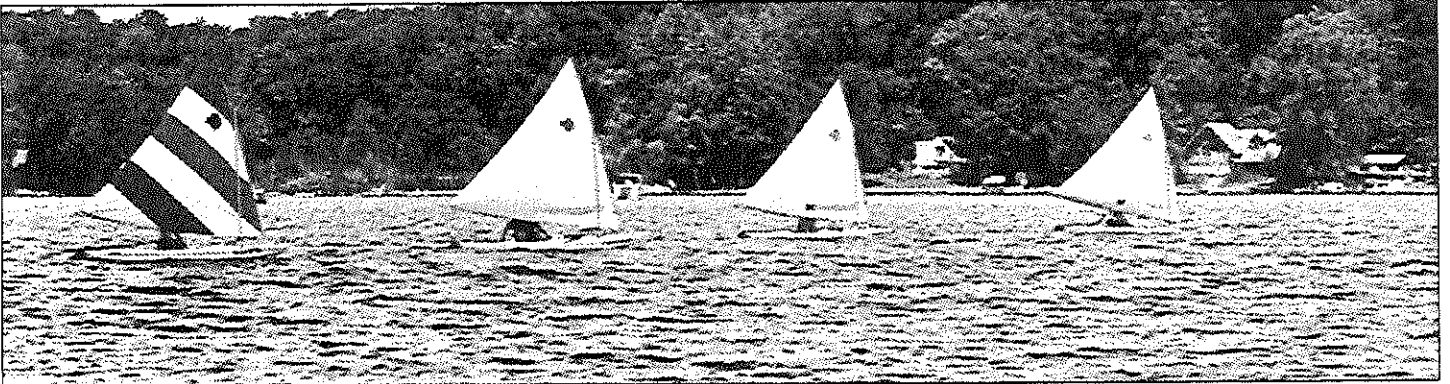


BIRCH BARKER

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Ten, July 29, 2000



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Your Board met last Saturday morning tackling various issues. A few of the items discussed were:

■ There is still ample "no phosphorous" lawn fertilizer available – contact Bob Temple, Rick Russwurm or Dan Reynolds.

■ The zebra mussel program is in progress, please continue to remove and destroy any adults you find.

■ Members of the Homeowners Association continue to attend numerous governmental meetings to protect your interest – remember to attend the Homeowners Association Meeting (which follows the August Board meeting — see below).

■ We have long supported the Cass County Marine Division – a donation of our support was approved. On that note, you might have noticed flags at half-mast last weekend in tribute to Shane Britton, a Cass. County Deputy who died on the job while answering a call. Our collective regrets are extended to the family and to the Sheriffs Department for their loss.

■ We are the beneficiaries of a magnanimous offer by Terry Keim, President of Keim Construction. Wife Pat and I

