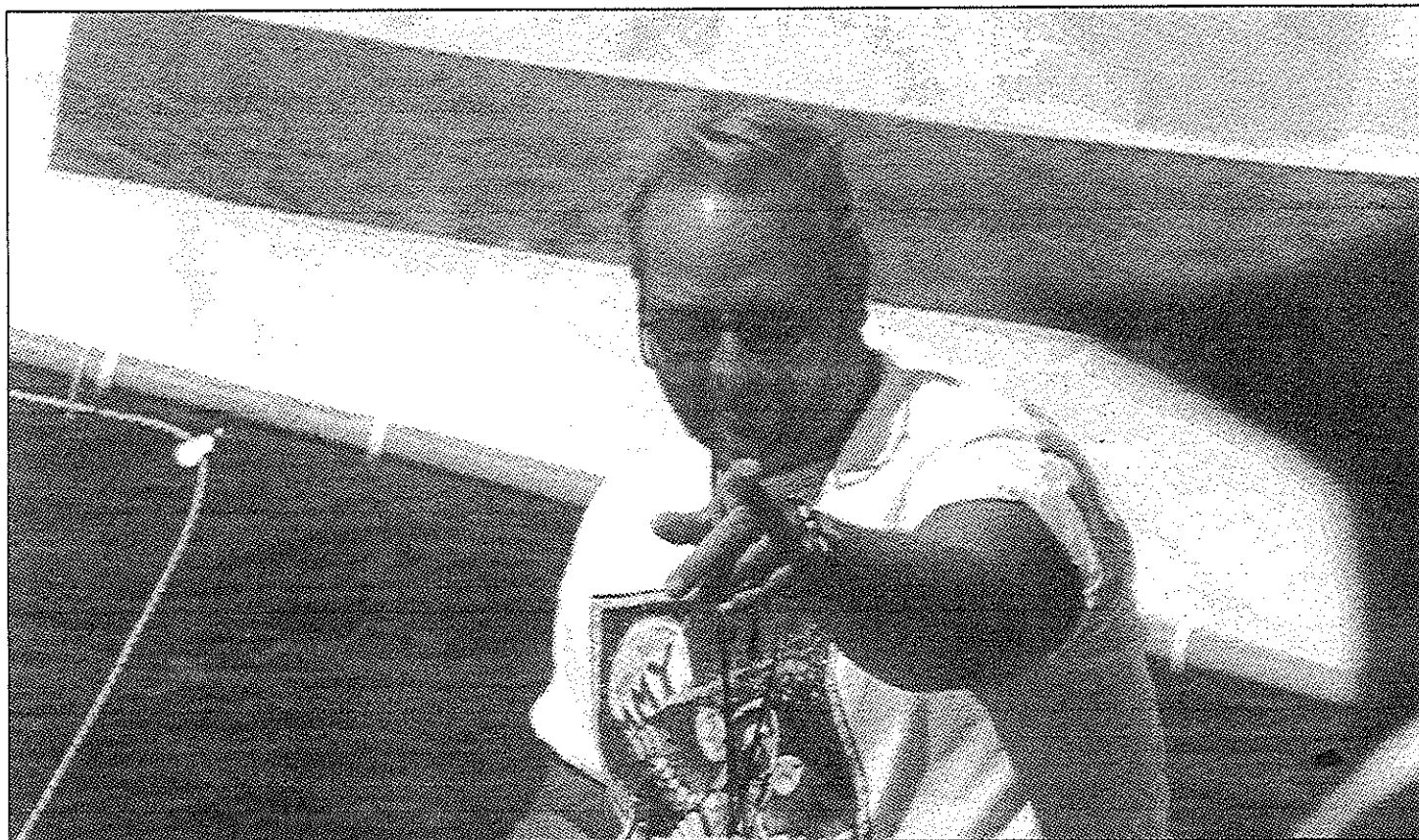


Farewell and thanks to Commodore Bob King, C2k



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Note to All:

When I took this job I had a full head of wavy blonde hair, a full manly figure and no worries. Now I am wasting away and happy to have any hair of any color. Ok, nature's cruel joke, sprouting ear hair, is a pain but you never know where the transplant stock will come from.

The Fall Dinner is a good time to take stock of the season past. We have done some same old same old and a bit new with the Kidz events. I hope we can continue our current boat speed and attract youngsters so today's kids will be the next generation of Birch Lake lovers.

Every week I spent a considerable amount of the Commodore's Comments doling out thanks. This is not surprising considering the many people who lend a hand. Les and I appreciate the efforts of so many good folks who have made helming the Yacht Club a true pleasure. I want to thank the members of Water Quality, Home Owners and our Board, all those who worked out front or behind the scenes. I'd be remiss to forget my folks, Cal and Les who gave up time and served alongside laboring on the Yacht Club.

Someday I'll likely reminisce about what was done in our time on our turn. For now I'll concentrate on turning over the Club to whoever comes next. With just a few cosmetic repairs left we are

turning over the Club in good shape. I will retire my flag at the Fall Dinner — watch for us doing civilian lake stuff on the north shore.

Old Commodores never die — they just fade away. So shall I.

Incidentally, the Comments on the last Barker of the year are traditionally written by the incoming Commodore. If this page is a bit spartan Labor Day weekend it's not an editorial error.

Thanks again one and all ... see you on the water.

-Bob King, C2k

Sailing trophy ceremony

Trophies will be awarded on Labor Day, Monday, September 4, at 10:30 a.m. (Indiana time) 11:30 a.m. (Michigan time) at the BLYC clubhouse, and the new Fleet Captain for 2001 will be formally introduced.

Calendar beginning August 26*

8/26 - 5 pm - 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/blicking/blvc.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

LADIES TEA

The Birch Lake Yacht Club will never be the same. For a brief moment in time it was transformed into the "Mansion on the Hill." Women wearing beautiful dresses, hats and gloves entered the "Mansion" through a flowered arch to find tables set with fine china, beautiful silver tea services and candles burning. Trees, flowers, wicker furniture, quilts, lace and a working Victrola gave a new air to the room.

There was a selection of over 30 types of teas; green tea, herbal tea, black tea and brewed teas served from specialty tea pots made it hard for the ladies to choose. The ladies consumed over 100 cups of tea! While the ladies drank tea, the aroma of baking scones came from the kitchen. Orange, cranberry and currant scones were served piping hot right from the oven, with marmalade and orange butter. If you didn't care for scones, there were cucumber sandwiches and a large selection of pastries on each table. Many asked where the treats were purchased from; the committee members and Bill O'Neil, who made the delicious banana bread, made them all early in the morning!

For two hours, 36 women drank tea, nibbled on treats and talked while music played. We hope they were able to leave their fast paced, stressful lives behind them for that brief moment in time.

This type of event could not of happened without the help from Mary Ann O'Neil and Helen Toth who are two of the greatest people and work endlessly to see a project finished! They are the best.

Special thank you's go to: Julie Weaver for the loan of the old Victrola; Dawn Troyer for working in the kitchen and clean up; Terry Toth and Lind Harman who came back to help us clean; Scott Troyer for setting up the trellis and moving all the heavy

News from the Cove (and outlying areas)

By Sunny Waters

(If you take life seriously, this column may be hazardous to your mental health)

Chivalry is not dead. At the Corn and Sausage Roast, Fred Freihofer and Stan the Man Pitakos presented me with a package of microwave pork rinds. Thank you, dears, it was enough to make a girl's mascara run.

Happy 25th wedding anniversary, Terry and Becky Wiseman. Happy birthday, Jim Beck and Bernie and Helen Weesner.

Gray Pride:

Loretta Drolet and I have found a lovely confederate in Lynn Peters. We three are perfectly happy with what nature has dealt us and we won't be caught slinking from a CVS with Clairol Kits stashed in discreet brown bags. Silver foxes of the world, unite.

From all accounts the tour of picture-perfect homes was a stellar success. B.S., however, was a tad chagrined that his newly

refurbished shed was not included and he is issuing an open invitation to those who appreciate the finer things to tour his private getaway. There will be low-fat Twinkies, juice boxes and music from Big Mouth Billy Bass who croons from his position over the door. Purdue men are noted for their finesse.

B.S. and I have been very busy this past week entertaining house guests, Mr. and Mrs. and Mrs. and Mrs. Feirrell of South Bend. Our guest accommodations consist of one queen size bed and two twins. That's their problem.

From Chase's annual events: Today is Women's Equality Day. Let her change the oil and replace spark plugs.

Thought du jour:

The difference between a politician and a statesman: a politician is concerned about the next election, a statesman is concerned about the next generation.

Chew on that.

— Sunny

stuff out of our way; and last but not least, my husband, Ken Troyer for doing all the grunt work! I could not of done this without the help from all these wonderful people. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!!!

—Darlene Troyer

Tea a delight

What a delightful afternoon the ladies of Birch Lake had a the tea party on Aug. 15.

The Yacht Club was transformed into a most welcome atmosphere, with wicker furniture, wall hangings, floral arrangements and even an old fashioned Victrola. We had

stepped into the early 20th Century.

There were lovely china serving dishes, silverware (no plastic) and silver tea services on each table. We had our choice of many different varieties of tea and delicious goodies to eat. All this and background music. The ladies got into the spirit of the occasion — many of them wearing hats and white gloves.

We want to thank the committee for all their efforts: Darlene Troyer, Mary Ann O'Neil, Helen Toth and Dawn Troyer. Helen's daughter, Terry Carroll, and Lind Harman helped with the cleanup.

—Loretta Drolet



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Birch Lake Notes

Wondering about those costumed people at Camp Tannadoonah this week?

I was too, so, not being the shy or retiring type, I marched into camp on Sunday 8/21 to see what they were up to! Turns out they are with a group called Nero (New England Roleplaying Organization). They wear costumes and roleplay various fantasy things. The leader of the group, Seth, was kind enough to speak with me as I had concern seeing people all dressed in black (mostly) and many with their faces painted like skeletons. He assured me there was nothing sinister about their group and was kind enough to let me borrow their rulebook to look it over.

I am really concerned now folks. I may be a bit old-fashioned but I don't find it funny to have a group on our own precious Birch Lake roleplaying the undead, monsters, Orcs, Mystic Wood Elfs. In addition they cast spells like creating the undead, curses, death, dispelling magic, desecrating, purifying blood. They use "weapons" like bludgeons, daggers, hatchets, long and short maces, etc. Also used in "play" is magic which includes spell books, casting spells, necromancy, etc. Should you think I am making this up I can assure you I am not. I have the Nero roleplaying book in front of me.

I would ask those of you with concern to

please call or write the Camp Fire office in South Bend. They are responsible for Camp Tannadoonah. Their address is 2828 E. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend, IN 46615. Their phone number is 219/234-4145. They are open 10am to 2pm daily (Indiana time).

Should you wish to speak to me or have any questions, I can be reached at 219/262-4063. Leave me your name and phone number and I will call you back. I would also encourage any of you to take a "stroll" through the camp. See for yourself what's going on. What happens at Camp Tannadonnah has a direct effect on each and every person at Birch Lake.

-Cyndy Herms

Keeping fit with your dog

Your dog is more like you than you may realize.

Unlike other mammals, nearly 60 percent of the genetic disorders in dogs correspond to genetic diseases in humans.

Those diseases include epilepsy, cancer, deafness, blindness, autoimmune disorder, and congenital heart disease.

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Just like humans, loosing a few needed pounds can increase Fido's energy and activity level and improve Fido's appearance.

I look forward to seeing our lake Fidors



out strutting their stuff.

-Fido's Friend



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Shifty winds lead to exciting finishes

Sunday was a beautiful day for sailing, but the late Summer wind shifted more than a politician following the polls. Ten boats competed in the two classes. The triangular course began deep in the Southwest corner by the Outlet, thence to the East shore, then to Tannadoonah, back to the Outlet and finishing by the East shore. The wind had a perverse tendency to back Northerly at the start of the races. This made it tempting to cross the starting line on a port tack (wind coming from the left side of the boat) as that tack aimed closer to the first mark. Port tack starts are risky, however, because boats on port tack

have to get out of the way of boats on starboard tack. In the second MC race two boats gambled on a port tack start but a boat on starboard tack used its right-of-way to make them change courses to avoid a collision. The finishes also provided some close calls, such as that between Jim Bolinger and Dave Olson in the second Sunfish race, with mere inches deciding the outcome.

The Labor Day Regatta will be on Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3, 2000 at 11 a.m. (Indiana time) 12 m (Michigan time), with Monday, September 4 (Labor Day) as a possible make-up day.

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

MC's	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Harold Cranmer	1	1	1564.75	
Don Harman	3	3	1513.80	
Rick Harman	2	2	1507.36	
Earl Troeger	4	4	1412.14	
Sunfish	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Tom Howard	1	2	1522.18	
Bob King	3	1	1506.60	
Scott Troeger	2	3	1488.77	
Jim Bolinger	5	5	1393.42	
Dave Olson	4	4	1364.46	
Rick Russwurm	6	6	1266.76	
Amy Troeger	7	DNS	1157	
co-skipper Adam Ball				

Final Season Races: Sunday, Aug. 27, 11 a.m. (12 Michigan)

It has been a pleasure serving as Fleet Captain the last two years and I am particularly grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of the members of the race committee who enable

the sailors to play: Jim and Sally Beck, Dave, Julie and Chad Plaia, Bruce and Sue Wagner, and Marty Sante.

