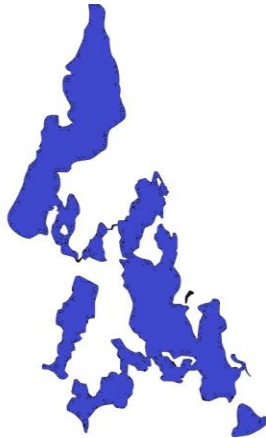


The Chain Letter

of the

**WABANA
CHAIN OF
LAKES
ASSOCIATION**



Spring 2022

Volume 25, Issue 1

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

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Tom Horton (Social)

Carl Nordgren (Government Liaison)

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

Jean Melin (Communications)

Carol Speedling (Historical Committee)

Jack Hartung (Secchi Disk Coordinator)

Mark Conover (Environmental)

Shoreline Advisor: Susan Lick

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

Visit our web site www.wcola.org.

President's Reveries Winter / Spring 2022

Finally, some days with temperatures above freezing and no snow in the forecast. It has been one of those “above average” winters for snow and cold up here in Wabana Township, but the winter activities have been great. It will be interesting to see how long some of the snow banks last. As I write this newsletter, the maple syrup activities are getting ramped up with the neighbor’s tractor digging paths through the snowbanks to get to their trees.

We are sad to announce that Jim Olijnek passed away on November 15, 2021. Jim was very active with WCOLA, served as our President for 4 years, and recruited many members (including me, though it cost him a beer ☺). He was very passionate in preserving, protecting, and enjoying the waters of the Wabana chain. He will be missed.

With the coming of spring, WCOLA will be starting up this year’s events with the roadside spring clean-up. We always do this the first Wednesday in May (May 4th this year), but the ditches may still be covered with snow or full of water. We will send out email as we get closer to the date.

June 11th is the Kick-Off Social Event at the Bluewater Camp Fire Camp. This a pot-luck meal and a great place to get to see our neighbors after the long winter.

Our annual membership renewals are just starting up, we have 137 membership renewals as of the end of February. If you have not done so yet, please submit your annual dues to our Treasurer, Jean Koewler. Thank you.

Here’s to the upcoming Spring and Summer,
Steve

2022 Projected Calendar of Events

- May 4 - Roadside Spring Clean-up (date may change)
- 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

Wabana Chain of Lakes Treasurer's Report

February 28, 2022

Balance – February 1, 2022	\$ 40,164.87
Receipts	
Dues	\$ 870.00
Contributions	\$ 180.00
Total Receipts	\$ 1,050.00
Disbursements:	
Total Expenses	\$ 00.00
Checkbook Balance-February 28, 2022	\$ 41,214.87
Savings Account – Water Testing Balance	\$ 1,410.65
Savings Account – AIS Fund Balance	\$ 10,353.59
Decontamination Unit Fundraiser Total	\$ 22,114.21
Total included in Checkbook Balance	
Wabana Township – 100-Year Anniversary	\$ 153.91
Total included in Checkbook Balance	
In Memory of Jim Olijnek	\$ 1,275.00
Total included in Checkbook Balance	
In Memory of Dorothy Myrick	\$ 50.00
Total included in Checkbook Balance	

Total Paid Households: 137

Lake Steward Program

A NEW OFFERING FOR WCOLA MEMBERS

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers has launched a Lake Steward program to support lake associations as they work to improve water quality, increase lake association visibility, and boost membership efforts. It is easy to get started with the Lake Steward by using a simple ten question quiz: [MLR Lake Steward - Score Your Shore](#). Individual lakeshore owners and their family can use this to "score their shore". Results go to Wabana Lake Association's volunteer coordinator Susan Lick. Should the lakeshore owner like a complementary site visit from a trained volunteer Lake Shore Advisor, it can be set up at your convenience. The site visit can be an opportunity to listen to property owners' concerns and goals.

If you are interested go to <http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/> to take the 10 question Score Your Shore quiz. Thank you for your interest.

Susan Lick, Shoreline Advisory and WCOLA Secretary



Environmental Committee News

BOAT WASH AND AIS DECONTAMINATION UNIT: AN UPDATE

The Wabana Boat Wash Station, located at the Wabana Township Hall, will be open 24/7 for self-service in early May. A garden hose with a spray nozzle will allow boaters to rinse their boats and trailers with cold water. Tools used to remove aquatic debris will also be available.

In addition, Itasca County AIS Program has committed to provide inspectors/decontaminators at the Station for thirty (30) hours per week this summer. Typical schedule will be 10 hours Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

If all goes according to plan, the AIS hot-water decontamination unit will be fully operational by June 1st, 2022. The installation and hook-up of a commercial hot-water heater and required plumbing will occur as soon as the plumber's schedule permits. Funding for the remainder of the project is in the WCOLA budget.

