

# Lake Miltona



# FALL News

November 2021

lake-miltona.org

Volume 1, No. 15

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

#### OFFICERS:

President:	Steve DeSutter
Vice President:	Pat Ferguson
Treasurer:	Bob Larson
Secretary:	Gene Rose

#### DIRECTORS:

Lynn Glesne, Dave Werpy	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
Emily Yonke	Area 5
Shannon Burgad	Area 6
William Moeller	Area 7
Carol McCarthy, 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
Tom Struthers	Area 14
Wally Roberts	Area 15
Anne Rykken	Area 16
Bob Larson, Steve DeSutter	Area 17
Randy Hansen	Area 18
Don Henning	Area 19



### A Message from the President

Lake Miltona has endured one of the driest summers on record and the lake level really suffered because of the lack of rain and very little snow cover from the previous winter. We have had some fall rains and the moisture has been welcomed. We will need some winter snowfall and good spring rains to get it back to a reasonable level next season.

We are happy to report that the

Lake Association has reached a very healthy membership level this year. If you have new neighbors, that are new to the lake, please encourage them to join our ranks. Thank you so much for joining and supporting the association.

We are very excited to report that we have stocked walleye's this fall. We put in 1000 lbs of walleye fingerlings in October. This amounts to approximately 30,000 fingerlings. Fingerling's average 4-7" in length, so pretty decent sized fish to get a good start on the fishery. So, please remember that as you receive your dues letters, that donating to the fish stocking fund goes directly into fish that go into our lake. We are convinced,

that to continue good fishing, we need to restock regularly. We continue to receive wonderful support from the local sportsman's clubs to assist us with our stocking budgets. Please support them in any way you can.

If anyone has suggestions for the Lake Association, please feel free to contact your local board member and they can bring to suggestions to the association. Your input is what gets projects done!

Keep warm this winter and see you on the ice.

Steve DeSutter

President

## 2021 Independence Day Parade Winners

Enthusiasm for this year's parade was high, so start planning for the parade next year. A plaque with the winner's names is located at LJ's Restaurant in downtown Miltona. The awards were as follows:

### Pontoon

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Brittany Puckett
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Deborah Bischoff
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Craig & Melissa Silvernagel

### Jet Ski

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Garrett Hansen

### Boats

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Andy & Emily Burke

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Tom Ostendor

## Fish Stocking

We received a permit to stock 1000 pounds of walleye fingerlings from the Minnesota DNR in October.

We witnessed the weighing of the fish, and witnessed putting them into the lake this mild October. Water temperature was the warmest it has been since we started fall fish stocking .

With the fish length of approximately 4-7 inch fingerlings, we put in around 30,000 fingerlings.

Fish were stocked at the Sandy Beach north access and a private access on the west end. With the warmer water, the grower suggested that we use shallow water to put in the fingerlings this year.

We made a commitment to the grower to continue this process for three more years, permitting allowed, and will have fish available for us to put in. We have two more years under this agreement. The first agreement was in conjunction with the Lake Ida association, but this time we are on our own, as they did not want to commit to three more years of stocking.

The process went wonderfully so we look forward to continuing this process.

The two members of the DNR that we had been dealing with, regionally and locally, have both retired and we are looking forward to meeting the new DNR officials and hopefully we can have them at a LMA meeting in the future to discuss their thoughts and expectations for the Lake MILtona fishery.



## Fundraiser Results

### FUNDRAISER RESULTS

	2021	2019	Variance
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dinner Tickets	10,180	7,950	2,230
Prize Tickets	4,805	4,812	(7)
Donations	578	175	403
Roll the Bones	185	277	(92)
Total income	15,748	13,214	2,534
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Catering for dinner	6,500	4,500	(2,000)
Refreshments	470	751	281
Prizes	293	627	334
Miscellaneous	580	315	(265)
Total expenses	7,843	6,193	(1,650)
Net Earnings for Fundraiser	7,905	7,021	884

## Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past seven years:

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
421	458	467	457	471	475	487

Membership in the Lake Miltona Association is encouraged for those in the 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.

## 2021 Fundraiser Winners

The Association thanks all who attended the fundraiser. A great buffet was provided by Herbies in Carlos Catering. Prizes were donated by almost 100 area merchants, worth \$7,700.

Director volunteers and member volunteers worked diligently to provide another successful fundraiser.

### 2021 Dinner ticket drawing winners:

- Lori & Ross Ruschmeyer - \$100,
- Wendy Morgan - \$50
- Skeeter Kingsberg - \$50

## Parkers Prairie High School Environmental Science Day

Our Lake Miltona Association and Smokey Timbers sponsored Marlene Schoeneck's Parkers Prairie environmental class project at Lake Miltona in October. The Essential Question of the project was: "10,000 Lakes and a Faucet ... Why Should I worry?" Their project explored what is happening to Lake Miltona to cause the proliferation of "weeds" on our lake in certain areas.

Lake Miltona "weeds" have been slowly increasing in recent years, but in the past few years they have become more extreme. Many residents who have lived on the lake for many years have said that they have never seen anything like it. The other mystery is that there are areas with excessive proliferation of vegetation and others that have a "normal" amount of "weeds."

To explore these questions two areas of Lake Miltona with different "weed" growth were chosen. Ail Toyli and Mason Arens presented a slide show review of the students' experimental procedures used to explore these areas, the data obtained and their conclusions at our October 16 Board of Directors meeting. A discussion with the Board members followed the presentation. The slides for the presentation will be added to our web page for folks who were not at the meeting to review. People can refer to our web page to see their slides and their conclusions.



## Dead Fish on Lake Miltona Shores

Early this summer some of our residents saw an unusually large number of dead fish accumulating on their shores. Upon exploring this observation with the DNR we found out that Lake Miltona was not the only lake to experience this phenomena. The article below from the DNR is included to provide further information.

### **Hot weather likely contributed to fish die-offs**

Reporting groupings of dead fish helps the DNR and others know when a response is needed.

Recent hot weather may be contributing to fish die-offs in lakes across the state, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

"Spring and summer fish die-offs happen occasionally, but we are getting widespread reports of dead fish following the recent prolonged stretch of hot weather," said Tom Burri, DNR limnology consultant.

The DNR asks the public to report fish die-offs. People should call the state duty officer at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798 if they encounter a large group of dead fish in a lake or a stream (the state duty officer is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week). Calling in a report provides a single point of contact for the incident. An early report also allows timely water sampling or other response actions, if needed. It's especially helpful to know what fish types and sizes people see in a fish die-off.

In mid-spring and summer, fish die-offs are often the result of warming water and opportunistic infections that spread in fish populations that are already stressed after the spawning season. Species commonly observed in these die-offs include sunfish, crappies and bullheads, and, occasionally, largemouth bass and northern pike.

"People tend to be concerned when they find dead fish, and they can help by reporting what they see right away," Burri said. "These reports help us determine whether an investigation is needed."

If there is an immediate threat to life or property, call 911 first.

When die-offs of wild fish are the result of disease issues, the affected fish tend to be of a single species and size range. By contrast, when die-offs include multiple species and size ranges, human activity is more likely to be the cause.

Human causes of fish kills can include water discharged at high temperatures, toxic chemicals discharged or spilled, pesticides and fertilizers, manure runoff, and low oxygen levels in a lake resulting from storm water that runs off urban or rural landscapes. Often, there are multiple causes contributing to fish deaths.

More information on fish kills is available on the DNR website.

## Fundraiser Donor List 2019

Advanced Irrigation  
 Alex Shooting Park  
 Alexandria Country Club  
 American Heritage Hunting Club  
 Aqua Marine  
 Arrowwood Resort  
 Bee Chama  
 Betterman Taxidermy  
 Bettin Pest Control  
 Boomerang Sports  
 Central Lakes Restaurant Supply  
 Central Marine & Sports  
 Chet's Lakeside Inn  
 Competitive Edge Motor Sports  
 Cullen's Home Center  
 Dick's Standard  
 Don Henning Excavating  
 Down On the Corner  
 Elden's Food Fair  
 First Western Bank  
 Focus Financial  
 Fortwengler Electric  
 Geneva Golf Course  
 GrandStay Hotel and Suites  
 Grey Stone Golf

Hardwood Hills Golf Course  
 Henry's Food's/Brothers Market  
 Herbie's Bar and Grill  
 Hilltop Lumber  
 Iverson Insurance  
 Jim and Judy's  
 Juettner  
 Klimek Bros Well Drilling  
 Klinder Meats  
 L&O Plumbing and Heating  
 Lakes Gas  
 Leaf Valley Mercantile  
 Leaf Valley Sportsmen  
 Life Quest Chiropractic  
 LJ's  
 Lund Boats  
 Lure Lake Bar  
 Mall of America  
 Miltona Blacksmith  
 Miltona Lions  
 Miltona Liquor  
 Miltona Meats  
 Napa Auto  
 Nordic Trails Golf  
 Ollies Service  
 Parkers Laundromat

Pat's Hair  
 Pine Ridge Golf  
 Prairie Archery  
 Prairie Edge Casino: Granite Falls  
 Qdoba  
 REA  
 Ron's Warehouse Sales  
 Rose City Bar and Grill  
 Sammy's One Stop  
 Scherer Printing  
 Shooting Star Casino  
 Spruce Center Bait  
 Stubs Marine  
 Tastefully Simple  
 The Dog House  
 Turnkey Marketing  
 Viking Bay Resort  
 Wendie Vankirk/Edina Realty  
 Woodland Resort  
 Zorbaz

**Thank You** to these  
 Merchants who provided  
 over \$7,000.00 in prizes to  
 our 2021 fundraiser.  
**Please support them!**

Board Member Jerry Fulton has kept track of the ice-on, ice-off for the past 15 Years. Thanks to Jerry for his dedication to collect this information about our lake



<b>ICE ON</b>	<b>ICE OUT</b>
NOV 30, 2020	APR 6, 2021
DEC 3, 2019	APR 20, 2020
NOV 13, 2018	APR 24, 2019
DEC 8, 2017	MAY 6, 2018
DEC 10, 2016	APR 3, 2017
DEC 19, 2015	MAR 31, 2016
NOV 25, 2014	APR 12, 2015
NOV 26, 2013	APR 27, 2014
DEC 8, 2012	MAY 14, 2013
DEC 5, 2011	MAR 25, 2012
NOV 27, 2010	APR 26, 2011
DEC 5, 2009	APR 1, 2010
NOV 27, 2008	APR 23, 2009
NOV 29, 2007	MAY 4, 2008
DEC 1, 2006	APR 20, 2007
NOV 30, 2005	APR 10, 2006
DEC 13, 2004	APR 14, 2005

## Smoke Signals from the Camp

**Many thanks to the Lake Miltona Association and all lake residents who continue to be such an integral part in supporting Smokey Timbers Camp. This includes financial support as well as the many volunteer hours provided.**

In 2021 we were able to enjoy a "more normal" year fulfilling our mission which is to serve youth groups and families.

It was exciting to see a varied number of youth and service organizations, of all ages, enjoy the camp and all it provides. Both boy and girl scouting groups held camping activities at various times. The camp also welcomed the AAHS wrestling team, Calgary Kids Church group, Osakis Silverstreaks Football team and boosters, Skills USA, ATC Law Enforcement Club and the Alex Community Ed. These groups not only enjoyed the camp and all it provides but also volunteered many hours on various projects needing attention around the camp. A very gracious thank you!

In addition to the above, Smokey Timbers provides project opportunities for scouts who decide to pursue Eagle Scout status. This year two projects undertaken included a sling shot range and deck and picnic table restoration. Both projects will be enjoyed by future camp guests.

Smokey Timbers assisted the Lake Association in providing workspace and assistance to the Parkers Prairie Advanced Biology students who spent an afternoon analyzing phosphorus content in various lake locations following up with a report on their findings.

In addition to the above, family groups filled out the available time slots that were not utilized by youth groups.

In addition to fulfilling our mission, it was and is the year of the build at the camp. A large yurt is nearing completion, which will be available for use year around, and will be dedicated to providing space for program activities. A small yurt and camper cabin, which will be available for camping year around, should be completed for the 2022 season. In addition to these, we were fortunate to have a garage donated to the camp by a generous Lake Miltona resident. Funding of material costs for these projects has been provided by Foundations, family trusts, civic organizations and individuals. Construction has been done primarily by volunteers. The Smokey Timbers Foundation is grateful to all the people who are making these improvements possible.

After great success last year at Halloween, the second annual Spooky Trails and Trail of Treats were held. The Trail of Treats is for the younger kids and was held in the afternoon. Spooky Trails commenced after dark and lived up to its name. Both events were truly enjoyed by the approximately 250 kids who participated. A huge thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who made it happen! Based on this year's success, the event will be back in 2022.

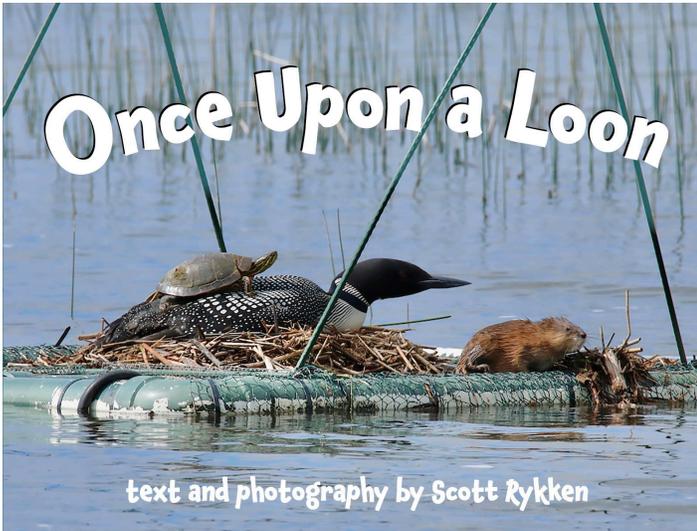
Based on last years enthusiasm, the second annual 5K Family Challenge is being planned for a repeat during the February-March time frame. Watch for the postings and join us for the fun!

The annual fish fry fund raiser returned this year and was a huge success. Thanks to all who supported the fundraiser as well as the many volunteers who made it happen. In addition to the fish fry, Smokey Timbers Foundation relies on a number of sources for financial, material and volunteer support to enable the camp to carry out its mission. Assistance of any sort for any of the above is gratefully appreciated. Contributions are documented and qualify as tax deductible per IRS code, Section 170. Individuals who are interested in how they can help are encouraged to contact us at 15567 Smokey Timbers RD NW, Miltona, MN 56354. Additional info is available at [smokeytimbers.org](http://smokeytimbers.org).





## Once Upon a Loon



Viral photo of a nesting loon, turtle, and muskrat peacefully interacting inspires children's picture book about love and friendship.

The explosive worldwide reaction to the photo of a nesting loon being visited by a turtle and a muskrat on Lake Milona has inspired the newly released children's picture book *Once Upon a Loon* by Lake Milona cabin-owner, nature photographer and author Scott Rykken.

While watching a heartwarming story unfold during a peaceful morning looking out on the lake, Rykken took a remarkable series of photos of a loon, a painted turtle, and a muskrat interacting. It was touching to see how different species could interact so peacefully. The cover photo was originally posted on Facebook and went viral, shared by thousands of viewers and seen by millions around the world. People were reminded that friendships can happen at any time and in many forms.

Rykken never expected his picture to get such a reaction.

"I cannot believe how many people have seen this photo."

When Rykken noticed his photo was receiving

thousands of views on the Facebook page Loony for Loons, he decided to add information about his website where he sells his photos.

"Within a week, my website had over 500,000 views."

Then, the media came calling from as far away as England.

"I was contacted by multiple newspapers from four states for permission to publish the photo with additional information. I gave interviews and even did a TV interview with one of the main news stations in the Twin Cities. I was contacted by news organizations from England who also requested permission to write articles and use my photo."

After multiple suggestions on Facebook that the photo might lead to a children's book, Rykken—who had the same thought—started pondering the storyline.

"The photos kind of led me to the story. I hope people notice and appreciate how special our world is and how amazing events are happening all around us, if we only take the time to look. The concept of living and working together in harmony and friendship can take many forms. Despite our differences, the world is a better place when we all get along."

For more information, contact the author at [srykken@comcast.net](mailto:srykken@comcast.net) or visit [www.scottrykken.smugmug.com](http://www.scottrykken.smugmug.com)

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 4th, 2022  
9:00am**

**Milona Community Center**

Our annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 4th, 2022 at the Milona Community Center. We will update you in the Spring newsletter as to which topics and speakers that will be attending.

# LAKE MILTONA

ASSOCIATION

790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE

Miltona, MN 56354



NON PROFIT  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #3876  
TWIN CITIES, MN

# Lake Miltona News

## Inside this Newsletter...

- ~ Parade Winners
- ~ Fundraiser Results
- ~ Paid Memberships
- ~ Fundraiser Winners
- ~ Fish Stocking
- ~ Parkers Prairie Environmental Science Project
- ~ Dead Fish on Lake Miltona Shores
- ~ Fundraiser Donor List
- ~ Ice-On, Ice-Off Dates
- ~ Smoke Signals from the Camp
- ~ Area Lake Map
- ~ Once Upon a Loon
- ~ Annual Meeting

## 2022 Calendar of Events

January 15	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
April 9	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
June 4	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
July 11	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 13	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 8	Directors Meeting	9:00 am