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Birch Banker

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

COMMODORES' COMMENTS

August 8, 1998
Issue 11

July was friendly and kind, but all the same it has passed us by. We beseech you August to treat us so fair, rain for that which grows and sun above our Lake so clear.

The sun was above Park Shore Golf Course last Friday and all participants seemed to have enjoyed themselves. Next year we may need 3 kegs at the course rather than 2. Thanks to Dean Davis and Steve Horvath for tending the beer wagon. John Ball and Rich Mullin did a tremendous job in organizing the outing for 68 golfers. Bud Zesinger's foursome proved unbeatable for lowest team score, congratulations! We were all treated to a read-meat extravaganza by K-Tap, help behind the bar was provided by Karen Curtis, Liz Cover and Dean Davis. Thanks for everyone's help, and special thanks to all sponsors and door prize providers.

As we all wait and debate about President Clinton's possible confession or conviction, I want the opportunity to confess to some sins of omission as Commodore. Because of my poor attention to details I have forgotten a couple of things that have hurt people's feelings. Please forgive me for my organizational clumsiness.

I encourage everyone to save their appetite for this Saturday's Corn and Sausage Roast. It all gets started at 5:30 at the Yacht Club. Price is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children, and free for those under 5. Don't just attend for the food, but come to toast our new outdoor deck. It looks great!

Thanks again to all involved in the deck project; Rick Russworm, Dean Davis, Jim Beck, Brad Walker and Scott Troeger.

Al Cover, Commodore

1998 SCHEDULE-August *Indiana time*

CORN & SAUSAGE	SATURDAY, August 8, 5:30	BLYC
DIRECTOR'S MEETING	SATURDAY, August 8, 9am	BLYC
Homeowner's Association	Saturday, August 15, 10am	BLYC
Fall Dinner	Saturday, August 22, 5:30	BLYC

WALKERS, JOGGERS, NEIGHBORS WELCOME-We on Birch Lake's West side would like our Birch Lake neighbors to know that we welcome and encourage the tradition of walking around the Lake and extend to each of you a welcome to walk across the front of our properties. We enjoy seeing you and encourage you to continue your enjoyable Birch Lake walks. *The Doolittles, Cowens, Arnolds and Minglins.*

RESERVATION FOR FALL DINNER

Cocktails 5:30

Dinner 6:30

Name _____ Number _____ Phone number _____

You may leave with cashier at Corn & Sausage Roast, Covers or in Barker Box at 15222 Birch Lakeshore. Cost to be determined soon!

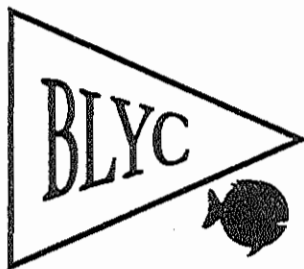
LOST - Blue Float which has the words "Leslie's Unsinkable Super Float". Blew off pier in Early July. If found please contact Carpetner's Cottage 12.

MARILYN & STEWART SPRATT from Edgewood, Ky. have had a great week on the North Shore. The two boys, Chris (14) and Mike (11) each improved their waterskiing skills. Chris had a ball driving the boat, now that he's passed the Michigan Boating Safety Course. Mike's looking forward to the Corn & Sausage Roast. Too bad the week sent so fast... It's back to Ky. tomorrow.

FOR RENT-LAKEFRONT on Westside - \$550 weekly - Please call Brad Walker 2515

If you are looking for a BABYSITTER please call Natalie Dudeck at 2395.

Welcome to JOYCE BAILEY AND FAMILY from Clarksville, IN. They will again be spending a week on the North Side. If you can't catch any fish this week, contact Joyce... She'll probably have caught them all.



August 1998

FLEET NEWS

The wind was light last weekend, but we did put races 7 & 8 in the record book. Thus far no race has needed the "scuttle rule" (if no boat makes the first mark in 30 minutes nor finishes in 90 minutes, we cancel & throw out the race). 1998 has 4 consecutive double-headers!

Thanks for running the start goes to Stan Pitakos & the Spratt boys on the Graceful Lady. I need to mention two sailors as well. Dave Olson continues to bring out kids as crew - way to go Dave! In the 1995 Americas Cup trials there was an all woman crew on board the yacht "Mighty Mary" (until adding Dave Dellenbaugh, the bearded lady). Birch has Mighty Marty on "Pumpkin Pie" (Marty Athanas sailed in the Sunfish fleet). It's great to see a woman out to do battle (though she was too darned fast). Let's hope some of the other women sailors kick the men off the podium ... this should not be a men's club.

In the afternoon Les & I toured the lake counting sailboats. Some are probably hidden away in garages, under piles of leaves, etc. Still, we saw 47 Sunfish! Imagine the beautiful sight if all the Sunfish, MCs, Hobies, & various other boats went sailing the same day.

08/02 - Race Results:

		Season Race #	
		7	8
Sunfish	S. Troeger	1	1
	B. King	2	2
	M. Athanas	3	4
	J. Howard	4	3
	D. Olson.	5	5
	J. Bolinger	dns	dns
	M. Machalleck	dns	dns
	D. Weaver	dns	dns
	J. Gableman	dns	dns
	C. Spratt	dns	dns
J. Slaytor	dns	dns	
MCs	D. Harmon	2	1
	H. Cranmer	4	2
	T. Howard	1	3
	B. Harlan	3	5
	R. Harmon	5	4
	T. Troeger	dns	dns
Starters	S. Pitakos	4	
	S. Plaia	2	
	J. Beck	2	
	M. Sante	dns	
	W. King	dns	

Day Sailing

Saturday, August 22nd

9:30 am - Sailing 100 - rigging, repairing your boat

10:00 am - Sailing 101 - on shore class on how to sail

10:30 am - Sailing 102 - on water class with coaches ... bring a boat or just on & crew with us

11:00 am - Pleasure Sail

4:00 pm - Couples Race

Correction - 07/26 MC results were: Race one

(1) D. Harmon (2) B. Harlan (3) T. Howard

(4) H. Cranmer - Race two (1) T. Howard

(2) B. Harlan (3) H. Cranmer (4) D. Harmon

Season Races every Sunday at 11:00am

All times are IN standard time ... we never change

COMMUNITY POLICE PANCAKE & SAUSAGE SAFETY & SERVICE BREAKFAST, Sunday, August 15, 7-12 (Michigan) at Shrine Building on Union Road in Union. Program includes children's ID and immunization.

NEW SHORE STATION COVER 22' long, 108" wide - MODEL #22108 - Color White - \$700 item
Best offer over \$300 - Let's talk about it!!!

Dear Birch Lake watershed residents,
Below is a page taken from the June issue of a 1979 Birch Barker.
Thank you for continuing to do what is good for Birch Lake.

B.L.W.C. Water Quality Committee
1998

expressions

From a Different View

BIRCH LAKE'S SONGS OF THE SEASONS

By Gertie Temple

Editor, Birch Barker

IF just outside your lake-front door,
Your lawn is like a beach;
Remember, my front shore
Is just within its reach!

When you say,
"IT'S TIME TO FERTILIZE!"
Look at me;
Please be wise!

You can turn my lovely blue
Into an ugly algae scene;
Your deluge of all that phosphorus
Upon your grassy green!

It seeps into my water
You know,
And really makes the algae
GROW!

P.S. "Absence of fertilizer" is one of the recommendations to make me Oligotrophic - the best, and keep my swimming areas free from algal mats and weeds! The phosphorus in fertilizers entering through surface runoff is not helping my phosphorus count of .0025! In fact, if you use a pump and sprinkle with ME, you will be fertilizing at the same time and reducing my phosphorus buildup! Also, you could have a soil test to find a nutrient to help your lawn that is not of the pollutant kind!!!!!!

I AM outside your lake-front door.
I am saying thanks to you.
Listen - hear me whisper softly -
I am a lovely blue.

BIRCH LAKE

FERTILIZING LAWN ON LAKE LOTS by Gale L. Arent Kalamazoo County Extension Director

Eutrophication—the process of nutrient enrichment of lakes, streams and ponds is probably Southcentral Michigan's number one lake water quality problem. Wastes and fertilizers pour, seep and erode into water causing an unnatural concentration of nutrients. These nutrients produce a superabundance of algae and rooted plants.

Phosphorus is usually the key nutrient in eutrophication. Overabundant phosphorus commonly results from human activities—primarily sewage discharges and secondarily overfertilization of lawns. In some lakes excess nitrogen is also a problem.

Soils saturated with phosphorus from septic systems or fertilizers cannot remove phosphorus from septic tank effluents. Phosphorus from septic tanks passes as far as 300 feet through some soils.

Guidelines for minimizing nutrient loss from lakefront lawns:

1. If possible, maintain a zone of natural vegetation between the lake and lawn. If you wish to plant a buffer strip, some trees you might consider are tamarack, red cedar, black willow, red oak, white oak, sugar maple, black ash and balsam poplar. A buffer strip can help stabilize the shoreline and prevent runoff. Deeply rooted plants can take up nutrients from the soil, instead of allowing them to seep into the lake water.

2. If you are establishing a lawn, plant fescue rather than bluegrass. The annual nitrogen requirement of fescue is about 2 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. while bluegrass needs 4 to 7 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.

