

The Sugar Lake News

January 2009

2009

Calendar of Events

February 7-Mid-winter meeting

April 18-SLA Meeting*

May 16-SLA Meeting*

June 20- SLA Meeting*

June 27-Fishing Contest

July 18-SLA Meeting*

August 1-SLA Picnic

August 22-Annual Meeting/Board Election*

September 5-Diane's Lights Night

September 19- SLA Meeting*

October 24-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

Winter meeting at Cabela's in Rogers

The SLA winter meeting will be held at Cabela's in Rogers Saturday, February 7, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Connie Fortin and Carolyn Dinsdorf of Fortin Consulting will speak on "Environmentally-Aware Low-Maintenance Landscaping."

If you have ever wished to replace a sunny weed patch or a shady area of bare dirt on your lakeshore with a low-maintenance landscape that attracts birds and/or butterflies and did not wish to spend the entire summer or your entire savings doing it, this is an event not to miss.

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. A complimentary continental breakfast will be available.

Filter strip maintenance

On October 18 we had a great group of volunteers tackle a large maintenance project on our very important filter strip planting on the north side of 115th street on the east side of the lake. This is a native plant planting that our association pays for to prevent washing of sediment and nutrients into the north bay of the lake.

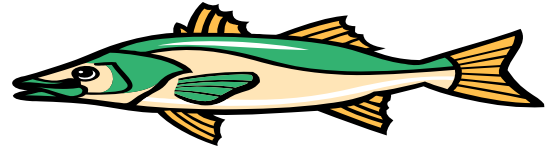
In the last couple years Cottonwood trees have gotten established in the native plantings and if we do not get them removed, they will shade out the grasses and the erosion could start again. We had to cut about 3,500 small trees and leave them on the ground so when North American Prairies burns this area for us this fall or next spring, the Cottonwoods should be killed.

Our volunteers included Diane Harms, her son Corrie Harms, Corrie's year-young son Camren and Diane's friend Doug Fuls, Doc Williams, Gary Williamson, Paul Gilles, Kathy Hubred, and Dale Gustafson



KASTL'S KORNER

the latest lake report.. The physical condition was 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). 3 loons noted .



Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
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"
10-13-08	10'	55°	58°	16"	21"

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.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Joe Theede who passed away Sunday, November 23, 2008.

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 25, 2008

General Fund	\$21,478.20
Lake Improvement Fund	\$19,434.63
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	\$76,709.76
Total All Funds	\$117,622.59

2008-09 Budget

The proposed budget for 2008-2009 was unanimously approved:

General fund	\$9,055.00
Lake improvement	\$5,000.00
Milfoil & invasive species	\$48,750.00

Township News

Township annual meetings and election are on Tuesday, March 10, 2009

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.

Fisheries

From Paul Diedrich, MN DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor

We recently completed the stocking of walleye and muskellunge in Sugar Lake. A total of 9,119 walleye fingerlings that weighed 358 pounds were stocked. The fish averaged 25 per pound. This is the regular stocking that has occurred every year since 2000. The fish were valued at more than \$9,100.

Three hundred fifty seven muskellunge fingerlings were stocked on October 31. This is the regular stocking that now occurs every other year. The stocking rate and number was reduced after 2004 because the population was being maintained at the desired level. Prior to 2004 Sugar Lake was stocked with 500 muskellunge every year.

Rainfall

October rainfall was 2.29 inches. November rainfall was 1.05 inches. December snowfall was 20 inches. 2008 total rainfall was 25.5 inches, about 2 inches less than normal. Ice over was December 7. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals

Star Lake Program

report: By Dale Gustafson

In October of 2008 I was asked by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to serve on a state board to form The Star Lakes Program. The Star Lakes Program was initiated--by Senator Olson from northern Minnesota--with a bill in the 2008 legislative session that provided \$100,000.00 in start-up money for the program.

Senator Olson's vision is that The Star Lake Board should direct funds to lake and river associations. This money would reward associations for their good work and encourage other groups to protect and improve water quality in Minnesota. Senator Olson also believes that money directed to volunteer organizations can be the best way to invest money for the environment of our lakes and rivers and will help to change the public image of what our lakes should look like.

I have been serving in a leadership role on the committee over the past months and will continue to serve in whatever role is needed. This board has already established its 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization and has outlined the steps we will take to develop and implement this program. Our initial report back to the legislature will be delivered by January 15, and we will submit our program for future funding. The committee strongly believes that as the money from the newly-passed Water Legacy Amendment becomes available, this organization will be an ideal conduit for these funds.

The Sugar Lake Association has worked long and hard to protect and improve the water quality of our lake. Therefore, we could be a likely association to be considered for financial reward and encouragement to continue and also to expand our efforts to protect our lake.

Lakescapers

Save the date

The second annual Sugar Lake Association plant exchange is scheduled to take place at 10 a.m. May 16, 2009. Last year's SLA plant exchange drew more participants than we could have imagined, so we will be moving it this year to a new location with more and better parking. Plan to join us for this event. Full details will be in the April 2009 newsletter.

Sugar Lake Apparel

Picnic sales are complete and, as promised, Lee and Kathy Radtke-Slama have donated profits of \$1023 to the Sugar Lake Association. Thank you Lee and Kathy for making Sugar Lake Apparel available and for the generous donation of profits.

Dock Survey

The DNR has requested boat owners (not only property owners) to take part in a survey on in-water structures in preparation for revising rules and permit requirements on structures allowed in public waters. The survey can be found at: www.mndnr.gov/survey/watercraft Deadline is 19 January 2009. It covers a wide range of topics including how wide docks should be, how many boat lifts should be allowed per property and whether or not items such as boat lift canopies should be regulated. You must have at hand the registration number for one boat before taking the survey. It will take only 5 - 10 minutes of your time. This is an opportunity to have input into a process that could very well change what can and cannot be done on Sugar. Please take the few minutes required to fill out this survey.

More info from the DNR follows:

Dock and structures survey for watercraft owners:

For the first time, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is asking all owners of registered watercraft to take an online survey to express their opinions about structures such as docks, boatlifts, and platforms in the state's lakes, rivers, and streams.

January 19, 2009, is the deadline for completing the survey. Survey results will be available online shortly after the January 19 deadline.

People who cannot access the survey electronically and would like to participate can call 651-259-5700 to request a paper copy. Those who do not own a watercraft but wish to express their opinion are invited to send comments via e-mail to structures@dnr.state.mn.us or mail your comments to Docks and Structures Survey, DNR, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul 55155, by the January 19 deadline. The legislature passed a bill last spring requiring the DNR to update rules and permit requirements on structures allowed in public waters by January 15, 2010. This survey is part of the information gathering process.

The DNR will name members for an advisory committee before the end of the year to provide input and review drafts of the rules revisions. A period for public comments and a public hearing on the proposed rules will take place in 2009.



Give Our Lake a Break

If you are out on the ice this winter please help out by picking up after yourself and your neighbors.

Help

The vegetation committee is looking for a few good people to help. We have found that even with the good volunteers we have, we need more help at critical times to identify the location of Curly leaf and EWM. We need help from people that can commit to spending time on the lake only on the very nicest days. It would be a few times a week for a few hours at a time. We need to spot the infected areas visually, identify the plants by tossing a rake and pulling out samples, and locating the exact location on a GPS.

Over the years I have spent many hours on the lake doing this task, and partly because you can only do this on the sunny calm days, and the fact that you really get to know what is growing in the lake, and you see the fish and wildlife, it is truly a very rewarding experience. All you will need is your own boat, and a pair of sunglasses. The association will provide the tools and documents you need, and we can also provide training for you if you are not currently skilled in plant identification.

I would expect that we would need your help for a few weeks in the spring around April to identify Curly leaf pondweed, and then periodically later in the summer to identify Eurasian water milfoil. We have had several faithful volunteers doing this in the past, and we hope they can continue to help, but we really need a few more people on our team.

If you think you can help, get in touch with me soon so we can set up our team and determine our equipment and training needs.

Dale Gustafson, Chair Vegetative Committee

e-mail – dalegus@earthlink.net

phone – 763-544-4215

Found

Found—one year ago— paddle boat, aqua green top with PVC pipe holders. Call 320-253-2292 to claim.

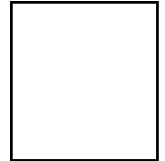
Need snow removal?

Need snow removal this winter? Call Dan at 320-980-2586 or 320-274-2005

Wanted

The Sugar Lake Association is in need of a dock for use with the pontoon used for invasive species treatments. If you have a dock you would be willing to donate please contact Don Peterson at 952-939-0172 or 952-212-9524, or Dale Gustafson at 763-544-4215.

The Sugar Lake Association
The Sugar Lake News
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED