



March, 2017

**Lake Eau Claire Association**

P.O. Box 229

Augusta, WI 54722

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

[LakeECAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:LakeECAssociation@gmail.com)

#### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to 2017's first Lake Eau Claire Association newsletter! We have managed to survive another Wisconsin winter and I can honestly say that I welcome Spring and Summer with open arms. Let's hope that the 2017 Summer season rainfall is more normal and nothing like 2016. Thank you to everyone that attended the holiday party in January. We had a great turnout and I believe everyone had a good time. It was very nice to be able to meet many people around the lake that I had not met previously. We have such a great community of people that truly care about Lake Eau Claire.

#### Things that are or have happened:

- The Gravel Pit Trap was dredged and is completed. Over 10,000 CY were removed. The Troubled Waters Trap is in process of being dredged. The project was delayed because of warm weather and high water. We must be completed by March 15th or it will have to wait until after July 1st. The dredging company, Krueger and Stienfest, Inc. believes they will remove about 7,000 CY.
- The Lake District is working with the County and the DNR to find a new deposit site near the Troubled Waters Trap.
- Lake Eau Claire along with Lake Altoona and the River Coalition were granted a DNR Lake Planning Grant. This grant will be used to purchase and setup web reporting sensors and for the flow of calibration of the sensors. Another portion of the money will go to measure sediment transport and phosphorus and for sediment inventory of the river above Lake Eau Claire.
- Now recruiting for 2017 Lake Association Sponsors
- A Successful Ice Fisheree contest in February with over \$2,500 raised for The Lake Association!
- A team of 3 coleaders was formed for managing the June Fundraiser. Thank you to Vicki Reed for all of her very hard work over the years on this event! She is assisting the new team with the transition. The new leaders are Jane Bechtel, Trisha Ives, and Joe Bechtel.
- Look for the aeration system to turn back on around May 1<sup>st</sup>, weather dependent.

## Save the Dates!

### Don't forget to save the following dates:

Triathlon/Fundraiser – Saturday, June 10, 2017 (see flyer below)

4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks – Sunday, July 2, 2017

Boat Parade – Sunday, July 2, 2017

Golf Outing – Saturday, July 22, 2017





*Senn*

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### Membership Update!



Membership for the Lake Eau Claire Association is only \$25 per year. As you can imagine, the Lake Association has many expenses during the year. Your membership fee helps pay for things like equipment repairs, website hosting and maintenance, postage and other mailing expenses, newsletter printing, and a host of other things. The dues received are put to good use and spent very wisely. In addition to all that the Lake Association provides today, Lake Association members will now have the opportunity to be enrolled in a texting service that we can utilize during emergency situations. Given the flooding that occurred in September

2016, we believe we need multiple options for notifying people of emergency situations and important announcements. This service will **ONLY** be available to members who are up-to-date on their membership dues. You can renew your membership or join today by going to the following link, <https://www.memberplanet.com/lakeeauclaireaassociation>, click the "Join our group" button and fill out the form to "Create an account". You can also join by mailing your payment to: Lake Eau Claire Association, PO Box 229, Augusta, WI 54722.

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### Sponsor Update!



In 2016, the Lake Association introduced a new sponsorship program where sponsors could choose to become a sponsor at the Muskie, Northern, Walleye or Pan fish level. Last year we were very fortunate that over 25 businesses chose to take part in this opportunity and we appreciate all of the support we received! As you browse through our newsletter, you will see logos for various businesses included in the news portion of our newsletter; those are businesses who sponsored at the Muskie level. At the end of our newsletter, you'll find a listing of all our Northern, Walleye, and Pan fish sponsors. When you get the chance, please take a minute to thank our sponsors for their support or

support them by patronizing their business! (Note: these are sponsors who have paid as of March 1).

If you are interested in being a 2017 Lake Eau Claire Association sponsor and would like to pay the fee online, go to <https://www.memberplanet.com/s/lakeeauclaireassociation/sponsorship>. To make a payment by check, please complete the attached sponsorship form, include your check and mail to:

Lake Eau Claire Association  
Attn: Sponsorship Committee  
PO Box 229  
Augusta, WI 54722



## Fireworks Update!

Each year the Lake Association hosts a fireworks display over Lake Eau Claire, sometime around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. The cost of the fireworks show has always come from private donations. Unfortunately over the past few years, the donations towards this event have dwindled. Because the monies received has become less and less, the actual fireworks show has also decreased. There has also been much debate on whether hosting a fireworks display over Lake Eau Claire is good for our lake water. The Lake Association and Lake District have been working tirelessly over the past number of years to improve the water quality. By hosting a fireworks display, are we negating all the good that we are doing? This question is sure to

spark a different opinion from every person we ask.

Because of these two issues, this year at the annual Lake Association meeting, typically held in August, the question will be asked on whether to continue the fireworks show in 2018. The topic will be discussed and we will have a brief Q&A session. After that, all Lake Association members present will be allowed to vote on whether to continue the fireworks. If you are passionate about this topic, please plan to attend the annual event.





Join us at beautiful Lake Eau Claire for this family fun event to raise money for water quality improvement! The triathlon follows the shores of Lake Eau Claire and is a non-timed event.

**Location:**

LakeHouse Grill & Bar  
E19986 Cty Rd ND  
Augusta, WI 54722

**Event Times:**

**Registration/Package Pick up** – 12:00p.m. – 1:15p.m.  
**Triathlon** – 1:30p.m.  
**Beverages** – 2:00p.m.  
**Music by Bonafide** – 3:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.  
**Picnic Dinner** – 4:00p.m. – 6:00p.m.  
**Raffles & Silent Auction** – 2:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

**Divisions**

Individual

**Team (2 people)** - Complete the bike and run separately and canoe/kayak in tandem, or do the triathlon as a relay  
**NOTE:** Children under 12 must be accompanied by an individual over 18 as a team member and both entrants must complete the run, paddle, and bike together

**Triathlon w/ Picnic Pricing:**

Entry includes: Participation in event, T-Shirt (first 110 entries), beverages, and picnic dinner

**Adult Entry** – March 1 – April 30: \$30  
**Adult Entry** – May 1 – June 10: \$40  
**12 and under Entry** – March 1 – June 10: \$20

**Picnic Only Pricing:**

For individuals not participating in the triathlon, includes dinner and beverages

**Adult** - \$15  
**12 and under** - \$10

**Registration:**

**Online** – <https://endurancecui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=42012554>  
**Mail** – Complete registration form with check (payable to Lake Eau Claire Association) and mail to:  
Trisha Ives  
1505 Centennial Pkwy  
Waunakee, WI 53597

**Additional Information:**

Equipment will not be provided. Participants may use canoes or kayaks. Life jackets and bike helmets are required. Canoes/kayaks will need to be dropped off by participants at Lake Eau Claire County Beach. County park permits will need to be purchased for individuals that park and leave vehicles at the beach. The course will be marked and rules of the road are to be followed while biking and running. There will not be any refunds.

Full day of fun  
for the entire  
family!

TRIATHLON:

2.5 MILE WALK/RUN

1 MILE PADDLE

8 MILE BIKE RIDE

PICNIC FOR ALL:

MUSIC BY BONAFIDE

PICNIC DINNER

BEVERAGES

RAFFLES

SILENT AUCTION

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at:

715-225-1226

[LakeECAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:LakeECAssociation@gmail.com)

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

Facebook: Lake Eau Claire  
Association



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## Boat Parade

Arrrrr! It'll be summer before you know it and it's time to start thinking about decorating those boats and pontoons for the 2017 boat parade. That's right mates, *Pirate Regatta XXIX* -- will be at 4 pm on the 2nd of July. All you Independence Day buccaneers can float the fresh water high seas of Lake Eau Claire, take in the awards ceremony and free libations and still make it to supper before the fireworks. The parade takes about an hour but don't go straight home. There's an awards ceremony on Pirates Island — did we mention there's free libations.

There are 2 divisions, Frigates — that's for you pontoon owners. And the Schooner division is for you boat people. Since 1988, we've suspended the entry fee and there's no reason to stop that now. First, 2nd and 3rd prizes are awarded in each division. First prize is always a handsome oak plaque that beautifully enhances the wall of any LEC house or cabin and gives the winners bragging rights for years to come. Second and third prizes get a combination of money and libations. In 1988, to promote Pirate lore, we actually awarded silver coins, but by popular demand we now award prizes in US currency. The Pirates issue a proclamation to all winners, celebrating their creativity and achievement.

Last year, we had 20 units in the parade: 17 pontoons and 3 boats, making it easier to win in that division. Still, we need more boats. The highest number of units (at least since 1988 — that's how long the Pirates have been leading the parade) was 36 units in 1990. The lowest was 15 in 2013.

The weather is almost always nice -- there was only one year where we did the parade in a driving rain and that was in 2010 and that year we had 19 units. And that says a lot about the determination of Lake Eau Claire boat paraders. One year — 1997 — the event was cut short when a huge thunderstorm (some say it was a tornado) interrupted the event. We still had the award ceremony, just 2 hours late.

Get the jump on the parade and start planning your theme. There's always stiff competition, especially for Frigate captains and crew. We could always use a judge or 2. And arrrrg!, if you have questions, call , Commodore Chris Nelson 715.497.9939 or Admiral Mike O'Connor 715.577.2269.



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### HELP -- Boat Parade and Balloons!!

After the boat parade in 2016, we heard from a number of concerned citizens that a lot of litter and balloons were found on the islands, in the water, and at the beaches. **Please** consider using water guns instead of water balloons this year. If that doesn't work, please consider using biodegradable balloons which can be purchased on Amazon. **Also, if you see trash, please pick it up!** The more people we have taking care of our precious resources the better.





## The Woodland

55340 State Highway 27  
Augusta, WI 54722

P) 715.286.2112

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[woodlandwi66@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandwi66@gmail.com)

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WI DNR Licenses



Stay tuned for the opening of  
our Lake Eau Claire  
Association online again store  
this Spring!!



It's great to see everyone proudly promoting Lake Eau Claire!

## 2017 Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree by Dale Zank

### Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree



On February 4<sup>th</sup>, the local Ice Fishing "Fisheree" was held off the north shore boat landing on Lake Eau Claire. The local manager of the Fisheree, Dan Marcheske, invited the lake association to set up an informational tent and to sell a raffle to help raise funds for the Lake Eau Claire Association.

The Fisheree was very well attended and came very close to selling out the 500 holes allotted. This contest is managed very well by Dan Marcheske and his crew. They are extremely well organized and had a lot of prizes for attendees. The lake association raffled off a Vexilar FL 28 fish locator, which was donated by Dan, which was valued at \$625.00. We also had a 50/50 raffle. We raised over **\$2,500** for the association and the funds will be used for future lake improvements.

The association's tent had information about the association and pictures of crib installations and the aeration system. There were people on hand to answer questions about all the good things happening on the lake. It was

just great the number of people who stopped at the tent and expressed interest in what is happening on Lake Eau Claire. Special thanks to the Williamson boy's for use of their tent.

Special thanks to Fred Poss, Randy Richards, Mary Wagner Moldenhauer, MaryAnn Smasal, and Mike Harden for helping at the tent and selling raffle tickets. We far exceeded our expectations!

It was a FUN DAY! Hope to see you next year. Tentative date is February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.

