



August 2016

**Lake Eau Claire Association**

**P.O. Box 229**

**Augusta, WI 54722**

[www.lakeeauclaire.org](http://www.lakeeauclaire.org)

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### PRESIDENT'S VIEW

I am sitting transfixed on my dock's last step. It is about 3:00 pm on this first day of August, and an occasional southwest breeze is blowing me small, refreshing puffs despite the 80 degree heat. Moments like this call me to reflect on times past. I vividly recall going to my first association board meeting five years ago. In less than five minutes time I went from audience member to being the new president. Herb Comstock was a very persuasive individual!

And the challenges came just as fast—securing the \$200,000 grant from DNR; matching that with half from Eau Claire County and half from our private fundraising; writing a convincing argument to obtain a variance to dredge new sand traps upriver; getting approval for all the needed permits from DNR and Eau Claire County; and supporting the political effort needed to establish a lake district. As things developed other challenges like letting bids, managing contractors, finding volunteers, and installing fish cribs presented themselves. In the recent past there has been real need to raise even more money to support the aeration system installation costs because of DNR's required boardwalk.

But I have always tried to view problems as my friends because they provide an opportunity to grow. And grow we have! 199 half-log fish cribs now reside in our lake, and our second annual golf tournament was even bigger than our first. In helping to lead our efforts, I have met so many wonderful people on our association board, our lake district board, fish crib volunteers, and helpers of all kinds. We are so fortunate to have individuals and families who roll up their sleeves and pitch in: Vicki Reed, Dean Boehne, Lori Bechtel, as officers of the association; John Selz, Al Hendricks, Phil Kalscheur, Larry Comstock, Mike Harden, Randy Richards, Tom Hartel, Mary Wagner and Craig Vinopal as long time trusted volunteers. And where would we be without the dedicated efforts of Marlo Orth and Rod Zika? We all have benefitted so much from the efforts of these individuals to name just a few. Please take a minute to extend your thanks to these men and women of our lake.

The sun has just moved under a thick cloud. It is time for me to move on to other chores. Perhaps you know that I have to leave the president's position because of chronic health issues, though I intend to stay active in a smaller role as a board member. I feel I am not stepping away as much as I am stepping forward in another direction. But in the end, change is a good thing if we embrace the chance to get even better because of it. See you on the water!



**FORE!!** We are happy to announce that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lake Eau Claire Golf Outing was a **GREAT** success! The event took place at the Osseo Golf Course on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. There were 84 golfers that participated along with many others that came for the food, raffles, and fun! A huge Thank You goes out to Leann Balliett for organizing the event, to the many volunteers that helped make the day a success, and to all of the sponsors and donators of money, prizes, and more! If you didn't make it this year, consider joining us in 2017.

**Belle Vinez**  
THE ZIMMERMAN FAMILY WINERY



## 2016 ANNUAL PICNIC

**WHAT:** Lake Eau Claire Association Annual Meeting & Picnic

**WHERE:** At the usual spot: The Lodge at the County Park on SD

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 20, 4 PM Social, 5 PM Dinner

**COST:** \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Children ages 5-12

**RESERVATIONS:** None needed.

**MENU:** Pulled Pork, Hot dogs, Beans, Potato Salad, Water, Pop, Beer, Plates and Utensils

**AGENDA:** Call to Order, Approval of Last Year's Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Nominations and Election of Directors, President's Message and Award, Guest Speakers (Lauren Lea – "A Warning Siren Project for our Lake" & Dr. Rod Zika - "Future Challenges for our Lake") & Adjournment (Note that the new LECA Board will have a short meeting after adjournment to elect new officers)



## **Cleaning the Creeks**

As winter was winding down this year, we scheduled our annual clean out of Hay, Bedpost, and Beach Creeks along the north side shoreline of Lake Eau Claire. Unfortunately, the amount of snow and ice on the hillside entry to Hay Creek, along with very high water, made getting that job done just too difficult to complete. Many folks do not know that the DNR also makes getting this work done tricky because they have a spring and early summer ban on dredging type work because it could interfere with fish spawning. As of this article's date—August 1—we have arranged for a new cleanout of all three creeks on August 10. Your membership dues and the profits from the triathlon and golf tournament provide us the funding to do this work.



**Stay tuned...Another Lake  
Eau Claire Association  
clothing sale coming soon!**



# Lake EAU CLAIRE CLEAR WATER TRIATHLON

June 11, 2016



The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Eau Claire Clear Water Triathlon & Fundraiser took place on June 11, 2016 at the Hide Away. The event was a **huge** success thanks to the many volunteers, sponsors and participants. We had the second highest number of triathlon participants. The Wall of Beer/Wine, raffle ticket sales and donated baskets for the silent auction generated much needed funds! The money raised goes to the implementation and maintenance of the lake management plan to reduce sedimentation and improve fish habitat and water quality. Mark your calendar for next year's event – **June 10, 2017!!**

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### Here fishy, fishy...

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help build and place the additional 16 fish cribs! A special thanks to Kenny Zich (BZ Trucking) for hauling the logs free of charge and Steve Goss (Augusta Tire & Auto) for the skid steer use. For those keeping track, we've now placed **199** fish cribs! Let's keep up the good work!



## Nature Notes - Waterfowl Update by Mike Harden

It's been another great year for birding on our lake. Back in June, I was fortunate enough to see a pair of white pelicans land near Boy Scout Island. They were probably on the way north to nest, which they do in western Minnesota, the Dakotas and the Canadian provinces. These magnificent birds may have a wingspan of 8-10 feet, second only to that of the California Condor in breadth among American species. A neighbor told me that a few days later a flock of several dozen stopped to rest as well. Sorry I missed that. I have also seen an osprey on two occasions. I had not recorded one last year, but hope that this year's sightings indicate a nest in the vicinity. The return of our gulls, herons, ducks, grebes, cormorants, and others have also added to our opportunity to enjoy our bountiful avian fauna.

### Canadian Geese

Our population of Canadian geese continues to thrive. Interestingly, these birds were pretty well wiped out in Wisconsin by habitat destruction and over hunting. The subspecies *Branta canadensis maximus*, which nests in our area, was considered extinct in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, until a population was discovered in Rochester, Minnesota, in the 1950's. By the 90's Canadas were nesting in all 72 Wisconsin counties and have become a nuisance in some urban areas, especially on golf courses, cemeteries, lawns and parks where their waste becomes both an aesthetic and a health issue at times. These birds normally find a mate in their second year, remain monogamous, and may live as long as 33 years in the wild. They have a tremendous reproductive potential, laying anywhere from 2-9 eggs, with an average of 5 each nesting season. In the 90's, the Wisconsin DNR estimated the state goose population was growing at a rate of 10% a year. Obviously, like our deer, these birds have adapted very well to living in close proximity with humans.

I do believe the practice of feeding geese on our lake has been reduced or ceased altogether. We have many geese, but they seem to be less concentrated than they once were. If they are a problem in your part of the lake, there are several things you might try. All feeding of geese should be curtailed. A single adult goose will generate approximately 1.5 lbs. of solid waste per day. The less waste left on your dock or swimming areas, the better. Sometimes, a dog comes in handy to scare geese away. Geese love open areas. They like to be able to see all around so as to detect predators and defend their young. By leaving a natural vegetation buffer between your manicured lawn and the shoreline, you will discourage geese from nesting there or coming up on your lawn. The higher vegetation makes them feel less secure.

Like all aspects of nature, our wildlife species are there for us to enjoy. In most cases, they are best handled by observing them and otherwise letting them live their lives in the way nature has programmed.



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**As president of the Lake Eau Claire Association, Fred Poss is often asked to speak on behalf of our association. Below is a speech given to the Eau Claire County Finance Committee on July 28, 2016.**

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**Speech to the Eau Claire County Finance Committee, July 28, 2016**

1. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, ladies and gentleman. I am Fred Poss, President of the Lake Eau Claire Association, and I am speaking to support our request for \$100,000 to continue protecting our lake. In these hearings, I know you hear requests from many sources all asking for financial help for basic human needs. But I stand tonight to say that human beings need water, need lakes and rivers, need the outdoors experience. Every official who has climbed onto one of our pontoons or into one of our canoes to go out on the lake or up the wild territory of the Eau Claire River has marveled at the beauty of our county's natural resource here, and has expressed a sense of joy and renewal from the experience.
2. Your help is critical. The flood data gathered over 75 years on the river and lake say we should be cleaning out the big sand traps upriver every two or three years. However, for the last three consecutive years, there have been record floods requiring sand trap cleaning every year, and costing twice as much as we can gather through taxes. The consecutive floods have prevented us from building up a financial reserve in years we should not have to clean out the traps.
3. Furthermore, our lake association has doubled our fundraising. Along with about \$5,000 we earn by sponsoring our Clearwater Triathlon and Chicken feed, we have added our Lake Eau Claire Annual Golf Tournament to be held this Saturday at the Osseo Course. Both events are operated by dozens of volunteers and bring together our entire lake community as well as lots of folks from as far as the Twin Cities. These events allow us to supplement the many costs the Lake District cannot anticipate and budget for...costs like engineering fees and governmental visits. The aeration system we installed is working great, but it costs \$2,000 a month for electric energy for five months to operate and we aim to help with that.
4. Finally, I am very proud of the fact that fisherman from around the state no longer call our lake the dead sea. Our association under the authority and partnership with the Lake District just installed another 16 half log fish cribs bringing the total to 199. Even vocal critics of our efforts now praise our work because they are catching plenty of fish. And if you observe Mother Nature carefully, you will see the dramatic increase in the heron population on our lake because for the first time in years we actually have schools of minnows and bait fish that exist because we now have oxygen in the water and coarse woody habitat for fish to use for spawning and cover.
5. All of us together—the association, the Lake District, the townships, the county, and the state DNR—have made Lake Eau Claire a success story because we support each other as partners. I join Marlo Orth in asking for your continued support.



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### Lake Eau Claire window decals now available!



Window Decals are a simple and visible way to show your support for Lake Eau Claire. They look great on vehicles, boats or anywhere stickers can be applied! They will be available for purchase at the annual picnic and are currently available for purchase from The Woodland for just \$5.

# WHATL

*Wisconsin's Heartland*

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**\$\$\$ Donations \$\$\$**

**Did you know...**

**Donations to the Lake Eau Claire Association are  
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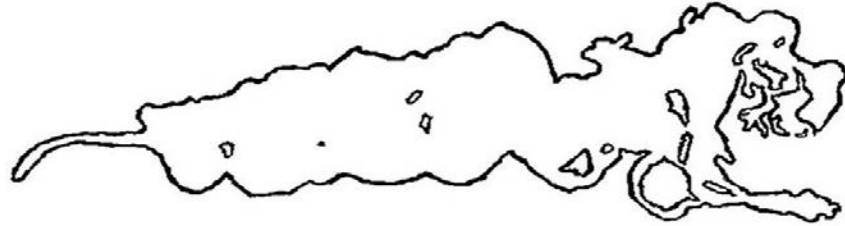


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# Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree



## Lake Eau Claire Association Officers

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**President** - Fred Poss S5270 SD Lane Augusta 54722 715.286.9413  
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**Vice-President** - Vicki Reed E 19605 Cty. Rd. ND Augusta 54722 715.286.2040  
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**Treasurer** - Dean Boehne 512 5th Ave. N Strum 54770 715.695.3131  
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**Membership Mailing and Secretary** – Lori Bechtel N8043 980th St. River Falls 54022 612.991.8331  
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## 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](mailto:marloorth@aol.com)

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

**Treasurer** - Dean Boehne 512 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. Strum, WI 54770 Phone: 715-695-3131 cell 715-797-4069 e-mail: [dcbest@tcc.coop](mailto:dcbest@tcc.coop)

**Vice Chair & 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](mailto:gary.gibson@co.eau-claire.wi.us)

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

*Sandy Hill*



**CAMPGROUND**  
*Augusta, WI*



**Have you paid for your LECA membership?**

**Have you recruited a friend to join?**

**Lake Eau Claire Association Membership**

**\*\* Complete the form below and mail it back with your payment \*\***  
**\* Membership dues are \$20.00 per year, per address \***

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**If you are interested in making an additional donation\* to one of the activities below, please specify which activity:**

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For more information on the LECA, go to [www.lakeeauclaire.org/](http://www.lakeeauclaire.org/)

\* Donations to the LECA are tax deductible

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