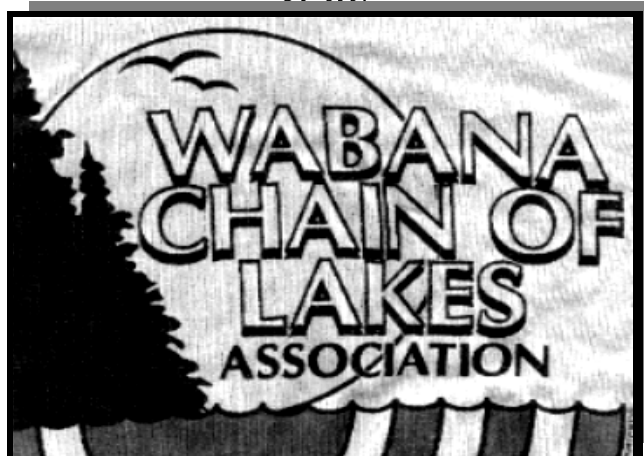


The Chain Letter

of the



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

June 2005

Volume 9, Number 2

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
 John Zimmerman 326-1020

Visit our web site www.wcola.org

Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner,
mminer@minergroup.com

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FROM PRESIDENT CHAMBERS

Our first meeting of the year was well attended. The association has many things planned for the summer. We will be voting on changes to our by-laws and will continue to work on lake management. We have decided to put in a new tree in memory of Jon Rowe as the first one didn't do well. Maybe it's my green thumb or lack there of. Our town board gave us permission to put it on the south side of the building. Stop in and see it. Our next meeting will be on June 25th. Hope to see you all there.

Dick

MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2005 MEETING
Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Program: Bill Berg, WCOLA program committee and wildlife research specialist, presented a program on wetlands. A newly released video "Preserving Wetlands Tradition", produced by the US Fish & Wildlife Service was shown. The precarious situation of wetlands was exhibited and recommendations were made for change. Bill suggested building wetlands nesting boxes as a way to participate in helping the situation. The membership thanked Bill for bringing this to our attention.

Call to order. President Dick Chambers called the meeting to order. The 30 members in attendance introduced themselves.

Minutes: A motion by Bud Sage, "to approve the minutes as printed in the newsletter". Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Read by Cathy Rudolph.

Balance as of 9-18-04	\$7,784.55
Received	
Dues	\$ 180.00
Cups	\$ 11.00
Contributions	<u>\$ 30.00</u>
Total Received	\$ 221.00
Paid Out	
Printing	\$ 371.48
Stamps	\$ 250.80
ICOLA Contribution	<u>\$ 75.00</u>
Total Paid Out	\$ 697.28

Total as of 5-21-05 \$ 7,308.27

Paid Households 2004-2005----- 169

Bill Downing made a motion, "to receive the Treasurer's Report as read". Approved.

President Chambers stated ongoing costs are for printing and mailing the WCOLA newsletter to everyone in Wabana Township and watershed area. The lake association is open to everyone, including the many small to large lakes, creeks, watershed, any landowners and visitors to the Wabana area.

Committees:

By-Laws of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association were printed in the September 2004 WCOLA Chain Letter and posted on the WCOLA web site. Changes are proposed in the printed WCOLA By-Laws. Chairman Chambers proposed two additional changes: 1) Election of officers on alternating years for the president and vice-president 2) Advisory members not be elected officials but volunteers. Sherry Miner will convey the additions to Bill Bottoms, committee chair.

The archives of WCOLA are being reorganized by chairman Chambers and housed in the future with the recording secretary. By-law committee members are Bill Bottoms, Mary Uradnik, Sherry Miner and Bill Downing. Any other considerations or proposed changes should be mailed to billbottoms@earthlink.net.

George Wilbert requested he be replaced on the WCOLA Advisory Committee.

Communications Committee members continually keep information on the WCOLA web site. Mark Miner accepts any information for links on the web site. The site has archived the past 9-10 years of newsletters and organization activity.

