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ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

Blue Flame Gas Association Hosts Annual Fishing Event on Mille Lacs Lake

The Blue Flame Gas Association held its highly anticipated annual Fishing Event on Tuesday, September 17th at Nitti's Hunter's Point Resort on Mille Lacs Lake. The event brought together members, sponsors, and friends from across the region for a day of camaraderie, friendly competition, and appreciation for the natural beauty of Minnesota's waters.

More than **50 fishing enthusiasts** (13 boats of three and 11 people on the Launch) took part in this year's event, making it one of the best-attended yet. While the event has traditionally followed a catch-and-release format, **this year participants were allowed to keep up to three fish**, adding a new element of excitement to the event.

Celebrating the Winners

Anglers enjoyed a perfect fall day (not too hot/not too cold) on Mille Lacs Lake, and two participants stood out with their prize-worthy catches:

- **Longest Fish from the Launch:** Ryan Setterholm from CenterPoint Energy with an 18.25-inch catch
- **Longest Fish from the Boats:** Eric Bremer, a guest of RM Cotton, with a 25.75-inch catch

Both winners received a prize and were celebrated during the post-fishing walleye dinner at Nitti's Hunter's Point Resort.

Save the Date

As the fishing event wrapped up, the Association reminded members to **save the date for the 2026 Blue Flame Golf Event**, which will be held on **June 11th at Cannon Falls Golf Course**.

With another successful fishing event in the books, the Blue Flame Gas Assn looks forward to continuing these valued traditions in the years ahead.



SPONSOR SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE

Their generous contributions helped ensure a successful and memorable day for all who attended.

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Blue Flame Gas Association's Blue Flame Lodge Shines at the State Fair

The Blue Flame Gas Association once again made a vibrant mark at the Minnesota State Fair with its popular **Blue Flame Lodge**, welcoming thousands of fairgoers over the 12-day event.

Open daily from **9 a.m. to 9 p.m.**, the Lodge served as a lively hub for education, giveaways, and engagement about natural gas and energy safety.



MN Exteriors also returned again this year, engaging with fairgoers outside the Lodge and adding to the lively activity surrounding the space.

A Flood of Giveaways and Engagement

Inside the Lodge, visitors picked up thousands of giveaways from industry partners, including:

- Over 12,000 colorful yardsticks from Gopher State One Call (pink being the most popular color with bright orange a close second)
- 4,000 Xcel Energy water bottles
- 5,000 Blue Flame reusable bags
- 100's of CenterPoint Energy temporary tattoos
- 1,500 Minnesota Energy Resources jar grips

These items helped spark conversations and keep the Blue Flame Lodge buzzing with energy throughout the fair. And fairgoers had the opportunity to visit with Haley Comfort about fireplaces and Auer Steel/Bryant representatives about HVACs.

A Surge in Water Bottle Fills

The Lodge's **water bottle filler station**, now with better **filtered water provided by Air Mechanical**, proved to be a major draw. In 2024, the station recorded just over **9,000 water fills**. This year, that number more than **doubled to nearly 19,000 water fills**, showing the Lodge's growing popularity as a go-to stop during the fair.

Powered by Volunteers

The Blue Flame Gas Association extends a heartfelt **thank you to the more than 35 volunteers** who dedicated their time and energy to make this year's Blue Flame Lodge a success. Their friendly faces and enthusiasm helped create an inviting and educational space for fairgoers of all ages.

With strong attendance, a fresh new look, and record-breaking engagement, the **Blue Flame Lodge continues to be a highlight of the Minnesota State Fair**, showcasing the spirit of the Blue Flame Gas Association and its partners.

Mark your calendars for August 27 – September 7, 2026 for the next Minnesota Get Together. If you would like to be involved in developing new ideas for the Blue Flame Lodge, please contact Annette at ahenkel@blueflame.org.

Fresh Look and Outdoor Activity

This year, the Lodge featured **new landscaping by Superior Landscaping & Irrigation**, creating an inviting outdoor space that showcased natural gas fire features like tables and firepits. The refreshed look drew in crowds and added to the warm, welcoming atmosphere around the Lodge.

On Tap: Issues, Insights, and Lunch

MN BLUE FLAME GAS ASSOCIATION INDUSTRIAL – COMMERCIAL ENERGY CONFERENCE



October 22, 2025
11:30 am – 4:30 pm



Surly Brewing Company
520 Malcolm Ave SE
Minneapolis



AGENDA

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Registration and Lunch

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Conference

- 2026 Legislative Session Preview
- Update on decarbonization of natural gas initiatives by Xcel Energy & CenterPoint Energy
- Predictions on winter natural gas prices
- Vendor Recognition

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Social Hour

**REGISTER
NOW!**

COST: MEMBERS \$49/NON-MEMBERS \$75
Includes Lunch, 1 Drink Ticket & Program

Contact Annette Henkel for more info:

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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Blue Flame Conference — Surly Brewing Co.

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Holiday Happy Hour — Twin Cities 400 Tavern

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Blue Flame Golfing Event — Cannon Golf Club

Thursday, Aug. 27 - Labor Day, Monday Sept. 7, 2026

Blue Flame Lodge at the MN State Fair

SAVE THE DATE!

DECEMBER 18, 2025



BLUE FLAME HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR

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