

Joe Twohy, Sept. 29, 2024

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# Diamond Lakers Newsletter

FALL 2024 - Volume 28, #2

Greetings Diamond Lakers,

I trust that you all have had a wonderful summer at Diamond Lake and the surrounding area and are now preparing for a beautiful fall and snowy winter.

There are three items that I'd like to write about in this message. First is to review the North Diamond Lake Drive culvert (Forest Service Road 374) status that I discussed at the annual meeting. Second is to advise the date and location of the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting. And finally, is to advise that the Town of Grand View is considering leaving Bayfield County Planning and Zoning.

The culvert carrying 18 Mile Creek under Forest Service 374 will be replaced "someday".

1. Where we were

- a) Originally a low water bridge (a bridge at stream level) carried traffic over 18 Mile Creek
- b) Roadbed/culvert raised over time
- c) Lake level therefore has risen as much as 18-19 inches from natural and historic levels
- d) Significant loss of shoreline (erosion) has occurred in many areas
- e) Fish now cannot enter Diamond Lake from 18 Mile Creek

2. Where we are

- a) Initial culvert inspection and lake level measurements made in the summer of 2023
- b) Culvert is near the end of its life-4 or 5 years? Not known at this time.
- c) Culver is undersized, contributing to lake level fluctuations
- d) Roadway and culvert are a dam
- e) US Forest Service (FS) won't own a dam
- f) FS and WI DNR want culvert replaced at stream level (this position may be flexible)
- g) Raye Lahti is liaison with FS and DNR, with Dave James assisting

3. Where we are going

- a) FS and DNR to meet early August (this did not happen until September at which time they reported an inspection would take place in the spring of 2025)
- b) We will know direction and perhaps a plan of action following this meeting (we do not know, nor do they)
- c) Exhaustive impact studies will be conducted before decisions are made (so we are told)
- d) FS, DNR, Grand View (they share road expense with FS), and Diamond Lake residents will all be involved and contributing
- e) DL Board will communicate consistently and openly
- f) Remember: No recommendations and no decisions have been made by the Board-this will take time
- g) Don't jump off the bridge

4. Parting comments. Be aware and involved with this, be patient, be open to consider all research findings, don't jump to conclusions, and please partake in open and non-judgmental conversations.

Diamond Lakers 2025 Annual Membership Meeting is July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Grand View Town Hall. Start time is not established but may be 3:00 PM as is years past. Put it on your calendar!

Raye Lahti has been advised by our county representative Madelaine Rekemeyer that Grand View is considering withdrawing from Bayfield Planning and Zoning. At press time we don't know what that means for us. We will be asking questions and advise ASAP. In the meantime, we will be sending separately from the newsletter the communication between Madelaine and Raye so that you will know as much as we do.

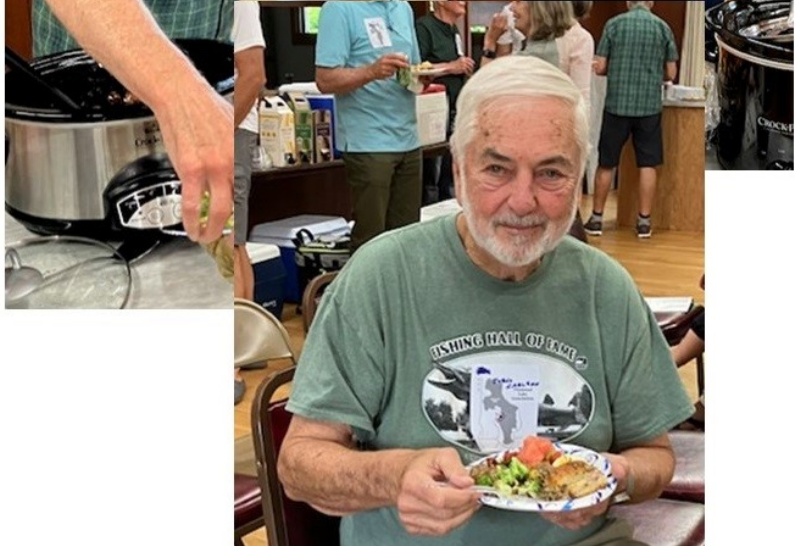
Scott Johnson

**DIAMOND LAKERS, INC. - 2024 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**July 20, 2023 –3 pm; Namekagon Community Center**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	
Pat Arndt	N. Diamond Lake Drive
Jim Biesecker/Maureen Chapin	Chapinwood Road
Paul Brown and daughter	N. Diamond Lake Road
Juels and Sally Carlson	N. Diamond Lake Road
Judy Doonan and Joe Twohy	Twin Pines Lane
Randy and Jean Farrow	Chapinwood Road
Al Forness	Chapinwood Road
Bob and Pam Jacobel	Twin Pines Lane
David and Trina James and daughter	Diamond Point Road
Scott and Beth Johnson	Chapinwood Road
Joey Kellogg	Twin Pines Lane
Betsy Kind	Diamond Point Road
Dianne Klump	N. Diamond Lake Road
Tom and Jeanne Kraker	Chapinwood Road
Dennis Kruse	Canterbury Trail
Ruth Lauritzen and guest	Diamond Point Road
Raye and Rose Lahti	Diamond Point Road
Kris and Trish Leaf	Twin Pines Lane
Jessie and Stan Mischievitz	N. Diamond Lake Road
Sally Moser	Pioneer Road
Charlie Nauen and P.J. Pofahl	Chapinwood Road
Mary (Cindy) Palmer	Twin Pines Lane
Jim and Sally Pathos	Chapinwood Road
John Pedersen	N. Diamond Lake Drive
Matt and Kristin Pierre	N. Diamond Lake Drive
Laurie Rabe	Canterbury Trail
John and Cathy Rosebush	Pioneer Road
Michael Slade	Canterbury Trail
Todd and Sarah Stivland	N. Diamond Lake Drive
Tracy Veillette	Canterbury Trail
Carl Vilmann	N. Diamond Lake Drive
Ed and Monica Wallen	N. Diamond Lake Road
Mark and Trish Wilhelm	Diamond Point Road

53 individuals, representing 33 out 60 member households were present.







# MINUTES of DIAMOND LAKERS ANNUAL MEETING JULY 20, 2024

3:01 Meeting called to order by President Scott Johnson with a loud stroke of the gavel followed by “Ole died, boat for sale” 5 words-for-free obituary joke. 33 properties were represented, felt to be a record.

- Guest Speaker Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Services was welcomed.
- New Diamond Lakers: Jackie and Jon Pedersen Kristen and Todd Gillingham welcomed. Joey and Brad Kellogg joined DLers at the meeting. WELCOME ALL!!
- Incumbent Board Members Mark Wilhelm, Raye Lahti, and Bob Jacobel, all nominated for a 3-year term and voted in by voice vote with no nays heard.
- Treasurer Jacobel summarized ongoing revenues and expenses to Dec 2023. These have to be looked at from a perspective of two (or more) years as some grants are reimbursed a year after expenses have been incurred. Overall we are ahead about \$1480 over two years. In addition we have placed \$5000 of our cash in a Money Market Savings Account which carries the moniker of The D.L. Stewardship Fund. This has seen modest gains. 2024 may see an increase over our approximate \$1300/year increase in our treasury. This is due to Members contributing funds to the Stewardship fund in addition to their dues. In 2023 this number was \$500 and in 2024 the number is \$2400 so far! GREAT JOB!
- Rosebush gave brief overview of Creel Survey being conducted by DNR. We have 554 Walleye in DL which is more than any time in the last decade. The Creel Survey will be ongoing this summer and, in part, is there to assess fishing pressure on population. Felt to quite low generally.
- Rosebush put out request for any volunteers to join in AIS Monitoring. This will be a learning process for all but not very time consuming (about 4 hours/year/team)
- Jessie Meschievitz gave unfortunate Loon update. After 2023 success of two chicks, we had failure of both early and 2nd attempt (late June) nesting this year. Possible strong prevailing winds putting the platform awash could be the culprit. Repositioning or elevating platform will be considered.



- Boat Parade Winner put to a paper ballot vote. No Voter ID needed! Winner was the “LOONY” Carlson/Stivland craft. Sally Moser’s dock crew took the best port of call.
- Scott Johnson noted that ‘Lakes At Stake’ has a website with ongoing updates on statewide meetings and any rulings made regarding wakeboats. So far, the Grand View Ordinance for Diamond Lake seems to be effective.
- Scott Schieffer was our guest speaker and gave a nice summation of our recent (2023) shoreline assessment. This was done by Bay Area Environmental Consulting LLC and then analyzed by Steve. Since it was paid for by a generous gift from one of our members, some of the constraints placed by, for instance, a DNR grant, were obviated. It is notable that Steve worked for us for one extra year pro-bono, as conditions on year one were suboptimal for good data. Salient points are:
  - a. We have a good data set now
  - b. Diamond has never gotten eutrophic (poor) we have always been lower mesotrophic (B+) or upper oligotrophic (A-). Lake Owen is in a class of its own statewide.
  - c. Water “Budget” for the lake is  
“IN”: Precipitation, 2 streams, Runoff and groundwater.  
“OUT”: Evaporation, outflow stream, loss to groundwater.
  - d. Runoff is key because despite being a small part of the “IN” it accounts for 27% of the phosphorous load, and it is one of the few factors we can actually control.



Our speaker was Steve Scheiffer, a Certified Watershed Manager with Ecological Integrity Service, LLC. His presentation centered around the just now completed shore land assessment and water quality studies. Steve provided an overview of the studies (below) and how his findings affect the lake.

[Water and Nutrient Budget Analysis \(2022-2023\)](#)

[Lake Shoreland and Shallows Habitat Survey \(2023\)](#)

e. Control:

- 1) don't fertilize
- 2) make a 35 foot buffer strip between lawn and lake.
- 3) change manicured lawns to native.
- 4) Update septic system.
- 5) preserve shoreline vegetation

f. Steve noted that DL has only 3.7% manicured lawns. Some of Wisconsin's southern lakes are 78%!

- Wallen gave report on the Pilot Project thru Healthy Lakes and Rivers that we started this year. We started out small with a grant to provide up to \$1000 for each "practice" to be given to the owners upon completion of the project. The owner must either pony up an additional \$250 (or sweat equity at \$15/hour) and can spend considerably more but the Grant will provide no more than \$1000 for each practice. We will be looking for DLers interested in doing practices for 2025 and will apply for a new grant this fall for

those interested. Maximum for each lake is \$25,000/year but DNR may not approve that much. OF NOTE: 30 minutes of educational time was spent following this annual meeting and another 1 hour and 45 minutes of educational time at a round table discussion July 27 with 12 properties represented. Examples of "practices" include fish sticks, native plantings, diversion, rock infiltration, and rain gardens.

- Johnson gave update on what we know so far about the North Diamond Lake Road culvert issue. The culvert and overlying road are acting as a dam now and are approaching life end. If the culvert were replaced with a larger one "at stream level", one estimate is that Diamond Lake could go down by 18 inches of depth. The Feds and State know we have expressed interest/concern and we will have input.
- The meeting adjourned.

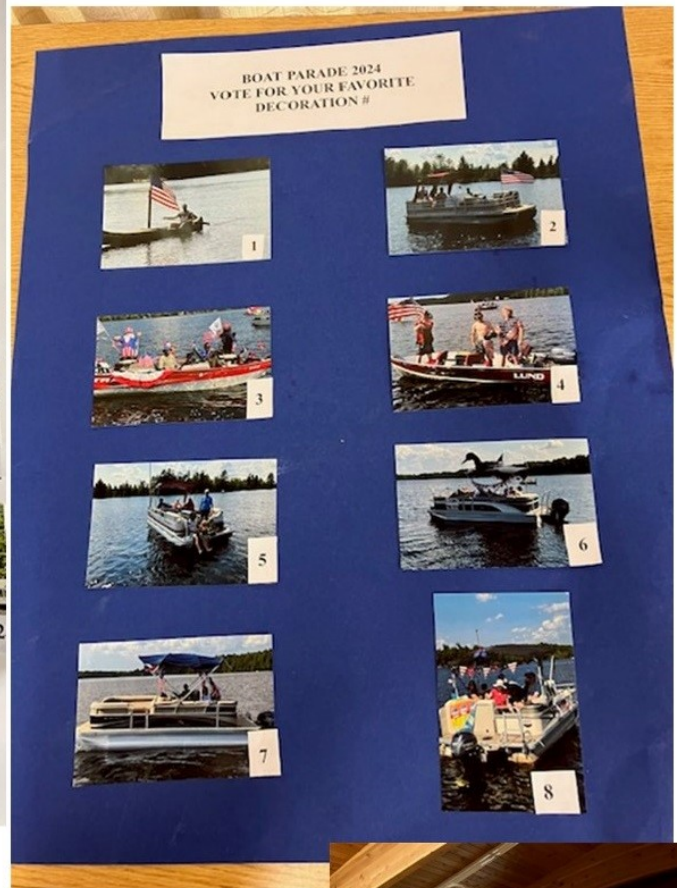
John Rosebush, Secretary



Joe Twohy



## JULY 6 Boat Parade Competition



Many thanks to Laurie Rabe for taking the pictures... and to Jeanne Kraker for engraving the paddle trophy.

AND THE BOAT WINNER IS: Carlson/Stivland's Loon Pontoon!



THE DOCK WINNER IS: Sally Moser!



# Shoreland Assessment and DNR Funding for DL Shoreland/Habitat Improvements

by Ed Wallen

*A Portion of this is a repeat of the article found in our SPRING DL Newsletter.*

The Diamond Lake Shoreland Zone Assessment was completed in late 2023. It involved two parts: part one involved a field survey of 200 feet sections of the DL shoreland (not parcels) that was completed in August, 2023 by Bay Area Environmental Consulting, LLC. In part two these survey results were then analyzed/ mapped by Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Service, LLC resulting in the report to us entitled: "Lake Shoreland & Shallows Habitat Survey-Diamond Lake". The assessment was made possible by a \$2000.00 gift to the DL Association through the efforts of long-time Dler, Todd Stivland. Todd is also a member of the DL Water Quality Committee.

The Assessment forms the basis, and is a guide for current and future efforts to maintain and improve the water quality/habitat of Diamond Lake. In order to assist landowners toward this end, the DL Board has secured funding to aid in the completion of several basic, pilot projects. This funding is in the form of a grant from the Wisconsin DNR and is discussed further below.

The current DNR funding falls under the "Healthy Lakes and Rivers" (HLR) program which is designed to "Improve habitat and water quality with simple and inexpensive projects for your lakeshore property". Hence, the program will assist in the completion of several basic projects to improve the shoreland zone of Diamond Lake. It dovetails with the Shoreland Assessment in which areas of concern have been identified for the Diamond Lake landowners.

The HLR funding derives from a statewide, competitive grant program. It required the submission of a proposal (and pre-proposal) to the DNR for evaluation, critique and scoring. In early 2024 we were informed that our proposal was funded.

The current proposal is entitled: "DL Shoreland Improvements via the HLR program". It allows for the funding of "practices" e.g., Fish Sticks, Native Plantings, Diversion, Rain Gardens, etc. all designed to incrementally improve Diamond Lake. The current grant will fund six landowners who will be reimbursed up to \$1,000./practice. Each grantee will be expected to contribute 25% in labor toward completion of a practice (In Kind contribution).

There is also separate funding for technical assistance and educational components. Details of the current funding, 2024 participants, nature of the DL practices, progress, and future opportunities for Diamond Lakers took place at the membership's Annual meeting on July 20, 2024. In addition, the DL Board offered a workshop for Diamond Lakers on July 27, 2024 where property owners could meet with members of the water quality committee (WQC) and board to discuss their individual property and what can be done to enhance their shore land. [See photo below.] The goal is to recruit another cohort of participants for HLR funding and discuss how stakeholders can use this information to improve Diamond Lake.

PHOTO →

(L-R) Mike Slade, Susan Walker, Paul Brown, Skip Jewett, Todd Gillingham, Kristen Gillingham, Brad Johnson

Not pictured:

Ed Wallen (Workshop Moderator and Chairman of the Water Quality Committee), Judy Doonan, Joe Twohy, Juels and Sally Carlson, Bob Jacobel, Cathy and John Rosebush, Mark Wilhelm, and Scott Johnson



## DL Board Recommends Support for Lakes at Stake

by Bob Jacobel, DL Treasurer

In 2023 a bipartisan group of Wisconsin citizens formed a non-profit organization called Lakes at Stake (<https://www.lakesatstake.org>) to help protect Wisconsin lakes from the impacts of enhanced-wake sports. Last fall, under the guise of protecting lakes, boating industry-inspired proposals had been introduced to committees of the Wisconsin Legislature that would have been very favorable to wake-boat sports, requiring only minimal regulations not much different from existing rules for traditional watercraft. Lakes at Stake was formed to help educate lawmakers and citizens about the economic, environmental and safety threats of enhanced-wake sports and the impacts of hazardous conditions on, under, and along the shorelines of our lakes.

Shoreline impacts from enhanced-wakes have been well-documented, for example in a 2022 peer-reviewed study done by the University of Minnesota Hydrodynamics Laboratory, <https://cse.umn.edu/safl/news/umn-researchers-study-waves-created-recreational-boats>. This, and other studies, formed the basis of our effort to enact a local ordinance that now prohibits enhanced-wake sports on Diamond Lake.

Lacking a comprehensive state-wide ordinance, other lakes in our area have responded similarly, the most recent being Lake Owen which now limits wake-boat operation within 700 feet of the shoreline and requires boats recently launched in other waters to have a written certification of complete ballast emptying – the mechanism often used to create bow-high and large-wake operation and potentially responsible for the transmission of invasive species.

This summer, Lakes at Stake produced a video, for the first time documenting the impact of enhanced-wake sports on underwater environments <https://youtu.be/DPhdLGrWX0Y> that shows the devastating effect on aquatic ecology below the waterline. As the video dramatically shows, this damage has long-term consequences for lake health, particularly in areas where the water depth is less than about 30 feet.

More recently, Lakes at Stake has partnered with a broad coalition of Wisconsin conservation organizations at the state level to defend Wisconsin's waters from the impacts of enhanced wake-boating. Called the *Coalition for Wakeboat Reform*, the coalition is seeking common sense wake boat reforms in Madison, among them allowing existing local ordinances like ours to remain in effect, while strengthening regulations state-wide. Originating members of the coalition include: Wisconsin Lakes, Wisconsin's Green Fire, Lakes at Stake Wisconsin, Last Wilderness Alliance, and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

Along with our annual contribution to Wisconsin Lakes, the Diamond Lakers Board has authorized a contribution to Lakes at Stake to support their activities at the state level. The Board encourages individuals with concerns about the impacts of enhanced-wake sports to consider similar support.



*'Lakes at Stake' is a bipartisan group of concerned citizens from across the state who love our lakes and are alarmed by the damage being inflicted on them by wake sports. They are an educational, advocacy, and lobbying organization sending a powerful message to the Wisconsin Governor, Legislature and the DNR.*

## NOT SO FUNNY!

*A cautionary tale that deserves repeating. . .*

### Sept 17 (Bob Jacobel):

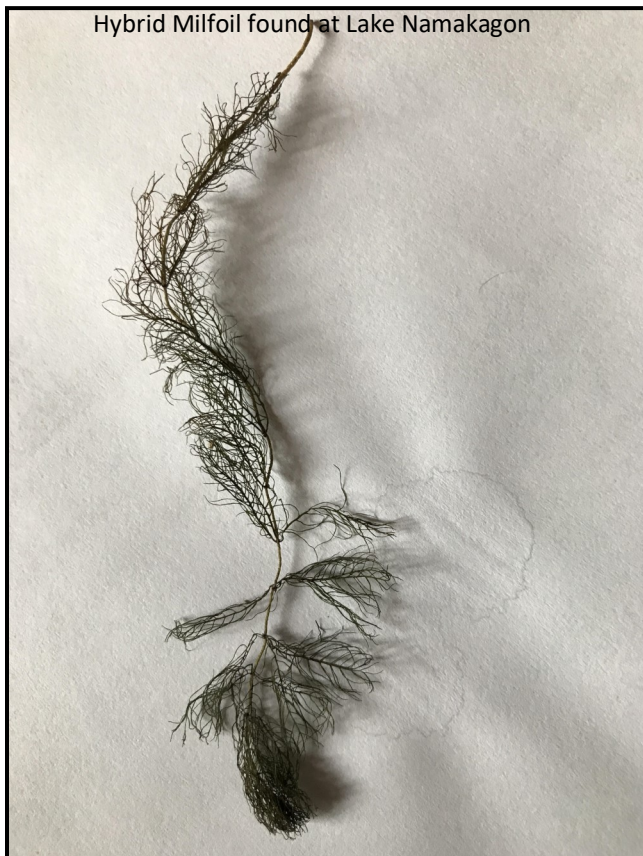
We launched over in Funny's Bay, north side of Lake Namakagon, for a day trip. First time I've been in Namakagon in about 10 years. Coming out we noticed milfoil on the trailer (photo below).

It did not look native to me and I spent about an hour with a magnifying glass before sending the photo to Matt Berg, our consultant for the PI survey. Matt wrote back immediately, it is the dreaded hybrid milfoil (worse than the eurasian in terms of resistance to the treatment), and he added that the "northern bays in Namakagon are full of it."

We put the boat in the garage and never relaunched, probably will do it for the season. Lesson learned.

### Sept 18 (Bob Jacobel):

Matt Berg just wrote back again to say that "treatment" is planned for all of the northern bays of Lake Namakagon next spring, but in the meantime prop-cut plants are everywhere. He found them all over his boat last weekend too at the same launch. Eeeekkk...



### Sept 19 (Cathy and John Rosebush):

Thank you Bob, for recognizing potential AIS from Lake Namakagon and the follow through to get a positive identification! As you know from the article in our spring newsletter, we have started surveillance of our lake this year with the help of Kristen and Todd Gillingham. Our biggest concerns are Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed since these are a growing problem in lakes surrounding ours. Altogether, 3 raking sessions have been conducted this summer observing east & west aspects of both the northern and southern ends of the lake and the 18mile creek outlet. Kristen & Todd photographed 2 suspicious samples (one pondweed, one milfoil) from the outlet that we passed on to Andy Teale who is our current Bayfield County contact person. Since he could not make a definite call on photo alone (though he felt the samples were of native variety) he encourages us to closely observe those weed beds along with those around the boat landing. We will deliver any questionable future samples to his Washburn office.

We have an additional AIS monitoring kit and hope for another volunteer/team to conduct 2 to 3 rakings per season. Hopefully, all association members are using clean boat practices and remain vigilant of waters around their lake homes.

### **AIS Coming to a Lake Near You! (Diamond Lake—if we aren't careful)**

- \* Check your boat and trailer before launching into Diamond Lake.
- \* Ask your in/out dock/lift contractor to remove all vegetation from their equipment before launching into Diamond Lake.

## A GLIMPSE AT OUR WILD LIFE



9-27-23 at Boat Launch,  
from Bob Jacobel

### COUGAR:

*Numerous sightings in the  
area. Keep your pets safe!*



8-11-24 webcam,  
from Kris and Trish Leaf





July 6 — Laurie Rabe

**MORE SUBMITTALS . . .**

June 30—Raye Lahti



← **FIND THE TOAD**  
Photo by friend, Don Sather,  
visiting Scott Johnson 8-25-24


And Jackie Pedersen sent this to us from the *Stillwater News*.

August 3, 2024—Judy Doonan:  
“No photos since I was swimming,  
but I saw **THREE OTTERS**  
on our shore today.  
So fun!”

**HELP SAVE THE BIRDS DURING MIGRATION**  
August 15 to October 31

Most birds migrate at night and can be drawn off course by lighted structures in their flight path. Many birds are killed or injured in collisions with buildings or drop from exhaustion after circling them, reluctant to fly out of the light. We all can dramatically reduce the number of collisions and ensure the friendly flyers arrive at their destination safely by participating in Lights Outs.

Please turn off exterior decorative lighting (except security lights). Dim lobby lighting and turn off interior lights, especially upper floors through migration.



**LIGHTS OUT  
FOR BIRDS**

## GENERATIONS BUILD MEMORIES AT DIAMOND LAKE



### GOELTZ REUNION 9-12-24

L-R: Gloria Goeltz, Kate Sorensen (Gloria and Earl's niece), Mike Goeltz, Mary Goeltz Palmer, Earl Goeltz

### CABIN HISTORY:

48065 Chapinwood Road  
1923 Louis and Mary Goeltz  
1947 – current cabin built  
**Now owned by**  
**Earl and Gloria Goeltz**

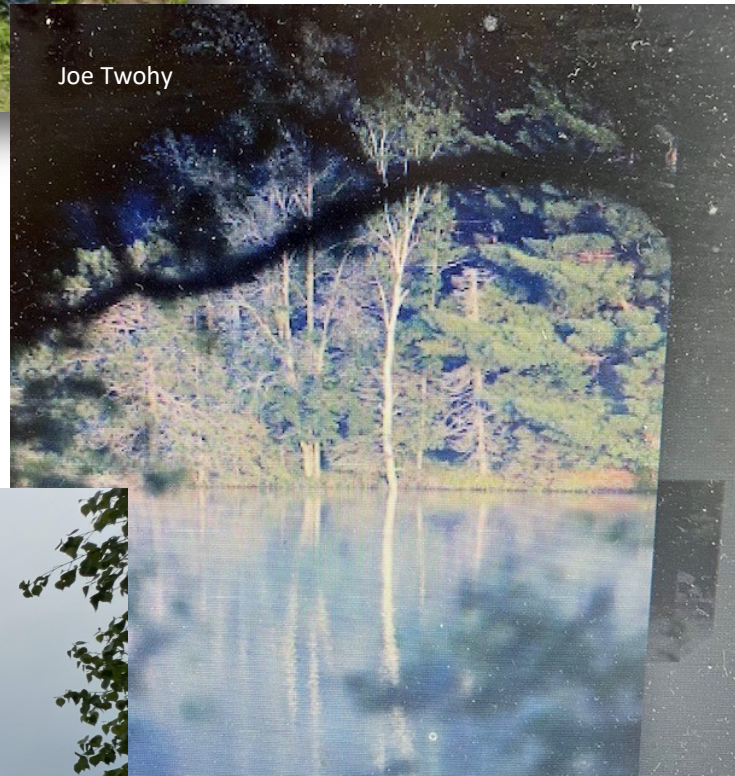


Earl Goeltz's sister, Virginia, holding baby Kate (see above) on the sandy beach that no longer exists on the Northern shoreline of Diamond Lake. Picture taken in 1950.





June 16—  
 Jim Pathos (and a friend)  
 completed the directory sign at  
 Pioneer and Crystal Lake Road.  
 THANKS, JIM!



Joe Twohy



Pat Arndt June 5, 2024

**More Reading . . .**

[Loon Populations Decreasing Because of Poor Water Quality](#)

[Drummond Town Board Passes Historic Wake Boat Ordinance for Lake Owen](#)

## Vanishing Lakeshores

We've been on Diamond Lake for 24 years, and one of the most amazing things is that the shoreline has hardly changed!

Our son Dan took notice of that and wondered why. Was it our culture here? Dan is a journalist with Minnesota Public Radio and has done numerous stories about the environment. So, he was curious. We thought about it and realized that was true to a large extent. People here have been here, or their families have, for many years. Those who are new were drawn to our beautiful pristine Lake and want to keep it that way.

Unfortunately, for many lakes in Wisconsin and Minnesota that is not the case. We here on Diamond Lake have kind of taken it for granted that this what northern lakes look like. Beautiful, peaceful pontoon cruises on a lovely summer evening enjoying the loons and eagles, and only imagining what those cabins behind the lush shoreline look like. Dan alerted us to a series of stories that a colleague of his in Brainerd Minnesota recently did. She talks about how 50% of Minnesota lakes are in danger or have already lost their natural shoreline, which creates all kinds of problems. She also talks about what people are doing to help. The reporter's name is Kirsti Marohn. Her series is called "Trouble by the Water". It is definitely worth a listen or a read.

Her first story referenced Gull Lake near Brainerd. She states that "a statewide culture that long embraced rustic cabins by rugged lakeshore now values large homes with manicured lawns, patios, rock riprap, and trees cleared to provide a better view of the water." She asks, "Are we killing the thing we love?" Any of us who reside in a large metropolitan community have seen that.

Another story refers to a program in Burnett County Wisconsin, where they pay homeowners to keep their shoreline natural. There's also a story about restoring native vegetation along the shore. We're proud to say we have a grant available on Diamond Lake to do just that! (See page 11)

We want to thank all of you for keeping Diamond Lake as beautiful and natural as it is.

Jeanne and Tom Kraker

<https://mnlakesandrivers.org/mpr-is-doing-a-three-part-series-on-shoreline-and-lake-steward/>



GOOD-BYE SUMMER



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Officers are:

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.**

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