



November 2015

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

A Note from the President

As I write this, the evening November sun lies like magenta blush across the dark western skyline. Canadian geese beat their way back to the Rookery and warn us to get ready for winter while we warmly reflect on the summer past.

This season we were able to grow our fish crib total to 183 as well as cheer Robin Walsh's crew on as they added 50 tree falls. Eight tagged walleyes are still swimming in the lake, and we continue to track their movements in partnership with Wildland School students. A \$1,000 grant for native plants arrived from Eau Claire County, and Kristin Charlton has volunteered to chair the effort to apply the grant funds to the aeration lot sidehills. I am working with Marlo Orth of the Lake District to complete the transfer of the aeration operation and land to the district. The triathlon was a great success, and I am proud to announce our first annual golf tournament was sold out! **Next summer the Triathlon is set for June 11 and the golf tournament for July 30.** Our clothing sales on the web had an excellent start—many thanks to Duane Ives for his technical direction and help with our Facebook presence.

As Lake Altoona will be closed to ice fishing, please know that we have already asked DNR to reduce limits on our lake and to add more warden enforcement. **If you are an ice fisherman/woman, please help protect the growing fish population we have worked so hard to build—take only enough fish you need to eat. Our lake cannot sustain everyone taking full limits day after day, taking more than a limit or coming back to take a second limit on the same day. If you observe folks breaking the law...call our warden Ken Thompson at 715.492.0147.**

TIME TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY PARTY!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016

**SOCIAL: 5 PM * DINNER:
6:30PM—\$18 PER PERSON
LIONS CLUB, AUGUSTA, WI**

Menu: Chicken Breast, Roast Beef, Baked Fish, Sliced Ham, 7 Layer Salad, Roast Potatoes, Cheese cake bites and After Dinner Drinks for sale

Contact: Vicki Reed (reedvf@uwec.edu) or 715.379.0020 or Pamela Hanson (pam.hanson@e5solutions.com) or 763.478.1481 RSVP by January 5th

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

Commissioner & Vice Chair - 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

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

Treasurer - Dean Boehne 512 5th Ave. N Strum 54770 715.695.3131
dcbost@trivest.net

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

Lake District News

By: Marlo Orth

As everyone knows we had a high water event that lasted several days the first part of September. The trap at Troubled Waters Bridge did its job and took out a lot of sand. That's good and bad! Its good it took out all that sand but bad - now we have to clean it out again. The last time we cleaned it, it was during the winter when the ground was frozen. This provided several advantages:

1. Low water flow
2. Don't expect a flood event
3. Provide winter work for contractor
4. Don't tear up the dirt roads

Regarding the Gravel Pit Trap. As I write this, it is undecided whether we need to clean it, modify it or just wait and see what nature does. Now this winter we plan to clean the Troubled Waters Bridge trap for sure, what else, has not been determined.

Thanks to Kelly Jacobs, Eau Claire County Land Conservation Director, she secured a grant to do a study on the Eau Claire River Watershed. Our watershed is 565,000 acres and encompasses parts of five counties. Chris Straight from Fairchild, WI is coordinating the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition study. They are using GIS and on the ground information to identify sources of nutrients (phosphorus) and sediment (sand and silt) that impact our lake.

Thus far three meetings have been held and another is planned for early December. Exact date is not set yet. This is a study and the best way to influence the outcome is to be involved in the process. Sign up for coalition email list: <http://eepurl.com/bk7Rn5>. Then come to meetings, make your voice heard so we get what is best, best for total watershed. Your Lake Association and Lake District leaders have been at these meetings and I can assure you have been very active in the process. But we also need you. We need your input. If you know of existing or proposed best management practices or projects that will reduce phosphorus and sediment loading to the water shed, please let Mr. Straight or myself know. Remember what happens in the watershed ends up in Lake Eau Claire.

To make improvements in the watershed involves dollars and labor. As an example, a farmer has a barn yard and the waste drains into a creek or stream. For him to fix this is very costly and he really has no incentive to do it. We have to convince him it would be healthier for his cows, a benefit for landscape and here's some money to help him. (This is only one example.)

With an Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition we would be eligible for larger and other grants that as a Lake District we would not be eligible for. That's a big reason for the Eau Claire Watershed Coalition. I encourage you to sign up and become active in the Watershed Coalition.

Sincerely,

Marlo Orth, Chairman

Lake Eau Claire Protection & Rehabilitation District

ACTION NEWS ITEMS!

- **We are looking for more adult volunteers to take Wildland School students out in a boat to track walleyes starting this spring. Contact Fred Poss (715.286.9413)**
- **A public hearing on closing fishing on Lake Altoona will be held in late November or early December. When the date is set, look for an email, which provides the meeting information. We are asking you to turn out and show support for DNR to protect Lake Eau Claire by moving up the panfish limit reduction from next spring to this winter and to add more warden enforcement.**
- **Do not forget that with the new year approaching it is time to renew your dues payment to our Lake Eau Claire Association, Inc. Dues remain at only \$20.**

Like us on Facebook.

Lake Eau Claire Association now has a Facebook page , search for Lake Eau Claire Association at www.Facebook.com.



Are you looking to make a tax-deductible donation? Don't forget Lake Eau Claire!

**Application For Lake Eau Claire Association
Membership or Donations**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address _____

Lake Eau Claire Fire # _____

Payment dues for one year: \$20.00 per address, due now!

2016 Fireworks Donation \$ _____

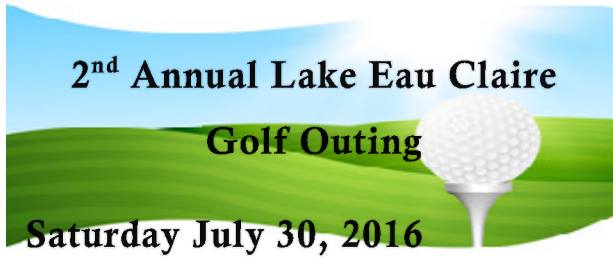
Lake Rehab Donation \$ _____

Where would you like to see our Lake Eau Claire Association concentrate it's efforts for
2016/2017? _____

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

**Return form to:
Lake Eau Claire Association
P.O. Box 229
Augusta, WI 54722-0229**

Save The Date!



TREE DROPS 2015

By: Robin Walsh

On October 13th, Mike Lea and I volunteered to work along with Joe Gerbyshak, our DNR Fish Biologist, long time lake advocate, Buzz Sorge, and two sawyers from the DNR, Jason Meacham and Matt Simonson to cut 52 trees and drop them into the lake. We used 3/8 inch galvanized cable to secure the trees to shore. The cable and clamps cost came to just under 500\$, which was donated this year by an anonymous lake resident. The Lake Association also made a contribution to the DNR to cover just their basic labor and transportation. The DNR crew came well equipped with chainsaws, safety gear, cable cutters, and work boat. Joe also visited the lake back in August and marked the designated trees so the crew could get the job done in just one day. Many thanks to this very hard working crew!

FORE!! After a very successful inaugural Lake Eau Claire Golf Outing, the LECA board of directors is happy to announce that the 2nd annual Lake Eau Claire Golf Outing will be held on Saturday July 30, 2016 at the Osseo Golf Course.

The board would like to THANK all of our sponsors, volunteers, participants and donors for making the event a huge success. Also, a big Thank You goes out to Leann Balliett for her time and effort coordinating and running the event.

Based on our experience and your feedback, our goal is to make next year's event even bigger and better! So, save the date and we'll see you on the course in July!



Thanks to everyone that ordered Lake Eau Claire gear from our online store! We had over 150 different items ordered and raised \$350 for the lake association. Our intention is to run another sale in the spring, stay tuned for more details!

Most of the tree drops were on County land on the Eastern end of the lake, in or close to "the rookery". Joe indicated this shallow water structure will give our spawning perch and musky a place to drape their eggs and will give juvenile fish habitat to find insects and protection. In addition, underwater trees serve as a carbon source that benefits everything from microorganisms to top predators.

Our Lake Management Plan calls for upwards of 200 Tree Drops in total so we hope to continue in 2016 and beyond. We are asking Lake Residents to consider having a Tree Drop on their property. The material and labor would be provided at no cost. The "ideal" candidate would be within 5 foot of the shoreline, have a lean towards the water, and be at least 25 foot from your property line or dock. We are especially interested in finding some trees that would reach water over 10 foot deep, so a steep dropping shore would be very desirable.

If you have a potential tree on your property for consideration or would like to offer financial help to cover the cost of materials and labor, please call me anytime at 286 5469 and I would be happy to visit your site and send a release form.

Robin Walsh

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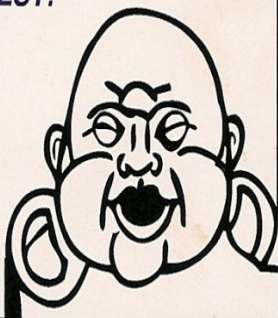
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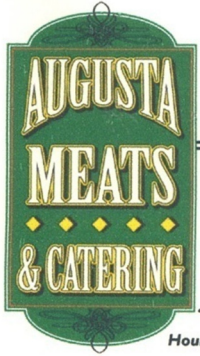
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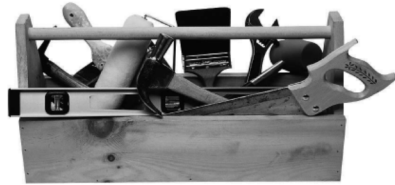
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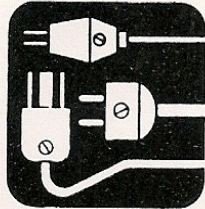
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