

# Lake Miltona



# FALL News

November 2012



lake-miltona.org

Volume 1, No. 7

Directors and Officers for 2012 are listed below. Please thank them for volunteering their time for Lake Miltona.

### OFFICERS:

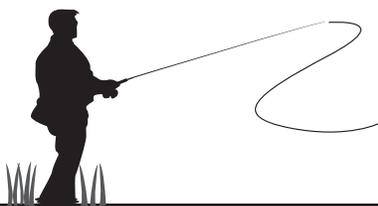
President:	Dick Kuehn
Vice President:	Steve Desutter
Treasurer:	Bob Larson
Secretary:	Gene Rose

### DIRECTORS:

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

### DIRECTORS continued:

Steve Herth	Area 4
Dick Kuehn	Area 5
(Open)	Area 6
William Moeller	Area 7
Gary Fuchs	Area 8
Jerry Fulton	Area 9
(Open)	Area 10
(Open)	Area 11
Mike Wrobel, Warren Davis	Area 12
Ted Boehne, Tom Brauer	Area 13
Steve DeSutter	Area 14
Steve Desutter	Area 15
Anne Rykken,	Area 16
Marc Bot, Bob Larson	Area 17
Pete Anderson, Randy Hansen	Area 18
Don Henning	Area 19



### A Message from the President

2013 will be a big year for Lake Miltona. Zebra mussels will change our lake, but no one knows how. Time will tell.

At our last director's meeting

we learned (unofficially) that the lake level dropped 19 inches since early spring. A friend of mine stated that in the 1980's when the lake was very low, we recovered from those very low water levels in a span of 1 year.

Yes, indeed we are facing changes, but the lake will survive and we will as well!

Dick Kuehn  
LMA President

### Fundraiser 2013

Next year's annual fundraiser will be Saturday evening, August 17, 5:00-10:00 pm at the Leaf Valley Townhall. We are planning the event similar to the 2012 fundraiser with the buffet from 5:00-7:00 pm. Again, your area directors will be selling advance tickets during the summer at reduced prices \$14 each—children age 16 and under, accompanied by an adult, will be admitted at no charge.

## 2012 Fundraiser Winners

The Association thanks all who attended the fundraiser. Total attendance was 280. A great buffet was provided by RK's Prairie Catering. Refreshments were provided by Miltona Liquor. Prizes were donated by 84 area merchants, worth over \$4,743. Thank you, Mall Of America, for donating children's tickets at the door.

Director volunteers and member volunteers worked diligently to provide another successful fundraiser.

Don Henning, our advance ticket sales champion, sold 110 tickets this year. Thanks Don.

### Major prize winners:

#### Dinner ticket drawing provided by Leaf Valley Sportsmen:

Bruce Simcoe \$100

Rick & Tina Blenkush \$50

Rose Anderson \$50

## LMA Web Site Redesigned

The new Lake Miltona Association web site can be accessed by entering into your browser either <http://lake-miltona.org> or <http://www.lake-miltona.org> or <http://lake-miltona.org/index.htm>. Our site is now hosted on local servers, Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association (GCTEL.COM). We've implemented several techniques to make this site more user friendly:

- For navigation simplicity we've implemented a single level of topic tabs and inserted a click scroll to topic sections on pages which are below the first 'look',
- At the bottom of each page is a row of name links to the other site pages as well as a click link back to the top of the page,
- Made the screen layout such that page width automatically fills individual monitors,
- Made the general design more like a newspaper, i.e. multiple page columns, and
- Included contact e-mail links on every page.

We welcome feedback comments from our members and newsletter readers. To comment, e-mail a note to [labenson@q.com](mailto:labenson@q.com). Our new site design and maintenance is done by former area 6 director, Lowell A. Benson.

## Fundraiser Results

	2012	2011	Variance
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dinner Tickets	6,784	6,353	431
Prize Tickets	2,989	1,770	1,219
Donations	1,038	873	165
Roll the Bones	222	407	(185)
Total income	11,033	9,403	1,630
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Catering for dinner	2,712	2,057	(655)
Refreshments & Cups	527	727	200
Music	-	350	350
Prizes	300	300	-
Hall rental	200	185	(15)
Miscellaneous	124	286	162
Total expenses	3,863	3,906	43
Net Earnings for Fundraiser	7,170	5,497	1,673

## Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
383	426	388	375	410	413

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 [lake-miltona.org](http://lake-miltona.org) 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.

## 2012 Independence Day Parade Winners

In November 2008, the Lake Miltona Association received a \$200 donation as a memorial for Ed Williams with no specific designation for its use. The LMA voted to use the \$200 for 4 cash prizes that will be awarded at the Independence Day Boat Parade scheduled for July 4, 2013. Enthusiasm for the parade was high so start planning for the parade next year. A plaque with the winners names are located at LJ's Restaurant for everybody to see. The rewards were as follows:

### Pontoon

1st place Randy Hansen \$75.00

2nd place Bob Busch \$50.00

3rd place Roger Meyer \$25.00

### Boats

1st place Mike Hamilton \$75.00

## All You Want to Know About Zebra Mussels

### How to Identify:

Polymorpha (part of this alien's scientific name), means "many forms." Zebra mussels come in many colors. Most are white or cream-colored with jagged brown or black stripes. However, some individual mussels have been found that are all-white, all-black, or have stripes going the other direction.



### How They Multiply:

Male zebras release a cloud of sperm into the water. Female zebras release a cloud of eggs. A female zebra mussel can produce 30,000 to 1,000,000 eggs in one year!

The fertilized eggs quickly develop into free-swimming larvae called veligers (VEL-i-jers). Veligers are smaller than a pinpoint. They feed on tiny phytoplankton and begin to grow shells. The water currents can cause veligers to travel great distances. At 3 - 4 weeks, the veligers' shells weigh enough to cause them to sink. They must find something to attach to or they will die. Some of the veligers attach to hard surfaces including rocks, wood, glass, metal, native mussels, and each other, where

they change from free-swimming larvae to anchored mussels. Very few of the veligers survive to this stage.

### Evidence of Invasion:

They're clogging things up. These tiny little mussels can clog up the cooling systems of boat engines. Zebra mussels also pile up on beaches. When they die they wash up on the shore and begin to decay. Their shells are razor sharp. When zebra mussels feed on plankton, they remove incredible amounts of food from the water. They can filter about one quart of water each day. They leave the water clear, sometimes too clear. The zebras grow on top of the native mussels and smother them. With plankton removed from the water, more sunshine reaches the bottom. Plants living here grow rapidly. They also use zebra mussel droppings as fertilizer. Bottom-feeding fish feast on the waste produced by the zebra mussels. Their numbers increase. Zooplankton and small fish which feed on plankton have less to eat. Their numbers decrease. Larger fish which feed on the small fish decrease in number. The zebra mussels take food, space, and oxygen, causing the death of native mussels.

### Help Stop the Alien Invasion! Extermination Techniques:

**1.** Are you providing free rides to aliens? Don't be an alien helper, watch out for hitchhikers.

- Boaters use their boats in several places without cleaning them with hot water.
- Kids, mucking in a lake, slosh over to a different lake and empty out their boots.
- Anglers take their bait buckets from lakes to rivers and empty them into the waters.
- Someone gets bored with a pet zebra mussel and releases it in a new home.
- Ducks, with muddy feet, fly off to new watery homes.
- Water plants get stuck on boats or other equipment and are carried to different bodies of water.

If you find a zebra mussel, take a close look at it. Do not put the mussel back into the water.

**2.** Freshwater drums (fish) and diving ducks eat zebra mussels, but they don't eat enough to control their population. Zebra mussels seem to be able to survive everywhere, but they are rarely found in still water or fast-moving water. They also don't do well in polluted water or at low oxygen levels. Summer water temperatures might also limit their spread.

**3.** Chemicals will also kill the other animals living in the lakes. Scientists are searching for ways to control their growth. Meanwhile, some diving ducks are changing their migration patterns to munch on zebra mussels.

## New Zebra Mussel Infestation Includes Lake Miliona

### Rose Lake and Lake Irene

Last fall, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) biologists investigated two separate cases where boat lifts used in zebra mussel infested lakes had been moved to non-infested waters (Lake Irene in Douglas County and Rose Lake in Otter Tail County).

In both lakes, only juvenile zebra mussels were found in a small, localized area. This offered the DNR the unique opportunity to attempt to eradicate zebra mussels by treating both areas with copper sulfate, a common chemical used to treat snails that cause swimmers itch.

DNR biologists collected water samples to look for larval zebra mussels (veligers) and conducted scuba and lake equipment searches to look for juvenile and adult zebra mussels throughout the 2012 open water season. Field-work to evaluate the eradication efforts was completed this fall.

"We did not find any veligers in our water samples or large zebra mussels during our scuba searches this summer," said Nathan Olson, DNR invasive species specialist in Fergus Falls. "However, during our fall searches, we did find adult zebra mussels in both lakes."

Olson added that because monitoring efforts did not produce any veligers or juvenile zebra mussels, the DNR cannot

confirm that zebra mussels have reproduced in either lake. The recent find of adult mussels means that despite early detection and a rapid DNR response, efforts to kill the zebra mussels in these lakes were not successful.

DNR staff will continue to monitor these lakes next year to evaluate the zebra mussel populations.

### Lake Miliona and lower Otter Tail River

Mid-October, DNR confirmed the presence of juvenile zebra mussels in Lake Miliona. Lake Miliona is located north of Lake Carlos and downstream of Lake Irene in Douglas County.

DNR biologists found numerous small zebra mussels on several boatlifts and rocks in a small area of the lake. No adult zebra mussels were found. In addition, another juvenile (less than 3/8 of an inch long) zebra mussel attached to the dock at the public access was found on the east side of the lake. The size of the zebra mussel was similar to the others and likely born this year. Its presence was approximately 1.5 miles (as a crow flies) from where the original zebra mussels were located, suggesting they are likely widespread throughout the lake.

As a result of these zebra mussel discoveries, Lake Miliona and the lower reach of Otter Tail River, from the confluence of the Pelican River downstream to the Bois De Sioux River confluence, will be designated as infested waters.

Lake Ida will also be designated for precautionary reasons because it is the next lake downstream of Miliona. The Pelican River is already designated as infested waters from Bucks Mill Drive downstream to the confluence with Otter Tail River.

These recent discoveries reinforce the importance of practicing proper aquatic invasive species preventative methods. The DNR reminds folks to inspect all water-related equipment when it is removed from the water and report any suspected zebra mussel discoveries to the local DNR area office. (Contact information below) Folks should also keep in mind that moving docks and boat lifts from one lake to another is another source of spreading aquatic invasive species. Boat lifts and docks are of particular concern because they sit in the water for extended periods, giving zebra mussels a greater opportunity to attach themselves.

**State law requires all boat-lifts, docks and swim rafts removed from any water body must remain out of the water (and dry) for 21 days before being placed into another water body in order to kill zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.**

If a lakeshore owner finds something that they think is a zebra mussel, please have them contact Nathan Olson, Invasive Species Specialist, Minnesota DNR (218-739-7576 ext. 259 or nathan.olson@state.mn.us). Depending on the circumstance, he will probably ask for photos and he will try to stop by and take a look.

## Fundraiser Donor List 2012

Miltona Custom Meats	2 Guyz Take & Bake pizza	Dairy Queen (north)
Corral supper Club	Wendy VanKirk-Edina Realty	Hayloft
Chet's Lakeside Inn	Woodland Resort	Bug A Boo Bay Resort
Miltona Bay Estates	Polished Looks Salon	Casey's Amusement Park
Miltona Blacksmith	Central Lakes Rest. Supply	Garden Center Lanes
Miltona Grocery	Holiday North	Lions Club of Miltona
Spruce Center Bait	Pete's County Market	Walmart
Wade's Miltona Service	Ron's Warehouse Sales	Subway
Herbie's Bar and Grill	Leaf Valley Mercantile	Hilltop Lumber
Lake Miltona Golf	Fine Line Laser Design	Lakes Gas
LJ's	Anderson Floral	Central Marine & Sports
Bullet Lawn Care	Black Ridge Bank Miltona	Northland Dairy & Polaris
Don Henning Excavating	Bettin Pest Control	Elden's Food Fair
Jim and Judy's	3M	McDonald's
Gas Mart Miltona	Border States Electric	LMA
Corries Sanitation	Geneva Golf Course	Cashwise Liquor
Klimek Bros Well Drilling	Viking Bay Resort	Alexandria Country Club
R&R Ready Mix	Lindsay Ecowater	Tennessee Roadhouse
Iverson Insurance	Brenton Engineering	Doolittles
Juettner Motors	Mall of America	Sammy's One Stop
Mn Lakes Realty/G. & D. Reiner	Leaf Valley Sportsmen	RK's Prairie Café
REA	The Old Mill	Fortwengler Electric
Cullen's Home Center	Shiela's Place Rose City	Trumm Drug
Life Quest Chiropractic	Palmer Plant Kandy's	Dick's Standard
RND Computers	Tastefully Simple	
Woodbury Financial	Boomerang Sports	
Dakota Magic Casino	American Heritage Hunting Club	
Grand Casino Mille Lacs	Miltona Liquor	
Prairie Edge Casino	Scherer Printing	
Jack Pot	D Michael B's	

**Thank You** to these Merchants who provided over \$4,743 in prizes to our 2012 fundraiser.  
**Please support them!**

## Dick Keuhn named outstanding senior

The Alexandria Echo Press reported in their August 17, 2012 edition that our Lake Association President, Dick Keuhn was presented the Douglas County 2012 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award at the County Fair Thursday, August 16, 2012. Congratulations Dick!!

Excerpts from their article are reproduced below by permission:

"Dick can be depended upon to be an active and valued contributor in whatever he becomes involved in", noted one of his nominators, Jack Anderson of the Smokey Timbers Foundation. "He is a 'doer' not simply a 'joiner'."

Kuehn has been involved in numerous volunteer efforts over the years including the following:

- Played a major role in the orchestration of the rescue of Smokey Timber Camp in 2003. He served as a board director and guided the efforts to make the camp a thriving youth and family recreational and environmental resource for West Central Minnesota.

- He has been an active member of the Douglas County Lakes Association and Lake Miltona Association, serving in leadership roles with both entities to work toward preserving area lakes.

- Has been active with Team Miltona, working to bring businesses into the Miltona area.

- Has been an active member at Faith Community Church in Miltona, serving on the parish council, vision and mission committee and

stewardship council, as well as other committees.

- Served as Awake the Lakes Heritage Foundation co-chair.

- Was a member of the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan, the Douglas County Hospital Board nomination committee and the Douglas County Water Plan Task Force.

Kuehn was named the Minnesota Credit Union Network Outstanding Volunteer 2001 and was a Jefferson Award Finalist in 2012.

"Those who know Dick know that everything he does he does out of the goodness of his heart and the dedication he has to the betterment of our community", noted Kari van Wakeren, pastor at Faith Lutheran Church.

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## Fish Stocking Report

Walleye abundance has increased in recent years. Current numbers are considered high when compared to similar lakes across Minnesota. Small or young fish comprised much of the catch recorded during the 2011 survey. Mean size was 14.1 inches and 1.0 pounds. Large quantity and smaller average size can be attributed to strong year classes produced in 2007 and 2009. Fall electrofishing sampling also revealed that a very strong year class was produced in 2011.

These multiple strong year classes should provide good fishing for many years. Walleye growth rates have slowed in recent years due to increased abundance of small fish. Lake Miltona's walleye typically reach 14.0 inches after four growing seasons and exceed 16.0 inches by age five. Annual fry stockings and occasional fingerling stockings are currently prescribed to bolster walleye abundance; however, natural reproduction is critical to sustaining a quality walleye fishery.

Lake Miltona association has applied for and received a permit to stock 400 lbs. of walleye fingerlings for the fall of 2012. The DNR, as stated at our annual meeting, has stocked approximately 600 Musky fingerlings this fall also. We look to continue our walleye stocking efforts and would like to acknowledge the valued support of our local sportsmen clubs (Parkers Prairie, Leaf Valley, and Viking Sportsmen) for supporting our efforts. Please support them, being they support our efforts!

## Ice Safety

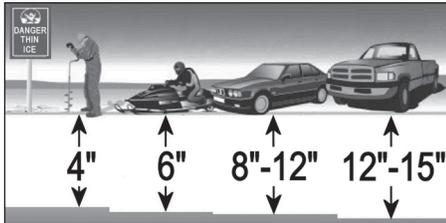
When is ice safe? Reprinted in part, with permission, from the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources website.

There really is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors – plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

### General ice thickness guidelines

For New, Clear Ice Only

- 2" or less - STAY OFF
- 4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 5" - Snowmobile or ATV
- 8" - 12" - Car or small pickup
- 12" - 15" - Medium truck



**Remember that these thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.**

### Traveling on Ice

The following guidelines can help you make wise choices...

- Check for known thin ice areas with a local resort or bait shop. Test the thickness yourself using an ice chisel, ice auger or even a cordless 1/4 inch drill with a long bit.
- Refrain from driving on ice whenever possible. If you must drive a vehicle, be prepared to leave it in a hurry—keep windows down and have a simple emergency plan of action you have discussed with your passengers.
- Stay away from alcoholic beverages. Even "just a couple of beers" are enough to cause a careless error in judgment that could cost you your life. And contrary to common belief, alcohol actually makes you colder rather than warming you up.
- Don't "overdrive" your snowmobile's headlight. At even 30 miles per hour, it can take a much longer distance to stop on ice than your headlight shines. Many fatal snowmobile through-the-ice accidents occur because the machine was traveling too fast for the operator

to stop when the headlamp illuminated the hole in the ice.

