

THE CHAIN LETTER

November 2000

Volume 4, Number 5

© 2000, Wabana Chain of Lakes Association
 Editor: Bill Downing, 38067 Forest Lane, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 (May-Oct.) and 1834 Simpson Street, Falcon Heights, MN 55113 (Oct.-April).
 wdowning@uslink.net. This is the fifth and last issue for 2000. Please note the Homework Assignment for Seniors on page 12, as something to fill the time until the next issue. See you in 2001!

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MINUTES OF THE WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION

Regular Meeting - September 9, 2000

Opening. Vice President Bud Sage called the meeting to order, in the absence of President Dick Chambers, at 9:00am.

Lake Association members and guests introduced themselves and stated where their lake residence was located. There were 35 guests and members present.

Program: Bill Berg, association member and Minnesota DNR Division of Wildlife large mammal specialist, presented a very thought provoking discussion on how mammal ranges have changed as temperatures are warming up and as animals adapt to other habitats.

These items were discussed during the **business meeting:**

1) Wabana Township is having a **logo contest**. Everyone is welcome to compete. The winner will be picked at the Hunter's Dinner.

2) On Labor Day weekend association members passed out information to boaters on **Eurasian Milfoil**. Because of the cool damp weather, not much boat traffic came through the landings.

3) A "get together" of the **10 volunteers for septic system compliance checks** was held at the Lick residence. Next year we will need 20 people to ask for septic inspections. American Bank now has \$79,000. to loan out at **3% rates** for septic upgrades. For information about the low interest loan program, contact Art Norton at The Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District office.

4) Pat and Dick Chambers received a letter from Bill Downing. Bill is thankful for all the letters to the editor submitted to The Chain Letter. In the next issue a map with resident names and locations will be printed of Bluewater Lake.

5) **Primary elections** will be held at the Wabana Township Hall on September 12th, at 7:00am to 8:00pm. Everyone is urged to vote.

6) As of this meeting we have **91 households** signed up as members for 2000. You can still pay dues by mailing them to Cathy Rudolph 36542 Havenwood Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

7) A question about the possibilities of Julia Roberts buying a place on Bluewater Lake was discussed.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary, **Jon Rowe**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I was unable to attend the September meeting because of other commitments, but understand the meeting went well. Bill Berg gave a wonderful presentation and it has been suggested to me that we

have him come back again in 2001. We could invite the public to attend so more would become involved. He has some brilliant ideas.

Recently I attended a property tax reform meeting and had the opportunity to talk to various people from other Lake Associations. We were congratulated on our stand on the septic system issues. I believe we will hear more from other associations in the future. The availability of low interest money to complete changes is also a plus.

I realize this is a tough issue to some, but we all have to think of what is best for our lakes now and for the future. It has to start with us and I personally believe this is one of the reasons we all are members of WCOLA.

I look forward to 2001, and I hope everyone has a happy, healthy winter. See everyone in the spring. –Dick Chambers

LETTERS TO THE CHAIN LETTER

From Howard Owen:

Since you indicate a serious interest in the Lake Assn's septic inspection program, just a note to tell you that I had my system inspected yesterday. It didn't even hurt!

The inspector has a nice fellow, was very knowledgeable about systems, and informed me of much about septic systems that I hadn't known before. It really was a good experience.

My thanks to Dave Lick and the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association for inaugurating this worthwhile plan.

P. S. My system is OK – I'm in compliance.

From Bill Bottoms:

The following letter was in response to an email I sent Bill, in which I expressed amazement at his skill in preparing the map of Bluewater with the names of all the owners. I had asked him for a copy, for inclusion in the Chain Letter, and you will find it on page 9. What a useful device for all us members! It's my hope that during the long cold winter, many members from other parts of the Chain will make similar maps, and if we had these, we could easily make a membership list for all of us to use. Bill says:

I would be happy to explain to anyone how I prepared the lake map. However, I can assure you it takes neither skill nor magic. I simply scanned the USGS map (available at God's Country or the Mall bookstore) area of interest. Next, using Photo Deluxe, a graphics software, I expanded it to the desired size, overlaid the text for residents' names, and printed it out. Other graphics software such as Adobe's PhotoShop, Ulead's PhotoImpact, etc could be used; one usually is provided with a printer or scanner.

Just received the latest Chain Letter, another outstanding product of your efforts. Especially enjoyed the article originated by Sid Rommel. It jibes well with our abstract of title. Sid is a church friend; did not realize that he had prepared such historical documents.

Okay, all you computer experts! Time to put your talent to work on a project for the Association. We should have owner's maps like Bill's for at least the following: (1) Wakeman's Bay south and west shores; (2) Wakeman's Bay east shore; (3) the shore opposite Balgillow Island on the Island Sound; (4) the west shore of Wabana South, aka Birch Bay; (5) the south shore of the same Bay; (6) the east shore of Wabana South; (7) from Arrowhead Point to the north end of Simmons Bay; (8) the west shore of Wabana Central; (9) Interlachen, aka Little Trout; (10) the north end of Trout Lake. Please send the maps to me, the Editor, at the address in the masthead (preferably by email), and The Chain Letter will publish maps as they come in. When we have them all we will find a way to publish a first-ever Member List with locations. Is that enough inducement? –Editor.

LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

*The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency published an excellent 49-page brochure and guide, Bauman, Heidi, May 1992, Lake Assessment Program 1991, Wabana Lake (I.D. #31-0392, MPCA), which contained the data from that year's testing and much other information. Now that we have new year 2000's testing (see following pages for data), it is appropriate to reprint the **introduction** to that nine-year-old brochure. The footnotes below show how much progress we have made in the years. –Editor.*

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Wabana Lake was sampled during the summer of 1991 as part of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Lake Assessment Program. Data collected during the study showed that in terms of total phosphorus, chlorophyll and Secchi disk

transparency, the water quality of Wabana Lake is comparable to or higher than similar lakes in the ecoregion. Mean summer concentrations of total phosphorus and chlorophyll were 10.2 and 3.4329 µg/l respectively and mean Secchi disk transparency was 4.9 meters (16.2 feet). Based on these water quality values Wabana Lake would be considered oligotrophic to mesotrophic¹.

Phosphorus, chlorophyll and transparency correspond quite well in Wabana Lake, based on Carlson's Trophic Status index (Carlson 1977). This means that Secchi disk transparency can provide good estimates of phosphorus and chlorophyll and can be a useful tool for tracking future trends... The results... indicate that water quality of Wabana Lake is good relative to other lakes in the ecoregion. A high priority should be placed on maintaining the good quality of the lake. The following recommendations are based on the 1991 assessment of Wabana Lake and would apply to all lakes in the *Wabana chain* [emphasis added].

1. Participation in the Citizens Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) should continue since it is an effective way to assess long term and year-to-year variations in algal productivity (lake trophic status). Monitoring should be conducted at permanent sites near MPCA monitoring sites 101, 102, and 103. This monitoring should be conducted weekly from mid June to mid September. The [Wabana Chain of Lakes] Association should ensure long term participation in this program².

2. The Lake Association should continue to provide educational materials to homeowners and businesses with respect to lawn maintenance, shoreline protection, and septic maintenance³. The MPCA, DNR, and county offices (such as the Soil and Water Conservation District and Agricultural Extension) may be able to provide assistance in this area. The booklet A Citizens Guide to Lake Protection (1985) may also be a useful educational tool for the residents on the lake.

3. Any development in the immediate watershed should be completed so that the impacts to lake water quality are minimized. Setback provisions and natural buffer strips should be strictly adhered to⁴. Soil loss can be reduced by utilizing best management practices during construction or road building. Protection of the existing vegetation along the shore will minimize erosion and preserve the aesthetic value of the lake. The County shoreland regulations will be important in this regard.

4. The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association should coordinate an evaluation of all on-site septic systems around the

lake (if this has not already been completed)⁵. Any systems out of compliance with county code should be brought into compliance. This may require the assistance of Itasca County⁶.

NEW MPCA CHEMICAL TESTING DATA OF THE WABANA CHAIN

As reported in earlier issues of the *Chain Letter*, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) included our chain of lakes in the Lake Assessment Program this year, as it did in 1991, and Ms. Jennifer Klang, the Coordinator of the project has given us permission to publish preliminary results of the testing. This gives us a chance to compare two sets of results, nine years apart—1991 and 2000.

This is particularly valuable in the light of our own Association-paid testing results of 1991 and 1999, when we found, in comparing the two, that during the eight-year period, every test for phosphorus (P) increased in all basins, from 10% to 210%, and tests for chlorophyll showed increases in seven of the ten basins tested, up to 200% (phosphorus is the “limiting” fertilizer for algae; chlorophyll puts numbers on the amount of algae in the water.)

No one knew the cause of these radical increases, but the results led the Association to speculate that some of the increase was caused by human action. The Association looked for possible human-caused sources of phosphorus, and urged all residents to avoid fertilizing property with phosphorus-containing products, and asked the Township and the County to help in evaluating the septic systems around the lakes.

This year's LAP testing gave the Association the chance to check, to see if 1999 was an unusual year—if the readings would drop back to 1991 levels, or if the 1999 readings would be repeated in the new 2000 data.

The MPCA did not cover all ten of our basins, but we can compare our WCOLA data with that of the MPCA in three ways:

¹ *Wabana (and presumably the other lakes in the Chain) is just within “oligotrophic” in phosphorus and transparency, but leans slightly toward “mesotrophic” in amount of chlorophyll a. --Editor*

² *Nancy Ellsworth and Harold & Betty Unger have been in the program from the beginning, and in the last two years the Association has organized a group of Secchi disk readers for each of our basins. This is an essential part of our continuous water quality monitoring, and volunteers are urgently needed.*

³ *The Association has provided educational materials to all residents of Wabana Township, regarding lawn maintenance, shoreline protection and septic systems, and will continue to do so as a public service.*

⁴ *Itasca County Zoning Office has been careful to enforce setback regulations in new construction, but we all need to continuously watch the buffer strips along the water, since no governmental agency can keep track of what land users do to vegetation along the shoreline. This natural vegetation not only minimizes erosion and improves aesthetic value, but can catch phosphorus and nitrogen moving through the surface soil and keep them out of the lakes.*

⁵ *No, it was not completed—hardly started—in 1991 when this was written, but the Association, working with Wabana Township and Itasca County, began a voluntary program of inspection in the year 2000. Within a few years, it is hoped that all land users around the Chain of Lakes will have volunteered to bring their septic systems into compliance.*

⁶ *It took the assistance of many people and institutions to put this program into effect, including the Township, the County, and vigorous and persistent members. The Association is grateful to all who participated, in instituting this important activity.*

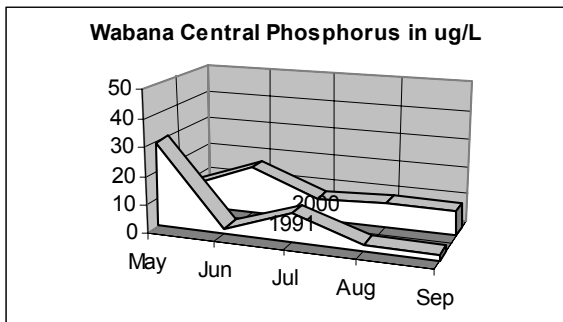
1. Direct comparisons of data from three basins. The MPCA studied only three of our ten basins in both years—Wabana Central WC, Wabana South WS, Wabana Wakeman WW. They sampled five times in each year, each month from May through September, with very closely comparable dates.

The sampling method was the same in both years, the MPCA collected much data, which will be available when they publish the complete study, but here we will only report phosphorus and chlorophyll.

The graphs of the three basins for which we have 1991 and 2000 date show results of the two years (nine years apart) on the same graph, for comparison purposes.

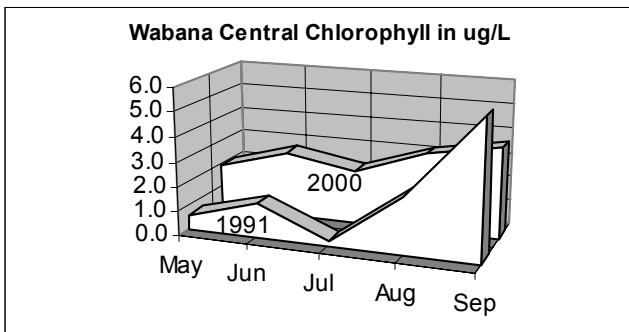
WABANA CENTRAL:

Wabana Central Phosphorus in ug/L						
WC	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Average
1991	30	2	10	2	2	9.2
2000	8	17	8	9	9	10.2



Summer average phosphorus increased 14% from 1991 to 2000.

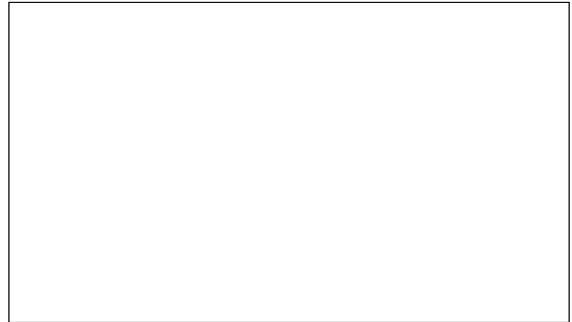
Chlorophyll						
WC	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Average
1991	0.6	1.4	0.2	2.3	5.6	2.0
2000	1.9	2.7	2.2	3.2	3.7	2.7



1991 seemed to have a heavy algae concentration in the autumn, but even with that high figure, the average over the summers show a 35% increase in chlorophyll from 1991 to 2000.

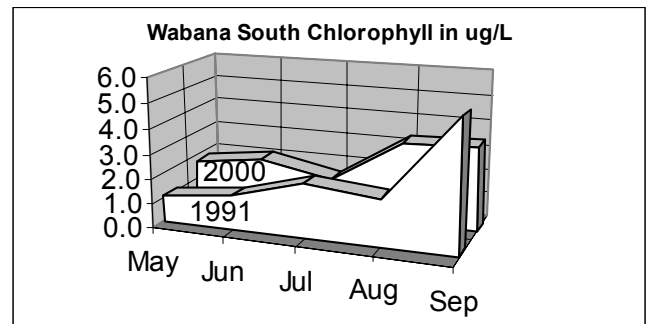
WABANA SOUTH:

Phosphorus in ug/L						
WS	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Average
1991	11	5	2	2	2	4.4
2000	9	10	9	8	10	9.2



Summer average phosphorus increased 110% from 1991 to 2000.

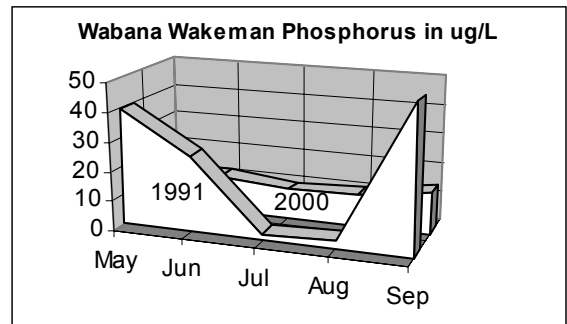
Chlorophyll in ug/L						
WS	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Average
1991	1.1	1.4	2.2	1.9	5.3	2.4
2000	1.7	2.1	1.5	3.3	3.4	2.4



The summer average chlorophyll was the same in the two years 1991 and 2000, but at different monthly levels during the two summers.

WABANA WAKEMAN:

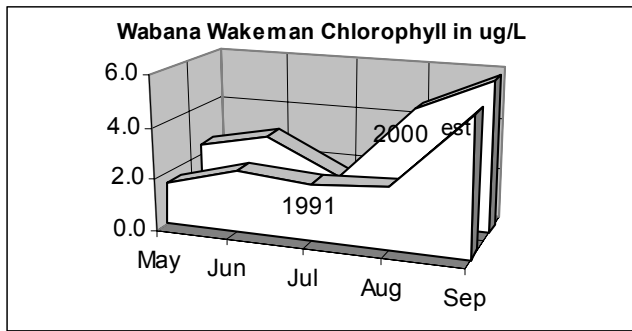
Phosphorus in ug/L						
WW	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Average
1991	40	26	2	3	50	24.2
2000	12	12	10	11	14	11.8



Using the figures as given, the phosphorus in WW shows a very large decrease from 1991 to 2000. It would be appropriate, however, to be suspicious of

May and September readings 1991 readings of 40 and 50, since neither the MPCA nor WCOLA have phosphorus readings that high in our chain of lakes anywhere else in the studies. If those high readings were eliminated, the 1991 average would be 10.3 and the average increase would be 15%. In the light of the other data in the study, these may be more reasonable figures.

WW	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		Average
1991	1.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	5.3	est.	2.2
2000	2.4	3.0	1.6	4.6	5.9		3.5

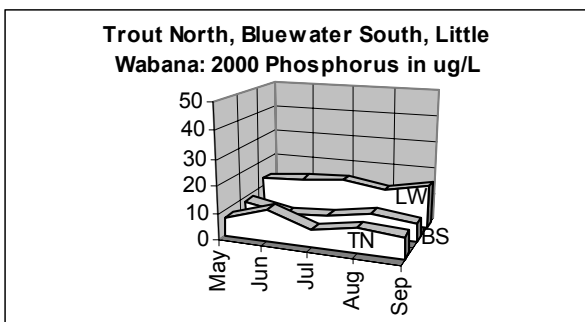


September 1991 reading is not available, so an estimation is made here of 6.2, similar to the increases shown in the other two basins in Wabana in that summer. This would give about an average 17% increase between 1991 and 2000.

2. Examination of data from three additional basins. The other three basins that the MPCA tested in 2000—Trout North, Bluewater South and Little Wabana—were sampled and analyzed this year for the first time, and therefore we have no historical MPCA data with which to compare them.

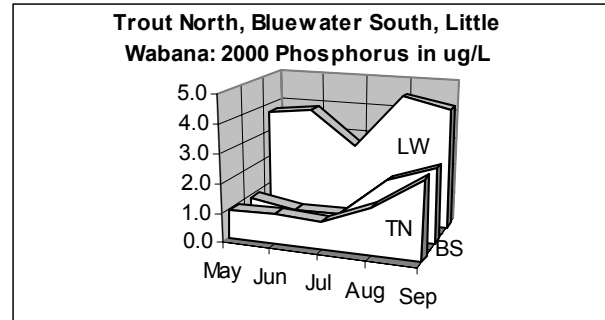
TROUT NORTH, BLUEWATER SOUTH AND LITTLE WABANA.

TOTAL PHOSPHORUS						
2000	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Average
TN	7	12	6	9	8	8.4
BS	8	5	6	9	7	7.0
LW	13	14	15	13	16	14.2



BS and TN have somewhat less phosphorus and chlorophyll than any of the three basins in Wabana.

CHLOROPHYLL A						
2000	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Average
TN	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.6	2.7	1.4
BS	0.9	0.7	0.7	2.0	2.6	1.4
LW	3.7	3.9	2.7	4.6	4.2	3.8



The 2000 data show that Little Wabana has higher phosphorus and chlorophyll than any of the Wabana basins—even higher than Wakeman Bay.

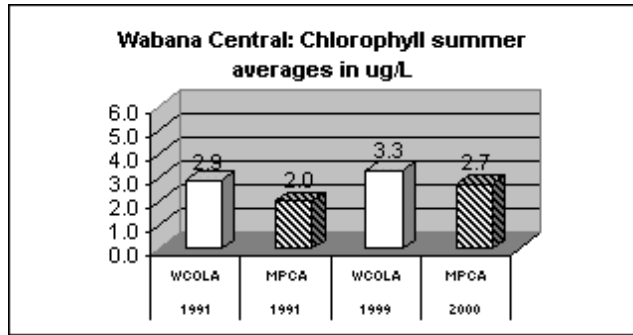
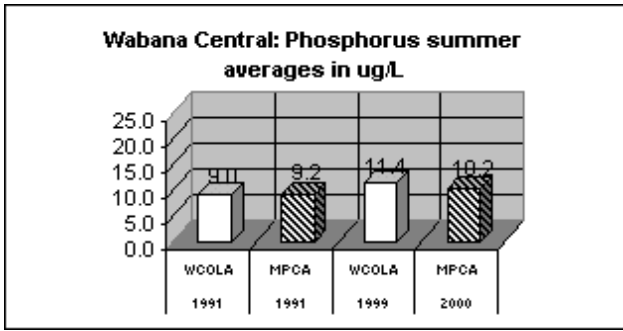
3. Comparison of 2000 MPCA Data with WCOLA data from 1991 and 1999. The charts and graphs below show averages for whole summers, for phosphorus and chlorophyll.

SUMMER AVERAGES

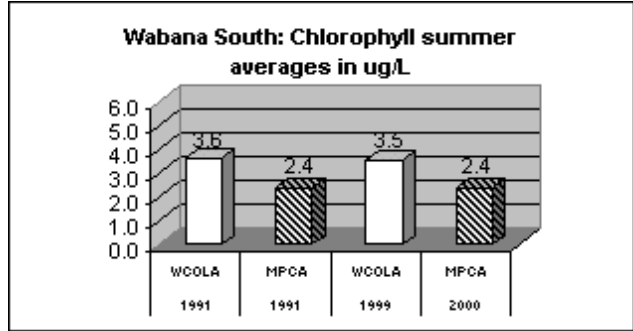
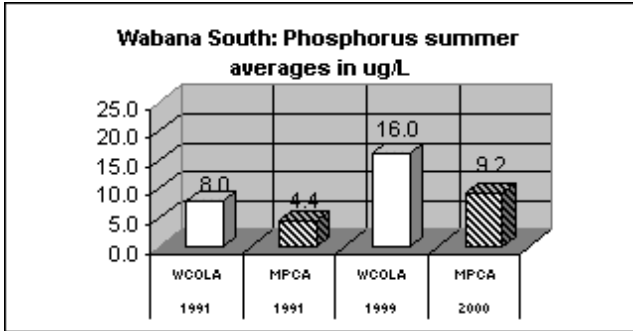
PHOSPHORUS				
	1991	1991	1999	2000
	WCOLA	MPCA	WCOLA	MPCA
WC	9.0	9.2	11.4	10.2
WS	8.0	4.4	16.0	9.2
WW	20.3	24.2	16.0	11.8
TN	8.0	n/a	10.7	2.4
BS	7.0	n/a	11.7	7.0
LW	11.8	n/a	19.1	14.2
TS	6.3	n/a	8.6	n/a
BN	5.8	n/a	17.2	n/a
IN	9.8	n/a	14.3	n/a
WN	9.5	11.8	12.6	n/a

CHLOROPHYLL "A"				
WC	2.9	2.0	3.3	2.7
WS	3.6	2.4	3.5	2.4
WW	5.2	3.0	5.4	3.5
TN	3.0	n/a	2.8	1.4
BS	2.5	n/a	3.7	1.4
LW	3.7	n/a	3.7	3.8
TS	2.9	n/a	1.9	n/a
BN	2.9	n/a	4.3	n/a
IN	2.0	n/a	2.3	n/a
WN	3.3	3.8	2.7	n/a

