

Annual Assessments

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A \$25 fee is imposed on any payment postmarked after December 1, and another \$25 on payments postmarked after February 1. Liens on delinquent properties are usually filed in mid-February, more than four months after the official (early October) due date. As I write this over \$4300 is owed Aspenhof by delinquent Owners. Since that is more than the cost of the annual regatta and picnic you can imagine how it impacts our operations.

I am sometimes asked why a check mailed by an Owner was not deposited the same week. Most of the checks arrive in the last four months of the year, suggesting 16 deposits. That is both a significant burden on the Treasurer and financially counter-productive. At current interest rates your \$500 payment earns us about 0.4 cents per month so I have been holding incoming checks for a short time and depositing them once or twice a month, depending on the size of the stack. If you mail your check on November 29 to try to beat the interest game, remember that it is, by our Indenture, already about two months late. Please be patient with us while get it deposited.

Thank you, Dan Landiss, Cabin #81, Treasurer

RECYCLING UPDATE

I wanted to give everyone a recap of the recycling from the summer of 2011. I collected a total of 170 pounds of aluminum during the course of the summer, and \$118 was donated to Tenth Life cat rescue center. Thanks to all who participated.

I hope to continue the program this summer. I will have the bins at the beach for major weekends and most weekends in between. Please feel free to drop off cans from your cabin there on your way out, or schedule with me and I can pick up at your cabin.

Thanks!

Patrick Bremeher, Cabin 33



Patrick with Derby, one of the kittens from Tenth Life. Derby was born blind and recently had surgery to hopefully improve his sight. Just one of the many cats helped by Tenth Life, who specializes in helping cats with medical conditions, special needs or injuries.



Annual Assessments

Messages from Lot Owners suggest that there is still confusion over Aspenhof's assessment procedures.

The Trustees are required by our Indenture to propose an Annual Budget to the Owners 30 days prior to the September Annual Meeting. Assessments are a line item in that budget. Payment is due 30 days after the assessment letter is sent to Owners.

Since the letters have been going out in early September the official due date is early October. If you do not receive your letter by mid-September please contact the Treasurer to request another copy. To provide Owners with a little more time we have set a more relaxed, unofficial due date of November 1. The Indenture requires interest to be charged any time after the due date.

It is essential that your assessment letter be returned with your check since it is filed in our records to record the date and amount received, and is also how we learn about contact data updates.

To provide both the Owners and the Treasurer a little breathing room late fees have been implemented instead of monthly interest.

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A Message from the Chairperson

To paraphrase a famous quip from football season: "Are you ready for some Spring at Aspenhof?"

I know that I am not the only person who gets spring fever anticipating being outside and relaxing at the cabin, walking the roads, and enjoying the birds, the wild flowers, and the lakes.

As cabin owners, we, as a community, own Aspenhof, Grenoble, Sun Valley, and "Leaky" lakes and the common grounds. Though the Trustees are tasked with maintenance and management of the lakes and grounds for the enjoyment of all, we rely on volunteer cabin owners in the community to help with the various jobs that need to be done each year to provide that Aspenhof remains the safe, clean, environmentally sound community that it is. After the winter season, we will be soliciting volunteers to help with beach cleaning, with erection of the purple martin houses, with invasive plant eradication, and trail building and maintenance. Thanks in advance for helping out.

Additionally, we count on each of you to be our "eyes and ears" to bring to our attention preventive maintenance issues before they become major expensive problems. The lakes and dams are looking good now, and we encourage you to report any sighting of muskrats or otters (or holes made by them which could weaken the dams). We also need to prevent establishment of Canada Geese nests near the lakes, so watch for and report these birds and their nests.



Please note the new location for our upcoming Spring meeting on Tuesday, March 13: Tillman School in Kirkwood.

We look forward to seeing you there, where you can pick up your new yellow hangtags, see old friends, meet some new friends, and can get back in Aspenhof Spring mode for 2012!

See you there!

Teresa R. Wetzel,
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Aspenhof
Return Address
City, ST Zip



Plein Air



*River Bluffs Carol D XP
Billyo O'Donnell Fine Art
Billyoart.com*

mushrooms pushing up through the leaves near the old stumps? Do I paint the purple martins or maybe the blue birds darting about, building their nests and preparing to start new life? And I mustn't forget the truly amazing hummingbirds and the monarchs returning from Mexico. Do I paint the beauty of the wild flowers or maybe picture the

You are on a forested hillside overlooking a beautiful valley in Aspenhof. You are sitting on a stool in front of an easel on which there is a large blank canvas, with a brush in one hand and a palette of colors in the other. You have been recently commissioned to create a finished canvas for a juried competition titled Nature as you experience it at that location. Varied thoughts pass through your mind as you contemplate composition, balance, harmony and style on a finished canvas. Do I focus on the stately oaks with their new growth in the spring or do I attempt to portray the delicate shades of dogwood and red bud blossoms? Shall I picture the caring doe with her new fawn amongst the foliage or the

shrubs and briars? Then there are the regal looking turkeys, gobbling as they strut about the forest and the occasional box turtle slowly crossing the road, or maybe the schools of small fish swimming about in the lake with the ever graceful herons on the bank searching for a snack. Oh, I can't forget the beautiful blue sky, the wonderful sunsets and the full moon. What a wide world of beautiful Nature and on to such a small canvas to portray it. A thought passes through my mind that maybe, just maybe I've been whisked away to Camelot but then again it could very well be Aspenhof.

Bob Eade, Trustee for Birds, Boats, Nature and Trails

Aspenhof Board of Trustees 2011-2012

- | | |
|---|------------|
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ROADS REPORT

Mother nature and the weather have been very kind to our roads so far this fall and winter. They have remained in very good condition and little repair has been needed. Rainfall has been light, and freezing and thawing have been very moderate, which aids in our roads' overall condition.

The woods take on a different feel in the winter and hopefully some of you have been out to enjoy the stillness and solitude that the colder season provides. We are also looking forward to the spring and summer seasons at our "special" place in the country.

Dave Kroger, Roads Trustee

SECURITY REPORT

Once again as spring approaches it is time to think about updating our hang-tags. It is our responsibility as cabin owners to always display the current hang-tag on each of our own cars as well as for any and all guests' vehicles. This is a task that should not be taken lightly, as hang-tags and gate keys are one of Aspenhof's top security measures. Please make sure that your guests are aware of this as well as of the other Aspenhof rules. This is a hang-tag update only year. (Next year we update and change both hang-tags and main gate keys).

The times have changed this year for hang-tags availability at Aspenhof. Hang-tags will be available at the beach from **9:00am - 11:00am** every Saturday in May. As in the past, you can pick up your new 2012 hang-tags at the spring meeting. If you cannot make arrangements to pick up your hang-tags at either of these times please contact me by email at markbremehr@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 314-960-5092 and we can make other arrangements. Remember as of June 1, 2012 the green hang-tags are no longer valid (the new hang-tags are yellow).

Mark Bremehr, Security for Aspenhof

LAKE REPORT

The lakes are in good shape right now, but will have to be watched closely this year because of the mild winter. The work on clearing the trees and brush off of the dams is moving along well. You will notice that all the brush has been cleaned from the spillway and from the dam on the big lake. Likewise, brush has been removed from the dams on Sun Valley, and Grenoble. The last one to be cleared is Leaky Lake and it should be finished in the next 60 days, weather permitting. We owe a big thanks to Hubie Kluesner as these were some big challenges to overcome on the dams for Leaky Lake and Grenoble Lake.



We will have Lee Redman treat the lakes again this year and I ask everyone to report any lake issues that you might see to me right away, so Mr. Redman can be contacted. Last year you all did an excellent job of watching the lakes and keeping me informed; it helped a great deal to be able to treat some of the new grasses that developed quickly, before they were able to spread.

We will stock the lakes this year with some grass eating carp as it is 6 years since we last put them in. The Spring meeting is coming up fast, and I encourage all you fisherman to provide me with any suggestions on what you might think we need to stock. Hope to see everyone at the spring meeting.

Don Fassold, Trustee of Lakes

EMERGENCY FUND COMMITTEE REPORT

The purpose of this subcommittee of the Board was to review the relevant projects and desired size of the Emergency Fund held by US Bank and recommend steps to achieve that size. Members were Ray Jordan, Dave Kroger, Dan Landiss and Teresa Wetzel.

Relevant projects identified might include, but not be limited to, emergencies (road washouts, dam failures, spillway failures) and could possibly include major unplanned expenditures such as lake dredging. An Emergency Fund of \$100,000 would represent about twice our present annual expense budget and would easily cover simultaneous emergencies such as those listed above.

Assuming no change in annual assessment and a 5% increase in expenses each year the Emergency Fund will pass \$100,000 in the 2012 - 2013 Fiscal Year and peak at \$183,000 in 2018 before beginning a gradual decline.

The committee therefore recommends no change in the Annual Assessment at this time.

Thank you, Dan Landiss, #81, Treasurer

Spring Owner's Meeting

Tuesday, March 13th, 7:00 pm
New tag distribution starting at 6:30 pm

NEW LOCATION:
Tillman elementary school
230 Quan Ave., Kirkwood, MO 63122