

# The Chain Letter

of the



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

## October 2017

Volume 20, Issue 3

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## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**WCOLA President's musings**

**October 2017**

I hope you all had a great summer here at the chain of lakes. The lake looks fairly quiet now as many have closed-up for the season. I am one of the lucky ones who get to stay and enjoy life in the north land. We had all of our grand children here for a while. Great to have them, great for them to go home.

Our membership continues to grow with lots of new faces this year. I am continually amazed at the number of cabins sold or up for sale, thus new residents. I have created sort of a welcome package for new people on the lakes and have hand delivered five so far. I am attempting to tell these people about WCOLA, what we stand for, what we are trying to do, and how they can be involved. The survey we took last winter/spring clearly indicated support for the water quality activities we are doing. A small team has been formed to expand our Water Quality Management Plan completed last year. The team has been focusing on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) concerns for our lakes beyond what we are already doing. A team member (Jean Panchyshyn) has written a two page guide on what to look for and what to do if you come across something of concern. Jean has also accumulated information on the laws regarding movement of docks, lifts, etc. from one lake to another. Both of these documents are included in this newsletter. We have met with the DNR AIS specialist and the Itasca AIS Coordinator for guidance on how best to proceed as an association and have begun studying the permit process should we have an AIS infestation. There are lots of valuable sources of information including web sites, YouTube videos, and reference books. WCOLA also maintains a few very good books that can be used for identification. To help implementing quick response should an AIS issue be uncovered, WCOLA has established a \$5000 emergency fund dedicated to quick response to an infestation. While clearly, government agencies will be counted on to lead any significant effort required, they cannot react very quickly and we might be able to take some actions to minimize the impact.

The draft reports for Lake Water Quality produced by RMB Labs for all the Wabana Chain of Lakes are out and currently being reviewed. They basically show our lakes as being healthy with improving clarity since about 2004. The reports will be added to the WCOLA web site once formally released and excerpts included in mailings.

The team is also beginning to study the effects of shoreline management issues. We plan to present information to chain of lakes members to provide insight and helpful recommendations for land owners to consider. A brochure on shoreline management will be sent out as part of our winter mailings. The Water Quality Management Plan will include an expanded section on Shoreline Management. However our intent is to follow the actions of Itasca Waters (formerly IWLP) who is currently focusing their efforts on this subject and we expect to use their output as guidance for our plans.

We conducted both a June Social Mixer and July outdoor picnic again this year. The social was again held at the Camp Fire Camp on Bluewater which is a very good venue and those who attended seemed to really enjoy it. The Wabana pavilion has been upgraded somewhat and is a perfect setting for our picnic. This year we tried a pot luck format which worked out well.

At our annual meeting this August we confirmed the reelection of Jim Olijnek as president, and confirmed the election of Louie Gueltzow as vice president. We announced that Susan Lick has assumed the Secretary position. Susan will, for now also remain as chairman of the Communication Committee. WCOLA is financially stronger than we have been in many years and we have been able to establish two dedicated funds, thank you all. We further described what

each WCOLA committee has been doing over the past year as well as presented loon count, secchi reading results, AIS inspection results, road clean-up, and Firewise activities. Our program this year was Mike Casey presenting information on septic systems. This dirty subject gained lots of interest and attention from the audience and I eventually had to call time since the interest drove it well past the hour allocated. At a later date, Tom Klatt from Little Wabana joined Roger Linder as co-chair of the Social Committee.

I again hope you all had a great summer and wish you well during the cold months.

## **Roadside Cleanup**

**Barbara Zimmer**

A gray, wet morning turned into a beautiful fall day as 12 WCOLA members donned orange vests, grabbed black garbage bags, and picked up roadside trash along Wabana Township roads.

Itasca County Engineer's Office provided vests, bags, and disposal of the filled trash bags.

Thank you to all who participated in this event: Denny & Jean Koewler, Jim & Gail Olijnek, Tim & Jean Panchyshyn, Gary & Kim Oja, Louis & Janeen Gueltzow and Barbara and Ken Zimmer.

## **Wabana Chain of Lakes Treasurer's Report**

**January 01, 2017 to September 30, 2017**

<b>Balance – January 1, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 10,654.00</b>
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### **Receipts:**

Dues	\$ 5005.00
Contributions	\$ 1030.00
Donations-Agnes Blackmore	\$ 645.00
Map Sales	\$ 50.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 6,730.00</b>

### **Disbursements:**

Stamps	\$ 345.20
Sherry Miner-Newsletter Publisher	\$ 300.00
Treasure Bay Printing	\$ 432.45
Supplies-Picnic and Spring Social	\$ 48.07
ICOLA Membership	\$ 62.00

Itasca Soil and Water-AIS testing	\$ 1500.00
Misc. Supplies	\$ 14.24
Wabana Community Fund	\$ 32.49
Ice Cream Social ½ cost	
Itasca Water Legacy Partnership	\$ 100.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 2,834.45</b>

### **Transfers to Savings Accounts**

Transfer to Water Testing	\$ 1500.00
Transfer to AIS	\$ 5000.00
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>\$ 6500.00</b>

**Checkbook Balance-Sept.30,2017** **\$ 8,049.55**

**Savings Account – Water Testing** **\$ 6,504.13**  
**Savings Account – AIS** **\$ 5,000.25**

**Total Paid Households: 146**

## **2017 WCOLA Loon Survey**

**Ken Zimmer**

On July 18, 2017 volunteers began the annual loon survey at 9AM. Those counting loons and chicks were:

Paul Oberg & friend, Trout and Little Trout  
Denny Koewler, Wakeman Bay and Bluewater  
Ken Zimmer & Jim Edwards, Wabana

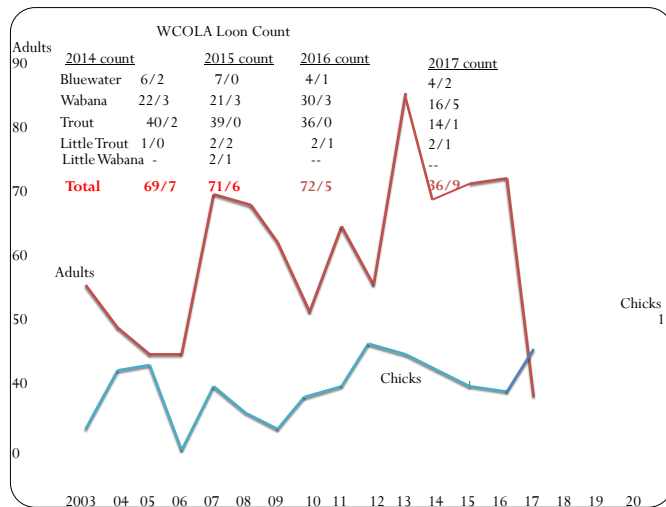
Results:

Wabana: 16 adults, 5 chicks  
Bluewater & Wakeman Bay: 4 adults, 2 chicks  
Big Trout: 14 adults, 1 chick  
Little Trout: 2 adults, 1 chick

Total: 45 birds (Adults-36, Chicks-9)

Using MN DNR data from their loon monitoring program after 23 years of data collection, the loon population remains stable, with an average of 2 loons per 100 acres of lake across 6 index areas in MN.

Over the last 14 years our chain of lakes has averaged 1.51 loons per 100 acres.



## Fireworks

Susan Lick

A local discussion among neighbors, about fireworks and water pollution became one of many reasons for changing a traditional cultural practice this past summer 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. Perchlorate is also a major ingredient in rocket fuel, explosives, road flares as well as fireworks and from land with applied fertilizers.

Consider that solid debris from fireworks float to neighboring lake shores also particulate drift in the air and sound invasion. Make sure you're not setting fireworks off near lakes or waterways, and then if there are debris left over that they are cleaned up and properly disposed of. These measures can help to protect the waters and wildlife we all cherish and love.

# Movsing Docks, Boat Lifts, and other Equipment

Jean Panchyshyn

Residents may not be aware of the Minnesota law which states “a boat lift, dock, swim raft, or associated equipment that has been removed from any water body may not be placed in another water body until a minimum of 21 days have passed.” (Minnesota Statutes 84D.10 Subd. 4(f).) After a thorough cleaning, equipment should be kept dry for a minimum of 21 days before placing in the water.

## DNR Permit required for transporting docks, lifts and other equipment

Jean Panchyshyn

If you plan to purchase and/or move a dock, boat lift, swim raft, or other water equipment from one lake or river to another, all visible zebra mussels, faucet snails, and aquatic plants must be removed whether they are dead or alive. A DNR transport authorization permit form is required for **individuals** who are moving equipment which has had prohibited invasive species and/or plants attached. There is no charge for this permit. If a **business** provides this service for you, the business would need to get a lake service permit. These forms are available on the DNR website:

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/invasive\\_species/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/invasive_species/index.html)

If you hire someone to move your equipment, make sure the provider is on the DNR's list of Permitted Service Providers, located online at:

[https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/ais\\_business\\_training/lake\\_service\\_provider\\_permits/public\\_website\\_list](https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/ais_business_training/lake_service_provider_permits/public_website_list). (List is organized by county).

