

# Lake Miltona

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



FALL

# News

November 2024

Volume 1, No. 18

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 Guinn

## DIRECTORS:

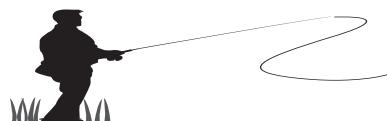
Mark Niedenfuer  
John Fair  
Janet Zastrow  
John Fay  
Jeff Anderson  
Vern Suhr  
Gene Rose  
Steve Herth  
Matt Edstrom

Steve DeSutter  
Shannon Burgad  
Chad Koebnick  
Janet Guinn

Area 1  
Area 2A  
Area 2B  
Area 2C  
Area 3A  
Area 3B  
Area 3C  
Area 4  
Area 5

## DIRECTORS *continued*:

Shannon Burgad	Area 6
Bob Streasick	Area 7
Janet Guinn, Gary Fuchs	Area 8
Jay Sieling	Area 9
Jay Sieling	Area 10
Open	Area 11
Mike Wrobel	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

Lake Miltona started the summer with the rain falling and falling. It gave us great lake levels for most of the season. However, Mother Nature has a way of throwing us weird ways to bring us back to average. The rain quit in August, and we watched the lake levels drop approx. 16-18 inches during late summer early fall. So again, we need winter moisture to bring us back to normal.

The Lake Association membership has remained strong this year. We are at

a very healthy level of members but can always use your help to remind new people moving in to our area, the many things the Miltona Lake Association does for the lake. Pass the word to join.

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 decent sized fish to get a good start on the fishery. This is a decrease of 500 lbs, from the previous year. The board wants to try to increase our stocking to 1500 lbs annually, but that is an additional \$10K annually to raise. So, please remember that as you receive your dues letters, donating to the fish stocking fund goes directly

into fish that go into our lake. Fishing was much improved last summer. We had many reports of improved fishing on our lake the past summer with multiple sizes of walleyes being reported. We are convinced that to continue good fishing, we need to restock regularly.

The LMA is short, one board member from the Dittburner Creek road area 11. So, if you are in this area and want to learn what a director's position involves, please feel free to reach out to me and I can let you know what is involved in being a board member.

Keep warm this winter and see you on this ice.

Steve DeSutter  
President  
Lake Miltona Association

## 2024 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:

<b>Pontoon</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - The Bischoff Family
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - The MacheRenna Family
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place - The Tate Family
<b>Jet Ski</b>	<b>Boats</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Ava Scheiber	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Andy & Emily
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - The Ostendorf Family	Burke
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Rod Jasmer

## State of the Fishery on Miltona

The results from the Standard Survey conducted on Lake Miltona in August of 2023 show promising signs for anglers.

Lake Miltona is well known as a quality Walleye fishery. However, the previous Standard Survey from 2019 showed record low walleye abundance. The 2023 survey showed 10.8 fish/gill net. That is considered high in comparison to Miltona's lake class. Normal range for lakes of this class is 4.0-9.6.

The increase can be attributed to increased survival and recruitment of young fish in recent years. Nearly 2/3 of the gill net sample was comprised of Walleyes age 3 or younger. These fish would be in the foot long or shorter range. The aggressive "cigars" you caught last winter, or the 13 inchers you caught this summer. The mean size of Walleye captured in 2023 was 15.2 inches and 1.4 pounds. This size fish is approximately 4-5 years old.

Fall electrofishing for young of year walleyes from 2015 through 2018 failed to find any young walleyes. 2019 yielded a modest catch rate of 16/hour. That was encouraging news in the 2019 Status of the Fishery, and the return to "abundance" is welcome news. Lake Miltona supports a popular Muskellunge fishery. The trophy potential is relatively high on this lake. Angler reports and survey findings indicate fish exceeding 50 inches are not uncommon. There has been a tagging study of muskies on Miltona. Several fish have been tagged in the last few years. There was also activity on Miltona regarding a diet study on Muskellunge. Largemouth and Smallmouth bass are also popular species on Miltona. In the 2023 Standard Survey, the largest smallmouth bass sampled was just shy of 19 inches. Largemouth are more abundant. Average length of Black Crappie in 2023 was 9.2-10.6 inches. Average length of Bluegill was 5.3-6.3 inches. Northern Pike are not abundant - 2/1 fish/gill net. The size structure has improved. Lake Miltona is located in the North-Central Zone for Northern Pike regulations. Anglers can keep up to 10 pike but not more than two can be over 26 inches in length. All pike between 22-26 inches must be released. The largest pike measure in the 2023 survey was almost 33 inches. The next Standard Survey is tentatively scheduled for 2027.

