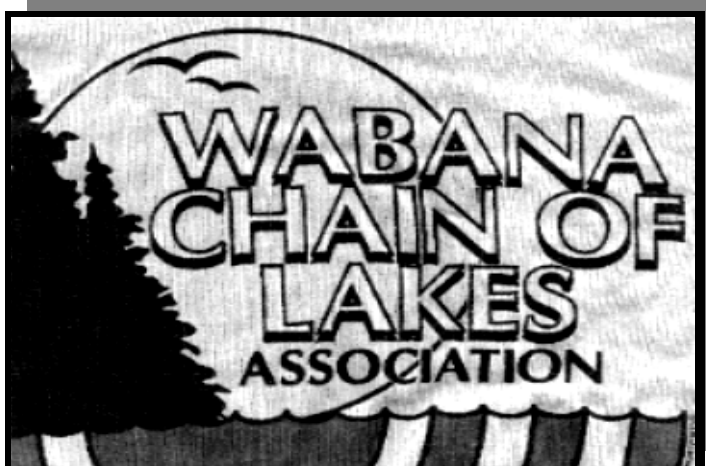


The Chain Letter

of the



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

June 2006

Volume 10, Number 2

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Advisory Committee.

All the above, plus:

Lloyd Adams 326-2130
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Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056
David Lick 326-6837
Roger Linder 326-2266
Sherry Miner 326-0589
Cathy Rudolph 327-0820
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Visit our web site www.wcola.org

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

To have your Chain Letter sent to you by email,
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The first meeting of 2006 was May 20th. We had a very good turnout. Our next meeting will be on June 17th.

So sorry to announce that John Adams has had to give up his position on the advisory committee because of work commitments. We certainly thank John for his work on the committee. We have two new members- Roger Linder and Lloyd Adams..

Last year the WCOLA started to do road clean-up on some of our township roads. We will do this twice during the year. We want to publicly thank the following people who worked on October 4th 2005:

- Mary and George Klacan
- Chad and Penny Persons and children
- Barbara and Ken Zimmer
- Roger Linder
- Warren Chapman
- Dick Chambers
- Lynette Bryant
- Gail and Jim Olijnek
- Jean and Dennis Koewler
- Jim and Ann Edwards
- Bill Bottoms
- Gary and Carol Burkholder-who also did the cooking for the picnic afterward.

Thank you to all for a great job. Our next clean-up day will May 31st.

We are looking for volunteers to help write an application for exempt organization status. If You are interested in helping us out call me or any of the officers. Hope to see everyone on June 17th.

Thanks, *Dick*

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 20, 2006

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Program: Susan Hawkinson introduced Kent Letterman, Chief Enforcement Officer of the Chippewa National Forest. Of the two law enforcement officers for the Chippewa National Forest the east half of the forest is Kent's jurisdiction and he is the contact for the Wabana/Balsam areas within the forest.

Discussions included stripping of birch trees, recreational use of the Joyce Estate, forest occupancy issues; deer stands, buildings, roads and use issues; ATV's, dumping and trespassing. Kent explained the U.S. Forest Service theory to attain compliance is first education then engineering and last enforcement. Residents are encouraged to call Kent if they see something questionable or wrong within the Chippewa National Forest. Mike Martin at the Deer River Ranger Station is the contact for recreational site designations.

Bob Moore of the DNR, Trails and Waterways Division was also present and addressed the campsites on the Wabana Chain of Lakes.

President Dick Chambers stated there would be a meeting on the use of campsites between the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, The Chippewa National Forest and the DNR on June 8th at 4pm at The Wabana Township Hall.

Kent Letterman was presented with a Wabana Chain of Lakes coffee mug in appreciation of his time.

Business Meeting. President Dick Chambers called the meeting to order with 26 members in attendance.

Minutes of the meeting of September 17th, 2006 were approved as written in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report, as read by Jean Koewler was approved.

