



photo by Tom Moser

## Summer Begins

As the fifteenth year of Newsletter publication starts, we anticipate sunny days filled with delightful sounds of another generation enjoying Diamond Lake. Herb Dutton used to smile whenever he heard children playing in the water. He welcomed the whoops and sounds of delight. Syd and Jack Pierre took advantage of a warm weekend in June to swim and to hunt aquatic snails, crayfish, and clams. Not far down the road, Cathy Kestle and dog, Tank, met a young bear. At both sites, the two baby loons, spent the day in the sheltered bay to sunbathe and to learn to dive. At two weeks, the young loons were already diving although the parents continued to feed them. Hatch date this year was June 7.



In addition to family water activities, consider Junior Naturalists on

Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at the Cable Natural History Museum for kids aged is from 5-12. Check out the website [www.cablemuseum.org](http://www.cablemuseum.org) to find activities for the whole family. Redbery Books offers story hour weekly in the museum courtyard on Thursday mornings. Check out [www.cable4fun.com](http://www.cable4fun.com) for events and activities for Kids as well as adults.

## Landing Notes....

The Diamond Lake sign at the landing is rather unusual. In this time of rules denying the reader the chance to fish, our sign has received local recognition because it does not publish the "No"'s.

Read new legislation and see:



## A recap of the legislative successes and shortfalls of this legislative session

The 2009-10 session of the Wisconsin Legislature is in the books (it is unlikely that any special or extraordinary sessions will involve lake-related legislation), and Wisconsin Association of Lakes notched a few wins and a loss in legislative initiatives it supported.

On the "yea" side, phosphorus is now illegal in both lawn fertilizer and home dish detergents thanks to two bills passed this session. In other legislation, the fight against aquatic invasive species received another enforcement tool, as it is now illegal to transport AIS from one waterbody to another -so clean off those boats and trailers! **And don't drive your speedboat too fast within 100 feet of the shore - to prevent erosion, within 100 feet you'll need to maintain slow-no wake speeds.** All of these laws were advocated for by Wisconsin Association of Lakes, and good lake citizens like yourselves. (from the May 7 lakes E-letter)

Note: Jet Ski rules remain the same as in the past....no wake **200feet** from shore and docks.

## LOSS and GAIN

**Margaret Block** wrote a difficult email in Mid May to let us know that her father, Irv Radtke, had died in late April. Irv had been a part of Diamond Lake since 1949 when his parents bought the original cabin on the lake. and then Margaret adds “We built ours in 1979. “We are planning on keeping the cabin in the family.”

## The Sisters

**Kris Lencioni** married **Ernie Brown** April 12, 2008. They have continued the tradition that Kris and Gary Lencioni (deceased) began in 2000, to spend as much time as possible at their log cabin on Chapinwood Road - - a “quick” eight hour drive from their home in Highland Park, Illinois. The Browns and **Beth and Scott Johnson** (Kris’ sister and brother-in-law) have purchased and divided the Scott Byrd (former Herb Dutton) property on the north shore of Diamond Lake.



Beth and Scott reside in the Appalachian Mountains of Western Maryland (Deep Creek Lake). They are both graduates of St. Olaf College. Now retired, Scott (a Minnesota native) was employed by Honeywell for 35 years. They have always dreamed of returning to their upperMidwest roots to live the

“simpler life” on the shores of a pristine lake. Diamond Lake fits the bill! Not only will they be neighbors with Kris and Ernie but also sister, **Ruth** and her husband **Danny Dums** of Seeley. Some of you may remember that Ruth and Danny (The Natural Log Homes) built Kris and Ernie’s home on Chapinwood Road. The three sisters look forward to living so close to each other. This will be the first time since they departed for college from their Lake Bluff, Illinois home...back in the 1960’s and 1970’s.



## Annual Meeting Minutes

The Annual Meeting of the Diamond Lakers Inc. was held at the Juels and Sally Carlson residence on July 18, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Tim Tully, President. The minutes of the July 26, 2008 annual meeting were reviewed and there was a motion to approve. Treasurer Larry Sanderson reported on a balance of \$1674. There are 51 cabins represented in the membership with 28 in attendance in person or via proxy votes at this meeting. There was a motion to accept the treasurers report.



The Diamond Lakers Inc. Web site is up and running and Tim thanked Bob Jacobel developing and maintaining the web site.

### Lake Monitoring Equipment

The new lake monitoring equipment was purchased and the Sanderson's continue to monitor the quality of the water and the lake continues to be healthy. Diamond Lake has been monitored for 20 years.

### Aquatic Invasive Species

Eurasian watermilfoil continues to be of concern but there is no evidence of this in Diamond Lake at this time. Stephanie Strakowski was introduced and she provided an overview of aquatic invasive species in Bayfield County.

### Wildlife Update

The loons on the north end of the lake have hatched a baby and there is also a pair on the south end of the lake. The eagles have a nest on the east side of the lake.

### No Wake Law

A new no wake law goes into effect next February of 2010 in which establishes a statewide slow-no-wake zone for motorboats within 100 feet of a lake's shoreline. If there are concerns about violations of the current law or the new law, it is best to videotape the violators since this can be used as evidence. The DNR Warden's number is 492-7419 or the DNR tip line number is 373-6120.

### Fishing Report

Scott Byrd provided an update on the status of the lake and the stocking plan.

### Nominations Committee Report

Jerry Robotka presented the Nominating Committee Report and the following offices and board positions were open and the incumbents agreed to serve another term.

The following officers were re-elected:

Vice President: Larry Volicky - Term: 2009 -2011

Treasurer: Larry Sanderson - Term 2009 - 2011

Board Members re-elected:

Sally Carlson - Term 2009 - 2011

Scott Byrd - Term 2009 - 2011

### Location of 2010 Annual Meeting

Tim Tully reviewed options for locations of the annual meeting in 2009. The Rath's volunteered their home for the meeting in 2010.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Trankel, Secretary

## Fishing Possibilities

Bruce Hendricksen received the following information from Jill Schartner (DNR) regarding changes in the Northern minimum length. Jill has offered to attend the annual meeting to answer questions. This document also summarizes the lake chemistry data over the past sixteen years.

DATE: June 15, 2010

TO: Terry Margenau – St. Croix Basin  
Fisheries Supervisor

FROM: Scott Toshner – Fisheries Biologist,  
Inland Waters of Douglas and Bayfield Counties

SUBJECT: Diamond Lake Northern Pike Regulation  
Change

### **1. Rule Author**

Scott Toshner – Fisheries Biologist – Brule  
Office

### **2. Affected waterbody(ies)**

Diamond Lake – Bayfield County –  
WBIC 2897100



### 3. Statement of regulation proposal

Change northern pike regulation on Diamond Lake from a 32 inch minimum length limit and a 1 fish/day bag limit (32 and 1) to a 26 inch minimum length limit and a 2 fish/day bag limit (26 and 2).

### 4. Statement of management objectives

- a. Northern pike relative abundance, length frequency, angler catch and harvest data collected pre and post implementation of a more restrictive regulation in 1995 show that the objectives of the regulation are not being met. In addition, citizens have expressed the desire to have the ability to harvest a limited number of northern pike. Changing the regulation to a 26 inch length limit and a 2 fish/day bag limit would continue to protect the northern pike population abundance while affording anglers the opportunity to harvest an occasional northern pike. Objectives should be based on reasonable and data-supported expectations for similar waters

### 5. Description of fishery status

Diamond Lake is a 341 acre drainage lake near the headwaters of Eighteen Mile Creek in Bayfield County. Diamond Lake is a low range mesotrophic lake with clear water, has private riparian ownership along the entire lake with the exception of the public access on the southern end of the lake and is a popular recreational lake in the area. Diamond Lake has a maximum depth of 83 feet and a total alkalinity of 33 mg/l. Average summer secchi disk depth trophic state index (TSI) value for the deep hole on Diamond Lake was 41.4 (SD = 2.4, N = 40), for the time period between 1992 and 2003. Average summer chlorophyll-a and total phosphorus TSI values for the deep hole on Diamond Lake were 41.3 (SD = 3.5, N = 20) and 47.1 (SD = 3.4, N = 23) for the time period between 1994 and 2003. TSI indices are used to evaluate the trophic state or nutrient condition of lakes. The data on Diamond Lake indicate the nutrient condition was near the division line between oligotrophic and mesotrophic condition.

