



Living at... Walnut Grove Lake

Late Summer 2009

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2009-2010

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755-6690

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Barry Ledbetter, Alternate
508-6274

Tricia Siano, Newsletter

SPECIAL NEWS!!!

Spillway Construction to Begin Soon; Walnut Grove Lake to be Lowered 5 Feet

Greetings WGLHA. Wow! What a busy time! We are putting out this newsletter so soon after the last one because we have some new, important information to share about the upcoming construction on the spillway. As we informed you in the last newsletter, we have to replace the pipe and part of the concrete ditch and the headwall. All of this is required at this time according to the state's dam inspectors. They inspected the dam on August 19th and found us in violation, as we expected. Luckily we were already engaged in the process of discussing the project with an engineer and construction company. The inspectors will not renew our Certificate of Approval and Safety until the deficiencies in our spillway are corrected.

As I am writing this message, we are awaiting the plans, cost estimates and schedule for construction from our engineer and construction company. The engineering plans have been submitted to TDEC (Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation) for approval. The review and revise process will probably take about two weeks, which will bring us into early October. These engineering plans must be approved before work can begin and TDEC wants this project to be completed by November 5. As the details become available we will share them with you in the form of construction updates on our web site (wglha.com), so be sure to check that from time to time.

Part of the engineering plan and construction process includes lowering the lake approximately 5 feet before construction begins. By the time you receive this newsletter, this process will have started, and will take approximately 3 to 4 weeks to complete. This is a major drop in our water level and will affect access to boats and to the lake itself. This lowering of the lake will give lakefront homeowners an opportunity to work on sea walls and docks and to clean out debris from around the shoreline. It gives all residents a chance to help clean up around the shoreline too, especially the dam and parks.

For boat owners on the lake who are worried about storing their boat during this time, we have installed cleats on the pier. You can tie up your boats there while the lake is down.

As you might expect, this repair will cost a significant amount of money. Thankfully, over the years we have built up a contingency fund, currently valued at approximately \$215,000.

In the absence of this contingency fund, we would have to assess homeowners for the funds needed for these repairs. This is why it is so important for everyone to pay their dues, which allows us to cover expenses each year and build a substantial reserve for future expenses and catastrophic repairs. So, if you haven't done so already, please go ahead and pay your dues!

See you around the neighborhood.

Margie McMillan, President

A Wood Preservative Primer or “Howdy Pardner, YellaFella to the Rescue” (or, If You Can’t Use Railroad Ties, Then What Can You Use?)

The upcoming lake drawdown is the perfect time to address maintenance and repair issues on our docks and seawalls. It is also a golden opportunity for those who do not have any shoreline protection to install a seawall. Most of the lots without seawalls are eroding, sending silt into the lake, and losing square footage. Some lots (like mine) are suffering minor erosion. Others are suffering major undercutting and are losing trees and land.

Materials for stopping erosion include rip rap (most economical), stone, rock, concrete, vinyl, and acceptable wood products. Materials that are not unacceptable (see last newsletter) are railroad ties, some pressure treated wood products or any material that may leach toxic chemicals into the lake.

I have spent several hours researching materials to extend my existing dock and seawall the rest of the way across my property line. I am trying to stay with wood or a wood-like material as my existing dock and seawall are wood. The very best board is called TimberSil. It is infused with a glass emulsion and is impervious to everything. It will never rot, burn, leach, warp, etc. There is only one small issue: a 2” x 6” x 8’ is \$18.72 each. There is also plastic lumber which would be very good to use. There is only one small issue: a 2” x 6” x 8’ is \$32.00 each! I really don’t want to spend that much on a dock/seawall.

However, I have found lumber that will be acceptable here at Walnut Grove Lake - YellaWood. Yes that’s right, Pardner, YellaWood! I called TDEC and spoke to Trent Thomas in the Natural Resource area and he said there are no specific guidelines as to what materials are acceptable. Only what is

not acceptable – creosote which is used in railroad ties, for example. YellaWood uses an advanced preservative branded by the name **MicroPro**. The preservatives used in the MicroPro process are registered by the EPA as “non-restricted use” and are for above ground, on ground, and fresh water immersion applications. There is even a warranty for YellaWood used for fresh water contact in residential use. As per TDEC: products that are credible and advertise their product to be environmentally safe for contact with water are generally acceptable. You will need to use fasteners, brackets, screws, nails, etc. designed for contact with this preservative.

The key is the tag on the end of the board, post, or timber. It cannot say “For Above Ground Contact.” It needs to say “For Ground Contact.” If it says “For Ground Contact” it is also rated for “Fresh Water Contact/Immersion.” The preservative used needs to be “**Micronized Copper Azole**” or “**Micronized Copper Quaternary**.” MicroPro is YellaWood’s version. It is carried at Jimmy Whittenton Lumber on Macon Rd. and Home Depot. Lowe’s version is “Weatherguard.” If you need posts or timbers, they are likely to have them in stock. If you need boards such as 2”x 4”s or 2”x 6”s you will need to special order them. I spoke with Whittington Lumber and they would be glad to do it. The lead time can be up to two weeks so I suggest if you happen to know what your board needs are, go ahead and order them now. The cost is not much more than a regular pressure treated board. Good luck and see you on the lake shore!

- Sonny Hale

What Happened During Past “Lake Lowerings”?

The last lake lowering was about eight feet several years ago. Boats were lower but there really wasn't too much of a problem. The main body of the lake had the fewest problems. The coves on the west side were affected the most - boats were lower but I just tied a longer line off the dock and had to use a paddle to push off. You then have to trim your motor almost to the surface to get back in, but that's really not a big deal if people are aware. Folks just need to put an eight foot rope on their boat and all will be OK.

Neighbors rented metal detectors to search their lake property. Some people bought huge magnets that were strong enough to work under water, tied them to a rope and tossed them into the lake to see what they could pull out! Several neighbors planted Bald Cypress trees and cat tails on their shoreline. A few people let their boats just come to rest on the mud and power washed the pontoons. I think just about everyone cleaned their property, added a few tie-ups

along the seawall, re-tied existing bumpers with new lines, secured 4 by 4's on dock's, etc.

Homeowners around the lake take advantage of low water levels. If they have the money and time to get the plans together, they will use this opportunity to repair, replace or build docks and seawalls.

– Marcia Howard

I don't remember having problems with the boat. Tom and I tried to think what we did with it. He thinks our old dock was out far enough so that the pontoon was not affected.

What I remember being the biggest problem was the dogs. They would walk out of their yards and go around the shoreline and visit the neighbors! The best part was it allowed us to build a new dock. This will be a great time for lake lot owners to plan for repairs or projects.

- Lisa Felts

STILL Lake Committee Chair Needed!

With regret, Bob Marchini has resigned as Lake Committee Chair due to family health reasons that currently require a great deal of his time. A new volunteer to head up this very important



committee is urgently needed. If you wish to volunteer, please call 758-2796 or email wglha@juno.com

Boat Storage Issues on the Dam

On August 19, TDEC inspected our dam, as required by law. There were two things the inspectors observed and disapproved of concerning boat storage. One of these was the storage of the boats on the downstream slope of the dam (east side). They want these boats to be stored above the ground, on racks, so that grass can grow underneath to prevent erosion. The other thing was that the racks on the west side are too low on the front row nearest to the water. There is a danger that a boat could come loose during a storm and it could be washed into the spillway. This could cause major problems. **It is very important that all boats on the west side are stored off of the ground and locked up.**

We plan to build new racks for the boats currently stored on the east side and raise the racks on the west side as soon as possible. If you store a boat on the east side of the dam, we will need you to move your boat to the new racks when they are ready. For boats on the west side, we will notify you when we need you to move your boats off of the racks so we can raise them a couple of feet.

In the meantime, if you no longer use your boat that is stored on the dam, please remove it now. Plus, two boats on the east side are missing their identification (WGL + Lot Number). If either of these boats belong to you, please identify them properly as soon as possible. Otherwise, we will be forced to remove them.

Once we know when the new racks will be ready, we will post the information on our web site, wglha.com. We appreciate your cooperation in helping your volunteer Board by moving your boat at the appropriate time.

REMINDER:

**All Outside Construction Must Be Approved First
by WGLHA Board**

Everyone should have a copy of our covenants. If you don't have a copy, you can download it from our web site or call our phone number and we will get you a copy. Item D.4. states, ***"All plans and specifications for new or future construction of every type, including buildings, piers, fences, driveways, and walls, shall be approved in writing before construction by Walnut Grove Lake Homeowners Association, Inc., or their authorized representative."*** You can also download a copy of our Construction Approval Form from the web site.

Railroad ties or other toxic materials will not be allowed to be used in Walnut Grove Lake at all, for anything. Even for replacement of any rotten railroad ties in a seawall. A TDEC permit should accompany any application to the WGLHA Board if you are planning to build or replace a dock or ramp.

Even though railroad ties are no longer acceptable, we don't want to discourage anyone from building or repairing a seawall. Those properties that don't have seawalls are slowly eroding into the lake, adding to the silt accumulation and decreasing the size of their properties. So, please consider shoring up your shore line, if you don't have a seawall.

If there are a large number of homeowners who opt to do stabilization/repair work in this short window of time, TDEC will want to consider them at the same time, so WGLHA will need to coordinate the application process. Please advise us as soon as possible if you are going to do work on your seawall.



ANNUAL DAM OKTOBERFEST PARTY

Saturday, October 24th 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. on the Walnut Grove Lake Dam!

This year we are planning a great Oktoberfest party! We will have plenty of activities for everybody. We will offer lakeside garden boat tours, we will have a costume contest for children and adults, there will be a pumpkin decorating contest, fortune tellers, WGL t-shirt sales, cardboard downhill races, find the dam rock contest, live music, a piñata, door prizes and a big MOON BOUNCE for the kids!! We plan on having a guided tour to the Wolf River. We also will have carnival games for the kids.

This year we will have an arts and crafts fair. Those of you who have a craft or are selling Mary Kay or other products, are welcome to set up a table to sell your goods. Please let me know if you plan to do this so I can plan a good spot to set up.

We may also have a fishing rodeo starting at 1:00 and ending at 3:00, when the festivities begin. There will be more details in a flyer that will go out in October.

We will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers, and have chips, soda and hot apple cider to drink.

Don't miss this great way to have fun and meet your neighbors! Last year over 100 folks came. Mark your calendars for this fun filled event.

Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Please contact Parris or Ransom Edwards if you would like to help 309-8831. If you have a pontoon boat, please plan to bring it to take folks for rides.

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Friday, December 18, 2009 • 7pm til 10pm (rain date: Monday, December 21)
More info on page 6

WGLHA Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 4, 2010

**NOTE: It's not too soon to think about serving on the Board next year. Volunteers are always needed.
Call Margie McMillan at 757-0736 if you have any questions.**

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3, 2010

PLEASE SPAY or NEUTER YOUR PETS

Dear Neighbors of WGLHA,

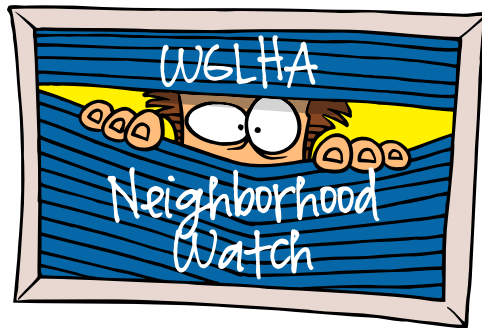
How beautiful our neighborhood looks as we approach the fall. This is our neighborhood. It is also the world to our companion pets. I have rescued about 15 animals in our neighborhood in the last four years! I was able to find the owners of the ones who had collars or chips. But some went to new forever homes. Last year in the U.S., four million homeless dogs and cats were euthanized. Please be part of the solution to pet overpopulation and homelessness and spay or neuter your dogs and cats. Also, consider having a micro-chip put in them so they can be returned to you if they get lost.



There is a non-profit spay/neuter clinic in our community with reduced fees: Mid-South Spay and Neuter Services, 854 Goodman St., off of Park Ave. Their phone number is 324-3202. For more information you can visit their web site at www.spaymemphis.com.

Let's make our neighborhood a kinder, caring place for all creatures. Report any animal cruelty to the Humane Society (937-3900) and police department (545-COPS). Also, remember that every dog and cat needs heartworm prevention.

- Pam O'Fallin



- Lock car/truck doors – on the street or in the driveway
- Keep your garage door closed and locked, whether at home or not
- Be alert in protecting not only your home but your neighbor's as well – don't tell a stranger that your neighbor is not at home
- Be sure your home is well lighted inside and out at night

Block Captains Still Needed: If you reside in these areas listed below and have not been contacted by a Block Captain – please consider helping us with this project. We need to be sure that our **entire** neighborhood is covered. Please consider helping us for at least one year and identifying someone to take your place.

