

The Chain Letter

of the



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

April 2010

Volume 13, Number 1

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Visit our

web site www.wcola.org

Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner,
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APRIL 2010 LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Springtime! But what an unusual Spring—ice-out nearly a month early, and I hear that year-around residents have their docks in, boats in the water, and the fishing equipment ready to go. How can we non-residents tell when it is time to see all the beautiful hepaticas and other spring flowers in the forest, and the chokecherries and pincherries in bloom, to gather morel mushrooms for the dinner table, eat fiddleheads, or dine on young cattails? What will be the effect of early Spring on our beautiful lakes? Probably one result will be an early establishment of the thermoclines, and a long time for their depths to go without oxygen.

But the calendar says it's time to get our favorite organization—WCOLA—going in preparation for the summer. The dates of the Saturday meetings are as follows, so please enter these in your date book or Blackberry or whatever you use:

- May 22 (a change - see below* for reason.)
- June 19
- July 17 (Picnic)
- August 21
- September 18

For the June, August & September dates, the schedule is:

- 8:30 a. m. Coffee, treats, socializing.
- 9:00 a. m. Program
- 10:00 a. m. Business meeting.

The Business Meeting will last a maximum of one hour. The July Picnic is in the late afternoon, with a short Business Meeting, timing still undecided.

*The May 22 meeting is changed from May 15, the original scheduled date, due to the DNR's scheduling the Fishing Opener for the 15th. It will still be devoted to Planning for the summer—to voice our interests in what should be done during this season. Ideas for programs, for projects, for activities of Committees, for all sorts of things that WCOLA could or should be doing, or anything else you'd like to talk about. It'll be open for all to talk during that hour—after, of course, the normal business is transacted.

I urge everyone to attend this meeting, especially people who have not been habitual attenders. If you like what we do, satisfied with the organization's activities but don't want to bother coming to meetings, please make an exception, come and say so.

I realize that May 22 is impossible for a lot of seasonal or non-residents, who make up over half of our membership. (The traditional cabin-opening date is Memorial Day, as late as possible this year, on May 31). I know that seasonal people also have great ideas for planning, but can't be there to express them. So I urge you to sit down right now and send me an e-mail, wdowningster@gmail.com with your ideas and suggestions. I will see to it that they are

presented for discussion at the May meeting. Make the subject line "For the May 22 meeting".

Water testing this summer. Even if this is a highly unusual Spring, with amazingly early ice-out, by vote we have made 2010 a year for biological testing. The sampling will be done by Itasca Community College students, and the samples will be analyzed in the new ICC laboratory. WCOLA is well ahead of the testing in the other thousand Itasca County lakes, with information going back decades, and we are glad they have joined us. We have voted to contribute \$1,000 to this county-wide effort, straining our Treasury to do it (Deer Lake Association contributed \$15,000). The last Chain Letter suggested we each contribute \$20 (tax deductible) to support the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, sending it to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, 350 NW First Avenue Suite E, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, with "For the IWLP" in the memo line. I know I forgot to do it, and probably others did to, but it is never too late!

Looking forward to seeing or hearing from you, my dear friends, at the meeting on May 22. It should be fun, and illuminating.

Bill

Special WCOLA Events

April 24, 2010

To: Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

The Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP) Board and members would like to personally invite you to attend the upcoming community meeting hosted by the Grand Rapids Area Library, 140 NE 2nd Street on May 20th at 7 p.m. I think after you read this invitation, you will agree that this is a very important meeting for our community and one that you will not want to miss.

Itasca County has 950 lakes with 1,850 miles of rivers and immense underground aquifers making them one of our most important community resources. Today they remain clean and plentiful. One doesn't have to look very far to see other communities who now live with dirty lakes, unclean rivers and polluted aquifers. **TEAM UP FOR CLEAN WATERS** – and come learn what our community is doing about ensuring the future of our local waters. Founded in 2005, we have built a solid membership, strong community relationships and secured almost \$1,000,000 in funding for research, projects, education and jobs in our community. Our members are homeowners and members of the business, education or government community. We work together to ensure our waters remain pristine through smart use, development and preservation.

At the meeting you will meet our president, David Lick, who will provide the background - explaining IWLP's

mission, membership and a quick review of several completed projects. Then Dr. John Downing, well known Limnologist and Faculty Member, Iowa State University (CV at <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~downing/JADCV.pdf>) will describe, in detail, the Deer and Pokegama Lake study. As Dr. Downing will explain, the focus of the study is to determine how these very healthy lakes function today and to make recommendations to the community on ways to keep them healthy in the future. The science behind the study includes a 2-year analysis of nutrient input, outflow and balance in each lake that will be performed by students, professionals and community volunteers. As members of the Lake Associations from Itasca Co. lakes – you will find this particularly relevant and informative.

