

# The Sugar Lake News

AUGUST 2009

2009

## Calendar of Events

September 5-Diane's Lights Night

September 19- SLA Meeting\*

October 24-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

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

contact Cathy Beckman at  
10880 Imhoff Ave NW  
Annandale, MN 55302  
320-274-8623

E-mail membership@sugarlake.org

## Diane's Lights Night By Doc Williams

The days of summer are coming to a close and soon Mother Nature will put on a brilliant display of fall colors. If you haven't been to your lake place in the fall of the year, you have really missed something. After the first frost the bugs are gone and it is then that a walk through the woods is a site to behold. What a beautiful time of year.

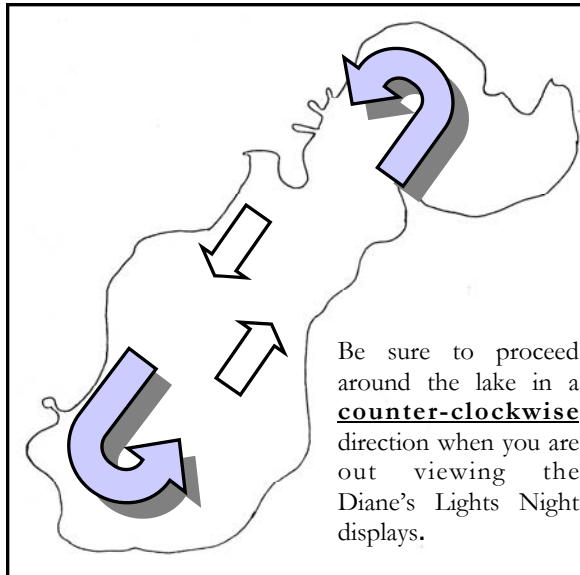
Hold on..... Summer is not officially over until we celebrate Diane's Lights Night, the final hurrah of the season. Have you gotten your display all figured out? A summer of free Pepsi products awaits the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner for putting up the best display of the evening. The judging will commence as night falls on Saturday Sept 5<sup>th</sup>. If it is raining at 1 PM, or any time thereafter on that day, the festivities will take place the following evening. Remember, to qualify for the competition, the illumination for your display must come from a flame, no electrical lighting is allowed. You might consider using smaller candles in



your Luminaries and allowing the top of the bag to fold almost shut. I have found that this helps to prevent the candle from being blown out in the wind. Be careful though, fire is always a hazard if not tended to properly. We ask that swim rafts be brought in or illuminated that night to minimize the possibility of an accident. We also ask that all boaters proceed counter-clockwise around the lake when viewing the various displays to lessen congestion.

It doesn't matter if your display is big or small, unique or simple; everyone who partici-

pates adds to the evening and makes it fun for all. Why not join in?



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

## **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.

A1 Marine  
Air Duct Cleaning Specialties  
Anchor Dock & Lift  
Annandale Video & Tanning  
Beckman Hardwood Floors  
Clearwater Coborns  
Lake Center Bar & Grill  
Little Jim's  
Maple Lake Lumber  
Miller Jewelry

Petty Brothers Meats  
Quinn Family  
Steve Harnett / Keebler  
Steve & Diane Wiltermuth  
Up the Creek Bar

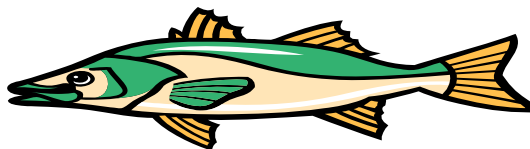
## **Outdoor Catholic Mass**

On Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 6, Father Marty Shallbetter will celebrate a Catholic Mass at his family's cabin on Sunset point. The address is 11777 Gulden Av. N W (area G). Mass will start at 10 AM and refreshments will be served after. Some chairs will be provided however, you may want to bring your own. If you wish to come by boat, you may tie up at any of the neighboring docks. All are welcome.

We are in need of a key board and player for the Mass. If you can help out, call David (Doc) Williams at 320-963-6776 or home 952-888-9884.