- Ericson Road – South End • Ericson Road – North End
- Viking Road – Middle Section • Lief Cove – West Side
- Trondheim Drive – Middle Section

Call one of our co-chairs: **Sandra McCorry 755-6609** or **Kathy McLallen 262-6681** to volunteer or for more information and questions. Thank you to all who participate in this program!!



National Night Out August 4, 2009 on Trondheim Dr.

LIGHT UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Friday, December 18th - Judging 7pm till 10pm
(rain date: Monday, December 21st)

Is it already time to start thinking about the holidays? YES!

Gather friends and family and start stringing those lights. New Board member Barry Ledbetter is leading the charge to organize a Walnut Grove Lake Holiday Decorating Contest. The judging will take place on Friday, December 18th from 7 pm to 10 pm, so keep your lights on! If the weather is bad on that day, then the judging will be on Monday, the 21st.

On the 18th (or 21st), if you see Barry and his judging crew driving slowly through the neighborhood in his wood paneled Jeep Grand Wagoneer taking in the holiday festivities, please stop him, he'd be delighted to speak with you about your designs and decorations! (By the way, it is no secret that he loves hot chocolate and cookies!)

There will be three prizes awarded:

Best Holiday Scene – could be Blue Elvis lights, Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, etc.

Most Original/Creative

Best use of natural landscape (trees, bushes, etc.)

The prizes (Simon Mall gift cards worth \$50) will be delivered to the winners on Christmas Eve. Pictures and addresses of the winners will also be posted on the neighborhood's website wglha.com.

Call Barry at (901) 508-6274 if you have any questions.

The Dock Doc!!!

We make "house calls".



BEFORE



AFTER

With the lake to be lowered, this will give the PERFECT opportunity for lakefront homeowners to work on sea walls and docks. Let me help with ANY repairs, maintenance or improvements you may have!

Steve Grushkin - (901) 338-4300

Neighborhood Garage Sale

Approximately 19 households participated in the WGLHA Yard Sale on Saturday, August 12. Big crowds showed up early and folks were able to sell lots of stuff!



Homeowners Dues

Just a reminder - if you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so! Invoices went out with the spring newsletter, and about 80% of WGLHA neighbors have "paid up!" Your annual dues of \$152 help to maintain our private lake and park areas, valuable WGLHA neighborhood amenities. Please send your check to: WGLHA, PO Box 1450, Cordova, TN 38088.

Lake Sonnet

Before the rippling currents of the lake
 I lie recumbent in the grass to rest.
 From burdens in my life I take a break
 My body by the sunlight fully dressed.
 I hear the calling of the geese above
 As fishing neighbors slowly putter by.
 The verdant garden holds me like a glove
 My worries lift and travel to the sky.
 There never was a calmer place than this,
 Where humans can converge with nature's peace.
 I shut my eyes, and inhale full of bliss
 The wind blows but rotation seems to cease.
 Then comes the puppy, bounding through the yard.
 She pounces in my lap and bites me hard.

- Rachel McMillan, 2005



Which one is the real blue heron? Cindy Conner on Viking Cove recently installed a metal heron in her back yard. She took this picture as it was visited by a real heron!

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Police 545-COPS

Sheriff 379-7625

Section H-Norseman, Walnut Creek,
Brye Hollow & Glen Gyle

Mayor's Citizen Service Center 576-6500

Report code violations such as overgrown yards and debris. All
complaints are kept confidential.

County Codes Enforcement 545-4311

Report code violations for houses in the county.

Report street lights out 320-1498

Storm water drain hotline 529-0237

To report dumping in streets or storm drains.

MLGW 544-MLGW

For power outage, wires down, leaking water
mains & gas leaks.

Memphis Solid Waste Management 576-6851

To request trash pickup.
(Section H contact the company you have contracted with.)



new residents!

Say hello to your new neighbors who have moved to
Walnut Grove Lake recently. If we've missed you, please
let us know and we'll include you in the next newsletter.

Ravikunar Singh

8312 Trondheim

Milton & Pamela Parham

8491 Bazemore

Eileen Kuo

403 Reksten

Ben Hogbin

394 Kristiansun