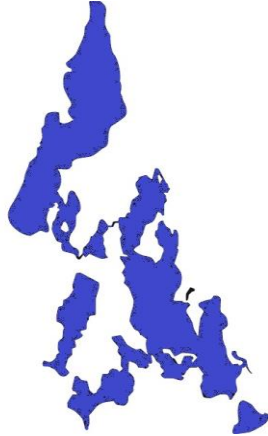


The Chain Letter

of the

**WABANA
CHAIN OF
LAKES
ASSOCIATION**



**October
2019**

Volume 22, Issue 3

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

WCOLA OFFICERS

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999-9217 lgueltzow@gmail.com

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steven.melin@juno.com (email only)

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326-4302 djkoewler@paulbunyan.net

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STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Tom Klatt (Co-Chair Social)

Doug Griffin (Government Liaison)

Mark Conover (Environmental)

Jean Melin (Communications)

**James Olijnek (Past President &
Historical Committee)**

Roger Linder (Historical Committee)

Follow us on the [Wabana Chain of Lakes Facebook](#) page

Visit our web site www.wcola.org.

President's Corner October 2019



The past 4 years WCOLA has been led by a very capable Jim Olijnek. As your president he has left the organization in a very strong position.

Membership has increased to 153 households. Participation in our social events has been very encouraging. The kickoff event in early June was the best attended and the annual summer picnic was also successful.

Financially WCOLA is in a solid position. A savings account for water testing was established and will be used to fund lake water testing in the summer of 2020. An aquatic invasive species emergency fund is now also available to defend your lakes from an infestation.

Welcome packages were developed to give to new residents. They contain lake maps with resident's names, AIS information as well as info regarding the WCOLA organization. Resort and Camp packets were given to provide information to their guests about proper boating etiquette and AIS prevention.

Jim spent a great deal of time developing an updated water quality plan. It was so complete and thorough that it might be used in other lake associations. A rapid response plan was also developed to outline procedures to follow if an AIS outbreak finds its way into the Wabana Chain.

I am looking forward to continuing Jim's fine lead in my term.

Louie Gueltzow

Calendar of Events

2019

- November 9 -Hunter's Supper sponsored by Wabana Community fund

2020

- May Water sampling begins - date TBD
- May 6 -Road Clean-up * - meet at Township Hall 9:00 am
- June 13 - Kick-off Social * - Bluewater Campfire camp
- June - Downing's Summer Solstice Party
- July 4 - Boat Parade
- July 18 -Annual Picnic * - Township Pavilion
- August 15 - Annual Meeting and Program * - Township Hall
- September 23 - Road Clean-up * - meet at Township Hall 9:00 am

* = WCOLA Sponsored Event



Wabana Chain of Lakes Treasurer's

August 31, 2019

Balance –August 1, 2019	\$ 7,793.38
Receipts:	
Dues	\$ 120.00
Medtronic Foundation	\$ 500.00
Volunteer Grant Program – Steve Melin	
Total Receipts	\$ 620.00
Disbursements:	
Jean Melin - 100 stamps	\$ 55.00
Anne Johnson - Ice Cream Social	\$ 15.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 70.00
Checkbook Balance-August 31, 2019	\$ 8,343.38
Savings Account – Water Testing Balance	\$ 6,563.43
Savings Account – AIS Fund Balance	\$ 7,181.07
Total Paid Households: 153	



Water Quality Bluewater Lake Example

This is the summary report for Bluewater Lake developed by RMB Labs using WCOLA and MPCA provided data. The complete report of 20+ pages for each of the chain of lakes can be found in the WCOLA web site (WCOLA.org).

Water quality data have been collected on Bluewater Lake from 1988-2015. These data show that the lake is oligotrophic (TSI = 36) with very clear water conditions most of the summer and excellent recreational opportunities.

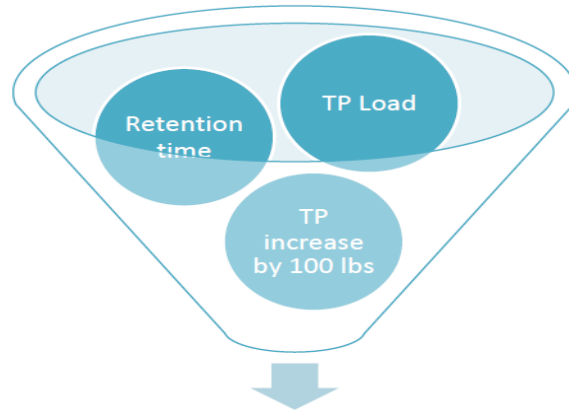
Water Quality Characteristics

Parameters	Site <u>202</u>	Trophic State Index	
Number of Observations:	26	Trophic State: Oligotrophic (36)	
Total Phosphorus Mean (ug/L):	9.4		
Total Phosphorus Min (ug/L):	4		
Total Phosphorus Max (ug/L):	18		
Chlorophyll-a Mean (ug/L):	1.4	Secchi Depth Mean (ft):	18.9
Chlorophyll-a Min (ug/L):	1	Secchi Depth Min (ft):	11.3
Chlorophyll-a Max (ug/L):	2	Secchi Depth Max (ft):	27
Number of Observations:	4	Number of Observations:	657

In September, Paul Radomski, DNR Lake Ecologist gave a presentation to the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Some WCOLA members attended as guests of Itasca Waters. Paul's presentation discussed the idea that instead of using Clean Water fund dollars to try and clean up impaired lakes, what if the funding was used to focus on high-value lakes that would provide the greatest return on investment.

Currently there are > 600 Nutrient Impaired Lakes in the state of Minnesota. In Itasca County, there are 8 impaired lakes out of 1251 lakes total. Many times treatments of impaired lakes does not achieve the goals of cleaning up the lake and there is no return on investment.

The DNR has developed a model where they can predict the economic (dollar) benefits that will be seen by working on high-value lakes instead. One of the inputs for the benefit calculation is Mean Total Phosphorus (Mean TP), and then a lakes sensitivity to the TP Load and what impact TP had on water clarity, measured by Secchi Disk readings.



Sensitivity = Loss in water transparency (inches)

Paul’s presentation focused on a few Itasca County Lakes, and Bluewater Lake was one of his examples because of its high sensitivity index value for a large lake. Using the DNR’s model, the results indicate that 7 – 8 feet of water clarity is lost per 100 pounds of phosphorus entering the lake, and that a 4 pound / year phosphorus reduction goal would see an increase in water clarity of about a foot in three years.

When we looked at the Citizen (lake residents) collected Secchi data, one sees that Bluewater Lake has had a slight decrease in water clarity over the last 8 years. The big improvement seen from 2005 to 2010 was due to the new septic initiative that Wabana Township implemented. Septic run-off / leakage is a high contributor to water quality.

<u>Lake</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Average</u>
Bluewater	18.9	19.7	19.2	18.6	17.9	16.5	18.5
Wabana	17.3	19.9	21.8	20.2	19.3	17.7	19.4
Wakeman Bay	15.7	19.2	17.7	18.3	18.2	18.7	18.0
Little Trout	20.0	22.2	20.4	19.7	19.6	19.2	20.2
Little Wabana	16.2	20.4	21.8	21.0	20.4	21.2	20.2
Trout	16.4	18.0	17.2	---	15.8	14.2	16.3

One of the best ways to improve on water clarity is to reduce Shoreland run-off.

Many great ideas for Shoreland Management can be found in the Itasca Waters Shoreline Guide, which was distributed to WCOLA members last year. The guide can also be found at :

<http://itascawaters.org/shoreland-guide-2018>

RMD Labs Bluewater Water Quality report and Paul’s presentation and data charts can be found at: <https://wcola.org/find-the-latest-information-here/>, file names: Bluewater Lake Water Report, GR Chamber Lake Protection and 019 Itasca County Lakes data.

DNR Fish Survey



Some of you may have seen these buoys, like the one pictured above, out on Wabana Lake in mid-July. These marked DNR fishing survey sites. There were two gill nets set up, one in Wakeman Bay between the two campgrounds, the other on the main part of the lake just South of the campground / narrows / beach and East of the North boat launch.

Below is the Catch Summary from the DNR's draft report :

Net Catch Summary by Weight for GN

Standard gill net sets

Abbr	Species	Total Weight (Pounds)	Pounds Per Set	Mean Weight	Quartiles for Lake Class 22*		
					25%	50%	75%
BLC	Black Crappie	1.13	0.08	0.38	0.24	0.38	0.55
BLG	Bluegill	7.44	0.50	0.20	N/A	N/A	N/A
HSF	Hybrid Sunfish	0.99	0.07	0.33	N/A	N/A	N/A
LMB	Largemouth Bass	22.68	1.51	1.33	0.55	0.77	1.05
NOP	Northern Pike	273.71	18.25	3.46	1.68	2.25	2.80
PMK	Pumpkinseed	0.57	0.04	0.19	N/A	N/A	N/A
RKB	Rock Bass	33.49	2.23	0.32	0.30	0.41	0.52
SMB	Smallmouth Bass	17.79	1.19	2.54	0.94	1.35	1.81
TLC	Tullibee (Cisco)	95.43	6.36	2.27	0.37	0.69	1.04
WAE	Walleye	130.03	8.67	2.13	1.12	1.43	1.90
WTS	White Sucker	11.45	0.76	3.82	1.52	1.89	2.28
YEP	Yellow Perch	1.27	0.08	0.12	0.12	0.15	0.21
Total Pounds Fish/Set:			39.73		* Quartiles for Mean Weight		

The complete draft report can be found at: <https://wcola.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Wabana-Fishing-draft.pdf>

It is not known when the final report will be issued, but we will update the WCOLA web page when the report is received.

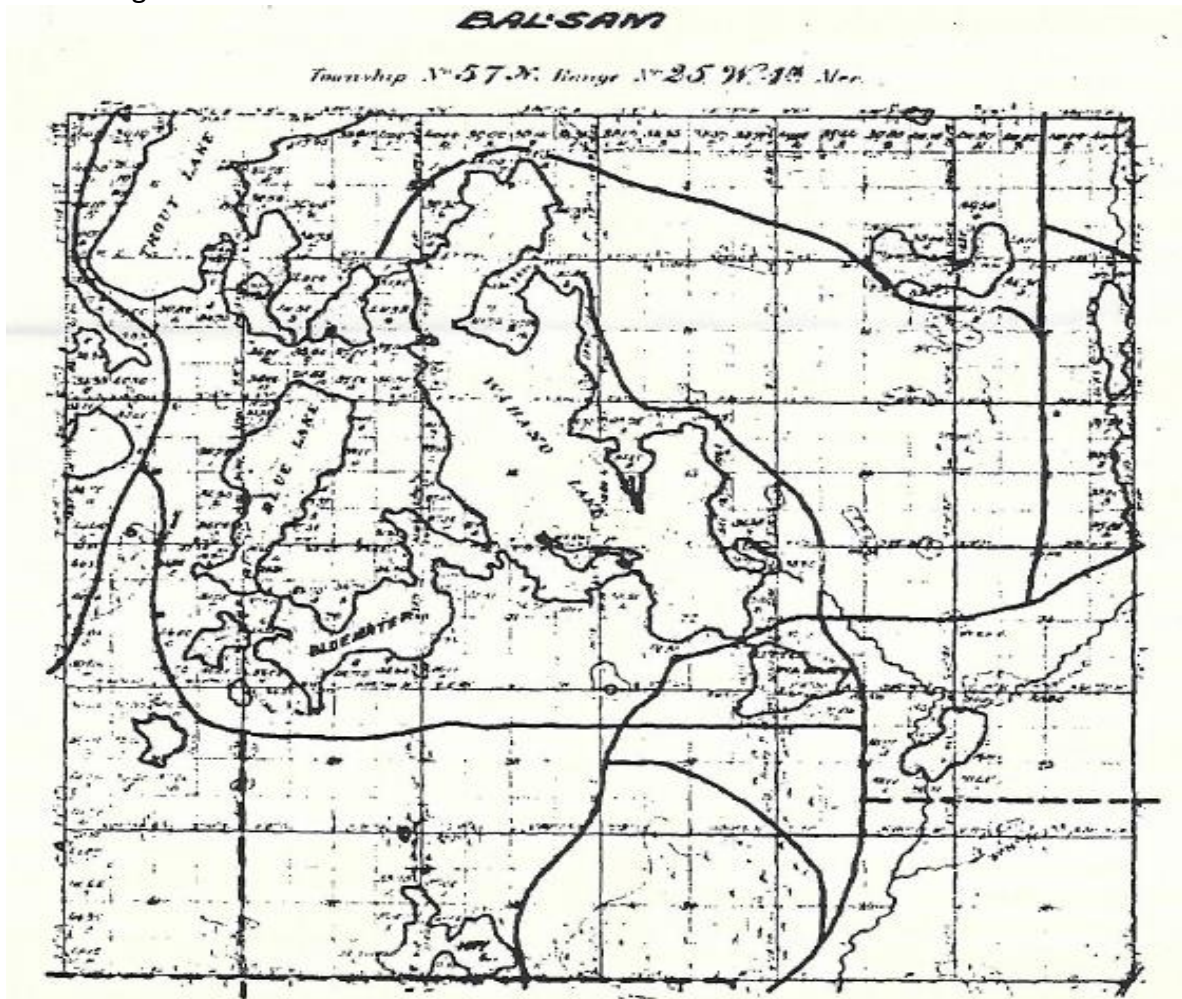


Chain of Lakes History



This is a copy of the “Balsam Township” map that was included in an Abstract and refers to Wabana Lake as “Wabano Lake”, Wakeman Bay as “Bluewater”, and Bluewater Lake as “Blue Lake”. The one is from our Wabana Property Abstract and it was inserted in a page from around 1873 when the United States transferred the property and files the final paperwork in 1892.

The map is now black on white taken from the original white on black blueprint. Those familiar with the present roads will find the 1895 roads, probably logging trails, to be interesting.



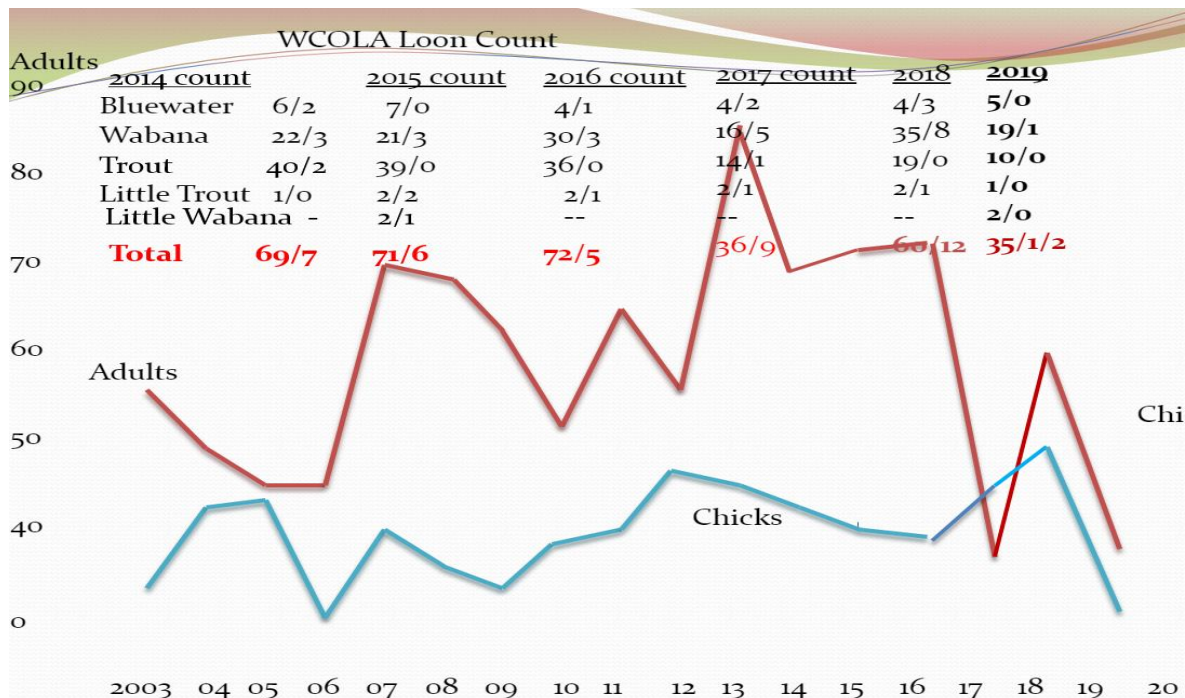
Annual Loon Count



The 2019 Loon Count on Wabana Chain of Lakes was held on July 18th. There were 35 adult loons and one chick counted on the Lakes (a second chick that was known to be on Birch Bay was not observed during the loon count activity). This was the lowest count in 16 years. The mean number of birds counted for 15 years (2004-2018) has been 66.33 birds. (60.1 adults and 6.2 chicks.

Thank you to Paul Oberg, Denny Koewler, Cress Hart, Steve Melin and Ken Zimmer for their efforts.

~ Organizer - Ken Zimmer



Wabana Township Road Clean-up



The semi-annual roadside cleanup was held September 25, 2019. It was a beautiful sunny morning and many volunteered to help. Many bags of trash were collected along the township roadsides. One volunteer found a checkbook in the ditch and was able to return it to a thankful resident. The filled trash bags were taken to the landfill by the County who also provided the reflective vests and trash bags.

Thanks for time and effort goes to Louie & Janeen Gueltzow, Jean Panchyshyn, Steve Melin, Denny & Jean Koewler, Jim & Gail Olijnek, Barbara & Ken Zimmer, Jeanine Puls & Ron Roalstad, and Chris Bjerke.

~ Organizer - Barbara Zimmer

Last Page Photo Contest



Something new for this newsletter, a photo contest. Identify, in details (lake, road, location, direction) where the above photo was taken. Mail your entry, with your address, to: steven.melin@juno.com . Earliest correct entry will receive a \$5.00 Grand Rapids Chamber Bucks Card. Yes, only five dollars, due to limited budget. Winner to be identified in next newsletter.

Fine Print Rules: Winners must be a WCOLA member. WCOLA Board members not eligible. Decision of the judge is final.

Have a good winter

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION
Jean Koewler, Treasurer
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