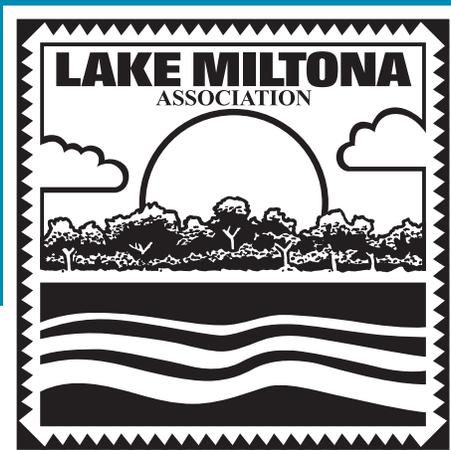


Lake Miltona



SPRING News

May 2019

lake-miltona.org

Volume 1, No. 27

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, 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
Wendie VanKirk	Area 6
William Moeller	Area 7
Carol Goodin, 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

Winter came in November and left in May---Again. I said that last year also, so two long winters in a row. We certainly had a quick thaw out this year. On April 15th it looked like the middle of winter and by mid-May, It looks like spring. The lake level seems to be very high, since we had decent spring moisture. Now it's time to go fishing.

We are excited to be having the annual meeting at the Leaf Valley town hall this year. We have some good speakers lined up with a lot of good information to share with everyone. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting. We will go over in detail what the association is doing for the membership.

The pontoon parade has been moved back to the 4th of July. Since the 4th is on a Thursday this year, hard to tell when people will be coming

and going, so we decided to have it on noon on the 4th. The parade has been growing and it is a very fun event if you have never done the parade, load up a boat and come check it out.

The high water levels and quick ice out gave our lake a once in a lifetime sized bog to deal with this year. It was about the size of a football field and floated around the lake for a few days before deciding to fix itself to the south shore. We discussed options with the DNR and determined the best course of action was to remove it based on the size and mass of it. If it broke free, it would wipe out boats, docks and anything in its path. We just finished removing it, at the time of this newsletter publication, so we will get more pictures of the process in the fall newsletter. It was expensive and huge. It took over 150 dump truck loads to remove it all. Fundraisers in our future! Many thanks go out to all the people that helped in the process of removing this

massive intruder! We will have more space and info in the fall newsletter and will have pictures at the annual meeting also.

See you on the lake. Good luck fishing!

Steve DeSutter
President



Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
437	421	458	438	456	417

Membership in the Lake Miltona Association is encouraged for those in our lake community as well as the general public. As of 4-29-2019 we have 417 paid members.

A membership application is available on our website 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.

Annual Fundraiser 2019

**Saturday, August 10th, 2019
5:00pm - 10:00pm**

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

We are planning the event similar to the 2018 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.

Northern Pike Regulations go into effect May 11, 2019 for Douglas County

Northeast Zone: Bag limit 2 (Not more than 1 over 40" in possession. All from 30-40" must be immediately released.)

North-central Zone: Bag limit 10 (Not more than 2 over 26". All from 22-26" must be immediately released.) Includes the Alexandria-Glenwood Management Area. Map included in the 2018 Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet or: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/pike/index.html>

Southern Zone: Bag limit 2 (Minimum size 24".)



Annual Meeting

**Leaf Valley Townhall
Saturday, June 8th, 2019
9:00 a.m.**

**Stewart Klug will be our
Guest Speaker**

Stewart is our fish stocking supplier and will be speaking about raising fish to restock lakes in the area.

We will also discuss projects we have done and are currently doing, including the Huge Bog Removal this Spring. Refreshments will be served.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Lake Miltona Ice Dates for the Last 14 Years

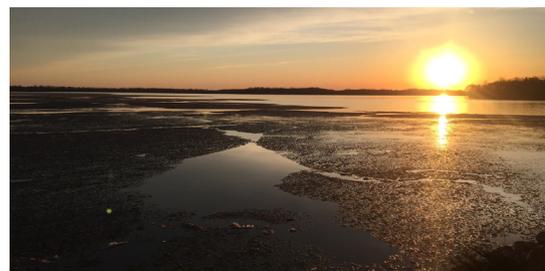
Board member Jerry Fulton has kept track of the ice completely on and ice completely out dates for the past 14 years. They are:

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
Dec 8, 2017
Nov 13, 2018

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
May 6, 2018
Apr 24, 2019



The Joy of Scuba Diving on Lake Miliona

The Joy of Scuba Diving on Lake Miliona

Boat anchors; soda and whiskey bottles and cans; rods, reels, lures, and bait buckets; cell phones and sunglasses; golf balls; a kitchen sink and mattress springs; lead pipes and car batteries; a 1924 Johnson 2HP outboard motor.

My sons and I have been scuba diving in Lake Miliona for almost 12 years and have seen and/or recovered countless items, including those listed above. Some make great conversation pieces. Boat anchors are the most common item we come across. Most are very recognizable by anyone who spends time around a Minnesota lake. But they also come in some shapes and sizes I would never have imagined, including some very inventive homemade anchors. (The common ingredients for the homemade variety most often involve heavy farm machinery or automobile parts!)

Much of what we see is a reflection of the lake's history, good and bad. Many items reflect the simple pleasures involved with boating and fishing activities. (It's just unfortunate that

people lose so many things while enjoying their play time!) On the down side, there is also obvious evidence of previous generations using the lake as a dumping grounds. While we take pleasure in some of what we find, we also take a bit of pride in our simple efforts to help clean the lake of some of all sorts of trash.

I have been asked many times about the most interesting thing we have found in the lake. After a while, nothing really surprises us. But I still get a kick out from the number of unopened bottles of beer we find, almost always in areas where ice houses would tend to reside in winter!

Zebra Mussels have, of course, impacted diving. They can make it difficult to identify most anything on the bottom. But on the bright side, the water clarity makes diving less stressful and more enjoyable. We also like to believe - unscientifically - that the additional water clarity is having other positive benefits on life in the lake.

Our diving experiences have given us a whole new perspective on the character of our lake. We certainly encourage anyone to get their scuba diving credentials and experience Lake Miliona below the surface.



Water Quality Activity

The Lake Miliona Board of Directors voted again this year to use about \$2200 of the money donated to our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund for additional lake monitoring inspection hours. The additional monitoring will

take place at all three of our lake access sites. This Douglas County program is described in more detail in the front-page article in the Wednesday, April 10, 2019 Echo Press. The Douglas County AIS annual report and a new aquatic plant survey are also part of this Echo Press article. The AIS report summarizes the

results of the 2018 inspections. It is worth noting that these inspections found and removed 28 occurrences of vegetative AIS and 20 cases of attached zebra mussels. The Echo Press reports that fifteen lakes will be surveyed this year as part of the aquatic plant survey plan. Lake Miliona and Lake Irene will be part of this program.

The Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund

The Douglas County Lake Association (DCLA) is happy to announce founding of a 501-C3 Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund. This is the result of work by an Ad Hoc committee representing Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District, Douglas County Commissioners, Douglas County Land and Resources, Minnesota DNR, Douglas County Lakes Association, The Nature Conservancy and Sauk River Watershed District. The goal of the Fund is to assist in providing matching funds for grants to protect and restore our natural water resources in Douglas County, Minnesota. We are soliciting both private and public dollars. West Central Initiative Fund in Fergus Falls, Minnesota Fund is administering the Fund.

The DCLA is looking forward to help fund more water quality

projects in Douglas County. If you have any questions, know of possible projects or are interested in contributing please contact Steve Henry, President, Douglas County Lakes Association. His email address is: sghenry1@yahoo.com. Donations can also be made directly by going to the West Central Initiative site and selecting "Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund" from their Component Fund list. More information on the Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund can also be found on the DLCA web site under the heading "News" at <https://www.dclamn.org/douglas-county-water-quality-fund/>.

Annual Boat Parade Rules

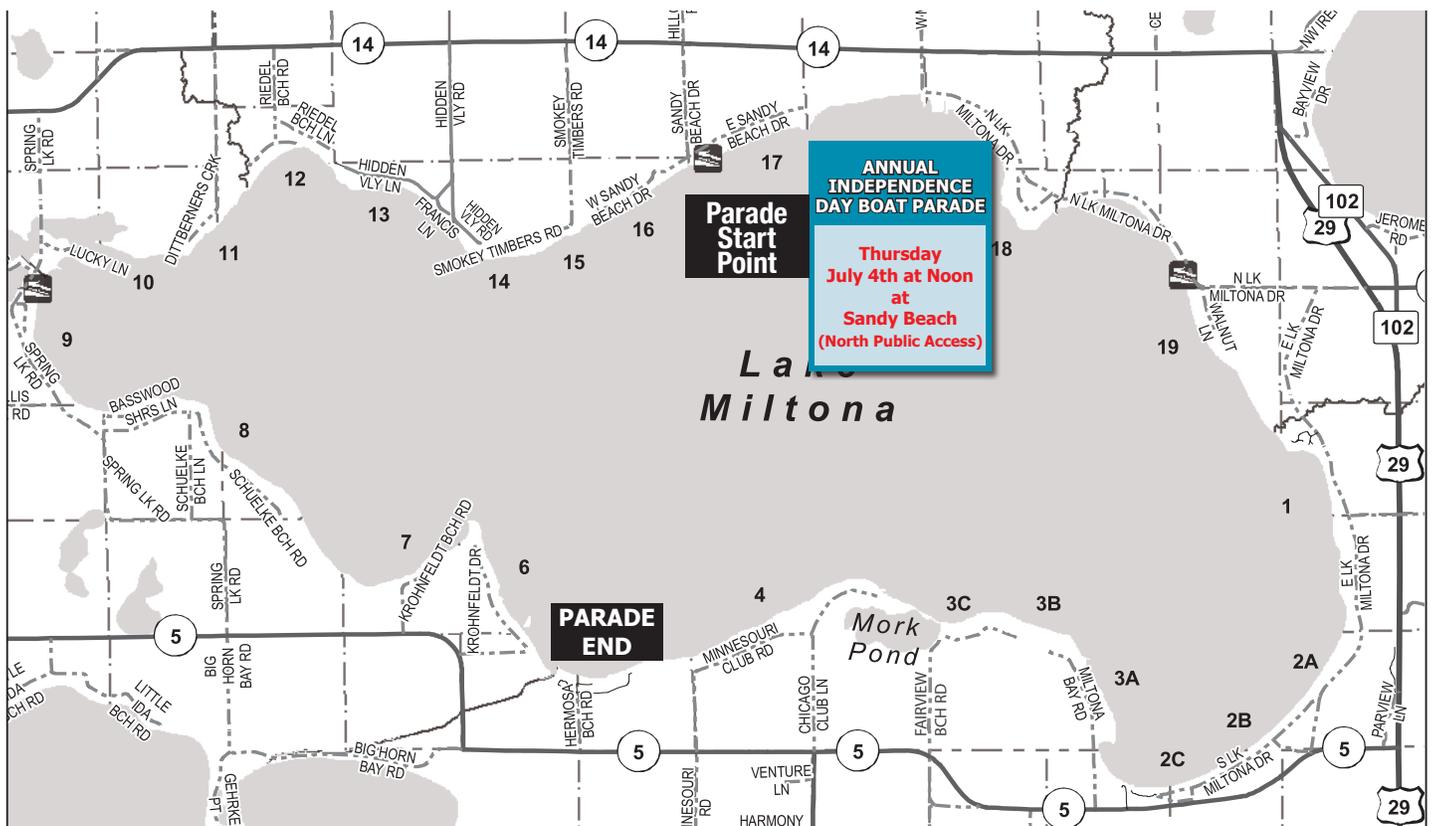
The Annual Independence Day Boat Parade will be Thursday, July 4th starting at Noon. In case of rain, parade will be Saturday, July 6th at Noon.

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 Miltona.



Kids Ice Fishing 2019 on Lake Miltona

On Saturday, Saturday Feb. 2, the Miltona Lake Association partnered with the Miltona Science Magnet School to host a free community event called "Fishing Fun for Everyone." Over 100 children and adults came to enjoy this hands-on learning experience on Lake Miltona.

Participants first met at the Miltona School. While at the school, children rotated through three learning stations. In one station, they constructed their own jiggle sticks which they would later use to fish on Lake Miltona. Next, children learned how to tie a fishing knot that would be sure to hold if they would catch even the biggest of fish! In the third station, students were able to identify and classify fish. They caught stuffed fish and sorted them into groups by specific fish characteristics such as body shape, color, or fin location.

A school bus then drove families out to the Sandy Beach access

where they were met by Lake Association Volunteers who used their side by sides and trailers to take families out to the designated fishing spot. Bait, volunteers, and food were waiting on the ice to help families fish in pre-drilled holes. Bait was provided by Speedy Worm, Christopherson Bait Shop and Bosek Bait. The families had a great time catching perch on their homemade jiggle sticks. Participants enjoyed hot chocolate, hot-dogs, chips and cookies provided by and served by the Miltona Lake Association.

This event was an opportunity for Miltona Science Magnet School to give back to the community and to collaborate with the Miltona Lake Association. Miltona School's mission is to achieve excellence with environmental projects to reach a wider variety of learning styles to provide unique, real-life experiences for children. The Lake Association was pleased to lend its support to that environmental/educational mission.

This will continue to be an annual event in February. If you are interested in helping out or making a donation, please contact Denise Jorud at 320-766-2130.

Free Ice Fishing Fun For Everyone!

Miltona Science Magnet School

Saturday, February 2
1:00 - 4:00

Come and enjoy a day of ice fishing fun with your family.

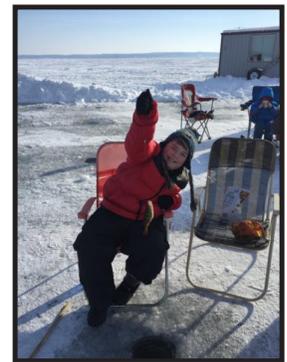
First 100 kids can make their own ice fishing "jiggle stick." There will be training on how to tie a fishing knot, ice safety, and fish identification.

Shuttle busses will run to Lake Miltona from the school every 20 minutes. (In case of inclement weather, the event will try to reschedule.) Please park at the Miltona Magnet School.

All children need to be with an adult.

Adults can assist children under the age of 16 without a fishing license. Bait, volunteers, and "student fishing guides" will be on the ice to help fish in pre-drilled holes. Dress warm and bring a pail or chair to sit on!

Hot dogs provided by Lake Miltona Association



Natural Gas Service to Lake Miltona?

We have been contacted by Lake Region Energy Services concerning their tentative plans to bring natural gas service to Lake Miltona. They furnished us the information below concerning these plans for providing

service to the northeast corner of Lake Miltona in 2019 and then the southeast corner in 2020. The Board of Directors neither supports nor opposes this opportunity, but we agreed to publish this information in our Newsletter so that affected residents could make an informed decision concerning this opportunity. The article provides contact information for you to make your opinions known.

Natural Gas Coming to Lake Miltona

Expansion To Lake Miltona Starts This Summer

Lake Region Energy Services (LRES), a local natural gas utility, is extending gas service to Lake Miltona beginning in the this spring. LRES is a subsidiary of Lake Region Electric Cooperative located in Pelican Rapids, MN. We first brought natural gas service to Parkers Prairie in 2017 – then to Miltona and Lake Irene in 2018. We are extending service to the northeast corner of Lake Miltona in June of this year and plan to go to the southeast corner in 2020.

Natural gas lines will be run along N Lake Miltona Drive NE to Tamarac Circle NE in 2019. Service will be available by mid-to-late summer. *Completion of the project is subject to issuance of all permits and granting of easements.*



Our crews will be in the area running gas service lines and installing meters through the summer and into fall. *Now is the time to start making plans to convert to natural gas and lower your heating costs next winter.*

Visit www.lakeregionenergy.com/apply-for-service or call (866) 367-5732 today to sign up for a

no-obligation 20-minute appointment with one of our technicians. Find out how easy it is to convert to natural gas and start saving money.

If you have any questions, call (866) 367-5732 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We look forward to speaking with you about the many benefits of natural gas.

The natural decision.

Natural gas just makes sense.

Always Available – No worrying about the gauge

Easy to Budget – No more winter price shock

Costs Less – Pay only for what you use

Safe Underground Pipeline – No more propane tank

Natural Gas Service is Safe, Convenient, and Affordable

Affordability – Historically, natural gas prices have been more stable and lower priced than other home heating fuels. We like to say, “Choose natural gas and enjoy summer fill pricing all winter long.” Last winter, the all in cost of natural gas (including the \$10 Monthly Charge) was the equivalent of \$1.12 per gallon propane and customers saved 30% or more.

Convenience – Natural gas is always available. You are billed monthly, and only for the gas you actually used. You’ll find that heating with natural gas and doing business with LRES is convenient and easy!

Safety is designed into the LRES system – Every residential service line has an Excess Flow Valve (EFV) installed underground where the gas service line joins the gas main. EFVs work like a circuit breaker automatically shutting off the gas when the flow exceeds design limits due to a dig in or other cause.



Lake Region Energy Services

1401 South Broadway • Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
(866) 367-5732 • www.lakeregionenergy.com

www.lake-miltona.org • email: jsrose@prodigy.net

Smoke Signals from the Camp

THANK YOU Lake Miltona Association and all the lake residents who continue being such a huge part in bringing about more and more exciting happenings at Smokey Timbers!

2019 is off to an ambitious start at this precious asset right here on "The Lake." Throughout the winter and early spring an extensive logging project has been in process at the Camp with the objective of restoring the forest's health. Currently it looks as if a tremendous storm has passed through and there is lots of easily accessible firewood available – call 320-766-5290 if you have an interest in gathering wood and/or assisting with the clean up to accelerate the regrowth and recovery.

The Alexandria Technical and Community College, Skills U.S.A. student organization once again did the annual Camp service project on May 1. The 51 participating students and their faculty advisors churned out a tremendous amount of prep work for the upcoming season – building and site maintenance, lake shore preparation and assistance with the forest clean up. It was a joy to see the enthusiasm and energy with which they tackled the work to be done. They were rewarded with "home cookin" and, of course the obligatory cuisine - "BARS"! They ate heartily but, thankfully, weren't able to empty the cupboard. So, hopefully, they will be back!

Additionally, preparation for the

launch of exciting new building and improvement projects continued throughout the winter. On April 27th ground was broken for a new, year around, restroom/shower facility which will impressively move the Camp from the "biffy" era into the 21st century. That project will be enhanced by an attractive retaining wall/patio area that is sure to become favored for warm, cozy gatherings. Also for this year, facility wise, completion of the bunkhouse winterization is expected and rebuilding of the Fallen ATCC Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Trail by an Eagle Scout as his project is anticipated.

More good facility improvement stuff for the Camp and its Youth Organization and Family Group users is in the works for the near future. Stay tuned for more detail at the **Annual Fish Fry for Lake Association members on August 3rd** and in the Fall Newsletter.

There are other happenings scheduled at Smokey Timbers this summer that could well be of personal interest to lake residents and their families, on top of the locally available camping and family reunion/event opportunities. The Camp is offering professionally developed and delivered "Science Seeker Day Camp" opportunities for kids grades 3 to 6. The dates will be July 8, 9 and 10 as well as August 5, 6, and 7. Could be a unique opportunity for kids and grandkids. For further information, view the Camp Facebook or contact Board Member Denise Jorud at 320-766-2130.

In partnership with Alexandria Community Education, the Camp

is again offering sailboat training/adventures this summer. The dates for these two classes are Aug. 1 & 2 and Aug. 8 & 9. Further information is available at www.alexandria.k12.mn.us/ce. Instructors are seasoned sailor lake residents whom you likely know and with whom you would feel very comfortable.

All of this really, really neat stuff is happening along with the traditional youth and family group activities. To date, scheduling has been confirmed by the Miltona Magnet School, Alexandria Community Education Day Camp, YMCA Day Camp, Christina Lakers 4H, Osakis Football Team, Osakis Cub Scouts, Girl Scout Day Camps, Butterfly Hill Pre-School, Science Seekers Day Camp, Parkers Prairie Advanced Biology Lake Monitoring, and numerous multi-family groups.

The preservation, continuing improvement and future of Smokey Timbers, has been, and will forever be, a "Labor of Love" by caring, committed and dedicated people. Primarily the accomplishments have been and continue to be underwritten by local folks who witness and conclude the Foundation's mission, values and aspirations are a fit for them. Assistance of any sort – financial, goods, volunteer services as a "Friend of the Camp" – is always gratefully appreciated. Contributions 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. Additional info is available at smokeytimbers.org.



Logging Project



Skills U.S.A. Team



Groundbreaking

LAKE MILTONA

ASSOCIATION

790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE

Miltona, MN 56354



PRSR FIRST
CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 32400
Twin Cities, MN

Lake Miltona News

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- ~ Smoke Signals from the Camp

2019 Calendar of Events

June 8	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
July 4	Boat Parade	Noon
July 14	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 10	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 13	Directors Meeting	9:00 am