



Photo: Tom Moser

## A Message from Your President

Welcome back everyone! What a year this has been – one certainly for the record books. I imagine you are as tired of this pandemic as I am. We, as social beings, are not meant to be cooped up with limited to no social interaction and I, for one, am looking forward to seeing many of my friends once again face to face. While Zoom has been a blessing during this sequestering, it in no way substitutes for a good hand shake or hug. Hopefully our snow-bird residents as well as other part timers are looking forward to getting back to good ole Diamond Lake once again.

It seems like Memorial weekend really snuck up on us this year as it came a week or so earlier than normal. It was a real shock to us year-rounders to go from almost no vehicles on the roads to the Indy 500 in the matter of a few days! I guess that means that things are beginning to get back toward normal again. This Memorial weekend also included a parade through the towns of Grand View, Drummond, Barnes, and Cable for the Drummond High School Class of 2020 graduates. It was led by a seeming never

ending procession of fire trucks from 6 fire departments. Congratulations to all of our graduates in a year they will never forget.

We are actually having a pretty dry spring for the last few weeks and fire permits have been suspended until things get a bit wetter - and indeed they have, as we have had at over 2” of rain in the last part of May (26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>). Hopefully that will be enough to lift the burn restrictions. If you are planning to burn, please remember that you do need to get a **free** burn permit from one of the local Fire Wardens.

Pioneer Road by the boat landing is still unpaved and the Town of Grand View doesn't have an exact date for paving. As a result of putting in the new culvert east of the landing the road surface was raised about a foot. Subsequent re-grading in May has improved the slope from the way it was earlier, but as of this writing the surface is still soft. See the article later in the newsletter for more details.

Your Board of Directors met in early June to get ready for the Association's annual membership meeting. We also made plans for the annual **4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade** to be held

on **Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm**. See the articles later in the newsletter for more details.

On a sad note, we lost two of our lake neighbors this spring, Alan Kind, and more recently, Chuck Raths. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families. There is more about Alan later in this newsletter and we will remember Chuck further in the next one.

Hope to see you all very soon enjoying the great Northwoods and our wonderful lake!

Frosty Palmer



*A clean launch! An example of our invasive species monitoring system in action from a rainy day in May of this year. The high-resolution video images can be easily enlarged to zoom in on boat registration numbers and license plates if plant material is present.*

## **COVID-19 in the North Country**

This year, ice-out on the lake occurred on April 25<sup>th</sup> freeing it from the grip of winter, but some essential services and activities in the North Country were open and ongoing throughout the winter and early spring. Banks, service stations, groceries and building supply outlets as well as essential services such as plumbing, heating, auto repair, and even construction have all been operating through the pandemic.

While travel advisories issued by local northland counties in March discouraged residents from occupying “second homes” for fear of overwhelming small local medical

facilities, fortunately that has not occurred. Bayfield county has reported just three cases, Ashland 2 and Sawyer 7 at the time of this writing. As of May 15<sup>th</sup>, Ashland and Bayfield counties have put in place a more relaxed “[Travel Safer Plan](#)” superseding the earlier travel advisories that gives advice about travel during this next “opening up” phase.

Because the recent Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling has made the state stay-at-home restrictions invalid, the onus on safety has shifted to county and local jurisdictions (not covered in the ruling) as to what may reopen - bars and restaurants in particular. This has resulted in a confusing patchwork of conflicting regulations throughout the state. In our immediate area, some restaurants and bars are beginning to reopen. Check for hours.

Despite the apparent more relaxed response in some areas, the virus is still spreading exponentially and Wisconsin is right now one of the few states with increasing infection rates. MN is still seeing ~ 650 new cases a day, approximately level. It is not “over for the summer” and we urge you all to please take precautions when you visit.

## **Pioneer Drive Roadwork and our Boat Launch**

As many have been following, the roadwork involving a new culvert for water draining from Crystal Lake into Diamond Lake under Pioneer Drive is progressing (albeit s-l-o-w-l-y). The culvert replacement was completed during the late winter and a section of Pioneer Drive extending both east and west from the culvert/ boat launch was torn up and now has a gravel surface. As noted earlier, the road level over the culvert has been raised about one foot, and some sections both east and west of the culvert also now have a somewhat steeper drop-off to the shoulder. Caution is advised.

Several DL Board Members and lake residents attended the May Grand View Town Board Meeting to ask about plans for the road and express concerns about the slope at the boat launch. The engineering plan specified that the road level at the boat launch remain unchanged so that the launch itself not be impacted by the new culvert.

That's not quite what happened since requirements for the culvert were also that it have a minimum of one foot of cover. Following that meeting, the township regraded the north side of the road at the boat launch and restored the overall slope closer to what it had been in years past.



*Diamond Lake boat launch May 20, 2020. Grading has been improved from earlier in the year to reduce the slope into the water. It's quite reasonable now but still soft. Pioneer Rd. has been graveled in both directions for about 400 yards as part of the new culvert project, pavement is anticipated sometime in summer 2020.*

The slope is now much improved, but as of this writing the dirt is still soft. As one who looks at the videos of all launches, my advice for a hassle free put-in and pull out is to angle your boat with a slight diagonal from the camera side toward the culvert side. This is easiest if you approach (backing) toward the east from the west-bound lane.

As Frosty noted, paving is a separate contract from the culvert work and the date was left unspecified so is currently not known, though

there have been rumors that it may be sooner rather than later. Personnel at the town board meeting noted to us that the roadbed will ultimately be firmer the longer it remains gravel and vehicles continue to pack it down – perhaps a small compensation.

On the other hand, the gravel surface has helped (somewhat) with the perennial speeding problem at the boat launch. We did ask for new warning signage as a part of the completed project and I believe that will occur. – R.J.

## **DL Membership and the 2020 Annual Meeting**

The spring newsletter is ordinarily the time we ask everyone to renew their membership in the Diamond Lakers Association and announce the location of the annual meeting. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic this year we need to do things a little differently. With an abundance of caution, the Board has decided it is safest if we do not gather together at a single location and share food and drink this year. However we would like to try something different with an online Zoom session on July 18<sup>th</sup>, the date we would ordinarily meet. We are hopeful that by people being able to join in from home, we may get even more participation than in an ordinary year.

To that end we will send everyone an e-mail invitation to join a Zoom session on **Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM**. We will also post details online on the website should you lose the e-mail message. More instructions will be forthcoming in the e-mail, but in terms of planning your participation, we are hoping to have a speaker from the DNR who will talk about the recent fish survey of the lake. We will then conduct some essential items of business (elections among them), and also take time to greet each other and pass along information and answer questions.

## Dues for 2020-21

As attendees at last year's meeting and keen readers of the minutes will recall, we had an overwhelming show of support and vote to increase the annual dues to \$50 this year (see item in the 2019 Fall Newsletter, [here](#)). The main reason for the increase is to support the maintenance of the aquatic invasive species (AIS) camera monitor at the boat launch (about \$1200 this year) while not depleting resources in the treasury. We have a small continuing grant from the Grand View Township that helps us with this expense, but the remainder is covered by our dues.

In this mood of enthusiastic and generous support for the Association and our monitoring activities last summer, I'm certain that no one had in mind that we would be hit by a devastating pandemic less than a year later. So I am keenly aware that financial circumstances may have changed substantially for some residents.

If you find that you are in support of the goals of the DL Association but do not feel you have the resources for the \$50 dues this year, please stay with us. Contribute what you can and reassess in 2021. I am more interested in keeping up our very high percentage of membership participation in the Association than worrying about the balance in the treasury at this point.

Please make checks payable to **Diamond Lakers Association** and send c/o Bob Jacobel at PO Box 543, Cable, WI 54821. Deadline is July 17<sup>th</sup>, coincident with the annual meeting. Thank you!

**Where does our money go?** Over the years, our philosophy in collecting dues has been to meet annual expenses, now about ~ \$1500, and to enable the residual to grow slightly, right now around \$4200. We have capital expenses from time to time (eg. the ILS system), and in some years we have covered the costs of meals at the annual meeting.

But the main reason for having a residual is a "rainy day fund." If, for example, Diamond Lake is ever infected by AIS, the costs associated with treatment (not eradication) are astronomical we have been warned by lake associations around us, and a few thousand dollars will be just a drop in the bucket. Not a happy thought to entertain, but it's also why we are trying to be proactive.

## Notes from the May Board Meeting

The Diamond Lake Association Board of Directors met (via Zoom) in late May to discuss a number of items of business, among them the decision to hold this year's annual meeting online.

Three at-large positions on the Board are opening this year along with the offices of President and Secretary. The Board would like to encourage participation in any of these leadership roles. Especially with so much recent turnover in home ownership on the lake, all members are encouraged to please consider becoming involved. Anyone who is interested in one of these positions should please contact any member of the board to discuss what's involved and to be nominated.

Current Board members and their contact information are as follows:

President, Frosty Palmer (icemannusa1@msn.com)  
VP, Ed Wallen (wallenm888@gmail.com)  
Treas, Bob Jacobel (jacobel@stolaf.edu)  
Sec, Michelle Veillette (floatingdandelions@yahoo.com)  
Rep at Large, Dianne Klump (dklump@cheqnet.net)  
Rep at Large, Raye Lahti (rayemlahti12@gmail.com)  
Rep at Large, Jesse Meschievits (jlmesch852@gmail.com)  
Rep at Large, Sarah Stivland (tsstivland5@msn.com)  
Rep at Large, Tracy Veillette (greatgatsby88@yahoo.com)

## Comings and Goings on the Lake

It's been an active fall and winter in terms of real estate turnover on Diamond Lake. While we are sad to be saying farewell to several residents, at the same time we are looking forward to greeting new neighbors.

We are pleased to welcome four new families to the Diamond Lakers Association this summer. Each of them are introduced in the short bio blurbs that follow. Please welcome them when you see new faces.

### **John and Cathy Rosebush**

We are pleased to be moving to our new home on the southern shore of Diamond Lake. John has recently retired from a medical career in the Milwaukee then Fox Cities areas. Our children, John (of Appleton) and Christy (of Minneapolis) are excited for future visits to continue sharing in family enjoyments of biking, kayaking and skiing. Christy and her husband, Steve, already count the days to Birkie 2027 when our first grandchild will qualify for the Junior Event.

### **Dennis Kruse**

Dennis purchased property on Canterbury Trail last fall. His companion at the lake will be an aging English Setter named Hawkeye. Dennis first visited the area when he skied the Birkie in 1978. The following summer he purchased a cabin southwest of Cable and began to take every opportunity from his career as a law professor to visit the northwoods. Since 2001 he has been a permanent resident, enjoying cycling, skiing and paddling. Dennis is looking forward to summer on the lake and only having to travel 15 miles from his residence.

### **Paul Brown**

Paul writes: We are myself, my children, Ellen and Patrick Brown, and Harriet (my Yorkshire Terrier). I purchased a place on the north end of the lake last fall. I own a small law firm in St. Paul and have worked with clients in western and northern Wisconsin for many years drafting estate plans. I have gotten to know the area well and after looking for several years feel incredibly fortunate to have landed at Diamond Lake. I have met a few neighbors and look forward to meeting more. I've been doing a lot of hiking and cross

country skiing, and I'm looking forward to doing some fishing.

### **Pat Arndt**

Pat Arndt, son Maxwell Arndt and daughter-in-law Lauren Cole have all loved our first spring on Diamond Lake! We've been coming up to this area for years, visiting friends and family on neighboring lakes. Pat (mom) recently retired from the MN DNR and is reveling in time spent on Diamond. Lauren recently earned her Ph.D at FSU and Maxwell is involved in multiple entrepreneurial ventures (including a brewery in Florida!). We eagerly anticipate enjoying the area through all four seasons, meeting our Diamond neighbors and making northwoods memories with friends and family for years to come.

### **In Memory of Allan Kind**



Long-time lake resident Dr. Allan Kind of Minnetonka, MN passed away on April 16, of this year. He practiced internal medicine at the Park Nicollet Medical Center for 35 years and held positions in a number of professional organizations. As an Infectious Disease physician, Allan, with colleagues, initiated outpatient IV antibiotic therapy to make this treatment more convenient and affordable for patients. He was especially proud of this work and coauthored several articles on it. Allan is survived by his wife of 54 years, Betsy, son Brian and daughter Sara. Betsy recalls building their log cabin on Diamond Lake that continued to be a favorite retreat for family and friends over the years. She says that they all have fond memories of the cabin, among them chinking the logs when they first built it. The DL Community will miss Allan and our thoughts and prayers are with Betsy and family members.



*Loon family on Diamond Lake—photo by Aaron Crawford*

## **ARE THE LOONS BACK?**

by Jessie (Homer) Meschieviz

And the answer to my annual springtime question is YES, the loons were back, April 24, 2020. Over the past 60+ years, from my childhood to seniorhood spending summers at our family property on Diamond Lake, the loons have been so much the sentimental memories of my family's grateful, treasured life on Diamond Lake.

Here are some interesting scientific facts about loons as documented by The Loon Project lead Dr. Walter Piper, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and LoonWatch of the Sigrid Olson Environmental Institute.

