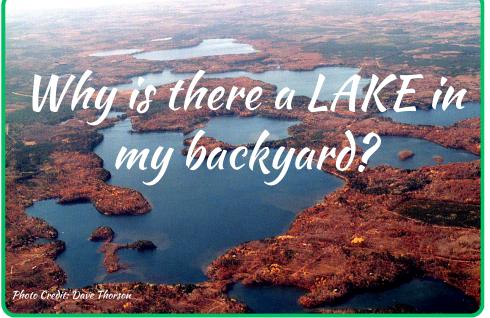


#### APRIL 2025

Our Mission: To protect, preserve, and improve the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the Eau Claire Lakes Area watershed, including the lakes, rivers, shorelands, wetlands, forests, and attendant wildlife resources. BAYFIELD AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES, WI https://friendsofeauclairelakesarea.com



Geoscience professor Tom Fitz will share a fascinating presentation on the geology, geologic history, and hydrology of the Eau Claire Lakes region at FOECLA's Annual Meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend!

## Please join us!

### 2025 Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 12th Barnes Town Hall 9 am - 11:30 am

9:00 - 10:00 Update on FOECLA 10:00 - 10:15 Coffee Break 10:15 - 11:30 Why is there a LAKE in my backyard?

Tom Fitz, PhD, is a Professor of Geoscience and is on the faculty of the UMD Swenson College of Science and Engineering and was previously at Northland College in Ashland. His fun, energetic and informative talk will make you smarter about what happened to create our beautiful lakes region.

### Hello from your lake association!

Our December 2024 membership letter has received tremendous response! In advance of each year we reach out to current and prospective members to ask them to renew or join their lake association. If you have renewed, THANK YOU! If you haven't yet done so, we encourage you to do so online or by using the enclosed membership envelope.

Your membership investment supports:

- Control of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in area lakes,
- Information on good environmental practices for you and your family, and
- Communication on area topics of interest including important laws, legislation and key happenings in the area.

In the coming year we will emphasize the importance of *MEMBER ENGAGEMENT* and *VOLUNTEERISM*. We sincerely hope to increase involvement and awareness among our member base.

**MEMBER ENGAGEMENT** – We offer three ways to engage with our members this summer!

- Our board-hosted display at the **Taste of Barnes on SAT JUNE 14**. This is a wonderful way to learn about FOECLA, the Eau Claire Lakes and all the area has to offer.
- The all-new Lake Tour Gathering on FRI JUNE 27. This year we'll tour Middle Eau Claire Lake on pontoons, learn about the lake's history and enjoy some fellowship. Final details will be available in May via our website, email, and Facebook.
- Our Annual Meeting on SAT JULY 12 (see information above).

We'd love to see you at these events!

1 |

**VOLUNTEERISM** – Are you new to the area? Are you looking for something to do? Volunteering is fulfilling and educational. There are an abundant number of opportunities right here in your lake home neighborhood! There's a partial listing of volunteer opportunities on page 3, as well as on our website at <a href="http://www.friendsofeauclairelakesarea.com">www.friendsofeauclairelakesarea.com</a>. Get to know your neighbors and lend a hand with this important work.

Roger Martin, President Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area

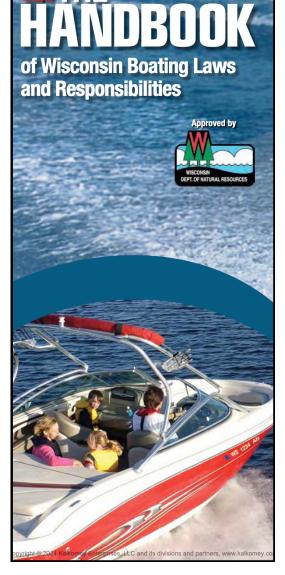
# Protect your family and your lake by practicing safe and legal boating

Do you have a youngin' that wants to start operating your watercraft? Did you just buy a new boat? Maybe dad or mom could use a little brushing up on the basics? The WI Department of Natural Resources provides tools to help!

THE HANDBOOK of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities is available online at <u>www.dnr.wisconsin.gov</u> or you can pick up a copy at a WI DNR office. Here are some key things to keep in mind:

- Safety course requirement A person born on or after 1/1/89 must have completed a boating safety course (and carry a permit copy) in order to legally operate a motorboat unless accompanied by a person in the boat over 18 who has completed such a course (or were born prior to 1/1/89). If required, are YOU certified? Visit the WI DNR website at <u>www.dnr.wi.gov</u> and search "boat safety" to find Boat Safety Education Courses.
- 2. Age requirement There is no age requirement for operating a nonmotorized boat. For other watercraft, the age requirement depends on the type of watercraft being operated. Refer to DNR for detailed specifics.
- *Motorboats:* Those younger than 10 may not operate. 10 or 11 year olds may operate with a certified adult on board. 12-15 year olds may operate if they have completed a boating safety course OR with a certified adult in the boat that has been designated by the parent/guardian. Age 16+ must be certified or have a certified person age 18+ on board to operate.
- **Personal Watercraft (PWC):** No one under 12 may operate. Age 12+ must possess valid boating safety certificate. Adult supervision is not a substitute for safety certificate.

Safe operation of watercraft also means being mindful of how your boating impacts your lake and its fragile ecosystem. When lakebed sediment is disturbed by careless boaters, phosphorus and other nutrients are stirred up and spur algae growth. It's a recipe for turning our nice clear water into pea soup.





## Here are a few practices to employ when you and your friends and family are boating:

- 1. Law requires motorboats to be slow-no-wake inside 100 feet of a dock or shoreline and PWC inside 100 feet of a dock and 200 feet of a shoreline. PWC cannot operate between sunset and sunrise and must remain 100 feet from others being towed behind a boat.
- 2. When leaving a dock, power up at least 200 feet from shore to minimize sediment and shoreline disturbance.
- 3. Take off perpendicular to the shoreline rather than parallel to protect critical fish habits.
- 4. Respect no wake zones and power down when coming near other boats.
- 5. FOECLA supports limiting wake-enhanced boating to lakes of 1500 acres or larger, and that when operated in wake mode, these boats remain at least 700 feet from shore and in at least 30 feet of water.
- 6. Everyone can enjoy the fun and beauty of our precious lakes if we are considerate and follow laws and guidelines to keep us safe and environmentally friendly.

## Volunteer Opportunities

The work your lake association does, as well as other area environmental groups, depends extensively on volunteer work. There are opportunities galore in a variety of different capacities, so the work is always interesting. We benefit from having many retirees in our area and a key to a vital retirement can often be finding fulfilling things to occupy your day, keep active, and challenge your mind.

### What's your interest and expertise?



Lake Education Ecology Program (LEEP) – FOECLA partners with Drummond schools to help 7th grade students become lifelong stewards of our lakes. Our award-winning program delivers classroom lessons and spring/fall field trips. Volunteers assist in the classroom or with a variety of field labs. Contact Cris Neff at (715) 558-3716 or by email at cneff86@gmail.com, or send an email to Sue Thurn (Program Coordinator) at sthurn01@gmail.com.

Help out FRIENDS The Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area (FOECLA) is always in need of short term project help or longer term investments of time to further our cause. Our membership is growing and we're looking for volunteers to engage with our members and spread awareness about our mission. You don't need to be a social media whiz, a website guru, or an email marketing pro, but computer skills, curiosity and enthusiasm are a must. Training is provided by experienced, friendly board members. Specifically, we'd love help with:

- *Facebook* create posts, select and share interesting posts from other conservation organizations, and engage with readers to build a strong online community.
- **Constant Contact** take print-ready content, such as our Musings and Did You Know essays, and prepare them for email publication, including adding photos, links, and interesting visuals, sending the email to friendly reviewers, and scheduling the email to send automatically.
- *Newsletter* design and layout newsletters with articles provided by board members, photos and graphics, using your favorite desktop publishing software. (We use Canva.)
- *Website* make regular updates to our WordPress website. This role involves taking content from *Facebook* and *Constant Contact and* uploading it to our website. Photos, newsletters, board meeting minutes and special announcements will also need to be added to the website. Editing websites is easier than ever before!

Curious to learn more? Send an email to eauclairefriends@gmail.com or fill out the Contact Form on our website.

**BAISS Boat** Roll up your sleeves and provide necessary support to the divers on the Barnes Area Invasive Species Sucker (BAISS) Boat as part of a 3 to 4 person team. This unique pontoon-based "weapon" removes targeted invasive species plants from our area lakes throughout the summer months. Divers use a vacuum device to remove invasive plants from the lake bottom, which are then bagged up on the deck of the boat by volunteers. Experienced boat operators are also needed to drive the boat. If you're mechanically inclined there is a need for occasional repairs to be made on the boat.

Visit www.townofbarneswi.gov, call (715) 795-2782, or email ais@townofbarneswi.gov to learn more.

**Boat Landing Monitor** Perhaps you've noticed Clean Boats Clean Waters volunteers at area boat landings. These people perform boat/trailer checks, hand out informational brochures and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of invasive species in our lakes. Visit www.townofbarneswi.gov and click on COMMITTEES, then AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES, then VOLUNTEER to complete the General Volunteer Sign-up form.

<u>Water Quality Monitoring and Shoreline Monitoring</u> Volunteer lake monitoring is a great way to learn more about your lake, observe and document changes in lake health, and collect valuable data. This data is used to report on lake conditions and water quality, as well as to prepare lake and watershed plans. To learn more visit WI DNR's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/clmn or send an email to callie.lier@wisconsin.gov.





PO Box 1308, Hayward, WI 54843 eauclairefriends@gmail.com friendsofeauclairelakesarea.com Follow us on Facebook!

FOECLA Annual Meeting! FOECLA Annual Meeting! Saturday, July 12th, 9-11:30 Saturday, July 12th, 9-11:30

