



Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club Newsletter 2012

The Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club (ECLCC) would like to start our 2012 Newsletter by thanking our retiring president, Dave Scharlau, for his many years of dedicated service to the club. Thank you, Dave!

The Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club is excited to showcase the accomplishments achieved over the past year and to share the club's plans that will keep members busy this year and into the future. 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 welcomes participation

ECLCC going batty! The highlighted project for 2011 involved the construction of bat houses. A group of club members gathered at the Norma Jean Stone Conservation Club building in Barnes to construct 24 bat houses. Bat experts in Wisconsin are concerned about the economic impact of the loss of a healthy bat population because bats feed on night flying insects considered pests of forests, agriculture, and garden crops or pose threats to human health. The number of insects consumed annually by one million bats totals almost 700,000 tons! (wnrmag.com Aug 2010) Bats in Wisconsin need our help because of a fatal disease that is spreading west from New York. The bat houses are free and come with instructions and information to help you have a successful bat house installation. Contact Ron Jansen (715-795-2389), Greg Martin (715-795-2015), or Jerry Kaiser (715-376-2732) to order your bat house.

The club worked with Wausau Paper Company to identify two parcels of land for grouse habitat development in the Town of Barnes and the Town of Highland where 4 wheeler traffic is prohibited. Club provided funds and labor for clearing, mowing, seeding, and more under the supervision of club members Mike and Suzette Tremblay, who are the owners of DEERWORKS.LLC. Club members will maintain these areas as needed in the upcoming year. The biggest threat to the food plots has been 4-wheeler traffic, where considerable damage was observed. Signs will be placed at these locations reminding the public that 4-wheeler traffic is unlawful on these forest lands.

ECLCC plans to continue to fund and provide club member labor for the "sticks in the water" project. In the future, additional trees will be added to the east side of the island on Upper Eau Claire Lake. New shoreline locations are needed for future "sticks" projects on 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.



2011 Grouse Habitat Project



2011 Bat House Project

Ongoing Projects supported by ECLCC

- Wood duck houses constructed last year. A few are still available if you have suitable habitat and are able to provide the yearly maintenance recommended.
- Maintenance of 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.
- Placement and maintenance of loon nesting platforms on two area lakes.
- Placement and removal of the shallow water warning buoys on the Middle Eau Claire Lake
- Donations 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.
- Assistance with the cost of swimming lessons when classes are offered
- \$500 scholarships to support students seeking post-secondary education in conservation-related field. Three scholarships awarded in 2011.
- Maintenance and monitoring of Smokey Bear Safety 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 involving the wire harness has been identified. Many users don't hook it up and let it drag on the road. Please be sure the harness is not dragging 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 welcome.



Loon Nest on Upper Eau Claire



Winter Fish Sticks



Fire Danger Signs

*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: Dave Pederson*

**2012 Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club
Dues, Membership and Donation Information**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

_____ # of memberships @ \$2.00 \$ _____

Additional Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Return to: Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club
 c/o State Bank of Drummond
 50490 State Highway 27
 Barnes, WI 54873

Thank You,
We Appreciate Your Support!

Suggestions for Future Projects:

