

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 14, 2004



barker photo by *Bruce Harlan*

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

What a great week for my vacation. What a great weekend for everyone. The corn and sausage roast was well attended. One hundred sixty-one guests were served and none went away hungry. Bernie Garceau and company did a fantastic job. The fire pit was cobbled back together and worked beautifully. It will probably even last for another several years. While I didn't actually try them, the steaks and chicken looked excellent. I can vouch for the sausage though. It was wonderful. Without doubt

the corn and sausage roast is my favorite event of the summer.

The Great Tube Float flopped two weekends ago but on Sunday some folks spontaneously formed a flotilla and we had a swell time. Eight boats tied up together and we all jumped in the water to cool off and socialize.

My apologies to the sailors. I think we were pretty much in their way. Next time we'll pay more attention.

Terry Keirn's team has been declared the winner of today's volleyball tournament. Every serve was an ace. The ball was never returned. This might have something to do with the fact that Terry's team was the only one to sign up. Maybe we'll try again next year. Or not.

BLYC Calendar

- Aug 14 - Kids Regatta
- Aug. 14 - Volleyball Tourney
- Aug. 21 - Fall Dinner
- Sept. 4 - Final Birch Barker of the Season
- Oct. 1 (or thereabouts) — First Online Barker of the Off-Season.

Not much else left ... Kids Regatta today, Fall Dinner at the yacht club in two weeks, see inside for details.

Time is short.

Better get out there.

-Stewart Spratt, Commodore 2004

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

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.

Happy Birthday Helen!

A very beautiful young

lady, Helen Weesner, celebrated her birthday on the 18th of August with a high speed ride in the Harlan's Chaparral, accompanied by husband Bernie and grandson Lindsay. This lovely lady admits to being 29 and from the picture — who could argue. Helen, everyone at Birch Lake celebrates with you and wishes you a happy 30th next year and many, many more — we love you, Sweetie!



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PRIMA MAIN DISH: Italian roasted Chicken with Garlic Fennel & Artichokes

SECONDO: Wild Mushrooms, Escarole, Prosciutto, Capers & Olives; Sauteed a Fresh Pesto Lemon Butter Sauce and Tossed over Rigatoni; Grilled Vegetables brushed with Olive Oil and topped with Carmalized Onions & Fresh Herbs

ENSALATE: Ensalada Cabrese; Roma Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil and Mixed Greens with a Balsamic Vinaigrette

DOLCI: Fresh Berry Napoleons, Butter Puff Pastries topped with an Amaretto/Almond Cream Filling and Fresh Berries

Assortment of Fracaccia Breads & Assorted Butters.

Music, Dancing, Good Friends & Good Times

**Saturday, Aug. 21st
at the Birch Lake Yacht Club
Cocktails & Appetizers: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6 p.m.
\$20 per person**

Reservations must be made by Thursday, August 19

Call Erhardts' home: 269.476.9944

John's Cell Phone: 269.591.1627

Nyla's Cell Phone: 269.744.7082

**or drop this form at Erhardts' home (15214 Birch Lakeshore Dr., South Side)
or put in a ZipLoc Bag in the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Side)**

BLYC Fall Dinner Reservation

Name _____

Number to attend _____

x \$20 per person = Total amount due \$ _____

Birch Lake Notes

Doris Howard Hawley
A BIRCH LAKER since 1952; Doris Howard Hawley, 88 passed away July 29, 2004 at her home in Bradenton Beach, Florida. She is survived by her husband George Hawley and her two sons of Birch Lake, Jim and Sue Howard and Tom and Colleen Howard.

Sausage Roast was very well attended and it looked like everyone had a great time. There was very little food left, as Mark and Ilene Golden, our last customers, will tell you. Close to 170 people were fed. There were a few glitches with our new chicken and steak entrees. There was some wait and other service problems but we really appreciate everyone's

patience and graciousness with this new venture. This successful Roast was made possible because of all of the help we had. Our wonderful cooks were Steve Richards, Scott Troyer, Bob Waddle, Tom Rogers, Jim Bolinger, Phil Vitale, Don Harman, Stuart Spratt and his sons, Mike and Chris. Bob King was again "king" of the traffic. Inside operations ran so smoothly

because of the kitchen crew: Erica Vitale, Deb Bolinger, Vickie Rogers, Denny Weesner, and runners Callie Garceau and Jared Schlemmer. Judy and Dave Olson were once again greeters and money handlers and could you find a better corn shucker than Lindsay Weesner? A huge thank you to everyone for all of their help.
-Bernie and Blair Garceau

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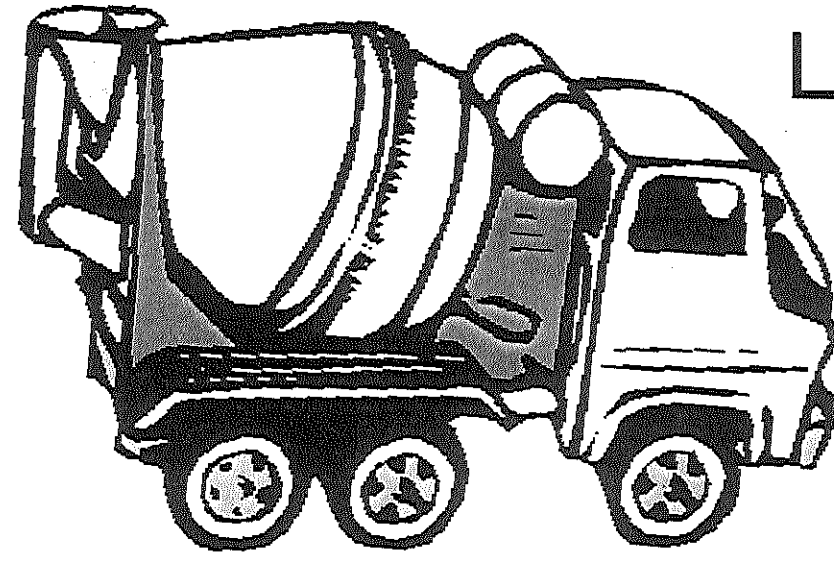
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Birch Lake News

Luau Madness!!!

The Birch Lake Kids had a "Hula va lotta" fun at the Kids Luau on Saturday, July 31st. Limbo, chicken dancing, Hokey Pokey, bean bag races, pinata, hula hooping ... and on and on.

Thanks to all the kids who joined us for a great time. What a great opportunity for the kids on the lake to get to know one another!

Thanks also to all the adults who helped the afternoon run so smoothly.

A HUGE "THANK-YOU" also goes to the Birch Lake Yacht Club and all the Birch Lake residents who have sponsored our Kids activities over the summer. We appreciate your generosity!

-Paula Russell (and the Birch Lake Kids)



photos provided by *Paula Russell*

Pro Wakeboarders to give Cory Lake demo

The Liquid Force Trip Across America, sponsored by WakeSide Marine will present professional wake board tour riders on August 18 at Cory Lake. Call WakeSide at 269-264-2874 for details.

Thayers host High School Reunion group

Jim and Ellie Thayer hosted a gathering at their place (photo at right) — Niles High School (I think) 60th reunion! I took their pic (said I was Barker photog sent on assignment). Note the hat and dress in back amongst flower garden, very cool).

-Bob King





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Birch Lake News

Homeowners Association update

The Birch Lake Yacht Club's Homeowners Association held its annual meeting last Saturday, Aug. 7.

Scott Troeger opened the meeting and apologized for the problems with the printed notification of the meeting.

Troeger reported that the group has \$4,330 in available funds (after spending \$1,250 for the safety booklet earlier this year). He explained that the association has a policy to keep \$2,500 in its account as an emergency fund, but they are actively soliciting suggestions for projects to fund this year. Some potential projects include establishing a contingency fund for additional marine patrols on high-traffic days, funding equipment for the County Sheriff Department's Marine Division, funding a program to control the geese, and the possibility of posting safety signs around the lake.

Jim Bolinger discussed on the history of the association. He noted that the group was

formed to monitor property values and safety. Board members monitor township and county governmental activities that might impact the lake, attending meetings of the township board, planning, zoning and zoning appeals boards, and County Commissioners and Board of Public Works.

Bolinger reported that the only unresolved issue is a potential private road ordinance that has been before the board for nearly two years. He further reported that the zoning board previously adopted a 'keyholing' ordinance designed to limit development around the lakes.

Bolinger gave a report on the history of the sewer project. He reported that the contracts for construction have been awarded and work is expected to start as soon as state permits are received. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2005.

Bolinger discussed the controversy that has led to the makeup of the new township board, and that board's recent decisions to replace several

zoning and appeals boards members. Rick Russwurm is no longer on the zoning board of appeals. Bob Morrison is now on the zoning board.

Questions following the presentation touched on matters of funding and costs for the sewer project, authority, whether or not the project could be stopped and the effect of that effort, and the effect the sewer might have on Camp Tannadoonah.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54.

Where are all the bricks?

A few of the lake residents have asked where the bricks are that were donated for the Camp Tannadoonah Murphy Sports Complex. As with most fund raising events, things move more slowly than planned. BUT, the bricks have been engraved and are waiting to be placed within the Murphy Sports Complex.

Let me give you a little history and then bring you up to date. The Complex is in memory of Mrs. Jo Murphy, Camp Director from 1971 to 1997. Groundbreaking took place in the spring of 2003. Since that time site preparation was completed and asphalt has been laid for the two tennis courts. Nets have been installed, and the "Buy A Brick" engraving has been completed to date. Also temporary lines were striped on the courts for use by this summer campers.

We are now in the process of raising the funds to complete the final phase. This phase will include the permanent striping, asphalt sealing, fencing, a new equipment shed with new equipment, and

asphalt for a much needed small basketball area near the Dining Hall.

We, at Camp Tannadoonah, sincerely appreciate what all of the Birch lake residents have done to support and maintain Camp Tannadoonah over the years, and hope that your generosity will extend into this final campaign so that we may put the finishing touches on the Murphy Sports Complex, as a final tribute to Jo Murphy.

Several anonymous individuals have offered to be matching donors-they will match your contribution on a dollar for dollar basis. A very generous offer indeed, and one that should put the final touches on this campaign. In addition, you may still choose to "Buy a Brick" individually.

Where are all the Bricks? They are ready, they are safe, they are waiting for the final phase, and for the heavy equipment to do their last chores, and be gone. The bricks will then be carefully laid with the names of those honoring Mrs. Jo Murphy.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT and checks should be made payable to : CAMP FIRE USA and mailed to: Camp Fire USA, River Bend Council Inc., 2828 East Jefferson Blvd., South Bend, IN 46615. You will be mailed a receipt for your donation.

If you have any further questions concerning the project or how to become a "Matching Grant" donor for the final phase of the campaign, please call Connie (574) 234-8925, or Kim (574) 633-4085.

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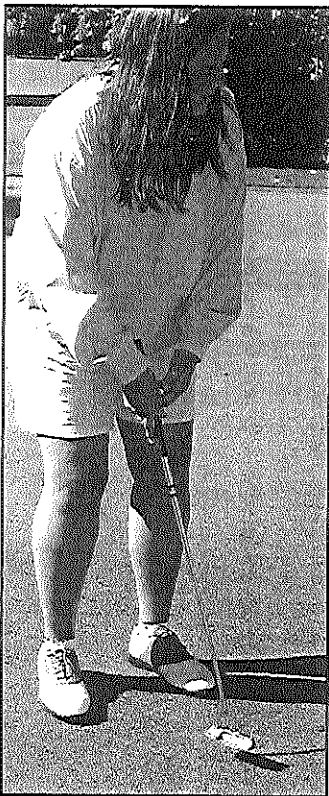
Birch Lake News

BLYC Women's Golf Outing

Ladies Golf Outing: Lots of Fun!

Although the morning started on the cool side, it didn't take long for the sun to warm us up. On Friday, Aug 6, 24 women hit the links at Park Shore Golf Course and 5 more women joined us for lunch at Lindy's in Dowagiac.

All teams received prizes, but 1st place went to the team of Becky Wiseman, Pam Mullin, Besty Custard and Chris Stasiak with a team score of 36. Second place, with a score of 37 and a tie for third at 38. Fifth and sixth place scores were 42 and 46 respectively. Congratulations

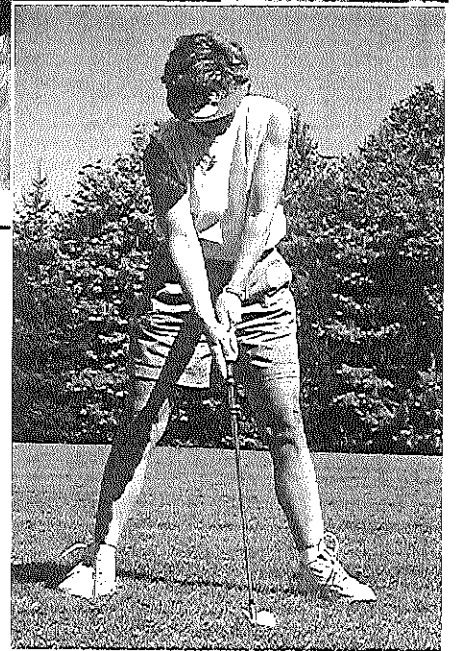


to all our golfers! Everyone had fun and was a winner!

Individual prizes were awarded for special "skill" shots, but some of us might say that it was actually "luck." Straightest drive on #1 went to Lori Noyer; Two closest to the pin were awarded, Peg Cowen on #4 and Janice Meixel on #8; Longest drive on #7 went to Rosalie Taber. Prizes were even awarded for the most divots replaced and most balls lost.

A huge "Thank you!" goes out to our sponsors and those who donated gifts. We appreciate your generosity: Bender Plastics; Bender Mold & Machine; Dan Reynolds; Meijer; Martins Supermarket; Accents & Images (Sheryl Papandria); The Garceaus; The Vitales; Pam Mullin; Erhardt Termite & Pest Management; Claeys Candy; Kay Greenig; Tom's Garage (Becky); Scrubs To Go (Tom DeCocker); Becky Wiseman; Stacie Whiteman; Allyson Weaver, Longaberger Consultant; from a Plainsboro Perspective (Carol Dugan); BLYC Men's Golf Outing; Birch Lake Yacht Club; Julie Weaver; Deb Bolinger.

As a committee we enjoyed planning this year's golf outing. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and catch up with old friends. In fact, we aren't ready to give up



our Committee title yet so we volunteered (if you can call it that) to plan 2005 Ladies Golf Outing. So watch the Barker for details. We are looking forward to seeing you next year.

-Nyla Erhardt; Lesley Greenig; Lori Noyer, Allyson Weaver

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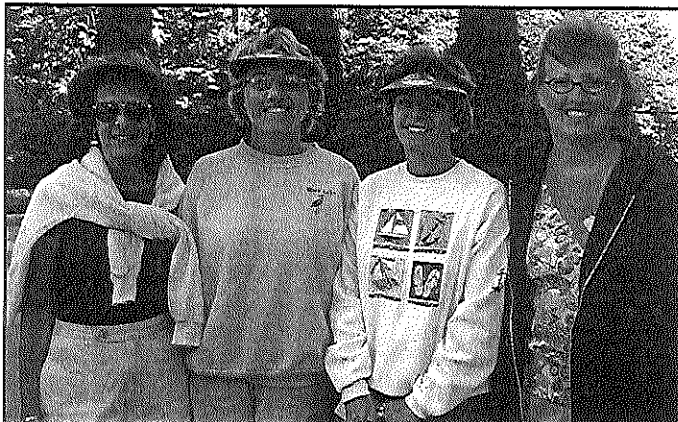
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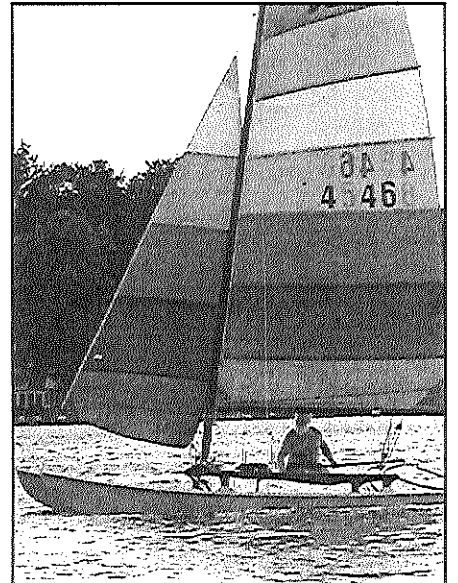
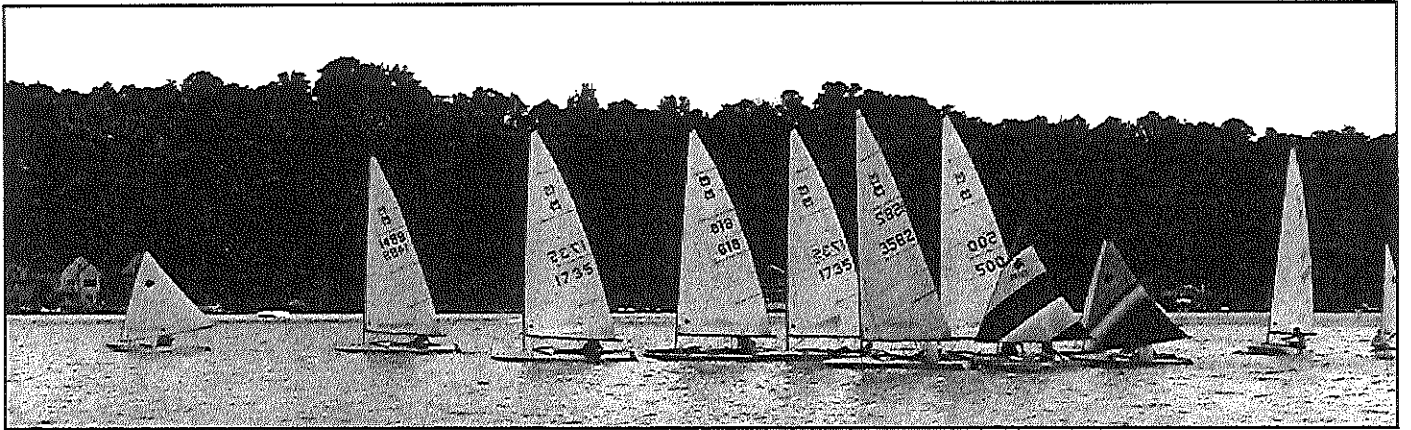
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Terry Keirn
President



Birch Lake Views



photos by *Bob King*

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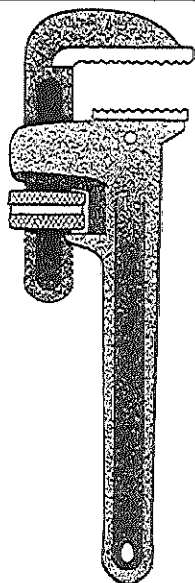
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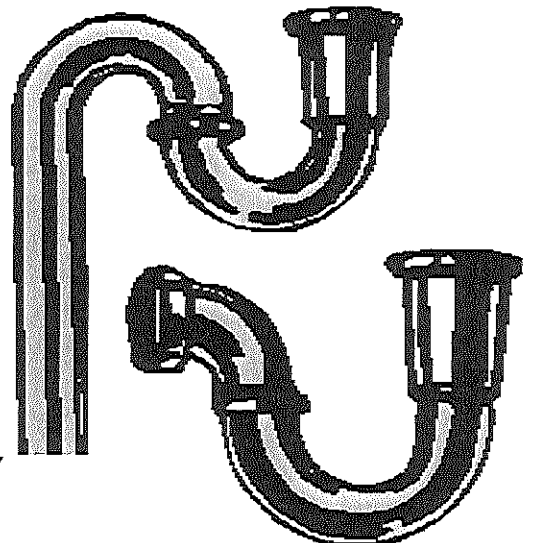
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BLYC Sailing News

Sailors,

Come one, come all to the Kidgatta!

Today (Saturday), we will be meeting at Harman's pier at 12 Noon (IN) for pizza

before racing. Each sailor will take a child or two and let them experience the wonders of flying with the wind in a spirit of friendly competition. All types of sail-

ing vessels welcome. Kids, remember to bring your boat coat!

-Jim Bolinger
Fleet Captain 2004

Results from last week's sailboat races

Sailor	# Races	class	1st race	2nd race	3rd race	day's total	cumulative	average	place
Scott Troeger	18	MC	1st	1st	DNS	3200	27986	1554	1st
Harold Cranmer	21	MC	4th	2nd	1st	4490	30601	1457	2nd
Don Harman	22	MC	3rd	3rd	2nd	4409	31881	1449	3rd
Rick Harman	15	MC	5th	4th	DNS	2695	21560	1437	4th
Phil Vitale	21	MC	2nd	6th	3rd	4190	28494	1357	5th
Jim Bolinger	22	MC	6th	5th	4th	3890	29655	1348	6th
Bill Luecht	13	MC	7th	7th	5th	3628	19561	1223	7th
Greg Peyer	1	MC	DNS	DNS	DNS	1235	1235	1235	*
Bruce Harlan	2	MC	DNS	DNS	DNS	2470	2470	1235	*
Tom Howard	15	Sun A	1st	1st	DNS	3200	28555	1586	1st
Dave Olson	19	Sun A	2nd	2nd	1st	4642	29196	1537	2nd
Rick Russwurm	11	Sun A	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	16314	1483	3rd
Erica Vitale	14	Sun A	3rd	3rd	2nd	4439	20213	1444	4th
Bob King	2	Sun A	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	3220	1610	*
Sandy Vitale	18	Sun B	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	26564	1568	1st
Caleb Walker	20	Sun B	1st	1st	2nd	4721	31287	1564	2nd
Amy Troeger	8	Sun B	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	10338	1496	3rd
Steve Richards	14	Sun B	2nd	3rd	3rd	4439	20287	1449	4th
Chad Plaia	3	Sun B	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	4187	1367	*
Marty Asire	3	Sun B	3rd	2nd	1st	4595	4595	1532	*

* indicates sailor as not participated in enough races in their class to have established a place standing

Accents & Images

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Stu's Star Stuff



Meteors shower like tears

Saint Lawrence shed his fiery "tears" earlier this week, punctuating the sky with bright streaks of light.

The tears are best known as the Perseid meteor shower. They're bits of comet dust that burn up as they streak into Earth's atmosphere. The debris is left over from comet Swift-Tuttle and the meteors created by the debris appear to rain into the sky from the direction of constellation Perseus. But they can shoot across any portion of the sky, so you don't need to look in any particular direction to see them.

Chinese astronomers first recorded the shower in 36 A.D. Later, it became famous for its association with Saint Lawrence, a

deacon of the early Catholic Church.

On August 6th, 258, the Emperor Valerian executed the pope and six of his deacons. Lawrence was executed four days later -- perhaps by beheading, although legend gives him a far grislier death.

Tradition says he spent the days before his death giving away the church's wealth. When he was ordered to present the treasure, he pointed to a crowd of the poor and ill, and said **THEY** were the church's wealth. Valerian was so enraged that he ordered the deacon roasted alive on a red-hot gridiron. That night, streaks of fire blazed across the sky -- the Perseids. They appeared each year on Lawrence's feast day -- August 10th.

Over the centuries, the peak of the Perseid shower has moved a couple of days later. But even now, the Perseids are sometimes called the Tears of Saint Lawrence. To see any meteor show, find a skywatching spot away from bright lights. After it gets dark, just look up -- the meteors can streak across any portion of the sky. For us here at the lake, the best show occurred from late Wednesday night until the first light of dawn on Thursday. The thin crescent Moon did not interfere. Rather it, along with Venus, 9 degrees (a fist) to Luna's right, enhanced the show. And with all that, it was still free.

-Stu Spratt

The moon for August 14, 2004 (at Midnight): 0.8 days before new moon, Illuminated Fraction: 0.007

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Off the page

by *Marian* (the librarian)

More and more authors are finding that they want to spend more time with the characters they have created and that the stories that they want to tell just won't fit into one volume. Books in a series are becoming more and more popular with readers as well. There are quite a few books that when I am finished reading I'd wish it wasn't over.

Of course the most popular Harry Potter series has millions of us waiting for the next installment but there are other great series to consider too. Below are a few suggestions to keep you reading for quite a long time! I put in the summary for the first book of each series.

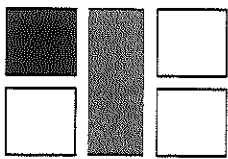
Ø A is for Alibi (Grafton) Nikki Fife, out on parole after spending eight years in prison for the murder of her husband, hires investigator Kinsey Milhone to find out who really killed Laurence, a ruthless divorce attorney who had a wealth of enemies.

Ø Wheel of Time (Jordan) The peaceful villagers of Emond's Field pay little heed to rumors of war in the western lands until a savage attack by troll-like minions of the Dark One forces three young men to confront a destiny which has its origins in the time known as The Breaking of the World. This richly detailed fantasy presents a fully realized, complex adventure which will appeal to fans of classic quests.

Ø Left Behind Series (LaHaye) In book one airline captain Rayford Steele, stunned when over one hundred passengers vanish from his plane in the blink of an eye, quickly realizes the Rapture his wife had been telling him about--an event in which Jesus would return to take his followers to Heaven before they die--had happened and he had been left behind.

Ø Chronicles of Narnia (Lewis) Four English school children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Next week: **Banned Books**



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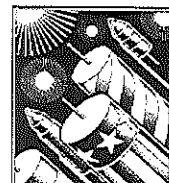
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Birch Lake Biographies

by Jules Vernon

MARGUERITE JOHNSON, Cottage #95

Marguerite grew up in Elsberry, MO where she graduated high school. She moved to Elkhart in 1959 with her husband, Owen, and had 2 children, Gary and Gail. Owen became employed at Vernon M. Ball, Inc., and

Marguerite worked at St. Joe Valley Bank as a teller and later in management until she retired in 1989.

The Johnsons were going to put a pool in their backyard in Elkhart, primarily for their grandkids, when her Dad suggested they buy lake property instead. Owen's employer told Owen of a property for sale at Birch Lake, so

they took a look and bought in 1975.

Their children and grandchildren have many memories from time spent here at the lake, and Marguerite said her favorite memories are the ones shared here entertaining family and friends. She and Owen were married for 36 years. She now lives with her constant companion, Carter, a German Spitz.

appearances in plays in the South Bend/Mishawaka area.

She met her husband, Bruce, through their mutual love for acting in South Bend. They have been married for 25 years, and have 5 children and 11 grandchildren.

Sue started coming to Birch Lake as a 2 year old staying summers with Grandma and Grandpa Foote on the south shore. She enjoyed swimming and lake games with

cousin Jay Walters and friend Bud Zesinger.

