

WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION



Web site: www.WCOLA.org & on Facebook

Welcome, To The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Who are we?

We are the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA), a group of active, interested and concerned neighbors and friends.

WCOLA is a non-profit organization of individuals who can collectively work to build awareness about preserving our chain of lakes – their clarity and quality, their history and social community so that they may be enjoyed now and in the years to come.

What do we do?

We are dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of the ecological environment of the lakes and lakeshores in the Wabana Chain of Lakes and the surrounding area in Itasca County, Minnesota.

How do we do that?

- For over 25 years we have been working with State certified water testing labs sampling our lakes for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll –A, as well as other tests, giving us a baseline of data on the health of our waters. The water testing and analysis must be performed by professionals; in 2014 the cost was nearly \$4,000.
- A grant from the State of MN has been awarded in 2016 to compile a trend analysis. Lakes in the Wabana Chain are included using the extensive data we have collected. This will help guide

our future efforts in the health of our waters.

- We partner as volunteers with The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in Citizen Water Monitoring with Secchi Disk lake clarity readings and ice on and ice out recording. More volunteers are needed.
- WCOLA is guided by a Board of Directors and has three major events during the year; June social event, July picnic and August annual meeting with an educational presentation.
- We share our stories, family histories, photos and resources to promote and recognize the history that this area has to offer. Some of that local history is on display at the Wabana Town Hall and in our WCOLA Newsletters.
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is a major ongoing concern. Educational signs and AIS boat inspections at public accesses have been staffed at least 5 days per week from May through October on the Wabana Chain. This effort is funded by WCOLA's donation, matching funds from the State of MN and Wabana Township through The Itasca Water Legacy Partnership.
- We have completed a Water Quality Management Plan for our chain of lakes, it can be viewed in the WCOLA.org web site.
- We have worked with Itasca County to gain compliance of existing and new shoreline septic systems within Wabana Township.
- We work with and pay attention to how the policies and requirements of federal, state and local agencies might impact our chain of lakes.
- We publish newsletters to keep our members and area residents informed and have a WCOLA.org web site and facebook page.
- We are making a concerted effort to inform all lake owners of events or situations which may be of interest.

- We do an annual loon count partnering with the DNR
- WCOLA volunteers provide road and Firewise brush cleanup partnering with Itasca County.

Many thanks to all those who have supported us in the past having created and continued the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association.

We invite you, your families and friends of the Wabana Chain of Lakes to continue as members and consider becoming members and volunteering, working together to continue the efforts of protecting and sustaining the love of our waters and sense of community for now and the years to come.

Enclosed is an addressed envelope and membership application to complete. Also note that email is very much encouraged. WCOLA always welcomes your interests and efforts in any of our activities. You can find out much more about our non-profit organization by going to WCOLA.org.

Enclosed also is a survey which we hope you will complete as it will help your association better serve its members.

Jim Olijnek –President

Roger Linder-Vice President

Louie Gueltzow-Secretary

Jean Koewler-Treasurer

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Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Dues \$30 for those receiving WCOLA communications via email	_____
Dues \$35 for those receiving WCOLA newsletters via postal mail	_____
Additional contributions for Lake Protection	_____
Total	_____

Make checks payable to WCOLA and return in the addressed enclosed envelope.

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Street Address: _____

If you have a second address please note it and the months it should be used.