



October, 2018

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

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lori Bechtel

Fall is in full swing. The temperature has dropped considerably in the last week or so! I'm hoping it warms up a little so that we have a nice long Fall season before the harsh reality of winter is upon us. What a fantastic summer season we had on Lake Eau Claire. I'm thankful to say that I was able to get out on the water a lot over the summer and enjoy our beautiful lake. We had a number of successful fundraisers over the past few months and am so thankful for all of the wonderful volunteers that worked the events. Also, thank you to everyone that participated and donated money in some way to making the events a success!

Since our last newsletter, I'm happy to report some great news from the Lake Eau Claire Association. First, from a suggestion by one of our LECA members, the Lake Eau Claire Association is going to be doing business as "Friends of Lake Eau Claire". We feel this name encompasses the true meaning of membership base. Our members are not just those that live on or have property directly on the lake. Our members are also people who love Lake Eau Claire and want to preserve it for years to come. You will see this new dba as we go forward.

Now some really exciting news! At the annual Lake Eau Claire district meeting held in late August, the Lake Eau Claire Association (remember this is a separate entity from the district) was able to present the district with two large cash donations. First, the LECA is donating \$25,000 towards a new sediment trap on Hay Creek. We hope to have that installed this winter. Second, the LECA is donating \$40,000 towards a sediment trap on Muskrat Creek. Our goal is to have that trap installed one year after the new Hay Creek trap. We are so thrilled to be able to donate this money to such a worthy cause. Last year we surveyed our membership and the number one item from those that participated was to continue removing sand from our lake. We listened and we are putting our money towards this effort. Again, thankfully we have had some very successful fundraisers over the past few years and we've been able to save up money towards these efforts.

Please look at our upcoming calendar of events and reserve these dates on your calendar so that we can continue this good work! As this will be our last newsletter of 2018, I wish you all a happy and healthy upcoming holiday season!

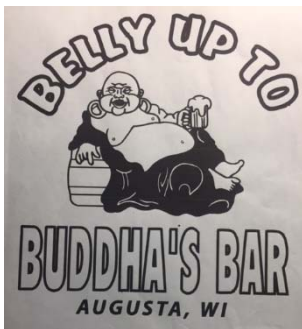




Save the Dates!



- Annual Holiday Party – Saturday, January 12, 2019
- Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree – Saturday, February 2, 2019
- Clearwater Triathlon & Picnic – Saturday, June 8, 2019
- Fireworks over Lake Eau Claire – Tentative July 4, 2019
- Boat Parade – Tentative 4:00 pm July 4, 2019
- Golf Outing – Saturday, July 27, 2019 – New Location!
- Annual Meeting & Picnic – Saturday, August 17, 2019
- Annual Fish Crib Installation - Saturday, September 14, 2019



Are you an American Family Insurance customer? If yes, you are eligible to nominate a non-profit organization to win \$1,000. Please consider nominating **The Lake Eau Claire Association!**
Voting is only open this month!

American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation is awarding \$250,000 to the organizations that matter most to YOU! Customers may nominate a nonprofit organization for a \$1,000 Community of Dreamers donation. Nominations are open 10/16/2018 through 10/31/2018.

<https://www.amfam.com/customer/forms/Community-of-dreamers-nomination>

Lake Eau Claire Protection & Rehabilitation District Update
Marlo Orth

After considerable exploration, Rod Zika advised us that the most desirable location for the new proposed sediment trap for Hay Creek is just (upstream)of the last property (Dave Moelter's home) on ND. By Brian Kellett and Mike Lea driving rebar in with a post hole driver in various locations at this site to determine how deep we can build the trap, Rod believes we have sufficient depth, width and length to install an appropriate sediment trap. (Note, no problem driving rebar in, however getting it out was a different story. Brian and Mike really got a workout.)

We have engaged Williams Engineering Services (WES) for the technical design of the trap and Rod has provided WES with the desired trap design information. The Lake Eau Claire Association is providing the funds for this engineering work and Eau Claire County has indicated that they will provide 50% matching funds.

We currently have a permit for a sediment trap located by Marc Christopher's property on Hay Creek. DNR (David Hon) has indicated that we may amend this permit to include the proposed new sediment trap.

Josh Pedersen and Jody Gindt (Eau Claire County, Parks & Forest) have selected a proposed route from the new trap to a deposit site off NL. This route is through county forest land onto County NL and then through county forest land to the deposit site. A challenge we have is aerial maps show presence of wet lands in some of the proposed road routes. David Hon (DNR) has agreed to meet with Josh Pedersen on Friday, Oct 19, 2018 to determine if we may use the proposed route in the winter time while the ground is frozen as is or do we need to implement mitigation in order to gain permission to construct this haul road. After these issues are resolved, we can request WES to survey and design the road.

After we have WES engineering designs for both the trap and road, we may apply for appropriate permits. Once we get the permits, the Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department has volunteered to construct the road, with us paying for all rock and base material. Also, Frank Draxler, Eau Claire County purchasing agent, has volunteered to prepare and send out the bid package to dig the trap once we receive the engineering design from WES. Our goal is to dig the trap in January/February 2019.

Many thanks to all the volunteers working to accomplish this, to the Lake Eau Claire Association for furnishing funds to do this project, to Eau Claire County for the matching funds and Parks & Forest Department for road construction.

Marlo Orth, Chairman
Lake Eau Claire Protection & Rehabilitation District

Nature Notes – Preparing for Winter **By Mike Harden**

We had our first frost the other night. It won't be long now and winter will be upon us. We may be putting up a wood supply, closing down our cabins, getting out our winter garb, or otherwise preparing for the change, but preparation is taking place in the natural world as well. There are many ways in which wildlife prepare for the upcoming drastic change in seasonal conditions; some simply migrate to get out of here and migrate to warmer climes. Some, like many mammals, molt to a winter coat that is much warmer than that worn in the summer, or even is of a totally different color. Others just literally "chill out" and sleep the winter away.

Birds and bats have a big advantage with their flight abilities, and many species use this to simply fly south to areas where there is more food that is to their liking in the winter. Some, like the American woodcock (a worm eater) have such a limited dietary preference that they simply would starve in a Wisconsin winter. Many, like the orioles and hummingbirds have mostly left already. Some, like the tundra swan, come through later, peaking about in mid-November as they journey from the Northwest Territories to their wintering grounds on Chesapeake Bay. Keep your ears tuned to the skies during this time, as their flocks are quite spectacular, and their primary migration route centers right over Eau Claire Co., then down around the tip of Lake Michigan and eastward.

If you are earthbound, like most mammals and other animals, other adaptations are in order. The snowshoe hare, and our three species of weasel in Wis.: the least, the short-tailed, and the long-tailed weasels all turn a beautiful pure white in winter, helping them to avoid predators during this time.

Another strategy for surviving the privations of winter is to try to sleep through it. Many species enter a period of dormancy or inactivity, the depth of which varies from one species to another. To most of us, the term "hibernation" is adequate to describe this condition, although the level of inactivity can vary considerably.

Black bears, for example, enter a "winter sleep" in which their body temp drops from around 98 to 91 degrees F., and their heart slows to 10 beats per min or so. A bear can be awakened. A woodchuck is very difficult to arouse during hibernation, as their temp may drop to around 38 deg. F., and their heart down to 5 beats per min. Snakes, frogs, and turtles also seemingly disappear during the winter months, entering into states of dormancy which vary by species.

We humans, being the most adaptable of all species, have a choice. We can fly south (if you can afford it), we can change our outer garb (sometimes using the pelts of furbearers), or we can enter a period of winter dormancy in front of the TV. (Go Packers)!!

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OVER THEY GO! – by Fred Poss

Saturday, September 8, turned out to be a perfect day for installing more fish cribs in our wonderful lake. A crew of about 20 volunteers showed up at the North Boat Landing and got to work around 8:30 AM. As the saying goes, “Many hands make the work go fast.” Within two hours and with great cooperation among the crew, we were able to install 17 new cribs. This year we are trying a little different approach—we are using hardwood limbs about 8 feet long that are fresh cut and still leafy, instead of white pine branches. The hope is that oak, maple, and other hardwoods will last a bit longer. In all, after our installation day, there are presently 448 fish cribs and tree falls in the lake.

In mid-October, Robin Walsh has plans to install about 31 more tree falls, which would bring our total to 479. While these numbers may seem like overkill, please remember the cribs we build are small single log size units, not the big log squares that many people assume we make. Furthermore, when we first started the program in 2012 to rebuild the lake’s fish and minnow population, you may recall that we set our goal at 500 cribs for the lake by the year 2020. Everyone on our lake should take real pride in knowing we will easily reach our goal providing we are able to continue gathering volunteers. As plans shape up now, it appears we will only need to do one Saturday morning installation per year of about a dozen cribs each time.

Many thanks go out to all the folks who helped make the crib installation another success: James Tumm, Lou Mason, Jeff Eckwright, Greg Steinacher, Chris and Kanyon Fellers, Dale Zank, Rod Zika, Don Russell, Scott Braun, Dan Marcheske, Mike Harden, John Selz, Mike Lea, Marlo Orth, Rick Lawson, Glenn Johnson, and others who also pitched in and helped in various ways.

I am setting the first Saturday in September as the “standing” date for our annual fish crib installation. If you are interested in helping out—or if you are interested in having one or more fish cribs placed out from your property—please contact me: Fred Poss, 715.286.9413, or fredposs@gmail.com.

Thank you to Chris Fellers for the following photos of the fish crib install day!



Get the Lead Out
By Dylon Aichele

As an avid duck hunter, I am curious and concerned about the health and future of waterfowl. Knowing there is a history of lead poisoning in these birds, I was curious to investigate if ducks were still unknowingly consuming significant amounts of lead.

I along with two other Wildlands Charter School students conducted a lead poisoning test on harvested bird gizzards. We saved all of the gizzards we shot this year so we could open, clean, and examine them. We examined the tissue and the gravel that helps grind up the bird's food. We were looking for signs of damage to the gizzards due to lead poisoning from shotgun pellets, sinkers, and other lead pollution in waterways.

Our methods included carefully examining each gizzard and documenting indicators such as lead pellets or dark gray tissue in the gizzard. Healthy waterfowl gizzards are green and rough, with a hint of pink color. Darker, mushy tissue indicates signs of lead damage.

The gizzards collected from the Lake Eau Claire watershed area had measurable evidence of lead damage; such as soft gizzard tissue and lead shot pellets in the organ. Other signs we looked for included bright green staining of the vent area and heads that appeared puffy and swollen. These birds can be mistaken for crippled and injured, but in fact the lead is just taking effect. The seabirds we examined from Maine appeared healthier than the Wisconsin birds; with little evidence of lead poisoning. Our findings suggest waterfowl in the Lake Eau Claire area are still suffering from lead exposure and damage.

Lead can contaminate fish that certain waterfowl eat. We were surprised to learn from our research that of all the Wisconsin birds, the Bald Eagle was the most commonly affected by lead poisoning. Lead makes birds' reproductive systems fail over time, which in turn impacts their population and ultimate survival rates. The most common way wildlife in Wisconsin consumes lead is from shotgun pellets and sinkers. Our findings suggest there is still lead in our waterways. Not only is it in our lakes, it is getting into wildlife. One-way hunters and anglers can help is to use steel shot and sinkers instead of lead. This would make a tremendous difference in the health and longevity of waterfowl populations.

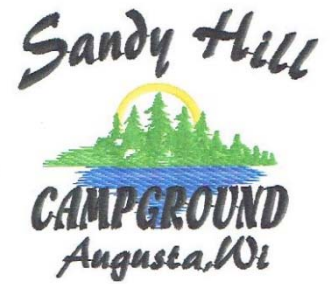
-Dylon Aichele is a 2018 graduate of Wildlands Charter School. This research was presented as a part of his senior project and was previously published in the Wildlands Student Newsletter Super Special Senior Edition.

Poisoned Gizzard



Healthy Gizzard





DONATIONS

Did you know...

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

**Consider making a donation before the end of the year to take advantage of the deduction on your 2018 tax return!
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 Friends of Lake Eau Claire 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, Friends of Lake Eau Claire 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.



Did you see the recent article in the Eau Claire Leader Telegram about the link between water clarity on your lake and what it does to your property value? If not, go to:

<http://eauclaireleadertelegram.wi.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=44aeac9d5>

It is important that we keep working hard to keep our water clear!



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We received our first payment from Amazon this month and over \$30 has been generated by people shopping at Amazon Smile. Keep it up!



Lake Eau Claire Association Gun Raffle

We currently have two Gun Raffles In Progress:

Browning AB3 308 Caliber Rifle / Wood Stock with Scope
Browning AB3 7mm Caliber Rifle / Wood Stock with Scope

Drawing to be held Saturday, December 1st
Tickets on sale now at The Woodland

Save the date!

