

THE CHAIN LETTER

June 2001
Volume 5, Number 2

© 2001, Wabana Chain of Lakes Association
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Members please note: A few people who live away from the Township mentioned that they did not receive the May 2001 issue. There probably was a glitch in the mailing labels, but the May issue was important enough for you to see it. Please let me know if you did not, and I'll send you a copy ASAP.

Officers:

President: Dick Chambers 326-2809
Vice President: Bud Sage 326-4535
Treasurer: Cathy Rudolph 327-0820
Secretary: Susan Lick 326-6837

Advisory Committee.

All the above, plus:

Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056
Roger Pierce 327-2142
David Lick 326-6837
Joel Soloman 326-5177

This is the key Committee. Death claimed two valuable members during the winter—Jon Rowe and Howard Owen, and Harold Unger has recently resigned to move to Grand Rapids. The Committee urgently needs three replacement members, especially one from the north end of Trout Lake. Please volunteer by contacting Dick Chambers.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope everyone had a great winter. With winter over many of our friends and neighbors are back enjoying the lakes again. WHAT A JOY!!!

We had our first WCOLA meeting. It was close to the fishing opener so didn't have a large turnout, but got a lot accomplished. I encourage you to read about it in the minutes.

We have a very interesting summer ahead of us. We are looking for volunteers for septic tank inspections. If interested please contact David Lick at 326-6837. We also have room for volunteers on various committees. We will talk about them at our next meeting, on June 16th. I hope to see you all there. Bring an interested friend.

Dick Chambers



MEETING OF May 19, 2001

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Order. The meeting was called to order by President Dick Chambers at 9:00 a.m. at the Wabana Town Hall. There were 18 members in attendance.

A moment of silence was shared to remember Jon Rowe and Howard Owen.

Minutes of September 9, 2000 were approved as mailed.

Treasurer's report. Tia Rudolph reported for Cathy Rudolph:

Balance as of 9-9-2000	\$3,151.28
Received	
Dues	\$ 460.00
T-shirts	\$ 36.00
contributions	\$ 335.00
Total Received:	\$ 831.00
Paid Out:	
Mailing costs	\$ 157.27
Printing	\$ 328.96
Stamps	\$ 384.49
Total Paid Out:	\$ 870.72

Balance as of 5-19-01 \$3,111.56

Paid Households for year 2000 106

Programs: Chairman Chambers proposed a planning group to develop an agenda of programs for the meetings. Bill Berg volunteered to be on the committee. Susan Hawkinson offered to do a program summer of 2002, on the book she has authored on The Joyce Estate. Joe Waleski will be contacted by Susan Hawkinson to provide a program at the June 16th 2001 meeting. More volunteers and or ideas are needed, contact Dick Chambers.

Itasca County Lake Management Planning Coalition grant and volunteer opportunity was described by Dick Chambers:

- Fiscal and administrative management will be provided by the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Leadership and goal setting training will be offered to eight lake associations. 6 to 8 members from each lake association will complete the training.
- Training dates: Friday, July 20th and Friday, August 3rd, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Itasca Campus.

A cash payment of \$1,200. will be made to each lake association as part of this grant to aid in developing the plan, following the training.

- Each of the eight lake associations will develop a lake/watershed management plan, specific to their lake and watershed.
- A second payment of \$1,200. will be made to the lake association on completion of the plan, to aid in developing information needed for the plan and distribution of the plan.
- Lake management plans will contain specific implementation items.
- The ICOLA Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations will develop an internet web page.

Volunteers: George Klacan, Nancy Ellsworth, Gib Willson, David Lick and Dick Chambers. We can have up to 3 more. If interested call Dick Chambers 326-2809.

Septic System Inspection Volunteers were called for as part of the chain of lakes project. Susan Hawkinson and Bud Sage volunteered. David Lick reported there are 6 others at this time, the goal is

20 this year. If interested call David Lick at 326-6837

Highway 38 construction was reported on by Bud Sage, committee member. To date a section of 38 in Grand Rapids was repaved, the Kiosks in Grand Rapids and Effie are nearly finished. Bids for contractors from Grand Rapids to Hwy.49 will be let in March, Hwy 49 to Hwy 19 by August, 2001 with; 10' shoulders, curb and gutter from Grand Rapids to Gunn Park, walkway around McKinney Lake, passing and turn lanes. The public is invited to an open meeting on June 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Wabana Town Hall to review the Hwy 38 plans, sketches, questions and answers from the architects.

Itasca Coalition of Lakes Associations was reported on by representatives George Wilbert and David Lick. Deer Lake is involved in issues exemplifying Itasca County's Density Ordinances. Only the Wabana Chain of Lakes tests waters on a regular basis. ICOLA would like to establish a community laboratory for all lakes to process tests. Art Norton requested volunteers from each of the 8 lake associations to participate in training and lake planning grant program. Bob Frick now represents Itasca County Commissioners at ICOLA.

David Lick explained an opportunity to do a scientific 2 foot boring sample of the bottom of Wabana Lake. Results would be very valuable. Cost is \$8,000. but The Wabana Chain of Lakes is asked to contribute only \$1,000.

David made a motion to have placed on the floor for a vote, at the June 16th regular meeting, "to participate with other select lake associations in a limnology boring test at a cost of \$1,000. to the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association". Second by Gib Willson. Vote. Carried.

Newsletter and chain of lakes history was discussed. Chairman Chambers requested a group to help determine how to compile, archive and share history. Bill Berg and Susan Hawkinson volunteered to start after March 2002 to assist Bill Downing who is already working on history. Bill Downing needs written correspondence and articles of interest for the newsletter.

Deadline May 30th for the June newsletter.

Annual Picnic for the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association families will be July 28th at the Wabana Town Hall. Nancy Ellsworth volunteered to help Chair Pat Chambers, and other volunteers are needed, call Pat at 326-2809.

Advisory Committee members are needed to replace Jon Rowe and Howard Owen. Meetings are 1 per month previous to regular meetings, 1 meeting before April. Volunteers call Dick Chambers at 326-2809.

A memorial for Jon Rowe was suggested, ideas were discussed and will be developed at the advisory committee and brought back at the June 16th meeting.

Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp was discussed with Susan Hawkinson expressing concern at the camper's excessive noise levels beyond the camp's existing 11pm curfew. Susan has suggested a 10:30 p.m. noise level reduction curfew to accommodate the area neighbors on the lake, especially during weekdays. Susan requested any conflict resolution ideas association members could offer. A number of ideas were discussed. Susan thanked the association for their consideration and ideas.

Eurasian Milfoil awareness was discussed and signs to be posted at public assess could serve two purposes; milfoil awareness, good stewardship (leave it like you found it), artistically well done, positive message, large and attractive to be better seen by boaters. No action was taken at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting: June 16th, 2001, coffee/treats 8:30. Meeting 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Wabana Town Hall. Respectfully submitted, Susan Lick – secretary

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

All the people who do the work of the Association are volunteers, and the jobs they do are many and various. We ask all of you who are concerned with the future of our beautiful lakes to look at the vacancies, see where you can best fit in, and volunteer to help. Or, if you see a job that needs doing, that is not being done, please volunteer to do it. Call

the President or a member of the Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee:

The members of the Advisory Committee of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association are listed on page 1, and the Committee *needs three additional members* as soon as possible. The Committee receives information and requests from outside, brings important motions to the plenary meetings of the Association, and guides the Association during times when the full group is not meeting. It meets six times a year—before each full meeting, and once before April; and other meetings at the call of the Chair.

Program Committee

Bill Berg
Susan Hawkinson
Need 2-3 additional people
Contact Dick Chambers, 326-2809

Water Quality Committee

Secchi Disk: Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056
Secchi disk readers to be posted later.
Need several additional people in years when water samples are taken and analyzed.

Celebrations / Annual Picnic:

Annual Picnic July 28, 2002
Chair: Pat Chambers 326-2809
Committee: Nancy Ellsworth
Several people needed—please call Pat.

Wabana Chain of Lakes Newsletter:

Editor - Bill Downing 326-4730
Dick Chambers 326-2809
Mailing list - Ron Radecki 327-1258
Printing and mailing - Anne Radecki 327-1258
Please call Anne to help her!

Milfoil Awareness:

Dick Chambers 326-2809

History of Area – Chain of Lakes:

New opportunity to design, compile, archive and share history.
contact Dick Chambers 326-2809

Volunteers at present:
Bill Downing & Kathy Doty
Add in March, 2002:
Bill Berg & Susan Hawkinson

Memorials:

Dick Chambers 326-2809,
Or contact Advisory members

Itasca County Lake Management Planning:

Dick Chambers 236-2809
Dates: Fri. June 20th & Fri. August 3rd
Times: 4pm to 9pm
Where: Itasca Community College
Purpose: Goal setting & leadership training,
Develop a lake/watershed management plan
Volunteers: (up to 8)
George Klacan, Nancy Ellsworth, Gib Wilson,
David Lick, Dick Chambers

SEPTIC SYSTEMS INSPECTION AND REPLACEMENT

The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association and Itasca County make up a pioneer team in instituting township-wide septic system inspection, providing inspection without the usual fee, and low-interest 3% loan money, should replacement be necessary. Ten households signed up for the first year (2000) inspection, and of those, three were found compliant and seven were found noncompliant, to be replaced within two years.

