

AUGUST 2014

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VOL. XXVI No. II

As I write this article it is a balmy 80 degrees and sunny. The last message I wrote to you, we were just ending a winter with numerous snow events. At this point the weather has been cooperative for BCL's social and recreational events. Our employees go over and above what is asked of them to make not only our events special but every day to ensure the safety of our members and to keep our community organized and pristine.

In this past year there have been instances of members being aggressive and disrespectful toward both employees and BCL's board members. If you have any questions or concerns about the rules or policies please call me through the office or come to a board meeting to air any grievances. The employees do not make the rules but it is their job to enforce them.

I would like to thank our Office, Maintenance, Badge Monitors and Lifeguard Staff for their continued hard work throughout the year. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their devotion and the countless hours they volunteer so that you may enjoy this splendid community. Thank you to the many volunteers that offer their time and talent for the safety and enjoyment of our members.

Let me end this message with a special anniversary wish to Bear Creek Lakes! You are the best community thanks to all those mentioned before. Thank you to the board members and volunteers for your planning and executing our 50th anniversary celebration. Let's work together to ensure the next 50 years are as great.

I hope to see you at the Fall Membership Meeting when the election of board members will take place. Enjoy the rest of 2014!

Todd Laudenschlager

TREASURERS REPORT

Happy 50th Anniversary to all of us at Bear Creek Lakes.

I am currently working with the Board on the budget for the fiscal year 2014 - 2015, which will be presented at the August 30th meeting.

The winter was hard on our budget. When all was said and done - because of all the winter storms, we ended up approximately \$10,000 over the budget for costs directly related to winter storms.

Other significant expenses since the last newsletter were the replacement of the pool heater for \$10,144 and door and window renovations at the pool and beach bath houses for \$5,582. Road repair/maintenance will be performed in September at a cost of approximately \$30,000.

The State has instituted a new annual dam registration fee, \$1500, beginning June 2014. Beginning January 2016, Pennsylvania DEP has a new requirement for Dam owners - Financial Responsibility for Dam Owners which is estimated to cost approximately \$3,000 each year.

The good news is we are turning 50. The bad news is we are turning 50. Meaning we have to invest in the future and stay on top of repairs and maintenance. Capital reserves will be an important focus of the budget process.

Marc Beerman

BEAR CREEK LAKES

Office: 570-325-3334
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WWW.BCLCA.ORG

SATURDAY, AUG. 30st, 10A.M.

FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
PENN FOREST TWP. VOL. FIRE CO #1 RT. 903
Elect 5 Board Members
Approve 2014-2015 Budget

T.G.I.F.

Diana Bochantin

Well, T.G.I.F. was a success again this summer! We had lots of people come out and enjoy the great food and company. There were some new faces that were very welcomed. The food was great, as usual, and some of the recipes can be found in the Dam Cookbook. It's nice to see people using it. We enjoyed playing bocce after filling up on goodies. It was a good way to work off some of the calories. This summer the women actually beat the men a few times.

Sadly after Labor Day we will not have T.G.I.F. until the Christmas party on December 19 in Stewart Hall. Then we will look forward to our Spring Fling at the end of the winter. Remember this is a great way to meet your neighbors and have a great time.



CHILDREN'S FISHING CONTEST

Sandy and Gary Benedick

We had a great day this year for the Children's Fishing Tournament! Twenty children of various ages registered and fished while their families watched or assisted them. We had 4 age categories, but only 3 were necessary, since no one from the 0-5 year old age group came out to fish. The winner of the 6-9 age group was Elke Staver with a 17 and a 1/4 inch bass. The winner of the 10-12 group was Remy Staver with a 21 inch pickerel and the winner of the 13-15 age group was Adam Houser with a 17 inch bass. With members of the John Wargo family in attendance, the Wargo Family Sportsmanship Trophy was awarded to Marielle Conners, who was chosen from the many great candidates present that day. We had gorgeous weather and a fun time was had by all! The event was topped off by hot dogs and drinks after the many prizes were awarded. Many thanks to all who assisted us, including Denis McCaig, Henry Geyer and Alex Stasyk. We would like to note that every possible attempt is made to release all of the fish unharmed. Photos taken by Edie Boyer can be found on the BCL website. See you next summer!

PIG ROAST

Pat Stasyk

As usual we had a sell out for the pig roast. This event is always a good time – good food – good people – what else could you ask for. Next year please call early for your tickets.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Pat Stasyk

Once again we had a good summer with a lot of different activities. Hope you got a chance to enjoy some of them. Please be sure to check the recreation schedule in the newsletter. Any given event is only a success if we have people to participate. Let's keep BCL a recreational community. Please remember to wear your badges to all BCL events.

TEA

Pat Stasyk

We had 42 ladies who enjoyed an afternoon of tea, food and companionship at our "Beach" tea. It is such a nice treat to see all the ladies having fun. Thank you to all who made the food and served. A special thank you to Edie Boyer who made all our centerpieces, they were beautiful.

GOLF CART PARADE

Pat Stasyk

What a great day we had for our annual golf cart parade. A huge thank you to Beth Shrum and her husband Todd for doing an excellent job with the kid's games. All the kids had a ball. Linda and George Kunkle did a super job with the golf carts and bicycles. Kim, Alexandra and MacKenzie Caven did an excellent job at the registration table.

Greg Schaffling handled the traffic along with some friends who did a fine job. Thanks to all, who helped in any way to make the parade a success.

PARADE RESULTS:

Golf Carts

1. Meg & Glen Nelson
2. Dobbs
3. Ron McCloskey

Bicycles

1. Marie Zeloye
2. Nikki Ivan
3. Rosu Incorvaia

50th ANNIVERSARY

Pat Stasyk

I would like to thank the committee members for the 50th anniversary. Ann Laudenschlager, Edie Boyer, Kathy Wagner, Colleen Bradley, Steve Sosnowski, Marty Palmer, Bill Malone and John Klaiber for all their hard work in putting this anniversary celebration together. Hopefully August 8, 9 and 10 were sunny and bright (no rain).

LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

Jack Knorr

I would like to thank all the volunteers for clean-up day and planting of the flowers. Great Job!!

ICE CREAM NIGHT

Jack Knorr

As usual ice cream night was a huge success. I want to thank all the volunteers who helped.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE

Kathy Wagner

As I write this we're in the middle of a heat wave and working with the Recreation Committee to finalize the flyers and the Program for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Hard to believe that by the time you all read it the celebration will be behind us and we'll be approaching Labor Day. Hope you all got a chance to enjoy the celebration of our Community. I'm really happy to report that our new and improved website (huge thank you to Barb Godshalk, our terrific webmaster!) has been very popular. In fact, during the week of July 3rd we hit an all-time high in activity.

What are the most popular areas of the site? After the homepage, the five most popular items are below:

1. Calendar of Events
2. Buying or Selling Information
3. Unwanted and Needed items
4. Community news
5. Association News

Fridays and Saturdays are the most popular days for accessing the site as Members plan their weekend activities. And we had lots of folks reading our spring newsletter and accessing the Rule Book and the flyers for various events online.

Haven't checked out the website yet? Be sure to visit us at www.bclca.org.

Editor's note – Thanks Kathy for all your support. It's much appreciated.

STEWART HALL COMMITTEE

Jack Knorr

Just a reminder, when you rent the hall, please read your contract and the information on the refrigerator in the hall kitchen. You must leave the hall as you found it. Remove all trash, decorations and clean up as needed. Have a great fall and winter.

Editor's note: Beginning 1/1/2015 the rental fee for Stewart Hall will be \$50.00.

4th ANNUAL BCL 5K RUN/3K FUN WALK

Marty Palmer

Please come out to the annual BCL 5K Run/walk on Saturday, August 23rd. The run and walk will start at 9 am with registration starting at 8:30 am. All money raised for this year's race will go directly to local Boy Scout troop 555-Penn Forest Township.

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BCL 9th ANNUAL COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Ron McCloskey

I am happy to report that the 9th annual Bear Creek Lakes community yard/garage sale was a huge success. The weather was beautiful & there were plenty of people shopping. I checked with security & there were zero complaints filed. Other than a few traffic jams everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Indian Trail had the most homes (9) followed by Bear Creek Lake Drive (7) participating. A total of 67 homes many multi signed up to be on the maps. The Mt. View section had 10 homes signed up this year. This year I received a few suggestions. One was to have maps at the office to pass out on Saturday. I honestly feel that the ladies at the office have more than enough work to do but I will speak to them regarding this. Another suggestion was to have a separate weekend for the Mt. View section. I believe that would be up to Mt. View to decide. I did hear that for the most part Sunday was a flop. Next year I'm thinking of just advertising for Saturday only & have Sunday as the rain date. Any other suggestions you can call me at 570-325-5348 & leave a message. Next year's tentative dates are June 20th & 21st. I would once again like to thank Barb Godshalk & Bob Skiffington for all the work they do on the maps. They hit it out of the park again this year. The two questions I'm often asked are 1) how much does it cost to participate? The answer is nothing. The Bear Creek Lakes civic Association pays the cost for advertising in The Focus & the Times News. Question # 2) is do I have to get in on the maps? Answer is no. If you decide at the last minute you'd like to participate all you need to do is put out your signs. Let's try to make next year's 10th annual yard sale the best ever.

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PASTA DINNER

Sue Whiteley

This year's Pasta Dinner will be on Friday, October 3, at 6:00 PM in Stewart Hall. Tickets are still \$8.00 pp! Tickets will be available at the general meeting. We will have a variety of pasta dishes, salad and bread. BYOB and bring a dessert to share if you would like. Contact Sue Whiteley for info. Whiteley@ptd.net or 570-325-2549

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Bill Malone

It is mid-July and again all is quiet. There have been no reports of any major incidents. If you have any security problems please contact security, the number is 570-325-9322. We cannot follow up any complaints made if you do not make a report. Many thanks to all the crime watch volunteers who help keep our community safe and secure. If you see them out and about please give them a wave. Please treat all BCL personnel and volunteers with respect. The month of June security issued 20 citations for a variety of infractions. (Such as fireworks, loose dogs, speeding, etc.). If you have any questions or doubt please check the Rule Book. These rules and regulations are for the safety and security of all our BCL residents and anyone visiting our beautiful community. Your cooperation in abiding by them will be appreciated. Thank you and have a great time enjoying our beautiful fun filled recreational community. Have a happy safe time enjoying the rest of summer. Keeping the faith that this coming winter will be kinder to us. Thanks again and Enjoy!

PLEASE PLACE A BCL STICKER ON THE REAR OF YOUR VEHICLE.

Editor's note – Securities email: SECURITY@BCLCA.ORG

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Pat Stasyk

I would like to thank Barb Godshalk for all her hard work with the newsletter. It's a big job and she does it so well. Good job Barb. Also, Alex Stasyk and his friends deliver the newsletter or take them to the post office to be mailed. No one knows the work that is involved with getting the newsletter ready. Thanks again to Barb and Alex and all those who helped.

Please be responsible for anything you put on our bulletin boards. Advertisers and members (in good standing) may use the bulletin boards. Thanks to Jack Knorr for doing the marquee at the entrance to BCL.

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Kevin McGrath

I say this every time but I have to say it again, THANK YOU! On behalf of the board, I want to thank all of our members who faithfully pay their association dues on time each year! Our dues collections have been strong this year.

The board recognizes that some people may be having some hard financial times. If you are struggling to pay your association fees, please let us know so that we can make some payment arrangement. We will do our best to work with our members. Once accounts are turned over to our attorney the costs can mount quickly.



FIRST ANNUAL ADULT FUND RAISER FISHING CONTEST

Gary and Sandy Benedick

We had a great turnout for the 1st Annual Adult Fishing Contest Fund Raiser held June 14, 2014! Congratulations to the winners, Robert Yosua, who won in the Artificial Lures category with a 3 lb 8 oz Bass, and Bill Davenport, winner of the Live Bait category with a 3 lb 14oz Bass! A total of 10 bass were caught and released that windy morning. There is a Plaque on the wall inside Stewart Hall with the winner's names on it. We also held a Silent Auction for the rod and reel which was donated back to us by Mary Sue Ackerman (Thanks Mary Sue!), who had won it at the Spring Meeting. The winner of the Silent Auction was John Kelly. We want to thank everyone who came out and participated, donated, and assisted us in this event! Special Thanks to Todd Wagner, Kathy Wagner, Margo Schaefer, and Tom Larney, for their help, and Pat and Alex Stasyk for cooking up the hot dogs to feed the hungry participants! We hope to make this an annual event to benefit increased fish stocking efforts in the lake. We would also like to thank everyone who donated money to our fund raiser jar at the Spring Meeting, and via hand delivered checks to us and the office! See you next June!

History Note - Roger Stewart created our trademark of the bear climbing a tree. After his passing in 1992, the Board of Directors renamed the recreation center, "Stewart Hall".



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LAKE/DAM COMMITTEE

Marc Beerman

It's hard to discuss the end of the summer season in the beginning of July, but article deadlines are necessary so that this newsletter can be produced in a timely fashion. Many thanks to our volunteer editor, Barbara Godshalk. With that said - hopefully the second half of your summer was as nice as the first half.

Part of our aggressive policy of maintaining the pristine nature of the lake for swimming, boating, and fishing, is the annual treatment to manage and control aquatic vegetation. Just as important in maintaining a healthy lake is developing and enforcing "Lake and Fishing" rules to protect the lake.

The rules apply to residents and renters. Members renting their home must inform renters of these rules. Only registered boats with valid BCL stickers are allowed on the lake. Guests and renters are not allowed to use their own boats. This helps to control invasive species and plants which have caused serious issues with many lakes around Poconos.

Live bait, including minnows, suckers, goldfish, carps, eel, darters, killifishes, chubs, and stone catfish are prohibited in the lake. BCL limits the number of fish not released unharmed to four a day (no matter the size).

For those enduring the frustration of Canada Geese and while it's extremely difficult to eliminate them, it's important to remember our "Do not feed the waterfowl rule." There has been some success in keeping geese off lawns by keeping a natural barrier along the water's edge. Stop mowing along the edge of the lake and allow a natural strip of vegetation to fill in. Without clear sightlines, the geese will often go elsewhere.

Based on last year's fish analysis by Aquatic Environment Consultants, we will be stocking the lake this fall with Walleye. The annual budget for stocking is \$1200. In hopes of improving our excellent fishing, we are looking for contributions which will be used solely for stocking and future analysis. Please read the "Fish Stocking" article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

The Boat Rack Lottery form for the summer of 2015 has been included in the newsletter, for those who don't have access to the on-line version. Please do not return it to the office until January 2015.

Happy 50th Anniversary to the Lake and Dam!

TUBING ON THE LAKE

Marty Palmer

The annual Tubing on the Lake took place on Saturday, July 12th. Everyone started at South Beach and ended at the boat dock. The weather was absolutely beautiful as about 40 people participated in this year's event. Lunch was served at the boat dock and those who successfully made it (yes, everyone did!) received a commemorative "Tubin on the Lake" magnet. It was a fun time for all!

Editor's note - There were plenty of pictures taken and they can be seen on our website.

LIFEGUARD COMMITTEE

Colleen Bradley

As I type this we are half way through the summer. So far we have seen typical northeast Pa. weather. Hot and humid one weekend and chilly and rainy the next. Our guards have completed 2 in service programs so far with 2 more remaining on the schedule. To date they have recorded 4 saves, all in the pool. On July 8th the guards competed against the POP wiffle ball team and came out victorious 2-0 thanks the clutch hitting of Dylan Bucior and Jake Kunkel. Several of the guards combined to pitch 9 shutout innings sealing the victory. Afterwards the POP team treated the guards to hot dogs and drinks. Still to come is lifeguard challenge, where the guards compete against each other in a fun filled event. We hope that the weather cooperates the rest of the summer so that everyone can enjoy our pool and beaches.



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FISH STOCKING

Bob Rosenberg

Fishing at BCL, as most of you already know, has been very consistent with a nice variety of fish for those who enjoy the sport. Currently our lake has Large Mouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Bluegills, Catfish, Pickerel, and Black Crappie. There have been reports of a Walleye being caught this past winter and is a good lead into why I'm writing this piece for your consideration. Recently (2012) our family purchased a home in BCL, in large part due to our love of fishing. When viewing some of the properties for sale I noticed a Walleye hanging in the family room and asked the realtor where the fish was caught, the answer was "I believe it was caught here in BCL many years ago!" Upon asking some of the more experienced BCL fisherman about what species are in the lake and did we actually have Walleye, the answers were varied and led us to investigate what we have and more importantly, what could we have?

In the fall of 2013, the Board hired Bill Kirkpatrick (President of Aquatic Environment Consultants, Inc.) to conduct an analysis of the current fish population. The results (posted on the web site) showed a diverse population and could be enhanced to produce increased populations as well as new species. In speaking with Bill Kirkpatrick last week, he said the plan is to add Walleye fingerlings this fall. Last fall, we added Golden Shiners as a food source for the other predatory fish to enhance the size and health of the current and growing population. Kirkpatrick recommends a fish population study every three to four years to manage our strategy and adjust when appropriate.

All of this obviously costs money and one thing I have

found as a new member of the greatest lake in the Poconos is many of us would be willing to contribute to the lake stocking if it meant stocking with larger Walleye and additional species to make the fishing even better. That being said, it is not an easy task to take on when many of us are watching our living expenses increase and/or have limited funds to contribute to the stocking and maintenance of BCL. The Fishing committee, as part of the Lake/Dam committee has come up with a plan to allow those who contribute money specifically for supplementing the annual stocking budget to be recognized. This is not intended to make anyone feel obligated to give but rather a way to thank those who help improve the fishing at BCL.

Many thanks to all those contributors who have given of their time and monies so far. Going forward in 2015 we will recognize those who give funds to supplement fish stocking in the following manner:

Each year donations will be broken down in the following categories:

- Bronze Status: \$10 to \$50
- Silver Status: \$51 to \$100
- Gold Status: \$101 to \$250
- Platinum Status: \$251 and above

Contributions will be recognized and acknowledged in the newsletter and website. Checks should be made payable to BCLCA and mailed to or dropped off at the office. Simply denote in the memo field "fish stocking" Cash will also be accepted at the office.

The intention is to make this an ongoing program to supplement the stocking budget. The goal is to stock with larger fish and more species than the operating budget would support on its own.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I hope to see you on the lake!

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Kevin McGrath

As we celebrate our anniversary at BCLCA, it is a perfect time to look to the future. The long range planning committee is working on creating a data base of all of the capital assets in the community. We will then estimate replacement costs and remaining useful lives for these components. Once that is accomplished we will work to establish a funding schedule for our future capital needs. The association has been setting money aside out of our operating budget for future needs; however we do not currently have a funding model in place to evaluate the adequacy of these funds. Hopefully this project will provide a better road map for the future

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Marty Palmer

Please come out to the annual BCL New Year's Eve Party on Wednesday, December 31st. More details will be provided as it gets closer to the celebration.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

John M Klaiber

I've been monitoring the variable monthly expenses. I would like to thank all the members for having me as the treasurer for 13 years and as special project chairman the past year. THANKS AGAIN.



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BEAR CREEK LAKES BOOK CLUB

Leta Thompson

If you enjoy reading and discussing books with friends over a cup of coffee or tea, then join us each month as we delve into all types of books. We meet the third Tuesday of each month from September through June at 10:00 am in Stewart Hall. As a group we select the books we want to read, both fiction and nonfiction. We value input from everyone. Our selection process takes place each May for the following year. This year's selections are posted on the BCL website, so check them out and join us. If you have any questions, please call Leta Thompson at (570) 325-2121. Hope to see you there!

POOL DAY 2014

Colleen Bradley

As of this writing we are 1 week away from pool day. This year's theme is Christmas in July and the guards are really looking forward to it. Sometimes I think they have as much, if not more, fun than the children. They are planning on turning the pool area into a winter wonderland full of lights and decorations. The stockings are already stuffed and ready to go. Hopefully, old man winter won't make a surprise visit and put a damper on the day.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

David Lautt

A big "thank you" to all plant lovers that made this year's plant sale a huge success! I'm looking forward to next year's selection of plants with even greater variety. Check your BCL spring newsletter and the website for date and time for 2015 plant sale.

POOL COMMITTEE

Steve Sosnowski

It is mid-July and the 2014 pool season is in full swing. The pool gods have treated us well this year as we have had no major issues to date. The new heaters we installed this year have allowed us to keep a more comfortable, consistent temperature and the water has been crystal clear all season. I hope the weather cooperates for the remainder of the season.

MOVIES-MOVIES-MOVIES

Sylvia Cappozolli

Movie night in Stewart Hall continues to be on the 2nd Saturday of each month. It will continue through the winter months. Movies start at 7PM. This summer we saw some great hits in air conditioned comfort. We have shown great hits such as Saving Mr. Banks, Philomena, The Book Thief and Heaven is for Real. Movies are shown on wide movie screen with surround sound. Come and join us. Look for the movie titles on the BCL calendar posted on BCL Website. So bring a comfy chair and your BCL badge. We supply the free popcorn, a free soda and see a free movie.

Editor's note – What more could you ask for by simply showing your BCL badge?

History Note - The construction of the dam was completed the fall of 1964. The lake filled during the winter of 1964 and the spring of 1965. By early summer of 1965 the lake was filled.



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BUILDING & PERMITS COMMITTEE

Rich Berger

During the spring and summer, BCLCA issued permits on a variety of garages, sheds and other outbuildings. One house was completed and a second house was begun. The deposits that are required for additions, garages and new homes were returned promptly after proof that the construction and all clean-up had been completed. We are also pleased that homeowners are contacting the office with questions prior to construction; this helps identify potential problems and makes the process move more smoothly to completion.

Please be aware that any projects you undertake may require a Penn Forest Township permit in addition to a BCLCA approval. In addition, the original deed for your property specifies other restrictions that apply such as setbacks from roads, property lines and the lakefront (where applicable). Failure to obtain a permit for construction is subject to a fine as specified in the BCLCA Rule Book.

If you have any questions about a project, please do not hesitate to contact the office. Forms and instructions for projects are on the BCLCA website at <http://www.bclca.org/DocumentsForms.html>.

Editor's note – Questions? You can email the office at BCLCA@PTD.NET.

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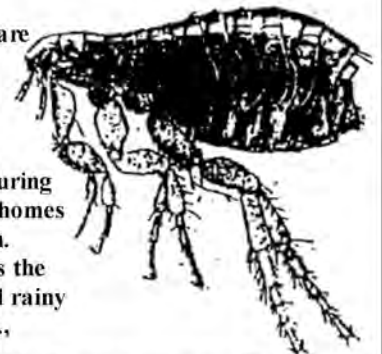
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JOHN KLAIBER BCL RESIDENT

FLEAS

FACTS:

- Fleas prefer warmth and are repelled by cold
- Most common host are cats, dogs, man and a wide variety of animals.
- Fleas are most common during the summer especially when homes are reoccupied after vacation.
- A hot dry summer reduces the number of fleas, and a humid rainy summer is favorable to them.



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RULES COMMITTEE

Bill Allison

The Rules Revision committee will continue work this fall. Members should check out the online version on the BCL website for the most up-to-date version of the Rule Book. If members would like to participate on the revisions, you are invited to join the committee. We meet about once per month. Send me an email at WAschoolmaster@aol.com.
Reminder to all members: To avoid citations, surcharges and penalties, please apply for BCL permits for the following: to remove trees – living or dead, to build any accessory building or other structure such as a deck, to install a driveway, or any other exterior improvement.

As the Tree Warden, I am called to write tree removal permits for many dying evergreens. This situation is common all over Bear Creek Lakes and is due to several causes. Members are asked to replace dying trees with disease resistant species. One suggestion I've heard is the Concolor Fir."

Thank you for following our rules.

ROADS COMMITTEE

Todd Laudenschlager

This summer, our maintenance crew has been cutting grass along roads and cutting back and removing brush along road right-of-ways. They have also been busy repairing and replacing road signs due to vandalism.

On July 3rd, Jim and I met with our contractor for road repairs (Pappillon and Moyer). This October they will begin to repair the low spots on our roads. I have inquired about paving costs for our roads to our contractor. At the time of our meeting, the cost to pave 1 mile of road with 1 1/2" of blacktop would cost \$100,000.00 per mile. We have 26 miles of road in BCL. The Road Committee will need to find alternative methods of road resurfacing. Our findings will be addressed in the next newsletter.

Let's hope for a milder winter!!!

FRIENDS OF BCL

Barb Godshalk

Friends of BCL is a private group which I administer on Facebook. We have almost 200 members now and all our members are associated with Bear Creek Lakes. The postings range from finding a lost dog to finding a good plumber. Lots of pictures are posted from our members ranging from our resident Mr. V, a black bear, mostly seen on Honeysuckle to the beautiful sunsets over Bear Creek Lake. If you are a member of Facebook stop by and check us out. There is a link to our page on the BCLCA website.

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MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Todd Laudenschlager

Our maintenance crew, Jim and Colin, have been busy cutting grass and brush, staining the exterior of Stewart Hall and general maintenance throughout the community. This summer we added Tyler McGeehan as a part time worker for the pool and beach. His duties are to vacuum the pool and clean the bath houses. He prepares the beaches and does general set up for the lifeguards.

A big thank you to our maintenance employees for their dedication to keeping our community up to the high standard that we at BCL all enjoy. If you see our maintenance crew, stop, say hello, and thank them for their hard work. Whether the thermometer reads 9 below or 90 above, they give 100%.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Jack McGeehan

The BCLCA Board wishes to thank all of our employees for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. We have a dedicated group of employees that work year round and our employee base swells to add an additional 15-20 part time employee as the summer blossoms. Barbara, Pat and Linda – thanks for keeping our office and community affairs in order! Jim and Colin – thanks for keeping our facilities in the great shape that they are in!

PS, The lifeguards and Badge Checkers have a tough job...please remember that it is tough to enforce the rules that the community has enacted. A smile and a thank you go a long way to making them feel appreciated.

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Maintenance Office	325-8270

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Jack McGeehan

We are focused with two projects that are outside of our development but have a potential impact to our lake and storm water systems.

The first, and most obvious, is the Township Recreation Park to our immediate east along Route 903. The site work for the Park is progressing and should be completed by the end of the summer. The contractor experienced some delays from the harsher than normal winter we had.

The second is a proposed "Food & Cover" facility for the PA State Game Lands Commission. This "maintenance facility" was originally planned to affect a 4 acre parcel along Behrens Road. The proposed site is adjacent to several properties along Dogwood Drive in the northern section of BCL. The Board of Directors along with a group of concerned members that live in the immediate area have been actively in touch with PASGC and local government officials to share our concerns regarding this proposed facility. Recently we learned that they have reduced the site plan to only affect 1.6 acres. If you are interested in learning more about any more of these issues, please consider attending the Board of Directors meetings on the third Saturday of each month.

Editor's note – The BCL Board meetings start 9am sharp! Regarding the park, Congrats to two of our members. Robin McGeehan will serve a 3-year term to the newly created recreation board and Jennifer Bevilacqua was appointed as an alternate.

OFFICE MANAGER

Barb Godshalk

First, a BIG Thank You to Pat Crain and Linda Trower for all their help and dedication. Whatever the reason may be, sickness, doctor appointments, emergencies, these girls are always there to pitch in when needed. Because of our staff, the BCL office has been running very smoothly. September through November the office will be extremely busy because of the annual dues. We have 875 members to handle and process during this time. Please be patient with our staff and remember, we don't make the rules but we must enforce them.

A special Thank You to Pat Stasyk. With any mass mailing the office may have, I make one call to Pat and she manages to come up with all these people to make the task go so smoothly. I thank each and every one of you who come and help out with the stuffing, folding etc. Another reason why we have such a great community..... It's our VOLUNTEERS. Thank you again.

The Boat Rack Lottery Form worked out very well last year so we are including it again in this issue for 2015. PLEASE, do not send this form to us before January 1, 2015. DO NOT SEND any money with the lottery form. You only need to fill out the form and mail it to us. (US Mail, scan & email or fax)

The office will remain open on our 4 day schedule until the end of October. November through April we will be open 3 days per week. In this newsletter is a cut out with all the office information. Please keep this close to your phone. We may not be open every day but you can reach us by email. Please send your questions or concerns to BCLCA@PTD.NET. (And a BIG Your Welcome to all the members that send their Thank You to the Office Staff.)

26TH ANNUAL MEN'S GOLF OUTING

Bob Skiffington & Larry Erra

Our 26th Annual Men's Golf Outing was held on Thursday July 3rd, 2014 at White Birch Golf Course. Although it was a hot and humid day (but no rain) we still had fifty-six golfers attend. The following are the results:

- Low score for seniors: Mike Chain Sr (73) and Tom Beere (79)
- Low score for juniors: Kevin Morgan (66) and Mike Chain Jr (71)
- Closest to the pin: Lou Barbone and Ray Abrams
- Longest drive for seniors: Mike Chain Sr
- Longest drive for juniors: Kevin Morgan
- Straightest drive: Chick Chain

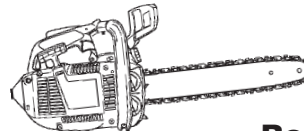
Our thanks go to the following sponsors: Dom & Ali, Oscars Tavern (Phila.), The Dam Cookbook (Deb Beerman) and White Birch Golf Course. Each player received a raffle ticket and when their number was called they picked from the assorted prizes (WB gift certificate, hat, T-shirt).

Volunteer's interested in helping with this golf outing can contact the BCLCA Office at 570-325-3334 or Bob at bskiffin@gmail.com. Next year's golf outing will be held on Friday, July 3, 2015.

History Note - Bear Creek Lakes began as the dream of Josiah W. H. "CY" Behrens. In 1963, Behrens and his partner John Wargo purchased 1,300 acres of dense forest and began the clearing of the lake site.

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A REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEM

Kevin McGrath

Deb and I have been enjoying BCLCA as part time owners for years. We love coming up year round to bask in the beauty of the community and we are always excited to pull into the driveway except for one thing. In the winter we try to be green and economical so we turn the heat down when we are leaving. Coming up to the house in cold weather used to be a challenge. We would keep our coats on while we waited for the house to warm up. Some nights we would retreat to the bedroom and huddle under the electric blanket. Our large loft style living room could take several hours to warm up from 55 to 68 degrees.

I thought that in this electronic day and age there must be a high tech solution to my cold tootsies. I fired up my computer, opened Google and started searching. We have electric baseboard heat as many of the homes at BCLCA. I was very excited to find many internet ready thermostats that could be controlled remotely with another computer or even smart phones. I thought I had hit pay dirt! Until I read the fine print and found they would not work with electric baseboard heating.

Many hours of searching later, I found that Honeywell had a solution, but that it was a little more complicated and beyond my electrical expertise. I called the supplier and discussed the issue and ordered several components. I called our neighbor, Electrician Jim Frantz and picked his brain and asked him to help with the project. (Great guy by the way!). I had to exchange a few parts and Jim was very

patient with me and we succeeded! Now I can open an app on my phone from almost anywhere and turn up the heat at my house at BCLCA. It is a wonderful thing. I will enjoy it more this winter than last year because it took almost the entire winter to figure it all out.

So the point of this story is to let you know that for a very reasonable cost anyone with electric baseboard heat can add this type of remote control system. We have it controlling four circuits in our main large living area. They system works with 120 or 240 volt systems, you just need the correct relays.

Editor's note- There are a few electricians who advertise within this newsletter and are on our website (Our Advertisers). Please support all our advertisers.



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EDITOR

Barb Godshalk

As I am writing this article, I am with mixed emotions. Several years ago Edie Boyer announced she was retiring as the Editor of Echoes Around the Lake and I volunteered to take on the task. The year before, I took on the task of volunteering to administer the website, which at that time was Geocities. The same year I started as Editor to the newsletter the BCL office was looking for some seasonal employees which I applied for and was hired. At that time, I had no idea I would end up as the Office Manager. I have tried to juggle all three tasks and I'm finding it to be harder and harder to manage so I need to drop one of them. Unfortunately for Pat Stasyk, I chose to retire from the editor of our newsletter. Pat has been great to work with and her support has always been 100%. Would you please consider taking on the task of the Editor for the newsletter? I will be here to help you out and I know Pat will be too. Please drop a note to the office if interested.

In ending, I would like to thank everyone for all the compliments and support while I was the editor. When you are a volunteer, it's a rewarding feeling when you hear "Hey, thanks for your help" or "Job well done".

History Note - Josiah Behrens and his brother Ted owned and operated the Bear Creek Farm and Dairy.

Our Sincere sympathy to the spouses & families of:

Jim Morton, age 73, passed away on April 13, 2014. Survived by his wife Marguerite. Father of Regina, James, Jennifer, Edward and Paul. Also survived by 10 grandchildren and a sister. Jim was retired from the Philadelphia Police Dept. as a homicide detective.

Sylvia S. Valtri age 91, passed on June 17, 2014. Loving mother of Sylvia (Joseph) Capozzoli, Sam, Stephanie, Stacy and Steven; also survived by 16 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. The late husband and father, Sam, passed on July 26, 2013.

History Note - Bear Creek Lakes was the first development in Penn Forest Township and the average cost of a home in 1964 was \$13,050.00. Today, BCL has 874 dues paying members. 332 are permanent residents, 420 are part-time residents, and 122 own undeveloped lots.

History Note - There are two Bear Creeks: Big Bear Creek and Little Bear Creek. BCL is built on what was formerly Big Bear Creek. Bear Creek Lake covers 160-acres, is 1 1/4 miles long, has approximately 3 1/2 miles of shoreline and the maximum depth is approximately 30 feet.

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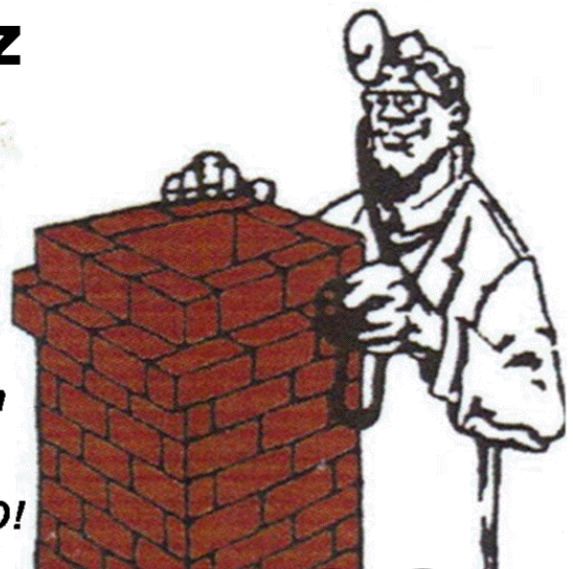
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BCL BOAT RACK LOTTERY REGISTRATION FORM – Year 2015

All information must be completed and the form returned to the office **no earlier than January 1, 2015 and no later than March 31, 2015** to be eligible for the lottery.

Name: _____

Bear Creek Lake Address

Non-BCL Address _____

City & State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number email

Type of Boat/Weight	Boat Sticker#
---------------------	---------------

In order to be eligible to participate in the lottery for a boat rack for the year identified above, I hereby agree to the following terms and conditions concerning the use of the boat racks for the year identified above:

1. Annual boat rack rental fee is \$10.00 payable within 10 days of being notified you have been assigned a boat rack for the year.
2. I understand and agree that, during any period when the boat is in the boat rack, the Bear Creek Lakes Civic Association (hereinafter referred to as ("the Association")) is not responsible in any manner if the boat is stolen or damaged and I expressly waive any right whatsoever to seek damages from the Association if the boat is stolen or damaged.
3. I agree to remove my boat from the rack area by December 1st of the year identified above.
4. I understand and agree that, if my boat is not removed by December 1st of the year identified above, the Association has my expressed permission to remove the boat from the boat rack and store it at a storage charge of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per month, which I agree to pay. I also understand and agree that, during any period when the boat is stored by the Association, the Association is not responsible in any manner if the boat is stolen or damaged and I expressly waive any right whatsoever to seek damages from the Association if the boat is stolen or damaged.
5. I understand that the Association will only store boats for a maximum of nine (9) months and that any boat remaining in storage after nine (9) months will be disposed of by the Association as it deems appropriate and I expressly waive any right whatsoever to seek damages from the Association if the boat is disposed of.

Date	Registrant
------	------------

Special requests & notes:

--

PA Game Commission Project

The PA Game Commission plans to clear up to 4 acres of forest and build a heavy equipment storage facility and maintenance headquarters for numerous workers in the bowl of Bear Creek Lake (on Behrens rd. behind the BCL homes on Dogwood Dr). You can see the forest and area to be cleared on Behrens Rd. across from the current entrance to State Game Lands 141. Look closely and you will see the trees to be clear cut are marked with paint by the PA Game Commission. We have many concerns about this project and want you to understand what is being done and its potential impact on you and your property. Our PA State Representative – Doyle Heffley and our PA State Senator John Yudichak are currently working with us to relocate this proposed development to a better location and address our concerns about this project. However, the PA Game Commission is an independent organization not controlled by our elected officials and intend to develop this area anyhow.

Our concerns include:

- Threats to the quality of the water in our lake. Clearing a large number of trees will increase water run-off into our (Exceptional Value) lake.
- Building a commercial enterprise in a zoned residential community.
- Safety of the pedestrians and children that use Behrens road.
- The loss of habitat for an endangered plant species (a variable sedge - *Carex Polymorpha*) unique to Bear Creek Lake and of statewide importance.
- Planned fuel storage. Any leakage could leach into our lake.
- Loss of wildlife habitat.
- A negative community impact on the quality of life for BCL homeowners with large machines operating from dawn to dusk.

Pictures, available for your review, show existing facilities in this area which they plan to replicate on Behrens Road. The residents who have seen these photos were outraged on the conditions. When you review the photos you will find:

- An old and deteriorated dead animal storage container surrounded by dangerous rusted metal heavy trash in an open field.
- Piles of old tires and sections of corrugated piping thrown into the fields that were full of mosquito breeding larvae.
- Numerous piles of dangerous rusted metal.
- Old piles of rotted wood posts.
- Rusted fencing covered with weeds.
- Old rusted chemical barrels thrown into the fields.
- Multiple old rusted burn barrels.

- Damaged and unrepaired roof cover sections. We are trying to schedule a meeting with the PA Game Commission (via PA State Senator Yudichak) and urge you to attend when a date and time has been determined.

If you are opposed to this development please have all adults (over 18) in your home, sign and return the below to: Michael Brennan, 65 Dogwood Dr., Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

I'm In agreement with the petition initiated by Bear Creek Lake citizens. The undersigned oppose the construction of the PA Game Commission Food and Cover Facility in the bowl of Bear Creek Lake.

Name (printed): _____

Additional Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature/s: _____

Date: _____

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WEBMASTER Barb Godshalk

I thank you for all the compliments I have received on the new design of our website. I have tried to make it easy and help save those unwanted trips to the office. Almost every type of form you need is available for download. All the pictures on each page were taken in BCL and are from you, our BCL members. Visit our Rules section to view our current Rule Book. One of the most popular pages is our "Unwanted and Needed Items" page where you can sell or buy items. Our newest page "Buying and Selling Information" is to help with the selling of your home or property. Please check out all the pages to see all the valuable information available to you, with just a simple click.



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MEET THE CANDIDATES

Marty Palmer

Hi everyone, I have been on the Board for three years and am currently working on the Recreation Committee. My family has owned a vacation home in Bear Creek Lakes since 2009 and love coming up on weekends and for vacation. One of the events I have brought about in my time on the Board is the 5K run and walk. It is a fun way to get some exercise but more importantly to help raise money for our community or important local charities or organizations that need our help. Working on many of the recreation activities in the community has been a great way for me and my family to meet so many other wonderful people in our community! Thanks so much for your support.

Steve Sosnowski

I am finishing up my first term on the Board. Initially appointed as the chair for the Environmental committee, I have served the last two years as "The Pool Guy". It has been my pleasure to represent you all on the Board. My wife and I have been permanent residents of Bear Creek Lakes since 2009. I would like to represent you again for another term and seek your support. Thank you.

Patrick Ayers

My name is Patrick Ayers and my wife's name is Marge. We have owned a house in Bear Creek Lakes since 2008. My wife and I retired this year and we now live in Bear Creek full time.

After serving 6 years in the US Navy, my career started out with machine repairing. My first 12 years were with Hershey Co., then 8 more years with various companies. The next 20 years range from being self-employed as a handyman to the main foreman of a construction company.

Being retired, I am now in a position to dedicate my time to serve our community. I want to help BCL and I would like the opportunity to serve on the Board of Bear Creek Lakes and I ask for your support.

Ken Levitz

My name is Ken Levitz and I am a candidate for a Board of Director position. My wife, Michele, our youngest daughter, Morgan and I moved to Jim Thorpe in the summer of 1994: and found our home in Bear Creek Lakes the following spring. Morgan, who was 3 at the time, is now preparing to enter Graduate School at West Chester University. You may remember her as one of our perennial life guards. Michele and I are now empty nesters, but are doing our best to ignore that by staying busy professionally and enjoying a wide range of outdoor hobbies including riding, hiking, paddling and cross country skiing – and of course, walking our Greyhound, Leggs. Michele is also an avid gardener.

Michele is employed as a Finance Director by St. Luke's University Health Network and I am a self-employed consultant, working primarily within the mining industry, dealing with environmental permitting issues and mine reclamation projects. I am currently completing a twelve year subsidence reclamation project for the City of Pottsville and working on required permitting for the Schuylkill River Channel Restoration Project in Auburn Borough and West Brunswick Township, Schuylkill County.

In addition to a degree in mining engineering and additional course work in environmental studies, I am a licensed Sewage Enforcement Officer. I believe strongly in the need to protect our environment and conserve our natural resources: on a personal as well as a public level. I believe I can make a significant contribution to our community and seek your support.

Lisa Mills

I would like to introduce myself, I am Lisa Mills. I am a new resident and I am running for a seat on the Bear Creek Lake board. I am presently the Director of Sales and Marketing for a Country Club. I've been responsible for multimillion dollar budgets and have managed directly 50 employees.

I have a reputation of being a voice for those things I believe in and I am considered by my colleagues to be capable and trustworthy. I have heard from some...running for the board is a thankless job, when you run for the board you are not looking for thanks; you are trying to be part of a team that is looking out for everyone's interests.

I want to be that person you can work with and count on to get the job done. I hope you entrust me with that responsibility by giving me your vote.

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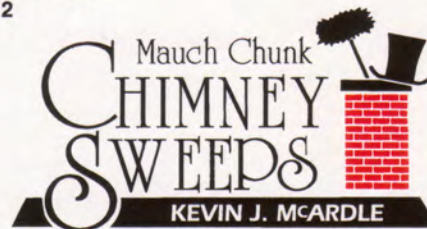


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