

Newsletter WGLHA Winter 2023



IMPORTANT

**Walnut Grove Lake Homeowners Annual Meeting
March 23rd, 2023
6:30pm**

Location : Agricenter International- Bldg. C



Living at Walnut Grove Lake



2013

Letter from the President

Life at the Lake

Spring is right around the corner and the WGLHOA Board members are coming into their busiest season of the year. The annual meeting with our residents, Easter Egg Hunt, lake maintenance, and 4th of July activities are fast approaching. As always, we are looking for volunteers to assist the board with planning and execution of the many upcoming events planned for this year. I encourage you to check out the events calendar and think about ways you can get involved.

As most of you probably know by now, the Board decided to do a Beta test on having the fall leaves picked up by the street curbs to reduce the amount of organic material being washed into the lake. The overall process went well and with some minor adjustments and tweaks we will probably institute the same program next fall. As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please bring them to the Board's attention.

The Board members (I especially) continue to focus on the lake and the ongoing issues with the water quality. We were not able to get out front of the blue green algae problem last year, even after numerous control efforts and a lot of discussions with professionals in the industry. This year we are doubling our efforts and hope to get a jump on the algae problem. I have included an article submitted to the Board from EverBlue Lakes, who was responsible for the aeration system and the bio-treatments last year. They have provided a more in-depth explanation of the issues we face as we prepare for the summer ahead.

I wish everyone a safe and healthy Spring and am looking forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming events.

Dave Fearn



Spring is around the corner!

Don't miss our Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic!



Walnut Grove Lake Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic Saturday, April 8 11:00 A.M. Simpson Park

Get your kids' Easter baskets ready and come have fun with us at the Walnut Grove Lake Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic!

On Saturday, April 8, we will have the Easter Egg Hunt in Lovitt Field right across the street from Simpson Park starting at 11:00 A.M. There will be a separate hunt for toddlers so that all children can enjoy the chance to fill their baskets with eggs!

Following the hunt, we invite everyone to come across the street to Simpson Park for food and a good old-fashioned neighborhood social! Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be provided by the Association. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite side dish or dessert to add to the "spread." Bring some chairs!

There will be boat rides available, and of course the kids can enjoy the playground equipment.

We are looking for donations of plastic Easter eggs filled with candy, and if you know of a source who might donate hot dogs, chips or drinks, please let us know!

Please call Jane Raymond at 550-8971 if you have any questions, or if you would like to volunteer to help at this fun event.

Mark your calendars and make plans to come have fun with us as a community on April 8!

Committee Reports

Fishing Report

Winter is underway but hopefully half over as it has been a bear so far. High winds, ice, snow, and rain have made recreation on the lake sparse, to none. Fishing reports have been limited with no positive results. The aerators have been turned off because the water temperature dictates their effectiveness in the winter. With rising temps in the spring, they will be repaired and placed back in service. We have other plans, as well, to increase the water quality and recreational opportunities of our beautiful lake. We have had positive results from our beaver trapper, although I have observed one on my lot, hopefully a transient. Report any damage to Keith Collins or any member of the HOA board. Several residents have reported leaves being blown into the lake by the lawn contractors, so please advise your lawn care folks accordingly and help keep our drains clear.

Keep a smile on your face, as better days are coming!

Maintenance Report

Last year played havoc on large trees behind the dam. We recently had another fallen tree that was bigger than any of the previous. The tree has been removed. The large bag of dredging material has been contracted for removal. We still need a little more time for moisture to seep out before we begin.

All of the playground equipment in Farrell and Simpson Park will be refurbished and re-stained along with all the park benches. The screen around the aerator equipment will be constructed sometime in March or April. Lake grass will be dealt with in common area as needed.



Late Winter Landscaping Tips

In the dead of winter, it may have seemed like the cold days would never end, but now the warmer temperatures will be here sooner than we think. Green shoots will begin sprouting from the ground and buds will start forming on branches. The transition from winter to spring is a welcome change of seasons. As we wait for spring's arrival, we can help give your landscape a head start. Sometimes it is easy to forget about landscaping maintenance during the winter months. The grass and weeds are not growing like they do in the spring and summer, and your property might be covered in snow during this time. While you might be tempted to just ignore your landscaping and wait until spring arrives to deal with it then, that would be a mistake. You do not want your landscaping to fall too far behind.

Pruning

Late winter is a great time to have us do some pruning in order to prepare your trees and shrubs for the upcoming warmer weather. Professional pruning will promote new growth in the year ahead. We will trim back limbs that have been allowed to grow too long or too thick. Pruning will reward you with great looking trees later in the year.

Lawn Check

We have had a lot of snow this winter, and one of the troubles your lawn faces at the onset of spring is snow mold, which becomes visible after heavy snowfalls. Thawing snow could reveal that your lawn has some snow mold. There are two main types of snow mold: pink and gray. They usually look like dead patches of grass with some fuzzy fungus on top. If you do notice some on your lawn, we will perform a combing process so the individual blades of grass can get some oxygen. This will help combat the snow mold. In addition, worm infestations in your lawn can lead to serious damage. It is important to let us treat this problem before these critters begin to thrive in the warmer weather.

