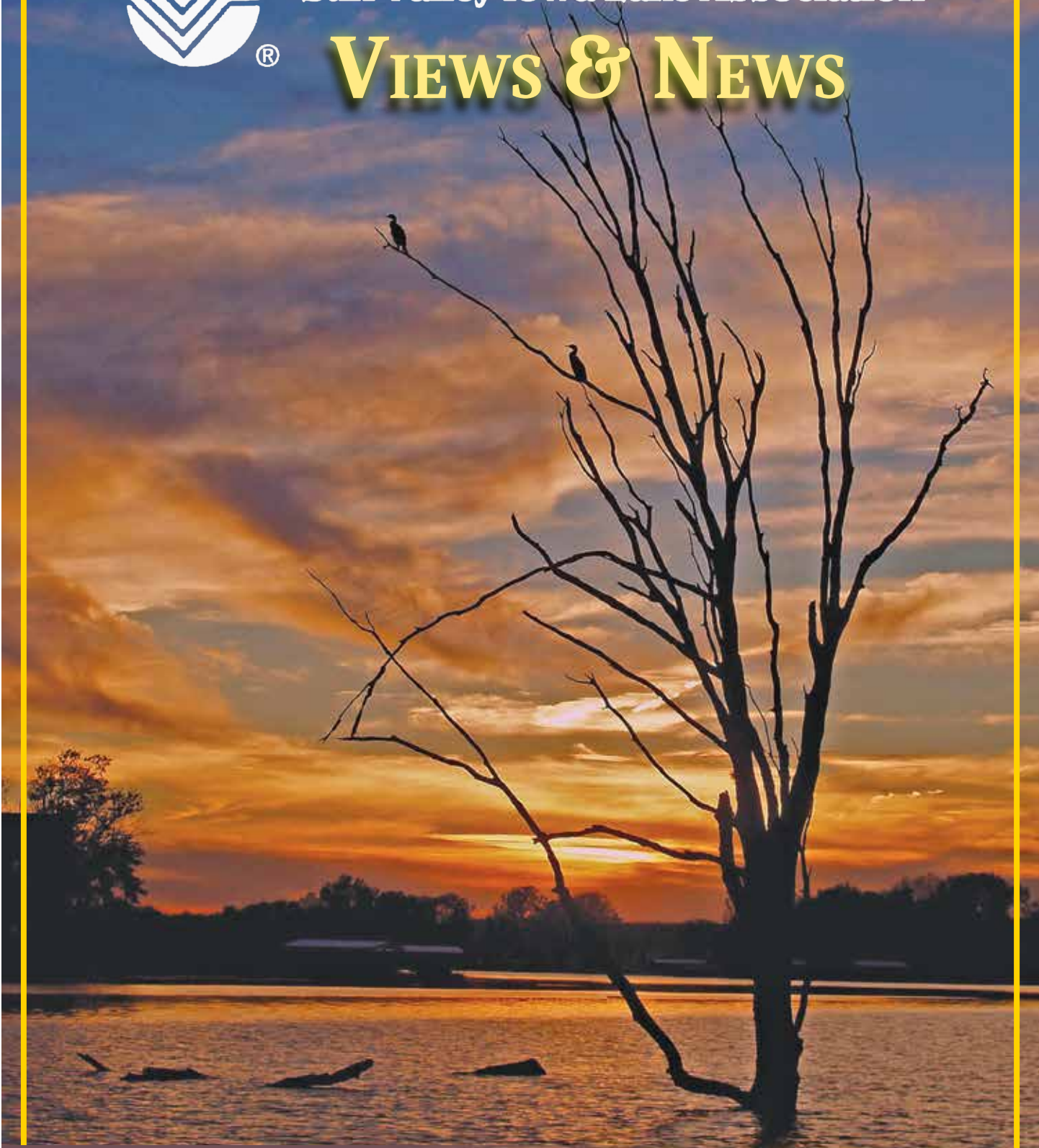




Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association

VIEWS & NEWS



Cover Photo by Tracy Garlock

Fall 2023



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SVILA President's Perspective

As I write this article the first part of September, the temperature tells me it's summer. The calendar tells me it's fall. I even just got a letter to sign up for boat winterization. Where has the summer gone?

From a SVILA and personal perspective, several words come to mind describing the Summer of 2023: **fun, productive, weather, rewarding and challenging.** Elaborating further:

Fun: Sun Valley Lake for many of us is always a place to relax, enjoy with family and friends. More than any other year I can remember there were numerous live and special events throughout the lake. Entertainment options continue to grow at SVL. Thanks for your support.

Weather: 2023 has been a year of diverse weather patterns. Our area continues to experience the second year of an ongoing drought. Let's pray for an off-season recovery to help replenish our lake.

Productive & Rewarding: You will see included in this issue of **Views & News** comments from many of our SVL member leaders and staff on accomplishments in 2023. SVILA has always been a member driven organization. These accomplishments are not realized without a lot of hard work by many. Is it time for you to give back to the community and volunteer?

Challenging: SVL unprecedented growth continues to bring several challenges to a small, largely volunteer organization. A by-product of this growth is the challenge by some in our community regarding the ownership, authority, and management of member owned SVILA property and resources. Many of you have invested a substantial amount of your time and resources into your property. Please be assured that your SVILA Board will continue to take necessary legal action to exercise our legal and fiduciary responsibility in managing and overseeing Sun Valley Lake as a private lake, including SVILA property and resources, on your behalf.

In November your SVILA Board and key committee leaders plan to hold a **Strategic Planning Workshop**. Member input on suggestions and improvements is welcome in advance for consideration. As we consolidate ideas and approaches for 2024 budget season, we will share plans and ideas for feedback and input.

In closing, as we enter the 2024 planning season this would be a great time for you to volunteer and get involved. The strength of our organization is our members' work as we all work to preserve and enhance a special place, we call Sun Valley Lake.

Thanks for your continued help and cooperation.

Bill





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Heading into Fall & Winter

Wow! 2023's primary lake season seems to have flown by. Association staff and committees were busier than ever, new boat registrations hit an all-time high, we finally got some rain (still could use more), and we hope a lot of great memories were made by our members and their families!

While the pace will begin to slow here, there's still going to be a lot going on at Sun Valley. We've finally made the transition to our new HOA technology, and our new website is active. We hope by now most of you have registered and verified your membership information. If you haven't connected to our official Facebook page yet, now's the time to get and stay connected! Our official page name is "Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association – SVILA". Our site continues to be "Members Only" and is targeted to help support getting important updates and messages to our owners and their families.

Many of the projects mentioned in the last Views & News edition have been completed! A new deck, a shuffleboard court, improved internet service, and replacement fish structure are just some of the highlights. On the other side, we're still working to repair the pickle ball courts and getting our annual road and bridge repairs done.

As fall wanes, many of you will start to think about ice fishing this year. As a reminder, current ice fishing permits are good through December 1st of 2023. After 12/1/23, current permits may be renewed by visiting the SVILA office to obtain a



new expiration sticker. New permits may also be obtained on or after December 1st, for the '23-'24 winter season.

The summer season has been fun, and we hope our members have enjoyed the fantastic water quality this year. We hope to see a bit more rain and a gradual return of the lake to normal water level. As boats go to storage and the fall season begins, the SVILA staff and volunteers wish to thank our entire membership for their continued support and participation in making our premier, private lake development one of the best anywhere!

Gene Smith
SVILA Manager
Sunvalleylakemgr@gmail.com

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TIMELY REMINDERS

Have you logged into the NEW/UPDATED Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association web page? www.sunvalleylake.com



Connect to the Sun Valley Lake Facebook page!

**Get the official updates and notices through this page:
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Have you considered registering to vote here in Ringgold County?

Amanda Waske, Ringgold County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections, stated, “A person can claim residency in Ringgold and vote here. There is no restriction on how long one has to live somewhere before it can become a residence for voting purposes in Iowa.”

