

# The Chain Letter

of the



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

# August 2010

Volume 13, Number 4

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## AUGUST 2010 LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

August. Summer is beginning to wind down, but it still has a lot of great weather in store for us, the lucky people who share these beautiful lakes and wonderful friends. Native plants are hurrying to produce seeds, or to make other preparations for the seasons of little or no growth. Flowers are gorgeous, home-grown food has the best flavor possible. Do you haunt the farmers' market in Grand Rapids? Wow!

The Fourth of July weekend passed with—it seemed to me—less noise, explosions and fireworks, which is a relief to many of us people and to lots of our dogs. I used to thrive on fireworks, but now, maybe I get nervous enough about fires and injuries to make them less appealing. But oh, memories of happy Fourths on this Chain in the past!

One standout Fourth was sometime in the middle 1960s, some years after the Beaumonts had bought Balgillow Island from Miss Mildred Sebo, and time enough for people to become comfortable having such notables (Hollywood people!) on the lake. Our families' adults were friends but not close—both families came to Wabana to get away from heavy social ties—but our children—three teenagers on each side—saw a lot of each other, and adults got together several times during a summer. It was a different time then, when families with teens and younger came and spent a large part of the summer fishing, skiing, and generally having fun.

For years we spent the Fourth of July together at picnics, sometimes on the Island, sometimes at our Sandycarc. The picnic I remember best was at our place. John and I had spent a little time (too little time, as it turned out) building superstructure on the end of our dock, for pinwheel attachment and fountain bases. It should be noted that the Beaumonts had spent June building a home-made pontoon boat, using aluminum fuel tanks from fighter airplanes for floats, probably planned and executed by Hunter, the tall, worshipped late-teen older son, and no doubt enthusiastically helped by lovely Kristie—the envy of all the girls on the lakes—and by sensationally handsome youth Mark, the younger son. Kathy Beaumont usually made her wonderful ice cream, frozen by hand crank, ice and salt.

We were finishing preparations by the shore when we heard singing, then we looked southwards, and there appeared a peculiar kind of raft, and the voices were coming from it, singing loudly (maybe even well) the Star Spangled Banner over the mild

gurgling of the old blue Evinrude motor (maybe 15 horsepower?) that propelled them around Government Point and majestically toward our dock, family members turning the crank of the ice cream freezer as they approached. What an entrance!

I remember that there were quite a lot of people here: the Bunges from next door, and Merglers, and probably some from Arrowhead Point, and everybody ate picnic fare with gusto, all but Hugh Beaumont, who felt he had to maintain his movie star figure and who therefore burdened Kathy with the job of watching him around the food. She did, too. When it finally got dark enough, we started our fireworks, with everybody sitting in lawn chairs along the shore, and with me as the punk-holding and fuse-lighting stagehand. Bottle rockets over the water, Roman candles, fountains, and the always-anticipated pinwheels. It was our custom—nay, our rule, that after each firework, everyone would clap, and say “Oh, superior!”, no matter what the result was. The greater the fizzle, the louder the applause. The best pinwheel, therefore, was the last one. It spun satisfactorily, and then the weak holding structure twisted and collapsed, and while still spinning, it slowly descended into the water. The applause was deafening.

When it got dark and the debris of fireworks was picked up, I went to police the area. We had just had a new garage built, sitting empty, and the food was in there on tables, ready for people to take their pot-luck pots home. And there, sitting alone in a chair under a single garage light, sat Hugh Beaumont, with a giant bowl of ice cream, eating enthusiastically of the forbidden substance. I promised I would not tell on him, and I’ve kept that secret all these years, but now that he is long gone, I guess it’s OK to tell.

Enjoy the rest of summer! Bill

**Special WCOLA Events & Announcements**

As mentioned at an earlier WCOLA meeting this summer, the USFS and DNR are considering installing a **fish ladder on the Wabana Creek** under County Road 49 impacting our chain of lakes. This is an important change that all of us should better understand as the idea is discussed. There will be a **public meeting – Wednesday, September 1st from 6 pm to 7 pm** just before the monthly Wabana Township meeting at the Wabana Town Hall. All WCOLA members are welcome. Presenting will be Eric Reitenen (Chippewa National Forest, U. S.

Forest Service – Deere River) and Chris Kavanaugh (Grand Rapids Area – Fisheries Supervisor, DNR).

**Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2010**

**Friday, August 20** – Ice Cream Social (6:00pm to 8:00pm) Held with Wabana Township and open to all WCOLA members as well as residents of Wabana Township  
**Saturday, August 21** (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)  
 9 a.m. Program: Mary Shideler, “Kayak Lady” who will talk on her completed goal of kayaking on every one of Itasca County's 1000+ lakes  
 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!**

**Minutes from the WCOLA Meeting June 19, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by William Dowling at 10:00 am

**The Agenda** was adopted as amended - seconded and passed:

- Jean Koewler would speak after the Treasurer’s report
- Jack Velzen will speak under New Business
- Hospitality has an announcement
- Membership has an announcement
- Environmental has an announcement

**The Minutes** of May 16, 2010 meeting as printed in the WCOLA Chain Letter were adopted, seconded and passed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jean Koewler’s report of the Treasurer was received.

Balance as of May 18, 2010	\$1,705.04
Receipts	
Dues	\$ 950.00
Contributions	20.00
Water Testing Contribution	40.00
Disbursements	
Postmaster (April Newsletter)	\$ 110.00
Treasure Bay Printing	\$ 291.04
June Newsletter (\$147.83)	
Membership Brochure (\$143.21)	
Grand Rapids State Bank	3.15
Grand Raids Area Community Foundation	500.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 904.19
Checkbook Balance as of June 18, 2010	\$ 1,810.85

CD (renewal date July 22, 2010)	\$ 5,235.40
Total Paid Households:	97
Designated Funds:	
Historical Committee	\$38.56
Membership Committee	\$256.97

**Matching Funds:** Jean Koewler reported that a matching grant has been offered up to \$1000 to assist the water testing fund. All funds for the matching gift should specify water testing in the memo line.

**Advisory Committee:**

1. Newsletter: Moved and seconded that
  - a) all paid members will receive all issues of the Chain Letter, but it is hoped that most will receive it by email;
  - b) all members and non-members on the current mailing list will receive the first issue of the year, which will contain the schedule for the summer and autumn, but non-paid members will not receive any further hard copy issues that year;
  - c) non-members may continue to receive all subsequent hard copies by making an annual ten dollar (\$10.00) subscription contribution.

The motion passed as amended.

2. Newsletter addendum: It was moved and passed that copies of the Chain Letter be distributed to the Community College, the Library, the City and County Board members, etc to receive it in email format.

3. Committee Reports: Committee reports will normally be placed in the Chain Letter and not made routinely at meetings. Concerns may be placed on the agenda for action or discussion. The reports will be given to the Chain Letter editor by the first of the month.

**Environmental Committee:** Ken Zimmer reported for the Environmental Committee

**Hospitality Committee:** Kathleen Willson reminded everyone of the Picnic on July 19, 2010

**Membership Committee:** Alida Zimmerman displayed and distributed the new Membership Brochures. Members were asked to help distribute them and encourage new members.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. John Zimmermann Jr asked if any were interested in WCOLA shirts.

2. Jack Velzen reported that the DNR was doing net testing to determine if Wabana Lake should be managed for large northernns. Jack volunteered to keep up on this issue and his offer was accepted by acclamation.

3. David Lick reported on the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership and its new motto: **“Team up for Clean Waters”**. The Legacy has so far raised by grants \$1 million. The PCA has made a \$1.4 million grant in kind for checking nutrient loads in Deer Lake and Pokegama Lake.

