



September, 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

Another beautiful Wisconsin summer is in its final weeks and I'm happy to report, amazingly clear water! All the great things we are doing to the lake is having a significant impact on our clear efforts.

water

Thank you to everyone that attended both the Lake Eau Claire District meeting and the Friends of Lake Eau Claire Annual Meeting on August 15th. This was a strange year as attendance was low and we did not hold our annual picnic prior to the meeting. Hopefully like will get back to a "new" normal soon and next year we can resume our social event.

A few summary points that I presented at our meeting:

- Our fundraising efforts have been slightly limited this year because we did not solicit some prior business sponsors, mostly bars & restaurants. The COVID situation has taken a toll on a lot of local business. I am very happy to report that our calendar sales profits were similar to last year and we profited over \$8,000. Our golf outing also had a great turnout and raised over \$5,000.
- We worked with the Lake District to update our Lake Management Plan and it has been approved by the DNR.
- We recently led two separate fish crib building and installing events and dropped 19 new fish cribs.
- The small creeks on the northside will likely be cleaned out this fall.
- Looking ahead – We would love to commit some funds to a new trap above the Skid Row boat landing.
- We are supporting the Lake District in efforts to get a grant for river bank stabilization. We believe this needs to be done before installing a trap near Skid Row and getting that area cleaned out.
- We are constantly researching possible grant money to assist with future projects.

As we wrap up summer, I'm so thankful to all of our volunteers and folks that get involved in what is happening on our beautiful lake. We can't continue our great progress without you! If you have a new neighbor or know of someone new on our lake or off our lake that wants to receive our information, have them email us at lakeecassociation@gmail.com. We will get them added to all of our future communications.

Last, but not least, our final online clothing sale of 2020 is open for business! Head over to <https://lakeec20.itemorder.com/sale> and check out the selection of new items and crowd favorites!



NOW IN PROGRESS! Tickets only available at The Woodland Friends of Lake Eau Claire Gun Raffle

- Browning AB3 270SM Cal. Rifle - wood stock
- Mossberg Patriot 6.5 Creedmoor Cal. Rifle – Walnut stock – Vortex scope

Tickets are \$10 each and the drawing will take place Saturday, November 7th.
Purchase your tickets now before they are sold out!



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



CHALLENGE

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>



Having a Blast!

The Fourth of July fireworks show has been a welcome tradition on Lake Eau Claire for more years than most of us can remember. This year's show provided a safe, fun, and physically distanced chance to see friends, family, and neighbors while celebrating our country's freedom.

New since 2019, the *Friends of Lake Eau Claire* Board of Directors voted to fund the show with only those donations designated for this event, with the hope that donations would drive a high-quality show with funds collected no later than December. *Friends* members did not disappoint! With a little over \$4,500, Pam and Todd Hanson, two *Friends* board members, went to work to secure a top-notch show.

This year's event featured a 35-minute non-stop blast of light, color and sound. Thanks to the extra donations (about \$1,400 more than last year) the show was one of the largest in years. Even the full moon came out early to watch. Whether you caught the show from your property, the road, or your boat, it was the perfect night to celebrate on our beautiful lake.

The hard work of planning next year's show has already begun. Much of that work centers on securing donations prior to December 2020 in order to place the appropriate order for our 2021 show. At last week's Annual Meeting, several members stepped up to match a \$100 challenge, and more than \$1,000 was collected.

Consider what you might spend on your own backyard show and give a portion (or all) of that to the *Friends* to secure a professional show to do the work for you! There are several levels of giving to fit any budget:

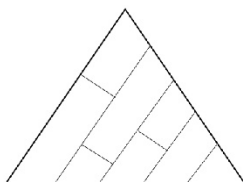
The "Big" One	\$100.00
Roman Candle	\$50.00
Firecracker	\$25.00
Sparkler	\$10.00

Now is the time to make that donation. For those who would like to do that online, go to:

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

Checks can also be made out and mailed to:

Friends of Lake Eau Claire
PO Box 229
Augusta, WI 54722
(Designate for Fireworks)



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Garbage, Yard Waste and Recycling! Oh My!