If you live in a more densely populated area, perhaps your vote could have more impact if you switched your voter registration to here in Ringgold County.

Two elected boards that have the greatest impact on residents of Sun Valley Lake are the County Board of Supervisors and the Rural Improvement Zone Board of Trustees (RIZ).

The County Board of Supervisors is the executive branch of county government. The Supervisors serve as the policymakers for the county and administer the various county programs. Their powers include reviewing budget requests, appropriating funds, establishing county tax levies, enacting ordinances, filling employee vacancies, and hearing reports from county officers. The Board of Supervisors is made up of three members each elected to four-year terms. The following are the current members of the Board of Supervisors, their email addresses, and the years their terms end.

- Colby Holmes @ cholmes341@gmail.com; 2024
- Steve Knapp @ sknapp1970@gmail.com; 2024
- Randy Taylor @ randy.taylor1953@gmail.com; 2026

The second highest distribution on your property tax bill is Sun Valley Rural Improvement Zone. There is one position to be elected in 2023 for the Sun Valley RIZ Board of Trustees. A candidate for the RIZ Board must be a permanent resident of the Sun Valley RIZ district. Any eligible elector within the Sun Valley Lake RIZ district votes for these important positions. RIZ members and term expirations follow:

- Mike Cheese; 2025
- Judy Green; 2024
- Rudy Lucia; 2023
- Ron Rainy; 2024
- Bob Weeks; 2025

To register to vote in Ringgold County simply complete a voter registration form and submit it to the Auditor’s office. After the pre-registration deadline (5 p.m. 15 days before all elections) any person who is not registered in the county may register by proving identity and residency (i.e., water bill or a copy of your property tax bill).

More about how to register to vote in Ringgold County at www.ringgoldcounty.iowa.gov/elections

Adapted from the Fall 2021 article written by Kila Christenson, SVILA Member



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Key Mid West: A Unique Music Venue for Sun Valley

The seed for the Jimmy Buffett-inspired venue, Key Mid West, was planted when Todd and Melana Beuse, Scott Dean, and Mark Matteo created the Sun Valley Parrot Head Club in 2010. The dream to have a home for SVPHC events and concerts came to fruition with the first event held June 29, 2023.

Todd and Melana built Key Mid West, located at 3175 140th Street, Ellston, with a bit of “build it and they will come mentality.” With no drawings, blueprint, or formal plan, they began the buildout April 1st with ideas in their minds and the desire to create a unique listening room for live music. What resulted is the one-of-a-kind venue that includes a pontoon boat stage, 3 levels of seating, commercial grade flooring, industrial exposed rafters, lots of bamboo, a spiral staircase, a 6-foot-tall fiberglass Santa...and more! It’s like stumbling on a cool roadhouse concert hall in the middle of nowhere!

Key Mid West offers an intimate live music experience for the artist and audience alike. The Beuses have focused on inviting singer/songwriters where the audience can experience new music and hear the songwriter’s stories behind the music. The venue’s size (100-120 capacity) allows the audience to meet and mingle with the artists before, during, and after the event.

Key Mid West does not receive any proceeds for the events. ALL audience gate receipts/donations go directly to the performer. RSVPs are required, but using the honor system, no money is taken in advance of the concert. The events are BYOB and a food truck is at each event to provide food to the concertgoers before the music starts. Key Mid West is an extension of our lake compound where family, friends and neighbors are invited to join in what is essentially the crowd funding of a one-of-a-kind live music experience.

The 2023 concert schedule included national talent that tours worldwide and could easily show up on stage with the biggest touring acts in the music industry. “We don’t invite artists that we wouldn’t travel a long distance ourselves to see.” Each event has a different vibe so that each concert is a unique experience depending on the audience and the artists.

Most events are on Thursdays, a deliberate plan recognizing that there are lots of entertainment options on weekends (including being on the water at the Lake) and this gives people the opportunity to come to SVL and start their weekend early with something fun and unique in their Southern Iowa backyard.

In closing, the Beuses shared, “We have been overwhelmed at the support we have received from friends and neighbors in and around Sun Valley Lake. The reaction and appreciation that the audience expresses for the unique venue and the great music - and the appreciation that the artists express for the unique venue and the enthusiastic and attentive audiences - has been priceless. After the success of the 2023 concert season, it is clear that this is filling a niche and there will be an annual concert series as long as people keep coming.”

Stay tuned for more in 2024!

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guys so much!

Thank you, thank you, thank you
for all of your hard work
all season long!

Thank you all for an awesome summer!

Beautification Committee Update



By the time you receive this issue of *Views & News*, it will be fall. The Beautification Committee will be painting pumpkins again this year for the Clubhouse and will be replacing the flower pots with pumpkins and gourds.

It has been another hot summer, but fortunately this year a drip system was installed along the front of the Association building as well as on the east and west sides providing much needed water to the plants.

For the past three years, the Parrot Head Club's Fun Run on Labor Day weekend

has donated their proceeds to the Beautification Committee. This year some of those proceeds were donated to the Association for the installation of the new shuffleboard court now located next to the tennis/pickleball courts.

With the addition of the beautiful new deck on the back of the Association building, the committee would like to do some updates with pots and flowers and will be planning to do so in 2024.

A big thank you to the Committee: Deb Burgraff, Deb Chapman, Diane Breckenridge, Phyllis Shoop, Jill Rodriguez, Julie Brown, and Linda Wells for their time and dedication in keeping the flower pots watered and keeping the weeds under control.

Joan Van Nordstrand, Chairman



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Happy Fall Sun Valley Lake!!

As summer winds down, so does another portion of our sewer upgrade project. As of this writing, the Linford Lane sewer replacement project is nearly complete. By the end of September all that will be left is final grading and seeding the disturbed areas along Linford Lane. Due to the drought conditions, we have had insufficient rains to settle the ground at the dig areas. Because of this, we may elect to wait until spring to do the final grading and seeding. We will make this decision based on the amount of rain we receive by the end of seeding time this fall.

The final and largest sewer upgrade project, the collection system lift station replacement and control upgrades, is well underway and is on track for completion in the spring of 2024. This is due to long lead-times for the back-up generator and system controls. Our contractor CL Carrol has been working all summer replacing the wet wells and installing control vaults at both the Bunker and Frontier Lift Stations. Our hope is to have the pumps and controls installed and the lift stations operational by December '23 with the installation of the new generator in the spring when it arrives. As mentioned in previous communications, the entire sewer system will remain functional during all phases of construction.

During the winter months, a common service issue is the failure of the check valve at the e/One pump in the residential lift stations. Due to the number of failures and expense to homeowners, the board has searched for cost effective solutions to the problem. In July, the board met with representatives of the e/One pump company to discuss the problem and look for solutions. As a result of this meeting, the district has ordered special insulation discs to be installed in the pump basin. The representatives assured us this will significantly reduce this failure. We will be installing the insulation discs in homeowner basins that have experienced freezing check valves. There is no cost to the homeowners, and we should have them all installed before winter. Additional steps taken for new installations are the requirements to install 8' basins, unilateral valves, and the insulation discs. These changes are reflected in our Ordinance 16 as Amended July 2023. The Ordinance can be found on our webpage www.sv-sd.com.

Most homes have an e/One lift station in the yard. Each lift station has an audible alarm and flashing red light to notify homeowners of e/One pump failure or the need for service. Please do not ignore the alarm or warning light. If you see or hear the alarms, or smell sewer at any lift station please call our service line immediately, 641-234-2099.

Please enjoy your fall at the lake and thank you again for your continued support of the board and our efforts to make our district the best in the state.

Should you have any questions regarding the district please feel free to reach out to Carrie, Dion, or any Board member, and remember only HUMAN WASTE is allowed in the sewer system 😊

Chuck Gassmann, President
John Bednarz, Clerk
John (Pete) Petersen, Treasurer

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Fish and Water Quality Update

Greetings everyone!! Hope you all had a great summer at the lake with friends and family. The committee has had a great year with fantastic attendance at the spring bass and kids' tournaments. Fishing reports from members have been "excellent to outstanding."

By the time you read this, we have completed the lake survey performed by Aquatic Control. The data accumulated is very helpful for our long-range planning. We have stocked 9000 RedEar sunfish, 2000 3+ Bluegills, 2500 6" Perch and 2500 6" walleyes. The stocking amounts complement findings on the survey. Specifically, the RedEar sunfish (aka. Shellcrackers) are helpful in several ways---they will provide a good forage base for the predator fish (walleyes, muskie, large bass), and help us control the snail population on the lake (less swimmers itch). Also, using the snails for food complements our protein balance and uses the snails for the food chain where they previously were unused.



Photo credit: Ben Massop

We continue to work on habitat restoration post dredging. We now have five areas that boast a balance of man-made and natural habitat structure. We have placed a total of 72 Mossback units and well over 70 trees in selected locations to promote spawning and growth of our fish populations. These five sites are marked with buoys and specific coordinates are available in the office and on the website.

I am very happy to report that a total of 44 lake mats were installed early this summer for vegetation control and lake bottom management. This significantly decreases the use of chemicals for vegetation control on our lake. PLEASE be aware that a moderate amount of vegetation is VERY important for water quality, water clarity out in the lake, water oxygenation, and growth of fish populations. My goal is to contact all the members who had mats installed and get their opinions. I will then report this information back to members in the next Views & News to assist you all with your plans for next year.

With the input from our lake consultants, we will modify our fish harvest rules for calendar year 2024. Major points include keeping daily walleye limit to 3 fish >16" per homeowner per day and UP TO 6 maximum per household per day. Guests and friends count toward the above limits. We still STRONGLY encourage members to catch and remove as many large-mouth bass (<15") as they can from the lake. This is very important regarding long term balance of the fishery. There is NO COMMERCIAL FISHING OR PROFESSIONAL GUIDING ALLOWED. NO REAL FISH (alive or dead) ARE TO BE USED AS BAIT. The fishing committee will start using the second Lake Patrol boat on an intermittent basis to monitor fishing on the lake. This will be done mainly to understand the use and harvests from our lake and to monitor rule compliance.

The Mama C Memorial Kids Tournament was a huge success, thanks to Darla and Pauli Turner and their team. Over a hundred kids fished and had a great morning that was completed at noontime at the beach with a complimentary fish fry for all. Look forward to doing this again next year!☺ As noted, we all need to thank Darren Hansen for his years of hard work as our Water Quality Steward. He is turning over this work to Vicki Smith and Cam Elmer. THANK YOU!

Please call me or the committee with any questions or concerns.
Doug Massop Cell: 515.681.3572

DARREN HANSEN RECOGNIZED FOR 7 YEARS OF SERVICE



Darren Hansen is recognized for his years of service to the Fishing and Water Quality Committee and Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association.

For the past seven years, Darren has been the chief steward of Water Quality analysis at the lake. For five months each of those years (May through September), he has collected water samples from nine areas around the lake. He completed submission paperwork for sample analysis. He then drove the samples up to the Ankeny reference lab for analysis. He organized and filed results in an ongoing matrix to document water quality over time. He has made us aware of water quality threats such as high E Coli levels when sewer systems are not functioning properly. The entire membership owes him their gratitude for his extensive safety work on their behalf.

The committee wished him the best and offered him a night out for a personal favorite barbecue dinner at one of his favorite places. We also note that we are thankful to the RIZ board leadership for funding our water quality monitoring. These collective efforts are VERY important for the safety of all users of the lake.

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Welcome fellow Parrot Heads! The Sun Valley Parrot Head Club is a member club of Parrot Heads in Paradise, Inc. (a non-profit corporation) – the official international network of Parrot Head Clubs.

The purpose of all Parrot Head Clubs is to promote friendships and organize social activities for people with similar interests including enjoyment of the tropical spirit of Jimmy Buffett's music. In the process of making new friends and having fun, we believe in leaving something positive behind. The Sun Valley Parrot Head Club is open to anyone with the tropical spirit and a desire to contribute to the betterment of their communities. Sun Valley Parrot Head Club activities will include numerous social activities throughout the year as well as a variety of charitable events in the local community supporting local, regional and national social and environmental causes.

MEMBERSHIP FORM: (Check One) **New Member**

Renewal

Annual Membership: (Check One) **Single \$50**

Family \$100 (2 adults & minor children)

New members will receive a Sun Valley Parrot Head Club T-Shirt (One for Single; Two for Family)

(All other membership proceeds will be used to promote Sun Valley Parrot Head Club charitable activities)

T-SHIRT SIZE(S): SMALL _____ MEDIUM _____ LARGE _____ X-LARGE _____ XX-LARGE _____ XXX-LARGE _____

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NAME (2) _____ CELL PH# (2) _____ EMAIL (2) _____

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HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE # _____

LAKE ADDRESS (if applicable) _____

May we include your information in a SVPHC directory? Yes No

The Obligatory Fine Print:

Each member of Sun Valley Parrot Head Club is responsible for his or her own actions and behavior and shall treat fellow members, guests and hosts and their personal property, with respect. Members agree to abide by all local, state, and federal laws. Members agree to abide by all the By-Laws of the Sun Valley Parrot Head Club. Membership in the club does not give the member permission to use Jimmy Buffett's name, song titles, lyrics, names of businesses or other trademarked, copyrighted or reserved material owned by Jimmy Buffett; nor can any member use the logos of Sun Valley Parrot Head Club or Parrot Heads In Paradise, Inc. Since Parrot Heads are known to enjoy a cold one, we support **using a designated driver**. The Sun Valley Parrot Head Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Membership in, and contributions to, the SVPHC are **tax deductible**.

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Revised March 2014

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Dues: _____ T-shirt(s): _____ Master List: _____

Thanks for another successful..

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Scenery Winner: Tracy Garlock -- a 3-way tie with himself!

Photography Contest Winners





Winners —

Action — Nancy Doll

People/Pets — Paula Mahnke

A big “Thank you” to all the photographers that submitted for this year’s contest. It was very difficult judging as there were so many outstanding photos!

Look forward to next season’s event!



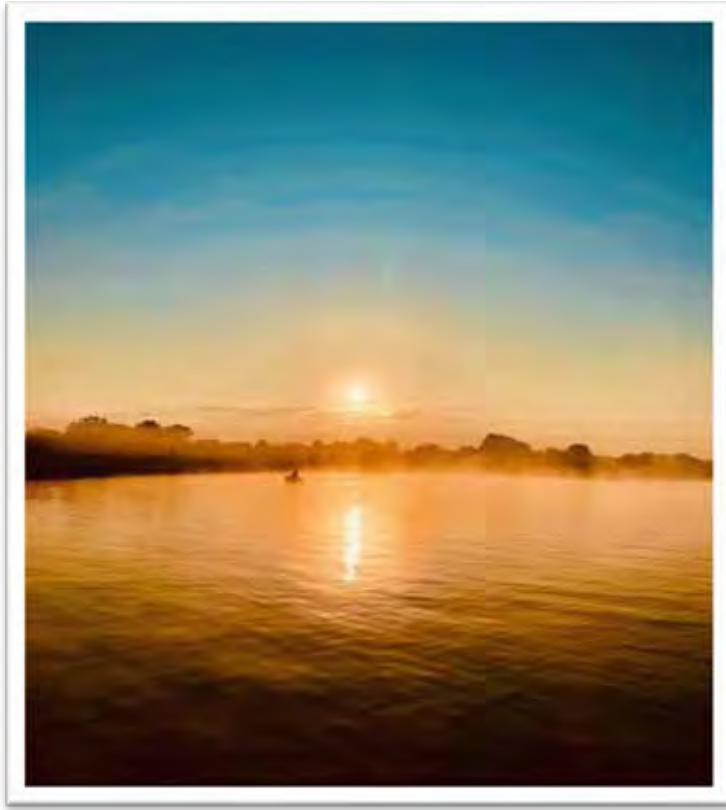


Photo Entries

By Joe Johnson



By Brett Miller

Special Mention



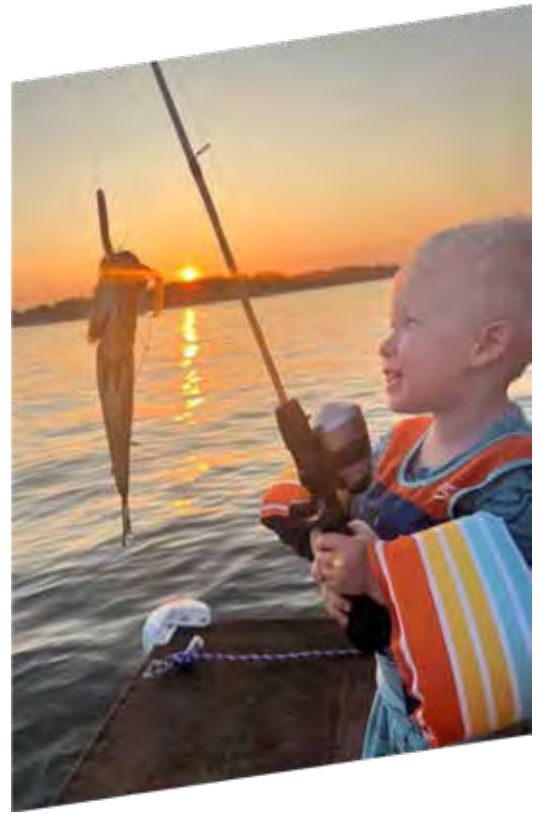
By Becky Derscheid



By Angela Cook



By LuAnn Jones



By Mark Massop



By Deb VanVlair



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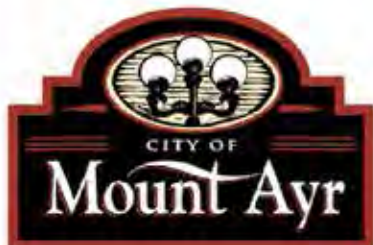
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Meet Dave and Mary Kramer. Both are lifelong Iowans who met at the University of Iowa, transferred to Iowa State, married, and then settled in Southwest Iowa on a farm outside Neola where they still reside. Both are now retired. Mary is a long-time educator finalizing her career working for Iowa State Extension as a 4H Youth Specialist in Pottawattamie County.

Dave is a Mechanical Engineer who commuted for 39 years to Omaha, Nebraska. He finished his career working at HDR – an engineering and architectural consultancy headquartered in Omaha – where he was the *Corporate Director of Professional Services* having the opportunity to oversee projects and staff globally.

They could have never anticipated all the great friendships they would make at Sun Valley over these 16 years. In addition to enjoying these relationships, Dave and Mary both have had an opportunity to volunteer their time back to Sun Valley. Early on Mary worked closely with several friends as the Sun Valley Parrott Head Club was created in 2010. She remains a passionate volunteer for this group as they do great things including raising funds for charitable groups in Ringgold County and the surrounding area. Dave has recently taken on a volunteer role of Engineering Liaison to the SVILA Board working closely with Gene Smith on engineering related projects around the lake. But what is truly impressive is the huge number of fellow SVILA members who also volunteer their time. It certainly goes to prove that at Sun Valley Lake “together we are better”!!

Now that they are retired, Dave and Mary plan to spend more and more time at Sun Valley kayaking, walking their dogs, golfing, and spending time with friends. They also look forward to sharing time there with their 3 grown sons and their families – which includes 12 grandkids!

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