

Lake Miltona



FALL News

November 2009

www.mnwaters.org/miltona

Volume 1, No. 4

Directors and Officers for 2009 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:	Skipp Timmins

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
Roy Borris, Gary Fuchs	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



Stocking Report

In 2009, the Lake Miltona Association, through a matching program with Viking Sportsmen, stocked 14,000 walleye fingerlings. No walleye fry were stocked by the association in 2009. The DNR stocked approximately 4.24 million walleye fry, no walleye fingerlings and 800 muskie fingerlings. Muskies are stocked only by the DNR in odd numbered years.

The Lake Miltona Association works closely with the DNR regarding walleye stocking plans to achieve a balance of all species. The DNR normally stocks walleye fry in the spring and walleye fingerlings in the fall based on the results of previous fall electro-shocking tests. This year, in late August, the DNR electro-shock survey walleye rate per hour was 128, substantially higher than the 28 per hour rate in late September 2008.

Again this year our members generously donated to the walleye stocking program. Your contributions over the years have effectively populated Lake Miltona with a healthy supply of yearling and second-year class walleyes. Many 10 to 15 inch walleyes were caught and released this summer and fall to set the stage for a very good 2010 catch.

We also received generous donations from the Miltona Lions Club, Leaf Valley Sportsmen, Parkers Prairie Sportsmen, Wayne Johnson Guide Service and the Lonny Schultz Invitational Walleye Tournament. The walleye is definitely the specie of choice for Lake Miltona anglers.

The Lake Miltona Association board of directors has again approved a plan to continue to participate, subject to DNR approval, in the Viking Sportsmen matching program in 2010 and 2011, the last two years of a five year program. The quantities of fingerlings stocked in the next two years may vary based on an optimum use of resources and management of the walleye population.

Zebra Mussels in our Lakes

Nate Olson, from the DNR, is working hard on a solution to control the spread of Zebra Mussels which have been found in Lake LeHomme Dieu and assumed to infect most of the chain of lakes. Popular opinion is that it is only a matter of time until Lake Miliona is also infected due to carelessness of boaters and recreationists.

SPECIES AND ORIGIN Zebra mussels are small fingernail size animals that attach to solid surfaces in water. Adults are 1/4 to 1/2 inches long and have D-shaped shells with alternating yellow and brownish colored stripes. Females can produce 100,000 - 500,000 eggs per year. These develop into microscopic, free living larvae that begin to form shells. After two-three weeks they start to settle and attach to any firm surface using "byssal threads". It is the only fresh water mussel that can attach to objects. They are native to Eastern Europe and Western Russia and were brought over to the Great lakes in freighters and discovered about 1988.

IMPACTS Zebra Mussels can cause problems for lakeshore residents and recreationists. Lake owners who take lake water to water their lawns can have their intakes clogged as well as boaters who can possibly have their intakes also clogged. The shells are sharp and can cause cuts and scrapes for swimmers as well as cut fishing line of anglers. Zebra Mussels can also attach to native mussels, killing them. Zebra Mussels filter plankton from the surrounding water. This filtering can increase water clarity, which might cause more aquatic vegetation to grow at deeper levels which could impact the food chain, reducing food for larval fish.

STATUS They have spread throughout the Great Lakes and Mississippi River and been carried to numerous lakes in the state. Diving ducks and some fish eat these mussels, but not in significant numbers to control them. Zebra Mussels attach to boats, nets, docks, swim platforms, boat lifts and can be transported on any of these objects. They also can attach to aquatic plants, making it critical to remove all vegetation before leaving the lake. Microscopic larvae may be carried in water contained in bait buckets, bilges or any other water moved from an infested lake or river. Examination of boat hulls and any vegetation and removal before transporting boats and equipment is paramount in stopping the spread of this invasive species. Report suspected new infestations to the MN DNR (651-259-5100).

