

THE BIRCH LOG

THE NEXT STEP

An Editorial by Al Homann

On August the 25th, a delayed Board Meeting was held and well attended. The primary purpose of the meeting was to vote on a motion to approve an unbudgeted amount of money (up to \$9,000) for lake bottom material test borings. These test results are to determine if it is feasible to begin a lake restoration project. To date, the BLCC, has funded expenditures of over \$3,300 for related testing. The new funds are to be taken from a Dam Reserve Fund, which was created to deal with emergency dam or lake related failures. While the proposed uses of the Dam Reserve Fund are debatable, the test-boring project is clearly not an emergency. The motion to authorize the funds was approved.

At the meeting, members asked many questions. The answer to one member's question of "What happens if the samples come back toxic?" was not able to be answered at the meeting. Indications are that the material is not toxic.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, September 8th @ 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.

FINANCING CONSIDERATIONS

So far, there has been no discussion, proposals or approved plans for the financing of this project. Because of the lack of readily available funds, one of the four contractors solicited for a proposal would not expend his time and money generating a proposal. Key to the successful lake bottom cleaning project is sound, approved financing. The Lakes Restoration Committee has generated

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BIRCHWOOD LAKES COLONY CLUB MEMBERS



Be happy as a Clam...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Clam Bake is BACK!!!!!!

Saturday September 20, 2003

@ beach - Clubhouse if it rains

From 6:00 pm till Midnight

Cost is only \$18.00 per person



...by joining us!

We will be dining and dancing under the Stars on the beach. Menu will include London Broil, Teriyaki Chicken, BBQ Ribs, Corn on the Cob and CLAMS. Beer, wine and soda will also be on hand.

Please R.S.V.P. to Patty Yulick @ 953-5380 by September 13th, **(WHICH MEANS RIGHT NOW)**.

Let me know if you will be helping setup, cleanup, or bringing your favorite dessert.

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
Andrew Meltzer	11/2005	953-3330
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

FALL LAKE LOWERING

The lakes will be lowered the first week in October to give the membership the opportunity to clean up the waterfront and make repairs to docks and bulkheads. All lakefront homeowners are requested to remove any and all debris from the lake adjacent to their property and dispose of it properly. If members require assistance removing a particular item, please call VP Lakes Mike Maher at 654-4760 and volunteers will attempt to remove the item during the Fall Ed Eck Day Community Clean-up scheduled for October 18th, 2003. The BLCC Board of Directors appreciate the efforts of those who help to keep our lakes free of debris and ask once again for assistance this year.

The lake lowering will be prolonged again this year to assist Medford Township and their contractor replace sewer line in North Lakeside Drive West. The lake will remain lowered until December 15th.

MISCELLANEOUS

Do you do country crafts and collectibles? How about candles, baskets, afgans, Christmas items and more? Want to earn them for FREE? If yes, call Michelle Swift, 654-6268.

LOST & NOT FOUND!

Did anyone pick up a white pair of high top Reebok Iverson sneakers (old school) (on the side they are marked —13) at the 4th of July picnic? If so, please call Donny Steinmetz, 609-654-4274.



Reasonable, private guitar lessons in my home. Interested? Call Chris Swift, 654-6268.

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. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM, in the Clubhouse. 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.

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an engineering report on the volume of material to be removed. Further, they have found a site that will accept this material providing it is non-toxic. With the Board approval on the 25th, we will now determine the toxicity, if any, of the material. Assuming the material is non-toxic, the next step is to get our financing lined up. We must proceed on this as fast as is prudent.

No sane contractor would begin work without the assurance he will be paid. Likewise, BLCC should not engage any contractor who is not bonded. Recent events at the Lake Ballinger bottom cleaning and the North Lakeside Drive West sewer line replacement show us just two examples of contractors that got into serious problems that were not anticipated.

The financing plan will require the same level of time, effort and expertise that Ron Yulick has expended in generating an engineering plan. Some of the financing plan options that should be considered at a minimum are:

- (1) A contribution formula which results in the greatest number of members desiring and being able to participate. Perhaps this would involve an initial lump sum payment and annual debt reduction payments. Ideas for financing are needed. Members who have experience with past church or community fund raisers should contact the Board with their insights.
- (2) Research for grants, loans, tax credits, or matching funds programs. Andrew Meltzer has already discovered that another private lake in Medford Township receives township monies for maintenance. What was required to bring that about? What magnitude of dollars are we talking about?
- (3) BLCC is about to be declared a non-profit organization by the IRS. This has never been done in the past! With this comes the opportunity for BLCC to create a tax-free fund where individuals

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SEWER PROJECT ON NORTH LAKESIDE DRIVE WEST...AGAIN!

John Rothwell

Medford Township will again be attempting to replace the sewer line under North Lakeside Drive West come October and the Club has been asked to keep the lakes in a lowered state during the project to reduce water infiltration into the open ditch. The lakes will be raised when the sewer job is complete or December 15th, whichever is first. Residents who live along North Lakeside Drive West are asked to remain flexible during this project. The right-of-way is 50' wide (approx. 25' either side of the middle of the road) and the Township (and the contractor) is entitled to use which ever portion of the right-of-way they deem necessary in order to complete the project in a timely manner. It is suggested that property owners clearly mark sprinkler heads and cement property monuments in order to minimize and hopefully avoid damage to personal property. If members have a question, comment or concern regarding the project, please call Medford Township engineering staff member John Scott at (856)-906-7237. Residents should be receiving more information from the Township regarding the project in late September or early October. VP Property John Rothwell, 654-4678, will be the contact person for the Club regarding this issue.

(most effected or able) could make donations that are legal tax deductions for them.

- (4) Apply pressure to the Township for help. I believe they are highly culpable by approving the development of Deerbrook, Sherwood Forest, Meadow Brook and Cranberry Lakes. Our lakes act as a receiving basin for their runoff. The township sands Jackson Road in winter storms. This sand then washes into our lake. Apply pressure to Medford Lakes Twp for all the debris that we get from Medford Lakes residents, the past Lake Ballinger lake bottom cleanup runoff, their proposed new Lake Ballinger silt runoff and their sewer plant discharges. All of these sources plus the Jackson Road litter contribute to our lake problems. The township has forced us to operate and maintain a public trust by using our lake system as a storm drainage, litter and silt gathering system for those communities. With the water comes the fill and must come the responsibility for the fill.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Should the lake bottom cleaning, which results in a deeper lake, cause erosion of existing owners properties, who pays for the restoration? Are we covered? How about if owners' bulkheads fail? Who is to pay? Just as we point the finger to the township for their silting our lake and demand of them to be responsible for what they have done, will our lake bottom deepening mean we are responsible for any damage it does? What if Jackson Road bulkheads fail? Who pays to restore them?

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

We should address measures for the prevention of continuing new silting fill caused by flow after the project is completed. How and where to construct mini silt catch basins? How about an attempt at co-operation with other lakes systems as to a methodology or combined effort in lake preservation? Could we form a committee to study the adequacy of existing bulkheads or the need for new ones (both BLCC and resident's)?

IN SUMMARY

The Birch Log asked that all interested parties come out and support the current lakes restoration plan. Many members did and they made their feelings known. In an unofficial poll at the meeting, the members were unanimously in favor of proceeding with the lake bottom testing. As far as I know, there are NO members opposed to the lake bottom cleaning!

We now want to determine a lakes restoration plan that is fair. We ask you to get involved, and help develop a plan that is equitable for all members! We ask you to come to the next board meeting, September 8th, and express your views on how or how not to pay for this expensive project. The present Lakes Restoration Committee has done a good job on what we have asked of them. There is a need to keep this project on track to the next level. More participation is required to address some of the above issues as well as others that come along. Andrew Meltzer and Christina Fenimore have offered to join in this financial planning effort. We need more representation from all segments of our neighborhood. We need consensus, respect and mutual cooperation to tackle this problem. I hope that if you don't say anything else, that you at least tell the board that you care and you want to be part of this effort.

ED ECK DAY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 18TH 2003



Some 2002 worker BEES.

Fall Ed Eck Day will be held Saturday, October 18th from 8:00 am - 12:00 noon. Mark your calendar NOW! This is a rain or shine event, with shine the preferred forecast. There will be coffee and pastries available from 7:30 – 8:00 am. Members are asked to bring a rake and a shovel with their initials/names clearly marked on each. There will a list of jobs posted in the Clubhouse for all to peruse and choose. Come on out, bring the kids, and have some good clean (up) fun.

BIRCHWOOD PLAY GROUP

I am trying to start a playgroup for the little ones in Birchwood. What I have in mind is to have parent and child or children to meet one morning a week at the clubhouse for approximately 2 hours. The time spent there will include free-play, circle time, stories, songs, crafts, snack and clean-up. Each week a different parent will be responsible for the craft and snack. The day of the week is yet to be determined once I see how many people want to participate and which day will work best for the majority. There will be a small dues collected at the beginning, as many supplies need to be purchased. If you would like to participate in this program or help me get it off the ground, please call me at 654-6268 ASAP. I would like to start shortly after the school year begins. Thank you. Michelle Swift



BOARD APPROVES FUNDING FOR LAKE RESTORATION LAKE-BOTTOM TESTING

John Rothwell

The BLCC Board of Directors unanimously approved funding for sampling and testing of lake-bottom material at five different locations (3 in the upper lake, 1 in lake #3 and 1 in the lower lake between Jackson Road and the upper lake spillway). These tests are required by the Township and the Pinelands Commission in order to determine an appropriate disposal site for the material. Having spent numerous hours meeting with engineers, contractors, local and state representatives, state agencies and members of the community, Lake Restoration Chairman Ron Yulick has made significant progress in developing a plan for restoring areas of our lakes that are in jeopardy. The plan is now in need of fine-tuning and that is where Chairman Yulick needs the help and support of the Membership. At the August Board meeting, there were several issues raised by the Membership where additional effort is required. They include: 1) incorporation of a lake maintenance system including, as an example, the installation of box catch basins at points where run-off from surrounding communities enter our lakes, 2) development of a financial plan which addresses an equitable payment structure and schedule and includes research into the financing packages neighboring communities utilized to pay for similar restoration projects and 3) additional investigative work related to funding that may be available from various local, state and national organizations. Members who are interested in forming committees to tackle the above items over the next two months are asked to attend the September Board meeting, scheduled for Monday, September 8th at 7:30 p.m.

MEDFORD LAKES COLONY CLUB BALLINGER LAKE PROJECT

Medford Lakes Colony Club will be making improvements to the embankment of Ballinger Lake in mid-September. Ballinger Lake is located across Stokes Road from the location of the former Settler's Inn. The work may generate silt that may flow down stream into our upper and lower lakes. The time required to complete the work is 1-2 days. VP Lakes Mike Maher will be the contact person for the Club regarding this issue.

ARE YOUR KIDS READY FOR SCHOOL?

Andrew Meltzer has compiled information about child safety that every parent should know, especially if this is your child's first year going to school. Below are just a few of his ideas.

Show and Tell

- **Show** your child how to dial 911 and how to ask for help. Teach your child how to make a collect call home in the event of an emergency. Purchase a prepaid calling card for older children.

Teach your child how to call home, work and your cell phone if you have one.

(Most children are taught to memorize a home telephone number but if you lose your child in a department or grocery store, you are most likely reachable by cellular phone.)

Write your contact information on a label and place it in the inside of your child's shoe, when they are too young to remember a telephone number but old enough to tell someone their parents information is in their shoe.

- **Remind** your child to never answer the telephone or the doorbell if she/he is home alone or make the mistake of telling someone on the phone they are home alone.
- **Teach** your child to scream "I DON'T KNOW YOU" if someone attempts to force your child to accompany them. Teach them if they are walking home from school and someone attempts to force them to go with them, to yell, run and scatter their books on the side walk. Teach your child to walk home using the "buddy system".
- **Tell** them that no one has the right to touch them or make them feel uncomfortable and it's O.K. to tell you. In fact they should always feel comfortable telling you anything.

Show your child your love and concern by becoming actively involved in his/her activities

The "No" List

- **Teach Your Child To Say No** to entering another person's car or home without your permission, even if the person is known to them.
- **Teach Your Child To Say No** to accepting gifts from strangers or acquaintances without your permission.
- **Teach Your Child To Say No** to answering the telephone or door when home alone.
- **Teach Your Child To Say No** to telling anyone who asks where they live or giving their telephone number to someone they do not know.

Andrew Meltzer can be contacted at 609-953-3330