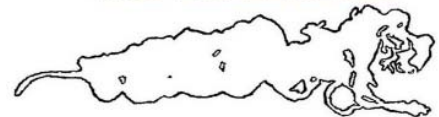
The Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree is a family fun event where entrants participate in a 3 hour catch and release fishing tournament. Fish registration will be among game fish (must be legal length) and panfish, both based on length.

Our 5th annual Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree will be held February 2nd, 2019 at the North boat ramp on County Road ND Circle.

Only 500 lines will be sold! Pre-registration will begin in December exclusively at The Woodland! Register early, as we expect to sell out!

Each year the Ice Fisheree has made donations to the Lake Eau Claire Association to help support, protect, and improve the water quality and fishery on the lake. This benefits all that that enjoy the recreational use of Lake Eau Claire!

Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree



WALLEYES GALORE! – by Fred Poss

In previous articles, I have discussed the terrific results of fish population increases since 2012 because of our aeration system which provides access to deep oxygenated water for gamefish in the summer and because of our long-term commitment to add coarse, woody habitat to the lake in the form of single log fish cribs. You may recall I have also pointed out how the typical walleye lake in Wisconsin, according to DNR numbers, has an average of 2.5 adult walleyes per acre (fish that are of breeding size of 15 inches or larger). And I have also shared recently that after our aeration system went to work and the fish cribs starting doing their job, Lake Eau Claire now has an average of 5.3 adult walleyes per acre—making it one of the finest walleye lakes in the state of Wisconsin, especially considering its small size. Certainly, too, releasing walleye of 18 inches or larger has made a real improvement because it allows the prime breeding size fish to remain in the lake.

But this week, we received some fantastic news from the DNR. Joe Gerbyshak, our area's fish biologist, conducted a survey of young-of-the-year walleye on Lake Eau Claire on the evening of October 2. Joe reports that the 2018 young walleye class is extremely strong. His crew found 148 young walleyes in a mile sample. He says, "This is one of the biggest—if not the biggest—year classes recorded on Lake Eau Claire." He believes this year's hatch of young fish should help to make good fishing for years to come, once the fish grow to legal size (about 4 or 5 years). He went on to say, "All the habitat work that you (Robin Walsh with tree drops) and the Lake Association (fish cribs) have been doing looks like it is really paying off."

This is just one more strong piece of credible evidence that we are on the right track with our efforts to rehabilitate and improve Lake Eau Claire. Let's keep keeping on!

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 Lea, E21680 Cty Rd SD, Augusta, WI 54722 715-286-5423 c715-225-8768 armlea@centuurytel.net

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

Lake Eau Claire Membership Dues Renewal/Application

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| Annual Membership Dues: | | | |
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| 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/lakeeauclairstassociation>, click the "Join our group" button and fill out the form to "Create an account".

Donations: <https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclairstassociation/donations>

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

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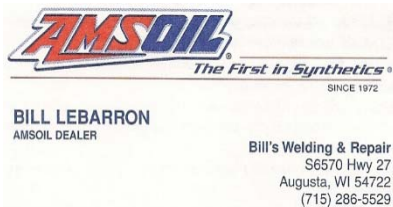
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LISTED ON LAKE EAU CLAIRE



Accepted Offer

MLS #1521915 / \$199,900

Remodeled (09') with large deck and 3 season room extending along lakeside of home. Functional kitchen open to living room, 2 bedrooms, and 1 bath on 100ft of frontage and .93 wooded acre with beautiful view of this year round recreational lake. 30amp 110v for RV parking, extra storage space in garage, close to boat ramp.



Accepted Offer

MLS #1523942 / \$250,000

This property features a master suite with walk in closet, 2 large bedrooms, and a full bath on the upper level. The main floor offers 1st floor laundry, a half bath, Maple hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace within the open concept living/kitchen/dining areas. From the kitchen you enter the 4-season room which you can enjoy your water view.



MLS #1523517 / \$269,900

This quality built home sits on 1.74 acres. Interior has 3 large bedrooms, 2 full baths, a main floor laundry, breezeway from 2 car attached garage to home, and a beautiful view of the water. Wood burning fireplace, hot water heat, central air, 200 amp service in the house and detached garage has its own separate service. New roof on the main house in 2017.



Julie Brown

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