



**Weekend of | Aug. 17,
2024**

Birch Barker

<http://www.philvital.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>

**The official summer publication of the
B i r c h L a k e Y a c h t C l u b**



Thanks to Claudia Phipps (north shore) for the pic from the Camp T closing ceremonies during the last week of camp.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Greetings from the Commodore. I have just returned to my house after a very productive Yacht Club board meeting.

A committee was formed at the previous board meeting to analyze the financial status of the club and its accompanying funds. This committee was formed in an effort to be transparent and to provide Birch Lakers the information that so many of you have asked for this year. The committee met a number of times and will continue to meet to present to you our findings that will be included hopefully in the next Barker. This would not have been made

possible if it wasn't for the hard work of my fellow committee members, especially Deb Spratt, Birch Lake Yacht Club treasurer, and Mike Sheffieck, Yacht Club secretary. Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors worked hard this morning to agree on a proposal that will be shared with you before the end of the season.

The Homeowners association followed the Yacht Club meeting and was also well attended, Speakers were brought in from the Soil erosion and sediment control of Cass County to answer questions and present an "entertaining" program on soil erosion and contamination in our Michigan lakes. A follow up article from Homeowners will be included in subsequent Barkers.

With the big Regatta only a week away, our committee is hoping for a day

for sailing that's even just a little bit close to how beautiful it is this weekend. Can't wait to see the white sails of the MC's gliding across our lake.

Enjoy our precious Birch Lake waters, and remember, "May the Memories remain and the view stay the same," on our golden Pond

~Commodore Sue Davis

2024

Birch Lake Calendar

AUGUST

Aug 17 - Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial MC Interlake Regatta 10:30 am
 Aug 21 - Women's Style Show and Luncheon, Woodfire Restaurant, TBA,
 Aug 24 - Fall Dinner & Annual Meeting, TBA
 Aug 29 - Card Night, 7 pm, BLYC, TBA
 Aug 31, Sept. 1 - Two day, Labor Day Regatta.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2 - Sailing Awards, 11 am, BLYC (tentative)
 Sept. 7 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC
 Sept. 7 - Fall Frolic Free Concert, BLYC

OCTOBER

October 19 - Bad Patty Luecht Crockpot Challenge (tentative date), TBA

**EARL TROEGER JR. INTERLAKE REGATTA
THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 17**

Birch Lake will host up to 30 boats competing in 3 races from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm (weather permitting). The boat launch will be in use from 7 – 10 am and again around 3 – 5 pm.

Please show your support for this once-in five-year event by using your speed boats AFTER the sailboats finish racing.

Let's show our guests our great Birch Lake hospitality!

The Birch Barker will consider ads and editorial items for publication. E-mail items to onlinebarker@gmail.com, mail them or put them in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). For **editorial concerns contact Editor Phil** at onlinebarker@gmail.com, or at 476-1680 (no text). For **delivery concerns contact Ron Niezgodski**, birchbass1@gmail.com or 476-9317. For all other matters **contact Commodore Sue Davis**, at eyesnd76@gmail.com or 574-993-6031. **DEADLINE** is always Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

— Birch Lake Notes —

Awards date may change

One of our sailors wonders if it is possible to reschedule the sailing awards, currently set for Saturday, September 7. The sailor has given a good reason that is related to the sailing Awards, but will be kept confidential for now. So far, everyone has agreed to move the Sailing Awards to Labor Day, Monday, September 2 at 11 am in the BLYC clubhouse.

September 2 at 11 is already on our calendars as a backup date for the Labor Day Regatta, so hopefully everyone is available and agreeable to this new date. **If so, the Labor Day Regatta will have no backup;** we will use that time for the Sailing Awards; and we will skip the luncheon this year and just present the awards.

Hearing no objection, a confirmation

of the new Sailing Awards date of September 2 at 11 am will be published in next week's Birch Barker, and on the BLYC website.

Fall Frolic concert Sept. 7

The Past Commodores behind the "Fall Frolic" Concert on September 7. Thought it was a good time for an update. The concert at the BLYC is a FREE event open to all Birch Lake residents, that is being funded totally by the Past Commodores.

The Band, DAWG, will begin playing at 7 pm and will play to 9:30 pm, and weather permitting will be located outside on the deck. There will be seating indoors with plenty of tables and chairs. All the windows along the deck will be open. Everyone is invited to bring chairs if you wish to sit outdoors.

There will be free Margaritas and bagged snacks provided (as long as supplies last). There will also be an open bar with two bartenders; the club does not sell alcoholic products. If you wish, bring snacks to share and your own beverages. There will also be a 50-50 game available with all proceeds going to the BLYC Water Quality Fund.

Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribute now with a click at:
<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>

OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION

TO DATE
54%*

PERCENT
OF BIRCH
LAKES' 234
HOMES (126
HOMES)
HAVE
DONATED
TO THE
WATER
QUALITY
FUND

\$120.74
AVERAGE
AMOUNT
PROVIDED
PER BIRCH
LAKE
HOUSEHOLD
TO DATE
(Updated
Aug. 12)

*percentage
and average
based on
234 homes

No change
for two
weeks!

To donate for **WATER QUALITY** or any BLYC activity or event, use the form in the back of this week's Barker or visit the website above



COOK-OUTS ARE POPULAR—Cook-outs are among the popular activities at Camp Kiloqua, resident Mishawaka Camp Fire Camp, Birch Lake, Vandalia, Mich. Under the instructions of the counselor, Miss Margaret Schumacher, these campers bake bread twists over coals. Left to right are Deborah Young, Sue Robinson, Miss Schumacher and Susan Hess. 1961

Claude Petit (south side) submitted this photo with the following information: One of our guest last week at our cottage is in the picture of past Barker. She lives 30 min away. Susan is the one on the right. She dated the picture to 1961.

LADIES' STYLE SHOW AND LUNCHEON

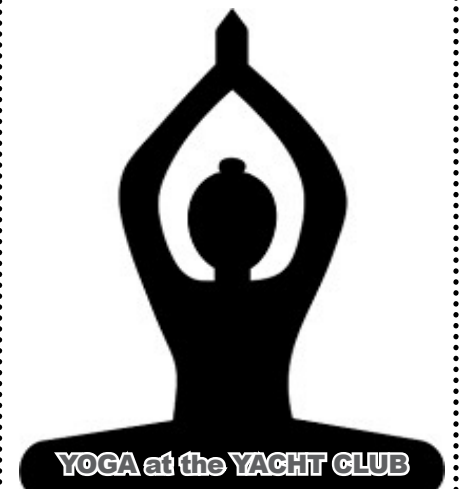


WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21 at 11 am
WOOD FIRE TRATTORIA
FASHIONS BY THE MARSHALL SHOPPE
TICKETS \$32

CALL

RONNI ESHLEMAN 317-418-9557

DENNY WEESNER 269-476-2569



YOGA at the YACHT CLUB

Join Claudia Phipps most
Thursdays at 9 am at the yacht club
for Yoga ... (No yoga July 25)
9 am start, classes are 75 minutes

- \$5 fee goes to water quality
- BRING WITH YOU:**
- Yoga mat
- Two beach towels or blankets for Yoga Nidra Shavasana (the YC is cold with a cold floor, body temp will drop)
- A pillow or two for under the knees and head
- An eye pillow or scarf to block out the light

— Birch Lake Notes —

Please come out and join us for one of the last events for 2024. It will be a fun night and DAWG, the Band, will get everyone Rockin.”

Fall dinner tickets

Just sending a reminder to all the wonderful people at Birch Lake! Please purchase your tickets this week for the fall dinner! See the Barker ad for details! The deadline was 8/16, but we can stretch it through the weekend.

Find out who is our next Vice Commodore!

Dress in your favorite team shirt!

This year will be extra special with entertainment! Michael the DJ will make our tailgate one to remember! Karaoke is available, if requested! Come join the fun!

~Julie Dickey,
Vice Commodore

The printed Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to all of the homes on Birch Lake each week, and is online at <http://www.philvital.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>.

The deadline for submitting materials is noon on Tuesday of the week before publication.

Materials can be emailed to me at onlinebarker@gmail.com or sailorphil@philvital.com (both work), or put in my mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (if you want materials back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope).

Advertising rates are at <https://www.philvital.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>. To buy an ad or for more info, contact me by email or at 476-1680.

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2024 is
\$17,500

Contribute now with a click at:
<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



**ON SAILING DAYS
AT BIRCH LAKE ... PLEASE STAY
OFF THE COURSE!**

JAYWALKER RESTAURANT

Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!
Open for Lunch and Dinner
Located on the beautiful St. Joseph River
10188 US 12, Mottville
for reservations or carry-out, call

(269) 483-2305



TOUCH DOWN



to the

Birch Lake Fall Dinner

Football Tailgate

inside the Birch Lake Yacht Club



August 24



Cocktails: 530 to 6 pm

Score with a Bullseye Market Tailgate

Enjoy ribs and chicken huddled up with delicious sides

\$25 ticket for each football fan

DJ Michael Wells with Bad Entertainment LLC will make this tailgate a real winner!

Wear your favorite football team shirt and kick off the football season at the BLYC!

Tickets available online at www.birchlakeyachtclub.com

Or make checks payable to the BLYC and mail to:

Julie Dickey, 63276 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

Questions? Contact Julie at jdjuls@aol.com

Deadline for reservations: August 16



— A Tribute —

Memories Of Beth Blackwood

“Well, hello dear,” as Beth Blackwood would say to people whom she always greeted with a smile.

We had a call this week about the passing of our dear friend Beth Blackwood, who was our neighbor in the Cove. She passed last Thursday, August 8th.

This has led us to recall some wonderful memories of our times spent with Beth and Howard Blackwood.

To know Beth was a treasure (one of a kind friend to all).

She was an excellent cook and you were lucky if you were seated at the table enjoying a night of laughter, wine, and a meal, never to forget.

Howard, her partner in crime, would tell us not to talk to Lizzy (as he would call her) while she was cooking. She would just keep cooking and laugh at Howard.

We weren't allowed to clean up after any dinners, so she always left her dishwasher full so we would just be able to enjoy our times together.

Loving her children and their need to keep the kids busy “The Turtle Races were born” in the Cove. It revolved into neighbors and friends off the lake and many lakers catching turtles to enter each race.

Everyone was encouraged to view the turtles, at this time it was our social hour before the betting began for your favorite turtle. The turtles were numbered with white out and were released after the race back to the lake. This led to seeing turtles with numbers on their backs for weeks afterwards. At the end of the turtle races, Beth and Howard would invite everyone to their home for her famous spaghetti dinner.

Thus in 2005, we were sitting on Howard and Beth's porch discussing how to raise money for the yacht Club. The idea of Beth's spaghetti sauce sparked an idea of a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Yacht Club. So with Howard & Beth Blackwood, Jim & Linda Bergan, Tom & Vickie Rogers, we started the 1st Annual Spaghetti Dinner, which was 19 years ago. We donated our profits to the Yacht Club for all the tables, chairs, kitchen roasters and misc. Items needed over the next 3 years.

We thank you, Beth, for everything you were and all that you gave, and may you now forever rest in peace with the certain knowledge that you were, are, and always will be, dearly loved and terribly missed.

Memories are forever.

~Jim & Linda and Tom and Vickie



2525 Lake Pine Dr, Suite A - St Joseph, MI 49085

**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

Tri-County Bookkeepers & CPAs
2525 Lake Pine Dr., Suite A
Saint Joseph, MI 49085

269-926-2191



Formerly Prime Property Care

**MOWING
HEDGES
EDGING
GUTTER CLEANING
SPRING, SUMMER
& FALL CLEANUP
ROCK/MULCH
INSTALLATION**

**BRET TIETSORT
269-580-2738**

— Letters to the Editor —

Thanks, Earl

I read Bob King's reminiscence about Earl Troeger in the recent Barker and it triggered another of my "Birch Lake Memories."

As a beginning Sunfish sailor many decades ago, for some reason Mr. Troeger invited me to crew for him during two races when the Snipe class ruled Birch. He was already a local legend as a nationally known sailor and I felt honored to be asked.

I knew nothing about a Snipe but that didn't seem to matter to Mr. Troeger as he calmly instructed me in what line did what and which side of the boat to sit on when. I'm certain he could have operated the boat alone but he took a novice along and probably compromised his chances in the races ... but he made a sailing enthusiast out of me that day.

I'm sure I didn't do him any favors during our day racing, but he certainly did one for me. I came away with an appreciation and enthusiasm for the sport which lasted me through my Sunfish racing days. So many good things happen at Birch Lake ... and so many last for a lifetime.

~Steve Tunnicliffe

Give 'em a break

Surfs up! Yes, sometimes we have enormous waves on Birch. Every now and then griping and grouching comes to me about this boat or that throwing large rollers crashing into shore. You are not imagining it. It happens. It's not great for turbidity and rough on the shoreline. But, it's not the boat.

When I was a kid, boats had fins to look fast. If you had a 10-18 horse outboard, well, we were buds! Someone with a 40-horse motor was stylin' and the 50 HP, they were Big Dogs. Now many boats have larger engines

than in our cars. They have enough grunt to plow up monster wakes when not on plane.

Water skiing used to be done behind boats on plane (leveled out making smaller wakes). Now, people go off-plane, generating large(r) wakes on purpose for wake boarding or (sorta) surfing. It's a new thing. It will be replaced by the next thing. I'm trying not to grumble. It is what it is.

At the least, in recognition the natural shoreline, can't everyone please avoid dipping in at the Cove? We throw wakes in that part of the lake when it could easily be less destructive. Give 'em a break, hey?

~Chrys A. Lis



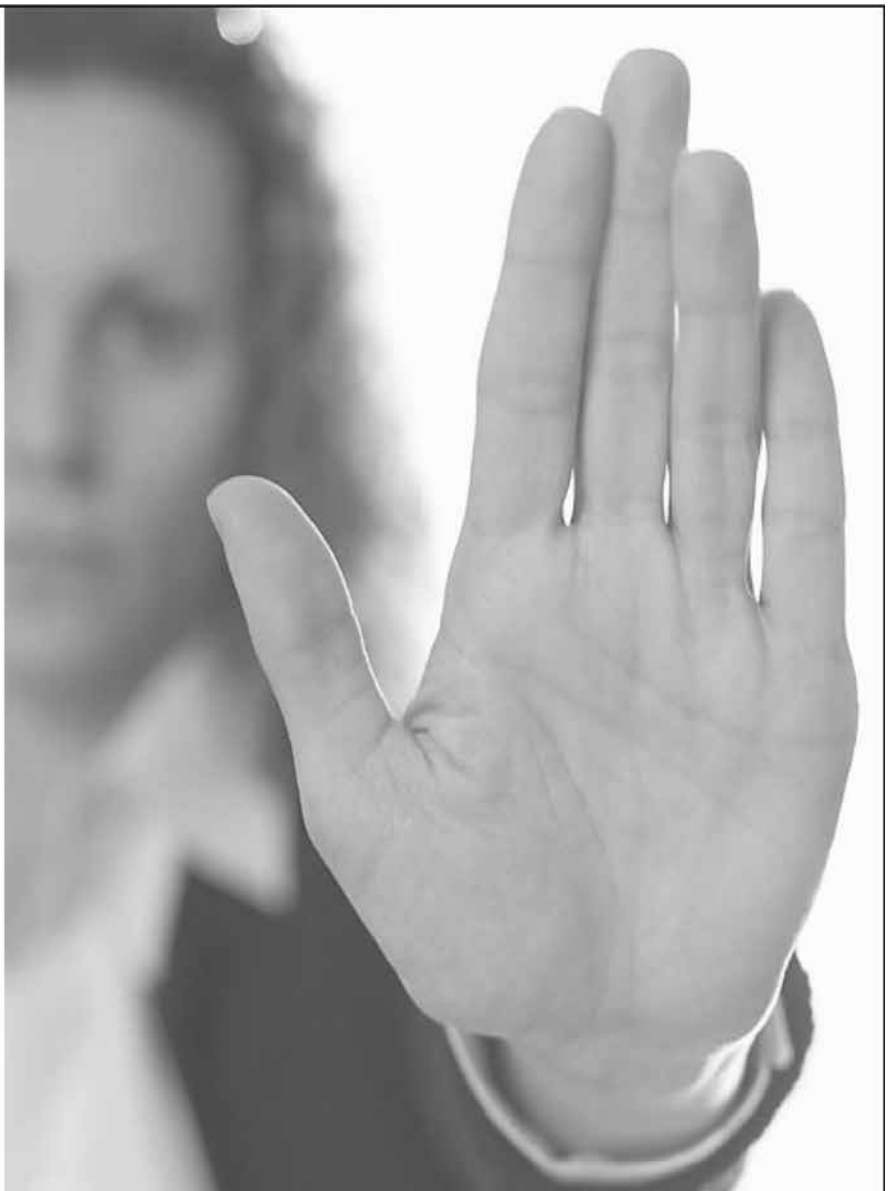
Young Earl Troeger in a fin boat, driver unknown ... Mr. Hague?

SLOW DOWN

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

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

**SPEED LIMIT
15_{MPH}**





FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



All ready for Interlake MC regatta

Last Sunday, Tom Cassady and Vic Jones set a special course for us -- the one that will be used this Saturday at the Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial Interlake MC Regatta. It's different from our usual course, requiring a lot more sailing directly into the wind. Also, this was our last opportunity to practice official races for the Interlake MC Regatta, and all of this, combined with great wind, brought out a great crowd of nine MC's. Sandy Vitale crewed for Phil who was at the helm of Sandy's boat. Tory Troeger crewed for her dad Scott; and Maggie Cassady crewed for her mom Barb. Ron Niezgodski was assisted on the Committee Boat by Karen Brovold, Stacia Andriano and Bill Butler. A big thank you for the participation and invaluable help of all of these wonderful people!

In the MC fleet, Team Troeger won the day with a 1-2-1 series, which must have been a great thrill for Tory, especially since it was her birthday! Pat

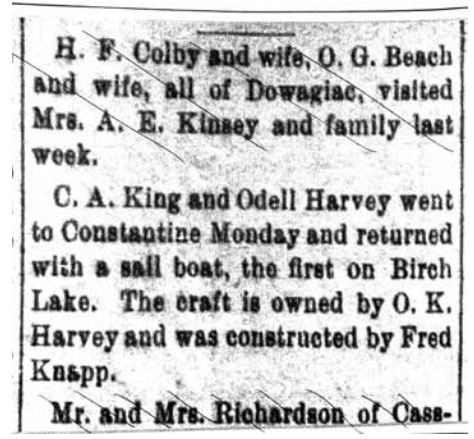
Welch scored 2-3-3/ while Barb Cassady won the second race; Bill Luecht captured 2nd in the third race; and Pat McGann got 3rd in the first race.

Two Sunfish piloted by Herb Cleveland and Rick Russwurm started with the MC's for two of the three races, just for fun. Unfortunately they lacked the three boats needed for an official Sunfish race, so those two races won't count in the season standings. That's too bad, especially for Herb, who won both of the Sunfish races--not an easy thing to do against Rick! We're hoping that Stewart Spratt's recent injury heals up soon, so he can get back on the lake!

It was a pleasure to meet Darlene Troyer recently. Darlene loves to research local history, and given the excitement about the upcoming Interlake Regatta, very generously gave me this old newspaper clipping to share with you. It's from the Cassopolis Vigilant newspaper, dated August 2, 1906, which is 118 years ago, and it describes the

arrival of the very first sailboat on Birch Lake! (Bob King says he doesn't think he's related to the "C.A. King" mentioned in the article.) And thank you, Darlene, for sharing this fascinating part of the history of Birch Lake, during this runup to the Interlake MC Regatta! Sailing on Birch Lake is going strong after 118 years!!

~F.C. Steve



BLYC racing & season standings to date

Date..... 8/11 8/11 8/11 Total Points Point Average..... Races Finished..... % Finished

MC/Sailor	Total MC Races = 24			Total Points	Point Average	Races Finished	% Finished
Scott Troeger #1489	1	2	1	31133	1557	20	90.9%
Barb Cassady #2506	5	1	5	33577	1526	22	100%
Patrick Welch #1979	2	3	3	16040	1458	11	50.0%
Bill Luecht #1579	6	5	2	19713	1408	14	63.6%
Ashly Connaugaton #1979	DNS	DNS	DNS	5490	1373	3	13.6%
Phil Vitale #500	4	4	4	9372	1339	6	27.3%
Steve Frew #656	9	7	7	29296	1332	22	100%
Bob King #1199	7	6	DNS	4973	1243	4	18.2%
Pat McGann #1735	3	DNF	DNS	2468	1234	1	4.5%
Sandy Vitale #2159	crew	crew	crew	7212	1202	5	22.7%
Amber Grundy #1173	8	8	6	3403	1134	3	13.6%
Sunfish/Sailor	Total Sunfish Races = 21			Total Points	Point Average	Races Finished	% Finished
Rick Russwurm				32816	1563	21	100%
Stewart Spratt				31872	1518	21	100%
Scott Sortal				9061	1510	6	28.6%
Pete Soldato				5630	1408	4	19.0%
Bob Niezgodski				25191	1400	18	85.7%
Herb Cleveland				12475	1386	8	38.1%
Amy Troeger				6703	1341	5	23.8%
Camille Butler				3888	1296	3	14.3%
Bob King				2525	1263	1	4.8%

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 last place (if 5 boats started the race, you will be scored as 5th 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



Estate Planning
Business Counsel
Elder Law
Litigation

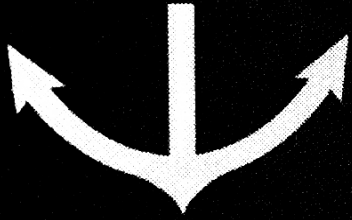
THK LAW, LLP

Cassopolis | South Bend | Elkhart
269.445.1818

thklaw.com



Prime Property Care



**Barge Services
Dock Removal/Install
Dock/Hoist Sales**

61272 Daily Rd.
Cassopolis, MI 49031
269-591-9848

primepropertycarellc@yahoo.com

— Barker Blast from the Past —



Stan Pitakos (formerly of the north side) and a group of friends aboard the Graceful Lady.



Sue Wagner (formerly of the Cove) and Phil Vitale (east side) in a pic from the Barker archives.

Visit us TODAY for the best boat deals in southwest Michigan



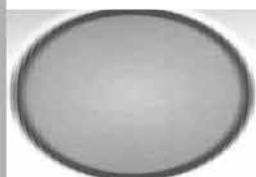
MOOMBA



AVALON



STARCRAFT



APOLLOMARINE.net

**We rent
Pontoon Boats!**

**We service all
area lakes!**



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

**269-423-6011
1-888-966-BOAT**

SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE

— Water Quality Report —

Purple Loosestrife on Birch Lake

The Birch Lake Water Quality Committee started the Purple Loosestrife Management Program in 2000. The Program has been very effective. In 2000 we had 10 sites located on all shores of the lake, some of which were very dense. We continue to monitor Purple Loosestrife each year and remove the plants that we find. The Plants bloom from late June / early July until about the end of August. In early September they begin to drop their dried seeds. Hopefully all blooming plants have been removed by this time to prevent future growth next season.

If you see, or suspect you see the plant, please call Bruce Wagner, our Water Quality committee's Purple

Loosestrife Specialist (Cottage 269-476-2090 or Cell 574-286-7183) or any member of the Water Quality Committee to have it checked out. This will be Bruce's last year with the Purple Loosestrife program after serving for 24 years. Many thanks go to Bruce. The program would not have been a success without his dedication.

So far this year, Purple Loosestrife was located at two sites.

What is it?

Purple Loosestrife is a plant that was accidentally introduced to the United States and distributed as an ornamental. It is most easily identified during the flowering season. This spiked-shaped purple pinkish flower can be seen above the water level in ditches, streams, rivers, lakes and other moist shallow water sites. This plant is an upright hardy perennial four to eight feet tall and most often found in groups.

Effects:

Purple Loosestrife invades marshes, ditches and lakeshores quickly replacing native wetland plants. These plants form dense stands that wildlife cannot use for food or cover.

Spread:

Purple Loosestrife will grow from the roots of an established plant, however the plants spread mainly by seed. Having up to 300,000 per stalk, these tiny seeds can live in the soil and water for many years and can be transported great distances by humans, animals and water.

Management (Eradication)

Once the plant becomes easily evident (in mid-July) but before it goes to seed (in early September), Specialist Wagner will slowly tour the lake in his pontoon boat and with binoculars



searching for purple loosestrife, usually about four times per season. You will recognize his pontoon boat by the Purple Loosestrife banner hanging on the side.

If seen, a volunteer will pull each plant by its roots, bag and properly dispose of it and the Water Quality Committee will be notified of the plant's location.

We are fortunate that it has been isolated to two sites thanks to Bruce's diligence. Many surrounding lakes have an abundance of Looseleaf and are losing the battle. Your Water Quality Committee is committed to its eradication. That's why your donation to the Water Quality Fund is essential. To all who have contributed, thank you. For those who haven't, don't wait until its dense growth along the shoreland makes it impossible to access the open water.

If you are interested in helping, please give a water quality member a call.

To see what it looks like just enter Purple Loosestrife Michigan in your browser.

The Moon this Saturday

at midnight. Illuminated Fraction:

Illuminated Fraction: 0.912

2.5 days until full moon



Sun and Moon this Week

Sunrise: 06:52:30 am

Sunset: 20:39:09 pm

Moonrise: 19:53:02 am

Moonset: 03:45:41 pm

Hours of Daylight:

13 Hr 46 Min 38 Sec

11920 McKinley St.
Jones, Michigan

Offering our Guests...

- Hair Services
- Facials & Hydrafacial MD
- Eyelash Lift & Tint
- Pedicures & Manicures
- Hair Extensions
- Sugaring - Hair Removal
- Massage
- Wedding Parties
- Gift Cards

 **Satori**
Salon & Spa

(269) 244-5510



www.satorisalonandspa.com

Email: satorisalonspa@gmail.com

*Organic Salon & Day Spa
Eufora Hair products & Satori Skin Care Products*

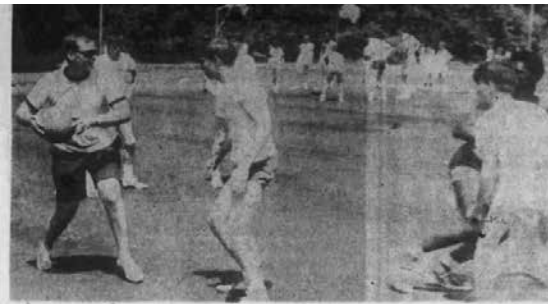
— Birch Lake Memories —

I promised to follow up on the Camp Kiloqua article a few Barkers back so here goes. Not a whole lot of information was documented on Kiloqua's demise and the future camp owners history, but suffice it to say, many Birch Lakers were worried about what those many acres on our north east side of the lake would become.

In 1969-70 rumors were flying that the old Camp Kiloqua grounds were going to be purchased and converted to a park for RVs and campers. With that thought in mind, many foresaw multiple people, piers, and boats descending upon Birch Lake shores. Some concerned homeowners pooled their resources and purchased the camp with the intention of putting the rumors to rest and opening another sort of camp on the North Shore.

And the Birch Lake Basketball Camp was born.

The camp held five weekly sessions for boys grade 5 through high school. It was directed by Dowagiac basketball coach Claire Willhelm with the assistance of South Bend Adams coach Tom Turnock. Guest area coaches included Dave Hadaway, South Bend Adams, Bob Donewald, South Bend Saint Joe and coaches Miller from Penn Powers from Elkhart, Snyder Plymouth, and Schaefer



BASKETBALL CAMP READY: The new Birch Lake Basketball Camp in Cass county opens this Sunday with the first of five weekly sessions. The camp, operated by Dowagiac basketball coach Clair Wilhelm and Brandywine cage mentor Dave Rose, will also include Michigan State coach Gus Ganakas and Western Michigan coach Eldon Miller as guest instructors. Pictured working out on one of the new courts are Rose (left) and some of his Brandywine basketball prospects. Camp applications are still being accepted by Wilhelm at 344 Pokagon street, Dowagiac.

BIRCH LAKE BASKETBALL CAMP

Name _____
 Age when camp opens _____ Weight _____
 Height _____ Physical defects if any _____
 Parent or Guardian _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 School now attending _____
 Grade _____
 Coach _____
 Signature of Parent _____
 Amount of Deposit enclosed _____
 Balance Due _____
 Day Camp _____ \$40.00 per week
 Residence _____ \$45.00 per week

Sessions Preferred

July 5-11 July 18-24
 July 22-28 July 28-August 1
 August 24

Please return applications for camp reservations to:
 Clair Wilhelm
 344 Pokagon St.
 Dowagiac, Michigan

Questions regarding the camp may be sent to the above address. A limited call to Clair Wilhelm (518-767-046) or Dave Rose (518-893-846) in Dowagiac, Michigan for information regarding the camp will be accepted.

River Valley.

Most notably were the counselors who included 1970s basketball greats John Laszkowski and Tom Abernathy from the 1976 IU NCAA National Championship team, and Pat Magley from South Bend LaSalle.

I believe Tom Varga and Dave Kuzmicz from the Notre Dame basketball team were also in attendance. A pick-up game on the top of the hill with those guys was a serious undertaking as many of our Birch Lake men and boys remember.

The camp lasted for at least four years 1970 to 74 before it's closed its doors. The "horror" of the RV park was averted, and the lots were sold off to the fine homeowners we have now on our North East shore.

Thank you, Birch Lake families who had the foresight to make this happen.

~Sue Davis

Cage camp completes 4th year

BIRCH LAKE — Birch Lake basketball camp completed its final session of the season Saturday. Clair Wilhelm, Dowagiac High coach, served as camp director with Tom Turnock, South Bend John Adams mentor, his assistant.

This marked the fourth year of operation for the cage camp. Five weekly sessions were held for boys from the fifth grade through high school. The majority of the youngsters were from the immediate area

Along with Wilhelm and Turnock, BLBC had an impressive staff of coaches including Hadaway of Adams; Donewald of South Bend St. Joseph, Miller of Penn, Powers of Elkhart, Snyder of Plymouth, and Shaffer of River Valley.

For further information of the camp for next year call the camp 476-2137 or write Clair Wilhelm, RFD, Vandalia, Mich. 49095.

PRINTING, MARKETING & SIGN SERVICES
 CUSTOM SOLUTIONS & DESIGNS

alphagraphics®
 ELKHART & SOUTH BEND

Just down the road

It's not MARGARITAVILLE it's

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

ZIMMYVILLE
 THE HOME OF ZIMMYS TAVERN

NOTE: WE'RE TOO SMALL TO HAVE A TOWN DRUNK SO WE TAKE TURNS!

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>

MH McGann Hay
 FUNERALS | CREMATIONS | GATHERINGS
 SINCE 1842

Granger Chapel
 • Large Rooms • Children's Room
 • Spacious Cafe/Lounge

574-232-1411
www.mcgannhay.com

"The perfect location between Michigan and Indiana"

Pat McGann, Birch Lake Resident, East Side

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Pat McGann sent in this photo with a note saying "kids of the week. Golfing at Steve Frew's CC."

INFINITY HOME SERVICES LLC

- Home watch/property checks
- Summer home opening
- Closing/winterizing
- Maintenance
- Repairs
- Small projects
- Short term vacation rental
- Maintenance services



Infinity Home Services, LLC
269-259-1127
 jim@infinitymichiana.com
<http://www.infinitymichiana.com>

O'Donnell's Docks LLC

Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters

SPRING CLEARANCE SALE

We overbought and need to clear the lot.

25 percent off all in-stock anodized aluminum dock sections. Retail price was \$891/section; 25 percent off the sale price now \$668. We have over 50 used boat lifts in stock!

WE ALSO REPAIR MOST MAJOR LIFT BRANDS

New boat lifts in stock up to 8000 lbs. along with jet ski lifts

Serving you for
over 30 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:

SHOREMASTER lift^{com}
tech^{marine}

HEWITT LSP

4EVER ALUMINUM
PRODUCTS, INC.

POLYDOCK
PRODUCTS

CRAFTLANDER

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Above: The first Birch Lake Olympics at the Myers' house (west side) was a great success. Shown here is the ceremony with Birch Lake-shaped medals!



Right: The Hogoboom (south side) grandkids hold their own closing ceremonies at Birch Lake on Sunday. Madi and Andrew Hogoboom, Clay and Atlas Boverhof are the grandkids of Dave

Ready - Set - Medicare!

Turning 65? I Can Help!

- ✓ Medicare Advantage
- ✓ Medicare Supplement
- ✓ Prescription Drug Plans
- ✓ Multiple Insurance Companies

Medicare // Health // Small Group // Life // Supplemental

TO DO LIST!

- Call Ashly 3 months before turning 65 to discuss your enrollment in Medicare Parts A & B
- Avoid Penalties! If over 65, ask employer for proof of insurance.
- Watch for your new Medicare card to arrive in the mail.

Keep This List!

Let's Talk! Over-the-phone appointments welcome!
No cost!
No obligation!

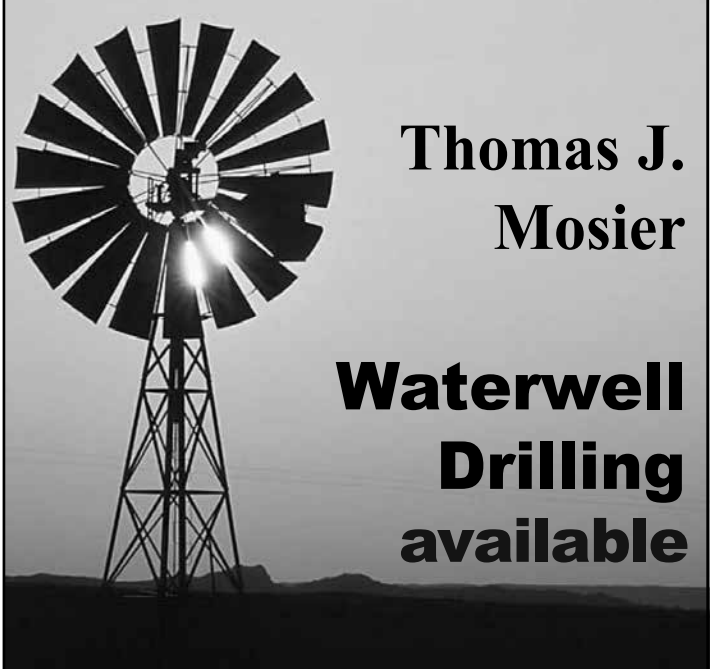


Ashly Connaughton
Licensed Insurance Agent
(269) 312-1410
awelch@HealthMarkets.com

health
markets.

803 CR 6 East, Suite B, Elkhart, IN 46514

I CAN HELP!
New to Medicare? Free Consultation!



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



Birch Lake Diversions



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Stacked tomato and Burrata salad

All you need to know about this tomato and Burrata salad is that burrata means “battered.” Comparing mozzarella and Burrata is slightly unfair, as Burrata is significantly richer and creamier. It’s not like comparing apples and oranges — it’s more like apples and supermodels.



Prep Time: 15 mins
Total Time: 15 mins
Servings: 1

Ingredients

1 vine-ripened tomato, cored and cut into 1/2-inch slices
flaked sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
¼ cup Burrata cheese, or more to taste
1 tablespoon torn fresh basil leaves, or to taste
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Directions

Place a tomato slice onto a plate and season with sea salt and black pepper. Spread Burrata cheese over tomato slice, top with torn basil leaves, and drizzle with olive oil. Repeat the layering process with remaining ingredients, finishing with a tomato slice.

Back-to-School Word Search



Find the words hidden in the puzzle.

- | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| ACTIVITIES | BUS | FOLDER | MAP | SCIENCE |
| ART | CAFETERIA | FRIENDSHIP | MATH | SCISSORS |
| BACKPACK | CALENDAR | GLOBE | MUSIC | SOCIAL STUDIES |
| | CLASSROOM | GLUE | NOTEBOOK | SPELLING |
| | COMPUTER | GRADE | PENCIL | STUDENT |
| | CRAYONS | GYM | PRINCIPAL | TEACHER |
| | DESK | LEARN | READING | THINKING CAP |
| | ERASER | LESSON | RULER | WELCOME |
| | FIELD TRIP | LUNCH | SCHOOL | WRITING |



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

— Camp Tannadoonah —

Thank you to everyone who came out Friday night for the candlelight serenade. I'm sorry we got started so late! We had 11 campers who earned the Order of the Birch Award this week, and that ceremony lasted longer than expected, delaying the start of the serenade.

The Order of the Birch is the highest award that a camper can earn at Camp T. Campers who would like to work towards their Order of the Birch have to have been attending camp for at least five summers and must be going into the seventh grade or higher. During the week they are at camp, they must be a model camper, keep their bunk neat and clean, go to each "free choice" activity at least once, attend Polar Bear swim every morning, serve as their cabin's representative on the Camper Council, help the counselors lead our song circle one evening, do a service project to help camp, and at the end of the week at our closing campfire, they must share a poem, a song, or a speech about what Camp means to them.

With 11 campers sharing their poem, song, or speech, the closing campfire went longer than usual on Friday night! I always love hearing the campers share their thoughts about camp, usually telling stories about counselors who had a positive impact on them, or the friendships they've made at camp that last long after they go home, or their favorite

camp songs or activities. Sometimes they get very emotional sharing about the ways that camp has helped them to grow in their life, and the importance of the week they get to spend here each summer.

After each of the campers shared their poem, song, or speech, we concluded the closing campfire with our Order of the Birch Honor Guard. Each staff member who has been at camp for five or more summers holds a torch, and the honorees are called up to the stage to receive their award. They walk through the honor guard of torches to get to the front and receive their certificate. It's a really special event and a beautiful way to conclude our summer. After that, the Order of the Birch honorees lead us all to the waterfront for the candlelight serenade.

We wrapped up our last session of camp on Saturday morning. The campers checked out around 11am and then our staff got to work packing, cleaning, and closing up things at camp. The counselors have been living at camp for the past 10 weeks, so they had a lot of their own items to pack as they got ready to leave. Plus 10 of them were international



staff, so they had to pack efficiently and decide what they were taking home with them!

We cleaned up all the cabins, put away all the program supplies, and then had a staff banquet to celebrate the end of the season. It's become a tradition the past few years to get Hacienda for the staff banquet, and then watch a video slideshow that our photographer puts together with photos of the staff over the course of the summer. On Sunday morning the staff wraps up a few last tasks and then everyone heads home. The end of the season is always a little bitter-sweet – we're all exhausted and happy to be done, but also sad to be leaving another summer behind. There are many tearful goodbyes, and promises to "see you next summer!"

~Mrs. Amber

Considering selling your lake home or property?

Don't wait!

Here are a few great reasons to put your home on the market.

- Beat the competition
- Inventory is at an all time low
- Plenty of qualified buyers actively looking
- More people than ever are looking for a second home

Dennis Bamber and his group sold over 160 waterfront and lake access homes in Michigan and Indiana over the past few years.



Dennis has been a lake resident for over 30 years. Many of the group's listings sold quickly and over asking price. Take advantage of their wealth of experience.

Cressy & Everett
REAL ESTATE

Above & Beyond

701 Spruce Street • Dowagiac, MI 49047



THE DENNIS BAMBER GROUP
LAKE & WATERFRONT SPECIALISTS

574-532-3808

dennisbamber@cressyeverett.com

*Not intended to solicit any properties already listed for sale with another real estate agent.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

White composite closet doors. (Left) 48" w X 79" h. Reduced to \$35 for the pair. Call Deb at 219-765-8691.



WANTED TO BUY

Hi all! My large extended family has owned a cottage called "Chaos" for 60 years in The Cove. Our place will stay in the family...but our own individual needs have expanded and we are looking for more room so our grandkids can stay during the summer and make memories here too. We are looking for a **3 or 4 bedroom place on the lake**. If you are looking to sell, please email Ann Nyberg at ann.nyberg@gmail.com

LOST & FOUND

Found in the parking lot at Yacht Club, **womens bracelet**, silver. Call Vickie 476-2383.

Lost in a storm, **large blue and yellow O'Brien tubing tube**. If found, please contact Sue Davis at 574-993-6031.

Lost: **life jacket, HO Skis brand**. Black with red and gray. Lost Sunday, July 7. Contact Barb Cassady 574-229-9815

SERVICES:

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

FREE

Free grill - contact claudia2154@gmail.com



Classified Advertising

Classified ads in the Barker are free to BLYC members, \$5/week for everyone else. Send your ad to: onlinebarker@gmail.com or sailorphil@philvitale.com.

1st Source Bank

1stsource.com | Member FDIC

Straight Talk. Sound Advice.

1st Source 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.

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

THIS SATURDAY! Stay off the race course!

On Saturday, August 17, we'll be the host for the BIRCH LAKE INTERLAKE MC REGATTA. Please stay off the course and stay away from the marks (buoys) until all of the sailors are done and have left the lake! Boat wakes disrupt the race, and power boats are a hazard on the course.

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



2024 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

BLYC OFFICERS

Sue Davis (E) **Commodore**
574-993-6031 eyesnd76@gmail.com
Julie Dickey (E) **Vice Commodore**
574-220-9132 jdjuls@aol.com
Deb Spratt (N) **Treasurer**
debspratt@comcast.net
Mike Sheffieck (W) **Secretary**
708-220-1506 mcsheffieck@gmail.com
Steve Frew (E) **Fleet Captain**
708-285-2999 stephenbfrew@gmail.com

BLYC DIRECTORS

Dave Carroll (W) 574-850-0465
carrolldavid39@gmail.com
Barb Cassady (E) 574-229-9815
barbcassady49@gmail.com
Ed Chester (E) 574-536-0740
ed@chesterlawoffice.com

Karen Curtis-Miller (E) 574-261-6712
krcurtismiller@gmail.com
Bernie Garceau 476-9862
bgarceau@norcoind.com
Amber Grundy 574-315-0227
amber.grundy@gmail.com
Deb Hall (C) 219-765-8691
debbershall@gmail.com
Ron Niezgodski (W) 574-532-6710
birchbass1@gmail.com
Laura Pence (E) lpence3@gmail.com
Sarah Petty (N) 574-274-9202
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

Ray Scholes (S) 567-429-9569
rqs72@aol.com
Scott Troeger (E) 476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com
Phil Vitale (E) 476-1680
onlinebarker@gmail.com
Sandy Vitale (E) 476-1680
sv6102@gmail.com
Dan Waxman (E) 317-506-1680
DWaxman131@outlook.com
Denny Weesner (S) 219-765-8602
dkwees@cs.com
Sue Williams (S) 574*298-2839
suewilliams226@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Paul Fallon (E) Chairman, Water Quality
476-1467 pauljfallon49@gmail.com
Blair Garceau (E) Chairman, Homeowners
476-9862 blairgarceau@gmail.com



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB PAY YOUR DUES NOW!



Support the BLYC, support our lake, support our 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
- \$ ____ - **WATER QUALITY/INVASIVE SPECIES****
- \$ ____ - **FIREWORKS FUND****
- \$ ____ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ ____ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ ____ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ ____ - Safety Committee
- \$ ____ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$ ____ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$ ____ - BLYC AED Fund
- \$ ____ - Misc.

**See pages 2 & 3 for status of these important contributions

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

\$ _____

Name _____

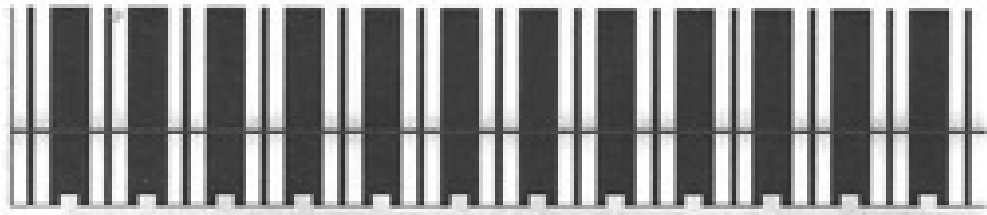
Address _____

Make checks payable to

BLYC

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

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



SUN & SHADE AWNING

Retractable
Awnings
for Decks
and Patios



Roll Up Curtains for Screened Porches

Flexshade Motorized Zip System Screens ... and Retractable Screens

FOR SHADE & PRIVACY



Boat Covers
and Tops

Aluminum
Awnings

Contact Mark at 269-244-5307

markbidelman@comcast.net

12291 Bidelman Road
Three Rivers, MI 49093

www.SunandShadeAwning.com