## KASTL'S KORNER

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



Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
08-11-04	9'	65°	68°	17"	22"
08-17-05	8'	70°	78°	18"	23"
08-15-06	7'	86°	79°	15"	20"
08-15-07	8'	79°	79°	15"	20"
08-14-08	8'	75°	74°	16"	21"
08-13-09	10'	81°	71°	18"	23"

## Membership

Paid membership to date this year is 316. If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Cathy Beckman. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Cathy of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Cathy at 320-274-8623 or email [membership@sugarlake.org](mailto:membership@sugarlake.org).

### 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 [news-flash@sugarlake.org](mailto:news-flash@sugarlake.org) and you will be added to the list. We maintain two lists, one for News Flashes and one for "For Sale" information. To be added to the "For Sale" list send an email to: [forsale@sugarlake.org](mailto:forsale@sugarlake.org).

Visit our website at [sugarlake.org](http://sugarlake.org) for all the latest.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Pete Solinger. Pete passed away July 29, 2009. Pete was a former SLA director and an active association member.

## Treasurer's Report

As of August 22, 2009

General Fund	\$34,046.95
Lake Improvement Fund	\$18,570.28
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	\$42,833.76
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$95,450.99</b>

## Directories

The new 2009 – 2010 directory was handed out at the picnic. If you didn't pick yours up you will have another opportunity Sunday, September 6, between 12 noon and 1 p.m. at the south public access. Whether you boat or drive over, help save postage by picking up your directory.

## Rainfall

July rainfall totaled 2.43 inches. August rainfall through 8/25 has been 5.5 inches. Year to date rainfall is 19.75 inches, slightly below normal. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals.

## 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.

Clerk: Sharon Lee 320-558-6725

- Visit the Clearwater Township website at [www.clearwatertownshipmn.govoffice2.com](http://www.clearwatertownshipmn.govoffice2.com).

## 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 [newsletter@sugarlake.org](mailto:newsletter@sugarlake.org) with your email address if you are interested.

### **Give Our Lake a Break**

Remove any vegetation that washes up on your shore. Decaying vegetation will add nutrients to the lake that can result in algae bloom.

## Area Highlights By Doc Williams

### Sorghum

Down through the years, farmers were a very independent lot and needed little in the way of food and staples from country stores. They raised most of what they consumed on the farm or in their gardens. This was



the case of the Warner farm on the west side of Sugar Lake. One acre of their garden was devoted entirely to sorghum, a sweetener used in lieu of sugar. It was a rich, golden brown syrup used on pancakes, popcorn balls, in muffins, cakes and cookies. In the garden, sorghum looked like sugar cane but was the size of a corn stalk and about 5 feet tall. In 1906 the Warner's decided to build a sorghum press and oven on a hill near the farm house. They not only processed their own crop but that of other neighbors as well. When it came time to process the sorghum most other work on the farm slowed because it was a 24 hour job that lasted up to 5 weeks. The first step was to walk by the sorghum plants, knocking off the leaves with a piece of wood. Next the stalk was cut with a corn knife, being careful not to get any sand on it, then tied into bundles, and taken to the press. Teams of horses pulled the boom that rotated the 2 metal drums turning opposite each other and squeezing out the sap or milk, as it was called. Marsh hay, placed in the bottom of the press, filtered out the seeds. The liquid trickled into a trough and through a pipe leading to a wood fired stove which reduced it to the consistency of molasses once cooled. Different family members took turns with the processing which went day and night. Once you fired up the stove, you didn't stop until all the finished sorghum was in storage containers. In 1930 the head of the Warner family died and daughters Mary and Margaret kept up the work. They continued doing it until World War II when they took jobs in a Twin Cities defense plant. When their 71 year old mother was unable to get anyone to help prepare the sorghum for the community, the two girls were released temporarily from their war tasks to do the job. After the war, sugar became cheaper and more accessible so the Warner's quit growing sorghum. Today Irene Warner continues to live on the farm and rents out the land; the lake shore being a prime destination for campers.



An Art is sorghum cooking. Not everyone can do it. Margaret Warner Kenny, left, and her sister, Mary Warner, are standing before the cooker. Their mother, Mrs. Mathilda Warner, 71 years old, is in the background. The women keep the fires going 24 hours a day. They work all night by the light of gas lamps.

The pictures and some of the information for this article were taken from a story in the St. Paul Pioneer Press dated Oct 10, 1943.

