

The Chain Letter

of the



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

April 2011

Volume 14, Number 1

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Updates, if any, noted in **Red** – update your address books!

Visit our

web site www.wcola.org

Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner,

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APRIL 2011 LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Neighbors - Welcome back (or about to be so if you are not here yet)! It was a good winter as many of you who live here year round already know. We are close to the ice going out. It seems to be early again this year. Already cracks have opened in the ice and our neighborhood is full of other clues including warming days and nights, birds returning, deer carcasses popping out of the snowbanks all along the roads and mud replacing snow. Soon it will be time to put away and "summerize" the winter toys and drag out the ones sitting in the shed or pole barn for another summer.

Over the winter things have been happening. As you remember, WCOLA voted to co-sponsor the Wabana Fish Ladder proposal with Wabana Township last fall. The proposal was submitted in January and is being considered currently. My understanding is that many proposals were submitted for these scarce forest reinvestment dollars and so it will be a very competitive selection process. We will find out later this year what gets funded.

Our first meeting is right around the corner on May 21st and then before you know it summer will flash by and we will all be wondering how that happened. It will be a busy season again. Important to note is that the day before our first meeting – the **Itasca Waters Legacy Partnership (IWLP)** is hosting a whole day of education, talks, tours and music. This should be an outstanding event which you can see details about just below in the "upcoming events" section.

The focus of the summit is, of course local waters, and while full of activities that will be fun for both adults and children – the highlights will be the educational offerings and outstanding speakers. I hope you will all try to attend – and please pre-register as there is limited seating and the members of every lake association in Itasca County are being invited as well as the general population. Seats will go quickly. The price is only \$10 for the whole day but seats in the courses are first come first serve so get busy.

WCOLA is already heavily involved in this excellent event. We are a paid member of IWLP. The president of IWLP is none other than our own David Lick. Another of our members, Dr. John Downing is a featured lecturer in the session describing the quality of Itasca's waters. While obviously enthusiastic myself – you should also note that I may be a bit biased as I am on their board and so should disclose that as I write this heartfelt endorsement. I hope to see you there on May 20th as this should be a great learning experience anyone attending.

From Big Trout Lake this sunny, early spring day
John W. Zimmerman Jr., President, WCOLA

PS: **As a reminder** – we agreed last year to stop sending hard copy newsletters to try to save our scarce cash and direct it towards better purposes – the first of which is the agreed water testing tasks at hand. The agreement was

that paid up members be sent all newsletter editions in the manner in which they have selected (e-mail or postal). We also agreed to provide a hard copy of our first edition each year to non-members living in Wabana Township so they are aware of us, know the dates of our events, and have the opportunity to join should they wish to continue to receive the newsletter. Any non-member providing an email address may also receive an email copy per our agreement voted on and approved last year. If you are a member and receiving your newsletter electronically – thanks. If a member and still receiving via post – we will continue to support you but I would encourage you to reconsider and provide your email to Jean Koewler because it saves the association money each issue and it is a greener approach.

Special WCOLA Events & Announcements
TEAM UP FOR CLEAN WATERS – WATERS SUMMIT –

Friday, May 20, 2011. Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP) is hosting a day of education, exhibits, tours and an evening to celebrate water, wood and walleye. Speakers include **Don Shelby** (Former Anchor WCCO), **Kurt Anderson** (Minnesota Power), **Sean Colter** (Fishing Guide) and **Cindy Hagley** (Minnesota Sea Grant) and education sessions for all ages with interests related to water lead by respected professionals including WCOLA's very own **Dr. John Downing** (Professor, Iowa State University, Science Director for IWLP, and president-elect American Society of Limnology and Oceanography – plus part time resident – Wabana Lake). Sessions include:

- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Climate Change Impacts on Water – Northern MN
- Conservation Easements for the Private Landowner
- Fishing Evolutions
- Good Habitat means Good Fishing
- Itasca County's Lakes & the Quality of Our Waters
- Let's Get Pumped
- Sensitive Lakeshore Identification and Protection
- Solar 101
- Take the Itasca County Lake & River Challenge
- Water Quality 101-Seeing Below the Surface
- Watershed Cycling of Mercury – Lessons Learned from Research in Northern MN
- Fun with Neotropical Birds Tour
- Harvesting the Rain Tour.

