

# Lake Miltona



# SPRING News

May 2017

lake-miltona.org

Volume 1, No. 25

Directors and Officers are listed below. Please thank them for volunteering their time for the Lake Miltona Community.

#### OFFICERS:

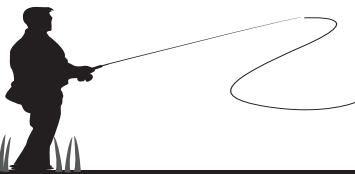
President:	Steve DeSutter
Vice President:	Marc Bot
Treasurer:	Bob Larson
Secretary:	Gene Rose

#### DIRECTORS:

Lynn Glesne	Area 1
John Fair	Area 2A
Jack Anderson	Area 2B
John Fay	Area 2C
Skeeter Kingsberg	Area 3A
Vern Suhr	Area 3B
Gene Rose	Area 3C

#### DIRECTORS *continued:*

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(Open)	Area 5
Wendie VanKirk	Area 6
William Moeller	Area 7
Tim Lind, Gary Fuchs	Area 8
Jerry Fulton	Area 9
Jerry Fulton	Area 10
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Ted Boehne, Tom Brauer	Area 13
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Marc Bot, Bob Larson	Area 17
Darrell Olson, Randy Hansen	Area 18
Don Henning	Area 19



#### A Message from the President

Spring arrived very early this year and got everyone excited about the process of an extended lake season, the ice went out in March following a very warm month. Then the cold and snow of April brought us back to reality. One thing is for sure, the lack of spring runoff and our zebra mussels have sure made the water

clear. For those that have not experienced a calm morning looking off your dock, enjoying the water clarity, you are missing quite the view.

**We are excited to have the Annual Meeting at the Smokey Timbers Camp this year.** It should be a very good location for the meeting and a good chance for people to experience the area if you are not familiar. Come and enjoy.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting. We will go over in detail what the Lake Miltona Association is doing for it's membership.

One change to note is that the annual pontoon parade has been moved to Saturday the 1st of July at noon. We received a lot of feedback stating that with the 4th being on Tuesday, there were many people who will be making the weekend preceding the 4th as the long weekend and they would be leaving on the 4th. So we accommodated this request. Buy your decorations early!

See you on the lake. Good luck fishing!

Steve DeSutter

## Annual Meeting (New Location)

**Saturday, June 10th, 2017**  
**9:00am**

**Smokey Timbers Camp,**  
**15567 Smokey Timbers Road NW**

Our Annual Meeting will be held this year at the Smokey Timbers Camp on the North side of Lake Miltona. It is accessible from Smokey Timbers Road off of Highway 14.

We had to move the meeting from the Miltona town hall this year due to a scheduling conflict with a wedding and graduation. However, it will be a good chance to have the meeting at the camp and for those that have never been there to attend and see it firsthand.

We will have refreshments and a meeting to inform members of the projects we have done and are currently doing.

**Some of the speakers will be talking on the following topics:**

- The Loon nesting project: A talk and pictures of the process of building and installing these platforms.
- Update on land projects the Association is working on.
- An open forum on the history and future of the Smokey Timbers Camp.

We look forward to seeing you on June 10.

## Annual Fundraiser 2017

**Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**5:00pm - 10:00pm**  
**Leaf Valley Community Center**

This year the event will be held in the  
**Leaf Valley Community Center.**

We are planning the event similar to the 2016 fundraiser with a buffet from 5:00-7:00 pm. and Raffle prizes from 7:00- 10:00 pm. Again, your area directors will be selling tickets during the summer at a price of \$15 each – children age 16 and under, accompanied by an adult, will be admitted at no charge.

## Lake Miltona Ice Dates for the Last 13 Years

Board member Jerry Fulton has kept track of the ice completely on and ice completely out dates for the past 13 years. They are:

## Lake Miltona Water Quality Runoff Projects

- We have finished up two CRP and grass area projects along the north end of lake.
- We are currently waiting on the contractors schedule to open up so we can finish a project on the north end of the lake above the public access off of Sandy Beach Road. We have the funding in place and the project is scheduled to be done this spring or early summer.
- We continue to try to take crop land that is adjacent to the lake and implement a buffer or filter to slow the release of water directly into the lake.

We will be discussing these projects in more detail at the Annual Meeting.

## Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
413	408	437	421	458	438

Membership in the Lake Miltona Association is encouraged for those in our lake community as well as the general public.

**A membership application is available on our website [lake-miltona.org](http://lake-miltona.org) or contact us at**  
**790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE**  
**Miltona, MN 56354**

Lake Miltona Association is a volunteer not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to water quality and ecological balance. DONATIONS AND DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. See IRS Publication 526.

### ICE ON

Dec 13, 2004  
Nov 30, 2005  
Dec 1, 2006  
Nov 29, 2007  
Nov 27, 2008  
Dec 5, 2009  
Nov 27, 2010  
Dec 5, 2011  
Dec 8, 2012  
Nov 26, 2013  
Nov 25, 2014  
Dec 19, 2015  
Dec 10, 2016

### ICE OUT

Apr 14, 2005  
Apr 10, 2006  
Apr 20, 2007  
May 4, 2008  
Apr 23, 2009  
Apr 1, 2010  
Apr 26, 2011  
Mar 25, 2012  
May 14, 2013  
Apr 27, 2014  
Apr 12, 2015  
Mar 31, 2016  
Apr 3, 2017

## Lake Management Update

The "Lake Management" article in our November 2016 Lake Miltona News summarized the zebra mussel situation in Lake Miltona after the summer of 2016. This article can be found using the "Newsletter" tab on our Lake Miltona web site:

[http://lake-miltona.org/about\\_association/newsletter.htm](http://lake-miltona.org/about_association/newsletter.htm)

More recently, the article "An AIS Battle Plan" on the front page of the March 10, 2016 Echo Press pointed out that "that there were more than 120 veligers, the larva stage of the invasive zebra mussel, per liter of water in Lake Miltona last year." Dave Rush, Director of Douglas County Land and Resources Management, was quoted as saying: "That is a lot of zebra mussels." The Echo Press article went on to review the Douglas County's plans for education, prevention and containment, monitoring, and collaboration and goals. The article reported that the county plans to continue doing this veliger density monitoring this year, and 2017 will be the sixth season of conducting watercraft inspections by hiring as many as 20 on-site inspectors.

Our November 16 Newsletter article also pointed out that in addition to the zebra mussel AIS we need to be continually vigilant for other AIS. For example, both Lakes Carlos and Le Homme Dieu are designated by the MN DNR to contain Eurasian water milfoil. In addition, the Starry Stonewort has recently been found in our Minnesota lakes.

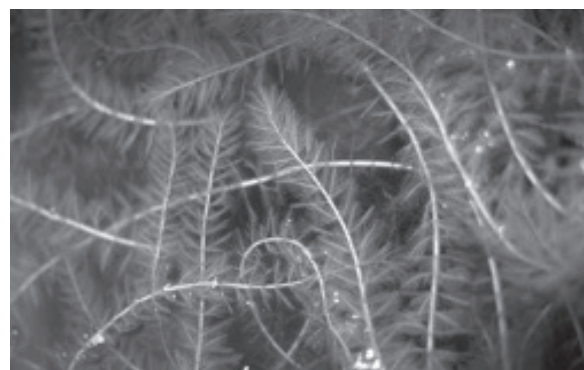
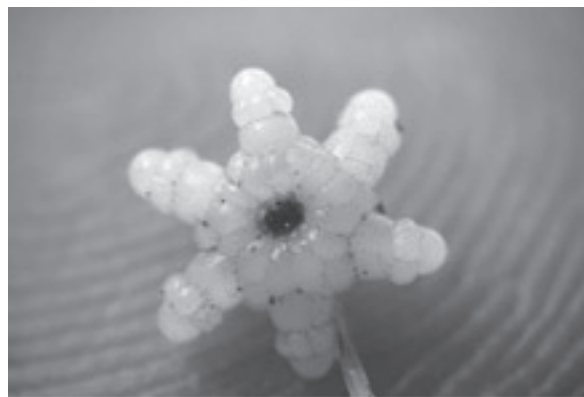
It is a grass-like algae that can form dense mats on the lake surface. It was first confirmed to be in Lake Koronis in Stearns County by the DNR in 2015. A new entry to our web page under the "Water Quality" tab provides more information on the Starry Stonewort:

[http://lake-miltona.org/water\\_quality/action\\_list.htm](http://lake-miltona.org/water_quality/action_list.htm)

One potentially challenging problem with these vegetative AIS is that the impact of their invasion can be amplified by the presence of zebra mussels. This effect is discussed in the article entitled "Zebra Mussels are Mucking up Our Lakes" by Greg

Henry (Echo Press, February 3, 2017, page A4). His article cites the work of Professor Jake Vander Zanden, University of Wisconsin Madison Center for Limnology and reports: "The concentrated nutrients zebra mussels deposit on the lake bottom fuel a 170 percent explosion of weeds and filamentous algae (bottom slime)."

The bottom line is that we need to be particularly vigilant to guard against AIS, especially the vegetative AIS. Therefore, the Lake Miltona Lake Association has applied to be part of the Douglas cost-share program for additional hours of AIS watercraft inspection at our East Main, North Sandy Beach, and West Lucky Acres accesses. To support the cost sharing of this program we are using money donated to our Aqueous Invasive Species fund. Thanks to all of you who have donated to support this fund. Also, if anyone sees any suspicious vegetative species they should contact a DNR invasive species specialist. Our local contact is Mark Ranweiler. His phone number is 218-739-7576.



## Child Life Jacket Wear Law

As of May 2005, Minnesota law requires a life jacket to be worn by children less than 10 years of age when aboard watercraft in Minnesota when the craft is under way (not tied up at a dock or permanent mooring).

### What is a life jacket and why does my child need to wear one?

A life jacket is a U.S. Coast Guard approved device that helps the wearer float if they enter the water.

A child should wear a life jacket anytime they are near water such as in a boat or float tube as well as on docks and river banks and at the beach when allowed by the life guard.

Contrary to many TV shows and the movies, drowning is usually silent. A victim (of any age) in the process of drowning can NOT cry out for help. They just bob up and down in the

water, their head tipped back, mouth wide open gasping for air, and they are silent. It takes as little as 30 - 45 seconds for a child non-swimmer and it usually happens when an adult is nearby but doesn't recognize the telltale signs of a child in distress in the water.

### How do I make sure I'm using the right life jacket?

If you own a boat or plan on renting a boat or boating with a friend, you need to buy your child their own life jacket. Life jackets come in various types and sizes and there may not be a life jacket of the proper size and type to rent or borrow.

### When buying a child's life jacket, check for:

- U.S. Coast Guard approved label.
- A snug fit. Check weight and chest size on the label and try the life jacket on your child right at the store. Pick

up your child by the shoulders of the life jacket; and tell them to raise their arms and relax. The child's chin and ears won't slip through a properly fitting jacket. Do NOT buy a jacket that is too large, hoping the child will grow into it.

- Head support for younger children. A well designed life jacket will support the child's head when the child is in the water. The head support also serves to roll the child face up.

- A strap between the legs for younger children. This helps prevent the jacket from coming off over the child's head.

- Comfort and appearance. This is especially important for teens, who are less likely to wear a life jacket.

Remember: life jackets only work when they are worn, and they do not take the place of adult supervision!

## Fish Stocking Report

As stated last fall, we had received permits to stock fish, but with the early snowfall around Thanksgiving, fish were not available to purchase. So this spring we applied for a permit to again stock 1000 lbs of walleye fingerlings. The permit was good from mid-April thru the end of May. We are sCII hoping to get fish stocked this spring, but it seems that the fish are not available yet. The walleyes seemed to trap in early April, due to early ice out, and then stopped. We are hoping to get stocked yet this spring, but finding fingerlings in our price point has been somewhat challenging. If we do not get stocked this spring, we are hoping to get them this

fall. Hopefully, we get fish put in this spring, keeping our stocking of fingerlings consistent.

## Annual Boat Parade Rules

The Annual Independence Day Boat Parade will be Saturday, July 1st starting at Noon. In case of rain, parade will be Sunday, July 2nd at Noon.

It will start at Sandy Beach / North Public Access (See map).

**Day of Registration:** Register the day of the parade 1 hour before start time. On July 1st go to Sandy Beach / North Public Access. You will see a sign to register and will be given a registration number.

You **MUST** register for a chance to

win a prize. As you approach the judges, stop the forward motion of your boat within 30 feet of the judges, show your registration number and proceed only when judges wave you on.

Route will be determined the day of the parade due to wind direction. Parade will end at Sand Bar on South side of Lake (Outlet to Ida Lake). First place boat & pontoon wins \$75. Second place boat & pontoon wins \$25. Personal Watercraft will also have a first and second place prize of \$75.00 and \$25.00. Names will be displayed on a plaque at LJ's restaurant in Milona.



## Greetings from the Miltona Science Magnet School

We appreciate this opportunity to introduce our school to some of our summer residents and visitors. We are a Kindergarten-Fifth Grade school with one class per grade level. We serve approximately 150 students. Miltona is a part of the Alexandria District 206. Our teachers integrate Environmental Education into core subject areas so students get unique learning experiences through hands-on learning and field trips.

We have a 12-acre school campus with a nature trail through the woods, meadow and pond area. It is typical to find classes outside taking part in learning activities on our trails or in our school garden. During winter recess, you can find students cross-country skiing, skating, snowshoeing or sledding down one of the best sledding hills in Douglas County! A traditional winter activity has been a Saturday ice fishing day for area kids and their families. The Lake Miltona Association's assistance in making this popular event possible has always been much appreciated. The school year typically concludes with a day of nature exploration at Lake Miltona's Smokey Timbers Camp.

We want to share some exciting news for our school and the surrounding community. That, of course, would include Lake Miltona's summer residents.

Our school families and friends have worked hard to raise funds to purchase and erect an amazing

play space for our students and the kids that live in and visit our community. It is through the generous donations of our school families, community members, civic organizations and businesses that this dream is becoming a reality. We sincerely appreciated the Lake Miltona Association's assistance in making this happen.

The new nature-inspired play structures come complete with a safe, accessible fall surface. That means no more pea rock to fill shoes, an even walking surface for all ages and handicapped accessibility.

We want this to be a gathering place for families in our area to connect with nature and with each other. We have a picnic shelter and tables for families to enjoy. We invite you to check out our new and improved play area this summer. It will offer a great "bad lake day" alternative for everyone – kids, playmates, parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors. Our timeline is to be complete with phase two by the middle of July! Due to construction, the playground will be closed from June 7th until early July. The wait, however, will be WELL WORTH IT!!

We are still fundraising for phase three, which includes benches, shade screens and the installation of a fifty foot, (kid-friendly) double zip line. We hope to raise enough money to finish this final stage before Fall of 2017. You are invited to visit. We are located at 271 Dale Street in Miltona, MN 56354. Donations to continue moving ahead with, and assure the maintenance and future of, this great local resource are most welcome.



## Smoke Signals from the Camp

WOW, is there wonderful news to be shared about Smokey Timbers! An area summer resident who has recently come to know about the mission, accomplishments and visions at the Camp has offered a very attractive incentive. His family foundation will match contributions up to a rather staggering total amount. If you have even thought about new or continuing financial support for Smokey Timbers, NOW IS THE TIME! Support, whatever the kind or amount, is always most welcome. Smokey Timbers was rescued, exists today, and has a bright future thanks primarily to the goodness of local people – great “Friends of the Camp.” Hopefully you will seriously consider how Smokey Timbers’ mission fits with your personal values and, if that feels good, consider the reality that every new financial contribution gets **DOUBLED!**

The preservation, improvement and future of Smokey Timbers, has been, and will forever be, a “Labor of Love” by caring, committed and dedicated people. Assistance, whether financial, goods, or services, is always sincerely valued. Contributions of any sort are documented and qualify as tax deductible per IRS code, Section 170. Folks with questions or interest in how they can help are encouraged to call 320-766-5290. The camp’s mailing address is: 15567 Smokey Timbers Rd. Miltona, MN 56354.

Currently Smokey Timbers is

enthusiastically gearing up for another season of memory creating activities for youth groups and families. Concurrently, and now accelerated by the generous contribution match offer, major facility improvements are in the works. Once again, in early May, the Alexandria Technical College Skills U.S.A. students provided tremendous assistance in bringing the camp back to life. The Miltona Science Magnet School held their year-end “nature experience” in late May and the calendar of youth and family activities throughout the summer is packing tighter and tighter. This IS what it is all about!

An exciting new direction in the works is to offer beginner sailboat training at Smokey Timbers. The possibility of also hosting weekly sailboat outings for any and all interested folks with an interest in sailing, on the lake and at the camp, is also being explored. Insurance arrangements and instruction/curriculum assurances are proving to be a bit of a challenge. The determination to overcome, as always, is there!

The Camp’s annual fish fry, to which all Lake Association members are invited, is scheduled for August 5th this year. Be sure to mark your calendar for this increasingly popular event.

The Lake Miltona Association has always been a tremendous “Friend of the Camp.” The organizational and individual member belief in, and support of, this great Lake Miltona asset is invaluable. A big thanks to all!

## AIS Prevention Suggestions

With the mostly warm weather this winter and the early spring, the open water season is almost here, and soon many of us will be enjoying boating, fishing and recreating on Lake Miltona. And, with the approaching season, we all need to remember the key factors in preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into our wonderful lake: Clean, Drain, Dispose and Dry.

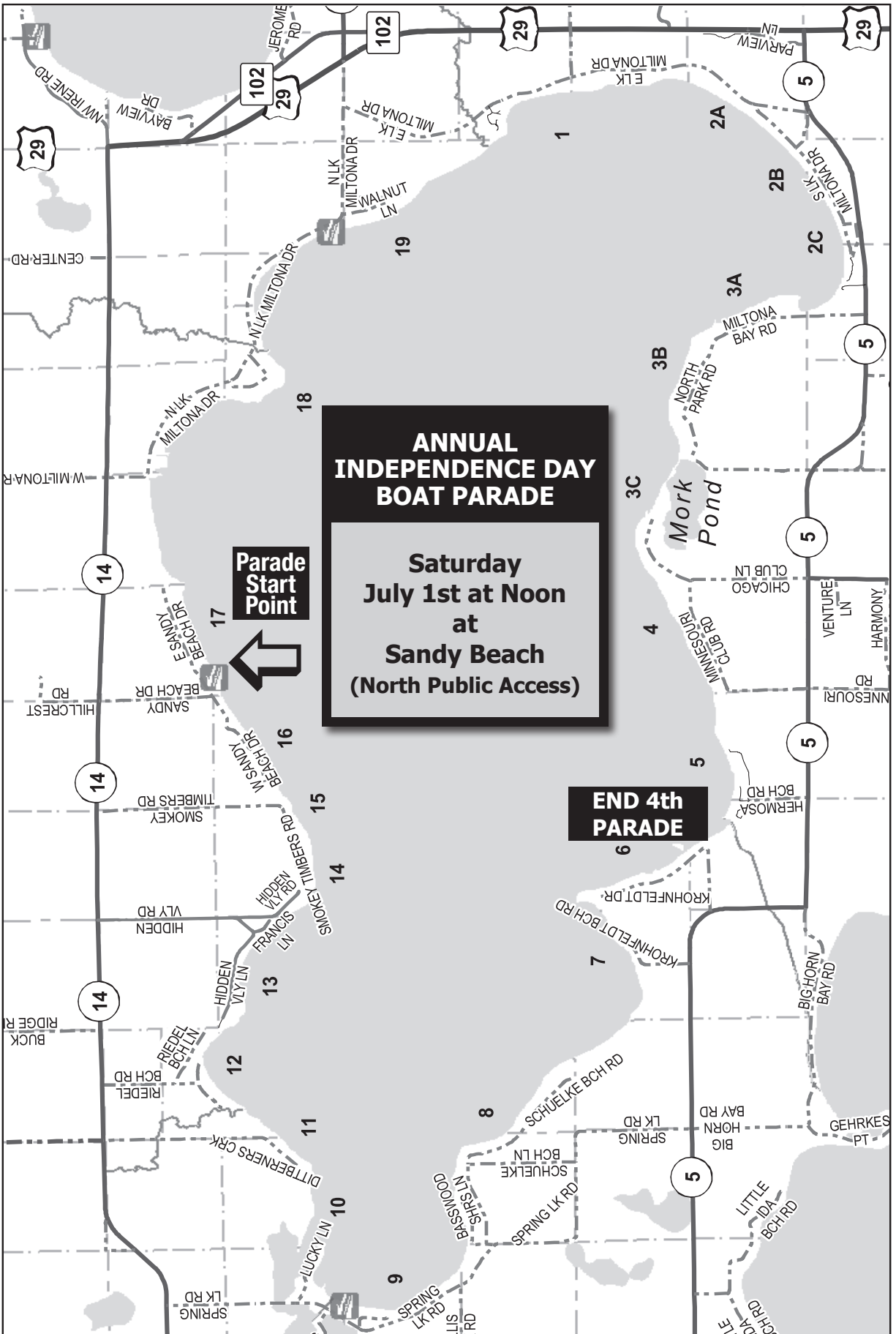
**CLEAN** – Make sure all watercraft and lake equipment (trailers, docks, lifts, etc.) are free of all plant material before they enter the lake.

**DRAIN** – Drain all water from bilges and live wells before putting a boat into the lake (and make sure the water drains away from the lake). Also, remember that bait water cannot be transported from one lake to another.

**DISPOSE** – Dispose of any unused bait in the garbage, not by dumping it into the lake.

**DRY** – All lake equipment (docks, lifts) must be out of the water for a minimum of 21 days to kill any hidden AIS. It is also recommended that watercraft coming from an infested water body be kept out of the water for a minimum of 5 days for the same reason.

Please make sure your lake guests are knowledgeable about AIS, as well. Thank you. Our lake thanks you!



**ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY BOAT PARADE**  
**Saturday**  
**July 1st at Noon**  
**at**  
**Sandy Beach**  
**(North Public Access)**

**END 4th PARADE**

**Parade Start Point**



# LAKE MILTONA

ASSOCIATION

790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE

Miltona, MN 56354



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Twin Cities, MN

# Lake Miltona News

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## 2017 Calendar of Events

June 10	Annual Meeting	9:00 am ST
	At Smokey Timbers Campground	
July 1	Boat Parade	Noon
July 8	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 17	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 14	Directors Meeting	9:00 am