

# Lake Miltona



# SPRING News

May 2016

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

Volume 1, No. 24

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

**OFFICERS:**

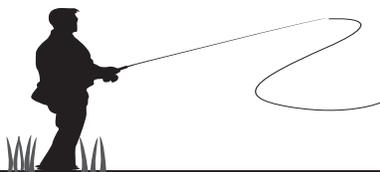
President:	Steve DeSutter
Vice President:	Marc Bot
Treasurer:	Bob Larson
Secretary:	Gene Rose

**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
(Open)	Area 5
Todd Gease	Area 6
William Moeller	Area 7
Tim Lind, Gary Fuchs	Area 8
Jerry Fulton	Area 9
Jerry Fulton	Area 10
Pat Ferguson	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**

Spring has arrived much earlier than usual this year. Ice-off happened in March and Mother Nature keeps throwing low moisture, EL Nino, winters our way. The lake level is lower again this spring, so we hope rain will soon help bring the lake level back to normal.

Last year at this time, I wrote about the lack of significant

spread of zebra mussels. Boy was that premature! They really spread last year and only time will tell as to what this invasive species holds for our lake this summer. Docks and lifts were covered with zebra mussels last fall and I would expect the same for this year.

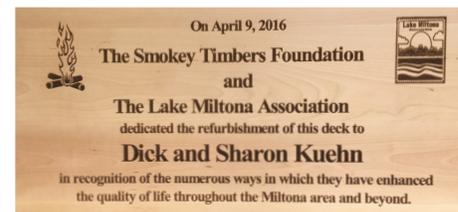
We continued with our supplemental fish stocking plan last fall and this spring. We thank everyone who contributed financially to support this program. We stocked just under 1100 lbs of fingerling walleyes.

We are very excited to have Senator Bill Ingebrihtsen speaking at the annual meeting. He is very

connected to legislature regarding water quality and DNR funding. Both of these topics are very important to us, so we are looking forward to having him speak on the role state government is taking in these important topics. Make sure you put this date (**June 11th**) in your phone or calendar.

See you on the water!

Steve DeSutter



(See Article Page 6)

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 11th, 2016**

**9:00am**

**Miltona Community Center**

The Lake Miltona Association will be having their annual meeting on June 11th 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 our past, current, and future projects. Also, it's 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.

#### **Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen.**

Senator Ingebrigtsen will be speaking on the DNR funding initiatives, the status of the buffer zones and other legislation concerning the environment and our natural resources in Minnesota. We are very excited to have him speaking to our group, it should be very informative.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting.

## Annual Fundraiser 2016

**Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**5:00pm - 10:00pm**

**Miltona Community Center**

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

We are planning the event similar to the 2015 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.

## Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
375	410	413	408	437	420

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

You may have noticed that some of your Lake Miltona friends and neighbors have new blue and white reflective Lake Miltona signs. These signs are recognition of their completion of a survey of their shoreline conditions. By completing this survey they have highlighted opportunities to preserve and protect water quality.

About 60 surveys were submitted in 2015. Please consider completing a survey this summer if you didn't get a chance to do so last summer. It will guide you through an examination of your shoreline conditions, aquatic vegetation near your shoreline, etc.

The shoreline self-survey will be available at the LMA Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 11, at 9AM at the Miltona Community Center. If you can't attend the meeting, contact your Director to obtain a copy of the survey. It is also available on the Lake Miltona Association website. ([www.lake-miltona.org/](http://www.lake-miltona.org/))

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 lakeshore 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 shore line 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 Miltona Ice Dates for the Last 12 Years

Board member Jerry Fulton has kept track of the ice completely on and ice completely out dates for the past 12 years. They are:

ICE ON	ICE OUT
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
Dec 19, 2015	Mar 31, 2016

## Lake Runoff Project Summary

We are in the process of working on several runoff projects for Lake Miltona. Following 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 then.

### **Smokey Timbers Runoff Project:**

This project has been completed and involves a state of the art drain ditch and much needed silt control. If you have time, this can be viewed at the very west end of Sandy Beach Road.

### **Sandy Beach Access Project:**

We had the engineers out last fall to survey the possibility and feasibility of raising the pond level along the Sandy Beach road. This will inhibit the water from running directly out of the farm fields and into the lake. We are waiting on the cost and timeline of the projects from the engineers.