Also available are Lunch, Dinner, a tour of the ICC Water Lab, and music at the KAXE Rotary Tent. **Pre-registration is encouraged as there will be limited seating.** You can find the brochure and registration form here: <http://www.itascawaterlegacypartnership.org/water-summit-brochure.html> You enroll by visiting the web site above, review the program brochure for details on events, tours, meals, courses and then follow the instructions on the last page of the brochure. Please do it quickly – seats are already going fast.

Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2011

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

9 a.m. Program: Kent Ledermann (USFS)

Chippewa National Forest Enforcment

10-11 a.m. Meeting

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

9 a.m. Program: Mary Blickendorfer (Itasca County Extension) **Lakeshore Management Guidelines**

10-11 a.m. Meeting

Saturday, July 16 (picnic)

Saturday, August 20 (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)

9 a.m. Program: **TBD**

10-11 a.m. Meeting

Saturday, September 17 (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)

9 a.m. Program: **TBD**

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 September, 2010

As I geared up to get going on the newsletter and looked for the September 2010 minutes I found I didn't have a copy and Art is away and not able to access his computer prior to press time so we will have to make them available at a later date for review by members.

Update – Shoreland Restoration Grant by Ted Voneida

Having written the grant proposal on behalf of WCOLA, I was asked to write a brief piece for the newsletter that would inform membership of the current status, outline the highlights of the grant, and share some of my observations about the process. For those of you who don't know me personally, I began coming to Bluewater during the early '50s, as Swanny Bekkedahl's husband-to-be. We were married in 1956, which marked the beginning of my "permanent" summer visits. We have spent every summer there since that time, first as only two (plus Elmer and Vi Bekkedahl, of course), then 3, then 4, then 5. Our three children grew up there (during the summers), and we now have two lovely granddaughters who also share our joy in being there every summer.

Elmer and Vi bought the property in the early 1940s, so Swanny has been there since that time. Our permanent residence is Kent, Ohio. I retired from the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in 1998, where I was Professor and Chairman of the Neurobiology Department. We attend the WCOLA meetings religiously while we're at Bluewater, so I know many, but not all of the WCOLA members.

As I believe most of you know, we were delighted to hear last January that our request for funds in the amount of \$15,000 had been approved for funding. The grant covers shoreline restoration of three properties at \$5000 each, which, in addition to ours, on Bluewater Lake, include those of John, Sr., and Charlotte Zimmerman on Trout Lake, and Peter and Chris Friedlieb on Wabana Lake.

Writing the grant was; well, interesting. I volunteered to do it at our WCOLA meeting in September. We left Bluewater for our home in Kent, Ohio shortly after Labor Day. The deadline for grant submission was October 1st. It was, to say the very least, a hectic couple of weeks. Susan and David Lick's assistance was most helpful, in that Susan provided maps and photos of the Zimmerman and Friedlieb properties, and David provided information re: WCOLA's work on septic tank compliance and shoreline buffers in the 14 lakes of Wabana Township.

Should anyone want to read the entire grant application, I will be happy to send it along. It doesn't read like "Gone with the Wind", though not quite as long, and some may find it interesting. I will say that the state is (understandably) thorough in asking for a detailed description of virtually everything that might relate to our restoration project(s). Some of this detail includes:

- **Amount of Requested Grant Funds and In-Kind Match.**
- **Budget:** List personnel costs, supplies, equipment costs, etc.
- **Provide an example of a similar shoreland related project you completed (*I described work we had done on a lake close to us in Kent, and also our observation of the completed Chapman project on Wabana*).**
- **Provide a brief description of the proposed project.**
- **Describe the need and justification for the project.** Discuss why the project is being proposed and why it is important. Reference which ecological issues you are trying to address with this project.
- **Project Summary and Results.** Quantify the ecological, social or economic benefits that might derive from completion of the project.
- **Project Methodology or Approach** (i.e. how the work will get done)
- **Dissemination:** How will you distribute the products of this project?

- **Maintenance Plan.** Provide maintenance plans of how you will maintain any restoration projects you are proposing

All of the above is the good news, in that the grant was approved. Next comes the potentially bad news in the correspondence I received in January: ***"DO NOT incur any project costs prior to having a fully signed and authorized grant contract with the State of Minnesota."*** The authorization comes on July 1, 2011, which seems a bit late to get plantings started for this year. Of course this is a three year contract leaving us time to start in either the late summer this year or during the planting seasons of 2012 and 2013. We can certainly start talking with restoration contractors this summer, and begin to lay plans for our projects. We simply can't incur any project costs until July.

Committee Notes since Last Meeting

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

Membership (Alida Zimmerman) - The membership committee is starting to gear up!!! If you haven't already been contacted, someone from the committee should be phoning or emailing you to say "hello and thank you for your past membership!" We will also be soliciting new members and look forward to sharing ideas with ALL of you at WCOLA meetings this summer.

2011 dues can be paid any time before August 1, 2011. The WCOLA membership form is online (<http://www.wcola.org/WCOLA%20Brochure%20%282%29.pdf>) or you can just print the shorter version below and mail it in with your dues. We are also looking for people who are interested in working on the membership committee. If you have questions about your membership status, membership in general or would like to discuss helping us on the membership committee – please contact Alida Zimmerman (almzimmer@gmail.com or 218-327-3188).

For more information please come to a meeting or contact our Membership Committee chair, Alida Zimmerman at 218-327-3188. You can view past copies of our newsletter at www.WCOLA.org.

We hope you will choose to join our association for an annual fee of \$30.00. Please send your membership information and dues to:

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association
 Jean Koewler, Treasurer
 32040 Wakeman Bay Trail
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744

find out more about us

www.WCOLA.org

Your Information:

Name _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

Phone 1 _____

Phone 2 _____

Email _____

WCOLA History Series

This month's local history starts where so many do – with the generosity of one of our neighbors and in this case we must thank Susan (Ireton) Hines and her father, Louis (Arthur) Ireton. The Ireton family has summered on the north end of Trout Lake since 1915. Their main cabin was standing before they first visited and the Ireton's have done an excellent job of maintaining the buildings, as well as many artifacts, stories and photographs for almost a century. In doing so, they have saved a lot of their (and by extension our) past. In 1915 when Susan's great grandfather, Louis (Allen) Ireton first came here, much of the area had already been logged – though there was still logging going on – and there were few buildings on Trout. We talked last year about the Barber and Haglee homesteads on the channel on the south end of Trout – both built about the same time. The very beginnings of what was to become the Joyce Estate would not happen until 1919. In 1915 on the north end there was Barney Kaye's cabin, Irve and Mary Martin's fishing camp – postmaster Kiley from Grand Rapids small cabin and EJ Calley's cabin in addition to some old logging camp bunk houses. It was at Irve Martins establishment that the



Iretons stayed when they came that first year. This photograph shows what the north end of Trout Lake looked like then – with Calley's cabin on the left, postmaster Kiley's cabin and the Martin home and cabins in the middle and the Ireton's home on the hill. You can see that most of the trees are gone and small trees and scrub has begun to grow back.

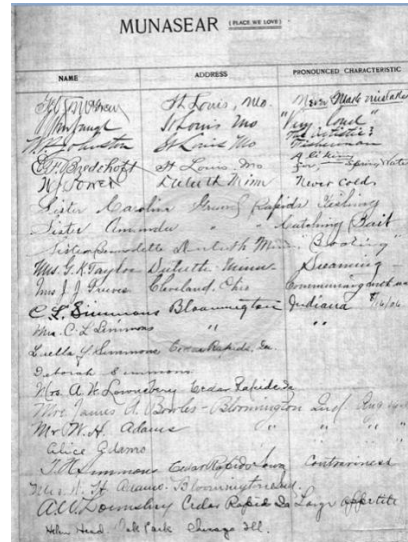


I am sure that in the future, I will share many of the other photographs in the Ireton collection – but this month, I want to talk about the guest book that came with the camp when they bought

it. Here is the cover – it is a finely made book with handmade watermarked paper inside, the camp name engraved in golden letters on the leather cover and notes inside that go back to at least 1916. The camps name was, and still is **Munasear** about which Louis M. Ireton (Susan's

grandfather), who went by “Tum” said in a 1970 talk he gave to neighbors about the history of this area: “...Munasear, which is the name that our predecessors in title bestowed upon our home on Trout Lake, means in Indian ‘place we love’.”

There are many interesting things to learn from this fascinating collection of names and comments. The first page lists 22 guest signatures, and next to most are the location they are from and a comment about their stay. On this page are listed Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Simmons (Bloomington, Ind) and Luella Simmons (Cedar Rapids, IA) and Deborah Simmons. There is also Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Lowmsbery (Cedar Rapids, IA), Alice Adams (Cedar Rapids, IA.) and Mr. W.H. Adams (Bloomington, IN). You should

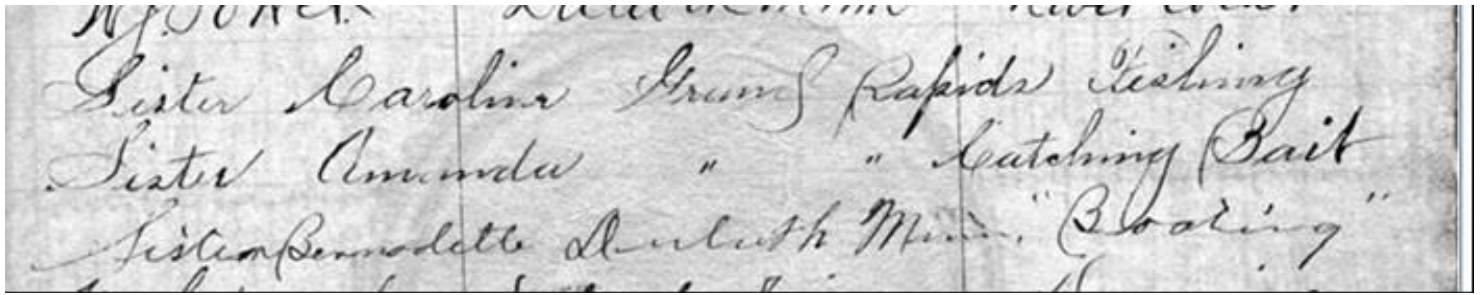


remember most of these people from last year's story about Arrowhead Point as they were all involved in the early settling and home/cabin building on Wabana.

Here is what that page looks like. In the middle of the page guests number 6, 7 and 8 are “Sister Caroline, Sister Amanda & Sister

Bernadette”. Sisters Caroline and Amanda give their address as Grand Rapids and Sister Bernadette lists Duluth. I looked for a date – and found only one on the page – three guests below the sisters – when one C.L. Simmons (more on him another time) writes 8/16/06 next to his name in the log. Assuming that the ones above are earlier, then the Sisters would have visited and signed the log in 1906 or earlier. On the next page of the newsletter is a blow up of that section of the logs page – showing what the sisters actually said. Note that for activities they listed “Fishing, Catching Bait & Boating”.

So what were three sisters from Duluth/Grand Rapids doing on the north end of Trout Lake in 1906? I wondered until I stumbled on a pretty good answer 6 months later. By way of background, last summer, Joe Waleski (caretaker at the Joyce Estate) and his wife Ruth visited our home and showed me many of the slides he has of the Joyce Estate. Joe also gave me a photocopy of the article he had written. That story originally appeared in the book **Grand Rapids Companion – 1891 – 1991**. It provided a lot of good anecdotal information on the Joyce's during his tenure there – and I wanted a better copy because there were many photo's of the inside of the furnished Joyce buildings and the copy I had was very poor. So I found and then purchased the book. I also read all of the other stories written by other long-standing members of our community who had history to share for the centennial. On page 40 I



found a little box about the early involvement of the Benedictine Sisters activities in our community – they were headquartered in Duluth for this area – and served the rural communities like Grand Rapids by establishing schools and hospitals – they did both in Grand rapids. Here is what the little box, in part, said:

<p>Benedictine Sisters. The other building purchased stood on the south side of the Mississippi River.</p> <p>When the hospital to be known as St. Benedict's was opened, five Benedictine Sisters were sent to Grand Rapids by Mother Scholastica, Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters, to open and manage the place.</p> <p>Many of the pioneer Sisters were engaged in service in Grand Rapids between 1898, when the hospital was opened, and 1912, when it was closed. Among them were some who will be remembered gratefully by their former patients. They include Sisters Simplicia, Amanda, Dolorosa, Jane and Caroline. At the Academy, the Sisters in charge were Sisters Florentine, Leonissa, Teresa and</p>	<p>Dorothy.</p> <p>No questions were asked as to the ability of the men to pay when they were brought to St. Benedict's Hospital. Quite often, they were without funds, and the labor was one of charity. As the scope of the hospital widened and its merit became better known, thousands of the men who worked in the woods bought hospital tickets, paying a small sum each month and directing the timekeeper to take the amount from their pay checks. This money from the sale of tickets financed the hospital and enabled the purchase of necessary supplies. Most every man in the camp had a hospital ticket, from the road monkey to the foreman. In some camps and with some compa-</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Continued on next page)</i></p>
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As you can see – it tells of the sister's work locally – and describes the trips they made into the woods around Grand Rapids selling hospital tickets to the lumbermen. If the lumberman purchased the ticket and became injured while working in the camp – his expenses were covered in the hospital. Notice that two of the sisters are mentioned by first name – Amanda and Caroline – just like in the guest book. Upon reading this – it jolted me to remember the same sisters who had visited Trout Lake in 1906 and went a long way towards explaining why three sisters would be in the woods and signing the guest book at Munasear. So I contacted the archivist at the convent in Duluth, who confirmed my guess and said in part in response to my correspondence:

"...thanks again for your inquiry and for sending the log book page from the lake. It really is rather charming. As to the sisters that are listed there: all three are members of the original founding group that came to Duluth from St.

Joseph MN in 1892 under the leadership of M. Scholastica Kerst to establish an independent Benedictine community.

- **Sister Bernadette** Bouchier (b. 1868, d. 1949) later, in 1919, went to Crookston to become a founder of that community, so we have no records for her.
- **Sister Caroline** Scheffold (b. 1864, d. 1916) – from a pious family – soon after coming from Wurtenberg, Germany, to settle in Stearns Co, MN entered at St. Benedicts at age 21. She volunteered to join a group and form the motherhouse in Duluth and work in the woods. She worked in the hospitals in Duluth, Grand Rapids, Crookston and then Cass Lake serving as superintendent, bookkeeper and pharmacist at various times. She would go with another Sister to the lumber camps to enjoy the beauty of the pines while selling hospital tickets and collecting for the orphans.
- **Sister Amanda** O'Connell (b. 1861, d. 1921) was born in Minneapolis in 1861, entered the convent of St. Benedict at St. Joseph and in 1877 and was one of the volunteers for the Duluth foundation in June 1892. She spent considerable time at St. Benedict's Hospital, Grand Rapids and did a great deal of soliciting and selling of hospital tickets in the lumber camps. Sister Amanda was quiet, gentle, kind and always lady-like, therefore, a favorite among the woodsmen. A Sister who companioned her on one of these collecting trips gives this description of her method: "The lumber camp in which we collected was about twenty miles west of Brainerd. We rode out and back in a caboose. It was in November, the roads were rutted and I confess I was scared, but Sister Amanda didn't mind it. The camp manager was friendly and respectful. He introduced us and our mission to the men in plaid woolen smocks and overalls and almost all of them gave something. But whether they gave or not, Sister Amanda was as gracious as a queen, she thanked them and promised to have the orphans pray for them."

(Material provided by Sister Margaret Clarke, OSB, Archivist for St. Scholastica Monastery). If you have history or photographs to share – please contact one of us at: John Zimmerman (jwzimmerjr@gmail.com or 327-3188) Roger Linder (mlinder@msn.com or 326-2266

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

APRIL 2011

*There is a lot of great material
inside, Intro letter from our
President, committee
announcements, fish ladder
update, upcoming important dates
including the IWLP Waters Summit
on May 20, 2011, and a history
article about Trout Lake circa 1906,
and much more.*

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

Saturday, May 21st

*with coffee and treats at 8:30am
and a great program with **Kent
Lederman (USFS) Chippewa
Forest Enforcement** at 9:00am
followed by our regular WCOLA
business meeting at 10:00am -
See you there!*

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION
Jean Koewler, Treasurer
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