



August, 2017

Lake Eau Claire Association

P.O. Box 229

Augusta, WI 54722

www.lakeeauclaire.org

LakeECAssociation@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lori Bechtel

As summer quickly slips by and kids start heading back to school, it gives me pause to think of all the great things that happened on Lake Eau Claire over the past 7 ½ months of 2017 and to be so thankful to all who continue to make Lake Eau Claire such a beautiful waterway.

Since our last newsletter (June) we successfully completed a few fundraisers that helped to generate some significant funds that we will be able to put to good use over the coming months. In June we held the 11th Annual Clearwater Triathlon and Fundraiser, in July we held the 3rd Annual Golf Fundraiser and also in July we held the first two successful gun raffles with the hopes of having more.

Other very important happenings were that the Association was able to clean out the Hay Creek sand trap. A total of 39 truck loads or over 387 cubic yards of sand was taken out. This is a big task and it couldn't have been done without the City of Augusta and the Town of Bridge Creek lending us the usage of their equipment. Thank you to them! We are now working to get the traps at Bed Post and Beach Creek cleaned out.

The Association is working closely with the Lake District to help in securing a new sand deposit site for future dredging needs. It is imperative we secure the site quickly as we will need it over the coming months. We had another successful fish crib building day and managed to install another 16 fish cribs. We've seen the positive effects this can have on fish population and we look forward to continuing this next year.

I want to personally thank all of the volunteers and donators! None of this is possible without you! I hope you all enjoy the remainder of your summer!



Belle Vinez

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Renew, Recruit...Join Today!



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.

Thanks You Sponsors!!



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! If you are still 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/lakeeauclaireaassociation/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 4th 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 on August 19th at the Clubhouse, 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.



FORE!!

We are happy to announce that the 3rd Annual Lake Eau Claire Golf Outing was a HUGE success! The event took place at the Osseo Golf Course on Saturday, July 29th. There were over 100 golfers that participated along with many others that came for the food, raffles, and fun! A big **Thank You** goes out to Leann Balliett for organizing and managing the event, and to the many volunteers that helped make the day a success. Also a very appreciative thank you to all of the sponsors and donators of money, prizes, and more! If you didn't make it this year, consider joining us in 2018.



LAKE
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The 11th Annual Lake Eau Claire Triathlon & Picnic Was a Great Success!

We had a very hot and windy day this year for the triathlon and picnic but the result was a very safe, fun, and successful event raising over **\$10,000** for the Lake Eau Claire Association.

This year's event had record numbers of participants, volunteers and donations!

There were 107 participants in the Triathlon. We had a great mix of kids and adults that ran, paddled, and biked persevering through the windy and warm conditions. The participants had a great sense of accomplishment as they crossed the finish line. Many others came to only participate in the picnic, raffles and hear great music. Thanks to all of you that were there.

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The planning committee sends a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of the volunteers and generous people that donated the many giveaway items that were used for the silent auction, raffle prizes and wine and beer walls. Without the volunteers and prizes this event would not have been such a great success! All of the profit from this fun family fundraiser will go to help keep the water in Lake Eau Claire clean for all to enjoy! Thanks to all!

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Update Submitted by Kristin Charlton

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership gathered at UW-Stout August 2, 3 and 4th as part of their summer outreach meeting. This group includes statewide representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, UW-Extension, and Wisconsin Lakes. It's a great chance to meet new people and see all the projects the DNR and UW-Extension are working on. The partnership also invites other stake holders that may be working on Wisconsin water issues.

The River Alliance and the Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association (TMLI) attended and gave presentations on their activities. TMLI was kind enough to host Partnership members on Tainter Lake for a Pontoon Tour.

Gina La Liberte, WDNR Blue-Green Algae Specialist did a training session on blue-green algae on Lake Tainter. Despite the rain, wind and cold it was a very valuable tour.

Dan Zerr, UW- Extension Regional Educator gave an update on the Eau Claire River Watershed Group. UW-Extension outreach with farmers has been ongoing with many successes. He reviewed the actions LEC has taken with the aeration system and dredging projects. The watershed work is critical to reducing the tremendous amounts of sand and chemicals coming into lakes Eau Claire and Altoona.

Carroll Schaal, DNR Section Chief discussed the Biennial Work Plan and an update on staffing changes and cuts within the agency not only in Madison but in all the regions. Some of the openings are due to retirements (Buzz Sorge and John Haack) and it's uncertain whether Madison will replace these positions. It appears that DNR educators will not be replaced anytime soon.

Eric Olson Director of UW Extension Lakes and Wisconsin Lakes Executive Director, Michael Engelson, also provided updates on the Lakes Convention and ongoing legislation.

The Red Cedar Conference will be held at UW-Stout on Thursday, March 8th, 2018. The theme for 2018 is "Land, Water and People Coming Together."





In June we announced a new fundraiser!

Monthly Lake Eau Claire Association Gun or Bow Raffle

Only 100 tickets will be sold on each raffle at \$10 each

Can buy the tickets only at The Woodland

We are happy to announce that the first 2 gun raffles sold out and were awarded to two lucky winners.

Thank you to everyone that purchased a ticket!

1st Raffle - Mossberg Patriot .308 Winchester Bolt-Action Rifle with Scope – **Dale Rodmau of Eleva**

2nd Raffle - Browning AB3 Hunter .270 Winchester Bolt-action Rifle with Scope – **Amanda Knuth of Augusta**

A new raffle will be coming soon! Watch Facebook for the announcement!

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.

www.memberplanet.com/s/lakeeauclairesotsociation/donations

Boat Parade Success!

Arrrrh! Ahoy Maties! You showed your cannons -- and water balloons, too — with 18 well-dressed frigates and schooners sailing the fresh water high seas of Lake Eau Claire in 29th annual Pirate Regatta. Great showing — Three more than last year!

A judging team, “Super Secret”, anonymous and yet full of nautical knowledge awarded the booty and prizes to the following craft:

Frigates (Pontoons)

- 1st prize -- “The Ice Cream truck” commanded by Matt and Leah Weinrich.
- 2nd prize -- “LEC Hippy Van” aka VW microbus, piloted by Mark and Vicki Reed.
- 3rd prize -- “LEC, our Happy Place” with Randy and Wendy Richards at the helm.

Schooners (Boats)

- 1st prize -- “Drinking Camp, with a hunting problem” piloted by Tim, Rachel and Erin Nelson
- 2nd prize -- “Grumpy Old Men” crewed by Don Froom and Pete Crooker
- 3rd prize -- “LEC Rodeo” commanded by Kerrylea Fellers and a cast of many.

First prize winners were awarded a handsome oak plaque commemorating their achievement. The Frigate award is sponsored by The Woodland and the Schooner award is sponsored by The Lake Eau Claire Association. Second prize winners received \$25, also donated by The Lake Eau Claire Association. Third prize winners won 12 packs, donated by The Lakehouse. All winners received a proclamation with which entitles them bragging rights for the next year. Many thanks to the Lakehouse for the libations and Doyle and Nelson Properties who donates the pop, ice, proclamations and legwork.

Start thinking up your schemes and themes for next year’s event and convince (or shanghai) a few of your fellow LEC mariners for next year.



Boating & Personal Watercraft Rules & Reminders

It is that time of year when we see a lot of violations occurring on the lake. The below is a reminder of some of the rules and regulations. Please make sure you not only know these, but anyone in your household that may be operating a boat or PWC.

Age and Operator Restrictions

A person born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, and at least 16 years old may operate a motorboat only if he or she has completed a boating safety course accepted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

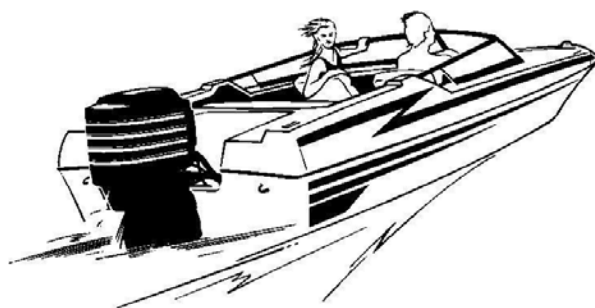
A person who is at least 12 years old may operate a PWC only if he or she has completed a boating safety course accepted by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Speed Restrictions

- It is unlawful to operate a motorboat at a speed that is greater than reasonable and prudent under the existing conditions. The speed shall be so controlled as to avoid colliding with any object, person or conveyance lawful in or on the water.
- It is unlawful to operate a motorboat within 100 feet of any dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area on any lake at a speed in excess of "slow-no-wake".

Personal Watercraft (PWC) Law

1. No persons operate a PWC from sunset to sunrise.
2. All persons riding a PWC must wear a PFD of the proper size and type (type I, II, III, or V).
3. No one under 12 may operate a PWC. (Rental age limit is 16.)
4. Persons at least 12 but under 16 must be in possession of a valid boating safety student certificate (issued under s. 30.74(1)) to operate a PWC. (Parental supervision is not a substitute for a boating safety certificate as with other motorboats. PWC operators must have a certificate.)
5. It is illegal to operate a PWC facing backwards
6. There is no towing of persons engaged in water skiing, aquaplaning, or similar activities unless the PWC is designed to seat 3 people.



Most Common Boating Violations

1. Failure to provide proper number of personal flotation devices.
 2. Operating boat without valid certificate of number,
 3. Operating boat in prohibited area, in excess of speed limit on lakes 50 acres or less, or in excess of fixed limits.
 4. Personal Watercraft violations.
 5. Operating motorboat while under the influence of an intoxicant, or operating motorboat with BAC of 0.1% or greater.
 6. Operating within 100 feet of dock, raft, pier, etc.
 7. Operating boat at night without required lights.
 8. Failure to display registration number or decal on boat.
-

What is Wisconsin Lakes?

Formed more than 20 years ago following the merger of the Wisconsin Federation of Lakes (the statewide association of lake associations) and the Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts Wisconsin Lakes works to develop statewide solutions for the challenges faced by our lakes while supporting strong local protection efforts. Our work has centered on legislative advocacy for strong statewide policy on clean water and lake sustainability for future generations, as well as a robust education and technical assistance programs for citizens, lake organizations, government officials, and others.

We can all agree our lakes are a precious natural resource and one of Wisconsin's top attractions. And, with the recent sunset of a long-term contract with the DNR to provide broad technical assistance, Wisconsin Lakes is now entering a new phase of Lake Advocacy and protection.


Our plans include building targeted programs around organization building for lake groups, aquatic invasive species prevention, over-pumping of groundwater, and promotion of practices to improve habitat and shorelands to protect the overall health of lakes.

Individual members come from all walks of life: waterfront property owners, recreational lake users, and individuals that simply support the conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources. As part of your membership, you'll receive our e-mail newsletters, the eLake Letter and Lake Policy Report, as well as alerts to policy matters of immediate concern and invites to weigh in with your own opinion through surveys and online conversations. We'll work to keep you educated about the issues of the day so you can make your own informed opinion and take appropriate action. Individual members are the driving force behind much of our advocacy work.

Consider joining as an individual today, even if your lake is already a member, it's only \$30.00. Please donate at www.wisconsinlakes.org. If you have any questions regarding Wisconsin Lakes and current programs please contact Kristin Charlton at 715-286-5166. Thank you!



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2017 ANNUAL PICNIC

WHAT: Lake Eau Claire Association Annual Meeting & Picnic

WHERE: The Clubhouse at the County Park on SD

WHEN: Saturday, August 19 4 PM Social, 5 PM Dinner

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

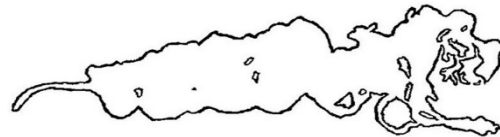
RESERVATIONS: None needed.

MENU: Chicken & Ham Dinner, 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 Speaker Josh Peterson regarding water level management at the dam, Bylaw Revision vote, 2018 Fireworks vote, & Adjournment (Note that the new LECA Board will have a short meeting after adjournment).



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Off the Pavement – by Dale Zank



Another way to enjoy the great Eau Claire River Valley is Geocaching! Geocaching is a great way to explore, by looking for hidden caches on many of the trails in the area and some of the islands on Lake Eau Claire. It is like a small treasure hunt

There are over 2,000,000 geocaches worldwide, over a 1,000 in the Chippewa Valley, and close to 20 on Lake Eau Claire. These caches can be as small as a pill bottle or as large as an ammo box. They are hidden in trees, under logs, and other nooks and crannies in the woods (and in the city).

You will need to access a geocache app for your phone. I use Geocaching.com, or you can make a list of locations off of your computer and use a GPS unit to find the location. Each geocache location has its own latitude/longitude coordinates. This will normally get you within 10 feet of the geocache and then you will need to do some searching.

Once you locate the geocache you will find a notebook inside where you can write your user name (I use Zman for example) and the date you found it. Inside the box you will also find many trinkets. If you like one you can take one as long as you leave another trinket in exchange. You can also purchase a traveling medallion. This you place in a box and other people move it from location to location. If they move it they enter the medallion number on the website so that you can track how far it traveled.

There are also many geocaching themes. I am working on the Battleship theme. This entails finding all the caches in this group. Some of the caches will have a "hit" and you play it like the board game until you sink that battleship. Other themes may be musical and you will need to find a list of songs by Neil Diamond or albums by the Beatles. Many of these you need to find the first cache to get the coordinates for the second, and then the third and so on. Others are traveling geocaches. These lead you on a road trip around a certain area.

Just another reason to get out and enjoy this great Eau Claire River Valley we call home.

Note: Anyone wishing to try geocaching and do not know where to start, give me a call. I would be happy to go on a geocache hunt with you!

THE FISHIN' HOLE REPORT

-by Fred Poss-

There is good news about the fishing situation on Lake Eau Claire. I happened to stop by Lake Holcombe and Lake Menomin a few days back, and the waters at both spots looked like green soup and had that familiar stink associated with blue green algae. Then I compared those waters to our lake. Wow!—what a difference. Yes, we have some floating weed that commonly appears on the surface in midsummer. But our water is clear and clean, and we can thank our aeration system for that!

A question that pops up occasionally is: **Why aren't the aerators placed in the shallow water toward the east end of the lake?** The short answer is that the shallow end already has enough oxygen in it from the river, and that blue green algae cannot grow in oxygenated water. It is the west end of the lake that requires the aerators which bubble oxygen into the deep water there which lack oxygen and therefore can grow blue green algae. An ounce of prevention is worth ten pounds of cure.

Another item of recent discussion is the improved fishing in our lake. The DNR recently stated that our lake has the largest population of walleyes per acre of any lake in Wisconsin. I think we should take real pride in that fact. A big vote of appreciation has to go out to all the volunteers who respond to my calls for help building and installing fish cribs. Saturday, July 8, we installed another 16 cribs, making our total rise to 283 plus 88 tree drops. That makes a grand total of 371 fish producing structures, and makes reaching our goal of 500 structures by 2020 very realistic. It also needs to be said that these structures do decay over time, so that we hope to adjust our schedule and amount of cribs going into the lake to allow for some loss.

Please keep responding to my call for helpers when another fish crib installation event is scheduled!

Finally, our Association did coordinate with the Lake District for the cleaning out of Hay Creek this summer. Unfortunately, because of all the high water events, that trap is full again. The issue of what to do about Hay Creek and Muskrat Creek will have to be addressed by voters at the August annual meeting of the Lake District. We also hope to clean out Bed Post and Beach Creek if we can coordinate with local government assistance.

Lake Eau Claire Association Officers

President - Lori Bechtel, E19885 County Road ND, Augusta, WI 54722 612.991.8331 lbechtel@comcast.net

Vice-President - Duane Ives, 1505 Centennial Pkwy, Waunakee 53597 608.444.0380 dives@amfam.com

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

Secretary – Pam Hanson, 704.905.8705 pam.hanson@e5solutions.com

Lake District Officers

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

Secretary- Mike O'Connor, E19730 Cty. Rd. SD, Augusta, WI 54722 715-577-2269 occonnormho@gmail.com

Treasurer - Dean Boehne, 512 5th Ave. N., Strum, WI 54770 715-695-3131 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

Commissioner – Patrick Bethke, E19535 Faske Rd, Augusta, WI 54722 715-579-1208



Want to renew your membership early? It is only costs \$25 per year to be a Lake Eau Claire Association Member!

Lake Eau Claire Membership Dues Renewal/Application

Name:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

Email:

Phone:

Annual Membership Dues:

One Year	\$ 25.00	Three Years	\$ 75.00
Two Years	\$ 50.00	Four Years	\$100.00

Membership Amount: \$.00

Additional Donation:

Fireworks \$

Lake Rehab \$

Other \$

Donation Amount: \$.00

Total \$.00

Are you interested in volunteering?

Fundraising _____ Grant Applications _____ Annual Picnic _____ Triathlon _____
 Other _____

Note: Donations to the LECA are tax deductible.

Payment options:

Member Planet Online Payment Options:

Memberships: www.memberplanet.com/s/lakeeauclaireasotsociation/memberships

Donations: www.memberplanet.com/s/lakeeauclaireasotsociation/donations

Mail completed form with check made out to Lake Eau Claire Association to the following address:

Lake Eau Claire Association
 Attn: Dean Boehne
 PO Box 229
 Augusta, Wisconsin 54722 – 0229

Payments can be made either by check or electronically through Member Planet. To find out more information log onto www.lakeeauclaire.org

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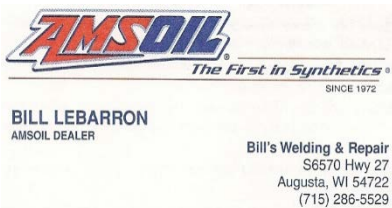
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