

Lake Miltona



SPRING News

May 2024

lake-miltona.org

Volume 1, No. 32

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

OFFICERS:

President:	Steve DeSutter
Vice President:	Shannon Burgad
Treasurer:	Chad Koebnick
Secretary:	Janet Quinn

DIRECTORS:

Mark Neidenfuer	Area 1
John Fair	Area 2A
Janet Zastrow	Area 2B
John Fay	Area 2C
Jeff Anderson	Area 3A
Vern Suhr	Area 3B
Gene Rose	Area 3C
Steve Herth	Area 4

DIRECTORS continued:

Matt Edstrom	Area 5
Shannon Burgad	Area 6
Bob Streasick	Area 7
Janet Guinn, Gary Fuchs	Area 8
Jay Sieling	Area 9
Jay Sieling	Area 10
TBA	Area 11
Mike Wrobel, Warren Davis	Area 12
Ted Boehne, Tom & Cheryl Brauer	Area 13
Tom Struthers	Area 14
Brad Roberts	Area 15
Steve Labatt	Area 16
Steve DeSutter, Chad Koebnick, Tim Kaatz	Area 17
Randy Hansen	Area 18
Don Henning	Area 19

A Message from the President

We had a unique winter, with very little snow and ice on the lake. The ice went out in mid-March, which we have never seen before. Our lake level suffered with lack of fall & winter moisture. We have made up some of the low water with abundant spring rains.

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 look forward to

seeing you. 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 Thursday, this year, it is hard to tell when people will be coming and going, so we decided to have it at 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 your watercraft 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 association.

We are planning on having the annual fundraiser August 10th, again at the Leaf Valley Townhall. Area directors will be coming around selling tickets in June/July. Hoping to see you there this year.

With the lack of ice fishing last winter, due to such a poor ice conditions, we are hoping for robust walleye fishing season this year.

See you on the lake. Good luck fishing & enjoying the lake!

Steve DeSutter

President

Paid Memberships

Membership trend over the past seven years:

<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
438	456	472	475	488	488	455

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, ecological balance and education. DONATIONS AND DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. See IRS Publication 526.

NEW Yard Signs for Annual Meeting and Annual Fundraiser

The Association will be placing these yard signs along roads around the lake 6 days before the Annual Meeting and 6 days before the Annual Fundraiser to remind shore owners of these important events.



LAKE MILTONA ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday 9AM
MILTONA COMMUNITY CENTER



LAKE MILTONA ASSOCIATION

FUNDRAISER
Saturday 5PM
LEAF VALLEY TOWN HALL

Lake Miltona Ice Dates for the Last 18 Years

Board members have been keeping track of the ice completely on and ice completely out dates for many years. Jay Sieling has done this for the last 3 years. Lets encourage him to continue.

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
Dec 1, 2022
Jan 4, 2024 (* Yes 2024)

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
May 5, 2023
Mar 16, 2024

Annual Fundraiser 2024

Saturday, August 10th, 2024
5:00pm - 10:00pm

This year the event will be held in the
Leaf Valley Townhall

We are planning the event similar to the 2023 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.

Annual Meeting 2024

Miltona Community Center

Saturday, June 1st, 2024

9:00 a.m.

This Yard sign will be placed out on roads leading to and from the lake shore owners 6 days prior to the meeting.



MN Personal Watercraft Rules and Regulations

With the 2024 boating season underway, 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 the 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. See: <https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>. Additionally:

- 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 the 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.

MN Personal Watercraft Rules and Regulations (Cont)

- When towing "skiers", "tubers" or "boarders", an additional person MUST be onboard 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, 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 (<https://www.boaterexam.com/usa/minnesota/>). It's smart, easy, inexpensive and completed online. Check with your insurance agent as some companies even offer premium discounts to policy holders who have obtained a boater's certificate.

Dittberners Creek Culvert Update

The objective of this culvert project is to improve the opportunities for fish spawning in Dittberners Creek by allowing fish to navigate more easily upstream and to reduce sediment wash out from the bank downstream that ultimately flows into Lake Miltona. Our Fall 2023 Newsletter update on this Dittberners Creek culvert project recorded that the original engineering plan for this project needed to be updated. This update has now been completed.

The options in the updated plan were reviewed by the Douglas County Soil & Water and the DNR Fisheries and the details of the final plan have been agreed upon. A Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant proposal to support this plan will be written by the Douglas County Soil & Water District. The submission date for this grant is late summer/early fall of 2024. A CPL grant requires ten percent matching funds. Assuming the completed grant proposal is accepted, the Lake Miltona Association Board will discuss options of how to provide the required matching funds.

Loon Update

This year we 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. The other 3 nesting platforms are in the following locations; the west end of the Gold Coast, south side mid-lake (Chicago Club Road), and the point west of 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 natural loon nesting territory. If you want to take responsibility for deploying a platform each year please contact Randy Hansen at 320-491-2488.

Please, 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 do not fish by the platforms! Lake Miltona has enough bulrushes not near a loon platform, please be respectful of the loon 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.



Fish Stocking Report

We received a permit to stock 1500 pounds of walleye fingerlings from the Minnesota DNR last October. We witnessed the weighing of the fish, and witnessed putting them into the lake this chilly October. With the fingerling length of approximately 4-6 inches, we put in around 24-35 fingerlings per pound. So the total amount of fingerlings put in was about 50,000.

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.

For this year, the board has approved to go back to stocking 1000 pounds of fingerlings. This was due to our available funds. Please consider donating extra money with your dues to our fish stocking account. With your continued support, we are hoping to extend the amount of fish stocked, in the future.



Own Your Wake

Be considerate of your lake neighbors, anglers and other boating enthusiasts. Know and abide by the laws governing legal and safe operation of your watercraft. Try not to operate for long periods in a small area. Instead, do your driving/riding out in the lake and away from shore and other boaters.

Large wakes produced by some watercraft (i.e., "wake" boats, ski boats and certain PWC's) operated at certain speeds can cause a number of negative impacts. Those include:

Shoreline erosion, which results in impaired water quality and property loss.

Damage to others' property, including docked boats.

Hazards to public safety both on the water (swimmers, paddlers) and on shore.

Lake Miltona Association Webpage

The 2023 Fall LMA Newsletter reported that our LMA webpage could no longer be updated and it described options for our Board to address this issue. After reviewing the options listed in the fall newsletter, the board chose to convert our current webpage to a new platform. While doing this conversion, much needed updating and new features are being added. In addition to this process an ongoing 1-year maintenance program plus domain hosting by a local business will be part of this program. The good news is that this conversion process is nearly finished. Our new webpage should be available for our use by our annual meeting. We will be able to access it using the same host name.

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.

The camp has been busy preparing for the upcoming season of campers and other activities. The season kicks off with the boy scouts. After the scouts, the camp is booked for most of the remaining weekends.

Smokey Timbers will also be offering mini-camps covering various topics and classes. These will be offered Wednesdays throughout the summer. The topics include; How to Catch a Musky, Gourmet Outdoor Cooking, Creating a Potted Planter, Sourdough for Beginners as well as other subjects. There is a fee to cover the cost of the instruction as well as materials. Go to smokeytimbers.org for more details.

Also, every Wednesday morning, beginning June 5th, a get together featuring coffee, tea, pastries and friendship is scheduled at 10:00 am

on the screened patio deck. These are called Fika and are based on a Swedish tradition of sharing treats and offering the opportunity to meet and converse with neighbors. There is no charge although a goodwill donation would be accepted. Presentations on various topics will also be offered periodically. All Smokey Timbers neighbors on and off the lake are invited. **PLAN ON JOINING THE GET TOGETHER** Wednesday mornings. Again, go to smokeytimbers.org for more details.

A significant amount of work goes into preparing the camp for our summer guests. This work is provided by many volunteers. The Smokey Timbers board would like to thank the Law Enforcement Club from Alexandria Technical & Community College as well as other friends of the camp who helped in this preparation. We are grateful for their service!

Our projects for this summer include; building wood storage units for various camp sites, repair roofing issues on the bunk house and complete work on the garage storage facility. This is in addition to the normal maintenance requirements. The Smokey Timbers Foundation is grateful to all the people who are making these improvements possible through donations and volunteer labor.

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 including Fika or the mini-camps.

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.

Aquatic Invasive Species Information

The Douglas County Lake Association (DCLA) is a nonprofit organization that collaborates with area lake associations, businesses, and stakeholders at the local, regional, and state level, to preserve and protect our lake assets.

One of the ways in which we work to protect our lakes is through education. The goal is to share resources that will help you identify aquatic invasive species (AIS), understand why it's important to know what AIS are, and what to do should you find them.

What is an aquatic invasive species (AIS)?

- AIS are plants, animals and diseases that do not naturally occur in our waters and may cause harm to the environment, economy, human health, or natural resources.¹

Do AIS exist in Douglas County lakes? YES

- AIS have been found in Douglas County lakes. Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Flowering Rush, Zebra Mussels and Signal Crayfish have been identified to date.

What are the negative effects of AIS in Douglas County lakes? MANY

- AIS can dominate and outcompete native species
- AIS reduce recreational opportunities in lakes due to an increased amount of plant growth

- Managing AIS is costly

How are AIS spread? TOO EASILY

- Docks, boat lifts, weed rollers or swim rafts when they are moved to other lakes (state law requires these to be out of water 21 days before being put in another body of water)

- Disruption (e.g. picking, raking, cutting, etc.)

- Watercraft and trailers

- Live wells, bilge

Why is AIS education occurring at this time? THE SOONER THE BETTER

- The recent introduction of commercial mechanical plant harvesting in Douglas County lakes has created a need to educate lakeshore property owners about AIS. Depending on the plant being harvested, risk could be created resulting in an increase in plant growth density and abundance. For example, Eurasian watermilfoil establishes through fragmentation. A fragment can break off, settle in sediment, grow roots and establish a new plant.²

Once found in a lake, are AIS expensive to manage? IT'S MORE EXPENSIVE THE LONGER WE WAIT.

- Lake Irene, located in northeastern Douglas County, has invested nearly \$310,000 to manage Curly Leaf Pondweed with 80% of those monies coming from lake shore property owners. Funds to support this have come from lakeshore property owners, grants from the State of MN, and grants from Douglas County. The majority of these funds have been raised locally. <https://lakeirene.org/>

- Since 1987, the Minnetonka Lake Association and other organizations, along with Lake Minnetonka homeowners, have spent millions of dollars to manage Eurasian watermilfoil.

What do I do if I find AIS? ACT NOW

- If you identify AIS, please do the following:

- Note the location

- Take GPS coordinate or use landmarks

- Take a photo of the specimen and keep it in a safe place for identification. The photo can be sent and/or the specimen can be taken to the AIS Specialist at the DNR office in Fergus Falls MN.

- Mark Ranweiler is the MN DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist for

our county. His contact information is: phone (218) 616-2117; email: mark.ranweiler@state.mn.us

Where can I go to learn more? SEE BELOW

- For more information regarding AIS, water quality, and lakeshore management in Douglas County visit www.alexarealakes.org

- Local lake associations

- DNR Invasive Species website <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>

Thank you for being proactive and helping to maintain the integrity of Douglas County lakes. Informational pamphlets will be available at the Annual Meeting.

We invite you to reach out to your local lake association to obtain more information and get involved.

Sincerely,

DCLA and Community Partners

Jessica Albertsen, Douglas SWCD Education and Outreach Coordinator

Cynthia Fuller, Lake Victoria DCLA Representative

Shane Gibbons, Carlson Dock & Barge

Mike Kettler, Lake Irene DCLA Representative

Shane McBride, MN DNR Aquatic Plant Management Program Consultant

Justin Swart, Douglas County AIS Prevention Coordinator

Mark Ranweiler, DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist

Janet Zastrow, VP Douglas County Lakes Association

¹ <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>

² Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) | Minnesota DNR (state.mn.us)

**LAKE MILTONA
ASSOCIATION**

790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE
Miltona, MN 56354

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Lake Miltona News

Inside this Newsletter...

- ~ Paid Memberships
- ~ New Yard Signs
- ~ Annual Fundraiser
- ~ Ice On & Out Dates
- ~ Annual Meeting
- ~ Dittbarners Creek Culvert Update
- ~ MN Personal Watercraft Rules and Regulations
- ~ Annual Boat Parade Rules
- ~ Loon Update
- ~ Fish Stocking Report
- ~ Lake Miltona NEW Webpage
- ~ Smoke Signals from the Camp
- ~ Aquatic Invasive Species Info

2024 Calendar of Events

June 1	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
July 4	Boat Parade	Noon
July 13	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 10	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 12	Directors Meeting	9:00 am



Smokey Timbers invites you to mini-camps



KIDS AND ADULTS!

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. To register, go to: www.smokeytimbers.com.



Wednesday, June 5, 6pm

How to Catch a Musky!

If you have never fished musky before you should give it a try as Lake Miltona, offers some of the best fishing for muskys in MN! Join Scott Kleinschmidt of *Musky Safari Tackle Company* will share how to catch Muskys in our lake. Included in each adult registration is one of Scott's popular Muskie baits. **Cost: \$35 per adult; Children under 12, accompanied by a paying adult: free.**



Wednesday, June 12, 6pm

Creating a Potted Planter

Miltona Greenhouse will give instructions and help you plant your very own beautiful planter masterpiece. You will get instructions and tips on how to keep it thriving all summer.

Cost is \$40 for everything you need to plant a 10" pot.



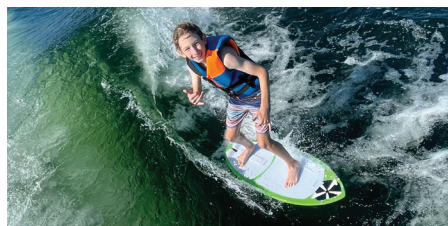
Wednesday, June 19, 5pm

Gourmet Outdoor Cooking

Join us for fun and food where we'll be preparing and cooking some delicious meals over the campfire! We'll cover basic fire building techniques, fire temperature management, and tips and tricks on using cast iron cookware. The group will prepare and cook a full course meal and eat the food afterward. Suitable for adults and families.

Cost: \$45 per participant; \$10 child 12 & under. Time: 5pm.

Limit: 12. Instructors: Aaron & Laura Frederick



Wednesday, June 19, 9am-11am

Lake Surfing Kids Kamp

Kids 7-17 will receive top-of-the-

line coaching while surfing the amazing wave behind a Nautique G23. A picture of your kiddo surfing, some swag and a snack will also be provided to your little shredder. Meet friends, learn to surf, have fun on the water, skill building, encourage others, empowerment. **Cost: \$100 per participant. Instructor: Mike Jost of HangLooseMN. 6 participants min.**



Wednesday, June 26. 1pm

Sourdough for Beginners

Join us for a hands-on sourdough bread workshop. Learn to craft delicious artisan loaves right in your home kitchen! Participants will leave with a dehydrated starter - complete with instructions, a started dough, a shaped boule - ready to proof and bake, and a dough scraper. Join us and discover the simple pleasure of making delicious, nourishing bread. **Cost: \$40 per person. Instructor: Laura Frederick of Frederick Ridge Homestead**

JOIN US FOR

FIKA

WHAT IS FIKA?? Google it, it's Delicious!

Wednesdays in June, July, August, 10am
at Smokey Timbers deck, 15567 Smokey Timbers Road NW

mini-camps continued...



Wednesday, July 10, 1pm-4pm **Woodcarving a Cardinal**

Woodcarving can be a wonderful hobby. Come to camp to learn to carve a beautiful bird, taught by the great folks at Prairie Woodcarvers. Safety and use of tools will be emphasized. Go home with the sweetest bird of your very own!

Cost: \$35,

Age: 10+. Location: Camp Deck

Instructor: Prairie Woodcarvers



Wednesday, July 17, 1pm **Needle Felting a Robin**

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

Cost: \$45 (all material included),

Age: 8 +. Limit: 8

Instructor: Julia Blenkush,

Serenity Now Yarn, Pequot Lakes



Wednesday, July 17, 6 pm **Felted Soap**

Come join us for a family-friendly Felted Soap Mini-camp! Make and take your own felted soap. In this class we will be wet felting wool fiber over soap. The finished product is your soap and washcloth all in one. Very fun for all!

Cost: \$30 (all material included),

Family max: \$75. Age: 4 +.

**Instructor: Julia Blenkush,
Serenity Now Yarn Shop**



Wednesday, July 24, 1-3pm **Let's Go Fishing**

Itching to get out fishing but don't have what you need, or know where to fish? Join us on a Let's Go Fishing excursion! The pontoons provide everything necessary for a fishing tour. 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 Deck



Wednesday, July 31, 1pm **Ukrainian Inspired Eggs**

Learn to make ornately decorated eggs from Eastern Europe. The artwork is created by repeatedly outlining designs in beeswax and dyeing the eggs. In this class, you will choose from a selection of designs and then learn to do everything need to take an egg home with you.

**Cost: \$45 (all materials included),
Age: 10+. Limit: 8**



Wednesday, August 14, 6pm **Family SUPing!**

Join us for an introduction to Stand Up Paddleboarding! Learn about your equipment, fundamental technique, steering with ease, different ways to stay stable on your board, and getting on and off. We'll gain some confidence and go for a short tour. Youth are welcome and encouraged, ages 8 and up, if accompanied by a grown-up.

Cost: \$40,

Check www.smokeytimbers.com for updated information and additional mini-camps!

See you at camp!