

THE BIRCH LOG

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT!

Editorial by Al Homann

Recently I had the pleasure of talking with Neil Fowser. Mr. Fowser was Chairman of the Lakes Restoration Committee of The Medford Lakes Colony in the summer of 2000 when Ballinger and two smaller lakes in Medford Lakes Borough were cleaned and Ballinger Lake Dam was reconstructed (as required by the Dam Safety Section of NJ's Department of Environmental Protection). After our discussion, I began to see both similarities and differences between what BLCC is attempting to do and what MLC completed two years ago.

Membership in both organizations is voluntary. Both have approximately the same percentage of paid members, BLCC at 90% and MLC at 95%. While BLCC has 172 paid members, MLC has 1,495 paid members, approximately 8 times larger than BLCC. But MLC has 22 lakes, five beaches, three athletic fields, parklands, tennis courts and two buildings to maintain compared to three lakes, one beach, one ball field, one tennis court and one clubhouse at BLCC. Both organizations have annual dues of \$300. MLC, which in effect is the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Borough of Medford Lakes, uses \$150 per year for its operations. MLC has four full time employees who are expanded by lifeguards, temporary maintenance personnel, and day camp counselors during the summer. BLCC has no paid employees, full or part time. BLCC does hire a lifeguard service in the summer and a lawn maintenance company.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, October 13th @ 7:30 PM

At the Clubhouse

The Birchwood Lakes Officers and Directors will be addressing the issues affecting our community. Members are encouraged to attend.

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.

The \$150 balance of MLC's annual dues is placed in its Lakes Restoration Fund and, when that fund accumulates to a sufficient size, it undertakes to clean a lake and accomplish any required dam renovations. MLC also funds its lake cleaning efforts by a one-time assessment of \$750 to lakefront property owners, payable when their lake is cleaned.

I learned that there were factors affecting MLC's Ballinger Lake cleaning project which drove its cost per cubic yard of material removed significantly higher than the per yard cost which they had been led to expect early into their lake restoration effort.. Our expected cost is about \$13 per cubic yard for the removal, transport and dumping of our material, on the condition that the testing results come back clean.

MLC's Significant Factors

First, the analysis of samples of the sediment to be removed from Ballinger disclosed the presence of petroleum-based residues due to rain-water runoff

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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 were 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.

CLAM BAKE

Patty Yulick

We had great weather and a huge turnout for our re-instituted Clam Bake. Special thanks to Tom Dalsey, John Rothwell, Kevin Wall, Tom Jenkins, Ken and Anne Buchanan, Kevin and Christina Fenimore, Jeanne and Bill Schluth, Tom and Lisa Hulse, Alice Bradley and Sandy Scott. Everyone loved the Special shrimp dish made by Chris & Michelle Swift and Gene Hinchey (sure to become a regular favorite). We had CLAMS and Shrimp and CLAMS and Ribs and CLAMS and Corn on the Cob and CLAMS and Prime Rib and...CLAMS. Thanks to everyone that brought a dish for us to enjoy, of appetizers and desserts, etc.. This year we had 68 people come and enjoy a very nice night out with a few folks offering to help out with next years event

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.

from Stokes Road sufficient to require that the material be placed in the Burlington County Landfill. This resulted in significant costs for trucking the material that distance from Medford Lakes as well as incurring a charge per cubic yard from the landfill.

Neil stressed to me the importance of knowing early on, the testing results of the lake bottom sediment because that will be a very significant indicator for the costs of our cleaning project. The BLCC Board of Directors has authorized the testing of our lake bottom material. The test locations and types of tests to be done have already been specified to BLCC by the Pinelands Commission and Medford Township. An interim progress report on this LAKES RESTORATION TESTING is below. Should disposal in the Burlington County landfill be required, the BLCC project cost would rise significantly.