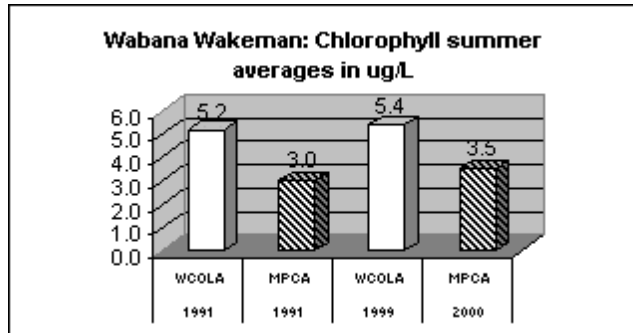
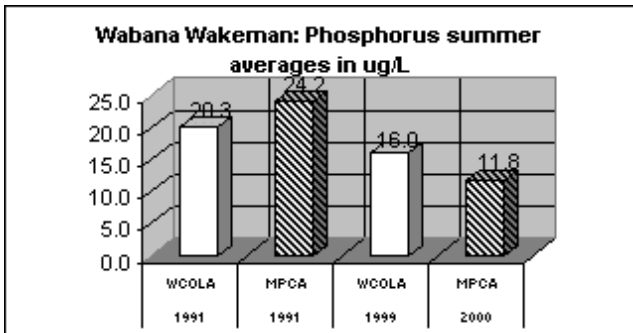
Graphs on pp. 607 illustrate these numbers.



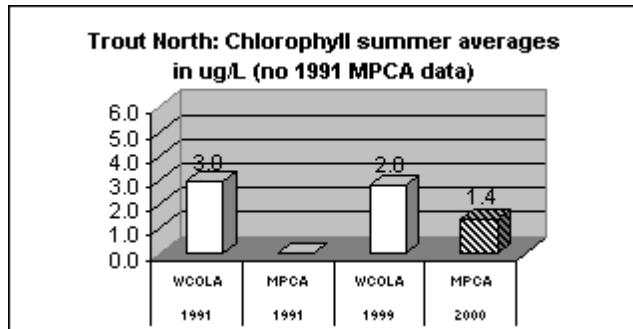
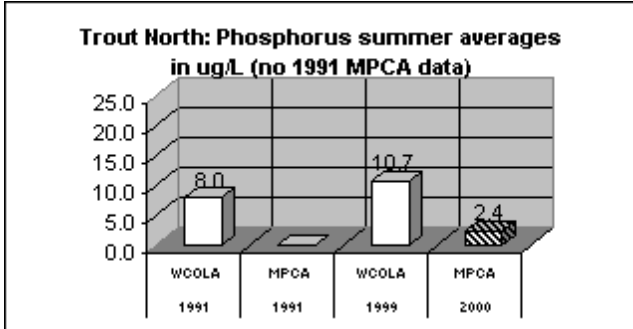
Good WCOLA-MPCA phosphorus and chlorophyll matches. P up 26%-11%, Chl up 20%-35% in 9 years.



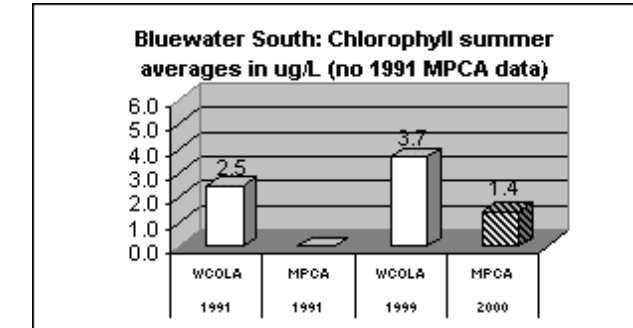
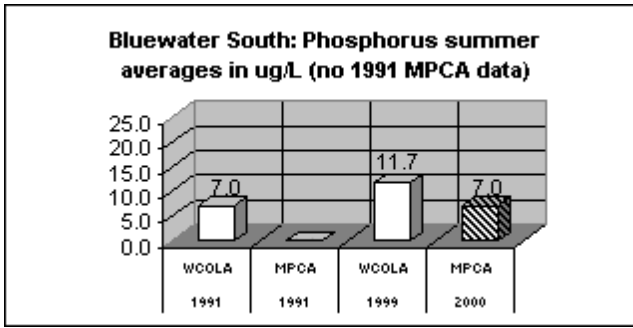
MPCA phosphorus readings lower than WCOLA, both show increase, 100%-110%. Two labs' Chl the same.



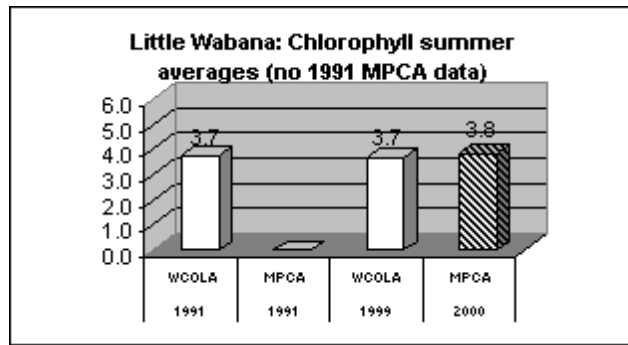
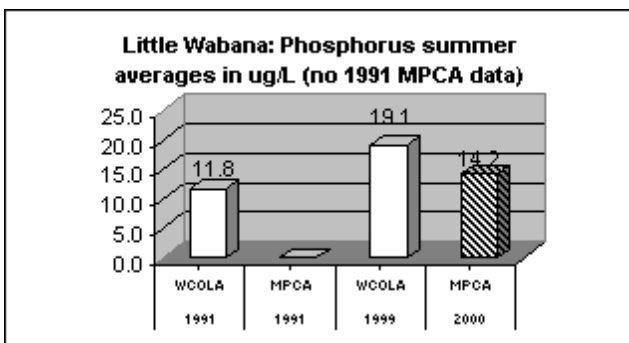
Both WCOLA and MPCA show P decrease, 22%-51%, and both show Chl increase, 4%-17%.



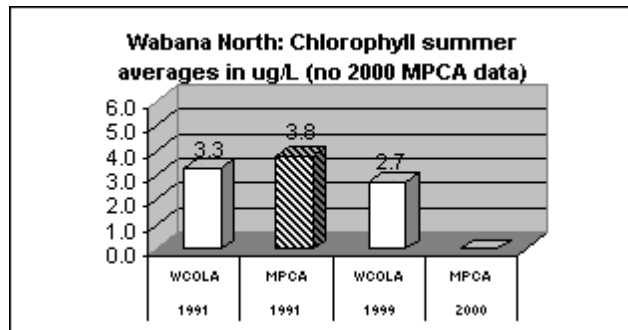
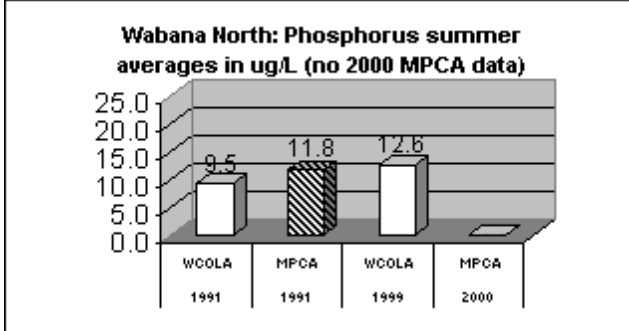
MPCA's both P and Chl data lower than WCOLA's. WCOLA shows P increase of 34%, Chl decrease of 33%.



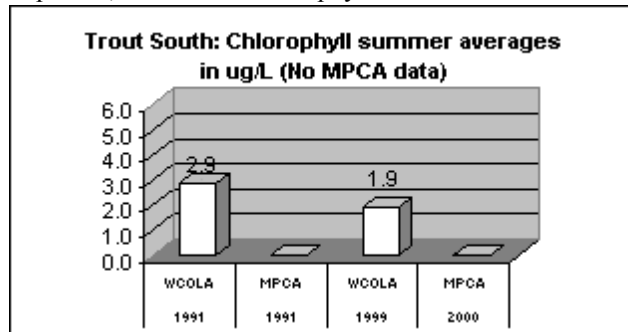
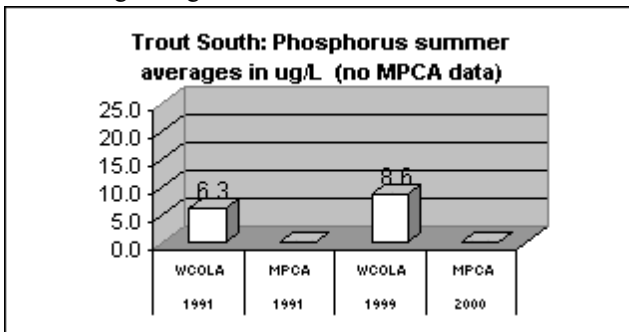
MPCA's both P and Chl data lower than WCOLA's. WCOLA P is up 67%, Chl is up 48%.



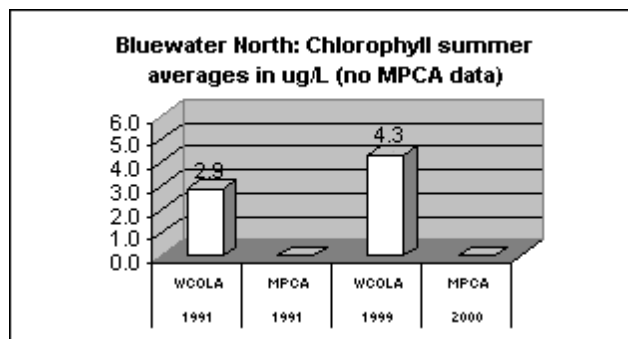
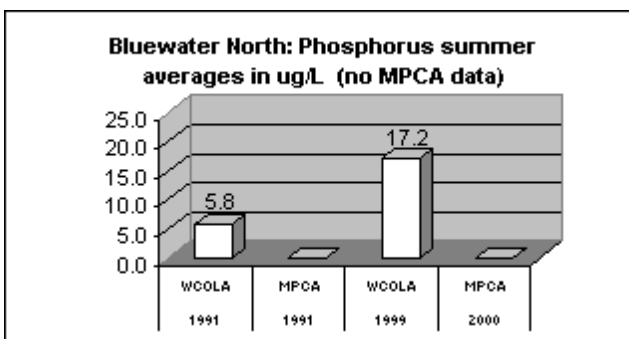
MPCA in good agreement with WCOLA. 62% increase in phosphorus, no change in chlorophyll.



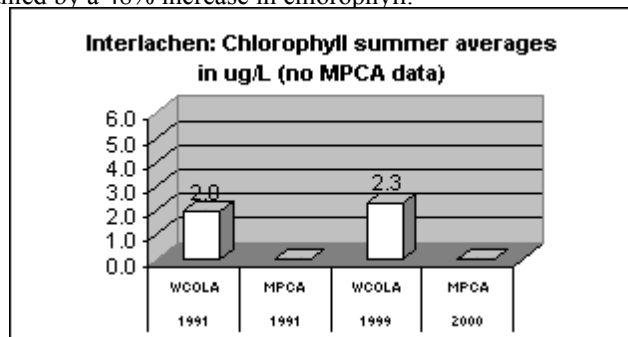
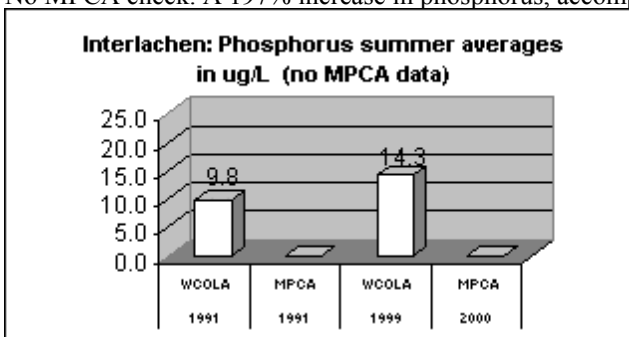
MPCA in good agreement with WCOLA. 33% increase in phosphorus, decrease in chlorophyll.



No way to check with MPCA. WCOLA shows 37% increase in phosphorus but decrease in chlorophyll.



No MPCA check. A 197% increase in phosphorus, accompanied by a 48% increase in chlorophyll.



No MPCA check. A 46% increase in phosphorus, accompanied by a 15% increase in chlorophyll.

NOTE ABOUT DIFFERENCES IN RESULTS:

Working at the very low concentrations of phosphorus and chlorophyll we encounter in these clear oligotrophic lakes (micrograms per liter, or parts per billion), small variations that we observe between WCOLA and MPCA results are to be expected, particularly when we are comparing our ten-meter mixed top-level samples with the surface grab sample that the MPCA takes. Note that MPCA takes samples at other levels as well, and they analyze for many different parameters, and their complete publication on this Lake Assessment project will be very rewarding reading.

CONCLUSIONS ON LAP TESTING

The testing of three basins by the MPCA in 1991 and 2000 confirms the validity of the WCOLA testing done in 1991 and 1999 on the same basins. It also confirms the WCOLA tentative conclusion that the phosphorus is increasing in the three basins which we can compare. We can extrapolate to the other seven basins, and feel more secure that we are on the right track in feeling that the phosphorus is in fact increasing; that it is not just a single-year odd phenomenon. That leads us to look for causes that we can control, and confirms our focus on lawn fertilization and septic system analysis.

LAWN CARE

Those of us who tend lawns that slope downward toward Wabana Township lakes will be anxious not to add phosphorus when fertilizing. It is difficult to obtain fertilizer that is guaranteed phosphorus-free, but some farm stores stock it, and stock some that contain just nitrogen. They are worth looking for! There is probably not a lawn in this area of ground-up glacial till that needs phosphorus, and that is the expensive part of fertilizers. Nitrogen will grow the grass rapidly enough for anybody!

SEPTIC INSPECTIONS

The first year of our voluntary septic inspections was carried out without any apparent problem. Seven of the ten volunteers learned, probably not to their treat surprise, that their systems were not compliant with the County Code, and they have two years in which to bring their systems up to code. Due to the agreement reached among the Association, Wabana Township, and Itasca County the inspections cost them nothing and

again due to the agreement, money is available at 3% interest for bringing about the changes if they are necessary.

Now that this initial group has put the system into operation, in 2001 another group of volunteers will have their systems inspected, again free—for this time Itasca County has agreed to twenty volunteers to receive inspections without the usual cost; and 3% money will also be available to them. At last check there were still a few places left, but it would be a good idea to move fast to be included You can contact the County Zoning Officer, Terry Greenside, 218-327-2857 for information, and David Lick usually has a good list of participants.

SEPTIC INSPECTIONS

**Summary of Wabana Chain of Lakes
Voluntary Septic Inspections for 2000**

Submitted by
Bob Leibfried (Baseline)
October 5, 2000

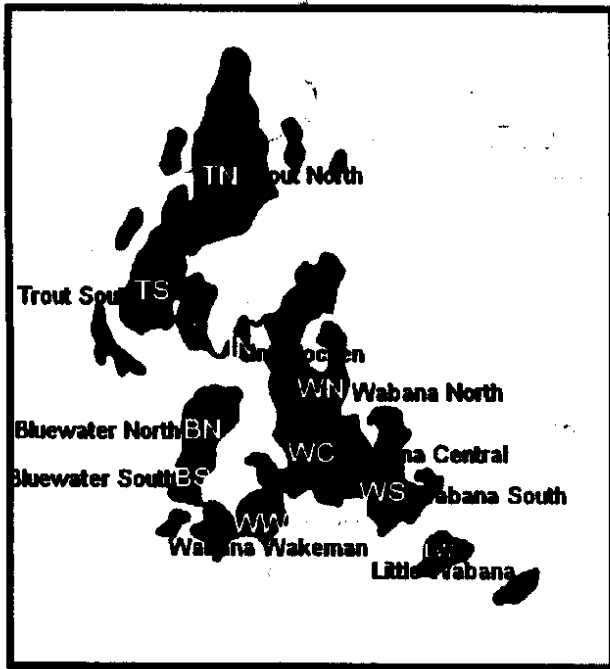
The first of ten inspections was conducted on 2 September 2000 and the 10th and final inspection was done on 3 October 2000. Of the 10 inspections seven failed and were deemed noncompliant. Failure was attributed to the presence of a dry well for all except one of the systems. Of the three passing systems the Downing system was the best. The Owen system, although not failing, is one to watch should the present use increase with the construction of a new home, for example. The Wilkus system was constructed properly and is well above the lake but is small in size and should be monitored by the homeowner should the use of the system increase.

Following is a summary of my results.

Compliant Septic Systems	Noncompliant Septic Systems
Michael Wilkus	Pamela Wassberg
William Downing	George Wilbert
Howard Owen	Nancy Ellsworth
	Karl Kaukis
	John Zimmerman
	Juan Lazo
	William Bottoms

Every one of these lakeshore owners was very cooperative for the entire inspection process. It was my pleasure working with them

SECCHI DISK READINGS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Every lake in Wabana Township should have Secchi readers! Please call Nancy Ellsworth to get involved in this important activity!

Here is a list of the diligent people who are taking Secchi disk readings in 2000:

TN	Bill Berg	Trout North
TS	Betty & Harold Unger	Trout South
IN	Betty & Harold Unger	Interlachen
BN	George T. Klacan	Bluewater North
BS	Nancy Ellsworth	Bluewater South
WW	Duane M. Amundson	Wabana Wakeman
WN	Kenneth Zimmer	Wabana North
WC	Mary Gephart	Wabana Central
WS	Susan Lick	Wabana South
LW	Cheryl Adams	Little Wabana

This is an honor roll of people doing a demanding and interesting job. Their goal is to go out to their assigned basins once a week, a few hours before or after noon, when the water is as still as possible on a sunny day, and drop a disk over the side of a boat, to see how far down they can follow it, and record the distance. It keeps track of the transparency of the water, a measure of algae and sediment in the water, and it is our best day-to-day indicator of the state of our lakes. Can you read the chart? Which of our basins is the most transparent most of the time? Which of our basins needs watching?

