



Photo: Tom Moser

### **A Message from Your President**

It's finally summer and I hope this finds you all doing well! Mary and I were gone for most of the winter (3 months +) due to a family emergency in Colorado. We got back to the lake around the end of March.

The ice finally made its exit from our lake on the morning of May 7<sup>th</sup>. Mary and I launched our small aluminum boat the previous afternoon and went ice breaking with it. The only large area that was clear of ice that afternoon was all of west bay. So much for fishing opener this year. Seems like we went from winter to summer without the benefit of spring.

There have been a number of things worth noting around the lake that you may not be aware of, the most important of which was the awarding of a \$6,000 grant from the Town of Grand View for a camera and audio message system at our boat landing (see the accompanying story, next). If all goes as planned, this will be installed by the middle of July. Additionally, there currently are 5 homes listed for sale with 2 more that have just been sold. I also expect to see at least 2 others for

sale within the coming months. We will be contacting all of the new owners and inviting them to join our association.

As usual, our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Regatta will be held the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> with all boats joining up in the middle of the lake. Michelle Veillete will be coordinating this activity and you will hear more on that soon. The annual meeting will once again be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of July (21<sup>st</sup>) at the Namakagon Town Hall. We were unable to get on Kenny Becker's calendar for his famous fish boil so this year will be a pot-luck instead. Jesse Meschievitz is coordinating the potluck and she will be sending out more details on that shortly. If you have any particular item you would like included on the meeting agenda, please let me know ASAP.

I wish you all a fun filled and safe summer and hope you truly enjoy the beauty of our pristine Diamond Lake. Let's all do our utmost to keep our lake clean and healthy! If you haven't yet done so recently, say hello to your neighbors.

Frosty Palmer  
President



*From 2017. Most Patriotic Float, Tom & Jeanne Kracker and family. Make your plans for this year's regatta, Tuesday evening, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

## **An Update on Our Automated AIS Monitoring System**

As many will remember, last fall the Board asked the membership, through an e-mail vote, to approve plans for installing an automated monitoring system at the boat launch to help prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species.

This effort followed news that Aquatic Asian (or hybrid) Milfoil was found in Lake Namakagon. Introduced near the Lakewoods landing, it has now spread to at least one other known location near the lake outlet. In the summer of 2017 the bay near the Lakewoods was treated with a potent herbicide in an attempt to control the outbreak. The second area is smaller and invasive plants were removed by hand.

According to biologists at the DNR, once introduced, invasive Milfoil can never be totally eradicated and Lake Namakagon will need to be treated periodically, perhaps forever.

Our plan last fall was to submit a proposal to the DNR to help with the cost of an automated monitoring system installed at the boat launch utilizing a camera and an

audio message reminding boaters to inspect their boats and trailers for vegetation.

As a part of the grant application, the DNR requires lake associations to also implement an educational component, paying for 'volunteers' to greet people using the boat launch at busy times and to encourage them to inspect boats and trailers for plant hitchhikers.

In order to be eligible to apply for the DNR grant, our DL Bylaws needed to be revised to comply with the Wisconsin State statute on requirements for membership to a lake association. In particular, we needed to revise the membership criteria to include those living within a mile of the lake boundary (not just on the lake).

Our vote was overwhelmingly in favor of this bylaws change and we reported the result to the DNR grant program manager, expecting to be able to move forward with the proposal. Unfortunately, she found a second problem (not noted in the first round) - that our bylaws restrict membership to those "owning property" on or near the lake. The Wisconsin Statute requires that anyone "residing" on or near the lake for 30 days or more per year be eligible for membership.

This would seem to allow some vacation rentals, including units with multiple residents or timeshares, to have multiple memberships. While there are no such units on Diamond Lake at present, we thought this kind of a change was potentially more than a minor one, and that it should be discussed fully by the membership. As a result, we decided not to pursue DNR funding this year.

Instead, in our investigations of what nearby lakes are doing about AIS, we

learned that the Grand View Township (GVT) had helped the Lake Namakagon Association purchase one of their AIS monitoring systems. So this winter, DL Association President, Frosty Palmer, together with some lake residents, attended several of their meetings and asked for help with the cost. The process was not entirely straightforward and required several iterations, but Frosty reported to the Board in April that GVT has awarded us \$6000, about 75% of the cost of the system we are purchasing. Great news, and many thanks to Frosty, Raye Lahti and Dave Reichert for attending GVT meetings this winter!

