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Diamond Lakers Newsletter

FALL 2026 - Volume 30, #2

Presidents' Transition Message

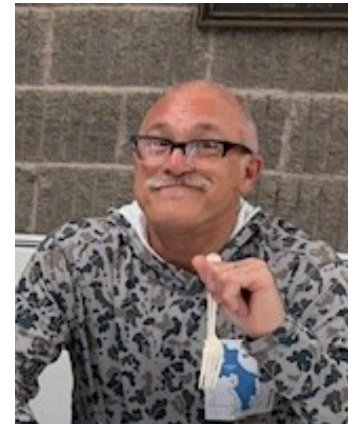
It has been an honor and a privilege to serve these past four years as president of Diamond Lakers. Your board of directors has continued the tradition of those serving before us by taking decisive action and implementing programs like the wake ordinance, shoreland assessment, aquatic vegetation station and seasonal AIS monitoring to preserve the unique quality and character of our Diamond Lake. Mark, our new president, has the compassion and skills to keep us on the proper path, and I know that you will appreciate his leadership. And, if Mark allows me, I may have another Ole and Lena or Sven and Ole joke to deliver at future annual meetings. It's been a fun four years, thank you.

Scott Johnson



I accept the challenge to continue the legacy of Scott and previous leaders as we attempt to maintain the quality environment and habitat that Diamond Lake means to all lakeshore owners. The board and myself are committed to keeping communication open and engaging our members as best we can regarding those issues that influence our lake ecology and reputation. I look forward to meeting and engaging our local community leadership and DL members and of course inviting Scott to entertain us with more Ole and Lena and Sven and Ole jokes. See you all in the coming months and years.

Mark Wilhelm



DL Stewardship Fund Continues to Grow

Bob Jacobel, DL Treasurer

Thanks to many who have continued making contributions, the DL Stewardship Fund, our rainy-day contingency and capital-purchases savings account, now stands a bit above \$15k. Begun just three years ago in 2023, the fund has grown primarily with member contributions along with modest surpluses from the operating budget.

At the annual meeting in July, I reported the balance was \$12,350, and I am pleased to announce that, barring any unforeseen late-season expenses, we will be able to increase that by another \$3500 this year, about three quarters of that from contributions in 2026.

While we do not publicize individual contributions, it gives me great pleasure to say that contributions were received from over a quarter of the membership, some in substantial amounts. A big thanks to all of you, and of course to all the members who support our organization. For the first time, this year our membership is above 60, nearly 90% of residents on the lake.

WELCOME

NEW DIAMOND LAKE RESIDENTS

Dave and Karin Zoll, 47565 Chapinwood



Hello, we are **Dave and Karin Zoll** from Lakeville, MN. Dave is an attorney in Minneapolis, and Karin is an Early Childhood Family Education teacher in Lakeville. Our son Hayden is a senior at Michigan Technological University majoring in mechanical engineering. We have spent years traveling to Cable for the endless recreation opportunities. Fall and Winter have always been our favorite time to be in the area. We are thrilled to have a place to call our own and are looking forward to making it our own and exploring all of the seasons at Diamond Lake.

We also welcome new residents,

Ron and Delaine Young, 47025 Twin Pines

AND . . .

WELCOME to our two new
Diamond Lakers Board Members
Judy Doonan-Twohy and Trish Leaf

Also our new **newsletter co-editor/co-publisher**
Dianne Van Tasell



Judy



Trish



Dianne



DIAMOND LAKERS, INC. - 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

July 18, 2026–3 pm; Grand View Town Hall

Members Present:	
Sandy and Tom Benson	Twin Pines Lane
Paul Brown and Susan Walker	N. Diamond Lake Drive
Juels Carlson	N. Diamond Lake Drive
Jim Corcoran	N. Diamond Lake Drive
Judy Doonan-Twohy	Twin Pines Lane
Steve Eggimann / Dianne Van Tasell	N. Diamond Lake Drive
Bob and Pam Jacobel	Twin Pines Lane
David and Trina James	Diamond Point Road
Scott and Beth Johnson	Chapinwood Road
Joey and Brad Kellogg	Twin Pines Lane
Dennis Kruse	Canterbury Trail
Raye and Rose Lahti	Diamond Point Road
Kris and Trish Leaf	Twin Pines Lane
Sally Moser	Pioneer Road
Cary and Mary Palmer	Twin Pines Lane
Jim and Sally Pathos	Chapinwood Road
Jon and Jackie Pedersen	N. Diamond Lake Drive
John and Cathy Rosebush	Pioneer Road
Michael Slade	Canterbury Trail
Sarah Stivland	N. Diamond Lake Drive
Tracy and Michelle Veillette	Canterbury Trail
Ron and Delaine Young	Twin Pines Lane
Dave and Karin Zoll	Chapinwood Road
Special Guests:	
John Richter	Guest Speaker
Sue Quinn	Cable Lakes Association
Collette LaRue	Cable Lakes Association
Paul Gilbertson	Grand View Supervisor

PRESENT:

38 DL Members, representing 23 member households
+4 Special Guests

July 18, 2025

Diamond Lakers Annual Membership Meeting



Laurie Rabe

MINUTES

July 18, 2026

Meeting of Diamond Lakers General Membership Meeting was called to order at 2:54pm by President Scott Johnson.

