

The Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Nine, July 22, 2000

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

For the first Monday in three weeks no one called to tell me there was a tree down on the Yacht Club! Heartfelt thanks to the *elves* who made anonymous repairs. It's frustrating that when all the work is done we will be "even" – back to where we were before Mother Nature starting tossing trees.

The Buffett Kidz was well attended. Junior Commodore Cal wants to thank the 32 kidz who came to play! It's dejavu to hear happy voices echoing in the Club.

Please come back this weekend for some projects and fun. Wear an old bathing suit — bring a bucket, sponge and old towel (to wipe down cars). We will wash cars from 10 am – noon. Proceeds will go to buy Kidz stuff for the Club, to pay for Regatta Kidz hats and the Kidz Fun Fair in August.

Past Commodore Jim and Former First Lady Sally outdid themselves again. The Becks' Buffett Party was a smashing success. Of particular note were the many Lakers who have not been seen for years. Thanks all for your attendance and support. The fellowship spreading amongst our circle, folks old and new to Birch is reminiscent of decades past. Kind of a shame so many stayed so late and still missed Jimmy. He could not get away sooner, performing numerous encores at Deer Creek. Jim and I gave him a beer, Birch tank top and asked that he arrive sooner next year. Many decorated, served and put the Club back in order – thanks!

There are now 8 dozen Great Lake tank tops in circulation. If you did not attend the Buffett, I sold your shirt! Replacements for those ordered at the Pancake, new orders from the Buffett, and extras on speculation will be printed. We are now

producing shirts in royal blue, teal and orange.

Millennium mugs will also be produced until the demand is exhausted (or the folks at Access are exhausted, whichever comes first). Please pick up your order at the Corn and Sausage Saturday 08/12.

If you have not registered for golf, contact our chair-people (John Ball, Jr. at 9775 / or Mardy Miller - see below) to book your foursome.

Help is needed for the Kidz Fun Fair (to run simple games, hand out prizes, etc.), contact Bob King.

To help with the Lake Walk contact Denny Weesner at 2569.

Note that Darlene Troyer and gang volunteered to sponsor a Ladies Tea (see calendar below).

At the end of 1999 we circled the lake counting Sunfish, Hobies and MCs. Let's get some more of those boats off the shore! Time to put away your cares and tools to go sailing.

See you on the water,



-Bob King, C2k



Image supplied by Bob King

Ladies Golf Outing and Luncheon - Friday August 4th

Join the Birch Lake Ladies for Golf &/or Lunch.

Cost is \$15 (9 holes of golf & half of a cart) at Diamond Lake Golf Club

Golf begins at 9:30 am

Luncheon (individual checks) at 12:30 pm at Lindy's.

Arrange your foursome or be grouped with some new friends

I/We plan to attend the Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing &/or Luncheon:

Name	Golf	Lunch	Name	Golf	Lunch
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please send reservation & check to Mardy Miller, 63255 Storey Hill, Vandalia, MI, 49095.

40th ANNUAL BIRCH LAKE OPEN

Spruce Ridge Golf Club & Resort
Dowagiac, MI

Friday July 28, 11 am (IST)
Shotgun start & scramble

\$55/man entry fee covers golf, cart, favor,
door prizes, refreshments & prime rib dinner
(5:30 pm IST)

Registration deadline is July 23rd
(first 72 golfers are in)

Contact John Ball (9775)
to pay & drop off entry

Calendar beginning July 22*

7/22 - 9-10 am - Board meeting

7/22 - 10-Noon - Kidz Klub Car Wash

7/28 - 11 am - Men's Golf Outing

8/4 - 11 am - Ladies Golf & Luncheon

8/5 - 2 pm - Regatta Kidz

8/12 - 9 am-Noon - Kidz Fun Fair

8/12 - TBA - Corn & Sausage Roast

8/13 - TBA - Lake Walk

8/15 - 1-3 pm - BLYC Ladies' Tea; \$5

8/19 - 9 am - Board Meeting; 10 am

8/19 - 10 am - Homeowners Assoc. Mtg.

8/26 - TBA - Fall Dinner

*See <http://www.hometown.aol.com/blcking/blyc.html> for the full calendar of events.

If you have items for the BARKER, please put all materials in the Barker box (at the Yacht Club) by 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, or e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@webcraftarts.com. If you must, mail (10 days prior to desired publication date) to Phil Vitale, 122 So. Michigan, So. Bend, IN 46601, call Phil at (219) 232-3735, or fax your items to (219) 232-3853.



Note: All times in the Barker are IST (Indiana Standard Time) unless stated otherwise

Birch Lake Notes

Fellow Parrotheads

We wish to thank you all for coming. We had a great turn out, and a great time. We have enjoyed doing the party, and have gotten a great response from all of you. We apologize for running out of beer and rum drinks. Hopefully it will be better organized next year. We would like to thank all the helpers in getting things set up, Phil & Sandy Vitale, Tom & Vicki Rogers, Bruce & Sue Wagner, Bob & Les King, our daughter Amy Everett, and "Frey." Many Corona's were consumed and helped get things done faster!!!! We had a great crew of Bartenders this year, Marc & Ilene Golden, Rick & Patti Russwurm, Larry Dennert, and Jim Bergen. Couldn't have done it without all of you. Marc, thanks for your kind acknowledgment!!! Hope someone will get inspired to continue this tradition next year. Thanks again.

-Jim & Sally Beck

PS--We even had a Buffett Moon!!!!

Ladies' Tea

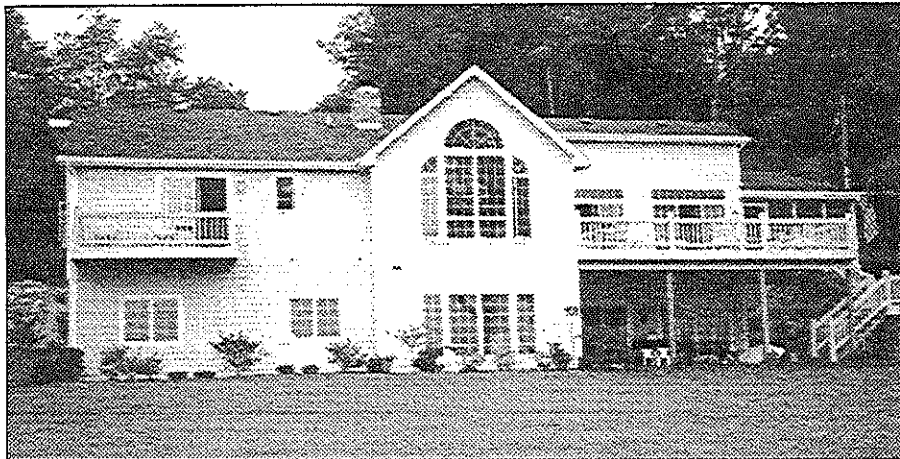
Date: August 15 (Tuesday)
Time: 1-3 pm
Price: \$5
Place: BLYC

Ladies come and enjoy an afternoon tea at the BLYC! Turn back the hands of time when ladies shared stories while eating delicate pastries and drinking fine teas. The BLYC may not be a fine Victorian Manor but we will try our best.

Wear your favorite garden hat and frock or your jeans & T's and sit for a while, relax, converse, and enjoy special treats, fine flavored teas and some coffee too! You may even win a door prize.

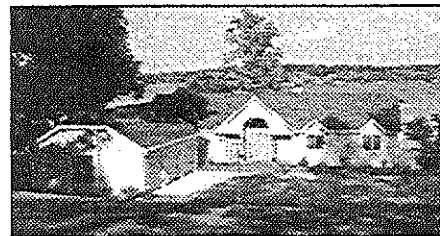
For reservations call Mary Ann O'Neil 476-2831 or Darlene Troyer 476-2639
Limited seating, call soon!

Birch Lake Housewalk — Home No. 2



The second home that we are going to "spotlight" for our home tour on Sunday, August 13, is the Kruggel home. This beautiful house is only seven years old. It is the primary residence of Herm and Bev Kruggel, who have lived on the lake in summer homes for 42 years.

This home has two separate living areas. The lower level is a complete home with two bedrooms, bathroom, living area with fireplace and kitchen/family area. The Kruggel children and grandchildren take advantage of this wonderful place all summer long. The main level is where Herm and Bev spend most of their time. It has two bedrooms, a den, a huge



living area with fireplace and family dining and kitchen area — plus a screened-in porch off of the kitchen that looks out over the lake. This is a very special home, both for its design and for the beautiful setting in the hill.

Library notice

Due to the lack of interest, the Birch Lake Lending Library at the Yacht Club will

be open only on Saturdays from 1 to 2 pm until further notice.

-Julie Ball Lacy



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Birch Lake Notes

News from "A little corner of Heaven" or The Latest on Yard Sales

Several south and east side people have decided August 5 will be the best time for a community yard sale. Julie Weaver will get ads in the Leader and Elkhart Truth. Anyone else wishing to, may donate for the ads. If someone with a computer would make some signs to put up on streets to direct people down here, that would be most appreciated. Time to start is 9 am IN (10 am MI) through 1 pm IN (2 MI). Julie's phone is 476-2869 if you can catch her (answering machine got fried the night the first tree fell on the Yacht Club).

More news from "A little corner of Heaven"

It seems certain Maddie P. was in attendance at the book release of "Harry Potter." Talk about being jealous, we're all green with envy. She even had a forehead tattoo. The Erhardt used vehicle lot is officially out of business. Sister Lynn and niece Kim left, followed later by sister Cheryl and brother-in-law Tom, whose sister and brother-in-law also left so John could find a place to park — finally. Mom Mary Alice might (finally) get some rest, and niece Tracy won't have as many dishes to do.

Even more news . . .

Dakota Olguin spent the week at Camp Tannadoonah. He always looks forward to a fun time every summer. Mom Jeanne (Weaver) isn't so sure she enjoys the time as much.

