



The Birch Bark

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association

4730 Lake Road, Farwell, Michigan 48622

Office: (989) 588-2853 Fax: (989) 588-4924 Security: (989) 588-7066

December Issue

www.whitebirch.org

Volume 12a

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COMMUNITY EVENT & MEETING SCHEDULE

01/02/06	E.P.C.	Postponed
01/10/06	Board Workshop	7:00 P.M.
01/14/06	Board Meeting	9:00 A.M.
01/14/06	Seedlings & Saplings	After Board Mtg.
01/16/06	Conservation	6:30 P.M.
01/23/06	Communications	7:00 P.M.
02/05/06	Super Bowl Party	6:00 P.M.
02/22/06	Guest Speaker	7:00 P.M.
03/11/06	Raffle Award	At Board Mtg.

All events are at the clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

CLUBHOUSE HOURS

Monday	9:00 A.M.	9:00 P.M.
Tuesday	9:00 A.M.	5:00 P.M.
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	9:00 A.M.	9:00 P.M.
Friday	9:00 A.M.	5:00 P.M.
Saturday	10:00 A.M.	9:00 P.M.
Sunday	1:00 P.M.	5:00 P.M.

POOL HOURS December - January

Monday	4:00 P.M.	8:30 P.M.
Tuesday	Closed	
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	4:00 P.M.	8:30 P.M.
Friday	Closed	
Saturday	10:00 A.M.	8:30 P.M.
Sunday	1:00 P.M.	4:30 P.M.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	8:00 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Tuesday	8:00 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	8:00 A.M.	8:00P.M.
Friday	8:00 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Saturday	8:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.
Sunday	Closed	



POSTING TO COMMUNITY CORNER or EVENT SCHEDULE

For posting to the Community Corner, please contact Marilyn Lesperance **after** 1:00 P.M. at (989) 588-2184 or email: l02277@peoplepc.com



For posting to the Event Schedule, please contact Toni Passage at (989) 588-2483 or email: tonik45@hotmail.com

The Birch Bark

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Marty Perkins
1st Vice President	Ken Passage
2nd Vice President	Al Isaac
Director	Dave Conley
Director	Marvin Frayer
Director	Scott Hayer
Director	Dan Holzer
Secretary	Carrie Forfinski
Treasurer	Priscilla Moore

STAFF AND COMMITTEES

Activities	Toni Passage	588-2483
Campgrounds	Fred Witchell	588-6797
Communications	Terry Obrecht	588-0347
Conservation	Mike Turner	588-6496
Entrance	Theresa Turner	588-6496
Environmental	Chick Witchell	588-6797
Future Planning	Tom Crook	588-0202
Manager	Gail White	588-2853
Security	Tom Forman	588-7066
Seedlings &	Tina Hayer	588-0496
Saplings	Joe Romine	588-3155

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Board Members Present:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Marty Perkins. Present were 1st Vice President Ken Passage, 2nd Vice President Al Isaac, Directors, Dave Conley, Marv Frayer, Scott Hayer, Dan Holzer, Treasurer Priscilla Moore, Secretary Carrie Forfinski.

The Board of Directors:

Board heard treasure's report and approved payables.

Approved recommendations submitted by the Election Reform Committee.

Approved recommendations submitted by the Communications Committee.

Awarded McMahan, Thomson & Associates, P.C., a (3) year contract to provide financial audits starting with the 2004/2005 fiscal year.

Approved member survey for permanent sheds on undeveloped lots with minor changes to wording.

Accepted response letter from Mr. David Dreyer, the association legal counsel on the issue of constructing an emergency exit.

Awarded Rustin Lake Services next year's lake treatment contract.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Dear Members of WBLRA,

From my family to all of yours, we would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!!

With so many tragedies happening around the world, it makes me realize just how much our little community has to be thankful for.

I look around me and find that I have been blessed with many good friends that share so much, and give so freely of themselves, that it just fills my heart with joy.

