



**Contact:** Dave McMillan  
**email address:**  
dave.mcmillan@ruttgers.com  
**Ph:** (218) 678-4632  
**Cell:** (218) 429-1661

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Ruttger's to celebrate 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Oktoberfest**

*Deerwood, Minn. – October 10, 2016* – A touch of Bavaria returns to Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge Oct. 21-23 with one of the region's most popular Oktoberfest celebrations. The festivities feature live entertainment, traditional German food and drinks, an arts and crafts fair and much more.

Ruttger's first celebrated Oktoberfest in 1985 as a way to honor the Ruttger family's German heritage and as a fun event for its guests. Oktoberfest has grown each year, becoming a multi-generational experience with more than 3,000 visitors expected to attend this year's celebration.

"What started humbly has become an annual tradition for many people," Ruttger's President Chris Ruttger said. "We're proud that our resort guests and the surrounding community look forward to Oktoberfest each year, rain or shine."

The popularity of Ruttger's Oktoberfest has spread beyond the Brainerd Lakes area. Last year, it was voted runner up for most popular event in the state by readers of *Minnesota Meetings + Events Magazine*, trailing only the Minnesota State Fair.

"The root of Oktoberfest's success is simple - it's a lot of fun, just like the original in Munich," Ruttger said.

The festivities begin with Friday evening's Harvest Buffet Dinner Shows featuring the famous Concord Singers of New Ulm and Alpensterne band from Mayer, Minn. The Narren of New Ulm add to the fun, too.

The arts and crafts fair with over 150 vendors is on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and complements the food, plenty of beverage choices, entertainment, and music running all afternoon. Children's activities include face painting, balloon twisting, and new this year, a wandering stilt walker will add to the festivity. The Concord Singers, Alpensterne, and the Narren of New Ulm are on stage beginning at 11 a.m. with the keg tapping in the Entertainment Tent.

Saturday night is the celebrated Oktoberfest Dinner Buffet, with all the favorite German specialties. Bay Lake Volksmusikkapelle performs in the buffet area and Alpensterne is again on stage in Ruby's Dining Room. After dinner, our guests head upstairs to the ballroom to join in family bingo.

Reservations are required for the dinner buffets, but Saturday's arts and crafts fair and the daytime events are free admission. For more information and to make your dinner reservation, call Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge at 218.678.2885. See the dinner menus and schedule of events at [ruttgers.com](http://ruttgers.com).

"Oktoberfest has become an annual event for many people," Ruttger's President Chris Ruttger said, "Our resort guests and the surrounding community look forward to Oktoberfest each year, rain or shine because it is such an exciting, fun family event."

###

**About Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge**

*Ruttgers' Bay Lake Lodge is a premier golf and fishing resort on the shores of Bay Lake in Deerwood, Minn. The Ruttger family has owned and operated the resort since its opening in 1898, making it among the oldest resorts in Minnesota. Priding itself on treating all guests like family, Ruttger's features 27 holes of golf, full marina service, fine dining, retail establishments, meeting and convention space, a spa and more.*