**Hidden Valley Road:** We have worked cooperatively with the

landowner on creating CRP along the north side of the west end of Hidden Valley road. There has been significant mud and water running out of the crop fields and directly into the lake in that location. With the implementation of CRP, we are really creating a nice natural water runoff filter and barrier. This is an approximately 15 acres. We are also working with landowners along highway 14 and Sandy Beach road to create some grass barriers just north of the public access. These (approximately) 18 acres will not be planted with row crops, but planted with alfalfa, starting next spring, creating the same filtration we are trying to create all around the lake.

We continue to ask your help in any additional opportunities similar to these projects. If you know of problem areas or opportunities to enhance grass to filter water, please contact your director and they will get it to the attention of the LMA board.

## Fish Stocking Update

We would like to thank everyone for their increased gifts to the fish stocking fund last year.

With the increased funds, we were able to stock 1100 lbs of walleye fingerlings between last fall and this spring. We finished our last load, almost 800 lbs. in late April. Spring stocking is preferred, but cannot be guaranteed due to potential stock pond freeze out from the winter.

Stocking this many pounds as an Association is one of our single largest budget items, but we want to continue with this supplemental stocking program. Please continue to include fish stocking with your dues so we have the funding to continue with this project.

The fish count survey from last fall was very positive for Miltona, so we are starting to see the results.

Now you just have to get out there and catch them. Easy to say, harder to do! Enjoy the fishing season.

## Lake Miltona Association Web Site

Our website, <http://lake-miltona.org>, has been redesigned to simplify browsing with notebooks, iPad, and smart phones. Each page has three sections: Header, Body, and Footer.

- The Headers have two rows of site/page navigation aids: The top row has a 'button' to quickly select the site's other pages. The second row has section names to 'click scroll' down on the page. We have our Association logo at the top left and American Flag at the top right. Below the two navigation lines, we have our Association motto on a lake

snapshot background.

- The Body of each page has information relative to the page title. If you, the reader, click on or touch the 'site map' words in the second line of the home page header – you'll see a table that shows the paragraph titles of each page on the site – touching or clicking a page title will then take you to that page. The bottom of each page has contact information for our association officers, clicking on a name will open your email software so that you can readily send a message to one of them.

- The Footer provides the reader with a return icon  to go back

to the site's home page and a top icon  to go back to the page's top. Also, the page's last updated day is there as well as a link to our site host, the local GCTEL company.

Our Lake Association members are invited to submit his/her snapshots for display on the Links & Photos page. As usual, if you spot a factual or grammatical error; click on the webmaster words in the contact box to transmit it. Submitted by LABenson, former Area 7 Director.

## Volunteer Water Inspector Opportunity

Members, this upcoming open water season you all have the opportunity to help preserve your lake and keep it safe from further aqueous invasive species attacks by becoming a volunteer water inspector through the DNR. The training to become a water inspector is very simple. There is a two to three hour training with Mike Bolinski, the water inspection supervisor with the DNR, and he will go over how to inspect boats as well as how to educate others about stopping the spread of aqueous invasive species. Once the training is complete, working as a water inspector can be as big or as little of a time commitment as you desire. The only requirement is to contact Mike Bolinski at least a week in advance of when you would like to volunteer as an inspector, and then you are set to go to inspect at the public lake access on Lake Miliona

and educate the local boaters as well as tourists. Not only will you be able to educate others about aqueous invasive species and how to keep Lake Miliona safe, but you will be able to establish relationships with other Lake Miliona homeowners as well as relationships with the many tourists that come to the Alexandria area and take advantage of our beautiful lakes. To find upcoming training sessions to be water inspectors, go to the DNR's volunteer water inspection website or if there is a group of 20 or more interested, contact Mike Bolinski about becoming inspectors.

## Lake Management

Our November 2015 "Lake Miliona News" contained an article on the status of the zebra mussel situation in Lake Miliona. In that article we described information obtained on the zebra mussel infestation in Lake Miliona during

an October 2015 field study by Marlene Schoeneck's Parkers Prairie High School Advanced Environment Biology class. As part of this field study the students also carried out an evaluation of the condition of our inlet streams and lakeshore waters and took "score-your-shore" pictures.

After the field trip the students prepared two presentations summarizing their observations, data, pictures and interpretations. These two student reports can be reviewed using the links "zebra mussels" and "inlet streams" in our Lake Miliona Association web site under the heading "Announcements". These studies provide valuable data to monitor the condition our lake as well as being a part of the educational outreach activities the Lake Miliona Association and Smokey Timbers. We look forward to continuing our program of water quality evaluations with them.

## Lakeshore Electrical Risks

Tragically, there have been drownings around the country due to electrical faults in lakeshore areas. The use of line voltage (typically 120 volts AC) electrical power on docks, boatlifts, docked boats, etc. to power battery chargers, lights, boat lift motors, etc. creates the risk of electric shock drowning. An electrical fault, caused by frayed or damaged insulation, a loose connector, etc. can result in energized lake water that can incapacitate swimmers, possibly resulting in drowning. This is known as "Electric Shock Drowning."

Several deaths have occurred in Minnesota, and a "near miss" occurred on Lake Le'Homme Dieu. In some cases people have drowned trying to help others that have become incapacitated. Metal docks, boatlifts, and boats can act as conductors in these cases of electrical faults.

If you use line voltage (typically 120 volts AC) on your dock or lakeshore area electrical codes must be followed. Licensed electricians will install devices which may include Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI), isolation transformers, current leakage monitors, etc. These devices can lower the risk of electrical faults energizing lake water.

### More information about these risks can be found at:

[www.electroshockdrowning.org](http://www.electroshockdrowning.org)  
[www.electroshockdrowningmn.com](http://www.electroshockdrowningmn.com)

## Annual Boat Parade Rules

The Annual Independence Day Boat Parade will be Monday, July 4th starting at Noon. In case of rain, parade will be Tuesday, 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!

## Smoke Signals from the Camp

The 2016 Season at Smokey Timbers kicked off in earnest on April 9th with the Quarterly Lake Association's Directors meeting. The occasion was highlighted by the dedication of the Camp's newly renovated deck, a cooperative Smokey Timbers Foundation and Lake Miltona Association project to jointly recognize the accomplishments of Dick and Sharon Kuehn in enhancing the quality of life throughout the Miltona area and beyond. The weather that day was nasty but the warmth and "feel goodness" of the event put that aside, at least temporarily. The meeting and luncheon following the dedication, however, thankfully, were relocated to an accommodating neighbor's garage!

**The Camp's annual fish fry, to which all Lake Association members are invited, is scheduled for August 6th 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. **And**, for members who haven't yet seen it, to experience the new deck!

On May 4th the Alexandria Community and Technical College's Skills U.S.A. group made their annual service day visit. Over 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 putting the finishing

touches on the deck restoration, completion of major shoreline enhancements, floor tile installation in the bunk house, and a huge amount of wood cutting.

Later in May the first Boy Scout group moved in for a weekend camp outing and the Miltona Science Magnet School wrapped up their year with an all-school environmental field day at Smokey Timbers. Reservations have been confirmed for additional Boy Scout, Cub Scout, Girl Scout, Nature Pre-School, and Community Education activities throughout the summer. In the fall the Parkers Prairie High School biology classes will again be basing their environmental study/water quality investigation projects at the Camp. These activities are jointly sponsored by the Smokey Timbers Foundation and the Lake Miltona Association. Lake Association volunteers provide programming assistance as well as land and water transportation for the students.

