

# The Sugar Lake News

OCTOBER 2005

## Peterson/Lehn property rezoning hearing continued to January

*At the request of the property owners the hearing scheduled for November 17 was continued to January 2006.*

2006

### Calendar of Events

**February 11**-Mid-winter meeting

**April 22**-SLA Meeting\*

**May 20**-SLA Meeting\*

**June 17**- SLA Meeting

**June 24**-Fishing Contest\*

**July 15**-SLA Meeting\*

**August 5**-SLA Picnic

**August 19**-Annual Meeting/Board Election\*

**September 2**-Diane's Lights Night

**September 16**- SLA Meeting\*

**October 21**-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 don@sugarlake.org

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

contact Karen Pitra at

11102 Hoyer Ave NW

Annandale, MN 55302

320-274-8153

The purpose of the rezoning request is to permit the development of three lake lots (1 acre each) and 13 back lots (5 acres each). The area proposed for rezoning is the lakeshore between areas H and J, with back lots behind areas H, J, and K. A map showing the proposed area can be seen on the Sugar Lake Association website at [www.sugarlake.org](http://www.sugarlake.org). Corinna Township has already approved the rezoning "as it is consistent with the Land Use Plan."

The first public hearing for this request was held September 15. After considerable public testimony the rezoning request was not granted and the hearing was continued to October 20. At the end of September the Planning Commission made a visit to the site and looked at the property with the help of some SLA members. The September and October hearings were well attended by the Sugar Lake Association and many members spoke to the Planning Commission regarding our shared concerns about this property. It was obvious the Planning Commission has listened to the Sugar Lake community. At the close of the October hearing, when faced with a choice to drop their current request, settle for a compromise, or continue to the November hearing date, the Peterson/Lehn group elected to ask for another continuation to November 17. The Planning Commission granted the request with one major difference. The public comment portion of the hearing on this rezoning request was closed. Although this means we can no longer comment on the rezoning request, our presence at the hearings demonstrates our interest and concern. We need the continued involvement of the Sugar Lake community on this issue. We are making a difference.

In a letter to the Planning Commission, received days before the November hearing, the property owners requested the hearing be continued to January 2006. Please watch your email for notification of the next hearing date. The hearings are held at the Wright County Government Center, 102 St NW, Room 140, Buffalo, MN, 55313.

## Mid-winter meeting to be held at Cabela's in Rogers

A mid-winter meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Cabela's in Rogers. The agenda will include:

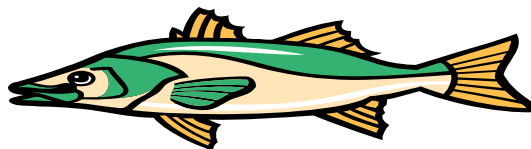
- Review the completed LVMP (Lake Vegetation Management Plan) and learn what it means for Sugar Lake
- Discuss the 2006 plan for aquatic invasive species control including Curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil
- Shoreland vegetation education
- A short board meeting to allow a vote on any issues critical to an early spring start for the Curly leaf pondweed fight

Cabela's is located in Rogers near the intersection of I-494 and MN Hwy 101 at 20200 Rogers Dr. The conference rooms are on the second floor near the deli. Plan to attend the meeting, stay for lunch, and look at the great exhibits in the store.

This is an important meeting this year because we will have the information available to develop the spring 2006 plan for treatment of Curly leaf pondweed. There is a short window of opportunity for treatment in the spring. We need to be ready for it.

## KASTL'S KORNER

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



Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
10-06-00	14'	45°	45°	9"	14"
10-10-01	14'	56°	60°	9"	14"
10-14-02	13'	51°	44°	27"	32"
10-08-03	13'	70°	82°	13"	18"
10-13-04	6'	64°	68°	18"	23"
10-11-05	11'	47°	54°	26"	31"

## Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2005 has reached 362. 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.

2006 dues invoices will be mailed in January. Dues remain at \$25 for 2006.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Verna Olson who passed away Friday, November 4, after a courageous four year battle with cancer.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Lila Bachmeier from the Elaine Beach area.

We also want to thank those members who have made a contribution to the fundraising committee for our fight against Eurasian watermilfoil and Curly leaf pondweed. These contributions will be recognized at a later date.

### Please welcome new member:

Lynette Dalman.

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

## Treasurer's Report

As of October 15, 2005

General Fund	\$11,889
Lake Improvement Fund	\$16,240
Milfoil Fund	<u>\$33,975</u>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$62,104</b>

## Give Our Lake a Break

### Let a sleeping log lie.

If you have a tree on your shoreline fall into the water consider leaving it. It provides great fish habitat. Shoreline habitat is important because most of the action in the lake takes place in the *thin green line* along the shore.

## Thank You

Thanks to Z-Marine for donating the labor to repair the SLA pontoon motor.

Thanks to Steve Huff and Russ Ottenstroer for removing the buoys this fall.

Mike Mengelkoch and Bob Brabant helped Dale Gustafson remove the wave barriers from the lake on November 19th. These barriers protected the planting of Bullrush that was installed late this summer. It was a cold and nasty job, but it is done for this year.

## Milfoil fund renamed

A motion was made and unanimously approved to rename the milfoil fund the Milfoil and Invasive Species fund. This was done in recognition that the fight against invasive aquatic species is no longer limited to Eurasian milfoil but needs to include Curly leaf pondweed and possibly other invasive species in the future.

## High Water Level

Several board members and others have received calls or emails regarding the high lake level we are currently experiencing. We are investigating the fact that the lake level is higher than normal this fall. We have had other years of higher than normal rainfall that have led to high lake levels, but we want to be sure it is just the rainfall that is responsible for the high water level. The last time the lake level was this high in October was 2002. The concern is that this could result in shoreline damage as it did in 2002-2003.

## Area Highlights

The Dew Drop Inn  
By Doc Williams

**B**ack in the 1920's, if Dan & Lena Hierholzer wanted to visit their relatives in the far western town of Annandale, they would take the train from where they lived in North



East Minneapolis. While there, Dan would sometimes borrow their horse & buggy for a trip to near by Sugar Lake, where he said the water was crystal clear and the fishing was great. He also



claimed the fish had a sweet taste. In 1927, at the age of 50, Dan retired from the Minneapolis Fire Department and decided to live on Sugar. He purchased a farm, which covered most of the north shore, for \$2000 and moved his family in. He built 3 rental cabins on the property, bought 7 wooden boats, and opened a resort. No one can remember what Dan called the place, but he did name the 3 rental cabins. One was called the Dew Drop Inn. He paid the neighbor kids, Don & Ron Peifer, a penny a piece for each clam they harvested from the lake, and sold them to his renters for bait. In addition to the resort

business, Dan harvested ice from the lake in the winter. He stored it in his ice house and sold it to the locals in the summer months for refrigeration. Lena raised chickens and grew vegetables, which she also sold. The lake was so clean that all their water needs, including drinking, were as easy as a walk to the end of their dock. Life was good! Now, it became known in those parts, that if you were to mosey by the resort, for "two bits" you could get yourself a shot of whisky and some company while you drank it. As Dan and Lena grew older, they decided to sell some of their farm as lake shore property. When a potential buyer showed up, Dan would "pace off" 100 feet of land and offer it to him for 100 bucks. If the buyer agreed, they would close the deal with a hand shake and a shot of whisky. The property lines were so poorly defined, that to this day there is 16 feet of land that surveyors can not determine who the rightful owner is. When most of the land had been purchased, Dan sold the resort to Charley Johnson who added more cabins and even converted Lena's chicken coop into a rental place. Dan, wanting to continue to live on the lake, hired 2 carpenters to build a house on one of the last pieces of land from the farm. While the men worked, Dan would sell them shots of whisky on credit. When the carpenters had finished, there wasn't a plum wall or a square corner in the place. Come time to settle up, the carpenters owed Dan money. In 1950, Dan decided to buy a fancy, new outboard motor. He purchased a 5 horsepower Atwater, which you could actually shift from neutral to forward or reverse. It was the first of its kind on the lake. With other outboards of the day, if the motor was running, the prop was turning. If you wanted to change the direction of the boat, you would have to swing the motor around. What is left of Dan's original resort is now Peifers resort. The Dew Drop Inn is being remodeled into a year-round home and the chicken coop is still a rental. Grand daughters Joan Rausch and Jean Urista still have homes on the north shore. The communicators for these areas are (B) John Rausch and (C) Chris Behm.

If you would like us to write an article on your area of the lake and know some of the history, contact the Sugar Lake Association and they will "get-er-done".

## Wright County Conservation Cooperator of the year

Dale Gustafson has been named Wright County Conservation Cooperator of the Year by the Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District. All Soil & Water districts around the state can participate in this program. The awards are made at the statewide Soil & Water Conservation District convention held December 4,5,6. Dale has been nominated for this award for tirelessly working to get best practices adopted to protect water resources in Wright County. Congratulations Dale!



## Citizen volunteer water quality monitoring training opportunity

The Minnesota Lakes Association and The Rivers Council of Minnesota are offering three days of water monitoring training. The training session will take place January 13, 14, & 27, 2006 at the Koinonia Retreat Center in South Haven Minnesota. The cost is \$25 per person. The cost for four attendees will be paid by the SLA. This is an excellent three day educational opportunity with all expenses paid. If you are interested in participating please contact Dale Gustafson 763-544-4215.

## Rainfall

September rainfall was 7.58" of which 3.61" fell on October 11 & 12. October rainfall was 4.41", and 3.7" of that fell on October 4. Total rainfall this year at the end of October is 34". Normal is about 28". Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall information.

## LVMP Status By Dale Gustafson

On October 11, 2005, Steve McComis of Blue Water Science, with the help of Steve Huff, collected 22 sediment samples from the lake for data to help with our Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP).



These bottom sediment samples were collected in water depth from 5 to 11 feet in areas around the lake where curlyleaf pondweed and milfoil were known to grow. This is the last of the field studies, and when the samples get back from the University of Minnesota soils testing lab, Steve McComis will be ready to conclude his portion of our study by early December. With Steve's report in hand, the Vegetation Committee will meet to plan our strategy for the upcoming year.

The letter you received from our president gave you basic information of what we expect to need to do in the upcoming years. Our LVMP will give us the information needed to continue to develop our treatment plan. We know this will be an extremely important effort for the future of Sugar Lake and we will need everyone to contribute time and money to this effort to be successful at protecting Sugar Lake and our investment in our lake property.

**We are at a crossroad in time like no other in the history of our lake.** We need everyone to pitch in and help. In the next few years we will need a great deal of money and many hours of volunteer help to continue to battle invasive plants in our lake. Each of us will need to donate generously to the fund each year and find time in our busy schedules to volunteer to help. There will be times this coming year when we all will need to say that we will need to work on the lake this weekend and welcome our friends and family to come to the lake to help us with that effort.

Please plan to attend the winter meeting to get more information about our invasive species fight. We will present our LVMP plans and current strategies about combating the invasive species in our lake. Come and find out what we plan to do, and **how you** can help to protect Sugar Lake.

## Ice Safety

### Recommended minimum ice thickness

4" of new clear ice is the minimum thickness for travel on foot  
5" is minimum for snowmobiles and ATVs  
8" - 12" for cars or small trucks

Remember that these thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.

## Help protect and preserve Sugar Lake

You will have noticed the donation card in this newsletter by the time you read this article. The Sugar Lake Association is again asking for your year end donations to help support projects to preserve water quality for future generations. We are asking a lot this year, a year with many natural disasters, when charitable giving has been stretched to the breaking point. Sugar Lake needs your help this year also. The special fundraising for fighting invasive species is critical to a successful program to control Curly leaf pondweed. Additionally all the other work related to water quality must continue. We can no longer count on state, county or local aid to help. As property owners and users of Sugar Lake it is our responsibility. There are no taxes or fees to support this work. Your support is needed to continue the work to maintain and improve water quality in Sugar Lake. In addition to your donation in support of the Curly leaf fight please consider a generous year-end donation to the Sugar Lake Association using the enclosed form. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## Fundraising

Thanks to all of you who have responded so far to the fundraising letter sent last month. We have received over 60 contributions totaling more than \$6,000. If you haven't sent your contribution in, please do so. If you plan not to contribute, please reconsider. Aquatic invasive species directly impact all of us; property values are negatively affected, use of the lake is restricted, and the natural beauty of the lake is impacted. Your contribution now determines our response next spring when Curly leaf pondweed reappears in Sugar Lake.

## Septic systems & winter

Septic systems can freeze in the winter due to a lack of snow cover, soil problems, leaking plumbing fixtures, cold air entering the system, or a combination of these problems.

If your septic system freezes call a professional. Do not add anti-freeze or additives, or run water constantly. Installers and pumpers have the equipment to thaw the system and help evaluate the source of the problem. Unless the underlying problem is solved the system can refreeze.

To prevent freezing:

- Place a layer of mulch over the pipes, tank, and drainfield for insulation.
- Leave the grass over the drainfield a little longer for extra insulation.
- Fix leaking plumbing fixtures.
- Keep all traffic off the drainfield.
- Make sure all septic system risers, inspection pipes, and manholes are securely covered.
- Use warm water. If freezing is a concern spread out water use, wash a warm/hot load of clothes each day, use the dishwasher or take a hot bath. Don't leave water running all the time because it will overload the system

## Fisheries

After the close of the October Sugar Lake Association meeting, Eric Altena, Assistant Area Fisheries Manager with the MN DNR, gave a presentation on the proposed fishing regulation changes for Sugar Lake. Eric described in detail the process of changing the regulations, the benefits, and cited specific examples of how similar regulation changes have changed fish populations over time.

Because of the concern we have for the fisheries of Sugar Lake the fisheries committee recommends that the DNR implement the following experimental fishing regulations for crappie and northern pike.

- **The crappie daily limit would be lowered to 5 per day.** This would have the effect of reducing the harvest somewhat and re-distributing the catch.
- **All northern pike between 24-36 inches would have to be released.** This will improve the average size of northern pike and reduce the number of small northern pike.

Other benefits from the regulations may include increased survival of stocked walleye fingerlings and restoration of balance to the fish community. The community is out of balance because of the large number of small northern pike.

The next step in this process is to poll the membership to determine support for the regulation changes. Please fill out and return the ballot at the bottom of this page indicating your position. Support from the lake association is essential for compliance. To a large degree, the regulations will succeed if the lake association favors them.

If a positive response is received the DNR procedure dictates the following steps:

- Signs alerting anglers are posted at the public access for 90 days during the open water season (2006).
- A public meeting is held to gather input from all interested anglers (September 2006).
- If approved the regulations would go into effect March 1, 2007, and be in place for 10 years.

Please indicate your choice on the ballot below, include your name to verify membership, and return the ballot to:

Sugar Lake Fisheries Committee  
7285 120 Street NW  
Annandale, MN 55302

I am in favor of the proposed fishing regulation changes.

I am opposed to the proposed fishing regulation changes.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Snow Plowing**

For snow plowing or snow removal call Darrell at 320-274-3486

**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

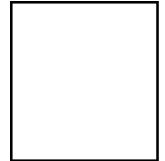
with proceeds benefiting the milfoil fund.

Contact Karen Pitra at 320-274-8153 for information.



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Annandale, MN 55302



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED