



The Sugar Lake News

April 2013

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

2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 18-SLA Meeting*

May 25- Plant Exchange

June 15- SLA Meeting*

June 29—Fishing contest

July 6—fireworks

July 20-SLA Meeting*

July 27—Golf Benefit

August 3-SLA Picnic

August 17-Annual Meeting/
Board Election*

August 24—Wine & Gardens

September 1-Diane's Lights Night

September 1-Brandon Beckman 5K

September 21- SLA Meeting*

October 19-SLA Meeting*

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

March, September & October meet-
ings 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 Marianne Borgeson at

12282 Hart Ave NW

Annandale, MN 55302

320-963-2674

E-mail membership@sugarlake.org

Sugar Lake Association Plant Exchange/Sale

Preparation for the annual SLA plant
exchange/sale has begun!

When: Saturday, May 25, 2013, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.
This is the Saturday of Memorial Day 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 parking.

How it works:

- Exchange every plant you bring for another
- Extra plants can be purchased for \$1 each
- Special Monarch Garden flats containing 3 plants each of four types can be purchased for \$15 (availability limited)
- Natives from Sunrise Native Plants can be ordered in advance. Order form available on SLA website.

Pot up your extra plants now so they will be strong and healthy
for this event.

The Sutherland shore was a recipient of a DNR Shoreland Restoration
grant three years ago. Take time to look at the native plantings and ob-
serve how they survived the record high water summer of 2011 and the
drought summer of 2012.

Refreshments will be served.

Need pots? Other Questions?

Contact: Karen Sutherland (suther@acm.org)



The latest lake report

Date	Ice Out	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
					Inlet	Outlet
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"
04-20-13	?/??				16.5"	21.5"

Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2013 has reached 166. 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.

We extend our sympathy to the families of:

Mary Kastl who passed away April 4, 2013.

Dr. John Klobe who passed away March 10, 2013.

June Hankins who passed away December 28, 2012.

Anna Mae Quiggle who passed away December 13, 2012.

Treasurer's Report

As of March 30, 2013

General Fund	\$10,620.26
Lake Improvement Fund	\$36,132.50
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$144,832.65</u>
Total All Funds	\$191,585.41

Raffle Prizes

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

First—\$500 Second—\$200 Third—\$100

Rainfall

The following numbers are total precipitation both rain and snow for the year.

January	.9 inches
February	1.2 inches
March	1.7 inches
April	3.4 inches through April 22

Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals

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.
- Junk Amnesty Day scheduled for Saturday, July 27, 2013, 7:30am—Noon. See website for details.

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.clearwatertownship.org
- Clean Up Day scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2013, 8am—Noon. See website for details.

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 news-flash@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 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

Snow, Ice and a Fireworks Deadline

In a desperate move to promote ice out first and then to fund our July 6, 2013 fireworks, we need your donations by **June 1st**. That fireworks order and payment date is rapidly approaching. Last year the display was funded by voluntary donations of close to \$6,000. If you have yet to send in your annual dues, do so today, including a fireworks donation. If you are already a 2013 member please reconsider and contribute some or some more specifically to the Fireworks Fund. Donate today and we guarantee that the ice will be gone by July 4th. Make your check out to: Sugar Lake Association, in the memo space put fireworks and send it to SLA Treasurer, Jon Juntunen, 1342 80th St. NW Buffalo, MN 55313.

Have an old pontoon boat to donate for a second display stage, please contact Joel Williams at 612-363-0197.

Ice Out History

Since ice-out seems so late this year let's take a look back and see how 2013 compares to past years.

2012	March 19
2011	April 13
2010	April 1
2009	April 15
2008	April 24
2007	April 4
2006	April 7
2005	April 8
2004	April 4
2003	April 12
2002	April 16
2001	April 20
2000	March 24
1999	April 1
1998	April 20

Dates listed are from those published in the Sugar Lake News.

Dues

Membership forms were sent out earlier this year. If you have not sent your form and dues payment in, please return it to Tom Pugh, SLA Membership, 19680 Excelsior Blvd, Excelsior, MN 55331. If you have lost your form find a copy on our website at www.sugarlake.org.

It is important to receive your information early because a new directory will be printed this year.

Vegetation Committee Update

By Dale Gustafson

If the weather ever really changes we will have a narrow time frame left for identifying where we have invasive plants that needed to be treated this spring. We have submitted our request for permits, but we have to identify where we would like to treat. Look for News Flash e-mails advising you as to what we plan to do.

Water Quality Committee

By Dale Gustafson

The water quality committee is working on two projects again this year. Both of these projects have been under consideration for some time, but are moving closer to being accomplished. The first is the Hollister Project Phase 2. This is an important water quality project for the lake and we have finally reached agreement on how it will be done. Some of the work will be done this year, and the balance should be completed in the fall of 2014 and spring of 2015. This will help cleanup the water before it gets to the lake. The other project is located in the corner of 110th Street NW and Hollister Avenue. This year we plan to build a large rain garden and capture and filter water before it enters the lake. There are other parts of this project that will be worked on later.

Some of these projects take a long time to get approved and a long time to get funded. Generally our Association will need to pay for 25% of a project and we can get funding for the other 75%. It is not always possible to get the 25/75 split and we may have to fund more from SLA.

Also we were thankful for the help of our neighbor Chris Klien who offered to cut the cottonwood and aspen trees that have seeded themselves into our native prairie planting on the north side of 115th Street NW between County Road 7 and Sunset point. This is an important buffer strip that filters water before it enters the lake on the south side of the north bay in Area F.



South Public Access is Now a Monarch Waystation!

Flats of "Monarch Garden" plants available at Plant Exchange 25 May

The native plant garden at the Sugar Lake south public access has been registered as a Monarch waystation by the national Monarch Watch program. Monarchs are losing habitat, not only in Mexico but also here in Minnesota. An article in the March 16 New York Times describes the seriousness of this issue. Since 1994 the space occupied by winter monarch colonies in Mexico has dwindled from 22 acres to 2.9 acres. The two main U.S. causes of the decline are the destruction of breeding habitat in the upper Midwest and industrialized herbicide-based agriculture which destroys the flora in the Midwest needed for sustenance during migration. We can help the monarchs by adding additional breeding habitat around Sugar Lake. Our native plant garden provides butterfly weed and both common and swamp milkweed for the larvae. We have planted purple coneflower, bee balm, boneset, black-eyed susans and asters to provide nectar for adult butterflies. We have committed to not using insecticides in the garden.



Watch the South access for this sign



Monarch larva on milkweed at the South public access

You can help! A 4' x 4' sunny corner of your property is all it takes to attract monarchs. Keep any milkweed that has volunteered. Supplement it with some of the plants listed above or pictured below. Promise not to spray with insecticide.



Adult monarch

The site: <http://www.monarchwatch.org/garden/nectar.htm> lists many more monarch friendly plants. To support your efforts, SLA volunteers are putting together a limited number of flats of 12 monarch friendly plants which will be sold for \$15 each at the plant exchange.

Imagine our large garden at the access supplemented by small sanctuaries of butterfly friendly plants scattered around the lake. Some of our members recall when swarms of monarchs passed across Sugar Lake on their way south. These special critters now need our help.



L to R: common milkweed, swamp milkweed, butterfly weed, smooth blue aster

Winter meeting

The winter meeting was held at the Corinna Town Hall February 9, 2013. A board meeting was not held. The featured speaker was Steve McComas, owner of St Paul based Blue Water Science. Steve is known throughout the state as “The Lake Detective.” Steve completed a vegetation study on Sugar Lake last fall and also did our Lake Vegetation Management Plan in 2006. He reviewed our native plant population and compared it to prior years. The summary points of his presentation were:

- Native plant diversity remains good.
- Water quality remains stable
- Curlyleaf will likely need ongoing attention
- EWM will have “on” years and “off” years

Steve also presented information on the current status of zebra mussels in the state.

Sugar Lake Fishery

By Paul Gustafson

A recent DNR Montrose Area Fisheries Newsletter was titled Sugar Lake – are we reaching fishery goals? Briefly, the northern pike average size caught is increasing because of the current slot limit. The 2012 walleye assessment shows an increase of 65% over the 2007 catch. The every other year muskellunge fingerling stocking of 357 continues, reduced from the 500 a year done from 1989-2003. Lastly, the black crappie limit reduction is still hoped to reduce the harvest and also spread the catch among more fisherman. The complete newsletter can be viewed at the Montrose website:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/montrose/index.html>

Other Sugar Lake information is available via using this entrance point.

Paul Diedrich, the Montrose Area Supervisor retired as of April 2, 2013. He was a protector of Sugar Lake fishery and friend of the Sugar Lake Association and we wish him well in his retirement adventure. His replacement will be named in early May, after a posting and interview process is complete.

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.

Fishing Contest

Scheduled for June 29, 2013

Registration at 8am, weigh in at 12 noon.

Lynne Bonine has moved but the fishing contest is still on and Lynne will be running it as usual. Only the location has changed. The contest will be hosted at the home of Lynne’s brother Rick Olson. Rick is on the north end of the lake at 6611- 123 Ave NW.

Sugar Lake Association Meetings Resume

As a reminder, the monthly Sugar Lake Association meetings began in March 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 Don Peterson at don@sugarlake.org 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.

Chairman’s Corner



What a crazy month April has been! We certainly deal with weather extremes here in Minnesota. Hopefully this will translate to a more normal water level this summer.

Big thank you to everyone who has responded to our membership letter.

Your fundraising response puts us in a good position to manage invasive species this year and to be prepared for future unknowns. Be sure to return your membership forms soon so we list you correctly in the new directory that will be printed this year.

The Monarch Waystation article in this newsletter was written by Karen Sutherland. In fact we have Karen to thank for registering us with the national Monarch Watch program—Thank you Karen!

Remember that the Board meetings are open to all Association members. We hope you will be able to join us. The next meeting is May 18, 8 am at the Corinna Town Hall.

Best regards,
Don Peterson

Native Plant Sale and Shoreline Tour

Our friends on Cedar Lake have invited us to participate in their upcoming plant sale and shoreline tour. Here are the details:

This is an opportunity to purchase quality native plants and tour existing native shoreline projects on Cedar Lake.

When: Saturday, June 8th from 9 am to 1 pm

Where: Arendt/Wells residence (8986 84th St. NW) Annandale

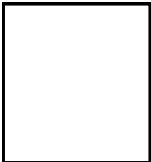
No cost to attend. Plants will be available for purchase.

Rob Langer from Natural Shoreline Technologies (www.naturalshore.com) will bring a variety of affordable native plants and assist you with your selections. A tour of 3-4 shoreline projects around Cedar Lake will showcase a variety of terrains, stages of development and specialized conditions. Come with your questions and see what options might work for your property.

Check the CLCC website www.cedarlakecc.org in May for more details on this event



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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