



Birch Barker

Weekend of **September 3, 2005**

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The Summer's generally considered to be over with the arrival of this weekend's Labor Day holiday — and with the official end of the sailboat racing season, which occurred last weekend. Thanks to everyone who helped out with the races this year — and a big round of applause for yet another "anonymous benefactor" who financed the cost of the color for this week's Barker.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Happy Labor Day Weekend! For those of you who don't know me, I would like to take a bit of your time to introduce myself. I am Ryan Gableman, the new Commodore for the Birch Lake Yacht Club. I have been on the lake since 1987 when my parents remodeled the home that the Dobas now live in on the south side. My brother Ross and sister Brittany and I enjoyed the lake growing up and continue to enjoy it today! Ross and I graduated from Constantine High School, Brittany moved to Elkhart with my mother and graduated from Elkhart Central. She is now attending I.U. Ross graduated from M.S.U. and I from Western Michigan University. I married my beautiful and wonderful wife Shanna (Plank) Gableman last summer after dating for seven years. My father (John Gableman) sold the house to the Dobas and moved to Shavehead Lake. Shanna and I did not want to leave beautiful Birch Lake so we bought a home (the former Gaff residence) on the east side hill. We are currently remodeling it, one room at a time. It has been a fun project, but we are both ready for it to be done. I have an Aunt and Uncle that live on the

lake also. Sue and Terry Montague, who live on the south side, and my Uncle Dave Gableman lives on Lenore Street.

Okay enough about me, now I will let you in on what happened last weekend at the Yacht Club. Saturday's Fall Dinner went over very well and everyone who attended had a great time. We had a wonderful dinner catered by Carrie Rogers' Chic Unique Eats Catering. Carrie and her assistant Tammy did a wonderful job (as always) and served plenty of great food. Thank you Carrie. After dinner, John Erhardt passed the Commodore flag on to me. Thank you John for showing me the ropes this past year. It was fun and I will assure you we will have fun again next summer. The Commodore Trophy was given to Bill King (by John) for everything he does and has done for this lake over the years. Thank you Bill (and Le). John also gave his wife Nyla a trophy for all she has done for him as Commodore this summer.

Then the BIG announcement came. WHO is the new Vice Commodore????? Well, let me give you a few hints: She is a great lady, a full-time Birch Laker living on the East side, has two children, and has been on the lake for eleven years.

Give up... okay, the new Vice Commodore is Blair Garceau. (shhh

BLYC Calendar

Sept. 10.....	Board of Directors Meeting
Sept. 24.....	Card Party
Oct. 8.....	Chili Cookoff & Bonfire

don't mention it to Bernie, she still has to tell him). Blair and Bernie have two great kids, Ben, a graduate from I.U. and Callie a junior at I.U. Blair is a teacher at Jimtown. Blair has some excellent ideas and we are really looking forward to working together over the next year.

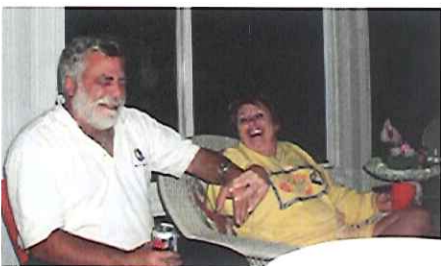
Reminder for those of you who will still be on the lake over the next few weeks, we are planning on having Card Night at the Yacht Club on Saturday, September 24th and a Chili Cookoff and bonfire tentatively scheduled on Saturday, October 8th. Also, we are currently in the process of creating next year's calendar, so please check your Online Barker to see the tentative dates and events forthcoming over the next year.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has offered to help us out over this past year. We are truly blessed to have such great neighbors. I hope everyone has a great off-season and I look forward to seeing all of you on the water next year.

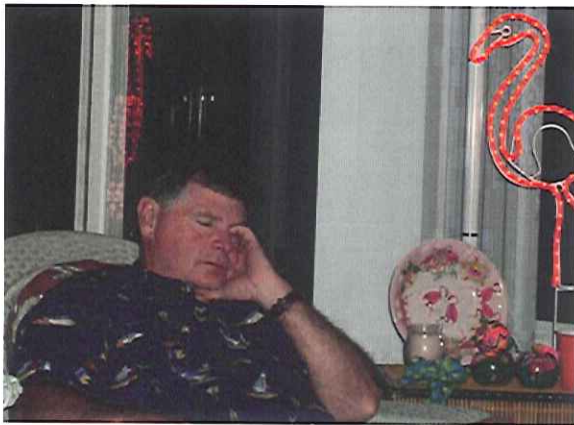
Ryan Gableman, Commodore 2006

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, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax your items to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.

