

# The Sugar Lake News

April 2007

2007

## Calendar of Events

**May 19**-SLA Meeting\*

**June 16**- SLA Meeting

**June 30**-Fishing Contest\*

**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.

### **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 Pat Dahl at  
7630 106 St NW  
Annandale, MN 55302  
320-274-3486

## **Website**

If you haven't looked at the Sugar Lake Association website lately please take a look. Craig Johnson has taken over webmaster duties and you will find a lot of good content and links to other relevant material. Point your web browser to:

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

## **Fishing Rules.** **Change for Sugar Lake**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminded anglers that regulations have changed at Sugar Lake. Effective March 1, 2007, the daily possession limit of crappies is five. Anglers may take only five crappies per day. This is a change from the past and a departure from the statewide limit of 10 per day. The regulation was changed as a result of study, public meetings, and a concern for the conservation of crappies. The population has declined over the past 25 years. The new rule is designed to reduce the harvest by 16-18%, while still providing quality angling for crappies.

When the regular angling season opens on May 12, 2007, a new rule will be in effect for northern pike also. Northern pike between 24 and 36 inches are protected and must be immediately released. Anglers may still harvest three northern pike but only one may be over 36 inches. This regulation is designed to improve the size of northern pike by accelerating the harvest of small fish and conserving larger fish. For 25 years the population has been dominated by small northern pike which have outstripped their food supply and led to an imbalance in the fishery.

For more information  
Paul Diedrich  
Area Fisheries Supervisor

Telephone: 763-675-3301  
Paul.Diedrich@dnr.state.mn.us

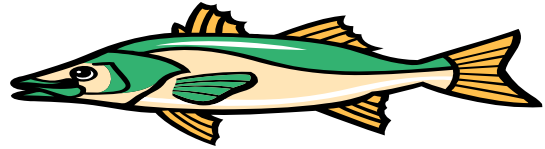
**WELCOME BACK  
TO SUGAR LAKE**

### **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). 5 loons noted.



Date	Ice Out	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
					Inlet	Outlet
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"
04-14-07	4/4	9'	39°	40°	24"	29"

## Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2007 has reached 285. If you haven't paid your 2007 dues, please send your \$25 check payable to the Sugar Lake Association to: Sugar Lake Association 7630 106 St NW., Annandale, MN 55302.

We extend our sympathy to the family of John Slimmer who passed away last November.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Joan Lubinski who passed away April 30.

### Please welcome new members:

Chris & Anita Bahr  
 Joe Dammann  
 Drew & Laura Giertsen  
 Lisa & Todd Latterell  
 Blaine & Barb Masee  
 Jerry & Steph Paumen  
 Michael Ramme  
 Mark & Pam Rentz  
 Greg & Kathy Suddendorf

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Pat Dahl. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Pat of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Pat at 320-274-3486 or email [darepat@lakedalelink.net](mailto:darepat@lakedalelink.net).

### 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](mailto: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.

And, by the way, visit our website at [sugarlake.org](http://sugarlake.org) for all the latest.

## Give Our Lake a Break

Clean up the roads, woods, meadows, and shoreline around the lake this spring.

It is easy to see the trash this time of year.

### Sugar Lake Sailing Club

We received a check for \$852.30 from Doug Miller on behalf of the Sugar Lake Sailing Club. The club hasn't been active for a number of years. These funds would be of great benefit in improving Sugar Lake water quality. He asked that we acknowledge as donors all the Sugar Lake residents who participated in the Club over the years. Here is the list as best we know:

Chuck Bangasser, Doug and Martha Miller, Ed and Jan Quinn, Suzanne Quinn-McDonald and Mike McDonald, Barb Quinn Harpole, Sally Quinn- Phenow, Ed Quinn 111, Milt Bartsh, Tom Bartsh, Mary Martin, Craig Johnson, Jim McBride, Wayne Spindler, Craig Peterson, Mark Paterson, Marty Shallbetter, Mike Smith, David Rausch, Bill Payfer, Struen Complin, and Doug Complin

**Thank You!**

## Treasurer's Report

As of April 21, 2007

General Fund	\$13,745
Lake Improvement Fund	\$15,863
Milfoil Fund	<u>\$87,041</u>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$116,649</b>

## Help

The Sugar Lake Association needs to audit last years books. If you are willing to help with that please call Tom Hall 320-963-5631.

## Rainfall

Snowfall in 2007 totaled 34 inches. Total moisture in 2007 through March 31 totaled 5.33 inches. April rainfall was 1.90 inches. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall information.

## Fundraising

### Fundraising Committee

The 2007 fundraising program is going very well. Over 82 acres have been purchased in addition to other donations. Thank you for your very generous response.

If you purchased an acre but do not have your windsock it may be picked up at the Dahl's at 7630 106 St NW on the South Side of the lake. Give Pat a call at 320-274-3486 to make sure they are home

## Water Patrol

Interested in joining the water patrol? Call Rick Kanninen at 320-963-7344.

## Sugar Lakescapers

If you are interested in participating in the Sugar Lakescapers please join us at 10:45 a.m. immediately following the May 19 Sugar Lake Association meeting at the Corinna Town Hall. We will discuss plans for this summer.

## Winter meeting

The winter meeting was held at Cabela's in Rogers on February 10. The meeting was not a board meeting but an informational meeting. Craig Johnson updated the group the fundraising program and status. Dale Gustafson talked about aquatic invasive species and treatment plans for spring 2007. Joe Jacobs, Water Plan Manager with Wright Soil and Water presented the Wright County Local Water Management Plan and how it affects Sugar Lake. Rob Langer with Natural Shore Technologies did a presentation on shoreland restoration including many example projects.

## Education Opportunity

### How Does Your Aquatic Garden Grow?

#### Aquatic Plant Monitoring

Wednesday, May 23, 2007;  
Warner Lake County Park;  
Clearwater, MN 10am – 3 pm

Ever wonder what all those plants are growing in and around your shoreland and why they're there? Then join us for an exciting day of learning about aquatic and emergent plant identification and monitoring basics for lake and lawn. Session is interactive and informal. All materials, including a laminated field guide will be provided. Lunch and refreshments are also included. Registration is \$15, although scholarships are available for citizens. Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR). For information or registration contact: Sandra Holm, 218 765 3309, [RNSholm@brainerd.net](mailto:RNSholm@brainerd.net)

## Water Quality Improvement

The winter of 2006-2007 has been big on water quality issues. We have finally made some real progress on the Hollister Creek issue at the south end of the lake. We have been working on a solution to stream bank erosion for many years and finally have the critical issues solved. We received approval and permission from the property owner early this winter and just received word from the Wright Soil and Water District that we were approved for funding through the NRCS for a large portion of the expense. We may also qualify for other State funds reducing our costs even further. We have a little more work to do on the plans and the work could start this summer.

This has been our number 1 priority project for many years, and it is a big relief to see it approved. Now we will focus on other issues around the lake.

Volunteers are lined up and training has begun on more water testing for Sugar Lake. In addition to the water monitoring we have been doing for the last several years, we are starting a new program of turbidity testing. This is a simple test that will measure the cloudiness of water running into the lake. This test will help to tell us where nutrients and silt are being washed into the lake. Remember, if the water going into the lake is "cloudy" you can expect that it is not good. We will test on a regular basis and after rain events, so you may see a volunteer out in a rain coat testing runoff around the lake.

We will also be part of a new program for the lakes in the Silver Creek Watershed for chemical testing monthly for inlet and outlet water into the lake. This will help build a database of knowledge to help maintain good water quality. By the way, the Silver Creek Watershed is the waters that start in Sandy Lake to our southwest and go through Sugar Lake and others and finally flow through Locke Lake and into the Mississippi River.

## Vegetation

We have been working with the DNR on changes to our Lake Vegetation Management Plan and we still have more to do. After much discussion this winter the DNR decided to designate Sugar Lake as part of the Pilot project to test "Whole Lake" treatment as a means to keep Curly leaf pondweed in check. There have been other lakes that have had success so we should be encouraged that if we keep up the battle now we may be able to avoid the serious consequences that other lake have experienced. We do not expect to totally eliminate curly leaf, but we should be able to manage it.

We will also treat for Eurasian Water Milfoil this spring. We hope to treat for both in the next week or two, so do not plan to start your irrigation systems for a few weeks. If may get dry, but as a landscape professional I know that if you can wait with your irrigation until late spring or early summer you will have healthier plants and lawns. The best thing for health of your plants is that they have to struggle to get moisture early in the year and that way they develop deep healthy root systems.

## DNR Fisheries Study

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Fisheries is studying the fishes of Sugar Lake this spring and summer. Spring work began on April 9 with trap nets set just after the ice went out. The objective of the netting was to catch and mark as many northern pike, walleye and muskellunge as possible, for making population estimates. The work was also done as "preparatory" for the new fishing regulations that went into place this year.

Northern pike catches were heavy during the week of April 9 as adult fish were seeking spawning sites. More than 1,700 northern pike were marked with a fin-clip for recognition later on, during the summertime gill-netting. About 12% of the northern pike were larger than 24 inches, a percentage we hope increases as the regulations begin to work.

The catch of walleye peaked during the week of April 16. The netting gave us an opportunity to view the larger walleyes in the population. Three hundred walleye were marked with a distinguishing fin-clip. Walleye ranged in length from 11 – 30 inches and the average length was 21 inches.

The muskellunge catch peaked during the week of April 23 and a total of 100 muskies were marked. For the first time we captured a fish larger than 50 inches. It was 51 inches and 33.5 pounds. The population will be estimated by electrofishing during the week of April 30. Based on similar work done elsewhere in Minnesota, we expect the population of adult muskellunge to number about 0.5 fish per acre, or a total of 507 fish.

Later on this summer during the week of July 16 the DNR crews will be conducting the summer netting as well as other aspects of the fisheries lake survey. The last muskellunge assessment was done in 2003; but the most recent lake survey was conducted in 1998.

By  
Paul Diedrich  
Montrose Area Fisheries Supervisor  
4/26/07



Paul Diedrich and Logan Pysick, with 48" muskellunge

## Why have a natural shore?

This article is reprinted from the Minnesota DNR website. It is one of the "Lake Waves" columns developed by the North Central Minnesota Lakes Project.

Shorelines with woods, meadows, and marshes enhance the quality of Minnesota's lakes and rivers. Natural shorelines provide homes for fish and wildlife, deter nuisance species like Canada geese, and provide recreational opportunities. They add beauty and color to a property and increase privacy.

A natural shoreline provides food and habitat for fish, waterfowl, songbirds, frogs, turtles, mammals, and butterflies. Some people fear tall grasses and shrubs encourage pesky insects like mosquitoes. But native vegetation actually provides cover and resting places for insects like dragonflies that feast on mosquitoes.

If you are lucky enough to have shoreline that hasn't been developed, carefully plan your construction to minimize vegetative disturbances. Check with your county or city before you begin construction. Many local governments have restrictions on the amount of vegetation that may be removed in the "shoreland impact zone."

Aquatic plants help to keep your shoreland property intact. They reduce wave erosion caused by wind and watercraft. Native plants along the shoreline also hold the soil in place and provide protection against ice damage.

Shoreland vegetation traps sediments and pollutants that destroy fish spawning areas. Vegetation slows runoff and allows water to filter through the soil and recharge ground water. Plants on the shore absorb nutrients that can cause excessive aquatic vegetation growth and algae blooms - the green scum on the water.

Plus, a natural shoreline means you have more free time to do the things you enjoy because you are spending less time on lawn maintenance. Once established, native plants require little care.

