

The Sugar Lake News

October 2009

2010

Calendar of Events

February 6-winter meeting

April 17-SLA Meeting*

May 15-SLA Meeting*

June 19- SLA Meeting*

June 26-Fishing Contest

July 17-SLA Meeting*

August 7-SLA Picnic

August 21-Annual Meeting/
Board Election*

September 4-Diane's Lights Night

September 18- SLA Meeting*

October 16-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 Cathy Beckman at
10880 Imhoff Ave NW
Annandale, MN 55302
320-274-8623
E-mail membership@sugarlake.org

Sugar Lake – Your Lake

"Timing is everything"

"A stitch in time saves nine"

"Teach your children well"

These every-day sayings remind us that we must act *today* to reap rewards in the *future*. This is especially true when it comes to improving the water quality of our beloved Sugar Lake.

As many of you know, we are at a critical juncture in our efforts to control invasive aquatic plant species. This past year, largely due to the Sugar Lake Association's strong commitment (in terms of both financial and volunteer support), the DNR selected Sugar Lake to be just 1 of 18 of Minnesota's 15,000 lakes to participate in its 5-year pilot "Whole Lake or Whole Bay Treatment" program. We were able to keep Curly leaf pondweed under control this summer largely because we were allowed to treat it wherever it was growing in the lake without the area limitations that have constrained us in the past.

Other lakes that have been in the program for a few years have had **tremendous success**; the initial treatment of all invasive plants has resulted in diminishing the infestation to such an extent that treatment in ensuing years has been reduced to a fraction of previous levels, and in some cases, those lakes have required no treatment at all for a few seasons. It is not feasible to remove all of the invasive plants from an infected lake, but **if you can reduce the quantity so you only have to manage small areas, you win the game**. That is what we hope to do with these two invasive plants in Sugar Lake.

The key to getting both Curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil under control is **TIMING**—we are in the program **NOW**, so **NOW** is when we must act. If we work together and support aggressive treatment of invasive species **NOW**, we (and our children and grandchildren) will benefit in the future. Reducing the number of existing plants now means that we will be able to curtail their growth and spread. Conversely, if the plants that are in the lake now are not all treated, they will continue to grow exponentially along *all our shores* and will cost us *much more* to control in the future.

Treating the whole lake for invasive plant species costs a lot of money, but if all of our members (and other friends of the lake) participate in our fundraising drive, we can continue our success with Curly leaf and make similar progress in controlling EWM (Eurasian water milfoil).

It is a tough time to be asking for money, but please consider making a generous donation to the SLA Invasive Species Fund. Many of you are now planning your year-end charitable contributions. Christmas gifting is just around the corner. Consider a gift to the lake in your honor! Why?

It is a gift you all can enjoy all year long and for years to come

It doesn't have to be dusted

Duplicates need not be returned

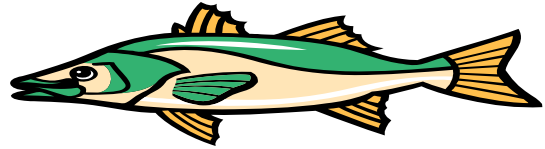
It is tax deductible

Best of all it is a gift to all who love Sugar Lake!

Thank you
Karen Gusaas and the SLA Board

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
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"
10-17-09	11'	57°	55°	18"	23"

Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2009 has reached 320.

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Cathy Beckman. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Cathy of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Cathy at 320-274-8623 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 correct e-mail address. Please just send an e-mail to news-flash@sugarlake.org and you will be added to the list. We maintain two lists, one for News Flashes and one for "For Sale" information. To be added to the "For Sale" list send an email to: forsale@sugarlake.org.

Visit our website at sugarlake.org for all the latest.

Treasurer's Report

As of October 23, 2009

General Fund	\$6,535.04
Lake Improvement Fund	\$18,219.14
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$70,677.47</u>
Total All Funds	\$95,431.65

2008-09 Budget

The proposed budget for 2009-2010 was unanimously approved:

General fund	\$7,088.50
Lake improvement	\$14,310.00
Milfoil & invasive species	<u>\$90,200.00</u>
	\$111,538.50

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: Mary Barkley Brown 320-274-8049

- 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.

Rainfall

October rainfall was 5.6 inches. Year to date rainfall has been 25.9 inches. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals

Winter meeting at Cabela's in Rogers

The SLA winter meeting will be held at Cabela's in Rogers Saturday, February 6, 2010, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Meeting topics include:

- An invasive species expert will address the group
- Review our current invasive species status
- Discuss the threat of new invasive species
- Fundraising update
- 2010 plans
- This meeting will also be a general membership meeting. Financial decisions may be made.

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.

Fundraising Q & A

- Q:** *How much money do we need to raise?*
- A:** The approved invasive species budget for this year is \$90,000. About \$15,000 of that is raised through dues and our usual fundraisers like the raffle, apparel sales and our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament and Auction. We expect to receive a DNR match of \$25,000 as we did this year, but that is not certain. That leaves an additional fundraising target of \$50,000.
- Q:** *Don't we already have enough money in the Invasive Species Fund?*
- A:** Yes, but one year of treatment expenses would consume our entire budget. For proper planning we need to fund one year ahead.
- Q:** *When do we need to have the money?*
- A:** We need to commit to the treatment of Curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil early in the spring. The funds need to be in place by April 2010.
- Q:** *How many acres of invasive species were treated last year and how much did it cost?*
- A:** We treated 148.46 acres of Curly leaf pondweed at a cost of \$55,371. Although it would have cost an additional \$100,000 to treat the same area for Eurasian water milfoil, we were allowed to spot treat 8.16 acres at a cost of \$9,747.
- Q:** *How long is this program?*
- A:** We are in the first year of a five year program. We expect to see decreasing costs every year and normal fundraising to cover the cost of control of Curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil.
- Q:** *Will this program eradicate Eurasian water milfoil and Curly leaf pondweed?*
- A:** No, we cannot expect complete eradication. The best we can hope for is control.
- Q:** *What other fundraising requests will there be this year?*
- A:** In addition to the gift certificate in this newsletter, we will be doing a separate fundraising mailing before year end; encouraging people to "buy an acre or more, or even a half acre" with membership renewal; participate in the raffle; attend the golf outing and auction; and support apparel sales.
- Q:** *My area of the lake was not treated in 2009 will that be different?*
- A:** We are studying alternate treatment methods and different timing of treatment that may induce the DNR to allow us to treat additional areas that are currently "off-limits" because of the presence of native plants.

DNR Pilot Program

By Dale Gustafson

Sugar Lake has a hard-won opportunity to get ahead of the current invasive plants in our lake. Last year we were finally accepted into the DNR Pilot "Whole Lake" program to treat both Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) and Curly leaf pondweed simultaneously wherever they grow in the lake.

The concept of the DNR pilot program is that if you treat large areas with small amounts of chemical where the plants exist, you can greatly reduce their concentrations and thereby reduce the amount you need to treat in the future. This Pilot program is open only to a few selected lakes; Sugar was accepted as one of the eighteen lakes in the state to do this trial. It took us several years to get accepted, but our acceptance is a tribute to the volunteer hours and financial resources that the SLA has committed in the past to battle for good water quality and defend our lake against these invasive plants.

We have been criticized in the past for "acting like a bank" and having too much money that we were not using. As it turned out, the Invasive Species Fund which we have built up over the years was not sufficient to treat both of these plants at the same time this past spring (estimated cost was \$153,000), so we elected to treat all the Curly leaf pondweed in April and were allowed to treat EWM only on a spot basis during the summer. The DNR would not allow us to treat certain areas where sensitive native plants had been identified. We are studying the situation and will be making suggestions to the DNR in an effort to be given special permission to treat these areas without harming the native vegetation.

We are in the pilot program for four more years, and we need to take advantage of this opportunity to get ahead of the curve on these two plants. The Board is working on the details of a four-year fundraising plan for this effort, and we will need your help through the entire program, but the need starts right now.

Let your friends and family know that you would prefer a gift to Sugar Lake this year for Christmas or your birthday. Clip the gift certificate below and give to your loved one. Contributors will receive a Christmas ornament as a thank you gift. Send contribution checks to:

Treasurer, 10939 Hart Ave NW, Maple Lake, MN 55358

Some of our best memories are of events at the lake we love. I want to help protect the water quality of Sugar Lake so that future generations can have the same enjoyment. My gift "wish list" is that you make a contribution to the Sugar Lake

TO: _____ Sugar Lake Association _____

FROM: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

Jim Kastl Retires

"Kastl's Korner" on page 2 of this newsletter marks Jim Kastl's last report. Jim is retiring from taking our water quality readings. Jim has been reporting secchi disc and lake level readings to the MPCA since 1974. He has received MPCA recognition for his years of service. We wish Jim the best and thank him for his dedication to monitoring the water quality of Sugar Lake for so many years.

***Give Our Lake a Break***

Please remove any buoys or equipment from the lake before ice-over. Help keep the lake clean by picking up any trash on the ice this winter.

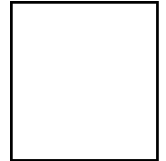
Need snow removal?

Need snow removal this winter?

Call Dan at

320-980-2586 or 320-274-2005

The Sugar Lake Association
 The Sugar Lake News
 10880 Imhoff Ave NW
 Annandale, MN 55302



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED