

# Lake Miltona



# FALL News

November 2016

lake-miltona.org

Volume 1, No. 11

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

## OFFICERS:

President:	Steve DeSutter
Vice President:	Marc Bot
Treasurer:	Bob Larson
Secretary:	Gene Rose

## DIRECTORS:

Lynn Glesne	Area 1
John Fair	Area 2A
Jack Anderson	Area 2B
John Fay	Area 2C
Skeeter Kingsberg	Area 3A
Vern Suhr	Area 3B
Gene Rose	Area 3C

## DIRECTORS continued:

Steve Herth	Area 4
(Open)	Area 5
(Open)	Area 6
William Moeller	Area 7
Tim Lind, Gary Fuchs	Area 8
Jerry Fulton	Area 9
Jerry Fulton	Area 10
Pat Ferguson	Area 11
Mike Wrobel, Warren Davis	Area 12
Ted Boehne, Tom Brauer	Area 13
Steve DeSutter	Area 14
Wally Roberts	Area 15
Anne Rykken	Area 16
Marc Bot, Bob Larson	Area 17
Darrell Olson, Randy Hansen	Area 18
Don Henning	Area 19



## A Message from the President

We had the largest number of paid memberships on record last year. I would like to thank all of you who continue to support our organization. We are continuing with our fish stocking program, and also moving forward on some runoff projects that have been ongoing for the past couple of years. What you learn as president

of an organization like this, is that anything government related moves at it's own pace.

Water clarity has dramatically improved over the year since our first zebra mussel explosion. We surveyed the docks and lifts again this year and found many smaller mussels, vs. the larger ones from last year. I don't know what this means, if anything, but it is interesting to note the size difference.

We had an extremely well attended fundraiser and raised the most money at this event that we

have ever raised. Thank you for attending and spending!

We will start working on a new directory this early winter and hope to have it ready to pass out at the annual meeting. If anyone needs to change information in the directory from previous, get that information to your director and they will get it changed. We do this every three years, and it's time for a new one.

See you on the ice!

Steve DeSutter

## 2016 Independence Day Parade Winners

Enthusiasm for this year's parade was high, so start planning for the parade next year. A plaque with the winner's names is located at LJ's Restaurant in downtown Miltona. The awards were as follows:

### Pontoon

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Mike & Jo Tate

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Rhonda & Shelly Forkrud

### Jet Ski

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Conrad Stenglein

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Lemonade Kolke

### Boats

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Mike Dutton

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Josh Mellon

## New Website

Please visit our new website, <http://lake-miltona.org>, where you will find a number of new pages and information—and photos! We hope you will find the information useful as you enjoy the benefits of our beautiful Lake Miltona. You will find information about the lake, about the Association, and many articles on how to preserve water quality and good shoreline management. Additionally, anglers can find numerous pages about seasons, regulations, tournaments, and limits. Check out the fundraiser page—lots of new pics of your neighbors and friends! And look for the heart-warming video—Teddy's first catch. Feel free to offer comments or suggestions for new topics you wish to see included on the website. Listed below are some new pages.

**Lost and Found** - If you have lost or found an item (or pet) around the lake, contact the web administrator at [webmaster@lake-miltona.org](mailto:webmaster@lake-miltona.org) for posting on this page.

**For Sale** - Members can now advertise items they want to sell or give away. You can also list dates of Garage Sales held around the lake.

**Gardening Guidelines at the Shoreline** – If you have questions about what to plant at your shoreline, you will find a Native Plant Encyclopedia and contact information on this page.

**Lake Miltona History** – Myth, Lore & Legend If you have historical information about Lake Miltona that you would like to share, please send your facts and stories to the web administrator at [webmaster@lake-miltona.org](mailto:webmaster@lake-miltona.org). We hope to collect historical facts and great stories about our lake. Send them in!

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 10th, 2017  
9:00am**

### Smokey Timbers Camp

Our annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 10th, 2017 at the Smokey Timbers Camp. We will update you in the Spring newsletter as to which topics and speakers that will be attending.

## Fundraiser Results

	2016	2015	Variance
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dinner Tickets	8,415	6,210	2,205
Prize Tickets	4,402	3,453	949
Donations	553	733	(180)
Roll the Bones	311	240	71
Total income	13,681	10,636	3,045
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Catering for dinner	4,200	4,006	(194)
Refreshments	598	787	188
Prizes	577	709	133
Hall rental	200	200	-
Miscellaneous	100	50	(50)
Total expenses	5,675	5,752	77
Net Earnings for Fundraiser	8,006	4,884	3,122

## Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
410	413	408	437	421	458

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

or contact us at

**790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE  
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.

## 2016 Fundraiser Winners

The Association thanks all who attended the fundraiser. A great buffet was provided by RK's Prairie Catering. Refreshments were provided by the Miltona Liquor Store. Prizes were donated by 75 area merchants, worth over \$5,537.

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

### 2016 Dinner ticket drawing winners:

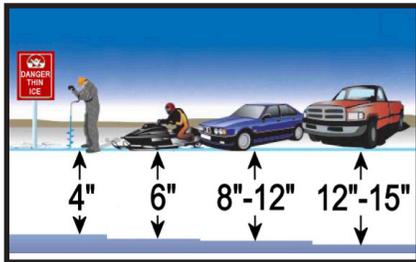
Glenn Walters - \$100, Kevin Birkholz (donated to walleye stocking) - \$50 and Joyce Regosheske - \$50.

## 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Orient yourself.

Lift and kick.

Recover.

### 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 nonprofessional 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.

## Fundraiser Donor List 2016

Chet's Lakeside Inn  
Miltona Blacksmith  
Miltona Grocery  
Herbie's Bar and Grill  
LJ's  
Bullet Lawn Care  
Jim and Judy's  
Gas Mart Miltona  
Alex Rubbish  
CJP Services  
Klinder  
Klimek Bros Well Drilling  
Iverson Insurance  
Mn Lakes Realty/G. & D. Reiner  
Down On the Corner  
REA  
Aqua Marine  
Cullen's Home Center  
Life Quest Chiropractic  
RND Computers  
Focus Financial  
Grand Casino Mille Lacs  
Shooting Star Casino  
Royal Tire  
Miltona Lions  
Wendy VanKirk-Edina Realty  
Woodland Resort

Central Lakes Restaurant Supply  
Henry's Foods, Inc.  
Squeaky Clean  
Viking Office supply  
Polished Looks  
Cub Foods  
Ron's Warehouse Sales  
Leaf Valley Mercantile  
Arrowwood golf club  
Fine Line Laser Design  
Black Ridge Bank Miltona  
Miltona Custom Meats  
3M  
Geneva Golf Course  
Viking Bay Resort  
Brenton Engineering  
Mall of America  
Leaf Valley Sportsmen  
Tennessee Roadhouse  
Doolittles  
Tires Associates  
Cinema Systems  
Ollies Service  
The Old Mill  
Tastefully Simple  
Boomerang Sports  
American Heritage Hunting Club

Sorny B's  
Miltona Liquor  
Scherer Printing  
Bug A Boo Bay Resort  
Miltona Custom Meats  
Casey's Amusement Park  
Hilltop Lumber  
Lakes Gas  
Central Marine & Sports  
Northland Dairy & Polaris  
Elden's Food Fair  
Lake Miltona Association  
Cashwise Liquor  
Stubs Marine  
Star Liquor  
Borch's  
Alexandria Country Club  
RK's Prairie Café  
Fortwengler Electric  
Crossing Inn suites  
Gappa Oil

**Thank You** to these Merchants who provided over \$5,537 in prizes to our 2016 fundraiser.  
**Please support them!**

### We Need Your Help

A great perk included with your LMA membership is the publication of the Lake Miltona Area Directory. Published and delivered every three years, the directory gives you fingertip access to valuable information about the association, your lake neighbors and local businesses. We derive directory information from county tax records as well as LMA membership forms and past directories. Plans are underway for the publication of a

new directory and that's why we need your help. We understand things change in this busy world and we want to have the most up to date information prior to the spring 2017 publication. Please check your 2014/2016 LMA directory. Does your personal information contain a "typo", have you moved within the past three years, changed or added a cell phone number or email address? Would you like to add your email address or phone number to next year's directory? We want to know.

There are three ways to make changes or additions to your directory information:

- 1). E-mail Area 2A Director John Fair at: jfair1981@yahoo.com
- 2). Send us a note at: Lake Miltona Association  
790 East Sandy Beach Road NE  
Miltona, MN 56364
- 3). Contact your area director listed on page three of the directory and they will coordinate the change.

