

The Sugar Lake News

SEPTEMBER 2005

2005

Calendar of Events

October 15-SLA Meeting

SLA meetings are held at the Corinna

Township hall at

8:00 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 Karen Pitra at

11102 Hoyer Ave NW

Annandale, MN 55302

320-274-8153

Give Our Lake a Break

This is a special time of the year for the lake. Plants stop growing and start shedding their leaves. Because we no longer have woods up to the shore of the lake, the leaves can be easily blown into the lake. Leaves are a very high source of phosphorus and quite harmful to our water quality. Because of that we urge you to do everything you can to collect and properly dispose of fallen leaves. Come up to the lake often and rake and bag leaves each time. That way the job is small and the lake benefits are large.

Proposed Development

The Wright County Planning Commission held a public hearing in Buffalo on September 15 to consider a proposal to rezone 82.14 acres on the east side of Sugar Lake from Agricultural use to Residential use. The purpose of the rezoning request is to permit the development of three lake lots (1 acre each) and 13 back lots (5 acres each). The area proposed for rezoning is the lakeshore between areas H and J, with back lots behind areas H, J, and K. A map showing the proposed area can be seen on the Sugar Lake Association website at www.sugarlake.org. Corinna Township has already approved the rezoning "as it is consistent with the Land Use Plan."

About 50 to 60 Sugar Lake Association members, board members, and neighbors of the proposed development attended the hearing. Several people from the Sugar Lake group spoke and expressed concerns about the impact of the development. Those concerns included:

- The water quality of Sugar Lake will potentially be impacted negatively both during and after construction. (As reported by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Sugar Lake is currently one of 2 lakes in Wright County cited as having "declining water quality.") Proper erosion control is *critical* when building in the watershed.
- The proposed lots do not fit the topography of the land; there are watershed drainage, bluff, and wetland issues which make building and location of septic systems problematic.
- Five acre lots are small for the area in question; adjacent property is zoned for 10 acre lots.
- The addition of 16 new homes will increase traffic on Hart Ave.
- The possibility of lake access from the 13 back lots will impact negatively on the both the Lake and current neighboring residents.
- The preservation of the stand of bulrushes in front of the property is important for the health of the Lake.
- Much of this land includes one of the few remnants of Minnesota's "Big Woods" forest-how many trees would be cut down?
- The Corinna Township Land Use Plan does not reflect the current situation—should it be revisited?
- There is not enough information to grant the rezoning request at this time.

The Planning Commission pointed out that they were considering *only* the re-zoning request at the current time. They maintained that many of the concerns expressed would be more appropriately addressed at later stages of the project.

The Planning Commission decided to continue the rezoning request until the next meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2005, at 8PM. They also planned a site visit at the end of September to look at the property in person.

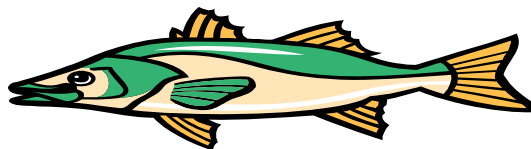
The Sugar Lake Association board discussed the rezoning request and process at length during the September 17, 2005, meeting. The Board decided to draft a motion stating the board position. The following motion was unanimously approved by the Sugar Lake Board:

That the Planning Commission delay action on rezoning until the Corinna Township Land Use Plan is updated. If they choose not to delay, we recommend one house per 10 acres on the back lots and the lake lots be 225 feet of lakeshore per lot.

It is **critical** that people show up at the October 20 Planning Commission meeting. If you can't attend the meeting, write a short letter to Wright County Planning and Zoning regarding the rezoning and development request on Sugar Lake. Letters and statements at the hearings are in *the record* and play an important role in the decision making process. Write to: Wright County Planning & Zoning Office, Wright County Government Center, 102 St NW Room 140, Buffalo, MN, 55313

KASTL'S KORNER

the latest lake report.. The physical condition was 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). 2 loons noted.



Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
09-14-00	9'	61°	70°	12"	17"
09-12-01	10'	60°	70°	10"	15"
09-18-02	9'	74°	68°	27"	32"
09-19-03	9'	78°	77°	15"	20"
09-16-04	9'	64°	62°	17"	22"
09-14-05	10'	61°	54°	23"	28"

The Loons will be leaving the area soon. Their young leave after the adults. The young may spend three years down south but will usually return to the lake where they were hatched.

Noted two blanding turtles. Some twenty years ago they were legally netted and were on the menu (on Fridays) at the St. Cloud Hotel and Ace Bar. No netting is currently allowed. They laid their eggs by burrowing into the sand with their back legs and depositing up to eighteen small ping pong ball size eggs. Depending on location the young would hatch out in about a month.

Our best water clarity reading of 18 feet was made in April 1992.

Jim Kastl

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency publishes a newsletter titled *Secchi Reader*. The summer 2005 newsletter congratulates CLMP (Citizen Lake-Monitoring Program) volunteers who received milestone awards for the 2004 season. Jim Kastl is among those who received milestone awards. Jim has been faithfully taking and sending in readings from Sugar Lake since the 1970s. *Thank you Jim.*

Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2005 has reached 362. If you haven't paid your 2005 dues, please send your \$25 check payable to the Sugar Lake Association to: Sugar Lake Association 11102 Hoyer Ave NW., Annandale, MN 55302.

We also want to thank those members who have made a contribution to the fundraising committee for our fight against Eurasian watermilfoil and Curly leaf pondweed. These contributions will be recognized at a later date.

Please welcome new members:

Gary and Marilyn Hiscock.

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Karen Pitra. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Karen of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Karen at 320-274-8153 or email kak8900@aol.com.

SUGAR LAKE NEWS FLASH: This e-mail service is available for Sugar Lake members, family, and friends. Contact Tanya Olin at tanya.m.olin@wellsfargo.com or call 320-274-5218 with your e-mail address to get on the Sugar Lake News Flash list or to submit news items or sale items. Please keep your e-mail address updated with Tanya. News Flash sale ads will be sent out on Wednesdays. Please have any ads to Tanya by 10 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Directory: If you did not receive the new 2005-2006 membership directories, please contact Karen at 320-274-8153.

Treasurer's Report

As of September 17, 2005

General Fund	\$11,788
Lake Improvement Fund	\$16,194
Milfoil Fund	<u>\$33,967</u>
Total All Funds	\$61,940

Kurt Schrupp has agreed to do the required audit of the last fiscal year.

Rainfall

August rainfall was 2.4". Normal rainfall is 3.8". Total rainfall this year 22". Normal is about 22". Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall information.

Sugar Lake Apparel

Lee Slama and Kathy Radtke-Slama formed A.U.S. Sales to sell Sugar Lake apparel and gifts. Picnic sales are complete and, as promised, Lee and Kathy have donated profits of \$550 to the Sugar Lake Association. Thank you Lee and Kathy for making Sugar Lake Apparel available and for the generous donation of profits.

Vegetation

A full lake vegetation survey was recently completed as the first part of the LVMP (Lake Vegetation Management Plan). The survey was directed by Steve McComas of Blue Water Science. SLA members Chris Behm, Dan Erdman, Marlin Grant, Dale Gustafson, Steve Huff, and Don Peterson helped pull samples and map GPS coordinates. Thirty transects (perpendicular lines out from the lake shore) were identified



Steve McComas
Blue Water Science



around the lake. GPS coordinates were recorded for each transect. At each transect a sample was taken at 0-5 feet, 5-10 feet, 10-15 feet and greater than 15 feet. The content of each sample was recorded including plant species and the density of each

species. One hundred twenty total samples were taken. Thirty species of plants were identified. In October core samples of the lake bottom will be taken for analysis. The information gathered will be used to develop the LVMP. The plan will help guide our aquatic invasive species treatments and give us a measuring tool.



Healthy Lakes Reunion

In 2003 the Sugar Lake Association participated in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program. The Initiative Foundation, sponsor of the Healthy Lakes program, held a reunion of past graduates of the program at their location in Little Falls. Dale Gustafson and Don Peterson attended. 25 lake associations were present. Each gave a short presentation on what is going on with their group. The Healthy Lakes Program has had 140 groups go through training and more than 1 million dollars have been distributed in grant money.

Fishing news

Ed Dopart of Bloomington (guest of the Ostdiek's) caught this 40 inch 17 pound muskie on Sat., Sept 10 on a red/white daredevil. He was fishing in Area C in about 3 ft of water and was guided by Bill Moilanen.

If you have a fishing story or picture and would like to see it in the newsletter email it to :
don@sugarlake.org



Fisheries

The fisheries committee presented a proposal to implement experimental fishing regulations for Sugar Lake. Following is a summary of the proposal and a sequence of events:

Because of the concern we have for the fisheries of Sugar Lake we recommend that the DNR implement experimental fishing regulations for crappie and northern pike.

The crappie daily limit would be lowered to 5/day. This would have the effect of reducing the harvest somewhat and re-distributing the catch.

All northern pike between 24-36 inches would have to be released. This will improve the average size of northern pike and reduce the number of small northern pike.

These recommendations have been made with the help of advice from Paul Diedrich Area Fisheries Supervisor from Montrose.

Other benefits from the regulations may include increased survival of stocked walleye fingerlings and restoration of balance to the fish community. The community is out of balance because of the large number of small northern pike.

In order for regulations to be implemented we must follow DNR procedure. Signs alerting anglers are posted at the public access for 90 days during the open water season (2006). After that a public meeting is held to gather input from all interested anglers (September 2006). If approved the regulations would go into effect March 1, 2007, and be in place for 10 years.

The fisheries committee would like to poll the general membership to determine if there is support for these regulations. The newsletter could be used for this purpose.

Support from the lake association is essential for compliance. To a large degree the regulations will succeed if the lake association favors them.

Following the presentation and discussion, a motion was made and approved to poll the membership in the October newsletter.

An informational meeting will be held following the October board meeting:

October 15, 2005, 10 a.m. at the Corrina Township Hall.

Paul Diedrich will give a presentation on the proposed regulation changes followed by a discussion.

If you are interested in working with the fisheries committee, plan to attend this meeting.

Area Highlights

Sugar Lake Park Resort
By Doc Williams



How many of you remember the “Sugar Lake Park Resort”? It was a place you could boat to and spend an evening dancing and partying. If you needed boat gas, minnows, or some basic food staples, you could buy it there. Several times, a boat owner would return to his craft after an evening of revelry to find his boat submerged. Someone had pulled the plug. The resort was located on the south-west side of the lake and was the place to go to for fun. The first private individual to own the property was James Maxwell. It was part of 146 acres he got from the US government and Abraham Lincoln on Nov 10, 1864. Thomas Connell purchased the 146 acres from Maxwell’s estate in 1864 for \$200.00. On May 7, 1921, J.H. and Sarah Rutledge bought a few parcels of that land and turned it into Rutledge’s Sugar Lake Park. Down through the years it was owned by Herman Trapp, Jacob Bergmann, Harry Gillham, H.N. Lungwitz, Mark Gilchrist, Alton & Arline Anderson, James McCarthy, Don Lubinski, and others. Business slowly went down hill until it was no longer economical to run and the park closed. Marlin Grant purchased the property in 1992, subdivided the land into 3 properties and gave it to his 3 youngest children. They all have lake homes there today. The park was located in Area “S” and Karen Pitra is the communicator. Back in the 30’s, the resort had a dance hall on the property that was open year around. Rumor has it, if you knew the owner; he would let you play the “one armed bandits” hidden in a back room. The hall burned on St. Patrick’s Day in the mid 40’s and one of the rental cabins was converted into what became Sugar Lake Park Resort. In the 60’s, the resort again had a dance hall with Fridays being family night and Saturdays for adults. Sometimes you could dance to the music of Virgil Carlson’s accordion. When the Andersons owned the place, they took out the two “2 holers” located out back and put in flush toilets. They also added 5 trailers that could be rented by the month or season. In the past, there were as many as 5 resorts on the lake. Now there remains only one; Warners. Unfortunately, with the price of land on Sugar, we may never again see a resort such as Sugar Lake Park.



Diane’s Lights Night

By Doc Williams



This Diane’s Lights Night will be one to remember for more than one reason. When I woke up Saturday morning and saw the sun, I figured we would

have good weather for the evening’s events. Then the clouds and rain rolled in. I kept hoping it would clear in time for everyone to put up their displays but after checking the weather channel it was evident that Diane’s Lights Night would not happen that evening. The next morning I got on the phone and called the Area Communicators, SLA board members, and anyone else I could think of, to get the word out that we would try again that evening. Sunday turned out to be much better; however, the rain delay took its toll. There were only 67 displays this year compared to 143 for last year. There will be a “rain day” alternate plan for next year. For those who did participate Sunday evening, there were extra and unexpected prizes. Pepsi Bottling Co. of Burnsville came through in a big way with Twins and Renaissance tickets as well as Pepsi shirts, hats and a summer of free Pepsi products for next year. Fourth through second prizes went to the die-hards in the bay on the west side of Sunset Point. In that area alone there were 14 cabins in a row with beautifully lit displays. An honorable mention goes to Dorothy & John Klobe. Their display consisted of luminaries lining the shore in front of a row of citronella candles and finally a friendly campfire on their deck. Third place with hats, shirts, and Renaissance tickets goes to Mary & Dennis Langhoff. They had luminaries along their entire shoreline and 15 luminaries suspended 5 feet above the ground. They strung a rope between two trees, suspended pie tins below it, and placed luminaries inside. It was a simple yet effective display. Second place with Pepsi shirts, hats and Twins tickets goes to Mary & Gary Williamson with “catch the spirit” painted on a white sheet and illuminated from behind with a campfire. Floating in the water was a figure of a boat on top of Styrofoam and baby-jar candles surrounding it. A round light bulb fixture, with a candle inside and painted to look like a bobber, was also floating and attached to a fishing pole. It added a very nice touch. Luminaries, candles, and Tiki torches along the shoreline and on their docks finished the scene. Our first place prize with Pepsi shirts, hats, Twins tickets, and a summer of free Pepsi goes to Marge & Ted Scinto in the North Bay. You couldn’t help but notice the word “HOPE” as you came near. It took 2 months of planning and 2 weeks of decorating the bags to bring it all together. Scintos’ grandchildren; Sarah, Emily, Kathy, Brandon, Ryan, and Anna decorated each bag with a different theme. With their paints and crayons they honored Sugar Lake, Diane’s Night and especially hope for the hurricane victims. A “high five” goes to all those who participated in this year’s event. A special thanks to all those who helped get the word out Sunday morning on the date change. Let’s all try and make next year bigger and better than ever.

Sugar Lake Association scholarship

The SLA offered a \$300 scholarship opportunity this year. Eligible entrants included SLA members, children or grandchildren of members attending any post secondary school in the fall of 2004. Entry instructions were as follows:

Please write short essays to answer the following:

1. What does community spirit on Sugar Lake mean to you?
2. Interview a person who has been a long-time resident of Sugar Lake and relate what you learned about the environmental history of the lake.
3. Sugar Lake is currently facing several issues that affect the water quality. They are as follows:
"First Flush" stormwater pollution, outdated or full septic systems, new construction landscaping, erosion, phosphorus from fertilizer and leaves
Please choose one issue and answer the following question: How would you help to improve the water quality of Sugar Lake?

The winner of the 2004 scholarship was Heather Zieska, daughter of Mike and Vicki Zieska. Below is Heathers en-

Sugar Lake has always been a place I am able to call home. I have lived on this lake nearly my entire life, and it has been the foundation for my life. I have my first memories on this lake, some of my best memories, and certainly some of the warmest memories. Throughout the years I have lived here I have learned to swim, ski, fish, but most importantly I have learned to play and to live life. To this day I am still making memories on this lake that I will carry with me the rest of my life. I feel extremely fortunate and lucky to have had the opportunity to have grown up on this lake and to call it my home.

If you are looking for community spirit on Sugar Lake you need to look no further than my neighborhood. My neighborhood has taught me the meaning of friends, and what a long way a little kindness can go to help one another out. My neighbors come from many different backgrounds, some have been lake renters for years, others full-time residents or new arrivals, and even people just visiting family on the lake, but it doesn't matter what has brought these people to the lake because once they arrive here they become a part of this lake's neighborhood. My neighbors have taught me that helping one another can make a huge difference in a person's life. This neighborhood is always running around together to fix a boat, have a camp fire, or to get out on the lake and take the kids tubing. When we all get together we discuss local events, the lake, and the lives of the people who also found Sugar Lake to be a place they can call home. When these kinds of people get together in my neighborhood you have found the true meaning of community spirit on Sugar Lake. If you have ever spent any amount of time in my neighborhood, Gulden Avenue of Sugar Lake, you have learned quickly that community is not just an idea here, but a way of life.

My father, Mike Zieska, has been a long time resident of Sugar Lake, and he has taught me much from his experiences on this lake. My father first started coming to this lake as a child with his parents coming up to their lake cabin. My father's parents and siblings came to this lake every weekend until he was a junior



Deb Beltrand awards Heather the 2005 Sugar Lake Association scholarship

in high school then they made a permanent move and became full-time residents of Sugar Lake. My father learned at a young age that he was extremely lucky to be able to spend and enjoy his time on this lake. As an adult my father got married and bought his own home on Sugar Lake where he has spent the rest of his life here, allowing my family to be surrounded by the beauty in this place everyday. He has reminded my sisters and me every day of my life how lucky we are to live on this lake, and to never take it for granted. I have leaned so many things from this lake, it would be hard to pick just one, but

my father is always teaching me how to take care of the lake. I have learned to not cut your grass near the lake's edge, to release fish, or don't fill the jet-ski up over the lake, along with many other things that keep the lake healthy and clean. It is my and my father's wish to preserve this lake and keep it healthy so future generations will be able to enjoy the same great lake that we do today.

One issue that Sugar Lake is currently facing is new construction landscaping and there is some important information concerning this issue. Firstly, building permits are required for improvements and new construction. Permits are required both before any earth moving projects are started and before work is started on the water. Also when a person is constructing or improving a building it must be 75 to 100 feet from shore depending on the area of the lake. Tree and shrub removal is limited due to the need for protection of the shore line. For anymore additional information it is vital that a person should contact their lake association to ensure the safety and the health of Sugar Lake is maintained.

I hope that through the help of everyone who lives or comes to Sugar Lake that we can maintain and improve this lakes quality so that future generations can enjoy the same experiences that we are today. I hope that everyone will always find time to enjoy a cool splash in the water, a beautiful sunset, or just sit and relax while their family is enjoying their time on the lake.



FOR SALE

FOR SALE: SNOWMOBILES & TRAILER

1997 Polaris XLT Ltd

1997 Polaris Classic

Floe enclosed trailer.

Low miles (4300 & 2300), Electric Start, Windshield, Reverse, Trailer Hitch, Extra Belts, Spare Tire & Sled Covers.

All in excellent condition.

Whole package \$6,500.

Grandma & grandpa retiring and hanging up the helmets.

Call John Ostdiek at 952-226-2914

Can cooler and travel mug sale

Can coolers and travel mugs



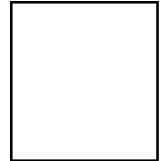
with a Sugar Lake logo are available for sale. The can coolers are \$2 each, travel mugs \$5 each

with proceeds benefiting the milfoil fund.

Contact
Karen Pitra
at 320-274-8153 for information.



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