

# The Sugar Lake News

April 2012

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

2012

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 19**-SLA Meeting\*

**June 16**- SLA Meeting\*

June 30 Fishing contest

June 30 Fireworks

**July 21**-SLA Meeting\*

**August 4**-SLA Picnic

**August 18**-Annual Meeting/  
Board Election\*

**September 1**-Diane's Lights Night

**September 15**- SLA Meeting\*

**October 20**-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](mailto:don@sugarlake.org)

### For membership, address, e-mail, or property owner changes

contact Marianne Borgeson at

12282 Hart Ave NW

Annandale, MN 55302

320-963-2674

E-mail [membership@sugarlake.org](mailto:membership@sugarlake.org)

## No Wake Ordinance

By Ron Elsner

As we move into the 2012 season at the lake, we have some business from last summer that needs attention. Last summer, we wrestled with historically high lake levels. When Wright County imposed a broad-based, temporary 'No Wake' rule, we, along with other lake associations, were successful in getting it reversed. At the end of the ordeal, the county recognized the need to be prepared for high lake levels, and made plans to develop and enact a group of 'No Wake' ordinances that could take effect if and when needed. The 'No Wake' ordinances will be established by Wright County and the MN DNR using the State of MN 'Water Surface Use Rules and Statutes'.

The state 'Water Surface Use Rules and Statutes' is a collection of various state statutes that govern the surface use of the lakes in Minnesota. (Copy of the document is posted on the SLA website). The statutes provide for local agencies to work with the DNR to develop, enact, and enforce ordinances that define allowable usage of bodies of water. The statutes allow for controls to be implemented for a host of items. While the statute controlling Water Surface Use Ordinance authorizes County Boards around the state to regulate usage of the lakes, any surface use zoning ordinances approved by County Boards must subsequently be reviewed and approved by the DNR Commissioner.

Early this spring, an ad hoc group of Wright County officials worked to develop 'PROCEDURES FOR ENACTING A PERMANENT NO-WAKE ORDINANCE'. A copy of the Procedures is also posted on the SLA website. (*It is worth noting that the use of the word 'Permanent', in this case, refers to the fact that the ordinance will permanently remain on the books; not that wakes will be constantly limited.*) The Procedures were presented to the County Board, by the County Attorney, at the April 3 Wright County Board meeting. While notice of the presentation was given to the Sugar Lake Board only several days before the meeting, several SLA Board members were able to attend the meeting. Based on the Board's review of the Procedures (forwarded to the Board by Commissioner Rose Thelen), and the information gleaned from the Board meeting, it sounds like the process for adopting the Ordinance will go something like this:

'Organized' lakes (that is, those with lake associations) will have until May 25th to notify the county of the following:

- a. Is the lake interested in participating in the 'No Wake' ordinance program? Lakes will have the opportunity to 'Opt in' or 'Opt out' of the program.
- b. If the lake chooses to 'Opt In', the lake will be required to submit terms of a suggested ordinance to the county.

Continued on Page 4

## Membership Meeting May 19

The May 19 SLA board meeting will be a membership meeting to allow discussion of a potential no-wake ordinance.

## The latest lake report

Date	Ice Out	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
					Inlet	Outlet
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"
04-21-12	3/19	11	50°	50°	19.25"	24.25"

## Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2012 has reached 196.

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Marianne Borgeson. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Marianne of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Marianne at 320-963-2674 or email [membership@sugarlake.org](mailto:membership@sugarlake.org).

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bob Stockstead who passed away in January.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Irene Vinella who passed away in December.

## News Flash

The Sugar Lake Association maintains two email lists for communication with membership:

**News Flash:** This list is used to send information about invasive species treatment, event announcements, member information, government information, etc. To subscribe to this list send an e-mail to [newsflash@sugarlake.org](mailto:newsflash@sugarlake.org) requesting addition.

**For Sale:** This list is used to send information about items "for sale" by the membership. To subscribe to this list send an email to [forsale@sugarlake.org](mailto:forsale@sugarlake.org) requesting addition.

If you wish to unsubscribe follow the instructions in the email you receive from the list or send an email requesting removal to the addresses listed above.

For the latest news on Sugar Lake visit our website:

[www.sugarlake.org](http://www.sugarlake.org)

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.clearwatertownshipmn.govoffice2.com).

## Treasurer's Report

As of April 21, 2012

General Fund	\$38,880.08
Lake Improvement Fund	\$24,919.53
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$136,669.65</u>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$200,469.26</b>

## 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 totaled 2.4 inches. May rainfall through May 9 has been 3.25 inches. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals

## 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, 327 Lake Hazeltine Dr, Chaska, MN 55318

## Sugar Lake Association Plant Exchange

The plant exchange is moving back to Sutherland's on the South Shore.

**When:** Saturday, May 26, 2012,  
9 a.m.- 11 a.m.

This is the Saturday of Memorial weekend. Bring your visiting family and friends!



**Where:** 7488 106 ST NW, Maple Lake (Sutherland's)

Driving Directions: Enter via gravel road from Highway 123 and Howe. There will be signs pointing to available parking.

### How it works:

- Exchange every plant you bring for another
- Extra plants can be purchased for \$1 each

Pot up your extra plants now so they will be strong and healthy for the exchange.

The Sutherland shore, a recipient of a DNR Shoreland Restoration grant two years ago, is now "tour ready." Take time to look at the native plantings and see how they survived the record high water last summer.

Refreshments will be served.

Need pots? Other Questions?

Contact: Karen Sutherland ([suther@acm.org](mailto:suther@acm.org))

## Fireworks

By Doc Williams

This year the annual Sugar Lake fireworks display will take place on June 30<sup>th</sup> if... We currently have about \$2,000 in donations given by 48 association members towards this year's fireworks, but to put on a decent show we need around \$5,000. Every year there are over a hundred boats gathered in front of Joel Williams house to view the show. There are many hundreds more people sitting on shore also enjoying the display. Now comes the if. If we don't get enough donations to cover expenses, this year's fireworks will not take place. Lakeshore owners spend considerable dollars to entertain themselves and their guests while at the lake. Why not give something towards the fireworks. If you put off donating hoping that the other guy will put in your share along with his, you may be inviting people to the lake anticipating a show and be disappointed. Please make a donation to this year's fireworks display. Make a check out to the Sugar Lake Association and put fireworks in the memo space. Send it to the SLA treasurer Jon Juntunen, 1342 80<sup>th</sup> St NW Buffalo, MN 55358. To get maximum bang for our buck, we need your donations no later than Memorial Day Weekend.

## Vegetation Committee Update

By Dale Gustafson

Spring is here and so are the aquatic invasive species (AIS). The SLA is continuing to fight the battle to control Curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil and we have been for about 20 years. This year we expected to see an increase in Pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil because of last winter. We had open water in part of the lake until early January. Also we had almost no snow cover the entire winter. Because these plants grow in cold water if they have enough light, there were areas of Curly well established at ice out time this year.

We treated 42 acres of Curly leaf pondweed on May 4<sup>th</sup> and we hope that there will not be any late growth areas that we have not found yet. We had located dense areas of Curly leaf in the northern three quarters of the lake, but none in the south end of the lake. If you live for fish in that part of the lake please let us know if you see patches of Curly leaf pondweed.

We plan to identify the dense areas of Eurasian water milfoil in the next couple weeks and then do a treatment on those areas this spring. Watch for a Sugar Lake news flash on your e-mail. If you haven't signed up for this, please do by sending your e-mail address to [newsflash@sugarlake.org](mailto:newsflash@sugarlake.org).

The DNR has changed the funding system for AIS control by lake associations. The new procedure allows for all lakes that are treating AIS to compete for funds. The bottom line for us is that our reimbursement has been greatly reduced. The good news is that our reimbursement in two years under the old system would have been zero. Under the new system we should be able to get some help each year.

## Aquatic Invasive Species Laws

### You must...

**Clean** visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited species off of watercraft, trailers, and equipment before transporting from any water access.

**Drain** water from the boat's bilge, live well, motor, ballast tanks, and portable bait containers before transport from water access site or shoreline property.

**Keep** drain plug out and water draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

### You may not...

**Transport** aquatic plants, water, or invasive species (e.g., zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil).

**Dump** live bait into state waters, on the shore, or on the ground.

**Launch**, or attempt to place, watercraft or trailers with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or prohibited invasive species into any waters of the state.

Above summary from a DNR AIS rules sticker.

## No Wake Ordinance

Continued from Page 1

The Wright County Board has scheduled a public hearing on the matter for Tuesday, July 17. At the hearing, the County Board will accept public comments on the collective Water Surface Use Ordinances for all Wright County lakes.

Following the hearing, public comments will be reviewed and reconciled, and the ordinances will be finalized. Once finalized, the Wright County Board will vote to approve the ordinances. Approved ordinances will then be submitted to the DNR for review and, ultimately, approval by the DNR Commissioner.

So, how far along the process are we, as Sugar Lake? At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 21, the SLA Board reviewed the matter. In a split decision, the SLA Board voted **not** to 'Opt Out' of the process. That vote does not signify that the SLA Board has voted to 'Opt In'; the vote simply means that the Board believes it should develop additional information, and seek the input of the SLA members-at-large.

The next step in the process will be to provide an opportunity for Association members to join in the discussion and weigh in on the course of action for Sugar Lake's participation in the No Wake ordinance process. In order to incorporate input from the general membership, the Executive Committee of the SLA Board of Directors has chosen to convene a 'Special Meeting of the Members' as part of the regularly scheduled Board meeting on May 19.

The meeting will be held at Corinna Town Hall beginning at 8:00 AM. The agenda for the meeting will be arranged to deal with the 'No Wake' issue as the first order of business; the normal monthly Board business agenda will follow conclusion of 'No Wake' discussions. The goal of the Membership Meeting will be two-fold:

- Determine whether the Sugar Lake Association chooses to 'Opt In' or 'Opt Out' of the Wright County No Wake ordinance process, and,
- If the choice is to 'Opt In', agree on the terms for a proposed ordinance.

***It is important that you attend. Association by-laws require that 10% of the members be present at a membership meeting to transact business.***

Prior to the meeting, copies of a draft ordinance showing options for various controls will be forwarded to all members for review . . . We look forward to seeing many of you there!!

## Water Quality Committee

By Dale Gustafson

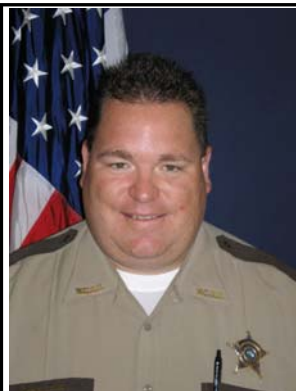
I had the opportunity to serve on a new committee last year, the Stakeholders Engagement project – management of Invasive aquatic plants. I have chosen to call it the AIS rules committee.

This group was made up of 9 DNR officials, 9 Lake Association representatives from around the State, and related industry professionals as well as other user groups like anglers. Included were Steve Hirsch (Director of the Division of Ecological and Water Resources) and Ed Gogges, (Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife). This group was the follow-on committee about the DNR rules for AIS control.

As the first meeting progressed it was clear that there was a polarization between the DNR staff and the Lake Associations about what needed to be changed in the rules. As the process went on, the DNR demonstrated a real willingness to make some significant changes. Not all things got changed, and not all is decided as of yet, but many are being incorporated into the new rules for 2012. These were very intense meetings, and I came away with a good feeling of accomplishment. I am sure there will be new issues that arrive, but they can be addressed as needed.

Below is a summary of what is in effect for this coming year:

- Recognized that in certain areas it appears that the Division of Ecological and Water resources and the Division of Fish and Wildlife have not been on the "same page" both the directors stated that they would continue to bring their departments together on these issues.
- The permit process for AIS will be move from Fisheries to the Department of Ecological and Water Resources. For this year the AIS permits for organizations (like lake associations) will be granted by Ecological Resources, and individual lake shore owner permits will continue to be handled by the Fisheries representatives. (For Sugar Audrey Kuchinski will continue to handle property owners permits, and a new addition to the Invasive Species Christine Jurek will handle Association permits for AIS). Many other issues were discussed and resolved and they will be apparent as new documentation is posted this this year.



### New Recreation Enforcement Supervisor

Deputy Joel Mackereth retired from the Wright County Sheriff's Office in February with over 28 years of service. Sheriff Hagerty has appointed Deputy Jake Hermansen to take over as the Recreation Enforcement supervisor for this area. Jake has been with the Sheriff's Office since 1995 and has been part of the Recreational Enforcement Division since 2001. Jake has served as a patrol deputy, detective, and school resource officer. The Wright County Sheriff's Office and Deputy Hermansen look forward to working with the Sugar Lake Association. You can contact Deputy Hermansen at 763-682-7689 or [jake.hermansen@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:jake.hermansen@co.wright.mn.us)



## Winter meeting

The winter meeting was held at the Corinna Town Hall February 4, 2012. A board meeting was not held. Chairman, Ron Elsner reviewed 2011 accomplishments, and discussed 2012 goals. Joe Jacobs with Wright SWCD gave a presentation on County water issues and specifically our watershed. Paul Diedrich, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor gave a fisheries management presentation.



Left—Ron Elsner,  
Right—Paul Diedrich



Joe Jacobs



## Chairman's Corner

It looks to be a busy summer for the SLA. As you can see from this newsletter we are dealing with a number of issues: No Wake ordinance, Fishing contest, Invasive Plant Species, shoreline restoration, walleye stocking, fireworks, Wright County COLA, the potential Zebra Mussel problems. All of them have an effect on the 'health' of the lake, as well as our use of the lake.

It's treatment time again! Our invasive plants are still with us, and the water temperatures are at the point where it will very soon be time to treat. Our invasive species treatments remind me of 'maintenance' medications.

Over the years, my Mom has often asked, "Why do I need to keep taking that medicine? I feel just fine!" My answer has always been the same: "Mom, taking the medicine is the reason why you are feeling good!" That same logic sometimes is used on our invasive species problems; "Why do we need to keep treating these invasives? We don't have a problem as bad as other lakes." The answer is, "We don't have a problem as bad as others BECAUSE we keep treating them." Dale Gustafson and others continue to work hard to keep the invasives at bay. Judging by the standard of problems experienced by other lakes, Dale and his support team have done a great job in caring for Sugar Lake. Our thanks to them!! Thanks, also, to you, the Association members, for recognizing the need and supporting those efforts. Watch for marker buoys and signs in the near future.

From a timing perspective, the first and foremost issue we have before us the 'No Wake' ordinance detailed elsewhere in the newsletter. Dealing with it now seems a little out of place being that we currently have low lake levels. The 'due process' of government never seems to be a quick process, but we count on it to be sure that everyone has the opportunity to have their voice heard. We're having to hustle right now to get our input to the Wright County Board; then we'll have to wait until mid-July for public hearings. Following the public hearings, the county will need to consolidate and resolve comments, approve the ordinances, and forward them to the DNR for staff review and final approval by the DNR Commissioner. The general feeling from those of us working thru the process is that DNR approval will not likely happen until sometime this fall. We'll keep you posted on progress.

I'll close with a reminder and a request that go hand-in-hand. The reminder is the Special Meeting of the Membership to be held on May 19, 8:00 AM at Corinna Town Hall. The request is that you take the time to attend. We are all going to be affected by a potential Slow-No Wake ordinance; we need to make sure that it represents our desires and meets our needs.

Regards,  
Ron

**PS: Be Safe!** – When the boat comes out of storage, remember to check the fire extinguisher and horn (. . . as well as the bilge plug!!).

**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 contacting Chairman Ron Elsner at [elsnerww@comcast.net](mailto:elsnerww@comcast.net) 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.

**Upcoming events:  
Earth Wings & Water  
Nature EXPO**

Saturday, May 19,2012  
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Camp Courage on Cedar Lake

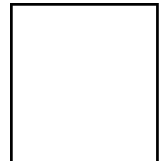
Sponsored by the Cedar Lake Conservation Club

The event is open to everyone and is free of charge. The list of speakers is over the top, including Stan Tekiela , well known author, naturalist and wildlife photographer and Darby Nelson, Aquatic Ecologist, professor, and author. New this year is a kid's program-- Master Naturalist Lynn Fisher will lead small groups of children through ten learning stations and families can also assemble a blue-bird house for a small fee.

See all the details at [www.cedarlakecc.org](http://www.cedarlakecc.org).

---

The Sugar Lake Association  
The Sugar Lake News  
12282 Hart Ave NW  
Annandale, MN 55302



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED