



The Sugar Lake News

October 2013

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

2014

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 1-winter meeting

March 15 SLA Meeting

April 19-SLA Meeting*

May 17-SLA Meeting*

May 24 Plant Exchange/Sale

June 21- SLA Meeting*

June 28 Wine & Gartdens

July 19-SLA Meeting*

August 2-SLA Picnic

August 16-Annual Meeting/
Board Election*

August 30-Diane's Lights Night

August 30 Sugar Lake 5K

September 20- SLA Meeting*

October 18-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 Cathy Beckman at

10880 Imhoff Ave NW

Annandale, MN 55302

320-274-8623

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 1, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Topic: **This is Your Life Sugar Lake**

The SLA Winter Meeting will feature a slide show and narrative on the history of our lake.

The photo on the right is of Cornelia "Toots" Mol Gruys fishing in 1940. She has made a large number of images from that era available to us. The Quinns have shared photos of the SLA Sailing Club fleet and the South Shore Pig Roast. Robin and Jim Fox are gathering photos from the Elaine's Beach area. The Campbells have shared history of their shore. Cliff and Karen Mol have many many stories to tell. The photo below is of Chris and Erma Mol in 1939.

We need your help to make this event a success. Find those old photos of Sugar Lake. Either scan and email to your current SLA chair or request that we do the scanning for you. Images will be carefully scanned and returned.

Written memories are also welcome. We look forward to hearing from you and will see you 1 February at the Town Hall!



Water Quality Report

By Dan Erdmann

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"
10-16-13	9.0'	56°	48°	10.25"	16.5"

Membership

Paid SLA membership is currently at 268. 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

We extend our sympathy to the family of Doree Gamble, 87, who passed away September 28, 2013.

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 for-sale@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 September 30, 2013

General Fund	\$15,153.73
Lake Improvement Fund	\$36,575.14
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$121,642.99</u>
Total All Funds	\$173,371.86

Rainfall

September rainfall was .270 inches. October rainfall was 3.80 inches. November rainfall has been .40 inches through November 17. Our year to date total is 31.45, about two inches above normal. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals.

Vegetation Committee:

By: Dale Gustafson

Sugar Lake vegetation, past and present

This year was very similar to other years relative to the control of Aquatic Invasive Species in Sugar Lake. We treated 23.5 acres of Curly leaf pondweed (CLP) and 12.4 acres of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM). It seems over the years that the numbers change back and forth but are generally similar. Here is a review of our treatments in the past.

We identified Eurasian water milfoil in Sugar Lake in the early 1990's. For the next 10 years or so, Sugar Lake was a special battlefield for the DNR. With the input of our members who located the general areas, the DNR arranged for the treatments and paid the costs. Most of these treatments were small areas around the lake and EWM did not become a serious problem for many years. It was very important that in that time the Sugar Lake Association started raising money to fight the battle of the future against Aquatic Invasive Plants. That early start and continued determination has meant that the SLA could pay for treatments that were permitted. That is an effort that the entire association should be proud of.

In 2000, the DNR determined that they could not eliminate EWM from a lake once it got established; they switched the use of the DNR money to protect lakes from getting infected. That meant that Sugar Lake was on its own to pay for treatment. Fortunately, the fund that had been started in the previous decade

was large enough to pay our way. In the years between 2000 and 2008, our EWM became more abundant and Curly leaf pondweed (CLP) also started to be a problem. From about 2002 to 2008 we really struggled to get permission to treat enough area to keep CLP and EWM in check. After three years of applying for the "Whole Lake and Whole Bay Pilot Project," we were accepted in 2009 and that year we were able to treat 188 acres of CLP. With the ability for the first time to treat all the areas that were infested, we achieved a great victory over CLP and also continued our battle with EWM.

In 2012, the "Whole Lake and Whole Bay Pilot Project" ended, and we have gone back to the rules of old regulating how much we can treat. Sugar Lake is about 1015 acres in size. The area of the lake that is 15 feet or less in depth is 357 acres and is called the littoral area. By the old rule and the now new rule, we will be allowed to treat only 15% of that area or 53.5 acres. If we need to treat more than that we have to apply for a special variance for that treatment. It is my feeling that, unlike some other lakes, we will be able to get that variance if we continue to manage the lake as we have. We also need to develop and get approved a new Lake Vegetation Management Plan this winter. We have been fortunate in the past, but we do not know what the future will bring. It looks like we will have to continue treating these two plants as we have in the past, while we continue to prepare for what the future will bring to Sugar Lake.

Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MNCOLA)

By Dale Gustafson

The Wright County Coalition of Lake Associations is hosting the November Board meeting of the MNCOLA on Thursday November 20th at the Ney Nature Center located just north of Maple Lake off County Road 8. Because Sugar Lake is a member of the Wright COLA we have a delegate on this Board and have offered to host this meeting for the State organization.

The agenda is packed full of information about what the MNCOLA is doing for all the lake associations of Minnesota. The most significant item on the agenda is the presentation of the Legislative Agenda for this coming year. Also there will be an update on the attempt of MNCOLA to get a 25 million dollar grant to set up AIS decontamination stations around the state to inspect and decontaminate boats before they enter a Minnesota lake. That application failed to gain the support of the Lessard-Sams Commission that allocates about 90 million dollars of Legacy Money per year. The Legacy Money comes from the 3/8th of 1% Sales tax increase that the citizens of Minnesota approved five years ago. This tax will remain in effect for twenty years, and so far almost no money has been allocated to fight Aquatic Invasive Species. Of course "lake people" feel this is not fair, and the MNCOLA is fighting hard to get a share of the Clean Water money to help keep Aquatic Invasive Species in check. These are the types of issues Sugar Lake or the Wright County lakes could not fight for on our own, but as part of the state-wide organization of Lake Associations we are able to be recognized.

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.

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>

Chairman's Corner

October 2013

Don Peterson, Dale Gustafson, and I attended the Metro Summit for Lake and River Groups last week. Sponsored by the Freshwater Society, it was an opportunity to learn about what other lake associations in the area are doing as well as what is happening in the state legislature concerning AIS. One statement made was that most people in the state do not know what AIS is. If you missed it, AIS stands for Aquatic Invasive Species. It was said at the meeting that AIS is a "wicked problem." Check the September newsletter and the website (www.sugarlake.org) for more on a wicked member of that wicked problem, the zebra mussel.



In last month's newsletter, I asked for old photos to add to our web site. That request has taken on more urgency. The SLA Board chose as the topic of the winter meeting "This is Your Life Sugar Lake." We need old photos and written memories of Sugar for this event. Do you have photos taken 50 - 80 years ago that I could scan? Could you send me written memories? Would you be willing to talk to one of the Board members about early life on Sugar? Help us prepare for this event, held Saturday 1 February 2014, by sharing those special memories.

Wishing you all a wonderful Holiday Season!

Karen Sutherland

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.

March meeting

The Sugar Lake Association Board decided to add a March 15, meeting to the schedule for 2014. 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.

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. The card shown below should be in your mailbox the

Water quality is key to everyone's enjoyment of Sugar Lake. Almost \$60,000 is needed each year to treat invasive species. DNR grants once covered a significant portion of these costs but very limited grants remain available. The need for funding is great for next summer to keep up the level of treatment that we have been doing to eliminate curly leaf and milfoil. Thank you.



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. Checks 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

Donations should be sent to:

Jon Juntunen
Treasurer
134280 St NW
Buffalo, MN, 55313



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

