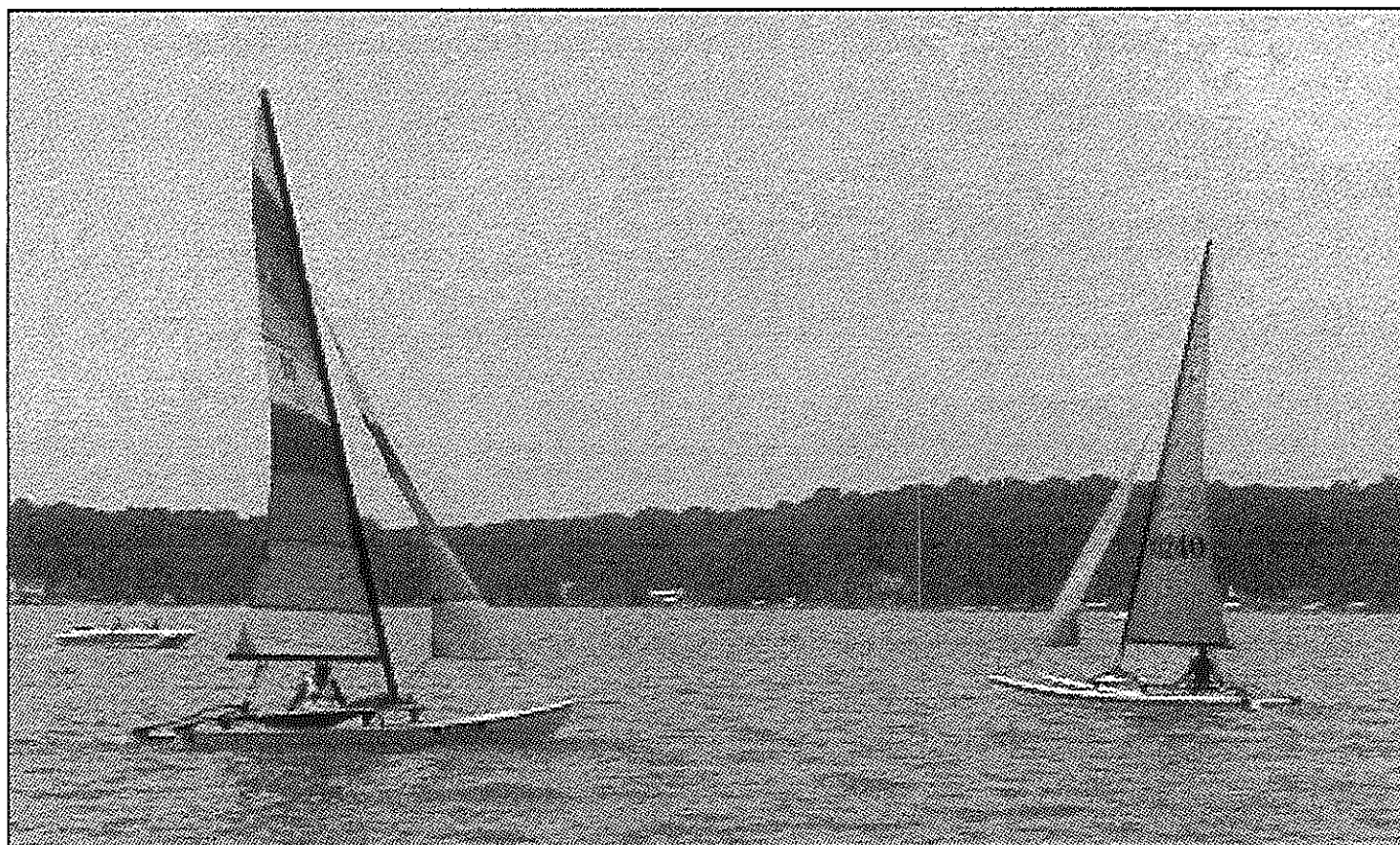


Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Ten, July 27, 2002



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Dear Birch Lakers,

Wow! What a party we had at Margaritaville (a.k.a. the Yacht Club) last Saturday. If you were not able to make it, too bad for you — it was a great time. Barb Rondot, henceforth known as Queen of the Margarita Machine, left the Club with a standing ovation. Hopefully she will be able to do an encore at next year's party!

I give thanks to our bartenders, Patty, Dean and Bob, who did a fine job as usual. I also must say "mahalo" which is thank you in Hawaiian, to our Hula dancers — Lind, primo teacher, and her assistants Sandy and

Debbie — who risked ridicule and modesty to perform and teach a dance to us.

The place looked fantastic, transformed into a tacky paradise, with every inch covered in island decorations thanks to the hours of help from the Becks, Vitales, Russwurms and Harmans — decorating was almost as much fun as the party.

To make the weekend complete, the wind came up on Sunday so our racers got a chance to get the cobwebs off the sails. Yea!

This weekend the kids get a chance to get together for a Sports Event while the grown-ups go peruse the neighbors' treasures at the Birch Lake Garage Sale (hurry! — It ends at 2 p.m. today). So, get out there and shop, play, swim, boat and enjoy our lake! What a great place!

—Commodore Jim

BLYC Calendar

July 27Garage Sale 8 am - 2 pm
 July 27Kids Sport Event
 Aug. 7Women's Tea
 Aug. 9Women's Golf Outing
 Aug 10Com and Sausage Roast
 Aug 17BLYC Board Meeting
 Aug 17Kidz Regatta
 Aug 17Kids Event — TieDye
 Aug 18Shuffleboard Tourney 5pm
 Aug. 24Fall Dinner

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



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 Tuesday 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 by phone, call 476-1680 or (574) 232-3735.

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

Birch Lake Notes

Homeowners' Association News

The informational meeting on sewers on June 15, 2002 conducted by the Wightman Petrie engineering firm was attended by more than 100 people from Birch and Shavehead Lakes. As mentioned at that meeting, property owners on Birch Lake will soon be presented with the actual petitions for the sewer project discussed at the meeting. If you are opposed to the sewer project, you should decline to sign the petition. If you are in favor of the sewer project, you should sign the petition and provide the property tax number of each parcel of

your Birch Lake property (from your property tax bill or telephone Porter Township (616) 641-2375 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday and ask for Linda who can look up the parcel number). The persons circulating the petitions will have more detailed instructions for those wishing to sign the petition, and will have copies of frequently asked questions and answers provided by Wightman Petrie.

Garage Sale today!

Don't forget to check out the annual Birch Lake Garage Sale today from 8 am to 2 pm. Various homes (and

garages) around the lake will be hosting the sale — watch for the signs!

Camp update

WOW! The summer is quickly drawing to a close. It is hard to believe that it is almost August. The camping season is going wonderfully.

Our final council fire is on Friday August 9, which is followed by the annual candle lighting ceremony.

We usually are down at the lake at about 8. Come by on your boats and watch the beautiful closing event of the 2002 camping season.

-Mr. Dug

Babysitter sign-up

Kaitlin Kesmodel, 13, would like to be added to the baby sitting registry. She has completed the American Red Cross Babysitting Course. She has considerable babysitting experience, being one of 25 of the Toth's grandchildren. She can be reached at 476-9487.

Also on the list is 12 year-old Amanda Lacy, 476-2102. Amanda has also completed the Red Cross Baby-sitting Course and is ready for your call!

**Red Hot Summer
Ladies Tea**
Tickets are sold out!

Ladies Golf Outing Update

Join the Birch Lake ladies on Friday, August 9, for the annual Golf and/or Lunch. Experienced and novice golfers are welcome. We play a best-ball scramble.

Arrange your foursome or be grouped with some new friends.

The cost is \$25, which includes 9 holes of golf and half a cart at Park Shore Golf Course in Cassopolis, and lunch at Lindy's.

Golf will begin at 9 am (IN); the luncheon will be at Noon. Prizes will be awarded at the luncheon.

Please send reservation and check to Mardy Miller, 63255 Storey Hill, Vandalia, MI 49095. If you have questions, call Mardy at 476-9226, or Betsy Custard at 476-9835.

Non golfers are welcome to join us for the lunch at Lindy's. Select from an open menu with individual checks. Please call Mardy or Betsy so we can reserve a space for you.

Ladies Golf Outing/Lunch Friday, August 9

Park Shore Golf Course 9 am golfing; Noon Lunch (at Lindy's)
\$25 entry fee covers golf, half a cart, and lunch at Lindy's
Contact Mardy at 476-9226 or Betsy at 476-9835

Name	Golf	Lunch
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

Welcome Fillenwarths

A few weeks ago the Word Runner had an article about lake kids and how lucky they are. So many remember their wonderful days here, that as adults they return to buy places themselves. I started to list them, but decided the list was far too long. I remember when we first bought at Birch Lake in 1976, I thought everyone here was related to someone else here.

My main reason for bringing this up is one of the "new" owners this year, Steve and Vicki Fillenwarth on the south side. Their children are Andy 14, Katie 11, and Erin 6. They live in Fishers, Indiana. This is Vicki's 4th home on Birch Lake. She was Vicki Fortino, daughter of Chuck and Betty Fortino who first lived where the Zesinger's are, then Chuck built the home on the north shore where the young Kolbers reside, and lastly he built the one next door to us now owned by the Flora's. By the way, all three of the aforementioned people were originally at Birch Lake as children.

Steve and Vicki currently are trying to sell their summer home on Secrist Lake near Warsaw. It was a much larger place, which they had renovated - but it just wasn't Birch Lake! They are so happy to be here.

-Phyllis Davis

News from the Cove

CAUTION: Don't read this if caustic wit offends you

By the very well known
Sunny Waters

Rejoice, all of you suffering souls. I have been deluged by my followers questioning my absence. What really pushed me over the edge was learning that Bruce and JJ Harlan cried themselves to sleep every night and were contemplating a move to Juno Lake.

In addition, Jim Blue has threatened to clip my hydrangeas and dump a bunch of chipmunks in our boat.

Allow me to explain the reason for my absence. It was very apparent, each time the pantry door was opened, that the sagging shelves were in utter chaos. Feeling the urge, everything was put aside, including NFTC, so that I might maintain my reputation as a paragon of cleanliness and organization. Buckets of water, bottles and Mr. Clean, infinite rolls of paper towels and major elbow grease were in action.

That was the easy part. What really threw me was



I'm baaack!

restocking the shelves.

Does cream of chicken supersede chicken noodle? Which goes first, tomato soup or tomato bisque?

Decisions, decisions. Eventually the task was completed and B.S. took photos which we laminated and taped on the fridge.

I was, however, still on a roll. The pantry project was completed but my Hints from Heloise hormones urged me on to more endeavors which is

why B.S. no longer needs to fumble through his dresser drawers. All of his unmentionables are neatly folded and labeled for the days of the week.

I must end this as I need to take inventory of our toothpicks.

-Your ever-loving Sunny

something to ponder:

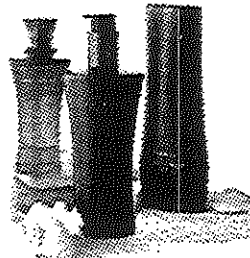
A good sport has to lose to prove it

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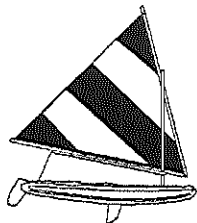
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BLYC Sailing News

Last weekend we finally were able to have the 4th of July Regatta, which was supposed to be on



Saturday and Sunday, but as race time approached on Saturday the wind

died. My only thought was, here we go again, no wind. On Sunday we tried again and were rewarded with a good southwest wind and three races were run.

Thanks to all the sailors

that came out for the Regatta, I think it's neat to see all the sailboats out on the lake at the same time.

Also special thanks to Jim and Sally Beck and Bruce Wagner for manning the committee boat.

This Sunday July 28th we will resume our regularly scheduled season races at 11 am Indiana time.

Mark your calendars, coming up Saturday August 17th will be the Kidz Regatta. Last year we had a great turnout and we're hoping for even more kids this year.

-Don Harman, Fleet Captain

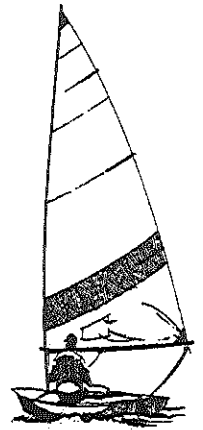
Come Sail with us!

Next Races:
Sunday, July 28,
11 a.m.

Tune-a-Fish Kit

In case you missed the info on the Sunfish tuning kit here is the info again. The entire Tune-a-Fish kit is a \$175 value being offered at \$99. This kit is the perfect beginning for you to get your Sunfish back on the water. The kit comes in a cooler with a Sunfish logo, and contains mainsheet, halyard, outhauls, set of sail clips, tiller extension universal, hiking strap, a rigging guide, a parts list and 2 coupons. Item # V20020. For more info, go to the Web site:

<http://www.apsltd.com/depts/dept2487.asp>



Regatta Results

Results of the "Better Late Than Never 4th of July Regatta"

Place	MC's	Sunfish "A"	Sunfish "B"
1 st	Harold Cranmer	Tom Howard	Amy Troeger (tie) Mike Machalleck
2 nd	Don Harman	Jim Bolinger	Chad Plaia
3 rd	Scott Troeger	Rick Russwurm	Sandy Vitale
4 th	Phil Vitale	Dave Olson	
		Dewayne Weaver	

"Cats"

1 st	Major O'Brien
2 nd	Bob King
3 rd	Doug Weaver

Don Harman, Fleet Captain

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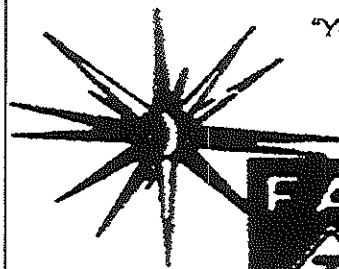
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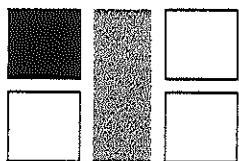
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-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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Nitrates found in four Birch wells

An unusually high and potentially dangerous level of nitrates have been reported in recent tests of four wells along the east shore of Birch Lake.

Nitrates are chemicals that are found naturally in drinking water. In high concentrations nitrates are a health hazard, particularly to pregnant women and infants.

Nancy Walker, a real estate agent with Re/Max Shore Acres (and a Birch Lake west shore homeowner) said that routine

water test taken in the past two weeks came back with unusually high levels of nitrates. She added, however, that recent tests on wells on the south side and on the west side were within normal ranges. While the cause and range of the high nitrate levels are unknown, Walker urges anyone who might be concerned to have their water tested by an independent laboratory.

Garrett Labs will perform water testing for \$55 (call first for instructions) and full on-site

well and water tests for \$115 — call 1-800-336-3201. Several other services exist in the area that will also test the water (check the phone book under "Environmental" for numbers).

The primary sources of organic nitrates are human waste and livestock manure, especially from feedlots. The most common use of nitrates is in an ag or lawn fertilizer.

Treatment for nitrate is complicated and expensive, but only water used for drinking and

cooking needs to be treated. The three methods of reducing or removing nitrate are: demineralization by distillation or reverse osmosis, ion exchange and blending. Although it is common to think of boiling, softening, or filtration as a means of purifying water, none of these methods reduce nitrate contamination. Boiling water is, in fact, the worst thing to do because it actually concentrates the nitrate. Softening and filtration do nothing at all to remove nitrate.

Nitrate — A Drinking Water Concern

source: Michigan State University Extension Bulletin WQ-19

Groundwater is the source of drinking water for nearly half the population of the United States. The purity of this water has become a health concern because a number of potentially toxic substances have been discovered in groundwater serving communities throughout the nation. Many of these compounds are naturally occurring substances that have always been present in the environment. One of the most common examples is nitrate.

Although nitrate occurs naturally in drinking water, elevated levels in groundwater usually result from human activities such as overuse of chemical fertilizers and improper disposal of human and animal wastes.

These fertilizers and wastes are sources of nitrogen-containing compounds which are converted to nitrates in the soil. Nitrates are extremely soluble in water and can move easily through soil into the drinking water supply.

High levels can build up

over time as nitrate accumulates in the water, but even at elevated levels, they are not likely to be a health hazard for most adults. However, the ingestion of excessive amounts of nitrate can cause adverse health effects in very young infants and susceptible adults.

Consequently, the federal government has established a maximum acceptable level, known as the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for nitrate in public drinking water supplies. This level is 10 milligrams per liter (mg/l) — often expressed as 10 parts per million (ppm) — measured on the basis of the nitrogen content of nitrate. It is often written as "nitrate-nitrogen" or "NO₃-N." (This MCL is the equivalent of 45 mg/l when expressed as nitrate, rather than nitrate-nitrogen.)

Nitrate in the Environment

The most common sources of nitrate are municipal and industrial wastewaters, refuse dumps, animal feed lots, and septic systems. Other sources are runoff or leachate from manured or fertilized agricultur-

al lands and urban drainage. In addition, nitrogen compounds are emitted into the air by power plants and automobiles and are carried from the atmosphere to the earth with rainfall.

Once nitrate is formed, its movement in soil and potential for contamination of ground water depend on several factors including the soil characteristics, location and characteristics of the underground water formations (aquifers), and climatic conditions.

Potential for nitrate contamination of drinking water also depends on the depth and construction of wells. Identifying the source of nitrates for an individual well is often very difficult. Because nitrates move with the flow of groundwater, the source may be located a considerable distance from the well. In many cases, the time needed for nitrate to pass through the soil into groundwater is difficult to predict due to many variables including application rate, the soil type, and the depth to the water table.

Human Exposure

Human exposure to nitrates

occurs primarily through the diet because nitrate is a natural substance found in both water and plants. In the United States, the average dietary intake of nitrate is about 75 to 100 mg per day. About 80 to 90 percent of this amount comes from vegetables. Some common vegetables with high nitrate content are beets, celery, lettuce, and spinach. People following a vegetarian diet may have nitrate intakes of up to 250 mg per day.

Drinking water generally accounts for 5 to 10 percent of nitrates consumed. However, where drinking water is contaminated to a level of 50 mg/l (5 times the MCL), it may supply as much as half of the total daily intake.

For more information on Nitrates, see the following web sites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001201-d001300/d001233/d001233.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwh/c-loc/nitrates.html>
<http://www.state.ky.us/nrepc/water/wcpno.htm>
<http://www.earthforce.org/green/nitrates/main.cfm>
<http://ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet/fac>

The wonderful world of animals

Well Sometimes!!!

By: Darlene Troyer

So, you thought you'd been spared from reading another one of my animal articles this summer in the Barker, not so!

Ken and I traveled to Belgium, France and Holland and after three wonderful weeks we returned in mid June to the beautiful shores of Birch Lake. Summer was in full swing and we still hadn't even done spring cleanup.

We didn't have the boat in yet and we so wanted to be out there boating around the lake. We opted to let the yard work go and Ken headed to the storage barn to bring home the boat. Horror of horrors what a shock when we found our boat had been destroyed by a family of RACCOONS!

Boat seats including foam were shredded and many were gone. The carpeting that was left was saturated with raccoon droppings. They ate the life jackets and even the cover on the steering wheel. They must have stomachs made of cast iron. The speedboat we enjoyed for years, was demolished and forever a thing of the past. The new pontoon boat you see docked at our pier is her replacement.

On Rosie the other day her guest was talking about how wonderful raccoons were and what great pets they made. I should

send her the photos of our boat! They are not "sweet" little creatures to turn into household pets and thus I have chosen them as my animal of the week!

RACCOONS

Raccoons are survivors! Intelligent and determined they can find their way into any closed container, or out of any cage.

Streams, ponds, lakes, marshes and mature wooded areas are their usual homes.

Easily recognized by their characteristic "bandit mask" there are seven species of raccoons in North America and 25 subspecies. Weight varies from 12 to 35 pounds. Females are usually smaller than males. They are grayish-brown, and the tail has 5 to 7 complete dark rings, alternating with broader brown or gray rings. The tip of the tail is always dark.

Raccoons are usually nocturnal and solitary except when breeding or caring for their young. They are skilled climbers and can ascend a tree of any size. They are also great swimmers!

Raccoons use their den for bearing young, winter sleep and temporary shelter. Contrary to belief they do not hibernate. Communal dens are common; up to 23 raccoons have been reported in a single den! Now I know why there was so much damage to the boat!

Raccoons will eat just about anything! However they do have definite preferences. They like peanuts, sweets, fruits, bread, peanut butter, and especially cat and dog food.

Don't feed raccoons by hand!

They sure are cute, there's not a hardened soul anywhere in the world that would deny that. I discourage you from feeding wild raccoons by hand. A raccoon may bite you quite accidentally, mistaking a finger for food; or, he may bite you on purpose if he thinks you're taking his food away from him. No matter what the reason is, once it's happened you're both in trouble, because you'll have to be tested for rabies.

CAUTION: Raccoons in the wild often harbor a roundworm, which although harmless to the raccoon, is very dangerous and often fatal to many other mammals, including humans. Transmission is through the organism's very tiny eggs, found in soil and dung, which become much more infective with time. In recent years, raccoons have been carriers of rabies, especially in the eastern US. For this reason, they should not be encouraged to feed on porches, and the animal's dung should not be left around buildings where humans and pets can come into contact with it.

Beware, be safe, and enjoy the wildlife!



The Best of Beck's Bistro



Green Olivada (Olive Tampenade)

1 5oz jar pitted green spanish olives (1 cup)
 2 Tlbs blanched almonds
 1 tsp dried basil
 1/2 tsp dried oregano
 1/2 tsp thyme
 1/4 cup olive oil

Drain and rinse the olives well. Drain again thoroughly. Combine the olives, almonds, basil, oregano, and thyme in a food processor fitted with the metal blade. Process until coarsely chopped, scraping down the sides of the bowl once or twice.

Add the oil in a thin stream with the motor running until the mixture is a coarse puree. Store the olivada in a covered container in the refrigerator at least 3 days, or up to 2 weeks before serving. Remove to room temperature at least 30 minutes before serving. Makes 3/4 cup. Serve as a spread on crackers or french bread.

Hawaiian Chicken Wings

4 Lbs tyson wings
 1 cup all purpose flour
 1 1/2 tsp salt
 Oil for deep fat frying
 1/3 cup sugar

1/4 cup soy sauce
 1 garlic clove, minced
 1 green onion, thinly sliced
 1 tsp finely chopped jalapeno pepper

Cut wings into 3 pieces, discard tips. In a large plastic bag, or shallow bowl, combine flour and salt. Add wings, in small batches; toss to coat. In an electric skillet or deep-fat fryer, heat oil to 350. Fry wings, a few at a time, until juices run clear, about 9 minutes. Drain on paper towels. In a bowl, combine sugar, soy sauce, garlic, onion, and jalapeno. Dip fried wings in sauce. Serve immediately. Yield: 12-16 servings.

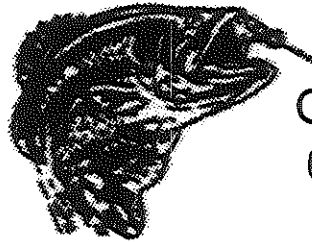
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	Worship Hour	10:45 am
	Evening Service	6:00 pm

Wednesday:	Adult	7:30 pm
	Youth	7:30 pm
	Kid's Club	7:30 pm

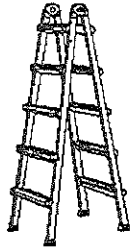
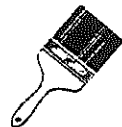
Come worship with us

Mark The Painter

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

Does your home or cottage have a need for some fixing up? I am now booking jobs for the summer of 2002...dates will go fast.

I have references on Birch Lake, why not give Mark a call today!!!



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Opinion ~ Forum

No letters of personal opinion were received for this week's Barker
 Future letters will be printed on an available time and space basis provided they meet the requirements below

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

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

DEADLINE FOR THIS WEEK

Deadline for all items submitted to the Birch Barker this week is Noon on TUESDAY, JULY 30.
 SORRY, NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS CAN BE GRANTED



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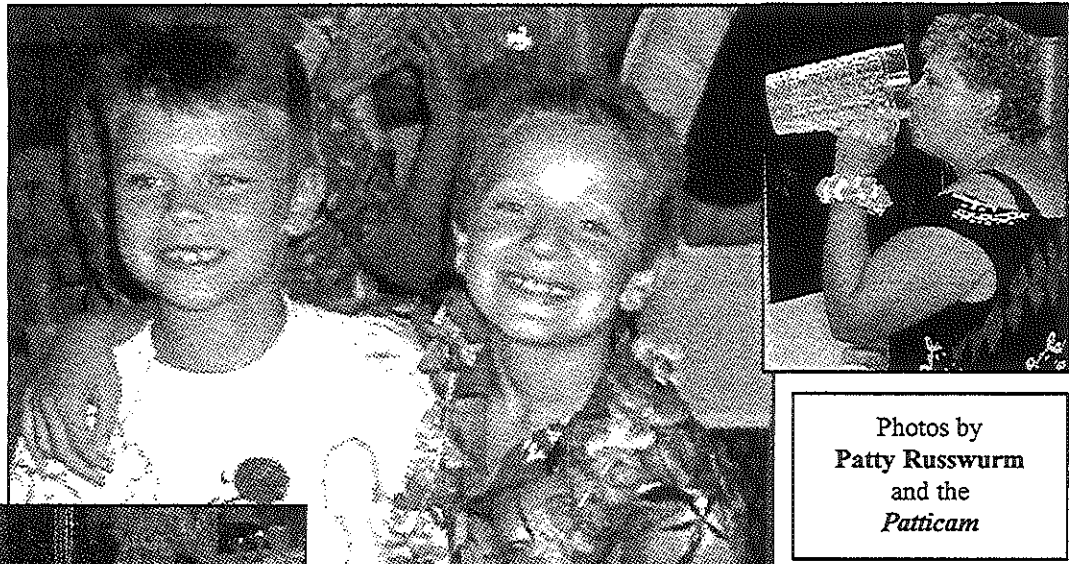
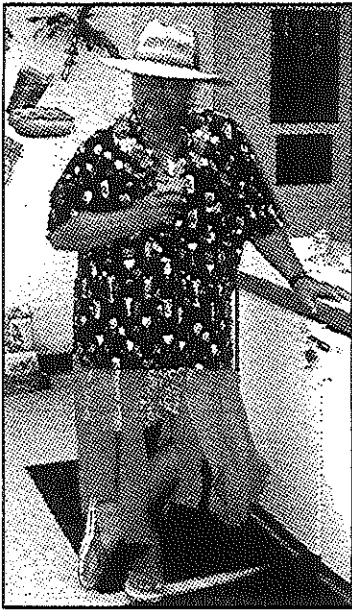
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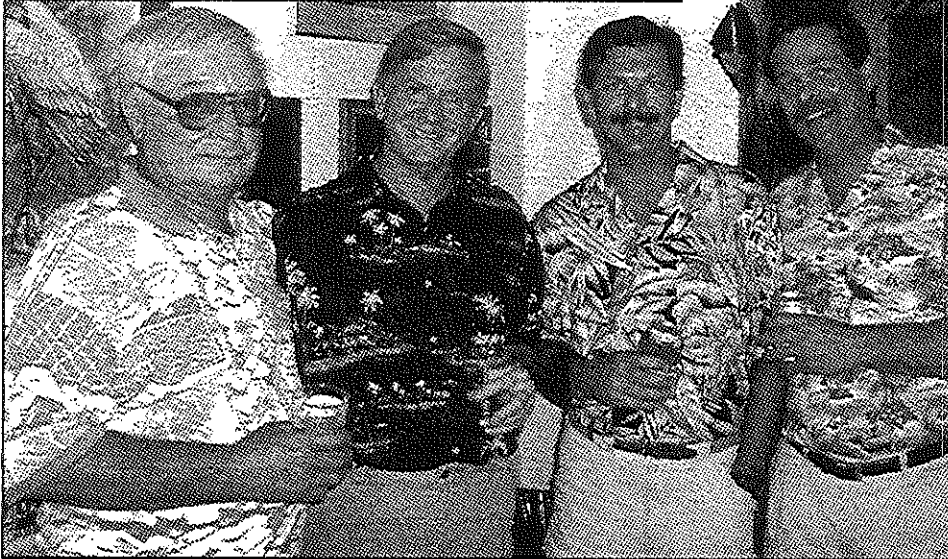
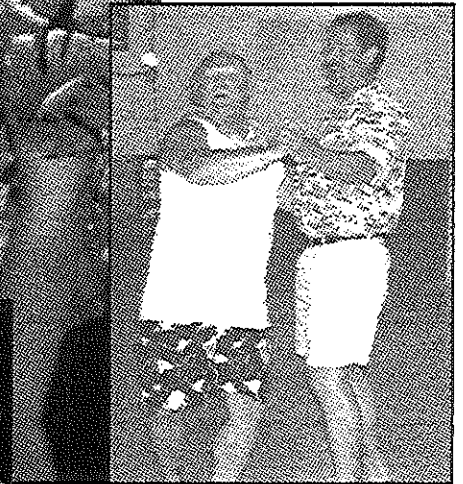
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Update: Zebras and Loosestrife

Kesmodel kids hit West Shore

Kaitlin and Lauren Kesmodel have extracted 7,185 mussels from the west side. Some of their bounty was double matched.

-Denise Smitley

De-Zebra Hunt:

Last weekend Cal poked around and pulled 39 mussels off rocks. Then Kyle Bernaciak came over to help and the boys collected zebras. OK, they swam and played a lot, but took 268 mussels off our beach.

Then on Sunday the Rader kids came to hunt (with Mom, Dad and Grandma). This is an industrial operation and the kids did a great job. I hope they don't mind my mentioning their technique: they use butterfly nets to scoop up the rocks and clams that are covered with mussels wading and snorkeling, then "husk" the mussels over a five gallon bucket.

Between Mullins and Kings pier they removed 8,952 mussels. Between Rogers and Kings they removed 3,000 before the



Cal & dad following zebra mission

water got to stirred up to find more. So, the grand total for the weekend off a couple hundred feet of waterfront was 12,259 of the nasty foot-slicers.

The Yacht Club bounty expires at the end of July, but the Rader boys said those

who want help can call at 279-5112 (during the week) or 476-2454 (weekends).

Thanks guys!

-The Mullins, Rogers and Kings

Purple Loosestrife

Last weekend there was information in the Barker about Purple Loosestrife. I have a friend who lives on Grande Isle near Buffalo, New York. When visiting a couple years ago I was struck by one thing — the stuff was everywhere! This is a beautiful island with high end properties, but they lost control of the pretty weed and it took over. You literally could not look in any direction, anywhere on the island without seeing fields of purple, some several acres in size.

If you have this weed on your property, or want to know if a purple flowering plant on your property is Loosestrife, please contact the Water Quality Committee for removal.

-Bob King

That was then...but is it Now?

A few weeks ago, the WordRunner wrote about growing up on the lake, and it got me to thinking. What it was like for me? What will be different for my son? What things have stayed and probably always will stay the same?

When I was very young, and my family vacationed in my grandparents' tiny cottage in the cove, I spent my time alone, meandering Birch Lakeview Drive in both directions as far as I could go. At times I would head south, but far more often I turned toward the northerly direction.

My fondest times were when I rounded that northern curve, ventured off the paved road, and meandered back to the house of the man I knew only as "Bill."

Every summer I would make a daily trek, taking life and limbs into my own hands, and visit the wild cats who lived around his house. I learned quickly that these darling felines generally didn't care for the company of people, so I had to work hard to get them to come see me.

This meant ingenious ploys such as reserving half of the meat of my sandwich to entice the little fur balls to stay in my lap for a few moments. After an hour or so of luring and cuddling kittens, I'd return home, head-to-toe scratches and red, puffy eyes and nose to instructions to "stay away" from those cats because of my allergies — and who knew what else.

After my parents bought their house, my visits to Bill's diminished, and I found

other things to occupy my time. I'd hop on my bike and ride the lake roads, from the turnaround to Kiloqua Woods Lane, back and forth all day long.

At times I'd even ride the roads out around the lake, past Tom's and through Williamsville, never thinking twice about being out alone.

That was then . . . Life for my son will be different.

There's no house of wild cats luring him into adventures, so he will have to settle for the domesticated fur balls at home instead. I hope that he too will have a love of riding bikes, but I worry about him riding on the lake roads when I watch the cars fly past, often in excess of 25 miles an hour.

Moreover, the roads out around the lake aren't really a possibility any more. There are stray dogs whose bark is not worse than their bite (and who aren't tied up or caged), and there's the constant fear of situations like the recent kidnappings in Utah and California.

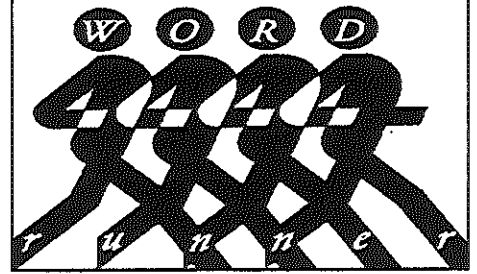
All of that said, there are still constants in the lake experience.

There is the clear water, perfect for sailing, skiing, boating, or swimming.

There are the quiet evenings, with only the sound of crickets, where the stars and the lightning bugs are as plentiful as the blades of grass.

There is the fact that anyone living on the east shore can still go out on the pier just before a storm hits and watch the

By Pennwriter



rain as it comes across the lake.

Best of all, though, there is the closeness that seems to surround the families at Birch. Outsiders don't really understand this.

"Why do you live so close to your parents and in-laws?" they ask, as though distance is the only way for families to survive.

Here at Birch, Scott's and my situation really isn't that unique. There are so many families who, generation after generation, spend time enjoying the lake, as well as each other's company.

That's one aspect of the lake that I hope never changes.

For all of the avid WordRunner readers out there (I count myself among them), he is enjoying a hard week off! He'll be Back again next week.

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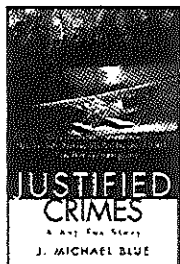
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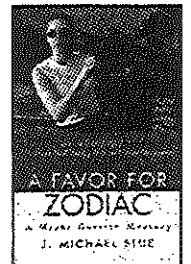
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Stu's Star Stuff



Astronomy 101

While anyone with a clear, unobstructed view of the night sky can certainly enjoy the show, possessing a little knowledge of some of the basic terms will enhance that enjoyment. Astronomers, like all professionals, use a certain vocabulary to refer to and describe the various objects in the night sky. This week we'll learn a few of those words.

A star's brightness is referred to as its "magnitude." In astronomical parlance, Vega has a visual magnitude of zero. That doesn't sound very impressive, until you consider that the magnitude scale works like golf scores — the lower the better. When

the scale was first devised, one represented the brightest of all stars. Only a handful of stars qualified for a "one" rating. In more modern times, astronomers refined the scale to account for small differences in these stars. The brightest star, Sirius, rates a minus 1.4.

Here are some others:

Light year - Often confused as a unit of time, it is actually a unit of distance. The distance light can travel in one year, approximately 5.9 trillion miles. The nearest star is about 4 light years away, the farthest more than 10 billion.

Ecliptic - The plane of Earth's orbit around the sun. All the planets except Mercury and

Pluto have orbits in nearly the same plane.

Celestial Equator - The projection of Earth's equator onto the sky. If you were standing on Earth's equator, the celestial equator would extend from eastern horizon, directly over your head (zenith), then to the western horizon. Astronomers use an imaginary projection of Earth's latitude and longitude, called the celestial sphere, to locate planets, stars, star clusters, nebulae and galaxies.

Equinox - The two times of year when the sun crosses the celestial equator, giving day

Continued on next page



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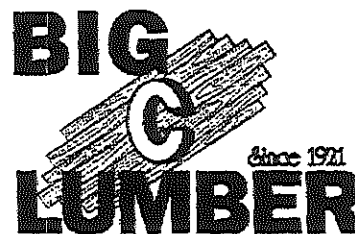
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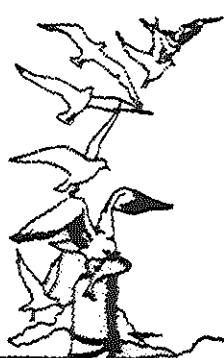
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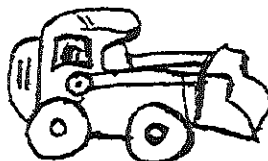


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and night an equal 12-hour length everywhere on Earth.
Solstice - Either of the two points on the celestial sphere where the sun is farthest north or south of the celestial equator; when the sun is at a solstice, the amount of daylight hours is greatest for summer and least for winter.

Inferior Conjunction - When Mercury or Venus is directly between Earth and the Sun.

Superior Conjunction - When the Sun is between Earth and Venus or Mercury.

Gibbous - The phase of the moon between first quarter and last quarter, when the moon appears more than half illuminated.

Universal Time - The local time of day on a line of longitude centered on Greenwich, England (also known as Greenwich Mean Time); it forms the basis for all civil timekeeping, except around here.

There's a start for you. This list could go on and on but we don't need to get bogged down too heavily to still go out and enjoy the show. And it's free.

-Stewart Spratt

Shuffleboard tournament

The first-ever Birch Lake Shuffleboard Tournament will be held on Sunday, August 18 at 5 pm.

Vicious competition (especially from those who go to Florida!) will take place at the Olson/Jones Court, 63486 Birch Road.

Bring a snack, your favorite beverage and be prepared to win or cheer others on to victory!
-Judy Olson



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Menacing zebra mussels may run aground

An article published in the June 16 edition of the Chicago Tribune says that a New York scientist may have unearthed a ray of hope for lakes plagued by zebra mussels.

According to the article, Daniel Molloy a researcher at the New York State Museum has found a common soil bacterium effectively kills the zebra mussels without harming native fish and shellfish.

In small trials, Molloy reported that 95 percent of mussels clogging pipes at a hydropower facility died after exposure to the bacteria *Pseudomonas fluorescens*.

Molloy tested hundreds of bacteria before finding that this common soil bacteria would kill zebra mussels without harming other aquatic life. The toxin in the bacteria kills the mussels by destroying their digestive glands. Molloy said he believes that since both live and dead bacteria kill the zebra mussels, that it might be possible to use dead bacteria or the toxin in a commercial product.

Several other innovative methods for controlling the pests were also cited, including UV light, vibrations, electromagnetic fields and filtration system, but none of those

were as far along as Molloy's research, according to a spokesperson from the Aquatic Nuisance species Clearinghouse of the National Sea Grant, which partially funded the research.

The most remarkable aspect of the research is the fact that the bacteria kill only zebra mussels, giving it potential for use virtually anywhere. Molloy has tested the bacteria on several native mollusk species, none of which have been harmed. He is currently running tests to find wider effects on fresh water ecosystems.

Molloy has patented the use of

the bacterium against zebra mussels, but he has many challenges before he can use it commercially. He says it will take years to understand the toxin in the bacteria, to test its ecological impact on inland water ecosystems and to find way to produce it in large enough quantities.

According to other scientists the research shows promise, and that if further tests prove it to be sound, the only barrier would be in scaling the project to be able to produce the bacteria in sufficient quantities to use in open water.

-submitted by Bob Waddle

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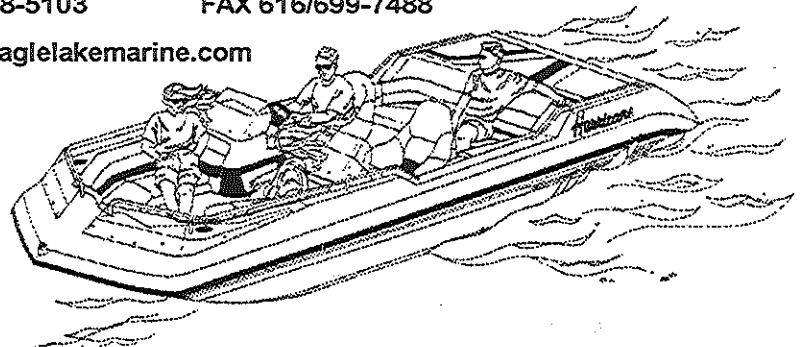
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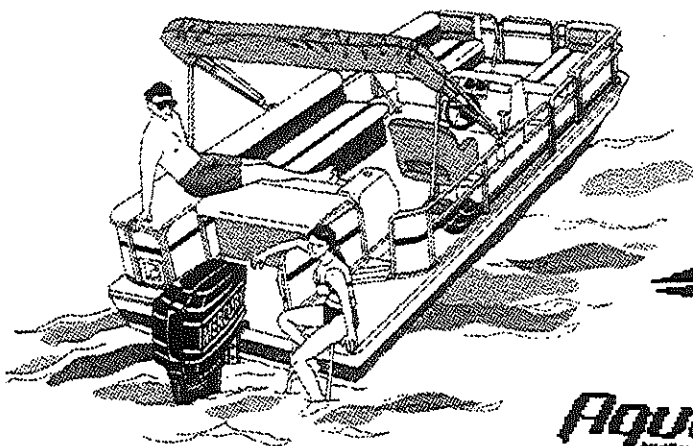
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collar. Named Harley. Call 476-2669

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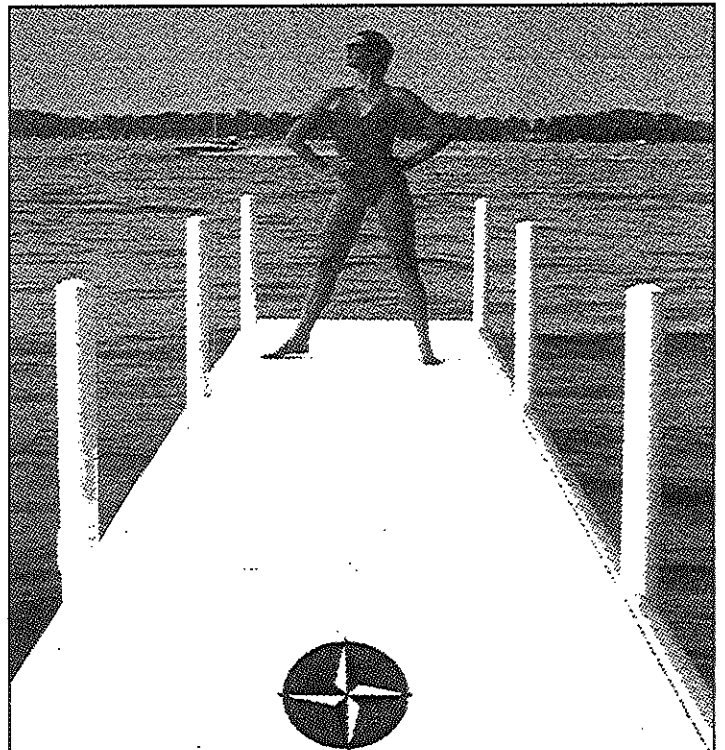
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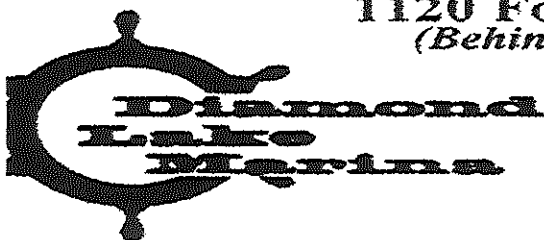
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Sankey, Joe & Teri
Santee, Marty & Doris
Scofield, John & Laveta
Sheetz, Harold & Charlene
Sikorski/Manor
Smitley, Jeffrey & Denise
Spratt, Stewart & Kim
Steffen, Tim & Irene
Stevens, Pat

Thayer, Jim & Eleneor
Tjaden, Jim & Juani (F)
Tom's Garage
Toth, Joe & Helen
Troeger, Earl & Connie
Troeger, Scott & Holly
Troeger, Tom & Pat
Troyer, Scott & Dawn (D)
Trybus, Dennis & Margie
Tudor, Dennis & Rita (F)
Tunncliffe, Bill & Joanne
Valentijn, Nico & Lynnette
Vath, Helen
Vitale, Phil & Sandy
Waddie, Bob & Sue
Waggoner, Monty & Kris
Wagner, Bruce & Sue
Walker, Brad & Nancy
Weaver, Doug & Julie
Weesner, Bernie & Helen
Weesner, Keith & Denny
Went, John & Roma (F)
White, Phyllis
Williams, Jerry & Mattie
Williams, Pat & Sue
Wiseman, Terry & Becky
Witche Ron & Linda
Wos, Stan & Doreen
Wozniak, Ben & Vanessa
Yoshizawa, Jim & Linda
Zeiasco, Millie
Zesinger, Bud & Barb

Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

- \$_____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)
- \$_____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$_____ - Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$_____ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$_____ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$_____ - Fireworks Display Fund
- \$_____ - Water Quality Program
- \$_____ - Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address for magazine)
- \$_____ - Other _____
- \$_____
- \$_____

Mail to:
Holly Troeger, Treasurer
1516 Ash Drive East
Elkhart, IN 46514
Drop off at:
63696 Birch Road
(call 476-9898)

Make checks payable to: *Birch Lake Yacht Club*

"The Lake Expert"



Nancy Walker

CRS, GRI

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