



JULY 2024 – HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



The Larks held a meeting on Wed June 12 at Ablebee's. Several items were discussed: Market, Meals of Hope, and other Community events. Our next meeting is Wednesday, July 17, location to be announced.

Other News: A reminder we have 15 signed up for the Melodrama for Sunday July 14 at 2pm.



Nancy has a birthday on July 27th.

The Ultimate Test - *One night, four college students stayed up late partying, even though they knew they had a test the next day. The next morning, they came up with a plan to get out of having to take their test. Each student rolled around in dirt and then went to the teacher's office.*

They told the teacher that they had gotten a flat tire the night before, and they spent the entire night pushing their car back to campus. The teacher listened, and to the students' delight, he offered a retest three days later.

On the day of the test, the students went to their teacher's office. The teacher put all four of the students in separate rooms to take the test. The students were okay with that because they had been given a chance to study.

The test had 2 questions:

- 1) Your Name _____ (1 Point)*

- 2) Which tire was flat? _____ (99 Points)*
 - 1. Front Right*
 - 2. Front Left*
 - 3. Back Right*
 - 4. Back Left*

The Moral:

Aside from making wise decisions, you always need to take responsibility for your actions. This means not blaming other people for your mistakes, not complaining about the reality of the present moment, and not giving in to other people's pressure.

DID YOU KNOW? *In honor of the 4th of July, we will feature the Bald Eagle this month. When Norm and I went on our Alaskan cruise, we had a shore excursion and learned a bit about the Bald Eagle. The Alaskans nickname them Golf Balls for their white head. If you see one sitting at the top of the tree, that is the female guarding the nest. The female is more aggressive when they have Eaglets. They live near water to readily access food. Their nests are huge, see more info below.*

Here are 10 more facts:

Different Calls. *Eagles have different calls for things like talking to each other, protecting their home, and finding a mate. Bald Eagles often whistle in a high pitch. To hear their calls you can go to You Tube.*

Juvenile Bald Eagles are not Golden Eagles. *They don't have the white heads and are often mistaken for Golden Eagles. For 4 or 5 years of their lives before they sexually mature, they have white plumage throughout their brown wings, bellies, and even leg feathers.*

Eagles live for a long time. *Their lifespan averages 25-40 years and have been recorded for living longer. They also mate for life so they can actually grow older together. To impress each other, both males and females court each other by soaring to high altitudes, locking talons and tumble or cartwheel towards the earth. They do this to determine the "fitness" of their mate.*

Females are larger than males. *This is true of most birds of prey. Females can weigh 25% more than their mates. Both sexes have the same coloration, so a good way to tell them apart is their size.*

That's not a turkey vulture up in the sky. *To determine the difference in a vulture or eagle soaring above, the trick is looking at their wings. If they fly in a "V" it's a vulture. If their wings soar flat, it's an eagle.*

Bald Eagles have the largest nests. *Both sexes build the nest together, and if it serves them well, they will renovate it each year. Unlike with humans, nest renovations build their lifelong bond. They may add up to 2 feet of material year after year. Their nests are as large as 4 feet deep and 5 feet wide.*

***Eagles can let go of that fish.** Locked talons are a myth. (Norm and I were told just the opposite in Alaska. That once they were latched onto a salmon they can't let go). But Eagles can let go of that fish that is too heavy, they just don't want to. That's their meal and they'd rather swim to shore than lose it. And they are fantastic swimmers.*

***Eagles' field of vision is wider than humans.** Just imagine putting a wide angle lens on a camera with perfect focus and you have yourself "eagle eye" vision. They can also see ultra-violet light.*

***Bald Eagles are only found in North America: Canada, United States and northern parts of Mexico.** In contrast, Golden Eagles live throughout the Northern hemisphere.*

***Extinction:** Eagles were once in danger of becoming extinct in the mid-20th century, due to the widespread use of DDT. After the ban of this chemical, there was a slow increase in the population. It was a slow progression since lakes, their main food source were contaminated with DDT. As of the US Fish and Wildlife updated 2020 report there were 71,400 nesting pairs.*

Sources: US Fish and Wildlife, Sunset Country, Ontario Canada, and Birds and Trees.net



Oh and BTW, I have had visits from Bald Eagles on my property. A few years ago around Memorial Day, I happened to be looking out my BR window and there on the post was a HUGE Bald Eagle looking down into my yard.

Stay Safe, Have a Wonderful 4th and "See Ya" Next Month !!!