

*The Newsletter of the Lawrence Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District*

# Larry Lake



[Welcome](#)

[Future Dates to Remember](#)

[Bald Eagles](#)

[Tree Health – Oak and White Pines](#)

## Welcome

This is the second issue of *Larry Lake*, the free Newsletter of the Lawrence Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. The purpose of this Newsletter is to bring information to Lawrence Lake owners on the activities of the District and its mission to improve and protect the quality of Lawrence Lake.

*Please help send this newsletter to all property owners at Lawrence Lake. Forward this newsletter to your neighbors!*

If you have a photo from around or on the lake that you would like published in this Newsletter, please email them to [mhelmi@wideopenwest.com](mailto:mhelmi@wideopenwest.com). Each Newsletter will feature a new photo at the beginning of the Newsletter and recognize the photographer. Please note that there cannot be any identifiable faces in the photos to be published.

## Future Dates to Remember

### Lake District Board of Director Meetings

March 26, 2022 at 9 am. Westfield Town Hall  
June 4, 2022 at 9 am. Westfield Town Hall  
All District owners are invited to attend.

### Save the Date -- Annual Meeting

July 9, 2022 at 9 am. Place to be determined.  
All District owners are invited to attend.

## Bald Eagles

I'm guessing most, if not all, residents around Lawrence Lake have enjoyed the beauty of Bald Eagles soaring around the lake and showing some locals how to catch fish. Bald Eagles can fly as



high as 10,000 feet and can see a rabbit up to three miles away. They can reach speeds of 35-43 mph while flying and can dive at speeds upwards of 75-100 mph. Their wingspan is 5'-8' and body can be over 3' long. The females are 25% larger than the males. The Alaskan Bald Eagles are larger, and those living in Florida

are smaller than the ones in the Midwest. Their average life span is 20-30 years and they normally mate for life.

They live near water with mature stands of conifers or hardwoods that are greater than 65 feet tall. Though fish is their predominant food source, they're an opportunistic carnivore also eating rabbit, squirrel, snakes,



muskrat, birds, ducks, turtle and carrion. Their nests are typically 50'-125' off the ground, five feet wide and three feet deep. The largest documented nest was 9.5' in diameter, 20' deep. They lay 1-3



eggs that are incubated by both parents that hatch after around 35 days, and the eaglets take flight at 10-12 weeks.

Bald Eagles plumage is dark brown mottled with some white. They reach maturity with white heads and tails at 4-5 years.

Due to the effects of DDT used after WWII to combat mosquitoes and other insects, their populations plummeted in the 1960's to 450 nesting pairs. DDT residues washed into waterways and was absorbed by fish. By eating the contaminated fish, the chemical interfered with their ability to produce strong eggshells that often were broken during incubation. DDT was banned in 1972, and in 2020 there were 71,400 nesting pairs and 316,700 individual Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states. [Today](#) their greatest threat is illegal shooting, lead poisoning (from eating carrion killed with lead shot), electrocution and habitat loss. They have been our National Emblem since 1782 and a spiritual symbol for Native Americans. *By John Czerepinski. Photos by Steve and Laurie Paine*



### **Tree Health – Oaks and White Pines**

**Oak wilt.** Oak wilt is a disease that kills oak trees. Oak wilt is widespread in most Wisconsin counties and is very present in the Lawrence Lake area. While it can affect any oak, the red oak group (red, pin and black oaks) are most susceptible. The white oak group (white, bur and swamp oaks) experience a slower disease progression and often survive. Infected red group oaks will have its leaves die and fall to the ground as quickly as one month after symptoms first appear.

Oak wilt is caused by a fungus that grows throughout an infected tree's water conducting system, causing the tree leaves to wilt and the tree to die. The fungal spores from one infected tree are carried to other trees by sap eating beetles. Beetles carrying spores are attracted to the sap coming from fresh wounds (e.g., pruned branches or stumps) and thus the spores end up on the fresh wounds and the tree becomes infected.



Once oak wilt is in an area it can then be transmitted from tree to tree directly. Oak trees that are near each other often have roots that interconnect. Through these root interconnections, the infection flows from one tree to the next. Unfortunately, an entire group of oak trees could be wiped out within a season or two.

Once the disease exists within a stand it is very difficult and expensive to control. Thus, prevention is the best approach.

**The greatest risk of oak wilt transmission is between April and August. Oak trees should not be pruned or cut down within this period or the fresh wounds attract the beetles providing the means for the fungus to enter the tree.** If oak trees need to be pruned during this period apply wound sealer to the wound immediately. The link below provides additional information.

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/foresthealth/oakwilt>

*White pine blister rust.* White pine blister rust is a fungus that causes cankers that kill branches. If the fungus travels down the branch to the main tree stem the fungus can girdle the main stem killing the entire tree. White pine blister rust is specific to white pine trees but the fungus, unlike oak wilt, cannot be transmitted from one tree to another. Instead, a secondary host is required, specifically Ribes (current and gooseberry) plants. Spores produced on white pines by the fungus infect the Ribes who in turn produce spores later in the summer that infect white pines. The rust spores first infect a needle but then grow into the branch and eventually to the main stem.





**Pruning branches that are infected with blister rust can prevent the disease from growing down the branch and into the main stem.** Just look for a branch that is partially a rusty red color that stands out from the rest of the tree (see photo). If the discoloration has not reached the main stem pruning off the branch at the main stem will save the tree.

Since Ribes grow close to the ground it is possible to reduce the chances of a larger white pine becoming infected if the lower branches of the tree are pruned.

<https://forestrynews.blogs.govdelivery.com/2018/06/04/white-pine-blister-rust/>