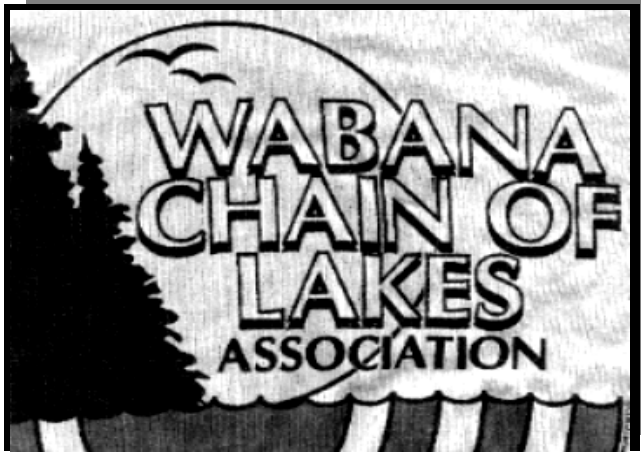


The Chain Letter



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

Volume 7, Number 5

2003, Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Editor: Bill Downing, wdowning@uslink.net

38067 Forest Lane, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 218-326-4730

1834 Simpson St, Falcon Heights, MN 55113 651-644-9625

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:

John Adams 326-2206
Steve Bryant 326-5473
Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056
David Lick 326-6837
Joel Solomon 326-5177
George Wilbert 327-1018
John Zimmerman 326-1020

Ever since we have had our logo on Tshirts, hats, and now the elegant new coffee mugs, people have been asking where the handsome logo came from. I hasten to say, again, that it was designed by member

Give credit where credit is due!

Mike Wilkus.

September 2003

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President's Letter, from Dick Chambers

Our Lake Association's last meeting for the summer is Sept. 20th. We have had a great summer with many interesting things happening. Even though our summer meetings will be over we have a lot planned for the winter months. We will be working on moving forward with our lake management plan. Another great thing was that everyone was using the lakes safely. To my knowledge there were no accidents. Let's continue along that line.

Hope to see you all on Sept. 20th.

Dick

The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association Meeting Minutes of August 16th, 2003

The monthly program was introduced by Bill Berg of the program committee. John Hart, representing the U.S.D.A. Wildlife services presented a program called "Wolf Biology and Management". John then addressed questions and comments. Bill Berg presented John with a W.C.O.L.A. coffee mug, a gift for his fine presentation.

The regular business meeting was opened by Chairman Dick Chambers at 10:18am with a moment of silence for Georgia Brooks, Wabana Township Clerk, who suffered a stroke recently. Nancy Ellsworth introduced guests from the Deer Lake Association. All others in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes of July 19, 2003 were approved as printed in the August 2003, Wabana Chain of Lakes newsletter.

Treasurer's Report, read by Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer:

Balance as of 7-19-03 \$ 8,825.66

Received:

Dues \$ 280.00

Contributions \$ 40.00

Total Received: \$ 320.00

Paid Out:

Food for Picnic \$ 27.83

Charcoal & Lighter for Picnic \$ 15.08

Entertainment \$ 100.00

MN Lake Association Dues \$ 100.00

Total Paid Out: \$ 242.91

Balance as of 8-16-03 \$ 8,902.75

Paid households for 2003 125

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

WCOLA fund balance was noted by the treasurer suggesting the association purchase a CD savings certificate. Chairman Chambers reminded members of the agreement with the State of Minnesota to do core testing of the lakes utilizing some of the balance. Bill Downing reminded that we would have a higher expense year due to lab fees for lake testing. Billing will occur in October.

Unger Bridge clean up will not need permits, reported Bill Berg. The brush from the clean up cannot be dumped on public land. Cathy Rudolph offered her land for the brush pile. Bud Sage volunteered to be crew leader others include; Bill Berg, George Klacan, Joe Stevens, Gary Oja, Dennis Koewler, George Wilburt. Clean up will be in late October.

The annual loon count was led by Roger Linder who reported on the findings, as well as a written article in the August newsletter. Roger thanked volunteers Dennis Koewler, Paul Oberg and Ken Zimmer for their help.

Fishing impact on area lakes was addressed by Chairman Chambers referring to an article written by Jack Velzen for the July WCOLA Newsletter. Following discussion the WCOLA advisory suggested forming an interested group over the winter, including resort owner and wildlife professionals to study the information.

Input on significant issues was brought up by Roger Linder suggesting the membership discuss the process from initial ideas to and voting by the membership in attendance, compared to the full paid members of the organization.

Dick Chambers reviewed the current process stating any policy or practice motions need to be published in the newsletter before a vote can be taken. John Downing suggested publishing a list of upcoming significant issues and topics to be dealt with as a scheduled agenda, so members can be prepared. The question on the significant issue process will continue suggested by John Downing as all lake associations will be facing more difficult environmental issues in the future.

Lead sinker exchange will be pursued by George Wilbert for the association.

Communications committee has been moving along with the Mark Miner establishing a web site for the organization as described in the August newsletter. With Mark are committee members Gig Wilson, and Tia Pace.

The WCOLA Newsletter deadline for the September is the 6th reported editor Bill Downing. Bill also asked those in attendance if anyone objects to printing the association's membership list. There were no objections. The Deer Lake association has want ad's (buy-sell-trade) as a friendly service to its members. Bill was encouraged to add this service to the newsletter.

The "Old Wabana School" photograph is being donated to the Township by George and Dolores Wilbert. It will hang in the hall.

Election of officers was conducted by Chairman Chambers. Nominations were for Treasurer, Cathy Rudolph and Secretary, Susan Lick. Bill Downing made a motion " That nominations be closed and a

unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees". The motion was seconded and approved.

Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations report was a letter written by Itasca County Commissioner Catherine McLynn concerning issues and opportunity to participate in public hearings on a proposed county ordinance.

Next meeting is September 20th, 2003 at 8:30 am for coffee and social time. The program will start at 9:00am and Bill Berg announced that Mary Shideler, who is kayaking every lake in Itasca County, will be the presenter.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lick, Secretary



Last month Mark Miner reported that the new web site is set up. Please go to

www.wcola.org

and check it out! You will find an archive of all *Chain Letters* since April 1999 in Adobe PDF format. It makes very interesting reading. The file size of the newsletters range from 500k to 1.5 megs, so have patience if you are using a dialup connection. If you have DSL or cable, downloads are very quick.

Mark would like to start a "scrapbook" section on our site so we can share some of the interesting and unique history of the area with all of our friends. If you have something you would like to share, please email him with your idea at mminer@minergroup.com to discuss the best way to get it on the site.

Light Pollution? Please, not here!

OUR DISAPPEARING NIGHT SKY

Communication from Jeanne Burke

Melancholic personality types can be an odd lot. They are usually driven by some passion and appear to the phlegmatic type as overly emotional and involved. Let me introduce myself, Jeanne Burke, as the melancholic partner in my marriage to my phlegmatic husband, Dan. What is my passion you ask? Having discovered this area just three years ago, I am anxious to be a good steward to the small parcel of land we own and to the lake it borders, Lake Wabana. However, my greatest passion is to preserve our night sky.

Several years ago, I joined a crusade across America to save the night sky. I read an article in the newspaper written by Dan Green, an amateur astronomer from the East, who became alarmed at America's rapidly advancing light pollution. To counteract this advance, he founded The New England Light Pollution Advisory Group. I agreed with Dan Green and saved his article for reference.

I probably would have remained an armchair crusader if something had not happened soon afterward that made me actively join his crusade. The city planners of Chanhassen, where I live, informed me about their plans for my neighborhood. The city was going to put in new streetlights, the very ones Dan Green had warned cause light trespass (light shining into bedrooms), glare, especially hazardous for senior drivers, and pollute the night sky by radiating light upwards and out rather than down.

With Dan Green's newspaper article and recommendations from his website, (cfa-www.harvard.edu/cfa/ps/nelpag.html), I was not only able to stop the city from replacing our neighborhood streetlights, but I was able to direct the city planners to establish a light ordinance for Chanhassen.

I wish I could tell you it was a great victory but the ordinance came too late. Chanhassen had already installed numerous offend-

ing streetlights, towering athletic field lights, glaring advertising lights, and approved even more polluting lights on its newer buildings.

It's a sorry sight! Don't bother to look up at the stars because they are barely visible. You will never be able to show the Milky Way to your children or grandchildren from Chanhassen.

Here, up North, however, the night sky still reflects the majestic masterpiece of God's creation. The stars are so bright against the dark sky and the Milky Way is clearly seen. How can we be good stewards of this night sky?

First, evaluate your property in terms of light pollution. Keep outside lights, if any, to a minimum. If you desire an outside light, install a fixture where the light is recessed and deflects light downward. These lights may be hard to find, since unfortunately, the majority of lights manufactured do not follow these guidelines and thus contribute to light pollution. These same guidelines also apply to lights installed on a house, cabin, garage, or pole barn. If you presently have lights that pollute, make changes or consider infrequent use of these lights.

Somehow, we have learned to associate darkness with crime. You may be surprised to learn that studies have shown that lights do not reduce crime. Most burglaries, for example, occur not under cover of darkness but during the day when people are away at work.

Anyone can help keep the night dark. You don't need to be an astronomer or even like stargazing. You can just be nice like my husband, Dan, and want to pass on to future generations something rapidly disappearing, the dark night sky.

Dan, knowing my passion for darkness, made some welcomed changes on our property. He dug out the tall pole light near our dock, disconnected the floodlight on our pole barn, and put an environmentally friendly fixture on the house. Small changes can make great improvements in the degree of darkness.

As association members, I am hoping we can support one another on this environmental concern. I remember what one Chanhassen planner said to me,

"Honestly, Jeanne, I've never thought about light pollution, but you're absolutely right. As city planners, we've never asked questions about lighting."

I am aware of the light pollution that is rapidly encroaching on Grand Rapids. In the past three years, I have noticed Grand Rapids increasingly emitting more and more light pollution. Now is the time to educate city planners before it is too late. If we do not take steps to protect our darkness, the scourge of light pollution will overtake us.

The International Dark-Sky Association is always looking for new members. Their goal is to educate the public and guide communities in implementing correct lighting.

Last year, while camping on Burntside Lake, which is north of Ely, I saw the night sky polluted with artificial lights. Above the horizon, I could see the pink haze of light pollution from Ely and higher in the sky a searchlight from a distant casino arced every tenth second. My sense of wonder gave way to agitation as the timed searchlight intruded on what would have been a still peaceful panorama. I felt a sense of loss for something that was once so magnificent, our window to the universe of a billion trillion stars.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Burke

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Page 5 is the list of paid members for 2003-2004 -- about 144 paid households. It is as close to accurate as possible, considering that the lists require coordinated effort of three different and independent volunteers.

Please check and, if you are a member, be sure that your name appears here. If it looks wrong, or if the lake that interests you is wrong, or absent, please e-mail me (Editor) and I'll fix it for the November Chain Letter.

*Our records show about 34 households that were members in 2002-2003, but are not paid for this year. A couple of those I am **sure** believe they are members, and have just lost track. Would you please look over your cancelled checks and see if it happened to you?*

And -- it's bound to happen, isn't it? -- you know you paid, and your name isn't here, please communicate with Cathy Rudolph, and it will be set straight, and then she'll let me know, and we will have a corrected list in November. And we apologize in advance for those inevitable errors!

*One more thing: if your neighbor or your friend or your relative is not a member, **you can be awarded a genuine coffee cup** if you bring him/her into the fold!*

2003-04 Membership Roster

John and Cheryl **Adams**-Little Wabana
Pat and Jan **Adams** - Bluewater
Charles and Donna **Anderson** - Hanson Lake
Russ and Yvonne **Barto** - Bluewater
Craig and Cindy **Bender** - Wabana
Wm. and Helene **Berg** - Trout
Joan **Birkemeyer** - Wabana
Steven and Caroline **Bischoff** * - Wabana
Bud and Agnes **Blackmore** - Wabana
Terry and Robinson **Boblit** - Wabana
William and Jeannette **Booth** - Wabana
Mary Frances and Bill **Bottoms** - Bluewater
Reginald and Susan **Boyle** - Little Trout
Steven and Lynette **Bryant** - Bluewater
Gary and Carol **Burkholder** - Wabana
Libby and Dennis **Capps** - Wabana
Richard and Patricia **Chambers** - Wabana
John F., Dennis, and Kathi **Chervinko** - Trout
Libby and George **Colburn** - Wabana
Mark and Ellen **Conover** -
Martin **Coughlin** - Wabana
Jack and Karen **Craiglow** - Clearwater
Edward and Helen **Dettiner** - Pickerel
John and Marcia **Downing** - Wabana
William and Betsy **Downing** - Wabana
Richard **Eldredge** - Wabana
Stephen **Ellsworth** - Bluewater
Nancy **Ellsworth** - Bluewater
Karl and Pat **Fischer** - Trout
Greg and Ruth **Fordham** - Wabana
Eric and Jan **Fredbeck** - Wabana
Dr. Peter and Chris **Friedlieb** - Wabana
Pam and Keith **Friesen** - Bluewater
Gordon and Lynette **Fuller** - Wabana
Mary and Bob **Gephart** - Wabana
John and Martha Ann **Gettinger** - Wabana
Jim and Marcia **Gowling** - Wabana
John and Sharon **Gray** - Bluewater
Robert and Bonnie **Halver** - Wabana
Vicky and Rick **Harding** - Trout
Peter and Carol **Harris**
Cress and Susannah **Hart** - Wabana
John and Donna **Hartung** - Wabana
Susan **Hawkinson** - Doan
Dick and Nancy **Helgeson**
Bev **Hemmingson** - Wabana
Walt and Kim **Hoffman** - Wabana
Bruce **Hultgren** - Wabana
Louis and Barbara **Ireton** - Trout
Tim and Susan **Jarvis** - Wabana
Dave **Johnson** - Wabana

Rex and Melanie **Kastner** - Trout
Karl **Kaukis** - Bluewater
George and Mary Lou **Klacan** - Bluewater
Dorothy **Klinger** - Wabana
Dennis and Jean **Koewler** - Wabana
Ken and Deb **Kruger** - Wabana
Dara Wolf **LaForce** - Trout
Steven and Chick **Laitman** - Wabana
Adam **Lane** - Wabana
William and Pat **Langenbrunner** - Wabana
Danielle **Larsen** * - Wabana
Jerald and Emma **Larson** - Wabana
Mark and Cynthia **Lavalier** - Wabana
Jaun and Christina **Lazo** - Wabana
Dave and Sue **Lick** * - Wabana
Roger and Nancy **Linder** - Wabana
William and Kathryn **Linder** - Bluewater
James and Lois **Loney** - Wabana
Bob and Mae **Long** - Wabana
Marian **Lovelace** - Wabana
John and Karen **Lukens** -
Jim and Pat **MaijalaM** - Bluewater
Pen **Landin** and Tim **Mangni** - Pickerel
Robert **Manning** - Bluewater
Richard and Nancy **Massaro** * - Wabana
Mark and Kathy **McCullough** * - Wabana
Steven and Pat **Mead** - Bluewater
Arthur **Merrill** & Margaret **Morris** - Wabana
Jon and Pamela **Miner** - Wabana
Mark **Miner** - Wabana
Sherry **Miner** - Wabana
Irma **Moore** - Wabana
Drew **Moratzka** -
Kari Ann **Moratzka** -
Lynn and Tim **Moratzka**
Sue **Mulder** - Little Trout
Connie **Myers** - Bluewater
Dorothy **Myrick** - Wabana
Tom and Carol **Myrick** - Wabana
Dr. Richard & Kathleen **Nelson** - Wabana
Terry **Novak** and Sue **Cutler** - Wabana
David and Judy **Nybakken** - Bluewater
Paul and Barb **Oberg** - Wabana
Jim and Gail **Olijnek** - Wabana
Kay **Owen** - Wabana
Arthur and Trudy **Patton** - Little Wabana
Mary **Pineur** - Wabana
Ron and Anne **Radecki** - Wabana
Dean and Linda **Roberts**
Terry **Robinson** - Bluewater
Christel **Rowe** - Little Wabana
Catherine **Rudolph** - Wabana

Bill and Diane **Rutherford** - Bluewater
Bob **Sage** * - Bluewater
David **Sage** - Bluewater
Lauren **Sage** - Bluewater
Stuart W. **Sage** - Bluewater
Carol **Schmidt** - Wabana
Fred and Joan **Schnitzler** - Little Hanson
Clifford **Schroeder** - Island Lake
Wayne **Sherer** - Wabana
Sylvia **Sights** - Wabana
Gordon **Slabaugh** - Bluewater
Bruce and Diane **Smith**
Joel and Jan **Solomon** - Little Trout
David & Elaine **Stadum** - Little Wabana
Scott and Jan **Stein** - Wabana
Joe and Martha **Stevens** - Bluewater
Philip and Karen **Strege**
Dave and Barbara **Stuart** - Bluewater
Kurt & Lavonne **Thompson** - Bluewater
Matthew & Nicole **Stecklein**
and Greg & Mary **Tille**
Sylvia **Troumbly** - Little Wabana
Harold and Betty **Unger** - Trout
Jack and Sally **Velzen** - Wabana
Ten and Swanee **Voneida** - Bluewater
Paul **Walter**
Pamela **Wassberg Whittenberg** * -
Little Trout
Merrill & Marlene **Widmark** - Wabana
George and Dolores **Wilbert** - Wabana
Michael & Barbara **Wilkus** - Bluewater
Gib and Kathleen **Willson** - Wabana
William and Donna **Wolf**, Jr. - Trout
David and Karen **Wooden** - Bluewater
Mary **Ziegler** - Little Wabana
Susannah **Zimmer** - Wabana
Ken and Barbara **Zimmer**, Jr. - Wabana
James and Marie **Zimmerman** - Trout
Mark and Alexandra **Zimmerman**
John and Charlotte **Zimmerman** - Trout
John and Alida **Zimmerman**, Jr. - Trout
(Note: * = paid through 2004)

September 20

Program

Susan Hawkinson has arranged a wonderful program for the Sept. 20 WCOLA meeting; The **Kayak Lady** in person, Mary Shideler. The Kayak Lady had kayaked on **hundreds of Itasca County's lakes**, and has as her goal to do all of them----roughly 1,000! On her journeys, Mary has had **many unique naturalist experiences** on the water, and she will share many of them with WCOLA members and guests on Sept. 20 at 9 AM. Be there!

-----Bill Berg-----

Social hour with coffee and treats at 8:30 a.m. Program at 9:00. Meeting afterward.

If you forgot 2003-04 dues, see Treasurer Cathy's address below for the place to send your

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association
Ms. Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer
36542 Havenwood Drive
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

The Editor apologizes for a short newsletter this month, completely lacking in historical notes. Time restraints interfered. Except for Ms. Burke, however, part of the problem is YOU—where are your letters, emails, and so on? Maybe later?

We skip publication in October, and in the November issue, along with Holiday Greetings, we will have results of lake testing, all the Secchi Disk readings, and some historical things if space permits. There has been a glitch in the chemical testing of the lakes, which I hope will be resolved.

Beginning now, we will accept short Want-Ad type ads from paid-up **members only**, and will print them without charge as space permits. This is a test, which we hope can continue.

