

The Chain Letter

of the

**WABANA
CHAIN OF
LAKES
ASSOCIATION**



October 2021

Volume 24, Issue 3

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

WCOLA OFFICERS

President: Steven Melin
steven.melin@juno.com (email only)

Vice President: Mark Conover
markellenconover@gmail.com (email only)

Treasurer: Jean Koewler
326-4302 djkoewler@paulbunyan.net

Secretary: Susan Lick
326-6837 susanlick8183@gmail.com

Newsletter Editors: Jean & Steve Melin

Jack Hartung (Secchi Disk Coordinator)

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Tom Horton (Social)

Carl Nordgren (Government Liaison)

Mark Conover (Environmental)

Jean Melin (Communications)

Carol Speedling (Historical Committee)

**Louis Gueltzow (Firewise and
Roadside Clean-up)**

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Visit our web site www.wcola.org.

President's Reveries October 2021

For the past couple years, with Louie Gueltzow as president of WCOLA, the membership has grown to 163 households. He steered the organization through the COVID pandemic and then got us back on track with our social events. Louie decided not to run for re-election this year. Even with the passing of the gavel, Louie will continue to head-up the roadside clean-up and Firewise efforts. Thank you to Louie for all you have done and continue doing.

A big thank you to Doug Griffin, Roger Linder, and Tom Klatt who all retired this year after volunteering many years leading activities for the association. It all helped make this organization what it is today. Also, best wishes to Jim Olijnek in his recovery from medical issues. We look forward to having you back with us.

This issue of the newsletter is a little different. Instead of informative articles (well maybe only a couple), the newsletter is full of photos from around the lakes. Looks like great times were had and kudos to the members for sharing their pictures.

For those members who leave for the winter and for those who stay here around the lakes, have a safe and healthy time. We are planning our dates for WCOLA events for 2022 and hope to see you all at them.

Steve

2022 Projected Calendar of Events

- May 4 - Roadside Spring Clean-up
- June 11 - Kick-off Social
- June TBD - Downing's Summer Solstice Event
- July 4 - Boat Parade
- July 23 - Annual WCOLA Picnic
- Aug. 13 - Annual WCOLA Meeting
- Sept. 21 - Roadside Fall Clean-up

Environmental Committee News

BOAT WASH AND AIS DECONTAMINATION UNIT: AN UPDATE

The launch of the Boat Wash and AIS Decontamination Unit, located at the Wabana Town Hall, has been delayed. The original equipment could not maintain the water temperature at 130 -140 °F consistently over time, which is necessary in order to perform multiple watercraft decontaminations for zebra mussels.

This equipment has now been returned, and our group is in the process of replacing it with a set-up that will be very similar to the system in use at Deer Lake Station. Since the updated equipment will include a commercial water heater, and with the associated plumbing, the final project costs will increase by approximately \$20,000. This equipment set-up should be completed before open water next April.

Currently, WCOLA has \$12,000 budgeted for this project. This along with a credit difference for the hot-water power washer and a grant for nearly \$6800 from Itasca County Soil and Water, the project continues to have a firm financial foundation.

Our group is still accepting donations to raise additional funds which would be used for any unexpected maintenance costs that may arise. Please consider supporting this very worthwhile community project.

Mark Conover, Environmental Chair

2021 WCOLA Board Election Results & New Committee Members

An election was held for the President & Vice-President of the WCOLA Board of Directors. The results were:

President (2-year term)	Steve Melin
Vice-President (2-year term)	Mark Conover

Along with Jean Koewler (Treasurer) and Susan Lick (Secretary), many new committee members are now helping out with WCOLA activities. They are:

- Mark Conover - Environmental Committee
- Jean Melin - Communications Committee
- Tom Horton - Social Committee
- Carl Nordgren - Government Liaison
- Carol Speedling - Historical Committee
- Jack Hartung - Secchi Readings
- Louie Gueltzow – Firewise & Roadside Clean-up
- Ken Zimmer – Loon Count

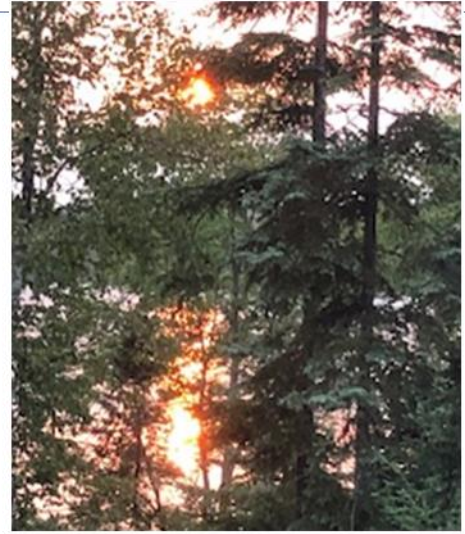
Thank you to all of you who volunteer your time to make this an exciting and great organization.

Out & About the Chain of Lakes this Summer

Following pages are member photos of the fun that was had around the lakes this summer. Thank you to all of the members who their submitted photos.







Wildfire smoke provided some beautiful sunsets





Want It Well Done ?



Roadside Clean-up Volunteers



Wabana Township's 100th Anniversary Celebration

The Wabana Township's 100th Anniversary Celebration was held at the Wabana Town Hall on July 31 and August 1, 2021. Approximately 285 people attended the two-day affair put on by the Wabana Historical Committee. Attendees were very receptive and amazed by the amount and presentation of the historical artifacts and information presented in the Town Hall. The information traced family histories, the logging industry, schools, resorts, camps, lakes, dams, and roads. Wa-ga-tha-ka Resort, the Joyce Estate, Balgillow Island, and old family photos were especially interesting to attendees.

Artifacts displayed included logging hooks and chains found in Wabana Lake and Creek, Chief Wabana's gun from 1896, a replica of CV Smith's 1907 Stopping Place on Balsam Creek (built by Walter Smith), arrowheads found in Wabana and Balsam, various household items from the early 1930's, and items from the American Girl Camp located on Balgillow Island in Wabana Lake.

The Historical Committee wants to thank Roger Linder for his many years of chairing this committee and for heading up the 100th Celebration. Many people helped in putting this event together, and I would especially like to thank my co-committee members, Anne Johnson, Jean Melin, Chris Bjerke, Jim Olijnek, Deb Kee, Steve Bjerke and Louie Gueltzow. We had great participation from residents who shared their family artifacts and information on the history of the Wabana area.

The outdoor events, music and food in the pavilion and the Cornhole Tournament, were a huge success. Hopefully, we can make the Cornhole Tournament an annual affair.

Thank you to everyone who helped and made this a most successful event. The Historical Committee is dedicated to keeping historical records and photos secure and hope to add to the collection as time goes on. We will continue to accept information and photos from residents pertaining to the history of Wabana Township, and we would welcome new members.

Sincerely,
Carol J Speedling
Wabana Historical Committee Chair





For Those of Us Who Stay Around the Lakes in the Winter



And see you all back next Spring



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