



Sugar Lake Association

Sugar Lake, Wright County, Minnesota

www.sugarlake.org

May 2008

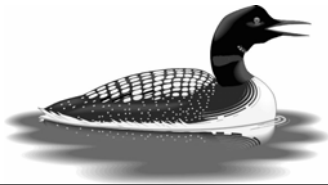
Dear Sugar Lake Residents,

Attached is the May edition of the SLA News and raffle tickets for our annual fundraiser. The raffle prize offerings are a \$500 cash grand prize and a chance at a \$250 second prize and a \$50 third prize. The prizes that are offered should make them easy to sell. 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 and invasive species 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 2, 2008. 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 2. Please do us a big favor this year and remove the staple from your ticket stubs before you send them in. If you need additional tickets, please contact Karen Sutherland at 651-698-2284 or 320-963-5597.

Steve Wiltermuth
Chairman, Sugar Lake Association



The Sugar Lake News

MAY 2008

2008

Calendar of Events

June 21– SLA Meeting*

June 28-Fishing Contest

July 19-SLA Meeting*

August 2-SLA Picnic

August 16-Annual Meeting/Board Election*

September 1-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

Vegetation Report

Invasive plant treatments.

by: Dale Gustafson

This has indeed been a strange spring and the conditions in our lake have been strange as well. Until recently we had almost no vegetation growth and all the plants are way behind their normal schedule of growth. On Wednesday, May 21, I spent a good portion of the day on the lake with the DNR checking for areas to treat for Curly leaf and Eurasian water milfoil. Our agent okays treatment of 29 acres and that treatment was made on May 22. It is important to notice the signs for the treatment areas and be sure to remind your friends and neighbors that they should not use water from those areas for irrigation for 7 days. The chemical can harm sensitive flowers and plants. There are no restrictions on use of the lake or taking or eating fish. We will continue to monitor the lake to see if there may be some follow-up treatments. We do expect that we will treat Eurasian water milfoil later, and that we will cut Curly leaf pondweed in a few weeks if we get enough volunteers to help Marlin and his team. We really need volunteers for this effort!

The Association has hired Carolyn Dindorf of Fortin Consulting, Inc. to do our plant surveys this year. Carolyn is certified by the state and is also doing surveys for the DNR on special project lakes. She will do sampling in the treated areas within the next two weeks, followed by a complete lake survey in June and another in August. These samplings are part of the process of documenting the level of expansion of invasive plants and providing information for the treatment during the 2009 season.

Sugar Lakescapers

A plant exchange was held at Karen Sutherland's Saturday, May 17, immediately following the May board meeting. The weather was perfect and attendance was very good. A profit of \$178 was returned to the Sugar Lake Association. Grant Everson, with Hasty Woods Tree Farm & Nursery, (320-558-2432), was also at the exchange with a nice selection of native plants for sale as well as advice and answers to questions. The event was a big success and plans are being made for next year. Save your plastic nursery pots this year for use at the exchange next year. If you are interested in helping next year or have questions contact Karen Sutherland at 651-698-2284 or 320-963-5597.

Thank you to Karen Sutherland for planning and organizing this event



Grant



Karen

Annual Fishing Contest Saturday, June 28th!

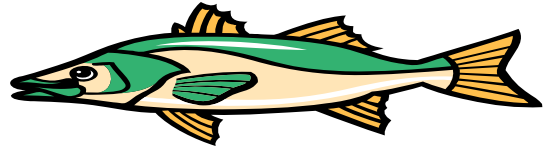
When: 9 a.m. to noon. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Weigh in at noon.
Where: Home of Dan and Lynne Bonine on the north end of Addison Bay.
Cost: \$5 per person. All entry fees applied to the prize fund.
Prizes: First, second, and third prizes awarded for the largest fish in each category.
Who: Open 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.

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
05-15-03	9'	59°	66°	24"	29"
05-14-04	10'	58°	49°	18"	23"
05-20-05	10'	52°	62°	22"	27"
05-21-06	10'	48°	60°	26"	31"
05-12-07	10'	61°	62°	22"	27"
05-16-08	10'	54°	60°	27"	32"

Ice out

April 24, 2008

Rainfall

April rainfall was 4.09 inches. May rainfall through 5/27 was 4.40 inches. Year to date rainfall has been 10.34 inches. Rainfall on Sunday, 5/25 was 1.46 inches. Thanks to Andy Juetten for the rainfall information.

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.

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.

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.

And, by the way, visit our website at sugarlake.org for all the latest.

Treasurer's Report

As of May 16, 2008

General Fund	\$9,320.39
Lake Improvement Fund	\$16,629.66
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	\$87,806.27
Total All Funds	\$113,756.32

Give Our Lake a Break

Consider switching your lead jigs and sinkers for some of the non-toxic alternatives. For more information take a look at this web site:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/reduce/sinkers.cfm>

Don't empty your bait bucket into the lake.

If you travel to any other lakes this summer be sure to clean your boat and trailer thoroughly as you leave any body of water.

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 Steve Mann:

320-274-6267.

The nominating committee would like to have a slate of candidates ready before the June meeting.

An eighteen-member board administers the SLA. Each board member serves for 3 years and then is required to take a year off before being eligible to be elected again. Board members can serve on committees including water quality, vegetation, education, fisheries, communication as well as helping with annual events like the picnic. It is a great way to learn about the lake and be involved in what is happening.

Membership Meeting

The June 21 Sugar Lake Association meeting at the Corinna Town Hall will be a general membership meeting. Nominations for the board of directors will be finalized.

Water Quality Report

by: Dale Gustafson

The big news for this issue was suppose to be that we accepted a bid on the Hollister Creek project and work is to start soon. The opening of the bids was held on Wednesday May 28, and hopefully the work will start soon.

However, the real big news was our storm on May 25 and all the sediment that was washed into the lake with that storm. It does point out how important it is that we continue to work on improvement projects that will reduce the chance of sediment runoff. We saw many areas where excessive runoff occurred even with our efforts to protect those sites. This storm reminds us that if you have any project (regardless of size) under construction you really need to protect that soil from a storm like this past one.

Diane's Lights Night

By Doc Williams

The Helen Ellis families received their 12 cases of Pepsi products, 1 for each of the 12 weeks of summer, on Memorial Weekend. They were last years 1st place winners in the Diane's Lights Night contest and will be this year's judges. The Ellis lake home is located in the southeast corner of the North Bay. If you remember, their display consisted of a big 35W and a heart, done with luminaries, on their front lawn. Their inspiration came in the form of thanks for a family member surviving the 35W bridge collapse.

The winning displays of past years have come in many forms. While some were carefully thought out and took a while to put together, others were planned and executed in just a short time.

Several consisted of unique arrangements of torches, campfires, and luminaries; while others had a definite theme that conveyed a message. Have you got an idea? Does someone in your family have a flair for the unique or a message they want to convey? Why not do it with luminaries on Diane's Lights Night this coming Labor Day weekend.



Curly leaf spotting

We have learned that the best way to locate areas of Curly leaf pondweed is by the use of a rake on the end of a rope. You toss the rake out about 25 feet and drag in a sample of vegetation and check to see if you have curly in the rake. We are planning on training more people that can help with locating batches of Curly leaf pondweed around the lake. The process is simple and with a little help it is easy to make the identification. If you are interested in being a spotter please get in contact with Dale Gustafson or anyone from the Vegetation Committee.

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.

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.

Water Patrol

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

Are you interested in participating in the Sugar Lake Water Patrol? A meeting with the Sheriff is being planned. Call Rick Kanninen at 320-963-2226.

Birder's Corner

By Steve Wiltermuth

There is a great website for people interested in birding in Minnesota. <http://www.ornithologicalunion.org>. It lists the sightings in Minnesota. We have had a lot of activity with birds returning to the lake this month.

Dennis & Mary Langhoff sighted a male pileated woodpecker on a recently cut down tree. There was one off and on at our suet feeder this winter. They are so much bigger than any other woodpecker that they are easy to spot.

Deb Grimm saw a male orchard oriole and Baltimore orioles. I put grape jam out for the orioles and when the raccoons don't eat it, the birds love it.

Vince Bangasser reports an eagle's nest on the southwest side of the lake with an eaglet in the nest. I have also heard that someone saw two little heads sticking up.

Jim Kastl, who has been devotedly monitoring our lake for the association for decades, and his family have seen a great list of birds. They include: yellow warbler, downy woodpecker fly catcher, purple martin, chickadee, nuthatch, northern bluebird, hooded warbler, purple finch, yellow breasted warbler, oriole and goldfinch.

My favorite find this month was a rose-breasted grosbeak. They are easily recognized by the red patch on their breast. It is not so much rose as bright red during mating season.

Thank you so much to everyone who emailed their sightings. It was fun for me because people even sent pictures. Maybe we can find a way for Craig to put the pictures on the web site.

WANTED**LAWN MOWING**

Hard working high school student looking for lawns to mow any size. UNBEATABLE PRICES
I have my own mower. call with any questions or quote
Todd 320 274 3134

LOST

16 foot aluminum canoe lost from west shore week of May 19.
If you spotted it over the weekend please call Joel at 320-274-8878

Loon platforms

By Doc Williams

The loon nesting platforms were checked recently and only 1 of the 4 was found to be occupied. As we approached the one in use, we observed the nesting loon lower its head in an apparent



attempt to conceal itself. Even though we thought we were keeping our distance, it soon became clear that we were an unwelcome visitor. In order to keep from upsetting the Loon further, we quickly exited the area. This is the third year we have embarked on the venture and although the platforms are identical, only one, located in the same area, continues to produce results. There could be several reasons for this. One possibility, the loons may have found a natural nesting sight in the area and preferred it. Another reason might be that 2 of the platforms are near fishing areas and the resulting boat traffic may have discouraged the birds. It could simply be that the Loons may know something we don't and are waiting for us to figure it out. As far as we can tell the one successful platform looks like it is the result of the age old adage: location, location, location.

Curly leaf pondweed cutting

We will soon be starting the cutting and harvesting of curly leaf pondweed.

This is a labor intensive project that is a very important part of our curly leaf management program. We need volunteers to help with cutting, harvesting, hauling, and coordinating.

If you can help please contact volunteer coordinator Cheryl Delbow at 320-963-3997.

Fireworks

Joel Williams is putting together another great fireworks display scheduled for Saturday, July 5. The Sugar Lake Board voted to be the sponsoring organization of this legal, permitted show. It is a one time, one night show. Since no Sugar Lake funds are used for this display we need your help. A good show will require \$5,000. We currently have \$246.

Every year many watercraft gather around Joel's place as evening falls and every one has the best seat on the lake. Still many others view his exhibition from near by shores. All this and NO traffic hassles. Were you one of those in the watercraft around Joel's place or on the shores viewing the show? Would you like to see this event continue? We are asking YOU to give a donation for the July 5 fireworks display. The more donations we get and the earlier we get them, the better the display. If we don't get enough, we may have to cut back the show this year.



Your tax deductible donation will make this show happen. Please make your donation payable to the Sugar Lake Association and send to:

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

Or give your donation to your Area Communicator when contacted.



Thank you Joel for offering to do a fireworks show again and thanks to all the members who donate and make this possible.

HELP Did you offer a pontoon last year for use as a fireworks platform? If so please contact Joel Williams at 320-274-8878