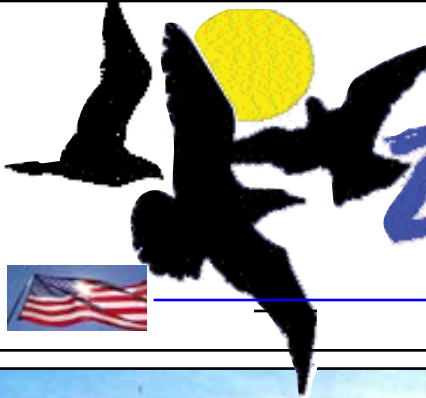


**FOURTH OF JULY
EDITION**

**The
Weekend
Of**

**July 6,
2024**



Birch Barker

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

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club

Happy Fourth of July Have fun, and please be safe!



No skis at all! Brad and Buddy Zesinger double footing behind the Zesinger boat in the early 1980s.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

A little bit of Italy came to the Yacht Club last Saturday. Or should I say "Eatly" as there was lots of spaghetti on hand and a lot of eaters. The spaghetti dinner committee did a fantastic job marketing and selling tickets for the dinner producing a record number of Birch Lakers attending the function. The final tally was 247 dinners up 10 from last year's total. I mentioned this because I think there was some good humored competition going on between Ron Niezgodski (former committee chair) and the 2024 committee. Being the good sport he is, Ron addressed the committee members at the end of the dinner and congratulated them for



Tammy and John De-Cloedt, lucky winners of the 50/50 raffle at the spaghetti dinner, graciously handed the money back to go toward Water Quality! Thanks guys!

doing a fine job.

If you've never attended the dinner before, I encourage you to put it on your list for next year because it is family friendly, and the food is abundant. The committee festively decorated the club with checkered tablecloths, Chianti bottles, and flickering candles. Nice job!

The big winner for the night was, of course the Yacht Club, as money was donated from ticket sales and again from the 50-50 raffle. The money generated is going to BLYC renovations and to water quality. The winners of the



Thanks to Donna Hogoboom (south side) for sharing this great historical watercolor painting of Lankey's/Tom's Garage. For more information see Birch Lake Memories on Page 7.

2024 Birch Lake Calendar

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 21 - Women's Style Show and Luncheon - Woodfire Restaurant, TBA,
- Aug 24 - Fall Dinner & Annual Meeting, TBA
- Aug 29 - Card Night, 7 pm, BLYC, TBA
- Aug 31, Sept. 1 - 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 —

50-50 raffle were Tammy and John DeCloedt. Upon accepting their winnings, they quickly turned it back in to the Yacht Club to support water quality. Thank you, Tammy and John.

The only black marks on an otherwise flawless evening were the loss of our yacht club microwave and the use of one of our air conditioners. The microwave was not such a big deal, but on such a hot and humid evening the second air conditioner would have been helpful. We are hoping that we will be able to salvage both, but if not, we are open to accept any donations for either from any resident that may have an extra.

Ladies, watch for a change in the date for the Birch Lake ladies style show as we were asked by The Woodfire, if it could be moved to Wednesday. Committee chairwoman Ronni Eshelman will include more information on the event in this and the following Barkers.

Again, I am asking for a response from any family who is interested in the Kids Kayak Race July 20. We have to secure lifeguards and prizes, so the committee would appreciate knowing how many kids wish to participate. Please email me at EYESND 76@gmail.com or call at 574-993-6031. The last thing I want to do is cancel the event for lack of interest as I would like to see more young people interested and active in the Yacht Club.

By the time you receive this Barker, we will be in the midst of the Fourth of July celebrations. I hope everyone on the lake finds a way to celebrate our Country's independence. As you look up at the fireworks Saturday evening, take a moment to remember how fortunate



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

we are to be here.

Be safe.

"May the memories remain and the view stay the same" on our golden pond.

~Commodore Sue Davis

Be safe this weekend! Lock up!

Every year during the holiday weekends, someone on the lake finds out that not all of our neighbors are trustworthy when they discover that their car, which they hardly ever lock, has been broken into or their fishing gear (or even an outboard motor) gets stolen from right in front of their homes.

Don't let this happen to you this weekend! There are always a lot of visitors during the holiday weekend, and we all need to be vigilant that some of the least reputable visitors don't ruin our weekend with a theft.

If you see suspicious activity you are urged to not confront the person/people involved but to call 911 if it is an emergency or call the Cass County Sheriff's Department's non-emergency number, (269) 445-3877.

Also please pay special attention when driving (there are going to be a lot of people and pets walking around), and boating (obey all the rules and stay away from all swimmers, skiers, boats, piers, rafts, etc.).

Let's all be safe and enjoy a great holiday weekend!

Ladies style show and luncheon

Join us Wednesday, August 21 for the Birch Lake Ladies Style Show and Luncheon at the Woodfire Grill and Trattoria in Dowagiac. Six lovely Birch Lake ladies will model fashions from the Marshall Shoppe. The luncheon begins at 11 am, and includes a choice of one of three entrees, side salad, dessert, soft drink, tax and tip. The cost is \$32 and must be purchased before the event.

This always sells out so purchase tickets early! Tickets can be purchased by calling Ronni Eshelman 317-418-9557 or Denny Weesner 269-476-2569.

Kids' Kayak Races

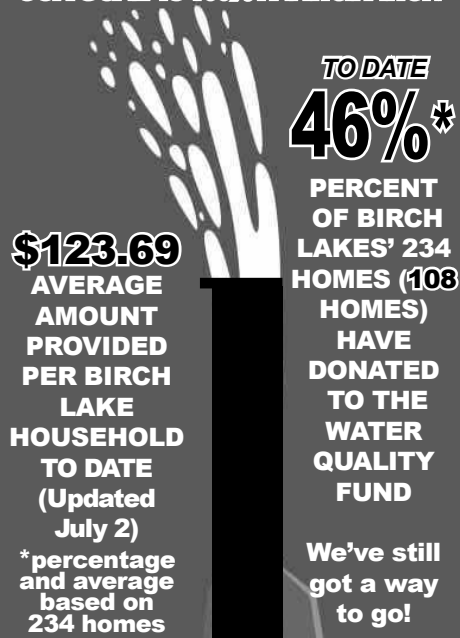
We are in the planning stages for the first and hopefully annual Kids Kayak Races on July 20. Details for the layout of the course are still being hammered out as we want to make this as safe as possible for the participants. A life jacket must be worn, and a waiver must be signed by all participants' 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

SUNDAY IS SAILING DAY AT BIRCH LAKE, and ON SAILING DAYS races start at 11 am! PLEASE GIVE 'EM A BREAK and STAY AWAY FROM THE RACE COURSE!

Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS

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

OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION



TO DATE
46%*

PERCENT OF BIRCH LAKES' 234 HOMES (108 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



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

afternoon. Please email EYESND 76@gmail.com or phone 574-993-6031 if you are interested in participating.

~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.

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 —

Holiday Guests

The Kings (north side) are hosting family and friends this weekend, including: Suzy (South Bend, IN), Cal, Liz and Caden King (Oronoco, MN), Ric and Lisa Dwenger (Muncie, IN) Chuck and Karen Horn (Carmel, IN residence / Sheridan, IN farm) and ... friends of Cal and Liz too numerous to list (plus we never know whether it's two or 20). As always, please stop by to visit and ... apologies in advance for the ruckus!

~Bob and Leslie (N. shore).

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 com-

munity 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

Boat Parade Grand Marshals

This year's Grand Marshals are Kathy and Ron Niezgodski. Kathy's parents John and Dorothy Parnell moved to Birch Lake in 1966 when Kathy was 11 years old. Ron started dating Kathy eight years later, and they married June 1, 1974. So happy 50th anniversary! They lived and worked in South Bend until they retired in October of 2013 when they moved to Birch Lake full time. Kathy and Ron have been active members of the Yacht Club and are always willing to help during an event or to assist a neighbor in need.

We are honoring them as Boat Parade Grand Marshals. Please be sure to wave and cheer as their boat leads the procession with son Bob driving. A panel of 4 judges

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2024 is
\$17,500

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



has been assembled to pick the best boat, so everyone please bring your "A" game!

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!

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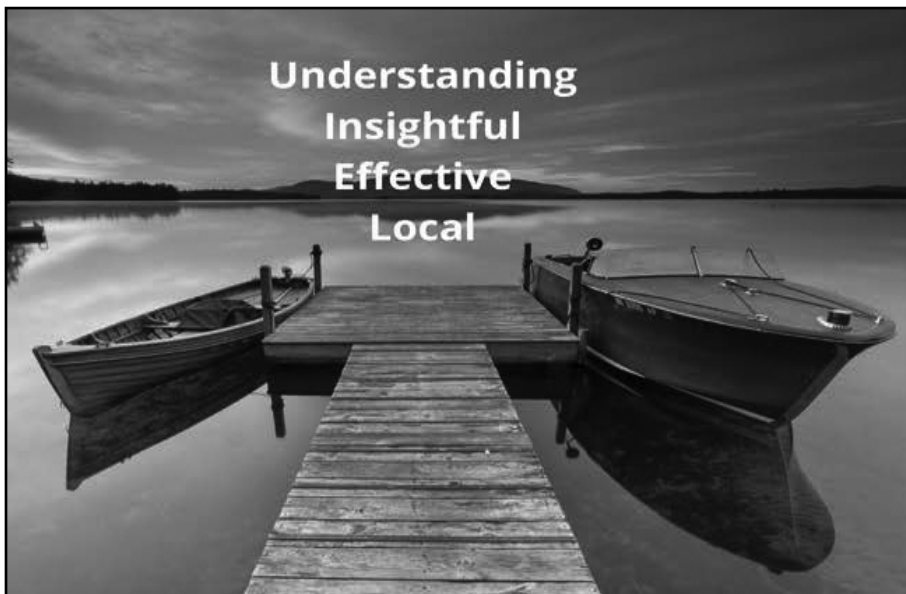