A full day was had by all with Arline and John Machalleck's 60th anniversary part and the Buffett party put on by Sally and Jim Beck. Wow, can't ask for more fun. Even Riley Weaver swam with Steve Machalleck's grandson Paul until Riley

News from the cove (and outlying areas)

By Sunny Waters

*Snappy dresser of the year
and Ping-Pongist extraordinaire*

To all of you diligent conservationists, especially those who are dangling brick from your piers, DO NOT return or make mention of zebra mussels to Gertie Temple. This "nice" lady has us all duped. Last week B.S. and I were invited to the Temple's for popcorn and Gatorade. We were there only a short time when a noxious odor began to waft past our noses. We cast "let's get out of here" glances at one another, told the Temples we wanted to get home before the tele-marketing callers were through for the day and sprinted for the door. On the way out, glancing in the Kitchen, we couldn't help noticing a cookbook titled Forty Ways With Zebra Mussels. Sprigs of purple loosestrife, obviously intended as garni, lay nearby.

You just never know about people, do you?
N.F.T.C. back when — 1995?

Things were astir as we planned our annual fly-swatting contest and awards banquet. Imagine the disappointment when a flies-rights activist group (called the Swat Team) shut us down. We will, however, go on with the turnip and rice pudding banquet. More later.

Missed Manners has officially announced her resignation from the Barker. Apparently the coup de grace was delivered by Jim Hettmansberger who thought napkin rings were jingle bells.

Chew sugar-free gum, get your whites whiter, read the sleazoids in the checkout lane and beware of con artists who advertise in the properties wanted classifieds.

— *your ever-loving Sunny
protector of the gullible
and champion of the righteous*

gave up and got out. Usually mom Ally and grandma Julie have to pull him out.

— *Julie Weaver*

Balls host baby shower

A family baby shower was held Sunday, July 9, for Matt and Lynn Hague at the Ball's (S98). Baby Ryan Michael arrived July 11, weighing in at 9 lbs., 5 oz — he is a fifth-generation Birch Laker! Grandpa & Grandpa Hague (Cindy and Brian) were here from Sarasota for the week, along with son, Mike. Ryan is the first great-grandchild for John and Marty Ball.

Congratulations to all!

Letter to the Editor

Your Excellency,

If my spouse and I were to donate our summer home to a needy couple, would this absolve us of our mortal sins or just the venial ones?

Our burdened souls await your answer.

Mrs. Ima Synner

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Birch Lake Notes

Kids' genealogy

Have you ever wondered how many other family members have lived here at Birch Lake or do you have an interest in making a Family Tree? Come to the BLYC and learn how to be a "family detective."

Kids ages 10-15 (older ones too) are invited to come for a short session in how to get started in tracing their family roots. Ideas will be presented on how to get started and hand outs will be given for you to start charting your family members.

Class will be held at the BLYC on July 26th, Wednesday, from 1-3 pm.

Ladies Golf Outing and Luncheon

Join the Birch Lake Ladies for golf &/or lunch on Friday August 4. Novice golfers welcome; we play a best ball scramble. Arrange your foursome or be grouped with new friends. The cost is \$15 which includes 9 holes of golf & half of a cart at Diamond Lake Golf Club (off M-60). Golf is at 9:30 am (IN) followed by a luncheon at 12:30 pm (IN) at Lindy's. Select from an open menu with individual checks. Please send reservation and check to Mardy Miller, 63255 Storey Hill, Vandalia, MI, 49095.

East Coast News

While the rest of the lake has been experiencing considerable amounts of rainfall, the East side has had nothing but blue skies and sunny days.

After being gone for over a year, Todd Messner (along with his great smile) has returned home to all his family and friends at Birch Lake! You will probably see Todd busy doing his favorite things, like fishing, paddleboating, swimming and talking to Anthony Sacco and Katie Luecht. Todd has a lot of hard work and physical therapy ahead of him, but being back on the lake

makes it a bit easier. Judy and Jim can be found helping Todd walking their dogs Killian and Ally. They are also busy supplying Katie with fish bait. Welcome home Todd — you are doing a great job!!

Marc and Ilene Golden recently celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary by enjoying a lovely dinner at the Carriage House in South Bend. A relaxing evening was needed after their whirl-wind tour of the USA, via Indianapolis, Houston and Boston. Their daughter, Lisa, and her husband, Jon, are going to make the Golden's grandparents again, sometime in October.

Word from the stork...It's a boy!

Another grandson should keep the A-frame hopping with activity. And two big thumbs-up to their other kids, Amy and Mike Golden, who ran in the Boston Marathon this year. We are proud to report both finished the race. Maybe mom & dad Golden will join them next year?!

The 10th wedding anniversary of Debbie and Tony Sacco was June 21st. A trip later in the summer is planned to mark the occasion. Anthony Sacco recently completed kindergarten and will be in 1st grade. Stop by for a (not-so-brief) conversation with him. He has some extremely interesting stories to tell. Anthony and Katie Luecht attended day camp at Tannadoonah July 9 - 14. After those two, the camp counselors had to attend stress-management classes! Tony Sacco recently caught a 3-1/2 lb., 17-inch bass while fishing near their cottage. Details of the up-coming fish fry will be announced!

