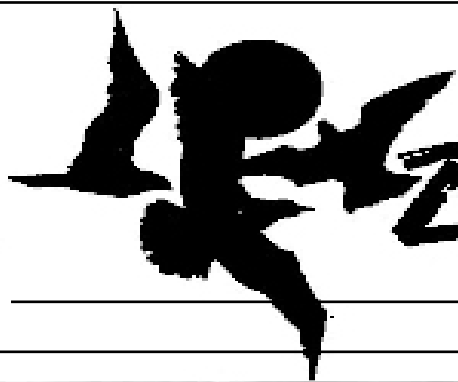


The
Weekend
Of

Aug. 1,
2020



Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Congratulations to Calvin King (north shore) and Elizabeth Kramer who were wed on the North Shore of Great Lake Superior in Duluth, MN on August 1. The newlyweds had to scuttle a great many plans due to Covid-19 and, instead of flying off to the Amalfi Coast, are driving the Western US on their honeymoon. Cal and Liz will live in Rochester, MN, and hope to visit Birch on Labor Day weekend.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**Commodore's Comments #22
Weekend of August 8, 2020**

By **J. Patrick McGann**

Thank goodness for the few events we were able to still hold this year. One of which was the annual Birch Lake Men's Golf Outing which took place last Friday at Pine View Golf Course in Three Rivers. Steve, the course owner, and his staff did a great job. The course was in great shape and the food, beef tenderloin as the main dish, was perfectly prepared. Although our attendance was only about half of what it was last year, we believe because of the Coronavirus. With increased meat/meal prices and decrease income from attendance, prizes were kept to inexpensive fun things that we were able to give to the winners and everyone who played.

Check out the Kids of the Week in this Barker to see John DeCloedt in his grass skirt and coconut shell bra golf attire winnings and a photo of the overall winning foursome of Captain John DeCloedt, Terry Wiseman, Joel Finch and K. C.

Wiseman, who won with a score of 15 strokes under par. The second place went to Team Eshleman -13. Third place went to Team Lutz -10. Ties for fourth place by Teams Steffen, McGann and Ball.

Terry Wiseman won the longest drive contest on hole number 9 and the closest to the pin contest was on number 18 was won by lefty Marc Caenepeel. One of the biggest surprises of the afternoon was a very excited Gary "Gus" Eshleman winning the longest putt challenge, unfortunately, he marked his name on the wrong card for a different golf outing. We did not have a longest putt contest. We don't know what the prize was for that win in the wrong outing. Way to go Gus! Thanks to all the men who participated, and I think a good time was had by all and hopefully everyone thought they got a good value for the money?

One update on my article of last week's column about the Smallbore Rifle National Championships at the Chief WA-KE'-DE gun range in Bristol, IN. Jamie's USA Olympic Team made a huge comeback and won the overall four-day event beating the early leaders of the US Army Sharpshooter Team. Congrats Team USA we will be watching you in Japan in the 2021 Games.

2020 Birch Lake Calendar

August 29 - Fall Get Together Zoom Meeting 7 pm, see Commodore Comments
September 5 - BLYC Board meeting, 9 am
July 26, 2021 - Ladies Golf Outing, 9 am
Diamond Lake Golf Course

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

The latest BLYC Board Zoom meeting went surprisingly well with only one board member not attending because she had another family commitment. Congratulations to our board members for adapting well to this technological change in these strange times. The meeting was dominated by discussion of the geese problems that some people are having here on Birch Lake. We did not vote but decided we would vote on the question of what action we or will not take at the September meeting. It seemed the majority of the goose survey "nay sayers" said it did not seem to be a good investment value for the potential cost involved for the yacht club. However, it did seem in the survey

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 Noon 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 —

to get enough possible private investors to cover the cost without any BLYC or BLHOA general funds being used.

Another issue that was brought to the board's attention by retiring, long-time, valued board member Bob Waddle was a concern that several rafts and buoys, particularly on the east side, were out in the lake further than may be necessary to keep swimmers safe. The consensus of the board members was that the BLYC is not the proper policing power for this type of situation. Two of the board members who spoke up on the issue with apparent knowledge of the State of Michigan laws noted a couple things: 1) There seems to be no specified maximum distance requirement for rafts and buoys from shore or from the end of your pier, and 2) motorboats and jet skis may not travel between the piers and said buoys and rafts at a speed that creates a wake, however they are allowed with caution may do so at a slower no wake speed for fishing or cruising.

Speaking of the BLYC board agenda, I would like to thank our esteemed Secretary Mike Sheffieck publicly for his long-time uncelebrated service to the BLYC board and all fellow members. He takes and prepares the minutes of the last meeting and the agenda for the next board meeting every month then distributes them to all the members of the board. In addition, he makes sure we are compliant with the bylaws to keep us legal. In other

words, he is the consistent backbone of the board throughout the changing administrations. A BIG THANK YOU TO MIKE.

We are still looking for a donor to step up for us to cover the purchase of a new refrigerator for next spring at the BLYC building since the one we have now is going bad. If you are able to make this gift to your fellow Birch Lakers, please let me know? We estimate it at about \$1,500.

The BLYC Welcoming Committee headed by north shore resident Sarah Petty welcomed two new families here to Birch Lake by giving them a welcoming packet that included a BLYC directory. Thanks Sarah! Extra copies of the 2020 directory are available for just \$5 from VC Dan Waxman if you wish to have another for your winter home of office.

One word of thanks to long time Birch Lake west sider Rick Doolittle for his rescue services again this week on Sunday afternoon during the sailboat races as he was required to tow in MC Skipper Amber Grundy's boat after the final race following a malfunction of her sailboat. He towed me in last week for what seemed to be the umpteenth time after one of my side stays broke. Thanks Rick!

A reminder that our annual BLYC Fall Dinner will be a non-dinner private cocktail hour party via ZOOM meeting. BYOB. Because of the Coronavirus we must do this to keep us all safe. There are certain requirements that must be done in accordance with our club's bylaws and tra-

ditions that we would like to do. Please join us on Saturday August 29 at 7 pm from your home for what may be a surprising fun event created by our Zoom Master Chas Grundy. To join us for the BLYC fall meeting on Zoom on Aug 29 at 7 pm go to <https://bit.ly/blycfall2020>, or join manually with meeting ID **924 8092 9662** **Passcode: blycfall, or** r dial in by phone to **(301) 715-8592**, passcode: **37590042**

Enjoy the rest of the weekend and please stay safe. LOVE THE LAKE!

~ JPM, Commodore

The Ghost Ship

*I had spent the morning hard at work
But I kept on seeing the pontoons
So my remaining responsibilities I did shirk
To enjoy a perfect Friday afternoon*

*I floated and pattered around the lake
A cooler and snacks by my side
Until dinner's schedule was at stake
And I had to end my blissful ride
My arms quite full, I exited the boat
Emptying trash and carrying toys
Why do we have so many damned floats?
I blame it on our girl and three boys*

*Whilst cooking dinner after my tour
My wife informed me the boat was loose!
Sure enough, I'd forgotten to secure
(Which may be related to what was in my juice)*

*But distractions happen as they are wont to do
And soon we were putting the kids to bed*



**Thomas J.
Mosier**

**Waterwell
Drilling
"available"**

5" Water Wells

**Repair & Service
Most Water Pumps**

"Promise of Quality"

**M-60 E
Cassopolis**

**Office: 269-445-3246
Cell: 269-580-3246
Fax: 269-445-0008**



APOLLOMARINE.net

**APOLLO
MARINE**

**SALES
SERVICE
STORAGE**

**We rent
Pontoon
Boats!**

**We
service
all lakes!**

**Just a
phone
call
away**

**South side of Gravel Lake
15355 96th Avenue, Lawton, MI 49065**

269-423-611 1-888-BOAT

— Birch Lake Notes —

After cleaning the kitchen the evening flew
Yet something still nagged in the back of my head

My restful slumber ended Saturday morning
"The boat is missing!" I heard a shout
I was awakened to the children's warning
And immediately knew without a doubt

That I never did get around to raising
The boat lift up and securing that old bucket
So I climbed out of bed and stared out at the lake
And muttered something like "Bad luck, it."

I awakened my neighbors to help me retrieve
And we hopped on their boat to begin our search
We found the old girl resting on a south shore beach
Thank goodness for our calm, peaceful Birch

Yes my story could be a cautionary tale
But risking a chance my point is belabored
While you should secure your craft after a nice sail
I'm incredibly thankful to have such good neighbors.

--

Thanks to Kelton Dickey and Louie Meneghin for the help last weekend. ~CHAS GRUNDY

Plastic lids

Hi Birch Lakers. I'm asking for a favor. If you could save your plastic lids, I would really appreciate it. A friend of mine knows a family who is collecting them to make a friendship bench in honor of their father who passed away. They can be milk jug lids, salad dressing, ketchup and mustard, water bottles, mayonnaise jars, prescription tops and containers, anything you empty that has a plastic lid. Just put them in a baggie and save them for me, please. Thank you so much for your help!

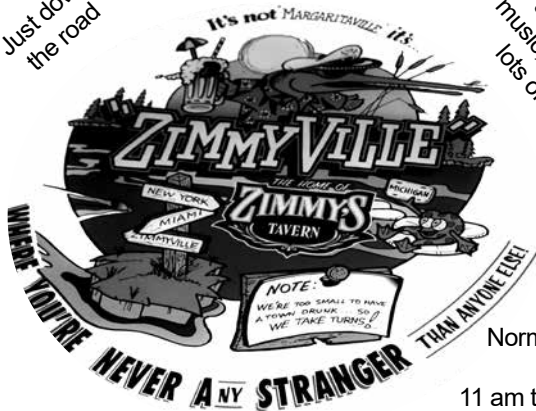
~Bad Patty, east side

Welcome to Jaywalker



Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!
10188 US 12, Mottville
on the beautiful St. Joseph River
(269) 483-2305

Just down
the road



Daily food
specials,
music, cold beer,
lots of fun!

Normally Open
7 days/wk
11 am to Midnight

Carry Outs available

69608 Sunset Blvd

Zimmyville (Union), Michigan

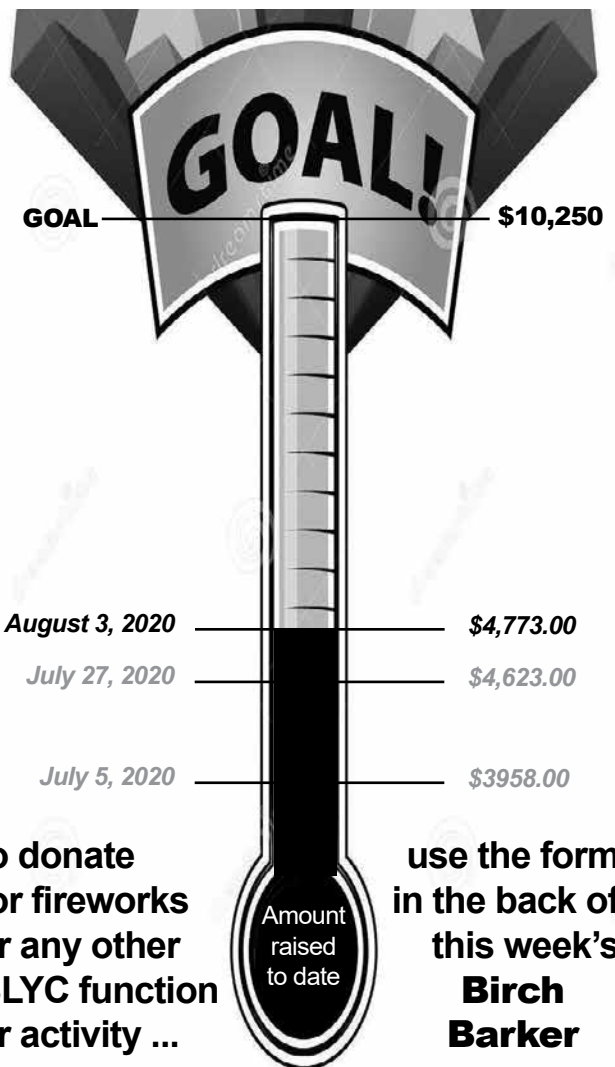
ZIMMY'S TAVERN

(269) 641-5317

<http://www.zimmystavern.com>

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND Starting over for 2021!

In 2020 we raised \$14,208 for our \$10,250 goal ...
so now we're working on the 2021 fireworks fund



or contribute online at
<http://BirchLakeYachtClub.com/>

PRINTING, MARKETING & SIGN SERVICES

CUSTOM SOLUTIONS
& DESIGNS

alphagraphics®

ELKHART & SOUTH BEND



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Another great sailing day

It was a miracle! Two weeks in a row we were able to get 3 races in on Sunday!! Great wind and many participating sailors made it a successful race day.

The expert committee boat crew of Deb Hall, Good Patti and Bad Patty kept a sharp eye on the sailors. Rick Doolittle helped keep our sailors safe. Amber Grundy had a boat problem and Rick helped her get home. So we are very grateful to have him watching over our participants.

It was so great to see Cole Laneman sailing with the group. It would be wonderful to have a lot more young sailors joining the Birch Lake sailing fleet. Thanks Cole for sailing with the Sunfish fleet. You did great!

We are crossing our fingers and toes that we can get out on the lake and sail again on Sunday!

Sail on!
~Fleet Captain Bill
(and ghost writer BP)



~Sailing results!

BLYC Season Standings to date

Date	2-Aug	2-Aug	2-Aug	Total	Point	Races	%
Race	11	12	13	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
MC Scow/Sailor					Total MC Races=>	13	
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	1	20249	1558	13	100%
Barb Cassady #2506	3	2	2	15293	1529	10	77%
Jeff Smitley #2002	DNS	DNS	DNS	5782	1446	4	31%
Bob King #1199	DNS	DNS	DNS	13781	1378	10	77%
Vic Jones/ Tom Cassady	DNS	DNS	DNS	2756	1378	2	15%
Phil Vitale #500	2	3	5	17896	1377	13	100%
Bill Luecht #1579	4	6	3	14448	1313	10	77%
Pat McGann #1735	DNS	4	4	10309	1289	8	62%
Pat Welch #1979	5	5	6	14645	1220	12	92%
Sandy Vitale	7	8	7	9120	1140	8	62%
Amber Grundy	6	7	DNF	13212	1101	11	85%
Sunfish/Sailor					Total Sunfish Races=>	13	
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	2	18497	1541	12	92%
Scott Temple	DNS	DNS	DNS	4340	1447	3	23%
Stewart Spratt	2	4	5	14387	1439	10	77%
Amy Troeger	3	2	3	12852	1428	9	69%
Peter Soldato	DNS	DNS	DNS	2817	1409	2	15%
Herb Cleveland	4	5	6	18271	1405	13	100%
Steve Frew	8	3	1	16711	1393	11	85%
Bob Niezgodski	5	6	4	16655	1281	13	100%
Camille Butler	6	7	8	10684	1187	9	69%
Cole McGann Bell	7	8	7	3401	1134	3	23%
Pat McGann	DNS	DNS	DNS	1089	1089	1	8%

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season.
 DNF (Did Not Finish), DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place); DNF, DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed
 CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.
 Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)
 Season Place = total season points/number of races attempted
 Crew - Counted toward completed races, Points go to skipper of boat



Understanding. Insightful. Effective.
Local.



TUESLEY • HALL • KONOPA, LLP
attorneys

Estate planning
Elder law
Business counsel
Mediation
Litigation

Cassopolis • South Bend • Elkhart
269.445.1818 | thklaw.com

— Water Quality Report —

Commandment # 4: “Thou Shalt Protect and Expand Natural Shorelines”

The 2007 National Lakeshore Assessment indicated that far more Michigan inland lakes are stressed by poor shoreline conditions than by excesses of nutrients or turbidity. Shorelines:

Dictate what gets into the lake;
Provide key animal habitat and breeding areas;

Serve as important fish nursery areas;

Prevent (or hasten) soil erosion.
(The) “lawns and seawalls (that most of us have) change the lake ecosystem in ways that are hard to reverse.” Hard shorelines have physical, biological and chemical impacts.

In terms of our environment and protecting our lake, natural shorelines are best. They are even our best bet at limiting phosphorus.

An optimum natural shorelines includes many components:

- Submerged vegetation (in the water)
- Emergent or floating vegetation (in the water)
- Woody debris (beached logs or sticks) (in the water)
- A secured, gradual (climbable by turtles) slope up from the water’s edge
- And, at the top of the slope, before the lawn, a barrier strip (the wider the better) of at least 12” - 24” tall native, deep-rooted-plants.

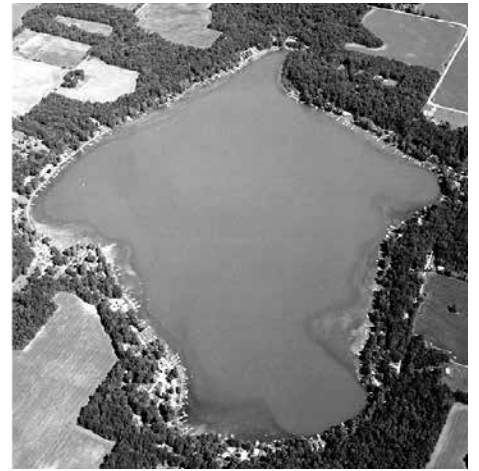
In a perfect world the gradual slope would be made of and secured by native plants, perhaps initially held in place by natural fabrics or logs. Seyfarths (northeast corner) comes to mind as meeting many of these criteria.

The barrier strip helps to prevent erosion but also captures many chemicals on their way to the lake. It also makes your lawn area less desirable to geese. Please pick up whatever deposits geese (or other living beings) might leave on your property and throw them, not into the lake, but into the trash.

Although not 100 percent natural, a gradual slope of riprap (cobble and boulders) is more desirable than a solid concrete wall. A gradual slope of riprap could be installed in place or in front (on the lake side) of a poured concrete seawall, thus mitigating some of its negative effects. Kudos to the Woznys (south) and Troegers (east side).

Even those with riprap and/or a poured concrete wall could install and maintain any of the other features of a natural shoreline described above.

A hardened shoreline, absent any of these natural characteristics, used to be considered by many of us lake folks to be highly desirable. Instead, water quality experts have referred



them to as “aquatic deserts”.

In 2017, using methods and standards provided as part of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, we subjected our lake to a “Score the Shore” evaluation. Due to our performance (or lack of) on the factors listed above, and the amount of development around the lake, we received a Below-Average score. Our score today might be a little higher, but not too much different, still likely below average.

A good source for more information on the subject, including approved material and contractor source guides, can be found at www.mishorelinepartnership.org. Also helpful is www.mishorelandstewards.org.

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

**Source[®]
1st Bank**

1stsource.com | Member FDIC

Straight Talk. Sound Advice.

**Source[®]
1st Insurance**

Insurance products and annuities are not insured by the FDIC; are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by 1st Source Bank; and may involve investment risk, including loss of value. 1st Source Insurance, Inc. is a wholly owned affiliate of 1st Source Bank.

**CHANGED
LIVES**

**RIVERSIDE
CHURCH**

SUNDAYS AT 9 & 11 AM
THREE RIVERS, MI
RIVERSIDE-CHURCH.COM



— Barker Kids of the Week —



Above: the grandkids of Carol and Bill Myers, west side, had some fun at Birch recently. At top left is Sydney Reddick, 6, helping to raise the moon. The top center photo shows Jazmine Reddick, 10, trying to catch the moon as it comes up. At top right is Brooks Holladay, 10 months, and his mom, Becky, enjoying his first summer at Birch Lake.

Deb and Jeff Runser's (south side) two grandkids, Sean, Hailey, (left) and 2 sweet friends, Collins, and Kendall visited Birch Lake and made TyeDye Tshirts with Birch Lake letters! They LOVE visiting and have spent a lot of time here this summer. It feels like a safe haven amid this pandemic.



This photo of the real Fairy - Lauren Snider Cove Fairy Extraordinaire was sent in by Jim Limes.



The
LAKE LIFE
REALTY GROUP



Get a **FREE** market analysis!
Contact Paul DeLano:
(269-445-8877
Paul@TheLakeLife.com

LISTINGS NEEDED!

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO LIST YOUR HOME!

Birch Lake homes are
SELLING!

CALL
PAUL DELANO
TODAY

269-445-8877

Paul@TheLakeLife.com

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Above: the David Gorski family, Godson of John and Lois Groszek enjoying Birch Lake. Right: Cathy, sister of David, with his daughter Lexi while taking a selfie.



Birch Barker Kids of the Week

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; or you can put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (on the east side), or email them to me at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

Kevin Wilson Magician

BIRTHDAYS
ANNIVERSARIES
COMPANY PICNICS
CONVENTIONS
PARTIES
AGE APPROPRIATE
ENTERTAINMENT

Kevin has mystified and entertained audiences of all ages with his sophisticated sorcery



Kevin Wilson
574-234-9975
abracadabramagic.com
info@abracadabramagic.com

Tri-County Bookkeepers tax accounting & payroll services since 1955

An accounting practice serving southwestern Michigan for over 60 years specializing in small business accounting

We offer A free no-obligation discussion about your business requirements, competitive pricing, personal account manager, corporate & personal tax prep, tax planning/tax representation, full-service payroll, affordable time keeping solutions, financial analysis, pay-as-you-go Workers' Comp Insurance

Tax planning

Need assistance with your tax planning? Don't we all! We can help you plan for your taxes before your business is even off the ground

Bookkeeping/Financial Statement Compilation

Depending on your needs, we can do your bookkeeping for you or we can teach you how to accurately keep records

Company Structure

Let us help you decide what the best organization is for you

Federal and State Forms

We'll help you apply for all the tax IDs and forms you need

**2056 Plaza Drive
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
269-926-2191**

CHIMNEY SWIFT

CHIMNEY SWEEPS

**"OVER 30 YEARS
OF EXPERIENCE"**

SERVICES

CHIMNEY CLEANING
CHIMNEY RELINING
CHIMNEY CERTIFICATIONS
CHIMNEY REPAIRS
DRYER VENT CLEANING

DEREK POLSTON
(574) 514-4831



www.chimneyswiftchimneysweeps.com

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Left: This photo of John DeCloedt (east side) was submitted for KOTW honors without explanation ... thankfully!

Above, the photo of Marc Caenepeel (west side) was submitted by Jim Limes with the following included: 1ft from the pin Fairy shot! The guy behind Marc is alleged to be BLYC Commodore Pat McGann (east side).

Sale With Susie!

Your Waterfront Specialist



**Waterfront Specialist
Serving Michigan
and Indiana**

**SUSIE TUCKER
REALTY**

574-320-6697 Cell

269-641-5775 Office

www.susietucker.com

Susie@susietucker.com



Zillow
★★★★★
5-STAR AGENT



susie@susietucker.com 574-320-6697



**ATTENTION SELLERS:
LISTINGS NEEDED TO FILL OVERWHELMING
DEMAND FROM BUYERS! CALL ME FOR
A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR
PROPERTY.**



— Barker Kids of the Week —

This spectacular photo of a red-tailed hawk on Birch Lake Rd was taken by McKenna Wolf (south side)



John DeCloedt (east side) sent in this photo of he and his golf team from the annual BLYC Men's Golf Outing, posing with some of the swag they won.



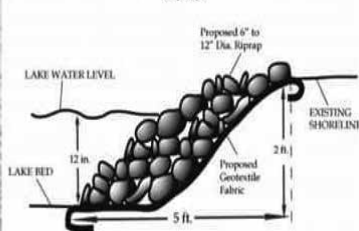
We Are The Natural Choice For Shoreline Preservation



Fieldstone RipRap

This is a great option for preserving your existing shoreline.