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— Birch Lake Notes —

Grazie mille! E' stato un enorme successo!

... in inglese: Thank you very much it was a huge success

After 6 months of planning the annual spaghetti dinner Yacht Club event, ready or not our day arrived with rain. Contingency plans for parking had to be implemented fast, thank-you Randy and Fran Welch, Patrick Welch, Gary and Ronda Eshleman, Denny Weesner and Jim Bradfield and Steve and Glynda Hunsberger for offering your parking spaces to us.

Camp Tannadoonah's kitchen manager, Misch's help was invaluable to us and the spaghetti cookers. Without Amber Grundy's assistance, tenaciousness and willingness to drive, 60lbs of Gordons Food Service precooked spaghetti wouldn't have made it in time for our dinner. 68 lbs of regular spaghetti and 6.5 lbs of gluten free was cooked for the evening.

Thank-you to Tom Rogers for making a mad dash Saturday morning, before breakfast, to see if the microwave could be limped back to life at the Yacht Club. Unfortunately, plan B had to

figured out.

The ticket sellers did an outstanding job with a 236 adult tickets and 11 kids tickets being sold. I believe this is a record number for this event. Ron and Kathy did an awesome job of keeping track of the numbers. Thank-you, Thank-you!! We ended up serving 182 adults, nine paying kids, six free kids and 38 carry outs for a total of 235 dinners served. The six servers did an excellent job of keeping the roasters full and keeping the line moving. From the vantage point of the kitchen, it looked as everyone was having a great time and walking away with very full stomach's.

Due to the generosity of the Birch Lake community with donations both cash and product, we were able to keep the expenses for the event to \$593.19. We collected \$2,840 in tickets sales, donations at the door and selling leftover sauce and meatballs. The net profit for the Building fund will be \$2,246.81. (Just in time for a new microwave and air conditioner). This is an outstanding achievement!

The clean-up crew of Sue Davis,

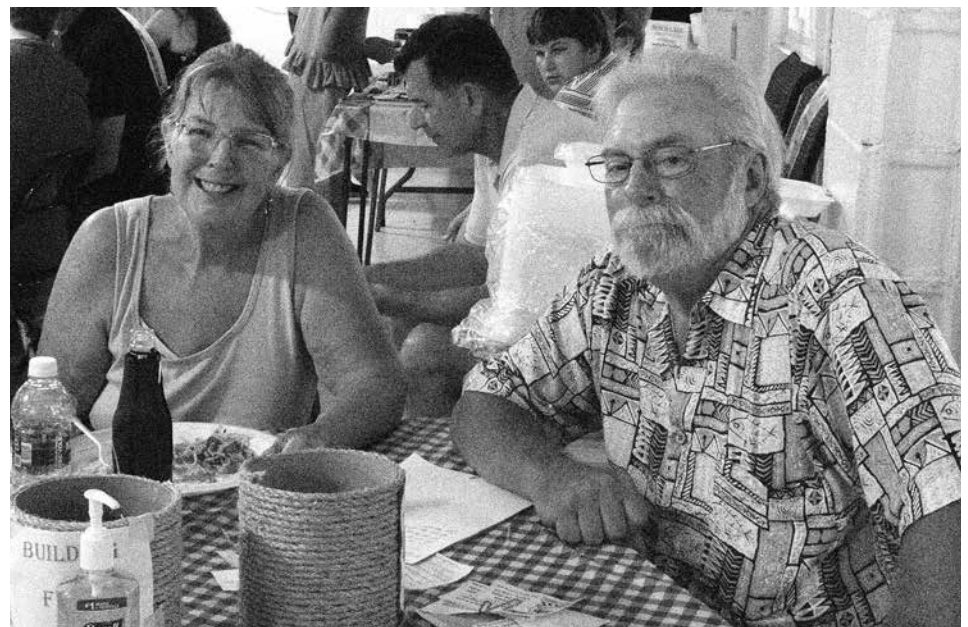
Keith Kinzler, Carmen Soldato, Tim Burchell, Terry and David Carroll, John and Jennifer Ball, Lori and Andy Snider, Bruce Wagner, Marc and Lynn Caenepeel, Deb and Bud Hall, Jim Calderwood, Carla Chester, Mike Sheffieck, Bill Luecht and Dan Waxman had everything cleaned, put away, and buttoned up in one hour. I can't say thank-you enough!

