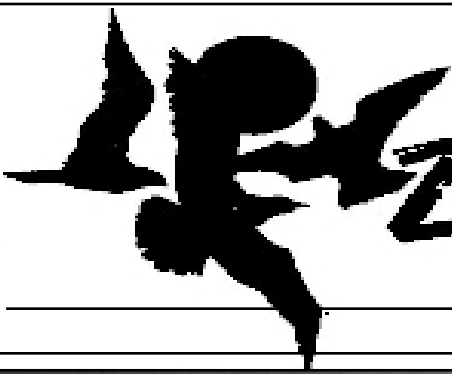


Weekend of | **June 29,
2024**



Birch Barker

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

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Karen Brovold (west side) for the nice photo (it's better in color) of that strawberry moon from last week.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Great to be at Birch Lake this week with the temperatures in the mid 90s every day. Having to go into town on one or more of those days makes you appreciate the lake that much more. A lot of floating took place in the middle of the lake and off piers this week. It's great to be retired and able to spend some time relaxing in Birch's blue waters. Breezy and cool this morning as I write this, a welcome change from the weekday's oppressive heat.

As the big Fourth of July weekend approaches, I hope many of you are fine-tuning your boat parade ideas. The Grand Marshall was selected for this year's parade. He or she is taking on the huge responsibility for selecting the award winners. Anyone who enters is a winner in my estimation! I have fond memories of converting our boat into a Viking ship one season and engineering a very large, hot air balloon for another year's parade. That year's theme must have been "favorite song" as The Fifth Dimension's "Up, Up and Away" was our inspiration.

Slow and lazy week for the Yacht Club as we gear up for the spaghetti dinner. Hope you all had a chance to get your tickets and support the only fundraiser of the season.

I have heard concerns about fishermen coming very close to the piers this month. Boat cushions, canopies, and floating lily pads have been hooked and damaged. Merely cutting the line and leaving the hook in place can be a solution, but this leaves the hook a hazard

to young children or adults playing in the water. Complaints of boats coming within a few feet from the end of docks, although legal, is also encroaching on one's personal space if sitting on the pier. I'm sure I could have handed out a few drinks or snacks to passing fisherman this month.

A third concern, one I hope is not happening, is people casing out houses for those not around during the week. I have not heard of any break-ins this

2024 Birch Lake Calendar

JUNE

June 29 - Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30-8 pm, Tickets must be purchased in advance, BLYC

JULY

July 6 - Boat Parade, Theme: Favorite Movie, Line up at 2:30 pm at Waxmans', 3 pm start
July 6 - FIREWORKS, 10 pm (approx.)
July 6-7 - Fourth of July Regatta
July 7 - Camp T pancake breakfast
July 13 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC
July 14 - Flotilla in the Middle, 6 pm
July 19 - Women's Golf Outing, TBA
July 20 - Kids' Kayak races
July 20 - Family Picnic, TBA
July 25 - Card Night, 7 pm, BLYC, TBA

July 26 - Men's Golf Outing, 8 am, Hampshire

July 27 - Don Harman Kidz Sunfish Regatta (Tentative date), King's (north side), TBA

AUGUST

Aug 3 - Corn & Sausage, 5:30-7 pm, BLYC

Aug 10 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC

Aug 17 - Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial MC Interlake Regatta, more info TBA

Aug 23 - 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 - Sat/Sun, Labor Day Regatta, backup Mon.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 7 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC

Sept. 7 - Sailing Award Lunch, 1 pm, BLYC

Sept. 7 - Fall Frolic Free Concert, BLYC, TBA

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 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 —

year, but it doesn't hurt to be aware of any suspicious characters on the lake. I expect most perpetrators are people coming in from off the lake, but I wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of these concerns.

I have not gotten much of a response yet for the Kids Kayak race on July 20. Please send me a "thumbs up" or a "like" if you are interested in participating.

You will see ads popping up in the next few weeks for July Yacht Club events. Remember, all lakers are invited to all events.

Looking for more history or memory articles for the Barker. Please let me know if you have contributions so they can be submitted to Phil.

All for now. Have a safe and happy Fourth of July. Boat, parade, fireworks, and pancake breakfast at the camp all on the docket for the weekend.

"May the Memories remain and the View stay the same" on our golden pond.

~Commodore Sue Davis

Boat Parade theme

Dan Waxman, chairman of the annual Birch Lake Boat Parade scheduled for July 6 this year, has announced that the theme for this year's parade will be "Favorite Movie."

Spaghetti Dinner is June 29

The spaghetti dinner annual event has finally arrived. Hopefully, you have gotten your tickets for Saturday night's Italian feast. As of this writing 205 tickets have been sold, a final tally will be known on Tuesday night. We have 27 gallons of Marinara sauce (21 hours of sauce making), 600 meatballs and 4 gallons of Alfredo sauce, along with 15

loaves of Italian bread, enough tossed salad and salad fixing for an army, and delicious homemade deserts provided by 14 extraordinary Birch Lake cooks. Plus lemonade, ice tea and water to drink. Come early (5:30 pm) and stay late, last serving is 8 pm.

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; Andy Snyder, Bill Luecht 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; John Luecht 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, from Rick and Patti Russwurm - cash donation; Robert & Kim Dunlop - cash donation, and an Roger Falk - cash donation (north shore), as well as Sandy Vitale, Claudia Phipps, Blair Garceau, Sue Williams, Bob Waddle, Terry Carroll, Karen Scofield, Linda Bergan, Ray Scholes, Vickie Rogers and Holly Troeger - dessert maker, Marc Caenepeel - spaghetti cook and delivery person, Celia Fallon - hanging decor, Phil Vitale - editing and publishing. I would like to especially thank Stacia Andriano and Cam Butler for all the behind the scene work from shopping, cooking, cleaning and all the 1000 other items it took to put this event together. It took a lake community of 52 volunteers for this event..

We are looking for additional 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

PS: If I have forgotten to mentioned your name, please forgive me. I have been sampling the Chianti.

Kids' Kayak Races

We are in the planning stages for the first and hopefully annual Kids Kayak Races on July 20. Details for the layout of the course are still being ham-

Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS

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

OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION



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



This was taken in about 3 to 4 ft. of water. I always use this picture to brag to people about our amazing lake. Thanks Water Quality!

~Barb Rondot, east side

mered out as we want to make this as safe as possible for the participants. A life jacket must be worn, and a waiver must be signed by all participants' parents. If you would like to join the competition but do not have a kayak, we hope to have a number available for your child's use. There will be a 10-and-under race, 11-12 race, and a 13-15 race. Lifeguards will be present. Ice cream treats will be available at the end of the competition, and winners will be announced at the family picnic in the afternoon. Please email EYESND 76@gmail.com or phone 574-993-6031 if you are interested in participating.

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).

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 —

~Commodore Sue Davis

Save the date for free concert

Some past commodores from Birch Lake would like to present the first "Fall Frolic" on September 7, with the DAWG Band featuring Duane Gundy on mandolin and guitar, Jim Shenk on pedal steel guitar and Randy Horst on upright bass. Their repertoire includes acoustic rockin' folk music and Americana old and new. Stay tuned for further details in the Barker.

Raffle to split the pot

There will be a 50/50 Split-the-Pot raffle to benefit the Water Quality Fund

at the Spaghetti Dinner on June 29. Please bring **CASH** for a chance to win half the pot!

New C&S Chair needed

After 20+ years it's time to hang up the apron strings. The Corn and Sausage organizers are looking to pass the tongs to the next enthusiastic group of cooks. It's a fun way to serve the community and all the smiles and compliments are worth it. Years of data, recipes, procedures and hands on training are available to all who are interested in taking on this favorite community event.

Want to learn more? Please contact: Bernie and Blair Garceau 476-9862, Vickie and Tom Rogers 476-2383, or Julie and Mike Sheffieck (708) 220-1506

Slow down signs

Do you need a SLOW DOWN sign? Contact Blair Garceau 476-9862. Signs are courtesy of Birch Lake Home Owners Association

The printed Barker

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

The deadline for submitting materials is noon on Tuesday of the week before publication. Materials can be emailed to onlinebarker@gmail.com or sailorphil@philvitale.com, or put in my mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd.

Advertising rates are at <https://>

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2024 is
\$17,500

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



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

www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm. To buy an ad contact Phil Vitale at 269-476-1680.

