

THE BIRCH LOG

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, May 12th @ 7:30 PM

At the Clubhouse

The Birchwood Lakes Officers and Directors will be addressing the issues affecting our community.

Nonmembers who wish to join the Birchwood Lakes Colony Club are encouraged to come to the meeting. Their application will be taken at the meeting.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting of April 14th

VP of Finance: Tom Jenkins gave the monthly report which is now computerized and provides for tracking of all budgeted items.

VP of Lakes: Mike Maher reports the committee was denied a permit to allow the committee and or residents to shake the geese eggs. He is still looking into hiring a company to treat the weeds in the lake.

VP of Properties: John Rothwell reported on the overall success of the Spring Ed Eck day and offered thanks to those many Members who came out to give a hand in the clean up.

Old Business: President John Cirenza and VP John Rothwell attended a meeting in Medford Lakes regarding the interception of a portion of the water flowing into our upper lake. Medford Lakes will divert this water to the Medford Lakes Country Club to be used for watering their fairways and greens. Dry spells in the summer sometimes have left us with our lake levels dropping due to evaporation, which can be one inch per day. Shades of the western US states fighting over the Colorado River water.

LAKE BOTTOM CLEANING

PROGRESS REPORT

On March 27, 2003, we attended our Pre-Application Conference with the Pinelands Commission. In attendance were the following: Ron Yulick and John Rothwell, representing the Birchwood Lakes Colony Club. Robert Lee and Mark Shourds, representing our engineering firm of Everland, Shourds & Assoc. Joel Gove and Amy Jones of Habitat Management & Design, Inc., BLCC wetlands consultants. Alan Feit, Medford Township Manager and John Crafchun, Director of Public Works for Medford. Several items were discussed, with the more important issues as follows:

- 1) The Pinelands would require a separate application for the widening Jackson Road for walkways, via bulkheading an additional area on each side of the road, with Medford Township being the applicant. This actually works to our benefit with the 1 acre of wetlands disturbance that basically applies to each project (once more than 1 acre of wetlands is disturbed, the associated costs to provide water flow analysis, degradation of areas test-

(Continued on page 4)

And the answer is...SURVEY RESULTS on page 5.



With your BLCC neighbors. See page 3

For Weeds that you don't smoke, See page 7

2003 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	John Cirenza	953-8912
Treasurer	Vivian Heiler	654-5507
Secretary	Sandy Scott	953-5640
V.P. Finance	Tom Jenkins	654-0786
V.P. Lakes	Mike Maher	654-4760
V.P. Property	John Rothwell	654-4678
V.P. Recreation	Patty Yulick	953-5380
Financial Sect.	Jim Whipple	953-1937

Directors

Max Bieberbach	11/2005	654-8636
Chris Bradley	11/2004	654-2567
Gene Hinchey	11/2004	953-5411
Al Homann	11/2003	953-3222
Carol Kontos-Cohen	11/2005	714-2203
Jerry Poinsett	11/2005	953-1941
Kevin Wall	11/2003	654-6431

Committees

	Clubhouse	
Chairperson	Valerie Wall	654-6431
Sandy Scott		Kevin Wall
	Lakes Restoration	
Chairperson	Ron Yulick	953-5380
	Membership	
Chairperson	Patty Yulick	953-2734
	Communications	
Chairperson	Andrew Meltzer	953-3330
Al Homann	Amy Phillips-Iverson	
	The Birch Log	
Editor	Al Homann	953-3222
Distribution	Bill Bielec	654-1761
	Jack Seavy	

The Birchwood Lakes Colony Club
 PO Box 382 Medford, NJ 08055

B.L.C.C. BADGE POLICY

With payment of the annual dues, Birchwood Lakes Colony Club (BLCC) member households receive one (1) Member Badge for each family member and two (2) Guest Badges. Additional Guest Badges can be purchased at any time for \$1.00 per badge from the BLCC Financial Secretary.

Members and their guests are required to plainly display BLCC Badges when utilizing any of the BLCC amenities including the beach, tennis court, lakes and ball field.

For the safety of Members and their guests, a lifeguard is stationed at the beach during the summer months. The lifeguard has been instructed by the BLCC Board of Directors to check for current badges of all beach-goers. Those beach-goers who do not produce a current BLCC badge will be instructed to leave the beach.

For Member safety and Beach Rule and Regulation enforcement, a current list of active BLCC Member households and their Badge numbers will be used by the lifeguard for identification purposes.

Those members who would like to host parties of 25 or more people at the beach are required to complete a Beach Rental Agreement. The Beach Rental Agreement can be obtained from Kevin Wall at 654-6431. New Jersey State Law requires an additional lifeguard when more than 25 beach-goers are in attendance.

Visiting family and friends of Members may utilize the BLCC amenities without the presence of the host Member as long as Guest Badges are plainly displayed.

Members may not lend or relinquish their Member and/or Guest Badges to local residents outside of the community of Birchwood Lakes.

The Birch Log is published just prior to each monthly meeting and before any special meeting. Materials for the newsletter should be received 12 days before the meeting. Material may be faxed to 609-953-8429 but the preferred method is by e-mail to AHomann@aol.com. Your e-mail will be acknowledged within 48 hours. If you receive no acknowledgement, call 953-3222.

BLCC 2003 JULY 4TH PARADE AND COOKOUT

John Rothwell

Come one... Come all... to the Birchwood Lakes Colony Club July 4th Parade and Cookout.

In honor of this celebration of independence, I paraphrase a portion of Paul Revere's autobiography during which he is attending the first post-Revolution July 4th picnic:

*As I sit here on my blanket, with burger and beer,
I believe that's the bells... of freedom ...I hear.
This gathering is grand, with many a friend,
"This idea could catch on, if they add a canoe race at the end".
Then I feel a tickle on my ankles and knees
Yet ignore it, for it must be the breeze through the trees
As the band plays a tune to which I am humming
I realize what the tickle is...The ants are coming! ...The ants are coming!*

This year's extravaganza is scheduled for Friday, July 4th, 2003 and promises to be another fantastic day for the community.



As in the past, this is a party thrown by two dozen Members for all Members and their guests. I encourage all those who have not yet done so, to mail your annual membership dues to Financial Secretary Jim Whipple, PO Box 382, Medford, so that the Party Planners have as complete and accurate a Membership list (party list) as possible. The Party Planners will be unable to send invitations to those residents who have not paid their annual dues by the end of May.

Please watch for parade and party details in the June issue of the Birch Log. And also please watch for the postage-paid RSVP postcard invitation in your mailbox in early June.

Let freedom ring through Birchwood Lakes this Fourth of July and may the American Spirit continue to soar.

YARD SALE, YARD SALE, YARD SALE!

Get ready, get set and GO on Saturday, June 7th from 9AM to 2PM. Our annual community-wide yard sale will help you clean out those closets for \$. We'll have highly visible signs on Jackson Road promoting the Birchwood yard sale, hoping for a good turn out. Info? Patty Yulick @ 953-5380.



ing, etc. becomes extremely cost prohibitive). Of course the Townships position at the meeting was that we have an agreement of an idea at this point in time, with concerns being on how the Township would pay for the work, etc. This is one that is going to require County and State aid for it to succeed.

2) Based upon information detailed by our engineers and wetland consultants, it was determined that there is no specific detailed soil testing criteria available. Each situation is taken on a case by case basis, with the applicants submitting detailed information to justify the listing of proposed items to be tested. Medford Township has reiterated that the soil must be tested in accordance with Pinelands criteria and shown to be satisfactory, before they would accept our spoils at the Gravely Hollow Road location. This requirement is currently being worked on by our engineers and wetlands consultant.

3) We had also shown the Pinelands preliminary maps of silt accumulations, which the Pinelands stated would be acceptable in that type of format. The Pinelands reiterated to us that we could only go to the original depth of the lake, which is all we are trying to do. The testing that was performed by the engineers and myself may be sufficient for the purpose of a removal detailed map. The engineers are looking into this to see if in fact we could get by with that little bit of work.

4) It was also determined in our conference just prior to this meeting with everyone but the Pinelands and Medford Township, that a separate application would be made for any proposed cleanup of the Lower Lake, so that we could utilize the 1 acre of disturbance rule for the Lower Lake also. We were informed that not all designated wetlands areas consist of "cattails" that we all can easily see. It came as a bit of a surprise to find out that we have some wetlands actually up on dry land and out of the water. By separating the 2 applications, we think that we may be able to access both Lakes and still be under the 1 acre disturbance rule.

5) We had briefly mentioned the possibility to the Pinelands of connecting the island with a small wooden bridge for safety concerns or even the possibility of removing the island. Both issues were basically frowned upon and the probability that we would be granted approval for either action is remote.

All in all, the meeting went as well as we had hoped in that the Pinelands is not going to be unrealistic with us. We had hoped that the Pinelands would have provided us with a list of items that they required be tested before the silt is removed, but we might be able to keep the required testing to a minimum with a bit of advance work. Basically we are defining our course of action each time.

We complete a phase and fine tune our approach to get as much done on both lakes as possible.

On a separate note, I had met with another contractor (our 4th so far), on March 28th., to obtain another bid for the project. This company, Armco Construction, has basically a niche business of lake dredging. They were the ones who had dredged Strawbridge Lake and a few others in the area. We walked the lakes again, noting proposed access points, etc and drove over to the sand pits where the silt will be dumped. All four contractors should be receiving our silt removal estimates along with various plans for access, removal and transportation costs.

Ron Yulick, Chairman Lake Restoration Committee - 953-5380.

E.P.Q. YIELDS BIG DIVIDENDS!

If you remember way back in the “ice age” of February 2003, I circulated an **E**mergency **P**lan **Q**uestionnaire to all the residents of Birchwood Lakes Colony Club via this very newsletter. Embedded in the questionnaire, was a list of questions that were designed to help us formulate an emergency plan for Birchwood Lakes Colony Club. Well, I’m happy to announce, 26% of the residents took the time to tell it “like it is” and be heard loud and clear! Frankly, I thought more residents would respond, as most of us were snowed in until recently (snow in April?) and probably had the unexpected time to pick up a pen and participate! As for the 74% that remained silent, please continue to do so. In other words, please resist the temptation of complaining, way after the fact, if we implement a plan that deviates from your silent preferences. As for the minority participants, you are now in the *driver seat*, thank you for taking the time to make a difference! Without further delay, here are the results you have been waiting for:

1. **26%** or 49 residents out of 192 believe the survey was worth taking the time to complete.
2. **78%** of the respondents have email!
3. **59%** of the respondents own cell phones.
4. **71%** would like to be called at home in the event of an emergency.
5. **16%** would like to be called by cell phone in the event of an emergency.
6. **67%** of respondents can be counted on to call 5 neighbors or more in the event of an emergency.
7. **2%** of the respondents (one person) will require special assistance in the event of an emergency.
8. **73%** of the respondents can be counted on to aid in assisting others in the event of an emergency.
9. **76%** of respondents have Internet access.
10. **45%** are lucky enough to have high speed Internet Access.
11. **67%** are in favor of having a Birchwood Lakes Colony Club Website.

The Birchwood Log is important to the residents of Birchwood and it can be improved upon in the following ways:

1. Addition of an “Appreciation Section”
2. “New Neighbor” profiles/interviews. Including information about the newcomers family. Contact telephone numbers.
3. List newcomer activities, holiday festivities and special events.
4. Contractor referrals and customer feedback.
5. More pictures
6. Letters from readers.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

7. Current Operating Budget for Birchwood Colony Club.
8. A "Did you know?" Section
9. Humor column
10. Up to date issues in the community
11. Local news and events
12. Kids Corner
13. Safety-wise column

Well there you have it! The survey results tell us that the majority of respondents can be counted on to help in the event of an emergency and would prefer to be informed of an emergency by telephone, at home. The survey also tells us that the majority of respondents are wired by today's standards and enjoy such "creature comforts" like cell phones and Internet. Most respondents have an appreciation for information and love the newsletter and support the idea of a future website. Lastly, the majority of the respondents prefer to call or rescue the same five people (only kidding) and can be counted on to call, knock on doors and do what ever it takes to help in the event of an emergency! This information will serve us well in the future as we attempt to formulate an emergency plan and improve upon the way we communicate. Thanks again to all who helped to make our survey worthwhile and your voices heard! Each of you get my vote for the "appreciation section"! Andrew Meltzer, BLCC Communications Chairperson

HAS SPRINGTIME TURNED YOUR THUMB GREEN?

Now that Spring has finally arrived, did you know that Medford has a wonderful Garden Club? Pinelands Garden Club is starting it's Spring Season and is always open to new members to share common interests and ideas. Pinelands Garden Club meets at 9:30 AM the second Monday of each month (except July & August) at Medford Leas Auditorium on Route 70. We offer exciting bus trips and interesting programs. Our most recent programs were on spring flower arrangements and the benefit and enjoyment of growing herbs. We are also involved in our community. We care for and maintain the herb garden at the gazebo in the center of town. We maintain the garden in front of the post office and several other locations. Our fund raising events include an Apple Festival in October, our Herb and Perennial Sale in May, a Herb Fest in September and others. The funds we raise go to scholarships for deserving students in our community. We also share ideas on protecting and preserving our local environment. If you would like to join us to expand your knowledge of gardening or to simply share your ideas, we'd love to have you as a member. As you enter the auditorium, please stop by our table to learn more about our programs. We look forward to meeting you. For more information, call 856-988-9804.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE ...IN BIRCHWOOD!

Spring Fling Party for Grown Ups. Saturday, June 7th at 7:30 at the Club House. Shake off the winter blues! Get in the swing of things for the Spring! Pot-Luck dinner party, BYO. Meet, greet and schmooze with your BLCC neighbors. To participate, call Patty Yulick @ 953-5380.



LAKES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mike Maher

- ◆ Sunday, May 4th, all boards were restored to the dam to attain proper lake level.
- ◆ Weed treatment contract put out for bids.
- ◆ Some quotes from our former weed control contractor:

“While I understand the concerns regarding the use of chemicals to control algae, there are no non-chemical materials that will eliminate algae. The inlet to the upper lake is very shallow with a large amount of sediment. Lake bottom cleaning of this area is the best alternative to reduce the algae. An increase in water flow (see ‘Old Business’ on page one for Medford Lakes water diversion) would also greatly benefit the upper lake and reduce the nutrient load that is accumulating in the upper inlet area.”

The present algae appearing in the lake is stonewort, and, as witnessed last year, this will “bloom”, die and float away in another 2-3 weeks.

It is our intent to manage our lakes in a conservative manner until the proposed restoration of the upper lake is resolved. In the meantime, each and every one of us can help our lake by:

- ◆ Using limited or no fertilizer near the lake
- ◆ Limit grass clippings in the lake
- ◆ Refrain from feeding the geese (their droppings fertilize the algae)
- ◆ Remind our children and others not to throw anything into the lake.

We are living in fast times - - internet, tv news coverage from the front lines of the battlefields, etc.

Occasionally however, certain things in our life are not handled by a quick fix - - a quiet afternoon with a loved one, a great meal prepared with the best ingredients with the noises and smells of the kitchen. These special moments are priceless and not experienced often in our fast lives today - no quick fix

We all moved to Birchwood to enjoy nature and the peace it brings. We all have an interest and should take a part in our lake management. If you are interested in becoming a member of the lakes committee, please contact Mike Maher 654-4760.



The Birchwood Lakes Colony Club
Neighbors helping make a better community.

MOTHER'S HELPER NEEDED

Work-at home Mom needs help two days a week with Ruthie, a happy nine month old, so Mom can work at home! Need help on Mondays & Fridays, 10 AM to 4:30 PM. Leigh Donadieu 654-4263.

DOES THIS PAGE LOOK MOSTLY EMPTY?

Al Homann

The survey results concerning this Birch Log are shown on page 5. Ideas, which were requested, suggest readers would like about a dozen additional different topics covered. Well, guess what! I'd like them in the Birch Log as well. Now how can we do that easily, painlessly? I've got an idea! You all contribute these articles, events, items, etc. to me. Here's how. Its real easy. Say you just used a contractor to ...mow your lawnto put in new kitchen cabinet fronts ...to paint your house ...to snake out your sewer line ...do anything. If he did a good job, on time and at a fair price, why not help your neighbors by telling us. Call me. Fax me. Email me. Got a good picture? Let me scan it, or email it to me. Local news, kid's corner? Same thing. I'm even providing the paper. Start here