Diamond Lake has a long stocking history. Walleye have been the only species stocked since 1969. Prior to 1969 the majority of the stocking involved rainbow trout and largemouth bass and to

a lesser extent northern pike, smallmouth bass and brown trout. Rainbow, brown and brook trout were stocked from 1959 to 1968 in an attempt to create a two-story fishery. Survey results from 1968 found few trout and little carry over into subsequent years from stocking; at that time trout stocking was discontinued and walleye stocking was initiated (Weiher 1972). Walleye stocking began in 1969 and was intended to establish a self-sustaining fishery that might exercise biological control over an abundant but slow growing bluegill population. Prior to 1969 there had been only a remnant walleye population (Pratt 1976). Walleye stocking was discontinued in 1980 due to evidence of natural reproduction and a decline of black crappie and bluegill (Schram 1981). The first walleye population estimate occurred in 1990 and found that six walleye year classes were produced naturally after stocking had been discontinued. However, after the six naturally reproduced year classes of walleye there were 5 years with no evidence of natural reproduction and bluegill abundance had reached levels that were comparable to levels prior to walleye stocking (Kampa and Sand 1991). Kampa and Sand (1991) found this perplexing and speculated that Diamond Lake did not have habitat conditions conducive to walleye reproduction since walleye were present in the lake for many years prior to stocking even though their numbers were just detectable. However, the six year classes of naturally reproduced walleye seemed to diminish this argument. The authors also speculated that the presence of smelt in Diamond Lake might have also been a factor, suggesting that smelt could be significant predators on early life history stages of walleye. Whether environmental conditions or smelt predation acted alone or in concert in walleye declines in Diamond Lake was unknown.

The current northern pike regulation (32 and 1) was implanted in 1995 with the goal of producing a higher quality northern pike fishery and encouraged by information which indicated presence of a smelt and cisco forage base, good growth rates and good thermal conditions for northern pike (Scholl 1994). Pre-regulation implementation a survey was completed and post-regulation implementation four surveys have been completed, the last in 2009. These surveys collected relative abundance, length frequency and angler catch and harvest data. These data show that the intent of the 32 and 1 regulation was not met.

Evaluating the 32 and 1 northern pike regulation after the 2009 comprehensive survey was a management recommendation of the 2005 fishery survey report (Toshner 2005). Relative abundance of northern pike has increased since 1990 (0.9 fish/lift) to an average of 2.3 fish/lift (N = 4, SD = 0.58), but is still considered low. The length frequency of northern pike captured during spring fyke netting period show that overall the quality of the northern pike fishery has not improved (Figure 1). Only one northern pike over 32 inches has been found in the four survey periods since the regulation change. Creel surveys indicate that angler catch has increased especially from 2006 to 2009 (Table 1). However, the increase in angler harvest from 2006 to 2009 was due to the illegal harvest of northern pike under 32 inches. In all years post regulation change angler harvest has been low to non-existent, therefore angler harvest is not likely the lack of increase in size structure of the northern pike population. Benike (2004) found that Largon Lake in Polk County, Wisconsin, took eight years for the 32 in minimum length regulation to produce significant differences in northern pike size structure. Diamond Lake has had the 32 and 1 regulation for 14 years and still no differences in size structure can be detected. Considering that Diamond Lake is less productive than Largon Lake it may not have the productive capacity to produce growth rates of northern pike that enable populations to increase size structure significantly.

Implementing a 26 and 2 regulation could subject up to 19% of the northern pike population to angler harvest if the average for post-regulation change fyke netting surveys is used as a benchmark. The abundance of northern pike over 26 inches was low in all surveys and the angler harvest would likely be low. Since the bulk of the northern pike population is currently below 26 inches, and has been throughout survey history, harvest of fish over 26 inches would likely have little impact on total abundance.

