



# Bone Lake Newsletter

Bone Lake — Once called Onondogacona which means lake of small pines

SPRING 2019



## Golden-winged Warbler

About 25 percent of the world's population of Golden-winged Warblers nests in northern Wisconsin habitats like the large alder/tamarack wetland at the northwest corner of Bone Lake, a nearly optimum habitat for this species of conservation concern. Three Golden-winged Warblers were detected there during the 2011 bird survey. The survey can be found at our website on the wildlife and natural beauty page.

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[www.bonelakewi.com](http://www.bonelakewi.com)

## LAKE MANAGEMENT

### Alum not recommended at this time

At the Alum Committee's February 2019 meeting, after much consideration, committee members voted six to five not to recommend alum treatment at this time. The primary reason for voting against alum was that lake clarity was perceived not to be so poor and the improvement of three feet in water clarity in late summer did not warrant the cost.

At the 2018 BLMD annual meeting, the District provided a presentation on alum as a method of treating the internal phosphorus loading of Bone Lake. Alum binds with phosphorus in the water and settles it on the bottom of the lake, keeping the phosphorus locked in sediment and unavailable to algae growth. This increases water clarity.

**Read more about alum, internal loading and phosphorus at our website.**

After hearing the information on phosphorus and alum, a successful motion established the alum committee to address questions and make recommendations to the board and District members to treat or not to treat the lake with alum.

Twelve Bone Lake residents volunteered to serve on the Alum Committee and met several times since last August. The group reviewed in-depth research on alum and alternative treatment options to reduce internal P loading to improve water clarity.

Highlights include:

- Alum is the treatment of choice to reduce internal loading.
- Alum improves water clarity when an adequate dose is applied.
- Alum has been safely administered with no adverse effects on fish or aquatic plants.
- Bone Lake typically experiences greater than 50 percent reduction in average water clarity from June to the second half of August, with 2018 being a recent exception.
- Alum treatment for a lake our size is expensive at an estimated cost of \$2.1 million over 10 years.

The Alum Committee broke into subcommittees to further refine the costs of alum treatment to Bone Lake residents and to develop a communications plan to educate residents should the committee have decided to recommend alum treatment.

The cost range was estimated to be from \$82 to \$107 per year (depending on number of DNR grants received) per \$100,000 in property value for the first 10 years and then a reduced cost going forward for subsequent treatments in future years.

Many members are interested in staying active in the ongoing committee which has been formed for further evaluation, education and recommendations to reduce internal loading.

The Alum Committee Report is available at our website. ■

**BONE LAKE  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT**  
**ANNUAL  
MEETING**  
SATURDAY  
AUG 10, 2019  
9-11 AM • WILKINS

# Dear Bone Lakers,

April 15, 2019

Just as I'm getting in the mood to start putting in docks, thinking about warm sunshine and green grass, the April 10th snow storm changes my mind in a hurry. I thought last year's storm was a record breaker, but, it could be an annual affair. We'll no doubt survive but it is unpleasant. Climate change certainly seems evident! On to other subjects.

At last year's annual meeting a resolution was passed to form a committee to investigate the feasibility of using

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#bonelakewi

### Committees, Chairs:

#### Lake Management Plan

Phil Foster  
Evaluation and Studies  
Bob Boyd  
Fisheries  
Bob Boyd and Mike Belich  
Waterfront Runoff  
Alex Chorewycz  
Watershed  
Ann Miller  
Wildlife and Natural Beauty  
Karen Engelbretson

#### Aquatic Plant Management

Bob Boyd, Phil Foster  
Clean Boats Clean Waters  
Richard Mackie

#### Communications

Karen Engelbretson

#### Social

Phil Foster, acting Chair

#### Boating Safety & Buoys

Mike Musial

#### Audit

Mike Belich

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alum to improve water clarity and reduce algae in Bone Lake. Phil Foster volunteered to head the committee, calling the first meeting on October 20, 2018. Phil kept the committee busy with frequent meetings and many topics in addition to the pros and cons of alum applications, such as financial options and applying for DNR grants.

There is no shortage of information on both sides of the subject and committee members struggled to make a recommendation and to help lake residents understand the choices which will benefit the lake the most, and the cost. The committee's report is on the front page of this newsletter. They will also present and discuss their work at the annual meeting on Saturday, August 10.

