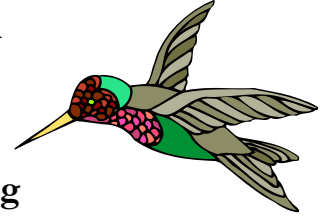


# The Birch Bark

## White Birch Lakes Recreational Association

4730 Lake Road, Farwell, Michigan 48622  
Office: (989) 588-2853 Fax: (989) 588-4924  
Safety: (989) 588-7066



July Issue

[www.whitebirch.org](http://www.whitebirch.org)

### PRESIDENTS REPORT

Good morning everyone, I hope everybody had a good time over the Memorial Weekend.

I am pleased to report Bob Pelfrey is home from having by-pass surgery and recovering well, glad to have you back Bob.

Our community has lost another member this past month. Our condolences go out to the friends and family of Judy Gute.

This past month our community has enjoyed the volunteer help of many neighbors, with things like the flowers & windows at the entrance gate, road brining, stocking the lakes with fish, stuffing envelopes for the office, preparing the Birch Bark for mailing and Girl Scouts for planting flowers at the clubhouse. Our community really benefits from the help of all these volunteers. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Joe Romine for taking care of the flags on Memorial Day.

There will be a volunteer clean up of Timber Beach, Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. I understand the activity committee will be supplying a picnic lunch, there is a sign-up sheet in the lobby on the bulletin board if you wish to sign up.

We are in the process of trying to come up with a way that we can afford to get all the trees and branches cleared from the road right of way. These have been let go for many years and are now getting out of hand for our maintenance crew to keep up with. If everyone who is able would volunteer to cut the trees and brush along the road in front of their own property this would be of great help to the community.

On the morning of Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, our community was sprayed for the Gypsy Moths by the Clare county Gypsy Moth Suppression program. Members Mary Alice

Harrington and Dawn Holzer worked this past fall for the program and with their survey efforts of this area, they found enough egg masses to qualify us for spraying. If you have any questions about the spraying program, you can contact Kristina Sigagoose at the Clare County Conservation department at 989-539-6401.

Don't forget the Annual Members Meeting July 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Come out and voice your concerns and cast your vote. There will be two open board seats and we have five members running. See you then.

Thank you,  
Bob Briggs



### POOL HOURS

**May 13<sup>th</sup> through October 1st**

Monday 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM  
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM  
Closed Wednesday  
Friday and Saturday 12:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
Sunday 10:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**Memorial, July 4<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day Weekends**

Friday 12:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
Saturday 10:00 AM to 8:30 PM  
Sunday 10:00 AM to 8:30 PM  
Monday 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM

### OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Closed Sunday





# Coming Events

## ENTRANCE FLOWERS

June 18	Cleanup at Timber Beach	11:00 AM
July 2	Parade & Pig Roast Pot Luck at the Pavilion	12:15 PM
July 16	Annual Members Meeting	10:00 AM
Aug 13	Halloween Hayride-Pavilion	7:00 PM
Sept 3	Labor Day - Yippee Skippee/Pot Luck w/Brats at the Pavilion	12:00 PM
Sept 17	Garage Sale/Bake Sale	9:00 AM
Nov 19	Hunters Chili - Clubhouse	11:00 AM
Dec 10	Christmas Party/Pot Luck at the Clubhouse	5:00 PM



We would like to send a big **THANK YOU** to Girl Scout Troop 40986 members Katrianna Ross and Anna Dombrowski. They donated their time in planting the gorgeous flowers at the Clubhouse entrance. We will all enjoy them through the coming summer months.

**Thank you girls!**



## Camper Storage

To make sure you have a spot in the fall, please call the office at (989) 588-2853 or come in by July 31, 2011, Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM for reservations.

*Business and Supervisors Offices will be closed Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011*



## 4th of July Celebration

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pig Roast/Pot Luck will be held Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The procession will meet and line-up at 12:15 PM. We'd be especially honored if our Veterans joined us for the parade to the campground!

Decorate your golf cart, mule, bike or 4-wheelers and make it a great parade. The pot luck begins at 1:00 PM. After we eat we'll have games for the kids and a 50/50 drawing with "extra" prizes.

We hope you come and enjoy the day with your friends and neighbors!



## Boat Storage

June 17<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for paying boat storage fees before unregistered boats are removed. Please come in to reserve your space on the rack.

## IMPORTANT ELECTION NEWS

If voting in person at the WBLRA Annual Election, please remember to bring your picture I.D.



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PIPELINE**

The pipeline that runs through White Birch Lakes Recreation Association is located on private property owned by property owners within our Association. The pipeline easement is NOT for public use; you are trespassing on private property if you use the land around the pipeline easement area. We kindly request that you respect the private property owned by our members and refrain from using the pipeline easement for your own personal use.

Thank you.

**Proposed White Birch Lakes  
June 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

- I. **Call to Order:** President Briggs called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Directors present: President Briggs, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Stephens, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nalepa, Director Dombrowski, Director Cox-Perkins, Director Bryant, Director McNeil and Secretary/Treasurer, Elaine Carrasco.

Invocation led by member Dawn Holzer.

President Briggs led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- II. **Additions to the Agenda:**

- III. Old business:  
Director Stephens adds "proposed bylaw change" and "attorney's letter, requests "camping court order" be moved to "closed session"

New business:

Director Cox-Perkins adds employee hours "closed session." Director Nalepa removes "audit committee" and "budget committee" from the agenda. Director Dombrowski adds 5 mph speed limit and helmet signs.

- IV. **Approval of Minutes:**

*( 1) Director Cox-Perkins moves to approve the minutes, second by Director Stephens, all ayes, nay by Director Dombrowski, carried.*

- V. **Income Statement-Treasurer's Report:**

*(2) Director Stephens moves to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Director Cox-Perkins, all ayes, a nay by Director Nalepa, carried.*

*(3) Director Cox-Perkins moves to pay the bills, second by Director Bryant, all in favor, carried.*

- VI. **President's Report:** Can be found on page 1 of newsletter.

- I. **Committee Reports:**

Carolyn Neal, nominating/teller committee chair reports we had our first meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved the following candidates to be submitted to the board for approval: Steve Bryant, Cindy DeLong, Dawn Holzer, Brian Kozlowski and Marsha Thomas, they also approved a sample ballot to be submitted for approval to the

## BIRCH BARK

board. A letter will be sent to the candidates explaining poll watchers. First absentee ballots will be sent out June 24<sup>th</sup> and a second mailing July 7<sup>th</sup>. Absentee ballots denied by the committee, a letter will be sent explaining why it was denied, also a letter as to how they can appeal the denial. Deadlines for return absentee ballots is July 15, 2011.

Sally Keillor, activities chair, reports Timber Beach clean-up on Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, will be our second annual pig roast/pot luck. Parade line up on the corner of Squirrel run and White Birch Lane at 12:15 p.m. the parade to commence at 12:30 p.m. Picnic at the campground begins at 1 p.m. Dessert, coffee and ice tea will be served at the Annual Members Meeting. Halloween in August this year, pavilion, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Costumes, bonfire, hayride.

EPC Liaison, Director Stephens reports 4 tree removal, one new driveway, one deck, one existing outbuilding, and one fenced in play area, all approved.

Bylaw Committee, chair Chuck Lutz reports they will hold a bylaw committee meeting after today's Board Meeting.

Campground committee, in Fred Witchell's absence, Director Dombrowski reports the bathhouse at the campground will be rejuvenated during the off season and up and running by next season. Two trees in campground need to come down. 23 sites utilized over Memorial Weekend.

II. **Comments (Agenda items only):** Available at the clubhouse

III. **Old Business:**

*(4) Director Cox-Perkins moves to accept the Rite-Way proposal for \$18,305.00 with an additional \$2,000.00 for accessories and incidentals to have our tennis courts redone, second by Director Dombrowski, all ayes, a nay by Director McNeil, carried.*

*(5) Director Dombrowski moves to include on the ballot this year, a bylaw amendment, which follows our current bylaw rule, stating how to change or add to bylaws as follows: "Anyone serving on the board or a member of their immediate family cannot hold a paid position with the association during their term or for a period of three years afterward, family members include spouse, siblings, parents and children." Second by Director Cox-Perkins, all ayes, nay by Director Bryant, carried.*

*(6) Director Stephens moves to instruct attorney Dreyer to pursue removal of the portion of the dock on Holiday Lake by the property owner immediately, at their expense, second by Director Cox-Perkins, all ayes, carried.*

IV. **New Business:**

*(7) Director Cox-Perkins moves we accept the letters of introduction for the newsletter for the candidates that did not get theirs in with their statement of their intention to run in the election, second by Director McNeil, all in favor, carried, Director Bryant recused.*

*(8) Director Cox-Perkins moves to approve the ballot, second by Director Stephens, carried.*

*(9) Director Dombrowski moves that the street leading from Mockingbird Circle or originating at Mockingbird Circle going into the campground be posted 5 mph from that intersection throughout the entire campground second by Director Stephens, carried.*

*(10) Director Dombrowski moves in accordance with our Atv/Orv safety rule which stipulate helmets must be worn, I would like to see just a few signs posted here and there that say please wear a helmet, second*

**BIRCH BARK**

*by Director Stephens, all ayes, nay by Director Bryant, carried.*

*(11) Director Dombrowski moves cost of signs for helmets not to exceed \$125.00, second by Director Stephens, all ayes, nay by Director Bryant, carried.*

X. Comments from the Floor: Available at the clubhouse.

*(12) Director Stephens moves to go into closed session, second by Director McNeil, carried.*

*Results of closed session:*

*(13) A motion to instruct our attorney on clarification of the wording for the Camping Court Order. Carried.*

*(14) Motion to allow the part time maintenance person up to 40 hrs. a week for the months of June and July, carried.*

XI. Adjournment: (15) Director McNeil moves to adjourn, second by Director Cox-Perkins, carried.

Submitted by,  
Elaine Carrasco

5-14-2011

**ATTENTION – PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE**

The Board of Directors is considering the following amendment to our By-Laws. As per our By-Laws it is being presented at the May 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting prior to a vote of the Board at the next regular meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>. If passed, it will be put to a vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting July 16, 2011. **The addition of “B” to Section 14 is in bold print.**

ARTICLE VII

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Section 14 – Conflicts of Interest

PURPOSE

A) The purpose of the conflicts of interest policy is to protect the Association’s interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction arrangement that might benefit the private interest of a board member, Association officer, member of the management staff who holds a leadership position, or any employee or member.

**B) Anyone serving on the board or a member of their immediate family cannot hold a paid position with the Association during their term or for a period of three years afterwards, family members include spouse, sibling, parent and children.**

POLICY

If any member of the Board of Directors should have a conflict of interest with an item, he/she must withdraw from the discussion and abstain from voting on said item.

If a question of conflict of interest arises, it shall be resolved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors if necessary.

**BIRCH BARK**

**WBLRA ANNUAL ELECTION CANDIDATE LETTERS**

**STEVE BRYANT:**

Hello friends and neighbors,

My name is Steve Bryant, my wife and I raised our family in White Birch having lived here since 1976. I am running for re-election to the W.B.L.R.A. Board of Directors and ask for your support.

Three years ago you elected Marty Perkins, Linda McNeil and myself. At that time the association was in financial despair and headed in a direction that was sure to put the membership in deep trouble. For years, previous boards spent more money than was collected and dipped into the next fiscal year's funds to make monthly payables. When the three of us became board members we were faced with a critical situation and had to make tuff decisions to keep the association in the black. We had to cut payroll, close the pool for a few months, eliminate outside labor cost and find more competitive suppliers, which even after all the cuts resulted in only \$13,000.00 remaining in the bank at the end of the fiscal year.

From careful planning and conservative spending we now have over \$174,000.00 in savings specifically set aside to make long needed repairs to our amenities. We have new windows at the club house, docks at the lakes, a newer plow truck, a fenced area around the campgrounds storage area that had been promised for years and heaters in the grader and plow trucks which eliminated the need for heating the maintenance building 24/7. New tennis courts are to be completed this summer and badly needed renovation of the campground bath house restrooms will be completed this fall. The roads are in better shape than they have been for years without the normal gravel expenditures that we had in the past. All this was and is being done without raising assessments.

We still have much to accomplish and I feel we need more rainy day dollars in reserve to protect the financial stability of our association. My voting record clearly shows that I have the best interest of the association in mind and represent the homeowners and campers alike, we are all one!

I would appreciate your support, and ask that you take the time to vote in person or if you can't be present vote absentee.

If you have questions you can reach me by phone @ 989-240-5893 or [sfbryant1 @yahoo.com](mailto:sfbryant1@yahoo.com)

Thank you,  
Steve Bryant

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**DAWN HOLZER:**

May 21, 2011

Dear Members,

My name is Dawn Holzer and I am submitting my Letter of Intention for a seat on the Board of Directors of WBLRA in the July 2011 election.

My husband, Dan, and I have lived here for 8 years. We have 2 children and 3 grandchildren and they live downstate in Davison. We've been married, it seems, forever.

We both have given many hours of volunteer time to this great community. Dan served on the board for 1 year and I had the good fortune of being hired for the Supervisor position from March 1, 2009 and retired the position in April, 2010. I learned a lot about this community and truly loved working here.

