



Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association
PO Box 3643,
Placida, FL 33946

July 2016, Coconut Telegraph

Important Information in this issue you won't want to miss!

Next LGPOA meeting July 27th at 10am. Location TBD.

**Membership update - please spread the word!

**GICIA purchases Mercabo, what are their plans?

**Environmental update!

**Native Plants of LGI book available.

**LGIFR Update.

3rd of July Family Picnic

From Social Chairs, Chris Stonebridge & Debbie Muholand:

Independence Day is right around the corner. The LGPOA is excited to bring back the Fourth of July Family Picnic on Sunday, July 3rd from 11-2pm! If you were unable to make it last year, you'll definitely want to get in on the fun this year! The kids had an absolute ball and parents found it a welcome variety to the weekend's festivities. We'll be bringing back the sack races, horseshoes, and other games, along with the favorite – walk the plank! There'll be face painting and goodie

Be a part of your future! Be an LGPOA member!

bags for the kids, as well as tasty food for all! Side dishes or desserts are welcome, but aren't required to attend. Please let me know if you'd like to lend a hand (manning the games, set up, etc.) at Chris.Stonebridge@cnrair.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

****Membership Committee**

From Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson:

As of 6/30/16 our 2016-17 Membership Campaign has drawn 91 Members. The Coconut Telegraph is one of the many benefits of Membership. If a friend or new neighbor is looking to join the LGPOA, please help us get the word out by pointing them to: www.lgpoa.org. On our home page they can click Membership and complete a Membership form followed by a secure credit card payment. For more information please call or e-mail Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson to receive a Membership Renewal form via USPS (maryloudavidson@yahoo.com 404-372-0015).

****GICIA (Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association) - The Preserve at Mercabo**

The GICIA embarked on a fundraising campaign November 5, 2015 in an effort to raise over \$20 million for purchase of the 30-acre Mercabo property at the entrance to Gasparilla Island. It took seven weeks to raise the money. They closed on property January 29, 2016.

GICIA's goal is to restore the area back to a natural sanctuary for native wildlife and birds. They have received bids and will be executing contracts for the demolition of the nine Mercabo buildings in the very near future.

As a protected wildlife sanctuary the Preserve will have limited public access. There will be no public parking facilities. Access to the Preserve will be limited to GICIA sanctioned tours and educational events aimed at promoting ecologically sensitive land use.

For all the details visit GICIA's website: <http://www.thegicia.org/the-preserve-at-mercabo>

****Environmental Committee**

From Environmental Chair, Linda Soderquist:

Turtle Time!

Our island sea turtles are nesting in strong numbers. We are happy about that because the majority of our first month nests were destroyed by high tides in Tropical Storm Colin. The predators have been busy too – and there's little we can do to protect nests from coyotes and persistent armadillos. Let's try to focus on what we can control. We have had a couple of nests dug by dogs, so please do not let your dog roam the beach! We currently have nearly 100 nests documented on the island and want to remind everyone to turn off or shield lights shining on our beach after sunset. (This includes fishing lights and cell phone flashlights.) We also have many "false crawls" when the turtle crawls out of the water but does not nest. Many of these false crawls are due to folks walking the beach at night, disturbing the turtles before they can dig a nest. Furniture left on the beach overnight has been a problem, too. Charlotte County Sea Turtle ordinances prohibit furniture on the beach, lights shining on the beach, and vehicles driving on the beach.

Be a part of your future! Be an LGPOA member!

If you are interested in helping with sea turtle patrol this summer, please contact Linda Soderquist at 941 270 7994.

Keep informed as to island turtle activity on Facebook at Little Gasparilla Island Turtles and Shorebirds.

Summertime Means Mosquitoes!

Please feel free to contact Charlotte County Mosquito Control to report mosquito problems and request that they spray on the island. The number is 941 764 4370 and the email is mosquito.control@charlottefl.com.

Manatees Sightings!

Pods of manatees have been observed close to shore during their summer mating season. Watch from a distance to limit disturbance. It is illegal to harass manatees or to give them water or food. Manatees are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. For more information visit <http://myFWC.com>.

****A Book of Native Plants for LGI**

From islander, Jennifer McCullough:

If you're interested in learning about native plants that will grow well on Little Gasparilla Island, you can now get a book which will help you transform your yard into a low-maintenance and wildlife friendly landscape. If you are interested please email RummysWay@gmail.com to order a copy. The non-profit cost of the book is \$25.

****Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR)**

From Bob Weronik, President:

LGIFR has a new Fire Chief. Don Adams, Acting Fire Chief for the last several months, was appointed to the position on a permanent basis. We look forward to Don's continuing contributions to LGIFR.

The fire truck will be at the 3rd of July LGPOA Picnic for everyone to enjoy. Last year's attendees (especially the kids) loved to play in the water from the hoses of the truck.

The next LGIFR meeting will be August 20, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. at the Firehouse. All island owners are members of LGIFR and are urged to attend meetings.

Be a part of your future! Be an LGPOA member!

Dates of Interest in July

July 4 Independence Day

Not so well known, but fun to know...

July 3 Stay Out of the Sun Day

July 6 Fried Chicken Day

July 7 Macaroni Day

July 8 Cow Appreciation Day

July 11 Cheer Up the Lonely Day

July 12 Pecan Pie Day

July 13 National French Fries Day

July 15 I Love Horses Day

July 17 National Ice Cream Day

July 24 Parent's Day

July 25 Thread the Needle Day

July 30 Father In-Law Day & National Cheesecake Day

LGPOA DISTRICT ADDRESSES

Which district are you in?

- District 1: 8000 – 8288
- District 2: 8292 – 8538, including: 8542, 8550, 8556, 8560, 8564, 8568, 8570, 8576, 8578, 8586
- District 3: 8594 – 8888, including: 8546, 8554, 8558, 8562, 8566, 8574, 8582, 8590, excluding: 8802-8818 (even #'s)
- District 4: 8890 - 9134, including: 8802-8818 (even #'s)
- District 5: 9140 – 9394
- District 6: Hideaway Bay

Be a part of your future! Be an LGPOA member!

- District 7: 9420 – 9646, excluding: 9494, 9498, 9502
- District 8: 9660 – 9908, including: 9494, 9498, 9502

Who is your LGPOA District Representative?

- Mary Lou Davidson, Secretary, representing District 1, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com
- Rhonda Freeman, Director, representing District 2, rfreeman123@yahoo.com
- Rhonda Olson, Vice President, representing District 3, twrhonda@gmail.com
- Richard Leydon, President, representing District 4, leydonrealestate@gmail.com
- Andy Hagelin, Director, representing District 5, Andrew.hagelin@gmail.com
- Barbara Orcutt, Director, representing District 6, vitaeditor@aol.com
- Paul Holmes, Treasurer, representing District 7, pbholmes0@gmail.com
- Terrie Weibley, will be representing District 8 as a Director, tweibley1@gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

- Environmental: Linda Soderquist, linist@hotmail.com
- Island Services: Phyllis NeSmith, phlstory2@gmail.com
- Social: Chris Stonebridge, Chris.Stonebridge@cnrair.com & Debbie Muholand, dkmpphoto@me.com
- Membership: Mary Lou Davidson, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com
- Hurricane: Leigh Olson, leighols@gmail.com & Stacey Supanich-Magoon, supanichs@me.com

Be a part of your future! Be an LGPOA member!

•Website Design and Maintenance: Mary Lou Davidson, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com & Bob Mahoney, bobjm77@yahoo.com

•Navigation: Richard Leydon, leydonrealestate@gmail.com

Please feel free to email me with any information you'd like circulated in the next month's Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of the month. Content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Much appreciated! Rhonda Olson, twrhonda@gmail.com

Be a part of your future! Be an LGPOA member!