

# The Chain Letter

of the



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

## June 2015

Volume 18, Issue 1

### WCOLA – OFFICERS

**President: John Zimmerman Jr.**  
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398-0658 [sjminer797@msn.com](mailto:sjminer797@msn.com)

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**Secretary: Louie Gueltzow**  
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### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Susan Lick** (Communications)

**Roger Linder** (Historical)

**Mark Zimmerman** (Environmental)

**Doug Griffin** (Government Liason)

**Sherry Miner/Roger Linder** (Social)

**John Zimmerman Jr.** (Business)

**Bud Sage** (Township Liaison)

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Visit our web site [www.wcola.org](http://www.wcola.org)  
Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner,  
[mminer@minergroup.com](mailto:mminer@minergroup.com)

### LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

June 11, 2015

Trout Lake, MN

Hello Members, Neighbors and Friends;

Since seeing you all last season, we had a great fall. It was a slow beginning to winter with little snow but lots of cold. All the news was about the pounding the east coast was taking with TV pictures of people jumping off roofs into outrageous snow banks as storm after storm flew over us and dumped all the precipitation on the eastern seaboard. We got cold and lake ice set up quickly. Trout Lake froze over on November 28th. Thanks to Bill and Terry Berg's data about Trout Lake, we have information back to 1993. It shows a range from freeze over at the earliest of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to the latest of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1998. In 17 of the 22 years freeze over occurred in the second or third week of December. As a result, Ice Out was early happening on April 17<sup>th</sup>. A real plus of the cold weather and the lack of snow cover is the very slow beginning of the mosquito population. So far, the dragonflies have very little to eat.

Our Wabana Chain of Lakes Association season is off to a good start. Many of you know we held our kickoff social event at Wa-Ga-Tha-ka resort this past weekend. We had 45 people turn out for an evening of good food, drink and community. I enjoyed seeing all of you - both the year-rounders and those of you back for the summer. We were fortunate to have scheduled the event for an indoor venue as it poured outside the whole evening. That didn't put a damper on the good time had by all. Thank you to Wa-Ga-Tha-Ka's Mark and

Jay Miner, Sherry Miner and Jon Miner for making the place available and being so hospitable.

As you know from attending meetings last year or reading the newsletter, WCOLA is in the middle of revamping our operating procedures. I won't repeat it all here. Essentially the advisory committee, with the support of the active members who attend meetings and share their opinions, have elected to move away from formal business meetings on the spring, summer and fall Saturdays. Most of the activities have been delegated to the board. This board is made up of the officers and committee chair heads. Significant decisions, such as the election of officers or projects that would have a community wide impact will still be placed in front of membership. You will be notified by email instead of formal meetings. We will then become a more social group having a kick off like we just held, then a picnic, an annual meeting, and one or more of our traditional programs with outside speakers on topics relevant to a lake community association. We will also have smaller social events that members and neighbors can attend. For example, last year (borrowing from Bill Downing's practices) we held a Winter Solstice at our home for a large bonfire get together. And it is rumored that Bill Downing will, in fact, be in residence and once again sitting at the head of his dock on Wabana encouraging all of us to join him for Summer Solstice next week. Other events include the boat parade and history events. Keep tuned to the newsletter as events will be announced there. This would be a good time to say thank you to Sherry Miner who has taken over production of our newsletter.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>. At that time we will announce my replacement as well as a new Vice President. I have enjoyed my four years and will have more to say on that at a future date. WCOLA would not work without all of the core members who are involved in everything. We are grateful to the rest of you who help out as you can, pay your dues, and support us each year. I look forward to seeing you this summer at one or more of the fun events.

John W. Zimmerman Jr.

President - Wabana Chain of Lakes  
Association

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### **WCOLA Executive Committee Meeting** June 3, 2015

Present:  
Jim Olijnek  
Roger Linder  
Louie Gueltzow  
Jean Koewler  
Sherry Miner  
Sue Lick  
Doug Griffin  
Bug Sage

Absent:  
John Zimmerman  
Mark Zimmerman

Minutes from May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report also approved as submitted.

Ken Kemp donated 2 large framed historical pictures to WCOLA. Roger Linder has the photos and will put them on display at the Town Hall

The season opening Social Event will be held at Wa-Ga-Tha-Ka on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at

6:00pm. Board members are to meet at 3:00pm Friday to set up for the event. Help with cleanup is also requested from interested board members. A sign in table will be staffed and name tags will be provided to all guests. Visitors will also be encouraged to sign up for membership. All new members names will be entered for a door prize drawing.

The Township hall has been reserved for the July 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic and August 8<sup>th</sup> for the annual meeting and program provided by the DNR Fisheries Department.

Election of new President and Vice President are underway. Ballots were sent out by email and USPS on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. About 30% of these ballots have been returned as of this meeting. Final results will be announced at the annual meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

New WCOLA Bylaws are still being reviewed. The final draft will be available in a few weeks.

Sherry Miner is busy receiving articles for the first newsletter of 2015. If you have anything you would like to be included please forward it to Sherry.

Committee Mission Statements and annual budgets were to be turned in today. So far Social, Communications, and Government Liaison reports have been received. The following committees need to submit their information: Environmental, Historical, Business and Township Liaison. Please forward copies to Sherry Miner for the newsletter.

WCOLA is looking for a project to utilize the memorial received from the Ireton family. Alida Zimmerman will be contacted to discuss with the family for some input into this decision.

On June 10<sup>th</sup> the County will be reviewing a variation request at Bluewater Lake. It is scheduled for 9:00am.

Following is a schedule for upcoming Board meetings:

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm Gueltzow's 35986 McLaughlin Drive

August 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm Olijnek's 31264 Bluff Ridge Trail

September 2, 4:00pm Griffin's 30452 Meadowview Trail

Respectfully submitted by Louie Gueltzow

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## WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES TREASURER'S REPORT

January through May, 2015

**Balance – January 1, 2015** **\$11,522.53**

Receipts:

Louis A. (Pete) Ireton Memorials 1,228.00

**Total Receipts** **\$1,228.00**

Disbursements:

Walmart (Mailing Labels) 18.90

Treasure Bay Printing (250 Postcards - Spring Event) includes \$60.00 discount 40.50

Jim Olijnek (100 Postcard Stamps) 34.00  
@\$.34 Spring Event

Postmaster (60 - \$.49 stamps) 29.40  
Ireton thank you cards and ballots

**Total Disbursements** **\$122.80**

**Checkbook Balance- May 31, 2015** **\$12,627.73**

**Total Paid Households – 11**

**Dues payment information:** checks made out to WCOLA (Wabana Chain of Lakes Association) for \$30.00 and sent to: Jean Koewler

32040 Wakeman Bay Trail  
Grand Rapids, MN  
55744-1800

An envelope is included with the paper copy of the newsletter.

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## Firewise Pick Up Dates

The Firewise Chipper Days Program will be funded for 2015 and pick up is scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Guidelines are the same. If you have questions, call Bud Sage at 326-4535.

## Fisheries Program

A program has been planned for Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the Wabana Town Hall. This year's program will be conducted by Dave Weitzel, Assistant Area Supervisor Fisheries of the MN Department of Natural Resources. He will include brand new information from the July testing on local lakes. All of us that enjoy our waters and fishing will find this program very interesting. Come early and enjoy some fellowship along with coffee and sweets.

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## Spring Road Clean Up

The Spring clean up was held on May 20<sup>th</sup> with these participants helping out: Louie and Janeen Gueltzow, Denny and Jean Koewler, Jim and Gail Olijnek, Kim Oja, Janet Amundson, and Roger Linder. The prizes of the day were picked up by Louie and Janeen Gueltzow – a tire and rim, and Gail Olijnek who picked an outboard motor hood. While we covered most of the township more volunteers would be appreciated.



## Spring Social Event

In spite of the rain, the Social event WCOLA held at Wa- Ga- Tha- Ka Resort had a good turn-out and was very enjoyable. There was lots of great food and conversation, a special location with extensive history, and interesting people to talk to. Even the door prizes were fun. It was wonderful opportunity to see people we don't get together with often enough. We didn't solve the nation's problems nor achieve world peace, but we sure reminisced about the lakes, fishing, and the weather.



## Annual Loon Count

The annual count was completed in July 2014. The count was completed by the same volunteers (Ken Zimmer, Paul Oberg, Roger Linder and Denny Koewler) that began the count in 2003. While over the years others have joined in the count, the four have never missed a year which must set some kind of record for consistency. The Loons we count are also consistent in their behavior. They spend their winters in saltwater primarily on the Gulf Coast of Florida. After 2-3 years 56% return to the area they were born. The problem then is to find a vacant breeding territory. New territories are found by 29% on a vacant lake, 26% assume territory vacated by a previous pair but 46% intrude on an occupied territory after a physical contest. When a male is looking for a territory he flies over the lake giving a “flying tremolo” and the resident responds with a “yodel”. If the intruder continues and lands, a battle begins with circling, diving, etc.. In 26% of the cases real aggression takes place. This includes chasing, grabbing by the bill and beating with the wings, and trying to keep the opponent underwater to drown. In the most severe contests, a bird will come up from under water bill first and spear its opponent thru the sternum into the heart. The preceding is an excerpt from a study done by Cornell University.

## 2014 Count

Lake	Adults	Chicks
Trout	40	2
Little Trout	1	0
Wabana	22	3
Bluewater	6	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>12 Year Average</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>

Registration is now open for the 2015 Healthy Watersheds Conference: Water & Forests at Sugar Lake Lodge on Friday, July 31. Don't miss the opportunity to learn about Itasca County's watersheds including forestry and water quality issues, hear from leading professional resource managers, gather ideas and solutions for keeping our precious water and forestry resources healthy, and visit with exhibitors and presenters.

Register online at:

[www.mavenperspectives.com/registration](http://www.mavenperspectives.com/registration)

Early registration fee: \$20.00

After July 1<sup>st</sup>: \$30.00

Registration fee includes lunch.

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## Secchi Disk Volunteers Needed

Did you know that participants in the Citizen Lake-Monitoring Program belong to the longest-running volunteer lake monitoring program in the nation? Volunteer lake monitors are one of Minnesota's most important lake water quality tracking systems. We are in need of some volunteers for our chain. If you think you would be interested in joining this important group, please email Sherry Miner at [sjminer797@msn.com](mailto:sjminer797@msn.com) with your name, address, and phone number. She will get you registered and send you the equipment and instructions to start your data collection. It's easy, fun and very worthwhile.

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## Zim's-on-Wabana

The following is from an article by Kenneth Kemp, a long-time customer of Zim's from Indiana. Ken came to stay the last week of June and the first week of July from 1948 through 1956.

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## **Zim's Ice House**

In 1948 Zim had an ice house constructed of logs similar to what was used to construct early log cabins. It was estimated to be about 20'x20'x10' and had a single small door. In the winter Zim would use an ice saw to cut blocks of ice from the lake and then slide those blocks of ice down a slide and into the ice house. He would create rows of blocks inside the ice house. Each block and each row was kept separated from the others by sawdust. Then when the resort opened and the ice boxes came into use, Zim would take those blocks of ice out of the ice house, wash off the sawdust and deliver the blocks with a wheel borrow to the ice boxes which served as refrigerators in each cabin. Each block weighed approximately 25 pounds so this was not an easy task. Pat, Zim's Golden Labrador Retriever, would always accompany Zim, along with the kids in camp at the time!

## **The Fish House**

The fish house at Zim's that was there in 1948 is still there in 2015! The fish house was heavily used during our annual two week visits to Zim's. Most of the fish caught during the day by resort fishermen were cleaned later the same evening. The fish house was enclosed, screened on four sides, had a pitcher pump on the north end of the cleaning table. There was a square hold at the end of the table nearest the pump where discarded and unwanted parts of the fish were deposited into a 'gut' bucket below. Zim emptied the gut bucket daily somewhere back in the woods.

The fish house was a gathering place each night and one could get a close-up view of the fish caught that day as they were being cleaned. We always had plenty of fried fish to dine upon while at Zim's, but the goal was to also take home every license's limit in fish,

especially bass. Those fish that were intended to be taken home were stored in water in half gallon milk cartons and taken to the freezer inside Zim's garage/workshop attached to the rear of the lodge.

It was in that fish house that I learned how to fillet fish. No one scaled fish at Zim's, everything was filleted, even the smallest bluegills and larger perch. Only a couple of us young boys, none of the girls, practiced learning how to fillet and in doing so we also learned how to sharpen, clean, and take care of fillet knives. We were also taught how to properly clean the fish house after use. In the cleaning of fish we also learned the anatomy of various fish as well as how to open their stomachs to see what they had been eating. We learned to fillet mostly on small bluegills, and for certain we initially butchered some, but as time passed, we became quite skilled and it was the larger size fish that gave us problems in filleting.

Boats in those days had no live wells, so bass and northern pike were clipped onto metal stringers, which were secured to the boat, and then kept alive over board in the lake. That system worked well most of the time, but those fish had to be pulled out of the water and placed into the bottom of the boat every time we moved from one part of the lake to another or every time we headed back to Zim's. Those fish were then cleaned that evening. We all knew that fish could not be left on a stringer in the water over night because there was a real danger of a snapping turtle finding and eating them.

## **Activities Calendar**

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### **June 21, 2015**

Summer Solstice Party at Bill Downing's dock

### **July 4, 2015**

Boat Parade – Wabana Lake

### **July 18, 2015**

Annual Picnic for all WCOLA resident families.

### **August 8, 2015**

Annual meeting held prior to picnic to elect officers.

### **August 14, 2015**

Ice Cream Social sponsored by Wabana Township Community Fund and WCOLA

### **September 16, 2015**

Roadside cleanup

### **November 7, 2015**

Hunter's Supper sponsored by Wabana Community Fund (Scholarship fundraiser)

### **December 21, 2015**

Winter Solstice Bonfire Gathering at Zimmerman's

### **Annual Dues Reminder**

Included in this mailing is a self addressed envelope for those of you who haven't yet paid your annual dues. Dues are \$30 per year and fund all our WCOLA activities and mailings including water quality testing, invasive species boat launch monitoring, the picnic, social events, and programs.

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

*June 2015*

**June 21, 2015, 5:00pm**

*Summer Solstice Party at Bill Downing's dock. Bring your own drinks, lawn furniture to sit on and snacks to share. You can come by boat to the dock on the East side of Wabana or drive to 38067 Forest Lane.*

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE  
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION  
Jean Koewler, Treasurer  
32040 Wakeman Bay Trail  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744