

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Thank you to our former General Manager, Mr. Tim Fall. Your four years of guidance helped steer the future of White Birch Lakes down the correct path. The electronic accounting system and record keeping you established has given our association a solid foundation. This foundation will allow White Birch Lakes to continue growing and improving. We are indebted to you for the relationships and friendships you nurtured.

Thank you to our new General Manager, Mrs. Gail White. It has only been a few short weeks since you took your place as our new General Manager, but so much has been accomplished, I sometimes forget we only just began working together April 14th! I believe I speak on behalf of the entire Board of Directors in saying, "welcome home".

Thank you to our team of Directors. It is an honor and pleasure to serve on the White Birch Lakes Board of Directors with individuals who truly strive to keep the best interests of our entire Association as priority. Your integrity and your passion for this community are greatly appreciated. As a team we have taken some very large steps to ensure our future stability. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

A few months ago the Board of Directors created a Development Fund. The purpose of this fund is to set aside part of the White Birch Lakes income from lot assessments. Funds will be added each month to this account to build a savings balance that the Association can "fall back on". These funds could be used to cover an unexpected expense or future expansion of our Community. In our Communities past there was a time when an operating loan was necessary. By establishing this Development Fund it is the goal of the board to help create a more stable financial environment where the need for such a loan will not be necessary in the future.

I am very pleased to announce that the use of our website has continued to grow. To date we have 178 members who have registered for access to the member's only area of [www.whitebirch.org](http://www.whitebirch.org) and are now receiving regular email updates on upcoming events and can view this Birch Bark Newsletter online. Our website offers one of the best opportunities for better communication and information and will play a large role in our community's future. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to visit [www.whitebirch.org](http://www.whitebirch.org) and register today!

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve you,*  
**Todd J. Graham President, WBL Board of Directors**

**COMING EVENTS**

May 30	By-Laws Committee Meeting Anne Hobart: 588-6322
June 14	Board Meeting - 9 a.m.
June 15	Father's Day Breakfast Georgia Romine: 588-3155
June 16-26	Red Cross Swim Classes Louise Bryant: 588-9410
June 21	Garage Sales - Dick Brandt: 588-4213
July 19	Annual Meeting - 10 a.m.
August 2	Annual Golf Outing Don Kuester: 588-0656

**MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST**

*Shown above are the fellows who cooked and served breakfast on Mother's Day. From left to right: Al Willowby, Marv Frayer, Chairman Fred Witchell, Joe Romine (the waitress with everything) and Bill Ferrell. The 80 some who attended enjoyed a breakfast of juice, fruit, scrambled eggs, pancakes, and sausage. The men are looking forward to their turn when the women will be serving up breakfast for Father's Day. Steak and eggs have been asked for.*

**RED CROSS SWIMMING CLASSES**

Red Cross Certified swim classes will be held at the WBL pool beginning Monday June 16, 2003. Eight morning classes are scheduled for all levels of swimming ability. The cost of the classes is \$20.00 for White Birch Lakes members and \$30.00 for guests of members. For information and applications contact Louise Bryant, Lot #1, 4941 White Birch Lane. Phone her at home, 588-6990, her office, 588-9410 or by cell at 989-240-5894 or email [lab4424@yahoo.com](mailto:lab4424@yahoo.com). Classes will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for two consecutive weeks. Mail or drop off applications in the wooden box at Louise's back door.

## REGULATIONS OF ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

This statement includes Lincoln Township zoning ordinances and White Birch Lakes regulations previously established.

A. Where the accessory structure is attached to a main structure\*, it shall be subject to and must conform to all regulations established by Lincoln township and White Birch Lakes regarding main structures. Detached accessory structures shall not be erected in any front yard.

B. An accessory structure cannot exceed one (1) story or have side walls exceeding 10 feet in height. In no instance shall the square footage of any accessory structure exceed 960 square feet. Total square footage of any accessory structure may also not exceed the square footage of the ground floor of the main structure.

C. All accessory structures require White Birch Lakes Environmental Committee approval, including structures totaling less than 100 square feet.

