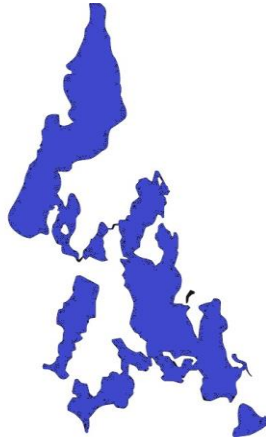


# The Chain Letter

of the

**WABANA  
CHAIN OF  
LAKES  
ASSOCIATION**



**Summer  
2022**

**Volume 25, Issue 2**

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](mailto:steven.melin@juno.com)

(email only)

**Vice President: Mark Conover**

[markellenconover@gmail.com](mailto:markellenconover@gmail.com)

(email only)

**Treasurer: Jean Koewler**

326-4302

[djkoewler@paulbunyan.net](mailto:djkoewler@paulbunyan.net)

**Secretary: Susan Lick**

326-6837

[susanlick8183@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.wcola.org).

# President's Reveries Summer 2022

Summer is in full swing. Lake Wabana was declared soft water on May 7<sup>th</sup>. It was one of the later ice-outs, but not the latest (May 15, 2013). Water temps have warmed up enough to go for a swim. The MN DNR went around to the campsites the other day and cleaned them up for the season. An amusing observation: even the DNR boats have motor issues. They had two boats with one towing the other as a DNR person was repeatedly pulling on the cord trying to start the second motor.

Over the last month, WCOLA volunteers did the Spring Road Clean-up and held our annual kick-off Spring Social at the Bluewater Campfire camp. The road clean-up was delayed a couple of weeks waiting for the snow, ice, and water in the ditches to disappear. When we got around to the clean-up, the roadsides were surprisingly trash free from the winter. As for the social, a nice crowd was there. The Bluewater Camp is a wonderful place to gather. We thank the camp for allowing us to hold our picnic there each year.

Yes, the boat wash station is up and running. Thank you to Mark Conover for all his efforts on making this happen. There were many hurdles that had to be cleared. Thanks to Wabana Township and Itasca County SWCD – AIS program for supporting this effort to help prevent AIS from entering the lakes. When you read other lake associations newsletters and what they have to do for their infestations, we can be thankful that the lakes here are still AIS-free.

In the last newsletter, we announced a Lake Steward Program in partnership with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers and Itasca Waters. Planting a shoreline buffer zone of native plants is one of the many ways to improve water quality. Susan Lick, who is also a Master Gardner, is heading up this program for WCOLA. You can see what some native plants look like adjacent to the Wabana Township building. Informational signage is there telling about the plants.

WCOLA has 154 paid memberships so far this year. If you have not done so yet, please submit your annual dues to our Treasurer, Jean Koewler. Your dues help fund operation of the boat wash, additional boat launch AIS inspector hours, and lake association activities.

*Steve*

## 2022 Calendar of Events

- July 3 - Boat Parade at 2:00 pm
- July 23 - Annual WCOLA Picnic
- Aug. 13 - Annual WCOLA Meeting
- Sept. 21 - Roadside Fall Clean-up



