

# The Sugar Lake News

SEPTEMBER 2006

*2006*

## Calendar of Events

**October 21-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 Pat Dahl at  
7630 106 St NW  
Annandale, MN 55302  
320-274-3486

## Diane's Lights Night

As the saying goes "the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." That's how I felt as I sat in my cabin, Saturday and Sunday of Labor day weekend and watched the rain come down. All the necessary supplies were sitting in the trunk of my car, we had our display all thought out and the manpower to put it up. Mother Nature had her own plans for our celebration; however, and as I'm sure many of us wanted to, we could not get her to change her mind. As the rain let up Sunday evening a few hardy souls did put out displays. There was a particularly nice one on the North West side of the lake and most certainly would have been a contender. Rules are rules though and as was stated in last month's issue, if it is raining at noon or any time thereafter on the day of the event, it was canceled. There is a bright side however. You already have your ideas and materials for next year's occasion. Put them in a safe place and we will see you on the next Diane's Lights Night.



## Give Our Lake a Break

Compost your leaves this fall or take them to the Township compost site. Composting breaks down organic material to a product that is beneficial to the soil and growing plants.

## Fishing Rules May Change on Sugar Lake

The next step in changing fishing regulations for Sugar Lake was taken September 14 at the Corinna Township hall. Paul Diedrich of the DNR Montrose Area Fisheries Office held a public meeting to gather comments and present background information on the proposed changes.

The DNR is proposing a 24-36 inch protected slot limit for northern pike. Anglers may take a limit of three, only one may be larger than 36 inches. Also proposed is a five fish daily bag for crappies.

The DNR decision on whether to proceed with the proposed change will be made this fall. Decisions on regulations are made in a collaborative way with Area, Regional, and Central Office Fisheries staff after gathering scientific data and angler input. If approved, this regulation would be in place at the start of the next angling season, March 1, 2007.

## Fall Clean-up

We are lucky to have many beautiful trees around Sugar Lake. Sometimes in the fall we don't feel so lucky when we are faced with picking up all those leaves. It is important to lake water quality to clean up the leaves in the fall. While leaves have always fallen around the lake this time of year, we don't have as much natural shoreline to catch them before they blow into the lake. Leaves are a high source of phosphorus. When left in piles on our lake lots they break down and release phosphorus. The highest concentrations are released in the fall and spring of the first year.

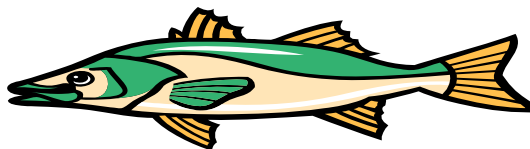


Build your own compost pile or bag the leaves and take them to the Township compost site. Don't burn the leaves.



## KASTL'S KORNER

The latest lake report. The physical condition was 3 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). 1 loons noted.



| Date     | Clarity | Water Temp | Air Temp | Culvert |        |
|----------|---------|------------|----------|---------|--------|
|          |         |            |          | Inlet   | Outlet |
| 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"    |
| 09-14-06 | 8'      | 64°        | 64°      | 17"     | 22"    |

## Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2006 has reached 369. If you haven't paid your 2006 dues, please send your \$25 check payable to the Sugar Lake Association to: Sugar Lake Association 7630 106 St NW., Annandale, MN 55302.

### Please welcome new members:

Craig & Linda Allen

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Pat Dahl. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Pat of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Pat at 320-274-3486 or email [darepat@lakedalelink.net](mailto:darepat@lakedalelink.net).

**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](mailto: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.

## Treasurer's Report

As of September 16, 2006

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund                      | \$13,617.89        |
| Lake Improvement Fund             | \$15,657.31        |
| Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund | <u>\$53,140.00</u> |
| <b>Total All Funds</b>            | <b>\$82,415.20</b> |

## Rainfall

August rainfall totaled 4.35 inches, about normal. Total rainfall through the end of August was 15.7 inches compared to a normal 20 inches.

The September total through the 27th is 5.2 inches.

## Water Clarity

The best water clarity recorded on Sugar Lake was 18 feet in 1962.

## Additional donations

### \$10.00 thru \$99.00

Craig & Linda Allen

Steven & Jill Banker

## 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: Vi Novotne 320-274-5179

- Visit the Corinna Township website at [www.corinnatownship.com](http://www.corinnatownship.com).

The Corinna Township Planning Task Force has completed a draft of the comprehensive plan and the land use plan. Go to the Association website, [www.sugarlake.org](http://www.sugarlake.org), for a link to the draft plans.

**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

*Hello to all Sugar Lake Association members,*

*Thank you all who attended Mom's (Irene Klein) memorial. It meant a great deal to all of our family to see you there. A huge thank you also for the generous check. We hope to get something significant for her flower gardens with it. Perhaps a memorial plaque.*

*As you know Mom and Dad worked for many years for the good of Sugar Lake Association. We feel it would be Mom's wish that memorials received should be given to the association to continue the wonderful work to keep the lake clean. Enclosed find a check for \$500 to that end.*

*See you at the lake!*

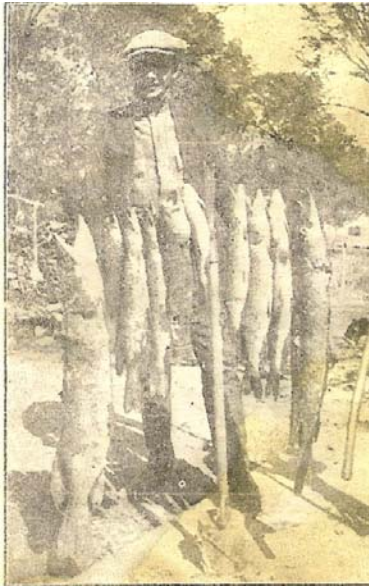
*The Irene Klein Family*

## Area Highlights

### Shelmire's Resort

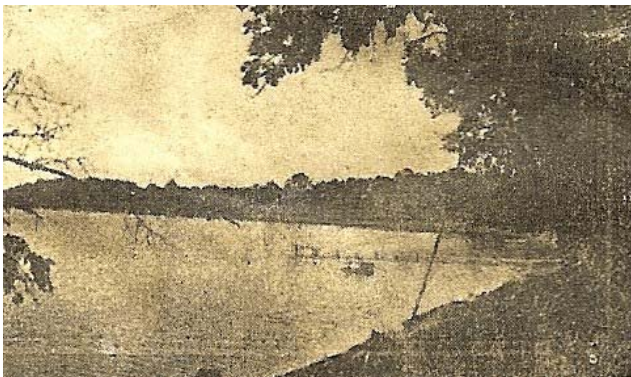
By Doc Williams

The most luxurious resort on Sugar Lake in the 20's& 30's was Shelmire's Summer Hotel. It was located on the South East corner near where the SLA holds its yearly picnic today. The lake at the time was surrounded by farms and tracks of heavy timber. The resort consisted of 15 rental cabins and the Maple Lodge dining hall. The entire facility was considered thoroughly modern in every detail with broad screened porches and electric lighting. A sand bottom bathing beach where children could enter the water "with perfect safety" ran the entire length of the resort. Other amenities included boating, horseshoe courts, croquet, hiking trails, and a splendid tennis court. If fishing was your game, there was anything from scrappy pumpkin seeds to northern pike that would weigh well over 20 pounds. The experience would "light the heart of any angler." One could visit the resort for a Sunday dinner, a weekend stay, or a month's vacation. A row boat was included with every cabin. Rates were \$2.50 per day or \$14.00 a week per person with children under 12 being \$1.00. There was also a family rate. An extra charge would be incurred for livery. No



better meals were to be had anywhere than the Maple Lodge dining hall at a cost of \$1.00 each and children 50 cents. Most of the hams and bacon served were cured on the adjoining farm. Fresh eggs were gathered daily and the milk and cream came from their "tested cows." The fried spring chicken from their poultry yard "would make you forget even the kind your mother used to make.." The resort could be reached by ticketing to Maple Lake or Annandale on the Soo line or to Hasty on the Great Northern railroads. Guests with reservations would be met at either station. For the owner of a motor car, it was an ideal objective. Those were the days!

The facts and quotes contained in this article were derived from a brochure that was used to advertise the Shelmire's resort. Do you have a tale to tell? Do you or the former owners of your lake home know some interesting history of the lake? We would like to publish it. Call Doc Williams (I'm in the phone book) and we will get-er-done.



## Clearer water means higher lakeshore values

This article is reprinted from the Minnesota DNR website. It is one of the "Lake Waves" columns developed by the North Central Minnesota Lakes Project.

Would you like to increase the value of your lakeshore property without doing an expensive remodeling job? You can, by improving the water clarity of your lake. A recent Bemidji State University study showed a direct relationship between property values and water clarity. Lakes with clearer water were associated with higher property values, while lakes with less clarity were associated with lower property values.

The study looked at 1,205 properties sold on 37 lakes in the communities of Aitkin, Brainerd, Grand Rapids, Walker, Park Rapids and Bemidji. The study was modeled after one in Maine. Both studies found that water clarity was the most significant factor in determining the purchase price of lakeshore property.

One of the Minnesota researchers, Dr. Patrick Welle, said, "Now, realtors can talk of location, location, location and clarity, clarity, clarity."

The study found that a one meter increase in water clarity has an economic worth of \$50 per foot for lake frontage, or about \$5,000 for a typical property with 100 feet of lakeshore. And, a one meter decrease in clarity has a much higher proportionate loss in economic worth, averaging \$70 per foot of lake frontage.

So, what can lakeshore owners do to improve their lake's clarity?

First, control stormwater runoff. Any water that runs off your roof, driveway and lawn should be captured before it reaches the lake. Rain gardens can accomplish this. So can buffer strips of native vegetation left between your lawn and the lake. Leaving nearby wetlands intact can help, too.

Second, property owners can improve water clarity by maintaining properly functioning septic systems. Non-compliant septic systems can release nutrients like phosphorous into a lake, which can cause the water to turn into something resembling pea soup.

Third, simply leave aquatic vegetation in place. Bullrushes, cattails and other aquatic plants help keep a lake clean.

Improving water quality isn't just about protecting Minnesota's natural assets; it's also about maintaining our economic assets as well.

For more information on water clarity, lakeshore values and other lakes issues email the North Central Minnesota Lakes (NCML) Project at [lakewaves@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:lakewaves@dnr.state.mn.us). NCML is part of Governor Pawlenty's Clean Water Initiative.

## Fisheries

Paul Diedrich with the DNR Montrose Area Fisheries office reported that Sugar Lake was stocked with 11,303 walleye fingerlings weighing 342 pounds.

## Website

If you haven't looked at the Sugar Lake Association website lately please take a look. Craig Johnson has taken over webmaster duties and you will find a lot of good content and links to other relevant material. Point your web browser to:

[www.sugarlake.org](http://www.sugarlake.org)

**WANTED**

The Sugar Lake Association is looking for a small boat trailer for a 14 foot boat. If you are interested in donating a trailer please contact Don Peterson 952-939-0172

**We recently received the following request for help from a St Cloud State University student. Help him out if you would like by taking his survey as described below.**

My name is Todd Anderson, and I'm a student at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. As part of my Environmental Studies degree program, I've created a web-based survey for waterfront property owners, and I was hoping that someone there might be willing to place a link to my survey on your website. Alternatively, if that's not possible, simply passing it on by word of mouth or forwarding the web address would be very helpful. I hope by this survey to gather information that may help to keep our surface waters cleaner for future generations, and allow tax dollars to be targeted more effectively, potentially reducing the burden on waterfront property owners. The survey can be viewed at:

<http://studentweb.stcloudstate.edu/anto0301>

Thanks for your help!  
Todd Anderson

# Hardstem Bulrush planting

Fifty hardstem bulrush were planted at 5 locations around Sugar Lake on August 25 by a Sugar Lakescapers team led by Dale Gustafson (pictured below.) The plants are dug into the lake bottom, a clear plastic protective sleeve is placed over the stems and is fastened to a stake driven into the lake bottom. This method was developed by Dale and has shown some success. The stakes are removed before ice over. Thanks to the rest of the people working on this project: Rick Kanniainen, Don & Cindi Peterson, and Charlotte Quiggle. A DNR permit was required to do this planting.



The Sugar Lake Association  
The Sugar Lake News  
7630 106 St NW.  
Annandale, MN 55302



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED