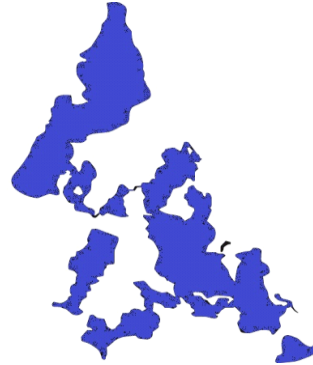


The Chain Letter

of the

**WABANA
CHAIN OF
LAKES
ASSOCIATION**



Dedicated to the care and preservation of our lakes, for the
enjoyment and safety of all.

June 2019

Volume 22, Issue 2

WCOLA OFFICERS

President: James Olijnek

326-2431 golijnek@cpinternet.com

Vice President: Louis Gueltzow

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326-4302 djkoewler@paulbunyan.net

Secretary: Susan Lick

326-6837 susanlick8183@gmail.com

Editor: Jean Melin

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Tom Klatt (Co-Chair Social)

Doug Griffin (Government Liaison)

Mark Conover (Environmental)

Steve Melin (Co-Chair Business/Secchi)

Jean Melin (Communications)

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

Visit our web site www.wcola.org.

Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner mminer@minergroup.com

Presidents Musings for June 2019

It's June and the birds are singing, the grass is growing and the fish are biting along with the mosquitoes. It was a long, cold and snowy winter, but now we have the beginning of another season on this beautiful chain of lakes. It is in all our best interests to keep the lakes clean, clear and free of invasive species, so let's all do our part.

The next water chemical sampling/analysis will be conducted in 2020 and 2021. Our Water Quality Management Plan has us doing this for two years between the MPCA sampling. The cost of the procedure can be significantly reduced if we can get enough volunteers to physically perform the water collections once each month from May to October. If we can do our own collection (after training) we might be able to check more locations. If you are interested in helping please contact Mark Conover (507 317-0344).

There is a lot going on in regard to aquatic invasive species (AIS). The Itasca County AIS coordinator conducted a Lake Service Provider conference which WCOLA supported. There is a new program called Five Star for certified lake service providers to encourage serious attention to the possible movement of AIS from infected waters to noninfected. We have two new AIS Detectors on the chain, WCOLA and Wabana Township have again donated funds towards AIS inspections at the boat landings, and the Itasca County AIS web site has been updated.

The Wabana Township Board of Supervisors has continued to work on solutions and a way forward for Ordinance 101. They have conducted a number of public hearings and established a Planning Commission to manage the implementation and create any revisions needed.

The first of the annual road clean-ups has been completed already with the second scheduled for September 25. The annual June Social gathering is scheduled for June 8 at the Bluewater CampFire Camp, the Bill Downing Memorial summer solstice party will be June 21, and the annual picnic will be July 20. The WCOLA annual meeting will be August 17, with the Itasca County Historical Society doing a presentation about Summer Camps on our chain of lakes. Itasca Waters again hosted the Water Youth Summit for ~500 5th grade students and is planning a "We Are Water" presentation in Grand Rapids in August.

Elections for the WCOLA President and Vice President positions will be conducted this summer and the nominating committee welcomes anyone wanting to apply. Please contact Susan Lick (218 326-6837). Ballots will be distributed in late July and the results presented at the annual meeting on August 17.

The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association would like to thank Sherry Miner for her dedication as the newsletter editor for the past 5 years. Thank you Sherry!



**Wabana Chain of Lakes Treasurer's Report
April 30, 2019**

Balance –April 1, 2019	\$ 8,415.44
Receipts:	
Dues	\$ 185.00
Contributions	\$ 15.00
Total Receipts	\$ 200.00
Disbursements:	
Itasca County Sheriff's Department	\$ 98.00
No Wake sign replacement for Trout Lake	
Total Disbursements	\$ 98.00
Checkbook Balance-April 30, 2019	\$ 8,517.44
Savings Account – Water Testing Balance	\$ 6,515.20
Savings Account – AIS Fund Balance	\$ 6,053.06

Total Paid Households: 124

Boating Etiquette

Last season we again received a number of complaints regarding loon and other wild life harassment, but more specifically boat wake issues around docks and other boats. Last year we with the County Sherriff's office placed "slow no wake signs at each end of the three interlake channels as a means of protecting the environment and loon nesting areas.

The laws prohibit any wild life harassment and it is just plain cruel and wrong.

The use of "wake boats" on the chain of lakes last summer caused additional issues. Wake boats create large waves so the rider can literally surf behind the boat. This is fine in the large open areas of the lake where the wake probably won't bother other boats at docks or fishing; however in constricted waters the wake can cause considerable damage. "It is against the law: To operate a watercraft so its wash or wake endangers, harasses, or interferes with any person or property". So for example, should a wake cause damage to a boat at a dock, the offender would be responsible. Should you witness any really offensive behavior, try to take a photo and get the boat license then call the sheriff's office. The other concern with wake boats is that they must take on ballast (water) in order to create the wake. Then when preparing to load the boat back on a trailer, they must pump out the water. Unfortunately you can not completely empty the tanks thus providing a wonderful environment for AIS to potentially grow and get dumped into a noninfested lake

Another serious concern is damage to plant life when boats speed through shallow areas especially the channels between the lakes. The paragraphs below are an excerpt from a publication of RMB Labs.

We tend to think of aquatic plants as bad for recreation, but they are very important to organisms living in the lake. When a boat or jet ski speeds through reeds or aquatic plants, it can cause disturbance to these sensitive areas. First, it stirs up the lake sediment, re-suspending nutrients (phosphorus) that are at the lake's bottom. When these nutrients reach the surface of the water where the algae are, they can feed algae and cause an algal bloom. This stirring can also decrease the water clarity because of additional particles suspended in the water column.

Secondly, props can cause direct damage to aquatic plants, cutting them up and decreasing their use as a shelter for fish. Please avoid driving through reeds and bulrushes with jet skis and boats. Thirdly, props and wave action can disturb sensitive habitat for spawning fish and other organisms.

"Slow no wake" means operation of a watercraft at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than 5 miles per hour.

Please encourage your visiting friends, relatives, and guests to be good boat stewards and respect others, the waters, and the wildlife.

AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Update

Concerns for Aquatic Invasive Species spreading continue with Zebra Mussels moving quickly down the Mississippi from Lake Winnibigoshish. There are 22 Zebra Mussel infected lakes in Itasca County, 12 with Faucet Snails, 5 with Eurasian Milfoil, 11 with Curly Pondweed, 56 including Trout Lake with Purple Loosestrife, 5 with Flowering Rush and 1 With Starry Stonewort (Winni). One of many actions to impede the spread was the Lake Service Providers Summit held this spring by the Itasca AIS Program and DNR and supported by a number of associations including WCOLA. The purpose was to educate lake service providers in methods, procedures and rules associated with dock and/or lift installation, or boat/trailer movement and what should be done to reduce chances of AIS movement from one lake to another. Lake Service Providers, that is anyone providing a service involving the lakes for money, are required by law to be DNR Certified. A provider who hasn't yet been certified can contact the DNR and Itasca AIS coordinator will refund the certification cost. A new program called Five Star (brochure mailing sent in March) has been implemented to further AIS awareness and apply AIS safeguards. This program rewards providers who commit to a number of AIS avoidance measures. We have two resorts on the chain of lakes with boat launch facilities. Both Birch Bay Resort and Britton's Trout Lake Resort are DNR certified while Britton's is already Five Star approved and Birch Bay nearly so. They should be commended for their efforts to preserve these wonderful lakes. A great source of information on AIS issues can be found at ItascaAIS.info.