Tia Pace will not be able to continue on the committee.

WCOLA Lakes Management Plan committee members. Steve Bryant, suggested the organization re-focus on the plan, review progress and tasks ahead. Aquatic environment, one of the areas in the plan is scheduled to be implemented this season. David Lick commented on the statewide success of lake management plans. Steve Bryant proposed the July meeting be the lake management plan review session.

Bill Downing pointed out that the entire plan is included in the WCOLA web site¹ (September 2002 newsletter). Bud Sage suggested the web site be listed on the front page of the newsletter for better visibility.

Septic system inspections were addressed by President Chambers. He read a letter dated December 30, 2004, from The Itasca county Zoning/Solid Waste department, "verifying that our office will follow up on the septic systems that failed the inspection and will enforce compliance. The property owners were mailed a copy of their non-compliance report and the required compliance date after the inspections were completed."

A Wabana Township Special Meeting was addressed by Dick Chambers. A review of the meeting concerning The Wabana Township Ordinance Regulating Subdivisions and Towers in the Shoreland Overlay District was discussed. The township will hold another information meeting in June; a notice will be posted in the Grand Rapids Herald Review.

Mary Uradnik urged township residents to get involved with this important issue. President Chambers will request an informational meeting between the officers of Wabana Township and the WCOLA Lake Association Advisory in the near future.

Ordinance information can be found in the past newsletters posted on the WCOLA web site.²

Highway 38 Construction Committee member Bud Sage gave a brief report on the progress. A second coat will be put on County Road 49 to County Road 19 soon. County Road 19 to Marcell will not be completed until the year 2010 to 2014.

Ken Zimmer suggested WCOLA "Adopt A Highway" in the Wabana Township. Bill Berg expressed appreciation for the late Jim Lang's efforts on keeping the roads in Wabana Township picked up.

Lake association logo apparel was discussed and Bud Sage will bring a variety of samples and costs

¹ See www.col.org, click on Newsletters, go to September 2002, see pages 3-5 for the entire Third Draft of the Plan.

² See www.wcola.org, click on Newsletters, go to May 2003, pages 2-4 for the entire ordinance.

to the next meeting. Bill Berg suggested WCOLA membership signs for docks, will do some research and report back.

New Business:

WCOLA program committee member Susan Hawkinson proposed an August program from Lake Country Power on wind power. Steve Bryant suggested inviting County Commissioner, Catherine McLynn to the June meeting for an open discussion.

WCOLA annual picnic committee is open to ideas and help. Contact Cathy Rudolph. The picnic will be held in July.

Water Quality committee member Bill Downing asked that Richard Brasch be appointed to take his place as chairman. Richard, Phil Gelbach and John Downing took the water quality samples at ice out on the chain of lakes. Richard took the samples from 12 sites to be analyzed by a new laboratory. A season of testing is expected to cost WCOLA about \$2,000. for the analysis and legally backed reports. WCOLA lake sampling reports go back to 1991.

Bill Downing made a motion, "that WCOLA take a full four sets of lake water samples that will cost in excess of \$2,000." Susan Hawkinson seconded the motion. Following discussion, a vote was taken and unanimously approved.³ Bill also proposed that WCOLA consider taking samples from other lakes in the township like the two Hanson Lakes, Doan and Clearwater. Volunteers from those lakes could be solicited to assist in the process⁴. An observation from Bill was in their sampling assessment, Little Trout Lake did not turn over this year, at 30 feet the oxygen was 0.

It was suggested that WCOLA share all testing results with the DNR fisheries department, as 2005 is the scheduled year for their testing.

