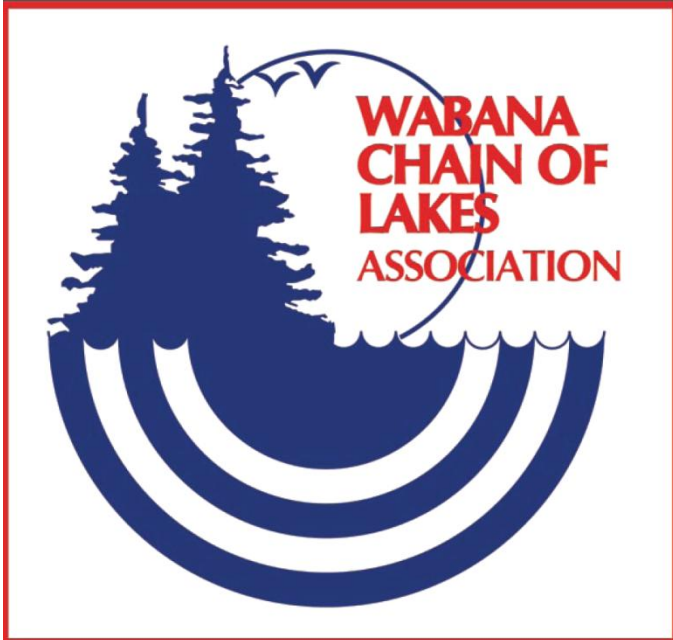


The Chain Letter

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

Special Edition - March 2010

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Note From The President

This is a Special Edition of the WCOLA Newsletter. The Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District (Itasca SWCD) contacted us last week and asked us to reach out to members to let them know of their annual native plant sale. This seemed like an excellent thing to bring to your attention – it supports our desire to protect our lakes and shorelines – and so we decided to create this special edition. This will only go to those members who receive the online version of the newsletter as it is too expensive to print and mail copies but reaching out the majority of membership just seemed to make sense. I will let Matt Johnson, from the Itasca SWCD explain the offer to you in his letter below and we have included the web site so you can visit, download your own order form and place an order if you choose to. Winter is going well – can't wait to see you all next spring. Sincerely, Bill

Itasca SWCD Tree and Plant Sale Offered Again This Year

By: Matt Johnson, Itasca SWCD

When the calendar turns to March and the snow is still knee deep and temperatures still struggle to climb above the freezing mark, you may have

thoughts that this is the year the next ice age begins. Spring planting is probably the last thing you are thinking about as you shovel the heavy March snow from your sidewalk. Even if it is difficult, you should be thinking about spring planting. Because just like every year before, the snow will recede and the lake will again open up. The ground will thaw and the trees will begin to leaf out, and you will wish you had placed an order for new plants to spruce up your yard.

The Itasca SWCD is proud to announce we are here to help you with your spring planting again this year. For the past seven years the SWCD has offered a wide variety of trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses for sale in the spring. The best part is everything we offer is native to the area and requires little to no maintenance after establishment! Native plants are an excellent choice because of the numerous benefits they offer to your property, not to mention their standout beauty. Along the shoreline native plants, most notably trees and shrubs, provide some of the best protection from shoreline erosion. Native plants of all types can be planted as a buffer along the shoreline to act as a privacy screen as well as a filter for water running toward the lake. Whether along the bank or in a buffer, native plants protect the lakes we all live and play on. If your shoreline is already protected by native plants, it never hurts to add a few more to your yard, garden or landscaping.

This year we will be taking orders until the close of business on April 30, 2010. After we assemble all the orders you can pick them up May 20 and 21 at the Itasca County Fairgrounds. Feel free to give us a call at 218-326-0017 and we will send you a brochure and order form, or visit the Native Plant Sale page on our web site located at www.ItascaSWCD.org. From the web site you can view pictures of all the plants we offer as well as print out an order form. If you miss the ordering deadline please come visit us at the Fairgrounds or stop in the office so we can meet you and put you on our mailing list for next year. We often have a limited supply of extra plants for sale at the distribution on a first come first served basis.