## Ice Fishing Etiquette

- If you packed it onto the ice, pack it off the ice. Also if you see trash, do your part and pick it up. Follow a Leave No Trace philosophy on the ice too.
- Follow the same rules/laws regarding fishing tackle and baits that you would in the open water: no lead tackle, don't throw any form of tackle into the hole or left on the ice.
- Please take utmost care with using and storing petroleum products (used for heating, snowmobiles, power augers, etc). Gasoline spilled on the ice can be toxic to aquatic life. Do not leave it in your fish house.
- Never dump bait on the ice or down a hole in the ice. Carry it off and dump it in the trash.
- If you've got to go...don't do it on the ice or in the hole. Human waste contains pathogens and bacteria that are harmful to humans and animals alike, and nutrients that are harmful to lake health. Bring a portable, self containing toilet or use a nearby bathroom to take care of personal needs.
- If you bring a pet, keep the pet on a leash or make sure they stay with you. Bring an old blanket or coat for the pet to lie on they get cold too. Please clean up after your pet.
- If you bring children please watch them for safety reasons and please don't allow them to run all over the place yelling and screaming.
- If you are drinking alcohol and/or using foul language, please be mindful of others around you, especially families with children.
- If you use an ATV or Snowmobile please keep your distance from folks setup and fishing. Also again be mindful if you're allowing children to use these vehicles and for them to be respectful of others fishing.
- Don't grill other fishermen for information. It is enough to simply ask someone how they are biting. If they then wish to expound on the subject, thank them for anything they may have enlightened you with.
- Don't crowd other fishermen. Give them and yourself some distance. If you then interact with them and they are amenable to the idea of you moving closer then by all means do so.
- Do not use someone else's drilled holes without their permission.
- Always tell other ice fishermen about any ice safety issues you've encountered.
- Drive carefully and safely.
- When you remove your ice house in the spring, make sure you take ALL of it with you.
- Do not build fire directly on the ice. Wood ash left after a fire contains high levels of phosphorus and other nutrients and minerals that are harmful to lake health. Build fires in a fire-safe container that can be completely removed (including all ashes) when you leave.

## Smoke Signals from the Camp

Another wonderful season at the NEW SMOKEY TIMBERS CAMP has wound down. Nearly 1300 guests enjoyed "memory creation" experiences there this year and significant facility improvement has taken place. This unique Lake Miltona asset continues enhancing its vision and dedication to offering environmentally focused recreational and educational opportunities to youth and family organizations.

Memory creation activities this season have included multiple Boy Scout events (flag retirement ceremony, regional conclave, merit badge qualification opportunity, service work), Girl Scout extended Campout, weekly Preschool nature explorations, ACTC Skills U.S.A. training/service experience, H.S. Trap Club retreat, Community Ed. Summer Club days, Medieval Reenactment training, Lake and Watershed studies by Parkers Prairie biology classes, Miltona Science Magnet School environmental investigations and numerous family group events.

Major facility improvements this year, that have significantly increased the Camp's attractiveness as a destination of choice, have included the Gathering Deck renovation and the Bunk House structural restoration and re-roofing. Without assistance from the Lake Miltona Association, its members, and other "Friends of the Camp," these improvements would not have happened.

Consideration of the current Bunk House situation would truly be appreciated: Here's its tale of WOE!

Once I was a proud, vibrant gal, a really "Classy Lady", doing my very best to provide a comfortable accommodation for the guests at Smokey Timbers. Sadly, years of neglect got me to feeling really down and out. People love me and want me to stick around for many more years. They recently got me "Straightened Out" (major structural framing restoration) and gave me a "New Hairdo" (new steel roofing installed). That REALLY perked me up! Once I get some "Warm Undies" (insulation), "New Clothes" (siding), "New Glasses" (windows) and my "Comforts" (plumbing) taken care of I will be, once again, that "Classy Lady".

The preservation, improvement and future of Smokey Timbers has been, and will forever be, a "Labor of Love" by caring, committed and dedicated people. Assistance – financial, goods, services – is always gratefully appreciated. Contributions of any sort are documented and qualify as tax deductible per IRS code, Section 170. Folks interested in how they can help are encouraged to call 320-766-5290.



## Lake Management

Our waters on Lake Miliona have been noticeably clearer this year no doubt due to the presence of the large numbers of zebra mussels that were observed in the October, 2015 field study by Marlene Schoeneck's Parkers Prairie High School junior/senior Advanced Environment Biology class. On September 29, the Lake Miliona Association and Smokey Timbers hosted the 2016 class. We once again carried out abiotic and biotic evaluations of the conditions of our inlet streams and lakeshore waters. The students also obtained "score-your-shore" pictures. After the field trip the students prepared reports summarizing their observations, data, pictures and interpretations, which will be available to us. One of the most unusual findings was the large quantity of very small (less than one-fourth inch) zebra mussels attached to all of the docks and lifts inspected in contrast to the profusion of the large zebra mussels that were found last year. Similar findings of the small zebra mussels were reported for other lakes at the October 12, 2016 Douglas County Lake Association meeting. Therefore, this suggests that the difference in the zebra mussel activity is most likely due to some broader influence rather than a localized condition in Lake Miliona.

The Lake Miliona Association and Smokey Timbers also hosted 44 students of the two sections of the Parkers Prairie High School sophomore Biology class on October 4. The highlight for this field trip was the zebra mussel veliger netting activity. Jerry Haggemiller and Danica Mazurek, from the Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District, provided a demonstration on the netting procedure, which was followed by an on-the-water netting activity by the students. Only a few veligers were found, which is consistent with expectations for the colder waters in the fall. The students also did water clarity measurements of the lake water at different lake locations and abiotic evaluations at various shore locations. Their results and observations will also be available to us in an oral presentation format.

These studies provide valuable data to monitor the condition of our lake as well as being a part of the educational outreach activities for the Lake Miliona Association and Smokey Timbers. We look forward to continuing our program of water quality evaluations with them.

In addition to the zebra mussel aqueous invasive species (AIS) we need to be continually vigilant for other AIS. For example, Carlos and Le Homme Dieu are designated by the DNR to contain Eurasian water milfoil. In addition, a new AIS, the starry stonewort AIS, has recently been found in our Minnesota lakes. It is a grass-like algae that can form dense mats on the lake surface. More information on the starry stonewort can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/starrystonewort/index.html>

<https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=1688>

The front-page article of the October 19, 2016 Echo Press reported in an article written by Celeste Edenloff that this

AIS has been found in lakes of three Minnesota counties. It was first confirmed to be in Lake Koronis in Stearns County by the DNR in 2015. Dave Rush, Director, and Justin Swart, Environmental Planning Technician, from Douglas County Land and Resource Management reported that they do not know exactly what the long-term effects of the starry stonewort AIS would be on a lake. Dave Rush is quoted as saying "What we do know right now is that it is very disruptive to everyone's enjoyment of the lake". A companion article in this edition of the Echo Press also written by Celeste Edenloff describes the difficulty encountered on Lake Koronis when it became infested.

The bottom line for all of us is that we need to be vigilant in our inspections and cleaning of boat trailers, boats, personal water crafts, docks and any other items that could contain small fragments of the starry stonewort bulbils or other AIS. If anyone sees anything suspicious they should contact a DNR invasive species specialist. Our local contact is Mark Ranweiler. His phone number is 218-739-7576. In addition, our Lake Association is continuing to contract with Douglas County for additional inspection hours at our boat launch access sites.

Another water quality activity is our Lake Miliona Property Surveys (Score Your Score). Sixty-three Surveys have been submitted. If you have not turned one in yet there is still time to do so. These surveys will be summarized and the results will be reviewed to identify potential lakeshore habitat improvement suggestions. The summary and suggestions will be available next spring.

## Fish Stocking Report

Our board approved continuing the stocking level of last year. We approved a stocking level of 1000 lbs of walleye fingerlings. This amounts to approximately 8,000-10,000 fingerlings. We have received our permit from the DNR and will be stocking these fish in November of this fall. We hope to continue this secondary stocking level, but will need your continued financial support. We did receive a very large increase in level from the membership last spring. Thank you for supporting this initiative, since it is the Lake Miliona Association's single largest budget amount every year. Fall shocking counts were much improved over previous years, and the stocking seems to be working very well. Fishing was pretty decent last year with many good reports coming in. We want to continue with our consistent supplement stocking to make sure we have good fishing for all members. When you send in your next year's dues, please remember the stocking fund!

We would also like to thank the following sportsmen's clubs for their continued donation to our stocking account: Parkers Prairie, Carlos, and Leaf Valley. If you see any of these members, be sure to thank them on behalf of the property owners of Lake Miliona.

The topic of a slot limit has been brought up. While we currently have no policy of a slot limit, please allow the fingerlings we stock to "grow up" to decent sized fish before taking them out of the lake.



## LAKE MILTONA

ASSOCIATION

790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE

Miltona, Minnesota 56354



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Twin Cities, MN

# Lake Miliona News

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## 2017 Calendar of Events

January 14	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
April 8	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
June 10	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
July 8	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 12	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 14	Directors Meeting	9:00 am