Currently Diamond Lake is receiving fall fingerling walleye stockings every year at a rate of 5 fish/acre and a restrictive walleye regulation of a 15 inch minimum length limit and a 20 to 28 inch no harvest slot with only 1 fish over 28 inches allowed has been implemented in an attempt to reestablish a naturally reproducing walleye population.

## **6. Justification of selected regulation**

The justification for the proposed regulation was derived from statewide guidance memo for regulation changes and is the southern portion of Wisconsin's standard northern pike regulation. The change to a 26 and 2 regulation for northern pike would increase angler harvest opportunity while keeping predator numbers high in an attempt to control rainbow smelt through predation. Diamond Lake is a "treaty trend lake" and therefore has comprehensive surveys completed every 3 years. This will enable the effects of this regulation change to be tracked over time just as it has to this point in time.

## **7. Public comment**

Initially members at the annual meeting of the Diamond Lake Association requested the change of northern pike regulations in 2005. At that time WDNR related that gathering more data would enable better evaluation of the regulation and that after the 2009 survey a management decision could be made.

A resolution was introduced in the 2010 spring Conservation Congress hearings which requested the change in the northern pike regulations detailed above. A copy of the resolution is attached. The resolution passed with 32 yes and 2 no votes. The Chairperson of the Bayfield County Conservation Congress (Jerry Merryfield) helped Mr. Goeltz draft the resolution and has been involved in the process. This regulation will affect Ceded Territory water and the impacts to tribal fisheries would be neutral.

## **8. Previous action**

- a. Northern pike regulations changed over time in Diamond Lake. There was no minimum length and a bag limit of 5 northern pike until 1995 when a 32 in minimum length limit and a bag limit of one was implemented. Walleye fishing regulations have changed over time in Diamond Lake. There was no minimum length limit for walleye until 1990 when a 15 in minimum length limit was instituted statewide. In 2000, the 15 in minimum length limit remained on Diamond Lake and an additional slot limit from 20 inches to 28 inches was instituted; only one walleye over 28 inches was allowed.

- b. Has the proposal previously been proposed for consideration by the FH Board or in Spring Hearings? It has been through the spring hearings in the form of a citizen resolution.
- c. Has a similar regulation been considered for other nearby waters? Yes, Tomahawk and Sandbar Lakes in Bayfield County have the same regulation.

**9. Draft question (for inclusion in Spring Hearing questionnaire)**

- a. Do you support changing the northern pike regulation on Diamond Lake in Bayfield County from a 32 inch minimum length and bag limit of 1 fish/day to a 26 inch minimum size limit and a bag limit of 2 fish/day?
- b. The current northern pike regulation (32 and 1) was implanted in 1995 with the goal of producing a higher quality northern pike fishery. Pre-regulation implementation a survey was completed and post-regulation implementation four surveys have been completed, the last in 2009. These surveys collected relative abundance, length frequency and angler catch and harvest data. These data show that the intent of the 32 and 1 regulation was not met.
- c. Relative abundance of northern pike has increased since 1990 (0.9 fish/lift) to an average of 2.3 fish/lift, but is still considered low. The size structure of northern pike captured during spring fyke netting period show that overall the quality of the northern pike fishery has not improved. Only one northern pike over 32 inches has been found in the four survey periods since the regulation change. Creel surveys indicate that angler catch has increased especially

from 2006 to 2009. However, the increase in angler harvest from 2006 to 2009 was due to the illegal harvest of northern pike under 32 inches. In all years post regulation change angler harvest has been low to non-existent; therefore angler harvest is not likely the lack of increase in size structure of the northern pike population. Diamond Lake has had the 32 and 1 regulation for 14 years and still no differences in size structure can be detected. Considering that Diamond Lake is less productive it may not have the productive capacity to produce growth rates of northern pike that enable populations to increase size structure significantly.

