



# The Sugar Lake News

SEPTEMBER 2012

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

### 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS October 20-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 Marianne Borgeson at  
12282 Hart Ave NW  
Annandale, MN 55302  
320-963-2674  
E-mail [membership@sugarlake.org](mailto:membership@sugarlake.org)

## ZEBRA MUSSELS: You can help!



If you have an hour to spend, we'd like to enlist your help in the fight against zebra mussels in Sugar Lake. While we haven't yet encountered zebra mussels in Sugar Lake, we need to be on the lookout for them. One of the places the mussels first show themselves is on submerged structures like docks and boat lifts. The end of the summer season, when docks and lifts come out of the water, is a great time to see if the mussels are present. Last October, a number of the Board members conducted an informal walk down the shoreline in their respective neighborhoods to do a quick inspection of the docks and lifts that were on shore. This year, we'd like to be a little more aggressive and formal in our approach.

So, how can YOU help? We're looking for volunteers to walk the shoreline in their respective neighborhoods, do a brief inspection of the docks and lifts that are out of the water, and report back (via email) their findings. (Note: See the map in the SLA Directory if you are unsure of your Area!) We'll provide directions, photos of what to look for, and an aerial photo of your Area to boot! You can do the inspection at your convenience over the course of the next few weeks. We would like to have the inspections completed by Sunday, October 21.

Please give it some thought, and let us know if you are interested in participating. You can reply to the Sugar Lake Association ([zebra@sugarlake.org](mailto:zebra@sugarlake.org)) or to Ron Elsner ([elsnerrw@gmail.com](mailto:elsnerrw@gmail.com)).



If while inspecting your Zebra Muscle brick or just your dock and lift as you take them out of the lake, you might discover a strange looking "tube" of sand or rock. I first noticed them on my Zebra Brick this year, but have not seen them in previous years.

According to Gar Montz the Zebra Muscle specialist of the DNR – "From the pictures you sent, these are caddisflies. This aquatic insect makes cases out of sticks, stones or leaf pieces and lives inside for one or two years before emerging. They are normal inhabitants of our lakes, and a pretty diverse group. I can't tell which genus you have for sure there, but I would guess it is a Limnephilidae and possibly in the genus Pycnopsyche. They are more a sign of a healthy lake than anything else. If this is the only thing you are seeing colonizing your samplers, great!

This is what they looked like on my brick. Notice, no Zebra Muscles there yet.



Dale Gustafson

## Water Quality Report

By Dan Erdmann

The latest lake report. The physical condition was 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). .  
A noticeable algae tint still in the lake.

Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
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"
09-14-12	10.5'	70°	71°	11.5"	17.5"

A culvert inlet measurement of 11.5" is 4" lower than the ordinary high water mark of 15.5".

## Membership

Paid membership to date this year is 290. If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Marianne Borgeson. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Marianne of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Marianne at 320-963-2674 or email [membership@sugarlake.org](mailto:membership@sugarlake.org).

## 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)

## 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.

## Treasurer's Report

As of August 31, 2012

General Fund	\$38,022.12
Lake Improvement Fund	\$24,165.82
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	\$91,402.61
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$153,590.55</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).

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

## Rainfall

August rainfall was 1.40 inches. September rainfall has been .12 inches through Sept 25. 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.

## 2012-13 Budget

An expense budget and an income budget to support it were approved by the SLA board at the September meeting.

### Budgeted expenses are:

General Fund	\$12,625.00
Lake Improvement Fund	\$40,250.00**
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	\$65,100.00
(**Lake Improvement includes possible one time project expense of \$33,000)	

### Budgeted income:

General Fund	\$21,100.00
Lake Improvement Fund	\$5,300.00
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	\$61,500.00

The board also transferred \$10,000 from the general fund to Lake Improvement and \$23,000 from the general fund to Invasive Species.

## Chairman's Corner

Sept 2012

Greetings,

I am pleased to say I will be serving as the Chairman of the Sugar Lake Association Board for the next year. We have a great group of people on the board ready to meet the challenges we will be faced with this fiscal year.



Our biggest challenges will continue to include controlling Eurasian milfoil and Curly leaf pondweed, guarding against new invasive species like zebra mussels, implementing projects to improve water quality, working with the DNR and other agencies, and raising the money to accomplish all these tasks. In 2012 our grant income for invasive control dropped by a third to around \$7000. We expect that to be the case going forward so we will be responsible for making up the shortfall. The expense budget for invasive species in 2013 is \$65,000. We are all going to need to pitch in to make it happen.

Remember that the Board meetings are open to all Association members. We hope you will be able to join us. (Saturday, October 20, 9 AM, Corinna Town Hall).

Best regards,  
Don Peterson

## 2012/2013 Sugar Lake Association Board of Directors

### Terms expiring August 31, 2013

Marianne Borgeson  
Sheldon Brown  
Marilyn Hiscock  
Tom Nimmo  
Tom Pugh  
Andrea Welter  
Ron Elsner—past chair

### Terms expiring August 31, 2014

Jon Juntunen  
Mike Mengelkoch  
Don Peterson  
Charlotte Quiggle  
Peter Ramme  
Trudy Richter

### Terms expiring August 31, 2014

Gary Borrell  
Joann DeGrood  
Laurie Erickson  
Dale Gustafson  
Paul Gustafson  
Jeff Jonswald

## Outdoor Catholic Mass



An open air Catholic Mass was celebrated on Sunday of Labor Day weekend. The event was held at the Shallbetter cabin on Sunset Point with about 125 people from around the lake attending. Father Marty Shallbetter, who just retired from the priesthood

and is part owner of the family cabin, was the celebrant. Many stayed around after the Mass and socialized with coffee and goodies. It is said "if two or more are gathered in my name, there will be a collection". A donation of \$363.00 will go to the Anandale Free Store. Plans are to make this a yearly event.



## 2012/2013 Officers

**Chairman:** Don Peterson  
**Vice-Chairman:** Paul Gustafson  
**Treasurer:** Jon Juntunen  
**Secretary:** Andrea Welter

## SLA Committees

The real work of the Sugar Lake Association happens in committee. 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 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

Pictures by Karen (Kj) Gusaas and Ken Vande Steeg

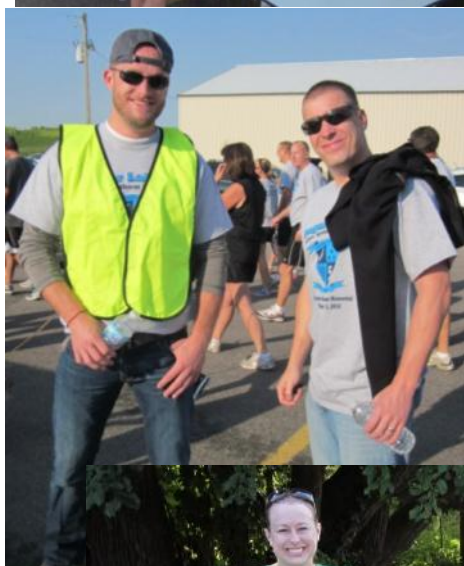
It was a sunny, mild morning, Sept. 1 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Brandon Beckman-Sugar Lake Memorial 5K. About 130 Sugar Lake residents, families, and friends participated in this fun event. The event began in 2010 seven months after lifelong resident of Sugar Lake, Brandon Beckman was killed in an automobile accident shortly after finishing his service in the Marine Corp.

Race Director, Kristin Turner began the race as a fun run, but with the memorial to Brandon, the race has grown to be a very special event for the residents of Sugar Lake, as well as family and friends of Brandon. Special acknowledgement of all past and present military in attendance recognized. The 5K is a Walk/Run event, which allows many people to participate.

This year the race raised over \$2200 for the Sugar Lake Association, Lake Improvement Fund. This included event participants, as well as memorial donations. Sugar Lake residents involved as volunteers were Karen and Rob Gusaas, Deb & Denny Beltrand, Matt & Jessica Kutz, Pat & Paul Gustafson, Ed Scinto and his son, Robert Turner, Kyle Renner, Doug, Cathy & Bridget Beckman, Betsy & Jim Hanson, Gary Hiscock, Tom Tart, Ken Vande Steeg. Steve Harnett provided snacks. Oak Realty donated water.



Kristin Turner and Cathy Beckman









## Diane's Lights Night

By Doc Williams

Diane's Lights Night was a big success with a total of 83 cabins putting up some kind of display. The evening could not have been better with a bright Blue Moon shining high in the sky, calm winds, and a pleasant temperature. As I viewed the displays on one side of the lake, it was great to see a long line of watercraft cruising along the opposite shore.



If you happened to be on the north end of the lake at the right time, you were also treated to some fireworks and the ringing of the bell on Sunset Point. The displays were numerous and imaginative with a YOLO (you only live once), Diane's Lights, a display including many lanterns hanging from trees, and many campfires. An honorable mention goes to the beautifully displayed Butterfly on the west shore and the Olympic rings, made with colored bags on the east side. As usual, the folks on the west side of Sunset Point lit up the night sky. In addition to their individual displays, 17 cabins made a line of Luminaries' along their shore in succession. Now that's community spirit.

This year's third place winner goes to the Zieska family on the west side of Sunset Point. Their display consisted of a Big Dipper, Little Dipper, and full moon. Daughter Heather came up with the idea while driving back from North Dakota. Daughter Hannah drew up the plans and all worked together to keep the Luminaries' lit. An unexpected finale came about when the North Star of their display caught fire and Hannah had to stomp it out. In the past, the Zieskas' have taken 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place with their displays.

Second place this year goes to Gary & Mary Williamson located on the west side of Sunset Point. A total of 200 tea lights were used in their display. 150 Luminaries' lined their shoreline and docks and 50 small glass jars with tea lights were nestled in among their rock wall. 6 tiki torches and a big bonfire completed the display. 5 giggling girls helped put everything together. The Williamsons were one of the 17 cabins that lined their shoreline in succession. In previous years, they have taken 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

First place and a summer of free Pepsi products go to the DeGroot family located on the south east side of the North Bay. As you cruised by their display 4 lines of luminaries could be seen cascading down from a high point to a fire on their beach. Every few minutes a ball of fire in the center would cascade down to the fire pit and cause it to erupt. The effect was quite impressive. They accomplished this by using 16 feet of scaffolding set up in their front yard. Luminaries were taped to wires leading from the top center of the scaffolding and fanning out to the ground. A wire in the middle guided a trolley holding a lit rag soaked in lamp oil and a plastic bottle filled with an "accelerant". When the trolley hit a stopper attached to the wire, the rag and "accelerant" would pull loose and fall into the fire causing the eruption. Son Mike was the architect along with some relatives and friends from Atlanta were his accomplices. When Mike told his father about the plans, Dick came back with the comment "YOU'RE GOING TO DO WHAT! **Disclaimer:** No structures were burned down with this display.

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Diane's Lights Night. Diane Radtke would have been over joyed with what she started so many years ago.



First Place  
Degroot Family



The Trolley



Second Place  
Gary & Mary Williamson & Family



Third Place  
Zieska Family

## Zap Those Lake Weeds!

By Karen Sutherland



Due to recent strong winds, many of us have experienced large accumulations of lake weeds on our shores. This photo was taken on the south shore the weekend of September 8-9. The pictured weeds produced a mass extending several feet into the water along 200 feet of shoreline. Questions have arisen as to whether we should remove them and, if we do, what we can do with them.

**They should be removed.** As they decay, the weeds take oxygen from the water and release phosphorus and nitrogen into the water. Large amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen in the water will degrade water quality. Phosphorus in particular feeds algae bloom. Granted that before any of us were here, the lake took care of the weeds without our help. However, it was not at that time dealing with septic drain fields, runoff from lawn fertilizer and other actions that put strains on bodies of water. Removing weed accumulations from our shores is a small payback for all that Sugar Lake has given us.

### Now that they are removed, what do we do with them?

The weeds shown in the photo, when gathered onto the dock, created a 20 foot long, three foot wide and two foot tall pile, not a small problem.

### Some options:

Let them dry, bag them and take them to the composting facility at the Corinna Town Hall. The advantage of this approach is that they are quickly out of sight. The disadvantages are that you will make a lot of trips and use a lot of bags.

Either put them into your own compost pile or use them to start a compost pile. The advantage to this approach is that all that phosphorus and nitrogen will be available for your garden next spring.

Use it for mulch. Mulch your shrubs. Mulch your trees. Mulch any other plants you might have. We have been advised to water trees and shrubs due to the lack of rain. The mulch will help the soil retain moisture. It will be gone by spring and your trees and shrubs will thank you for your consideration during this time of drought. Note that lake weeds around your shrubs will not produce little lake weeds next year. Seeds, if any, do not germinate out of the water.

Most of the weeds in the photo were used as mulch. The rest were added to the compost pile. You will be blown away by the magnificent plants at next spring's SLA plant exchange!

## Battle of the Lakes

Under new ownership by Mark Dvorak, Whispering Pines Golf Course held its 1<sup>st</sup> annual "Lake Association Golf Tournament". The event took place August 28<sup>th</sup> and was a 4 or 5 man scramble. The event included 18 holes of golf and a pork chop dinner. Teams from Sugar, Silvia, Clearwater, Cedar, John, Mink, and Pleasant lakes were invited to participate. More than 1 team from a lake could partake and they could be single or mixed doubles players. The first place team got their lake's name put on a 3 feet tall traveling trophy. Sugar Lake has the distinction of being first on that award. Dick DeGrood heard of it and got a team together to represent Sugar Lake. They won with a 12 under par. Dick could have taken the trophy home but chose to leave it at the golf course hoping to

generate more interest for next year. Many other prizes were given out including longest drive, longest put, and closest to hole on par 3. Plans are being made for next year.



## Zebra Mussels

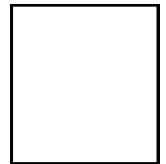
Zebra mussels are a small freshwater mussel usually found in clusters. They were brought into the Great Lakes in the ballast water of freighters. The mussels were discovered in the Great Lakes about 1988. They have a D-shaped shell with alternating yellow and brownish colored stripes. Most are under 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



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The Sugar Lake Association  
The Sugar Lake News  
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