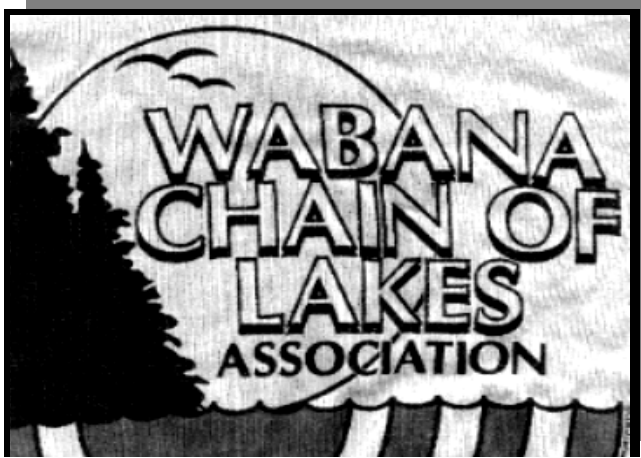


The Chain Letter

of the



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

December 2004

Volume 8, Number 6

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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

Completed and mailed in February 2005, but included in 2004's Volume 8 because this issue contains mostly 2004 information. The Editor apologizes for being months late with this, because the graphing of Secchi disk data took weeks and weeks longer than I thought it would.

CONTENTS:

FROM PRESIDENT CHAMBERS	1
MINUTES SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING	2-3
BY-LAWS COMMITTEE	3
WALLEYE REGS CHANGE,	3
2004 WCOLA MEMBERSHIP	4
2004 SECCHI DISK READINGS	5
SIX-YEAR SECCHI CHARTS	6-10
Trout North & South	6
Bluewater North & South	7
Wabana Wakeman & Central	8
Wabana North & Interlachen	9
Wabana South & Little Wabana	10
EDITOR'S COMMENT	11
CLEAN WATER LEGACY	11
MERCURY IN LAKES AND RIVERS	11
PLANT SALE	12



FROM PRESIDENT CHAMBERS

The 2004 WCOLA meeting year has come to a close and a good year it was. I think we accomplished a great deal. We have various committees working on things and will continue over the winter months. One very important one is the by laws committee. They have made some recommendations that we will all vote on this next year.

We have been so very fortunate to have so many people step up to the plate and help out where ever they are needed. That really says something about our members. As well as the advisory committee, I would to personally like to say a big thank you to all our volunteers.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe winter.

See you all in the spring of 2005.

Dick

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2004 MEETING

Program: President Dick Chambers opened the meeting. Bill Berg introduced Karen Noyce, Bear Research Specialist from the DNR Wildlife Research Unit. The slide presentation by Karen encompassed "What Drives a Population of Bears". Focusing on births, immigration, emigration and deaths of bears in a specific research area, covering the south end of Wabana Township to Marcell and on both sides of Highway 38. Karen also brought bear artifacts to explore following the presentation.

Bill Berg Wabana Chain of Lakes program committee member thanked Karen and she was given a WCOLA coffee mug in appreciation.

Call to order. President Dick Chambers called the meeting to order with 35 members in attendance. Those in attendance introduced themselves including guests of Nancy and Chris Bunge from Beijing, China.

Minutes: A motion was made by Bob Sage "to approve the minutes as printed in the newsletter". Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Read by Cathy Rudolph.

Balance as of 8-21-04	\$8,782.43
Received	
Dues	\$ 300.00
Cups	\$ 5.50
Contributions	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Total Received	\$ 330.50
Paid Out	
Printing	\$ 202.58
Stamps	\$ 125.80
ICOLA Contribution	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total Paid Out	\$1,328.38
Total as of 9-18-04	\$7,784.55
Paid Households-----	157

A thank you was received from ICOLA - Itasca County Coalition of Lake Associations. A motion was made by Bob Sage "to approve the Treasurer's Report as read". Approved.

Committees:

Lake association logo apparel was discussed and Bud Sage presented a number of ideas and options for future choices. Bud asked members for their

input and a number of valuable ideas came forth. He will continue to work on fine-tuning the selections to make them available next spring.

By-Laws of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association were printed in full in the September 2004 WCOLA Chain Letter, and mailed to everyone in the Wabana Township¹. Changes were proposed in the printed By-Laws. Chairman Chambers suggested the archives of the WCOLA be kept by one of the officers in place of the Wabana Township Hall. The committee members Bill Bottoms, Mary Uradnik, Sherry Miner and Bill Downing suggested any other considerations or proposed changes be mailed to billbottoms@earthlink.net. Bill Bottoms suggested the proposed By-Laws would be re-submitted for action in May of 2005.

The Unger Bridge clean up was successfully completed by Ken Zimmer, Bill Bottoms, Gary Burkholder, George Klacan, Bud Sage, Bob Sage, Jack Velzen, Dennis Koewler.

The inspection of sewers on the Wabana Chain of Lakes was addressed by Chairman Chambers. The advisory committee suggested the continued inspection of sewers is the responsibility of Itasca County and that a letter be sent from Chairman Chambers to Don Dewey of Itasca County Zoning reminding them of this agreement. It was noted that many of the lakeshore residents have done an excellent job of upgrading their sewer systems in the past two years.

Liability insurance for lake association officers was also questioned at the advisory committee meeting. David Lick will contact the Minnesota Lake Association concerning the need and availability of liability insurance and report back.

Cruzin' maps fundraiser was addressed in a letter from Jack Velzen read by Cathy Rudolph. Jack thanked everyone for their help and said that to date 115 maps were sold with final sales of \$1,103.

¹ See BY-LAWS COMMITTEE letter, page 3. If you do not have your copy of the By-Laws, please go to our web page, <http://www.wcola.org>, click on Newsletters, click on 2004, click on September, and go to pp. 4-6.

Other Business:

A 14' fishing boat was washed up on the south end of Wabana during a recent storm. Anyone knowing of the owner should contact Sherry Miner.

The public access road to Wabana Lake off County Road 49 was questioned by Bob Long. He suggested letters were received by property owners along the road, assessing them \$75. a year to drive over the federal land, which the road passes through. Gene Grell will look into the letters and Bob will report back.

Today was the final meeting of the year and Chairman Dick Chambers wanted to express his gratitude to all of the volunteers and members that make this organization work.

Motion to adjourn by Bud Sage. Approved.
Susan Lick, Secretary

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

From: Bill Bottoms on behalf of
The By-Laws Update Committee

A draft update of the WCOLA By-Laws was submitted at the September 2004 meeting of the Association. After discussion it was decided to delay action on the update until the first meeting in 2005 in order to give members more time to study it. Further study by this committee revealed a few appropriate (in our view) clarifying changes to Article II, Sections 1 and 2. Incorporating those changes, those sections would read,

"Section 1. ~~Election.~~ ~~All officers shall be elected by the membership.~~ Officers. The officers of the association shall consist of a President, Vice- President, Secretary and Treasurer, or combined office of Secretary/Treasurer. All officers shall be association members in good standing and shall be eligible to vote on association business. Officers shall serve terms of two (2) years each until their successors are elected and qualified. The President and Vice-President shall be elected in the even-numbered years, and the Secretary and Treasurer in the odd-numbered years. Incumbent officers shall be eligible for reelection. In addition to their other duties all officers shall be members of the Advisory Committee.]

"Section 2. ~~Number~~ Advisory Committee. In addition to the officers, the Advisory Committee shall consist of not less than six (6) nor more than fifteen (15) members

selected by the membership. Half of the non-officer members of the Advisory Committee shall be elected each year. Incumbent Advisory Committee members shall be eligible for reelection. The Advisory Committee shall take office immediately upon their election and shall serve until the close of the annual meeting two (2) years following. The Advisory Committee shall hold regular meetings at times called by the President. A majority of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.]"

The purposes of these changes are to make it clear that the officers are part of the Advisory Committee and that incumbents are eligible for reelection. We recommend that they be considered when our original submission is discussed next year.

Respectfully,
Bill Bottoms

WALLEYE REGS CHANGE (NOT HERE)

This will not affect lakes in our Township, but some members like to go fishing in other County lakes, so this announcement may be of interest:

The Grand Rapids Area Fisheries office has decided to implement walleye harvest regulations on seven lakes throughout Itasca County. "Public support for the 17 to 26 inch protected slot on Swan, Splithand, Trout (near Coleraine), Moose (near Deer River), Round (near Squaw Lake), Deer/Battle/Pickerel (near Effie), and Island (near Northome) was very good so they decided to implement the regulation beginning on May 14, 2005", said Chris Kavanaugh, Area Fisheries Supervisor. "For Sand, Bowstring and Jessie there was a lack of support so the regulation will not be implemented at this time."

The decision to implement or drop the proposals was based on comments received between May and early October, and two public meetings held in September.

Signs will be posted at the accesses on lakes reminding anglers of the change. "We will step up our monitoring efforts on those lakes to keep track of changes in the fish population in order to assess the effectiveness of the regulation" said Kavanaugh. Sand, Bowstring, and Jessie will also be monitored regularly to see if any changes are noted there as well.

For more information on the regulation changes contact the Grand Rapids Area Fisheries Office at 1201 E. Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, (218) 327-4430 or e-mail chris.kavanaugh@dnr.state.mn.us.

2004 WCOLA MEMBERSHIPJohn & Cheryl **Adams**-LWPat & Jan **Adams** - BCharles & Donna **Anderson** - H
Duane & Marion **Amundson** - W
Russ & Yvonne **Barto** - BJames & Marjorie **Bekkedahl** - B
Craig & Cindy **Bender** - W
Wm. & Helene **Berg** - T
Joan **Birkemeyer** - W
Peter & Julia **Birkey** -
Steven & Caroline **Bischoff** - W
Bud & Agnes **Blackmore** - W
Terry **Boblit** - W
William & Jeannette **Booth** - W
Mary Frances & Bill **Bottoms** - B
Reginald & Susan **Boyle** - LT
Steven & Lynette **Bryant** - B
Chris & Nancy **Bunge** - W
Ted & Gail **Bunge** - W
Dan & Jeanne **Burke** - W
Gary and Carol **Burkholder** - W
USA MN Council **Campfire** - BRichard & Patricia **Chambers** - W
Robert & Cam **Childs** - P
John F., Dennis, & Kathi
Chervinko - T
Jim & Ellen **Christmas** - W
Libby & George **Colburn** - W
Mark & Ellen **Conover** -
Kevin & Donna **Costello** -
Martin **Coughlin** - W
Stanley & Mary Lee **Craig**Dennis & Janis **Davis** - W
Edward & Helen
Dettmer - Pickerel
Fred & Kathy **Doty** - W
John & Marcia **Downing** - W
William & Betsy **Downing** - W
James **Edwards** - W
Bernadette **Eich** - W
Richard **Eldredge** - W
Nancy **Ellsworth** - B
Scott **Ellsworth** - B
Stephen **Ellsworth** - B
Ted **Ellsworth** - B
Karl & Pat **Fischer** -T
Greg & Ruth **Fordham** - WChris & Gaye
Francisco - W Creek
Eric & Jan **Fredbeck** - W
Dr. Peter & Chris **Friedlieb** - WGordon & Lynette **Fuller** - W
Phil & Deborah **Gelbach** - W
Mary & Bob **Gephart** - W
John & Martha Ann **Gettinger** - WJohn & Sharon **Gray** - B
Mr. & Mrs. Ted **Green** -
Don & Michele **Greiner** - BRobert & Bonnie **Halver** - W
Vicky & Rick **Harding** - TDonna **Harrison** - W
Cress & Susannah **Hart** - W
John & Donna **Hartung** - W
Susan **Hawkinson** - DWilliam & Ellen **Hoeg** - W
Walt & Kim **Hoffman** - W
Ronald & Beatrice **Houweman** -WLouis & Barbara **Ireton** -T
Tim & Susan **Jarvis** - W
Dave **Johnson** - WKarl **Kaukis** - B
George & Mary Lou **Klacan** - B
Dorothy **Klinger** - W
Dennis & Jean **Koewler** - W
Ken & Deb **Kruger** - WSteven & Chick **Laitman** - W
Adam **Lane** - W
William & Pat
Langenbrunner - W
Danielle **Larsen** - W
Jerald & Emma **Larson** - W
Mark & Cynthia **Lavalier** - W
Juan & Christina **Lazo** - W
Dave & Sue **Lick** - W
Roger & Nancy **Linder** - W
William & Kathryn **Linder** - B
James & Lois **Loney** - W
Bob & Mae **Long** - W
Lovelace Family - W
John & Karen **Lukens** -Don & Evelyn **Maddaus** - W
Jim & Pat **Maijala** -B
Peg **Landin** &
Tim **Mangni** - PRichard & Nancy **Massaro** *- W
James **McCullough** - W
Mark & Kathy **McCullough** - W
Catherine **McLynn** - W
Steven & Pat **Mead** - B
Arthur & Margaret
Merrill/Morris - WJohanna **Miller** - W
Doug & Ellen **Miner** - W
Jon & Pamela **Miner** - WSherry **Miner** - W
Irma **Moore-Carroll** - W
Robert & Kay **Moore** - WLynn & Tim **Moratzka** -
John & Deb **Morris** - WConnie **Myers** - B
W. H. & Arletta **Myers** - B
Dan **Myrick** - W
Dorothy **Myrick** - W
Tom & Carol **Myrick** - W
Dr. Richard & Kathleen
Nelson - WBradley & Mary **Nett** - LTDavid & Carolyn **Nyren** - WGary & Kim **Oja**
Jim & Gail **Olijnek** - W
Kay **Owen** - W
Arthur & Trudy **Patton** - LWStan & Jean **Polpovich** -
Stella **Quaday** - WJames & Susan **Ries** - BTerry **Robinson** - BCatherine **Rudolph** - W
Bill & Diane **Rutherford** - BBob **Sage** - B
Brenda Boss & David **Sage** - B
L. W. "Bud" & Mary Lou **Sage** - B
Stuart W. & Tanya **Sage** - B
Rich Brasch & Carole **Schmidt** - W
Fred & Joan **Schnitzler** - Little H
Clifford **Schroeder** - Island Lake
Mark **Sherer** - W
Wayne **Sherer** - W
David & Beverly **Sigfrinius** - W
Sylvia **Sights** - WBruce & Diane **Smith** -
Jane **Phillips** & John **Soll** - W
Joel & Jan **Solomon** - LTMathew&Nicole**Stecklein**
& Greg&Mary **Tille**
Scott & Jan **Stein** - W
Joe & Martha **Stevens** - B
Philip & Karen **Strege** -
Dave & Barbara **Stuart** - B
Jeff & Debbie **Tack** - BKurt & Lavonne **Thompson** - B
Sylvia **Troumbly** - LW
Harold & Betty **Unger** - T
John & Mary **Uradnik** - W
Hugh & Roberta **Vasatka** - LT
Jack & Sally **Velzen** - W
Mrs. Susan **Vincent** -
Ted & Swanee **Voneida** - B
Scott **Wakeman** -
Paul **Walter** -
Pamela **Wassberg**
Whittenbury - LT
Merrill & Marlene **Widmark** - W
George & Dolores **Wilbert** - WMichael & Barbara **Wilkus** - B
Gib & Kathleen **Willson** - W
Gig & Kristen **Willson** - W
William & Donna **Wolf**; Jr. - T
David & Karen **Wooden** - B
Mary **Ziegler** - LWKen & Barbara **Zimmer**, Jr. - W
Susannah **Zimmer** - T
James & Marie **Zimmerman** - T
Mark & Alexandra **Zimmerman** - T
John & Charlotte **Zimmerman** - T
John & Alida **Zimmerman**, Jr. - T

We have made parallel lists of the WCOLA membership for the past three years (volunteers' best knowledge). The table above is the complete list of the 173 members for 2004-05. The 33 spaces between some names show where there were names in former years, but dropped this year. If you're not listed, maybe you forgot or we're wrong. Letters after the names indicate "lake of major interest": B=Bluewater; H=Hanson; LT= Little Trout (Interlachen); LW=Little Wabana; P=Pickerel; T=Trout (Big Trout); W=Wabana. If no letter appears, it means we don't know, and wish we did—will you email me? We could use two letters if you wish, or "All", or "WTM" for Wabana Township Member, if that would suit.

2004 SECCHI DISK READINGS.

Nancy Ellsworth's loyal crew of Secchi disk readers have come through again with a season's worth of water clarity readings. Unexpectedly, when I tried to compile the results, I opened a can of worms that has kept me phoning and emailing a good deal, and that has held up publication of this issue. There were two problems: First, WS (Wabana South) had no readings for this year; and second, we had two sets of readings for TS (Trout South), when in previous years we have had only one.

The WS problem was due to our giving Sue Lick the wrong information on locations of WC (Wabana Central) and WS. She reported for WC, but did her reading in WS's water, so instead of having no readings for WS, we suddenly had none for WC. The best solution I can provide is to substitute Sherry Miner's readings for IS (Island Sound) for the missing WC readings. The two sites are close enough together, and past data have been nearly identical, so this substitution for 2004 will probably not do violence to our lists. In future years we

can ask Sherry to move northward and read WC instead of IS.

The TS confusion required many emails, snail mails, and telephone calls. After the retirement of Harold and Betty Unger, John Zimmerman took responsibility for TS, and reported **two** sets of numbers. When John returned to Florida, Bill Berg finished the year, and continued the two sets of numbers. We had not received two reports in previous years—what were they?

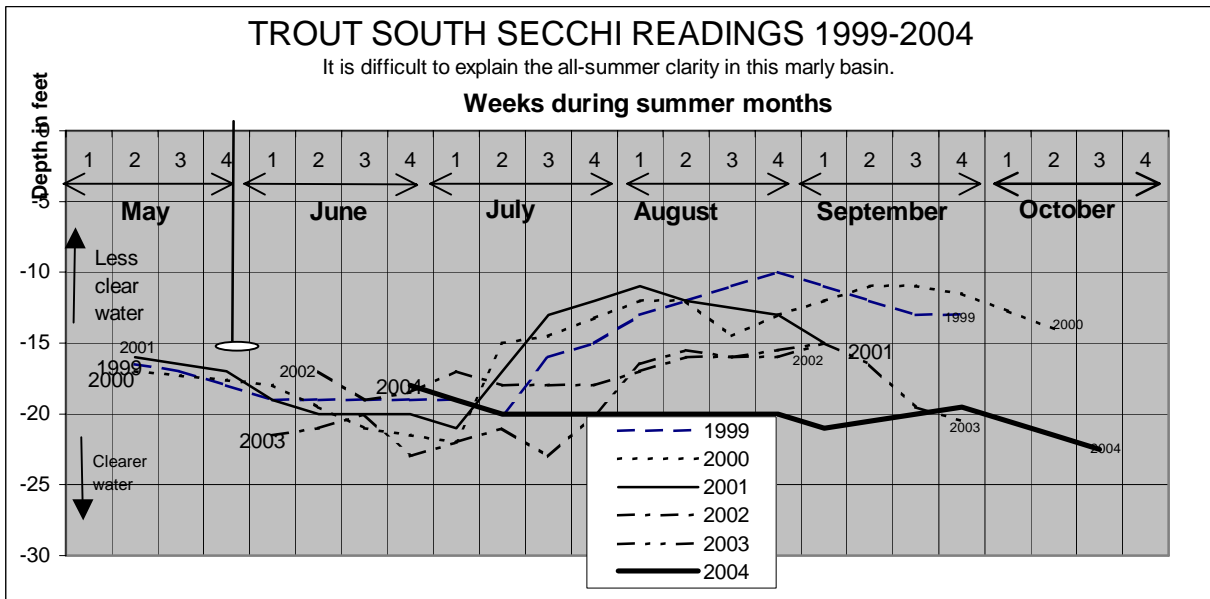
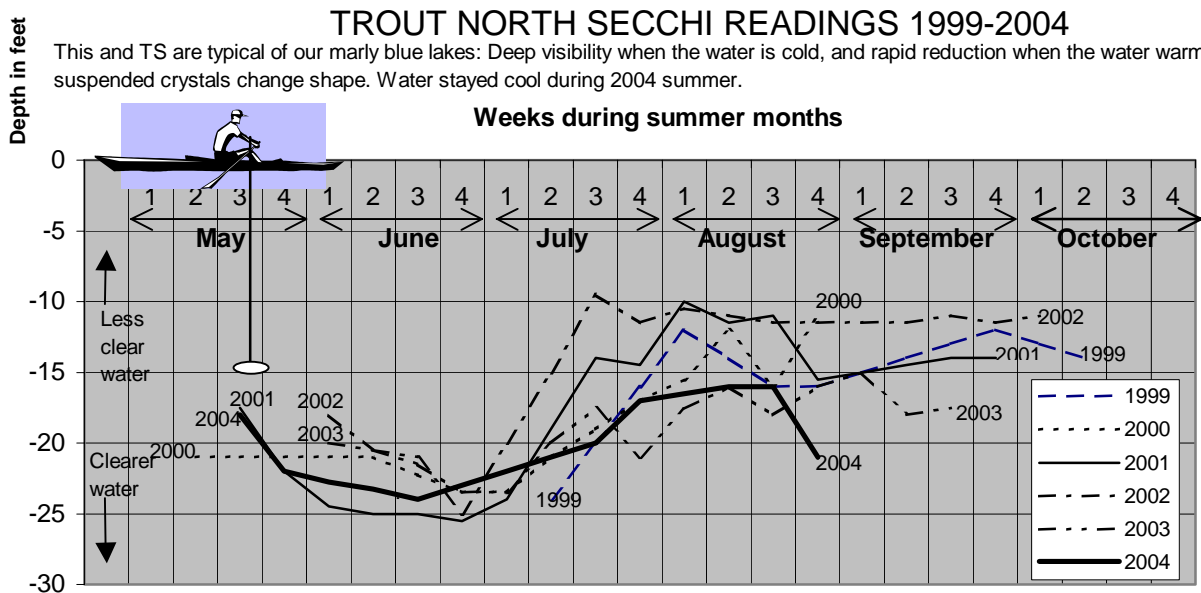
Checking with the website of the CLMP (Citizen's Lake Management Program) of the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) we found that for years the Ungers had been reporting both sets to the CLMP but reporting only one to WCOLA. Which one was the one we historically reported to you? Thanks to the MPCA web site, we determined it was the south basin of Trout, the same TS basin that we have been sampling for our chemical monitoring. The other is from the southeast shallow non-blue end of Trout Lake, in the deepest part of it, just north of the island. Here are this year's data:

2004 SECCHI DISK READINGS

BASIN==>	2004 TN	2004 TS	2004 IN	2004 BN	2004 BS	2004 WW	2004 WN	2004 WC	2004 WS	2004 LW
May Wk 1										8.5
May Wk 2				13.5						7.5
May Wk 3	18.0			14.0		10.0				
May Wk 4	22.0			13.5		11.0	17.0			
Jun Wk 1				15.5	14.0	12.0	15.5	18.0	16.0	17.5
Jun Wk 2			30.0	16.5	15.0		18.0		16.0	18.5
Jun Wk 3	24.0			25.0	16.0	15.0	20.5	16.0	20.0	16.5
Jun Wk 4		18.0	27.0	23.0	15.5	18.0	19.0			20.0
Jul Wk 1	22.0		22.5	25.0	20.0	16.0	20.0	22.0	17.0	
Jul Wk 2		20.0	23.0	20.0	26.0	15.0	17.5	19.5	18.5	19.0
Jul Wk 3	20.0		23.0	19.5	24.0	17.0	17.5	18.5	18.0	
Jul Wk 4	17.0		29.0	18.5	22.5	20.0	17.0	20.0		17.0
Aug Wk 1		20.0		20.5	22.0	20.0	19.0	21.0	20.0	13.5
Aug Wk 2	16.0		27.5	20.0	21.0	16.0	18.5	20.5	17.0	
Aug Wk 3	16.0			15.5	19.5	15.0	17.0		16.0	
Aug Wk 4	21.0	20.0	25.5	15.5	17.0	15.0	18.0			13.5
Sep Wk 1		21.0		15.5			17.0	17.0		16.0
Sep Wk 2				15.5			18.5			16.0
Sep Wk 3			23.5		16.0	16.0	18.0	19.5		
Sep Wk 4		19.5			16.0	15.0	17.0			15.5
Oct Wk 1										
Oct Wk 2										
Oct Wk 3										
Oct Wk 4		23.5								
	Bill Berg	John Zimmerman	Peter Gephart	George Klacan	Nancy Ellsworth	Dennis Koewler	Ken Zimmer	Sherry Miner	Susan Lick	Cheryl Adams