Also thank-you to team members, Stacia Andriano and Cam Butler for spearheading this event with me. We utilized each other strengths, knowledge and skills to make this event a HUGH SUCCESS. Give yourselves a pat on the back.

GRAZIE MILLE!!

~Spaghetti Dinner Committee

P.S. The night was a whirl of people, sauce and laughter, not to mention a glass or two of Chianti, so if I have forgotten to mention your name in the thank-you's. I apologize and do greatly appreciate your help. KB





FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



More big wind, a little more racing

The stars of last Sunday's racing were none other than the great spaghetti dinner and Committee Boat team of Captain Ron Niezgodski and crew Stacia Andriano, Karen Brovold and Bill Butler, who followed up a hard day's work on Saturday's Spaghetti Dinner by donating a big chunk of their Sunday to help make sailboat racing possible. Thank you, Ron, Stacia, Karen and Bill! And it was a great Spaghetti Dinner too!

It was yet another in our string of beautiful windy Sundays, quite the contrast with last year, when wind was scarce. The MC's got in two very exciting races, with Scott Troeger and daughter Amy battling Barb Cassady and husband Tom, neck and neck all the way to the finish line in both races. Barb and Tom edged ahead for the win both times. Your fleet captain took two third place finishes, helped immensely by the fact that there were only three MC's competing. Then Barb had to leave for the ballet



with grandchildren. Always a good excuse in our league!

The Sunfish went the distance with full three races, with identical results in all three races: Rick Russwurm first, Stewart Spratt second, and Herb Cleveland third. Apparently there were no

ballet aficionados in their group.

Tom Cassady not only crewed for wife Barb, but also set the course along with Vic Jones. Meanwhile, Vic did double duty as safety boat captain during the races. Thank you, Tom and Vic!

~FC Steve

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 am

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!

2024 sailing results & season standings to date

Date.....6/306/306/30 Total Points Point Average Races Finished % Finished

MC/Sailor	Total MC Races = 14		Total Points	Point Average	Races Finished	% Finished
Scott Troeger #1489	2	2	18491	1540.91	12	0.85
Patrick Welch #1979	DNS	DNS	8666	1444.33	6	0.42
Barb Cassady #2506	1	1	22007	1571.92	14	1
Bill Luecht #1579	DNS	DNS	8591	1431.83	6	0.42
Sandy Vitale #2159	DNS	DNS	1156	1156	0	0
Steve Frew #656	3	3	19474	1391	14	1
Ashly Connaugaton #1979	DNS	DNS	5490	1372.5	3	0.21

Sunfish/Sailor	Total Sunfish Races = 15		Total Points	Point Average	Races Finished	% Finished
Rick Russwurm	1	1	25130	1570.6	16	1
Stewart Spratt	2	2	24186	1511.6	16	1
Pete Soldato	DNS	DNS	2890	1445	2	0.125
Scott Sortal	DNS	DNS	4721	1573.6	3	0.1875
Bob Niezgodski	DNS	DNS	18551	1427	13	0.8125
Herb Cleveland	3	3	12475	1386.1	8	0.5
Camille Butler	DNS	DNS	3888	1296	3	0.1875

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



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— Water Quality Report —

Trash talk ...

“Give A Hoot, Don’t Pollute!” Some of us are old enough to remember this public service announcement back in the 60’s and 70’s that was plastered on highway billboards and television commercials that featured a wise owl. Or the Native American standing at a shoreline filled with trash with a tear running down his cheek. There were stiff fines for littering. Hopefully those messages back then came across loud and clear.

Today you will see Adopt a Highway programs and a few random No Littering signs here and there. For the most part people seem to be more aware of litter and pollution than they did years ago. Birch Lake residents show a lot of pride in our beautiful water and are likely not the problem when trash is found in our lake. Unfortunately, it still exists.

Some of the items that have been found on our shores include glass bottles/broken glass, cans, plastic water bottles, plastic bags, remnants of fireworks, dead fish (either by mother nature or discarded), fishing lures/hooks, lead fishing sinkers, discarded fishing line, food/bait containers, and plastic rings from 6-packs.