**Axel & Oscar fishing with Grandpa Pete**

# Wabana Chain of Lakes Treasurer's Report

May 31, 2022

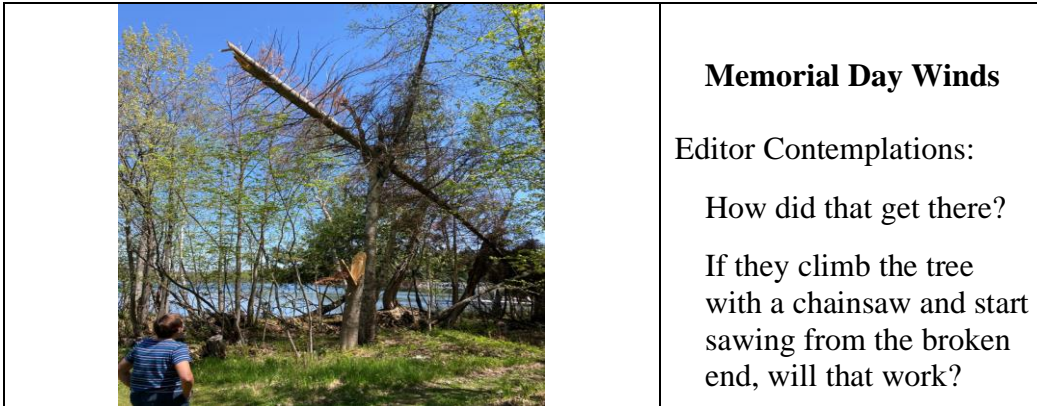
<b>Balance – May 1, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 41,458.49</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	
Medtronic Foundation Automatic Transfer	\$ 600.00
Dues	\$ 70.00
Contributions	\$ 1,070.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 1,740.00</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Itasca SWCD AIS Inspections	\$ 5,000.00
Itasca Reliable Insurance Agency Liability Insurance	\$ 468.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,468.00</b>
<b>Checkbook Balance-May 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 37,730.49</b>
<b>Savings Account – Water Testing Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,410.65</b>
<b>Savings Account – AIS Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 10,353.59</b>
<b>Decontamination Unit Fundraiser Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,114.21</b>
Total included in Checkbook Balance	
<b>Wabana Township – 100-Year Anniversary</b>	<b>\$ 153.91</b>
Total included in Checkbook Balance	
<b>In Memory of Jim Olijnek</b>	<b>\$ 1,275.00</b>
Total included in Checkbook Balance	
<b>In Memory of Dorothy Myrick</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
Total included in Checkbook Balance	

**Total Paid Households: 154**

# Lake Steward Program

Susan Lick, Shoreline Advisory and WCOLA Secretary

WCOLA is working to award efforts toward improving lake health through the Lake Steward Program in conjunction with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates. We hope that you will join us in restoring your property to earn a Lake Steward Award and protect the environment of yourself and your neighbors. Get started in the program today by contacting our me ( [susanlick8183@gmail.com](mailto:susanlick8183@gmail.com) ) and taking the [“Are You a Lake Steward?” Quiz](https://mnlakesandrivers.org/lake-associations/lake-association-programs/lake-steward/) ( <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/lake-associations/lake-association-programs/lake-steward/> ).



## Environmental Committee News

Mark Conover, Environmental Chair

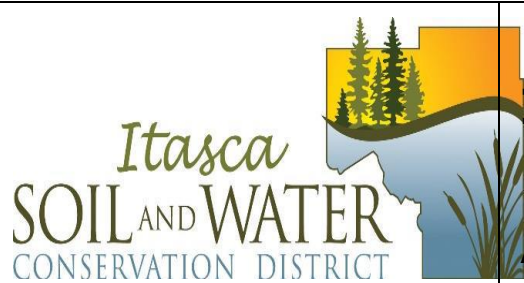
WCOLA is happy to announce the official opening of the Wabana Boat Wash Station, located at the town hall. The station will be open Friday through Sunday from 9 AM to 7 PM for the remainder of the open water season.

A portable Hydro Tek hot water pressure washer unit was recently purchased, capable of providing 3000 psi at 4.5 gallons per minute at temperatures between 100 -140 F. These specifications are necessary in order to kill zebra mussels.

DNR certified Level II AIS Inspectors will staff the station during its operating hours. The inspectors will educate watercraft owners, provide inspections, and perform decontamination procedures on watercraft and trailers contaminated with aquatic invasive species (AIS).

This project has been a collaborative effort between WCOLA and Wabana Township, with Itasca County AIS Dept. contributing the inspectors. The many grants and donations received have made this possible. Thank you! Stop by the station, introduce yourself to the inspector, and check out the new piece of equipment. Let's keep AIS out of our lakes!





