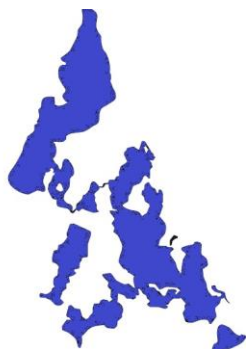


WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION



www.WCOLA.org & Facebook

Welcome to The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Who are we?

We are the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA), a group of active, interested, and involved neighbors and friends. WCOLA is guided by a Board of Directors and is a registered 501c3 nonprofit

WCOLA is an organization of volunteers who collectively work to build awareness about preserving our chain of lakes – their clarity and quality, their history, and social community so that they may be enjoyed now and in the years to come. We currently have 160+ member households, about 3/5^{ths} of our area property owners, but our goal is 100%.

What do we do?

We are dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of the ecological environment of the lakes and lakeshores in the Wabana Chain of Lakes and the surrounding area in Itasca County, Minnesota.

How do we do that?

● For over 28 years we have been working with state certified water testing labs and the MPCA, giving us a baseline of data on the health of our waters. This year and next, we will be funding and assisting with water sample collection for Lake Water Quality Testing. Volunteers for water sample collection are welcomed. References for past testing can be found on the WCOLA website.

- We publish newsletters to keep our members and area residents informed and have a website (www.WCOLA.org), and a Facebook page.
- We partner as volunteers with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in reporting Secchi Disk lake clarity readings, ice on, and ice out date recordings. More volunteers are always needed and welcome.
- We provide new members with a welcome package that includes lake maps with your lakeshore neighbors identified, AIS information, and other useful information.
- We are making a concerted effort to inform all lake owners of events or situations that may be of interest or concern. We work with and pay attention to how policies and requirements of Federal, State, and Local governments and agencies may impact our chain of lakes.
- WCOLA hosts three major events - June social event, July picnic, and August annual meeting with an educational presentation.
- We share our stories, family histories, and photos to promote and recognize the history of this area. Some of that local history is on display at the Wabana Town Hall and often in our WCOLA Newsletters and our WCOLA Facebook page.
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is a major concern. AIS boat inspections at the chain's public accesses are funded *in part* by WCOLA's donation and the Wabana Town Board.
- Information is provided to the chain of lakes users about AIS issues and preventative actions we all might take. The Water Quality Management Plan for our chain of lakes has been updated and is on the WCOLA website. The first AIS Rapid Response Plan for Itasca County has been developed by WCOLA.
- A Resort Package has been developed and distributed to the chain's cabin resorts as well as the two camps.
- WCOLA does an annual loon count partnering with the DNR, and WCOLA volunteers provide Wabana Township road cleanup and Firewise brush cleanup partnering with Itasca County.

- WCOLA Board has provided information on septic systems and shoreline management to help residents understand how best to maintain their property. We have distributed an excellent brochure titled "Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship" which can be found at www.ItascaWaters.org.

- WCOLA has donated funds for the AIS Business Water Summit, the U of M AIS Research Center, the Itasca County Dive Team, and the Itasca County Sheriff's department. WCOLA has a membership in the Itasca Waters and Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations (ICOLA) organizations.


Many thanks to all those who have supported us in the past having created and continued the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association.

Your membership and voice are so important. We invite you, your families, and friends of the Wabana Chain of Lakes to continue as members, consider becoming members, and volunteering. We believe people who use our lakes want to see them stay healthy for future generations. Working together we can continue the efforts of protecting and sustaining the love of our waters and sense of community for now and the years to come. WCOLA is a great way to meet your neighbors.

Louie Gueltzow – President
 Steve Melin - Vice President

Jean Koewler - Treasurer
 Susan Lick - Secretary

Enclosed is an addressed envelope and membership application to complete. Also note that email is very much encouraged. WCOLA always welcomes your interests and efforts in any of our activities. You can find out much more about our organization by going to WCOLA.org.

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Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Dues \$30 for those receiving WCOLA communications via email	_____
Dues \$35 for those receiving WCOLA newsletters via postal mail	_____
Additional contributions, or Memorials for Lake Protection (ex. AIS Inspections, Water Quality Sampling, etc.)	_____
Total	_____

Make checks payable to **WCOLA** and return in the enclosed addressed envelope.

Name: _____
 Email address: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Street Address: _____

If you have a second address please note it and the months that it should be used.