Grant dollars are still available this year for installing practices to reduce runoff from your property. Now's the perfect time to get started on a project. See page 4 of this newsletter for more information.

The District commissioners spring meeting was held Saturday April 13, 2019. The upcoming summer season, as always, is very busy with discussions of many subjects. I'm always pleased with the large number of volunteers that Bone Lake is blessed with. Thank you so much for all your efforts, you are much appreciated!

Happy summer!

**—Bob Murphy, Chair**

Our District Chairman Bob Murphy suffered a moderate stroke on April 26th. He was hospitalized in Minneapolis and is now recovering in a rehabilitation center. The family appreciates your prayers. Cards may be sent to the Murphy family at 1470 W. 35th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

## It's Easy to Recycle Around Bone Lake

### Georgetown Town Hall

Second and fourth Fridays and Saturdays of each month, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Questions? Call 715-483-1088.

**St. Croix Falls** Hwy. 8 across from Menards, any weekday.

**Balsam Lake** Hwy. 46 by the Government Center, any day, 24/7.

## Keep in touch

**Subscribe to Bone Lake eNews!** Get Bone Lake updates between newsletters throughout the year. Go to [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com) and click Join Our Mailing on the front page. Be sure to reply to the confirmation email to complete your subscription and click the link to add [enews@bonelake.com](mailto:enews@bonelake.com) to your address book. Signed up but not getting emails? Contact [karen@kje.design](mailto:karen@kje.design).

**Bone Lakers Facebook group page.** More than 900 members are sharing photos, events, recommendations and news about life around the lake. To join, go to [facebook.com/groups/BoneLakers](https://facebook.com/groups/BoneLakers).

## Brush up on boating safety regulations

**Make sure you, your family and friends know Wisconsin boating rules and how to safely operate watercraft before heading out on Bone Lake.**

Mailed with this newsletter is a copy of the **2019 Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities**. For everyone's safety, please read it and share it with your family and visitors to Bone Lake.

According to Conservation Warden Jesse Ashton, speaking at our annual meeting last August, ninety percent of those receiving citations while boating are unfamiliar with boating rules and boat or PWC operation. The most common violations are related to these boating rules:

- PWCs must observe no wake operation within two hundred feet of shore.
- All motorized watercraft must stay 100 feet from any dock, swimmer, buoy marker, boat under power, water skier or tuber.
- Alcohol rules for motorboat operation on water are the same as for operating a motorized vehicle on a roadway.
- Turn your boat lights on at dusk; make sure your lights are working before going out at night.
- Skiers, tubers and PWCs must be off the water at dusk. The time is different every day so check it to be sure you're lawful.
- Be sure your boat has the required safety equipment and an up-to-date license.
- Anyone can benefit by taking a safety course.

If you witness boating safety violations, you can use your smart phone to record a video of the incident, being sure to capture the watercraft's license numbers, and send to the DNR Conservation Warden in Spooner, WI. Citations have been issued for unlawful behavior reported this way.

Let's all learn the rules and do the right thing on Bone Lake. ■

If you have questions about boating safety and navigation on Bone Lake contact Commissioner Mike Musial. Contact information for all commissioners is on page 2 of this newsletter and at our website on the administration tab.



**ICE OUT!** According to Bob Boyd and his ice-out squad, the Bone Lake ice went out April 23, 2019 at 2 p.m. Two Boyd boys (above) couldn't wait and took a swim on April 20th!

**Bone Lakers Sally and Dick Mackie** (right) spent a day collecting litter along Dueholm Drive. Thank you!



### WHO CAN LEGALLY DRIVE A MOTORBOAT...

Operators 12-15 years of age must either have a DNR safety certificate or an adult on board while operating a motorboat.

A person 10 or 11 years old may operate a motorboat only if accompanied by a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old designated by the parent or guardian.

A person younger than 10 years old may not operate a motorboat.

**Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1989 is required to complete a boating safety course to legally operate a boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waters.**

[dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat/)



**DNR Grants Update**

**Great news!** The District received an extension on our lake management plan grant through December, 2019. This means that we have ample dollars to spend on installation of waterfront runoff reduction practices to improve Bone Lake's water clarity.

- We also received a curly leaf pondweed spraying grant to fund treatment of thirty plus acres of the plant in April and May.
- A new Clean Boats Clean Waters grant will fund boat inspections at the north and south landings in our attempt to prevent any new invasive species from entering the lake.

## Another watershed project completed!

Last fall, Mike and Bonnie Musial indicated they were concerned about some erosion from their pond spillway on a back lot at the north side of Bone Lake.

Members of the watershed committee met with Mike and walked the property to understand the layout and areas of concern. With the help of Scott Geddes from Polk County Land and Water Resources Department and Cheryl Clemens, our consultant, they designed a solution to stop erosion and capture runoff so it could soak into the ground. This project was completely paid for using our grant dollars and district funds.

Streams with eroding banks are bringing phosphorus into Bone Lake. If you have a stream on your property that is showing stream erosion, please contact Ann Miller, Bone Lake Watershed Committee chair, at 612-867-7872 or email ann.russ.miller3@gmail.com.

Thank you Mike and Bonnie for identifying and installing this lake improvement project on your property! ■

Rock was installed to reduce stream erosion at the spillway of this stream on the Musial property.



## Make this your year to help improve Bone Lake's water clarity

The results of the September, 2018 Bone Lake Property Owners' Survey revealed that 78 percent of us believe that we should improve our water clarity.

The survey also reports that about one-third of us would be interested in installing a waterfront diversion or infiltration practice if we knew it would be effective in improving the lake's water clarity.

Yes, property owners can improve water clarity in the lake by reducing runoff at your property. Here's how.

Water running off roofs, sidewalks and other hard surfaces during a rainstorm, for instance, flows toward the lake carrying nutrients, sediments and other pollutants that contribute to algae blooms and green water. When runoff reduction practices are installed, that water sinks into the soil instead, and is purified before entering the lake.

The District has received a one-year extension on our grant. We have \$86,000 in cost share dollars to help property owners plan and pay for runoff reduction

practices that help improve Bone Lake. We need to use these dollars this year! It's time to get started.

- The District will help you plan and pay for a waterfront runoff reduction practice at your property, and, depending on what you do, your out of pocket cost could be zero.

See the Fall, 2018 *Bone Lake Newsletter* for photos and information on waterfront diversion and infiltration practices that stop runoff. Also included is an article on Lakescaping, and why it's preferred for the lakeshore environment. Other issues of our newsletter have included information on 10X35 native plantings for the shoreline. Back issues are all available at our website.

***Don't let this grant money go to waste.*** For additional information and/or to schedule a site visit please contact Mary Chorefycz at 651-454-9456 or e-mail Mary at amchorefycz@yahoo.com. ■

*Don't forget, real estate research shows that lake water clarity plays an enormous role in the value of your lakeshore property.*

# Our oak trees at risk

by Paul Stellwagen

**B**eing a tree lover, I hate cutting down trees when I don't have to, but sometimes the need arises. As a Bone Lake cabin owner, I wasn't aware that trimming or cutting down any of my numerous oak trees at the wrong time could put them—and neighboring trees—at risk.

While working with a local tree service this winter, I heard about *oak wilt* for the first time. Then, after talking with some very helpful people at WDNR I thought it would be good to share with our community what I learned about our oak trees' health.

## So what is oak wilt and why should you care?

Oak wilt has been in Polk County now for decades. Beetles introduce the disease by carrying the fungal spores from infected trees or firewood to fresh wounds of fully-cut or pruned oak trees. The disease rapidly kills trees in the red oak group and weakens those in the white oak group. Pruning or cutting oaks during April through July leaves them vulnerable to this disease. Any damage during this time, including broken branches caused by storms, exposes living tissue beneath the bark to the fungus.

In the spring, fungal mats develop under the bark of trees that died from oak wilt the year before. These mats force the bark to crack open while the fungus produces a sweet odor that attracts sap-feeding beetles. The beetles can then transmit the fungus to healthy trees through any open wounds. Infected trees become dehydrated as the disease affects water flow through the tree. The leaves wilt and drop off starting at the canopy and the tree dies in about five weeks.

—continued on page 10

PHOTOS: WISCONSIN DNR



Clockwise from above: Sap-feeding beetle on a diseased oak tree in Sawyer County. Fungal mats produce oak wilt spores and grow underneath the bark of trees killed by the disease. Infected leaves appear dull green/bronze, water-soaked but partially green and will drop rapidly in mid-summer.



## How you can protect your oaks from oak wilt

Oaks in the red oak group (black, northern red, northern pin) get this disease most easily. Oaks in the white oak group are less susceptible but still at risk.

To protect oak trees in your yard or woodlot from this often-fatal disease, WDNR forest health specialists recommend taking a few simple steps:

- Avoid injuring or cutting oaks from April through July. If your oak trees are accidentally wounded, use a pruning paint to seal the wounds.
- Keep firewood local. Do not transport firewood to your property or elsewhere.
- Stay informed and get help if you suspect your oaks may be infected. Find information online (link below) and contact your local DNR forest health specialist for assistance with diagnosis and control.

More information is available at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), search for oak wilt or firewood. Also go to [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com) for more information.

### For further questions, please contact an oak wilt specialist:

Paul Cigan  
DNR forest health specialist  
715-416-4920  
[Paul.Cigan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Paul.Cigan@wisconsin.gov)

DNR regional forest health staff at [dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/staff.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/staff.html)

## Bone Lake zebra mussel update

Extensive monitoring for zebra mussel presence in Bone Lake came back negative.

Twelve zebra mussels plate samplers were deployed by residents at various locations around Bone Lake. No zebra mussels were found on any of the sampler plates.

Zebra mussel monitoring on Bone Lake by the following agencies also came back negative: U.S. Fish and Wildlife services, U.S. National Park Service, Polk County Land and Water Resources Department.

This year we will be assisting the WDNR in DNA sampling for zebra mussels in Bone Lake. This is a relatively new detection process and we look forward to working with WDNR and Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept. personnel.

In 2018/2019 the District purchased the necessary equipment to conduct our own zebra mussel monitoring dredges.

**All residents can help with monitoring** by inspecting boat hoists and docks before putting them in the water this spring and when taking them out in the fall. If you have a suspect mussel attached, collect it and call Bob Boyd 715-553-0629 for further identification.

### Learn more

[dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/zebra.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/zebra.html)

Our Bone Lake AIS prevention strategy includes communication via newsletters and handouts. Our Clean Boats Clean Waters personnel have received additional training in zebra mussel identification and have been supplying zebra mussel handouts to boaters. Prevention is more important than ever. Zebra mussels have been confirmed as present in nearby Deer Lake.



Our CBCW staff will be on duty again in 2019 inspecting watercraft and communicating with the public at both north and south landings.

### Clean Boats Clean Waters data

	2016	2017	2018
CBCW boat inspections	940	1,062	689
People contacted	1,854	2,297	1,415
Camera-recorded launches	2,700	2,629	2,928

In 2018 there were 14 possible violations and eight were reported to authorities.

### CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY. NEVER MOVE.

Review invasive species prevention steps at  
[dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/prevention.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/prevention.html)

## Does catch and release work?

by Bob Boyd

Jim and Catie Lachenmayer, long time Bone Lake residents had a very unusual fishing experience last October. Jim caught a beautiful 49-inch musky with a 23-inch girth using a homemade bait his buddy Mike Selle had given him.

Jim noticed two unusual markings on the lower side of the fish and knew he had seen that before. Digging through old pictures he found the same fish! Catie had caught that musky on May 25, 2009. Look closely and you can see the same brown markings on the fish in both photos.

In 2009 it was 46.5 inches in length, nine years later it had grown only 2.5 inches but gained a massive amount of weight. In 2009 Catie's musky was the new Lachenmayer cabin record. Now nine years later the same fish is the *new* cabin record.

Another amazing fact—Jim caught that fish within fifty yards of where Catie caught it the first time! Does catch and release work? You bet! ■



It's the same fish! Top: 2009, bottom: 2018.

# Musky survey summary

by Aaron Cole, WDNR Senior Fisheries Biologist

**D**NR fisheries biologists conducted musky population surveys on Bone Lake during the spring of 2017 and 2018, a two-year mark survey and a recapture survey.

The first year serves as the marking year, where all musky handled in the fyke nets are given a fin clip. The second year is considered the recapture year, where we look for fin clips of fish handled the previous year. We then estimate the population size from the number of fish marked during 2017 and the number of fish handled in 2018 that were marked and not marked.

During these surveys, we estimated the adult ( $\geq 30$ -inch) musky population on Bone Lake to be 0.35 fish/acre. Between the two years of netting, we handled 435 musky that range from 12.0 to 48.0 inches in length. The population density declined slightly compared to the last two surveys: 0.42 fish/acre in 2011 and 0.55 fish/acre in 2005; however, the current Bone Lake musky population is considered to be a moderate density compared to other Wisconsin musky populations.

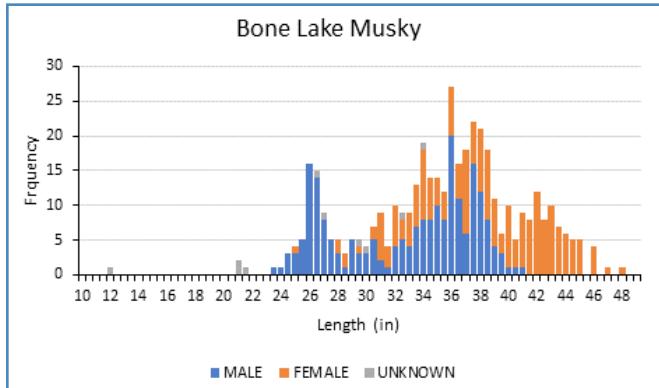
The current density is one that will provide good angling action while still producing large fish. Historically, the Bone Lake musky population had an adult density as high as 0.99 fish/acre in 1995; however, that was considered too high and the lake has been managed for a lower density since then.

The decline in adult density is not necessarily a bad thing, especially in terms of size structure. With the decreasing density, the size structure of the population has continued to improve. Simply put, the size structure of the Bone Lake musky population has never looked better!

We assess size structure of fish populations by different methods, one of which is through Proportional Size Distribution. For PSD we look at the number of fish that are at least 30 inches and determine the proportion of those fish that are also larger than a specified size. The PSD values for all common size groups were the highest they have ever been on Bone Lake.

This was also the first Bone Lake musky survey where we put Passive Integrated Transponder tags into all musky we handled. These PIT tags are the size of a grain of rice and they each have a unique 15 digit number associated with them. PIT tagged musky do not have any external tag identification and a special reader is required to detect the tags and display the data.

We took a fin ray sample from all musky we PIT-tagged and are able to age each musky by looking at the



fin ray under a microscope. Once musky get over ten years old they become more difficult to age. However, since musky can live 20+ years, we should find many of the fish we handled, PIT-tagged, and aged in future surveys and will get a better handle on the age, growth, mortality and longevity of the population which will help with future management. ■

**“**We handled at least one musky that was over 20 years old during this survey, a 45.2-inch female that had a floy tag, a plastic tag that sticks out of the fish. It was last handled during the 2006 survey and was 41.6 inches then. Although not aged during the 2006 survey, it would have been at least eight years old based on its length, which made it at least 20 years old in 2018. We could tell by looking at it that this old fish had been around the block: blind in one eye, with a deformed mouth from old hooking injuries and no shortage of scars and scrapes.**”**

—Aaron Cole

## Stock walleye into Bone Lake?

**W**alleye stocking is always a popular topic among lake groups—almost all lakes in this area have been stocked with walleye at one time or another. Bone Lake was only stocked with walleye once, back in the 1930s. Bone Lake has been managed for musky since then because DNR policy was to only stock one predator species in a lake.

Bone Lake has a rich history of musky stocking and is one of the longest-stocked musky lakes in the state, making the lake a very popular fishery that attracts many anglers. ■

*Read more about walleye stocking: Aaron Cole's comprehensive report is available at [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com).*

*When finished, the complete musky population survey will be posted at [bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com).*

**DON'T FORGET** **Septic**  
**cost share dollars now**  
**up to \$2500.**

If you have a failing or non-compliant system and choose to replace it, you are eligible to receive a cost share of 50 percent, up to \$2,500 from Bone Lake Management District. Failing septic systems can contribute phosphorus and other nutrients into groundwater that enters Bone Lake.

**Call Richard Mackie,**  
**Bone Lake septic ranger,**  
**at 715-857-5205 for**  
**details.**

## Change of address?

If you need to update your address for the *Bone Lake Newsletter* or for property tax mailings, please contact the Polk County Treasurer's office at 715-485-9255.

