



The Sugar Lake News

September 2021

2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Planned 2021 Dates

October 28-SLA Meeting*

Please note the meeting date for

October has changed to

October 28

Meeting Day & Time Changed

SLA meetings have been changed to

Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

June and August are

membership meetings

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

For membership,

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

E-mail membership@sugarlake.org

Below is a news release from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

DNR proposing minor angling regulation changes on 3 Wright County lakes

September 20, 2021

Fisheries staff with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will hold a meeting to gather public input on minor regulation changes proposed for Mink-Somers, Sugar and Crawford lakes in Wright County.

The meeting will take place 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, at the Corinna Township Hall, 9801 Ireland Ave. NW, Annandale.

The proposal for Mink-Somers (sunfish and crappie) and Sugar (crappie) lakes would replace the current reduced possession limit for sunfish with a reduced daily limit, which will allow an angler to take a daily limit from these lakes multiple days in a row until reaching the statewide possession limit (20 sunfish, 10 crappie). The change will create consistency with the newly implemented Quality Sunfish Initiative regulations and is not expected to have additional biological impacts.

On Crawford Lake, the proposal would eliminate special regulations that in 1998 set stricter possession limits for sunfish, crappie, walleye and yellow perch. The goal of the changes is to simplify regulations on the lake by adopting the more generous statewide limits. The proposal also would replace the special catch-and-release regulation for largemouth bass caught on Crawford with a protected slot of 14 to 20 inches, with one largemouth over 20 inches allowed in a possession limit of six.

As an alternative to attending the public meeting, comments can be submitted by calling the DNR fisheries office at 320-223-7867, by emailing joe.stewig@state.mn.us (link sends email) or by sending written comments to DNR Fisheries, 1035 South Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379. Comments will be accepted through Oct. 31. Meeting information is also available on the [DNR website](#).

Water Quality Report

By Dan Erdmann

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

Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
				Inlet	Outlet
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"
09-23-21	17.0'	70°	65°	12.25"	17.75"

Membership

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Membership at the email listed below. Notify us of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact membership by email at: sugarlakemember@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

As of August 31, 2021

General Fund	\$70,353.50
Lake Improvement Fund	\$51,469.06
Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund	<u>\$157,753.46</u>
Total All Funds	\$279,576.02

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.

SLA Board Actions

In other actions at the September meeting, the SLA Board appointed Mark Ertl to an open board seat for a three year term. Don Peterson resigned as Vice Chair but will remain on the board as newsletter editor. Mark Ertl was appointed as Vice Chair.

Labor Day Mass

A Catholic Mass was celebrated on Sunday of Labor Day weekend at the Shallbetter cabin on Sunset point of Sugar Lake. We were not able to do this the previous year because of Covid 19 and were happy to resume this annual tradition that's been going for some 20 years. Fr. Marty Shallbetter was the celebrant and Doc Williams along with two young girls from the congregation, were the song leaders. Because of the ongoing concerns with the Pandemic, we only had 83 people attending. A collection was taken up totaling \$286.00 and given to Fr Marty for distribution to the charity of his choice. A fellowship gathering occurred after the Mass lasting over an hour while refreshments and goodies were served. Hopefully you can attend next year on Sunday of Labor Day weekend as all are welcome.





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Chair's Corner

Hi all again,

This is Dan Erdmann once again your Chairperson for the association. I am looking forward to a year without drastic challenges to our lake. Let us hope we can get through the next year without finding any Stary Stone-wort or other new invasive species.

It seems that the worst of the drought is over and hopefully our water levels will continue to creep up to normal levels over the fall and winter. With the rain comes the issue of unfiltered runoff into Sugar Lake. We have a new team on the "Lake Improvement Committee" who's task is to look at these areas again and come up with a plan and hopefully some matching funding to improve the rain water runoff filtering in a couple of locations. If you have noticed a cloudy plume of silt near your lakefront after a heavy rain, please send an email and picture if possible to membership@sugarlake.org. Include the location in report.

I want to again thank the Rachael family for hosting our picnic on behalf of myself and all or members. Have a safe and pleasant fall everyone, the colors are already starting to pop !

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Light Up the Lake

Saturday September 4

The weather cooperated with a great night for viewing the lights around Sugar Lake.



The highlight of the night was a proposal. Here is the story as told by Greta Fure.



She said yes.



Greta Fure & Charlie Werdin engaged.

My fiance's name is Charlie Werdin. His mom is Deb Urista and his grandmother is Jean Urista. Their family has had a cabin on the North Shore of Sugar "forever" (per Deb)

Charlie and Greta started dating in 2018. Greta has loved helping with "Light up Sugar Lake Night" since she started coming up that first summer. Fast forward to 2021, Greta really wanted to top what they did in 2020 and so was constantly looking for candles, glass jars, and lights when they were on sale.

Greta's version of the engagement:

The day finally arrived and everyone set up all afternoon. We try to hold off lighting the candles til sunset but we're typically too excited we start right after dinner. It looked awesome! As we were preparing to cruise around the lake on the pontoon to look at the other lights, Rachel, Charlie's sister, told us she wasn't feeling well and needed to stay back. We told her we would swing back around and pick her up.

We were about halfway around when Rachel texted us that she was ready to go so we started heading back. As we were getting closer to Charlie's cabin, I noticed there were these new super bright lights on the shore, but I couldn't tell what they were. As we pulled up to the dock, I could see that there were letters and they said "Marry Me Greta?" Then it hit me what was happening. We walked down the dock and Charlie proposed by the big letters. It was so special and felt magical with all the lights.

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

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 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

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.

Nextdoor

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

https://nextdoor.com/events/3647049?init_source=copy_link_share

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Sugar Lake Nature

We have all noticed how many mushrooms are showing up this year. Here are a few photos Mark Snyder took recently.

Thanks for sharing with us Mark!

Mushroom fun facts

How much do you really know about these little 'fun-guys'?

- Mushrooms are not a plant or vegetable as many refer to them and are not closely related to them. They're actually a fungi and are actually more closely related to humans than they are to plants. Just like us fungi breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide, the opposite of what plants do.
- The top of a mushroom is called the cap – inside are gills, where it produces spores, instead of seeds.
- Unlike green plants that convert sunlight to food through photosynthesis, the mushrooms do not need sunlight to make energy for themselves. They gather nourishment from their growing medium which is decaying organic material.
- The fungus is a predominantly underground organism. Mushrooms are merely the above-ground vegetative fruit of the fungus.
- Mushrooms are made up of around 90% water.
- There are over 50,000 different species of mushrooms.



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Highlights from the 2021 MAISRC Annual Showcase

By Ron Elsner

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) held its annual showcase and conference on September 22. While originally planned as a ‘hybrid’ event (in-person as well as online), it was moved to an all online event for COVID reasons. The conference included 16 presentations by researchers at the Center. The presentations were a combination of results and progress updates on various research projects that are in progress at the center. Categories included Invertebrates, Plants, Fish, and several Special Sessions. Highlights from some sessions with applicability to Sugar Lake are shown below.

Improving the Efficiency of Watercraft Inspections Through Coordination and Cooperation

Watercraft inspections are an important activity used to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota. Amy Kinsley and Robert Haight discussed preliminary results of their work to increase the efficiency and efficacy of watercraft inspection efforts using lake-to-lake watercraft movement information gathered by DNR inspectors. Early results suggest that county-based planning and deployment would likely be more effective than a state-wide approach.

Sugar Lake applicability. As many are aware, this topic has been a ‘hot button’ in Wright County for the past few years. At Sugar Lake, the SLA Board has been proactive in its approach for years: implementing and funding watercraft inspections on weekends and holidays throughout the season. While some of the ‘baddie’ AIS have already found their way into Sugar Lake, we need to continue to work hard to protect the lake from the likes of Starry Stonewort, and to help stop the transport of AIS to other lakes.

Identifying Genes for Zebra Mussel Biocontrol

Within the past year, researchers at MAISRC completed the genome identification of zebra mussels. That genome is about 1.8 billion characters long (or, the equivalent of 6000 copies of ‘War & Peace’!!). The researchers are now using that information in a genetic approach to target zebra mussels’ ability to attach to surfaces. If the mussels are not able to attach themselves to a surface, they cannot survive. The researchers hope to be able to do some trials next summer.

Sugar Lake applicability. What it means for Sugar Lake is that there may be some help on the way to control zebra mussels in the next few years. Stay tuned!!

Enhancing Habitat and Diversity in Cattail-Dominated Shorelines – Dr. Amy Schrank

Nearshore aquatic plants are an important source of biodiversity in lakes and are critical to game and forage fish communities. In Minnesota, hybrid/narrow leaf cattails have expanded in nearshore lake communities, altering environmental conditions and displacing native plant species. The goal of this project is to determine if mechanical cattail removal can improve nearshore lake habitat for native plants and fishes. The approach to the project was to cut 30’ wide channels through stands of rooted cattails from the shoreline to waters’ edge, then monitor fish populations and native plant re-growth in the channels.

Sugar Lake applicability. We do have some areas of rooted, shoreline cattails that could benefit from this approach. The next phase of Dr. Schrank’s research will consider cattail ‘floating mats’ (of which we have plenty!!!)

Genetic Tools for Watermilfoil Management

When the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil crossbreeds with Minnesota’s native Northern watermilfoil, hybrid strains are created. These hybrid strains have been shown to have more resistance to management efforts including herbicide treatments. This presentation by Dr. Ray Newman was an update on his ongoing efforts to create a catalog of watermilfoil genotypes in Minnesota.

Sugar Lake applicability. Eurasian milfoil and its hybrids continue to grow and change. There is no ‘one time fix’. This presentation again confirmed the need to continue our vigilance in monitoring and treating EWM and its hybrids.

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