For more information look over the Standard Survey data on MN DNR's Lakefinder:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=21008300>

## Annual Fundraiser, Memberships – Success

Thanks to all who were able to attend the annual Lake Miltona Association fundraiser. Special thanks to everyone who participated in the planning, arranging, and working the day or evening of the event. The fundraiser continues to be a chance to see old friends and meet the growing number of property owners around the lake. The evening did not disappoint. With Donny Henning calling the raffle, there were many around the room paying close attention to his winning calls. Once again, the fundraiser was held at the Leaf Valley Hall and catered by the Clarissa Ballroom.

The financial success of the event is pivotal to carrying out the mission of the association and once again this year we achieved success. A comparison report of 2023 and 2024 results has been included in this article.

The primary source of our finances are the annual membership dues. The dues and contributions to our fish stocking, and invasive species fund are critical to the Association's ability to address the needs of the lake and keep adding to our walleye population. This year we recorded 398 members compared to 412 in the prior year.

	2024	2023	Increase/ (Decrease)
Dinner Ticket Sales	383	509	(127)
Dinner Ticket Revenue	\$ 7,650	\$ 10,180	(2,530)
Raffle Ticket Revenue	\$ 3,639	\$ 2,690	949
Half -- Hog Raffle		\$ 398	(398)
Guided Walleye Raffle	\$ 720		720
50/50 Raffle	\$ 615	\$ 620	(5)
Booze Raffle	\$ 672	\$ 875	(203)
Donations w/tickets	\$ -	\$ 10	(10)
Donations Other	\$ 200	\$ 100	100
Auctions/Other Raffles	\$ 250	\$ 222	28
Beer Donations	\$ 817	\$ 368	449
Roll the Bones	\$ -	\$ 185	(185)
 Total Revenue	 \$ 14,563	 \$ 15,648	 (1,085)

Catering	\$ (4,748)	\$ (6,500)	\$ 1,752
LV Merc	\$ (323)	\$ (470)	\$ 147
Other Expenses	\$ (1,050)	\$ (723)	\$ (327)

Total Expense	\$ (6,121)	\$ (7,693)	\$ 1,572
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Net	\$ 8,442	\$ 7,955	\$ 487
	57.97%	50.84%	

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.

## Douglas County Lakes Association

The Douglas County Lakes Association works to support, coordinate and promote county-wide environmental and educational efforts relating to public waters, including groundwater, lakes, streams and lakeshore.

The mission of the DCLA is to support member associations by coordinating and leading county-wide environmental and limnological efforts; to provide governmental and regulatory liaison; and to promote education, public awareness and advocacy of lake and lakeshore issues. We work to amplify association voices.

As a member of the Miltona Lake Association, you are also a member of the DCLA. Each lake association in the DCLA puts forth one member to serve as a DCLA board member. All members are welcome to attend the board meetings and all members vote at the annual meeting. Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month in person April - October. Winter board meetings are held virtually, as needed.

One of the priorities of the DCLA for 2025 is to launch a Lake Steward program. Stewardship refers to actions of individuals and communities that influence and maintain lake health. Current land uses, important social values, human commitments, society investments, natural resource management capacities and political willingness to prioritize lake health, all have an influence on how resources are managed. For lakes, additional factors influence stewardship outcomes.

The Lake Steward program was established by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates. The Lake Steward program empowers homeowners to evaluate their practices and take incremental steps to protect our waterways for generations to come. Through this neighbor-to-neighbor interactive initiative, we're fostering commitment and pride in the natural beauty of shorelines that absorb runoff, stabilize soil, and provide essential habitat for Minnesota's treasured wildlife.

You can explore the specifics of the program here:

<https://mnlakesandrivers.org/lake-steward/>

Vanishing natural shorelines contribute to degraded lake quality. Each shoreline owner can take steps to reduce nutrient runoff and implement conservation actions. It can be done through partial restorations, rain gardens, "lakescaping" and in ways that have an eye-catching appeal. Lakeshores weren't meant to have suburban lawns mowed to the water's edge. A lake is not a swimming pool. Help maintain Lake Miltona as a lake designated as "Exceptional Use". Become a Lake Steward.

DCLA is looking for Lake Steward volunteers. Enroll in the program or become an evaluator. For more information, contact Jay Sieling DCLA president [ghotierman1@gmail.com](mailto:ghotierman1@gmail.com).

## Lake Miltona NEW Web Page

Our old LMA website has been transferred to Database Systems in Alexandria, MN. Database Systems is owned by Jeff Meland. It offers website development and hosting services and Internet Marketing services.

Our LMA website is now fully operational. During the transfer process all the content was reviewed. Some was removed or updated and some new material was added, e.g., being able to pay dues online. We have the same email address, so simply typing in "Lake Miltona Association" in your web browser will bring you to <https://lake-miltona.org/>. We plan to review the contents and format of this new web site to see what additions or deletions or organizational changes we wish to make. Janet Guinn and Gene Rose will work with Jeff Meland on this process.

## Foam On The Water

On a few fall mornings, we've noticed some foam on the calm waters. It almost looks like dish soap bubbles, or a bubble bath along the shore and floating in patches. It is concerning, but is it worrisome? What is it?

Most of the foam that we see on the surface and shorelines of our lakes happens naturally. The surface tension of the water decreases and air mixes into the water. Notice we see the foam on calm waters, following a windy wavy day? Natural organic compounds from decaying plants (notice how the weeds die back in Autumn) can reduce the surface tension. Mix those with air from wind, waves or water flowing, bubbles are produced and can build up into larger sections of foam.

Some human products like detergents can cause foam that is similar in appearance, but dissipates quickly. Natural foam can stick around for awhile and build up. Natural foam may smell like dead fish, or soil while detergent foam may smell like soap, or perfume.

Regardless whether foam forms from natural causes, pollution or a combination, it can pose a health risk. Surface water foam can contain algae, viruses, bacteria, parasites, decaying organic matter and other contaminants. If swallowed it can pose a health risk to people and pets. Don't make a "Santa Beard" on your chin from lake foam!"

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 7th, 2025**

**9:00am**

**Miltona Community Center**

Our annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 7th, 2025 at the Miltona Community Center. We will update you in the Spring newsletter as to which topics and speakers that will be attending.

## Fundraiser Donor List 2024

**Advanced Irrig./Klimek Bros. Drilling**  
**ALDI**  
**Alex Country Club**  
**Alex Rubbish**  
**Alex Shooting Park**  
**Alexandria Movie Theater**  
**American Heritage Hunting Club**  
**American Solutions for Business**  
**Americinn**  
**Aqua Marine**  
**Arrowwood Resort-Atikwa Golf**  
**Bee Chama**  
**Bell Bank**  
**Bettin Pest Control**  
**Black Ridge Bank**  
**Boomerang Sports**  
**Borch's Sporting Goods**  
**Boulder Tap House**  
**Branden Plotz-Edward Jones**  
**Bremer Bank**  
**Bullet Lawn Care**  
**Carlos Creek Winery/22 Northern**  
**Casey's Amusement Park**  
**Cashwise Liquor**  
**Central Lakes Restaurant Supply**  
**Central Marine & Sports**  
**Chet's Lakeside Inn**  
**Christopherson Bait and Tackle**  
**Coldwell Banker**  
**Competitive Edle Motor Sports**  
**Cullen's Home Center**  
**Dakota Magic Cassino**  
**Dick's Standard/Gappa Oil**  
**Dollar General**  
**Don Henning Excavating**  
**Down on the Corner**  
**Eldens**  
**Fairfield Inn**

**Fat Daddy's**  
**Focus Financial**  
**Focus Fitness Yoga**  
**Fortwengler Electric**  
**Gate City Bank**  
**Geneva Golf Course**  
**Grand Casino Mille Lacs**  
**Great Hunan**  
**Hampton Inn**  
**Hardwood Hills Golf Course**  
**Henry's Foods/Brothers Market**  
**Herby's Bar & Grill**  
**Hilltop Lumber**  
**Holiday Inn**  
**Iverson Insurance**  
**Jackpot Junction**  
**Jim & Judy's**  
**Juettner Motors**  
**Justin Hubel-Counselor Realty**  
**Kim Kettler-Realty One**  
**Klinder**  
**Knute Nrlson**  
**L&O Plumbing & Heating**  
**Lake Country Meats**  
**Lake Miltona Golf**  
**Leaf Valley Mercantile**  
**Leaf Valley Sportsman**  
**Letoile Winery**  
**Life Quest Chiropractic**  
**Living Tree Message**  
**LJ's**  
**LMA**  
**Lure Lake Bar**  
**McDonalds**  
**Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union**  
**Miltona Bay Estates**  
**Miltona Greenhouse**  
**Miltona Lions**  
**Miltona Liquor**  
**Napa Auto**

**Nordic Trails Golf**  
**Northland Dairy & Polaris**  
**Ollie's Service**  
**Parker's Laundromat**  
**Pat's Hair**  
**Paul's Small Engine**  
**Pike & Pint**  
**Pine Ridge Golf**  
**Prairie Archery**  
**Prairie Edge Casino**  
**Qdoba**  
**Ranch Viejo**  
**Rays Sport**  
**REA**  
**Ron's Warehouse**  
**Rose City Bar & Grill**  
**Rue Salon**  
**Sammy's Onestop**  
**Scherer Printing**  
**Shooting Star Casino**  
**Star Liquor**  
**Starbucks Coffee**  
**68 Veterans Winery**  
**Subway**  
**Tastefully Simple**  
**The Old Mill**  
**Todd Whitting-Century 21**  
**Turnkey Marketing**  
**Vantage Bank**  
**Viking Bank**  
**Viking Bay Resort**  
**Wendy Vankirk Edina Realty**  
**Woodland Resort**  
**Zorbas**

**Thank You** to these  
 Merchants who provided  
 over **\$8000.00** in prizes to  
 our 2024 fundraiser.  
**Please support them!**

### Lake Miltona Ice-on, Ice-off for the past 20 Years.



#### 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\*

#### 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 24, 2024

## Smoke Signals from the Camp

The Smokey Timbers Camp ended another successful season with the "Trail of Treats" and "Spooky Hike" Halloween activities. It should be noted, while this is the seasons last activity, the camp is available for use year-round. The camp was fortunate to have many wonderful guests (young and older) who not only camped but also took part in the many mini camps and Fika get-togethers. Many hours and resources were donated by volunteers who were instrumental in helping achieve the camp mission.

The camp's mission is to provide camping, outdoor experiences, fellowship and learning experiences for youth, families and neighbors. The mission was accomplished. There were over 1800 camping guests at the camp this season of which about 60% were kids. Mini camps and Fika get-togethers also provided additional activities for all ages.

Each Wednesday morning, during the summer, a Fika (Swedish for morning coffee break and treats) get together was sponsored to provide fellowship for neighbors and friends of the camp. While fellowship is the main objective of Fika, various presentations were also provided such as the history of The Minnesouri Club.

Mini camps were also held that provided learning and enrichment activities. These usually took place on Wednesdays at various times of the day depending on the activity. A few examples of the many camps that were offered this past season included Lake Surfing for Kids, Ukrainian Inspired Eggs, Sourdough for Beginners, Foraging for Wild Edibles and Woodcarving a Cardinal. The schedule and registration information for next season will be posted on the SmokeyTimbers.org web site.

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 season wrapped up, once again, with the Halloween "Trail of Treats" and "Spooky Hike" which were held on October 26th. Both were a huge success even though the temperatures were cool. The Trail of Treats is for the younger kids and was held in the afternoon. Approximately 230 youngsters, along with their families and friends, participated. The Spooky Hike was in the evening for the older kids who were looking for a "SCARY" experience. There were over 300 participants and their expectations were met! Both were a success! The Smokey Timbers board would like to sincerely thank all the sponsors and volunteers who provided time, funding and supplies that helped make this a success!! There are too many to name all of them.

Several projects were completed or are underway in addition to normal maintenance. An irrigation system was installed and the lawn revitalized around the main buildings (see picture). This project became possible because of a generous donation from the Mammel Foundation, who has been a longtime supporter of the camp.

The older outdoor shower building and deteriorating playhouse have been removed. The area previously occupied by the shower building will become an outdoor cooking area. The playhouse will be replaced with new playground equipment. The new playhouse equipment will be joined by an already installed "9 Square" game.

Looking ahead, the "possible" first event planned for 2025 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-March 2025 depending on weather. Check the [smokeytimbers.org](http://smokeytimbers.org) web site or Facebook page the beginning of 2025 for specifics.

Smokey Timbers Camp is a year around facility and is available for winter use (think cross country skiing, snow shoeing and other winter activities)! The campgrounds include four units that have heating capabilities as well as a heated restroom/shower facility. The grounds include many trails along with lake access on over 20 acres.

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.

Once again, this year, assistance was provided by the Law Enforcement Club from the Alex Technical & Community College. They helped with the spring opening (dock installation) and winterization process. A HUGE thank you!!

Assistance of any sort 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).



## Now Is The Time To Give a Year-End Tax-Deductible Donation To The Lake Miltona Association

Now is the time to give a year-end tax-deductible donation to the Lake Miltona Association

The work LMA does in and around Lake Miltona is vital to the well-being of the lake. It's also expensive. Whether it's working with County and State partners to eliminate sediment runoff into the lake or ensuring Walleye is routinely stocked – a project can easily exceed \$25,000. And with each new year this work gets even more expensive.

With membership dues and the annual banquet as our two main sources of income - the Association has a simple ask:

This Christmas, have a discussion with your family and chart a course for long-term giving to the Association. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Lake Miltona Association offers you a tax-deductible, non-profit giving option. Every dollar raised is used to ensure Lake Miltona remains the finest lake in Central Minnesota.

In addition to simple donations of cash, long(er)-term giving comes in many forms.

Have you considered leaving a lake legacy? Consult an Attorney to make modest adjustments to your personal will or trust that identifies LMA as a benefactor. With individual estate and gift tax limits expected to change at the end of 2025, now is the time to begin the conversation.

Got an old life insurance policy? Consider changing your beneficiary to the Lake Miltona Association. Talk to your financial advisor and find out how easy it is to designate the LMA as the beneficiary of life insurance contracts. Admit it, you never intended to name your brother-in-law from your first marriage as your beneficiary in the first place.

Feeling like a Rockefeller or looking to have a sandbar, bay or boat access named after you? Establish an endowment and ensure LMA has the necessary funds for lake, shore and ecology improvements for generations.

Planning to attend a wedding soon? Send a card that shares you've earmarked a tax-deductible "gift" to the Association in their name. This is a win-win for all involved. Plus, everyone knows the bride and groom had plans to spend your money on an overpriced "SomethingDoodle" anyway. How about an end-of-life celebration? Encourage the family to stipulate that "...in lieu of flowers, please donate to

the Lake Miltona Association".

As with all estate or financial decisions and their potential legal or tax implications, remember to consult a qualified accountant, attorney and/or financial planner.

## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

In Douglas County lakes, the following types of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) have been identified: Zebra Mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Flowering Rush and Signal Crayfish. Fortunately, at this point-in-time, only Zebra Mussels, have been identified in Lake Miltona.

In 2025, Lake Miltona is scheduled to be surveyed. The county manages this work by contracting with an aquatic plant surveyor. For Lake Miltona, the purpose of the survey is to detect AIS early so that appropriate mitigation efforts can begin. In the event new invasive species are found, the county and DNR will work with the lake association to develop an action plan.

AIS can be spread to lakes too easily. To mitigate spread, state law requires docks, boat lifts, weed rolls and swim rafts to be out of water for 21 days before being put into another body of water. The DNR continues to ask that precaution be taken by cleaning your watercraft, draining all water, and properly disposing of unused bait.

If you find AIS please do the following: note the location, take a photo of the specimen and keep it in a safe place for identification, take the specimen to the DNR office in Fergus Falls or contact Mark Ranweiler, the MN DNR Aquatic Species Specialist for our county. His contact information is: phone (218) 616-2117 or email [mark.ranweiler@state.mn.us](mailto:mark.ranweiler@state.mn.us).

## 2024 Fundraiser

The Association thanks all who attended the fundraiser. A great buffet was provided by Clarissa Ballroom in Clarrisa, MN Catering. Prizes were donated by area merchants, worth over \$8000.00. (See Donation Page). Without the financial and human support of our members and friends, the Association would be unable to carry out its mission. We are especially grateful for all attendees and the great show of support leading up to and during the fundraiser.

We look forward to the excitement of the 2025 fundraiser.

## Dittberners Creek Culvert

Lake Miltona is recognized for its walleye fishing some of which is financially supported by our Board of Directors. Both the water quality and the walleye population are adversely impacted by the current Dittberner Creek's culvert under Dittberners Creek Road in the following ways: First, the effluent from the culvert impinges the downstream bank thereby causing erosion of the bank and depositing unwanted silt downstream. Second, the elevation of the culvert exit is so high above the downstream pool and the water velocity exiting the culvert is so great that spawning walleye and other fish are blocked from upstream spawning.

Both problems are addressed by a Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant proposal for upgrading the Dittberners Creek culvert. A grant has been completed by Jerry Haggemiller of the Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation (DCSW). The project will involve installing a 12-foot by 7-foot reinforced concrete box culvert. The current culvert will be kept in place as an overflow pipe for full flow conditions. The proposal states: "The MN DNR, Lake Miltona Fisheries Management Plan specifically mentions the replacement of the culvert on Dittberners Creek as an important milestone in its operational plan...Thus, the intent of this project is to improve fish passage and provide additional spawning habitat for Lake Miltona's fish community... It will also address ongoing erosion issues that have increased the sediment load into Lake Miltona and are causing silt to be deposited in the spawning area."

The total grant amount requested is \$307,412. This grant will require a 10% match. The Lake Miltona Association (LMA) has reviewed this CPL Grant Program application by the DCSW for upgrading the Dittberners Creek culvert. A letter has been sent to the DNR in support of this project. The results of the CPL review process will be available late this year. We anticipate providing some of the matching funds required if the grant is approved.

## Lake Miltona Walleye Stocking Report

We received a permit to stock 1000 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 beautiful October. With the fish length of approximately 4-6

inch fingerlings, we put in around 24-35 fingerlings per pound. So, the total amount of fingerlings put in was about 35,000. With the DNR limited on stocking due to budgets, we want to continue our supplemental stocking of Lake Miltona to ensure fish are being put in annually on a consistent basis. For the 2025 year, the board would like to go back to stocking 1500 lbs, but the money has to be there to support the commitment to increased fish levels. Please consider donating extra money with your dues to our fish stocking account. We need the membership to financially support the stocking with your donations, or we will not be able to sustain increased levels. Fishing has definitely improved over the past few years, and we are convinced that our stocking makes a big difference in the quality of fishing in Lake Miltona. We are seeing many sizes of Walleye's being caught, so this shows us that our continued, year after year, stocking levels has helped ensure that we have a healthy fishery.

Fish stocking donations go 100% into purchasing walleye fingerlings.

Thank you for your support.



## LAKE MILTONA

ASSOCIATION

790 East Sandy Beach Drive NE  
Miltona, MN 56354



NON PROFIT  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #3876  
TWIN CITIES, MN

# Lake Miltona News

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## 2025 Calendar of Events

January 11	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
April 12	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
June 7	Annual Meeting	9:00 am
July 12	Directors Meeting	9:00 am
August 9	Annual Fundraiser	5-10:00 pm
October 11	Directors Meeting	9:00 am