



Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club 2010 Newsletter

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 waters of the Eau Claire Lakes area**. It welcomes participation from all area residents and landowners. Please read on to see how you can get involved.

A major project this past winter involved placing 153 trees along the shoreline in four different locations on the Upper Eau Claire Lake. This is referred to as a "sticks in the water" project to enhance fish and wildlife habitat. A crew of club volunteers cut, hauled and secured the trees to the adjacent land to prevent them from floating off into the lake. Because we plan to add more "sticks" in the future, we are looking for shoreline locations and if you think you have a suitable site, contact Scott Toshner at the DNR Office in Brule.



Club members gathered this past fall to build 30 wood duck houses that were distributed locally for placement and care. Wood ducks are fussy renters and will only use the boxes if they are cleaned out yearly and the nesting wood shaving materials replaced with new. The wood duck box project was so popular that we will be constructing 30 additional boxes this year. If you would like to adopt one of the boxes and have the location and the time to care for it, please contact us



Club members annually place and remove the shallow water warning buoys on the Middle Eau Claire Lake.



A new activity this year involved the placement of two loon nesting platforms on the Upper Eau Claire Lake, and two club members have volunteered to maintain them.



The club paid for and worked with the DNR forestry department to put up Fire Condition and Burning Permit Required signs at six locations in the Town of Barnes. Under the direction of the DNR, local residents volunteered to update the fire condition postings. We have received many favorable comments on this endeavor.



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An ongoing ECLCC project is the maintaining of the Barnes rifle and archery range located just off highway N. The heavily used range requires regular clean-up and target repairs, work done by ECLCC members throughout the year. The ECLCC also provides the financing for the materials needed for range upkeep.

Early this spring, club volunteers conducted roadside cleanup of many roads in the area.

A hunter safety course is an important annual project managed by the club. Each August, certified club members teach the skills necessary for safety certification. In 2009, seventeen participants were certified. The dates for this year's class are August 9 - August 14. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1973 must complete a hunter education course and show the certificate to purchase a license in Wisconsin.

In addition to the many hands-on projects, the ECLCC makes annual donations to events and organizations which are in line with the club's mission. Visit the Drummond library to check out some great nature/conservation related books and materials purchased with ECLCC donations. Funds were also donated to the Barnes Ambulance Fund. The club helps with the cost of swimming lessons when the classes are offered. If interested in lessons this summer, please call Donna Porter @ 795-2023, Marsha Wellnitz @ 795-2748, or the Barnes Town Hall @ 795-2782. The club awards two \$500 scholarships to area students seeking post-secondary education in a conservation related field.

2010 projects being considered in addition to wood duck houses are more "sticks in the water" and improving grouse habitat in the area.

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 also be paid at the Trading Post or by placing the money in the slot provided at the Webb Realty Office. 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 November, at the Barnes VFW starting at 7:00 p.m. New members welcome!

Included in this newsletter is a membership/donation form. We appreciate your support.



Winter "Fish Sticks" project



2010 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 Sate Highway 27
Barnes WI 54873

Thank you