Discarded fishing line, hooks and lead weights are a huge problem in every lake. If you’ve ever had a fishhook stuck in your skin, you know the feeling! These items are very harmful to waterfowl including loons, ducks, swans, and our beloved bald eagles. Fishing line and hooks can get tangled in their wings, around their necks, making them unable to fly. The same goes for plastic rings from 6-packs. They pose a big strangulation hazard. Make sure to cut them up into pieces before discarding into the garbage. Birds commonly eat small pebbles to grind food for digestion. Small lead sinkers and jigs may be mistaken for these pebbles and when ingested, the lead is absorbed into the bloodstream causing birds to become weak, unable to fly, vulnerable to predators and often die within two to three weeks after eating the lead. Just one lead sinker can poison a water bird. If you have lead fishing tackle in your box, please consider substituting it for non-lead material, such as tungsten.

A member of our Water Quality committee is working to get signage up at the boat launch for lead warning as well as a disposal tube for discarded fishing line. If you do see any waterfowl in distress, it is best to contact the local DNR customer service office located in Plainwell, MI at 269-



685-6851. With the recent outbreak of avian bird flu, it is recommended that you not handle any bird directly without protective mask and clothing. Our resident Michigan Loon Preservation Association loon ranger, Cindy Bernaciak (773-401-9191) is also available with links to licensed Michigan rehabilitators.

The Water Quality Committee is doing everything it can to keep our beautiful lake free of invasive species, managing scientific data, water transparency and pollution. As lake residents, please do YOUR part in keeping our lake pristine for generations to come. Take a little time each week, grab your water shoes (and the kids for a teachable moment) and comb your shoreline especially after a storm or the 4th of July festivities, for unwanted litter and dispose of it properly.

On a side note, the Purple Loosestrife (invasive plant) season starts next month. You will see our committee member/Loosestrife expert Bruce Wagner doing his plant inspections along with others from the committee who will be learning alongside him. We are working hard for YOU! Clean water is the main reason we are all able to swim, play and enjoy our little piece of paradise we call home.

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 —

Memories from Scannell/Hogoboos

Lois Scannell painted the picture (on the front page of this Barker) of Breece's a.k.a. Lankey's, most likely in the 1960's. She started painting in her 60s, and taught water-color through the YMCA in South Bend well into her 90s.

Lois & John brought their 3 kids to Birch Lake every summer starting in 1939 when they rented the Douglas cottage on the south side (the cottages is now owned by Mike and Paula Russell).

That year, they decided to purchase the property next door, and began building their cottage. They chose Birch Lake because it is so clean.

Pat Scannell Hogoboom was 10 years old when the cottage was built. She remembers that Lankey would cut blocks of ice out of the lake in the winter and store them. In the summer, they were sold to the residents for their iceboxes (refrigerators before they were electric).

Other memories of Birch Lake include walking around the lake daily; moms and kids together. Pat's brothers John and Bob would swim across the lake. Lois and John would row their boat out to the middle of the lake in the evening and watch the sunset.

One of the big reasons for bringing the family to Birch Lake for the summer

was to get the kids out of the city, and away from polio. The fear was so real, that one year a county sheriff came to the cottage and told John his kids couldn't be in the water because of the polio. John told the officer, "You and I both know that polio is not being spread through the lake." But to keep the peace, he kept the kids out of the water that summer.

Pat remembers there was a Conservation Office at the Yacht Club, and one year the young officer fell in love with one of the local girls. Pat and the younger teenage girls were asked to be part of the wedding. She remembers they all wore matching sweaters.

The Scannell cottage has been a honeymoon haven. Pat and her husband Dave came to Birch for their Honeymoon. They sent a postcard of the lake to their parents saying, "Glad you are not here."

Their son Dave and his wife Donna came to Birch as did their son Joe and his new wife Kate. Dave and Terry Carroll rented the cottage for their honeymoon. Two years ago, Patrick and Nicki Russell stayed there after they were married, and soon Pat's granddaughter Katee will bring her new husband here after their wedding at the end of July.

The Scannell/Hogoboom memories continue with Pat's great-grandkids loving their time at the family cottage and next door at the Lake House where Dave and Donna now spend their summers.

The Moon this Saturday

at midnight. Illuminated Fraction:
Illuminated Fraction: 0.020

1.3 days since new moon

Sun and Moon this Week

Sunrise: 06:12:55 am

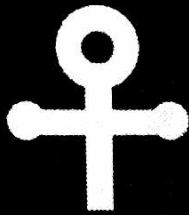
Sunset: 21:21:14 pm

Moonrise: 06:27:56 am

Moonset: 22:30:27 pm

Hours of Daylight:

15 Hr 08 Min 19 Sec



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Pat McGann, Birch Lake Resident, East Side

— Barker Kids of the Week —



I nominate my grandson as a Kid of the Week. Caden William King, son of Calvin and Liz King, grandson of Bob and Les King (north side).

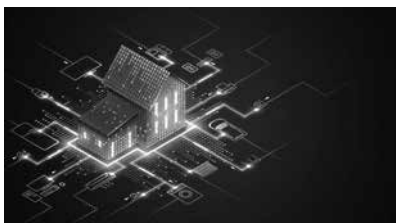
Phyllis Rasmussen (west side) and her partner, Ciara were married on the shores of Lake Michigan May 17, 2024. Congratulations to the newlyweds!



Franciscan Sisters Margaret Mary and Gianna Marie were visiting Tom and Barb Cassady (east side) recently. Asked if they'd caught any fish yet, they replied "Nun yet!"

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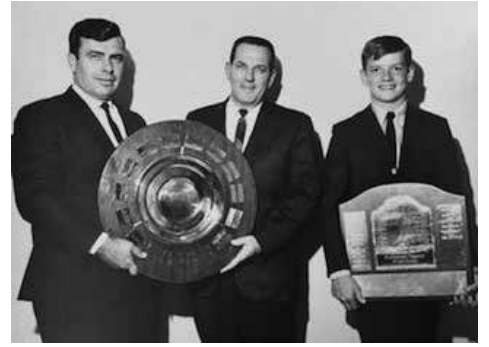
Authorized Dealer For:



— Historical Kids of the Week —



Not to be confused with the rock band using a similar name, this motley crew took part in the Fourth of July festivities on the north shore a long, long time ago (judging from how much they've all changed since ... can you identify them?)



Earl Troeger (L) accepting the World Snipe Championship trophy, with sailor neighbor Bob Hague (C) and Earl's eldest son Jeff (R)

Earl Troeger, Jr. Regatta:

For those who never met the man, Earl was and remains a sailing legend. Those were the days of the Snipe sailboat which sported two sails so it required crew. In addition to being a founder of BLYC, Earl steered the ship of state, serving as Commodore more times than any other person has. Birch Lake will host a (five) lake Invitational in Earl's name on Saturday, August 17.

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@philvitale.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com.

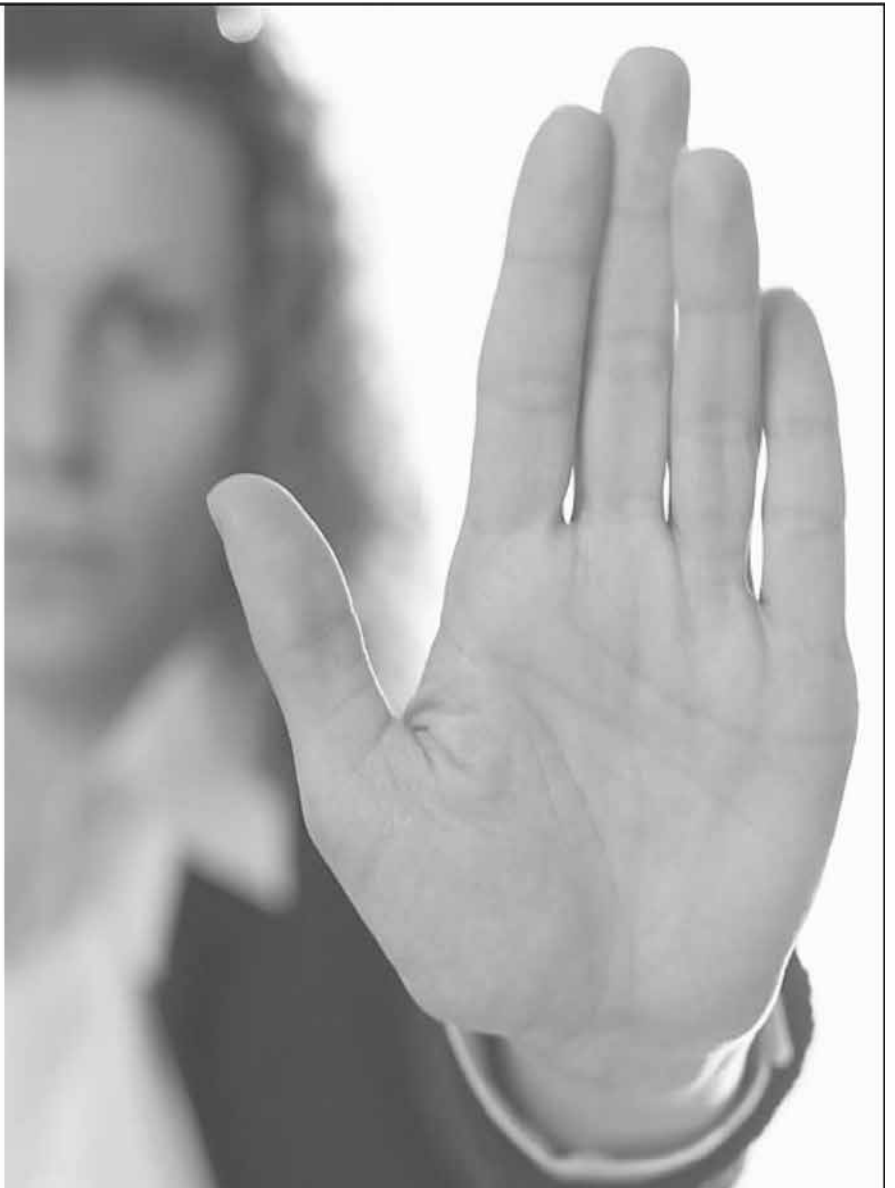
No texts, I don't do phones.

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GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

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AND ON THE HILLS
TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!**

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



The Dennis and Claudia Phipps family (north side) enjoyed the spaghetti dinner at the yacht club.

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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



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Birch Lake Diversions



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

World's best potato salad

This best-ever potato salad is the creamiest, richest potato salad you will ever try. The secret is in the homemade dressing. I get nothing but raves every time I make this.



Prep Time: 15 mins; Cook Time: 25 mins; Additional Time: 3 hrs; Total Time: 3 hrs 40 mins; Servings: 6

Ingredients:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 6 medium potatoes | 1 teaspoon prepared yellow mustard |
| ½ cup white sugar | ¼ cup butter |
| 2 large eggs, beaten | 1 cup mayonnaise |
| 1 teaspoon cornstarch | 6 large hard-cooked eggs, diced |
| Salt to taste | 1 small onion, finely chopped |
| 1 (5 ounce) can evaporated milk | 1 cup celery, chopped |
| ½ cup vinegar | 1 teaspoon salt |

Directions:

Place potatoes in a large pot and cover with salted water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain and set aside to cool.

While the potatoes are cooking, whisk together sugar, 2 beaten eggs, and cornstarch in a saucepan; season with salt.

Stir in milk, vinegar, and mustard. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in butter. Refrigerate until cool, then stir in mayonnaise.

Peel and dice potatoes. Transfer to a large bowl; toss with hard-cooked eggs, onion, celery, and 1 teaspoon salt.

Stir dressing gently into the bowl of potato salad until evenly coated. Chill before serving, 3 hours to overnight.

4TH OF JULY WORD SEARCH

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— Birch Lake HOA —

The Quiet Committee Birch Lake Home Owner's Association

At the annual meeting in August the committee was asked about the benefits of being a member of the BLHOA. I guess we don't toot our horn too loudly but we liked the question and want to address it.

Here are some of the items that the Home Owner's Committee has worked or is currently working on.

Please feel free to call any of our committee members to address your questions, comments or concerns. Members of the committee are:

- o Blair Garceau (east side), Chairwoman; blairgarceau@gmail.com, 476-9862
- o Paul Fallon (east side), pauljfallon49@gmail.com, 476-1467
- o Rick Russwurm (north side), paramount@aol.com, 476-24047
- o Scott Troeger (east side), scott.troeger@btlaw.com, 476-9898; and
- o Phil Vitale (east side), sailorphil@philvitale.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com, 476-1680.

Thank you.

Here are some of the things the committee has done:

- Spring of 2024 we worked with the local farmer to stop runoff into the lake.
- Worked with the Cass County Park Department to repair the boat landing. Coordination between all of the entities took time and there may be more to do in the future but the work has given us better launching and loading of our boats.
- No Powerloading sign at the landing. Please remember not to powerload your boat onto your trailer. This is when you gun your motor so your boat is thrust onto the trailer. This has caused a large crater at the end of the ramp. We have also been in contact with the pier companies and requested that they do not powerload their boats and equipment as well.
- Alerted the authorities about the condition of the parking lot at the landing.
- While we do not agree with the Park Department (and are on record as saying so) installing a Port-a-Potty at the landing from Memorial Day to after Labor Day we were able to get them to enclose the unsightly item on 3 sides.
- We continue to monitor state, county, township and local laws and

recommendations that might affect our property values. Members of the HOA and other residents of the lake sit on local boards and report back.

Some of the topics and items we regularly monitor include:

- o Bubblers
- o Lighting ordinance
- o Air BnB issues
- o School referendums
- o Lawless Dark Sky Park
- o Recycling
- o Mail issues
- o Gun laws
- o Official recommendations and proposed laws regarding Bladder boats
- o Power lines
- o Slow Down Signs created and given to residents for local use free of charge.
- o Courtesy Campaign in the Barker.
- o Hired a lawyer to look at the Porter Township ordinances to determine if there are any "red flags" that we should be concerned about and addressing. We wanted to be proactive and not reactive. It was determined that there were no glaring issues affecting our properties.

