



August, 2018

Lake Eau Claire Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 229  
Augusta, WI 54722  
[www.lakeeauclaire.org](http://www.lakeeauclaire.org)  
LakeECAssociation@gmail.com

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

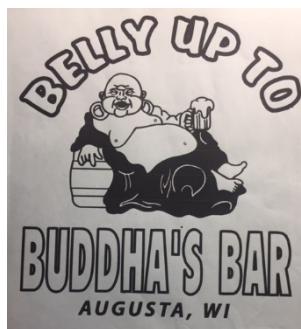
By Lori Bechtel

It has been a warm summer thus far and unfortunately, our lake is showing the impact of a few weeks of warm, dry, low wind weather! Over the past week, many of us have noticed the green algae that has formed on our lake. I have received numerous calls, text messages, and emails about this problem. I am sorry to say there are no quick or easy remedies to this situation once it appears. We have been extremely lucky over the past several years because we have not seen this problem while many lakes around us have. Algae will typically form when the water is warm and enriched with nutrients like phosphorus or nitrogen. Some of the best things we can do for our lake is:

- Use lawn fertilizers only when truly necessary
- Prevent yard debris from washing into storm drains
- Plant and maintain vegetative buffers along shorelines
- Continue to run the aeration system which increases the oxygen in the water and encourages the growth of beneficial bacteria that can consume the excess nutrients

While I know this situation is very frustrating to all of us, let's remain positive! We have not seen conditions like this in many years. Years ago, I recall this situation recurring each year so we must be reminded of the progress we've made and keep up the good work. We cannot control Mother Nature but we can control the items listed above.

I hope to see you all at the LECA annual picnic and meeting on the afternoon of August 18<sup>th</sup> at the clubhouse on SD.



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**FORE!!**

We are happy to announce that the 4th Annual Lake Eau Claire Golf Outing was a HUGE success! The event took place at the Osseo Golf Course on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 did not make it this year, consider joining us in 2019.



**Fireworks!!**



With your help & donations, we were able to increase our fireworks contribution for 2018 & put on an even bigger show! Our goal is to continually grow our show each year & make Lake Eau Claire a destination for watching fireworks! We are launching our 2019 campaign and you can donate here:

[www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/2019\\_fireworks](http://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/2019_fireworks)

## *Why do we have a lake aeration system on Lake Eau Claire? What benefits are we seeing with the aeration system?*

The Lake Association and the Lake District have heard these questions before and would like to offer the below as a bit more detail on the system that was installed a number of years ago, with the DNR's monetary help.



**Oxygen** serves as the most essential component to the health of a body of water. Lake aeration is the simple, yet effective, process of increasing oxygen levels in a lake and can not only greatly enhance the aesthetic beauty of a lake, but can also improve the natural systems taking place beneath the water's surface. The main purpose of aeration is to increase and stabilize the amount of dissolved oxygen in the entire water column and this has a widespread effect on many different aspects of pond and lake health.

### **The Six Main Benefits of Lake Aeration are:**

#### **1. Improves Water Quality**

Under oxygen-deprived conditions, bottom sediments release nutrients that cause algae blooms, noxious gases and metals that can cause water quality problems. Proper aeration allows for many of the factors contributing to poor water quality to be mitigated.

#### **2. Reduces the Likelihood of Excessive Algae Growth**

The oxygen that is added to the lake through aeration facilitates the conversion of phosphorus to forms that are not usable by algae as food. Aeration can also effectively mix algae spores towards deeper parts of the lake, meaning it will have less available sunlight and time to grow.

#### **3. Removes Foul Odors**

As bottom water mixes and becomes oxygenated through aeration, the hydrogen sulfide gas that causes foul odors will be greatly reduced.

#### **4. Enhances Fish Habitat**

Stratification occurs when sunlight and air temperatures warm the surface water and create a layer of water of lower density. The resulting thermal stratification results in oxygen depletion over time, which will cause an overall decline in the health of the ecosystem and, in severe cases, may lead to fish and other aerobic organism death. By disrupting stratification through aeration, a healthier habitat will be created for fish and other aquatic organisms.

#### **5. Decreases Mosquito Activity**

Mosquitoes require still water conditions for their eggs to develop. A floating fountain or submersed aerator will create a constant flow of water in the lake, helping to reduce viable mosquito breeding habitat and acting as a natural and sustainable mosquito control solution.

#### **6. Reduces the Accumulation of Bottom Sediment**

Organic matter decomposes much more slowly under low oxygen conditions, and this leads to buildup of unhealthy bottom sediment in the lake. Proper aeration will help to reduce the overall accumulation of organic sediment on the bottom of the lake. This, in turn, will lead to the development of a healthy ecosystem comprised of various aerobic organisms that provide bountiful food sources for fish.

## **What benefits have already been recognized from the aeration system on Lake Eau Claire:**

- Oxygen levels have increased dramatically in the deepest areas of the lake. In 2016-2017, in cooperation with the Wildland School, we tagged walleyes with radio transmitters in the spring and followed their movements for over a year. We are happy to report that over half of the tagged fish reside mainly in the deepest waters of the aeration zone. Prior to aeration, fish could not survive in the deep waters. This means, because of the aeration system, the fish habitat has been greatly expanded.
- Water quality has greatly improved. Since aeration, algae blooms have been far less intense and in shorter.
- Enhancing fish habitats – in a recent DNR study on Lake Eau Claire, the walleye population has increased from 2.5 walleye per acre to 5.3 walleyes per acre. The DNR now states that Lake Eau Claire is one of the best walleye lakes in the State of Wisconsin.

