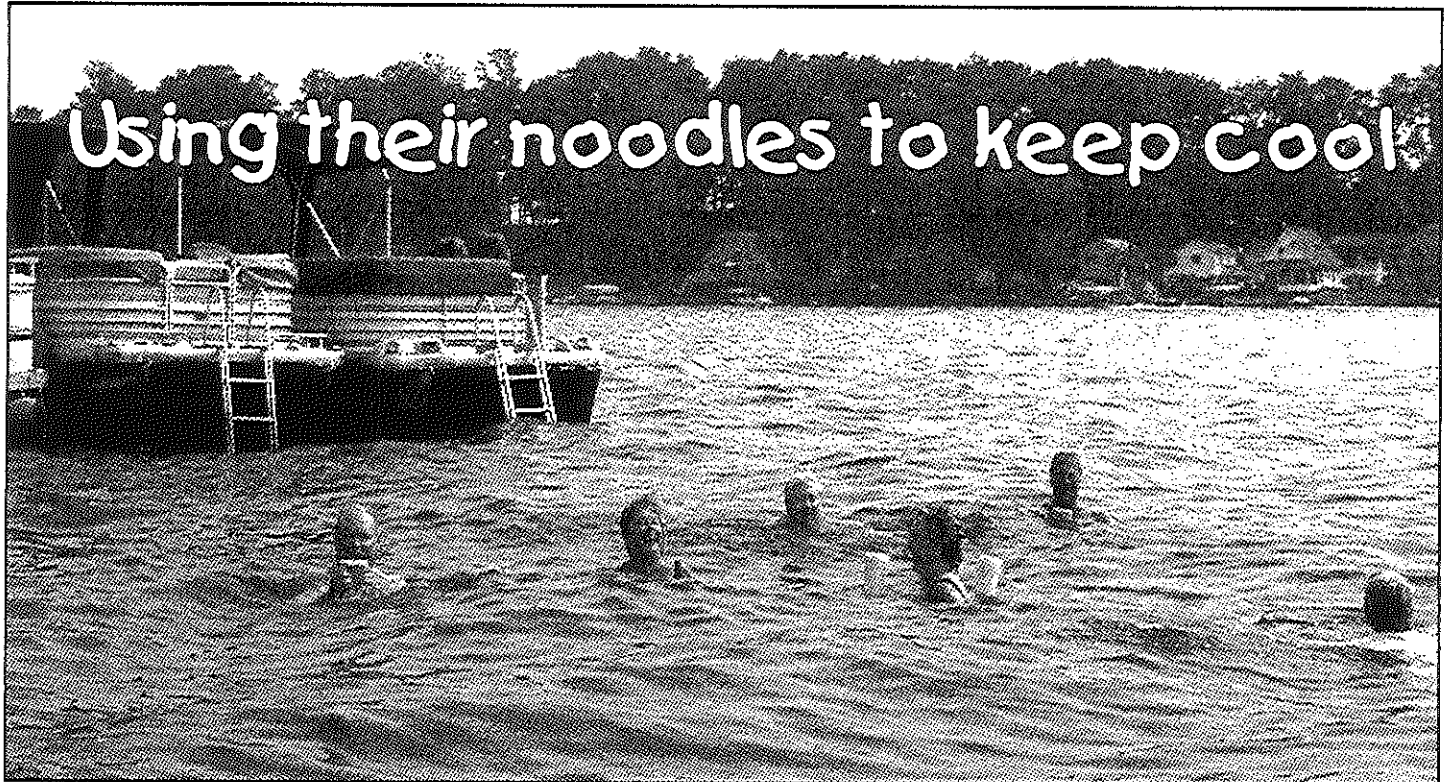


The Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Six, June 29, 2002



Using their noodles to keep cool.

As warm weather moved in with a vengeance last week, Birch Lakers

found an alternative to air conditioning to beat the heat. Pictured above

(from left), the Wagners, Dennerts and Bergans frolic in mid-lake.

Barker photo by Patti Russwurm

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Fellow Birch Lakers,

Can you believe June is over? Summer goes far too quickly! The 4th of July is almost here so I thought I would share some interesting facts with you.

As you all know, the 4th of July is the celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. Only two men signed the document that day, most of the rest signed weeks later on August 2nd. Of the 56 signers, 24 were lawyers or jurists, 11 were merchants, and nine were farmers/plantation owners. Because they were considered traitors, five were captured and were tortured before dying. Two lost sons in the Army, and two others had sons captured. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Francis Lewis had his home destroyed and his wife was jailed and died. John Hart was driven from his dying wife's side. He was forced to live in the woods and caves for a year. He died a few

weeks after returning home to find it destroyed, his wife dead and his 13 children gone. Two others suffered similar fates. Hearing that his home was being occupied by British General Cornwallis, Thomas Nelson, Jr. urged George Washington to destroy it, which he did. Nelson died bankrupt.

All the signers were well-educated, gentlemen, not rabble-rousing ruffians. All signed knowing that the penalty would be death if they were captured. They gave up their homes, wealth and families because they valued freedom for themselves, and the generations to come. So, when you are picnicking with your families or enjoying the fireworks, take a moment to reflect on what was given up by those 56 brave men.

Speaking of enjoying the 4th of July festivities, don't forget to put the following on your calendar:
FIREWORKS - 5th at sunset
PARADE - 6th at 3 pm (4 MI)
PANCAKE BREAKFAST - 8 - 11 am (9 - 12 MI) **NOTICE** the times are different than last week's Barker. The breakfast will be at the camp and the prices are the same as last

year, \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 6-10, \$0 tots. (Of course, any additional donations are appreciated and all proceeds will go to support the camp)

Have a great weekend!

-Commodore Jim

BLYC Calendar

June 29.....Kids Craft Day 10 am
 July 5.....Fireworks (at dark)
 (Rain Day Saturday, 7/6)
 July 6.....Boat Parade 3 pm
 July 7.....Pancake Breakfast 8-11
 July 20.....Beach Party
 July 26.....Men's Golf Outing
 Aug. 3.....Women's Golf Outing
 Aug. 7.....Women's Luncheon
 Aug 10.....Corn and Sausage Roast
 Aug. 24.....Fall Dinner

NOTE: All parties at the Yacht Club start at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

SPECIAL NOTICE

The issue of waste water treatment and a potential Birch Lake sewer system has generated considerable interest and controversy over the past few weeks.

Several requests have been received from Lakers to publish information and individual letters of opinion. While officers and board of directors of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, and the editor of the Barker WILL NOT ENDORSE ANY opinion

on the issue, the Barker will publish opinion letters that meet the following stipulations:

- All letters must be signed and the writers must allow their names to be published with the article.
- Letters must be submitted by deadlines listed.
- All letters must be submitted via e-mail, or on computer disk in a text format.
- All letters must be no more than 500 words; if letters are over 500 words, they will only be published on an available time/space basis, and pro-

viding the author agrees to cover all additional costs incurred because of the letter.

DEADLINE FOR THIS WEEK: Due to the mid-week holiday, the Birch Barker must be produced with shortened deadlines. Anyone who wishes to submit articles, letters, photos or news items should have the materials to the Barker Editor NO LATER THAN NOON on MONDAY, JULY 1.



If you have articles or photos for the BARKER, please put the materials in the Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore) by 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, or e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com by Monday at Noon. If you must, mail (10 days prior to desired publication date) to Phil Vitale, 122 So. Michigan, So. Bend, IN 46601, or fax your items to (574) 232-3853. To contact me, call Phil at 476-1680 or (574) 232-3735.

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

Birch Lake Notes

Leiters visit North Shore

Mike and Karol (Hemig) Leiter and their two sons Ethan & CJ will be staying on the north side this week. Karol spent summers around Birch Lake as a youth.

Duck itch vigilance urged

The famed Birch Lake Duck Itch or Swimmer's Itch, is in full bloom, according to Zebra Mussel gatherers. The skin condition that characterizes the itch include a prickling sensation and red dots. The inflammation is caused by a parasitic flatworm transmitted via

duck and goose feces. The worm is ingested by snails and later burrows into unsuspecting swimmers.

Treatment consists of topical salves and ointments. The condition disappears after several days.

Mussel Maniacs

Last weekend four Birch Lake cousins (Toth grandkids) Katie, 13, Lauren, 10, Patrick, 9, and Connor, 6, collected Zebra mussels for a penny apiece. In a very short time they collected a grand total of 1,546. Their goal was only 100 when they started, but after a few

hours of working, their goal grew to 1,000. Congratulations to the hard working cousins for collecting 1,546 mussels, surpassing both goals, and clearing the lake of those insidious lake creatures.

- Katie and Lauren Kesmodel

Still need mussel muscles!

We still need your help to demussel the Birch Lake beaches. Remember to submit a count and claim the penny-apiece bounty to fund Kid events at the Yacht Club this summer. Submit the coupon to any BLYC Director to credit the Kid account. The Freihofer family harvested what looked to be 2.5 gallons (half of a 5 gallon bucket) off the North shore last Saturday! Maybe we are going to have to arrive at an average per gallon? After seeing what the tally is for June we will determine whether the bounty will be extended into July.

