

THE SUGAR LAKE NEWS

JUNE 2004



2004

Calendar of Events

July 17-SLA Meeting*

August 7-SLA Picnic

**August 21-Annual Meeting/
Board Election***

**September 4-Diane's Lights
Night**

September 18- SLA Meeting*

October 16-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 952-935-4201

E-mail donpeterson@maxigard.com

**For membership,
address, e-mail, or property
owner changes
contact**

Karen Pitra

11102 Hoyer Ave NW

Annandale, MN 55302

320-274-8153

Or

Tanya Olin

11145 Hoyer AV NW

Annandale, MN 55302

320-274-5218

E-mail: tanya.m.olin@wellsfargo.com

June proclaimed Invasive Species Month. To highlight the importance of fighting invasive species like zebra mussels and purple loosestrife Governor Tim Pawlenty proclaimed June Invasive Species Month.

Picnic Update

Date: Saturday, August 7

Time: Picnic begins at noon

Childrens games start at 1 p.m.

Drawing starts at 3 p.m.

Place: Enghausers, SE corner of the lake

Set-up work begins at 8 a.m. Additional help is needed with many of the activities. Half-hour time slots are available. Set-up work begins at 8 a.m.

Please call Steve Harnett if you can help.

Steve can be reached at

Home: 320-274-5497

Cell: 651-491-0754



Raffle Update

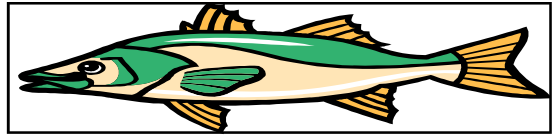
Raffle ticket sales have started out strong this year. So far, \$1160 has been raised in the annual fund-raising event. Many thanks to all of you who have sold tickets! It's still early enough to get out and sell those tickets to help raise the approximately \$4000.00 that was budgeted for raffle income this year. Raffle ticket proceeds will all go to the Lake Improvement Fund. As always, there will be additional opportunities to buy more raffle tickets at the picnic.

If you would like more tickets to sell or to return your sold ticket stubs and checks (NO CASH PLEASE!), made payable to the Sugar Lake Association, please contact Lynne Bonine 7285 120 St NW, Annandale, MN 55302, 320-274-2005.

June 8 Storm

Many who live on the lake characterized it as the worst storm in memory. Those with cabins who don't live on the lake got phone calls the morning of the 8th about trees down, property damage and power outages. Although only about 3/4 of an inch of rain fell, the winds were blowing 60 to 70 miles an hour. Countless trees were damaged or destroyed and power outages affected some 8000 people in the area. Bob Lund on sunset point woke to find one of his boat lifts completely missing. It was found later by divers Steve Klobe and Dan Erdman in 20 feet of water, 50 yards down shore and 20 yards out into the lake! During that entire first week of June approximately three inches of rain fell.

JUNE 19TH ASSOCIATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



KASTL'S KORNER The latest lake report.

The physical condition was 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). Loon Count: 1 pair on the north end with 1 young. 1 pair on the south end with 2 young.

Cul-

vert

Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air temp	Inlet	Outlet
06-16-99	11'	68°	65°	21"	25"
06-16-00	10'	67°	65°	17"	22"
06-12-01	10'	65°	69°	21"	26"
06-13-02	9'	68°	77°	21"	26"
06-17-03	11'	72°	85°	23"	28"
06-16-04	9'	75°	85°	24"	29"

Treasurer's Report - report as of June 16, 2004.

General Fund	\$15,920.00	
Lake Improvement Fund	\$13,679.74	
	Milfoil Fund	\$46,796.69
	Total All Funds	\$76,396.43

Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2004 has reached 316. If you haven't paid your 2004 dues, please send your \$20 check payable to the Sugar Lake Association to: Sugar Lake Association 7285 120th St NW., Annandale, MN 55302. EXTRA DONATIONS. Sugar Lake Members have been extremely generous in making extra donations beyond the \$20 dues payment. Extra donations have been received from the following:

Keith Otto & Kjerstan Andersen, Ron & Don Peifer, and Edward & Janet Quinn

Please welcome new members :

Steven & Jill Banker
James Fette
Diane Harms

Michael & Cindi Jenson
Jeff & Karen Klein
Keith Otto & Kjerstan Andersen

Jeff Slimmer
Heidi Sonstebey

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 kak8900@aol.com.

