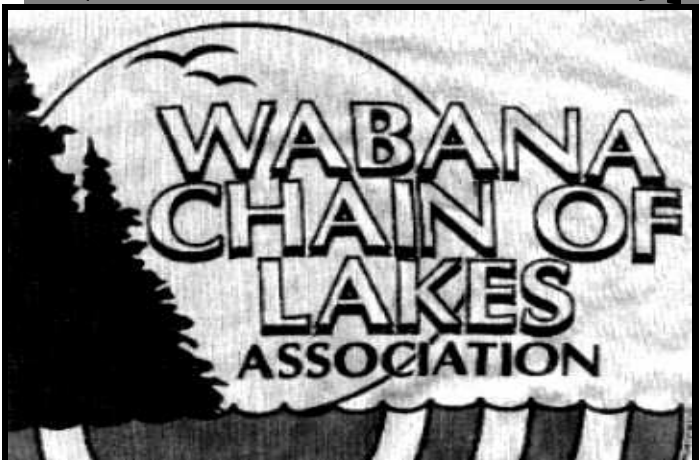


The Chain Letter of the



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

September 2006

Volume 10, Number 5

Editor: Bill Downing, wdowning
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: Jean Koewler 326-4302
Secretary: Susan Lick 326-6837

Advisory Committee.

:
Lloyd Adams 326-2130
Steve Bryant 326-5473
Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056
David Lick 326-6837
Roger Linder 326-2266
Sherry Miner 326-0589
Cathy Rudolph 327-0820
John Zimmerman 326-1020

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, contact Jean Koewler,
koewlerj@lcp2.net

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As our summer comes to a close, so will our WCOLA meetings. Our last meeting of the year will be held on Saturday, September 16th. It will be the time of year that many of our summer people will head back home, we wish them a safe trip and a safe return next year. We have had another good year, in which we completed our changes to the Association's By-Laws. This was a big task and its nice to have it finished. We still have to continue to work on our lake management plan, however.

During our summer we had some wonderful programs, Had another great July Picnic, and some interesting meetings. We will continue to work on keeping our area roads clean, with another clean up day to be held on Sept 20th Our Secchi disk readings, are continuing to improve and this is great news. So all in all we had another great year.

Remember when you are out on the lake: be safe, wear that life vest, and we will all see every one next year. Be safe.

Thanks,
Dick

MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING Wabana Chain of Lakes Association Minutes of the August 19th, 2006 Meeting

Program: Francis Fitzgerald of the Minnesota Land Trust, provided information on conservation easements, what they are and are not, and cited many examples of the agreements between private landowners and the non-profit organization.

Business Meeting: President Dick Chambers called the meeting to order with 30 members in attendance.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Betsy Downing.

Congratulations were given to Ted and Swanny Voneida celebrating their 50th anniversary.

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

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

Balance as of June 16, 2006 **\$7,063.49**

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 920.00
Contributions	\$ 45.00
T-Shirts	\$ 15.00
Coffee Mug Sales	\$ 20.00
Denim Shirt Sales	\$ 667.05
Dock Signs	\$ 65.00

Total Received **\$1,732.05**

Disbursements:

Treasure Bay Printing (July & August newsletters & By-laws)	\$ 353.76
Stamps (July & August newsletters-By-laws)	\$ 88.60
Fanfare promotion, Inc (denim shirts)	\$ 237.98
Picnic Supplies	\$ 117.10
Dock Signs	\$502.77

Total Disbursements:
\$1,600.21

Balance as of August 18,2006 **\$7,195.33**

Total Paid Households: 149

A motion was made to have Jean Koewler, Treasurer invest \$3,000. of WCOLA's funds from the checking account into a timed savings certificate. Approved.

ICOLA – Itasca Coalition of Lakes Association:

President, David Lick highlighted the awards recently given to Itasca County residents for shoreline restoration including Warren and Kay Chapman of WCOLA.

Lakes Transparency: Nancy Ellsworth, WCOLA project coordinator facilitated a discussion. Participating Secchi Disk readers discussed their findings so for this season with many sites gradually improving. Char Zimmerman and Bill Berg warned that the clarity in North Trout Lake has decreased. Members shared lake condition observations and discussed water pollution issues. Copies of the Minnesota Lake Transparency Reports are available at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp.publications.html

By Laws: President Chambers introduced the by laws document, as mailed August 2006. A motion was made to "accept the by laws as the committee has prepared them". The motion was seconded. Discussion:

Roger Linder summarized a letter from John Downing of Ames, Iowa stating that absentee ballots should be available for members not in attendance to be able to vote on such issues as election of officers.

Deb Gelbach presented her concerns for the record about the existing by-laws; 1) the need for better definition of the actual role of the advisory committee 2) how the nominating committee is determined and 3) voting methods, in terms of a more clear definition of the entire role of membership. The motion was approved. These will be agenda items for the next meetings of the Association.

Election of Officers: Lloyd Adams of the nominating committee asked for nominations for vice president: Bud Sage, current vice president agreed to be nominated. Vote taken. Approved.

Lloyd Adams asked for nominations for president: Dick Chambers agreed to be nominated. Vote taken. Approved.

Dick thanked the membership for a vote of confidence but suggested at some point it is healthy for organizations to have changes in leadership.

Minnesota Waters Conference: A statewide conference in Duluth, early September was promoted. Bill Downing and David Lick will attend.

Excelsior Mesaba Energy Proposal: Dick Chambers noted that water rights have become an

issue and suggested citizens be informed. David Lick pointed to the internet sites for more details; Mesaba Energy Project www.mncoalgasplant.com and Citizens Against the Mesaba Project www.camp-site.info.

David Lick stated that the Excelsior proposal is improved technology for coal energy but not without pollution effects to our area.

Ted Voneida encouraged the power of letters to newspaper editors.

Bill Berg stated that this is local property tax at work. Itasca County will need a \$40 million dollar loan for the project. Bill also reported that prevailing winds have changed and are now from the south and southeast so carbon dioxide from the power plant site will blow over the Wabana chain of lakes area. Also, the highly polluted water from the plant is planned on being contained in Canisteo Mine, in time will flow into the Wabana area groundwater.

Following further discussion members were encouraged to participate in the Itasca County Commissioner elections this fall.

Wabana Chain of Lakes History Committee:

President Chambers introduced historical committee members; Sherry Miner, John Zimmerman, Bill Berg, Bill Downing, Roger Linder, Barbara Zimmer and Nancy Ellsworth. Following their initial meeting President chambers suggested the committee will need funding at some point for their work.

Adopt a Highway Cleanup: Barbara Zimmer called for volunteers to help on September 20th at 9:30am, meeting at the Wabana Township Hall. Following will be a picnic at the Wabana Township Hall. Help is needed, those interested call Barbara Zimmer.

Open Agenda:

Goods From the Woods: Deb Gelbach reminded folks of the event. Phil will be teaching a class and she will be signing her new book.

Loon Chick: Connie Meyers reported one loon chick was sighted recently on Blue Water Lake.

Marine Radios: Bill Downing gave a demonstration on coast guard marine radios and

their use. Information can be obtained by visiting www.navcen.uscg.com

Water Safety: Mary Uradnik suggested a focus on water safety and courtesy. Dick Chambers will write an article for the spring WCOLA Newsletter.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2006.

The Wabana Chain Of Lakes Association

Newsletter deadline for the next publication is September 8. Mail or email to William Downing wdowning@uslink.net.

Meeting Adjourned. A motion was made to adjourn. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lick, Secretary

DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE

Traditionally the Winter issue of the Chain Letter comes out at about the end of the year, and contains a summary of the various data and readings done during the summer. It is a good time for people to write leisurely letters containing ideas and information for the following year, or to start discussions on sometimes controversial subjects. Please plan to have your contributions in the Editor's email inbox by November 16. That's after Halloween but before Thanksgiving, if that helps you remember the date.

SHORELAND REVEGETATION

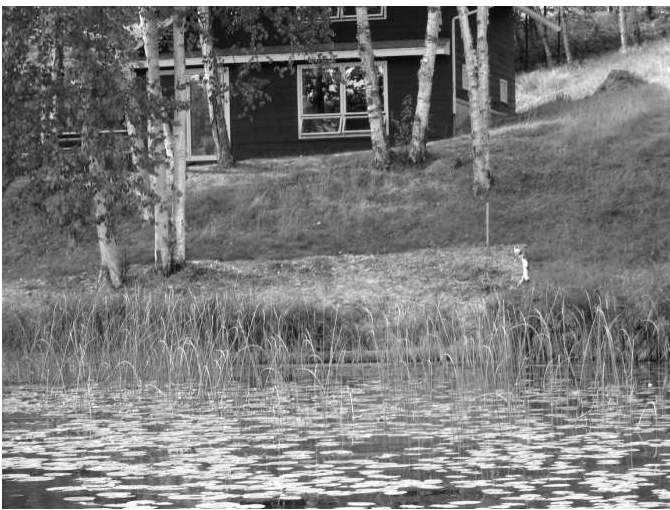
The June 2006 issue of the *Chain Letter* contained a letter from Warren and Kay Chapman regarding the project they undertook on the lakeshore in front of their house on Wakeman Bay. The project had its roots in a presentation at the 2005 spring WCOLA meeting on shoreland restoration.

The Chapman's major objective was to stop the erosion and undercutting caused by mowing to the edge of the lake, which damages the lake water quality, and return the shoreline to native grasses and plants. Read the details of their process in the June 2006 *Chain Letter*.

They replaced a 10' by 100' strip along the shore, with over 1000 plants and grasses. To remedy the serious bank undercutting they first installed 66' of fiber rolls, then "string mulch" was spread over the entire area, approximately 3" deep. The next day the crew planted over a dozen species of native grasses and shrubs

Last week we took advantage of their invitation to see the planting area, and were impressed by the great progress even part of season can bring. Many plants were in bloom. The Chapmans would be happy to have you stop by and look yourself. It's not hard to find—the red house near the shore, next to Dick and Pat Chambers, near the entrance from Wabana to Bluewater.

The upper photo is taken along the shore from their dock, showing the ten foot strip, mulch, and the interspersed plants.



The lower picture is taken from the water, with the house in the background. Even in this young state, it looks so much better than a sod-to-water junction;

later it will be a treasure of blooming plants and low shrubs. We urge members to follow this example!

LAKES AND RIVERS CONFERENCE

The following is a long sort of sermon, and you will probably want to fire me as editor for taking such liberties. Oh, well.....

I returned to Wabana last night, after spending three days in Duluth at the 2006 Biennial Conference on water. It was a colossal conference in every way, and our Association is missing a great deal by failing to support it and attend it. I am straining everything I have this Sunday to get this Newsletter to the printer, so you will have the notice of the **upcoming WCOLA meeting this Saturday, September 16, 2006, 8:30 A. M.** If I had the time I would report on each session I attended, but I don't have time. It will have to be enough to give some generalizations, then describe a few of the sessions that impressed me the most, and tell what we might have obtained if we had been among the Lake Associations with many members attending.

I'm not good at random counting of people, but somebody told me that there were more than 500 people registered. My guess is that two-thirds of the people there were members of Lake Associations. I know that the huge Ballroom at the DECC Center was full of people attending the Plenary Session on Friday morning. I sat at lunches with many people from a single Association, who had divided up so they could have someone at each session that interested them, and not have to decide among sessions on Stormwater, or how to find and use volunteers, or everything you want to know about loons, or measuring water quality. These people were comparing notes at lunch, and getting ready to report to their associations. I have to say that I was pretty lonely, with all that discussion going on, and I had nobody to discuss the single session (of five that hour) that I had attended. Dave Lick and I were the only ones from Itasca County, and he is President of ICOLA! Crow Wing County must have had fifty people there, judging from the numbers I talked with. But of course they are already "Brainerdized", and don't like it very much, and are trying to hold on

with their fingernails to what we still have in abundance

How very complacent we are! Itasca County has a lot of lakes, so we can sit in our pretty cabins on our pure lakes and talk about how glad we are not to be Brainerdized—but baby, it's just around the corner! I talked with people who could not believe it had happened so quickly to their nice places. And now they are organizing as rapidly as they can, looking for baseline data, looking for help, finding out how to return their lakes to pristine, and how much it will cost. We in WCOLA have fifteen years worth of water quality data that people in Hubbard County would give eyeteeth for, now that it's too late.

Who were they all, those attendees? Many were retired doctors or farmers who were taking the lead in forming Associations. But there were lots of younger people there too. And my counting finger decided there were at least as many women as men. Tough-minded, hardnosed people who were determined to save what was save-able, restore what was restorable, and beat back the greedy people who want to buy, build, pollute, and leave with a tidy profit, for others to worry over.

And, mind you, there was a *lot* of help available, to save and restore. At a profit, of course. The huge exhibition hall was literally filled with lines of exhibitors in their booths, and many of them were engineering firms who will willingly take on the restoration of a lake. In my years with Soil and Water Districts and Watershed Districts in the metro area, I have seen them sign contracts for literally millions of dollars, just to keep things from getting worse. Several other exhibitors had examples of the very plants they use to restore shoreline, and the costs are high. We can get this relatively cheaply through the Itasca County Conservation District, but in other crowded places, it comes dear.

What did this great mass of people come to hear about? Everything that is related to water in lakes and rivers! Practical workshops on planting a rain garden, or management of aquatic plants; down-to-earth discussions of how to become effective in land-use decisions; theoretical conversations on how to determine how successful your

organization is. Seven workshops. Three or four field trips. Forty-eight one-hour sessions on anything and everything.

The presenters whom I heard were top-notch, the people who did the work or the research, or who teach it in colleges. I can't imagine the work it took to determine whom to ask, convince them to take time from their schedules, and do for them what was needed—projectors, microphones, finding rooms for them. It was impressive.

The talks at the Plenary Session were great, and people hung on every word.

- Changing demographics in Minnesota and its effect on our waters, by Dr. Martha McMurray of the State Demographic Center.
- Minnesota's changing climate, how will it impact our lakes and rivers, by Dr. Mark Seeley, who we regularly hear on Minnesota Public Radio.
- Effect of a vanishing "up north" on our stewardship ethic, by Dr. Richard Stedman of Pennsylvania State University.

Let me tell you briefly about some of the sessions that I attended, and that I liked a lot.

- Using remote sensing applications for local water planning and management. This is in its infancy, but it's worth watching. I doubt that it's going to take the place very soon, of collecting water samples and taking them to a lab for the kind of phosphorus and chlorophyll analysis we must have, but there are lots of studies that will soon be made from miles away, or from moored spots, or from planes or satellites. This was fun to listen to.
- How to be a local advocate: build and use your power This was presented by a potent little lady who teaches this in U of M, and Hamline University. She had handouts and ideas to take with us and remind us how to go about influencing local decision making. Everybody in a lake association should hear and use this.
- Wildlife along our shores. Picture after picture of birds, mammals, amphibians, by

Pam Perry, the non-game person at the DNR. This is a favorite!

- Insurance and legal issues for nonprofit organizations. This would have been perfect if I could have understood it better. The two presenters covered insurance, and then legal issues. Included were descriptions of the several different kinds of nonprofit organizations, and the advantages of each. There were a lot of handouts in this one, and maybe if I study hard I will see what the differences are and which we should opt for. One thing was made clear: a nonprofit organization may advocate, lobby for, speak about, *issues* but not *persons or candidates*. This is a new idea for me.

When the opportunity comes again, probably not for two years since this was billed as a "biannual conference", we in the WCOLA must take full advantage of it. There is too much to be learned, used and retained for us to ignore it. Yes, it's expensive. Registration was over a hundred dollars, hotel was \$88+ tax a night for two nights; but it is value received! No lake association can afford to miss this chance.

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

**This is the
Chain Letter of the
Wabana Chain of Lakes
Association for
September 2006.**

**Meeting is Saturday,
September 16
8:30 A. M.**

**Program at 9:00 A. M.
is a video from the
Izaak Walton League**

**Business meeting
9:30 A. M.**