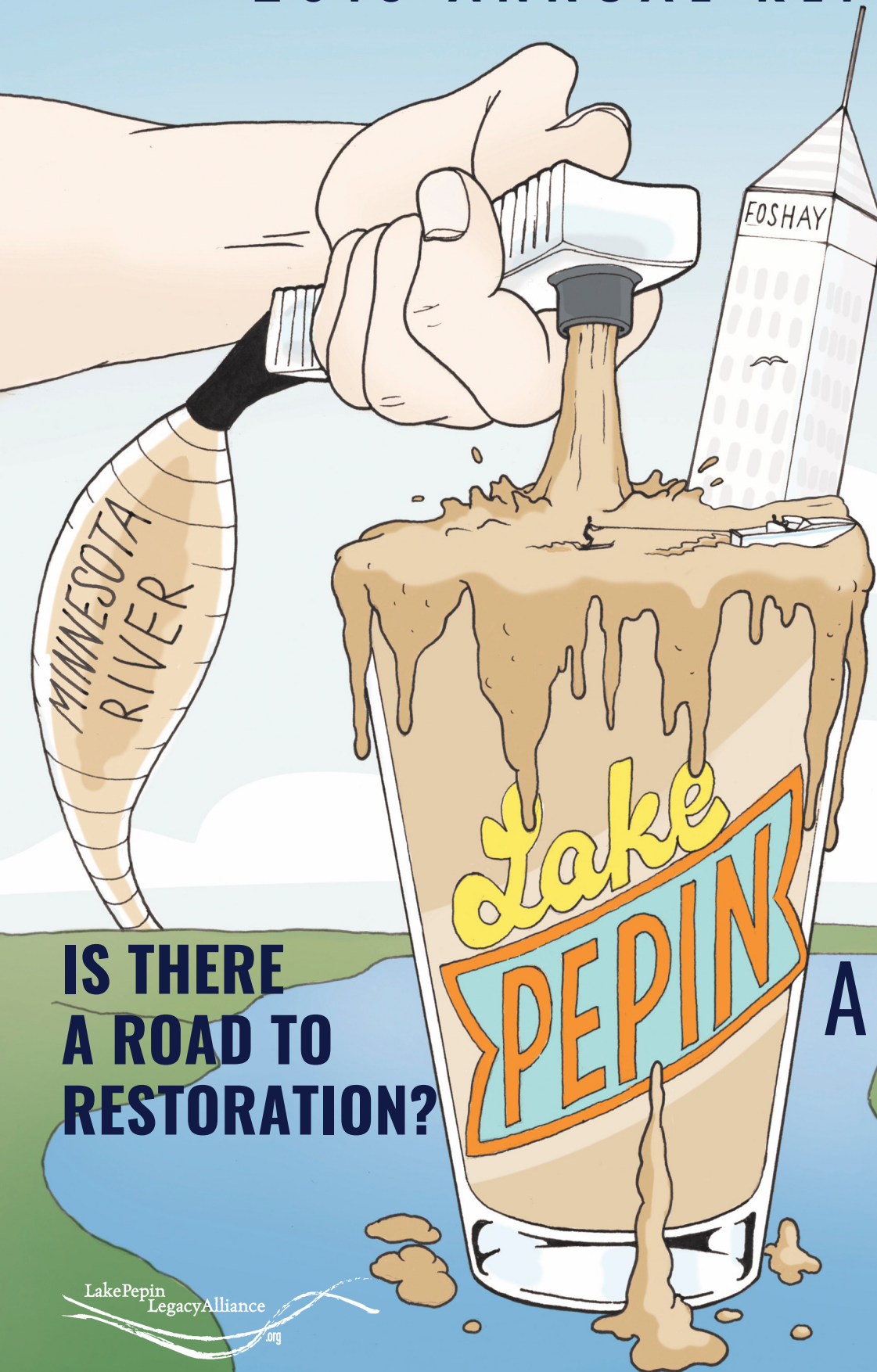


LAKE PEPIN LEGACY ALLIANCE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**Sediment loads
the size of a city
block filled to
the height of the
Foshay Tower**

**One million metric
tons of sediment
accumulate in Lake
Pepin every year.**

**IS THERE
A ROAD TO
RESTORATION?**

**LPLA'S
DUAL
APPROACH**

**Learn why we're tackling
sediment reduction
& local restoration**



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTE

On behalf of the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the support we have received this year. We started our “United Lake Pepin” campaign to bring together local voices for local restoration and sediment reduction. We can already feel the value of this united front as we work to save our disappearing lake.

