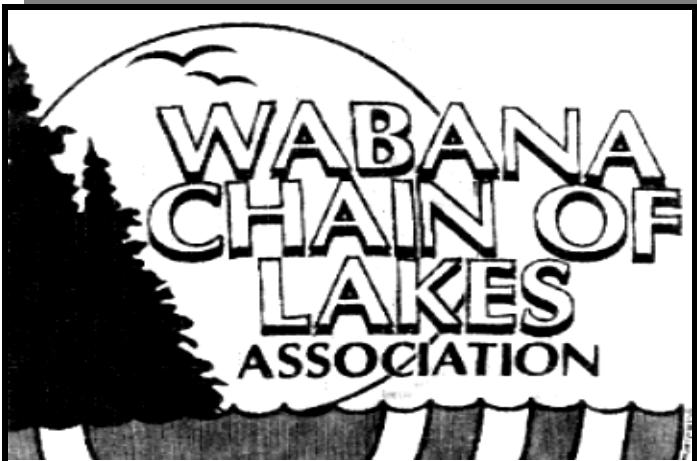


The Chain Letter

of the



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

July 2009

Volume 12, Number 3

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Updates noted in **Red** – please update address books!

Visit our
web site www.wcola.org

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

Upcoming Events

18th Annual WCOLA Picnic

July 20th – Wabana Town Hall

6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

(See Advisory Committee Report for Details)

Neighborhood Ice Cream Social

August 14th – Wabana Town Hall

6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

(See Hospitality Committee Report for Details)

JULY 2009 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

First and foremost, The Annual Picnic, the evening of Saturday July 18. These are always good fun, especially the chance to get together with neighbors to do what we all like to do - talk, especially talk about the Chain of Lakes we all love. We are a highly diverse lot of self-selected people, coming together on this special evening to get to know each other, find out what our particular joys and problems are, and share our own with like-minded people. I think with chagrin about those neighbors who say "I won't go, I won't know anybody", because we all are the same in that regard. We know a few, and are nervous about the rest. Meet them! We all want to meet you and get to know you, on this one special evening of the year.

The Picnic is NOT just for lakeshore residents, it is for everybody in Wabana Township and that segment of Balsam Township that includes the upper end of Trout Lake. It is one means that we have to attract people, to increase membership so we can all come together regarding our beloved lakes. Membership is open to EVERYBODY. If you live in Timbuktu, and want to be a member of WCOLA, you are IN. But you don't have to be a member to come to The Picnic. Just come.

It is also a chance to sample the best of local kitchens, since it is a pot luck and people are asked to bring a dish to share. My wife Betsy always brought her wonderful Baked Beans, and I continue that tradition the best I can. Some of the salads are works of art, and the dessert table is just a row of impossible decisions. The Hospitality Committee

has brats and wieners in buns, so there is lots of stick-to-the-ribs meat. But if you're no cook, come anyway. There is always lots.

Oh, yes, there are Door Prizes!

On a less joyous note, there are some festering neighbor's disagreements, which I seem to become aware of because I am President—not that I can do anything about them, but maybe just as a busybody. There are a couple of access road problems, and a dueling dock problem, and some who wish neighbors would not mow grass right down to the water's edge but leave native vegetation to absorb nutrients and hold water. There are middle grounds available for the lake protectors and the mowers, and perhaps we should have a workshop on lake front treatment to share ideas. There is a lot we can do, as friends with similar problems, to make our treatment of our waters less costly to our children.

As always, dear friends, I wish you a happy and relaxing summer around our lakes.

Bill

Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2009

SUMMER 2009 Meeting Dates (3rd Saturday)

Saturday, July 18

Program: **Poachers Caught** - Tom Chapin (author and retired DNR Warden)

PICNIC - No Meeting

6 p.m. Wabana Town Hall

Saturday, August 15

9 a.m. Program: **Chain of Lakes Research Project** - Jessica Colburn (last years recipient of The Betsy Downing Student Research Award)

10-11 a.m. Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 19

9 a.m. Program: To Be Announced
10-11 a.m. Meeting

All Meetings will be at the Wabana Town Hall and will last 1 (one) hour!

WCOLA Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2009

(Susan Lick for Gail Olijnek, WCOLA Secretary)

9:00 A. M. Cindy Tomko, Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist was introduced by

Bill Berg of the WCOLA Program Committee. A shore land survey was taken by those in attendance and Cindy's presentation covered the methods and results of a six site scientific survey on Wabana and other lakes in Itasca County. Bill Berg presented Cindy with a Wabana Chain of Lakes coffee mug. **Call to order** at 9:45A.M. by President Bill Downing. The 36 members in attendance introduced themselves.

The agenda was presented and reviewed; a motion was approved to adopt the agenda.

Minutes of the June, 2009 meeting were corrected by David Lick. Correction: The Itasca Water Legacy Partnership obtained a grant for \$325,000. to test **147** lakes in Itasca County.

Treasurer's report was presented by Jean Koewler. A motion was approved to adopt the June 2009 Treasurer's Report. WCOLA memberships of \$20 are due by July 1 for 2009-2010, made out to Wabana Chain of Lakes, send to Jean Koewler, Treasurer.

Balance as of May 15, 2009 \$ 516.02

Receipts:

Dues \$1,660.00

Contributions \$ 105.00

Total Receipts \$1,765.00

Disbursements:

Minnesota. Waters

Membership \$ 150.00

Cabin Life Magazine \$ 7.00

Postmaster – 240 @ \$.44

Sept. Newsletter \$ 105.60

Treasure Bay Printing \$ 381.06

250 May Newsletter (8 pgs)

240 June Newsletter (8 pgs)

Total Disbursements \$ 643.66

Checkbook Balance—June 19, 2009 \$1,637.36

CD – Renewal date—July 22, 2009 \$5,174.84

Total Paid Households: 95

Standing Committee reports:

Advisory Committee: Bill Downing reported the Advisory Committee met to set the agenda. Diane Rutherford of Bluewater Lake will be a new member on the Advisory committee.

Hospitality Committee: Kathleen Willson named the committee members. Action is included under unfinished business.

Membership Committee: Dick Chambers reported we are now at 99 members; the committee will focus attention on increasing new members. Dick Chambers made a motion that WCOLA spend up to \$400 to purchase WCOLA gifts for new members. Motion carried.

Environmental Committee: Ken Zimmer reported: Invasive Species handouts will be available at lake access. Barbra Zimmerman reported on the spring WCOLA road clean up. Road dust control, magnesium chloride has been applied to township roads; research on the effect on water and lakes is needed. DNR information will be distributed on docks and floats in the newsletter. Cindy Tomko gave an excellent presentation on shoreline development. Further educational efforts will be focused on lead tackle. Bio-diversity of the Wabana Chain of Lakes will be presented by Jessica Colburn, Limnologist sponsored by the Betsy Downing Bio-diversity Scholarship, in August. Shoreline erosion, waves and boat wakes; WCOLA placed No-Wake signs near loon nests. Road construction and septic systems on the north end of Big Trout Lake are a continued discussion.

Historical Committee: Roger Linder listed committee members. John Zimmerman Jr. is scanning photos to be used by the committee. History of the Blue Water Lake area is needed. "Trails Through The Northwoods, A History of The Bigfork Trail" by Patricia Navratil was discussed by Roger Linder and Susan Hawkinson. Roger had copies available to interested members.

Publications Committee: The Wabana Chain of Lakes Newsletter, June 2009 edition was published by John Zimmerman Jr. and edited by Chris Friedlieb. Susan Lick passed out copies of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association brochures. The publications committee will work on updating the brochure, member input is invited. Both the newsletter and brochure were originated, edited and produced by William Downing until June 2009.

Outreach Committee: Lloyd Adams stated the committee's purpose is to interact with other organizations and requested volunteers for the committee. David Lick volunteered.

Audit Committee: Mary Lou Klacan reported that a yearly audit must be done for all non-profit organizations by other than association officers.

Program Committee: Bill Berg and Susan Hawkinson arranged for Tom Chapin to speak at the July 18th picnic and Jessica Colburn in August.

