

*Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club
c/o Sam Frelichowski
14010 S Eau Claire Acres
Gordon, WI 54838*



*President: Ron Jansen
Vice President: Greg Martin
Treasurer: "Sam" Frelichowski
Secretary: Susan Jansen*

Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club Newsletter 2020

The Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club uses this newsletter to inform you of last year's accomplishments. Formed over 60 years ago, the **Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club (ECLCC) organizes and completes projects to preserve, protect, and promote the land and water of the Eau Claire Lakes area.** The club encourages participation and your suggestions for new projects when you return the membership/donation form or by contacting any of our officers or members. Interested area residents and seasonal visitors are welcome to attend our monthly meetings held at **7 p.m. the third Monday of each month, April through October, at the VFW.**

We must thank all the active members for their efforts in planning and providing labor for club projects and all the people who support us through their memberships and/or donations. We could not do what we do without all of your support. Consider joining the club. At our monthly meetings, we plan and organize for club projects. Plan to attend one of our meetings to see if this is something you might enjoy.

2019 Projects

Walleye Stocking-working with the DNR, we provided boats and manpower to scatter plant 9,000 extended-length walleye on the Upper Eau Claire Lake and 6,000 on the Lower Eau Lake. Thank you to Forest Point Golf Course for keeping a dock in the water to provide lake access for the late date stocking on the Lower and to Clearwater Resort for providing a boat and manpower. Also, thank you to Traut's Resort for providing lake access on the Upper. The weather presented the greatest challenge to boaters at both the Upper and Lower lakes for the scatter planting. Strong winds(20 mph) and driving rain made the effort difficult, prompting DNR personnel to comment that they've never seen a more dedicated group. A great compliment, way to go!!!

- **New docks** - we purchased a new dock for Mimi Lake and a handicap-accessible fishing dock for Tomahawk Town Park landing. The Tomahawk Lake Park dock is located between the fish stick project we did 2 years ago. Check out the new dock, as it will provide fishing experience for kids as well as handicapped fishermen and women. Thank you to Bob Paszak for spearheading these projects for us.

- **Benches** – we provided 6 resting benches. One is located at the Lower Eau Claire lake landing, two at the Tomahawk Lake Town Park ski trail and warming house, and three on the Town Park Nip and Tuck walking trail. Please take advantage of the parks in the Town of Barnes, and check out the benches while you enjoy the many recreation opportunities.

- **Loon Nests** – We now have loon nests on Upper Eau Claire, Shunenberg and Beauregard Lakes. Remember to keep a good distance away from these while loons are nesting or they may abandon the nest.
- **KDF Box** – construction of a Kids Don't Float life preserver box was begun in the fall of 2019 and will be placed at Tomahawk Lake Park boat landing as soon as it is completed. We will have KDF boxes at Upper, Middle, Lower and Tomahawk Lakes, and maintain them as required. We place these at the landings in May and pick them up in October. Please do not place any other life preservers in these boxes.
- **Shooting Range** – we completed the 300-yard target for those that are heading west for long shots.

Ongoing Projects supported by ECLCC

- **Kids Don't Float** -place, remove and maintain the “Kids Don't Float” life jacket storage boxes in the spring and fall
- **Rifle Range**-maintain and fund the Barnes Rifle and Archery Range located off County N. The heavily used range requires regular clean up and target repairs, this work done and financed by ECLCC members throughout the year. Remember, we have a separate range for patterning shotguns with shot, please do not use the rifle or pistol range with shot.
- **Safety Buoys**-spring placement and fall removal of shallow water safety buoys on the Middle Eau Claire
- **Nesting Platforms**-maintain and monitor loon nesting platforms on area lakes.
- **Vatten Paddlar**-provide set up volunteers, starters and safety boat monitors for the Vatten Paddlar canoe race in July
- **Fish Habitat**-fund and provide club labor for “fish sticks” habitat projects, as winter ice conditions permit and trees become available. Contact Scott Toshner at the DNR office in Brule if you have a shoreline site that could be used for one of these stick projects.
Scott.Toshner@Wisconsin.gov
- **Library Resources**-donate funds to the Drummond library for purchase of conservation related materials. If you're in the Drummond area, stop by the library and ask the librarian to steer you to some interesting reading. While there, ask about the two trail cameras purchased for patrons' use, check one out to see what wildlife visits you at night.
- **Donations**-donate to events and organizations in line with the club's mission
- **Scholarships**-support students seeking post-secondary education in conservation-related fields by providing a \$500 scholarship.
- **Fire Danger Signs**-maintain and monitor Smokey Bear Safety/Fire Danger signs located on town roads. It is important to have your written and signed **annual burning permit** available while burning and follow all restrictions listed on both sides of the permit. You can also call **1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876) for Daily Restrictions or visit this DNR Web site for all burning permit information.**

Projects for 2020

- build additional bluebird boxes or bat houses depending on demand
- scatter plant walleyes in the Middle Eau Claire Lakes in partnership with the Red Cliff band.
- replenish and/or develop new fish stick habitat sites
- provide opportunities, grow, and increase participation for all interested club members

If you utilize the pontoon trailer rental, please note that changes have been made. **The two pontoon trailers available for rent are now located at the Trading Post and can be rented for \$25 for 4 hours and \$50 for 8 hours.** These fees cover the costs of parts and the person hired to maintain the trailers. Trailers are rented on a first come, first take basis. Prior to taking the trailer, pay the fee at the Barnes Trading Post on County Road N, checks payable to the Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club. If you damage a trailer, we ask that you estimate what the repairs might cost and make an additional donation to cover those repairs. This past summer we had a number of jack wheels on the pontoon trailers busted off after not being raised before transport. Double check to make sure the jack wheel is up after attaching trailer to your vehicle. Also, please let Ron Jansen know of repairs that need to be made (715-795-2389). With your help we can keep the fees for pontoon trailers as low as possible. We thank Elliot Hough for allowing the trailers to be located on their property throughout the boating season.

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual newsletter. This club continues to thrive because of the involvement of community members and property owners, as well as the membership dues and donations received from them. We encourage suggestions, ideas and questions.

2020 Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club Dues, Membership and Donation Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

_____ # of memberships @ \$2.00

Additional Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please Offer Suggestions for Future Projects:

If you would like a response to a question or concern, please include your email address. _____

Return to:

Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club
c/o Sam Frelichowski
14010 S Eau Claire Acres Gordon, WI 54838

Thank You, We Appreciate Your Support!

2020 Meeting Dates: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19. (Third Monday of month), 7 pm at VFW.

Access Pictures of Conservation Club 2020 projects at barnes-wi.com, look under community organizations