



March 2023

*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

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023! What a winter season Wisconsin has had. We ended 2022 around the holidays with an abundance of snow and a Winter Wonderland which certainly was beautiful for the holidays. Over the past few weeks, Wisconsin has seen quite the range in weather. Snow (a lot), sleet, warm temps and back to snow & ice. My hope is that Spring is right around the corner.

As you may recall from our last newsletter, Friends of Lake Eau Claire received an **EXTREMELY** generous gift of a matching donation offer of over \$50,000. These funds will be used for the reopening of Hay Creek and the long-awaited Skid Row project. I'm happy to report that we have received almost \$39,000 in matching personal donations from our surrounding lake & local community. This is fantastic and I cannot thank all of the donators enough! I'm hoping we can bridge the small gap and collect \$11,000 or more in matching donations! If you are willing and able to help us meet our goal, please look for the article later in this newsletter on how to donate. We **PROMISE**, all funds collected will be put to good use!

With the new year in full swing, please watch for our sponsorship opportunities, membership notices, and all the fun events that will be taking place around the lake over the next few months.

Again, I can't thank you all enough for your wonderful support of Lake Eau Claire! Together we can do great things.



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4th of July Fireworks!

The 2023 Fireworks show will be held on Tuesday, July 4th over the water on beautiful Lake Eau Claire! Now is the time to donate for the 2024 show. Remember, only your donations pay for the show.

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



Donate today at: <https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/fireworks2023>

Deep Water Fish Cribs

By Duane Ives



Last fall, we experimented with a new style of fish cribs (see example to the left), commonly called deep water cribs. The deep-water cribs were placed in water that is 12-14 feet deep. These cribs are designed to provide cover and protection for smaller fish and give them a place to reproduce. The deep water cribs were made from untreated pallets and had cinder blocks attached to them to get them to sink. It took two tries to get the cribs to sink as they required more weight than anticipated! There were three cribs placed this fall and a few more are ready to be dropped this year; pending a few modifications to help them sink faster! We'll also be looking at our shallow water cribs and other deep water crib designs as we continue to create habitat to support our fish population. Stay tuned for more information and more ways to get involved!



Annual Golf Event!



Make plans to join us at the 2023 Friends of Lake Eau Claire 9th Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, July 15th at Hickory Hills Golf Course in Eau Claire. The tournament is an 18-hole scramble. Contact Leann Balliett by call or text with your team's names at 715-286-4111. Spots are filling up fast so

don't miss out, get your team registered today. This is a fun event. You don't have to golf, you can come to the event and participate in the meal and raffles that happen throughout the day.



Berry & Sons Trucking

Friends of Lake Eau Claire Board of Directors

Did you know that the Friends of Lake Eau Claire board is made up of 12-15 directors from the surrounding lake and local community? We thought it might be nice to introduce you to our board directors over the course of the year in our newsletters. Each newsletter will feature 3-4 of our directors. Currently we have 13 directors. We appreciate all of the time and effort each director puts into different aspects of the managing of our association. A lot of the work that is done goes unseen but can be quite substantial. We thank them all for their efforts!

Lori Bechtel – Hello everyone, I am the current president of the association. My family moved to Augusta when I was in junior high, and I graduated high school here. My husband and I purchased our first lake cabin in 2000 and I joined the board in 2003. We not only love the lake, but the surrounding area as well. We raised our kids in River Falls, WI but decided to relocate to the lake so we built our forever home on Lake Eau Claire in 2016. We absolutely love it! We love sharing the lake with our kids and their spouses and our four grandchildren.

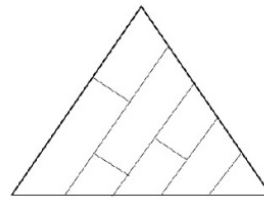
Jill Weisenbeck - Greetings from Jill Weisenbeck, the newly elected treasurer of the lake association. I am very happy to serve on this board and work with all the extremely talented and dedicated board members. My family has been on this lake for all my life. My grandparents and my dad built our cabin and we've spent summers here ever since. My husband and I bought the property from my mom in 1990 and in 2021 we rebuilt a full-time home on the site. Thanks to all of you for being a part of an organization that always works for the betterment of our lake.

Dale Zank - Having grown up in Augusta the lake has always been a part of our lives. We moved to the lake about eight years ago and joined the Association and board shortly after. I have been involved in crib installations, Ice Fisheree raffles, Fireworks, small creek dredging and other functions. Love the lake and recommend to everyone to "get involved"!

Fred Poss - Hi, I'm Fred Poss, previous board president and current chairperson for creek dredging and political action. I attended my first board meeting in the fall of 2011 after moving to our lake from Eau Claire. Five minutes later I was elected president and helped lead the effort to create a lake district, install sand traps in the river, install the aeration system, and put fish cribs in the lake. I love Lake Eau Claire, and in my work to improve it I've had the pleasure to meet all kinds of great people who readily volunteer their time and services.



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Massive Matching Opportunity!

The Friends of Lake Eau Claire recently received an **EXTREMELY** generous offer from a long-time major supporter of our beautiful Lake Eau Claire to match up to **\$50,000** in donations! Yes, \$50,000...that means if we can raise \$50,000, they will match it and we'll have **\$100,000** for lake projects!

100% of this donation will go towards the projects that are planned for cleaning out Skid Row and reopening the mouth of Hay Creek. The goal is that the Hay Creek project would be completed this winter and the Skid Row project next winter.

Whether your donation is \$10, \$100, \$1,000 or \$10,000, know that it'll be matched through this generous offer. We are not only really excited about this offer but we are extremely grateful and appreciative!

Mail a check to The Lake Eau Claire Association at PO Box 229, Augusta, WI 54722 and write Skid Row in the memo OR use the following link to donate online,

https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/skidrow_haycreek

Thanks for your consideration!



Chuck Haldeman

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BECOME A SPONSOR

Sponsor Recruiting will start soon! Do you know someone that might be interested this year?



Drop us an email at lakeeccassociation@gmail.com and we will the rest with the potential sponsor.

Sponsorship will run from June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024 so please consider becoming a 2023 sponsor.

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TOGETHER

Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention

April 19-21, 2023

Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point

Welcome to the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention website at <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/home/lakes-and-rivers-convention/>. The theme for your 2023 gathering is "Building Trust Around Water Together".

Trust is an important part of our everyday lives. We usually have trust in our family members, friends, neighbors, health care professionals, teachers, and so many others in our communities. Trust is something that is earned and is also something that can be lost.

During this event, we invite you to build new relationships with individuals, groups, businesses, and organizations. Let's cultivate trust together so we can better collaborate and cooperate around the lakes, in our watersheds, and across Wisconsin. We also invite you to explore Wisconsin's unique Public Trust Doctrine, based on our state's constitutional provision "that navigable waters are held in trust by the state for the benefit of the public."

This convention is part of Wisconsin Water Week and brought to you by the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership.

LEARN from respected experts, grassroots organizers, and passionate water advocates.

ENGAGE in the workshops and interactive discussion sessions.

ENHANCE your network of water-focused professionals.

Now Available! *Friends of Lake Eau Claire* 2023 Calendar Raffle!

The Lake Eau Claire August Calendar Raffle sales have started! We will once again draw a winner(s) daily throughout August. Every weekday we draw one \$100 winner and on Saturdays and Sundays, we draw 2 - \$100 winners. If you win, your name goes back into the barrel for a continued to chance to win. Thank you to the countless people and businesses that have already volunteered to sell tickets this year. All money raised will go back into keeping Lake Eau Claire beautiful for years to come!

If you are willing to sell a batch of 10, 20, or more calendars, please send Lori an email at lbechtel@comcast.net and she will arrange to get you a packet.



