

The Chain Letter

of the



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

June 2012

Volume 15, Number 2

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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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JUNE 2012 LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello members and neighbors,

Today as I write it is almost 90 degrees outside. Garden is up, peonies just beginning to pop open, Iris in full bloom and Lillies have been open for two weeks. Hope you are headed north if you are not already here enjoying Spring. Summer is just around the corner.

To welcome Summer in again, for the third year in a row, Bill Downing has extended an invitation to join him for the Solstice - which is Thursday, June 21. You will see his invitation later in the newsletter. Thanks Bill.

With our hard copy newsletters – we included a 2012 Dues envelope – please use it to pay your membership dues before July 15th. If you get the email version of the newsletter – thank you for saving us postage and printing costs – use this reminder to send your \$30 annual membership dues to Jean at the address given on the last page of this newsletter.

Our next meeting - June 23rd -we have an exciting guest speaker covering an important topic - Aquatic Invasive Species. I know I saw several of you at the IWLP Invasives session last week as well. This is an important topic for our organization. You will see more about invasives inside this edition as we hear from a member on a successful nearby fish passage and review the information from this years fish count at the Wabana Dam and culvert.

At the September 2011 meeting we agreed to consider finding a way to allow paid up members who don't attend a meeting the ability to have input to the organizations vote. This would be on matters of significance - as defined by our by-laws and determined by the advisory committee. I am interested in your thoughts on this topic. Please see me at a meeting, or email me.

I look forward to seeing you this summer and enjoying our very special chain of lakes and community.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2012

Thursday, June 21 - 5pm - Summer Solstice dock celebration at Bill Downings on Wabana Lake

Saturday, June 23-(coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)

9 a.m.: Robert Leibfried, DNR Regional Manager for the Division of Ecological and Water Resources will give an overview of the Aquatic Invasive species program including an update on AIS issues that are prominent now.

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. Darby Nelson, author of "For Love of Lakes"
10-11 a.m. Meeting

Wednesday, September 19 – Roadside Cleanup

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

Minutes from the WCOLA Meeting September 17, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Pres. John W. Zimmerman Jr. at 10:10 am.

- Motion to adopt the Agenda was made, seconded and passed.
- Motion to adopt the Minutes for the August 2011 meeting was made, seconded and passed.
- Motion to receive the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded and passed.

New Business

- Rod Pierce is doing a study of Northerns in Little Wabana
- Bill Downing raised his concern for the Loss of Membership in the Association. He raised the question of Electronic Meetings and Voting. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Advisory discuss the issue and present a recommendation to the Association at the August 2012 meeting.
- ELECTIONS: Motion was made and seconded to elect Jean Koewler as Treasurer and Art Merrill as Secretary for the next two years. The motion passed.
- Road Clean up will take place next Wednesday at 9am. meet at the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 am

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur L. Merrill, Secretary

John Downing reported on the status of the 2011 Water Testing after the meeting for those interested.

Minutes from the WCOLA Meeting May 12, 2012

Meeting was called to order by John W. Zimmerman, Jr. President at 10:10 am. The meeting was preceded by a presentation on wolves by Bill Berg.

- It was noted that this was not an official meeting due to the fact that it had not been announced publicly two weeks prior - which our by-laws require.
- The President noted the loss of Nancy Ellsworth and Phyllis Oliver since the last meeting. Sympathy was expressed to family and friends.
- The meeting of the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership on June 7th from 6:30 pm was noted and members were urged to attend.
- Note was made of the Bluewater house which had asked for a variance in permit from the township board.
- Minutes of the September 17, 2011 were received.
- The Treasurer's Report was received.
- Membership committee noted the loss of membership and told of ways it planned to move.

Old Business:

- Road cleanup will be on May 23, 9:00 am at the Town Hall

New Business

- Suggested programs: Rod Pierce is doing a study of Northerns on Little Wabana, Darby Wilson's study of the lakes, an estate specialist who could help members with inheritance issues.
- It was suggested that members should contact the county commissioners about the culvert on County 49 and share their feelings or ask questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur L. Merrill, Secretary

The Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report - September 17, 2011 provided in the May 2012 Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report - May 12, 2012

Balance as September 16, 2011 \$ 8,644.91

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 175.00
Contribution – Historical Committee	\$ 25.00
Given in honor of Phyllis Oliver	
Total Receipts	\$ 200.00

Disbursements:

Sally Wilbur – Ice Cream Social	\$ 24.98
½ paid by Wabana Township	

Total Disbursements \$ 24.98

Checkbook Balance – May 10, 2012 \$ 8,819.93

Total Paid Households: 12

Designated Funds:

