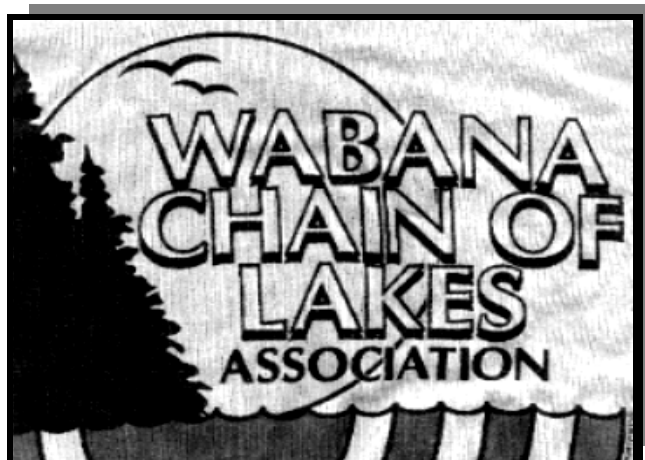


# The Chain Letter

of the



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

## July 2004

Volume 8, Number 3

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President: Dick Chambers 326-2809

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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

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Joel Solomon 326-5177

George Wilbert 327-1018

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### FROM PRESIDENT DICK CHAMBERS

As we all enjoy the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and remaining summer, I hope everyone reflects on our freedom. We enjoy so much because of others before us.

And as we all enjoy our lakes for recreation, or just to enjoy the sounds of loons or ducks (not geese—ha! messy, aren't they?) we also need to reflect on how lucky and fortunate we are.

The people before us knew this, and started our Lake Association. As an Association we try to educate and help families with ideas to keep our waters safe, and have the water quality needed for our future. Everyone has ideas and thoughts on how we can continue the process.

Please come and give us your thoughts. Even if you don't live on one of our great lakes in this community, you probably have enjoyed them, and want to continue to enjoy.

Our next meeting will be July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting will start at 8:30 with the coffee and conversation till 9:00 AM - then meeting from 9:00 to 10:00AM - No scheduled program for this date.

The annual picnic will be in the evening. Picnic will start at 6:00 PM and last until we are ready to quit.

Come and join us.

*Dick*



Wabana Chain of Lakes Association  
**BUSINESS MEETING JUNE 12, 2004**

**Call to order.** Bud Sage, substituting for President Dick Chambers, called the meeting to order with 34 members present.

**Program:** Author and member Susan Hawkinson related stories of the Joyce family as chronicled in "Timber Connections."

**Treasurer's Report:** Read by Cathy Rudolph.

Balance as of 5-22-04	\$ 6,898.21
Received	
Dues	\$ 1,560.00
Contributions	\$ 250.00
Sale of Cups	\$ 5.50
Total Received	\$ 1,780.50
Paid Out	
Water Testing Supplies	\$ 45.67
Stamps	\$ 125.80
Printing	\$ 133.38
Total Paid Out	\$ 307.85
Total as of 6-12-04	\$ 8,373.86

Paid Households for 2004 ----- 96

**Old Business:**

*Picnic:* It was agreed to have a morning business meeting and a 6 PM picnic on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to help with the picnic should call Pat Chambers.

*Tackle Exchange:* A reminder of the lead free tackle exchange at Rapids Tackle on July 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-6 PM. Two other exchanges are July 17, Gander Mountain, Duluth and July 24, Wilderness Outfitters, Ely.

*WCOL Maps:* Jack Velzen has lake maps available for sale.

**New Business:**

*Management Plan:* Members Phil Gelbach, Lynn Moratzka and Dennis Koewler volunteered to take the final draft of the plan and prioritize the action items within each focus area and establish a realistic schedule for their completion.

*Bridge Clean Up:* A work crew will be formed at the next meeting to continue to keep the Unger Bridge clear. Work will be done in the fall.

**Letters:** Letters from Dr. Fred Doty and Catherine McLynn were read.

**Reminders:**

*Next meeting:* July 17<sup>th</sup>, no program, annual picnic at 6 PM.

*Deadline* for the next newsletter is July 5<sup>th</sup>.

*August meeting:* August 21, Program-Chris Cavanaugh from DNR Fisheries.

*Attendance:* All property owners of Wabana Township are welcome at all meetings.

**Meeting adjourned,**

Barbara Zimmer for Susan Lick, Secretary

*Editor comments:* Secretary Susan Lick has had serious health problems, though she says she is recovering now. Barbara Zimmer calmly volunteered to take Minutes for Susan, and the two of them collaborated on the final product. It is a great alliance!

**Change in May 22, 2004 Minutes:**

Township Board Chair Ron Radecki reports a change needed: "Owner Brian Jensen was not given permission to build, ~~but no easement has been obtained for access.~~ That permission will be given only if he obtains the proper easements."

