

# The Sugar Lake News

October 2010

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

2010

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 12-winter meeting

April 16-SLA Meeting\*

May 21-SLA Meeting\*

June 18- SLA Meeting\*

June 25-Fishing Contest

July 16-SLA Meeting\*

August 6-SLA Picnic

August 20-Annual Meeting/  
Board Election\*

September 3-Diane's Lights Night

September 17- SLA Meeting\*

October 15-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](mailto: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](mailto:membership@sugarlake.org)

### Thanksgiving

Weren't the fall colors spectacular? Autumn harvest time has many reminders of gathering, sharing and giving thanks. Maybe it is an understatement to say we are thankful for nature's treasures.

One quick story: Several years ago my father declared that he didn't want more "stuff" as birthday gifts. Rather, he suggested, we should plant a tree in our new home's very bare lawn. We selected an Autumn Blaze Maple because of its spectacular red display. (Back in the days when dad had hair it was red. Apparently so red that "Red" was his nick-name so this was especially appropriate.) Dad lost his battle with heart disease just a week after 9/11 but every fall our neighborhood is blessed with a cheerful red display. We are thankful for his vision.



I share this just as an idea of how one gift can keep on giving. If you would rather have your birthday or Christmas gift be something that benefits Sugar Lake, you could make similar suggestion. Last year there was a positive response to the gift certificate idea. (Attached) Maybe your family likes to make a charitable contribution in honor of Thanksgiving. Some like to give directly to the Fireworks Fund. Others consider year-end giving for tax purposes. Whatever the situation, the gifts are an investment in a shared priority.

The lake means a lot to us. Thank you for your continued support so that the financial resources are available to help with water quality projects and allow early intervention fighting invasive species.

Karen Gusaas



## Water Quality Report

The latest lake report. The physical condition was 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). Three young loons were still on the lake 10/11/2010.

Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
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"
10-14-10	10.5	60°	55°	25"	31"

## Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2010 has reached 306.

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](mailto:membership@sugarlake.org).

Our sympathies to the families of Chuck Bonine and Samantha Walton whose infant son Caleb passed away November 16, 2010.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.sugarlake.org)

## Treasurer's Report

As of October 15, 2010

General Fund	\$16,264.36
Lake Improvement Fund	\$22,083.14
Milfoil & Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$110,193.71</u>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$148,541.21</b>

## 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](http://www.corinnatownship.com).

The Corinna Planning Commission will now meet the first Thursday of each month, beginning in October, 2010, rather than the 4th Thursday of each month.

**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](http://www.clearwatertownshipmn.govoffice2.com).

## Rainfall

October rainfall was two inches. Estimate about one inch of rain November. Year to date rainfall total has been about 31 inches, an inch above normal. 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 12, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The main speaker will be Jeremy Williamson. Jeremy is a water Quality Specialist with the Land & Water Resources Department in Polk County Wisconsin. He will be speaking about the impact that boat surface traffic has on the ecology of Sugar Lake.

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.

## Sugar Lake wins an International award

Sugar Lake Association's work was submitted to the competition at the 30<sup>th</sup> International NALMS Symposium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on November 1, 2010. NALMS is the North American Lake Management Society. NALMS was founded in 1980, but started a couple years before that with meetings in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It has continued to grow since then and includes scientists, educators, researchers, citizens, and organizations mostly North America and beyond.

Sugar Lake Association received the Technical Merit Award for Volunteer Actions "for individuals or groups involved in documented grass-roots efforts to manage a lake or watershed, with emphasis on local involvement, creative methods of funding and demonstrable success". The plaque we received reads:

Technical Merit Award  
Honoring  
Sugar Lake Association  
Wright County, Minnesota  
In Recognition For  
Volunteer Actions In Lake  
Restoration, Protection and Management

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North American Lake Management Society  
2010

Congratulations to Sugar Lake volunteers and supporters.



## Sugar Lake Shorelines

Editorial by Dale Gustafson

Sugar Lake property owners are starting to do their part to protect the water quality of Sugar Lake. We are encouraged to see new rain gardens along the lake, additions of native buffer strips along the shore, and more people that have just stopped moving along the lake. All of these practices help the lake, but there is so much more we can do.

The science is clear, the healthiest shoreline is a native shore with trees, shrubs, and native flowers and grasses. The reason is that these materials filter the water and catch the leaves and other organic debris preventing it from entering the lake. Also in the water, the best situation is a healthy stand of emergent vegetation such as Bull Rush, Lily Pads, Cattails and others. This combination of native plants, grasses, and lake vegetation provides the "Thin Green Line" along the shore that supports the starting place for a healthy lake. In this zone, the smallest of critters and natural habitat provide for the start of the food chain for the fish and wildlife that we enjoy so much. We need to do whatever we can to protect and redevelop this habitat.

Many are attempting to do just that, but if you examine the shoreline both in the water and on the land the next time you do a cruise around the lake you will notice many properties that could benefit the lake by adding some natural shoreline..

Some properties have problems that are very difficult to solve, but most are easy to fix. It is encouraging to note that in some areas it has started with one person deciding not to mow the grass on the bank each week. Now there are many of their neighbors that are not doing the very difficult job of mowing each week. Instead they have time to watch the butterflies or other animals that are now using that area. It sometimes only takes one person to start a major change. Others are willing to follow, but don't want to be the first one. How about you being the first one to create a natural shoreline in your area?

## Hollister Creek Conclusion

As of fall of 2010 we finally concluded the Hollister Creek Project. The new stream was opened, and the old stream bed was filled and closed off to the flow of water. The summary of this project is that we were able to abandon the old creek that had raw banks of nutrient rich soil from the scouring of water any time we had significant rain. Now the water flows through a shallow depression with thick grasses filtering the water, and it slowed down by rock check dams so the sediment will settle out of the water.

During the most recent heavy rain in September, only the first check dam area had water backed up behind it. This means that the creek should be able to handle a very large storm with no erosion flowing out of the creek bed.

Hollister creek was noted as our number ONE project to solve about 15 years ago, and was discussed as a problem at some point in the 1970's. That is a long time to solve a problem, but unfortunately, it is not a complete solution to improving the water quality flowing into Sugar Lake.

We have many areas surrounding the lake where water flows along our gravel roads, over gravel parking areas or open soil or shortly mowed grass. We need to continue to work at these so we can reduce the nutrients that flow into the lake. The Water Quality Improvement Committee is committed to finding these areas and creating solutions that will serve the property owners use of the land while it cleans the water before it flows into the lake. If you know of areas that "wash" dirty water into the lake, contact Dale Gustafson or Charlotte Quiggle so we can study this areas to see if we can improve the quality of the water entering the lake. Every little bit helps!

Our status as a Star Lake and Lake Association of the Year gives us extra leverage to access funds to help with these types of projects. We are attempting to add these projects to our Rain Water Runoff addendum of our Lake Management Plan so we can act on them as funds are available.

Water Quality Improvement Committee

## SLA Committees and Positions

Area Communicator coordinator

Diane's Lights Night

Education

Fisheries

Fundraising

Government Liaison

Lake Vegetation

Lakescapers

Membership

Newsflash

Newsletter

Parliamentarian

Picnic

Doc Williams

Doc Williams

Ron Elsner

Mike Kluge

Ron Elsner

Marianne Borgeson

Dale Gustafson

Sue Dixon

Cathy Beckman

Rhonda Hiler

Don Peterson

Matt Kutz

Deb Beltrand &

Betsy Hanson

Volunteer Coordinator

Water/ Snow Patrol

Water Quality

Webmaster

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](http://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 Doc Williams at

lake—320-963-6776

home—952-888-9884

Marilyn Hiscock

Rick Kanninen

Dale Gustafson

Karen Sutherland

## Fireworks

The Sugar Lake Association Board of Directors voted to sponsor a fireworks show for July 2, 2011. As in past years the show will be put on by Joel Williams. Tax deductible funds will be collected for the show and only those funds will be used. You will have an opportunity to donate to the fund during membership renewal or now with the coupon in this newsletter.

We have a \$6000 fundraising goal for this show. If watch and enjoy the show please donate early.

## Shoreland Habitat Program

This program provides funding to organizations that develop projects to improve the quality of shoreland habitat, expand the diversity and abundance of native plants, and enhance and protect water quality.

The Sugar Lake association is in the final year of a three year grant program. Projects for this grant are required to have at least 75% of the frontage restored with an adjacent buffer zone at least 25 feet deep/wide. A landowner agreement is also required.

If you have a possible project on your property, want more information, or have questions contact Don Peterson at 952-212-9524 or email [don@sugarlake.org](mailto:don@sugarlake.org). For information about the Shoreland Habitat Program go to [www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/shoreland.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/shoreland.html)

*Sponsored by the Sugar Lake Association with funding provided through a grant from the MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife Shoreland Habitat Program*

## Education

By Ed Quinn

This is the third in a series of short education topics.

**Secchi disk:** The instrument most commonly used to measure lake transparency is the secchi disk. This is a flat metal disk, eight inches in diameter. It is painted white. The disk is lowered over a boat into the lake with a cord marked in half foot intervals. The observer lowers the disk (on the shaded side of the boat) until it disappears and notes the depth on the cord. The disk is then lowered slightly and raised until it reappears and the depth is noted. The average of the two readings, half-way between the depths of disappearance and reappearance, is called the Secchi disk transparency.

Our historical mean for secchi disk TSI index is 44. The 2010 average is 44. It has ranged from 43 in 2002, 2006, 2007, and 2009 to 45 in 2004 and 2005. The actual readings have ranged from 7.5 feet in July 2004 to 14 feet in June 2006.

Source: University of Minnesota and RMB Environmental Laboratories

## 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](mailto:newsletter@sugarlake.org) with your email address if you are interested.

**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 Association as a preferred birthday or Christmas gift.**

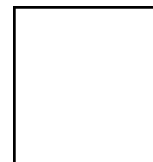
**TO: Sugar Lake Association**

**FROM: \_\_\_\_\_**

**IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_**

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



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**