

Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Thirteen, August 19, 2000

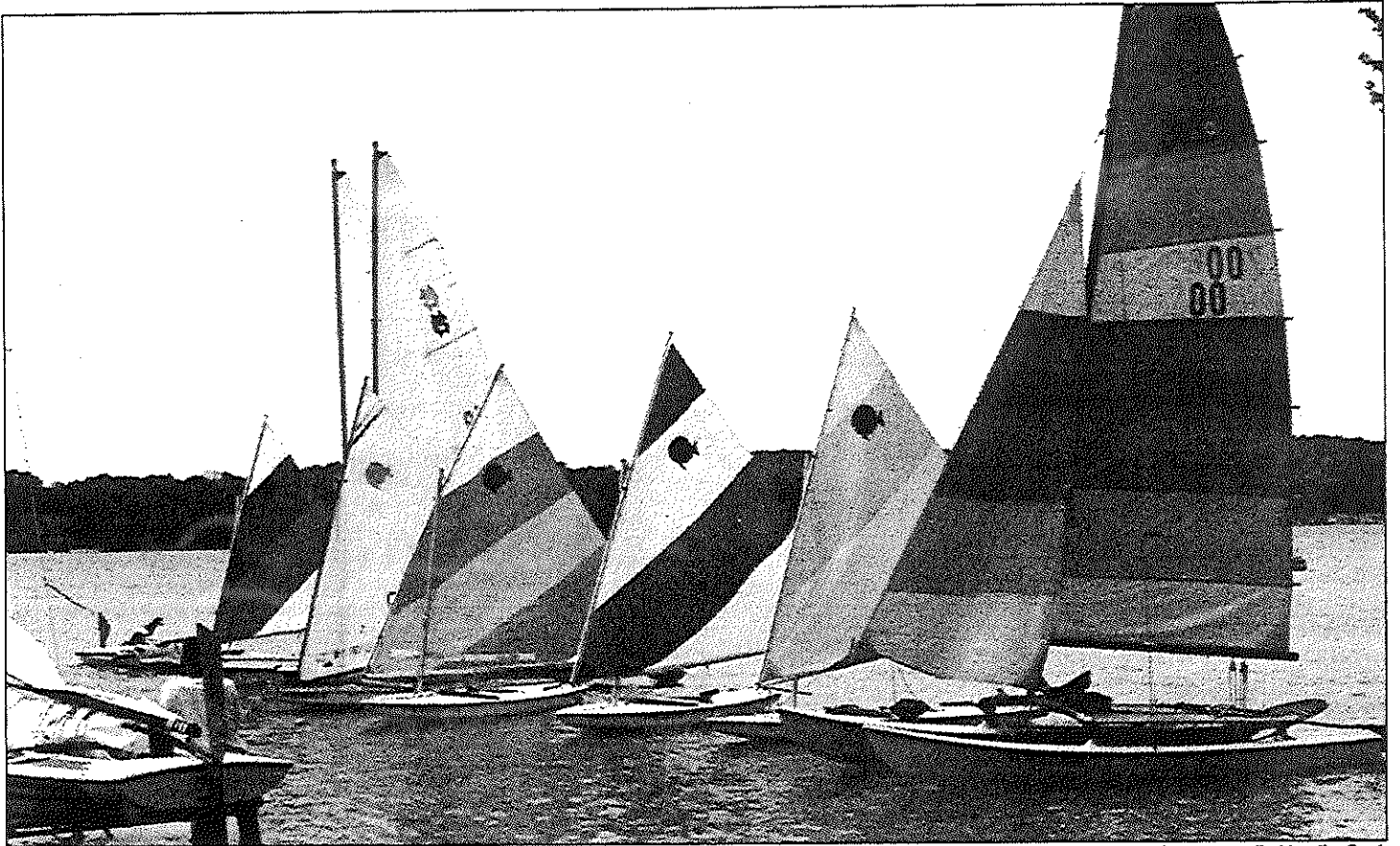


Image supplied by Jim Beck

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Well, another weekend is in our wake. We pretty much operated something throughout the daylight hours beginning with the Kidz Fun Fair. We have a nucleus of about 30 kidz who attended the various functions. I want to thank the parents for their help and special thanks to the kidz for their participation. I hope we will continue to feed these new friendships in years to come. Several Moms have offered to run Junior stuff next year.

The Corn and Sausage Roast organized by John Gableman was another winner, serving hundreds of hungry Lakers. I'll leave it to John to mention the many good people who cooked, collected and served. Thanks to everyone for coming with your party bibs on.

The House Walk was a hit. Denny Weesner resurrected and ran this lovely affair. Thanks go out to the hosts (who labored long in preparation), the ladies who assisted at the homes, and the water-taxi staff that toddled amongst four featured homes. It's my understanding that over 100

people toured the homes (and others just rode the taxis).

Tuesday, Darlene Troyer and friends have hosted a Ladies Tea – at the mansion on the hill. I look forward to hearing about this gathering. If we have no news by press time it will appear in next week's Barker.

As I mention the many annual events, it occurs to me that the task might seem daunting to someone considering being Commodore in 2001. While I won't minimize the involvement of the Commodore, the events are run by a core group. To look astern through Y2k, who ran: the Safety Class? Dan Covey; the Commodore's Cocktail? Les and I; Get Kidz Hooked on Fishing? Tom DeCocker; the fireworks? RKM; the Pancake Breakfast? Don and Lind Harman; the Boat Parade? John Gableman; Buffett Kidz? Les and I; the Buffett Party? Jim and Sally Beck; the Vice Commodore's Cocktail? no one; the Birch Lake Open? John Ball and Jim Beck; the Ladies Golf and Luncheon? Mardy Miller and Betsy Custard; (stop and take a breath if reading aloud) RegattaKidz? Don and Lind Harman; the Fun Fair? Les and I; the Corn and Sausage? John Gableman;

the House Walk? Denny Weesner; the Ladies Tea? Darlene Troyer; the sailing? Don Harman and Harold Cranmer (course), Becks, Plaias and Santes (race committee), Scott Troeger – Fleet Captain; the Barker? advertising, contributing columnists, delivery team and Editor Phil Vitale; the Fall Dinner? Les and I.

The list above is not all inclusive, but mentions those who serve as *event chairs*. I imagine many of these same good people will continue to help next year. I'll also state that there will literally have to be tryouts for Vice Commodore as so many folks indicate they will serve, *just not next year*. At least a half dozen people have said they will do their turn at the helm in years to come (so no one should have to go it alone in future). Having no Vice this year is more than a little sad/ironic. I had hoped to serve as first Commodore of the new millennium, not the last Commodore...

See you on the water,

-Bob King, C2k

2000 FALL DINNER

Conversation hour 5-6 pm
Catered dinner to follow

Seating is limited, so please send or drop off reservations and payments to *Birch Lake Yacht Club* c/o Bob or Leslie King. Dinner is \$10 for adults & \$5 for Kidz. Names (Indicate adult/child):

Note: If you don't want to deface your Barker, a hand-written note attached to your payment is fine. Contact Bob or Les King at 299-0705.

Calendar beginning August 19*

8/19 - 9 am - Board Meeting	9/3 - 1 pm - Labor Day Regatta
8/19 - 10 am - Homeowners Assoc. Mtg.	9/4 - 10 am - Sailing Trophies
8/26 - 5 pm - Fall Dinner	9/16 - 9 am - Board Meeting
9/2 - 11 am - Labor Day Regatta	9/16 - 10 - Noon - Club Shutdown

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

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

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.



Birch Lake Notes

Thanks to Corn & Sausage helpers

The Birch Lake Yacht Club got a lot of help last weekend at the annual Corn & Sausage Roast. Among the helpers were the following:

Inside helpers: Sally Beck, Lynn Peters, Doris and Marty Sante, Sandy Vitale, Sue Wagner, Mike and Katha Machalleck, Dave and Judy Olson and Patti Russwurm.

