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MEDIA RELEASE

Beer, Bacon, Pig Races, Fun

Deerwood, Minn. – June 20, 2018 – The beer was flowing, the bacon frying and piglets were busting their pork rumps racing for glory...the second annual Beer and Bacon Bonanza at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge is in the books and was deliciously fun for the whole family.

Threats of stormy weather didn't stop hundreds of people from enjoying the action-packed and zany party that featured everything from live pig races and craft beer tasting to a Mr. Bacon "Beauty" Pageant starring a collection of mostly burly, beer-bellied contestants.

John Mariette of Big Lake, Minn. used deft dance moves, an atomic belly flop and ferocious appetite (he ate eight pieces of bacon in one minute) to successfully defended his crown as Mr. Bacon champion. He vows to return in 2019 to go for the threepat.

On the opposite end of the corpulence spectrum, the diminutive 10-year-old Izzy Parker flopped her way to first place in the Pork Belly Flop Contest. Her spread eagle flop wowed the audience with its combination of grace and water slap.

"The event was just the right combination of good, old fashioned fun and downright weirdness," Ruttger's President Chris Ruttger said. "The result was that it was a blast for kids and adults alike."

The highlight for many who attended were the live pig races presented by Gary Dauer of Leader, Minn. Piglets raced for glory around a track surrounded by hundreds of cheering spectators. In between races, Dauer, the consummate showman, led the crowd in song and various interactive games and activities.

Billed as a celebration of bacon and beer, Beer and Bacon Bonanza also featured a craft beer tasting with beers from 15 area and regional craft breweries, bacon-themed buffets, a pork feast PIGNic, and an outdoor concert from Steele River Band, among other events.

"Mark your calendars, because Beer and Bacon Bonanza will be back Saturday, June 15, 2019, as part of Father's Day weekend, and promises to be, bigger, beerier and baconier than ever," Ruttger said.

About Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

Ruttgers' Bay Lake Lodge is a premier family 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 the oldest continually owned family resort 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.