

# Lake Miltona



# News

May 2009

[www.mnwaters.org/miltona](http://www.mnwaters.org/miltona)

Volume 1, No. 17

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

#### OFFICERS:

President:	Dick Kuehn
Vice President:	Chuck Ronnebaum
Treasurer:	Gene Benting
Secretary:	Jack Anderson

#### DIRECTORS:

Mark Hanson	Area 1
Jack Anderson, Cathy Hanson	Area 2
Skipp Timmins	Area 3
Steve Herth	Area 4
Dick Kuehn, Gene Benting	Area 5

#### DIRECTORS *continued*:

John Davis	Area 6
Lowell Benson	Area 7
Gary Fuchs, Roy Borris	Area 8
Jerry Fulton	Area 9
Jerry Fulton	Area 10
Bob Schultz	Area 11
Mike Wrobel, Warren Davis	Area 12
Ted Boehne, Tom Brauer	Area 13
Lynette Wittsack-Stenglein	Area 14
Chuck Ronnebaum	Area 15
Rick Blenkush, Anne Rykken	Area 16
Gerald Peterson	Area 17
Pete Anderson	Area 18
Don Henning	Area 19

### A Message from the President

As you are reading this, most of you have returned from the south, opened the cabin, or have been working on the yard for weeks. Just as it seems like February was yesterday, the 4th of July is just around the corner.

Daydreams are wonderful experiences. The vision of fishing, boating or just gazing at the lake is

something that we so many times take for granted. Last year we started our lake management plan. We will continue to complete the initial stage this summer. The four areas of action items include water quality, lake management/zoning, fisheries, and aquatic plant management. Throughout the next few years, goals in these areas will be carried out. The lake management plan will maintain or improve the lake, therefore allowing our dreams to continue. If

you have any interest in helping with any of these areas, please contact your director.

One suggestion, do not wash or wax your boat in the lake. Most boat detergents contain large amounts of phosphorus, which is plant (weed) food.

Plan to participate in our Independence Day boat parade on the 4th of July this year.

Dick Kuehn

## Treasurer's Report

December 31, 2008

### INCOME:

Member Dues	\$ 8,520
Walleye Stocking	4,437
Fundraiser	8,419
Clothing Sales	1,872
Directory Ads	6,700
Donations, Misc	1,200
Interest Income	602

TOTAL INCOME \$ 31,750

### EXPENSES:

Association Dues	\$ 1,413
Walleye Stocking	6,952
Donations & Contributions	2,750
Fundraiser	3,586
Clothing Purchase	1,531
Printing	6,848
Lake Management Plan	1,490
Insurance	282
Public Access Services	1,423
Other Administrative	1,405

TOTAL EXPENSE \$ 27,680

NET INCOME \$ 4,070

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE \$ 1,710

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT 18,000

CLOTHING INVENTORY 12/31/2008 442

LAND/CONSERVATION 55

TOTAL ASSETS, 12/31/2008 \$ 20,207

Total Assets 12/31/2007 = \$16,137

## Fundraiser 2009

Thanks to all for another successful 2008 fundraiser. This includes volunteers, prize donors, suppliers, members and guests.

Our 2009 fundraiser will be **Saturday, August 15th**, from **5:00-10:00 PM** at the **Miltona Community Center**.

We will have the tent for families and anyone who would like to eat outside. Dining is from 5-7 PM, plus music and drawing for prizes throughout the evening.

Volunteers are needed again. You do not have to be a director to help, so please contact Dick at 852-7588.

Please contact your local director for advance tickets at discounted prices: Individual \$13, Couple \$25, Parents with Children 18 & Under \$30.

## Annual Fundraiser

August 16, 2008

### INCOME:

Dinner Tickets	\$ 5,701
Prize Tickets	1,989
Donations	576
Roll the Bones	153

TOTAL INCOME \$ 8,419

### EXPENSES:

Catering for Dinner	\$ 2,372
Refreshments & Cups	396
Music (Total \$350)	175
Prizes	220
Hall Rental	250
Miscellaneous	173

TOTAL EXPENSE \$ 3,586

NET INCOME \$ 4,833

(Clothing Sales at Event \$312)

Net Income, Fundraiser 2007 = \$5,004

(Clothing Sales/Event 2007 = \$750)

## Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
352	384	385	399	383	426

A new directory was printed in 2008. Copies will be available at the meeting on June 13 and at the fundraiser on August 15.

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 web site  
[www.mnwaters.org/miltona](http://www.mnwaters.org/miltona)

or contact us at P.O. Box 148, 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.

## Stocking Report

If you remember our last fall newsletter article on fish stocking, the DNR proposed to the Lake Miliona Association to accumulate our 2009 funds and purchase a larger quantity in 2010. This larger quantity would provide an improved survival rate.

The Viking Sportsmen in Alexandria received a grant over the winter to help support walleye fish stocking in all of the local lakes. The grant provided matching funds to each lake association with a cap limit of \$2,000. Lo and behold, Bosek fisheries had a large quantity of 4-6" fingerling

walleyes left over from last year. The matching funds made this deal very attractive. The directors met at our quarterly meeting April 18th and voted 6 to 4 to purchase the fingerlings. The one main concern was the disruption to our original plan of stocking every other year. The DNR agreed with our decision to purchase these walleye although it contradicts our lake management plan. The Miliona Lake Association spent \$2,000 for 14,000 fingerlings. That comes out to 15 cents per fingerling. In the past we have spent 80 cents per fingerling. These walleye were stocked at Sandy Beach on April 25th.

The DNR will be stocking walleye fry again this year along with 800 Muskie fingerlings. The 2008 fall electro-shocking test showed 28 walleye per hour. This count shows a high level of walleye in Lake Miliona, thus the DNR will not be stocking fingerlings in 2009 in Lake Miliona.

We want to say thanks to the Leaf Valley Sportsmen for their contribution in 2008, and to the Parkers Prairie Sportsmen and Miliona Lions for their contributions the first part of this year. A special thanks goes out to all of our members for their contributions in 2008 totaling \$3,437.

## Rain Gardens

A Rain Garden, or bioretention basin, is simply a shallow depression where water gathers from rain or snowmelt that is planted with native wetland or wet prairie wildflowers and grasses. Rain Gardens collect, store, filter, and infiltrate storm water runoff from impervious areas such as roofs, parking lots, sidewalks, driveways, or patios.

### Improving water quality

Storm water runoff from residential areas often contains excess lawn and garden fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, yard wastes, sediment, and animal wastes which cause water pollution. Rain Gardens fill with a few inches of water and allow the water to slowly filter into the ground rather than running off into storm drains, and eventually into streams and lakes. Native plants have deep, well adapted root systems that are ideal for filtering storm water, reducing erosion, and regenerating groundwater.

## Maintenance

Rain gardens are not completely maintenance-free. It is important to weed, clean-up and re-mulch the garden in the early Spring and Fall.

### First Season Care

The most important work during the first year of the garden is watering and weeding. A young garden will need about an inch of water per week until it is established.

### Weeding & Mulching

All gardens need constant weeding and replenishing of mulch. As the garden matures weeds will be pushed out by the growing plants. The mulch will need to be raked periodically and replenished or freshened every spring.

### Seasonal Clean-Up

In spring you will need to clean-up the garden by removing any dead material and replenishing the mulch. In the fall it is important to remove some of the dead vegetation. You might wish to leave some of the material and

seed bearing plants for bird habitat in the winter however. A Rain Garden will:

- Filter runoff pollution
- Recharge local groundwater
- Conserve water
- Improve water quality
- Protect rivers and streams
- Remove standing water in your yard
- Reduce mosquito breeding
- Increase beneficial insects that eliminate pest insects
- Reduce potential of home flooding
- Create habitat for birds & butterflies
- Survive drought seasons
- Reduce garden maintenance
- Enhance sidewalk appeal
- Increase garden enjoyment

Douglas Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
[www.DouglasSWCD.com](http://www.DouglasSWCD.com)

E-mail:

[Emily.siira@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:Emily.siira@mn.nacdnet.net)

## Leaf Valley Town Hall

The Leaf Valley Township Board is proud to announce the project to upgrade the town hall is moving forward. Although there are many obstacles to overcome and meetings to attend we have been reassured the town hall will be completed before our fundraiser in 2010. It is our intent to alternate between Leaf Valley Town Hall and the Miltona Community Center every other year for our annual Lake Miltona Association fundraiser. We will keep you posted in future newsletters as to the progress of this project. The Lake Miltona Association has pledged \$2,000 toward the success of this project.

## Lake Miltona Clothing

Check out the New 2009 Lake Miltona tees and sweatshirts at

the June 13th Annual Meeting and the August 15th Fundraiser!

As you pack away the winter sweaters and dig out the fun spring and summer clothes, are you noticing that some of your Lake Miltona garb has been washed and worn to death? Each year, I try to replace some of those tired looking tees and sweatshirts with something new and vibrant. I hope you will too! Back by popular demand is the t-shirt, with a few sweatshirts mixed in. Available for purchase will be ladies tees in ¾ length sleeve, short sleeves, and tank tops in some very yummy colors. For men, it's classic t-shirts in classic colors.

And don't forget to check out last year's apparel that you'll find at unbeatable sale prices!

As always, your purchases help support the activities of the Lake Miltona Association. A portion of

your purchase is tax deductible. Cash and checks accepted.

## Independence Day Boat Parade

The annual Independence Day boat parade is scheduled for Saturday, July 4th, starting at noon. You may register the day of the parade from 8am to 12pm, at Mike Wrobels' house on the northwest side of the lake, 15855 Riedel Bch Rd (3 homes to the east of last years location). Maps and numbers will be available at registration.

The parade route will be determined based on wind direction. To win the trophies, you must register to receive a number. Once the judging starts, you must come within 30 feet of the judges boat and display your number. See you July 4th, Good Luck Everyone!

## Water Quality

Water quality affects just about everything that attracts us to Lake Miltona - fishing, swimming, boating, etc. "Water quality" is a general term that refers to the clarity, ability to support life, toxicity, odor, etc. of the lake. Excessive algae and weeds, high fecal content, and low oxygen levels are examples of conditions that adversely affect water quality. They obviously would negatively affect lake activities we enjoy on Lake Miltona. Yes, good water quality is essential to our enjoyment of Lake Miltona. It was deemed the highest priority by the participants at the Lake Miltona Association Planning/Visioning session last summer.

The reality is that lakes age and water quality generally degrades over time. Granted, if your time spent enjoying Lake Miltona is short, say a

couple of years, you may not notice this degradation. However, those of you who have spent the better part of your lifetime on Lake Miltona or plan to enjoy the lake for a few more decades, it is a different story. Water clarity, algae, and weeds are easily noticed. Other water quality factors like oxygen levels, toxicity, fecal content, etc. are less obvious.

Although stopping or reversing the lake aging process might not be possible, our actions on and around the lake can speed this up or slow it down. These actions range from simple things like managing lakeshore vegetation appropriately to more complex issues like managing agricultural and commercial runoff. Most people choose the best actions when they understand the effects of the actions. That is why many of our association efforts towards water quality should include some

education components. Some effort at understanding "why" things work the way they do is essential to being "good" at something. Obviously we all want to be "good" at doing things that minimize negative effects on water quality. Your challenge, with the help of the Lake Miltona Association, is to improve your knowledge about water quality and take the best actions.

