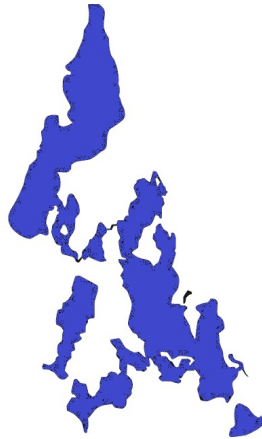


The Chain Letter

of the

**WABANA
CHAIN OF
LAKES
ASSOCIATION**



Spring 2023

Volume 26, 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

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Tom Horton (Social)

Carl Nordgren (Government Liaison)

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

Lori Moore (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 For

Spring 2023

Finally, the sun is setting later, with an assist from daylight savings time. The sunshine feels warm and there is some snow melting going on – but that has a long way to go. One of the upcoming signs of spring is the start of the maple syrup activities which should be starting soon. It is always nice to see the buckets hanging on the trees. I am guessing April 25th for ice-out.

As I start my second year of being president of this organization, I am really looking forward to working with a great board and group of committee members who are all volunteering their time and talents. We added a few new people last year to help keep the organization going and come up with new ideas. Last year the WCOLA Board initiated fund-raising activities to provide additional funding for AIS activities (boat landing inspectors and the hot-water boat wash). The web store and card sales were successful. We hope to start the on-line store up again later this spring with new offerings and the playing cards are still available for purchase.

The first of this year's WCOLA events is the spring roadside clean-up, tentatively scheduled for May 10th. It is always fun to get together and hopefully the ditches will be dried out this year on the planned date. We will send out reminder emails as we get closer to the date.

One of the spring activities we all look forward to is getting the docks & lifts in the water. If you hire this job out, please consider using an Itasca County 5-Star service provider. This program promotes providers that are DNR-certified and have signed a contract to use AIS best practices when moving from one lake to another. More information on this service is in this newsletter.

As always with the start of a new calendar year, annual membership renewals are due. As of the end of February we have had 120 renewals. Last year we had 160 household memberships. It would be great to have more this year. If you have not done so yet, please submit your annual dues to our Treasurer, Jean Koewler.

June 17th is the Kick-Off Social Event at the Bluewater Camp Fire Camp. Hope to see many of you out there.

Steve

2023 Projected Calendar of Events

- May 10 - Roadside Spring Clean-up (date may change)
- June 17 - Kick-off Social- picnic
- July 4 - Boat Parade
- July 29 - Annual WCOLA Picnic and Cornhole tournament
- Aug. 12 - Annual WCOLA Meeting
- Sept. 20 Roadside Fall Clean-up

Wabana Chain of Lakes Treasurer's Report

February 28, 2023

Balance – February 1, 2023	\$ 25,371.93
Receipts	
Dues	\$ 1,140.00
Contributions	\$ 105.00
Medtronics – Decontamination Unit	\$ 400.00
Web Store Profits– AIS Inspections	\$ 1,265.00
Playing Cards	\$ 75.00
Total Receipts	\$ 2,985.00
Disbursements:	
Total Expenses	\$ 00.00
Checkbook Balance – February 28, 2023	\$ 28,356.93
Savings Account – Water Testing – Balance	\$ 1,511.09
Savings Account – AIS Fund – Balance	\$ 12,592.07
Decontamination Unit Fundraiser	\$ 15,674.04
Medtronics	\$ 400.00
Decontamination Unit Fundraiser – Total	\$ 16,074.04
Total included in Checkbook Balance	
AIS Inspectors Fundraiser	--\$ 890.11
Web Store Profit and Cards	\$ 1,340.00
AIS Inspectors Fundraiser – Total	+\$ 449.89
Total included in Checkbook Balance	
Total Paid Households: 120	

Outstanding Conservationist Award

WCOLA has received an award as the Outstanding Conservationist for 2022 by the Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District. Mark Conover accepted the award on behalf of WCOLA at the MASWCD Convention. This two day event was held in Bloomington, MN, in mid-December.

WCOLA was recognized for its placement of a boat wash and decontamination station at the Wabana Town Hall. Certified AIS inspectors will again staff the station 30 hours/week during the open water season.



Ice On / Ice Out Data

Ken Zimmer has been collecting dates for Ice On / Ice Out 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 have not really changed at all.

What is your guess for Ice Off this spring?

Year		Ice On		Ice Out		Days with ice		Days with water
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		May 7, 2022		150		207
24		December 1, 2022		TBD				
	Earliest	November 20, 2018		March 31, 2012	Avg.	140		224
	Latest	December 20, 2001		May 15, 2013				

Give nesting loons space

A distance of 150 feet or more between your boat and a loon nest is recommended. If you see a loon on the nest with its head lowered, this indicates the loon feels threatened. If you see a nesting loon in this position, please back away until it lifts its head and resumes a more relaxed, upright position. This guideline applies not only to motor boats and jet skis but also to human-powered vessels such as canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards.

Loon Count on July 25, 2022:

Wabana - 13 adults, 0 chicks

Bluewater - 4 adults, 1 chick

Big Trout - 22 adults, 1 chick

Little Trout - 2 adults, 0 chicks

Doan - 2 adults, 1 chick

Little Wabana - 4 adults, 0 chicks



AIS Inspectors needed!

The county continues to be in need of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) inspectors. This is for both Level 1 and 2 inspectors. Hours needed for coverage range from 20-40 hours per week. A Level 1 inspector would be at one of the two boat landings on Wabana. A Level 2 inspector is at the Wabana Town Hall boat wash station. The starting date would be around Memorial day and go through approximately early October.

If you have any further questions regarding the AIS inspector program and training requirements, please contact Bill Grantges at 218-259-8797.

Itasca SWCD has Cost Share Funds to Help Improve Pollinator Habitat

Details Written by Matt Gutzmann Category: [News & Updates](#) Published: 02 August 2022

Did you know that female monarch butterflies lay their eggs on all 9 types of milkweed plants? That's right- and swamp milkweed and common milkweed average the highest number of eggs! The monarch butterfly is now listed on the endangered species list. These pollinators (just like bees, moths, flies and other butterflies) are essential to help plants make fruits and seeds by moving pollen from one place to another.

Planting a pollinator garden with a variety of pollinator plants (including milkweed) can help these endangered monarchs with more places to lay their eggs.

Are you interested in a pollinator project on your property? Would you like some help paying for it? Here at Itasca SWCD, we have a cost-share program that can help pay 50% of the cost of your project! Give us a call if you're interested in working on a project that can help add some pollinator flowers to your yard and help with the monarch butterfly population: 218-326-5573.

[Itasca SWCD has Cost Share Funds to Help Improve Pollinator Habitat](#)



ENDANGERED 

The monarch butterfly is now listed as endangered.

The iconic butterfly lives in fields, parks, farms, and rural areas where milkweed and native plants are common. Its bright orange and black wings make it one of Minnesota's most recognizable pollinators.

Milkweed is essential for Monarch butterflies as it is the only food source they use to reproduce. 

A pollinator is an animal that causes plants to make fruit or seeds. They do this by moving pollen from one part of the flower of a plant to another. This pollen then fertilizes the plant allowing it to make fruit or seeds; without them plants cannot reproduce.

Private land management for Monarch butterflies
Endangered and in need of help

The population of pollinators in general, and monarch butterflies, in particular, have been on a steep decline over the past decade. But there are ways landowners can make a difference...



Save the Monarchy!

What can be done?
To help the population, a grass-roots movement of homeowners, business owners, foresters, and agricultural professionals has been planting native pollinator gardens containing the essential milkweed plant. Monarchs eat the nectar of various flowering plants, but their larvae eat ONLY milkweed.

Protect Monarch butterflies from pesticides.
The widespread use of the herbicide glyphosate, also known as "Round Up" has virtually eliminated milkweed from agricultural fields across the Midwest. The best solution to this problem currently is integrated pest management. Where landowners and agricultural professionals use a variety of non-chemical tools such as "diversified crop rotations" and "cover crops" to help break up pest cycles, thereby greatly reducing the need for pesticides. These practices also provide the benefit of regenerating soil, making it more productive and nutrient rich.

Assistance for conservation-minded landowners.
Your local SWCD has been at the forefront of the monarch/pollinator movement and can help you get involved as well. The most important step to help the monarchs right now is simply to include native flowers, most importantly "Milkweed" in your landscaping, fields, and flower gardens.

Want to grow pollinator friendly habitats?
Contact us today!
(218) 326-5573
itascaswcd.org

Itasca SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 

Itasca Waters to Hold Free Virtual Series

Practical Water Wisdom: A Virtual Learning Series

1st Thursdays at 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Would you like to leave a legacy of clean water for future generations? Have you ever wondered about the safety of your drinking water or the quality of the lakes you love to swim in, fish in, or

boat on? If either of those are true, then this series is for you!

<https://www.itascawaters.org/water-wisdom-2023>

April 6, 2023 - Decrease your water footprint and save money too! [[Register Here](#)]



Presented by: Dr. Afton Clarke-Sather, is an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He is a human-environment geographer who has studied water use and water policy for the last decade and a half. His research has examined how changing cropping systems addresses water shortages in Western China and the politics associated with drinking water systems.

Topic Description: Is turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth really the most important thing you can do to save water? Most of your water use likely comes not from the water that comes out of your tap, but from water used to grow the food you eat and make the things you use. This presentation will discuss water footprints. We will examine where water use by most American's really comes from, and what you can do to save water in your daily life.

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>

Support AIS inspectors on WCOLA

WCOLA Playing Cards are available for purchase. The deck of cards consist of 54 scenery photos that WCOLA members submitted. There is a different scene used on each card face and a map of the chain of lakes on the card back. A sample of the cards is below.

The playing cards are available for purchase for \$15 per deck with proceeds to fund AIS inspectors at the boat landings. The playing cards can be purchased immediately by picking them up from Jean Koewler or Steve Melin. Just send us an email

(djkoewler@paulbunyan.net or steven.melin@juno.com) to set

up a time to pick-up your purchase.

For payment, please make a check payable to WCOLA, or cash for each deck you want to purchase.



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

Jean Koewler, Treasurer
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