

*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 Scully*

## **Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club Newsletter 2015**

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 2015 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.

We invite you to visit the shooting range to view the many improvements worked on by club members in 2014 including new signage and a new shotgun range for turkey hunters to pattern their guns. You will also notice new backboard material, which should help eliminate some of the damage problems experienced this past summer.

2014 Projects Club members built and installed a new display board at the Upper Eau Claire landing to replace the old one, which was in poor condition. Working with the DNR, club members built a "Kids Don't Float" box and display for the Middle Eau Claire Lake landing. This project will provide temporary-use life vests for those who forgot them or don't have enough vests on their boats for all passengers. The Kids Don't Float Program is a DNR sponsored program supported nationally and is extremely popular in many states. There are currently 55 KDF boxes on Wisconsin lakes. The DNR partners with local clubs and organizations statewide to encourage and promote the program. In doing so, the DNR provides all the life jackets and the materials to build the units. We are excited to be a part of this program and hopefully if successful on Middle Eau Claire, we can provide units on other lakes in the area.

We are working on putting a permanent sign for watercraft inspections at the Lower Eau Claire landing as pranksters were floating the portable sign over the dam. Because we have received a number of requests for bat houses from those who missed out on the first two building projects, we decided to build more bat houses this fall. If you did not receive a bat house and would like one, please write your name and email address on your member/donation sheet and we will notify you by email when your house is ready for pick-up. The Conservation Club supported the Firearms/Archery Shooters' Fair again this past summer. The turnout was a little better than last year and we hope more folks, kids 6-17 and adult first-time shooters, interested in learning about archery and firearms skills and safely will attend this year's event. Another Firearms/Archery Fair is being planned for this summer. Watch for more information in the Barnes Blog, which is also available online at [barnesblogonline.com](http://barnesblogonline.com)

## **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 past winter Sue and Ron Jansen donated a number of ironwood trees club members used to refurbish the sticks-in-the-water along the shoreline of the Jansen property and Traut Resort property. However, after some investigation we determined that the ice conditions were not good on the designated day in March. We had a very good base of 19 to 20 inches but also had about 5 to 6 inches of half-frozen ice on top. Some of the water in this 6" was finding its way into the 20 layer causing spider holes in that layer. This 6" would have also been difficult to drive on so we canceled the project. One week before we gathered, the temp was -19.5°. But, a very rapid thaw caused the problem. 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.
- 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.
- Assist with the cost of swimming lessons when classes are offered
- Support students seeking post-secondary education in conservation-related fields by providing \$500 scholarships.
- 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/>

**If you utilize the pontoon trailer rental, please note that we have raised the rental rate to \$25 for 4 hours and \$50 for 8 hours.** This increase is necessary due to rising costs of maintenance and parts. We are also in need of volunteer help to maintain these trailers, anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Ron Jansen or Greg Martin. The trailers are stored at the Webb Realty Office on Hwy N in Barnes, across from the Trading Post. 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 Ron Jansen or 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.



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