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## “The Coffee Clutch” - Lake News and Views by Fred Poss

Although I am no longer the president of the association, I have volunteered to keep up various activities like organizing the fish crib work and dredging the small creeks on the north side of the lake. Another activity I believe is useful to the association is continuing political work through the many contacts I made the past five years. Thus, this new column has arrived to share what is going on.

Three topics of current focus are before us. First, the **Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition** continues to meet and confer. As you may know, this group is a collection of DNR, county staff, lake leaders, farmers, and interested property owners who have assembled to find ways to work together. Latest efforts have centered on promoting no-till farming where appropriate, finding new grant opportunities to offset lake maintenance projects, and beginning efforts to write and speak to local and state politicians.

Along the political effort line, Marlo Orth and I attended a local political listening session for **Kathy Bernier**. I spoke about concern for the new proposals to diminish the Department of Natural Resources by sending conservation protection and its budget resources over to other agencies. We here on Lake Eau Claire depend on the DNR for both advice and money in the form of major grants like the one which provided almost \$200,000 for the aeration system and major sand traps. Furthermore, I made it clear that it is time the state began to share the burden of annual financial assistance to Lake Eau Claire and Lake Altoona. The local costs of maintaining the major sand traps and aeration system keep serious property tax revenue flowing to our township and county. It is high time the State of Wisconsin decided to foot some of the yearly bill too. Marlo took the opportunity to invite Bernier to take a pontoon ride with us on our lake.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank everyone for their support over the past five years when I reached out for volunteers and financial help. This past December the Eau Claire County Board and its Land Conservation Commission presented a plaque of **Special Recognition** for my contributions to the long term conservation of Lake Eau Claire. Receiving the recognition was nice, but I accepted it on behalf of the many dedicated folks on our lake and in the area who show up to help every time something needs to be done. Many hands make the work go quickly!



An advertisement for the law firm Richie Wickstrom &amp; Wachs, LLP. The top half shows a photograph of three people: a woman in a dark suit and pearl necklace, a man in a dark suit and red tie, and another man in a light-colored suit. The firm's name "RICHIE WICKSTROM &amp; WACHS LLP LAW FIRM" is overlaid on the photo. Below the photo, the text "PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS" is written in a large, bold, serif font. At the bottom, there are two red boxes with white text: "Contact us about your case today. Our focus is you." and "Call (715) 839-9500 www.rwwlawfirm.com".

# DONATIONS

*Did you know...*

**Donations to the Lake Eau Claire Association are Tax Deductible!!**

**Consider making a donation today! 100% of all donations go directly to the improvements of the lake.**

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## **Nature Notes – Our Changing Atmosphere** *by Mike Harden*

“Nice day, eh?” said my elderly neighbor as he stopped to visit while riding his bike past my place in Eau Claire. “That was a short winter” he added. It was Feb. 19 and the temperature was 60 degrees on the third day of five in a row with mid 50’s temperatures. Ice fishing was becoming somewhat iffy, and the next weekend’s Birkebeiner up at Cable, Wis. was being threatened with possible cancellation for the second time in it’s history due to a lack of suitable snow. Climate change? Maybe, maybe not. Whether this and other unusual weather patterns are just temporary weather anomalies or a sign of something bigger is very difficult to ascertain. To clarify, the term “weather” refers to atmospheric conditions over a short period of time; a period of hours or days, or a week or so. “Climate” weather over long periods of time. As anyone who lives in Wisconsin can attest, the “weather” can often change very abruptly.

Changes in weather and climate are both functions of changes in our atmosphere that thin band of gases that envelopes the earth. It is about 62 miles or so from the surface of the earth to the Karman line, where outer space begins. 99% of our air, however, is within the first 20 miles above earth, with our weather occurring in the troposphere, which is the layer within 10 miles of the surface.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is charged with cooperating with other countries in monitoring conditions and changes in the earth’s atmosphere and oceans. Unfortunately, climate science has become somewhat politicized, as have many other scientific developments in the past. If the findings of science go against commercial interests, in this case the fossil fuels industry, there is going to be resistance.

Here, however, are some facts gleaned from climate data that are worthy of our consideration:

- According to NOAA data, 2016 was global-wide the warmest year on record since record-keeping began in 1880. It was the third record breaking year in a row. 16 of the 17 warmest years ever recorded have been since 2000.
- Satellite views taken this January of both the arctic and Antarctica show the smallest extent of sea ice in both regions since satellite monitoring of polar ice began in 1979.
- Sea levels are rising at the rate of about one eighth inch per year, both because of thermal expansion of sea water and the loss of polar sea ice. Sea levels have risen 2.6 inches since 1993.
- Human activities continue to pour about 40 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year. Carbon dioxide is known to serve as a greenhouse gas, trapping heat in our atmosphere and reducing its escape back into space.

What are the consequences of all this? Time will tell. Our atmosphere is changing, and it will have impacts on the distribution and populations of plants and animals in various parts of the world. Some will become extinct, others will flourish. Some areas are becoming wetter and some drier. It seems we can expect more intense rain and wind events leading to more erosion, mudslides, flooding and droughts in some areas. Some areas may benefit, other areas will suffer economically. Stay tuned, and stay informed.

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## **What's all the noise about? by Lauren Lea**

You may remember hearing about my Girl Scout Gold Award project last spring when I began raising money to install an emergency warning siren for Lake Eau Claire. I am excited to report that the siren is up and operating!

My first Gold Award project meeting was with the Town of Ludington in March, 2016. Once approved, we worked closely to select a location, establish ownership, connect to existing emergency management systems, and determine future maintenance costs. The Township also donated \$2,000 to kick-start the fundraising effort, which was later matched by the Town of Bridge Creek. This meeting was the first of many to come.

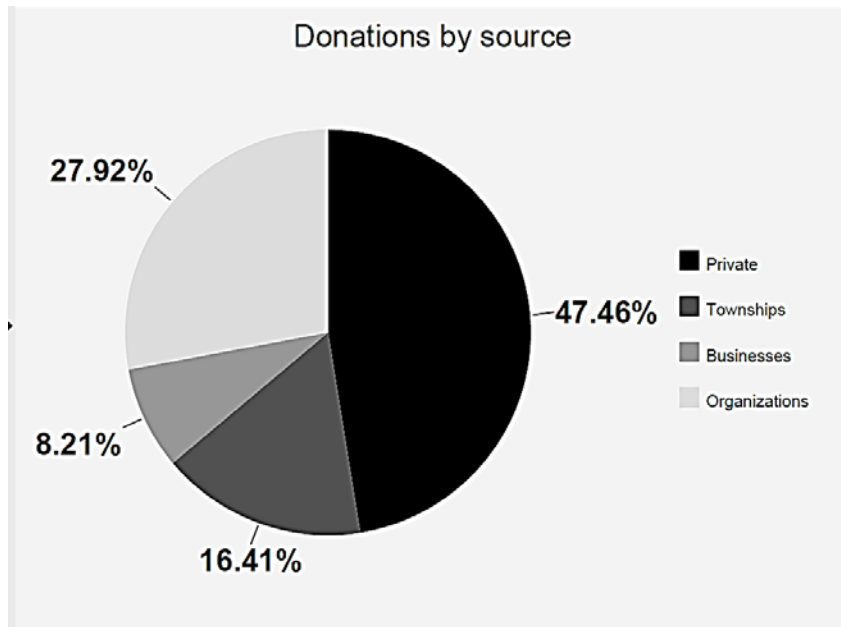
Raising the money was no small task. I knew selling Girl Scout Cookies alone would not be a feasible fundraising option with a projected budget of \$25,000. Instead, I chose to raise awareness about the project. I spent several hours creating information packets for a mass mailing, writing talking points about the project, meeting with Township, County, State and Federal officials, presenting the idea at organization, foundation and government meetings, writing newsletter articles, grants, and emails, and talking to people about my project.

Early organizational support was key to the success of this project. I had ongoing support from the Town of Ludington, Lake Eau Claire Rehabilitation District, and Lake Eau Claire Association. The Augusta Lions Club, Fall Creek Fire District, American Legion, VFW and AARP groups all provided significant donations. Although I avoided organized fundraising as much as possible, the Augusta-Bridge Creek Fire Department provided an opportunity to promote my project at their Annual Chicken Feed, and donated a large portion of the profits from this event to my project. The Augusta Area Sportsman's Club also donated, and then later offered additional funds from a raffle at their annual banquet. These local organizations and their members were a key factor in the success of my fundraising efforts, providing nearly 30% of the needed funding. In addition, private donations accounted for a little more than 47% of the funding, with businesses and Townships making up the rest.

In September, 2016, WEAU 13 News in Eau Claire conducted an interview that aired on the evening news. Shortly after, several other news organizations reached out to interview me about the project. It didn't take long for private donations to roll in after that. The stories eventually caught the attention of two additional siren companies who contacted me with quotes for the project. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative reached out and offered to deliver the utility pole at no additional charge and worked with the installer to get a local pole for the siren at cost. Fortunately, I had enough funds collected by late November to coordinate the installation with the siren contractor before the serious winter weather set in, and in December the siren was installed and tested.

By January, 2017, I met the \$25,000 fundraising goal for the project. Additionally, I completed the Gold Award application and was awarded my Girl Scout Gold Award. I plan to speak about my experience at an upcoming Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes event. A plaque will be placed at the siren site to acknowledge those who contributed to this project.

Through this project I learned the importance of building relationships, researching and presenting information about a large scale project, speaking in front of large crowds, and conducting myself in a professional and positive manner. I also learned that I live in a generous and caring community. I would like to thank the local businesses, organizations, Township board members, and citizens who contributed to this cause. Without this generous show of support from many of you, this project would never have gotten off the ground!



Percent of donations for the siren project by funding source

**Lake Eau Claire window decals still 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 are available for purchase at The Woodland for just \$5.

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## Lake Eau Claire Association Officers

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**President** - Lori Bechtel, N8043 980th St., River Falls 54022 612.991.8331 [lbechtel@comcast.net](mailto:lbechtel@comcast.net)

**Vice-President** - Duane Ives, 1505 Centennial Pkwy, Waunakee 53597 608.444.0380 [dives@amfam.com](mailto:dives@amfam.com)

**Treasurer** - Dean Boehne, 512 5th Ave. N., Strum 54770 715.695.3131 [dcbost@trivest.net](mailto:dcbost@trivest.net)

**Secretary** - Pam Hanson, 704.905.8705 [pam.hanson@e5solutions.com](mailto:pam.hanson@e5solutions.com)

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## Lake District Officers

**Chairperson**- Marlo Orth, 712 E Grant Ave., Eau Claire WI 715-832-6961 c:715-828-3052  
[marloorth@aol.com](mailto:marloorth@aol.com)

**Secretary**- Mike O'Connor, E19730 Cty. Rd. SD, Augusta, WI 54722 715-577-2269  
[oconnormho@gmail.com](mailto:oconnormho@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** - Dean Boehne, 512 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., Strum, WI 54770 715-695-3131 [dcbost@tcc.coop](mailto:dcbost@tcc.coop)

**Vice Chair & Commissioner** - Gary Gibson E16934 Scenic Dr., Fall Creek, WI 54742 715-877-2730  
c:715-210-0401 [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 715-533-0050

**Have you paid for your 2017 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 \$25.00 per year, per address \***

Name:

Address:

Email address for future newsletters:

Lake Eau Claire Fire # (if applicable):

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

Fireworks Donation                   \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Lake Rehab Donation                 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed form and payment to:**

Lake Eau Claire Association  
P.O. Box 229  
Augusta, WI 54722-0229



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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