



**AUTUMN
2023**

Lake Hubert CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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Letter from **The President**

I hope you all had many opportunities to enjoy your time at Lake Hubert this summer. Whether you enjoyed beautiful views from your shore, got a chance to cruise around the lake on a boat or took a swim to cool down from the heat, aren't we all so fortunate to live on this pristine lake.

I thought I would write down a few things that were unique to this season, so that when you look back sometime in the future, you have a sense of what was happening the summer of 2023.

- We had wildlife. Eagles continued to soar overhead, the deer population was healthy, and residents reported more bear sightings than usual.
- A pair of loons laid two eggs on a new loon platform on the east side of the lake, and we watched the two loon chicks grow in size over the summer. We were disappointed that the loon nest in Sunset Bay failed.
- The lake continued to be healthy. By mid-August we had no visible algae blooms. There seems to be fewer zebra mussels, and the ones present seem to be smaller. On the flip side, while not a sign of lake health, swimmer's itch was a nuisance for water lovers who waded or swam in the lake in early June.
- How about the weather? It was hot, it was cold. It was dry, it was rainy. It was smokey. Wildfires in Canada effected the air quality more than any other summer in my memory.
- Although it rained on fourth of July, many of you stayed with the plan for the annual boat parade. Boats were decorated and participants on board and residents on dock were enthusiastic. About 80 people enjoyed much better weather at the end of July for the Lake Hubert Conservation Association summer social.
- Throughout the summer, family and friends gathered for their annual visits to Lake Hubert, and others came for the first time. Time at the lake is what many of us desire, whether for a day or two, the weekend, a holiday vacation or for the whole summer is the best.

Under LHCA Board news: Suzy Yudell, John Engen and Carl Yudell were elected new board members at the June annual meeting. Their interests and talents will complement current board members: Pia Lischke, Jane Laco, Colleen Harris, Peggy Heck, Jim Sheldon, Ruth Kuhlman, Andy Corcoran, MJ Cote, and Liz Martin. This is a dedicated and hardworking group of people who really care about our lake. But the Board does not work alone. A host of many volunteers share their labors and time contributing to our Lake Hubert community. Thank you.

I am pleased to share that we have 145 properties represented by 177 memberships, which translates to nearly 85 percent of properties on the lake having one or more paid members. Again, on behalf of the Board, thank you. I hope the summer of 2023 was good one for you and your loved ones.

Special Note

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

If you wish to share it with family members, you may forward it or pass on a hard copy. Please keep us updated with any changes to any of your contact information.

You can contact us two ways:

By email:

LHCAMN@gmail.com

Or by regular mail:

LHCA
P.O. Box 1352,
Lake Hubert, MN 56459.

Visit us at the Lake Hubert [website](#) or [Facebook](#).

Sincerely – Janet Webster, President LHCA



Lake Hubert Water Quality Remains High

By Jim Sheldon

For nearly a quarter century, the Lake Hubert Conservation Association has tested Lake Hubert's water. We test for chlorophyll phosphorus, and also take secci disc readings to determine water clarity. These readings are analyzed by AW Research and are then applied to the tropic state index, a nationally recognized water quality standard. Lake Hubert water readings have consistently been in the high 30s and occasional low 40s. Those ratings are extremely good. The quality of Lake Hubert water is very good. We will continue to test, as we have in the past, for the months of May through September of every year. The 25 years of testing show consistency. *Lake Hubert is the gem of the area.*

This year's Annual Meeting well attended

The Lake Hubert Conservation Association drew new and existing members to its June 24, 2023 Annual Meeting. A recap of 2022-23 spotlighted the Lake Hubert Depot; End of Dock Program; and water and invasive species reports; followed by AW Research's Sarah Fogderud's presentation on water quality. Members elected three new board members.



Depot Spiffed Up

This summer, workers stayed busy replacing the worn roof on the Lake Hubert Train Depot.



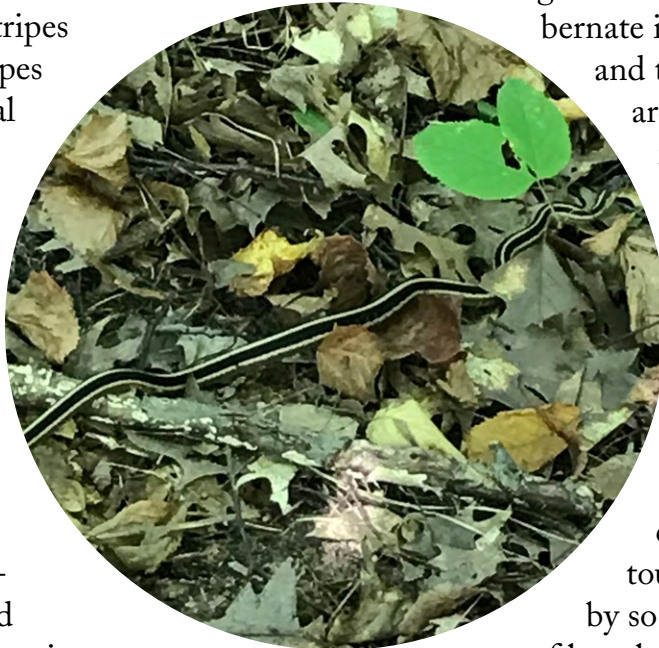


Lake Hubert Wildlife

Plain Garter Snakes

*Continuing series by
John Holbrook*

There are three distinct Garter Snakes in Minnesota. The species that is most common in our area is the “Plain Garter Snake.” This particular snake is easy to recognize due to its three distinct yellow stripes with rows of black stripes in between. The typical length of this snake is around 30 inches with a tail often about 25 percent of the total length. The habitat for this species includes wet prairies, ditches, and shorelines next to water. The snake emerges from hibernation early in spring and will then hunt down a variety of food including frogs, small fish, toads, worms, insects and small rodents including mice. Reproduction is in late April when masses of snakes will wither in “mating balls”



with males outnumbering females thus making competition for breeding. The females will give live births to as many as a dozen offspring in August and September. Garter snakes hibernate in winter in underground dens, and their life expectancy is typically around six years. They are chosen food for hawks, skunks, raccoons, and even for stray pets, especially cats. Garter snakes are virtually harmless and are easy to catch. However, they still cause fear for many of us. While attending St. John’s University, I would capture snakes and walk around campus with them. I was astounded by the terrified reaction by so many fellow students regardless of how harmless these snakes are. Alas, I could not keep my snakes in my dorm room, so I would always set them free. The only lasting aspect from all of this was that my friends started calling me “Snake.” I was proud of that title!

We Pay Tribute to Past Members *By Pia Lischke*

Thank you to our many members who contributed to the Lake Hubert Conservation Association General, Environmental and/or Depot Funds in 2023. The financial support we receive helps to make possible our ongoing efforts toward lake stewardship. In addition to your support, the Lake Hubert Conservation Association is a privileged beneficiary of memorial gifts.

LHCA received donations over the past 12 months in honor of the following people:

Dr. James Stevenson

Harold Stewart

Norman and Valeska Bailey

Anne Lahiff Klein

We honor their memory and longtime connections to Lake Hubert, and thank their families and donors who chose to remember them in this way.



Postmaster scrapbook houses plethora of history

By Peggy Heck

Ellie (Eleanor) Ellingson, mother, grandmother to three came to Lake Hubert as postmaster beginning in 1982 having worked for the United State Postal Service in various Minnesota towns since 1965. She retired in 1992. Being idle was not Ellie's way. She started her career in real estate for six years all the while exercising her creative side sewing beautiful appliqués and locally selling her wares.



Ellie Ellingson

One of Ellie's most renowned accomplishments surfaced practically in her own backyard -- helping to restore and bring a shine to our very own Lake Hubert Depot. To complement the physical restoration, Ellie felt there was also a need to preserve content to accompany this historic landmark. Tapping her creative and organization skills, she assembled a significant collection of Lake Hubert articles and photos into a one-of-a-kind scrapbook. Plus, a perfect addition,

Ellie helped preserve the last Lake Hubert Post Office by moving it piece by piece to the Depot. This multi-purpose project began in 1997 with the complex process of grant writing and obtaining all the necessary permissions. After rounding up caring volunteers, securing capable workers and dedicating countless hours, they completed restoration of the Lake Hubert Depot in 2002.

At Lake Hubert, she delights in teaching children how to fish. She loves the wonder and awe in youngsters as they bait their first hook with a slimy worm and then catch that wiggling first fish. And lest you think her talents only reside at the lake, she'll have you know she has of recent both zip-lined and parachuted out of a plane for a fundraiser.

Reflecting quietly, Ellie says that while she loves the water activity, she hopes the lake doesn't get too busy and further, that the channel gets cleaned up a bit. Smiling, she is encouraged by residents who care so much about the lake and its water quality.

Ellie, on behalf of Lake Hubert residents, we thank you for all you have done for our community and the impressive mark you have made on our Lake and Depot.

President: Janet Webster

Vice President, Women's Club Representative: Liz Martin

Treasurer and Data Base: Pia Lischke

Secretary, Website Administrator: Jane Laco

Water Quality: Jim Sheldon

Communications Director: Colleen Harris

Membership and Volunteers: Peggy Heck

Lake Hubert Depot: Andy Corchran

Loons and Waterfowl: Ruth Kuhlman

Camp Representative/Projects: MJ Cote

LHCA Board Members

Water Quality Director: John Engen

Special Projects: Suzanne Yudell

Fisheries: Carl Yudell

Legal Oversight:* Gary Eidson

**Non-board position*



Green thumbs *benefit the color of the seasons*



Many of us have been awed by the stunning colorful flowers displayed along Nisswa's main walkways. Hats off to the Nisswa Garden Club who dig, plant, weed, and water relentlessly to exhibit the showy beautification projects and arrangements that flourish.

"Our Club maintains civic and memorial plantings at the Gazebo in Nisswa, and supports gardening projects at the elementary school," said longtime member and Club secretary MaryDon Beeson. "We invite other organizations to our free educational programs, which support the Club's purpose to stimulate interest in civic and home beautification projects and provide practical knowledge of gardening."

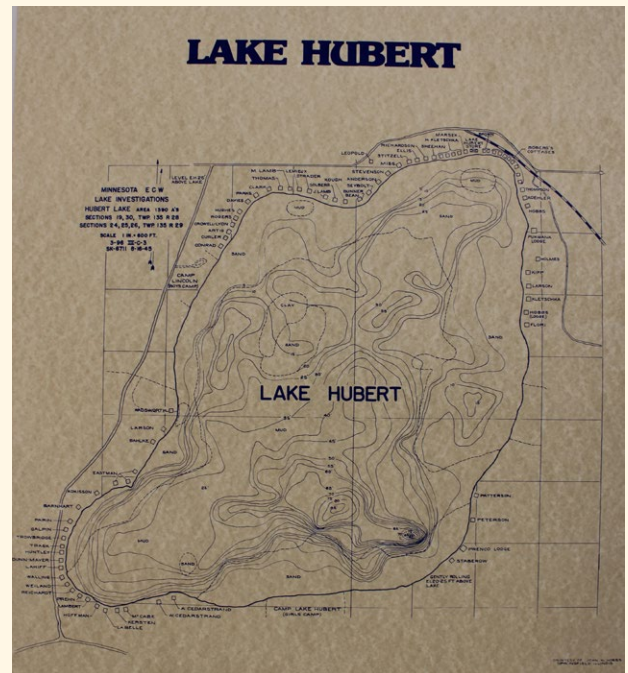
Established in 1941, The Garden Club boasts 75 members. They schedule events throughout the season that are open to the public and provide learning tips for gardeners. Club membership is \$20.

The group's mission goes much beyond their green thumbs to foster respect for nature and conservation. "We established a scholarship fund at Central Lakes College in Brainerd for horticulture-related student career programs," Beeson said.

The Garden Club History even finds a Lake Hubert connection to one Mrs. Fred Lester, whose name appears on a mysterious silver platter inscribed with a title "Dahlia Grand Prize Donor", circa 1954, perhaps a status symbol of the day. Historical documents show Fred Lester was registered at Lake Hubert as an "Alien" in 1918, since he had not applied for citizenship after moving from Canada to Lake Hubert,

where he married summer Lake Hubert resident Maud Annalareta Hathaway.

But think Spring, because even when winds turn sharp, the Nisswa Garden Club hosts a smattering of events. Next up, October 26, Rachel Ingberg will tell us about "Strictly Mushrooms". In January 2024 learn about new plant introductions and trends in colors from the owner of The Backyard Greenhouse in Deerwood. Both presentations will be held at The Lutheran Church of the Cross on CR 13. Questions may be directed to Secretary2NisswaGC@gmail.com.



From their records, the Crow Wing County Historical Society shared this first Lake Hubert topographical map from 1945 created for Minnesota ECW Lake Investigations. Map notation: Courtesy of John Hobbs Springfield, Ill.

Photo Credits:

Page 2: Annual meeting - Greg Laco; Depot - Janet Webster
 Page 3: Garter snake - Colleen Harris; Tribute - Adam Arneson
 Page 4: Ellie Ellingson - Peggy Heck
 Page 5: Garden Club - Nisswa Garden Club; Map - Crow Wing County Historical Society
 Page 6: Boat parade - Greg Laco



Did You Know? *By Janet Webster*

A dark, clear night filled with bright stars is often associated with “time at the cabin”. Whether it is sitting back on a reclining chair on your dock or taking a nighttime cruise around the lake, one can look up and find the North Star, the Big Dipper, and a constellation or two. If conditions are right, you might see the Milky Way or catch a shooting star.

Prior to moving to Lake Hubert, my family owned a seasonal cabin on a smaller lake – that was more off the beaten path. We took the dark skies and starlit nights for granted. When we moved, we appreciated that we were now in a locale with easy access to groceries, restaurants, and activities. This move meant the potential for more artificial light — including the occasional glow of lights streaming from Baxter. We didn’t think about losing the dark sky to which we had become accustomed.

Don’t get me wrong, artificial lights are important. They allow us to see inside and outside our homes after the sun sets. They illuminate the routes we take, helping us to keep safe. And they make it easier to spot the nocturnal critters that prowl our (their) space. However, artificial light can also disrupt the beauty of our lake. Furthermore, according to the [National Parks Service](#), artificial light can impact the rhythms of animals and plants that rely on natural cues apparent only in the dark.

When artificial lighting is necessary, what can be done to reduce the glare projected upward toward the sky and to reduce the light projected outward across the lake? Here are few things to consider.

1. Light the areas that need lighting for practical and safety reasons.
2. Use lighting with fewest lumens needed, selecting lighting that is no brighter than is necessary.
3. Leave lights on when necessary and set timers accordingly.

Perhaps if we can lessen the amount of artificial light around Lake Hubert, the stars just might shine a bit brighter.

Lake Hubert happenings

Lake Hubert Women’s Club

The luncheon meetings of the Lake Hubert Women’s Club (LHWC) are scheduled the second Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 12, 2023. This organization supports multiple local charitable organizations – among them the Mid-Minnesota Women’s Center. For information about LHWC, please contact Liz Martin at 218-839-1195. New members are welcome.

Flashy procession entertains spectators



Multiple boats, many all decked out for the festivities, paraded around Lake Hubert, amidst a few sprinkles, for the Fourth of July celebration.

Join the Camaraderie at Nisswa’s Winter Events

From smoked ribs, to yoga, to City of Lights – Nisswa’s schedule of activities is not deterred with the onset of North winds and snowflakes. [See for yourself.](#)