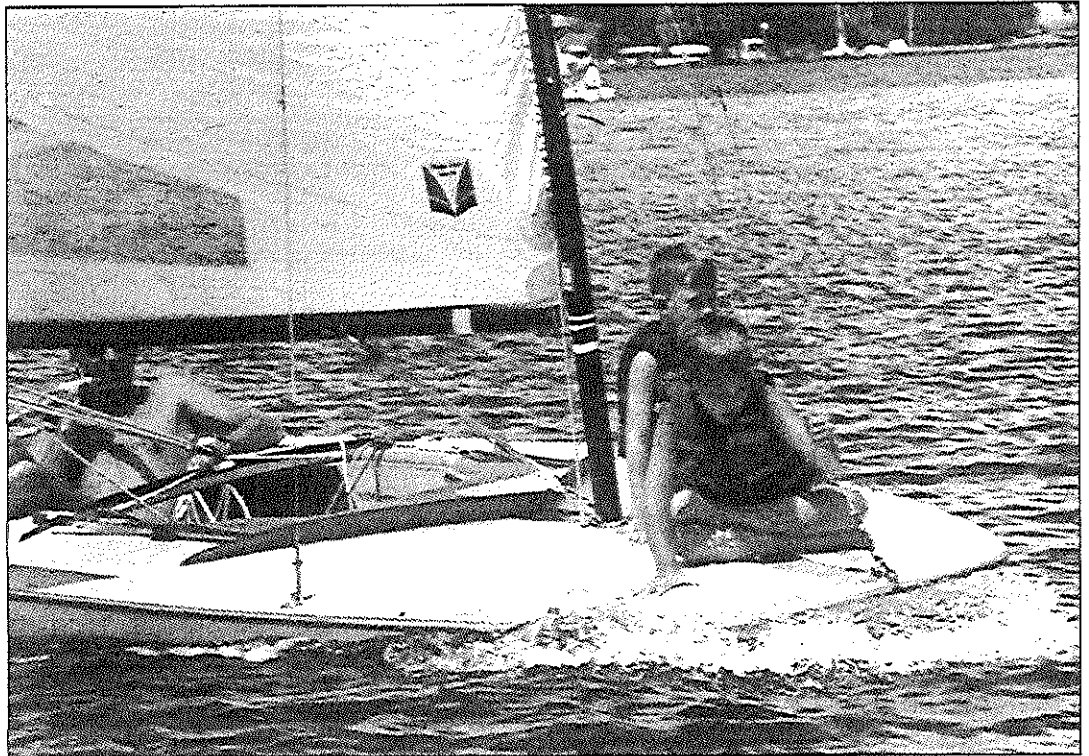


Image supplied by Jim Beck

exchanged emails when Terry offered to repair the damaged Club roof. In passing I noted that the entire roof looked to need help, and Terry is going to donate labor to re-roof the whole darned thing! This will draw down the Building Fund to purchase materials, but the Board accepted with thanks. On Terry's advice we will de-roof (ugh) and then re-roof — dates of this noisy venture TBA .

The Kidz car-wash fundrais-

er was good fun — raising over \$50 in the process. The money donated will be used to help fund Kidz events remaining this summer. Our apologies for causing the rain mid-day. It was rumored to have begun to sprinkle within moments of the Spratt arrival. Stewart therefore shares the blame — send all weather related complaints to him.

The 40th Annual Birch Lake Open was Friday; apologies to

any on the South shore who were disturbed. In that regard, if everyone could hold off on loud stuff through Saturday morning it will be appreciated by all who golfed. Mark your calendars for the balance of the summer with reminders printed below.

See you on the water,

-Bob King, CzK

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

If you plan to attend the Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing &/or Luncheon, send reservation & check to Mardy Miller, 63255 Storey Hill, Vandalia, MI, 49095.

Calendar beginning July 29*

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 - Ladies' Tea; \$5

8/19 - 9 am - Board Meeting

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

8/26 - TBA - Fall Dinner

9/2 - 11 am - Labor Day Regatta

9/3 - 1 pm - Labor Day Regatta

9/4 - 10 am - Sailing Trophies

9/16 - 9 am - Board Meeting

9/16 - 10 - Noon - Club Shutdown

*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

House Walk

Be sure and mark your calendar for Sunday, Aug. 13 from 1 to 4 pm for our Birch Lake Housewalk. The cost will be \$5 (\$1.25 per house — such a deal!). Tickets will be sold at the Corn & Sausage Roast, and at the door of each home on the tour. We encourage you to buy your tickets ahead of time to avoid waiting in line at the door of the homes.

We will have “water taxis” available to take you to the homes. Look for the boats with balloons! A boat should be around every 10 minutes. Hopefully, this may help with parking.

If you have any questions, please call Denny Weesner, 476-2569.

Thieves strike again

Two rowboats belonging to Camp Tannadoonah and used for the children’s Rowing Classes were stolen sometime Friday night/Saturday morning from the camp pier. The theft was reported to Marine Deputy Dan Covey. A couple of phone calls were made, and we have secured the loan of two boats to replace the stolen ones for the two remaining weeks of camp. If you have a good solid row boat and oars that you never use anymore, you might consider making a tax-deductible donation of the boat to Camp Tannadoonah so they can continue their rowing classes next season.

There has been a rash of thievery around the lake lately, with a fishing motor stolen in the cove and a battery stolen from a pontoon. It might get to the point where we need to leave our outside lights on overnight. Unfortunately, we have non-resident boats going and coming at all hours at the public landing and we have to assume that this is where the problem lies.

Birch Lake Housewalk — Home No. 3



Sheryl Papandria’s transitional 2,000 sq. ft. home was constructed in 1992. The decor features an eclectic mix of old and new. The main level includes a two-story sunken family room with a fireplace, kitchen and eating area, with doors leading to a screened porch and spacious deck.

The two-story master bedroom also has a fireplace and deck access to a hot tub. The master bath holds a whirlpool tub and large steam shower.

The upstairs has two bedrooms, full bath and a sitting area that overlooks the lake and family room.

Two years ago the lower level was finished to include an office/exercise room and a home-entertainment area.

Last winter the upper level in the garage across the street from this home was finished to accommodate Sheryl’s interior design business.

Again, if you have a boat to contribute to camp, please call Bruce Harlan, 476-9714, and I will arrange pickup and the tax-

deduction paperwork.

-Bruce Harlan



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Birch Lake Notes

News from Camp Tannadoonah

We have just completed our first full week in several years — 112 campers !!! One week remains in our resident camping season and there are still a few openings. The lakefront candlelighting ceremony will be Friday, August 4, around 8:30 pm Indiana time.

-Janie Stephenson



News from the cove (and outlying areas)

By Sunny Waters

Voted most likely to accept a Snicker bar from a complete stranger

It was life in the fast lane for the Lyzens this past week. Every five years, or as needed, Bill and Rita shop for new toothbrushes. A group of Cove dwellers, eager for excitement, gathered at the Cassopolis Rite-Aid to witness the event. Tension mounted as decision neared. Finally, Bill chose a midnight blue brush with special bristles that indicate when five years are up, and Rita came happily away with a periodontal pink number. Enjoy, kids.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Next week's NFTC will feature an interview with our brand new Cove neighbors (hope they know what they've gotten themselves into).

The Blackwoods are behaving relatively well.

In the entire gargantuan state of Texas there is only one natural lake. The other man-made quagmires make the rolling St. Joe look crystalline. Our daughter Ann, her husband Scott and their three children make the long pilgrimage from Dallas to enjoy the emerald water of our priceless treasure. I'll say no more because no one really gives a hoot or wants to hear about how intelligent and adorable one's grandchildren are (which of course, are ours).

A WORD OF CAUTION:

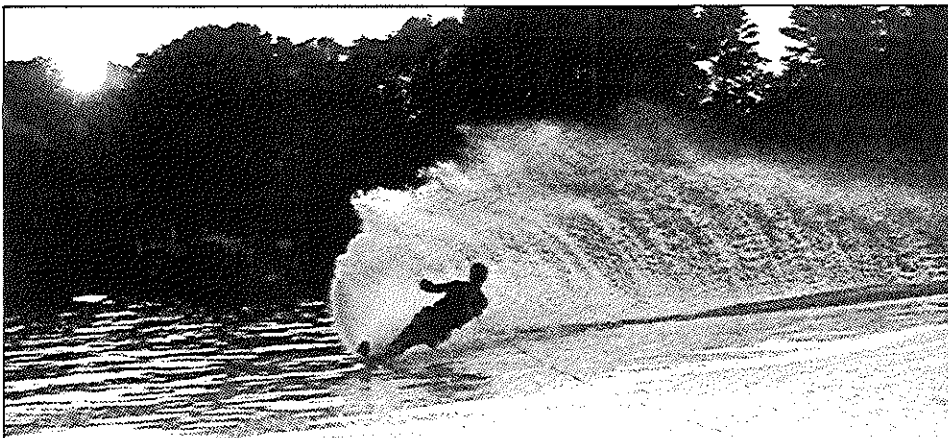
Snapping turtles are strongly attracted to the scent of shampoo and will attack, so NEVER shampoo in the lake

She who brings information and quality into your dreary lives.

— Sunny

O.K., so I lied about the turtles; don't shampoo in the lake, anyway!

Images supplied by Steve Cranmer



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Birch Lake Notes



Scenes from the Jimmy Buffett Party



Jimmy would'a been proud!



- all photos courtesy of Jim & Sally Beck



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

FIRST: Magical Moments

*Sunny Waters is her name
 She has fortune, she has fame
 Pulitzer prize winner for the "cove column" she writes
 Hoisted flags atop Mt. Everest heights
 But when it comes to connoisseur of noxious odor past the nose
 Your ever-lovin' protector fails as champion of the rights!*

*She told you that they sprinted. No, they bolted for the door.
 She spilled her gatorade and dropped her popcorn on the floor.
 She said she glanced into my kitchen. No, she stared.
 She said she noticed my cookbook. No, she glared.*

*She said she thought the sprigs of purple loosestrife was garni that lay nearby
 No, they were meant to appetize, to hang around her wrist,
 So that she could munch on seeds and drink a Zebra Mussel Twist,
 Before the soup, salad, entree, zebra, and dessert were added to the list.*

*Laced/linen table cloth, crystal dishes, candelight
 Magical moments were there to share.
 But, Sunny Waters? She didn't care.
 She grabbed B.S. They took flight.
 Within a second, they were out of sight!*

*But, the aroma of beer battered mussel shells lingered in the air
 lingered through the night*

*We sat alone with mussels, alone with our loosestrife
 They were gone - left us forlorn.
 We too cast glances, "Oh well, that's life, we guess,
 life with Sunny Waters, life with her," we sighed,
 "life with her, and her B.S."*

Now a word from your water quality committee about the Birch Lake Watershed:

Surface area of Birch Lake is 296 acres which is surrounded by a 619 acre watershed.
 Volume is 12,743 acre feet.
 Maximum depth is 95 feet.
 Mean depth is 43 feet.
 Shoreline length is 15,800 feet.

Immediate drainage area including the lake is 915 acres. The lake drains to the southwest. Estimated water renewal time is 15.2 years.

Watershed land use: 28% agriculture, 33% urban/residential, 29% forest, 10% other.
 Birch Lake has a steep bottom slope and regular shoreline, very deep, small watershed. Birch Lake is spring fed.

Birch Lake has a marl bottom.

A single sub-area occupies the N.E. portion of the watershed.

Runoff from the 221 acre sub-area enters the lake in the N.E. Bay.

There are no streams to carry large amounts of pollution from other lakes; therefore, pollution comes from negative effects that residents have on the water quality of the lake.

However, this negative effect on Birch Lake's fragile environment can be substantially controlled by proper planning and water quality lake management.

-g.temple

Wind cooperates again for sailboat races

Until half an hour before race time it looked as if the races would have to be scuttled for lack of wind. (Perfect conditions for Dave Green to ski barefoot on his 40th birthday.) The wind filled in from the North just in time and remained long enough for two races.

The course was again unusual: a narrow-based triangle with the start on the mid-South shore, thence to Kiloqua, then to the Outlet, back to mid-South again and finishing at Kiloqua. Four MCs and seven Sunfish competed.

The Troeger family provided the oldest and youngest sailors on the lake. Earl Troeger and his whale boat came out of retirement to join the MCs for the first time this season. His niece, Amy Troeger, fresh from sailing lessons at Camp Tannadoonah with Bruce Harlan, borrowed a neighbor's boat and competed in a Sunfish race. Bob King, fresh from flipping his Hobie cat the day before with son Calvin and friend Neil aboard, managed to hold his Sunfish down for a good showing.

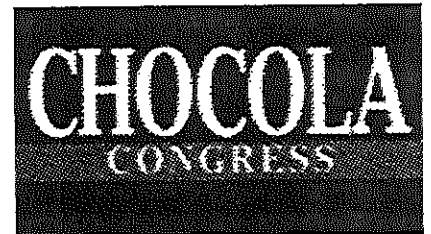
The committee boat was operated by Jim and Sally Beck, with Phil and Sandy Vitale assisting.

-Scott Troeger,
Fleet Captain

Kids Regatta is next weekend

Next weekend is the RegattaKidz, a 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 pm (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:
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Fax: (219) 271-8492
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Web Site: <http://www.chocola2000.com>

Authorized by Chris for Congress, Inc. John Hiler, Chairman.

The results of the July 23, races and the Season standings are:

MC's	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Harold Cranmer	1	2	1558.26	
Don Harman	3	1	1526.53	
Rick Harman	2	3	1511.87	
Earl Troeger	4	4	1369	

Sunfish	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Tom Howard	4	2	1517.76	
Bob King	3	1	1506.13	
Scott Troeger	1	3	1488.35	
Jim Bolinger	2	5	1404.66	
Dave Olson	6	4	1370.75	
Rick Russwurm	5	6	1274.15	
Amy Troeger	7	DNS	1156	

Next Races: Sunday, July 30 at 11 a.m. (12 Michigan).



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2 lb. \$14.95
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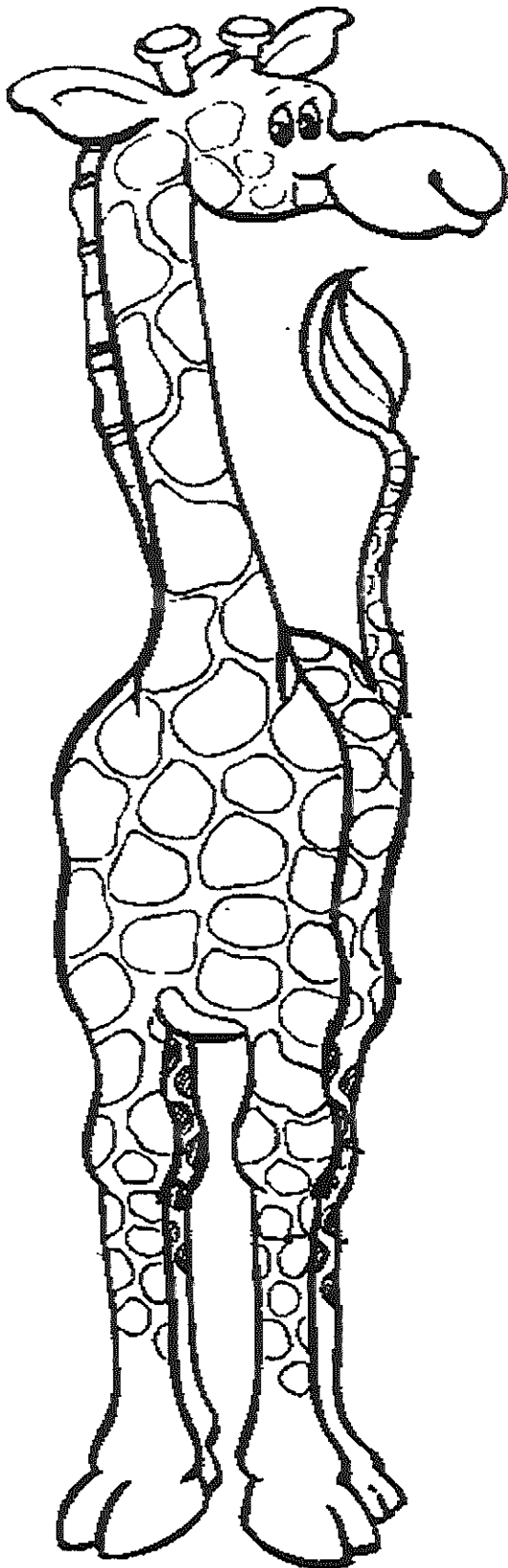
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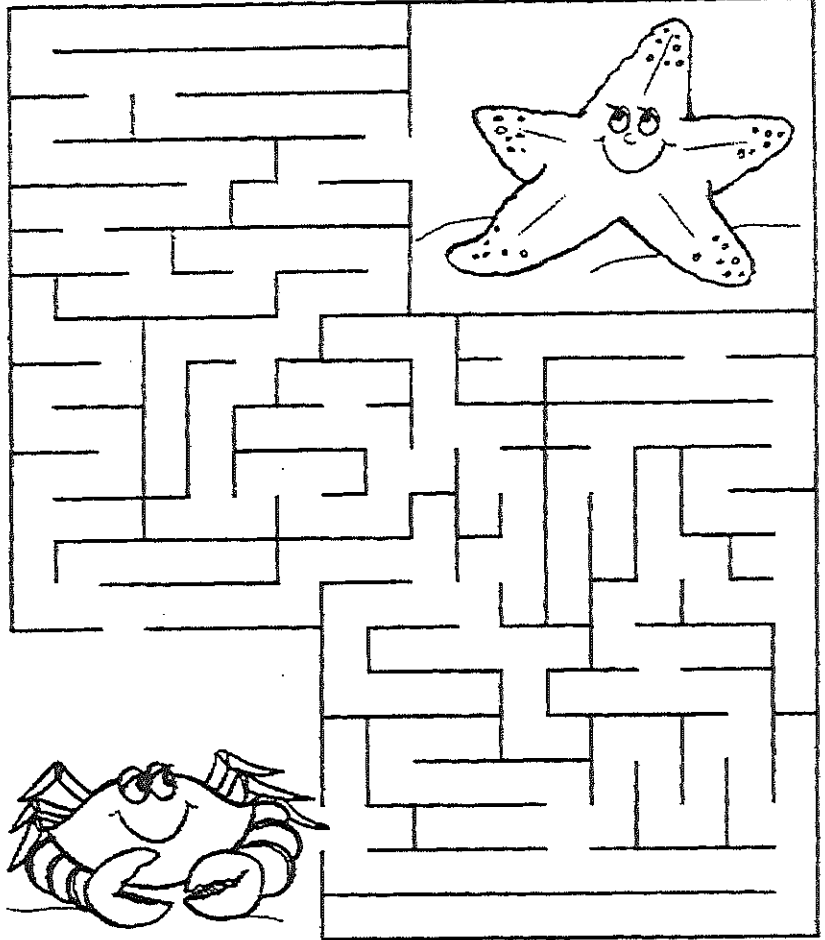
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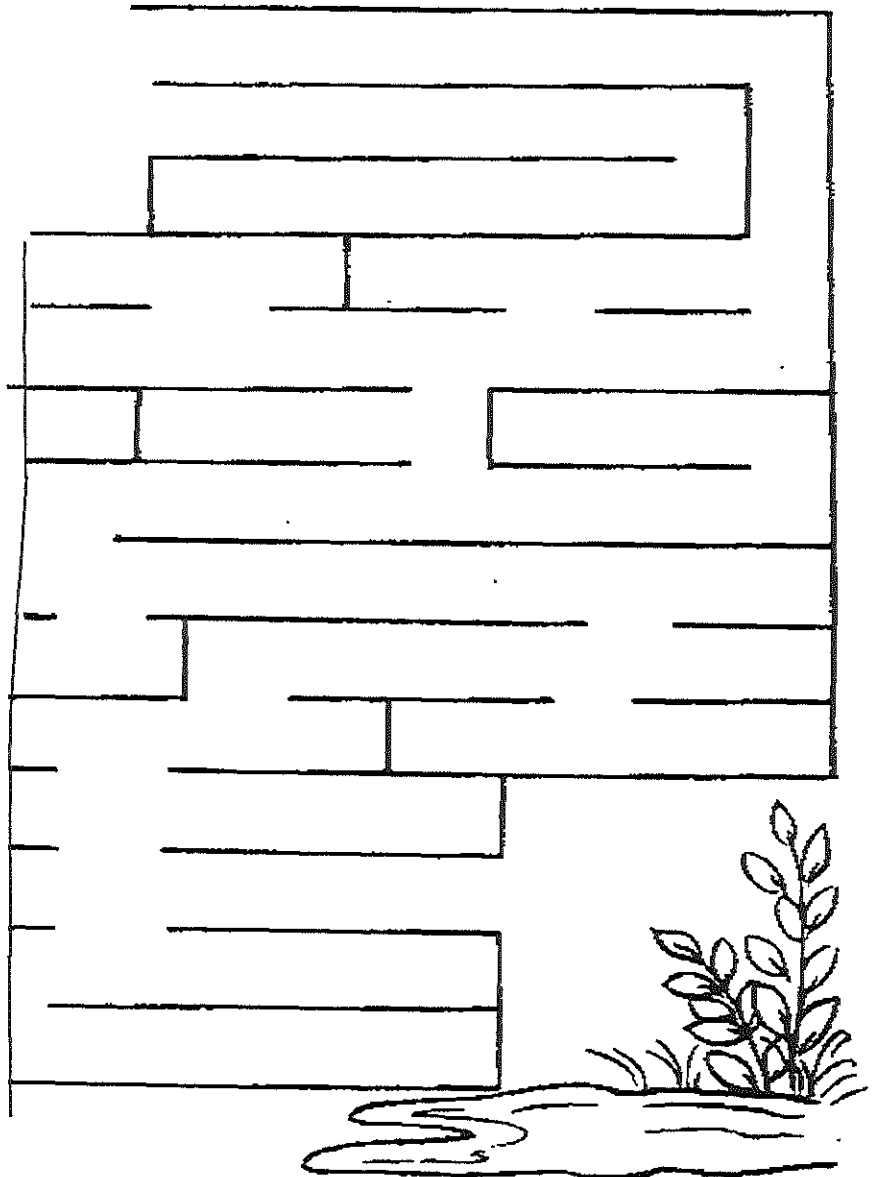
Maze Mania



Help the giraffe find its way to the water



Help the crab find the starfish





Keeping fit with your dog



What is fido's favorite activity?

As soon as our

Fido spots the leash, she gets so excited. I'm sure the excitement in your dog gives you warm and fuzzies, too.

Well guess what? The Cass County Animal Control is looking for volunteers to walk homeless dogs. What a great way to help out our community and our four-legged friends.

Located on M62 north in Cassopolis,

they share the same driveway as the Cass County Sheriff Department. Their office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

Another exciting activity for Fido — on Saturday, August 19, Woof Studios will be at the Cass County Animal Control to take portraits of you and your pet(s). For a \$5 donation, you can have this keepsake of you and as many pets as you have. Call Stephanie at (616) 445-3701 to make an appointment. All

proceeds will stay with the Cass County Animal Control.

No pets, no interest in walking but still want to help out?

Animal Control is always in need of \$\$ and miscellaneous items such as towels, blankets, bleach etc.

Drop offs are sure to bring those same warm and fuzzy feelings!

-Fido's friend

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From the Birch Lake Archives...

-Compiled by Sandy Krchmar

Lake Notes are compiled from past issues of the Birch Barker. The following is from a series of historic pieces, "Gems from Birch Lake," written by Arline Machalleck. It appeared in the June 18, 1988 Barker.

Birch Lake is unique in its population! The early residents were awed by its clear waters, good fishing and beauty. The Indians called it "Medicine Lake" because of the healing powers due to the marl bottom.

Others came to the public beaches to picnic and swim and, captivated by the beauty and quiet, found a place to rent and then eventually buy or build their

own place.

Among these were Leslie and Margaret Jensen who, in the early 1920's, came for cookouts at the Cove Beach, then rented the Eubank cottage on the South side (now the Welsh's home, (S037)) before building their present home on the South side of the lake in August 1946.

Because it was almost impossible to get material after the war, they bought a used prefabricated building and got the well pipes from a burned-out home. Thus the beginning of Cottage #42, later 14918 Birch Lakeshore Drive (S042.)

The Jensens came here from South Bend where Les was a wood pattern

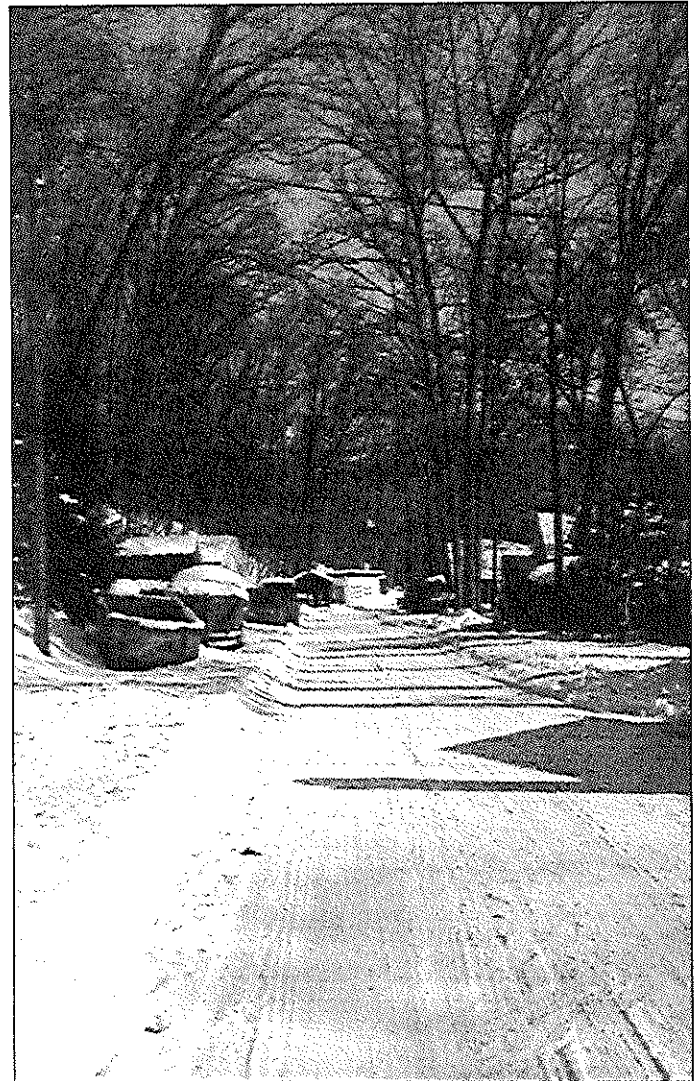
maker in the jobbing industry.

They have one daughter, Kay, who has spent her summers at the cottage every year but one; that summer she was pregnant and was not allowed to fly from their home in California. Married to Bob Greenig and living in Upland, CA... Their daughter Lesley Ann is following her mother's pattern, having spent every one of her 13 birthdays at Birch Lake.

The Jensens, after some remodeling, made the cottage their permanent home in 1976. Summering at Birch Lake, wintering in Upland, CA and married for 62 years, they love both places and feel they have the best of two worlds.

Since we're talking history...

Many Birch Lakers have never had a chance to see what the lakeland area looks like in the less enjoyable months (like February). Believe it or not, folks, Cass County gets a fair share of that white stuff (one should never mention the "S" word in July), as the "historical" photo at the right shows. Steve Cranmer shared this photo he shot a while back — before the leaves were completely filled in on the trees and the fish weren't jumping quite so high.



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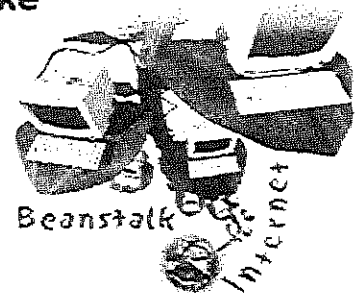
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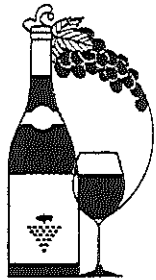
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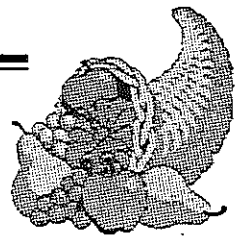
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Flan
serves 6 to 8

- 6 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 4 cups milk
- 3/4 tsp vanilla

Pre-heat the oven to 325. Whisk together the eggs, sugar, and salt. Heat the milk in a saucepan until just steaming. Remove from the heat and slowly whisk in the egg mixture. Whisk in the vanilla. Place the mixture in small individual pyrex or other oven-ready bowls. Place the bowls in a large baking dish and add water to the pan halfway up the sides of he

bowls. Place in oven and bake for 1 to 1-1/2 hours or until the custard is well set. Chill in the refrigerator at least 3 hours. At serving time gently run a butter knife between the outside of the dish and the custard. Invert on a small plate.



Spiced Rum and Cola

- 1 1/2 oz Captain Morgan Spiced Rum
- 3 oz Cola

Pour over ice cubes or crushed ice in a highball glass. Garnish with a lemon wedge.

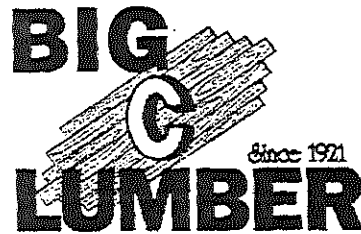


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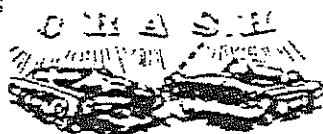
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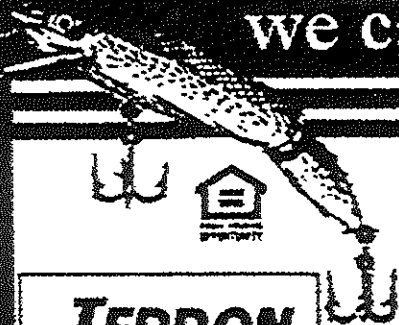
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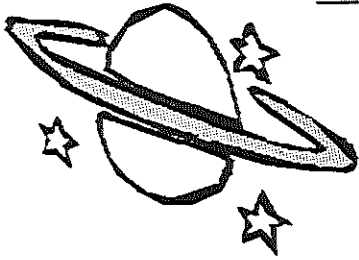
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Stu's Star Stuff*

my got off to a rocky start. His father so objected to his interest that he burned all of his son's astronomy books.

Nevertheless, Wright persevered, and in 1750 he published his book about the Milky Way. In it, he said the galaxy probably was shaped like a ball, with its stars distributed like specks on the ball's surface.

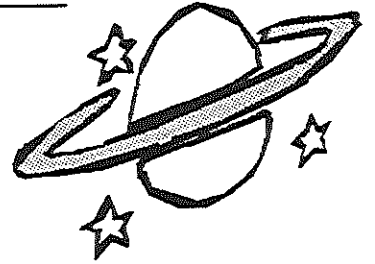
Prussian philosopher Immanuel Kant read a review of Wright's book. The review led him to believe that Wright thought the Milky Way was shaped like a DISK. Five years later, Kant himself published this idea, but he gave credit for it to Wright.

Today, we know that Kant was right, and the Milky Way IS shaped like a disk. When we look into that disk, we see lots of stars — the glowing band of light called the Milky Way. And when we look above or below the disk, that is, east or west when the Milky Way is overhead, we see far

The Milky Way arches high across the eastern sky this evening. This subtle band of light is produced by millions of stars in the flat disk of our Milky Way galaxy. Since we're inside the disk ourselves, we see the galaxy as a band of light across the sky, spanning the lake from north to south.

Astronomers didn't know for sure what the Milky Way looks like until earlier in this century. But a book published 250 years ago accidentally led to the first correct proposal for the galaxy's shape.

The book was written by Englishman, Thomas Wright. Wright's love for astrono-

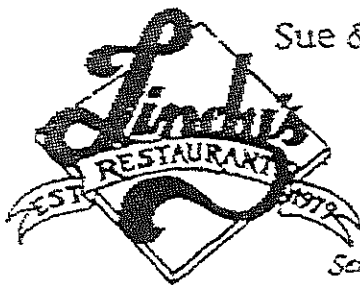


fewer stars, so the sky is darker. Thus, Wright's wrong model for the Milky Way led to the first correct model of our home galaxy.

The Milky Way, when seen from the lake, is far more spectacular than when seen from town. Look for it overhead late in the evening. Enjoy the show. It's free.

-Stewart Spratt

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Although Stewart lives in a Michigan-like time zone so his sense of time is distorted, he is still a decent sort of guy and we tend to believe most of what he says.*



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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.

FOUND

Gray male cat, Persian looking, stubby tail, approx. 2 years old; very friendly. Hanging around Parnells' about 1-1/2 weeks. Call 476-

9317.

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

WANTED

Used Aqua Patio or equivalent. Call 476-2461.

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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HELP WANTED

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

BLYC NOTES

I've tried to be understanding about this but my calculations show that one in four residents still have not paid their dues. You'd think that with all the benefits, everyone would pony up the measly \$20. My thanks to all of you who have paid — we will continue to run the member list as a thank you for your support. -BK, C2k

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Birch Lake Yacht Club Lending Library for members (and associate members) is open from 1-2 pm Saturdays, thanks to Julie Ball Lacy

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.

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 at 63255 Storey Hill, Vandalia, MI, 49095.

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Want to reach all of the Lakelanders with your message? Put your ad info in the Barker Box at the Yacht Club or e-mail to: sailorphil@webcraftarts.com



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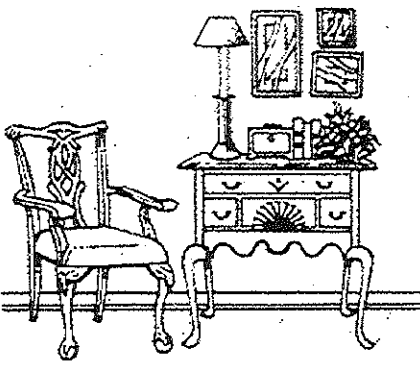
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