In the past many people thought a green, weed-free lawn right down to the waters edge was beautiful. But perceptions and laws are changing. Many people now realize that a manicured lawn disrupts the ecological balance of the lake. By choosing to replace some of your lawn with native plants, you will help your lake and save time on yard maintenance.

For more information on the benefits of a natural shoreline and how to improve your shore, visit <http://www.shorelandmanagement.org> or e-mail the North Central Minnesota Lakes Project at [lakewaves@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:lakewaves@dnr.state.mn.us).





## **ELAINE BEACH (Area C)**

Written by Elaine Beise Fox

In 1927 my Grandfather, W. C. Beise of Lester Prairie, MN, purchased 411 feet of shoreline on the north shore of Sugar Lake. In 1930 the property was platted and named "Elaine Beach," named after the youngest child. The property was divided into six lots, five sold to owners which remain within the same families.

The mothers and kids spent most of the summer at the lake, and the dads arrived for the weekends. Activities were plentiful.

Kids spent many days rowing to "The Point" in a flat bottom wooden boat – of course no life jackets, what were they!!? A lunch was packed, and time was spent looking for Indian artifacts— few were ever found. We were gone most of the day which left time for the women to get a Bridge game going.

Many times we would pack a lunch and walk into Silver Creek for an ice-cream cone. This, too, was an all day trip. Kids would often gather corn silk, dry it on top of the 3 holer, and roll it into cigarettes. This was then smoked— shocking visiting Lester Prairie guests.

Ice for the icebox was secured from Hierholzer's. We would take an old wooden wagon to the ice house, and for 10 cents buy a chunk.



**Beise and Heneman families.  
Taken in the mid 30s**

Weekends might include pancake breakfasts, corn roasts, fish fries, pot luck dinners, and softball games. Highway 7 was located north of the present road. In the drought years this left a meadow in which the ball games were played. An annual "snipe hunt" was held to welcome all newcomers to the Beach.

Ella Beise taught most of the kids to swim and dive. Swimming to "The Point." by age 12 was the goal. Development of "The Point" began in the '50's and from then on became "Bell Point." This tradition still prevails. On reaching The Point, Lund's Bell is rung, answered by ringing the "Elaine Beach" Bell. This is followed by a big ovation of assembled beachers on their return. The Beises were square dancers and entertained their group at the cabin each summer. One dance in the lake was always included. Once accomplished, the dancers were then named a Mud Hen by Cliff.

Elaine Beise Fox and husband Jim, married 60 years, live in Waseca, MN. In 1988 they purchased the Beise cabin from the Ella Beise estate. The Fox children and families continue the fun times and traditions on Elaine Beach.



**View south from Elaine beach.  
Also taken in the mid 30s**

## ***Dear Sugar***

Will loon nesting platforms be put out this year? **Looking for loons**

**Dear Looking;** Yes, Gary Williamson and Dan Erdman put out 4 loon nesting platforms a couple weeks ago in about the same areas as last year. 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. 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.



**For Sale**

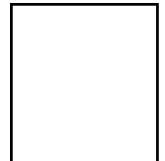
2001— 18 foot Bayliner Capri #184  
90HP Mercury motor with trailer  
Minikota trolling motor  
Depth finder, JVC AM/FM stereo, 2 fishing chairs  
Live well, tow & ski pole, lots of storage, waterskis & tow rope,  
low usage / low hours  
\$13,000 or best offer  
Contact Bob 651-739-0007 or  
Jen —cell 651-261-8917, home 651-714-1442

**Want Ad**

Be your own boss! Come to Madigan's Bar & Grill (Hwy 55 in Maple Lake) on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Join our team at Arbonne, a health & wellness company, where you can earn as much as you're worth. Call 952-484-9288 or email [turner.rep@gmail.com](mailto:turner.rep@gmail.com) with any questions.

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Annandale, MN 55302



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