

# WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION



[www.WCOLA.org](http://www.WCOLA.org) & Facebook

## Welcome, To The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

### Who are we?

We are the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA), a group of active, interested and concerned neighbors and friends.

WCOLA is a non-profit organization of individuals who can collectively work to build awareness about preserving our chain of lakes – their clarity and quality, their history and social community so that they may be enjoyed now and in the years to come. We currently have 150 member households about 3/5<sup>th</sup>, but our goal is 100%.

### What do we do?

We are dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of the ecological environment of the lakes and lakeshores in the Wabana Chain of Lakes and the surrounding area in Itasca County, Minnesota.

### How do we do that?

- For over 25 years we have been working with State certified water testing labs sampling our lakes for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll–A, as well as other tests, giving us a baseline of data on the health of our waters. The data we have collected has been provided to RMB labs to perform trend analysis and provide reports. The draft report is complete and in final review with expected release in the Spring. The

data will also be entered into the MPCA database where all can examine.

- We partner as volunteers with The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in Citizen Water Monitoring with Secchi Disk lake clarity readings and ice on and ice out recording. More volunteers are still needed.
- WCOLA is guided by a Board of Directors and hosts three major events during the year; June social event, July picnic and August annual meeting with an educational presentation.
- We share our stories, family histories, and photos to promote and recognize the history of this area. Some of that local history is on display at the Wabana Town Hall and often in our WCOLA Newsletters.
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is a major ongoing concern. AIS boat inspections at public accesses will continue to be staffed at least 5 days per week during the open water season. This effort is funded in part by WCOLA's donation,. We are also providing information to the chain of lakes users about AIS issues and additional preventative actions we all might take. We are updating a Water Quality Management Plan for our chain of lakes. We are also developing an AIS Rapid Response Plan.
- We are providing information on septic systems and shore line management to help residents understand how best to maintain their property. **"Maintaining a healthy lake is far less costly than trying to fix a degraded one. If you are fortunate enough to have a natural shoreline, maintain or enhance it as a buffer zone and minimize erosion on the areas used for access or recreation. Please take the time to read the**

information regarding shoreline management as supplied by the Minnesota DNR. This is great information and advice as we strive to maintain pristine water conditions on our beautiful chain of lakes. As spring approaches in 2018 consider the upgrades/changes you can make to your shoreline to enhance the water qualities of our lakes" You can view this information at [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/water/shoreline\\_alterations\\_landscaping.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/water/shoreline_alterations_landscaping.pdf)

- We publish newsletters to keep our members and area residents informed and have a website and Facebook page.
- We are making a concerted effort to inform all lake owners of events or situations which may be of interest.
- We do an annual loon count partnering with the DNR
- WCOLA volunteers provide road and Firewise brush cleanup partnering with Itasca County.

**Many thanks to all those who have supported us in the past having created and continued the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association.**

**We invite you, your families and friends of the Wabana Chain of Lakes to continue as members, consider becoming members and volunteering, working together to continue the efforts of protecting and sustaining the love of our waters and sense of community for now and the years to come.**

Jim Olijnek –President

Jean Koewler-Treasurer

Louie Gueltzow-Vice President

Susan Lick-Secretary

Enclosed is an addressed envelope and membership application to complete. Also note that email is very much encouraged. WCOLA always welcomes your interests and efforts in any of our activities. You can find out much more about our non-profit organization by going to WCOLA.org.

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**Wabana Chain of Lakes Association**

Dues \$30 for those receiving WCOLA communications via email	_____
Dues \$35 for those receiving WCOLA newsletters via postal mail	_____
Additional contributions for Lake Protection	_____
Total	_____

Make checks payable to WCOLA and return in the addressed enclosed envelope.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you have a second address please note it and the months it should be used.