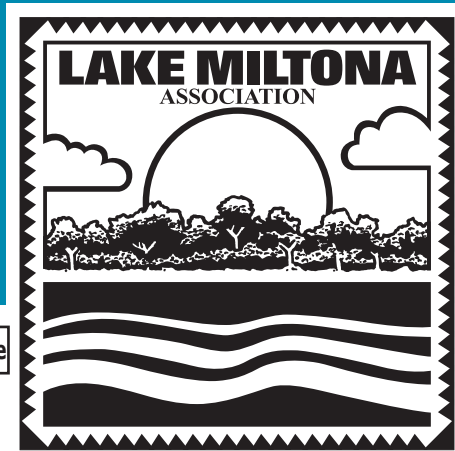


Lake Miltona



News

May 2011

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/miltona/home

Volume 1, No. 19

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

OFFICERS:

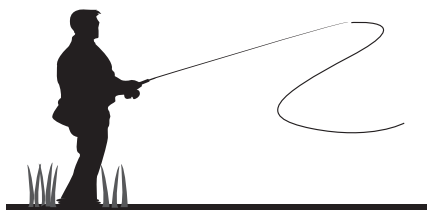
President:	Dick Kuehn
Vice President:	Chuck Ronnebaum
Treasurer:	Gene Benting
Secretary:	Gene Rose

DIRECTORS:

Lynn Glesne	Area 1
John Fair	Area 2A
Jack Anderson	Area 2B
John Fay	Area 2C
Gene Rose	Area 3A
(Open)	Area 3B
(Open)	Area 3C

DIRECTORS *continued:*

Steve Herth	Area 4
Dick Kuehn & Gene Benting	Area 5
(Open)	Area 6
William Moeller	Area 7
Gary Fuchs	Area 8
Jerry Fulton	Area 9
Jerry Fulton	Area 10
(Open)	Area 11
Mike Wrobel & Warren Davis	Area 12
Ted Boehne & Tom Brauer	Area 13
Lynette Stenglein	Area 14
Chuck Ronnebaum	Area 15
Anne Rykken	Area 16
Gerald Peterson	Area 17
Pete Anderson & Randy Hansen	Area 18
Don Henning	Area 19



A Message from the President

Welcome Back !!!!!

Boy, the faster we move, the behinder we get. With the Zebra Mussel threat, progress of our

lake management plan, and the inconsistent success of fishing, we, the board have been busy this winter preparing for changes on Lake Miltona.

Read the articles, contact your director, and become informed with 2011's ever evolving conditions. We will try to keep you informed through our web site, newsletters, and special mailings.

Our new directory for 2011-2013 will be available this spring. Thanks to the effort of Chuck Ronnebaum and Mike Wrobel. See your area director for a copy.

For a continuingly safe lake, remind your neighbors about safe jet ski operation, common sense on party bays, the Gold Rule. Have a great summer.

Dick Kuehn

Treasurer's Report

	12/31/10	12/31/09
INCOME:		
Member Dues	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,760
Walleye Stocking	2,811	3,976
Zebra Mussel Prevention	1,910	-
Grants Received	5,000	-
Fundraiser	8,433	8,322
Sales, Clothing, etc.	591	1,004
Donations, Misc	380	-
Interest Income	492	482
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 27,117	\$ 21,544
EXPENSES:		
Association Dues	\$ 1,320	\$ 1,322
Walleye Stocking	2,000	2,000
Donations & Contributions	5,210	2,720
Fundraiser	3,172	3,789
Clothing Purchase	468	873
Printing	3,072	2,751
Lake Management Plan	2,189	160
Insurance	281	281
Public Access Services	971	1,173
Other Administrative	1,624	1,559
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 20,307	\$ 16,628
NET INCOME	\$ 6,810	\$ 4,916
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 1,669	\$ 974
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT	30,000	24,000
CLOTHING INVENTORY	210	94
LAND/CONSERVATION	55	55
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 31,934	\$ 25,123
FUND BALANCES		
Walleye Stocking	\$ 1,162	\$ 1,976
Zebra Mussel Prevention (1)	\$ 1,910	\$ -
Lake Mgmt Plan Grant	\$ 2,611	\$ -
LV Town Hall Expansion	-	2,000
Smokey Timbers Foundation	5,000	-
Memorials	200	200
Clothing	210	94
Land/Conservation	55	55
General Fund	20,786	20,798
TOTAL FUNDS	\$ 31,934	\$ 25,123

Note (1) The Zebra Mussel Prevention fund balance is before 2011 payments to MN DNR for 2010 boat inspections \$672 and a donation to Douglas County Lakes Association of \$750. These payments reduced the fund balance to \$489. Financial reports are published monthly on the web site: www.minnesotawaters.org/group/miltona/home

Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 11th, 2011
9:00am
Miltona Community Center

Our annual meeting will feature Dave Rush, Land and Resource Director.

Annual Fundraiser

	2010	2009
INCOME:		
Dinner Tickets	\$ 5,406	\$ 5,458
Raffle Prize Tickets	1,775	1,910
Donations	819	578
Refreshments	58	72
Roll the Bones	375	304
Total Income	\$ 8,433	\$ 8,322
EXPENSES:		
Catering for Dinner	\$ 1,984	\$ 2,381
Refreshments & Cups	368	469
Music	350	350
Prizes	200	200
Hall Rental	250	250
Miscellaneous	195	139
Total Expense	\$ 3,347	\$ 3,789
NET INCOME	\$ 5,086	\$ 4,533

(Clothing Sales at 2010 Event = \$177)

Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
385	399	383	426	388	375

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.minnesotawaters.org/group/miltona/home 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.

Walleye Stocking Report

The Lake Miliona Association works with the DNR on 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. The DNR electro-shock survey in the fall of 2010 yielded a young walleye rate of 15 per hour, substantially lower than the 124 per hour rate in 2009. As a result, the Lake Miliona Association, working in conjunction with Viking Sportsmen of Alexandria, stocked 540 pounds of six inch to ten inch walleye fingerlings in Lake Miliona in December. The larger (yearling) fingerlings

were recommended by the DNR to achieve a higher survival rate.

In 2010, the DNR did not stock walleye fingerlings, however, they supplemented their fry stocking program from a planned 2.9 million fry to an actual 4.2 million fry. This increased the base rate of 1,000 fry per littoral acre to about 1,450 per littoral acre.

This year, the DNR plans to stock 2.8 million walleye fry and potentially stock walleye fingerlings in the fall based on their electro-shock survey.

Generous contributions from our members, sportsmen's clubs, guide services and tournament organizers, has allowed us to fund over \$30,000 in fry and

fingerlings in the last five years. Your contributions over the years have effectively populated Lake Miliona with a healthy supply of yearling and second-year class walleyes. Many 10 to 15 inch walleyes were caught and released this past season to sustain an acceptable population of walleyes in the lake.

The Lake Miliona Association board of directors will again consider a plan to continue to participate, subject to DNR approval, in the Viking Sportsmen matching 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.

Walleye Angling Survey

In March the Fisheries Committee conducted a survey of Lake Miliona area anglers. The questionnaire was transmitted to 215 email participants in our database of about 700 in our community. We are pleased with the response rate of 48% and the information learned from data returned.

Our primary objectives were to determine the catch rate of various size walleyes, the frequency of catch and the release rate within each size category. The three size categories are: less than 15 inches, 15 to 21 inches and greater than 21 inches.

The responses indicated that 68% of the walleyes caught were less than 15 inches in length and 86% were released; 27% were between 15 and 21 inches with a 27% release rate; and, 5% were greater than 21 inches with a 90% release rate. The fisheries committee is pleased to see the high percentage release rate in the small and large size categories. We also find that the Association's effort to maintain a healthy supply of young walleye in the lake is proving successful.

We are also pleased with the catch rate per angler hour. Our overall average walleye count per angler hour was 1.05. The data proved to be very consistent with only 6 of 104 responses falling

outside 2 standard deviations of the mean.

Another way of stating the catch rate is that, on average, an angler needs to spend less than one hour to catch a walleye, and there is a 32% chance that it will be greater than 15 inches in length. And, in one hour, on average, an angler would have a 5% chance of catching a walleye greater than 21 inches.

The fisheries committee thanks the respondents for their input. An electronic copy of the summary data has been transmitted to them. We expect to repeat this survey annually to help identify trends that will further assist in the management of walleyes in Lake Miliona.

Independence Day Parade

The annual Independence Day Boat Parade will be Sunday July 3rd starting at 1:00 pm. **FREE fun for families and friends.** Register online starting June 18, 2011, but not day of parade:

miltonaparade@gmail.com.

Or register 1 hour before start of parade. \$75 for 1st place & \$25 for 2nd place. Names of winners for 1st & 2nd place in pontoon and 1st & 2nd place in boats will be displayed on a plaque at LJ's Restaurant in Miltona. 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 your registration number for you to print out. If you already have a number on July 3rd, please proceed to East or West public

accesses. 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 number and proceed only when the judges wave you on. Route will be determined the day of the parade due to wind direction. In case of rain, parade will be the following day.

ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY BOAT PARADE

Sunday
July 3rd at 1:00 pm!

Parade begins at 1:00 pm
Two starting locations
East or West
Public Access

In case of rain parade will
be following day

Fundraiser 2011

Saturday, August 20th, 2011

5:00pm - 10:00pm

Leaf Valley Town Hall

We are planning the event similar to the 2010 fundraiser with a buffet from 5:00-7:00 pm. Canopies/tents and picnic tables will be available for outdoor seating. An outdoor restroom will be arranged to accommodate attendees.

Again, your area directors will be selling advance tickets during the summer at a reduced price of \$13 each – children age 16 and under, accompanied by an adult, will be admitted at no charge.

Miltona Summer 2011 Apparel News

Ever wondered what can be done to make a special event even more memorable? How about a tee shirt or sweatshirt commemorating the event? Picture this...the same old annual family reunion at the lake. But this year, there's a bit more excitement in the air. Everyone is wearing a shirt displaying the same message -- the "2011 Johnson Family Reunion, Lake Miltona, MN" or "I Survived the 2011 LMA Annual Fundraiser at Leaf Valley, MN, Population 5". Needless to say, it takes memorabilia to a whole new level and will have next year's hosts scrambling to outdo you.

This year, the new selection of Lake Miltona apparel will be sold at the Annual Meeting on June 11th and at the Annual Fundraiser on August 20th. Our new offerings will include tees and sweatshirts in an

assortment of current colors, fabrics, and styles. And while supplies last, all remaining inventory from 2010 will sold at fire sale prices!

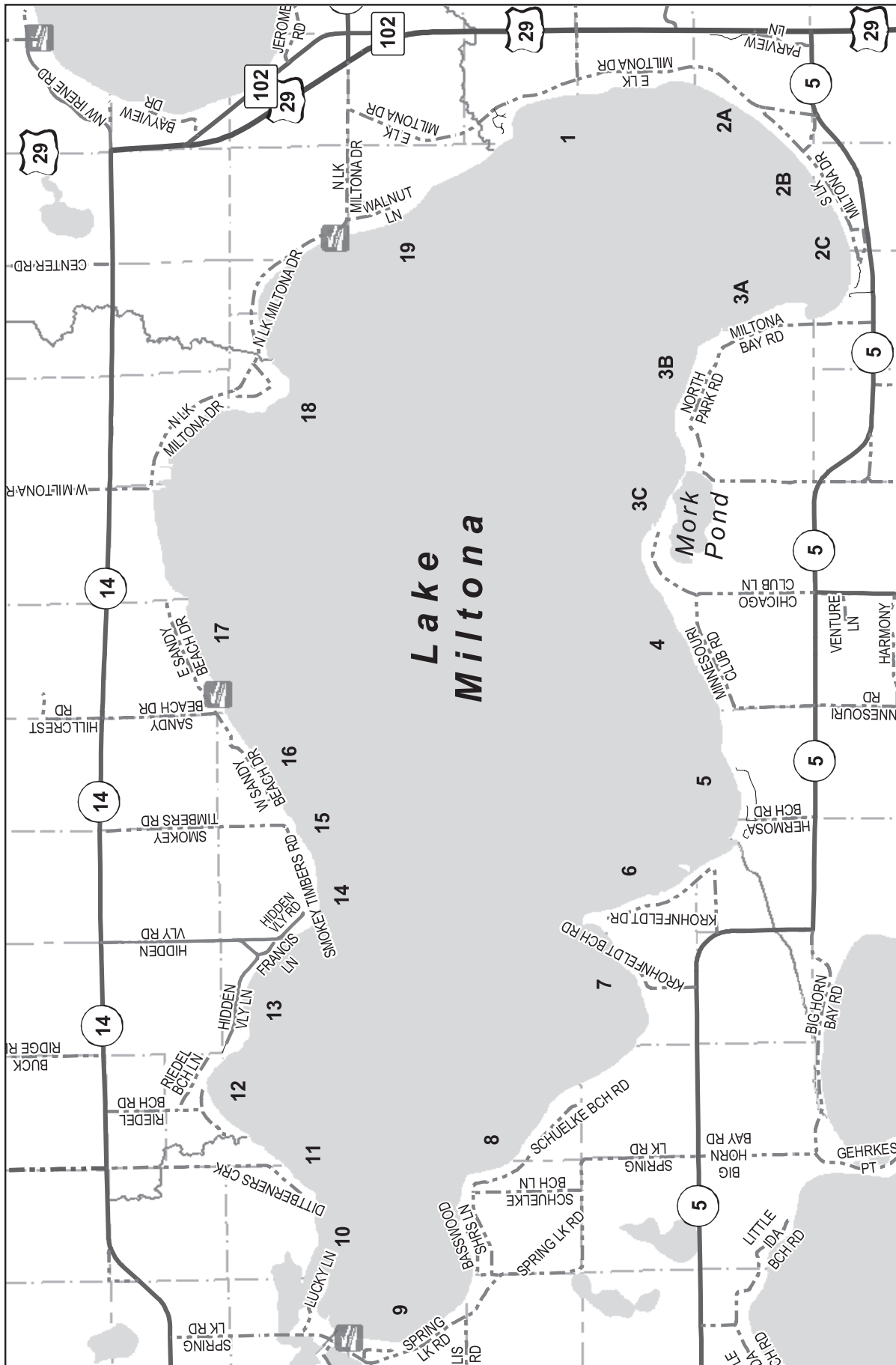
20% of the purchase price is tax-deductible and helps support the mission of our lake association. The programs sponsored by the Lake Miltona Association help mitigate Zebra Mussel infestation, promote clean water practices, and elevate awareness of our treasured natural resources.

For more information about ordering for your special event please email Lynette Stenglein Istenglein@comcast.net.

Don't Move a Mussel

Citizens around the Alexandria area lakes are serious about stopping the movement of Zebra Mussels from an established infested lake. Signs like

"Don't move a Mussel" are just one of many ways to get the attention and educate visitors on our lakes. As stated in the Echo Press; "Remove your drain plugs, drain your live wells and bait buckets" Just because you don't see them doesn't mean they are not there. Once again the Miltona Lake Association will be working with the DNR to perform boat inspections on our lake. Last year a grant allowed us to pay one half the cost for the DNR to perform 112 hours of boat inspections. This year a grant increased our hours to 250. It has been said that we are performing a futile attempt against the obvious. That maybe true but how many times have you heard the saying "he beat the odds", "one in million" or "you have three months to live". It is human nature to fight and not give up and that is what we are doing to keep our lake free of Zebra Mussels.



Lake Miltona

Smoke Signals From The Camp

Like all lakeshore residents, Smokey Timbers Camp's Voluntary Board, with lots of great help from "Friends of the Camp" is busily preparing for another summer season. The work began robustly on May 4th when nearly 40 Skills U.S.A. students and staff from the Alexandria Technical College spent the day repairing the deck, doing equipment maintenance, raking, trail blazing, wood cutting, readying the waterfront, etc. The highlight of the day was the setup of a new pump house that had been prefabricated at the College. Located adjacent to the main entrance, it affords a vastly improved first impression of the facility.

The Camp is anticipating the best year of activity yet since the transfer of ownership to the Smokey Timbers Foundation. By the first of March activities were scheduled for virtually every summer weekend. A variety of weekday events have been scheduled as well. Included are YMCA day camps and family overnights, Boy and Girl Scout outings, church groups, school events, a forestry workshop, and family gatherings. On June 7th the Miltona Science Magnet School will be having an environmental education field day at the Camp. This event was made possible, in part, by an Environmental Education Partnership fundraiser held by the Foundation and the School this past March. The increasing number and variety of

activities taking place at the Camp reinforces the Foundation's vision for Smokey Timbers.

The Camp's annual fish fry, to which all Lake Association members are invited, is scheduled for August 6th this year. Be sure to mark your calendar for this increasingly popular event.

Fundraising, of course, continues to be a major challenge for the Foundation. On-going operational expenses prove to be manageable through the typical flow of revenue from user fees, regular contributions, and support from area organizations. A substantial portion of the debt incurred as part of the "rescue" by local citizens when the property was put up for sale in 2004, however, remains and was passed on to the Foundation along with the ownership transfer. Annual principal and interest payments make vigorous pursuit of the Camp's mission difficult. An added burden this past year occurred when the Oct. wind storm toppled numerous trees on the grounds, one of which flattened one of the campsite shelters.

If you have ideas for the Foundation, a willingness to assist in moving beyond the debt obligations, or just want additional information about Smokey Timbers, you can contact the Camp at (320) 766-5290 or by email at smokeytimbers@gmail.com. As a 501(C)(3) organization, support to Smokey Timbers qualifies as tax deductible per IRS publication 526.

Lake Miltona Water Quality Monitoring

The Lake Miltona Association was awarded a grant from the MPCA as part of a program submitted by Emily Siira, of the Douglas County Soil and Water District, to monitor two sites as part of the MPCA Long Prairie Watershed monitoring plan. These two sites are the inlets to Lake Miltona: the stream from Lake Irene and the Dittberner Creek. Monitoring will be done at these two sites two times per month during May through September. The evaluations to be performed include both physical measurements (dissolved oxygen, pH, transmission-tube, conductivity, temperature, as well as observations such as water level and photos): and collection of samples for chemical and biological analyses (nitrogen, nitrite, phosphorous, total suspended solids, total suspended volatile solids and E. coli). All of the costs of the analyses are covered in the grant. The grant will also cover obtaining monitoring equipment (for flow, temperature, oxygen, etc. measurements) and time for Emily Siira to accompany and help our volunteer make measurements.

Representatives of our Lake Miltona Association attended the Kick-Off Event of the overall MPCA Watershed Restoration and Protection Project for the Red Eye and Long Prairie Watersheds on April 12, 2011 at the Prairie Event Center in Parkers Prairie, MN. In addition to this watershed activity, we will continue our current Lake Association monitoring activities on the lake.

Lake Scaping Article

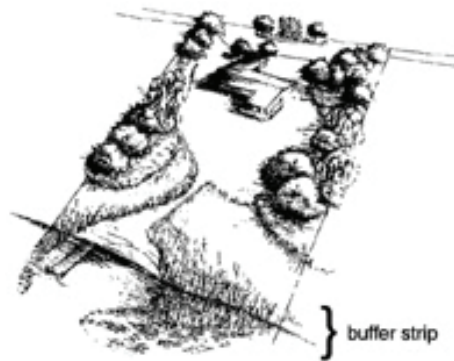
There has been much discussion recently about our desire to re-create a suburban-type lawn versus going native. Most will agree that our well-deserved weekends at the lake shouldn't be spent mowing the lawn. But the question always arises "Where do we start if we want to restore a more native environment to our lakeshore?"

Lakeshore Restoration is the establishment of a shore land buffer of native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, trees and aquatics. Plants in shore land buffers will filter pollutants, stabilize sediments in the water, reduce shoreline erosion, and provide wildlife habitat.

The best projects are not overly large or expensive and are the ones that evaluate the site well, use existing features, keep up with maintenance, and examine the whole area, from the land out into the water. Effective buffer zones should be along at least 75% of a property's water frontage and extend

16 to 25 feet or more from the water's edge onto the land. The wider the buffer zone the better it will function.

Lakeshore restoration begins with evaluating what you want out of your shoreline. Determine what uses are important and necessary to properly enjoy your shoreline by asking if you like sitting by the water, watching sunsets, or really only want a walking path to your dock. Once you decide what you need for your uses, evaluation of your site's physical conditions can begin--examine sun and moisture conditions and determine the size of your planting area.



Even though a restored shoreline is a lower maintenance alternative to traditional lawns, some maintenance is still needed to preserve your

investment. Frequent watering immediately after planting is just as important as continued weeding after establishment.

Grants are available on a first come, first served basis through a variety of sources and can cover up to 75% of the total cost of the project, including labor. The Lake Miltona Association also has funds set aside to help property owners fund a portion of the project. There are other restrictions, maximum limits to the grants, and often require a 10 year commitment.

Depending on the size and scope of the restoration, a project could be initiated this summer for an early autumn planting. And it's not too soon to think for early 2012.

For more information call the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District at (320) 763-3191 ext. 3 for help planning your lakeshore project or email Emily Siira emily.siira@mn.nacdnet.net.

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- ~ Water Quality Monitoring
- ~ Lake Scaping Article

2011 Calendar of Events

June 11	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
July 3	Boat Parade	1:00 pm
July 9	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 20	Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 8	Directors Meeting	9:00 am

Lake Miltona News



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