**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Bud Sage reports progress on the WCOLA Management Plan (see Minutes). It has been put into its final draft form, and the committee—that was appointed at the June meeting—will be using it, to establish a priority schedule within each focus group. The committee will develop a realistic schedule and give recommendations to the Advisory Board.

*Editor comments:* Bud sent me a copy of the document, but he didn't feel it was necessary for it to be reprinted again in the Chain Letter, since the changes are minor from the last version. If you would like me to email you a copy of the final document, I will be glad to do so.

## COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS

The committee appointed to review the By-Laws of WCOLA—Bill Bottoms, Bill Downing, Mary Uradnik and Sherry Miner—have had considerable email communication with each other, and will probably continue discussions throughout the summer. The organization had lost the only available copy of its By-Laws, written late in the 1980s, but resurrected by President Chambers from some mysterious box of papers.

There are several reasons that an organization such as ours needs By-Laws; among them that we need the declaration that we are a non-profit association. The Committee has found that we do not follow some of the procedures and practices as outlined in the old document, and feels that changes might be made to describe better what we do. Further, the Management Plan suggests amendments that probably should be made.

If you as a member have questions or suggestions for the Committee, please get in touch with one of the members and make them known.

## JACK VELZEN'S CRUISIN' MAPS

*At the May meeting, our family bought a set of Jack's new maps, and last week Betsy and I took them out and used them in a putt-putt around parts of Wabana's shore, to see who lives where. The maps are great! We couldn't always be sure exactly whose house is whose, since many of the houses are not visible from the water, but we got a good idea of generally where the people live, those whom we have come to know through the Association. Information about the maps is as follows:*

Jack has produced three color maps, that identify all the lakeshore owners on the chain.

- One of Bluewater and Wakeman Bay.
- One of Wabana (main lake).
- One of Trout and Little Trout (=Interlachen).

Each one is 11 x 17, which is the same size as this Chain Letter when opened out. This large size is necessary so you can read the print.

All the information is public knowledge, taken from County records, but Jack has made it accurate through the employment of the GPS, global po-

sitioning.

He calls them "Cruisin' Maps" - based on the fact that they will probably mostly be used by folks cruising the shoreline some pretty summer eve looking at houses, etc.

They include both public and private roads labeled with name, the public campsites, public boat accesses, location of homes and cabins, all parcel boundaries and ownership by owner registered name with Itasca County, portages and paths (like to Bee Cee lake, the Joyce Estate, between Bluewater and Trout), and labeling of bays, lakes, points, etc.

Prices are:

- Paper - set of the three lakes = \$20, or \$7.50 each.
- Laminated - Set of the three lakes = \$30, or \$11 each.

The scale varies a bit for the three different maps, but ranges from 7/8" = 1/4 mile to 1 3/8 in = 1/4 mile.

Jack will have them on sale at the WCOLA meetings this summer, and he may have them at the picnic also. If someone wants a map, but is not at the lake association meeting, they can call his GIS business - Midwest GIS - at 327-3598, and he will figure out with them how to get them to them.

## ICOLA'S ANNUAL MEETING, JULY 21

*From Don St. Aubens, President of the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations. This is an organization to which our Association belongs, and our representatives are very much involved in its activities. We are urged to attend this meeting, and strengthen in it in any way we can. This is probably the best medium we can have, to influence public policy toward clean water in Itasca County lakes, and other worthy objectives.*

The Cohasset City council has given us permission to hold our annual Meeting in their new Community center at no cost to the organization. This is a central location that should be accessible to all. The meeting will be the evening of July 21. The business meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. A potluck din-

ner, starting at 5:30, will precede the business meeting.

Russ Schultz, a MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lake specialist, will be our main speaker. Mr. Schultz is the Lead DNR official on the North Central Lakes Pilot Project that is part of the Governor's Clean Water Initiative. The three areas of focus of the North Central Lakes Pilot Project are:

1. local workshops for increased understanding about lake and watershed management,
2. updated standards and conservation goals for local regulations and proposed governance and
3. lake conservation projects.

The Central Lakes Pilot Project involves the five counties of Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard and Itasca. It is concentrating on the impact of growth on the lakes, land use practices and the need to update State Shoreland Standards. Russ will share information about the Governor's Water Initiative and how it will affect our North Central Lakes Region.

Please mark your calendars for this meeting. I want to see a large turn out of lake association people. We'll be issuing invitations to county and city officials that are involved in inland use issues. A large turn out of lake Association people will help get their attention. Please pass this information on to members of you individual Lake Association. The Community Center has lots of room. Let's try to fill it.

Thank you.