- Loons can live for 20+ years. The oldest loon on record is a 35 years old female, as reported by the Bird Banding Laboratory in Patuxent, Maryland. The Loon Project that monitors and studies loons on 200 lakes in Northern Wisconsin, has reported a male at least 28 years old. Some long-time residents of Diamond Lake have observed that the same breeding female loon, recognized by her high-pitched call, has been returning to the north end for over 20 years.
- Loons do not mate for life. Most loons have multiple mates in their lifetime, although both members of a breeding pair will return for several years to the same lake.
- Male loons are highly territorial and will engage in aggressive behavior that will “evict” another loon, or be the death of one of them.
- The male loon chooses the nesting site. Both adults build the nest. The loons on Diamond Lake have found one secluded spot to nest on a man-made platform that was originally constructed in 1994 by someone who was a skilled carpenter by season, and a known bird rescuer by dedication. It was reconstructed in 2017 by two willing residents after breaking apart due to adverse weather and wave conditions.
- Both adults incubate 1-2 eggs for 26-29 days with their webbed feet. Sudden movements can land an egg in the lake. On Diamond Lake, loons typically are incubating their egg(s) from late May to mid-June. Many summers they have required more than one attempt to hatch a successful “clutch.”
- Factors that can result in abandonment of nests or an unsuccessful hatch are: large black fly hatches, inclement weather (late snowstorms, or wind storms that produce waves that wash out the nest), predators (raccoon, dogs), boat wakes, people intentionally or unintentionally getting too close to a nest, or not viable eggs.
- Loon chicks are able to swim within hours of hatching, will ride on an adult's back,

can dive to escape predators (eagles) in 2 to 3 days, or tuck under an adult's wing for warmth. During the first couple of weeks after egg(s) hatch, the adults keep their chicks close to the nest site, in what is called the "nursery". The adults are highly vigilant of their hatchling, swim with it close between them, tuck it under their wing, ride it on their back, and are very vocal about any perceived danger.

- Loons are excellent indicators of water quality as they require crystal-clear lakes to make it easier for them to "peer" underwater for their preferred food - small fishes. Diamond Lake water is tested regularly and results show its quality is "Excellent."
- Loons are completely defenseless on land. Their legs, located back on their bodies, leave them virtually unable to walk on dry land. They need a runway of water to fly in and out of locations.
- Loons are very social and will fly back and forth to other lakes when not protecting a chick or their territory. This social gathering is called "rafting" and can consist of a few individual loons, to dozens.
- Loons do not "fly" under water with their wings - rather they use their feet to dart under water after prey. They are able to extend one foot laterally as a pivot brake, and can execute an abrupt flip-turn.

Diamond Lake has both long-time and new residents who delight in the activities and calls of its loons. But loon population numbers in northern Wisconsin are showing decline and mortality rates rising.

Please!-- when you are out on the lake, give them the distance they need, at least 200 feet, to incubate their eggs, raise their chicks, and search for food.

Be respectful of their presence. Intentional harassment of loons is illegal under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and carries a fine of \$5000.

Loons are vulnerable to lead poisoning by ingesting leaded fishing tackle, so choose to use lead-free sinkers.

We can take pride in our efforts to protect them... and in turn we will be rewarded each spring with the exclamation, "Yes... the loons are back!"

For more information about loons, some suggested websites to visit are:  
[www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common\\_Loon/lifehistory](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/lifehistory)  
<https://loonproject.org/>  
<https://www.northland.edu/centers/soei/loonwatch/>



*Milky Way rising over a lake in N. Wisconsin - Photo by Kristin Dietrich, www.*

**Preserving the Beauty of the Night:  
Sensible Shoreland Lighting**  
(Reprinted from the Fall 2017 issue)

[*ed note: Those with a keen memory may recall that we ran a version of this story in the 2017 Fall Newsletter. The concern continues to be raised and we would like to ask everyone to please check on your outside lights that may be staying on all night.*]

Here on Diamond Lake it is often possible to sit on a dock or a cabin deck on a clear dark summer night, and see the Milky Way stretched across the sky or a meteor tracing its path through the constellations. Unfortunately, this experience can be disturbed or made impossible by outside lights carelessly left on at a neighboring cabin or even lights shining across the open space from another side of the lake or reflecting from the water.

