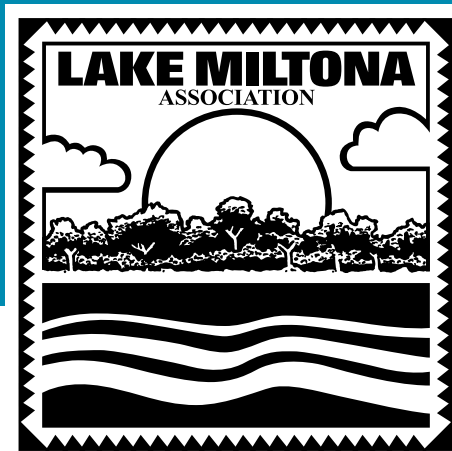


# Lake Miltona



# News

May 2010

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

Volume 1, No. 18

Directors and Officers for 2010 are listed below. Please thank them for volunteering their time for Lake Miltona.

#### OFFICERS:

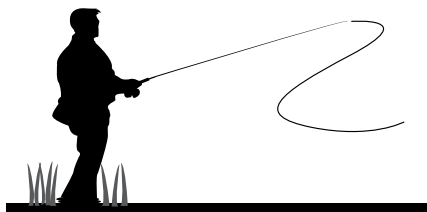
President:	Dick Kuehn
Vice President:	Chuck Ronnebaum
Treasurer:	Gene Benting
Secretary:	Open

#### DIRECTORS:

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

#### DIRECTORS *continued:*

John Davis	Area 6
William F. Moeller	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
Anne Rykken	Area 16
Gerald Peterson	Area 17
Pete Anderson	Area 18
Don Henning	Area 19



#### A Message from the President

We have received a grant to develop a lake management plan (LMP) to maintain and improve our lake. Our executive committee and two lake

association members have been attending training sessions to carry out the (LMP). See my article on the (LMP).

For you snowbirds, winter fishing was good. There were reports of 30 walleyes caught of which many 10-12 inch were returned to the lake. In early May, 10-14 inch crappies were biting in the bays. By the

time you read this report you have probably already eaten your first walleye.

Summer events include our annual meeting in June, the 4th of July boat parade, and the annual fundraiser in August.

Hope to see you this summer on the waters of our great lake.

Dick Kuehn

## Treasurer's Report

	12/31/2009	12/31/2008
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Member Dues	\$ 7,760	\$ 8,520
Walleye Stocking	3,976	4,437
Fundraiser	8,322	8,419
Clothing Sales	1,004	1,872
Directory Ads	-	6,700
Donations, Misc	-	1,200
Interest Income	482	602
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 21,544</b>	<b>\$ 31,750</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Association Dues	\$ 1,322	\$ 1,413
Walleye Stocking	2,000	6,952
Donations & Contributions	2,720	2,750
Fundraiser	3,789	3,586
Clothing Purchase	873	1,531
Printing	2,751	6,848
Lake Management Plan	160	1,490
Insurance	281	282
Public Access Services	1,173	1,423
Other Administrative	1,559	1,405
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 16,628</b>	<b>\$ 27,680</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 4,916</b>	<b>\$ 4,070</b>
<b>CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 974</b>	<b>\$ 1,710</b>
<b>CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>
<b>CLOTHING INVENTORY</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>442</b>
<b>LAND/CONSERVATION</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 25,123</b>	<b>\$ 20,207</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
Walleye Stocking	\$ 1,976	\$ -
LV Town Hall Expansion	2,000	2,000
Memorials	200	200
Clothing	94	442
Land/Conservation	55	55
General Fund	20,798	17,510
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 25,123</b>	<b>\$ 20,207</b>

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 12th, 2010**  
**9:00am**  
**Milona Community Center**

Our annual meeting will feature Dave Rush, Land and Resource Director. Dave will be speaking on Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS), the county's sewer inspection project scheduled for this year.

## Annual Fundraiser

	2009	2008
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dinner Tickets	\$ 5,458	\$ 5,701
Cash Bar Commission	72	-
Prize Tickets	1,910	1,989
Cash Prizes Rec'd	250	220
Auction Print	140	205
Roll the Bones	304	153
Bar Donations	188	151
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 8,322</b>	<b>\$ 8,419</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Catering for Dinner	\$ 2,381	\$ 2,372
Beer, Pop, Cups	469	396
Music (2008 incl \$175 pd 2007)	300	350
Cash Prizes	-	20
Reciprocal Prizes	200	200
Children's Prizes (Donated)	-	-
Gaming Permit	50	50
Miscellaneous Supplies	36	34
Hall rental	250	250
Gratuities, Music	50	50
Thank You to Donors	53	39
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,789</b>	<b>\$ 3,761</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 4,533</b>	<b>\$ 4,658</b>
(Clothing Sales - Fundraiser)	\$ 254	\$ 312

## Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
384	385	399	383	426	388

Membership in the Lake Milona Association is encouraged for those in the lake community as well as the general public.

