

**LABOR DAY
EDITION**

**The
Weekend
Of**

**Aug. 31,
2025**

Birch Barker

<http://www.philvitale.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**



THANK YOU, PHIL AND SANDY!

This is Phil Vitale's last issue as editor of the Birch Barker, after 25 glorious years! **THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS AMAZING GIFT, PHIL!**

The wonderful Sandy has always been right beside him, helping make Birch Lake special. For so many years, Phil and Sandy Vitale have immersed themselves in serving our lake as board members, commodore (Phil), secretary for 10+ years (Sandy), bartenders, road trash cleaner-uppers, and countless other activities. And we are lucky they will continue making Birch Lake a great place to be.

The entire Birch Lake Community is delighted to celebrate your volunteer efforts, and are **SO GRATEFUL FOR BOTH OF YOU!**

Thank you, Phil and Sandy!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello to all my neighbors and friends at Birch Lake. My name is Julie Dickey, and I am truly honored to serve as your new commodore. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you over the past five years. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the months and years ahead. I can only succeed with the support of the officers, the BLYC Directors, and the many dedicated volunteers!

Owning a home at a lake has been a lifetime dream of mine. In my youth, I was introduced to lake life when I visited family at their home at Lake Maxinkuckee in Culver, IN. In 2019 my dream came true after we purchased our home at beautiful Birch Lake. It was the only lake home that we toured, and the rest is history. It has been a joyride ever since. I feel very blessed. I don't have a long history of family connections at Birch Lake, but I have been amazed to find out that I do have friend connections from other life experiences. It is a small world!

I am originally from South Bend. I

went to St. Patrick Grade School and St. Joseph High School. Then, I went to Ball State and got a nursing degree. That's where I met my husband Kelton. After graduating, I moved to Chicago and began my nursing career. I joined my sister and her roommates. Kelton later moved to Chicago. I lived in the city for 4 years. Kelton and I got married and we moved to Oak Park, Illinois. We lived in Oak Park for 5 years. There we had our first daughter, Margaret. I was pregnant with our second child, Patrick, when we moved from Chicago to Mishawaka. In Mishawaka, we added to our family and welcomed Bridget and Johnny. We still own our home in Mishawaka. Our daughter Bridget, her husband Louie, and their two children Avery and Dino, have recently purchased a home at Birch Lake in the hill area directly behind our lake home! Now I do have a new family connection!

An amazing 88 people attended the fall dinner and annual meeting! This may be a record breaker! In this Birch Barker, there is a BLYC meeting summary that was presented by Commodore Sue. It highlights a large number of wonderful people who have given their time and talent over the past year. We thank all of these volunteers who helped

make Birch Lake such a special place to live. Please see this summary in this Birch Barker. There was a very special standing ovation for Phil Vitale who has spent an inconceivable amount of time and talent devoted to 25 years of Birch Barker publications! It is mind boggling! Many thanks to Phil! He will be passing the torch to Amber Grundy! Thank you Amber for taking over this long established Birch Lake tradition!

The following Directors were elected to serve a 3 year term. They are Phil

2024 Birch Lake Calendar

AUGUST

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 - Fall Frolic Free Concert, BLYC
Sept. 21 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC

OCTOBER

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

The Birch Barker will consider ads and editorial items for publication. E-mail items to amber.grundy@gmail.com. For editorial concerns contact Editor Amber Grundy at **574-315-0227** or amber.grundy@gmail.com; for delivery concerns contact Ron Niezgodski, birchba-ss1@gmail.com or **476-9317**. For all other matters contact Commodore Julie Dickey at jdjuls@aol.com or **574-220-9132**.

DEADLINE is always Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

— Birch Lake Notes —

Vitale, Ed Chester, Claudia Phipps, Amber Grundy, and John Ball.

Commodore Sue presented the 2024 Commodores Award to our BLYC Secretary Mike Sheffieck. His outstanding contributions and countless hours of service to the lake community are very much appreciated at Birch Lake! Thank you, Mike!

Everyone was anxious to hear the announcement of the next Vice Commodore! I was very pleased to announce Steve Frew as our new Vice Commodore! Thank you Steve, for your gracious acceptance. Steve has changed his service role! Steve served as the BLYC Fleet Captain from 2021-2024! Thank you Steve for all of your time and dedication to Birch Lake sailing community.

Steve then proceeded to present a special award to Barb Cassidy for her service and dedication to sailing events at Birch Lake. It was a beautiful wooden sailboat made by Marc Caenepeel!