**To find out if a lake is infested with invasive species**, check the DNR Infested Waters List at

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>

Source:

<http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/itasca/county-natural-resource-educator/article/information-moving-docks-lifts-and-equipment-itasca-county>

## Chain of Lakes History

John Zimmerman

This month, no pictures but instead a request as well as some advice. Since I retired and Alida and I moved here year round, with help from many others, I have worked hard to collect as much history of the area around our lakes as possible. Some of those others I would like to thank include Bill Berg, Pete Ireton and Susan Hines, Patricia Fisher, Bill Schwartz, Bill Downing, Roger Linder, Lilah Crowe, Agnes Blackmore, Sherry Miner, Susan Hawkinson, Joe Waleski, Nancy Mayens, Aaron and Kelly Britton, Ken Zimmer, Bonnie Kastner, Rex Kastner, Dara Skelton, Betty Toronto, Lynn Olsen Anderson, Bud Sage, Thayle Wolf, Kathleen Wilson and Martha Gettinger as well as my brother,

Paul Zimmerman and my parents, John and Charlotte Zimmerman. I am indebted to each of you and I am certain that I have forgotten to mention several of you. Collectively, because of your interest in our lakes and your willingness to share your personal collections, I have a rich history of this area that I can share with our membership. It is important to say thank you and I hope all of you know how important your help and contributions have been to our Chain of Lakes community. As a result, I have been able to present annotated slide shows at our events, and publish over a dozen history articles for the newsletter. And you will continue to see more of the same as we have barely scratched the surface. In many cases, with your permission, I have also shared this material with the Itasca County Historical Society (note - I volunteer there and currently serve as president) which will ensure its survival and allow the public access. So a huge thank you to all.

In addition to saying thanks, I wanted to do two more things in this newsletter column. I would encourage any reader out there, to think about what they have and consider contacting me and sharing it with our membership. This can take many forms. An old photo album - I would scan it and give you an opinion on how safe it is from decay based on the type of paper and plastic the photo's are coming into contact with. You would also get a digitized copy back as well as the originals - so far I haven't lost or damaged anything that was loaned to me to copy. Audio tapes - I have 5 or 6 interviews going back to the 1970's of "old timers" who are no longer with us but thanks to these tapes their memories are saved. I digitize these as old tape is very fragile and won't last much longer. I don't have the ability to preserve video or old movie reels of film but I can recommend services who can. Then there are artifacts - I have no desire to possess your artifacts, but would love to hear about them and see and perhaps photograph them to share with membership - if you are looking for a place that they will be taken care of, consider the Historical Society whose collection is well housed and maintained. By the way, if you have never dropped by and looked at what treasures are there, it is a fun thing to do and open when it rains or there is a lot of snow on the ground and you are looking for something to do.

Lastly this month, if you have pictures or negatives - it is important to consider how they are stored. The acid in paper, which is in almost all paper except specially made archival acid free stock, eats your photographs and negatives over time. Newsprint is the most obvious, it is cheap paper, lots of acid, little fiber, it yellows and turns brittle in much less than a lifetime. Also, light, heat and moisture are your enemies when discussing old photo's, letters, etc. If you have a box stored in the attic or basement, it is probably the worst thing you can do. If you want to read more on this, there are many sites online that will help you. I suggest starting with the National Archives at: <https://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives> . I hope you found this informative and that I will be able to add to the list above as each of you thinks about what you have and are willing to share. I also take oral histories (small tape recorder - friendly conversation).

P.S. If you want to see excellent photographs of the entire set of buildings that were part of the Joyce Estate - look here: <https://www.loc.gov/search/?q=Joyce+Estate&sp=1>

## Aquatic Invasive Species

The WCOLA Water Quality Team has met to address items related to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in our chain of lakes. The team is working to develop an action plan in order to be proactive should AIS be found in our lakes. One of the action items includes educating all chain of lakes residents on a few specific AIS species to be aware of.

The five species that MN DNR AIS Specialist, Rich Rezanka, has noted to be most concerning include two invertebrates: Zebra Mussels and Spiny Waterflea; and three Plants: Starry Stonewort, Eurasian Watermilfoil, and Curly-leaf Pondweed. The difficulty in determining if one of these species is found is that other similar looking native invertebrates and plants do exist in our waters. But residents have resources available to help determine if the finding is invasive.