Bill Luecht recently built his wife, Patty, an arbor over their steps. She has been nagging him for years for one. Recently they had their 9th wedding anniversary, in which they went out for a quiet dinner in Danville, IN, and then to the grand opening of their

new Kroger store (they know how to keep the fires of passion burning in their marriage!!) Their son, John, turned 5 in January and will start kindergarten in the fall. Katie will be 7 in August, so she will go into 1st grade. Ethel will be 8 in October, and she is going to the home for lethargic Basset Hounds (if they can get her off the couch!).

So that is just a tiny bit of what's been happening to a few of the residents on the East side. Stop in and say "hey," they would love to chat a while.

On a more serious note

Recently, an act of vandalism could have caused serious harm. The drain plug in the Messner's fishing boat was removed and Jim and Todd unknowingly took the boat out to go fishing. Luckily, no one was hurt and they were able to make it back home before the boat filled up. Please be aware of any suspicious activity going on. Let's do all we can to keep Birch Lake safe!

News from Camp Tannadoonah

There will be an all-camp serenade down the Cove road Wednesday evening, July 26, weather permitting.

We are expecting a full camp for the week of July 23 - July 29 but there are still openings for the 6th week, July 30 - August 5. Call camp for more information (476-2177).

-Janie Stephenson

News from the South Side

The South Bend Dolphin Gold Group Swim Team visited the Mannors' for a fun-filled day of swimming, boating and tubing during the first week of July. They had so much fun they want to make it an annual event

-Virginia Manor



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

FIRST: *Magical Moments*

*Reflections of a past Birch Barker editor and the response of a woodpecker who was attracted to the sound of her typewriter keys as she sat in her east shore front yard.
He answered her with his pecky-peck-peck - what did he think she was saying?*

THE BIRD THAT IS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING says the man
from the north shore as he leaves the stress of the day in its song.

PRETTY PURPLE FLOWER. PRETTY UGLY BEHAVIOR.

As destructive as it is attractive, the shoulder high weed with the distinctive vivid flower has frustrated wildlife workers for years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service has dubbed it *Public Enemy #1*. *Loosestrife* is on the *Environmentalists' hit list*.

The seeds are believed to have made it to the U.S. in the 1800's via ship ballasts dumped into New York harbor and in imported wool. Helped along by inland waterways, *loosestrife* spread to ponds, marshes, river banks. It was an easy invasion. *Loosestrife* left its natural predators back in Europe. The plant can produce millions of seeds per plant. *Loosestrife* is among the 12 most wanted "alien species" putting it in the company with *zebra mussels* and *brown snakes*.

From MLSA Michigan Riparian

Purple loosestrife is a native of Europe and Asia which has spread throughout much of United States and Canada. As often occurs with *exotic species*, the plant has no natural enemies. Sometimes referred to as "*purple plague*," it is a *serious problem*. Because the flower is so attractive, *purple loosestrife* has been sold as an ornamental plant. Recently, many states including MICHIGAN have BANNED its SALE.

From Sea Grant, Michigan State University

SALE OF PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE PROHIBITED IN MICHIGAN

House Bill #4774 was introduced by Representative James Middaugh on May 5, 1995 and was signed by Governor Engler on October 24, 1995. It became Act #182 Public Acts 1995. The Act amended

"THE INSECT PEST AND PLANT DISEASE ACT:

Act #189 Public Acts of 1931, and became effective on March 28, 1996.

House Bill #4474 would create an act to regulate the planting, cultivation, sale, offering for sale, distribution and transportation of certain non-native plants and to specify penalties for selling *purple loosestrife*.

Act 182 Provisions (Section 16a; paragraph 2, & 4)

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, in this state, a person shall not sell, offer to sell, or distribute seed from *purple loosestrife*.

(4) As of January 1, 1997, retail sales of *purple loosestrife* are not allowed in this state except for cultivars developed and recognized to be sterile and approved by the director of the department of agriculture.

From MLSA Michigan Riparian

Don Winne, Executive Director MLSA, CEO of Michigan Riparian, once again has provided information for the good of Birch Lake. Sue Wagner told me she heard him talk about *purple loosestrife*. He is an *inspirational speaker*. Sue volunteered to assist our water quality committee with 1) Identification 2) Bagging to prevent seeds from dropping to the water and/or ground before the plant (weed) is dug out!!

Purple Loosestrife has been found and removed from locations at Birch Lake at the request of the water quality committee. We need to keep looking for the spikes of *pinkish-purple flowers*. It blooms and blooms and blooms from June to September. It grows in the shallow part of lake water and moist soils: in a ditch, a pond, a marsh. If you find this weed at Birch Lake, please let us know so that we can identify, bag, dig. Together, we can control the spread of the "purple plague."

g.temple

Third-day wind leads to exciting racing

After the high winds on Friday and Saturday I was convinced the lake would be calm as a duck pond for Sunday's races – but behold, there was an unprecedented third day of strong gusty wind. Conditions were also unusual in that the wind came from the northwest. This permitted a course with the tacking legs along the lake's longest axis, from DeCocker's to Tannadoonah. The third mark was on the mid-South side. The winds at the "top" mark at Tannadoonah were shifty in the extreme.

The MC matches were clearly hard fought and well matched, as the results show almost a random pattern of finishing places. Where are the rest of the MCs? Harold Cranmer and Don Harman had to go to Diamond Lake recently to find some competition.

In the Sunfish races a new generation was in evidence as Calvin King and Neil Troeger crewed and served as tacticians for their dads. The second Sunfish race featured a dramatic come-from-behind win, as Dave Olson correctly gambled on a mid-lake wind shift to shoot in ahead of the other boats which were climbing up the East shore. (Pretty good for a Wabash man, Dave.)

Steve and Julie Plaia and boys ran the committee boat in glorious sunshine and sparkling waves.

*-Scott Troeger,
Fleet Captain*

The results of the July 16, races and the Season standings are:

MC's	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Harold Cranmer	3	1	1557.92	
Don Harman	1	2	1527.23	
Rick Harman	2	3	1521.66	

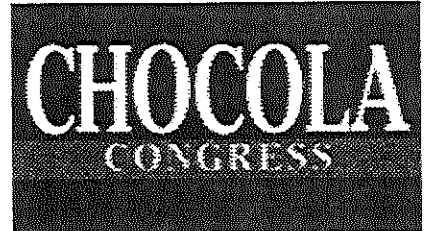
Sunfish	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Tom Howard	2	5	1527.46	
Bob King crew				
Calvin King	3	3	1503.69	
Scott Troeger crew				
Neil Troeger	1	2	1483.86	
Jim Bolinger	5	4	1404.07	
Dave Olson	4	1	1395.33	
Rick Russwurm	6	6	1276.63	

Next Races: Sunday, July 23, 2000 at 11 a.m. (12 Michigan).

SAILING NEWS

RegattaKidz 2000

Regatta for "Kids" of all ages. Saturday, August 5, 2000 at 2 p.m. (Indiana time) 3 p.m. (Michigan time). (Rain Date Sunday, August 6, 2000 same time.) Meet at Harmans' on the East side around 1:00 (Indiana time) for refreshments. Any kind of sail powered craft is welcome. If you'd like to borrow a boat, call Don Harman (476-2039) or Scott Troeger (476-9898). Participation and refreshments (and we're working on getting hats) are all free.



Chris Chocola lives, works, and is raising his family in the Third District of Indiana. When he's elected, he won't move to Washington, because his home is in the Third District of Indiana. He's pledged to serve no more than ten years in Congress - he's not going to become one of those people who forgets where he's from and who elected him.

To find out more about our campaign, please visit our web site at: www.chocola2000.com

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2 lb. \$14.95
Sat - Steak Sizzler
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or - Prime Rib with Salad Bar



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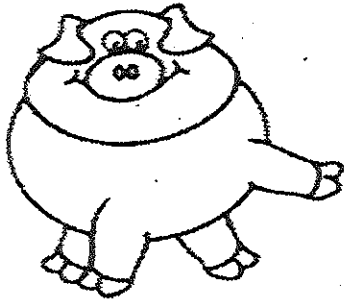
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Put the correct number in each square.

Horizontal squares should add up to totals on right.

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Diagonal squares through center dot should add up to the total in upper and lower right-hand corners.

(More than one answer is possible.)



ANSWERS

91	41	6	13	5
51	7	4	3	1
6	2	2	3	2
13	4	2	6	1
4	1	1	1	1
7				

				7
		1		4
	6			13
2		●		9
			7	15
5	13	9	14	16

SECRET MESSAGE

26=A	21=F	17=J	13=N	9=R	5=V
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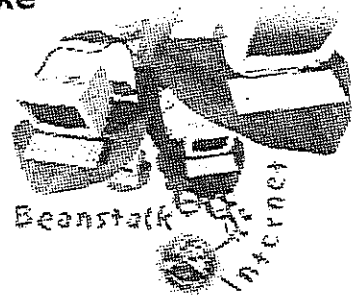
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Camp Tannadoonah

For me, the lake and Camp Tannadoonah have always flowed into each other to form one beautiful picture. As cousins or sisters or long term friends, who need each other's company to remain healthy and whole, the mylar-tinted water and the peaceful, woody retreat are joined symbiotically.

There's no doubt that the lake sits at the center of things. It's the reason we're all here, but the camp is an important, almost necessary part of why we fell in love with this place. If we all woke up one morning and found a development of trailers or campers or manufactured homes where Tannadoonah used to be, we would know that we'd lost something precious, and that lake life at Birch would never be the same.

I first came here in 1962. My soon-to-be in-laws had a wonderful little cottage called Add-A-Bit that sat under a hillside-generated wall of trees on the west bank of the Cove, and during my first visit, Shirley

Anne's dad (and one of my personal heroes), Starr Wentworth, walked me out onto his pier to see the lake.

"What's that?" I asked, pointing across to a mountainous expanse of green laid out in glorious display on the opposite shore.

"That's Tannadoonah," he said. "A kid's camp the Campfire people operate. We're all lucky to have it as a neighbor."

He was right, of course. We are lucky, and so are the children who come to camp each year, some of them eager, some a little uneasy, all of them about to experience life in a way they can never find at home or in any other aspect of urban or even rural living.

Over the years, the camp fell on hard times. Too few campers and too many bills. If it had not been for the foresight and the hard work of a double handful of Birch Lakers, the enterprise might well have failed. But thanks to them, and to

Campfire, things are looking up a bit, and there's a chance now to expand and enhance the facilities and to draw in a new generation of camp-goers for an experience they can carry through their lives like Hemingway's "moveable feast."

We've set a goal at our house. Every year we want to find some way to help Tannadoonah grow and develop. Money is a lot of what's needed, and every dollar helps, but many people give their time, or encourage children they know to consider a week at Tannadoonah.

The camp can be so much and do so much for so many people, and the more we can help to improve its facilities, the more popular and prosperous the place will become. We all win simply by having Tannadoonah for a neighbor; others will win if we help to ensure that our neighbor stays beautiful and healthy.

-Jim Blue, East side

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From the Birch Lake Archives...

-Compiled by Sandy Krcmar

Lake Notes are compiled from past issues of the Birch Barker. The following was written by Helen Weesner (E121) and appeared in the Aug. 20, 1994 Barker.

In 1926 my parents, Chester & Louise Hemminger, bought a lot on Birch Lake and built a small week-end cottage, which is now the summer home of my sister, Thelma and her husband, Leo Koontz (E116).

This was the beginning of many happy and wonderful years for our parents, Thelma and me.

Our early memories of watching Birch Lake grow from just a very few unoccupied cottages and one farm to the successful recreational area it is today has been a very, very special experience which we will always cherish.

I will attempt to recreate what I remember of this beautiful place from 1926 until now.

Traveling to the Lake from Elkhart, Ind. in our Oakland Touring car, we would pass thru, as we do today, Williamsville.

The grocery store (that still stands today) was open and stocked well with staples, homegrown vegetables, penny candy, etc. It was owned by a Mr. & Mrs. Jones, and they lived in the house now owned by the Fergusons (S101). Later they sold the store to Lanky and Lavon Breece, who many of us here knew and liked so well.

There was a very old wooden building on the curve which was right out of the "Old West" era. We were told by the old-timers that this building had been a stage coach stop in the late 19th century. I wanted very much to believe this story, but I have never been able to figure out where the stage would be coming from, nor where it would be heading, but as we passed the old building it was fun to imagine the horses, with their stagecoach passengers, resting from a long, weary trip.

Standing at the bottom of the hill on the south side of the Lake, where the Powell cottage (S100) is today, was an icehouse. It was built to store ice cut from Birch Lake, and then sold to area farmers for their iceboxes. Later on, when enough people warranted it, they delivered the ice to us here at the Lake. One of our delivery "boys" was Ed Lowe the "Kitty Litter" entrepreneur!! From one summer to the next, the icehouse disappeared and only recently have I learned (from Louise Rieth) that it was moved across the ice that winter and became part of what is now Louise and Bud Rieth's lovely home in the Cove (W301).

The Ron and Linda (Larson) Witchie (E106) home was a two-story, tenant farmhouse that had been moved—or rather rolled down the hill on wheels from the Henry Sears farm, now the Lyle Manning farm. This elder Henry Sears was Linda's great, great grandfather and he with his 15-year-old bride came to this area and started "house-keeping" on 300 acres. An important part of this acreage started at the bottom of Birch Rd. on the southeast side and ended with the Clem & Annie Haines' property (E124). The road ran right along the Lake in front of the newly plotted properties. Henry Sears traded

what is now the boat landing in exchange for the County changing the road to where it exists today.

Genevive (Parker) Lagoni's home (E117) had also been moved down to the Lake—it had been the summer kitchen of the Henry Sears farm. Gen's mother and father, Edith (Sears) Parker and Wallace Parker resided there for many years loving Birch Lake just as Genevive and Pat Lagoni did. These two cottages were unoccupied the first year or two we were here.

Genevive, as her mother before her, gave us permission to walk in their woods (behind us) anytime we wanted to. It was beautiful and we loved going up there—our dog loved it even more but once as she was chased some little animal she got caught inside a fallen tree trunk where she chased the critter. Thelma ran for Dad while I stayed by the tree—he brought a saw and we were panic stricken thinking he would saw our beloved best friend in half! Happy ending—she managed somehow to free herself and crawled out unscathed.

My father and sister found several arrowheads made of stone by the Potawatomi Indians, who occupied this area prior to any of us. I still have these arrowheads along with a basket made by the Indians. This basket was received in a trade for chickens and some eggs by Leola Kollar's mother, who lived in Jones many years ago.

Ora and Leola Kollar were long time residents of Birch Lake. In 1927 they built and lived in the home that was eventually next door to Bernie and me. It is now owned by Sue and Duffy Dufour (E120).

In the 1930's Jean and Harry Deman built a log cabin that is now the Gableman cottage (E122), behind our home. On many a hot summer day Jean and I would sit on the pier watching our six children swim together. As we watched, we figured if we only counted four heads, everything was ok because at least two of them were always under water!

On the hill facing what is now Kinsey St. was a very old log cabin standing all alone in a field. The doors and windows were gone and the cabin was empty except for an old hand-made cradle. Thelma and I would venture there to play and would fantasize about the people who once lived there so many years ago.

Clem and Annie Haines' (E124) home (also built in the 1930's) is the last house in Birch Shores subdivision. Moving north beyond Birch Shores there were no cottages until the Ruehl Harvey house, now belonging to Kenneth Bernaciak (E157). The Harveys were very early settlers in this area.

The farmhouse and barn we know today as the Terry and Linda Curtis place (E182) was unoccupied when we first came here but later was up for sale for \$4,500. (What a deal!!) It didn't sell for quite a while but eventually, the Howard Andersons bought it and they had many a great party in that beautiful barn! On the last property along the East side of the Lake (at the very north end) stood a large old house with a few small cottages across the road. This was called Lazy Lodge. In 1943 Wanda Winiarski and her husband, Peter, bought the property

(E200) and in 1947 made this their permanent home. In 1926 there was also a large pavilion on this property. We were told by the "old-timers" that much earlier it was used to hold puppet shows, square and round dancing, etc.

Sometime after Winiarskis moved year-round to the Lake, Wanda opened a little restaurant and served the best hamburgers, hot dogs, malted milks and milk shakes. She also sold candy, bubble gum, etc. What a popular place that was!! Fishermen, all the children on the Lake and many of the adults loved it. Later Peter and Wanda tore down the older house and built the nice brick home she lives in today.

On the North side of the Lake there was just one old abandoned house and, like the log cabin in the field, it held great fascination for us. With its doors open and a few broken windows, the house invited us to come in. In the kitchen the table was still set with dirty dishes. It appeared that someone had eaten a meal and left, never to return again. It was its mystery which was so fascinating to two young girls.

Thelma and I walked around the Lake often and we would also row across the Lake to the channel and then pole our way over to the millpond, row over to the road and walk to Lanky's store in "Billysville" to buy candy. It was really beautiful and fun for us but no doubt it would be real boring for the kids today!

Woodland Cove had been deeded to the County and was the nesting place for our herons. It was also a place that many tent-campers would come and spend a weekend or a week. Later, relatives of the original owners took the County to court to seek possession of this property and won as the County had never made any improvements or had never kept it up. The new owners then subdivided and sold lots.

I do not remember any cottages on the West side of the Lake, perhaps someone on that side could give us more information about that area.

There were several small, unoccupied cottages on the South side in 1926 and there was also a substantial marsh area that was un-buildable until a farmer living on Sears Rd., behind this property, eventually filled it all in, subdivided and sold lots.

As I sit here dreaming of yesteryear (soft music) and all the wonderful times my parents, my sis and I had way back then my dreams move forward a few years to 1944 when Bernie and I had a very small real-estate office moved to the Lake from the corner of Ewing and Michigan Avenues in South Bend. Lance was five and Lynn two years old. Leslie Ann was born five years later. We all shared so much happiness in that little, easy-to-care-for cottage but over time that cottage grew and grew with more rooms, sliding glass doors and lots of windows.

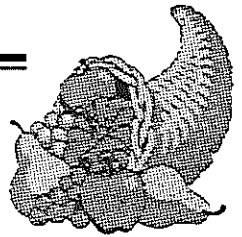
Good heavens! I have just come back to reality, as I look around there are windows to wash, rooms to clean and those pesky spiders to be "blasted" off the siding outside and I'm sure not getting any younger!! Right now, that small cottage sounds just great to me!

Thanks for listening,

Helen



Best of Beck's Bistro



Antipasto pasta salad

- 1/3 cup White Wine Vinegar
- 1/2 tsp Garlic, minced
- 1-1/2 Tlbs Basil, fresh, chopped
- 1 cup olive oil

1/2 pound Penne or Radiatore pasta
 1/4 cup Black olives sliced
 2 oz Pepperoni, sliced, cut into strips
 1 large Tomato, diced
 1/3 cup Roasted red bell peppers, peeled and diced
 1/2 cup Parmesan
 Add the vinegar and garlic to a food processor bowl. With the processor running, slowly drizzle in the oil. Turn machine off. Add the basil and pulse until just mixed. Cook the pasta, drain,

and rinse with cold water. In a large bowl, toss the pasta, dressing, olives, pepperoni, tomatoes, and peppers. Chill for at least 1 hour. Garnish with the cheese. Serve cold.

Tequila Sour

- 2 oz Tequila
- 1/2 oz lemon juice
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1/2 slice lemon
- 1 Maraschino cherry

Shake Tequila, lemon juice, and sugar well with ice. Strain into prechilled whiskey sour glass. Add lemon slice and cherry.

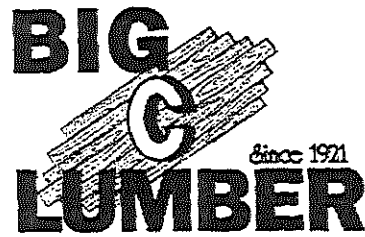


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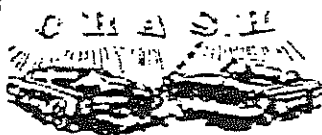
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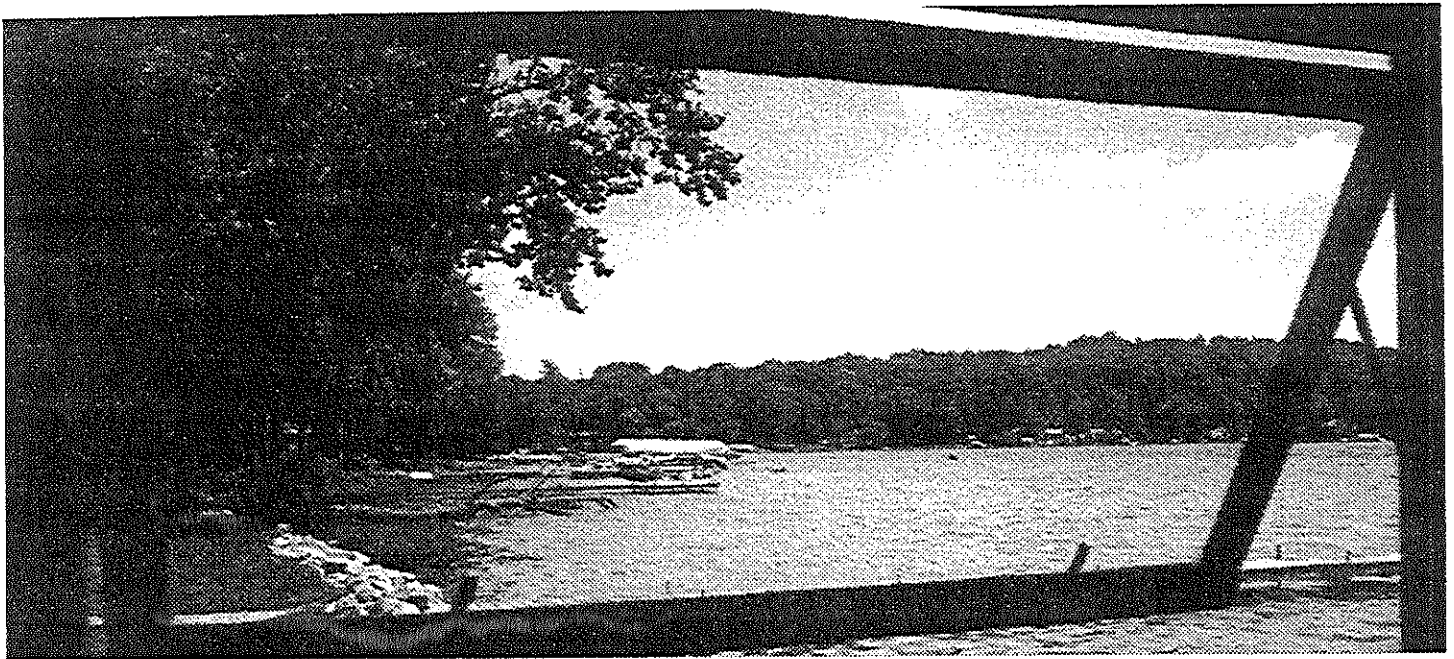
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Jet Ski - 1997 Sea Doo XP, trailer, shore station, 2 life jackets, cover, excellent condition. Jim Calderwood 616 471-2102 or 616 921-0710.

LOST

Lost along Birch Road on Sunday, July 2, O'Neil shorty wetsuit; black with green. Please call Trevor Jones at 476-2226 or 219-277-4164

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Commodore needed for 2001 — 50% off. Contact Bob King at blicking@aol.com

FOUND

'02 Boat registration numbers on a piece of wood found July 5 in the lake at Lorene Kreuger's West-side home. Registration number MC8245KM. Call 476-9905 or stop by 62967 Birch Lakeview Dr.

BLYC NOTES

Many members of the board felt that the residents who have not sent dues are just tardy. I thought some might have never intended to send them at all (& hope to convince you to help). Many dues were received by Holly over the last couple of weeks. Please continue to prove me wrong. -BK, C2k

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Birch Lake Yacht Club Lending Library for members (and associate members) is open from 1-2 pm Saturdays.

A limited number of 1999 Birch Lake Directories are still available for sale; \$2 each (just like last year). There will be no 2000 or 2001 Directory published so get 'em while they last.

Men's Golf Outing still accepting entries; contact John Ball Junior (see note on front page of today's Birch Barker)!

Women's Golf Outing and/or Luncheon, Friday, August 4. Golf at Diamond Lake Golf Club; Lunch at Lindy's. Contact Mandy Miller with information and checks.



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Bold type = member & fireworks donation. Done on a best effort basis... contact editor for corrections

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