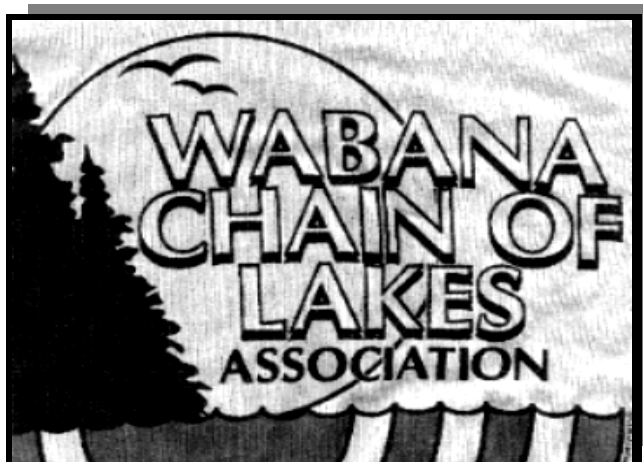


Glorious August!

Summer's pinnacle at the lake!

The Chain Letter of the



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

Volume 7, Number 4

2003, Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

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Officers:

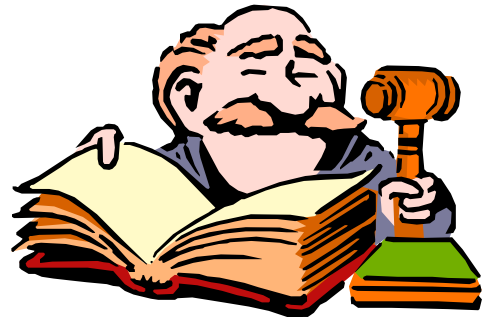
President: Dick Chambers 326-2809
Vice President: Bud Sage 326-4535
Treasurer: Cathy Rudolph 327-0820
Secretary: Susan Lick 326-6837

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

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our lake association's annual picnic was a great success. On behalf of all the membership I would like to thank the volunteer picnic committee: Nancy Ellsworth, Dennis and Jean Koewler, Carol and Gary Burkholder, Kathy Rudolph, Tia Pace, Sherry Miner, Bud Sage, Steve and Lynette Bryant, Lynn Roberts and Pat Chambers. Also everyone who helped set up and take down tables and chairs. It was truly a great evening. Was really nice to see so many people wearing their WCOLA shirts.

Our communications committee has a great thing in the works for us. Hopefully a web page. It will be really great for those of us who leave for the winter. We will be able to keep up with what's happening.

Our thoughts go out to the families of Elmer Bekkedahl and Mort Lovelace, who passed away during the winter. They were both long time members of WCOLA.

Hope to see you all at the August meeting.

Dick

MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 19TH, 2003

The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

The regular business meeting was opened by Chairman Dick Chambers at 9:10am, the monthly program resumes in August due to the annual picnic today. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes of September 21st, 2002 were approved as printed in the July 2003, Wabana Chain of Lakes newsletter.

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

Balance as of 6-21-03	\$ 7,578.77
<u>Received:</u>	
Dues	\$ 1,660.00
Contributions	\$ 380.00
<u>Total Received:</u>	\$ 2,040.00
<u>Paid Out:</u>	
Stamps	\$ 514.30
Printing Newsletter	\$ 166.36
Newsletter Seals	\$ 6.38
Paper Goods for Picnic	\$ 30.30
Food for Picnic	\$ 73.77
<u>Total Paid Out:</u>	\$ 791.11
Balance as of 5-24-03	\$ 8,827.66

Paid households for 2003 109
The treasurer's report was approved.

Cleanup under Unger Bridge – volunteers will be needed this fall to help cleanup beaver construction. Bill Berg is obtaining the permits necessary.

An interview with Bill Berg on Minnesota Public Radio was described by Chairman Chambers. It is available on MPR's web site.

Highway 38 Planning Committee report was given by Bud Sage. Current status of project: Grand Rapids to City. 49 bid let out, awarded to Hawkinson Construction, presently utilities are being moved or buried, Hwy. 2 to Cty 49 scheduled

completion spring of 2004. Detours will run along Hwy. 2 to Cty 62. Cty 19 to Marcell scheduled completion 2009.

Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations (I.C.O.L.A.) representatives David Lick and George Wilbert gave a report. Recently ICOLA has been working on ordinances with Itasca County concerning types of development on wilderness and other recreational lakes, sponsored forums on lakeshore market values, gravel pits, blinking communication towers and lakeshore density issues.

Picnic Committee members invited everyone to the potluck picnic today, the 19th at 6pm at the Wabana Hall.