Sample Cross-Section Riprap



Call text or email today for a consultation and assessment of your shoreline needs. We will help you understand the process and cover the cost of any necessary permits.

NEW LEAF Complete Landscape Services

SOD • SPRINKLERS • PATIOS
SEA WALLS • TREE SERVICE

Dowagiac, MI
(269) 462-0966



Deck Cleaning, Concrete Sealing, Exterior House Cleaning

Preserve your investment by having your deck cleaned, sealed and/or stained.

Sprinkler Turn-on & System Install

We will turn on the water to your lawn irrigation system, adjust heads, make sure all heads are working, program controller and give advice on proper operation.

Tree & Hedge Trimming

Consider having us professionally trim your ornamental trees & shrubs.

— When Quality & Dependability Matter Most —

NEW LEAF Complete Landscape Services

Dowagiac, MI
(269) 462-0966

We Offer RipRap Shorelines Plus A Full Range Of Services
To Create Your Perfect Shoreline
We Will Pay The Permit Fee With A Signed Contract



Beach Install Clean-up
Spring/Fall Clean-up
Custom Mowing
Mulch, Stone,
Sand & Topsoil
Seed & Sod
Landscape Restoration
Retaining Walls

Excavation
Concrete Removal
Tree/Shrub Pruning
Tree Removal
Deck Cleaning
Power Washing
Professional Snow
Management



Specializing in Fieldstone Seawalls,
Fire Pits & Flagstone Patios

New Leaf Landscapes Serving Michiana!
Facebook: New Leaf Landscapes, Sod & Sprinklers • Email: newleafofswmich@gmail.com
Google: New Leaf Landscapes of Southwest Michigan
Owner/Operator: Bill Personette III

2019 Corn & Sausage Roast



Remember back in the days BC (Before COVID), when we used to get together at the Birch Lake Yacht Club for events like the annual Corn & Sausage roast ... where we'd hang out together, have a few cocktails and dinner ... the corn was great and everyone had a great time. Like almost every other event this year, the 2020 Corn & Sausage Roast had to be canceled ... we hope this gets resolved so we can do it again in 2021!



YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - This is a playful, happy week! You want to do your own thing, while involved with kids, romantic relationships and sports. You want to use your mind for amusing pastimes - reading, writing and playing games that require mental agility. You will appreciate relaxing at home. Discussions with parents will be positive. Redecorating projects might take place. You're pumped for action, which means you can handle anything that comes your way. "I'm on it!"

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Home and family discussions, especially about home repairs are taking place. Family discussions will be tactful and diplomatic because you appreciate what is taking place around you. What's more important is that this week, you will have a growing appreciation for the beauty of your daily surroundings, as well as the dawning realization of how much love there is in your everyday world. (Gosh.)

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - Your busy pace continues with short trips, discussions and more time spent reading, writing and studying. Expect to meet new people, perhaps because you're suddenly involved in group discussions, which will please you because you love to learn new things. Plus, you like to enlighten others. You might attract money to you, which will tempt you to be extravagant. It's a good week for financial negotiations and investments.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Earnings and financial matters continue to be a strong focus. You might be shopping more than usual or doing business negotiations. This is good. You want to relate to others! You want to enjoy good times! You also will be skillful in acting as a go-between between others who have difficulties. Meanwhile, your ambition is strong, which is why you're working hard to achieve something that is important to you. You don't have to defeat every challenge. Choose your fights.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - This week your mind will jump from subject to subject because you're interested in everything! Caution about spreading yourself too thin. Make lists about what you really want to do - because you can't do it all. Take short trips if possible because this will please you. Of course, your desire to explore creative ideas and learn new things continues to be strong. This is why you're putting more energy into expanding your mind and your knowledge of different subjects.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - This week you're happy to work alone and behind the scenes. (This subtle influence will continue for the next several weeks.) However, you will discover an increasing enjoyment in the company of others. You will seek out friends and enjoy relating to others in a group setting. Romantic relationships will be lighter and friendlier, which means your increased sex drive will be more playful. Woot!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - This week you will enjoy the company of friends and groups especially with younger people (in person or online). Team efforts will appeal. You will also give more thought to your goals. Note: This week introduces a lovely influence that improves all your relations with parents, teachers, bosses and even the police. This means it will be easier to work in harmony with authority figures.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - You look fabulous to others. All Hail Scorpio! Relax and do your own thing. This week is a great time to make your pitch. It's also a good week to make plans for your professional life or pursue a new study that helps your career. This is an excellent time now to talk to bosses, employers and the police. It's also a great time for a long, pleasurable trip because you will love to see new places and meet new faces. Fortunately, you've got lots of energy to work hard and get things done. Plus, your health feels vigorous.

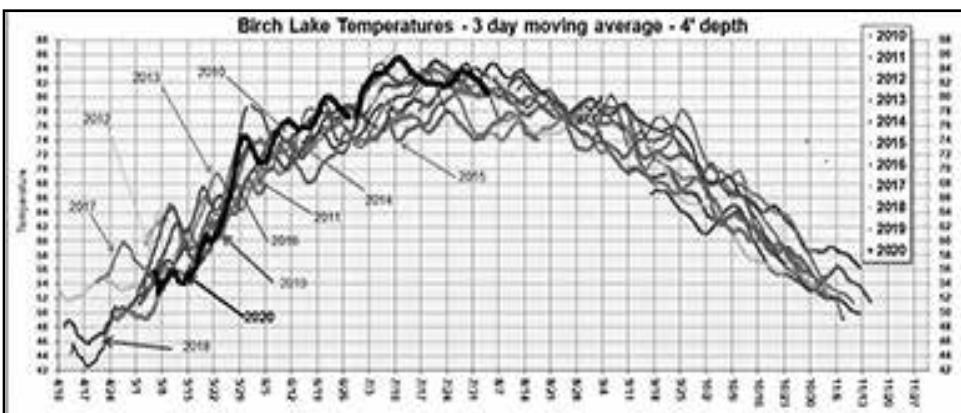
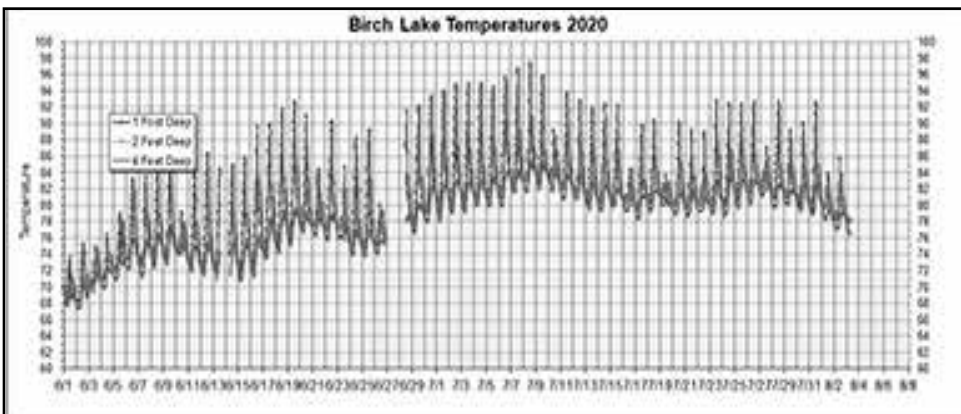
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Continue to do whatever you can to broaden your horizons in terms of learning new things and seeing new places because this is the best time of the year for you to explore life and learn more! Anything to do with study, education, publishing, the media as well as medicine and the law will intrigue you. This is because you're curious! You're eager to learn! Meanwhile, keep your pockets open because money can come your way! (Gifts and goodies from others plus advantages from the resources and wealth of others.)

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - This is an intense time. You have a strong desire to feel life at a gut-feeling level now - not just an intellectual understanding. You want the real thing! You might also meet someone that produces a soul-searching self-inquiry within you, which is why you might have conversations and intellectual encounters that make you go deep within. Discussions about joint finances are classic this week. Don't get caught up in fighting about something you don't even understand. Relax.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - This is a good week to clarify and explain something to someone who is close to you, like a spouse or business partner. It's also a good time to consult a specialist or an expert about anything. You will enjoy this because right now you want intellectual stimulation in conversation with others.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - This is a positive week for you because for starters, you will accomplish a lot! In particular, Mercury will sharpen your skills for doing all kinds of mental work. You'll be able to get along with coworkers very well. You're ready to dig in, in a hands-on way, to get practical work done. Fortunately, all is not "work and no play" because the placement of Mars will make you playful, lighthearted and keen on sports! You will be more competitive than usual. This high-energy will also express itself in your sex life.

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: 0.716
2.4 days before last quarter



Sunrise: 06:43:01

Sunset: 20:51:59

Moonrise: 23:38:18

Moonset: 11:30:55

Daylight: 14 Hr 08 Min 57 Sec

Birch Barker Funnies

I'm beginning to think "hindsight is 2020" was some kind of message from a future time traveler that we all misunderstood.



**When leaving the house...
2019:**

Keys, phone, wallet

2020:

Keys, phone, wallet, mask, hand sanitizer, samurai sword, written will, hornet repellent, protest sign, martial arts abilities, stress ball, Holy Water.

My kids keep asking for a cat, so tonight we're watching Pet Sematary.

Started growing my own pot...
Not sure if I'm doing it right...



Do not let them take your temperature going into the store! It's a scam! They're erasing your memory. I went for bread and eggs and came home with Blue Bell Ice Cream and Snickers.

IF THEY'RE SCRAMBLED, I CAN ONLY EAT TWO EGGS. IF THEY'RE DEVEILED, I CAN EAT FORTY.

Wedding vows should include....

"Do you promise to always help him find his stuff that is right in front of him"

because you will be doing that forever.



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Hot or cold vegetable frittata

Ingredient Checklist

- 3 tablespoons Oil, soybean, salad or cooking
- 1 ½ cups Zucchini, raw
- 1 ½ cups Mushrooms, raw
- ¾ cup Onions, raw
- ¾ cup Peppers, sweet, green, raw; green bell pepper
- 1 clove Garlic, raw
- 6 Egg, whole, raw, fresh
- ¼ cup Cream, fluid, half and half
- 2 (8 ounce) packages Cheese, cream
- 2 cups Cheese, cheddar
- 4 slices Bread, whole-wheat, commercially prepared (includes soft bread crumbs)
- 1 teaspoon Salt, table
- ¼ teaspoon Spices, pepper, black

Directions

- Step 1 Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.
- Step 2 In a large skillet or frying pan, heat oil over medium high heat. Add zucchini, mushrooms, onion, green pepper and garlic; saute until tender. Remove from heat and let cool slightly.
- Step 3 In a large bowl, beat together the eggs and cream. Stir in cream cheese, cheddar cheese, bread cubes and sautéed vegetables. Season with salt and pepper. Mix well and pour into prepared baking dish.
- Step 4 Bake in preheated oven for one hour, or until center is set. Serve hot or cold.



O'Donnell's Docks LLC
Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Serving you for over 25 years!

Sales and service of all major docks, boatlifts and water front accessories.

For an online quote, go to www.odonnellsdocks.com



12097 M-60 • Jones, MI
 269-244-1446
 info@odonnellsdocks.com

Authorized Dealer For:




Prime Property Care

Gavin Francis
 313 North O'keefe St.
 Cassopolis, MI 49031
 (269) 591 9848

- Mowing
- Edging
- Spring/Fall Clean UP
- Hedges
- Gutter Cleaning
- Rock/Mulch Installation

gavinfrancis@rocketmail.com

— Camp Tannadoonah —

It's the last week of camp for 2020! If you're reading this on Friday evening, don't forget to come out on the lake around 9 pm to see our candlelight serenade on the last night of camp. As we come down the stairs carrying our candles, we sing this same song, over and over and over again:

Follow the Gleam

*To the campers in days of old
Keeping watch o'er Tannadoonah's heights
Came the gleam of a tiny candle
Lighting the black darkness of the night*

Follow, follow

Follow the gleam

Campers wish, throughout the world

Follow, follow

Follow the gleam

Of a Tannadoonah Light

I've never counted how many times we sing that on the way down the stairs, but it's a LOT!

Once we get to the waterfront, the campers and staff will spread out around the dock, and at Mr. Adam's signal, they will lower their candles into the water. The candles are set into little wooden blocks so that they float. During the week this week, we have camp staff who use wax to set the candles into the holes on the blocks, and then they "float test" each one to make sure it doesn't tip over

when you set it in the water!

As the candles float around in the swim area, campers and staff will sing a few of our favorite camp songs. One of my favorites for the last week of camp is this one:

Remember

*Remember the times you've had here
Remember when you're away
Remember the friends you've made here
And don't forget to come back some-day*


*Remember beside the camp fire
Down by the lake so blue*

*That you belong to Tannadoonah
And Tannadoonah belongs to you
I'll remember you*

By the time most of you read this Barker, it will be Saturday morning, and our last group of campers will be checking out to go home. Our staff will stay all day Saturday to clean camp and get everything put away for the winter. And then we have a staff banquet and staff slideshow. The staff will hang out here for the night before departing for home on Sunday morning.

~Mrs. Amber






Dynamic + Creative + Aggressive


= Results

Real effort. Real results.



Cressy & Everett
REAL ESTATE


Above. And Beyond.



2017, 2018, 2019 MLS Diamond Award Winner
2017, 2018, 2019 Chairmans Club

Dennis Bamber REALTOR®
Cell, 574.532.3808
dennisbamber@cressyeverett.com

701 Spruce Street • Dowagiac, MI 49047



RSPS
Resort & Second Home
Property Specialist

2019 ★★★★★ 2019
Chairman's Club
Cressy & Everett Real Estate

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE



24 foot camper. 1 large slide out. 2 queen size beds. Shower. Bathroom, A/C, TV, Microwave, stove/oven. Very clean. Makes for a great overflow for guests. Asking 13,000. Please call Bob Groszek(south side) 1-219-384-9291



New thermo tru door slab (no casing). Plastic still on. Changed my mind. \$150.

Also, Hardly used electric range \$150. Sue Davis 574-993-6031

For Sale: 2020 **Trailmaster boat trailer.** 200 lb. capacity, swim away tongue. \$1,350, call or text

Jack, 1-574-250-5852 or 269-476-7176



Two Old Town sit-in kayaks. One is a dark green Loon Classic 138 and the other is a blue Voyager III (both large). Both include PVC stands, paddles and vests. \$450 lot. Call Bob Waddle 269-365-7696

WANTED

WANTED: Used Boat Lift for 24' Pontoon (minimum 26' Canopy) for Northsider. Call Rob 513 319-4038

Looking for a kids bike trailer to buy, or rent for a few weeks. Jen Magro Algarotti (north shore) 624-432-1252

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: Pink/multicolor float washed up on East shore last week. Call 269.228.6005 if it is yours.



Found in YC parking lot: Two 1/4" drive metric sockets, twenty-three cents in change and a small green

wire tie. Call Sparky at 269-365-7696 to claim.



FOUND: Green float tube floated in to east shoreline. It is green and says Airhead Rebel on it. Call 708-738-3962 if it is yours.

LOST: Kayak paddle, black shaft, yellowish blades, probably went westward from the north shore. Contact Stewart at 574.514.0667

FOR RENT

Want a unique, fun vacation? How about renting the most inexpensive, cutest and best-located rental in The Villages, Florida at ourhome4rent.com/cjp

SERVICES

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

If you are in need of yard work this summer (weeding, mowing, flower care, etc.), Please contact Claire Brovold (west side) at 1(574) 323-3683

Need Propane? Bill Butler will pick up grill tanks fill and deliver for 20. Call him at 574-596-1343

Talk With A Live Person



VOTED NILES
BUSINESS OF
THE YEAR!

ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

Complete Plumbing Service - If there's water to it, we do it.

**Let Us Show You Why We Were
Voted Business Of The Year!**

Top 10 Reasons to Choose ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

- Licensed Plumbers
- Drug-Free Employees
- Criminal Background Checked Employees
- No Surprises with the Bill - You know the Cost Before the Work is Done
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- True 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Fully Stocked Trucks - "Warehouse on Wheels"
- Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
- Longest Warranties in the Business
- Our Phones are Always Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours



**After Hours
Emergency
Service**



- **Bonus — The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!**

Major Credit Cards Accepted



2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

269-687-7192 Niles, MI

866-751-1470 Toll Free

www.advantageplumbinginc.net

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Tip No 7: Safety first!

Be a safe neighbor on Birch Lake!

Keep your boat (and anything being towed) 100' away from piers, rafts & people. Never let anyone ride outside the rail while the boat is moving. Make sure you have pfd's for everyone onboard. Know and obey the laws!

This message is brought to you by the Homeowners Association of Birch Lake



BLYC Officers and Directors

2018/19 BLYC Officers

Pat McGann (E), Commodore
574-532-5377 pat@mcgannhay.com

Dan Waxman (E), Vice Commodore
317-506-1680 dwaxman@indianablood.org

Deb Spratt, Treasurer (N)476-2113
debspratt@comcast.net

Mike Sheffeck, Secretary (W).....476-1849
mcsheff@aol.com

Bill Luecht (E), Fleet Captain..... 476-2843
wal303@sbcglobal.net

Ed Chester (E)..... 476-1010
ed@chesterlawoffice.com

Karen Curtis-Miller (E)574-261-6712
krcurtismiller@gmail.com

Terry Dugan (S).....476-2814
s581122@aol.com

Bernie Garceau 476-9862
bgarceau@norcoind.com

Chas Grundy (E)574-315-0217
chas.grundy@gmail.com

Deb Hall (Cove)..... 476-7226
bdeh@sbcglobal.net

Patty Luecht (E)476-2615
pgalloway4@yahoo.com

Sarah Petty (N)..... 476-7068
sarahkpetty@gmail.com

Claudia Phipps (N)..... 476-7073
claudia2154@gmail.com

Vickie Rogers (C).....476-2383
tvrogers@frontier.com

Rick Russwurm (N).....476-2407
paramountp@aol.com

Scott Troeger (E).....476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com

Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com

Sandy Vitale (E) 476-1680
sv6102@gmail.com

Sue Williams (S).....476-8886
smwillia@comcast.net

2018 BLYC Directors

P. Com. Angela Bergan (E)561-603-5522
berganfsu@aol.com

Greg Bolin (W).....476-2420
gbolin31@aol.com

Barb Cassady (East).....574-303-2831
bcassady@holycrossvillage.com

WATER QUALITY AND HOMEOWNERS

Paul Fallon (E), Chairman, Water Quality and Homeowners Association 476-1467
pauljfallon@gmail.com



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB THE YEAR'S GOING FAST! It's time to pay your 2020 dues!



Support the BLYC, support our Birch Lake Community!

- \$ ___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)
- \$ ___ - BLYC Associate Member* Dues (\$10 / year)
*Associate membership is available to current associate members and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC
- \$ ___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ ___ - 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 _____

Make checks payable to
BLYC
and mail to Deb Spratt, Treasurer
18100 Farmington Hills Dr.
South Bend, IN 46637

NEW

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

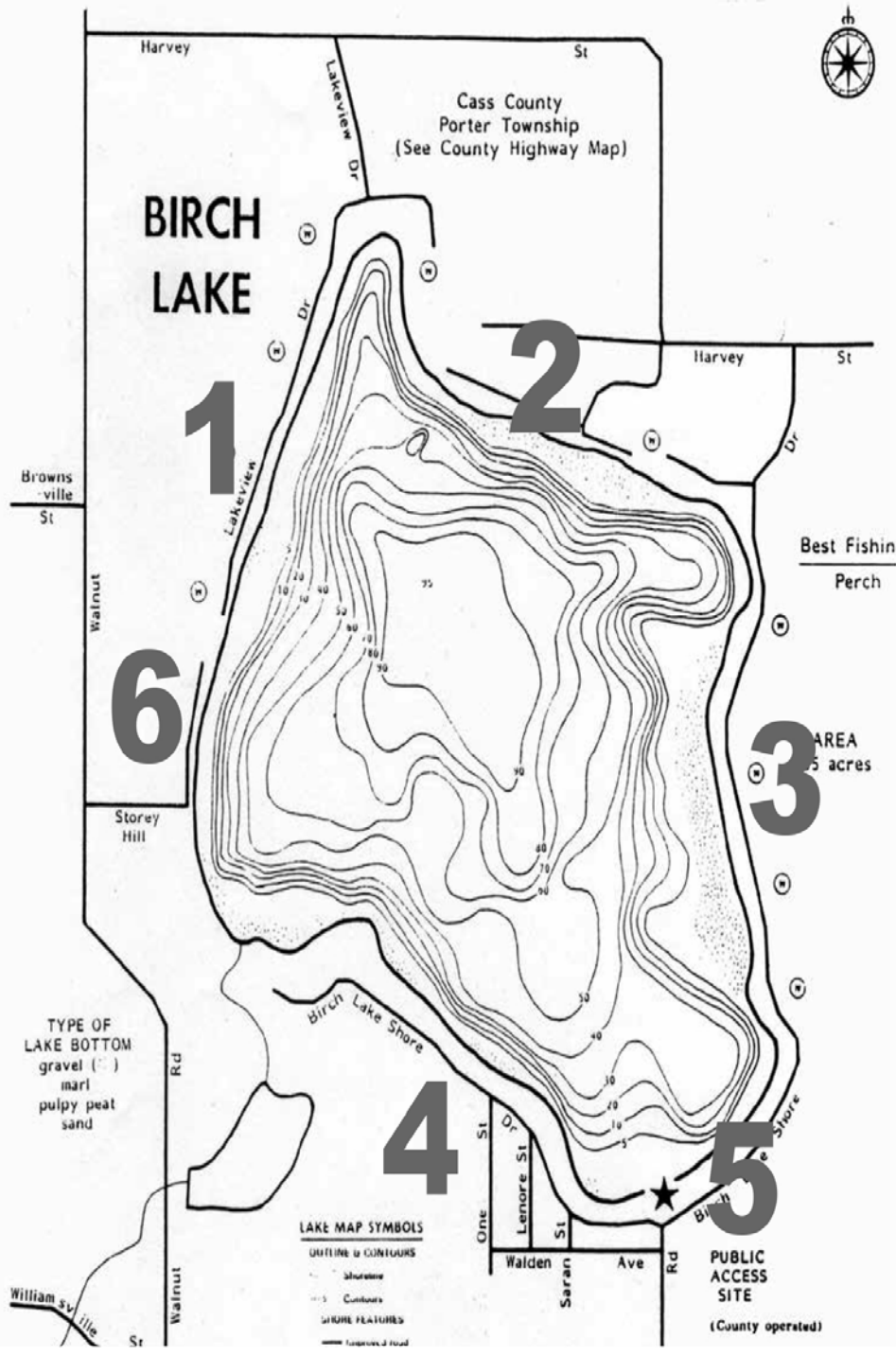
NEW

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

CALL 9-1-1



**FOR
EMERGENCY
USE ONLY
ALARM WILL
SOUND**



There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

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.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

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

We've Got You Covered!



**SUMMER'S HERE!
CALL US TODAY!**

- **Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios**
- **Motorized Solar Screens**
- **Boat Covers and Tops**
- **Canvas Repair**
- **Aluminum Awnings**



NUIMAGE
Awningsum Awnings
Where Fashion Meets Function

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

**Call us for a free
at-home
demonstration!**



**Locally owned
and operated
since 1985**

**SUN
& SHADE
AWNING**

12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

269 244-5307
www.sunandsshadeawning.com