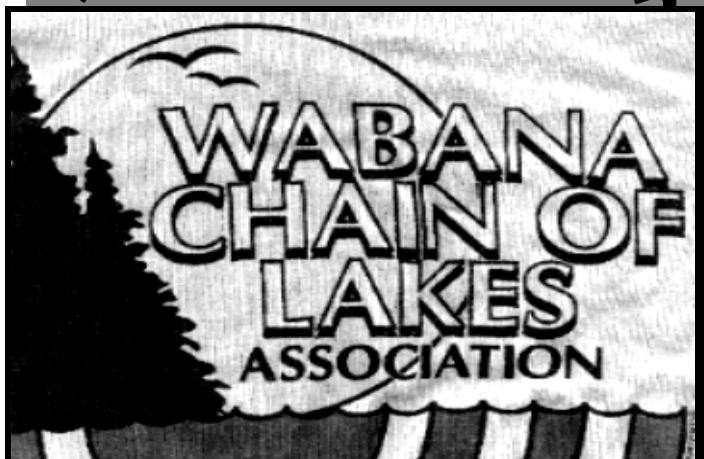


The Chain Letter

of the



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

September 2008

Volume 12, Number 5

Editor pro tem: Bill Downing wdowningster@gmail.com

Publisher: Chris Friedlieb peterchris2@msn.com

Officers:

President: Bill Downing, May-S 326-4730, O-A 651-644-9625

Vice President: Lloyd Adams 326-2130 lradsams_94@msn.com

Treasurer: Jean Koewler 326-4302 djkoewler@q.com

Secretary: Gail Olijnek 326-2431 golijnek@cprinternet.com

Advisory Committee.

Steve Bryant 326-5473 bryants@2z.net

Dick Chambers 326-2809 dicknpat@msn.com

Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056 nellsworth1@co.com

David&Sue Lick 326-6837 wabana@uslink.net

Roger Linder 326-2266 mlinder@msn.com

Sherry Miner 326-0589 sjminer797@msn.com

Cathy Rudolph 327-0820

John Zimmerman 326-1020 czim31@comcast.net

Visit our web site www.wcola.org

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

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER (newly elected)

We held an Advisory Committee meeting with added committee members on September 9th at WaGaThaKa, at Sherry Miner's kind invitation. I had not seen the inside of the Lodge for years, probably since the heyday of Morey and Barbara Miner, and it was a nostalgic trip to see the place again, beautiful and unchanged. I could almost see Barbara looking through the kitchen door, cooking one of her matchless dinners. There is still the old Wabana Exchange telephone on the wall, which I remember from the Thirties, asking to use it in emergencies.

I called the meeting rather hurriedly because I wanted to hold it before the deadline for this newsletter, and was delighted to have ten or eleven people present! My major purpose was to see if we could arrive at a consensus on how to rearrange WCOLA structure and function, in order to lighten the load on the President, so that members will not have such trouble finding candidates for the office. Who wouldn't hold back, if they knew they were taking on the kind of load that Dick Chambers carried off so well with such apparent ease?

I had a secondary objective, which was to look for ways to increase attendance at meetings. As it turns out, the two objectives are linked rather tightly together.

There was general consensus that our WCOLA meetings, though friendly and entertaining, are too long. Nobody wants to devote a whole summer Saturday morning to a meeting, especially if they have visitors, and more especially if it's a weekend off work.

I made a suggestion that we might hold the business meeting at 9:00, with the program at 10:00, but Bill Berg and Susan Hawkinson (program committee) said there would be more difficulty getting people to speak, if it took their whole morning, and earlier is better. They can speak and tear down, and still have some day left.

We examined Standing Committees, which are called for in our By-Laws. There were many suggestions, including some standing committees that have continued from the past Examples that you may want to consider:

- Publication
- Membership
- Surface Water
- Hospitality
- Historical
- Outreach
- Long range planning
- Audit

i. Management Plan

There was consensus in the AC that we should re-adopt regular Standing Committees, and that each committee with a report would place the report in the Newsletter, with the chance to move to discuss it at the business meeting. Several members of the AC volunteered to chair some of the committees, and gather their members, if the membership decides to move that way.

It was agreed that Robert’s Rules should prevail regarding Agenda. Continue Dick Chambers’ procedure of having a set agenda, and at the start of the meeting ask for additions or corrections to the agenda, then adopt it by motion and stick to it. Robert’s Rules also urge that no person should speak except to a motion on the floor. I think that’s being a little GI for a friendly group like this, but we might move somewhat that way.

With changes of this kind, we should be able to hold our meetings to an hour or less—in fact, the Agenda can simply state that the meeting will adjourn at a particular time, and fold up when the time comes.

Number of meetings was discussed, and we concluded that we did not need to have a business meeting every month—our Bylaws only require that we have one per year, the annual meeting in August. However, I think that cutting down to one is a little radical, but we could go to three, with the May meeting a kind of “What are your concerns?” open discussion, and one of the meetings a big sort of festival. We could think of looking into a co-sponsorship with the Bible Camp and maybe the Township.

The Agenda for the meeting on September 20th will ask for action in several areas, among them Standing Committees, and length of meeting time, and number of meetings next year, but can be expanded to whatever you want it to .I’d be glad to hear from you about your preferences.

I love our lakes! Bill

MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2008

Program

John Zasada, retired US Forest Service Researcher and one of the originators of “Goods from the Woods” spoke on the many resources the forest provides, how to properly harvest them, and make them into beautiful nature crafts.

Business Meeting

President Chambers called the meeting to order; twenty-seven members were present and introduced themselves.

Secretary’s Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and approved by the membership to accept the minutes of our June 21, 2008 meeting.

Treasurer’s Minutes

Jean Koewler read her report, included below, which was approved.

Balance as of June 20, 2008

\$7,512.41

Receipts:

Dues \$ 300.00
Contributions \$ 35.00
Lake sign \$ 5.00

Total Receipts

\$ 340.00

Disbursements:

Instrumental Research \$1,958.00
Reports 6-09-08 and 6-28-08
Bio-diversity Scholarship – Jessica Colburn \$ 750.00
Itasca Coalition of Lakes Membersh\$57.00
114 members @ \$.50 each
Minnesota Waters Membership 150.00
Postmaster - 510 -\$0.42 stamps
July and August Newsletters \$ 214.20
Treasure Bay Printing \$ 348.42
Newsletters- June –8 pages & July 6-pages
Ken Zimmer-Regional Summit of t\$ 95.25
MN Waters – mileage and 2 registrations
Picnic Supplies \$ 265.27
Walmart –Picnic supplies & labels-\$50.82
Forest Lake Restaurant – gift certificate \$50.00
Lynette Bryant – door prizes \$25.77
Dick Chambers - \$138.68
Historical Committee – Roger Linder-food \$ 82.54
Grand Rapids State Bank transfer of funds \$2,000.00

Amount added to CD

Total Disbursements

\$5,920.68

Checkbook Balance – August 14, 2008

\$1,931.73

CD – Renewal Date January 22, 2009

\$5,114.64

Total Paid Households: 114 August 14, 2008; 117 as of today’s meeting

Jean also reported that we had 150 plus paid households by the end of last year. We are behind in membership, but when the list of membership paid is published in the newsletter, we usually receive more membership dues. Also, at the beginning of the year when we put an annual membership dues envelope in the newsletter that encourages people to become members and pay the membership dues.

Deep Portage Shoreline Buffer Expo

Swanny and Ted Voneida went to the Deep Portage Conservation Reserve in Hackensack to attend the Shoreline Buffer Expo and talk with the exhibitors. Heather Baird, a shoreline habitat specialist gave them some excellent suggestions to improve their shoreline. They brought back lots of brochures to share with all of us, plus they will be receiving a DVD-“Restore Your Shore” from the MN DNR to share with us.

Road application of magnesium chloride was a concern so they talked with people at the conference. An exhibitor,

Connie Fortune, with Fortune Consulting, felt they are just getting started with the research so they don't really know the effect on lakes and streams. Proper application is a key. DNR felt it was safe. Bud Sage provided them with an excellent article on dust control stabilization, hardening of the road, grading control, and the issues of saving money and safety measures. The people they spoke with said there are other ways to improve road maintenance...grading, etc., but the magnesium chloride is an issue we should keep in mind personally and as a lake association in the future. Ted has spoken with individuals recently and they have gathered articles from a few different studies that they shared with us. Dick Chambers will have the information that the Voneida's have gathered, or speak with Ted and Swanny personally if you are interested. A suggestion was made that this report be given to the Supervisory Board of Wabana Township.

Annual Picnic

President Chambers, on behalf of the whole membership, thanked the Picnic Committee for the tremendous job they did to provide the group with a great time.

MN Waters Regional Summit Meeting for Citizen Leaders

Ken and Barbara Zimmer attended on behalf of WCOLA. They had a wonderful day with people knowledgeable with the same concerns about lakes and rivers all over the northern part of the state. These were people who were sharing about working towards pristine waterways, concerns about water runoff, and traffic going in and out giving us things we don't want in our lakes. Each of the groups shared what they had done in the past year. Barbara shared with the group about Jessica Colburn's Biodiversity project. The other three highlights were: 1) Big Fork River Citizen's Committee used their advanced biology High School and Middle School students to do water clarity studies. They recommended reading the book, "Last Child In The Woods" to get kids out in the woods doing this kind of thing. 2) Hubbard County has their members write an editorial to their local paper every two weeks so their concerns about the lakes are always in the local paper for people to read. 3) Crow Wing County has an Environmental Protection Association (for their county only). Private donations provide funding for legal assistance for protection and restoration of the areas ecosystem.

Loon Count Roger Linder reported that there are three more chicks to add to our loon count...three (3) on Big Trout and one (1) on Wabana. Ken Zimmer was asked to present Jim Edwards with an official Loon Count Patch.

Historical Committee Roger Linder reported that the committee is working hard. They have been in contact with the Itasca Historical Society to provide space and storage to archive Wabana Township material in perpetuity. Sherry Miner is going to go to the OWLS meeting on the August 27th to see if there is a volunteer from that group that would like to participate. The committee has purchased a recorder, so they have begun collecting more information from our long-time residents. They can record 24 hours of information and Bill Downing has been interviewed.

Wabana Township Report

Bud Sage reported that they were in the throes of starting a building program for the warming shed/storage area. They

discovered that the township hall is not in compliance with the septic system updating. They will be soon.

The cracks on the tennis courts are being repaired so deterioration will be stopped. Next year the court will probably be resurfaced.

Highway 38 Report Bud also shared The Hwy 38 committee is trying to get some money freed up from Wash. D.C. to do some repairs on Hwy 38 between Cty Rd 19 and Marcel. They are saying it will be 2024 before it will happen. They are planning to do Hwy 38 from Marcel to Effie this summer.

Another project they have going on is the remodeling of the Marcel Ranger Station. It will be turned into a Discovery Center that will be a highlight on the Edge of the Wilderness Highway venture.

August Road Clean-Up

President Chambers asked that Zimmers and Klacans, as our co-chairs for the road clean-up project, set up a time for the Fall road clean-up.

ICOLA David Lick reported that at the last meeting of ICOLA they were struggling with the same problem WCOLA is having...finding new leadership to continue. ICOLA has a 4-year term for President and his term is expired and no one wants the job. There will be a facilitator for a month and if no one comes forward, ICOLA will be dissolved. Deer Lake is experiencing similar problems. The lake associations are the only voice for the citizenry on the lakes. Next meeting for ICOLA is Wednesday, August 20.

Itasca Water Legacy Partnership

David has become more involved with the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership and its goal is to make Itasca County a water resource center. There are more lakes in this county that are in excellent condition and we want to make sure they stay that way. John Downing has been very instrumental with this plus about 20 others in the foundation. Last December the partnership was awarded about \$327,000 by the PCA to get water samples of the recreational development lakes in the county of which there is 148 of them. They want to develop a database so that the public has information as to the chemical parameters of these lakes. They plan to expand to 800 lakes in the county. There are no base line readings on the majority of the lakes chemically, which are needed so they can talk to the leadership of the county and state to make wise decisions. The county awarded them last month \$100,000 to equip the lab at ICC involving student participation. We have employed 8 students so far this summer with the goal of testing 148 lakes 5 times this summer. Water will be tested for phosphorus, chlorophyll, nitrogen, some ammonium types of things, and PH. The information will be stored at the state level and then 5 more tests will be done next year. We will be able to test locally rather than send them to a private laboratory. A press release was put out on Friday about it so information will be in the newspaper soon. We feel it's imperative to run it with the college, plus we'd like to get the Tribe involved and get it into the High Schools. The key is getting it to the younger people so they have the information and realize the importance of it all.

Chris Evans, a DNR employee, has been working on purple loosestrife, which is an exotic plant species that infiltrates lake areas. The Turtle Lake Association wrote a grant last year and the National Forest Service Foundation matched their money to control purple loosestrife so they could hire Chris Evans to go out

to eradicate it on Turtle Lake. Chris contacted ICOLA and said he would do a survey of purple loosestrife of the WCOLA lakes. Last week he surveyed the 4 lakes and only found 2 places on the north end of Trout Lake. He eradicated it chemically and by introducing beetles to eat the plant.

He also is concerned about the invasive species getting into our lakes. We, WCOLA, need to get the word out about people cleaning up their boats and not bringing invasive species into our lakes.

Signs To Keep Invasive Species Out

President Chambers shared that the Advisory Board has been very concerned about keeping invasive species out of our lakes. He passed around a picture of a sign of what Pokegama Lake has done to help prevent invasive species from getting into their lake. The Advisory Board feels we would like to have a series of 3 signs so if you miss the first one you may catch one of the others or other people in your group may see them. We would need to get permission from the county or the land office, but we feel it is imperative to get this done. It was suggested that we involve Wabana Township to share in the cost with us. Dick Chambers and Dave Lick will go to the Wabana Board meeting to present this issue. Bud Sage is already discussing with the Forest Service about signs on the Wabana north end access. There was some concern for the appearance of these signs being offensive to people; also a desire to have signs that are designed to blend in with the north woods. After considerable discussion it was decided to table this project until the next Advisory Board meeting and next WCOLA meeting.

Meeting Schedule There has been some discussion that meetings should be held on Memorial Day weekend, and other holiday weekends in order to get more non-residents here for the meetings. The Advisory Board needs to go before the Town Board to set the dates so the secretary of the town board sets the dates aside for our usage. Some of the membership felt that having the designated 3rd Saturday of the month was good and that holidays were more for families. Having a set pattern helps the membership to remember the dates of the meetings. Others felt we needed a change to more holiday weekends so we would get more non-residents here to our meetings. Other discussion included the excellent programs is what gets the non-residents. Others felt it was food that brings the people in. We need to do something to get the young people to our meetings. It was also suggested that more information go out in the newsletter to get feedback from members or township people to see what they desire. Another suggestion was to keep our 3rd Saturday of the month and also have an ice cream social where you could come to find out what is going on in WCOLA. Another suggestion was a "Kid's Corner" in the newsletter to attract the young families. Then we would have someone entertain or work with the kids at the regular meetings so parents might be more willing to attend. Another suggestion was shorter more concise meetings. After much discussion a motion was made, seconded and approved by the membership that we keep the meetings to the 3rd Saturday morning of the month.

Non-Profit Status President Chambers indicated that he is transferring the Non-Profit Membership from the President position to the Secretary's position to have in this case, Gail, renew it every year.

Also, John Zimmerman is working on setting up Federal Non-Tax for WCOLA by the end of this year.

Election of Officers The Nominating Committee consisted of George Klacan, Jim Olijnek and Sherry Miner and they contacted a number of people to run for office with no success. Bill Downing indicated that if no one would become a candidate for President, he would. Bill Downing was nominated as candidate for President. Also, Lloyd Adams has agreed to run for Vice President. Nominations are two years for Vice President and two years for President. President Chambers asked for other nominations for VP from the floor, and there were none. A motion was made, seconded, and approved that Lloyd Adams is Vice President.

President Chambers asked for other nominations for President. Bill Downing felt that if he accepted the Presidency he would not be able to continue doing the newsletter. After much discussion, there were no more nominations. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the membership to accept Bill Downing as our President. Susan Lick said she would be willing to continue with the Communication Committee and look at how the newsletter can be done.

Vice President Lloyd thanked President Chambers for the excellent job he has done over the years. Dick reassured us that he would still be around participating on the Advisory Board and enjoying being a part of the regular membership.

Jean Koewler shared that we have one WCOLA sign left and one ladies medium shirt for anyone who would like to purchase it. Dick Chambers asked everyone to look at the bottom of their chair and the individual with the tape on the bottom of their chair is the winner of the WCOLA sign for their yard.

President Chambers adjourned the meeting.

Gail Olijnek, Secretary

CLEAN WATER AMENDMENT, NOVEMBER

From David Lick. There will be an Amendment on the November ballot in Minnesota, which is very important to those of us who value the quality of our pristine waters. The amendment language is as follows:

"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to dedicate funding to protect our drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore our wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve our arts and cultural heritage; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore our lakes, rivers, and streams and groundwater by increasing the sales and use tax rate beginning July 1, 2009, by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales until the year 2034."

Please notice that If you complete a ballot it and do not vote on this question, it will be recorded as a NO vote.

I would ask that people be aware that if this passes, the water and north woods will have a huge ally in the next 25 years and that is funding to make sure these precious resources don't up and leave us. Three eighths of one percent is not too much of a price to have the opportunity to give the next generation a flying start. Think about the wonderful area we live and how enjoyable it is to live or spend time here.

WCOLA MEMBERSHIP 2008

Here are the paid members for the year 2008. Were you as surprised as I was when I found my name not on the list? Good heavens, I was elected President while I was a non-paid person! I paid at once, though, so it is sort of legal. Maybe you forgot. If so, please send the \$20 dues to the Treasurer, and you'll be one of our Real Members too.

B=Bluewater Lake

C=Clearwater Lake

D = Doan Lake

P= Pickerel Lake

H=Hansen Lake

LT=Little Trout Lake

LW=Little Wabana Lake

MH= Middle Hansen Lake

W=Wabana Lake

IL=Island Lake

Membership paid for 2012

John&Karen Lukens – W

Membership paid for 2010

Dave&Sue Lick – W

Membership paid for 2009

Fred&Kathy Doty – W

Karl&Pat Fischer – T

Mark& Kathy McCullough – W

Margaret Z. Morris&Arthur L.

Merrill – W

Stan&Jean Popovich –

Fred&Joan Schnitzler –MH

Kurt & Lavonne Thompson – B

Harold&Betty Unger – T

Membership paid for 2008

Lloyd&Vicki Adams – W

Pat Adams – B

Charles&Donna Anderson – WT

Craig&Cindy Bender – W

Duane&Anne E. Benson – B

Wm.&Helene Berg – T

Joan Birkemeyer – W

Bud&Agnes Blackmore – W

Terry R.&Lynn M. Boblit – W

William&Jeannette Booth – LW

Mary Frances&Bill Bottoms, Jr. – B

Reginald&Susan Boyle – Little T

Steven&Lynette Bryant – B

Chris&Nancy Bunge – W

Chris&Clare Buntrock – B

Dan&Jeanne Burke – W

Gary&Carol Burkholder – W

Richard&Patricia Chambers – W

Warren&Kay Chapman – W

John F., Dennis,&Kathi Chervinko – T

Robert&Cam Childs – Pickerel

Jessica Colburn – W

Libby&George Colburn – W

Mark&Ellen Conover – W

Kevin&Donna Costello – B

Martin&Cindy Coughlin – W

Stanley&Mary Lee Craig – W

Dennis&Janice Davis – W

Edward&Helen Dettmer – Pickerel

Charlie&Diane Dokmo – W

Bill Downing -- W

John&Marcia Downing – W

Jim&Ann Edwards – W

Nancy Ellsworth – B

Ted Ellsworth – B

Greg&Ruth Fordham – W

Eric&Jan Fredbeck – W

Dr. Peter&Chris Friedlieb – W

Gordon&Lynette Fuller – W

Phil&Deborah Gelbach – W

Mary&Bob Gephart – W

John&Martha Ann Gettinger – W

Ann E. Green – W

Robert&Bonnie Halver – W

Vicky&Rick Harding – T

Cress&Susannah Hart – W

Jack&Donna Hartung – W

Susan Hawkinson – Doan

Walt&Kim Hoffman – W

Bonnie&Roy Holmes –

Bruce Hultgren – W

Louis&Barbara Ireton – T

Rex&Melanie Kastner – T

George&Mary Lou Klacan – B

Richard&Dorothy Klinger – W

Dennis&Jean Koewler – W

Ken&Deb Kruger – W

Chick Laitman – W

Mr.&Mrs Adam Lane – W

Jerald E.&Emma J. Larson – W

Jaun&Christina Lazo – W

Roger&Nancy Linder - W

Don&Evelyn Maddaus – W

Johanna Bunge Miller – W

Mark Miner – W

Sherry Miner – W

Lynn&Tim Moratzka – T

W. H.&Arletta Myers – B

Dorothy Myrick – W

Gary&Kim Oja – W

Jim&Gail Olijnek – W

Sandie&Marvin Oman -

Marvin&Mary Ott – W Township

Kay Owen – W

Chad Persons – B

Dean&Linda Roberts –

Christel Rowe – Little W

Catherine Rudolph – W

Bill&Diane Rutherford – B

L. W.&Mary Lou Sage – B

Mark&Cathy Sage – B

Stuart W.&Tanya Sage – B

Rich Brasch&Carole Schmidt – W

Clifford Schroeder – Island Lake

Mark&Amy Sherer – W

Wayne&Elizabeth Sherer – W

David&Beverly Sigfrinius – W

David, Dale,&Elizabeth Snuggerud – W

Scott&Jan Stein – W

Joe&Martha Stevens – B

Jeff&Debbie Tack – B

Judith A. Thompson –

Matthew & Nicole Stecklein&Greg & Mary Till – W

Sylvia Troumbly – Little W

John&Mary Uradnik – W

Jack&Sally Velzen – W

Mrs. Susan Vincent - W

Ted&Swanny Voneida – B

Scott Wakeman –

Pamela Wassberg Whittenbury – Little T

George&Dolores Wilbert – W

Sally&George Wilbur – W

Michael&Barbara Wilkus – B

Gib&Kathleen Willson – W

Gig&Kristen Willson – W

William J.&Donna M. Wolf, Jr. – T

David R.&Karen Wooden – B

Mary Ziegler – Little W

Ken&Barbara Zimmer, Jr. – W

John&Charlotte Zimmerman – T

John&Alida Zimmerman, Jr. - T

HISTORY FROM BILL BERG

Editor's note: this is the fourth installment of "A History of the Trout Lake Area and the Joyce Estate," by Keith Matson in 1984, now retired from the U. S. Forest Service. The fifth and last installment will be published in the Winter issue of the Chain Letter.

David G. Joyce, accustomed to the life of the very rich, had the good fortune to be born into the family of W.T. Joyce. W.T. and his father (also named David) had been able to develop a very profitable lumber business in Clinton, Iowa. The elder David had been a partner of Weyerhaeuser's in northern Wisconsin. David Gage Joyce was living in Dade County (Miami), Florida, at the time he purchased the property at Trout Lake. It became his plan to develop an estate in this lake country north of Grand Rapids, much as the Hartley family was doing on nearby Wolf Lake. It appears that David G. was less involved with running the family business than was his grandfather and father. The elder Joyces would frequently visit their operations in the northwoods, but it seems that David G. was more interested in pursuit of more relaxing activities.

David G. Joyce had estates in Florida and Illinois, and now he started to build the estate on the shores of Trout Lake. The land he selected for the estate buildings was the old Frank and Anna Larson ranch, which they had vacated in 1900. According to Joe Weleski the main lodge was the first building to be constructed. F.L. Norman was the foreman in charge of building.

Pete Richland was the carpenter during the construction; along with Mr. Rupert and Mr. Holm, he built the first building out of native pine logs. The equipment and materials for the construction were brought in by barge from Taylor's Landing on Wabana Lake, where they had a garage. In 1919 Ernest Poland became the caretaker for the estate. Ernie, born in Canada in 1876, had come into this area in 1903 from Cheboygan, Michigan; in the first years he had been a meat hunter for the logging camps. In those years moose were more plentiful; Ernie primarily was a moose hunter. In the 1910 census his occupation was listed as a watchman for a summer resort, so the job as caretaker to the Joyce estate was not unfamiliar to him. Ernie stayed on as caretaker through 1921; in 1922 he purchased the Harker farm on Wabana Lake and ran a livery business with a couple of automobiles, ferrying people from Grand Rapids to Wabana Lake where they could get a boat ride to their summer homes or resorts on Wabana and Trout Lakes.



USFS Photo
Main Lodge fireplace.

Nopeming, as the Joyce family called the estate, was built up over the years; but the majority of the buildings were constructed during the first few years of development. In addition to the main complex and caretaker's home, a boat house was constructed on Day Lake, a cabin on the island in Moore Lake, also a boat house on that lake, and a cabin was constructed on Trout Lake adjacent to the trail to Day Lake. This cabin may have been used while duck hunting, but apparently it burned down only a few years after construction.



USFS photo
The main lodge at Nopeming.

Other facilities that had been constructed included a trap range, tennis court and small golf course. The golf course was constructed on the location of the Frank and Anna Larson ranch, obliterating any remnants of their place on the shores of Trout Lake. The clay tennis court and the golf course required extensive upkeep; several workers were employed to maintain the grounds.



USFS photo
Nopeming's golf course and clubhouse on the shore of Trout Lake.

The Martin's resort on the north end of the lake had developed a fine reputation even before the Joyce estate was established. There was nothing fancy about their establishment, but the hunting and fishing were excellent and the meals provided were simple but well prepared. You would not find the fancy foods of the large city restaurants, but you could get all you wanted to eat of foods from the family garden, wild fruits and berries – either fresh or canned, and wild meats or fish taken by Irv or other members of the family. By 1915 the McGhee and Burroughs cabins had changed hands. When the Iretons purchased the property, they bought it from the widow of John McAlpine. In those years after the Iretons came everyone that was staying at the head of Trout Lake would board at the Martin's; because of the difficulty in bringing in provisions, it was easier for everyone and especially Irv Martin who had to make the trips into Grand Rapids for supplies and mail. Pete Kennedy, an old lumber camp cook, did the cooking for the Martin's resort. Pete lived with the Martins; in the 1910 census he was listed as a servant.

The Martins established a school at their place shortly after moving to Trout Lake, and it was to this school that the local children came – most of these were Martins. Charlie Pearson started school in 1911 and remembers when the students were all Martins and Pearsons.



K. Matson photo

The Martin schoolhouse as it appeared in August 1984, used as a cabin of the Kastner's resort.

In 1913 a new log school was built. Other children who attended this school included the children of Anton Haglee. The teachers boarded at the Martin's, and were very capable. Charlie Pearson states that the education he received at this school was as good as any to be had in a larger school, such as Grand Rapids.

In 1921 the Waters built a cabin to the east of the Iretons on land he had purchased from the Itasca Lumber Company. In 1926 Forest Johnson had Irv Martin build a cabin for him to the west of the resort; Irv charged \$500.00 for building the cabin.

In 1924 Bill Barber was attacked by a bear. He had been out checking on his stock with his dog when they happened upon a

us will recognize. Keith ends with a great statement on updating history.

cub, which the dog took after immediately. The action caused the mother bear to get angry and in order to protect her cub charged Bill. Bill climbed into a tree but the bear followed, severely clawing and biting his leg before leaving to get her cub. This left Bill with a permanent limp.

A saddening incident occurred on September 1, 1925. [*The Grand Rapids Herald-Review* of Sept. 2 and Sept. 9 give the details of the incident.] Will Robertson shot and killed his brother-in-law, Bill Barber, at the Barber boat landing. Robertson was the gardener at the Joyce estate at the time, while Barber and Anton Haglee were working up the shore of Trout Lake from the Joyce's. On the day of the tragedy they had left Will off in the morning, and stopped in the afternoon to pick him up and return home for the day. But Robertson could not be found, and it turned out that he had left three hours earlier. They traced his footprints a short distance down the road which leads toward the Barber place, and finally gave up and started home. By this time it was getting dark and stormy; and when they drew up to the dock after seven o'clock, it was quite dark. Barber picked up the lantern and stepped on the dock where he received the first charge of buckshot in the stomach. He fell back into the boat. Anton dived over the side of the boat and avoided the two following shots, and swam to the north shore of the stream and the safety of the shore. He hurried to his nearby home and phoned the Joyce place. H.C. Wyman, Joyce's caretaker, and the Joyce's chauffeur jumped into a fast launch and sped to the scene where they picked up Bill, taking him to the Wakeman's where the Joyce's car was kept. They hurried him in to the hospital in Grand Rapids; he died a few minutes after arrival.

A posse of deputies was sent to the scene and started an all-night search for the assailant. Early the next morning one of the searchers found Robertson's body in the bushes near the dock, probably the spot from which he ambushed Barber. Robertson had committed suicide using his .38 cal. Revolver. The ensuing investigation found there were ill feelings between Robertson and his brother-in-law and other members of the family. Whether these family problems were real or imagined, they had the effect of causing Robertson to plot the attack, which ended on September 1. The authorities stated that it was fortunate that only two were dead; it appeared that Robertson was planning to complete a wholesale slaughter but ended in suicide once Haglee escaped and was able to raise an alarm.

The next and last chapter completes the cliffhanger begun above, and takes us to "as it was" in 1984, and continues to name folks and places many of us will recognize. Keith ends with a great statement on updating history.

MEETING SEPTEMBER 20!

Wabana Town Hall

8:30 A. M. Coffee, treats and greets.

9:00 A. M. Program.

10:00 A. M. Business Meeting

As you can tell from the rest of the newsletter, there will be some quite important decisions made at the Business Meeting, or at least begun, and it is important that your voice be heard, your opinion shared. We will have an Agenda, and some things will be eliminated in order to give us time to discuss other issues. The meeting will last one hour, no longer, unless you vote to suspend the Agenda.

11:00 A. M. Adjournment

We can stand or sit around and chat after the meeting as long as we want to, but I want to be sure that people with other plans can get home promptly.

From Bill Berg: September program.

The September WCOLA Program will feature Kelly Barrett, Wildlife Biologist for the Chippewa National Forest and stationed at Deer River. Kelly will tell us what a U. S. Forest Service Biologist does, and discuss some of the incredibly interesting projects she's been working on. Kelly's presentation will absolutely leave the audience in awe, and families with children are especially invited.

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE WABANA CHAIN OF
LAKES ASSOCIATION

Jean Koewler, Treasurer

32040 Wakeman Bay Trail

Grand Rapids, MN 55744