We also have two newly trained AIS detectors on the lakes able to identify potential AIS you might notice. They can be contacted at :

Jean Melin: wcolacommunicate@paulbunyan.net

Jane Moore: kaamsr1957@gmail.com

Road Clean-up

Thank you to all who participated in the spring trash pickup along our township roads. It was a beautiful morning and we filled LOTS of bags. The many volunteers who shared their energy and time on this project were: Denny & Jean Koewler, Janeen & Louie Gueltzow, Jean & Tim Panchyshyn, Jim & Gail Olijnek, Tom Klatt, Bonnie Larson, Steve Melin, Daniel and Jeanne Burke, Jeanine Puls, Barbara and Ken Zimmer. The Bluewater Bible Camp staff will do a pickup along Bluewater Road when they convene in May.

A thank you also goes to the Itasca County Engineer's office for providing the trash bags, reflective orange vests, and free pickup to the landfill.

The fall cleanup is scheduled for **September 25**.

Barbara Zimmer, Chairman

FIREWORKS

A local discussion among neighbors, about fireworks and water pollution became one of many reasons for changing a traditional cultural practice in the Wabana Lake area. One group of folks decided to move the shooting of fireworks away from off the dock, keeping the pollution further from local water sources. Besides the effects of fireworks on water, air and soil, wildlife such as loons, ducks, eagles, ospreys and their young, fish and other creatures were considered.

Recent studies have shown that many fireworks or pyrotechnics, contain chemicals such as fuels, oxidizers, binding agents, and others for coloration and sound effects. The contaminant in question is perchlorate, found in many fireworks. The contaminate is highly soluble in water and migrates quickly from soil to groundwater. Much of the concern is that perchlorate ingestion may pose interference with the production of thyroid hormones required for normal metabolism and mental function in humans. The risk to aquatic ecosystems contaminated with perchlorate has been found in fish in the head area and even more in the fillets. Percolate is also a major ingredient in rocket fuel, explosives, road flares as well as fireworks and from land with applied fertilizers.

Considerations should also include solid debris from fireworks floating to neighboring lakeshores and particulate drift in the air. Sound invasion negatively affects humans, as well as wildlife such as nesting loons, eagles and domestic animals. These measures can help to protect the waters and wildlife we cherish. -- Susan Lick

We Are Water MN



August 2 - September 16

Reif Performing Arts Center Lobby
720 NW Conifer Dr.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Opening event: August 2, 4:30-7 pm
Regular hours: 10 am - 4 pm

More information can be found on
We Are Water's website at:

<https://mnhum.org/we-are-water-mn/>

"We Are Water MN" explores the connections between the humanities and water through an exhibit, public events, and educator resources. Visitors reflect on local stories and the meaning and experiences of water in Minnesota with space to add their own stories. By creating relationships around water, we are creating networks that can promote positive social norms, and share a vision for and participate in water stewardship.

Itasca Waters is the host partner for this traveling exhibit !

WCOLA Membership Listing

First Name	Last Name	Lake	Membership	First Name	Last Name	Lake	Membership
John and Karen	Lukens	Wabana	2029	Clinton and Stacy	Deans	Wabana – Wagathaka	2019
Gordon and Gerri	Slabaugh	Bluewater	2020	Mark and Julie	Demos	Little Trout	2019
Joe and Martha	Stevens	Bluewater	2020	Ward and Mona	Dohman	Bluewater	2019
Ted and Swanny	Voneida	Bluewater	2020	John and Marcia	Downing	Wabana	2019
Gib and Kathleen	Willson	Wabana	2020	Scott and Susan	Ellsworth	Bluewater	2019
John and Jenny	Aulick	Wabana	2019	Robert	Finlayson	Wabana	2019
Craig and Cindy	Bender	Hanson Lake	2019	Tannie Marsh and Steve	Fox	Wabana	2019
Duane and Anne E.	Benson	Bluewater	2019	Eric and Jan	Fredbeck	Wabana	2019
Jim and Sue	Bergan	Bluewater	2019	Dr. Peter and Chris	Friedlieb	Wabana	2019
Joan	Birkemeyer	Wabana	2019	John and Martha Ann	Gettinger	Wabana	2019
Steven and Christine	Bjerke	Wabana	2019	Rev. George & Lou Ellen	Gilbertson	Little Wabana	2019
Douglas	Blackmore	Wabana	2019	Dorothy K.	Glascok	Wabana	2019
Matt and Stephanie	Blade	Wabana	2019	Tom and Barb	Gleason	Wabana	2019
Terry R. and Lynn M.	Boblit	Wabana	2019	Greg and Diane	Gough	Bluewater	2019
Mary Frances and Bill	Bottoms, Jr.	Bluewater	2019	Don and Michele	Greiner	Bluewater	2019
Charles and Abby	Bradford	Trout	2019	Doug and Kathy	Griffin	Wabana	2019
Rich and Karen	Buermann	Wabana	2019	Richard and Carol	Gross	Wabana	2019
Dan and Jeanne	Burke	Wabana	2019	Louis and Janeen	Gueltzow	Wabana	2019
Gary and Carol	Burkholder	Wabana	2019	Rick&Betsy Fischer	Hadley	Trout	2019
Raymond and Mary	Carlson	Little Wabana	2019	Dan and Jean	Hagen	Wabana	2019
Robert D. & Susan Y.	Chalgren, Sr.	Trout	2019	Vicky and Rick	Harding	Trout	2019
Richard and Patricia	Chambers	Wabana	2019	Cress and Susannah	Hart	Wabana	2019
John F., Dennis, & Kathi	Chervinko	Trout	2019	Richard and Rosalie	Hesse	Wabana	2019
Ellen J.	Christmas	Wabana	2019	Scott and Mary	Hutter	Wabana	2019
Daryl and Michelle	Clough	Wabana	2019	Dave	Johnson	Wabana	2019
George and Libby	Colburn	Wabana	2019	Mark and Anne	Johnson	Wabana	2019
Mark and Ellen	Conover	Wabana	2019	Jeff and Linda	Jorgenson	Wabana	2019
Jim and Bobbi	Corrigan	Wabana	2019	Rex and Melanie	Kastner	Trout	2019
Steve & Tracy	Ribar	Wabana	2019	Don and Fay	Klande	Pickerel	2019

First Name	Last Name	Lake	Membership	First Name	Last Name	Lake	Membership
Tom and Maggie	Klatt	Little Wabana	2019	Mark	Miner	Wabana	2019
Richard and Jeanne	Koeckeritz	Bluewater	2019	Sherry	Miner	Wabana	2019
Dennis and Jean	Koewler	Wabana	2019	Keith and Jane	Moore	Wabana	2019
Danielle	Larsen	Wabana	2019	Robert and Kay	Moore	Wabana	2019
Bruce and Bonnie	Larson	Bluewater	2019	Tom and Lori	Moore	2019	
Jerald E. and Emma J.	Larson	Wabana	2019	Lynn and Tim	Moratzka	Trout	2019
Juan and Christina	Lazo	Wabana	2019	Dr. Richard and Kathleen	Nelson	Wabana	2019
Andrew	Lick	Wabana	2019	Carl and Sue	Nordgren	Bluewater	2019
Dave and Sue	Lick	Wabana	2019	David and Judy	Nybakken	Bluewater	2019
Arnie and Julie	Linder	Wabana	2019	David and Carolyn	Nyren	Wabana	2019
Michael and Annette	Linder	Wabana	2019	Paul and Barb	Oberg	Wabana	2019
Roger and Nancy	Linder	Wabana	2019	Jim and Gail	Olijnek	Wabana	2019
William H. and Kathryn	Linder	Bluewater	2019	Sharon	Owen	Wabana	2019
Patrick and Jackie	Loney	Wabana	2019	Tim and Jean	Panchyshyn	Wabana	2019
	Loney Family	Wabana	2019	Glenn and Elaine	Pearson	Wabana	2019
Brian and Penny	Lund	Wabana	2019	Deb and Jeff	Powers	Bluewater	2019
Evelyn	Maddaus	Wabana	2019	James and Susan	Ries	Bluewater	2019
Peg Landin and Tim	Mangni		2019	Ron	Roalstad	Wabana	2019
Robert	Manning	Wabana Bluewater	2019	K. Christel	Rowe	Little Wabana	2019
James and Jane	McCullough	Wabana	2019	Bill	Rutherford	Bluewater	2019
Mark and Kathy	McCullough	Wabana	2019	William and Shirley	Sage	Bluewater	2019
Paul and Kristen	McCullough	Wabana	2019	Richard Brasch and Carole	Schmidt	Wabana	2019
Steve and Jean	Melin	Wabana	2019	William and Sue	Simmons	Bluewater	2019
John and Carolyn	Merkel	Trout	2019	Dara Wolf and Doug	Skelton	Trout	2019
Margaret Z. Morris and Arthur L.	Merrill	Wabana	2019	John	Soll	Wabana	2019
Jody	Meyers	Little Trout	2019	Jan	Stein	Wabana	2019
Loree and Matthew	Miltich	Wabana Township	2019	Kim Wickland and Rob	Striegl	Wabana	2019
Jon and Pamela	Miner	Wabana	2019	Kurt and Lavonne	Thompson	Bluewater	2019

First Name	Last Name	Lake	Membership	First Name	Last Name	Lake	Membership
Matthew & Nicole Stecklein and Greg & Mary	Till	Wabana	2019	Gig and Kristen	Willson	Wabana	2019
John and Mary	Uradnik	Wabana	2019	William and Donna	Wolf, Jr.	Trout	2019
Jack and Sally	Velzen	Wabana	2019	Jeff and Lorrie	Yeschick	Wabana	2019
Eduardo and Kelly	Vigil	Bluewater	2019	Brian and Lauren	Zimmer	Wabana	2019
Pamela Wassberg	Whittenbury	Little Trout	2019	Mark and Lindsey	Zimmer	Wabana	2019
Ellen	Widmark	Wabana	2019	Ken and Barbara	Zimmer, Jr.	Wabana	2019
Sally and George	Wilbur	Wabana	2019	Mark W. and Alexandra	Zimmerman	Trout	2019
Michael and Barbara	Wilkus	Bluewater	2019	Paul and Debbie	Zimmerman	Trout	2019

Mark Your Calendars

2019 Season Events

June 8 - Saturday

Social Gathering - Camp Fire **

June 21 - Friday

Summer solstice - John Downing

July 20 - Saturday

Picnic-Wabana Town Hall Pavilion**

August 9 - Friday

Ice Cream Social - Wabana Town Hall

August 10 - Saturday

Ballots due for elections **

August 17 - Saturday

Annual Meeting and Program @ Wabana Town Hall **

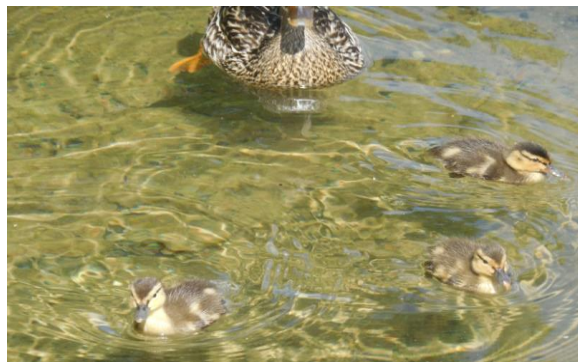
September 25 - Wed.

Wabana Township Road Clean-up **

November 9 - Saturday

Hunters Supper

**** WCOLA sponsored**



THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION
Jean Koewler, Treasurer
32040 Wakeman Bay Trail
Grand Rapids, MN 55744