

Spring, 2025

Volume 29, #1

# DIAMOND LAKERS NEWSLETTER

"First Paddle" - Pat Arndt 4/16/25

## President's Message Spring 2025



Greetings Diamond Lakers,

As I write this message on Easter weekend two of our members have already enjoyed a kayak paddle and the loon platform (Loon Hotel) has been installed in Loon Bay. The newsletter is loaded with good information, articles written by board members and a welcome to our new Diamond Lake neighbors. This and past newsletters are found on our website. Please visit regularly to stay up to date on lake activities. [www.diamond-lakers.org](http://www.diamond-lakers.org).

Plans are underway for our Annual Membership Meeting which will be held at the Grand View Town Hall on Saturday July 19 beginning at 3 PM. The focus of the business portion of the gathering is to maintain our attention to and keep making progress on the Healthy Lakes and Rivers (HLR) grant program. A few Diamond Lakers have availed themselves of the program and report satisfying results. The goal of Water Quality Committee goal and the Board of Directors is to involve more property owners in the restoration of their shoreland.

We will conclude our time together with our traditional social time with beverages and heavy appetizers. More details will be coming after the board meets over the Memorial Day weekend. (Beth and I are disappointed that we will not be able to participate in this year's gathering as we will be traveling to the New England states visiting friends from our high school days in Illinois and Hawai'i.)

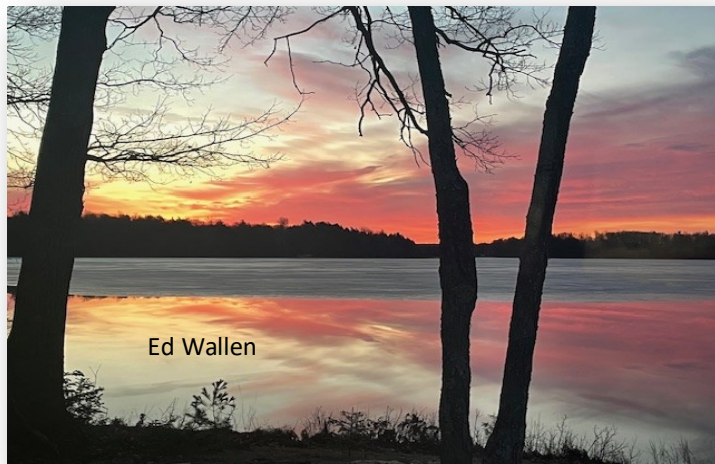
Don't forget the boat parade on Saturday July 5th . Details will be provided after the May board meeting.

We hope that you will enjoy the newsletter and find it informative.

Boat gently,

Scott

*It's time to pay your dues!  
See the next page.*







## Annual Dues

Annual dues for 2025 of \$50 may now be paid any time. As in the past, one option is to send a check to Diamond Lakers, Box 543 Cable, WI 54821. Also, if your bank offers a "Bill Pay" service or an ACH external transfer option, you can have a check deposited from your bank directly to the Diamond Lakers account. The routing number for our account at the Chippewa Valley Bank is 091509468 and the account number is 227256.

We also have a convenient new way to easily pay dues and make contributions for those with a Zelle account through your bank. To make payments using Zelle, use the account [rwjacobel@gmail.com](mailto:rwjacobel@gmail.com) at the Chippewa Valley Bank.

As always, dues and contributions are much appreciated and are fully tax deductible.

Thanks,

Bob Jacobel  
DL Treasurer



Look what was in Al & Jeanette  
Forness' yard on April 20!



## NEW NEIGHBORS...



- ◆ **47850 N. Diamond Lake Road**  
Dianne Van Tasell & Steve Eggimann  
(former home of Todd & Kristen Gillingham)
- ◆ **46845 Twin Pines**  
Carol Neubauer & Make Starck  
(former home of Matthew & Sarah Frick)
- ◆ **47545 Chapinwood Road**  
Todd and Kristen Gillingham  
(former home of Amy & Chris Carlson)



## DIANNE VAN TASELL & STEVE EGGIMANN

Steve and Dianne are retired, and they live full-time in downtown Minneapolis. They have owned property in the Cable area off and on for over 30 years, and they're very happy to be moving to beautiful Diamond Lake, where they look forward to fishing, exploring, and just enjoying the solitude and abundant wildlife both on and off the lake.

Dianne wrote in April, "Hopefully we've gotten everything at least moved into the cabin; now we are just waiting for snow and ice to retreat so we can see what we have in terms of plants, lakeshore, etc. (we didn't see the property until late in November, well after dock had been taken out, etc.). "

Check out the HISTORY of  
Our Cabin Properties at:

[https://www.diamond-lakers.org/  
history](https://www.diamond-lakers.org/history)



### **WELCOME CAROL NEUBAUER & MIKE STARCK**

Hello Everybody on Diamond Lake! We are Carol Neubauer and Mike Starck. We come to your neighborhood from Madeline Island, where we lived full time for 25 years. While we loved the island and its community, it was time for a change. We purchased the Frick house on Twin Pines Lane and are so thrilled with our new full-time residence.

In our corporate life, Mike and I were both employed by a computer software in Omaha, Nebraska. We retired in the early 2000s and were so fortunate to move to the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

Mike loves to play golf as he has since he was 8 years old. I enjoy golf, gardening, cooking, fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and hiking. We have one four-legged child by the name of Ozzy. He is a very friendly beagle and you may hear his hunting howl every so often.

We are very excited to be in our new home and part of the Diamond Lake community. Also, we look forward to meeting our neighbors and participate in programs for the protection of this clean water lake.

We look forward to meeting everyone in the months to come!

## Stewardship Fund Continues to Grow

Thank you for your contribution to the Diamond Lakers!

This past year we received a number of donations to the *DL Stewardship Fund*, some of them quite large, and the fund balance is now slightly in excess of \$8k. While that is perhaps unremarkable in comparison to the endowments of some lake organizations nearby, I think it represents a significant accomplishment on the part of our small membership of which we should be very proud. To that end, the Board would like to publicly recognize those who donated this year, together with all who have made contributions in the recent past. So I am preparing a short note of recognition that will appear in the Spring Newsletter.

Following the practice of many charitable organizations, we will not list donated amounts, but we have designated several giving categories for contributions above the annual dues: *Donor*, up to \$100; *\*Patron*, up to \$1000; *\*\*Legacy*, in excess of \$1000.

With your consent, your name will appear in the list of approximately two dozen others, some with asterisks as appropriate.

However, it seems possible to me that there may be some who wish to remain anonymous, or who don't want the *Patron* or *Legacy* designations (no asterisks) with their name. If you would like to remain anonymous, please just drop me an e-mail in response to this note. If you are fine with being recognized, you need do nothing.

Again, we are extremely grateful for your support of the Diamond Lakers.

The Board wishes to take this occasion to thank all who have contributed to the fund along with related endowments since its inception. And while not disclosing individual contributions, we feel it is appropriate to recognize exceptional gifts when they occur. To that end, we have established several general giving categories for contributions above the annual dues: *Donor*, up to \$100; *\*Patron*, up to \$1000; *\*\*Legacy*, in excess of \$1000.

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed since the fund's inception.

Pat Arndt  
Paul Brown and Susan Walker  
Maureen Chapin and Jim Biesecker  
Jeff and Judy Facklis  
Randy and Jean Farrow  
Dave and Trina James  
Skip Jewett  
Scott and Beth Johnson  
Curtis Johnson \*\*  
Kathy Kestle and Bob Keller  
Betsy Kind \*\*  
Tom and Jeanne Kraker  
Raye and Rosemary Lahti  
Sally Moser  
Charles Nauen and Patti Jo Pofahl  
Dave and Sue Reichert\*  
Camp David Realty \*\*  
John and Cathy Rosebush  
Todd and Sarah Stevland \*\*  
Mark and Trish Wilhelm





## HEALTHY LAKES AND RIVERS GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

The DL Board is in its second year of funding under the Wisconsin DNR's "Surface Waters Grant Program". This program supports practices under the Healthy Lakes initiative designed to improve lake eco-system and water quality with simple and inexpensive projects for lakeshore property owners. It is a cost-share grant limited to \$1000./practice to include a 25% in-kind contribution from the landowner. Hence, each practice is entitled to \$1,333. maximum support. Grant support is possible to improve DL in the following ways: **Fish Sticks, Native Plantings, Diversion, Rock Infiltration, and Rain Garden practices.**

The following report details the status of those DL property owners who applied for and received HLR funding.



### **Completed Diversion practice, including reimbursement:** Bob and Pam **Jacobel:**

Our practice was fairly simple involving redesigning a walkway and some steps descending to the lake. When we bought our place 20 years ago, this walkway had been paved with a sort of home-applied blacktop, a hard and mostly impervious surface that turned into a funnel during hard rain and delivered sand and fine dirt to the dock area. So this was a "water diversion" practice.



We started by breaking up the blacktop into small bits and using it as a base layer. Next we created a series of 5 steps – double-high landscape timbers tilted at an angle to the downhill direction in order to divert water off the path and into the adjacent stable slope of trees and plants. We then filled in all of the steps and portions of the path between with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " ornamental crushed gravel. Finally, we added plantings alongside the path.

Thus far (one summer) we are very pleased with the results: we have not seen any water running down the path, and I am hopeful the gravel will eventually settle a bit more and feel firmer underfoot.

Most of the labor was completed in a single day with a crew of two and my “help.” I sourced the materials locally and had them delivered, and I did the layout and design work myself. The “before and after” photos are part of the essential documentation, together with all of the expenses, labor and in-kind contributions needed for reimbursement for the practice.

#### **In-progress practice(s) for funding received in 2024:**

John and Cathy **Rosebush**: upon detailed technical assistance/guidance, including a site visit, the Rosebush’s will be completing a Rain Garden practice within the riparian zone of their property in the spring of 2025. The goal is to mitigate excessive water accumulation in a near-shoreline area at the base of their sloping shoreline.

John and Jackie **Pedersen**: will continue work on 2 practices that received funding in 2024. These practices involve native plantings within the riparian zone of their shoreline.

Brad **Johnson/family**: continued work/ completion of 2 practices involving Fish Sticks placement in the littoral zone and Native Plantings in the riparian zone of the property.

Dave and Trina **James**: continued work/ completion of 3 practices including 2 Diversion practices within the sloping riparian zone and a Native Plantings practice near shoreline.

#### **New funding for 2025/26:**

Juels and Sally **Carlson** (and Todd **Stivland**): were recipients of funding for 2 Native Plantings practices within the riparian zone of the Carlson shoreline. Their goal is to replace a lawn grass area with native plantings in order to improve eco-system habitat and to slow runoff from a sloping riparian zone.

The grant support listed above also includes a modicum of funding for technical assistance and advertising, literature, etc. DL’ers are encouraged to visit any of the practice sites in order to gain firsthand information on how they might apply for and receive funding to improve their property and DL.

For further information on any aspect of the HLR grant program, please contact a DL Board member or HLR participant. (DL Board members include: **P. Arndt, R. Jacobel, D. James, S. Johnson, T. Kraker, R. Lahti, J. Rosebush, E. Wallen, M. Wilhelm**).

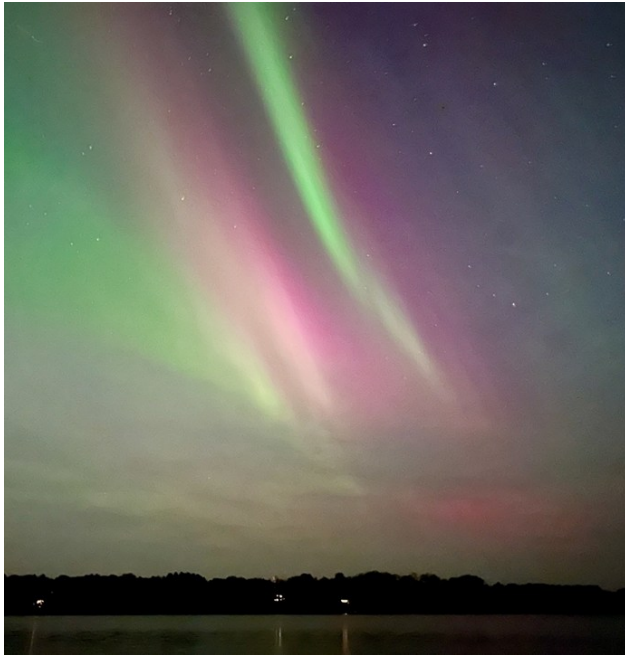
Also included with this update is a [“Check Sheet”](#) for evaluation of DL shoreland based upon our shoreland assessment survey (2024). The survey is available to all DL property owners and was utilized during our summer workshop as a first step in assessing how to improve your DL shoreland area and possibly apply for HLR funding.

It should be noted that there will be in-person reports on the practices discussed above at the DL Association Meeting on **July 19, 2025**.



## Preserving the Beauty of the Night Sky – Sensible Shoreland Lighting

By Bob Jacobel



*Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) above Diamond Lake, October 10, 2024. Photo: Pam Jacobel*

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. This past October, the Northern Lights were visible over the lake putting on a spectacular show.

Unfortunately, this experience can be disturbed or even made impossible by outside lights carelessly left on at a neighboring cabin, or even by lights shining across the open space from another side of the lake, or reflecting from the water.

Recently it has become even easier to add light pollution to the night sky due to the advent and widespread availability of low-power-consuming LED bulbs and solar-charged batteries. These low cost “solar lights” are ubiquitous now in hardware and discount stores, advertised for their convenience, because you just stick them in the ground and they “take care of themselves.” No wires to hook-up, no switches to bother with, nothing to install.

Unfortunately, the consequences of this convenience are devices that charge throughout the day and then stay on all night, week after week, whether the lighting is needed for anything or not.

*Continued*

*Continued*

*But What About When We Need Outdoor Lighting?*

Obviously, there are times when outside light IS needed: for safety guiding walkers along a path, to deter animals (and perhaps others), or when you really *are* using the deck and want low lighting.

Fortunately for lake homeowners, there are easy solutions for providing lighting for safety and security around our property while preserving the darkness and clarity of the night sky – in all seasons.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has a pamphlet available [here](#) with the same title as the above lead (and from which inspiration for some of this message has been derived). The pamphlet discusses these issues and offers a number of simple solutions, including new, inexpensive and easy-to-install motion-detecting lamps, and ways of reducing glare by orienting light downward where it is needed, instead of up into the sky or outward across the lake.

This issue has been raised at annual meetings in the past and discussed more recently at a number of Board meetings, so it is of more than hypothetical interest. Perhaps the simplest thing of all is just for each of us to be more aware of the status of our outdoor lights, to remember to turn them off when not needed, and avoid using stand-alone battery-operated solar lights. Our neighbors and everyone on the lake will benefit from this simple courtesy.

**The Loon Platoon is in...**

And we heard at least one loon call today. And may have seen a loon??? We will see if the loons check it out.

Mark Wilhelm and Raye Lahti  
April 18, 2025



**ICE SHARDS** on  
Diamond Lake 4/16/25  
Pat Arndt



## COOL FACTS ABOUT LOONS

taken from

[Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

- The Common Loon swims underwater to catch fish, propelling itself with its feet. It swallows most of its prey underwater. The loon has sharp, rearward-pointing projections on the roof of its mouth and tongue that help it keep a firm hold on slippery fish.
- Loons are water birds, only going ashore to mate and incubate eggs. Their legs are placed far back on their bodies, allowing efficient swimming but only awkward movement on land.
- Loons are agile swimmers, but they move pretty fast in the air, too. Migrating loons have been clocked flying at speeds more than 70 mph.
- A hungry loon family can put away a lot of fish. Biologists estimate that loon parents and their 2 chicks can eat about a half-ton of fish over a 15-week period.
- Loons are like airplanes in that they need a runway for takeoff. In the case of loons, they need from 30 yards up to a quarter-mile (depending on the wind) for flapping their wings and running across the top of the water in order to gain enough speed for lift-off.
- Loons are well equipped for their submarine maneuvers to catch fish. Unlike most birds, loons have solid bones that make them less buoyant and better at diving. They can quickly blow air out of their lungs and flatten their feathers to expel air within their plumage, so they can dive quickly and



swim fast underwater. Once below the surface, the loon's heart slows down to conserve oxygen.

- Migrating Common Loons occasionally land on wet highways or parking lots, mistaking them for rivers and lakes. They become stranded without a considerable amount of open water for a long takeoff. A loon may also get stranded on a pond that is too small.
- The Common Loon is flightless for a few weeks after molting all of its wing feathers at the same time in midwinter.
- Like many young birds, juvenile loons are really on their own after mom and dad leave at about 12 weeks. The parents head off on migration in the fall, leaving juveniles to gather into flocks on northern lakes and make their own journey south a few weeks later. Once the juveniles reach coastal waters on the ocean, they stay there for the next two years. In the third year, young loons return north, although they may not breed for several more years (on average they are six years old when they start breeding).
- The oldest recorded Common Loon was a female, and at least 29 years and 10 months old when she was spotted in Michigan in 2016 and identified by her band. She was originally banded in the same state in 1989.



## Howard Homer Decoy



<https://cablehistorymuseum.com>

**Early Ownership**  
**of 20045 N. Diamond Lake Drive**  
1940 Arthur & Margaret Hartman  
1969 Marge and **Howard Homer**  
(Marge, was the daughter of Hartman)

*Diane Klump/Jessie Mischievitz*  
(daughters of Homer)

The mallard drake decoy (pictured left) is a recent donation to the Cable/Namekagon Historical Museum. It was created by Howard Homer who lived on N. Diamond Lake Drive. Howard's daughter, Jessie Mischievitz, wrote to our newsletter editor, "Our dad carved many, many decoys in his lifetime. Originally 'working' decoys, but at some point people started acquiring as collectors' decoys. I don't have any idea of who would have donated it."

Jean Hansen wrote back from the museum, "The decoy was donated to the Cable Namekagon Historical Museum by Dr. Paul Van Pernis. Dr. Van Pernis was well known in the Ashland community where he was an MD for many years. He is now retired and recently sold their family cabin on Missionary Point. My husband remembers meeting Howard when he and a friend were beaver trapping in the Porcupine Lake Wilderness and Howard stopped to talk to them."

Dianne Klump, Howard's other daughter wrote, "As Jessie says our father carved many "working" decoys but also traveled to local bars to sell them. Pioneer Bar bought one, so did what was Gary's in Grand View (now Choppers) and Metro's, then located on M near Trails End road, now closed. Dr. Paul Van Pernis, an Ashland family practice physician, found one of Howard's duck decoys for sale online for around \$50. "

Read more about Howard Homer and  
his decoys at [Wisconsin Sporting Collectables](#).

## ***Did you know that we are an OUTSTANDING RESOURCE WATER (ORW) ???***

Beth Johnson—

*Ed Wallen notified me in January that Diamond Lake has the designation of “Outstanding Resource Water”. Only 97 out of 15,000 WI lakes are ORW! Diamond Lake is waterbody #2897100. Ed got this information from a webinar in 2024.*

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/>

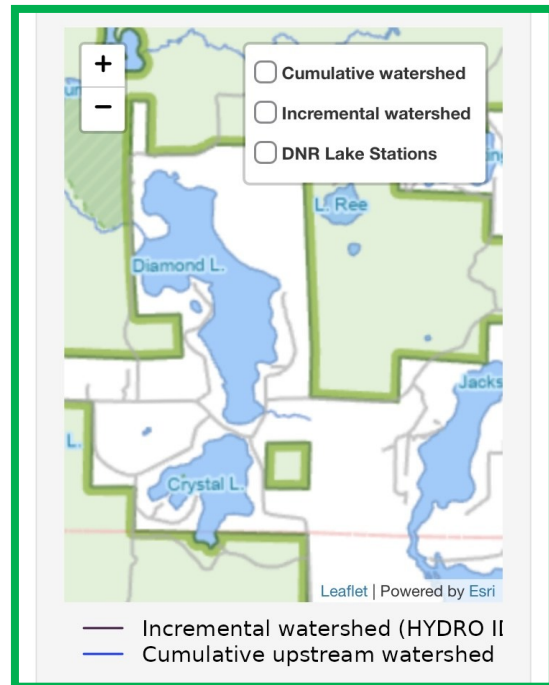
### Check out **WISCONSIN WATER EXPLORER** (WEx)

The Wisconsin Water Explorer tool allows users to explore characteristics of Wisconsin's water resources and was designed as a companion tool to the [Surface Water Data Viewer \(SWDV\)](#) (the SWDV is a tool that shows maps related to Wisconsin's water resources).

#### [Launch Wisconsin Water Explorer \(WEx\)](#)

In Wisconsin Water Explorer, you can explore the state's water resources through data visualization:

- Under the "Watersheds" tab in the tool, users can explore characteristics of the watersheds that either contribute directly to a waterbody or characteristics of the cumulative upstream watershed. Examples include land use (e.g., percent forested), geology (e.g., percent glacial moraine) and soils (e.g., percent sand). Users can also explore metrics of watershed health under the "Healthy Watersheds" subtab.



- Under the "Lake Tools" tab, users can explore lake water quality and trends in water clarity, Total Phosphorus or Chlorophyll a. They can also use the [WiLMS model](#) to estimate phosphorus loads to the lake and in-lake phosphorus concentrations. For these tools, users must first select a monitoring station from Lake Tools -> Setup.
- Under the "Stream Tools" tab, users can visualize estimated streamflow or use the PRESTO tool to estimate phosphorus loading between point and nonpoint sources.

See Also

[Instructions for using Lake Tools \[PDF\] in Wisconsin Water Explorer](#)





**Our Diamond Lakers Officers :**

President: Scott Johnson  
Vice President: Ed Wallen  
Secretary: John Rosebush  
Treasurer: Bob Jacobel

**Directors at large:**

Pat Arndt  
Dave James  
Tom Kraker  
Raye Lahti  
Mark Wilhelm

**Diamond Lakers, Inc.**

P.O. Box 543  
Cable, Wisconsin 54821

[www.diamond-lakers.org](http://www.diamond-lakers.org)

Send future newsletter  
articles to [Beth Johnson](mailto:Beth Johnson).

Most of you have heard about or seen the Diamond Lake history booklet written many years ago. Dianne Klump is starting a project to update the booklet. Whether you have owned on Diamond one or fifty years, your property has history. Please submit your input to Dianne at [dklump@cheqnet.net](mailto:dklump@cheqnet.net); 20045 N. Diamond Lake Drive, Cable. Call her with questions at 715-580-0836 or 715-798-2355

Also, please continue to submit info for the [Cabin Property History](#) on our website. If you have anything to add, please contact Beth Johnson at [sboyumj@gmail.com](mailto:sboyumj@gmail.com).