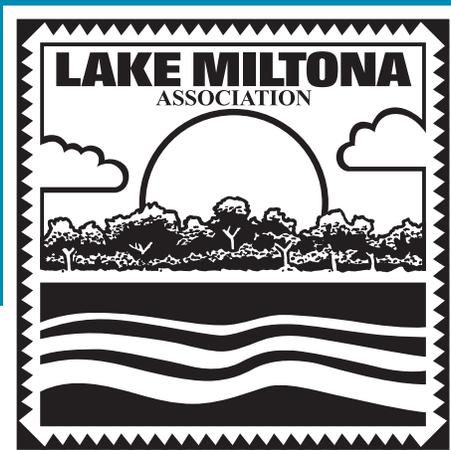


Lake Miltona



SPRING News

May 2022

lake-miltona.org

Volume 1, No. 30

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

OFFICERS:

President:	Steve DeSutter
Vice President:	Pat Ferguson
Treasurer:	Chad Koebnick
Secretary:	Gene Rose

DIRECTORS:

Dave Werpy	Area 1
John Fair	Area 2A
Jack Anderson,	
Paul & Michelle Shadle	Area 2B
John Fay	Area 2C
Skeeter Kingsberg	Area 3A
Vern Suhr	Area 3B
Gene Rose	Area 3C

DIRECTORS continued:

Steve Herth	Area 4
Emily Yonke	Area 5
Shannon Burgad	Area 6
Bob Streasick	Area 7
Carol McCarthy, Gary Fuchs	Area 8
Jay Sieling	Area 9
Jay Sieling	Area 10
Pat Ferguson	Area 11
Mike Wrobel, Warren Davis	Area 12
Ted Boehne, Tom & Cheryl Brauer	Area 13
Tom Struthers	Area 14
Wally Roberts	Area 15
Anne Rykken	Area 16
Steve DeSutter, Chad Koebnick,	
Tim Kaatz	Area 17
Randy Hansen	Area 18
Don Henning	Area 19

A Message from the President

It has been a long winter for Lake Miltona. When winter comes in November and leaves in late April, makes for a long winter season. The good news is that the large amount of snow has filled up the lake. The water has come up a good amount from the low fall levels.

We are excited to be having the annual meeting at the Miltona Community Center hall this year. We have some good speakers lined up with a lot of good information to share with everyone. We are having the new director of Glenwood fisheries speaking at our June meeting. We are looking forward to hearing his ideas on

fish stocking and management of the Lake Miltona Fishing. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting. We will go over in detail what the association is doing for the membership.

The pontoon parade has been scheduled for the 4th of July. Since the 4th is on a Monday, this year, hard to tell when people will be coming and going, so we decided to have it on noon on the 4th. The parade has been growing and it is a very fun event if you have never done the parade, load up a boat and come check it out.

Our memberships continue to be very strong and please continue to encourage any new people moving to our lake to join the assn.

We are planning on having the

annual fundraiser in mid-August, so we will be coming around selling you some tickets in June/July. We are scheduled for August 13th in Leaf Valley. With Covid still on last year, we had a smaller group, but a very fun group and we raised a great deal of funding for the Lake. Hoping to see you there this year.

There is going to be a major professional Walleye fishing tournament on our lake in early June. Should be lots of excitement on the lake and maybe the pros can catch an elusive Miltona walleye or two.

See you on the lake. Good luck fishing!

Steve DeSutter
President

Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past seven years:

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
421	458	438	456	472	475	488

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

A membership application is available on our website 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.

Annual Fundraiser 2022

Saturday, August 13th, 2022

5:00pm - 10:00pm

This year the event will be held in the

Leaf Valley Townhall

We are planning the event similar to the 2021 fundraiser with a buffet from 5:00-7:00 pm. and Raffle prizes from 7:00- 10:00 pm. Again, your area directors will be selling tickets during the summer at a price of \$20 each – children age 16 and under, accompanied by an adult, will be admitted at no charge.

Northern Pike Regulations go into effect May 11, 2019 for Douglas County



North-central Zone: Bag limit 10 (Not more than 2 over 26". All from 22-26" must be immediately released.) Includes the Alexandria-Glenwood Management Area. Map included in the 2018 Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet or: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/pike/index.html>

Annual Meeting 2022

Miltona Community Center

Saturday, June 4th, 2022

9:00 a.m.

We will also discuss projects we have done and are currently doing. Our guest speaker will be Alex Letvin, the new DNR Fisheries Supervisor at Glenwood. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lake Miltona Ice Dates for the Last 18 Years

Board member Jerry Fulton has kept track of the ice completely on and ice completely out dates for the past 16 years. He is retiring and Jay Sieling is taking it over. Thank You Jerry for a job well done.

ICE ON

Dec 13, 2004
Nov 30, 2005
Dec 1, 2006
Nov 29, 2007
Nov 27, 2008
Dec 5, 2009
Nov 27, 2010
Dec 5, 2011
Dec 8, 2012
Nov 26, 2013
Nov 25, 2014
Dec 19, 2015
Dec 10, 2016
Dec 8, 2017
Nov 13, 2018
Dec 3, 2019
Nov 30, 2020
Dec 7, 2021

ICE OUT

Apr 14, 2005
Apr 10, 2006
Apr 20, 2007
May 4, 2008
Apr 23, 2009
Apr 1, 2010
Apr 26, 2011
Mar 25, 2012
May 14, 2013
Apr 27, 2014
Apr 12, 2015
Mar 31, 2016
May 6, 2017
May 6, 2018
April 24, 2019
April 20, 2020
April 6, 2021
May 4, 2022

Late Ice Out 2022

As of 4/29 there is still some significant ice on the main lake. If it lasts one more day, we may be looking at another ice out date in the month of May. As spring was slow to arrive, and winter kept throwing snow at us, it brought to mind the spring of 2013. That was the latest recorded ice out on Lake Miltona. The ice left on Tuesday, May 14, 2013. That is three days AFTER the fishing opener! Interestingly, the prior year 2012 saw our earliest ice out on March 25. Other late ice outs that went into May occurred May 4, 2008 and May 6, 2018. Given the current conditions and forecast we are not likely to see a repeat of an iced in fishing opener on Lake Miltona. It should be clear by the first couple days of May, giving us almost a dozen days before the opener. I'm sure we are all a bit spoiled as last year was early (April 4). Open water season will arrive and we will make the best of it.

Fish Stocking Report

We received a permit to stock 1000 pounds of walleye fingerlings from the Minnesota DNR in October.

We witnessed the weighing of the fish, and witnessed putting them into the lake this past chilly October.

The fingerling's length of approximately 4-6 inch, we put in around 24-35 fingerlings per pound.

So the total amount is about 35,000 fingerlings. With the DNR limited on stocking due to covid and budgets, we want to continue our supplemental stocking of Lake Miltona to ensure fish are being put in annually on a consistent basis.

We made a commitment to the grower to continue this process for three more years, permitting allowed, and the grower will have fish available for us to put in. We have two more years under this agreement.



Picture taken October 11, 2021

Lake Miltona Pictures to Enjoy



Public Access Signs

These voluntary Catch & Release signs have been put up at the 3 Public Lake Accesses which has been approved by the DNR.



Annual Boat Parade Rules

The Annual Independence Day Boat Parade will be Monday, July 4th starting at Noon. In case of rain, parade will be Tuesday, July 5th at Noon.

It will start at Sandy Beach / North Public Access (See map).

Advance Registration:

Please register in advance of the parade by emailing Julie Hansen at julieh@midwestinfo.net. Julie will assign a registration number that can be printed on 8.5x 11 paper. Make sure the printed number is a large enough font to be read by the judges at about 30 yards. We prefer advance registration, but we will be registering 1 hour before the parade.

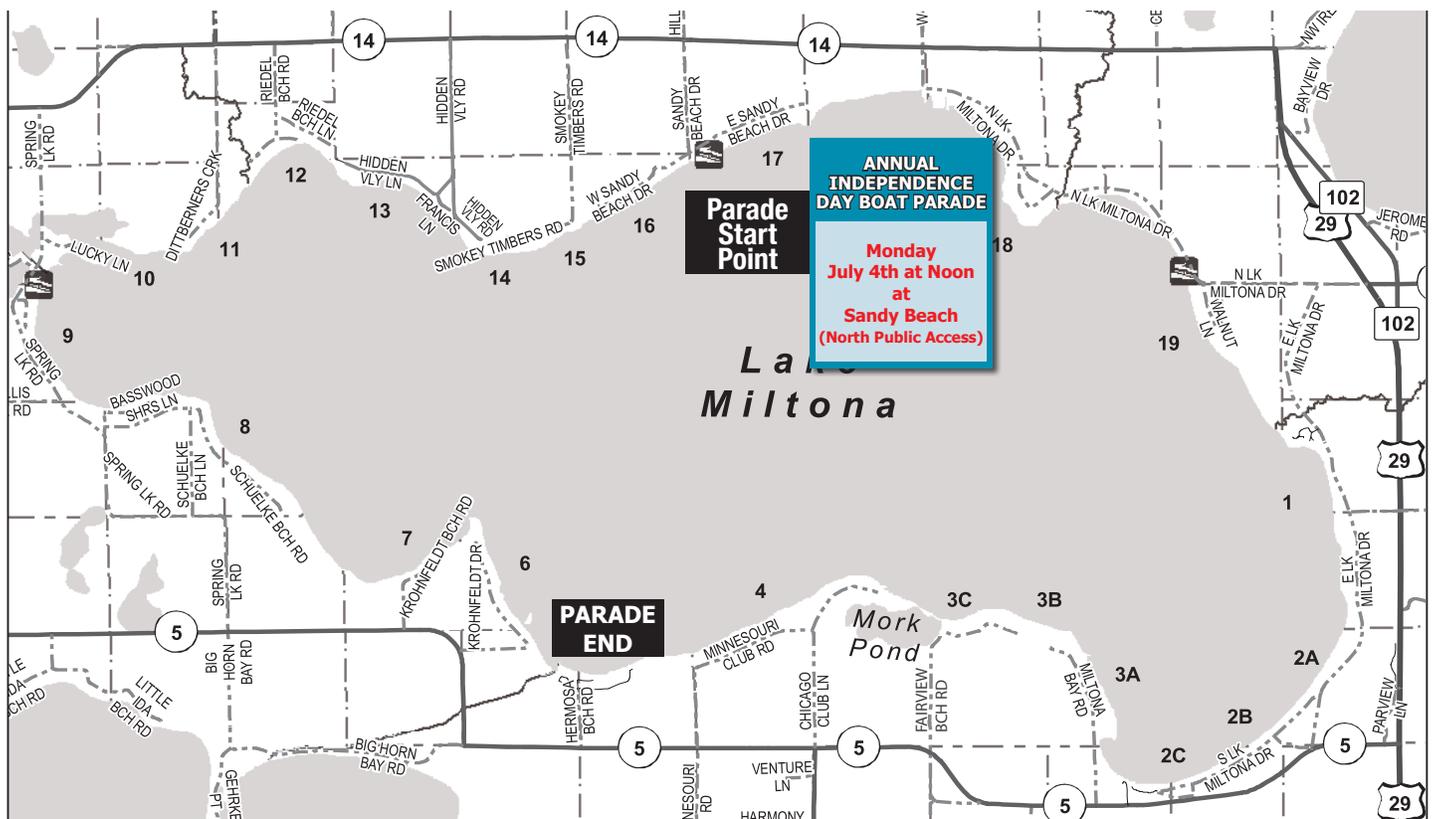
Day of Registration:

Register the day of the parade 1 hour before start time. On July 4th go to Sandy Beach / North Public Access. You will see a sign to register and will be given a registration number.

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 registration number and proceed only when judges wave you on.

Route will be determined the day of the parade due to wind direction. Parade will end at Sand Bar on South side of Lake (Outlet to Ida Lake). First place boat, pontoon, and personal

watercraft wins \$75. 2nd and 3rd place pontoon wins \$25 and 2nd place boat wins \$25. Names will be displayed on a plaque at The Leaf Valley Mercantile under the Busch Light sign County Rd 6 Wall.



Loon Update

This year we will have 6 loon nesting platforms on the lake. There has been successful nesting using 3 of the platforms, which are located on the west end of the lake, by Smokey Timbers, and Tamarac Bay. We believe that we have increased the nesting pairs of loons on the lake by 3. In Tamarac Bay there have only been 2 natural nests in the past 20 years and we have had loons nesting on the platform for the last 4 years. The other 3 nesting platforms will be located by Dittberners Creek, the west side of Tamarac Bay, and the east side of the point between Tamarac Bay and the northeast landing. We redeploy platforms each year depending on loon usage. If a platform is too close to a natural nest, the platform will not be used as it is within the nesting territory of the loons on the natural nest. We have one platform available yet that could be deployed on the lake. If you want to take responsibility for deploying the platform each year please contact Randy Hansen at 320-491-2488.

One of the best ways to encourage loons and other water birds to visit your favorite lakeshore is to allow deadfall trees to remain where they've naturally toppled into the water. Deadfalls attract a variety of aquatic prey, including insects and fish, and water birds often use these structures for fishing. Human anglers may enjoy the benefits of these habitats as well.



We ask as you motor about on the lake, if you see a loon nest or something odd that may in fact be a loon nest, please **DO NOT DRIVE YOUR BOAT RIGHT UP TO IT**. Loon parents, after laying their eggs, have been known to abandon their nest and eggs if they feel threatened.

The platforms are placed near bulrushes in shallow water where bass fishing is popular. Please so not fish by the platforms! Lake Miltona has enough bulrushes not near a loon platform, please be respectful of the loons homes.

Right now, the nest platforms are pretty visible as the bulrushes they've been set within, are not fully grown. But, the loons are claiming their nesting area and preparing to lay their eggs. The loons are fascinating to watch, but **PLEASE** give them plenty of space so they can raise their families safely.



Loons were ready to use the platform this morning as I was moving it in place!!

Nelson Lake Drainage Project

High water in Nelson Lake flooded Otter Tail County Road 6 and farmland. A petition was filed with the Otter Tail County Commissioners to address this issue. In response to this petition, a plan was developed to drain water out of this landlocked lake. Unfortunately, this proposed plan for drainage of Nelson Lake would release impaired water that would flow into Lake Miliona via Dittbarners Creek. After multiple letters to the Otter Tail County Commissioners and a public hearing, this plan was put on hold and the original petitioners withdrew their petition. History of this project and letters written to the Otter Tail County Commissioners concerning this issue can be seen by visiting the following web page:

<https://ottertailcountymn.us/project/nelson-lake-outlet/>.

This project, however, still seems to be an issue of concern to the Otter Tail County Commissioners. The March 15 Otter Tail County Commissioners meeting records a "Motion by Johnson, second by Rogness and unanimously carried to authorize Administration to send a letter on behalf of the Board to Senator Ingebrigtsen and Senator Sundin along with other representation as they see fit, regarding support for \$10 million Local Road Wetland Replacement." (This is a direct quote from the March 15th minutes.) Also, at that same March 15th meeting, there was a committee meeting concerning Nelson Lake. According to information shared, The Commissioners are going to pursue a water quality study to determine the downstream water quality impacts of out letting the lake. They are planning to discuss the water quality study with Douglas County first. As a follow up, we need to continue to monitor the plans for drainage of Nelson Lake due to the potential impact to Lake Miliona and ultimately the rest of the chain of lakes in this Long Prairie River Watershed.

What's the Douglas County Lakes Association Doing"

This spring the DCLA completed a survey of the member associations to see what they would like to see the DCLA focusing on. Not too surprising, the top priority was aquatic invasive species and excessive aquatic plant growth. An example of this problem is the curly leaf pond weed growth in Lake Irene. This is a particularly acute problem on Lake Irene and the control program they have developed for it will be the topic for the June 8th DCLA Board meeting at 4 p.m. at the Douglas County Public Works building. All are invited to attend this presentation or other Board meeting speaker presentations. This is of particular interest to us on Lake Miliona since water drains from Lake Irene into Lake Miliona.

As part of the program to address water quality, the DCLA is starting a pilot program to measure water flow rates into lakes. The DCLA is working with the Legacy of the Lakes Museum on a "Water Talks" series for this summer and on the "We Are Water MN" traveling exhibit that will be in the Museum this summer from Thursday, June 23 to Monday, August 15. The DCLA is continuing its 9 a.m. Open Line programs on KXRA on the second Thursday of every month featuring a variety of water quality topics.

Other activities include representing the DCLA at the One Watershed – One Plan meetings for the Long Prairie River and Chippewa River watersheds and the Chloride Citizen's Advisory Committee for ALASD. The DCLA has two members on the Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund Advisory Committee that provides the necessary matching money to grants obtained for water quality projects in Douglas County. A table on this activity was part of the recent Earth Day program in Alexandria.

Smoke Signals from the Camp

Once again, Smokey Timbers Camp would like to sincerely thank the Lake Miltona Association and the many lake residents who have provided financial support, donations and many volunteer hours. Your generosity is instrumental in helping the camp carry out its mission to provide affordable outdoor experiences for youth and families.

There were activities at the camp this past winter although certainly not as many as in the summer months.

In December the Alexandria Boy Scouts spent a couple of days using the bunkhouse for team building. In February the large yurt was used by camp guests for the first time. Boy Scout Troop 496 spent a few days at camp doing a winter outing.

The second annual Frozen 5K winter event went on as planned in February despite the blustery weather (see pictures below). The participation rate was down from last year, due to the weather, but still more than 50 took part in the activities which included kick sledding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, hiking and trying out the new snow skates. We want to thank Lake Miltona Association for donating food as well the hearty members who donated their time. As one of the volunteers said, it was a challenge keeping the hot dogs hot!

Looking forward to the warmer season, bookings at the camp are very good. Guests are scheduled every weekend from June through August except for one weekend in August. In July even many of the weekdays have been reserved!

A significant amount of work goes into preparing the camp for our summer guests. This work is provided by many volunteers. A couple of groups that have provided volunteer hours are the Skills USA and Law Enforcement Club from Alexandria Technical & Community College. They provide carpentry, small engine service, grounds clean up and beach preparation. In addition to these groups, other youth groups and friends of the camp assist with the preparation. We are grateful for their service!

An update on our building projects. The large yurt is almost 100% complete and is available to use for projects and meetings. A few touch ups, installation of a heating stove and securing tables and chairs remain. The camper cabin and small yurt are on schedule for late spring or early summer. The garage should be completed by late spring or summer. The Smokey Timbers Foundation is grateful to all the people who are making these improvements possible through donations and volunteer labor.

Last year a slingshot range, built as an Eagle Scout project, became available for use by the campers. This year a nine square game is planned along with the possibility of an archery range.

A Swedish tradition called fika is being planned for Wednesday mornings and is open to ALL Smokey Timbers friends. The tradition sets aside time for friends and neighbors to share a cup of coffee or tea, a little something to eat (sweets) and to socialize and get to know each other. **PLAN ON JOINING THE GET TOGETHER** Wednesday mornings.

As always, the Smokey Timbers

web site (smokeytimbers.org), Facebook and Instagram page are available to keep abreast of what's happening at the camp. In addition to fika, classes or presentations on various subjects may be scheduled depending on interest.

Smokey Timbers Foundation relies on several sources for financial, material and volunteer support to enable the camp to carry out its mission. Assistance of any sort for any of the above is gratefully appreciated. Contributions are documented and qualify as tax deductible per IRS code, Section 170. Individuals who are interested in how they can help are encouraged to contact us at 15567 Smokey Timbers RD NW, Miltona, MN 56354 or email smokeytimbers@gmail.com. Additional info is available at smokeytimbers.org.

LMA Volunteers



5K Participants



**LAKE MILTONA
ASSOCIATION**

790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE
Miltona, MN 56354

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Lake Miltona News

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2022 Calendar of Events

June 4	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
July 4	Boat Parade	Noon
July 9	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 13	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 8	Directors Meeting	9:00 am

Smokey Timbers invites you to

FIKA

Wednesdays in June, July, August, 10am

at Smokey Timbers deck or screen porch

15567 Smokey Timbers Road NW

WALK , DRIVE, or BOAT

(limited dock space, but shallow)



What is FIKA?

Fika is often translated as “a coffee and cake break”, which is kind of correct, but really it is much more than that. Fika is a concept, a state of mind, an attitude and an important part of Swedish culture. Many Swedes consider that it is almost essential to make time for fika every day. It means making time for friends to share a cup of coffee (or tea) and a *little something* to eat.

Fika cannot be experienced at your desk by yourself. That would just be taking coffee and cake. Fika is a ritual. Even the mighty Volvo plant stops for Fika. All Swedes consider it important to make time to stop and socialize: to take a pause. It refreshes the brain and strengthens relationships. It builds community.

Whether you are Swedish or not, join us on Wednesdays this summer for Fika- to Fika! There is no cost. Smokey Timbers will put on the coffee, and bake some treats. Come and join us!



Smokey Timbers invites you to mini-camps



Please join us for one or all of our “mini-camps” this summer! We anticipate one every Wednesday this summer, so do check out our website for updated offerings. If you want to host a mini-camp, or know someone who would, let us know! To register, please do so a week ahead of the camp so if we do not have enough registrants, we can cancel ahead of time—as a courtesy to the instructor. Email your interest to: smokeytimbers@gmail.com, and mail a check to: 15567 Smokey Timbers Road NW, Miltona, MN 56354. See you at camp!

Wednesday, June 8, 1pm

Backyard Composting

Join Pope Douglas Recycling for mini-camp class on the benefits, effectiveness, and joy of backyard composting! Learn how to easily turn your refuse into a resource through backyard. Your home’s garden and flower beds will thank you in the spring!

Cost: \$10/family, Age: All ages.

Location: Camp Deck

Wednesday, June 15, 1pm

Needle Felting a Loon

Using a felting needle and loon-colored roving, create a beautiful loon for your cabin. If you aren’t a knitter or crocheter, needle felting may be just the right fiber art for you to try! All materials are provided for you at class time. Level: Beginner

Cost: \$45 (all material included),

Age: 8 +. Limit: 8

Location: Camp Deck

Wednesday, June 15, 9-11pm

(Almost) Full Moon SUP Tour

Ever wondered what it feels like to walk on water? Join Hang Loose MN at Smokey Timbers on Wednesday night, June 15 and find out! We will be paddling under the (almost) full moon! The evening (weather permitting) includes SUP, light up torch paddle, PFD and instruction.

**Cost: \$45, Age: 13 years old +
Limit: 10. Location: Camp Deck**

Wednesday, June 22, 1pm

Woodcarving

Woodcarving can be a wonderful hobby. Come to Smokey Timbers to learn to carve a simple wooden ornament, taught by the great folks at Prairie Woodcarvers. Safety and use of tools will be emphasized. You will be provided with a safety glove that you can keep, and the group will use their tools. Go home with a sweet woodcarving of your very own!

Cost: \$35 Time: 1-4pm

Age: 10+. Limit: 10

Location: Camp Deck

Wednesday, July 13, 9am

Boat & Water Safety

Join us at Smokey Timbers to learn about water safety measures on our beautiful lakes from the Douglas County Water Patrol. Learn everything there is to keep you safe, and get to check out their cool water patrol boat!

Cost: Free, Age: 5 +.

Location: Camp Deck

Wednesdays, June 29, July

**20, August 10, 9:30am, and
12:30pm.**

Let’s Go Fishing!

Itching to get out fishing but don’t have what you need, or know where to fish, or one of many other reasons? Join us on a Let’s Go Fishing excursion! Bring your kids, your grandkids, your

neighbor, or your grandma! The Let’s Go Fishing pontoons are specially designed to provide full accessibility for guests. The pontoons have been designed to accommodate guests by having higher rails, captain’s chairs, and wider door access to accommodate wheelchairs. They provide everything necessary for a fishing or boating tour, including rods, reels, bait, life preservers, and beverages. The only thing you need, if you’re an adult, and if you want to fish, is a Minnesota Fishing License.

**Cost: Free, Age: 4 years old and
+ with adult, Limit: 10**

Location: Smokey Timbers Dock

Wednesday, August 3, 8:30am

Intro to Stand-up Paddle Boarding

Ever wondered what it feels like to walk on water? We can show you! Join Hang Loose MN at Smokey Timbers and head out from there! The afternoon includes SUP, paddle, PFD and instruction. Register soon, maximum of 12 paddlers.

Cost: \$40 Time: 8:30-10:30am

**Age: 10 years old and up
(depending on wind and child’s
strength, 10 and up might be
able to paddle alone. Younger
children can ride with parent)**

Location: Smokey Timbers Dock