Birch Lake Flotilla

**Sunday July 14 – 6 pm
(Rain date-July 15 at 6)**

Due to past successful flotillas, let's do it again! Meet in the middle of the lake with your boat.

Bring an Appetizer. Dessert will be provided.

Boats will be tied together and we will walk from boat to boat sharing food and camaraderie.

Look for the boats in the middle!

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

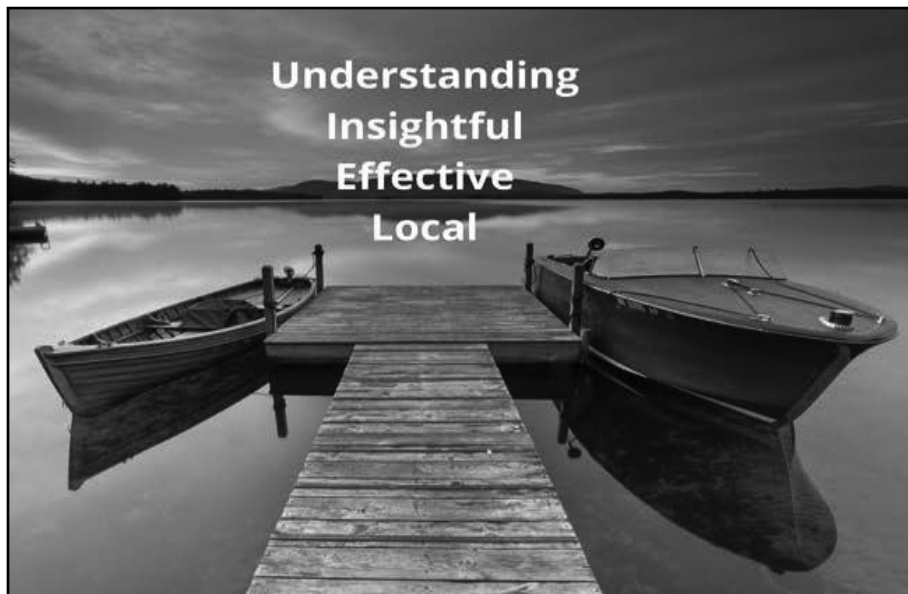


www.satorisalonandspa.com

Email: satorisalonspa@gmail.com

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

Understanding
Insightful
Effective
Local



THK LAW, LLP

**Estate planning
Elder law
Business counsel
Mediation
Litigation**

Cassopolis | South Bend | Elkhart
269.445.1818 | thklaw.com



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Big wind, little racing

Big wind!

I was out of town last Sunday, visiting friends in the picturesque harbor town of Rockport, Massachusetts.

Meanwhile, Stu Spratt was kindly filling in for me as fleet captain. Thank you Stu! Here is Stu's report:

~F. C. Steve:

High seas proved daunting enough to deter all but the hardest sailors, specifically sunfish sailors Rick Russwurm, Bob Niezgodski, Stu Spratt and MC skipper Pat Welch, who didn't get to race but

was none the less ready, willing and able to participate. Only one sunfish race was held, with Rick Russwurm capitalizing on Stu Spratt's unforgivable navigation error and squeaking in first, followed closely by Stu, then Bob Niezgodski in third. There was no MC racing.

~A.F.C. Stu:

Interlake MC Regatta update

We are now less than two months from the Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial Interlake MC Regatta on Saturday,

August 17, with 3 races starting at 11. Please plan to stay off the lake during those three races, as the course will take up most of the lake. Interlake Regatta Chair Barb Cassady is making plans to organize at least two spectator boats to take people out to watch on that day, and the captains will know how to avoid interfering with the race. Stay tuned. Thank you!

~F.C. Steve



2024 sailing results & season standings to date

Date.....6/23..... Total Points Point Average Races Finished % Finished

MC/Sailor Total MC Races = 12.....

Scott Troeger #1489.....	15449	1544.9	10	0.833
Patrick Welch #1979.....	8666	1444.33	6	0.5
Barb Cassady #2506.....	18807	1567.25	12	1
Bill Luecht #1579.....	8591	1431.83	6	0.5
Sandy Vitale #2159.....	1156	1156	0	0
Steve Frew #656.....	16586	1382.16	12	1
Ashly Connaugaton #1979.....	5490	1372.5	3	0.25

Sunfish/Sailor Total Sunfish Races = 13.....