Don St. A

**14th Annual Wabana Chain of Lakes Picnic**  
**Saturday, July 17th, 2004**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**Brats - Hot Dogs - Drinks Provided**  
**Potluck - Please bring a dish to pass**  
**Musical entertainment will follow our meal**  
**Everyone is welcome -- See you there!**

## WABANA BEACH BUILDING

Many Wabana Citizens—both on the chain of lakes and in the Township—may not even know that there is a public beach in Wabana Township. It is a very nice facility, lying on the southwest corner of Wakeman's Bay, which, of course, is on the southwest corner of Wabana Lake.

Unfortunately, for years it lacked a place where people could change into their swimsuits, and it had a privy that was in rather bad repair. Those problems now been corrected, and very well indeed! There is now a handsome building, as seen in the accompanying photographs, built both by local people and by people from Eden Prairie.

Ryan Wilkus, son of Michael and Barbara Wilkus on Bluewater, completed the Eagle Leadership/Community Service Project for the Citizens of Wabana Township and in doing so he completed earning his Eagle Scout award. Wabana Township also presented Ryan with the 2004 Citizen of the Year Award.

Scouts and adults from Troop 347 in Eden Prairie, and people from Wabana Township, contributed over 350 hours of work to complete a changing room/toilet facility at the Wabana Public Beach. Many people helped on this project including Jim Majjala and Ron Radecki of the Wabana area.

Another Scout – Steve Jacobson of Troop 347 in Eden Prairie – also completed more than 150 hours of service for Wabana Township by completing the refurbishment of the Beach's existing picnic tables and the construction of several new cedar tables.

All of us can be very proud of the accomplishments of these two young men; and grateful to them, and to all who worked on this fine project, for their service to the Wabana Township community and the Chain of Lakes.



## FROM DONNA HIETT HARRISON

In the last newsletter you announced you need input articles for the upcoming issues. I picked a favorite poem of mine out of the book, "Whispering Waters, Poems and Memoirs of Mary [McCullough] Hiett and her daughter Donna Harrison" – me.

-Donna

Mary Hiett, the author of this poem, wrote memoirs of her family cabin experiences on Wabana. She is the daughter of George W. McCullough who was MN's Chief Game Warden in 1927 and was MN State Fish and Game Commissioner in 1928 who built his log cabin on the lake back in the mid 1920's. George would later teach conservation to youth camps across the country and had over a lifetime, received numerous awards for his service to 4-H and conservation. Mary is a retired music teacher now residing in Faribault, MN and still comes up every year to the lake.



## "Lake Wabana" by Mary (McCullough) Hiett

*Bathed in liquid sunlight,  
loons call and echo  
to welcome in the dawn of a new day.  
Shimmering silvery tunnels of light  
burst hungrily  
over trees  
silouetted  
against the cloudless sky.  
Still.  
Calm.  
Motionless.  
Wabana gives back  
the suns brilliant yellow-white  
to squinting eyes-  
still half closed  
from a peaceful sleep.*



Breathe deep,  
cool pine scented air.  
Walk gently-  
the forest is silent yet.  
Hoof beats break the stillness  
as doe and yearling approach  
the waters edge  
to drink the rain sweetened water.  
A caucus of crows pierce  
the silence,  
announcing a new found meal.

Ripples move to the rhythm  
of awakening breezes.  
Ebb and flow  
of a heartbeat  
approach inlets and islands  
towards shores of pine and birch.  
Wabana holds secrets  
in her ever changing colors  
of mystic blues and greens.

Secrets of the Chippewa  
who fished her crystal depths,  
then vanishing  
like vapor clouds  
reflected on her glassy surface...  
secrets buried  
in an island grave  
with her namesake.

Wabana remembers  
a family with children laughing,  
splashing  
in her chilled waters,  
a wooden boat, gliding  
through calm channels  
and peering  
into her mossy,  
minnowy, mysterious shallows.

Wabana remembers  
shouts of joy  
as she offers up fish  
from transparent waters

to rod and cane pole.  
Voices  
tumbling, cascading  
from the past  
echoing a song that sings  
"Peace is here!"

Wabana remembers  
the family who loves her.

## **FROM JUNE MLA LAKE BULLETIN**

*The Minnesota Lakes Association, Paula West, Editor, publishes a lot of important information of use to lake users throughout the State. Their monthly Bulletin comes as e-mail to members, and the June issue contains items that Wabana Township citizens and Chain of Lakes residents will find of great value and interest. I feel sure they will not mind our lifting some of their information for this Newsletter:*

### **Be Careful What You Clean Up**

*Excerpted from Walker Fish News, Walker Area Fisheries Staff*

Earlier this spring, I was reading the newsletter from an area lake association in which there was an article introducing a new family that had moved to the lake. The family described how "lately our hobby has been pulling stumps out of the lake." What the new lakeshore owners likely did not realize is that those stumps and other forms of woody debris provide important habitat for fish and other aquatic "critters" that fish depend upon. Many studies have shown that crappie and bass use woody debris as cover for their spawning nests. The woody debris is also very important to many forms of fish food such as aquatic insects, crayfish, etc. The American people have a tendency to want everything to look "neat and clean up." Many people move to the lake to enjoy fishing and the wildlife that lives there. However, by bringing their "neat lawn" mentality with them they are destroying habitat for many forms of wildlife. As a society, we need to rethink what is good stewardship of our neighbors' property if we want to maintain abundant wildlife and fish.