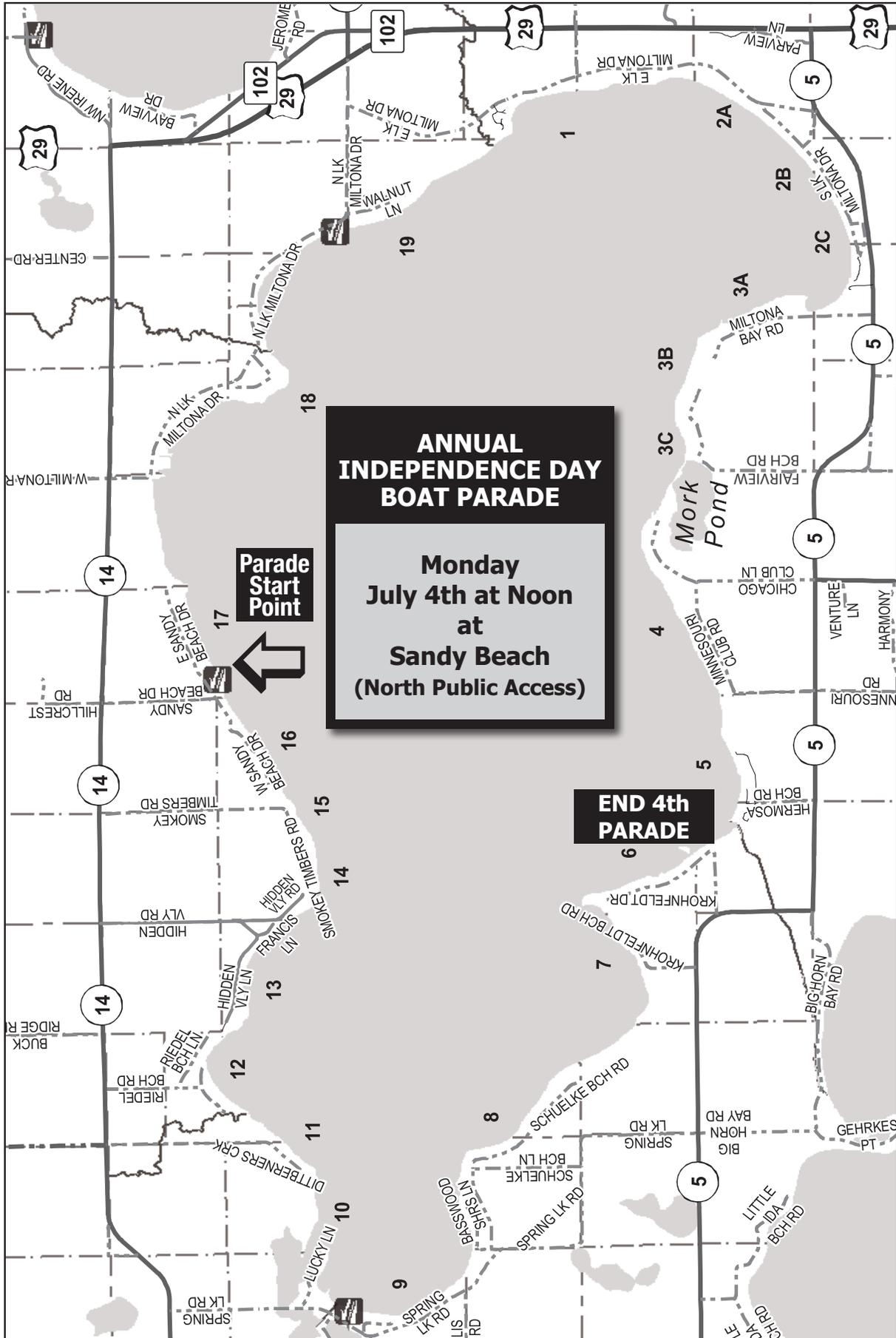
In addition to all of this, of course, is the variety of family group activities that take place throughout the summer. In mid-summer the Camp will have a truly new and unique experience when a medieval reenactment group moves in to conduct a multiple day training session for aspiring groups in MN, SD and ND. Should be a most interesting experience for all.

To make Smokey Timbers an increasingly attractive destination for environmentally focused educational and recreational activities the Foundation has begun pursuing a number of maintenance and renovation projects. Financial support, donated materials and offers for voluntary assistance have

made it possible to begin chasing these dreams. There is a long way to go on all fronts, but there is good reason to believe the dreams will come true.

A significant part of making everything good at the Camp possible has always been the 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 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 notable financial boost. Retirement of the Camp's inherited debt, covering routine operating expenses, and carrying out necessary repairs and improvements are constant challenges. "Friends of the Camp," people who understand and believe in the Foundation's mission, are providing huge assistance in making it all happen. A BIG THANK-YOU to all who are assuring the future of this wonderful Lake Miltona asset.

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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Twin Cities, MN

# *Lake Miltona News*

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## **2016 Calendar of Events**

<b>June 11</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>9:00 am MCC</b>
<b>July 4</b>	<b>Boat Parade</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>July 9</b>	<b>Directors Meeting</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>August 13</b>	<b>Annual Fundraiser</b>	<b>5-10:00 pm</b>
<b>October 8</b>	<b>Directors Meeting</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>