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Lake Eau Claire Clear Water Mini Triathlon & Fundraiser June 13

Walk, paddle, bike, or just relax your way to supporting Lake Eau Claire this summer. On Saturday June 13, 2009 the Lake Eau Claire Association will hold the Clear Water Fundraiser and Mini Triathlon at The Hide Away Bar and Pavilion just outside of Augusta.

The Triathlon highlights the picturesque beauty of the lake and surrounding areas. This family fun event follows the shores of the lake and is a non timed event. It is designed for participation of all ability levels. The Course includes a 2.5 mile walk/run, a 1 mile paddle around the islands and an 8 mile bike ride. Team up with someone or take the course on your own.

If your idea of a triathlon doesn't involve physical exercise, no problem, just join us at the Hide Awa for food, entertainment and prizes. Once again this year, we'll have beverages, a grilled chicken dinner and entertainment by two local bands, "Area Code" from 3-7 pm and "Bona Fide" from 8-12 pm

Your participation supports efforts by the Lake Association to improve Lake Eau Claire water quality and fisheries. Our association relies on major events such as this to raise not only funds but also awareness of protecting our precious natural resources.

Mini Triathlon Registration Information

Saturday, June 13, 2009
Hide Away Bar Pavilion, County Rd. ND Augusta WI

Event Day Registration: 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM at the Hide Away Bar

Triathlon: Starts at 2:30 pm (Beginning and Ending at the Hide Away Bar)

Fees: \$30.00 adults and \$20.00 for children 12 & under- fee includes food, beverages, music and triathlon t-shirt (size not guaranteed)

Picnic only fee:\$15.00

Schedule of events:

- **2:00 pm Beverages and Snacks**
- **2:30 Triathlon**
- **3:00 pm to 7:00 pm Live Band "Area Code"**
- **4- 6 pm Chicken Dinner**
- **8-12 pm Live Band "Bona Fide"**
- Silent Auction: will be on display and may be bid on throughout the event. A large variety of items will be raffled throughout the day.

County Park Daily permits will need to be purchased by individuals parking at the Eau Claire County Beach staging area. Equipment will not be provided. Participants may paddle canoes or kayaks, life jackets are required. The course will be marked and patrolled and rules of the road are to be followed while biking and walking

Presidents Message

The weather is starting to warm up, I hope everyone is as excited about summer approaching as I am. The raffle tickets were sent to everyone in March if you are unable to sell them please return them to me or another board member so we can sell them at the fundraiser. I hope everyone plans to attend the fundraiser this year, we will be having barbequed chicken, kids games, free beverages, and two bands, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Check out the events and times in this newsletter. Last year's event was very successful and we hope this year's will be even better! It should be a great year on Lake Eau Claire and I hope to see everyone on the water!

John Selz
 President
 Lake Eau Claire Association

Donations & Help Are Needed

Donations and help are welcome and needed to make the Triathlon fundraiser a great success again this year. Please contact one of the following people to find out how you can help.

- **Donate a Theme Basket:**
 Ginger Wilkinson (715) 286-2474 or Katie Selz (715) 286-2848
- **Help with the Triathlon:** Vicki Funne Reed 832-7399 or e-mail at reedvf@uwec.edu. or Kristin Charlton (715) 286-5166
- **Help with Kids Games, Raffle Drawing Donations,** John Selz (715) 286-2848

Lake Eau Claire Community Wide Thrift Sale

When: Saturday June 6, 2009
Time: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

If you would like to be involved will identify your home with a Thrift Sale Sign at the end of your driveway.

Newspaper and poster ads will cost approximately \$3.00 per household depending on the number of participants. We will put signs on the corners of Hwy 27, & SD, ND & N.

Please contact Sandy Arndt @ 715-286-4187 if you would like to participate in the LECC thrift sale.

Used Pontoon & Trailer Needed

The Eau Claire county Parks and Forest Department is looking for a donation of a used pontoon and trailer to use on Lake Eau Claire & Lake Altoona. Each year seasonally the County parks department installs and removes buoys at both the dam as well as the swimming areas and it's very difficult with the flat bottom boat that they currently use. The primary need is for a spacious, sturdy deck space to carry the buoys and to work from. They would construct a pulley system for retrieving buoy anchors from the bottom of the lake. If you have a used pontoon and trailer you would like to donate please contact: John Staszczuk EC County Parks and Forest Director. 715-839-4738.

Newsletter Articles

If you have any articles of interest you would like printed in this news letter please email them to either Jane Bechtel or Mike Harden.

Jane Bechtel at jabechtel@hotmail.com or
 Mike Harden at mikeandnano@sbcglobal.net

Advertising opportunity!

If you would like to advertise in this publication please contact Dean Boehne at 715-695-3131.



Nature Notes
The Mountain Lion
By Mike Harden

The mountain, *Puma concolor*, or *Felis concolor*, is a rare animal in Wisconsin. They may also be known as puma, panther, catamount, or american lion; depending where you are. They originally occupied the entire continental United States. Jonathan Carver, who explored the Chippewa River in 1767, recorded sighting one on an island in the river. By the early 1900's, they were nearly completely extirpated from the area east of the Mississippi, except for a small remnant population that hangs on in Florida. Today, the mountain lion inhabits a range extending from the Yukon Territories all the way south to the Andes in South America, but in the U.S, they are mostly confined to the western one-third of the country. However, reports of their presence in Wis. and other eastern states are on the rise, as they seem to be extending back into parts of their original range. In 2008, a specimen was killed in northern Illinois by police after it had wandered in, probably from southern Wisconsin. A highly publicized account occurred in early March, when one sighted near Trego, just north of Spooner, was treed and photographed by DNR personnel. Attempts to tranquilize it and fit it with a radio collar failed, and it was chased to the Burnett county line where it was lost. In 2007, there were 70 cougar sightings reported in Wis., most of which were unconfirmed. One unconfirmed report was from central Eau Claire Co., not far from Lake Eau Claire.

The mountain lion is the second largest cat of the Americas, second only to the jaguar. It is also the only big cat here that is not spotted as an adult, although the kittens are. Large males may be nine feet long from nose to tail, and average 115, to 160 lbs. with large specimens sometimes reaching 250 lbs. or more. Females are smaller, weighing maybe 110 lbs. The Spooner cat was a male of about 120 lbs. They exhibit a variety of vocalizations, including purrs, growling, chirps, whistles, hisses, and occasionally a bloodcurdling scream.

Mountain lions are obligate carnivores, feeding mainly on large, hoofed animals, which in our area would be deer. They are capable of killing elk and moose. They hunt mainly at dawn and dusk. They also eat smaller animals such as rabbits, porcupines, and ground squirrels. They can be a problem for livestock farmers. They are potentially dangerous to humans. Reports of attacks are on the rise, especially on the west coast, as humans continue to encroach on their range.

Except for females with young, cougars are solitary animals. A male will establish a home range of as much as 300 square miles, females a smaller area. This area will be defended against intruders. A female's range may overlap a male's but they really only get together for mating purposes. A female will become sexually mature at about 3 yrs. of age, and will mate about every three years, usually between December and March. The average litter size is about 2-3 kittens, and the young at birth weigh about a pound, and are born with their eyes closed. The mother is fiercely protective of her young, which stay with her about 2 years. The young then leave to establish territories of their own, with males, especially, sometimes wandering hundreds of miles. The Spooner cat probably wandered in from the Dakotas.

I have yet to see a mountain lion in the wild, but look forward to the opportunity. However, since I deer hunt north of Spooner, I now have a new feeling about walking deep into the woods without being armed. I doubt if Rosie would be of much help in a confrontation with one of these magnificent animals.

2008-2009 Lake Board

President: John Selz
Vice President: Kristin Charlton
Secretary: Lori Bechtel
Treasurer: Dean Boehne

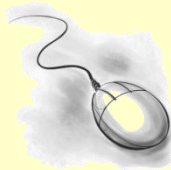
Directors:

Vicki Reed	Phil Kalscheur
Ricky Macomber	Ron Wilkerson
Carroll Carlson	Rod Zika
Travis Maug	Herb Comstock

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.lakeeauclaire.org



Application for Membership/ Renewal

Please return this form to:
Lake Eau Claire Association
P.O. Box 229
Augusta, WI 54722-0229

Name: _____

Address _____

Email address: _____

- Lake Eau Claire Fire Number _____
- Payment of \$20.00 dues for year 20____
- Fourth of July Fireworks Donation \$ _____
- Lake Rehab Donation \$ _____

Where would you like to see our Association concentrate its attention in the coming year?

Lake Eau Claire Association
P.O. Box 229
Augusta, WI 54722-0229

Address Service Requested

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Augusta, WI
54722
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