

The Sugar Lake News

SEPTEMBER 2011

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

2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

Diane's Lights Night By Doc Williams

The day of Diane's Lights Night started with a blustery wind from the North West and continued into late afternoon. This may have discouraged some participants from putting up displays but a hardy 54 lake shore owners were undeterred. The evening turned cool and calm making for excellent viewing. Several displays paid tribute to the 10th anniversary of 9/11 including the beautiful red, white, and blue one on the west shore. There was also a nicely done "T" with a big heart. When it came to picking the 3 top displays however, the DeGroot family, this year's judges, had their hands full. Their family and several out-of-state guests, totaling 8 people, hopped into their boat for the task. After viewing the finalists several times, they went back to their home and a vote was taken ending in a tie. Discussion followed for several hours and another vote was taken with another tie. They decided to sleep on it and after breakfast the next morning, another vote was taken. Two people changed their vote but they were on opposite sides to begin with so the result was another tie. When I showed up to find out who had won, they told me of their dilemma and asked if I would be the tie breaker, but I declined citing it was their decision. They then asked if there could be a tie for first place. I agreed but asked them to try one more time. They did, but the result was another tie so this year we have a third place and two first place winners.



Third place goes to Dale & Lois Rasmussen on the east shore. Their display was a large, brightly lit, and perfectly shaped heart. Nine family members worked on it in memory of their mother, Louise Schwagle, who died last August 23rd. Louise loved the lake and especially loved viewing the different displays on Diane's Lights Night. The heart was made up of 84 bags commemorating Louise's age at her death.

First of the tie winners goes to the Tom Pugh family on the east side of the North Bay. As you entered the bay, you couldn't help but see the 4'X4' by 6' high luminary in the sky. Their son Steve, was the architect and family members Anthony and Kari helped. The big luminary hung from a cherry picker and was tethered to the ground to keep it from swaying. A portable fire pit was placed inside to provide the illumination. The luminary had to be lowered 4 times during the evening to stoke the fire. A line of luminaries on their shoreline completed the display.

The other first place goes to the Urista family along the North shore. In previous years they have taken second and third place. As in the past, grandson Charley was the organizer. Their display consisted of around 200 luminaries decorating the yard. They had bags lining both docks, along the shoreline, on their deck, on the second floor balcony, hanging in trees and scattered throughout the yard. When the family got into their boat to view other displays, son Jim stayed back to keep the candles lit. He decided on his own to take some bags and make a half moon on the side yard. When the other family members returned, they scolded Jim for making the change but after finding out they had tied for first, they may be reconsidering.

Thanks to everyone who put up displays, for it was you who made this year's Diane's Lights Night a great success. The two first place winners will be splitting the prize of a summer of Pepsi product which was generously donated by Bernicks beverage of St. Cloud. Now for next year.....



The Pugh family 4' X 4' X 6' Luminary

Water Quality Report

By Dan Erdmann

The latest lake report. The physical condition was 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). .
Slight amounts of algae present.

Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
09-14-06	8'	64°	64°	17"	22"
09-19-07	9'	60°	70°	16"	21"
09-15-08	10'	66°	70°	16"	21"
09-18-09	13'	72°	71°	17"	22"
09-16-10	9.5'	66°	55°	23.5"	29.5"
09-15-11	9.5'	68°	52°	23.5"	28.5"

A culvert inlet measurement of 23.5" is 8" higher than the ordinary high water mark of 15.5".

Membership

Paid membership to date this year is 294. 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.

Our sympathy to the family of Kenneth Zieska who passed away September 21, 2011.

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 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

Treasurer's Report

As of September 17, 2011

General Fund	\$28,008.13
Lake Improvement Fund	\$22,689.42
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$126,653.27</u>
Total All Funds	\$176,350.82

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.

Rainfall

August rainfall was 4.75 inches. September rainfall has been .65 inches through Sept 22. About 7 inches over normal year to date. Thanks to Andy Juetten for providing monthly rainfall totals.

Water Patrol

Please be sure you remove all buoys and any other equipment from the water this fall. Anything left in the lake can present a hazard to winter lake traffic.

FISH GLASSWARE

Several pieces are delayed due to manufacturer back order, sorry! They should be in shortly. If you ordered glasses you can expect a call or email when they are in.

