

Sugar Lake Association
Wright County, Minnesota
May 31, 2005



Dear Sugar Lake Association Members,

Another summer season at the lake has arrived. Thankfully the temperatures are finally warming up so we can enjoy our lake activities!

Attached please find the May edition of the SLA News and raffle tickets for our annual fundraiser. The raffle prize offerings are a \$500.00 cash grand prize and a chance at a \$250.00 second prize and a \$50.00 third prize. The prizes that are offered should make them easier to sell than ever before and we ask for your help in selling 20 tickets at \$1.00 each. The proceeds of the raffle ticket sales will be allocated 100% to the milfoil fund and will be used to fight curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil.

The raffle drawing will again be the final event of the Sugar Lake picnic to be held on Saturday, August 6, 2005. Winners of the raffle prize drawing need not be present to win. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets to this annual event and enjoy the food and games while having fun with your neighbors from the lake.

Please return your sold ticket stubs and tax-deductible checks, payable to the Sugar Lake Association, (NO CASH please) in the enclosed envelope by August 5. If you need additional tickets, please contact Michelle Pippo at 320-963-5024.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Sugar Lake Association, we thank you for your recent generosity with charitable donations and your quick response in returning your annual dues payment. We also thank you for your past and current efforts in selling raffle tickets to help support the work of the Sugar Lake Association. Your help is much appreciated! We also hope to see you at the picnic!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Mann'.

Stephen Mann
Chairman, Sugar Lake Association

THE SUGAR LAKE NEWS

MAY 2005



2005

Calendar of Events

June 18– SLA Meeting

June 25-Fishing Contest*

July 16-SLA Meeting*

August 6-SLA Picnic

August 20-Annual Meeting/Board Election*

September 3-Diane's Lights Night

September 17– SLA Meeting*

October 15-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 donpeterson@maxigard.com

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

contact Karen Pitra at

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

Focus on curly leaf pondweed



Now and for the next few weeks we all need to focus on curly leaf pondweed. Successful control of this invasive plant will require everyone to learn to identify it, participate in removing it, and help pay for treating it. Read the articles in this newsletter, look at the treatment map and identification information on www.sugarlake.org. Contact any board member if you are interested in helping. The next few weeks are a critical time in the life cycle of this plant that offer an opportunity for each of us to have a direct impact by simply removing the plant from the lake.



See someone you don't know searching in the water in front of your cabin? If they are wearing the hat shown to the left say hello to a Sugar Lake Association volunteer who is probably looking for or removing curly leaf pondweed or looking for milfoil. Ask if you can help or for an explanation of what they are doing.

Annual Fishing Contest Saturday, June 25th!

When: 9 a.m. to noon. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Weigh in at noon.

Where: Home of Dan and Lynne Bonine on the north end of Addison Bay.

Cost: \$5 per person. All entry fees applied to the prize fund.

Prizes: First, second, and third prizes awarded for the largest fish in each category.

Who: Open to members and friends. The Kids contest is for ages 0-8 and 9-15. Kids can share in the prize money if they pay the entry fee.

Hot dogs and refreshments will be served afterward.

If you have any questions, call Lynne at 320-274-2005.

If you have one of the traveling trophies awarded last year, please return it to Lynne Bonine before the fishing contest, or call Lynne and arrange to bring it to the contest.

Sugar Lake Association Board Nominations

If you are interested in becoming a Sugar Lake Association board member or know someone interested in becoming a board member, please contact Deb Beltrand at 952-944-1526. The nominating committee would like to have a slate of candidates ready before the June meeting.

MAY 21TH 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: 4



Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
05-15-00	8'	58°	70°	20''	25''
05-16-01	8'	55°	78°	24''	29''
05-15-02	9'	48°	49°	23''	28''
05-15-03	9'	59°	66°	24''	29''
05-14-04	10'	58°	49°	18''	23''
05-20-05	10'	52°	62°	22''	27''

Treasurer's Report - report as of May 21, 2005.

General Fund	\$18,350.71
Lake Improvement	\$10,435.56
Milfoil Fund	<u>\$36,269.83</u>
Total All Funds	\$71,235.44

Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2005 has reached 278. If you haven't paid your 2005 dues, please send your \$25 check payable to the Sugar Lake Association to: Sugar Lake Association 11102 Hoyer Ave NW., Annandale, MN 55302.

Please welcome new members Terry & Cheryl Delbow, Matt Kutz, Glenn Lindmeyer, and Richard & Mary Kay Ward. 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.

Education

The Sugar Lakescapers are planning another busy year. Projects planted last year will be visited again this year to evaluate what worked. At least two additional projects are planned for this year. The sites of these projects have not been identified. If you would like to nominate a site or would like more information about the Sugar Lakescapers contact Suzanne Quinn-McDonald at 763-427-5519.

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 30, 2005, 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

General Membership Meeting

The May Sugar Lake Association meeting was a general membership meeting. After a one hour board meeting covering normal monthly business the focus turned to curly leaf pond weed. 28 Association members listened as Dale Gustafson opened the general meeting with a summary of past and present treatment activity for curly leaf pondweed.

Guest speaker, Mike Palach with Lake Restoration, was introduced. Lake Restoration was hired to treat curly leaf in Sugar Lake this year. Mike described how curly leaf arrived in the United States in the 1870s with carp shipped here from Europe. Since the introduction of curly leaf it has spread to cover about half of the US and a quarter of Canada. The methods used to control curly leaf include harvesting or cutting, herbicides, draw down of lake level to freeze the plant, and dredging to remove silt where the plant lies dormant. An Endothall herbicide was used to treat Sugar Lake this year. This is a contact herbicide applied in liquid form. It is applied early in the spring when the native plants have not started growing but the curly leaf pondweed has. This treatment kills only the plants growing at the time. It does not kill the turions (seed pods) present in the lake bottom. A three to five year program is required to kill new plants that emerge in the spring before they form new turions. Last year 26.5 acres of curly leaf pondweed were identified on



Sugar Lake. The DNR permit allowed treatment this year of 29 acres. At the time of treatment only 19 acres were identified and treated. It is critical to know where to treat and to have a benchmark to measure results against. For this reason a comprehensive lake vegetation management plan, LVMP, is essential. The LVMP incorporates a sampling plan for phosphorus and dissolved oxygen, identifies sources of phosphorus, includes a full plant survey of the lake, surveys shoreline erosion and run-off condition, and includes core samples of lake sediments. Mike concluded his presentation with some information about Lake Restoration. The company has been in business many years. They operate seven trained crews with a total of 55 years of crew management experience. In 2004 the company treated a total of 1900 acres including 600 acres treated for curly leaf pond weed.

The membership discussion that followed the presentations identified three objectives for the Sugar Lake Association:

1. As much curly leaf pondweed as possible needs to be harvested and removed from the lake. Every plant that can be removed is one less to die back adding phosphorus to the lake and release turions that will grow in future years. If you are interested in information about removing curly leaf pondweed contact Marlin Grant at 320-274-7242.
2. Additional fundraising will be required. Based on our best estimates at this time a worst case scenario will require the SLA to spend \$15,000 per year for the next three to five years to achieve control of curly leaf pondweed and maintain the eurasian milfoil treatment program. Karen Pitra volunteered to lead the fundraising effort and several other members expressed an interest in helping. If you are interested in helping with fundraising contact Karen at 320-274-8153.
3. A comprehensive lake vegetation management plan (LVMP) needs to be done. An LVMP not only guides and measures our treatment activity but also serves as a tool for working with the DNR in the permitting process. The LVMP also thoroughly documents native plant species and populations. The status of native plant populations is an indicator of overall lake water quality. The cost to have the plan done is \$10,000. To offset this cost a grant of \$5,000 is available from the Initiative Foundation. Work already completed by the SLA and information from our existing lake management plan can help offset some of the additional money required. The preparation of the LVMP would be directed by Steve McCommis of Blue Water Science with lake survey labor provided by Lake Restoration. Don Peterson and Dale Gustafson agreed to work on the Initiative Foundation grant. The board unanimously passed a motion to begin work on the lake vegetation management plan.

Vegetation Committee

Curly Leaf Pondweed

The Vegetation Committee has been hard at work this spring identifying and coordinating the treatment of curly leaf pondweed. We have identified 26.5 acres last year and this spring and based our treatment on those acres. At the time of treatment we could only identify and treat 19 acres.

As of the Memorial Day weekend we could see good results from the treatment. It is important to understand that we only need to harm the plants enough to prevent turion production to be successful. The strength of our treatment varied with the water depth, and the result will also vary. In some cases we could not treat all the Curly leaf because it was too close to other desirable natives that would be harmed. All things considered we feel that the treatment part of our control went well.

Now we enter the next stage of our work. We need to identify any new areas of Curly leaf that were not on our list. This past weekend we identified three new areas that we will focus on in removal and treatment. If you find areas of Curly leaf please remember to tell your area communicator or someone from the Vegetation Committee so we have all the areas on our map. This plant will continue to grow rapidly in the next couple weeks before it starts to die back.

We want to identify the remaining healthy curly leaf and cut and remove it from the lake. We all need to work on this for the sake of the lake. After talking with a vegetation committee member, take care of the areas by your property and/or volunteer to help Marlin Grant and his crew on other areas of the lake. It is a huge job, but if we all do a little we can make a difference. Remember, if this plant remains in the lake, as it dies it releases nutrients, and also makes deposits that provide silt for new infestations in the future.

Eurasian water milfoil

We will be treating the EWM again this year. We have identified several patches at this time that we intend to treat in the next few weeks. The areas of treatment will be similar to last year with a few new areas to be treated also. Buddy Divers did a follow-up dive based on the information they provided last year. They did this dive at no charge, but as part of their original service to our lake.

We need to be looking for EWM over the next few weeks so we can treat as much as possible. It looks like we have been successful in preventing the EWM from getting out of control, but we want to remain diligent to keep it under control. Remember, report the location of the plants for our records and be sure to get all the roots of this plant out. It is not like the Curly leaf, EWM is a perennial plant that re-grows from its roots each year. We have seen locations that have gotten worse from simple raking. If you need help, please ask.

LVMP

The Sugar Lake Board should be commended for being supportive of the efforts of the Vegetation Committee. We are encouraged by the support for hiring professionals to help us with our LVMP. This information will allow us to make the correct decisions in the future. To honor our commitment of keeping Sugar Lake as healthy as possible it is imperative that we have good data.

Encouraging News

As we have been looking for these non-native invasive plants we are encouraged by how many and how diverse our native plants communities are. We are seeing areas of re-growth of healthy native plants where we have been treating the exotics. These are signs of hope.

Give Our Lake a Break

Find ways to stay away from the sensitive vegetation buoys. They mark the Hard Stem Bulrush that is disappearing in our lake. We need them badly.

2005 Rainfall

Recorded by Andy Juetten

Rainfall so far this year is about average. We have had no single rain events over one inch. Estimated total for 2005 to date is 9.67 inches.

April 2005: 2.61 inches

May 2005: 4.21 inches

Water Patrol

Remember to renew or obtain your swim raft permit. Contact the Wright County Sheriff's Department at 763-682-7622. Your permit # must be displayed and the raft must be reflectorized to reflect light from all directions.

Minnesota child PFD bill

This is a new law passed May 6, 2005.

1. Requires life jacket to be worn by children less than 10 years of age when aboard watercraft in Minnesota when the craft is underway (not tied up at a dock or permanent mooring).
2. Exemptions from wearing:
 - When in an enclosure or below decks on a watercraft.
 - When in an anchored boat that is a platform for swimming or diving.
 - When aboard a charter (passenger) craft with a licensed captain.
3. Penalties
 - Written warning only for FIRST offense until May 1, 2006
 - Petty misdemeanor for second offense during period above and any offense on or after May 1, 2006.
4. Effective date: May 6, 2005.
5. Interaction with federal regulation requiring children less than 13 to wear life jackets — Federal regulation automatically adopts state law as the standard.

Deputy Joel Mackereth with the Wright County Sheriff's Office met with Sugar Lake Water Patrol members Saturday May 21. In addition to the local benefits of having our water patrol members on the lake their volunteer hours are logged and turned into the sheriff's office. The volunteer hours help guide the allocation of resources in the sheriff's office and are turned into the state where they impact funding decisions. Deputy Mackereth reviewed procedures and guidelines for dealing with situations on the lake.



Pictured above is Deputy Mackereth addressing the Sugar Lake Water Patrol. Pictured at the left is the flag water patrol members will display while on duty on the lake.

Watch for and respect the Sugar Lake Water Patrol. If you see a problem on the lake you feel needs to be reported please call the Wright County Sheriff's Office at 320-274-3035 or if it is an emergency call 911.

New Business

A motion was made and approved to make the 2005 raffle drawing prizes the same as last year. First prize \$500, second prize \$250, third prize \$50.

Steve Mann received a letter requesting donations to help with \$200,000 in legal fees incurred by the Dead Lake association in their fight to control lakeshore development. The issues they are fighting impact lakeshore development all over the state of Minnesota. A motion was made and approved to donate \$250 to the Dead Lake Association in Richville, MN to help with their legal fees.

Can cooler and travel mug sale

Can coolers and travel mugs with a Sugar Lake logo are available for sale. The can coolers are \$2 each,



travel mugs \$5 each with proceeds benefiting the milfoil fund. Contact Karen Pitra at 320-274-8153 for information or stop by Karen's Hallmark in Annandale.



For Sale

Fedders air conditioner.
12,000 BTU, Nearly new in good condition. \$50
Contact Andy 320-274-2264

For Sale

SEA-DOO GSI 1997, 90HP, w/trailer, cover, mirrors and PFD's, lift included. 31 Hrs, like new. \$3950
Call John at 320-274-2899

For Sale

Because Deb Grant has stepped up to a larger boat she is offering her 1996 14ft. 115 hp like new jet boat with cassette player/radio, and trailer which she bought new, and has not used the last two years, for sale. It has been under cover summers, and stored in a garage winters. It is available to see in front of her new house 11155 Hoyer Ave on the west shore where the Sugar Lake Resort was located. \$3950.00. Lift may be available also. Call Marlin Grant, 320 274 7242, or 612 363 1208 to try out, or for more info.

The following article is reprinted with permission from Valerie Prax with the University of Minnesota Extension Service. This article also appeared in the May 2005 MLA Lake Bulletin. The U of M Extension Service has excellent septic information available at the web site listed at the end of this article. They even have a cabin page at <http://septic.umn.edu/homeowner/cabins/index.html>.

Start Your Septic System Out on the Right Foot for Spring

By Valerie Prax, University of Minnesota Extension Service

The long winter wait is over, and there are a number of things home and cabin owners can do to prepare septic systems for spring. Here are some tips:

- Take a walk around your system. How close are the trees? Remember, hardwoods such as oaks and maples have a root system that extends as far out underground as the canopy of the tree does above. Are there water-seeking trees such as willows nearby? Their roots will extend out searching for available water, and can quickly invade your drainfield area.
- What about gophers and other underground pests? Look for any runways or access holes near your system. Use methods to remove them if prevalent.
- When doing your spring cleaning, keep an eye on how many chemical products you use. Limit the amounts and use more elbow grease. Antibacterial and bleach cleansers do not do a better job than more natural products. Read the product labels; anything listing chlorine includes bleach. For many jobs such as dusting or wiping walls down, plain water is just as effective. Don't wash all the bedding and curtains on one day – spread it out as you do the normal laundry. Have a goal of no more than one load of laundry per day.
- Now's the time to repair damage from freezing last winter; look for a licensed installer.
- If there was freezing, consider adding insulation to the tank or to piping. Look for signs of compaction especially over the piping areas; repair if needed. Look for other repairs needed to prevent freezing next winter. Talk to a licensed septic installer.
- Remind everyone to stay off the drainfield or mound area. Foot or vehicle traffic can cause compaction. Lawn mowers are fine, but nothing else should travel over the area.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service offers educational programs and information for homeowners on septic systems, as part of the Onsite Sewage Treatment Program (OSTP). Check the website: <http://septic.umn.edu> for additional information for homeowners on care and maintenance of septic systems.