May 2014



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

Lake Eau Claire Triathlon & Picnic June 21

Run • Paddle • Bike

Registration: 1pm • Triathlon: 2:30

\$15 kids under 12 • \$25 adults prior to June 16 • \$5 increase after June 16; includes t-shirt & picnic

Picnic: 2pm • Music: 3-7pm • Food: 4pm \$15 food & beer • \$10 food • \$5 food kids under 12

FUNDRAISER IS JUNE 21

By Vicki Reed

It's time to gather for the June 21, 2014 Lake Eau Claire fundraiser! This is our chance to celebrate the accomplishments of the water quality projects that have been put into place, to learn about what's next, and how we can all help to make Lake Eau Claire a thriving, healthy body of water for all to enjoy for generations to come!

This year's event will kick off with the triathlon - come on and get outside for a beautiful walk/run, an invigorating paddle, and a leisurely bike ride. This is an event for people of all ages and abilities. Triathlon details are on the new website www.lakeeauclaire.org.

Bonafide will again lead the entertainment with their great musical repertoire and Tugger's of Augusta will cater the food.

<u>New fundraising opportunities</u> this year include a craft and vendor fair and the chance to win a wall of beer or a wall of wine (bring a bottle or a six pack, get a chance to win the "wall" - the more you bring, the better your chance of winning. Additional tickets will be available for purchase). We are also looking for donated items to be raffled off on June 21. Bring items for the beverage "walls" and raffle gifts to the **Hide Away** on June 21. If you are not able to join the fun on June 21 but would love to donate a raffle item, bring it to Ginger or Ron Wilkinson at Sandy Hill Campground.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED - SO DON'T BE BASHFUL!

- Triathlon: Vicki Funne Reed 715-286-2040 <u>reedvf@uwec.edu</u> Joe Bechtel 612-812-0451 jbechtel8043@gmail.com
- > Event set-up & take down: John Selz 715-269-2848 jselz@centurytel.net
- Craft/vendor show: Ginger Wilkinson 715-286-2474 <u>shillcamp@aol.com</u> Katie Selz 715-269-2848 selzka@augusta.k12.wi.us
- Event Entry: Dean & Carolyn Boehne 715-695-3131 dcbost@triwest.net

- THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT -By Fred Poss

The wings of western breezes are carrying new life to Lake Eau Claire. Out my window I see flights of Canadian geese, trumpeter swans, and pairs of sandhill cranes swinging through. Bufflehead and mallard ducks feast bottom up in the small oxbow channel below my home. And spring with all its news and change is here!

We want to acknowledge the passing of a former president of our lake association. **Ronald** "Ronnie" Rulien died recently. His efforts, time and hard work for the betterment of the lake and its residents are noted and deeply appreciated.

Our association will have a **LECA board meeting May 10** and all are invited to attend. Another date you should know about is the **June 21 Triathlon Fundraiser** we organize. Details for both events are available on our improved website: <u>www.lakeeauclaire.org</u>.

And a one page DNR summary of 2013 fish survey results from netting and stocking is also available on the website under "Fisheries Information Sheet." A quick highlighting of the results show that from April 25 to 30 in 2013 the DNR crews netted 1,280 walleye, average length 14.7 inches. 92 northern pike were captured in the fyke nets with an average length of 21.7 inches. Clearly this data support the association's efforts to continue with our lake management plan goals of stopping the sedimentation of the lake, cleaning up the harmful blue-green algae blooms, and continuing to install fish cribs to grow more and bigger size fish.

Another Fish Crib Build and Install Event will be held June 28 at the North Boat Landing. Come by at 8:30 am. Bring a pair of work gloves and boots. We are aiming to make a modest 16 cribs in order to make the work end around lunchtime. Contact John Selz or Fred Poss to volunteer ahead of time.

We Energies is polling our lake area to see if residents would be interested in using natural gas if a pipeline was installed. For more information, please contact Mike Lea at **715.225.8768**.

After almost a year of speaking to local governments and **raising donations** for the aeration project, I am pleased to report we are receiving \$750 a year for the next three years from the city of Augusta, \$1,500 this year from the town of Bridge Creek, \$1,000 from the town of Ludington next year, and \$1,200 from the association **Meat Raffles** this winter and spring at the Trails Edge Saloon. I want to thank our association board members for their help with the raffles and especially John Selz for his help with so many tasks. Please consider coming to a Friday night Meat Raffle next winter.

Don't forget to purchase your Association Raffle tickets at the Hide Away or Woodland! Chances to win Luxury Skybox Packers tickets, kayak, guided fishing, guided river trip, handmade quilt!

Nature Notes

Invasive Species Update

By Mike Harden

Invasive Species continue to be a growing threat to Wisconsin's ecosystems; both aquatic and terrestrial. Invasive species are plants, animals, or other organisms that are introduced to an area and then cause disruptions to the natural order in the biotic community. These introductions are nearly always the result of human activities, sometimes deliberate, but more often than not they result accidentally from man's carelessness. Sometimes, as in the case of the ring-necked pheasant (a native of Asia) the introduction is a beneficial one. More often than not, they are harmful. The sea lamprey, for example, entered the Great Lakes through the Well and ship canal which was constructed to allow foreign ships to reach U.S. ports as far inland as Duluth. This parasitic vertebrate devastated the native lake trout population in the Great Lakes. Believe it or not, the ubiquitous dandelion is not native to the U.S. It is a native of Eurasia, and was brought here inadvertently. The Dutch elm disease fungus nearly wiped out the American elm after it accidentally entered the country in contaminated wood from Europe. Many of us remember from our youth the towering elms which served as our most popular shade tree until the fungus took them from us.

More recently, the emerald ash borer, an insect, has entered Wisconsin and threatens to destroy our estimated 770 million ash trees that comprise roughly 7% of our forests. In many communities, ashes comprise 20% or more or our boulevard and yard shade trees. Zebra mussels are found in the Mississippi River and several of Wisconsin's lakes. The "flying carp" you may have seen on the news is native to Asia, but now is found moving steadily up the Mississippi and also threatens the Great Lakes, where it would expectedly cause irreparable damage to the food chain there. A noxious aquatic plant; Eurasian water milfoil, threatens to choke Wisconsin lakes. It is found as close as Lake Wissota, where it has gained a foothold. The list goes on. There are many hundreds of species that we have here now that did not exist here prior to European man coming to these shores. Some are welcome, a great many are not.

What can we do? Well, your Lake Association and the Wisconsin DNR conduct boat landing inspections to attempt to inform boaters on how to prevent transferring plant and animal pests from one body of water to another. One can cooperate and support these efforts. DNR and other agencies formulate regulations regarding the sale and transport of bait, firewood, etc. to reduce the spread of invasives. They deserve our support and abidance. Each of us needs to be conscious of what is on our own property, and make the effort to "clean up our own backyard" so to speak when it comes to these organisms. We need to educate ourselves, and to be aware of what we are doing to our environment because of our actions. Remember. It is much easier to keep invasives out of an area than it is to remove them once the have gained a foothold.

UPDATE ON THE LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR RIVER SEDIMENT REDUCTION

By Rod Zika

We are now in the second year of the DNR approved and funded Lake Eau Claire Management Plan. The bulk of the effort and expenditures in the first year (2013) was devoted to construction of three large sediment traps above the lake in the Eau Claire River. Aside from the traps, it was necessary to construct service roads and sediment storage areas for the material removed from the river. This work was completed in October of 2013 and in all roughly 38,000 cubic yards of sediment was removed from the three traps. These traps are designed to cut off most of the sediment transport that has been filling the lake over the last 75 years. For the traps to be effective over the long term they must be emptied when they are filled to roughly 75% of their capacity.

To understand how frequent these clean-outs will be, the Lake Associate in cooperation with DNR is developing a strategy for measuring the rate of sediment transport based on water levels as measured at the Troubled Waters Bridge. A meter has been installed there which continuously measures the stage height of the river. This is converted to volume of water flowing and is used to estimate sediment transport (filling rates) of the river traps. Studies are being conducted now and will continue through 2014 to establish the relationship between river stage height and the amount of sediment transported. Although the exact relationship has to be determined it is likely that high stage values for long periods will mean high sediment transport rates. If this is so, measurements made this spring indicate that a lot of new sand has been collected in the traps. The good news is that this is sand that would have been transported into the lake if it were not for the traps. The bad news is the traps will have to be cleaned out sooner.

The sediment traps are only the first phase of protecting the lake from sedimentation. The second is referred to in the Lake Management Plan as the "**re-connectivity program**." This will begin this summer and involve removing obstructions (i.e. trees, levees, sand bars) from the flood plain region between Troubled Waters Bridge and the main lake. These obstructions block the natural flow of water through various passages in the flood plain and tend to increase the velocity of the water in the main channel and therefore accelerate erosion and sediment transport. Clearing these obstructions reduces sediment transport and adds lost acreage back to the overall size of Lake Eau Claire. This should have a dramatic effect on increasing fish spawning and nursery habitat to grow more and bigger fish.

If you are interested in being involved in any part of these various management plan projects, volunteers will be a major part of the plan's success. If interested contact the Lake Association or Lake District and get involved. Contact information and more details about all ongoing management plan projects can be found on the Lake Eau Claire website: http://lakeeauclaire.org/

Lake District Officers

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

<u>Secretary</u>: Mike O'Connor E19730 Cty. Rd. Sd. Augusta, WI 54722 Phone715-577-2269 e-mail: <u>oconnormho@gmail.com</u>

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

<u>**Commissioner:**</u> 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 2014. 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 2014/2015 Please pay dues with this statement if you have not done so already.			
riouse pay aues mai and statement in you have not aone so an eady.			

HELP NEEDED: FISH CRIB INSTALLATION

We plan to install 16 more fish cribs **on Saturday June 28**th.

If you can help please be at the north shore boat landing at **8:30 AM**, we usually have them constructed in a couple of hours.

The cribs we have in the lake will eventually improve our fish habitat and our fish populations so people can begin catching good-sized fish.

Would you like one installed in front of your property? Please go to the www.lakeeauclaire.org website, call me at 715-286-2848, or email me at jselz@centurytel.net. We will also have sign-up sheets available at the June 21st Fundraiser. 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 June 28th Where: North Shore Boat Landing Time: 8:30am

Great News! The Black Bear Supper Club has reopened!

New owners are Bob & Paula Mullins and along with a great menu they are serving breakfast on Saturday & Sunday.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED -SO DON'T BE BASHFUL!

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 Joe Bechtel 612 812-0451 jbechtel8043@gmail.com
- Event set-up & take down: John Selz 715-269-2848 jselz@centurytel.net
- Craft/vendor show: Ginger Wilkinson 715-286-2474 shillcamp@aol.com Katie Selz 715-269-2848 selzka@augusta.k12.wi.us
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Lake District News By: Marlo Orth

On April 24th and 25th I attended the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention in Stevens Point. One of the sessions I attended was on the revisions to NR115. Rule NR115 deals with shoreland zoning. My suggestion to anyone remodeling or building is to consult with Eau Claire County Planning and Development Office 715-839-4741 before doing any construction. All counties have to adopt rules regarding shorland zoning using NR115 and subsequent revisions as a minimum, however they may adopt more stringent regulations than NR115. Eau Claire County Planning and development personnel know the rules and by consulting with them could save you a lot of heartache and money.

One of the speakers we had was Republican Assemblyman Robin Vos from Racine County. He is currently speaker of the Wisconsin State Assembly. He emphasized the importance of knowing your elected officials. He shared that during a piece of controversial legislation, he received about 2,000 letters and e-mails. Many of these contacts were copies of form letters etc. which had zero influence on him. He also received 22 contacts from constituents of his assembly district. He personally called every one of these 22 people to hear their views, but also to relate his position on the issue. He emphasized when you contact your elected officials, please be respectful. That is, share your point of view and reasons for it, but also listen to theirs. He also recommended that you get involved early on in the legislative process. You have a better chance of having your point of view reflected in any legislation if it is communicated to them during the drafting of the legislation. We should all take to heart assemblyman's Vos's suggestions and get to know our elected officials, this incudes our town board members, county board members as well as state assemblymen and senators.

We all need to thank Fred Poss and John Selz as they have developed a working relationship with both the Ludington and Bridge Creek town boards to the degree that they recognize the value of Lake Eau Claire to the point that they are contributing funds to us to use toward lake projects to protect and rehabilitate the lake. Thank you Fred and John.

(I paid all registration fees, lodging and meals personally in attending this convention.) Marlo Orth, Chairman

Lake Eau Claire Protection and Rehabilitation District











Lake Eau Claire

Clear Water Triathlon & Picnic Fundraiser-Saturday, June 21, 2014 VENDOR REGISTRATION AGREEMENT

> Location: C & G Hide Away Bar E19986 Cty. Rd. ND Augusta, WI 54722

Set up time begins at 11:00 A.M. behind the Hide Away Bar. The site is a large, grassy, park like area. Entertainment, picnic , and raffles will also be taking place at the vendor location.

The vendor area will be open to the public beginning at 1:00 P.M. & ends at 6:00 P.M.

Vendors shall have their area cleared up one hour after the event concludes (7:00 P.M.)

Exhibitors must accept full responsibility for any and all injuries or loss to themselves or their property.

Exhibitors must provide a Driver's License/State Identification, or a seller's permit number. You may be asked to provide proof of these identifiers.

Name:	Telephone:Telephone:		
Address:			
City:			
DRIVERS LICENSE, STATE ID#, or SELLE	RS #		
I am a crafter I am a vendor_	Please list ty	pe of craft and/or type of product(s).	
\$25.00 for a single space. Vendors and cr and canopy/shelter (if so desired). Electr Eau Claire Association			
Return Completed Form and Fee To:		E-Mail: Katie.Selz57@gmail.com Phone: 715-286-2848	
Money and application for	m must be received	by June 2, 2014 to reserve your spa	ce.
I,	, have read t	he above and understand all the	
information and requirements presented v	with this agreement.	Date:	



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Lake Association Officers

President - Fred Poss S5270 SD Lane Augusta 54722 715.286.9413 fredposs@gmail.com

Vice-President - Vicki Reed E 19605 Cty. Rd. ND Augusta 54722 715.286.2040 reedvf@uwec.edu

Secretary - Mary Schutz E20350 Greens Landing Rd Augusta 54722 715.286.5583 <u>m.schutz@centurytel.net</u>

Treasurer - Dean Boehne 512 5th Ave. N Strum 54770 715.695.3131 <u>dcbost@triwest.net</u>

Membership Mailing - Lori Bechtel N8043 980th St. River Falls 54022 715.426.5655 lbechtel@comcast.net

Newsletter- Jane Bechtel 1812 E Frances St. Appleton, WI 54911 920-540-3849 jabechtel@hotmail.com











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