**The Meeting Adjourned** at 10:55 am.

**Committee Notes since Last Meeting**

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

**History** (Roger Linder) - The historical committee has with the help of many people have been able to place a historical display in the town hall. Many of you were able to see the results of committee work, the support of WCOLA, the Township and the photos and history shared by you at the annual picnic. The table was built by committee members with material supplied by local builders. The display is beginning to fill with frames showing Trout lake and its early



“History Committee team members (l to r) Roger Linder, John Zimmerman Jr and John Zimmerman Sr in front of the table they built showing the new WCOLA History Display in the Wabana Town Hall”

homesteaders and resorts, Crow Wing camp now WA-GA-THA-KA resort, Zim’s resort and the American Girl camp which was on Bigallow island all on lake Wabana. There is also a page extolling the beauties of our lake area in the 1940’s. There

remains much work to be done as we share stories in the newsletter, and continue to add to and refine our display with pages on Little Trout, Arrowhead Point, Tower Hill, Bluewater, etc. Anyone with pictures, artifacts or stories to share – please contact John Zimmerman ([jwzimmerjr@gmail.com](mailto:jwzimmerjr@gmail.com) or 327-3188) or Roger Linder ([rnlander@msn.com](mailto:rnlander@msn.com) or 326-2266

**Membership** (Alida Zimmerman) – The Membership Committee has been working from our membership data base to call and update contact information (primarily email addresses) for our current and past members. During these phone conversations we encourage those who have not yet renewed their membership to rejoin as soon as possible. There is a current list of members in this newsletter and we hope that all of you that are on the list will look to see that your neighbors are also on the list. If they are not, we would ask that you go knock on their door(s) with a plate of cookies, a membership brochure and an informative conversation about WCOLA.

**Hospitality** (Kathleen Wilson) - The array of wonderful foods at the pot-luck picnic on July 17th was really spectacular-everything was very tasty. Perhaps we should think about having some of our recipes printed in an upcoming newsletter-there were some real prize winners! The Hospitality Committee worked together so smoothly and each member deserves a big thanks for their volunteer spirit. Seventy-five hungry people went to the buffet tables, and the evening ended with some very enthusiastic line dancing led by Karen Craiglow. A special thanks to those who donated door prizes for the event - Dara Skelton, Alida Zimmerman, Pat Chambers and Jean Koewler. Next up will be the Ice Cream Social on August 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. Just another chance to meet our Wabana neighbors-hope to see you then!

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**Annual WCOLA Loon Count Projects**

As you may well remember from previous years of reporting in this newsletter – our association members participate in two long standing Loon count programs. One effort is headed by Bill Berg and the other by Roger Linder. Both projects help us track over time how our lakes Loons are doing – thanks to Bill and Roger and the teams of volunteers who help them with this project.

**Roger Linder:** Our annual loon count is done as a part of the Minn. state non-game wild life fund project. In 2009, 304 volunteers counted 360 lakes and reported 1663 adults and 474 chicks. Our count was done this year on July the 20th, Ken Zimmer, Jim Edwards and Dennis Koewler began their count at 9 in the rain. Paul Oberg and Roger Linder being older and wiser waited till the sun came out at 10. The results and counts for previous years are as follows.

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Chicks</u>
Wabana	28	2
Bluewater	4	2

Trout	17	0
<u>Little Trout</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
2010 Totals	51	5
2009	62	2
2008	68	4
2007	70	6
2006	45	0
2005	45	8
2004	49	7
2003	54	9

A dead loon was found by Michael Linder on the shore at his cabin in Murphy bay. The find was reported to Pam Perry of the DNR in Brainerd. All finds of loons and eagles (her freezer is full) are taken to Wisc. to be autopsied to try to determine the cause of death.

**Bill Berg:** Between July 11 and 13, Bill Berg and helpers conducted loon surveys on local lakes as part of DNR's six "100 lake" index area survey. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for this survey, in which Wabana is not included, but Trout, Little Trout, Spider, Sunrise, and Sand are. Following are the results for the 2010 survey:

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Chicks</u>
Big Trout	9	1
Little Trout	2	1
Spider	29	1
Sand	9	0
Sunrise	0	0

It should be noted that sadly, the newly-hatched chick on Big Trout likely did not survive more than a couple weeks, but the large chick on Little Trout, despite considerable harassment by eagles, is now almost as large as its parents.

It should also be noted that despite efforts to help the loons nesting on the island on Big Trout using "loon nest no wake" signs, there has been no successful reproduction there. Bill Berg will no longer place these signs, and yields to the big boats that cannot slow down for 30 seconds.