- Wear a life vest under your winter gear. Or wear one of the new flotation snowmobile suits. And it's a good idea to carry a pair of ice picks that may be home made or purchased from most well stocked sporting goods stores that cater to winter anglers. It's amazing how difficult it can be to pull yourself back onto the surface of unbroken but wet and slippery ice while wearing a snowmobile suit weighted down with 60 lbs of water. The ice picks really help pulling yourself back onto solid ice. **CAUTION:** Do NOT wear a flotation device when traveling across the ice in an enclosed vehicle!

### What if you fall in?

What should you do? First, try not to panic. This may be easier said than done, unless you have worked out a survival plan in advance. Read through these steps so that you can be prepared.

**Don't hyperventilate.** As you hit the water, a physiological reaction known as torso reflex will cause you to gasp for air. Force yourself to take slow, deep breaths. You'll begin to shiver violently and feel intense pain; try to remember that these are natural responses and not life-threatening.

**Orient yourself.** As you bob in the opening you fell through, turn and face the direction you came from. The ice there was strong enough to hold you until this point, so it should be able to support you as you maneuver out. You don't have time to take a chance on other escape routes.

**Lift and kick.** Stretch your arms over the ice and shimmy your body up until most of your torso is resting on the ledge. (This way, if you lose consciousness before you're free, you won't slip back under and drown.) Now, as you pull with your arms, kick your legs dolphin-style to propel yourself out.

**Recover.** Once out, logroll to shore. Resist the urge to rub your arms and legs (which would send the cool blood from your extremities straight to your core) or gulp hot liquids (which would trigger a rush of blood to your skin). Strip, wrap your torso in blankets, and sip a tepid decaf beverage.

### What if your vehicle breaks through the ice?

If your car or truck plunges through the ice, the best time to escape is before it sinks, not after. It will stay afloat a few seconds to several minutes depending on the airtightness of the vehicle.

- While the car is still afloat, the best escape hatches are the side windows

since the doors may be held shut by the water pressure. If the windows are blocked, try to push the windshield or rear window out with your feet or shoulder.

- A vehicle with its engine in the front will sink at a steep angle and may land on its roof if the water is 15 feet or deeper. As the car starts its final plunge to the bottom, water rapidly displaces the remaining air. An air bubble can stay in a submerged vehicle, but it is unlikely that it would remain by the time the car hits the bottom.

- When the car is completely filled, the doors may be a little easier to open unless they are blocked by mud and silt. Remember too, chances are that the car will be upside down at this point! Add darkness and near freezing water, and your chances of escape have greatly diminished. This underscores the necessity of getting out of the car before it starts to sink!

### Helping someone else

What if someone else falls through and you are the only one around to help? First, call 911 for help. Resist the urge to run up to the edge of the hole.

### Preach, Reach, Throw, Row, Go

**PREACH** Shout to the victim to encourage them to fight to survive and reassure them that help is on the way.

**REACH** If you can safely reach the victim from shore, extend an object such as a rope, ladder, or jumper cables to the victim. If the person starts to pull you in, release your grip on the object and start over.

**THROW** Toss one end of a rope or something that will float to the victim. Have them tie the rope around themselves before they are too weakened by the cold to grasp it.

**ROW** Find a light boat to push across the ice ahead of you. Push it to the edge of the hole, get into the boat and pull the victim in over the bow. It's not a bad idea to attach some rope to the boat, so others can help pull you and the victim to safety.

**GO** A non professional shouldn't go out on the ice to perform a rescue unless all other basic rescue techniques have been ruled out.

If the situation is too dangerous for you to perform the rescue, call 911 for help and keep reassuring the victim that help is on the way and urge them to fight to survive. Heroics by well meaning but untrained rescuers sometimes result in two deaths.

What To Do If You Fall Through The Ice video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysnKtuUTt8k>

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- Fish Stocking Report
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## 2013 Calendar of Events

January 12	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
April 13	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
June 15	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
July 13	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 17	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 12	Directors Meeting	9:00 pm

# Lake Miltona News



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

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