

REGATTA TO SET SAIL ONCE MORE

Worthington's Windsurfing Regatta and Music Festival returns June 11-13 after one-year hiatus



Windsurfers get ready for the start of a race during U.S. Windsurfing National Championships action on Lake Okabena in this June 2019 photo. Tim Middagh/The Globe

By Ryan McGaughey

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WORTHINGTON — It's back!

The Worthington Windsurfing Regatta and Music Festival, like so many other events scheduled between March 2020 into early 2021, didn't happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic. With many health-related restrictions now lifted — and the calendar on the cusp of the summer season — it seems like there's no better time for a bigger Regatta than ever.

This year's event — the 21st annual — will take place June 11-13 on Worthington's Sailboard Beach. Assuming the weather's cooperative, it's hard not to imagine a Worthington celebration like few others.

"The board and I are extremely thrilled that this is going to happen this year," Regatta board chairman Josh



Youths enjoyed cooling off in the lake during the 2108 Windsurfing Regatta and Music Festival.

Miller said. "Even a few months ago, we had a lot of reservations about if it would be possible this year yet and, if we could, what type of COVID measures would have to be in place."

While there was no Regatta in 2020, Miller said there was plenty going on with the festival behind the scenes.

"Even though this

community celebration didn't happen last year, we still had our meetings for the most part on Zoom, and we wanted to make sure we would be ready," he said. "Unfortunately, that just wasn't possible. This year will be extra special and we know it will be a great time for family and friends to reconnect again, especially since

COVID."

One of many noteworthy components of this year's Regatta is that all the bands secured for the 2020 festival will take part in this year's event. Headliner Casey Donahew will take the Sailboard Beach stage at 9 p.m. on Friday, June 11; other performers include Ben Johnson (7 p.m. Friday), Up South

(4 p.m. Saturday), Bootleg (7 p.m. Saturday) and Sweet Siren (9 p.m. Saturday).

"The board's music committee chair, Barry Roberts, did a great job staying in communication with all of our bands," Miller credited. "We had contracts in place, and money had been sent. We were all a little nervous about how

this could end. Thankfully, with a lot of hard work, we have been able to keep the bands and move them to this year. I wish it was as easy as it sounds."

Each year, Miller and the Regatta board members try to incorporate something new into the three-day festival. This time around is no different.

"This has become a big community festival that offers something for everyone," Miller explained. "We have a lot in store for this year's event, and a few new things are happening over the weekend."

"We will have axe throwing this year," he continued. "There will be four lanes, and the company is Woody's Axe Throwing. We are really excited about this, and it should be a nicely added piece to draw people in and create

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REGATTA SCHEDULE

Friday, June 11

11 a.m., Food vendors open
 4 p.m., Beer tent open
 6:30 p.m., Opening ceremony, National Anthem and flag raising
 7 p.m., Ben Johnson
 9 p.m., Casey Donahew

Saturday, June 12

9 a.m., Skipper's meeting, racing to follow
 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Children's activities (sponsored by CCSI)
 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Artmobile
 11 a.m., Food vendors open
 2 p.m., Beer tent open
 4 p.m., Up South
 6 p.m., Regatta raffle drawing
 7 p.m., Bootleg
 9 p.m., Sweet Siren

Sunday, June 13

9:30 a.m., Skipper's meeting; racing to follow
 11 a.m., Community church service
 11 a.m., Food vendors open



Tim Middagh/The Globe

Headliner band Parmalee performs June 8, 2019 during the 20th annual Windsurfing Regatta and Music Festival at Sailboard Beach on Lake Okabena.

Johnson
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