

## THE CHAIN LETTER

June 2000

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 Editor: Bill Downing, 1834 Simpson Street,  
 Falcon Heights, MN 55113, and 38065 Forest  
 Lane, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. E-mail:  
 wdowning@uslink.net. The *Chain Letter* is a  
 means of communication among Association  
 members, and it will work best if you con-  
 tribute. Please send your comments, let-  
 ters, historical notes, and news to the  
 Editor *now*.

### MAIL TO THE CHAIN LETTER

From Harold Dziuk:

I received the May 2000 issue of "The Chain Letter" and I thought the content was very good. Important information is certainly there for those who wish to read it.

I was particularly pleased to note that the main emphasis in the newsletter was on how we, as shoreland owners, must be acutely aware of the need to take much better care of our beautiful lakes. Unless we can include more citizens in an effort to encourage local decision-makers to place a higher priority on protecting these natural resources, we will see the resources continue to be needlessly degraded. I hope we can learn from the mistakes that have been made elsewhere in Minnesota.

*Positive feedback like that is really encouraging! But positive or negative, members please comment on what you read here.*

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### MINUTES

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association,  
 Regular Meeting, May 29, 2000

**Opening.** Chair Jon Rowe called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Members and guests introduced themselves. There was no education program planned for today.

**Treasurer's Report.** Cathy Rudolph submitted the following report:

Balance as of 9-11-99	\$2,986.32
Received:	
membership dues	\$ 500.00
cash in CD	\$2,089.48
Total Received	\$2,589.48
Paid Out:	
printing	\$ 580.44
postage	\$ 223.80
list of names from county	\$ 14.40
MCT Research Lab – H2O	\$ 2,440.00
Lauren Sage-Hwy38 mtg.	\$ 63.96
David Lick-mailing septic ed.	\$ 476.14
Wabana Twp.-special mtg.	\$ 443.50
Total Paid	\$ 4,242.24
Balance as of 5-27-00	\$ 1,333.56

Paid members 106

**The Conservation Fund** private land sale project was reviewed by Joel Solomon. Following a two-year process, seeking funds to assist private landowners with closing costs, on sales to the federal government, The Blandin Foundation was not willing to fund the request. Joel will continue to work with the Leech Lake Land Foundation on other possibilities.

**I.C.O.L.A.** Itasca Coalition of Lake Association's update was given by Bob Sage. In May ICOLA met with Itasca County Commissioners, represented by Mary Ives and Leo Trunt. Two issues were discussed, first The Conservation Fund and private to public land sales, and septic and watershed pollutants.

**The Itasca County Comprehensive Land Use Plan** report was given by guest, Tom Saxhaug, Itasca County Commissioner. Following a public two-year process a comprehensive land use plan will be in effect as of July 1, 2000. Every April

1st the plan will be reviewed and revised if needed. Questions followed. Joel Solomon questioned the commissioners not endorsing the Conservation Fund's request and felt this hurt the chances of the proposal to The Blandin Foundation. Tom explained that 60% of Itasca County is public land. The lands discussed in the private to public sales are often part of the Chippewa National Forest. As a commissioner, Tom moved to endorse the land plan although it was voted down. The Forest Service refuses to take on more private lands, except in high priority areas, due to downsizing of funds and personnel. Federal non-taxable lands do not assist the county's infrastructure.

**Septic tank** compliance issues were reviewed by Chairman Rowe. The lake association has worked over the winter on septic system education and water testing. Sheryl Adams presented two graphs demonstrating summaries of water testing on the chain of lakes and sampling locations. The Wabana Township and chain of lakes association passed a resolution to have septic systems updated to state and county regulations.

Meeting with the Itasca County Commissioners concerning the resolution, the association was asked to develop a plan. The plan includes the county inspecting 10-20 *volunteer* septic systems on the Wabana Chain of Lakes lakeshore. Non-compliant systems will have up to two years to comply, and \$50,000. is available countywide at 3% interest rate loans for septic system updates. The association is asking for volunteers to have their lakeshore systems inspected and updated if necessary.

Volunteers are also needed to search county records for septic systems dating 1992 and older. These lakeshore owners could be visited by association volunteers with educational materials and encouraged to inspect and update if needed. Sheryl asked for comments on the plan. Bob Sage remarked the declining lake quality statistics are immediate, and waiting for septic to be updated following a sale of lakeshore is too slow. David Lick explained the re-sale of land compliance regulations and how dry wells are also non-compliant. This information was mailed to all lakeshore owners in Wabana Township in March. Copies of septic system information are available on request. Sheryl stated The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association water study in 1991 advised this compliance action immediately and it is now the year 2,000. In 1998 Itasca County adopted the ordinance to have all systems become compliant.

David Lick stated that not all excavators do an appropriate job, although good contractors can be recommended. He suggested the county commissioners could assist in education and regulation of contractors. Currently there are 245 residents on lakeshore in Wabana Township. Sheryl reminded members that fixing bad septic systems and not fertilizing on lakeshore are the two most necessary steps to improving water quality. Jon Rowe suggested Itasca Farm Store has a phosphorus free fertilizer.

Discussion by members described stronger, enforced regulations in many other counties of the state. Tom Saxhaug stated this is a good model and believes if volunteers in the Wabana Chain take part the rest of Itasca County will follow.

Members suggested listing volunteers in newsletters reinforcing their efforts for the sake of improving lake quality. Tom Saxhaug reminded members that the next meeting on septic system issues with the county commissioners will be June 18th and everyone is welcome to attend.

**Membership:** Currently we have 106 members. Anyone can join or renew by mailing \$20.00 Dues to: Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer, 36542 Havenwood Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

**Meeting adjourned** by Chairman Jon Rowe. Next meeting June 10, with coffee at 9:00 am, and at 9:30 am the program and meeting

**Respectfully submitted,** Susan Lick, Secretary.

## MINUTES

### Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, Regular Meeting, June 10, 2000

**Opening.** Chair Jon Rowe called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Minutes.** Secretary Susan Lick read the minutes of the May 29, 2000 meeting. Bud Sage moved to approve the minutes as read. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report.** Cathy Rudolph submitted the following report:

Balance as of 5/27/2000	\$1,333.56	
Received:		
membership dues	\$ 140.00	con-
tributions	\$ 115.00	
Total Received	\$ 255.00	
Paid Out:		
Total Paid Out:	\$ 0.00	
Balance as of 6-10-2000	\$1,588.56	
Paid members for 1999:	106	

**Report.** Senator Grams open town hall meeting was attended by Joel Solomon and Bob Sage. Joel questioned the senator on his voting record on environmental issues, which he responded is 25% yes. Both Joel and Bob suggested that letters to encourage Senator Grams exposure to environmental issues in Northern Minnesota would be effective.

**Name change.** Wabana Chain of Lakes name change was discussed. The advisory committee suggested members consider possibilities to include other lakes in the Wabana Township. The issue was tabled until the July 8th meeting.

**Lake testing.** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's first water testing on the chain of lakes in early June was reported on by Jon Rowe. In 1991 the M.P.C.A. suggested a check of septic systems on the chain of lakes due to increased phosphorus rates.

**Five-year septic system plan.** The advisory committee developed a five-year plan describing both the Lake Association and Itasca County's role in water quality issues. The five year plan includes: by the year 2001 the association will invite 10 lakeshore owners to voluntarily have their septic systems inspected, the county will waive the inspection fee. The owners will agree to update systems to comply with current ordinances if needed, within two years. The Association will con-

tinue to work with the M.P.C.A. on educational efforts and water monitoring. The association will seek funds for camera and computer technology for the water monitoring programs. Possibilities for labs to be set up in schools with students to assist area lake associations to test and monitor their lakes will be explored. Presentations may be established as educational and awareness tools to be shared statewide. Itasca County will offer low interest loans up to \$50,000 total at 3% interest to county lakeshore residents to assist in system updates. By 2001 a plan will be established by Itasca County to monitor commercial contractors who do septic system work. A plan will be developed by the County to inspect and enforce all remaining septic systems in the county into compliance by 2005. The plan will begin implementation by bringing all remaining septic systems on lakes into compliance by 2002. Howard Owen moved to submit the proposed plan as a letter of intent to The Itasca County Commissioners before June 14, 2000. Following a second to the motion and an extensive discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. [See next section of this *Chain Letter* for the complete text of the **Five-year Plan.**]

**Highway 38 Committee.** Bud Sage reported on the work. Ideas were shared of future plans for the scenic highway. Construction dates are as follows: In 2001 construction from Grand Rapids to County Road 49 or 19 will begin, in 2003 County Road 19 to Marcell.

**Septic system evaluation.** Itasca County Zoning Department files were researched by Bob and Bud Sage as volunteers from the lake association, to assist zoning in helping with the septic system issue evaluation. The years 1992 to 1996 were too vague to utilize. The years 1996 and on were more complete. In summary, probably 50-70% of septic systems on the Wabana Chain of Lakes were certified prior to 1992 and are now obsolete systems for treatment.

**Exotic species.** Chair Rowe discussed exotic species awareness. Members again decided to volunteer to provide awareness efforts in person, at the north and south access on Wabana over the 4th of July weekend. Bud and Mary Lou Sage will coordinate the north access and Howard Owen the south access.

**Annual Picnic.** The annual Wabana Chain of Lakes Association picnic will be held on July 29th at the township picnic shelter. Bring a dish to share and some extra for visitors. A magician will provide entertainment.

**Next meeting:** July 8th, 2000, 9:00am coffee, 9:30 program & meeting.

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Respectfully submitted,** Susan Lick, secretary.

## THE FIVE-YEAR SEPTIC SYSTEM PLAN

*The following Resolution was passed unanimously by the WCOLA, for presentation to the County Board. This Association, under the able leadership of its Advisory Committee, has taken a giant step forward in public-spirited protection of a group of Minnesota's most valuable resources—our clear and limpid lakes. --Editor*

### WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION 5 YEAR SEPTIC SYSTEM COMPLIANCE PLAN June, 2000. Complete text.

**Background** - The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA), consisting of 105 families, has focused efforts for the past several years on monitoring lake water quality on Trout, Wabana, Little Wabana, Little Trout [aka Interlachen], and Blue-water Lakes. Studies conducted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) show that phosphorus is the controlling nutrient for algal production on the Wabana chain of lakes. The MPCA also recommended, in 1991, that all septic systems on the Wabana chain of lakes be inspected and brought into compliance. Intensive lake nutrient monitoring occurred in 1991 and 1999. The 1999 phosphorus concentrations were notably higher than in 1991 (see attached bar graphs) [These bar graphs were included in the May 2000 *Chain Letter* and are not attached to this article]. Although there can be natural reasons for the elevated phosphorus, research conducted in the mid-1990's shows that, under certain conditions, home septic systems can produce substantial phosphorus plumes which migrate through the ground water about one to two meters per year. Under certain conditions, the concentration of phosphorus in septic plumes has been shown to be about 4,000 micrograms per liter, or about 200 times the maximum target concentration in lakes to prevent nuisance algal blooms. For this reason, old septic systems, especially dry wells located close to the lake, are highly suspect of contributing excessive amounts of phosphorus to the lake. Although it will always be prohibitively expensive to study each home septic system to "prove" whether or not it is contributing phosphorus to the lake, common sense dictates that older systems, especially those within 150 feet of the lake, should be brought into compliance.

The WCOLA has also been actively distributing educational material to homeowners for the past two years. Much of this material came from the MPCA. In addition to this effort, the WCOLA believes that bringing all septic systems on the Wabana Chain of Lakes into compliance within the

next 5 years is essential custodianship for maintaining long-term lake water quality, which, in turn, is essential to the economic vitality of the area. There are numerous examples across the country where preventative work to maintain lake water quality was ignored, resulting in greatly deteriorated water quality conditions and excessively expensive corrective measures. It is the WCOLA's objective to be a leader in Itasca County at helping maintain high lake water quality. In order to accomplish this objective, the cooperation of the county will be necessary since they are the legal regulator of septic system design and installation. The WCOLA passed a resolution on September 18, 1999 to work toward this objective. Wabana Township voted to support this resolution on October 13, 1999, and further extended it to apply to all lakes in the township (see attached resolution [This resolution is not included in this issue of the *Chain Letter*]). In order to accomplish the stated objective within 5 years, the WCOLA is proposing the following tasks be accomplished:

**WCOLA Responsibilities:**

2000:

- 1) Identify 10 lakeshore owners who will volunteer to have their home septic systems inspected by Itasca County, and upgrade them within the mandatory 2 year period, if the county determines they are out of compliance.
- 2) Continue its educational efforts by a) assisting the MPCA with lake water quality testing, b) proposing an educational package to the Blandin Foundation for the purchase of an appropriate camera and related computer equipment and software to develop digital pictures and narratives of selected septic system installations, septic system functioning under different site conditions, display of appropriate research and study results, long-term lake water quality data, and related information. A presentation program such as Powerpoint would be employed so that the educational information can be periodically updated and taken on the road to other lake associations in Itasca County.
- 3) Explore the possibility of utilizing a locally available laboratory capable of analyzing selected lake water quality parameters. Existing facilities will be utilized to the extent possible, and local students will be periodically trained to run samples. It is not intended to develop a certified water quality testing lab, but rather to provide an economical means for Itasca County lake associations to have limited water quality testing done on

their lakes for selected parameters that are important to tracking water quality trends and assessing lake health.

2001:

- 1) Identify at least 10 additional lakeshore homeowners to volunteer to have their septic systems inspected by the county.
- 2) If funding is secured from the Blandin Foundation, a) arrange for photographic documentation of each voluntarily upgraded septic system, with an emphasis on documenting state-of-the-art construction techniques under different site conditions, intended to accomplish maximum phosphorus removal, b) condense and display the most recent lake water quality data with an emphasis on trend analysis, and c) begin designing and constructing a dynamic, portable educational program. Volunteers from the WCOLA will design, develop, and present the educational information.
- 3) If funding is secured from the Blandin Foundation, the WCOLA will cooperatively manage a lake water quality testing laboratory offering limited analysis of selected parameters. A nominal fee will be charged lake associations to cover operating costs.

2002:

- 1) Continue to seek volunteers who are willing to have their septic systems inspected by the county, and upgraded if the county determines that their systems are out of compliance.
- 2) Continue to provide educational information about septic systems and lake water quality.
- 3) Provided funding is available, continue to manage a local water quality laboratory to provide limited, economical water quality analysis for Itasca County lake associations.

**The WCOLA requests that Itasca County go on record agreeing to:**

2000:

- 1) Waive the inspection fee for a minimum of 10 lakeshore homeowners on the Wabana chain of lakes who volunteer to have their septic systems inspected by the county, and upgraded, if necessary.
- 2) Assist in providing low-interest loans to homeowners who volunteer to have their septic system inspected and upgraded.
- 3) Develop a plan of action to bring all commercial operations on the Wabana chain of lakes into compliance within 5 years.

2001:

- 1) Waive the inspection fee for a minimum

- of 10 additional lakeshore homeowners.
- 2) Assist in providing low-interest loans to homeowners who volunteer to have their septic systems inspected and upgraded.
  - 3) Begin implementing a plan to bring commercial operations into compliance.
  - 4) Develop a plan to inspect and enforce bringing all remaining septic systems into compliance by the year 2005.

2002:

- 1) Waive the inspection fee for all additional lakeshore homeowners who volunteer to have their septic systems inspected and upgraded.
- 2) Assist in providing low-interest loans to homeowners who volunteer to have their septic systems inspected and upgraded.
- 3) Begin implementing a plan to inspect and bring all remaining systems into compliance.

### WHO IS SIGNING UP FOR INSPECTION?

*The report in November's Chain Letter on the disturbing increase in phosphorus and chlorophyll in the waters of our chain of lakes, focused the attention of a lot of people on their own septic systems, and they are taking several kinds of action.*

*Some people would like to know if their system is installed and working well, but don't know how to find out. There are essentially two ways to find out, both involving professional inspection:*

1. *Hire a consultant to inspect the system. There is usually a fairly hefty fee charged by the consultant, but he/she will design a compliant system, perhaps as part of the fee. The consultant is required to report out-of-compliance systems to the County. Designers and inspectors are listed in the Grand Rapids yellow pages.*
2. *Ask the County to inspect. The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association has an agreement with the County to charge no fee to people who request inspection this year, but the owner must sign a statement that any non-compliant system will be put into compliance within two years. Inspections should be completed by the end of 2002.*

**Already there are volunteers.** *Even before this publicity, eight owners had volunteered to have County inspection done:*

- *The George Wilbert property on Wakeman Bay;*
- *The Nancy Ellsworth property on Bluewater,*
- *Bill and Betsy Downing' property on Wabana's north basin,*
- *Doug and Kathy Rudolph's property on Wabana's Island Sound,*
- *The Joel Solomon property on Interlachen,*

- *The Howard Owen property on Wabana's South Basin,*
- *The Juan Lazo and the Jim Lang families' property on Wabana's Island Sound.*
- *The John and Charlotte Zimmerman property on Big Trout Lake.*

*With the publicity the project is receiving, and with the further announcement of 3% loans a lot more volunteers are expected.*

**But a lot of residents are even ahead of that!** *There are several residents who either know or suspect that their present systems are not in compliance, and have made arrangements to install new septic systems. Some of these are already under construction. We are not sure who they all are, but the ones we know of are*

- *The Bill McLaughlin property.*
- *The John Hartung property.*
- *The Tom Linder property.*
- *The Dorothy and Dick Klinger property.*
- *The former Phil Mergler property now owned by the John Downing family and the Richard Brasch family.*
- *The Pat Cramer property.*
- *The George Klacan property.*
- *We think there are several more.*

*The owners of these properties are at the top of the list in their stewardship of this chain of lakes. For those property owners who are considering making changes, we feel sure that these people will be happy to be contacted, to view the projects as they develop and conversation about them.*

**Low-interest loans available.** *The County has available \$50,000 of 3% loan money for residents to borrow for construction of new systems. For example, if an owner borrows \$5,000 at 3% over 5 years, the payment is \$89 a month. That money will probably will go fast, but the \$50,000 will be reinstated each year. Anyone who volunteers to be inspected, there will be no fee for the service, but if the system is non compliant they will have 2 years to fix the system.*

**This is township-wide.** *At the meeting when the Association asked the Township for backing, the Township Board broadened the ordinance to include all the lakes of Wabana Township. The educational process began last winter, and will continue until our lakes are no longer in danger. The idea is that an educated landowner will understand that a non compliant sewage system will add nutrients to the lake system and will bring about premature aging and eutrophication to precious bodies of water.*

*At present the Lake Association is asking the county to complete compliance inspections by the end of 2002. Please refer to 5 year compliance plan above.*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jon Rowe

I hope your summer is being filled with relatives, friends and fun both on and in our wonderful lakes.

I'd like to tell you a personal story about how humans can change a wonderful lake in a short time period. Nature usually takes a long period of time to change things, but humans can haste that change.

As a child, I grew up with my family in Howard Lake, Minnesota (about 45 miles west of Minneapolis). I fondly remember swimming, fishing with grandpa and friends, hiking around the lake, family canoe rides in the lake, and other activities of pr-teens in the 1950's. Our lake was great! It was the centerpiece of the community. People fished, boated and water-skied on the lake. The City Park had a beach, place to play ball and have picnics. Several resorts are on the lake and of course, the most desirable places to live were on the shores of the lake.

The Sportsmen's Club in town was able to get warm water from the local creamery to put in the lake by the City Park. This kept ice off the lake so the ducks and geese could take up yearly residence. Shortly after this, the swimming beach close to the waterfowl area reported a number of cases of swimmer's itch. A connection with the ducks was made and the beach was moved to the far side of the lake.

About that time farming became more intensified and more manure and inorganic fertilizers were being used. Run-off of these nutrients flowed into Howard Lake. Each year Howard Lake bloomed with a thick mat of blue green algae. Our lake was pea green and smelled awful. The fish population began to change from game fish to rough fish. My family jokingly called the lake, Howard Swamp. All of this happened in only 35 years.

Many association members that are residents of central and southern Minnesota probably have their own personal lake stories similar to mine. Our chain of lakes is not Howard Lake, but we can hasten or push Mother Nature to make drastic changes in short times. I hope this story shows why many of our association members are so very concerned about nutrients, human waste, farmyard wastes, and lawn fertilizers flowing into our lakes. The fate of the Wabana Chain of Lakes lies in our hands. Let's not let it go the way of Howard Lake.

## SECCHI DISK READERS

The very best day-to-day record of water quality in our lakes is the inexpensive but vital Secchi disk readings that our teams make for us. We have a team of disk readers for each of our basins, and we will be reporting on readings in the *Chain Letter*. Nancy Ellsworth writes that the latest Secchi disk reading on Bluewater is 21½! She says further:

*Secchi Disk testers are all aboard.*

*Big Trout:*

*Bill Berg*

*Harold Unger*

*Little Trout[Interlachen]:*

*Harold Unger*

*Wakeman Bay:*

*Duane Amundson*

*Wabana:*

*Sue Lick*

*Mary Gephart*

*Ken Zimmer*

*Bluewater:*

*George Klacan*

*Nancy Ellsworth*

*Little Wabana:*

*John Adams and family*

*All are keeping records of their findings, and reports on the first part of the summer will be sent in about July 1. Any questions on materials or methods, call Justin Watkins at U.S. Soil and Water Cons., phone 326-6595.*

### LAKE TESTING BY MPCA

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, which did parallel testing with our testing in 1991 and had results very similar to ours, will sample six places in our chain of lakes during the summer of 2000. This will provide excellent data to compare with our 1999 sampling, which showed such distressing increases in phosphorus and chlorophyll over both our findings and MPCA findings in 1991. We are very grateful to Mr. Steve Heiskary and Ms. Jennifer Klang for including us again this year in their Lake Assessment Program (LAP). The first samples were taken on May 31, and the next dates for MPCA to do the sampling are June 26, July 19, August 14, and September 20.

### SHADOW TESTING

As many members know, WCOLA member John Downing has moved from the University of Montréal to Iowa State University in Ames, where he is Professor of Animal Ecology. The Iowa DNR has put him in charge of the water quality in Iowa lakes, and therefore he has a large laboratory operation in Ames for testing those waters. He has volunteered to test samples for us essentially at cost, but Ames is quite a distance from here, and there is the problem of sample deterioration during shipping. The Water Quality Committee decided last year to proceed with the method that would allow us to compare data accurately, so we decided to decline John's offer for 1999, but keep that option open for the future.

This year we will be testing to see if we can send samples to John in the future, which would allow us to sample more frequently than every eight years. We are taking samples to "shadow" the MPCA: go

out with them, take samples from the same places in the same way they do, and ship them (cold) to John in Ames. He will test, and gives us his results. Then we will compare them with the MPCA's results, when the LAP results are published. John did one additional interesting thing with the May samples: he split them, and sent half to the U. S. EPA laboratory, as a further check.

It may sound as though your Water Quality Committee is being too exacting in this testing business, but we are determined to obtain the most accurate data possible. Water quality in our lakes, and therefore the value of every property on the Chain, depends on having the best data and using it wisely.

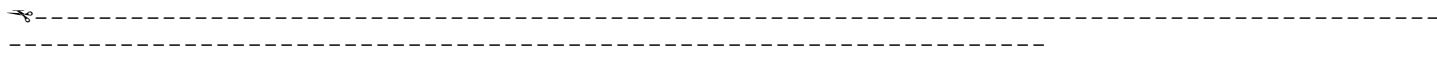
**NEW HISTORICAL DOCUMENT SOURCE**

In the 1970s Deborah Gelbach started gathering historical information about the Wabana area, as background for a historical novel she planned, which was to have been set in this area. She did not publish the novel, but she has many files of historical data, which she has kindly consented let me read and copy for *The Chain Letter*. Many comments from readers last year contained requests for more history, so from time to time this year, as space allows, I will include some of the most interesting pieces from her files. The following is one from Deborah's files.

Talk of a name change for the Association takes me back to about 1988, when the name of the organization was discussed at length, and although the name "Wabana Chain of Lakes Association" didn't really suit anybody, nobody could think of a better one. The subject is important enough so the following story may be helpful, telling what "Wabana" might mean, to add to the discussion. --Editor

**ORIGIN OF THE NAME "WABANA"**

By Meredith Norman, about 1976, via Deborah Gelbach, copied as written:



**DUES, AND A CONTRIBUTION?**

ONLY A FEW MORE DAYS IN THE 1999 FISCAL YEAR. PLEASE PAY DUES NOW!

The WCOLA fiscal year 2000 begins July 1 and runs through June 30. Therefore if you want your dues payment to be current for this year, it should be in the Treasurer's hands by the last of June. Note: Dues for the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association have remained the same \$20 from the beginning, decades ago. Meanwhile our expenses reflect the rising tide--laboratory fees last year were \$2,440! If you want to make an additional contribution, please feel free to do so, and check below:

~ Regular 2000 Dues \$20.00 ~ Contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address #1, permanent \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Which months of the year for mailing? \_\_\_\_\_

Address #2, seasonal \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Which months of the year for mailing? \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Since the name "Wabana" will probably be used in the name of this natural and recreational area I thought it would be interesting to learn the origin of it. However, instead of a written history or lack of accurate sources, only legend, no doubt based on some truth though, has been revealed. There are two possibilities.)

The first: "Wabana" comes from the Ojibway word "waban" which means "the east" or "the morning twilight". This is no doubt accurate. It was defined in Warren Upham's *COLLECTIONS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY*, vol. XVII, 1920. And he mentions that the Wabana Chain of Lakes have small streams which connect with Blue-water and Trout Lakes, known for their beautiful turquoise color.

The second story was related to me by telephone from Miss Mildred Sebo now living in Minneapolis, but the former owner of Balgillow Island in Wabana Lake. She tells the story of Chief Wabana, a Chippewa, and Balgillow Island. Balgillow Island was a favorite campsite for the Indians as it was on their waterway to the Mississippi River. The Black Plague and smallpox caused many of the Indians to die and the story was that they were buried on the Island, but excavations have uncovered no burial sites. But sometime before 1900 Chief Wabana died, was said to be buried on the island and a tradition of placing a stone on his grave by every visitor to the island began when the ownership of the island came to a Mr. and Mrs. Thompson of Minneapolis in 1911. They bought the island from a land company but the island has never been platted. The Thompsons named the island after a place in Scotland where they had spent their honeymoon: Balgillow meaning home of youth, love and laughter. Others have said that Chief Wabana was buried on the shore of Little Wabana. Two-ton-honka (that is the way it sounded by telephone) has told Miss Sebo that "wabana" means by the mouth of blue waters. She also said that Chief Wabana's grave had been excavated and the guns and artifacts had been on display at the old Central School. Miss Sebo bought the island in 1927 and ran the American Girl Camp on it. She sold the property to Hugh Beaumont who is the present owner.

Please mail to: Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer, 36542 Havenwood Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

**YEAR 2000 MEETING SCHEDULE**

All meetings begin at 9:00 A. M. with coffee and goodies, giving time for meeting, greeting, and talk with friends old and new. I usually meet several residents I have never seen before, and I really like to get to know the people with whom we share this beautiful chain of lakes. Program and meeting begin at 9:30. Please put the following on your calendar in red ink, and plan to attend:

**July 8**

**July 29: Annual Potluck Picnic**

**August 12**

**September 9**

**THE JULY 29 POTLUCK PICNIC**

Nancy Ellsworth writes the following about our Great Annual Food and Fun Fest:

*Our annual WCOLA picnic is being held this year on Saturday July 29 at the town hall. It will begin at 6:00 with a potluck meal, brought by participants, and hotdogs, hamburgers, etc. plus*

*coffee and cold drinks will be furnished. We are particularly fortunate this year to have some outstanding entertainment following the picnic portion of the event. Joe Stevens, from the south end of Bluewater, also known as MR. MAGIC, will entertain us. He has spent 50 years in the field of magic and illusion, a confidant to Huadvede of Magicians, and Siegfried and Roy, and David Copperfield... Joe and his wife Martha own and operate the magic shop called Stevens Magic Emporium, in Wichita, Kansas, supplying magicians all over the world. Plan to bring some yummy salad or hot dish to share and then join the group for the MAGIC entertainment!*

The Editor expresses regret at so little history, due to the length of important material. Better next month!

Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer,  
36542 Havenwood Drive,  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744