

The Chain Letter

of the



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

June 2013

Volume 16, Number 1

WCOLA - OFFICERS

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Treasurer: Jean Koewler 326-4302 djkoewler@q.com

Secretary: Arthur L. Merrill 327-5492 artgaro@paulbunyan.net

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (includes officers above)

Susan Lick (Programs) 326-6837 SusanLick@msn.com

Roger Linder (History/Picnic) 326-2266 mlinder@msn.com

Gib Willson (Nominating) 326-3257 willsons@paulbunyan.net

Mark Zimmerman (Env.) 326-0420 markzimmerman72@gmail.com

The hospitality and Membership committee lead positions are open - anyone with an interest in serving for this year and next please see John or Gib...

Publisher: John Zimmerman Jr. 327-3188 jwzimmerjr@gmail.com

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,
mminer@minergroup.com

CELEBRATE SUMMER AT THE LAKE!!!

Come to an old-fashioned picnic for all residents of the Chain of Lakes.

Sponsored by WCOLA, you are invited to bring your family and neighbors to the Town Hall Pavilion on July 20 starting at 4 p.m. for an outdoor cook-out, with games, entertainment and supper.

Everything will be provided - no pot-luck and no business meeting - just FUN!

JUNE 2013 LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello members and neighbors,

After an excellent but very long winter - with lots of snow, short days, long nights and plenty of cold - life around our four lakes has begun to show signs of spring. This year, "Ice Out" was the latest it has ever been since we started keeping track of such things on the north end of Trout Lake. The ice finally gave up on May 17th. The prior record for Trout was May 16, 1966. That is a big swing in weather - as the earliest ice out since the 1950's was just one year ago on April 3, 2012!

You will notice a new committee chair listed above. Ken Zimmer after many years as Environment Chair stepped down and Mark Zimmerman graciously volunteered. Similarly, Lloyd Adams asked to be replaced as Secretary and Sherry Miner has accepted. In addition, while continuing to serve as History Chair - Roger Linder volunteered to put a team together and make sure we had a picnic this year. On behalf of the whole organization, and for myself personally I would like to extend thanks to Ken and Lloyd for all they have done and to Sherry, Mark and Roger for stepping forward to keep the effort going. THANK YOU as well to all of you who continue to serve in positions from last year.

A couple of interesting things on the WEB you might want to check out over the summer. At our own WCOLA web site (www.wcola.org) you can find newsletters back to 1999 and at the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP) web site (<http://limnoweb.eeob.iastate.edu/itascalakes/>) you can find water quality results for 200 Itasca County lakes - and a link to the DNR lakefinder info for each of those lakes.

Finally - as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter - we are going to have a great old-fashioned picnic July 20th. Roger and his picnic committee have lots of good things planned and more on the way. Block the date on your calendar and mention it to neighbors even if they are not WCOLA members because both members and residents on the chain of lakes are all invited. You don't have to bring anything to eat - all will be provided. Just come and have fun, get to know your neighbors better and enjoy good food and entertainment.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2013

Wednesday, June 4 - Advisory Committee (5 p.m.)

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

9 a.m. Bill Brink - Firewise Program

10-11 a.m. Meeting

Wednesday, July 3 - Advisory Committee (5 p.m.)

Saturday, July 20 Picnic - 4:00 p.m. - Wabana Town Hall

Wednesday, August 7 - Advisory Committee (5 p.m.)

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

9 a.m. TBD

10-11 a.m. Meeting

Wednesday, September 4 - Advisory Committee (5 p.m.)
Saturday, September 21 (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)

9 a.m. TBD

10-11 a.m. Meeting

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

MINUTES - WCOLA MEETING MAY 18, 2013

The gathering began with a Coffee Hour at 8:30 am and was followed by a Program on Water in Itasca County by David Lick.

The Meeting was called to Order by President John Zimmerman. A Point of Order was called and Arthur Merrill nominated John Zimmerman as President and Sherry Miner as Vice-President for the years 2013 and 2014. The motion was made and carried unanimously, to elect them.

Pres. Zimmerman welcomed the assembled members and noted the dates for the following meetings of the association - June 15, July 20, August 17 and September 21. He noted that Gib Willson had accepted the position of Chair of Nominations and Roger Linder will coordinate the picnic in July.

Bud and Mary Lou Sage accepted the responsibility of the opening coffee time for the association meetings. It was noted that the association needed to revisit the Water and Land Management Document which had earlier been adopted.

The Minutes of Sept. 15, 2012 were approved by a motion which was seconded and passed.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by motion, seconded and passed. Jean Koewler noted that as of this date 22 households have already paid their 2013 dues. The Audit of the Treasurer's books was accepted by motion made, seconded and passed.

Ken Zimmer reported for the Environment Committee. He noted the need to get lead out of fishing tackle. Note: One can find non-lead tackle on line. Also he noted that on the south end of Wabana there are four sets of solar panels - Friedlieb, Lick, Zimmer and Conover.

Gib Willson reported for the Nominating Committee. Mark Zimmerman accepted the chair of the Environment Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bud Sage reported that Firewise will be present and have a short presentation at the June Meeting. It is expected that there will be a pickup in Wabana Township in August.

Roadside Cleanup was announced by Barbara Zimmer for May 22, 2012 at 9:00 am and also for September 25, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Zimmerman reported that the magazine Cabin Life would like to publish a brief description of the Association. It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee would review the submission to the magazine. Passed.

It was noted that the Mississippi Headwaters Watershed Project will hold meetings: June 4 at Pike Bay and June 6 at Deer River.

Advisory Committee will have its meetings on the First Wednesday of each month, May – September at 5:00 pm. This was made as a motion, seconded and passed.

It was also moved that we elect all standing committee chairs and officers to be members of the Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

It was noted that due to the change of ownership that it would not be possible for one of three portions of the Shoreland Restoration Project to be completed.

Jack Velzen announced that he had designed and had samples made of T-shirts, long sleeved T-shirts, Sweatshirts, and Hooded Sweatshirts. The Advisory Board will bring a recommendation/action to the June 15th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent. Respectfully submitted,
Arthur L. Merrill, Secretary

LOON COUNT - 2012 & TEN YEAR RESULTS

The 10th annual loon count was conducted on July 23, 2012 by the same faithful 4, Ken Zimmer, Paul Oberg, Dennis Koewler and Roger Linder. They were ably assisted by Jim Edwards and Doug Griffin. As usual Denny with his eagle eyes covered Wakeman Bay and Blue Water on his own, Ken needed spotting help from Jim Edwards to cover Wabana but age is showing and it took 3 (Paul, Doug and Roger) to get the job done especially on Trout where 16 loons were mixed in with a flock of 26 gulls. The south end of Wabana, Birch Bay, is the home of a chick for the first time in many years. The chick appears to be much younger than all the others we observed. Our detailed reports are sent to the regional DNR and are included in the county and state reports. The loon monitoring report which counts specific lakes has shown a stable population in the state and county for the past 20 plus years. As we reported last year we continue to explore the possibility of loon platforms. The question is do we have enough sheltered bays that will provide the privacy needed by nesting pairs. They don't mind if they hear each other but they don't want to see each other... The following are our counts for the past 10 years.

<u>LAKE</u>	<u>ADULTS</u>	<u>CHICKS</u>
Bluewater	3	2
Trout	32	2

Little Trout	2	0
Wabana	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	55	10
History		
2011	64	6
2010	51	5
2009	62	2
2008	68	4
2007	70	6
2006	45	0
2005	45	8
2004	49	7
2003	<u>54</u>	<u>9</u>
Ten Year Average	52.3	5.7

**WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES TREASURER'S REPORT
MAY 2013**

Balance - September 8, 2012	\$11,569.80
Receipts:	
Dues	\$ 240.00
Total Receipts	\$ 240.00
Disbursements:	
Total Disbursements	\$ 0.00
Checkbook Bal – May 17, 2013	\$11,809.80
Total Paid 2013 Households: 11	
Designated Funds:	
2011 Water Testing -	\$3,068.00
Historical Committee	\$ 48.56
Membership Committee -	\$ 50.42

HISTORY SECTION - THE WAKEMANS OF WABANA

"The Wakeman family has been traced to 1593...so far. John Wakeman moved his part of the family to what is now Connecticut in the Americas by 1625...Wakemans served in both the French & Indian War and Civil War as both officers and enlisted men.



Shown above is Loretta Wakeman at their farm.

Lloyd Wakeman moved his family to Wisconsin in 1855. Lloyd died in the Civil War in Georgia. William Wakeman (Lloyd's son) moved to Minnesota about 1880 and Itasca County in 1898. William homesteaded along what is now Wakeman Bay Road."

This is how Jim Olijnek begins his history of the Wakeman family on Wabana - the result of interviews with the family. The rest of Jim's story tells a lot more about what the Wakemans did once they settled here at the turn of the century including a family tree and period photographs of life on the chain of lakes in years gone by. A couple of samples are shown below:



Frank Wakeman and others-Photo appeared at the Chicago Convention Of the American Farm Bureau Federation



Shown to the left is Myrna Wakeman Lorenz at the homestead on Wabana

Jim's entire write-up (of which this is only a small

part) with much more on the families local history, their family tree and a dozen additional photographs is on display at the Wabana Township Hall in the WCOLA history display in the back corner of the building.

JOYCE'S POINT - INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS

Agnes Blackmore shared a couple of her family photographs taken during their many visits to the Joyce Estate over the last 40 years...I thought it was interesting in



that they show how the property has continued to change even in more recent history after the death of BC Joyce, the sale to the Nature Conservancy and finally the stewardship of the Forest

Service which I believe began in 1974.

This picture on the previous page is labeled "**Tea House and Sauna**" and was taken August 1, 1979. In it you can see the Tea House on the top floor as it was when the estate was acquired by the Forest Service and as many of us remember it from that time period. The young lady is standing next to the open Sauna door on the first floor.



The second picture of the Tea House - shown above, was taken 20 years later in 1999 after the Forest Service had "hardened" the location by tearing down or selling off most of the original buildings and making the remaining 4 easy to maintain and less prone to vandalism. When Agnes sent this photo along it was aptly labeled "**Staircase to the missing Tea House!**"

The family made at least one trip back to the estate in the time period between these two shots of the Tea



House...visiting in 1986 and recording the Observatory or as many called it - the Gazebo...precariously perched high on the south side of the hill overlooking a southern view to "Peggy's Point" and on down the lake. If you go back and look at the WCOLA newsletters from last year you will find a more recent picture - taken by the historical society and

preserved in the library of congress. It too is the Gazebo - but by the time they got around to taking those photographs - all that was left was the floor - the rest had fallen over and mostly down the hill.

Thanks to both Jim Olijnek and Agnes Blackmore for sharing the history they collected with the rest of us on the WCOLA membership list.

If any other member has something they would like to share - either a story to tell or pictures to make copies of - please contact Roger Linder or myself at the address/phone given in the header of this newsletter.

ITASCA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As a final note - you should know that the Itasca County Historical Society (ICHS) - home of many of the relics that have been presented in our WCOLA newsletter in the past - has moved from the old school to a new building of their own and is fundraising to help continue to preserve the fascinating history of our community.

Their collection includes many thousands of items - but of particular note for us:

- relics from the **American Girls Camp** (Mildred Sebo) that was located for many years on Balgillow Island in Wabana Lake
- the **Nadine Martin scrapbook** - with history, letters and hundreds of photographs collected by Nadine over her life while living at the north end of Trout Lake
- the notes, photographs and research that went into making the book **Timber Connections - The Joyce Lumber Story** and donated by the authors
- as well as early land, rail, timber and census records that directly involve the lands surrounding Bluewater, Trout, Little Trout and Wabana Lakes

I mention this because you might want to visit them in their new home and see some of the local history collection beyond what has appeared in our newsletter. I also told Lilah Crowe - their executive director and a friend that I would make you all aware of the partnership between the Historical Society and WCOLA. I met them while digging up history that has appeared in this newsletter and now I am on their board of directors and volunteer my time there helping them preserve documents and artifacts. Every time I take a break from work there and look around at the material they house - I find something of interest about our community and our history. You would enjoy meeting Lilah and visiting as well. They are at 201 South Pokegama Ave, Grand Rapids, MN and they are doing a great job making sure that our children and grandchildren will be able to experience what we grew up with here in Itasca County.

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

JUNE 2013

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

Saturday, June 15th.

*There will be coffee and treats at
8:30am and a great program with
Bill Brink. Bill will give a talk on
the **Firewise Program** including
the great work done cleaning up
last year and the actions planned
for 2013 for membership. This will
be 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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