Balance as of September 16,2005 **\$6,377.41**

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 720.00
Contributions	\$ 35.00
T-Shirts	\$ 10.00
Coffee Mug Sales	\$ 6.00
Denim Shirt Sales	\$ 496.00
Postage Refunds	<u>\$ 8.95</u>

Total Received **\$1,275.95**

Disbursements:

Fanfare promotion, Inc (denim shirts)	\$519.95
Highway Clean-up Picnic Supplies	\$ 23.54

Instrumental Research (water testing)	\$ 510.00
Itasca Coalition of Lakes Association	\$ 68.50
Grand Rapids State Bank (check blanks)	20.35
Postage for Mailing Shirts	\$ 8.23
Action Envelope Co.	
(1,000 envelopes for due)	\$105.15
Stamps (Winter & May newsletter)	\$249.60
Target (labels, cartridge, coffee, cups, name tags)	<u>\$ 66.10</u>

Total Disbursements: **\$1,571.42**

Balance as of May 19,2006 **\$6,081.94**

Total Paid Households for 2006-07: 24

DNR Trails & Waterways was addressed by Bob Moore. He stated the DNR would be doing a 50-lake survey in Minnesota, which will include the Wabana Chain of Lakes.

The Old Wabana Hotel Site was described in a historic letter and photo and presented as a gift from Bob Moore, currently living at the location, to Bud Sage representing the Wabana Township officers.

ICOLA – Itasca Coalition of Lakes Association

President, David Lick gave an update of activity. ICOLA has been working on collaborations with the Izaak Walton League, League of Fishing Guides and the DNR. Together they provided an educational seminar on Fish, Weeds and Water on April 20th.

The Itasca County Planning Commission invited David as an ICOLA representative to a seminar on water quality issues and development. Septic non-compliance was one of the most critical issues at the statewide seminar. David gave credit to WCOLA for dealing with the aging septic systems on our chain of lakes. More Secchi disks are read in Itasca County than anywhere in Minnesota.

The Excelsior Energy Project was reported on from a public forum at the Taconite Community Center. The Minnesota Legislature is in favor of the proposed project. Excelsior Energy choose this area over Hoyt Lakes because they can emit more mercury here than in the Lake Superior Watershed. Citizens are encouraged to pay attention as The Excelsior Energy Project is being funded by bonds and if the project is not successful could end up costing the Itasca County residents.

ICOLA has also recognized that the state Senator representing the Wabana Chain of Lakes area has had a poor conservation voting record.

The Minnesota Waters Association suggested that WCOLA nominate itself for lake association of the year. A volunteer is needed to write up the application by June 7th

Zebra Mussels are an issue statewide and Itasca County should prepare for dealing with this as well as other harmful invasive species.

Bob Moore gave an update on the McKinney Lake Eurasian Milfoil status. The DNR is working on a public use access for McKinney Lake promoting smaller boat use only.

The Wabana Chain Of Lakes Association

Newsletter deadline for the next publication is June 3rd. Mail or email to William Downing wdowning@uslink.net .

A Minnesota Lake Transparency Report was summarized for the WCOLA area by Sherry Miner. Copies are available on our web page at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-publications.html

A DNR fish survey was conducted on Little Wabana Lake. Sherry Miner reported that Bluegills, Northerns, Walleyes and Crappie's were measured on the 104-acre lake reaching 57 feet deep. There is no public access to Little Wabana Lake.

WCOLA signs were presented by Bud Sage. An example of a WCOLA logo sign was created by Gary Burkholder. Following discussion Bud Sage will get a picture of the sign into the upcoming June WCOLA newsletter and look into the suggested options. Members will decide at the June regular meeting.



WCOLA shirts were modeled by WCOLA members. A sign up sheet is available or contact Bud Sage to order the denim WCOLA logo shirts.

The By Law Committee update report was given by Roger Linder. Some of the areas within the by laws needing completion are to identify; what constitutes a quorum and who can vote of the membership. Roger

suggested the committee will want input on these voting questions as the by laws should provide a frame work for decision making, support or promotion of any issues if needed.

Adopt a Highway spring clean up by WCOLA members was addressed by President Dick Chambers. Members were thanked who participated in last year's efforts. Spring pick up date will be May 31st at 9am. George Klacan will retrieve the safety vests and bags from Itasca County offices. Steve Bryant made a motion that the association provide resources for the WCOLA volunteers refreshments. Unanimously approved. Sherry Miner shared a hazardous waste alert for the clean up participants. George Klacan will contact Bluewater Bible Camp about the date and time.

Program committee ideas were discussed by Bill Berg. Topic suggestions included The Minnesota Land Trust, and Don Boese with a historical presentation. Any suggestions contact Bill Berg or Susan Hawkinson.

WCOLA Advisory committee member John Adams is resigning. Roger Linder and Lloyd Adams volunteered to participate on the committee. Thanks to John for his help especially during the WCOLA Lake Management Plan process.

WCOLA Lake Management Plan. President Dick Chambers stated the advisory committee would like to review the association's progress measured by the WCOLA Lake Management Plan. Steve Bryant reviewed the communications committee progress stating that one of the priorities is the WCOLA newsletter. It was suggested to offer Bill Downing, editor some assistance if needed by identifying a volunteer to serve as Bill's assistant editor. Steve suggested the WCOLA newsletter is considered by the communications committee as a paramount part of the association. Dick Chambers will call Bill Downing and Roger Linder will approach John Downing on the search for an assistant if needed.

Betsy and Bill Downing have had a difficult year with health issues. Dick Chambers recalled that Betsy's father donated the land that The Wabana Township Hall is presently located on and how instrumental Bill and Betsy have been to the lake association. George Klacan made a motion that WCOLA send flowers and a card showing our appreciation. Unanimously approved.

Meeting Adjourned. A motion was made by Mary Lou Sage to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lick

FROM KEN AND BARBARA ZIMMER

We had a very good trash pick up today and I thought you might want to include it in the next newsletter.

Spring Roadside Cleanup - May 31, 2006

Sixteen members assembled at the Town Hall at 9AM. After receiving trash bags and orange vests, the roadside areas were assigned and the trash hunt began. At noon a picnic was provided for all workers. Thank you to : Carol and Gary Burkholder, Mary and George Klacan, Vickie and Lloyd Adams, Gail and Jim Olijnek, Jean and Denny Koewler, Dorothy and Dick Klinger, Barbara Zimmer, Bud Sage, Roger Linder, and Chad Persons and his Bible Camp crew. A job well done!!

FROM BETSY DOWNING

Bill and I want to express our heart-felt gratitude to all of you WCOLA-ers who sent comfort to us when I hit Old Age going 90 miles an hour, causing a curtailment activity. How charming your care of us was!. The bouquet sent by the Association was a beauty, and it kept reminding us of your thoughts for us.

Many thanks to you. We so hope to see you in July.

Betsy Downing

FROM WARREN & KAY CHAPMAN SHORELAND REVEGETATION PROJECT

After seeing the presentation at the 2005 spring WCOLA meeting on shoreland restoration and water runoff damage to the lake (due to mowing to the edge of the lakeshore) we contacted Andy Arens at the Itasca County Soil and Water office for advice and information on restoring our shoreline back to native grasses and plants. After Andy looked over our site, we enrolled in a Shoreland Revegetation seminar, held in

conjunction with the U of M Extension Service and discovered we had a lot to learn!

We decided to go ahead with our project and after many meetings and revisions ended up with an area of 10' by 100'. We ordered over 1000 plants and grasses from the ICS&W last fall for spring 2006 pick up. Warren also attended a day long planting project for hands on experience at the Wildwood Resort on Bass Lake, with many people who had attended the first seminar and consequently ordered plants/grasses to redo their shorelines.

We contacted Kurt Dostal from Wetland Habitat Restoration to plan and plant the shoreline. First, the existing grass was killed off prior to planting. Since we had quite a bit of undercutting of the bank, 66' of fiber rolls were installed. The first day of planting was spent putting in the fiber rolls, then "string mulch" was spread over the entire area, approximately 3" deep. That evening it was watered for 3 hours to get the mulch and the ground underneath wet for planting.

The next day Kurt and his crew planted the grasses and shrubs, which consisted of Sweet Grass, Little Bluestem, Red Osier Dogwood, Winterberry, Wild Iris, Blue Lobelia, Bergamot, Lake Sedge, Bottlebrush Sedge and Soft Rush.

We'd be happy to have you stop by to visit anytime to see the planting area. We're in the red house on Wakeman Bay. Kurt Dostal can be reached at 218-832-3212.

Warren & Kay Chapman

FROM DON ST. AUBEN, ICOLA

Rod Pierce from DNR fisheries alerted Dave Lick to a web site asking citizen response to LCMR spending priorities.

We should all take time to respond. The web site is <http://www.lcmr.leg.mn/lcmr.htm> . Go to this site and click on the **2006 CITIZEN INPUT FORM.**

Don St. A

FROM JUAN & TINA LAZO

The Lazos have the handsome cabins on the south end of the Island Sound—Christina is the daughter of the late Jim Lange, one of my favorite people. Sometime during the Winter or Spring, someone stole the beautiful piece of driftwood from above their fireplace (If you go to our web site, you'll see this in full gorgeous color.)



Here is a photo of the driftwood that was taken from our cabin on Wabana. It is highly polished and about 5 feet long. Can you include it in the newsletter and/or on the website? Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks, Tina

SHORELAND VEGETATION FUNDING

Don St. Auben sent this:

Funding available for shoreland vegetation projects

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is making more than \$300,000 available for grant proposals for restoring native shoreline vegetation across the state.

Grants recipients will be reimbursed for up to 75 percent of the total project costs. Applicants must be able to fund at least 25 percent of the total project costs from non-state sources. Matching funds may be cash, volunteer labor, and in-kind contributions of materials, equipment and services.

"This is an opportunity for homeowners, local communities and conservation organizations to help enhance native shoreline vegetation and fish habitat in

their local lakes, streams and rivers," said John Hiebert, DNR shoreland habitat coordinator. Last year, 26 projects were funded for \$296,000.

Applications for grants, are available on the Minnesota DNR Web site at:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/shoreland.html or by calling the DNR at (651) 296-6157 or toll free 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367). Applications are due Sept. 18.

Successful applicants will be notified in January. Funds will be made available to successful applicants after July 1, 2007.

The grants are funded from state lottery proceeds deposited in the heritage enhancement account. Grants, administered through the DNR Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, are designed with guidance from local DNR fisheries managers.

WARBLER'S NEW EDITOR

Arlene Wheaton is the Wabana Warbler's new editor, so as editor-to-editor I wrote congratulating her and welcoming her. She wrote back a delightful email, and I don't think she will mind if I print part of it here:

. I enjoyed putting the Warbler together. Anne and Ron Radecki were very helpful in connecting me with contributing writers and suggesting content. My husband Greg and I just moved to Wabana Lake (Wakeman Bay) last fall and we truly feel it is "Paradise Found" with such beautiful wilderness areas surrounding this spectacular lake. But of course what makes it even more special are the people--we have wonderful neighbors and have met many friendly folks on the lake. I grew up in a small, very friendly rural community in SE MN (Houston Co.) and I feel like I've found that wonderful sense of community that I missed when we lived in Minneapolis for 30 years.

My husband Greg loves to sing, play piano and guitar and suggested that we write a song about Wabana Lake, which I've included below. We collaborated on the lyrics and Greg has picked out chords on the guitar to go with it. Feel free to print it in the WCOLA newsletter, which we enjoy reading thanks to all the great work you put into it, Bill.

