

The Sugar Lake News

APRIL 2006

2006

Calendar of Events

May 20-SLA Meeting*

June 17- SLA Meeting

June 24-Fishing Contest*

July 15-SLA Meeting*

August 5-SLA Picnic

August 19-Annual Meeting/Board
Election*

September 2-Diane's Lights Night

September 16- SLA Meeting*

October 21-SLA Meeting*

*SLA meetings are held at the Corinna
Township hall at
8:00 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 Karen Pitra at
11102 Hoyer Ave NW
Annandale, MN 55302
320-274-8153

Corinna Township

Corinna Township is proposing to take over the planning and zoning function for the township from Wright County. They have retained an outside consulting firm, Community Growth Institute, to help with the process. As long as the township follows the legal process of establishing its own planning and zoning ordinances, which cannot be any less restrictive than those of the County, it will have the same standing as a municipality and be able to act independently of the County. A comprehensive plan and ordinances must be developed and adopted before control is transferred from the County. Visioning sessions have been held April 19 and May 6 at the Corinna Town hall to collect input from property owners.

The comprehensive plan will guide all future decisions regarding zoning changes, conditional use permits, variances, etc. The Corinna Township Land Use Plan will guide what kind of development happens around Sugar Lake for the next 20 years. The proximity of a desirable lakes area close to both the metro area and St Cloud guarantees pressure for dense residential development during this time period.

The Community Growth institute is a consulting firm that focuses on rural community land use issues. They provide a full range of services from developing comprehensive plans and ordinances to training and performing daily planning and zoning administrative duties. You can read more about them at www.communitygrowth.com.

The schedule for the planning process after the visioning sessions includes goal and policy development and future land use mapping this summer, with public review and comment in the fall, followed by public hearing and adoption also this fall. The schedule and further information is available on the township website at www.corrinatownship.com.

A planning task force has been formed to develop the comprehensive plan, ordinances, goals, and policies necessary before the township can assume control. Charlotte Quiggle, SLA board member, is a member of the task force.

The County is proposing a set of ordinances which will require anyone in Corinna Township (after Corinna has planning and zoning power) to get permits, variances, etc from the county prior to going to the township. This means you would need two permits in Corinna. Doubling the time and the cost required now. There is a hearing scheduled at the Wright County Government Center on 102 St NW in Buffalo for Thursday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. Plan to attend if you own property in Corinna Township and are concerned about double permitting requirements. You can read the proposed new ordinance on the Corinna Township website land use page.

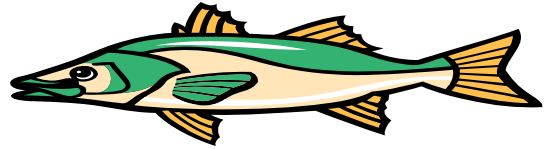
WELCOME BACK TO SUGAR LAKE

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 Don Peterson at 952-939-0172 or e-mail 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.

KASTL'S KORNER

the latest lake report.. The physical condition was 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). 1 Pair loons noted.



Culvert

| Date | Ice Out | Clarity | Water Temp | Air Temp | Inlet | Outlet |
|----------|---------|---------|------------|----------|-------|--------|
| 04-20-01 | 4/20 | 12' | 34° | 36° | 21" | 25" |
| 04-20-02 | 4/16 | 14' | 34° | 48° | 23" | 28" |
| 04-22-03 | 4/12 | 10' | 49° | 61° | 23" | 28" |
| 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" |

Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2006 has reached 231. If you haven't paid your 2006 dues, please send your \$25 check payable to the Sugar Lake Association to: Sugar Lake Association 11102 Hoyer Ave NW., Annandale, MN 55302.

We extend our sympathy to the family of William Christianson, long time cabin owner on the west side of the lake, who passed away this March.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Manfred Rassmussen (Manny) who passed away this March. Manny was a long time Sugar Lake weekend resident who retired to spend summers on Sunset Point and winters in Arizona.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Dorothy Stannard who passed away this December

Irene Klein passed away in March 2006. Irene was 90 years old. Her husband Dan passed away in March 2004. Dan and Irene were lifetime members of the Sugar Lake Association. They purchased their cabin on the west side of Sugar Lake in 1968 and were very involved in the Association from the beginning. Irene took care of membership until a few years ago. She did a great job of keeping track of everyone on the lake and could answer any questions you might have about the history of Sugar Lake and the people living around it. Our sympathies to the family.

Please welcome new members:

Duane and Nancy Lipinski
Chris Harff
Darrell and Marianne Peterson
James and Eva Nyhom
Tom Michaud
Linda Donabauer
Judd and Wendy Granger
Shirley Svendsen

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Karen Pitra. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Karen of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Karen at 320-274-8153 or email kap8900@yahoo.com.

Give Our Lake a Break

Check your shoreline for damage done over the winter and make repairs as soon as possible. Take action now by adding erosion matt to the exposed soils and plant some native shoreline plants to hold the soil in place.

SUGAR LAKE NEWS FLASH: This e-mail service is available for Sugar Lake members, family, and friends. Contact Tanya Olin at tanya.m.olin@wellsfargo.com or call 320-274-5218 with your e-mail address to get on the Sugar Lake News Flash list or to submit news items or sale items. Please keep your e-mail address updated with Tanya. News Flash sale ads will be sent out on Wednesdays. Please have any ads to Tanya by 10 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Treasurer's Report

As of April 22, 2006

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | \$16,128.32 |
| Lake Improvement Fund | \$16,902.57 |
| Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund | \$55,527.26 |
| Total All Funds | \$88,588.15 |

The 2004/05 audit was completed by Kurt Schrupp. Treasurer Tom Hall responded to all questions raised by the audit and the results were accepted by the board at the winter meeting. A significant change going forward will be the requirement for a "payment authorization form" before any expense reimbursement. Contact Tom Hall if you need a copy of the form.

Kurt also helped this year with filings required for the IRS. Kurt took a bad fall this winter and after a long hospitalization is in rehabilitation. Please keep Kurt, Marsha, and family in your thoughts and prayers. If you are interested in following how he is doing go to: www.caringbridge.org, click on visit site and type in kurtschrupp.

Rainfall

2005 total rainfall was 37 inches. Average rainfall is 28 inches. Total 2005 snowfall was 52 inches. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall information.

Grants

The Sugar Lake Association was very successful in securing several grants over the winter months. The grants include:

- \$2,500 DNR grant for milfoil assessment and vegetation study.
- \$5,000 Initiative Foundation Healthy Lakes and Rivers Implementation grant. To be used for LVMP development.
- \$1,000 Mid-MN Mississippi RC&D Council grant to develop a wetland management plan.
- \$3,500 ESRI grant for geographic information system software and training.

Thanks to Dale Gustafson and Don Peterson for the work involved in applying for these grants.

Fisheries

Experimental fishing regulations for crappie and northern pike on Sugar Lake

The fisheries committee updated everyone at the April meeting on the proposed fishing regulation changes for Sugar Lake. Last October, immediately following the Association meeting, the DNR presented a program on proposed fishing regulation changes for Sugar Lake. Based on that meeting a ballot was sent out with the October newsletter polling the membership about whether they were in favor of or opposed to the regulation changes. The results favored proceeding with the process. The board unanimously approved moving forward by taking the following steps:

- Signs alerting anglers are posted at the public access for 90 days during the open water season (2006).
- A public meeting is held to gather input from all interested anglers (September 2006).
- If approved the regulations would go into effect March 1, 2007, and be in place for 10 years.

The proposed changes are:

- **The crappie daily limit would be lowered to 5 per day.** This would have the effect of reducing the harvest somewhat and re-distributing the catch.
- **All northern pike between 24-36 inches would have to be released.** This will improve the average size of northern pike and reduce the number of small northern pike.

Curly leaf pondweed

By the time you read this, the chemical treatment for curly leaf should be complete. Lake Restoration has been contracted to do the work and are waiting for the right water temperature to proceed. Thanks to the network of volunteers currently taking daily lake water temperatures. The treated area will be based on what we know from last year and early observation this year.

The second phase of curly leaf control involves cutting and harvesting the plant. This activity is planned for the end of May. Marlin Grant will be coordinating this effort. In addition to the resources currently lined up Marlin needs help with the following:

- One to two more duck boats
- One to two more 15 to 25 hp motors
- Large landing nets
- Four—five tine forks
- About 16 volunteers to work in two shifts of 8 each

Please consider volunteering to help with the cutting and harvesting effort. More volunteers will make the work easier.

If you can help call Marlin Grant at:

952-831-3948

or

320-274-7242

or

612-363-1208

Fundraising

Thanks to an excellent response to our fundraising program this year we will be able to implement the invasive species treatment program we had planned. The response to the donation request for invasive species control, the blue donation card sent with the October newsletter, and extra donations received with dues payments have all been good. The milfoil and invasive species fund is up dramatically from where it was last October. Thank you everyone who contributed. Look for a complete accounting of funds raised, who donated, and what our treatment costs will be in the May newsletter.

Ice-over

Ice-over dates for the last 5 years have been:

- 12/20/01
- 12/03/02
- 12/02/03
- 12/14/04
- 12/03/05

Raffle

It was decided to repeat last year's prize offerings for the annual raffle. \$500 cash grand prize, \$250 second prize, and \$50 third prize. All proceeds will be allocated to the milfoil and invasive species fund. The raffle drawing is held at the picnic, scheduled for August 5 this year. Raffle tickets will be sent out at the end of May with the May newsletter.

LVMP Status By Dale Gustafson

Lake Vegetation Management Plan

The final copy of the Sugar Lake LVMP is almost complete and will be forwarded to the DNR for validation. This report can be our guide for vegetation management even if the DNR does not accept our plan at face value. It would just affect our permit application for larger areas of treatment.

We will advise you by email when our LVMP is complete and can be downloaded or read on our web site at SugarLake.org. It has several elements that describe the conditions around our lake, the vegetation that is present, the bottom sediment chemical analysis, and the general recommendations for how we will treat the non-native invasive species of plants present in our lake.

The general condition of Sugar Lake is good when compared with many lakes of our state that are in trouble. When compared to some lakes in similar parts of the state, however, we are not in the best condition. Over the years from about 1950 to present our lakeshore has been developed almost 100%, and we are using every inch of land in the lake impact zone. This land use has existed in the "former" typical fashion with grass to the shoreline and cleaned up beach and near-shore areas of the lake. This use together with our increased use of boats and other powered lake toys has placed our lake in great jeopardy. Our LVMP is the guide to help us recover and protect our lake in an attempt to preserve good lake quality for the generations.

The recommendations of the LVMP are for treatment of non-native invasive species is basically a search and destroy philosophy. Our premise is that we want to control non-native invasive plants very aggressively to prevent them from displacing existing native vegetation. The diversity of our vegetation is one of the real strong points in our lake's health. We feel that it is extremely important to protect that diversity. This is somewhat unusual in our state, as most lakes do not act until they have a serious problem. True, we have a problem, but our stated goal is a commitment to going beyond just controlling the worst areas, to the commitment to treat any infestation that has potential of displacing native species.

The protection and restoration portion of the LVMP is that we recognize that we have been making it harder for our lake to stay healthy as we have increased our use of the shore and waters. Our LVMP expresses a commitment to protect what healthy vegetation we have and replant in areas where we have had, or could have healthy vegetation. The lake itself can do a lot to recover if we stop removing vegetation, but the emergent plants (especially Bull Rush) need to be replanted and cared for in order to get re-established. These emergent plants are the most important element of the thin green line along the waters edge threat if extremely helpful in maintaining good water quality and aquatic habitat.

You will hear more as we start our control and replanting plans in the future.

Dale Gustafson Vegetation Committee Chair

Thank You

This winter the association was contacted by Brett Jagodzinski of Muskies Inc, St Cloud. Brett wanted to know if their club could help out Sugar Lake by doing a winter clean up before ice out this year. On March 5, thirteen club members spent several



hours on the ice cleaning up trash left over the winter months. As you can see in the pictures it was a substantial amount.

Thank You

With lake water levels at such a high level we needed some data to investigate causes. Paul Otto of Otto Associates, Engineers & Land Surveyors from Buffalo agreed to help us. They surveyed the north public access area and the discharge path of water out of the lake. We now have a survey drawing and elevation information to use.



Founded in 1980 by Edward J. Otto, Otto Associates is a full service Civil Engineering & Land Surveying company located in Buffalo. They also do on-site septic system design. They have also worked on many projects around Sugar Lake. They can be reached at 763-682-4727.



Peterson/Lehn rezoning hearing

This is currently scheduled for the May 25 hearing. It has been reported that they are now planning on rezoning the entire 84 acre site to A/R (Agricultural Residential). This classification allows for one house per ten acres. The public hearing will be reopened and notices will be sent out. Watch for a Sugar Lake newsflash email with notification of any changes or updates.

Dear Sugar

I was fishing on the lake shortly after ice out, and noticed a structure of PVC about 4 feet square just outside some bulrushes. It was covered with chicken wire and had a mound of mud and weeds in the middle. Are these the artificial loon nesting platforms you wrote about last fall? **Keeping my distance.**

Dear Keeping; you are absolutely correct and thanks for keeping your distance. There are four of them on the lake. They are the brain child of Gary Williamson, a resident of the lake and a pheasant farmer. With the help of Tom Hebzynski, Dan Erdmann, and Doc Williams, they were set up the day after the ice went out. One of the things we all love about Sugar Lake is its loons. These magnificent birds winter in the Gulf of Mexico and return each year to the same lake where they were hatched. To see a family of loons on the water or hear their haunting calls in the middle of the night is awesome. Sugar Lake normally has two families of loons; however, only one family usually produces multiple chicks. When nesting, loons are a solitary bird and don't appreciate company. If they see another loon, other than their mate, they may spook and leave the nest. There are four areas on Sugar that loons can nest without seeing others of their kind. Two of these areas either have insufficient nesting material or offer little protection from predators. The platforms will hopefully lessen those problems and increase the chances of nesting and multiple hatches. The structures are located: on the south side of the North Bay, north of Rock Point on the east side, west side of the entrance to Addison Bay, and south-west corner of the lake. If you spot one, view them from a far! Loons are very shy and wary birds that put on fantastic displays if a human or another animal gets close to the nest. The display signals extreme distress and is called "penguin dancing". In this display the loon



rushes forward across the water toward the intruder and rises with head drawn back and bill almost touching breast while feet beat the water and create spray around the breast of the bird. Humans triggering this behavior often don't understand that they have come too close to a nest and continue to come back and watch the display until the birds finally leave the area. Boat wakes may also cause undue stress for the birds. Please do your part by leaving the birds alone until they hatch their young. Hopefully we will then be able to enjoy the beauty of many loons on Sugar Lake.



This is a "first try" effort to increase the loon population on Sugar. Hopefully Gary has the right combination, but if not, he will keep on trying.

Winter meeting

The winter meeting was held at Cabela's in Rogers on February 11. A record breaking 45 people were in attendance. A quorum of directors was present and an official meeting of the Sugar Lake Association was opened. Reports were given and accepted from the treasurer and auditor. Karen Pitra gave an update on fundraising status. Approval was given to pursue the grant from RC & D to develop a wetlands management plan. The majority of the meeting time was spent on a review of the LVMP status. Dale Gustafson talked about the overall process of developing the LVMP then turned the meeting over to Steve McComas of Blue Water Science. Steve is writing the LVMP and gave the group an interesting preview of what we will see in the final product. Kevin Kretch of Lake Restoration then spoke about treatment methods and chemicals used.



Steve McComas

Treatment Permission

**If you have not already done so please sign then cut this form off and mail to:
Sugar Lake Association, 11102 Hoyer Ave NW, Annandale, MN, 55302.**

Our Vegetation Committee is planning to treat Eurasian water milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed this year. Our treatment areas are not defined, but our management plan calls for quickly treating the infestation as soon as we make positive identification. In order to be able to respond quickly, we NEED advance permission from all Sugar Lake property owners to treat exotic vegetation in front of their property. All treatment will be approved by the DNR and in accordance with our management plan.

Printed Name: _____ Lakeshore footage _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date signed: _____

FOR SALE

Vibo 1800 pound boat lift w/new crank mechanism \$1000.00
call 320-274-2410 or stop by 12182 Hart Ave NW to see

FOR SALE

Lake pump mounted on wheels, approx. 150' of PVC pipe with
5 faucet outlets and 2 traveling sprinklers. \$225. For any fur-
ther infomation, call 320/963-5527.

FOR SALE

Case 46 inch riding mower...runs good. \$500.00 320-963-5346.

FOR SALE

Pontoon Rack Kit complete with 2"x12"x16' treated wood
planks. Convert your regular lift to a pontoon lift. Can be used
for a 20-24 ft.pontoon. Like new \$165/BO. Please call Har-
old 320-963-5454

FOR SALE

Pontoon boat lift, 9' wide, steel, cantilever lift, made by Green
Lake Boat Works, good Condition, located on Sunset Point,
\$450. Call Brad 952 930 3132

**Can cooler and
travel mug sale**

Can coolers and travel mugs with a Sugar

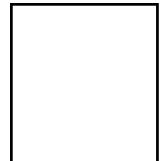


Lake logo are avail-
able for sale. The
can coolers are \$2
each, travel mugs
\$5 each with pro-
ceeds benefiting the
milfoil fund.



Contact Karen
Pitra at 320-274-
8153 for informa-
tion.

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