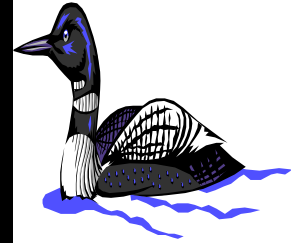


# THE SUGAR LAKE NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2003



**2003**

### **Calendar of Events**

#### **October 11-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 952-935-4201

E-mail donpeterson@maxigard.com

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

contact Karen Pitra at

Karen Pitra

11102 Hoyer Ave NW

Annandale, MN 55302

320-274-8153

Or

Tanya Olin

11145 Hoyer AV NW

Annandale, MN 55302

320-274-5218

### **Fall Clean-Up Time**

Please consider the following while you do your fall clean-up:

Tree leaves are a very high source of phosphorus and can be a real problem for our lake. When the leaves break down they release phosphorus at a very high rate and rains will wash this available phosphorus into the lake. The highest concentrations of phosphorus are available in the fall and spring of the first year, but the release continues for several years. For this reason it is important to think about what you do with your leaves.

### **MEETING DATE CHANGE**

Please note the meeting date for the next Sugar Lake Association meeting has changed from October 18 to October 11. The meeting will be held at Corinna Township Hall at 8 a.m.

### **Leaves in the lake = Green slime in the water**



**You can make a difference...**

- **Please rake and remove your leaves**

**Help keep our water clean!**

*A message from your Sugar Lake Association Education Committee*

Good news! For those SLA members who may have a hard time raking their leaves this fall due to health reasons etc., we have some young enthusiastic volunteers (with nice strong backs!) available who would be happy to help!! Please provide leaf bags for them, and remind them to remove the leaves from the bags, at Corinna Township Hall (located off of Hwy. 39 and Ireland Blvd.). Transportation may need to be provided for some of the younger kids. Here is a list of contact people:

- 1 Key Club members from Annandale High School--available weekends and some after school time. Contact Jake Hamlet 320-274-8208 ext. 3306.
- 2 Youth Group from St. John's Lutheran Church (in Annandale)--Available Oct. 22nd. Contact Lanie Fitzgerald 320-274-8827
- 3 Youth Group from Annandale Free Church. Contact Pastor Mark Roelief 320-274-8951.

Reminder: leaves in the lake produce phosphorus.

Let's all do our best to help out- rake and remove your leaves!

Other ideas:

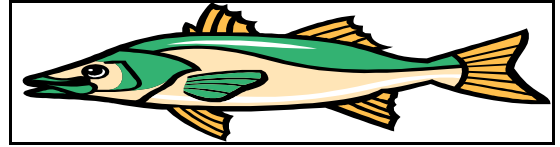
- 1 Have a neighborhood rake-a-thon! Potluck to follow.
- 2 Reduce the amount of time it takes to bag. Find a neighbor who would be willing to share their truck. Rake leaves on to a big sheet, drag to a central location in your neighborhood, load the truck with leaves, drive to Corinna Township to unload, and repeat!!

A big thank you to all!!

# SEPTEMBER 20 ASSOCIATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## **KASTL'S KORNER**—the latest lake report.

The physical condition was 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). 3 loons noted. The loons will be leaving in mid-September singly or in small groups usually in daylight to winter in Florida or the gulf coast area. Expect them back in late March to mid-May. The average arrival date is April 23.



Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
09-15-98	9'	71°	86°	16"	21"
09-15-99	9'	64°	59°	19"	24"
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"

## **Treasurer's Report**—report as of September 20, 2003

General Fund	\$ 7,889.79
Lake Improvement Fund	\$13,783.47
Milfoil Fund	<u>\$48,681.08</u>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$67,354.25</b>

## **Membership**

This is the final membership report from John Ostdiek. John is resigning after several years work on membership, directory, and the Sugar Lake News Flash. The membership chair is an important job in the association that requires a significant time commitment. John has done an excellent job. Thank you John for all your hard work. Members paid for Year 2003 to date are 351, tying last year's record high.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Beth Bangasser who recently passed away and to the family of Mike Madden whose mother recently passed away.

We would like to extend our sympathies and thanks to Elb and Doree Gamble and the family of Barbara Gamble Richter for the memorial donation to the Sugar Lake Association. Barbara Gamble Richter's sojourn at Sugar Lake dates back to picnics on the point, five horse power motors, and good bass fishing, 1928 to be exact, and I'm sure old Sugar will miss her presence.

