

Lake Eau Claire Association P.O. Box 229 Augusta, WI 54722

www.lakeeauclaire.org

Lake District or Lake Association What is the Difference?

A common question around these parts is: "What is the difference between the Lake District and the Lake Association?" And along with that question is another one: "Why should we have both?"

In short, the difference is one between a public body and a private organization. The Lake District (LECD) is a governmental unit. It has the authority to hold annual meetings for lake residents to decide what the mills rate of taxation will be for the next year. It has the responsibility to meet the legal requirements of county and DNR permits to clean the sand traps, maintain the aeration system, and install half-log fish structures.

The Lake Association (LECA) as a private organization is less restricted in its activities. Associations such as ours hold social gatherings like our Christmas party and August annual picnic that help keep us together as a community. We are able to do fundraisers like the Meat Raffles, the Triathlon, and now the new mid-summer Golf Tournament. The money we raise or receive in donations is directed to special needs on the lake like paying for fish crib materials, maintaining our own website, and providing financial assistance to the lake district to offset unanticipated costs. Together, our lake district government and lake association organization provide mutual support to protect and improve Lake Eau Claire.

-The Last Printed Newsletter-

ATTENTION! THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER
THAT WILL BE MAILED OUT AS A PRINTED
DOCUMENT. The expense and trouble of
printing newsletters has led us to join so many
small newsletters and communicate our news
via email going forward. This decision was
overwhelming supported by an earlier poll
question.

If you have changed your email address or have not provided it, please contact Fred Poss, association president, at fredposs@gmail.com.

If you have some special circumstance and cannot use email, we will make 35 printed copies of the newsletter available for you at The Woodland Gas Station.



June 20, 2015 Lake Eau Claire Fundraiser & Triathlon

This is our chance to celebrate the accomplishments of the water quality and fish habitat improvement projects that

have been put into place, to learn what's next, and how we can all help to make Lake Eau Claire a thriving, healthy

body of water for all to enjoy for generations to come!

This year's event will again take place at the Hide Away and will kick off with the triathlon at 2:30pm – come on and

get outside for a beautiful walk/run, an invigorating paddle, and a leisurely bike ride. This is an event for people of all

ages and abilities. Triathlon details are on the website

www.lakeeauclaire.org

HTC will be providing the musical entertainment this year and Tugger's of Augusta will cater the food.

Fundraising activities:

Silent auction: bring a gift basket to the Hide Away on June 20 and people will have a chance to "buy" your basket!

(Contact Lori Bechtel | Ibechtel@comcast.net).

Wall of Beer/Wine: bring as many bottles of wine or 12 packs of beer as you want. You will receive a ticket for a

drawing to win the "wall" for each item you bring plus have a chance to purchase tickets to increase your chance to

win! (Contact Al Hendricks diversifiedprofits@comcast.net)

Raffle: tickets will be available to purchase at local establishments as well as at the event. Chance to win items such

as a kayak, Packers tickets, guided fishing trip, and more!

Triathlon registration: 1:00PM

Triathlon start: 2:30PM

Kids under 12, \$20.00, adults \$30.00 prior to June 16; \$5.00 increase after June 16; (includes triathlon, t-shirt, food,

music beverages)

Picnic Entry: \$15.00 for food, music, beer; \$10.00 music and food, \$5.00 food and music for kids under 12

Silent Auction and beverages: 2:00PM

Music: 3:00-7:00PM

Food: 4:00-6:00P

Volunteers are needed!

Triathlon:

Vicki Funne Reed 715-286-2040 reedvf@uwec.edu

Joe Bechtel

612-812-0451 jbechtel8043@gmail.com

Nature Notes

Fireworks Concerns By Mike Harden

The Lake Association will again sponsor a fireworks show on the Fourth of July weekend. It is planned to be as spectacular as last year's.

The use of fireworks on and around the lake continues to be a popular activity. Many residents remain concerned as to the possible adverse health and/or environmental effects that might result from this activity.

It should be noted that most fireworks are illegal to possess or discharge in Wisconsin. Firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles, sky rockets, cherry bombs, etc., are all illegal. According to the Wisconsin Bar Association, and I quote; "In general, a device is illegal, without a permit, if it explodes or is propelled into the air." That said, the sale of fireworks and their use continues seemingly unabated. Local law enforcement may enforce the law, at their discretion, and fines for violations may be up to \$1000. It seems, however, that law enforcement has many other issues to worry about in the days surrounding the Fourth of July, rather than to worry about Dads (or Grandpas and Grandmas) shooting off fireworks for the grandkids. (I hope.)

The purpose of this article is not to rage against the use of fireworks, (as i do not pretend to be entirely innocent in this regard), but simply to stimulate some common sense thinking in their use, and in the dealings with our lake neighbors in this realm. Several items are worthy of consideration for all of us in this regard:

Safety: In 2011, about 11,400 people were treated in the nation's emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries. Not surprisingly, about 65% of these injuries occurred in the month surrounding the Fourth of July. Most involved injuries to the eyes, ears, face, and hands, many resulting in burns, and 40% involved children under age 15. On average, about 5-10 people are killed each year due to fireworks injuries.

Debris: Fireworks use tends to generate waste including wood, plastic, and paper. It is incumbent upon all of us to pick up after ourselves as best we can. If each individual would just clean up after themselves, as well as picking up just a little extra that someone else might have left, our lake would be a much cleaner, neater place.

Noise: Fireworks can generate decibel levels that can be a threat to hearing if too close or too loud. Also, it may be a stress on your neighbor's pet. It would be considerate of your lake neighbors to knock off at a reasonable hour. A cherry bomb at 2:00 A.M. is not considered "cool" by most.

Fire: In 2011, fireworks were responsible for about 17,800 fires nationwide, including 1200 structure fires, 400 vehicle fires, and 16,800 outside fires. In Wis., about 5% of our forest fires result from fireworks.

Liability: One who uses fireworks, whether they have a permit or not, and whose use results in property damage or injury may be held financially responsible for the damages incurred. Fires accidentally started may result in considerable liability to the perpetrator. Homeowner policies may not cover incidents in which property damage or injury results from the use of fireworks, especially without a permit.

So, as we enter another summer season, it is the responsibility of each of us as lake residents to use common sense and consideration when it comes to dealing with this issue. The quality of our environment, the safety of our loved ones, and the relationships we cherish with our fellow lake users all depend upon each of using sound judgment in our celebratory activities

Blue Green Algae Veterinarian Advisory:

Not all blue-green algae is toxic, but since there's no way to know whether a plant is poisonous without testing, experts advise that all blooms floating on natural bodies of water should be considered potentially toxic. Even minor exposure – like a dog drinking a few mouthfuls of contaminated water – can be lethal.

Blue-green algae is toxic not only to dogs and cats, but also to horses, cows, birds, and fish. Dogs that swim regularly in lakes and ponds are at higher risk of exposure. Hunting dogs are also at higher risk due to increased exposure outdoors.

Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, blood in the stool or a black tarry stool, pale mucous membranes, jaundice, seizures, disorientation, coma, shock, excessive drooling or tearing, muscle tremors, muscle rigidity, bluish discoloration of skin and mucous membranes, difficulty breathing, and ultimately, death.

Symptoms depend on the toxin involved. Toxins that attack the liver cause blood work changes including elevated liver enzymes, low blood sugar, low protein, and occasionally abnormal clotting activity. These toxins can result in liver damage or failure and immediate aggressive treatment is necessary to save the animal.

Exposure to another type of toxins found in blue-green algae, anatoxins, results in nervous system symptoms and can bring death in minutes to hours due to respiratory paralysis.

It's important to understand no antidote currently exists for the toxins produced by blue-green algae. Immediate veterinary care is imperative.

How do I protect myself from the effects of blue-green bacteria? (from the State of Virginia Department of Public Health)

- Avoid direct contact with water that has unusual color or where blue-green bacteria have been identified, even if the water appears to be clear. This means no swimming, wading, paddling, diving, or water-skiing in affected waters.
- If direct contact has been made with water containing blue-green bacteria, wash off with fresh water. In some cases, skin irritation will appear after prolonged exposure. If symptoms persist, consult your local health care provider.
- Never drink untreated water. Do not drink water from an area where blue-green bacteria have been identified even if it has been treated; boiling the water will not destroy these toxins.
- Do not let children, pets, or livestock get into or drink affected waters.
- People that are prone to respiratory allergies or asthma should avoid areas with bacterial blooms.
- Do not eat internal organs of fish caught in bacteria-infested waters. If you have cleaned fish taken from affected waters, thoroughly wash any of your skin that has come into contact with the fish.
- Do not wash dishes with water where a blue-green bacterial bloom has occurred. If washing dishes with untreated water cannot be avoided, rinse dishes with fresh or bottled water.
- Use rubber gloves if contact with affected waters must be made.

LAKE DISTRICT NEWS

Krueger & Stienfest, Inc. completely cleaned out both Troubled Waters Bridge Trap and Gravel Pit Trap this last winter. Several factors worked to allow us to do this with available funds. That we did this in 2015, we were able to use the \$65,000 matching fund grant from Eau Claire County. Because of our experience working with Shane Krueger, we did not require him to obtain a performance bond or payment bond saving considerable money. Bridge Creek did some repair work on connector road and with this being done in winter, the ground was froze, everything went better than expected. Krueger actually hauled more material than what he charged us for. Everything went so well, that in the future, we plan to clean, at least these two traps, in the winter. However so everyone knows, no dredging can be done between March 15 and July 1 of any year to protect fishes and nursery habitat per our permit.

The DNR have offered to assist us to do tree drops into the lake this summer, late July or early August. We have to pay someone from DNR to mark the trees and drop the trees into the lake. They have a lot of regulations on tree drops, water depth, water current, that tree lays perpendicular to shore, etc. By having DNR do this, it will be done the way they want it and we do not have to worry about violating our permit. Once the trees are dropped, they need to be cabled and we can do this as volunteers. So we will be looking for help. Also, does anyone have a cable cutter we could borrow? It will be \%" cable.

Rod Zika has been working on the aeration project and it should be installed soon. We all owe Rod a huge THANK YOU for all he has done for the lake. When you see him, please tell him so.

The Lake Association is funding the installation of the aeration system. All their revenue comes from gifts or fund raising. Fred Poss has worked tirelessly to raise money so we can get the system installed. So please support Fred and all his coworkers and be sure to thank them. Thank you Fred and all.

Marlo Orth Chairman **BIG EVENTS COMIN' DOWN THE PIKE!!**

HEY, EVERBODY—ARE YOU READY TO PARTY??

THE UPCOMING CALENDAR OF SOCIAL EVENTS INCLUDES:

- 1. MEAT RAFFLES AT THE TRAILS EDGE SALOON, 7:00 TO 8:00 PM, APRIL 10 AND 24, MAY 8 AND 22.
- 2. THE JUNE 20 TRIATHLON AND FUNDRAISER.
 RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT
 LOCAL BUSINESSES.
- 3. THE ABSOLUTELY NEW JULY 25 GOLF TOURNAMENT AT THE OSSEO GOLF COURSE.

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<u>Treasurer & Vice Chair</u>: Dean Boehne 512 5th Ave. N. Strum, WI 54770 Phone: 715-695-3131 cell 715-797-4069 e-mail: dcbost@tcc.coop

<u>Commissioner:</u> Gary Gibson E16934 Scenic Dr. Fall Creek, WI 54742 Phone: 715-877-2730 cell: 715-210-0401 email: gary.gibson@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Commissioner: Lynn Norheim S8545 Cty Rd. AF Augusta, WI 54722 Phone: 715-533-0050

Are you looking to make a tax-deductible donation? Don't forget Lake Eau Claire!

Return form to: Lake Eau Claire Association P.O. Box 229 Augusta, WI 54722-0229

Wisconsin's Personal Watercraft Law

Personal Watercraft (PWC) are classified as Class A (less then 16 feet in length) inboard boats. All PWC must be registered and display valid registration decals and registration numbers on the forward half of both sides of the craft and abide by all boating regulations, plus the following specific regulations.

- 1. No persons operate a PWC from sunset to sunrise.
- 2. All persons riding a PWC must wear a PFD of the proper size and type (type I, II, III, or V).
- 3. No one under 12 may operate a PWC. (Rental age limit is 16.)
- 4. Persons at least 12 but under 16 must be in possession of a valid boating safety student certificate (issued under s. 30.74(1)) to operate a PWC. (Parental supervision is not a substitute for a boating safety certificate as with other motorboats. PWC operators must have a certificate.)
- 5. It is illegal to operate a PWC facing backwards
- 6. There is no towing of persons engaged in water skiing, aquaplaning, or similar activities unless the PWC is designed to seat 3 people.

Speed Restrictions

- It is unlawful to operate a motorboat at a speed that is greater than reasonable and prudent under the existing conditions. The speed shall be so controlled as to avoid colliding with any object, person or conveyance lawful in or on the water.
- It is unlawful to operate a motorboat within 100 feet of any dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area on any lake at a speed in excess of "slow-no-wake".

10 Most Common Boating Violations

- 1. Failure to provide proper number of personal flotation devices.
- 2. Operating boat without valid certificate of number,
- 3. Operating boat in prohibited area, in excess of speed limit on lakes 50 acres or less, or in excess of fixed limits.
- 4. Personal Watercraft violations.
- 5. Operating motorboat while under the influence of an intoxicant, or operating motorboat with BAC of 0.1% or greater.
- 6. Operating within 100 feet of dock, raft, pier, etc.
- 7. Operating boat at night without required lights.
- 8. Failure to display registration number or decal on boat.
- 9. Failure to secure or cover storage battery.
- 10. Failure to have certificate of number on board.

Tee It Up for Lake Eau Claire!

Plans for the First Annual Lake Eau Claire Association Golf Outing are quickly taking shape!

- The event will be held Saturday, July 25th at Osseo Golf Club.
- It will be nine-hole scramble featuring four-person teams.
- Tee-off will commence at 11AM, followed by a social beginning around 3PM,
- Dinner and awards in the vicinity of 5PM.
- Cost \$30 per person
- On the golf course, performance bests will be noted as well as other opportunities for prizes plus refreshments will be available during play. Low team scores will also collect awards and various raffles held throughout the day.

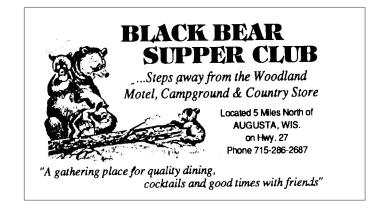
At this time, committee members are working to secure sponsors as well as gathering donated products and services to serve as prizes. If you would like to donate something to be used for an award, or have connections with commercial entities that may have such items, please let any committee member know.

Also volunteers are needed if you'd like to donate your time for pre-or-during event assistance, please contact a committee member.

Current committee members are Pat McHugh, Phil & Cina Kalscheur, Ed Wilson, Mike Harden, Bob Buley, Al Ross and John Selz.

Contact Information for Committee Chairs:
Al Ross - 715.829.2348 or email alrr@toast.net
Bob Buley - 651.233.3599 or email convairbob@gmail.com



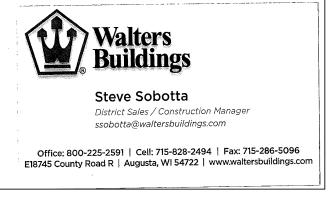


















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Membership Mailing - Lori Bechtel N8043 980th St. River Falls 54022 715.426.5655 lbechtel@comcast.net

Lake Management Plan Officer - Rod Zika 17150 SW 232 St. Miami, FL 33170 Home Phone:

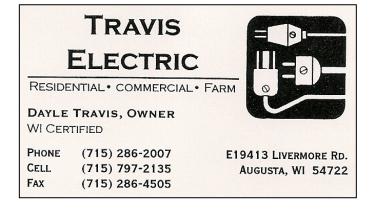
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