Mark Conover, Environmental Chair

Ice On / Ice Out Data

Ken Zimmer has been collecting dates for Ice On / Ice Off on Lake Wabana since 1999. The table below shows the dates for these events and then some simple data calculations. As Ken noted in the letter he sent with the dates, the averages of the three decades has not really changed at all.

What is your guess for Ice Off this spring?

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ice ON</u>	<u>ICE OFF</u>		<u>Days with Ice</u>	<u>Days of Water</u>	
1	December 17, 1999	April 9, 2000		114	237	
2	December 2, 2000	April 28, 2001		147	236	
3	December 20, 2001	April 23, 2002		124	217	
4	November 26, 2002	April 25, 2003		150	214	
5	November 25, 2003	April 23, 2004		150	235	
6	December 14, 2004	April 17, 2005		124	229	
7	December 2, 2005	April 14, 2006		133	231	
8	December 1, 2006	April 25, 2007		145	220	
9	December 1, 2007	May 6, 2008		157	210	
10	December 2, 2008	April 28, 2009		147	228	
11	December 12, 2009	April 3, 2010		112	244	
12	December 3, 2010	April 29, 2011		147	221	
13	December 6, 2011	March 31, 2012		116	249	
14	December 5, 2012	May 15, 2013		161	196	
15	November 27, 2013	May 9, 2014		163	196	
16	November 21, 2014	April 15, 2015		145	248	
17	December 19, 2015	April 17, 2016		120	237	
18	December 10, 2016	April 12, 2017		123	234	
19	December 2, 2017	May 7, 2018		156	197	
20	November 20, 2018	May 3, 2019		164	213	
21	December 2, 2019	April 26, 2020		146	220	
22	December 2, 2020	April 7, 2021		126	244	
23	December 7, 2021	TBD				
	Earliest	November 20, 2018	March 31, 2012	Avg.	140	225
	Latest	December 20, 2001	May 15, 2013	Std. Dev.	17	16
				Least	112	196
				Most	164	249

AIS Inspections and Car Counter Data

Late last summer, some of you noticed a car counter strip located at the Wabana boat landings. This was purchased by WCOLA with some assistance from an Itasca AIS grant. The purpose of this counter was to collect data to help determine the best days and hours to have the boat landings staffed with AIS inspectors.

For the **North Landing**, data was collected from July 15 through Aug. 12, 2022 and when summarized by day of the week, it looks like:

<u>Day</u>				<u>Day</u>				<u>Day</u>				<u>Day</u>		
Monday	Avg.	12		Tuesday	Avg.	15		Wednesday	Avg.	15		Thursday	Avg.	6
	Max.	16			Max.	20			Max.	18			Max.	12
	Min.	6			Min.	7			Min.	9			Min.	0
Friday	Avg.	22		Saturday	Avg.	43		Sunday	Avg.	41				
	Max.	24			Max.	88			Max.	60				
	Min.	20			Min.	14			Min.	19				

For the **South Landing**, data was collected for Aug. 13 – Oct. 8, 2022 and when summarized by day of the week:

<u>Day</u>				<u>Day</u>				<u>Day</u>				<u>Day</u>		
Monday	Avg.	12		Tuesday	Avg.	7		Wednesday	Avg.	11		Thursday	Avg.	8
	Max.	36			Max.	14			Max.	22			Max.	20
	Min.	6			Min.	3			Min.	5			Min.	3
Friday	Avg.	10		Saturday	Avg.	19		Sunday	Avg.	17				
	Max.	23			Max.	43			Max.	23				
	Min.	3			Min.	10			Min.	7				

AIS Inspectors are provided by the Itasca County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) AIS department. For the last few years, they have been able to fund inspectors at 40 hours per week for each landing. WCOLA and Wabana Township have provided additional funding (\$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively) for additional inspector hours.

Last year County-wide, the AIS inspectors performed 20,336 incoming inspections and of those 2,947 (14%) were last on an infected lake. For the Wabana landings, there were 146 boats at the North landing and 107 boats at the South landing that were last on an infected lake and inspected between the May fishing opener and the end of September.



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



Volunteer Opportunities - Spring 2022

March 9, 2022

Help make a difference



Volunteer Rainfall Monitors

Do you have an interest in the weather?

Are you looking for a way to volunteer safely from home?

Or how about a great family activity that provides an easy way for kids to get involved with science?

Volunteer as a rainfall monitor for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS)

coordinated through the state climatology office in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who measure precipitation in their backyards using a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge and submit their reports online.

[Learn More](#)

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/opps/index.html#rainfall>

Protect Your Lake in Three Ways

By Paul J. Radomski, author of *Lakeshore Living*

Lakeshore owners have a strong desire to protect their lake. Healthy lakes provide the recreational and aesthetic benefits lakeshore residents value. In addition, healthy lakes enhance lakeshore property values. There are three ways we can reduce pollution and maintain healthy lakes.

1. Reduce runoff by getting rainwater into the ground near where it falls.
2. Beautify the shore.
3. Maintain our septic systems.

Reduce Runoff

Rainwater runoff is a major source of water pollution. Rainwater runoff comes from roads, driveways, roofs and lawns. Rainwater that does not infiltrate into the ground or evaporate becomes runoff. Runoff is not only occurring when streams are full after a rain, but it also occurs when small sheets of water flow over the surface of our lawns and head down to the lake. Runoff carries pollutants, such as dissolved metals, pesticides, suspended solids, pet waste and nutrients, such as phosphorus, which can lead to algae blooms.

Good rainwater management can help reduce pollutants and excessive nutrients from entering our lakes. When rainwater is allowed to infiltrate into the ground, the soil and plants can purify the water before it reaches the lake or river. There are two ways to manage rainwater. The traditional way has been to move water off fast. This approach uses stormwater sewers, pipes and ponds. Unfortunately, civil engineers have found that this expensive approach does not work well. Often, the outcome is water quality and water quantity problems downstream or downhill.

The second way of managing rainwater is to get the water and the pollutants it carries into the ground near where it falls. This can often be a small-scale, decentralized and low-cost option. This approach uses rain gardens, grass overflow parking areas, grass swales, porous or pervious paver blocks, parking lot infiltration basins and fewer impervious surfaces. Infiltration reduces pollutants and nutrients entering our lakes, thus protecting the lake water quality.

For lakeshore owners, a simple start to managing rainwater is to redirect gutter downspouts that run onto impervious surfaces, such as driveways and sidewalks, so they run onto vegetated areas instead. Rain gardens are a good way to capture runoff when greater infiltration is needed.

Beautify The Shore

Managing rainwater also includes protecting natural areas important for water storage and filtering, such as wetlands, streams, and vegetated buffers near water. A shoreline buffer of natural vegetation traps, filters and impedes runoff. The simplest and sometimes most effective way to recreate this buffer is to stop mowing down to the lake. A smaller lawn with a larger shoreline buffer will help infiltration and reduce runoff. To signal to my neighbors that my yard is tidy, I use split-rail fences to designate the

boundary between my cared for lawn area and naturalized shoreline buffer. These cues of care show people that I'm both protecting the lake and caring for my yard.

Maintain Septic Systems

Finally, for those lake home owners who use septic systems to treat and disperse waste and recycle water, maintenance is critical. Sludge builds up in the septic tank and should be pumped out every two to three years. If sludge accumulates to the level of the outlet pipe, clogging will occur, which will damage the drainfield and reduce the life expectancy of the system. Drainfields can also fail when they are overloaded, either with too much water or too much garbage disposal waste. The average life of a drainfield is 10 to 20 years.

Lakehome owner management of septic systems is sometimes inadequate. Regular pumping of the septic tank is needed to minimize pollution problems. Consider scheduling maintenance of your system this summer by calling a local septic system pumping provider.

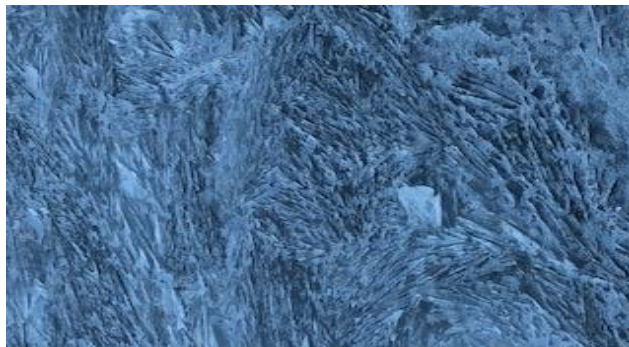
MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates ~ PO Box 22262 ~ St. Paul, MN 55122
www.mnlakesandrivers.org ~ 952-854-1317 ~ judy@mnlakesandrivers.org

FiveStar Lake Service Providers

It is coming up on that time of year again to put in our docks and lifts. Please consider using an Itasca County identified FiveStar lake service provider implemented by Itasca County AIS program. FiveStar enrolls and promotes the lake service providers who are savvy about AIS and implement prescribed AIS safeguards. These providers are DNR-certified, sign a contract agreeing to apply specified AIS best practices and safeguard when moving from one lake or river to another, and agree to help identify and disseminate AIS best practices and safeguards throughout Itasca County.

A listing of the current Itasca County FiveStar providers can be found at:

<https://www.itascaswcd.org/five-star-program>



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

Jean Koewler, Treasurer
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