

Dedicated to the care and preservation of our lakes, for the enjoyment and safety of all.

November 2002

Sixth and last issue of the year

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CONTENTS:

FROM PRESIDENT CHAMBERS	1
MINUTES OF SEPT. 21 MEETING	1-3
2002 SECCHI DISK READINGS	3
GRAPHS, SECCHI DISK READINGS	4-5
DO'S & DON'TS FOR LAKESHOREOWNERS	6
NAMES TO ADD TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP LIST	7
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION	7
PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE	8

FROM PRESIDENT CHAMBERS:

On 21st of September WCOLA planted a tree in remembrance of Jon Rowe, a wonderful person and past president of our association. Jon's mother and wife Christel and two daughters were present. Rev. George Gilbertson led us in prayer. Several people gave a tribute to Jon. I believe the planting of the tree sends a wonderful message to our community.

I would like to thank Sue Hawkinson and Bill Berg as co-directors for the programs of the past year. Also for setting up the tree planting for the memorial of Jon Rowe. Thanks to you both. If anyone has any suggestions for programs for the next year contact either one of these people.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and healthy winter. See you all in the Spring.

Dick

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2002

A special memorial program was conducted by the Lake Association, with prayer by the Reverend Gilbertson. Christel Rowe and her two daughters were present for John Rowe, past president of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association. A tree was planted in front of the Wabana Township Hall with an engraved plaque saying, "In memory of Jon Rowe for his years of dedicated service to The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association." Christel thanked everyone for their support over the past year and stated that memorial funds had been used to establish a scholarship through The Grand Rapids High School and this past spring three students were



Alyson, Christel and Katy Rowe at the Memorial Service and tree planting, in honor of Jon Rowe, WCOLA Past President.

awarded the scholarships. Christel also described a neighbor's difficulty at this time, the daughter of Marvin and Mary Ott who recently suffered a brain hemorrhage

and accident. Christel hoped prayers and support would also go to their family.

The regular business meeting and introductions were started following the memorial service.

Minutes of August 17, 2002 were approved as printed in the September 2002, Wabana Chain of Lakes newsletter.

Treasurer's Report, read by Cathy Rudolph:

Balance as of August 17, 2002 \$ 6,176.35

Received:

Dues \$140.00

Contributions \$ 95.00

Cups \$ 78.00

Memorials for Betty Bunge 370.00

Gift in honor of Betty Mergler

90th Birthday \$ 50.00

Total Received: \$733.00

Paid Out:

Tape recorder \$ 31.94

Printing \$ 154.01

Stamps 513.30

Transfer of info to Mac disc \$ 65.00

Total Paid Out: \$ 774.25

Balance as of 9-21-02 \$ 6,135.10

Paid households as of 9-21-02 128

The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Eric Volkman's name was brought to the lake association by Joel Solomon. Eric a young man recovering from brain cancer, is now working independently as a mechanic and will travel to homeowner's sites. A number of lake association members recommended his work and suggested he needs the income for his medical expenses.

Highway 38 report was written by Bud Sage and read by Chairman Chambers stating that state funding reductions have caused delays. Work scheduled to be done in 2003 will now be closer to 2004.

Itasca County Zoning ordinance decision failure was reported on by Chairman Chambers. During the last year, Itasca County Zoning staff embarked on an extensive effort to implement Itasca County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and revise the Itasca County Zoning Ordinance. A number of lake association members have attended all of the meetings and written letters and articles to elected officials and newspapers in an effort to support Draft # 8 of the zoning revision process. The work of the revisions was denied by the County Board in favor of returning to the existing ordinance to determine if modifications are required.

A bulletin was passed out by Bob Sage stating what has happened, the consequences of not implementing the plan and what voters can do. Bob suggested the

bulletin be used for information in newspapers and as a discussion tool at local meetings. Copies of The Itasca County Comprehensive Land Use plans were also made available to those present by Bob. Following discussion suggestions were made including publishing all county-wide newspapers addresses in the lake association newsletter. A review of upcoming political candidates was discussed, focusing on local, county and state positions.

A forestry bill presently in congress was reported on by Joel Solomon and read by Chairman Chambers. The House of Representatives and Senate are earmarking a bit over a million dollars to fund Conservation Fund lakeshore purchases. The report suggested citizens contact senators and representatives to suggest the House version for 1.9 million is passed.

