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Gardner Lake Newsletter

Gardner Lake

Association

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GLA Welcomes 500 Grass Carp to the Lake

Imagine not only wanting carp in the lake, but actually paying \$10 a pop for one! But that's exactly what we did. Gardner Lake Association treasurer, Leslie Hind, took the reins on the project. She was convinced that there was a safe way to manage the noxious aquatic growth that has choked the lake for the past several years. She did the research, found the supply, secured the purchase and raised the money. Hats off to Leslie!!

Leslie introduced the carp to the lake on May 29th with the help of her husband Jordan, daughters Juneau and River, and Dave Young. The fish were between 6 and 8 inches long, big enough to not be prey for bass, but small enough to have a great appetite for the weeds. They are strictly vegetarian. They are also sterile, so their presence will not upset the natural balance of the lake environment...unless of course, you are seaweed. They are particularly fond of Curley Leaf Pond Weed, recently found in the lake and known to be particularly aggressive. The full impact of their efforts may not be realized for a couple years.

This variety of carp can live up to 40 years and can weigh up to 100 pounds at maturity. However, the large fish don't have the appetite of their younger version. Since the carp don't strike at bait or lures, they will probably not be threatened by fisherman. However, you can snag them with your fish hook or boat propeller. Fishermen are asked to not kill them should they snag one. Bow fishing is prohibited here, so they shouldn't be considered a worthy target.

Fighting the problem on another front, the city has sprayed the surface where the presence of duckweed and moss was problematic. The topical application kills the growth in a couple days. It turns brown and eventually composts into the water. The city has budgeted for two additional applications this year and will apply them when the timing is best, which is a function of temperature and rain.

It is not recommended to introduce copper sulfate the water as it can be hazardous to lake life. Experts on the subject feel we have approached the issue in the most beneficial way.

In addition, the state released 1500 pounds of catfish to the lake after determining the population of the bottom-feeders had reached a low level.



Charles Wallace, from Wallace Fish Farm near Emporia, arrives with a tanker truck full of grass carp. He carefully unloads this swimming stock to a plastic container.

Pictured with Leslie is her husband Jordan and daughters Juneau and River, Charles Wallace and Dave Young.





Leslie gently untangles carp from the dense growth of water weeds at the fishing point on Gardner East Road. Once free, carp darted and dashed from their arrival point experiencing their first taste of life outside of a contained area.

The breeder said that they would be in every corner of the lake within a few hours and be eating at an astonishing rate, although the maximum effect may not be realized for a couple years.

A funding campaign launched by Leslie raised over \$3,500 from many generous lake residences and supporters. The balance was contributed from the Gardner Lake Association treasuring accumulated through annual dues, tee shirt campaigns and other fund raisers.



2021 Gardner Lake 4th of July Boat Parade

Line up begins at 3:30 at the Dam
At that time, you will receive your registration number

Parade Launches at 4:00

Grand Marshals for 2021

We are Honoring Former GLA Presidents

Suzie Townley, Joyce O'Connor, Jan Pringle, Harold Quaintance,
Herb Klemp and Larry DesMarteau

Awards will be presented to the top three entries in two categories:

American Spirit* and *Best Theme Boat

(Plus the ever-popular 'Committee's Choice')

Our Grand Marshals will be the Judges and Jury.

The Parade Committee Boat will award the prizes immediately after the parade.

Three Big Upcoming Events for 2021

The ever-popular *4th of July Boat Parade* is now in its 18th year at Gardner Lake. Last year's parade theme brought recognition to First Responders and Health Care Workers. This year's theme will be announced at our meeting this Saturday, so be sure to stay tuned. The Gardner Lake underground is buzzing with rumors of a huge turnout of floats this year!

Back by popular demand, *Rock the Docks* will again bring live music to the waters. This hugely-successful event debuted last year thanks to the tireless efforts of Suzie Townley. The date was previously reported incorrectly. It is September 5th, the Sunday before Labor Day Monday. An eclectic variety of sounds will emanate from our dock sites for your cruising pleasure.

"Paddler's, start your Kayak's!" *The Kayak Run* will again bring laughter, color and commotion to the waters at Gardner Lake on Labor Day morning. Lineup is 9:45 at the dam. GLA board members are monitoring the health situation and will determine the scope of events on the shoreline.

Saturday, October 9th is an important date for your calendars. That morning starts with the annual fall GLA meeting. That evening brings the best out of our crockpots when we line up for the big *Chili Cook-Off* at the park below the dam. Start perfecting your recipe's now!

What is the Gardner Lake Association?

Since the completion of the construction of the lake in 1939, there has always been an association of lake volunteers with a passion for our landmark. We all share the same concerns for the preservation and well-being of our watery jewel and the surrounding property. Although we are limited to advocating, we are very passionate regarding the subject. Among our duties, we serve as a liaison to the City of Gardner and to Johnson County, and a sounding board for suggestions. We also provide a channel of communications amongst our members in addition to being responsible for organizing events that bring residents together for fun and fellowship.

Annual dues are only \$20.00. If you have not already joined, we will take this opportunity to invite you. For information on how to join, please contact our treasurer Leslie Hind at leslie.hind@gmail.com. We would especially enjoy knowing if you would be willing to serve on a board position. We currently have several vacancies at this time, and a lot of work to do.

Would you Help Us?

The Gardner Lake Association Board of Directors is made of a minimum of five board members who serve three-year terms. Are you willing to consider a board position to help us do great things? The Board would like to add several new positions and are hoping you might want to help. If so, reach out to us on gardnerlake.info and let your willingness to be known. We would like to bring some additional folks on soon.

Also, don't hesitate to access our website for postings, progress reports meeting minutes at www.gardnerlake.info. You can always call our hotline at 913-938-6867. If you need to leave a message, we will get back to you.

Thank you from your board of director

A Slippery Situation

Because your editor is a history geek, I thought you might enjoy an article about other lake quality problems that have plagued us since our completion in 1939. Here's one regarding the Olathe Naval Air Station (ONAS) that is now New Century AirCenter, to our immediate east. The Department of Defense chose this location because we were here for their water supply! Enjoy, or cringe. Your choice.

In late April of 1952, Clifford Cravens, manager of the Gardner Lake Resort, noticed the presence of an oily film on the lake. At the time, he had the boat rental concession and sold beer, tackle and fishing licenses. Therefore, it was to him that complaints were registered. He traced the source to the Navy Air Station by means of a small drainage ditch with low visibility. When it was called to the attention of Capt. James H. Flatley, the commanding officer at the base, a leaking 11,000-gallon tank of aircraft engine lubricant was identified as the source. Evidently, 3,100 gallons of oil had escaped through a leak over the previous few days and had found its way to the lake in a 1.5-mile drainage ditch.

Immediately, eight sailors were dispatched to the lake with burlap bags to work in shifts of eight hours to mop up the mess. The majority of the oil was still in the ditch which was then dammed off and the oil ignited.

Cravens threatened to sue the Federal Government, and the Universal Construction Company who built the tank, for \$3,000 in damages and lost revenues. His customers were complaining that the oil ruined their tackle and clothing, and that the situation would impact their fishing success.

In an effort to assess the damage, the Navy dispatched G.W. Akers, a ship's cook, and his wife Myrtle. With fishing poles in hand, they reported catching seventy-two blue gill and crappie that evening. The next night, Akers took a fishing buddy, Tech Sargent Jack Colberg of the Air Force unit to the lake with his wife Linda. Between them they caught another forty fish. The following day, Akers and Colberg, both fly fishing and bait casting, caught another forty-two blue gill and crappie, from six inches to eleven inches in length, in two and a half hours. They also caught bass, but they were two young so they returned them to the water.

The Navy men hypothesized that the oil film killed off the mosquito and other insect larva, cutting down the food supply and causing the fish to go hungry. They quipped that, by July, the fish will be so hungry they will jump into the boat. No bait will be needed.

The Gardner Lake Newsletter

This newsletter is published by the Gardner Lake Association as a service to the residents of Gardner Lake. Contributing articles are always welcomed and appreciated. Please send your corrections, thoughts, ideas, praise and concerns to amyheaven42@gmail.com.

- Thank you!
