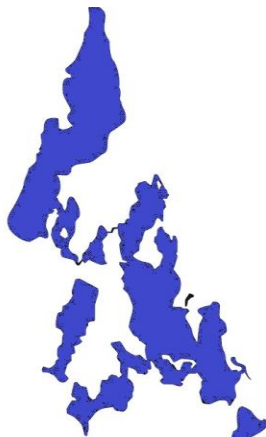


The Chain Letter

of the

**WABANA
CHAIN OF
LAKES
ASSOCIATION**



**May
2020**

Volume 23, Issue 2

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

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Doug Griffin (Government Liaison)

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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 May 2020



Hello to all friends and neighbors on the Wabana Chain of Lakes. What a difference in our lives since the last newsletter. My vocabulary has been expanded to include things like, Covid 19, shelter in place, and social distancing.

Spring has officially arrived as Wakeman Bay is ice-free on Sunday April 26th. The loons have returned and are calling for their mates. Being able to get outside will be a blessing. I am even looking forward to doing some yard work.

Our calendar of events will have some question marks as we slowly work our way past the virus. We will try to keep you updated on events through email, if we are able to social gather. I don't think Zoom or Face Time will work well for all 150 plus members.

Enclosed in this publication are some good safety reminders as we return to boating this season. Please practice safe AIS preventative measures to insure we preserve the quality of water we all enjoy.

April 26, 2020 – Lake Wabana Ice-out officially declared by Susan Lick & Ken Zimmer

Calendar of Events (see *COVAID-19 notes on next page*)

2020

- May Water sampling begins – Training at Picnic Grounds on May 2nd
- May 6 - Road Clean-up * - **cancelled**
- June 13 - Kick-off Social * - Bluewater Campfire camp
- June 20 - Downing's Summer Solstice Party (**see note on next page**)
- July 4 - Boat Parade
- July 18 - Annual Picnic * - Township Pavilion
- August 8 - Annual Meeting and Program * - Township Hall
- September 23 - Road Clean-up * - Meet at Township Hall 9:00 am

* = WCOLA Sponsored Event



Covaid-19 Impact We have all been impacted by Covaid-19, with its guidelines, shutdowns, and executive orders all being very fluid. At the time of this newsletter's publication, how *ALL* of our planned WCOLA activities will be impacted is not known.

Please watch your emails from Jean Koewler and we will let you know each event's status one-way or the other as the dates approach.

Summer Solstice - The Downing family is planning to hold a modified Summer Solstice party on June 20. They are hoping to make it a combination of a virtual event (using Zoom) and a physical gathering of boats in their bay (using physical distancing). It will be up to guests which way to attend. All is weather permitting, of course. Details to follow.

Print shops are closed and we are waiting their re-opening before printing the new Wabana Chain of Lakes maps. At this time we have requests for 15 sets of maps. We are still taking orders for the maps. If you are interested, in either a paper copy of the maps or a laminated version, please contact wcolacommunicate@paulbunyan.net with your order request by June 1, 2020.

CELEBRATION – Wabana Township is turning 100 years old

People are always looking for an excuse to have a party. Wabana Township has the perfect excuse, a 100-year anniversary in 2021! As most of the chain of lakes is located in the township, WCOLA has the opportunity to partner with the township to have a celebration. The township has voiced support and the subject will be on their May's agenda. At that time they will hopefully officially name their "committee". The question is: Do we as an organization have the enthusiasm/support to commit to partner with them?

What does that mean? The job of the committee will be to come up with a recommendation to be presented to both organizations for a formal 100-year celebration event. That plan could be as simple as some signs recognizing the year or any event the group feels appropriate. At this time we have the conceptual support of the board of directors, Jim Olijnek and myself. What is needed is the enthusiasm and ideas that new blood can bring to the project. Give this some serious thought and then call!

