

# **THE BIRCH LOG**

June 2006

WWW.BIRCHWOODLAKES.ORG

## **LAKE BOTTOM SILT DISPOSAL SITE CONTRACT SIGNED!**

One of the biggest, if not the biggest, problem BLCC faced was getting a site where we could dispose of our lake bottom silt. The Township early on offered BLCC the pit off Gravelly Hollow Road which was the best possible location. Unfortunately, the Pinelands Commission ruled that out even though the NJ DEP, after chemical analysis, declared our lake bottom silt clean. Once that site was not available to us, the Lakes Committee saw big dollar signs in the offing. Disposal costs can be the largest cost of lake bottom cleaning if a distant site is used and a significant tipping fee is required (read Burlington County landfill). The Lakes Committee examined in detail several sites before being able to finalize on a site north of Route 70 here in Medford Twp. There will be no site costs. In fact, we sold the stuff! Well, for only \$1, but still, we sold it. Further, we will only be required to drop it off at the site. We will not be obligated to smooth it or landscape. We do not have to apply for or pay for any permits at the site. Those permits have already been acquired and paid for by the site owner. Hooray and a high five for the Lakes Committee!

## **MAY 8TH BOARD MEETING NEWS**

BLCC received the Certificate of Filing from the Pinelands Commission for the replacement of the Timber Lake Dam, the Birchwood Dam and the Lake Bottom cleaning.

NJ Senate bill S1710 has come out of committee but has not yet been voted on as of 6/6/06. State Senator Martha Bark, Assemblyman Francis Bodine and Larry Chatzidakis, all at Suite 103, 3000 Midatlantic Drive, Mt Laurel, NJ 08054 have worked on this bill for us. They could be helped in their work with a postcard from you.

Farmers and Mechanics Bank has offered BLCC bridge financing so that lake bottom cleaning can commence as soon as the bids are reviewed and a winning bid has been awarded. Bids are due June 8th.

As of April 30th, 152 households have paid their 2006 dues.

The Clubhouse continues to attract rentals but still has many dates available. Members are encouraged to rent the Clubhouse.

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Monday, June 12<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.

### **SORRY, WRONG NUMBER!**

It's been 2 years since a BLCC Phone Directory was published. We're working on an update right now with a publication date just weeks away. If you haven't been contacted by a block captain yet and you weren't listed last time or have changes to your listing, contact Sandy Scott, 953-5640, GNSSCOTT@COMCAST.NET ASAP! And how about placing an ad for your neighborhood business? The directory will be used for the next 2 years. For ad rates and positioning, call John Lefton, 654-2184. The directory will be delivered to every BLCC member. Members can buy additional copies for \$1 each

## 2006 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	John Cirenza	953-8912
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Treasurer	Vivian Heiler	654-5507
	FJVMHL0@aol.com	
Secretary	Sandy Scott	953-5640
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V.P. Finance	Ross Alber	654-1255
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### Directors

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Joe Russomanno	11/2008	654-1991
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### The Birchwood Lakes Colony Club

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## ARE YOU REBUILDING YOUR DOCK?

Many docks were destroyed during the flood and may soon need to be rebuilt. Questions have been raised at recent board meetings regarding guidelines for rebuilding. Birchwood Lakes has an Architectural Committee that can answer these questions. It is the responsibility of the BLCC member to check with a member of this committee to be sure your plans comply with the guidelines. Most importantly, the lakes are the property of the Colony Club and therefore only members in good standing are permitted to build docks which extend into the lake. The general rule for the size of the dock is that it shouldn't extend into the lake any more than 120 square feet. (Overall, the deck may be larger but overhang into the lake should not be more than 120 square feet.) Another general rule is that any deck or dock should be built a minimum of 10 feet away from neighboring properties. For Architectural Committee members' names and numbers, please call Bill Brown, VP / Property. 654-9291

### 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
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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
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.

## **LANDIS EBY—50 YEARS IN BIRCHWOOD**

*As interviewed by John Rothwell*

Birchwood's numerically oldest resident (Landis turned 90 last March on the first day of Spring) has lived on North Lakeside Drive West since August 1956, preceded in Birchwood only by the Rozinskis where Helen still lives at 1 North Lakeside Drive West. Landis's house was originally #15 as all homes were on the lakeside and numbered by the postal service consecutively 1, 2, 3, ...and so on and the mail route was Rural #3. Always a full service route, North Lakeside Drive West was later numbered with the odd/even system as it stands now when houses began to be built across from the lake. Landis's number now is 29.



*Jackson Road as viewed from North Lakeside Dr looking south toward Tuckerton Road. This picture was taken in the 1950s before Jackson Road was paved. Notice the two houses on South Lakeside Drive East built before Jackson Road was paved.*

Contrary to some opinions, the roads were not dirt but paved in this new community.

Eby's home has gone from red to blue over the years and this year the tree that grew in his driveway bit the dust and it with a few others had to be removed. A dock, patio, bulkhead and garage were added, but basically the home remains the same today as when Landis purchased it. The screened porch overlooking the lake is where you can find Landis (he was known as Bill in his earlier days) on many a given morning or evening. Come say 'Hello' to our oldest resident who faces the future with optimistic pleasure but also looks fondly back on the earlier days and the growing community of Timber Lakes Development, now known as Birchwood Lakes, developed by Ed Meyer and Dr. Charles Kutteroff, Sr.

Formerly residing in Erlton (originally from Elizabethtown, PA and Ship Bottom, NJ) the Eby's with their growing family desired a rancher in a less populated area. Landis, his wife and his mother-in-law drove up and down and here and there with a roving eye towards living in the 'sticks'.

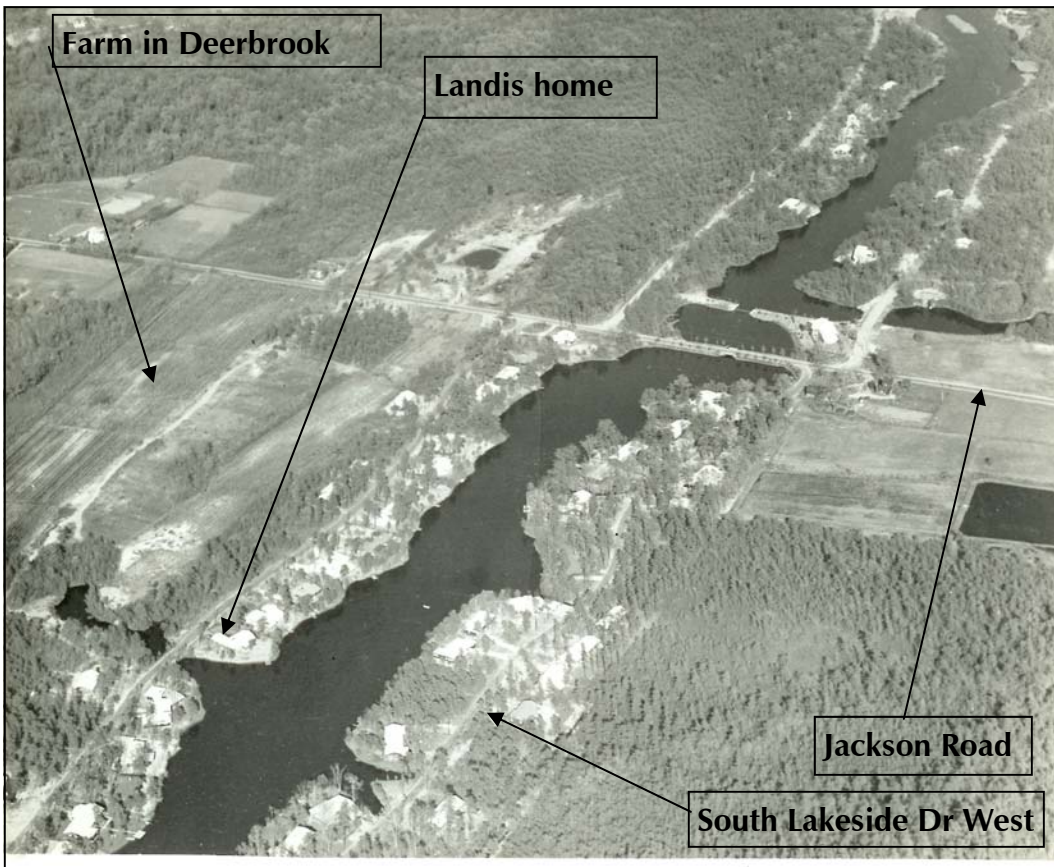
Elementary school children were picked up by bus at the corner of North Lakeside Drive West and Jackson Road to be taken to the Allen School in town. A bus shelter for the children was built by a resident, Dick Kidder. No high schools as they stand now, the children went to high school in Mount Holly and were picked up by bus at the corner of Stokes and Jackson Road. Lenape was built and the first graduating class was in 1961. Always active in the community, Landis was asked to lend his electronic organ for the ceremony and his daughter, Billie Ellen, played it for the graduating class. Billie Ellen graduated in 1963 and by then a piano had been purchased for the school.

The BLCC Clubhouse was built around 1961-62 by the men of the community headed by Dr. Kutteroff

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and Dick Kidder. Dr. Kutteroff lived at 21 NW Lakeside Drive and Mr. Kidder at 24NW Lakeside Drive.



Dick built the home at 24 which at the time was a lakefront lot! The lots at 26 and 28 NW Lakeside Dr. were under water and formed a small lake. Kidder, who was a builder by trade, said those two lots would always be a lake and never built on but years later they were filled in and homes put on them.

The first ball/athletic field was in the Deerbrook section off North Lakeside Drive West (beyond where John Rothwell now lives at 56 NW Lakeside). Ed Meyer already owned some property in Deer-

brook and the community traded our ball field with him to acquire the permanent location of the ball/athletic field which is located now in the area where the Clubhouse stands today. This gave our community a central location and permitted Mr. Meyer to go on and establish the Deerbrook community.

Winter ice skating was very popular during the evening hours. Homeowners would turn on their house spotlights and the reflections would make a nice glow on the lake. "Doc" Kutteroff would set up his "hot toddy" machine and many would gather around it to warm their innards and sing. And, at a reasonable hour, we all remembered to turn off those lights as we headed to bed and prepared for another day. If you didn't turn off the lights, that 'glow' could be quite annoying to your neighbors!

The annual Fourth of July parade was always a popular event. How pleased I was to have the 'little boy' John Rothwell remember those days. When he once again moved into our community with his family and he reinstated that event. Now I believe there will be many more memories of our parades.

Another annual event was in the month of August. Residents of both lakes would form a 'Flotilla' and float down the Upper Lake to the Jackson Road dam. There we would carefully carry our floats to the Lower Lake and proceed down the lake to the beach for a picnic. Floats were mostly inner tubes filled with one

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or two persons, happy, laughing, waving, calling all the way. One boat with an electric motor was with the group—just in case it was needed for anyone in distress.

End of the Summer season was the annual Clam Bake held on the beach. Fresh clams, corn, hot dogs and hamburgers, baseball games, horseshoes and swimming events were held on Labor Day.

Winter months brought TGIF home gatherings; progressive dinners, Christmas dinner, etc., much like what goes on these days. Birchwood was always a friendly, social community.

We all look forward to the day the lakes are filled with water once again. The 'Thousand Year Flood' - never again—grateful neighbors appreciating what a community can do as we work together. I look forward to the boats on the lake, the children and adults fishing again, and maybe someday there will be a walkway along Jackson Road to enable adults, children, dogs, runners and bikers safe journeys around the lakes. Communities are growing around us, bike paths are needed, green acres need to be saved and cars need to slow down as they travel through our development and we travel through theirs.

Early day Medford had a fire department, one liquor store/bar at Braddock's Restaurant (tavern—with the family living upstairs), we had a police chief, our market was on Stokes Road near Medford Lakes in the strip where Binkley's is (and Binkley's was there too), the Atlantic Gas station was where Weichert Real Estate is now, and the Sunoco gas station was Ed Meyers Real Estate office where we went to buy and sell



our homes. Most memorable was 1958, a Spring snow fall that was 18 inches deep. Lost power for three days. Stokes Road from Jackson to Medford village was closed because of high drifts.

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If you review your January 2006 Birch Log (you can see it on the BLCC web site) you will see just how small our club still was in 1958. Remember, the Birchwood Lakes Colony Club was only incorporated on March 25, 1954 by Dr. Kutteroff. While I was elected V.P. Finance, I also held the additional jobs of: Budget, Publicity, News, Education and Ways & Means. Additionally, through the years, I was also on a committee to insure that docks did not get carried away in size—a reasonable standard size was established that could extend out over the lake. If the home owners wanted a bigger dock, they could build whatever size they wanted over their land. No boat motors, no floating swim docks, just keep the water as open as possible, no fences on lakeside edges.

My career kept me traveling and I took time out from the Club until I retired in 1982 and again became active in Club work. I was once again elected to be Financial Secretary and later I was President for two years. It was during this time our property V.P. Ed Eck was killed while parking his car at his place of business in Philadelphia.

Our President, Sam Tricass, said to me, “What are we going to do about a Property chairman?”. Ed had been his own committee. He did all the work. After a few days I offered to take the job. I had a great committee and divided the lake into four regions, Northwest, Southwest, Northeast and Southeast. Whipple, Noller, Seavy and Bessey were the crew. At the next Club meeting we discussed our annual clean up day. Someone suggested we have a name for it and Shelia McGinn suggested—“Why not call it Ed Eck day?” and that was the start of our semi-annual clean up that goes on today. That first “Ed Eck Day” was on May 4, 1985.



Later I served as a Board member. Now I sit on my porch and rock, read, play Yahtzee. I think of all the good times, good people, good food, good friends and wish I could bend more easily, rake those leaves, cut the grass, walk a dog, dig a hole. I thank God I can be a good neighbor, husband, friend and enjoy each day in the sun and the moon come up and shine down on this earth and the community of Birchwood Lakes continues to be what it has been, what it is and I am here to enjoy it all.

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### ***A BLCC THANKS***

Another Ed Eck Day, that Landis told us the history of its creation, has passed. Again residents came out and helped keep the BLCC property maintained. Thanks! *Bill Brown*