Cooks: Jim Beck, John Gableman, Rick Doolittle, Buzz Rasmussen, Bernie Garceau, Tim Laurver and Bob Waddle (aka Johnny Fever from WKRP in Cincinnati).

HouseWalk a huge success

Last weekend's Birch Lake HouseWalk organizers have reported that over 100 people toured the four homes that were opened to visitors.

Special thanks to Denny Weesner for organizing the event and for opening her home with the assistance of Suzy King; to Sheryl Papandria and her helpers Cindy Bernaciak, Lynn Peters and Le King; to Shirley Anne Blue and her helper Judy Olson; and to Beverly Kruggel and helper Sandy Krchmar.

We also want to thank water taxi providers Bob and Sue Waddle, Bob and Gertie Temple, Jack and Mardy Miller, and to Dick Bender and Marcia Slack.

And last but not least, thanks to the spouses and significant others in the homes that were opened; we suspect they helped with a little something here and there to help get their homes ready for visitors.

Camp Tannadoonah News

Camp Tannadoonah has an overabundance of firewood. It seems to be stacking up faster than we can use it; therefore, we are offering to sell some of the wood at a very reasonable price to our friends on the lake. The wood is

News from the Cove (and outlying areas)

By Sunny Waters

The sunniest pond dweller we know

Due to a surfeit of activities and a shortage of time, this week's NFTC will be brief. Please try hard to cope, and I will compensate for your angst in the next issue.

Happy Birthday, dear Loretta Drolet and Miss Vicki.

Message to Marc Golden: Love and chicken soup from all of us. You are sorely missed, and we'd appreciate it if you would hie yourself up to the healing water of Birch Lake.

Recommended reading: *The Color of Light* by William Goldman, available at Cass District Library after I return it on Aug. 25. This gifted author could write the

minutes of a PTA (or do you say PTO?) meeting and keep readers enthralled

For those of you who chucked the DiGiorno last Saturday and bellied up to the trough at the Corn & Sausage Roast, I hope you informed the money taker that Sunny sent you so I can collect my 3 percent commission. Getting pretty doesn't come cheap, you know.

Try to ignore those autumnal looking leaves that insist on dropping prematurely. IT'S STILL SUMMER. Keep sailing, skiing, swimming and cooking on the grill.

— Sunny

Advocate of good times, Pantene shampoo and table manners.

very seasoned and should snap, crackle, and pop when it is burned! Proceeds from the wood sale will go towards new sports and games equipment for the campers. If you are interested, please contact "Lois" at 616-663-2930. The camp will sell half of a cord of wood for \$50.

Homeowner's Association notice

The Birch Lake Homeowner's Association Annual Meeting is this Saturday, August 19 at 10 am (11 am Michigan time) at the BLYC clubhouse.

Lending library closes for season

The Birch Lake Yacht Club Members Lending Library will close for the season effective 8/19/00. Donations of books are temporarily suspended until next season.

Many thanks to Julie (Ball) Lacy for

opening the Library on Saturdays and for all her help building shelves, stacking and organizing the books for the members.

Camp reports one boat returned

One of the two row boats that were reported missing from Camp Tannadoonah has been returned, and thanks to a gift from an anonymous lakelander, a second boat has been donated. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the missing boat, please contact the camp.

News from the South Side

Let it be known that the people living in the area of the Weesner, Bender, Reynolds and Wiseman homes are mellow, never play their music too loudly at night, and are basically nice, conservative, good neighbors.

—Dick Bender



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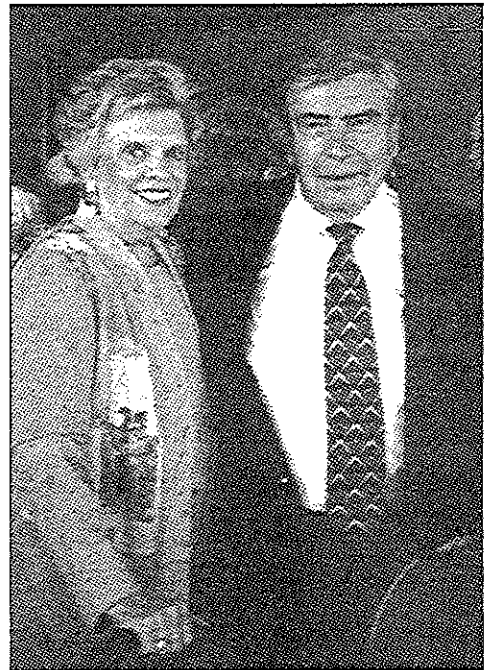
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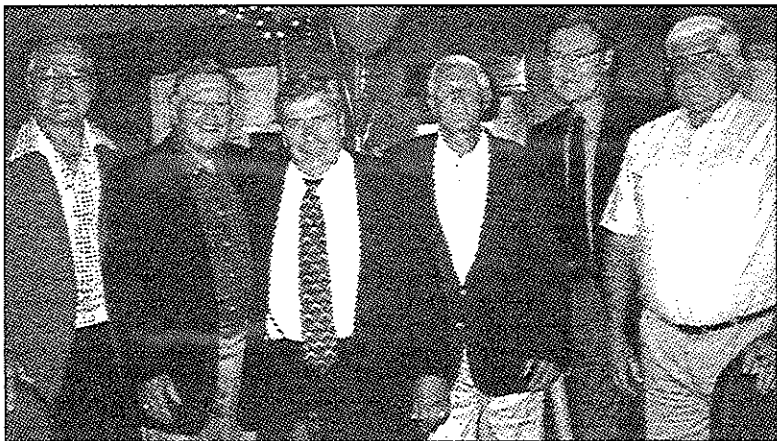
Birch Lake Images



The Ladies Tea (left, details to be published next week), and Earl Troeger's 70th birthday party helped add some sparkle to an already great week at Birch Lake.



Tea and salutations...



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

'Twas a drifter, a wavy, bouncy drifter in indecisive, insipid weather that couldn't quite decide whether to turn to rain or sunshine. Despite the unattractive conditions, sails were hoisted and boats made their way to the starting line, shaming the Fleet Captain into rigging and joining them.

Earl Troeger, on the cusp of turning 70, demonstrated the light-wind sailing skills that are his speciality. He led much of the MC race until Harold Cranmer (who knows a few things about quirky winds himself, having to sail in and out of the lee of the cove) passed him at the finish.

In the Sunfish fleet, Bob

King also has an uncanny affinity for the type of light, shifting winds that try men's souls. He drifted to an early lead and kept it despite the persistence of Tom Howard who nearly overcame him at the finish line. For those who haven't experienced it, the sound of an overtaking boat gently slapping the waves ranks among the most refined forms of mental anguish imaginable. Bob received a full dose of that sensation on the running leg, when three boats were ranged behind him with sails spread to steal his wind.

By common consent, the sailors decided that one race was enough for the day.

-Scott Troeger, Fleet Captain

The results of the August 13 races and the season standings are:

MC's	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Harold Cranmer	1		1560.83	
Don Harman	4		1521.55	
Rick Harman	3		1504.33	
Earl Troeger	2		1429	

Sunfish	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Tom Howard	2		1518.35	
Bob King	1		1504.88	
Scott Troeger	3		1489.40	
Jim Bolinger	4		1404.88	
Dave Olson	5		1363.63	
Rick Russwurm	DNS		1272.33	
Amy Troeger	DNS		1156	
Steve Barron	DNF		none	

Next Races: Sunday, August 20, at 11 a.m. (12 Michigan)

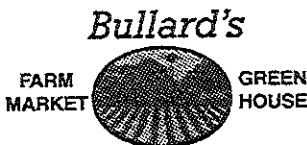
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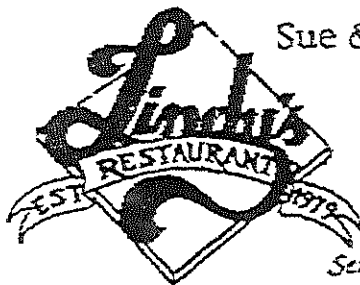
Kidz Corner

Silly Picture Poem

Here is a picture-word poem.
Can you read all the words?

What will **U** buy at the candy  ?
Look in the , then open the .
Show your  **2** Mr. Gray,
and ask, "What **R U** selling **2** day?"

May  a  's best of all,
or else a great big ,
or a chocolate , or a licorice ,
or  drops - but they go **2** quick!
Which will **U** choose? Which will it  ?
An -cream  would  fine
4 me!



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"It's a Brick"

Birch Lake is participating in the "Little Zebra Mussel Bricks" program. Birch Lake is the first in the state of Michigan's ten thousand lakes to hang a brick from every pier. Ordinary little house bricks with a length of rope have been distributed by 29 Group Leaders who are responsible for the removal of the brick when the piers go out and responsible for replacement of the brick when the piers go back in. Their lakeside friends and neighbors are responsible for reporting results to them. The Group Leader in turn reports to Gertie Temple for reporting to Michigan Lake and Stream Associations. MLSA is working with the Sea Grant people, a cooperative program of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

Egg Stage - An average adult female can produce 30,000 to 40,000 eggs per season.

Eggs are released into the warm water and the male mussels sense the presence of the eggs around them and release sperm into the water.

Veliger Stage- Several hours after fertilization the veligers emerge. They drift for 3 to 5 weeks before settling and attaching to the brick or other hard surface. They feed heavily on plankton and grow in size.

Post-Veliger Stage - When they become too heavy to remain afloat they settle on the bottom and try to find a hard surface to which they can attach.

Settling Stage - Within the next 3 weeks - post veligers - transform into juvenile forms.

Adult Stage - A Zebra Mussel attains about 2.5 cm (1 inch) in the first year and adds another 1.25 to 2.5 cm during the next year.

Remember - zebra mussel reports from the discovery of zebra mussel colonies found on rocks, clams, docks, boats and equipment are not a part of the official Zebra Mussel Watch Program — the "Mussel Brick" concept.

Equally important to Birch Lake are the findings and destruction of Zebra Mussels, both juvenile and adult, as reported by Bruce Harlan, Julie Ball Lacy and Holly Troeger.

-g.temple

South Shore Mussel report

"The zebra mussel population is alive and thriving in certain parts of the lake. In addition to the residences I am responsible for on the South Shore, where I have found minor involvement on each brick placed on piers, I placed a brick on each end of the Camp Tannadoonah pier complex. Recent inspection proved very little action on these bricks - each one had 2 or 3 juveniles (very tiny 1/8 inch long mussels). However, while taking the rowboats out for the season, the bottom of one of the boats was covered with literally hundreds of juveniles, very much alive and growing zebra mussels. We quickly destroyed them. This boat had rough scaly paint on its bottom, evidently just the right surface for adhesion and proliferation of the zebra mussel. The other 2 boats were smooth aluminum bottoms and there were no mussels present on either of them. So it is apparent that these little guys will adhere not only to the rough bricks that Gertie and Bob Temple have provided, but also any rough or non-smooth surface. I have also found several fully-grown mussels adhering to our normal lake clam/mussel shells near our waterfront. Two Camp Tannadonah counselors experienced deep scratches from coming in contact with accumulations of zebra mussels on logs while on a canoe trip on the St. Joseph River, so they are not only a scourge to the lakes and rivers but also dangerous from a health standpoint."

-Bruce Harlan



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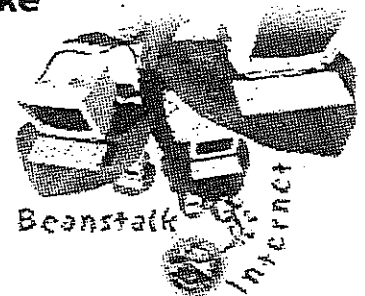
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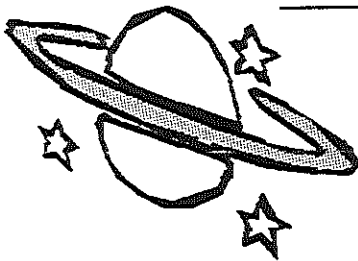
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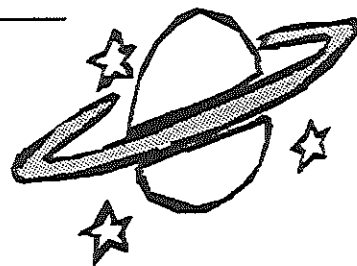
Did you ever look up and wonder how far objects in the sky are from Earth? It's amazing how incredibly far away they are. Even the nearest stars are so far away that astronomers don't describe their distances in miles or kilometers. After all, the Sun is 93 million miles away, and the nearest star system BEYOND the Sun, Alpha Centauri, is 25 TRILLION miles away. Every other star in the galaxy is even farther.

Because it's hard to relate to such big numbers, astronomers often use light-years instead. A light year is a unit used to meas-

ure distance. (Sometimes a light year is used to refer to time. This is improper, much like IST that we so often hear about.) One light-year is the distance that light travels in a year. Using this measuring stick, we can say that Alpha Centauri is just over four light years away -- because its light takes four years to reach Earth. To put it another way, we see Alpha Centauri as it looked four years ago. When we view objects in the night sky we are actually looking back in time.

Because light travels at 670 million miles an hour, one light-year is immense: almost six trillion miles. Still, there's a way to envision the scale of a light-year using a much smaller unit of distance: the inch.

Imagine shrinking the universe so that the distance between the Sun and Earth was just one inch. On that scale, Pluto would be



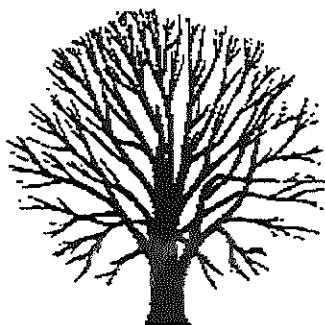
only three feet away. But a light-year would equal a full MILE, so Alpha Centauri would lie more than four miles away.

This comparison works because the number of Earth-Sun distances in one light year equals the number of inches in a mile -- to an accuracy of better than one percent. No one designed these units to do this, so it's pure luck that they help us to visualize the immense distances between the stars.

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-Stewart Spratt

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Chilled Roasted Tomato & Red Pepper Soup with Mint

- 2 red bell peppers, quartered and seeded
- 4 medium tomatoes, halved and cored
- 1 small onion, cut into 1/2 inch slices
- 2 large garlic cloves, halved

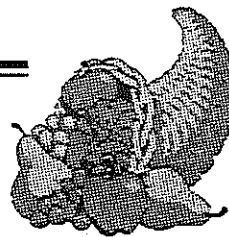
- 1-1/2 TLBS Olive Oil
- 1/2 tsp ground coriander
- 3/4 cup water
- 2 TLBS heavy cream
- 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1-1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp sugar
- 2 TLBS finely chopped fresh mint

Preheat broiler. Toss bell peppers, tomatoes, onion, and garlic with oil and coriander in a large roasting pan and broil about 4

inches from heat until edges of vegetables are charred, about 7 minutes. Stir vegetables, then broil until vegetables are tender, about 3 minutes more.

Puree vegetables with any juices from pan in batches in a blender until smooth. Stir in remaining ingredients except mint.

Cool soup, uncovered, 30 minutes, then chill covered until cold, at least 2 hours. Just before serving, stir in mint.



Spiced Rum & Orange Juice

- 1-1/2 oz Captain Morgan Spiced Rum
- 6 oz Orange Juice

Pour in a highball glass filled with ice cubes or crushed ice. Stir. Garnish with a slice of orange.

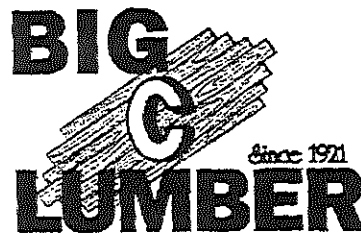


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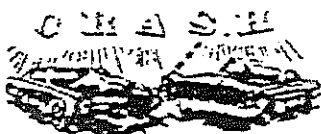
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From the Birch Lake Archives...

-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 August 6, 1988 Barker.

The cottage of James and Mary Alyce Thayer (N245) on the North shore has the distinction of being the first cottage on Birch Lake.

Mr. Lyons, who owned the farm on the East side, later the Anderson Farm and now the Curtis' residence (E182), built their cottage in 1918 or 1919 for a Chicago man who later became bankrupt. Making a successful bid of \$500 to \$800, Will A. Thayer, a jeweler from Niles became the new owner.

At this time there was no electricity so gas lights and kerosene stoves were used. The only water on the North side came from artesian wells. On a fifty-foot square of land near the shore, one was capped, named Silver Springs, and was used by the public. This area was later incorporated in the Thayer property and Jim Thayer, present owner of the property said he remembers seeing the original sign under the cottage but was unhappy that it wasn't found during the recent remodeling they did.

Will Thayer camped out at Birch Lake in the early 1900's, coming via U.S. 12 by horse and buggy as M60 was nonexistent at that time.

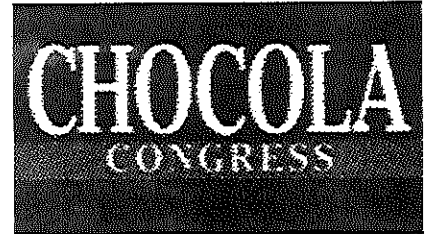
Will's son, Paul, and later Paul's wife, Irma, and their children, James and Shirley enjoyed their summer retreat and all the good things offered by Birch Lake. An avid fisherman, Paul built a small pool in their front yard, where he kept his catch of trout alive in the icy well water until he was ready to eat them.

When their parents died, Jim and Shirley became co-owners until recently when Shirley moved to Morgantown, N.C. and sold her interest to her brother.

Jim remembers the early cottage, with only dirt to the shoreline and the numerous bullfrogs, cavorting along the shore, many of which became the dinner of the blue racers also waiting

there. He remembers the changes made by his parents to the cottage, and he still has his love for fishing and sailing and the wonders of nature instilled by his childhood here. Cisco netting done from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15, now outlawed, and snowmobiling are special adult winter sports he loved to share with his boyhood friends.

After adding two bedrooms and extending their porch across the entire front of the house, Mary Alyce and Jim enjoy sharing with their son, Joe, and his family, the special quarters and lovely view of beautiful Birch Lake.



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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.

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Used Aqua Patio or equivalent. Call 476-2461.

LOST

White and Blue buoy (with star). Call Rich Mullin (N. shore) at 476-8820.

Large styrofoam 'Elk Rapids' surfboard- red on top. Please call Tom Troeger 476-2319

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.

BLYC NOTES

Pick up shirts and mugs at the Fall Dinner next weekend. -BK, C2k

The Birch Lake Yacht Club Lending Library will

close for the season effective 8/19. No more book donations are being accepted.

A limited number of 1999 Birch Lake Directories are still available for sale; \$2 each (just like last year). There will be no 2001 Directory, so get 'em while they last. Call Bob King to order (or pick up at Fall Dinner).

Wish a happy birthday to Jim Beck, Earl Troeger and Jim Bollinger (you didn't hear it from me).

PROPERTIES FOR SALE / RENT / WANTED

Time is running out — Only a few weeks left to be a summer hero to the Wandering Waifs. Call Phil and Sandy at (219) 291-6102.

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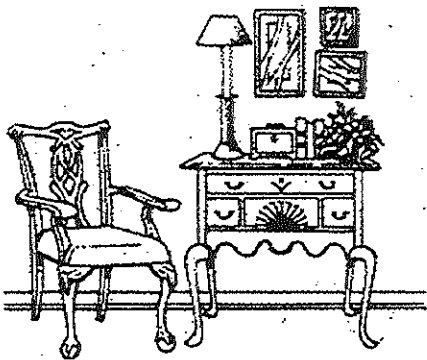
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Contact the editor for corrections

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