



August 2021

**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 beautiful summer we are having in Wisconsin. The water levels have been fairly consistent which is just fantastic! I'm also happy to report that thus far, the water is looking great on the lake and remaining pretty clear even though we have had a warm summer. Just a few reminders on what we can do to help keep our lake clear:

- 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

The Friends of Lake Eau Claire Association has been busy over the past several months raising money through our fundraisers. I'd like to say thank you to everyone that bought or sold calendars for our August calendar raffle. We were able to raise over \$9,000. I'd also like to say thank you to all that participated or volunteered in the annual golf outing. We raised almost \$9,000 at this event.

Something we can all do to help Lake Eau Claire is to take the Eau Claire County budget survey and rate question #5 - Conservation as essential. We rely heavily on County matching funds every year to continue the good work we're doing. A handful of Lake Eau Claire supporters attended the Eau Claire budget listening session held on August 4th and the county budget committee indicated the survey is one of the best ways to continue funding. The survey can be found online at: <https://surveymonkey.com/r/PRCYHXV>. Please consider taking the survey today.

I'm so thankful for all of the wonderful supporters we have of Lake Eau Claire! I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer and I hope to see you all in two weeks at our annual picnic.



Save the date!

Calendar Raffle – Drawings start August 1st – In progress

Lake Association Annual Picnic & Meeting – Saturday, August 14th

Lake District Annual Meeting – Saturday, August 21st – 10:00 am

Cornhole Tournament – Saturday, September 11th



TIM NELSON
RE/MAX
AFFILIATES



2021 ANNUAL PICNIC (date changed)

WHAT: Lake Eau Claire Association Annual Meeting & Picnic

WHERE: The Clubhouse at the County Park on SD

WHEN: Saturday, August 14th

4:00 PM Social Hour

5:00 PM Dinner followed by a brief meeting

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



RESERVATIONS: No reservation required although an email to lakeecassociation@gmail.com would be appreciated.

MENU: Hot Beefs, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Cowboy Beans, Chips, 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, President's Award, & Adjournment (Note that the new LECA Board will have a short meeting after adjournment).

We will be collecting donations for the Augusta School District for their school supply fund. Our organization loves picking local causes or charities that may need assistance from time to time and with school going back into session soon, we thought this would a great cause to support.

4th of July Celebration

Wow, what a show we had this year! Thank you to all that donated, it was your contribution that made the show happen!

Also, a special thank you to the fireworks shooter and the Lake Association board members who prepared and cleaned up the island, launched the pontoon and transported the shooter and the supplies back and forth to the island. Without these folks, we could not have had our show!



We are now accepting donations for next year's show. Remember, the fireworks show is 100% funded by donations our members make.

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 at: www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/fireworks2022



Lake District Update – Geography Lesson

Mike Lea – District Chairman

I have written before about our attempts to address erosion issues in Lost Lake upstream from the rookery. We have made some progress on that project which I would like to share, but first I should take a moment to explain where this area is and why it is important. When we deal with the same issues every day, we sometimes forget that not everyone is familiar with what we are talking about.

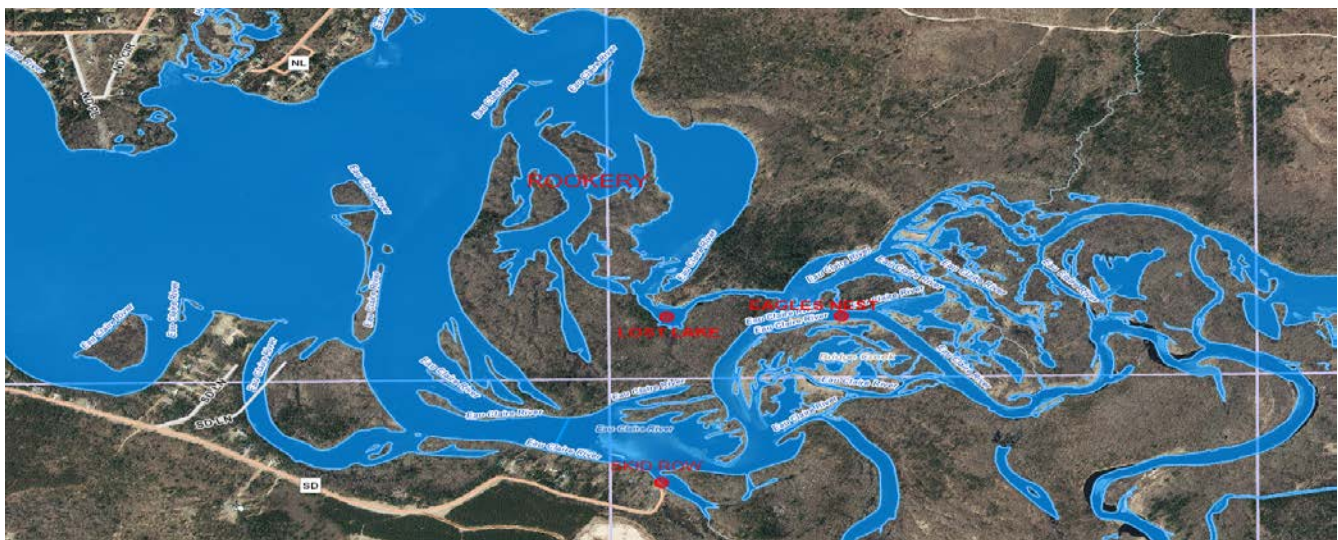
Rookery, Skid Row and Eagle's Nest

In the northeast corner of Lake Eau Claire is a large, shallow, weedy area known as the rookery. This area has been described as critical fish habitat by the WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It is also a very productive area for nesting waterfowl and other birds, as well as many species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. At the far eastern end of the rookery there is a small channel that forms a shortcut from the rookery to the main river channel. This shortcut connects with the main river just upstream of where the river enters the lake at the Skid Row boat landing, which is located at the east end of County Road SD. The area near where the shortcut and river channel meet is sometimes referred to as the Eagle's Nest as there is a prominent nest nearby.

Lost Lake and Lost Lake Bank Stabilization Project

Halfway between the rookery and the river, the shortcut channel widens out and deepens in an area known as Lost Lake. Lost Lake is sometimes accessible by boat but is often cut off by fallen trees and sand bars. There is a large sand bank in Lost Lake that is eroding due to increased water flow through this area. The sand from this erosion is one source of sediment washing out into the rookery and forming a large sand bar. This sand bar growth is accelerating due to the increased frequency of high-water events and threatens the productivity of this important area. The district applied for a grant from the WI DNR to address the eroding bank and was partially successful in winning the grant. We were awarded a grant, but not for the full amount requested. Fortunately, we put the Lost Lake Stabilization project out for bids and accepted an offer below projections. Combined with a very generous donation from the Friends of Lake Eau Claire, we can cover the costs. The contractor is planning to complete the project this fall.

It is important to point out that this eroding bank is not the only source of sand entering the rookery. Deposits in the Eagle's Nest area have diverted some of the river's current so that more sediment is flowing through Lost Lake. A future goal is to address this issue with a large dredging operation from above the Eagle's Nest down to Skid Row. This will be a very ambitious project but will hopefully address many issues. Grants are being pursued, but we will need matching funds. One way you can help is to attend the Annual County Budget hearing on August 4th at 6:30pm at Augusta City Hall. This is our one chance every year to let the county finance committee know what an important resource Lake Eau Claire is for the entire county, and to ask for financial support for our ongoing projects.



Boating Etiquette – the unspoken rules of the water

Recreational boating has an etiquette – the customary code of accepted behavior on and around the water. Boating etiquette is about safe behavior, as well as what's socially accepted. Here are some of the basics to help you navigate the boating world with ease while not creating a stir among fellow users of the water.

Top 10 rules to respectful boating – make the right kind of waves

Remember, these are guidelines and should not serve as a replacement for learning the rules, regulations and laws for your local body of water.

1. **Respect the ramp.** Good boating etiquette starts before you enter the water - at the dock. Prepare your boat and equipment before getting into position to launch. Anything else is disrespectful to fellow boaters.
2. **Own your wake.** The fastest way to make the wrong kinds of waves is to literally throw a big, obtrusive wave at another boat, swimmer, angler or shoreline owner. This is much more than being a nuisance or disrupting others' experience on the water. It's dangerous to those unable to tolerate a large wake. Stay at least 200 feet from the shoreline and other boaters.
3. **Keep the tunes in check.** Sound is amplified over the water, so keep the music at a decent level. Not only is it a disturbance to others but the operator may not hear the spotter.
4. **Pack in. Pack out.** Seems like common sense, right? Yet shorelines are still lined with trash being thrown overboard. Take care of the body of water you love and dispose of any trash you have. Do not throw it overboard!
5. **Slow your roll.** Does the body of water you're on have a speed limit or slow-no-wake restriction? It's your responsibility to know it and respect it. You are responsible for any damage you cause to other people's property.
6. **Rules of the road.** Become familiar with waterway markers and navigation rules, which dictate how you operate your vessel in order to prevent collision.
7. **Be prepared.** If you are the captain, you need to be prepared with the safety rules for your craft and make your guests aware as well. Know state and local laws for the body of water you're on. Set a good example by always wearing a life jacket and have enough life jackets for each person onboard. Beyond that, make sure to have the appropriate fit.
8. **Fuel and go.** At the fuel dock, get fuel, pay your bill and move out of the way. If you need to buy additional supplies, relocate your boat. Don't forget to run your blower before starting.
9. **Anchoring and mooring.** Enter an anchorage or mooring area at a slow speed. Don't create a wake that will disrupt other anchored boats. The first boat sets the tone. Mimic how they tie off, how much line you use and how much distance you allow between you and other boats. The busier the boat, the more space you should give yourself.
10. **Be polite – give a wave.** When passing another boat, give a little wave hello. Boating is all about having fun and being part of the boating community. Embrace it, enjoy it, and share it for generations to come.



What Is Riprap? And Why It Rocks!

You may have noticed a number of homes along Lake Eau Claire that installed riprap along their shorelines last winter. You may be wondering why do they need it and what benefit does it have for the lake. Below is some helpful information. If you are considering installing riprap, consult with the DNR to determine if you will need a permit before embarking on the project.

What is Riprap?

Riprap describes a range of rocky material placed along shorelines, bridge foundations, steep slopes, and other shoreline structures to protect from scour and erosion. Rocks used range from 4 inches to over 2 feet. The size of the rock needed on a project depends on the steepness of the slope and how fast water is moving. Riprap is a very durable, natural-looking treatment.



Where is it used?

Riprap is used where a structure or shoreline is continuously exposed to rushing water:

- Along a lake shoreline to limit erosion associated with wave action.
- Along the outer bank of a river bend, dissipating the force of the water against the bank.
- Near bridges along embankments and adjacent to supports in waterways.

Erosion can compromise shorelines which could cause loss of property; preventing erosion helps to keep the public safe.



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GRANTS/CORPORATE GIVING/MATCHING PROGRAMS DID YOU KNOW?

Many corporations feel a sense of responsibility to give back. Many have either direct giving programs, foundations, sponsorship programs, in-kind donations, product donations, volunteer programs, or matching gift programs.

Friends of Lake Eau Claire was recently awarded a \$250 grant through Thrivent because one of their members, someone who is a property owner on Lake Eau Claire, reached out to us and wanted to apply for a grant for a specific project. This was fantastic and as a result, they received the grant money and used it all towards our life jacket station project. This got us thinking...there are likely more Thrivent members on our lake that might be interested in helping us out with another project or other corporate giving funds that could possibly help us in the future. Some companies that we've found that have specific giving programs are listed below but there are many more:

- Thrivent
- American Family Insurance Company
- Microsoft
- General Electric (GE)
- Johnson & Johnson
- Pepsi Co.
- Apple
- Hewlett-Packard
- ExxonMobil



Check with you company to see if they offer direct giving, matching, or grant programs today!



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A REAL STUNNA!
by Fred Poss of "Fisherman Fred's Guide Service"

Maybe this article would be better titled "A REEL STUNNA!" because we are talking about a brand-new fishing bait that should produce here on Lake Eau Claire?

Berkley has just started manufacturing a long, thin minnow jerkbait called "The Stunna." The lure looks like a Rapala floating minnow but is actually much heavier and will dive, sit still for a second and then slowly sink down to a fish waiting for a meal. And its weight makes for a nice long cast.



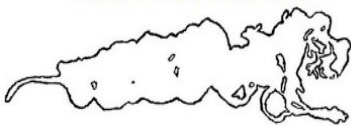
The bait comes in two sizes: (1) is the Stunna 112. It is 112 mm long, weighs a hefty 1/2 oz. and dives from three to six feet based on the force used to snap the bait from side to side. (2) The Stunna 112+ 1 remains 112 mm long, weighs the same 1/2 oz. but has a deeper bill that causes the bait to run from six to ten feet deep.

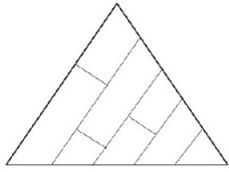
I have used this bait myself with some of my customers when we have been fishing smallmouth bass on the Chippewa River. Colors that worked for me were in gold, orange, and grey shad. I recommend using 12 lb. test fluorocarbon line as it is pretty abrasive resistant, strong enough to bring in most northern pike, and invisible in the water. I also like to fish a snap (not a swivel snap) to connect the bait to the line. The lure can be use with a spinning rod and reel or a casting rod and reel, but if you choose to fish with a spinning outfit be careful about line twist. A spinning reel will put a half-twist of torque on every full revolution of the reel. One way to avoid that is to use a barrel swivel about 18 inches ahead of the lure, but you must be careful not to reel up the bait to cast it so that you bring the swivel into contact with your rod tip line guide.

Most fisherman work a jerkbait in the Kevin Van Dam fashion. They use short, strong rips to move the bait but allow for slack line to accumulate in between the ripping movements. A company that currently sells this bait on line is Susquehanna Fishing Tackle which can be found on the web at: <https://sfttackle.com>. Best of luck if you try it out. Let me know if it works for you.



**Lake Eau Claire
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Golfing Recap!

We are happy to announce that the 7th Annual Friends of Lake Eau Claire Golf Outing was a HUGE success! The event took place at Hickory Hills Golf Course on Saturday, July 17th.



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. A very appreciative thank you to all of the sponsors and donators of money, prizes, and more! We were able to raise almost \$8,900 from the event. All of the money

If you did not make it this year, consider joining us in 2022. The event will be at Hickory Hills again and the date for next year's event is Saturday, July 16, 2022.

COMING SOON – LIFE JACKET STATIONS!

Through some generous donations, the Lake Eau Claire Association is in process of building 3 Life Jacket Loaner Stations. These stations will provide the public with free use and return life jackets, on a first-come-first-serve basis.



U.S. Coast Guard accident data shows that most drownings could have been prevented if a life jacket had been worn by the victim. Since the mid-1980s life jacket loaner stations have been gaining popularity. We plan on having ours/yours in place for you to utilize by Labor Day weekend.

So, when you come out for a day of fun in the sun and you forget a life jacket, we have you covered. Just remember to return it when you are done using it, ensuring everyone gets a chance to have a safe day on the water. These stations will be equipped with infant through adult sizes. The goal of the life jacket station is to prevent drownings and increase life jacket wear while on the water. We want everyone to have a safe and fun time on Lake Eau Claire.



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Sign up for our 2nd Friends of Lake Eau Claire
Cornhole Tournament

When: Saturday, September 11

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 (\$10 from each entry will go toward the lake rehab fund)

Teams: Any combination of male and female.

Payout (based on 32 teams): 1st - \$600, 2nd - \$400, 3rd - \$280

Format: Outdoors, Double elimination, Race to 21 (best 2 of 3)

Various raffles and other contests throughout the day!

For More Information and to Sign-up:

<https://www.memberplanet.com/s/lakeeauclaireaassociation/cornhole2021>

Roy Stevens' Musky Wins \$50

—X—
 Archie Buell has gathered some interesting facts on the musky fishing in Lake Eau Claire and the Eau Claire river during the three years that his musky contest has been in operation. The following article reviews the entries and the winners in the contest during the past three years.

It won't be long before another Musky season rolls around. Here are some of the high lights of last season's catch.

Roy Stevens won first prize of \$50.00 donated by Best and Riek Real Estate Co. of Woodville, Wis. and Glen Hardy salesman in this area. This fish was 46½ inches long and weighed 32 lbs.

Mrs. James Wallace won the second prize of \$10.00 donated by the River Inn. This Musky was 48½ inches long and weighed 28½ lbs.

In addition, Mrs. Wallace's Musky won second place at the Chippewa Fair and first place at Longs Sport Shop. Also first place at Osseo.

If Roy had entered his Musky at the Chippewa Fair, Lake Eau Claire could have won first and third prize for 1949.

Last year, 1948, the first and second prizes at the Fair came out of Lake Eau Claire. Dean Balliett won first place and Sev Plombon of Stanley won second place. Eau Claire would have had all three prizes in 1948 if Dean hadn't eaten a 25 pounder about two weeks before he caught the big one.

We have been running this contest since 1947 and have a record of all the Muskies entered during the past three seasons. Here is some interesting data.

The Musky catch as entered here since 1947 as to average length and average weight is as follows:

Year	Ave. Lth.	Ave. Wt.
1947	36.85 in.	13.20 lbs.
1948	37.80 in.	12.80 lbs.
1949	36.30 in.	11.55 lbs.

In 1947 some scales from twelve or fourteen of the Muskies caught in that season were sent to the fish division of the Conservation Dept. to determine the age of the fish. A report from Mr. Jacob H. Fischthal, who was connected with the fish division at that time, was returned.

Here is the dope on two of the fish, one river Musky and one lake Musky, these fish were the same length but the weight and age were somewhat different.

11 years old.
 Another Musky season is coming up soon, so if you catch a legal Musky enter it at the River Inn. It may be good for one of the monthly prizes and will give a lot of information to fishermen.

1947 — Average Length 36.8.
 Average Weight 13.2

- John Anderson — 32.
- Bill Vinopal — 33.
- Archie Buell — 34.
- Jack Justesen — 34.
- Bob Carney — 36.
- H. E. Brown — 34.
- D. Jungerberg — 34.
- Herb Kling — 36.
- Dean Balliett — 41.
- Laverne Anderson — 48.
- F. Rademacher — 42.
- Bob Gregor — 42.
- Al Schimmelpennig — 46.
- Arnold Erdman — 37.
- Henry Bartig — 31.
- Riley Bates — 33.
- Erwin Erdman — 40.
- Ed Erdman — 30-32-33.
- Al Lambrecht — 33.
- Walter Johnson — 48.
- Gordon Strader — 40.
- Arnold Erdman — 41.
- Leon Fye — 30-33.
- Elmer Donais — 37.
- Arnold Erdman — 34.

1948 — Average Length 37.4
 Average Weight 12.8

- Mrs. Jim Wallace — 37.
- Archie Goede — 42.
- Lemoine Erdman — 37.
- Arnold Erdman — 31.
- Jim Wallace — 42.
- Layman Larson — 43.
- Hal De Roach — 31.
- John Anderson — 31.
- Jim Wallace — 43.
- Arnold Erdman — 33.
- Dean Balliett — 46.
- F. Lighthizer — 36.
- Bill Vinopal — 31.

- Bill Plombon — 31.
- Al Knuth — 37.
- Dean Balliett — 38.
- Herb Kling — 41.
- Virginia Redmond — 40.
- Bill Vinopal — 37.
- John Anderson — 33.
- Dean Balliett — 32 and 49.
- Arnold Erdman — 44.
- Sev Plombon — 47.
- Dean Balliett — 34.
- Antone Long — 34.
- Kermit Hanson — 33.
- Herb Flam — 32.
- Leonard Person — 37.
- Erv Erdman — 39.
- Art Weiland — 39.

- 1949 —
- Arnold Erdman — 34.
 - F. Lighthizer — 39.
 - Arnold Erdman — 36.
 - Lamoine Erdman — 32.
 - Jim Wallace — 38.
 - Lamoine Erdman — 37.
 - Bob Smith — 38.
 - Ken Piel — 33.
 - Mrs. Jim Wallace — 48.
 - Dean Balliett — 31.
 - J. D. Conway — 31.
 - Belle Sense — 34.
 - Roy Stevens — 47.
 - Don Johnson — 31.
 - Arnold Erdman — 40.
 - Harold Johnson — 34.
 - Sev Plombon — 32.
 - Arnold Erdman — 38.
 - Roy Stevens — 46.
 - Sev Plombon — 32.
 - Bill Plombon — 33.
 - Jim Wallace — 32.
 - John Boltik — 37.
 - R. Strauch — 33.
 - Emil Johnson — 39.



Got Pallets

Our approach for fish cribs this year is changing from shallow-water half-log cribs to deep-water pallet-style cribs. To keep costs low, we're looking for pallets that might be sitting around collecting dust! Pallets should be in good condition and untreated. If you have pallets or have access to pallets, shoot us an email at LakeECAssociation@gmail.com and we will arrange pick-up.



Eau Claire County 2021 Budget Survey

Eau Claire County's mission statement is: "To provide quality, innovative and cost-effective services that safeguard and enhance the well-being of residents and resources."

The Eau Claire County Board of Supervisor seeks your opinion on the importance of services the county provides. These services are sometimes obvious (Highway plow trucks) and other times less obvious. All resources provide an infrastructure that our community depends upon.

Did you know that your feedback actually influences decisions made in local government? Eau Claire County is working for you and would love your feedback and input for how we should allocate dollars to services and departments.

Annually Lake Eau Claire relies on money provided by the county to assist with our sand removal and other projects that happen. Your opinion on this can have a HUGE impact. Question #5 Conservation in the survey focuses on lake rehabilitation projects. Please consider voting "Essential" on these services so that funding for our lake continues.

Go to <https://surveymonkey.com/r/PRCYHXV>

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>





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 occurs often, 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: circle one			
One Year	\$ 25.00	Three Years	\$ 75.00
Two Years	\$ 50.00	Four Years	\$100.00
Additional Donation:			
Fireworks	\$		
Lake Rehab	\$		
Other Donation	\$		
Total	\$		

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: Joe Vydral

PO Box 229

Augusta, Wisconsin 54722 – 0229

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, E20250 Greens Landing Road, Augusta, WI 54722 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

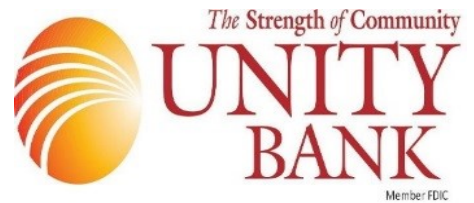
Secretary- Joe Bechtel 612-812-0451 jbechtel8043@gmail.com

Treasurer - Dean Boehne 715-695-3131 dcbost@tcc.coop

Vice Chair & Commissioner – Gary Gibson 715-210-0401 gary.gibson@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Commissioner – Bruce Logterman

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