



First boat day!

AT BIRCHWOOD, WE WANT YOU TO FEEL AT HOME!

Life is better by the Campfire...that's our motto!

"November comes, and November goes, with the last red berries and the first white snows, with night coming early and dawn coming late, and ice in the bucket and frost by the gate. The fires burn, and the kettles sing, and earth sinks to rest until next spring." – Clyde Watson

When I first captured the above quote, it was November, and I was thinking about our next newsletter, and we had a very nice blanket of snow on the ground! And bam, now it's January, and I'm still thinking about the newsletter, and we have very little snow...how quickly things change!

Ch-ch-ch-changes!

Speaking of change, 2022 continued to bring us change. We have been living in Chestertown full time now for just over 2 years, which means we are settling in nicely and learning what it means to be a local to Chestertown and being so close to Birchwood all the time!

We love that it allows us to go to Birchwood anytime, to keep an eye on the property, tick off some of the projects that we've been eyeballing for years--like the new bulkhead that was replaced before summer, or the split rail and new ski fence finished AND best of all, it means we can enjoy the lake serenity anytime we want!! Perfection!

There are so many things we want to do, we must remember – slow and steady wins the

race! What's the next thing you think we will do at Birchwood!?



Happy New Year!

We hope you all are doing well and staying healthy and having a good start to your new year! I have already spoken to some of you about our summer calendar, and I'm sure everyone else is anxiously awaiting their 2023 contracts!

We are already pretty full with return renters (and even some new ones) for the peak of 2023 summer, so if you are looking for an additional week, or to bring someone else to this special place, please reach out and let's see what we can do! Of course, availability exists more readily in June, September, and fall/winter if you're looking for something a little off-peak season!

Birthday Celebrations!

Something really fun we did at Birchwood this year was have a birthday party for me (Margo)! Pat put together a wonderful evening, and we transformed the Lodge into just the best party place for a large dinner group! We also used a local private chef that

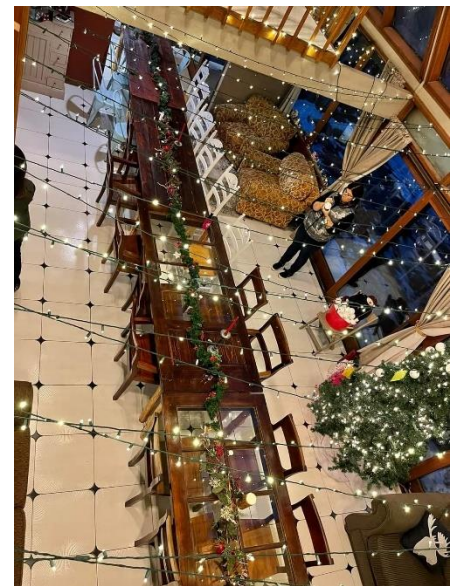
Birchwood Cottages

Loon Lake

Winter 2022/2023

READ AND ENJOY!

we would highly recommend if you're looking for something different to do while you're at camp (the chef can accommodate just about any size group, large or small). We even have someone else reserving Birchwood in June to do the same sort of thing...what a neat concept!



2023 Contracts on the Cloud!

We have been using Little Hotelier for a year now to get our calendar management system 'to the cloud' and we think it's been working well! For those of you that didn't contract with us last year, or didn't pay much attention, we will aim to get contracts out before March 2023. They will come to you in the form of an email / booking reservation confirmation from *Little Hotelier*...so if your

email address is changing (or you know a family member that doesn't use email) – let us know so we can make sure we get a copy to everyone that is staying with us! And, if your plans for 2023 have changed from what we would expect (return renters), please let us know ASAP so we can work to fill any vacancies!

As always, if you stayed with us in 2022 with a reservation that we would carry over to the following year – and you haven't explicitly told us you are not coming back – then your reservation remains. As a reminder, we can also take payment via credit card (over the phone), but a Credit Card processing fee will be applied.

Payment **IN FULL** remains due **90 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR CHECK-IN DATE**. If you need to discuss special arrangements, please get in touch with Margo, and I'm sure we can work something out.



HI PHIL – our new caretaker!

As many of you were here last year, I'm sure you saw and met our new caretaker Phil around the property! We are VERY HAPPY to report that Phil is coming back in 2023 to be with us and help with Birchwood! We are grateful for him and his return! So, as you make your way to camp this year, don't forget to say HI PHIL when you see him around!

Now – for my favorite part of the newsletter! Pictures and blurbs from our most favorite memories and the best things we've done in the area!

Every year during Columbus Day weekend, Gore has a "Harvest Fest"! It includes local vendors, food, music, and fun! We try to make it to see the beautiful peak leaves, the vendors, enjoy the food, music, and time together! This year did not disappoint, and we were able to bring some friends with us! It's always a magical (albeit chilly) view when you take the gondola ride to the top!



Gore Mtn – October 2022

While I have not tried it yet, there is a NEW RESTAURANT in the area! Basil & Wicks reopened this December with a local North Warren graduate at the helm as Executive Chef. Fun fact, he was also on Hell's Kitchen – Billy Trudsoe! Friends of ours tried it and said it was divine...we will make it there this winter, and you should plan accordingly!



Basil & Wicks, North Creek – January 2023

We are always trying to make sure we are taking care of our lake, and this summer you might have seen that we have a new fishing line recycle bin on our fence. Please make sure you are depositing your used fishing line here to help protect our Loons!



Spending time with our family and friends in an area we have grown to love so much has been such a special thing for us. From time on the lake, our favorite coffee shop, hiking for a view like no other...it's all so magical, and we hope you see the magic while you are here, too!



SUMMER CHECK-IN REMINDERS

- CHECK IN: 4pm
- CHECK OUT: 10AM (NEW FOR '23)
- Key Codes and instructions emailed week prior once paid in full.
- Payment due 90 days prior to check-in.
- All trash / food taken to the onsite dumpster, recycling to landfill
- Dishes washed upon checkout
- Don't forget **your linens!**
- Please **respect our property** while you're here!



The countdown is on!

We've said before (and we'll say it again) ... this would not be possible without YOU! We love that friends and families keep coming back to Birchwood and keep creating those memories, it is what makes this place so special. The countdown is on for summer 2023 at camp, and we can't wait to see you!

Love – The McGowans