Lake Management Plan Updates were provided by members. George Klacan explained focus area one: aquatic environment is gathering and sorting information. Mark Miner reported the communications committee has investigated a registered WCOLA.org web site at \$35. per year. Possible uses were discussed. David Lick made a motion: "WCOLA enter into a multi year web site agreement". The motion was seconded, discussed and approved.

Itasca County process of lease lots. Bob Sage informed the group that the county is evaluating and beginning to sell lots. The first offer will be to current leaseholders, funds from sales will go to the Itasca County environmental fund.

Notification of election of officers was presented by Chairman Chambers. An election will be held in August for secretary and treasurer. With a call for nominations, the two present officers agreed to continue; George Klacan suggested the nominations cease until August.

WCOLA septic system project was reported on by David Lick the last 80 are being inspected. All will be done by 2003.

Water quality committee consisting of Bill Downing, Bob and Mary Gephart has been testing the chain of lakes and transporting the samples to a laboratory over the summer. Results will be made available at a later date.

Jack Velzen's on one person's perspective on fishing the Chain newsletter article was brought to attention by Bill Downing. Further discussion led to suggestions of WCOLA having a continued dialogue with specialists from DNR Fisheries, a broad population of interested persons and the local resort owners.

Secchi disk readers have been out, coordinator Nancy Ellsworth asked that all readings be sent to her by August 1st to be published in the newsletter.

Annual loon count will be coordinated for the DNR by Roger Linder. Volunteers are needed. Dennis Koewler agreed to help. Results will be discussed at a later date.

A substitute for lead sinkers was suggested by Bill Downing including an educational program and possible exchange developed by WCOLA. George Colburn made a motion: "That WCOLA investigate the possibility of a lead sinker exchange". The motion was seconded, discussed and approved.

The **meeting was adjourned.**

Next meeting will be August 16th, 8:30am coffee and social, 9:00am program and regular meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Lick secretary

From Nancy Ellsworth:

ELMER BEKKEDAHL

Last summer, Wabana Chain of Lakes residents attended—or were aware of—the 100th Birthday Celebration for Elmer Bekkedahl at the Town Hall. Family and friends came from afar, some from Alaska and Australia, to honor this well-respected citizen. Elmer died May 26, 2003, in Ohio, his winter home.

A Bluewater land owner since about 1945, he was preceded in death by his wife Vi, and a daughter Maize. He is survived by a daughter, Swanny (Ted) Voneida of Ohio, and a son Jim (Mary) Bekkedahl of California. There are 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. We will surely miss this outstanding Bluewater neighbor.

From Roger Linder:

LOON WATCH

On July 22 Dennis Koewler, Roger Linder, Paul Oberg and Ken Zimmer cruised our lakes taking a count of our loon population. The results are as follows:

LAKE	CHICKS	ADULTS
Wabana	9	27
Trout	0	23
Interlachen	0	1
Bluewater	2	5
TOTALS	11	56

The information has been sent to the DNR and will be included with the reports of 252 "loon watchers" who reported on 293 lakes in 28 counties in 2002. Those reports counted 1374 adults and 351 chicks [one chick/4adults]. Our lakes had one chick/5adults. The state averages .8 adults per100 acres as do our lakes, the birds are very territorial, it takes approximately 200 acres to support a breeding pair. Surprisingly no chicks were seen on Trout [bad eyes on the Trout Lake team?] On the afternoon of the same day a report was received of a eagle carrying off one of the Bluewater chicks. Is there now only one chick on the lake?

Each of the above counters are now registered as "loon watchers" a title highly sought after by retired persons, and will complete a official count again next year.

Roger Linder.

Note: I was expecting quite a lot of comment from members about Jack Velzen's column last month. Not a single comment! No email, no letters, no verbal comments, nothing.

From Mark Miner:

NEW WEB SITE

Dear WCOLA Members,

Our new web site is live and ready for content, go to www.wcola.org and check it out!

We have our newsletter archive online. As we mentioned at the meeting, these files are in Adobe PDF format. You will need Adobe Acrobat reader to view the files. Most computers have this software installed already. If you do not have the software, there is a web link on the site for you to download the software and it's free!

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.

We 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 me with your idea at mminer@minergroup.com and we will discuss the best way to get it on the site.

All other ideas for the site are welcome and should be emailed to mminer@minergroup.com. We'll look forward to getting the most from our new online tool.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Best regards,

Mark Miner

WCOLA Web Master

From John Downing:

CLEARING OF BLUFFS

Power lines, bluffs, erosion and herbicides: a discussion with Lake Country Power

Last winter, Marcia and I read parts of the newsletter from Lake Country Power. The parts that caught our eye dealt with the announcement of spraying power lines in our area this summer and autumn to keep them free of woody vegetation.