A Birch Lake kind of weekend!



photos courtesy of the PattiCam and Bob King



— Birch Lake Notes —

Rieths to celebrate 60 years

Bud and Louise Rieth (west side, Cove 301) will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with an open house on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Calvary United Methodist Church, 2222 W. Indiana Ave., Elkhart, Ind. from 2 to 5 pm.

The Couple married Oct. 21, 1945 in Three Rivers, Mi. after WWII. Mr. Rieth retired from his plumbing and heating business in Elkhart after being in business for 40 years. Mrs. Rieth worked as Secretary for Rieth Plumbing & Heating..

They have one daughter, Carol Price, of Tallahassee, Fl., two sons Gregg Rieth (Linda) of Jones, Mi. and Bob Rieth (Liz) of Union, Mi., six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Rieths have lived at Birch Lake over 40 years, and love it.



Happy Birthday Bob & Cal! Calvin King celebrated his 12th birthday on August 27; his dad celebrates at least his 51st on Sept. 6 (although most say he's older than that).

(Indiana time). Ticket prices are \$7 for seniors and \$8 for adults. For questions please call 574-243-7704 or 258-1667.

You will enjoy Bobby Darren hits, Broadway and rock n' roll favorites to Perry Como hits as well as Garth Brooks and Jimmy Buffett and of course Holiday favorites!

Purple Loosestrife removal

This year there were only two properties that were found to have Purple Loosestrife. The plants were removed in July. In August Purple Loosestrife was found again on one of the properties and removed, the second property was found to be free of the plant.

We have seen tremendous improvement since the plant removal program was started six years ago. When it was started there were ten properties that had the plants and they were spread out on all shores of Birch Lake. Now they are limited to the west shore.

The success of this program is because of dedicated people like Bruce and Sue Wagner who have inspected the shores of our lake and were responsible for properly removing any plants that were found. They have been with the program from the beginning. We owe them a BIG THANK YOU!

-Rick Russwurm

Ceramics for sale

Tom's Garage has some ceramics for sale in the store. *-Becky*

Line Dancing

August 30th was the last Line Dance of the year. Thanks for everyone that attended! We'll do it again next year.

Board of Directors meeting

The Birch Lake Yacht Club's Board of Directors will meet Sept. 10 at 9 am.

The Company to perform

"The Company" players, in conjunction with the Como Family (south side of the lake), would like to invite you to celebrate the holidays by joining us for our annual musical review: Singin' and Dancin' Into The Holidays at the Battell Center, 904 N. Main St., Mishawaka IN - November 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19.

Production times are 7:30 p.m. warm-up (Indiana time); 8 p.m. show time

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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

— Birch Lake Notes —

Lake stuff for sale

Sun Visors, foam, in royal blue — \$4; Canvas Totes, navy blue imprinted in white — \$12; Tee Shirts, Jerzee heavyweight blend white with navy blue imprint, Youth Sizes Small (6-8) Medium (10-12) Large (14-16) — \$10; Adult Sizes Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large — \$12; Adult XX-Large, and XXX-Large — \$14. To buy or order call Vickie Rogers at 476-2383

Lest We Forget

My anniversary is coming up and I happened upon our wedding album today and began leafing through it. I came upon a hand written missive that I had completely forgotten about. I wrote it on my wedding day and reading it just now brought back deep emotions that seem to have been trickling away over the last four years. I'd like to share that writing with you. Maybe it will stir your blood as it has mine.

"Life is bizarre. It is 5:00 AM and I can't get back to sleep. I woke up in one of my

Birch Lake Baptism



Elle Marie Guyton

On June 1, 2005 Elle Marie Guyton was born to her parents, Jeff and Meredith Guyton. They will be celebrating their daughters' life with family and friends on September 4. The baptism ceremony and celebration will be performed by Fr. Dave Porterfield of the University of Notre Dame. It will take place on Birch Lake at her Grandfathers' (Bob Wozny's) property on the southwest side.

Elle's family has been on the Lake for over 45 years. Her Great Grandparents, Roy and Kate Henderson, started the family tradition from their cottage on the south side of the Lake. Elle's grandmother, Diana Wozny-Fredlake, grew up on the Lake and introduced her family to the Lake over 30 years ago. Since then, the whole family has had many wonderful experiences on the Lake.

Jeff and Meredith are going to continue the tradition with their children and couldn't think of a better way to end her first summer at Birch Lake.

guest bedrooms as my room was still unmade. I just didn't have time — you see, 'm getting married today. I'm sitting here in an empty house all set up for 14 guests. None could come, of course. No planes are flying. I'm trying to stifle the urge to go to Afghanistan and find the dung-eating dog of the left hand. This is supposed to be a happy day — and it will be. There are plenty of good friends and family coming

today but I am enraged by the futility I feel as I field yet another phone call from loved ones who call to apologize for their inability to attend. Then, I'm glad because they are alive to call and I'm still here to pick up the phone. Little did we know what would be happening when my bride and I set the date. Little do any of us know when you think about it. Every day our environment changes and we are challenged to accept or

deny the circumstances. I choose to accept and move on.

Well, the sun is coming up (for me at least) and it is a beautiful and joyous day. I can't wait to see my bride, family and friends. Still, it is truly bizarre to contemplate our future happiness while watching the horror on the television. Enough! The fog is lifting and the light increasing. I guess I'd better get busy..."

-Major O'Brien 9-15-01

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Porter Sewer Board

It is anticipated that sewer work will begin in the Birch Lake area this September or October. This work is going to raise many questions and concerns from our residents about many things (i.e. soil erosion, water quality, de-watering, effects on the Weir dam, etc.).

I encourage you to direct your questions and concerns to the Porter Township Sewer Board. Three members (listed below) are residents at Birch Lake. We will do our best to address your concerns and get the correct answers to your questions.

The Sewer Board meets the first and third Mondays monthly in the township hall at 7 pm (M).
Carl Klappauf 476-2663
Herm Krugel 476-2169
Gert Temple 476-2773

Congrats Dave Olson

Attention all lake senior citizens — when you see Dave Olson be sure to congratulate him. As of Sept. 1, he joins you on Medicare — a big milestone in the life of senior members around the lake!

Farewell Jim & Sally

Former Commodore Jim Beck and lifetime Birch Laker Sally Beck have recently sold their home and are preparing to move to Florida.

Stop by or call and wish them luck — they are good friends and will be sorely missed. Fare well Becks!

-Phil & Sandy

Thanks for the help

This is the last printed Barker of the summer. Watch

Birch Barker Kids of the Week



Carl & Sandie Kappauf's grandsons Ayden and Brent Nation (2-12 yrs and 3-1/2 mos. respectively) enjoying Birch Lake like their parents, Carla & Dennis, before them. They are fifth generation Birch Lakers.

for the online/e-mail edition of the Birch Barker this winter.

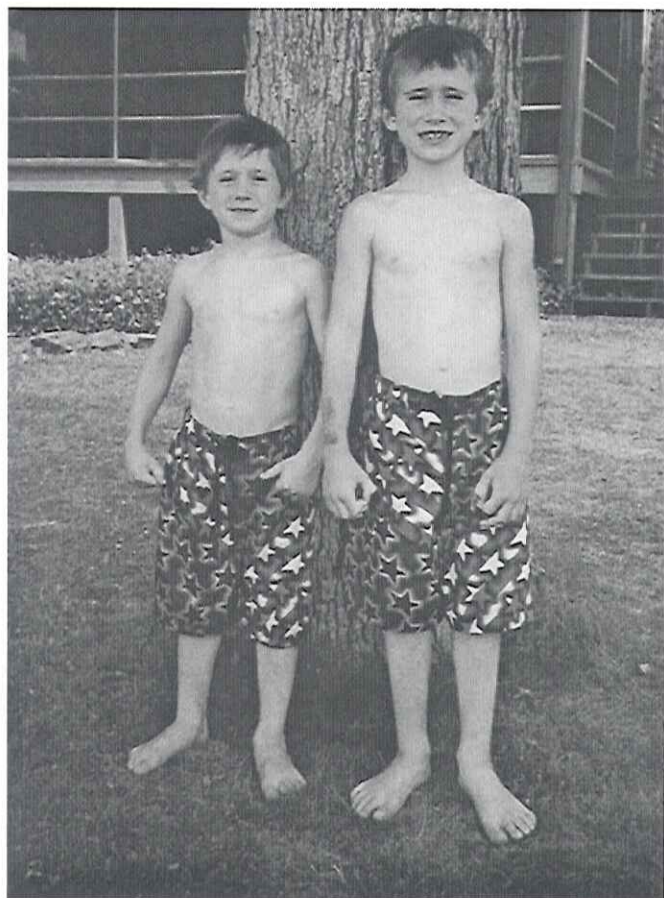
I would like to thank all the people who helped with the Barker this year. Special thanks to Bill King (who picked them up from the printer most weekends), John & Nyla (who distributed them to the delivery people), and all the people who delivered them to our front doors.

Also, twice this year we had anonymous benefactors chip in extra money so the Barker could be printed in color (including this issue).

Thanks to Stewart Spratt for his out-of-the-world star stuff column, and to Fleet Captain Dave Olson for his weekly updates on the sailboat races — you're the only people who made it every week!

And thanks to all the people who submitted photos and news to share with our neighbors, and to all of our wonderful neighbors for dozens of calls, visits, cards, notes and e-mails in support of the Birch Barker. Have a wonderful off-season; see you on the puddle.

-pv



Blake and Austin Witchie (ages 6 and 8) wish you a happy Labor Day Weekend! The Witchie/Larson/Sears family will be celebrating 100 years at Birch Lake next summer. Linda's great grandfather purchased the property in 1906. If you have ideas for how to celebrate, please e-mail Linda at lwitchie@juno.com.

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BLYC Sailing News



Season final results

Great conditions, second week in a row, for our final season races. Thank you race committee: Deb Bolinger, Blair Garceau, Lind Harman and Patty Luecht.

This weekend, Labor Day Regatta, we'll try to sail 3 races on Saturday starting at 2 IN, and 2 races on Sunday starting at 11 IN.

We will have our award meeting at 10 IN on Monday at the Yacht Club. Participants, starters, committee and those interested in sailing on Birch Lake are all welcome.

-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain 2005



photos by the PattiCam

Name.....	1st Race.....	2nd Race.....	3rd Race.....	Average.....
MC Class				
1. Scott Troeger.....	4.....	1.....	2.....	1713
2. Harold Cranmer.....	1.....	2.....	1.....	1658
3. Don Harman.....	3.....	3.....	DNS.....	1612
4. Rick Harman.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	1592
5. Phil Vitale.....	5.....	5.....	4.....	1482
6. Bill Luecht.....	2.....	4.....	5.....	1445
Jim Bolinger.....	6.....	6.....	6.....	1453
Caleb Walker.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	1377
Earl Troeger.....	DNC.....	7.....	3.....	1353
Rick Russwurm.....	7.....	8.....	7.....	1326
Sunfish				
1. Dave Olson.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	1701
2. Erica Vitale.....	2.....	4.....	3.....	1645
3. Sandy Vitale.....	3.....	6.....	5.....	1599
4. Nancy Walker.....	5.....	3.....	4.....	1555
5. Steve Richards.....	4.....	5.....	6.....	1510
Tom Howard.....	STT.....	STT.....	STT.....	1710
Bob King.....	DNC.....	2.....	1.....	1580
Chris Lintner.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	1480
Cal King & Neil Troeger.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	1355



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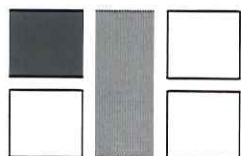
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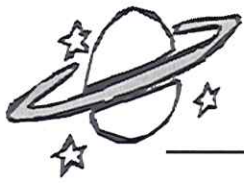
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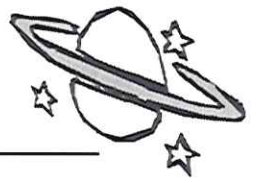
We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer at Birch Lake!

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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Stu's Star Stuff



New moon means bright stars

Many astronomers aren't crazy about having a bright Moon in the sky. Moonlight overpowers distant stars and galaxies, making them difficult to see from Earth's surface.

The Moon is a problem because our atmosphere scatters its light. And as you'll recall, the same thing happens when the Sun is out, which is why we can't see the stars during the daytime. The Sun is much brighter than the full Moon, so there's not as much scattered light at night — but it can be enough to interfere with astronomical observations.

That doesn't mean astronomers just pack up their telescopes, though. It just means that they observe bright objects, which produce enough light to shine through the glare — objects like Venus, Jupiter and Spica. Luckily there's no interference from moonlight for the next few nights, as a New Moon occurs at 2:45 p.m. Michigan time (because that's where you are) on Saturday. For this reason faint objects such as the little dipper and the stream of the Milky Way are easy to

see.

But let's focus on something really bright. Notice how Venus, Jupiter, and Spica appear in nearly a straight line low in the west tonight. Venus holds the center position with Jupiter to the right and Spica slightly farther left.

When they're this low in the sky, their light passes through a thick layer of air, so they look yellower than normal. They "twinkle" more than normal, too. This combination can give them an otherworldly appearance. And rightly so.

In fact, whenever Venus or Jupiter stands low in the sky like this, the number of UFO reports goes up. Like the eyes on a portrait in a haunted mansion, it almost feels like they're following you around as you move. That's largely because they're so bright that you always notice them. If you're driving, you might be turning left and right, but as long as the planets are in your field of view, they stand out — as though they were following you.

You can follow them for several more evenings. Tonight, look for them quite

low in the western sky as twilight begins to fade. Over the next few nights, Jupiter will slide to the lower right of Venus, and soon will disappear in the Sun's glare. But Venus will remain in view in the evening sky until the end of the year.

Enjoy the show over the winter and we'll meet here again in the spring. Until then, don't forget, the show's free.

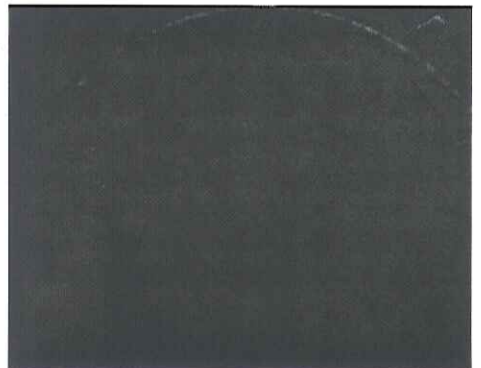
-Stu Spratt

The Moon tonight:

The moon for Sept. 3 2005 (at Midnight):

Illuminated Fraction: 0.003

0.5 days since new moon



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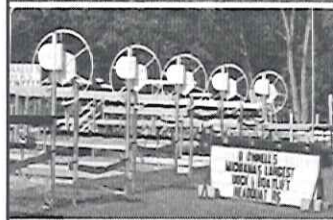
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— Sewer Board Update —

PORTER TOWNSHIP AREA UTILITY AUTHORITY SEWER CONNECTION PROCEDURE

Residents will be notified 90 days before it is time to hook up to the sewer. At that time permits will be available at the Township Administration building. The cost for the permit is \$50, and this includes the cost of a final inspection. The permit forms must be filled out including the installation drawing for the final inspection. The permit applications are to be signed by both the contractor and the homeowner. After the permit is issued, the connection to the sewer can be installed. The entire length of the connection cannot be back-filled until after the inspection.

PIPE MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS:

Pipe materials shall be Schedule 40 PVC or equivalent with glued or premium joints. Primer shall be purple dye tinted so that it is visible during inspection. All materials and installation shall be in accordance with applicable plumbing codes. Pipe must be laid from the house to the line with a fall of 1/8th inch per foot for 4-inch pipe. Minimum depth of bury is 18 inches.

CONNECTION TO THE SEWER TAP: The connection to the 6-inch public sewer tap shall be made with flexible rubber connectors with stainless steel bands. FERNCO or equal (watertight) if 6 inch pipe is used it shall be a 6" by 6" connector and if 4 inch pipes used it shall be a 6" by 4" connector.

CLEANOUTS: One cleanout shall be installed at the connection of the private sewer to the public sewer. This cleanout shall be terminated two inches below the grade with a watertight plug. Additional cleanouts shall be installed, one at the house connection and then one

for every 100 feet of service length and at every change of direction. All cleanouts shall be permanently marked by a % x 18" rebar taped to the cleanout and set two inches below the grade.

SEWAGE EJECTOR PUMPS: An electrical permit is required for a sewage ejector. The cost of the permit is \$58.00. The ejector pumps must be sized for the needed flow and head conditions. The maximum dose per cycle of the pump shall be 100 gallons, minimum of 50 gallons. The sewage ejector shall be installed in a tank designed for intended use. The tank must provide a maximum of 100 gallons per dose. The forcemain from the sewage ejector shall be a minimum of 2-inch diameter unless an approved grinder pump is used. The forcemain shall be terminated into the side of the cleanout at the public sewer no less than 6 inches above the invert with a watertight fitting. Access at the grade to the ejector or grinder pump is recommended.

SEPTIC TANKS: All septic tanks must be pumped by a licensed waste hauler and filled. The plumbing inspector must see that they are disabled and filled, so do not cover until they have been inspected. THIS IS A SANITARY SEWER ONLY. NO EVES OR SUMP PUMPS SHALL BE HOOKED TO THE SYSTEM.

BILLING FOR SERVICE: Once there has been a final inspection, the billing for the use of the sewer will begin the following month. The monthly use fee is \$40.

FROM PORTER TOWNSHIP

To the residents within the sewer district in Porter Township: The attached list (next page) is compiled based on contractors that have requested to do work in this area.

The Board of Trustees, the Sewer Board and the employees of Porter Township, do not endorse any of the contractors on the attached list.

The Township Board encourages everyone to hire contractors that are licensed and bonded. Additionally, it is to your benefit to have the contractor pull the permit(s). When you pull a permit, the responsibility for all codes to be met is yours and not the contractors. In addition, the board is reminding you that it is advisable to obtain 2-3 estimates prior to signing your contract.

Remember to read your contract before you sign. It is your advantage to have the following information included in your contract:

- The contractor will contact the appropriate company to have your septic pumped, prior to the closing of your existing septic system.
- The contractor will make arrangements for any electrical or plumbing company to do any required work that is necessary.
- Your contract will include the words "complete restoration." This statement should say, at a minimum, that your property would be restored to the same or better condition. It would be to your benefit to notify your contractor as to the type of lawn you have, for example, seed or sod, as well as any facts you feel are not included in their contract with you
- Your final cost will show a break down of all of the above.

Additionally, please consider, if a pump is required on your property it is to your advantage to have one installed that includes an alarm. If an alarm were not included, you would not be aware when your system has stopped working. It is our recommendation that a professional contractor install your pump.

Remember, these are guidelines for you to use they are not requirements.

Porter Township Board, Sewer Board & Employees

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Contractor list for sewer hook-ups*

Contractor Name	Directional or Trenching [D/T]	Contact	Address	Telephone
A & R Wastewater Management, Inc.	T	Greg Miller	P.O. Box 423 Mishawaka, IN	574-674-5779
Akins Excavating	T/D	Justin Bratt	54095 CR 39 Middlebury, IN	574-825-5941
Allen Excavating/ Carlisle Septic		Bob Herman	68760 Garver Lake Rd., Edwardsburg, MI	269-699-5043
C & C Enterprises	D/T	Carl Wray	1201 CR 15 Lot 88 Elkhart, IN	574-523-1735
C & E Excavating	T/D	Ed Bessinger	53767 County Rd 9 Elkhart, IN	574-262-4346
C.R. Bainter Const. Co. Inc.	T	Bud Bainter	18704 U.S. 20 Bristol, IN	574-293-545
Curtis Excavating, Inc.	T		P.O. Box 609 Elkhart, IN	574-264-6384
Danny Randall -Plumbing	D/T	Danny Randall	23408 Forest View Ave Elkhart, IN	574-215-7081
David's Excavating&Renovation Svc.	T	David Knepple	15633 South St. Vandalia, MI 4	269-476-2823
Experience Excavating		Kurt	61480 Berrien Lake Niles, MI	269-684-4073
Gahan Precision Cast Products, Inc.	Supplies Only	Tom Gahan, Pres	15171 M-60West Three Rivers, MI	269-244-5235
Grade-Rite Excavating, Inc.		Dave Herein	12877 Industrial Drive Granger, IN	574-273-1309
Gundy Custom Builders, Inc.	T	Duane Gundy/ Dervin Witmer	P.O. Box 272 Union, MI 491 30	1-888-641-9205
Horvath & Associates	T	Tim Horvath	2946 US 12 Niles, MI	269-663-5435
Horvath Services		Todd Horvath	2948 US 12 Niles, MI	269-663-2066
Johns Bobcat Svc		John Heckman		269-641-7510
Jon's Septic Service	T	Jon Stone	70465 Five Points Rd Edwardsburg, IN	269-641-2222
Lentine's Plumbing			23471 South Shore Dr Edwardsburg, MI	269-699-5837
Mac's Septic Service	T/D	Bruce McCrory	29698 CR 2 Granger, IN	574-262-1400
Mercer Septic	T	Jeff Mercer	12518 Dickinson Road White Pigeon, MI	269-483-9084
Michiana Directional Drilling		Arthur Ewing	P.O. Box 864 Bristol, IN	574-848-1599
Mew Horizons Drilling Solutions, Inc.	D	Jennifer Bessinger	P.O. Box 2409 Elkhart,IN	574-266-7700
Sliblock Excavating & Asphalt	D/T	Chuck Larson	906 Maple P.O. Box 211 Bristol, IN	574-848-4437
Pine Grove Excavating	T	David Stewart	10575M-60 Three Rivers, MI	269-244-1700
Roskam's Bobcat Service		John Roskam	70535 Sharp Lake Rd Edwardsburg, MI	269-641-7612
Schmeling Construction	D/T	Randy Schmeling/Roger Stoner	67095 Hillcrest Jones, MI	269-641-2279
Sherwood Building & Excavating			9479 Chapel Road Niles, MI	269-683-8416
Stone Bros Excavating, Inc.	T	Jason Stone	31 20 East Lake Dr North	574-266-0588
Stone Construction & Septic	D/T	Scott Stone, Owner	17773 US 12 Edwardsburg, MI	269-641-2057
Toney Excavating			27132 Deerfield Lane Niles, MI	269-663-2537
Turner's Excavating	D/T		198081. Zion Rd Cassopolis, MI	269-445-2078
Vaughn's Underground	D/T	Wes Stanfield	609 East Johnson Rd South Bend, IN	574-532-7208
Woody's Custom Built Homes	T	Abraham Miller	9494 Barker Rd White Pigeon	269-483-9927
Your Home Team	D/T	Wally Brubacher	PO Box 296 Edwardsburg, MI	269-699-5522

*This list is compiled based on contractors that have requested to do work in this area.

The Board of Trustees, the Sewer Board and the employees of Porter Township, do not endorse any of the contractors on the attached list.



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Sheryl Papandria

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Vandalia, MI 49095

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(269) 476-9225
fax (269) 476-9555

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Linda & Terry Curtis

476-2431

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'on our knees to please'

BIRCH LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM August 27, 2005 Report to Residents
BLYC Water Quality Committee
Submitted by Dan Reynolds, Chairman

Physical Characteristics of Birch Lake

<u>Surface area</u>	<u>296 Acres</u>
<u>Volume</u>	<u>12,743 Acre feet</u>
<u>Maximum Depth</u>	<u>95 Feet</u>
<u>Mean Depth</u>	<u>43 Feet</u>
<u>Shoreline Length</u>	<u>15,800 Feet</u>
<u>Immediate Drainage Area (Including the lake)</u>	<u>915 Acres</u>
<u>Estimated Water Renewal Time</u>	<u>15.2 Years</u>

The topography is rolling, with elevations ranging from 853 feet at the lake surface to 934 feet in the northeast portion of the watershed. Slopes are generally medium to steep, with several areas near the shoreline having slopes in excess of 10 percent.

Watershed

A watershed is simply the area around the lake from which the lake gains its water. Its 296-acre water surface is surrounded by a 619-acre watershed. The lake drains to the southeast. The watershed consists of Shorelands and a single 221-acre sub-area, which occupies the northeastern portion. The Birch Lake Monitoring Program (BLMP) monitors the watershed areas that drain directly into the lake, which are point sources of phosphorus runoff. Birch Lake is spring fed. BLMP monitors the only inlet, the small waterway which meets the definition of a stream. It enters the lake in the northeast bay from the sub-area and flows through forest and wetland

If the wetland was filled or channeled, there would be severe effects on water quality because the filtering function of the wetland would be reduced or lost altogether.

Thanks to the Porter Township Zoning Board, Birch Lake's wetlands are protected.

Below is a report from John C. Groszek, Secretary, Porter Township Zoning Board.

8/28/2005

PORTER TOWNSHIP WETLANDS PROTECTION ORDINANCE

On August 17, 2005 the Porter Township Wetlands Protection Ordinance went into effect. This ordinance was created by the Porter Township Zoning board in June and was accepted by the township at the July 2005 township meeting.

This ordinance governs all activity for wetlands that are smaller than 5 acres. While the state of Michigan, thru the Department of Environmental Quality, has jurisdiction over all wetlands the state has encouraged townships to enact ordinances that will allow the townships to actively govern the wetlands within their boundaries.

Wetlands are an extremely important ecological part of our existence and have been disappearing at an alarming rate. The passage of this ordinance by Porter Township will insure their continued existence in the township.

The ordinance

- a) Defines what is a wetlands
- b) Assigns responsibilities for administration and enforcement of the ordinance.
- c) Requires the township to create a wetlands protection advisory committee that will identify the wetlands and create a detailed map of the wetlands for future use.
- d) Defines both the prohibited and permitted activities for wetlands usage.
- e) Creates penalties for prohibited activities and defines the appeal procedures to be used when a request for permit is rejected.

BARKER CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

For Sale — Sunfish with all gear, \$500. Call Kathlene at 476-2627 or e-mail KathMac50@cs.com.

For Sale — 21ft 2000 Oddysey Millenium pontoon w/40 hp Nissan motor. White and dark green seats with a sun deck, and dark green bimini top. Radio, tape player and depth finder. \$7,000 or best offer. Full boat cover, and a 20ft boat shelter is included Call Jim Beck at 476-2760. Come to our pier on the West side near the cove and see it.

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 — 2,500 lb. capacity Shore Master lift. Has a new cable, with a 2 yr-old grey top and a lift motor that works from the boat battery. \$1,500. Call LaPierres (269) 476-2733.

For Sale — 1992 Yamaha Waverunner - Good condition - includes 2 place trailer \$ 1,000 Ball # 104, 476-9775

For Sale — 1987 Viking (10) Deck Boat. Interior was redone in 2001. Motor is in good running condition. The gas gauge may not work correctly, cause my (grown) children keep running out of gas. We also have a shore station with a good cover. \$3,000 for both or make us an offer on either. Call 476-2840

For Sale: King size oak bed w/mattresses \$500. Call Klappaufs (269) 476-2733.

FOR RENT

Now taking reservations for the 2006 season: cozy cottage in the cove. \$600 per week with multi-week discount available. Call 476-2175 or email Marty at MASire87@aol.com. Book now for a great summer in 2006!

Cottage for rent. Fall Special. Three bedrooms on beautiful north side. Indoor plumbing and color TV. Fall discounts available. Contact Stewart Spratt at 574.291.3227.

Condo vacations at Myrtle Beach, So. Carolina available. Very reasonable. Please call for availability. Call 476-2604 and

ask for Harold.

MISC.

Sweet Kitten needs a home! Around 6 months old, male, and light grey. Loves to be petted and played with. Call the O'Briens at 476-2126

LOST:

LOST SKI — Blue-green Wetline Metallic Composite ski lost on north side Saturday, August 6. If found, please call Dugans at 476-2814.

WANTED:

Wanted — Used Johnson or Evinrude 4 to 6 gallon fuel tank, single hose. Doesn't matter if it's corroded, I just need the fuel tank connector. Call Dave at 476-2125.

GOT A CLASSIFIED?

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



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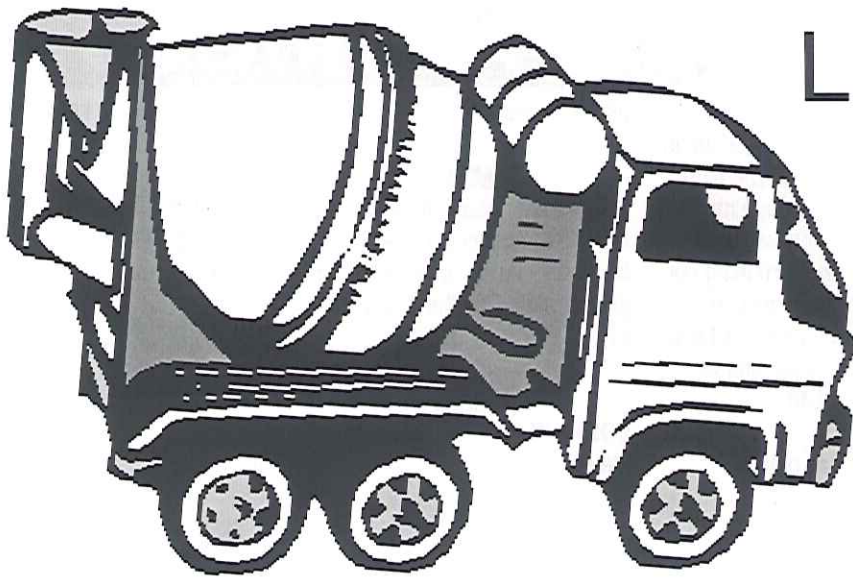
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