Fortunately for lake home owners, there are easy solutions for providing lighting for safety and security around our property while preserving the clarity of the night sky – in all seasons. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has a pamphlet available [here](#) (inspiring some of this article), that discusses these issues and offers a number of simple solutions, including new and inexpensive motion-detecting lamps and ways of reducing upward glare.

One problem that can plague these motion-activated lights is that sometimes they fail to turn off. Occasionally the motion sensor gets bumped and misdirected, or from time to time the photo sensors do fail and the light just stays on all of the time. Most of these lights also have a selectable mode where the usual on/off function alternates with the motion/night mode. It's easy to get the switch set into the traditional on/off mode and have it stay on (or off) all of the time.

This issue comes up frequently from neighbors who are bothered, so it is of more than hypothetical interest. Perhaps the simplest thing for all of us is just to be more aware of the status of our outdoor lights, and

to turn them off when not needed. Our neighbors and everyone on the lake will benefit from this simple courtesy.

## **New Wisconsin Boating Regulations Brochure from the DNR**

*(From our 2019 fall issue – because it's a timely reminder now as we start the summer season and because safety is so important.)*

In 2019 the DNR updated its website with a new brochure on *Wisconsin Boating [Laws and Responsibilities](#)*. While there don't appear to be major changes to the rules themselves, modifications to the formatting make the essential points easier to find and follow. These now include separate sections for **boating wake and speed limits**, rules for **towing** skiers etc., and personal watercraft (**PWC**) **rules**. The slow-no-wake zone for boats **within 100 feet of shoreline** and other craft has been emphasized as is the **200 feet no-wake zone for PWC's**.

Most of us have probably seen a range in compliance relative to these Wisconsin State Regulations on Diamond Lake, from very respectful operators to those few who seem completely unaware of them. Particularly dangerous are boaters towing youngsters at high speed and accelerating through the large wakes without any spotter accompanying an of-age driver or wide-angle mirror (required). Also worrisome are PWC's "wake jumping" at high speed and/or in tight turns.

Stressing safety above all else, the DNR regulations prohibit reckless operation of any watercraft, and a hotline is provided on the website to call in the event of violations. For convenience we have reprinted a short form of the DNR *Boating Laws and Responsibilities* on the DL Website ([here](#)) and the full brochure on water safety may be downloaded ([here](#)). Also the *Diamond Lake Guidelines* for recreational boating can be found ([here](#)).

## Fourth of July Boat Parade Still On!

The Board decided that this year we could safely continue the tradition of holding a boat parade on the evening before the Fourth of July. We believe that social distance requirements can be met safely with families and guests in their own boats, but we will forego a BBQ following the parade as in some years past. So please consider decorating your boat and joining us for the festivities which will begin at **5PM on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the center of the lake.



*Photo: Jennyffer Cruz, UW Madison News Service*

## Unfortunate Event at the Diamond Lake Outflow - by Raye Lahti, DL Board Member

On May 1, residents from Diamond Point Road identified a bald eagle lying under the power line. This location is at the junction of Diamond Point Road and North Diamond Lake Drive. The eagle apparently snatched a 16-18 inch northern pike near the outflow and inadvertently struck both live wires on the powerline and fell to the ground. The residents contacted the Wisconsin DNR wildlife specialist, Greg Kessler. Mr. Kessler was unable to respond to the site to investigate (due to Covid-19 DNR protocol) and asked us to look for any identification banding. No bands were found. Mr. Kessler asked us to carry the eagle out of sight in

order to avoid further calls or inquiries about the mishap.

On May 3 Conservation Warden Matt Kosholek called and asked us about the Eagle and if there were any known nests on Diamond Lake. He inspected the site where the bald eagle was initially discovered and concurred that the death was likely caused by the power line.

DNR Specialist Kessler later informed us that since this mortality was believed not to be a part of ongoing wildlife mortality events, that a necropsy (an examination of an animal's body to establish how it died) would not be performed. However, these individual cases are documented and the eagle will be sent to the National Eagle Repository in Ashland, Oregon for dissemination of the feathers for Native American cultural uses.

## Walleye Again Spotted Spawning in the DL Outflow Stream



*Walleye spawning in the DL outlet stream. Photo clip from the video by Raye Lahti, 2019.*

In early May, keen-eyed observers Raye and Rose Lahti again spotted Walleye spawning in the DL outflow just below the culvert under North Diamond Lake Drive. Readers of this newsletter may remember Raye's video posted in *Volume 23* last spring and information about Walleye. We provide a link to Raye's new 2020 short video, [here](#). Many thanks!