

Volume 1  
Spring 2022

# Gardner Lake Newsletter

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## *Gardner Lake Association*

*Est. 1960*

*Board of Directors*

*Amy Heaven, President*

*Mike Rankin, Vice President*

*Leslie Nemitoff, Secretary*

*Leslie Hind, Treasurer*

*Melinda Broward, Lake Events*

*Greta Jarhaus, Lake Events*

*Sandy Adams, Marketing Manager*

*Blake Larson, IT Director*

*Ryan Mueller, at Large*

*Clifton Bencke, at Large*

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## It's Here. SPRING!

Spring GLA General Membership Meeting  
March 26, 2022





On March 26th, the Gardner Lake Association board members met with members of the GLA at the Gardner Senior Center for the first bi-yearly meeting for 2022. The meeting was run by Chuck Lawrence, president and attended by roughly thirty lake residents. The mood was friendly as board members were introduced and minutes were read and approved by vote.

Leslie Hind presented the treasurer's report giving the account balance as \$20,274.21. Previous concerns over the size of the treasury were addressed by Chuck who explained that the leadership had some very ambitious goals for infrastructure improvements that would require considerably more. Fund raising will continue as options for dredging, for example, are explored.

Members were informed that during the weekend of June 11 dumpsters would be placed in two locations around the lake to handle the collection of junk. There will also be a placed to stack scrap metal outside the dumpster for another collection. Please, no tires or paint.

The schedule of social events was given which include the annual 4th of July Boat Parade, Rock the Docks, The Kayak Run and Chili Cookoff. Volunteers are need for the planning committees and encouraged to sign up.

The success of the introduction of grass carp to the lake was discussed with the potential of getting another 500 from the State Wildlife and Parks

Department. It was also mentioned that we are one of the few lakes in Kansas that is free of zebra mussels. Leslie Hind also discussed the schedule for spraying this year and the pros and cons. Last year, she believes the city spent \$30,000 addressing the weed issue with chemical sprays.

The topic of dock fees was addressed as they were raised to \$40.00 by the city. Other topics included the need to keep the dam groomed.

Past President, Harold Quaintance brought up the topic of having lake ownership pass to Johnson County as their financial resources are considerable. The pros and cons were discussed and he agreed to investigate the concept further.

The topic of nuisances around the lake came up and how they should best be addressed. Greta Jarhaus suggested neighborhood watch areas and Carrie Lewis cautioned against involving law enforcement if it could be avoided. Leslie Hind said that she had also volunteered to lock and unlock the gate on the park at night. The city advised her that it had to be done by a city employee.

The feasibility of dredging was presented and Leslie Hind agreed to head a taskforce on the topic. Harold Quaintance agreed to serve on that board. The history of Apac's willingness to take the silt for an abandoned quarry was discussed. There is a dredger available in DeSoto.

Leslie Nemitoff has agreed to head a committee on beautification around the lake. She commented on how 'zero scaping' does not contribute to the silting issue.

New board member, Ryan Mueller was introduced. He discussed a raffle being organized starting with a hanging lounge for under a balcony. Greta Jarhaus also has a kayak photo taken on the lake to donate.

All in all, the meeting was as much fun as it was informative. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8th at 9:00 am at the Senior Center in Gardner, Kansas.



# **Gardner Lake Association**

## 2022 Special Events

June 11

### ***Dumpster Days***

And Gardner Lake Clean-Up Weekend

Dumpsters on Lake Road 4 and Lake Road 10

Please, no paint or tires. Deposit your trash as far back in the dumpster as possible  
Clean up your Lake Road, take a walk with a trash bag, pitch-in at the marina

July 4

### ***Annual Gardner Lake Boat Parade***

Line Up at 3:30pm - Parade at 4:00pm

Great Prizes in Multiple Categories

September 4

### ***Rock the Docks!***

Self-Guided Water Cruise of Musical Delights

1:00pm - 10:00pm

Food Truck at the Marina

September 5

### ***Annual Kayak Run***

Great Food and Fun at the Marina

Line up at 9:45am - Signal Gun at 10:00am

October 8

### ***Gardner Lake Association Membership Meeting***

9:00am Gardner Senior Center

### ***Annual Chili Cook-Off and Big Prize Raffle***

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Terrific Fall Event Celebrating the Historic Gardner Lake Park Behind the Dam  
Great Food and Fun!

# Dredging Task Force to Study Feasibility

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, at the monthly GLA board meeting, three enthusiastic members stepped up to study options for dredging the lake. Leslie Hind, board liaison to the state and city, volunteered to take the lead on the project. She will be supported by Ryan Mueller and Mike Rankin.

Leslie stated in the Tuesday night meeting that she believes that the state's parks and recreation department can go a long way towards helping a project of this magnitude to a successful conclusion.

She also commented that she has been told by the state that dredging would be the only long-term solution to the ongoing water weed issue.

The GLA treasury, which has been continually growing as the result of various annual fund-raising projects, is earmarked to support these efforts.

Any interested resident of the lake is welcome to join their efforts. To weigh in on the issue, contact the GLA at 913-938-6867 or

[gardnerlakeassociation@gardnerlake.info](mailto:gardnerlakeassociation@gardnerlake.info)

## *Happy 100th Birthday to Irene Peer!*

Long-time lake resident, Irene Eastland Peer, celebrated her centennial birthday on April 1st. Irene's roots run very deep in south Johnson County and particularly at Gardner Lake. She is seen here holding a souvenir from the huge 4th of July celebration held in 1935. It was given her by Neil "Cott" Cordell, the man hired to handle the transportation at Transient Camp 9, which was located very close to her home on Lake Road 5.



## A Background on the Backwater

A bulldozer rearranges earth at the lower end of the spillway of Gardner Lake in Johnson County. The spillway project is being handled by the Navy public works department of the Olathe Naval Air Station.

-*Kansas City Star*  
6/28/62



When the lake was finally finished, in late 1939, the spillway portion had proven to be the largest element and challenge of the project. The magnitude of that task eclipsed that of building the dam and clearing the lake bed 125 acres of trees and scruff. We often lose sight of that, literally, because so much of it is hidden from view.

When the Navy selected the land just east of us to build the Olathe Naval Air Station (ONAS) in late 1941, they did so because of the lake. Contrary to popular belief, the lake was never intended to be a source of consumable water, but was meant only for recreation and drought control. But the Navy's arrival in town turned out to be very popular for Gardner as it brought an infusion of people, commerce and a significantly increased in the tax base. The influx of revenue brought money for schools and city infrastructure improvements, which was very much welcomed.

An endless supply of raw water was given ONAS and the land below the dam on the west end was leased to the Department of Defense for \$1.00 a year for a water plant. It wasn't until 1947 when the City of Gardner was granted access to the lake through a 4" water pipe laid from ONAS to the city's water plant. During this period, prior to the construction of Hillsdale, the lake experienced occasions where the water levels got so low that the docks were marooned on plateaus of slimy mud. But that is another story.

During the Navy's stewardship, the dam and spillway were fully appreciated by the Department of Defense. A guard house on the west entrance of the dam protected the water plant from sabotage and the spillway was beautifully maintained and kept pristine by seamen.