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 for sale items. Please keep your e-mail address updated with Tanya. Effective immediately News Flash for sale ads will be sent out on Wednesdays. Please have any ads to Tanya by 10 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Give Our Lake a Break

Remove any curlyleaf pondweed you see from the lake, especially the turion or seed portion of the plant. Every seed we remove this year could mean one less plant next year.

Lake Vegetation Report

Eurasian Watermilfoil treatment

A treatment for milfoil using AquaKleen was made on Sugar Lake Monday, June 28, 2004. The treated areas included spots in areas A, G, H, L, S, W, and X. Treated areas were marked with orange signs. A special thanks goes to the team that made this treatment: Chris Behm, Darrell Dahl, Dale Gustafson, Steve Huff, Mark Menth, Al Smith, and Doc Williams. It takes considerable time to do the treatment; the effort is greatly appreciated.

State of the Exotics

This is a good time for the Vegetation Committee to update everyone on the state of the fight to control exotics in Sugar Lake - we are at an assessment time and plans are being made for future efforts. New experts have recently reviewed both our lake and our exotic management efforts, and they believe we are taking the correct approach.

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)

Treating Eurasian Watermilfoil is a success story for Sugar Lake, but the fight is certainly not over. We have been fortunate that our search and destroy approach to EWM appears to be having a positive effect. This year we hired a diving company to search the lake for EWM; they spent a week on and in the water and produced a complete report with GPS locations for their findings. They confirmed our suspected areas and located only a couple of new areas. The only "bad news" was that they did find isolated plants scattered around the lake. This, of course, would be harder to treat because it is so scattered. A possible treatment approach would be to hire divers to selectively "dig out" plants and treat the areas. This would cost about \$1200 per day and could take about a week to have a significant effect. An alternative is to hire divers to monitor the lake on a regular basis to see if the density is increasing.

By the time you read this we will have completed our early summer treatment of all the significant areas we have identified. This is the third year of reduced EWM density; however, we cannot reduce our vigilance. After the Curly-leaf pondweed dies down we will then be able to identify other areas of EWM that we could remove manually or treat in the fall. It is important that our Milfoil team and all of you keep on the lookout for EWM.

Curly-leaf pondweed

Curly-leaf pondweed is certainly not a success story for us at this time. If you have property in an infected area you will certainly agree that it is currently our most serious problem. Over the past two years we have been watching it become more common, and this spring we completed our first treatment to control this exotic. A spring chemical treatment can reduce the density of this plant, and removal or cutting in late June can reduce the nutrient re-suspension, which has the potential of reducing the frequency of this plant over time. This will be an ongoing battle that we need to fight for the foreseeable future. We are currently pursuing bids for treatment with a liquid product early next spring. This product does a good job of selectively affecting only the Curly-leaf. When applied at the correct time, Curly-leaf is the only plant actively growing, and our valuable native plants are not affected by the treatment.

The only treatment left this summer for Curly-leaf pondweed is the removal of plants and seeds (Turians) from the lake. You are the people who can get this done. We need you to cut, rake or hand remove the Curly-leaf plant from the lake. The time is now because it dies out in the next week or two, and then there is nothing more that can be done until next year.

Our efforts need to be consistent and disciplined over the years if we intend to keep Sugar Lake as healthy as it can be. That will require your help. We need more volunteers to work on behalf of the lake and we need people to donate money for our continued efforts. Our past efforts to create the Milfoil fund were fantastic, but those funds - when used on all exotics - will be depleted and we will need to continue to fund our efforts for the future of Sugar Lake.

Diane's Lights Night

Doc Williams

The wet, dreary weather we have been having so far this season has made for some soggy weekends. Hopefully, we will have a lot of warm sunny days ahead. That seems to be when we on Sugar Lake get the most enjoyment out of our



little piece of heaven. Ever notice that when the sun reappears after a rain, so do the water toys. I wish I could predict a perfect evening for Diane's Night Lights, however, if you plan ahead, you can be prepared for the unpredictable. Last year I saw a number of displays that utilized materials other than white bags to make their luminaries. There were the ½ gallon milk jugs, which stand up great in wind and rain. Some people used glass jars, and at first glance they looked like electric lighting, until close examination revealed otherwise. They were striking. Others chose to buy candle lanterns, which worked perfect for hanging in trees and gave their display a third dimension. Have you and your team been planning your display? Be unique, be bold, and be different.



Fishing Contest



The annual fishing contest held June 26 was a huge success. Fifty-eight people registered for the contest and more showed up at noon for the weigh-in and excellent lunch provided. The contest was hosted again by Dan and Lynne Bonine, pictured at the left, who did a great job.



Traveling trophies were awarded to Ryan Peterson in the children's category and Toby Ironside in the adult category.

The winners were:

NORTHERN

- 1st Toby Ironside
- 2nd Ron Peifer
- 3rd Charlie Benner

BASS

- 1st Lynn Baldy
- 2nd Pat Wurm
- 3rd Al Smith

SUNFISH

- 1st Gail Erdman
- 2nd Charlie Benner
- 3rd Ryan Peterson



Ryan Peterson



Toby Ironside



Two trophies for the youngest fishing people went to Matthew & Andrew Duffy



The following kids won an extra \$5 each:

- Jay Patnode
- Cal Dehmer
- Jason Peterson
- Cody Peifer
- Kelsie Ostdiek
- Casey Ostdiek

Other business

Donations of \$100 were collected last fall at the sunset point annual church service. This service is conducted by Fr. Marty Shallbetter of St. Theresa's of Deephaven. The money was donated to go towards the work of the education committee.

Fishing Resources

Tim Pippo has been maintaining and cleaning the carp trap at the north access. In fact, he has undertaken some major repairs with his own materials. The SLA board thanks Tim for his work and for taking the initiative to maintain this important control point into Sugar Lake. A motion was made and passed to authorize Tim to spend up to \$100 to complete repairs to the carp trap.

Picnic

Anyone interested in donating door prizes for the Sugar Lake picnic please contact Steve Harnett at 320-274-5497.

Boating Safety Doc Williams

There are many ways to enjoy the beauties of Sugar Lake and a number of them involve being on the lake itself. Unlike a highway, the surface of the water is less congested and there is seldom anyone around to enforce the laws of boating. For some, this lures them into thinking that those laws need not be obeyed or are only for the other guy. This line of thinking can have deadly consequences. First and foremost, drinking and driving don't mix. A boat operator, with impaired judgment, is every bit as much a danger to himself, his passengers, and other boaters as if he were in a car. Although the water may be softer than pavement, it holds many other dangers. Unlike a road, other boats can be coming at you, or you at them, from any direction. If you fall off, or are thrown out of your watercraft, you can easily drown or be run over before anyone can get to you. Sound judgment and a watchful eye are critical to boating safety and alcohol can deprive you of that. Don't you, or your loved ones, become a victim. Read and follow the laws of boating. Wear your lifejacket. Be courteous to others on the lake. Report any reckless or unlawful activity you see to the police or water patrol. You could be doing them the biggest favor of their life.

Dear Sugar

Dear Sugar, A neighbor asked me to start water skiing a little farther out in the lake so I didn't stir up the lake bottom so much. Doesn't that sediment just settle out right away? *Concerned boater.*

Dear *Concerned boater*: It is true that the heavy particles settle out rapidly. But fine particles that are stirred up can stay suspended for days or weeks. These fine particles block sunlight from reaching the native plants. The clarity of the lake, a measure of the lake's health, is reduced. Stirring up the lake bottom also re-releases nutrients that were trapped in the lake bottom. Nutrients in the water are responsible for algae blooms that also reduce water clarity. Be aware of where you are on the lake and take care not to stir up the bottom in areas that are shallow and sediment covered

Education

Sugar Lake Association Scholarship Application

You are eligible to apply for a \$500 scholarship if you are a member, child of a member, or grandchild of a Sugar Lake Association member who will be attending a post-secondary school in the fall of 2004.

Applications are available on our website at www.sugarlake.org or by contacting Deb Beltrand at - dkbeltrand@msn.com or 952-944-1526.

Application deadline: July 23, 2004

Return to Deb Beltrand at above e-mail or 5816 W. 70th St. Edina, MN 55439

Sugar Lake Calendar Being Developed

It was decided that the calendar project would target a 2005 publishing date to allow funding to be identified and materials developed. The education committee is collecting material and pictures to be used in the calendar. If you have any photos of scenes or events around the lake (with a broad appeal—recent or historical) and would like them to be considered for inclusion in the calendar, please send them to: Jan Quinn, 7696 106th St. NW, Annandale, MN, 55302. Hard copy or disk accepted. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like them returned. Also, please let us know which area of the lake the photo is from. Thanks.

Phosphorus free dishwasher soap

In order to promote the use of phosphorus free dishwasher soap by Sugar Lake Association members a motion was made and passed to purchase 100 bottles of phosphorus free soap for sale to the membership. Watch for details in the July newsletter and look for a display at the picnic.

Lake friendly products

Look for a tabletop display and information on "lake friendly" products at the picnic this August.

Annandale middle school

Ed and Jan Quinn made a lake water quality presentation to 75 Annandale Middle School sixth graders. They did a hands-on demonstration of the tools used to measure water quality and talked about what is being done now to maintain and improve water quality.

Sugar Lakescapers News

The newly formed Sugar Lakescapers, a group of people interested in learning about shoreland restoration, met on June 19 to tour three of Lake Sylvia's current shoreland restoration projects. We will be touring the sites again the evening of July 28, to view the sites in bloom. There will also be a "tour guide" available that evening to give us specific information about their projects. If you are interested in joining the group for this event, please contact Suzanne Quinn-McDonald at 763-427-5519, or e-mail at smcdonal@ties2.net. As we get some Sugar Lake projects started, watch for the tan and green "Shoreland Restoration" signs along our shores to mark the sites. It will be fun to watch these areas grow in natural beauty and to know that they are helping to keep our waters clean. The group is also in the process of planning a trip to Warner Nature Center to learn more about plants native to this area. Let us know if you would be interested in joining us for this event as well.

Jr. Limnologist Program

If you are interested in learning more about the water in Sugar Lake, and would like to participate in the Sugar Lake Jr. Limnologist program, listen up! Here's what you do-

1. Choose one of the three projects listed below
2. Bring your data sheets or samples to the SLA picnic on August 7th.
3. Turn them in at the "Jr. Limnologists" sign by the registration table for a special prize!
4. Get your picture taken for the newsletter (we'll gather at the backyard deck, right before the drawings)

Project #1:

Measure Sugar Lake's Water Clarity

Water clarity is only one way to measure water quality, but it's an important one. It defines how far light penetrates past the lake's surface and is affected by suspended material in the water including sediments and algae. You will need a Secchi disk to take water clarity measurements in Sugar Lake. Many supply companies sell them for \$25.00 to \$50.00, but you can make your own for less. The observer lowers the disk (on the shaded side of the boat) until it disappears and notes the depth on the cord. It's best if the measurements are taken on bright, calm days.

Your assignment: Take at least two different readings; try to take one reading soon after a storm, or a busy weekend on the lake, if you can. Write down the date, what part of the lake you took the reading in, and the depth measurement.

Instructions on how to make a secchi disk

MATERIALS:

1 circular stiff plastic lid, flattened pie plate, or piece of plywood
empty pen housing, or metal casing
scissors
drill with a 1/2 or 3/8 inch bit
50 foot nylon rope
yardstick
duct tape
rock
black and white enamel paints

paint brushes

DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut lid, pie plate, or plywood into circle, 8 inches in diameter.
2. Paint circular piece black and white (or all white) as shown
3. Drill hole in center of disk and insert pen housing or metal casing. Fit should be snug.
4. Draw rope through casing and tie it to a rock.
5. Use yardstick to mark off half-foot increments on nylon rope. Wrap tape around rope to mark increments.

Project #2

Record Sugar Lake's Water Temperature

Water temperature determines how much oxygen water can contain. As we swimmers know, water temperature often changes dramatically in a lake throughout the year. Oxygen matters, not only for us, but for the fish in our lake. The amount of oxygen in water depends on how much is coming in, how much the water can hold, and how much all the aquatic organisms are using. In hot, still weather, oxygen levels can seriously decline, causing summer fish kills. Other factors can affect water temperature too. For instance, as a watershed becomes developed and blacktop or concrete surround the lake, runoff often becomes warmer, and can make Sugar Lake warmer. This increases the likelihood of algae blooms and fish kill and reduces water quality. The surface water (epilimnion) can be too warm for fish to live, while the cold bottom water (hypolimnion) has too little oxygen because it's been used and not replaced. The transition zone between warm and cold water (thermocline or metalimnion), is where many of our fish have enough oxygen to live.

Your assignment: Attach a common outdoor thermometer to a rope marked with half-foot increments. Tie a rock to the rope if needed to weigh it down. Take the lake's temperature approximately every three feet, and see if you can find the three different temperature zones; epilimnion, hypolimnion, and metalimnion. Write down the date you took your data, what part of the lake you took your readings, and the temperatures that you found at each depth. At which depth do you think our fish are hanging out?

Project #3:

Eurasian Milfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed are two aquatic plants found in Sugar Lake that we want everyone to learn to identify. They take over the spots where the native plants grow (the good weeds), and spread quickly. They can really get in the way of swimming, boating, fishing, and wildlife on the lake. Remember there are many weeds in our lake that help keep our lake water clean, but these two have got to go!

Your assignment:

Find some Eurasian Milfoil and some Curlyleaf Pondweed, and put them in a sealed plastic bag. Bring them with you to the picnic for positive identification. Hint: they both live in depths of up to 15 feet. Good luck, and thank you!

Boating Safety

From the MN DNR 2003 Boat & Water Safety fact sheet for 2003

- There were 17 deaths in 14 accidents. Down from 30 deaths in 23 accidents in 2002.
- 9 of the fatalities were the result of capsizings or falls overboard, 4 were the result of a collision between two boats, 2 were the result of a boat hitting a person in the water and 2 were attempted rescues.
 - Alcohol use was listed in 4 of the 14 accidents.
 - Life jackets were worn by 2 out of the 17 victims
 - Of the 16 craft involved: 11 were open motorboats, 1 cruiser, 1 personal watercraft, and 3 were other types
- There were 94 reportable non-fatal accidents involving 124 boats. Down from 2002 when there were 135 reportable non-fatal accidents involving 197 boats.
- The most common accidents in 2003 were:
 - Collision with another boat 32%
 - Water sports skiing/tubing mishaps 25%
 - Collision with a fixed or floating object 12%
- As of December 31, 2003 there were 845,379 registered boats in Minnesota, up 10,405 (1.25%) from 2002. Minnesota was fourth in overall registrations behind Michigan but leads all other states in per-capita registration with one boat for every 6 residents

From the Minnesota Boating Guide:

- In Wright County a spotter is required in the boat for water skiing Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays
- Water skiing and similar acts are prohibited between one hour after sunset to sunrise of the following day.
- Personal watercraft must travel at slow – no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of non-motorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat.
- Personal watercraft may not weave through congested watercraft traffic, or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of the other watercraft. This includes other personal watercraft.
- Personal watercraft may only be operated between 9:30 a.m. and one hour before sunset. Sunset on Sugar Lake in the month of July ranges from 9:06 p.m. at the beginning of the month to 8:45 p.m. by the end of the month.
- Use “Sound Judgement.” Let’s all keep the neighborhood peace and quiet in mind while operating our boats, personal watercraft, and stereos.

“Rules of the Road” from the Minnesota boating guide summary of laws & rules

Passing

When overtaking another watercraft going in the same direction, the craft being overtaken must maintain course and speed. The passing watercraft must keep a sufficient distance to avoid collision or endangering the other craft from its wake.

Meeting

When two watercraft approach each other “head-on”, each must alter course to the right to avoid collision. If the two watercraft are far enough to the left of each other, no change in direction is needed for safe passage. Both watercraft will maintain their course and speed so as to pass clear of each other, and keep to the right in narrow channels.

Crossing

If two watercraft approach each other at a right angle, the watercraft to the right shall have the right-of-way.

Non-Motorized Craft

Non-motorized craft (sailboats, canoes, etc.) have the right-of-way over motorized craft in all situations, except when the non-motorized is overtaking or passing.

Commercial Vessels

Small boats should not insist on the right-of-way when approaching large commercial vessels, which are limited in maneuverability.

Emergency Craft

All watercraft will yield right-of-way to an authorized watercraft displaying a red or blue flashing light.

For Sale

600 pound aluminum boat lift. In good condition. Asking \$400.00 or BO. Call 320-980-2586

Year round home. NW side of Addison Bay. Call for details 320-274-2196

For Rent

Do you know anyone who is looking for a cabin to rent on Sugar? We have a nice furnished 2 bedroom cabin that sleeps 6. No smoking or pets allowed. We are renting for \$600 / week. Pictures available by mail or e-mail. Please call 320-963-4030 or e-mail purcells@lakedalelink.net

Wanted

Pontoon trailer. Call Chris 952-939-9652 or cell# 612-799-7976

Lost

Swim raft lost in June storm. 8' X 8', Aluminum frame, 4 black rectangular floats, no deck. Contact Jerry Hertel 612-867-8036

The Sugar Lake Association
7285 120 ST NW
Annandale, MN 55302