Roger 218-326-2266

Jim 218-326-2431

Lake Safety, Education, & Etiquette

The goal of these memos is to help keep everyone safe while, at the same time, maximizing the enjoyment of the lake for as many as possible in a positive manner. We are all blessed to be able to spend time on the Wabana Chain of Lakes. Let's all be safe and good neighbors at the same time.

Overall Safety/Education/Etiquette:

- Please wear a Life Jacket. For adults: Lifejackets are to be 'readily available', including a throwable floatation device on boats 16'+ feet. For the children: Any child under 10 years old or younger must have a life vest on while underway. Please be safe and take care of the little ones. This applies to all watercraft from boats to PWCs to pontoons to non-motorized crafts.
- Please Don't Drink and Boat - Alcohol and boats don't mix. MN laws are the same as driving an automobile. Please be safe.

Boat Specific:

- When 'at speed' try to stay 150+ feet from shore whenever possible (larger wakes +200 feet).
- Reduce repeated passes on the same shoreline when possible. At times, weather will make this a challenge. Be reasonable with the amount of time in the same location.
- Wake boats can be hazardous when operated in constricted waters or near other water craft. Wake boats need to be kept well away from both shoreline & other water craft.
- Skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, etc. are allowed between sunrise and ½ hour after sunset.

PWC (Jet Ski):

- When 'at speed' (above 5 MPH) please stay 150+' from shore, other watercraft, swimmers, etc.
- Watch your speed – boats, people, land, docks, other PWC's come up quickly and jet skis do not have brakes.
- As much as we love our children, know that they act differently when they are out of our sight. Have a serious conversation both on the safety and etiquette of Jet Ski use. These machines are powerful and a ride can go from fun to the opposite in a matter of seconds.

Pontoon:

Pontoons are some of the safest boats on the water. A few tips to make them even safer:

- Be cognizant of the capacity of your pontoon. There should be a sticker with the maximum number of people and/or maximum weight. Spread out the weight of passengers evenly when out for a cruise. A few too many people in the front can lead to waves coming over the bow.
- Keep everyone inside of the pontoon. While it's appealing to sit on the front and dangle your legs in the water, it's very dangerous if someone were to fall off and go under the pontoon.

Non-Motorized Watercraft (Canoe, Kayak, Paddle Boards, etc.):

- The safest place for these watercraft is near the shore, especially during busy lake times.
- There have been a few of these watercraft out well past dark with no lights. This is very dangerous as they are nearly invisible. If out past sunset, please have a light kit.

Protect our Lake: For boats coming from outside Wabana lakes please follow the guidelines below. We have a great team checking boats at the landing but every one of us can do our part.

- **CLEAN** – Clean any boat, trailer or water related equipment. This is a MN Law which helps to protect our lake from aquatic invasive species. Talk to your friends and family before they arrive with their boats.
- **DRAIN** – Remove drain plugs and keep them out while transporting from all water-related equipment: ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motors, drain bilge, live well, and bait well.

Wabana Township Comprehensive Use Plan Update

Wabana Township is developing a Comprehensive Plan, utilizing a group of the township's volunteers, to provide:

- 1) A history of where the township came from and a resource outlining all that it has to offer today,
- 2) A road map and a vision for the future of Wabana Township as an integral, valuable component of Itasca County providing recreational opportunities and offering a mix of rural residential living under a pristine environment, and
- 3) The basis of the township's operations and a pathway for future decisions as well as a basis for dealing with all Wabana stakeholders.

It is Wabana Township's goal that it will be a fully intact, rural part of Itasca County as a whole, whose rural qualities will vary as appropriate within the Township and whose central physical feature is the clean and attractive waters of the lakes.

The purpose of the plan is to define, with community inputs:

- The desires to retain and promote a sense of community,
- The future uses of the land within the township, large land tracks, shoreland areas,
- The plans for future management of the roads of the township,
- The plans for future development and current management of recreational assets,
- The plans for preserving and protecting our natural resources,
- The needs for maintaining and improving the township facilities,
- Shore land overlay guidelines that would best work with the mission of protecting the water quality both from a recreational and economic standpoint for all Wabana Township lakes,
- Currently Wabana Township has an ordinance (Ord. 101), originally adopted in May 2003, that regulates the subdivision and development of land within the Shoreland Overlay District within Wabana Township, this will be reviewed based on citizen inputs.

