

The Sugar Lake News

April 2009

2009

Calendar of Events

May 16-SLA Meeting*

May 16 Plant Exchange

May 30 Shoreland Habitat workshop

June 20- SLA Meeting*

June 27-Fishing Contest

July 18-SLA Meeting*

August 1-SLA Picnic

August 22-Annual Meeting/Board
Election*

September 5-Diane's Lights Night

September 19- SLA Meeting*

October 24-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 Cathy Beckman at
10880 Imhoff Ave NW
Annandale, MN 55302
320-274-8623

E-mail membership@sugarlake.org

Sugar Lake Association Plant Exchange

When: 10:30 a.m.—12 noon, Saturday May 16, 2009

Where: 11023 Hollister Ave NW

Driving Directions:

From County Rd 123, turn at farm with big blue silos (Hart Ave) and go down hill. Continue down Hart until 110 St on the left. Take 110 St to big brown house at the intersection of 110 and Hollister.

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 and trees from Grant Everson's Hasty Woods Nursery for sale. Grant will be showcasing some new native plants.

* Native shoreline 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.



Need extra pots? Contact Charlotte Quiggle (chuckquii@aol.com) or Karen Sutherland (suther@acm.org) to arrange either pick-up or delivery.

Experienced gardeners will be on hand to answer questions.

Lemonade and cookies will be served.

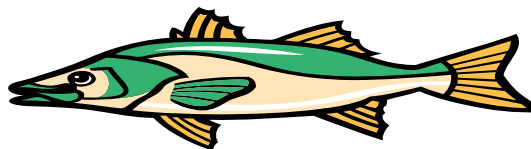
Phone questions: 651-698-2284 (Karen Sutherland)

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 Karen Sutherland at 651-698-2284 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.

KASTL'S KORNER

the latest lake report. .



Date	Ice Out	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
					Inlet	Outlet
04-14-04	4/4	10'	50°	55°	20"	25"
04-12-05	4/8	10'	48°	48°	22"	27"
04-15-06	4/7	9'	39°	59°	28"	33"
04-14-07	4/4	9'	39°	40°	24"	29"
04-18-08	4/24				19"	24"
04-09-09	4/15	10'	54°	70°	22"	27"

Membership

Paid membership to date this year is 182. If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Cathy Beckman. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Cathy of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Cathy at 320-274-8623 or email membership@sugarlake.org.

We would like to extend our sympathy to the family of Arline Anderson who passed away on April 23, 2009. Arline was a long time resident of Sugar Lake. She also operated the Sugar Lake Resort.

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.

Visit our website at sugarlake.org for all the latest.

Treasurer's Report

As of April 17, 2009

General Fund	\$30,307.96
Lake Improvement Fund	\$17362.45
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	\$73,334.41
Total All Funds	\$121,004.84

Raffle Prizes

The Board of Directors set the raffle prizes for the picnic drawing this year at:

- First \$500
- Second \$200
- Third \$100

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.
- John Dearing was re-elected supervisor 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.
- Dan Mol was re-elected supervisor for a three year term. Kristen Helwig was re-elected treasurer for a two year term. The vote to hold Clearwater Township general elections in conjunction with Federal and State general elections passed.

Membership Dues

Membership forms were sent out earlier this year. If you have not sent your form and dues payment in, please do so. We will be printing a new directory this year and want to be sure we have current information for everyone. Also be sure to sign the treatment permission form at the bottom of the membership form.

Newsletter

Help save postage and printing costs by subscribing to the electronic version of the Sugar Lake News. You will receive a PDF file by email that looks like this newsletter but in color. Contact membership@sugarlake.org with your email address if you are interested.

Give Our Lake a Break

Direct your roof downspouts onto a vegetated area rather than a paved surface.

Vegetation Committee Update

By Dale Gustafson

Vegetation Committee Chair

DNR Pilot Program

The Vegetation Committee of Sugar Lake applied again this year for the pilot program. We were pleasantly surprised when we were selected. This will mean several things to our Invasive Species efforts:

- As part of this pilot program we should be able to treat all the Curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil that we can find at reasonable concentrations.
- We will get additional DNR staff time from individuals in the Invasive Species division.
- The DNR will reimburse SLA for \$23,000 for our treatment expenses.

From the DNR Pilot Project Grant announcement:

The purpose of offering these funds is to allow a limited number of well-planned lake-wide or bay-wide projects to control curly-leaf pondweed or milfoil or both to go forward in order to learn from them and to potentially achieve some ecological benefits from them. Each funded project will be carefully monitored so that we can better predict how and where to use these approaches in the future.

Lake-wide or bay-wide treatments are those that attempt to treat all, or almost all, of the target plant in a lake or bay. While we recognize the desire to control curly-leaf pondweed and milfoil to improve lake use, we are focusing the limited funds of this grant program on projects that are designed to provide ecological benefits, as well as providing relief from the nuisance conditions caused by the plants. Ecological benefits include increases in the frequency or abundance of native submersed plants and, in the case of curly-leaf pondweed, may include reductions in levels of phosphorus and algae, which should increase water clarity.

Winter meeting

The-winter meeting was held Saturday, February 7, 2009, at Cabela's in Rogers. About forty Association members attended. After a little bit of news about upcoming association activity Carolyn Dindorf of Fortin Consulting spoke. She covered how water quality affects property values and how we affect water quality. She provided specific details about practical things we can all apply on our own property as we care for our yards, deal with rain, plant gardens, wash our cars, deal with weeds and fertilizer, and minimize erosion. All in attendance received several handouts from Carolyn with tips for lake protection, resources for lakeshore property owners, and an invasive household plant inventory sheet. Karen Sutherland also provided seed packets of a native blue aster for everyone.

Water Quality Committee Update

By Dale Gustafson

Water Quality Committee Chair

Hollister Creek

The Hollister Creek project did well last fall and this spring. The project will be watched, when the grasses are established enough, the new creek bed will be opened and the old creek filled and seeded. We expect that to be mid to late summer.

New Projects

We are always looking for new projects that will improve the water quality of Sugar Lake.

Two new project concepts have been presented to Wright SWCD to submit to the engineers for final design and pricing. When the designed projects are completed, they will be presented to the land owners for comment. If the landowners agree with the projects we will proceed to the funding phase. More on this later.

Filter Strips (on farm land)

Our participation in the Wright County buffer strip project has completed the first five years. At this point we are again being asked to continue the program by participating at a 50% rate for the continued funding of these projects. This money funds the filter strips on farmers land by paying them an annual fee for not farming that portion of his land.

The Board voted to continue participation in the Wright County buffer strip program.



Birders' Corner

By Cindi Peterson

Recent sightings this spring near our home have included the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker tapping our Maple trees, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and White Breasted Nuthatch.



On Palm Sunday, we captured this majestic eagle near its nest on County Road 24.



Just days after ice-out, this Common Merganser pair was spotted. Not sure if they are here to stay or just passing through.

Star Lakes Program

This new program was created by a bill that was passed last year by the Minnesota Legislature. It provided \$100,000.00 to get the program up and running and start to designate Star Lakes and Rivers in Minnesota. The legislation specified a 15-member board to be composed of 10 appointed members and 5 members from lake associations. Dale Gustafson was nominated to the board by the state Board of Water and Soil Resources. And now serves as president of the Board.

The Board is fully operational at this time and has proposed legislation that is moving forward to grant \$250,000.00 in FY 2010, and \$500,000.00 in FY 2011 to the Star Lake Board from the money collected from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment Bill that you passed last fall. It is the Boards feeling that our bill has a good chance of surviving in some form and the Star Lakes and Rivers program will continue.

The goal of this Board is simple. We want to reward good groups and encourage new groups to carry out actions that protect and improve Minnesota's waters. It will recognize groups of people (not just nice lakes or rivers) that have come together to protect the waters.

SLA has an excellent possibility of becoming one of the pilot lakes in this program. If we choose to pursue the selection process we could be one of the first Star Lakes of Minnesota. This designation will give us status as an outstanding association, along with some monetary award along with the selection. Also, with the selection, SLA will be eligible to compete for future funding of special projects we wish to do.

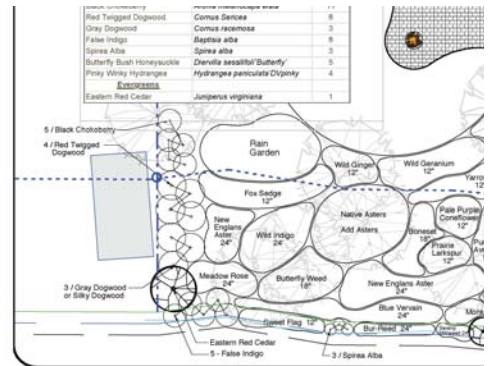
Check out the website www.starlakes.org

Shoreland Habitat Program

Shoreland Habitat grant activity for this year has started. The first of three workshops has been held and site design is almost complete on the first two projects.

Saturday, April 25, the first of three workshops was held at the Ney Nature Center. Attendees learned about site assessment, site planning and design, resources for design and plant selection, and specific local native plants and flowers. Worksheets to use for site assessment and objectives were passed out as well as a Wright County native plant guide. The workshop was led by Carolyn Dindorf of Fortin Consulting. The remaining two workshops will be held May 30 and June 20. Both will be held on site at an active project and will include classroom and hands on work with site prep and planting. The May 30 session will specifically cover refining your plan, site planning and preparation, tools, techniques and tips.

The May 30 class will be held at 11215 Hollister Ave NW from 8 am to Noon



The two projects scheduled for completion before June 30 are both in area K at 11215 Hollister Ave NW, Peterson's, and 11245 Hollister Ave NW, Delbow's. Two additional projects were identified at the workshop held April 25. Projects for this grant are required to have at least 75% of the frontage restored with an adjacent buffer zone at least 25 feet deep/wide. A landowner agreement is also required.