**Following are photos of the five invasives to be on the look out for.** If you think you might have found one of the following, or some other invasive, you can contact DNR Specialist Rich Rezenka at 218-328-8821 or email: [Richard.rezanka@state.mn.us](mailto:Richard.rezanka@state.mn.us). Another contact is Itasca County AIS Coordinator Bill Grantges, 218-256-4243 or email: [coordinator@itascaais.info](mailto:coordinator@itascaais.info). A third contact is one of our WCOLA members who has been through the University of Minnesota's AIS Detector training, Jean Panchyshyn, 952-250-6690 or email: [tsp.jmp@gmail.com](mailto:tsp.jmp@gmail.com). Additional information on AIS is available on the MN DNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>, and the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu>.



**Spiny Waterflea**, photo credit: Gary Montz, 144, Bugwood.org

Size: ¼" – 5/8"

Often found clumped on fishing line

Has black eye spots

Has 1-4 pairs of barbs on long spiny tail

**Looks similar to:** Native Predatory zooplankton



**Zebra Mussels**, photo credit: United States Geological Survey

Size varies from: 1/5" - 2"

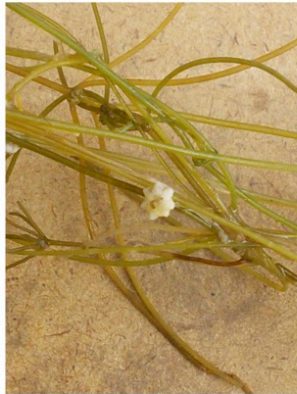
Has zigzag strips; some may be solid tan or brown

Has flat edge and shells form a fairly straight line when closed

Can be found with several clumped onto an object, such a rock, clam, or on docks and boats

**Looks similar to:** Native snails and mussels





**Starry Stonewort**, photo credit: Bruce Anspach  
<https://www.eddmaps.org/midwest/distribution/point.cfm?id=4759545>

Size: Branchlets can be up to 12" long  
 Can form small star-shaped bulbils at base of plant  
 Long, smooth branchlets are attached in whorls of 5 – 8  
 Forked tips of branchlets are asymmetrical  
 Small orange spheres (antheridia) may be visible  
 Found in shallow and calm water near access  
**Looks similar to:** Native Muskgrasses and Stoneworts



**Eurasian Watermilfoil**, photo credit: Megan Weber, AIS Extension Educator, U of M

Size: can get to 10 feet long  
 Leaves are feathery with 4 leaves per whorl  
 Leaves have central axis with 12 – 20 leaflet pairs  
 Produce pink and white flowers on spike above the surface  
**Looks similar to:** Native Northern watermilfoil, coontail, bladderworts, white water crowfoot, water marigold



**Curly-leaf Pondweed**, photo credit: Megan Weber, AIS Extension Educator, U of M

Thin, submerged leaves have small "teeth" and wavy edges  
 Produce turions that look like little pinecones  
 Usually one of first pondweeds to develop in spring and die back mid-summer  
 Can be found in water up to 15 feet deep  
**Looks similar to:** Native Clasp leaf pondweed

Source: Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center *in partnership with* University of Minnesota Extension. (2017). *AIS identification guide*. Minneapolis, MN: Regents of the University of Minnesota.

# WCOLA Social Events 2017

Roger Linder

WCOLA hosted both a June Social and July picnic again this year. The Social “meet and greet” was again held at the Camp Fire Camp on Bluewater Lake and attended by over 50 people. A good time was had by all. The picnic was held again at the Wabana Town Hall Pavilion and was conducted as a pot luck. This approach apparently worked out well and the 50+ attendees had plenty of food left over. Our program was with Paul Provinzino of the Itasca County Sherriff’s office on water safety and water recreation.

## June Social Gathering



## Picnic



# Mark Your Calendars

## 2017 Season Events

November 4 Saturday            5-8pm  
Deer Hunter's Supper – Wabana Town Hall  
December 16 Saturday  
Winter Solstice Party-Zimmerman's

## 2018 Season Events

May 23 Wednesday  
\*Roadside Cleanup – Town Hall  
June 9 Saturday  
\*Kick-off Social – Bluewater Campfire Camp  
June  
Summer Solstice Party - Downings  
July 4 Tuesday  
Boat Parade – Lake Wabana  
July 21 Saturday  
\*Picnic – Wabana Town Hall Pavilion  
August  
Firewise Pickup  
August 10  
Ballot due for elections  
August 10 Friday  
Ice Cream Social – Wabana Town Hall  
August 18 Saturday  
\*Program – Wabana Town Hall  
August 18 Saturday  
\*WCOLA Annual Meeting – Wabana Town Hall  
September 26 Wednesday  
\*Roadside Cleanup – Wabana Town Hall  
November 3 Saturday  
Hunter's Supper – Wabana Town Hall  
December 16 Sunday  
Winter Solstice Party – Zimmerman's

\* WCOLA sponsored

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE  
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