- d. Implementing a 26 and 2 regulation could subject up to 19% of the northern pike population to angler harvest if the average for post-regulation change fyke netting surveys is used a benchmark. The abundance of northern pike over 26 inches was low in all surveys and the angler harvest would likely be low. Since the bulk of the northern pike population is currently below 26 inches, and has been throughout survey history, harvest of fish over 26 inches would likely have little impact on total abundance.

Table 1. Angler catch, harvest, directed effort (%) and total angler pressure (hr/acre) of northern pike from creel surveys from 1996 to 2009 for Diamond Lake, Bayfield County, Wisconsin.

Year	1996	2003	2006	2009
Catch	745	232	798	1249
Harvest	8	2	0	34
directed effort (%)	19	13.4	19	14.6
proj pressure (hr/acr)	13.6	4.8	10.5	12.8

## Diamond Lake - Northern Pike - Fyke Netting Length Frequencies

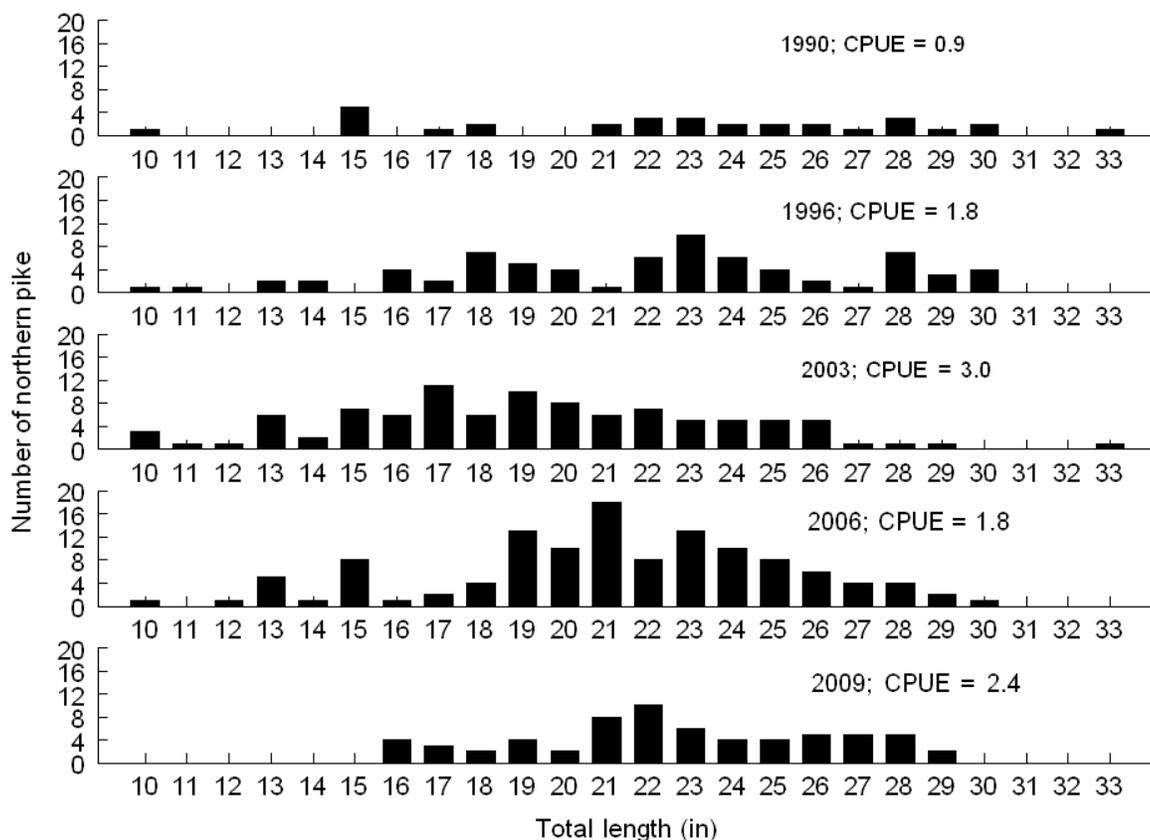


Figure 1. Northern pike length frequency and relative abundance (CPUE) for Diamond Lake, Bayfield County, Wisconsin.

### References

Benike, H. M. 2004. Evaluation of a 32 inch minimum length limit for northern pike, Largon Lake, Polk County, Wisconsin, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Unpublished Report, Barron office.

Kampa, J. and Sand, C. 1991. Diamond Lake Investigational Report. WDNR - Brule office.

Pratt, F. 1976. Running inventory, Diamond Lake, Bayfield County. WDNR - Brule office.

Scholl, D. 1994. Correspondence regarding proposed northern pike regulation, Diamond Lake, Bayfield County. WDNR - Brule office.

Schram, S. 1981. Walleye stocking evaluation, Diamond Lake, Bayfield County. WDNR - Brule office.

Toshner, S. 2005. Fishery Survey, Diamond Lake, Bayfield County, 2003-2004. WDNR - Brule Office.

Weihler, W. 1972. Lake Surveys - Diamond Lake, Bayfield County. WDNR - Brule Office.

COUNTY #4 #8 2010

### **Northern Pike Size Limit on Diamond Lake**

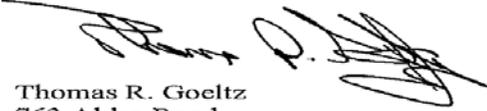
Diamond Lake in Southern Bayfield County currently has a 32" size limit for Northern Pike. In the early 1990's the DNR believed that they could make certain lakes around the state as trophy lakes for Northern. In 1995, a 32" size limit and a daily limit of 1, was established on Diamond Lake.

My family have been land owners in Bayfield County and have been fishing on Diamond Lake for over 100 years. Since 1995, our family has caught very few Northern over 32". My 14 year old son has never caught a "Keeper" Northern - over the 32" limit.

The DNR fish studies conducted on Diamond Lake have shown a gradual decline in the size and number of Northern. In the most recent study in 2009, there were 63 Northern captured, with a length range of 16"-29". No Northern over 29"! There are probably many factors which may be contributing to this size reduction, but the fact remains that the 32" size limit on Diamond Lake over the past 15 years has not been effective.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Congress at its Annual Meeting held in Bayfield County on April 12, 2010 vote to reduce the Northern Pike size limit from 32" down to 26" with a daily limit of 2.

**The DNR Fisheries Manager for Bayfield County has been consulted and believes this change would not have a significant adverse impact on the fishery of Diamond Lake**



Thomas R. Goeltz  
763 Aldro Road  
Hudson, WI 54016

Bayfield County

715-381-6888

Dear Diamond Lakers,

The Diamond Lakers annual meeting will be at **3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 24** at the home of **Ellie and Chuck Raths – 47725 Chapinwood Drive. Please bring a folding or lawn chair.** The presentation this year will be “Birding in Bayfield County” by Ryan Brady. Sue Benson describes him, “**birder and photographer extraordinaire. He will be a great speaker for you**”

The business meeting to follow will address the following topics: election of officers and board members, fishing report, loon report and volunteers to host the 2010 annual meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all in July.

Sincerely,

Tim Tully, President

**Reservation Form: PLEASE RESPOND BY JULY 9<sup>th</sup>.**

We will be attending the annual meeting and here is my check for **\$20.00 for 2010 dues.** Please note, currently Paid Membership determines the eligibility to cast a vote and it is one vote per property.

We would like to stay for the social hour and here is **\$ 15 per person** for hors d’oeuvres and beverages

Number of Adults Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children Attending \_\_\_\_\_ (Children under the **age of 10** – No Charge)

We cannot attend the 2010 annual meeting but here is my check for \$20.00 for the annual 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 given in writing to any other voting member in advance of the Annual Meeting.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ will not be attending the 2010 annual Meeting of the Diamond Lakers and hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to cast my vote on business that may be brought up during the 2010 Annual Meeting

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

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

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Total= \$20.00

Social Hour \$15 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail by July 15<sup>th</sup> to:**

**Diamond Lakers – c/o Larry Sanderson  
20205 N. Diamond Lake Dr. Cable WI 54821**