



HOPPENINGS

FPPOA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

Join Us For
Our Annual

Membership Meeting

VOTE, VISIT WITH
FRIENDS & MEET
YOUR NEIGHBORS

SATURDAY
MARCH 16

10:30 AM

The Colmesneil Community Center
300 W Elder Street
(located behind The Colmesneil City Hall)

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EVENTS

2nd Quarter Executive Board Meeting in May 2024

Visit frogpondlake.com for important information:

What's New in 2024!

The FPPOA has been asked to take over the vegetation control on the lake so that the WCID can focus time and money on necessary repairs to the dam and spillway. As we discussed at last year's annual meeting, there is a need to address the growing vegetation at the west end of the lake that is impeding flow of fresh water into the lake. Additionally, as communicated last year via email, and flyers, an invasive weed, Giant Salvinia, has been found in the lake. The FPPOA Board is forming a vegetation plan to tackle these two pressing weed management needs. The FPPOA Board will be open to all suggestions and have made a spot on this year's member invoice to accept donations for this project.

This year the FPPOA will not be accepting donations to the fish fund for two reasons. At \$4,200+, we feel this is a large enough sum to adequately stock the lake with fish when needed. The WCID is currently making plans to repair the dam's weir gate system, which will require the lake to be lowered. Any plans to lower the lake will be fully communicated to the FPPOA membership well in advance. Once the lake

is refilled, this may be a good time to restock. The FPPOA Board will be taking steps to put the fish funds into a high interest account until it is needed.

At the meeting we will have discussions about the possible lake lowering, an update about giant salvinia, and a routine maintenance for the existing vegetation. Throughout the year, will keep everyone informed and all input is welcome. Send comments to Frogpondfppoa@gmail.com

Please see your email for these documents:

- 2024 FPPOA Annual Meeting Agenda
- 2023 FPPOA Financial Statement
- 2024 FPPOA Budget
- 2024 FPPOA Member Invoice

Same as last year, you may pay your dues and make donations to FPPOA in person, mail, or Venmo. Your contributions help ensure the FPPOA can take care of our beautiful lake community.



This time next year positions will be open for Treasurer and Secretary.

Name	Role	Start of Term	End of Term	Number of Terms
Kate Johnson	President	2Q24	1Q26	2
Loy Owens	Maintenance	2Q24	1Q26	2
Julie Askew	Website/Communications	2Q24	1Q26	2
Sarah Parsons	Secretary	2Q23	1Q25	2
Greg Thompson	Treasurer	2Q23	1Q25	2
A board term is two years and can be held for a max of two consecutive terms.				

WCID Repairs on Wier Gate and Dam

From the minutes on the [WCID website](#)

The WCID is soliciting several bids for the

replacement of the Wier Gate System, which has developed leaks over time.

They are also asking for bids to build up the area around the low-flow pipe at the back side of the dam.

Giant Salvinia Plan

The FPPOA board will survey the lake to identify Giant Salvinia and other unwanted vegetation. Information from the Agriculture Extension Agent and local herbicide companies will be obtained to recommend the best path forward. Findings will be presented at the 2024 March Membership Meeting. Member input is strongly encouraged.



Can I Shoot in My Own Back Yard?

Reckless Shooting Is Never Legal

Texas allows residents a lot of freedom to shoot their guns as long as they're outside city limits and have enough space to shoot safely. However, this doesn't mean it's legal to endanger others. Any shooting that's done in a way that could potentially hit another person, a vehicle, or a building still counts as disorderly conduct. If you want to shoot in your backyard, you still need to follow all basic gun safety rules. Never point the gun at anyone, always treat the gun as if it's loaded, and avoid firing at hard surfaces, living trees, or other inappropriate targets.



You Can Only Shoot in Certain Places

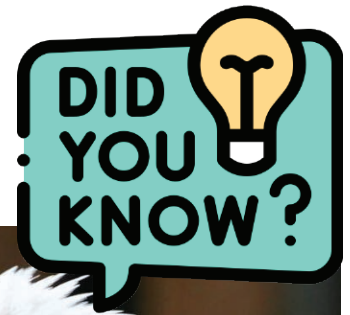
Keep in mind that just having a big enough piece of property doesn't mean you can shoot anywhere. It's only legal to shoot a gun when you can position yourself in a safe and responsible manner. Any shooting that allows bullets to cross the property line or a public road can count as disorderly conduct, a type of misdemeanor that could result in jail time and fines. Furthermore, you need to be at least 150 feet from a residence on any neighboring property to shoot a shotgun or air pistol. If you're shooting traditional rifles or pistols, you have to be at least 300 feet away from any neighboring residence or occupied building.

The Size of Your Property Matters

When you're on private property outside city limits, there is no law that states how much land or how big your property must be in order to shoot on it. However, Texas law does state that if your property meets certain size requirements, you can shoot inside city limits and cannot be restricted. This is outlined in Government Code 229.002. You need to have a tract of land at least 10 acres in size if you want to shoot a shotgun, air rifle, air pistol, or BB gun. If you're planning on shooting a rifle or pistol, your land needs to be at least 50 acres.

Learn more at [LTCAustin.com](https://www.ltcAustin.com)

10 Amazing Facts About Bald Eagles



#1: They're One of the World's Largest Raptors

Bald Eagles can weigh up to 15lbs., and are between 28-38 inches in size. Their wingspan can reach up to 7.5 feet. (For comparison: an osprey's wingspan reaches up to 6 feet, and a red-tailed hawk's up to 4.8 feet). This expansive wingspan is ideal for soaring, keeping Bald Eagles aloft for longer periods without flapping their wings.

#2: They Can Reach Altitudes Over 10,000 Feet

Their impressive wingspan is more than decorative: it allows them to fly at dizzying heights! Bald eagles soar 10,000 feet or more into the air, using thermal air currents to support their glide. This allows them to conserve energy for more important activities, like looking for prey and migrating long distances.

#3: Their Eyesight is 8x Stronger Than Ours

We call a person an "eagle eye" if they have 20/20 vision, but Bald Eagles have much sharper eyesight than that! In fact, they typically have 20/40 or 20/50 vision, making them expert hunters. Not only can they spot a small animal two miles away with amazing clarity, but they have a 340-degree field of view—with even better peripheral vision than owls!

#4: They Aren't Actually Bald

Since Bald Eagles sport a white head of feathers, so where did the "bald" moniker come from? It turns out that it was a translation of the old English word "piebald," meaning "white" or "white-headed." And the Bald Eagle doesn't acquire this crowning glory until they are 4 or 5 years old—with about four stages of feather shedding before that.

[Read full article at Chirp Nature Center](#)



#5: Their Grip Strength is a Crushing 400 psi

Bald Eagles are said to have a grip 10 times stronger than a human's. This comes in handy when they use their talons to pick up fish (their favorite meal) from a lake and keep hold of it while gliding through the air. It also allows them to snatch another bird's prey from them midair (after hassling the bird to drop its meal—talk about cunning!).

#6: Their Courtship Acrobatics Rival Cirque du Soleil

Known for their dramatic "sky dances," Bald Eagle males will court females with a series of impressive feats. From high-speed chases to tumbling together, talons locked, from great heights towards the ground, it's quite a sight. Less active courtship behaviors include sitting shoulder to shoulder, preening, and even nest building. And not only new couples engage in these activities—some mated couples perform these rituals to strengthen their bond.

[Get a rare glimpse of this acrobatic courtship dance:](#)





#9: Eaglets Fledge from the Nest... But Not Far

A baby Bald Eagle—or eaglet—typically fledge from the nest when they are 10-14 weeks old. But, since they are still dependent on their parents for food, they don't go far. Fledged eaglets will usually stick around the nest for a month or so afterwards, taking short flights that keep them close to home. During this time, they must learn to hunt for themselves.



#7: They Mate for Life

When it comes to commitment, Bald Eagle couples are in it for the long haul. They typically mate for life—meaning they can be coupled monogamously for 30 years. The mated pair breeds year after year, producing around 1-3 eggs each time. These eggs are incubated for about 35 days, during which time both the male and female of the couple will share the duty of keeping the eggs warm.

#8: They Make the Biggest Bird Nests

Bald Eagle nests, called aeries, are the largest recorded bird nests. Typically found at the top of tall trees, at a height anywhere from 60 to 200 feet, they can reach a size of 4-6 feet. Made from twigs, sticks, grass, and other natural debris, a Bald Eagle's nest is around 2-4 feet in depth, making a cozy home for the eagles and their offspring. And no wonder they invest in their nest: Bald Eagles typically use the same nest year after year for decades!



#10: Their Biggest Threat? Us.

As apex predators, Bald Eagles aren't in danger of much. Yes, they are prey for larger animals like bears and wolves, but their biggest threat comes from us humans. Pesticide-laden crops have adversely affected the eagle population in many ways. From the days of DDT-dusted crops in the 1940s through the early 1970s, Bald Eagles were disappearing completely from some states. Thankfully, with the use of DDT banned in the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Bald Eagle population recovered so that they are no longer classified as "endangered."

To learn how pesticides and chemicals affect our local wildlife, and to find chemical-free options, read the article ["Poison-Free Pest Control."](#)



WARNING: Oak Wilt is Deadly!

What is oak wilt?

Oak wilt occurs because of the fungus commonly known as *Bretziella fagacearum* (also known as *Ceratocystis fagacearum*). Once infected, the fungus travels throughout the main waterway vessels of the tree. From there, the fungus creates a blockage within the vessels, OR the tree, in its attempt to fight the infection, tries to deploy its own structures, which inadvertently also block its vessels.

However, no matter how the blockage comes to happen, water movement throughout the tree will, at one point or another, begin to slow down until it finally comes to a stop. When this happens, the tree starts to die, and the "wilting" appearance begins to set in.

Put down the pruning shears.

Homeowners and landscapers may be tempted to do some spring pruning, but when it comes to oak trees, now is not the time. Oak wilt, a devastating, incurable fungus has been slowly spreading over a large part of the U.S. This tree disease is contagious and can kill an oak in as little as two weeks.

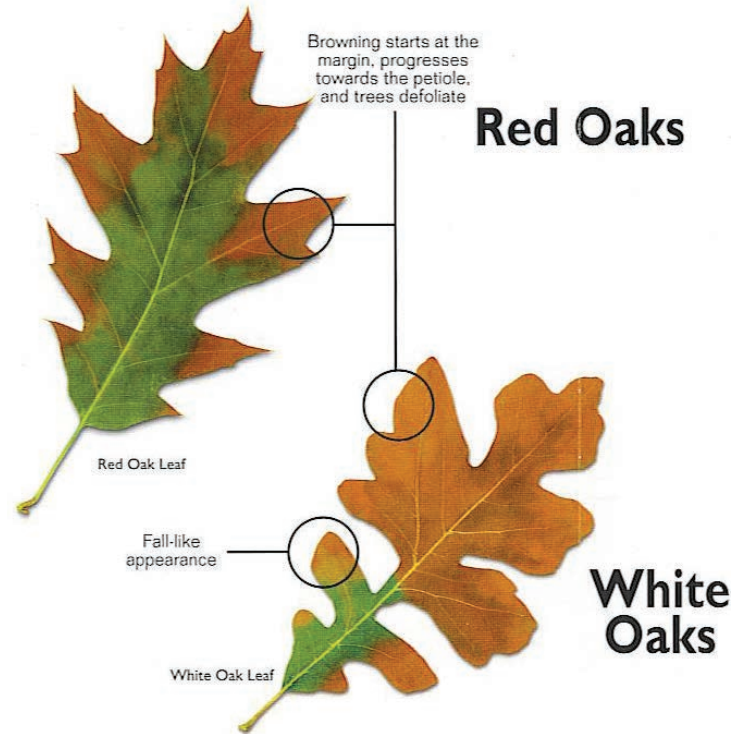
This is why Texas Trees Foundation is urging homeowners and business owners to NOT prune oak trees after February 1, and to refrain from pruning them between February 1-June 30.

Do not prune unless there is an emergency, and avoid wounding your oak trees during this time.

All oaks can be infected. However, some oak species are affected more than others.

Most susceptible oaks

Red oaks: Members of the red oak group, particularly Texas red oak (AKA Spanish oak), shumard oak, blackjack oak, and water oak are most susceptible to the fungus and may play a unique role in the establishment of new oak wilt infections.



Live oak and Texas live oak are intermediate in their susceptibility to oak wilt, but are most seriously affected due to their tendency to grow with vast, interconnected root systems that allow movement of the fungus among adjacent trees.

How to detect oak wilt

Yellow veins. Leaves on diseased live oaks often develop chlorotic (yellow) veins that eventually turn necrotic (brown), a symptom called **veinal necrosis**. The most commonly seen foliar symptom on live oaks infected with oak wilt.



Vein banding. Vein banding is where the leaf vein is a darker green than the rest of the leaf.



Tip burn or margin burn, which turns the edges of the leaf brown.

Defoliation may be rapid, and dead leaves with brown veins often can be found under the tree for months after defoliation.

Oak wilt is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the U.S., killing millions of trees in 76 counties of Central, North and West Texas. [Texas A&M Forest Service](#) urges Texans to help stop the spread of oak wilt by avoiding pruning or wounding oak trees through June.



Oak Wilt Fungal Mat



Oak Wilt Open Cuts

Oak Wilt Beetle

Oak wilt beetles (also known as picnic or sap beetles) are a part of the Nitidulidae beetle family, and they are one of the main culprits in the above-ground transmission of oak wilt. Attracted to the mycelial mats (spores of the decayed *Bretziella fagacearum* fungus that appear as a black and fuzzy-like substance), the oak wilt beetles frequently seek out and visit the spores. By coming into contact with them, they then attach the fungal spores to their bodies—similar to how one may pick up a common cold.

However, the problem is that the oak wilt beetle is not only attracted to mycelial mats. Because they're also attracted to sap that fresh wounds on live oak trees may produce, they are also common visitors to oak trees.



If these sap-feeding beetles visit an Oak tree with an open tree wound while having the fungal mats on their bodies, the fungus is then transferred onto the tree as the beetle feeds on the sap. When this happens, the oak tree is officially infected.

2024 Total Eclipse: Where & When

The Monday, April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The total solar eclipse will begin over the South Pacific Ocean. Weather permitting, the first location in continental North America that will experience totality is Mexico's Pacific coast at around 11:07 a.m. PDT.

The path of the eclipse continues from Mexico, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Small parts of

Tennessee and Michigan will also experience the total solar eclipse. The eclipse will enter Canada in Southern Ontario, and continue through Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton. The eclipse will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT.

The total solar eclipse will be visible along a narrow track stretching from Texas to Maine on April 8, 2024. A partial eclipse will be visible throughout all 48 contiguous U.S. states.

Want to download this map and view other versions? Visit [NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio](https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/vis/0000/2024/eclipse20240408/).



Location	Partial Begins	Totality Begins	Maximum	Totality Ends	Partial Ends
Dallas, Texas	12:23 p.m. CDT	1:40 p.m. CDT	1:42 p.m. CDT	1:44 p.m. CDT	3:02 p.m. CDT
Idabel, Oklahoma	12:28 p.m. CDT	1:45 p.m. CDT	1:47 p.m. CDT	1:49 p.m. CDT	3:06 p.m. CDT
Little Rock, Arkansas	12:33 p.m. CDT	1:51 p.m. CDT	1:52 p.m. CDT	1:54 p.m. CDT	3:11 p.m. CDT
Poplar Bluff, Missouri	12:39 p.m. CDT	1:56 p.m. CDT	1:56 p.m. CDT	2:00 p.m. CDT	3:15 p.m. CDT
Paducah, Kentucky	12:42 p.m. CDT	2:00 p.m. CDT	2:01 p.m. CDT	2:02 p.m. CDT	3:18 p.m. CDT
Carbondale, Illinois	12:42 p.m. CDT	1:59 p.m. CDT	2:01 p.m. CDT	2:03 p.m. CDT	3:18 p.m. CDT
Evansville, Indiana	12:45 p.m. CDT	2:02 p.m. CDT	2:04 p.m. CDT	2:05 p.m. CDT	3:20 p.m. CDT
Cleveland, Ohio	1:59 p.m. EDT	3:13 p.m. EDT	3:15 p.m. EDT	3:17 p.m. EDT	4:29 p.m. EDT
Erie, Pennsylvania	2:02 p.m. EDT	3:16 p.m. EDT	3:18 p.m. EDT	3:20 p.m. EDT	4:30 p.m. EDT
Buffalo, New York	2:04 p.m. EDT	3:18 p.m. EDT	3:20 p.m. EDT	3:22 p.m. EDT	4:32 p.m. EDT

Member Access Lot

The FPPOA is pleased to provide a Member Access area for those members that do not have water front property to access the lake. All Frog Pond property owners may use the lot to launch or remove their boats, but they must be docked at their private shoreline.

This lot is accessible to paying members ONLY. Use of Frog Pond Lake and the Member

Access lot is at your own risk. This includes immediate family and all guests of Members. Any and all guests must be accompanied by a FPPOA member when accessing the lot.

All board members now have a key to the Member Access Lot. If you need access, please give us 24 hour notice and send a request to frogpondfppoa@gmail.com.



Join Our Facebook Group

The FPPOA would like to say thank you to all the newbies for joining and to everyone who has been posting photos and neighborhood information to the group. This group was initiated to bring us closer to our neighbors and has proven to be a huge success! We LOVE IT! The more members in the group, the more interesting and fun the threads. Thank you for being an active member of our Facebook Community!



If you would like to join our Facebook group visit facebook.com/groups/frogpondlake and send invite.

Please NOTE: This Facebook group page has been developed as a social page for members of Frog Pond Lake and their friends and family. The group is intended as a place to share fun times and experiences on the lake. Any and all inappropriate comments or photos will be deleted in accordance with Facebook Community Standards.

This group is NOT a forum for official Property Owners Association issues. These matters should be directed to the [Frog Pond website contact page](#) or by contacting a Board Member or officer directly. Any post regarding FPPOA business will be deleted and the posting member will be directed to the website contact page <https://frogpondlake.com/contact-us>.

Frog Pond Lake

A Private Lake Community

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Distribution of this newsletter is intended to be sent digitally, however we have included a mail panel for those who would like to print and/or mail their own copies.