



December, 2019

**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



Winter has arrived on Lake Eau Claire! Fall seemed to slip by quickly and it sure seems like we had ice on the lake early this year. Now as I look outside, it is a Winter Wonderland with quite a bit of snow already!

As I reflect on our accomplishments in 2019, I'm pleased with the progress we keep making. We had excellent fundraisers which have resulted in profits of approximately \$39k, we distributed \$40k to the Lake District for the soon to be installed Muskrat Creek trap, we paid off the aeration land contract, we assisted the District in removing sand from our lake, and we continued efforts on continuing to improve our fisheries and water quality. None of these accomplishments could have taken place without the help from all of our volunteers and our excellent partners from the DNR, Eau Claire County, Town of Bridge Creek, Town of Ludington, and City of Augusta.

As we move into 2020, we have some big goals! First, we will have a new sand trap on Muskrat Creek and have big hopes for that section of our lake. We want to stabilize the banks along the river so that less sand will flow in. We are in process of finalizing our lake management plan so that we can apply for additional state grants. We would love to commit some funds to a new trap above the Skid Row boat landing. We are working on applying for some state funds to assist us in cleaning out/dredging the area in front of Skid Row to make it navigable again.

There is still so much to do and I can't wait to see what we accomplish in 2020. I want to personally say a huge Thank You to the Friends of Lake Eau Claire board of directors. I couldn't do this job without them. So many hours are put into all that we do and I really can't thank them enough. Thank You to every single volunteer we had in 2019! Your assistance does not go unnoticed! Thank You to all of our Excellent Business Sponsors! Your support means so much!

As we finalize the last couple weeks of 2019, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I hope to see you all out on the lake very soon.



Nature Notes

By Mike Harden

The White Pelican

Once again, in this summer of 2019, nature watchers of Lake Eau Claire have been blessed with a wealth of avian visitors to our lake. Loons and cormorants have come and gone as they pass through on their migration north. On the weekend of the fourth, I saw a flock of what I believed to be common terns, about a dozen or so, coursing up and down the lake, occasionally swooping down to pick up a bit of food from the water's surface. A few days later, they appeared to have moved on. Kingfishers, eagles, vultures and great blue herons can be seen daily. One visitor that I was told stopped by, but that I missed, was the white pelican.



Once only rarely seen in Wisconsin, these birds have become a regular, if only temporary visitor each summer. Nearly decimated by overkilling by fishermen, and the ravages of DDT (which was banned in 1972), these birds have made a great comeback in numbers. At one time down to an estimated 10,000 individuals, they are now estimated to number about 180,000. Formerly nesting mostly in the Dakotas and Canada, several breeding populations have now become established at Horicon Marsh, along the Mississippi, and in the vicinity of Green Bay here in Wisconsin. They are migratory, and winter along the Gulf Coast. These large birds (unlike herons) nest on the ground, and require areas away from human disturbance and excessive numbers of predators. Pelicans normally lay about 3 eggs, which they incubate with their feet, since they lack a brood patch.

The white pelican is a spectacular bird, with a wingspan of 8-9 feet and may weigh as much as 30 lbs. They have black wing tips and often soar seemingly effortlessly if wind conditions are right. They may live to be 30 years old. Unlike their cousin the brown pelican, they do not plunge from the sky into the water to catch fish, but rather use their pouched beak as a kind of seine, hunting either alone or in a circular "pod" of several birds that cooperate in forcing fish to their center. They consume mostly minnows and other small fish, taking prey up to about half the length of their bill. They are opportunistic and may sometimes take insects, amphibians, turtles, and even small birds or mammals. Prey is swallowed whole, and then later regurgitated to feed their chicks.

So far, these birds have only been observed as "visitors" to our lake. One might speculate that as fishing on Lake Eau Claire continues to improve, that we might see more of these spectacular birds in the future. Change in nature is always fascinating to observe, and, who knows, we may even see a nesting colony established at some time in the future.

[Al Berry & Sons Trucking](#)



It's Holiday Party Time!



When: Saturday, January 11, 2020

Where: Augusta Lion's Hall, downtown Augusta

Time: Social Hour: 5:00 – 6:30pm

Dinner: 6:30pm

Short Program/Prizes: 7:30pm

Cost: \$20 per person, payable at the event

Menu:

- ✓ Appetizers – Shrimp w/cocktail sauce, Meat/Cheese tray, Veggies w/dip
- ✓ Dinner: Stuffed Chicken Breast, Sliced Beef, Vegetable, Salad & Rolls
- ✓ Drink: Available for purchase, including after dinner ice cream drinks

Prizes: Door prizes, basket raffles, 50/50 raffles and other prizes will be raffled throughout the evening.

Charity: Once again this year we will be collecting non-perishable food items or monetary donations for the Augusta Food Pantry and monetary donations for the Good Neighbor Fund (school lunch debt). See below for a little more information on both of these charities.

RSVP: RSVP to LakeECAssociation@gmail.com or via text to Cathy Lea (715) 579-1145 or Angel Zimmerman (612) 309-3998 by Friday, January 3rd.

Reminder... You do **NOT** need to be a member of the Friends of Lake Eau Claire to attend. Everyone is welcome to attend so bring a friend! 2020 memberships will be sold at the event.

*The **Good Neighbor Fund** is designed to help families that are having financial difficulties and struggling to pay for their student's meals at school. With the funds, the school can ensure the student(s) in need will receive a regular breakfast and lunch meal. The fund helps families make a fresh start. The unpaid meal policy states that no account may go below \$-50.00. In the event it does, (per policy) the school is able to provide the student with a peanut butter/jelly sandwich and fruit for lunch; but no breakfast. With money from the Good Neighbor fund the school can provide that student with a breakfast and a full lunch instead.*

*The **Augusta Food Pantry** serves the greater Augusta area. Their mission is to help food insecure families have a little extra. At last count, they were supporting around 30 families. Monetary donations provide the most support for local families as every \$1 donated returns about \$10 worth of food from the Feed My People Food Bank.*





Fireworks Fund

For years, Lake Eau Claire has always been a popular place to enjoy fireworks during the 4th of July celebration. The fireworks have been good, but now we want to make them **GREAT!** Going forward Fireworks will be **fully funded** only by donations so if you want a GREAT show, don't forget to donate!

With your help, we're hoping to make next year's fireworks show one of the best in the area.

Please consider making a donation to the Lake Eau Claire Association Fireworks Fund & then join us for a great show. Also encourage Friends and Family who attend our annual fireworks show to consider a donation as well!



Donate today: <http://www.lakeeauclaire.org/lec-association/fireworks-donations>



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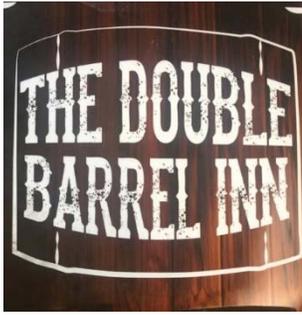
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 www.woodlandwi.com
 woodlandwi66@gmail.com

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 Campground and Motel

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Lake District Update by Mike Lea

There has been a lot happening on the lake since my last update. The biggest news is the progress made on the Muskrat Creek trap project. The site has been engineered and a new road has been built to access the trap area. A bid opening was held in mid-November and a contractor was selected out of the four bids received. The successful bidder was Krueger Stienfest Inc. from Antigo, WI who we have worked with in the past on the Troubled Waters and gravel pit traps with excellent results. It is planned to have this new trap completed by the end of the year.

All the other traps are full and in need of cleaning out this winter. Haas and Sons Excavating is planning to clean out the Hay Creek trap in the first half of December and Krueger Stienfest will be cleaning out the two river traps as soon as possible. Fred Poss is working on coordinating the north side creeks for dredging this winter and we are planning to add a layer of rock to the ramps at these traps to allow more reliable access for the dump trucks and dredging equipment.

Not all our projects are dredging related. We are in the process of planning some bank stabilization projects upstream from the lake in the hopes of reducing the amount of dredging that needs to be done in the future. Two potential areas are the bank in Lost Lake that is eroding and depositing sand in the Rookery and the large bank located just below the gravel pit trap. There may be some grant money available for these projects which the county will be pursuing. We are also in the process of working on the update to our Lake Management Plan so we can apply for other grants for various lake projects.



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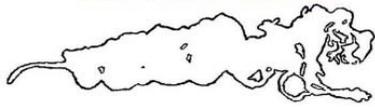
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Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree



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.

The 6th annual Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree will be held Saturday, February 1st, 2020 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!



Save the date!

LECA Board Meeting – Saturday, January 11, 2020

HOLIDAY PARTY – Saturday, January 11, 2020

Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree – Saturday, February 1, 2020

Golf Outing – Saturday, July 18, 2020

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Friends of Lake Eau Claire

2020 Calendar Raffle – Now Available!

Can you help us sell calendars? We need 200 people that are willing to sell only 10 calendars! If you are able to help, please stop by The Woodland to pick up some calendars or contact Lori at (612) 991-8331 or lbechtel@comcast.net to arrange a drop off.



Friends of Lake Eau Claire Calendar Raffle 2020

N^o xxxx

\$10.00 each

Thank You to our 2019 Sponsors:

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 - Augusta Lion's Club, *Augusta*
- Packerland Broadband, *Iron Mountain*
 - Troy's Gas & Grub, *Augusta*
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 - Black Bear Bar & Grill, *Augusta*
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- Donovan's Vending Service, *Eau Claire*
 - Double Barrel Inn, *Alma Center*
 - Remax - Julie Brown, *Eau Claire*
 - K&M Landscaping, *Eau Claire*
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 - Maug Cleaning Service, *Eau Claire*
- Premier Home Protect, *Cottage Grove, MN*
 - Schmidt Builders, *Fall Creek*
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 - Sandy Hill Campground, *Augusta*
 - VFW Post 8752, *Cottage Grove, MN*

Please patronize
these businesses!

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* All proceeds go to The Lake Eau Claire Association (PO Box 229, Augusta, WI 54722), a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and improving the water quality and fishery of Lake Eau Claire.

* Need not be present to win.

* Drawings will be held daily at The Woodland, S5340 State Hwy 27, Augusta, WI 54722 at 10:00 am

* Winners will be notified by mail.

* Winning names will be posted daily on our Facebook page.

* Winning names go back into the drawings.

JULY 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100 x 5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
\$100 x 2	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100 x 2
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
\$100 x 2	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100 x 2
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
\$100 x 2	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100 x 2
26	27	28	29	30	31	
\$100 x 2	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!						

Friends of Lake Eau Claire Calendar Raffle 2020

N^o xxx



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\$10.00 each

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Are you interested in being a 2020 Sponsor?



Muskies and Northerns and Walleyes...Oh My!

Ok, it may not be as catchy (no pun intended) as Lions and Tigers and Bears...Oh My, but it did get you to continue reading the article! Each year, the Friends of Lake Eau Claire is fortunate to have sponsorship from local and regional businesses. In 2019, we had over 60 sponsors (a complete list can be found here:

<http://www.lakeeauclaire.org/sponsors>) who donated money or goods in exchange for their sponsorship. Our 2020 sponsors can choose to be a Muskie, Northern, or Walleye sponsor; with each level offering different advertising opportunities. As an example, Muskie Sponsorship includes:

- Annual Golf Outing sponsor recognition on 1 hole
- Newsletter ads equal to ¼ page (our 2020 sponsors will be featured in our next newsletter for the following 12 months)
- Recognition on our website as a Muskie sponsor with a link to your website for one full year
- Logo displayed on large sponsor banner at The Woodland Store which is located next to Lake Eau Claire
- Annually featured on our Facebook page as a Muskie sponsor
- Logo displayed on our 2021 calendar raffle
- Cross promotion opportunities between your website/social media site through the year
- Annual picnic (August) – 2 entries

Along with the benefits listed, we also work with our sponsors to help cross promote events through our Facebook page, which is great way to grow Facebook followers and generate interest in events!

Sponsorship will run from June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021. Consider becoming a 2020 sponsor today...it's quick & easy!

Simply go to <https://www.memberplanet.com/s/lakeeauclaireassociation/sponsorship> or complete the form at end of the newsletter and mail it back with your payment. Questions about becoming a sponsor, send an email to LakeEauClaireAssociation@gmail.com.

The Lake Eau Claire Association thanks you for your support and for your consideration in supporting the water quality improvement projects that affect us all.

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.

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

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 - Pam Hanson, 704.905.8705 phanson_2@yahoo.com

Secretary - Nate Smith, 715.579.0961 helpermonkey.smith@gmail.com

Lake District Officers

Chairperson- Mike Lea, E21680 Cty Rd SD, Augusta, WI 54722 715-286-5423 or 715-225- 8768 armlea@centurytel.net

Secretary- Joe Bechtel, E19885 Cty Rd ND, Augusta, WI 54722 612-812-0451 jbechtel8043@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 - Bruce Logterman E22385 Lange Rd, Fairchild, WI 54741

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.

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 _____
 Other _____

Note: Donations to the LECA are tax deductible.

Payment options:

Member Planet Online Payment Options:

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”.

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

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

Lake Eau Claire Association

Attn: Pam Hanson

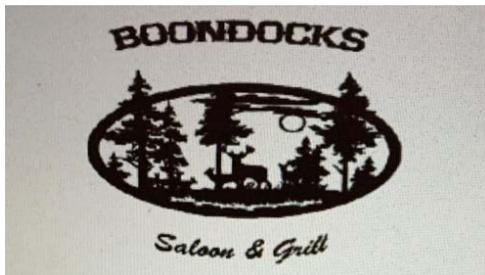
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Augusta, Wisconsin 54722 – 0229

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Are you interested in being a dynamic advertiser? Contact lbechtel@comcast.net to get more details.