

# **June 2018, Coconut Telegraph**

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

**\*\*4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic**

**\*\*2018 Labor Day Cookout and Fishing Tournament - volunteers needed**

**\*\*Environmental Update**

**\*\*LGIFR Update**

**LGPOA Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> and Conference Call on May 31st**

From Secretary, Terrie Weibley:

An LGPOA meeting was held on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Though it was already scheduled, it became a forum for islanders to voice their concerns or support about the closing of the north-south corridor on LGI by a property owner.

At a board member's home, attendees first heard Old Business, including further plans to develop a refrigerator magnet with two purposes, dog owner courtesy guidelines and important numbers for island residents/guests. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Everyone's invited. The main course will be prepared by our Fire Chief, Bill Underhill, along with potluck dishes brought by attendees. Marina issues continue to concern islanders; restrictions on loading and parking as well as business logos on vehicles have been implemented at Gasparilla Marina. Adequate marina spaces for boats loom on the horizon. The Board Planning Committee efforts to meet with Charlotte County Administrators on the marina needs issues have thus far been thwarted.

Island residents weighed in on their views and/or solutions regarding the closing of the north-south corridor. Concerns raised included private property rights and the need for essential services to be provided throughout the island, necessitating a road. Each islander present was free to share their viewpoint as board members listened and asked questions. President Richard Leydon used an enlarged aerial photo to demonstrate the area that has been blocked and the short-term solution that would involve the least number of property owners for the right-of-way. At present, it is recognized that businesses, such as contractors, are at the mercy of a lack of access, particularly to the south end, and a solution is needed. Multiple options are being considered with the hope that a solution can be found without undue difficulty to islanders. President Leydon welcomes the expertise of those who have the know-how to help in resolving this issue.

Islanders ate brownies and chatted after the meeting ended. The long-term question before us is how to ensure a corridor will remain open for the future. The county has not been willing to meet with the board's representatives on this issue.

The board had a conference call on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The minutes of the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> can be found at [www.LGPOA.org](http://www.LGPOA.org) and the conference call will be on the LGPOA website soon.

### **\*\*LGPOA 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic**

The picnic will be held Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2pm on the Placida Condo's grass lot.

Side dishes or desserts are very welcome but not required for attendance. Smoked pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw, plates, silverware and water will be provided. Non-members are welcome to join on site (\$40).

Bring a chair, a dish to pass and a beverage other than water if you'd like.

To allow everyone to cool down, LGIFR will be on site to spray water, and LGIFR T-shirts will be available for purchase.

## **\*\*2018 Labor Day Cookout and Fishing Tournament - GET READY TO FISH!**

The LGPOA is looking for a couple logistics-oriented individuals who "LOVE TO FISH" to help spearhead the 2018 Little Gasparilla Island Labor Day Weekend Fishing Tournament. The Kid's Fishing Clinic is covered. We simply need a few more task-oriented people to help get things rolling for the tournament and the meal. The LGPOA and past volunteers have compiled a detailed account of how to get the events off the ground. Don't wait another day to call and join other volunteers who are ready to jump in and make this a great success. Please call or e-mail: 941-999-7788, twrhonda@gmail.com.

## **\*\*Environmental Update**

### **Nesting Turtles**

From Florida Wildlife Commission Permit holders for LGI, Laura, Lena and Ava Dallas:

We have a Kemp's Ridley nest among our other nests on LGI. The Kemp's Ridley is the RAREST sea turtle on the planet. Yes, you read that right, on the PLANET. Even island residents and guests can help ensure turtle nest survival by keeping your dogs off the beach. On Memorial Day weekend, many loose dogs were loose on the beach sniffing and snuffling around the dunes, etc. Even if we don't see you, canine prints

on and circling the nesting screens are evident. Come on humans, you can do it! Many people are receptive to the gentle reminder that sea turtles are endangered and are nesting on LGI this time of year. Here's some other information about the Kemp's Ridley species, which has never been reported on LGI before!

## FACTS & TIDBITS

- This is the only species that nests primarily during the day. They also nest in mass similar to their relative the Olive Ridley (also known as an Arribada).
- They possess triangular-shaped heads with hooked beaks and strong jaws. They inhabit near-shore habitats where they forage for their favorite prey, crabs. They also eat fish, jellies, shrimp, and a variety of mollusks.
- They are considered Critically Endangered around the world by the IUCN Red List and listed as Endangered in the US.
- Kemp's Ridelys reach sexual maturity between 10-15 years of age, which is significantly younger than most other species.
- Their scientific name is *Lepidochelys kempii*.

As of May 29<sup>th</sup>, we're at 15 nests with 32 false crawls island-wide.

### **Nesting Shorebirds**

From Florida Wildlife Commission Permit holders for LGI, Laura, Lena and Ava Dallas:

The large area marked off at the southern end of the island is for the nesting shorebirds, specifically the Least Terns. We have identified quite a few nests. They are so well camouflaged that it would be easy to step on them. The birds clearly don't want people or animals around, and they'll let you know if you're anywhere near them by swooping and squawking. Keeping animals off the beach will best help protect the nests.

Thank you all for educating your guests and neighbors and keeping the beach fairly clean so far this season.

### **Wildlife Rescue**

From LGI Wildlife Rescue, Lori Charette and Melissa Loudat:

Hello, islanders. The other day, a wonderful thing happened on our little island. Four little girls came to our door, holding a jar full of dollar bills and some change, forty-nine dollars and five cents to be exact. These young ladies held a lemonade sale for LGI wildlife. On their own, they gave up the day to help animals on our island. How amazing are these kids? This money will go to the Venice Wildlife Center to benefit our local wildlife in their names. This is what our community is all about, little wildlife rescuers in the making. Thank you, girls. Thank you to Leslie Foxworthy, Dulse Foxworthy, Addison Miller and Tiffany Foxworthy. It's a beautiful day on the island.

**\*\*Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR) Update** (The LGPOA is not affiliated with the LGIFR, we just want to keep you up to date on all island activities.)

From LGIFR Fire Chief, Bill Underhill:

I would like to remind everyone that the gates and fence have not changed our ability for a timely response.

The burn ban has been lifted and we are free to burn. If anyone needs a hand with a larger than normal pile, call me at the station and I will be happy to assist.

A friendly reminder...it's that time of year again. The storms are on the way. Make sure to have what you need for food, water, batteries and any medications. Also, to be mindful of where you place a generator. It

needs to be a safe distance from combustible products and in an area that's well ventilated.

CCFR (Charlotte County Fire and Rescue) recently purchased a new boat that will service the island. They will be coming to different areas to practice landing the boat and transferring patients. If anyone wishes to take a look at the boat and meet the crew, feel free to stop by and visit. For your information, if their emergency lights are off, they are training.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting of the LGIFR Board will be June 9, 2018 at 3:30pm at the firehouse. All LGI property owners are members of LGIFR and are encouraged to attend.

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Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association Board and Committee names and emails can be found on the LGPOA website at [www.lgpoa.org](http://www.lgpoa.org). Barbara Orcutt has requested to be taken off active duty as a board member until further notice. If you are in District 5 (houses numbered 9140 – 9394), please contact Rhonda Olson at the email below.

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Please feel free to email me at [twrhonda@gmail.com](mailto:twrhonda@gmail.com) with any information you'd like circulated in next month's Coconut Telegraph by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. The content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Rhonda Olson