³ *President Chambers ruled that another vote on this motion must be taken at the June meeting, since it involves a large sum of money.*

⁴ *You are hereby solicited, and this includes Little Wabana. Please email Rich Brasch rbrasch@bonestroo.com if you are willing to start taking samples for June. He will give you timing and directions for taking samples. It is not difficult, but requires timing and keeping samples cold until analyzed.*

Secchi Disk sampling committee chair Nancy Ellsworth stated that many of our sampling results have been published in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency report, "The Transparency of Minnesota Lakes" for 2004. WCOLA has been collecting data for the citizen lake monitoring program for 13 years⁵. Bill Berg suggested we connect with the Clearwater Lake residents who reported Secchi Disk results in the 2004 report.

Paul Oberg offered to be a citizen lake monitor on Little Trout Lake in place of Peter Gephart who has helped in the past.

Liability insurance for lake association officers was reported on by David Lick who contacted the Minnesota Lake Association. An estimate of costs for other lake associations runs around \$1,300. per year for officers. Currently Sugar and Deer Lake associations purchase insurance for their officers. Homeowner's liability will not cover individuals in their role as lake association officers. David will continue the research and report again in June.

A memorial gift for Bob Sage. Bob's son sent a contribution of \$50.00 to WCOLA. Mary Lou Sage made a motion, "to replace Jon Rowe's memorial tree at the Wabana Township Hall with the memorial money from Bob Sage's son." The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn, by Mary Lou Sage. Approved.

Susan Lick, Secretary



⁵ *See <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp/clmpSearch.cfm> for details. For a lake's data you will need the lake's number. Bluewater is 31-0395, Little Trout (Interlachen) is 31-0394, Little Wabana is 31-0392, Trout is 31-0410, Wabana is 31-0399. I find no numbers for Clearwater, Doan, or the Hansons. The CLMP data are all-summer averages only, showing no variation from week to week, while our WCOLA data are reported week-by-week, and we have 4 sites for Wabana and two sites each for Trout and Bluewater.*

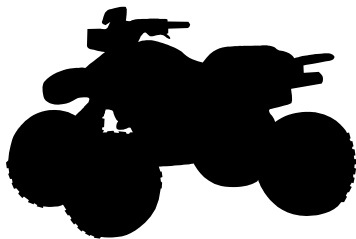


FROM KATHY DOTY

Nearly all of us remember Fred and Kathy Doty—they lived until recently on Balgillow Island on Wabana, and were heavily involved in the formation of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association—in fact, Fred was our first President. Betsy and I received a letter from Kathy last week, and I don't think she will object if we include a couple of excerpts here in the Chain Letter:

We do hope to get up your way sometime this summer or early fall. Son Mark [Beaumont] has purchased the Canadian Border Canoe Outfitters --- a HUGE undertaking, but one he is well suited for. It will take him several summers, I imagine, to get the total hang of it...Hunter [Beaumont, elder son] is coming for a month, also [his son] Jesse and Jesse's son, Corbin (four years old!) The Northland does call, doesn't it?

My book, "A Long Year of Silence." won the Midwest Independent Publishers Award (Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas) I was happy, of course, for me, and also my publisher who is a very special person. AND I am of the "Small Is Beautiful" generation! Remember? Second book, "Wild Orphan" is due to be released in November. What am I doing? when I should be picking blueberries!



FROM BILL BERG

WCOLA members-----on Memorial week-end, ATV's entered the Joyce Estate and partied and pretty much tore up the trails, especially where there was sand or mud. Even the lawn in front of the lodge. Also, many small trees were pushed down. Lots of litter and junk were left. Shutters were torn off the lodge, and burned in the lodge fireplace. Very lucky the lodge didn't burn

down. The ATV's likely entered at the south gate where they can just drive thru, but we think that machines were also lifted over the posts at the north gate. All trails are now rutted.

I have ordered posts from CNF [Chippewa National Forest] to place at the south gate and if anyone wants to help sink them, please let me know. CNF Enforcement folks have been notified, and we know the ID of at least one person. Unsure what CNF will do about it though.

sad---we all need to be vigilant, as ATV intrusions will likely become more frequent.

---Bill Berg---



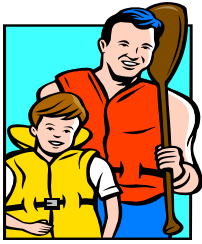
FROM JULIE MIEDTKE

Extension Educator
University of Minnesota Extension Service
123 NE Fourth Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

The University of Minnesota Extension Service announces its newest educational product, the *Lake Home and Cabin Kit*. This portable, boxed kit of quick answers to common lake home and cabin question contains 50 cards of information on: Home & Septic Systems, Trees & woodlands; Waterways & Shorelands, and Wildlife & Insects.

The people in northern Minnesota are interested in our lakes and forests and want to do what's right for the environment. This provides a good reference that will help people learn what they can do to keep our environment healthy.

The kit will be an attractive addition to any cabin owner's bookcase, providing essential reference material for resorts, seasonal and permanent lakeshore residents and woodland cabin owners. The Lake Home and Cabin Kit may be purchased on line at www.extension.umn.edu/cabin or by calling the University of Minnesota Extension Office for Itasca County at 218-327-7384.



LAW: LIFE JACKETS FOR CHILDREN

This is especially for members who come from out-of-state in the summer, and may not have kept track of what the Legislature and the Governor have been up to during the long winter. Conservation officers will be on the lookout for violations of this.

A new requirement, for children under age 10 to wear a life jacket while boating on Minnesota waters, was signed into law, and went into effect Friday, May 6. Called the "Grant Allen Law," the measure was named in memory of the child who drowned after falling out of his father's boat in 2003.

The new law requires that a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket be worn by children younger than age 10 in boats that are underway or otherwise not tied up to a dock or permanent mooring.

There are a few exceptions to the law. Children are not required to wear a life jacket if they are in a boat's enclosed cabin or below decks, or on an anchored boat that is being used as a platform for swimming or diving. Also, children on board commercial or charter vessels with a licensed captain are exempt from the life jacket wearing requirement.

Boat operators who violate the law are subject to a written warning for the first offense and a petty misdemeanor for a second offense until May 1, 2006, and a petty misdemeanor for any offense on or after May 1, 2006.



FROM HAROLD DZIUK

Thank heaven for untiring friends of Nature like Harold! So many environmental battles he has entered on our behalf, along with cohorts working for clean water and environmentally kind land development. Many of us came late to the present discussion, or have not followed developments closely; but from his letter and the web site it is apparent that a group of hard-working selfless persons, with help from the DNR and PCA, are planning to make recommendations that are important for the protection of waters and shoreland, and this project is urgent because of new pressures on shoreland.

ICOLA & MLA activities at county and state levels

As part of Governor Pawlenty's 2004 Clean Water Initiative, discussions with many stakeholders in central Minnesota led to the establishment of a citizen and government partnership, the North Central Lakes Pilot Project in Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard and Itasca counties. The five counties comprise 21% of the state's lakes, 11% of the state's rivers and 42 % of the state's Mississippi River miles. Increasing development pressure resulting from increased population with increased mobility, higher speed transportation routes and disposable income was identified as a top concern.

The highest value shoreland areas are already developed and more ecologically sensitive areas are at risk of development. Ecologists note that on some lakes, these sensitive areas can provide very significant natural resource values that, if lost, could result in dramatic impacts to a lake's values. More pristine water resources that are remote or undeveloped face increasing pressure for new development.

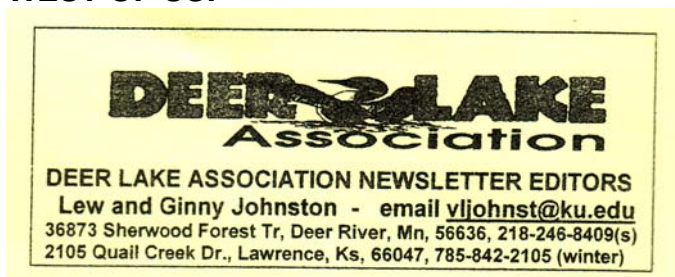
Several individuals from Itasca County, including county officials and citizens representing developers, chambers of commerce, American Fisheries Society, Itasca County Resort and Tourism Association, Minnesota Lakes Association, and Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations have attended meetings beginning in August of 2003. Commissioners from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) launched the pilot project in April of 2004.

Many issues were identified by stakeholders at the first meetings in 2003. These issues included: a need to provide more up-to-date information to shoreland owners and local decision makers in best shoreland management practices, support for land-owners who are contemplating establishment of conservation easements for environmentally sensitive areas, shoreline restoration projects and updating the 1989 Statewide Rules for Shoreland Management. Current statewide shoreland standards adopted in 1989 were primarily based on a model of less intense land use expectations, when smaller, more seasonal dwellings were the norm, and therefore the regulations, policies and rules that are now in effect, that address development pressures on lakes, have become outdated or inadequate.

An Advisory Committee of 34 individuals (one of several committees that were established by the NCLPP) with varying interests and experience has been asked to make recommendations to the DNR to update the 1989 Statewide Standards for Shoreland Management.

The Advisory Committee will meet in Baxter, Minnesota, on the second Monday of each month through November 14, 2005, at 9:30 AM in the MPCA Building. The meetings are open to the public. To review what has taken place so far in the Governor's Clean Water Initiative and in the North Central Lakes Pilot Project go to the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/index.html> Go to the heading labeled "Recent Developments" and click on the link to the "Governor's Clean Water Initiative - North-Central Lakes Pilot Project." Citizens are invited to make comments to the DNR staff via e-mail. To comment on the proposed rules update drafts, send comments to <mailto:shorelandupdate@dnr.state.mn.us>

HERE IS THE LOGO FOR THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR FRIENDS TO THE WEST OF US:



DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION

I am taking a kind of editorial privilege in printing the following, since it is just from me.

For the past year or so I've been reading with great interest the *Newsletter* of the Deer Lake Association, and have been impressed both with the quality of the publication and the things that they do. The DLA is considerably older than the WCOLA, with many different conditions and solutions, but we have similarities, too. There are some things that they do that we might well want to copy, as well as some we probably would not:

From reading the DLA newsletter, I have made a partial profile of their organization and procedures, and it might be of interest to you:

- Apparently their **membership** is confined to property owners around the lake.
- It looks as though they have only one **business meeting** a year, in July, held primarily to elect officers and the Board of Directors, and to vote on proposed changes in the By-Laws. Proxy voting is authorized—someone designated in writing to vote in a member's behalf.
- Monthly **general meetings** seem to be confined to a program. This year the three programs are on orchids, loons, and estate planning for lake property.
- Most of the **business** of the DLA is done by the **Board of Directors**, which meets monthly during the summer. (By contrast, most of our WCOLA business is done by the membership at meetings, though the Advisory Committee is empowered to act for the Association at other times.)
- The DLA has **numerous small group meetings** at various homes during the summer, but there are **two general social events**: a pot-luck dinner in July, at Camp Sherwood, for adults only; and a spaghetti dinner in September, end of summer, for members, kids, family and friends.
- A Nominating Committee in the Spring presents a single slate of proposed officers to be voted in July, and the Newsletter contains a profile paragraph for each nominee.
- There seem to be a number of standing committees. I noted they are looking for a new Chair of the Hospitality Committee, and there is a volunteer task force to clean up Bear Island, which some years ago the DLA bought with the DNR, and maintain as a Wildlife Management Area.

The DLA is facing a serious challenge to its environment, through action by the "Living Word Bible Camp", which requested and received spot zoning by the Itasca County Board of Commissioners. This action was later denied by Judge Hawkinson, but it is now in litigation again, since the LWBC is appealing the Court action. Many Deer Lake people have contributed to a special tax-deductible account to support the legal fees and costs.

We in WCOLA are fortunate not to have a similar problem right now, and hope not to in the future; but the huge problem only a few miles away makes us worry that something could come up at any time, and therefore we need to have and maintain a strong functional Association at all times. Some old-timers here remember the serious problem we faced when WCOLA was first forming, of the forced addition of unique boat-in camp sites. Challenges can come at any time, and in many different forms.

Deer Lake Association has several interesting "Outreach" programs, which we might like to consider as well.

- \$500 awards to graduates of Deer River and Grand Rapids High Schools, who are planning to attend a 2 or 4-year college majoring in a field related to environmental issues. Awarded in public graduation ceremonies.
- \$500 to Sue Hutchins, biological sciences instructor at Itasca Community College for a project working with students conducting research on Deer Lake water quality

Outreach is an excellent way to get the name before the public in a favorable setting, and WCOLA could use such good public relations as well.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Program Co-Chair Sue Hawkinson has communicated about the program for this summer.

County Commissioner Catherine McLynn has agreed to be our program for the June meeting, and we feel very fortunate to be able to schedule this busy and hard-working elected official. She did not want the title of her discussion to be pinned down in advance, but rather preferred to decide what she will talk about closer to the date, in order that the subject will be what is most current. That is what our membership would like, too. It will be a

good chance to ask questions and discuss what is on our minds.

For July, there will be no program at the Saturday morning meeting, but we often have something musical or entertainment for the Picnic in the afternoon. Some members have been talking about an old-fashioned Community

In August Lake Country Power will send a program. The Committee has asked that a speaker be prepared to talk about wind energy and other alternative forms of energy, as well as conservation of energy.

Bill Berg has an idea for the September program, so that will complete the programs for this year.

SHORELINE STEWARDSHIP AWARD

The Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations [ICOLA] and the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District [SWCD] are in the first year of a collaboration to award a prize for lakeshore modification. For this first year, many questions are unanswered, e.g., criteria for judging, and character of the prize, but they are looking for people who have changed their lakeshore to resemble what it was in the natural condition. They are mostly interested in the action taken to establish native lakeshore.

Here is an example: A past owner might have cleared all the native vegetation down to the shore and made a beach, but a new owner may have decided to replant the vegetation into native grasses and plants, thus establishing a root structure to help absorb and nutrients and provide habitat for aquatic organisms.

Persons interested in applying for this award can go to our web site, wcola.org, and download the application blank.

THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE?

Last year the Newsletter Volunteers started including a dues-paying envelope with the June *Chain Letter*, and it proved so successful that we are continuing that inclusion this year. Dues are due by July 1, when the new fiscal year begins for us. Please write your check for \$20 for 2005-06 dues, put it in the envelope, and mail it now while it's on your mind. Or, bring it to the meeting on Saturday June 25, 2005.

If there is no envelope, then please send your 2005-06 \$20 dues to Treasurer Cathy Rudolph, at the address that appears above your address label on the other side of this sheet.

Thanks!

**This is the June 2005 issue of
The Chain Letter of the
Wabana Chain of Lakes
Association**

Meeting:

Saturday June 25, 2005

8:30 a. m. Coffee

9:00 a. m. Program

Speaker: County Commissioner Catherine McLynn, on topics of current importance for the Association, the Township, and the County.

9:30 Business Meeting

These are the meeting dates
for the rest of 2005:

June 25, 2005

July 16, 2005 (Picnic date also)

August 20, 2005

September 17, 2005

Deadlines for copy for the Newsletter:

For the July 16 meeting: July 2

For the August 20 meeting: August 6

For the September 17 meeting: Sept. 3

We who do the newsletter are all volunteers, and go as fast as we can, but we need two weeks to write, edit, print, and mail the 340 copies we send out.

What we want most is your letters, your historical vignettes, your photographs of early days on our Chain, your opinions on anything.

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