Hope to meet you sometime. Best wishes for a great summer! -- Arlene Wheaton & Greg Past

Ode to Lake Wabana

Wabana, Wabana, you call to me
Wabana, Wabana, you set me free
It's here I feel my spirits soar
This wild beauty that I adore

Wabana, Wabana, I call to you
Wabana, Wabana, when day is through
It's here I long to feel your touch
All that is you I love so much

Clear waters, blue skies
Delight my eyes
Pine forests and deer
They draw me here

The stars and moon that shine above,
Bring out my love, for:

Wabana, Wabana, you call to me
Wabana, Wabana, you call to me
It's here I want to end my days
I'll always love you in so many ways

Composed by Greg Past & Arlene Wheaton,
Wakeman Bay/Wabana Lake

What a nice sentiment! Wish we could use it for the WCOLA, but of course it leaves out many of our lake jewels—Trout, Interlachen, Bluewater, Little Wabana, Doan, Clearwater, Hanson, to name a few. Is it possible to do a song that praises all the Township's lakes? I'm sure I couldn't do it!

PLANNING SHORE CHANGES?

This is the time of year when people think about improving the shore in front of their cabins. So this is a good time to put some reminders into the Newsletter.

Aquatic Plants

Lakeshore property owners are reminded that removing aquatic plants or altering shoreline may require a permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

DNR staff members can help lakeshore owners avoid harming the lake or river near their home, said Steve Enger, DNR Division of Ecological Services.

"Aquatic plants and natural shorelines provide habitat for fish and wildlife, help maintain water clarity and protect shorelines from erosion," Enger said. "Changing the shoreline or improperly removing

aquatic plants can seriously damage the lake in the long term."

You can cut or pull submerged vegetation in a small area for recreation without a permit, but you will need a \$35 Aquatic Plant Management Permit, if you

- use herbicides or algicides to control aquatic plants in public waters
- remove emergent vegetation, like bulrush, cattails or wild rice
- remove floating leaf vegetation, like water lilies, in an area larger than a channel 15 feet wide extending to open water
- cut, pull or mechanically control vegetation in an area larger than 2,500 square feet or wider than 50 feet
- do some other things that don't apply to our lakes.

You will not need an Aquatic Plant Management Permit if you only intend to:

- Cut or pull submerged vegetation like coontail or sago from an area that does not extend more than 50 feet along the shore, or more than one half your frontage width, whichever is smaller. The cleared area may not exceed 2,500 square feet.
- Cut or pull floating leaf plants, like water lilies, to create a channel 15 feet wide extending to open-water. More extensive removal requires a permit.
- Cut or pulled vegetation must be removed from the water and the cleared area must remain in the same place from each year.

Shoreline Restoration

Many lakeshore property owners are restoring their shoreline property to a more natural condition. The DNR supports protection and restoration of shoreline, but encourages property owners to plan these projects carefully. A permit from the DNR is required to plant aquatic vegetation below the ordinary high water mark of public waters. This will help reduce the potential for adverse impacts from these projects. There is no charge for this permit.

Shoreline Alterations:

Lakeshore owners who are considering projects that would alter their shoreline or lake bottom should review the DNR Division of Waters permit requirements before work begins. Certain types of alterations below the ordinary high water level of public waters or public waters wetlands require an individual Public Waters Work Permit. Activities that fall under this requirement include excavating, dredging, filling, draining or the placement of structures.

For More Information

Information on both the Aquatic Plant Management Program and the Public Waters Work Permit Program is available on the DNR Web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us or by calling (651) 296-6157 or toll free 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367). For more information about the Public Waters Work Permit program, contact the area hydrologist at your DNR area office or contact the DNR Division of Waters at (651) 296-4800.

LIFE JACKETS

Regulations are becoming more stringent on the use of life jackets, and that is probably a good thing for all of us. The following is taken from a DNR publication:

Minnesota law requires a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device (PFD), more commonly known as a life jacket or life vest, for each person on the boat. The vest has to be of the correct size and type for the person for whom it is intended. Also required is a throwable flotation device (called a Type IV) like a boaters' seat cushion on boats 16 feet or longer. Children under 10 are now required to wear a life jacket unless they are below decks such as in a houseboat or are swimming or diving from an anchored boat.

"Lack of the correct number, type and size of flotation devices is the second most common boating law violation - right behind expired boat registrations," said Smalley. "Not wearing a life jacket is the number one reason people die in boating accidents. They just don't believe it can happen to them until it is too late. I've often wondered what their last thought was before they went under. If it were me, I suspect I would be thinking, 'I wish I had worn my life vest.'"

U.S. Coast Guard approved inflatable life vests or foam vests with a mesh material at the shoulder area are comfortable even on the hottest Minnesota summer day. "The new life jackets are stylish, comfortable and easy to wear," Smalley said. "Even though adults aren't required to wear a life vest on most boats, it is the one thing that could save their life, especially in a cold water situation.

Most boating fatalities involve capsizing and falls overboard, and almost all of the victims had swimming ability. Unfortunately, that ability wasn't enough to save them from the gasp that is brought on by entering cold water. "If your head is underwater when you experience that sudden reflexive gasp, you'll draw water into your lungs and you're probably going to drown, no matter how good of a swimmer you are. That is, unless you're wearing your life jacket," Smalley noted.

I have a strongly held opinion on the kind of PDF you should get, and I would like to share it with you. My strong suggestion is to have every person in your boating crew have an auto-inflate suspender type PDF, and wear it every time

the person is in a boat. Each PDF will cost you between a hundred and a hundred fifty dollars. Is a life worth that? Remember, if you need it, you REALLY need it, and you could easily be unconscious when you get into the cold, cold water.

FOR BOATING SAFETY

Navigation Lights

In boating in the evening on our Chain of Lakes, I am surprised at the number of boats without lights. The regulations are pretty clear on this

After sunset and before sunrise, motorboats must be illuminated by red and green bow lights, and a white stern light visible from 360 degrees. While at anchor, motorboats are required to be illuminated by the white stern light. All lights should be operational and placed so they aren't blocked by passengers or equipment such as mounted trolling motors or canopies on pontoon boats. If people can't see you at night, you may get hit.

Fire Extinguisher

Many motorboats are required to carry a U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher. "Unfortunately, many extinguisher cartons are poorly marked," Smalley said. "You might have to open the box to check the extinguisher label itself to ensure it has the Coast Guard approved label."

Horn Or Whistle

Boats 16 feet or longer must carry a whistle or horn capable of producing a sound for at least two seconds that can be heard for at least one mile.

Spare Parts And Tools

Although not a legal requirement, tools and spare parts like spark plugs and shear pins (if your motor uses them), and an anchor to drop to keep you from being blown onto the rocks if your motor conks out are all good ideas. And don't forget to put in the drain plug in before launching.

No Alcohol

Fatal errors in judgment brought on by beer and booze can cause trouble long before you reach the .08 level of intoxication. "Also, it gets expensive if you are caught operating your boat under the influence," Smalley said. "Lawyer fees, fines, civil penalties and a conviction for boating while intoxicated goes on your auto driver's license record and may also effect your insurance rates for years to come."

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION

**MEETING:
SATURDAY JUNE 17
8:30 AM social
9:00 program
9:30 business meeting**

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION
Jean Koewler, Treasurer
32040 Wakeman Bay Trail
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

PROGRAM FOR JUNE 17:

We were able to get Don Boese, noted local historian and ICC Professor, to talk some local history at WCOLA for June meeting.

PROGRAM FOR JULY 16

A short video on the Izaak Walton League. The National "IKES" was founded in 1923, and there has been an active chapter in Grand Rapids since 1925. Recently, the Grand Rapids IKES partnered with the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations to sponsor the Lakes, Fish, and Weeds Symposium, and other joint ventures are forthcoming. The video will address the history and accomplishments of the League."

NOTE ABOUT DUES: The envelope for dues went out with the May newsletter, but you might have put it aside. If so, you need to renew your membership by July 1.