2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Planned 2019 Dates

May 18 - SLA Meeting*
June 15 - SLA Meeting*
July 20 - SLA Meeting*
August 24 - Annual Meeting/Board Election*
September 21 - SLA Meeting*
October 19 - SLA Meeting*
November 16 - SLA Meeting*

*SLA meetings are held at the Corinna Township hall at 8:00 a.m.
September, October & November meetings at 9 a.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

Wright Regional Inspection Program (WRIP) Update

Since last fall, much has happened in the continuing evolution of the WRIP. When we last updated you in December of last year, the Wright County Board, as the 'Committee-of-the-Whole', had met to receive comments and consider the WRIP 2019 Operating Plan, which includes expansion of the program to nine lakes (including Sugar Lake). The meeting ran long and was continued to February 12th. The County Board formally took up the matter in its regularly scheduled meeting on February 26. This meeting resulted in the preliminary approval of a revised ordinance which approved the 2019 Operating Plan and expansion of the program. The Board also chose to include a 'repeal clause' in the ordinance which would cancel the program in its entirety if the DNR did not approve the 2019 Plan before April 15th. The Board directed a public notice and comment period of three weeks, culminating in a public hearing on March 19th. The revised ordinance was officially approved by the County Board on March 19. The ordinance also included a ‘self-inspection’ program proposed by several of the County Commissioners.

In amongst this activity, the three WRIP pilot lakes created a non-profit coalition (Wright County Regional Inspection Coalition, “WCRIC”) to administer the WRIP program and operate the Regional Inspection Station. Each of the three pilot lakes and the potential expansion lakes were invited to become members of the coalition. The SLA Board of Directors chose to join the coalition. Sugar Lake had significant input in creating the bylaws for the Coalition, as well as the participation agreement which binds member lakes to the coalition for three years.

The month of April brought some significant changes to the WRIP program. Most importantly, in a letter to the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) dated April 5, 2019, the DNR declined to approve the proposed 2019 Operating Plan and expansion citing various performance and data issues. The DNR also declined to approve the ‘self-inspection’ program. The DNR stood by its position that it needed to see additional operating data and results for the three lake pilot program before approving an expansion. As a result of the DNR’s action (combined with the repeal clause that the Wright County Commissioners had includ-

Continued on page 4
The latest lake report

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Ice Out</th>
<th>Clarity</th>
<th>Water Temp</th>
<th>Air Temp</th>
<th>Culvert</th>
<th>Inlet</th>
<th>Outlet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04-19-14</td>
<td>4/26</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>17.75&quot;</td>
<td>22.75&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04-23-15</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>10.0'</td>
<td>48°</td>
<td>50°</td>
<td>16.5&quot;</td>
<td>13.5&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04-21-16</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>8.0'</td>
<td>51°</td>
<td>56°</td>
<td>22.0&quot;</td>
<td>27.5&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04-8-17</td>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>13.0'</td>
<td>46°</td>
<td>50°</td>
<td>17.5&quot;</td>
<td>23.0&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04-26-18</td>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04-29-19</td>
<td>4/21</td>
<td>9.0'</td>
<td>48°</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>22.5&quot;</td>
<td>27.5&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: membership@sugarlake.org.

Treasurer’s Report

As of March 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$36,168.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Improvement Fund</td>
<td>$52,190.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milfoil and Invasive Species Fund</td>
<td>$137,681.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total All Funds</td>
<td>$226,040.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**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

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 newsflash@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

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 with your email address if you are interested.
Chair’s Corner

It looked like ice out was going to be in May again but a quick turn around in temps had it out on the 21st. Loons are back and one platform is out on the 28th and another to follow shortly.

As you may know the DNR did not approve the Ordinance as drafted by the Wright County Commissioners and Soil and Water and there is currently no Regional Inspection Program for the 9 lakes that opted in. The Coalition that drove the ordinance is still operating and has an interim plan that will give us coverage at the ramps. Coverage started on the 27th of April. This will be greater coverage than we had last year due to a matching grant from the Initiative Foundation which supports a RIP. There is support at the state capitol to encourage the DNR to allow the ordinance to be approved so we keep our hopes up and encourage our members to contact their senators and representatives to support the RIP program. Senator Bruce Anderson and Rep. Tom Emmer are the ones for Wright County and of course there is Gov. Tim Walz. You should use the one for the district in which you vote.

The WCRIC is a 501C3 organization like our own and we need a member from our lake to serve on their board for a two year term. Please consider serving your lake in this endeavor. Contact me if you are interested.

We are still searching for a chairperson to head up the membership committee. This is an important position and a good way to give back to your enjoyment of Sugar Lake. A thriving membership is what allows us to deal with all the environmental issues that Sugar Lake faces. Please consider volunteering for this rewarding job. You do not have to be a board member to be on any committee and can stay as long as you wish as have some our past chairs. Help is always available from past membership persons.

Our next major threat is Starry Stonewart. We need to keep a vigilant eye out for this new invasive and notify the board so it can be verified. We have authorized funds to hire professionals for more searches to catch any infestation quickly so we have a chance of confining it.

Thank you, Dan Erdmann

Ice Out History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>April 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>May 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>March 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>March 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>April 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>April 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>March 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>April 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>April 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>April 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>April 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>April 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>April 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>April 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>April 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>April 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>April 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>March 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>April 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
ed in the revised ordinance), the program officially ceased to exist on April 15th.

In place of conducting inspections at the Regional Inspection Station, the Coalition has contracted with Wright SWCD for ‘At-the-Ramp’ inspection services for member lakes. Additionally, the Coalition appealed to the State of Minnesota Initiative Foundation to maintain the Foundation’s matching grants for the program. The Initiative Foundation confirmed the availability of the grant money, saying that it may be applied to ‘At-the-Ramp’ inspections until such time as the WRIP is formally reinstated and the Regional Inspection Station reopens.

**Bottom Line for Sugar Lake:** The net result of the Initiative Foundation grant money is that the buying power of SLA’s inspection dollars will double for this season. For the past several years, we have had inspectors at both ramps three days per week (60 hours) plus holidays. For the near future, we will have inspectors at both ramps six days per week (120 hours). This enhanced inspection coverage will greatly improve our efforts to protect Sugar Lake.

**Ongoing Activities:** The Coalition is continuously working to get the WRIP program restarted. The Wright County Board intends to draft and pass a new ordinance which mandates the Regional Inspection Program and supports the 2019 Operating Plan. The Coalition, in concert with Minnesota Lakes & Rivers, is working on a legislative fix. The Senate approved an Amendment, offered by Senator Bruce Anderson, to Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus Bill that requires the DNR to approve the expanded WRIP program no later than July 1, 2019. At this writing, there is no word on the status of a companion bill in the House of Representatives.

SLA members are encouraged to contact their legislators in support of the WRIP.

---

**Sugar Lake For Sale Email list ending**

In order to continue the Sugar Lake For Sale email list, we need a volunteer. This position coordinates with membership to maintain an email list and publishes emails regarding for sale, wanted, and free items. MailChimp is the program used to both develop and send the email notices. The amount of work is minimal. Busiest times are in the spring and fall.

If you are interested please contact Don Peterson at don@sugarlakemn.net.
Lake Vegetation Report

The vegetation actions this year will be either very familiar, and/or very new. The plan of action for treatment of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) and Curly leaf pondweed (CLP) will be very close to what we have done before.

CLP is scheduled to be treated sometime in May. We have selected areas that we believe need treating, but we want to be sure it is still growing in those locations.

We also expect to treat some areas of EWM, most likely in July. We have several small areas of EWM and, if they have gotten large enough, we will treat it this year.

Blue Water Science (Steve McComas and his son) is scheduled to come out to the lake and do a complete vegetation survey for the lake to include lake bottom soil testing. At that time they will also make delineations for our July treatment of EWM and a delineation of CLP for treatment in the spring of 2020.

Yes, we will remember 2018 as the year we identified Zebra Mussels (ZM) in Sugar Lake. I know that most of you felt the same depression that I did when I found the first three properties with ZM. Of course, we want to do anything we can to manage ZM. At this point in time there is no “off-the-shelf” treatment for widespread ZM infestations. However, there are some very interesting research and trials being done this year with the brain power of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) staff. There could be some be methods to “control” the spread of ZM. We are closely following this research and are letting researchers know that we do what we can to control this invasive species. What we are doing now is tracking the locations and density of adult ZM so we have a good history to add to our current database of location and density of ZM. We want to demonstrate our interest in possible treatments and are dedicated to monitoring that may help us get good placement on the list of applicants wanting to be chosen for trials or other programs for controlling ZM.

To that end, we need your help in keeping records. Last fall many of you sent us an email informing us if you found or did not find ZM. Also we asked you to tell us how many and what size they were. We found that of the 170 properties checked, 75 of them were found to have one or more ZM. Almost all of them were very small (less than ¼ inch). They can be hard to see until you find a few and then it is easy to identify them. If you did not send us an email last fall, would you please send us an email to (vegetation@sugarlake.org) so we can have you on the database for ZM locations. If your water equipment is not in the lake, please do a search for ZM and send in your report.

The issue of Invasive Species is that their spreading never ends. We are also searching for and fearing the introduction of Starry stone wort (SSW), which is a variety of Algae. It is a distant cousin of the Chara that we have growing in a large part of our lake. These two forms of Algae float on the bottom of the lake. They look like some of the varieties of vegetation, so don’t be confused. Starry stone wort is unique in that it grows from the bottom of the lake to the surface and gets extremely dense. If you do nothing about it, SSW can eliminate all use of the lake. This organism can be managed but it will take a great deal of effort. Our SLA board is committed to having early detection and fast treatment in the fight against SSW, but it will not be easy. You can all help by learning what this organism looks like so you can watch as you do things around your dock or you get some “weeds” on your fishing line or anchor. Review the picture on page 6 and if you find it, or think you have it, send an email with that information to Vegetation@sugarlake.org.

Invasive species in Minnesota lakes will continue to be with us. We need to support the best inspections and decontamination of all water craft coming and going in our lake. Be a positive voice in supporting inspections and decontamination, and encourage others to do the same thing.

Protect Sugar Lake with support for reducing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

Dale Gustafson, SLA Vegetation Chair
Sugar Lake Association Online Payment Option

We’re in the second year of our new online payment option to make contributing to the Sugar Lake Association easier and more secure! The new functionality was launched in December 2017 and was well received by the membership for paying their 2018 dues and additional donations. We’ve received quite a bit of positive feedback about the streamlined process. The new payment option is:

- Easy to use
- More secure than mailing a check
- A greener, paperless option that is better for the environment
- A way to reduce administrative costs and volunteer hours for Sugar Lake Association

If you haven’t already taken advantage of the online payment option to pay your 2019 dues/donation, we encourage you to do so. Please go to [www.sugarlake.org](http://www.sugarlake.org) and click on the “Pay Dues and Donate Now” button on the home page, where you’ll be prompted to enter your Name & Address and donation amount. You may use a credit or debit card for your donation. Once you click “Submit” a receipt is generated that you can immediately print. You will also receive an email confirmation for your records.

Along with this move to more secure and paperless automation, we are looking for opportunities to communicate with you via email rather than printed material. Please keep the Sugar Lake Association in mind to ensure that we have your current email address. Any update or additions to your email contacts can be directed to sugarlakemember@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of the Sugar Lake Association and our efforts to streamline processing and keeping our administrative costs down. Your contributions and support of the Sugar Lake Association are critical to preserving our lake’s water quality.

Although the online payment method is preferred, you may still continue to contribute to the Sugar Lake Association by mailing a check to:
Sugar Lake Association
PO Box 373
Annandale, MN 55302

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new payment option or anything else related to membership, please direct your questions to sugarlakemember@gmail.com.

Starry Stonewort

Starry Stonewort is a dangerous invasive organism for all Minnesota lakes. It is free-floating algae, not a rooted plant. It is also quite virulent; current thought being that only a single piece of Starry can infect a whole lake. Area fishermen routinely move from lake to lake, increasing the odds of spreading the infestation. **Be a responsible boater.** The wise thing to do is to avoid launching your boat in an infected lake. If your boat has been in an infected lake, boats and trailers should not go from contaminated to non-contaminated lakes without first being fully decontaminated. If you have friends or guests coming to Sugar Lake, ask whether their boat has been in a lake that has Starry Stonewort. If so, please ask them not to launch their boat in Sugar Lake (or any other lake) until it has been fully decontaminated. **It is up to us as individuals to prevent the spread of AIS to Sugar Lake and other area lakes.**
The following public notice has been sent in an email newsflash and has been published in the Annandale Advocate and the Maple Lake Messenger. Please follow the directions if you want to opt out of aquatic invasive species treatments.

PUBLIC NOTICE
SUGAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS

As part of its ongoing effort to preserve and maintain the water quality and recreational enjoyment of Sugar Lake, the Sugar Lake Association is planning to treat aquatic invasive plants again this year. Current rules require that lakeshore property owners be notified of the plan to treat. This serves as notice of Sugar Lake Association’s intention to treat in 2019.

Plans include two treatment periods:

Curly Leaf Pondweed will be targeted, as in previous years, with an Endothall compound. This treatment will be done early this spring when only Curly Leaf Pondweed is actively growing.

Eurasian Water Milfoil will be targeted for later this summer with a 2,4,D product called DMA 4. This product has also been very effective in the past and has also resulted in a reduction of the areas needing treatment.

Signs will be posted in the affected areas when these treatments are made. There are very few water use restrictions with these chemicals, but property owners should take note of the information on the signs if treatment is done in their area. For more information, please contact the Association via email to Vegetation@sugarlake.org.

Property Owners have the right to refuse treatment in front of their property from the shoreline out to 150 feet. Property Owners who do not want to have the water near their property treated must immediately send a letter to the Sugar Lake Association at PO Box 373, Annandale, MN, 55302, stating their desire to opt out of treatments to be made in the littoral area in front of their property. Please ensure that the lakeshore property address is included with your request, and that the request is signed by the property owner (or their representative).

The cost of these treatments is funded by the Sugar Lake Association and is an important step in maintaining the superior water quality that we all enjoy. If you are a lakeshore property and don’t already belong, please consider joining the Sugar Lake Association and help by providing a donation to support these important programs. More information can be found at www.sugarlake.org/membership.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Sugar Lake Association Board of Directors
PO Box 373
Annandale, MN  55302