- Strengthen the relationship and collaborate with the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA),
- Develop and strengthen Wabana Township’s working relationship and collaboration with the Itasca County Board of Commissioners, Environmental Services Department and land departments (MN DNR, MPCA, various Soil and Water organizations).

For the development of this plan, the goal of the committee is to keep the plan’s development costs minimal through volunteer efforts, in-kind services, and other low- cost support. Professional support will be utilized to facilitate the community meetings for citizen inputs, final packaging, and distribution of the plan. Itasca County has offered copy & printing at cost, and other county departments services. Township legal services will 1) review, comment, and update the comprehensive plan’s wording as needed, and 2) address and update the Township’s Shoreland ordinance (Ordinance 101) to reflect citizen inputs obtained by the Comprehensive Plan effort.

Funding for this effort will be primarily from the Township’s reserve funds, a grant of \$9,000 from Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) and WCOLA. If you are interested in supporting this effort financially, you may make a donation to WCOLA.

All Township residents and property owners will be receiving an on-line survey asking for their inputs to a variety of questions, this will be followed-up with two community meetings to gain further inputs, thoughts, concerns. Please take the survey and attend the meetings so your voice can be heard. Notifications and availability of the survey will be in May, 2020, with community meetings planned for this summer (pending Covaid-19 guidelines).

Please watch your email for updates and reminders.

5-Star Lake Service Providers

When having Lake Service done this spring, consider using a 5-Star Lake Service provider. These providers have signed up to provide services that are DNR AIS compliant. For more information on this initiative and Itasca County’s AIS efforts, go to the Itasca County’s web page: <https://www.itascaswcd.org/programs/aquatic-invasive-species>

Five Star Lake Service Providers

Five Star Program

FiveStar providers are DNR-certified, sign a contract agreeing to apply additional specified AIS best-practices and safeguards when moving from one lake or river to another, and are eager to earn your business.

★ Five Star Dock & Lift Installers	★ Five Star Marine Dealers	★ Other Five Star Service Providers
★ Five Star Resorts, Camps, Campgrounds		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Rapids Marine 218-326-0351 • Thousand Lakes Dock & Lift 218-398-7553 • JJ’s Barge Service 218-244-5194 • Matt Almquist/38 Outpost 218-259-9997 • Northland Lake Services/Chad Schumacher 218-256-9691 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groom Property Services 218-259-2157 • Fish Lake Dock and Lift 651-674-8581 • Jesse Lake Services 218-259-2482 • Huju Docks 218-256-8783 	

WCOLA 2020 Membership Listing

First Name	Last Name	Lake	Year		First Name	Last Name	Lake	Year
John and Karen	Lukens	Wabana	2029		John and Marcia	Downing	Wabana	2020
Jill M.	Acheson	Bluewater	2020		Tannie Marsh and Steve	Fox	Wabana	2020
John and Cheryl	Adams	Little Wabana	2020		Eric and Jan	Fredbeck	Wabana	2020
John and Jenny	Aulick	Wabana	2020		Dr. Peter and Chris	Friedlieb	Wabana	2020
William J.	Bekkedahl	Bluewater	2020		Mary and Bob	Gephart	Wabana	2020
Craig and Cindy	Bender	Hanson Lake	2020		John and Martha Ann	Gettinger	Wabana	2020
Duane and Anne	Benson	Bluewater	2020		Rev. George & Lou Ellen	Gilbertson	Little Wabana	2020
Jim and Sue	Bergan	Bluewater	2020		Dorothy K.	Glascock	Wabana	2020
Joan	Birkemeyer	Wabana	2020		Loren & Deborah	Gordon	Wabana	2020
Steven and Christine	Bjerke	Wabana	2020		Greg and Diane	Gough	Bluewater	2020
Douglas	Blackmore	Wabana	2020		Jim and Marcia	Gowling	Wabana	2020
Terry R. and Lynn M.	Boblit	Wabana	2020		Don and Michele	Greiner	Bluewater	2020
Mary Frances and Bill	Bottoms, Jr.	Bluewater	2020		Doug and Kathy	Griffin	Wabana	2020
Aaron and Kelly	Britton	Trout	2020		Richard and Carol	Gross	Wabana	2020
Gary and Carol	Burkholder	Wabana	2020		Louis and Janeen	Gueltzow	Wabana	2020
Camp Fire MN		Bluewater	2020		Jessica Sedivy and Jon	Gunderson	Wabana	2020
Raymond and Mary	Carlson	Little Wabana	2020		Rick and Betsy Fischer	Hadley	Trout	2020
Robert D. and Susan Y.	Chalgren, Sr.	Trout	2020		Dan and Jean	Hagen	Wabana	2020
Richard and Patricia	Chambers	Wabana	2020		Vicky and Rick	Harding	Trout	2020
John F., Dennis, & Kathi	Chervinko	Trout	2020		Cress and Susannah	Hart	Wabana	2020
Paul and Peggy	Christians	Wabana	2020		Jack and Donna	Hartung	Wabana	2020
Ellen J.	Christmas	Wabana	2020		Susan	Hawkinson		2020
Daryl and Michelle	Clough	Wabana	2020		Brett, Kyle, and Keri	Hedlund	Wabana	2020
George and Libby	Colburn	Wabana	2020		Myron and Joan	Henrickson	Wabana	2020
Mark and Ellen	Conover	Wabana	2020		Richard and Rosalie	Hesse	Wabana	2020
Jim and Bobbi	Corrigan	Wabana	2020		Bruce and Jan	Hultgren	Wabana	2020
Dennis and Janice	Davis	Wabana	2020		Scott and Mary	Hutter	Wabana	2020
Clinton and Stacy	Deans	Wabana – Wagathaka	2020		Dave	Johnson	Wabana	2020

First Name	Last Name	Lake	Year		First Name	Last Name	Lake	Year
Mark and Anne	Johnson	Wabana	2020		Loree and Matthew	Miltich	Wabana Township	2020
Jeff and Linda	Jorgenson	Wabana	2020		Mark	Miner	Wabana	2020
Rex and Melanie	Kastner	Trout	2020		Keith and Jane	Moore	Wabana	2020
Andrew Harrington and Erik	Kaukis	Bluewater	2020		Robert and Kay	Moore	Wabana	2020
Al and Julie	Keller	Wabana	2020		Lynn and Tim	Moratzka	Trout	2020
Don and Fay	Klande	Pickerel	2020		Derek & Rachel	Nash	Wabana	2020
Tom and Maggie	Klatt	Little Wabana	2020		Dr. Richard and Kathleen	Nelson	Wabana	2020
Richard and Jeanne	Koeckeritz	Bluewater	2020		Carl and Sue	Nordgren	Bluewater	2020
Dennis and Jean	Koewler	Wabana	2020		Judy	Nybakken	Bluewater	2020
Ken and Deb	Kruger	Wabana	2020		David and Carolyn	Nyren	Wabana	2020
Danielle	Larsen	Wabana	2020		Paul and Barb	Oberg	Wabana	2020
Jerald E. and Emma J.	Larson	Wabana	2020		Gary and Kim	Oja	Wabana	2020
Juan and Christina	Lazo	Wabana	2020		Jim and Gail	Olijnek	Wabana	2020
Andrew	Lick	Wabana	2020		Marvin and Sandie	Oman	2020	
Dave and Sue	Lick	Wabana	2020		Sharon	Owen	Wabana	2020
Arnie and Julie	Linder	Wabana	2020		Paul and Toni	Palecek	Bluewater	2020
Michael and Annette	Linder	Wabana	2020		Tim and Jean	Panchysyn	Wabana	2020
Roger and Nancy	Linder	Wabana	2020		Brian and Janessa	Pierzina	Wabana	2020
William H. and Kathryn	Linder	Bluewater	2020		Deb and Jeff	Powers	Bluewater	2020
Patrick and Jackie	Loney	Wabana	2020		Ron and Anne	Radecki	Wabana	2020
Loney Family		Wabana	2020		Steven and Traci	Ribar	Wabana	2020
Evelyn	Maddaus	Wabana	2020		JoEllyn Moore and Andrew	Roalstad	Wabana	2020
Robert	Manning	Wabana Bluewater	2020		Ron	Roalstad	Wabana	2020
Mark and Kathy	McCullough	Wabana	2020		Catherine	Rudolph	Wabana	2020
Paul and Kristen	McCullough	Wabana	2020		Bill	Rutherford	Bluewater	2020
Steven and Pat	Mead	Little Trout	2020		Stuart W. and Tanya	Sage	Bluewater	2020
Steve and Jean	Melin	Wabana	2020		William and Shirley	Sage	Bluewater	2020
John and Carolyn	Merkel	Trout	2020		Richard Brasch and Carole	Schmidt	Wabana	2020
Arthur L.	Merrill	Wabana	2020		Gordon & Gerri	Slabaugh	Bluewater	2020



First Name	Last Name	Lake	Year		First Name	Last Name	Lake	Year
Bruce & Diane	Smith	Bluewater	2020		Amy Luke and Jeff	Wick	Wabana	2020
Dale	Snuggerud	Wabana	2020		Mike Murphy and Ellen	Widmark	Wabana	2020
John	Soll	Wabana	2020		Sally and George	Wilbur	Wabana	2020
Wayne and Carol	Speedling	Clearwater	2020		Michael and Barbara	Wilkus	Bluewater	2020
Joe and Martha	Stevens	Bluewater	2020		Gib and Kathleen	Willson	Wabana	2020
Kim Wickland and Rob	Striegl	Wabana	2020		Gig and Kristen	Willson	Wabana	2020
Kurt and Lavonne	Thompson	Bluewater	2020		William J. and Donna M.	Wolf, Jr.	Trout	2020
Matthew & Nicole Stecklein and Greg & Mary Till		Wabana	2020		Jeff and Lorrie	Yeschick	Wabana	2020
John and Mary	Uradnik	Wabana	2020		Al Schultz and Mary	Ziegler	Little Wabana	2020
Betty Mei and Gregg	Vandesteeg	Wabana	2020		Brian and Lauren	Zimmer	Wabana	2020
Jack	Velzen	Wabana	2020		Mark and Lindsey	Zimmer	Wabana	2020
Eduardo and Kelly	Vigil	Bluewater	2020		Ken and Barbara	Zimmer, Jr.	Wabana	2020
Ted and Swanny	Voneida	Bluewater	2020		Mark W. and Alexandra	Zimmerman	Trout	2020
Kelley and Sally	Wheeler	Trout	2020		John and Alida	Zimmerman, Jr.	Trout	2021

Last Page Photo Contest



Bob Moore was the winner for the February 2020 Newsletter Photo Contest.

The photo was of the creek along the Joyce Estate trail. OK, it was a little tougher, you had to either snowshoe or cross country ski to get to the location. Still, thank you for all your entries. Bob was awarded \$10.00 in Grand Rapids Chamber bucks to spend at a local area business.

For the above photo contest picture, provide details (lake, trail, location, direction) where the photo was taken. E-mail your entry, with your address, to: steven.melin@juno.com. Earliest correct entry will receive \$10.00 in Grand Rapids Chamber Bucks. Prize winnings will be awarded once the Chamber of Commerce opens again. Winner to be identified in the next newsletter.

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

**THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION**

Jean Koewler, Treasurer
32040 Wakeman Bay Trail
Grand Rapids, MN 55744