**Please be assured that the association researched scientific data and consulted many experts and companies across America when selecting the aeration system we installed. Our system uses millions of tiny bubbles shot out of the aerators under high pressure to not only add oxygen to our lake, but also to disrupt the lake's thermocline. Every lake of even modest depth develops three levels of water: a top level that has warmth and oxygen, a bottom level that is cold and without oxygen, and a thermocline level in the middle which separates the other two. By disrupting the thermocline, our aeration system mixes oxygen into the deepest parts of the lake and helps limit or prevent the bacteria called blue-green algae from growing.**

**In summary, the aeration system is having success on Lake Eau Claire. Our lake was definitely lacking oxygen levels in deeper water. The system has corrected this issue and we have seen the results in greater fish population, less frequent algae bloom, less frequent beach closings, and better water clarity. If we were to decide to turn off the aeration system, we would likely be required to pay back the matching funds that were received from the DNR for this project. By doing so, it could also limit our chances at receiving future matching funds on upcoming projects like sand trap installations at Hay Creek and Muskrat Creek.**

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## **2018 ANNUAL PICNIC**

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

**WHERE:** The Clubhouse at the County Park on SD

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 18 4 PM Social, 5 PM Dinner

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

**RESERVATIONS:** None needed.

**MENU:** Pulled pork, Potato Salad, Fruit, Ice Cream, Water, Pop, Beer

**AGENDA:** Call to Order, Approval of Last Year's Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Nominations and Election of Directors, President's Message and Award, & Adjournment (Note that the new LECA Board will have a short meeting after adjournment).





June 9, 2018

## The 12th Annual Lake Eau Claire Triathlon & Picnic Was a Great Success!

We had a beautiful day this year for the triathlon and picnic! It was a very safe, fun, and successful event raising over **\$5,000** for the Lake Eau Claire Association.

We had a great mix of kids and adults that ran, paddled, and biked in 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.

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!

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### **CLEAN CREEKS, CLEAN LAKE**

By Fred Poss, Sedimentation Committee Chair

On June 12, using five dump trucks from local governments and an excavator from an area dredging company, the LECA was able to arrange and fund the cleaning out of the Hay Creek Sand Trap. The local governments who agreed to provide dump trucks without charge were the Town of Bridge Creek, the Town of Ludington, the City of Augusta, and Eau Claire County. A thank you letter was sent to each of these governments to express our gratitude for their willingness to help carry the load to protect and improve Lake Eau Claire.

A total of 53 truckloads of sediment were removed from the present trap at the mouth/delta of Hay Creek where it joins our lake. Based on the carrying capacities of the various trucks, a total of approximately 575 cubic yards of sediment were removed and taken to our approved deposit site. This work by your association, in cooperation with the Lake District, stopped 53 truckloads of sediment from filling into the lake. This same arrangement has

proved to be successful in cleaning out two other small north side creeks, Bedpost and Beach Creeks.

For those who feel that the lake should be receiving help from other governments, the cleaning out of the three north side creek sand traps is an example of how we are doing building that partnership. The only cost is for the excavator, and since the lake association is a private organization, no Lake District tax levy public dollars are used.

If this private partnership type work is something you approve of, then please realize how critical it is for you to **join** the lake association, **come** to the June Triathlon, **enter** the July Golf Tournament, **attend** the winter holiday party, **sell** raffle tickets, and **enjoy** the fun of the winter ice-fishing contest.



Finally, we continue to partner with the Lake District in its effort to create a new sand traps on the various streams. This ongoing partnership is critical to our ongoing efforts to reduce sediment flowing into our lake. Stay tuned for more information on this!

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

<https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/donations>

**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/lakeeauclaireassociation>, 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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**We have received over \$45 so far by people shopping at Amazon Smile. Keep it up!**

## Lake Eau Claire Association Fundraiser Raffle just finished!



## Lake Eau Claire Association Gun Raffle

**The Drawing for two guns was held this past Saturday. The winners were:**

Tim Brueggen - Browning AB3 270 caliber rifle / Wood stock

Lou Mason - Ruger SR9 / 9mm semi-auto pistol

**Thank you to all that purchased tickets! We hope to have another raffle starting soon!**

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## **Lake Eau Claire Association Officers**

**President** - Lori Bechtel, E19885 County Road ND, Augusta, WI 54722 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@triwest.net](mailto:dcbost@triwest.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 Lea, E21680 Cty Rd SD, Augusta, WI 54722 715-286-5423 c715-225-8768 [armlea@centuurytel.net](mailto:armlea@centuurytel.net)

**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** – Gordie Obrien [ogordie@hotmail.com](mailto:ogordie@hotmail.com)

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*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:**

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Memberships: You can renew your membership or join today by going to the following link,

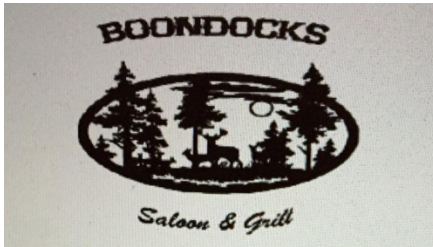
<https://www.memberplanet.com/lakeeauclaireassociation>, click the "Join our group" button and fill out the form to "Create an account".

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

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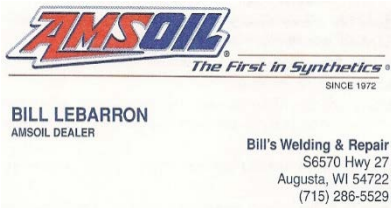
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