Several householders in 1999 and 2000 had decided that their systems needed replacing, and without entering the agreement, went ahead with replacement. Others will be going ahead with replacement without entering the agreement, in the next year or two.

It cannot be emphasized enough that these people are true stewards of the waters, and deserve to be placed on the Honor Roll of the Association.

Though we started with ten volunteers a year, the County has agreed to increase to twenty in the future, since the program is so successful. There are still ten places in the volunteer list for 2002, and if interested, talk to our Dave Lick or Itasca County Zoning Officer Terry Greenside as soon as possible, to reserve your place on the free-inspection list.

After 2002, the fee will go back on, and the County will begin mandatory inspections of systems. It pays to act promptly.

HONOR ROLL

Septic Systems redone in 1999

Tom Linder household, Wabana Lake
Jackie Baggot household, Trout Lake

Septic Systems redone in 2000

Bill McLaughlin household, Wabana Lake
Ken Gregerson household, Wabana Township
John Downing and Richard Brasch household,
Wabana Lake
Pat Adams household, Bluewater Lake

Inspections completed in 2000 Systems were compliant

Bill Downing household, Wabana Lake
Howard Owen household, Wabana Lake
Michael Wilkus household, Bluewater Lake

New system to be installed

Juan Lazo household, Wabana Lake

Septic Systems to be redone in 2001

Pat Kremer household, Wabana Lake
George Wilbert household, Wabana Lake
John Zimmerman household, Trout Lake
John Zimmerman, Jr. household, Trout Lake
Nancy Ellsworth household, Bluewater Lake
George Klacan household, Bluewater Lake
Karl Kaukis household, Bluewater Lake
William Bottoms household, Bluewater Lake

Inspections to be completed in 2001

Duane Amundson household, Wabana Lake, 2 systems
Bud Sage household, Bluewater Lake
Bob Moore household, Wabana Lake 2 systems
Peter Friedlieb household, Wabana Lake
Cathy Rudolph household, Wabana Lake
Wa-Ga-Tha-Ka, Doug and Jon Miner families,
Wabana Lake, 8 systems.
Dorothy and Dick Klinger household, Wabana Lake
Susan Hawkinson household, Bluewater Lake
Betty Bunge household, Wabana Lake

MAKEUP OF DRAIN FIELDS

There will be a lot of septic system construction going on in the Township in the next couple of years, and we should alert those householders who are having new systems put in, to a change in specifications for the drain fields; and they may want to insure that their contractors build according to the latest specs, to get their full money's worth.

This comes via Ken Olson, an educator with the U of M extension service, who has done extensive work on septic tank education throughout Minnesota. Although in the past the washed sand that makes up the filtering mat in a drainfield could contain no more than 10% "fine" (clay content in the sand mixture), the 10% amount has now been reduced to 5%¹.

Certified contractors who install sanitary waste systems follow these specifications when constructing systems. When a contractor bids on a septic system, it is wise to ask that the 5% fines specification be followed, and further to request that the county zoning office sam-

¹ The complete regulation may be found on the PCA's Chapter 7080 Individual Sewage Treatment System website, at <http://www.pca.state.mn/programs/ists>

ple the mixture and view the system before it is covered up, as a prudent way to make sure that the investment is protected. It is worth a call to the zoning office a few days prior to the septic system being completed, to be sure things are coordinated.

We have consulted with Terry Greenside at the County's Zoning Office about our suggesting to residents who are volunteering, that they should call the zoning dept and ask them to inspect before the contractor covers up the system. He agreed that that it would be a good idea to involve the county zoning department, and by inspecting each system installed during this special time, a message will be sent that when the contractors follow the same specifications, each homeowner will be getting the best system available for the money.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Downing: We appreciate the fine job that you do on the Wabana Chain of Lakes Assoc. newsletter and we look forward to each issue. In the latest you suggest that others in the township should volunteer to become Secchi disc readers on their lake—and use Doan Lake as an example of a lake that needs a volunteer. I have been taking readings for the MPCA on Doan Lake since 1982. Data for all of the lakes is now on the DNR's website: www.dnr.state.mn.us. Click on "Lakes, Rivers, Streams" and go from there. Regards, Pete Harris
I am sorry not to have known that Pete was a Secchi disk reader for years—anybody who is that environmentally attuned would of course be involved! I apologize—well, live and learn. Are there others out there who are Secchi readers, whom I should acknowledge?



SAVED BY LAKE ASSOCIATION!

EDITORIAL BY BILL DOWNING

What good is a lake association? Why bother with such a thing—pay dues, elect officers, have meetings and programs, and keep an active association functioning? Wouldn't we all really rather relax, or go fishing, or whatever else, than to keep pushing the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, adding members, adding interest, adding friends?

WHY? The major reason: to protect the waters of these sensitive, clear, beautiful northern lakes!

In last month's (May) issue of *The Chain Letter* you read how the presence of functioning lake associations in Crow Wing County helped move the County Board to write a restrictive ordinance that now directs where and how transmission and other towers can be built in that county, thus saving the lakes from invasive nuisance lighting and helping avoid slaughtering songbirds and waterfowl. *You may be sure that it would have been too late if the residents of those lakes had had to start from scratch!* If they had not already had active lake associations in operation, that could go into high gear immediately, more light-strobing 400 foot towers would have been built, and once built, never removed.

To work, an association has to be in place before the crisis. Our own Association ran into a crisis when it was first forming in 1989-1990—we were confronted with a proposed large number of boat-in campsites on Bluewater, Wabana and Trout. We did not have many members, but we *were organized*. We were strong enough to work with the Minnesota DNR to control campsite numbers; and to insure that they were sited reasonably, were of a proper size, had the appropriate amenities; and then we entered into an agreement to keep them clean and picked up. George Wilbert has been doing this for the Association ever since.

Even a fledgling Association has clout. Since then we have increased our membership, and we *have the water quality data to back up our actions, so our influence is greater*. As an organized entity, we have the power to call upon the kind of expert information that would not be available to single individuals or unorganized groups. And the more members, the greater the influence, as political entities can say things like "the organization has 75% of the households on the lake." Our growing numbers, experience and data have increased our power to protect.

Our near neighbor to the west, the Deer Lake Association, is undergoing a serious trouble right now, and they are grateful that they were organized when the difficulty started—otherwise a serious threat to beautiful Deer Lake's waters would probably have breezed through.

I do not have nearly enough facts to give a history of the action, but I have in a sense watched it from the sidelines, and this is my impression. I first became aware of the controversy in April when our WCOLA member Bob Gephart called and said he had been discussing a Church Camp, the Living Word Bible Camp, with a Deer Lake friend Holly Newton, and wondered if I could help with water-related questions. I emailed what I knew, but contacted my son, John Downing, the limnologist (lake expert) at Iowa State University, and his Deer Lake limnologist friend Jack Jones, department chair at the University of Missouri, who has a cabin on Deer Lake, and they shifted into high gear.

You can read about the LWBC on the web site livingwordbiblecamp.com, and can see that it is proposed to be a big business: a year-round commercial camp that probably claims nonprofit status, although we do not know if it has tax-free status. Though the property was zoned RD2 when the proprietors bought it, they requested a change in zoning to Commercial, and after a May meeting with County Planning and Zoning, it looked as though they were going to get it. If this attempt had succeeded, it could have led to spot zoning and deviations from the county-wide plan, all over the county. Zoning rules were laid out wisely in the new Itasca County plan, which does not tolerate the kind of high human density development planned by the LWBC around residential waters. It is difficult to imagine what kind of sewage system could be installed that would prevent huge amounts of phosphorus and nitrate entering the wetland and the lake—perhaps a system like that used in a small town, with effluent carried completely away from the lake’s watershed.



Harold Dziuk, a member of the Turtle Lake Association (and well known to many WCOLA members), wrote a letter to Maxine Gunsolly (“Gunny”), President of the Deer Lake Association, giving strong reasons for disallowing the zoning change, for her to present at the June 6 Planning meeting². Jack Jones drove up to meet with the Association, Deer Lake and other residents weighed in, limnologists and others wrote letters about the serious consequences of that kind of human concentration—sewage, traffic, etc.—on the clear waters of Deer Lake. On the day after the meeting, Gunny wrote that, although she couldn’t believe it, the commission had agreed with them! There are still a lot of hurdles coming, since the LWBC is rich and determined, but so far the waters of Deer Lake are protected from over-use and eutrophication, and the Itasca County water plan is still intact.

Like the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, the Deer Lake Association exists and works to protect those beautiful northern waters. The volunteers were confronted with a problem, they attacked it, and so far have solved it. All of us are grateful that that Lake Association existed.



HISTORICAL NOTE

Very old-timers, especially those around Arrowhead Point, will remember Ernie Poland, a well-known timber and game expert. Betsy and I remember visiting him in the last house he occupied, now gone—on the road into what is now Ken Zimmer’s place on the south shore of Wabana. He was a good man and a great story-teller about the old days on this Chain of Lakes. Betsy’s cousin in Phoenix, Barbara Steele Leflang, found his son Bud Poland, and I asked him to give us some reminiscences. (The croquet court he mentions was actually a Roque court, built by Betsy’s grandfather Thomas H. Simmons, and traces of it are still to be found near the former Simmons Lodge on Arrowhead Point, now owned by Eldridges.) Bud wrote:

² The pertinent June 6 agenda items:
 “2) Request by Living Word Bible Camp to rezone from Residential/open to Seasonal Residential - Gov. Lot 3. Sec. 34, T57 R26, Located on Deer Lake-Recreational Development 2 class.

“3) Request by Living Word Bible Camp to rezone from Open and Farm Residential to Seasonal Residential and special Protection Overlying District - 280 acres in Sec. 34 and Sec. 35, T57 R26, Located on Deer Lake-Recreational Development 2 class.”

I received your letter requesting information about the Wabana Chain of Lakes. My fondest memory of Wabana Lake is when I hooked onto a travel trailer and left there for good. But I will gladly send you what information I have.

My first memory of Wabana is actually on Trout Lake when Dad was caretaker for Joyce's Estate. From there we moved into Grand Rapids and then out to the south shore of Lake Wabana.

When Dad died out in Montana there was an old trunk there with a lot of pictures in it of great fish catches, and deer hanging about. Most of the pictures were destroyed because I or my two sisters didn't recognize any of the people in the pictures. I can remember Dad telling me that when people had fish houses on Lake Wabana, that they would have Northern Pike stacked up like cord wood outside the fish houses.

Dad was probably the best hunter in the state of Minnesota and he used to hunt professionally with the logging camps long before my time. He had a trapping shack up north someplace, I don't know where, thirty-five miles from Grand Rapids and I remember him telling me he walked from Grand Rapids to the trapping shack and he had to lay down three times during the last mile to rest. He had shot the head off a partridge, got in the shack, started a fire and laid down on the bunk. When he woke up, the partridge was moving across the floor with a weasel dragging it.

I also have fond memories of playing croquet with Barbara Steele and Dick Adams and I have been in

touch with Barbara by phone here in Arizona I will get in personal contact with her after we get settled in our new house. My Great Niece, Tabitha, thank God for her, helped us move. I and my wife of 56 years were both sick. Any other information I can get for you, I will forward later on. And I will give you my Niece's e-mail, who lives north of Bovey. My Niece's name is Margaret Cone. She is collecting all of the Poland paraphernalia for her genealogy charts. She has already found out that Dad was married four times instead of three, and that we were related to the Wertz's which I have always denied, and still deny. -Bud Poland

PUBLICATION DATES

It was my (the editor's) intention to have this issue in the hands of the members in time for the June 16 meeting of the Association, so we could approve the Minutes of May 19. It didn't happen—I just didn't get it done.

I will make every effort to get something out, containing at least the Minutes of the previous meeting, in time for future meetings. That means setting a rigid time schedule:

Meeting date: Mail by: Receive copy:
July 21 July 14 July 9
August 18 August 11 August 6
September 15 September 8 September 4

Please have copy in my hands on the dates noted, if you expect to have it in that Newsletter. I'll try to be timely!

DUES ARE DUE NOW

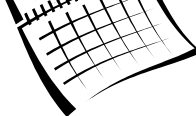
The Association's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Therefore, those people or households that have paid dues lately are paid-up members. Many members have asked why we have not published a membership list, and the answer is that there is no reason, we just haven't. To remedy this situation, we plan to run an alphabetical list of currently paid-up members of the Association in the July issue of *The Chain Letter*—no addresses, no phone numbers, just names. If for some reason you do not want to be listed, please let me know by July 9, 2001.

PAYMENT AND CONTRIBUTION COUPON

Regular 2001-02 Dues \$20.00 Contribution \$_____ Chain Letter
subscription \$_____ (Optional, for testing etc.) (Members make no
(Unchanged since organization) further payment)
 Name(s) as you want to be listed _____

Permanent Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Code: _____
 Which months of the year for mailing? _____

Seasonal Address _____
 City _____ State: _____ Zip _____
 Code: _____



Which months of the year for mailing?

Mail this form and your \$20.00 check for 2001-2 dues, made out to the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, to: Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer, 36542 Havenwood Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

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