Rick Russwurm.....1.....	20330	1563.84	13	1
Stewart Spratt.....2.....	19623	1509.46	13	1
Pete Soldato.....DNS.....	2890	1445	2	0.15
Scott Sortal.....DNS.....	4721	1573.66	3	0.23
Bob Niezgodski.....3.....	18551	1427	13	1
Herb Cleveland.....DNS.....	8143	1357.16	5	0.38
Camille Butler.....DNS.....	3888	1296	3	0.23

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

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

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

1. West Shore, Sheffieck home, 62875 Birch Lakeview Dr.
2. North Shore, Smitley home, 14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
3. East Shore, Vitale home, 63174 Birch Rd.
4. South Shore, Eberhart home, 15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
5. South/East Shore, Troeger home, 63696 Birch Rd.
6. Southwest Shore, DeYoung home, 63255 Storey Hill St.

All units are on the ROAD SIDE of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

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

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

BLYC 64th Annual Birch Lake Yacht Club

MEN'S GOLF OUTING

FOUR MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024

\$75/MAN*



**Hampshire Country Club - Dogwood Course
29592 Pokagon Hwy., Dowagiac**

Shotgun start at 8 am

Dinner and awards at BLYC

Cocktail Hour at 5 pm, Dinner and awards at 6 pm

Please submit your foursome registration to John Ball, 63690 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095 574-535-3736

Make checks payable to BLYC

Individual registrations available

Must have completed registrations by July 15

2018 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

Team prizes and contests

Catered dinner at BLYC included

Prizes awarded at dinner

*Donations of door & team prizes needed**

*If you have access to logo or golf or lake related merchandise that could be donated, please

Contact John Ball at john.ball0452@gmail.com

2024 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

TEAM CAPTAIN:

PLEASE PRINT NAMES

Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to John Ball, 63690 Birch Road, Vandalia, Mi 49095



Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!

Open for Lunch and Dinner

Located on the beautiful St. Joseph River

10188 US 12, Mottville

(269) 483-2305

**PRINTING,
MARKETING &
SIGN SERVICES**

CUSTOM SOLUTIONS
& DESIGNS

alphagraphics®

ELKHART & SOUTH BEND

— Water Quality Report —

Commandment #1

The Water Quality Committee has developed a list of six “do’s and don’ts” for protecting and improving our lake. We ask that you learn about and try to comply with our “Six Commandments” which are listed below. Today, we’re reviewing **Commandment #1: “Thou shall Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)”**.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) refers to all non-native organisms living in or near our bodies of water. Examples include zebra mussels, aggressive weeds and fish diseases. Because they typically have no natural predatory, competing, or limiting species, AIS can overwhelm a body of water very quickly. Once an AIS visits a body of water it may be controlled, but rarely eliminated. Currently there are hundreds of known forms of AIS.

AIS threatens the health of our lakes and rivers, decreases water quality and can limit recreational enjoyment. It has been estimated that the total economic impact of AIS in the Great Lakes region is \$5.7 billion per year. Within the last few decades, rampant AIS at a few lakes within 60 miles of Birch has caused Michigan’s DNR to partially drain and close those lakes for use for a year or more.

At Birch, we already have the presence of at least these following known types of AIS:

- 1) Eurasian Milfoil (EM) – for which we survey and treat annually.
- 2) Purple Loosestrife – for which our committee, lead by Bruce Wagner, hunts and then oversees the removal of every late summer.
- 3) Curly Leaf Pondweed – for which we monitor, but treatment has not yet

been required.

4) Hybrid Eurasian Milfoil – the forms of which we now have are being controlled by the product currently being used for regular EM.

A particularly nasty species, Starry Stonewort, has already been discovered in numerous nearby bodies of water including our own mill pond. Numerous other forms of AIS thrive in the area and threaten us regularly. For these reasons, each year we hire outside experts to survey then professionally treat each area.

Movement of boats and trailers among water bodies is the most common way AIS is spread in Michigan. Washing boats and trailers is an obvious and relatively easy way to stop the spread. An updated Michigan law requires that we:

- 1) Remove aquatic organisms, including plants from boats, boating equipment and boat trailers before launching or placing them in the water or transporting any watercraft over land.
- 2) Pull plugs and drain live wells, bilges, ballast tanks and all water from boats before leaving the access site.
- 3) Dispose of unused bait in the trash. Do not release bait into the water.
- 4) Don’t transfer fish to water bodies other than where they were caught.
- 5) Inspect and remove plants and mud from boats, trailers and gear then dry equipment before leaving the access area.
- 6) Dispose of the material in a trash receptacle or otherwise away from the water body.
- 7) Power wash boats, trailers and gear before leaving the access area if possible, or at a nearby car wash or at home.
- 8) Clean our boats and equipment before and after use in a new body of water.



9) Don’t allow the cleaning residue from a previous body of water to runoff into a different body of water.

10) After cleaning, dry boats and equipment – most invasives and significant fish diseases will die if left to dry out of the water for five days.

11) Disinfect live wells, bilges and gear with a mild bleach solution – ½ cup bleach to five gallons of water.

12) Do not dump fish and plants from aquariums into a body of water unless you are certain that each variety of living matter therein is native to that body of water.

In summary, please be mindful not to place or dump anything that may be invasive into our lake or into a place that may eventually wash into our lake. This means anywhere within the Birch Lake watershed. Unwanted and objectionable objects include plants, fish, bait, aquarium remnants and even crawfish leftover from a “boil”.

Thank you and please pass the word.

2024 BLYC Ladies’ FUN Golf Outing

Ladies! Our annual fun golf outing is Friday, July 19. Grab three of your fun girlfriends and join us at Spruce Ridge Golf Course (Dowagiac). Tee off is at 9 am, with an enjoyable luncheon afterwards at The Wounded Minnow in Dowagiac.

You say you’re not a good golfer? We don’t care. It’s a best ball scramble so everyone can come and play without any worries. If you are unable to get a foursome together let us know and we’ll help find you a great group of ladies who’ll make it a fun day.

Just want to enjoy the lunch? There’s space for that too. Check out the Ladies Golf Outing form in this Barker for more info or call one of us. Lunch should start around 11:30 or so. Come join us.

~Carol McCoy
~Blair Garceau

Friday, July 19, Spruce Ridge Golf Course, Dowagiac
9 AM Tee Off - \$45/golfer. Please arrive no later than 8:30 am
Fee includes cart and lunch

Lunch at Wounded Minnow following the outing

If you don’t golf but would like to join us at noon for lunch, please register and pay \$27
If you’d like to sponsor a hole contact: Carol McCoy 708-738-3962 or Blair Garceau 574-261-9817
Don’t have a team? Sign up and we’ll help find you one.

Team Members (list captain first with phone number)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Please make checks payable to BLYC . Bring or mail to :
Carol McCoy, 63021 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095 or
Blair Garceau, 63542 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095

Deadline for registration is Sunday, July 14

— Birch Lake Memories —

History of Williamsville, part 2

The village of Williamsville is located between two lakes, Shavehead to the south and Birch to the north. Birch is noted to have no inlets, but is fed by underground springs that empty into the Millpond on the north side of the village. The beautiful scenery that is found in this south western portion of Michigan drew people to the surrounding areas and farms sprang up all around what some call "God's own country."

The general store was initially constructed of red brick. In 1925 the store was hit by lightning and destroyed. A clapboard dwelling was erected on the same site and remained the general store and busy hub of the village. Most all business transactions took place at the general store and was also the home of the Post Office and telephone exchange. The General store was bought and sold many times in the early 30s but in 1934 was sold to Gerald Breece and was run by Mr. and Mrs. Breece until 1967. The store was known as "Lanky's" by the Birch Lake families who frequented it. Swinging wood and screen door and wood floors (not laminate) welcomed many Birch Lake kid and their families. Grandpa Purdy (father of Lavon Breece) stood behind the big glass candy counter

and patiently waited while we made our confectionery decisions.

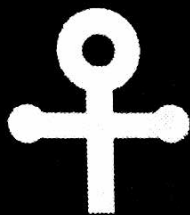
Williamsville was the home to two places of worship, a Methodist Church, and the Friends of Quaker meeting house. For overnight accommodations, the village offered an Inn operated by a man name Austin. The Inn was situated on the future site of Tom's garage and welding.

