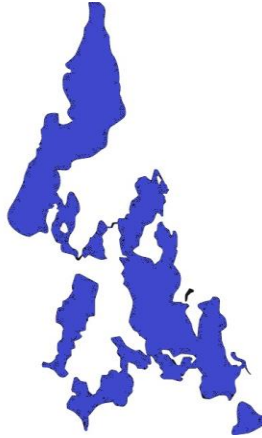


The Chain Letter

of the

**WABANA
CHAIN OF
LAKES
ASSOCIATION**



Fall 2022

Volume 25, 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: Chris Friedlieb

chrisfriedlieb@yahoo.com

(email only)

Lori Moore (Communications)

Newsletter Editors:

Jean & Steve Melin

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Susan Lick (Shoreline Advisor)

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

Mark Conover (Environmental)

Tom Horton (Social)

Carl Nordgren (Government Liaison)

Carol Speedling (Historical Committee)

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

Visit our web site www.wcola.org.

President's Reveries For 2022

Summer has come to an end and fall is upon us. The sun sets earlier and further to the South every night and the fall colors are starting to show themselves.

Like last fall's newsletter, this newsletter is full of photos from WCOLA members with activities and scenery seen on the lakes. This newsletter could be 30 pages long with all of the photos that were received. Using the scenery photos that members have been sending in, we are going to produce a deck of cards. There will be a different scene used on each card face and one scene selected for the card back. When the card decks become available, we will send out an email to all members.

Also, within a couple of weeks, WCOLA will be kicking off a fund-raising store. This will be an on-line means of purchasing WCOLA apparel & accessories. Again, we will send out an email when the "store" is up and running. Funds raised from these sales and the deck of cards will be allocated for additional AIS inspector hours.

Under the topic – time for a change, next Spring WCOLA will have a new newsletter editor. Lori Moore will be taking over the Communication and Newsletter responsibilities. Lori and Tom Moore are new to the lakes this year and have a great appreciation for what these beautiful lakes have to offer.

To all of our members, those who stay here for the winter and those who travel away, have a safe, fun, and healthy time.

Steve

2023 Projected Calendar of Events

- May 10th - Spring Roadside Clean-up
- June 17th – Kick-off the Season Party
- July 4th – Boat parade
- July 29th – Annual Picnic & Cornhole Tournie
- Aug. 12th – Annual WCOLA Meeting
- Sept. 20th – Fall Road Clean-up



Wabana Chain of Lakes Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2022

Balance – September 1, 2022	\$ 19,271.04
Receipts	
Dues	\$ 70.00
Itasca Co. Soil & Water Conservation Dist. AIS Cap Grant – Decontamination Unit	\$ 5,363.00
Lake Country Power – Operation Round Up Grant – Historical Display	\$ 500.00
Total Receipts	\$ 5,933.00
Disbursements:	
Treasure Bay Printing Banner – Boat Wash Station – Decon. Unit	\$ 243.00
Mark Conover Fuel for Decontamination Unit	\$ 47.59
Total Expenses	\$ 290.59
Checkbook Balance - September 30, 2022	\$ 24,913.45
Savings Account – Water Testing Balance	\$ 1,510.86
Savings Account – AIS Fund Balance	\$ 12,590.17
Decontamination Unit Fundraiser Total	\$ 15,992.47
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: 160

2022 WCOLA Board Election Results & New Committee Members

An election was held for the Secretary & Treasurer of the WCOLA Board of Directors. The results were:

Treasurer (2-year term)	Jean Koewler
Secretary (2-year term)	Chris Friedlieb

Mark Conover (Vice-President) and Steve Melin (President) were elected last year and their terms run until August 2023. Besides the elected officers, many WCOLA members volunteer their time to help out with activities. The committee members are:

- Mark Conover - Environmental Committee
- Lori Moore - 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
- Susan Lick – Shoreland Advisor

Thank you to all of these members who volunteer their time for this great organization.

A big **Thank You** to Susan Lick who has retired as Secretary after many years, she did a wonderful job in keeping the minutes for our monthly meetings – not an easy task. Susan is continuing as our Shoreland Advisor. Contact her if you have any questions on how to best have your shoreline help protect the lake's water quality.

AIS Inspectors Primer

WCOLA has two accounts used for support of AIS inspectors at the Wabana boat landings and at the Wabana Township Decontamination station.

For the boat landings inspectors, \$5,000 is budgeted as part of the annual WCOLA budget for which annual dues and donations pay for. The \$5,000 along with \$2,500 from Wabana Township is then combined with matching CAP grants that yield a total of \$15,000 per boat inspection season (mid-May through early October). The \$15,000 provides enough for 25 hours of coverage per week of one inspector at one landing (50 hours per week for 2 landings). The County then provides 15 additional hours of inspector coverage per Wabana boat landing. This results in 40 hours of inspector coverage per week at each landing which is allocated to four ten-hour days (Friday to Monday) each week.

How many boats use the landings per week and would be covered when inspectors are available Friday -> Monday you ask? WCOLA has one car counter that alternates between landings and count data indicates that approximately 75% of the boats access the lake Friday thru Monday. The landing averages are:

South Landing: 73 boats per week (53 Friday to Monday)
North landing : 154 boats per week (117 Friday to Monday)

AIS Inspectors Coverage– a primer (continued)

As for the Wabana Station Decontamination unit, this is the first year of its operation. There has been an increase in boat washes as the “word gets out”. This station was staffed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through the end of August and less hours and days in September as inspector resources became limited. The site is staffed with a Level 2 AIS inspector (trained to do boat washes and inspections). There were 22 washes performed the first two months of operation, six of which required a thorough decontamination. Funding for inspectors of the Decon unit is paid for from the fund-raising dollars raised in 2020-2021, and is sufficient to cover operations for the next two years. The Decon station not only benefits the Wabana Chain of Lakes but all the surrounding lakes.

To continue or increase funding for AIS inspectors both at the landings and the boat wash, we are looking for ways to raise additional funds without increasing annual dues significantly. As mentioned in the “President’s Reveries”, we will be offering a deck of cards and starting a WCOLA on-line store to help raise additional funds. Your support for purchase of these items will be greatly appreciated.

Next January when the annual membership renewal comes out, it will also ask if you would like to make an additional donation for AIS efforts above your annual due amount. Over the last few years, generous amounts have been donated and used for AIS inspection support.

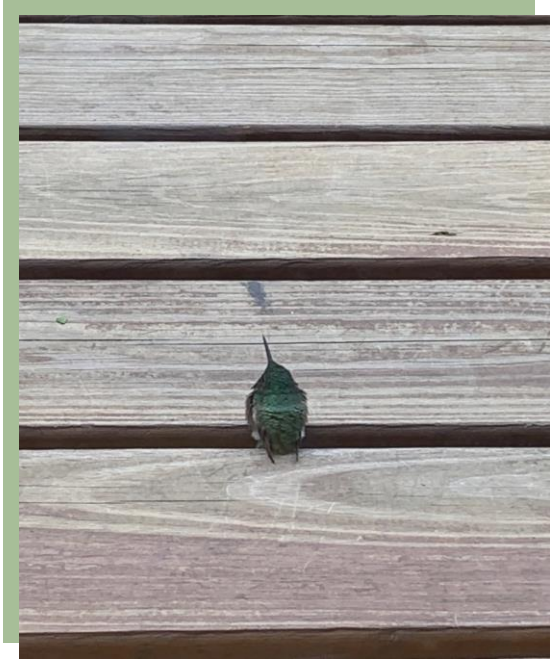
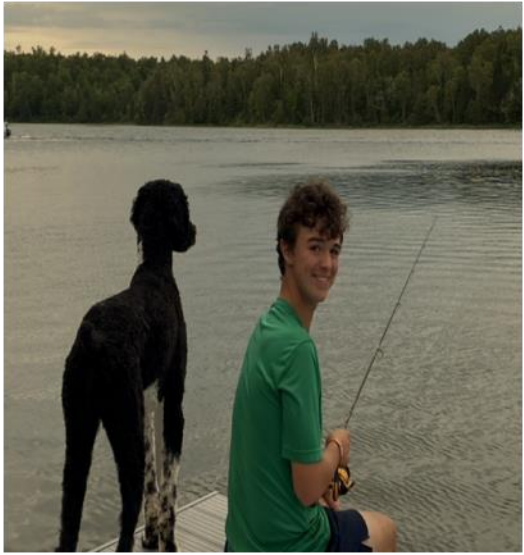
There are many lakes in Itasca County and throughout Minnesota with AIS and many boats from those lakes use the Wabana Chain for recreation. Helping to prevent the spread of AIS is a primary focus of WCOLA and have landing inspectors and providing boat washes are means to prevent the spread.

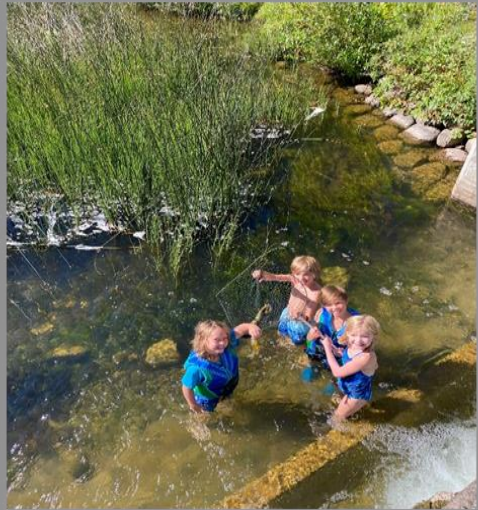
Out and About the Wabana Chain of Lakes this Summer

Following are photos sent in showing the wonderful summer has on the lakes. Thank you to all who sent in photos, they were all appreciated.



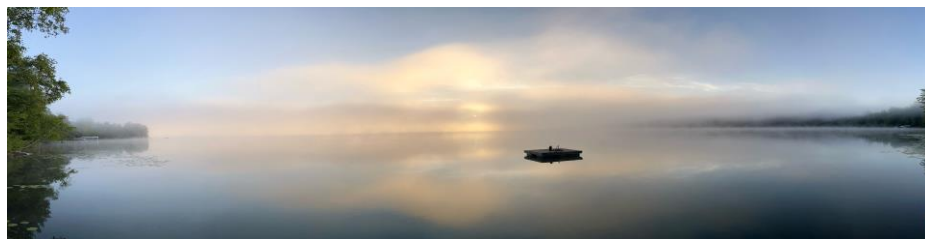








Have a great winter and holiday season, see you back next Spring



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

Jean Koewler, Treasurer
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Grand Rapids, MN 55744