

The Sugar Lake News

January 2008

2008

Calendar of Events

February 9-Mid-winter meeting

April 19-SLA Meeting*

May 17-SLA Meeting*

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.

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Mid-winter meeting at Cabela's in Rogers

A mid-winter meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, February 9, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Cabela's in Rogers.

The agenda will include:

- Update on the 2008 plan for aquatic invasive species control including Curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil
- A two hour class on plant identification presented by Mary Blickenderfer. Mary is a Regional Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension Water Resources Center. She develops and delivers workshops on shoreland design and landscaping, shoreland plant identification, and shoreland erosion control. This workshop will be directed towards identifying invasive species in Sugar Lake.

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.

Wright County

Update on NW Quadrant Comprehensive Plan By Charlotte Quiggle

Wright County is about to begin its NW Quadrant Comprehensive Plan. As of January 4, it had met with all townships involved, with the exception of Corinna (to my knowledge, the County staff has yet to schedule a meeting with Corinna).

There will be 3 "Open Houses" at which citizens can give their opinions on how they envision land use in the NW Quadrant over the next 20 years. The first will be held on January 28 at 7pm at the Annandale High School and will include discussions for Corinna Township, among others. Clearwater Township will be discussed at a later Open House at the Silver Creek Town Hall.

The County does not intend to notify seasonal home owners, although future land use will have a great impact on all property owners (and taxpayers). We urge you and your neighbors to attend at least 1 of these meetings, whether or not you are a resident of Wright County, because this may be your best opportunity to voice your opinions, especially regarding land use surrounding the lake. Further information and dates should be available on the Wright County website.

There will also be 4 volunteer advisory committees, one of which will deal with Lake and Water Quality issues. County Planning staff and Commissioners opted not to choose any volunteers from Sugar Lake to serve on this committee. However, these meetings are open to the public and the dates will be posted on the Wright County website. If you have concerns about how better planning and enforcement can impact the water quality of Sugar Lake, we urge you to attend. The other 3 committees are Maple Lake and Annandale Transition Areas and Aggregate Planning, so should you have an interest in any of these areas, you should attend these meetings as well.

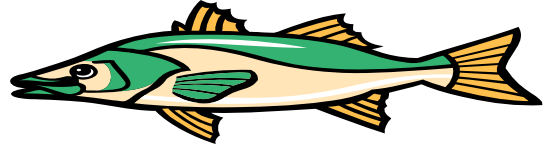
Why a January Newsletter?!

By Don Peterson Newsletter Editor

You may have noticed there was no October newsletter. It took time for the winter meeting plans to come together and I wanted to include an update on the fall milfoil treatment, the Hollister Creek project, and Corinna Township planning and zoning changes. Those issues and my schedule delayed the newsletter to the point it made sense to mail it shortly before the winter meeting. Sorry for the delay, and I hope you all enjoy the October news in January.

KASTL'S KORNER

the latest lake report.. The physical condition was 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). No loons noted.



Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
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"
10-03-06	8'	58°	60°	17"	22"
10-12-07	10'	56°	50°	20"	25"

Membership

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 October 26, 2007

General Fund	\$10,301.88
Lake Improvement Fund	\$17,689.35
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	\$89,906.64
Total All Funds	\$117,897.87

2007 Budget

The proposed budget for 2008 was unanimously approved:

General fund	\$7,601
Lake improvement	\$18,962
Milfoil & invasive species	\$51,850

Sugar Lake Apparel

Picnic sales are complete and, as promised, Lee and Kathy have donated profits of \$275 to the Sugar Lake Association. Thank you Lee and Kathy for making Sugar Lake Apparel available and for the generous donation of profits.

Township News

Township annual meetings and election are on Tuesday, March 11, 2008

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.
- One supervisor to be elected. Term of Allen Jude expiring.

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

Update on Corinna Township Planning and Zoning

By Charlotte Quiggle

There was a meeting on November 6 between Wright County and Corinna Township staff and attorneys to discuss Corinna's administration of its own land use. As reported, the County seems willing to negotiate on everything except for Building Permits, which it insists on issuing, effectively creating a double-permitting situation. There was supposed to be a second meeting before the holidays, but in spite of being given 12 possible dates for such a meeting, the County was unable to agree to any of them, so the second meeting has not taken place.

In spite of this, the Township is moving ahead and is on the County Commission's agenda for January 15. The new start date for Township administration of Land Use is Feb 1.

In December, the Township interviewed building inspectors and hired the building inspector who works for Annandale.

More information on all of this can be found in the meeting minutes for Nov 6, Dec 4 and Dec 18 on the Corinna website, www.corinnatownship.com.

Vegetation Committee Update

By Dale Gustafson
Vegetation Committee Chair

This fall, we applied for and were granted a permit for a very late fall treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil. This treatment was needed because we had several areas of intense growth of EWM. The late fall treatment has not been a standard treatment, but it has been used for several lakes around the state. This is our first trial, and we will not know until next spring how effective it was. These areas were limited to the small patch along the east shore by area K, a small patch by the bull rushes on Rocky Point (that's what I call the high point on the north end of the main lake), in a large area at the entry to Addison Bay, and also a small area at the entry to the Area R lagoon in the SW corner of the lake. All of these areas had dense areas of EWM so we were able to get concentrated treatments.

There are other areas where we had concentrations of EWM in the lake, but several of them were near water lilies or other sensitive vegetation. Several of these plants remain active in the fall and treatment by those plants would have a degrading effect on them. Also, these same plants, especially water lilies, start up their activity later in the spring so we can treat the EWM in those areas with an early spring treatment.

We will be applying for a grant from the state for treatment of Curly leaf pondweed in an entire bay or a whole lake treatment. With our lack of success in recent years, I do not hold out much hope, but we will keep trying. So far, the monies have been going to lakes that are extremely bad and not to lake, that want to keep from getting that way. Maybe this year we can be more persuasive.

One additional thing we did this fall was to hire Lake Restoration to do a plant survey for invasive species in the west half of the lake on a 100-meter grid. This did support our previous data about where we had EWM and Curly Leaf, but it also shows that if you sample on a 100-meter grid you can completely miss a bad infestation area.

We will continue with our work with the DNR to attempt to get better control of our treatment process so we can keep attacking our invasive plants where and when we locate them.

We expect 2008 to be a busy treatment year and we would like to have more lakeshore owners able to help with good plant identification. As a means to help that knowledge we are dedicating our winter meeting to plant identification. (See article about winter meeting.)

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.

Hollister Creek project update

By Dale Gustafson
Water Quality Improvement Committee Chair

This has been such a long process I can't remember what I have written about in past newsletters. I will try to give you a short version of what has taken place.

About seven years ago we identified the runoff into the lake from the woods and fields on the south end of the lake along Hollister Avenue in section N as our number one priority. After several plans and proposals that failed, we finally got approved for a state aid grant last year. After the bids came in, we found that our grant was nowhere near what we needed and we were out of luck again. Perhaps our luck has now changed, because this winter we were approved for a Federal grant from the NRCS that can be used with our grant from State Cost Sharing funds from Wright County SWCD. With this new funding and our money that we have accumulated in our Lake Improvement budget, we should be ready to start the project next spring or summer and if the weather allows.

This project consists of removing trees in a sixty-five foot strip for about eight hundred feet along the property line of the woodland behind the houses at the south end of Hollister Ave. This is a new stream-bed with a low berm along the property line, and a series of rock check dams will slow the water and prevent stream bank erosion and the washing of silt and nutrients into the lake. Assuming the new bids are at least not higher than the last bids, the new stream bed will be dug, berms and check dams will be built, and the entire area will be seeded to provide good ground cover. After the seed has been well established (in about a year), the old stream will be diverted into the new stream and the old eroding streambed will be filled and seeded.

We owe a special thanks to the landowner Janette Pflaggerman Berg for her patience and support in this process and to John Toffler for his support in finding a solution. We also want to express our thanks to the farm manager Brendt Judd for his help in the process and creative thinking about how we could get this process completed.

It is my hope that you will not hear much more about this issue, and we can focus on some of the other problems that need to be solved to help improve the water quality of Sugar Lake.

Give Our Lake a Break

If you are out on the lake this winter take the time to pick up any trash left behind. Anything we leave on the ice will be in the water this spring.

Newsletter

Consider receiving your Sugar Lake newsletter electronically next year. You will receive the newsletter earlier than the printed version, it will be in full color, and you will save the association postage and volunteer hours. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email please contact Craig Johnson at membership@sugarlake.org or Don Peterson at don@sugarlake.org with your email address.

Septic systems & winter

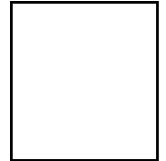
Septic systems can freeze in the winter due to a lack of snow cover, soil problems, leaking plumbing fixtures, cold air entering the system, or a combination of these problems.

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.
- 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

The Sugar Lake Association
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