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## Living the lake life

### Book reflects author's early years on Lake Michigan

By **SHARON DETTMER**  
Tribune Correspondent

Jacqueline Widmar Stewart lived a fabled childhood along Lake Michigan. She never had to rely on television for entertainment.

"The lake was a drama within itself. It changed all of the time," she said. "It was a living being."

Her parents, John and Jewel Widmar, moved to Beverly Shores from Chicago. Her mother was a naturalist, who loved growing things, including peaches.

Her father was a building contractor.

When her parents discussed issues related to pros and cons of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore preservation, dinner table discussions became lively, Widmar Stewart said.



**Jacqueline Widmar Stewart provides information about markets, orchards, vineyards, restaurants and her mother's time-tested recipes, in her book about the Lake Michigan Riviera.**

Tribune Photo/SHARON DETTMER

She assimilated her mother's appreciation for Lake Michigan and its environs. "It is so unique in the world," Widmar Stewart said. "The concentration of growth is amazing. There is such a tremendous variety of vegetation."

The lawyer, environmentalist and author penned a field guide about the lake's diamond waters and golden shores. Her book is titled "The Glaciers' Treasure Trove: A Field Guide to the Lake Michigan Riviera."

It is published by Lexicus Press.

Environmentally-enlightening, the informative field guide, with more than 200 photographs, features historic information, locator-maps, information about cities, orchards, wineries, shops, golf courses, parks and entertainment.

The coastline -- Lake Michigan Riviera -- is a highly environmentally vulnerable region, Widmar Stewart said. "Public ownership has saved significant stretches of the beaches from destructive development and creates opportunities for environmentally-sound business and activities to flourish."

The author leaves no stone unturned in this field guide neatly arranged in five color-coded sections. She even includes her mom's time-tested recipes for preparing simple farm-fresh fare.

Jewel Widmar enjoyed hunting for mushrooms in Warren Woods, just about three miles east of Lakeside, Mich. "My mother was obsessed. She could hear the mushrooms growing at night," Widmar Stewart joked.

She remembers being awakened early one morning.

Her mother had been mushroom hunting in Warren Woods. The bounty that morning has huge. "Mom woke me up to help her carry a sheep head mushroom into the house." Widmar Stewart said that almost every surface in the family's home was covered in mushrooms that morning. "She canned them all."

Growing up in Beverly Shores made a lasting impression on her views on environmental preservation. In California, Widmar Stewart once served as a pro bono lawyer for the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District, (a greenbelt district in the San Francisco Bay area). She worked to protect over 50,000 acres of land there.



**"The Glaciers' Treasure Trove: A Field Guide to the Lake Michigan Riviera" was written by Jacqueline Widmar Stewart. The environmentalist, attorney and author grew up in Beverly Shores, Ind.**

Photo provided

### How to get the book

To order Jacqueline Widmar Stewart's "The Glaciers' Treasure Trove: A Field Guide to the Lake Michigan Riviera," visit [www.lexicuspress.com](http://www.lexicuspress.com) or [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

The Stanford University-educated author resides in Palo Alto, Calif., and summers in Michiana, Mich. with her husband, Blair, an attorney, who was a Navy nuclear physicist.

Her behind-the-scenes guide sheds much light on the treasure trove of jewels offered along the Crescent Coast of Lake Michigan.

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