

# August 2018, Coconut Telegraph

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

**\*\*July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic was Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> - how did it go?**

**\*\*Bay Scallop Research**

**\*\*International Coastal Cleanup - September, 8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*Kids Fishing and Marine Clinic - Labor Day Weekend**

**\*\*Island Wide Garage sale - November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

**\*\*Call for Volunteers!** District 5 Board Representative, Membership and Web Master Chairs

**\*\*Gasparilla Marina Update**

**\*\*Environmental Update**

**\*\*LGIFR Update**

## **Red Tide and Other Harmful Bacteria in our Waters**

From fellow islander, Barry Hurt:

The current red tide is a prolonged, continuous event since before Thanksgiving 2017. This particular event is atypical in that the *K.brevis* algae that is Florida red tide, normally does not like it when water temps exceed 82 degrees F, nor does it like fresh water. In a normal year, red tide will bloom in the dry winter months and usually subside by springtime. This year is an exception. We are now entering our 9<sup>th</sup> month of a continuous bloom. The last time we had a long bloom was the months following Hurricane Charley in 2005. That bloom lasted 14 months. There is a strong suspicion that Hurricane Irma is playing a major role in this bloom. Red tide blooms originate in the deep Gulf and currents and onshore wind bring it to near shore waters. It prospers where the nutrient levels in the water are high, mostly as a result of development along our waterways and seashore. Unfortunately, the natural Gulf currents target SW Florida as the favorite place to make landfall.

Mitigating the duration and intensity of red tide blooms are high on a number of research and restoration efforts. The toxin in Florida red tide is a brevetoxin, which causes problems with oxygen exchange within animals and fish. Shellfish will retain the toxin in its fats as it consumes the algae and will eventually purge itself of the toxin after the red tide is no longer in the water. It CANNOT be killed by heat or cold so cooking or freezing will not help. While not usually fatal if eaten, the resulting digestive disorders when eaten may make one wish for any kind of relief.

The other harmful bacteria in the water this time of year is *Vibrio Vulnificus* (Vv). This is often referred to as flesh eating bacteria. IT CAN BE FATAL IF CONSUMED RAW OR BY ENTRY INTO THE BODY THROUGH A CUT OR WOUND. Because of the presence of Vv, oysters cannot be recreationally harvested from July to the end of September in the Gulf waters south of Tampa Bay. FWC can levy heavy fines and penalties to offenders. Special care should be taken by people with any immune deficiency disorder including diabetes. Anyone with wounds or cuts should not be in the water. Small children and pregnant women are also especially vulnerable. Don't eat raw shellfish, wear footwear when in the water, and rinse off when exiting with fresh water as soon as possible. Florida can have a couple of fatalities every year from Vv. There was one just the other day from Sarasota.

I, and the other clam farmers, are regarded as professional divers. I can spend 10 -20 hours a week under the shallows near the shore waters of Charlotte Harbor. When I, or other farmers, dive this time of year, we are completely covered. If we have a wound or cut, we don't dive, we take Vv very seriously.

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

From Secretary, Terrie Weibley:

Held on Saturday, June 30th of the holiday week, tents were erected, flags flew, tables were decorated and islanders and guests enjoyed a feast in celebration of Independence Day! Despite fewer people on the island due to the red tide that was all-too-present, an unbelievably delicious spread was enjoyed in good company.

Fire Chief Bill Underhill smoked a mountain of delicious pork and Pede Fraser worked her magic, with colorful coleslaw and top-notch baked beans in abundance. Islanders contributed delicious salads and still others provided desserts; brownies, pies, lemon bars, chocolate chip cookies and pralines that made it a sumptuous celebration.

Chief Bill and his wife Heather made the day extra-fun for children with a cooling fire hose and a spectacular patriotic piñata. Batters ultimately caused the piñata to rain candy.

Debbie and Conrad Coolidge sold newly minted T-shirts to benefit the LGIFR.

