

First Annual 'Make or Break at the Lake' Triathlon

Sunday morning, August 16, 2020. WHAT A DAY!

The equipment and supplies had been purchased. The volunteers were ready. The weather forecast was ideal and the participants were eager to race! Ten months of planning were complete and not even COVID-19 was going to get in the way of Lake Wildwood's Inaugural Triathlon and Member 5K.

Maintenance and Committee members began setting up the event venue on Saturday then returned early Sunday morning with several volunteers two hours before the sun peeked over the horizon. Pots of coffee donated from Sally Sue's began to brew and dozens of Boggio's donuts were being laid out for all to enjoy. Buoys were placed in the swim course and the beach was combed one last time. The bike transition area began to take shape and the timing stations were set up to accurately record participants' split times. Athletes began to show up at 6:15am and after a brief check-in and COVID-19 screen administered by Varna EMS, they began to set up and take their places in preassigned groups on the beach.

MAKE or BREAK at the LAKE would become a reality.

As the opening ceremony kicked off with our National Anthem, a flock of resident geese flying in formation decided they would not be shown up by the rehearsed flyover, compliments of Marshall County Airport.

Over the next several hours athletes from Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana and across Illinois were able to take in and appreciate what we get to experience daily - the nature, the serenity, the outdoor amenities and most importantly, the hospitality of Lake Wildwood. It was great to see so many LWA members and their families participate in both the Triathlon and the 5K Run/Walk, as well as the many members who stood in their yards and along the streets to cheer on the athletes as they traversed the challenging hills along the 5K course. Nikki Bonomo and Melissa Andruzzi burned through the course and took home first place trophies for the 5K as a token of their accomplishment.

So, in all, we had over 90 participants, 35 volunteers, the LWA Marketing Committee, Boy Scout Troop 69, our GM & most of our Operations staff and many LWA members come together on a glorious Sunday morning to experience a wonderful event focused on raising money for the Varna Fire and EMS Departments. In total, \$2,000 was raised and will be donated to these very committed emergency responders.

Thank you to all and we look forward to hosting this event again next year! Hope to see you there as a participant, sponsor, volunteer or spectator!

Written by Anton Bommersbach
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Event Timing by Crossroads Timing & Events
Event Race Director - Terri Nauman



TRIATHLON TOP OVERALL
TOM SMITH #27



TRIATHLON TOP OVERALL
ANDREA ROBERTSON #46



5K TOP OVERALL
NIKKO BONOMO



5K TOP OVERALL
MELISSA ANDRUZZI



