



Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club Newsletter 2013

The Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club (ECLCC) would like to start our 2013 Newsletter by thanking our retiring secretary, Dave Pederson, for his many years of dedicated service to the club. Thank you, Dave!

Once again, 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 and suggestions for new projects. Interested area residents are invited to attend our monthly meetings and help with carrying out our yearly projects.

One of the items that dominated our attention this year was the declining walleye population in the Eau Claire Lakes, with the decline especially acute in the Upper Eau Claire. Through numerous meetings with DNR Fish Manager, Scott Toshner, we learned that the large mouth bass population has greatly increased in the Upper Eau Claire, and has perhaps had a negative impact on walleye populations. Walleye reproduction is down in the Upper, as well as the Middle and Lower Eau Claire Lakes, but the cause in those lakes is uncertain. Scott suggested that extended length walleye stocking may be necessary in the future on the Upper Eau Claire Lake. A number of our members toured the Red Cliff Reservation Fish Hatchery as part of our research into the stocking of extended-growth walleye, but more information is needed. The Wisconsin DNR is working in conjunction with UW Stevens Point under a \$750,000 grant to study declining walleye populations, including the effect of the increasing population of large mouth bass. After many discussions and meetings, our club has decided to put off any decision on extended-length walleye stocking until the UWSP study is completed. Instead, we will continue to focus on our projects for improving fish habitat such as "fish sticks" and rock spawning areas. [A shoreline site in Devil's Bay on the Upper Eau Claire Lake is the location for this year's fish stick project.](#) This winter, club members gathered 42 trees of a mixed variety and size during the 2nd week of February. The trees were transported across the lake with pick-up trucks and stockpiled for placement by the DNR. Club members assisted the DNR with the final placement and securing of the trees to the shoreline

Our bat house project was very popular; we had many additional requests for houses. Members held a two-day work session in October 2012 to build houses for those requesting houses, their names placed on a waiting list and on their completed bat house. Those individuals may pick up their houses on Saturday, May 25 or Saturday, June 1 between 10:00A.M. and 12:00 P.M. at the Conservation Club building next to the Barnes Town Hall.

The Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club is teaming up with the Bayfield County Conservation Congress, Wisconsin DNR, and the Cable Rod and Gun Club to put on a Firearms/Archery Shooting Fair for kids ages 6-17 or adult first-time shooters. Kids 6-9 will be able to shoot air guns and archery bows. Kids 10-17 and first-time adult shooters will learn trap shooting and archery. The fair will be held June 22, 2013, at the Cable Rod and Gun Club, and free to all participants. Tentative time has been set for 9:00A.M. to 3:00P.M. Posters will be out by early May with more detailed information and exact times.

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. 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.
- 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. This year’s class will be held July 29 – August 2 6-9 pm at the VFW, with Range Day August 3 from 9am – 12 noon. Contact Mike 715-376-4431 or email elConservationclub@yahoo.com.
- 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** 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.



**2013 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:

Suggestions may also be emailed to the Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club:
elConservationclub@yahoo.com

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!