The United Lake Pepin community that we are building together is diverse and each community around the lake is affected by sedimentation differently. Upper Lake Pepin is bearing the brunt of the ecological and social issues right now, but none of us are immune. Impacts are proliferating downstream.

We have listened to our members all around the lake. Bay City, WI has lost access to their harbor during low water and is becoming increasingly cut off from economic opportunities. Just downstream, Maiden Rock & Stockholm, WI are also starting to lose water access. Boaters in Red Wing, MN are forced to make the long drive downstream to recreate in deeper, and therefore safer waters. Near the outlet, longtime residents in Pepin, WI are seeing sediment washing up on their shores for the first time.

As you know, sedimentation is a direct threat to our most important asset. Lake Pepin supports incredible fish and wildlife, but it also nourishes some of the more unique and charming communities in the country. It is imperative that we work together, as **one** united community, to draw attention to this massive problem and speak-up for our lake. There is no more time to waste.

Only as a united front can we slow sedimentation impacts and restore conditions in Lake Pepin to ensure that all residents & visitors maintain recreational access and have a flourishing ecosystem to enjoy.

With your support, your voice, and your commitment to preserving Lake Pepin, we are making a difference! Let’s continue to help each other enjoy the lake, and make sure the birds, fish, and other wildlife have the habitat they need too. We are well on our way!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rylee Main".

Rylee Main
Executive Director

LPLA'S DUAL APPROACH TO SAVE A DISAPPEARING LAKE PEPIN

Every year, a sediment load—the size of a city block filled to the height of the Foshay Tower—accumulates in Lake Pepin. With sedimentation rates 10x above normal, the lake is in a fight for survival. It's faced with two water quality impairments and the likelihood of disappearing within a few generations.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has determined that the Minnesota River (the main sediment source) needs to reduce its sediment load by 50% to protect Lake Pepin. The interim goal—a 25% reduction by 2020—is less than two years away and the progress is unsettling. After 6 years of upstream mitigation efforts (2010-2016), sediment reduction is less than 1%.

Drawing on decades of scientific research and agency connections, Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance (LPLA) is mobilizing a strong community response to address this failure. At the same time, we understand that sediment reduction is extremely difficult and progress won't be made overnight.

LPLA spearheaded large-scale restoration because we recognize that Upper Lake Pepin & local communities cannot afford to wait for sediment reductions. Using the same restoration techniques implemented elsewhere along the Upper Mississippi River, we are going to revitalize areas most impacted by sedimentation and give Upper Lake Pepin a fighting chance.

PHOTO TRACKING THE SEDIMENT PATH



1

Sediment Reduction

for long-term sustainability.



2

Local Restoration

to maintain current uses & protect from irreversible impacts.



3

Community Engagement

to make it all happen.



LPLA TIMELINE

2010: LPLA helps lead Friendship Tours

Upstream and downstream stakeholders took turns hosting site-visits on farms in the Minnesota River Basin and the shores of Lake Pepin to better understand the sedimentation concerns, road blocks to progress, and potential solutions.



2014: LPLA publishes report to initiate a federal review of Lake Pepin restoration options

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) starts all restoration projects with a problem appraisal report that examines habitat conditions. To ensure Lake Pepin restoration was considered for a federal restoration project, LPLA and MN Audubon completed this step on their own. ACOE used it to obtain approval from department leadership to move the process forward.

2009: LPLA registered as non-profit

2011: LPLA Ranked Top Non-Profit by Philanthropedia



2012: LPLA successfully advocates MPCA to include sediment resuspension in their water quality analysis

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) did not incorporate sediment resuspension in their draft Turbidity TMDL of the Upper Mississippi River, which meant that the water quality improvement plan would not address the impacts related to sediment already in Lake Pepin. By successfully advocating that sediment resuspension be added to the analysis, LPLA established the justification for local restoration projects, which are outlined in the final TMDL as a necessary component of water quality improvements.

2010: LPLA Executive Director, Mike McKay, appointed by the governor to the MN Clean Water Council

2015: LPLA and Audubon MN submit formal request for Lake Pepin restoration study & obtain preliminary approval

Without this formal request, Lake Pepin restoration would not be possible. In it, LPLA and Audubon MN agree to act as local sponsors and fundraise the local cost-share, which is 35% of the project construction costs.



2018: LPLA mobilizes over 130 people to attend the first public meeting for the habitat restoration project in Lake Pepin



2017: LPLA Executive Director, Rylee Main appointed by Governor Dayton to the MN Clean Water Council

LPLA initiates Citizen Water Monitoring Program

LSOHC recommends LPLA proposal of \$750,000 for Restoration



2016: LPLA gets final approval for a federally-funded study to determine restoration options on Lake Pepin

The Army Corps of Engineers is approved to conduct a study that will investigate Lake Pepin water quality conditions and restoration options. The main purpose is to identify restoration options that will have the most benefit for water quality and habitat. However, the study will be useful for future Lake Pepin management decisions.

"We Live in the Lake" music video wins multiple awards

LPLA worked with the University of Minnesota and Grammy Award Winning Producer, Karl Demer, to create an animated music video.

Lake Pepin Restoration selected for Section 1122 Pilot Program





IS THERE A..

ROAD TO RESTORATION?

Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance (LPLA) has been laying the groundwork for a restoration project in Upper Lake Pepin since 2012. We have progressed through regulatory hoops, obtained project endorsements & worked with partners to create conceptual plans. Despite our progress, restoration is not guaranteed. Serious financial hurdles remain.

No time to waste.

As upstream stakeholders fail to achieve sediment reduction goals, local impacts are worsening. The water quality in Upper Lake Pepin is so impaired that certain areas are vulnerable to ecological collapse. Recreational opportunities have declined. Boat groundings are increasing in frequency and severity. Local communities are losing access to the water.

Local restoration is needed to restore access and protect against irreversible damage. The time for action is now because restoration in this area will soon become cost-prohibitive.

The nuts & bolts.

Like other restoration projects on the Upper Mississippi River, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) will dredge areas that have filled in with sediment and use that material to strategically build peninsulas to protect areas from sediment input and resuspension. All new features will be restored with native plants and grasses.

If we can raise the full match needed to secure federal dollars, construction could begin as early as 2020.

Local impacts.

Restoration is an extremely local endeavor meant to revitalize and protect areas that have degraded. The proposed project will only impact the backwater bays near Bay City, WI and Wacouta Township, MN. It is not expected to have noticeable impacts downstream or change the total amount of sediment at the head of the lake. Long-term, LPLA hopes to replicate restoration in other areas of Lake Pepin.

Fish & wildlife benefits.

Native plantings on peninsulas will restore floodplain forests and create critical habitat for migratory birds. Dredging will increase water depths and create habitat for overwintering fish.

Peninsulas and deeper water, in tandem, will reduce wind and wave action that stirs up sediment and thereby improve water clarity, which is expected to initiate a cascade of benefits, including increased vegetation, fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife populations.

Recreational benefits.

The current restoration project is limited to fish and wildlife improvements, but it will offer ancillary benefits for recreation. Dredged areas, including access channels, will create more areas for people to visit. And of course, there will be more fish to catch, birds to watch, and beauty to photograph.

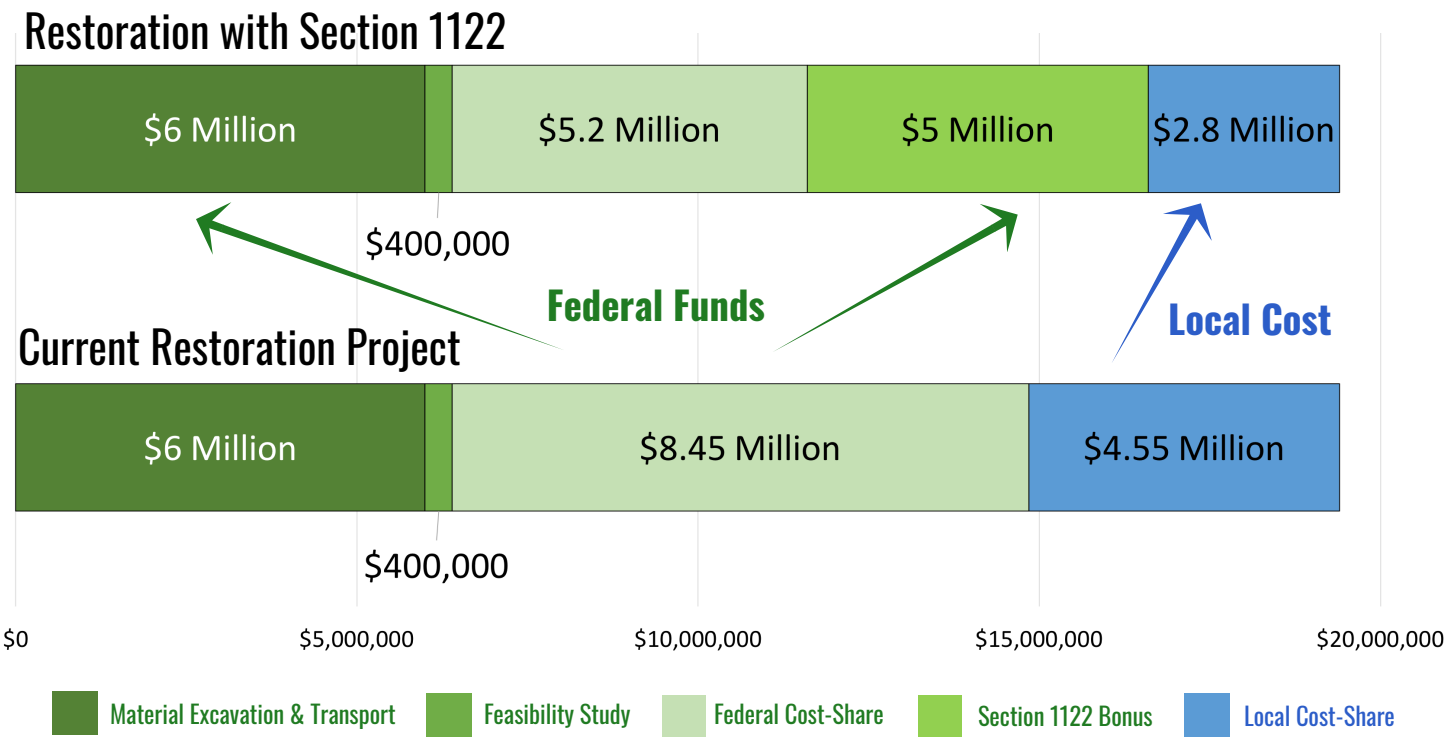
(Recreational fish populations increased by 300% after a similar restoration project was constructed in Pool 9 of the Mississippi River.)

Bonus Project.

The habitat restoration project makes us eligible for a pilot program (Section 1122) that would allow the ACOE to dredge a connection channel into the harbor in Bay City, WI. If approved, current restoration efforts could get a \$5 million federal boost and reduce the total local cost-share. Plus, the funds could be directed towards broader goals, including recreation and boater safety.

Financial Barriers.

At this point, nothing is guaranteed. LPLA needs to raise at least \$3.5 million in non-federal dollars to bring the project to fruition. We are thrilled that Pepin County, the Village of Stockholm, Bay City, and Red Wing have all stepped forward to pledge funds. Local buy-in helps attract other funders, but we still have a long road ahead of us.



Restoration Endorsements

Municipalities

Bay City
Maiden Rock
Stockholm
Pepin
Wabasha
Lake City
Red Wing

Elected Officials

U.S. Representative Ron Kind (WI)
U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI)
U.S. Representative Eric Paulsen (MN)
U.S. Representative Jason Lewis (MN)
U.S. Representative Tom Emmer (MN)
WI State Senator Kathleen Vinehout
WI State Representative Warren Petryk

Counties

Pepin County
Pierce County

Organizations

Friends of Pool 2
Lake City Sportsmen Club
Minnesota Conservation Federation
National Eagle Center

Upper Mississippi River Basin Alliance
Upper Mississippi Waterways Association

Local Pledges

Red Wing, MN: \$100,000
Bay City, WI: \$10,000
Pepin County: \$5,000
Stockholm, WI: \$2,500

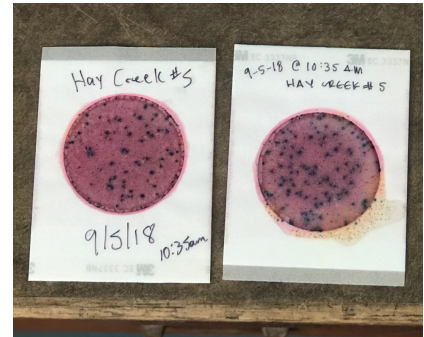
Total: \$117,500

2018 Highlight Reel



Watershed Detectives Detect E-coli

LPLA was awarded a 3M grant to start a volunteer water monitoring program in two Lake Pepin tributaries impaired for e-coli. With guidance from the Izaak Walton League, LPLA trained four water monitoring teams, who confirmed high e-coli counts. Just one black dot on the test papers, shown on the right, indicates an impairment. As you can see, the number of e-coli colonies well exceeds one! The goal in 2019 is to pinpoint sources and identify potential remediation projects.



Sounding the Boat Grounding Alarm

LPLA caught the attention of statewide news outlets after publishing a series of articles in the Red Wing Republican Eagle about record boat groundings in 2017. LPLA Executive Director, Rylee Main, was interviewed by KSTP Channel 5 Eyewitness News, and as a result Star Tribune reporters worked with LPLA to publish a front-page article about Lake Pepin sedimentation.



Who's the Loveliest Lake of All?

LPLA led a strong campaign to mobilize voters to crown Lake Pepin one of Minnesota's top 4 lakes during the Minnesota Public Radio's Most Loved Lake Contest. As a result, MPR and the Water Main contacted us to organize a celebratory concert at the Lake City Farmer's Market. The classical pop-up concert was one of MPR's best attended and helped spread awareness about Lake Pepin sedimentation.



Lake Champions Team-Up

LPLA created a Council of Champions to strengthen our connection with local communities. The "Council" represents diverse stakeholders interested in spreading local awareness and collaborating on strategies to protect Lake Pepin.



LPLA's 500 Strong

LPLA has nearly 500 members and is striving to reach 750 by 2019! Over 100 of you joined our Annual Member Meeting on the Pearl of the Lake, which was a special evening filled with heartfelt stories, beautiful views, and abundant refreshments. Our Bald Eagle members (\$500+) were also invited on a private boat tour of the restoration areas. Next year, Bald Eagle members are invited to join us for a MUD PICNIC that will take place in the shallow waters near Bay City, WI.





Lake Pepin Sound Bites

"If we let the flats around Bay City fill in, we would knock out any kind of human dimension we have. You couldn't fish, kayak, or boat there. All that would be gone."

-Michael Anderson

"This is the fourth Island that's been formed in the four short years we've lived here. you can literally watch the head of Lake Pepin being filled in from our backyard."

-Abra Flovgard

"The Wisconsin side of the lake is probably six inches deep. You get boats going full throttle that miss the channel and they are launch! And they're stuck. Sometimes they're stuck for days. If you go on a busy weekend, you'll probably see it."

-Bruce Ause

"This part of the lake hardly gets used because people can't get their boats through unless the water is high. So, you know, your businesses can't make it, but it hasn't always been like that. Only since we've been increasingly cut off."

-Frank Dosdall

"ONCE YOU GET THE AQUATIC VEGETATION ESTABLISHED, YOU GET A NUMBER OF FEEDBACKS THAT REINFORCE THE SYSTEM. IT MAKES THE WATER PROGRESSIVELY CLEARER AND SHIFTS THE FISH COMPOSITION."

-SHAWN GIBLIN, WI DNR

"I've seen the progress LPLA has made in such a short period of time. The restoration project gives me hope that people are ready to take action. People are on it."

-Maris Gilbert

"We used to take the boat into the dock at Maiden Rock and have a burger at the local pub, but now it's not possible to get the boat anywhere close. That has changed over the course of a short 20 years."

-Derek Borchardt

"I see restoration as a big part of protecting our local economy and protecting what we have. It's also an opportunity to make [Upper] Lake Pepin a place where people want to go."

-Zach Paider

"We have kayaked over to the Rush River delta by Maiden Rock. You can walk almost halfway across Lake Pepin there before the water is up to your knees."

-Deirdre Flesche

LPLA BOARD & STAFF

Abra Hovgaard (Red Wing, MN)	Board President
Suzanne Blue (Red Wing, MN)	Board Vice-President
Arlin Albrecht (Red Wing, MN)	Board Treasurer
Marilyn Albrecht (Red Wing, MN)	Board Secretary
Anne Jones (Red Wing, MN)	Board Member
Scott Jones (Red Wing, MN)	Board Member
Alan Nugent (Stockholm, WI)	Board Member
Paul Olson (Stockholm, WI)	Board Member
Mary Anne Wise (Maiden Rock, WI)	Board Member
Rylee Main	Executive Director
Mac Becco	Communications Director

COUNCIL OF CHAMPIONS

Broken Paddle Guiding Company	Michael Anderson	Bay City Artist & Resident	David Meixner
Izaak Walton League	Don Arnosti	Ole Miss Marina	Joe Melson
Minneapolis Artist & Resident	Maris Gilbert	The Valley Outdoors Radio	Eric Olson
National Eagle Center	Ed Hahn	River Valley Marina	Zach Paider
WideSpot Performing Arts	Fred Harding	Lake City Marina	Paul Reding
Environmental Learning Center	Jason Jech	Minnesota Audubon	Tim Schlagenhaft
Catfishing Guide	Brian Klawitter	Environmental Learning Center	Laura Wildenborg
Lake Pepin Partners in Preservation	Bill Mavity	Upper Mississippi Waterways Assn.	Mike Wilson

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Grants

3M Gives
Jones Family Foundation
Katherine B. Anderson Fund
McKnight Foundation
Red Wing Shoe Foundation
Wacouta Firefly Fund

Gold Sponsors

Frontenac Sportsman Club
Lake City Sportsman Club
Lake City Chamber of Commerce
MN Corn Growers Association

Silver Sponsors

Fairmount Santrol Foundation
Lake Pepin Partners in Preservation
St. James Hotel
Village of Stockholm

Event Sponsors

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Lake City Sportsman's Club
Pearl of the Lake
Maiden Rock Winery & Cidery
Rush River Produce
Villa Bellezza

Bronze Sponsors

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Cultural Cloth
Christ Episcopal Church
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Great River Give
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Lake Pepin Campground
& Trailer Park
National Eagle Center
Red Wing Wildlife League
River Valley Marina
Sargent's Nursery
Stockholm Pie & General Store
Swan Jewelers LTD
Treats & Treasures



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