



# Birch Barken

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

June 20, 1992

ISSUE: 2

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Yes! Finally! Last weekend was more like it...HOT WEATHER, a party at the Yacht Club and a tremendous turnout. Hope everyone had as much fun as I. Thanks to everyone for the great hors d'oeuvres. I'd also like to thank Tom Nagy for the new speakers and Buzz Rasmussen for wiring them...they sound great! I also greatly appreciated the following men for helping out behind the Bar...Tim Steffen, Terry Curtis, Buzz Rasmussen, Steve Cranmer, Bob Waddle and Vice-commodore Rich Mullin. All ice was donated by the HICKORY INN and picked up and delivered by Mike Machalleck and Dave Gableman...Thanks Guys! Hope I haven't forgotten anyone. This party was enjoyed so much that, by request, we're going to have another one...Time and date to be announced. **Just in...**An event you won't want to miss! Saturday, July 11th...**BLYC...DANCE LIVE BAND!!** 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's and Today. Rock-n-roll, Blues, Jazz and maybe even a little Country and Western. Don't miss this one!...It may just be the highlight of the summer.

Your Directors and I have promised you an action-packed summer with lots of fun-filled activities at the Yacht Club and we aim to deliver.

Closing thought...think SAFETY!

John Gableman  
Commodore 1992

## SUMMER "1992"EVENTS

July 4th	Boat Parade - 10:00 AM (IN)
July 4th	Fireworks
July 5th	Pancake Breakfast
July 5th	Fireworks Raindate
July 11th	Dance - Live Band - BLYC
July 29th	Ladies Luncheon
July 31st	Men's Golf Outing
Aug. 8th	Triathlon
Aug. 8th	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 22nd	Fall Dinner

### BOAT PARADE

Birch Lake has many recurring events which help make the summers even more fun. One wonderful time-honored tradition is the July 4th boat parade. We are pushing for more involvement this year - hoping the Saturday holiday will make more families available. In the past this has been an exciting addition to the usual family 4th festivities for participants as well as observers. If you recall we have had some outstanding "boat floats" as well as entries who stick on a balloon or flag or two and join in for the fun. Start thinking now about boat decorations and get your families and July 4th guests together for some quality time.

Categories to be judged:

BEST PONTOON

MOST PATRIOTIC

MOST ORIGINAL

MOST COLORFUL

BEST OVERALL

To enter, just show-up with your decorated boat at the Reynolds pier on the south side at 10:00 AM (IN) the morning of the 4th and pick up your entry number. Proceed past the judges on the Gableman pier and continue to parade around the lake, ending back at the Gableman's where trophies or ribbons will be awarded to all. No fee is required. For questions call Claudia Gableman #2132. Let's make the parade this year better than ever!

### AEROBICS

There will be aerobics at the Birch Lake Yacht Club starting sometime in July. Specific times and dates will be announced later.

### SEMINAR ON SOIL AND GROUND WATER

It was announced at the June Porter Township Board Meeting that there will be a Seminar on Soil and Ground Water and how they pertain to the lakes and wells in Cass County. This will be at 9:00 AM (IN) Saturday, July 18th at the Cass County Conservation Club which is on the north west corner of Birch Road and Route 12. Those who attended this seminar earlier reported that it is very interesting and informative.

### CANDIDATES NIGHT

The July 14th Porter Township Board Meeting is to be Candidates Night. Any person running for office on the township, county or state level who wishes to speak will be there. If you need some guidance picking candidates to vote for this fall or if you have never attended a Porter Township Board Meeting, why not plan to be there and see how your township is run. This will be at the Township Hall on Robbins Lake Road at 6:30 PM (IN).

### COLORED PHOTO OF BIRCH LAKE

Aerial Graphics of Grand Rapids recently took a colored photo and asked us to show it to the residents here. This sale is not to profit any person, group or organization as the price is just exactly what the cost sheet says. Of course, the more photos sold the cheaper they will be for everyone. We already have ten people who signed the paper at the Commodore's Cocktail Party so we are at the 35% discount price. Another fifteen orders will reduce them all to 45%. It really is well done and anyone who wants to see it can call #2128 or stop by N263. The King's.

### ZEBRA MUSSELS

Most of you have probably noticed the oversized stop sign with literature hanging from it at the boat landing. This sign was installed to hopefully educate off-lake boaters about the spread of zebra mussels in our waterways.

Those of you who attended the spring dinner received an excellent primer on the subject from our Regional Sea-grant Extension Agent, Mr. Chuck Pistis.

The first sighting of zebra mussels in an inland lake in Michigan was reported at Eagle Lake, so you can see the problem is not far from home. Thanks to Bob Morrison for bringing the problem to light and having the sign constructed.

The attached article is published for your information.

### ADDRESS CHANGE OR CORRECTION

If you have a change of address or correction for the Birch Lake Directory "1991", please print it out and give to Mike Machalleck (S054); or a Birch Lake Yacht Club Director. We would like these submitted as soon as possible. They will be printed in a future Birch Barker.

### FIRST GRANDCHILD

The Nagy family is so thrilled with Natalie Joan Nagy born Aug. 29, 1991. Julie and Tom Nagy, Natalie's parents, are expecting another baby in September. They are having a wonderful summer at Birch Lake and enjoying all the special Birch Lakers.

Grandma and Grandpa Nagy think the sun is shining even on rainy days with beautiful, sunny Natalie nearby.

### GREEN'S NEWEST ADDITION

June 12th marked the arrival of the newest addition to the Green ski team. George Kendall Green was born to David and Diana Green at 6:37AM in Chicago, Illinois - 8 lb. and 20" long.

They will be visiting the proud grandparents, Barb and Dick Green, at Birch Lake in July.

### NICHOLAS BERGAN

Nicholas Bergan (C290), a budding Arnold Palmer, won his first golf trophy at Hampshire Golf course, Dowagiac. This was the Linen - Jefferies Junior Tournament for 12 year olds.

Nick also made all A's on his report card.  
Nick, your parents are very proud of you!

### WELCOME GOLDEN FAMILY

Welcome to Marc and Ilene Golden and their 3 children, Lisa, Amy and Michael.

Lisa lives in Chicago. Amy attends Miami of Ohio University and Michael just graduated from High School.  
They recently bought the white A-frame (E174) on the east side.

### BIG WELCOME

A big welcome to the lake to Steve & Nancy Ball and Terry & Becky Wiseman (S45).

The Balls have two boys, Chris and Kelly.

The Wisemans have a daughter, Christy and son, Casey.

Both families are having a great time discovering how fun lake living can be.

### THE COWEN'S CELEBRATE

Again the first week of June was a great time of celebration for the Cowens of 62803 Birch Lakeview Drive, Woodland Cove and 3035 Rue Marceau, Park Jefferson of South Bend, Indiana. June 2nd they celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary; the 4th, Clifford's 90th birthday; and the 7th, Avanelles 88th birthday!

Thursday noon friends and relatives enjoyed a "Get Together" lunch at the Old Country Buffet on Grape Road in Mishawaka.

They have enjoyed beautiful Birch Lake since 1946 and are looking forward to being here a lot this summer.

The Cowen's granddaughter, Stacia Cowen Andriano, her husband and children, Gregory, Elizabeth and Janelle will be here a few days this week.

Also, the McCoy's - Carolyn, John, Matthew, Tim and Candice will be here over the weekend. Submitted by Avanelle K. Cowen.

### PRECYCLE

In 1989, the city government of Berkly, California initiated a campaign to encourage consumers to buy food packaged in materials that are biodegradable or recyclable. They called it "precycling". Their slogan was, "Reduce waste before you buy!"

DID YOU KNOW

\* Roughly 5 million tons--more than half of all plastic we throw away each year--are packaging.

- \* About 30% of all plastics produced are used for packaging.

**SIMPLE THINGS TO DO**

- \* Buy beverages in glass or aluminum containers, which are easy to recycle. You can also choose sauces, condiments, baby foods, spreads, etc. that are packed in glass jars instead of plastic.
- \* Avoid "squeezable" plastic containers, which are usually made up of different types of plastic in several layers, and are non-recyclable.
- \* Choose products you can reuse. Avoid single-use items like disposable plastic razors or disposable lighters.
- \* Buy in bulk: It's cheaper, and uses less packaging.

**TURTLE TALES**

Sunday, June 21st from 2:00 to 3:00 PM (MI) — "Turtle Tales" at Fernwood Botanic Garden, 13988 Range Line Rd., Niles, Michigan. (683-8653)  
Meet and greet the different kinds of turtles that reside at Fernwood.  
No registration required. Cost is \$3.00 for non-members.

**LAWN SERVICE**

Terilyn Montague is available for lawn service and yard work. Please call her at 476-2207.

**FOR SALE**

20 inch magna girls bike for sale. In excellent condition. Best offer over \$35.00.  
If you are interested please contact Bethany Wood, 14950 Birch Lakeshore Drive or call #476-2591.

PLEASE HAVE ALL NEWS TO REPORTERS OR EDITOR BY NOON ON MONDAY.

**EDITOR**

Barb Zesinger - 476-2526



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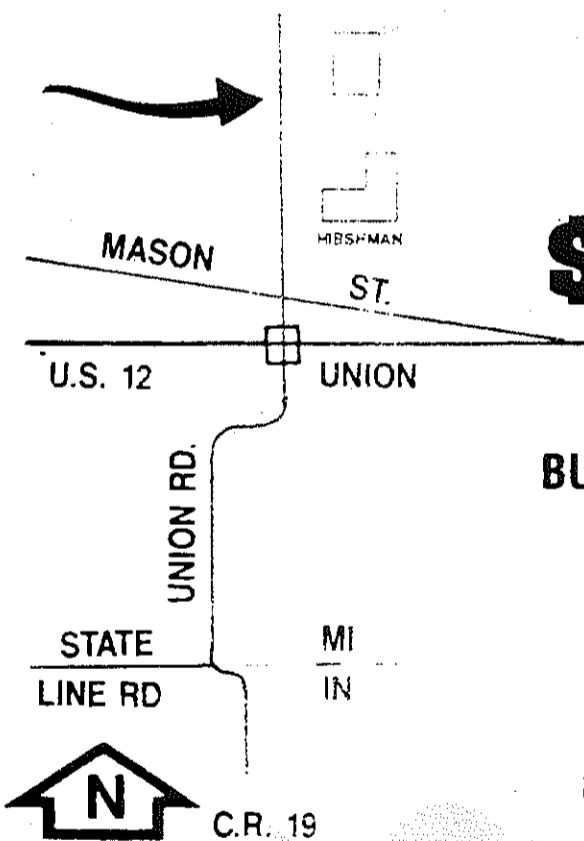
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# ZEBRA MUSSELS

## What Are Zebra Mussels?

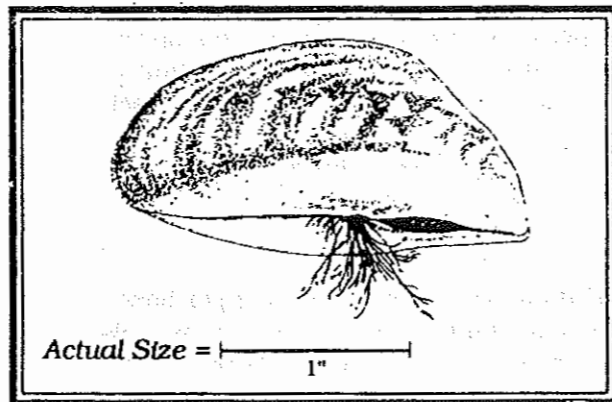
Whoever says that good things come in small packages certainly isn't talking about the zebra mussel. The little clam-like creatures that came over from Europe and stubbornly cling to virtually any underwater surface may indeed be small (just 1/8 to 1 inch when fully grown), but they're far from a good thing.

An adult zebra mussel can live up to five years, and females can produce 30,000 to 40,000 eggs a year, mostly during the summer months (when water temperatures reach 54 F or above). After hatching, the free-swimming microscopic young (veliger) travel with the currents for up to 30 days, spreading rapidly. Young mussels must then find a surface to attach to, or they will die.

## Where Are They Now?

It is believed the tiny mussels were accidentally introduced into Lake St. Clair in 1985 via the ballast water of a European ocean going freighter, but were not discovered until 1988. By that time, the rapidly reproducing mussels had already spread to the Detroit River and much of Lake Erie. They have since spread to many areas bordering the Great Lakes in Michigan and the Great Lakes bordering Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Minnesota, Indiana and Pennsylvania as well as Ontario, Canada.

The mussels will continue to spread throughout the Great Lakes Basin and eventually to inland waters—lakes and streams—throughout Michigan and possibly the nation. Slowing their spread may provide the time needed to discover control measures.



## Potential Impacts!

Zebra mussels and their larva may accumulate in the water intakes of both inboard and outboard motors causing damage to those engines. Other threats posed by the zebra mussel include reduction of traditional rock



or gravel fish spawning beds where colonization occurs. By filtering large amounts of water, zebra mussels may also greatly reduce the tiny plankton on which young, juvenile fish and forage fish normally feed. Michigan's seven underwater preserves are also in danger because the shipwrecks provide the type of substrate that zebra mussels attach to.

In addition, they clog municipal and industrial water intakes by building up colonies several inches thick, and densities of over 100,000 per square meter.

Although certain species of diving ducks and some fish such as the freshwater drum prey on the zebra mussel, these natural predators are too few to halt their spread. Authorities tend to agree that zebra mussels are here to stay.

## How Can They Spread?

Authorities generally agree that the spread of zebra mussels to presently uninfested inland waters is inevitable.

Even the angler who fills a minnow pail with water from an infested Great Lake and then dumps it into an inland lake could well be furthering the mussels' spread. Along with that Great Lakes water might come numerous microscopic mussel larva which, when released, can grow into rapidly reproducing adults if a suitable environment is found.

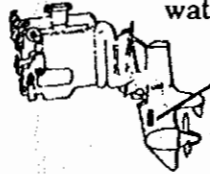
Other authorities worry that the zebra mussel may actively "hitch" rides on commercial, pleasure, and fishing boats and be transported from mussel-laden waters to other lakes and streams. Researchers who have studied the zebra mussel report that the creature can also survive out of the water for up to 14 days, in some situations.

## How You Can Help

Here are steps boaters and anglers can take to slow the spread of zebra mussels and protect Michigan's waters:

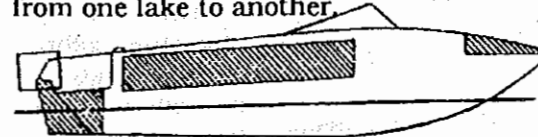
- ▶ Always take your boat out of the water and inspect it (and the boat trailer) carefully before transporting.
- ▶ Remove any plant debris from the boat trailer at the launch site where tiny zebra mussels may be entangled. When fully grown, zebra mussels can be easily seen.
- ▶ In their earlier stages, attached zebra mussels may not be easily seen. Pass your hand across the boat's bottom—if it feels grainy, it's probably mussels.
- ▶ Carefully scrape the hull (or trailer), or use a high-pressure spray (250 psi) to dislodge them. They cling stubbornly to surfaces and it will probably take some real effort to knock them loose.
- ▶ If it is hot and dry, leave your boat out of the water for several days. The zebra mussels will die and drop off.
- ▶ Always dispose of the mussels in an environmentally sound manner. Don't just leave them on the shore where they could be swept back into the lake, or rot and foul the area (the shells are sharp on beachgoers' bare feet). Find a trash barrel or other garbage container.
- ▶ On wood, aluminum or steel boats, attached zebra mussels may take off the first layer of paint when removed. Be careful not to damage the gelcoat on fiberglass hulls. Repaint if necessary.

- Zebra mussels can also get into intake pipes and clog the cooling system of your boat's engine, and they are difficult to remove once they do. Keep an eye on the temperature gauge if you spend time in waters known to be mussel-infested and check the water intake if the engine runs too hot.



- Certain polymer waxes and copper based paints appear to discourage zebra mussels from attaching to fiberglass, however certain formulas can be corrosive to aluminum. You need to check your hull from time-to-time because the mussels cling to drain holes and speedometer brackets.

- Always use extra caution when transporting baitfish from one lake to another. You could be carrying microscopic zebra mussels larvae. To be safe, do not take water from one lake to another.



Drain all bilge water and live tanks before entering another waterway.

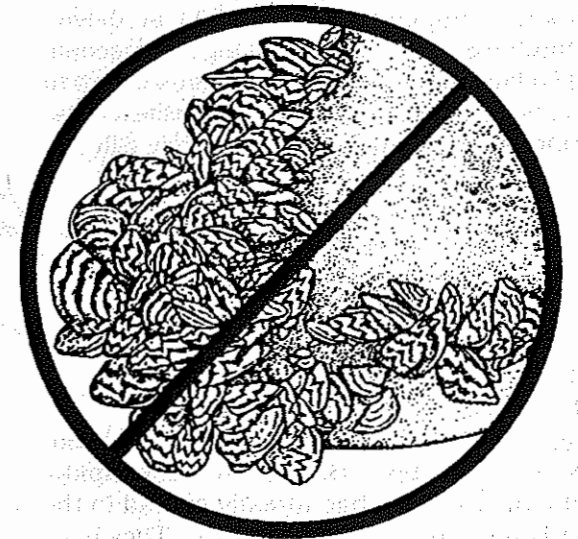
- If you do not use your boat frequently, at least once a week, consider removing your boat from the water.

### For more information contact:

Michigan Sea Grant Extension  
Natural Resources Building, Room 334  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824

## HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF ZEBRA MUSSELS IN MICHIGAN

*What Recreational Boaters and Anglers Should Know*



Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Office of the Great Lakes



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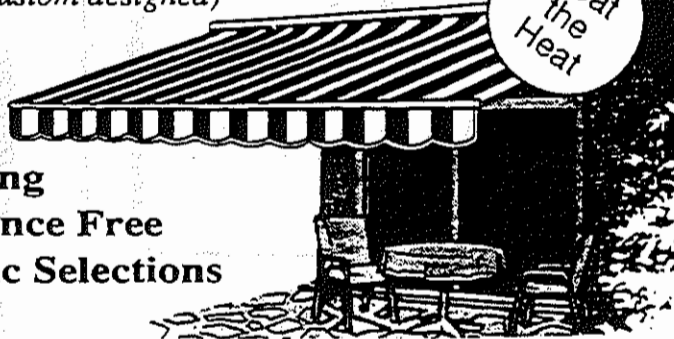
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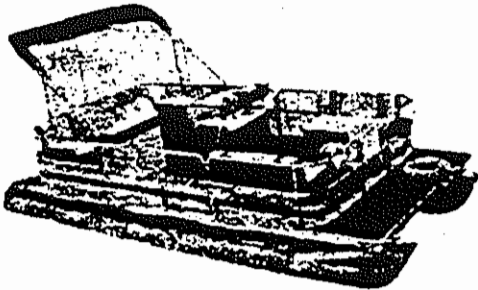
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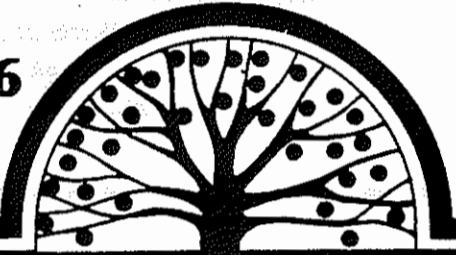
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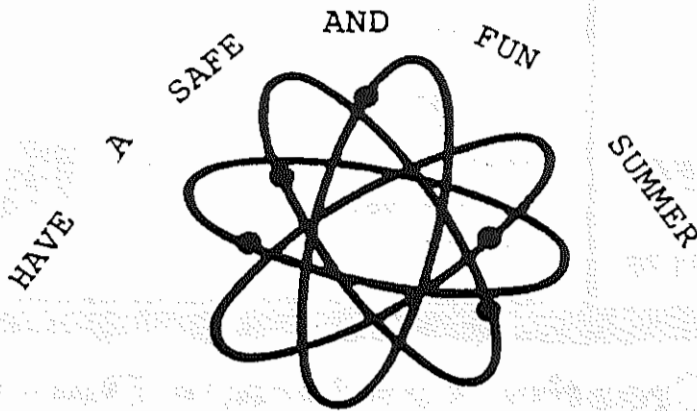
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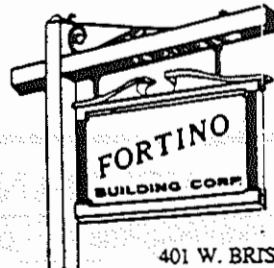


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