Chairman's Corner

Sept 2011

Greetings,

By way of introduction, my name is Ron Elsner. I will be serving as the Chairman of the Sugar Lake Association Board for the next year. My wife, LuAnn, and I have a seasonal cabin at the southwest corner of the lake, just north of the lagoon. We've been on Sugar Lake since 2003.



As a relative 'newbie' on the lake, I am gratified by the Board's support in electing me as Chair. I consider it a priveledge to be able to serve. As the new Chairman, one of the first orders of business is to acknowledge the work of the outgoing Executive Committee. For the past year, Doc Williams has served as Chairman; Karen ('KJ') Gusass as Vice Chair; Trudy Gutowski as Treasurer; and Andrea Welter as Secretary. Thanks to each for their dedicated service to the Association. We look forward to their ongoing support as we move into the future.

As we move through this coming year, I intend to use this corner to share some thoughts, ideas, and observations. Part of the October Board meeting will be spent talking about our goals and plans for the next year. Remember that the Board meetings are open to all Association members. We hope you will be able to join us. (Saturday, October 15, 9 AM, Corinna Town Hall).

Best regards,
Ron

PS: If we haven't already done so, most of us will be pulling our docks and lifts in the next couple of weeks . . . Remember to **Be Safe!**

No Wake Ordinance Amended

At the request of the Sugar Lake Association Board, The Wright County Board of Commissioners acted to amend the Temporary Emergency Slow - No Wake Ordinance for Sugar Lake August 30, 2011. The ordinance has been amended to state that no person shall operate a watercraft at a speed greater than a slow - no wake within 300 feet of the shoreline on Sugar Lake. The amended ordinance will remain in effect until October 1, 2011 or until the lake level is 6 inches above the ordinary high water mark for 3 consecutive days.

July 26, 2011 the Wright County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to implement a temporary emergency slow/no-wake ordinance on 15 lakes in the county, including Sugar. This ordinance was in effect for our entire lake. The ordinance was to be in effect until October 1, 2011 or until the lake level receded to 6" above the ordinary high water mark and stayed there for 3 consecutive days, whichever comes first.

The County will be working on a permanent ordinance before this year is over. The Sugar Lake Association has asked to be involved in the development of that ordinance.

2011/2012 Sugar Lake Association Board of Directors

Terms expiring August 31, 2012

Doc Williams
Betsy Hanson
Matt Kutz
Sue Dixon
KJ Gusaas
Ron Elsner

Terms expiring August 31, 2013

Marianne Borgeson
Sheldon Brown
Marilyn Hiscock
Tom Nimmo
Tom Pugh
Andrea Welter

Terms expiring August 31, 2014

Jon Juntunen
Mike Mengelkoch
Don Peterson
Charlotte Quiggle
Peter Ramme
Charlotte Schreiner

2010/2011 Officers

Chairman: Ron Elsner
Vice-Chairman: Don Peterson
Treasurer: Jon Juntunen
Secretary: Andrea Welter

SLA Committees

The real work of the Sugar Lake Association happens in committee. Go to 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 volunteering please contact the person listed.

Committees that are currently active and need your help include:

Education
Fisheries
Fundraising
Government Liaison
Lake Vegetation
Lakescapers
Membership
Communication
Picnic
Water Quality Improvement

Brandon Beckman Memorial 5K Run/Walk

The second annual Brandon Beckman Memorial—Sugar Lake 5K run/walk was held September 3. Organized by Kristin Turner and Cathy Beckman, the race was very successful again this year. 160 people participated, about the same as last year. Net income for the race was \$3100, all donated to the Sugar Lake Association. The great signs that you see in the pictures were donated by Doug and Cathy Beckman.

Special thanks to the SLA volunteers, snacks donated by Steve Harnett, water donated by Oak Realty. Brunch at the Hitching Post afterwards was great.

We are all looking forward to next year. Mark your calendars for the Saturday of Labor Day weekend.



Kristin Turner and Cathy Beckman



First

Second

Third



Vegetation Report:

By Dale Gustafson

We have been watching for development of areas of Eurasian water milfoil this summer, and the results have been confusing. It appears that we have many areas around the lake where EWM is present, but it has not developed into thick stands of plants. However, we hired PLM Lake and Land Management from Brainerd to help with the search and we have identified six small areas that should be treated. We have an application in with the DNR and we expect to do a treatment yet this fall. We will watch all of these areas closely next spring and may need to treat EWM in addition to Curly leaf pondweed next spring.

Water Quality Improvement Report:

By Dale Gustafson

Shoreline repair

Cleanup and repair of shorelines has continued to be a big project for many people on the lake. Now that the water level is going down, it is much easier to make repairs. Several people have been using a product called Envirolok Erosion control to repair and protect their shoreline. This is a product that looks like a "sand bag" that you can fill by hand and install on your shoreline. When the bags are installed and planted with vegetation it can be a reliable way to repair and re-vegetate a natural shoreline.

New water quality projects

The work is continuing on two major problem areas around the lake. The exceptional rainfall amount this year have demonstrated that we need to do more to protect our lake.

The Hollister Creek project is being reviewed in light of the significant flooding and erosion that resulted this year. The stage one portion of the project held up well to the storm surge, but it was not able to contain and filter the large volume of water that resulted from the storms. A neighborhood meeting was held with several property owners and staff from the Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District to review the problems and start the search for better solutions.

Hollister and 110th Street NW. This improvement project has been on our target list for over 12 years. We are now in negotiations with an engineering firm to help develop the concepts we have outlined as a possible solution. This project is on the target list for funding and we will keep you posted on the progress.

Lake Level Forum planned for winter meeting

Lake levels have been and continue to be an issue of concern for Sugar Lake residents, property owners, and users. Most recently we dealt with high water levels resulting from historic amounts of rain, as well as the ongoing concerns about the effects and effectiveness of the carp trap. The purpose of the forum would be to provide all stakeholders with the opportunity to discuss the issues (lake levels and carp trap) in a structured and facilitated fashion, with the intent of developing a consensus-based action plan.

Zebra Mussels

As you remove your docks and boat lifts this year please make a close inspection of all surfaces to check for zebra mussels. Recent infestations on Minnesota lakes such as Minnetonka and Mille Lacs bring this invasion close to home

About zebra mussels:

Zebra mussels are a small freshwater mussel usually found in clusters. They were brought into the Great Lakes in the ballast water of freighters. The mussels were discovered in the Great Lakes about 1988. They have a D-shaped shell with alternating yellow and brownish colored stripes. Most are under an inch in size, but range from 1/4 to 1-1/2 inches long. Female zebra mussels can produce 100,000 to 500,000 eggs per year. The eggs develop into microscopic larvae (called veligers) that begin forming shells. Within 2 to 3 weeks they settle and attach to any firm surface. They can clog irrigation systems, attach to boat motors and clog cooling water inlets, cut fishing tackle, and cause cuts and scrapes to swimmers. They filter plankton increasing water clarity allowing plant growth, including invasives, at greater depths. High numbers of the mussels can impact the food chain.

Source: MN DNR



'Open Mic'

The Sugar Lake Board has created an 'Open Mic' segment as part of the monthly Board meeting to allow Association members and certain others to address the Board with their issues and/or concerns. Rules of engagement are as follow:

- This is an opportunity to voice concerns or opinions to the Board. It is **NOT** intended to be a dialog with the Board.
- Segment would be inserted in the Board agenda after acceptance of the previous month's minutes, and before the Treasurer's report.
- Duration of comments: 5 minutes, maximum. 15 minutes maximum time allotted per meeting. Sign up to speak with the secretary prior to the Call to Order.
- Participants would be limited to those individuals who are currently Association Members, or who would qualify to be Members under Article IV, Section 1 of the Association By-Laws. It is **NOT** intended to be a forum open to the general public.
- Formal consideration of the issue and/or action by the Board would require that the issue be brought forward by a board member as an item of New Business.

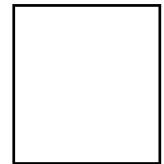
For Sale

22 foot pontoon with lift . 25hp 4 stroke motor.
Contact Barb Slimmer at 612-554-0066

For Sale

1996 Parti Kraft Pontoon with Lift. Well maintained.
40 HP Yamaha motor
New canopy for lift
Anchor, ladder, and life jackets included.
\$5500.00
On Sugar Lake
Contact John 651-491-1594

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED