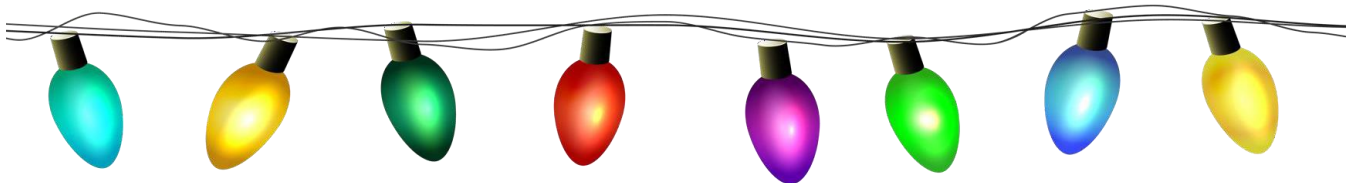


Living at Walnut Grove Lake

Fall 2022



Happy Holiday Message

Each of our families have special traditions this time of year. No matter how you celebrate or don't celebrate this time of year is your choice and everyone should have respect and appreciation for what you do. May your Holiday sparkle with moments of love, laughter, and goodwill, and may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.

Holiday Lights Contest

It is time to deck the hall once again and light up the neighborhood. This year's categories will be:

- **Best Use of Landscape**
- **Best Traditional**
- **Best Front Door/Porch**
- **Best Dock for lakeside**

Our neighborhood looks so beautiful when it is all lit up. Bring the holiday spirit to Walnut Grove Lake. Please call Suzy Ward 351-6147 if you have any questions. Judging will take place on **Saturday, December 17th** and rain date Sunday December 18th. Both lakeside and streetside judging will take place on the same day.

**Fall/Winter 2022
Preventative Maintenance for
common areas. We have a
vendor to keep storm drains
clean and leaves out of the
parks.**

A Letter from the President

Fall is falling and as I write these words Halloween has passed and Thanksgiving is on the horizon. Looking out my office window I cannot remember the fall colors looking so vibrant. I am reminded of how lucky I am to live in this neighborhood.

As a reminder to all of the residents, the storm drains in our neighborhood drain directly into the lake. Keeping the areas around the drains free from leaves and debris helps reduce the amount of organic material discharged into the lake.

As most of you know by now, the dredging project has concluded and we were successful in removing 10,000+ cubic yards of muck from the lake. The muck storage bag at the bottom of the dam will be removed after the first of the year once it has finished dewatering. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the residents for their patience, support and continued dialog in regard to the ongoing improvements to the lake.

As far as improvements to the water quality of the lake, once the winter season winds down, we will re-start the bio-augmentation process and re-double our efforts to get out in front of the blue green algae nightmare. And I do mean nightmare. This past year has taught us some valuable lessons about lake ecosystems and the need to be proactive and flexible when dealing with Mother Nature.

In closing, I would like to thank Margie McMillian and the Committee of Twelve for their hard work in getting the Rental Restriction Amendment passed. This was an all-hands-on deck effort which should provide some benefit to the overall health of the association. Again, thanks to everyone (including the residents and Clif) for your help.

Committee Report

2022 Fall Lake Report

The dredge work is finally over, and the results will hopefully be positive for the future of our beautiful lake. However, there remain issues from residents on the North end of the lake claiming shallow conditions are still a problem. Of course, the severe lack of rain hasn't helped. Additionally, two of the North end aerators aren't functioning after damage from the dredger. Other complaints have been voiced about a substantial algae bloom in the large cove nearest the dam, but hopefully cooler weather and rain may help clear this problem up.

Fishing has been good despite the dredging and very little rainfall, with larger fish showing up in the deeper areas and around the aerators. Reports of tilapia, catfish and the occasional bream have been showing up in catches.

Beaver damage has been reported as their fall appearance is evident. Please take precautions and report any damage to Keith Collins or a board member.

With autumn upon us, please help in keeping our drains clear and unobstructed from all the leaves entering our lake.

Cecil Norwood
Lake chairman

IT'S FALL, Y'ALL!!

One thing I love most about living on Walnut Grove Lake is the gracious abundance of beautiful trees. This time of year, our woodlands are all the more beautiful in their seasonal regalia, lining our shoreline in so many vivid shades of fall color. Once this visual treat fades, however, we all know what comes next. Well, they don't call it "fall" for nothing!

To be honest, living on a heavily wooded lot is new to me. We moved here last year from a home with a large, grassy front lawn that had a total of four trees. Looking out our window now, I can count 28 full-size trees in our front yard alone! So, when our first fall at WGL came along last year and we found ourselves literally knee-deep in leaves, we were overwhelmed! After working ourselves half to death raking and bagging, as well as paying lawn services a month's wages to blow and haul away multiple trailer loads of leaves, we have been exploring alternatives to traditional leaf removal.

The best solution we've come up with so far, is to re-use and recycle. Since it is also the time of year to clean up our flower beds and prepare them for winter, consider adding about two inches of shredded leaves on top of the soil of all your flower and vegetable beds. They don't have to be finely shredded - just running your mower over them should do the trick. Adding a blanket of leaves to your beds has many benefits. In addition to protecting the soil surface from erosion, they help retain moisture. As the leaves decompose, they provide valuable organic nutrients to the soil, improving its condition for your spring plantings. They also block sunlight from reaching the soil, which helps prevent those weed seeds from germinating. The addition of organic materials like leaves, improves your soil's texture and drainage.

To get a neater and more consistent look in your beds, don't forget to add mulch *over* the shredded leaves. In addition to the aesthetic appeal, adding mulch will help weigh down the leaves so that they do not wash or blow away. Mulching over the leaves provides a great combination for aesthetic appeal and benefit for your soil.

Leaves also make a great addition to your compost! Again, shred or chop the leaves using your lawn mower, and add them into your compost pile. By spring, you should have some rich, black compost to add into your gardens.

If you have a grass lawn, you don't want to leave a large amount of leaves that can smother your lawn. However, you can use a mulching blade on your mower and let the leaves nourish the soil. After all,

your lawn is basically a garden bed for grass!

Those of us with heavily wooded lots probably will have a challenge recycling *all* our fallen leaves, so these are but partial solutions for many – myself included. But, every bag of leaves we don't have to haul to the curb and send to the landfill - while benefitting our gardens - is a win/win in my book! Best of luck with your leaves, and if you have other leaf solutions to share, I'd love to hear from you!

May the upcoming holiday season find all of you happy and healthy.

Kathy Fisher

Gardening/Home Maintenance Tips