

Summertime ... and the livin' is easy



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Dear Birch Lakers,

At the beginning of my term as Commodore, it was decided by the officers and directors of the Yacht Club that in regards to the sewer proposition, the BLYC (and also its subsidiaries) should officially remained neutral. This is necessary so that all members are able to comfortably come together to enjoy the activities provided by the Yacht Club.

Of course, each director, officer and committee member is entitled to his or her own opinion regarding the need for a sewer system on the lake, but no one should suggest that his/her opinion is that of the club. All personal opinions and advice regarding this subject should be given, written or verbally, as an individual property owner, not as a member of the BLYC.

As to the petition — it is being circulated for the Porter Township Alliance of Lakes to get an idea of how many residents

support the sewer at this time. Before deciding whether to sign the petition or not to sign the petition, home owners should take time to research the subject, read any available literature written by professionals, become familiar with the current and proposed Porter Township zoning laws and, if possible, talk with residents of other lakes where sewers were installed to discover the pros and cons of such an undertaking. Only then can a responsible decision be made.

Again, the BLYC has not taken a stand on the sewer situation now, nor does it intend to in the future.

Now, on to what the BLYC DOES believe in — functions that we can all participate in and enjoy with our neighbors. **TONIGHT:** Corn and Sausage Roast at the Yacht Club — John Gableman is putting together a great night for us! For only \$6 adults, \$3 kids (under 12); you can put on the feed bag with corn, sausage, beans, coleslaw, etc. — 5 p.m. IN time. Come one — come all!

BLYC BOARD MTG — Aug. 17th 9 am

BLYC Calendar

- Aug 10Corn & Sausage Roast
5 pm Yacht Club
- Aug 17BLYC Board Meeting 9 am
Yacht Club
- Aug 17Kidz Regatta 2 pm, (see
Page 4), Harmans'
- Aug 17Kids Event - TieDye 10 am
- Aug 18Shuffleboard Tourney 5pm
- Aug. 24Homeowners Assn. Annual
meeting 10 am
- Aug. 24Fall Dinner 5:30 pm, Camp
Tannadoonah (see Page 6)

KIDS' DAY- AUG. 17th Tie Dye in the AM, Regatta in the PM – Read more in other areas of the Barker
FALL DINNER – AUG 24 More info and registration form on Page 6
See ya tonight!

-Commodore Jim



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

Men's Golf Outing Wrap-up

The 42nd Annual golf outing was a great success. We had 60 golfers and another half dozen for dinner. After a brief shower at the start, the day settled into a typical steamy, breathless July day.

I want to thank Stan Pitakos for all his help in setting up the Yacht club, icing down the beer, and hauling everything back and forth in his Avalanche - neat truck! I also want to thank all of the sponsors: Buzz Rasmussen, Jack Miller, Dan Reynolds, Vic

Jones, Tim Steffen, Kevin, Kurt and Herm Kruggel, Mike and Brian Machalleck, Dick Bender and John Ball.

I also would like to thank Judy Olson, Sally Beck, Patty Russwurm Becky and Debbie Bolinger, and Sandy Vitale. Finally, I want to thank my wife "Wonderful Pam" for running all over town for beer, booze, water, supplies, etc.

If I forgot anyone, please forgive me!

-Rich Mullin

News from the Cove

By Sunny Waters

Hello, howdy, bonjour, buenos dias, good day, how the heck are ya? It's too hot to give a hoot. B.S. boiled eggs in the lake but he didn't do as well with pasta. When it came to a boil it all slithered away. If you come across strange reptile-like creatures while swimming, don't panic. It's just fettuccine.

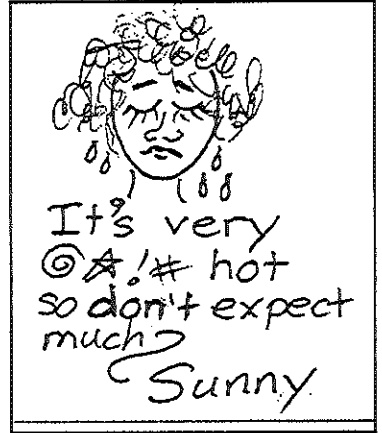
How many of you have had the pleasure to meet Lindsey Weesner? This handsome young man is the grandson of Bernie and Helen Weesner and has come to Birch Lake to be with his grandparents. We are glad to have you among us, Lindsey. A happy birthday to Bernie, August 3rd and Helen, August 8th. OOPS! Almost forgot; Lindsay is a French citizen.

Oh dear! I must end. B.S. is running through the sprinkler au naturale again.

A thought to ponder: Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get.

Stay cool, that's the rule,

-Your Loving Sunny



Barker Kids of the Week

Do you know these kids? Once upon a time nearly everyone on the lake knew these kids by sight. We'll give you a hint: The photo was shot prior to WWII, and all three of the subjects were young teenagers. To find out their names, look in today's Barker Classifieds on Page 13.



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

Homeowners' Assn. News Some Zoning and Keyholing Facts:

Birch Lake and all of Porter Township have been subject to a zoning ordinance since 1982. For the past 20 years the lakeshore property around Birch Lake has been zoned L-R (lake residential) except for Camp Tannadoonah which was zoned for "Parks, Campgrounds, Recreation." Most of the back lots have been zoned R-1 (residential) except for a very few backlot areas which were zoned Agricultural. Both L-R and R-1 areas are limited to single family structures. The 1982 zoning ordinance also contained a provision limiting "keyholing" or "funneling," the use of a small lakeside lot to give lake access to multiple off-lake parcels.

The zoning ordinance and the keyholing ordinance have now both been considerably strengthened, effective this spring. The efforts to strengthen them have been ongoing for several years. They have involved lengthy political processes and have had to overcome opposition from various groups. Homeowners' Association board member Rick Russwurm was active on the Porter Township Planning Commission which accomplished the new zoning Master Plan. These matters

have previously been reported on at annual meetings of the members of the Homeowners' Association and are on the agenda for the 2002 annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2002 at 10 a.m. (Indiana time) at the BLYC clubhouse. The new zoning Master Plan modified the zoning map, so that all the lakefront lots are now zoned L-R, the most restrictive single family dwelling category. Back lots are either zoned L-R or R-1. The L-R and R-1 classifications limit the use to single family residences and do not allow any condominiums, commercial developments, campgrounds, RV or trailer parks, apartments, etc. Even Camp Tannadoonah is now zoned L-R. The Camp's current use as a children's camp is "grandfathered" and can continue indefinitely, but any other use or substantial change of use must comply with the restrictions of L-R classification.

The new "keyhole or funnel waterfront access" ordinance requires property used for lake access by land off the lake to have at least 50 lineal feet of frontage for each dwelling unit given access, to contain at least 7,000 square feet, to have at least 200 feet of total frontage and to have a minimum depth of at least 140 feet. Piers on key-

hole property cannot be within 50 feet from another pier or longer than the average length of the four adjacent residential lot piers (two on each side).

Property currently being used to provide backlot lake access can continue its historical use if otherwise lawful and in accordance with the express provisions of its deed, but must comply with the pier length provisions.

All zoning ordinances have provisions for seeking variances from the zoning requirements. Variance requests require a public hearing after notice is published and also is given directly to nearby property owners. A zoning variance request goes first to the Zoning Board, and if denied, goes then to the Zoning Board of Appeals. There is always a risk of an undesirable zoning variance being slipped through during the off-season, but that risk is lessened by the presence on the Zoning Board of Rick Russwurm and by the presence on the Zoning Board of Appeals of Dean Davis. Both Rick and Dean reside on Birch Lake and are on the Homeowners' Association Board. Should the Homeowners' Association learn, through these or other sources, of any attempt for an undesirable variance from the zoning requirements, the Homeowners'

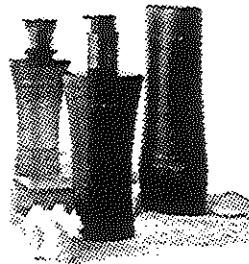
Association will try by all appropriate means to prevent that undesirable change. The willingness of large numbers of Birch Lake residents to show up at zoning hearings, even during the "off-season," to express opposition to undesirable zoning variances will be important. Strong ordinances and representation on decision-making bodies are important, but everyone still needs to be vigilant and to be prepared to take concerted action when necessary to protect the good things we all value about Birch Lake.

Zoning decisions ultimately involve political considerations. Large numbers of people acting together present one of the most potent political considerations. Porter Township's largest population group consists of the lake property owners on the various lakes. The Porter Alliance of Lakes (P.A.L.) was formed as a way for the homeowners' associations of Birch, Baldwin, Long, Indiana and Shavehead Lakes to communicate about and provide mutual support on matters of common concern. P.A.L. supported the recent strengthening of the zoning and keyholing ordinances and P.A.L. can potentially be effective in helping prevent undesirable zoning variances affecting any of the Township's lakes.

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BLYC Sailing News

Last Sunday was hot and humid with light winds. In the Sunfish "A" Fleet Jim Bolinger gave Tom Howard a run for his money in the 1st race, but Tom prevailed to cross the finish line first. In the 2nd race Tom coasted to an easy victory. In the Sunfish "B" Fleet Sandy Vitale won both races and Doug Weaver won both races in the "Cat" Fleet. In the MC class Scott Troeger won the 1st race and Don Harman drifted over the finish line 1st in the 2nd race.

Many thanks to all the sailors that came out and raced

on a day that the conditions were less than ideal. A special thanks to Jim and Sally Beck, Bruce Wagner and all their helpers for manning the committee boat. Just a reminder, next Saturday August 17th at 2 PM Indiana time will be the Kidz Regatta. Bring any kind of sailboat and meet at our (Harman's) front yard for a pre race get together. Snacks and drinks will be provided as well as Kidz Regatta tee shirts for all the kids. The race itself will be run on a simple course, which should make for a lot of fun and close competition.

-Don Harman



Season standings

Sailor	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Average	Place
MC's					
H. Cranmer	2	3		1550	1st
D. Harman	3	1		1515	3rd
R. Harman	4	4		1476	4th
S. Troeger	1	2		1519	2nd
P. Vitale	5	5		1405	5th
Sunfish "A"					
J. Bolinger	2	5		1435	4th
T. Howard	1	1		1586	1st
D. Olson	4	3		1417	5th
R. Russwurm	6	4		1343	7th
S. Troeger	DNS	DNS		1526	2nd
D. Weaver	5	6		1381	6th
Bob King	3	2		1455	3rd
Sunfish "B"					
J. Meyer	DNS	DNS		1571	3rd
S. Vitale	1	1		1579	2nd
C. Plaia	DNS	DNS		1584	1st
A. Troeger	DNS	DNS		1531	4th
"CATS"					
B. King	DNS	DNS		1545	2nd
D. Weaver	1	1		1584	1st
M. Kelly	DNS	DNS		1542	3rd

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 main-sheet, 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>

Come Sail with us!

Next Races:

Sunday, August 4 — 11 a.m. (or 1 p.m.)

Don't Forget the Kidz Regatta

Saturday, Aug. 17, 2 p.m.

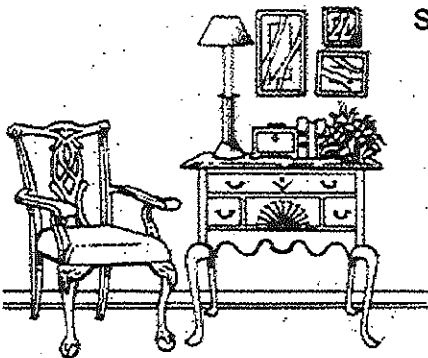
Accents & Images

Interior Design

Sheryl Papandria

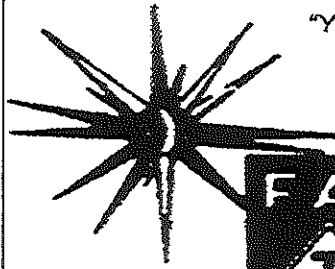
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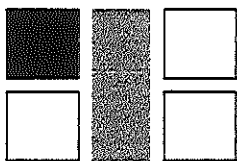
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-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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Opinion ~ Forum

Sewers at Birch Lake

The possibility of sewers at Birch Lake has been in the back of many of our minds for several years as we have watched the neighboring lakes, one by one, install sewers and waste removal systems. This summer, after the joint meeting between Birch Lake and Shavehead Lake residents, the issue of sewers has moved front and center.

The joint meeting was very informative, and I thank Dean Davis and anyone else responsible for putting the meeting together. The tone that Dean Davis set, that the meeting was informational and not a forum for debate, was appropriate and I commend him for that also.

Each of us now must decide whether we should move forward and begin the lengthy process of having sewers installed, or defer the decision for another point in time. The debate is heating up and I hope that once the votes are tallied, that we can all move forward regardless of the outcome, as a united lakefront community.

I believe that we should install sewers now and not later. Recent circulated information, including a letter from some MSU sewer guru, which was intended to convince us that sewers aren't needed now, did indicate that sewers will be necessary at some point in time. If that is true, then why put off the inevitable? Birch Lake water

quality may be very good now, so why not ensure its high quality for future generations of Birch Lakers? We are indebted for the efforts back in the '80s that led to the improvement of the septic systems. However, let's not kid ourselves in thinking that septic upgrades will be better for the water quality over the long term than a sewer system.

Opponents of sewers refer to the many potential risks and negative effects of sewers. If these risks are real, then I suggest we invite residents of the neighboring lakes that have already installed sewers, to share with us all of the problems that they have encountered to date.

The only real reason for opposing sewers is the cost. I sympathize with anyone on a fixed income that may be faced with the costs of a sewer system. However, if sewers are inevitable, keep in mind that the costs will only go up. If we don't take advantage of the power in numbers and join the other lakes now, the future costs of going it alone 10 years from now may be prohibitive for many.

I encourage all Birch Lakers to look beyond the cost and accept the fact that sewers are best for the lake over the long term and sign the petition for sewers.

-Rich Mullin

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 pro-

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, AUGUST 13
SORRY, NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS CAN BE GRANTED

The Best of Beck's Bistro



Vidalia Onion Pie

1 1/2 cups finely crushed buttery crackers (Ritz)
6 Tlbs (3/4 stick) unsalted butter, room temp, divided

2 cups thinly sliced Vidalia onions or other sweet onion.
3/4 cup milk (not low fat or non fat)
2 eggs
3/4 tsp salt
3/4 cup packed grated sharp cheddar cheese (3oz)
paprika chopped fresh parsley

Preheat oven to 350. Mix crackers and 4 Tlbs butter in bowl until well blended. Press mixture on bottom and 1 inch up sides of 8 in. pie plate. Melt remaining 2 Tlbs butter in heavy medium skillet over medium heat. Add onions and saute until tender, about 12 minutes. Arrange onions in cracker crust. Beat milk, eggs, and salt in medium bowl until blended. Season with pepper. Pour egg mixture over onions in crust. Sprinkle cheese over filling. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake pie until knife inserted comes out clean, about 35 minutes. Garnish with parsley and serve.

Serves 6

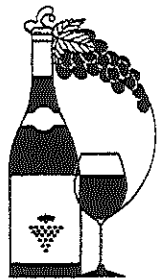
Barbecue Meatballs

2 Lbs ground chuck
1 tsp salt
Dash of pepper
1/2 cup corn flake crumbs
2 eggs

SAUCE:

1 cup ketchup
1 cup water
1/3 cup Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp salt
2 dashes Tabasco sauce
1 tsp chili powder

Mix ground chuck, salt, pepper, corn flake crumbs and eggs. Roll into small balls. Place meatballs on a cookie sheet and bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes. Make sauce and pour over meatballs. Simmer meatballs in sauce for 2 hours or place in crock pot for several hours on low. Makes 50 meatballs.



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Come dance at the Fall Dinner

The annual Fall Dinner for the Birch Lake Yacht Club will be August 24, beginning at 5:30 pm (Ind. time) in the dining hall of Camp Tannadoonah. This year the event will be highlighted by old-fashioned square dancing and new-fashioned line dancing.

The dinner will be buffet-style, with chicken and roast beef, potato salad, cole slaw, bake beans, green beans and a dinner roll (and, of course, your favorite beverages).

Also included during the evening will be a short, end-of-the-year Board meeting, election of new board members, the passing of the Commodore's gavel, and the introduction of the new Vice Commodore.

Register now by filling out the form at the right and dropping it off with your check for \$15/person at Vitales', 63174 Birch Rd. on the East Shore (just North of Zesingers). Registrations must be received by August 20.

BLYC Fall Dinner Registration

We will be attending the fall dinner on Aug. 24

Name: _____

No. attending: _____ @ \$15 each = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the Birch Lake Yacht Club

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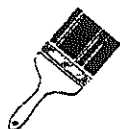
1 Mi. East of Union to Baldwin Prairie Rd. Turn North
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Sunday Services:	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship Hour	10:45 am
	Evening Service	6:00 pm
Wednesday:	Adult	7:30 pm
	Youth	7:30 pm
	Kid's Club	7:30 pm

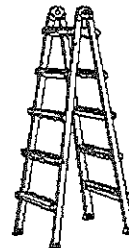
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Birch Lake Directory Project

It's time to make a new Birch Lake Directory! With your help, we will be able to publish a new one and distribute it in the Spring of next year.

Beginning this week, we will start collecting names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for as many of our neighbors as we can possibly find.

We need your help!

Please take a look at the current directory, note whatever changes need to be made and get them to me as soon as you can

so I can start compiling the information and get the new directory ready to print (see Page 1 for address, etc.).

You can use the form at the right — or make up your own, as long as we get all of the correct new info that you want your neighbors to have.

Anyone interested in advertising in the directory or having a listing in the Directory Yellow Pages should contact Phil Vitale or Bob King.

Anyone who can help on the project should call 476-1680.

BLYC Directory Project

Names _____
 Children _____
 Lake Address _____ Cottage # _____
 Lake Phone _____
 Off Lake Address _____

 Off Lake Phone _____
 e-mail address _____
 Other Misc. _____

*Lloyd Vaughn
Owner*



SEPTIC SERVICE

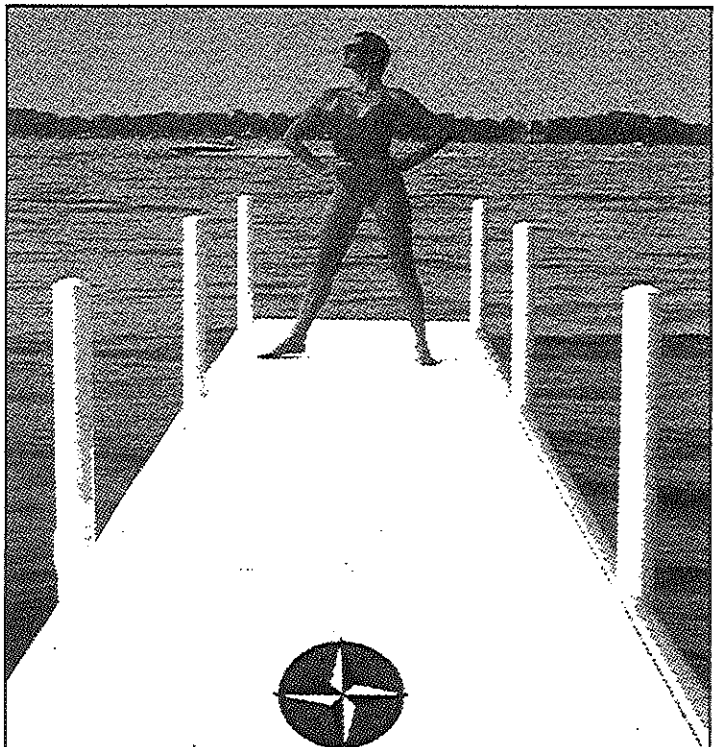

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Nitrate Alert — check your water

Ten of the 21 Birch Lake wells that were tested for Nitrates last weekend are reported to have potentially dangerous levels of nitrates above the state limits.

The tests, which were done by Garrett Labs, an independent testing facility in Niles, indicated that the those wells all failed to meet the state guidelines of 10 parts of nitrogen per liter, some showing levels as high as 38 ppl, a level that indicates a serious health hazard.

The nitrates are showing up in wells in different parts of the lake, with four of the over-the-limit tests coming from the West Shore, one from the Cove, and the remainder along the East Shore. At least one of the wells tested within acceptable levels just last year. Health officials warn that nitrates above state limits are dangerous, especially for infants and babies, and for senior citizens. Most health officials also recommend that everyone should refrain from drinking water from contaminated wells, and that appropriate steps should be taken to eliminate the problem.

Nitrates are chemicals that are found naturally in drinking water. The primary sources of nitrates are human and livestock

waste, and the most common use of nitrates is in agricultural and lawn fertilizers.

According to a local well driller and to a representative of the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, nitrates are frequently found in rural wells with depths are insufficient to get below the appropriate filtering layers of earth.

They added that anyone with a nitrate problem should consult the local health department or a well expert, and that they should also consider having their wells tested for depth, and for other forms of bacteria.

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 filtrating 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 of well water do nothing at all to remove nitrate.

Test your water this weekend

Anyone on the lake who wishes to have their drinking water tested for Nitrate levels can do so this weekend for just \$10.

Nancy Walker, a real estate agent with ReMax Shore Acres and a Birch Lake East Shore homeowner, will handle the program again this weekend. Lake residents can pick up a water container and an instruction sheet from a box on Walker's porch any time Saturday. After filling the container, they should then return it to another box on the porch and place their \$10 check into the envelope provided. Checks should be made payable to Garrett Laboratories.

The results will be available early next week, and we will keep you updated in upcoming editions of the Birch Barker.

BIRCH LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM - BLYC Water Quality Committee

Dan Reynolds, Chairman

Rick Russwurm, Bob Temple, Gert Temple

August 2002

Report #8

Concerned about the possibility of nitrates in your drinking water?

Here is some information you should know:

1. Approximately 28 percent of the shoreland surrounding Birch Lake has an agricultural watershed (a watershed is the area around a lake from which the lake gains water. Birch Lake is a spring-fed lake).
2. Nitrates can come from over-application of fertilizer on farmland. It can take as many as 10 to 15 years from the time of fertilization for the nitrates to reach the lake because ground water flows slowly.
3. The wetlands and forestlands around the lake help absorb some of the nutrient runoff; however, there are some areas that have direct runoff.
4. Shallow wells can be affected by this runoff and may have unsafe nitrate levels as a result.
5. Application of fertilizer directly on your property can also seep into shallow wells.

If you have concerns about your well water:

1. Have your water tested for nitrates.
2. If levels are unsafe, you may need to drill a deeper well or install a filtration system.

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Gifted Givers

When Lind Harman asked me if I had seen the painting Debbie Bolinger had done at the Yacht Club, I had to admit I had not. I'd been in the Club building recently, but only in the company of a large gathering, some of whose more gregarious members kept me occupied at the front of the room.

"You have to see it," Lind said. "It's wonderful."

Lind did not lie. What used to be a blank expanse of flat white concrete blocks on the North wall of the Yacht Club, is now a beautiful gateway to the lake. Debbie has given us two sets of wide open French Doors that lead to an ornamental stone wall and some well cared for landscaping that gets continuing attention from one of our local hummingbirds. Beyond the wall is our lake, exactly where it should be, and out on the lake are a few lucky boaters and a familiar bird or two. Once Debbie had the wall, the shrubs, and the sky in place, she had little horizontal space in which to establish perspective, but she has managed to create significant depth in the scene, and in doing so, she has greatly "extended" our room.

It is summer in this lake view and though the day looks warm, the painting conveys nothing of the oppressive heat and humidity we've overdosed on this year. There is a breeze and everything looks beautiful and comfortable and serene. It is impossible, I think, to look at what Debbie has done and not smile and feel good about our water centered home.

"How did she happen to do it?" I asked

Lind.

"She always thought that the north wall of the Yacht Club was really ugly, and when Jim became Commodore this year, she told him that if nobody minded, she'd like to paint the wall."

"Really? This was a major project!"

"I know. She spent at least 50 hours doing it."

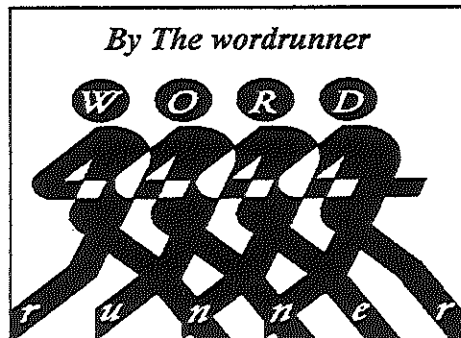
"Well, I said, "She done good. It is very nice."

I really love it. She did a line drawing on a small piece of paper and then walked in here, sketched the whole thing freehand, and then painted over her sketch. I don't know how she could do that, go from the little drawing to the huge painting, but she did it and it all laid out, perfectly.

It is a marvel, not only for the talent Debbie displays in her work, but for the generosity of her gift. She saw an ugly spot in the world, and she did something about it. She used her skill and her imagination to feed the souls of her neighbors.

Over the years I've been amazed at the willingness of Birch Lakers to give of their gifts, artistic, financial, intellectual, and muscular for the betterment of our community and the benefit of those who live here. The artists among us aren't better or more giving than our other benefactors, but the contribution they make is special, because only they have the talent to do what they do.

I am so grateful to that wizard of art and design, Coy Jankowski, for the many paintings, and drawings of lake creatures



and scenes he has given to all of us, and to Buzz Rasmussen for his beautiful film making in *The Seasons of Birch Lake*. I'm forever in the debt of Phil Vitale whose creative genius enabled him to turn the Barker into a kind of weekly "Tales of Lake Woebegone" for of us all Birch Lakers. I'm also somewhat in awe of Sue Wagner for her ability and willingness to harness her talents inside a persona (even one as excruciatingly witty and beautiful as Sunny Waters) so that she can give us all a smile or two each week. To have to be funny, in character, again, and again, and again, is more of a high wire act than I would care to tackle.

And now, of course, I'm also grateful to Debbie Bolinger. She has brought her talents into our midst, and she's given us the best gift of all, a gift of love, unexpected and without price.

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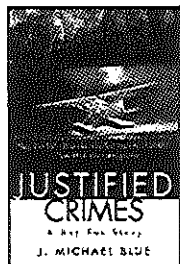
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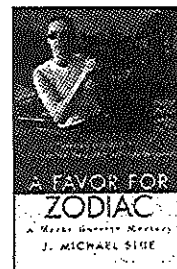
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All royalties on books ordered from Jim will be donated to The Birch Lake Yacht Club



Stu's Star Stuff



I got a particularly good view of the show the other night. That's because I was sleeping on the couch. (Did I mention that it was free though?) The reason stems from a conversation innocently begun by Kimberly Jayne while we were sitting at the end of the pier that night. She was marveling at the stars when she said, "Look at all those stars. There must be millions of them."

"Actually," I explained, "the true number is around 3000." An awkward moment of silence passed before Kimberly Jayne remarked, "And to think, they're millions of light-years away."

"Actually," I began again, "the average distance is around 100 light-years." More silence.

Not discouraged Kimberly Jayne commented, "I've heard that there are more stars in the universe than all the grains of sand on Earth."

"Actually," I mentored, "we could do a little calculation to find out. Let's assume that sand covers half the earth's surface, including sea-beds, to a depth of 10 feet. If we count the number of grains in a tenth of a gram of sand, we can figure what fraction this represents of Earth's entire weight of 5,980,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 grams (one ten-millionth) and come up with the approximate number of sand grains: one, followed by 23 zeroes. A hundred billion trillion if you'd care to say it."

"Stars will likewise require some assumptions. Of the 100 billion known galaxies, our Milky Way is larger than average. We'll

assume 400 billion suns in our galaxy. If the typical dwarf galaxy has one-tenth as many stars, because it's one-tenth as massive, the total star count should be roughly one hundred million trillion. So there are not more stars than grains of sand."

"Actually," I was told, "you're a nerd. Good night." And I found myself sitting alone.

The couch is a good place to enjoy the show all night long. And even though it's free, I would suggest not making a habit of watching from there.

-Stewart Spratt



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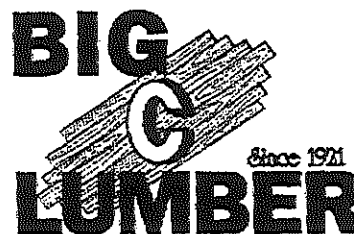
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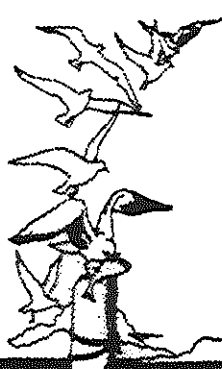
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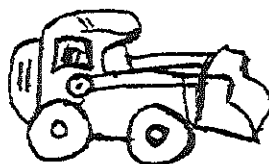


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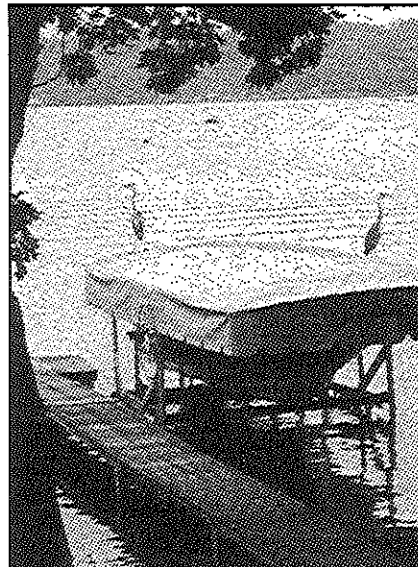


Shuffleboard tournament

The first-ever Birch Lake Shuffleboard
Tournament will be held on Sunday,
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Vicious competition (especially from
those who go to Florida!) will take
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Bring a snack, your
favorite beverage and
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cheer others on
to victory!
-Judy Olson



A Pair o'herons

Linda and Ron
Witchie recently sub-
mitted this great photo
of two Great Blue
Heron that seemed
quite content to be
perched atop the fami-
ly's boat lift cover.
The Witchies live on
the East Shore, to the
north of the public
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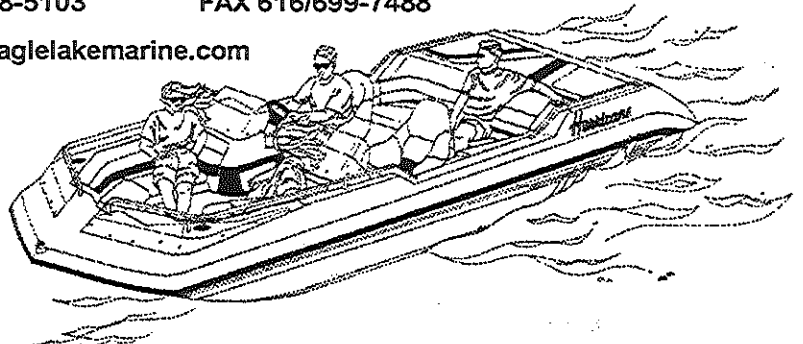
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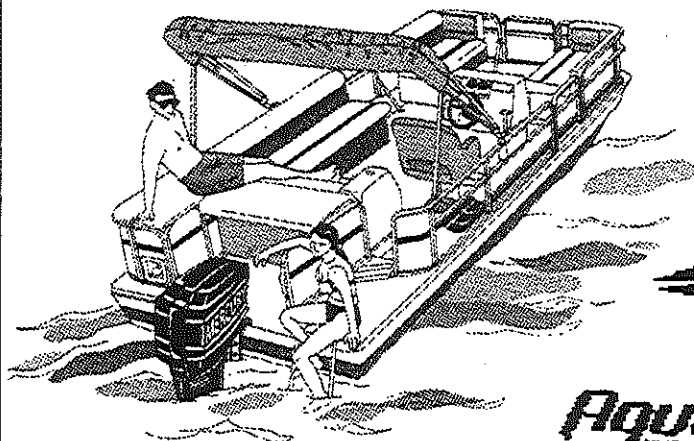
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For Sale — Computer Desk, solid maple wood 48x27" \$40; Utility Stand on rollers 19"x12"x25" \$10; Bookcase, three shelves, open back 32"x13-1/2"x33" \$8 Call Vicki 476-2383

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Home at 63208 Kinsey St. (Birch Lake); Four bedroom brick ranch

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Interested in purchasing a small

fishing boat trailer and a 5 or 6 hp outboard. Call Bud at 476-2526.

Wanted to Buy: Small cottage on Birch Lake and/or waterfront lot to build. Long-term interest. Michigan born, raised and schooled. GO BLUE!!! All leads appreciated and considered from any source. Mark and Christine Werkema, Granger, IN (574) 243-9333. e-mail: jet-books@flightline.com

I need a small trailer to move and store my MC sailboat for the winter. Call Phil 476-1680.

FOR RENT

Birch Lake cottage, west side. 616-471-7647 or 616-921-0710

FOUND

Found — Silver ring with diamonds. Found in sand on south-east shore. Call Linda or Ron Wfitchie 476-9354 to describe it if it's yours.

Found — "Shock Doctor" mouth guard retainer, clear with black inserts. Pick it up any weekend at Brovold cottage, 62861 Lakeview Dr. (west side) or call 476-8862 or 684-5547.

LOST

Mustang Water Ski; probably on east side. If a neighbor recovered it, please call Betty or Joe O'Brien 476-9374. Thanks!

Lost: Cover for cooler on paddle boat. It is blue plastic. Call Patti at 476-2407.

Lost: Prescription sunglasses in gray case — call 476-2227

Lost Dog — Yellow Lab; 3-4 yrs. old; 80-100 lbs. Red collar and blue & white flea collar. Named Harley. Call 476-2669

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MISC.

Kids of the Week pictured on Page 2 of today's Barker are Tom Troeger, age 13, Gib Eberhart, 14 and Denny (Horvath) Weesner, 14.

Stanley Steams on Birch Lake — Abnormally wild and crazy kind of guy with his own boat and a healthy sense of the absurd seeks like-minded (or out-of-their-mind) female interested in boat rides, fun times and perhaps even an occasional cocktail or seven. I'll buy the gas, you provide the companionship. Call 476-2113.

Kids, interested in sailing on Birch Lake? The Kidz Regatta on Saturday, Aug. 17 might be a great way to see how it all works. Call Don at 476-2039.

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 Bergan, James & Linda
 Bernaciak, Ken & Mary Ellen
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 Blue, Jim & Shirley Anne
 Blue, Richard/Krchmar, Sandy
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 Carpenter, Dik & Val (AD)
 Carpenter, Mildred (D)
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 Groszek, John (D)
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 Sanders, Ray & Sonia
 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 & Eleanor
 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
 Witchie Ron & Linda
 Wos, Stan & Doreen
 Wozniak, Ben & Vanessa
 Yoshizawa, Jim & Linda
 Zelasko, Millie
 Zesinger, Bud & Barb

Time's running out to make a tax-deductible contributions to the BLYC

- \$_____ - 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*

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Nancy Walker

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