John Richter Director of Wisconsin Lakes gave an excellent talk regarding species invasive to Inland Lakes. Key points were

1)Main source of invasives is ballast. This applies to big ships bringing invasives to the Great Lakes and boats bringing invasives from the Great Lakes to smaller lakes and between smaller lakes.

2)Invasives can cause a domino effect with, for instance, Gugga mussels in Lake Geneva eventually causing Bird Death via the death of fish eating these mussels.

3) A lake can change substantially in a very short time. Lake Michigan's entire Ecosystem changed completely in 10 years and it is estimated there will be zero Whitefish in Lake Michigan soon.

4)Ability to maintain Local Ordinances (like what Grand View is enforcing on Diamond Lake regarding Wake Boats) is key. Many of the proposed bills in Wisconsin State Congress endeavor to directly or indirectly eliminate any local control. Call your Representative and State Senators and voice your opinion regarding these bills. You can be sure the Boating Industry is lobbying hard.

-New members introduced: Welcome Ron and Delaine Young. Dave and Karin Zoll.

-Treasurers Report 2025 by Bob Jacobel:

1) Our unrestricted income from Dues, Gifts, Town of Grand View yearly contribution, and Apparel sales was about \$2K in the black after our expenses were paid (the largest of these is the AIS camera system). The \$2K was added to The DL Stewardship Fund which is interest bearing and now over \$12K. Our Cash Balance is \$5.7K.

2)Our restricted income was all spent on the projects for which they were granted. Big thanks to the James Family for obtaining a DNR Grant and adding a large donation to the grant to make our Boat Cleaning Station a reality.

-Last Years Meeting Minutes approved by voice vote with no Nays

-Newly Nominated and Returning/ Re-Nominated DL Board Members elected to 3-year terms by voice vote with no Nays: Ed Wallen. Trish Leaf. Judy Doonan-Twohy

-Meeting opened to Open Forum which included offer of a painting found at one of the homes on Diamond Lake of another older property. (Contact Judy Doonan-Twohy.) Also an offer to inspect the two 'Practices' completed with Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant Assistance (Contact John Rosebush or Bob Jacobel for viewing these. Contact Ed Wallen if you have interest in obtaining a \$750-\$1000 grant for projects to help our lake such as Fish Sticks, Rain Gardens, Rock Infiltration, Runoff Diversion)

-Meeting Adjourned to Social Hour by now Outgoing President Scott Johnson. One last Sven and Ole anecdote ending with "The jokes on you Sven, I wasn't home!". A big thanks to Scott for helming the DL Board and Beth Johnson for all the work with the Newsletter and Website.

John Rosebush
Secretary

Biological Threats Spreading in Wisconsin Waters



At the [Diamond Lakers](#) annual meeting on July 18, 2026, at the Grandview Town Hall, Wisconsin Lakes board member, **John Richter**, delivered a high-stakes presentation titled “New Aquatic Invasive Species,” unpacking the latest data and defensive strategies for local lake stewards.

About John Richter: John serves as a board member of Wisconsin Lakes and is a Director of the Last Wilderness Alliance and Chairman of the Plum Lake Association. Richter champions education on AIS. His presentation provided an essential update on emerging biological threats facing Wisconsin’s inland waters and freshwater ecosystems.

Following the meeting, John wrote the following note to president, Scott Johnson::

Hi Scott. I enjoyed being with your group today and thought on the way home that there is one thing you all can do better than anyone else. Your legislator, Green voted against our marginally good bill and for the bad bill, after telling us he would support the lakes and their bill. Letting him know your position is critical. I won't suggest who to vote for but whoever represents you should represent the interests of your riparian taxpayers and the protection of your lakes. Congratulations on your engaged membership. They were great to talk with today. John

[Download and View John Richter's AIS Presentation Slide Deck \(PDF\)](#)





CHEERS AND THANKS TO ALL who participated in the Annual Diamond Lake **Boat Parade** held on July 4th. A dazzling line of patriotic and festively decorated boats, pontoons, and a jet ski circled the lake to the applause and cheers of folks on docks, shores and in floats. Thank you also to Laurie Rabe and her visiting friend Jodi for taking pictures. It all was a wonderful occasion to celebrate our Nation's 250 Anniversary and the joy of being on Diamond Lake to do so!! Jessie Meschievitz

