



July 2012, Issue 61

Lake Eau Claire Association
P.O. Box 229
Augusta, WI 54722
www.lakeeauclaire.org

Lake District Hearing Held

The county committee to consider the petition for a lake district for Lake Eau Claire held a listening session in the county board room of the county courthouse, Tuesday, July 10. Marlo Orth presented the petition and provided the committee with the history of the petition effort. Speakers for and against were allowed to testify. A large majority of the speakers supported the lake district petition. The committee decided to take two more weeks to accept testimony, then another two weeks to decide their recommendation, and two weeks after that the full county board will vote to accept or reject the petition. As the Lake Association supports the lake district effort, please contact President Fred Poss if you are interested in helping at fredposs@gmail.com.

NEW OFFICERS NOMINATING TIME

Attention interested candidates! Please consider nominating yourself or someone you know to sit on the Lake Association Board. We have four openings for the next three-year period. If you are interested, please email or phone either Ed Wilson at 608.837.3573 or edbonniewilson@charter.net or Fred Poss at 715.286.9413 or fredposs@gmail.com.

AUGUST PICNIC REMINDER

Hey, everyone. Don't forget to put a note on your calendar to attend the Saturday, August 18 Lake Association annual meeting and picnic at the County Park.

When: Saturday August 18, 2012

Where: Lake Eau Claire Club House everyone welcome!

4:00 PM Social Hour 5:00 PM Dinner, Meeting & Presentations

Cost: \$8.00 Adults, \$4.00 children (under 5 free) beer \$2.00 per cup with free refills, soda and water free.

Meal includes pulled pork, hot dogs, potato salad, and baked beans

Please contact Vicki Reed at 715.286.2040 or Herb Comstock at 715.286.5744 for your reservations.

Packer Game Raffle Tickets for Sale!

Purchase your raffle tickets for your chance at winning **4** Luxury Sky Box Tickets to the November 4th Packers v/s Arizona football game. Tickets can be purchased from all Lake Association Members.

The tickets are \$5 each or book of 3 for \$10. **Drawing will be at the annual meeting Aug. 18th.**

If lake association members need additional tickets to sell contact John Selz or Fred Poss, Hideaway Bar, or Ron (Sandy Hill Campground).

As the summer boating season continues, it is a good time for some safe boating and personal watercraft reminders.

Requirements Specific to PWCs

- Every person on board a Personal Watercraft (PWC) must **wear** a USCG–approved Type I, II, III, or V Personal Flotation Device (PFD).
- An operator of a PWC equipped with a lanyard-type ignition safety switch must attach the lanyard to his or her person, clothing, or PFD.
- A PWC may not be operated between sunset and sunrise.
- A PWC operator must always face forward.
- A PWC may not be operated at faster than “slow, no wake speed” within:
 - 100 feet of any other vessel
 - 100 feet of a dock, pier, raft, or restricted area on any lake
 - 200 feet of shore on any lake
- There are minimum age and boater education requirements for operators of PWCs. Children ages 12-15 may operate a personal watercraft if in possession of a boating safety course completion certificate issued by the WIDNR or another State. Adult supervision is not a substitute for a certificate.
- Operators 16 years of age or older are not required to complete a boating safety course.
- Persons born on or after 1/1/89 and who are at least 16 years of age are required to take a DNR approved boating safety education course in order to operate a motorboat in Wisconsin.
- A PWC must be operated in a responsible manner. Maneuvers that endanger people or property are prohibited, including:
 - Jumping a wake with a PWC within 100 feet of another vessel
 - Operating within 100 feet of a vessel that is towing a person on water skis, inner tube, wakeboard, or similar device, or operating within 100 feet of the tow rope or person being towed
 - Weaving a PWC through congested waterway traffic
 - Steering toward another object or person in the water and swerving at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision

Requirements for Towing Skiers

- A person may not be towed behind a vessel between sunset and sunrise.
- When a vessel is towing a person on water skis, a surfboard, or other device, the operator must have another competent person on board to act as an observer.
- A PWC operator may not tow a person on water skis or other devices unless:
 - The PWC is designed and recommended by the manufacturer to accommodate at least three people, **and...**
 - A competent observer is on board and facing backward toward the person being towed.
- Those towing skiers on water skis, a surfboard, or similar devices and those being towed must act in a safe and prudent manner.
 - Vessels towing persons may not come within 100 feet of other vessels, persons in the water, a swimming area, or a public boat landing.
 - Persons being towed behind a vessel on water skis, a surfboard, or other device, or their towing rope, may not come within 100 feet of a PWC.
- Always check the capacity plate, which is usually found near the operator’s position or on the vessel’s transom. This plate indicates the maximum weight capacity and/or maximum number of people that the vessel can carry safely.

Requirements Specific to Boaters (continued)

- No one under the age of 10 may operate a motorboat in Wisconsin.
- Children ages 10 and 11 may operate a motorboat ONLY if they are under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian.
- Children ages 12 to 15 may operate a motorboat if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian, or if they have completed a Wisconsin-approved boating safety course.
- Children under the age of 13 must wear a properly fitted Personal Flotation Device (life jacket) when onboard any vessel

Wisconsin law states that these dangerous operating practices are illegal:

Negligent or Reckless Operation of a vessel or the reckless manipulation of water skis, a surfboard, or a similar device is operating in a manner that causes danger to the life, limb, or property of any person. Examples of negligent or reckless operation are:

- Jumping the wake of any vessel that is towing a person on water skis, inner tube, wakeboard, or other similar device
- Operating a vessel within any area marked off or set aside as a prohibited area or a swim area
- Operating a motorboat, other than a PWC, at a speed in excess of "slow, no wake speed" within 100 feet of the shoreline of any lake
- Weaving your vessel through congested waterway traffic
- Operating a vessel in a manner that creates hazardous wave or wake conditions while approaching or passing another vessel
- Steering toward another object or person in the water and swerving at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision
- Operating a Boat With a Person Riding on the Bow, Deck, or Gunwale is not allowed if there may be a chance of falling overboard

To review the most recent regulations, please refer to "The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities, 2011/2012 edition" published by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

MORE FISH HABITAT

Saturday, July 21, about twenty lake association members, Augusta Bass Club volunteers, and interested area citizens showed up at the north boat landing on Lake Eau Claire to install more half-log spawning structures. These half logs are roughly 8 to 10 feet long. They are bound to concrete blocks on either end and then white pine branches are stuffed into the holes of the concrete blocks. Sitting about a foot above the lake bed, fish--especially bass--will move under the logs to spawn and to find cover. The white pine branches help to grow phytoplankton and small bugs which attract minnows, and the minnows provide food for larger fish. Last fall the Lake Association installed 20 of these "fish cribs" on a trial basis. This second installation placed 35 more cribs around the lake for a running total of 50 cribs so far. Another load of 15 half log structures need to be placed in the next week. Come fall, we hope to build another 20 or more of these and place them in key locations. If you would like one or two of these half log spawning structures placed in front of your lake property, please contact President Fred Poss at 715.286.9413 or email him at fredposs@gmail.com.

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Sun Safety

We all need some sun exposure; it's our primary source of vitamin D, which helps us absorb calcium for stronger, healthier bones. But it doesn't take much time in the sun for most people to get the vitamin D they need, and repeated unprotected exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays can cause skin damage, eye damage, immune system suppression, and skin cancer. Even people in their twenties can develop skin cancer.

Most kids rack up a lot of their lifetime sun exposure before age 18, so it's important that parents teach their children how to enjoy fun in the sun safely. With the right precautions, you can greatly reduce your child's chance of developing skin cancer.

Facts About Sun Exposure

The sun radiates light to the earth, and part of that light consists of invisible ultraviolet (UV) rays. When these rays reach the skin, they cause tanning, burning, and other skin damage.

Sunlight contains three types of ultraviolet rays: UVA, UVB, and UVC.

1. **UVA** rays cause skin aging and wrinkling and contribute to skin cancer, such as melanoma. Because UVA rays pass effortlessly through the ozone layer (the protective layer of atmosphere, or shield, surrounding the earth), they make up the majority of our sun exposure. Beware of tanning beds because they use UVA rays as well as UVB rays. A UVA tan does **not** help protect the skin from further sun damage; it merely produces color and a false sense of protection from the sun.
2. **UVB** rays are also dangerous, causing sunburns, cataracts (clouding of the eye lens), and effects on the immune system. They also contribute to skin cancer. Melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, is thought to be associated with severe UVB sunburns that occur before the age of 20. Most UVB rays are absorbed by the ozone layer, but enough of these rays pass through to cause serious damage.

UVC rays are the most dangerous, but fortunately, these rays are blocked by the ozone layer and don't reach the earth.

What's important is to protect your family from exposure to UVA and UVB, the rays that cause skin damage.

Melanin: The Body's First Line of Defense

UV rays react with a chemical called melanin that's found in skin. Melanin is the first defense against the sun because it absorbs dangerous UV rays before they do serious skin damage. Melanin is found in different concentrations and colors, resulting in different skin colors. The lighter someone's natural skin color, the less melanin it has to absorb UV rays and protect itself. The darker a person's natural skin color, the more melanin it has to protect itself. (But both dark- and light-skinned kids need protection from UV rays because *any* tanning or burning causes skin damage.)

Also, anyone with a fair complexion — lighter skin and eye color — is more likely to have freckles because there's less melanin in the skin. Although freckles are harmless, being outside in the sun may help cause them or make them darker.

As the melanin increases in response to sun exposure, the skin tans. But even that "healthy" tan may be a sign of sun damage. The risk of damage increases with the amount and intensity of exposure. Those who are chronically exposed to the sun, such as farmers, boaters, and sunbathers, are at much greater risk. A sunburn develops when the amount of UV exposure is greater than what can be protected against by the skin's melanin.

Unprotected sun exposure is even more dangerous for kids with:

- moles on their skin (or whose parents have a tendency to develop moles)
- very fair skin and hair
- a family history of skin cancer, including melanoma

You should be especially careful about sun protection if your child has one or more of these high-risk characteristics.

Also, not all sunlight is "equal" in UV concentration. The intensity of the sun's rays depends upon the time of year, as well as the altitude and latitude of your location. UV rays are strongest during summer. Remember that the timing of this season varies by location; if you travel to a foreign country during its summer season, you'll need to pack the strongest sun protection you can find.

Extra protection is also required near the equator, where the sun is strongest, and at high altitudes, where the air and cloud cover are thinner, allowing more damaging UV rays to get through the atmosphere. Even during winter months, if your family goes skiing in the mountains, be sure to apply plenty of sunscreen; UV rays reflect off both snow and water, increasing the probability of sunburn.

Avoid the Strongest Rays of the Day

First, seek shade when the sun is at its highest overhead and therefore strongest (usually 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the northern hemisphere). If kids must be in the sun between these hours, be sure to apply and reapply protective sunscreen — even if they're just playing in the backyard. Most sun damage occurs as a result of incidental exposure during day-to-day activities, not at the beach.

Cover Up

One of the best ways to protect your family from the sun is to cover up and shield skin from UV rays. Ensure that clothes will screen out harmful UV rays by placing your hand inside the garments and making sure you can't see it through them.

Use Sunscreen Consistently

Lots of good sunscreens are available for kids, including formulations for sensitive skin, brands with fun scents like watermelon, long-lasting waterproof and sweat-proof versions, and easy-application varieties in spray bottles.

Use Protective Eyewear for Kids

Sun exposure damages the eyes as well as the skin.

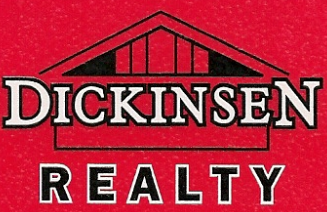
For more information:

http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/sun_safetv.html



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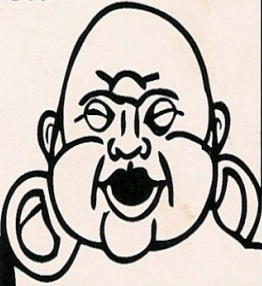


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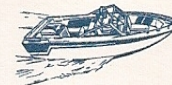


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Lake Association Officers

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fredposs@gmail.com

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reedvf@uwec.edu

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m.schutz@centurytel.net

Treasurer - Dean Boehne 512 5th Ave. N Strum 54770 715.695.3131
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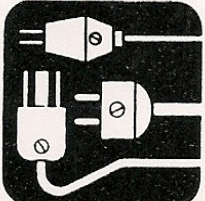
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Where would you like to see our Lake Eau Claire Association concentrate it's efforts for
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