The Sugar Lake News

April 2008

2008

Calendar of Events

May 17-SLA Meeting*
June 21– SLA Meeting*
June 28-Fishing Contest
July 19-SLA Meeting*
August 2-SLA Picnic
August 16-Annual Meeting/Board Election*
September 1-Diane's Lights Night
September 20– SLA Meeting*
October 25-SLA Meeting*

*SLA meetings are held at the Corinna Township hall at 8:00 a.m.
September & October meetings at 9 a.m.

Send Newsletter submissions to:
Don Peterson
319 Wayside Rd W
Hopkins, MN 55343
Home 952-939-0172
Work 952-361-3026
E-mail don@sugarlake.org

For membership, address, e-mail, or property owner changes
contact Craig Johnson at
3312 132 St W
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-894-3593
E-mail membership@sugarlake.org

Sugar Lake Association Plant Exchange

When: 10 a.m. May 17, 2008
Where: Karen Sutherland's back yard, South Shore.
7488 106th St. NW

Driving Directions:
Drive between the fieldstone pillars (Howe Avenue) where 123 North makes a sharp turn East.

Boating Directions:
16 houses East of the South Shore public landing.
Old grey house on the hill with a Sugar Lake windsock on the dock.

How it works:
* Exchange every plant you bring for another
* Extra plants can be purchased for $1 each
* All proceeds go to the Lake Improvement Fund

In addition:
* Shrubs from Grant Everson's Hasty Woods Nursery for sale
* Native plants, courtesy of Dale Gustafson, for sale

As you clean out your gardens this month, pot up your extra plants to share, or plan to start that garden you have been thinking about with $1 bargains from your neighbors.

Experienced gardeners will be on hand to answer questions.

Lemonade and cookies will be served.

WELCOME BACK TO SUGAR LAKE

Sugar Lake Association Meetings Resume

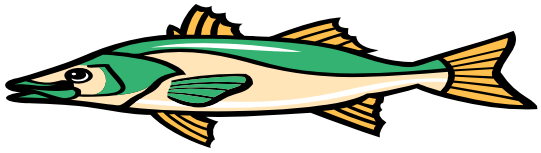
As a reminder, the monthly Sugar Lake Association meetings began in April and will continue each month through October on the third Saturday of the month. Meetings are open to all members. Issues you want addressed by the board at the next meeting should be given to your local board member or by calling Chairman Steve Wiltermuth at 320-274-6133 one week prior to the meeting. Advance notice is requested so the issues can be included in the printed agenda. Issues not included in the agenda will be received at the meeting from the floor at the conclusion of the agenda items.

Winter meeting

The-winter meeting was held Saturday, February 9, 2008, at Cabela's in Rogers. Dale Gustafson gave an update on water quality issues followed by a workshop on plant identification presented by Mary Blickenderfer of the University of Minnesota Extension Water Resources Center. Using her aquatic plant key, we were taught to identify different plant species. Emphasis was placed on aquatic invasive species. The plant key is an excellent tool. Attendees were easily identifying invasive species by the time the morning was over.

KASTL'S KORNER

the latest lake report. No loons noted.



Date	Ice Out	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert Inlet	Culvert Outlet
04-22-03	4/12	10'	49º	61º	23"	28"
04-14-04	4/4	10'	50º	55º	20"	25"
04-12-05	4/8	10'	48º	48º	22"	27"
04-15-06	4/7	9'	39º	59º	28"	33"
04-14-07	4/4	9'	39º	40º	24"	29"
04-18-07	Sugar Lake remained iced in on April 18				19"	24"

Membership

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Craig Johnson. He will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Craig of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Craig at 952-894-3593 or email membership@sugarlake.org.

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

- Gordy Olson who passed away in March. Gordy was among the many who helped start the SLA, was on the board of directors and helped in starting the sailing club.
- Wayne Hoganson who passed away in March this year.
- Dr. Milton Bartsh who passed away last October. Past treasurer of the Sugar Lake Association.
- James Smith passed away last October. Jim was a DNR Conservation Officer and was a real asset to our Association and many others.

SUGAR LAKE NEWS FLASH:

Want the latest information on what's going on at the lake? If you are not getting the occasional e-mail from the Association it's probably because we do not have your up to date e-mail address. Please just send an e-mail to webmaster@sugarlake.org and you will be added to the list. We maintain two lists, one for News Flashes and one for "For Sale" information.

And, by the way, visit our website at sugarlake.org for all the latest.

Treasurer's Report

As of April 18, 2008

General Fund	$9,596.69
Lake Improvement Fund	$16,629.16
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	$87,586.98
Total All Funds	**$113,812.83**

The 2007 audit and tax filing were completed. Thank you to Rick Riesgraf and Carlson Advisors for helping us complete this job.