Lake Management Plan group process was reviewed by Chairman Chambers. Copies of the Third Draft from August 2002 were passed out. The entire third draft was printed in the September 2002 Wabana Chain of Lakes Newsletter. Chairman Chambers stated the association's advisory board feels it is a good plan and would like to see it voted on at this meeting to assist in timely further development.

A letter from Bill Downing was read by the chairman. In this letter Bill shared the concerns of three or four families who had expressed concerns about the Basic Beliefs part of the plan. Bill suggested the membership table the Lake Management Plan until July 2003, as many seasonal members are not able to participate in the discussion and vote at this September meeting. An e-mail discussion was suggested about the basic beliefs portion of the plan

Following extensive discussion a motion was made by Steve Bryant "to approve this management plan, as it is written in the newsletter today knowing that is not the final document". George Klacan seconded, following further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

Chairman Chambers will contact Bill Downing thanking him for his letter of concern and that the membership will discuss the need to schedule business of this type for vote at the July annual meetings in the future.

A framework for further development of the plan by small groups was requested by Chairman Chambers, to better assist the input process from the full membership in the summer. The membership will be able to participate in any further work on the plan many times before the basic beliefs portion of the plan is developed into an implementation phase.

An interactive e-mail communication-sharing site was offered by George Colburn, who will oversee this during the winter months for members to share news and information. The e-mail address is colburn12345@attbi.com everyone is encouraged to use this network to communicate.[Please see "Electronic Communications," page 7.]

Mort and Marian Lovelace, former long-term members, have moved back to New Jersey, reported Chairman Chambers.

Septic system upgrades were reviewed and the membership thanked those who have invested in the efforts to keep the lakes healthier through this process.

Volunteers of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association were thanked by Chairman Chambers: Bill Downing, Ann & Ron Radecki, Cathy Rudolph, advisory committee, all of those who have contributed articles in the newsletter and organized and worked at special events.

Lake Association communications were discussed and Sherry Miner suggested a web site. Gig Willson, Jean Koewler, Bill Downing and Tia Rudolph were suggested as knowledgeable representatives to work on the electronic communications opportunities with Sherry. [Please see "Electronic Communications," page 7.]

Bob Long suggested the audio systems in the township hall be improved for the hearing impaired.

David Lick forwarded a request by the other lakeshore associations in the Itasca County Coalition of Lake Associations to receive copies of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Newsletters.

Nancy Bunge suggested heightening the awareness of non-lakeshore owners to know what is available for the public and what this lake association contributes for the public at large as an organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Next meeting will be May 2003 date to be announced.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Lick secretary