3. Use the smallest possible amount (this may be none at all) of nitrogen fertilizer to maintain a good grass cover. Fertilize with nitrogen in the spring using a small amount of a soluble form of nitrogen. The principle is to have the grass use the nitrogen so it will remain vigorous and minimize the amount of undissolved fertilizer on the lawn surface capable of washing into the lake. If the lawn is not growing well, apply a very small amount of nitrogen in early summer.

4. Do not use fertilizer containing phosphorus or potash unless a soil test indicates a need for these nutrients and the lawn is not growing well. In most cases, no phosphorus is needed on lawns.

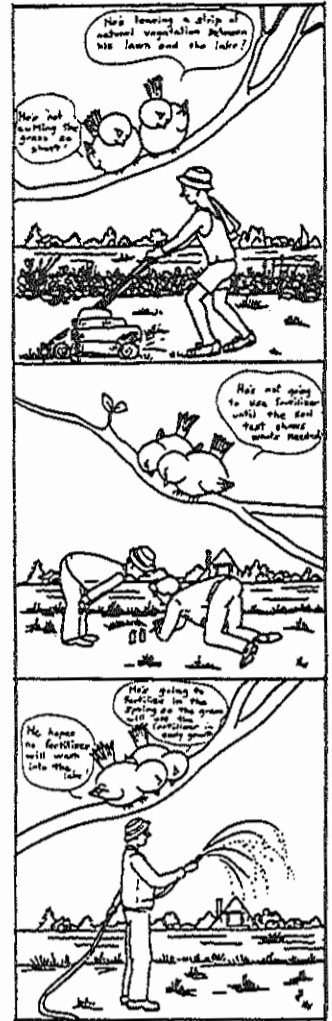
5. Water sparingly, especially on sandy soils, to reduce the possibility of leaching nitrogen and other nutrients as the water moves through the soil toward the lake.

6. Avoid fertilizer-herbicide mixtures. Use herbicides only if weeds become a serious problem. If weeds are treated, apply the herbicide in the fall. This will minimize runoff and reduce the chances of injury to woody ornamental trees and shrubs.

7. On lightly fertilized lawns thatch will probably not need to be raked. It will decompose and provide part of the nutrients needed by the lawn.

8. Rake leaves in the fall. This will keep them from shading the lawn and from falling into the water where they will decompose and add to the nutrient load.

9. Do not cut the lawn too close. Cutting height should be 2" to 2½" so an adequate green area remains on the turf.



HOW TO READ A FERTILIZER BAG

What's in it?
A 20 lb. bag of 20-5-10 fertilizer contains:
20 percent (4 lbs.) nitrogen
5 percent (1 lb.) available phosphoric acid
10 percent (2 lbs.) water soluble potash

If you definitely want a lawn near the lake, and if you find that your lawn needs a nitrogen fertilizer to remain healthy, consult the following list to find the best nitrogen source for your purposes.

Type of fertilizer	Common name	Nitrogen content	Lbs. needed to equal 1 lb. of nitrogen	Nitrogen release rate	Remarks	Where Obtainable
Water soluble inorganic	Ammonium nitrate	33%	3	rapid	Most effective for rapid green-up and growth when soil temperature is below 55-60°F (before May 15). Strongly acidifying on soil. Causes burning of growing turf if not watered in immediately.	Farm supply stores
Water soluble organic	Urea	45%	2.2	fairly rapid	Slightly less available than soluble, inorganic forms when soil temperature is below 55-60°F, but otherwise similar. May cause burning of growing turf if not watered in immediately.	Farm supply and garden stores
Water insoluble natural organic	Processed sewage sludge	5 to 6%	20-17	moderately slow (also contains phosphorus)	Not as desirable for lakefront use because nitrogen is released slowly and there is more chance for it to off to the lake. Release is most rapid when soil temperature is above 60°F. Minimum danger of burning turf.	Milorganite, for example, is available at farm supply, garden and discount stores
	Tankage	5 to 10%	20-10	slow		Nitro-10, for example, is available at farm supply and garden stores.
Water insoluble synthetic organic	Ureaformaldehydes	38%	2.6	slow	Slow nitrogen release until soil temperature is above 55-60°F. Minimum danger of burning turf when used alone.	Not generally available except in pre-mixed nitrogen-phosphorus-potash fertilizers.

B.L.C. Water Quality Committee
Dan and Janet Reynolds
Terry and Linda Curtis
Bob and Gertie Temple
1998

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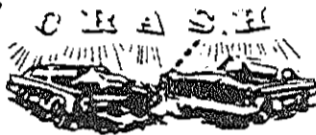
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Lake Residents References upon request.

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