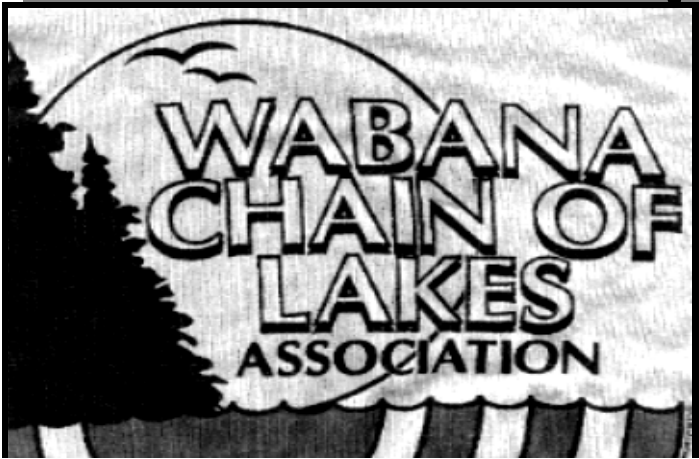


# The Chain Letter of the



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

# July 2008

Volume 12, Number 3

Editor: Bill Downing

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**Next Newsletter deadline: August 10, 2007**

#### Officers:

President: Dick Chambers 326-2809

Vice President: Lloyd Adams 326-2130

Treasurer: Jean Koewler 326-4302

Secretary: Gail Olijnek 326-2431

#### Advisory Committee.

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

## WCOLA Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2008

### Program

Catherine McLynn, our Itasca County Commissioner updated us on the most recent developments in the county.

**Introducing research student.** President Chambers introduced Jessica Colburn, the intern working for WCOLA on the Betsy Downing Biodiversity Scholarship. Jessica will be sampling area lakes (Pickerel, Little Wabana, Wabana, Little Trout, and Trout) for aquatic insects. She will take these samplings 4 to 5 times over the summer to give us the biological health of our lakes and then report this information back to WCOLA. The team who chose the individual to do the project was Bill Berg, Ken Zimmer, George Klacan, Susan Lick, and John Downing.

**Business Meeting:** The meeting was called to order by our President, Dick Chambers. Twenty-nine (29) members were in attendance, and introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** May 17, 2008 meeting minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Given by Jean Koewler and listed below was approved. Since we have so much money in our checking account a motion was made and approved (based on a recommendation made by the Advisory Board) that we add \$2,000 to our CD when it comes due July 22, 2008.

**Balance as of May 10, 2008** \$7,222.47

### Receipts:

Dues \$ 520.00

Contributions \$ 20.00

**Total Receipts** \$ 540.00

### Disbursements:

Ken Zimmer \$ 20.20

Postage to return "Get the Lead Out"

Rolls for spring road clean-up

Postmaster - 260 -\$0.42 stamps -

June Newsletter \$ 109.20

Treasure Bay Printing \$ 120.66

April Newsletter-6 pages

**Total Disbursements** \$ 250.06

**Checkbook Balance June 20, 2008** \$7,512.41

CD - Renewal Date July 22, 2008

\$3,117.01

**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)**

## **Total Paid Households: 107 as of June 21, 2008**

**Loon nest.** Bill Berg shared that there is a loon's nest on the island at the south end of Trout Lake that is always vulnerable to being washed away because of boat waves. He opened for discussion and proposed that we put up a couple of "no wake" buoys...one at the north end of the island and one at the south end to help prevent this from happening. He would put them in by June 1 and take them out by July 15 if this is approved. Bill will write a letter for WCOLA to the Sheriff's Department proposing that these two buoys be allowed. There was some additional discussion about the Sheriff's patrolling on our lakes.

President Chambers made mention of items of significance in the last newsletter.

### **Clarification of Meeting Dates**

Bill Downing was concerned that non-resident WCOLA members may not be able to attend meetings as they are scheduled this year, and made a suggestion that they should be at the times of holiday weekends when we might have better attendance. President Chambers asked for discussion. He also stated that the Advisory Board needs to decide in August or September the dates for the meetings for next year, so we can confirm them with the secretary of the town board. We need to have our dates locked in so we are assured that we have the building for our meetings. Considerable discussion ensued (concerns for the timing of road clean-up...holiday weekends bring more people up, but more entertaining is going on and people might not attend a meeting). President Chambers stated that the advisory board will bring this up, take note of membership discussions at the next couple meetings, and make a decision for next year.

### **I-COLA Shoreland Stewardship Awards**

The WCOLA June newsletter includes the application for this award. The award recognizes those people who are good conservation stewards of our counties lakes, rivers and streams. If you know of someone deserving of this award, or are interested in applying yourself, please fill out this application by October 1, 2008.

### **Minnesota Waters**

Minnesota Waters is having a regional summit meeting Thursday, June 26, from 9-5pm in Walker. If we have a couple members who would go, WCOLA will pay for their transportation. Catherine McLynn stated that there are a series of meetings next week with people from other counties discussing how things are going with their lake associations and how they operate. Michael Goldberg who is a resident of Wabana will be presenting on behalf of Itasca County. WCOLA representatives will be Barbara and Ken Zimmer.

### **Water Testing**

In November, 2007 Itasca Water Legacy Partnership in cooperation with ICC received a \$320,000 grant to monitor the water quality of 140 lakes in Itasca County. John Downing and Jack Jones who are limnologists, will be doing this study and are looking for donations of 18 ft. or more boats. If you can be of help, contact John or Bill Downing.

### **Road Clean-Up**

Thanks to all who helped with the clean up. It was a great success. There were no bugs, no water to walk through and the grass still hadn't grown; good reasons to have it early before Memorial Day. It is a great tradition we have started and a chance for us to get together and do something for the community. Barbara Zimmer shared the picture that was in the newspaper.

### **July 19 Picnic and Meeting**

A motion was made that we forego the meeting the day of the picnic this year. Motion approved.

### **ICOLA**

ICOLA's Annual Meeting is on July 16 at 5:00pm at Cohasset Community Center. It is a potluck. The meeting is the day after filing so you will know who is running for office and can talk with the individuals. David Lick is planting 1,000 native plants in a rain garden at his new office complex...Itasca Reliable Insurance, next to ACE Hardware, which is why we have no report from him today.

**Wabana Township.** No report today.

### **Historical Committee**

Roger Linder reported that we now have a file cabinet located in the town hall that can hold legal size documents as well as regular size. They have expanded the committee to be a joint committee...WCOLA and Wabana Township...and Lori Miltich, a board member, has agreed to be on it. Our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be in 2023, so this joint venture will be to all our advantage. They have made contact with the Itasca County Historical Society which will come out next year for one of our meetings to let us know what they do. Also, they set up historical exhibits for a period of time and are willing to have a display here at the town hall at some point. The committee has gotten "digital Bill" (Bill Berg) on board digitizing some things that we'll see in upcoming newsletters. They also have a collection of audio and visual interviews with some of the old timers. Sherry Miner's son has a digital disk of all old photos from WA-GA-THA-KA back when it was Crow Wing Camp in 1903. Chris Friedlieb has agreed to become the committee's photo scanner.

### **July 19 Picnic, 6:00pm**

The WCOLA picnic will be at the Wabana Town Hall and grounds on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Lynette Bryant has again agreed to lead the picnic committee. The members are Jean Koewler, Pat Chambers, Sherry Miner, Steve & Lynette Bryant, Nancy Ellsworth, Gary & Carol Burkholder, Bud & Mary-Lou Sage, Cathy Rudolph, Phyllis Oliver.

### **Be Aware**

Sherry Miner wanted us all to be aware that there is a problem with garbage being thrown in Little Wabana and there are people who are shooting off fireworks at 2am. It was suggested that she talk with her neighbor first, then if this continues, she could file a complaint with environmental services at the Sheriff's Department and/or with the DNR.

### **Nominating Committee**

Election of officers will be in August. President and Vice President are up for election. President Chambers stated that he will not be running for President this time; he feels it's time to step down.

Nominating committee members are: George Klacan, Sherry Miner and Jim Olijnek.

### **Keeping Exotic Species Out of Our Lakes**

President Chambers asked for a couple people to look into signage on other lakes to see what is being done so we can put signs up at our boat accesses. We'll talk more about what we should do on our lakes at the August meeting. Brochures are available here today for your personal use.

President Chambers asked for other items to come before the members. Being none he asked for a motion to adjourn and it was approved.

WCOLA Secretary

Gail Olijnek

### **A HISTORY OF THE TROUT LAKE AREA AND THE JOYCE ESTATE**

By Keith Matson, U.S Forest Service (retired)

*Editor's note: this is the second installment of the historical manuscript, A History of the Trout Lake Area and the Joyce estate. After some searching, we now know who the author is – Keith Matson of the Chippewa National Forest, U. S. Forest Service (now retired) – who wrote the report in 1984.*

In July of 1873 a public land sale was held at the Land Office in St. Cloud. At this sale some of the first lands to be purchased in Itasca County, including the Trout Lake Region, were purchased. A quick check through the county records reveals that at least 36 individuals were involved in patenting these lands. Some of the names found on this list are quite familiar names in the history of the lumber industry in Minnesota, these include: Johnathan Chase, C. A. Pillsbury, C. H. Davis, E. M. Fowler, George A. Camp, T. B. Walker, and C. F. Ruggles. Samuel J. Carpenter purchased land in the region in 1895. Other purchasers include such names as Charles Welch, Michael A. Harney, George A. Far, J. W. Pence, Ino. George NcBean, Nicholas Arn, Hank Gale, D. E. Miles, B. F. Millard, Peirre Gaulette, Jesse H. Mattock, Oshinay Marks, John Dolonais, James Bourgeois, Alfred Folsom, William Drew, Thomas Tappan, Donald McDonald, Richard Blake, Phelix Rasigonale, William A. Robinson, and James Gunmoe. Still later purchasers were John Dawley, George A. Gay, Louis C. Barnett, Josua R. Stauchfield, and Frank Wakeman.

Through the land records we can identify the owners to the many parcels of land involved within the region of Trout Lake. There are other people who have been involved with the history of this region who do not appear in these records. By and large most of the above named individuals were primarily interested in the lands of this area for the timber that grew on them, and this is why they purchased the land. There is no record that either D.Y. Wheeler or Edward Wilder ever filed for or purchased the lands they had occupied when Eli Griffin surveyed the townships. We may never know how long these men were here, what they did while they were here, or where they went after leaving. In later years an Art Wilder had a place at what later be the Fitzgerald farm near Arbo, several miles to the south. If this Art Wilder was related to Edward Wilder we could perhaps follow this family; however, no such link has been made at the time that this is written. While reviewing records of deeds, the name D.Y. Wheeler was found on one of the documents. It is uncertain from the document just what position this D.Y. Wheeler held, since he was not one of the parties in the transfer of the land. It may be possible that he was a lawyer, or perhaps a notary public, or even a state or county official at the time of the documentation. It is at least a possibility that this is one and the same D.Y. Wheeler, only we still do not know his occupation or the relationship he held to the region after construction of his claim shanty. At the present these will have to remain an unsolved mystery of the region for us.

With the coming of the survey crews, loggers and settlers, the earliest inhabitants of the region were displaced. Although never spending much time in the area or in any numbers, this nevertheless was the home of the Ojibwa prior to the advent of the Europeans. Newspaper accounts of the early 1930's stated that: "A few old lumberjacks remember the sites of Indian camps which were located on Balgillow Island and on Upper Buckman Cove."

In the first few years following the land survey the major owners were to become apparent. The original patentees quite quickly sold their title to the lands to a few wealthy individual owners, all were involved in varied aspects of the lumber industry. John W. Day, also known as Wes Day, acquired some land in the area, as did the Hall and Shevlin Lumber Company and Josiah E. Hayward with his partner Frank M. Parcher. By far, the largest amount of land was purchased by George A. Camp and his son-in-law, T.B. Walker. So much of the land was purchased by them that it becomes suspect that the original purchasers may have actually filed for title with a prearranged agreement to sell to Camp and Walker as soon as they obtained title to the lands from the United States of America.

At this point, with a consolidated ownership pattern emerging, George A. Camp retired from the lumber industry and sold his interests to his son-in-law. By now Thomas Barlow Walker had become the largest single individual landowner in the state of Minnesota excluding the Federal and State governments. We have yet to determine who logged in this region, and when the logging was done. In 1877 T.B. Walker had purchased the Pacific Mill from J. Dean and Company and was sawing lumber in Minneapolis by 1878 as Camp and Walker. He also was sending his crews into the woods of Itasca County during this period, logging in the region around Grand Rapids. By 1880 he began operations in the northwestern portion of the state, on the Red River watershed, which was eventually to become his major area of operations in the state. While he operated his mill in Minneapolis, his operations in Itasca County furnished the logs; and he must have obtained some of his timber from the Trout Lake region, taking only the best, most accessible material.

In 1878 L. Day and Sons was the 7<sup>th</sup> largest producer of lumber in Minneapolis. Leonard Day's son, John W. (Wes), was heading up the field operations in the Itasca-Cass county region, and many stories abound in the region about Wes Day. With their ownership of lands in the upper portions of Wabana Lake, Wes Day was one of the first, if not the first, to log in this area. John McCann was Day's camp foreman in this region, and the first dam built on Wabana was constructed by the Days. According to a newspaper account, they pretty much had the territory to themselves until McAlpine and Kirkpatrick came into the country.

T.B. Walker held title to the land, and timber, but would rely on others to field the crews that would log his timber and bank it for the spring drives. He also sold stumpage to others when there was opportunity, and the transaction was advantageous. Such a transaction occurred in the 1880's when T.B. sold stumpage in Itasca County to David Joyce of Clinton, Iowa. Joyce had a mill on the Mississippi River, and as was the case with all middle Mississippi lumbermen, depended upon logging operations in the upper portion of the watershed to furnish his needed raw material. David Joyce was also involved with Frederick Weyerhaeuser, logging in northern Wisconsin during this same period; he became president of the Shell Lake and Barronet Lumber companies, both Weyerhaeuser ventures with other downriver lumbermen. In later years, as T.B. Walker concentrated on the Red River operations, more of his timber on the Mississippi watershed was logged for other mills. Into such a situation came Mike McAlpine to Grand Rapids in 1874 from Canada; he would later assert that

he was one of the first woodsmen to come into the district. In 1881 Mike was running a saloon in Grand Rapids, and he must also have been involved in some logging operations.