### **A Conservation Agenda**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) created a Conservation Agenda as a means to identify and measure their progress toward specific conservation targets. It does not describe all of DNR's work, rather it presents key areas in which the DNR is committing resources to achieve specific conservation targets that are also measurable by specific indicators. The report, *Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007*, defines what DNR believes is important, what they intend to accomplish, and how they will hold themselves accountable to

specific conservation results. Used as a performance tool, it describes 75 measurable indicators with targets in six performance areas, and it identifies gaps in needed indicators as well. View the DNR's Conservation Agenda at [www.dnr.mn.us/conservationagenda/index.html](http://www.dnr.mn.us/conservationagenda/index.html)

### **Best Practices in Boating, Fishing, and Aquatic Resources Stewardship Education.**

The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation has developed materials for stewardship education. A free packet includes a workbook, information sheets, a trainer's guide, and a CD Rom. The materials can be downloaded at <http://www.rbff.org/educational/bestpractices.cfm>

*Also from the MLA Lake Bulletin:*  
**INTERVIEW WITH PAULA WEST, Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes Association**

*What's the single biggest challenge facing Minnesota's lakes?*

Apathy! Lakes define Minnesota—they're on our license plates and now our new state quarter, yet we take them for granted because they've always been here. As a state, if we don't devote more money to protecting them, and form partnerships between the public and private sectors, our neglect will mean fewer and fewer lake recreational opportunities and a diminished quality of life.

*What are the most noteworthy changes in Minnesota's lakes over the past decade?*

Increasing development. Much of the high quality lakeshore in Minnesota is already developed or rapidly being developed and redevelopment of priority lakes is occurring in some parts of the state, particularly in North Central Minnesota. Seasonal cabins are being replaced with suburban-type homes and lawns creating more impervious surfaces (driveways and roofs) that increase polluted runoff to our lakes. At the same time, native shoreland vegetation that has the capacity to absorb runoff and filter impurities is decreasing. If this continues, we'll end up with more polluted lakes and poorer water quality.

*How effective are state shoreland ordinances?*  
They are not effective for today's lakeshore development patterns. They were originally adopted in 1972 and last revised in 1989. The state shoreland ordinance provides minimal standards; it's up to counties to enforce them or adopt their own shoreland development standards that are more restrictive. The DNR is working on an alternative set of shoreland standards for the five-county Central Minnesota area as part of Governor Pawlenty's Clean Water Initiative. Counties outside that region may also choose to adopt those alternative standards, but no statewide revision is planned.

*How can we find a balance between enjoying our lakes and "loving them to death"?*

It's a complex issue that has to be addressed by all segments of our society. State and local governments must put proper controls for development in place and be willing to enforce them. Individuals must adopt good management practices for water quality protection on their own properties. They must also hold their local governments and state legislators accountable for making good decisions to protect our natural resources. Public officials must gain a better understanding of how development activities on land impact the quality of our waters and adopt and enforce local land-use regulations to protect water quality. Farmers, developers, and other businesses must balance the importance of water quality and economic gain. Working together is the only way to make this happen.

**MEMBERS: DELINQUENT?**  
**The fiscal year for the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association runs from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. Thus, if you have not paid your \$20 dollar dues for 2004-2005, you are now delinquent and not carried on the current membership roll. Checks can be given to Treasurer Cathy Rudolph at the July 17 meeting, or mailed to her at the address on the other side of this page.**

14th Annual Wabana Chain of Lakes  
Picnic

Saturday, July 17th, 2004

6:00 P.M.

Brats - Hot Dogs - Drinks Provided

Potluck - Please bring a dish to pass

Musical entertainment will follow our  
meal

Everyone is welcome -- See you there!

**Yes, there will be a business meeting in the morning, and your attendance is important, but the best fun time will be at 6:00 P. M. You won't want to miss it!**

Ms Cathy Rudolph  
36542 Havenwood Drive  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

The big annual event is upon us once more—the

# WCOLA Picnic!

Come to the meeting in the morning: 8:30 coffee, 9:00-10:00 business meeting.

Then, return for the picnic at 6:00 P. M. Meet your friends! Have fun! It'll be GREAT!