Some of us old timers remember Lanky's General store but quite a few of Birch Lake current residents have to remember Tom 's garage. On Memorial Day in 1969 a small family operated business sprouted up simply called Tom's garage. Originally operating a welding shop in an old Quonset hut, Tom took on many repair projects and was counted on to fix anything and everything around Birch Lake. His daughter Becky, who still resides in this area, fondly remembers her dad coming home for lunch and then taking an afternoon nap when the business was slow. Tom expanded to include a filling station and the Quonset hut was converted into a store. His two gas pumps, which I recall were man by his wife and daughter as well as Tom were welcome to all of the families on Birch Lake whose boat tanks ran dry just when company had arrived.

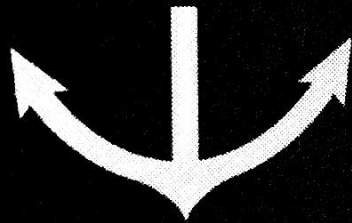
A sounding device extended across the drive and buzzed into the house, telling Betty or Becky a customer had arrived. Out came one or the other with a smile to service the store or pump gas. At that time leaving a store unmanned and pumps not locked was common place around here, a far cry from the big city enterprises. In 1977 a two stall garage and store was erected and the old hut became a storage unit. Into the 90's the store remained but now always manned by Betty with the exception of Sunday 1030 to 1230 when the family attended mass. Becky focused her time helping her father Tom in the garage and between the two of them there was almost nothing they couldn't fix. The store closed in 2011 and left a void for many of us who road our bikes there for ice cream and candy and later when we could drive, to fill our gas tanks to the brim with the finest and most convenient gas in the area. Thank you, Tom and family for many years of excellent service to our Birch Lake and Williamsville communities.

~Sue Davis, Commodore

Excerpts submitted from a writing in the 1974 Birch Barker by Floyd Fulmer "History of Birch Lake Williamsville" Submitted by Bob Waddle



Prime Property Care



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

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

primepropertycarellc@yahoo.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

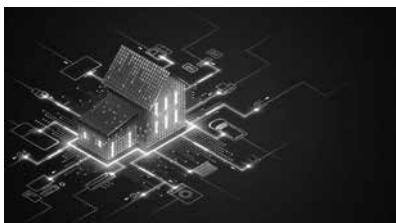
— Barker Kids of the Week —



Thanks to Pat McGann (east side) for the pic of a bunch of Barker Kids at The COA summer concert series recently.

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 tech

HEWITT LSP

4EVER ALUMINUM
 PRODUCTS, INC.

POLYDOCK
 PRODUCTS

CRAFTLANDER

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Katherine Snider, granddaughter of Tom and Vickie Rogers (Cove) celebrating graduation from Penn High School. With her, father Wayne, mother Angie, and sister Emily. We are very proud!



Leslie Paul of Diamond Lake and Pat McGann (east side), joined the Barker kids from the previous page at the COA concert last week, and were seen (and photographed) cutting the proverbial rug.

Barker Kids of the Week

Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the Week? Mail (or drop off) your photo (with a SASE if you want it back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 ... you can always email me at sailorphil@philvital.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com. No texts, I don't do phones.

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 Misc.

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

**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.

Tri-County Bookkeepers & CPAs
tax accounting & payroll services since 1955

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

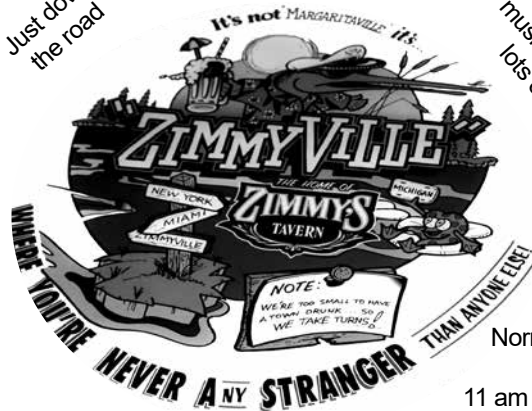
Federal and State Forms

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

Just down
the road



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

Normally Open
7 days/wk
11 am to Midnight

Carry Outs available

69608 Sunset Blvd

Zimmyville (Union), Michigan

ZIMMY'S TAVERN

(269) 641-5317

<http://www.zimmystavern.com>



**TOP DOG
LAWN CARE**

Formerly Prime Property Care

**MOWING
HEDGES
EDGING**

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

**BRET TIETSORT
269-580-2738**



Birch Lake Diversions



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

A Paradise Fruit Dip

When you need a sweet escape, but the beach is too far away, this Paradise Fruit Dip is a pretty delightful temporary stand-in for the vacation you're craving. As you kick up your feet and relax, this sweet and marshmallow-y snack will bring you that wave of the tropics you're longing for, thanks to the juicy pineapple and heavenly coconut. So, go ahead! Grab your favorite fruits and get to dippin'! Paradise Fruit Dip will make sure that you're living your best beachy life ... wherever you are!



Time: 15 minutes Yield: 10 servings

Ingredients

- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (7-ounce) jar marshmallow creme
- 1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1/2 cup sweetened coconut, shredded
- Assorted fresh fruit, to taste
- For serving pound cake, to taste, cubed,

Directions

Step 1 In a small bowl, use an electric hand mixer to beat the cream cheese and the marshmallow creme together until fluffy.
 Step 2 Fold the pineapple and the coconut into the marshmallow mixture. Step 3 Cover the dip mixture and chill until ready to serve.

Trees Word Search



- | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Alder | Cottonwood | Pine |
| Apple | Cypress | Poplar |
| Ash | Dogwood | Redwood |
| Aspen | Elm | Sequoia |
| Birch | Fir | Spruce |
| Buckthorn | Hawthorn | Sweetgum |
| Cedar | Hazel | Sycamore |
| Cherry | Larch | Walnut |
| Chestnut | Maple | Willow |
| Chinkapin | Oak | Yew |

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

— Birch Lake Stories —

Kyle Ponsler, Birch Lake swimmer

I have been spending time at Birch Lake my entire life. My Grandparents (Everett and Iva Badger) bought a lot and built on the South side a many years ago. My parents (Lee and Martha Ponsler) moved up year round what seems like yesterday but had to be about 20 years ago. I am sure several of the people around the lake know my mom and her black lab puppy Eva. About 10 years ago my family was lucky enough to buy a small place up on the hill on the South Side. We love being able to see almost the entire lake and have our own get away so as not to bother my Mom every time we are there ... though we use her lot for lake access so a big formal thank you to my mom otherwise known as "Gandma" in our family.

As many now the USA Olympic Trials for swimming just concluded. This was the 2nd consecutive Olympic Trials for my son Kyle who many have seen and likely will again see swimming in g around the lake with a couple of friends and me in a kayak for moral support. Kyle started doing this at about 8 years old and does it usually over the fourth of July as just a way to stay in shape for competition. He won the Indiana State HS Championships in the 500 yard free 2 yrs ago and now swims for North Carolina State where he is the reigning



ACC Champion in the 400 IM. Though he is on a break now it's likely one of his friends (Alex or Avery Stein) who swim at Wyoming and Missouri respectively and come with their family over the holiday the past several years to visit us will get him in for a lap or two. Feel free to say "hi" if you see them.

Kyle recently swam at the Trials in Indy and placed 6th in the 400 IM. Only

the top 2 make the Olympic Team in the 400 IM but who knows maybe he will try one more time. Here are a few pics from last week at trials.

~Chris Ponsler



WWW.APOLLO MARINE.NET
SPRING SPECIAL

BOAT SHOW PRICING
STILL IN EFFECT!



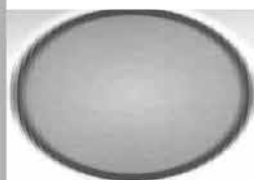
MOOMBA



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

— Camp Tannadoonah —

When it storms at Camp T

Tuesday morning as I am writing my article for the Barker, we're in the midst of a very loud thunderstorm and heavy rain. I was talking to a few of our counselors about what we do with the kids on rainy days, and I told them a story about a particularly bad storm at camp years ago (I think maybe 2008). They counselors suggested I share this story for my article this week.

This storm took place during Mini Week, which is the short week we offer the week of the 4th of July holiday each year. Because it's a short week (3 nights), we tend to have a lot of younger campers who are just trying out camp. Two of the three nights these campers were at camp, we had to wake them up to bring them to the Dining Hall to shelter during a bad storm. Not a great introduction to camp!