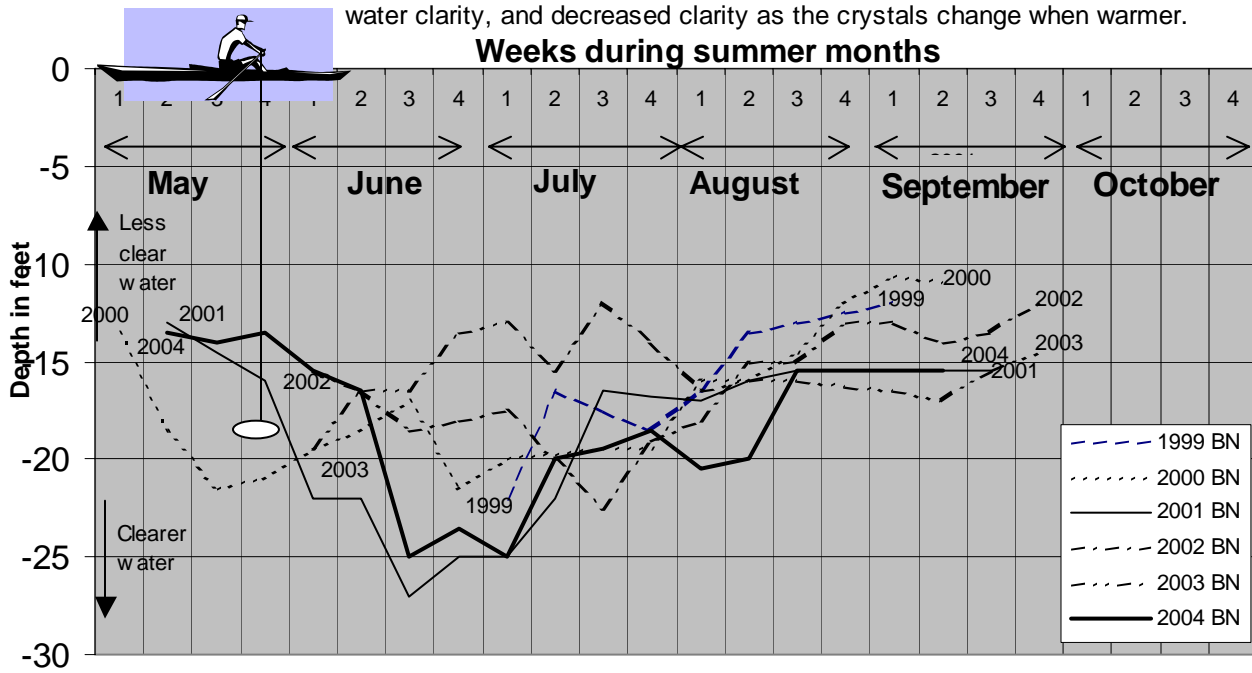
SIX-YEAR SECCHI CHARTS

The *Chain Letter* has been reporting Secchi Disk readings in our Chain of Lakes since 1999, and we feel it is time to provide you with summaries so you can see all the results. The following are graphs of the data provided weekly from May through October of each year, for each of our ten basins. So we can present the isolated spots in as clear a fashion as possible, we have doctored the data to the extent of filling in blank weeks with intermediary numbers, so the lines will be continuous for each year. We are indebted to the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for some of the raw data on TS, Trout South and WW, Wabana Wakeman (see <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp/clmpSearch.cfm>), as well as to check data on that and several other basins, but most of the information was generated by our own zealous Secchi readers.



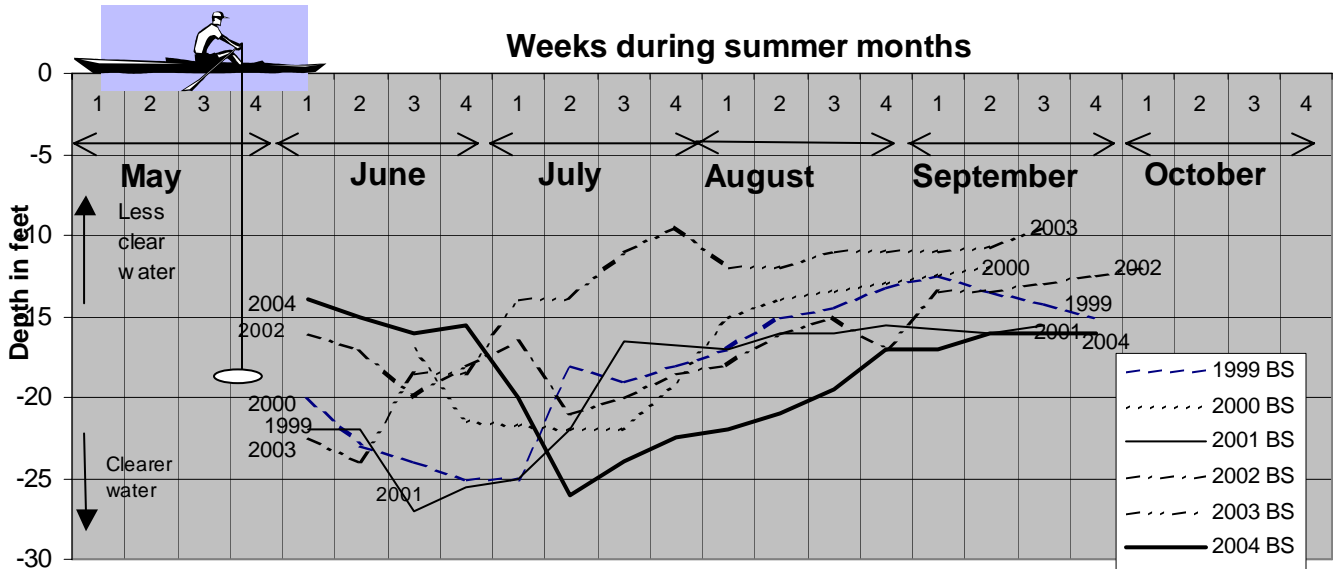
BLUEWATER NORTH SECCHI READINGS 1999-2004

This is the lake in our chain with the most marl. It shows the typical deep cold-water clarity, and decreased clarity as the crystals change when warmer.



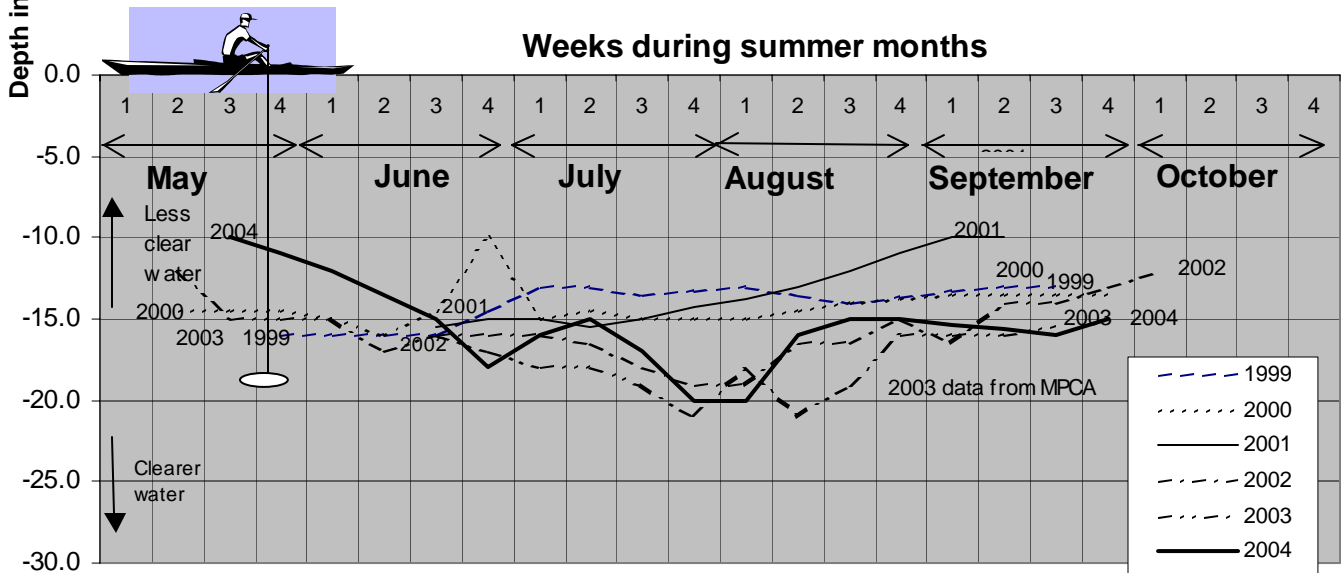
BLUEWATER SOUTH SECCHI READINGS 1999-2004

Possibly another effect of cold water during summer 2004: water remained clear in August.



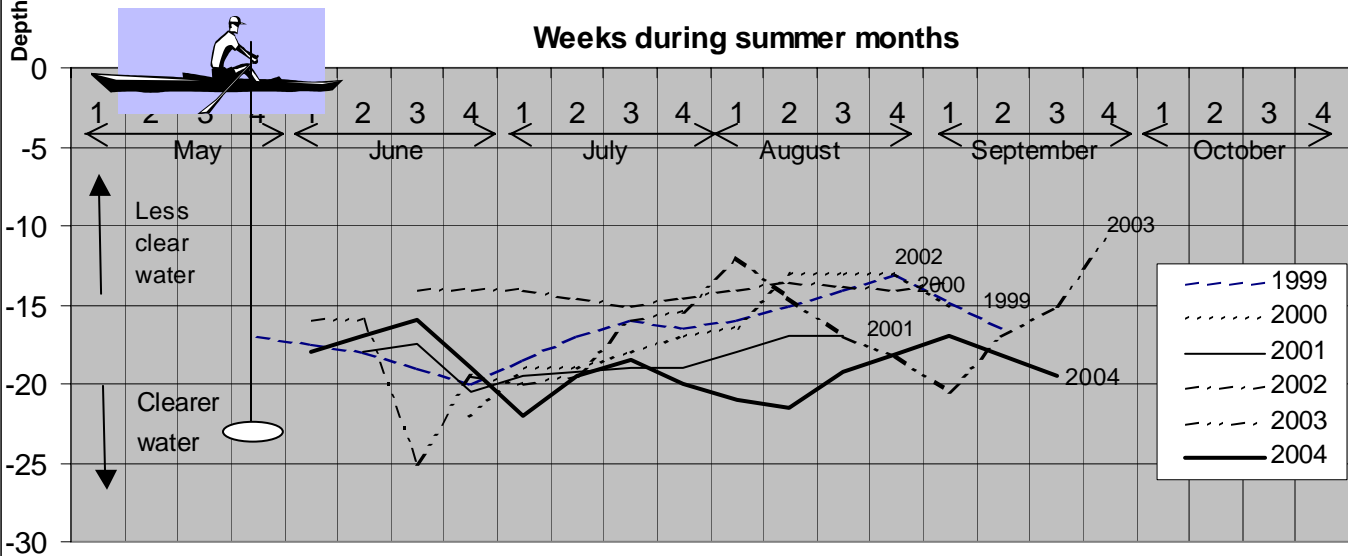
WABANA WAKEMAN SECCHI READINGS 1999-2004

Fairly shallow --no part of Wakeman Bay is deeper than 30 feet. Well developed except northern shore. Warms early.
With more nutrients, could develop strong algae bloom. Care with septic systems has been well worth it.



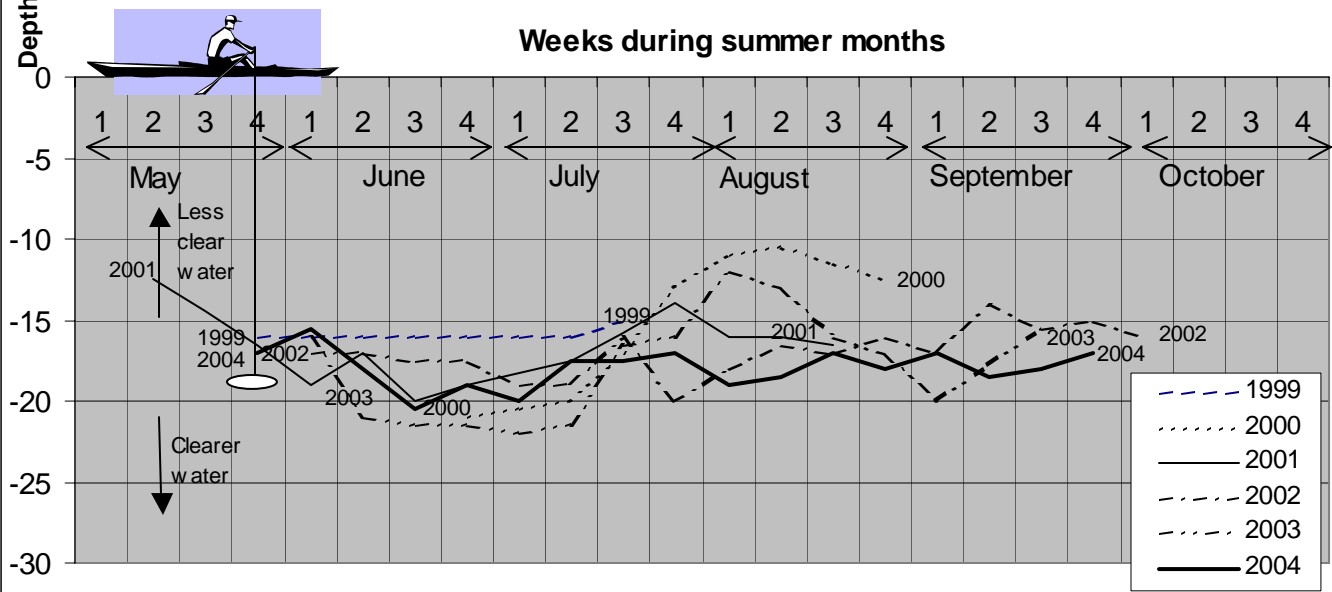
WABANA CENTRAL SECCHI READINGS 1999-2004

This basin is the deepest part of the largest basin of the lake. Water drains here from the northern Trout Lake chain, and from the western Blue water-Wakeman Bay end, and therefore is the most mixed area of the Chain.



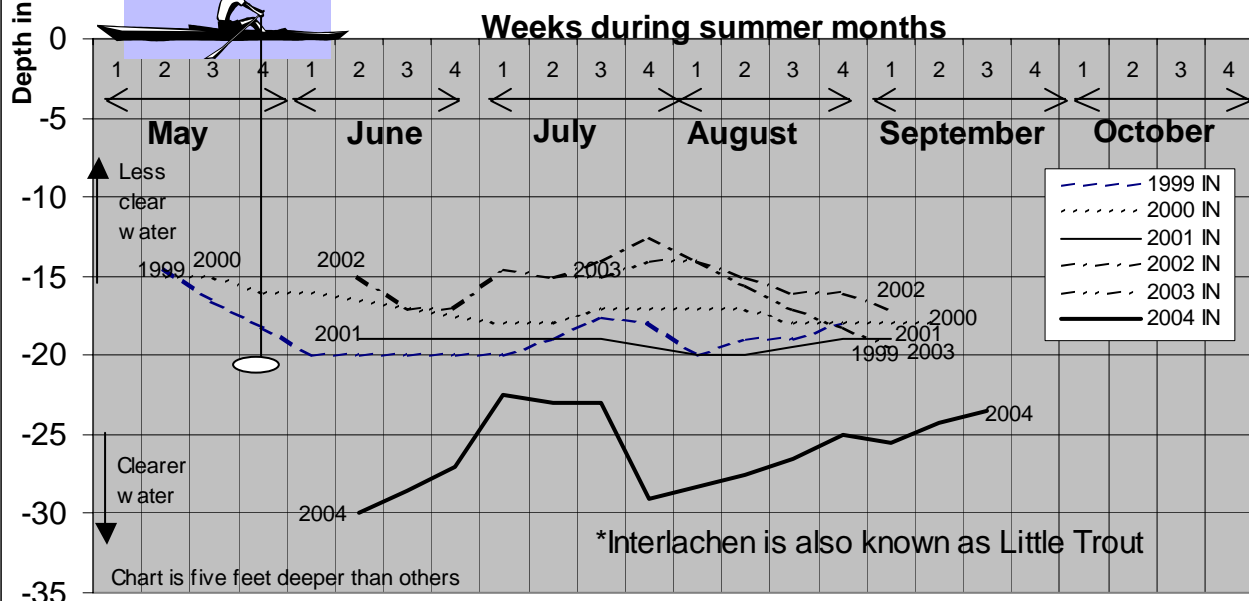
WABANA NORTH SECCHI READINGS 1999-2004

This deep basin is almost completely cut off from the rest of Wabana's main basin by a shallow bar running from Diamond Point nearly to Government Point.



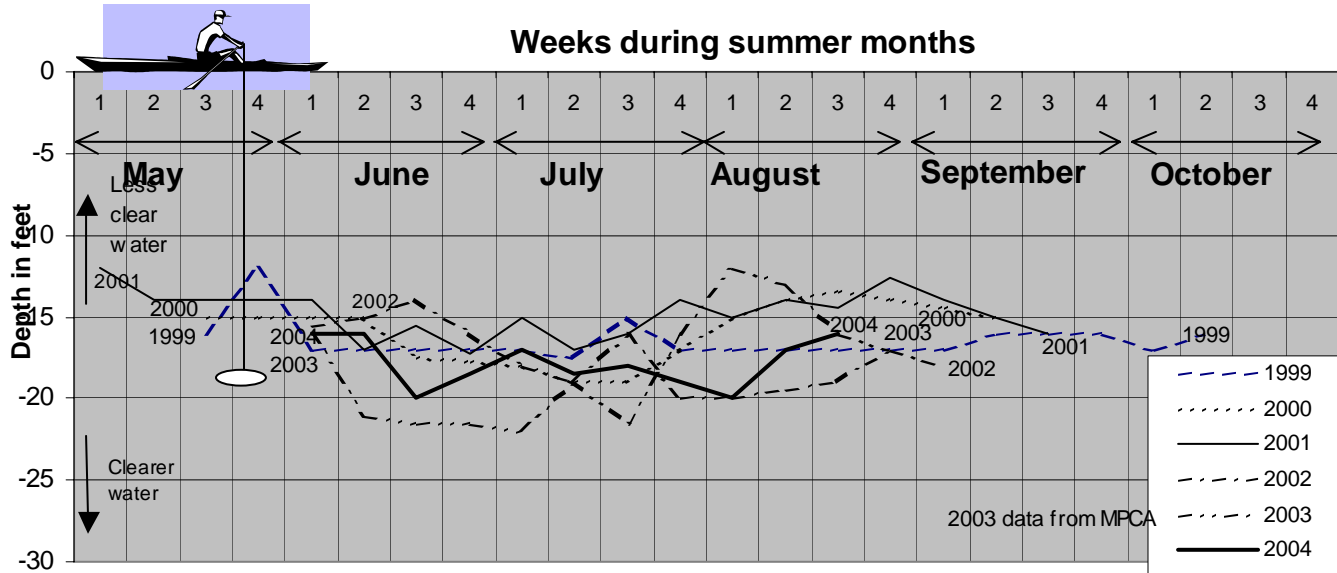
INTERLACHEN* SECCHI READINGS 1999-2004

This lake is an oddity: Small, and very deep. Further data will be needed to explain the amazing increase in clarity in 2004, after years of shallower readings.



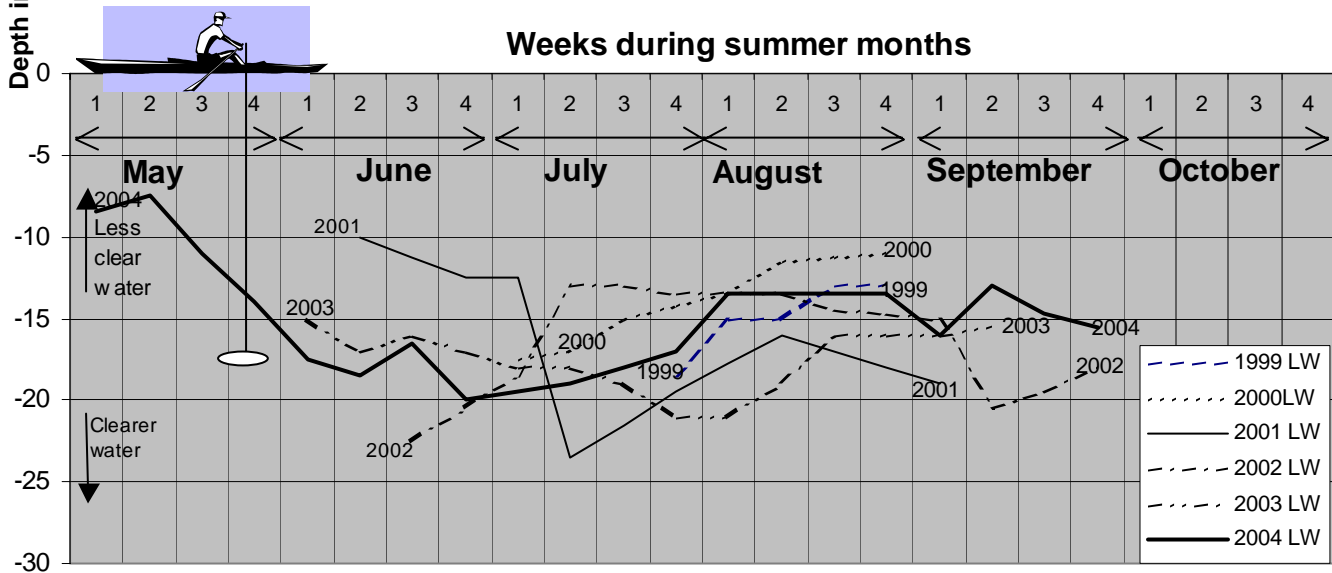
WABANA SOUTH SECCHI READINGS 1999-2004

Water flow s through this east arm from Wabana Central and the Island Sound, on its way to the outlet.



LITTLE WABANA SECCHI READINGS 1999-2004

Little Wabana is a separate basin, with no surface connection to the chain of lakes, though Wabana Creek curves around it. It is wise to keep a careful Secchi disk check on this sensitive built-up lake.



EDITOR'S COMMENT

I don't know if everybody will be as interested as I am in the charts on the preceding pages—not everybody is as taken up with water as I am—but each person will probably at least look at the lines on the chart concerning his/her own basin or lake, and will wonder what they signify, if anything. Truth to tell, not much! And that's encouraging.

We seem to be holding our own, at least in the short six-year run. There does not seem to be indication of trends, for the better or the worse. In many cases, the water seems a little clearer in 2004 than in some previous years, but that could be the effect of cool water, or some other temporary or local factor.

*It interests me that the lakes that are made blue-green with suspended marl (Bluewater and Trout) show a lot more year-to-year variation than the lakes that do **not** have that marl (Wabana, Little Wabana, Interlachen). Interlachen is a puzzle right now, but more data will help in understanding it.*

I wish we had some additional Secchi disk readers, so we could have information on basins and lakes we lack at present, for examples: the deep northern end of Trout Lake, Buckman Cove, Clearwater, the Hanson lakes, Doan, and so on. Please volunteer for 2005 if you can!

I am hoping that Nancy Ellsworth will continue her great work of coordinating the Secchi disk readers. Email her at loonae@juno.com to volunteer help. Richard Brasch has agreed to take overall charge of surface water testing, and needs volunteer help for that work. Email him at rbrasch@bonestroo.com to help with that important work.

Excerpted from MLA's monthly *Lakes Bulletin* **CLEAN WATER LEGACY**

The Federal Clean Water Act mandates that states test their waters, identify pollutants, and locate pollutant sources. However, in Minnesota only a small fraction of the state's streams and lakes — eight percent of lakes and 14 percent of streams — have been tested by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Of this small sampling, 40 percent, or about 1900 bodies of water, were found to be contaminated. Complying with the federal Clean Water Act could cost billions, whereas not complying could result in a devastating economic loss for the tourism and all other water related industries. In addition, permanent ecological loss could result in waters across state.

The "Clean Water Legacy: a partnership to restore Minnesota's impaired waters," is a coalition planning to raise \$80 million a year to clean up Minnesota's contaminated waters. The coalition, including business community leaders, environmental organizations and farm groups, have suggested raising the funds by charg-

ing Minnesotan's a \$3 per month fee on their water bill. For those rural residents with septic systems a \$36 annual fee could be added to their property tax, with exemptions for low-income households. The fee program would have to continue for several years in order to maintain existing programs, as opposed to developing new programs. In addition to the water bill and septic system fees, another possible funding source could come from a potential sales tax dedication. Minnesota voters could approve a constitutional amendment on the ballot, dedicating a portion of the state sales tax to that end.

Last week at the DNR Roundtable Conference Governor Pawlenty praised the Clean Water Legacy in stating, "I like it, I'll sign it if it comes to my desk." The Clean Water draft bill authors are Representative Dennis Ozment and Senator Dennis Frederickson. According to Mike Robertson, environmental policy consultant to the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, the State Legislature simply doesn't have a choice as to whether or not they should deal with the problem. "We see it as a very significant economic development issue for the state. If we wait, the cost and difficulty of addressing the problem will only get worse."

Interested in Voicing Your Opinion on the Clean Water Legacy?

Use your knowledge and experience with Minnesota's water issues to construct a letter to the editor or guest article in your local newspaper. Or use these links to contact your local representatives and make sure your voice is heard!

Minnesota House of Representatives:

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/housemembers.asp>

Minnesota Senate:

<http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/shtml>

MERCURY IN LAKES AND RIVERS

The MPCA has released a preliminary plan for cleaning up mercury pollution affecting the state's lakes and rivers. The proposal specifies how much mercury levels should be reduced to restore waters impaired by mercury. Mercury is a toxic metal that can accumulate as it moves through the biological food web to fish and is passed to people who eat them. It can cause serious human health effects, particularly for infants and children.

Mercury is a difficult pollutant to address, because it can travel long distances through the atmosphere and fall to earth with rain and snow... Ninety percent of the human-caused mercury deposition in Minnesota comes from sources outside the state... The large majority of reductions will have to come at the federal and international level... Public meetings on the draft statewide mercury reduction plan will take place later this winter or early spring at MPCA regional offices and in St. Paul. To be added to a notification list for the meetings, contact Howard Markus at the MPCA, 651-296-7295 or 1-800-657-3864 or howard.markus@pca.state.mn.us.

PLANT SALE

Announcing: 3rd annual Itasca County Soil And Water Conservation District, native tree and plant sale.

The Itasca SWCD has begun taking orders for its spring 2005 tree and native plant sale. They offer a variety of native and locally grown trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and sedges, and for a variety of site conditions. Most of the species offered last year are again available this year, and in addition the District has added a number of species.

Stock will be available for pick-up in early May, and they will be taking orders through mid April. Orders will be filled in the order received, so place orders early for best availability. Contact Andy for more information or a free informational handout and order form; 218-326-0017 or 1889 E. Hwy 2-Grand Rapids, MN. 55744 or andy.arens@mn.nacdnet.net

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

THIS IS THE

Chain Letter

**OF THE WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES
ASSOCIATION**

December 2004 issue

EVEN IF IT ISN'T MAILED UNTIL 2005

This issue has a lot of interesting stuff in it, including graphs of Secchi disk readings for the past six years, and we hope it was worth the wait.

