

The Chain Letter

of the



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

October 2015

Volume 18, Issue 2

WCOLA – OFFICERS

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Vice President: Roger Linder

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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
Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner,
mminer@minergroup.com

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Well, here we are looking back on another summer season and already well into fall. I don't know about you, but my summer was wonderful; our grandchildren have gotten plenty of opportunities to play in the water, and even we grandparents have enjoyed time in the water. Our oldest grandson caught his first fish this July here on Wabana and was he excited!

This has been a busy summer for your lake association. We held elections for a new President and Vice President, redefined how the association will operate, established committees and committee chairs, rewrote the bylaws, and obtained membership approval. In an attempt to get broader membership voting on the elections, bylaws and significant issues, we instituted electronic ballots augmented by postal ballots for those without email. The results showed about twice the number of votes vs. voting during an association meeting.

As always, the primary focus of WCOLA is on preserving the quality of our waters. In this regard we have committed significant funds to performing inspections at selected boat landings. For the last two years we have contributed \$1500 each year for Aquatic Invasive Species inspections. These funds along with matching grant funds this year, other state grant funds, and contributions from the Wabana Township have supported expanded inspections to over five days per week. As of August 29 there have been 974 inspection hours and 1097 inspections performed on Wabana Lake. The violation rate this season is roughly 18-20%. Additionally, for some years now we have been doing Secchi disk readings on specific basin locations spread around the four major lakes in our chain. These readings are done weekly by volunteers, and we now have over 25 years of data. This data and water chemical sampling data is shared with the MN PCA. WCOLA has collected water chemical samples since 1991 and now has nine years of sample data. To view this data, you

can search the Environmental Data Access (EDA) from the PCA. Here is the link: <http://cf.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershedweb/wdip/searchmore.cfm> to view all available data, leave data type as "All Stations" and type in water body name. Then select "Lake" for Water body type. Select Search.

The plan currently in effect is to do water chemical sampling and testing two years on, followed by two years off. This sampling/testing is done by professionals and as a result becomes very expensive. We have a team of members collecting all the data we have taken to date and plan to have it analyzed, plotted for trends, and an understandable report prepared so we can make informed decisions on how to proceed .

Our Association is now organized around the four elected officers and seven members approved Committee Chairs. These folks form a Board of Directors who runs the day to day functions of the Association. The Committees are:

Environmental, Business, Social, Communications, Government Liaison, Township Liaison, Historical

Each committee has defined areas of responsibility and a mission along with a budget. Our budgets reflect the importance of our waters and are distributed as follows:

Environmental 68%

Communications 15%

All others 17%

The portion devoted to environmental issues will increase dramatically when we again do water chemical testing in 2017 and 2018.

We have however, shifted some of our attention to the social aspects of the lake community; therefore have instituted an annual social kick-off gathering with the hopes of getting many of the lake property owners together for an "informal social meet and greet" and to encourage participation. In addition, we are continuing the annual "old fashioned out door picnic" and hosting a program of scientific or broad lake interest. Upon discussion, we have decided to conduct at least one additional program

next summer which will not be connected with any kind of business meeting, so solely for the purpose of informing the attendees on a variety of topics of general interest to our lake community.

We mourn the loss of Bill Downing, a wonderful friend to the Association as well as the lakes; he will be greatly missed. See the article later in this newsletter.

Several of the committees have prepared separate notes on happenings and activities in their area of interest shown later in this newsletter.

Aquatic Invasive Species Boat Inspections

Jim Olijnek

The 2015 summer season marks the second year WCOLA participated funding AIS boat inspections at the two Wabana landings. This year, the inspection program was vastly expanded with WCOLA, matching grant, other state funding, and Wabana Township funding. Inspections last year covered a few days each week and a shortened season. This year inspections continue through September, cover 5+ days per week and at times, both landings. The program is administered through IWLP by Bill Grantges.

As of August 29 there have been 974 inspection hours and 1097 boat inspections performed this summer on Wabana Lake. The Itasca County AIS Water Craft Inspection Program has seen 6951 inspections completed on 13 lakes throughout the county. So far 5383 inspection hours have been logged in Itasca County. In 2015 the violation rate has been running at 18-20% across the county, while the violation rate in the 2014 season was at 29%.

Many thanks to Bill Grantges and his team for the great work.

Communications Committee

Sue Lick

Information Center 888-646-6367
or info.dnr@state.mn.us.

Mark Miner updated the Wabana Chain of Lakes web site WCOLA.org and created a new WCOLA Facebook page for photos and comments. Sherry Miner collects and edits the WCOLA Newsletter. These are just a few ways area residents and visitors can connect to our chain of waters and watersheds and with the WCOLA organization.