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**Membership Listing (alpha)**

The following list is maintained by Jean Koewler – who does an amazing job keeping it up to date but with that comes a lot of opportunity for a mistake or two to slip in – if you see one, please let us know so we can fix it.

First Name	Last Name	Lake	Years
Jill M.	Acheson	Bluewater	2010
Lloyd and Vicki	Adams	Wabana	2010
Pat	Adams	Bluewater	2010
Charles and Donna	Anderson	Hanson Lake	2010
Craig and Cindy	Bender	Wabana	2013
Wm and Helene	Berg	Trout	2010
Joan	Birkemeyer	Wabana	2010
Bud and Agnes	Blackmore	Wabana	2010
Terry R. and Lynn M.	Boblit	Wabana	2010
William and Jeannette	Booth	Little Wabana	2010
Mary Frances and Bill	Bottoms, Jr.	Bluewater	2010
Chris and Nancy	Bunge	Wabana	2010
Dan and Jeanne	Burke	Wabana	2010
Gary and Carol	Burkholder	Wabana	2010
Richard and Patricia	Chambers	Wabana	2010
Warren and Kay	Chapman	Wabana	2010
John F., Dennis, & Kathi	Chervinko	Trout	2010
Robert and Cam	Childs Jr.	Pickerel	2010
Ellen J.	Christmas	Wabana	2010
Libby and George	Colburn	Wabana	2010
Stanley and Mary Lee	Craig	Wabana	2010
Dennis and Janice	Davis	Wabana	2010
Clinton and Stacey	Deans	Wabana	2010
Edward and Helen	Dettmer	Pickerel	2010
Fred and Kathy	Doty	Wabana	2011
William	Downing	Wabana	2010
Nancy	Ellsworth	Bluewater	2010
Ted	Ellsworth	Bluewater	2010
Patricia	Fischer	Trout	2010
A. J.	Fleischhacker	Wabana	
Greg and Ruth	Fordham	Wabana	2010
Eric and Jan	Fredbeck	Wabana	2010
Pam and Keith	Friesen	Bluewater	2010
Gordon and Lynette	Fuller	Wabana	2010
John and Martha Ann	Gettinger	Wabana	2010
Tom and Barb	Gleason	Wabana	2010
Loren & Deborah	Gordon	Wabana	2010
Mr. and Mrs. Ted	Green	Wabana	2010
Don and Michele	Greiner	Bluewater	2010
Robert and Bonnie	Halver	Wabana	2010
Vicky and Rick	Harding	Trout	2010
Cress and Susannah	Hart	Wabana	2010
Susan	Hawkinson	Doan	2010

Richard and Rosalie	Hesse	Wabana	2011
Bonnie and Roy	Holmes		2010
Bruce and Jan	Hultgren	Wabana	2010
Scott and Mary	Hutter	Wabana	2010
Louis	Ireton	Trout	2010
Dave	Johnson	Wabana	2010
Rex and Melanie	Kastner	Big Trout	2010
Erik and Andrew	Kaukis	Bluewater	2010
George and Mary Lou	Klacan	Bluewater	2010
Dennis and Jean	Koewler	Wabana	2010
Ken and Deb	Kruger	Wabana	2010
Chick	Laitman	Wabana	2010
Adam	Lane	Wabana	2010
Danielle	Larsen	Wabana	2010
Jerald E. and Emma J.	Larson	Wabana	2010
Dave and Sue	Lick	Wabana	2010
Michael and Annette	Linder	Wabana	2010
Roger and Nancy	Linder	Wabana	2010
John and Karen	Lukens	Wabana	2014
Brian and Pamela	Lund	Wabana	2010
Robert	Manning	Bluewater	2010
James and Jane	McCullough	Wabana	2010
Mark and Kathy	McCullough	Wabana	2010
Steve and Jean	Melin	Wabana	2010
Margaret Z. Morris and Arthur L.	Merrill	Wabana	2011
Jon and Pamela	Miner	Wabana	2010
Sherry	Miner	Wabana	2010
Lynn and Tim	Moratzka	Trout	2010
Dorothy	Myrick	Wabana	2010
Bradley and Mary	Nett	Little Trout	2010
Gary and Kim	Oja	Wabana	2010
Jim and Gail	Olijnek	Wabana	2010
Marvin and Mary	Ott	Wabana Township	2010
Kay	Owen	Wabana	2010
Jean	Popovich		2010
Laudy & Steven	Ribar	Wabana	2010
Catherine	Rudolph	Wabana	2010
Bill and Diane	Rutherford	Bluewater	2010
L. W. "Bud" and Mary Lou	Sage	Bluewater	2010
Mark and Cathy	Sage	Bluewater	2010
Stuart W. and Tanya	Sage	Bluewater	2010
Rich Brasch and Carole	Schmidt	Wabana	2010
Wayne	Sherer	Wabana	2010
Dara Wolf and Doug	Skelton	Trout	2010
Jane and John	Soll	Wabana	2010

Scott and Jan	Stein	Wabana	2010
Joe and Martha	Stevens	Bluewater	2010
Judith A.	Thompson		2010
Kurt and Lavonne	Thompson	Bluewater	2011
Matthew & Nicole Stecklein and Greg & Mary	Till	Wabana	2010
Harold and Betty	Unger	Trout	2010
Jack and Sally	Velzen	Wabana	2010
Mrs. Susan	Vincent	Wabana	2010
Pamela Wassberg	Whittenbury	Little Trout	2010
Merrill and Marlene	Widmark	Wabana	2010
Sally and George	Wilbur	Wabana	2010
Michael and Barbara	Wilkus	Bluewater	2011
Gib and Kathleen	Willson	Wabana	2010
Gig and Kristen	Willson	Wabana	2010
William J. and Donna M.	Wolf, Jr.	Trout	2010
David R. and Lorna	Wooden	Bluewater	2010
Ken and Barbara	Zimmer, Jr.	Wabana	2010
Mark W. and Alexandra	Zimmerman		2010
Sarah	Zimmerman	Trout	2010
Seth	Zimmerman	Trout	2010
John and Charlotte	Zimmerman Sr.	Trout	2010
John	Zimmerman, III	Trout	2010
John and Alida	Zimmerman, Jr.	Trout	2010

### **WCOLA History Series**

There is not much space in this issue for history, so I am just going to include some of the recent photographs that folks have been kind enough to allow me access to for WCOLA. I am a history buff to begin with and so have had a fun summer pestering my neighbors on the north end of Trout Lake to share what history they have – and they have been very forthcoming. You will see some of these photographs are already on display in the WCOLA display in the Wabana Town Hall – if you haven't seen it yet – well worth attending a meeting and taking a peek. In addition, there are some great shots of The American Girls Camp, Zim's on Wabana Resort, Wa-Ga-Tha-Ka, Arrowhead point and other things you will be interested to see. This issue of the newsletter will focus on Trout Lake – because that is all of the new material that I have. I hope that others of you will call me and invite yourself to visit Alida and I with your photo albums of the early and mid 1900's on Bluewater, Wabana, Little Trout or other places nearby that our

membership would be interested in. I have a great scanner – will make you a backup set of CD's in case your originals are ever lost or damaged and then share the photo's you share with others from WCOLA in future issues or in our display at the township hall.

Here is a photograph of Irv and Mary Martin's home.



This snapshot came from Nancy Mayen – owner of the resort that was once where the Martins took in lodgers beginning about 1903 or so – as one of the earliest people to live on this lake. Nancy got the photo from Cliff Martin – who I believe is a grandson and who now lives in Alaska. You can see the photo is labeled “Home on Trout Lake – Built 1907”. From the 1900 US census – Irv Martin is 29 years old giving his date of birth as Nov 1870, listed as divorced and living in Grand Rapids on 4<sup>th</sup> street. His occupation is “Cook-Hotel”. By 1905 (MN census) he is married, with two children, living presumably on Trout lake (Itasca county, Township 58, enumeration district 20) listing his occupation as Hotel keeper having been a resident of MN for 11+ years and in his then current location for just over 1 year. By the 1910 US census – he is still on Trout Lake, Balsam Township – and the “proprietor” of a “summer resort”. He and Mary have by then had 4 additional children bringing the total to 6.

The following photograph comes from the same source, Cliff Martin, and shows Mary Martin seated reading, Mrs. Barney Kaye who also lived on the lake at that time, and an unidentified Martin daughter pushing the baby carriage with Mary and Irv Martins son Elmer who was 2 years old in 1910 so the photograph is circa 1908 or 1909.



The 1920 US census was taken in January – and found the Martins in their winter home in Grand Rapids. Mary and Irv went on to have 8 children and ran the “summer resort” until Irv died in 1941. Mary continued for a couple of years but found it hard and sold to a man named Lou Hodge – who is shown as the proprietor in the 1949 Itasca fishing brochure on display in the town Hall. By about 1951 or 1952 the resort was purchased by Lou Kastner and he ran it and then his son until the 1990’s when Steve and Nancy Mayen purchased it. Unfortunately Steve died at a very young age leaving Nancy as the owner today – and the resort is still hosting guests and providing lodging more 107 years after Irv and Mary began on this spot. Other Martin children have shared their photo’s and memories with residents – Nadine Martin left a precious photo book to the Grand Rapids Historical Society.

I’ll close by showing one last photo from that great collection. Here are Dr. and Mrs. Evans (who built



the log cabin where Rex and Melanie Kastner now live) and Barney and Mrs. Kaye (who built the cabin where Alida and I live) fishing on trout lake . As with most of the fishing pictures of this era – no motors – just healthy people who worked hard to catch their fish.

I hope that others of you reading these history pieces will think about what photographs you may have

tucked away – or stories you can tell that will add to the local history of our area – if so, please contact John Zimmerman ( [jwzimmerjr@gmail.com](mailto:jwzimmerjr@gmail.com) or 327-3188) or Roger Linder ( [mlinder@msn.com](mailto:mlinder@msn.com) or 326-2266

### WCOLA Water Testing - 2010 and 2011

The Association owes deep thanks to the anonymous donor of the \$1,000, given to match donations by other persons, in effect doubling each contribution. Prior to our newsletter publication deadline - the following people had contributed to the special dedicated WCOLA Water Testing Fund, and had their contributions matched. The total amount contributed to the fund will be reported later.



1. Lloyd and Vicki Adams
2. William & Helene Berg
3. Rich Brasch & Carole Schmidt
4. Ellen Christmas
5. George & Libby Colburn
6. Fred & Kathy Doty
7. William Downing
8. Pam & Keith Friesen
9. Jerry & Emmie Larson
10. David and Susan Lick
11. Roger and Nancy Linder
12. Catherine McLynn
13. Arthur L. Merrill and Margaret Z. Morris
14. Jim & Gail Olijnek
15. John Soll
16. Gib & Kathleen Willson
17. William J. Wolf, Jr.
18. John Jr. & Alida Zimmerman
19. John Sr. and Charlotte Zimmerman

Keeping our special lakes as pristine and beautiful as possible for our enjoyment and for our children is something we all care about. Testing water quality and knowing what is going on in our lakes is critical to maintaining their quality. Even though the matching fund deadline is now over – the need for water testing remains. Please consider making a donation to the WCOLA Testing fund. Thank you for thinking about it and thank you for actively supporting WCOLA.

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

*August 2010*

*There is a lot of great material  
inside, Bills letter, June WCOLA  
meeting minutes, updated  
membership listing, Martin Resort  
on Trout Lake History, committee  
announcements, upcoming  
important dates and much more.*

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

*Remember – our ICE CREAM  
SOCIAL will be held*

**Friday, August 20th**

*at 6:00pm at the Wabana  
Township Hall and is open to all  
WCOLA members as well as any  
resident of Wabana Township.*

*Our Next Association Meeting will  
be at Wabana township hall:*

**Saturday, August 21st**

*with coffee and treats at 8:30am  
and a great program with Mary  
Shideler – “Kayak Lady” at  
9:00am followed by our regular  
WCOLA business meeting at  
10:00am - See you there!*