2000 SECCHI DISK READINGS

BASIN:	WK #	TN	TS	IN	BN	BS	WW	WN	WC	WS	LW
04/23-04/29	1				13.0						
05/07-05/13	2				13.5						
05/14-05/20	3	21.0	17.0	15.0	18.5						
05/21-05/27	4				21.5					15.0	
05/28-06/03	5				21.0						
06/04-06/10	6		18.0	16.0	19.5		16.0			15.0	
06/11-06/17	7	21.0					16.5			15.0	
06/18-06/24	8		21.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	16.5			17.5	
06/25-07/01	9	23.5			21.5	21.5		21.0	22.0		
07/02-07/08	10	23.5	22.0	18.0	20.0		15.0		19.5	18.0	17.5
07/09-07/15	11		15.0	18.0		22.0	14.5	20.0	19.0	19.0	17.0
07/16-07/22	12		14.5	17.0	19.5	22.0	15.0			19.0	15.0
07/23-07/29	13	17.0			19.5	19.0	15.0		17.0	17.0	
07/30-08/05	14	15.5	12.0	17.0	16.0	15.0		11.0	16.5		13.5
08/06-08/12	15	12.0	12.0	17.0	16.0	14.0		10.5	13.0		11.5
08/13-08/19	16	16.0	14.5	18.0	14.5			11.5		13.5	
08/20-08/26	17	11.0	13.0	18.0	12.0	13.0		12.5	13.0		11.0
08/27-09/02	18		12.0	18.0	10.6				15.0		
09/03-09/09	19		11.0	18.0	11.0	12.0				15.0	

BREAK-INS

The dread of seasonal owners is the break-in---somebody breaking into property stealing vandalizing, violating precious possessions. Patrolling by employed firms is used extensively and works well to catch and prevent break-ins, but the best insurance is watchfulness. Nothing can take the place of alert and observant neighbors, which should be a stimulus to all of us to get to know those who live around us during those precious moments at the lake.

Gib and Kathleen Willson wrote a couple of extensive e-mails, and I have edited and combined them to leave out names and specific locations of properties, at the request of some of the owners.

We experienced break-ins up in Buckmans Cove on the 19th of October. They hit [three houses]. All is well. The goods are being recovered, and the 3 people involved have been caught. The story is wonderful--how it was discovered, the geography, the marvelous work by the Sheriff's dept., etc. I feel our Association will find it enlightening enough to heighten all levels of awareness.

Many people were involved and most want anonymity, so I will give you a generic piece. The cabin was under Wabana Watch. On the morning of October 19th, an inspector for a realtor noticed an open van that looked out of place. He

gave a description and license to the Itasca County Sheriff's office. On Friday the 20th, a cabin owner

called the same office notifying them of a break-in. Three individuals, in their 20's and 30's, had burgled two cabins, moved a boat, furniture, etc. and were finishing their work when the presence of this inspector spooked them away. Their intent was probably to fence the valuables for cash.

At the sheriff's office, one Mike Leibel, took the break-in call and went to work. He traced the van to a sale in St. Cloud, and back to an individual in Grand Rapids who was known to our law enforcement. They had "wanted" to catch him out of line. Mr. Leibel worked with cabin owners and citizens to gather all facts. A plan was executed to apprehend and make charges stick.

On or about October 23rd, search and arrest warrants found most of the stolen goods and two of the three people. Two homes were burgled, and a third was visited. Most of the goods have been recovered. Some were "out of state" when found. The three involved were two men and a woman that were..."just out for a ride." The Sheriff's Office can not be praised enough for their professional and quick work, but they were quick to point out the luck in this entire case. Citizens in Grand Rapids (continued)

DUES, CONTRIBUTION, AND CHAIN LETTER SUBSCRIPTION

The WCOLA fiscal year 2000 begins July 1 and runs through June 30, so if you have not paid for 2000, you are now delinquent. 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. If you want to make an additional contribution, please feel free to do so, and check below. *Chain Letter* subscription will not be used until January 1, 2001, by Association action.

Regular 2000 Dues \$20.00 Contribution \$ _____ *Chain Letter* subscription \$ _____
(Unchanged since organization) (Optional, for testing etc.) (Members make no further payment)

Name _____

Address #1, permanent _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Which months of the year for mailing? _____

Address #2, seasonal, optional _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Which months of the year for mailing? _____

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

owners had good details. The burglars had a reputation.

The lesson to those of us in Buckman's Cove is one of awareness. Be alert. Ask questions. Know your neighbors, and communicate. We really are all probably the better from this, and maybe next summer we will get our humor back. Today we are simply thankful.

A family with young kids discovered their break-in upon arriving after dark. We were up until midnight on the 20th, just gathering wits. We have subsequently put up a gate as an extra precaution, but these burglars were like our bears.. .as afraid of us as we of them. When the three were spooked, they split and ran to the deep woods...by their own admission. [*The neighborhood*] is now relaxed, and we now just operate a little smarter than we did yesterday.

In 2001, we would like to publish, in every issue, anecdotes from all the old-timers on the Chain of Lakes, so our archives will have that information. *Here is your winter's homework assignment* What you remember about your first look at our lakes. Include what year, where it was, what it looked like, who was around the lake, and anything else you can think of. Fishing? Camping? Swimming? Eating? Parties? Fun? How long should it be: Like the swimsuit— short enough to be interesting, but long enough to cover the subject. Minimum maybe 300 words? Send to the Editor at the address on the box on the front, as soon as you can, but no later than June.