Friends of Lake Eau Claire Calendar Raffle 2023

\$10.00 each

Thank You to our 2022 Sponsors:

- Bush's Bean, *Augusta*
- Air Diffusion Systems, *Illinois*
- Al Berry & Sons Trucking, *Augusta*
- The Woodland, *Augusta*
- Ries Custom Homes, *Augusta*
- Lake Eau Claire Fisheree, *Augusta*
- Park Ridge Distributing, *Eau Claire*
- Tim Nelson Realty, *Eau Claire*
- Hello Adorn Jewelry, *Eau Claire*
- Mike's Buckhorn, *Augusta*
- Alternative Resource Mgmt, *Eau Claire*
- BelleVinez Winery, *River Falls*
- Sandy Hill Campground, *Augusta*
- Shilka Flooring, *Augusta*
- Club's Choice Fundraising, *Eau Claire*
- K&M Landscaping, *Eau Claire*
- MRS Machining, *Augusta*
- Schuman Cheese, *Fall Creek*
- Remax-Julie Brown, *Eau Claire*
- Lakes Gas, *Eau Claire*
- Augusta Feed Service, *Augusta*
- Maug Cleaning Service, *Eau Claire*
- HomeCarePlus, *Cottage Grove, MN*
- Stensen Excavating, *Augusta*
- Astrea Internet, *Augusta*
- VFW Post 8752, *Cottage Grove, MN*
- WHTL Radio, *Whitehall*
- Apex Insurance, *Augusta*
- American Waterworks, *Augusta*
- Lance's Fresh Market, *Augusta*
- Cleghorn Keg, *Cleghorn*
- Foster Bar, *Foster*
- Roger & Carroll Carlson, *Augusta*
- Travis & Amy Quella, *Augusta*

**Please patronize
these businesses!**

- * License No. R0016768-A-64073
- * 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 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100 x 2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
\$100 x 2	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100 x 2
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
\$100 x 2	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100 x 2
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
\$100 x 2	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100 x 2
27	28	29	30	31		
\$100 x 2	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100		
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!						

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Lake District Update – Hay Creek Dredging

Mike Lea - District Chairman

A significant Lake District project on the wish list was completed this winter. The delta clean out at the mouth of Hay Creek (north side near Sugar's Landing) has been a priority for several years. This project became a reality thanks to the support of the Friends of Lake Eau Claire and the generosity of additional private donors.



The extra funds were allocated for the contractor, Krueger Steinfest, to open the east and west channels on Hay Creek and remove as much of the sediment delta as possible. They accessed the area from Sugar's Landing at the end of Highway NL and used the accumulated sand to build a platform for the equipment to work from. Initial work on the east channel progressed as planned, but the contractor ran into trouble near the west channel. Instead of pure sand, which forms a solid base for the extremely heavy equipment to work on, the west side of the delta was made up of dark, soft, topsoil runoff.

This softer sediment was not firm enough to hold up equipment, so dredging up the west channel was not possible.

A last minute adjustment was made to make up for not cleaning the west channel. We elected to instead remove additional sediment from the delta. The permanent trap upstream of the east and west channel on Hay Creek, combined with a new deeper area below the creek mouth, should promote the scouring of the remaining sediment in the channel with normal water flow. As a bonus, the contractor removed sediment from the boat ramp at Sugar's Landing to make launching this spring easier.



Muddy silt remains frozen to the pavement as I write this. There is a plan to remove this when it thaws. We appreciate the cooperation from ice anglers, snowmobilers, and other users in avoiding the area during the crucial work.

Once the ice is out, take a boat ride to the mouth of Hay Creek and check out the progress. With luck, this new hole will become the next fishing hot spot. See you out there!



From The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Welcome to National Flood Safety Awareness Week.

Did you know that flood waters and runoff contain bacteria and other contaminants that can impact water supplies and cause waterborne illnesses?

If your property is susceptible to springtime flooding, we encourage you to learn more about flooding response. Find information on how to stay safe in a flooding emergency and minimize damage to your property:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/emergency/FloodCoping.html>



Last year the Friends of Lake Eau Claire purchased high water signs that will be placed at the boat landings when we are experiencing high water on the lake. If you see these signs, please observe a No Wake policy. This will help us ensure that the shoreline is not damaged and keep you safe from floating debris in the water.





Foster Bar And Grill



SPREADING THE GOOD WORD by Fred Poss

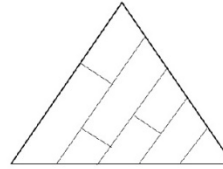
In the 2011-12 calendar year, our lake association laid down plans to address three critical problems: (1) the sedimentation of the lake bottom, (2) the blue-green algae pollution of the water, and (3) the low fish population. Of course, all three issues crossed over into one another. The lake filling up limited the amount of deep-water fish could use as a refuge. The blue-green slime made breathing a real challenge for big and little fish alike. And, finally, the lake had little weed and almost no natural woody habitat to provide shelter and spawning areas for our fish.

Now it is 2023, and the positive plans and action steps we undertook a decade ago have not only paid off for our lake--the good word about Lake Eau Claire has begun to spread to other area lakes too.

Three years ago, a committee from Lake Altoona contacted me inquiring into how we constructed our half-log fish cribs and what legal steps were necessary to install cribs like ours in their lake. Fast forward to today, and I am happy to report that with a little coaching and a manual I wrote on how to make them, their fish committee has initiated a nice fish crib building and installation process (see photos).

And the hits just keep coming! Last week Kevin Rogalinski, from Lake Como in Bloomer, contacted me for information and help. Joe Gerbyshak, our regional DNR fish manager, had suggested Kevin and company contact me because Lake Como has similar shallow characteristics to our lake. Anyway, to make a short story shorter--Kevin and I have been in close contact. I've shared how-to build information, location preferences, materials to use and even landowner permission forms. Today, Wednesday, March 1, Kevin is holding his first planning meeting in Bloomer. This development just goes to show that our original plans and efforts were based on good science and sound thinking. Don't be afraid to share our success story with other lakes too.





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The 2023 **Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree** was held on Saturday, February 4th and once again, it was a great success. The fisheree SOLD OUT in a few short days as it's one of the top ice fishing events in the area. As part of the event, the association is gifted a Vexilar by the Fisheree group. The association uses the Vexilar as a raffle prize and that, along with our 50/50 raffle, generated ~\$4,000 for the Lake Association. A huge THANK YOU to the Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree for their partnership and a huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers who made the event a success. You can see more pictures from the event by visiting, <https://www.facebook.com/LakeEauClaireIceFisheree> and pictures of our raffle winners are below.



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Other Local Events:

Augusta Athletics Baseball is Returning!

The Augusta Baseball Association, Inc. is excited to announce that amateur baseball is making a comeback to Augusta as the Augusta Athletics, powered by Stensen Excavating & Transport, will be taking the field again in the spring of 2023.

After several seasons without an amateur baseball team in Augusta, a group of local baseball enthusiasts have set out to change that. "Athletics' baseball was a staple in our community for years and we've received overwhelming support to bring it back," said Duane Ives, President of the Augusta Baseball Association and former Augusta Athletics player. Duane, along with Byron King, will co-manage the Athletics this season. "Our goal was to not only bring back the team, but create a non-profit organization that can be leveraged to raise funds and give back to the community," said Byron.

"Since we were essentially starting the team from scratch, we knew that we'd need strong financial backing to make our idea become a reality. As a result, we are grateful to partner with Stensen Excavating & Transport, LLC, who has agreed to be our primary sponsor," said Duane. In addition, the team has also received sponsorship support from MRS Machining and Brunzlick Trucking; additional sponsorship options are being circulated with local business owners.

The team will be hosting tryouts on Tuesday, December 27 at Augusta High School. Recent high school/college graduates and seasoned veterans are encouraged to attend. Tryouts will take place from 3:00pm – 7:00pm. All interested players need to pre-register for tryouts.

Athletics' fans are encouraged to "Follow" the team Facebook page (Augusta Athletics) which will serve as the primary communication channel.

The Augusta Baseball Association will operate as a registered non-profit organization (501c3) and conduct business as the Augusta Athletics.

Let's Play Ball! Check them out on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088107896711>

9th Annual Beaver Bolt

Lace up those shoes and make plans to join in the 2023 Beaver Bolt!

9TH ANNUAL AUGUSTA ELEMENTARY BEAVER BOLT!