The natural beauty of Lake Eau Claire and the surrounding county forest offers a great benefit, and most do their part to help preserve that beauty. However, illegal dumping on county forest land, including sediment deposit sites of yard waste, furniture, automobile waste, electronics and construction debris continues to be a challenge.

It may not seem like dumping one small pile of garden waste or brush along a road or in the county forest would have much of an impact, but others see this and sometimes start adding to the pile. Soon it becomes a common dump site full of debris that can harm wildlife and domestic animals, and mars the natural beauty of the area. Eventually this garbage must be picked up and properly disposed of, which results in all of us paying the bill.

If you observe a problem, please speak up. To report a problem, you can contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource hotline at 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367) or the County Sheriff's Office non-emergency telephone number at 715-839-4972. If caught, fines range from \$263. 50 for a small amount of garbage to \$767.50 for larger items such as tires, furniture, and construction waste. Additionally, violators are required to remove the waste from the area at their own expense.

The Town of Bridge Creek Recycling Center on Highway 27 just a few miles south of Lake Eau Claire accepts many forms of waste at little or no charge. They are open every Saturday from 8am-1pm, except holidays. They accept recyclables and yard waste for free; and tires, appliances, electronics, and non-recycling garbage for a modest fee. You can see their most up to date information on their Facebook page. The staff is friendly and helpful and can direct you to the most appropriate disposal option if what you have to discard is not accepted there.

Let's all do our part to keep our neighborhood and the surrounding green space beautiful.



Post 8752



Corporate Giving Programs



Did you know that many corporations have formal Corporate Giving Programs?

Here the top four most prevalent types of corporate giving programs:

1. Community Grants

Most large corporations have either created a foundation to handle their charitable giving programs or handle them internally. Through community grant programs, companies are able to support the needs of their local communities.

2. Employee Volunteer Grants

These are grants that individual employees earn for a nonprofit after meeting certain volunteer thresholds. For instance, one company awards \$150 grants for every 10 hours that employees volunteer. In many cases, companies also offer programs where they recognize a few employees each year who really exemplify corporate volunteerism and award larger grants in the range of \$5,000 – \$15,000 to organizations where those employees volunteer.

3. Employee Matching Gifts

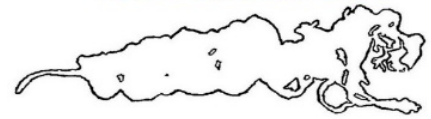
Corporate matching gift programs are charitable giving programs created by corporations in which the company matches donations made by employees to eligible nonprofit organizations. *For instance, American Family Insurance will match an employee's charitable donations, up to a certain amount.*

4. Corporate Sponsorships

Corporate sponsorships are a form of advertising in which companies pay to be associated with certain events or attractions.

If you haven't already done so, see if your employer has a Corporate Giving Program that you can take advantage of!

Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree



Al Berry & Sons Trucking



Make plans to join us for our Friends of Lake Eau Claire Cornhole Tournament & Fundraiser!!



When: Saturday, September 26

Where: Mike's Buckhorn Bar (Hwy 27, north of Augusta)

Time: Check-in/Registration/Practice 11am – 12:30pm, bags fly at 12:30 until the tournament ends!

Weather permitting, this will be an outdoor event!

Entry fee: \$50 per team (60% payout, 40% to lake rehab fund)

Various raffles (50/50, Chinese, walk-around) & other contests all day!



Grab your phone... Sign up & pay online, <https://mp.gg/q876c>
Or Visit Mike's Buckhorn Bar to sign-up & pay!

Registration Deadline: Sept 15

We are hopeful that an **EXCITING** new program is coming to Lake Eau Claire! Have you heard of the life jacket loaner program? The way the program works is that at each of our boat landings and/or beaches would have a box of life jackets that can be borrowed for the day. The borrowing family will provide some basic information to borrow life jacket: name, address, phone number, driver's license number, and anticipated return date (the form would be provided). The borrowing family returns the jacket. In the event they forgot where to return it, the jacket has an attached return tag.



Are you a member of **Thrivent Financial**? If yes, Thrivent has a grant program available to all members. The grant provides \$250 to the member to go towards a project like this. If you are a Thrivent member and are interested in helping us, please contact Jen Mason at 715-579-2362 or jenjenweber@gmail.com. Thank you to Jen for being the contact person for this project!



Golfing Fun!

We are happy to announce that the 6th Annual Friends of Lake Eau Claire Golf Outing was a HUGE success! The event took place at Hickory Hills Golf Course on Saturday, July 25th. 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 2021. The date has been set for Saturday, July 17th and will be at Hickory Hills again.

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 - -- 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 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 c:715-210-0401 gary.gibson@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Commissioner – Bruce Logterman

President's Thank You!

Our board of directors has been finalized for another year and I'd like to extend my thanks to the below members of our board! Thank you for all of your hard work and support of Lake Eau Claire.

- Lori Bechtel
- Duane Ives
- Fred Poss
- Al Weisenbeck
- Nate Smith
- Al Hendricks
- Pam Hanson
- Dale Zank
- Joe Vdyrzal
- Dan Marcheske
- Tad Ries
- Chad White
- Cathy Lea
- Angel Zimmerman
- Todd Hanson

President's Award

By Lori Bechtel

A twenty-seven (27) year ongoing tradition of The Lake Eau Claire Association President is to award "The President's Award" to an individual or individuals that they feel have been supporting Lake Eau Claire over time. I recently announced this year's recipient at our annual meeting held in August. This year's recipient has had a lot to overcome the past 11 months. She was involved in a terrible accident last October that left her with a long road of recovery, which she is still working through. The recipient is **Leann Balliett**. If you are not aware, Leann has served as the committee chair and organizer of the LECA golf outing for the past 5 years. As a result of those 5 golf outings that she has organized, she has raised over \$40,000 for the LECA. Leann has also helped us to raise money in other ways, whether it is soliciting sponsors, suggesting fundraisers, or selling tickets. We can't thank her enough for taking the lead on this fundraiser and for always looking for new ways for us to raise money.

Leann does not live on Lake Eau Claire but is passionate about it and wants to see it to continue to thrive.

Thank you Leann!

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DONATIONS

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>

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

Turn on AmazonSmile
in the Amazon app to
generate donations.

amazon smile



Good news! AmazonSmile is now available in the Amazon Shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones. You can use the copy and assets below to share the news with your supporters.

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.

1. *Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device*
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.

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/browse.html?node=15576745011&ref%5F=pe%5F732550%5F495707060&pldnSite=1>



Home Winterization CHECKLIST

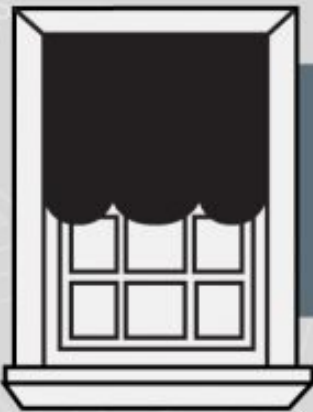


BE PREPARED

- Buy a snow shovel now so you'll have it before winter weather hits.
- Keep extra water and canned food in storage just in case.

GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUTS

- Clean gutters and downspouts in mid-fall and double-check them before winter.
- Install leaf guards to keep falling leaves and other debris out of cleared gutters.



DOORS & WINDOWS

- Examine doors and windows for gaps where warm air can escape.
- Caulk or apply weatherstripping around problem draft areas.
- Install double-paned windows to increase energy efficiency.

HEATING SYSTEM

- Replace the filter in your furnace.
- Give your heating system a test run so you know it will work properly when you need it.
- Hire a heating/cooling expert to check your furnace's efficiency.



ROOFING, CHIMNEYS & DECKS

- Have a contractor look for damaged roof shingles and loose gutters.
- Make sure chimneys and woodstoves are cleaned early in the season.
- Give your deck a fresh coat of sealer to protect it from the winter elements.

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