

THE BIRCH LOG

July 2005

WWW.BIRCHWOODLAKES.ORG

DAM AND LAKE RESTORATION UPDATE

Al Homann

Since the Survey Results Meeting on Wednesday, June 8th, more pieces of the puzzle of how to restore the lakes have fallen into place. Here are some of the major events:

- New Jersey acting Governor Codey signed into law the necessary bills releasing the monies for dam reconstruction. This means to BLCC that some of our applications for low interest loans (2%, 20 year pay back) have the possibility of being approved.

- McCormick Taylor Engineering (they made a presentation at the Survey Results meeting) had the plan BLCC paid them to create, approved by the New Jersey Dam Safety division for the reconstruction of our two dams.

- Princeton Hydro Engineering (They also made a presentation at the Survey Results meeting) are within days of completing a study BLCC commissioned to determine exactly where the silt is in our lake bottoms. We'll need this for a volume measurement to determine how much silt can be placed in the Gravelly Hollow sand pit if the BLCC members vote for a lake bottom cleaning. This study would also be used as a basis for paying a contractor who would be removing the material so we both know exactly how much was removed as these contracts are based on volume.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, July 11th @ 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.

- A sub committee of the Lake committee has been working on repayment options. ALL applications for loans require a realistic, enforceable repayment plan. Plan options are expected to be ready for a presentation to the BLCC board by mid month. Although all of the many plans have a provision for hardship cases being given special consideration, all plans have all 192 households participating as all 192 households will benefit from the lakes restoration. Some residents, who have sold, some who have their homes up for sale and some who are exploring selling their homes and who have talked to Realtors, can attest that home prices are depressed and will remain so until the lakes are restored.

(Continued on page 3)

2005 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	John Cirenza	953-8912
	J.CIRENZA@verizon.net	
Treasurer	Vivian Heiler	654-5507
	FJVMHL0@aol.com	
Secretary	Sandy Scott	953-5640
	GNSSCOTT@verizon.net	
V.P. Finance	Tom Jenkins	654-0786
	TOM@JENKINS.com	
V.P. Lakes	Mike Maher	654-4760
	NMAHER3@comcast.net	
V.P. Property	Bill Brown	654-9291
	KERRYBILL@comcast.net	
V.P. Recreation	Michelle Swift	654-6268
	POORWILLIEJOHN@netzero.net	
Financial Sect.	Spence Quill	654-6826
	ESQUILL@aol.com	

Directors

Tom Andreacci	11/2007	654-7922
	THOMASANDREACCI@msn.com	
Chris Bradley	11/2007	654-2567
Carol Kontos-Cohen	11/2007	714-2203
	KONTOS@georgian.edu	
Christina Fennimore	11/2006	654-5292
	CBFGOT9@yahoo.com	
John Rothwell	11/2005	654-4678
	JOHNROTHWELL@hotmail.com	
Joe Russomanno	11/2005	654-1991
	RUSSOMANNO@verizon.net	
Kevin Wall	11/2006	654-6431
	KBWDECON@aol.com	

The Birchwood Lakes Colony Club

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OCEAN CITY, NJ SUMMER RENTAL

"America's Greatest Family Resort"

3 BR/2BA (sleeps 8) - New construction May 2005. Convenient downtown location is just steps to cafe's, shops, galleries and restaurants on Asbury Ave. Only five blocks to the beach and boardwalk. Sunny-neutral decor; pleasant view; W/D;DW;MW;AC; large furnished balcony overlooks the garden-park across the street. Select weeks available in July and August. Call Bill or Kerry Brown. 654-9291 or email at kerrybill@comcast.net. Photos on request.

Committees

Clubhouse

Chairperson	Valerie Wall	654-6431
	KBWDECON@aol.com	
Sandy Scott		Kevin Wall

Lakes Restoration

Chairperson	Tom Andreacci	654-7922
	THOMASANDREACCI@msn.com	

Membership

Chairperson	Patty Yulick	953-2734
	PATTYYULICK@comcast.net	

Communications

Website

Webmaster	Al Homann	953-3222
	AHOMANN@aol.com	

The Birch Log

Editor	Al Homann	953-3222
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Birch Log Distribution

NW Lakeside Dr	Bill Bielec	654-1761
SW Lakeside Dr	Joe Zurzolo	953-2734
Upper Lake	Connie Ziomek	654-4635

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 609-953-3222 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.

•Yet another sub committee is working with up to five contractors, soliciting information and bids on the process and cost of lake bottom cleaning. In order for the members to make an informed vote, BLCC wants to present a carefully thought out plan and a firm cost projection for lake bottom cleaning.

•Still another sub committee is seeking grants for these two projects. Grants are great but hard to find. The group is looking toward federal, state and private agencies that address this need. Should you be familiar with grant searching or know of agencies we might investigate, please contact Trudie Ramsey at 654-4910.

•Loan applications have been being submitted since last September. The number of agencies that have some jurisdiction over these loans are numerous. A consideration in the application process is the complexity and thus the time it takes to fill these applications out. As of now, we are still submitting applications. Can you help Mary Ellen Cronk with this task? Call her at 953-5351.

•Does all this sound interesting and challenging? It's both! Some volunteers have been at it for almost a year. They need help. You'd be surprised how contributing small amounts of your time can lighten their burden. Please come to the weekly Lakes Restoration meeting held every Wednesday, 7:30, at the Clubhouse.

A BLCC THANKS

Jim Whipple has been Financial Secretary for many, many years. Now Jim and his wife Beverly have moved to a new home more suited to Jim's retirement.. We thank Jim for his many years of volunteering and wish him and Beverly the best.

Spence Quill has stepped up and agreed to become Financial Secretary for the remainder of Jim's term. The Board voted to accept Spence's offer at the June meeting.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

BLCC has insurance coverage for another year but guess what! The premium has gone up. Compared to insurance rate hikes in Florida, the rate increase looks really modest. Storms really do cost real money.

JUNE BOARD MEETING NOTES

VP of Property, Bill Brown, reported that the basketball court was fixed at no cost to BLCC.

The lawn service will trim the trees on Jackson Road where they obstruct the view of residents pulling out onto Jackson Road.

Recreation: Liz Bilecki reports a successful Spring Fling which netted a \$300 profit.

Both Oakwood and Pine Lakes have offered BLCC members the use of their lakes for a fee while our lakes are down. We are grateful for their consideration.

Another option for us is Atsion Lake State Park on route 206 at Atsion Road. It's a short drive, has a wide beach but often has to turn away people on sunny, hot weekends. Weekdays seem to be no problem. Weekends are OK if you get there early.

CLAMS ON THE BEACH! ARE U READY?



It may not be the good old days but we're going to try. A good old fashioned BLCC CLAM BAKE....and you are invited. Mark your calendars RIGHT NOW! Saturday, August 13th. The theme? A summer Luau right here in BLCC on a warm but comfortable summer evening. Music, Food, Friends, Fun and the Stars overhead. It doesn't get any better than this. Want to join us? Let Michelle Swift know. Call her at 654-6268. Want to join in on the planning, helping, clean up, etc? Michelle would love to hear from you. An additional flyer will be distributed in the next couple of weeks.

PS Operators are standing by, so call now!

WANTED: Paddle boat, 2 or 4 place. Mine went the way of the flood waters and now I desire a replacement because I am confident the lakes will be back better than ever! Adrienne Capella, 654-8449 or addie.klalo@verizon.net

LOST: White "Marine Cooler", 84 quart size. My name is on the inside. Kevin Wall 654-6431

AVALON IS CALLING!

FOR RENT: Completely renovated single family home in Avalon. Three bedroom, two bath, sleeps seven, central air, front and back decks, outside shower, gas grill, off street parking, just two blocks from the beach. A few weeks still available. Call NOW! Call Nora Zurzolo for details, 953-2734.

Your friends in far away Samoa can get this Birch Log!
Tell them to click on www.birchwoodlakes.org!