Work is currently underway to install the camera, solar panel, and speaker system to a post on the west side of the boat launch. This will require relocating our existing sign which had suffered damage from the township plow. So expect to see some changes at the boat launch this summer and updates on the project at the annual meeting in July. Check out the following website to see a preview of the system we are purchasing, click on "The Solution" tab to see the actual unit. <http://www.environmentalsentry.com/in dex.htm>

- Bob Jacobel

## **It's Time to Renew DL Membership for 2018**

Membership in the Diamond Lake Association currently stands at 52, an all-time high we believe. The Bayfield County property website shows that there are 70 developed properties around the lake, though a half-dozen or perhaps a few more appear to be not-often used. So a realistic goal for our membership is probably a few more than 60, which means we currently stand above 80%. That's a very impressive number I'm told

by other associations, but I am hopeful we can add a few more.

Dues this year were increased by vote of the membership to **\$30 per cabin per year**. I have explored methods for electronic payment for those of you with that feature on your cell phones, but our bank has said it's difficult to track (by name) the source of these many identical payments. So rather than have us make an error, we would ask that you pay by old fashioned check and US Mail, as in years past. Please make checks **payable to Diamond Lakers** and send to Bob Jacobel at PO Box 543 Cable, WI. There is a form below that you can use if you wish. Thanks!

## **2018 Annual Meeting**

The DL Annual meeting this year will be held on Saturday, July 21 at 5 PM at Namakegon Township Hall (junction of highway M and D, the same place as last year). Dinner will be a potluck, so there is no charge to attend. Please bring a favorite appetizer, salad or hotdish to share and your own plates and silverware. Beverages will be provided. A form is provided below that can be used to please RSVP and also pay annual dues.

There are three at-large positions on the Board that rotate this year, and also the President. If you would like to self-nominate for any of these, please contact Frosty before July 6<sup>th</sup> to be put on the ballot.

## **Proposed Bylaws Modification to be Considered at the July Annual Meeting**

When we voted last fall by e-mail to change the criteria for membership to

include residents within a mile of the lake, we did not strictly follow the procedure specified in our bylaws which would have required us to wait for a vote at the annual meeting. The Board feels that the process for making changes in the bylaws needs to be augmented in today's electronic world. The suggested revision (below) would allow us to propose and vote on a change to the bylaws by an electronic (e-mail) ballot. The relevant bylaws section is Article VII. The changes are highlighted in the proposed version (below) which will be voted on at the annual meeting.

#### *Current Version*

##### **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

These Bylaws may be altered, amended, modified or added to by a vote of the majority of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the Corporation by the following procedure. A bylaws committee (appointed or voluntary) will consider any proposed change to the bylaws and present their findings to the Board. The Board then will publish them in the Notice to the members of the annual meeting, stating that a vote by the general membership on each change will be held at the Annual meeting.

#### *Proposed Revision*

##### **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS (proposed changes highlighted)**

These Bylaws may be altered, amended, modified or added to by a vote of the majority of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the Corporation, **or by an electronic ballot approved by a majority of the current members**, by the following procedure. A bylaws committee (appointed or voluntary) will consider any proposed change to the bylaws and present their findings to the Board. The Board then will publish them in the Notice to the members of the annual meeting, **or in an electronic notice of a special ballot**, stating that a vote by the general membership on each change will be held at the Annual meeting, **or by said electronic ballot**.

### **In Memory of Joann Jewett**

Joann Jewett passed away peacefully on May 22 at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN.

She and husband Deane (Skip) would have been married 58 years in June of this year. They came to Diamond Lake in 1986, buying the Fischer-Mathison cabin on Twin Pines Lane. Joann had a teaching career that spanned 29 years in Wisconsin. She was an avid gardener and an excellent cook and baker known especially her Scandinavian treats. She is survived by husband Skip and sons David and Paul and their families. The DL Community will miss Joann and our thoughts and prayers are with Skip and family members.

### **An Orange Bass**



This extremely rare orange Largemouth bass was caught (and released) on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Diamond Lake by Pam Jacobel. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (where one of these rare fish was first described), "Largemouth bass usually aren't orange, but in rare cases an angler will find something truly incredible on the end of a fishing line. This fish has an extremely rare genetic anomaly called xanthism. Xanthism causes the pigments in some animals to turn orange, similar to the way albinism causes a lack of pigment. To put its rarity into perspective, our Freshwater Fisheries Research Long-Term Monitoring Program has sampled 255,632

Largemouth bass from 175 different water bodies over a 10-year period and have no reported sightings of this genetic phenomenon. In fact, the only sighting our freshwater fisheries researchers have of these orange bass is one photo from an electrofishing trip nearly 30 years ago.”

In speaking specifically about xanthism in bass, Dr. Robert Montgomerie, a biology professor at Queen’s University in Kingston Ontario, explained that normal fish scales receive incoming white light, and molecular structures convert that light to blue or yellow, which makes the fish look green. “In the yellow/orange bass, it is likely that some spontaneous mutation occurred that prevented the scales from making the proper molecular structures to convert white light to blue. Without those structures, the fish looks gold or orange rather than green. It’s not that the bass has gained a yellow pigment, but rather lost the ability to produce the blue colors that make its scales green,” he said. “Talk about a target. In nature, a fish that color would have only a small chance of survival. It would have to beat some crazy odds.”

Our internet search has turned up no other reports of a fish like this in the state of Wisconsin.

## **DNR Has Its Eye on Diamond Lake**

Scott Toshner, DNR Fisheries Biologist, says Diamond Lake is Bayfield County's own precious gem. He has studied the lake's fishery, water quality, shoreline and waterfowl for more than 12 years. In 2006 he developed a comprehensive report and plan for Diamond Lake coordinated with Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife.

Toshner wants DL residents to know that, for the most part, they are doing a great job with the shoreline by leaving trees and foliage standing to the water's edge. Also, leaving trees that fall in the lake provides fish habitat, a place for turtles to sun, perches, and protection for shoreline birds and waterfowl.

Diamond Lake is considered a “trend lake,” one of two in Bayfield County. Trend lakes are distributed throughout the state and are monitored annually long term for water quality. They are selected by both lakes and fisheries staff in each region with at least one lake in each of the defined lake classes that will, over the long-term, represent trends for the region. The other trend lake in Bayfield County is Middle Eau Claire in Barnes.

This year is also a creel census year on Diamond Lake, something that occurs every three years. DNR staff will be on the lake checking numbers of fish caught and kept, recording their length and weight. DNR staff will be at the boat launch and elsewhere around the lake throughout the summer, so you will likely meet one of the representatives if you are fishing.

Spring shocking is another monitoring program conducted annually in the spring by the DNR together with the Tribes. The DNR is continuing to stock walleye on our lake at a rate of 10 fish per acre or around 3,000 fish. The fish are marked by a plastic injected in their jaw by a thin needle. The injection shows up under blacklight during spring shocking for the lifetime of the fish. This allows the DNR to follow fish survival rate.

To date there is, unfortunately, no evidence of natural walleye reproduction in DL. However, walleye numbers have gone up because of the stocking program, though the original survey number was



very low. This year the bag limit for Walleye is three fish, 15" to 20"; no fish between 20' and 24"; and only one fish over 24".

A major focus of the creel survey this year is Smallmouth bass. The population in a number of northern lakes is declining and the DNR is not certain why. Limits this year have been changed to only one fish per day and it must be greater than 18."

What is rapidly reproducing in DL is Largemouth bass. This year there is no size limit on Largemouth bass and the bag limit is 5 per day. Toshner says that he hopes you keep all you catch within that limit. He says if you pack the fish in ice before or after cleaning for two or more hours, the meat is tasty.

You can see the results of the last (2015) creel survey here:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/documents/north/BayfieldDiamond1516Creel.pdf>

For comparison, results from the last three surveys (9 years) can be found here:

[https://cida.usgs.gov/wdnr/apex/f?p=157:4::NO:4:P4\\_COUNTY\\_NAME,P4\\_WATERBODY:BAYFIELD,DIAMOND%20LAKE](https://cida.usgs.gov/wdnr/apex/f?p=157:4::NO:4:P4_COUNTY_NAME,P4_WATERBODY:BAYFIELD,DIAMOND%20LAKE)

Toshner's report on this year's monitoring will be available on the same DNR website in the Fall.

## Chinese Mystery Snails

So-called Chinese Mystery Snails (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*) have been reported by several lake property owners in recent years. According to the DNR, these are an invasive species found in a number of northern WI lakes that

outcompete native snails. They are distinguished by their larger golf-ball size and prolific reproduction. You can read more about them at the website below. They do little that is positive for the lake and so it's a good idea to dispose of them when you find them.

<http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/mysterysnail>

## Slow as a Turtle

This is the time of year turtles leave the lakes and streams to lay their eggs, often along a roadside and often crossing the road at turtle speed. If you come upon one try not crush it because turtles are vital to all water environment, not to mention cool.

You can move them gently along with a stick, but it's not a good idea to pick up a snapping turtle. Their claws are powerful and very sharp and their jaws can easily remove a finger. If you move them with your foot and they do manage to chomp you, they will not let go. A sturdy stick works best.

## A Natural Resource

For more information about turtles and other local wildlife, check out the Cable Natural History Museum website. You will also find great events and opportunities for children and adults there as well. <http://cablemuseum.org/>

## Tick Alert

- *A Cautionary Tale By Dianne Klump*

The last week in May 2017 something the size of a pin head scared me to death....almost. Monday of that week I had a knee replacement that most likely compromised my immune system.

Wednesday I went home. Thursday I didn't feel well but thought surgery was to blame. Friday I couldn't get out of bed.

I went in and out of consciousness and slurred my speech. The only word I spoke clearly was "stroke." Fortunately my sister, Jessie Meschievitz, and her husband, Stan were here and called 911. I was transported to Memorial Medical Center in Ashland by Great Divide Ambulance staffed by local EMTs. I remember snippets of the ride but nothing after that. The doctor in ER told my family if I lived, which he doubted, I would be on a respirator for the rest of my life, most likely have brain damage and my organs were shutting down. With that I was transported to St. Mary's in Duluth. The ER doctor there was also the Essentia Health tickborne disease specialist. He quickly diagnosed anaplasmosis with a blood sample.



*Deer Tick (Ixodes scapularis)*

I was in a coma for eleven days. Somewhere along the line I had a mild heart attack. When I woke up I wasn't sure if I was dead or alive. I came out of the coma insulin dependent. It took three tries to get me off a respirator. I was in the hospital a total of fourteen days. I felt somewhat rotten for about a year, mostly caused by coming to grips with diabetes.

My brain works when it has a mind to, pun intended. Everything is getting better.

I am sharing this to let you know the dangerous ticks are here. No need to panic but be cautious. I could write volumes on this topic but I am a bit obsessed. Bayfield County Health Department suggests the following link to give you sensible information.

<https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/tickborne/ticks.htm>

Last year BCHD followed up on 61 Lymes, 13 anaplasmosis, 5 babesiosis and 3 erlichiosis cases. Know the symptoms and respond quickly.

## *Annual Dues and Meeting Reservation Form*

**PLEASE RESPOND BY JULY 15** with a check for \$30 for 2018 dues (please note the increase approved by the membership last fall). Current paid membership determines the eligibility to cast a vote and it is one vote per property.

[ ] We would like to stay for the meal and social hour. **NOTE:** This year the meal is a potluck so there is **no charge**. Please bring a dish to share and your utensils. Drinks will be provided. Number of Adults Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] We cannot attend the 2018 annual meeting but here is my check for \$30.00 for the annual dues along with the option of a proxy vote: **PROXY VOTE:** Section 3 of the Bylaws: Members entitled to vote but unable to attend the annual meeting may vote by proxy. The proxy must be mailed with dues to Bob Jacobel or given in writing to any other voting member in advance of the Annual Meeting.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ will not be attending the 2018 annual Meeting of the Diamond Lakers and hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to cast my vote on business that may be brought up during the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Update Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$30. Please make checks out to: Diamond Lakers – c/o Robert Jacobel, P.O. Box 543. Cable, WI 54821.