

The Sugar Lake News

SEPTEMBER 2007

2007

Calendar of Events

October 20-SLA Meeting*

*SLA meetings are held at the Corinna Township hall at 8:00 a.m.

Send Newsletter submissions to:

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E-mail don@sugarlake.org

For membership, address, e-mail, or property owner changes

contact Craig Johnson at
3312 132 St W
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-894-3593
E-mail membership@sugarlake.org

Diane's Lights Night By Doc Williams

A BIG THANKS to all who participated in this years Diane's Lights Night. There were many exceptional displays to view including a star, a sail boat, and a tower of luminaries. The weather cooperated even though some wind did hamper the north & west sides of the lake. A hats off to the folks who took part in those areas. The North Bay put on quite a show this year as did the people on the west side of Sunset Point. As I approached some neighborhoods, it was difficult to distinguish one display from the next. The entire vicinity was aglow. Many took advantage of the pleasant evening and viewed the various displays from their watercraft. It seemed as though a continuous line of pontoons and boats circled the lake. Thank you all for going the recommended counter-clock-wise.



Our 3rd place winner this year goes to the Hebzynski family on the west side of Sunset Point. With their 3 daughters doing the planning, they put out 120 bags, in 3 different levels, on 156 feet of shore line. Good job! Second place goes to the Groenke family on the northwest side. They put out 240 candle lit milk cartons, in multiple rows, starting from the water's edge and ending on the inside of the picture window. It took them about 2 & 1/2 hours to put it all together not to mention buying and drinking all that milk. If you remember, the Groenke family took 1st place 3 years ago. Our grand champions and a summer of Pepsi go to the Helen Ellis family in the southeast corner of the North Bay. Their display was a big 35W next to an equally big heart. The artists were (pictured) Meredith & Jesse in the front row and Robert, Gloria, and Helen in the back. There was a lot of significance and emotion behind their exhibit. Amey Lindholm, a family relative, was on the center span of the 35W Bridge when it collapsed.

She plummeted 64 feet in her car and it stopped just before tumbling into the water. Fortunately she was able to walk away from this terrible ordeal with no major injuries.

The judges for this year's contest consisted of 6 adults and 5 children from the Scinto family. They were last years 1st place winners and agreed to take on the task. With all the great competition, it must have been a difficult undertaking to determine the best 3. The imagination involved in the different displays during this year's competition has raised the bar for next year. It's not too early to start planning.

Give Our Lake a Break

When you pull your dock this year check and clean your shoreline of any garbage that has washed up.

Repair any damage that pulling your equipment causes.



Hardstem Bulrush planting

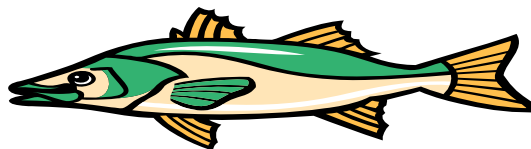


About two hundred hardstem bulrush were planted at 9 locations around Sugar Lake on August 25 by the Sugar Lakescapers. Three crews made short work of the planting and all met after at Karen Sutherland's for lunch. The plants are dug into the lake bottom and a clear plastic protective sleeve is placed over the stems and is fastened to a stake driven into the lake bottom. This method was developed by Dale Gustafson and has shown some success. The stakes are removed before ice over. Thanks to everyone who participated in this planting project.



KASTL'S KORNER

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



Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
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"
09-19-07	9'	60°	70°	16"	21"

Membership

Paid SLA membership for 2007 has reached 366.

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Craig Johnson. He will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Craig of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Craig at 952-894-3593 or email membership@sugarlake.org.

SUGAR LAKE NEWS FLASH:

Want the latest information on what's going on at the lake? If you are not getting the occasional e-mail from the Association it's probably because we do not have your up to date e-mail address. Please just send an e-mail to webmaster@sugarlake.org and you will be added to the list. We maintain two lists, one for News Flashes and one for "For Sale" information.

And, by the way, visit our website at sugarlake.org for all the latest.

Treasurer's Report

As of September 15, 2007

General Fund	\$11,246.94
Lake Improvement Fund	\$16,641.19
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$90,050.39</u>
Total All Funds	\$117,938.52

Rainfall

August rainfall totaled 5.64 inches. September rainfall totaled 4.3 inches. Total rainfall through the end of September was 22.97 inches. This amount is about normal for the year.

Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals

Lake Level

The lake level information reported by Jim Kastl every month goes to the DNR and is added to the historical data available on the internet at the popular Lake Finder site for all to use: www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html

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.

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

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.

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

Website

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

www.sugarlake.org

Vegetation Committee

By Dale Gustafson

Another year has passed and it seems that we are not keeping up with the spread of the invasive vegetation in Sugar Lake. The committee will be meeting again in a couple weeks with our consultant, Steve McComas of Blue Water Science, to review our long-range plan for control. We plan to have a series of meetings with local and state officials from the DNR to help us arrange for more aggressive treatments of both Curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil.

We, as a committee, were so encouraged by the response of donations to the "Buy an Acre" Invasive Species Fund drive, but our spirits were dampened by not being able to get permits to treat as much as we requested. We are hopeful that we can arrange for a more aggressive treatment program next season. When we get approval your donations should provide us with adequate funds to treat for a couple years. Thanks to all for your generous support.

We are still hopeful that we will be approved for a fall treatment of Eurasian water milfoil. We have a couple small areas we want to treat and the area in Addison bay. If approved, we would treat in mid October.

Silt Fence Installation

By Don Peterson

Several trees on my Sugar Lake lot were recently removed for an up-coming construction project. The lot configuration and the size of the trees required heavy equipment. The lawn was damaged exposing soil on the hillside. We were two weeks away from a contractor installed silt fence required for construction. The only option was to install it ourselves. A quick trip to Menards for 100 feet of silt fence. Cost about \$17. Gather a couple shovels and dig in.



1.) A square end shovel, the silt fence and a hammer to drive the stakes are all the tools required.



2.) Cut a clean line with the shovel and carefully fold over the sod. About 6 inches deep.



3.) Stake in the silt fence by driving the stakes in along the edge cut by the shovel. Fabric side towards the source of erosion.



4.) Fold the sod back over against the silt fence and compact it with your foot for a good seal.



5.) The completed installation. Heavy rains at the end of September left a water line about 6 to 8 inches up the silt fence fabric. It worked!

Water Quality Improvement Committee

By Dale Gustafson

The Committee has been working very hard at getting approval for the Hollister Creek project on the south end of the lake. Well, believe it or not, we have finally gotten to the next stage. This summer we were able to come up with a plan that the landowners could endorse. In fact they have been really supportive, willing, and anxious for this project to move forward. After having our engineer complete the plans we put the project on the request for funding with the Wright Soil & Water Conservation district. At the September meeting of their Board of Directors they approved our project for 50% funding (SLA would pay the other 50%). The next step was to secure bids for the work. We had our bid opening on September 24. The bids gave us a serious setback. The bids came in much higher than the engineer's estimate so we have had to take a step back and attempt to value engineer the project to see how we can solve our problem for less money. We are encouraged so far and believe we will be able to accomplish our goal for less money, but we may need to take a little longer to get the entire project completed.

We have not given up, this is just a small setback in the history of the Hollister Creek project. We will continue to work on this issue until we reach a good solution.

On other matters before the Water Quality Improvement Committee we have reached several conclusions:

First, we all have to realize that we need to rethink our ideas of what an ideal shoreline really is. For Sugar Lake to continue to be an exceptional lake in this region of the state, we will have to make bold steps to reverse the trend of declining water quality. Each of us needs to figure out what we can do on our properties to protect the lake. We need to endorse the idea of a natural shoreline with buffer strips of native plantings to filter the water as it flows toward the lake. This is something we can all do, and it will have a positive affect over the years. With the stress that is on our lake now from overuse, we need to help in any way we can to maintain Sugar Lake.

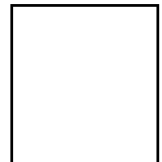
Second, we need to realize that we will continue to see redevelopment on our lake every year and understand that shoreline area reconstruction projects are the NUMBER ONE cause of negative runoff into the lake. Construction runoff is not necessary! Every project that disturbs the soil around the lake is a potential problem. Even rototilling a small garden, or topdressing a lawn area must be considered a threat to the lake. There is always a way to prevent soil erosion when you disturb the ground near the lake. Be sure you protect your site. Remember, silt fence is a must, but in many cases you will need more than just silt fence to protect the lake during a storm. We all have an obligation to protect Sugar Lake; take that obligation seriously. Remember, if the water going into the lake is cloudy or muddy, it is carrying phosphorus into the water and that degrades the water quality we are trying to protect.

Third, there is an endless number of places around the lake where silt is eroded into the lake. We must keep eliminating them. Walk your property in a rainstorm and see what is happening. Watch for future tips on what you can do on your property.

For Sale

19 Foot Harris Deckcraft Boat
320-274-8788

The Sugar Lake Association
The Sugar Lake News
11955 Hart Ave NW.
Annandale, MN 55302



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED