



## Newsletter April 2009

**NEXT MEETING: May 9, 2009-- 9:00 A.M. at COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH McCARDLE and MAIN STREETS**

### CONTACTS

Email [cglakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:cglakeassoc@gmail.com)

Web Site: [cglakeassoc.org](http://cglakeassoc.org)

President: Curt Brungardt

Vice President: Dave Fritchen

Treasurer: Joyce Hutter

### PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

One of the important roles of any organization, whether that be a private for-profit business or a non-profit civic organization, is to contribute to the greater good of the larger community. I'm happy to say that over the last several years the Council Grove City Lake Association has made a major effort in being a good community partner. The leadership of the Association, along with its active members, has provided substantial resources and volunteer hours to make the community of Council Grove and Morris County a better place. In the last year alone the Lake Association financially contributed over \$3100.00 to various causes and organizations, including Twin Lakes WRAPS program, Flint Hills Community Band, Council Grove Art Council, Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Educational Enhancement Fund, Relay for Life and the City Lake Fireworks Fund. This does not include the individual contributions that many lake homeowners provide as well. Secondly, many Lake Association members have provided hundreds of hours of volunteer work on behalf of the greater community. Lake residents volunteer and serve in EVERY aspect of the community; churches, youth groups, 4-H, high school mentoring program, senior center, Washungah Days, Pride Committee, Chamber of Commerce office help and tour guides, Symphony on the Prairie, Prelude to the Symphony, Historical Society, Relay for Life, Morris County Strategic Planning Committee, Rotary, Kiwanis, and just about any other place where volunteers are needed. This is an organization that gives back.

In the spirit of serving others and being a good community partner in Council Grove, I want to encourage you to participate in our USD 417 school district fundraising project. Thanks to a gift from lake homeowner, Leon Lungwitz, we are able to provide 100% of the license plate sales to the Educational Enhancement Community Foundation of Council Grove. The retail for \$10 each and are sold at our Lake general meetings, ACE Hardware, and Adams strongly encourage you to buy one of the license pride in the lake community while at the same time supporting our local school district.



proceeds from the Fund of the license plates Association Lumber. I plates and show

## **BUSINESS DIRECTORY MAILED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER**

LuAnn Fuller has been a whirling dervish with the business directory this year. An all-time record has been broken with nearly 60 area businesses responding to be listed in the 2009 directory. Thank you, LuAnn. This publication is one way we assist our leaseholders by providing a means of becoming familiar with local businesses and services. Additionally, these businesses support the Lake Association by paying for the listing space. The Directory is mailed with this newsletter so each lake property owner will have one to leave at the cabin. The Directory will not be mailed with subsequent newsletters as in the past. Please support these businesses when you have an opportunity---and shop local first.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

This June, board member terms of Joyce Hutter, Ken Mulanax, Fred Vance, John Nicodemus and George Forrester expire. The other six members' terms will expire in June 2010. A candidacy form has been emailed to all those on our email list and placed on the Lake Association website. If you do not have access to the website or email, you may request a form by calling 620-767-2726 and leaving your name and mailing address.

The corporate structure will have been in place one year this June. The Board of Director positions have broadened and increased the quality of our leadership base. We have gained many new ideas, concepts, and varying opinions during this first year of the new system. Please consider contributing to the leadership by becoming a candidate to serve on the board of directors. The term for these positions is two years.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

May 9, 2009 – 2009 dues must be received in the Lake Association mail box by this date to be eligible to vote in the election for board members.

May 9, 2009 - Deadline for Candidate form to be completed and turned in to run for a position on the board of directors.

May 22, 2009- Ballots to be mailed to all members in good standing (those who have paid 2009 dues).

May 31, 2009- Deadline for nominations for Wayne Criser Volunteer of the Year Award to be received.

June 13, 2009- Deadline for all ballots to be received for voting on members of the board of directors. This is the date of the Annual Meeting. If you have not mailed in your ballot, you may bring it to the General meeting.

June 13, 2009- Wayne Criser Volunteer of the Year Award to be presented at Annual Meeting.

June 14, 2009- Ballots counted and new board members announced.

June 27, 2009- Board of Directors Meeting with new board members.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

At the time of this writing we have 267 paid members. This represents 77% of the total possible membership. This is a great response and we thank each one of you who has paid in such a timely manner. It does let us know that you feel you are receiving value for your dollar, and we greatly appreciate your willingness to contribute. Do remember, however, that five board members are to be elected in June (more on that in another article) and if you have not paid your dues, you will not be eligible to vote for those who represent you. To be eligible to vote for board members, the deadline for dues to be received in the Lake Association mailbox is May 15, 2009.

## **“WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE---AND NOT A DROP TO DRINK”**

Water—instantly available at the turn of a tap—is something most of us take for granted. As long as it is clean, we can drink it, cook with it, wash with it, and play in it. However, having good drinking water requires work: We need to make efforts today to have clean water for tomorrow. This may be the most compelling reason to create a source water protection plan and put it to use. Source water can be polluted in different ways. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) research shows that one of the biggest causes of pollution is contamination from septic systems that are not working properly, thereby allowing untreated waste-water to be released into the environment. EPA’s source water protection site, located at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/sourcewater/index.cfm>, covers various aspects of source water and well-head protection. Additional information about onsite wastewater management is at the National Environmental Services Center (NESC) Web site at [www.nesc.wvu.edu/pipeline.cfm](http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/pipeline.cfm), where you have access to some very informative articles like “How to Keep Your Water “Well”, “Maintaining Your Septic System---A Guide for Homeowners” and “Septic Systems and Source Water Protection: Homeowners Can Help Improve Community Water Quality”. These and many others will help us protect the valuable resource we have in the Council Grove City Lake. Please take some time to do some reading and become educated on this issue.

## **NOTICE OF CONSOLIDATION**

In an effort to save money on printing and postage costs, your Board of Directors has made the decision to combine the newsletter for the months of February/March, October/November and December/January, and instead of mailing the Business Directory with each newsletter, you will receive one copy with the April newsletter. Additionally, beginning in May, we will be sending the newsletter via email only to all members who have supplied us with an email address. This will cut the amount of paper and postage used with each publication. If you have email and we do not have your email address, please send it to us at [cglakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:cglakeassociation@gmail.com).

## **COUNCIL GROVE PRIDE CLEAN UP**

Once again the pride committee lead by lake residents, Cheerie Baker and Diane Bolton, coordinated a spring clean up and courtesy debris pick up by city crews. A big thanks to the city for their help in improving the appearance of the town and lake. We have seen noticeable improvement in the appearance of the commons area in several places. Thanks for the individual efforts. Let’s keep working to make the lake a place we are all proud to be.

## **COUNCIL GROVE BUSINESS EXPO**

Kudos go to George and Alice Forrester, who organized everything for the Lake Association booth at the Business Exposition this year. They did an OUTSTANDING JOB!!! George built two display boards and Alice put together the displays using some of our Lake apparel, pictures and brochures, and examples of how the Lake Association brings value to Council Grove and Morris County. Thanks, George and Alice, for a job well done. Also, a big “thank you” to Ken Mulanax and Dave, Kay and Steve Fritchen for hosting the booth. Although fewer people attended the expo than in past years, there was a steady flow of people, and many were especially interested in the zebra mussel display and what can be done to prevent their entering Council Grove City Lake.

### **LAKE ASSOCIATION RELAY FOR LIFE**

The Lake Association's Relay for Life Team hosted the concession stand at the Business Exposition. It was a considerable amount of work to load all the food and transport it to the high school, unload it, grill the burgers and dogs, man the stand for the day, load up all the "leftovers" and transport them away. Thanks to the efforts of Gary Catlin, Carolyn Nelson, Diane Bolton, Tammy Stevenson, Joan Kohake and LuAnn Fuller. They raised \$350.00 for the Relay for Life team. Thanks, also, to Anita Nittler and Ray's Apple Market for their cooperation and assistance in getting the supplies to the stand in a timely manner and when needed. Thanks for all your efforts. YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN! TO JOIN THE TEAM, Please email [cglakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:cglakeassoc@gmail.com) or call Carolyn Nelson at 620-767-8456 or LuAnn Fuller at 620-767-7207.

### **WAYNE CRISER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

May 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to submit a nomination for the Volunteer of the Year Award, which is named after long-time lake resident and volunteer, Wayne Criser. This award is for that person who goes way above and beyond for the good of all lake residents, making improvements in conditions and relationships with the city and county. Joyce Hutter has volunteered to chair the committee for selection of the first recipient of the Wayne Criser Volunteer of the Year Award. Mary Ann Clark has volunteered to chair the selection portion of this project. She will be looking for several others to assist her. The award will be given at the annual meeting in June. To submit a nomination for volunteer of the year you may email Joyce at [joycehutter@yahoo.com](mailto:joycehutter@yahoo.com) or email the Lake Association at [cglakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:cglakeassoc@gmail.com) or send your nomination to the Lake Association, P.O. Box 13, Council Grove, KS. 66846. Please submit the following information: Name of nominee, the work this volunteer does, and why you think this work matters to the Lake Association.

### **CLEARANCE SALE OF ALL APPAREL**

At the May 9<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting, all remaining apparel will be sold for \$12.00 per piece. We have white women's polo shirts; beige men's polo shirts; long-sleeved navy "lake shirts", men, women's and plus sizes; short-sleeve blue "lake shirts", men, women, children's and plus sizes; aprons, tote bags, and one windshirt (original price \$34.00). We have a variety of sizes in all items. All items will be sold "where is, as is, on a first come first served" basis. We are not intending to order additional merchandise at this time. Stadium blankets will be sold at regular price of \$22.00 each.

### **PROPERTY VALUATION CONCERNS AND APPEALS**

We have received numerous emails and phone calls regarding the 2009 property valuations recently received by many members. There seems to be very little consistency in the changes in value between one property and the next. Some values were raised as much as 48%. The deadline to file an appeal is April 30<sup>th</sup>. The appeal paperwork must be received in the appraiser's office or postmarked on that date. If you plan to file an appeal, we do suggest you call the Morris County Appraiser's Office as soon as possible and request the form "Appeal to the County Appraiser Valuation Year 2009" and the comparable information the appraiser used to support the change in value. The sooner you receive this information the more time you will have to prepare your case for appeal. Two web sites that may be of assistance to you are: [www.kansas.gov/cota](http://www.kansas.gov/cota) (which stands for court of tax appeals) and

[www.kansastreasurers.org/property/protests.htm](http://www.kansastreasurers.org/property/protests.htm). We do have a copy of the “selectability detail report”, which shows the 2009 valuation given to every city lake property. This report will allow you to compare the increase in your value to that of any other property at the lake. It is a large PDF file, but we can email it to you on request. To request a copy, email [cgclakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:cgclakeassoc@gmail.com).

### **INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

John Nicodemus has volunteered to chair the committee to organize the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. He will need volunteers to assist him. If you would like to help with the regatta or decorating contest, John is looking for some assistance to make this celebration a success. Contact John at 316-619-0016 or email to: [kem.nicodemus@gmail.com](mailto:kem.nicodemus@gmail.com)

### **EMAIL LAKE NEWS**

Homeowners, and other interested people, send an email request to [cgclakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:cgclakeassoc@gmail.com) to be added to our lake email news list. This allows recipients to stay current on lake happenings.

You may need to add [cgclakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:cgclakeassoc@gmail.com) to your contacts list to prevent our emails from going to your spam email box.

### **SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR 2009**

General membership meetings are held at 9AM at the Community Christian Church, McCardle and Main. Board of Directors meetings are at 9AM at the Hays House, 112 W Main. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

#### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

April 11, 2009-canceled due to Easter Holiday  
May 9, 2009  
June 13, 2009 –ANNUAL MEETING  
July 11, 2009  
August 8, 2009  
September 12, 2009

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

April 25, 2009  
May 23, 2009  
June 27, 2009 (new board)  
July 25, 2009  
August 22, 2009  
September 26, 2009  
October 24, 2009

### **ZEBRA MUSSELS AND THE CITY LAKE**

We continue to be extremely concerned about the possibility of zebra mussels getting into the City Lake. An infestation in our lake would have a serious impact on all of our water activities; boating, swimming, fishing, and just about any activity in or on the water. The degraded water activities would almost certainly result in reduced property values. Once zebra mussels get in a lake it is not possible to practically eradicate them. So, our only solution is to keep them out.

Up to this point our focus has been on efforts to raise community awareness that hopefully will result in a well thought out, effective, coordinated, prevention plan being enacted by the City Council. The Lake Association has been very proactive about the ANS issue, and we are pleased that we have the opportunity to work with the city on this important matter.

Recently lake resident Andy Hutter, City Administrator Danny Matthews, and Mayor Engle met to discuss the issues, and coordinate the first public forum. The progress has been positive, Hutter and Lake Caretaker Calvin Seadeek, attended a boat inspectors training session at Lake Kahola, hosted by the Kahola Cabin Owners and Personnel from KDWP. This afforded them the interactive opportunity to observe the Lake Kahola prevention procedures and gather information and ideas.

Matthews and Hutter have teamed up to present and moderate public forums to raise awareness, educate and answer questions about the ANS issues. The first forum, jointly hosted by the City and Lake Association has already taken place. More are planned for the first Saturday of each month. The presentations are also available for civic groups. This same awareness/educational information will be presented to the City Council, to help make them more aware of the issue. We sincerely hope that the City Council will take strong, positive, practical steps to protect the lake and water supply.

