



December 2013

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

-Look Both Ways- By Fred Poss, President

We are all familiar with the expression—"Look both ways before you cross the street." As your President, I would like to do just that. We managed to travel quite a ways together in 2013. Looking back, we traveled through all the permitting to dredge the three new sand traps, installed the access roads to the traps, created the berm above Skid Row, dug and pumped the three traps themselves...and even managed to install 16 more fish cribs. **Looking at the present, I am very proud and pleased to announce that we now possess a new \$66,000 grant from Eau Claire County to apply to the costs of installing the aeration system.** My deepest thanks go to all the volunteers who followed up with emails I called for to the county board or actually attended the budget meeting a couple weeks ago. After my speech to the board, I was thrilled to see about a dozen lake residents stand up to show their support that night. Mike O'Connor, Marlo Orth, and Bob Buley gave speeches too. Our future looks bright too. The Holiday Party is coming up January 4 at the Lions Club in Augusta, and our Triathlon is scheduled for June 7. By working together, volunteering when needed, and having fun, our Lake Eau Claire Association members will remain a strong, positive force for protecting the water resource we share.

Make your reservations for the Holiday Party! January 4th, 2014

Join your friends and neighbors at the 2014 Lake Eau Claire holiday party.

When: Saturday Jan. 4th

Where: Augusta Lion's Hall 200 E Lincoln St.

Time: Social: 5:00 & Meal: 6:30.

Menu: Stuffed Chicken Breast with hollandaise sauce, Sliced Roast Beef, Baked or Broiled Fish Ham. 7 layer salad, rolls, roasted potatoes, bite size cheese cake for dessert; Grasshoppers & Brandy Alexander's will be available for purchase.

Cost only \$15 includes tax & tip.

There will be drawing prizes

Please make your reservation by phone or email to any of the following members:

Vicki Reed, at REEDVF@uwec.edu or
715.286.2040

Ginger Wilkinson at wilkinsong@aol.com or
715.286.2474

Patty McHugh at mclibbey2@aol.com or
715.835.0370

News from Lake District Chairman Marlo Orth

Fred Poss, Lake Eau Claire Association President, invited me to write an article to be published in the Lake Association Newsletter. I welcome this opportunity because the more informed and involved everyone is, the better. What are most people interested in? What will it cost me and what will I get.

The responsibility of your District Commissioners is to carry out the directives of the electors and property owners as passed at the annual meeting.

Thanks to the Lake Association they have installed three sediment traps on the river. They got matching funds from both the DNR and Eau Claire County Lake Rehab Fund. One of the qualifications to get the DNR grant was to demonstrate the ability to maintain these traps. When we formed a Lake District, the DNR accepted this as qualifying. Recognizing this, the electors and property owners at the annual meeting in August passed a budget with a 1.5 mill levy which will appear on the tax bill we receive the end of December. Included in that budget was \$2400.00 for cleaning the traps in the creeks on the north side of lake. Also \$41,840 was included for cleaning the traps in the river in the future.

No one knows how much sediment will be transported in any given year. What we do know is that these traps are effective in keeping a lot of sand out of our lake. Well over 200 truck loads of sand has been removed from the three small traps on the creeks on the north side of the lake. This is material that did NOT get into our lake. We also know that the river contributes a great deal more. That is why people, at annual meeting, decided to prepare for the time when the river traps need to be cleaned by saving for the future. Because of the bed load already present in the river, we expect the first number of years to be the most costly for us to maintain the traps. The budget was based on a four-year estimate.

We are blessed to have a Lake Association with very dedicated leaders (who all donate their time). Rod Zika took the lead in developing a Lake Management Plan, which both the County and DNR accepted. Fred Poss, John Selz and other board members have been actively seeking donations. The annual Lake Eau Claire Association Clear Water Triathlon and Picnic along with other efforts have all raised money to improve our lake. Remember the more money we can raise this way, will reduce our tax levy in the future. I could name many others, as: they have volunteered and contributed hundreds of hours and dollars. Rod Zika is already working on an update to our Lake Management Plan to address water quality and the fishery in the headwaters of the river. A big thanks to all who worked and/or contributed.

We now know that the By-Laws as passed at the annual meeting are in conflict with State Statutes. When this happens State Statutes prevail. At issue is "who is eligible to vote". State law states that any U. S. citizen over 18 years of age and whose name appears as an owner of real property on the tax roll of the district is entitled to vote. This needs to be addressed at the next annual meeting and our by-laws brought into conformity with State Statutes.

We have a good start in our effort to improve our lake, but we have a lot more to do. By all of us working together we can do great things. Enclosed is a list of your Lake District board and how to contact them with your concerns and suggestions. Remember they can only do what is authorized at the annual meeting, and the next one is August 16, 2014

Lake District Officers

Chairperson: Marlo Orth 712 E Grant Ave. Eau Claire WI Phone: 715-832-6961 cell 715-828-3052 e-mail: marloorth@aol.com

Secretary: Mike O'Connor E19730 Cty. Rd. Sd. Augusta, WI 54722 Phone 715-577-2269 e-mail: occonnormho@gmail.com

Treasurer & Vice Chair: Dean Boehne 512 5th Ave. N. Strum, WI 54770 Phone: 715-695-3131 cell 715-797-4069 e-mail: dcbost@tcc.coop

Commissioner: Gary Gibson E16934 Scenic Dr. Fall Creek, WI 54742 Phone: 715-877-2730 cell: 715-210-0401 email: gary.gibson@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Commissioner: Lynn Norheim S8545 Cty Rd. AF Augusta, WI 54722 Phone: 715-533-0050

ASSOCIATION DUES REMINDER: PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2013. THE DUES ARE ONLY \$20 AND THE MONEY IS VITAL TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF YOUR ASSOCIATION.

Application For Membership or Renewal of Membership

Return form to: Lake Eau Claire Association

P.O. Box 229

Augusta, WI 54722-0229

Name : _____

Address: _____

Email Address _____

Lake Eau Claire Fire # _____

Payment dues for one year: \$20.00

Fireworks Donation \$ _____

Lake Rehab Donation \$ _____

Where would you like to see our Lake Eau Claire Association concentrate it's efforts for 2013/2014 _____

Please pay dues with this statement if you have not done so already.

Make a Difference

Like all lakes, Lake Eau Claire has some issues threatening its continued existence. All lakes (especially those with inlets and outlets) suffer from siltation and nutrient buildup, or eutrophication. Eventually, all lakes and ponds will fill in and revert to the forest type typical of their geographical area. As human stewards of the environment, all we can do is to attempt to slow or reverse nature's processes. There are some things each of us can do to enhance and improve this resource.

We can reduce nutrient loading. Phosphorus is the primary culprit in causing severe algae blooms in lakes. Wisconsin has a ban on the use of phosphorus fertilizers for routine lawn fertilization. Make sure that the product you apply is free of this nutrient. Be aware of and supportive in a political sense of efforts to mitigate both point and non-point pollution sources affecting our lake.

My scoutmaster used to instruct us to "always leave your campsite a little cleaner than the way you found it." Keep that in mind when you visit our islands, shores, or below the dam. If everyone did this, these areas would eventually be as pristine as they deserve to be.

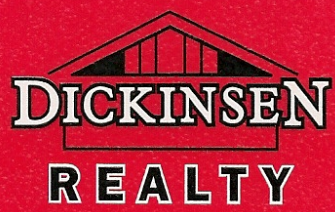
Practice "catch and release." Everyone enjoys a fish fry now and then, but our lake is under intense pressure as a fishery. Throw some back for the next kid who comes along.

Support the efforts of your Lake Association and of the newly formed Lake Eau Claire Protection and Rehabilitation District. Support Association fundraisers. Visit and observe the work being done to reduce sedimentation from upstream. Get involved. Donate your time or money when you can to lake improvement efforts. Everyone can be helpful in this effort. By working together, great things can be accomplished.



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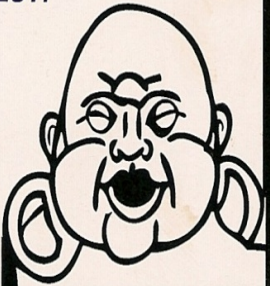


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lbechtel@comcast.net

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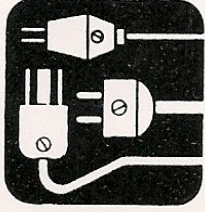
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