

December 2014

This is the time of year we stop and take the opportunity to thank you for your membership and support in the pursuit of protecting, preserving and improving the environmental and esthetic quality of the Eau Claire Lakes area.

Over the past year we have focused on four initiatives:

1. **Controlling aquatic invasive species in our lakes**- the board approved additional funding for educating shoreline monitors.
2. **Improve our board and overall organizational structure**-we established a Water Quality and a Dam and Hydrology committee to gather information and share with membership and stakeholders. We have also established liaisons with the Town of Barnes AIS committee, the Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club and the St. Croix Headwaters Watershed Stewardship Project.
3. **Improve communication between the board and membership**-We have established a website with tools to encourage two-way communication with members and website visitors.
4. **Develop an environmental education plan aimed at water quality problems caused by phosphate runoff and septic system issues** -We have endorsed the Headwaters of the St. Croix Watershed Study Results (for a summary of this study please visit www.fotsch.org) and participate on its committees.

The Lake Ecology Education Program (LEEP) curriculum is a vital environmental education program for Drummond School 7th grade students that we organize and carry out for our future stewards of our lakes and watershed. Each year the curriculum includes two lake field trips for 30-36 students with a faculty of 22-24 professional and volunteer community educators, a water safety and canoe operations training and around 15 classroom wet labs and preparation sessions. We are proud of the accomplishments of the students who presented their experiences at the 2014 Northwestern Wisconsin Lakes Conference and the article by John Kudlas entitled "Taking a LEEP" published in the June 2014 issue of WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES.

Our community educational offering on improving habitat on your property for migrating birds was informative and well attended. The audience at the well-attended annual meeting heard Jon Harkness speak on "Shoreland Lighting and the Beauty of the Night Sky" and Mike Furtak, Bayfield County Planning & Zoning, speak about "Shoreland Lighting and Bayfield County Ordinance Requirements"

We look forward to events like these in the coming year.

We continue our ongoing efforts to collaborate with our Town Boards and other organizations. It is important that we are a constructive, collaborative and helpful voice in our area and region.

As noted in previous communications **our 503(c) (3) tax exempt status was restored and is retroactive to May 15, 2012.** Again, we thank you for your support over the years and ask that you continue this by renewing your membership, getting more involved and encouraging others to be part of our organization. Thanks,

Carl E. Heltne, President of "The Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area"

Now is the time to send in your **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** membership dues and any special contributions to your favorite organization: Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area (FOECLA). We greatly appreciate your support and ask that you **please include your email address**. We send emails to alert and remind you of important events and keep you posted on news from your organization and the community. We do not share addresses and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Apply and pay for a FOECLA tax deductible membership online at friendsofeauclairelakesarea.com **OR**
Complete and send in the following form:

Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area Membership Form

Name _____
(Last) (First)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

What lake(s) do you use most? _____ (For notification on issues affecting your lake)

Lake Address _____

Would you like information on volunteer opportunities with FOECLA? Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

1. Membership Level

_____ Basic \$20 _____ Contributing \$50 _____ Sponsor \$100
_____ Sustaining \$200 _____ Patron \$400

2. Clean Boats Clean Waters Contribution \$ _____

Designated Fund for **Clean Boats/Clean Waters:** boat-landing inspections

_____ Half Day Sponsor \$50 _____ Full Day Sponsor \$100 _____ Weekend sponsor \$200

3. Invasive Species Remediation Contribution \$ _____

Shoreline monitoring, purchase hydrologic conveyor system equipment and remediation in cooperation with Barnes Aquatic Invasive Species Committee.

4. Education Fund Contribution \$ _____

Designated Fund for Education Programs: LEEP (7th grade classes/field trips), public forums, seminars, equipment and field trips. The Education Committee is also soliciting donations to purchase equipment for our field programs. Equipment needs include: DO/ Oxygen Meters-\$90.00 per, cameras-\$175.00 per, lake equipment and lab supplies.

Your Total Contribution (from 1 - 4 above): \$ _____

Please send check payable to and this form to:

Property Owners Association, Inc., Barnes/Eau Claire Lakes Area
C/O Drummond State Bank
50490 State Hwy 27
Barnes, WI 54873 – 4402