-Scott Troeger, Fleet Captain

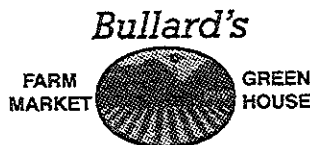
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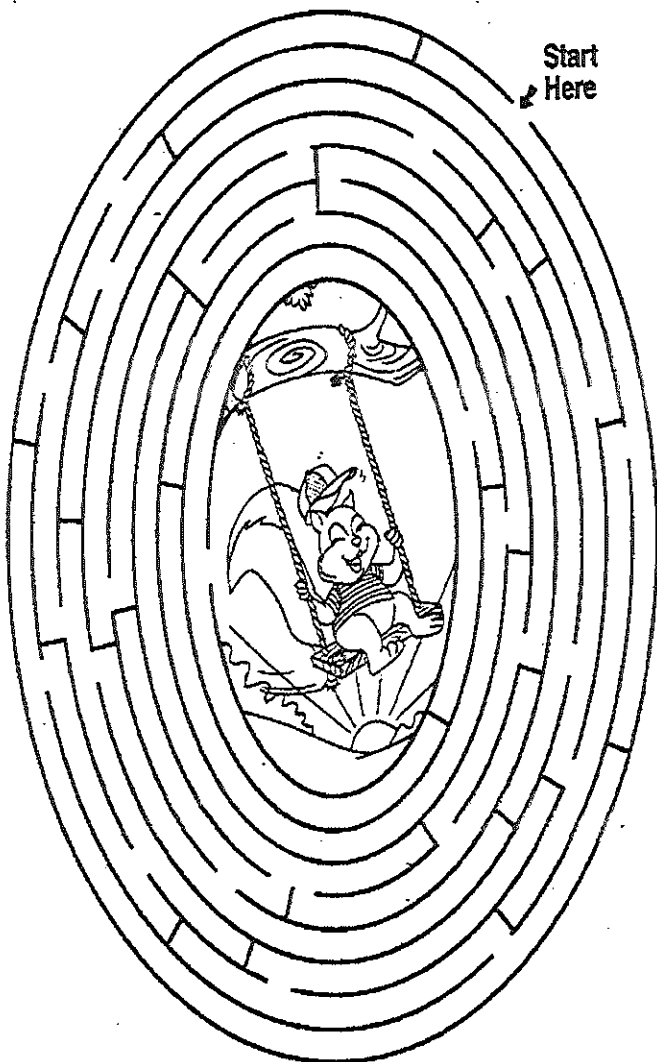
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"It's a brick"

Julie Ball Lacy, Group Leader, Reports

"Since finding an adult Zebra Mussel on our south beach two summers ago, I have been compelled to learn more about them and also inform my neighbors. With Gert Temple's help and knowledge we have all become more informed and concerned residents of this beautiful lake we call home. As a group leader my responsibilities have included checking my neighbor's bricks and beaches for mussels. Since the mussels prefer warmer water, this month I am sadly finding more juveniles on my neighbor's bricks, piers, supports, ladders etc., and on lake bottom clams. One neighbor has been gone for a month so I was checking their brick every 2 weeks, and on August 6th I found 6 juveniles. We are sorry the Zebra Mussels have arrived here at Birch Lake, but if we ALL do our part and check our bricks and beaches, our neighbor's bricks and beaches - maybe if we continue to kill them, we won't have to wear water shoes in the lake in the near future."

Holly Troeger, Group Leader, Reports

"Those of us to the east of the landing were feeling smug - we were hearing reports of Zebra Mussels to the west of the landing, but we were checking our bricks vigilantly, and saw no signs of the little critters. Then this week, when the children were playing in the water, they flipped up the Ball's pier ladder, and there were more, LOTS more. Because the bricks have been in a much shorter time than the piers, I would recommend that everyone PLEASE check your pier ladders - the mussels seem to like to cluster on the underside of the bottom two steps. We did not have any on our raft ladder, which may be too high off the lake bed. We picked off the mussels and dropped them in a container of rubbing alcohol, and will be keeping a close look for more."

Maryann O'Neill, Group Leader, Reports

"John and Roma Went's grandsons Ryan (12), Jarod (10), and Jordon (8) continue doing a wonderful job of removing adult and juvenile mussels from underneath the piers and beach on the East Side. During the week they found juveniles on the legs of the wooden horses used to support a pier. They removed ALL of them. We have not been finding too many on our bricks, but it is very important to check our bricks and also look around our beaches and pier supports to check where they are multiplying. The boys have been doing a fabulous job, but they can't do it alone. It is important for each area to continue looking and removing any they find. This summer we had guests from Ireland who told us that they have the same problem in their lakes. They said that if the residents of the lakes don't try in someway to deal with the Zebra Mussels they will just continue to multiply."

Doris Sante, Group Leader, Reports

"We are very fortunate to have the Parkinson family here at the lake. Elizabeth's sister lives on a lake that is infested with mussels. Liz found several mussels last year and this year went looking for more. We are sorry to say there were hundreds of juveniles (very small - 1/16th to 1/4 inch) attached to stones and rocks. Elizabeth, who is a very tiny person, carried several boxes of infested rocks and concrete pieces out of the creek. The Water Quality Committee and residents are going to need to be very watchful of the creek in order to keep the dam open. After knowing what to look for, we found about 50 juveniles on one brick and a few on another. They cling to the rough part of a brick. According to Elizabeth, the mussels attach to a rock, or clam until they form a big sharp rock like formation making it necessary to wear a wet suit and shoes when in the water. The most we can do, at this point, is continue to take out infested rocks and dead clam shells. We can pull the mussels off the living clams and place the clams back in the water. This isn't a cure but may SLOW DOWN their production. We understand one mussel produces 30,000 to 40,000 new ones. We also need to keep boat motors, sprinkler inlets, etc. out of the water when possible.

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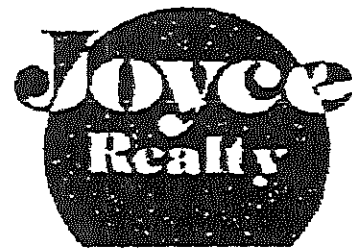
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Oct. 14 Navy (Orlando, Fla.)	Nov. 25 at USC

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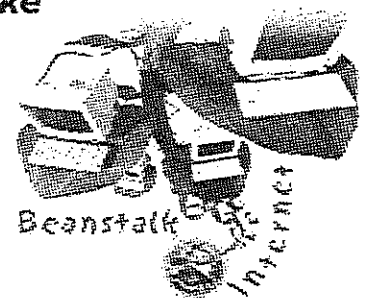
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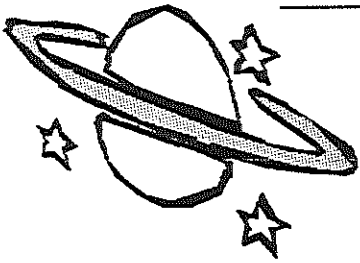
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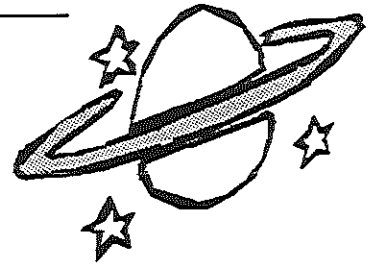
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Stu's Star Stuff



Scorpius, the scorpion, continues its trek across the summer evening sky. The constellation resembles its namesake, with a broad, flat head and a long, undulating body. Scorpius is an easy asterism, or constellation, to find. Look low in the SW an hour or two after sunset for a bright red-orange star, Antares. Antares is a "super-giant" and the heart of Scorpius. To the west, three stars represent the head and claws.

There are a lot of similarities in these three stars. For starters, they're all roughly

the same distance from Earth - about 500 light-years. So if you lined them all up at an equal distance, they'd STILL appear about the same brightness.

All three are systems of two or more stars. Beta and Delta -- starting at the top -- are both TRIPLE systems. That means they consist of three separate stars that orbit each other. Pi Scorpii has two stars. What's more, all the stars in these systems are very much alike. They're all about the same size, mass, and color -- dazzling blue-white. All eight stars are larger and hotter than our own Sun, and they'll live shorter lives.

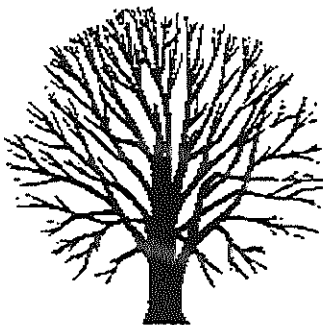
The scorpion's body curls down, then up toward the south. At the end of the tail are two stars that appear very close together, the Cat's Eyes. The center of the Milky Way galaxy stands just above its curving tail, at the western edge of neighboring Sagittarius.

The constellation Sagittarius rises just after Scorpius and follows it across the south during the night. Its brightest stars form the shape of a teapot, with the handle on the left and the spout on the right. The bright stream of the Milky Way appears to be steam coming from the spout of the teapot.

Look for Scorpius and Sagittarius in the SW sky this evening. If it's dark enough you'll see the Cat's Eyes too. Enjoy the show. It's free.

-Stewart Spratt

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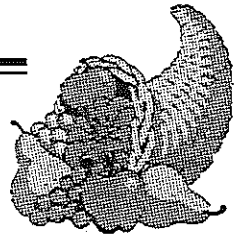
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Charred Tomatillo Guacamole

- 6 or 7 tomatillos husked and rinsed
- 1/2 small red onion, finely chopped
- 3 or 4 serrano chiles, seeded and chopped
- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 2 large California avocados

Preheat broiler, broil tomatillos in a flameproof shallow baking pan about 4 inches from heat until tops are charred, 7 to 10 minutes. Turn tomatillos over with tongs and broil until charred, about 5 minutes more.

Combine onion, chiles, cilantro, salt, and pepper in a large bowl. Add tomatillos 2 at a time, mashing with a fork to form a

coarse paste.

Pit and peel avocados. Add them to mixture and continue mashing until incorporated but still chunky.

Peach sangria

- 2 firm ripe peaches, cut into thin wedges
- 1/2 cup peach schnapps
- 1/3 cup fine granulated sugar

3 cups chilled rose wine

2 cups chilled sparkling water

Stir together peaches, schnapps, and sugar in a large pitcher until sugar is dissolved and let stand 1 hour. Stir in wine, sparkling water, and some ice.

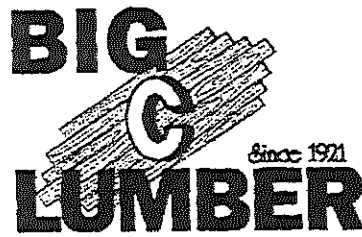


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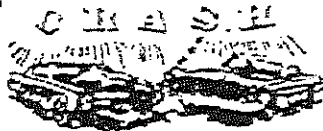
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From the Birch Lake Archives...

-Compiled by Sandy Krehmar

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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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

Found: Young, calico, female (?) cat. Very friendly and determined to move into the Molho cottage S072. Please call 476-9899 or 219-223-6498

Gray male cat, Persian looking, stubby tail, approx. 2 years old; very friendly. Hanging around Pamells' about 1-1/2 weeks. Call 476-9317.

BLYC NOTES

Pick up all BLYC shirts and mugs at the Fall Dinner this weekend. -BK, C2K

The Birch Lake Yacht Club Lending Library is closed 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. Pick up at Fall Dinner.

Ample bags of lake friendly lawn fertilizer remains. See Bob Temple, Rick Russwurm or Dan Reynolds to acquire a bag or three.

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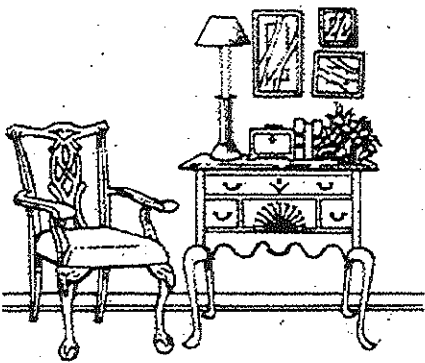
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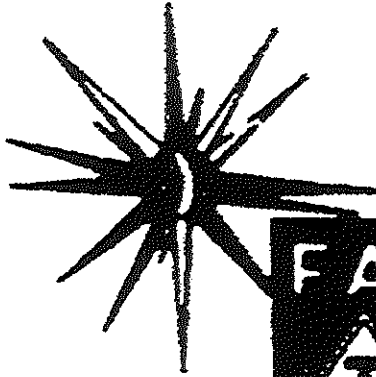
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