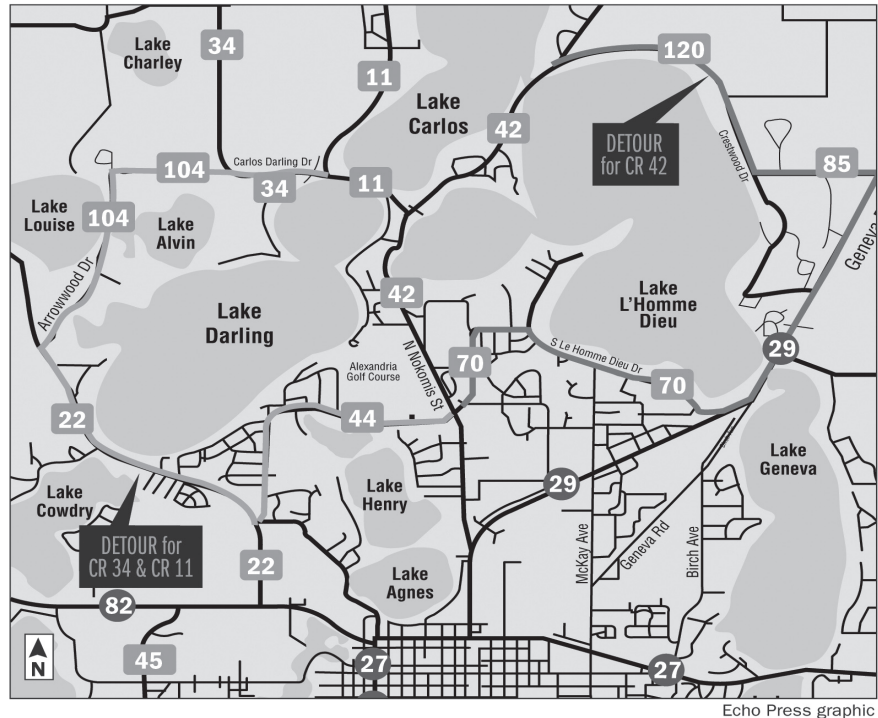
A group will be formed of interested people who have a strong interest in water quality. This group will work various aspects of water quality, including water quality measurement, education, recommended shoreline/watershed practices, corrective action in the cases of known problems, etc. If you are interested, please contact Paul Anderson at pauland@sprintmail.com, weekdays 952-912-8583, or weekends 952-240-9440.



# Get ready for changes on CR 42

## • CONSTRUCTION •

Construction will soon start on county road 42/11/34.. All businesses will still be accessible. Signs will be in place to direct motorists to businesses and alternate routes. Construction will be in three phases Final phase will be complete 2011. Per Douglas County Maintenance, the progress of this project will be posted in the Echo Press.



## Smokey Timbers' Smoke Signals

Increasingly exciting things are happening at Smokey Timbers Camp. As most lake residents are aware, Smokey Timbers is a rustic, environmentally oriented camp, located in Area 15 on Miltona's north shore that offers very affordable camping opportunities for youth and family groups. It is becoming an increasingly popular destination for Scout, 4H, YMCA, and Church youth groups as well as adult and family organizations and gatherings. Details regarding the camp's facilities and rates can be found at [http://www.wesminrcd.org/smokey\\_timbers\\_camp.htm](http://www.wesminrcd.org/smokey_timbers_camp.htm).

The camp was "rescued" from potential demise by a grass roots local effort that made possible its purchase from the Land of Lakes Girl Scout Council about 5 years ago. WesMin Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) spearheaded the purchase effort by giving the camp a Council Project designation

and coordinating the fund raising and purchase arrangements.

Today the camp is administrated and operated by an independent Board of Directors, accountable to WesMin. This Board has recently formed the Smokey Timbers Foundation and has been granted its own 501(c)(3) IRS tax-exempt status.

The Smokey Timbers Board, thanks to the many individuals, businesses, and organizations who have provided financial, material, and services support, has been able to continue providing low cost outdoor recreation opportunities to target groups, maintain and make significant improvements to the camp, and meet on-going compliance and financial obligations. It has been a significant uphill challenge but today the facility is looking better than ever and advance reservations for the coming season are substantially higher than any year since the purchase. The Board is still, however, faced with the rather daunting need to satisfy a

Note, some \$150,000 that was a part of the original financing package. While this is but a fraction of the original purchase price, the funds that were successfully raised for the purchase, and the current value of the property, it is, nonetheless, a major, major concern for the Foundation.

Smokey Timbers has sincerely appreciated the on-going support of individual Lake Miltona residents and the Lake Miltona Association. An expression of this appreciation has been the increasingly popular fish fries to which Association members have been invited for the past two years. Members will again be receiving their personal invitations for this year's event, scheduled for July 11th. The Foundation Board hopes to have the opportunity to serve even more of their lake neighbors this year.

Thank you again, Lake Miltona Association and lake residents, for your support and belief in the camp's mission!

## **Aquatic Plant Management**

As open water season nears, lakeshore residents are reminded of aquatic plant management permit requirements. The aquatic plant management rules were recently revised and the new rules will go into effect for the 2009 season.

As in the past, a property owner can mechanically remove up to 2500 square feet of submerged aquatic vegetation without obtaining a permit. The 2500 square foot area must not exceed 50 feet along shore or ½ the property frontage, whichever is less. The area must be mechanically maintained (ie., hand pulling, cutting, raking), must remain in the same location from year-to-year, and must only

involve submerged vegetation (that which grows below the water's surface).

In addition, a property owner can mechanically remove up to a 15 foot wide channel to open water through floating-leaf vegetation without a permit. The channel must be mechanically maintained, must remain in the same location from year-to-year, and must only involve floating-leaf (ie., waterlilies) vegetation.

Lakeshore property owners are reminded that a permit is required for most other aquatic plant removal activities. Activities that require a permit include operation and installation of an automated aquatic plant control device (ie., weedrollers and beachgroomers), to use pesticides/herbicides in Minnesota public waters

(including Lake Miltona), or to remove or alter any emergent vegetation (vegetation in which the foliage extends above the water's surface, ie., cattails, bulrush, wild rice). DNR aquatic plant management permits will be issued, with proper justification, to provide reasonable use and access for property owners within the confines of the rule.

Property owners with questions regarding aquatic plant management or who wish to obtain a permit application should call Leslie George, Aquatic Plant Management Specialist, at the Glenwood DNR Fisheries office via telephone at 320-634-4573 or via email at [leslie.george@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:leslie.george@dnr.state.mn.us).

## **Muskellunge Fishery**

Fisheries staff from the DNR office in Glenwood conducted a muskellunge assessment during the spring of 2008 to estimate relative abundance and size distribution of Lake Miltona's muskellunge population. Ten large-frame trapnets (5x6 feet) were set between the 5th and the 16th of May for a total sampling effort of 110 net sets.

Seventy-two muskellunge were captured during the sampling period, which resulted in a catch rate of 0.65 fish/net. The 2008 catch rate satisfies the DNR's management plan objective of 0.5 – 0.7 muskie/net. Population assessments conducted in 2000

and 2004 resulted in average catches of 0.68 and 0.24 fish/net, respectively.

Muskellunge captures ranged from 33.1 to 53.1 inches in total length. Smaller and younger fish are present, but not very vulnerable to capture until attaining five years of age or 35.0 inches. Mean length of 2008 captures was 41.9 inches.

Growth remains good and meets the Lake Management Plan goal. Lake Miltona's muskie grow to 40.0 inches in length in eight years. Most muskie larger than 40.0 inches and all trophy-size fish exceeding 50.0 inches in length are females.

Survey findings describe a low

density, but healthy population with a high relative proportion of large fish constituting a well known, high quality fishery. The fishery has been sustained by maintenance stockings and very restrictive harvest regulations.

Based on survey findings, muskellunge management activities on Lake Miltona will be sustained. Maintenance stockings will continue at a rate of 800 fingerlings during odd-numbered years. This stocking plan is very conservative and equates to approximately 14% of the maximum stocking possible under DNR lake management guidelines. Muskellunge harvest is restricted to one 48.0 inch or larger fish in possession.

## Stormwater Runoff

Storm water runoff is the rain that flows off streets, parking lots, rooftops and lawns. Storm water is collected by storm drains and drainage ditches and flows into the nearest body of water.

