



September 2013

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

LAKE PROJECT UPDATE

-Fred Poss-

The dredging work has plenty of good news. We are happy to report that the mechanical dredging of the Gravel Pit Trap and the Troubled Waters Trap finished by the second week of September. The access roads were reinforced to help them handle the very heavy truck loads of sediment which we transported to the Gravel Pit Spoils site. We will be putting up gates on the two access roads in conjunction with the county in order to avoid liability issues in the future. The hydraulic dredging work at Skid Row has continued at a good pace too. We have over half of the sand dug out between the south bottom of the trap just past the Skid Row boat landing and the top of the trap near the turn in the river locally called "The Eagle's Nest." Many positive comments come in about how encouraging it is to see the actual restoration work being done to protect our lovely Lake Eau Claire. This entire restoration project is such a great reflection of the many lake residents who realized major steps needed to happen. Thank you! Together we can do great things!

FISH CRIB INSTALLATION

We plan to install another 16 fish cribs on Saturday Sept. 28th. If you can help please be at the north shore boat landing at 8:30, we usually have them constructed in a couple of hours. They appear to be doing a great job improving our fish population.

If you would you like one installed in front of your property please do one of the following:

- Log on to the Lake Eau Claire Web site at www.Lakeeauclaire.org to obtain the form.
- Call me at 715-286-2848,
- Or email me at jselz@centurytel.net.

We must have a signed form prior to placing a crib in front of anyone's property.

Please get involved and help with this great project for our lake.

When: Saturday September 28th
Where: North Shore Boat Landing
Time: 8:30am
John Selz
Fisheries Chairman

Nature Notes Blue-Green Algae

By Mike Harden

Blue-green algae comprise the bulk of algae populations to be found in Lake Eau Claire. Also known as blue-green bacteria, or cyanobacteria, these organisms are actually photosynthetic bacteria. The analysis of our lake that was conducted in 1998 found that these organisms made up 87% of the phytoplankton biomass that was present in the lake from June to October of that year. These organisms are the principal culprits responsible for the dramatic algae blooms that we experience each summer, usually during warm, low water periods. They are undesirable in that some species release toxins when they die. When present in high concentrations, these toxins can be a threat to pets, sometimes causing vomiting, seizures, diarrhea, or even death to dogs. Humans who ingest water while swimming have been known to become ill as well, resulting in beach closures in some locations when algae populations are high.

The causes of an algae bloom are complex. Our lake tends to stratify during the summer months, with a layer of warm water; the epilimnion, sitting above a colder, more dense layer; the hypolimnion, near the bottom. These are separated by a layer of rapid temperature change called the thermocline, which you feel as a sudden cold layer as you dive down into the lake. In our lake, due to a complex set of interactions between a lack of sunlight penetration and bacterial decomposition of dead plant and animal matter in bottom sediments, the oxygen concentration below the thermocline drops to very low levels, especially during the summer. When there is no oxygen present, phosphorus is released from those sediments, and this provides the nutrient the algae need to undergo a population explosion, resulting in a "bloom." The purpose of the proposed installation of an aeration system in the lake is to promote the mixing of the oxygen-poor waters near the bottom with the oxygen-rich waters above, thereby reducing this release of phosphorus and the resulting bloom.

WATER FRONT PROPERTY VALUES

-Fred Poss-

A recent study quoted in the UW-Extension literature from the University of Wisconsin- Steven Point is real food for thought. It shows that of over 1,000 waterfront property sales in Minnesota, when all other factors remained equal, properties on lakes with clearer water commanded significantly higher property prices. When waterfront property values decrease, the options are to raise taxes, shift the tax burden to other properties, or reduce local government services. In my opinion, this is one more piece of evidence that supports cleaning up the sediment that threatens our lake and down the road installing an aeration system to cope with the blue-green algae are important and smart steps for us. We want our lake properties to maintain their value and our lake management plan and project are now addressing these issues that have been waiting for action.

FISH CRIB BUILDING DAY ALERT!

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 AT 9:00 AM,
NORTH SHORE BOAT LANDING**

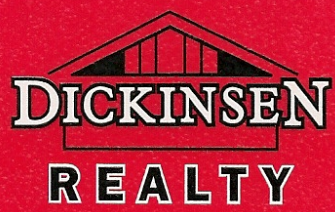
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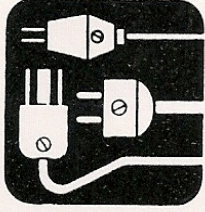


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