

# THE BIRCH LOG

December 2004

WWW.BIRCHWOODLAKES.ORG

## To All Birchwood Lakes Residents:

2004 was a terrible year for many Birchwood residents. Some things were tragic, some were bad, some people experienced some minor problems, but everyone was affected.

If we are fortunate, the Colony Club will make some important decisions concerning the re-establishment of our dams and lake facilities in 2005. There were 177 paid members in 2004, the highest number in my memory. There may be at least that many opinions on how the process should proceed, who will do the work and when. There will be heated discussions on how to pay for all of the work to be done. That is to be expected. Some people live on the lake, some off. Some people live on the lower lake, some upper. Some people are retired, some just beginning their lives in this community. Some people have to plan for their kids' education, for some, that is behind them. Everyone is a little different. I believe our biggest challenge will be to develop a formula that will satisfy our financial needs while being sensitive to the needs and abilities of our members' families. It will be difficult and no one has all the answers. One thing is sure, no one will be happy having to pay higher dues. Because we are not a deed-restricted community requiring membership, it will be impossible to require assessments.

I remain hopeful that we will receive some assistance from FEMA and our State in the form of loans and grants. Our applications have been filed, rejected and are in the process of being refiled. Our needs are great and our repayment resources are meager. We are doing our best.

My hope, no make that my prayer, for the year, is for all of us to remember that this is a non-profit organization, with no paid employees. No one is profiting from this situation. The Board positions are normally a challenge and will be more difficult than ever before. John Cirenza probably will not like me to tell you this, but he has already received more than a dozen

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 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? For detailed info on the meeting format and future meeting dates, go to our website and click on "Board Meetings".

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.

very difficult phone calls. All of this while raising his family, tending his own business, and handling an enormous amount of Birchwood business related to the flood. He and I, and others, have met with: politicians, engineers, township officials, FEMA, state bureaucrats, insurance agents, SBA loan officers, and now lawyers. In addition to our lake problems, he now has two lawsuits to deal with. I am sure he has questioned his decision to preside over this mess. Thankfully for all of us, he is made of a tough, resilient spirit.

I believe the best way for us to survive this coming year is to be kind to each other. We will need to work together as never before. Everyone should have some input, but once the majority rules, we

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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	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
Christina Fennimore	11/2006	654-5292
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	Tom Andreacci	654-7922
	Membership	
Chairperson	Patty Yulick	953-2734
	Communications	
Chairperson	Andrew Meltzer	953-3330
	Website	
Webmaster	Al Homann	953-3222
	The Birch Log	
Editor	Al Homann	953-3222
	Birch Log Distribution	
NW Lakeside Dr	Bill Bielec	654-1761
SW Lakeside Dr	Joe Zurzolo	953-2734
Upper Lake	Sandy Scott	953-5640

### The Birchwood Lakes Colony Club

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need to put the voting behind us and follow the plan. It would be very easy for us to question this process and the decisions made five years from now.

My Dad, God rest his soul, always told me to try not to criticize anyone in public and if you must, make sure you are respectful and have a better idea. Also, make sure you have the will and the courage to do the work yourself.

God bless us, God bless our country, and God bless our wonderful Service men and women! No matter what we experience this year, it is nothing compared to the sacrifices being made for all of us.

Happy Holidays:

*Tom Jenkins*, VP Finance

## OOPS...

In the November Birch Log, on page five, in the second table, the **total cost** column was low by an order of magnitude, 10X. Also, somewhere between being set up and being printed, the right column, **Disposal Site**, dropped line two in each cell. Here is the table as it should have been.

Disposal site	Cost per yard	Total cost
On BLCC property	\$11.00	\$1,681,350
On a Medford Twp farm	\$16.00	\$2,445,600
In the Burl Co Landfill	\$21.00	\$3,209,850

## CANOE STOLEN!

Sometime in the past two weeks, a Sea Nymph aluminum canoe was stolen from the cove between 42 & 44 NW Lakeside Dr. If you see this canoe, please call Henry Matthews, 953-0688

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 609-953-3222.