



# **THE BIRCH LOG**

February 2005

WWW.BIRCHWOODLAKES.ORG

## **LAKE BOTTOM SILT REPORT**

The EPA has posted their test results on our Upper and Lower lake bottoms. This testing which BLCC had done two year ago was redone by the EPA last Summer. The flood and the resulting silt deposits of over 100,000 cubic yards in our lakes triggered an EPA response to determine what had come into our lakes. Their results are similar to ours in that they tested in many locations and for many substances. The complete EPA report runs into many pages, too many to be reproduced here. You can view the complete report covering their sampling plan, sampling data, etc by going to the BLCC website, [www.Birchwoodlakes.org](http://www.Birchwoodlakes.org) and clicking on 'Breaking News'. Following are two excerpts from that report.

### **"Flood Displaced Sediment Sampling**

Medford Lakes, Medford Township and Lumberton, NJ—EPA Region II

On July 27-28, 2004, EPA conducted sampling of sediment which had been displaced from lake or river beds by the flooding associated with the rain event of July 12, 2004. The sampling program was developed to determine whether contaminants commonly associated with non-point source pollution, such as residential, commercial, or agricultural pesticide application, and overall storm water runoff, were present in the displaced lakebed or riverbed in concentrations which exceed state residential direct contact standards. A total of twenty-eight samples taken of displaced sediment source material in Medford Lakes, Medford Township, and the banks of the Rancocas Creek in Lumberton. By sampling the source and/or the most heavily sedimented areas, these results are also reflective of smaller pockets and lightly sedimented areas at any other locations impacted by the same material.

A review of the lab analysis for these samples indicates that no removal or remediation of this existing soil or displaced sediment exceeds levels which would be required by state or federal environmental regulations."

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Monday, February 14<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.

"Although the sediment was tested well below residential soil cleanup standards, BCHD cautions that residents may want to consider avoiding the usage of the materials on their lawns, gardens, etc. If you are adjoining a lake or pond, the sediment can be transported back to those impoundments. As with all soils when you are exposed you need to protect yourself from ingesting any (dirt) it generally contains germs that can be harmful."

The above are excerpts from the report. Please go to our website and click on 'EPA Report' for the rest of the report. Photos of the flood and flood damage are also on the website. Click on 'Flood Pictures'.

## 2005 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	Bill Brown	654-6303
V.P. Recreation	Michelle Swift	654-6268
Financial Sect.	Jim Whipple	953-1937

### Directors

Tom Andreacci	11/2007	654-7922
Chris Bradley	11/2007	654-2567
Carol Kontos-Cohen	11/2007	714-2203
Christina Fennimore	11/2006	654-5292
John Rothwell	11/2005	654-4678
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	
	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

PO Box 382 Medford, NJ 08055  
WWW.BIRCHWOODLAKES.ORG

## JANUARY 10TH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The State of New Jersey, Dam Safety Department is requiring BLCC to hire a professional staff engineer to perform any necessary studies of our two dams.

Mike Maher reports that his committee is meeting with several engineering companies to do this compliance study. Both Pennoni (our present engineer) and Taylor, Weisman, Taylor and McCormick are giving BLCC presentations. In the meantime, we are contacting other Colony Clubs who are experiencing the same challenges to see if we can help them or learn from their experiences.

On the brighter side...Kevin Wall reports that the Clubhouse has been improved over the Clubhouse of pre-flood times and is now ready to once again be the site for rental parties, etc. Unfortunately, the use of the lake cannot be offered to prospective renters.

Joe Russamano volunteered his time to install a new heating system in the Clubhouse.

Several members and one Oakwood resident made donations to restore the Clubhouse.

Liz Bielecki reported both Christmas parties were successful. They were well attended with 46 children at their party and 52 adults at theirs.

A cookie exchange may be in the works and The Birch Log and flyers will alert members. Six additional activities are planned. See page 4 or go to the website. Click on 'Upcoming Events'.

Jim Saxton and Sandra Conditt have been working with BLCC (as well as others in Medford) to get BLCC eligible for grants and low interest loans to assist with the lake and dam restoration and repair. Medford Township personnel have also been very helpful to BLCC.

Budgets discussed and will be finalized at the February meeting.

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.

## Wanted - - - Help!

Two and a half months ago, the BLCC board approved a motion to form an Engineering Selection Committee (ESC). At the February 14, 2005 meeting, I expect the board to approve the recommendation of the ESC for an engineering firm to begin the long road back. That vote will represent the culmination of many, many hours of meetings and studies and work. While that is only the first step back to normal, the next time you see:

Tom Andreacci

Mike Maher

Bill Brown

Dave Reynolds

John Cirenza

Joe Russomanno

Steve Cohen

Kevin Wall

Paul Kiessling

Jim Whipple

Please give them a big "Atta Boy" for a job well and thoroughly done. No one wanted to leave their warm homes and their families to sit in a cold clubhouse (45 degrees). No one wanted to guide the many engineering applicants around a frozen lake (in all kinds of weather). They did it and did it well.

In my estimation, we are 5% of the way on the journey to having water back in our lake. I believe that in order to complete the job, we may need upwards of a hundred (100) additional volunteers. That is almost one person from every home. I believe before this is over, we will need an organization that includes committees and individuals to deal with:

Administration

Human Resources

Engineering

Legal

Finances and Banking

Marketing and Communications

Quality Control and Construction Audits

In the coming months, I (and others) will urge the board to create and sanction these types of committees and groups. Without them, we can expect the current group of volunteers to quickly "Burn Out". I believe in our community and it's residents. I know many of you personally. I believe that the only thing that is preventing some neighbors from participating in the solutions to these huge problems is they are unsure if they have the knowledge or skills to help. Nothing could be further from the truth, and I know it! Whether it would be supervising construction of the dams or attending meetings to show your support for our cause, all of you have something to contribute!

In order to solve our problems, we may need to take a leadership role in Medford Township. We may need to sponsor new legislation, which will allow us to secure the funding through co-signatures for grants and loans. If we are successful, we could make Birchwood Lakes the crown jewel in the Medford area lake communities. If we are successful, everybody wins and everyone's property values increase.

When you see the need in the coming months, I hope you will volunteer. I will tell you up-front, the pay stinks, the hours are rotten, and it doesn't make you feel good when people who never come to meetings criticize your efforts. Your only reward will be a nicer place to live, some great new friends, and a feeling that only comes from working together for a common goal.

Stay tuned!

*Tom Jenkins*

VP Finance

