

The Sugar Lake News

October 2011

**Sugar Lake Association
Minnesota Waters' 2010 Lake Association of the Year
2009 Star Lake Recipient**

2012

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 4-winter meeting

April 21-SLA Meeting*

May 19-SLA Meeting*

June 16- SLA Meeting*

July 21-SLA Meeting*

August 4-SLA Picnic

August 18-Annual Meeting/
Board Election*

September 1-Diane's Lights Night

September 15- SLA Meeting*

October 20-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 Marianne Borgeson at
12282 Hart Ave NW
Annandale, MN 55302
320-963-2674
E-mail membership@sugarlake.org

Sugar Lake's Number 1 UNWANTED

Zebra Mussel

(*Dreissena polymorpha*)

This little Mussel could change Sugar Lake forever!

There is no treatment, there is no cure, so PREVENTION is the only answer

WHAT CAN WE DO & WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We are the only ones that can do anything about this pest spreading to Sugar Lake. Volunteers from your Board of Directors attempted to look at every piece of equipment that came out of the lake this fall. It appears that we do not have them yet, and we want it to stay that way. We need everyone to be on the lookout. No items should be put into the lake without a complete decontamination. Know what to do and spread the word. Remember to decontaminate your equipment when you come from any lake or river.

See page 4, and our website for more information
and become a Zebra spotter for next year



Water Quality Report

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
10-03-06	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"
10-14-10	10.5'	60°	55°	25"	31"
10-20-11	8.5'	54°	45°	19.25"	24.75"

Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2011 has reached 296

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Marianne Borgeson. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Marianne of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Marianne at 320-963-2674 or email membership@sugarlake.org.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Vera Wurm who passed away in August.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Gerry Biebesheimer who passed away Oct 14.

Our sympathy to the family of Roy Stenberg who passed away in October.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Robert Palmer who passed away in October.

Our sympathy to the family of Al Pertl who passed away November 9.

News Flash

The Sugar Lake Association maintains two email lists for communication with membership:

News Flash: This list is used to send information about invasive species treatment, event announcements, member information, government information, etc. To subscribe to this list send an e-mail to newsflash@sugarlake.org requesting addition.

For Sale: This list is used to send information about items "for sale" by the membership. To subscribe to this list send an email to forsale@sugarlake.org requesting addition.

If you wish to unsubscribe follow the instructions in the email you receive from the list or send an email requesting removal to the addresses listed above.

For the latest news on Sugar Lake visit our website:

www.sugarlake.org

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: Jean Just —Town Hall Phone: 320-558-6790

- Visit the Clearwater Township website at www.clearwatertownshipmn.govoffice2.com.

Treasurer's Report

As of October 15, 2011

General Fund	\$26,425.98
Lake Improvement Fund	\$26,321.82
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$126,807.73</u>
Total All Funds	\$179,555.53

Approved budget for 2012:

General Fund	\$9,125.00
Lake Improvement Fund	\$31,660.00
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$76,940.00</u>
Total All Funds	\$116,725.00

Winter meeting at Corinna Township Hall

You will note the winter meeting location has changed from prior years. The board agreed the Corinna Town Hall would provide more room and a better venue for the planned topic.

Where: Corinna Township Hall

When: Saturday, February 4, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Topic: **Lake Level Forum**

Lake levels have been and continue to be an issue of concern for Sugar Lake residents, property owners, and users. Most recently we dealt with high water levels resulting from historic amounts of rain, as well as the ongoing concerns about the effects and effectiveness of the carp trap. The purpose of the forum would be to provide all stakeholders with the opportunity to discuss the issues (lake levels and carp trap) in a structured and facilitated fashion, with the intent of developing a consensus-based action plan.

Chairman's Corner

Oct 2011

Greetings,

Late in September several years ago, we threw an 'I-Can't-Believe-Summer-Is-Over!' party at our Sugar Lake cabin. That particular summer just seemed to have zipped by us. While we didn't throw the party this year, the sentiment is the same: Where'd it go??

Maybe it was the rains that cut it short. Seems that the afternoons we wiled away floating on the lake, enjoying the sun and water, were just too fleeting. Guess it will be a while before we enjoy 80°, swim trunks, tank tops, and flip-flops (in Minnesota, anyway!!). Whether you fished, swam, skied, sailed, wake-boarded, or just enjoyed the view, we hope your summer was a good one.

