



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

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

Next LGPOA meeting August 20th at 10am

- **Check your District Directors below. 1, 5 & 6 have changed.
- **LGPOA Membership - sign up/renew for 2016/17!
- **Navigation update! Can you help?
- **New Board member for District 8.
- **Welcome the new LGPOA Social Chair!
- **4th of July Annual LGPOA Picnic - Sunday, July 3rd
- **Hurricane season is upon us.
- **Environmental update!
- **Book for Native Plants of LGI now available.
- **LGIFR update and next meeting date.

LGPOA Annual meeting 2016 - get the details!

The Little Gasparilla Island Property Owners Associations (LGPOA) annual meeting was held on Saturday, May 21st at 10am at the Placida Beach Condos:

- Treasurer, Paul Holmes, provided the annual report. The LGPOA balance is \$16,900.

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- Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson, provided a membership status report, reviewed the new online application process and promoted renewals. The LGPOA currently has 91 members.
- Mary Lou also updated us on the new LGPOA website. COMING SOON!
- The Coconut Telegraph kept islanders informed on local topics and issues. Thanks to Judy McCoy for her 9 years of service and Rhonda Olson for volunteering to assume her role.
- Phyllis NeSmith (Island Services) reported that 30 people to date have signed waivers to use Element 4. Element 4 is used to eradicate invasive plants. For more information, contact Phyllis at phlstory2@gmail.com.
- Andy Hagelin reviewed the results of the member survey from last fall and conveyed to the audience that the LGPOA is using this member feedback to drive the board's agenda. We are focused on an "island friendly" attitude and encourage education to reduce county involvement.
- The LGPOA continues to offer up to a \$1000 reward for information leading to a conviction for theft or vandalism on the island.
- Linda Soderquist provided a report for the Environmental Committee. Sea turtles, shorebirds, coyotes and mosquitos were covered (see her report below).
- The International Coastal Cleanup (September 2015) and Great American Clean up (April 2016) went very well, thanks to all the volunteers! A total at both events exceeding 5 tons of waste was removed from the beach, empty lots and the mangroves. Thanks again to Eldred's Marina for allowing the dumpster on their property for this effort.
- Rhonda Olson shared an update on the sailboat shell that remains on the beach. The owners have until the end of February 2017 to complete the removal.
- The board reminded those in attendance that David Haynes negotiated free electronic waste drop off for all islanders at the West Charlotte Transfer Station at 5225 Redwood Road in Placida earlier this year.
- Richard Leydon opened up a conversation about the upcoming dock/SLL deadlines. He stated that while June 13th was the deadline to submit, associations had until July 1st to complete the process. Chris Stonebridge of Bay Street and Roy Pettaway of Seagrape Lane were available to answer member questions about the completion of their association process. Regarding the threat of non-authorized use of a private/community dock, Chris stated that Bay Street is using "towing threat" signage on the dock and mentioned Flagship Towing as a company that will remove boats if called.
- Questions about the north/south easement arose. Members were reassured that the issue is being reviewed and pursued by the LGPOA.
- Fire Chief Don Adams addressed the group. He reviewed the 2015/16 accomplishments of the LGIFR, educated members about fire management (CAF) systems and reviewed the Fire Fighter 1 online tool for all interested islanders. He shared two tips for all homeowners to help reduce the likelihood of a home fire:
 - o Installing a Fire Stop device for stove fires. More information can be found at StoveTopFireStop.com.
 - o He suggested 30 feet of tree and shrub clearance around your structures.
 And lastly, the chief spoke about the previous days' fire in the preserve.

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- Acknowledgements for volunteer service were made to Tom McCoy, Judy McCoy, Anita Burger and Chris Stonebridge.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the board elected its new officers and chose the next meeting date of August 20th at 10am. The new board of directors and officers are as follows:

- Mary Lou Davidson, Secretary, representing District 1, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com
- Rhonda Freeman, Director, representing District 2, rffreeman123@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

**Membership Committee

From Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson:

As of 5/30/16 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.

3 Easy Ways to Enroll/Renew:

- Visit www.lgpoa.org. Click Membership on home page. Complete Membership form and make your secure credit card payment via Pay pal.
- Visit www.lgpoa.org. Click Membership on home page. Print and complete a Membership form and mail along with your check to: LGPOA - PO Box 3643, Placida, FL 33946
- Call or e-mail Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson to receive your Membership Renewal Form via USPS. maryloudavidson@yahoo.com. Ph: 404-372-0015”

**Navigation

From retiring Chair, Tom McCoy:

“On May 11 the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) granted a request by Charlotte County to establish a new slow-speed boating safety zone covering the east-west channel from east of the old railroad trestle swing bridge to west of the Boca Grand Causeway “humpback bridge” and covering the entire north-south channel (between the Boca Grand North and the old railroad trestle) from north of the swing bridge/humpback bridge channel to the south end of the channel at Uncle Henry’s marina. The FWC rejected Charlotte County’s request to extend the existing slow speed zone (around the low causeway bridge at the south of Boca Grand North) farther west along the north shore of Boca Grand into Gasparilla Pass. The record of the FWC action with a map of the

affected areas can be found at the following link: Gasparilla Sound - Final Agency Action Revised 05-11-2016.pdf.”

As a reminder, the LGPOA is looking for someone to assume Tom’s position representing our island on these matters. Tom will help you every step of the way with who to call and what to do. Your help would be greatly appreciated by all islanders! If interested, please contact Tom McCoy at thomas.mccoy@vanderbilt.edu.

****New Board Member for District 8**

“Terrie Weibley and her husband have been LGI homeowners for about 13 years. She is a lover of old Florida, her dog and fishing. She is not a fan of government encroachment on individual property rights, and wants to see LGI preserved in all its beauty for her family and especially her grandchildren. Terrie is grateful to prior Board members for their efforts toward this aim. She is a nurse practitioner and former BSF Teaching Leader.

Terrie will join the LGPOA board at the next meeting on August 20th, representing district 8 (house numbers 9660 – 9908, including: 9494, 9498, 9502).

****Social Committee:**

Welcome new Chair:

Let’s also welcome Debbie Muholand to the LGPOA Social Chair position. Thank you again to Chris Stonebridge who has held the position for almost two years! Debbie and Chris are going to work together on the 4th of July Picnic (July 3rd). If you’d like to volunteer to help these ladies in this or any future events please email Debbie at dkmphoto@me.com. We’re compiling an email list of helpers!

3rd of July Family Picnic

From Social Chair, Chris Stonebridge:

“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 bags for the kids, as well as tasty food for all! Side dishes or deserts 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!”

****Hurricane Committee:**

From Hurricane Co-chairs, Leigh Olson and Stacey Supanich:

“NOAA’s Climate prediction Center says the 2016 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30, will most likely be near normal. Forecast uncertainty

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in the climate signals that influence the formation of Atlantic storms make predicting this season particularly difficult.

They predict a likelihood of 10 to 16 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 4 to 8 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1 to 4 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher). Included in the outlook is Hurricane Alex, a pre-season storm that formed over the far eastern Atlantic in January.

This near normal prediction for the season suggests we could see more hurricane activity than seen in the last three years, which were below normal.

Now seems a prudent time to remind all islanders to review your insurance policies and catch up on any deferred maintenance to your home and property. Below is a link from the Florida Department of Financial Services/Division of Consumer Services for a Homeowners' Insurance Toolkit. This link provides helpful information to assist with insuring your home as well as tools to aid you if you have a loss. Taking a few minutes to review and prepare before a disaster can save hours of frustration and confusion during and after a disaster.

<http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/Consumers/UnderstandingCoverage/Guides/documents/HomeownersToolkit.pdf>.

You can look forward to the new LGPOA website including a section on hurricanes with UP TO DATE information on the severe storms that possibly could affect the island.”

****Environmental Committee**

From Environmental Chair, Linda Soderquist:

Sea Turtles

“Tis the Season!

Sea turtle season is here! Nesting season runs from May 1st through October 31st. Please note these highlights from the Charlotte County Sea Turtle Ordinance 98-14:

- Remove your furniture from the beach at sunset.
- No lights can shine on the nesting areas, so be sure your outside house lights facing the beach are off at night, and do not use flashlights on the beach.
- Vehicles and fires are not permitted on the beach.

If you have questions about sea turtles or would like free sea turtle informational flyers, please contact Linda at linist@hotmail.com. We will also post LGI sea turtle information and season highlights on Facebook at Little Gasparilla Island Turtles and Shorebirds.

Shorebirds

Shorebirds are also nesting at this time. If you come across a nest on the beach, back away and give the birds a “comfort zone.” If the nest has not been marked, please call Linda at 941 270 7994.

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Mosquitos

Mosquito season is upon us as well. E-mail Charlotte County Mosquito Control through the county website or call them if mosquitoes are carrying you away. If several islanders call in a short time span, then we will likely get faster attention to our concerns.

Feral Cats

Feral Cats are still a concern. Some homeowners are trapping them and calling the county Animal Control (via the county website) for assistance in removal. This is encouraged. Do not feed the feral cats.

Coyotes

Coyotes have been on LGI for a number of years. Do not let your small pets outside alone. The coyotes are predators and probably have a good food source in the feral cats. The healthier the coyotes, the more young they will have. We just have to live with their presence.

Coyotes have preyed on nearly every sea turtle nest this season. They are getting to the nest as the turtle lays her eggs, so it is apparent we have a healthy population.

Coyotes can be curious but are also timid and generally run away if challenged. Just remember that any wild animal will protect itself or its young. Never initiate a close encounter with a coyote. If a coyote approaches too closely, immediately act aggressively toward the coyote. Wave your arms, throw things like stones and shout at the coyote. If necessary, make yourself appear larger by standing up or stepping onto a rock, stump or stair. Convince the coyote you are a potential danger to be avoided. Keep pets on a short leash when walking them at dusk, dawn, and at night. Young children should be taught NOT to run from a coyote. For more information, go to myFWC.com.”

**A Book of Native Island Plants for LGI

From islander, Jennifer McCullough:

“If you’re interested in learning about native plants that will grow well on Little Gasparilla Island, I have assembled a book tailored to LGI which will make it easy to transform your yard into an ecologically sound and wildlife friendly environment. There are a lot of benefits to using native plants in your landscape. If you are interested in learning more, please email me at RummysWay@gmail.com.

This non-profit cost of the book is \$25.”

**Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR)

From Bob Weronik, President:

“The next meeting of LGIFR will be June 25, 2016 at 10:00 am at the firehouse. All property owners are members of LGIFR and are invited to attend.

A great big thanks goes out to the islanders and contractors that helped with the fire in the Preserve Phase II on Friday, May 20, 2016. Full minutes for all meetings can be found at lgifr.com.”

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

Committee Chairs:

- Environmental: Linda Soderquist, linist@hotmail.com
- Island Services: Phyllis NeSmith, phlstory2@gmail.com
- Social: Chris Stonebridge, Chris.Stonebridge@cnrair.com
& Debbie Muholand, dkmphoto@me.com
- Membership: Mary Lou Davidson, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com
- Hurricane: Leigh Olson, leighols@gmail.com & Stacey Supanich-Magoon, supanichs@me.com
- Website Design and Maintenance: Mary Lou Davidson, maryloudavidson@yahoo.com & Bob Mahoney, bobjm77@yahoo.com
- Navigation: Tom McCoy, thomas.mccoy@vanderbilt.edu

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

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