



December, 2020

*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

What a year it has been! While time has slipped so quickly by this year, I'm sure I am not the only one that is ready to say goodbye to 2020 and ring in 2021. It has been an interesting and challenging year for most, especially small businesses. I truly hope that as we turn the page on a new year, that we are able to get back to some normalcy, although I have a feeling there will be a "new" normal for a long time to come.

We had a beautiful summer on Lake Eau Claire and I'm happy to say that the Friends of Lake Eau Claire continue to make improvements to our beautiful lake. We have such tremendous support from our lake family and the surrounding community and I can't thank you all enough.

As we wrap up 2020, I'd like to say thank you to all of our volunteers and folks that got involved this year. We can't continue our great progress without you! I'd like to say thank you to the fourteen members of our board of directors for continuing to support not only the lake but me in this President role. I appreciate all that you do and assist with.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season and please stay safe and enjoy your time with friends and family. Time slips quickly by so don't take any moment for granted.

Fireworks Fund

If you haven't donated yet to the 2021 fireworks show, DON'T WORRY, there is still time! The show in 2020 was great and we want to continue that into next year. Remember, only donations received in 2020 go towards the 2021 show.

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: https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/2021_fireworks



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE LATEST Friends of Lake Eau Claire Gun Raffle

- Browning AB3 270SM Cal. Rifle - Al Hendricks
- Mossberg Patriot 6.5 Creedmoor Cal. Rifle – Rick Rosen



Thank you to all that bought tickets! Look for another raffle in the near future.

Thank you to our AWESOME 2020-2021 Muskie SPONSORS!

The below listed businesses sponsored at the **Muskie level (\$300) or higher!** We can't thank them enough! Please patronize these businesses that continue to support us! Look for their business card ads throughout our newsletter.

Bush's Bean	Augusta
The Woodland	Augusta
Burly N Bucks	Osseo
Buddah's	Augusta
Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree	Augusta
HomeCarePlus	Cottage Grove, MN
VFW - Cottage Grove MN	Cottage Grove, MN
GSF Mortgage	Little Chute/Augusta
BelleVinez Winery	River Falls
Shilka Flooring	Augusta
Clubs Choice	Augusta
Gingras Thomsen & Wachs	Eau Claire
K&M Landscaping	Eau Claire/Augusta
Fiber BLOXX	Eau Claire/Augusta
Apex Insurance	Augusta/Alma Center
Hello Adorn	Eau Claire
WHTL	Whitehall
Mulligans	Augusta
Senn Blacktop	Chippewa Falls
Al Berry & Sons	Augusta
Alt Resource Mgmt	Augusta
Green Touch Lawn Inc	Woodville
Julie Brown Realty	Eau Claire
Astrea Internet Service	Augusta



First Winter on the Lake

By Northside Nate Smith

This is my first winter season as a full-time dweller on Lake Eau Claire. Since our family moved into our cabin in Early November, I find myself, each morning, drawing back the curtains and curiously watching as the lake prepares for winter.

The parade of trolling fishing boats, swirling jet skis, cruising pontoons, and speed boats have all gone. The trailing waves of the water skier, like knife cuts in the lake surface, are now absent. The ripples and splashes of swimming children, clad in orange arm floats, have been replaced by the cold, stillness of the ice. Sometimes clear and diamond flat, other times marred, opaque, and wrinkled like a great sheet, the new ice layer creates ever changing vistas. Sometimes gently, sometimes violently, the lake water is molded and altered by temperature, time, and pressure.

Looking down to the shoreline, where the aged oak tree stands like a wise old man in the twilight of his life, his knobby arthritic limbs stretched out to cradle the squirrels and the birds, I think to myself: how many times has it seen this seasonal change?

On mornings like this, an eagle sometimes perches at the top of that old tree. Is he surveying his kingdom? Does he notice the daily changes in the face of the lake? Does he hear the haunting, underwater song that the lake makes as it breathes and groans and echoes with forming ice. Maybe that eagle is merely part of the process, a participant, not an observer like me. Even if he had the capacity, that eagle certainly has some serious responsibilities, and doesn't have the time to to reflect on these sorts of things. So, I will count myself lucky to have these free moments to observe the beauty of Lake Eau Claire, as it draws back into itself and prepares to rest.



Are you up for a Challenge?!?!

As a non-profit organization, we are membership driven and rely on those who love Lake Eau Claire to make our lake better! We know there are many who use Lake Eau Claire for various reasons and we believe they would benefit from becoming members! So, our challenge to you... recruit at least **one** new member to join the Friends of Lake Eau Claire.

Think of family, friends, fishing buddy, hunting partner or a anyone who's interested in helping join our efforts to continually improve Lake Eau Claire! Everyone is welcome, you don't need to own a property on the lake to be a member!! Join today: <https://www.memberplanet.com/lakeeauclaireassociation>



Muskrat Project

As you know, the Lake Eau Claire Association donated \$40,000 to the Lake District in 2019 to dredge and install a brand-new sand trap on Muskrat. Since the installation (approximately 1 year ago), the trap has already started making some huge changes on the creek. After assessing the situation recently with the dredger and speaking to a couple of homeowners, the creek has already started to deepen and clear itself of some sand. The long-term goal is that it will continue to push the sand out all the way to the lake and restore the area in front of the cottages to what they once were.

Now some exciting news! To help speed up this process, the Lake Association has committed to donate additional funds to have the dredger come back and clean out in front of some of the cottages closest to the trap. By removing the sediment in front of those cottages closest to the new trap, we believe it will help to keep clearing out the sand further down the creek. This honestly just advances the process.

Mike Lea met with the dredger and the dredger indicated it can be done and he believes he could remove anywhere from 2500 to 4000 yards of sand. We have a little work to do by putting in a road and clearing the bank but we feel this is a really great project. The overall costs to the project will range from \$18,000 - \$27,000 depending on the amount of sand removed.

Now the tough part, we need to find money to fund this project. The Lake Association board has voted and is matching funds collected towards this project, up to \$14,000. We've had a number of individuals donate towards this project even though they don't live on Muskrat because they know how important the area is and affects our entire lake. Would you be willing to donate towards this project? Remember, donations are tax deductible!

Please feel free to email or call Lori Bechtel at 612-991-8331 with any questions or concerns you may have. If I don't have the answer, I will get it for you. Please remember that the Association's long-term goal is to keep Lake Eau Claire clear and to restore its levels to what they once were. After this project on Muskrat is complete, we are setting our sights on Skid Row and helping to restore that waterway.

Donations can be done online at <https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/muskrat>

Or you can mail a check payable to Lake Eau Claire Association at PO Box 229, Augusta, WI 54722. Please memo the check to say Muskrat so we code it properly.

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HAVE ALREADY DONATED OR COMMITTED TO DONATE! We appreciate your generosity!



Al Berry & Sons Trucking



Senn

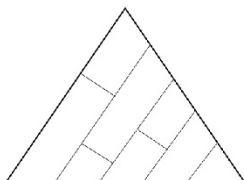
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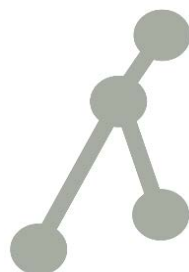
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A SIGN OF HISTORY

By Fred Poss

Hey there! Have you ever thought about being able to contribute to a lasting piece of history? Well, if our approval process is successful, you will have your chance. Dale Zank, Randal Stutzman and I are in the middle of applying for permission to create an historical sign placed at the entrance to the Lake Eau Claire County Park that commemorates the building of the Lake Eau Claire dam. The dam was completed in 1937 as part of a multitude of WPA (Works Progress Administration) state building projects. Beginning in 1935, WPA was established as part of the federal government's effort to jump start the staggering unemployment problems caused by the Great Depression of the 1930's. It should be noted that among hundreds of Wisconsin WPA projects, the dam on our lake was the single largest project in the state. It formed a lake of about 1250 acres to provide flood control and an important source of recreation. Furthermore, we are open to receiving any historical information you may have that can be added to our proposal or to the actual wording of the sign. As our research continues, we hope to complete the application process in the next month. At that time, we will begin asking for donations to purchase materials and pay the application fee. Should you have any historical facts or news regarding the Lake Eau Claire dam project, we would love to include whatever you can provide. Please feel free to contact me at fredposs@gmail.com or 715.286.9413.

Friends of Lake Eau Claire

2021 Calendar Raffle –Available Soon!

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 soon (watch for email) or contact Lori at (612) 991-8331 or lbechtel@comcast.net to arrange a drop off. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year!



Friends of Lake Eau Claire Calendar Raffle 2021

No 0001

\$10.00 each

Thank You to our 2020 Sponsors:

- Bush's Beans, *Augusta*
- Shilka Flooring, *Augusta*
- Fiber BLOXX, *Augusta*
- The Woodland, *Augusta*
- Burly N Bucks Bar & Grill, *Osseo*
- Buddha's Bar, *Augusta*
- GSF Mortgage, *Augusta*
- Hello Adorn, *Eau Claire*
- BelleVinez Winery, *River Falls*
- Mulligans Bar & Grill, *Augusta*
- Gingras Thomsen & Wachs, *Eau Claire*
- K&M Landscaping, *Eau Claire*
- Apex Insurance, *Augusta & Alma Center*
- Senn Blacktop, *Eau Claire*
- Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree, *Augusta*
- HomeCarePlus, *Cottage Grove, MN*
- VFW Post 8752, *Cottage Grove, MN*
- Club's Choice Fundraising, *Eau Claire*
- WHTL, *Whitehall*
- Al Berry & Sons Trucking, *Augusta*
- Alt Resource Mgmt, *Augusta*
- Green Touch Lawn, *Woodville*
- Julie Brown Realty, *Eau Claire*
- Astrea Internet Service, *Augusta*

*Please patronize
these businesses!*

* License No. R0016768-A-00227

* 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.

AUGUST 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 \$100 x 2	2 \$100	3 \$100	4 \$100	5 \$100	6 \$100	7 \$100 x 2
8 \$100 x 2	9 \$100	10 \$100	11 \$100	12 \$100	13 \$100	14 \$100 x 2
15 \$100 x 2	16 \$100	17 \$100	18 \$100	19 \$100	20 \$100	21 \$100 x 2
22 \$100 x 2	23 \$100	24 \$100	25 \$100	26 \$100	27 \$100	28 \$100 x 2
29 \$100 x 2	30 \$100	31 \$100				
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!						

Friends of Lake Eau Claire Calendar Raffle 2021

No 0001



License No. R0016768-A-00227

\$10.00 each

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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 7th annual Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree will be held Saturday, February 6th, 2021 at the North boat ramp on County Road ND Circle from 9am to 12pm.

Only 500 lines will be sold! Pre-registration will begin in December exclusively at The Woodland! Register early, as we expect to sell out! Social distancing and face masks are strongly encouraged due to state and county covid guidelines.

Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree



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!

GSF Mortgage is proud to offer an exclusive discount to members, family and friends of the Eau Claire Lake Association.

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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

Vice-President - Duane Ives, 1505 Centennial Pkwy, Waunakee, WI 53597 608.444.0380 dewey.ives@gmail.com

Treasurer – Joe Vydrzal, vydrzalj@gmail.com

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

Lake District Officers

Chairperson- Mike Lea 715-286-5423 or 715-225- 8768

armlea@centurytel.net

Secretary- Joe Bechtel 612-812-0451

jbechtel8043@gmail.com

Treasurer - Dean Boehne 715-695-3131

dcbost@tcc.coop

Vice Chair & Commissioner - Gary Gibson 715-877-2730 or

cell:715-210-0401

gary.gibson@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Commissioner – Bruce Logterman

Nature Notes

Viruses

By Mike Harden

Today, as I write this, the first vaccines for Covid-19 are being administered in the U.S. We are almost a year into this pandemic now, and this milestone, hopefully, creates some more light at the end of what has been a long tunnel indeed. Also today, the death toll from this catastrophe will exceed 300,000 of our fellow citizens, more Americans than were lost to combat in all the years of WWII. The culprit, we know, is a submicroscopic infectious agent known as SARS-CoV-2; a virus. A virus is a biological entity at the boundary of the living and nonliving. They are so tiny that it took the electron microscope to see them, and that came along in the 1930's.

There are thousands of species of viruses known to exist on earth, and they are found in all environments in incredible numbers. A virus is not cellular. It consists of a nucleic acid; either DNA or RNA, surrounded by a coat of protein called a capsid. They are not considered to be alive, as they don't breathe, eat, excrete wastes, or grow. What they do, however, is reproduce. They do so by attacking a certain type of cell called a target cell, and then they invade the cell and use the biochemicals of the cell to make many more virus particles, which then leave the cell and find other target cells to invade, destroying the cells in the process. If a sufficient number of cells are destroyed, death may result. If the target cell they seek is found in humans, that is when they become a problem for us.

There are known to be over 200 diseases of humans that are caused by viruses. Rabies, for example is caused by a virus whose target cells are nerve cells, and is spread from animal to human in the saliva from a bite of a rabid animal. It is close to 100% fatal. HIV, the AIDS virus, attacks a particular type of white blood cell, thus weakening the victim's immune system. Hepatitis viruses attack the cells of the liver. The virus of Covid-19 attacks the cells of the nasal passages, the lungs, and the lining of the intestine. Death is usually due to respiratory failure. The mortality rate for this disease in the US has proven to be about 1.8%, according to Johns Hopkins coronavirus resource center. That doesn't sound like a high death rate, but when you have many millions of people infected, it adds up to a frightening total.

Epidemiologists and futurists have often speculated that it might be virus that could emerge and drastically reduce human numbers on this planet. This pandemic should be seen as a wake-up call. A warning. Our confused and chaotic response to this crisis will not serve us well if another virus emerges seemingly out of nowhere, but has a mortality rate that is much higher than this one.



THE NORTHSIDE CREEKS ARE CLEANED OUT!

The cleaning out process on the Lake Eau Claire northside creeks was recently completed again. Thank you to the great intergovernmental and private business cooperation and volunteerism which allows our lake district and lake association to continue to protect and improve Lake Eau Claire. Seven haul trucks in total were donated for the work: one from the City of Augusta, two from the Town of Bridge Creek, one from the Town of Ludington, one from Eau Claire County, one from Barka Trucking and one from J&J Trucking and Dredging. Because of the donated trucks and labor of the drivers, we were able to save approximately \$4,700. Twenty truckloads of sediment were removed from each sand trap today for an approximate grand total of 370 cubic yards. Tollefson Dredging did the trackhoe work and exercised great care to avoid loading water with the sediment to avoid making County ND wet. Furthermore, Eau Claire County had a dump truck lay down road sand at each of the two trap sites to make sure there were no problems. A sincere thank you on behalf of The Friends of Lake Eau Claire, and The Lake Eau Claire Protection and Rehabilitation District, goes out to all those who provided assistance with this project. See a couple of photos taken during the work.



Image 1 - The work at Bedpost. This shot shows how carefully the dredger repairs the haul path and the sides of the trap as work is finished

Image 2 – The work at Beach Creek Trap. Note that the sides of the trap remain intact and that the trackhoe has smoothed the edges and firmed them up as it finishes its work.



Are you interested in being a 2021 Sponsor?



Each year, the Friends of Lake Eau Claire is fortunate to have sponsorship from local and regional businesses and individuals. In 2020, because of COVID, our numbers were down but we still had we had over 30 sponsors. Our 2021 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 2022 calendar raffle
- Cross promotion opportunities between your website/social media site through the year
- Annual picnic (August) – 2 entries

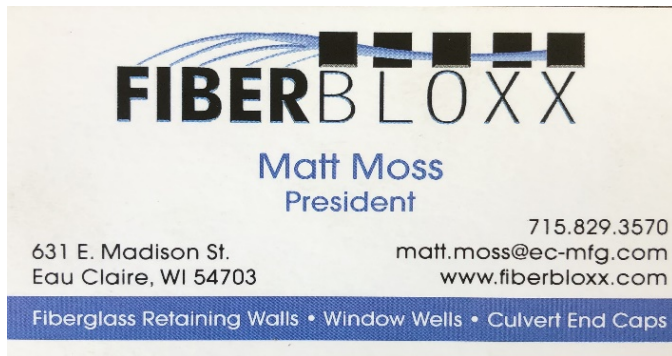
Along with the benefits listed, we also work with our sponsors to help cross promote events through our Facebook page, which is great way to grow Facebook followers and generate interest in events!

Sponsorship will run from June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022. Consider becoming a 2021 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.

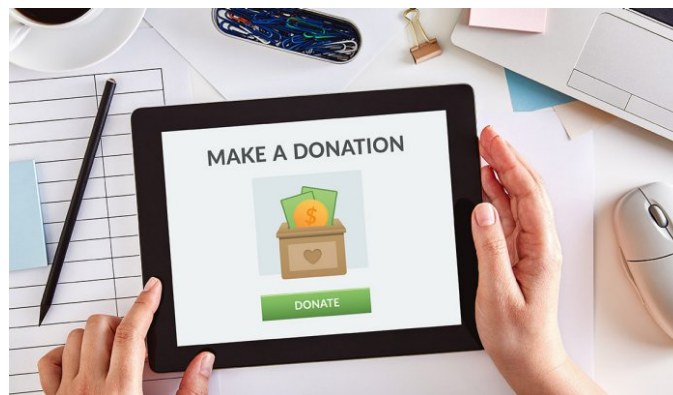




Did you know?

Pandemic Tax Tip: Non-Itemizers Can Deduct \$300 for Charity Donations in 2020

The tax break, part of the CARES Act, applies to cash given to charities by Dec. 31



In 2020, taxpayers who claim the standard deduction also have a chance to deduct charitable donations. The [Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) gives taxpayers who take the standard deduction the ability to take an additional above-the-line \$300 federal income tax deduction for qualified charitable contributions. ("Above-the-line" means that the deduction is above line 15 on the 2020 1040 tax form, and will reduce both your adjusted gross income and your taxable income — which, in turn, reduces the amount of federal income tax you owe.)

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

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

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

PO Box 229

Augusta, Wisconsin 54722 – 0229

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AmazonSmile customers can now support Lake Eau Claire Association Inc in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

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2. *Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'*
3. *Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process*

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, update your app. Copy and paste the below link instructions.

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