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association also became a member of The Itasca Water Legacy Partnership otherwise known as IWLP.

A wealth of information can be found on their web site IWLP.org, including information on recent studies, resources and education opportunities.

Some of IWLP's recent studies include: Surface Water Assessment, Itasca County Lake Data, Native Shoreland Buffer Incentive, Pokegama - Deer Lake Study, Sensitive Lakeshore Identification Study, Access The Full Economic Value of Itasca County Water, Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Purple Loosestrife Reports. There are opportunities for Youth and Adult Summits and links to many other informative sites at IWLP.org.

Some suggested reading:

FOR THE LOVE OF LAKES, a book by Darby Nelson, Darby has visited the Wabana area and spoke to the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association. He is member of the Freshwater Society Board of Directors, longtime conservationist, retired environmental science professor and former Minnesota legislator. His book is a collection of first person essays about lakes in Minnesota and across the US. It is an excellent and informative read.

WATER WAYS, is a 150 page book with content on water science basics, Minnesota's rivers, lakes, groundwater, wetlands, life in water, human use of water, challenges to water resources, and water policy. The primer is available for free download to all and in print form to educators. To receive your free print copy of the book, contact Minnesota DNR

Wabana Chain of Lakes Treasurer's Report September 30, 2015

Balance – September 1, 2015

\$13,113.93

Receipts:

Dues

\$ 90.00

Total Receipts

\$ 90.00

Disbursements:

Sally Wilbur – Ice Cream Social

\$ 28.32

Cost shared with Wabana Community Fund

Total Disbursements

\$ 28.32

Checkbook Balance-September 30, 2015

\$13,175.61

Total Paid Households: 102

Designated Funds:

**Louis A. (Pete) Ireton Memorial -
\$1,228.00**

WCOLA Board Meeting October 1, 2015

Members in attendance: Jim Olijnek, Bud Sage, Roger Linder, Sherry Miner, Jean Koewler

Members absent: Louie Gueltzow, Susan Lick, Doug Griffin, Mark Zimmerman, John Zimmerman

Bill Downing Memorial - Jim Olijnek showed the plaque purchased in memory of Bill Downing. It reads:

In memory of William (Bill) Downing

A true friend of the lakes

Jim Olijnek and Roger Linder went to Bloomer's Nursery on Friday, October 2, and purchased a Malus Crab Red Splendor tree. The tree will be planted at the Wabana Town Hall.

There is \$100 in the budget. Members of the board will contribute towards the purchase of the plaque and tree in memory of Bill.

Secretary's Report - Sherry Miner made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Roger Linder seconded the motion. The report was approved.

Treasurer's Report - The treasurer reported a balance of \$13,175.61.

Jim Olijnek made a motion to have the Historical Committee go ahead and purchase the electronic picture frame at a cost not greater than \$250. Bud Sage seconded the motion. The motion was approved with the hope that the picture frame would be loaded with pictures before next year's events. A reserve of \$2000 has been set aside in the budget for water testing. This will be noted on future treasurer's reports. A motion was made by Sherry Miner and seconded by Bud Sage to approve the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

Environmental Committee - Mark Zimmerman is in the process of setting up a meeting to create a plan for water testing. Jim Olijnek, Roger Linder, John Zimmerman, John Downing, and Ken Zimmer will be asked to participate.

John Zimmerman has reported that RMB Environmental Labs is on track to complete a trend analysis of the testing results.

Roger Linder did an analysis of one site using secchi disk readings. It showed a positive trend.

Road Clean Up - There were only three people available to do road clean up in September. Ways to increase that number were discussed. They

included sending out a blanket email message asking for help and contacting area Scout or 4-H clubs in the area to help with the clean up.

Audit Team - Gib Willson will help do the audit during October. One more person will be asked.

WCOLA E-mail - John Zimmerman, Louie Gueltzow, and Jean Koewler will try to set up a new WCOLA email address and load it with current members.

Social Committee - Roger Linder made a motion to have the Social Event on Saturday, June 11, at the Bluewater Campfire Camp. Bud Sage seconded the motion. It was approved.

Fall Newsletter - Every committee should send an article to Sherry Miner to be included in the newsletter. It will be published at the end of October.

Secchi Disk Readers - A volunteer secchi disk reader needs to be found for Little Trout. Another reader on Trout Lake would also be helpful.

Town Board Liaison - Bud Sage reported that electricity and lights have been added to the pavilion at the town hall. Two circuits are available for use. The storage building has also been completed.

