this situation.) Avoid disputes with someone about how you to spend your money. For you, the right to spend your money symbolizes personal freedom.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - For the next month, it's all about you! This empowers you and gives you a chance to rejuvenate yourself! Both the Sun and Mars will boost your stamina, motivation and drive! You won't hesitate to defend your best interests and go after what you want, which is why this will be an amazing, productive month. Make note: This same month is also a terrific time to buy wardrobe goodies that you will love. Use this blessing! You will have opportunities to state your views to others because they will listen and hear you.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - The process of defining goals and the parameters that affect them gives you lots of information. For the next month, you're in a holding pattern. This is the best time all year to make goals for your new year ahead. Goals will give you a clearer focus about what is important to you. They offer more clarity in decision-making.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - In the next month, you will be more involved with groups – both formal and casual because you will be most effective working and cooperating with others. Friendships will be important as you realize the role they play in your life. Study your friends. What is true of your friends is generally also true of you. You will enjoy your friends and realize how fond you are of someone. Possibly, a friend will become a lover. This is also a good time to identify goals and think about how you want to pursue them.

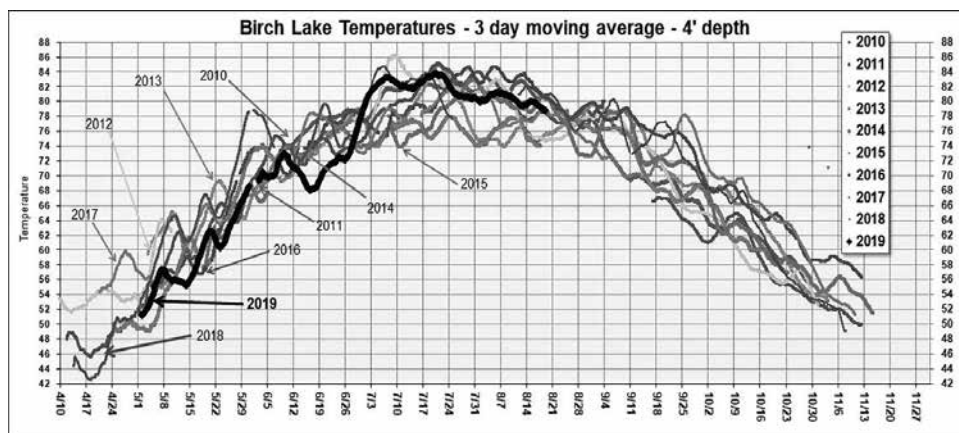
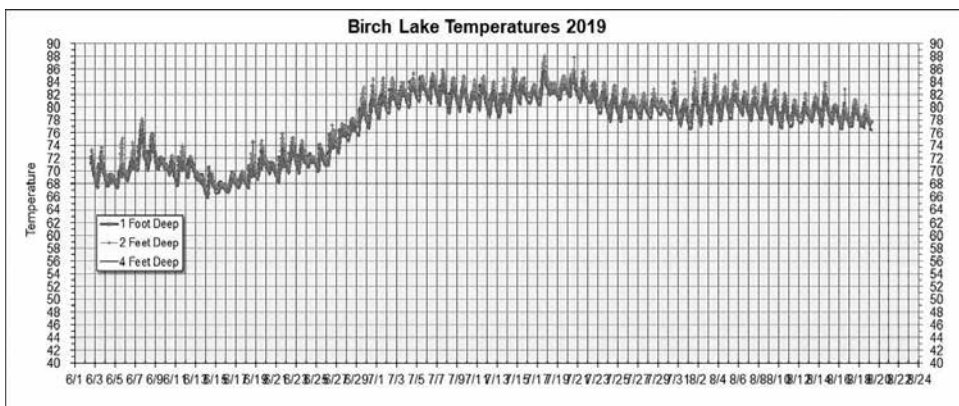
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - You are entering an auspicious month because without any effort on your part, you will suddenly shine in the eyes of bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. They see you as competent, capable and successful. Because of this, they'll ask you to take on increased responsibilities or they will ask for advice. It's important to accept their respect and admiration and cooperate because you will succeed!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Do everything in your power to travel in the next month because this is what you really want to do! If you cannot travel, make an effort to explore your own city so that you can expand your knowledge, and at the same time, feel stimulated by new experiences. Likewise, in the next month, if you take courses or go back to school, you find it pleasurable to learn new things. You might also be attracted to people from different countries and different cultures. New love with someone "different" might begin.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - In the next month, you will feel strong compulsions surfacing. Basically, you want to experience life on a feeling level - not just intellectual. Perhaps you will meet someone who produces this effect on you. Or perhaps they will provoke you to explore psychological self inquiry. During this same time, you will benefit from the wealth and resources of others. People will give you things! And it will be easier to get a loan or mortgage from a bank.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - For the next month, a handful of planets will oppose your sign. This is why you will need more sleep and more rest. This is also why you will need more patience when dealing with partners and close friends because Mars will be opposite your sign. This happens every two years for a month and when it does, you feel easily annoyed with those who are close to you. In truth, they might not be doing anything different.

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: 0.223
2.7 days after last quarter

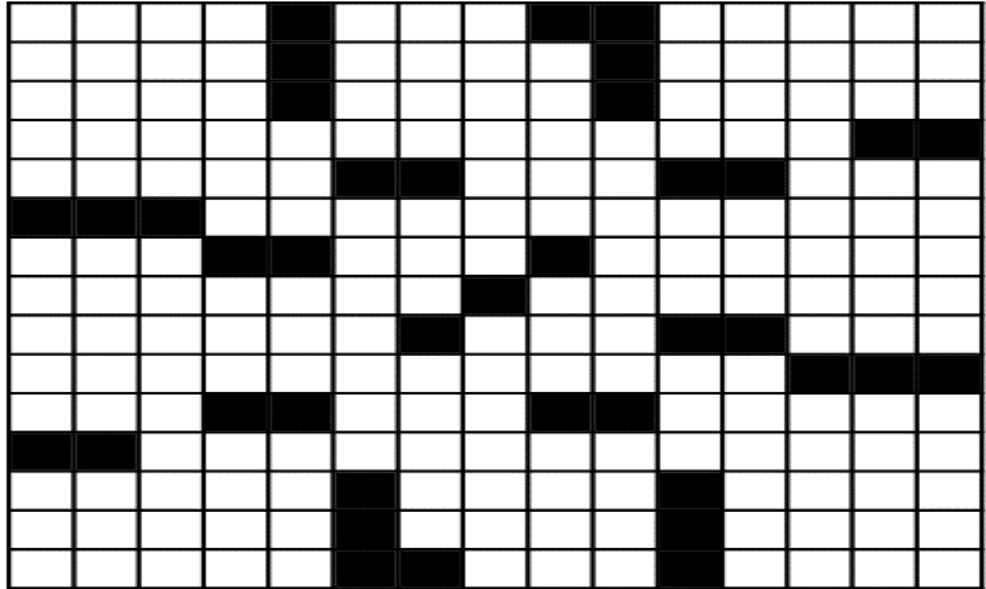


Sunrise: 06:58:51 AM
Sunset: 20:29:50 PM
Moonrise: 00:49:51 AM
Moonset: 15:48:25 PM
Daylight: 13 Hr 30 Min 58 Sec

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —

3 LETTER WORDS

AIR
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ETA
ETC
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HOE
MAO
ODD
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SLY
SPA
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TNT
YAK



4 LETTER WORDS

A LOT
AGOG
COAX
CREE
EPOS
EVER
FIRM
GALA
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NAGA
NAPE
OLLA
OPAH
REST
ROUÉ
RUSH

SAYS
VINO

5 LETTER WORDS

ADYTA
ANTSY
ARÊTE
CREEK
DAVIT
ENACT
ENEMA
EPOXY
ITALY
OVERS
PIXEL
PULSE
SET ON

SHALE
SOBER
TAIGA
TESTA
TEXAS
VAPID
VIOLA

6 LETTER WORDS

ATRIAL
LIAISE
NARCOS
RESETS

7 LETTER WORDS

EHRlich
GAROTTE

NEUTERS
ONSTAGE
PAHLAVI
RUMMAGE

9 LETTER WORDS

EXTREMITY
TURNTABLE

12 LETTER WORDS

CONSTITUTION
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13 LETTER WORDS

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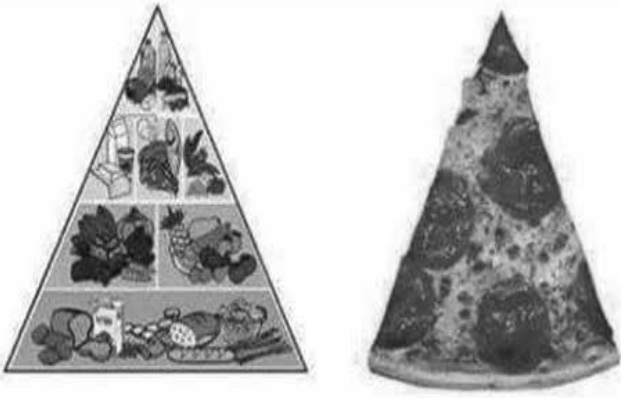
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



CLOSE ENOUGH.





~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Chicken Enchiladas

From the 2004 Birch Lake Ladies Luncheon Recipe Collection* by Judy Doba (formerly of the south side)

- 2 small cans of cream of chicken soup
- 1 box of Uncle Ben's long grain rice (fast cook-cooked)
- 8 oz container of plain Greek yogurt
- 1 can chopped green chilies
- 2 TBLS chili powder
- 2-3 cups chopped or shredded chicken
- 2-3 cups shredded cheese of any kind. (I prefer hot pepper cheese or Colby jack)
- 1 package flour tortillas

Mix cream of chicken soup, yogurt and cooked rice together; Add chili powder, chilies, chicken and most of the cheese. Stir it up and fill tortillas.
 Use a 9 x 12 pan. If there are two layers add a layer of filling before the tortillas; Top with cheese; Bake at 350 until warm in the middle; Can be microwaved too; Great for after a football game!

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



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— Camp Tannadoonah —

The season's over ...

We've wrapped up the year at camp, and what a year it was! We had over 1000 campers for the first time ever, made a lot of improvements to camp facilities, survived some really hot days in July, and had so much fun!

Many people ask what we're doing at Camp Fire now that camp is over. It seems like we'd have some down time after camp... but that's not the case! We're really busy right now, and continue to be busy pretty much all year long.

It's hard to believe, but we're already starting to plan for next summer. We plan to launch registration for the summer of 2020 on September 1st! This past week I've been working on the dates for camp, planning out special programs, and thinking about themes for each week.

Last week we had a rental group at camp for the whole week right after our camp program ended. This is the 3rd year this same group as come to Camp Tannadoonah. They're a church group from Livonia, Michigan and bring approximately 80 people to camp

for a week. It's sometimes challenging having groups at camp who aren't part of our regular program, and I apologize to the west side neighbors who had problems with the kids out kayaking last week.

This week we are running a week-long day camp program at one of our After School sites. Miss Michelle is leading the After School program again this year, and we will continue to have 2 different locations: Good Shepherd Montessori School in South Bend, and Sam Adams Elementary in Cassopolis. This week, Miss Michelle is overseeing the day camp at Good Shepherd from 8am to 5:30pm daily. Then we start with the regular after school program on Monday at Good Shepherd, and on Tuesday, September 3 at Cassopolis.

This fall we have rentals nearly every weekend at camp. The weekend of September 7 and 8 we have a retreat group from Notre Dame, as well as a swim team retreat from Mishawaka. The weekends of September 14, September 21, and October 12 have wedding rentals, and the weekend

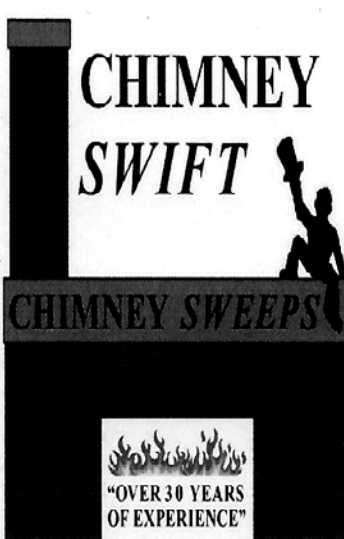
of October 19th has another retreat group.

We will host our annual Fall Camp and Family Camp weekend the weekend of October 5th. This is a great weekend for kids to try out camp, or to reconnect with their summer friends. And we also invite families to come spend the weekend with us. If you've ever wondered what camp is like for the campers, this is your chance to try it out! We will have the registration posted on our website by the end of next week. It's a fun, laid back camp weekend with a sampler of camp activities – sports & games, crafts, nature, drama, archery, camp songs, and cooking over a fire! You can email us at info@riverbendcampfire.org for more information or registration details.

This fall we plan to continue to tackle building improvements, the next phase in the Morris Lodge restoration project, and beginning to plan for a major overhaul of our kitchen in the dining hall. We're excited to get started!

~Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org



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 Get it while it lasts!



For Sale: **2006 Pontiac Solstice** (2-seat convertible). Only 33K miles, runs great and looks great too! Silver with Black top, 5-speed manual transmission, newer tires. Stored every winter so no salt wounds. Fun car to drive. Sadly selling so I can downsize my 'fleet'. \$9,000 OBO. Call/Text Karen at 574-261-6712.

Attention Golfers: **For Sale ~ Full set of Adams irons**; 3 through 7 hybrid irons - 8, 9, PW regular irons. \$150. Call Bud at 476-2526

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- \$ ___ - Water Quality Program
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- \$ ___ - BLYC AED Fund
- \$ ___ - Misc.

Total contribution: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

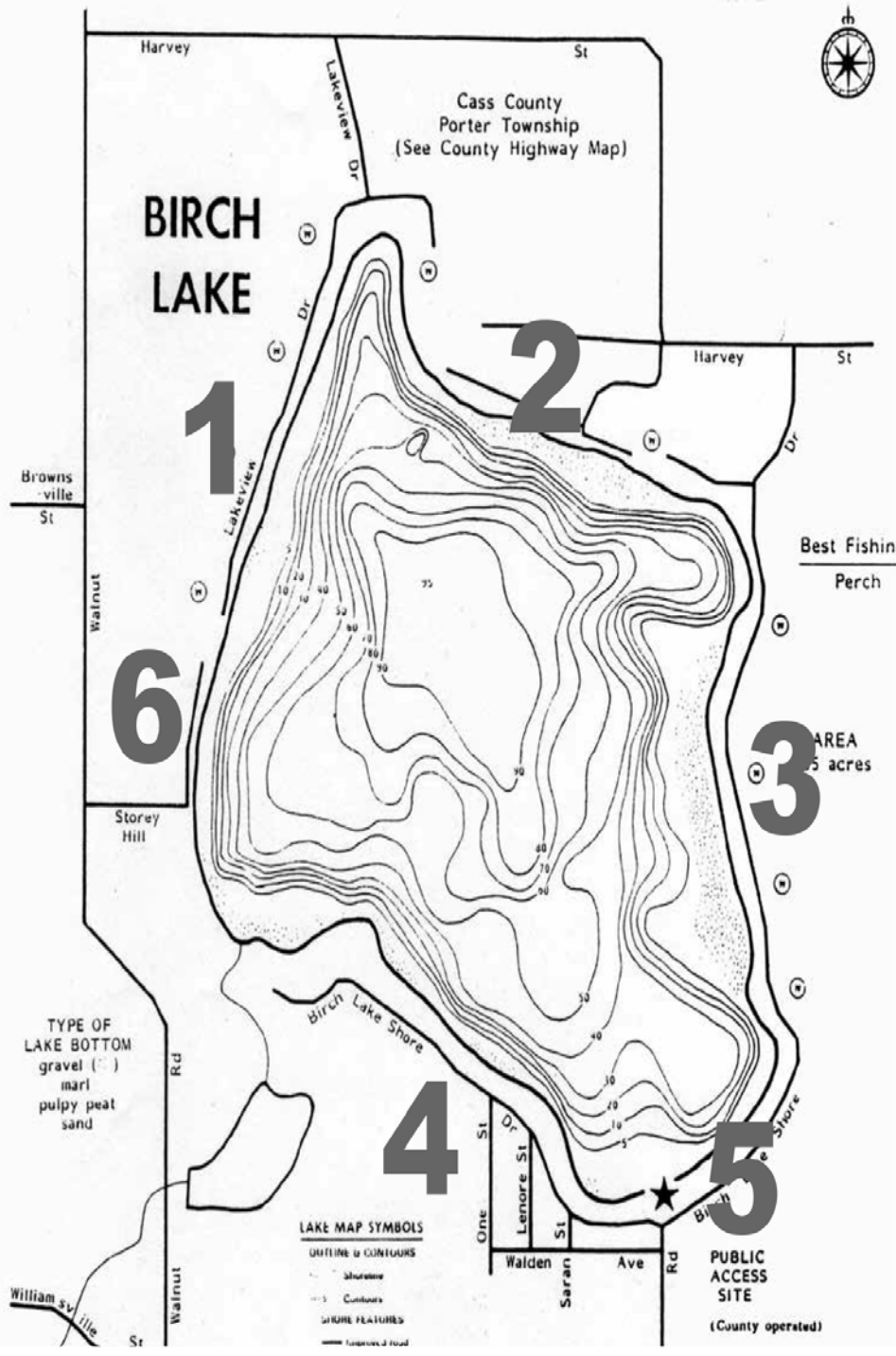
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2. North Shore, Smitley home, 14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
3. East Shore, Vitale home, 63174 Birch Rd.
4. South Shore, Eberhart home, 15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
5. South/East Shore, Troeger home, 63696 Birch Rd.
6. Southwest Shore, DeYoung home, 63255 Storey Hill St.

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