

# The Sugar Lake News

**AUGUST 2006**

*2006*

## Calendar of Events

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

## **Diane's Lights Night**

The end of summer is nearing and we can only look back, with fond memories, at the good times we have had this past season. We do however have one last hurrah to go and that is Diane's Lights Night. It is the unofficial end of summer and one of the most beautiful evenings on Sugar Lake. Are you ready? Have you thought of a winning display and gathered your supplies? This year's winner again gets a case of Pepsi product for each of the 12 weeks of summer next year. The Scinto family, last



year's winners and this year's judges, will be out after dark looking for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place masterpieces. Saturday night of Labor Day weekend is the day. If it is raining at noon, or anytime thereafter, the event will be held the next evening. Remember, all illumination must come from a flame with anything from candles to campfires allowed. Any electrical lighting in your display will disqualify you. To make it as safe an evening as possible, we ask owners of floating platforms to bring them into shore, for the evening or illuminate it in some way to prevent possible collisions. Luminaries on each corner would be nice. We also ask all boaters viewing others displays to go in a clockwise direction around the lake to prevent congestion.



All the board members of the Sugar Lake Association wish everyone a happy and safe Labor Day weekend.

## ***Thank You***

to the following merchants and individuals for donating prizes for the Sugar Lake Picnic. Their generosity is greatly appreciated. Please remember these merchants as you shop.

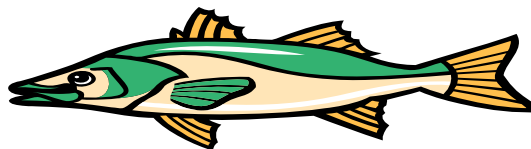
A Great Floor  
Anchor Dock & Lift  
Annandale Properties  
Annandale Video  
Bernatello's  
Beckman Brothers Construction  
Clearwater Bumper to Bumper  
Clearwater Coburns  
Clearwater Legion  
Clearwater Travel Plaza  
Custom Door  
H & H Sport Shop  
Carla Huro  
J & J

Jim Kastl  
Judy's Cottage  
Just Your Style  
Kathy Radtke-Slama  
Kaz Hardware  
Lake Center  
Lake Center Store  
Lee & Friends  
Lori's Hair Care  
Maple Lake Lumber  
Marketplace  
Mary Kay-Karen Pitra  
McBrides  
MCP Collision Center

Mike Madden  
Miller Jewelry  
Petty Brothers  
Pizza Works  
Security State Bank  
Shear Style  
Tire One  
Tonya's  
Veda Vargo

## KASTL'S KORNER

The latest lake report. The physical condition was 3 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). Up to 10 loons noted.



Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
08-14-01	7'	78°	81°	12"	17"
08-12-02	10'	74°	72°	25"	30"
08-15-03	9'	80°	88°	17"	22"
08-11-04	9'	65°	68°	17"	22"
08-17-05	8'	70°	78°	18"	23"
08-15-06	7'	86°	79°	15"	20"

## Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2006 has reached 364. If you haven't paid your 2006 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 Kurt Schrupp who passed away this month.

### Please welcome new members:

Gene & Dee Bevers      John & Gloria Dieterichs  
Roland Hagel              Jeff & Jennifer Jahn  
Bill & Vicky Scherr      Ralph & Kristina Walker

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:** This e-mail service is available for Sugar Lake members, family, and friends. Contact Tanya Olin at [tanya.m.olin@wellsfargo.com](mailto: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 August 19, 2006

General Fund	\$14,500.75
Lake Improvement Fund	\$15,771.81
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$58,720.93</u>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$88,999.49</b>

## Rainfall

July rainfall was .063 inches. Total rainfall through July 31 has been 11.34 inches about 6 inches below normal. August rainfall through the 23 has been 2.6 inches.

## Additional donations

### \$10.00 thru \$99.00

Mike & Carla Huro  
Ron & Katherine Hubred  
Al & Cheryl Smith  
John Klobe

### \$100.00 and over

Ken Anderson  
Bob Gusas  
Gary & Cindy Hoganson  
Jeff & Kim Holmberg  
Mike Madden  
Joe & Mary Theede

The Sugar Acres Association donated \$600 for the Milfoil and invasive species fund.

Thank you to Peter Ramme who donated a 14 foot Lund fishing boat with motor to the Association.

## Township News

***Corinna Township*** Town Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays 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: Vi Novotne 320-274-5179

- 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.

## Give Our Lake a Break

As you cruise around the lake this month stay a little farther out from shore. The lower water level at this time of year puts some of the lake vegetation closer to the surface.

Close enough it can easily get caught in your prop and uprooted. Recent reports of plants being cut are more likely due to them being pulled up by boat traffic.

## Dear Sugar

The other day I saw 9 adult loons gathered together on the lake. They looked like they were playing. I have never seen anything like this before and wondered what was going on. Can you tell me?  
*Looney over Loons.*

**Dear Looney;** what you observed is a yearly ritual among Loons that can best be described as a "loon social gathering." This occurs in late summer to early fall, after the Loon-lings are diving and feeding on their own. The adults feel the urge to mingle with others of their kind. The parents, separately or together, along with unattached adult Loons, may be there. They will pick a neutral area on a lake to meet. There can be from 3 to 25 gathered at a time and the event may last up to 3 hours. While there, the birds do ritualized behavior such as circling while calling, dipping bills, turning heads, and splash-diving. They may also feed as a group in preparation for the fall migration.

In last month's news letter it was mentioned that someone on a jet ski was observed running over and killing a baby loon on Memorial Day weekend. This was very disheartening to hear. The Federal Government puts Loons in the same category as Eagles. They are a migratory bird and protected by Federal law. Harming them is a Federal offence. When observing loons, we should do it from a distance. Although they will tolerate some human incursion, loons are wild creatures and need their space or they will leave our lake.

## Fishing Rules May Change on Sugar Lake

From the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

The DNR is considering experimental fishing regulations for Sugar Lake, Wright County. The DNR will be seeking community input at a meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2006, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The proposed regulation will create a 24-36 inch slot-size limit for northern pike; and a five fish daily bag limit for crappie. If approved, the regulation would take effect in 2007 and be in place for 10 years. The regulation will improve the size structure of the northern pike population; and conserve and redistribute the catch of crappie.

The meeting will take place at Corinna Township Hall, 9801 Ireland Avenue NW, Annandale, MN 55302.

Written comments will be accepted through September 24, 2006 for those who are not able to attend the meeting.

Contact:

Paul Diedrich  
Montrose Area Fisheries Office  
7372 State Highway 25 SW  
Montrose, MN 55363.

Telephone 763/675-3301.

E-mail: paul.diedrich@dnr.state.mn.us.

## Not Just Weeds

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.

If you've spent time at your favorite Minnesota lake, chances are you're no stranger to aquatic plants. Maybe you've cast into lily pads looking for bass, watched minnows dart to safety in plant beds, or waded through a few plants while swimming.

Unfortunately, most people see aquatic plants as problems or weeds. But those so called "weeds" are an essential part of a lake's ecosystem.

Aquatic plants serve many important functions. They provide food for fish. Insect larvae, snails, and freshwater shrimp thrive in plant beds. And, many fish eat aquatic plants in addition to aquatic insects and crustaceans.

Many submerged plants produce seeds and tubers (roots), which are food for waterfowl. Submerged plants also provide habitat to many insect species and other invertebrates that are, in turn, important foods for brooding hens and migrating waterfowl.

Aquatic plants offer shelter for young fish. Bass, sunfish, and yellow perch usually nest in areas where vegetation is growing. And, Northern pike use aquatic plants, too, by spawning in marshy and flooded areas in early spring.

Water clarity and quality are better because of aquatic plants. Certain water plants, like bulrushes, can absorb and break down polluting chemicals. Nutrients used by aquatic plants for growth are not available to algae. Algae, which thrive on dissolved nutrients, can become a nuisance when too many submerged water plants are destroyed. Aquatic plants also maintain water clarity by preventing the re-suspension of bottom sediments.

Aquatic plants, especially rushes and cattails, dampen the force of waves and help prevent shoreline erosion. Submerged aquatic plants also weaken wave action and help stabilize bottom sediment.

The visual appeal of a lakeshore includes aquatic plants, which are a natural, critical part of a lake community. Plants such as water lilies, arrowhead, and pickerelweed have flowers or leaves that many people enjoy.

As a natural component of lakes, aquatic plants support the economic value of all lake activities. Residents and tourists spend more than \$1.5 billion each year to hunt, fish, camp, and watch wildlife on and around the state's lakes. Wild rice (an aquatic plant) alone is worth at least \$2 million to Minnesota's economy.

For more information on aquatic vegetation, visit <http://www.shorelandmanagement.org> or email the North Central Minnesota Lakes Project at [lakewaves@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:lakewaves@dnr.state.mn.us).

## Thank You

Thanks to the outgoing board members pictured below. From left to right: Steve Mann, Deb Beltrand, Lorenchia Scott and Debbie McManus.



Also thanks to outgoing board members Tanya Olin and Karen Pitra not pictured here.

# Picnic Recap

Over 200 member households out of a possible 360 were at the picnic. Total attendance was over 700. Once again the weather was excellent, we had great volunteers, the food was good, and there were some great prizes handed out.

The picnic committee chair this year was Tanya Olin pictured to the left. She was backed up by committee members Steve Harnett and Joni Selle. A large volunteer staff is needed before during and after the picnic. Thanks to Tanya, the committee, and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the annual picnic a success.



Expenses were close to \$3,000. Raffle sales totaled more than \$5000, against expenses of \$2600, resulting in net income of \$2400. Raffle income was deposited in the milfoil and invasive species fund. This year we asked for extra donations for those who brought extra guests. The response to this request was welcomed.



Thanks to Karl Enghauser and his wife Enith for again hosting the picnic on their grounds. The picnic has been held at Enghauser's for over 30 years.

### Raffle winners were:

1st: Steve Mann

2nd: Ken Anderson



3rd: Joan Ohnsorg (not pictured)

Samples of milfoil and curly leaf pondweed were available for inspection.



# Picnic



## Sugar Lake Board Election Results

The Annual Meeting and Board elections were held on August 19. The election committee consisted of Lynne Bonine, Sharon Johnson, and Doc Williams.

The results are:

### New Board Members

(Terms expire August 31, 2009)

Lannette Dammann      Lyn Nonhof  
Cheryl Delbow          Steve Wiltermuth  
Craig Johnson  
Lynne Bonine

### New officers for 2006/2007:

**Chairman:** Don Peterson  
**Vice-Chairman:** Charlotte Quiggle  
**Treasurer:** Tom Hall  
**Secretary:** Nancy Dunn

When board nominations were closed at the June meeting only 5 candidates remained for the 6 positions that needed to be filled. At the August board meeting sethe new board unanimously appointed Lynne Bonine to fill the open board position. Lynne's appointment will be affirmed by the membership at the next annual meeting in 2007.

## Picnic



## Vegetation Report

The Curly leaf pondweed has almost completely died down, but you can see an occasional sprout here and there in the shallows and more shoots in the deep water. It has already done its damage by decomposing and releasing nutrients back into the water. This may be part of why we have so much algae in the water and low water clarity at this time. We located about 125 acres of rather dense stands of Curly leaf and plan to treat all of those areas next spring.

The Eurasian water milfoil has been on the spread this year and we have located several new areas of infestation this summer. Unfortunately most of the new locations are just too large to remove by hand, and they will require chemical treatment. We are consulting with the DNR to determine when will be the best time to treat these new areas. We also have continued growth of EWM in several of the areas we have treated in the past. These areas are also on the treatment plan.

Why are there so many aquatic plants this year? There are several reasons why we are seeing so many plants in the lake this year, and most of them are the result of the weather patterns we have had.

You will recall that we have had high water since last fall and the water level did not even get back to the normal high water mark until the last week in July. Also the first part of the summer we have rather clear water conditions. This clear water, high nutrient levels, and warm water temperatures were probably the cause of exceptionally large amounts of plant growth. Now that the water level has gone down, the long shoots that were reaching the surface are now floating on the surface. There are more than normal amounts of plants in the lake, and as we boat in the areas we normally do, we hook the plants and pull them from the bottom and they drift on the surface. Many of these plants are also pulled from the bottom by the natural wind and wave action. We have not observed any large amount of plant cutting, and we hope it is not happening. The vegetation is consuming large amounts of nutrients that will not be available to the algae and therefore keeping the water clearer. We need to adjust our patterns of use on the lake and only clear just what we need to swim and get access to open water. Also remember that you cannot remove ANY emergent vegetation with out a permit.

*Vegetation Committee*

## Dear Sugar

Why do I see new areas of Wild Rice in the lake. *Wild About Rice*

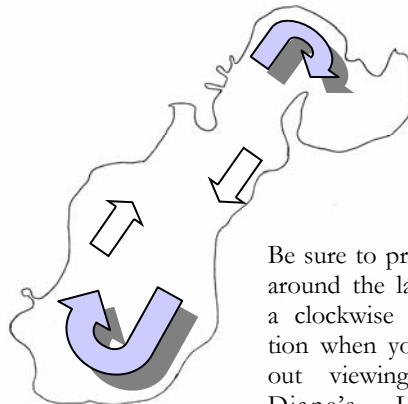
**Dear Wild:** It is interesting that Wild Rice can be described as a nomadic plant in that it can vary from year to year in where it grows. In Sugar Lake there is a large seed source and they can germinate and grow with little or no obvious reason.

Sugar Lake has always had Wild Rice, in fact a study was done by the University of Minnesota St. Cloud some years back on Sandy Lake. That is the small lake on the west side of Sugar Lake that flows into Sugar on the southwest shore. In that study they identified Wild Rice seeds that were approximately 400 years old. This means, that regardless of what we add or subtract, Wild Rice is likely to be with us for many centuries to come.

**WANTED**

The Sugar Lake Association is looking for a small boat trailer for a 14 foot boat. If you are interested in donating a trailer please contact Don Peterson 952-939-0172

**Diane's Lights Night**



Be sure to proceed around the lake in a clockwise direction when you are out viewing the Diane's Lights Night displays.

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The Sugar Lake Association  
The Sugar Lake News  
11102 Hoyer Ave NW.  
Annandale, MN 55302



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED