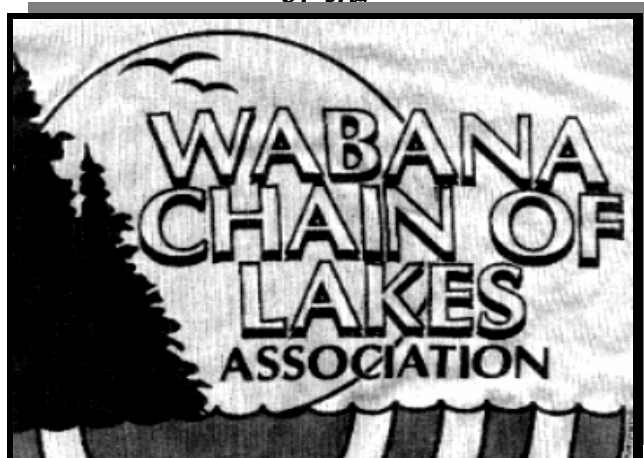


# The Chain Letter

of the



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

# August 2005

Volume 9, Number 4

Editor: Bill Downing, [wdowning@uslink.net](mailto: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  
Sherry Miner 326-0589  
John Zimmerman 326-1020

We are still looking to get someone from Little Trout.

Visit our web site [www.wcola.org](http://www.wcola.org)

Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner,  
[mminer@minergroup.com](mailto:mminer@minergroup.com)

To have your Chain Letter sent to you by  
email, contact Jean Koewler,  
[koewlerj@lcp2.net](mailto:koewlerj@lcp2.net)

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#### FROM PRESIDENT CHAMBERS:

Summer has finally arrived. It certainly has been a funny year. Rain and more rain then hot and no rain. Don't want to complain too much as will soon be fall and getting cooler.

Our annual picnic was a great success. We all heard a lot of people say that they really enjoyed the sing along. Thanks to Sherry Miner. Also a big thank you to everyone on the picnic committee.

Our next Wcola meeting will be August 20th. We will be voting on the by-laws amendments published in the September 2004 newsletter<sup>1</sup>, and other interesting topics. Hope to see you all there.

When using out beautiful lakes remember to use safety first.

Thanks, *Dick*

#### MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2005 MEETING Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

**Program:** Susan Hawkinson a member of the WCOLA program committee presented Michelle Heiker, Assistant Ranger from the U.S. Forest Service, Deer River Ranger Station. The recent vandalism at the Joyce Estate on Trout Lake was addressed. Normal maintenance by the Forest Service is one day in the spring and one day in the summer, the only times the gates are opened and a motorized vehicle allowed to drive in.

<sup>1</sup> Please see your copy of the September 2004 *Chain Letter*, or visit our web site [www.wcola.org](http://www.wcola.org), click on newsletters, click on 2004 volume 5. Also please see page 6 of this newsletter for more on the voting.

At this time The U.S. Forest Service does not have enough evidence to prosecute, although they are aware of probable suspects.

Destroying a historical site is a Federal Offense with up to \$5,000. in fines and replacement of all damage. The Grand Rapids Herald Review contacted Susan Hawkinson about the vandalism as they were previously working on a feature article about the Joyce Estate. Michelle suggested that any suspicious activity or sign of ATV's going into the Joyce Estate should call the 911 Itasca County Sheriff Department. Following further group discussion, Susan Hawkinson presented Michelle with a WCOLA mug in appreciation of the informative discussion.

**Business meeting.** President Dick Chambers called the meeting to order with 30 members present.

**Minutes:** Deborah Gelbach moved "to approve the minutes of June 25, 2005 as printed in the newsletter". Approved.

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

Balance as of 6-25-05	\$7,040.10
Received	
Dues	\$ 740.00
T shirts	\$ 30.00
Cups	\$ 5.50
Contributions	<u>\$ 90.00</u>
Total Received	\$ 365.50
Paid Out	
Stamps	\$ 125.80
labels	<u>\$ 28.21</u>
Total Paid Out	\$ 154.01

Total as of 7-16-05 \$ 7,751.59

Paid Households 2005-06----- 69

Jean Koewler made a motion, "to approve the treasurer's report as read". Approved.

**Committees:**

**ICOLA ~ Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations.**

President Chambers introduced Warren Chapman as a new ICOLA representative replacing George Wilbert. David Lick is the other WCOLA representative.

ICOLA will be sponsoring an all association picnic on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Cohasset Community Center. All members of WCOLA are invited.

**Lead sinker exchange.** A sinker exchange will be held Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> from 1-6pm at Ben's Bait & Tackle in Grand Rapids.

**Wabana Township litter pick-up.** The WCOLA consensus is to focus on the five miles of township roads. Bill Rutherford and Bud Sage will volunteer to get the bagged litter to the County Solid Waste Station. Roger Linder offered to coordinate Zims Lane. A sign up list was passed around by Barbara Zimmer to organize the efforts.

**Hitchhiker plants.** Following a previous report by Brenda Zummallen of Purple Loosestrife plants in the Big & Little Trout Lake area WCOLA members researched the hitchhiker problem. John & Bill Downing did site Purple Loosestrife on the north end of Big Trout Lake. Dick Chambers contacted the DNR who provided WCOLA with materials and pictures on the invasive plant. Due to the Purple Loosestrife plant's dominating aggressiveness, if seen the plant should be pulled up by the roots in order to not disturb the seed head, and removed from the area. Bill Downing will include educational information in the next WCOLA Chain newsletter<sup>2</sup>. If an area of Purple Loosestrife is sighted, call Dick Chambers and he will assemble volunteers to help remove it from watershed areas.

**WCOLA Annual Picnic.** Is today, Saturday July 16 at 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

**By-Laws of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association.**

Two additional changes have been proposed: 1) Elect the president and vice-president on alternating years 2) Advisory members not be elected but volunteers. These items have been tabled until the committee proposes a final draft and a motion to change the by-laws.

Bill Bottoms, committee chair has resigned. President Chambers is seeking a volunteer to replace Bill Bottoms. By-law committee members are Mary Uradnik, Sherry Miner and Bill Downing.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Please see page 4 of this Newsletter for details.

<sup>3</sup> **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.

**Election of officers.** The election of treasurer and secretary will be held at the August 20, 2005 meeting. Current Treasurer Cathy Rudolph stated she will resign from the treasurer's position but would like to participate on the WCOLA Advisory Committee. Cathy Rudolph nominated Jean Koewler as her replacement.

Susan Lick stated she would like to be replaced as recording secretary and would also like to serve on the advisory committee. A call for nominations will be made at the August meeting.

**WCOLA Advisory Committee.** Sherry Miner has volunteered to be on the advisory committee. George Wilbert and Joel Solomon have resigned both due to health problems.

**Wabana Township Ordinance and Zoning.** The Wabana Township Board entertained a resolution at a July 6, 2005 public meeting to take over ordinance and zoning responsibilities from Itasca County. Steve Bryant reported there has been no action at this time. A committee to research, educate and fact find was established to advise the town board, volunteers are Steve Bryant, Bud Sage, Mary Uradnik, Bob Bennett and Ken Zimmer.

President Chambers stated that the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association's only role would be to participate in the discussion of this ordinance and zoning issue. WCOLA supports the Wabana Township Board's choice of an advisory committee to continue the research and public education process.

**Governor's Clean Water Initiative.** Jack Velzen, Midwest GIS and WCOLA member requested WCOLA utilize approximately \$300. to support continued education on the topic of vegetation along watershed properties. This educational effort would also meet the WCOLA Lake Management Plan goals. Warren Chapman met with the DNR about potential funding and seminars on the subject.

**Lake Stewardship Awards.** Shoreline stewardship, vegetating the 50-foot shoreline strip with native plants, is looking for good steward nominees by calling Itasca County Soil and Water District Office 236-0017 by August 1<sup>st</sup>. These awards are being presented by ICOLA ~ Itasca County Coalition of

Lake Associations and The Itasca County Water Plan.

**2005 Loon Count.** Ken Zimmer, Roger Linder, Paul Oberg and Dennis Koewler will coordinate the annual loon count. A report will be given at the next meeting .

**Wabana Chain of Lakes water quality testing.** Bill Downing reported that Richard Brasch has completed the second set of samples and has sent them to the laboratory for analysis. John Downing and Bill Downing took several readings (depth, temperature, oxygen, etc.) in nine of our ten sites, and found that Little Trout and the north end of Wabana, which they noted curiously, have not turned over this year, although the windy conditions have been good for natural turnover. Both sites are also without oxygen approximately 30 feet below the surface.

**August 2005 Newsletter.** Deadline for information and photo's are August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted, Susan Lick ~ Secretary.

#### **TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR AUGUST**

9:30 A. M.

1. Call to order with introductions of members.
2. Acceptance of Agenda. Please bring up any additions or corrections before the vote—we will adhere to this Agenda thereafter.
3. Secretary's report.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Unfinished business

- a. By-laws Committee voting. Copies of proposed changes will be available at the meeting.
- b. Highway clean up discussion.
- c. Advisory board's needs for a representative from Little Trout.
- d. Election of Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **6. New business.**

- a. Lake Management Committee, and any discussion from that Committee.
- b. Education of lakeshore restoration.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **7. Adjournment**

## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE



*I have borrowed this article from the website [www.rps.gov/plants/alien/facts/lysal.htm](http://www.rps.gov/plants/alien/facts/lysal.htm) and I urge those who have computers to go to that website for further information and color pictures.*

**DESCRIPTION:** Purple loosestrife is an erect perennial herb in the loosestrife family, with a square, woody stem and opposite or whorled leaves. Leaves are lance-shaped, stalkless, and heart-shaped or rounded at the base. Plants are usually covered by a downy pubescence. Loosestrife plants grow from four to ten feet high, depending upon conditions, and produce a showy display of magenta-colored flower spikes throughout much of the summer. Flowers have five to seven petals. Mature plants can have from 30 to 50 stems arising from a single rootstock.

**ECOLOGICAL THREAT:** Purple loosestrife adapts readily to natural and disturbed wetlands. As it establishes and expands, it outcompetes and replaces native grasses, sedges, and other flowering plants that provide a higher quality source of nutrition for wildlife. The highly invasive nature of purple loosestrife allows it to form dense, homogeneous stands that restrict native wetland plant species, including some federally endangered orchids, and reduce habitat for waterfowl.



**HABITAT IN THE UNITED STATES:** Purple loosestrife is capable of invading many wetland types, including freshwater wet meadows, tidal and non-tidal marshes, river and stream banks, pond edges, reservoirs, and ditches.

**BACKGROUND:** Purple loosestrife was introduced to the northeastern U.S. and Canada in the 1800s, for ornamental and medicinal uses. It is still widely sold as an ornamental, except in states such as Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois where regulations now prohibit its sale, purchase and distribution.

**BIOLOGY & SPREAD:** Purple loosestrife enjoys an extended flowering season, generally from June to September, which allows it to produce vast quantities of seed. The flowers require pollination by insects, for which it supplies an abundant source of nectar. A mature plant may have as many as thirty flowering stems capable of producing an estimated two to three million, minute seeds per year.

Purple loosestrife also readily reproduces vegetatively through underground stems at a rate of about one foot per year. Many new stems may emerge vegetatively from a single rootstock of the previous year. "Guaranteed sterile" cultivars of purple loosestrife are actually highly fertile and able to cross freely with purple loosestrife and with other native *Lythrum* species. Therefore, outside of its native range, purple loosestrife of any form should be avoided.

**MANAGEMENT OPTIONS:** Small infestations of young purple loosestrife plants may be pulled by hand, preferably before seed set. For older plants, spot treating with a glyphosate type herbicide (e.g., Rodeo for wetlands, Roundup for uplands) is recommended. These herbicides may be most effective when applied late in the season when plant are preparing for dormancy. However, it may be best to do a mid-summer and a late season treatment, to reduce the amount of seed produced.

## LOON COUNT

*As I remember it, the reason we have two reports on loon numbers comes from dissatisfaction on the part of some members with the DNR's "official" loon count, which inexplicably omits Wabana. If that's not the reason, I'm sure somebody will set me straight.*

### From Bill Berg:

Bill---

The "official" DNR loon numbers for 2005 are:

Lake	Adults	Young
Trout	15	2 (twins);
Little Trout	2	
Spider	18	2 (twins);
Sand	8	
Sunrise	2	

Reproduction is down from previous years.

Perhaps the WCOLA loon counters have the numbers for Wabana by now to add to the totals.

Bill Berg---

### From Roger Linder:

Hi Bill,

On July 19th WCOLA's official loon counters set out on the 3rd annual census. The sharp, trained eyes of Ken Zimmer on Wabana, Dennis Koewler on Wakeman bay/Bluewater, Paul Oberg and Roger Linder on Interlachen and Trout crisscrossed the waters. While loons are seen all over our lakes, the same areas seem to have pairs and chicks as they have the appropriate shoreline for nesting. Trout lake has numerous birds, but as Bill Berg explains few chicks due to the lack of lowland nesting areas. The exception being the island area leading into the main lake.

While our birds are beautiful and their calls one of the highlights summers, each year as I fish the Gulf of Mexico the situation is completely different. The birds are dull and drab and their voices silent, Its embarrassing to tell the locals that it is the state bird of Minn. Its our land of lakes that brings out their true beauty!!

Lake	Adults	Chicks
Wabana	23	4
Bluewater	4	2
Interlachen	2	0
Trout	16	2
2005 Total	45	8
2004	49	7
2003	54	9

*Sadly, both reports from our Chain of Lakes shows decreasing numbers, and the numbers continue to decline. Probably most of us missed the important report on this subject on Minnesota Public Radio by*

*Dan Gunderson, so I am reprinting it here as it appeared in the Minnesota Lakes Bulletin:*

## DROP IN LOON REPRODUCTION

### May Signal Greater Problems

Excerpted from Dan Gunderson's article, Minnesota Public Radio

Every July volunteers across northern Minnesota count loons. The annual loon count started in 1994, and the information gathered over the past several years is raising some questions about the health of Minnesota loons. The data collected by nearly 1,000 volunteers across the state gives a good indication of loon population trends. It also gives the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources a database it could never maintain on its own. The loon population has generally been stable over the past decade. But there are some concerns about the health of loons.

Loons aren't producing as many young as expected in some parts of the state, according to DNR Nongame Specialist Katie Haws. "For example, in the northeast part of the state where a high percentage of the lakes had loons, the productivity wasn't as good as we were expecting. So we want to explore whether there is something going on that's causing those eggs not to hatch or if there's any kind of a health problem with the loon population," says Haws. The DNR plans to study the problem, and they're asking anyone who finds a dead loon this summer to call a local DNR conservation officer who will collect the dead bird. The dead loons will be examined for lead and mercury levels, says Katie Haws. Loons can die from eating lead fishing tackle abandoned in lakes. Air pollution also causes increased mercury levels in water and fish. Haws says better understanding the health of the loon population might also provide some important insights to the health of Minnesota lakes.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST NEXT MONTH!

*Every year we publish an ever-growing list of our dues-paid membership, and often it helps remind some members that that pesky twenty dollar check never got mailed to Cathy. Well, that 2005-06 list will be made up as of September 3, the deadline for Newsletter input, and I'm sure you'll be chagrined if you're not included in it. So if you don't remember sending it, DO IT NOW. Send \$20 to Treasurer Cathy Rudolph at the address on the other side of this page, marked for 2005-06 WCOLA dues. You'll be happy, the Association will be happy, and the organization will continue to grow.*

## BY-LAWS

At the August 20, 2005 meeting, the membership will be voting on the **first phase** of By-Laws amendments, and copies of the proposed amendments will be available at the meeting, so there will be no question about what is being voted on. Please see the footnote on page 1 for looking at copies before the meeting.

Voting will proceed article by article, section by section. The voting will be in accordance with the By-Laws *as they exist right now, and which govern what we do right now*. These amendments in themselves are not controversial, but they clean up the wording in the old 1991 document. Adopting them now will help the By-Laws Committee in its future work, by giving it a firm basis for the **second phase**: additional and substantive amendments to it, to be brought by the By-Laws Committee to the membership for further discussion and action in the future.

When you have the By-Laws in your hands and examine them critically, you will see that there is a lot to be done on them that still needs doing, to bring the By-Laws—the document that governs how we operate—into harmony with the way we now function. There are at least a dozen items that we have identified so far, that need removing, changing, or adding. (One addition that particularly concerns the *Chain Letter* editor is that no place in the By-Laws is the newsletter even mentioned!)

Some changes will be easy and straightforward; some will be more difficult to put into words, and some no doubt will be controversial and require a lot of discussion. During the meeting on August 20, the membership will be asked for suggestions for improvement to the By-Laws, so you are urged to read ahead of time and make note of your suggestions, and bring them up at the meeting to give direction to the By-Laws Committee.

All members are urged to attend the August 20, 2005 meeting, to vote on the first phase of the By-Laws amendments, and to carry out the remainder of the important business of the Association. Please see the **Tentative Agenda** on page 3 for more on the meeting.

## **THIS IS THE AUGUST 2005 ISSUE OF WCOLA'S *THE CHAIN LETTER*.**

Meeting August 20, 2005:

8:30 A. M. Coffee, social moments.

9:00 Program: *Wind Power*, by a representative of Lake States Power.

9:30 Business Meeting.

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