



SEPTEMBER 2020

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

## TRACKING ZEBRA MUSSELS

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### 2020 Dates

**October 17** - SLA Board Meeting

**November 21** - SLA Board Meeting  
October & November meetings at 9 a.m.

If you have topics you want addressed  
by the SLA board please send an email  
to: [sugarlakemember@gmail.com](mailto:sugarlakemember@gmail.com)

Or

Call Keith Theisen  
SLA Board Chair  
651-283-7103

#### **2021 Tentative Calendar**

\*SLA Board Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of  
the month starting in April at 9 a.m.

\*SLA Membership Meeting Saturday  
August 14 at 9 a.m.

\*SLA picnic August 7

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 [sugarlakemember@gmail.com](mailto:sugarlakemember@gmail.com)

As you know zebra mussels have made their way into Sugar Lake. We would like to enlist your help in tracking their spread. 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 in your area of the lake.

So, how can you help? Spend time inspecting your boats, docks, and lifts as they come out of the water. Report the details about any zebra mussels by email to [zebra@sugarlake.org](mailto:zebra@sugarlake.org). Please send pictures and your location / address on the lake. Please indicate if you detect no zebra mussels, just a few zebra mussels, or if you detect a large presence. Thank you for your assistance.

Please look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that may have been submerged in water for an extended period. In newly infested waters, adult zebra mussels may not be abundant and there may only be a few mussels on a piece of equipment. On a smooth surface, juvenile mussels feel gritty, like sandpaper.



The Sugar Lake Association will continue to track the location of zebra mussels on the lake and this information can be helpful as new options emerge for treating Sugar Lake for zebra mussels. SLA is staying close to the treatment trials underway, including low dose copper currently being tested by the University of Minnesota on a bay of Lake Minnetonka. If you are interested attached are links to the U of M webinar on the low dose copper trial. [z.umn.edu/AIStube](http://z.umn.edu/AIStube)

More information is available on the U of M AIS web site.  
[www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors](http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors)

# **Chair's Corner**

As the incoming Chair of the Sugar Lake Association Board, I'd like to briefly introduce myself. My wife and I have enjoyed living on Sugar Lake since we moved here six years ago. Since we first purchased our home, we have been interested and involved in the important and good work of the SLA, always noting the strengths of its volunteers. We're lucky to have some very talented and passionate people supporting our lake association, and this inspired me to also dedicate some of my time to the maintenance and well-being of our lake. I also have deep roots this area. My family settled and farmed near here over 100 years ago, and I grew up fishing and enjoying the many lakes in this part of central Minnesota. I still have over 30 first cousins that live in the area.

Fall is my favorite time of year on Sugar Lake, when the leaves turn beautiful shades of red, yellow and orange. Sugar Lake becomes even more peaceful, and as I write this, I know soon we'll be hearing the distinctive sounds of the trumpeter swans as they start gathering on our lake in the last areas of open water. This September has been especially beautiful around the lake, with vibrant fall colors and stretches of cool nights, warm days and little wind. My toddler grandchildren were able to swim and enjoy the lake even well into late September. And this year's Light Up Sugar Lake night was especially spectacular – such great participation and so many creative displays, further complemented by beautiful evening weather. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this special annual event.

Sugar Lake Association is a strong organization with a great tradition of stewardship for the lake. In 2021, SLA will continue the ongoing work of caring for the quality of our lake environment, along with continuing to position the organization for future generations. In 2021, we will continue to investigate, track and treat invasive species. We are also actively working at coordinating efforts with the DNR and Wright County Soil and Water to make improvements to the boat launches and other areas around the lake. In addition, SLA has made a number of efficiency improvements in processes over the past few years and now over 60 percent of our members pay dues / donations online. In the near future, we will be surveying our members to ask for feedback on SLA priorities as we look ahead to 2021. Please make sure you maintain a current email on file so we may contact you with the survey and other important SLA information throughout the year.

In 2021, we're hopeful the Covid-19 conditions will improve so we can resume our full slate of social activities: the fun fishing contest, golf event, and picnic, and we plan to bring back the boat parade as an ongoing event. I look forward to working with everyone on the lake in the upcoming year to continue to maintain this beautiful piece of nature we all enjoy.

Keith Theisen 651-283-7103 SLA Board Chair

## **Membership**

SLA has over 285 active members on the lake. Dues are \$50 a year and are due by June 1. Over 50 percent of all SLA members make additional financial donations to SLA to fight invasive species. Thank you for your generosity! If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the association please notify membership at email: [sugarlakemember@gmail.com](mailto:sugarlakemember@gmail.com) or direct them to [www.sugarlake.org/membership](http://www.sugarlake.org/membership).

## **Volunteers Needed**

SLA has a number of important volunteering opportunities:

- Maintain SLA web site – some technical skills required
- Post information to Facebook
- Membership activities
- Invasive species activities
- Picnic activities
- Boat Parade
- Fishing Contest

These volunteering opportunities are great way to help out and meet new folks on Sugar Lake. Email if you are interested in any of these opportunities [sugarlakemember@gmail.com](mailto:sugarlakemember@gmail.com). Or call Keith Theisen 651-283-7103.

# 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)

“Work Smarter Not Harder” by Nick Hadfield

I started fishing Sugar Lake with my family in 1992, and a lot has changed in that time especially in the fishing world. It was always a treat to head to the local bait shops to buy the next “hot spots” lake map which I would carefully place in a 3 ring binder. But the problem remained when we got to the lake because we didn’t have a sonar and so it was kind of guessing where we were at based on the contours of shorelines. Let’s just say there was a lot of trial and error, but never a dull moment on Sugar! Let’s go ahead and fast forward to present day. Each major brand of fishing electronics that make sonar and gps have plenty of time saving and valuable features. I actually use one that has all the Minnesota maps in high definition through an SD card plus I can live record actual sonar depths as well. You can mark spots with GPS to easily come back to that “hot spot” or structure that held fish. Additionally like many other fish finders, I can use mine in winter by simply switching to a different mount, transducer, battery and a simple click on ice fishing mode on my screen. These features essentially save us a lot of time when navigating and fishing. I love these features as we try to spend as much time with the kids on the lake as possible. For those days both cold and warm when the time comes for fishing with the family, the quicker we can get on the fish, the faster we get to a fish fry!

Nick Hadfield  
SLA Vice Chair  
with a picture of a large northern pike caught recently on Sugar Lake.



## Water Quality Report

By Dan Erdmann

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clarity</u>	<u>Water Temp</u>	<u>Air Temp</u>	<u>Culvert</u>	
				<u>Inlet</u>	<u>Outlet</u>
09-15-11	9.5'	68°	52°	23.5"	28.5"
09-14-12	10.5'	70°	71°	11.5"	17.5"
09-20-13	10.5'	70°	60°	8.75"	15.0"
09-19-14	14.0'	64°	60°	16.0"	21.0"
09-19-15	10.0'	70°	60°	20.25"	25.25"
09-14-16	8.0'	70°	60°	24.50"	29.00"
09-12-17	11.5'	70°	75°	14.50"	19.50"
09-14-18	11.0'	74°	80°	12.00"	18.00"
09-20-19	12.5'	74°	80°	19.50"	24.50"
09-05-20	14.0'	70°	70°	17.25"	22.75"

# **Sugar Lake History**

*The article below is from the August 2005 Sugar Lake News*

## **South Shore Sugar Lake by Suzanne Quinn-McDonald**

As a part of the SLA plan to build a shared sense of community on the lake, this article is about past history and current events on the south shore of our lake. The land was purchased from Mr. Topfer's farm; and the cabins were built in 1955, 1956, and 1957. Historically a very social area of the lake, families hosted many campfire singalongs, shoreline corn boils, Hawaiian Luau's with live music and song skits, badminton tournaments, canoe races, and several pig roasts. One pig roast memory included the whole beach signing up for 2-hour shifts throughout the night to spray water on the frequent fire flare-ups at the shoreline spit. Another involved the Annandale bakery; they had graciously agreed to roast 3 pigs for another of the pig roasts in their large ovens, and then had to close down for a week to clear out the smell!

Creative water-skiing was also a south shore trademark. One water ski spectacular involved two boats (one with a 60 horse mercury, and the other with a 100 horse mercury motor and a prop designed especially for the event) that pulled up 13 skiers. While very exciting, the event was nixed when one of the skiers was caught in a rope and dragged underwater for a ways- events in the future involved slalom courses. The huge walls of spray were beautiful to behold.

Ed Quinn the area communicator for area O also holds the honor of "father of the fleet", the founder of the Sugar Lake sailing club which was a group of sailing enthusiasts from around the lake who held regattas on the lake from 1979 to 1987. M-16s, C-scows, and Catamarans were frequently seen whipping across the waves on Sunday afternoons.

Current events on the south shore include the recently finished 106th street project, a 20 year effort to build a new road behind the cabins nearest to the south shore access with a holding pond to filter the runoff water from the farmer's field before it reaches the lake. Many of the cabin owners on the south shore have also joined the association's efforts to promote buffer strips by letting their hillsides and shorelines grow.

## **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).

## **Treasurer's Report**

As of August 31, 2020\_

General Fund	\$60,151.69
Lake Improvement Fund	\$50,415.87
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$151,135.48</u>
Total All Funds	\$261,703.04

# **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. All current members are automatically subscribed to this list. Send an e-mail to [sugarlakemember@gmail.com](mailto:sugarlakemember@gmail.com) if you have questions.

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)