Winter Recovery

Some branches or leaves of your evergreen bushes and shrubs may have died, so let us clean up the damaged plants around your property. They impede growth in the upcoming season, and we want to see your plants flourish in the upcoming season.

De-Winterizing

Did you make preparations for the winter freeze last fall, such as winterizing your sprinkler system? If so, now is a good time to think about a restart of your system. Drain and test your irrigation system to make sure no problems have developed while the system was laying dormant. You do not want to get into the middle of the warm weather only to find out that your sprinkler system is no longer working, so do what you can now to get ready in advance!

Pre-Emergents

Adding some pre-emergent products to your lawn and garden beds prior to the weeds getting started for the year can put you ahead of the game. Using pre-emergents will keep weeds to a minimum. We can also add a slow-release fertilizer for you, so your lawn is full and lush all spring and summer long.

Big Cuts

Do you have any plants which have outgrown their space and need to be cut back significantly? These kinds of cuts are similar to pruning, but they are more drastic in measure. This is a good time of year to cut back on some of your trees and shrubs that have taken over a walkway or patio, as they will begin sprouting new growth in the months ahead.

Hardscapes

February and March are the best time to install hardscapes. Most gardens benefit greatly from having one. Paths, patios, water features, and fireplaces help make a garden not only more usable but also beautiful. If you already have hardscapes like sidewalks, walkways, and driveways—they have taken a beating during the cold weather. Extreme temperature changes can cause concrete to expand and crack. If you have had to use a lot of salt to melt ice and snow, the excessive salt accumulation can wear away at surfaces. If it looks like they need a little repair, now is the time to do it!



Planting New Life

Once we are very confident that the last big freeze or snowfall of the winter is behind us, there is no reason to wait to put new plantings in the ground. To bring your property to a new level this year, take an overall look around at your landscaping and decide where you think you should add a few new elements, and we will be out to plant them for you!

The Mystery Walnut Grove Lake Dog



He has several names.....Fonzie, Blackie, Bear, Mystery, JD (for Just Dog). I started calling him Fonzie because he reminded me of the character of the same name from the '70's sitcom "Happy Days". He's a good looking, free-spirited tough guy who doesn't have a family and the girls love him.

Fonzie's been in the neighborhood for over 10 years....probably close to 12. I have no idea where he came from. He was a grown dog the first time I saw him. He LOVES other dogs and they love him. When I take my dogs for walks, he tags along with us. I've had other neighbors remark on how much their dogs like him.

He's wary of people. I've been feeding him for years and have gotten to the point where he will take food from my hand, but he won't let me pet him. Other neighbors feed him, too, so he seems to get enough to eat. I've tried to get him to come inside out of the cold but he won't come in. I know others have tried to cajole him inside, too, but without success.

He seems to travel quite a large range. I've seen posts about him on social media from Germantown Parkway to Sanga. Somehow, he crosses Walnut Grove. He seems very smart and savvy which is how he's survived this long. I worry about him as he ages. He's got to be about 12 or 13 years old and for a dog his size that's getting up there.

Jane Hanafin

Water Quality from Everblue Lakes

Overall, the water quality of Walnut Grove Lake has been very poor. Before starting up the new Aeration system on April 25th, 2022 the DO ranged from 0.43mg/L at 18 feet deep to 0.33mg/L at 12 feet deep. Green algae levels ranged from 488.5 RFU at the bottom, 1751 RFU at the middle, and 1731 RFU at the top. Bluegreen algae measured at 214 RFU at the bottom, 532 RFU at the middle, and 769 RFU at the top. On normal lakes, these values are still relatively high. By July, we found that in the deep part of the lake, the bottom 6 feet still lacked oxygen, but increased from 0.40mg/L at 18ft. up to 2.99 at 12ft. The minimum DO level for a healthy lake is 4.0mg/L. Water temperatures reached 90°F at the surface, creating ideal conditions for cyanobacterial blooms, which lasted through much of the season. By our July measurements, both green and blue green algae levels had skyrocketed: green algae levels at 1480, 2001, 2947 RFU at bottom, middle, top, respectively. Bluegreen algae measured at 4961, 6037, 9557 RFU. Water clarity dropped from 6ft. to 1.5ft. between April and July.

As this year is only the second season our LFA system has been implemented, we will likely see some of the same, but are very optimistic that we will delay the arrival of the algae blooms and may even drastically reduce them during the blooms. It likely took decades for the lake to get to the condition it's currently in, along with climate change exacerbating the effects; there is no quick fix. However, our team has a new arsenal of processes, technology, and supplies to battle cyanobacteria blooms this year. Our goals are to oxygenate the lake and get it the microorganisms it needs and continuing to monitor progress through water testing and data collection to learn more about the lake.

Last year's dredging project should help to improve the quality of the lake by removing some of the bottom muck. It will be important for us to run these tests and sample collections to get a new baseline of data for the lake.

Julie and Katie, Everblue Lakes