BEST BOAT ~ The FARROW FAMILY



BEST DOCK ~ The JAMES FAMILY





How Low *Is* the Water Level in DL Today?

by Bob Jacobel

If you have been looking at water levels around your dock this August and noticed that they are low, you are seeing the result of near-record low water levels for Diamond Lake for the last several decades, or perhaps more. How do we know this? To try and answer that question and understand the current water level in the context of historical data and recent meteorological conditions in northern Wisconsin, I had a look at a variety of sources on the internet.

It turns out there are only a few lakes in northern Wisconsin that have official long-term lake-level records, the closest is at Trout Lake Station in Vilas County, near the town of Boulder Junction. It was no surprise to find that water levels at Trout Lake are also near an all-time minimum since records have been kept there starting in 1984.



Taking a clue from an air photo of Diamond Lake (at the left) which shows visual evidence of lower water levels at a number of locations toward the end of most summers, I searched for sources of aerial imagery to see if I could find some comparisons that might show sharp differences from one year to the next.

Air-oblique photo of Diamond Lake looking to the north taken in August 2010 (Vern Whitten Air Photos). Areas of shallower water that show up in a lighter color have been much in evidence this summer. Most boaters are well aware of the “hook” on the east shore just past the boat launch.

The US Department of Agriculture takes periodic air photos of many Wisconsin lakes, primarily to look at changes in vegetation and land cover, though not every lake in every year. The series depicting Diamond Lake offers some interesting comparisons. See: <https://maps.sco.wisc.edu/whaifinder/?center=-91.1489%2C46.2590&level=15>

Photos taken at the end of summer all show hints of shallow areas, the same as seen in the air-oblique photo above. But images acquired earlier in the summer do not. That is, all except for the one from early spring 2025, taken just after ice-out on May 5th.



Comparing water levels: On the left 2025, just after ice-out in early May. Right, late August 2018. Water levels are nearly the same in early spring 2025 and late summer in a more normal year. Aerial imagery USDA.

The comparison at the left shows that shallow areas normally seen only late in the season (at the right) are already present at the *start* of the summer in 2025 (left).

Note the inverted “hook” sandbar along the eastern shoreline just above the boat launch and the sandbars at the northern end of the lake and just north of Canterbury Point. In more typical years these sand-

bar features do not appear in the aerial imagery until mid to late summer. Diamond Lake was already well on the way toward record low water levels more than a year ago.

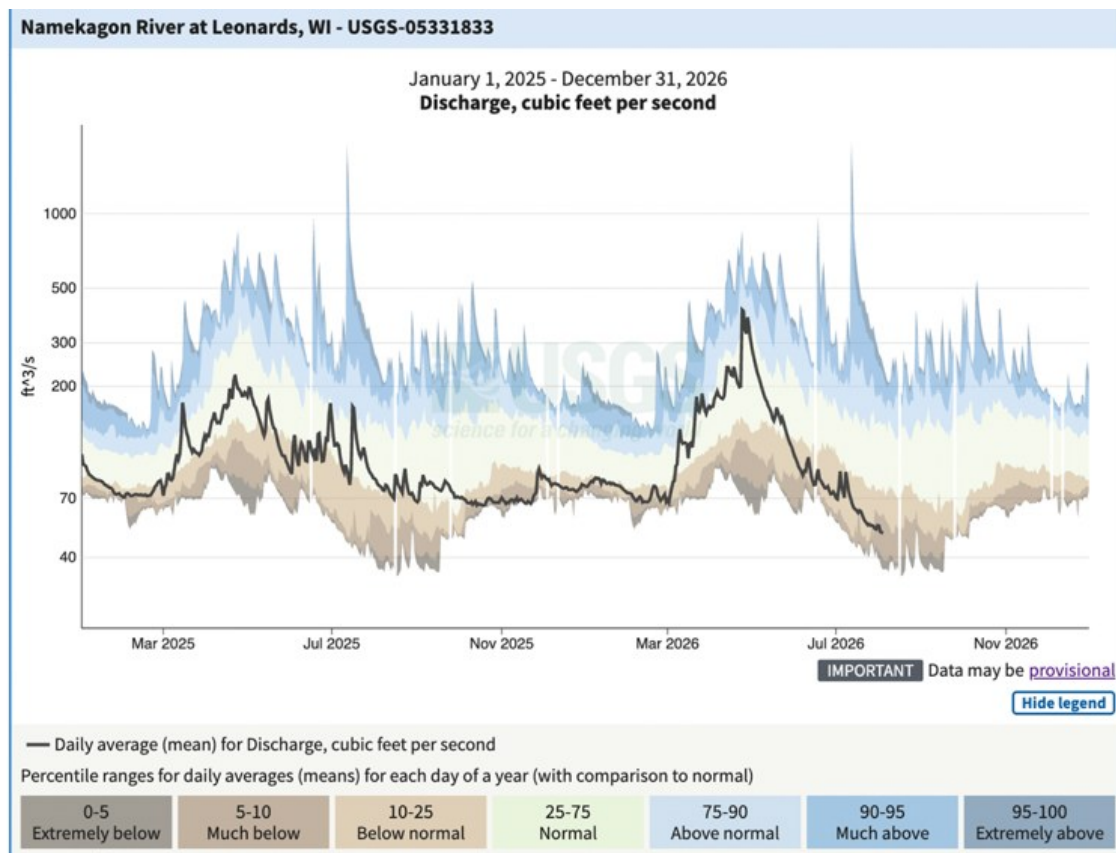
The photo evidence is interesting, but it doesn’t provide a way to quantify water levels, so I turned elsewhere in my search. According to our water balance model for Diamond Lake completed in 2023, about two-thirds of the input comes from surface water and one-third from underground springs. At a time of very low precipitation input from rain or snow directly on the lake surface or received as runoff from areas within our watershed, only springs are feeding the lake. And they do not keep up with evaporation and the outflow into Eighteen Mile Creek through the culvert under North Diamond Lake Dr. So the net result is decreasing water levels.

Low lake levels here and in adjacent watersheds means reduced discharge into streams that exit the lakes. Several nearby streams have monitoring stations and maintain long-term records archived by the US Geological Survey, among them the Namekagon River, the White River (which receives input from our Eighteen Mile Creek), and the nearby Brule River to the northwest.

Unfortunately, the USGS gauging station on the White River is just *below* the dam on Wisconsin Highway 112, so the flow is managed and does not reflect changes in input from tributary streams like ours.

While the Namekagon River does not receive input from Diamond Lake, it nevertheless is indicative of conditions here on the St. Lawrence Divide, including Diamond Lake. The figure just below shows the discharge record for the Namekagon River at Leonards (where the river crosses highway 63 just south of Cable), from January 1, 2025 to August of 2026 (black line). It has the expected shape, higher values in the spring and lower in the late summer and fall. More interestingly, the colors in the background depict the history of the long-term values for the past 30 years, bluer values above normal, average values in light green and the dry years in brown.

Comparing the black line with the background shows near normal discharge this past spring but a sharp drop through the summer, with the river in the lowest 5% to 10% of flow for the month of August for all years on record since 1996. In plain terms, that means that only 2 or 3 of the last 30 years have had lower flow than at present. The same data for the Brule River show that it is now at its absolute minimum flow since 1942!



Discharge of the Namekagon River for 2025-26 (black line) relative to 30 years of previous measurements (colors). See text for discussion. Data from <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/>

Clearly, both the lake and river data are a reflection of unusual meteorological conditions. After two winters of below-average snowfall and a shortage of rain this summer, we are experiencing drought conditions in northern Wisconsin. According to the US Department of Agriculture 100% of the area of Barfield County is now experiencing “Severe Drought” conditions (Category D-2, the second of 4). See:

<https://www.drought.gov/national>

In addition to affecting lake levels and streamflow, the drought has a direct impact on soil moisture which in Bayfield County is currently in the lowest 2-3 percent of measurements on record. In part this is a result of meager precipitation during the last two months, less than one-fourth of the average.

So where does that leave us with the low water levels on Diamond Lake this summer? While we can’t with absolute certainty say that this is a record low year, there is plenty of evidence that Diamond Lake, and the lakes and streams nearby, are experiencing conditions among the driest in recent history.

In addition to boating caution with the low water levels on the lake, we should all be mindful of the extreme fire danger this creates on the land as long as the drought persists. Fire is an ever-present danger in forest areas, and right now the low soil moisture, together with drying vegetation in the coming fall, makes conditions very easy for fire to start and spread. As was repeated in nearly every episode of a popular TV drama some years back (that perhaps only a few remember) – “Be careful out there.”

MEMBER SUBMITTALS



7-25-26

"PERFECT PADDLE"

Rose and I finally got out on the lake in our freshly painted red canoe this morning. Rarely do I leave the phone or camera behind! However, approximately in the "deep hole" location 5 loons flew in close to the canoe! And we also saw the loon family. So, at 10:30 this morning, a total of nine (9) loons and one Eagle on the lake.

Raye Lahti

REMEMBER ...

We have a Diamond Lakers'
Facebook Page



[CLICK HERE](#)



Night Fishing 7-1-26 on Diamond Lake by Scott and Beth Johnson's son, Ben, and grandsons Rainer and Shepard.

What a walleye!!! (caught and released)

How much is that large Diamond Lake walleye worth??

Ed Wallen

This past July our son-in-law, Jerome Lee, did an interesting search. It followed his successful “catch and release” of an approximate 6 lb walleye. He searched with the prompt: “How much does it cost the WI DNR to raise a walleye to large adult walleye size from large fingerling status?”

Here’s a synopsis of the answer:

While exact per-fish numbers can fluctuate slightly based on seasonal hatchery conditions, feed costs, and electricity, historical and recent data from the WI DNR indicates that it costs approximately \$1.65 per fish to raise a walleye to large fingerling status (roughly size 6-8”).

The Real Cost: Return on Investment (ROI):

A comprehensive DNR Walleye Stocking Evaluation tracked stocked large fingerlings to adult maturity (4-5 y of age). Because survival rates ranged from a low of 0.17% to a high of 1.04%, the actual cost to successfully put ONE ADULT WALLEYE in DL ranges from \$101.77 to \$640.01 per fish!!



Editor’s note: What are the odds that this is the same walleye caught and released by Scott & Beth Johnson’s son and grandsons on 7/1/26? Makes you wonder.

Water Quality Report and More for Diamond Lake—2025

Ed Wallen

The standard or figure of merit for water quality is the “Trophic State Index” or **TSI**. This is a measure computed by the WiDNR to assess the water quality of lakes, rivers, and streams. The primary variables used in the computation are: **water clarity**, **chlorophyll** content, and levels of **phosphorus** as determined by samples taken from Diamond Lake and sent to the DNR. Variations in these measures are directly related to fluctuations in algae levels. Sampling is done by both the DNR and DL volunteers from ice out into September. The volunteer effort is organized through the Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring (CLM) program of the DNR who then utilize their data to assess water quality. Please see the information on our DL website under “Lake Quality”: <https://www.diamond-lakers.org/lake-quality> For the last 5y the DL TSI is 38 and indicates DL is a borderline Oligotrophic water body with excellent water quality. Based upon decades of TSI data and its fishery status, DL has been designated a Wisconsin “Outstanding Resource Water”.

The DL Board is committed to the preservation of this designation in many ways e.g., CLM, prevention of AIS infiltration (via grant support for boat cleaning), volunteer surveillance for AIS, for yearly volunteer efforts involving boat launch data monitoring, grant support to understand the dynamics of water balance, shoreland assessment, and macrophyte surveys, and to prevent damage caused by artificially created, enhanced wakes via an ordinance.

More recently, DL has received DNR support through the “Healthy Lakes and Rivers” (HLR) grant program in order to improve the critical **shoreland areas** of lake properties in an effort to maintain and improve DL’s water quality. The HLR grants assist in providing support for small (but important!) projects

intended to mitigate shoreland erosion, runoff, and shoreland defense against normal wave action or elevated lake levels. Grant support is available to DL’ers for shoreland native plantings, rain gardens, erosion control, and fishsticks placement. Improving these variables will improve our TSI. Please contact a DL Board member for information on how you might qualify for grant support. In a period of regressive climate change policy, it will be important to strengthen efforts toward the maintenance of DL’s water quality. Finally, please contact a DL Board member for information or assistance on questions related to water quality or how you might assist with the goals set forth in our Strategic Plan for DL. (<https://www.diamond-lakers.org/strategic-plan>)



← Ed Wallen, Dianne Klump and Jessie Meschievitz testing the Diamond Lake water quality in 2022.

“Music on the Bay” Makes its DL Debut

John Rosebush & Ed Wallen

In the beautiful afternoon sun of Saturday, August 8, 2026, in north bay, a small, but enthusiastic group of DLers gathered by boat (including one canoe) and dock attendees. They were treated to the solo music of **Ron Denson**, a close friend of DLER Jim Corcoran, who arranged the impromptu concert. Ron has a Madison, WI band, but was in the area for a concert at the Quarter Horse Saloon on Friday evening. The group of concertgoers enjoyed acoustic guitar music and songs from the 70's - 90's, including Ron's rendition of standards from Tom Petty, Van Morrison, Merle Haggard, and a healthy dose of Jimmy Buffett.

While this was an inaugural event for DL, there appears to be impetus for a similar event next summer with possible rotation of the venue. If any DLers have ideas/talent that they would like to share, please contact Jim, Ed, or Mark Wilhelm, DL President. The organizing group is also mulling ways to create a “floating tip jar” and to also enhance social aspects of the event. Stay tuned!! Pun intended.



Photos by Raye Lahti



DLers: Important information if you are hiring a dock service to remove your dock this Fall?

Please note the following caveat from the 'Lake Board Bulletin' (August 2026) regarding such services.

Transporting and spreading AIS may occur via dock service providers, especially those who work on multiple lakes in a single day and who use watercraft to remove the dock. To help mitigate this source of contamination, please consider the following ideas that the 'Bulletin' recommends:



- Ask your provider what AIS preventive steps they take
- Build 'decontamination' into your service contract
- Talk to other DLers to discuss the possibility of hiring the same provider to reduce the possibility of multiple sources of contamination
- Find out if your provider is aware of decontamination tools or has received education/training on decontamination procedures

CHAPINWOOD FIRE !!!

In the early afternoon on Wednesday, August 19, residents on the northwest side of Diamond Lake residents observed several dark smoke plumes rising beyond the northeast shoreline of the lake. They called 911, and within about 15 minutes, a unit from the Grandview Volunteer Fire Department arrived to investigate, sirens blaring. More crews responded and local reports as of Wednesday evening were that about one acre had been burned. Fortunately no home structures were involved but crews remained on site for several days.

At the time of publication of this newsletter (August 31), fire crews have left the area of the Chapinwood fire and we know a bit more about what happened. According to a Facebook post from Henry Rieckhoff of the Namekagon Volunteer Fire Department, their crew responded on Wednesday afternoon, and was joined by volunteers from Grand View Fire Department and teams from the US Forest Service and the DNR. The fire was located by Chapinwood caretaker, Darrel Sanske, about a mile southeast of the corner of North Diamond Lake Rd. and Chapinwood Rd. This area is adjacent to an extensive peat bog, and fire was spreading underground as well as at the surface. The surface fire initially covered about one acre but eventually burned about twice that area with spreading occurring underground.

Crews from the USFS returned on Thursday and Friday, adding more water and doing additional controlled burns to ensure the underground spread was contained. Peat fires are extremely difficult to extinguish entirely and can sometimes smolder for days, even weeks and months.

According to John Rieckhoff, also a member of the Namekagon crew, the initial cause of the fire is still under investigation, but it was likely a campfire that was not totally extinguished. The fire burned down into a peat layer and spread underground to surrounding areas, only to emerge some time after the occupants had left.



Photos by Henry Rieckhoff



We all owe huge thanks to the fire crews that kept this fire from spreading to our homes. The lessons here seem clear: a fire ring or rock structure by itself is insufficient to contain a fire if it is not totally extinguished with copious amounts of water. Please avoid all fire during this time of extreme drought. Of particular concern are lake homes occupied by guests or visitors who are not aware of the current extreme drought conditions or familiar with the dangers of fire in forest areas. Please discuss this with your guests.

Bob Jacobel for the DL Board.

BOOK CLUB 2026



May— Social Gathering

June— *Theo of Golden*, Allen Levi

July—*Solar Storms*, Linda Hogan

August—*The Briar Club*, Kate Quinn

September— *The Correspondent*, Virginia Evans

A **Book Club** began last year for Diamond Lake residents , thanks to the efforts of Judy Doonan-Twohy. Tucking a book and connecting with neighbors has already proved to be a positive venture!

Generally we meet the first Tuesday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Sally Pathos. We rotate "hosting" -- providing a snack and leading discussion.

If you are interested in joining, or would just read on your own, or like to stay on the list for updates and meetings, please let Judy know, at judydt.new@gmail.com, 612-718-0896.

Current readers are:

Angie Burke

Judy Doonan-Twohy

Kris Gillingham

Beth Johnson

Joey Kellogg

Dianne Klump

Rose Lahti

Trish Leaf

Jessie Meschievitz

Sally Moser

Sally Pathos

Jackie Pedersen

Laurie Rabe

Susan Trankel

Michelle Veillette



July 23

Hello fellow lovers of books, delicious deserts, and good wine,

I just saw some very exciting news. Allen Levi, the author of *Theo of Golden* is starting a new book titled *Ellen of Golden* highlighting one of our favorite characters Ellen with her beloved bike. I'm sure that it will take a few years for him to write this and get it published and on the market. I sure hope that our book club is still meeting when this book is ready to be read and discussed.

Sally Pathos





A Celebration of Life for Maureen 'Mo' Chapin, was held on Thursday, October 30th at the O'Connell Family Funeral Home; 520 So. 11th Street, Hudson, WI. Burial at a later date will be in the Greenwood Cemetery in River Falls. Memorials will be used to further the love and treatment from the Northwest Wisconsin Cancer Center and are preferred in lieu of flowers. Funeral services have been entrusted to the O'Connell Family Funeral Homes.

Maureen "Mo" Chapin, age 65, of Cable, Wisconsin, formerly of River Falls passed away on October 8, 2025, in Cable, Wisconsin. Born on August 3, 1960, in River Falls, Wisconsin, she brought light and creativity into the world from the very beginning. Maureen built a long and successful career in Communications with 3M, where her talent and dedication left a lasting impression. Her work was marked by professionalism and innovation, reflecting her vibrant personality and sharp intellect.

She is lovingly remembered by her husband, **Jim Biesecker**; her son, Ryan Larson; her daughter, Morgan Biesecker; her father, Robert Chapin; and her sisters, Natalie Bonnes and Martha Otto. Maureen was preceded in death by her mother, Yvonne Hunter. Those who knew Maureen will remember her as fun-loving, creative, and beautiful—qualities that touched every part of her life.

Her presence brought joy to those around her and left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing her. May her memory bring comfort to those who knew and loved her.



Maureen "Mo" Chapin

Aug 3, 1960 — Oct 8, 2025
47565 Chapinwood Road, Diamond Lake



Earl Richard Goeltz

February 6, 1935 -
June 22, 2026

48065 Chapinwood Road,
Diamond Lake

Goeltz, Earl Richard (Dick, Gabber, Duker, Friend) Went into the arms of the lord on June 22, 2026, at the age of 91.

Loving husband of Gloria (nee Zingsheim) for 64 years. Proud dad of Tom (Wendy) Goeltz and Mike (Jilly Lund) Goeltz. Grandpa of Melissa (Cameron) Loomis and Gavin (Katy) Goeltz. Great Grandpa of Paisley, Brooks, Maegan, and Beau. Brother of Louis Goeltz and **Cindy Palmer** (of Twin Pines Rd., Cable).

Further survived by other family and friends.

Earl is preceded in death by his many siblings, granddaughter Megan and her unborn baby.

Earl was born in Ashland, WI into a large family which farmed and owned the Goeltz Hotel and Bright Spot in Ashland. As a child, he had long curly hair and we still have some of those original locks. He played football in high school and has many friends and family in Northern Wisconsin. He was known to be quite the talker in high school and earned the nickname Gabber from his old buddies. His dad also was named Earl, so the family called him Dick due to his middle name of Richard. All of these names did cause some confusion over the years.

He was an avid fisherman going for Northerns, Bass and Pan fish on his home base of Diamond Lake or his favorite pan fishing hole – Lake Ree. He hunted his entire life for deer, ducks and partridge (ruffed grouse) in Bayfield County and was very successful. He loved to hunt with his high school buddy Walt on an island in

Lake Namakagon. Deer hunting at the Cabin was an annual tradition with the likes of Chuck, Bob Ray, Tracker Bill and Ol' Larry. He taught his sons and grandkids how to fish and hunt, which we still carry on that tradition.

After high school, Earl joined the Navy aboard the Destroyer USS Walker 517 and was a combat veteran during the Korean War. He was stationed on Pearl Harbor and always wanted to get back to Pearl after his time in the military, to pay his respects to his fellow Navy buddies forever there.

After the Navy, Earl moved to the Milwaukee area to work at American Motors Corporation (AMC) in the sheet metal department. One night while out at a dance club, he met the love of his life Gloria “love at first sight”. They married and raised a family initially in Wauwatosa, WI, eventually moving to Germantown, WI in 1976.

Earl went to school at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) and became a Metallurgical Engineer for Jones & Laughlin Steel and eventually retiring from LTV Steel Company serving the upper Midwest territory.

After his boys grew up and moved out of the house, Earl loved to do landscaping work around the house and go for long walks around the subdivision. During these walks, he made many friends and families along the way, including and especially their dogs. He would often have his “snicks” in his pockets and eventually in his mailbox and all the dog walkers knew where they were since the dogs would sniff them out and pay a visit to Earl sitting in his garage. He was always happy to make a new friend – human or otherwise.

August 2026

Dear Mary and Earl Goeltz Family:

We are saddened at the loss of Earl. He was always thought of fondly by the Hartman, Homer, Meschievitz families as a long-time Diamond Lake neighbor and one we could hear a tale, learn some local history. Our son Casey and I, had the memorable pleasure one day of getting in a conversation with him about Chief Namekagon while out kayaking. Our daughter Elizabeth water-colored, in admiration, this depiction of his cabin, the familiar bird house, the waving flag—all a Diamond Lake landmark of many decades.

We hope in the years ahead we will have glimpses of Earl's family members in the yard of the "Goeltz" house, see Mike in his canoe again paddling on Diamond Lake. Earl lives in our memories. We honor his legacy and appreciate you all immensely!

our best to you-- Stan, Jessie Meschievitz & Family



HISTORY!

June 20, 2026

Hello!

I'm doing some genealogy of the John and Minnie Witt family. They are my relatives. They moved to Diamond Lake in 1922 as some of the earliest settlers on the lake. They raised their daughter, Gladys Witt Bennet Heppard there, and Gladys remained after her marriages and to her death.

Specifically, I would like to find the location of the Witt resort. On the historical site (website) for Diamond Lake Gladys Witt Heppard has a post describing its location. She states that in the early years the Witts, coming to their resort from Chicago, would leave their car at the Zehner's and row across the lake to their resort as no roads to it existed. It is also mentioned that the property was eventually sold to John van Holtum family.

Gladys writes that their property was on the NW shore of Diamond Lake and 18-mile creek ran through it. A photo of the original Witt cabin is on the Diamond Lake website

Can you help solve this problem of where the Witt resort stood? Thanks so much!

Mary Reichardt

Dr. Mary Reichardt

Dr. Mary Reichardt

Professor Emeritus

University of St. Thomas

*Anyone with information... please contact
Beth Johnson at sboyumj@gmail.com*



The white blobs are tears in the photo, not clouds

From left: John Witt, his wife Lillian Reichardt Witt, their daughter Gladys Lorraine Witt Bennett, her husband Harold Dunton Bennett, my uncle Frank Kollins, boy with glasses most likely John Bennett (Gladys and Harold Bennett's son). Boy in front with kitten is my cousin Frank Kollins Jr. Taken on a visit to the Witt's cabin at Diamond Lake by the Kollins family, circa 1955.

I have many other photos of the Witt family, but this is the only one taken at the Lake. John, Lillian and Gladys are buried in Cable. John Bennett (boy with glasses) died a couple of years ago. Sadly, there is no one left to help me identify people from earlier generations.

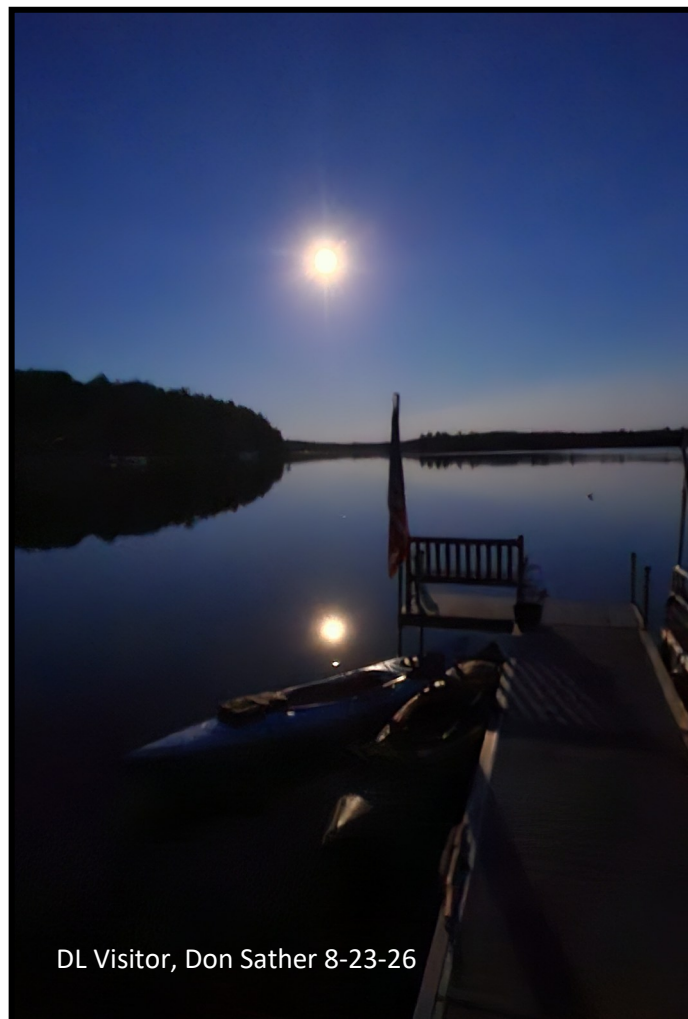
Dr. Mary Reichardt



Mike Goeltz captured these pictures of
Beth and Scott Johnson's cabins in the Fall of 2021.



Jessie Meschievitz 10-22-21



DL Visitor, Don Sather 8-23-26

Our Board of Directors 2026-2027

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Many thanks to our board member, Tom Kraker, who has recently turned in his resignation. We are so grateful for his wonderful contribution and dedication to the Diamond Lakers Association.

Diamond Lakers, Inc.

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SPLASH

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