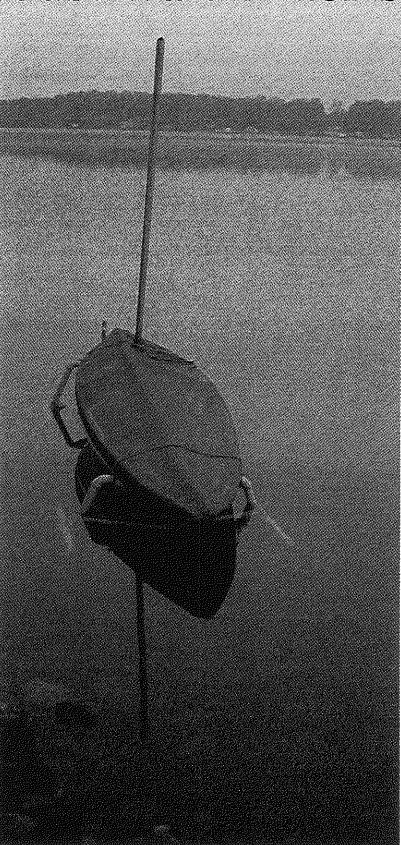


Countdown to the heat of the season

Just waitin' for some summer



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS ey there, hi there, ho there...

The Memorial Day holiday is behind us, and despite some pretty ho-hum weather, many of us were able to get out on the lake for some late-spring R&R—or at least were able to finish up the chores of putting in the pier and boats and cleaning up the yard ...

The Birch Lake Yacht Club Board of Directors met last weekend for the first time of the season and got the business end of the club off to a good start.

According to official tallies, as of last Saturday we have 65 members, which means most of us still haven't sent in our membership dues and contributions yet. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in their dues, but we urge everyone who haven't responded to renew their membership (see form on back page). Remember, the Yacht Club membership dues pay for the fireworks, all the fun events for kids and parties for adults, and continues to ensure the efforts of both the Water Quality Committee and Homeowners' Association. The BLYC is a tax deductible, member supported club dedicated to the continued well being of Birch Lake.

We will have a couple of fund raisers this year to help keep the club's efforts strong. Next weekend, we invite all of our neighbors to the BLYC Monte Carlo night, where you can socialize with old friends and meet the new neighbors — and have a chance to win some great prizes.

In a couple of weeks we will also roll out the new line of Birch Lake Merchandise that we're going to be offering this year — watch future Barkers for details

offering this year — watch future Barkers for details.

One minor change to keep in mind for this year's July 5 Boat Parade, the event will start at Reynolds' pier at 3 pm (instead of 2 pm), and judging will take place at Dick Bender's pier.

For the record, future board meetings will be at 9 am on June 21, July 26 and August 16; all board members are urged to attend.

Porter Township officials are reminding residents that state law and township ordinances require permits for open burning. Fire officials will strictly enforce the codes on fires 5 ft. by 5 ft. or larger. No open burning is allowed within 50 feet of a structure, and container burning is banned inside of 10 feet.

State agriculture and community health and natural resources officials also are reminding us to be aware that West Nile Virus has been detected in Michigan, and advise personal protection with a DEET repellent, and appropriate insect control.

Have a safe and fun summer at Birch Lake!

-Commodore Phil



This is the first Barker of the year and we are eagerly soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore) or e-mail the info to me at sailor-phil@philvitale.com. If you must, mail 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.

Birch Lake Notes

A Note from Sheriff Dan

If your boat's validation decal shows '03, but your registration expired March 31, 2003, you are in violation of the law. A lot of folks think as long as they have an '03 decal on their boat, they're good until the end of the year.

This is not the case!

Also, operators of personal watercraft (jet skis) have to be off the lake one hour prior to sunset and can not go out in the morning until 8 am (Michigan time). They need to check in the local paper or weather channel when sunset is because it changes every day.

We enforce this law with great vigor, so be fore warned.

Also, there are no new laws for watercraft this year, so whatever was in effect last year applies this year.

-Dan Covey
Cass County Sheriff Dept.
Marine Division

June 7 is Township Cleanup Day

It's spring cleanup time in Porter Township, and time for the annual Cleanup Day. This year's event has some changes, however.

The sponsors of the event, which will be from 8 am to 1 pm (Michigan time) next Saturday, June 7, at American Waste, 15621 Mason St. in Union, will not take hazardous wastes (a Cass County-wide hazardous waste cleanup has been

BLYC Calendar

DE! O dalolidal			
June 7	Commodore's Party Monte Carlo Night	July 19	Bad Patty Punch Party and Marc's Fancy Pants Dance
June 7	Porter Twp, Cleanup Day	July 25	Men's Golf Outing
June 21	Board Meeting 9 am	July 26	Board Meeting 9 am
June 28	Vice Commodore's Party "A	July 26	Garage Sale
	Paris Evening"	July 30	Women's Tea (tentative)
July 4	Fireworks	Aug. 8	Women's Golf (tentative)
July 5	Firework Cleanup	Aug. 9	Com and Sausage Roast
July 5	Boat Parade 3 p.m.	Aug.16	Board Meeting 9 am
July 6	Pancake Breakfast	Aug. 23	Fall Dinner

PLEASE NOTE: All parties at the yacht club will begin at 7 pm Indiana time ... unless otherwise noted.

planned for the fall). Additionally, there will be a charge of \$30 for removal of freon from any refrigerators before they will be accepted. Tire charges will be \$2 for auto tires without rims (\$4 with rims); \$6 for semi tires without rims (\$12 with rims); and \$25 for tractor tires.

No yard waste, garbage or construction materials will be accepted.

For more information call 641-2375.

The latest from Pedro

2050 miles in 30 days with 3 days off for weather is a great accomplishment for an old guy. I'm pretty weathered though. The headwinds and humidity did me in finally in the plains states, and I had to finally head northeast to make forward

progress. Finally a friend drove out from Chicago to Des Moines, Iowa and picked me up or I'd still be headed north looking for a tailwind.

The eagle has landed and I feel relieved. The mountains are great but I'm staying away from the plains next time.

-Pedro Kinner

Directories are available

If you haven't already received your new Birch Lake Directory, they will be available at all Yacht Club functions or by appointment at 63174 Birch Rd.; call 476-1680 for an appointment. Members are entitled to one free directory per household; additional copies, and all copies for non-members are \$3 each.



Birch Lake's resource for

- Writing and Editing
- Photography
- Design
- Graphic Arts
- source for

 Desktop Publishing
- Publishing Services
- Websites
- E-mail newsletters

122 S. Michigan St., Suite 310 South Bend, IN 46601 Downtown above the Chocolate Cafe 574-232-3735 / fax 574-232-3853 e-mail: sailorphil@philvitale.com

Proud Member of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

ST. EVANS FIREWORKS

13421 MCKINLEY HIGHWAY MISHAWAKA, IND 46545 574 256-5988

AREA'S LARGEST SUPPLIER
AT THE BEST PRICES
EVERYTHING FOR YOUR BACKYARD CELEBRATION

BIRCH LAKE RESIDENTS BRING THIS COUPON IN FOR

20% DISCOUNT

ON YOUR FIREWORKS PURCHASES

WE AT RKM FIREWORKS ARE AGAIN HAPPY TO PROVIDE BIRCH LAKE
WITH THEIR FIREWORKS SHOW



BENDER



PLASTICS INC. & MOLD & MACHINE, INC.

QUALITY MOLDS FOR PLASTICS

CUSTOM INJECTION MOLDING

55951 RUSSELL INDUSTRIAL PKWY MISHAWAKA, IN 46545

TOOLING — (574) 255-5176

MFG — (574) 255-5350

Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

Skier Safety Flags for sale

It's ski season, and Nick Freihofer, son of Birch Lake northsiders Fred and Carol Freihofer has come up with a great idea to increase safety on the lake this year — and he's turned it into a Junior Achievement project that will help raise funds for the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Nick and his fingers-to-the-bone business partners, are making bright yellow flags that the mandatory ski spotters in each boat can carry and wave when their skier falls. This will alert other boats that a skier is down and that the ski boat is about to circle to retrieve them.

The flags are available for just \$5 each, and can be purchased by contacting the Freihofers at 476-9823, or by ordering them from board members or officers of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

All proceeds will be donated to the Birch lake Yacht Club.

Hints on Repelling Mosquitoes

It's about that time folks — so thought I'd send out this reminder! OK, mosquitoes... prepare to be repelled!!!!!

Use Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets ... Best thing ever used in Louisiana ... just wipe on & go ... Great for Babies

Bob, a fisherman, takes one vitamin B-1 tablet a day from April through October. He said it works; said he hasn't had a mosquito bite in 33 years. Try it. Every one he has talked into trying it says it works on them. Vitamin B-1 (Thiamine

Hydrochloride 100 mg.)

If you eat bananas, the mosquitoes like you. Something about the banana oil as your body processes it. Stop eating bananas for the summer, and the mosquitoes will be much less interested.

This is going to floor you, but one of the best insect repellents someone found (who is in the woods every day), is Vick's Vap-o-rub.

Plant marigolds around the yard. The flowers give off a smell that bugs do not like, You can even plant some in that garden also to help ward off bugs without using insecticides.

"Tough guy" Marines who spend a great deal of time "camping out" say that the very best mosquito repellent you can use is Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil mixed about half and half with alcohol.

One of the best natural insect repellents that I've discovered is made from the clear real vanilla. This is the pure Vanilla that is sold in Mexico. It works great for mosquitoes and ticks ... don't know about other insects.

When all else fails — get a frog Fight West Nile!

-contributed by the Kruggels

Kidz on Zebra Mussel Patrol

Bob King, last year's premier Zebra Mussel Fighter won't be giving out the penny apiece bounty on the submarine nuisances this year, but the lake kids who collect the beasties from our beaches and shores still have plenty of incentive to keep up the fight.

The Birch Lake Yacht Club has set aside a tidy sum for use by Paula Russell and her tireless helpers to put together some kids events throughout the summer. Paula reported that the events were well attended last year, and that an estimated 50 lake kids joined the end-of-season bash at the club, which was partially sponsored by funds set aside through Bob's mussel pickin' program.

This year, instead of a bounty on the clam killers, we're going to have a contest, with a special prize set aside for the kid who muscles the most mussels out of our beautiful lake.

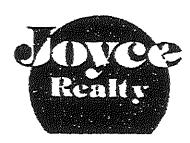
Although it has yet to be determined who will keep track, our suggestion is that lake kids (who get their parents or an adult to confirm the number) e-mail Bob with their tally ...

More in next week's Barker.

Want to Get involved?

We're always on the lookout for lakers who want to get more involved in the functions of the Birch Lake Yacht Club. We are always happy to have help with the parties (set up and cleanup help is always appreciated; blackjack dealers and corn shuckers welcome to apply), post-fireworks cleanup (see Tom Rogers in the Cove), and kids events (see Paul Russell).

To volunteer, just contact any event coordinator or call Phil at 476-1680.



"Since 1978"

63021 Birch Rd. at Birch Lake

Vandalia, MI 49095

E. JOYCE KLIMEK
Broker

Phone Fax (269) 476-2370

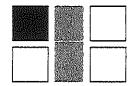
NORDI

FIREPLACE CENTER

FIREPLACES • WOOD STOVES
GLASS DOORS AND GAS LOGS
INSTALLATION • CHIMNEY CLEANING,
REPAIR AND NEW CONSTRUCTION
INSPECTIONS & FULL LINE
OF ACCESSORIES

(574) 262-1433 (800) 419-0403 (574) 264-0728 Fax (574) 266-6338

1108 N. Nappanee St., Elkhart, IN 46514



FIRST MIDWEST FINANCIAL SERVICES

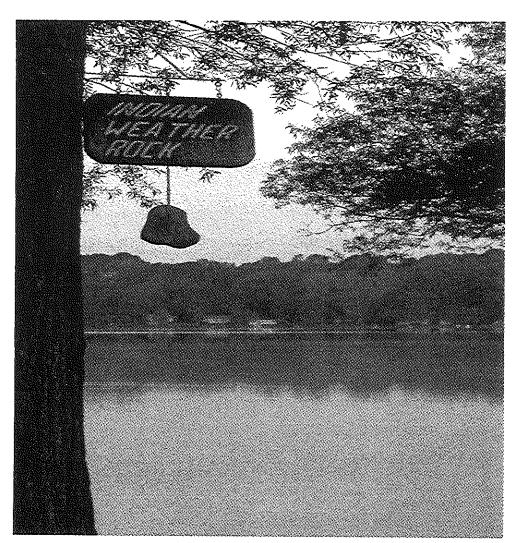
500 Park Blvd. • Itasca, Illinois 60143

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer at Birch Lake!

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

Benjamin P. Wozniak ● Suite 190C ● 630-773-3883 ● Fax 630-773-0920

Birch Lake Notes



Got News For The Barker?

So far this season, some of the biggest news of the lake has been that the Indian Weather Rock (east side) has been frequently wet and cool to the touch...

Come on, guys, this is the second week of the season's Barkers and the news is flowing like molasses in January.

We know it'll pick up, but so far we are noticing a lot of empty in the in basket, and not even a single "kid of the month" picture.

Announcements of new babies, visiting friends and big fish are always especially welcome.

Send me your stuff — no news is bad new to an editor. All you have to do is drop it in the red box at my home (63174 Birch Rd., east side), or e-mail it to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com

Ok, so I lost one...

Apologies to Judy O.; I lost the neat clipping from an area newspaper that she gave me about natural control of geese — The author of the article advocated that lake property owners simply not cut the grass at the water line in order to keep the pesky critters from visiting your yard (and it's a lot cheaper and quieter than bird shot).

Might be worth a shot, huh?



211 Dixie Way North South Bend, IN 46637 **574-272-7000**

Have you visited the

Casual Dining ~ Fine Food ~ Cocktails
Come meet your hosts: Wayne and Knaomia Fulton!



Overlooking Beautiful Bair Lake
Tuesday ~ Thursday ~ 7 a.m. ~ 9 p.m.
Friday and Saturday ~ 7 a.m. ~ 10 p.m.
Sunday ~ 8 a.m. ~ 8 p.m.

12039 Bair Lake Rd Jones, MI 49061

269~244~9004 Closed on Monday



★PWC ServiceSeaDoo Yamaha Kawasaki★Major & Minor Engine RepairOMC / Mercruiser

* 27,000 Sq Ft Building

269-445-2191



* RAVE/Aqua Jump Trampolines

- * Marina Supplies * Service * Storage
- * STARR & LAKESHORE PWC lifts



* Authorized SHORE STATION Boat Lift Dealer

BLYC Sailing News

The cool and gray weather we've suffered through for most of the spring has kept most people from putting their boats in the water, and several of the ones that do have their boats in didn't have their masts up yet — so last weekend's scheduled sailing warm-up practice round was pretty much a bust.

Thanks to the Becks for coming out anyway!

The start of the official racing season is going to depend on the weather. We'll keep you posted — watch the Barker for notification.

There have been some questions about the format for this year's races. I'll try to clear up some of the confusion.

Races will be run through 4 "legs" raced around buoys set

Races will be run through 4 "legs" raced around buoys set up on a triangle course (see diagram at right). The first and final legs will be raced into the wind.

We intend to maintain the class structure that we used last year. In other words, in the Sunfish Fleet, there will be an "A" class for more experienced sailors, and a "B" class for everyone else. You just need to tell the Committee Boat which class you're sailing in at the start of your first race.

This system is designed to make the racing more competitive and to help eliminate some of the intimidation factor that may be keeping younger and less experienced sailors from coming out and enjoying the racing.

ing out and enjoying the racing.

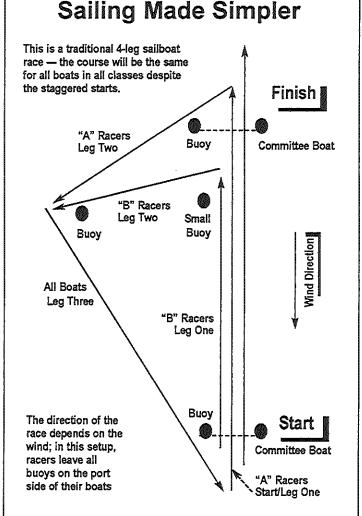
The rules are all the same, but the course is slightly different for "B" sailors. An intermediate mark (buoy) will be set up for "B" sailors to use on their first leg so the Sunfish will finish closer together.

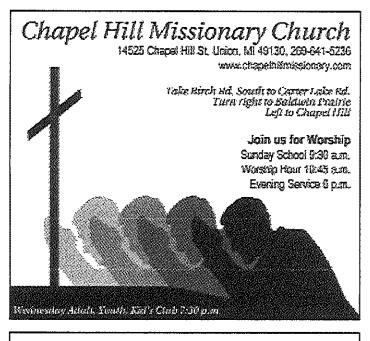
The bigger boats, the MCs and Catamarans, will sail with just one class each.

To encourage any prospective "future" sailors, we will award special bonus points to regular sailors who bring "crew" out for the races.

Remember, watch the Barker for sailing news each week.

-Harold Cranmer 2003 Fleet Captain







TOM'S GARAGE



IN WILLIAMSVILLE PHONE 476-2272 2003

24-HOUR TOWING
GASOLINE AND AUTO REPAIR
MINI MART III WE OPEN LOCKED CARS

8AM TO 7:30 PM (MI) SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY 8 AM TO 8 PM (MI) FRIDAY AND SATURDAY CLOSED SUNDAY 10:30 TO 12:30 (MI)

TOM * BETTY * BECKY

VISA - MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

Accents & Images



Interior Design

Sheryl Papandria

63680 Birch Rd. Vandalia, MI 49095

> (574) 273-5025 (269) 476-9225 fax (269) 476-9555

Fishin' Hole...

Free Fishing Weekend

Celebrate Michigan's world-class freshwater fishing on June 7-8, 2003, Michigan's Summer Free Fishing Weekend — two special days when all fishing license fees will be waived for residents and outstate visitors alike on Michigan waters.

All fishing regulations will still apply.

Before You Go Fishing

You must purchase a license if you are 17 years of age or older. Senior

licenses are available for Michigan residents 65 years of age and older. You must have the license in your possession when fishing and the identification used to purchase that license. Your fishing license is valid from March 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004.

If you are under 17, you may fish without a license, but you are required to observe all fishing rules and regulations.

Buy A Fishing License Online at: http://www.mdnr-elicense.com

To qualify for a resident license, you must:

-Have a permanent residence in

Michigan.

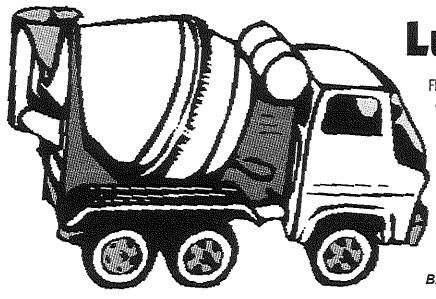
-Be a full time student at a Michigan college or university.

-Serve full time in the U.S. Military and be officially stationed in Michigan.

-The ownership of land in Michigan by itself is not qualification for a resident license.

-There are three main types of fishing licenses available for residents, senior residents and nonresidents:

Review the regulations that apply to the species and area that you will be fishing. Make sure you review and understand lawful fishing methods.



Lutz Concrete

FLATWORK — retaining walls —saw cutting concrete stamping — colored concrete

14960 W. M-60 Three Rivers, MI 49093

269/279-7973

FAX 269/279-0133 Mobile Phone: 269/207-1153

Birch Lake Referral: Dick Bender's happy

Handyman Repairs

- Roof to basement inside and out
- Floors, doors, stairways, ceilings and windows
- Siding, roofing, driveways and sprinklers
- Decks and fences; fascia and soffits
- Plumbing, electrical, heating and A/C
- Piers and Seawalls

Home Maintenance

- Painting interior and exterior
- Snow removal sidewalks, driveways & roofs
- Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
- We do windows
- Power washing, insulation and weatherproofing
- Spring and fall yard clean up
- Tree and shrub trimming
- Rototill your garden

Free Estimates

- Firm quotes for all jobs
- Fully insured
- No job too big or too small

Property Management

- Reliable caretaker
- Fulfills all absentee homeowner's needs
- Periodically checks your property
- Provides second home peace of mind
- Call for all lake property requirements



Dave's Residential Services (269) 476-2797; Wireless (269) 362-0724

dhardisty@beanstalk.net Emergency Service Available 24/7





The Moon and the planet Jupiter stage a beautiful pairing mid-week. Jupiter looks like a brilliant star quite near the Moon. They're both high in the west as darkness falls, and slide down the western sky over the next few hours. They set around 1 o'clock in the morning.

Near the pairing another famous object can be spotted — a star cluster known as the Beehive. It may be tough to see through the Moon's glare, but binoculars will enhance the view. They'll also show you why it's called the Beehive: This grouping of stars looks like a swarm of bees. It's actually a family of a couple of hundred stars. They all formed from the same cloud of gas and dust, so they share a common heritage.

Like many astronomical objects, the Beehive has lots of names. The oldest is Praesepe, the manger. The origin of this name isn't clear, although it's probably

Stu's Star Stuff

related to two stars that flank the cluster—the northern and southern donkeys.

Another designation is M44 — the 44th object catalogued by Charles Messier in the 18th century. Messier compiled his list of fuzzy objects — galaxies, star clusters, and nebulae — so astronomers wouldn't confuse them with comets.

And in the 19th century, astronomers added one more designation: NGC 2362—entry 2,362 in the New General Catalog, which listed thousands of faint, fuzzy objects scattered across the sky.

Seen through binoculars or a telescope, star clusters are among the most beautiful sights in the night sky — dozens or more stars of different colors and intensities sparkling like cosmic jewels. But only a few clusters are visible to the unaided eye, and they look like tiny, hazy clouds. This fuzziness has inspired some interesting reactions among stargazers. Some viewed clusters as symbols of bad fortune. Others had a more practical reaction: They used clusters to forecast the weather. Greek skywatchers watched the cluster for signs of changing weather. If the Beehive was invisible in an otherwise clear sky, they saw it as a sign of rain or storms. And they likely were right. Thin clouds in the upper atmosphere often precede storm systems. Since the Beehive is faint and nebulous under the best conditions, this extra water vapor can block it from view—and provide an accurate forecast of impending rain.

Again, look for the Beehive quite near the radiant planet Jupiter. And if it's hard to find, even with the help of binoculars, you might want to get your umbrella and a raincoat ready — just in case.

And enjoy the show. It's free. Next week, an eclipse every month.

-Stewart Spratt



HELP (STILL) WANTED!

The sailors of Birch Lake need your help. Every Sunday (when the weather cooperates) we try to race sailboats on Birch Lake. In order to do so, we have to have people who will help with the "starting" boat to begin and finish the races. We have many of the weeks covered already (thanks to the Becks), but we would love to have other boats to fill in when they aren't available — and people to help them are

always appreciated. If you are available to help on the Beck boat, or if you can stand in for us once in a while, we'd love to hear from you. All supplies and equipment (except the boat) will be furnished; we'll even provide training if you don't know how the whole thing works ...

To volunteer, contact Harold Cranmer at 2170; or Phil Vitale at 1680.

PIETH Plumbing

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Water Heaters
Water Pumps
Softeners
Iron Filters

Sump Pumps Disposals Toilets Faucets

Water Tanks Sinks Bathtubs/Showers

(574) 295-8633

License # CP81041499

License #81-07776

Shop UNION MARKET

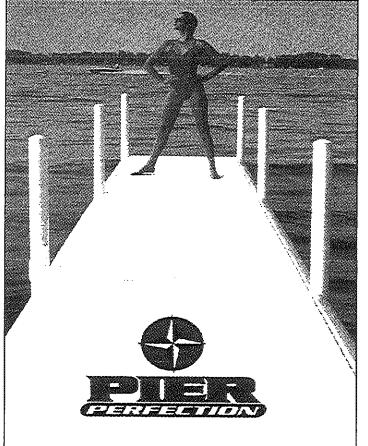
15940 US 12 West, Union, MI (269) 641-5861

Open Daily: 7 am - 10 pm MI, 6 am - 9 pm IN

FEATURING:

Deli Selections Fresh Produce Picnic Needs

Fresh Meats Cold Beer Videos



Custom Pier Contractors

William D. Stohler

Diamond Lake Marina, Building #3 P.O. Box 415, Cassopolis, MI 49031

269-445-8838

The ABCs of healthy eating

JUST FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

by: Ima Foodnudge

With the news that a dear friend has been stricken with cancer, I've been doing an excessive amount of reading on healthier eating habits.

Most of my friends are more than bored with continuous lectures on healing foods as I over-analyze their plates. So I've decided to share the information with my neighbors.

Exciting isn't it? From what I've read, the right foods can give you a great body - one that resists aging, fights heart disease and cancer, a stronger immune system, and plenty of pep. More than anything else you do, the way you eat tells your body how healthy you want to be.

For the next few Barkers I

will share with you information on the most powerful foods you should be consuming just FOR THE HEALTH OF IT.

And, we're kicking off a new Barker weekly column with the Letter "A"...

ALMONDS: If you feel like snacking on nuts, (Lakers like



to snack on everything) you can't go wrong with almonds. Two

ounces, or about 48 almonds, give you more than 50% of your daily requirement of magnesium, a mineral that's important for heart health. Almonds are also a good source of vitamin E, fiber, and monounsaturated fat, all hearthealth nutrients. Studies have shown that eating almonds may also reduce the risk of colon cancer.

APPLES: We've all heard this one, "An apple a day may keep the car-

diologist at bay." Ok, something like that.

Apples can lower your total cholesterol and triglycerides.



You have 60 % good cholesterol, 30% bad cholesterol and 10% undecided...

Apples are the best fruit source of catechins, potent cancer-preventive substances. In fact, eating apples can decrease the risk of lung cancer. Apples also provide quercetin, which may inhibit prostrate, lung, and liver cancer. Eve evidently knew exactly what she was doing!

AVOCADOS: WOW! Did you know Avocados provide more heart-healthy monounsaturated fat, fiber, vitamin E, folic acid and potassium than

most other fruits? They are the number-one fruit source of betasitosterol, a substance that



lowers cholesterol and Lutein which protects you

from cataracts. Great dip idea

"B" ready for next weeks exciting power food list. Bet cha can't wait!

Ima Foodnudge is a Birch Lake resident who wants her neighbors to be healthy



Triple - Double - Single Facial Beds

574-264-4977



For All Your Building Material and Hardware Needs, Come See the Experienced Folks at Big C Lumber! Schoolcraft, MI 269-679-5500 Elkhart, IN 219-262-4506

For a listing of our other 10 locations, or to find out more about our people, products and services, visit us at:

www.bigclumber.com





Purple Loosestrife

While most people at Birch Lake are already aware of the problem with Zebra Mussels, many are still uneducated to the dangers of another "exotic" that is a potential threat, Purple Loosestrife.

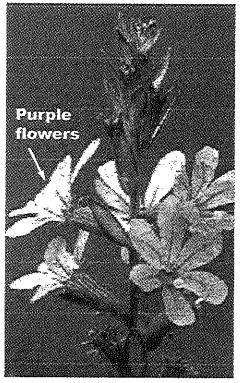
Purple Loosestrife is often described as that "pretty" purple-flowered plant you see along highways, rivers, ponds and lakes all

over the country.

Pretty, though it may be, Purple Loosestrife a serious threat. It is extremely prolific, crowding out native species of plants and clogging waterways in short periods of times. And it is very difficult to control.

Purple Loosestrife has been seen at Birch Lake - but thanks to the efforts of the Water Quality Committee of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, whenever it has been found, we have received permission from the property owners to eradicate it Note: special caution must be taken to remove the plants. Simple digging or cutting can spread the seeds and make the problem worse. If you spot Purple Loosestrife at Birch Lake, please contact an officer or board member immediately (see back page of today's Barker for names and addresses).

If you don't know about Purple



Loosestrife, here is some information gathered from a variety of public sources:

DESCRIPTION:

Purple loosestrife is an erect perennial herb in the loosestrife family, with a square, woody stem

and opposite or "whorled" leaves. The leaves are lance-shaped, stalkless, and heart-shaped or rounded at the base. Plants are usually covered by a downy pubescence.

Loosestrife plants grow from four to ten feet high, depending on conditions, and produce a showy display of purple/magenta-colored flower spikes throughout much of the summer. Flowers have five to seven petals. Mature plants can have from 30 to 50 stems arising from a single rootstock.

ECOLOGICAL THREAT: Purple loosestrife adapts readily to natural and disturbed wetlands. As it establishes and expands, it outcompetes and replaces native grasses, sedges, and other flowering plants that provide a higher quality source of nutri-tion for wildlife. The highly invasive nature of purple loosestrife allows it to form dense stands that restrict native plant species and to reduce habitat for waterfowl.

NATIVE RANGE: Eurasia; throughout Great Britain, and across central and southern Europe to central Russia, Japan, Manchuria

Continued on next page





universal designs for accessible living P.O. Box 272 Union, MI 49130-0272 1-888-641-9205



Curtis Cleaning Services

> Commercial & Residential

Carpet Cleaning

Bonded & Insured

Linda & Terry Curtis 63093 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095 269-476-2431



NEED A PLUMBER?

ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

OUALITY WORK BY LICENSED PLUMBERS SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Water Heaters Water Softeners Sump Pumps

Water Pumps

Showers

Toilets Tubs

Sinks Faucets

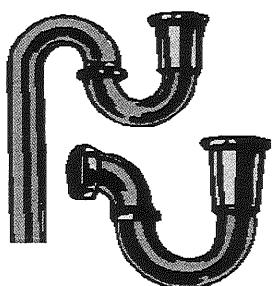
Drain Cleaning Sewer Rodding Sewage Ejection Pumps

Commercial/Residential/Remodeling/New Construction

Free Estimates

Master Licensed #8110747

269-687-7192



Birch lake Management Program - BLYC Water Quality Committee June 2003 Report 2

Birch Lake resident have always been asked to stop fertilizing with phosphorus

1978: Birch Lake Watershed Analysis Study recommends the absence of fertilizer and the use of a pump to sprinkle your lawn with lake water.

1994: Cass County Health Department Lake Management Program recommends that fertilizing should not be tolerated.

2003: Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program recommends that fertilizer bags should read 0-0-0; however, if there is a need to fertilize, you can now do so without phosphorus runoff from fertilizers.

The Birch lake Yacht Club purchased 60 fifty-pound bags of phosphorus-free fertilizer. Reduced prices are available to water quality groups when purchasing in quantity, and your cost is just \$10 per/bag.

In Birch Lake's fragile environment, we must be sensitive to the fact that Birch Lake is sensitive to phosphorus and be mindful of the fact that any phosphorus entering the lake will remain there for a long time, build up and reduce our high quality

level to middle quality.

Please call Dan Reynolds, chairman of the Water Quality Committee at 476-8877, or Bob Temple at 476-2773 if you need to fertilize.

As always, thank you for supporting your Birch Lake Yacht Club and its water quality committee. And thank you for continuing to take such good care of Birch Lake.

-Gertie Temple

Loosestrife

China, southeast Asia and northern India

DISTRIBUTION IN THE UNIT-ED STATES: According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, purple loosestrife now occurs in every state except Florida.

HABITAT IN THE UNITED STATES: Purple loosestrife is capable of invading many wetland types, including freshwater wet meadows, tidal and non-tidal marshes, river and stream banks, pond edges, reservoirs, and ditches.

BACKGROUND: Purple loosestrife was introduced to the northeastern U.S. and Canada in the 1800s, for ornamental and medicinal uses. It is still widely sold as an ornamental, except in states such as Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois where regulations now prohibit its sale, purchase and distribution.

METHODS OF REPRODUCTION & DISPERSAL: Purple loosestrife enjoys an extended flowering season, generally from June to September, which allows it to produce vast quantities of seed. The flowers require pollination by

(continued)

insects, for which it supplies an abundant source of nectar. A mature plant may have as many as thirty flowering stems capable of producing an estimated two to three million tiny seeds a year.

Purple loosestrife also readily reproduces through underground stems at a rate of about one foot a year. Many new stems may emerge from a single root of the previous year.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT APPROACHES: Small infestations of young purple loosestrife plants may be pulled by hand, preferably before seed set. For older plants, experts note that spot treating with Rodeo (for wetlands, Roundup for uplands) can be effective (see warning at the end of the article). These herbicides may be most effective when applied late in the season when plant are preparing for dormancy. However, it may be best to do a mid-summer and a late season treatment, to reduce the amount of seed produced.

While herbicides and hand removal may be useful for controlling individual plants or small populations, biological control is seen as the most likely candidate for effective long term control of large infestations of purple loosestrife. As of 1997, three insect species from Europe have been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use as biological control agents. These plant-eating insects include a root-mining weevil (Hylobius transversovittatus), and two leaf-feeding beetles (Galerucella calmariensis and Galerucella pusilla). Two flower-feeding beetles (Nanophyes) that feed on various parts of purple loosestrife plants are still under investigation. Galerucella and Hylobius have been released experimentally in natural areas in 16 northern states, from Oregon to New York. Although these beetles have been observed occasionally feeding on native plant species, their potential impact to non-target species is considered to be low.

USE PESTICIDES WISELY:
ALWAYS READ THE ENTIRE
PESTICIDE LABEL CAREFULLY, FOLLOW ALL MIXING AND
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
AND WEAR ALL RECOMMENDED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE
GEAR AND CLOTHING. CONTACT YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR
ANY ADDITIONAL PESTICIDE
USE REQUIREMENTS,
RESTRICTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS.



Insurance Agency, Inc. Since 1945

For the Help You Need When You Need It Most

219 S. 3rd St. P.O. Box 1828 Elkhart, IN 46515 574/293-9571 FAX 574/294-8937 John Ball Joe Johnsen Nelson Nix Jeff Whisler Robert Nix Tom Elkin



Barker Classified Advertising

FOR SALE

Aqua Float, \$400. Call Gwen at 476-8897 or come see it at 63286 Birch Rd. (east side).

Small microwave oven. Perfect for the lake. \$20. Large microwave oven. Perfect for the lake. \$45 OBO on either. Call Stewart Spratt at 476-2113.

Selling quality WATKINS products — Tried and true Medicinals Worlds Best Vanilla and worlds best Spices Heritage products and more for the Pantry Medicine chest and beyond. See Becky at Tom's Garage or call at 476-2272 or at home evening 476-1062

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used wakeboard preferably a beginners board, with bindings included. (574) 272-3683

My family is new to Birch Lake, and we are looking for a recreational (ski) type boat. If you are thinking of upgrading or selling your boat, please contact the Carmen Soldato Family

Wanted to buy: small, cheap boat trailer to carry small sailboat to and from the landing. Call 476-1680.

SERVICES

Housecleaning service: Call Shanna at (269) 501-9379. I'm located on the south side and I am available to clean your home weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or seasonally.

Babysitting: Call Shanna on the south side of Birch Lake at (269)501-9379.

Babysitting: Please call Amanda Lacy at 476-2120.

RENTALS

East Side A-Frame for rent in June. Three bedrooms, great neighbors. Lots of great summer weeks available; \$800/week. Call Marc at (574) 247-1062.

North Shore cottage for rent, June-September. Sleeps six. \$850 per week. Contact Fred Freihofer at (574) 272-3683 or send e-mail to ffreihofer@aol.com.

3 BR cottage on north shore. \$650.00/week. Discounts available. Call Stewart Spratt at 574.291.3227 or 269.476.2113.

WANTED - summer cottage rental for 1 month. Please call with leads, thanks!!! Mark and Christine Werkema, Granger, IN; Phone 574-

243-9333.

PERSONAL ADS

For those of you who hate spelling my last name, I have simplified my email address (you can use it for Kevin and Kyle too). I can be reached at cindyb@marianchs.com If you forget, I will still have the old address. Look forward to emails from all my friends. -Cindy Bernaciak

DIRECTORY CORRECTION

The e-mail address of Harold and Charlene Sheetz was incorrect in the new directory. The correct e-mail address should read; 6878@beanstalk.net

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to Birch Lake Yacht Club members and their families.

Ads are \$5/week for non-members.

To submit an ad for the Barker: e-mail your ad to sailorphil@philvi-tale.com, mail it to: Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd, Vandalia, MI 49095 or put it in the red "Barker" box at that address (on the east side). Ads are \$5/week for non-members







2003 BLYC Officers and Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Commodore - Phil Vitale 476-1680 Vice Commodore - Stewart Spratt 476-2113

Secretary - Sandy Vitale 476-1680 Treasurer - Holly Troeger 476-9898 Fleet Captain - Harold Cranmer 476-2170

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dick Bender 476-2591 Howard Blackwood 476-2840 Jim Bolinger 476-9737 Dave Bouwkamp 476-1001 Harold Cranmer 476-2170 Roger Falk no lake phone Fred Freihofer 476-9823 Bob Herms 476-9381 Jack Miller 476-9226 Judy Olson 476-2125 Maryann O'Neill 476-2831 Vicki Rogers 476-2383 Paula Russell 476-1022 Rick Russwurm 476-2407 Charlene Sheetz 476-2604 Denise Smitley 476-4900 Holly Troeger 476-9898 Scott Troeger 476-9898 Sandy Vitale 476-1680 Bob Waddle 476-2293 Bruce Wagner 476-2090 Denny Weesner 476-2569

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Dan Reynolds, chairman 476-8877 Terry Dugan 476-2814 Rick Russwurm 476-2407 Gertie Temple 476-2773 Bob Temple 476-2773

HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

There are dozens of members of the Homeowner's Assocation; contact a board member for information.

Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

\$____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)

- BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)

___ - Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)

S____ - 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

Total \$

The Birch Lake Yacht Club is a 401(c) non-profit organization. Contributions to the club are tax deductible — consult your tax preparer for more information.