Township News

Corinna Township Town Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7 p.m. The Corinna Town Hall is located on Ireland Ave, 1/3 mile north of County Road 39.
Clerk: Vi Novotne 320-274-5179

- Visit the Corinna Township website at www.corinnatownship.com.
- At the March 11 annual meeting one supervisor was elected. The term of Allen Jude expired, Chuck Carlson was elected for a three year term.

Clearwater Township Town Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. The Clearwater Town Hall is located on Highway 24, 3-1/2 miles south of Clearwater.
Clerk: Sharon Lee 320-558-6725

- Visit the Clearwater Township website at www.clearwatertownshipmn.govoffice2.com.

Dues

Your membership form is included with this newsletter. A dues increase to support ongoing Sugar Lake Association activities was approved by the membership last year. That increase is on this membership form. Current costs per member include $6 for the newsletter, $9 for the picnic and other social activities. Mailings, insurance, hall rental are another $4. These expenses alone total $19 per member. That leaves $6 to cover DNR permits, testing, required data collection, buoy maintenance, and all treatment costs for invasive species including curly leaf pondweed and eurasion water milfoil. Donations and fundraisers like the raffle have covered these extra expenses. Many of the treatment expenses directly benefit water quality and are ongoing expenses.

Give Our Lake a Break

Help prevent soil run off to the lake. Plant grass seed on any bare areas in your yard, check for winter damage along the shore, and be sure to install erosion control before you start any landscaping or grading projects.

Membership Form

Information will be used in the SLA phone directory

Home Address /phone	Lake Address/phone	Alternate Address/phone

E-Mail: _____

Sugar Lake Association Annual Membership Dues $50.00

Additional Donations

Buy an Acre $270.00 X Number of Acres ( ) = _____

(Goes to Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund)

Other Donations:

General Fund _____

Lake Improvement Fund _____

Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund _____

Total (sum of Donations) $_____

Thank you for your Continued Support

Please return form with your check (payable to Sugar Lake Association)

To Craig Johnson 3312 West 132nd Street Burnsville, MN 55337-1827

If you have questions you can call Craig at 952-894-3593

Another way to give is to volunteer your time. If you are willing to volunteer a few hours of your time to, please check the appropriate blank. Our new volunteer coordinator, Cheryl Delbow, will be contacting you. If you have other ideas for volunteering please call Cheryl (320-963-3997) and let her know.

Note: Sugar Lake Association is a 501C3 non profit organization and your gift is tax deductible.

I am willing to help with the following:

- ❑ placing and removing buoys
- ❑ milfoil treatment
- ❑ curly leaf pondweed harvesting
- ❑ water treatment sign placement
- ❑ shoreline plantings
- ❑ annual picnic
- ❑ south access milfoil patrol on holiday weekends
- ❑serve on the SLA Board of Directors

Dear Sugar Lake Property owner:

Our Vegetation Committee is planning to treat aquatic invasive species again this year. Our treatment areas are not defined, but our management plan calls for quickly treating the invasive species infestation as soon as we make positive identification. In order to be able to respond quickly, we would like to get advanced permission from all Sugar Lake property owners to treat invasive species in front of their property. You will be notified before the treatment, and all treatment will be approved by the DNR and in accordance with our lake management plan.

Printed name _____Lakeshore Footage_____

Signature_____Date Signed_____

Vegetation Committee Update

By Dale Gustafson
Vegetation Committee Chair

We are anxious to see the affects of our lake fall treatment to several patches of Eurasion watermilfoil this spring. We thank the volunteers that helped with the treatment we did in late October.

We have applied for permits to treat both Eurasion watermilfoil and Curly-leaf pondweed this spring. The areas proposed for treatment were the areas that were affected last year. We will not know how much of these areas will be treated until our DNR agent confirms the presence of invasive plants in these areas this spring. The first treatments are likely to be made in early May as the water temperature approached 60 degrees in the treatment areas. More on that later.

We have interviewed and will hire a state certified aquatic plant ecologist to complete two studies of our lake vegetation this summer. The studies will be completed in May and August and will include sampling all plant species at Point Intersect locations throughout the entire area of the lake where vegetation grows. In addition to that, the studies will focus and provide more detail in the areas where we have invasive species, or have had them in the past. These studies are vital to our treatment plans for future years.

Water Patrol

The Wright County Volunteer Sheriff's volunteer water patrol hours for 2007 were recently reported:

Wright Co Lake	Members	Hours
Maple Lake	7	64.5
Locke Lake	5	178.0
Lake John	7	252.0
Lake Sylvia/Twin	16	195.0
Sugar Lake	7	656.0
Eagle Lake	1	201.0
Birch Lake	3	145.0
Lake Charlotte	6	94.0
Clearwater Lake	10	462.0
Pleasant Lane	5	88.0
Mink/Sommers Lake	2	8.0
Total	**69**	**2343.5**

Congratulations to the Sugar Lake Water Patrol for the impressive amount of volunteer hours. If you are interested in finding out more about the water patrol or joining please contact Rick Kanniainen at 320-963-2226.

Water Quality Committee

By Dale Gustafson
Water Quality Improvement Committee Chair

Hollister Creek Project.
After years of working on this project on the south side of the lake where water flows into Sugar Lake through Area N, the project is under way to create a new streambed for the creek. This new streambed will slow the water flow and protect the lake from excessive silt that continues to wash out of the old creek channel. The tree removal is almost complete, the plans have been revised, and there will be a bidder meeting soon so a contractor can be selected. The new channel will be constructed this summer, but the water flow will not be diverted into the new channel until some time next year after the grasses have gotten well established. This project will be completed with money from our Lake Improvement fund and grants from two government agencies.

This is the time of year that we all think about cleaning up our property and getting ready for the growing season. Please remember that any amount of unprotected soil posses a threat to the water quality of Sugar Lake until it is completely grown over with new vegetation. So even if your project is very small, you need to place erosion fabric over the soil after it is planted. Don't start your project unless you can finish it or protect the site that day. Even a brief shower can wash significant nutrients into the lake. Before you start a larger project make sure you have consulted with an expert, and get your erosion protection in place before you start.

Erosion control products are available at garden centers, hardware stores and all of the larger home product stores in our area. The Sugar Lake Association will have some of these products available to help with smaller projects. Just contact a SLA Board member or our Area Communicator for more information.

Birders' Corner

By Steve Wiltermuth
One of the blessings of being on the lake is the variety of birds. We thought it might be nice to have a forum for people to share their sightings or interesting antics of our feathered friends.

If you see a species that has not been around much let us know. Steve Wiltermuth will collect sightings and write an article for the newsletter. Email your information to Steve at swilter@gmail.com.

At Christmas break my son and I kept track of the species we could observe within walking distance of our home. We counted twenty different species. The most abundant being the dark eyed junco and black-capped chickadee. It was fun to watch the bald eagles approach the people fishing getting closer and closer looking for a handout. At one point we had fourteen cardinals at our feeder. Keep watching the sky for interesting birds.

SLA Picnic games

We are looking at an Olympic tie-in to the Sugar Lake Picnic games. Possibly passing a torch around the lake to arrive at the games. If you are interested in discussing this or helping out please contact Lynne Bonine at 320-274-2005.

The Loon platforms are in!

By Doc Williams

Doc Williams, Gary Williamson, and Steve Mann put out the artificial Loon nesting platforms on Sunday, May 4. The platforms are 6 inch PVC, made into a 4 X 5 foot rectangle, with a center of styrofoam sandwiched in between wire mesh and canvas. Bulrushes are placed on the platform, and then a layer of muck is put on top to secure them. More bulrushes are added for topdressing. Two cement blocks keep the platforms from drifting. On Tuesday, May 6, a Loon was sited on one of the nests. This is the 3rd season they have been deployed with more learned each year. Although many Loons visit Sugar during the season, the topography of the lake suggests a maximum of 4 nesting areas. The platforms are positioned so nesting Loons can't see each other. They are very territorial this time of year and would destroy each others eggs. There are several advantages to using artificial nesting sites. The platforms are buoyant and rise with the water level, thus preventing the nests from flooding during heavy spring rains. They can also be placed further out in the lake discouraging predators from robbing the eggs. Having the platforms in open water however, sometimes draws curious onlookers or fishermen who like to cast under them. Your help is needed to aid in this years hatch. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM ANY LOON NEST. A threatened Loon may abandon its eggs. If you see a boat nearing a nest, consider asking them to stay away. If you want to view a nest, bring your binoculars and do it from afar.

FOR SALE

2001 36' Dutchmen Travel Trailer with slide out
Sleeps up to 6 people.
Setup on Sugar Lake Warner's Resort (Annandale)
Includes: Deck in front of trailer, 8 x 10 storage shed'
20' aluminum roll dock, Electric boat lift,
1986 Pro 17' Alumicraft boat with 60 hp Johnson motor'
electric start and electric trim.
$25,000.00

For more information call Bill Scherr (763)878-2910

The Sugar Lake Association
The Sugar Lake News
11955 Hart Ave NW.
Annandale, MN 55302

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED