

The Chain Letter

of the



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

Aug/Sept 2013

Volume 16, Number 32

WCOLA - OFFICERS

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

Vice President: Sherry Miner 326-0589 sjminer797@msn.com

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

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

JULY 2013 LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello members and neighbors,

As we announced at the last meeting, our executive committee (with additional members) has agreed to spend the off season working on a review of how we are organized and will make a formal suggestion for members to consider at one of the first two meetings in the 2014 season. This review grew out of looking at other lake associations - and thinking about our own membership and meeting organization. The core of the proposal so far is as follows:

- Beef up the committee structure and add committees
- Continue with a strong officer structure
- Together the officers & committee chairs would be 10-12 people - maybe more - and would be the WCOLA board and would do all routine WCOLA business...significant items that would require all members / community members input would be handled with a special set of communications and meetings as required
- Have the board do all the business meetings - as many as necessary to do the organizations business - 4-6 meetings a year all year long (with electronic participation to allow non year round members to play active roles on the committees / officer roles)
- Eliminate the Saturday business meetings / replaced with annual member business meeting and others called if/as required
- Focus the general membership activity around social events / programs (learning relevant content like we have always had - though perhaps in a different format)
- Have our newsletter expanded from 4-6 pages to a dozen - 2 or 3 times a year - mail hardcopy to members as well as community members. It becomes the primary way WCOLA ensures good communication vs the prior Saturday business meetings. This is also a way, in response to the newsletter, to seek member and community member input for our board.
- Beef up the other communications - web, email blasts, personal visits to new members, etc.
- Have a major spring/early summer and an end of summer/early fall social event - still discussing members only / all community involvement but at least one will likely be open to all similar to how our picnic was done this summer.
- Have 3-5 additional smaller social events - scattered thru the year...thoughts discussed so far

include continuing the solstice event if the Downing's are willing, a boat in meet / picnic, something having to do with snowmobiles, meeting at a restaurant during the winter, etc.

- WCOLA will need at least one time each year to have a business meeting where all members are invited - officers will need to be elected and there are other things which will require the attention of all voting members from time to time (501c3 status, bylaw changes are both examples) as well as this gives all members an open forum.

The officers, committee chairs and members working on this project are all doing good work and I wanted to say thank you to them for taking this on and putting in the effort and creativity. As a team, we are sure there will be other thoughts that come out of our work - and if you have a reaction to what you have read here or heard at our last meeting or just want to show support or give input - please write to any one of the officers whose emails are listed in the newsletter.

This will be the last newsletter this year and I hope to see all of you at our final 2013 meeting or the Fall Roadside Cleanup. I wish all of you a healthy and fun fall, winter and spring and will look forward to reconnecting in 2014 as the summer begins.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2013

Saturday, September 21 (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)
9 a.m. ***Eric Ahlstrom, Itasca Community***

College Water Lab; 10-11 a.m. Meeting

Wednesday, September 25 - Fall Roadside Cleanup
- meet at Wabana Town Hall at 9:00a.m.

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

MINUTES - WCOLA MEETING August 17, 2013

Meeting was preceded by a Program by Mary Blickennderfer on Invasive Species - She spoke about and had the participants identify 4 vegetative invasive species

- Purple Loosestrife
- Flowering Rush
- Eurasian milfoil
- Curley leaf pond weed

Meeting was called to order at 10:20 am by President John W. Zimmerman, Jr.

John welcomed those present and thanked those who has worked on the Summer Solstice party by Bill Downing, the July Picnic headed by Roger Linder, and the WCOLA T-shirts project.

The Minutes of June15, 2013 were adopted by motion, seconded and passed.

The Treasurer's report was not available.

Bud Sage reported on the Firewise Program. They picked up 12 loads of debris (1 load = 5 tons). There were 18 recipients of the program. The program is funded for 2014. People were reminded to track their hours so we continue to qualify for the program.

Gib Willson reported on some of the ideas for a revised organization of WCOLA. He indicated the following possibilities:

- Eliminate the traditional Saturday meetings
- Expand the Board and have it meet 6-7 times a year, doing the business of WCOLA
- Revamp the newsletter, sending to all the Lakes, 3-4 times a year
- Committees function for the association
- Fall Annual Meeting
- Increase social activities and Educational Program meetings

There are currently 85 paid up members - about a third of the estimated 232 properties on our lakes

Barbara Zimmer reminded us that there will be a Road Cleanup on Sept, 25th, 2013 starting at 9:00 am. Materials for the pick up will be supplied.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arthur L. Merrill, Secretary

**WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES TREASURER'S REPORT
AUGUST 17, 2013**

Balance –June 14, 2013
\$11,974.57

Receipts:	
Dues	\$ 2,010.00
Contributions	\$ <u>40.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 2,070.00

Disbursements:

Conservation Minnesota membership renewal	\$	100.00
Treasure Bay Printing		
July newsletter	\$	33.65
Postage	\$	37.18
Picnic Expenses	\$	<u>374.52</u>
L.W. Sage -	\$	54.28
Jim Olijnek -	\$	109.81
Roger Linder -	\$	210.43

Total Disbursements \$ 545.35

Balance – August 14, 2013 \$13,499.22

Total Paid Households 91

Designated Funds:

2014 Water Testing	\$3,068.00
Historical Committee	\$48.56
Membership Committee	\$50.42

T- SHIRT SALES REPORT

The t-shirt sale has been a tremendous success. Jack Velzen offered all of us something that was obviously appreciated - as the numbers below will show.

There were 118 shirts ordered and almost all have been delivered. There were a few extras / samples which we thought the Assoc. could use as "Thank you Gifts" for our program presenters. When collection and delivery are complete, and Jack has been paid, WCOLA will have made approximately \$800.00.

Thank you to everyone who placed an order and supported The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association! We will consider / hope to be able to do this or something like it, next year.

Alida Zimmerman,

WCOLA PICNIC REPORT

A chain of lakes picnic sponsored by WCOLA was held on the 20th of July. A great turn out, (130 registered) great weather, and a lot of hard work by the committee and volunteers resulted in a very successful gathering. A communication plan which included info in the news letter, e-mails, and postcards (contributed by Treasure Bay) to lakeshore owners

along with games, and the food provided helped to make it a success. The budget of \$400.00 was approved by our steering committee, and the final total spent was \$375.00. Not wanting to run short of food we did end up with excess hot dogs and buns which were donated to the food shelf. It's not easy to estimate consumption with all the variables of weather etc. Many thanks to the committee members. Jim and Gail Olijnek, Jean and Dennis Koewler, Bud Sage, Doug Griffin, Kathleen Willson, and to all helpers, and attendees for making it a success!

Roger Linder, Picnic Chairman

WCOLA Paid Memberships -

FirstName	LastName	Lake	Paid
Ted	Ellsworth		2014
Don & Michele	Greiner	Bluewater	2014
John & Karen	Lukens	Wabana	2014
Kurt & Lavonne	Thompson	Bluewater	2014
John & Alida	Zimmerman, Jr.	Trout	2014
Jill M.	Acheson	Bluewater	2013
Lloyd	Adams	Wabana	2013
James & Marjorie	Bekkedahl	Bluewater	2013
Craig & Cindy	Bender	Wabana	2013
Duane & Anne E.	Benson	Bluewater	2013
Jim & Sue	Bergan	Bluewater	2013
Agnes	Blackmore	Wabana	2013
William & Jeannette	Booth L.	Wabana	2013
Mary Frances & Bill	Bottoms, Jr.	Bluewater	2013
Charles	Bradford	Trout	2013
Elizabeth Birch	Bunge	Wabana	2013
Dan & Jeanne	Burke	Wabana	2013
Gary & Carol	Burkholder	Wabana	2013
Raymond & Mary	Carlson	L. Wabana	2013
Richard & Patricia	Chambers	Wabana	2013
Warren & Kay	Chapman	Wabana	2013
Stanley & Mary Lee	Craig	Wabana	2013
Clinton & Stacey	Deans	Wabana	2013
John & Marcia	Downing	Wabana	2013
William	Downing	Wabana	2013
Jim & Ann	Edwards	Wabana	2013
Patricia	Fischer	Trout	2013
Ardwin J.	Fleischhacker	Wabana	2013
Eric & Jan	Fredbeck	Wabana	2013
Gordon & Lynette	Fuller	Wabana	2013
John & Martha Ann	Gettinger	Wabana	2013
Rev. George &			

Lou Ellen	Gilbertson	L. Wabana	2013
Gail Otteson & Michael	Goldberg	L. Wabana	2013
Doug & Kathy	Griffin	Wabana	2013
Louis & Janeen	Gueltzow	Wabana	2013
Jessica Sedivy	Gunderson		2013
Vicky & Rick	Harding	Trout	2013
Cress & Susannah	Hart	Wabana	2013
Jack & Donna	Hartung	Wabana	2013
Louis	Ireton	Trout	2013
Dave	Johnson	Wabana	2013
Jeff & Linda	Jorgenson	Wabana	2013
Rex & Melanie	Kastner	Trout	2013
Erik & &rew	Kaukis	Bluewater	2013
Don & Fay	Kl&e	Pickerel	2013
Richard & Dorothy	Klinger	Wabana	2013
Dennis & Jean	Koewler	Wabana	2013
Danielle	Larsen	Wabana	2013
Jerald E. & Emma J.	Larson	Wabana	2013
Juan & Christina	Lazo	Wabana	2013
Dave & Sue	Lick	Wabana	2013
Roger & Nancy	Linder	Wabana	2013
William H. & Kathryn J.	Linder	Bluewater	2013
Patrick B. & Jackie C.	Loney	Wabana	2013
Evelyn	Maddaus	Wabana	2013
Mark & Kathy	McCullough	Wabana	2013
Steve & Jean	Melin	Wabana	2013
John & Carolyn	Merkel	Trout	2013
Margaret Z. Morris & Arthur L.	Merrill	Wabana	2013
Matthew & Loree	Miltich	Clearwater	2013
Jon & Pamela	Miner	Wabana	2013
Mark	Miner	Wabana	2013
Sherry	Miner	Wabana	2013
Lynn & Tim	Moratzka	Trout	2013
Dr. Richard & Kathleen	Nelson	Wabana	2013
David & Judy	Nybakken	Bluewater	2013
Gary & Kim	Oja	Wabana	2013
Jim & Gail	Olijnek	Wabana	2013
Marvin & Mary	Ott	W.Twsp	2013
Kay	Owen	Wabana	2013
Paul & Toni	Palecek	Bluewater	2013
Mark & Renae	Rasmusson	Wabana	2013
Steven	Ribar	Wabana	2013
Catherine	Rudolph	Wabana	2013
Bill & Diane	Rutherford	Bluewater	2013
L. W. "Bud" & Mary Lou	Sage	Bluewater	2013

William & Sally	Schwartz		2013
Wayne	Sherer	Wabana	2013
Dara Wolf & Doug	Skelton	Trout	2013
John	Soll	Wabana	2013
Joe & Martha	Stevens	Bluewater	2013
Dave & Barbara	Stuart, M.D.	Bluewater	2013
Sylvia	Troumbly	L. Wabana	2013
Ted and Swanny	Voneida	Bluewater	2013
Jack & Sally	Velzen	Wabana	2013
Pamela Wassberg	Whittenbury	L. Trout	2013
Amy Luke & Jeff	Wick	Wabana	2013
Merrill	Widmark	Wabana	2013
Sally & George	Wilbur	Wabana	2013
Michael & Barbara	Wilkus	W & BWtr	2013
Gib & Kathleen	Willson	Wabana	2013
William J. & Donna M.	Wolf, Jr.	Trout	2013
Ken & Lisa	Yurrick	Pickerel	2013
Ken & Barbara	Zimmer, Jr.	Wabana	2013
Mark W. & Alexandra	Zimmerman	Trout	2013

ANNUAL LOON COUNT

The 11th annual loon count was conducted on July 24th by Roger, Paul, Denny, Ken and Jim (last names are withheld to protect their privacy). The count showed a new high for adults at 86, the previous high was in 2007 at 70. The low occurred in the years 2005/6 at 45. The 8 chicks counted were above the 5.7 average and just short of the record 9 in 2003. A good year despite the chicks lost on Bluewater and the south end of Wabana due to predators. Over the years the adults seem to be coming more comfortable with humans and watercraft. Swimmers have come up faced to face with birds and slow moving and fishing boats seemed in many cases to be ignored.

The 2013 count is as follows:

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Chicks</u>
Trout	43	2
Little Trout	1	0
Wabana	36	6
Bluewater	6	0
Total	86	8
Ten year average	56.3	5.7



For an idea what early travel was like - and what the area roads were before we thought they were "difficult" - here is an early photo given to me by Clara Pearson, widow of Bud Pearson, who was one of the sons of Charlie Pearson. Charlie is shown above in the center with Charles Forrest (L) and Al Rucker (R) - the photo is labeled "STUCK IN MUD BETWEEN CLEAR WATER CREEK AND HANSEN LAKE WITH AL WILLIAMS HUDSON CAR - PRE 1915..."



This is a 1972 St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press article entitled "Charlie Pearson, Legend of Itasca County". Charlie owned all the land around Sand Lake, just northeast of Trout Lake and settled early and ran a resort with the help of his wife and many children. Here is another early photo Clara Pearson shared with me - showing Charlie Pearson's Home and Lodge on Sand Lake as it looked long ago.

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

Aug/Sept 2013

*The next event is our final meeting
for this year - at the Wabana Town
Hall on **Saturday, Sept 21st.**
There will be coffee and treats at
8:30am and a great program with
**Eric Ahlstrom, Itasca Community
College Water Lab** beginning 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
32040 Wakeman Bay Trail
Grand Rapids, MN 55744