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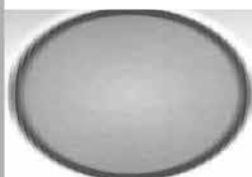
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— Camp Tannadoonah —

The Pancake Breakfast at Camp is this Sunday, July 7, from 8:30-11am. The cost is \$5 for ages 13 and older, \$3 for youth ages 5-12, and free for ages 0-4. Please come out and support Camp T and have a great breakfast. We will have pancakes (and gluten free pancakes), sausage links, fruit cocktail, coffee, orange juice, and milk.

I did a bit of research on the Pancake Breakfast by digging through old Barkers. Thank you to Bill Luecht for providing me with digital copies of all the old Barkers from 1944 through 2017!

The first Birch Lake Pancake breakfast took place in 1986, the morning following the fireworks. It was held at the Yacht Club that first year and served by the BLYC officers and board members. It's been held on the Sunday morning following the fireworks ever since.

That would make this year the 28th Pancake Breakfast (we skipped 2020). The chairperson the first year was Nancy Walker (west shore, where Shefficks live now). I've included a photo (shown below) of the announcement in the Barker about the first year of this event. In the Barker following the event, they reported that they served about 175 people.

The breakfast outgrew the Yacht Club and was moved to the Camp Tannadoonah

Dining Hall in 1989. The Walkers chaired the breakfast from 1986 through 1990. Buzz and Linda Rasmussen (west shore) coordinated the event in 1991. In 1992, Marty and Doris Sante (south shore) took over the event and were the chairs from 1992-1996. Sue Wagner (cove) chaired the breakfast in 1997.

In 1998, Don and Lind Harman (east shore) took over the event in 1998. They coordinated the breakfast from 1998 through 2011, and I think for many of us on the lake, we think of this as Don and Lind's event. Over the years, the number of people served at the breakfast grew from around 175 to over 580 in 2008! I believe that was a record crowd that has not been matched since.

In 2009, Phil and Sandy Vitale (east shore) and Mike and Amy Lutz (north shore) began chairing the breakfast and continued the tradition through 2016. In 2017 it looked like the breakfast might be canceled because we didn't have anyone to lead the event, so the camp staff and board of directors took over the event and has been coordinating it since.

Last year, in 2023, we served a total of 395 people. We'd love to see those numbers get back up into the 400s or even 500s! The proceeds from the breakfast go to our scholarship fund to send campers to camp, and



the more we raise, the more we are able to help families who would not otherwise be able to send their kids to a session of camp.

This year we have a great crew of camp staff, board members, camp alumni, and Birch Lake neighbors helping us set up, cook, serve, and clean up from the event. Miss Gabby will also have the Camp Trading Post open, so you can get all the new Camp T apparel on Sunday morning. While you're here, you can also check out the four brand new cabins we built this spring!

Don't forget: Sunday morning, 8:30-11am at Camp T. Please come in the NEW entrance on Harvey St. and park in the Sports & Games field.

~Mrs. Amber

***** 1st Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast served by the Yacht Club Board on Sunday July 6 from 7:30-10 a.m. Indiana time. This will be an all-you-can-eat breakfast. It will be \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for 4-12 years, with under 4 yrs. free, PAY AT THE DOOR! Hope to make this a "looked forward to" annual event! Nancy Walker, Chairwoman.**

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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.

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.

Lost in last big storm, **large blue and yellow O'Brien tubing tube**. Last seen in the north east corner of the lake, but not there when I went to pick it up. Hopefully, it floated back out and landed on someone's shore. If found, please contact Sue Davis at 574-993-6031.

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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 online-barker@gmail.com, 476-1680 if you're interested in giving it a shot.

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HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

SLOW DOWN ON THE BIRCH LAKE ROADS

The roads around Birch Lake are narrow and perilous with lots of blind spots. This weekend a lot of folks will be walking, biking, jogging, including a lot of kids and pets. Please slow down and be careful!

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



2024 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

BLYC OFFICERS

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Blair Garceau (E) Chairman, Homeowners
476-9862 blairgarceau@gmail.com



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*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:

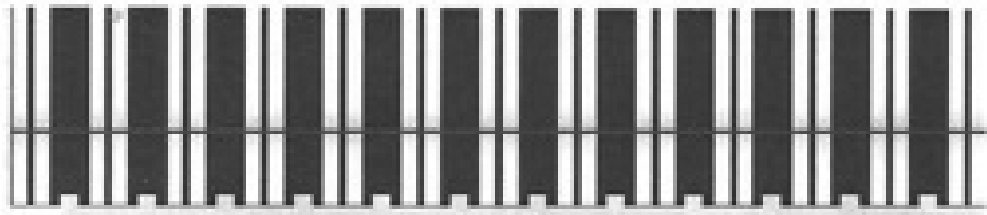
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