



## Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club Newsletter 2023

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. There are two current members requiring special mention. Sam Frelichowski was first elected club treasurer in 1995 and continues to keep a watch over our financial books today. Greg Martin has been serving as Vice President for a number of years now and records show he participated in club meetings back in 1969. Thank you to both of them for their dedication and efforts over the years, 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.

### 2022 Projects

**Upper Eau Claire Landing Kiosk** -The club built a new information kiosk for the Upper Eau Claire boat landing this past summer. Thanks go out to Sue Jansen, Diane Menard and Joan Kawell for design of the kiosk and Jack Gribble, Ron Jansen, Ron Kahla, Brian Johnston, and Fred Kawell for construction. Check it out, we think you'll like it.

**Rifle Range** – A big thank you to Bill Graham, Rich Norberg, and Mark Mulder for maintenance and upgrades performed at the Range this year. The new steel targets installed in 2021 have been a big hit with shooters. The targets are set at 100, 200 and 300 yards and at the small caliber range. We continue to performed maintenance on the clay pigeon thrower and trap house, with plans to have a trap shoot this fall. Stayed tuned.

**AIS** – In early summer 2022 the club installed approximately 1000' of invasive species treatment barrier on Tomahawk lake. This barrier was used to target and isolate chemical treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil by the town of Barnes. Kudos to all who participated in this effort. Over 250 club hours were spent building installing and maintaining the curtain this past year. Control of invasive water species is a high priority item for the town of Barnes. The towns plans for an additional treatment early this coming summer, requiring another deployment of the barrier. Additionally, club members continue to volunteer hours in support of the Barnes Area Invasive Species Sucker boat used to manually remove invasive species plants from Barnes area lakes.

**Walleye Stocking** - Stocking was scheduled for Middle Eau Claire Lake by the Redcliff Hatchery for the fall of 2022. However, due to a very poor spring spawning harvest, the hatchery had minimal eggs

available for processing. As a result, no fingerlings were available for Middle Eau Claire this year. The hatchery expects to continue with its program, so we'll keep you posted. On a positive note, our club has initiated a Walleye committee with the goal of increasing walleye populations in local lakes. The committee has established a partnership with our local DNR representative and has identified projects to improve stocking processes, enhance habitat, and provide for shoreline restoration. Brian Johnston will lead this effort along with Ron Jansen, Ron Kahla, Tom Menard, Mike Frelichowski, and Fred Kawell. If you are interested in helping with this effort, give anyone of us a call.

**Bat, Bluebird, and Duck, Houses/Boxes-** We currently have inventory of all three houses available for anyone interested in putting up a future home for our wild friends. The houses are free and available for pick up at the ECLCC clubhouse on Hwy N next to the town hall. Contact anyone of our club officers for assistance.

### **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 is 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. Year 2022 was successful for upper EC as it saw 3-4 new chicks, at least one of which was attributable to our platforms.
- **Build Houses** - Build bluebird, duck and bat houses based on local demand.
- **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.**

**Pontoon Rental - The two pontoon trailers available for rent are located at the Trading Post and can be rented for \$35 for 4 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. Double check to make sure the jack wheel is up after

attaching trailer to your vehicle and that the electrical plug is hooked up, as these are the two most common items that are damaged. 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.

**Thank You, We Appreciate Your Support! 2023 Meeting Dates:** April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16. **7 pm at VFW. Access Pictures of Conservation Club projects at [barnes-wi.com](http://barnes-wi.com) under community orgaizations**

**2023 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