

*Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club  
c/o State Bank of Drummond  
50490 State Highway 27  
Barnes WI 54873*



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

## **Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club Newsletter 2014**

The Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club would like to inform you of last year's accomplishments and some of our plans for the upcoming year. 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 suggestions for new projects by offering suggestions when you return the membership/donation form or by contacting any of our officers or members. Interested area residents and seasonal visitors are invited to attend our monthly meetings held the third Monday of each month April through October at the VFW.

We start our 2014 newsletter by thanking all the active members for their effort on projects and all the people who support us financially through their memberships/donations. We could not do what we do without all of your support.

The club spent a lot of time investigating the declining walleye population problem and the proliferation of large mouth bass in our area lakes, particularly the Upper and the Lower Eau Claire Lakes. We are happy to report that the DNR plans to stock large fingerling walleye in the Upper and Lower Eau Claire Lakes because of the declines and recent lack of natural reproduction. Because of the Middle Eau Claire Lake's continued natural reproduction of small fingerlings, it does not meet the current criteria to be stocked, even though adult walleye abundance has declined. Therefore, the club stocked 8400 extended growth walleye in the Middle Eau Claire in November of 2013. **To support the increase of the walleye population the club will be placing** signs at the landings encouraging fishing enthusiasts to keep the large mouth bass and release the large walleyes.

A good deal of effort was spent looking into target destruction caused by shotgun users at the shooting range. As a result, we will be changing the backboard materials and shooters will need to use clothespins to mount their targets. We will also be creating a new target setup for turkey hunters to pattern their shotguns in the shotgun/archery area, as shotguns with shot are not allowed in the rifle/pistol range target area. New signs are being created to designate where specific shooting areas are located along with new safety and etiquette signs. We need every shooter's cooperation while using the range so it will continue to be open now and into the future.

The Club participated in the Firearms/Adult Archery Shooting Fair for kids aged 6-17 and adult first-time shooters. Unfortunately, the number of shooters showing up was disappointing considering the amount of time and effort that went in to organizing this event. At this time there are plans to repeat the event. **Please encourage and invite those you know who would benefit from this shooting fair to attend! The Club will send out final date and program info via the Barnes Blog... Tentative dates are July 12 or July 19.**

All the bat houses built by the club have been distributed. If we get enough requests from people who did not receive one, we may consider building another batch in the future.

## Ongoing Projects supported by ECLCC

- ECLCC plans to continue to fund and provide club member labor for the “sticks in the water” projects, as ice conditions permit and trees become available. This year, unsafe ice conditions prevented members from adding new fish sticks areas in the Upper and Lower Eau Claire Lakes. A number of locations have been identified on the Upper Eau Claire Lake as suitable sites, and new shoreline locations are needed for future “sticks” projects on other area lakes. Contact Scott Toshner at the DNR office in Brule if you have a shoreline site that could be used for a “sticks in the water” habitat.
- Maintain and fund the Barnes rifle and archery range located off County Road N. The heavily used range requires regular clean up and target repairs, work done by ECLCC members throughout the year. The ECLCC provides financing for the materials needed for range upkeep.
- Maintain loon-nesting platforms on area lakes.
- Maintain grouse habitat projects as required.
- Place and remove the shallow water warning buoys on the Middle Eau Claire Lake
- Donate to events and organizations in line with the club’s mission. Visit the Drummond library to check out some of the nature/conservation related books and materials purchased with ECLCC donations.
- Provide hunter safety instruction when there is sufficient demand. There was a very successful 2013 class.
- Assist with the cost of swimming lessons when classes are offered
- Support students seeking post-secondary education in conservation-related field. by providing \$500 scholarships. Two scholarships were awarded in 2012.
- Maintain and monitor Smokey Bear Safety / Fire Danger signs located on town roads. Please remember that burning permits are required.

NOTE: 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. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/>**

Lastly, one way to support the club’s projects is by renting the pontoon trailers owned by the club. The trailers are stored at the Webb Realty Office on Hwy N in Barnes, across from the Trading Post. Rent is \$20 for four hours. Contact Dick Webb at Webb Realty, 795-3400, to reserve a trailer for your use. Rental fees can be paid by placing the money in the slot provided at the Webb Realty Office or at the Trading Post. If you damage a trailer, we ask that you estimate what the repairs might cost and make an additional donation to cover those repairs. Also, please let Dick Webb know of repairs that need to be made. One major problem has been identified involving the wire harness. Many users don’t hook it up and let it drag on the road. **Please be sure the harness is not dragging on the road** if you decide not to hook it up. With your help we can keep the fees for pontoon trailers as low as possible.

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, the membership dues and donations received from them. To become more involved, please contact club members or attend the regular monthly meetings of the club. The meetings are held on the third Monday of the month, April thru October, at the Barnes VFW starting at 7:00 p.m. New members are needed and always welcome.



**2014 Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club  
Dues, Membership and Donation Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of memberships @ \$2.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions for Future Projects:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions may also be emailed to the Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club:  
[elConservationclub@yahoo.com](mailto:elConservationclub@yahoo.com)

Return to: Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club  
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**Thank You, We Appreciate Your Support!**