Unfinished Business:

Picnic: Kathleen Willson reported the annual WCOLA potluck picnic will be at 6pm, Saturday July 18th

Social Time with Wabana Community: Roger Linder suggested in the spirit of come and meet your neighbors; a motion that WCOLA continue to pursue the Ice Cream social with the Wabana Community. Members suggested Friday, August 14th at 6pm.

Invasive species: Ken Zimmer discussed the need for action to avoid unwanted invasive species in the area. Educational material will be distributed by Ken Zimmer and Sherry Miner. David Lick suggested WCOLA sponsor certified boat checks at public access. Gib Wilson suggested boat wash stations. Discussion will be continued by David Lick and Ken Zimmer with Wabana Township. David Lick made a motion that WCOLA collaborate with Wabana Township on prevention of invasive species. Motion carried.

New Business:

Itasca Water Legacy Partnership: David Lick reported on recent progress on the certified water testing laboratory located at Itasca Community College, lakeshore survey and a focus to bring water science education to elementary school students. David Lick made a motion that WCOLA support The Itasca Water Legacy Partnership at \$1,000. Discussion included the WCOLA Advisory Committee work with the WCOLA Treasurer in administering the funds when available. Motion carried. David also encouraged individuals to make \$20 tax deductible donations to: The Grand Rapids Area Foundation, 201 N.W. Fourth Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Please write on the check; for The Itasca Water Legacy Partnership.

Meeting to continue: At 11:00am a motion was made to increase the meeting time for the last agenda items. Motion Carried.

Phosphate-free dishwashing machine soap: Bill Downing provided samples. A report on consumer preference was requested.

Nominating Committee: According to WCOLA By Laws, an August election will select a Secretary and Treasurer. Volunteers were requested by President Downing. Roger Linder suggested the Advisory Committee act as the Nominating Committee.

Adjournment: 11:05 A.M. A motion was made and carried to adjourn.

Committee Reports

(If you are interested in participating in any of these committees, Please contact the Committee Chair)

Advisory – (Nancy Ellsworth) Our 18th Annual Wabana Community Picnic will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 18th. Our entertainment will be the author Tom Chapin, author of "Poachers Caught" and other books. His books will be used as door-prizes, and if you already have one of his books, bring it along to have it signed by him. Tom promises to be a special treat for everyone.

Bring a dish to share to the Wabana Town Hall, and meat and beverages will be furnished. Plan on coming and having a fun time with your Wabana Township neighbors. The picnic is sponsored by the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association. See you there!!

Audit (Mary Klacan)

Environment (Ken Zimmer) As a followup to many questions asked during our committee report at the last WCOLA meeting – we provided the following helpful information (source = the DNR website):

Do I need a permit for my dock?* - No permit is needed to install, construct, or reconstruct your dock on shoreline property you own if you comply with the following:

- A dock is a narrow platform or structure extending toward the water from the shoreline. A dock may provide access to moored watercraft or deeper water for swimming, fishing, and other recreation.
- The structure, other than a watercraft lift or watercraft canopy, is not more than 8 feet wide and is not combined with other similar structures so as to create a larger structure.
- The dock is no longer than needed to achieve its intended use, including reaching navigable water depth.
- The structure is not a hazard to navigation, health, or safety.
- The structure will allow the free flow of water beneath it.
- The structure is not used or intended as a marina.
- The structure is consistent with the guidelines of the local unit of government.
- Docks placed on rock-filled cribs are located only on waters where the bed is predominantly bedrock.

Restrictions on docks and other structures - You may not place a dock or other structure in public waters if the structure:

- obstructs navigation or creates a hazard;
- is detrimental to fish or wildlife habitat or is placed in a posted fish spawning area;
- is intended to be used for human habitation;
- includes walls, a roof, or sewage facilities; or
- is located on property you do not own or have rights to use.

