



# Living at Walnut Grove Lake

---

## Summer 2021

As spring greets us and the pandemic seems to give us some space to breathe, residents of Walnut Grove Lake can look forward to gathering in gardens and on decks, on the dam and in our lakeside common areas, and most importantly, for our annual Independence Day festivities right here in our own neighborhood.

For a complete overview and details on our Independence Day Activities, please visit our website by clicking [here](#).

The Annual Meeting of WGL property owners will take place on August 5, having been postponed from the usual spring meeting due to COVID restrictions. If we cannot meet in person, we will stage a Zoom informational meeting with election of officers and any other business requiring a vote accomplished by mail-in ballot. Please watch for complete details forthcoming, and save the date!

Your lake committee has been actively studying and preparing for dredging Walnut Grove Lake. You can find a synopsis of the committee's activities and plans within this newsletter. With several weeks of cold winter weather, a cool, wet spring, and successful treatments, lake health has improved. Oxygen levels are up, and algae toxins are under control. Testing and treatments will continue over the summer months.

We had planned on dredging during late summer, but the project has been moved a couple of months into October. This will give the committee more time to collect and study proposals and also offers the benefit of enjoying the lake over the summer.

Finally, the HOA has recently let bids for tree maintenance in our common areas, which will give our parks a tidy appearance and ensure the health of our trees.

I hope to see you soon!

— *Victor Charles*, president

# Lake Committee Report

*-David Fearn, committee for lake health*

The beautiful spring we have enjoyed has brought opportunities for assessing lake health in preparation for dredging Walnut Grove Lake. Partly because of cold weather we experienced last winter and because of the mild and wet weather we've had this spring, our lake is in better shape going into summer than it has been in several years.

You may recall that tests conducted in September 2019 confirmed the presence of blue-green algae in Walnut Grove Lake. At that time, the level of toxins produced by the blue-green algae was equal to the threshold for avoiding contact with the water.

On September 25, 2019, the board communicated this information with the community and asked that residents and guests avoid contact with the water.

On June 26, 2020, the HOA received additional test results which confirmed toxins well above the threshold for avoiding contact with the affected water. At that time, the HOA engaged a local water treatment company, Aquatic Control, to consult on lake management. Since then, the HOA has followed recommended treatments. See complete details [here](#).

Throughout the summer of 2020, oxygen levels in the lake remained too low to conduct recommended treatments. Because treating for algae would further lower oxygen levels, treatment would likely have resulted in a massive fish kill, which the HOA wanted to avoid.

The winter of 2020/2021 was spent requesting proposals and reviewing options for dredging, and lake management going forward in the short- and long-term. Water testing began in March when water temperatures warmed enough for meaningful testing. Following is a synopsis of activities.

March: Quote requested and received for testing and treating lake water over the spring months. Quote approved and tests were conducted. Results revealed toxins in the lake well beyond the threshold for avoiding contact with lake water. Oxygen levels were high enough to support a treatment regimen to mitigate the algae. Treatment was completed March 24.

April: Algal Monitoring and Advanced Quality Assessment reports received which revealed a successful treatment with overall water quality much improved since 2019. Treatment, coupled with weather conditions over the winter and spring are helping with lake health. Follow-up testing two weeks later revealed low algae densities holding steady with no further treatment required.

May: Toxin levels will be monitored throughout May. A complicating factor has been an accident which resulted in sewage being spilled into the lake. On May 5, the HOA received verbal confirmation that the sewage spill has not affected lake

health. Water tests conducted by the City produced negative results for any harmful bacteria from the spill. The next test for blue-green algae has been scheduled for May 19.

Besides the positive test results, images of the lake bottom indicate that the entire lake will not require dredging. Instead, the dredge can deal with the worst areas of sedimentation.

Research and planning continue for dredging, but the target date to begin is moved from summer to fall 2021. This will allow us to enjoy the lake during the summer as we continue treatments to mitigate algae. Lake health reports will be issued as necessary, but for the foreseeable future, we may enjoy the lake as usual.

Following the dredging project, the HOA will continue to evaluate water quality and ways to address lake health in the long-term.

## **Join the July 4th Fun!**

### **Saturday, June 26**

**Lakeside Parks Open for Picnics and Grilling**  
**6 p.m. Boat and Anything that Floats Parade**  
**Sundown: Fireworks Display**  
Those gathered in WGL Common Areas must adhere to applicable Shelby County Health Department guidelines for masking and distancing.

### **Saturday, July 3**

**8 a.m. Fishing Rodeo at Simpson Park**  
**Lakeside Parks Open**  
**Mailbox Decorating Contest**  
Have mailboxes decorated by 12 noon

### **Dam Cleanup June 27, 10 a.m.**

Show your neighborhood pride! Join Kimberly Price and the neighborhood cleanup committee to pitch in with cleanup following the Extravaganza.

On the morning of June 27, cleanup efforts will focus on the dam. Please help maintain our beautiful lakeside! Meet on the dam at 10 a.m.. This special clean-up should take an hour or so, and the more the merrier (and efficient!)

Please contact Kimberly Price at [ksprice2@gmail.com](mailto:ksprice2@gmail.com) for more information.

Show your patriotism and WGL pride with the annual **Independence Day Mailbox Decorating Contest!** Any Independence Day theme is great! Entries are judged on creativity and spirit. Let's all join in on this fun event!

Judging will take place on Saturday, July 3. Have your mailbox decked out by noon.

# Information, please!

**WGLHA will hold its Annual Meeting on August 5.** The meeting will take place in person if possible, and if not, Keith Collins Co. will host a Zoom meeting. If the meeting can be held in person, board members will be elected for new terms. If the meeting is held electronically, board elections and other business requiring a vote will be accomplished using mail-in ballots. Complete details, along with biographical information on persons who have been put forward for board membership will be distributed in advance of the meeting.

**Mandi Anderson, Adrienne Roth and Suzy Gwen Ward have been put forward for board membership** for the coming year. Elections will take place at the annual meeting on August 5. If you would consider serving on the HOA board, please contact Keith Collins Co. at 901-753-4170.

April's **neighborhood cleanup** went over smoothly, as expected. One of the great things about Walnut Grove Lake, is everyone's desire to keep it looking GREAT and chipping in when NEEDED.

We had a nice turnout and got the work done in a little under two hours last month! As the summer heat approaches, we need to figure out a SAFE way to quickly get the work done before the sun makes our job a bit more challenging.

Neighborhood captains and a few volunteers for each street just might be the solution. A small crew assigned a small area close to home could cut down on EFFORT and the TIME needed to keep our neighborhood CLEAN.

We are looking for a volunteers to share the **Neighborhood cleanup** load. If you would like to volunteer as a captain, please contact Kimberly Price at [ksprice2@gmail.com](mailto:ksprice2@gmail.com) or text (901) 281-4942 for more details.

**The next clean up day is scheduled for Saturday July 17th at 8AM.** We will meet at Ferrell park close to the boat landing at the dam closest to Bazemore and Bergen.

Former Surgeon General Regina Benjamin emphasizes that **taking a stroll “is good for the social fabric of our communities”** — creating new opportunities to connect with friends and neighbors.

## *Welcome New Residents!*

- Calvin and Mimi Austin,  
8363 Bergen Drive
- Eric Hubbard, 168 Ericson Road
- Heather and Preston Humbard,  
8393 Bazemore Road
- Laksh Nandrajog, 338 Ericson Road
- Monica Pham or Anna Fan,  
166 Leif Cove