

RSVP TODAY! For the Lake Eau Claire Holiday Party

When: Saturday Jan. 2, 2010

Where: Jean's Black Bear

Social Hour: 5:00PM

Dinner: 6:00PM

Drawings: 6:45PM

Music: Dewey's Country 7:00PM

Cost: \$19.00 per person

Menu: Shrimp Alfredo, Tenderloin Tips,
Broasted Chicken



Please RSVP by Dec 30th to: John Selz-715-286-2848 or Carol Carlson 715-286-1234 or email Fleandrc@centrytel.net or jselz@centrytel.net

Lake Eau Claire Association Raffle Tickets on Sale Now!

1st Prize: Americana Sofa Quilt

(Donated by Jane Walsh)

2nd Prize: Portable Ice Shack

3rd Prize: ½ Pork

(Donated by Dan & Faith Esser)

4th Prize ½ Pork

(Donated by the Comstocks and Teeters)

5th Prize: Large Handmade Basket

(Donated by Carolyn Boehne)

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.00

Drawing will be held on

Sat. Jan. 2, 2010 at

Jean's Black Bear.

Please contact John Selz at

286-2848 to help sell

Or purchase tickets.



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Nature Notes

By Mike Harden

Coyotes

Anyone who lives near or on the lake, especially if you like to sleep with the windows open on occasion, should be familiar with the nocturnal, somewhat eerie sounds of coyotes, howling and yipping. The coyote; *Canis latrans*, is one of 4 species of wild canids in Wisconsin. Canis is latin for dog, and latrans comes from the word latrare, which means "to howl". They are also variously referred to as "brush wolves", "prairie wolves", or "the American jackal".

Recently, this October, you might have read of a 19 year old woman who was hiking in Nova Scotia and was killed after being attacked by two coyotes. Such attacks are very rare, but not totally unheard of. A pair or pack is more likely to attack than a single individual. Coyotes are very adaptable at living near humans. Long persecuted by man, they have actually expanded their range. They are found throughout the continental United States, as far north as Northern Canada and Alaska, and as far south as Panama. Their range has expanded in recent decades, as they are exceptionally adaptable to living near humans. There are 19 subspecies of coyotes. An adult coyote stands about 24" tall, and has a body length of about 30-34 inches in length. They weigh from around 20 lbs. up to about 50 lbs. They tend to be yellowish-gray to grayish-brown, lightening to the underside, with a large, bushy tail with a dark tip. They are often mistaken for a timber wolf, although they are only about one-half the size of their close relative, and have a much more "snipey" look, with their more pointed snout. A large specimen, however, may be very hard to tell from an immature timber wolf. They live a maximum of about 10 years in the wild. Coyotes breed from January to March, and, like the dog, have a gestation period of about 63 days. They average about 6 pups per litter, sometimes having over 15. They are weaned in about 5 weeks or so, and then are fed by food regurgitated by the parents. Coyotes used to be day-active (diurnal), but have become more nocturnal because of the pressures of living with man. Their diet consists mostly of mammals; consuming a variety of voles, mice, rabbits, ground squirrels, and whatever they can catch. They are very much an ecological generalist, also consuming birds, snakes, insects, lizards, etc. They also will prey on livestock, such as lambs, goats, and calves if given the opportunity. They may hunt singly, in pairs, or in a pack, usually not numbering more than 6 individuals. They can be much more confident and aggressive when in a group, sometimes even driving a bear away from a kill. They have been observed to "cooperate" with badgers on occasion, since the badger is very adept at digging out prairie dogs, ground squirrels, and such. Enemies of coyotes include timber (gray) wolves, cougars, and man. Timber wolves do not always tolerate other canids in their territory, as many bear hunters have found out. Hunting for coyotes is allowed year-around in Wisconsin, and they may be hunted even at night, with the exception that the season is closed in the Northern regions during the gun deer season. (Check your regulations). This is designed to protect the endangered timber wolf from being mistaken for a coyote. As wolf numbers continue to grow, one might expect to see some change in this management philosophy in the future.

President's Letter

I hope everyone has checked out the front page regarding our Holiday Party this year. We are going back to Jean's Black Bear so I know everyone is making plans to attend. Please RSVP as soon as possible to help us plan.

Update on Special Committee Meetings

We have held 4 meetings to date with our last one scheduled for Jan. 6th.

Topics discussed at meetings:

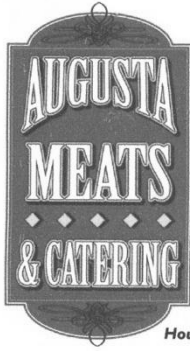
- July meeting was the first and set goals and objectives for future meetings.
- August meeting: fish habitat- shoreline trees and cribs needed; fish population- is there a need for slot sizes or lowering limits.
- October meeting: sedimentation was the topic with much discussion about the river and where sediment traps would be most effective.
- November meeting: numerous items were discussed including
 - Shoreline restoration
 - Aquatic plant species in the lake and invasive species we must control
 - Lake recreation. Included was how we could control boat traffic in weed beds and shallow areas of the lake; saving our shorelines and the islands from erosion; establishing Jet Ski and water skiing hours.

It is easy to see we have many issues with our lake and at the January meeting we will prioritize our goals and objectives into a plan for the coming years. This meeting is open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.

If you cannot attend the January 6th meeting please contact myself or any Board member and discuss what you think needs to be done and what should be first on the list.

The upcoming year looks to be a busy one.

John Selz
President



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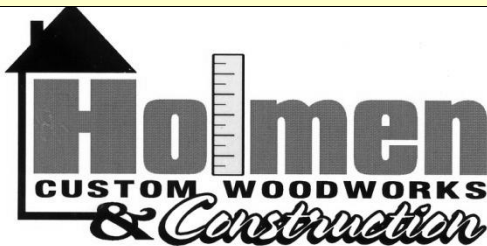
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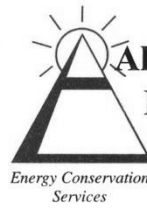
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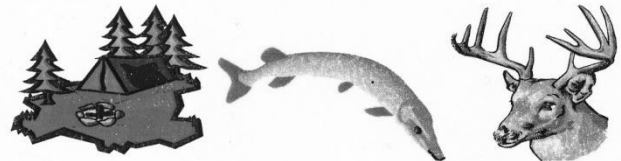


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Address _____

Email address: _____

- Lake Eau Claire Fire Number _____
- Payment of \$20.00 dues for year 20____
- Fourth of July Fireworks Donation \$ _____
- Lake Rehab Donation \$ _____

Where would you like to see our Association
concentrate its attention in the coming year?