After thoroughly investigating the issues and studying the success of prevention in most of Minnesota's "cottage lakes" we believe that prevention of ANS at the Council Grove City lake is not only possible, but something we must actively strive to accomplish to protect our property values, the city water supply, and the ecology of the lake.

## **DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT ZEBRA MUSSELS**

ZEBRA MUSSELS ARE SPREAD BY PEOPLE, USUALLY BY CONTAMINATED BOATS, JET SKIS, WATER TOYS, AND MINNOW BUCKETS. We must all be proactive and insure that we, our families, neighbors, and guest are thoroughly educated and aware of the zebra mussel issue, especially how they are transported from lake to lake.

To prevent an infestation, all boats, jet skis, etc that have been in another lake or river must be clean and dry for five days, or disinfected before they are launched in our lake. A thorough 140 degree car wash or a 10% bleach solution is usually sufficient for disinfection. Minnow buckets that have been exposed to water from other lakes and rivers must not be brought into our lake. Boats and equipment brought from infested areas are much more likely to be contaminated. Voluntary compliance with these simple rules will provide us with the best protection possible as we wait for the city council to take positive preventive action.

If we are going to successfully prevent zebra mussels each of us must personally commit to join the awareness/prevention efforts. If you find it necessary to remind family, friends or neighbors about actions that might endanger the lake, please remember that their actions probably stem from a lack of awareness. Be polite and thoughtful; use the opportunity to be a good friend and neighbor while explaining the zebra mussel problem and modes of infestation.



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

### Follow these simple steps:

#### Clean

Remove all plants, animals and mud then thoroughly wash everything, including all crevices and other hidden areas on your boat and equipment.

#### Drain

Eliminate all water before leaving the area, including wells, ballast, and engine cooling water.

#### Dry

Allow time for your boat to completely dry before launching in other waters.

### NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR ZEBRA MUSSEL MONITOR STATIONS

We have constructed several zebra mussel monitoring stations, and are asking for volunteers to hang them from docks or other suitable locations. To be most effective in detection of zebra mussels, they need to be distributed evenly around the lake. These are pieces of 3 inch PVC in 10 inch lengths. If you are willing to participate in this program, email us at [cgclakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:cgclakeassoc@gmail.com) or call 620 767 6561. An explanation of the monitoring program and directions to monitor are below:

#### Zebra Mussel Monitor Station

Zebra Mussel monitor stations serve the purpose of early detection of ANS and also serve to help raise awareness of the potential threat through public participation in the monitoring program. Early detection and knowledge of a Zebra Mussel infestation is essential to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) Biologist, The city government, lake homeowners, potential lake home buyers, etc, and will serve many purposes.

- Although eradication efforts are still in the experimental stage, a very early detection may, in the near future, allow for participation in an early eradication attempt. Eradication technology is changing rapidly.
- Early detection may also give biologists more insight to the mechanisms of the spread of the nuisance species.

- Early detection will identify the lake as infested in state publications and cause KDWP to take actions to help stop the spread from our lake.
- Give the city and lake homeowners more lead time to prepare their water supply systems and lake infrastructure to deal with zebra mussel damage.

### Location

The monitor station should be placed in the water; just about any location is acceptable. Zebra mussels like PVC and dark places best. So hanging from a dock, deep enough to be out of the direct light is a good location. We will strategically place these around the lake for early detection and location of a possible infestation.

### Checking the monitor

The monitor should be checked every two weeks or more often if you're available. Try to record the date of your checks on a calendar, cell phone, or some other convenient way. This would help KDWP to more accurately pinpoint an infestation location and time, should an infestation occur.

Mussels may show up anywhere, but most likely on the inside of the PVC. Juveniles can be very tiny, so a magnifying glass and light may be helpful.

### If you find or suspect zebra mussels

Call 620 342 0658, to report your finding. KDWP uses these same sampling stations, so they'll be familiar with the concept. If possible take a digital picture and collect a specimen.



**JOIN THE LAKE ASSOCIATION in 2009**

<b>Dues Card – 2009</b> <b>Council Grove Lake Association</b> <b>PO Box 13, Council Grove, KS 66846</b>	
Lake Lot # _____	Annual Dues: \$25.00
Name(s) _____	Legal Fund Contribution: \$ _____
_____	General Fund Contribution: \$ _____
Mailing Address _____	TOTAL: \$ _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Tell us where you would like to get involved and volunteer with the Council Grove Lake Association: _____ _____ _____
Email _____	
Home Phone _____	
Lake or Cell Phone _____	
Please return this dues card with your check payable to: Council Grove Lake Association.	

***Deadline Date: May 9, 2009***

*To vote for members of the Board of Directors*