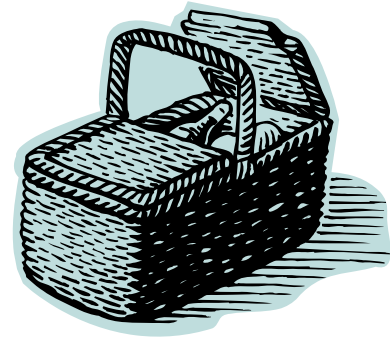
McAlpine reportedly cut out the tote road from Wabana Lake northward around the west side of Trout Lake. This trail was later used as a part of the Bigfork Trail. Mike maintained a stopping off camp for his tote teams on the northwest side of Trout Lake, along the tote road. Agnes Larson, in her book *“The White Pine Industry in Minnesota”*, writes that George Galbreath of Grand Rapids reported that the great smallpox epidemic of 1883 started at this camp when the cook was taken ill. Later some of his blankets were sent to a camp on Caldwell Brook, and it was from that camp that the disease spread throughout the region. [Pg. 213. Personal interview of Galbreath by Larson, August 16, 1932] McAlpine continued in business at Grand Rapids; in 1891 he purchased logs from Chief Shogoshig of the Winibigoshish reservation when the Chief organized a logging company of mostly Indians to log dead-and-down timber on the reservation.

Healy C. Akeley moved from Michigan to Minnesota in 1887 and opened new operations in this state when he formed the Itasca Lumber Company with Charles A. Hackley and Hume, partners of his in Michigan, and William T. Joyce of Clinton, Iowa. In Minneapolis H.C. struck up a friendship and eventual partnership with T. B. Walker. In 1893 Akeley purchased Walker’s holdings in the Trout Lake region, the timber from this tract destined for the Itasca Lumber Company mill in Minneapolis. The Itasca Lumber Company logged in this region from 1889 to 1903; the first four years they probably purchased stumpage from T. B. Walker. It had only been a few years earlier that David Joyce had started purchasing stumpage from Walker; and now with his son’s (W.T.) involvement in the Itasca Lumber Company, it becomes apparent that the Joyce’s milling efforts were being moved closer to the source of raw materials. The costs for taking logs from northern Minnesota to the mills in Iowa and Illinois, and the losses of logs during the trip, were making it impossible to operate in the manner of earlier years.

*There is more to this history, and it will be published in future issues of the Chain Letter.*

## FROM NANCY ELLSWORTH

The 18th annual Wabana-chain-of-Lakes picnic will be held on July 19 the, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.----- at the Wabana Town Hall. It will be pot-luck with bratz and hot-dogs and beverages provided. Even nifty door prizes! Come to hear some of the intriguing history of the Wabana area, with Bill Downing's help. Come and join your friends for a FUN TIME!!!



## WABANA ROAD CLEANUP.

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association members spent the morning May 20<sup>th</sup> doing its semi-annual roadside cleanup. Members volunteered to canvas the local roads in Wabana Township picking up trash. Vests and bags were provided by the County Engineer’s office. Those participating were Lloyd and Vicki Adams, George and Mary Klacan, Gib and Kathryn Willson, Dick and Pat Chambers, Roger Linder, Denny Koewler, Barbara Zimmer, Bud Sage and Warren Chapman.



# WABANA ANNULAR PICNIC

AT THE WABANA TOWN HALL  
6 PM, SATURDAY JULY 19, 2008

THIS IS, AS USUAL, A POT-LUCK, WITH THE  
HOPES THAT WE WILL ALL BRING A DISH TO  
SHARE.

PLEASE COME AND HAVE FUN WITH YOUR  
FRIENDS FROM THE CHAIN OF LAKES AND THE  
TOWNSHIP AROUND.

*From Bill:*

*When Nancy Ellsworth called and asked if I would make some historical remarks at the Picnic, I demurred because I thought I would prefer to do it with pictures, and I didn't have time to put together a Power Point presentation and still get the Chain Letter out on time. Then I realized that the Township does not have a Power Point projector anyway, so I scrapped that idea. But still...could I have anything to say that would be interesting, anyway?*

*Nevertheless, I do go back to 1931, and maybe I could tell you something about what it was like in those days of my youth in a summer cabin with no electricity, gas, telephone or radio, with roads that no modern car could negotiate.*

*So I'll do my brief best to keep you interested for a little while on Saturday evening, telling you something of the background for Tower Hill. –Bill Downing*

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE  
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION  
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