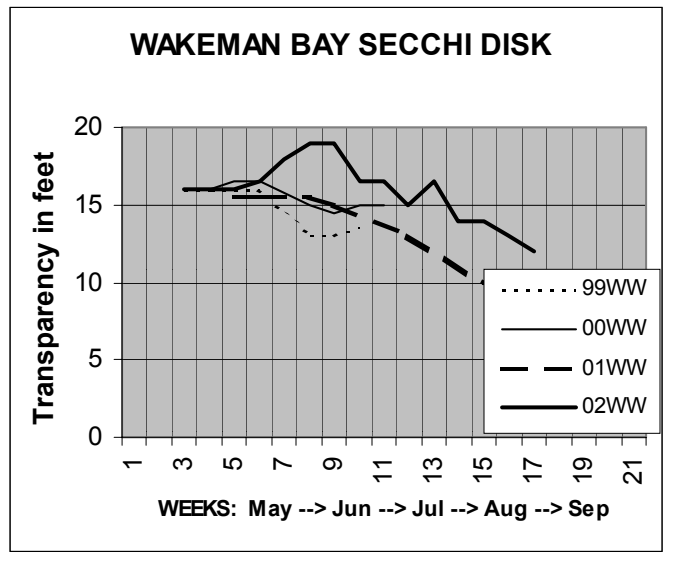
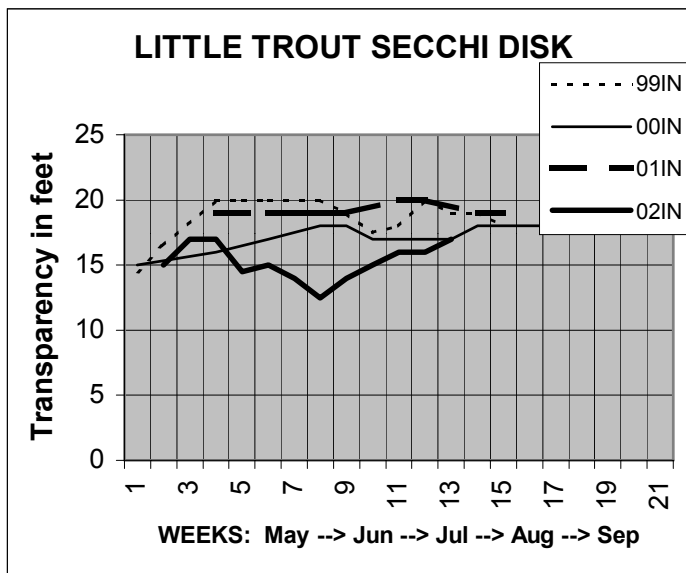
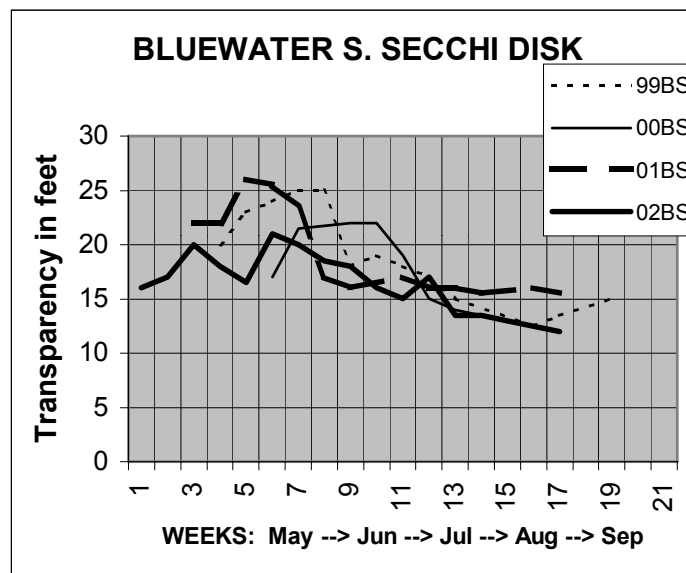
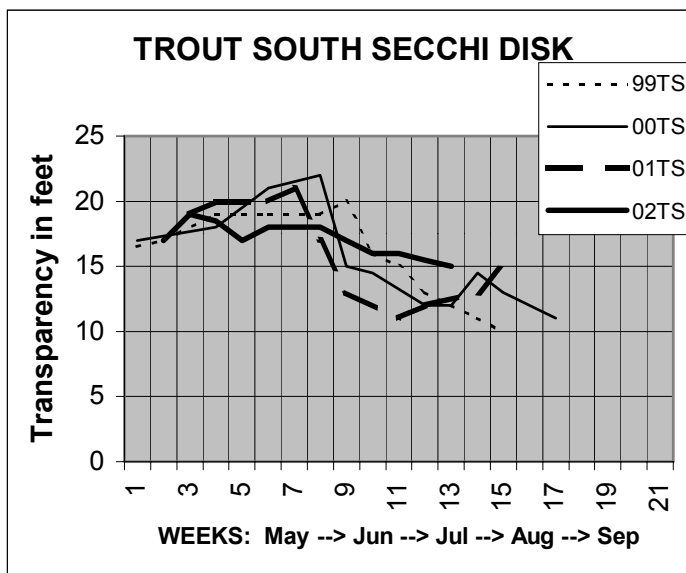
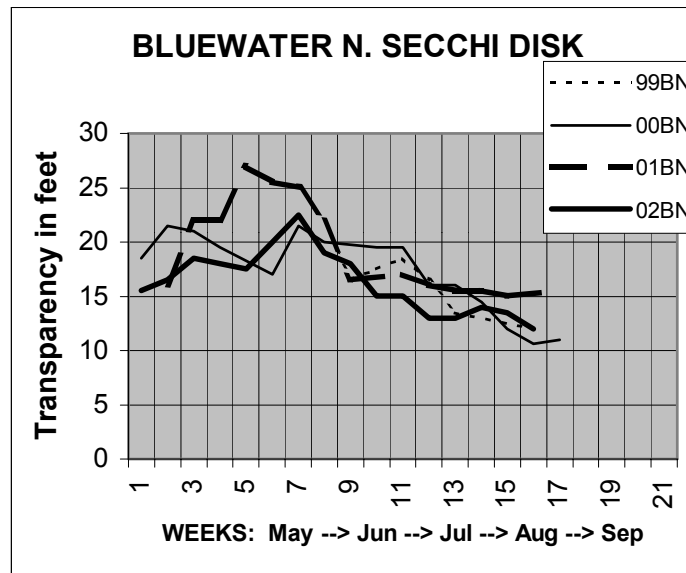
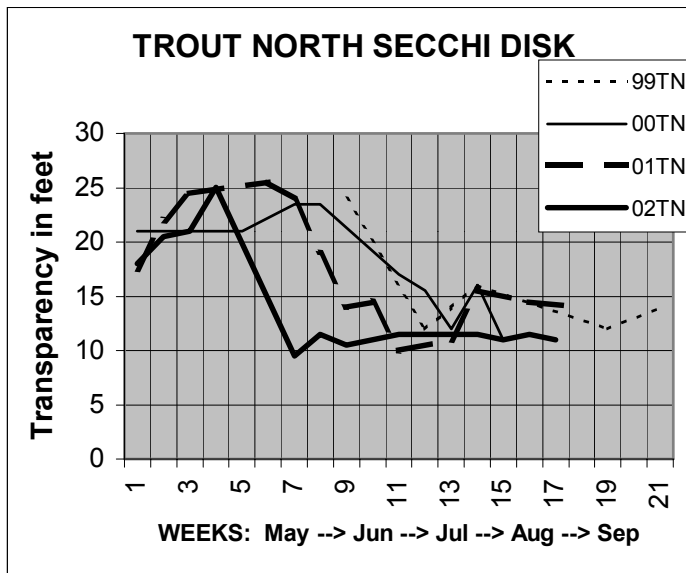
2002 SECCHI DISK READINGS											
BASIN=>	BN	BS	IN	LW	TN	TS	WC	WN	WS	WW	IS
6/02-6/08	15.5	16.0			18.0			17.0	15.5		
6/09-6/15	16.5	17.0	15.0		20.5	17.0			15.0		
6/16-6/22	18.5	20.0	17.0	22.5	21.0	19.0	14.0		14.0	16.0	17.5
6/23-6/29	18.0	18.0	17.0	20.5	25.0	18.5		17.5	16.0		21.5
6/30-7/06	17.5	16.5	14.5	18.5		17.0	14.0	19.0	18.0	16.0	20.0
7/07-7/13	20.0	21.0	15.0	13.0		18.0		19.0	19.0	16.5	17.5
7/14-7/20	22.5	20.0	14.0	13.0	9.5	18.0	15.0	16.0	16.0	18.0	21.0
7/21-7/27	19.0	18.5	12.5	13.5	11.5	18.0	14.5	20.0	20.0	19.0	19.5
7/28-8/03	18.0	18.0	14.0	13.5	10.5	17.0		18.0	20.0	19.0	
8/04-8/10	15.0	16.0	15.0	13.5		16.0	13.5	16.5	19.5	16.5	
8/11-8/17	15.0	15.0	16.0	14.5	11.5	16.0		17.0	19.0	16.5	
8/18-8/24	13.0	17.0	16.0			15.5	14.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	
8/25-8/31	13.0	13.5	17.0	15.0		15.0	13.5	17.0	18.5	16.5	
9/01-9/07	14.0	13.5		20.5	11.5			14.0		14.0	
9/08-9/14	13.5	13.0		19.5	11.0			15.5		14.0	
9/15-9/21	12.0			18.0	11.5			15.0		13.0	
9/22-9/28		12.0			11.0			16.0		12.0	

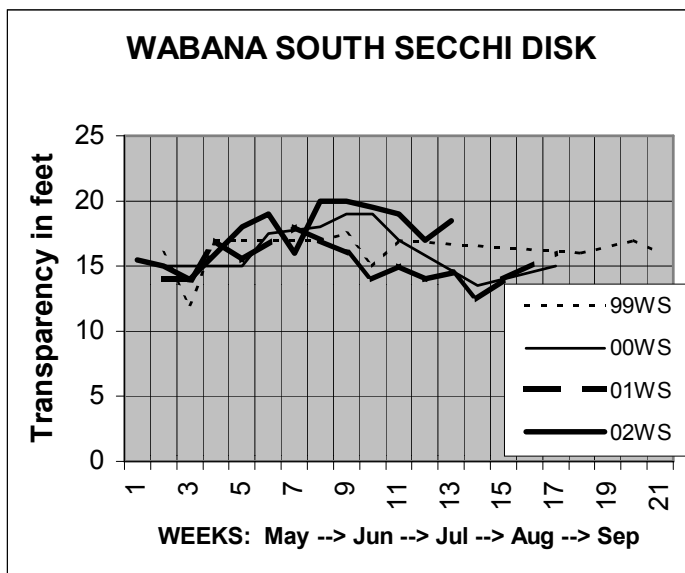
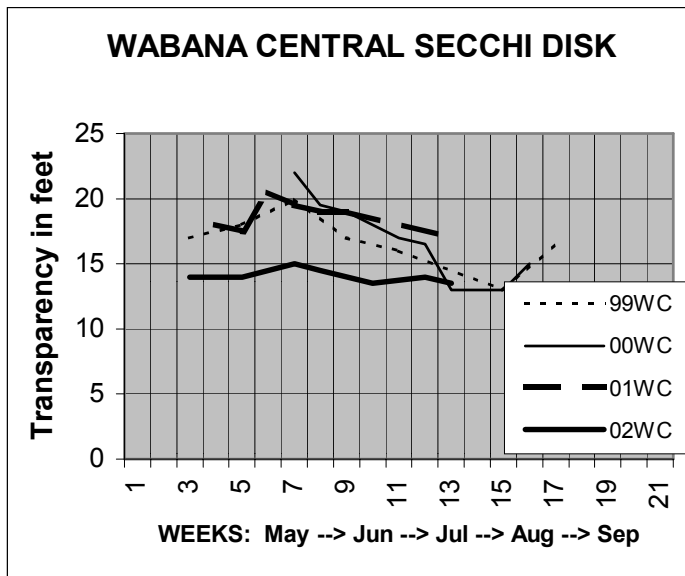
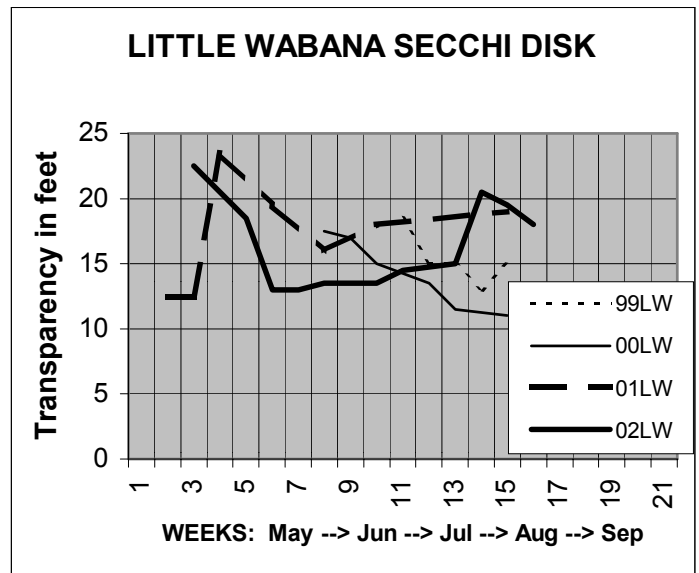
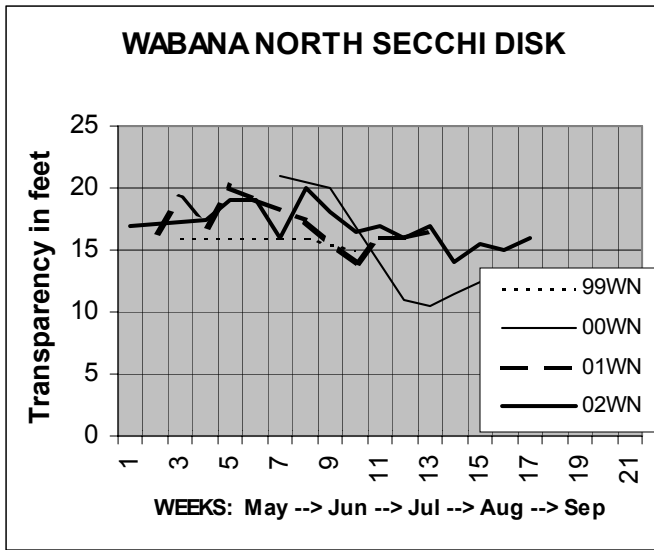
George Nancy Terry Cheryl Bill Terry Gib Ken Susan D. & J. Sherry
Klacan Ellsworth Robinson Adams Berg Robinson Willson Zimmer Lick Koewler Miner

These are the figures for 2002, as compiled by Nancy Ellsworth. Now that we have four years of data for our basins, we have graphed the data for all

four years on the following pages, and have provided some discussion.

There is not a graph for IS, Island Sound, because we have only one year's data so far.





Trends? We show four years' readings in each graph: 1999 thin dashed line, 2000 thin solid line, 2001 thick dashed line, 2002 thick solid line. If waters were getting less transparent (if more algae or more sediment were added to the waters), the thick solid lines would be lowest, as seen in Wabana Central's and Little Trout's graphs, but in most lakes no trends show up. Wakeman Bay is encouraging—maybe efforts to clean up septic systems and prevent erosion are working.

Effect of change in crystals? Over most of the four reporting years, the four basins in lakes that have the peculiar blue color—Trout North and South, and Bluewater North and South—show the same radical shift in transparency in the middle of the summer, from extremely transparent (23-25 feet) to much lower transparency (10-12 feet) in a few weeks. Since it is uncertain why those lakes look so blue in the first place, we will not try to explain the rapid decrease, but instead of blaming this effect on algae growth, we might consider a temperature induced change in the orientation of the crystals suspended in the water, that contribute to the blue appearance.

Effect of placement in the watershed? One might expect Trout North and Bluewater North—at the top of our watershed and with the least human effect—to show the most transparent water, and that seems to be true. Shallow and built-up areas might be expected to show least transparency, and again that seems to be borne out over the years.

Future effort. Secchi disk readings are the best way that citizens have to keep track of their water quality, and continued effort is necessary. We have added the Island Sound this year, and should add Buckman Cove and others in the future.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR LAKESHORE OWNERS –by Jack Velzen

It struck me the other day that I really didn't know much about what I could do, and what I couldn't do with the lakeshore I own. I certainly hear all the time about all the government regulation. I've even been guilty of promoting that notion at times.

I decided to take a look at the laws and rules surrounding DNR regulation of lakeshore and what that means for the average lakeshore owner. I was pleasantly surprised, actually, at what seemed to me to be a reasonable balance in the regulations, between the need to care for and preserve our lake resources, and the rights of the property owner.

Here is some of what I learned.

Regarding removal of shoreline trees and shrubs - you may:

- remove trees and shrubs on a limited basis. This means no more than 10 to 20 percent, as long as screening of the structure from the lake is retained.
- selective pruning of branches to create a view of the lake as long as screening of the structure from the lake is retained.
- remove dead trees and limbs if they pose a safety hazard

(For those of you in the Chippewa National Forest, or who own property with a 'bluff' designation - you better check into this more. There may be tighter regulation due to these conditions.)

Regarding submerged aquatic vegetation (plants that grow below the surface of the lake - for us lay people): You may:

- clear a spot for swimming not more than 50 feet wide or half the shoreline width you own, whichever is less.
- clear a boat channel to deeper water through submerged vegetation as long as it is part of the 50 foot width and not more than 15 feet wide.
- clear an area of no more than 2500 square feet.
- if you clear an area regularly, these areas (swimming and boat path) need to be kept in the same location from year to year.

You would need a permit to:

- control or clear emergent vegetation of any kind (plants that grow in the water but extend above the surface) except for a space for a duck blind.
- use aquatic herbicides.
- use unattended mechanical means to remove aquatic vegetation.
- clear a boat channel through emergent vegetation to open water.

Regarding beach sand brought in for creating a sandy beach - you may:

- bring in clean inorganic sand for creation of a beach.
- the sand may not be more than 6 inches thick.
- it may be 50 feet wide or one half the width of property owned whichever is less.
- it may extend no more than 10 feet into the lake beyond the ordinary high water mark.
- the application may not be repeated more than once and only on the same area as previously applied.

- the only exception to the above is if the application will destroy emergent vegetation. In that case you need a DNR permit.

Regarding seasonal docks and swimming rafts - you may put docks and rafts in the lake if:

- the structure is removed on a seasonal basis.
- doesn't pose a threat to navigation.
- the structure allows free flow of water underneath it.
- it is not used for habitation.
- is not in a designated fish spawning area.
- it doesn't handle fuel or sewage.

(I do know that Itasca County requires a detached swimming raft to be registered with the County, and display the number of the permit on the raft so the owner can be identified if it floats away. Also, the raft has to have reflectors on all sides. Got pinched on this one myself once.)

Regarding permanent docks - they may also be allowed without a permit, but talk to the DNR about it. It's more complicated.

Regarding ice ridges (those ridges pushed up on the shoreline by ice over the course of many years) - a permit from the DNR is required to remove an ice ridge.

Regarding installation of rip rap (rocks along the shoreline) - you may install rip rap if:

- its natural rock 12 inches in diameter or larger.
- it does not extend more than 5 feet into the water from the ordinary high water mark.
- it is not in a designated fish spawning area.
- it conforms to the natural shoreline.
- it doesn't restrict water flow.
- it can't have more than a 3:1, run to rise angle.
- it doesn't destroy emergent vegetation.

(Just remember though, natural vegetation on the waterfront is a lot more ecologically friendly than rip rap. It was really apparent to me too, in reading through some of the regulations, how important emergent vegetation is. It is very carefully protected by DNR regulation in all the regulation I read.)

Regarding shoreline retaining walls - a permit is required if these are to be built below the ordinary high water mark.

They were strongly discouraged in the literature in favor of natural vegetation first, or rip rap second.

You have probably noticed the term 'Ordinary High Water' mark several times. What the heck is the ordinary high water mark, anyway? And why is it important?

Ordinary High Water Definition: For lakes and wetlands, the OHW is the highest water level that has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to leave evidence on the landscape. The OHW is commonly that point where the natural vegetation changes from predominately aquatic to predominantly terrestrial.

The reason it is important is that Minnesota is a Riparian Rights state. This means that the State owns all surface water. The ordinary high water mark is the indicator of where State ownership ends and private (or other) ownership begins.

I found this all rather interesting, and got all this information from my house via the Internet. There was a lot of information I didn't even get to. Check out the DNR Internet Site at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/> Most of the above information came from the section on permits pertaining to State water regulations.

NAMES TO ADD TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP LIST

In September we published the names of all 121 paid-up households, as we knew them at the time. We said we knew there were others who were not on the list, but whose status needed clarifying. Now the group of Volunteers involved with membership, mailing lists, etc., have checked the names and addresses with even more care than before, and would like to add some more, as follows:

Russ and Yvonne **Barto** - Bluewater – 2002
Steven and Caroline **Bischoff** - Wabana - 2004
John and Dennis **Chervinko** – 2003
John and Sharon **Gray** - Bluewater - 2002
Robert and Bonnie **Halver** - Wabana - 2002
Tim and Susan **Jarvis** - Wabana - 2002
William and Pat **Langenbrunner** - Wabana - 2002
Robert and Kay **Moore** - Wabana - 2002
Gary and Kim **Oja** - Wabana - 2002
Ron and Anne **Radecki** - Wabana - 2002
Clifford **Schroeder** - Island Lake - 2002
David and Beverly **Sigfrinius** - Wabana - 2002
Jane **Phillips** and John **Soll** - Wabana - 2002
Sylvia **Troumbly** - Little Wabana - 2002
Pamela **Wassberg Whittenberg** - Little Trout - 2003
William and Donna **Wolf**, Jr. - Trout - 2002
Mary and Darryl **Ziegler** - Little Wabana - 2002
John and Alida **Zimmerman**, Jr. - Trout - 2002

So it looks as though we have 139 member households! We hope you will use the lists to see if your neighbors are members, and if the names are not there, urge them to join in 2003. Association membership is of great value to everyone.

We are busy devising a method to make it easier to remember to pay dues by July 1, 2003, which might include sending addressed envelopes with an early Chain Letter. If you have a great idea along this line, please send it along!

If you still want to be a 2002 member, please send \$20 dues to Cathy Rudolph, whose address is on the mailing side of this.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION: two topics. Web Sites.

The subject of web sites came up at the September meeting, and a committee was formed to take the subject further. Recently **Don St. Auben**, President of the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, emailed to tell about web pages by other lake associations in Itasca County—you may like to check on these to follow the discussion. Most of them can be accessed through the Minnesota Lakes Association site <<http://mnlakes.org/>>. Click on *Membership, Lake Associations* and then *current members*. Then scroll down to the *Northern Area*. You will find Deer Lake, Jessie, Sisseebakwet and Suomi Area with Web sites. Trout Lake (near Coleraine) is part of Trout Lake Township site—see www.geocities.com/troutlaketwp and Click *Environment* to get to Trout Lake.

Mark Miner, Gig Willson and I have been in correspondence about this, and Gig is going to appear at the Steering Committee meeting on November 16 to go into the matter further before we commit ourselves to it.

Group e-mail. This is a completely different matter than the above, and it also came up at the September meeting. I asked **George Colburn** of Wabana Lake to elucidate on the subject further, for publication here, and this is what he wrote:

If an important message needs to get out to the WCOLA membership, it can be sent to a **group e-mail** address by any member of the group. The group e-mail address can be used just as any other e-mail address is used. All members of the e-mail group would get a copy of any e-mail message sent to the group e-mail address. When you read the e-mail, you would be informed of an issue that the sender considers urgent and important to WCOLA members, and you can take whatever action you think is warranted (i.e. letter writing, telephone calls, attending meetings).

The whole point is to get critical information to the membership quickly, especially when it may directly affect you.

This Yahoo! service is free, however Yahoo! does not screen these e-mail groups for unwanted or unsolicited mass e-mails (SPAM). A company named Lyris makes software to screen for SPAM, which costs between \$30 and \$100, depending upon how many members are in the group. Additionally, a group e-mail address requires ongoing monitoring (granting of permissions, monitoring of e-mail traffic, etc.).

I would be happy to set up a group e-mail using Yahoo! and would act as monitor, at least in the short-term. This could provide a means of rapid communication for WCOLA members, to be used when issues of importance - like when zoning meetings are called with little or no public notice.

I believe that WCOLA Advisory Committee should discuss at its next meeting, the following: 1) Does the membership want to use group e-mail; 2) Does it want to invest in software that protects the group against SPAM; 3) Who should monitor the system if set up? I of course do not plan to start the group e-mail until the Committee has acted

From Bill Berg of Trout Lake: "I am unbelievably sad to tell you that Steve Mayen passed away on Monday evening, November 11. He had not been feeling well during the day, and...first responders...were unable to revive him...Nancy's address is 32482 Co. Rd. 326, Bovey, MN 55709, 218-326-3333."

PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE

Although the residents of Wabana Township have been apprised for some time about the Ordinance that the Supervisors of the Township are planning soon to propose to the voters, non-resident members of WCOLA will probably not have heard about it. Actual wording of the ordinance is still fluid at this writing, but the intent of the ordinance is clear: to bring the Township's rules regarding shoreland into compliance with the Itasca County Comprehensive Plan adopted May 23, 2000, and with the rules of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The Township Supervisors plan to present the ordinance to the voters as a referendum in early January, to save money by holding the election at the same time as the vote that must be taken to replace State Senator-elect Tom Saxhaug on the County Board of Commissioners. Previous to the vote, the Supervisors plan to hold meeting(s) of the Township voters; to be sure that everyone understands the ordinance's scope, and the protection of the Township's lake waters and shorelands. The first meeting is on November 25, 2002.

It is premature to give details and numbers, but the regulations cover subdivision/development, minimum lot sizes, lot widths, allowed structures, and height of towers. Although this ordinance covers only the "Shoreland Overlay District" and not the non-lakeshore in the Township, it is important for all citizens of the Township to have input and understand the ordinance before they vote, because the Township's citizens are the major users of the lakes, and are those most affected by the developmental state of the lakeshore.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!

Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer
Wabana Chain of Lakes Association
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