



Photo: Tom Moser

### An (Early) Spring Edition

Greetings all! This is a bit of a break with tradition in terms of timing, but I thought that since we didn't do a newsletter in the fall and we have had a number of newsworthy items recently, that it was a good time to send out word now. In addition, it seems that the grip of winter has broken: maple sap is starting to run, vaccines are becoming available, and so hopefully it is time for some optimism.

Items in this issue include: updates on our grant proposal with the DNR, our tax exempt status, a facelift for the website, announcing a new subcommittee on water quality, a recap of our newly-approved bylaws changes, our upcoming baseline plant survey and new faces on the lake. Read about all of these items and more in the articles that follow.

On a final editorial note, Beth Johnson will be taking charge of editing and producing the DL Newsletter in future issues. Beth has already taken over as webmaster (see the item below) and helped bring about the new design. She has had much previous exp-

erience in group communication, so please send Beth your thanks for taking on these responsibilities and send her items for inclusion in the future. - RJ



*On Friday, January 8th, seven Diamond Lakers and two Tahkodah Lakers got together to celebrate the New Year. We feasted on brats and several side dishes with various spirits from 3-6 pm. We got together quickly for the photo shot, but kept safely distanced. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the brief respite from isolation. Ruth and Herb Lauritzen, Pat Arndt, Jeanie and Tom Kraker, Monica and Ed Wallen, Maggie Donohue and Steve Hinze. (Photo from Ed Wallen).*

## Our Website Gets a Facelift



Some of you may have noticed that our website has undergone a facelift brought out in November thanks to a collaborative effort between Beth Johnson and me. Working throughout the fall, we have incorporated a more modern header design with changing wide-angle photos and content tabs across the top as opposed to down the left side. Much of the content will be familiar to regular users, but behind the scenes the site is now based on templates provided by WIX, our new domain host. Gone are the requirements of working with html coding, and the new design and content can be easily updated and modified without code changes as needs dictate.

As I mentioned in an e-mail last fall, Beth is taking over as webmaster and we should all thank her for spearheading this change and bringing our web management into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The change in DNS hosting is invisible to the user as the name diamond-lakers.org is registered independently to our organization (we pay for this), and you can access the website in the usual way; your old bookmarks will work without any change. Please join me in thanking Beth for being willing to take over this job for us and check out the new look of the website. - RJ  
<http://www.diamond-lakers.org>.

## Members Approve Bylaws Changes

*(Ed note: The information in this section was part of the series of e-mail messages to all DL Members last fall leading up to and following the vote. We report it again here mainly for context to several of the items that follow.)*

Updated Articles of Incorporation and a new set of Bylaws were approved decisively by the membership in early September. These changes were motivated by the need for Diamond Lakers to become a “Qualified Lake Association” under Wisconsin state statute 281.68 in order for us to be eligible to receive grant funding from the WI Department of Natural Resources. New Board member Dave James, an attorney in Stevens Point, who drafted the new documents for us, notes that the new Articles and Bylaws will also enable us to qualify as a tax-exempt organization under IRC 501(c)(3) and thereby be able to receive charitable contributions. See the item on this later in the newsletter.

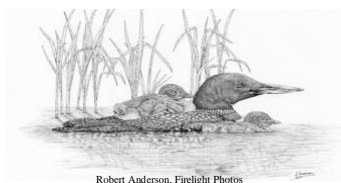
The principal change required in the Bylaws was to make our membership criteria comply with WI state statutes, opening membership not just to property owners within a mile of the lake (which we did in an earlier change in 2017), but also to include individuals who reside within that boundary for 30 days or more per year. This will now include persons residing in a household who might wish to pay for an additional membership, as well as someone who rents a property for more than 30 days per year.

Another change Diamond Lakers will see is that our officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) are no longer elected directly by the members, but are appointed by the Board. As in the past, members will elect 9 persons to the Board, but for three-year terms instead of two, and the officer terms will also be for three years. This conforms more closely with standard procedures of private non-profit corporations, explains Dave James. The officers provide services to the corporation and are responsible directly to the Board which is then responsible to the membership. So the members have ultimate control.

Additional changes in the wording bring much-needed clarity to the Bylaws and make them compatible with WI Chapter 181 for private non-profit corporations. Among these are a clearer description and expansion of the process for making changes to the Bylaws themselves in the future.

The timing of grant application deadlines for the DNR necessitated quick action on the part of the Board and the membership in bringing about these changes, and except for a very generous interpretation of the deadline by the DNR, we were very nearly shut out of the funding cycle for another year. While some Board members felt the process moved too quickly for adequate input, the majority thought the need to move forward immediately based on the deadlines and the very real and growing threat of AIS in Lake Namakagon and other nearby lakes.