Committee Plans - This is the last board meeting scheduled for 2015. Committee meetings in 2016 will be held: May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, and October 5. Jim Olijnek will host the May 4 meeting. Committee meetings for specific topics, such as water testing, will be held as needed.

Matching Grant - The \$1500 matching grant for AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) inspections has been approved.

Tom Horton Letter - A letter was received via email about logs and debris in the channel between Little Trout and Trout Lakes. Jim Olijnek has sent a response and included a report from the DNR. The

report stated that there is no difference in the channel.

Forest Service – The Forest Service has contacted Doug Griffin. They have requested a meeting with the Board of Directors. The new members of the Forest Service would like to learn about WCOLA and its mission. Our recommendation is that this be done at the May 4 meeting.

Membership/Dues Collection Letter – Roger Linder presented the membership/dues letter that was first presented at the September meeting. The letter was discussed and updated. A hard copy will be sent to all lake-property owners early in January.

Water Testing – Jim Olijnek got the data for the water testing done in 2013 from the ICC lab. It showed testing done only on Bluewater and Little Trout. It did not show any testing for phosphorous or chlorophyll. He emphasized that a water-testing plan needs to be written.

Meeting Adjourned – Bud Sage made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sherry Miner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40.

Audit

Gib Willson and Julie Linder supported by Jean Koewler finished a detailed review of the books from 10/31/14 thru 10/14/15. The checking account was reconciled with bank statements at \$13260.97 as of 10/14/15. Two outstanding checks totaling \$254.64 were accounted for and we have designated funds of a \$1228.00 memorial and \$2000.00 reserved for water testing included.

We did a month to month review of income and expenses with Jean’s meticulous records. Balances jibed and there are no unexplained issues.

Dues payment tracking is difficult to do as some pay a little extra and some pay ahead. Membership stands at 103 persons.

Annual Loon Count Roger Linder

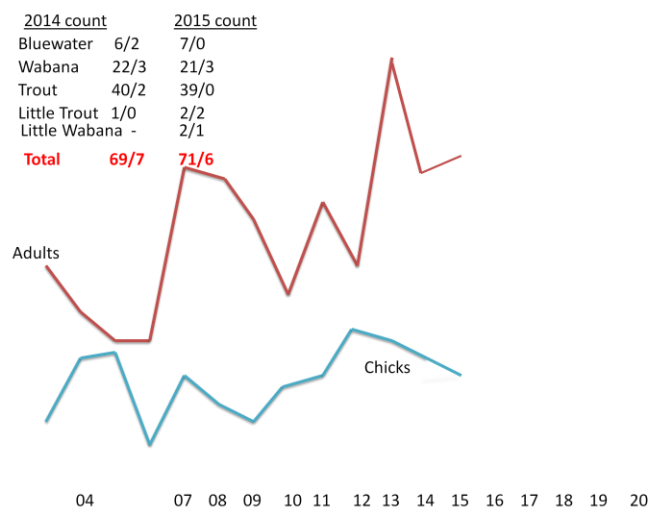
The annual count was completed on July 22, 2015. The count was completed by Ken Zimmer, Roger Linder and Denny Koewler and assisted by Barbara Zimmer, Doug Griffin and Aidan Griffin from Tallahassee, FL.. We have also begun counting on Little Wabana; Marvin Oman counted two adults and one chick.

2014 Count

Lake	Adults	Chicks
Trout	40	2
Little Trout	1	0
Wabana	22	3
Bluewater	6	2
Total	69	7

2015 Count

Trout	39	0
Little Trout	2	2
Wabana	31	3
Bluewater	7	0
Little Wabana	2	1
Total	81	6



Semi-annual Road side clean-up

Barbara Zimmer

Members of WCOLA pick-up trash and other items along the road sides in Wabana Township twice each year. This process has been ongoing for at least ten years and I am always amazed at the amount of “stuff” we collect that people simply throw on the road side. The effort involves assembly at the Wabana Town Hall for vests and bags provided by the county, assignment of roads sides, gathering the trash, and depositing the bags at the town hall flag pole for pick-up.

This year’s fall pick-up was performed by a very small group. They did their best and collected many bags of trash. We will get another opportunity in May.

Many thanks to Barbara Zimmer and her team.



Social Committee Sherry Miner & Roger Linder

With the changes in our organization approved in 2014, the social committee held 2 get-togethers this year. For the first time a “social” gathering was held in June. The event took place at Wa-Ga-Tha-Ka Resort.



Over 40 people were in attendance and enjoyed hors d’œuvres , refreshments and lively conversation. Next year’s gathering will be held at the Campfire Camp on Bluewater on June 11. Mark your calendars. The annual picnic in July and was attended by 75 Chain of Lakes residents.



Traditional picnic fare of hotdogs, bratwurst, and potato salad was enjoyed by all along with another great chance to visit with our neighbors. Next year’s picnic in July will be enhanced by the addition of electricity in the pavilion courtesy of the

township. No more extension cords and blowing fuses. Thank you to the town board. The picnic will also start a little later to let people enjoy our wonderful chain of lakes.

Secchi Disk Volunteers Still Needed
Sherry Miner

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 still 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 with your name, address, and phone number. It's easy, fun and very worthwhile.

Paid Membership List

Name	Lake	Thru
Jill M.	Acheson	Bluewater 2016
Lloyd	Adams	Wabana 2015
Pat & Paula	Adams	Bluewater 2015
John & Jenn	Aulick	Wabana 2015
Duane & Anne E.	Benson	Bluewater 2016
Jim & Sue	Bergan	Bluewater 2015
Joan	Birkemeyer	Wabana 2015
Douglas	Blackmore	Wabana 2015
Bill &	Bottoms	Bluewater 2015
Aaron & Kelly	Britton	Trout 2015
Gary & Carol	Burkholder	Wabana 2015
Robert D.	Chalgren, Sr.	Trout 2016
Campfire MN	Bluewater	2015

Richard & Patricia	Chambers	Wabana	2015
John F. & Dennis, Kathy, Meg	Chervinko	Trout	2015
Ellen J.	Christmas	Wabana	2015
Daryl & Michelle	Clough	Wabana	2015
Mark & Ellen	Conover	Wabana	2015
Clinton & Stacey	Deans	Wabana	2015
John & Marcia	Downing	Wabana	2015
William	Downing	Wabana	2015
Jim & Ann	Edwards	Wabana	2015
John & Michelle	Fischer	Trout	2015
Patricia	Fischer	Trout	2015
Ardwin J.	Fleischhacker	Wabana	2015
Eric & Jan	Fredbeck	Wabana	2015
Dr. Peter & Chris	Friedlieb	Wabana	2015
John & Martha Ann	Gettinger	Wabana	2015
Tom & Barb	Gleason	Wabana	2015
Don & Michele	Greiner	Bluewater	2015
Doug & Kathy	Griffin	Wabana	2015
Louis & Janeen	Gueltzow	Wabana	2015
Jessica	Gunderson	Wabana	2015
Sedivy & Jon			
Rick & Betsy, Fischer	Hadley	Trout	2015
Vicky & Rick	Harding	Trout	2016
Cress & Susannah	Hart	Wabana	2015
Susan	Hines	Trout	2015
Bruce &	Hultgren	Wabana	2015

Jan				Lynn & Tim	Moratzka	Trout	2015
Dave	Johnson	Wabana	2015	Dorothy	Myrick	Wabana	2015
Jeff & Linda	Jorgenson	Wabana	2015	David & Judy	Nybakken	Bluewater	2015
Rex & Melanie	Kastner	Trout	2015	Paul & Barb	Oberg	Wabana	2015
Don & Fay	Klande	Pickerel	2015	Jim & Gail	Olijnek	Wabana	2015
Dennis & Jean	Koewler	Wabana	2015	Kevin Preiss & Oman			2015
Ken & Deb	Kruger	Wabana	2016	Marvin & Mary	Ott	Wabana	2015
Danielle	Larson	Wabana	2015	Catherine	Owen	Wabana	2015
Jerald E. & Emma J.	Larson	Wabana	2015	Chad	Persons	Bluewater	2015
Juan & Christina	Lazo	Wabana	2015	Deb & Jeff	Powers	Bluewater	2015
Dave & Sue	Lick	Wabana	2015	Ron & Anne	Radecki	Wabana	2015
Arnie & Julie	Linder	Wabana	2015	Mark & Renae	Rasmusson	Wabana	2015
Roger & Nancy	Linder	Wabana	2015	Dean & Linda	Roberts	Wabana	2015
Patrick B. & Jackie	Loney	Wabana	2015	Catherine	Rudolph	Wabana	2015
John and Karen	Lukens	Wabana	2019	Bill & Diane	Rutherford	Bluewater	2015
Brian & Penny	Lund	Wabana	2015	L.W. "Bud" & Mary Lou	Sage	Bluewater	2015
Evelyn	Maddaus	Wabana	2015	Stuart W. & Tanya	Sage	Bluewater	2015
Mary Ann	Mead	L. Trout	2015	William & Shirley	Sage	Bluewater	2015
Steve & Pat	Mead	L. Trout	2015	Rich Brasch & Carol	Schmidt	Wabana	2015
Steve & Jean	Melin	Wabana	2015	Alvina	Shaffer	L. Wabana	2015
John & Margaret Z.	Merkel	Trout	2015	Wayne	Sherer	Wabana	2015
Arthur L.	Morris & Merrill	Wabana	2015	Dara Wolf & Doug	Skelton	Trout	2015
Matthew & Loree	Miltich	Clearwater	2015	John	Soll	Wabana	2015
Jon & Pamela	Miner	Wabana	2016	Joe & Martha	Stevens	Bluewater	2015
Mark	Miner	Wabana	2015	Jeff & Debbie	Tack	Bluewater	2015
Sherry	Miner	Wabana	2015	Kurt &	Thompson	Bluewater	2015

Lavonne Matthew & Till	Wabana	2015
Nicole Steeklein, Greg & Mary Jack & Velzen	Wabana	2015
Sally Ted & Voneida	Wabana	2015
Swanny Merrill	Wabana	2015
Sally & Wilbur	Wabana	2015
George Michael & Wilkus	Wabana	2015
Barbara Gib & Willson	Wabana	2015
Katheen Brian & Zimmer	Wabana	2015
Lauren Mark	Wabana	2015
Ken & Zimmer	Wabana	2015
Barbara John & Zimmerman	Trout	2015
Alida Mark W. & Zimmerman	Trout	2015
Alexandra Paul & Zimmerman	Trout	2015
Debbie		

student, teacher, professor, author, husband and father. Bill (Dr. Downing) was always a joy to talk to; he had such broad experience and knowledge of so many subjects and a great sense of humor. Bill was a special friend of the Chain of Lakes Association, a founding member, participating for many years, leading the organization, and guiding our planning. He had a driving interest in protecting our pristine lakes and as such he was a major factor in defining our water testing plan, conducting much of the sampling and for that matter, doing the data analysis and reporting. His firm guidance and love of the lakes has clearly helped preserve these wonderful waters and shore land. His family owned property on Lake Wabana since 1906. Many of us took the opportunity to remember Bill at a special celebration of life at the family home on Lake Wabana in early September.

There is a very informative obituary in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune August 16, 2015 newspaper. A wonderful excerpt from his autobiography is in the www.wabanalake.com/wld.html web site, where you can find a fund for a memorial to be located on Government Point on Lake Wabana.

Hunter's Supper

Saturday, November 7, 2015

5 to 8 p.m.

Adults - \$12.00

Children - \$6.00

Profits of the dinner are used for scholarships. Donations are needed for the adult raffle, children's raffle, silent auction, and bake sale. Craft items are accepted. If you have donations or would like to help with the dinner, contact Kim Oja at 327-2350.

The Hunter's Supper is sponsored by the Wabana Community Fund.



William L. (Bill) Downing

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Bill Downing at 93. He was a great friend of these lakes and a great man. While we mourn his loss, we must honor his exceptional life. Bill lived a varied, exciting, and meaningful life as warrior,

WCOLA 1989

Roger Linder

The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association held its annual picnic at the Campfire Girls Camp on Bluewater Lake last month. Over 100 people attended the event. This year's picnic was a "Booya Bash," featuring a delicious booya, cooked in a huge pot for at least 14 hours before the picnic.

The booya consisted of a variety of meats, vegetable and spices, combined to create a popular "old-world" stew.

The booya was made with contributions from many members. Primary chefs were Anne Steele and Ron Radecki of Wabana Lake. Expert advice was received from Tony Radecki and Wally Linder, providers of the "secret recipe."

The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association began meeting and organizing the summer of 1988. It is an active organization, having accomplished a number of objectives, always keeping in mind its basic purpose — to maintain and improve the quality of the area's total environment. The next meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 18, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wabana Town Hall.



THE POT OF BOOYA OR STEW simmered for more than 12 hours before it was ready to be served at the WCOLA picnic.



WHAT'S COOKING? WCOLA members stir a pot of booya with special paddles to help the stew on its way. Pictured are, from the left, Wally Linder, Ron Radecki, Dick Ellsworth, Bill Downing and Betty Downing. More on page 14>

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

October 2015

Activities Calendar

November 7, 2015

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

December 21, 2015

Winter Solstice Bonfire Gathering at Zimmerman's

WCOLA Board Meetings

May – October, First Wednesdays of each month.

May – Olijnek's at 4:00pm.

June 11, 2016 – Social Event at Bluewater Campfire Camp.

July 23, 2016 – Annual Picnic.

August 20, 2016 – Annual Meeting.

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