I am currently on the Activities Committee and served on the Finance Committee until February of this year.

**BIRCH BARK**  
**CANDIDATE LETTERS ... continued**

My husband and I also volunteer for the brining of our roads. That is a lot of fun and the fellas that drive for the brine company love coming here. They have seen the ongoing progress of the improved conditions of our roads. I learn a lot about the roads from this project and I ask a lot of questions while riding around with them. We have become friends.

I have 5 years experience with the Clare County Gypsy Moth Suppression Program and worked this past fall and surveyed our area to help keep the caterpillar/moth in check. This also gave me the opportunity to learn the new threats that are out there for the trees.

I like what I see going on with the improvements to our amenities in our community and with the help of the other Directors, I will work with them to continue this process and other issues at hand.

I have a lot more to offer our community if elected to the Board of Directors and I'd appreciate your consideration for this open seat.

Sincerely,

Dawn K. Holzer  
Lot 1103

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**BRIAN KOZLOWSKI:**

June 1, 2011

To all the Members of White Birch Lakes.

My Dear Friends,

I pray that as each of you read this, that you and your family may be prosperous and healthy.

As we enjoy this unique community that is White Birch Lakes, while we are camping, fishing, swimming, riding our ORV's, visiting neighbors, relishing nature's bounty, we may loose sight of the difficult times we live in. During these past years we have watched as our Board of Directors have taken steps to protect our community against these uncertain times, and to be prepared for what may come. We are not out of the woods yet, but we are on the right path. Our Board has relied on many resources in pursuing their goal. There is no amount of talent that can not be found amongst the Members of our community. We are fortunate to have such a diverse membership that the Board may rely upon to assist them in guiding our community towards the future. That future is rushing towards us, a future in which I will have to leave. Before I go I would like to serve my community one more time.

I ask you to elect me to the Board of Directors. I can be a valuable resource for our Board. At the risk of looking like a fat head, I can help. It would be my goal that although sitting on the Board, to act as an advisor to the Board; researching, seeking out information, and providing it to the Board to assist them in their continued pursuit of building a firm foundation for the future of our community.

Many of our Directors, as well as many of our Members, know that I have a deep dedication to our community; that I believe that every Member is equal to every other Member, and should be treated as such; and, that we must respect our community. With that dedication, and my expertise and organizational skills, I will be a valuable asset to the Board and White Birch Lakes.

Please take the time to mark you ballot and elect me to your Board of Directors. Allow me to help build White Birch Lakes future before I go. I thank you all.

Most Sincerely,

Brian M. Kozlowski Sr.  
Lot 688

**BIRCH BARK**  
**CANDIDATE LETTERS ... continued**

**CINDY DELONG/MARSHA THOMAS:**

**Dear White Birch Lakes Property Owners,**

We are sending this joint letter to White Birch Lakes Property Owners to let you know that we have decided to run for the White Birch Lakes Recreational Association Board of Directors, and request your support. Let us introduce ourselves:

**Cindy DeLong**

Five years ago I retired from the State of Michigan, Department of Attorney General's Office. I was a legal secretary for 32 years. Two years ago I started working in a private mid-Michigan law firm.

I bought my property in WBLRA in 2004. I viewed White Birch Lakes as a peaceful get-away from everyday city life. I have three boys, all married and with children, who love their time at WBLRA.

**Marsha Thomas**

I am a retired GM employee. My husband (Michael Woodcock) and I have been members of the association since April of 2002. We enjoyed our property ever since 2002, and then built a house in 2008. My family enjoys coming to WBL because of the recreational activities, such as, riding ATV's, snowmobiling, swimming and fishing.

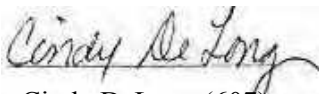
**Our Platform**

We both believe that all property owners should have a say in the important aspects of our association. For example, a vote of the property owners should be made before large sums of money are spent, and before Rules & Regulations are made or changed. We are all EQUAL property owners who pay taxes and assessments. We wish to promote a more friendly and respectful atmosphere in our association.

We believe we can contribute toward moving the association in a better direction. We all need our association to be as user friendly as possible to enhance the enjoyment of our properties and the quality of life here. We both believe everyone has a right to enjoy ones property.

We will do our best to stand up for everyone's rights. We sincerely hope to effect positive change, and request your vote toward this goal. TOGETHER we can make a change for a better WBLRA.

Thank you so much! If you want to contact us, our phone numbers appear below:



Cindy DeLong (607)  
517-999-7571 (work)  
517-449-4212 (cell)



Marsha Thomas (442)  
517-887-6319 (home)  
517-927-3988 (cell)



**The newborns have arrived at WBLRA!**

**Please drive carefully.**



# 2011 Application for Absentee Ballot

## White Birch Lakes Recreational Association Election

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association (WBLRA) By-Laws provide that members may vote by absentee ballot by requesting a ballot in writing.

If you choose to vote by absentee ballot in the 2011 WBLRA elections, you must complete this application and return it to the address below.

There will be no ballot in the Birch Bark as in previous years.

Absentee ballots will be sent out shortly after June 15, 2011. To receive an absentee ballot, this application must be RECEIVED before Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

Name, Last First \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lot Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(Note that you may only vote for lots upon which you pay an assessment - not contiguous status lots.

Member's signature: By signing this application, the undersigned certifies that they are an owner of the listed lot(s), that they are a member in good standing, that they intend to submit an absentee ballot for the lot(s) listed, and that they will not permit a non-member, or member not in good standing to vote using the absentee ballot(s) they will be issued.) Please make sure you have updated any contact information with the WBLRA office as ballots will not be forwarded or mailed to an address not on file.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member's Signature

Return this completed application to

**White Birch Lakes Election**  
**P.O. Box 839**  
**Farwell, MI 48622**

If you do not receive a ballot, please contact  
Bob Briggs, President WBLRA at (989) 588- 4543  
Mary Cox-Perkins, Board Liaison WBLRA at (989) 588-3338

### Office Use Only

Membership Status Verified: \_\_\_\_\_ Ballot Number(s) Issued \_\_\_\_\_  
(initials)

Not Verified: \_\_\_\_\_  
(initials)

Absentee ballots may only be received if requested by application in writing.  
No absentee ballots will be sent via the Birch Bark, nor may they be passed out by members or others.  
Applications for absentee ballots shall be signed by the members requesting them.  
Applications for absentee ballots must be received by July 7, 2011 to receive a ballot.  
Absentee ballots must be received via mail by 4 p.m. July 15, 2011 to be counted.

# The Birch Bark

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



## SWIM LESSONS

Swim lessons will be scheduled the mornings of July 11-14 and July 18-21. The cost of the eight class session is \$32.00. The classes will be conducted by a Red Cross Certified instructor. For questions or to sign up, please contact Louise Bryant at (989)965-4929 or e-mail her at [lab4424@yahoo.com](mailto:lab4424@yahoo.com). Registration deadline is July 4, 2011.



## BOARD of DIRECTORS and OFFICERS



President - Robert Briggs	<a href="mailto:cofbriggs@yahoo.com">cofbriggs@yahoo.com</a>
1st VP - Teresa Stephens	<a href="mailto:rabadstamper@yahoo.com">rabadstamper@yahoo.com</a>
2nd VP - Dorothy Nalepa	<a href="mailto:dnalepa8990@charter.net">dnalepa8990@charter.net</a>
Director - Steve Bryant	<a href="mailto:sfbryant1@yahoo.com">sfbryant1@yahoo.com</a>
Director - Linda McNeil	<a href="mailto:lucymcn79@hotmail.com">lucymcn79@hotmail.com</a>
Director - Kevin Dombrowski	<a href="mailto:kd460@sbcglobal.net">kd460@sbcglobal.net</a>
Director - Mary Cox-Perkins	<a href="mailto:funk49pt@yahoo.com">funk49pt@yahoo.com</a>
Sec/Treasurer - Elaine Carrasco	<a href="mailto:ecoffice@whitebirch.org">ecoffice@whitebirch.org</a>

(989)-588-2853

## OUR STAFF

Supervisor	Alice Van Bennekom <a href="mailto:supervisor@whitebirch.org">supervisor@whitebirch.org</a>
Maintenance	Jeff Wheeler Tom Alsup
Clubhouse	Georgia Romine Tammy Verlaque Frank Metz



## ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

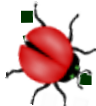
### **DO NOT MAIL TO THE OFFICE**

Ballot Applications and actual Ballots **WILL NOT** be accepted at the office. They **MUST** be mailed to the P.O. Box.

## HELP WANTED

The Activities Committee is looking for 4- volunteers to help with games and cleanup after the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Please contact the committee if you'd like to help.

**THANK YOU!**



**Although a private gated community, White Birch Lakes Recreational Association is not responsible for monitoring, insuring or securing dwellings, property or the personal belongings of its members or their guests.**