

photo by Bob King

#### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

t was a wonderful weekend to have to spend on the lake. If someone has to do it, let it be all of us.

The boys were gone this weekend to their father's home in Kalamazoo. Nyla and I went to dinner with Mike Lutz Friday night to Texas Road House in Elkhart. If you haven't heard the story, we got all the way there and I figured out my wallet was at home on the dresser. Now that's a good way to get someone to buy your meal. Now I will let you know it was not on purpose.

Saturday we had the board meeting and then off to the home of a player on my ball team for a Birthday party.

When we got home Mike picked us up on the pontoon boat and we had to enjoy the lake again. We did finally eat dinner at about 10:30 pm (MI time).

We then thought we would go to

Pigeon Days in White Pigeon. That is a fun time for next year if you are looking for something to do. There is a lot of things to do with the kids.

Sunday I had baseball practice for my all-star team to get them ready for the game on Tuesday. I hate to report that we lost our first game last Thursday against Niles. I still believe in my team. They are having a great time and are learning. We play again Tuesday and Wednesday night.

There is going to be a calender change for all of you to make note. I am very excited for the spaghetti dinner on the 23rd. You can bet I will be there. Also on July 30th after the Garage Sale and the Great Tube Float we are going to have a Mardi Gras Party at the Yacht Club. Nyla's bought her mask, so she is ready to go. Please plan to attend all these events. It is sure to be a great time.

Everyone needs to get their reservations in for the golf outings. I also want to remind you that the ladies are looking

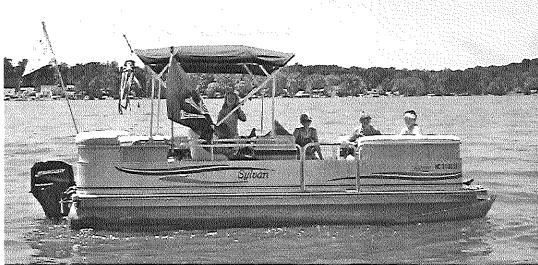
BLYC Calendar

for donations for their raffle and auction that they will be doing at the luncheon after the golfing to raise money for next year's outing.

I will let you all go out and enjoy the lake and all your visitors. Remember to say 'hi' to all your good neighbors when you see them. This is a wonderful "Neighborhood" we live in. And from Nyla's Dove candy wrapper "Live your life without regrets!"

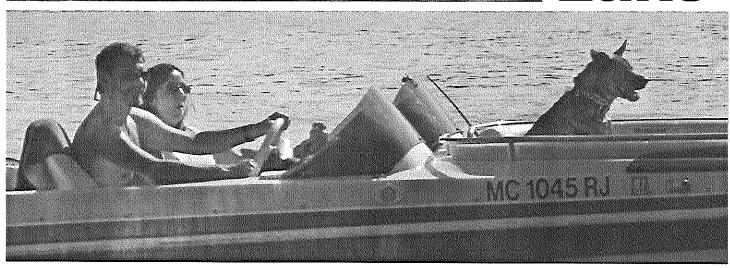
> Splish Splashin' Away! John Erhardt, Commodore 2005.

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just e-mail the info to 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, Cassopol MI 49031, or fax your items to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.



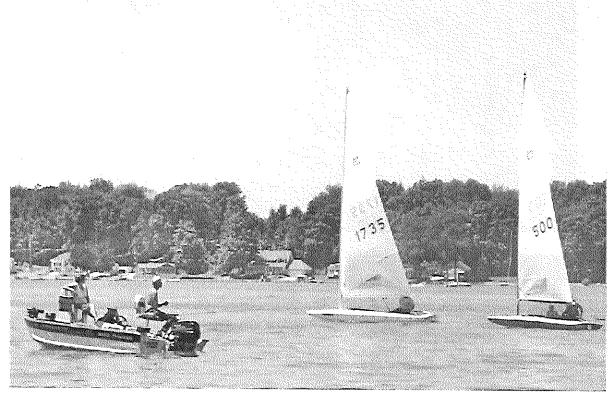
out on the waters of beautiful

# Birch Lake



What a beautiful weekend it was ... for boating, sailing, fishing and watching the wildlife. At top, thanks to the Sailboat race's Committee Boat. Above, Rick, Patti and Major enjoy an afternoon "toodle." At right, two fishermen watch the approaching MCs. Below, Russwurm Niece Devon Semrow on her first sail. Below right, a Great Blue Heron enjoys a stroll on a neighbor's pier.

photos complements of Bob King & the PattiCam







## **Birch Lake Notes**

#### Weesner memorial planned

There will be a memorial service on Aug. 27 at the Birch Lake Yacht Club for Berneil Weesner. It will be at 10:30 AM.

### Spaghetti supper planned

We are doing a fund raiser for the Yacht Club's general fund. Come join us on Saturday July 23 at the Yacht Club for an eat-in or carry-out spaghetti and meatball dinner. We will be serving from 6 to 8 pm. The cost is \$6 per person and children under 3 years of age are free.

Dinner includes Beth Blackwood's spaghetti and meatballs (she holds a cooking award for her competitive chili... ok so it was a competition at the Yacht Club 3 years ago) salad, bread, and soft drinks (as opposed to hard drinks, which can be carried in).

You can get tickets from: Cove and west side Bergans 476-9359; Rogers 476-2383; Blackwoods 476-2840 South side Bouwkamps 476-1001 East side Judy Olson 476-2125 North side Patti Russwurm 476-2407

Carryout can be in your container or we will have some containers to use.

#### **Line Dancing**

Line Dancers continue to have a great time. Feel free to join us at the Yacht Club every Monday morning 10:30 am Indiana time.

#### Wheel & axle returned

Thanks to the great Birch Lake west shore neighbor that found our wheel. It would have been impossible to put in the shorestation without it. Thanks again, -Paul and Billie Rzeszewski.

#### Birch Lake Garage Sale

The BLYC all-lake garage sale will be Saturday, July 30 from 8 am ton Noon, Indiana time. Please call Charlene Sheetz (476-2604) if you are planning to participate. This yacht-club event will be advertised in the Elkhart Truth, and garage sale signs will be placed around Birch Lake. Also, advertisements will be posted at Mills Grocery and Union Market.

Last year we hade repeat customers from around the area. They know we have the sale on the last Saturday in July. -Charlene Sheetz

#### Plants wanted

If you are dividing up or tossing out any shade loving plants please call me. The landscape project has begun. Thank you, Blair Garceau, 476-9862.

#### Porter Twp Sewer Board

The Porter Township Sewer Board members are available to help. If you have questions or concerns, call a member or attend one of two monthly meetings, Monday nights at 7 pm MI at the town

hall. Members of the committee are Steve Holtz (chairman), of Long Lake, 641-7008; Carl Klappauf (vice chairman), Birch Lake, 476-2663; Herm Kruggel, Birch Lake, 476-2169; Gert Temple, 476-2773and Pam Bryant, Shavehead Lake, 641-2001. For information see

http://www.wightmanassoc.com/porter/port er.html

### Reminder...Dogs & more dogs

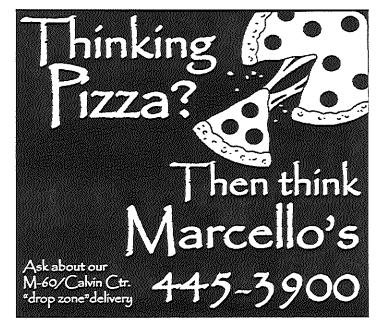
Many dogs have been observed running loose. The Cass County Dog Ordinance states that you must keep your dog(s) confined to your own property at all times or use a lease. A citation may be issued for dogs running at large. Renters and visitors with dogs need to observe the dog ordinance, too. A big thank you to those of you that carry plastic bags and clean up after your dog(s) when you walk or jog with your dog(s). If you have any questions or concerns about dogs running loose, call Animal Control at 445-3701.

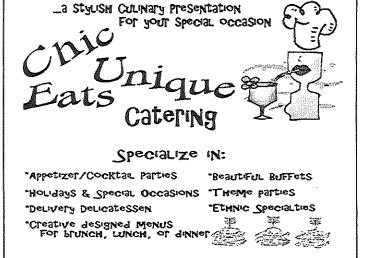
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#### **Dog Bites**

The following is offered if you are bitten or scratched by a dog:

- 1. Wash the wound immediately using warm, soapy water.
- 2. Seek medical attention.
- 3. Remember the details.
- 4. Report the incident to Animal Control.





Carrie Rogers ElKhart, Indiana 574-262-1130 574-536-6386 chicuniquecats@aol.com



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

## **Birch Lake Notes**

#### **Marine Division phone**

At last Saturday's BLYC board meeting, several people expressed concern about bad and illegal boating practices. If you witness a crime, you are urged to call the Cass County Marine Division at 445-1225 to make a report.

#### Lake stuff for sale

Sun Visors, foam with coil back in royal blue - \$4: Canvas Totes, navy blue in color imprinted in white - \$12 Bib Aprons, great for the kitchen or outdoor grilling -\$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 - \$30 To buy or order any item, call any of the committee people: Denny Weesner 476-2569; Maryann O'Neil 476-2831; Judy Olson 476-2125; Linda Bergan 476-9359; Vickie Rogers 476-2383.

#### A BIG THANK YOU!!

What a refreshing sight to find in our mailboxes; a longawaited water quality report!

Hats off to Gertie and Bob Temple and Dan Reynolds for their continuing concern and excellent data over the years in keeping the Birch Lake residents informed regarding our water quality. In years past, we have looked forward to reading the water quality reports in the Barker, and have been disappointed that we have not seen any yet this year.

Keep up the great work in reporting what really matters to our future generations which is the quality of our beautiful lake.

-Kevin and Cindy Bernaciak -Tom and Julie Lacy

#### Are you Registered?

Several boats, four wheelers, golf carts, go-carts and other fun stuff have been tooling around Birch Lake without proper registration. Usually

these types of issues come from folks who are visiting or putting onto Birch Lake.

If you have a powered boat or vehicle on the water or on the road, then you need to be registered. Please take a look and make sure you are properly registered.

Not only is proper registration required it is one source of revenue for local law enforcement. When stopped, an officer is going to make sure your registration is up to snuff.

The only exceptions are a non-motorized canoe, kayak or rowboat that is 16 feet or less. Also, vessels with valid registration in another state that are temporarily on the waters of Michigan.

If you are on the road with a motorized vehicle it has to be properly registered and licensed

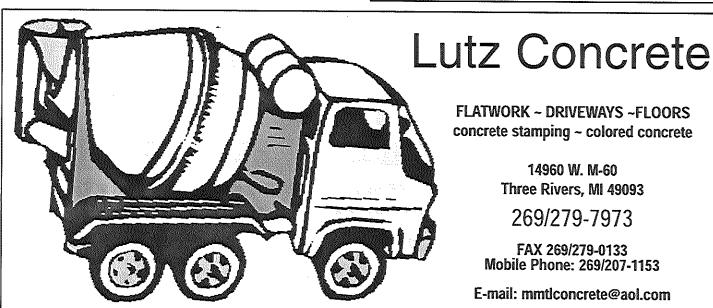
Just a reminder that your boating registration must be on board and available for inspection by an officer whenever the vessel is operated.

> Be Safe and Have Fun! -Your Safety Committee









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## **Birch Lake Notes**

## Poetry from a Birch Laker

#### Deari

When I was young, And fair to look at, So, my mother said. No one called me Dearie.

But, now, associates,
Once called sales girls,
Smile sweetly as
They watch me fumble
For the right coins.
Waiting, exuding patience,
Saying, "take your time,
Dearie."