A membership application is available on our web site  
<http://www.mnwaters.org/milona>

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

Lake Milona 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.

## Walleye Stocking Report

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. In late August 2009, the DNR electro-shock survey yielded a young walleye rate per hour of 124, substantially higher than the 28 per hour rate in late September 2008. As a result, they will not stock fingerlings in 2010 and adjust their 2010 fry stocking plan to a base rate of 1,000 fry per littoral acre, equal

to a minimum of approximately 2.9 million fry. The DNR will consider, based on availability of fry, stock up to an additional 1.4 million fry.

Again this year our members are generously donating 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 winter to set the stage for a very good 2010 catch. And, we anticipate continued 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 species of choice for Lake Miltona anglers.

The Lake Miltona Association board of directors will again consider 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 and fry stocked in the next two years may vary based on an optimum use of resources and management of the walleye population.

## Boat Inspections on Lake Miltona for Aquatic Hitchhikers

Lake Miltona Association has an established Lake Management Plan in place allowing us to apply for grant money. A grant has been approved by the DNR to perform inspections of boats this summer for zebra mussels. The DNR will be inspecting boats for Zebra Mussels this summer for total of 112 hours. The inspections will be random and will include all three accesses. The approved grant was for 112 hours, however, we will be responsible for half the hours at a rate of \$12 per hour, totaling \$672. Dates of

preference have been provided to the DNR including the two fishing contests in June.

Inspections are not time consuming and should not cause a delay when launching a boat. The results will be published in the Fall Newsletter. We would like to thank everyone for contributing toward these inspections. Your contributions will cover our half of the expense.

## Lake Management Plan

The Lake Miltona Association took the first steps toward establishing a Lake Management Plan (LMP) in 2007. After gathering the results of different lake surveys

and inviting members to a session to discuss priorities, the following four categories have been established as the focal points of our plan: water clarity, land use management (zoning), fisheries, and aquatic vegetation. Four groups of lake members were established to carry out these categories. The importance of a LMP is so significant that West Central Initiative (WCI) approved our first grant in 2009 for \$5,000 to complete the elements of the plan. The LMP is the platform for future plans and grants. The complete LMP will be published in the fall newsletter and posted on our website.

## Independence Day Parade

The annual Independence Day Boat Parade will be Sunday July 4th starting at 1:00 pm. This year we are changing the start points to two locations. Registration begins at noon on Boat Parade Day at either East or West Public Access. You can also pre-register up to two weeks prior to the parade at [miltonaparade@gmail.com](mailto:miltonaparade@gmail.com), but pre-registration closes July 3rd. To register via email, send an inquiry to the email address above. We will send you a registration form to

fill out and return. After we receive your completed form you will receive an email with

### ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY BOAT PARADE

Sunday  
July 4th at 1pm!

Parade begins at 1pm!

Two starting locations  
East or West  
Public Access

your registration number for you to print out. Directors also will be able to sign you up in their area. If you already have

a number on July 4th, please proceed to one of the public accesses. You MUST register for a chance to win a trophy. There are two awards in each of two classes, 1st and 2nd for Boat and 1st and 2nd for Pontoon. As you approach the judges stand show your number. You must come within 30 feet of the judging stand. Route will be determined the day of the parade due to wind direction. There are NO FEES to register for a chance to win a trophy if you are judged as one of the top two Boats or Pontoons.

## Fundraiser 2010

Thanks to all for another successful 2009 fundraiser. This includes volunteers, prize donors, suppliers, members and guests.

Our 2010 fundraiser will be **Saturday, August 21st**, 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.

Your area directors will be selling discounted advance tickets at \$13 per individual. Event tickets will also be available at the door for \$15 per individual. Children 16 and under will be admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult. **There will be no "couple" or "family" ticket price options this year.** Each event ticket will give the adult holder a chance for one \$100 prize and two \$50 prizes provided by the Leaf Valley Sportsmen.

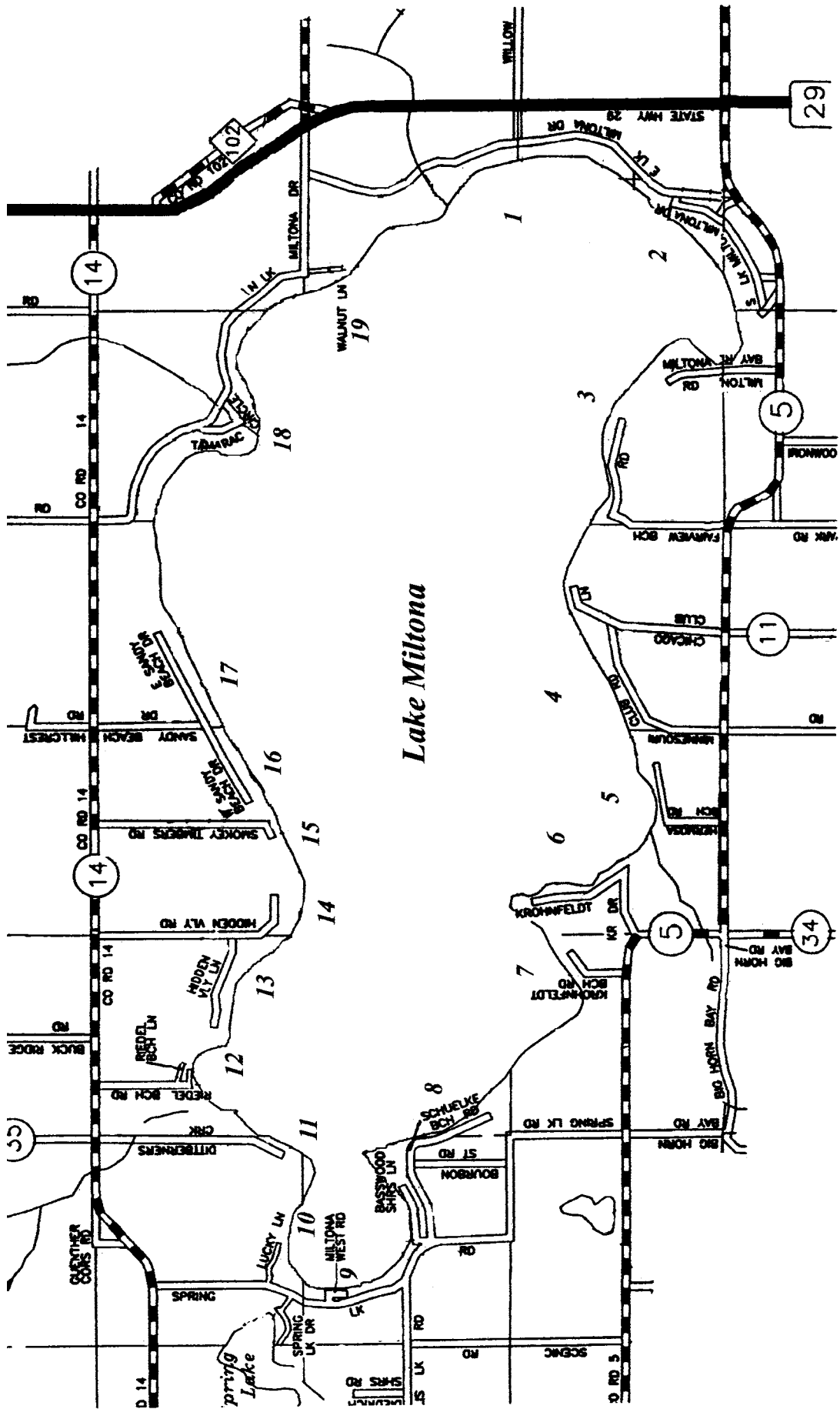
Please contact your local director for advance tickets.

## Septic System Websites

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>

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



Lake Miliona

## Smoke Signals From The Camp

SmokeyTimbersCampisemerging from its winter hibernation and the Camp Foundation's Board is excitedly looking forward to an event filled year. The activity began in earnest on May 5th when some 125 Skills U.S.A. students and staff from the Alexandria Technical College descended on the Camp to lend a hand in bringing it back to life. What a great start to a new season!

People who have come to know the Camp and the objectives of the Smokey Timbers Foundation frequently comment about what an asset it is, not only for youth organizations and family groups from the area and beyond, but for lakeshore residents as well. Its existence preserves a section of lakeshore in near natural state, offers an accessible group recreational/retreat facility right here on the lake, and promotes, through its user expectations and programming pursuits, ideals consistent with those of the Lake Association -- activities that focus on environmental protection, preservation, and remediation. The Smokey Timbers Foundation is thankful for the on-going support and encouragement offered by the Lake Association and numerous lakeshore residents. That support

is an important motivator for the Foundation Board.

The Camp is looking forward to another year of increasing activity. The past two years have seen increases of 80% to 90 % over preceding years. In addition to the usual camping activities, the Foundation is finalizing a School Forest partnership with the Miltona Science Magnet School. This designation by the DNR will make possible increased programming options for any school interested in using the site as an environmental learning laboratory. Also being investigated is the potential for grooming the Camp's trails for cross-country skiing. **The Camp's annual fish fry, to which all Lake Association members are invited, is scheduled for August 28th this year.** Be sure to mark your calendar for this increasingly popular event.

The major event unfolding at Smokey Timbers is a three-year Capital Campaign designed to retire the Camp's remaining debt. Smokey Timbers was purchased from the Land of Lakes Girl Scout Council in 2004 for \$566,000. All but \$155,000 of the purchase price was raised through contributions, primarily from area citizens and organizations who felt compelled to preserve

the legacy of the founders. \$150,000 of the fundraising shortfall still needs to be retired. The financial institution holding the Note continues to express its belief in the Camp's mission and value to the community and, consequently, their willingness to patiently move toward a resolution. Debt reduction and corresponding interest, however, are major obstacles to pursuing the Camp's real, worthy objectives. The Camp can readily survive, develop, and thrive in pursuit of its objectives on the demonstrated flow of income from contributions, fund raising events, modest user fees, and goods and services provided. The on-going debt, however, is unquestionably a major barrier to Smokey Timbers becoming all it has the potential to be. To date, even though the Campaign is in its infancy, 10% of its goal has already been achieved. If you have ideas for how to continue the momentum, a willingness to assist in moving beyond the debt obligations, or just want additional information about Smokey Timbers, contact Foundation President Jack Anderson at 320-852-7299 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:andejack@rea-alp.com"](mailto:andejack@rea-alp.com) andejack@rea-alp.com. As a 501(C)(3) organization, support to Smokey Timbers qualifies as tax deductible per IRS publication 526.

**Now that zebra mussels are a potential threat, what will be the impacts to fisheries?**

By now, most people are aware of the problems zebra mussels can cause for folks who live or recreate on lakes that contain them. Their sharp shells can cut your feet or fishing line and their colonizing and eventual clogging of intake pipes for people's lawn sprinklers can be a real nuisance. For wildlife, the unwelcome invaders are problematic for native mussels as they represent unhealthy competition for food. What might be the potential impacts to a lake's fishery though? How will the presence of zebra mussels impact fishing on Lake Miltona? The short answer is that we're not really sure. We know that zebra mussels can impact the ecology of a lake, and since fish are obviously part of a lake's ecology, it stands to reason that the fishery could be impacted, but to what extent? Zebra mussels consume phytoplankton (microscopic plants), so water clarity could increase if they become very abundant. Most people see this as a good thing, however, if they become extremely abundant, they could

have what's called a cascading trophic effect on the lake.

That is, the food chain is disrupted at its most primary level (phytoplankton or algae), and in turn, causes impacts to other trophic levels as a result—a domino effect. It might work something like this: Filterfeeding zebra mussels reduce the abundance of phytoplankton.

Fewer phytoplankton translates into less food for zooplankton (microscopic animals such as daphnia and rotifers - pronounced zoeoplankton). Zooplankton are important food for all kinds of larval fish, so if the abundance of zooplankton decreases, small fish have less to eat. If this results in fewer small fish, then larger fish have less to eat, and so on—you get the picture.

Obviously a cascading trophic effect is serious business and could cause fishing to deteriorate on lake Miltona, but what are the chances this might occur? At this time it's an unknown. It is possible though. Proving a cause-and-effect relationship, even with substantial evaluation and research would be difficult however. So many variables make the picture just too complex.

What is perhaps more plausible is that a significant amount of natural walleye spawning habitat could become covered over by zebra mussels. Since walleyes prefer to spawn on rocky cobble shoals and zebra mussels will attach to anything hard, some rocky areas used by walleyes will eventually become colonized by zebra mussels.

A 1991 study of the impacts of zebra mussels on walleye spawning habitat in western Lake Erie however, found that there were no adverse impacts on walleye reproduction.

Does this mean that lake Miltona will be free and clear of such potential adverse impacts? No it does not. The Lake Erie study was but a single study and all lakes are different.

There is no practical way of getting rid of zebra mussels, once they're established. We must all take preventative measures to stop their further spread to other lakes.

Please take the time to inspect and clean your boats carefully and thoroughly before launching and upon leaving lakes and streams. Indifference is not an option.

# Inside this Newsletter...

- ~ Financials / Fundraisers
- ~ Walleye Stocking Report
- ~ Lake Miltona Boat Inspections
- ~ Lake Management Plan
- ~ Independence Day Parade
- ~ Fundraiser 2010
- ~ Septic System Websites
- ~ Smoke Signals from the Camp
- ~ Zebra Mussel Prevention/Impact

## 2010 Calendar of Events

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

# Lake Miltona News

PRRST FIRST  
CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 3876  
Mpls, MN 55401



**LAKE MILTONA**  
ASSOCIATION  
P. O. BOX 148  
MILTONA, MINNESOTA 56354