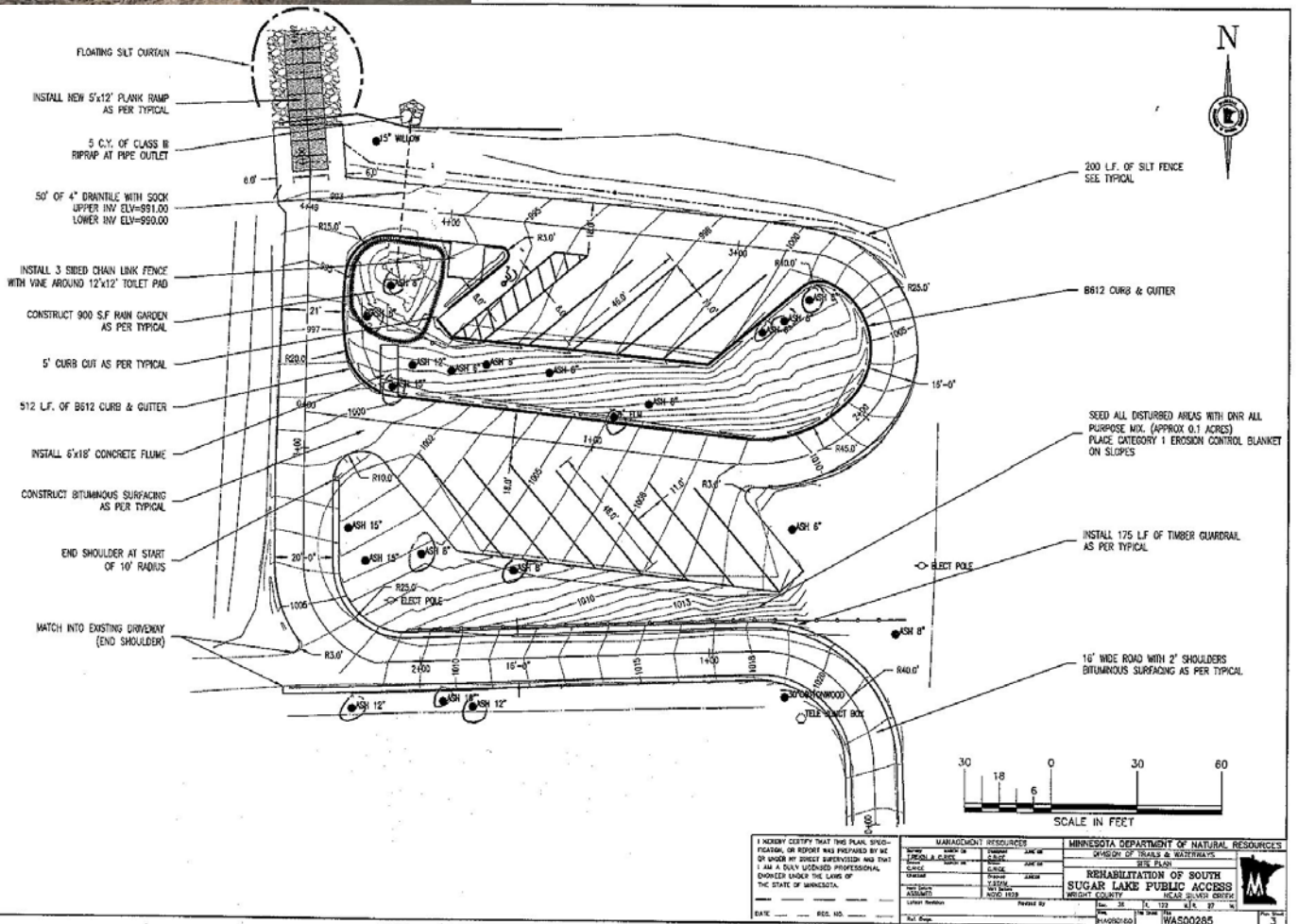
If you want more information or have questions contact Don Peterson at 952-212-9524 or email don@sugarlake.org. For information about the Shoreland Habitat Program go to www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/shoreland.html

Sponsored by the Sugar Lake Association with funding provided through a grant from the MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife Shoreland Habitat Program

South Public Access Improvements

The drawing below details improvements to the south public access started last fall. Tryg Hanson with the DNR Parks and Trails division told us the contractor was unable to complete the paving work last fall but will be working on it as soon as possible this spring. As soon as road restrictions are lifted, the contractor will need 3 to 4 days to complete the paving portion of the job. At that point the south access will re-open to vehicle traffic. Road restrictions will most likely come off between May 8th and 15th. Updates will be communicated by email—newsflash as they are available.

Although the access will have basically the same footprint, some of the upper level parking stalls have been lengthened and a new launch ramp made with 5 foot by 12 foot concrete planks should be an improvement. The design also includes a rain garden and the DNR is working with the SLA to include additional native plantings.



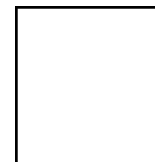
FOR SALE

Yard items, tools, some cabin items for sale on Sugar Lake at 11218 Hollister Ave NW. Available most weekends. Call first. Contact Bob Slama cell# 612-805-2442

Lawn Mowing

Big or Small I do them all. Spring clean up, odd jobs—unbeatable price contact: Todd 320-274-3134

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED