

Lake Miltona

lake-miltona.org



FALL

News

November 2015

Volume 1, No. 10

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

OFFICERS:

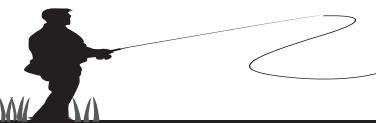
President:	Steve DeSutter
Vice President:	Marc Bot
Treasurer:	Bob Larson
Secretary:	Gene Rose

DIRECTORS:

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

It sure has been an interesting fall on Lake Miltona. We went from having no sightings of zebra mussels a year ago to the explosion of them that occurred as you took out your docks and lifts. It has been widespread across the lake, with no particular areas seemingly being missed. Lifts and dock posts have been covered with them. We knew this was coming and now the grim reality has hit.

That's the bad news. The good news is that on the Alexandria chain of lakes, the trend has been the zebra mussels seem to taper after aggressive growth. We will



wait and see what Mother Nature brings us. Our lake is too large and deep to be treated, so we'll

(Cont. page 2)

MN PWC Rules and Regulations



See article on page 5 for more information about Minnesota's Personal Water Craft Rules & Regulations.

A Message from the President (continued)

wait for the DNR to come up with a plan. In the meantime, we have to learn to deal with our new neighbors.

The low lake levels of this spring were fixed by the rains. Lake clarity is improving, most likely due to the zebra mussels, but also due to reduced runoff. This summer, we had much clearer water than last summer.

We have the new Lake Miltona supporter signs available. All you need to do to get one is do your "score your shore" survey and give it to your director.

The director will get you a new sign. Put it in a proud place and continue to work on making the lake better by following the practices on the "score your shore" guideline. If you do not have a form, they will be on the website.

Membership has remained very strong and we look forward to putting your dues to work to improve the quality of the Lake Miltona experience. Thank you for your support.

Thank You, Steve DeSutter

2015 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 Association and Leaf Valley Mercantile. Prizes were donated by 75 area merchants, worth over \$5,703.

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

Dinner ticket drawing winners:

Rick Gappa \$100, Amanda Brunner \$50 and Mike Prazich \$50

2015 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

1st Place - Mary Ohland
2nd Place - Bob Bezek

Boats - 1st Place - Mike Dutton 2nd Place - Michelle Hines

Jet Ski

1st Place - Conrad Stenglein
2nd Place - Lemonade Kolke

Fundraiser Results

	2015	2014	Variance
INCOME			
Dinner Tickets	6,210	6,952	(742)
Prize Tickets	3,453	3,361	92
Donations	733	909	(176)
Roll the Bones	240	272	(32)
Total income	10,636	11,494	(858)
EXPENSES			
Catering for dinner	4,006	3,900	(106)
Refreshments	787	505	(282)
Prizes	709	1,256	547
Hall rental	200	216	16
Miscellaneous	50	50	-
Total expenses	5,752	5,927	175
Net Earnings for Fundraiser	4,884	5,567	(683)

Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past six years:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
375	410	413	408	437	420

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 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 Meeting

**Saturday, June 11th, 2016
9:00am
Miltona Community Center**

Our annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 11th, 2016 at the Miltona Community Center. We will update you in the Spring newsletter as to which topics and speakers that will be attending.

Zebra Mussel Update

In our Spring 2015 Lake Miltona Association newsletter we reported that the spread of zebra mussels in Lake Miltona was slow. This conclusion was based on the fact that none of our Board members reported finding any zebra mussels on their docks or lifts that were removed from the lake in the fall. However, the zebra mussel situation changed as this summer season progressed. Early this summer a person snorkeling found a few adult zebra mussels in area 3C. Findings of adult zebra mussels in a few other areas followed during the summer. At our fall fundraiser on August 15th people reported finding adult zebra mussels in many areas around the lake. So by then, zebra mussels appeared to be widely distributed in the lake, but we did not know the level of infestation.

In October, the Lake Miltona Association and Smokey Timbers hosted a field study for Marlene Schoeneck's Parkers Prairie High School Advanced Environmental Biology class. One of the projects for the day was a zebra mussel survey of docks and lifts around Lake Miltona. The survey covered sites on the lake including the boat launch on the west end of the lake, several sites around the north and east shore of the lake, and finally the Miltona Bay Estates dock area on Miltona Bay Road. All of the lifts and docks evaluated in this study were heavily infested with adult zebra mussels. The heaviest infestations were on the lower members of the structures, e.g., the cross bars at the bottom of boatlifts or docks, which were often totally covered with zebra mussels. In one case the students estimated that over a thousand zebra mussels covered the lift. However, adult zebra mussels were also found to a lesser extent on the surfaces of the vertical structural members of the lifts and docks and even on their rubber and plastic tires. Thus, not only were the zebra mussels widely distributed

but we are experiencing a very heavy infestation of adult zebra mussels.

We reported these observations to Mark Ranweiler, the DNR Invasive Species Specialist located in Fergus Falls, and discussed what we should do about the zebra mussels on the lifts and docks. He said that we can leave them on the structures, but cleaning them off would prevent a greater buildup of them over the next summer. He said further information concerning storing of lifts and docks or transporting them to another location for storage or repair can be found on the following MN DNR site: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/shoreland_owners.html. This reference also points out that one should not transport any watercraft with zebra mussels, faucet snails, or other prohibited invasive species or aquatic plants attached away from a water access or other shore land property, even if you intend to put it in storage for the winter. So as always, we should "Clean, Drain, and Dry" our watercraft even when they are going to be put in storage.

Mark Ranweiler also provided the following information on the disposal of zebra mussels removed from docks, etc: "One option is disposing of them in the compost pile. The other option is to dig a hole and bury them. If folks did not want to do either of those options there is a general permit available online that allows individuals to transport plant, zebra mussels, etc. to a disposal site as well as a permit for a commercial company to dispose of them such as garbage truck, lawn care service, etc.

Below are the links to the general permits:

Individual: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/ais-auth-form-plants.pdf.

Commercial: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/ais-auth-form-plant_disposal.pdf.

Of course, we are all wondering what

to expect next year. Anecdotal information from folks on Lake Carlos and Lake Le Homme Dieu suggests that the zebra mussel infestation seems to pass through a peak. Whether this year is the peak in our infestation or not is an open question. In the meantime, we expect to see an increase in water clarity that will likely increase the growth of weeds and we may see some change in our fish population. The increase in clarity is due to the filter feeding of the zebra mussels. "Zebra mussels primarily consume phytoplankton, but other suspended material is filtered from the water column including bacteria, protozoans, zebra mussel veligers, other microzooplankton and silt." (Reference: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?speciesid=5>). This reference also states that there is evidence that zebra mussels can reduce the growth rate of larval fish. The MN DNR Investigational Report 467, 1998 states that many studies have documented the effects of changes in the zooplankton community on fish populations. Therefore, we might expect to see some impact on our fish population as a result of our zebra mussel infestation.

At the present time there is no known treatment to eradicate or reduce the zebra mussels in large bodies of water such as Lake Miltona. We plan to continue to monitor our water clarity, water composition and our vertebrate and invertebrate populations. Our expectation is that we should be able to continue to have good walleye fishing on Lake Miltona through our stocking program and our program of vigilance to maintain and/or improve our water quality.

A special thanks for the work by Marlene Schoeneck's Environmental Biology class for data collection and interpretation of the status of the zebra mussel infestation in Lake Miltona. We look forward to continuing our program of water quality evaluations with them.

Fundraiser Donor List 2015

3M	Gas Mart Miltona	Northland Dairy & Polaris
Advanced Irrigation	Geneva Golf Course	Ollies Service
Alex Rubbish	Henry's	Polished Looks
Alexandria Country Club	Herbie's Bar and Grill	REA
American Heritage Hunting Club	Iverson Insurance	Relax and Unwind
Aqua Marine	Jim and Judy's	RND Computers
Arrowwood	Juettner Motors	Ron's Warehouse Sales
Bettin Pest Control	Klimek Bros Well Drilling	Royal Tire
Boomerang Sports	L&O plumbing and Heating	Scherer Printing
Border States Electric	Lake Miltona Golf	Shooting Star Casino
Brenton Engineering	Lakes Gas	Spruce Center Bait
Bug A Boo Bay Resort	Leaf Valley Mercantile	Star Liquor
Bullet Lawn Care	Leaf Valley Sportsmen	Stubs Marine
Casey's Amusement Park	Life Quest Chiropractic	Tastefully Simple
Cashwise Liquor	Lindsay Ecowater	Tennessee Roadhouse
Central Lakes Restaurant Supply	LJ's	The Old Mill
Central Marine & Sports	LMA	Tires Associates
Chet's Lakeside Inn	Mall of America	Viking Bay Resort
CJP Services	Marc and Rhonda Bot	Viking Office
Cub Foods	Miltona Bay Estates	Wendie VanKirk-Edina Realty
Cullen's Home Center	Miltona Blacksmith	Woodland Resort
Don Henning Excavating	Miltona Custom Meats	
Doolittles	Miltona Grocery	
Down On the Corner	Miltona Liquor	
Elden's Food Fair	Miltona Meats	
Fine Line Laser Design	MJ	
Focus Financial	Mn Lakes Realty/G. & D. Reiner	

Thank You to these
Merchants who provided
over \$5,703 in prizes to
our 2015 fundraiser.
Please support them!

Fish Stocking Report

Our board approved plans to stock 1000 lbs of walleye fingerlings this year, the same as last year. This is 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. Our goal is to continue this secondary stocking level, but will need your continued financial support. We did receive a large increase in support last spring during

our membership drive. Thank you for supporting this initiative; it is the Lake Miltona Association's single largest budget item every year. Fall shocking counts were much improved over previous years, and the stocking seems to be working well. Fishing was pretty decent last year with many positive reports. We want to continue to be consistent in 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!

Vacation Home Rentals

According to David Rush, Director, Douglas County Land and Resource Management, the county has no current policy on vacation rentals but they are compiling a list of VRBOs including capacity, wastewater systems, etc. Some action will be taken this fall/winter. Check the next newsletter for an update.

A Tribute to Dick and Sharon Kuehn

Dick Kuehn, the Lake Association's longtime leader and mentor, passed away on August 19th after a long, admirable confrontation with pancreatic cancer. Throughout their retirement years and permanent resident time here on the lake which began in 1991, Dick and his constant dedicated sidekick (a.k.a. as wife) Sharon, have enhanced the quality of life in this area in countless ways. Both of them, despite the health issues they have been confronted with in recent years, continued in their resolve to actively participate in making life better here for everyone. Dick's work here is done. Sharon continues the resolve.

Dick and Sharon together tirelessly

worked to rescue, operate, and improve Smokey Timbers Camp. Both of them have been constant stalwarts in Miltona's Faith Lutheran Church and in its services to the community. Dick had many leadership roles there including that of Council President until very recently. The creation and effectiveness of Team Miltona, the community's promotional outreach, was very important to Dick as is Sharon's commitment to her part in Douglas County Hospice.

The stewardship of Lake Miltona, as well as all lakes in our area and beyond, was a constant passion for Dick. He vividly understood everyone's role and responsibility to take care of the gifts we have been given and to preserve and improve them for future generations. He played his commitment out through his lengthy active participation in

leadership positions in the Lake Miltona Association, including over 10 years as its President, as well as through his leadership as President of the Douglas County Lakes Association.

During his years as LMA President there were a number of difficult challenges – muskie issues, sewer system controversy, aging leadership, invasive species and enhanced water quality challenges, varying fish stocking opinions and objectives, mission and identity clarification – to name a few. Dick accepted all of the challenges in stride; the Association is measurably more mature and effective today, and in the hands of new, well mentored, very capable leadership. It will forever be grateful for Dick's guidance and dedication.

MN PWC Rules and Regulations

With the 2015 boating season in the books, we thought it an appropriate time to recap the Minnesota laws that govern personal watercraft (PWC) operation. Every owner and operator, regardless of age, has a legal responsibility to know and abide by these laws. Per the Minnesota DNR, PWC's are considered motorboats and therefore are required to adhere to the rules that regulate other motorized boats. In addition:

- No one under the age of 13 may operate a PWC, not even with an adult on board.
- At age 13, the operator is required to EITHER have someone at least 21 on board OR obtain a watercraft operator's permit AND have someone at least 21 in visual sight of the operator.
- Age 14-17 requires EITHER a watercraft operator's permit OR someone at least 21 on board.

- All persons on board and being pulled must wear a USCG Type I, II, III or V life jacket.
- An operable, USCG approved, fire extinguisher must be on board.
- Operation of a PWC is restricted to the hours between 9:30 AM and one hour before sunset.
- An engine cutoff lanyard MUST be in place and attached to the operator, life vest or swim suit.
- When towing "skiers", "boarders" or "tubers", an additional person MUST be on board to act as an observer. The ONLY exception is if the PWC has factory installed, wide angle mirrors.
- You MAY NOT travel faster than minimum wake speed (5 mph or less), within 150 feet of moored, anchored or non-motorized boats, shore, docks, swimmers, swim areas, rafts, diver flags or floating and/or emergent vegetation. The ONLY exception is when launching or landing someone being pulled and then it must be done by the most direct route to or from open water.
- You MAY NOT jump the wake of other watercraft (including PWC's), within 150 feet of the craft.
- You MAY NOT weave through congested traffic or operate in a manner that the PWC wake endangers or harasses other people or property.
- You MAY NOT operate a PWC carelessly or recklessly as to endanger life, limb or property.
- You MAY NOT operate a PWC backwards, harass wildlife or tamper with the throttle.
- A rules decal must be affixed to the PWC and remain in plain sight of the operator.

Be a smart, educated and courteous operator. Know the rules. It's the law for many minors to obtain boating certification. It's smart, easy, inexpensive and completed online. Some insurance companies even offer premium discounts to policy holders who have obtained a boater's certificate. Check with your agent to see if they offer such discounts.

LAKE MILTONA

ASSOCIATION

790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE

Miltona, Minnesota 56354



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Lake Miltona News

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2016 Calendar of Events

January 9	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
April 9	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
June 11	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
July 9	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 13	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 8	Directors Meeting	9:00 am