# Itasca County SWCD AIS Program

## A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2021

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Metrics</u></b>
<b>AIS Prevention Aid Used</b>	<b>\$ 642,676</b> AIS Prevention Aid used in calendar year 2021 <b>\$ 100,000</b> saved in a contingency fund since June 2016
<b>People Doing AIS Work</b>	<b>2</b> full-time staff with <b>100 %</b> of their time dedicated to AIS work <b>5</b> part-time and seasonal staff with <b>100 %</b> of their time dedicated to AIS work ( <i>Staff other than inspectors that work less than 40 hours a week or seasonally.</i> ) <b>25</b> Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors <b>9</b> Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors <b>75 %</b> of aid used in 2021 for seasonal staff wages <b>41+</b> volunteers conducting AIS work <b>800+</b> volunteer hours served (800+)
<b>Partnerships</b>	Local organizations engaged and/or actively conducting aid-funded AIS work: <b>28</b> lake associations <b>4</b> conservation nonprofits and/or outdoor groups <b>1</b> high school <b>27</b> businesses <b>5</b> local governments Our county has an AIS Technical Advisory Committee: <b>Yes</b>
<b>Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged</b>	<b>\$ 41,877</b> in grants awarded (aid to other organizations) <b>9</b> organizations awarded grants <b>\$ 32,768</b> in funds contributed by other organizations to directly support aid-funded work <b>9</b> organizations contributing additional funds
<b>Communities Engaged</b>	<b>12</b> events held about AIS or that included AIS topics <b>7,000</b> residents and visitors directly contacted/engaged about AIS during events <b>\$ 9,739</b> spent on paid advertisements (billboards, TV, radio, newspaper, social media, etc.) <b>1,560</b> children taught about AIS
<b>Watercraft Inspected</b>	<b>\$ 510,000</b> spent on watercraft inspection <b>37,021</b> inspections performed <b>21,938.25</b> hours of inspections performed <b>47</b> accesses covered by inspectors <b>27</b> water bodies covered by inspectors <b>98.88 %</b> of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out <b>5</b> decontamination units ( <b>4</b> mobile, <b>1</b> stationary) in operation by Level 2 inspectors <b>489</b> decontaminations performed



## TIPS FOR BOATING SAFELY NEAR LOONS

Loons have returned and we are fortunate to have many loon nesting areas on the WCOLA lakes. Nesting areas are usually built by both the male and female beside bodies of water in shallow water, near islands, in a quiet bay, on a nesting platform, or in one of the lake channels. The female will then sit on the eggs for 27 to 30 days before they hatch.

Hatchlings are covered in dark downy feathers and have white bellies, according to the Loon Preservation Committee. Chicks sometime ride on their parent's backs, usually for the first seven to ten days. They can, however, swim and shallow dive after just two to three days, and by 12 weeks they are able to fly on their own. There are many predators for the eggs & chicks - raccoons, gulls, eagles, large fish and snapping turtles. Shoreline & recreational activities can be a threat if they occur too close to active nests, chick rearing sites, and loons on open water.

Please help protect these precious birds:

- If you see a nest, please keep your distance. Loons may abandon their nests if people come too close.
- Respect the wake zone and keep your boat wake low. Boat wakes can wash the eggs off the nest.
- Chicks hatch about the fourth week of June, or possibly later with our late ice out this year. After hatching, the parents escort the chicks to the nursery, a calm secluded area. Peace and quiet is essential, so resist the temptation to get close.
- **PLEASE SLOW DOWN!** As the chicks mature, the parents move out of the secluded areas to chick rearing areas. Unfortunately, this often puts the chicks in the pathways of boats. The chick rearing areas are close to islands and quiet bays as well as in open water before or after the no wake zones. Please slow down before you reach the no wake zones and keep your speed low as you exit no wake zones. Be alert for loons and juveniles and give them space. The juveniles are often left alone for short periods while their parents' fish and socialize. Loon chicks cannot dive when very young to get out of the way of boats. They also tire easily. Even adult loons have difficulty staying out of harm's way as boats approach and exit the area at high speed. When in open water, continue to watch for loons and keep your distance.



The annual Loon Count for the chain of lakes will be occurring on Saturday, July 23 at 9:00 am. If you are interested in participating (about 2 hours), please contact Ken Zimmer.

## WCOLA 2022 Membership Listing

First Name	Last Name	Lake		First Name	Last Name	Lake
Jill M.	Acheson	Bluewater		Dr. Peter and Chris	Friedlieb	Wabana
John and Jenny	Aulick	Wabana		John and Martha Ann	Gettinger	Wabana
Donna and David	Becchetti			Rev. George & Lou Ellen	Gilbertson	Little Wabana
Craig and Cindy	Bender	Hanson		Dorothy K.	Glascoock	Wabana
Duane and Anne	Benson	Bluewater		Greg and Diane	Gough	Bluewater
Jim and Sue	Bergan	Bluewater		Jim and Marcia	Gowling	Wabana
Elizabeth Bunge	Birch	Wabana		Don and Michele	Greiner	Bluewater
Joan	Birkemeyer	Wabana		Doug and Kathy	Griffin	Wabana
Steven and Christine	Bjerke	Wabana		Richard and Carol	Gross	Wabana
Charlie and Leslie	Black	Wabana		Louis and Janeen	Gueltzow	Wabana
Douglas	Blackmore	Wabana		Jessica Sedivy and Jon	Gunderson	Wabana
Matt and Stephanie	Blade	Wabana		Dan and Jean	Hagen	Wabana
Terry R. and Lynn M.	Boblit	Wabana		Cress and Susannah	Hart	Wabana
Bill	Bottoms, Jr.	Bluewater		Jack and Donna	Hartung	Wabana
Aaron and Kelly	Britton	Trout		Susan	Hawkinson	
Dan and Jeanne	Burke	Wabana		Brett, Kyle, and Kari	Hedlund	Wabana
Gary and Carol	Burkholder	Wabana		Myron and Joan	Henrickson	Wabana
Camp Fire MN	Camp Fire	Bluewater		Richard and Rosalie	Hesse	Wabana
Kirk	Carlson	Wabana		Tom	Horton	Wabana
Raymond and Mary	Carlson	Little Wabana		Bruce and Jan	Hultgren	Wabana
Robert D. and Susan Y.	Chalgren, Sr.	Trout		Scott and Mary	Hutter	Wabana
Richard and Patricia	Chambers	Wabana		Dave	Johnson	Wabana
John F. and Dennis	Chervinko	Trout		Mark and Anne	Johnson	Wabana
Paul and Peggy	Christians	Wabana		Jeff and Linda	Jorgenson	Wabana
James	Christmas	Little Trout		Andrew Harrington and Erik	Kaukis	Bluewater
George and Libby	Colburn	Wabana		Richard and Jeanne	Koeckeritz	Bluewater
Mark and Ellen	Conover	Wabana		David and Stefanie	Koewler	Wabana
Matt and Sarah	Copeland	Wabana		Dennis and Jean	Koewler	Wabana
Jim and Bobbi	Corrigan	Wabana		John and Sheila	Koewler	Wabana
Clinton and Stacy	Deans	Wabana – Wagathaka		Robert and Wendy	Koewler	Wabana
Scott and Susan	Ellsworth	Bluewater		Danielle	Larsen	Wabana
A. J.	Fleischhacker	Wabana		Bruce and Bonnie	Larson	Bluewater
Tannie Marsh and Steve	Fox	Wabana		Jerald E. and Emma J.	Larson	Wabana
Eric and Jan	Fredbeck	Wabana		Juan and Christina	Lazo	Wabana


## WCOLA 2022 Membership Listing (con't)

First Name	Last Name	Lake	First Name	Last Name	Lake
Juan and Christina	Lazo	Wabana	Marvin and Sandie	Oman	Wabana
Dave and Sue	Lick	Wabana	Marvin and Mary	Ott	Wabana Township
Simon and Katie	Lick	Wabana	Sharon	Owen	Wabana
Arnie and Julie	Linder	Wabana	Tim and Jean	Panchyshyn	Wabana
Michael and Annette	Linder	Wabana	Nola	Pierce	Wabana
Roger and Nancy	Linder	Wabana	Brian and Janessa	Pierzina	Wabana
William H. and Kathryn J.	Linder	Bluewater	Deb and Jeff	Powers	Bluewater
Patrick and Jackie	Loney	Wabana	Mark and Renae	Rasmusson	Wabana
Loney Family		Wabana	James and Susan	Ries	Bluewater
Graham	Lukens	Wabana	JoElyn Moore and Andrew	Roalstad	Wabana
John and Karen	Lukens	Wabana	Ron	Roalstad	Wabana
Evelyn	Maddaus	Wabana	K. Christel	Rowe	Little Wabana
Patricia and Joseph	Maijala	Bluewater	Catherine	Rudolph	Wabana
Peg Landin and Tim	Mangni	Bluewater	Bill	Rutherford	Bluewater
Robert	Manning	Wabana & Bluewater	Diane	Rutherford	Bluewater
James and Jane	McCullough	Wabana	Stuart W. and Tanya	Sage	Bluewater
Mark and Kathy	McCullough	Wabana	William and Shirley	Sage	Bluewater
Paul and Kristen	McCullough	Wabana	Richard Brasch and Carole	Schmidt	Wabana
Mary Ann	Mead	Little Trout	William and Sue	Simmons	Bluewater
Steven and Pat	Mead	Little Trout	Dara Wolf and Doug	Skelton	Trout
Steve and Jean	Melin	Wabana	Gordon and Gerri	Slabaugh	Bluewater
Jon and Pamela	Miner	Wabana	Bruce and Diane	Smith	Bluewater
Mark	Miner	Wabana	Dale	Snuggerud	Wabana
Keith and Jane	Moore	Wabana	Thomas and Jean	Soderberg	Trout
Robert and Kay	Moore	Wabana	John	Soll	Wabana
Lynn and Tim	Moratzka	Trout	Wayne and Carol	Speedling	Clearwater
Tom and Carol	Myrick		Janis	Stein	Wabana
Dr. Richard and Kathleen	Nelson	Wabana	Joe and Martha	Stevens	Bluewater
Sam and Sandra	Nelson	Little Wabana	Kim Wickland and Rob	Striegl	Wabana
Lafe M.	Ness, Jr.	Wabana	Jeff and Debbie	Tack	Bluewater
David and Carolyn	Nyren	Wabana	Kurt and Lavonne	Thompson	Bluewater
Paul and Barb	Oberg	Wabana	Dan and Carol	Thureen	Little Wabana
Gary and Kim	Oja	Wabana	Matthew & Nicole Stecklein and Greg & Mary	Till	Wabana



## WCOLA 2022 Membership Listing (con't)

First Name	Last Name	Lake	First Name	Last Name	Lake
John and Mary	Uradnik	Wabana	Marcia Anderson and Ross	Williams	Wabana
Betty and Gregg	Vandesteeg	Wabana	Gib and Kathleen	Willson	Wabana
Jack	Velzen	Wabana	Gig and Kristen	Willson	Wabana
Eduardo and Kelly	Vigil	Bluewater	William & Donna	Wolf, Jr.	Wabana
Swanny	Voneida	Bluewater	Al Schultz and Mary	Ziegler	Little Wabana
Kelley and Sally	Wheeler	Trout	Brian and Lauren	Zimmer	Wabana
Pamela Wassberg	Whittenbury	Little Trout	Mark and Lindsey	Zimmer	Wabana
Mike Murphy and Ellen	Widmark	Wabana	Ken and Barbara	Zimmer, Jr.	Wabana
Sally and George	Wilbur	Wabana	Mark W. and Alexandra	Zimmerman	Trout
Michael and Barbara	Wilkus	Bluewater	John and Alida	Zimmerman	Trout

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Memorial Day Winds</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Going “old-school”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Floating the logs down the water to take to the saw mill</p>
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### **Fall 2022 Newsletter – Editor’s Request**

Last year’s Fall issue had a great response with all of the photos that were received for the newsletter. So again, for this Fall newsletter, we would like member inputs. Your photos and stories about the fun activities you have done in, on, and around these beautiful lakes during any of the seasons.

Please send via email to [steven.melin@juno.com](mailto:steven.melin@juno.com) – Thank you

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

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