-Bob King

Babysitter sign-up

So Far we've only had one Laker sign up to babysit — 12 year-old Amanda Lacy, 476-2102. Amanda has completed the Red Cross Baby-sitting Course and is ready for your call!

Don't forget Golf

There's still time to sign up to play or sponsor at this year's Men's Golf outing on July 26. Call Rich at 476-8820 or 574-231-1380 for info.

Barker Kid(s) of the Week



The Barker is proud to announce the pre-engagement of Claire (daughter of Gary & Karen Brovold) to Peyton (grandson of Tom & Vickie Rogers). Watch your mail box for invitation to this union sometime in 2027. Aren't they the cutest couple?!


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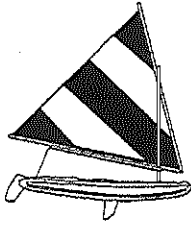
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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

BLYC Sailing News

Last Sunday Tom Howard returned to his winning ways by taking 2 first place finishes in the Sunfish "A" Fleet. In the "B"



Fleet Chad Plaia proved that he is learning fast by finishing 1st in both races, "good job Chad".

So far our new Sunfish "B" Fleet is off to a slow start with only 3 boats participating. It would be great to see more boats joining in the races. As I stated before the "B" Fleet is made

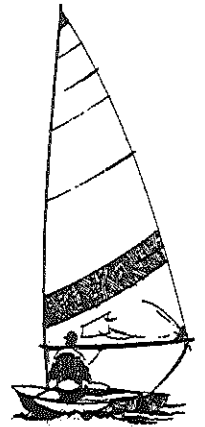
up of sailors with less experience. This means that anybody can come out and sail competing with sailors who are at the same skill level, so dust off that old boat and come out and enjoy the fun of sailing.

Don Harman
Fleet Captain

Come Sail with us!

Next Races:
Sunday, June 30, 11 am

Don't miss the Fourth of July Regatta Sat & Sun, 7/6 & 7; 11 am



Sailing Results

Week of June 23 and season standings

Sailor	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Average	Place
MC's					
H. Cranmer	1st	1st		1563	2nd
D. Harman	3rd	2nd		1493	3rd
R. Harman	2nd	3rd		1547	2nd
Phil Vitale	DNS	DNS		1430	4th
Sunfish "A"					
J. Bolinger	DNS	DNS		1493	4th
T. Howard	1st	1st		1565	2nd
D. Olson	3rd	3rd		1368	5th
Russwurm	4th	4th		1358	6th
S. Troeger	2nd	2nd		1524	3rd
D. Weaver	5th	DNS		1332	7th
D. Troeger	DNS	DNS		1610	1st
Sunfish "B"					
J. Meyer	2nd	2nd		1557	2nd
S. Vitale	DNS	DNS		1454	4th
C. Plaia	1st	1st		1594	1st
S. Plaia	DNS	DNS		1531	3rd
"CATS"					
B. King	DNS	DNS		1571	1st tie
D. Weaver	DNS	DNS		1571	1st tie

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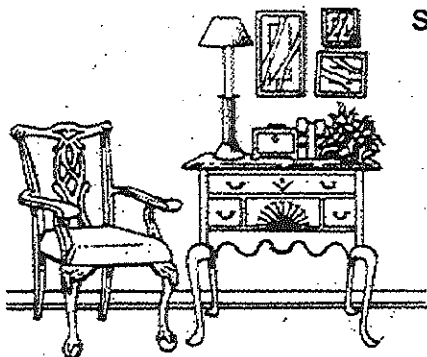
Accents & Images

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Sheryl Papandria

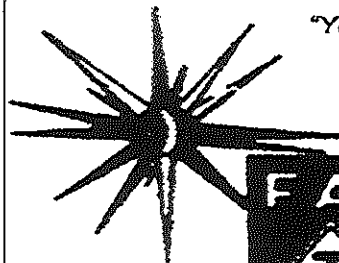
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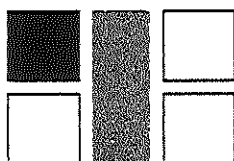
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-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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The Best of Beck's Bistro



Braised Green Beans and Tomatoes

- 1 Tbs olive oil
- 1 Lb green beans, trimmed and cut on diagonal into 2 inch lengths
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp grated lemon peel
- 1 cup canned crushed tomatoes
- 2 Tbs honey
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1 Tbs lemon juice

In a large skillet, heat the oil over medum-low heat. Add the green beans and cook, tossing occasionally until beans begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and lemon peel, cook until the garlic has softened, about 2 minutes.

Stir in tomatoes, honey, salt, oregano, and cinnamon and cook, stirring frequently until the green beans are tender and the sauce is glossy, about 5 minutes longer. Stir in the lemon juice.

Makes 4 servings.

Onion-Garlic Chicken

- 4 chicken breasts (bone in)
- 1 Tbs olive oil or vegetable oil
- 2 medium onions, sliced
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 Tbs white wine vinegar or cider vinegar

Rinse chicken with cold water and pat dry with paper towels. Heat oil in medium non-stick skillet over med-low heat. Add onions and garlic, mix well. Cook and stir 6-8 minutes, or until soft. Stir in sugar and

vinegar until dissolved.

Cook and stir 7- 9 minutes or until liquid evaporates. Remove from heat. Place chicken, bone side down, in a 9x13 baking dish coated with non-stick spray. Spread onion mixture evenly over chicken. Cover loosely with foil. bake at 450 for 20-25 minutes or until chicken is done.

Makes 4 servings.

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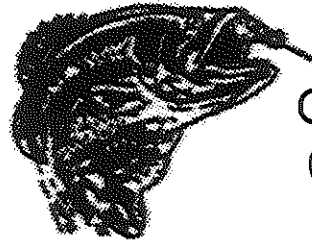
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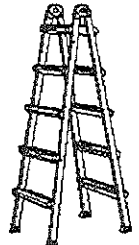
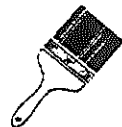
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Greetings Birch Lake Campers! Do you need, want or desire a quality painter this summer?

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Never just throw him into the water, and always supervise his water activities.

Stand in shallow water and call to your dog. You may want to coax him with a toy or a treat.

Your dog should use all four legs to doggie paddle. If he paddles with just his front paws, lift

his rear legs to help him float. He'll quickly understand that he needs all his legs to swim.

Swimming is strenuous to any creature not used to it, so don't let your dog swim for too long. And watch out for strong waves. Doggie life jackets are at pet stores for those dogs that like to take their boat out to the center of the lake and tie up to other boats to just float with the noodle people.

Stay cool.

-Fido's Friend



Too cute to omit

This is Oscar Wilson, a 9 week-old schnoodle that is the "granddog" of Dean and Phyllis Davis. He has been boating and swimming, and he loves to be at Birch Lake.



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BIRCH LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM - BLYC Water Quality Committee
 Dan & Janet Reynolds, Patti & Rick Russwurm, Bob & Gertie Temple

June 2002

Report #5

**1999 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program
 Annual Summary Report**

Secchi Disk Transparency (feet) Carlson TSISD (transparency) 38
 Total Phosphorus (ug/l) Carlson TSITP (summer TP) 34
 Chlorophyll a (ug/l) Carlson TSICHL (chlorophyll) 43

**2000 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program
 Annual Summary Report**

Secchi Disk Transparency (feet) Carlson TSISD (transparency) 35
 Total Phosphorus (ug/l) Carlson TSITP (summer TP) 34
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**2000 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program
 Annual Summary Report**

Birch Lake has a large volume hypolimnion. Dissolved oxygen levels remain high in the hypolimnion into mid-summer. By August oxygen is gone in the deepest waters, but the upper hypolimnion retains some oxygen even into September.

**2001 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program
 Annual Summary Report**

Secchi Disk Transparency (feet) Carlson TSISD (transparency) 35
 Total Phosphorus (ug/l) Carlson TSITP (summer TP) 32
 Chlorophyll a (ug/l) Carlson TSICHL (chlorophyll) 37

**2001 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program
 Annual Summary Report**

The Aquatic Plant Mapping Project revealed moderate plant populations consisting of good diversity of species. Curly-leaf pondweed identified. Eurasian Milfoil not found.

June 20, 2002

Don Winne, Executive Director Michigan Lake and Stream Associations:

"According to all Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program parameters, Birch Lake is rated Oligotrophic in all tests. Based upon the CLMP tests Birch Lake is Oligotrophic based on lake phosphorus, Secchi disk, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll a, and Aquatic Plants. These are current findings of Birch Lake 1999 through 2001. These are evaluated by Ralph Bednars, Howard Wandell and Dr. Niles Kevern."

Birch Lake would not be the Oligotrophic lake that it is today without all the information given the Temples over the years by Executive

Director ML&SA, Don Winne.

1985 - Don represented Birch Lake when serious deterioration was identified by Lee Maager, Director, Cass County Health Department. A study showed that the problem was caused by excessive phosphorus loading from over half of the lakefront septic systems.

1994 - The program was completed with the upgrading of all systems that needed upgrading and the deterioration process of Birch Lake was reversing. Summer blooms of blue green algae disappeared. Water clarity increased.

1995 - Dan Reynolds, Water Quality Committee Chairman, called Steve Norton, Surface Water Quality Division, DEQ.

Below is a paragraph taken from Mr. Norton's report:

"If there were a source of fecal waste entering the lake on a regular basis, you would not only see a rise in the bacterial count, you would also see a rise in weed and algal growth. On both of my visits to the lake I noted how clear the water was. Water clarity is reduced when there is an abundance of algae suspended in the water. Of all the lakes I have visited, Birch Lake had by far the best water clarity. What was even more astonishing was the fact that it still retained this clarity into late August when most lakes have lost clarity due to the warmer water and favorable environment for the growth of algae."

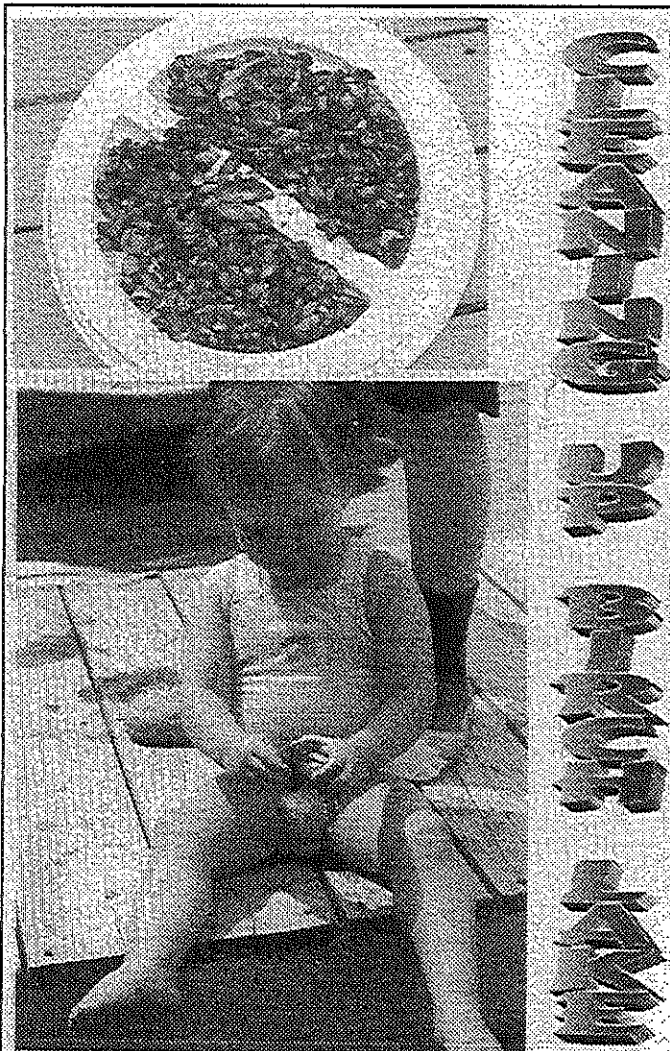
Based upon the exceptional water clarity and the lack of a weed and algae problem in 1995, based upon the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program tests in 1999, 2000, 2001, evaluated by Environmental and Water Quality Specialists, do you agree that work done over the last 17 years has maintained the integrity of Birch Lake?

-g.temple

No-phosphorous Fertilizer still available

The Water Quality Committee of the Birch Lake Yacht Club has reported they still have bags of no-phosphorous fertilizer for resi-

dents to use on their lawns. The 50-lb. bags are available from Bob Temple and Dan Reynolds, and cost just \$10 per bag.



Above: Phillip Dudeck (My Neighbor), Nicholas Sobczak (My Son), Erhan Maack (My Nephew), Olivia Maack (my niece)

(Third generation Birch Lakers)

Although Olivia & Erhan were more interested in throwing them back in, they ended up with a grand total of 649

Zebra Mussels to throw in the trash.

(Careful, duck fever is in full bloom)

Tammy Sobczak-Barbour (Up on the south hill).

Try It, You'll Like It

Part I

Last Saturday night about 10 p.m., I said my good-nights to those still in attendance at the Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party, and headed up the hill alongside the Yacht Club building. It was as dark as the center of Saddam Hussein's heart, and I was grateful for the guiding light provided by an open trunk that shone like a beacon near the spot where I'd left our car.

Four teenage girls were intent on finding something in that trunk and they paid no attention to me as I passed by, but by the time I turned the key in my ignition, they had finished their search and were headed for the East side of the yacht club property. I caught them with my headlights and I heard one of the girls squeal. The others laughed. Someone waved and I waved back, though I knew they couldn't see me in the glare of the lights. "May you always be that light-hearted," I said, "and may you always have that much fun."

At least one of the girls was smoking a cigarette, or so it seemed from my vantage point. I thought about the time when I began smoking, and shook my head at that young girl's folly, and at how casually I had once strolled into a habit that would cost me a small fortune and deliver a bushel full of trouble before I got rid of it.

I had just graduated from high school and I was desperate for three things in my life: independence from my family, acceptance from the kids I knew, and some evidence that I was finally becoming a cool and manly dude. I wasn't a jock. I was one of those boys who got good grades without working at it too hard, who acted in school plays, and who got elected to Student Council. You know the type, skinny and angular, a writer and a talker and loaded with good manners for girls and adults. The tough guys thought I was a sissy and the athletes

thought I was boring. Girls liked me because I danced well and I could make them laugh, but the girls I dated were not always the ones I pined for.

Obviously I needed a schtick, a totem of manliness or at least of impending maturity, to boost my self-esteem and to make a statement to those around me. Drinking wasn't my thing, though I would tip a brew or two to jolly myself up on a Saturday night. Dope wasn't much of an option either, because no one I knew used it or sold it, and if it had been available I would have been afraid of "reefer madness" or some such thing.

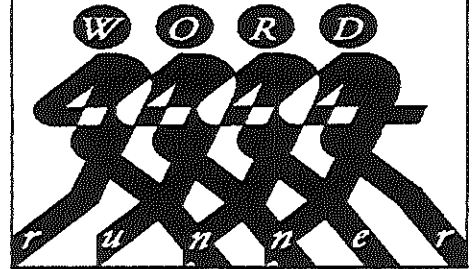
That left smoking cigarettes as the prime candidate to help me transform myself from Joe Geek into Mr. Smooth. Most of the older guys I knew whom I would have put on my "cool" list smoked and drank, and lighting up seemed to enhance their aura, so I took the plunge and bought a pack of Kools.

The first puff of mentholated smoke went through my head like a snort of super-heated dry ice. Dry and raw, why did anyone smoke these things? I coughed and developed a runny nose, but I worked my way through three packs in six days, and by the time I was ready to invest in a carton, I'd become a smoker.

It was the summer of 1955, long before the Surgeon General's first report, and years before anyone would suggest that cigarettes were killers. I don't know how much difference it would have made if I had known of the nexus between smoking and heart disease, lung cancer, emphysema, coronary artery disease, etc. etc. but I can honestly say, I didn't realize that cigarettes would do any permanent damage to my health. In addition to that, I was 18 years old and death was not anywhere on my radar screen.

My mother had been a smoker all of my life, and like all smokers she had her passions and her rituals. Never lit up until she'd eaten

By The WordRunner



in the morning, always two cigarettes in a chain after each meal, had her favorite ashtray, carried it and her lighter and her open pack from room to room as she moved about the house. NEVER ran out, even if it meant an extra trip to some store late in the evening. I'd watched and I'd wondered, "Are those things really worth all that bother?"

They weren't, but they demanded it, and as I soon discovered, the habit takes a seat at the center of your life. My friends and I talked about smoking almost as much as we smoked. We argued for the superiority of our favorite brands, and told stories of dropped cigarette butts from an ashtray on mornings when we'd exhausted our inventories. We burnt holes in our clothes; we smelled of stale smoke every day, and we lost our youthful fitness within a few months of taking up the habit.

Very soon we smoked not only because we wanted to, but because we had to — any lag time beyond twenty minutes after stubbing one out would flood the brain with instructions to get the next one going. But hey, I could quit any time I wanted to quit, right? Tune in next week for that chorus of Blue's blues.

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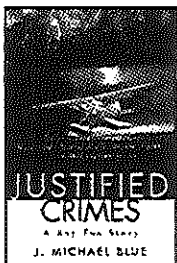
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Stu's Star Stuff



The early evening sky is alive with creepy crawlers: snakes, a dragon, a lizard, and a big, easy-to-find scorpion. The most ancient of the creepy crawlers is Draco, the celestial dragon.

Draco, is putting in just about its best evening-sky appearance for the year right now. It stands high in the north not long after darkness falls, wrapping around the stars of the Little Dipper. When Draco was first drawn, several thousand years ago, it incorporated parts of both Ursa Major and Ursa Minor, the bears.

Draco is one of those constellations often recognized by name but seldom iden-

tified in the sky, principally because it is faint — 3rd and 4th-magnitude stars comprise the snaky body. Early evening this time of year the dragon is nicely placed for viewing. Start with 2nd-magnitude Eltanin, the brightest of the group. First locate Vega, the brightest star in the east, about halfway up. Eltanin is 15 degrees (1-1/2 fists) to the upper left of Vega. The winding body drops down to almost the height of the North Star, the end of the handle on the Little Dipper, then curves back up and over the cup of the Little Dipper, passing between it and the Big Dipper.

About 5,000 years ago, during the reign of the pharaohs, Thuban, one of the stars in Draco, was our pole star. Thuban hardly stands out: hundreds of other stars outshine it. Yet back then, it indicated true north. Now, Vega is getting ready to take its turn - but not for a couple more thousand years.

Look for Draco this evening while you're out in the yard around the fire pit. And enjoy the show. It's free.

-Stewart Spratt



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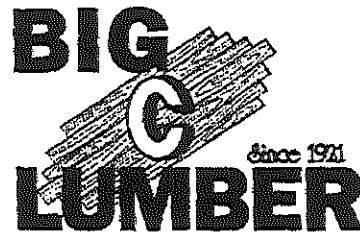
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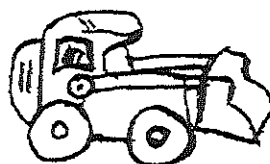


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Red Hat Society to tea here



You've heard the craze about the Red Hat Society which started after Jenny Joseph wrote the poem "Warning". We are bringing a version of this fun-filled society to the Ladies of Birch Lake for our Ladies Tea on Wednesday August 7th.

The Red Hat Society began as a result of a few women deciding to greet middle age with verve, humor, and enthusiasm. They believe silliness is the comedy relief of life, and since we are all in it together, we might as well join red-gloved hands and go for the

Ladies Day
Wednesday August 7th
"Red Hot Summer"
Ladies Tea
Tickets \$9

gusto together. Undemeath the frivolity, we all share a bond of affection, forged by common life experiences and a genuine enthusiasm for wherever life takes us next.

The only rule of the

Society is that you must wear a red hat and a clashing purple ensemble at all events to add to the element of fun. The exception to the rule is if you are under 50 years of age you are to wear a pink hat and lavender dress until the BIG 50. SO Ladies, if your planning to attend this years "Red Hot Summer Tea", start rummaging through your closets or better yet head out and go shopping at the many resale shops in the area to find that perfect RED HAT! Prizes will be award for the Best Red Hat!

Tickets for the "Red Hot Summer" Ladies Tea, will be available for purchase during the BLYC Pancake Breakfast. There will be a limited number of tickets and tickets will not be sold at the door on the day of the event.

Watch the Barker for further details on this event.

The "Red Hot Summer Ladies Tea Committee: Darlene Troyer, MaryAnn O'Neil, Helen Toth and Denny Weesner

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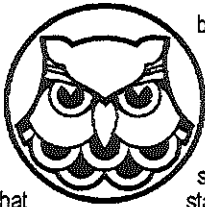
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Foreign pests threaten to prey on state's trees

Wondering what's happening to all the wonderful trees surrounding Birch Lake? Well our increased global trading is igniting it; most particularly CHINA the threat posed by exotic pests and diseases is greater than ever to Michigan's nearly 20 million acres of forest or 53 percent of the state. Our ecosystems are being greatly affected by our global trading and the introduction of foreign commodities into this country. Many of the new species of insects and diseases are being introduced from China because of China's similar climate to North America. Some have already arrived and in Chicago in 1998 the Asian long horned bee-

bles have arrived on wooden packing material and 5,700 trees have been lost.... but once the beetle is there the only choice is to destroy a prospect that could decimate forested land. Another threat is beech bark disease which has been found through out the state. Caused by exotic scale insect that attaches to beech trees and makes holes that are penetrated by a fungus.

And probably the most visible effected tree that has been seen distressed if not completely dead is the



beloved Dogwood. Currently there is a very aggressive foreign fungus (anthracnose) that is affecting or native and ornamental flowering dogwoods. Discovered in the 1970's. It has killed thousands of dogwoods through out the state and is believed to have been introduced thru nurseries. Confirmation of Dogwood Anthracnose

Dogwood anthracnose can be difficult to diagnose. If you suspect your dogwood is infected by anthracnose, it is advisable to bring or send a sample to your county extension office or to the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory, 1155 LSPS,

Purdue University, West Lafayette. IN 47907-1155. Several branches with symptomatic leaves or twigs should provide enough diseased tissue to make an accurate diagnosis.

It not just about the trees dying but the animals, birds and mammals that rely on beech trees for food and nesting these are the long-term impacts. So as your out looking for your latest purchase at your local Wal-Mart or discount store think about the foreign exotic pests, critters and diseases that may be traveling back with you to the most wonderful place in the Midwest ... Birch Lake.

-Woody

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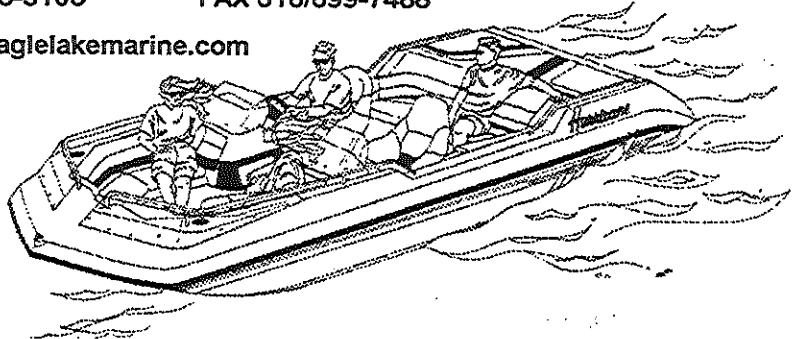
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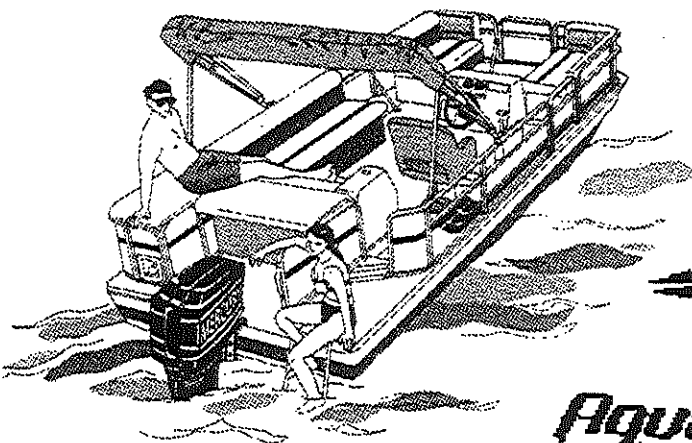
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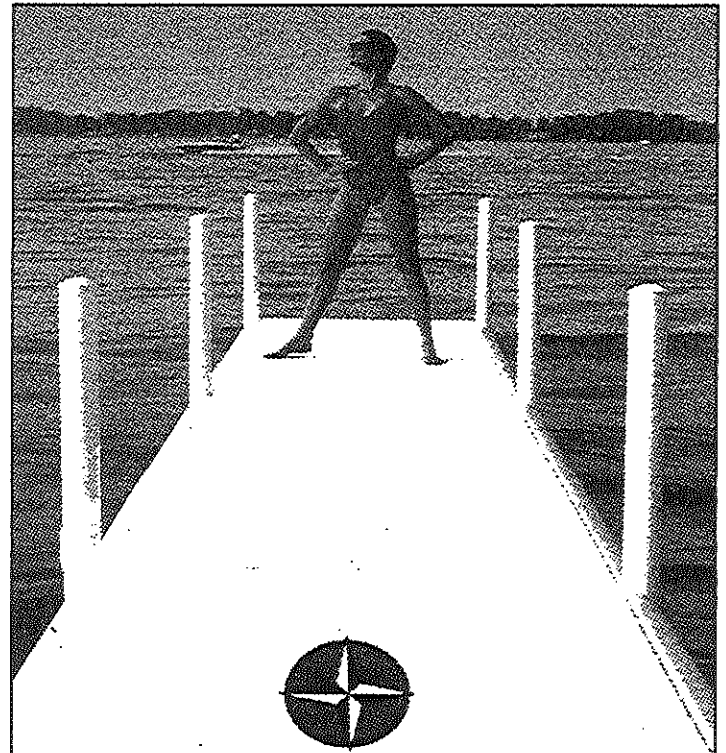


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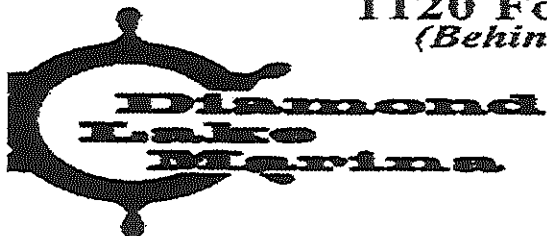
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 Carpenter, Dik & Val (AD)
 Carpenter, Mildred (D)
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