On the second night, well after midnight, we were all in the Dining Hall waiting for the storm to pass, when a tornado warning was issued. We had approximately 100 campers and 25 staff who shuffled down to the basement of the Dining Hall. Each cabin gathered their campers, and the counselors started singing camp songs to keep the kids from getting upset.

It's not a very big space, and we were all standing or sitting quite close, hoping the storm would pass by quickly. In addition to the tight space, when it rained heavily, the east wall of the basement

would have water running in, so we were also trying to keep everyone away from that wall so they stayed dry.

But then the power went out. Luckily many campers and staff had flashlights. The counselors started singing louder, doing their best to keep everyone calm. But when the power went out, so did the sump pump, and we were soon splashing around in an inch or so of water. The staff did an amazing job of entertaining the campers and staying positive through the entire storm, and we were able to send everyone back to bed shortly after that.

Those Mini Week campers definitely had a story to tell about the storms at camp when they went home! Luckily this adventure will not be repeated. In the years since, we put in a concrete sidewalk along the east wall of the Dining Hall, which stopped the water problems. And a generator that powers the Dining Hall and Shower House was very generously donated by Rick and Patti Russwurm, so we don't have to worry about being in the basement in the dark during a storm, nor do we worry about losing the food in the refrigerators or freezers during a power outage, and we still have working bathroom facilities.

Don't forget! Next weekend is the Pancake Breakfast here at camp, and we're looking forward to seeing many lake residents and guests! This year's breakfast is



Sunday, July 7, from 8:30 - 11 am. The cost is \$5 for ages 13 and older, \$3 for youth ages 5-12, and free for ages 0-4. We can always use helpers at the breakfast, too! If you're interested in volunteering for a shift, please email me at amber@riverbendcampfire.org.

~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.



Michelle

Katrina

Dennis

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

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

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

For sale: **100# LP Tank** (right) with some LP in it. Call Tom



Rogers at 476 2383 will deliver \$75.

White composite closet doors.

(Left) 48" w X 79" h. \$50 for the pair. Call Deb at 219-765-8691.



For Sale: Headboard (Full or Queen), bed frame and 5 drawer dresser \$175. Call Machalleck's at 772-567-6154

Lost & FOUND

Lost: 1 white seat cushion during Sunday storm

Found: 1 flamingo platter and 1 floral bowl left at YC Call Sue Davis 574-993-6031

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

SERVICES:

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

HELP WANTED:

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 interested in giving it a shot.

FREE

Free grill - contact claudia2154@gmail.com

GE over-stove microwave. Purchased 2018, installed 2021. Bought new SS appliances. FREE. Call Sparky 269-365-7696



Birch Barker 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.

Talk With A Live Person

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



After Hours
Emergency
Service



 Major Credit Cards Accepted



2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

269-687-7192 Niles, MI

866-751-1470 Toll Free

www.advantageplumbinginc.net

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Tip No 5: PLEASE STAY OFF THE COURSE

Sunday is sailing day on Birch Lake. 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 mcshffieck@gmail.com
Steve Frew (E) **Fleet Captain**
708-285-2999 stephenbfrew@gmail.com

Karen Curtis-Miller (E) 574-261-6712
krcurtismiller@gmail.com
Bernie Garceau 476-9862
bgarceau@norcoind.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
sailorphil@philvitale.com
or 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

BLYC DIRECTORS

Dave Carroll (W) 574-850-0465
carrolldavid39@gmail.com
Barb Cassady (E) 574-229-9815
barbcassady49@gmail.com
Ed Chester (E) 476-1010
ed@chesterlawoffice.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 page 2 for status of these important contributions

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

\$ _____

Name _____

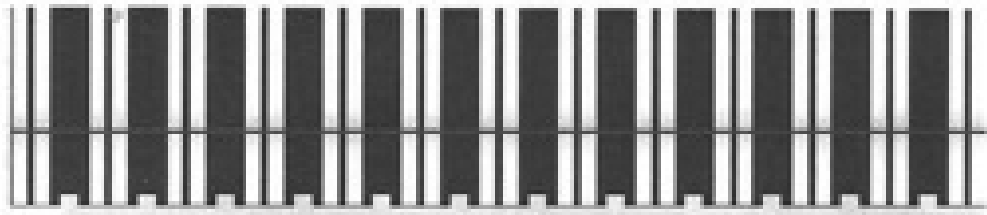
Address _____

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

