



# The Sugar Lake News

April 2021

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

2021

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Planned 2021 Dates

May 20-SLA Meeting\*

June 17- SLA Meeting\*

July 15-SLA Meeting\*

August 19-Annual Meeting/  
Board Election\*

September 16- SLA Meeting\*

October 21-SLA Meeting\*

*Meeting Day & Time Changed  
SLA meetings have been changed to  
Thursday at 6:30 p.m.*

We are meeting in-person at the Corinna township hall. We will also have a zoom virtual option for those of you that cannot meet in-person. We will practice social distancing with masks per the state and township rules.

\*SLA meetings are held at the Corinna Township hall at  
6:30 p.m.

Send Newsletter submissions to:  
Don Peterson

E-mail [don@sugarlake.org](mailto:don@sugarlake.org)

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

E-mail [membership@sugarlake.org](mailto:membership@sugarlake.org)

## Planned Events For 2021

### Virtual Fishing Fun Event

Saturday, June 26 (8 am to noon)

2020 Grand Prize Winner \$50 Gift Card to  
Little Jim's Bait ship is... Christina Hayes:  
Perch



### Boat Parade Saturday, July 10 (3 to 4 pm)

#### Two 2020 Entries

Minnesota Nice  
The Loon Pontoon  
by Deb Urista.



Cream of the  
Crop  
The Pirate Ship  
by Scott Radtke.



### Scramble Golf Event Saturday, July 31

Southbrook Golf Course (1 pm Shotgun Start)



### Picnic Saturday, August 7

Rachel Property (Noon to 3)

*New Sugar Lake Apparel will be available at the picnic this year*



### Light Up the Lake, Saturday, September 4



## The latest lake report

By Dan Erdmann

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

Date	Ice Out	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
					Inlet	Outlet
04-19-14	4/26	NA	NA	NA	17.75"	22.75"
04-23-15	4/5	10.0'	48°	50°	16.5"	13.5"
04-21-16	3/17	8.0'	51°	56°	22.0"	27.5"
04-8-17	3/8	13.0'	46°	50°	17.5"	23.0"
04-26-18	5/4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA"
04-29-19	4/21	9.0'	48°	55°	22.5"	27.5"
04-24-20	4/6	10.0'	48°	56°	18.0"	23.0"
04-15-21	3/30	<b>19.0'</b>	46°	45°	21.5"	27.0"

Water clarity of 19 feet in 2021 is deeper than any measurement Dan has recorded.

## Treasurer's Report

As of March 31, 2021

General Fund	\$59,163.64
Lake Improvement Fund	\$51,560.85
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$164,071.44</u>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$274,795.93</b>

Current monthly financial statements are available to all members.

Please contact [sugarlakemember@gmail.com](mailto:sugarlakemember@gmail.com) with your request.

### Craig Johnson

We are sorry to announce that Craig Johnson, a long-time member of the Sugar Lake community, passed away on April 5. Craig was current member of the Sugar Lake Association board and will be missed by all of us. Craig has been visiting Sugar Lake since 1960, enjoyed sailing on the lake, and spending time with his wife Sharon at their house on the south end of Sugar Lake. The family is planning a celebration of his life in May. Condolences can be sent to: Sharon Johnson 3312 W 132nd St Burnsville MN 55345.

If you would like a notice published in the newsletter or an email blast to membership of a loved one passing away, please send the information to:

[don@sugarlakemn.net](mailto:don@sugarlakemn.net)

## Township News

**Corinna Township** Town Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesday 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.clearwatertownship.org](http://www.clearwatertownship.org)

## Sugar Lake Association Meetings Resume

As a reminder, the monthly Sugar Lake Association meetings began in April and will continue each month through October on the third Thursday of the month. We are meeting in-person at the Corinna township hall. We will also have a zoom virtual option We will practice social distancing with masks per the state and township rules. SLA meetings are held at the Corinna Township hall at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings are open to all. Issues you want addressed by the board at the next meeting should be given to your local board member one week prior to the meeting. Advance notice is requested so the issues can be included in the printed agenda. Issues not included in the agenda will be received at the meeting from the floor at the conclusion of the agenda items.

## Chair's Corner

Spring is in the air! The ice is out, the loons have returned and the docks and boats are starting to appear around Sugar Lake. What a great time of year as our friends and neighbors venture back to the lake. SLA is returning to a "new normal" with the pandemic restrictions easing and vaccinations progressing. We plan to resume our full slate of social activities: the golf event, picnic, light up the lake, and we plan to bring back the boat parade as an ongoing event. The SLA annual picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 7 will take place again at the Rachel property on the west side of the lake. Thank you, Don and Julie, and all the Rachel family for hosting our picnic again. Also, thank you to Jan Tift and Sally Quinn Phenow who have volunteered to be co-chairs. We will need many volunteers to help with this big event. Please email [sugarlakemember@gmail.com](mailto:sugarlakemember@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping with this fun Sugar Lake community get-together.

The SLA board of directors met on Thursday, April 15 in person at Corinna Township hall with a Zoom option for those who could not attend in person. We will continue with this hybrid in person/Zoom meeting for the upcoming year. We will have seven openings for next year's SLA board. Nominations will take place in May/June. The election will be held in August and the new board will begin their 3-year term on September 1. Please let me or Vice Chair Nick Hadfield [hadfin@gmail.com](mailto:hadfin@gmail.com) know if you are interested in serving on the SLA board.

We continue to work with the DNR and Wright County to make improvements to the boat launches. As you have probably noticed, conditions at the north landing have deteriorated significantly and we have brought this to the attention of both the DNR and Wright County. Wright County has completed a safety study along County Road 7 and declared in a letter to the DNR that the north landing is unsafe and needs to be repaired. The DNR is working on a plan to improve the north landing and we will share information as details unfold. Wright County has been very responsive in helping with the situation. We are also requesting that Wright County look at other safety improvements on the dangerous section of County Road 7 near the north landing.

Feel free to contact me directly if you have concerns that you would like to see addressed by the Sugar Lake Association. Thank you!

Keith Theisen  
 SLA Board Chair  
[Keithktheisen@aol.com](mailto:Keithktheisen@aol.com)  
 651-283-7103

## Ice Out History

2021	March 30
2020	April 6
2019	April 21
2018	May 4
2017	March 8
2016	March 17
2015	April 4
2014	April 26
2013	May 1
2012	March 19
2011	April 13
2010	April 1
2009	April 15
2008	April 24
2007	April 4
2006	April 7
2005	April 8
2004	April 4
2003	April 12
2002	April 16
2001	April 20
2000	March 24
1999	April 1
1998	April 20

Dates listed are from those published in the Sugar Lake News.

## Sugar Lake sets a modern day record for clarity at 19 feet

Dan Erdmann had to add additional rope to his Secchi test in April, when Sugar Lake set a new modern day record of 19 feet for clarity. Dan has been measuring the clarity of Sugar Lake for many years with a Secchi transparency test. Dan lowers this opaque white disk on a rope into the lake each month to determine the visibility, and this year he had to go back for more rope. Unfortunately we know this clarity is due to zebra mussels filtering the water in Sugar Lake. There is currently no treatment for this invasive species, but SLA is actively monitoring the situation as new treatment options are being tested.

## Membership and Fundraising

Sugar Lake is a wonderful place to cherish, and even more so in these difficult times. We recognize these are challenging times for many families and if you need to defer some of your dues or donations we understand. Sugar Lake Association is thankful for your donations and appreciates your support to help us to continue to preserve this great place for our community.

To make giving easier, we have an online donation capability on our web site.

Please visit [www.sugarlake.org](http://www.sugarlake.org) and click on the link to make your donation today.

If you prefer, donations may also be mailed to:

Sugar Lake Association, P.O. Box 373, Annandale MN 55302

Sugar Lake Association Annual Membership . . . . \$50.00

Please pay your dues by June 1 to ensure your spot in the updated SLA directory.

Please consider extra donations. Over 50% of SLA members make extra donations

Buy an Acre for \$300 helps us combat invasive species or any extra donation amount is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you on the lake this again.

Thank you for your support. Your friends and neighbors on Sugar Lake.

### Donating an Acre to Fight Invasive Species is a Great Way to Honor a Long Time Resident, Friend or Family Member at Sugar Lake

By Trudy Richter

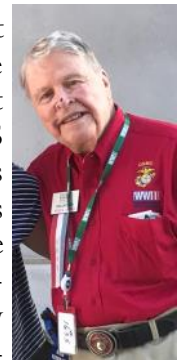
Members of the third generation of Gambles enjoying Sugar Lake recently honored their oldest family member, ROSS M. GAMBLE, with the donation of a Sugar Lake Acre to fight invasive species. The small yellow cottage built the year Ross was born in 1928 is across from the Point and still remains very much like the original. Many family members still come from all over the US to enjoy time at the Lake, swim to the Point, float in the water and share memories that Ross has kept alive for everyone. We love his energy and laughter and stories that never grow old. Ross has been a trustee for the cottage since a family trust was formed many years ago. At 93 years old, he continues to happily support the younger generation's hopes and dreams of maintaining the original cottage to continue the wonderful memories for future family members. For this and many other reasons we are grateful to have him in our lives, sharing the wisdom of the original grandparents that built the cottage and the first kids (who were our parents) that enjoyed it each summer. We hope others will join us in honoring our many lake residents, family members and friends, past and present, by "buying" an acre to fight invasive species in Sugar Lake.

The donated acre was provided by:

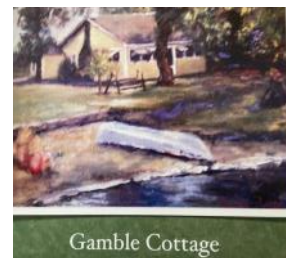
Erica and Trudy Richter (Barbara Gamble Richter's daughters)

Paul Gamble and Nancy Archer (children of Charles Gamble)

Lisa Berglund, Carol Cook and Jim Gamble (children of Elbert Gamble)



Ross  
Gamble



Gamble Cottage

### Honor someone special by making a donation

Please join Trudy in recognizing a special family member or friend, past or present, by making a donation in their honor to preserve the beauty of Sugar Lake. Please follow the link below to make a donation in recognition of your honoree with a debit or credit card.

[SLA Donation - Honoree Recognition](#)

These individuals will be given honorable mention in an upcoming newsletter. Even better, you may also send a note and picture via email to the [sugarlakemember@gmail.com](mailto:sugarlakemember@gmail.com) to help us create a SLA newsletter article to honor your special person.

Honoree donations may also be mailed via check payable to Sugar Lake Association to the address below. Please include a note with your honoree designation and any information you'd like included in the newsletter.

Sugar Lake Association

PO Box 373

Annandale, MN 55302

## Connect with the Sugar Lake Association

### Sugar Lake Rummage Sale Group

To support our informal buying and selling of items around the lake and to have this activity be self-supporting, we established a closed group on Facebook called the Sugar Lake Rummage Sale. This is a closed group so only those that request access will be admitted and only see posts once access is gained.

Here is what you need to know:

If you don't have a Facebook account, you will need to get one or use a family member's account.

Log into Facebook

- In the search bar at the top of your Facebook page type Sugar Lake Rummage Sale
- A white banner menu bar will appear at the top, under the Facebook search bar, click on \*Groups\*
- You should see the Sugar Lake Rummage Sale
- Click "Join"
- Your request will be sent to the Admin and you will be added to the group.

### Sugar Lake website

For the latest news on Sugar Lake visit our website:

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

### News Flash

The Sugar Lake Association maintains an email list 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 [membership@sugarlake.org](mailto:membership@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)

### Facebook

Visit our Sugar Lake Facebook Group

#### Sugar Lake Spirit change on Facebook

A new Facebook Group Page with the same name we used before, Sugar Lake Spirit, has been set up.

There is a new Facebook Group for those who live on, enjoy and care about Sugar Lake in Annandale MN. Please like this group and share with others who would like to post photos, news, and events about Sugar lake. We are moving from a Facebook Community page to a new Group page! Any questions contact Jan Tift at [jantift@gmail.com](mailto:jantift@gmail.com).

### Nextdoor

Sign in or sign up for the Sugar Lake neighborhood on Nextdoor:

[https://nextdoor.com/events/3647049?init\\_source=copy\\_link\\_share](https://nextdoor.com/events/3647049?init_source=copy_link_share)

## Fishing Tips and Pictures

New feature to the SLA Newsletter:

Send any pictures and fishing tips / stories you want published to [sugarlakemember@gmail.com](mailto:sugarlakemember@gmail.com)

### April Fishing Report

By Nick Hadfield

One of the greatest comedian/actors of all time, Robin Williams has a quote that says “Spring is nature’s way of saying, let’s party!”. We have a million projects lined up, and there is a honey-do list a mile long. If there’s ever a great way that I’ve found to take a break for life’s craziness, is to head down to the lagoon and do a little crappie fishing. The warm bays in inlets give way to a spring frenzy that crappie, pike, bass, and Bluegills love. It’s something about putting that slippery crappie minnow (or fake minnow) on a short slip bobber that combines the simplicity of letting the minnow do the work (or scent) and the sophistication of subtle bobber jerks that can make even the youngest fisherman at the same levels of that as a seasoned veteran. Over the next couple weeks, our crappies will move out to the main body spread out along the weed edges and hold for a short while longer until they seem to be few and far between during the summer months. As this summer goes along, it will be very interesting to break down the DNR survey on all the species which helps to interpret the overall health of the fishery. Until then, get your line wet, and take someone new fishing!

## AIS Treatment Plans

By Vegetation Committee

One of the key activities of the Sugar Lake Association (SLA) is to lead and fund the efforts to identify and treat aquatic invasive species (AIS). SLA has plans for two treatments this year: the first in May for curly-leaf pondweed and another in July for Eurasian watermilfoil. SLA contracts with Blue Water Science (owner Steve McComas) to find concentrations of AIS and delineate these areas of the lake. The areas of the lake that have been identified for treatment are then presented to the DNR for approval. After approval by the DNR, SLA contracts with Lake Restoration ([www.lakerestoration.com](http://www.lakerestoration.com)) to safely treat the targeted areas of the lake. SLA will notify residents on Sugar Lake via email and with information on our website ([sugarlake.org](http://sugarlake.org)) and the Sugar Lake Spirit Facebook page prior to the treatments. Lake Restoration will also place signs directly on the shoreline by these targeted areas noting the water usage precautions. Lake Restoration has been successfully treating Sugar Lake for over ten years. SLA has maps which indicate the treatment history of Sugar Lake. If you are interested, please send a note to [SugarLakeMember@gmail.com](mailto:SugarLakeMember@gmail.com) to request a copy. These treatments are paid for each year out of the SLA AIS fund and help to keep our lake navigable and enjoyable. Your continued donations are needed to fund these important maintenance activities; please keep this in mind when considering your charitable giving each year.

## Loon nesting platforms

Three loon nesting platforms have been placed on the lake. Please keep your distance.

Report from Dan Erdmann

The 3 people that are putting in the loon platforms now are Doug Beckman, on the south west corner of the lake, Robbie Meyer, on the northeast bay out from the cattails and bullrushes on the south west side of that bay and Dan Erdmann and that one is placed out from the cattails on the south end of the 3 channels area (old Lang's property).

The platforms were originally constructed by Gary Williamson in spring of 2004. Gary and Mary lived on Sunset point for many years and he and I put them all out by ourselves for a long time. Then we got old and they moved to California about 4 years ago.

Here is a great article from the Sugar Lake News, April 2006, that describes the loon nesting platforms.

### Dear Sugar

I was fishing on the lake shortly after ice out, and noticed a structure of PVC about 4 feet square just outside some bulrushes. It was covered with chicken wire and had a mound of mud and weeds in the middle. Are these the artificial loon nesting platforms you wrote about last fall? **Keeping my distance.**

**Dear Keeping;** you are absolutely correct and thanks for keeping your distance. There are four of them on the lake. They are the brain child of Gary Williamson, a resident of the lake and a pheasant farmer. With the help of Tom Hebzynski, Dan Erdmann, and Doc Williams, they were set up the day after the ice went out. One of the things we all love about Sugar Lake is its loons. These magnificent birds winter in the Gulf of Mexico and return each year to the same lake where they were hatched. To see a family of loons on the water or hear their haunting calls in the middle of the night is awesome. Sugar Lake normally has two families of loons; however, only one family usually produces multiple chicks. When nesting, loons are a solitary bird and don't appreciate company. If they see another loon, other than their mate, they may spook and leave the nest. There are four areas on Sugar that loons can nest without seeing others of their kind. Two of these areas either have insufficient nesting material or offer little protection from predators. The platforms will hopefully lessen those problems and increase the chances of nesting and multiple hatches. The structures are located: on the south side of the North Bay, north of Rock Point on the east side, west side of the entrance to Addison Bay, and south-west corner of the lake. If you spot one, [view them from a far!](#) Loons are very shy and wary birds that put on fantastic displays if a human or another animal gets close to the nest. The display signals extreme distress and is called "penguin dancing". In this display the loon



rushes forward across the water toward the intruder and rises with head drawn back and bill almost touching breast while feet beat the water and create spray around the breast of the bird. Humans triggering this behavior often don't understand that they have come too close to a nest and continue to come back and watch the display until the birds finally leave the area. Boat wakes may also cause undue stress for the birds. Please do your part by leaving the birds alone until they hatch their young. Hopefully we will then be able to enjoy the beauty of many loons on Sugar Lake.

This is a "first try" effort to increase the loon population on Sugar. Hopefully Gary has the right combination, but if not, he will keep on trying.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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The Sugar Lake News  
PO Box 373  
Annandale, MN 55302