D. When an accessory structure is located on a corner lot, it must be constructed so the view of traffic will not be restricted from either road.

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Tuesday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Wednesday: Closed  
Thursday: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Saturday: 9:00 am - 12 noon

### POOL HOURS:

Monday: 10 am - 8:30 pm  
Tuesday: 10 am - 3:30 pm  
Wednesday: Closed  
Thursday: 9:00 am - 7:30 pm  
Friday: 10 am - 3:30 pm  
Saturday: 9:00 am - 8:30 pm

## FROM THE MAILBOX

Comments from WBLRA members, in good standing, are welcome in future publications in this column. Topics should be limited to items of interest for the betterment of all WBLRA members and/or environs. This is an opportunity for members to make their views known on matters pertaining to the well being and operation of the Association. Announcements, inquiries, or thank yous will not be accepted. Contributions should be typed or clearly written, double spaced, and not exceeding 200 words. for verification purposes, submissions must be signed and include a phone number. Inclusion of material will be the decision of the staff. Due to space limitations, submissions are subject to editing. It is the hope of the management and staff that the changes introduced into the Birch Bark will make for an informative publication, as well as being pleasing to the eye. We will try when space permits, to include photos of events showing our members both at work and at play. Also, we would like to include advertisements. This will not only help your business but will go towards defraying the cost of this publication. If you are interested in this aspect, please contact the manager. The editor welcomes your comments anytime. Comments may be sent by email to:  
[whitebirch48622@yahoo.com](mailto:whitebirch48622@yahoo.com).

## CORNER

There has been a major concern of several lot owners as to canvas tent structures. The Environmental Protection Committee addresses this matter at their May 8 meeting. The following pages in your covenants and restrictions booklet describe this restriction:

Page 8 - G. Restrictions of Temporary Structures

Page 10- Number 6, Disapproval by the committee, See B

The committee feels that you can use this type of temporary structure for special occasion, but then they must be removed when the event is over.

### Registration for Camping:

This year campers are asked to register their camping units, RVs, watercraft and golf carts. When registering ORVs make sure you have proof of ownership. Please fill out your camping registration form at the clubhouse. Stickers can be mailed to you.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

All watercraft that was not properly tagged with a White Birch Lakes sticker has been removed from the lakes and are secured. Please contact Fred Witchell at 588-6797. All watercraft must have WBL sticker to be on our lakes.

**CAMPFIRES:** Please be safety wise in having a campfire this camping season. Never leave them unattended as our woods are precious to us.

## ANNUAL YARD SALE

One Day Only  
**June 21, 2003**

This is your opportunity to join with other White Birch Lakes families in a mammoth yard sale day.  
*Sales held at your lot*

Advertising and maps provide ID to your site

Register your site **NOW!**

Call Dick Brandt  
**588-4213**

### REMINDERS:

Regulations are being enforced. Assessments must be paid to use any facilities. Call the office to arrange for your payment plan.

2004 Member Card stickers are available at the office.

Nomination letters for Board of Directors must be in by June 10th to be included in the June Birch Bark.



## ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

EAGLE GLEN GOLF  
COURSE  
*of Farwell*

11:00 am Saturday,  
August 2nd, 2003

\$45.00 includes the  
following:

18 holes of golf with cart  
Lunch served at the turn  
One Mulligan

PRIZES FOR:  
Closest to the pin  
Longest Drive  
Longest Putt  
Door Prizes

Contact Chairman  
DON KUESTER  
**588-0656**

*The Birch Bark is the official publication of*  
**WHITE BIRCH LAKES RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
 4730 Lake Road - Farwell, Michigan 48622  
 Office: 989-588-2853 Fax: 989-588-4924

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**THE BIRCH BARK STAFF**

Gail White, General Manager	588-2853	Phyllis BeGole	588-0307
Bill Ferrell, Editor	588-6954	Joe "Scoop" Romine	588-3155

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Todd Graham
1st Vice President	Tom Dorcey
2nd Vice President	Marvin Richardson
Directors:	Robert Adair
	Chuck Bailey
	Larry Franklin
	Scott Hayer
Secretary/Treasurer	Priscilla Moore

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Activities	Shirley Brandt	588-4321
By-Laws	Anne Hobart	588-6322
Campgrounds	Fred Witchell	588-6797
Environmental	Chick Witchell	588-6797
Future Planning	Merle Harmon	588-4184
Golf Outing	Don Kuester	588-0656
Nominating	Marv Richardson	588-3598
Security/Safety	Fred Witchell	588-6797

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**CONDENSED MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

The May 10, 2003 meeting was called to order by President Todd Graham at 9:00 am All board members were present.

For the month of April the Treasurer reported income of \$34,479.68 and expenses of \$31,969.80, leaving cash on hand of \$222,497.04. Moved and carried to accept report.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** Secretary-Treasurer Priscilla Moore was presented an appreciation plaque for "Service above and beyond the call of duty" for her hard work during the manager transition. Our entrance gate is inoperative due to a programming glitch. Proximity cards will work, but entering a code will not. The manager and several volunteers have been working to get the program back online. Ron Tagg had resigned as Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee and replaced by Chick Witchell, lot #648, who stepped down from her security position. The new head of security is Fred Witchell, who brings a lot of experience with safety and rescue to this committee.

A by-laws committee had been appointed consisting of nine members: Salvatore Scozzari, lot #1375, Chick Witchell, lot #648, Thomas Forman, lot #495, Barb Adair, lot #60, Theresa Obrecht, lot #251, Joe Romine, lot #542, Marvin Richardson, lot #550, Todd Graham, lot #957 and the committee chairperson Anne Hobart, lot #454. Operating under the supervision of the manager, a Birch Bark staff consisting of Phyllis Begole, lot #6638, Bill Ferrell, lot #397 and Joe Romine, lot #542 has been appointed.

As stated at the April board meeting, membership privileges include, but are not limited to, the use of the clubhouse, pool, lakes, campgrounds, pavilion, serving on a committee, voting, and obtaining property improvement permits. Suspension of membership will remain until all assessments are paid in full, or a monthly or quarterly agreement has been signed and adhered to. Assessments still outstanding for this fiscal year amount to \$178,125. The amount outstanding for all previous years is \$585,658, for a total of \$760,783.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Don Kuester, lot #656, expressed his position on the usage of White Birch Lakes by non-members. He asks that anyone agreeing that the practice is in violation and should be corrected. Contact him or send an e-mail to pimealumni@yahoo.com. He is also circulating a petition to this effect. Joe Romine, lot #542, advised that he has been in contact with All State Lock concerning installing an electric door lock at the pool entrance to prevent unshowered person, and others who avoid pool attendants, from entering the pool area.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Environmental Protection Committee - Chick Witchell presented her report on approvals. Four new houses bring our residences to 277. Letters were sent to members who have parked junk cars and unlicensed vehicles on their lots. Removal has been good. Concerning canvas structures she referred to page 8, Section J which prohibits the use of temporary structures. Campers are asked to fill out a camping registration form. Stickers will be mailed, delivered, or can be picked up at the office. Future Planning Committee - Merle Harmon reported that their primary goal is to research and present recommendations. Form the results of last year's questionnaire they concluded to focus on lake improvement, campground lots, and ORV designated areas. Campground Committee - Fred Witchell reported activity had increased at the campground and that personnel are helping and giving out information on how to register. Unidentified boats have been removed from the lakes and put in storage. Contact him if you are missing a boat. Nominating Committee - Marv Richardson reminded anyone interested in running for the Board this year to send a letter of intent to the office by the end of this month to be included in the June issue of the Birch Bark. Security Committee - Fred Witchell said the duties of the security personnel have been modified and include watching for and reporting any violations of White Birch rules and regulations and identified violators will be dealt with. ORV's and similar vehicles must bear White Birch sticker and ORV operators will be stopped and given pertinent rules. For complaint of speeders furnish a license plate number and the police will be contacted for information about the owner who will be contacted. Activities Committee - The manager read Shirley Brandts report. The "Chub Club" has been started. Garage sales are scheduled for June 21. There are flyers giving details. Shirley needs someone to chair the July 4th Parade and Picnic. Contact her if interested. By-Laws Committee - Anne Hobart stated the charge to the committee is to look at the entire set of by-laws and to recommend revisions to the board.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** The Birch Bark staff has met twice. Bill Ferrell agreed to be the editor. We are considering a format change to four columns and pursuing a printer to do the printing, folding and sealing, or some combination thereof, as well as bulk mailing. The goal is to have an issue each month following the board meeting. Members comments will be welcomed in a column called "Outta the Mailbox". At the

**CONDENSED MINUTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3....**

campground the new water heater has been installed, the shower floor is peeling badly and concerning the leasing of a grader or purchasing a better one. Brining of the roads will be done before the Memorial Day weekend. Broken windows in the office have been replaced. New mats have been placed in the shower area to help alleviate slip and falls. The parts for the Teal Lake pump have been ordered. There has been some success with people making arrangements for paying assessment fees. Arrangements are being made to rewrite the existing mortgage to lower the interest rate from 8.75% to 1% above the prime cap. The manager needs a resolution from the board authorizing someone to sign for White Birch. The 2004 card membership stickers are ready for members in good standing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** A collection policy for White Birch Lakes was presented. There was a discussion concerning the necessity for building privacy walls in the men's shower area. A price of \$1,095 plus freight has been submitted for purchase. Motion to buy passed. Chuck Bailey moved that the manager pursue the refinance loan and be given the authority to sign all pertinent papers. Motion carried. Marv Richardson made a motion for the manager to obtain a White Birch credit card. Passed. Following a discussion the manager is to obtain bids as to the purchase of an electric lock for the pool area. Larry Franklin moved that there be a non-renewal of access gate codes except to businesses and legal entities and to issue proxy cards to all members. The motion was tabled and sent to the Security Committee for proposals and recommendations. Members are asked to send their opinions to a card system only.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:** Bob Pelfry, lot #527, suggested giving contractors an access code synonymous with lot where they are working and when the work is completed delete the number. Dave Obrecht, lot #251, stated his concerns with the amount of past assessments owing. He suggested lowering assessments to keep more paying members rather than losing paying ones due to high assessments. Theresa Obrecht, lot #251, stated her concern about the financial position of the Association and submitted her version of the revised budget which was circulated among the board. Barb Adair, lot #61 commented that responsibility of monitoring and overseeing ORV's should be given to one committee only. She also felt assessments were fair. Debbie Garrish, lot 373 and 374 offered her services as a volunteer for whatever was needed. Tom Smith, lot #318, entered his complaint about speeders on Wolf Lane. Sal Scozzari, lot 1375, would like to see a shelter for the school children as they wait for the bus. He objected to the board giving authority to the manager to sign for financial commitments. Chuck Adams, lot #68, commented about speeding on Mockingbird and described his experience with 2 speeding vehicles, whose license numbers he turned in. He also stated his objection to a dumpster lodged at a residence on White Birch Lane. Joe Romine, lot #542, explained the procedure for finding out who is using a proximity card. He commented on the issue of getting volunteers and that very few persons sign up leaving the same people to do the work. Don Kuester, lot #656, proposed that on the use of lakes that each guest must be accompanied by a member in good standing, that watercraft must have a sticker, the member must be liable for the actions of the guest, and in the event the member cannot accompany the guest, a member must get a one day, non-renewable, pass for the guest. Terry Obrecht, lot #251, submitted a letter disagreeing with the inclusion of board members and employees on the by-laws committee. Sal Scozzari added his agreement. Shirley Ferrell, lot #397, commented about how long it took to get enough people to sign up for the by-laws committee. She said in her experience there had been a slow, little, or no response to requests for volunteers.

*(The minutes of this meeting may be obtained in their entirety from the White Birch website: [www.whitebirch.org](http://www.whitebirch.org) or by contacting the office.)*