

The Sugar Lake News

April 2011

Sugar Lake Association Minnesota Waters' 2010 Lake Association of the Year 2009 Star Lake Recipient

2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 21-SLA Meeting*

June 18-SLA Meeting*

June 25-Fishing Contest

July 16-SLA Meeting*

August 6-SLA Picnic

August 20-Annual Meeting/
Board Election*

September 3-Diane's Lights Night

September 17-SLA Meeting*

October 15-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

SLA Board adopts two focus issues for 2011

In addition to regular activities and the continuing work fighting aquatic invasive species, the Board of Directors agreed to focus on two areas this year:

1. Rain Water Management

Education:

- Instill in lakeshore owners a sense of responsibility for every drop of water that falls on their property.
- Increase the understanding of the harm caused by runoff from hard surfaces, (roof tops, patios, extra structures, and compacted soils).
Increase the appreciation of the beauty of native plants by the shoreline.

Action:

- Identify additional projects (large and small) that can improve the quality of the water that flows to the lake.
- Design solutions and secure funding to complete the most important projects on the list.
- Identify sources of help (money and expertise) with these projects.
- Dramatically increase the number of lineal feet of native shoreline on the lake.
Increase the number of rain gardens in the shoreline impact area.

2. Zebra Mussel Awareness

Education:

- Educate all Sugar Lake users to be able to identify Zebra Mussels and to understand the potential harm they can cause Sugar Lake.

Action:

- Increase the monitoring of public access to increase awareness of the seriousness of possible Zebra Mussel infestation. SLA has committed \$3,875.00 to pay for extra monitoring by DNR trained workers, but much more is needed.
- Conduct classes for volunteer access monitors.
- Establish the Sugar Lake "Zebra Watch". Get 2 volunteer families for each Sugar Lake shoreline area to be Zebra Watchers. Volunteers will install a "Zebra Trap" at the end of their dock and inspect and record the presence or absence of Zebra Mussels every week. They will send in monthly reports by e-mail to be included in the "over-all" Sugar Lake reports that will be submitted to the state. We will establish a proof log of no Zebra Mussels in Sugar Lake. Continue to fund our Invasive Species Budget so if we do get Zebra Mussels, we will be financially ready to deal with them if a cure is developed.

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 Doc Williams at 952-888-9884 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.

The latest lake report

Date	Ice Out	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
					Inlet	Outlet
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"
04-11-10	4/1	10'	46°	62°	23"	28"
04-14-11	4/13	NA	NA	NA	26"	31"

Membership

Paid membership to date this year is over 178. 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 extend our sympathy to the family of Lee Ferrell who passed away Jan 25, 2011

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 news-flash@sugarlake.org and you will be added to the list. We maintain two lists, one for News Flashes and one for "For Sale" information. To be added to the "For Sale" list send an email to: forsale@sugarlake.org.

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

Directory and Dues

Membership forms were sent out earlier this year. If you have not sent your form and dues payment in, please return it to The Sugar Lake Association, Membership, 10880 Imhoff Ave NW, Annadale MN, 55302.

A new directory will be printed this year so please return your membership form with any corrections as soon as possible. We are soliciting directory advertising now. If you or anyone you know is interested in advertising in the 2011/2012 directory please contact Cathy Beckman at 320-274-8623 or email membership@sugarlake.org.

NEW—Half and whole page ads placed in the directory will also be posted on the web site at no additional cost.

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.

Township News

Corinna Township Town Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesday 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: Mary Barkley Brown 320-274-8049

- Visit the Corinna Township website at www.corinnatownship.com.

