

Weekend of | June 1, 2024

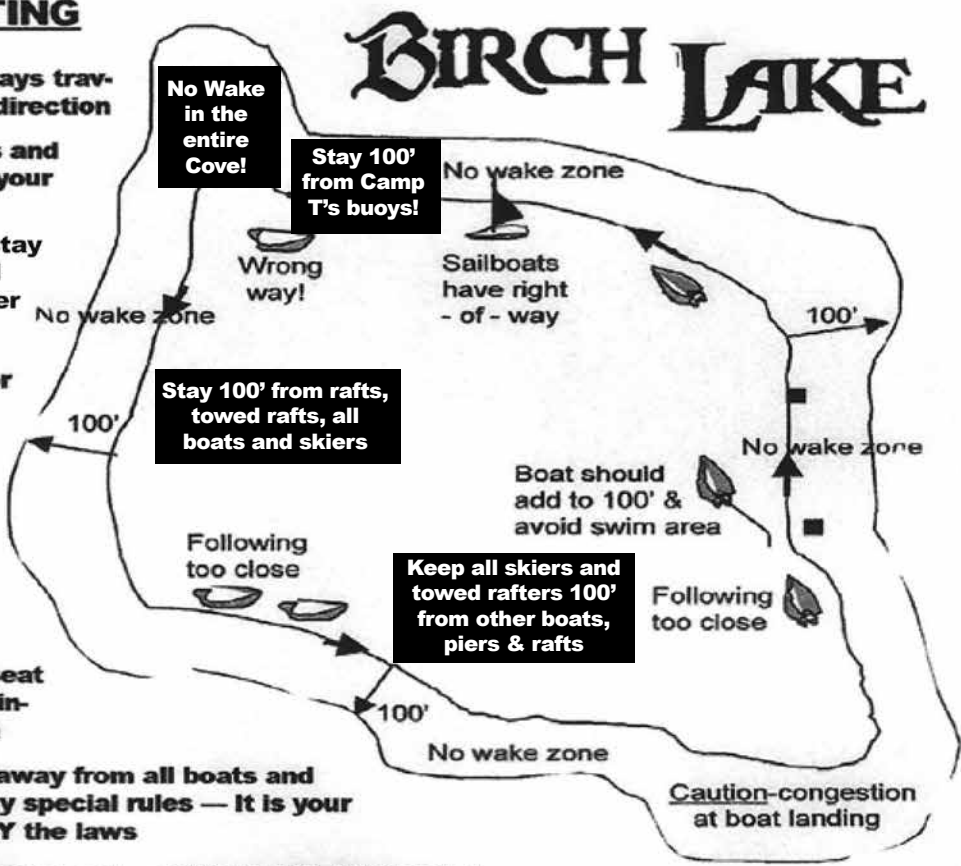
Birch Barker

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

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club

COMMON SENSE BOATING

- * No matter what your speed, always travel in a **COUNTER CLOCK-WISE** direction
- * Go **SLOW** near other boats, rafts and shore. You are responsible for your wake.
- * Take your time and give room - stay **100'** from shore, other boats and rafts when you are travelling over wake speed
- * When pulling someone on skis or a tube, you **MUST** have an observer. Watch out for other boats and be sure to add the length of your tow line to the 100' clearance rule
- * There must be one **USCG-approved LIFE JACKET** for every person on board, as well as one throwable device (seat cushion, etc.), a horn, a fire extinguisher, and a valid registration
- * **PWCs (Jet Skis) must stay 100'** away from all boats and other PWCs. Jet skis have many special rules — It is your responsibility to know and **OBEY** the laws
- * **Be responsible for everyone on your boat — safety is NO ACCIDENT!**



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

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I hope everyone enjoyed Memorial Day weekend 2024. As we recuperate from family get-togethers and lake activities, let's take a moment to stop and appreciate what we have here at Birch Lake.

I have written about the beautiful, clear blue waters of our lake in previous Commodores Comments, but I'd like to bring up the subject again as there is nothing more important than keeping our waters pristine.

I recently attended a meeting of the heads of Homeowners Association and Water Quality Committee to discuss our current efforts to maintain our lake water quality and what we might see for our future. The first thing I took away from this meeting was how fortunate we are to have dedicated and knowledgeable people on these committees. Without their leadership, our success at keeping this lake healthy would not have been achieved.

In the late 1970s early '80s a group of people organized to monitor the lakes water quality status. The late Bob Ross and Darlene and Ken Troyer were part

of this initial group of interested Lakers. At this time the group was not under the umbrella of the Yacht Club, but worked independently. A great deal of thanks should be given to these pioneers.

Later, joining this group was former northsider the late Gert Temple (the mother of Jan Temple Kuhn and Jerry Temple). Her dogged effort to raise

awareness of water quality and her spearheading of the movement to control the proliferation of Eurasian Milfoil that was cropping up in our lake was epic.

