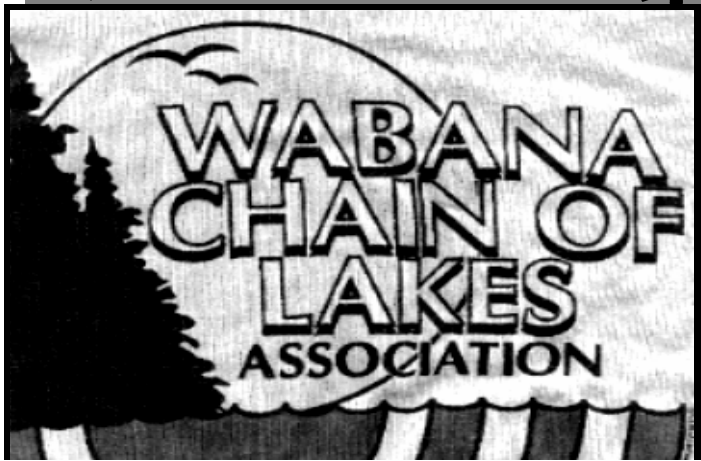


# The Chain Letter of the



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

# May 2007

Volume 11, Number 1

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: 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](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)**

### CONTENTS

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR	1
CLEANUP OF ROAD	2
DISCOUNT CARD	2
HISTORY COMMITTEE	2
MORE ON LOON SURVEYS	3
MOVING FIREWOOD	3
SEASONAL OWNERS INFORMATION	4
SHORELAND STEWARDSHIP	5

### MOST IMPORTANT:

**MEETING ON SATURDAY MAY 19, 2007,  
COFFEE AND TREATS AT 8:30 A.M.,  
PROGRAM WITH MARY SHIDELER AT 9:00,  
BUSINESS MEETING AT 10:00!**

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I did not publish the "Winter 2006" newsletter edition, since I hit a rather bad patch in the fall and winter, and ran out of time and inclination. After losing Betsy in August, I was hospitalized and spent a long time in the hospital and rehabilitation center. Recovery has been slow, but maybe faster than I deserved at my advanced age, and my offspring and their families have been great strength and support.

This is the first Chain Letter for 2007, sent hurriedly because of the need to notify you of the first meeting of WCOLA on May 19. Meetings will be the third Saturday of each summer month, with the last one in September. Do NOT expect individual notices to go out a week in advance for each meeting. Let this be your notice, and please mark your calendars right now while you are thinking of it.

### Deadlines for Newsletter:

June 7, July 12, August 9, September 6.  
We publish lots of letters and communications, and would love to hear from you! Traditionally we have met on Saturdays at 8:30 A. M. for treats, then program at 9:00 and business meeting at 10:00. We will meet on the third Saturday of each month, as follows:

May 19  
June 16  
July 21 (picnic date?)  
August 18  
September 15

If you want changes in this schedule, or times of meetings, or dates of meetings, please be sure to bring it up at the May 19 meeting.

## **CLEANUP OF ROAD**

On September 20, 2006 members of WCOLA completed a trash pick up along our roads. Itasca County provided the bags, orange vests and removal of the bagged trash. A picnic followed at the Town Hall. Thank you to all who helped keep our roads beautiful: George Klacan, Greg Past, Dick Chambers, Jean Koewler, Barbara and Ken Zimmer, Ron Houwman, Vickie and Lloyd Adams, Nancy Ellsworth, Roger Linder, and Sherry Miner and her grandchildren.

## **LAKE ASSOCIATION DISCOUNT CARD**

*From David Lick, Aaron Alto of Greater Pokegama Lake Association and Itasca COLA*

*This would be a very appropriate item for discussion at the May meeting, since we send out dues notices in time for July 1 membership—Ed.*

The Greater Pokegama Lake Assoc.(GPLA) has inaugurated a Lake Association Member Discount Card. This idea was brought forth by a member as a way to attract new members by offering something substantial to offset the cost of membership dues. Unlike other area discount programs, this one will cost users nothing. They get the card free as part of their membership in their lake association. Once this idea started to gain momentum, the GPLA decided to contact ICOLA to let all lake associations take advantage of this offer. It seems like many lake residents don't have much of an excuse for not being lake association members and hopes are that this will bring them on board.

It is suggested that lake associations send out a promotional article in their newsletters or send a special mailing introducing the card. This mailing should go to **all** property owners on the lake as we are trying to attract new members. Lists of all residents of your lake are available from the county. For instance, the GPLA will entice lake residents to join the GPLA by describing the program and listing participating businesses and discounts on the first page of the March newsletter, which goes to all Pokegama Lake property owners; the discount card

will then go out in our May newsletter to all dues-paying members. Those lake associations that collect dues in the fall or mid-summer can request cards for the number of members that they presently have. The new card should still be publicized in newsletters to attract more members by the time dues are sought.

David Lick (ICOLA President) will be the ICOLA distributor. He will bring cards to the March ICOLA meeting for those associations that would like cards soon. It is up to the individual lake association to decide when to send out the cards. When considering when to distribute the cards for your association, keep in mind that the later in the summer you collect dues, the fewer chances people will have to use the card.

This idea has connected local businesses and lake associations in a mutually beneficial way. A lot of hard work has gone into this project, and I hope all ICOLA member associations will take full advantage of this.

Aaron Alto, President  
Greater Pokegama Lake Association  
326-6940  
[alto@mchsi.com](mailto:alto@mchsi.com)

## **HISTORY COMMITTEE**

*From Roger Linder*

The newly formed Historical committee has had 2 meetings. The first was primarily an organizational meeting, to set meeting dates, we also felt we would divide our efforts into four areas, Prehistoric, Indian history, logging era, and modern times. These periods are arbitrary and will be used to divide our efforts and are subject to change. It was also decided to gather information as to how other historical groups operate, and to that end, visits were planned to the Itasca historical and Trout lake [the other one] displays.

Our next meeting was held on Sept 20th. Our goal is to gather memorabilia from our area [the chain of lakes and surrounding area] and the appropriate display of same. We reviewed the information gathered from visits to other groups. From this it seems that the township hall is the most viable location for our work. On that basis it was decided to attend the next meeting to ask for their thoughts and input on the subject. As you can tell we are still in the information gathering phase. Our short term goal is to have some ideas as to how to how, where, and what to display/store etc. for your consideration next summer. Bob Moore is a valuable addition to our committee. We look forward to being a active long term committee.

## **MORE ON LOON SURVEYS**

*From Pam Perry*

*Nongame Wildlife Lake Specialist*

*Hey—if I keep working on this, I may understand it in the future sometime.—Ed.*

Hi William,

We spoke at the Lakes Conference in Duluth in September. At that time, you asked me about the 2 different loon surveys in the state.

The Volunteer Loon Watchers Survey is the statewide survey that I coordinate. The main feature of this survey is that any lake in the state can be part of it and the official Loon Watcher (who usually lives on the lake or regularly visits the lake) for that lake watches the lake all summer. Reports are sent to me in the fall. I work with Loon Watchers and often lake associations to promote successful loon nesting through education, information and citizen actions.

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological\\_services/nongame/projects/loon\\_survey.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/nongame/projects/loon_survey.html)

The Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program is focused on 6 index areas, each containing about 100 lakes that are surveyed within a 10 day period in July. The purpose of the MLMP is to look at loon population trends, i.e., is the loon population stable, increasing or decreasing.

Volunteers who survey the lake count the loons that are present on one day only.

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological\\_services/nongame/projects/mlmp\\_state.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/nongame/projects/mlmp_state.html)

Pam Perry

1601 Minnesota Drive

Brainerd, MN 56401

218/833-8728

[pam.perry@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:pam.perry@dnr.state.mn.us)

## **MOVING FIREWOOD**

*From Mike Albers,*

*Forest Health Specialist,*

*DNR Division of Forestry*

*This article opened my eyes to a problem I had not thought about before. I think you will be interested.*

Most cabins and lakeshore homes are nestled into forest settings because Minnesotans like trees and feel at home in the woods. We burn up the wood from dead and diseased trees and even bring firewood from home to fuel bonfires and wood stoves while up north. Did you know that firewood harboring insects and diseases and that they can be inadvertently spread to new locations by transporting it? Moving firewood around the state, Midwest, and even country has never been too much of an issue. News about yet another exotic insect or disease in this country seems so distant to our experience because we are so removed from the usual points of introduction; until now. Finding that firewood is the primary means of spread of emerald ash borer (EAB) out of quarantined areas in Michigan has changed our views about firewood movement and, hopefully, our actions here in Minnesota.

Transporting firewood is problematic. Firewood travels at 55 mph and so do the forest pests hiding inside. And, EAB is not the only “bad bug” lurking in firewood. Oak wilt, Asian longhorned beetle, Sirex woodwasps, gypsy moths and “bad bugs” we don't even know we have can hitchhike on firewood from New York, Michigan and from our own

backyard. So, in just a few short hours, EAB or another forest pest could be unknowingly spread into the forests of Minnesota.

