

# Birch Barker

Weekend of July 17, 2004



The Troyer family (east side) recently had a small (but very fast) visitor in their house. Thanks to the manual Hoover, they were able to escort the ruby-throated hummingbird safely back to his Birch Lake habitat. photo by Darlene Troyer

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Last week we all heard that the pancake breakfast was a record breaking success. Because of this, from the proceeds I was happy to be able to present to Mr. Dug a check for \$2,000. The folks at the camp greatly appreciate the lakers' support and convey their thanks and gratitude. My thanks to everyone, too.

Last Saturday the board of directors met. Dan Reynolds gave an encouraging report from the water quality committee. He said that the lake continues to improve. The algae that we are seeing now is temporary and will go away. The overall health of the lake is excellent.

The homeowners association will hold it's annual meeting following the August 14th board meeting. All are welcome to attend both the board meeting and homeowners meeting. The board meeting starts at 9, homeowners association 10:30.

The fund raising committee reported that many folks bought blankets, tote bags, aprons, visors, aerial pictures and towels at the breakfast. One suggested

use for the money was to build some sort of partition or closet to hide the tables and chairs that are stored along the west side of the yacht club. We are looking into other ideas as well.

I was hoping not to have to harp on safety and boating rules/regulations but after receiving a call or two I promised that I'd address it publicly. Birch Lake is a small lake. When there is lots of traffic out there the 100 foot rule needs to be a little flexible. However, piers, rafts and other stationary objects should still qualify for the 100 foot cushion for safety. Also, all traffic needs to be going in the same direction, counterclockwise around the lake. A couple boats were reported going the wrong direction down the west side while pulling skiers. Let's all work together to make sure it's safe out there.

Announcing tonight's TBA function - How about a Euchre tournament? Come to the yacht club for an exciting evening of Euchre and socializing. Don't want to play? Just come and visit. Please bring a snack to share. The fun will begin at 7 pm. We'll try to get organized and begin playing cards by 7:30 pm. Prizes will be awarded to the top Euchre players. Everyone is invited.

Did you notice that some guy writes a column about the night sky? I always wondered what all that fine print was that used to be buried back there on page 87. I thought it was some sort of disclaimer. I never could read it. Now that the font size has been increased I was amused to find out that it's kind of interesting. Check it out.

OK. Let's wrap it up. Sign up for volleyball, pay your dues, come to the Euchre tournament tonight and get out there and have some fun.

-Stewart Spratt, Commodore 2004

### BLYC Calendar

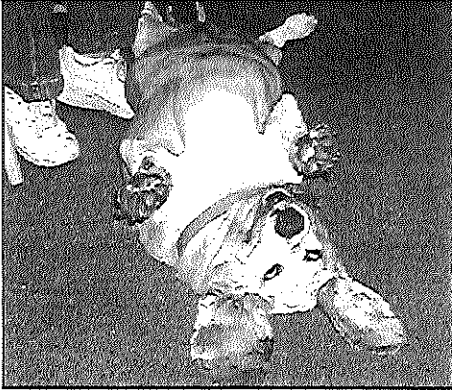
- July 17 - Euchre Party - 7 pm
- July 24 - Boaters Safety Course
- July 28 - Women's tea
- July 30 - Men's golf outing
- July 31 - Garage sale
- July 31 - The Great Birch Lake Float-in
- Aug. 6 - Women's golf outing
- Aug. 7 - Corn and sausage roast
- Aug. 14 - Directors meeting; 9 am
- Aug. 14 - Volleyball Tourney
- Aug. 21 - Fall dinner

The deadline for submitting Barker materials is every Tuesday at Noon!

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com, or, if you must, put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), mail to Phil Vitale, 120 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax your items to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.

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

# Birch Lake Notes



**Pet of the week #1:**  
Ethel.  
Her humans are Bill, Bad Patty, Katie and John Luecht (east side), who say Ethel is "old and multiply challenged, but happy to be a Birch Lake Dog." Ethel is 11 years old (that's 77 in people years).



**Pet of the week #2:** Molly Sue.  
Her humans are Evan and Sally Mollenkopf from Mountain Home Arkansas. The Mollenkopfs were here visiting their high school classmate Dick Bender, who refers to Molly Sue as the perfect pet.

*Ashman, Targgart & Manion*


---

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**Have A Safe and Fun Summer!**

# Birch Lake News

## THE WEST SIDE

### Dan Soldato receives masters degree

The Soldato Family (west side) enjoyed the weekend of July 10-11 at Birch Lake while also attending the graduation of their oldest son, Dan, from Notre Dame. Dan received his masters in education after participating in ND's Alliance for

Catholic Education Program.

The Program sends approximately 90 students annually to teach for two years in under-resourced catholic schools through the Country. Dan's assignment took him to Austin, Texas where he taught middle school science and history. In the fall, Dan will begin law school at Northwestern University

in Chicago."

## THE SOUTH SIDE

### Supergans visit for the 4th of July

Jim and Mary Hern were happy to have Mary's parents, Frank and Marjorie Supergan, as guests for the long 4th of July weekend. Frank and Marjorie traveled from their farm in downstate

Illinois just outside of Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge for a Supergan family reunion in nearby Buchanan Michigan on Saturday. The group welcomed Saturday's rain which delayed the Birch Lake fireworks until Sunday, allowing a front seat view. Jim and Mary are looking forward to a return visit.

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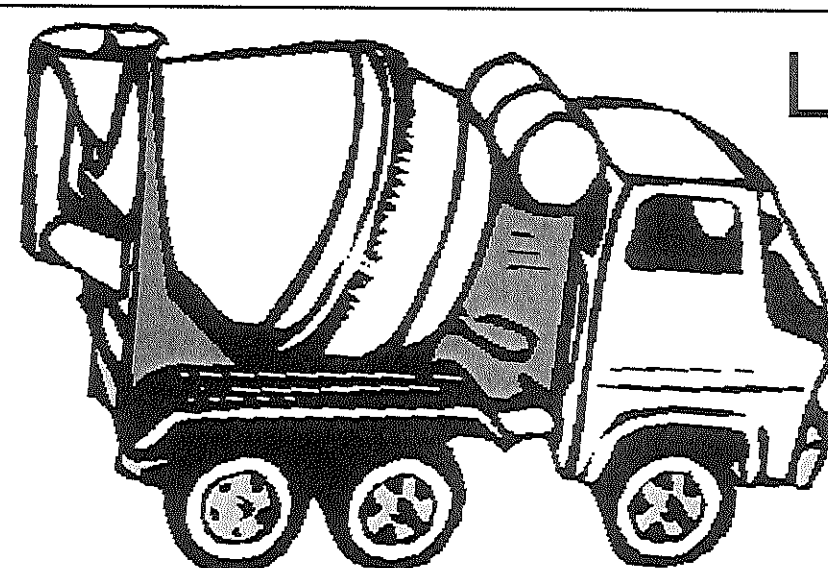
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# Birch Lake News

## News From The Cove by *Sunny Waters*

by your ever-loving *Sunny Waters*

The fourth of July was, as always, fabulous. The pancake breakfast brought many hungry Birchers. It has always been my job to serve pancakes. They went fast, and I am grateful to Kim Spratt for running back and forth with loaded trays. Thank you,

sweet Kim. Frankly, I don't want to see another pancake.

There isn't a whole lot more to say but if you are having marital problems or can't find a decent corset please call me for help. If your dyed hair is fading just buy a big hat or a funky wig. This is a woman thing and you men deserve

help from Sunny. Don't be shy; call me at 2 am; phone number 976-32HQ. I'm here for you. Yours truly,

-*Sunny (BS's wife)*

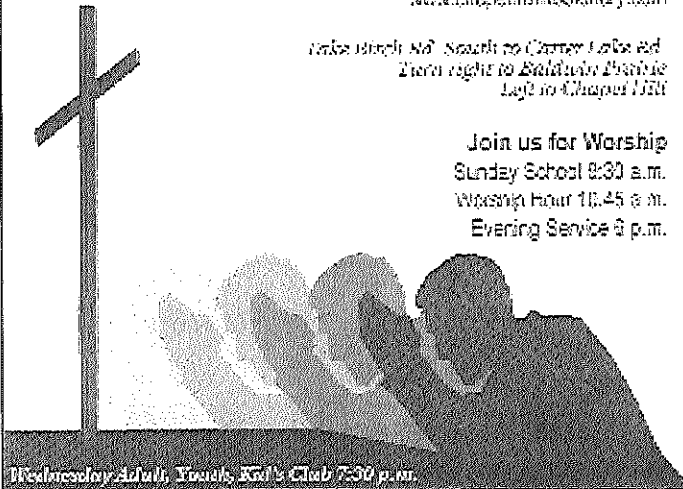
*For those who don't know, BS means Beloved Spouse. You thought it was something naughty, didn't you?*

### Chapel Hill Missionary Church

14525 Chapel Hill St. Union, MI 49130. 269-641-5296  
www.chapelhillmissionary.com

Take Church No. South to Corner Lake Rd  
Turn right to Baldwins Bridge  
Left to Chapel Hill

Join us for Worship  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Hour 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Service 8 p.m.



Prayer meeting 2nd full, Youth, Kid's Club 7:30 p.m.

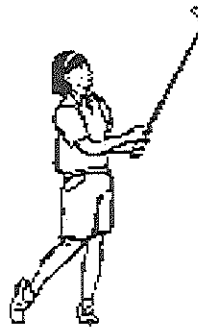
## Ladies Golf/Lunch

Friday, August 6

Park Shore Golf Course,  
Cassopolis

9 am (IN) golfing  
Noon Lunch  
(at Lindy's, Dowagiac)

All levels of golfers welcome!



Golf Entry Fee- \$27/per golfer  
Fee covers golf, half a cart, and lunch at Lindy's

Interested in joining us for Lunch only? No pre-pay is necessary, but reservation is requested.

Send check and reservation for golf and/or lunch  
by Mon, Aug 2 to:

Allyson Weaver  
69609 Hilltop Dr  
Union, MI 49130  
Attn: Golf Outing

For info call (269) 641-5513 or contact Julie Weaver at 476-2869 or Katha Machalleck at 476-2642

Name.....	Golf.....	Lunch

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## Men's Golf Outing

Friday, July 30 - Park Shore - 11 am

4-man scramble - Shotgun start

Prime rib dinner (follows) at BLYC

Prizes, refreshments \$60/man. Sign up **NOW!**

Team Members:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

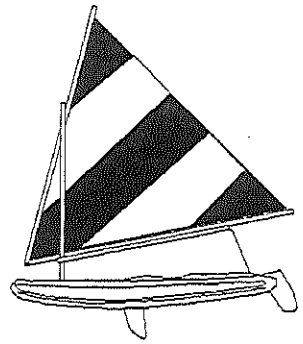
Send checks to Fred Freihofer  
50631 Deer Ridge Ct., Granger, IN 46530  
or drop in Barker Box (on East Shore).

Dinner only is \$22/each

**Deadline: July 23**



# BLYC Sailing News



## Hey Sailors!

Warm weather and gentle breezes kept us to only two races. We are still looking for people interested in learning to work the committee boat. Anyone interested

in going out and seeing what it's all about should call 476-9737. Here's the results from Sunday the 11th.

-Jim Bolinger  
Fleet Captain 2004

## Sailboat race results and standings

Sailor	# Races	class	1st	2nd	day's total	cumulative	average	place
Scott Troeger	10	MC	2nd	1st	3141	15446	1545	1st
Rick Harman	5	MC	5th	3rd	2760	7590	1518	2nd
Don Harman	10	MC	6th	5th	2541	14262	1426	4th
Harold Cranmer	9	MC	1st	2nd	3141	13331	1481	3rd
Jim Bolinger	10	MC	4th	6th	2614	13715	1372	5th
Phil Vitale	9	MC	3rd	4th	2833	11906	1323	6th
Bill Luecht	4	MC	7th	7th	2470	4940	1270	7th
Dave Olson	7	Sun A	4th	3rd	2833	10704	1529	3rd
Rick Russwurm	8	Sun A	3rd	4th	2833	11865	1483	4th
Erica Vitale	5	Sun A	DNS	DNS			1455	5th
Tom Howard	7	Sun A	2nd	2nd	3062	11033	1576	2nd
Bob King	2	Sun A	1st	1st	3220	3220	1610	1st
Sandy Vitale	9	Sun B	1st	1st	3220	14176	1575	1st
Caleb Walker	8	Sun B	3rd	2nd	2985	12410	1551	2nd
Amy Troeger	6	Sun B	2nd	DNS	1531	7353	1481	3rd
Steve Richards	5	Sun B	DNS	DNS			1439	4th
Chad Plaia	2	Sun B	DNS	DNS	2733		1367	5th

## Accents & Images



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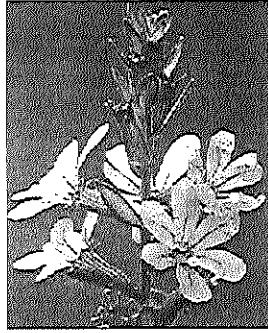
# Public Enemy: Purple Loosestrife

## THE PURPLE PLAGUE

Are you an admirer of the purple flowering plants that are cropping up along roadways and in wetlands all over Michigan? Did you know that this plant, called purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), is an aggressive invader of North American wetland habitats?

native of Europe and Asia which has spread throughout much of the United States and Canada.

Purple loosestrife grows an impressive four to seven feet tall. Its blooms are long spikes of beautiful purple flowers.



It grows prolifically in wetlands and other moist areas. Each mature plant produces 30 or more flowering stems and can produce over 2.5 million seeds per year.

purple loosestrife program since 1999. Bruce and Sue Wagner and Rick Russwurm are the volunteers for the program.

The shore line is inspected through-out the summer. The plants are identified then properly removed. The program has been very successful. At the start there were 10 sites on all the shores of Birch Lake, some of which were heavily infested. Last year there were four sites that were slightly or moderately infested, confined to the west shore. We are hopeful that we will see a continued improvement this year.

We ask that every one keep a look out for this purple plague. If you think you have found it or suspect a plant please contact Rick Russwurm or The Wagners to identify it.

**Rick Russwurm**  
Birch Lake Water Quality Committee

## THE PLANT

Purple loosestrife is a

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Helen Toth

Kathy & Ron Nlezkodski & Dorothy Parnell

*"Terry is extremely professional, accurate and meticulous and the work he does is top notch!"*

*"I was completely satisfied. The work was done quickly, efficiently and on time."*

Dan Reynolds

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**Terry Keirn**  
President

## THE PROBLEM

A fierce competitor, purple loosestrife eventually overtakes native vegetation, forming nearly impenetrable stands of this single species. As the native plants are reduced, so too are the wildlife species that depend on them.

Dense stands of purple loosestrife also impair recreational use of wetlands and rivers and impede water flow in drainage ditches.

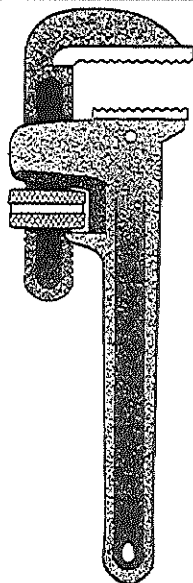
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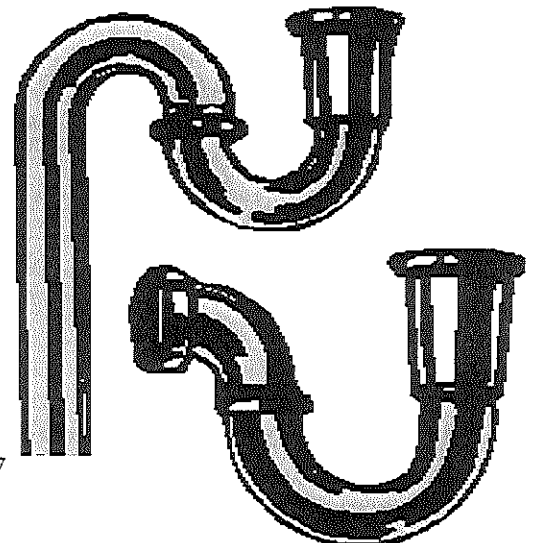
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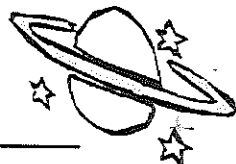
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# Stu's Star Stuff



## Summer triangle reigns ...

The three bright stars that outline the Summer Triangle really stand out this week. There's no Moon in the evening sky, so the stars don't have to compete with its glare. The triangle stands low in the east and northeast as darkness falls, but wheels high overhead during the night.

The summer triangle isn't really a constellation, or asterism at all. It's simply a triangle defined by 3 bright stars, Deneb, Vega and Altair. The brightest star in the triangle is Vega, in the constellation Lyra, the harp. Vega's also the highest in the sky during the evening hours, so it's easy to spot.

Vega looks so bright for a couple of reasons. First, it really IS fairly bright — it produces about 50 times more visible light than the

Sun does. And second, it's one of our closest neighbors, at a distance of just 25 light-years. That means the light we see from Vega tonight actually left the star 25 years ago.

Well to the lower right of Vega, look for Altair, the brightest star in Aquila, the eagle. It's even closer than Vega — just 17 light-years. Altair is similar to Vega, though not as bright. Both stars shine pure white.

The final member of the triangle is Deneb, to the lower left of Vega. It forms the "tail" of the cross-shaped constellation Cygnus, the swan. Deneb looks just about as bright as Altair. But if we could line up all three stars of the Summer Triangle at the same distance from Earth, Deneb would blow the other two stars away. It's a supergiant star that shines

about 1700 times brighter than Vega. It shines prominently in the night sky of Earth — even though it's almost 1500 light-years away.

With the Moon out of the way, we can see many of the stars inside the triangle, too. One of the most popular is Albireo, the second-brightest star in Cygnus, the swan. To our eyes alone, it looks like a single, relatively faint star. But binoculars or a telescope reveal TWO stars. One looks yellow-orange, while the other appears sapphire blue. A nineteenth-century writer said the system presents "perhaps the most lovely effect of colour in the heavens."

The colors tell us the surface temperatures of the two stars. The yellow-orange star, for example, is cooler than our own star,

the Sun. It's a giant star, which means it's many times larger than the Sun. The blue star, on the other hand, is much hotter than the Sun. Blue stars "burn" their nuclear fuel much more quickly than other stars, so they live shorter lifetimes.

The stars of Albireo are perhaps 385 light-years from Earth. That means the light we see from Albireo tonight actually left the stars around the time the pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock.

During the evening hours, look for Albireo a little below Vega, and the rest of the Summer triangle.

Enjoy the show. It's free..

-Stu Spratt *(some guy who writes a column about the night sky but usually uses very tiny print that no one can read)*

**The moon for July 17 2004 (at Midnight): 0.8 days since new moon; Illuminated Fraction: 0.008**

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# Off the page

by *Marian* (the librarian)

July weather should be hot, hot, hot and so should your summer reading. Hot love stories are this week's genre. I only have four listed this week because I just had to stop writing and start reading these favorites again.

Ø **Rebecca** (Du Maurier)

The woman who becomes the second Mrs. de Winter (whose first name we never learn) eagerly accepts Maxim de Winter's offer of matrimony. The new bride accompanies her seemingly devoted husband to Manderley, his isolated home on the Cornish coast. All too soon, the second Mrs. de Winter realizes that Maxim married her for her youth and warmth, hoping to use her as a shield against Rebecca's malignant presence — a lingering evil that threatens to destroy them both from beyond the grave.

Ø **Christy** (Marshall)

In 1912, nineteen-year-old Christy Huddleston leaves her comfortable home to teach in a one-room schoolhouse in an isolated area of the Great Smokies. When two

remarkable young men fall in love with her — the pastor and the doctor — her heart is torn between love and desire. Adventure, romance and faith come together in this inspiring coming-of-age story.

Ø **Five Smooth Stones** (Fairbairn)

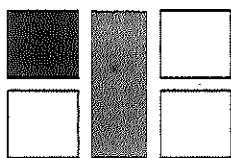
With the Civil Rights movement as a backdrop, readers will experience the indignity and brutality of racism as well as the passionate, tender and forbidden love of David, a black man, and Sarah, a white woman in the 1960s. Still powerful.

Ø **The Notebook** (Sparks)

Noah Calhoun, recently returned from World War II in 1946, buys an old plantation home in rural North Carolina, where he contents himself with memories of his first love, a girl he met 14 years earlier, but then she unexpectedly arrives at his door.

*Kids and Teens:* Don't forget to send in your favorite book titles. I hope to spend the next two weeks (at least) on your suggestions. Send them to [sailorphil@philvital.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.com) Please tell your name, age or grade, and your favorite books. I am really excited to see what you're reading.

Next week: *Birch Lake Kids and Teens favorites*



## FIRST MIDWEST FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

*-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak*

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## Birch Lake Merchandise for Sale

Sun Visors, foam with coil back in royal blue selling at \$4; Canvas Totes, navy blue in color imprinted in white selling at \$12; Bib Aprons great for the kitchen or sizzling BBQ's selling at \$15; Fleece Blankets, navy blue, with a sailboat in color circled by a gold rope and birch lake text, all embroidered in the lower right corner selling at \$30.

Call any one of following committee people: Denny Weesner 476-2569 ; Maryann O'Neil 476-2831; Judy Olson 476-2125; Linda Bergan 476-9359; Vickie Rogers 476-2383

## An open appeal for door prizes

We're soliciting door prizes for the Men's Golf Outing. If you can donate a prize, please contact Fred at 476-9823 or Phil at 445-9200 or 476-1680

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## Ladies Day — Wednesday July 28

### Those Were the Days . . .

Summer's not over ladies, and we have lots of fun in store for you at the Ladies Day Tea. We will have a salad and desert luncheon at the Birch Lake Yacht Club, with Ice Tea and Lemonade.

We have other surprises in store for you ... so stay tuned for more information!

Tickets are available now from the following committee members: Mary Ann O'Neil, Helen Toth, Darlene Troyer and Denny Weesner. Seating is limited so get your tickets now!



**Tickets: \$8; Time: 12:30 IN**

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Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Competing in: (check one) Fours \_\_\_\_\_ Sixes \_\_\_\_\_

Roster: \_\_\_\_\_

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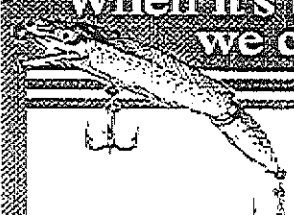
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 Secretary - Sandy Vitale.....476-1680  
 Treasurer - Holly Troeger .....476-9898  
 Fleet Captain Jim Bolinger .....476-9737

Judy Olson.....476-2125  
 Maryann O'Neill .....476-2831  
 Vicki Rogers.....476-2383  
 Paula Russell.....476-1880  
 Rick Russwurm.....476-2407  
 Charlene Sheetz.....476-2604  
 Denise Smitley.....476-9000  
 Holly Troeger .....476-9898  
 Scott Troeger .....476-9898  
 Phil & Sandy Vitale .....476-1680  
 Bruce Wagner.....476-2090  
 Denny Weesner .....476-2569

Rick Russwurm.....476-2407  
 Gertie Temple .....476-2773  
 Bob Temple.....476-2773  
 Phil Vitale.....476-1680  
 Sandy Vitale.....476-1680

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 Howard Blackwood .....476-2840  
 Jim Bolinger .....476-9737  
 Dave Bouwkamp.....476-1001  
 Harold Cranmer .....476-2170  
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 Bob Herms.....476-9381  
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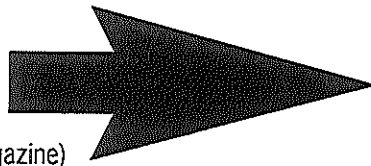
**WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
 Dan Reynolds, chairman .....476-8877  
 Terry Dugan .....476-2814

## HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The 2004 officers of the homeowners Association are Scott Troeger, Jim Bolinger, Don Harman, Bill King and Rick Russwurm. There are dozens of members of the homeowners Association; contact any officer for more information. Homeowners Association meetings are publicized in the Barker and open to members and prospective members.

# 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 Fund
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ - Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address for magazine)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \$\_\_\_\_\_



**Mail to:**  
 Holly Troeger, Treasurer  
 1516 Ash Drive East  
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**Drop off at:**  
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# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## FOR RENT &/OR SALE

**For Sale** — ShoreStation boat lift with a 1,300 lb. capacity. Great for fishing or sail boat. \$250. Call Greenes at (440) 933-5489.

**For Rent** — Birch Lake North Shore \$850 wk. Multiple weeks discount. No pets. Sleeps 6. Nice pier/swim raft. Boat lift available. Call Freihofer at 574-272-3683 or 269-476-9823.

**For Rent** — Cottage for rent. Sleeps 6 in 3 bedrooms on beautiful north shore. \$700.00/week. Discounts available. Contact Stewart Spratt at 574.291.3227.

**For Rent** — Birch Lake Storage has self-storage units coming available. U-lock, 10'x18', \$54/month. Call 476-1001.

## WANTED

**Wanted:** 1980 or newer Sunfish hull in good condition. Call Dave Olson, 476-2125 or 574-255-3722.

## LOST & FOUND

**Lost** — One pair of regular glasses in blue case. Lost Memorial Day weekend on East side. Please call 476-2461.

**Found:** Blue hooded sweatshirt at pancake breakfast. **LONGBALL** in red letters on front. Contact Stewart Spratt at 476.2113 or 574.291.3227.

**Lost:** White windbreaker at yacht club. Contact Carol Freihofer at 564.272.3683 or 476.9823.

**Found** — One is XS — with "Flamin" on the back and the other is XL with "Wet Line" on the back. They will be on the pier at the Foos Cottage in the cove over the Father's Day weekend.

**Found** — Aluminum row boat - 16' washed up on the west shore in mid May. Older model, no brand or identifying labels. Pick up anytime from shore between Millers and

Quinlans. 476-8802.

**Found** — A wooden raft with blue barrels found in the creek. We have had it tied up in front of our seawall hoping the owners would claim it. Call 574-288-7936 Paul or Billie Rzeszewski (south west corner by outlet)

## MISC.

**CUTE KITTENS TO GOOD HOMES ONLY.**

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## BIRCH BARKER

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING POLICY**  
Birch Barker classified ads are free to members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Non-members should pay \$5, except for ads of community interest, like "lost & found" or "personals."



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