

# **THE BIRCH LOG**

April 2006

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## **BOARD MOVES AHEAD ON LAKE BOTTOM CLEANING**

At the March 13th meeting, the Board approved a motion by Ross Alber to engage legal assistance in reviewing BLCC's 'bid package' and a future contract with a supplier, yet to be chosen, for the lake bottom cleaning. Several attorneys were contacted and their credentials have been reviewed. BLCC will also need a volunteer engineer to oversee the lake sediment project. If no one is available, BLCC may have to hire one, most likely from Princeton Hydro. Tom Andreacci reported that these tasks are in line with BLCC's overall task schedule published in the February Birch Log.

In other Board business, the Annual Budget was discussed as were loan documents (four) needed for the projects. Three have been submitted to Medford Township and the fourth will be soon.

On the Dam project, BLCC is waiting on reimbursement of an estimated \$100,000 from NJ DEP. Any and all costs regarding the Dam project will be submitted to NJ DEP for approval prior to submitting to the contractor. This project will require BLCC to obtain 'bridge loans' for financing until the final loan monies become available, now expected in 2007.

Spence Quill reports that through February, 131 families have paid their 2006 dues. With the Dam and Sediment projects soaking up money, every dollar is needed until the 'bridge loans' can be arranged. Members are encouraged to send in their dues ASAP. Non Members are encouraged to either join BLCC or send a contribution to help those who are working on their behalf.

Kevin Wall reminded meeting attendees that the Clubhouse has been totally renovated with volunteer labor and donations for appliances and paint. Now the Clubhouse is ready for family reunions, graduation parties, military coming home parties, etc.

Jackson Road bridge is soon to be rebuilt. George Snyder will alert BLCC and members as soon as he has a firm date for the start of work.

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Monday, April 10<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.

### **RENOVATED CLUBHOUSE AVAILABLE**

Is your family planning a get together this Spring / Summer? Have you considered BLCC's newly renovated Clubhouse? New kitchen with new appliances, new paint, window treatments, etc., etc!



Can you see your guests on the horse shoe court? Ball field? Basketball court? Tennis court? ..and you don't have to clean up your house afterwards!

**2006 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

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**The Birchwood Lakes Colony Club**

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**THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME?**

I am once again looking for a home for sale in Birchwood Lakes or nearby. This time it is for my sister who is relocating from Arizona with her husband and two small children. If you are considering a move in the near future (spring) please call 609-654-9291 or e-mail Kerry Brown at kerrybill@comcast.net.

BELGIUM BLOCK FOR SALE – EACH MEASURES APPROX. 5 1/2" X 5 1/2" X 11" CLEAN AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE.- QUANTITY AVAILABLE OVER 100. PLEASE CALL JOAN @ 609-654-5500

**HELP WANTED**

Seeking secretarial help, 4 to 8 hours per week with a flexible schedule. Computer skills required. Daniel J. Benor, MD 609-714-1885.

**Committees**

**Clubhouse**

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

**Lakes Restoration**

Chairperson	Tom Andreacci	654-7922
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**Membership**

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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.

## **AIR SHUTTLE COMING TO THE LOWER LAKE**

Last week, the FAA announced conditional approval for four weekday flights from BLCC's Lower Lake to Philadelphia airport and Newark airport. Approval had been sought by a regional airline, Blue Sky, headquartered at the Mercer County airport just outside of Trenton. A test flight had occurred in May 2004, just before the flood destroyed the lake. Blue Sky, Inc. said that they would use the same type of aircraft they now use in serving Trenton and Pottstown PA with service to Philadelphia and Newark. Blue Sky presently has a fleet of eight Grumman Goose aircraft. These are 8 seat, twin engine sea planes. In Trenton, they use the Delaware River and in Pottstown they use the Schulykill River for their terminals. At Philadelphia airport they use the Essington seaplane base and a Philadelphia airport shuttle bus. At Newark, they use Newark Bay and a Sea Land Terminal transport provided by the terminal operator, Dubai Ports World Inc.

The service would consist of a 7 am flight to Philadelphia airport and an 8:30 am flight to Newark. There is planned a 4:30 pm flight from Philadelphia airport and 6 pm flight from Newark airport. These flights would mean Birchwood and our neighbors would no longer face a one hour drive with a bridge toll of \$3.00 and parking fees of \$9.00 per day to get to Philadelphia airport. The Blue Sky shuttle would take only 90 minutes and cost only \$145.00. Customers would be encouraged to leave their cars in the Colony Club parking lot as the seaplane would taxi up and onto our beach for boarding and deplaning.

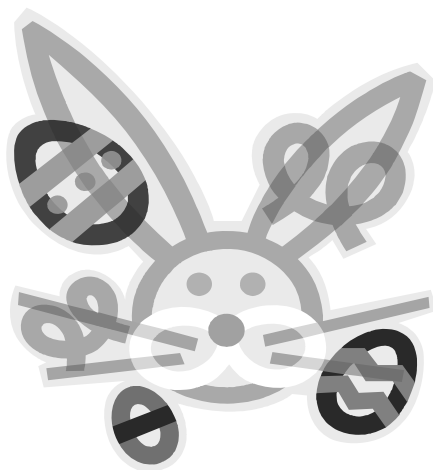


*Blue Sky's Grumman Goose taxis onto the Colony Club beach in this May 2004 photograph. Notice Colony Club members in the background helping unload baggage.*

As part of the Federal noise abatement program for airports, the flight pattern for this service would consist of an approach to the Lower Lake by flying low over the Upper Lake, just clearing the wires at Jackson Road and landing as soon as possible on the Lower Lake. The plane would then taxi down the lake to the beach at the Colony Club. Take off would be just the reverse with the Grumman Goose taxiing to near the Lower Lake dam and then giving full throttle to the engines so that take off would usually clear the wires at Jackson Road. Climb out would be over the Upper Lake. This would assure our neighbors in Oakwood and Medford Lakes that noise levels over their neighborhoods would be tolerable.

As Blue Sky has continually expanded and made a profit, their soon to announced public offering may be of interest to Birchwood investors. Most brokers will be promoting a Blue Sky offering soon, if not already. The flights would begin on April Fools day.

**Hey kids! Here comes Peter Cottontail...**



Spring is in the air! Catch some spring fever at Birchwood's annual children's Easter party.

Come for lunch, crafts, field games (weather permitting), and of course, an egg hunt!

The date is Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at the clubhouse.

Parents, you **must RSVP** with the number of children attending, their ages and what you will be bringing. We are in need of sandwiches, finger foods, snacks, treats and drinks. Volunteers for set up, clean up, egg stuffing and hiding are also appreciated.

Please call Michelle Swift at 654-6268 **By April 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**Moms and Dads, Don't wait to call ...a reminder flyer will NOT be distributed.**

No need for Easter baskets, each child will be provided a bag for their goodies.

Thanks, see you there!