Fast-forward a decade or so, and Birch Lakers were exploring the topic of a lake-wide sewer system. This was a contentious subject as many property owners wanted to continue with the septic systems. This led to confrontations

2024

Birch Lake Calendar

<p>JUNE</p> <p>June 1 - Board Meeting - 9 am, BLYC</p> <p>June 8 - Trivia night - 6:30 pm, BLYC,</p> <p>June 15 - Commodore/Vice-Comm. Stock the Bar Party - 6:30 pm, BLYC, Jimmy Buffett Tribute Night, "Margaritaville"</p> <p>June 29 - Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30-8:30 pm, Tickets required in advance, BLYC</p> <p>June 27 - Card night 7 pm, BLYC, TBA</p> <p>JULY</p> <p>July 6 - Boat Parade - Line up at 2:30 pm at Waxmans', 3pm, theme TBA</p> <p>July 6 - FIREWORKS, 10 pm</p> <p>July 6-7 - Fourth of July Regatta</p> <p>July 13 - Board Meeting - 9 am, BLYC</p> <p>July 19 - Women's Golf Outing - TBA,</p> <p>July 20 - Family Picnic, TBA</p>	<p>July 25 - Card Night - 7 pm, BLYC, TBA</p> <p>July 26 - Men's Golf Outing- 8 am, Hampshire</p> <p>July 27 - Don Harman Kidz Sunfish Regatta (Tentative date), King's (north side), TBA</p> <p>AUGUST</p> <p>Aug 3 - Corn & Sausage, 5:30-7 pm, BLYC</p> <p>Aug 10 - Board Meeting 9 am, BLYC</p> <p>Aug 17 - Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial MC Interlake Regatta, TBA</p> <p>Aug 23 - Women's Style Show and Luncheon - Woodfire Restaurant, TBA,</p> <p>Aug 24 - Fall Dinner & Annual Meeting, TBA</p> <p>Aug 29 - Card Night - 7 pm, BLYC, TBA</p> <p>Aug 31, Sept. 1- Labor Day Regatta, Sat/Sun, backup Mon.</p> <p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Sept. 7 - Board Meeting - 9 am, BLYC</p> <p>Sept. 7 - Sailing Award Lunch, 1 pm, BLYC</p> <p>OCTOBER</p> <p>October 19 - Bad Patty Luecht Crockpot Challenge (tentative date), TBA</p>
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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 —

with property owners who were believed to have systems that were unwittingly or otherwise running pollutants directly into the lake. Without those early pioneers, we would not be where we are today, proud owners of lake property on a lake considered to be one of the cleanest in southern Michigan.

I approached one of our local lake-property Realtors about how they market cottages on lakes, and asked if there was any data that they could provide to support the effect that the lake water quality in our area lakes has on property values. Although no hard percentage exists, it is pretty easy to see how quickly properties sell on Birch Lake.

The adjectives used to describe our Lake are “clear,” “deep,” “blue,” with great fishing and boating to name just a few. How fortunate we are that those descriptive words are used to sell property on our lake. Much better than “cloudy,” “shallow,” “gray,” and uninviting to fisherman and boaters. I hope we are all in agreement that keeping Birch described with the former adjectives versus the latter is preferable and is our united responsibility.

The Yacht Club is committed to making its first priority water quality, and fully supports the goals of our Water Quality Committee and Homeowners Associations. To this end, as Commodore I am encouraging all Birch Lake residents to feel the obligation we have to support their efforts. Last year, you may recall, we had a thermometer in The Barker to gauge the financial progress we were making towards the water quality fund. We had approximately 137 lakers donating money which was deposited directly into



YOGA at the YACHT CLUB

Join Claudia Phipps most Thursdays at the yacht club for Yoga ... (no yoga June 13 or July 18) 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 Yacht Club WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS

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

OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION

\$101
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AMOUNT
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TO DATE
(UPDATED
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and average
based on
234 homes

TO DATE
13%*

PERCENT
OF BIRCH
LAKES'
30 HOMES
HAVE
DONATED
TO THE
WATER
QUALITY
FUND

We've still
got a way
to go!

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

the water quality fund. This leaves up to 97 families who did not make any kind of donation. The Water Quality Committee chair asked for \$100 from each residence, and for some that was a burden. I am asking that we see this as our responsibility to our fellow homeowners and our personal obligation to make some kind of contribution. For many, our property ownership is our biggest financial investment, and for all of us maintaining or increasing our property values are a huge concern. Where would we be if our lake, that we've invested in, was deemed unhealthy for aquatic life.

Each year representatives from Water Quality Committee attend the Michigan Lakes and Streams conference in an effort to familiarize themselves with the changes that are occurring in other lakes throughout the state. Water testing is being conducted by the committee members here at least 10 times a year. Spraying for milfoil occurs at least once per season. The Water Quality account has funds collected and held separately and distributed each year by the Yacht Club to cover these costs. I was informed that we can likely financially handle the status quo, but if a new invasive species (one that we already know of) is introduced to the lake (or more frightening one that we know very little to nothing about ends up in our water), can we cover the cost for its control and eradication when we have inadequate reserves.

Please be mindful of Water Quality as you look to contribute to this seasons activities.

Never is there a quote more hopeful, "May the memories remain and the view

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2024 is
\$17,500

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



stay the same" on our golden Pond.

~Commodore Sue Davis

TRIVIA NIGHT

Grab your friends/neighbors/family and come to the third annual Trivia Night at the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Last year's event was a huge success - don't miss out on the fun! You can either form your own team or just come individually and we'll get you on a team. Teams can be anywhere from one to eight people.

Trivia night info

WHEN: Saturday, June 8; Doors open @ 6:30 - Trivia begins PROMPTLY @ 7 pm

WHERE: Yacht Club

BRING: your own drinks, dish to share (either appetizer or dessert), paper and pen, wallet (for 50-50 raffle and to buy mulligans - good for free answers)

QUESTIONS - contact Blair Garceau 269-476-9862 or Sue Williams 574-298-2839. Hope to see you there!

Boat Parade theme

Dan Waxman, chairman of the annual Birch Lake Boat Parade scheduled for July 6 this year, has announced

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 any social media, the information has not been provided, checked or approved by the BLYC, and may be incorrect or misleading. If you have questions or concerns, please check <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>, or contact any BLYC director or officer (see "officer and director" information in any edition of the Barker).

— Birch Lake Notes —

that the theme for this year's parade will be "Favorite Movie."

Put on your thinking caps and start planning your entry now!

Book club

The next book club selection will be *The Curse of Pietro Houdini*, by Derek Miller, with hostess Claudia Phipps on June 18 at 6:30. Contact Jackie Frew to be added to the email list and to RSVP by emailing travelingfrew@gmail.com.

Spaghetti Dinner June 29

The spaghetti dinner this year will be on June 29. Please come and join your fellow Birch Lake neighbors at the Yacht Club from 5:30 until 8 pm, for an "authentic" Italian spaghetti dinner.

We will be serving regular and gluten-free spaghetti with the world-famous Niezgodski red marinara sauce and the super-rich Plaia Alfredo sauce, along with Italian meatballs and a freshly made tossed salad accompanied by Italian bread and butter and delicious homemade desserts. Water, iced tea and lemonade will be provided. Feel free to bring a bottle of vino to round out your dining experience. Carry-out will be available.

Adult tickets (11 & up) are \$10, children (5-10) \$6, little ones (4 & under) free. Tickets can also be purchased from Vickie Rogers (Cove) 269-476-2383, Leslie King (North shore) 574-276-9996, Cam Butler (West shore) 574-596-1066, Sue Williams (South shore) 574-298-2839 or Blair Garceau (East shore) - 574-261-9817. Please make sure to purchase your tickets before June 24; tickets WILL NOT be sold at the door.

Tickets sales to date have been rather slow, but the spaghetti making committee are busy making marinara sauce. They have completed 12 gallons to date.

Proceeds from the sale of the tickets will go to the Birch Lake Yacht Club building improvement fund. There will be a 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to Water Quality.

Looking forward to sharing a meal with all of our lake neighbors and their guests.

The Spaghetti Dinner Committee would like to thank the following individuals for their generosity and time. Without their help the annual spaghetti

dinner would not be a success.

Ron, Kathy & Bobby Niezgodski - consultants and door ticket takers
Tom Kuhn & Jan Temple - donating the regular and gluten free spaghetti; Greg Bolin and Steve Plaia - spaghetti cooks; Dan Waxman - donating the Italian bread, butter and dish washer/clean-up; Jim Calderwood- bread server; Carla Chester - dessert maker & dessert server; Amber Gundy, Camp Tannadoonah - use of kitchen; Lynn & Marc Caenepeel and Deb & Bud Hall - donating salad fixings and salad table servers; Debbie & Carmen Soldato - donating drinks; Steve Plaia & Karen Brovold - donating Alfredo sauce and clean-up; Peggy Geik - dessert maker; Julie & Mike Sheffieck - cookie maker and set-up; Cindy & Kevin Bernaciak - 50/50 raffle; Jennifer & John Ball - dinner servers; Bruce Wagner - Parmesan cheese server; Claudia Phipps - dessert chairperson; Bill Butler - set-up and clean-up; Vickie Rogers, Leslie King, Cam Butler, Blair Garceau & Sue Williams - ticket sales; Stacia Andriano & Cam Butler- donating supplies; Andy & Lori Snider - serving and clean-up; David & Terry Carroll - serving; Holly Troeger - serving; Paramount Properties, Inc. from Rick and Patti Russwurm - cash donation; Robert & Kim Dunlop - cash donation.

We are looking for donations and help for the dinner. If you would like to volunteer, contact Stacia Andriano @ 260-710-5883, Karen Brovold @ 269-362-3150 or Cam Butler @ 574-596-1066.

GRAZIE MILLE from

~The Spaghetti Dinner Committee

Barker delivery help needed

The Birch Barker is in need of a person to delivery about 35 printed Barkers per week for 15 weeks this summer (from now through Labor Day) on the south side of Birch Lake (from approximately the Yacht Club to the turnaround). If you can help, contact Ron Niezgodski at 574-532-6710 or email birchbass1@gmail.com

New Barker(s) editor sought

We're still looking for someone to take on the job of being the editor of the online and printed Birch Barkers when the editor retires or dies (I'm not going to live forever, you know). You can start

easy by taking on the responsibilities for the Online Barker; all you need is a basic knowledge of how websites work, and a minimal grasp of html code, web page production software and FTP software.

You can ease into the summer (printed) Barker as you go along or take it all at once; training will be provided if required (and if I'm still alive).

Flexible hours, no pay, but the lak-ers are gonna love you ...

~Editor Phil

Yacht Club building use

For information on the rules and requirements, or to make arrangements to use the Birch Lake Yacht Club building for a non-BLYC event, call or text Sandy Vitale at 269-858-8184, or send her an email at sv6102@gmail.com.

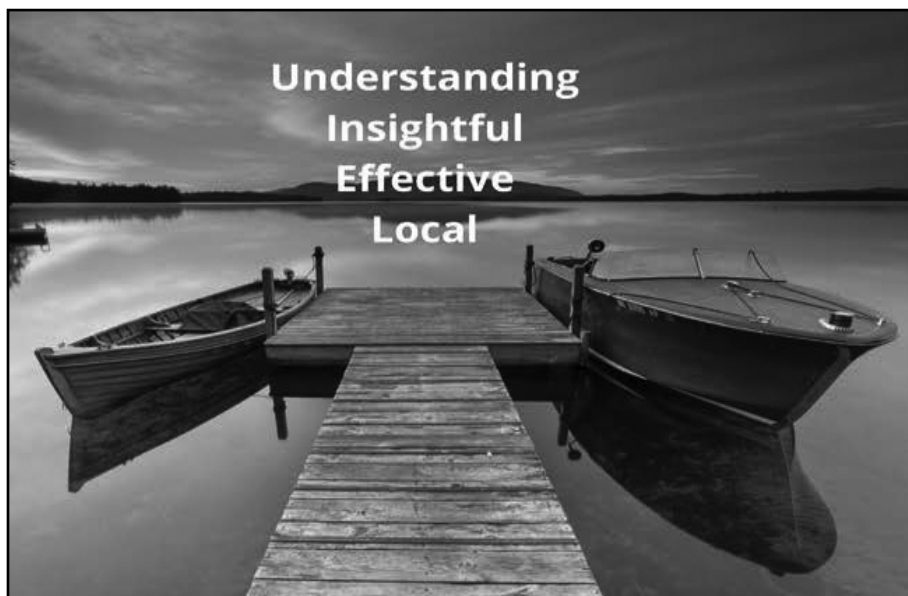
The printed Barker

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.

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— Water Quality Report —

Wake boat operation and the impact on Birch Lake

By **Zack Nickell**

Water Quality Committee Member

Yes, I own a wake boat. You have probably seen it. It is the obnoxious red one that you can spot from miles away. And believe it or not, I love Birch Lake, and the health of the lake is important to me and my family. We intend to be here long term, hopefully for generations, and want this lake to remain the hidden gem of southern Michigan.

I do believe, and the data supports, that a wake boat can be operated on lakes like Birch with minimal impact.

A quick Google search yields hundreds of articles concerning the impact of wake boats. Depending on the intent of the author, those articles either gloss over the impact, or they apply the most extreme examples as rule to sway opinions against wake boats. As with almost any issue, one can find material to support whatever conclusion they want.

Wake boats come in lots of sizes, so wake boat advocates want to use data from small wake boats, and environmentalists want to use data from the largest wake boats, even on small water. For reference, at 23 feet, my boat is mid-sized.

So, where is the truth? And what can we do to minimize any negative impact? The common consensus among the plethora of sources is 500 feet from shore and 15 feet of depth for a wake boat to have the same impact as a similarly sized runabout. That is the short and simple answer, but I would like to expand on this to provide further explanation.

First, it is important to understand a bit about how a wake boat works. It is commonly known that wake boats take on water in ballast tanks to make the boat heavy, which displaces more water and increases wave size. If you see my boat sitting out in the middle of the lake for a bit, we are likely pumping water into our tanks to prepare for surfing. At the end of our surf, we empty the tanks,

which when they are nearly empty, we will take a fast lap on plane to help gravity clear the last bit of the water out.

Another very important thing to know is that wake boat waves are directional. You have your surf wave, and you have your non surf wave. The surf wave is much larger than the non-surf wave. Most of the time, my surf wave is set up on the port side of the boat. This is the wave that is used for study in the many articles I mentioned above, and I ALWAYS direct that wave toward the center of the lake. This ensures the maximum distance to shore, and therefore, the maximum diminishment of the strength of the wave.

Surfing is a low-speed activity. We usually have the boats cruise control set around 11 mph. We are essentially plowing the hull through the water to maximize displacement. What we get is a large wave on the surf side, generally about a two-foot wave. That wave provides the energy to keep our surfer afloat. The wave from a surf boat travels slowly, directly proportional to the speed of the boat. That is good news in that these slow waves dissipate energy much more quickly than a wave generated at high speed.

The science behind the 15 feet of depth and 500 feet of distance is very much definable. It isn't just an arbitrary rule of thumb. This has been researched by numerous outlets. The 15 feet of depth isn't just to minimize disruption of sediment. That is certainly part of it. The other part of this recommendation is that it minimizes the "bounce back" of the wave energy. Shallow depth deflects the downward energy back up to the surface, and therefore slows the energy dissipation, making the wave stay stronger for a greater distance. The other recommendation of 500 feet of distance from shore allows gravity to work its magic to reduce the force of the wave. At that distance, by the time the wave reaches the 200-foot mark, it is carrying energy equivalent to other runabouts operating at that distance from shore.



So, how does any of this apply to Birch Lake? Well, Birch is very favorable for wake boat operation. It is deep and has a large area of water that is greater than 500 feet from shore in any direction. I used GPS to learn my positioning on the lake. The shape of the lake allows me to keep my non-surf (smaller) wave greater than 500 feet from shore 100 percent of the time. I am also able to always keep my surf wave (the big one) greater than 1500 feet from shore. Additionally, we can operate in water greater than 40 feet deep 100 percent of the time. Thus, I can operate in water nearly three times the recommended depth, and at over three times the recommended distance from shore.

Being mindful and considerate in operation is the key to minimizing impact on our lake. I have witnessed what I would consider improper operation, which I hope was just due to lack of knowledge and not just blatant disrespect. If these boats simply stay close to the middle of the lake and direct their surf wave only toward the furthest shoreline, we will be exceeding the recommendations of even some of the most extreme authors. These guidelines are easy to follow on Birch, and following them is clearly in the best interest of our lake.

If you want to read something very relevant, check this out <https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation?paperid=116094>

This is a mathematical analysis of wake boat wave energy.

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It's duck itch season again

Swimmer's itch, also known as lake itch, duck itch, cercarial dermatitis, and Schistosoma cercarial dermatitis, is a short-term, immune reaction occurring in the skin of humans that have been infected by water-borne schistosomatidae. Symptoms, which include itchy, raised papules, commonly occur within hours of infection and do not generally last more than a week.

A number of different flatworm parasites in the family Schistosomatidae are what cause swimmer's itch. These parasites use both freshwater snails and vertebrates as hosts in their parasitic life cycles. Mostly waterfowl are used as the vertebrate host. During one of their life stages, the larvae of the parasite, cercaria, leave the water snails and swim freely in the freshwater, attempting to encounter water birds. These larvae can accidentally come into contact with the skin of a swimmer. The cercaria penetrates the skin and dies in the skin immediately. The cercaria larvae cannot infect humans, but they cause an inflammatory immune reaction. This reaction causes initially mildly itchy spots on the skin. Within hours, these spots become raised papules which are intensely itchy. Each papule corresponds to the penetration site of a single para-

site.

The schistosomatidae that give rise to swimmer's itch should not be confused with those of the genus Schistosoma, which infect humans and cause the serious human disease schistosomiasis, or with larval stages of thimble jellyfish (*Linuche unguiculata*), which give rise to seabather's eruption. Seabather's eruption mostly occurs in salt water, on skin covered by clothing or hair, whereas swimmer's itch mostly occurs in freshwater, on uncovered skin.

Since it was first described in Michigan in 1928, swimmer's itch has been reported from around the world. Some suggest incidence may be on the rise, although this may also be attributed to better monitoring.

Children may become infected more frequently and more intensely than adults but this probably reflects their tendency to swim for longer periods inshore, where cercariae also concentrate.

To prevent it, don't stand around in shallow, warm lake water. Staying out in somewhat deeper water and/or keeping moving such as when swimming, will usually prevent the parasites from getting you. When you or the kids get out of the water, towel off immediately



with a strong rubbing motion and then shower with soap and hot water.

Swimmer's itch typically clears up on its own within a few days, though in some cases the rash can last up to a week. In the meantime, you can control itching with over-the-counter antihistamines or anti-itch creams, such as those that contain calamine lotion. If the itching is severe, your doctor may recommend a prescription medication.


Orally administered hydroxyzine, an antihistamine, is sometimes prescribed to treat swimmer's itch and similar dermal allergic reactions.


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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Memorial Day Regatta

Last Saturday morning, nine intrepid BLYC sailors rigged their boats for our Memorial Day Regatta, under cloudy skies and in cool temperatures. But the sun soon came out and the air warmed up right on schedule. The wind was great, right around 10 mph. Four MC's and five Sunfish came out to race, so the Sunfish are ahead in the attendance column so far this year.

The Sunfish numbers were boosted by Scott Sortal, the son of Tom Kuhn and Jan Temple, who is occasionally able to travel here to race, from over two hours away, and is often a contender. That was the case this time, as Scott went 1-2-1 for first place in the Sunfish fleet. Rick Russwurm was 3-1-3 and Stewart Spratt scored 2-1-2, so Rick is leading Stewart by only 1 point in the season average point total thus far.

In the MC fleet, excitement is already building for the Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial MC Interlake Regatta to be held at Birch Lake on Saturday, August 17 (see article on next page).

This past Saturday was the season opener for three of our best MC sailors, all of whom have the potential to win the interlake championship on August 17, as well as to claim the coveted Five Lakes Traveling Trophy. It was Barb Cassady who threw down the gauntlet by going

1-1-2, with Scott Troeger close behind at 2-2-1, and Pat Welch with a solid performance at 3-3-3. Competition builds strength, and the BLYC Sailors are united as a team for success on August 17!!!

On Friday night before the first three Memorial Day Regatta races, your fleet captain made an advance call and canceled the second day of racing because of bad weather forecasts for Sunday and Monday; and so that people with house guests could make other plans. But sure enough, it turned out that Sunday would have been fine for sailing another two races. There's just no arguing with Mother Nature!

~F.C. Steve



MCs competing in a race from long ago ... any idea what year it was?

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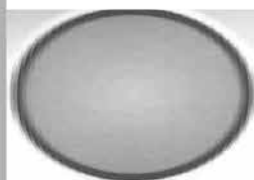
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BIRCH LAKE SAILING



Memorial Day Regatta sailing results & season standings to date

Date	25-May	25-May	25-May	Total	Point	Races	%
Race	1	2	3	Points	Average	Finished	Finished

MC/Sailor	Total Sunfish Races = 3			Points	Average	Finished	%
Scott Troeger #1489	2	2	1	4642	1547	3	100.0%
Patrick Welch #1979	3	3	3	4332	1444	3	100.0%
Barb Cassady #2506	1	1	2	4721	1574	3	100.0%
Steve Frew #656	4	4	4	4107	1369	3	100.0%

Sunfish/Sailor	Total Sunfish Races = 3			Points	Average	Finished	%
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	3	1	3	4488	1496	3	100.0%
Stewart Spratt	2	3	2	4486	1495	3	100.0%
Scott Sortal	1	2	1	4721	1574	3	100.0%
Bob Niezgodski	4	4	4	4107	1369	3	100.0%
Camille Butler	5	5	5	3888	1296	3	100.0%

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

Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial MC Interlake Regatta

BLYC is very excited to host a Five Lakes (Birch, Corey, Diamond, Eagle, and Indian) MC Sailboat Regatta Saturday, August 17. We will be launching sailboats at the public launch from approximately 7:30 – 10 a.m. and will bring boats out at the launch from 3 – 6

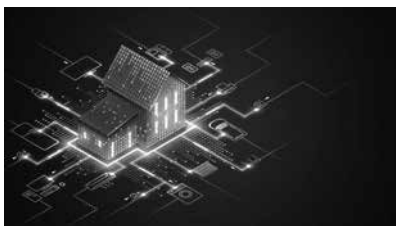
pm. We hope to have up to 25 off-lake sailors competing. The approximate time on the lake sailing will be 10:30 – 2:30 pm, depending on weather.

Please avoid boating, other than spectator boats, during this time if at all possible. We look forward to showing the

off-lake sailors our Birch Lake hospitality and sharing our beautiful lake for this one day. Thank you in advance for helping us achieve that goal. For more information contact Barb Cassady at barbcassady49@gmail.com



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



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Authorized Dealer For:



— Barker Kids of the Week —



Molly Moore, granddaughter of Bob and Lisa Groszek, south side, got to get her feet wet for the first time. She is the daughter of Micheal and Julia Moore. So excited



Congratulations Dr. Kayla Currier! Last week Kayla graduated from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine at Midwestern University. Her parents, Doug and Sue Currier from the east side, are so very proud and happy to see her achieve her life-long dream. Kayla will begin her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Illinois Chicago hospital in June.

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Turning 65? I Can Help!

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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!

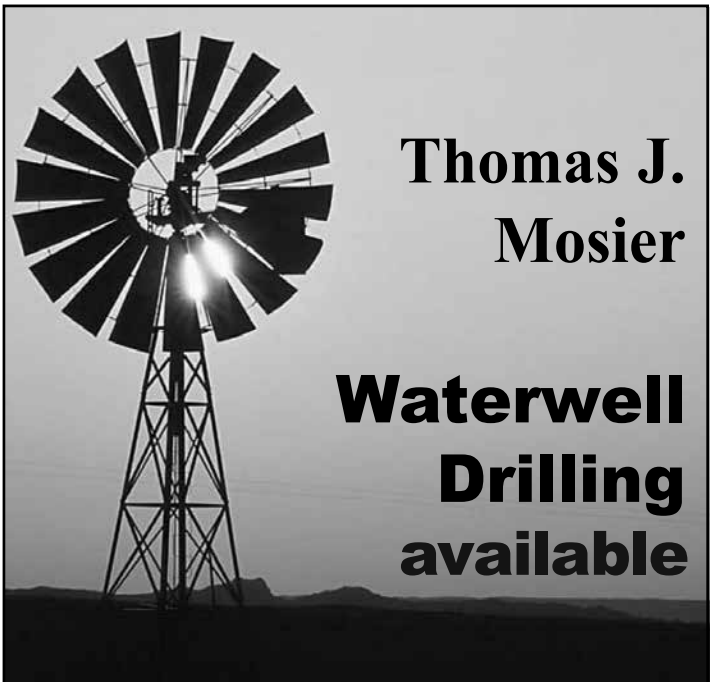


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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Happy 1st Birthday Dean! Grandson of Deborah & Steve Curtis (East Shore) celebrated with family, friends & fun last Saturday at Birch Lake.

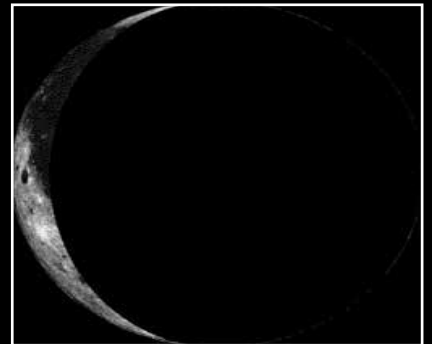


Cindy Bernaciak (east side) sent in this cool pic of a deer near her house.

The Moon this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, viewed from the Birch Lake)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.217
2.6 days after last quarter



Sun and Moon This Week

Sunrise: 06:07:57 am
Sunset: 21:12:57 pm
Moonrise: 03:11:47 pm
Moonset: 15:47:01 am
Hours of Daylight:
15 Hr 05 Min 00 Sec

Right: Three women who are very important to Sandy and I, and who we love dearly, our daughter Erica Vitale, and our granddaughters Morgann Applegate and Aley Vitale-Richards.



photo provided by
Sanya Vitale



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Birch Lake Directory

2024/25 BLYC Directory

We are planning to produce a new Birch Lake Directory this year (a lot of changes have occurred since the last one in 2022).

If you have new listings, changes, corrections or updates, please send them to Deb Spratt via email at debspratt@comcast.net or to me at onlinebarker@gmail.com, and we'll do our best to get them included.

Please use the format at right to provide the information.

If you are interested in advertising in the directory, please contact Phil Vitale at onlinebarker@gmail.com or call 476-1680.

Cottage # (if known)

Last name, first name(s)

Lake address

Phone #(s)

Email address

Children(s) names



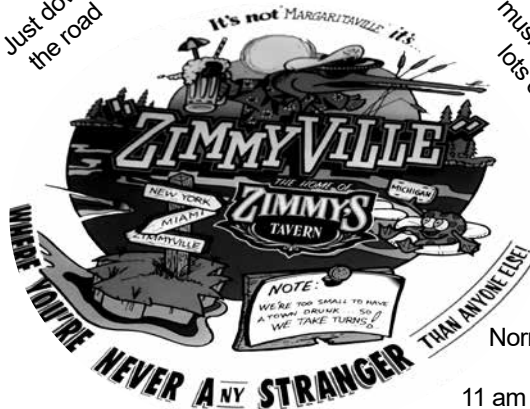
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Depending on your needs, we can do your bookkeeping for you or we can teach you how to accurately keep records

Company Structure

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

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

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Birch Barker Funnies

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If my body was a car,
I'd trade it in for a
newer model.
Cause everytime
I cough or sneeze,
my radiator
leeks and my
exhaust backfires.



Have you ever
listened to someone for a
while and wondered...

"who ties your
shoelaces for you?"

WHEN YOU'RE DEAD,
YOU DON'T
KNOW YOU'RE DEAD.
IT'S ONLY DIFFICULT FOR OTHERS.

IT'S THE SAME WAY WHEN
YOU'RE STUPID.

I ate 4 cans of
alphabet soup,
and just took probably the
biggest vowel movement
ever



Jewelz Gemz

YOU KNOW YOU ARE GROWING OLD
WHEN



HAPPY HOUR IS A NAP!



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Mojo grilling marinade

This mojo marinade is nice and citrusy — delicious to use on pork, steaks, chicken, or fish before grilling.

Prep Time: 15 mins
Total Time: 15 mins
Servings: 12
Yield: 3 cups

Ingredients

6 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
½ cup minced yellow onion
1 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
½ cup freshly squeezed lime juice
¼ cup chopped cilantro
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon dried oregano flakes
1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce (e.g. Tabasco™)
½ teaspoon ground cumin
½ teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 cup olive oil

Directions

Pulse garlic and onion in a blender until very finely chopped.

Add orange juice, lime juice, cilantro, salt, oregano, hot pepper sauce, cumin, lemon pepper, and black pepper. Blend until thoroughly incorporated.

Pour in olive oil; blend until smooth.



To Use:

Add meat, chicken, or fish and toss to evenly coat. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and marinate in the refrigerator. Meat and chicken are best marinated overnight, fish only needs one hour.

The
LAKE LIFE
REALTY GROUP



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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 —

Training and waiting ...

The majority of our staff are at camp now, and we have two weeks of staff training planned before campers arrive. Training each year is a mixture of teambuilding activities, learning policies and procedures, practicing emergency action plans, setting up cabins and activity areas, practicing teaching the classes they will teach at camp, and professional development sessions.

Throughout the two weeks, I will be teaching a lifeguarding course for all of our waterfront staff. We train all of our guards on site so that they will be familiar with our waterfront features. In addition to earning their lifeguard certification, the waterfront staff practice teaching all of the classes we offer at the lake: canoeing, kayaking, sailing, stand up paddleboarding, swimming lessons, waterskiing, wakeboarding, and fishing. The weather isn't looking ideal for waterfront training, but we always make it work.

We use a lot of different resources for our staff training activities, including an online database of professional development courses called the Camp Fire Learning Lab. Through Camp Fire National Headquarters we have access to a database of videos, webinars, quizzes, and activities to train staff on topics like

supervising campers, Camp Fire mission, growth mindset, goal setting with campers, developing positive youth-adult relationships, purposeful programming, working with youth with neurodiversity, socio-emotional learning, environmental awareness, promoting youth participation, and risk management.

Gabby and I are also trained as instructors in a number of different areas so that we can certify our own counselors in things like Lifeguarding, CPR and First Aid, Archery, and Mental Health First Aid. We bring in an outside instructor for our Low Ropes training (teambuilding and communication activities). This year we are also having an outside expert come to camp to train our staff on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) topics.

We also work with the staff on how to handle homesickness, how to manage behavioral issues, how to resolve conflicts between campers, cabin and camp cleanup procedures, and how mealtimes work. We eat meals family style, so the staff need to learn the protocols around serving campers, getting more food for their table, cleanup, and what to do if a camper doesn't want to eat the meal that is being served. With cabin cleanup, each day our camp health officer does cabin inspections and we award the cleanest



cabin the Golden Broom award at the end of the week.

The second week of staff training we have an outing to a South Bend Cubs game planned for all of the staff to do something fun and get an evening away from camp. With many of our staff being international, many of them do not have transportation and don't have many opportunities to get out of camp and see things in the community. They'll get to attend the game and see the fireworks afterwards, and we were able to get coupons for each of them to have dinner at the ballpark as well. It should be a fun night!

We're looking forward to another great summer at Birch Lake for Camp T!

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.



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For sale: **Boat lift for tri-hull pontoon** 22-24 feet. Like new, asking \$6500. Contact J. Habich, 269-476-9726.

For sale: **Tall water slide.** Very sturdy. 10' x 23" wide. Please call 269-476-9726



Small **double lounge with footstool, cushions.** A steal at \$75. Contact Deb at 219-765-8691.

Moving Sale 63258 Kinsey St. East side of Birch Lake on the Hill. June 1 & 2, 9 am to 5 pm. Everything must go. Priced to sell. Jeff & Linda Myers 574-315-2570

18' Quest Adventure Pontoon with 60h.p. Mercury Outboard. Low hours. \$7500. 63258 Kinsey St. East side of Birch Lake on the Hill. Jeff & Linda Myers 574-315-2570

WANTED TO BUY

Old five gallon gasoline cans. Not the newer kind with all the crap "safety features," but the old kind. Looking for three. Contact Stewart, north shore, 574.514.0667.

FOUND:

Found: **Turtle board** washed up on the south side just east of the yacht club. Call Chris Stevens @ 317-771-8531.

SERVICES:

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

HELP WANTED:

Barker delivery person needed.

The Birch Barker is in need of a person to delivery about 35 printed Barkers per week for 15 weeks this summer (from now through Labor Day) on the south

side of Birch Lake (from approximately the Yacht Club to the turnaround). If you can help, contact Ron Niezgodski at 574-532-6710 or email birchbass1@gmail.com

Editor for the Birch Barker. We're still looking for someone to take on the job of being the editor of both editions (the online and printed) of the Birch Barkers in case the editor retires or dies (I'm not going to live forever, you know). You can take it all at once or you can start easy by taking on the responsibilities for the Online Barker (all you need is a basic knowledge of how websites work, and a minimal grasp of html code, web page production software and FTP software for the online Barker, and a familiarity with publishing software for the printed Barker. Training can be provided if required (and if I'm still alive). Flexible hours, no pay, but the lakers are gonna love you ... Contact Phil Vitale at onlinebarker@gmail.com, 476-1680 if you're inter-este

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.

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HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR CLEAN UP AFTER FIDO!

Dogs gonna do what dogs gotta do, so if your dog does it at Birch Lake, please clean it up!

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



2024 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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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 page 2 for more information on these donations

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

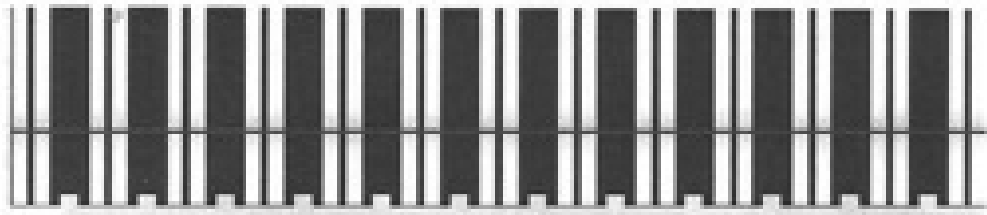
\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to
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