I have seen a few neighborhoods,,, but the love and caring that I see here in our special little community is awesome. The hats and gloves for those in need, cookies, candies, breads, and holiday dishes being passed around like wild fire, all with a twinkle in the eye and the smile of true friendship and happiness!!!

What a great community we have here and what makes this time of year so great is all the giving without keeping score. With a little hope this same sense of neighborly goodwill will run throughout the entire new year.

So with this thought, I wish you all well and a safe holiday, see you NEXT YEAR!

Marty Perkins
President





COMMUNITY CORNER

- Our sincere thanks go to Betty Metz and Mike and Barbara Valensky for their generous donation of handmade hats and gloves for those in need.
- Special thanks to all of those who brought in the non-perishable goods for the Lake George Community Church Christmas baskets and those who brought in games for the Farwell High School to help families in need at Christmas time.
- We thank Girl Scout Troop #616 for presenting the new flag at the clubhouse with color guard on December 10th.
- Dave Conley celebrated his birthday on December 19th – Happy Birthday to You!
- Our thoughts and well wishes go out to Stan and Pat Graham and Barb Adair and her daughter.
- Thank you to Herb Breen for donating a beautiful handcrafted cabinet. Please see page 9 for raffle details.
- The Christmas party was a great success, good food, some Christmas trivia, a visit from Santa and a sing along. Many thanks to Helen Dorcey, Gina Frayer, Barb McColl and Georgia Romine for all their help.
- Better late than never, but thank you to those who volunteered and cleaned up our beaches and parks this last summer.
- The Conservation Committee will be inviting a series of guest speakers to help us better understand our natural environment and conservation issues.

MANAGERS NOTE

By Gail White

Starting January 1, 2006, there will be a \$5.00 per night Electric Charge for camping.

Please do not forget to unplug your camper when done camping.



SEEDLINGS & SAPLINGS

By Tina Hayer

Twas the night before the White Birch Christmas party when all through the clubhouse you could see many little children hanging up decorations.

We hung the stockings by the fireplace with great care in hopes that Santa would be at the party the next night and bring them something they could share.

It was a great night of laughing, food, and fun. I would like to thank all the grown-ups that helped clean up the glitter mess we made.

All the children got to make a Christmas bulb to take home for their own tree. They also got to make a bead wreath with craft supplies donated by Mrs. Glass.

Again thank you to Joe and Georgia Romine, Caroline Cheadle, Chick and Fred Witchell, and Mrs. Glass for all your help.

The fun didn't stop there. All the children got to see Santa the next night and decorate Christmas cookies.

Our next event will be a sledding party ... No date has been set yet.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are "FREE" and can be posted by members only. Ads must be submitted no later than the 15th of each month.
(Sorry, no real estate ads at this time)

WOMAN'S SNOWMOBILE HELMET

Woman's Rocket snowmobile helmet. Size medium with defroster. DOT approved, in excellent condition. Cobalt blue with gray, white and black decals, \$75.00. Call Terry at (989) 588-0347 or email: tmobrecht@ejourney.com

PERSON LOOKING TO MAKE EXTRA MONEY

Chopping logs into firewood on our lot #1069.
email: donfritzjr2003@yahoo.com

Classified ads expire monthly and are not automatically renewed. Ads are copied from the website and shown here to maximize exposure.
To insert a new or re-run an existing ad please email Terry Obrecht at: tmobrecht@ejourney.com



SUPER BOWL PARTY

The annual Super Bowl Party will be held at the clubhouse on Sunday Feb. 5, 2006, starting at 6:00pm. Kickoff is scheduled for 6:30pm. Don't forget to bring your own snacks.

The Activities Committee will be selling squares with 50% of the proceeds going to the 4th of July Picnic Fund. Squares will be posted at the clubhouse on January 2, 2006. For details contact Toni Passage at (989) 588-2483 or email: tonik45@hotmail.com

JUST ASK

If members have a question they would like to ask the board or a particular committee, you can do so here. Member questions and responses will be posted as soon as they are received from the person or group responsible for providing the answer.

Please limit your questions in good taste to 500 words and then mail them in care of the board member or group from which you would like a response.

You can also email questions to the addresses listed below:

Marty Perkins, President
floorpup@yahoo.com

Ken Passage, 1st Vice President
Liaison to Communications Committee
kpassage@hotmail.com

Al Issac, 2nd Vice President
Liaison to Future Planning Committee
ajjisaac@toast.net

Dave Conley, Director
Liaison to Activities Committee
manager@whitebirch.org

Marv Frayer, Director
Liaison to Campgrounds and Security
manager@whitebirch.org

Scott Hayer, Director
Liaison to Environmental Protection Committee
lakesidescott@yahoo.com

Dan Holzer, Director
Liaison to the Conservation Committee
manager@whitebirch.org



ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

Dave Conley	155	Ken Passage	164
Dan Holzer	133	Brian Kozlowski	102
Don Papesh	125	Marv Richardson	45

The Birch Bark

IMAGINE

By: Mike Turner, Chairman-Conservation Committee

Imagine walking up to a beautiful park on a high vista overlooking an emerald-colored lake.

As you walk into the park-like setting you stroll by the **gazebo** overlooking the beautiful **sugar sand beach**, you notice your neighbors sitting on the gazebo gazing out across the lake, you see children riding their bikes down the hill and parking their bikes in the **new bike racks**, there are several families enjoying the beach, some are sun bathing, some swimming and others are grilling burgers and hotdogs on the **new barbeque grills** by the picnic area. As you walk down the drive towards the lake you also notice there are several people out in the lake fishing from their canoes. You also notice there is a **swimming raft** out in the lake and the swimming area is well marked with **buoys defining the swimming area**. As you stroll through the park you pass the **well graded parking area** and notice there is now a **restroom** for members to use while enjoying the amenities of the park.

Sound nice?

This is how the Conservation Committee has envisioned the Timber Lake Beach Park.

The Conservation Committee has been busy planning projects for the betterment of WBLRA and the Timber Lake Beach Park is the area that was selected as the first project area to be proposed to the Board of Directors at the January Board Meeting.

Some of the projects that are being proposed are what some members may simply view as maintenance of the current amenities and facilities. Some may view the projects as a way to improve the facilities.

The Conservation Committee felt that since White Birch has these beautiful natural areas, they should be improved and maintained for all members to enjoy. Since Timber Lake Beach Club receives so much use during the summer it was felt that this area would be a great area to improve and maintain.

IMAGINE continued ...

Other proposed projects include:

- Testing each lake for *E.coli*. This will let the members **know for sure** that the lakes are **safe** to swim in.
- Placing porta-potties at each beach area.
- Placing garbage cans at each park area.
- Educational and informational speakers series for WBL Members

The first Speakers Series will be Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00pm at the WBL Clubhouse. Roger Lintemuth, Northern Program Coordinator for the Michigan Exotic Forest Pest Program for MSU-Extension will be the presenter. Come out listen to Roger and ask questions that evening.



LOCAL NUMBERS FOR REFERENCE

Clare County Animal Control	989-539-2458
Clare County Sheriff	989-539-7166
Clare County Transit	989-539-1473
Clare County Treasurer	989-539-7801
Consumers Energy	1-800-477-5050
Farwell Board of Education	989-588-9917
Farwell Bus Garage	989-588-9111
Farwell Post Office	989-588-2889
Lincoln Township Fire Dept.	989-588-9402
Lincoln Township Treasurer	988-588-2574
Mid-Michigan Medical Center	989-802-5000
Mid-Michigan Urgent Care	989-386-9911
Poison Control (National)	1-800-222-2122

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CARMEL CHOCOLATE PECAN BARS

Crust

- 2 Cups All-Purpose Flour
- 1 Cup Firmly Packed Brown Sugar
- 1/2 Cup Butter (softened)
- 1 Cup Pecans

Filling

- 1/2 Cup Firmly Packed Brown Sugar
- 2/3 Cup Butter
- 1/2 Cup Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 1/2 Cup Butterscotch or Peanut Butter Chips

Heat Oven to 350.

For Crust:

In large mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar and butter. With mixer, beat at medium speed for 2-3 minutes, scraping bowl often, until particles are fine. Press to bottom of ungreased 13x9x2 baking pan. Sprinkle nuts over crust.

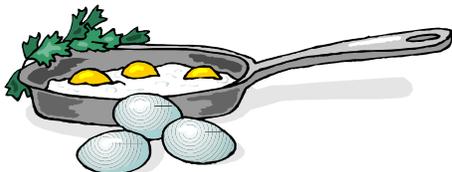
For Filling:

In a small sauce pan, combine sugar and butter, stirring constantly over medium heat until mixture comes to a full boil, 4 to 5 minutes. Boil until candy thermometer reaches 242 or drop a small amount of mixture into a bowl of ice water. Filling is done if a small ball forms. Pour over pecans and crust. Bake for 18-20 minutes or until entire carmel layer is bubbling. Remove from oven and immediately sprinkle with chocolate or butterscotch chips.

Let stand 3-5 minutes. Take a sharp knife and swirl chips around on top leaving some chips whole for a marble effect. Let cool then cut into bars.

ENJOY, THIS RECIPE IS A GOODIE,,,

Marty Perkins



**FUNDRAISER RAFFLE FOR OAK CABINET
MADE BY HERBERT BREEN**

One of our long time members, Herbert Breen, has made a gorgeous cabinet. It is made out of oak and shows true craftsmanship.

The cabinet measures 15 3/4" wide, 21 1/2" long and stands 25 1/4" high, has one exposed shelf and an internal storage area with two privacy doors and is stained in golden oak and protected with a polyurethane finish.

He would like to raffle off this beautiful piece with all the proceeds going towards the new playground equipment. This is truly a generous donation and it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Herbert Breen from all the White Birch children.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Tickets will be sold from January 14, 2006 until March 11, 2006 and can be purchased from Joe Romine, Tina Hayer, at the clubhouse, or through the mail.

If purchasing tickets through the mail, please send a check to White Birch Lakes Recreational Association in c/o of Tina Hayer. Don't forget to include your name and phone number so Tina or Joe can contact you if you are the winner!

The winner will be announced at the March Board Meeting!

MEMBER SURVEY – PERMANENT STORAGE SHEDS

Recent board meetings have discussed the desirability of revising our Covenants and Restrictions (C&R) to allow the construction of storage sheds on campers' privately owned lots. Any such revision will require a vote by the membership, at a cost to the association. Before a decision is made on whether or not to initiate this voting process, the Environmental Protection Committee and Board of Directors would like to survey member sentiments on this issue.

If you wish to respond to the questions below, either (1) write your answers on this form and mail or hand deliver it to the clubhouse (White Birch Lakes Recreational Association, 4730 Lake Drive, Farwell, MI 48622) or (2) send your response via email to (manager@whitebirch.org). You must identify yourself by name and lot number for your opinions to be tabulated (only one response per member household, please). Please understand that these responses do **not** constitute a binding vote to allow or prohibit sheds; this is only a membership opinion survey that will be taken into consideration by the board..

1. Should the C & R be changed to permit a storage shed on a camping lot? (If such sheds are to be allowed, the EPC will establish specifications, and EPC approval will be required before construction can proceed.)

_____ Yes, the C&R should be revised to allow camper storage sheds.

_____ No, do NOT revise the C&R to allow camper storage sheds.

2. If your answered yes above, what do you think should be the maximum allowable shed size on campers' lots? (dimensions, or square feet)

3. As a possible alternative to allowing storage sheds on campers' lots, would you be in favor having the Association build a multi-unit storage facility at the old maintenance area, where members could rent space for storage?

_____ Yes, this sounds like a good option.

_____ No, bad idea, I'm against it.

4. Do you have other opinions on the subject of sheds and storage you wish to have considered?

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

In order to achieve the board's goal of improving the associations' communications, a new working committee has been formed.

One of the responsibilities of the committee is the production of the newsletter. A few of the recommended changes and improvements have been incorporated into this month's edition.

In order for members to receive accurate information, one such improvement will be that The Birch Bark will no longer be publishing "Unapproved" board meeting minutes. This month's edition only contains highlights of the December meeting.

Starting with the January newsletter, highlights from the current month's board meeting and the approved minutes from the previous month will be published. This insures that members will be receiving up to date information on board actions, while making sure that meeting minutes reflect corrections and board requested changes before publication.

Being that communications should work both ways, the new 'Just Ask' section has been made available so members can write the board or other committees and receive answers back in a timely manner. Questions and answers will be published for members to review.

New items have been incorporated in this month's edition and include a 'Classified Ad' section where members can list items for sale, member furnished 'Recipe of the Month', and room for paid advertising.

We are also very much aware that the majority of members do not reside within the association so we will always try to provide non-residents, either by direct mail, emailing or telephone, a means to participate in association sponsored activities including raffles and contests.

This is your association and your newsletter. The only way we can keep you informed on the things that matter to you is to hear from you. If you have any comments, suggestions, concerns, or if there are features you would like to see here, please let us know."

WEBSITE TO BE UPDATED

The Communications Committee has also been charged with updating and maintaining the "Official" White Birch Lakes Recreational Association website (www.whitebirch.org).

Exciting things are planned to enhance the site and promote member interaction.

Some updates include:

- All new look!
- New 'About Us' page that will show others what we already know—that White Birch is an incredible place with so much to offer!
- A new page in the 'Members Area' for the complete monthly income statement.
- 'Ask the Board' section where members can email the board and have their questions and responses posted.
- Fun link section and Farwell weather forecast.
- Updated Committee and Staff pages.
- New area for opinion polls and updates on member voting issues.

The Communications Committee will do the best they can to make both the newsletter and website fun and informative.

With an entirely new working committee and all the changes taking place, there are bound to be a few mistakes through this transitional period.

We thank you all in advance for your patience and forgiveness.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



From the Birch Bark!

The Birch Bark

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association
4730 Lake Road, Farwell, Michigan 48622

Return Service Requested

ADVERTISE IN THE BIRCH BARK

In an effort to us help cut related costs and to assist in supporting proposed changes to the production process, the Birch Bark is pleased to announce that it is once again offering the opportunity for businesses to advertise their products and services in the newsletter

If you are interested in advertising in the Birch Bark, please call 588-3338.

Please note that ads are not automatically renewed and payment must be made prior to listing.

Introductory Advertising Rate

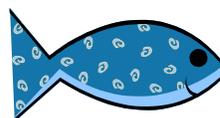
Business Card Size \$15.00 per month

Fees and Ads must be submitted by the 15th of each month preceding the next issue. Business cards must be “copy-ready” or clear enough for clean scanning.

Please make checks payable to White Birch Lakes Recreational Association and to the attention of:
The Birch Bark – Mary Perkins

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are moving, please be sure to contact the office at 989-588-2853, or email the manager at: manager@whitebirch.org to ensure uninterrupted delivery of your newsletter.



CHANGE IS COMING!

The “Official” White Birch Lakes Recreational Association website (www.whitebirch.org) is soon to be updated.

Please submit all articles for the “Birch Bark” newsletter no later than the Friday following the monthly board meeting. Articles can be addressed to the Communications Committee and dropped in the mailbox under the bulletin board at the clubhouse, mailed to the office or emailed to: kpassage@hotmail.com or tmobrecht@ejourney.com