None of this would have happened without the strength and willingness of Richard Leydon and Richard the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Marietta Abele, Pede Fraser, Bill Underhill, Ric and Terrie Weibley and Bruce Templin to set up and take down the whole enterprise. Islanders are indebted to the management of Placida Beach Condos for their willingness to host the picnic on their grounds.

## **\*\*Bay Scallop Research**

From fellow islander, Jennifer McCullough:

Just tossing this out there to see if anyone might be interested in volunteering to help with some bay scallop research on Saturday, August 18, 2018, 8:30am - 2pm. It should be a fun, interesting and adventurous way to spend a day! You'll be helping with some important research and you'll also get a free lunch and t-shirt! They are looking for boaters (boat/kayak/SUP) and/or snorkelers.

Curious to find out what a scallop search entails? *It's more than you think* so watch this orientation video to see what you would be getting yourself into before making any decisions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gk3Y9K-0-Cw>

More details and registration here:

[http://flseagrant.ifas.ufl.edu/emails/Scallop\\_Search/gasparilla\\_sound\\_2018/](http://flseagrant.ifas.ufl.edu/emails/Scallop_Search/gasparilla_sound_2018/)

I'm registered as a boater/snorkeler so if you decide to dive in, and are not using your own boat, feel free to request to be paired with me.

Also, I have dozens and dozens of gumbo limbo babies that are coming up all over the place. I've potted up many of them and if anyone is interested in seedlings please e-mail me at [rummysway@gmail.com](mailto:rummysway@gmail.com)

### **\*\*Kids Fishing and Marine Clinic**

Labor Day Weekend Kids' Marine and Fishing Clinic will be held Saturday, September 1st from 10 am until noon.

Participants that sign up in advance will receive a fishing pole and a tackle box provided by Fish Florida.

- Who? Kids of all ages are invited.
- When? 10 am - noon, to save your spot call [941-999-7788](tel:941-999-7788).
- Where? Sign in is south and east of Hideaway Condo Building "A"
- Why? Learn about knot tying, casting, fish species and the importance of environment stewardship as it relates to fish, turtles, manatees and all sea life. We will collect and observe critters from in the sea grass and have tons of FUN!

If you'd like to come and help you are more than welcome! Please contact Rhonda Olson directly at the number above or visit the volunteer portion of the website at [www.lgpoa.org](http://www.lgpoa.org) and your information will be forwarded to her.

A big thank you to Hideaway Bay for allowing the event to take place on their grounds. Please meet behind building "A" by the bay at 10am.

Water shoes are a must. Bug spray is a great idea. The event will happen rain or shine.

**\*\*International Coastal Cleanup – September, 8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> 2018**

It's that time of the year again. Islanders can come, help collect and transport items to a dumpster at Eldred's Marina.

We are looking for volunteers to remove garbage from our mangroves, the inner-island and also from the beach from 9am until noon. If you want to work with others, meet at the golf cart shop at 9, otherwise there will be volunteers at the dumpsters to help you unload.

You can drop any full bags from 9-noon at the golf cart shop starting on the 8th (excluding Monday). Deric will have the forms needed and bags for you to use as well.

Larger garbage will be accepted at Eldred's Marina on the 15th. (**No appliances or TVs**). Volunteers will receive a T-shirt, as long as you sign up in advance! If you can participate, please visit the volunteer section at [www.lgpoa.org](http://www.lgpoa.org) . Be sure to leave your name, email, dates you plan to help, and don't forget shirt sizes for you and your helpers! Any questions, please call [941-999-7788](tel:941-999-7788).

"Many hands make light work." - John Heywood

**\*\*Island Wide Garage Sale** - mark your calendars

The Island Wide Garage Sale will be held **November 23rd** (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) from 9am to 1pm. Details on how to participate will be outlined in September's Coconut Telegraph.

Let's break a record this year for homes participating, the most we've had is 10!

**\*\*Call for Volunteers! Board, Membership and Website**

**LGPOA Board Vacancy:**

If you are a homeowner on LGI and would like to fulfill a vacancy on the Board of Directors, we welcome your e-mail containing a brief statement introducing yourself and why you would like to serve.

District 5- Includes the home addresses of 9140-9394. However, there is potential to serve "at large" should no one from this district volunteer to serve. Please submit to LGPOA Secretary Terrie Weibley, [tweibley1@gmail.com](mailto:tweibley1@gmail.com),

The LGPOA is looking for a volunteer to assume the role of **Membership Chair**.

Requirements:

- Laptop or Desktop Computer
- Internet Service
- Available 2 hours per week beginning March 1 and ending April 30
- Available 1 hour each month for the balance of membership cycle
- Comfortable with light data entry into simple Google Mail list/MailChimp

To offer your support, please contact Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson at [maryloudavidson@yahoo.com](mailto:maryloudavidson@yahoo.com).

The LGPOA is looking for a volunteer **Web Master**.

Requirements:

- Laptop or Desktop Computer
- Internet Service
- Available 2 hours per month to make updates, manage host service payments, organize and upload media.
- Comfortable with light data entry into WordPress

To offer your support please contact Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson at [maryloudavidson@yahoo.com](mailto:maryloudavidson@yahoo.com)

### **\*\*Gasparilla Marina Update**

From President, Richard Leydon:

There have been a lot of changes at the marina recently and new guidelines have been implemented and are being enforced.

It's not hard to imagine the amount of liability Gasparilla Marina carries and so, they must manage it as they see fit. The recent changes specifically address issues that impact us, their existing customers.

They are: unauthorized parking, unauthorized use of dumpsters and load outs.

**Parking:** To sum up the parking, each paying vessel gets two stickers for two cars. Notify the marina about your guests and pay for them.

**Trash:** If you currently enjoy the trash removal benefit that is included with your slip rental then be sure to use the recycling dumpster for “recyclables only”. A link to proper usage is below:

<https://www.wm.com/recycling-services/home.jsp>

**Here is a note from the marina regarding load outs:**

“Gasparilla Marina allows customers that own a vessel and store that vessel at the marina to load and unload household goods and large items on their boats. They can transport these items to and from their primary residence on Little Gasparilla Island. This privilege pertains to the actual boat owner only, whose name physically appears on the vessel registration.

To initiate this process:

Contact Gasparilla Marina main office and inform of name of the vender delivering the items and item type by email at least 24 hours prior to delivery.

For commercial deliveries, please arrange payment with the office. No deliveries after normal working hours unless arranged with the marina office 24 hours prior to delivery.

Thank you,  
Gasparilla Marina Management”

We hope this information is helpful and encourage everyone to abide by the policies set forth. Please help us to preserve this crucial relationship with Gasparilla Marina.



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

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

Turtle nesting continues to be strong. We haven't had reports of anymore dead juvenile to adult sea turtles since last Saturday. We've had a few baby wash backs reported dead, but not like we were expecting. We've shared lots of releases and excavations.

Turtle patrol was featured on both of these sites with helpful information on sea turtle nesting and concerns. Once you're on the site that these links take you to, you can look to the right and find the turtle videos from our local turtle patrol!

<https://www.islandtvvenice.com>

<https://www.bocagrandetv.com>

Trash pick up and making your voice heard as Florida taxpaying and voting citizens regarding the water conditions on Little Gasparilla Island and throughout the state are of paramount importance. Thanks.

**\*\*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:

Red tide has caused many dead fish on the beach. Beach goers should be alert for fish bones and debris on the beach. Anyone with breathing problems caused by red tide should limit outdoor activities. Wearing a simple 3ml filter (painter's) mask is advised if a longer period outside is required. Benadryl can help relieve red tide symptoms. Anyone swimming in waters affected by red tide should shower well after swimming. Bathing suits should be laundered after each swim session.

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LGI has been experiencing RIP currents along the beaches. Swimmers caught in a RIP current should swim with the current and move across it. Do not try to fight it.

All LGI homeowners are members of LGIFR and are encouraged to attend the board meetings. The next meeting of LGIFR Board will be August 4, 2018 at 3:30 P.M. at the Firehouse.

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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). 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