Of course, we will all remember the summer of 2011 for its record-high water levels and the limited activity that came along with them. While the No-Wake period was relatively short, it did impact us all, and has spawned some activities:

No-Wake Ordinance - Later this winter, the Wright County Board will be considering a permanent 'No Wake' ordinance. The ordinance would apply to many lakes in the county, and would take effect if, and when, lake levels exceeded a certain depth above their 'Ordinary High Water Mark'. The SLA Board has formally requested to participate in the rulemaking process. We'll do our best to keep you posted with News Flashes in advance of county board meetings with that topic on the agenda.

Lake Levels - Lake Levels will be the primary topic for the SLA Winter meeting in February. Our plan is to have representatives from the DNR and the Wright County S&WCD in attendance at the meeting. Topics will likely include how 'official' levels are set and recorded, how and why lake levels fluctuate from month-to-month and year-to-year, and what role Sugar Lake plays in the Silver Creek watershed. We'll also spend time discussing the Carp Trap with experts from the DNR and, hopefully, the U of M.

We're changing locations for the Winter Meeting. This year, we'll be holding it at the Corinna Township Hall. It's a beautiful facility and bigger than Cabela's. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 4.

Best Regards,
Ron

PS: A note for those hunters who are pulling their rifles and shotguns out of storage, remember to **Be Safe!!** . . . Be sure your actions and safeties are in good working order before you head to the woods!



SLA Committees and Positions

Area Communicator coordinator
Diane's Lights Night
Education
Fisheries
Fundraising
Government Liaison

Lake Vegetation
Lakescapers
Membership
Newsflash
Newsletter
Parliamentarian
Picnic

Water/ Snow Patrol
Water Quality
Webmaster

Doc Williams
Doc Williams
Open
Matt Kutz
Jon Juntunen
Marianne Borgeson
Charlotte Quiggle
Dale Gustafson
Karen Sutherland
Marianne Borgeson
Rhonda Hiler
Don Peterson
Open
Deb Beltrand &
Betsy Hanson

Open
Dale Gustafson
Karen Sutherland

Committees are where the real work of the Sugar Lake Association happens. It is not necessary to be a board member to get involved in committee work. Go to www.sugarlake.org and click on the volunteer link to see a list and short description of the committees and contact information. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the committees or positions listed above, contact either the individual listed, any board member, or Ron Elsner at

763-755-5421
elsnerw@att.net

Sugar Lake Association has participated in:

- **Wright County COLA Invasive Species Forum** The SLA participated in an October forum hosted by the Wright County COLA. Clearwater, Granite, Cedar, and Sugar Lake presented detailed descriptions of their invasive species treatment programs. 30 people from 18 different Wright County Lakes attended.
- **Minnesota Waters Lakes and Rivers Metro Summit** The SLA participated in the Metro Summit held this October. A 4 person panel presented information on topics from Zebra Mussels to Lake Association success stories. Don Peterson with the SLA was one of the panel members
- **MNDNR Rules** - Dale Gustafson has served on the State of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Management Stakeholders Committee (New DNR Rules Committee) The work has taken a lot of time but the changes to the rules will be a big help to Sugar Lake and other lakes attempting to control invasive plants and animals.
- **MN COLA Collaborative** - There is a new state organization being formed to help with the efforts to protect and improve Minnesota's lakes and rivers. The Minnesota COLA Collaborative is an association of County Collations of Lake Associations in Minnesota. Their goal is to give a clearer message to the State agencies and Legislature that we need to do a better job of protecting Minnesota's Lakes and Rivers.

Newsletter

Help save postage and printing costs by subscribing to the electronic version of the Sugar Lake News. You will receive a PDF file by email that looks like this newsletter **but in color**. Contact newsletter@sugarlake.org with your email address if you are interested.

Zebra Mussels in Sugar Lake? Lets do all we can to pre- vent that.

Sugar Lake is especially at risk for several reasons. Our lake appears to be an ideal environment for the Zebra Mussels so our infestation could be worse than many. We have a lot of boat traffic that could easily come from infected water such as Mille Lacs, Lake Minnetonka, or the Mississippi River to name a few. With 72 lakes and rivers with Zebra Mussels in Minnesota, almost any boat could be spreading them. We have so many people using our lake and so many pieces of equipment being put in the lake that everyone needs to know that every item needs to be decontaminated before being placed in the water. Having your dock out of the water for the winter takes care of the equipment that you put back into the lake, but any item taken out of an infested lake could spread them into our lake in the summer.



If Zebra Mussels get established in Sugar Lake we could expect these changes: Water clarity would increase and our native and invasive plants would thrive deeper in the lake and much thicker. This alone could be worse than Eurasian water milfoil or Curly leaf pond weed. All boats, docks, lifts, rafts left in the water would get coated with layers of Zebra Mussels making them difficult to handle and remove. Irrigation systems would get clogged and not function. Any outboard motor with the lower unit left in the water would be coated and clogged and ruined. All surfaces would get covered with shells requiring all swimmers to wear shoes and perhaps gloves to prevent getting cut on the sharp edges of the shells. Not a pretty thought!!

More about Zebra Mussels

This little “clam” is usually less than 1” long but can get close to 2” long. Normally people will notice them when they are about the size of a fingernail. When they are just getting established on a smooth surface, they feel like sand paper.

Each female can produce about 500,000 eggs in a season. They are actively producing eggs from late spring to early fall. The eggs hatch into microscopic free-swimming organisms called veligers. At this stage (most of the summer) Zebra mussels can be spread with water. They “settle”, get established, and start to reproduce within 6-7 weeks. This ability puts them among the most prolific of all animals.

The veligers can be spread with water and the adults (a few weeks old) can be spread with vegetation, mud, or any structure that is moved into another body of water.

Our plan is to pay for more DNR inspector time at our public landings, but we need to be aware of the other places on Sugar that people can launch boats. (perhaps we could have a sign by each of these)

We need everyone to be aware of how Zebra Mussels can spread

and educate our friends and neighbors..

We are asking for volunteers, a couple per lake area to be spotters by having a Zebra “brick” or other surface that they can check every other week and report to our Zebra Czar at zebra@sugarlake.org Send an e-mail now to volunteer.

There is so much to know about Zebra Mussels. Read more about them from these websites or consult our website (sugarlake.org) and get more informed. We need to be proactive on this issue, and it will take all of us to make a difference.

Web sites

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html>

<http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/zebramussel>

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/volney/zebra-mussels>

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics/zebramussel.shtml>

<http://www.sugarlake.org>

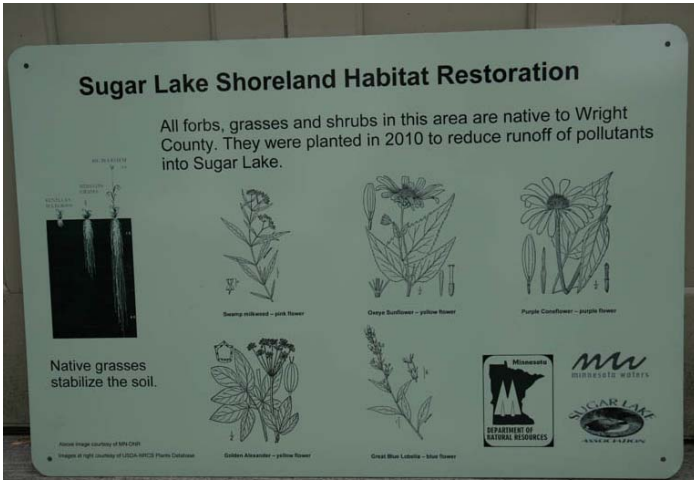


Photo Credit: US Fish and Wildlife Service

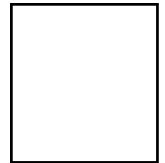
Shoreland Habitat Restoration

Pictured below is the sign that will be posted at the south access next spring. The sign documents some of the native plants used in the 2010 project. Thanks to Karen Sutherland for leading this project from the proposal stage, to the grant award, through installation, maintenance, and now the signage.

The SLA has submitted a grant proposal to the DNR for additional shoreland habitat restoration projects and workshops for the 2012-13 time period. If you are interested in a project please contact Karen Sutherland at ksuther@mindspring.com, or Don Peterson at don@sugarlake.org.



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The Sugar Lake News
12282 Hart Ave NW
Annandale, MN 55302



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED