

# Lake Miltona



# SPRING News

May 2015

[lake-miltona.org](http://lake-miltona.org)

Volume 1, No. 23

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

**OFFICERS:**

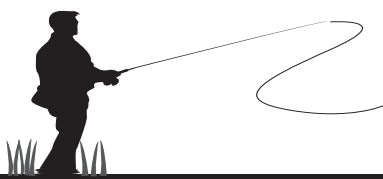
President:	Steve DeSutter
Vice President:	Marc Bot
Treasurer:	Bob Larson
Secretary:	Gene Rose

**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:**

Steve Herth	Area 4
Dick Kuehn	Area 5
(Open)	Area 6
William Moeller	Area 7
Tim Lind, Gary Fuchs	Area 8
Jerry Fulton	Area 9
Jerry Fulton	Area 10
(Open)	Area 11
Mike Wrobel, Warren Davis	Area 12
Ted Boehne, Tom Brauer	Area 13
Steve DeSutter	Area 14
Wally Roberts	Area 15
Anne Rykken	Area 16
Marc Bot, Bob Larson	Area 17
Darrell Olson, Randy Hansen	Area 18
Don Henning	Area 19



**A Message from the President**

It is great to see green grass and blue water instead of brown grass and grey ice. The lack of winter moisture has led to lower than normal lake levels this spring, but Mother Nature usually balances everything out in the end. Let's hope so, for our lake level's sake!

We sent out an appeal for increased funding for the walleye

stocking in our dues letter, and it appears that many of you helped out! Thank you. Not everyone has sent it in yet, so too early to post updated results, but thanks for helping out. We want to continue with our increased stocking levels.

Spread of Zebra mussels appear to be slow going on Miltona, based on last fall survey, so that's good news. If anyone suspects seeing them, please report to your director or Douglas County, so we can continue to monitor the spread of them.

We continue to want to focus on controlling the runoff from farm

fields into Miltona, so if anyone has an area where runoff is a problem, let your directors know. We are dealing with two projects on the north side of the lake this spring and fall. We have dealt with a runoff project along Dittberner creek on west end also. All these projects will help to preserve the valuable resource we love.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 20th at the Miltona Community Center at 9am. We will have speakers from Douglas County, including Dave Rush. Dave is very knowledgeable on all sorts of lake topics,

(Cont. page 2)

## A Message from the President (continued)

so come get answers to your lake questions. Our Annual Fundraiser Dinner is scheduled for August 15th at Leaf Valley. Directors will be coming around soon to sell tickets; it's a great chance to meet them. Thank them for the hard work they do for the Association. Now that we live in the "smartphone era," put these two dates into your phone.

See you on the lake!

Steve DeSutter

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 20th, 2015**  
**9:00am**  
**Miltona Community Center**

The Lake Miltona Association will be having their Annual Meeting on June 20th at the Miltona Community Center. The meeting will start at 9am with speakers, refreshments and updates on projects the Association is working on. It is a very good time to come and learn how the Association works and the past, current, and future projects we are working on. Also, a good time to meet others on the lake you may not know.

Speakers include:

**Paul Anderson.** Paul will be reviewing the water quality campaign we are implementing, and also discuss the testing that we have done.

**Dave Rush.** Dave is with Douglas County and will talk on topics such as lakeshore management, lake monitoring, aquatic invasive species program and will answer any questions the members may have. Dave is a great asset to Douglas County and has much experience in lake management. Come with questions and they will get answered.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting.

## Annual Fundraiser 2015

**Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**5:00pm - 10:00pm**  
**Leaf Valley Townhall**

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

We are planning the event similar to the 2014 fundraiser with a buffet from 5:00-7:00 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.

## Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
388	375	410	413	408	437

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.

## Water Quality Dedication – Opportunity to Help

Last spring a new effort to inform Lake Miliona residents about actions to preserve and improve lake water quality was discussed in the spring newsletter and at the annual meeting. The Lake Miliona Association originates and funds projects to preserve and improve water quality, but individual residents can also help by “doing the right things” around the lake.

This summer (2015) you will be asked to complete a “self-survey” about your shore line conditions, aquatic vegetation near your shoreline, etc. The purpose of the survey is to highlight opportunities for individual residents to preserve and improve water quality.

The shoreline self-survey will be distributed at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 20, at 9AM at the Miliona Community Center. If you can’t attend the meeting, contact your Director to obtain a copy of the survey.

Your survey should be completed in July or August, when trees, shoreline vegetation and lake vegetation are in bloom.

Upon completion of the survey, you are encouraged to consider changes you can make to your lakeshore property that support the preservation and improvement of water quality.

If you submit your completed survey to your Director you will be recognized by the Lake Association.

In addition to completing your survey, please continue to use the Preserve and Improve Water Quality Action List as an aid to responsible lake shore use.

### Preserve and Improve Water Quality Action List

This list includes actions focused on reducing nutrients that support excessive weed growth, septic system effectiveness, erosion prevention, and fish/wildlife habitat protection.

- Follow regulations and recommendations regarding the installation, use, routine inspection, and maintenance of septic systems.
- Preserve bulrushes (lake reeds) that filter nutrients from the lake.
- Refrain from shoreline burning and other practices that allow nutrients such as ashes, clippings, and leaves to enter the lake.
- Establish and preserve a natural vegetation buffer near the shoreline to prevent erosion and filter nutrients.
- Minimize clearing of trees and natural vegetation, especially on shoreline banks, in order to prevent erosion and filter nutrients.
- Limit the size of impervious

surfaces (patios, paved driveways, etc.) which offer no nutrient filtering and “concentrate/accelerate” water runoff, causing erosion.

- Follow the Minnesota exotic species (Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, etc.) regulations and recommendations.
- Limit the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. If you must use them, do so in a responsible manner, and properly dispose of toxic chemicals.

## Lake Miliona Ice Dates for the Last 10 Years

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

<b>ICE ON</b>	<b>ICE OUT</b>
Dec 13, 2004	Apr 14, 2005
Nov 30, 2005	Apr 10, 2006
Dec 1, 2006	Apr 20, 2007
Nov 29, 2007	May 4, 2008
Nov 27, 2008	Apr 23, 2009
Dec 5, 2009	Apr 1, 2010
Nov 27, 2010	Apr 26, 2011
Dec 5, 2011	Mar 25, 2012
Dec 8, 2012	May 14, 2013
Nov 26, 2013	Apr 27, 2014
Nov 25, 2014	Apr 12, 2015

## Lake Runoff Project Summary

We are in the process of working on runoff projects for Lake Miliona. Here is a brief summary of them. If anyone has additional questions, please bring them to the annual meeting in June, since we will be discussing these projects in more detail at the annual meeting.

**Dittberner Creek project:** We worked with Douglas County and property owners to renew the CRP plan along both sides of Dittberner creek on the northwest side of

the lake. The CRP program is now in place for the next 15 years, and helps to filter water coming into Miliona from the area along the creek.

**Smokey Timbers Runoff Project:** We are assisting Miliona Township, and Smokey Timbers board, to design and install a runoff drainage system to keep water and sediment from directly running into the lake, causing much sediment buildup and washouts along the far west end of Sandy Beach road. This project is currently underway and hoping for

completion this summer.

**Sandy Beach Access Project:** We are working with Douglas County and the property owners to enhance a water holding pond along Sandy Beach Road and Highway 14. The pond will be raised to create more water storage in the pond and helping with runoff from fields and water washing out the road and public access area on north side of the lake. This project is in the design stage and will be implemented in the fall or early spring.

## Fish Stocking Report

All fishermen please put this date on your calendar! Memorial Day, 2018.

That will be the approximate date when all the fish we stocked last fall and this spring, will be large enough to be taken. In conjunction with the DNR, we put in over 4000 pounds of walleye fingerlings last fall and this spring. These fish take about three years to reach desired size, so there should be great fishing ahead.

We would like to continue our separate Lake Miliona Association stocking operation, and as we stated in the dues letter, we could use any and all funding to continue.

Lake Miliona Association has stocked the following walleye fingerlings, separate from the DNR over the last few years:

### 2012:

200 lbs – 4000 fish in April 2012

### 2013:

200 lbs – 4000 fish in Dec 2013

### 2014:

500 lbs – 10,000 fish in April 2014

### 2015:

1000 lbs – 20000 fish in April 2015

You can see the buildup we provided based on money available in that account. We would like to continue with around 1000 pounds annually, so please continue to assist the association financially so we can reach the goal of continued successful and consistent fishing.

## Annual Boat Parade Rules

The Annual Independence Day Boat Parade will be Saturday, July 4th starting at Noon. In case of rain, parade will be Sunday, July 5th 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 4th 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 Miliona.

See you on the water!

## What causes ice ridges and what can I do about them?

Property owners occasionally return to their cabins in the spring only to discover they are dealing with property damage caused by a phenomenon called "ice heaving" or "ice jacking". This powerful natural force forms a feature along the shoreline known as an "ice ridge". The result may include significant damage to retaining walls, docks and boat lifts, and sometimes even to the cabin itself.

**How do ice ridges form?** Ice ridges are caused by the pushing action of a lake's ice sheet against the shore. Cracks form in the ice because of different contraction rates at the top and bottom of the ice sheet. This is especially true in years that the ice sheet lacks an insulating snow cover. Ice cracks also develop because the edges of the ice sheet are sometimes firmly attached to the shore. When water rises in the cracks and freezes, the ice sheet expands slightly. Rising air temperatures warm the ice, leading to additional expansion, which exerts a tremendous thrust against the shore. Alternate warming and cooling of the ice sheet leads to additional pushing action, causing the ice to creep shoreward and scrape, gouge, and push soil and rock into mounds (called "ice ridges", "ice pushes", or "ramparts").

**What can be done about ice ridges after they form?** Because ice ridges do provide ecological benefits (described below), the ideal reaction to the formation of an ice ridge would be to do nothing other than remove personal property from its zone of influence. However, this is often impractical. Ice ridges can impede use of the lake by a property owner or the users of public lakeshore facilities.

Therefore, action may be taken to remedy the results of ice activity.

Lake access can be obtained by ramping over or cutting through the ice ridge. There are circumstances, however, when it may be necessary to remove or grade an ice ridge. An individual Public Waters Work Permit is not required from the DNR to remove or grade an ice ridge if the work meets the following conditions:

- The ice ridge resulted from ice action within the last year.
- The project is either exempt from local permits or is authorized by issuance of a local government permit.
- Not more than 200 feet of shoreline is affected.
- All ice ridge material that is composed of muck, clay, or organic sediment is deposited and stabilized at an upland site above the ordinary high-water level
- All ice ridge material that is composed of sand or gravel is removed as provided above or graded to conform to the original cross section and alignment of the lakebed, with a finished surface at or below the OHWL.
- No additional excavation or replacement fill material occurs on the site.
- All exposed areas are immediately stabilized as needed to prevent erosion and sedimentation.
- Local zoning officials, the watershed district (if applicable) and the soil and water conservation district are given at least 7 days' notice before beginning the project.

Removal or grading of an ice ridge must not disturb emergent aquatic vegetation, unless authorized by an aquatic plant management permit from the DNR's Division of Fisheries.

## What can be done about ice ridges before they form?

The simplest means of avoiding ice-related damage to shoreline property is to ensure that personal property is out of wrath's path. State and local shoreland regulations requiring setback limits not only lead to improved aesthetics but also help to minimize personal property damage from ice action and wave-induced erosion. Engineering solutions are sometimes pursued to remedy ice ridge problems, but they can be expensive and ineffective. If an engineering solution is pursued, property owners should seek the advice of a professional.

**What are the benefits of ice ridges?** Ice ridges are natural berms that have formed around Minnesota's lakes over thousands of years. These mounds of material provide the lake with ecological benefits by creating a barrier to nutrient loading. Nutrients collect on the landward side of the mound, producing fertile soil where plants and trees thrive. The root systems of this near-shore plant community help to protect the shore from erosion and soak up additional nutrients. Shade and habitat offered by near-shore plants benefit organisms along the shore and in the lake, thus supporting nesting and spawning fish.

Ice ridges also work to protect the shore from the lake itself. For example, a small ice ridge formed one year is followed by additional pushes in ensuing years. The ridge is fortified by jamming rocks into it. The roots of the near-shore plant community bind together the soil and rock to form natural shoreline protection.

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## Smoke Signals from the Camp

The 2015 season at Smokey Timbers has launched and is well under way. It promises to be another most interesting and gratifying year. Things got rolling in early April when the Lake Miltona Association's Board of Directors held their quarterly meeting at the Camp. The exchange of information and ideas for mutual benefit was most productive. On April 29th the Alexandria Technical College's Skills U.S.A. group made their annual service day visit. Approximately 50 Trade and Industry students and instructors once again did an amazing amount of grounds and maintenance work to bring the Camp back to life for another year. Notable accomplishments, in addition to the typical opening tasks, included significant deck restoration, completion of major dock enhancements plus installation, and a huge amount of wood splitting.

On May 7th Parkers Prairie High School's "College in the Schools" Environmental Biology class once again made Smokey Timbers their base of operations for carrying out environmental study/water quality investigation projects. This activity was jointly sponsored by the Smokey Timbers Foundation and the Lake Miltona Association. Lake Association volunteers provided programming assistance as well as land and water transportation for the students.

Also, in May a group of "Friends of the Camp" volunteers have acquired the materials and carried out the rebuilding of a camp site shelter

destroyed in a storm a couple of years ago. Additionally, it appears the erosion control project affecting the Camp grounds, the West Sandy Beach township road and adjoining private property owners will finally become a reality. Scheduled for last year, the project was weather delayed – in spring by continuous abnormal rain fall and in the fall by winter's early onset. Majority funding for this project is being provided through the Clean Water Legacy Fund with planning and administration by Douglas County Soil and Water. The project is a cooperative undertaking by Smokey Timbers, its neighbors, and Miltona Township with support from the Lake Miltona Assn. At the end of the month, as in previous years, the Miltona Science Magnet School has planned to wrap up their year with an all-school field day at Smokey Timbers.

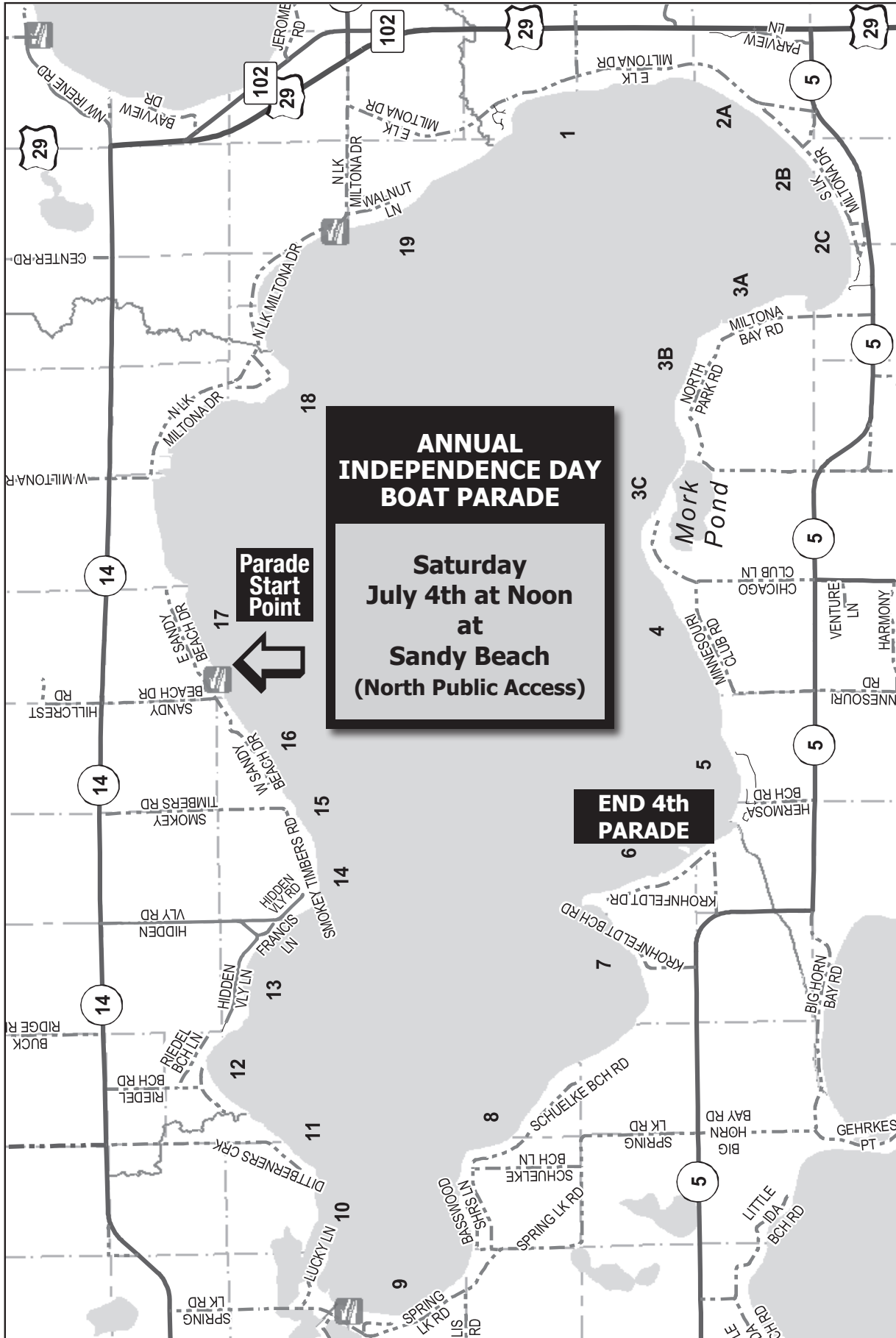
Whew! All of this is happening in addition to the ever increasing diversity of groups discovering Smokey Timbers to be a destination of choice – school science groups, high school sports teams, faith-based activity groups, service family gatherings, youth day camps on top of the historic Boy and Girl Scout organizations, church groups, 4Hers, and family organizations. The Foundation is finding it increasingly possible to focus exclusively on its intended purpose: to provide affordable recreational and environmental education opportunities to non-profit organizations.

A significant part of making all of this possible is the Camp's super neighbors and friends here on Lake Miltona. The ongoing financial

support, gifts of goods and services and increasing interest it is receiving from individual lake residents and the Lake Miltona Association is wonderful. A recent major contribution from a lake neighbor's family foundation made significant debt reduction feasible. Thrivent Financial's recognition of Smokey Timbers has made it possible for members to direct their "Choice Dollars" to the Camp and this has become a significant financial boost. There is still a long ways to go to retire the Camp's inherited debt, cover routine operating expenses, and carry out necessary repairs and improvements. "Friends of the Camp," people who understand and believe in the Foundation's mission, will make it all happen. A BIG THANK YOU to all who are assuring the future of this wonderful Lake Miltona asset.

**The Camp's annual fish fry, to which all Lake Association members are invited, is scheduled for August 8th this year.** Be sure to mark your calendar for this increasingly popular event. It's our opportunity to spend time with our good neighbors here on the lake.

If you have ideas for the Foundation, a willingness to assist in moving beyond the debt obligations remaining from the transfer of ownership, an interest in volunteering, or just want additional information about Smokey Timbers, check us out at [www.smokeytimbers.org](http://www.smokeytimbers.org), email us at [smokeytimbers@gmail.com](mailto:smokeytimbers@gmail.com), or give us a call at (320)766-5290. As a 501(C)(3) organization, support to Smokey Timbers qualifies as tax deductible per IRS Code.



**LAKE MILTONA**  
ASSOCIATION  
790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE  
Miltona, MN 56354



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# Lake Miltona News

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## 2015 Calendar of Events

June 20	Annual Meeting	9:00 am MCC
July 4	Boat Parade	Noon
July 11	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 15	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 10	Directors Meeting	9:00 am