Fundraiser 2009

August 15, 2009

INCOME:	
Dinner Tickets	\$ 5,458
Prize Tickets	1,910
Donations	578
Refreshments	72
Roll the Bones	304
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,322

EXPENSES:	
Catering for Dinner	\$ 2,381
Refreshments & Cups	469
Music	350
Prizes	200
Hall Rental	250
Miscellaneous	139
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 3,789

NET INCOME \$ 4,533
(Clothing Sales at Event \$254)

The LMA treasurer's report is published monthly in the web site. See Treasurers Reports at www.mnwaters.org/miliona

Fundraiser 2010

Next year's annual fundraiser will be Saturday evening, August 21. We are planning the event similar to the 2009 fundraiser with some improvements that include beginning the buffet at 5:00pm, positioning the buffet table in a more convenient area with serving from both sides of the table, speeding up the serving and reducing the congestion at the front door. There will also be some improvements in adjusting the acoustics to absorb some of the noise.

Again, your area directors will be selling advance tickets at reduced prices during the summer.

Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
384	385	399	383	426	385

Membership in the Lake Miliona 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/miliona

or contact us at P.O. Box 148, Miliona, MN 56354

Lake Miliona 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.

Follow These Steps for Successful Catch-and-Release Fishing

Many fishermen employ the catch-and-release method of fishing to enjoy their sport while practicing good conservation of game fish. Unfortunately, as any fisherman knows from seeing the number of fish floating belly up where catch-and-release fishing is popular, the method doesn't always work as planned.

Recent research conducted at the University of Illinois reveals that catch-and-release is only beneficial to the fish under certain circumstances. It turns out that fishermen who want their quarry to survive and thrive need to be thoughtful, quick and careful with their catch.

Head researcher Cory Suski led his team in a series of experiments designed to simulate the stresses placed on fish which are hooked and landed by sports fishermen, then released back into the water to fight another day.

In conducting their research, the scientists did not actually go fishing and catch-and-release fish. Instead, they netted fish in the wild, then placed them in a darkened tank to simulate their home environment. After the fish were fully acclimated, the researchers chased them around the tank to bring on the stress the fish would experience

if they were hooked, played and then landed by a fishermen. After the fish were sufficiently tired and stressed by the exertion of trying to escape their pursuers, the scientists took blood samples at intervals over the next several hours to determine how well the fish recovered from their ordeal.

The results of these experiments and the conclusions of the researchers should help in conserving fish populations and insuring the economic benefits of thoughtful recreational sport fishing.

The critical factors to helping the fish recover are the time it takes to bring the fish in, the handling and unhooking methods, and their exposure to air while out of the water.

One of the surprising results of the experiments was the length of time it takes for a fish to fully recover. Suski and his team determined that it takes up to four hours for a caught fish to regain its strength and ability recover and to evade predators, such as larger fish and birds of prey, even if it is successfully released.

To be an effective and conservation minded catch-and-release fisherman, the research team recommends the following steps:

1. Keep the time a fish is played, from the moment it is hooked to the time it is ready to release, to 4 minutes or less.

After the satisfaction of fooling a fish into taking the bait, lure or fly, the greatest pleasure a fisherman experiences is the fight the fish puts up while on the line. However, for the sake of the fish, keep the fight short. With bigger game fish, especially in saltwater, this time limit may be impossible, but the less time on the line, the better for any fish.

2. Minimize the time it takes to release the fish, handle it as little as possible, and always wet your hands. Dragging the fish out of the water and holding it for the picture to prove your prowess may keep it from recovering enough to survive. If you must have that picture, have a buddy ready to take it as soon as you land it. Be quick.

3. Gently dislodge the hook and place the fish back in the water rather than tossing or dumping it back in its natural home. This avoids stunning it and further disorienting it.

4. Pay attention to water temperature. The cooler the water, the quicker the recovery time. Warm water requires even more care for the fish.

The 70 million recreational fishermen each year already put tremendous pressure on the fish population. Following these simple tips based on solid research will help keep our fisheries healthy for generations to come.

2009 Fundraiser

The Association thanks all those attending and the volunteers for making this year's fundraiser a great success. Total attendance was 259. A great buffet from RK's Prairie Catering, music by Centre Sound Systems, refreshments provided by the Association and Miltona Municipal and prizes provided by 90 area merchants worth over \$4,300. And, thanks to Paul Anderson for donating the children's prizes.

The Lake Miltona Association would like to express our thanks to all

volunteers including the Kuehn family for raffle ticket/prize processing, and the directors who sold tickets, organized, set up, operated and cleaned up for the event.

Major prize winners:

Dinner ticket drawing provided by Leaf Valley Sportsmen: John & Carla Beem \$50, Steve Cook \$50 and Pam Beck \$100.

Roll the bones: Clem Suchy won a half hog funded by a LMA member & Miltona Custom Meats and Neil Ghert won \$100 from Minnesota Lakes Realty

Half hog raffle: Bobbie Larson funded by a LMA member and Miltona Custom Meats.

Wildlife print: Purchased by John Davis \$140, provided by Parkers Prairie Sportsmen.

Congratulations to Don Henning who sold 66 dinner tickets, the most sold by a director. Don also did a great job calling out ticket numbers, recognizing merchant donors and prizes at the microphone.

Thanks Lynette for managing and selling the clothing.

The financial statement for the fundraiser is included in this newsletter.

Leaf Valley Town Hall update

Members of the Leaf Valley Township met to discuss the status of the upgrades to the town hall. Obstacles are many. More information is required and all decisions were tabled until the next meeting in March 2010. The city of Miltona called the Lake Miltona Association and informed us we must commit to the August 21st, 2010 fundraiser date. Another organization is requesting our date in 2010. Based on the status of the Leaf Valley Town Hall, the Directors of the Lake Miltona Association committed to the city of Miltona we would have our annual fundraiser at the Miltona Community Center.

Lake Miltona Water Quality

The Lake Miltona Management plan is comprised of four committees, one of which is "Water Quality". One of their objectives is to educate our members. The following information may be helpful in maintaining our septic systems around our lake and thus improving the water quality.

Septic System Owners Guide <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD6583.html>

Taking Care of Your Septic System – Management Basics <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD7040.html>

Take steps now to protect your septic system from freezing - <http://www.extension.umn.edu/extensionnews/2007/2007ProtectSeptic.html>

Lake Miltona Dam

Lowell Benson, a Director of the Lake Miltona Association, has been keeping a watchful eye on the dam on Lake Miltona. Thank you for your efforts. Lowell has been able to raise some attention of the DNR to the current status of the dam. The DNR has responded stating they do not see any major concerns with the dam at this time. While it may appear the leakage rate is high, the corresponding volume of water is very small considering the size of Lake Miltona.. leakage may cause the lake to drop .12 inches per month in comparison to 3.6 inches of evaporation per month. We do have the DNR's attention, thanks to Lowell, and they plan to send one of their dam specialist to our lake to review our status.

Birds of Lake Miltona Area

Following is a list of birds sighted by Norma Tolo this year in the Lake Miltona Area. Norma does not want to be held to absolute accountability for her identifications, but she has been a life long bird watcher. Other lake residents might want to compare their sightings to hers.

1	Crow (American)	17	Mourning dove	48	Franklin gull	79	Scarlet tanager
2	Canada goose	18	Yellow-rumped warbler (Myrtle)	49	Ruby crowned kinglet	80	Black & white warbler
3	Starling	19	Red-winged blackbird	50	Horned lark	81	Brown headed cowbird
4	Wood duck	20	Blue bird (Eastern)	51	White pelican	82	Northern goshawk
5	Kestrel	21	Red shouldered hawk	52	American tree sparrow	83	Black poll warbler
6	Flicker (Northern)	22	Yellow bellied sapsucker	53	White throated sparrow	84	Warbling vireo
7	Red Bellied Woodpecker	23	Common loon	54	Swamp sparrow	85	Red eyed vireo
8	Phoebe (Eastern)	24	Ring billed gull	55	Pileated woodpecker	86	Great crested flycatcher
9	Fox Sparrow	25	Bald eagle	56	Hairy woodpecker	87	Pine warbler
10	White breasted nuthatch	26	Mallard	57	Broad winged hawk	88	Black billed cuckoo
11	Black capped chickadee	27	Wild turkey	58	Red tailed hawk	89	Eastern kingbird
12	Turkey vulture	28	Song sparrow	59	Pied billed grebe	90	Great egret
13	Robin (American)	29	Ring-necked pheasant	60	Copper's hawk	91	Cedar waxwing
14	Blue jay	30	Rusty blackbird	61	Sharp shinned hawk	92	Carolina wren
15	Brown creeper	31	Belted kingfisher	62	Blue winged teal	93	Hooded merganser
16	Goldfinch (American)	32	Junco (dark eyed)	63	Common grackle	94	Snow goose
		33	House/English sparrow	64	Northern cardinal	95	Eastern wood pewee
		34	Purple finch	65	Hermit thrush	96	Ovenbird
		35	Greater yellowlegs	66	House wren	97	Prothonotary warbler
		36	Shoveler	67	Baltimore oriole	98	Purple martin
		37	American coot	68	Catbird	99	Red necked grebe
		38	Great blue heron	69	Rose-breasted grosbeak	100	Snowy egret
		39	Downy woodpecker	70	Redstart	101	Green heron
		40	Killdeer	71	White-crowned sparrow	102	Veery
		41	Sandhill crane	72	Spotted sandpiper	103	Red breasted nuthatch
		42	Northern harrier	73	Ruby throated hummingbird	104	Indigo bunting
		43	Willet	74	Swainson's thrush	105	Clay colored sparrow
		44	Tree swallow	75	Yellow warbler		
		45	Double crested cormorant	76	Least fly catcher		
		46	Chipping sparrow	77	Barn swallow		
		47	Common merganser	78	Common yellow throat		

Fundraiser Donor List 2009

Alexandria Country Club	\$120	Herbie's Bar and Grill	\$20	North Star Lakes Realty	\$20
Alexandria Motors	\$50	Hilltop Lumber	\$30	Parkers Prairie Sportsmen	\$100
American Heritage Hunting Club.....	\$125	Holiday North.....	\$25	Pat's Family Hair.....	\$25
Andersons Outpost.....	\$45	Iverson Insurance	\$25	Payless Liquor.....	\$20
Backwood Stitchery.....	\$300	Jim and Judy's	\$20	Pete's County Market.....	\$20
Broadway Floral	\$15	Juettner Motors.....	\$30	Pine Ridge Golf	\$25
Bug A Boo Bay Resort.....	\$10	Klimek Bros Well Drilling	\$100	R&R Ready Mix	\$50
Bullet Lawn Care	\$35	Kyle's Barber.....	\$17	REA.....	\$75
Burger King	\$30	Lake Geneva Golf.....	\$90	RK's Prairie Café.....	\$15
Carlos Gas Mart.....	\$30	Lake Miltona Golf	\$70	RND Computers	\$50
Casey's Amusement Park.....	\$40	Lakes Gas.....	\$38	Ron's Warehouse Sales.....	\$30
Central Lakes Restaurant Supply....	\$20	Leaf Valley Sportsmen	\$250	Sammy's One Stop.....	\$10
Central Marine & Sports.....	\$100	Lewis Welding.....	\$70	Scherer Printing	\$100
Chet's Lakeside Inn	\$20	Life Quest Chiropractic.....	\$50	Shiela's Place Rose City.....	\$24
Corrie's Sanitation	\$100	Lind Family Funeral Service.....	\$35	Spruce Center Bait	\$20
Cowing Robards	\$15	Lindsay Ecowater	\$20	Styles By Sue.....	\$20
Cullen's Home Center	\$50	Lions Club of Miltona	\$25	Subway	\$20
D Michael B's.....	\$10	Lucky Acres Resort.....	\$20	Tastefully Simple	\$46
Dairy Queen (north).....	\$20	McDonald's.....	\$20	Time Square	\$14
Dakota Magic Casino	\$150	Menards	\$15	Tires Plus.....	\$50
Depot Express.....	\$25	Mid-Minn. Fed Credit Union	\$50	Trumm Drug	\$20
Dick's Standard	\$40	Mills Fleet Farm.....	\$25	Viking Bay Resort.....	\$90
Don Henning Excavating.....	\$80	Miltona Bay Estates	\$25	Wade's Miltona Service.....	\$25
Eko Backen.....	\$20	Miltona Blacksmith	\$20	Walmart	\$20
Elden's Food Fair.....	\$50	Miltona Builders	\$20	Westin Station.....	\$20
First State Bank.....	\$50	Miltona Custom Meats	\$100	Whiskey Creek.....	\$20
Fortwengler Electric.....	\$20	Miltona Grocery.....	\$20	Woodbury Financial.....	\$50
Garden Center Lanes.....	\$25	Miltona Liquor.....	\$25	Woodland Resort.....	\$60
Grand Casino Mille Lacs	\$150	Miltona Outpost & Shell Gas.....	\$10		
Gwen's Place.....	\$20	Miltona Plumbing.....	\$75		
Hayloft Restaurant.....	\$24	MN Lakes Realty/Dorothy & Glen Reiner.	\$200		

These merchants provided over \$4,368 in prizes to our 2009 fundraiser. Please support them!

Smoke Signals From The Camp

While Smokey Timbers Camp has pretty well gone into hibernation for the winter, the Camp Foundation's Board is extremely busy pursuing avenues to solidify the Camp's future.

Smokey Timbers just completed its most successful and enjoyable season since the purchase from the Girl Scouts five years ago. Usership of the camp this year has increased dramatically and has included groups from Scouting organizations, churches, 4H clubs, YMCA and school activities, and family events. The Camp's aquatic offerings have been significantly enhanced thanks to support from the Douglas County Sheriff's Federation, the Nelson Men's Club and various individual contributors. In addition, contributions from REA's Operation Roundup, the Lake Miltona Association, the Douglas Machine Foundation, Miltona Lions, the Eagle's Organization, and numerous individual contributors have made camp maintenance, facility upgrades, and

satisfaction of day-to-day financial obligations possible.

This year's Fish Fry/Fundraiser, to which Lake Association Members were invited, was an enjoyable and successful activity once again. The Camp Board's fish frying reputation is spreading and the Board was very pleased to be a co-sponsor, along with Douglas Machine and the Vikingland Sportsmen, for a September fish fry raising funds for walleye stocking in area lakes. The Board was the "official" fry team and the event raised a sizeable sum to support stocking, including potentially for Lake Miltona.

The Camp's most significant event for the summer occurred on Aug. 3rd when its ownership transferred from WesMin R C & D, the organization that shepherded the purchase and preservation of the Camp following the Girl Scout divestiture decision, to the newly formed Smokey Timbers Foundation. Ownership by an independent, responsible and dedicated Foundation was the vision for the Camp from the beginning of the "rescue" effort. The Foundation's

Board has essentially been responsible for all Camp management and operations throughout the time since its purchase from the Girl Scouts. The Foundation offers new, exciting, and energetic leadership and visions for the Camp's future.

That future, however, is not without very significant challenges for the Foundation. A \$150,000 indebtedness that was part of the original purchase financing package transferred with the ownership. Servicing, and commitment to eliminating, that debt presents ongoing challenges to the Foundation and, more importantly, significantly detracts from the ability to fulfill the Camp's Mission to provide affordable rustic camping and environmental education opportunities for youth and family organizations. If you have ideas for how to, or willingness to assist in, moving beyond the debt obligations, Foundation President Jack Anderson would appreciate the opportunity to talk with you. You can contact him at 320-852-7299 or andejack@rea-alp.com. As a 501(C)3 organization, support to Smokey Timbers qualifies as tax deductible per IRS publication 526.

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2010 Calendar of Events

January 9	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
April 10	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
June 12	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
July 4	Boat Parade	1:00 pm
July 10	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 21	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 9	Directors Meeting	9:00 pm

Lake Miltona News

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