

AUTUMN
2011

Lake Hubert CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION Newsletter

WWW.LAKEHUBERT.ORG

LHCAMN@GMAIL.COM

Special Note

This newsletter is only going out to LHCA members who have email addresses.

We have implemented this change which we have covered in the set of LHCA newsletters over the last year. If you have extended family members who do not have email addresses, please pass this on to them. If your family group has email addresses that we should have but do not have, please send that information to the LHCA email address below.

Please keep us updated with any changes to all of your contact information.

You can contact us two ways:

By email at
LHCAMN@gmail.com

Or by regular mail at: LHCA,
P.O. Box 1352, Lake Hubert,
MN 56459.

Visit us at the Lake Hubert website where you can get updates on this and a lot more information on what's going on around the lake. Great pictures too! <http://www.lakehubert.org/>



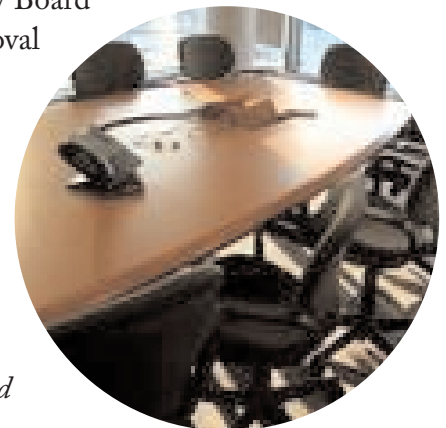
Letter from The President

Happy Fall to all Lake Hubert Conservation Association members:

As we ready our homes and cabins for another winter season, I'd like to update you on some of the changes that have taken place in your Lake Hubert Conservation Association and Board of Directors. As some of you know, Jim Sawyer will be moving from Lake Hubert the middle of November. Jim has been a dedicated President and his shoes will be difficult to fill. Thank you for your leadership and hard work Jim. We wish you well and we'll miss you!

Looking ahead toward 2012, I'd like to introduce our new, interim Board members. We're very fortunate to have talented members willing to fill our Board vacancies. These new Board members will receive our official approval on June 30, 2012 during our annual meeting.

Vice President... Scott Brand
Secretary ... Michelle Schueller
Treasurer... John Youngs
Lake Quality... Dennis Tack
Operations... Carol Tack/Cheri Skrukruud



The organization and formation of new volunteer committees has been an ongoing process. We will continue organizing over the winter, using your responses to the volunteer questionnaire distributed the last annual meeting. If you haven't been contacted yet, we haven't forgotten you!

On those same questionnaire forms many of you requested that we plan more social events. I'm happy to announce that a Social Committee has been formed under the leadership of Carol Tack. This committee has been hard at work and would like all of you to reserve Sunday, July 15, 2012 for a fun ...and "Yummy" social event. You'll hear more about this in the Spring Newsletter so don't forget to save the date on your calendars.

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I'd also like to announce that Ann Burbridge has generously offered to chair our new funds raising committee. Linda Youngs will preserve the Depot and lake history. Nancy Huber is hard at work designing new formats for all our correspondence and assisting with our communications efforts.

Thank you Ann, Linda, Nancy and all of their respective committee members. Thank you to all our members who continue to support our Lake Hubert Conservation Association.

Sincerely,
Perry Skrukrud

Lake Hubert Wildlife **The Porcupine** *Continuing series*

Lake Hubert residents often don't believe that animals, such as porcupines, live and thrive around our area. Well, if in doubt, talk to the many local dog owners who have made trips to the vet with their pets' faces full of porcupine quills.

Indeed, the porcupine is at home here, and there are plenty of them thriving in the forests and brush lands common to much of Minnesota. Porcupines are rodents typically of a brown color and with small ears and head but with short strong legs that can easily be used for climbing. Its most unique feature is its quills, in most cases nearly 30,000 of them that cover the entire body except for the stomach. The quills are thickest in the rump and tail which can be whipped on any potential enemy in a hurry. The body heat from the unfortunate victim actually makes the quills expand thus making



them even harder to remove. Interestingly, these quills also make the porcupine quite buoyant allowing it to be a surprisingly good swimmer.

Porcupines are herbivores liking leaves, twigs, and skunk cabbage. In winter they commonly eat the bark from oak, maple, and basswood trees. They do not hibernate but will retreat into a den to avoid the worst weeks of deep winter.

Mating season (which may be hard to imagine) is in late summer or early fall. The males of the species will fight very vigorously and noisily for the females. Given 30,000 quills, one can only imagine how carefully the mating act is consummated! After birth, the young need just a short time before they also have defensive quills.

The only effective predator of the porcupine seems to be the fisher, a mammal that has also been sighted occasionally around Lake Hubert. The fisher will somehow turn the porcupine over on its back exposing the vulnerable stomach area for attack. However, even the fisher will sometimes get a face full of quills while attempting this feat.

If you happen to hear that a porcupine has been sighted close by, be sure to keep your dog on a tight leash especially at night when the porcupine is most active. Otherwise, those trips to the vet to remove quills can be mighty expensive.





LHCA Board Meeting Summaries

AUGUST 13, 2011

- Vice President Harold Stewart called the meeting to order. Interim secretary, Michelle Schueller, was welcomed and introduced. It is hoped that she will take this position on a permanent basis.
- The meeting agenda was approved.
- The minutes of the July 16th board meeting were approved.
- The board unanimously elected Perry Skrukud as president for a minimum of a one year term.
- President Skrukud reported on the following:
 1. The LHCA annual meeting on June 25th was regarded as very successful especially the enthusiastic response of the membership to volunteer for various committees and board work.
 2. Reviewed current insurance coverage for the Depot, the LHCA, and for the LHCA Board of Directors.
 3. Announced that the vacant treasurer position will be filled by John Youngs effective later this fall.
- The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.
- Considerable discussion ensued on the "LHCA Reorganization Plan" as presented by past president, Jim Sawyer. The plan was approved and Jim Sawyer was thanked for the many hours of work that he dedicated towards this project. Implementation of the plan will begin as soon as possible.
- Board member Dennis Tack reported that there is still a significant outflow of water from Lake Hubert into Clark Lake and that the Lake Hubert water level has dropped several inches from the previous high water mark this spring. Tack also took Secchi Dish readings of 13.5 feet recently which is a typical reading for mid-summer.
- General discussion ensued on jet ski problems on the lake including violation of DNR rules and underage operators. Lake Hubert residents will be encouraged to report violations to the Crow Wing County Sheriff. An attempt will be made to have the Water Patrol Division

present an update of jet ski operational rules at the next annual meeting.

- The tentative date for the 2012 annual meeting will be Saturday, June 30.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

- President Perry Skrukud called the meeting to order.
- The meeting agenda was approved.
- Minutes from the August 13 LHCA meeting were approved.
- President Skrukud reported on the following :
 1. Introduced new board members John Youngs who will become the new treasurer, and Scott Brand who will be the new vice president pending the approval of the LHCA membership at the annual June meeting.
 2. Recommended a donation of \$350 to the Lutheran Church of the Cross for use of their excellent facilities. The request was approved.
 3. Recommended a new insurance policy covering depot liability, association liability, and director liability. The request was approved.
- The treasurer's report stated that there was \$7879 in the LHCA checking account and \$75,319 in the Environmental Fund.
- Cheri Skrukud reported on the following:
 1. Committee chairpersons have been recruited for the following committees: Lake Hubert history, fund raising, and special event planning.
 2. The Crow Wing County Sheriff Department has been contacted to speak on water safety as part of the next annual meeting agenda.
- Under old business: The LHCA Executive Committee will be responsible for an annual financial audit. A budget of up to \$1000 will be available for possible audit costs.
- Under new business: Board members George Vilfordi and Scott Brand were instructed to bring forth ideas for a CWEPA grant application that would be due by Nov. 30.
- Set the next LHCA board meeting for May 12, 2012.