Second, even after being drained for nearly a year, the upper portion of Ballinger's lakebed never dried out enough to support earthmoving equipment. MLC had to build an embankment across the lake, refill the upper portion of the lake, then bring in a hydraulic dredge to suck up the sediment and pump it to the lakebed near Stokes Road where it had to dewater and dry out for a while before it could be taken to the landfill.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

BLCC is presently seeking outside funding through the BLCC Lakes Restoration Financial Committee. Although MLC explored outside funding for the Ballinger project, as a private organization, its ability to obtain grants was virtually nonexistent. MLC had some hopes of receiving a low-interest loan from the State from its newly created revolving loan fund established by a \$15,000,000 bond issue. But the primary purpose of this fund was to rebuild unsafe dams, and they learned that there had been enough calls on these funds from owners of major unsafe dams, primarily in North Jersey, that MLC's chances of getting any loan were virtually nonexistent.

In my talking to residents living on the upper lake, on residents living on the lower lake and to fisher-

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LAKES RESTORATION TESTING

Ron Yulick

I received the Letter from the Pinelands Commission 2 days after our last monthly meeting. We are just subject to the Priority Pollutant plus 40 test (PP+40). I then contacted Chris Noll, Medford Township Engineer, who agreed to accept the more comprehensive PP+40 test in lieu of the Township's slightly different testing requirements. It was also decided that I would not be responsible for 'chain of custody' of the samples. After obtaining various quotes stating I would provide the boat and agree to portage the testers to the various test sites, I was finally able to have the testing process performed for \$3,240.00. I may have the test results back the day of our monthly meeting on Monday the 13th. In addition to our testing requirements listed in the Pinelands letter, there were 14 other bullets of information that we would need to address during our application process. These items have been sent to our Engineers and Wetlands Consultants for review.

ED ECK DAY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 18TH 2003

The Birchwood Lakes semi-annual community clean-up day, commonly known as Ed Eck Day, will be held October 18th from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. There will be coffee and pastries available at the Clubhouse from 7:30 – 8:00 am. Volunteers are asked to bring rakes, shovels and wheel barrows with their names/initials clearly marked on each. There will be a list of jobs posted at the Clubhouse for all to peruse and choose. On behalf of the BLCC Property Committee, a hearty “thanks” goes out to all those who plan to participate in this year’s Fall Ed Eck Day.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Mark your calendars for October 24th, 2003 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm for a howling good time of bobbing for apples, pumpkin carving and other creepy activities. Please RSVP by October 19th and let me know with type of dish you can bring or other ways to help.

Patty Yulick, 953-5380

SEWER PROJECT ON N. LAKESIDE DRIVE WEST

On September 30, 2003, Medford Township started the job of replacing the sewer main under N. Lakeside Drive West. The estimated pace is 100’ per workday. Residents impacted by this project are encouraged to remain flexible, amiable and personable during a time that will be uncomfortable, maybe miserable and definitely dirt and dust everywhere-able. If residents have questions and/or concerns regarding the project they can call Medford Township, Division of Water and Sewer at 654-7886.

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man of both lakes, I am told that the lake is silting in more rapidly than in the past. These people tell me of lake depths that were 4 and 5 feet only ten years ago are now 1 and 2 feet.

We will soon find out the test results of our sediment. If we have to alter our plans, the financial burden is even more onerous. But to give up is not acceptable. What may be required is some lesser task. One idea I would like to toss in for discussion is to create a catch basin at the upper lake inlet and annually clean it and clean some areas around Jackson Road. However, engineers have advised MLC that leaves and decaying lake vegetation add significantly to the bottom material and that catch basins near inlets do not significantly reduce the rate of silt build up. I don’t challenge their counsel but looking at our lakes, it just appears to me that the lake bottoms nearest to the lake inputs have our shallowest depths. I am inclined to think a catch basin would help. Again, it might help but not be cost effective. And if the annual cleaning of the basin would require annual lake bottom tests, even this minimal effort might be rather costly. I encourage anyone with suggestions to write them down and submit them to the Birch Log so that they can be published.

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 or afternoon 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 ASAP. Thank you. Michelle Swift