If you know anyone new to the Sugar Lake area, please let Karen Pitra or Tanya Olin know. An information packet will be mailed. For address additions, deletions or changes, please contact Karen at 320-274-8153 or Tanya at 320-274-5218 or e-mail at tanya.m.olin@wellsfargo.com.

**SUGAR LAKE NEWS FLASH:** This e-mail service is available for Sugar Lake members, family, and friends. Contact Tanya at tanya.m.olin@wellsfargo.com with your e-mail address to get on the Sugar Lake News Flash list.

## **News Flash**

By Doc Williams

If you have access to the Internet, and are familiar with the Sugar Lake "News Flash," you are probably a subscriber to it. John Ostdiek has run this one-man operation for about 3 years. His original purpose was to let the "trunk slammers," back in town, know of any damage that might have occurred after a storm passed over the lake. It has evolved into a vehicle of communication that encompasses a wide variety of subjects. It has covered anything from for-sales to lost and found to news items of interest. John has decided to step down as CEO of the Flash. A BIG round of applause to John for all his hard work.

The Sugar Lake Association recognized the News Flash as being a valuable tool for contacting its members on short notice. For example, if chemicals to fight Milfoil were going to be applied, the lakeshore owners that would be affected could be notified. The SLA board decided to make it an official function of the association and Tanya Olin, a new board member, has accepted the CEO's position. Contact Tanya at Tanya.m.olin@wellsfargo.com. The news flash will be run pretty much as before and has 2 sections. The first is the classifieds. You can request to buy or offer to sell, anything from anchors to zone valves. Simply send a short description of your item to Tanya, and she will forward it. The second section is news related. Any item, of a timely nature, that would be of interest to others can be sent in. This could include alerts, up-coming events, storm damage, lost & found, etc. Please, no editorializing. The SLA reserves the right not to forward any items that it considers not in good taste or not pertinent.

If you are already a member of the News Flash, the only thing you need to do is change your address book to reflect Tanya as the contact person. If you are not a member, and would like to become one, e-mail Tanya and request she put you on her mailing list. This service is free and open to Sugar Lake members, family, and friends.

## **Township News**

**Corinna Township** Town Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 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

**Clearwater Township** Town Board meetings are held the third week 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

## **Board of Directors**

Outgoing board members deserve a big thanks from everyone for three years of hard work on Sugar Lake Association business. Thank you to the following individuals:

Steve Borgeson

Cori Duffy

Dale Gustafson

Mike Madden

Chuck Benner

Frank Vinella

Former chairman Al Wojchowski

## **Diane's Lights Night**

By Doc Williams

As the light of the day slowly faded in the west, I looked across the lake with anticipation. How many would participate? What kinds of displays would they have? And then an unusual glow began to appear on the opposite shore. At first it was spotty, some here, some there. Slowly, the patches of light filled in until much of the lake was awash in a soft, warm, inviting light. Sugar Lake had put on her best to herald the end of the summer season; for this was Labor Day weekend and Diane's Lights Night. We quickly lit our own display and then joined our new neighbors, for a ride around the lake to view what others had done. As we cruised the shoreline we were in awe at the Hi, the USA, the heart, the big "D", and the smiley face all created with simple white bags and candles. In all, 143 lakeshore owners participated in the event. There was everything from a few well-placed Luminaries to ones with several hundred bags that lit up the night sky. A high five to the folks on the west side of Sunset Point who together almost succeeded in turning night back into day. Some displays appeared to incorporate electric lighting until close examination revealed clear glass or plastic containers with candles in them. The Radtke family, having volunteered to do the judging, had a daunting task ahead of them for they had to decide which of the masterpieces would take "best of show." Several sights had to be revisited and some heated debating took place before the decisions were made. Pepsi & Mountain Dew shirts and hats went to Pam & Tom Pugh and Joann & Dick DeGrood, our 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners, on the east side of the North Bay. Together they created a line of floating Luminaries several hundred feet long that was very impressive. More Pepsi & Dew hats and shirts went to Annette Koring and daughter Pam Bunker, our 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners on the north shore. Together they spelled "Diane" on a 3-tiered stand with a white sheet for a background. First place, and a summer of free Pepsi products went to Peifers Resort on the North shore. Their display included candle lanterns high in the trees and a big star for Diane herself. Everyone who participated in the evening was a winner; for together we made our lake shine like no other.

Hopefully, you enjoyed the day. Whether your time was spent with family and friends planning and building your displays, or just cruising the lake to see what others had done, it was a day to remember. A special thanks goes to the Pepsi Cola bottling Co. of Burnsville. They donated the prizes for the event. Also, thanks to all those who illuminated their floating docks. We will have another contest next year with more prizes and more fun. It's not too early to start planning. It was suggested that we invite the media to do a story on our special night. I will look into it.

## **New Business**

- A motion was made and passed to reimburse tuition for up to 10 people, not to exceed \$600, to attend Shoreland Volunteer training November 22.
- A motion was made and passed to do an October postcard mailing related to septic systems by the water quality education committee.
- A motion was made and passed to make the Sugar Lake News Flash an official communication tool of the SLA.
- Steve Wiltermuth accepted the position of parliamentarian.
- A motion was made and passed to form a Sugar Lake Association scholarship committee.

## **Vegetation**

- The vegetation committee does not plan on a fall milfoil treatment. They are successfully experimenting with spot treatment of individual plants by divers.
- The milfoil treatment permit cost for next year will be \$700.

## **Water Quality**

The next meeting of the education committee will be October 14 at 7 p.m. at Darrell and Pat Dahls.

## **Water Patrol**

The water patrol would like to remind everyone using the lake to be sure and have functional navigational lights and to use them if you are going to boat after dark.

## **Aquatic Plant Management in Minnesota**

On September 18, Dale Gustafson and three others from the MLA met with 8 DNR officials to discuss aquatic plant management. Topics included Milfoil treatment rules, DNR budget proposals, and training and certification for lake associations involved in aquatic plant management. Follow up meetings are planned.

## **Lakes and Rivers Conference '04**

Rutgers Bay Lake Lodge & Conference Center  
Deerwood, Minnesota  
April 29 – May 1, 2004

The Minnesota Lakes Association and the Rivers Council of Minnesota, with the help of LCMR, are teaming up to offer two full days of citizen-oriented workshops providing something for everyone.

For more information, contact Keri at the Minnesota Lakes Association at 800-515-5253 or Angel at the Rivers Council of Minnesota at 320-259-6800.

## **Rainfall**

August rainfall was .24 inches. Three inches fell September 10. The lake is down 16 inches from the high in late June.

## **Shoreland**

### **Volunteer Training**

**November 22, 2003**

**Warner Lake Nature Center  
Clearwater, Minnesota**

A good sized group of SLA members has signed up for Shoreland Volunteer training. If you are interested contact Dale Gustafson at 763-544-4215 or Don Peterson at 952-939-0172 or any member of the water quality improvement committee.

At this Shoreland volunteer workshop you'll learn basic limnology, shoreland regulations, watershed concepts, and land use practices that impact water quality. You'll also meet local resource folks and receive tips on sharing your knowledge with others

Trained Shoreland Volunteers make a commitment to return twenty hours of community service in the next year. Additional educational opportunities are made available to you as Shoreland Volunteers.

### **\*\*SOMETHING NEW\*\***

in the newsletter...Introducing "Dear Sugar"- a spot for questions (from you our association members) and answers (from board members and various resources) about Sugar Lake... anything goes—water quality, permit requirements, social events, shoreline gardening, whatever! Send your questions to our newsletter editor, Don Peterson, 319 Wayside Rd W, Hopkins, MN 55343, or email [donpeterson@maxigard.com](mailto:donpeterson@maxigard.com)

### ***Dear Sugar***

Dear Sugar, "Is my firepit harmful to the lake?"  
From, Area K cabin owner.

Dear Area K cabin owner, No, your firepit is not harmful to the lake if it is properly cared for. Be sure the firepit is not in the path of water runoff into the lake during a rain. Prevent any ash from being washed directly into the lake. Occasionally remove ash from the fire pit and incorporate it into the soil well away from the lake in a garden or woods area. Ash is high in phosphorus that is immediately available if it is washed into the water.

### ***Give Our Lake a Break***

Leave your grass long for fall and winter. It catches leaves and helps insulate the ground.

## **First Flush Fundamentals**

The following article further illustrates why managing the initial stormwater runoff, what we're calling 'First Flush Fundamental's, is so important.

### **When it rains it pollutes – a short history of stormwater pollution**

By: Ron Struss, University of Minnesota Extension Educator

“When it rains it pollutes” is an easy shorthand for stormwater pollution. It is what happens when rain and snow-melt wash pollutants from streets, parking lots, yards, and storage areas into lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Stormwater pollution, along with agricultural runoff pollution, are two main reasons we are not meeting “fishable and swimmable” goals for our nation’s rivers and lakes.

Stormwater problems date back to the earliest cities. The basic structures of cities, roofs, and paving prevent rain from soaking into the ground and leads to flooding during storms. The Indus city of Mohenjo-Daro (now west Pakistan) dealt with this problem in 3000 B.C. by building drains into their streets. The Romans built drainage systems in 1000 B.C. that not only handled stormwater runoff, but also overflows from public baths and fountains.

Stormwater drainage systems soon led to sanitary sewers. Once it was noted that a good rainfall would flush a storm drain clean, people started putting household waste in them in anticipation of the next rain. However, when rains were infrequent, unsanitary and repulsive conditions would result. The solution was to cover over the drainage ways and create what the Romans called *cloacae* and we call sewers. Initially, sewers dumped untreated waste directly into receiving waters. By the 1930s wastewater treatment became common in developed countries.

When North American cities were built, combining stormwater runoff and sanitary waste into one sewer was common practice – a practice stopped in the 1960s in the interest of water pollution control. Combined sewers ended up at wastewater treatment plants. Runoff from small storms would be treated along with sanitary waste – a good thing. But runoff from large storms would overwhelm treatment plants, causing raw sewage to be dumped into the rivers and lakes – a bad thing.

Now, for the most part, storm sewers are separate from sanitary sewers. This means stormwater and the pollutants it picks up are routed largely untreated into surface water, resulting in:

- Sediment from road sand and construction sites clogging waterways;
- Nutrients from leaves, grass clippings, and fertilizer causing algae blooms;
- Bacteria from pet waste, urban wildlife, and illegal sanitary connections causing beach closing; and
- Toxics entering our water when people dispose of wastes down storm drains.

“Best management practices” are being promoted to reduce stormwater pollution. Included are innovative designs for new developments, “good housekeeping” practices to keep pollutants from being washed away by rain, education to keep people from using stormwater drains as disposal sites, and construction practices such as ponds and wetlands to provide a degree of stormwater cleanup before it is released into lakes and rivers. A good basic publication on yard care practices can be found at: [www.moea.state.mn.us/campaign/garden/](http://www.moea.state.mn.us/campaign/garden/).

## **Compost your leaves**

Consider composting your leaves this fall. Composting breaks down organic materials, like leaves, to a product that is beneficial to the soil and growing plants. Composting speeds up the natural process of decomposition.

A compost pile requires green materials rich in nitrogen and brown materials that are a source of carbon. Green materials include grass clippings, lake plants, plant trimmings, and fruit and vegetable scraps. Brown materials include dried leaves and grasses, twigs, branches, and shredded paper. If you lack green material this fall you can use a 1/3 cup of a 27-0-3 lawn fertilizer per 25 square feet of surface area as a substitute. Do not use a fertilizer that contains herbicides or pesticides.

Pick an area well away from the lake and alternately layer the green and brown material into a pile. The pile should be between 3' X 3' and 5' X 5' and 3 to 5 feet high. The pile can be contained by a compost bin, fencing or piled loose if it is not in danger of being blown away. Add water to the pile as you go. It should be moist.

Once the pile is complete the real work begins as the bacteria arrive. The pile will become hot within a few days. Internal temperatures can reach 170 degrees F. The temperature peaks then drops off. When the temperature drops the pile can be turned and the temperature cycle will repeat. If the pile is turned in this fashion the composting process will be complete in a matter of weeks. If you are not in a hurry, leave the pile and let things happen at a slower rate. When the compost is finished it will be about half the original pile size and have an earthy smell. Outdoor compost piles prepared in late fall will generally not be ready for use in the spring. The pile will continue to decompose at a slower rate over the winter then pick up speed again in the spring as warm weather returns.

Sources for this article include the following web sites. Please visit them for complete information on composting.

- [www.moea.state.mn.us/campaign/compost/](http://www.moea.state.mn.us/campaign/compost/)
- [www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/components/3296-01.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/components/3296-01.html)
- [www.mastercomposter.com](http://www.mastercomposter.com)

## **FOR SALE**

Paddleboat \$150  
Contact Steve or Margo  
Mahan at 320-963-6261

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The Sugar Lake Association  
The Sugar Lake News  
7285 120th Street NW  
Annandale, MN 55302

