

October  
2010



GEM LAKES RECREATION ASSOCIATION

# Gem Lakes Ponderings

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hello to all of our Gem Lakes residents! This newsletter brings us to another fall season and that is a very special time of the year for Gem Lakes. The kids are back in school and there is a fresh cooler breeze outside, bringing on the change in seasons and most importantly, our annual Oktoberfest celebration on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

One of the board's priorities is to make improvements to the recreation area such that all Gem Lakes' residents and their families continue to say, "We love living in Gem Lakes". Not only will each family enjoy the events and fellowship the board offers each year, each resident will experience the appreciation value to their own property.



Memorial Day Picnic 2010

## Words from the Webmaster

Our web site has a new look! Stop by [gemlakes.org](http://gemlakes.org) to see it. While on the web site, you can also sign up for our new email newsletter. We'll be using it to send out reminders about events throughout the year.

I'd also like to remind you that you can pay your dues online with PayPal via the web site, as well as find useful information such as the most recent board meeting minutes and a calendar showing when the pavilion is reserved.

Susanna King

Speaking of improvements and accomplishments for the recreation area, here are some that come to mind for this past fiscal year and planned for the near future:



In early April, our second annual Fishing Rodeo was held and again, was a huge success. (See photos on our website [www.gemlakes.org](http://www.gemlakes.org))

Since our annual Gem Lakes Board meeting in April, we have had a few board member changes, Suzi Kilgo has replaced Karen Skiff as our new Treasurer and Janelle Janssen has joined the board as our new environmental subject matter expert. Buddy Brinkley has left the board but will continue to provide his management oversight on our lower lake overflow dam project, including lake lowering when required. See related story on page 2. (Cont. on page 3)

## Lake Manager Memoirs

Thanks for the busiest season ever. More and more neighbors continued to reserve the pavilion and use the lake this summer. It was used every weekend throughout the season! I also want to thank Elizabeth Rabon for a fantastic job as swim instructor. She always had a great group of kids in the water. Guards are on duty during the weekends through mid-September. If you have any comments or concerns, they can be sent to [gemlakes@gmail.com](mailto:gemlakes@gmail.com).

Thanks!  
Johnny

***Upcoming Major Events***  
**October 23 – Oktoberfest**  
**December 11 – Christmas Gathering**

# Dam Improvements

Hi folks!

Just wanted to let you know about some work we will be doing on the lower lake this fall. The level of the lake is controlled by a "flashboard" system (aka, a "weir") at the far end of the lake. The lowest boards are several years old and are beginning to weaken. The last time they were replaced was just after the previous boards failed and the entire lake suddenly drained. As you can imagine, we'd like to avoid that situation this time! So, we're going to replace the boards later this fall. The new boards will be thicker and reinforced with angle iron to give them a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years. Before we do the project, we will need to lower the lake by about four feet, so that the contractor can clean out the underwater beaver dam that is in front of the weir. Don't worry about the beaver -- he apparently is no longer in the area.

So, here's the plan: We will lower the lake in October, beginning October 9th. It will take about three to four weeks to bring the lake down to the required level. The contractor will clear out the beaver dam with a trackhoe. Next, he will place a large steel plate in front of the weir to prevent the water from draining

out when the old boards are removed. Lastly he will replace the boards and install the angle iron. Once the repair is done, we will refill the lake fairly rapidly by taking the swimming lake down by about four feet for the winter (our normal winter maintenance and weed control plan). All this should be done before Thanksgiving. In February, after the cold weather has knocked the weeds back a bit, we'll raise the swimming lake back up and be ready for Spring!

Please be careful around the lakes when they are at lower levels, as it's quite easy to lose your shoes in the mud! Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Your friend and neighbor,  
Buddy Brinkley



A whale of a good time was had by all at the Fishing Rodeo

# It's Spooky to be Hungry

Dear Neighbors,

Our Aiken hunger statistics are grimmer this year than last as you can probably imagine with the current economy. I hope this will inspire you to join us once again to help us fight hunger in our community on **Saturday, October 30**. This is our 7th year participating in "It's Spooky to be Hungry" food drive benefiting the Golden Harvest Food Bank.

As the table below shows, we have certainly come a long way since 2004! Remember that

2004	1,419 lbs.	\$520
2005	1,400 lbs.	\$575
2006	1,893 lbs.	\$1,307
2007	2,071 lbs.	\$1,360
2008	1,559 lbs.	\$1,553
2009	2,021 lbs.	\$1,525

Golden Harvest buys in bulk so every \$1 we collect is equivalent to \$7 in food donations. If you would like to help deliver flyers or collect food, please contact Sharon

Filler (648-3973) or Nancy Phillips (648-6162). We would appreciate any help you can offer. Please give generously when the collection team comes to your door on **October**



**30!**

Spookily yours,

Sharon Filler & Nancy Phillips

## GEM LAKES RECREATION ASSOCIATION BOARDMEMBERS

<b>Gary Marozas</b> (President)	642-5026
<b>Bob Mell</b> (Vice President)	642-8423
<b>Allen Taylor</b> (Secretary/Newsletter)	221-8580
<b>Suzi Kilgo</b> (Treasurer)	648-9296
<b>Bill Mathison</b> (Security Manager)	643-3035
<b>Janelle Janssen</b> (Environmental)	649-0142
<b>Susanna King</b> (Webmaster)	649-6168
<b>Vickie Murray</b>	643-3456
<b>Rick Samundsen</b>	979-4453
<b>Johnny Spears</b> (Recreation Manager)	502-1458

## Recreation Dues.

Well, as just about all of us have realized, it is that time of year again when our recreation association dues have come due. Each of us should have received a statement in the mail indicating it is time to pay our dues. If you have not received your statement please let anyone of the board members know and we will dig into why it has not arrived at the correct mailbox. The one hundred and fifty six dollars per year that we pay is less than many people in Aiken pay per month for their association dues! We receive quite a value for our dollars. The less than fifty cents per day that we pay is truly a bargain. The annual Oktoberfest, the Memorial Day Cookout, fishing rodeos, the July 4<sup>th</sup> gathering, our Christmas event, and the Bingo and Movie Nights are all great times that are added values for our residents. The well cared for lakes, docks and pavilion are really gems that are here for all of us to utilize and enjoy as well. Your board members are consistently seeking new projects that will improve the quality of the entire area as well as increase the utilization of the complex. Please take the time to find your invoice and make every effort to get them paid in a timely fashion. You can even bring your checkbook to the Oktoberfest and we will be happy to take payment when you register at the party.

Bob Mell

**Visit us on the web for more photos  
and up to date information @  
gemlakes.org**

## President's Message (from page 1)

Another great Memorial Day Picnic was held despite poor weather. We still had over 300 resident family members attend for the great Jos Jos food and our annual summer beach games and wonderful fellowship. (See photos on our website [www.gemlakes.org](http://www.gemlakes.org))

Our second annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Potluck Supper was again a success even though the holiday/event was held on a Sunday. Feedback received has the board scheduling next year's event on Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup> Since July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Monday (See photos on our website [www.gemlakes.org](http://www.gemlakes.org))

We hope that most of you enjoyed our Bingo and Movie Nights at the pavilion which has been fun for the whole family. Since the cooler weather is approaching, watch for the calendar dates for both events on our website [www.gemlakes.org](http://www.gemlakes.org).

Construction has finished on a canoe and kayak storage systems near the swimming lake to allow residents to safely store and use their canoe/kayak easily rather than hauling them each time to the lake. (See photos to the right)

Plans are to upgrade/replace the existing lower lake overflow

dam system this year. A viable contractor search remains underway.

Our next big event is our annual Oktoberfest on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 5:00 PM at the pavilion. See photos from last year's event on our website [www.gemlakes.org](http://www.gemlakes.org)). Again this year, we have confirmed Rudy and the Channelheimers Oompa band to help us celebrate the event.

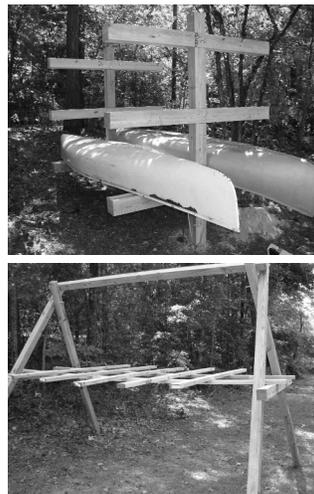
Since last year's Christmas Gathering was rained out, we plan to make this year's event worth coming to share. First, we are trying to partner with a local Youth Choir to sing carols at 5:00 PM, under the pavilion followed by a special hayride arrangement that will seat all that want to share singing Christmas Carols through the GEM Lakes neighborhood. We are arranging a fully decorated over 25 foot trailer, with tree & lights/hay bales for seating, to drive all who would like to join in this special event. We will have our usual hot chocolate/cider and snacks/goodie platters under the pavilion that all will enjoy.

I'm hoping that the GLRA Board has given and will continue to give you and your family a reason to say, "We love living in Gem Lakes".

Sincerely,

Your President & Neighbor,

Gary Marozas



*New Canoe (top) and Kayak Racks*