



The Sugar Lake News

October 2012

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

2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 9-winter meeting

March 16 SLA Meeting

April 20-SLA Meeting*

May 18-SLA Meeting*

June 15- SLA Meeting*

July 20-SLA Meeting*

August 3-SLA Picnic

August 17-Annual Meeting/
Board Election*

September 1-Diane's Lights Night

September 21- SLA Meeting*

October 19-SLA Meeting*

*SLA meetings are held at the Corinna
Township hall at
8:00 a.m.

March, 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

Winter meeting at Corinna Township Hall

You will note the winter meeting location is the same as last year. The board agreed the Corinna Town Hall provides more room and a better venue for the planned topic.

Where: Corinna Township Hall

When: Saturday, February 9, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.


Topic: **Sugar Lake Vegetation and a Zebra mussel update**

The featured speaker for our February 2013 meeting will be Steve McComas, owner of St Paul based Blue Water Science. Steve is known throughout the state as "The Lake Detective." His expertise is sought after by lake associations and cities all over the State. Steve completed a vegetation study on Sugar Lake this fall and also did our Lake Vegetation Management Plan in 2006. He will be able to offer us a unique look at Sugar Lake today with a historical perspective. Steve is also an energetic and entertaining speaker. Here is a link to a recent article about Steve:

<http://southwestmetromag.com/article/steve-mccomas-lake-detective>

We will also discuss the current status of Zebra mussels in Minnesota. How many lakes are they in? What is being done to prevent the spread of them? What happens to our lake if they arrive? What is being done to treat them?

Plan to join us February 9 to hear about Sugar Lake and reconnect with your lake community.



Dear Friends,

We have much to be grateful for including fishing, swimming, water sports, family time, sunsets, and much, much more at Sugar Lake.

Please give a Thanksgiving donation to protect Sugar Lake's water quality. Please ask your friends and family that enjoyed the lake this year also to give in thanks of our beautiful lake. All donations are tax deductible. Check should be made out to the Sugar Lake Association and mailed in the envelope enclosed.

Happy Thanksgiving and Many Thanks,

Your Sugar Lake Association Board of Directors

www.sugarlake.org

Happy Thanksgiving!

Your Sugar Lake Association Board wants to wish you a happy holiday season and thank you for keeping the Sugar Lake Association in mind for your end of year donations. A donation to the Association is tax deductible and will be used to help preserve our water quality. Thank you in advance for your generosity. All donations should be made out to the Sugar Lake Association and sent to: Jon Juntunen, Treasurer, 1342 80th St NW Buffalo, MN 55313

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
10-13-08	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"
10-19-12	10.5'	55°	53°	7.75"	13.5"

Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2012 has reached 290

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 sympathy to the family of Glenn Mathison who passed away November 3, 2012.

Our sympathy to the family of Bill Spielmann who passed away unexpectedly November 4, 2012.

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

Water Level

The October 19 culvert level of 7.75 inches converts to 987.45 feet. Our OHWL (ordinary high water level) is 988.1 feet. The lowest recorded level is 985.2 feet. The last time the lake was at this level for a sustained period of time was in 1988-1989.

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 September 30, 2012

General Fund	\$5,057.26
Lake Improvement Fund	\$37,144.40
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$114,201.03</u>
Total All Funds	\$156,402.69

Rainfall

September rainfall was .12 inches. October rainfall was .55 inches. November rainfall has been .85 inches through November 14. Our year to date total is 23.75, normal rain to date would be about 27.5 inches. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals.

March meeting

The Sugar Lake Association Board decided to add a March 16, meeting to the schedule for 2013. Decisions and planning associated with the treatment of invasive species are typically well under way by our regular April meeting. A March meeting will ensure we are ready to deal with whatever issues come up.

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.

Vegetation Committee:

By: Dale Gustafson

The summer is over, and the committee has taken the buoys out of the lake for the winter. We have completed our invasive plant treatments and conducted new studies. It is soon time to make decisions about what we will do next year. I know that seems hard to believe, but we have to submit our treatment plan and application for funding by January 15, 2013, to be part of the DNR Grant program next year. There will be meetings and discussions about treatment of invasive plants and animals over the winter, and the results could influence what we are able to do next year. Dale Gustafson has been serving on the State committee on invasive species, and will continue to keep up to date on this issue.

Vegetation Study:

We hired Steve McComas of Blue Water Science to do a vegetation survey this summer and to summarize for us the status of our invasive and native plants over the past 10 years. Steve did the survey in early September and noted that it appeared that we got good control of Eurasian water milfoil in the areas we treated, but EWM progressed in some areas where we did not treat. He also thought that the native plant populations were doing well. We will know more when we get his written report by the end of the year.

Steve will present a detailed report of the state of the vegetation in Sugar Lake as well as a preview of what may happen with Zebra Mussels at the winter meeting in February. Steve is a well-known expert in lake science and we are lucky to have him consulting for us. He is an excellent presenter and can talk about lake science in

a way that people can understand. I think we will enjoy his enthusiasm about lake science and learn a lot more about our lake.

Sensitive Vegetation Buoys:

We have used the buoys to mark Bullrush areas in hopes that we can keep powerboats to stay away. Hard stem Bullrush is a sensitive plant that is a very important plant for Sugar Lake. It is a plant that stabilizes the lake bottom, and does an excellent job of cleaning the water. They are also extremely important for spawning habitat for Crappies and Sunfish.

Bulrush plants are very sensitive to boat traffic, so our goal is to keep powerboats a good distance away from the markers. We understand that bulrush are a plant that flourished during the drought years of the 1930's and have been on a decline in Sugar Lake since that time. However, we have been successful in establishing new stands of bulrush in the past 10 years or so and with the drought we are experiencing, we may see a resurgence of that important plant in the years to come. Next summer would be a good time for more of us to do plantings of bulrush.

Not everyone agrees that the buoys do the protection that is needed, but we feel that it is something that we can do to attempt to protect the Bullrush stands.

Dale is looking for another association member (or two) to take the responsibility for organizing the installation and removal of the buoys. Let him know if you can help.

Rhizosphaera Needle Cast - A Spruce Tree Problem

By Karen Sutherland

Rhizosphaera needle cast is a fungal disease that sneaks up on our spruce trees, often without our noticing. If your spruce has symptoms of dropped needles, the lower branches becoming bare and older needles dark or yellow in color, your spruce may have this disease. If you can also see with a magnifying glass tiny black spots arranged in neat rows on a needle, it is very probable that your spruce has this disease.

Not all spruce are equally susceptible. Colorado blue spruce, *Picea pungens*, is highly susceptible. White spruce (including Black Hills spruce), *P. glauca*, is less susceptible and Norway spruce, *P. abies*, is relatively resistant. The disease spreads when the spores move within a tree or from tree to tree. The author has 7 infected trees. Her neighbors have several more.

To slow the spread of this disease:

- Plant Norway or Black Hills spruce instead of Colorado blue spruce. If possible, plant spruce trees grown from local seed sources.
- Avoid planting young spruce near old trees that may be harboring the fungus.
- Reduce stress on spruce trees by watering during periods of drought and mulching the soil around the tree.
- Space spruce trees to allow good air circulation.
- Consult an arborist about treating an infected tree with a fungicide. Make sure that the arborist is experienced in using the fungicide near a body of water.

For more information, see:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fid/june02/rhizo.html>

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/M1265-1.html>

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/yardandgarden/ygbriefs/p435rhizosphaera.html>



*Spruce infected with needle cast
(photo by J. Albers MNDNR)*

Zebra Mussels in Sugar Lake? Lets do all we can to prevent 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 many 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.

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

zebra@sugarlake.org Send an e-mail now to volunteer.



Photo Credit: US Fish and Wildlife Service

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

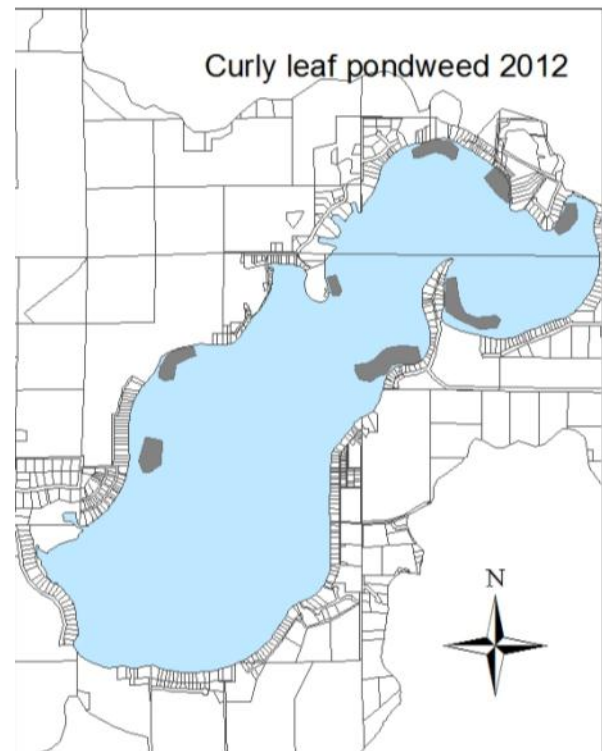
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html>

<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>



2012 invasive species treatment recap

The maps above show the actual areas treated in 2012 for curly leaf pondweed (on the right) and Eurasian water milfoil (on the left).

Lake Restoration treated 43.8 acres for Curly leaf pondweed May 4, 2012

Lake Restoration treated 20.2 acres of Eurasian water milfoil July 12, 2012.

Lake Improvement:

By: Dale Gustafson

The committee is continuing to work on the major goals for projects to improve water quality in Sugar Lake. Progress is slow, but we continue to work. We should be announcing major progress on a couple projects in 2013.

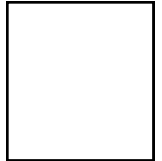
There were a few grading projects done around the lake late this fall, some very small, and some large. We are happy to report that all the projects have been protected with silt fence and seed blanket and are ready for the winter. We would encourage anyone who has a grading project in mind to do three things. Talk with the Township or County to determine if a permit is needed. Near the shore ALL soil work should have erosion protection with silt fence and seed cover or sod. Also "moving" more than 10 cubic yards of soil, sand, or rock requires a permit from Corina Township. If you move more than 50 cubic yards of materials on your lake property you are required to get a land alteration permit. These permits are essential to avoid problems with the government regulations, and can often lead to improvement of your project. It is always surprising how quickly you can exceed the maximum thresholds. Also please consider talking with the SLA Water Quality Committee as you might be working in an area that has been identified as a potential problem area for the lake water quality. If we work together for the good of the lake, the association may be able to help with some of the expense and possibly add to the project for the protection of the lake.

Have a good winter and be ready to deal with the challenges of keeping Sugar Lake up to the standard we have come to love. We need to do it for the future generations.

Walleye stocking

West Central Bait and Fisheries stocked Sugar Lake with 56 pounds of walleye fingerlings at a cost of \$1000 October 24, 2012. Happy fishing!

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



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