The theme is this year's fall dinner was a football tailgate. There were a variety of football team shirts worn by all! The shirts, combined with the decor, created a fun and spirited gathering! Everyone was seated with room to spare. We all enjoyed the delicious food from Bullseye Marketplace! They did not disappoint! As the dinner and meeting concluded, it was then time to more fully enjoy DJ Michael! Unfortunately, there was a sudden and unpredicted rain shower that fell over DJ Michael's equipment! The music had to come to an abrupt end due to wet equipment! It didn't seem to put a damper on crowd. Everyone continued to enjoy talking to one another. Thank you to several kind people who helped bring the DJ equipment inside!

I wanted to extend special thanks to all the people who helped with the event. Thank you to Sue Davis, Jennifer Ball, Steve Frew, and Kelton and Johnny Dickey for helping set up and decorate! Thank you Denny Weesner for helping check in everyone! Thanks to all the servers, Ronni Eshleman, Deb Runser, Lori Snider, Amber Grundy, and Tom Cassidy! Thanks to everyone who helped take down the tables and chairs! Special thanks to Cam Butler, Steve Frew, and Kelton and Johnny Dickey, who stayed later to clean up. In the spirit of the theme, it was a winning team effort!

The next scheduled Birch Lake event will be Card Night on August 29 at 7 pm. Then followed by the two-day Labor Day Regatta. 8/31-9/1. The first Fall Frolic is on September 7! This will be a free concert event funded by past Commodores. The band DAWG will play from 7 till 9:30 pm! It should be a fun time to rock with your neighbors! See the Birch Barker for further details! The Bad Patty Luecht Crockpot Challenge is scheduled for October 19! It is a great chance to sample a variety of culinary creations! Come join the party to taste and vote on this year's winners!

In closing, I have a thought that binds us all. We come from many differ-

ent places, but we are all in the same boat, we love Birch Lake!

~Commodore Julie Dickey

Excerpt from Commodore Sue Davis' Report at the August 24, 2024 Annual Meeting:

The Board would like to report several things to you this evening:

i) We had 143 Regular Members and 9 Associate Members this past year. Thank you.

ii) Since last year's Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting, the Birch Lake Yacht Club Board of Directors has:

- Continued to support the sailing program. Mother Nature didn't supply the wind we needed every Sunday but our sailors were always ready. The Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial Interlake Regatta was a smashing success, thanks to Barb Cassidy and her crew of volunteers. And a big "Thank you" to Steve Frew, our outgoing Fleet Captain, for a great year and for serving the lake so well during his term. Our Committee Boat deserves our thanks and was covered by Ron Niezgodski, Karen Brovold, Stacia Andriano and Bill Butler. Once again, Bob and Leslie King and several of our sailors helped make the Don Harmon Kidz Regatta a wonderful event that celebrated a great sailing legend and gave an intro to new sailors. Thank you to Tom Cassidy and Vic Jones for storing and setting all the marks for each race. And for being the "silent fleet" who keep our sailors safe, a big thank you to Rick Doolittle and Vic Jones.

- We continued to build stronger community relations around the Lake through our Club events, like the Fireworks (Thank you Bernie Garceau!), the Boat Parade (Thank you Dan Waxman and the judges!), the golf outings (Thank you John Ball, Blair Garceau and Carol McCoy!), Trivia Night (Thank you Sue Williams, Blair Garceau, Holly Troeger, Claudia Phipps, Carla Chester and Julie Sheffieck!), the Spaghetti Dinner (Thank you Karen Brovold, Stacia Andriano, Camille Butler and Katie Niezgodski!), the Family Picnic (Thank you Julie Dickey and Sarah Petty!), the Stock the Bar party, the Kids' Kayak race, monthly Card Nights, the Corn and Sausage Roast (Thank you Bernie and Blair Garceau and the Rogers and Sheffiecks!), Yoga classes (Thank you, Claudia Phipps!), the Ladies' Style Show (Thank you Ronnie Eshleman and Denny Weesner!) and the Crockpot Challenge (Thank you Karen Curtis-Miller!). Birch Lake has a lot going on!

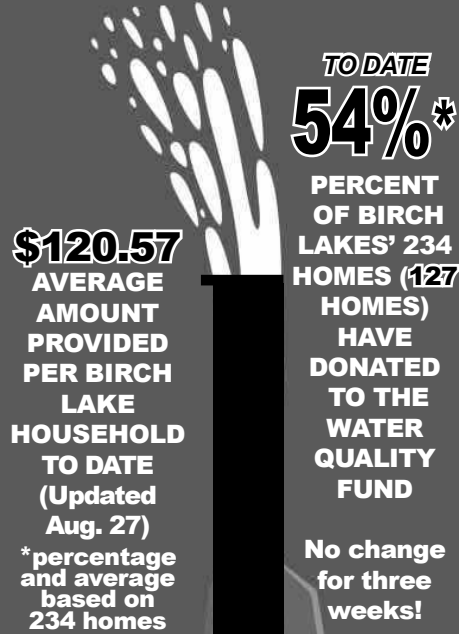
- We provided a financial transparency report in the Barker showing where we spend our donors' and members' money and explained how we as a Board decided to deal with several financial issues facing the Yacht Club. Thank you to the Committee of Ron Niezgodski, Mike Sheffieck, Deb Spratt and Phil Vitale for their hard work and to the entire Board for spending their time and energy on this important topic!

- We met our donation goal for the fireworks again. Donations were down in

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<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>

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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

BLYC and social media

The Birch Lake Yacht Club **DOES NOT** have a Facebook page, nor is it participating in any form of social media. If you see Birch Lake Yacht Club information on social media, the information has not been provided, checked or approved by the BLYC, and may be incorrect or misleading. If you have questions, please check <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>, or contact any BLYC director or officer.

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

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— Birch Lake Notes —

2024 so we may have to make adjustments in 2025's Show to be fiscally responsible, and we are working with our vendor to give us flexibility. Thank you Bernie Garceau for leading this effort and to all those who helped with clean-up, especially Camp Tannadoonah!

■ We encouraged donations to Water Quality so we may be ready to spring into action when – not if – the next invasive species arrives in our precious waters.

■ Thank you to our wonderful Water Quality Committee – please stand up and be recognized: Paul Fallon, Terry Dugan, Rick Russwurm, Bruce Wagner, Jennifer Ball, Ron Niezgodski, Cindy Bernaciak, Patrick Welch and Zack Nickell – for all your hard work on collecting results, coordinating the efforts of our consultants, attending conferences, writing Barker columns, monitoring and removing purple loosestrife, encouraging better shorelines and being excellent examples of how to be a great neighbor! The Eurasian milfoil is in check and was slightly larger in size this year at approximately 1 acre, including a new spot in the Cove. As in prior years, professional weed surveys were conducted twice a year to determine where we need to treat.

■ We continued to welcome new residents to our community. Thank you to Vickie Rogers for handling the Welcoming Committee's responsibilities!

■ We continued to keep our roads clean of trash. Thank you Phil and Sandy Vitale!

■ We published the Birch Barker, both weekly during the Summer and a monthly on-line edition in the off-season. The amazing Phil Vitale is retiring as editor this year after an incredible 25 years guiding our lake's special newsletter. Thank you, Phil! And stepping into Phil's shoes as editor will be Amber Grundy! Thank you for taking on this critical role, Amber! We have been blessed with great advertisers – be sure to let them know you saw their ad!

■ Those Barkers were delivered by a faithful team during the season. Thank you so much to Ron Niezgodski; Vickie Rogers; Sarah Petty, Claudia Phipps, Dan Waxman, Vic Jones, Chris Cole, Chris Stevens, Sue Williams and Buzz Rasmussen. Beside coordinating the delivery crew and picking up the Barkers at the printers each week, Ron Niezgodski also installed over 30 tubes around the lake to make delivery easier – Thank you, Ron!

■ The Yacht Club building continues to be in great shape thanks to Bud Hall, Ron Niezgodski, Tom Rogers and Rick Russwurm. Thank you also to the wonderful cleaning crew of Sandy Vitale, Vickie Rogers, Sue Davis and Sue Williams for cleaning up the inside so we could start our season.

■ The AEDs continued to be maintained

by Bob Waddle. Thank you Bob! We need a new person to replace Bob since he is retiring as our AED maintenance person. Please come forward if you can step in for him.

■ Your Board met regularly in person and cares very much about this community. Thank you to all of our Board Members, including: Julie Dickey, Deb Spratt – our Treasurer; Mike Sheffieck, our Secretary; Steve Frew, our Fleet Captain; Deb Hall; Vickie Rogers; Phil Vitale; Ed Chester; Claudia Phipps; Pat McGann; Amber Grundy; Laura Pence; Denny Weesner; Dan Waxman; Scott Troeger; Sarah Petty; Karen Curtis-Miller; Bernie Garceau; Dave Carroll; Barb Cassidy; Rick Russwurm; Ron Niezgodski; Sandy Vitale; Sue Williams; and Ray Scholes. Thank you!

■ We apologize if we overlooked any of the leaders for our events. And let's remember that we need new blood to take over the many different volunteer roles that make our Birch Lake Community special. Take something on, recruit new neighbors, get your kids involved – we need to pass jobs on to the next generation!

Fall Frolic concert Sept. 7

The Past Commodores behind the "Fall Frolic" Concert on September 7. The concert at the BLYC is a FREE event open to all Birch Lake residents, that is being funded totally by the past

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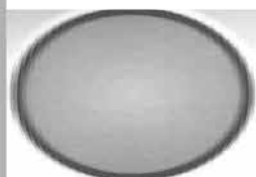
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— Birch Lake Notes —

commodores.

The band DAWG will play from 7 9:30 pm outside on the deck (weather permitting). There will be seating indoors. 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 (as long as supplies last). There will be an open bar; the club does not sell alcoholic products but donations to the club are always accepted. If you wish, bring snacks to share and your own beverages. There will also be a 50-50 game available with proceeds going to the BLYC Water Quality Fund.

Special thanks for the support

The Birch Lake Yacht Club board of directors extends its gratitude to the Remington family (west side) and to Culver's Restaurants for their generous offer to sponsor the production of the Birch Barker in 2005. Their generosity will allow the Barker to continue it's long history of serving the Birch Lake community.

We are all very grateful for your support.

Purchase Birch Lake gear and support Birch Lake water quality

The Hogoboom family (south side) has alerted us to a website that has Birch Lake gear for sale, with 20 percent

of the sales going towards Birch Lake Water Quality. To see the items, go to www.promoplace.com/birch.

Orders must be placed by midnight on Sunday, September 8. Items will be delivered end of September. Orders may be shipped to your home or delivered to Dave & Donna Hogoboom for distribution at the lake.

Flood plan open house scheduled

Local, state and federal officials are working to reduce the effects of severe weather and natural disasters. On Tuesday, Sept. 10, FEMA will hold an in-person open house in Cassopolis. At this event, FEMA will answer the questions of residents in Cass County about flood risk and flood insurance after the release of the preliminary flood maps.

FEMA, the state of Michigan, Cass County and Van Buren County community officials invite residents to join them at the Open House. Residents can also see preliminary versions of the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report and the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) here.

The Open House will not have a formal presentation. Residents can attend at any time between 5 to 7 p.m. Experts at the open house will teach residents about flood risk and flood insurance. They can also explain floodplain development regulations and the mapping pro-

WHAT: Flood Risk and Insurance Open House

WHEN: Tuesday, September 10, 2024, from 5-7 PM

WHERE: Board of Commissioners Chambers (120 N. Broadway St., Cassopolis, MI 49031)

cess. Residents can meet with experts one-on-one to look at their own addresses on the new maps. They will learn about their specific risk. They will also learn ways to help prevent flood loss.

The updated maps for Cass County will highlight several streams and flooding sources. These updates encompass 25 Flood Insurance Rate Map panels and cover 21 communities, including 15 townships, four villages and two cities.

Once in effect, the maps will inform flood insurance rates and local floodplain management rules adopted under the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA urges public officials to use the maps to help plan and prepare communities to quickly respond to and recover from future events.

Property owners, Realtors, lenders and insurance agents will benefit from this chance to learn more about flood risk and hazard mitigation in Cass County.

Message provided by Birch Lake HOA

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— The Last Word —

Proud to have served, glad you liked it

by **Phil Vitale**, aka sailorphil
Barker editor 2000-2024

After 25 years, this edition of the Barker marks the 275th issue that I have produced (that's about 4,400 pages based on an average of 16 pages/week). This is (I hope) the last issue of the Birch Barker I will ever produce.

I am pleased to announce that I finally found a sucker ... er, I meant successor ... Amber Grundy has agreed to take on the responsibilities that I have had the privilege of fulfilling since 2000 (a full year before I moved to Birch Lake). Beginning in October Amber will be producing and publishing the online Barker, and starting next spring she will publish the printed Barker as well. Good luck, Amber! She will also be doing the assorted and annoying jobs of working with the printer, producing the ads for advertisers, sending out the ticklers (deadline reminders) to the people who provide content, producing the Birch Lake Directory every two years, and sending out the lake group-email advisories about blocked roads, special events and the ever-popular "please pardon the intrusion" notices (I am so pleased to be retiring my scythe from that job).

I never imagined on that day that

when my then next-door neighbor Bob King conned me into taking over the job that it would stretch this long; but then I never imagined I would come to love doing it so much either.

Yes, it's been a lot of work (people have always asked me about that), but it's also been a labor of love. Despite the occasional nasty emails when I misspelled the name of someone's kid of the week, the righteous phone call when I missed a glaring typo or even the (two) anonymous death threats I got during the sewer year (thank God that's over), this has been one the best gigs of my life, and I am proud to have been able to do this.

This job combined with that bartending we do at the yacht club from time to time, have enabled me to meet just about everyone at Birch Lake. I have been in many of your homes (including one that was on fire) and cars, I have sat at your kitchen tables and broken bread (and drank beer) with many of you, I have worked beside you on a hundred different projects and committees, and I'm pleased to report that with the exception of a couple jerks, the people of Birch Lake are members of the finest community I have ever had the privilege of being

involved with.

I have tried to do my best to inform, educate, distract and even occasionally amuse you with the kind of content I felt you wanted to see in the Barker.

I know I have offended some of you from time to time, either by printing some things you didn't want to see (sorry Patti about that 39th birthday thing), by omitting something you wanted to be printed, or by forcing you over the line during the sailboat races (or by swearing like a sailor at you when you forced me over the line); and if so, I apologize (kinda).

I am humbled by your praise, but I didn't do it for the thanks. I'm outta here. See you out on the puddle, or better yet, stop by any time for a beer.

I furl my sails. I stand relieved.

Emeritus editor's note: I fought like hell against putting that photo of those two old people on the cover of this week's paper, but Mike threatened me ... and he's a pretty big guy. So, I'm going out for a fast walk ... or maybe I'll just walk half fast today. Thank from both of us, our love to all.



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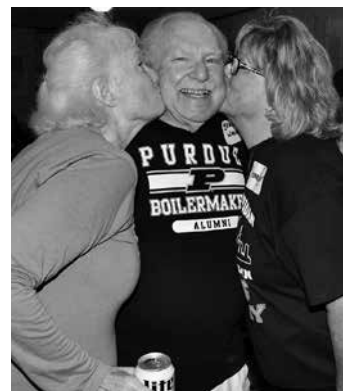
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— BLYC Fall Dinner —



Thanks to
BUZZ RASMUSSEN
for the
Fall Dinner
photos!

— BLYC Ladies Fashion Show —

Last Wednesday, 55 Birch Lake ladies attended the Style Show and Luncheon at the Wood Fire Trattoria. Six beautiful ladies modeled fashions from The Marshall Shoppe in Dowagiac. The models were Angela Bergan, Di Wozny, Deb Runser, Carla Chester, Sue Davis and Ashly Connaughton.

A special thank you to Ronni Eshleman, Angela Bergan and Denny Weesner for planning and coordinating the event. Also, thank you to Di Wozny and Claudia Phipps for selling tickers and Vanessa Wozniak and Linda Rasmussen for signing everyone in and handing out the name tags.

A good time was had by all!



— Water Quality Report —

Water Quality Committee finances

Last week's Barker discussed in depth the yacht club's finances. One component of those revelations was that it appears to currently have over \$40,000 in its (previously combined) water quality accounts. Certainly, this seems like a substantial amount of money, and in many ways it is.

This account is the positive result of many good people repeatedly doing many good things over a very long period of time. Worthy of our gratitude for this relatively good fortune are:

1) Community members who have donated to the Water Quality funds each year in the past and in the present

2) Activity leaders and volunteers who have earmarked the fruits of their endeavors for the Water Quality fund

3) Water Quality committee members both past and present who have:

- a) Educated themselves and the community
- b) Monitored and sampled the lake
- c) Selected and engaged outside consultants to survey and treat our waters
- d) Protected and treated those funds as if they were their own

Current Water Quality Committee members are: Terry Dugan, Rick Russwurm, Jennifer Ball, Cindy Bernaciak, Bruce Wagner, Ron Niezgodski, Patrick Welch, Zack Nickell and Paul Fallon.

On your behalf, they have done, and

are doing, an outstanding job.

It's certainly better to have \$40,000 than to not have \$40,000. But is it enough, or even too much? No one knows for sure, but we (WQC) don't think so.

Please consider:

1) Since early in the pandemic, our expenses have increased regularly.

2) Annual expenses now are at \$10,000.

3) Experts have told us that our next most-likely invasive, starry stonewort, (already in the millpond), will cost an additional \$5,000 – 20,000 per year to treat.

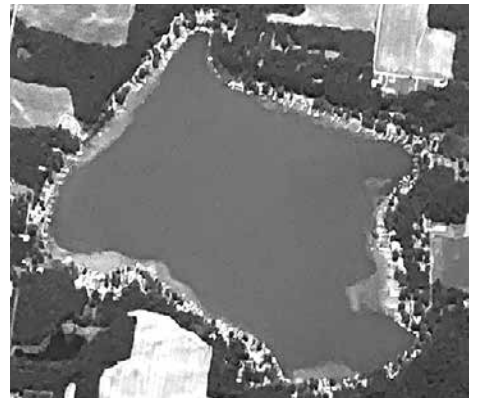
4) We remain susceptible to attack by scores of other invasives

5) Hydrilla, one of the most feared invasives, has recently been discovered in two Berrien County bodies of water.

6) To minimize the damage, and resultant expense, we must be able to fully and immediately respond when these new invasives arise.

7) Over the last few years, we have witnessed a degradation of our water clarity. This has already caused us to order (and pay for) two more sets of more specialized tests and studies.

There are possible, very expensive measures we could someday take to actually help prevent the spread of invasives into Birch. Without prevention, the issues will always be when, not if, the



invasives arise. Our committee is about to commence some long-term planning and goal setting in order to help determine how much of a war chest we think we need and how soon it's needed. As we gain consensus and clarity on these issues, we will share our thoughts with you.

In the meantime, we don't think any of us should rest. We don't know what is coming next, or when it will come. We only know that it is coming. We continue to be amazed (and disappointed) that some 46 percent (almost half) of the lake community members don't bother to contribute anything to Water Quality each year. We think everybody should, and can afford to, give something every year. We should all be in the habit of doing so, together.



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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



A fleet captain's fond farewell

After three wonderful years of serving you as Fleet Captain, this is my final column in this space in the Birch Barker.

There was no sailing last weekend. At this writing, the Labor Day Regatta looks doubtful for Saturday, but great for Sunday. Of course, the weather forecast could change by the time you read this, but wind or no wind, there will be no sailing on Monday, Labor Day, September 2. Instead, the Sailing prize giving will take place on that day, at 11 am. The season's winners will receive trophies and some special awards will be given. I also expect that your new fleet captain will be announced and installed.

Two special sailing awards were presented early, at the Fall Dinner. Barb Cassidy received a beautiful trophy, handmade by Marc Caenepeel, for conceiving and chairing the Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial Interlake MC Regatta. Marc Caenepeel received a Birch Lake burgee in gratitude for making that trophy, as well as a full set of season trophies for last year, and for this year.

My thanks go out to all of the sailors, whose generous assistance and wise advice has been invaluable. And actually, I now consider everyone on Birch Lake to be a sailor. Your generous and enthusiastic support of the Interlake Regatta has proved that, and shows great promise for the future of sailing on Birch Lake. I wish that time and space would permit me to acknowledge and thank by



PHOTO by **BUZZ RASMUSSEN**



name, all who have helped over the past three years, but please do know of my

deep gratitude to each of you.

I will, however, expressly thank Phil Vitale on this occasion of his retirement from the Birch Barker after 25 years. The Birch Barker is a gem, and a treasure; and Phil is a master journalist, who has made this column and so many other things possible. During the past three years of working with Phil to bring this column to you, he has taught me a great deal. May Phil enjoy a long, healthy and happy retirement with Sandy, and may his beloved Birch Barker endure for many, many more years to come.

~F.C. Steve

Thank you BLYC and friends

When Scott Troeger contacted me about naming the Interlake Regatta after my Dad I was very honored and humbled. Then when Scott asked me if I wanted to race and I had to say yes, all the memories, the good, bad, and ugly, came back to me as well (mostly good).

The regatta was an overwhelming weekend of memories and emotions. It was great to catch up with old friends and competitors, and hear many stories about how Earl guided, coached, encouraged, and "persuaded" them into sailing.

I still have old sailing trophies from the '40s, '50s, '60s, and '70s in my office, and our family's entire summers were fleet races at both Birch and Diamond, and regattas all over the Midwest. My brothers, Jeff and Tom, and I were truly blessed to share in our Dad's sailing passion, (although sometimes during those long sailing weekends, or national championship weeks, it may have seemed more like a curse).

After over 60 years of being a part of Birch Lake, and coming back again this year, I realize that the people are what make Birch so incredible. I want to thank Barb Cassidy, Steve Frew and the entire regatta committee and volunteers for making the Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial Regatta such a wonderful success and



carrying on the sailing passion. In the many regattas I have been to and knowing first-hand what it takes, the Birch Lake team set the bar very high for the other lakes to follow.

I would also like to thank Sandy Vitale for letting me borrow her 2159 MC, sorry I could not bring home the win you



promised everyone.

Thank you all for another wonderful memory of Birch Lake, we look forward to our next visit.

~Dave Troeger

— Barker Kids of the Week —



LEFT: Julie Greene visits brother Tom Lacy for the weekend with sons Parker and Peyton.



BELOW: Aunt Julie Lacy (south) with the Greenes! We had a great visit!

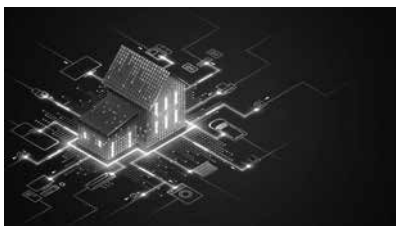


Elise and Harrison Grundy (east side) got to go skiing recently with mom (Amber). Way to go Grundy kids!



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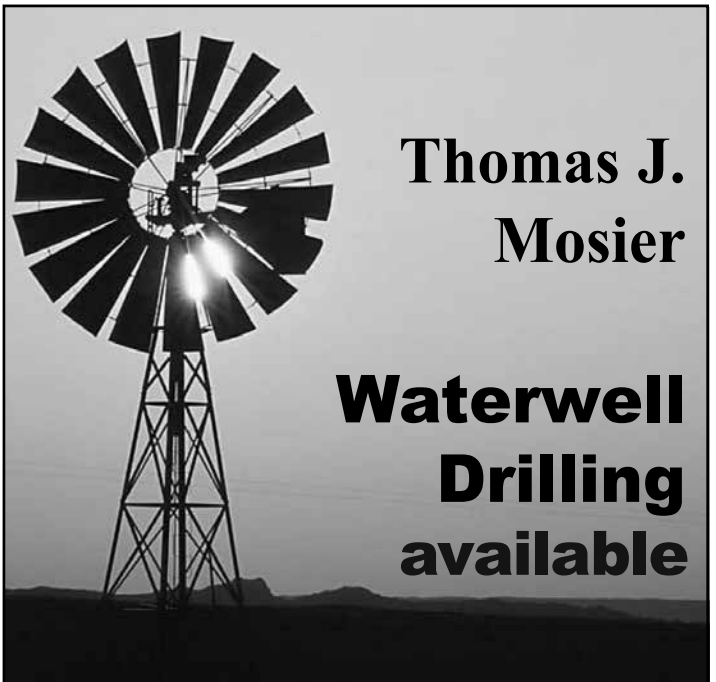
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Bud Hall with his trusty driver, bagged a "hole-in-one" on #15 at Eberhart golf course, Thursday, August 22. Bud's laser-like shot to the 120 yd.. par 3 hole was witnessed by fellow golfers, Phil Vitale, Bud Zesinger, and Marc Caenepeel. Congratulations Bud! Word has it that your golfing buddies are now going to start calling you Ace Hall ...



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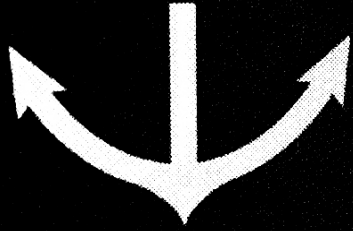
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Birch Lake Diversions



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Raspberry Trifle

Prep Time: 20 mins
Additional Time: 4 hrs
Total Time: 4 hrs 20 mins
Servings: 18
Yield: 1 trifle



Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 (10.75 ounce) package prepared pound cake
- 2 (10 ounce) packages frozen raspberries, thawed
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder, for dusting

Directions

In a medium bowl, beat cream with 1/4 cup sugar until stiff peaks form. In another bowl, cream together cream cheese, lemon juice, vanilla and 1/2 cup sugar. Fold 2 cups of whipped cream into cream cheese mixture. Reserve remaining whipped cream.

Slice pound cake into 18 - 1/2 inch slices. Drain raspberries, reserving juice. Line the bottom of a 3 quart glass bowl or trifle bowl with one-third of the cake slices. Drizzle with some raspberry juice. Spread one-fourth of the cream cheese mixture over cake. Sift one-fourth of the cocoa over that. Sprinkle with one-third of the raspberries. Repeat layers twice. Top with remaining cream cheese mixture, whipped cream and sifted cocoa. Cover and refrigerate 4 hours before serving.

COUNTRIES

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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Thanks for a great summer

Hard to believe it's the last Barker of the summer! We had a fun and busy summer here at Camp, and I want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who sent campers to camp, volunteered at camp, served on our board or a committee, or made a contribution this year! We are so grateful for the involvement of the lake community and everything Birch Lakers do to support Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah.

Thank you to Birch Lake residents Bob Bender, Tom Kuhn, Jamie Green, Tara Grove, Carrie O'Brien, and Patrick Welch who currently who serve on our Board of Directors. And to Melanie Como-Dits, Mike Sheffieck, and Holly Wozny who serve on committees.

Thank you to Maggie Laneman (McGann, east) and Becky (Davis) Anderson (cove), Hallie Minglin (formerly west side), and Kat Snider (Rogers, cove) who were part of our Camp staff this summer. And to my parents, Bill and Sherry Holleman, who volunteered at camp the entire summer, helping drive the waterskiing boat, helping with my kids, helping with maintenance, and so much more.

We had campers from families all

around the lake! From the cove: the Carey, Snider, Scheid (Snider), Anderson (Davis), Condle (Davis), and Keechle (Vath) families. From the east side: the Dufour, Noneman (Dufour), Mikulak, Schlemmer (Garceau), Vitale-Richards, and Wahlgren (McCoy) families. From the hill: the Meneghin and Schnoor (Pence) families. From the west side: the Cowen, Hoban (Carroll) and Soldato families. From the south side: the Custard, Iams (Troeger), Krizman (Hendricks), Scholes, Sullivan (Runser), and Richardson (Como) families. From the north side: the Gableman (Phipps), Marlow (Phipps), Magro, Magro Algarotti, and Ruppensburg (Kenagy) families. And, of course, the Grundy kids!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Pancake Breakfast this summer, and all those who helped make that event successful. We had so many awesome volunteers for the Pancake Breakfast and served nearly 400 people. And to everyone who has contributed their time, services, supplies, and funds to camp, this year and in the past. There are too many to list, but I'd like to give a special thanks to Tom Mosier and Ron Whiteman for their frequent (and often last-minute) help with facilities!



Here are some of this summer's numbers:

1166 camper weeks
\$33,665 in scholarships awarded
26,269 meals served
7,317 ice cream / candy treats served in store
Approximately 1700 circles around the lake pulling skiers
Thousands of amazing memories

~Mrs. Amber

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Michelle

Katrina

Dennis

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

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Be AED-ready

Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s can save a life in case of an emergency. There are AEDs at six Birch Lake homes. Simple instructions are on the units (and on the next page of this Barker) ... knowing where they are and being ready and able to use one might mean the difference between life and death. Be AED-ready!

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



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BLYC OFFICERS

Julie Dickey (E)Commodore
574-220-9132jdjuls@aol.com
Steve Frew (E).....Vice Commodore
239-315-1177stephenbfrew@gmail.com
Deb Spratt (N)Treasurer
debspratt@comcast.net
Mike Sheffieck (W)..... Secretary
708-220-1506 mcsheffieck@gmail.com
Bob Niezgodski (W)..... Vice Commodore
574 532-6919com

BLYC DIRECTORS

John Ball (E)574-535-3736
balljkb@gmail.com
Dave Carroll (W)574-850-0465
carrolldavid39@gmail.com
Sue Davis (E), past commodore574-993-6031
eyesnd76@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 Garceau476-9862
bgarceau@norcoind.com
Amber Grundy574-315-0227
amber.grundy@gmail.com
Deb Hall (C)219-765-8691
debbershall@gmail.com
Ron Niezgodski (W)574-532-6710
birchbass1@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
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BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES NOW!

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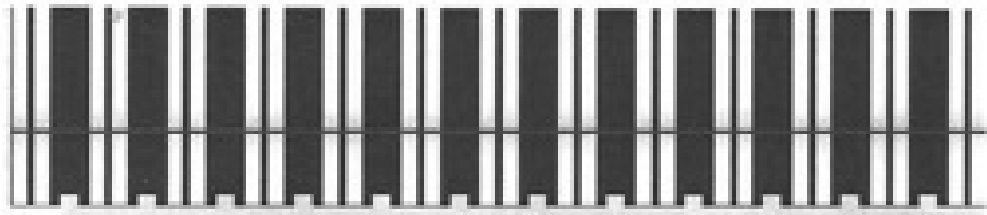
WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A MEMBER

Some of the benefits of paying dues, making donations and being a member of the BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB include:

- Receiving the Birch Barker every week in the summer and every month in the off season ... and helping to get the Barker delivered to ALL of the homes on the lake, which strengthens our community
- Maintaining the network of automated external defibrillators (AEDS) around the lake
- Locally controlling water quality, which provides speedier treatment and eradication of invasive species
- Receiving an every-other-year Birch Lake Directory
- Providing for the annual Fourth of July fireworks show
- Providing a forum and a means for handling lake-wide concerns with local governmental issues
- Helping to fund and host a variety of community-building activities

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