



# The Sugar Lake News

April 2016

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

2016

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 21-SLA Meeting\*

May 28 Plant Exchange/Sale

June 18- SLA Meeting\*

July 16-SLA Meeting\*

July 30-Golf Tournament

August 6-SLA Picnic

August 20-Annual Meeting/  
Board Election\*

September 3-Diane's Lights Night

September 3 Sugar Lake 5K

September 17- SLA Meeting\*

October 15-SLA Meeting\*

\*SLA meetings are held at the Corinna

Township hall at

8:00 a.m.

March, 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 Cathy Beckman at

10880 Imhoff Ave NW

Annandale, MN 55302

320-274-8623

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

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sugar Lake Association Plant Exchange/Sale

Pot up your extra plants to share, or plan to start that garden you have been thinking about with bargains from your neighbors!

**When:** Saturday, May 28, 2016, 9 a.m.– 11 a.m.

This is the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Bring your visiting family and friends!

**Where:** 7696 106<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Annandale, 55302 (Quinns)



### Here's how it works:

- Exchange every plant you bring for another
  - Extra plants can be purchased for \$1 each
  - Butterfly friendly plants will be available again this year!
  - All proceeds go to the SLA Lake Improvement Fund
- Hasty Woods Tree Farm and Nursery will be selling plants again, with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Sugar Lake Association.

**Lemonade, coffee, and cookies will be served.**

**Driving Directions:** *From the intersection of Hwys 7, 39, and 123*, go north on 123. Where 123 makes a sharp right turn, turn left onto the gravel road (100<sup>th</sup> St.). **From the east on 123**, go straight onto the gravel road (100<sup>th</sup> St.) at the sharp turn.

Go 6/10 of a mile along 100<sup>th</sup> St.— it will curve to the right and turn into Hoyt Ave. Veer right immediately after the first farmhouse. Turn right on 106<sup>th</sup>. The cabin is the fourth one in—brown with a Quinn's Inn sign above the garage.

**Parking:** Parking is available along 106<sup>th</sup> street beyond the 'no parking' signs (these are posted due to the South Shore public access). There is also a small parking lot on the hill to the left of the driveway for pick up and drop off of plants.

Other Questions?

Contact: Suzanne Quinn-McDonald ([squinnmcdonald@gmail.com](mailto:squinnmcdonald@gmail.com))

Sally Quinn Phenow ([sqphenow@comcast.net](mailto:sqphenow@comcast.net))

## The latest lake report

By Dan Erdmann

Date	Ice Out	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert	
					Inlet	Outlet
04-14-11	4/13	NA	NA	NA	26"	31"
04-21-12	3/19	11	50°	50°	19.25"	24.25"
04-20-13	5/1	NA	NA	NA	16.5"	21.5"
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"

## Membership

Membership forms have been sent out . When you pay your dues please check your contact and address information on the form and make any necessary corrections.

If you know someone new in your area that might be interested in becoming a member of the SLA, notify Cathy Beckman. She will contact the new property owners with information and make them feel welcome to the area. Notify Cathy of any changes to the directory information including address or phone changes. Contact Cathy at 320-274-8623 or email

[membership@sugarlake.org](mailto:membership@sugarlake.org)

We extend our sympathies to the family of Joe Urista who passed away in January 2016.

## Dues

Membership forms were sent out recently. If you have not sent your form and dues payment in, please return it to Cathy Beckman, SLA Membership, 10880 Imhoff Ave NW, Annandale, MN, 55302. If you have lost your form find a copy on our website at [www.sugarlake.org](http://www.sugarlake.org).

## Raffle Prizes

The Board of Directors set the raffle prizes for the picnic drawing this year at:

First—\$500 Second—\$200 Third—\$100

## 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 [membership@sugarlake.org](mailto:membership@sugarlake.org) with your email address if you are interested.

## 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).
- Junk Amnesty Day scheduled for Saturday, July 30, 2016, 7:30am—Noon. See website for details.

**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)
- Spring Clean Up Day scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2016, 8am—Noon. See website for details.

## 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 [news-flash@sugarlake.org](mailto:news-flash@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)

## Co-Chair's Corner



Happy Spring! Our beautiful Sugar Lake season has begun! Check the events calendar on our website [www.sugarlake.org](http://www.sugarlake.org) to enjoy the upcoming summer activities! Also remember to post your photos of summer fun on our Sugar Lake Spirit Facebook page for all to enjoy.

We are happy to report that Sugar Lake is still Zebra mussel free and we are all hoping to keep it that way. The Sugar Lake Association has enlisted the services of Anchor Dock and Lift this summer. They will provide staffing to monitor both the north and south accesses for invasive species from Memorial Day to the end of September. Thank you for your Association dues and additional donations, which have enabled the association to be in a good position to protect and preserve the resources contributing to the natural beauty of Sugar Lake.

Remember that the SLA board meetings are open to all association members. We hope that you'll be able to join us. Dates of upcoming meetings are: May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>, July 16<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup>, September 17<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>. They are held at Corinna Township Hall, 9801 Ireland Ave. NW, Annandale from 8:00 to 10:00 am.

Looking forward to seeing you on one of our many pontoon boat rides around the lake!  
Suzanne Quinn-McDonald and  
Sally Quinn-Phenow, co-chairs.

## Adopt a Sugar Lake Road

We all enjoy the beauty of Sugar Lake with its clean water and abundant wildlife. Unfortunately our highways and roadways leading to Sugar Lake are sometimes littered with cans, bottles, and other trash. We are organizing a cleanup project in May to pick up the litter in our area. Please contact Keith Theisen at [Keithktheisen@aol.com](mailto:Keithktheisen@aol.com) or 651-283-7103 if you are interested in adopting a section of road or volunteering for a clean-up crew. We are meeting at Corinna Township Hall at 11 am Saturday May 21, where we will deploy teams for a litter pickup event. Wear your work clothes and we will provide trash bags and gloves. We will be celebrating our clean roads at the Hitching Post after this green event.

## State of Water Conference; Minnesotans Protecting our Lakes and Rivers

by Jan Tift

Marsha Schrupp and I attended the State of Water conference at Arrowwood in Alexandria on April 14 and 15. We were treated to talks by Ron Shara and Governor Mark Dayton. Ron Shara talked about his favorite childhood place; a stream that when he visited as an adult had garbage in it, even an old car! It was no longer pristine blue but now grey in color. His message was 'we' need to do something! Governor Dayton highlighted his Buffer Law which establishes new perennial vegetation buffers of up to 50 feet along rivers, streams, and ditches that will help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment. The conference was an extremely informative learning experience for both of us! We attended sessions that included invasive species, rain gardening, native planting, watershed protection, shore restoration, loons, bees, and invasive carp presented by scientists and experts from the University of Minnesota, DNR, Audubon Society and other organizations. We quickly realized how fortunate we are to have Dale Gustafson as our own super volunteer expert who has led our association's efforts to control native species, promote native plants, monitor our water quality and look at the future legacy that we want to leave for future generations to enjoy Sugar Lake. Everyone we met knew Dale, who is highly respected by lake ecologists in our state! We would highly recommend other lake owners to attend this or similar conferences that are held in our state!!

Here are some fun facts we learned about loons:

- Minnesota has the highest population of breeding loons in the lower 48 states
- Loons are first connected to the lake and secondly to each other for pairing
- Minnesota loons winter on both coasts of Florida

## Sugar Lake Fishing Regulations to Be Reviewed In 2016

Northern Pike and Crappie regulations put in place in 2007 are up for review this year. Joe Stewig, MNDNR Area Fisheries Manager, has provided us with the following detail regarding this review:

### Sauk Rapids Area Fisheries Update

The Sauk Rapids Area Fisheries Office (formerly Montrose) will be reviewing the experimental fishing regulations for northern pike and black crappie this fall. In 2007, a 24 – 36 inch protected slot with one fish over 36 inches allowed in possession was put in place for northern pike and a five fish bag limit for black crappies. The objective of the northern pike regulation was to provide opportunities to harvest small pike, while at the same time improving the density of medium to large size fish. We also wanted to see an increase in the average length of northern pike to 24 inches. The goal of the black crappie regulation was to reduce the harvest of black crappie and distribute the harvest over a longer period of time in Sugar Lake which at times has high fishing pressure. Public accesses will be marked with regulation review signs indicating that a public meeting will be held in the fall (Sept/Oct). At that time DNR will present survey data as well as gather public input and a decision will be made to extend, modify, drop, or make permanent the current fishing regulations.

As part of the review process the DNR will be conducting a spring ice-out assessment as well as a standard summer lake survey to collect additional size structure data on the northern pike and black crappie populations. The ice out assessment will consist of setting large frame trap nets at various locations around the lake in order to catch a representative sample of northern pike and crappie to make size structure comparisons. All northern pike and crappie will be measured and released back into the lake. A standard lake survey consists of spring largemouth bass electrofishing as well as standard gill netting and trap netting. Nearshore seining and back pack electrofishing will also be conducted looking for fish species that are sensitive to habitat degradation that are not typically sampled with standard methods.

Concurrent with the ice-out assessment, muskellunge will be measured and marked in order to perform a population estimate. Sugar Lake was designated for muskie management back in 1967 and is currently being managed as a low density (0.2 – 0.4 adults (>30"))

### Fishing Regulations Continued

per acre) population. Population estimates in 2007 and 2012 revealed estimates of 0.26 and 0.22 muskies per acre. This survey will just update that information. Starting in 2015, muskie stocking was shifted from every other year stocking to annual stocking. We will be stocking the same amount of muskies as we used to just dividing it in half and stocking every year. So instead of stocking 358 fingerlings every other year we will be stocking 179 fingerlings annually. We will also continue with our annual walleye stocking of 357 lbs of fingerlings (about 7,000 fish). If you see us on the water feel free to come up and say “hi”

## Winter Meeting Review

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The SLA Winter Meeting was held at Corrina Township Hall this past February. There were approximately 20 people in attendance. A delicious brunch was served by the SLA board members.



The focus of the meeting was to outline several Lake Improvement Projects from the past, present, and future. A video conversation with Ed Quinn and Sally Phenow summarized the 106<sup>th</sup> St. project of 2004-2005 on the South Side of the Lake. You can review the information shared on the Sugar Lake Website [www.sugarlake.org](http://www.sugarlake.org) under ‘Lake History’. Additional discussion of past projects included buffer strips and the Hollister Project on the east side of the lake. Dale Gustafson presented information regarding future projects including The Big Ditch project (southeast area), and the Watershed Mapping project (the entire lake).



Mapping our watershed would allow us to identify where water from our surrounding watershed enters Sugar Lake. This would help us prioritize potential future projects.

## Why Should I Consider Joining the Sugar Lake Association?

The lake you live on and enjoy using is truly a gift and not to be taken for granted. Lakes need to be used and cared for in a manner that allow for sustainability. As anyone who has boated or swam in lakes with high usage can attest to, water quality and vegetation can become an issue. Even on larger bodies such as Lake Minnetonka, aquatic invasive species (as well as invasive fish, such as carp) will seriously impact the ecosystems of a lake to where external help is needed.

To this end, in 1971 a group of people came together to form the Sugar Lake Association. Since its inception, the goal has been and remains, to “*Protect, Preserve, Maintain and Improve the Sugar Lake Environment.*” The Association became 501c3 Charitable Organization status in 1996 and has continued to use (tax deductible) donations and dues with frugality to fight invasive species (Eurasian Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed). Funds will also be used to fight any new threats such as Zebra Mussels and Starry Stonewort that might arise in the future, and to make improvements to the Watershed designed to reduce and eliminate contaminated runoff that threatens the health of the lake.

Potential members might be asking, “What’s in it for me?” The answer is simply “Water”. Whether you enjoy fishing, boating, swimming, water skiing or sunset watching, the lake can be enjoyed to its fullest when its waters are clean and healthy. We can proudly state that Sugar Lake’s water clarity hasn’t changed much from the early days of the association; clarity varying in the 10-12’ range most months, and to a large part, invasive plants have been controlled.

Over the years, lake improvement projects have been proposed and implemented. Much of the money to carry out these projects has been obtained through grants and matching funds at the State and County level. Without contributions from association members, these projects would go unfunded and water clarity would suffer. Visit [www.sugarlake.org](http://www.sugarlake.org) to review articles explaining the cost/benefits of projects undertaken and being planned. Dues (\$50.00 annually) also fund special events like the fishing contest, raffle sales, and the annual picnic. The website also contains information about lake history, current and past newsletters, and a calendar of this years events.

Please consider joining the association. As a new resident or one who has drifted from the association, consider this: We are *stewards of the land and lake* we live on and use. *We are responsible for its future!*

Sugar Lake Board of Directors and members thank you for your thoughtful consideration!

### Ice Out History

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.

### Facebook

Visit our Sugar Lake Facebook Page!

Sugar Lake now has our own Facebook Page called [Sugar Lake Spirit](#). This page is for all Sugar Lake residents, families, and friends to share information, events, photos and stories! Please use this page to share your photos and events from around the lake. Jan Tift and Robin Fox are the administrators of this page. We welcome any feedback or suggestions for this page! [jantift@gmail.com](mailto:jantift@gmail.com)

## Vegetation Report

The season is here, the water is warming and the vegetation is growing. We have been refining our request for a permit to treat Curly leaf pondweed (CLP) because we are finding new patches and redefined other areas as it starts to grow.

The permit was submitted by our committee, and by the time you see this we should have learned what we will be treating, or possibly we will have already treated SLP for this spring. Look around your area of the lake when the treatment has been made, and read the instruction on the label. There is generally no precautions you need to take because our treatment is generally a sufficient distance from your shore. Also the chemical is applied with 30 foot long weighted hoses at the bottom of the lake and the chemical starts to disperse into the water column as soon as it is released. It is our hope that enough of the chemical is absorbed by the CLP to kill it or harm it enough so that it will not produce any turions that can reseed the plant in future years.

If you see patches of CLP in the lake a few weeks after the treatment please contact us so we can map that particular patch and include it in future treatments.

Later this summer we will most likely do a treatment for Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) We are starting to see it grow now, but it will develop more in the future. The treatment for EWM would most likely be done in late June or July, so watch for announcements.

The chemical that we use to treat EWM could possibly hurt flowers and vegetables if you water with a pump from the lake, and the pump intake is near a treatment area, and you irrigate shortly after the treatment. We will announce the treatment time on the Sugar Lake e-mail flash, so be sure to sign up to get that notice. It is very unlikely that there would be any damage, but it is not a bad idea to turn off your irrigation the week of the treatment. We have tested treatment areas in the past and found that it only takes a few hours for the chemical to dilute beyond detection.

Dale Gustafson  
Vegetation Committee

## Zebra Watch

By Bob Peltier

We are invested in making sure that we have effective evidence based strategies to monitor for zebra mussels in Sugar Lake.

The zebra mussel brick monitoring program has been a great success in the past few years. There has been a steady increase in the number of lake homeowners willing to monitor a brick that they have placed at the end of their dock to look for zebra mussels. We are also one of ten lakes in Wright County working collaboratively with the University of Minnesota, Freshwater Scientific Services, the DNR, Wright County Soil and Water Conservation, and RMB Laboratories to participate in a pilot zebra monitor microscopic inspection plan. The goal of this study is to assist non-infected lakes with identification of juvenile zebra mussels. A specialized monitor device will be placed in the water at both the North and South landings. Once the monitors are in place there will be a scraping and microscopic examination of the monitoring devices every two months by RMB Laboratories. This examination is another effort to make sure we don't have zebra mussels invading our lake.

We also have hired Anchor Dock and Lift (ADL) in Annandale who will provide trained personnel to monitor boats for aquatic invasive species (AIS). Boats will be inspected and information regarding AIS will be available on weekends at the North or South Sugar Lake public accesses. The boat inspections will occur May 7<sup>th</sup> through September 25, 2016.

## Starry Stonewort in a lake near YOU?

Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) is in the neighborhood! It was found in Lake Koronis by Paynesville. This is the first detected infestation of Starry Stonewort in the State, and it is a surprise. Read the page about the plant to get more details.

In Sugar Lake we have a plant that is similar in form. They are both algae, not vascular plants like the rest of the vegetation in the lake. This means that they are different enough that they pose a different threat. The plant we have is called Chara (Chara species) (Musk grass). The Chara we have in Sugar Lake provides a great value to the lake by limiting the spread of other invasive species. Our Chara forms a dense mat on the bottom of the lake that limits the ability of Eurasian water milfoil and Curly leaf pondweed to spread as much as it could. It protects large areas of our lake and causes very little trouble. It does have a foul smell, and some people do not like the feel on it on their feet as they touch the bottom.

Starry Stonewort on the other hand can be a very offending plant. It has the ability to grow very tall and fill up the water with stringy stems and branches. It spreads very fast and can cause some areas of a lake to be unusable for boating and swimming.

Starry Stonewort was discovered last year for the first time in Minnesota in Lake Koronis by Paynesville in Stearns County to our west. The Koronis Lake Association has developed a very aggressive approach to controlling this new threat to their lake. It is a very aggressive plan to remove, treat, and contain the plant so it does not spread around the lake and to other lakes in the area. They are dedicated to the fight even if it will cost them a huge amount of money for the 5 year trial.

We should be very careful about preventing the spread to Sugar Lake, and to be on the lookout for this plant in our lake. The Starry Stonewort is larger and grows taller than our Chara so it should be easy to see in shallow Chara covered areas of the lake. It also grows in deep water where it is more difficult to find. To look for Starry Stonewort move slowly across the water and watch for a plant similar to Chara, but taller. Note the attached hand out for the true test of identification. If you can find some Star-shaped bulbils on the stems it is definitely Starry Stonewort. Contact us or the DNR immediately so we can confirm or deny its presence and confirm our plan of action.

We should all spend some time looking for this new Aquatic Invasive Species in our lake. It could be a threat that is larger than our ability to control!

Dale Gustafson  
Vegetation Committee



# Aquatic Invasive Species Quick Guide



Golden Sands  
Resource Conservation  
& Development Council, Inc.

## Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa* L.)

**Description:** Starry stonewort is a non-native species of large algae in the Characeae family. It has whorls of 4-6 long branchlets. It is more robust than most members of its family, and can grow to over two meters tall. Anchored by colorless filaments (rhizoids) that contain up to several dozen 4-5mm, star-shaped bulbils, starry stonewort typically grows in marl sediments of alkaline lakes, up to 9 meters deep. Orange reproductive structures are located in the axils of the upper branchlets. Starry stonewort is typically an annual, but can behave as a perennial during mild winters. Interestingly, starry stonewort is listed as an endangered species in the United Kingdom.



Starry stonewort has many whorls of long branchlets. Some branchlets may appear forked due to short bracts where reproductive structures are forming.

**North American Distribution:** Michigan, northern Indiana, and the northeastern United States. Recently found in Wisconsin and Minnesota.



Star-shaped bulbils are produced in the sediments, and give starry stonewort its name.

**Dispersal Vectors:** Starry stonewort is native to Europe and western Asia. It was probably introduced to the Great Lakes via ballast water carried in trans-oceanic ships. Fragments of starry stonewort can be spread between lakes by boats, trailers, and anchors holding sediments. Local dispersal occurs by bulbils or fragments being transported by water currents or boats within the lake. Since only male starry stonewort exists in the U.S., no viable "seeds" are produced.

**Ecological Impacts:** By forming dense mats of vegetation, starry stonewort can greatly reduce the diversity of aquatic plants in a lake. It can also impede movement of fish and other animals, and may decrease successful spawning activity of some fishes. Mats growing to the surface can reduce water flow and make recreational activities difficult.

**Control Options:** Manual removal of starry stonewort is possible, but difficult, and may be impractical on a large scale. Abundant bulbils on the rhizoids can dislodge if disturbed, and will sprout new individuals. Manual removal efforts must emphasize careful removal of these bulbils.

Some chemical herbicides and algaecides have been effective at reducing starry stonewort. Herbicide applications may be less effective on tall stands of starry stonewort, as the chemical is quickly absorbed into the upper parts of the algae, leaving the lower parts unharmed. Most states require chemical use permits for any herbicide/algaecide treatments in standing water or wetland situations.

An effective biological control agent is not known at this time.

### Additional Information:

Brown, W.S. 2014. Defining trophic conditions that facilitate the establishment of an invasive plant: *Nitellopsis obtusa*. Master's thesis. University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign.

**Photo credit:** Paul Skawinski



Starry stonewort (front, center), much more robust than the surrounding native muskgrasses (*Chara* spp.).

This Quick Guide is part of a series on aquatic invasive species, and may be reproduced for educational purposes. Visit us at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/clmn](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/clmn) or [www.goldensandsrccd.org/our-work/water](http://www.goldensandsrccd.org/our-work/water) to download this series of handouts. Developed by Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. as part of an aquatic invasive species education program, supported by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Maintained and updated by the Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network.



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## 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 Saturday of the month. 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.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Sugar Lake Association  
10880 Imhoff Ave NW  
Annandale, MN 55302