Well over 80% of Diamond Lakers members responded within the two-week time window for voting, and the changes received an overwhelming vote of support. “That’s one of the great advantages to having a close-knit and attentive membership with a commitment to a well-defined set of goals, in this case the preservation of Diamond Lake,” said DL Treasurer, Bob Jacobel. Particular thanks are in order to Dave James for lending his valuable expertise and time in drafting the documents; also to the Board members, most of whom met for the better part of a day in two settings to review and refine the documents; and to all of the membership for paying close attention to the need for quick action and voting. More information on our funding and AIS-related activities is in the following items.



*Maple sap is running early this spring. Photo from March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 on Twin Pines Lane on the east side of Diamond Lake.*

## **Plant Baseline Survey of Diamond Lake to be Completed in August 2021**

A complete survey of all existing vegetation in Diamond Lake will be undertaken in late August, 2021. Officially called a point-intercept macrophyte survey, because it utilizes precise GPS positioning of the sampling sites relative to lake depths, our survey will be done by research biologist Matthew Berg of Endangered Resources Services, LLC of St. Croix Falls, WI. Matthew is an expert on the aquatic ecology of northern lakes and his company has been responsible for doing the recent surveys on Lake Namakagon. He is also the person who ‘discovered’ the first Eurasian Hybrid Milfoil plants in Lake Namakagon in 2016.

The purpose of the baseline survey is to learn the kind and distribution of aquatic plant



species in Diamond Lake and specifically to determine if we have exotic milfoil or other non-native invasive species. This is the first step in planning a strategy to keep invasives out of Diamond Lake and to discover if any are here already.

The survey will cost \$3350 and we have received funding from the WI DNR for a grant to cover a portion of the costs (see the item below). I was able to visit with Matt briefly in August this past year when he stopped by to look at our lake and give us his cost estimate. There will be opportunities for some Diamond Lakers to be involved in helping with the survey, and we will plan a subsequent workshop for a larger group of us to learn about how to identify exotic milfoil and other species. For an update, see the next item.

### **Diamond-Lakers Inc Receives DNR Grant Funding**

I am pleased to report that our proposal to the Wisconsin DNR to help us with funding for the survey described just above was awarded in February.

Our proposal, *Point Intercept Macrophyte Survey of Diamond Lake*, was submitted to the DNR's Surface Water Education and Planning Program which funds up to 67% of costs for the survey and related education activities. Our proposal calls for a community outreach and education workshop to follow the survey, communicating the results and displaying some of the plants that are found. The status of COVID late in the summer will determine some of the details of how we do this, but one possibility is a Saturday morning guided tour (pontoon boats wanted!) of the lake vegetation. A virtual tour might be an alternative possibility.



### **In Memory of Chuck Raths**

One of our long-time lake residents Charles (Chuck) Raths died peacefully April 19, 2020 in Nashville, TN. He and his wife of 63 years, Ellie, built their house in Chapinwood in the late 1980's and spent summers on Diamond Lake and winters in Nashville. Ellie says that they found the lake ideal in that it was not big and busy, and their family (Holly, Ruth, Linda and Jack) remembers fondly the quiet woods, swimming and boating episodes and cordial neighbors. Chuck founded a structural engineering company that became a leading forensic engineering and architectural firm in the US, and he became a foremost authority on design and materials in concrete structures. The DL Community will miss Chuck and our thoughts and prayers are with Ellie and family members.

### **Allan Kind – A Correction**

In our last edition we reported incorrectly that Allan Kind's work was related to Lyme Disease. We reprint the full article here with apology and corrections.

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.



*An old Public Land Survey System township corner marker alongside a modern National Geodetic Control marker near the crest of the Laurentide divide just east of Diamond Lake.*

## **Welcome New Members**

This past year has brought several new families to Diamond Lake, some major new construction projects planned and currently underway, and right now at least, a dearth of properties for sale. We try to reach out to neighbors as soon as we see new faces and have just added three to our membership this spring. We asked them to introduce themselves below. It's not clear yet what kind of social gathering we may be able to have for our next annual meeting, but please be sure to welcome these folks as you see new faces.

### **Randy & Jean Farrow**

Hello-We are Randy and Jean Farrow. We currently live in Mankato, MN. We have two grown sons; Donald, who is married to Aly, and Charlie. Charlie has a 5 year old German Shorthair, named Casper, and he will no doubt love it at the lake! We are all looking forward to spending time on beautiful Diamond Lake. We purchased a lot in August of 2020 and plan to start our build as soon as we can this Spring. Randy's family had a cabin on Spider Lake while he was growing up and we both loved spending time there enjoying the area. We decided it was time to come back. We both love fishing, biking, hiking and of course cross country skiing! Randy skis the Birkebeiner, but Jean has not yet braved it. We can't wait to enjoy all that Diamond Lake and the area has to offer. We look forward to meeting everyone.

### **Matthew and Sara Frick**

We are a family of five from Rochester, Minnesota. Our boys; Samuel (18), Aiden (15) and Owen (15) keep us on the go with different sporting and school activities. We are very excited to spend time at our place on Diamond Lake enjoying both the water and the many areas for mountain biking and hiking trails. After having spent many

summer vacations on the lakes of north central Minnesota, we fell in love with the north woods feeling of the Cable area. While we are all looking forward to many summer hours on the water (paddle boarding, kayaking and boating), no one in the family is more excited to be on the water than our British lab Lucy. Long term, we (Matthew and Sara) are hoping that our place on Diamond Lake will motivate our boys to stay in upper Midwest.

### **Jim and Sally Pathos**

We are a family of four from Eau Claire, Wisconsin with two grown daughters, Anastasia and Danielle. We have vacationed in the Cable area (primarily at Telemark) since 1986. We have always loved alpine skiing, boating and hiking the gorgeous trails of the Northwoods. In September of 2020 we purchased our home on the northeast corner of Diamond Lake and have already made many wonderful memories there.



*K-9 tracks near a log emerging from the winter snow.*

### **New Water Quality Subcommittee Formed**

At its meeting in September, the DL Board approved the formation of a Water Quality Subcommittee that will help guide us in determining goals and priorities for

monitoring and improving the quality of Diamond Lake and the surrounding environment.

The need for more specific focus and articulation of our goals comes as we recognize that the plant baseline survey that we are undertaking this summer is just the first step toward ensuring the future health of the resource we all value, and that we will need continued funding support from granting agencies to help in achieving our goals. One job of the committee then will be to determine priorities for the support we need, and to submit proposals to the appropriate sources/programs for funding. The Board felt that a small and nimble group with expertise was needed that could make decisions and act efficiently.

Committee members are Ed Wallen (chair), Pat Arndt (grants coordinator), Todd Stivland, Dave James, Raye Lahti and Michelle Veillette (*ex officio*). Ed writes below with an update on committee activities this winter and spring, much of which involve developing a DL Strategic Plan.

- Our water quality/lake management committee together with the Diamond Lake Board are nearing completion of a “Diamond Lake Association Strategic Plan” which will serve as a guide for all future efforts directed toward protection, conservation and improvement of the Diamond Lake ecosystem. Additionally, the plan outlines various means to strengthen the Board and its interactions with all stakeholders. When completed (Spring, 2021), the Plan will be available for perusal by all Association members and the public.

- Additionally, in the spring of 2021 all Diamond Lake Association members will receive a first ever “Stakeholder Survey” to complete. The Board will compile, analyze,



and inform members of the survey results. These results will guide the Board in terms of adding, deleting, modifying and prioritizing Strategic Plan initiatives. We are requesting that **all Association members be on the lookout for the Survey** and assist us in achieving an outstanding response rate. I know we can out-perform our colleagues on a nearby lake who conducted a Stakeholder Survey in 2014 with a response rate of ~ 41% !!

- Finally, Monica and I have been conducting water quality monitoring on DL for 6-7y and prior to this with Larry and Audrey Sanderson for several years as a part of our “training”. Frosty Palmer also assisted occasionally during this time. This spring and summer we would like to demonstrate the process involved to others who might be interested and perhaps to recruit a cohort of subs who could be trained to continue the decades of lake monitoring. Please note: we are not retiring from this effort but would like to insure its seamless perpetuation for the future. Be on the lookout for a notice (usually short) due to weather constraints or please send me an email if you have an interest. – EW.



*Namakagon Lake outlet near the Birch Point Road bridge, March 2021*

## **Diamond-Lakers Inc Gains Tax-Exempt Status**

As a part of our Bylaws revisions and updated Articles of Incorporation we approved last fall, we applied for recognition from the IRS as a public charity and exempt from federal tax regulations under IRC Section 501(c)(3). That status has now been granted. Henceforth all donations, dues, bequests, and gifts to Diamond Lakers are exempt from tax (yay!). I will send along a reminder when we begin collecting dues for 2021. This is good news not only for the (small) potential tax advantage for members, but it will be helpful in fundraising in the future when we may be seeking larger amounts, land set-asides or other kinds of charitable contributions. Thanks to Board member Dave James for heading us down this road. A similar exemption from the state of Wisconsin is now pending approval.



*Diamond Lake slush ponds from snow melt, March 9, 2021*