



The Sugar Lake News

October 2014

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

2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 21-winter meeting

March 21 SLA Meeting

April 18-SLA Meeting*

May 16-SLA Meeting*

May 23 Plant Exchange/Sale

June 20- SLA Meeting*

July 18-SLA Meeting*

August 1-SLA Picnic

August 15-Annual Meeting/
Board Election*

September 5-Diane's Lights Night

September 5 Sugar Lake 5K

September 19- SLA Meeting*

October 17-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

Buckthorn Bust Winner Announced

Charlotte Quiggle, pictured on the left with her cut buckthorn, is the winner of the 2014 Buckthorn Bust. She wins a \$25 gift certificate to the 2015 Plant Exchange/Sale. The Quinn family, Jan and Ed pictured on the right treating buckthorn stumps, came in second.



Buckthorn has been declared a restricted noxious weed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture..

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html>

Once used as a hedge, it has moved into forested areas and is rapidly spreading across the state. It out-competes our native plants for light, moisture and nutrients, reduces species diversity of plants and song birds in forests and destroys wildlife habitat. Recent scientific studies have found that buckthorn changes the chemical composition of the soil, making it more difficult for other plants to thrive. We will have another Buckthorn Bust next fall!

Water Quality Report

By Dan Erdmann

The latest lake report. The physical condition was 1 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor).

Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
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"
<i>5 Year Average</i>	<i>9.9'</i>	<i>56.4°</i>	<i>51.2°</i>	<i>16.05"</i>	
10-16-14	13.0'	56°	64°	15.5"	20.0"

A culvert inlet measurement of 15.5" is at the ordinary high water mark of 15.5".

Membership

Paid SLA membership is currently at 267. 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 Rosemary Larson who passed away in October.

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:

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, 2014

General Fund	\$23,043.09
Lake Improvement Fund	\$41,843.44
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$156,640.18</u>
Total All Funds	\$221,526.71

Rainfall

October rainfall was 0.35 inches. Our year to date total through October is 26.8, about two inches above normal. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals.

Vegetation Committee:

By: Dale Gustafson

The story of our lake vegetation management for 2014 is not one that I expected. I could never have imagined the events that would unfold.

As we prepared for the 2014 season we expected a slightly higher than normal amount of Curly leaf pondweed (CLP). We were prepared to get it all mapped out with our new BioBase and depth finder/gps system of mapping vegetation. As we mapped the areas we expected to find CLP, it appeared to not have started growing. With a long snow covered winter the year before, we thought it would be late to start growing. As we watched the days pass and get closer to the cut-off period of treating CLP, we couldn't believe it, but it wasn't growing. We thought perhaps it was the cool spring. However, it just never did appear in large enough quantities to treat. In the end we just decided not to make a spring treatment and assess later how much we had. However, we did not find much CLP at all this year. Yes there was some, but not as much as we thought. We will just have to watch closely next year to see what happens. CLP turions can lie dormant for many years, so we will have to watch next spring to see what we have. We will make applications to treat, and watch in the spring if it is back.

Our Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) story is entirely different. We were prepared and watched it develop in May and June. We went over the possible area of problems and added more and more detail to our maps of EWM. When we felt it was time to treat, we extracted our polygons (area where we felt we need to treat) from our BioBase web site and submitted them to the DNR. We recommended about 35 acres for treatment. When our permit came back, we were simply in disbelief. We were told we could treat a total of only 12.44 acres. Those 12.44 acres could be treated only if they had been treated in 2012 or 2013. After overlaying the maps of the treated areas of 2012 and

2013, we found there were only 8.51 acres we could treat, far less than the 35 acres we needed to treat.

The DNR permitting person used the narrowest interpretation of the new permitting rules that we had worked so hard for the year before. It is my opinion that this decision is clearly not in line with the latest ideas and directives from Chip Welling the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Management Coordinator.

After a long period of angst, Dan Erdman and I decided not to just give up on attempting to manage the vegetation of Sugar Lake. We will press on this winter with the issue of our permit problems in the hope that things will get better for next year.

So if you feel we have let you down by not managing the treatment of EWM very well this year please believe me it was not because of lack of effort.

Lets hope for a better management year in 2015

On another sour note, if you have any information about someone treating plants with out a DNR permit, please contact Brian Mies our DNR Conservation Officer at 320-398-8000. Brian has been handling a complaint of unauthorized treatment of plants in Sugar Lake late this summer. Of course the Sugar Lake Association was suspected of this violation.

Winter meeting at Corinna Township Hall

Join us for brunch and a (virtual) pontoon ride around Sugar Lake in February. Get together with your lake neighbors, see some great photographs, hear a short review of last year, and what we can all do to preserve Sugar Lake for future generations.

Where: Corinna Township Hall 9801 Ireland Ave NW, Annandale, MN 55302

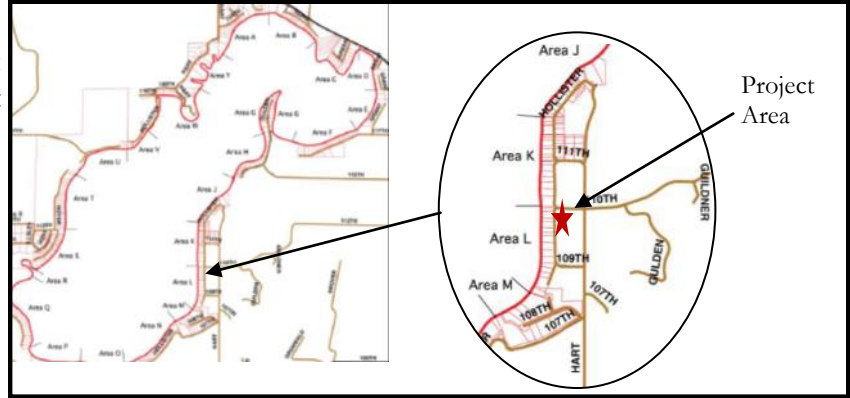
When: Saturday, February 21, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m..

Hollister and 110th Project Update

The Sugar Lake Association has just completed its first, “on our own” water quality improvement project. For those who haven’t seen it, the project is located along 110th Street NW, and Hollister Ave NW. You can see most of it if you drive by that area on the south east end of the lake.

This project has been on the list of projects we felt needed to be done for over ten years. About four years ago we had a solution designed but it was far too expensive. With the help of the Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District we devised a way to do the project in a much more practical way. This two part project is a great example of what can be done at any scale, in many situations to help clean the water before it gets into the lake. This should be our common goal.

The project is really two projects in one. The south end of the project is a traditional but rather large rain garden, the north end of this project is less visible because it is an underground infiltration area. The south end is situated so the runoff water along the east side on Hollister will run into the rain garden and then be absorbed by the sub soil to recharge ground water. This will be a fun project for the Sugar Lake Lakescapers to design and plant next spring. Watch for notices about this project and consider volunteering to help.



Looking south along Hollister



Woods removed



Raingarden complete

The north part of this project collects water from along 110th Street and also Hollister Avenue and delivers it into a pipe that leads to the infiltration trench. The trench is about four feet deep, and varies from about three to five feet wide. The trench is filled with sewer rock and a pipe is buried in the rock about one-third of the way down in the trench. The water will drain out of the pipe and soak into the rock and then into the soil below the rock. If the rain comes fast enough, there is a pipe which continues out of the trench to deliver cleaner water into the lake.

Hollister and 110th Project Continued



Collection area near 110th & Hollister



Rock infiltration trench from the south

This was an expensive, but necessary, project for the association to undertake on our own. Our monitoring and sampling in this area over the last ten years made it clear that it was very detrimental to the lake. There are other places around the lake that similar things happen, but not with the same effect. The Water Quality Improvement Committee has been watching and monitoring some of these areas, but we still need your help. We need people to pay attention to where water runs into the lake during a storm and how dirty the water is. We have learned over the years, that if the water is dirty, it is carrying soil and phosphorus with it that harms the quality of Sugar Lake. Be watchful and report to the committee what you find, so we can add it to our action list.

Water Quality Improvement Committee

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 have arrived in your mailbox.



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

www.sugarlake.org

Donations should be sent to:

Paul Gustafson

Treasurer

11330 Hoyer Ave NW

Annandale, MN, 55302

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.

Comment Received

While answering questions from another lake association in our area, one of our SLA members received the following feed back:

“Thanks for the additional information. It is really helpful. I must say that after looking at all the data I have collected from various associations, I am really impressed with the Sugar Lake Association and their commitment to being good stewards of the lake”.

Way to go SLA members, keep up the good work!

Midwest Invasive Species Conference

This conference was held in Duluth October 20-22. Past Chairperson Karen Sutherland attended and participated. The biennial conference, with an attendance of several hundred, is the largest gathering in the upper Midwest of invasive species professionals, managers, researchers, and lake association representatives working to stop the spread of invasive species.

You can view the SLA poster presented at the following link:

<http://www.mipn.org/UMISC-2014/posters.html>

It is the fourth poster up from the bottom of the list titled “Fighting Invasives on Three Fronts”.

The program and presentations are available at:

<http://mipn.org/UMISC-2014.html>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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The Sugar Lake News
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Amandale, MN 55302