#### Birch Lake: Color Blinded

Sometimes a bright green, Or, a grayish smerge, When the sun is cloaked in clouds;

A marriage of a blackened plain

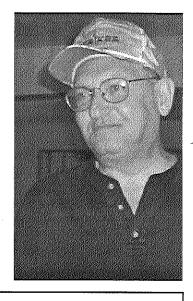
And wavelets tickled by a roguish wind

-Submitted by MM

## Birch Barker "no longer a kid" of the Week

Marc Golden of the east side turned 60 on July 12th. Happy Birthday from all your friends at Birch Lakelll

> photo submitted by Bad Patty



## Birch Barker Kid of the Week



Last weekend our grandchildren spent many, many hours in beautiful Birch Lake, however with all that swimming they kept getting hungry! Here is a picture of our grandson Caleb Huff, son of Lisa and Larry Huff. He loves our wonderful lake so very much that he just asks, "Grandma, can you throw me an apple?" and then he brings the core the pier! I have 6 other grandchildren that are also in love with Birch Lake...looks like the tradition will continue for the third generation and more..

-Terry and Pat Keirn

## Need to Hook Up to Sewer?

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Jennifer Bessinger 574-266-7700

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Ed Bessinger 574-262-4346

# BLYC MEN'S OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

## Friday, July 29

Park Shore Golf Course
Florida Scramble / Shotgun Start
at Noon

\$60/golfer (with cart ... first 60 reservations with payment will get carts)

\$50/non-riding golfer

Prime rib dinner follows at 6 pm

R	ES	E	R	V/	۱T	10	N	F	0	R	N	1
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Name: Name: Name: Name:	
Payment Enclosed: \$	,
No. of Carts reserved:	-

Mail reservations to: Fred Freihofer, 50631 Deer Ridge Dr., Granger, IN 46350 (please include your entry fee for your team with your reservations ... make checks payable to BLYC).

## **BLYC Sailing News**

## Sailing results — week 4



That was a fun weekend. We sailed 3 races ... wind was from all directions and a different boat in each fleet finished first in each race.

For scoring purposes we're combining the Sunfish

fleets. We just don't have enough beginners to warrant two Sunfish fleets. Novice sailors are still encouraged to use the "B" course. Thank you race committee: Deb Bolinger, Patti Luecht, Katie Luecht, John Luecht and Judy Olson.

-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain 2005

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7. Bill Luecht364	
8. Caleb WalkerDNSDNSDNS	
9. Rick Russwurm88	

9.	Rick Russwurm	8	8		1227
Su	nfish				
1.	Tom Howard	STT	STT	STT	1668
2.	Dave Olson	2	3	1	1653
3.	Sandy Vitale	3	4	2	1552
	Erica Vitale				
	Chris Lindner				
	Steve Richards				
	Nancy Walker				
	Calvin King &			<del>-</del>	
٠.	Neil Troeger	DNS	DNS	DNS	1376

STT - Stopped To Teach

Because we don't have enough sailors to make a competitive Sunfish "B" fleet, I've combined the two fleets for scoring purposes. This does not mean all Sunfish sailors have to sail the "A" course. We'll still put the "B" mark out and I encourage novice sailors to sail the "B" course. Novice sailors deserve and will get special recognition at the end of the season.

I also haven't been interpreting the scoring system quite correctly. I hadn't been awarding DNF boats last place points. I refigured the averages and the results in this week's Barker reflect the recalculated averages. This did not change relative positions in the standings but it did narrow the point spread between a few boats.

-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain 2005

## **Ladies Golf/Lunch**



Friday, August 5

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 (payable to BLYC) and reservation for golf and/or lunch by Mon, Aug 1 to:

Nyla Erhardt 15214 Birch Lakeshore Dr. Vandalia, MI 49095 Attn: Golf Outing

Name	Golf	Lunch

## **Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee Report**

7-12-05

# LAKE STATUS

THE QUALITY OF A LAKE IS DETERMINED BY
THREE PACTORS: PHOSPHORUS LEVEL - THE LOWER THE BETTER;
CHLOROPHYLL LEVEL - THE LOWER THE BETTER; TRANSPARENCYTHE HIGHER THE BETTER.

AN OLIGOTROPHIC LARE 15 BEST: PHOSPHORUS BETWEEN 3 AND 12; CHLOROPHYLL BETWEEN . 05 AND 3; AND TRANSPARENCY BETWEEN 16' AND 50'.

A MESOTROPHIC LAKE IS MEDIOCRE: PHOSPHORUS BETWEEN 13 + 32; CHLOROPHYLL BETWEEN 4 AND 12; AND TRANSPARENCY BETWEEN 7'AND 15'.

A EUTROPHIC LAKE IS THE WORST: PHOSPHORUS BETWEEN 33 & 150; CHLOROPHYLL BETWEEN 13 AND 100; TRANSPARENCY BETWEEN 1' AND 6'.

IN THE EARLY 80'S OUR LAKE WAS MESOTROPHIC

AND HEADING TOWARDS EUTROPHIC. THIS WAS DUE TO

FAULTY SEPTICS AND THE USE OF LAWN FERTILIZER CONTAINING

THOSPHORUS. BY 1999 OUR LAKE WAS OLIGOTROPHIC; DUE TO

THE SEPTIC UPLIANE PROGRAM FROM 1985 TO 1994 AND THE

USE OF NON-PHOOPHORUS FERTILIZERS. OUR LAKE CONTINUES

TO IMPROVE. BELOW IS A SKETCH OF THE IMPROVEMENT.



PHOGRADEUS CHLOROPHYLL TRANSPARENCY
1985 36 12 7'-10'
1999 10 2.8 30'
2004 5

SUBMITTED BY THE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

## Birch Lake Yacht Club Homeowners Association Report

The Birch Lake Yacht Club, Inc. established the Birch Lake Homeowners' Association for the following purposes:

- a. Review and report on tax issues that affect lake property owners;
- b. Attend meeting of Porter Township Board, Park and Road Commission and County Commissioners meetings, when appropriate, and report on anything that affects Birch Lake homeowners:
- c. Assist at the proper governmental levels with the sale of public land, such as parks;
- d. Assist and promote at the proper governmental levels the adoption, amendment and enforcement of rules and regulations for the public access site;
- e. Address issues at the proper governmental levels that protect the value of property and the best interests of Birch Lake;
- f. Communicate with law enforcement agencies regarding problems that affect property owners;
- g. Promote the renewal of fish population;
- h. Preserve the scenic beauty of the lake; and
- i. Promote water safety.

Dues paid to the Homeowners' Association, and other funds raised by the Homeowners' Association from time to time, are accounted for separately from other funds of BLYC and used for furthering the purposes of the Homeowners' Association listed above.

The Homeowners' Association consists of five (5) members who serve terms of three (3) years, and are elected by majority vote (on the basis of one vote per household) of those eligible property owners who have timely contributed the prescribed dues in each of the three (3) years preceding the election of members to the Homeowners' Association.

The Homeowners' Association has an annual meeting each year open to those who have contributed the prescribed dues, and any other persons the committee may choose to admit. At the annual meeting the Homeowners' Association reports on (i) matters pertaining to its purpose, (ii) its financial status, including funds received and funds expended or committed, and (iii) the number of dues-paying members. At each triennial annual meeting (the next being in 2006), members of the Homeowners' Association are elected by those eligible to vote. The Homeowners' Association may present or entertain other items of business at annual meetings and may have additional meetings and communications with property owners from time to time.

Property owners eligible to obtain the right to vote for members of the Homeowners' Association upon payment of the prescribed dues, include all those persons with ownership rights in real property (i) with frontage on Birch Lake, or (ii) located within Three Hundred (300) feet of Birch Lake, or (iii) located along the following streets or roads: Birch Lakeshore, Lenore, Birch Road, Kinsey, Kiloqua Woods, Birch Northshore, Woodland, Birch Lakeview, Walnut and Storey Hill. (Governmental entities or governmental subdivisions or business organizations are not eligible, however.)

-submitted by the BLYC Homeowner's Association

Birch Lake Yacht Club	<b>Contributions</b>
\$ BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year) \$ BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year) \$ Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year) \$ Sailing Fees (\$15 / year) \$ Building Improvement Fund \$ Fireworks Fund	Mail to: Holly Troeger, Treasurer 1516 Ash Drive East Elkhart, IN 46514
<ul> <li>\$ Water Quality Program</li> <li>\$ Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address for magazine)</li> <li>\$ Safety Committee</li> </ul>	<b>Drop off at:</b> 63696 Birch Road (call 591-1627)
\$ Other (non-party related expenses)  Total \$	Make checks payable to: Birch Lake Yacht Club

## **BARKER CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**

## **FOR SALE**

For Sale — Two-person Sea-Ryder Pedal Boat with sun canopy, flag holder, staff and cover. \$350 or best offer. Call Bruce Wagner, 476-2090.

For Sale — Recliner Chair — \$75. See Becky at Tom's Garage.

For Sale — Cedar pier sections; approximately 48 foot with approximately 10x10 platform — plus hardware and a ladder. \$500. 476-9658 or (219) 464-4268.

For Sale — 20" White Electric Range, approximately 7 years old. In perfect working condition, we just prefer a gas stove. \$100. 476-9000 Fri-Mon, west side.

For Sale — 21" Toro rear bagger, self-propelled lawn mower. 5 HP Briggs & Stratton 4-cycle engine. Asking \$100. Call (269) 476-2461 or (574) 255-8126

For Sale — 1992 Yamaha Waverunner - Good condition includes 2 place trailer \$ 1,000 Ball # 104, 476-9775 Sale boat for sail: 14' day sailer w/ trailer. yellow and white. has competed in kids regatta. self baling; does NOT sink if tipped. good learning boat. \$300 OBO contact Lu 476-2652

For Sale — 1994 Dodge Caravan SE with hitch. Asking \$500 or best offer. 1989 Yamaha Wave Runner with lift, \$600. Float with aluminum pontoons \$200. Contact Charlene, 476-2604.

#### FOR RENT

For Rent — One week, aug. 6 -13 at Broadway Sheraton Plantation in Myrtle Beach, So. Carolina. 2 bedrooms; sleeps eight with full kitchen. Also Lazy River, swimming pool, tennis court, weight room and daily activities for adults and children. Sheraton Broadway Plantation is close to Restaurant Row, the Atlantic Ocean and the Palace Theatre, Alabama Theatre and Legends in Concert. There are many golf courses, also. Call for particulars, 476-2604. Ask for Charlene or Harold. Other dates are available. Please call for those dates.

WANTED: Croquet set. Contact Beth Olson at jeffandbeth1@sbcglobal.net or 317.259.7540.

**Wanted** — Older pair of rowboat oars. Call Bud at 476-2526.

#### **WANTED TO RENT**

Want to rent lake place with 3 bedrooms or more for the week of July 24 (or days around weekend of July 30th). Contact Diana

Henderson-Wozny at dwozny@crowechizek.com or 574-272-7896

#### **GOT A CLASSIFIED?**

Birch Barker classifieds are free for members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club; non-members must pay \$5. Put your ad in the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Road (east side), or e-mail it to the Barker at: sailorphil@philvitale.com



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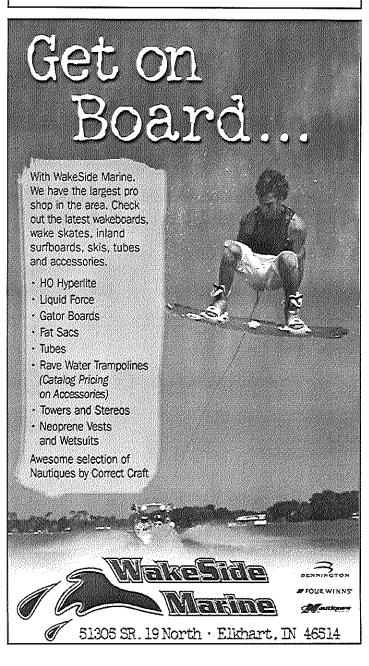
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Past Comm - Stewart Spratt.	

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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476-2591
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## WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

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Terry Dugan	

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

#### HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The 2005 officers of the homeowners Association are Scott Troeger, Jim Bolinger, Don Harman, Phil Vitale and Rick Russwurm. There are quite a few 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.

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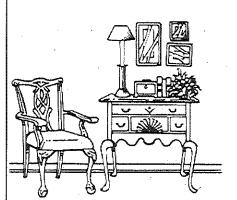
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'on our knees to please'



# Juno, the legend

ike all other months, the name for the month of June comes to us from ancient Rome, which created the modern western calendar. June was named for Juno, a fertility goddess.

The Romans also passed down another name that's associated with the month of June: moonstone, one of June's birthstones. It's gray or blue with a shimmering glow inside. According to Roman lore, this gem was made of moonlight. Legend says that the glow inside the stone changes with the changing phases of the Moon.

Moonstone was considered sacred in some regions. And it supposedly brought good fortune to young lovers, who could tell their romantic future through the stone — but only if they put it in their mouths during the full Moon.

Modern science has a less romantic explanation for the pearly glow.

Moonstone is made of a mineral called feldspar. Two varieties of feldspar crystals overlap inside the stone, and each type "bends" light in a slightly different way, causing the stone to shimmer as it's

turned to different angles. And as for the link to the phases of the Moon — well, that's just legend.

Keep your eye on the late-night sky for the object of all this attention: the Moon. It's in a gibbous phase right now, so sunlight illuminates more than half of the lunar hemisphere that faces our way. It rises a little before midnight. Mars rises a little later, and stands well to the left of the Moon during the wee hours of the morning. Continue to watch this weekend as the moon approaches Antares, the heart of Scorpius.

And don't forget to enjoy the rest of the show. It's free.

-Stu Spratt

## The Moon tonight:

The moon for July 16, 2005 (at Midnight): Illuminated Fraction: 0.765 2.7 days since first quarter Birch Lake Biographies:

## CHUCK & CHERI LAPIERRE #58

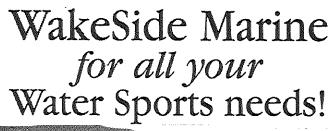
Chuck and Cheri have lived at Birch Lake for 25 summers. They are the second owners of their 65-year-old cottage that was built for \$1200, with labor costs at 50 cents an hour. LaPierres visited their good friends, Chuck and Pat Stevens, for several years at Birch, and rented from Machallecks before buying their cottage on the south shore.

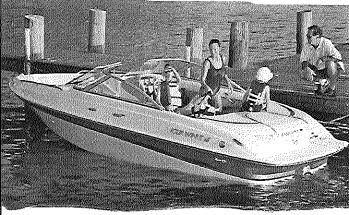
They have 4 children and 6 grand-children who love to visit Birch Lake and spend time with them. Their son, Chas, spent summers here entertaining his friends, and that influenced him to live on a lake west of Indianapolis where Chuck and Cheri will be moving to some time this winter.

LaPierres enjoyed the dances and social events of times past at the yacht club, and their family lake tradition has been the fireworks and attending the pancake breakfast together.

I am saddened to see their cottage for sale because they have been good friends and neighbors here at the lake throughout the years. They will be missed!!

by JULES VERNON





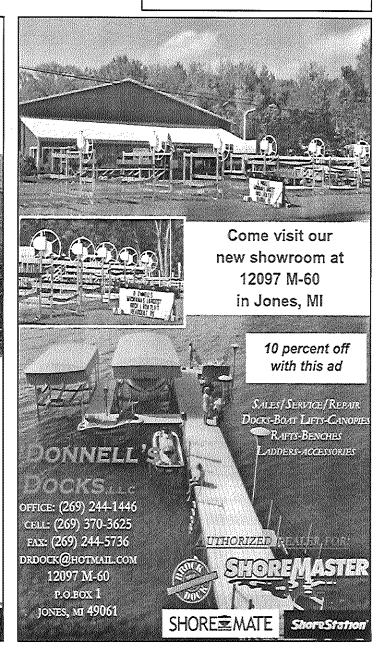
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