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: Jean Just Town Hall Phone: 320-558-6790

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

Treasurer's Report

As of April 15, 2011

General Fund	\$25,056.63
Lake Improvement Fund	\$22,454.76
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	\$121,083.10
Total All Funds	\$168,596.49

Raffle Prizes

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

First—\$500 Second—\$200 Third—\$100

Rainfall

April rainfall through April 21 has totaled 1.65 inches. With the 32 inches of snow since January, year to date total moisture is approximately 4.65 inches. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals

Wright County COLA

WCCOLA

By Don Peterson

What is a COLA? It is a Coalition of Lake Associations working towards common goals. On April 14 an informational meeting was held to discuss the formation of a Wright County COLA—26 people from 18 lakes attended. Guest speakers included Don Hickman with the Initiative Foundation and Marion Bender with Minnesota Waters. Joe Jacobs, Wright County Soil & Water, helped facilitate the meeting. Dale Gustafson, Sugar Lake Association, has been leading the effort to form the COLA. Brad Longtin, Mink/Somers, reviewed the draft by-laws. The meeting consensus was to move ahead with the formation of the COLA. At the next meeting, scheduled for May 7, the board will be elected. The Sugar Lake Association Board voted at the April meeting to join the WCCOLA. For more information see www.wccola.org.

Sugar Lake Association Plant Exchange

By Karen Sutherland

When: Saturday, May 28, 2011,
10a.m.- 12 noon

Where: 11023 Hollister Ave NW Maple Lake (Kannianen's)

Driving Directions: From Cnty Rd 123, turn at farm with big blue silos (Hart Ave) and go down hill. Continue on Hart until you come to 110th St on left. Take 110th St. The house is at the intersection of 110th 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 SLA Invasive Species Fund

In addition:

- Plants from Hasty Woods Nursery available for sale
- Heritage tomato plants for \$1 each

New Opportunity: Sunrise Native Plants, which supplied our natives for the South Landing project, is offering 6-packs for \$5 and 3" pots for \$3 with half the proceeds going to SLA. Varieties available and how to order can be found at: <http://www.sugarlake.org/Natives.pdf>

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.

Need pots?

Other Questions?

Karen Sutherland (suther@acm.org)

Vegetation Committee Update

By Dale Gustafson

- We have signed up for a comprehensive aquatic invasive species (AIS) risk assessment with Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC and Osgood Consulting, LLC. This is a program that is under development and we are a 'beta' client that will be helping to develop the program. This should give a thorough outside look at our AIS risk.
- We have been approved by the DNR for a \$26,500.00 grant to help pay the Curly leaf pondweed treatment this spring
- We will soon begin our search for Curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil. We are concerned that the early snow last fall and continued deep snow cover over the winter could have slowed the growth of these two species so they may be difficult to locate in time for the spring treatment. We know they are there, but we have to find them to treat them. We can always use more volunteers to search. Contact one of the Vegetation Committee members (Dale Gustafson, Dan Erdman, Don Peterson, etc.) if you can help.
- We still expect to locate and treat some areas in May, but we will not know where or when until time of treatment.
- Your dock or shoreline will be posted with a sign if your area is treated. We will also send a newsflash detailing the treatment plan. Do not use lake water for irrigation if your area was treated. All other lake activities are safe. We will sample the water after treatment, and as we hear from the laboratory it is safe to use lake water to irrigate we will send out an e-mail news flash and post a note on our website. Last year that was a period of about two weeks. It could be less or more time depending on conditions.
- Be prepared to have your irrigation system off at that time. It generally is a good thing not to use your irrigation much in the spring. Your lawn will be much healthier if it searches out moisture in the soil before you supplement water with your irrigation system.
- We plan to do additional treatments of EWM later this year if needed, and we will do this with our own volunteers in late June or July. We will use the News Flash e-mail for this as well so be sure you are on that list.

CORINNA TOWNSHIP AND WRIGHT COUNTY REACH ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT ON ZONING AND BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATION

On December 28, 2010, the Wright County Board of Commissioners and the Corinna Township Board of Supervisors reached an agreement regarding the administration of septic system permitting and zoning ordinances in the shoreland areas of Corinna Township; this agreement will be in effect through the end of 2011, at which time it will be re-assessed.

The agreement specifies that:

- Corinna Township will administer all land use (zoning), floodplain, building and septic permitting, with building and septic system permit review and inspections being conducted by Wright County staff;
- Corinna's zoning staff will conduct land use permit reviews and inspections related to the Zoning Ordinance;
- Applicants will drop off all applications and pick up and pay for all permits at Corinna Town Hall.

With the exception of rezoning of properties, all land use public hearings (variances, conditional use permits, preliminary plats, etc.) will be handled completely by Corinna Township and there will be no need for applicants to obtain final approval of such applications from Wright County.

The agreement is the result of more than four months of negotiations between County and Township officials. The Corinna Township Board would especially like to thank Wright County Commissioner Rose Thelen for her tireless efforts to bring this agreement to reality. Questions regarding the permitting process in Corinna Township should be directed to the Corinna Town Clerk, Mary Barkley Brown at Corinna Town Hall ([320] 274-8049 or cortwp@lakedalelink.net) or to the Township's Zoning Administrator (Community Growth Institute's Ben Oleson at [866] 900-3064 or oleson@communitygrowth.net).

Conferences, Forums, Workshops

Activity on the lake slows down a little over the winter but lake related activity picks up. The Sugar Lake Association was represented by members at the following events over the winter months:

- Metro Area Lake & River Groups Summit
- NDPES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination) permit training. Required starting in 2012 for AIS treatment.
- Aquatic Invasive Plant Management Stakeholder Meeting
- DNR Shoreland Habitat Users Group Meeting
- Minnesota Native Plant Society 2011 Annual Symposium
- Zebra Mussel Forum for Area Lake Associations
- Wild Ones conference "Design with Nature - Building tomorrow's Heritage"
- Minnesota/Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference in St Paul
- Stearns County Shoreland and Stormwater control workshop
- Wright County COLA formation meetings

Attendance at these events ensures our concerns are heard, keeps us up to date on current issues, and establishes statewide contacts.

Several members will be attending the Minnesota Waters Lakes and Rivers Conference to be held in St Cloud April 28 & 29.

Have you attended any lake related meetings, workshops, classes? Are you interested in participating in future opportunities? Contact—Don Peterson—don@sugarlake.org

Plant of the Month

We will be highlighting a Wright County native plant in the summer newsletters this year. The plant this month is the:

Blue Flag Iris

Iris Versicolor

Also known as—Northern blue flag

- Likes sun to partial shade
- Wet, moist, rich soil. Grows well along lakeshore
- Height: 1.5 feet to 2.5 feet
- Spreads by self seeding and extension of its rhizomes
- Blooms from May to June
- Blue to Violet-blue flower, variegated with yellow, green, and white

Plant giveaway

Would you like a Blue flag iris? Be one of the first four people to send an email including your name and contact information along with your plan on where to plant the iris to:

nativeplant@sugarlake.org

Winners announced in the May newsletter.

Restore Your Shore

The computer program 'Restore Your Shore' has been available for a number of years. It is an excellent reference and has been used extensively for projects on Sugar Lake. It has been updated and is now available online. Here is the news release from the University of Minnesota Shoreland Education News:

***Restore Your Shore* is a powerful multimedia program for shoreland owners and professionals to use in implementing shoreland restoration and protection projects.**

The *Restore Your Shore* program will enable you to:

- Develop a deeper understanding of shoreland ecosystems and natural shoreland management.
- Discover how lakeshore problems similar to your own have been resolved through innovative approaches. Follow four different shoreland owners' experiences as they share their shoreland transformation projects.
- Create your own plant list from an extensive interactive database of over 400 native plant species (photos included!). Select native plant species suitable for planting in your area. Find out what to plant and what *not* to plant.
- Use worksheets and forms that will guide you step by step through the design and implementation process. Watch your project unfold and enjoy the transformation that takes place.

Check it out at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/restoreyourshore/index.html#>



Winter meeting

By Don Peterson



The winter meeting was held February 12, 2011, at Cabella's in Rogers. After a board meeting, 41 attendees listened to featured speaker, Jeremy Williamson.

Jeremy is a Water Quality Specialist and the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator with the Land and Resources Department in Polk County Wisconsin. He spoke about boating impacts on lakes including turbidity and sediments, shoreline erosion, aquatic plants, wildlife, and the dispersal of aquatic invasive species.

Business topics at the board meeting included a lengthy discussion about Sugar Lake water levels. A committee was charged with pursuing further information regarding high water levels. An additional \$2500 was approved for landing monitoring by the DNR Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers program in 2011.

Jeremy Williamson

Dale Gustafson gave a short update on our recent DNR vegetation survey and discussed the need for additional surveys in 2011.

Water Quality Committee Update

By Dale Gustafson

- We plan on planting more Bull Rush this year in late July or early August. We are interested in developing more sites. If you are interested in helping or planting at your property email Dale Gustafson at dalegus@earthlink.net.
- We will be attending annual training for monitoring which will start in May. If you are interested in seeing the data that is collected go to the RMB Environmental Laboratories website at <http://www.rmbel.info/> click on the 'Lakes Monitoring Program' link, then the Lakes Monitoring Database' and search for Sugar Lake data.
- Last summer and fall we had high water levels and some heavy wind causing damage to many shorelines. These areas need to be repaired as soon as possible to limit the time that soils erode into the lake.
- You can replace your rock by hand, and re-sod bare areas, but it is much better if you restore your shoreline by planting native plants. It is not legal and very bad for the lake to just push the soils back into the water. This action releases large amounts of phosphorus into the water causing more algae growth. There are many alternatives to rock riprap for your shoreline. Be a good steward of the lake and re-vegetate your shoreline. See the article on *Restore Your Shore* on page 4 of the newsletter or go to our website www.sugarlake.org.



Zebra Mussel

By Don Peterson

Zebra Mussels are an invasive animal that were likely brought to North America in the ballast water of cargo freighters. They were discovered in Lake Erie in 1988.

They are a small freshwater mussel about one to two inches long with a yellow and brown striped shell. They attach themselves to any hard surface in the water.

Currently 19 lakes are infested with a total of 50 lakes designated as infested due to connections between the lakes. Fish Lake is the only Wright County lake infested at this time but several Hennepin County lakes are infested including Lake Minnetonka.

Zebra mussels can spread by attaching to boats or aquatic vegetation. They are most easily spread as microscopic larvae (called veligers) in bait buckets, live wells, or other water. Currently there are no safe control methods to eradicate Zebra mussels once they are established. Prevention is the best tool available.

When moving between lakes:

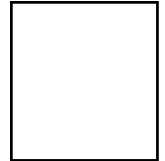
- Clean—Remove any mud or aquatic plants from your equipment
- Drain—Drain your bilge, live wells, bait buckets
- Dry—Anything that came in contact with the water. Allow at least 5 days for all equipment to dry if you are coming from an infested lake or spray with high pressure hot water (above 120 degrees Fahrenheit.)

Zebra mussels compete with young fish food, they block underwater pipes like irrigation supply pipes, block cooling intakes on boat motors, and their shells are sharp presenting a hazard when walking in the lake and on beaches.

For more information see the Minnesota DNR web site at this link:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html>

The Sugar Lake Association
The Sugar Lake News
10880 Imhoff Ave NW
Annandale, MN 55302



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming events:

Earth Wings and Water open house

The Cedar Lake Conservation Club is hosting this event at Camp Courage, Sat, June 18, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guest speakers will give presentations on Bluebirds, Loons, Purple Martins, Native plants, Shoreline restoration, Water quality, and invasive species. Minnesota Star Lake presentation at noon. See all the details at www.cedarlakeecc.org.

Summer music in the park

Annandale City Park bandshell-7p.m.

June 10-Annandale Community Band

June 24-Cannery Row

July 8-Douglas Wood

July 22-Galactic Cowboy Orchestra

August 12-From 35

August 26-Laura Caviani Jazz Duo

Brought to you by the Annandale ARTS Committee