The District does not maintain its own mailing list, rather we rely on Polk County property records for our mailings.

## Minutes online

Minutes of the BLMD annual meeting and of all District commissioner meetings can be found at [bonelakewi.com/administration](http://bonelakewi.com/administration). Meeting minutes include presentations, financials and other reports.

# Grow native plants to help protect wildlife habitat and pollinators

Pollination is critically important, both to Wisconsin's native plants and to the global food supply. A great number of the species that carry out pollination are under threat due to habitat loss, invasive plants, herbicides, pesticides and the effects of global warming. Keep in mind, not all pollinators are bees. Butterflies, beetles, flies, moths, bats, birds and even mosquitoes are pollinators. The good news is there are easy ways to help pollinators, right in your own yard.

- Plant native plants. The first blooms of native plants occur at the same time as the seasonal emergence of native pollinators. Ornamental plant varieties have been bred so that they don't have good pollen quality, and little or no nectar to provide food for pollinators.
- Avoid the use of yard and garden insecticides and pesticides. These chemicals kill all insects, including all pollinators.
- Keep your lights down low at night. The moths that are attracted to the light should be out pollinating night blooming plants.
- Attract birds to your property with flowering and fruiting trees and shrubs, nesting boxes, and a bird bath.
- Provide a bumblebee nest box or nest house. Go to [bumblebee.org](http://bumblebee.org) for directions.
- Read *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy to learn more about the relationship between native plants, trees, insects and birds.

## Here are a few flowering native plants that support pollinators



Virginia bluebells



Columbine



Prairie smoke



Pussy willow



Wild bergamot



Swamp milkweed



Rattlesnake master



New England aster

You can include these beneficial flowering plants in a 10x35 foot native planting or rain garden at your property and the District will pay for nearly all of it. Put back habitat. Reduce runoff to Bone Lake. Do it almost for free. But at the end of this year, the opportunity to use District dollars will be gone. See page 6 and call Mary Chorewycz.



PHOTOS: BRIAN COLLINS

Left, an adult male Baltimore oriole; above, an adult female. "The birds migrate thousands of miles from tropical rainforests to become breeding residents of 45 degrees latitude." —Brian Collins

## Orioles

by Cris Dueholm

In just a couple of weeks all my migrating birds will have returned for the summer.

That stunning bright orange and black bird will stand out in the top of the trees or in my front window as if to say *here I am!* The orioles are back and it's time to put out the grape jelly and oranges on the special feeders.

Orioles will not be seen eating seeds, even when raising young, but if there are fruit trees nearby you should see them or hear their rich whistling song.

The female will pick out an elm, maple or cottonwood tree and build her nest at the junction of a three-pronged branch. She will weave slender fibers into a sock shaped hanging nest. The male may bring her supplies but he isn't the builder, he is the defender!

She will lay 3-7 eggs, incubate for 11-14 days and then for 12-15 days the pair will feed their young sugary foods like fruit and jelly and insects for protein and calcium!

The two types of orioles you may see around here are the Baltimore and Orchard Oriole with the latter being a darker russet color. They nest, feed, and migrate to the same areas and one can almost set the calendar to their annual arrival and departure.

At the south end of the lake, my arrival date is May 7th. It seems the same birds come back to our place year after year, looking in the same window as if to ask "Where's the food?" ■

*Look for oriole nests in the winter, it's easy to spot them when they fill with snow and it's fun to study the different fibers used in construction.*

## April Updates

When the last snowstorm hit us on April 11, 2019 we were in the middle of a mass migration of Juncos. The ground was just undulating with this cute little bird eating the cracked corn that we threw out for them while they tried to stay out of the wind.

Juncos migrate to northern Canada to breed for the summer and return to us in the fall. Some say they signal the first snowfall within 10 days or so. Sometimes it's true and sometimes it's not!

I also wonder how many geese, swan, duck, and Sandhill eggs we lost this year due to the storm.

The eagle nest that we lost last year has been rebuilt, higher up in the same tree, and they are nesting! It's always about the location. ■

### Eagle Nest #1

East side, 1/4 mile north of Fox Creek, White pine  
N 45.50721, W 092.37470

### DID YOU KNOW?

Stand-up paddle boarding is the fastest growing water sport in the world. But paddle boarders often forget that being on a paddle board requires the same safety precautions as any other activity on the water, which includes having a life jacket on their board. DNR strongly recommends wearing it. "Wearing a life jacket significantly reduces the chance of injury or death."

—Wisconsin DNR



PHOTO: WISCONSIN DNR

# Social happenings and new clubs

by Phil Foster

Hopefully you heard about our Bone Lake Spring Social that was held on May 4th at Wilkins with a Kentucky Derby theme. This annual event is always a fun get-together. A notice is usually sent via Bone Lake eNews and posted on the BoneLakers facebook page. We have several other social opportunities in the works:

**Pot luck dinner:** Saturday, August 10, same day as our annual meeting, 5 p.m.

**Groups forming:** Bone Lake golf league, fishing club, bridge club.

If you're interested in signing up, learning more or joining the Bone Lake Social Committee, please call or text Phil Foster at 715-553-0719.

**Boat parade.** Participants meet at Wilkins beginning at 11:45 a.m., parade begins at 1 p.m. Watch the Bone Lakers and Wilkins facebook pages for any same-day notices about the parade.

## The Owen's family sponsored

**fireworks** scheduled for Saturday evening, July 6 at dusk, south end of the lake, in tribute to our active military, veterans, and fallen soldiers. If you enjoy the fireworks, please consider a tax-deductible donation payable to Milltown VFW Post 6858 and send to Jolene Owens, 2060 Dueholm Drive, Milltown, WI 54848.

## BOAT PARADE

Saturday, July 6, 2019  
sponsored by Wilkins  
Parade leaves Wilkins  
at 1 p.m.

## FIREWORKS

Saturday, July 6, 2019  
South end of  
Bone Lake  
at dusk

## Oak wilt *continued from page 4*

During the time an infected tree dies, it can spread the disease through its root system to other healthy trees in the area. In fact, the most common way that oak wilt spreads is through interconnected roots to other trees.

If healthy oaks of the same species are near an infected tree, removing the infected tree, instead of controlling the spread, could cause the fungus to move more quickly through the root grafts. For example, an infected oak tree with a 15-inch trunk diameter could infect similar oak trees within a roughly 50-foot radius. Also, cutting down even a healthy oak tree during the spring/summer risk window, could result in infection within less than an hour. This means the stump would need to be ground out, or immediately painted with pruning sealer or tree paint to minimize any risk.

The majestic oaks we admire could become a serious liability to cut down should they become infected. As with many things in this world, it takes a community and good stewardship to keep them around for future generations.

For more information or to get help for the trees on your property, see the contacts on page 4. ■

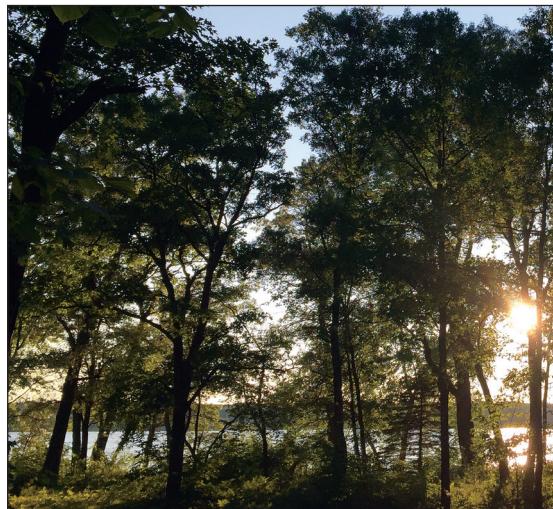


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### Big wakes:

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## Support Bone Lake's local volunteer fire departments.

Area local volunteer fire departments perform their services without pay. You can help support them by attending their benefit events: Milltown Fire & Rescue Annual Taco Feed in October; Luck Volunteer Fire Department Annual Corn Feed, second Saturday in August. See their respective facebook pages or websites for details.

## Have time to help seniors and the disabled or need some help yourself?

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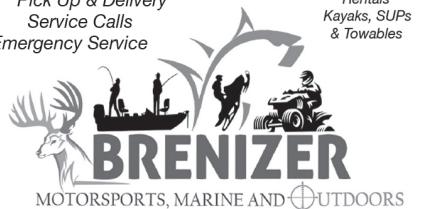
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