

# Lake Miltona



# FALL News

November 2022

lake-miltona.org

Volume 1, No. 16

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
Mark Stenglein	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

Lake Miltona has seen it's share of weather peaks and valleys, and seems to have normalized to regular depth and waiting for freeze up.

Remains very strong and seems to be trending upwards toward 500 members.

We are very excited to report that we have stocked walleye's this fall. We put in 1000 lbs of walleye fingerlings in October. This amounts to approximately 30,000

fingerlings. Fingerling's average 4-7" in length, so pretty decent sized fish to get a good start on the fishery. So, please remember that as you receive your dues letters, that donating to the fish stocking fund goes directly into fish that go into our lake. The Association is proceeding with doing the research to increase our stocking. However, fish stocking is not getting cheaper, so we need to increase our stocking account to accommodate the increased number of fish we want to put in. We are hoping to get to 1500 lbs annually of fingerlings. We are convinced that to continue good fishing, we need to restock regularly. We continue to receive wonderful support from the local sportsman's clubs to assist us

with our stocking budgets. But at the end of the day, it is up to the membership to support increased amount. We cannot rely on outside sources as our main funding options. Please consider this as you write out your membership checks....

If anyone has suggestions for the Lake Association, please feel free to contact your local board member and they can bring to suggestions to the association. Your input is what gets projects done!

Keep warm this winter and see you on this ice.

Steve DeSutter  
President

## 2022 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 Leaf Valley Mercantile. The awards were as follows:

**Pontoon** 1<sup>st</sup> Place - MacheRenna Family  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Bischoff Family  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Tate Family

### Jet Ski

1<sup>st</sup> Place  
 Jake & Jordan Fier

### Boats

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Ostendorf Family  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Andy & Emily Burkner

## Fish Stocking

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 mild October. Water temperature was the warmest it has been since we started fall fish stocking.

With the fish length of approximately 4-7 inch fingerlings, we put in around 30,000 fingerlings.

Fish were stocked at the Sandy Beach north access and a private access on the west end. With the warmer water, the grower suggested that we use shallow water to put in the fingerlings this year.

We made a commitment to the grower to continue this process for three more years, permitting allowed, and will have fish available for us to put in. We have two more years under this agreement. The first agreement was in conjunction with the Lake Ida association, but this time we are on our own, as they did not want to commit to three more years of stocking.

The process went wonderfully so we look forward to continuing this process.

The two members of the DNR that we had been dealing with, regionally and locally, have both retired and we are looking forward to meeting the new DNR officials and hopefully we can have them at a LMA meeting in the future to discuss their thoughts and expectations for the Lake Milona fishery. (See Pictures on Page 3 we stocked this fall of 2022.)

## Fundraiser Results

	2022	2021	Increase/ (Decrease)
<i>Dinner Ticket Sales</i>	402	509	(107)
Dinner Ticket Revenue	\$ 8,040	\$ 10,180	(2,140)
Raffle Ticket Revenue	\$ 3,462	\$ 2,690	772
Half -- Hog Raffle	\$ -	\$ 398	(398)
50/50 Raffle	\$ 600	\$ 620	(20)
Booze Raffle	\$ 516	\$ 875	(359)
Donations w/tickets	\$ 340	\$ 10	330
Donations Other	\$ -	\$ 100	(100)
Auctions/Other Raffles	\$ 340	\$ 222	118
Beer Donations	\$ 248	\$ 368	(120)
Roll the Bones	\$ -	\$ 185	(185)

<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 13,546</b>	<b>\$ 15,648</b>	<b>(2,102)</b>
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Catering	\$ (5,394)	\$ (6,500)	\$ 1,106
LV Merc	\$ (750)	\$ (470)	\$ (280)
Other Expenses	\$ (600)	\$ (723)	\$ 123

<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ (6,744)</b>	<b>\$ (7,693)</b>	<b>\$ 949</b>
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<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 6,802</b>	<b>\$ 7,955</b>	<b>\$ (1,153)</b>
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50.21%      50.84%

Other Expense:  
 Gambling Permit  
 Raffle Booze

## Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past eight years:

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
421	458	467	457	471	475	487	488+

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

**A membership application is available on our website [lake-milona.org](http://lake-milona.org)**

**or contact us at**

**790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE  
 Milona, MN 56354**

Lake Milona 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.

## 2022 Fundraiser Winners

The Association thanks all who attended the fundraiser. A great buffet was provided by Clarissa Ballroom in Clarrisa, MN Catering. Prizes were donated by 65 area merchants, worth \$6,908.

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

**2022 Dinner ticket drawing winners:**

Gary Thompson (donated back) - \$100,  
 Brenda Alexander - \$50  
 Bob Kigin - \$50

## Walleyes this Season, Next Season and for Generations to Come

### This Season

The Lake Miliona Association (LMA) (Association) received a permit from the DNR to stock 1000 pounds of fingerling walleyes this 2022 season. Approximately 30,000 fingerlings were stocked on October 7, 2022, divided about equally at each of the three public boat accesses. Thank you to all of the LMA members for your donations to the walleye stocking fund, and thank you to the Sportsmen's Clubs in Parker's Prairie, Carlos and Leaf Valley for your continued support.

At the LMA Board Meeting held October 8, 2022, a resolution was passed to "take steps to increase annual walleye stocking beginning in 2023."



### Next Season

Three things must come together to accomplish increased walleye stocking: (1) A grower who can supply the desired amount of walleye fingerlings; (2) Financial support to pay the grower and (3) Permit from the DNR.

In prior years, walleye stocking was limited because of a shortage of walleye fingerlings from fish farms. In 2021, LMA entered a three-year contract to secure priority with a local grower for 1000 pounds of fingerlings in 2021, 2022 and 2023. This local grower now has the capacity to increase our annual fingerling stocking.

Because of the previous walleye fingerling supply shortage, the Association has not pursued targeted fundraising for walleye stocking for several years. Local Sportsmen's Clubs in Parker's Prairie, Carlos and Leaf Valley, along with the donations that come through the annual LMA dues process has covered expenses to date. See related article for information on how you can financially support the goal of increasing annual walleye stocking.

Now that the Association has reliable access to an increased number of fingerlings, and if fundraising efforts are successful, the Association will apply for a permit with the DNR to increase the walleye fingerling stocking beginning with the 2023 season.

### For Generations to Come

One of the reasons the walleye population is decreasing in Lake Miliona is the erosion and degrading that has taken place in the largest natural spawning area of the lake, Dittbarners Creek.

The Association believes one of the long-term ways to increase walleye population in the lake is to restore Dittbarners Creek to the optimal spawning habitat it once was. Walleye spawn over rock, rubble, gravel and similar substrate in shallows of water one to six feet deep.

Several agencies within the DNR must work together to accomplish the restoration of Dittbarners Creek. The culvert for Dittbarners Creek to flow under Dittbarners Creek Road needs to be replaced to facilitate movement of the spawning walleye upstream. Also, water quality flowing through the creek needs to be addressed, as well as restoring the bed of Dittbarners Creek. The Association is working with the DNR on this important project. Watch for updates in future newsletters, and for information on how you can support this significant restoration so the next generation of fishing enthusiasts can experience walleye fishing at its best.

### DNR Stocking in Lake Miliona

In addition to the walleye fingerling stocking that the Lake Miliona Association performs, the DNR also stocks fish in Lake Miliona. According to the DNR website, the DNR stocked 2,759,000 walleye fry (24.5 pounds) in Lake Miliona in 2021. As of the time of this Newsletter publication 2022 information was not posted on the DNR website.

What is the difference between walleye fingerlings and walleye fry?

Walleye fry are the size of a small mosquito. Walleye fingerlings, harvested in the fall, are four to six inches in length.

As soon as spawn assume the shape of the fish and grow to about 1-2 cm they are known as fry. At this stage they are primarily smaller size zooplankton feeder.

Walleyes harvested at a total length of 1.25 to 3 inches in June to early July are called "summer fingerlings", or "phase I fingerlings." Fish raised to the end of the growing season are called "fall fingerlings" or "phase II fingerlings."

### Donate

To financially support increasing the walleye fingerling stocking in Lake Miliona starting in 2023, please increase your support on the Annual Dues collection in the spring, or send a check to:

**Lake Miliona Association**  
**790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE**  
**Miliona, MN 56354**

Please make your check payable to Lake Miliona Association and note in the memo line you would like the donation to go towards Walleye Stocking.

## Fundraiser Donor List 2022

Alex Shooting Park	Gate City Bank	Nordic Trails Golf
Alexandria Movie Theater	Great Hunan	Ollies Service
American Heritage Hunting Club	Greystone Golf	Paul's small engine
Aqua Marine	Hardwood Hills Golf Course	Prairie Archery
Arrowwood resort - Golf	Henry's Foods/Brothers Market	Qdoba
Betterman Taxidermy	Herby's Bar and Grill	REA
Bob and Bobbie Larson	Hilltop Lumber	Ron's Warehouse Sales
Boomerang Sports	Holiday Inn	Rose City bar and grill
Borch's Sporting Goods	Iverson Insurance	Sammy's One Stop
Bowling Barn and Grill	Jim and Judy's	Scherer Printing
Bremer Bank	Juettner Motor	Spruce Center Bait
Bullet Lawn Care	Klugs Fish Farm	Stubs Marine
CarlosCreekWinery/22Northmen	L&O plumbing and Heating	Tastefully Simple
Carol McCarthy	Lake Miltona Golf	The Dog House
Chet's Lakeside Inn	Lakes Gas	The Old Mill
Coldwell Banker	Leaf Valley Mercantile	Wade's Miltona Service
Competitive Edge motor sports	Life Quest Chiropractic	Wendie Vankirk/Edina Realty
Dick's Standard/Gappa Oil	Living tree massage	
Don Henning Excavating	LJ's	
Down On the Corner	Lund Boats	
Elden's Food Fair	Miltona Blacksmith	
First Western Bank	Miltona Liquor	
Focus Fitness Yoga	Miltona meats	
Fortwengler Electric	Napa Auto	

**Thank You** to these Merchants who provided over **\$6908.00** in prizes to our 2022 fundraiser. **Please support them!**

### Lake Miltona Ice-on, Ice-off for the past 18 Years.



<b>ICE ON</b>	<b>ICE OUT</b>
DEC 7, 2021	MAY 4, 2022
NOV 30, 2020	APR 6, 2021
DEC 3, 2019	APR 20, 2020
NOV 13, 2018	APR 24, 2019
DEC 8, 2017	MAY 6, 2018
DEC 10, 2016	APR 3, 2017
DEC 19, 2015	MAR 31, 2016
NOV 25, 2014	APR 12, 2015
NOV 26, 2013	APR 27, 2014
DEC 8, 2012	MAY 14, 2013
DEC 5, 2011	MAR 25, 2012
NOV 27, 2010	APR 26, 2011
DEC 5, 2009	APR 1, 2010
NOV 27, 2008	APR 23, 2009
NOV 29, 2007	MAY 4, 2008
DEC 1, 2006	APR 20, 2007
NOV 30, 2005	APR 10, 2006
DEC 13, 2004	APR 14, 2005

## Smoke Signals from the Camp

The 2022 season at Smokey Timbers Camp is now winding down. It was a very successful year despite a couple of storms that caused some damage early in the season.

Our mission is to provide camping and outdoor experiences for youth (includes college age) and families. The mission was accomplished. There were approximately 1500 guests at the camp this season of which about 75% were kids. The Miltona Scouts started the season the weekend of February 25th and the Alexandria Webelo Scouts finished out the camping schedule on the weekend of October 8th. Keep in mind Smokey Timbers is now a year round facility and is available for winter use!

There were additional activities this year that kept the activity level at the camp very high. On each Wednesday morning a Fika (Swedish for morning coffee break and treats) get together was sponsored. There were also mini camps held that included first aid for kids, paddle boarding, woodcarving, needle felting, boat and water safety and others.

In August, the annual fish fry was held. It was a success. We would like to thank all who participated and made good will donations to the camp.

The last activity scheduled was the Halloween "Trail of Treats" and "Spooky Hike" which were held on October 29th. Both were a huge success. The Trail of Treats is for the younger kids and was held in the afternoon. Close to 300 youngsters, along with their families and friends, participated. Judging by their smiles and excitement, the afternoon was a hit! The Spooky Hike was in the evening for the older kids who were looking for a "SCARY" experience. There were close to 200 participants and their expectations were met! The Smokey Timbers board would like to sincerely thank all the

sponsors and volunteers who provided time, funding and supplies that helped make this so successful!! There are too many to name.

In addition to the normal camping activities, we sustained storm damage from the spring storms. Trees were lost, a picnic shelter, picnic tables and the playhouse were damaged as well as the dock and stairs to the lake. A project is underway to replace the stairs and repair the dock before next season. A project sponsor will be covering a majority of the costs for the stairs with the remaining funding to be secured yet.

Looking ahead, the first event planned for 2023 is a Winter Fun Day. At this event, kids and families can enjoy winter activities including hiking, skating, snow shoeing and kick sledding. This outing is being planned for February 25, 2023. Check the [smokeytimbers.org](http://smokeytimbers.org) web site or Facebook page the beginning of 2023 for specifics.

**Once again, Smokey Timbers Camp would like to sincerely thank the Lake Miltona Association, the many lake residents, and friends of the camp who have provided support to the camp. The financial donations not only help offset the operating costs but provide support for capital projects and unplanned maintenance. Much appreciated labor was also provided to open and clean up the camp in the spring and winterization in the fall as well as many summer projects.**

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 [smokeytimbers@gmail.com](mailto:smokeytimbers@gmail.com). Additional info is available at [smokeytimbers.org](http://smokeytimbers.org).



## Website Under Construction



The Lake Milton Association website (<http://lake-miltona.org/>) is currently under construction. We are moving to a newer technology that will allow for faster page loads, I-cloud file storage, improved maintenance -- and it will better meet today's scalability requirements (the same design will look great on a huge computer screen and/or a small handheld device). Even though the event and meeting dates are (or will soon be out of date, the board has decided to leave the website accessible to lake members, and the public, so that other parts of the website can be accessed. We are currently awaiting a fiber optic hookup. Once the fiber optic hookup is complete, we will begin to rebuild our new look and feel. We are hopeful that next spring will bring warm weather and a brand new website. We thank you in advance for your patience.

## Dittberners Creek Update

While there are multiple sub-projects under the main Dittberner Creek project the two main activities concerning us are: (1) Replacing the culvert for flow under Dittberners Creek Road. For this project an engineering report to accomplish has been completed. Sizing of this culvert in this plan is a concern because of a possible increase in creek flow rate due to a proposed replacement of the culvert under CO RD 14. Therefore, the plan is going to be reviewed sometime later this fall after the fall stocking season slows down. An application for a grant to support this project is part of this project. (2) The second major concern is the proposed drainage of Nelson Lake, which would bring impaired water into Dittberners Creek. Nothing more has been heard from the Otter Tail County Commissioners about this plan. It may no longer be under consideration because the water level in Nelson Lake is now low. We plan to continue to watch for any information concerning this potential project.

## News from the Douglas County Water Lakes Association

The DCLA recently initiated two new projects: (1) A Walleye Committee has just been formed. The objective of this committee is to review stocking programs and requirements to determine how best to maintain adequate walleye populations in our lakes. The representative to this committee from our lake association is Jay Sieling. (2) A water flow meter has been purchased by the DCLA. It is being used as part of a study of water flow rate and phosphorus concentration measurements of streams entering some of our lakes. These data obtained will be used to determine phosphorus loading in these lakes. This activity is a pilot program that may lead to a broader program. Some years earlier, we did this study on Lake Miltona. We could use this instrument to do an update on this study.

Two more Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund projects have been completed this fall and three more applications for matching grants are expected. If you'd like more details on these projects, please let Gene Rose know. A summary sheet of the projects is available.

The DCLA is continuing the 9 a.m. Open Line programs on KXRA on the second Thursday of each month featuring a variety of water quality topics. If you have a topic that you'd like to explore please let Gene Rose or Steve Henry, President of the DCLA know.

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 10th, 2023  
9:00am**

**Milona Community Center**

Our annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 10th, 2023 at the Milona Community Center. We will update you in the Spring newsletter as to which topics and speakers that will be attending.

# LAKE MILTONA

ASSOCIATION

790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE

Miltona, MN 56354



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US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #3876  
TWIN CITIES, MN

# Lake Miltona News

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## 2023 Calendar of Events

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