

The Sugar Lake News

JUNE 2008

2008

Calendar of Events

July 19-SLA Meeting*

August 2-SLA Picnic

August 16-Annual Meeting/Board Election*

August 30-Diane's Lights Night

September 20- SLA Meeting*

October 25-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 Craig Johnson at
3312 132 St W
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-894-3593

E-mail membership@sugarlake.org

Picnic Update

Date: Saturday, August 2

Time: Picnic begins at noon

Children's 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. One-hour time slots are available. See contact information on page 2 of the newsletter.

- Please consider making a donation at registration for extra guests you bring.
- Dogs are not allowed.
- Anyone under 40 should be prepared to show ID for beer or wine service.
- Please help by picking up after yourself at the end of the picnic.

Curly Leaf Pondweed Update

By Marlin Grant

Thanks to the following volunteers and workers, Marlin Grant was able to cut and remove 34 boatloads of curly leaf pondweed from Sugar Lake. They were as follows: **Volunteers:** Doc Williams, Susie Pahl Blaylock, Nat Blaylock, Doc's daughter and son-in-law, Bill Spielman, John Spielman and his son, Steve Wiltermuth (this year's SLA Board Chairman), Jerry Brinman, Rick Kannianen, Jim Stewart, Dave Wirgau,, Stan Hillstad, and Al Smith. **Paid workers:** Ben Hylla, Tom Dufresne, Rick Kanneannen's nephew, Chuck Bonine, Mike Planner, and Brad Williams.

As you may recall, last year's helpers were Ken Anderson, Darryl Dahl, Jack Geyer, Al Smith, Steve Harnett, Don Peifer, John Klobe, Ed Quinn, Chuck Bonine, Ben Hylla and Brad Williams. Please thank them for their help in keeping your lake clean.

Who is going to volunteer to help next year??? It is not too early to volunteer now. Please contact Cheryl Delbow, our Volunteer Coordinator at 320 953-3994 or cheryldelbow@yahoo.com to volunteer.

We feel we are making headway in reducing the spread of curly leaf pondweed by removing this weed before it goes dormant and sinks to the bottom of the lake with the seeds that can begin growing anytime within 7 years, as per the DNR. The challenge is that this weed is only accessible for cutting during a 2 to 3 week period, typically in June, so a lot of volunteer help is needed for that short period.

Our thanks also to Gary and Glen Lindmeyer for the use of their flat bottom boat again. Also, we owe a debt of gratitude to Steve Ziebarth at Z-Marine for his cooperation and help in keeping the weed cutting boat going. (By the way, Steve currently has many super mid-season discount prices on boats and motors Tell him you are a member of the Sugar Lake Assn .)



Stan Hillestad, Dan Bonine, and Tom Dufresne pictured above

Raffle Update

So far, \$1600 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 \$5,000 that was budgeted for raffle income this year. Raffle ticket proceeds will all go to the Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund. As always, there will be additional opportunities to buy more raffle tickets at the picnic.

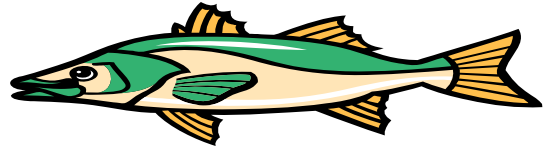
If you would like more tickets to sell, please contact Karen Sutherland at 651-698-2284 or 320-490-4047.

If you would like to return your sold ticket stubs and checks (NO CASH PLEASE!), made payable to the Sugar Lake Association, please send them to SLA Treasurer 7285 120 St NW, Annandale, MN, 55302.



KASTL'S KORNER

The latest lake report. The physical condition was 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). 10 loons noted.



Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
06-17-03	11'	72°	85°	23"	28"
06-16-04	9'	75°	85°	24"	29"
06-15-05	12'	64°	72°	26"	31"
06-15-06	10'	59°	81°	22"	27"
06-13-07	10'	75°	85°	20"	25"
06-18-08	11'	68°	78°	28"	33"

Membership

Membership forms for 2008 were sent with the April newsletter. If you haven't paid your 2008 dues, please send your \$50 check payable to the Sugar Lake Association to: Sugar Lake Association, 3312 132 St W, Burnsville, MN 55337.

Please welcome these new members:

Paul & Michelle Aspelin
 Charles Berry
 Donna & Gary Dovel
 Donna Frank
 Jill & Todd Jackson
 Richard Marshall
 Mary Lou Nelson
 Dorothy & Scott Olson
 Joe & Ann Paumen

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Craig Johnson. He will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Craig of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Craig at 952-894-3593 or email membership@sugarlake.org.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Rose Dykhoff. Rose passed away in March 2008 after a short courageous fight against lung cancer (non-smoker.)

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 and you will be added to the list. We maintain two lists, one for News Flashes and one for "For Sale" information.

Treasurer's Report

As of June 20, 2008

General Fund	\$17,785.09
Lake Improvement Fund	\$18,549.76
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$83010.16</u>
Total All Funds	\$119,345.01

Give Our Lake a Break

The curly leaf pondweed cutting is done for this year. There is no need to be cutting any submergent vegetation, including milfoil. If you spot what you believe is milfoil, please contact a board member.

Curly leaf is at the stage in its life cycle where the parent plant dies and disperses seed for next year in the form of seed pods called turions. The parent plant often breaks at the base and may float around the lake. If any wash up on your shore, please remove them.

Picnic Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with picnic activities. Please donate an hour of your time at the picnic to help make it a success for everyone.

If you can help please contact:

Deb Beltrand
 952-944-1526

Email: dbeltrand@comcast.net

Sugar Lake Apparel

Sugar Lake apparel will be available at the picnic again this year from Kathy Radtke-Slama. T's, sweatshirts, and caps as well some new items will be available.

Fireworks

Joel Williams put together another great fireworks display Saturday night July 5, 2008. People lined the shores and many boats filled the lake to watch.—so many boats that it was difficult to start the show because the crowd got too close. Joel did the whole show even though we are a little short on contributions. If you watched the show and enjoyed it, please send a contribution to help with the cost. This fireworks display is supported entirely by your specific donations. Send your contribution to:

Sugar Lake Association
 Fireworks Fund
 c/o Lynne Bonine
 7285 120 St NW
 Annandale, MN 55302

Nominations

Nominations for the SLA Board were held open to allow more time for the candidate search.

Birder's Corner

By Steve Wiltermuth

We have had only three sightings posted this month. Jim Kastl spotted a yellow bellied fly catcher and we saw a yellow headed black bird and a catbird.. My neighbor and I are having a discussion regarding the red winged blackbird. I say they will leave for a while during midsummer and then return toward the end of summer. He says they stick around all summer. What is your experience? Have you seen a rare bird or just a bird you don't usually see here. If so, email me at swilter@gmail.com and I will pass it along to the rest of the members. Keep looking up!

Water Quality Report

by: Dale Gustafson

The heavy rain of this last month has reminded us of how at risk our lake is. During these past storms we had several situation where excessive runoff carried silt and nutrients into the lake. It points out that we have many areas where we need to make improvements to better withstand heavy rains without detrimental erosion into the lake.

Also we have completed the contract for the work on Hollister Creek. The work should start the week of July 14. This is our first major project for water quality improvement and it will take at least a year before it is ready to redirect runoff into the new creek bed. This is not a total solution to the problems in this portion of the lake, but it is a definite start to solving the problems of the Hollister Creek area.

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

- Junk Amnesty day is scheduled for Saturday, July 26, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Visit the Corinna Township website at 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.

Picnic Prize Donations

If you are interested in donating prizes for the picnic or know someone who is please contact :

Steve Wiltermuth
320-274-6133

Wiley Hillestad catches 46 1/2 inch Muskie

Eight year old Wiley Hillestad, son of Brian and Lori Hillestad, landed this Muskie himself on June 22, 2008. It measured 46—1/2 inches long and weighed 24 pounds. Proud grandparents Stan and Shirley Hillestad and Jack and Darlene Geyen live on Sugar Lake.



Diane's Lights Night

By Doc Williams

Luminaries were first used for Diane's Lights Night back in 1996 but they originated in Spain during the 16th century. They were called farolitos or little lanterns and Spanish settlers would burn small fires along the roads and in the church yards to commemorate Christ's birth. Other writers placed them even earlier linking it to the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah. Traditions of luminaries were celebrated for many years by the Pueblo Indians in New Mexico before spreading to communities throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. They were bonfires of crisscrossed pine boughs arranged in 3-foot high squares. By the 19th century American settlers brought beautiful Chinese lanterns to hang from their doorways instead of building bonfires. But the lanterns were too expensive for many people so they began to make small lanterns out of paper sacks to save money. Luminaries are linked through history to the ancient tradition of communicating, warning, and celebrating through linked bonfires.

Why not celebrate with your neighbors this coming Labor Day weekend. Make a display in your yard consisting of Luminaries, bonfires, torches, or anything with fire, on Diane's Lights Night. You could win a summer of free Pepsi products.



Fishing Contest



Once again, the weather cooperated for the annual fishing contest held June 28. 52 people registered for the contest. Lunch was provided at the noon weigh-in. The contest was hosted by Dan and Lynne Bonine, pictured to the left.



The winners were: Northern

- 1st 1.15 lb Rick Kannianen
- 2nd 1.14 lb Steve Harnett
- 3rd 1 lb Peter Giertsen

Bass

- 1st 2.5 lb Bob Patnode
- 2nd 1.8 lb Pat Wurm
- 3rd 1.4 lb Brad Ballard

Sunfish

- 1st 9 oz Mike Erdman
- 2nd 7 oz Ryan Peterson
- 3rd 6 oz Lorna Ittel



Traveling Trophies

Traveling trophies this year went to Peter Giertsen in the children's category and Bob Patnode in the adult category.



Peter Giertson



Bob Patnode

The Lake Water Sampling Story

By Ed Quinn

1. Water quality monitoring: Sugar Lake participates in the "Citizens Lake Monitoring Program" along with lakes in 31 Minnesota counties. Wright County has 46 lakes participating. The purpose of this effort is to form a long-term data base to compare our lake to others in our ecoregion and trophic state and identify trends in clarity and quality.
2. Participants: Jim Kastl has been reporting secchi disk and lake level readings to the MPCA since 1974. Ed and Jan Quinn have been reporting secchi disk readings and delivering water samples to the WSWCD since 1997. Andy Juetten is tracking rainfall.
3. Definitions:
 - MPCA: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 - WSWCD: Wright Soil And Water Conservation District
 - RMB : RMB Environmental Laboratories Inc. in Detroit Lakes MN
 - STORET: National Water Quality Data Repository
 - Ecoregion: Sugar Lake is classified as Northern Central Hardwood Forest. There are seven ecoregions in MN.
 - Trophic State: Sugar Lake is classified as mesotrophic. There are four trophic states in MN. They range from deep clear lakes in northern MN to shallow lakes with heavy algae blooms in central and southern MN.
 - Total Phosphorous: Amount of nutrients.
 - Chlorophyll-a: Amount of algae.
 - Secchi disk : A white metal disk 8 inches in diameter that is lowered into the water to measure transparency.
 - Mean TSI: Trophic State Index. This index combines total phosphorous, chlorophyll-a, and secchi disk readings. Our TSI mean from 2002 - 2008 is 46. The range is from 0 to 100 with 0 being best.
4. Results: **Secchi disk readings from 1974 thru 2007:** The range is from 6.9 feet in 1976 to 14.5 feet in 1980. The reading in 2007 was 9.5 feet. RMB states, "This is within expected range," This year the readings have been 10 feet, which has been about average for the last 34 years. The variations are probably due to storm events. Please remember these readings are taken in the middle of the lake and do not reflect conditions at culverts and streams. **Total Phosphorous:** Data collected by the MPCA from 1997 thru 2006 shows the mean value of 19 ppb (parts per billion). RMB shows 18.4 ppb from 2002-2008. RMB states, "decreasing, which indicates improving water quality (90% confidence). **Chlorophyll-a:** RMB data from 2002-2008 shows a mean value of 7.5 ppb. They state "no trend" and "within expected range." The MPCA data from 1997 thru 2006 shows 6.8 ppb. Its graph shows this to be on the high side for a mesotrophic lake. **STORET data from 1990 :** Total phosphorous was 20 ppb. Chlorophyll-a was 4.9 ppb. The mean secchi disk reading was 9.5 feet.

Vegetation Report

by: Dale Gustafson

Things have been happening quickly this month for the vegetation committee. After our spring treatment for curly leaf pondweed early this month, we started looking for new infestations of invasive plants. Unfortunately, we did discover a new area of Eurasian water milfoil on the west shore. We identified the area and applied for a permit to treat the new area. Our permit is under consideration at this time, but we do not have permission to treat as yet. If you are on the west side near the Paul Gustafson property I would suggest you keep you watering of you lawn and gardens up to date, as we may get authorization to treat and that would mean that you should not use lake water for a couple weeks after treatment. Watch for signs and we will also send a news flash about any treatments that we will make.

We have also been busy with cutting of curly leaf pondweed. Marlin Grant and a few volunteers have been cutting and removing patches of curly leaf pondweed where it has grown tall enough to be cut by our power cutter. They have spent many days cutting, removing the cuttings from the lake, and hauling them away to be composted. We owe the volunteers a special thanks for their hard work on this effort.

On June 30 Carolyn Dindorf and her assistants started the first summer survey of aquatic plants in our lake. This sampling is being done at about 200 pre-determined locations in order to determine percentages of native and invasive plants. There will be three surveys this summer to establish a baseline for the plant life in Sugar Lake. These surveys will be part of our vegetation plan and help with our continued plan to control invasive plants in Sugar Lake.

We still need help locating any new infestations of curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil. Please check around your property and report any findings of these plants to a board member or member of the vegetation committee so they can be identified and entered into our database for future treatment.

More curly leaf harvest pictures

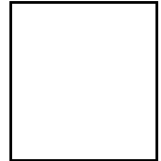


**Susie Blaylock and husband Nat Blaylock
(Doc Williams daughter)**



Steve Wiltermuth and Doc Williams

The Sugar Lake Association
The Sugar Lake News
11955 Hart Ave NW.
Annandale, MN 55302



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