

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

The end of winter is in sight and I can't believe it is almost time to turn the clocks ahead. That means spring is right around the corner and so is snow melt! We are hoping for a slow thaw to help minimize spring flooding. The National Weather Service-Twin Cities has updated their flood outlook for Eau Claire County to say the risk for flooding continues to increase, with late March-mid April as the likely timeframe for the worst flooding. I hope this outlook changes and indicates lesser chances.

The Friends of Lake Eau Claire have been busy already planning and organizing our fundraisers for 2020. As mentioned in our last newsletter, our 2020 calendar raffle is progress. If you'd like to sell or purchase calendars, they are available at The Woodland. We have a Corn Hole Bean Bag Tournament on April 4th at The Buckhorn. See details further in this newsletter. The annual golf outing is planned for July 18th and we should be starting gun raffles again soon.

In cooperation with the Lake District, we plan to apply for some sizable grants so we need this to be a BIG fundraiser year so that we have plenty of matching funds available if we are so lucky to be granted some monies for future projects. As you recall, Friends of Lake Eau Claire was able to donate to the Lake District \$65,000 to go towards the building of Hay Creek and Muskrat Creek sand traps. I'm happy to report both of these traps were installed and helping to protect the lake from sand deposits!

A lot is happening so please spread the word and get people involved. 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.









Make Plans to join us for our 1st Annual Friends of Lake Eau Claire Cornhole Tournament!



When: Saturday, April 4

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!

Entry fee: \$50 per team (60% payout, 40% to lake rehab fund) - Teams can be any combination of male and

female (2 males, 2 females, or 1 male and 1 female). No refunds. Payout (based on 32 teams): 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$300, 3rd - \$160 Format: Double elimination, Race to 21 (best 2 of 3)

Various raffles (50.50, Chinese, Walk-around) and other contests throughout the day!

Encourage you friends & families to join us!

Sign up today & Reserve your spot:

https://www.memberplanet.com/s/lakeeauclaireassociation/cornhole

Al Berry & Sons Trucking









Are you interested in being a 2020 Sponsor?







Muskies and Northerns and Walleyes...Oh My!

Ok, it may not be as catchy (no pun intended) as Lions and Tigers and Bears...Oh My, but it did get you to continue reading the article! Each year, the Friends of Lake Eau Claire is fortunate to have sponsorship from local and regional businesses. In 2020, we had over 60 sponsors (a complete list can be found here: http://www.lakeeauclaire.org/sponsors) who donated money or goods in exchange for their sponsorship. Our 2020 sponsors can choose to be a Muskie, Northern, or Walleye sponsor; with each level offering different advertising opportunities. As an example, Muskie Sponsorship includes:

- ➤ Annual Golf Outing sponsor recognition on 1 hole
- Newsletter ads equal to ¼ page (our 2020 sponsors will be featured in our next newsletter for the following 12 months)
- Recognition on our website as a Muskie sponsor with a link to your website for one full year
- Logo displayed on large sponsor banner at The Woodland Store which is located next to Lake Eau Claire
- Annually featured on our Facebook page as a Muskie sponsor
- ➤ Logo displayed on our 2021 calendar raffle
- > Cross promotion opportunities between your website/social media site through the year
- ➤ Annual picnic (August) 2 entries

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

Sponsorship will run from June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021. Consider becoming a 2020 sponsor today...it's quick & easy!

Simply go to https://www.memberplanet.com/s/lakeeauclaireassociation/sponsorship or complete the form at end of the newsletter and mail it back with your payment. Questions about becoming a sponsor, send an email to LakeEauClaireAssociation@gmail.com.

The Lake Eau Claire Association thanks you for your support and for your consideration in supporting the water quality improvement projects that affect us all.

Holiday Party Wrap Up!

Once again, the Friends of Lake Eau Claire had another fun Holiday Party! The party was held on Saturday, January 11th at the newly renovated Augusta Lion's Hall. We had over 60 people in attendance! For the 2nd year in a row, our members stepped to the plate and donated to two local charities. I'm happy to announce that we were able to donate \$500 to the Good Neighbor Fund and \$240 to the Augusta Food Pantry! Thank you so much to everyone that donated!

The <u>Good Neighbor Fund</u> is designed to help families that are having financial difficulties and struggling to pay for their student's meals at school. With the funds, the school can ensure the student(s) in need will receive a regular breakfast and lunch meal. The fund helps families make a fresh start. The unpaid meal policy states that no account may go below \$-50.00. In the event it does, (per policy) the school is able to provide the student with a peanut butter/jelly sandwich and fruit for lunch; but no breakfast. With money from the Good Neighbor fund the school can provide that student with a breakfast and a full lunch instead.

The <u>Augusta Food Pantry</u> serves the greater Augusta area. Their mission is the help food insecure families have a little extra. At last count, they were supporting around 30 families. Monetary donations provide the most support for local families as every \$1 donated returns about \$10 worth of food from the Feed My People Food Bank.













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Lake Eau Claire Ice Fisheree







Fireworks...Bigger & Better in 2020

Starting with this year's show, all future shows will be fully funded through private donations! This change, approved by our board of directors, allows us to direct all funds to our lake rehab efforts!

For the 2020 show, we received \$4,500 in donations. Donations are accepted in the year prior to the show; meaning donations collected in 2019 will be used for our 2020 show! This will be our biggest fireworks show yet!

Make plans to join on Saturday, July 4 for our annual show!

To help establish our fund for 2021, click here: www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/2021_fireworks



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...by the end of March, 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











LATEST FLOOD FORECAST

by Fred Poss

Wednesday, March 4, the National Weather Service (NWS) made a presentation at the Eau Claire County Board Room regarding this spring's flooding potential in the Eau Claire River Valley and Chippewa River Valley. Craig Schmidt, a meteorologist from the Twin Cities NWS said, "There is a 36% increased chance above the average of major flooding the length of these two rivers this spring." Schmidt made this forecast based upon the fact the soil moisture is even higher than last year. A wet autumn, deep frost and very high snow pack have contributed to increasing the potential flooding risks. The good news is for at least the next two weeks or more, there appears to be only minor amounts of precipitation forecast, and it looks like we will enjoy a healthy balance of warm days and cold nights. A good balance of temps is essential in allowing a slow snow and ice melt. In late March to mid-April more precipitation looks to be coming, and that is when the concern for flooding is at its highest level. "There is a high probability of landlocked areas such as marshes, swamps, ponds and low fields to experience high water periods." Our lake association has been active in sending out warnings of high-water periods for the residents of Lake Eau Claire, but it is best if each family does its best to stay informed through radio, television, newspaper and social media.

THE ANNUAL LAKE EAU CLAIRE ICE FISHEREE was held on Saturday, February 1st. Organizer Dan Marcheske and team organized another fun, successful event! The weather really cooperated this year. All 500 holes were sold out which is fantastic.

Friends of Lake Eau Claire would like to thank Dan Marcheske for donating a Vexilar fish finder to the Association to raffle off at the event. Dan also allowed us to sell our calendars and 50/50 tickets. The winner of the 50/50 ticket went home with over \$2,000!



Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped the Association raise over \$5,000 that day between the Vexilar fish finder, calendars, and 50/50. Next year's event is already planned for Saturday, February 6, 2021 so mark your calendar now!

TOWN OF NEWBOLD DECISION AFFIRMS THE USE OF SUBDIVISION AUTHORITY TO SET MINIMUM LOT SIZES IN SHORELAND AREAS

The most recent court case that involves Wisconsin lakes was recently decided in the District Court of Appeals involving Lake Mildred. Towns may regulate minimum lot sizes in their shoreland areas without regard to state shoreland zoning standards through their subdivision authority, according to a Wisconsin appellate court. Affirming a decision of a lower court and citing WI Supreme Court precedent, the District III Court of Appeals held in Anderson v Town of Newbold (2018AP547) that the statute providing towns authority to enact subdivision ordinances is "separate and distinct" from its zoning powers, and the fact that a minimum lot size subdivision ordinance covers the same regulatory ground as a similar zoning ordinance does not curtail the town's subdivision power.

The decision, though subject to appeal to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, could provide towns with a method to facilitate sustainable development along their shorelines. The appeals court did recognize that the decision uncovers an "undeniable tension" between the shoreland zoning and subdivision statutes, but goes on to say it

is the Legislature's, not the court's role to resolve that tension. Lake Mildred in Oneida County is just NW of Rhinelander in the Town of Newbold

The case involved a denial by the Town of Newbold in Oneida County to landowner Michael Anderson's request to divide his roughly 360 feet of shoreland property on Lake Mildred into two parcels. The request ran afoul of the town's "On-Water Land Division Standards" ordinance, which requires at least a 225' lot width on Lake Mildred and was denied.



WISCONSIN

Happy spring from Wisconsin Lakes! Wisconsin Lakes has been busy with planning the upcoming Lakes Convention and this year it will be better than ever! Every year the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership has a spring convention that highlights a wide variety of issues surrounding lakes which educates riparian owners on new and pressing issues. It's also a chance to network with scientists, land owners, state officials and

others. This year will be an even larger gathering for those interested in the lakes and rivers of Wisconsin. The new event is called the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention.

The Lakes & Rivers Convention resulted from the merging of the forty-two year old Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, put on by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, and the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) Symposium. The Lakes Partnership is a collaborative effort of Wisconsin Lakes, UW-Extension Lakes Program, and the WI Dept. of Natural Resources. WAV is Wisconsin's statewide citizen stream and river monitoring organization.

The 2020 Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention will be April 1-3, 2020 at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn Conference Center. This year's theme is "Wisconsin Waters 2020: Focusing on Resilient Lakes & Rivers." The Thursday keynote speaker is Dr. Douglas Beard of the USGS National Climate Adaptation Science Center who will speak on "The Role of Resiliency in Managing Water Resources" and Friday's keynote speaker is Lauren Sallvato of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association on the "Resiliency in the Upper Mississippi River Basin".

The WI Lakes Partnership Convention gathers citizens, agency staff, county officials and staff, and others interested in learning about lake science, policy, culture and more. For more information on the convention please visit https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes or call Kristin Charlton 920-918-3737.

2020 Red Cedar Conference

On March 12, 2020 UW-Stout will be hosting the Red Cedar Conference. The cost is \$35.00 and it runs from 8:30 AM – 4:15 PM. Come learn about issues facing the Red Cedar River Watershed! This marquee regional event brings together citizens, farmers, lawmakers, academics and others. For more information visit UW-Stout's website www.uwstout.edu/outreach or call Kristin Charlton at 920-918-3737

Nature Notes Declining Bird Populations By Mike Harden

A few years ago, I spent opening day on my favorite deer stand in Northern Wisconsin. I saw no deer that day, but the remarkable thing; to me, was that I saw not a single bird. Nor did I see a squirrel or any other mammal. In fact, the only living thing I saw in that 6-7 hour sit was a moth! One lousy little moth, out only because the day was exceptionally warm, I'm sure. Seeing no deer is not that unusual these days where I hunt, but to see no wildlife of any kind was striking. I did not have much of a story to tell that evening in camp.

For those of us that have been around for anything close to my 70+ years, we have seen profound and sometimes disturbing changes in the natural world. One of these has been a dramatic drop in wild bird populations. According to the journal *Science*, bird populations in general have declined by 29% in the last 50 years. We have about 3 billion less birds in North America than we did in 1970. Some populations have been hit much harder than others. The red-headed woodpecker was a favorite of mine when I was a kid. I can't remember when I last saw one. The evening grosbeak, a winter feeder favorite years ago, is one of the worst in decline, down 90% from the 60's. Meadowlarks, bobolinks, sparrows, many warblers, black swifts, bank swallows, king rails, and many others are just some of the 529 species surveyed that show serious declines in number. The news isn't all bad. Under protection, some waterfowl species, and many birds of prey have actually increased in number over this time span. These trends are being documented by data gathered by the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts, The North American Breeding Bird Survey, monitoring by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and several other data sets.

What are the causes? Habitat destruction; both locally and in Central and South America where many of our migratory birds spend the winter, is a major factor. Bird species require specific types of habitat for nesting. When these areas are paved, built upon, or converted to other human use, birds can't nest there. Pesticides play a role, sometimes by poisoning the bird directly, or by drastically reducing insect populations; the main food source for many birds. Much ado has been made about wind farm and their effect on birds. The Audubon Society estimates that windmills kill up



to 328,000 birds each year, but that pales in comparison to the estimated 1.4-3.7 BILLION killed each year by the house cat; *Felis catus*, either living in the wild or as pets allowed to roam. Keep in mind, the domestic cat is not native to the US, and when not controlled, plays the role of a damaging invasive species when it comes to certain natural ecosystems.

What can one do to help in this seemingly overwhelming situation? Well, we can continue to enjoy the birds we have, and promote an appreciation of them to our children and grandchildren. We can keep our bird feeders full, especially during the harshest winter periods (until the bears awake in spring). We can control our cats' impact. We can support habitat conservation and demand effective environmental policy by our elected officials. Unfortunately, the future looks daunting. We add over 80 million people a year to an already overcrowded planet, and in the process continue to convert more and more wild lands to suit our own needs rather than that of wildlife. We need to become more responsible stewards of this wonderful planet we call home. It will be a sad day, indeed, if the "Silent Spring" warned of by the environmentalist Rachel Carson, ever becomes a reality.

Lake District Update – Mike Lea It's Dredging Season!

This is the time of year that the lake district usually does most of its dredging and this year is no exception. The most exciting update is on Muskrat Creek where in late December the dredging contractor, Krueger Steinfest, removed just over 2100 cu. yds. of material from the new sediment trap. This project has been a high priority for the last two years and we are very happy with the results.

Under the guidance of Fred Poss, the northside creek traps were also cleaned out in December with 500 yds of sediment being removed from the two traps. Improvements were made on the approach ramps to the traps and plans are being made to possibly clean these areas out more often. Haas and Sons Excavating again cleaned out the new Hay Creek trap, removing just under 2000 cu. yds. of sediment and it is hoped that this will allow the area below the trap to begin to scour itself out.

On the river, Krueger Steinfest has finished cleaning out the gravel pit trap and is currently working on the trap at the Troubled Waters bridge. If you get a chance, take a drive to Troubled Waters to see the operation in action. The contractor has built a land bridge out to the middle of the river to reach the far side and then removes material as he works his way back to shore. This material is then trucked to a deposit site on Hwy G near the horse trail parking lot.

With all this dredging work comes expense. The lake district is constantly working with the lake association to find new sources of funding for these and future projects, and with the new management plan update, we hope to be able to apply for state and federal grants help us keep moving forward with the preservation and improvement of our lake.

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Save the date!

Calendar Raffle – ongoing now! 1st Annual Corn Hole Tournament – Saturday, April 4th Golf Outing – Saturday, July 18th Annual Picnic & Meeting – Saturday, August 15th



We've updated our Lake Management Plan!

The Lake Eau Claire District with the assistance of the Lake Eau Claire Association formed a Lake Eau Claire Partnership Team (LECPT). The LECPT included members from Lake Eau Claire Lake District leadership, Lake Eau Claire Association leadership, Eau Claire County Board, Eau Claire County Department of Planning and Development – Land Conservation Division, Eau Claire County Department of Parks and Forest and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Lake Management, Fisheries Management and Surface Water Grants Departments. The LEPT completed updating the Lake Eau Claire Management Plan over a series of three meetings during October, November and December 2019.

The LECPT reviewed and updated each of the lake management goals from the previous Lake Eau Claire Management Plan and its associated plan updates (2009, 2012, 2014 and 2016) https://www.lakeeauclaire.org/. The goals included Sediment Management, Habitat, Water Quality and Community Capacity. The LECPT initiated each goal review by evaluating the successful lake management activities which have been completed for each lake management activity since the original lake management plan began implementation in 2009. The current and past successes of implementing the management activities defined in previous lake management plans can be attributed to the development of community capacity and lake management science by the outstanding leadership within the Lake Eau Claire community.

We are excited to share the plan with the public soon for review and comment. Watch our Facebook page for the updated plan!



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Friends of Lake Eau Claire

2020 Calendar Raffle - Now Available!

Can you help us sell calendars? We need 200 people that are willing to sell only 10 calendars! If you are able to help, please stop by The Woodland to pick up some calendars or contact Lori at (612) 991-8331 or lbechtel@comcast.net to arrange a drop off.



Friends of Lake Eau Claire Calendar Raffle 2020

\$10.00 each

License No. R0016768A-14430

- The Lake Eau Claire Association (PO Box 229, Augusta, WI 54722) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protect and improve the water quality and fishery of Lake Eau Claire.
- Winners will be posted daily on our Facebook page.
- * Need not be present to win
- * Checks will be mailed to winners.
- * Winning tickets go back into the drawing

July 2020

Nº 0001

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

Thank You to our 2019 Muskie Level Sponsors:

GSF Mortgage, Augusta Bush's Bean, Augusta Buddha's Bar, Augusta The Woodland, Augusta Burly N Bucks Bar & Grill, Osseo Lake Eau Claire Fisheree, Augusta Park Ridge Distributing, Eau Claire Al Berry & Sons Trucking, Augusta Cleghorn Keg, Cleghorn The Insurance Center, Eau Claire Augusta Lion's Club, Augusta Packerland Broadband, Iron Mountain Troy's Gas & Grub, Augusta Green Touch Lawn, Hudson

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Drawings will be held daily at The Woodland, S5340 State Hwy 27, Augusta, WI 54722 • 10:00 am - All proceeds go to The Lake Eau Claire Association.

Thank you for your support!

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Did you know...

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

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 53597 608.444.0380 dives@amfam.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, E21680 Cty Rd SD, Augusta, WI 54722 715-286-5423 or 715-225- 8768 armlea@centurytel.net

Secretary- Joe Bechtel, E19885 Cty Rd ND, Augusta, WI 54722 612-812-0451 jbechtel8043@gmail.com

Treasurer - Dean Boehne, 512 5th Ave. N., Strum, WI 54770 715-695-3131 dcbost@tcc.coop

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

Commissioner – Bruce Logterman E22385 Lange Rd, Fairchild, WI 54741

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											

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<u>https://www.memberplanet.com/lakeeauclaireassociation</u>, click the "Join our group" button and fill out the form to "Create an account".

Donations: https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/donations

Mail completed form with check made out to Lake Eau Claire Association to the following address:

Lake Eau Claire Association

Attn: Pam Hanson

PO Box 229

Augusta, Wisconsin 54722 – 0229

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