Emerald ash borers spend most of their life cycles hidden between the bark and the wood. If the tree dies or is cut down, the EAB will survive and adults will emerge during the growing season to start the life cycle over again in nearby live ash trees. Currently, the entire lower peninsula of Michigan, parts of Maryland and all of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio are under EAB quarantines.

Wisconsin officials have imposed limits on the movement of firewood into and within the state because they recognize the economic and ecologic risks that EAB and other bad bugs pose. Where states have attempted to eradicate EAB, removing all ash trees within a 1/2 mile of the site, the cost has been about \$1 million per site. Where EAB is established, it has eliminated all ash trees; cities and towns have been stripped of their street trees and lowlands forests were decimated. State and federal quarantines restrict the transportation of infested nursery stock and forest products, but restrictions on firewood do not address the vast amounts of firewood moved by the public so may not be effective in protecting our state's resources.

In light of this information, Minnesota DNR is proposing to restrict firewood brought into state campgrounds and onto DNR administered state lands in order to protect our forests from EAB and other exotic pests that cause harm. The DNR is requesting that campers, hunters, anglers and other recreationists use "approved" firewood while on DNR lands. Approved firewood is:

- Purchased from an approved dealer (approved by Dept of Agriculture or Natural Resources).

- Purchased/ provided at the state facility.

- Clean, untreated dimensional lumber.

Moving personal firewood supplies from your home to your cabin or lake home is not regulated like transporting them into state campgrounds. It's up to you to prevent the "bad bugs" from moving into the trees and forests near your land. So, leave your firewood supply at home and make sure that your firewood supply is purchased from an approved dealer near your destination.

## **SEASONAL OWNERS INFORMATION**

*Many members have not heard of the Minnesota Seasonal Property Owners Coalition, MSRPO, even though we had its President come and talk with us about ten years ago. It has about six thousand members, mostly to the south of Itasca County, and as far as I know, there are few or none in this county. We are next to become Brainerdized, if it happens, and MSRPO is a voice for seasonal owners at the Legislature. Dues are \$53 a year, though membership can be free to those who cannot afford it. The following are excerpts from their web site.*

MSRPO speaks for recreational property owners at the State Capitol, seeking tax fairness for families that own cabins, lakeshore, hunting shacks and seasonal property in Minnesota. We know that cabins are where family happens in Minnesota, and we aggressively defend that way of life.

Our grass roots activism on behalf of our 6000-plus members has earned us some political clout at the Capital. What's more, when MSRPO members vote they do so in force—an average member's household contains three or four voting-age individuals.

*If this intrigues you, I strongly suggest that you look at the website, MSRPO.org, to see what you can do and how to proceed. We might have an officer of the organization come and talk with us, or maybe a joint meeting with Deer Lake Association or others who might be interested. —Ed.*

## **SHORELAND STEWARDSHIP**

*The Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations (I-COLA) will award a prize to persons who have carried out good shoreland stewardship projects. A rather poor copy of the Application blank is printed on the next page, to show you what kind of information is needed, and a better Application can be obtained from Dave Lick, who is President of I-COLA, or from the Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District, which is a co-sponsor of this Award.*

**Itasca County Coalition of Lake Associations (I-COLA)  
Shoreland Stewardship Award Application**

Application for the Year: 2007

Submission Deadline: August 1, 2007

Name(s) of Applicant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Project Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different than above): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Lake or River: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Project has been established: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Project:** List the approximate square footage of the project including plant species, materials and quantities. Describe any maintenance that has been performed. If available, include photos, and use additional sheets if needed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Professional Assistance Category –** Was the project designed and/or installed by a private consultant or contractor? \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Assistance Category –** Did you receive technical and/or financial assistance from a public agency?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Is there anything else you would like us to know about the project?**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Contact the Itasca County "Soil and Water Conservation District" (SWCD) to learn about existing shoreland stewardship technical and cost share assistance programs.



Please return the completed form by **August 1, 2007** to:  
  
Shoreland Steward Award Committee  
Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)  
1889 N. Hwy 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-326-0017



*Finalists will be contacted for an on-site review.*

**This is the May 2007 issue of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association's Chain Letter. It notifies you of the first 2007 meeting of the Association on Saturday May 19 2007.**

8:30 Coffee and treats

9:00 Program: Mary Shideler, the lady who has vowed to canoe all the lakes in Itasca County. She will tell of her adventures.

10:00 Business Meeting

Please be there. It will be fun and interesting

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