### WHY IS STORMWATER RUNOFF A PROBLEM?

The most obvious problem is flooding caused by heavy rains. Additionally, storm water runoff picks up pollutants and debris as it flows across rooftops and lawns, streets and parking lots. When it rains, these pollutants wash directly into our streams, wetland and lakes. Some of these pollutants include oil and grease, harmful bacteria, fertilizers, toxic chemicals and other contaminants that are harmful to both people and aquatic life. A common misconception is the water running off street and into a storm drain goes to a wastewater treatment plant. It does not. In fact, storm water typically receives no treatment.

### WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT STORMWATER?

Contaminated or polluted storm water can lead to significant water quality problems.

- Excess nutrients cause algae blooms. Oxygen levels are depleted when the algae die and decompose. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't live when oxygen levels decrease.
- Sediment clouds the water—making it difficult for aquatic plants to grow and destroying aquatic habitats.
- Bacteria and other pathogens (commonly found in fecal waste) discharged in swimming areas create health hazards and cause beach closings.

- Debris washed into the water can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life (ducks, fish, turtles and birds).
- Household hazardous wastes (insecticides, pesticides, paint, and auto fluids) can poison aquatic life.
- Polluted storm water often affects drinking water sources—human health is at risk and water treatment costs rise.

As our community grows, so must our commitment to protecting and improving the quality of our water resources. Assets such as the area lakes and wetlands help make Alexandria one of the most livable communities. Keeping our water resources clean and useable is in everyone's interest.

### TEN EASY WAYS YOU CAN STOP STORM WATER POLLUTION REMEMBER, WATER POLLUTION IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN.

\*Recycle your used motor oil. Take household hazardous wastes to drop-off points. Use a proper container for your trash and recyclables. Do not put trash into the street or gutter where it can be washed into the storm sewer system. Never pour hazardous materials into a storm drain.

\*Properly manage and dispose of yard wastes (grass clippings, leaves, etc.) and do not put them in the street, gutter, ditch or storm drain. Aerate your lawn. Where possible, direct runoff into vegetated areas. Install a "rain barrel".

\*Limit the amount of impervious surface on your property. Use porous paving surfaces such as wood decking and pavement/block that allows water to soak into the ground.

\*Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers on your lawn or garden. Use phosphorus-free fertilizer.

\*If you have a dog, clean up its waste and do not allow it to pollute storm water runoff. You can properly dispose of pet waste by flushing it down the toilet or placing it in the trash for regular pickup.

\*Use water-based paints such as latex and wash paint brushes in the sink with water. When using paint thinner, reuse and recycle it.

\*Regularly maintain your car and fix any oil, radiator or transmission leaks as soon as you see them. Also, consider using a commercial car wash instead of washing at home. The runoff from home car washing can contain detergents that are harmful to aquatic life.

\*Use non-toxic alternatives to conventional household cleaners whenever possible.

\*Educate your family, friends and neighbors about storm water pollution. Spread the word.

\*If you see a potential storm water quality problem or violation, please call the City of Alexandria at 320-763-6678.

### WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER INFORMATION OR GUIDANCE?

Information and links to local, regional and state storm water guidance can be found online at:

[www.ci.alexandria.mn.us](http://www.ci.alexandria.mn.us). Click on the storm water management link on the left.

# Inside this Newsletter...

- ~ Financials / Fundraisers
- ~ Stocking Report
- ~ Rain Gardens
- ~ Leaf Valley Town Hall
- ~ Lake Miliona Clothing
- ~ Independence Day Boat Parade
- ~ Water Quality
- ~ Get ready for changes CR 42
- ~ Smokey Timbers' Smoke Signals
- ~ Aquatic Plant Management
- ~ Muskellunge Fishery
- ~ Stormwater Runoff

## 2009/2010 Calendar of Events

### 2009

June 13	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
June 13	Directors Meeting	10:00 am
July 4	Boat Parade	Noon
July 11	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 15	Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 10	Directors Meeting	9:00 am

### 2010

January 9	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
April 10	Directors Meeting	9:00 am

# Lake Miliona News

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**LAKE MILIONA**  
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