So please plan on attending if you want to know more about Itasca Waters, want to know more about the Deer and Pokegama Lake study, and are interested in what you can do to be part of **TEAM UP FOR CLEAN WATERS**. You will enjoy the look into one of our community's top resources – the lakes, streams and rivers – that make this such a special place to live.

The Itasca Water Legacy Partnership Board
David Lick, President

Help Keep our Roadways Free of Litter

Meet: May 19, 2010 at 9 a.m. at the town hall
Coffee and rolls will be provided.
Reflective vests and trash bags are provided.
All volunteers are welcome!

This is a great event - last year, one volunteer picked up \$50.00 along the road! Who knows what you might find this year?!! See the committee note section later in this newsletter for a photograph and coverage about the fall 2009 roadside cleanup session – then put the meeting on your calendar and come have fun and get to know some of your neighbors while helping clean up the roadside in Wabana Township.

Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2009

Saturday, May 22 THIS IS A CHANGE!

9:30 a.m. coffee, treats and socializing
10-11 a.m. Meeting

Saturday, June 19 (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)

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

Saturday, July 17

Evening picnic

Saturday, August 21 (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)

9 a.m. Program: Mary Shideler, "Kayak Lady"
10-11 a.m. Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 18 (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)

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

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

WCOLA Meeting Minutes – Sept. 19, 2009
(Arthur L. Merrill, Secretary)

9:00am Program - Keith Matson, retired from the U.S. Forest Service, gave a presentation of the history of logging in the Wabana Chain area, including the Itasca Logging Company. He showed slides of the remnants of logging camps and provided a handout of the report he had prepared on the Itasca Logging Company.

10:00 AM Call to Order - Bill Downing, President, gavelled the meeting to order and asked those in attendance to identify themselves. 26 members were present, and two guests. The motion to adopt the agenda, as revised, was made by John Zimmerman and seconded by Fred Schnitzle.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting - The motion was made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting by Barbara Zimmer and seconded by Bob Gephart.

Treasurer's Report - Jean Koewler gave the Treasurer's report. The motion to receive the report was made by Bob Gephart and seconded by John Downing. Details follow:

Balance as of August 14, 2009 \$ 1,519.18

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 140.00
Contributions	\$ 10.00
Total Receipts	\$ 150.00

Disbursements:

Grand Rapids Area	\$ 500.00
Community Foundation (Itasca Water Legacy Partnership-paid 50%)	
Postmaster (\$.44 stamps 260 for August Newsletter)	\$ 114.40
Sally Wilbur (Ice Cream Social, remainder paid by the Wabana Community Fund)	\$ 55.68
Treasure Bay Printing (July Newsletter-8 pages)	\$ 182.76

Total Disbursements \$ 852.84

Checkbook Balance – 9/17/09 \$ 816.34

CD – Renewal date – 1/22/10 \$ 5,206.17

Total Paid Households: 125

Standing Committee reports are as follows:

Advisory Committee - The President reported that the Advisory Committee had met and had several items for the agenda, most under the rubric of New Business. The Meetings for 2010 at the Wabana Town Hall were set at May 15, June 19, July 17 (evening picnic), August 21 & September 18.

Hospitality Committee - No report

Membership Committee - Dick Chambers, Chair, reported that they had interviewed Nancy Ellsworth and were working on strategies to attract new members.

Environment Committee - Ken Zimmer, Chair, reported that:

A) The committee had received a request from the US Forest Service regarding a Fish Passage on Wabana Creek at the dam and the culvert on County 49. The funding for this project was part of the Federal Stimulus package. The committee recommended cooperation with the US Forest Service and MN DNR with the expression of concerns about invasive exotic species and the reasons for the fish passage. A substitute motion was made by John Zimmerman and seconded by Bob Gephart that the committee responded favorably to the study of the fish passage but that cooperation would depend on answers to the questions about the invasive exotic species and the reasons for the passage. The substitute motion passed.

B) The committee is cooperating with the Bluewater Covenant Camp on the problem of erosion at the north end of Bluewater Lake. The project is scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on Oct. 3, 2009. It was suggested that they might want to contact Mary Blickenderfer at the DNR.

C) It was announced that the USGS was studying streams as to the level of chlorides.

Historical Committee - Sherry Miner reported that they wanted to purchase a case to preserve historical materials and that the Wabana Township would share the costs, \$235.50 each. The motion was made by Sherry Miner and seconded by Jim Olijnek that they use the allocated money now. The motion passed.

Publications Committee - No report

Outreach Committee - No report

Program Committee - Susan Hawkinson, co-Chair, reported that the program for August 2010 will be Mary Shideler, the Kayak lady. Other possibilities for next year are Pat Navratil on the Bigfork Trail, Mary Blickenderfer on shoreline restoration, and Jessica Colburn on her research.

Unfinished Business - The Advisory Committee has scheduled a 2 hour business meeting prior to the picnic in July 2010.

New Business –

A) Betsy Downing Biodiversity Scholarship - It was moved by John Downing and seconded by Bob Gephart that the matter of funding, rules, notices etc. be referred to the Environment Committee for action and report. It was suggested that a special donation for the project be set up.

The Wabana Community Fund was suggested as a possible source of funding.

B) Membership Dues - Ken Zimmer moved, and Sherry Miner seconded the motion that the membership dues be raised to \$25.00. Alida Zimmerman moved to amend the motion to \$30.00, seconded by John Downing. The amended motion passed. It was suggested that we really don't know what monies we need unless the various committees develop a budget.

C) Liability Insurance - It was noted that we need liability insurance but that we did not have the time to deal with the issue today.

D) Fall Cleanup - Barbara Zimmer reported that the Fall Cleanup would be on Wednesday September 23, 2009 and begin at 9:00 am at the Wabana Town Hall. Goodies were promised.

Motion as made by Dick Chambers and seconded by Jim Olijnek to extend the meeting for 5 minutes. Motion passed.

E) Water Testing - It was moved by John Downing and seconded by Bob Gephart that we change the protocol on water testing to 10 samples over a two year period (in May to September) and then take two years off; that we start by using the laboratory at ICC; and that we investigate sources for that (e.g. the Lazard Sams Outdoor Commission); to obtain oxygen and temperature profiles; and to start in May 2010. The Motion was amended to authorize the first year of funding by Jim Olijnek and seconded by John Zimmermann. The motion as amended passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am by President Downing.

Committee Notes since Last Meeting

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

Environment (Ken Zimmer) – As you remember from the September 2009 meeting, John Downing recommended we change the protocol on water testing to 10 samples over a two year period and then take 2 years off to align our process with MCPA and Federal data sets & protocol. This was approved as was the commitment for WCOLA to finance the first year of funding while we investigated additional sources (grants) to supplement our dues. John Zimmerman Jr. wrote and submitted a grant request (full grant request to Conservation Legacy Partners can be found here:

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/habitat/lessard_sams/2010/notfunded/053.pdf). It was a tough competition with a total of 127 CPL Grant applications requesting a total of

\$16.5 million and had to be reduced to 35 grants to fit within their funding level of \$3.74 million. Unfortunately, our grant was not approved and so we need further discussion on how the organization will pay for our water testing program.

History (Roger Linder) – The History Committee, with the support of WCOLA and the Township, purchased and received a display case to be placed in the town hall. Our next project will be to build an appropriate table and to begin the process of filling the display with pictures and other items we have received from many people in the area. We will continue with our project of publishing historical stories in the monthly news letter. As always we look forward to receiving stories/photos for our collection.

Wabana Roadside Cleanup (Barb Zimmer) - Nine members of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association met on the morning of September 23 to pick up trash along the township roads. This is a semi-annual project since 2005. The Itasca County Engineer's office provides orange vests and trash bags as well as the pickup of the accumulated bags of trash. Those participating were George and Mary



Klacan, Jim and Gail Olijnek, Barbara Zimmer, Jim Edwards, Bud Sage, Lloyd Adams and Dennis Koewler. Many thanks for a job well done.

Membership (Dick Chambers) - I have been spending more time away during the winter months, and have asked if someone from our committee would be willing to take over the chairmanship. I am pleased to announce that Alida Zimmerman has stepped forward to take this position. Alida has served on the committee for this past year and has led our efforts to outline our organizations purpose and accomplishments – which will serve as the basis to keep current members and attract new ones. I have enjoyed my role as committee chair and will remain a member of that team.

(Alida Zimmerman) – I have enjoyed working with Dick and the other committee members and look forward leading the effort. We spent the fall and winter working on new ideas that we will share with you at our first meeting

2009 SECCHI DISK READINGS

BASIN==>	BN	BS	TN	TS	TI	TE	IN	WC	WN	WS	WW	WI	LW
May Wk 1													
May Wk 2										13.5			19.5
May Wk 3								15.5	15.5	16.0	13.5	16.0	14.0
May Wk 4	15.5		15.5	15.5	13.5	12.5	17.5		15.0	15.5	14.0		19.5
Jun Wk 1	17.5		16.5	18.0	16.0	12.5				15.5			29.5
Jun Wk 2	18.0		20.0	20.0	20.0	23.0	19.0	34.5	18.0	18.5	16.0	24.0	
Jun Wk 3	23.5	22.5					19.5	22.0	22.5	20.0	16.5	22.0	24.5
Jun Wk 4	23.5		19.0	21.0	18.0	17.0		22.0	22.0	19.0		21.0	
Jun Wk 5													
Jul Wk 1	24.5	24.0	25.0	21.0	22.0	17.0	22.0	25.0		21.0	18.0	23.0	
Jul Wk 2	26.5							24.0	23.0		20.0	22.0	16.0
Jul Wk 3	20.5	21.0					21.0	20.0	19.5	19.0		20.0	
Jul Wk 4		20.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	25.0		16.0	17.0		19.0	15.0	17.5
Jul Wk 5									17.0				
Aug Wk 1	18.0	18.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	18.0		18.5		16.5	18.0	19.5	
Aug Wk 2	15.5	18.0	9.0	9.0	11.0	17.0			17.0	18.5	17.0		20.0
Aug Wk 3								20.0	20.0	19.0		19.5	
Aug Wk 4	15.0	17.0	14.0	12.5	20.5	18.0	22.0				16.0		24.0
Aug Wk 5			15.0	13.0	13.0	16.0			19.0	18.5	16.5		27.0
Sep Wk 1	14.5	16.0						19.5	18.0	18.0		19.0	
Sep Wk 2		16.0					22.5	25.5	19.0	23.0	15.0	24.0	27.5
Sep Wk 3		20.0											
Sep Wk 4													
	George	Nancy	Bill Berg and John Zimmerman				Paul	Sherry	Ken	Susan	D&J	Sherry	Cheryl
Readers==>	Klacan	Ellsworth					Oberg	Miner	Zimmer	Lick	Koewler	Miner	Adams

Bill Downing - These wonderful people have done it again! They have gone out about midday when the sun is shining, dropped a disk on a line into the water, and measured how far down they can see the disk. It is a time-honored method of keeping good track of water quality, and we have records that go back decades. Check the "winter" editions of the Newsletter if you want to trace back. I have made a few changes, mostly in the names of the Trout Lake stations. TN and TS are the north and south ends of the main blue colored lake, while TI and TE are of the smaller, shallower, non-blue part of the lake (the part I call "Little Trout:", when the lake many know as Little Trout is more properly "Interlachen"). TI is north of the island, and TE is the eastern extension that leads to the channel. W stands for Wabana, with C for central, N for north, S for south, W for west or Wakeman's Bay, I for island sound, and L for little. Nancy Ellsworth has always directed and collected the data, for which we all send our gratitude!

WCOLA History Series – “Wa-Ga-Tha-Ka on Wabana”

These photographs were preserved by Sherry Miner literally “from the attic”. Here is Highway 49 with the Old



Lodge, then Old Water Tower (today the chipmunk is about where the old tower stood) and behind that the New Lodge.

While many of the people in the photographs are not able to be identified any longer, you can see quite a bit of the lifestyle and period dress and pastimes



including classic fishing photos in front of the resort sign that proudly show off the catch from the latest trip out on the lake.

What many don't know is that before Wa-Ga-Tha-Ka stood at that bend in the road between Wabana and

Little Wabana lakes, there was a prior camp –



called Crow Wing Camp.

The original lodge, (pictured on the next page) built in 1903, quickly developed foundation problems and so the New Lodge was begun soon after and completed about 1908. Ernie Poland, a name many of us recognize, helped build both buildings with Tamarack cut from the property. The camp was purchased by Barbara and Morey Miner in 1926. The Old Lodge provided a place for help to sleep



and was finally torn down in the 1950's or 1960's.

With a roaring fire in the fireplace, the Living Room in the New Lodge was inviting and a warm place to



gather. The door to the left led into the Dining Room (which was added in the 1920's). Wa-Ga-Tha-Ka resort provided meals in Dining Room of the Main Lodge. This was called the "American Plan" and ended in the 1960's when kitchens were added to the cabins.

Stylish bathers on the main dock for the resort, 57 steps on the stairway down the hillside from the



Main Lodge. Picture was taken sometime in the 1930s.

There are many other photographs that Sherry has shared with WCOLA – which will be featured in upcoming issues of the Newsletter. If you have photos or stories that you would like to share we will scan them and return the originals to you plus a CD containing digital copies that will keep your images safe for future generations. Please contact Roger Linder or John Zimmerman Jr to discuss scanning.

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

April 2010

*There is a lot of great material
inside, 2009 Secchi Disk
Result Summary for our lakes,
Wa-Ga-Tha-Ka historical
photos, as well as our
September minutes, Bill's
spring letter, committee
announcements and upcoming
important dates for WCOLA.*

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:

May 22nd, 2010

Please note – this is a change from our previously announced schedule. We did not want to have our first meeting on the Fishing Opener – which was to happen on May 15th – and so delayed our first meeting to the 4th Saturday – May 22nd, 2010. This is our kickoff meeting for the 2010 season – so we will set the focus for the summer, decide on programs and focus items and get off to a good start. Please be sure to attend this one, and bring a neighbor to check it out with you at 9:30 a.m for coffee, treats and socializing, followed by our regular business meeting from 10a.m. to 11a.m. at the Wabana Town Hall.

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