## Vegetation Report

The vegetation report is easy this time. We found the invasive plants, we treated them, and they died. That is an overly simplistic statement, but with considerable truth. We know we had success with the curly leaf this spring, and we now know that we did quite well with our treatment of Eurasian water milfoil this summer. The Eurasian treatment was not a total kill, but we did get good results in the areas we treated. We also received the DNR draft report on the lake vegetation that was done as a follow-up to the spring treatment. That report supported the idea that our native plants are doing well, and it appears the treatment had little effect on the native plant populations.

The real test now will be what plants show up next spring. Some time in early May 2010 the DNR will again survey our lake to determine the areas where Curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil should be treated. It is the current feeling of the vegetation committee and the DNR that we should expect to have to treat large areas of Sugar Lake in an attempt to control these two plants. We had good success this year, so that could lead us to need to treat a smaller area, but most likely it will be very similar to this year. If we follow up with a good treatment program in 2010, we should expect the need for treatment to reduce in 2011, and then reduce even more in 2012 & 2013.

It appears we are on the road to controlling these two plants, but we need to raise a good deal of money before spring of 2010 to be able to proceed with this program. Lets all get behind the fund-raising effort so we can be ready to continue to fight these two plants next year.

Dale Gustafson – Vegetation Committee

## Sugar Lake Apparel

Sugar Lake apparel sales at the picnic were a tremendous success. Thanks to KJ Gusaas and Sheree Mattes Erdman (pictured to the right) for their efforts in developing the designs, qualifying the suppliers, putting the order together, and running the sale. Profits of \$2000 were generated for the Milfoil and invasive species fund. A limited selection of items will be available for purchase through the web site in the near future.

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



# Picnic Recap

Picnic photos by Cindi Peterson

In spite of cool, blustery weather a crowd of more than 700 turned out for this year's picnic.

The picnic committee chair this year was Deb Beltrand pictured to the left. A large volunteer staff is needed before, during, and after the picnic. Thanks to Deb and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the annual picnic a success.



Expenses came in under budget by \$500. Raffle sales totaled about \$3600. Raffle income was deposited in the milfoil and invasive species fund. Thank you for the extra donations for extra guests.

Thanks to Karl Enghauser and his wife Enith for again hosting the picnic on their grounds.

### Raffle winners were:

- 1st: Joyce Doering
- 2nd: Bobby Kaufman
- 3rd: Jan Quinn



## Sugar Lake Board Election Results

The Annual Meeting and Board elections were held on August 22. The election committee consisted of Jan Quinn and Charlotte Quiggle  
The results are:

### New Board Members

(Terms expire August 31, 2012)

Sue Dixon	Betsy Hanson
Ron Elsner	Matt Kutz
KJ Gusaas	Doc Williams

### New officers for 2009/2010:

**Chairman:** Doc Williams  
**Vice-Chairman:** KJ Gusaas  
**Treasurer:** Jim Stewart  
**Secretary:** Marilyn Andersen

## Thank You

Thanks to the following outgoing board members.

Lanette Dammann  
Cheryl Delbow  
Marlin Grant  
Lyn Nonhof  
Tom Tart  
Steve Wiltermuth

## Fireworks

Thank you, Joel Williams and associates, for a fantastic fireworks display August 1. It was the perfect finale to the annual picnic. Thanks to everyone who donated to make the show possible.

We are about \$400 short of our goal for this year, so we still need your donations. If you watched the show and enjoyed it, please send a contribution to help out with the cost. It is supported entirely by your specific donations. Send you contribution to:

Sugar Lake Association  
Fireworks Fund  
c/o Jim Stewart  
10939 Hart Ave NW  
Maple Lake, MN 55358

## Award

Karl and Enith Enghauser were awarded a Sugar Lake Association lifetime membership plaque at the picnic. We all owe Karl a big thanks for hosting the picnic again this year. We appreciate all the work that goes into the preparation for the picnic and the restoration work required after 700+ people spend the afternoon on your property.



## Golf Tournament

The first annual Sugar Lake Association benefit golf outing was held at the Southbrook Golf Club July 25. The event was organized by Greg Selle pictured to the right. By all accounts, it was a huge success. 44 golfers signed up to play, 53 people attended the dinner following. A dinner of burgers and brats was followed by both a silent and live auction. Everyone in attendance received a prize of some kind. 9 hole sponsors contributed \$100 each. \$2040 was raised for the Milfoil and invasive species fund. Thanks to all the hole sponsors, prize donators, participants, Southbrook Golf Club, and to Greg Selle for organizing the event. We are looking forward to next years benefit golf outing.



### Hole Sponsors

Greg and Joni Selle  
Charlotte Quiggle and  
Rick Kanniainen  
Dick and Sandy Martin  
Mort & Paterson LLC  
Engelsma Construction  
Karen Sutherland  
Don Peterson  
Grazia Communications  
Sandberg Family

### Prizes Donated

Tracey Walker  
Bob and Maureen Presti-  
filippo  
Joni and Greg Selle  
Lyn Nonhof  
Cris Alves  
Diamond Vogel Paint  
Pittsburg Paints  
Ken and Shirley Selle  
Moreys Fish  
Jim Kreatz  
Holiday Gas  
Rob and Susan Neiderman  
Liquor Barn-Mike Yungner  
Medina Ballroom  
Joe Sensons Restaurant  
Best Buy  
Cabellas  
Southbrook Golf Course

## Star Lake Award



The Sugar Lake Association was recognized as one of the first three Star Lakes of Minnesota. In addition to the recognition, the association was awarded a check for \$2045. In the photo at the left Karen Sutherland, SLA Chair, receives the check from Dale Gustafson, Star Lake Board President, and Kay Cook, Star Lake Board member.

Several other local government officials were in attendance.



District 18B State Representative, Dean Urdahl and Dale Gustafson.



From Wright County Soil & Water, Joe Jacobs and his wife Lori.

Left to right - Wright County District 1 Commissioner Rose Thelen, Dale Gustafson and Kay Cook Star Lake Board.



## Fisheries

Paul Diedrich, MN DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor, spoke at the August meeting. Paul reviewed the fishing regulation changes effective in the spring of 2007. The crappie daily possession limit was lowered from ten to five with a goal of reducing the harvest by 16 to 18 percent while still providing quality angling. Northern pike regulations also changed. Northern pike between 24 and 36 inches are protected and must be released. Three may be harvested but only one over 36 inches is allowed in possession. Experience shows we can expect an 18 to 30 percent increase in northern pike greater than 24 inches as a result.



**Paul Diedrich**

The MN DNR stocks Sugar Lake with walleye and muskellunge. Neither fish reproduce in lakes in the southern part of the state. Stocking is done every other year. Both fish are stocked as fingerlings. Walleye fry (just hatched) are stocked in some other area lakes but have not proven successful in Sugar Lake. About 350 muske fingerlings are stocked at a time compared to about 7000 walleye. The next stocking is planned for 2010. The adult muske population (greater than 33 inches) is estimated at 300. The next muske survey is planned for 2012. The next all species survey is planned for 2017.

**The Sugar Lake Association**  
**The Sugar Lake News**  
**10880 Imhoff Ave NW**  
**Annandale, MN 55302**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## FOR SALE

Patio furniture, picnic tables, tools, cabin contents for sale on Sugar Lake at 11218 Hollister Ave NW. Final closeout—everything must go. Everything 1/2 price. Available most weekends. Call first. Contact Bob Slama cell# 612-805-2442 or 651-739-0007.

## South Access

Marlin Grant has been following up with the DNR regarding the condition of the south access boat launch. The power loading of boats onto trailers has created a large pile of rock at the bottom of the ramp. This pile of rock presents a danger to your prop. Our current higher water level has helped but the the rock is only 18 to 24 inches below the surface. The DNR has received many complaints and plans to fix it. Repair is scheduled for September. The plan is to add two more concrete planks at the bottom of the ramp and excavate the area past that. The additional planks will allow them to dig out further.

### Newsletter Classified Advertising

The Sugar Lake newsletter is published 7 times per year. April through October. The deadline for ads in the newsletter is the third Saturday of the month. It is usually in the mail by the end of the month. Please contact Don Peterson:

Email: [don@sugarlake.org](mailto:don@sugarlake.org)

Mail: Don Peterson, 319 Wayside Rd W, Hopkins, MN, 55343

Phone: 952-212-9524

