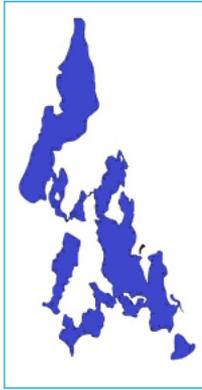


Spring Newsletter
April 24, 2025



Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA)

Spring has finally found us!

The ice is almost out! According to Ken Zimmer's lake data, the ice out date is later than usual this year. The earliest ice out on Wabana is March 31, 2012, and the latest is May 15th, 2013. It's wonderful to hear the call of the loon and see the lakes & land come alive!



Letter from the WCOLA President

By Scott Hutter

As the ice is receding, it won't be long before we will all be out on the water and enjoying the beautiful Wabana Chain of Lakes!!

What is the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association and what do we do?

The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA) is an organization of volunteers, neighbors, and friends who are active and dedicated to maintaining the quality of our chain of lakes. WCOLA is guided by an elected Board of Directors and a group of committee volunteers. We are dedicated to maintaining and improving the environmental quality of the lakes and lakeshores. We do have two growing concerns that I want to bring to your attention. **First**, is the potential of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) coming to our Chain of Lakes. Many lakes in Itasca County already have zebra mussels. The experts predict that it is not "if" they come to our lake, but rather "when" this will happen. As you know, we have AIS boat inspections at the chain's public accesses that are funded in part by WCOLA's donations and the Wabana Town Board. There is a pending legislative action that would drastically reduce the funding that we have historically received. Now is not the time to reduce the inspections but rather keep them at our current level or even increase them. This takes financial resources from our community to help fund the inspections. Please consider an additional donation for this effort. The **second** growing concern is the reduced number of loons on our lakes. The fact is that the number of them that we count has been trending down over the last several years. There is not a quick fix to this trend, rather we need to continue to educate our lake owners on the different things we can do going forward.

Here is my request to each of you- ***In an effort to keep the lakes pristine, we really need our community of neighbors and friends to get more involved. Specifically, we need more volunteers on our WCOLA Board.***

Enjoy the newsletter and please plan on attending the planned events. Have a great day!



WCOLA Spring Social featuring John Latimer

Join us May 17th from 4-7pm for our SPRING SOCIAL at Camp Fire's Bluewater Camp! We are thrilled to have John Latimer for our speaker that evening. Many of you may remember John from his Wabana postal route days, and others may know him from his popular phenology report every week on KAXE/KBXE. John is an expert on what we see in our local environment. He will talk about our lakes and the critters that depend on them.

Bring your own beverage & an appetizer to share. WCOLA will provide the main dish. Dinner will follow John Latimer's talk.

Address: Camp Fire's Camp Bluewater
37508 Bluewater Road, Grand Rapids, MN 55744



WCOLA Fundraiser Apparel— Online store now OPEN!

Order your summer lake gear and help out your lake! The WCOLA online store features tees and sweatshirts that will have you looking good all year. Proceeds from the lake merchandise goes towards protecting our lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species. Check out the new merchandise online—

<https://wcolasummer2025.itemorder.com/>

Orders due May 23rd!

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Final Notes:

A big thanks to Lori Moore for all her work on the WCOLA newsletter these past years! We appreciate her time and talent in creating our quarterly newsletter.

Reminder! WCOLA membership dues are due. WCOLA dues are \$35 to receive the newsletter by email and \$45 to receive a printed copy in the mail.

Please send your payment to: Jean Koewler, 32040 Wakeman Bay Trail, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

WCOLA Volunteers:

President- Scott Hutter
Steve Melin- past President
Vice President- **Open Position**
Treasurer- Jean Koewler
Environmental/AIS- Mark Conover
Social/Online Store- Tom Horton
Government Liaison- **Open Position**
Newsletter- Lynne Pernsteiner
Secchi Disc- Jack Hartung
Shoreland Advisor- Susan Lick
Historical- Carol Speeding
Website- Mark Miner
Loon Count- Mary Hutter
Roadside Clean Up- **Open Position**

www.wcola.org

Find us on Facebook @ Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

WCOLA CALENDAR:

May 14th- Roadside garbage pickup

May 17th - WCOLA Spring Social- Camp Fire's Blue Water Camp (John Latimer speaker)

July 4th - Boat Parade on Wabana Lake

August 2nd- WCOLA picnic @ the Wabana Town Hall

September 10th- Roadside garbage pickup

***WCOLA meets the second Monday of the Month at 4pm. Join us!**