SATURDAY, APRIL 22

8:30am - 5K Run/Walk
9:00am - 5K Bike Ride
10:30am - Kids 400m Fun Run

The Beaver Bolt is the main fundraiser of the year for Augusta Elementary. Proceeds from this event fund classroom activities, field trips, needs that arise to support students, playground equipment, and hosting parent and community education events. Join us for this fun school/community event with your friends and family! This event happens rain or shine!



*Register by April 7 to be
guaranteed a T-Shirt!*

<https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Augusta/BeaverBolt>

Student sponsorships are available. If you would like your child to participate, and need a sponsorship to cover the cost of registration, please call 715-286-3396!

AUGUSTA SPORTSMENS CLUB



TRAP TEAM COMPETITION

APRIL 29, 2023 • 9AM-3PM

Proceeds to benefit 

Entry Fee: \$300 per five person team
includes 15 boxes of ammunition

First 18 paid teams accepted
Three rounds of trap - winning team based on total score of all rounds
Prizes for winning team and overall champion shooter

FAMILY EVENT!

*Food & Drink Inflatables
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K9 Demonstrations Gun Raffles*

Teams must register by emailing: augustaprojectk9@gmail.com
Entry fee paid by check or  [@AugustaPD-K9](https://venmo.com/AugustaPD-K9)

AUGUSTA SPORTSMENS CLUB - E19355 CTY RD GG - AUGUSTA

Augusta Project K9

The Augusta Area Sportsmens Club will host their spring trap team competition event on April 29! Get your team registered today. This will be a fun day for spectators and the entire family too. Our K9 dogs will be there to show off their skills with several K9 demonstrations as well!

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Did you know...

1/ The Town of Bridge Creek offers a free recycling service and a paid garbage service on Saturday's from 7am - 12pm.

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK

29515 State Hwy 27

Augusta, WI 54722

<https://townofbridgecreek.org/files/recyclingRates.pdf>

2/ The Town of Bridge Creek requires a Building Notification Permit before any new building or major remodeling is started. Failure to secure the proper permits could result in additional penalties.

<https://townofbridgecreek.org/buildingPermits.php>

Membership

By Lori Bechtel

One of the biggest challenges most lake organizations has is attracting and keeping membership numbers high. Studies show that reaching all potential members can be a large feat. We are thinking about what might work well and are considering having different people take ownership of tasks in the membership recruiting process. Some ideas that might work well:

1. Divide into neighborhoods – divide our lake and local community into segments and recruit a volunteer to lead each area's membership separately. This would allow multiple people to be involved and lessen the load on each person.
2. Welcome committee – introduce new lake property or community owners to our organization by send a Welcome Kit.
3. Surveys – This would be a way for members to provide feedback anonymously if they choose.
4. Recruit an overall membership coordinator.

We are always open to suggestions and looking for help. If this is an area that might interest you, please reach out to us. We could use your help & suggestions!



Are you ready for an easy 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. In 2022 we had 124 paid members which equaled \$3,100. We could double our membership if each current member recruited one new member. It might be a family member, friend, local resident, 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/lakeeauclaireaassociation>



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:

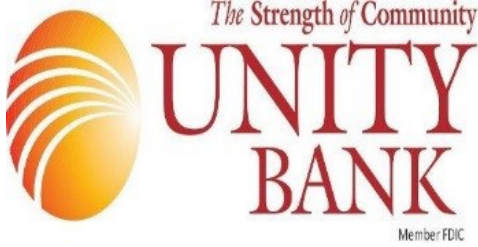
Lake Eau Claire Association

Attn: Jill Weisenbeck

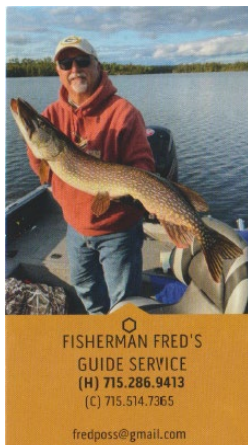
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Thank You Walleye Level (\$100) Sponsors!



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