

The Chain Letter

of the



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

May 2012

Volume 15, 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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MAY 2012 LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello members and neighbors,

The winter has flown and spring is upon us. I write today to prepare us for the first meeting of the year and this note is overdue. Busy time for me - and long story short - my laptop failed last month and by the time a replacement was here and my data found and restored - I found myself spending a week camping with friends from highschool in Maryland. That probably doesn't interest you but it helps explain why this newsletter is late and why it will be briefer than our traditional format.

Ice Out - I should start by saying to those of you who winter here - what a pleasant winter it was. And to those of you who winter elsewhere - welcome back. Ice out on Trout was very early this year - April 3. Bill Berg has been keeping records since 1992 - and he has the records kept by the Barkoffs (previous owners of Bill and Terry's home) going back to 1957. During those 54 years for which we have records - April 3rd is the earliest - beating the earliest prior two years of 2010 (April 5th) and 1998 (April 13th). As for the latest ice outs - for you history / climat buffs - those years were 1966 (May 16), 1975 (May 15) and 1996 (May 14).

Sad News - As many of you will already know, we had two friends pass away this winter. Nancy Ellsworth died February 11th and Phyllis Oliver died April 28th. We will miss them.

Fish Count - the USFS and DNR approached us again to see if we had an interest in helping with the spring spawning run - and 5 of us volunteered (thank you). But it turned out that they didn't need assistance as both offices were able to put staff on the count this year. I expect to be able to share the count and pictures at our second meeting this year.

Fish Passage and the County Rt 49 Culvert - As you know, two years ago the county and the DNR proposed two projects that would reconnect our lakes to the watershed downstream as it was prior to the loggers, and later the government, building a dam at the outlet to Wabana. Again this spring, as in 2011, several of our neighbors have taken it on themselves to write letters to lake residents and the Herald Review to express their opinions. I think our associations role should be to further community discussion and education - so I asked our programs committee to get someone who is an authority on invasives to speak with us this summer and then open the floor to members who would like to discuss this topic further. In addition, one interesting program is already set up and co-sponsored by the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP), UofM Extension, and MN DNR. The topic is **Aquatic Invasive Species – A Citizen Action Plan**. and the press release describes it by saying:

"...Have you ever wondered what you can do (or must do) to control the ever-increasing threats of aquatic

invasive species? This program is designed to answer those questions. Rich Rezanka, DNR Invasive Species Specialist, and Tony Arhart, DNR Enforcement will give an overview about the current and potential threats and the current laws involving aquatic invasive species. Dr. Mary Blickenderfer, UofM Extension Botanist, will provide hands-on identification of aquatic invasive plants and Russ Wedl, Splithand Lake Association, and Dale Hill, Turtle Lake Association will share information on how to organize citizens at the grass-roots level. Coffee and cookies will be served with a time for questions and answers. The session is free and open to the public. It will be held on Thursday, June 7th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the North Central Research & Outreach Center, UofM Ag Campus, 1861 Hwy 169 E., Grand Rapids.

Regardless of your opinion on the fish passage - invasives are a real threat to our lakes and are on everyones mind. Our most vulnerable points are the landings where boats from other lakes are put into our chain - we need to redouble our efforts at education and stay involved.

History - Susan Hawkinson and Warren Jewett donated their large (many boxes) collection of research material that was assembled in the preparation of their book **Timber Connections - The Joyce Lumber Story** to the Itasca County Historical Society (ICHS). In addition to this recent donation there is a large amount of historical information on our lakes and early life in this area held by ICHS. Some examples include the Nadine Martin Scrapbook, obituary's of residents, access to online census and other documents thru Ancestry.com, a significant collection of material from the American Girls Camp, Joyce family and compound history and logging history. If you are interested in local history and haven't visited - you should (I should disclose that I am a board member and volunteer with the ICHS). I plan on listing this material in more detail in one of my WCOLA history articles later this summer. I also hope that I can convince more of you to dig out your old photos and artifacts and let me help you preserve them (I will scan any such documents for free - returning the originals and digital copies to you) in the hope that you will allow me to share them with the WCOLA members.

2012 Meetings - You will note in the list just below - that the meeting times for our organization this summer are not what you have come to expect. I am not sure how we dropped the ball - but by the time the program committee started scheduling speakers - we found that several of the traditional third Saturday openings at the Wabana Town Hall were already taken. As a result May and June are not on the 3rd Saturday. Please put the dates on your calendar.

It will be a busy summer and the months will go by quickly as they usually do. I look forward to working together and furthering the preservation and enjoyment of Bluewater, Little Trout, Wabana, Big Trout and our community.

Sincerely, John W. Zimmerman Jr.,
President - **Wabana Chain Of Lakes Association**

Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2012

Saturday, May 12 -(coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)
9 a.m.: The program is two fold - first the programs group would like to discuss one of their programs with membership - and then Bill Berg will share his insights in wildlife and wolf legislation.
10-11 a.m. Meeting

Saturday, June 23-(coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)
9 a.m.: program to be announced
10-11 a.m. Meeting

Saturday, July 21 WCOLA Picnic

Saturday, August 18 (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)
9 a.m.: program to be announced
10-11 a.m. Meeting

Saturday, September 15 (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)
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!

Minutes from the WCOLA Meeting June 18, 2011

The Treasurer's Report:

September 17, 2011

Balance as August 17, 2011	\$ 8,798.84
Receipts:	
Dues	\$ 240.00
Total Receipts	\$ 240.00
Disbursements:	
Postmaster -\$44 stamps for one-page mailer-Membership	\$ 154.00
Walmart (Cups, napkins, name tags, coffee)	\$ 23.43
ICOLA (76 members @ \$.50)	\$ 38.00
Minnesota Waters	\$ 150.00
Grand Rapids State Bank – Debit (Check Blanks)	\$ 28.50
Total Disbursements	\$ 393.93
Checkbook Balance – August 17, 2011	\$ 8,644.91
Total Paid Households: 79	
Designated Funds:	
2011 Water Testing	\$ 3,068.00
Historical Committee	\$ 23.56
Membership Committee	\$ 82.79
Ice Cream Social	\$ 25.00

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

May 2012

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

Saturday, May 12th

*with coffee and treats at 8:30am
and a great program with Bill Berg
discussing wolf legislation 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
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