

THE BIRCH LOG

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, January 12th @ 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. The Officers and Directors will be making decisions for you. Why not express your ideas?

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.

NEW BLCC PHONE DIRECTORY

Work has started! Soon you'll be flipping through the pages looking for someone's phone number or maybe their kids' names or ages. Wouldn't it be nice if it were 100% accurate? Help us achieve that. Make sure we have your family info correct. Submit it here!

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Last name _____

First name(s) _____

Children's' names & ages _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

→ OVER



SLOGGING AHEAD IN 2004

Al Homann

By now we've all heard Donald Rumsfeld's famous comment that Iraq will be a long hard SLOG for the U.S. On a less grand, less noticed scale, BLCC will be on it's own long hard slog in 2004 as well. During 2003 (and before) a great deal of behind the headlines work was being done on preparing for BLCC's first lake bottom cleaning in two decades. This large undertaking had many aspects. There were meetings where members discussed and debated the proposed extent of the work that could or should be done. During these discussions, cost estimates came up for the different proposals. However, all these scenarios needed grounding in what the costs were going to be. Lake bottom testing is key to what follows. After several meetings with The Pinelands Commission and Medford Township, a plan of action was agreed upon by all three that defined the tasks to be done. The first was the determination of where, how deep and how many test borings would be made. This resulted, after compromise, on five sites. They are at the upper lake inlet, two sites equally spaced between the dam and the inlet, between the upper lake dam and Jackson Road and one boring in lake three. Next the depth of the boring was settled at three feet into the lake bottom. The determination was then who would take the samples. Although Ron Yulick volunteered to do this task as well, because of serious legal ramifications that could arise if there was contamination or possible contamination of any of the samples, the Board of BLCC decided to have an outside company take the samples. BLCC did help them

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2004 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	John Cirenza	953-8912
Treasurer	Vivian Heiler	654-5507
Secretary	Sandy Scott	953-5640
V.P. Finance	Bob Morgan	654-9651
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
Christina Fennimore	11/2006	654-5292
Gene Hinchey	11/2004	953-5411
Carol Kontos-Cohen	11/2005	714-2203
Andrew Meltzer	11/2005	953-3330
Kevin Wall	11/2006	654-6431

Committees

Clubhouse

Chairperson	Valerie Wall	654-6431
	Sandy Scott	Kevin Wall

Lakes Restoration

Chairperson	Ron Yulick	953-5380
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Membership

Chairperson	Patty Yulick	953-2734
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Communications

Chairperson	Andrew Meltzer	953-3330
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The Birch Log

Editor	Al Homann	953-3222
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Birch Log Distribution

NW Lakeside Dr	Bill Bielec	654-1761
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SW Lakeside Dr	Joe Zurzolo	953-2734
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Upper Lake	Sandy Scott	953-5640
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The Birchwood Lakes Colony Club

PO Box 382 Medford, NJ 08055

A BLCC THANKS

As another year has closed on BLCC, I would like to take the time to thank everyone who helped make our Christmas parties a success. Special 'Thanks' to Nora Zurzolo, Sandy Scott, Alice Bradley, Christina Fennimore and Kelly Maguire. And a Special 'Thanks' also to Tom Jenkins for the music . Did I miss anyone? I want to 'Thank" them as well. Without help from so many, these parties would not be as successful as they are, as the more volunteers we have, the easier it is on everyone else.

Patty Yulick

MEMBERSHIP

At the December Board meeting, Jim Whipple, Financial Secretary, reported that 176 families paid their dues in 2003. There are 192 homes in Birchwood Lakes resulting in a 92% support rate.

NEW BLCC PHONE DIRECTORY

Take or mail this card to:

Patty Yulick

132 North Lakeside Drive East

Medford, NJ 08055

Better yet, call Patty @ 953-5380

And tell her

"I'd love to help,

What can I do?"

And surprise, Patty will be
delighted to have you help her.

➔OVER

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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with the logistics of the work. Lastly, several meeting with the State DEP, The Pinelands Commission and Medford Township resolved what substances would then be tested for in the samples by the laboratory. Some of the materials BLCC was required to test for were priority pollutants and heavy metals. Each and every test for each and every substance costs money. No surprise there! At the December 8th Board meeting, Ron Yulick gave a verbal summary of the preliminary results to the Board and to the members attending the meeting. There were no surprises to this writer. Having spent time with Neil Fowser of the Medford Lakes Colony Club during 2003, and understanding what they discovered in Balingier Lake which is directly upstream of our upper lake, our test results could be expected if not predicted. The test results showed levels in excess of those anticipated. The testing results are currently being compared to and evaluated against standard levels dictated by the Pinelands Commission, DEP and the Burlington County

Transfer Station. The Pinelands Commission standards are more severe than the DEP's. Should our results not fall within the Pinelands parameters, our next option would be to go against the DEP standards. The DEP standards would require us to deposit our sediment outside of the pinelands. If we do not meet the DEP standards, then we would have to dispose of our silt at the Burlington County Transfer Station. If we cannot meet the Pinelands requirements, then we can anticipate additional costs associated with the disposal of the lake bottom material. A hard SLOG indeed. Testing results are needed so that we can more closely estimate the cost for our Lake Restoration project. I am not discouraged by the added burden we have due to the testing results to date. For Christmas, my wife gave me *How Ronald Reagan Changed My Life* by Peter Robinson. If you want to read an inspirational, non political book, this is it. This book about President Ronald Reagan's life reminds us what one person with perseverance can accomplish.

MORE THAN PARTYING!

Our year end parties were a success, but as usual, there is more to BLCC than parties. The Birchwood Lakes Colony Club members and their neighbors remembered those less fortunate at Christmas time. And we want to give thanks to all of our Birchwood Lakes neighbors for their overwhelming generosity during our annual *Toys for Tots* drive. It is estimated that we gathered more than 150 gifts for the children. We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.



Kerry Brown

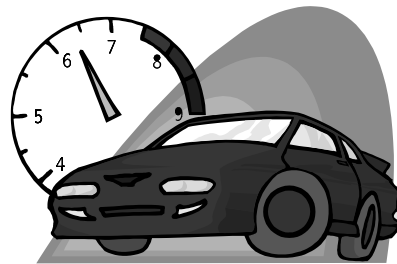
Nora Zurzolo

Jacqueline Schluth

ARE YOU A SPEEDER?

John Rothwell & Al Homann

The speed limit through Birchwood Lakes is 25 mph. Members are reminded to lighten up on the gas



pedal as they travel through the community. When the warmer weather approaches, many people will be out walking, playing and riding bikes. Exhibiting extra caution

when driving through the community is requested and appreciated. At the Board meeting, it was reported that several members had requested the Medford police set up speed traps. The last time the police set up speed traps, the majority of people stopped were BLCC residents, not people cutting through Birchwood as a short cut. Forewarned is forearmed.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Al Homann

At the December Board Meeting, a member brought up the idea of BLCC having its own website. This has been discussed at previous meetings over the past few years. Of the forty-four neighborhood associations in Medford Township, 10% or four have their own websites. For a listing of the 44 associations and the four with websites, go to <http://medfordtownship.com> and click on "Neighborhood Assoc" on the right side of the opening page. Medford Township provides links to these four neighborhood associations as well as links to many, many other sites both in Medford and outside of Medford. Our next door neighbor, Oakwood Lakes (www.oakwoodlakes.us/) has a good site. Some of the information on their site is a listing of their

Trustees, Committees, their tax maps, a picture gallery and a photo album of their "Steak by the Lake 2003" party. A website similar to this can be developed at no cost by volunteers. The software is readily available and I have two programs which the club could use. After development, a website requires constant maintenance, like a lawn! This too would be done by volunteers. The cost to have an Internet Site Provider, if we don't already have one that a member would let us share for gratis, costs in the order of ten or fifteen dollars a month. Here would be an ideal way to post the Birch Log, the BLCC phone directory and so many items. And the really nice feature a website has, is that you let stay past postings like all the past Birch Logs. This makes for a convenient source of data right at your finger tips. What say you?

BIRCHWOOD LAKES HOME WANTED!

Former Birchwood Lakes residents are looking for another home in our special neighborhood. Tony and Candi Giardina and their three children left Medford for Florida in July. You may remember that Tony was the Parade Marshall for our Fourth of July, 2003 celebration. An opportunity has come up that will bring the family back to Medford in late spring, 2004. They are really hoping to move back to Birchwood and so asked our help in their search for a home. If you are considering a move in the near future and would be interested in speaking to them, please call or e-mail Bill and Kerry Brown (609-654-9291 or kerrybill@comcast.net). We'll forward the information and Tony will contact you right away. Thanks. Bill Brown



ALL IN VAIN?

The good work being done at the ball field on the last Ed Eck Day was somewhat undone by none other than Mother Nature. A few weeks after this fence was installed, Mother Nature had a wind storm topple a tree onto the fence, destroying several sections. A few weeks later, members removed the tree and repaired the fence.