You may all remember the fairly zealous job that Lake Country did a few winters ago following long power outages due to deadfalls across power lines. At our property on Simmons Bay of Wabana (the old Mergler House), they clear-cut more than 50 feet below the bluff, leaving a bowl-shaped area with no vegetation to intercept heavy rains.

The storms of late June 2001 collected into a rushing stream on our power right-of-way, and therefore nearly washed out the foundation of our house. Had we not been there to divert flow, the damage would have been very severe. There is a good reason that ordinances prohibit clearing of trees and brush from bluff regions around lakes, and this should include power lines.

When we read that Lake Country was to renew defoliation in our area, we therefore phoned Mike Meier (218-742-5717) who is responsible for keeping power line right-of-ways clear in our area. He agreed to send one of his employees out to walk the power lines with us and understand the special problems faced in shoreland bluff zones.

He agreed that these power lines should not have been cleared of vegetation and indicated that the most important problem is the regrowth of woody vegetation that can menace power lines. He gave us permission to mark our bluff area with a sign indicating

DO NOT SPRAY OR CLEAR PAST HERE

with the understanding that we would keep the bluff area clear of regrowth of woody vegetation. This is quite a lot of work, but is greatly preferable to washing a cottage into Wabana Lake! We will also do this at the southern family property in the big sandy bay on the main lake.

I urge you all to pay attention to your power lines as a potential site of erosion and run-off and take similar steps to protect your property and the lake. Mr. Meier was very agreeable and collaborative.

I suggest that any of you who have questions or concerns about power line clearing contact Mike Meier at Lake Country Power (218-742-5717). He has the interests of Lake Country Power in mind, so the onus is on *us* to protect the lakes and our property.



SECCHI DISK READINGS.

Here are some preliminary Secchi disk readings, compiled by Nancy Ellsworth. Neither Nancy nor I will guarantee completeness nor accuracy at present, since all of us have had busy summers with lots of visitors, but the numbers we have are interesting. Everyone on the Chain of Lakes is grateful to these Readers, who go out every week on a still day around noon, and drop a weighted disk on a rope down into the water, watching vigilantly, then measuring the rope. There are more readings that we do not have—I have seen Mary Gephart reading WS, and LW is lost in the mail—which we will publish in a future Chain Letter. --Editor

BASIN==>	WN	WC	WS	WW	TN	TS	IN	BN	BS	LW	IS(new)
(BY WEEKS)											
JUNE--1ST	16.0	16.0		15.0				20.0	21.0		22.0
JUNE--2ND	22.0	21.0		17.0		16.0		20.5	21.0		21.0
JUNE--3RD	25.0	21.5		16.0				21.5	20.0		20.5
JUNE--4TH	19.5	21.5		17.0		13.0		23.5	23.0		19.0
JULY--1ST	20.5	22.0		18.0			22.0	23.5	22.0		18.5
JULY--2ND	19.0	21.0		18.0		15.0		20.0	21.0		17.5
JULY--3RD	16.0	20.5		19.0				17.5	20.0		18.0
JULY--4TH	15.5	19.0		21.0		23.0		21.0	20.0		

WN Wabana North
 WC Wabana Central
 WW Wabana Wakeman
 IS Wabana Island Sound
 BN Bluewater North
 BS Bluewater South
 TS Trout South
 IN Interlachen or Little Trout

Ken Zimmer
 Susan Lick
 Jean and Dennis Koewler
 Sherry Miner
 George Klacan
 Nancy Ellsworth
 John Zimmerman
 Joel Solomon

Incidentally, as a consequence of my discussions with Lake Country Power, they have marked the entire Wabana Chain of Lakes as a region to be treated carefully with only spot-treatments of herbicide on woody regrowth, rather than broadcast application of herbicides. Spraying will take place from now through autumn. Herbicides, of course, influence aquatic plants so our lake and fisheries will benefit from minimal and wise application.

I have agreed to provide feedback from the WCOLA to Lake Country Power, so please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions about this (johndowning@mchsi.com).

John Downing

DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION

Editor: Our family recently visited with Jack Jones, the limnologist who lives on Deer Lake, who joined limnologist John Downing in writing such effective letters to the Itasca County Commissioners concerning the dangerous effect that backlots and PUDs can have on water quality. While there, we were given a copy of the Deer Lake Association Newsletter, and we were impressed, both with the quality of the newsletter, and with the things that that Association does.

Although it was not in the Newsletter, we learned that in the past the Association bought an island on Deer Lake, and maintain it as a wildlife sanctuary. To do so, they quickly raised the money for the purchase from among its members, to match a State grant.

The Newsletter advertised several items for sale, some with the Deer Lake logo: sweat shirts, denim shirts, polo shirts, polar fleece throws, mouse pads, caps, and several wildlife books. Regarding this, they say:

Sales from such items amounted to about \$1,800 during the year, and it helps toward such outreach programs as the donations for two camper scholarships at Camp Hiawatha (\$410) and a \$1,000 to ICOLA (Itasca County Coalition of Lake Associations). The latter organization has spent a great deal of time and resources in helping to develop and promote sound zoning laws, land use and water quality programs for our county. (An additional \$1,000 from the DLA Lake Preservation Endowment Fund was also sent to ICOLA).

We may be able to learn some things from our neighbor just to the west of us, and of course they can learn from us as well.

Of special interest was the following:

Wabana Township has recently created a Shoreland Overlay District consistent with the Itasca County Comprehensive Land Use Plan adopted May 23,2000. Their Township ordinance now embodies many of the goals of the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations and our own Deer Lake Management Plan. However, these zoning proposals were tabled by the County Commissioners last fall and are now being currently reviewed.

At our DLA general meeting last August, Dennis Anderson suggested that we encourage the incorporation of the townships for future consideration. Some of our members have since asked what it would take for us to be incorporated...The jurisdiction is 6 x 6 miles, much to the north of us and would obviously require the support of a majority of that populace. The question of mobilizing a larger population needs to be studied carefully.

The Deer Lake Newsletter also publishes Want Ads. They say, Want Ads can be published, space available, for DLA members and their families. Items include are someone who does upholstery, docks and boat lifts; lawn care, a Lincoln Town Car, etc. It seems logical that we could do the same thing in our Newsletter, as a kind of reward for membership. Our Newsletter goes to 340 households, so there would be a pretty good market. Let's try it! --Editor

.....

Don St. Auben, President of the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, has the following update on the Zoning Ordinance:

Here is Catherine's (McLynn) report on the Zoning ordinance. I hope you all respond to her call for action. We have asked for the turnouts like we did last year, feeling a lower keyed approach might work better from a political standpoint. Catherine, Harold, Bob, Dave and others have done a fantastic job of shepherding the ordinance process this year. Now lets get behind the proposed ordinance and get it passed at the County Board meeting.

He included Catherine McLynn's report:

The meetings of the Planning Commission have been consistently attended by an overwhelming number of lake friendly folks who spoke consistently and well about protecting the lakes for all to enjoy. That message resulted in a pretty good recommendation going to the County Board. Our job is now to contact the commissioners and convince them that a lot of different voices were heard at the sessions and that there was a lot of give and take in the final product. We should stand together in support of the work that has been done and ask that it be supported in its entirety. While there may be some issues which we would like to

have even more restrictive, we need to get this ordinance on the books. Hopefully, no one will try to unravel the ball by nitpicking an issue. Commissioner Mandich has already identified the gravel pit restriction and the lots sizes as areas he may object to. I will ask him to recognize the fact that there has already been a lot of negotiating to come to this current agreement. I recommend that others, likewise, encourage him and the other

commissioners to accept the hard work done by the Planning Commission, the Zoning Dept, the DNR, the SWDC and the public.

Thanks to all for taking the time to attend and participate...

Catherine McLynn
Commissioner Dist 2

Membership!

Treasurer Cathy Rudolph reported 109 households as members so far this year. THAT'S A DECREASE! There are quite a lot of last year's members who are missing, and they are sorely missed. We tried nifty dues-paying envelopes this year as reminders, but maybe it just requires repetition. We plan on printing the members' names in the September issue, and hope YOUR name will be included. It's hard to remember things like that, but please check to see if you have paid for 2003-04, and if you have not, please fill out the coupon below and send it to our outstanding Treasurer.

And members don't forget: Bring us in a new member and win a coffee cup with the WCOLA logo on it. This is the official size and shape cup used by Diners all across the country.

PAYMENT AND CONTRIBUTION COUPON

I know Dues for 2003-2004 were due on July 1, 2003, but I'm a little bit slow this year. Here is the payment.

Regular 2003-04 Dues \$20.00 (Unchanged since 1988) Contribution \$_____ (Testing, etc.)

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? _____

Email address _____ Would you prefer email over US mail? _____

Mail this form and your \$20.00 check for 2002-03 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

Meeting 8/16 Program 9 AM

*Wabana Town Hall
Treats at 8:30, program at 9:00,
Meeting follows program*

The program for the Saturday, August 16 WCOLA meeting will be both educational, informative, and for some, controversial. Our speaker will be Mr. John Hart, Wildlife Biologist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services. John is attached to the Wildlife Services office in Grand Rapids that has the responsibility for wolf depredations control in Minnesota. Come and learn about wolf biology, management, and control in Minnesota, with emphasis on our local area. The program starts promptly at 9 AM.

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