Sue's favorite childhood memory of the lake was when she would wear her bathing suit under her clothes so she was ready to jump in the lake upon her arrival!!

SUE WAGNER Cottage C294

Sue graduated from Mishawaka High School, and received an art degree from Indiana University. Sue used her art talent at the Penn-Mishawaka Library in the children's department for 7 years. She has enjoyed her many

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who is about to get older, let me know and we'll put it in the Barker ... I'll start by wishing Bob King a Happy 50th.

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Couriers: Becky Wiseman, Bob King;
Advertising: Dick Bender

Signed up for Online Barker?

Ok, I'll do it again ...
 The Online Barker, that is ...
 If you've never seen it, you don't know what you're missing!
 The Online Barker is a monthly e-mail newsletter that I send out to lak-ers, visitors and friends who want to keep up with the off-season activities of Birch Lake. I put news items, photos, and even some ads that will make you nostalgic for everyone's favorite lake.
 The Online Barker is sent during the months that the printed Birch

Barker is not being printed ... starting in October and running through the first week of May. You can get a sneak preview (or is that a rear-view?) and check out the last one from the spring by visiting the web site www.philvitale.com/barker.
 I always keep the most current month there in case there's a problem with the e-mail system.
 If you haven't signed up, you can subscribe at the web site (you can also unsubscribe anytime you want), or just e-mail me at sailorphil@philvitale.com.




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

For Sale - Jenny Lind baby crib and mattress \$35; Running stroller \$25; Umbrella stroller \$5. Call Kruggels 476-2169

Lakefront Home For Sale- 69' frontage, 1-1/2 acre lot with large two-story house. 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, large living room, family room, kitchen, & lots of closets. Separate

Guest house with 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen & bath and three-car garage. County Road with year-round maintenance. Many extras. Price: \$695,000. Call Bud or Louise 476-2174

For Sale - 1988 Sylvan 20' Pontoon Boat w/35 hp Evinrude w/tilt, good condition, new top. \$3,500. Call 476-8897

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

For Sale — Fairfield 223,000 Point

time share. Good at any Fairfield, RCI or Interval Int'l. Network for 1-2 week stay during any week and any location you request. Very reasonably priced. For information and questions call Mike Machalleck, 476-2642.

LOST & FOUND

Lost — Pair of 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.

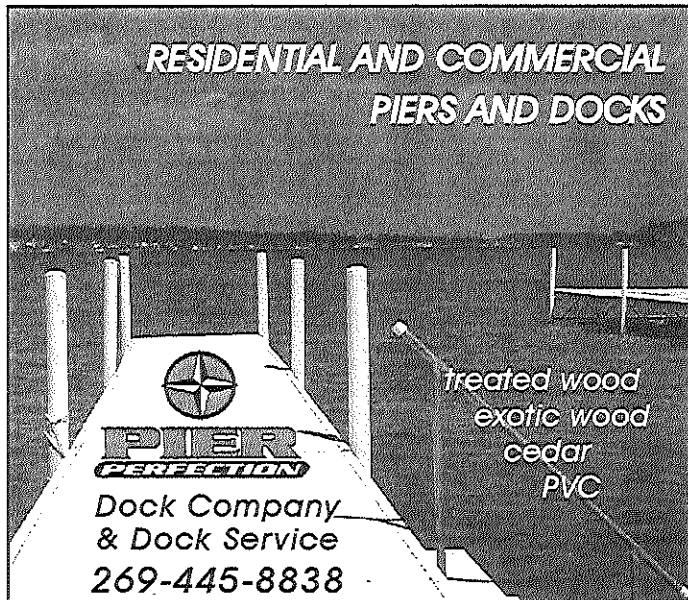
Lost: White windbreaker at yacht club. Contact Carol Freihofer at 564.272.3683 or 476.9823.

Found at the men's golf outing, a sand wedge cover — looks to be for left handed golfer; black plastic with words "face saver plus". Call freihofers @ 574-272-3683 during the week and 269-476-9823 weekends.

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