**Based on Minnesota Rules, Chapter 6115.0210 and 6115.0211.*

This is only a section of the brochure – please see the entire brochure for further information at:

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/shoreline_alterations_water_access.pdf

Do I need a Permit?: - this DNR site gives answers to permit questions in and around water – including: Boat Ramp, Fill, Beaver Dams, Ice Ridges, Riprap, Structure Setbacks, and Water Law Basics.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/needpermit.html>

History (Roger Linder) – We reviewed the photo album, "CAMP MARMAC" that was given us by Kathy Willson. It was decided that it would be reproduced and scanned for our archives and then loaned to the Itasca Historical society for inclusion in their files. We'll continue to look for more information about the history of the camp.

We are also looking for more information regarding the history of Bluewater, and also hope to obtain more material about the Joyce estate.

All 24 copies of "Trails Through the Northwoods" were sold! We hope to get a few more to have on hand.

We are looking at a variety of frames and flip-frames to buy for display of pictures and other artifacts. The idea of making a slide show or DVD presentation is also under discussion. At this time we are going to talk to Wabana Township about possibilities of expanding our display there.

Hospitality (Kathleen Willson) – The Neighborhood Ice Cream Social will be held August 14th at the Wabana Town Hall from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The Social is co-sponsored by the Wabana Community Fund and the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association. Come meet and greet your Wabana Township Neighbors!

Membership (Dick Chambers) – If you haven't paid your dues yet – please give Dick \$20.

Outreach (Lloyd Adams)

Program (Bill Berg and Susan Hawkinson)



Here is a photograph of Cyndy Tomcko, DNR Fish Research, presenting to WCOLA at our last meeting, Sat June 20th.

Publication (Susan Lick) Got News – email Chris Friedlieb (peterchris2@msn.com)

Special Articles -

SHORELAND BUFFER ZONE EXPO '09

(Submitted by Jean Koewler)

August 1, 2009 at the Deep Portage Conservation Reserve (just off hiway 46 East of Hackensack). Pre-registration is required.

8:30 – 9:00 AM Sign-in

9:00 AM – NOON Choose between two information packed, how-to-do-it workshops:

- Workshop A: Creating/Restoring a Shoreland Buffer Zone (For those ready to install a new native vegetation shoreland buffer) Discover the crucial role of native vegetation buffer zones in preserving both water and shoreland quality. Learn the basics of a shoreland creation/restoration project – preparing the site, designing, plant selection, seed and plant sources, planting, etc.
- Workshop B: Maintaining Your Shoreland Buffer Zone (For those with existing native vegetation buffer zones) Learn about routine care and maintenance of your shoreland

buffer zone and how it might be enhanced. Recognize and eliminate non-native and/or invasive plants

NOON – 1:00 PM Lunch and Visit Exhibits

1:00 - 4:00 PM Bus tour/Field trip (Take a bus tour of nearby shoreland buffer zone creation/restoration projects. See how your shoreland might look!

PRE-REGISTER BY JULY 24 (REQUIRED!)
To pre-register contact Paula West at Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (218-675-5773 or email: westcom@brainerd.net) For more information about the workshop content, contact: Eleanor Burkett, University of Minnesota Extension, 218-828-2326 or burke044@umn.edu.

FEE:

- \$15 per person for the day, including workshop, lunch and bus tour
- If you can't make the workshops/lunch, come for the afternoon bus tour only – fee \$10
- Fee payable on the day of the event.

Sponsored by the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, U.MN. Extension Service, Cass County Environmental Services Department, Cass County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America and Deep Portage Conservation Reserve. Partially funded by a grant from the MN DNR, Shoreland Habitat Program.

H2O: Uncertain Resource

(Submitted by Dave Lick)

Featuring Dr. Peter Gleick is being held October 6 & 7 at Gustavus Adolphus College. The subject fits the WCOLA community conversations and so information is provided here to make members aware in case they want to attend.

Dr. Peter Gleick, is one of the world's leading water experts. For over 20 years, Dr. Gleick, president and co-founder of the internationally recognized Pacific Institute in Oakland, California, has worked to find real-world solutions to problems like water shortages, habitat destruction, the human right to water, and environmental injustice, including the problems of billions of people throughout the world without safe, affordable, and reliable water and

sanitation. He brings to Nobel 45 an expertise on issues related to water that is transdisciplinary and will serve to ignite discussion among the Nobel Conference panelists.

Dr. Gleick is a MacArthur Fellow, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and an academician at the International Water Academy. His research, writing, and civic engagement address the critical connections—often overlooked—between water and energy, the relationship between water and human health, the hydrologic impacts of climate change, sustainable water use, and international conflicts over water resources. His work advocates and advances approaches to water policy that will be more sustainable in California and throughout the world. Dr. Gleick is regularly sought out as a major source of information on water issues for the media, and Wired magazine named him one of 15 people the U.S. president should listen to.

History of Arrowhead Point on Lake Wabana Part 2 - HILLCREST & HILL HOUSE

(Written by Martha Gettinger in 1994 and appearing here in 4 parts this summer presented by the History Committee)

HILLCREST

Hillcrest was built in approximately 1915. Alice said it was built when she went to college. It was built by Charles and Molly Simmons who wanted a place of their own. They had one daughter, Hazel, who married Reed Steele. The Steeles had one child, a daughter named Barbara. They sold the house to Forrest and Hazel Sherer in 1945.

Sherers, along with Frodermans and Woods, had leased the house for two summers, before the war. Sherers purchased it as soon as the war was over and they could again travel (no more gas and rubber



(Cliff House – featured in the last WCOLA Newsletter)

rationing). There is a rock garden and steps that lead to a screened "summer house". There were wooden steps down the very steep hill to the lake and a small pier located there. The summer house was torn down and replaced by a log cabin in 1948. It was built by Alex Kekkenon, a Norwegian man who was caretaker in earlier years. A second cabin was built in 1953.

A small chauffeur's bedroom and bath was behind the house. The house also has the only basement on the Point. The chauffeur's room was made into another bathroom in 1954.

I might add a note here. Several of the houses have "chauffeur's quarters", but Alice Cosler has said there were no chauffeurs – only nephews or younger friends who drove them up. Remember it was a long way in old cars and often the women and children came separately from the men. The property (now three houses – Steeles, Coslers, Hills) was inherited by son Wayne Sherer and wife Elizabeth and daughter Mary Lou Lukens and Husband Arthur.

HILL HOUSE

Hill House was originally a guest house built by Charles Simmons or Steels in about 1920. It was called the Honeymoon Cottage because the first occupants were Jim and Emma Ray who



(Hillhouse on the Right – cottage on left was torn down prior to the early 1940's – Unsure who the women are.)

honeymooned there. It was a very small house with an L-shaped living room and dining room and two tiny bedrooms. An ice house and garage was connected to the back. It was later remodeled by the Hills to become a roomier house.

When Hill crest was sold to Sherers, Paul and Bes (next-door neighbors to Sherers in Terre Haute) bought the guest house. Bes, the last to die, gave it to Sherers in 1968.



(Another photo of Cliff House – featured in Part 1 in the last WCOLA Newsletter – Unsure who the woman and child are.)

Part 3 will be continued in our next WCOLA newsletter. The history committee hopes you will share older photo's that you have of the lake – or stories. Please contact any member of the Committee if you have material to share – we will scan it – put it on a CD and promptly return the originals to you.)

Special Announcement

The WCOLA Officers, Advisory Committee and members would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Bill Downing for his many years and endless hours of service putting together this Wabana Chain of Lakes Newsletter!

Bill - without your drive, creativity and leadership this association's newsletter wouldn't be in place and serving our community today. Thank you and we look forward to continuing to work with you on the many other projects that you are involved in and that you give your time to with our WCOLA!

*The Chain Letter of the
Wabana Chain of Lakes
Association*

JULY 2009

*There is a lot of pretty good
stuff inside, Local History,
Meeting Minutes, Standing
Committees Reports,
Pictures, Water Quality,
Water Clarity, and Dates for
Upcoming Meetings*

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

Our Next Association Meeting will be

JULY 18th , 2009

This is our annual picnic – with no business meeting – just come and have a good time. Our guest speaker will be Tom Chapin who will join us at 6:00 p.m. at the Wabana Town Hall for an excellent get together.

Please email me (Bill Downing – President) with suggestions for Agenda topics for this or future meetings.