



LBCA

March 2004

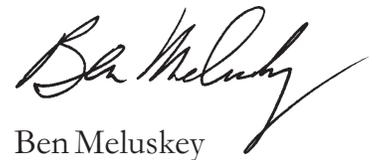
Newsletter

President's Comments

The enclosed Lake Burton Ecosystem Status Report, created by Director Tom Fischer, contains a superlative cross-section of information about our lake and its habitat. Tom spent a number of man weeks ferreting out this information from numerous sources and put it together for all of us to learn from and enjoy. A job well done!

It has been my good fortune to have dedicated hard working officers

and directors during my tenure as your President. The names of each member of this team and their individual responsibilities will appear in the front of the 2004 LBCA Directory. Take the time to review who is working hard for our continued enjoyment of the lake.



Ben Meluskey



Member Meetings Add Some Pazazz!

The LBCA Member Meeting on June 12 will be held in the evening and be followed by the annual Bluegrass Party. Bring your beverage of choice and enjoy a sumptuous fried chicken dinner with some great foot stompin' music.

On August 14, the day of our Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting, the new LBCA Art Show, complete with raffles, will open at 10:00 A.M.

President Meluskey will – as he has in the past – target the meetings for a maximum of 30 minutes. Be sure to review the May and July newsletters for more details as the dates for the meetings approach.

Hemlock Trees In Danger

The hemlock trees throughout the forests of Georgia and North Carolina are under attack by an infestation of the “wooly adelgid” - a tiny creature capable of destroying the trees and many of the 200 species dependent on the hemlock for survival. To see if any hemlocks on your property are infested look on the bottom of each tree's branches for tiny tufts of white the size of a pin head. The tufts are protective covering for the adelgid.

The U.S. Forest service has started the release of a predator beetle into major stands of hemlock in the hope of saving the trees. Point your web browser to www.savethehemlocks.info to find out how to support this program and treat your own trees.





Another Potential Real Estate Development

An eighty-five acre parcel of land adjoining Highway 197 and the south end of Blalock-Goldmine Road is under contract to Majestic Corporation. Majestic has been associated with Killlearn Inc. (J.T. Williams) property developments in the past. The property is zoned commercial/agriculture and its development is permissible, but must be completed under the new Rabun County zoning ordinances (one acre lots per septic

system or build a waste treatment facility, lake setbacks, paved roads, etc.). In addition, Georgia Power has indicated that it will make sure development of the property, should that become a reality, meets FERC and DNR requirements. LBCA officers will maintain contact with Georgia Power and hopefully have the opportunity to review development plans for the property as they unfold.

Briefly . . .

- ☑ The Rabun County Hospital is in the process of changing its identity to a Critical Access Hospital under new guidelines provided by the Federal Government. The change will generate between \$325,000 and \$700,000 of additional annual revenue from Medicare/Medicaid and other insurance entities. This is an important step forward for RCH.
- ☑ Gil and Hope Pollitt (Limberlost Trail), Jane Tillison (Murray Cove Road) and Jim and Janis Stapleton (Laurel Lodge Road) are the next Road Scholar volunteers we have confirmed. All of our volunteers' names will be provided to the Rabun County Marshall's office for publicity purposes in March.
- ☑ In January, Camp High Harbor announced that Georgia Power had gifted the Lake Burton camp properties to the Y.M.C.A. of Metropolitan Atlanta. This gift was recorded as the largest gift in the history of the Metro Atlanta "Y".
- ☑ The LBCA Nominating Committee has received a significant number of applications from members who want to become Directors of the association with a concentration from the middle district of the lake. The committee will make its recommendations to the Board of Directors at its meeting in May. The Board's recommendations to the membership will be made at our spring Member Meeting in June.
- ☑ Individual land owners have brought suit against the owners of the "garage" on Murray Cove Road for its removal and the Rabun County Commissioners have authorized the county attorney to seek an appropriate remedy to violations of a zoning variance for a garage because the owner appears to have built a cottage. Please forward your opinion on the amount of support – if any – the LBCA should provide in this effort to lbca@lbca.net.
- ☑ Adding up all the donations made by the LBCA to various 501-C entities, one can estimate \$30.00 of a member's \$75.00 annual dues can be treated as a charitable deduction in 2003.