2011 Water Testing -	\$3,068.00
Historical Committee -	\$48.56
Membership Committee -	\$82.79

Fish Passage - Continued. As you know, there has been quite a bit of discussion by this Association on pro's and con's of constructing a fish passage at the outflow of our chain of lakes. It has raised strong feelings of both support and opposition. DNR funding last year was turned down - it went to projects better supported by their communities - which actually included fish passages elsewhere amongst those funded. At this point in time there is no plan we are aware of to build a passage on our chain. The county is moving ahead with replacing the culvert under CR49. I am sure that will mean detours for those of us located north and trying to get past this point into Grand Rapids. Not sure how long it will take. As I have stated in the past - our organizations role is to determine how reconnecting to the watershed would benefit our chain's health as well as become informed as to the downsides - including risks from aquatic invasive species (AIS) if there are any. In this edition - I am including three related articles which follow immediately.

Two AIS presentations have been made available to WCOLA members. The first, ***Aquatic Invasives - A Citizens Action Plan*** was held by the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership organization last week. It was advertised in the last newsletter and attended by several of our members

and me. It was excellent, hands on focused, and full of information that will benefit WCOLA. The second session is the program offered at our next WCOLA meeting. The details are provided above in this newsletter.

So What Is a Fish Passageway? - By Bill Berg

A fish passageway, or fish ladder, lets fish and other aquatic organisms travel unrestricted past some obstacle,



such as a dam. The two photos show an upstream and downstream view of the fish passageway installed at the



outlet of Hartley Lake, on the W. Fork of the Prairie River, in summer 2011. The Hartley dam is nearly the same height, type, and vintage as that on Wabana Lake. Over a distance of about 60 yards, the streambed is gradually built-up towards the dam. Then several rows of boulders are strategically placed on the streambed to allow fish to swim over and around them, and then across the dam. The Hartley project has 12 rows of boulders. If such a project were installed on Wabana Creek, it would look almost the same as the Hartley site. Earlier in spring, large Northerns could be seen traversing through the system.

Fish Sampling at the Wabana Dam

The DNR started sampling in March 2012, three weeks earlier than normal. They sampled 5 Walleye the first week of netting indicating they had set their nets in plenty of time. They ended up stopping early again this year while there was still very strong activity. Heavy catches of Suckers and the risk of Walleye dying in nets filled with Suckers caused

them to pull their nets. Even so, on April 25th - the last day of netting - they got 17 new Walleye. Here are two pictures from this year's sampling:



And here are the two years of sampling data - both showing significant attempts by fish swimming upstream to the culvert / dam:

Row Labels	N.Pike	suckers	walleye	Grand Total
2011	58	451	288	797
DOWN	47	448	241	736
UP	11	3	47	61
2012	73	298	179	550
DOWN	62	298	153	513
UP	11		26	37
Grand Total	131	749	467	1347

As Jeff Tilma said in an earlier note to me: "The bulk of the Walleye we sample are migrating up to the culvert from downstream." Down means caught in nets below culvert - up is caught in nets above.

Summer Solstice Observation--From Bill Downing - Every year I have said in the Newsletter that on Summer Solstice evening (June 21st) I would be sitting on my dock from about 5 or 6, with an appropriate beverage and munchies conveniently at hand, hoping to greet my friends for a quiet observation of this momentous evening. For the past two years the weather has not cooperated well with our plans, and we all have had to adjourn to our house and/or Studio to continue the greeting of Summer, surrounded by various finger foods and the necessary herbs for the Solstice. Some have come by car, finding a place to park, and some have come by boat. (Notably, John and Alida Zimmerman boated through wind, waves, and threatening skies, all the way from and to the north end of Big Trout Lake!) If the mood hits me I may repeat last year's deviled eggs. If you want to bring something, it will sure not be refused, but it's not pot-luck, just quiet fun, as a contrast to the boom-boom of the upcoming Fourth of July.

Semi-annual Roadside Cleanup – Barbara Zimmer - On May 23rd WCOLA members volunteered to spend the

morning walking the roadsides picking up trash in our township. We managed to fill about two dozen bags with debris. Thanks to the County for vests, bags and free pickup. Thanks to the following members for their time and energy: Pat and Dick Chambers, Andrew Harrington, Erin Kaukis, Jim and Gail Olijnek, Barbara Zimmer, Denny and Jean Koewler, John Zimmerman, and George and Mary Klacen. We will repeat the day on Sept.19th. Mark your calendars, get some exercise and help your community.

History - Anton Haglee/Homesteader – “According to a newspaper account, Anton Haglee homesteaded on the thoroughfare between Trout and Interlaken (Little Trout) in 1903. Anton had a rather difficult time while living here



because of a lack of roads, and his place was north of the creek. Once the road to the area was constructed he still could not reach his place by automobile because there was no bridge over the creek. Nevertheless, he was able to construct a fine log home and provide for his family. Also according to the article, ‘Mr. Haglee has a fine orchard, some of the fruit are from seedlings which he developed himself, and an apple thus produced is of good size and excellent quality. Anton, 85 he is known by all the folks around the lake is an old timer, hospitable, a good worker in community affairs and has served several times as town officer.’ The writer perhaps colored the truth in his praises of the developments on Trout Lake. Anton’s home was a log cabin of modest size, functional if not fancy. The apple orchard consisted of a few trees of the crab apple varieties, perhaps a bit larger fruit than normal, but were excellent for canning and jellies. Anton had cleared a small area for a garden and kept some sheep. When he was having problems with bear bothering the sheep he moved them out to a small island in the bay to the west of his home and built a small shed to house them. The Haglee home was located on the top of a hill, a considerable distance from the lake, a practice not normally done in that day and age because water had to be carried from the lake for drinking, cooking and all other uses. Nadine Martin speculated that Anton built on the hill because the spot reminded him of his native Norway.” (Above text from Keith W. Matson, Deer River

Ranger District, 1984, Anton Haglee left and Irve Martin right in photo from N. Martin Scrapbook)

The Martins knew Anton and his family well. Nadine Martin went to school with the Haglees on the north end of Trout



Lake. Here is a page from her scrapbook next to which Nadine wrote "...school held in our bunk house - 5 Martins, 2 Haglees" (scrapbook held by Itasca County Historical Society). I wrote in an earlier newsletter article about the Barber family who homesteaded the south side of the channel - where the Netts live today. You may remember about Barber being chased up the tree by the bear or being shot to death coming home one night by boat as he landed near the channel. Well, Anton Haglee was with him in the boat when he was killed. The newspaper mentioned Anton in their write-up and so did Louis Ireton, who first visited Trout lake as a boy in 1915 and whose son and granddaughter still live here in the summers. Tum (as Louis was known) related in an oral history in 1970 that "...Anton was in the same boat when the shots were fired but with his woodman’s instinct slid over the side of the boat into the water and went across the thoroughfare as a beaver would and up the hill to his own home which was on the right." Tum went on to say "...Anton was from Sweden. He arrived here in the early 1900’s; and he homesteaded the tract at the top of the hill. He was blessed with 8 or 10 children, as most of the families up here were, and spent most of his years, early years in trapping. Many is the time I listened with enthusiasm to his tales of spending the night out in the woods at 40 below zero with nothing but a fire and a log between him and the fire to reflect the heat. He took me on a canoe trip in 1920 and proved to be the woodman which everyone knew he was.” It is from the Ireton guestbook that we learn that Anton had been "...sick for months with pernicious anemia - had died and was buried June 1, 1935 in Grand Rapids".

Anton was in the 1910, 1920 and 1930 US Census and we can learn about him that way. In 1910 he was 38, married, could read and write and was born in Norway as were both his parents. He immigrated to the US in 1888 and listed his occupation as "Machinist - Railroad". He was married to Engee (Inga) and had two sons ages 3 and 5. By 1920 Anton was working as a Woodsman in lumber camps, he owned his own home with no mortgage, and he now had 4 children including one daughter. In the 1930 census he

listed his occupation as "farmer" on a dairy farm and that he was married at age 25.



Alida and I hiked up to his old homestead - which is still in remarkable shape though going fast given it has been uncared for for many years. Here is the home as you



approach from the south. Below is a shot inside. It is one

room with a clapboard porch that was added onto the front but which has fallen to the ground. Then there is a picture of the front of the building where you can see the decaying porch wall to the right and the roof laying on the ground under the snow.

Finally, there is a shot of that same front wall, you can just see the door to the left, with Inga Haglee showing off her gun and the pelts of many little critters they have trapped and skinned (photo from Nadine Martin scrapbook). I hope you have enjoyed this story on yet another early settler who homesteaded with his family on our lakes. Please dig into what you have - and let me know



what other stories there are to share from our history. I would be glad to help you preserve any documents, photo's or histories you may have.



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

June 2012

*Our Next Association Meeting will
be at Wabana township hall:
Saturday, June 23rd
with coffee and treats at 8:30am
and a great program with Robert
Leibfried, DNR Regional Manager
for the Division of Ecological and
Water Resources - who will give an
overview of the Aquatic Invasive
Species program and prominent
issues 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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