

# Houston Laker

## The Beautiful Spring Trees of Houston Lake

**Prairie Fire Crabapple Tree**



**Crabapple Tree**



**Ornamental Cherry Tree**



**Redbud Tree**



**Apple Tree**



**Magnolia Tree**



**Dogwood Tree**



**September 2013**



# ***Community Events***

***Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Labor Day***  
★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆

***Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> -Thursday Trash Pickup***

***Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> - City Council Meeting  
7:30p.m. – City Hall***

***Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> - Venetian Gardens Homes Association  
Board Meeting, 6:30pm – City Hall***

***Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> -***



***Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> - Recycling Day***

*Editor Note: I want to “thank” Everyone for letting me take pictures of the beautiful trees in their yard this past Spring. And again “thank” Andy Spottswood for printing this months front cover.*

## Thought You Should Know:

When our City first started the recycling program we were under no illusions that this would be an easy task. The average participation rate for any community entering into a recycling program is around 29%. Well, guess what? A big "hats off" to our small community because we are now over 60%!!! Thank you Houston Lakers!!!

We have a goal in mind, however, and that is to get to 75%. So here are some more facts to keep in mind, and maybe we can change yours to join in on recycling. Believe it not, it really makes you feel good.

**Fact:** Aluminum from recycled materials saves 95 percent of the energy.

One year of aluminum production from recycled aluminum saves enough energy to power 18 million households for a year. OK all you pop and beer drinkers, we want your cans!!

**Fact:** Newspapers from [recycled paper](#) saves 40 percent of the energy. A ton of paper manufactured from recycled paper can save about 4,000 kilowatt hours of energy. This would be a good "first step" for you beginners!!

**Fact:** Glass from recycled glass saves 40 percent of the energy. One glass bottle or jar manufactured from recycled glass saves enough energy to power a 100 watt light bulb for four hours.

**Fact:** Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild our entire fleet of airplanes every 3 months. (source: Environmental Defense Fund) Amazing, isn't it?

**Fact:** This is a goody. Recycling creates 6 times as many jobs as landfilling. (source: Colorado Recycles)

I know that recycling may seem difficult to you but I suggest that if you are considering it, just start out with one item at a time. Make it simple for you. Newspapers or cans. You'll be surprised how easy it is and you will be making a difference.

City Clerk  
Marsha Duncan  
816-419-5051

# How to Get Rid of Johnson Grass

By Brad Chacos, eHow Contributor

Johnson grass' tenacious, aggressive nature leads to the plant forcing out native growth and establishing itself as the dominant feature along rivers, in fields and at the forest edges. Massive Johnson grass infestations cover more than 300,000 acres of the Missouri Bootheel, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation. Johnson grass propagates through seed and underground shoots called rhizomes, which can travel as far as 10 to 20 inches into the ground and make hand removal difficult. The most effective way to get rid of Johnson grass is using glyphosate herbicides.

## University of Missouri Extension

G4872, New December 1997

## Johnsongrass Control

Bill Johnson, Andy Kendig, Reid Smeda and Fred Fishel  
Department of Agronomy

Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*) is a troublesome perennial grass weed that reduces yields in corn, grain sorghum, soybean, cotton and leguminous forages. Originally introduced into the United States as a forage crop, it is now an agricultural pest in most states south of the 42nd parallel. Dense johnsongrass infestations severely limited corn production until the relatively recent introduction of Accent and Beacon herbicides. Several states have legislation requiring eradication or control programs. Johnsongrass is listed as a noxious weed by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, which requires that landowners take steps toward controlling and eradicating the weed on all property owned or under their control.

Growers now have numerous tools to manage this weed. As with most other weeds, the key is to implement multiple control strategies when johnsongrass is first observed and not wait until it is firmly established.



- 1 Wait until the grass grows at least 18 inches tall but has yet to flower and grow seedpods.
- 2 Don rubber or plastic gloves.
- 3 Mix a solution of 2 percent glyphosate to 98 percent water, or about 2.5 oz. of glyphosate to 1 gallon of water.
- 4 Add the herbicide to a hand sprayer, careful not to spill any on the ground.
- 5 Cut off all of the Johnson grass' flowering seedpods and forming flowers before spraying. Use a sharp knife to make the cuts. Place the cuttings in a zipping plastic bag.
- 6 Spray the Johnson grass with the glyphosate. Cover all visible green foliage as well as all exposed wounds from cut flower heads. Do not apply the herbicide to the point of dripping. Position your sprays in a way that will minimize the herbicide's drifting in the air. Stop spraying if the wind picks up considerably.
- 7 Dig out all clumps of dead Johnson grass three weeks after you sprayed. Use a shovel for digging, and dispose of the clumps in a trash bag.
- 8 Reapply glyphosate to Johnson grass that survived or you missed. Return in three more weeks to dispose of the remnants.
- 9 Maintain watch over the area for the next several months. Immediately uproot or apply glyphosate to sprouting Johnson grass.

## Tips & Warnings

- Applying glyphosate once Johnson grass is 18 inches tall is ideal because the herbicide's transmittan to the roots and rhizomes is most effective at that size, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation. However, glyphosate can be applied any time the plant's leaves are green and actively growing.
- Avoid contact with glyphosate-sprayed bushes.
- Avoid spraying glyphosate on plants you wish to keep. Glyphosate is nonselective and will kill all plants it contacts.

**VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION BOARD APPLICATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF FILING \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you currently a paid up member of the Homes Association?
2. What is your experience serving on previous Boards?
3. List activities/experiences that you have been involved with at Houston Lake that may give you an advantage serving on the Board?
4. What work or outside experiences can you draw from that will help you serve effectively?
5. What areas/issues do you consider most important for the future of the Homes Association?
6. Tell why you would like to serve on the Board of Directors of the Venetian Gardens Homes Association.



## AUDITORS NEEDED

We are in need of **three volunteers** to review the check book and other financial records for the Venetian Garden Homes Association.

As required by the By-Laws, an audit of the books must be completed prior to the Annual Meeting which will be held on October 16, 2013.

It is not an overwhelming task, probably an hour or two.

The President, Nick Jackalone, and Treasurer, Gary Halterman, would be glad to meet at City Hall or at someone's home to get this job done.

So would you like to help out the Homes Association? And if you have done an audit before, you can offer your services again!

Call Nick or Jan at 816-587-0028 and offer your services. It would be greatly appreciated.

Nick Jackalone then turns the floor over for presentation opening. Presentation agenda was as follows,

## **Opening**

### **Introduction of the presenters / purpose for the Presentation**

Presenters were Joseph, and Anthony Chepren

The presentation was to help VGHA members have a transparent understanding of maintenance responsibilities on and around our lake, and how these projects are funded.

### **2013 Stormwater Management Grant Program**

Discuss what type of projects would be considered.

### **Keys areas of discussion /clarification**

Watershed, Inlet Rock Dam, Sediment Basin, Horseshoe, Lake, Spillway  
5/10 year plan with scopes and budgets to be implemented as funds permit

### **Sediment Basin Restoration Project**

Review of past and present information / conditions, resulted in suggesting the *sediment basin* be our new focus, and fresh starting point of conversation.

### **Sediment Basin Analysis**

Summary: sediment basin has been working as intended for many years resulting in a need for a maintenance program. Also stated that a 5/10 year plan needs to be implemented.

### **Sediment Basin Recommendations**

Summary: recommendations are base on past pertinent information from our handbook, and recent site visits. During the discussion Joseph stated many times that **the above analysis / recommendations were an effort to harness past studies and present conditions of a small part of a much larger problem. View this as a tool for clarification, and fresh starting point, so we can create the most effective scope of work, which is compatible with our budget.**

Members asked what do we want to accomplish today, it was discuss that further research and consulting / surveying would be needed. It was then decided to take a vote on an allowance not to exceed \$6,000 dollars. By a show of hands, it was approved unanimously

### **Close Session**

Return floor to VGHA Board for further discussion

Venetian Gardens Homes Association  
Minutes of Meeting  
August 28, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. All Board Members were present and 14 guests were in attendance.

President Nick Jackalone thanked everyone for attending inspite of the hot and humid weather. He apologized for not taking care of the weeds on the peninsula – it was either to wet or to hot and he wasn't feeling to great some days.

Joe Chepren updated the Board on the latest project. He is finalizing his figures and working with contractors.

Dan Coronado, Emergency Management Director for Houston Lake, gave the Board a summary of the recent power outage we had on the lake. It was caused by a presumed drunken driver who hit and broke the light pole on Edgewater around 7 PM. Power was mostly restored by 9:30 PM. Dan called his emergency contact at KCPL and they were on it right away.

The Board thanked Dan and his Cert Team~Teri Deister, Nick Jackalone, and Phil Otte for their work in assisting Riverside Police, Platte County Sheriff's Dept. and traffic control on our streets.

Mary Head showed pictures of Walnut Creek Lake taken in 2010 and again in 2013. Jewel Head told us his son, Danny Head, and family live there and how the lake had filled in with mud from a golf course development. The Association didn't fight the project that caused the mud, then vegetation, and now there is no lake. Just goes to show you how important it is to keep surrounding projects under a watchful eye as well as dredging and keeping silt in the catch basin.

Speaking of control. There was a sample of Johnson Grass at the meeting. It is an invasive weed and is sprouting up along the peninsula, silt pond, and right of ways along the lake. Joe Chepren recommended that we let nature take care of it. Lack of rain should cause the plants to wilt. The Board will monitor the situation. We maybe looking for "Round Up®" volunteers in October to take care of the Johnson Grass weed on the peninsula and right of ways. The vegetation is holding dirt from going into the silt pond so no action will be taken other than cutting off the seed heads. We will look further into the situtation.

Gary Halterman, Treasurer, reviewed the Balance Sheet for July, 2013. Again, we have to mention that we need three auditors to inspect the checkbooks and bank statements for the audit. This needs to be done prior to the Annual Meeting in October. Please call Nick Jackalone 816-587-0028.

Pres. Nick mentioned that there are 18 households that are delinquent. Without naming names, he said one household is sending in payments monthly to get caught up before the 2014 dues roll in. This member is on track to become current. It is well within their budget and it avoids penalties. "We are willing to work with you", he said. "We know times are tight." So, if you are behind, please call your Board Member.

Have you noticed the signs placed around the lake? Those signs that say "Homes Association Meeting ~ City Hall This Wednesday 6:30 PM" Thanks so much to Andy Spottswood and for the September color cover of the Houston Laker.

Sharron DeLaflente told the Board she had collected and sent samples of the lake water to the lab and it tested a little high, but still under the limit that would have closed the beach.

Even though the meeting was over at 8PM, folks stayed around till 8:30 PM. We had to turn the lights out !! Come to our meetings ~ we not only talk business ~ we talk friendship ! Even sometimes with sweet treats :)

Next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2013 at 6:30 PM

**Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2013.**

**Potluck Dinner starts at 5:30 PM**

**Business Meeting starts at 6:30 PM**

**City of Houston Lake**  
**Official Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
**July 8, 2013**

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on July 8, 2013 at City Hall. The following members were present: Aldermen Phil Otte, Dan Coronado, Jean Anderson. Alderman Rick Cowan was excused.

**Opening Session**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Hallauer presided.

**Public Discussion**

None

**Minutes June 10, 2013**

The minutes were approved by general consent.

**Building Permit**

A building permit for 5408 NW Houston Drive was not approved by the Council as the application was not complete.

**Treasurers Report**

Alderman Anderson moved that we accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Alderman Otte. Motion passed.

**Resolution 07-08-13 (paybills)**

Alderman Otte moved that we accept Resolution 07-08-13, seconded by Alderman Anderson. Motion passed

**Collectors Report**

City Collector Joyce Kullman reported deposits for the month of June as \$2,689.28.

**Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report**

A report from the Platte County Sheriff's Department was submitted to the Council from 6-2-13 to 6-30-13.

**Emergency Management**

Dan Coronado told the Council that he recently attended the FEMA Emergency Operations Center 2 day class in Warrensburg to better understand how to operate the Houston Lake EOC if /when a natural or manmade incident occurs. He also attended the FEMA Public Information Officer 3 day class in Chillicothe to respond to the media in the event of an incident and report to the residents/media how Houston Lake will respond.

**Houston Lake is still looking for a fourth CERT team member who wants to take the training and is willing to be a Houston Lake first responder and part of the Platte County Northland CERT team. CERT training will start August, Friday 16th, Saturday 17th, and Saturday 24th. If interested contact Emergency Management Director Dan Coronado at 816-584-2667.**

This would be a great time for existing Houston Lake team members to refresh their skills that applied towards your certification. Houston Lake team members will only need to attend the 2 Saturday classes.

### **Old Business**

Mayor Hallauer and Collector Joyce Kullman went through all the water franchise fees collected from 1995 to the year 2012. They noticed a significant difference in collections from the year 2002 on. The City will confer with the City attorney on how to move forward on this issue.

### **New Business**

a. Budget Hearing 2013-2014 – Mayor Hallauer gave the Council a copy of the proposed budget for 2013-2014 in which a discussion took place and a decision to adopt the new budget.

Alderman Coronado made a motion to except the new 2013-2014 budget, seconded by Alderman Otte.

Roll call:

Cowan – Excused

Otte – Aye

Anderson – Aye

Coronado – Aye

Motion passed

### **Reports from Aldermen**

**Alderman Cowan** – Excused

**Alderman Otte** – No report

**Alderman Coronado** – Alderman Coronado thanked the Council for the Emergency Management Budget allotment.

**Alderman Anderson** – Alderman Anderson gave the Council a report on the status of the application for the National Flood Insurance Program through SEMA. She presented copy of the City Code pertaining to Land Management. She noted a few sections that did not match the Flood Plan Ordinance of the state. Mayor Hallauer will have the City attorney look at these sections for a possible re wording of the Code.

### **Mayors Report**

a. Mayor Hallauer noted that the Water Company still has not changed their billing of the city's franchise fee from Kansas City to the City of Houston Lake. He advised everyone to look at their bill and call the water company if has not been changed.

b. Mayor Hallauer gave thanks to everyone that went around and picked up the fireworks trash.

c. Periodically someone calls and asks to use City Hall. For Insurance purposes, there is no private use of City Hall. Mayor Hallauer received a request for an event that the City may have had an interest in, but the request was too late for the Council to approve. If anyone has an event that they feel the City would like to sponsor at City Hall, they will need to present it at a City meeting to the Council.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

# F Y I

## ARTICLE II. PERMITS

### SECTION 500.100: BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED

All persons desiring to construct, erect, alter or add to any building, boat dock, fences, road or drive or any structure in the City of Houston Lake, Missouri, must first obtain a building permit for such construction, alteration or addition from the Board of Aldermen of said City. (Ord. No. 282 §2, 10-14-02)

### SECTION 500.110: PERMIT APPLICATIONS

All persons desiring to obtain such a permit shall submit an application with the complete plans and specifications and plot plan for such construction showing sizes, estimated cost and details of such proposed construction and the location of such construction upon the plot of land. No new dwelling construction or property line fence construction will be permitted until after certified surveys have been filed with the Board of Aldermen. Certified surveys will be required on all additions to old dwellings where the new construction will be closer to the property line than the old dwelling. (Ord. No. 282 §3, 10-14-02) Applications for a building permit may be obtained by leaving a message at City Hall, contacting your Alderman or calling City Clerk at 816-419-5051.

From the desk of the City Clerk:

### “To All Residents of Houston Lake”

1. If any resident needs a trash container or a recycling contact the following people for a timely response and to avoid any confusion. Please leave your name, address and a phone number and the containers will be delivered to your home.

**Mayor Mike Hallauer –  
816.215.9138**

**Or**

**City Clerk Marsha Duncan –  
816.419.5051**

### 2. According to Ordinance 334, Section 230.025

### Open Burning for Recreational Purposes

All residents of Houston Lake wishing to apply for an open burning permit can do so by downloading the application on our website [Houstonlake.net](http://Houstonlake.net) or you may call 215-9138. After you have filled out the form, please slip it through the mail slot on the door at City Hall for review and approval by the City Council.



**MUSSER'S  
ADVANCED  
CARPET CARE LLC**

1258 Howell St. NKC, MO 64116

**BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL**  
**THE KIDS ARE AWAY & IT'S FINALLY TIME**  
**TO CATCH UP ON CLEANING!**  
**GET UP TO 3 CARPETED AREAS CLEANED**  
**FOR \$119 OR 5 AREAS CLEANED &**  
**SCOTCHGARDED FOR JUST \$199**

\*Some Restrictions May Apply. Not Valid With Any Other Offer/Discount Valid Until  
09/30/2013.

[www.musserscleaning.com](http://www.musserscleaning.com)

**816-842-2273**



**Important Notice**

**Trash Pick-up Day**

**Labor Day (Monday 9-2-13) pick-up day is Thursday 9-5-13**

**Recycle Day**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013**





# *The Works by Marlene*

816.587.1550

*by appointment only*

*A Full Service Salon in Your Neighborhood*

*\*Over Twenty Five years of experience!\**

*If you're still not sure...call for a free consultation!*

*Specializing in Custom Color  
Designed for Your skin tones and eye color!*

*Specialty Perms for just the right look*

*Connected or Disconnected haircuts!!!*

*Waxing, Waxing, Waxing...*

*Paraffin for Dry Skin!*

*Manicures and Pedicures*



*Gift Certificates for All Occasions!* **Best Wishes  
Marlene**