



Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association

PO Box 3643, Placida, FL 33946

October 2016, Coconut Telegraph

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

\*\*NeSmith's garden in Harbor Style magazine.

\*\*Have you checked out the new LGPOA website?

\*\*LGPOA Poker Run to be held January 6th, 2017

\*\*The Kid's Marine Clinic - what did they see and learn?

\*\*International Coastal Cleanup was held September 17th

\*\*Environmental update - Sea Turtles and Red Tide

\*\*LGIFR update, fundraiser results

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

## **ISLAND WIDE GARAGE SALE! November 26th 9-1pm**

Last year's event was so much fun. The people selling sold a ton of treasures to those of us traveling the island to see what was for sale. So far, there are three garage sales signed up for 2016!

**When?** November 26th (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) from 9 am to 1 pm.

**Who?** Anyone can have a sale, just email us your house number and any items you'd like listed or featured. (Submit by November 15th please.) We will place a sign out on the main sand path advertising your house number, making it easier to find.

**Who?** Anyone can attend the sales! We will email the list of garage sales and items to all POA members the week prior. They will also be posted on island bulletin boards for everyone to see.

**Why?** You can recycle your unwanted items to someone who can use them and make some money for yourself at the same time!

### **We hope to see you on the 26th of November!**

Please contact us with information regarding your sale and any questions at [twrhonda@gmail.com](mailto:twrhonda@gmail.com).

### **\*\*Charles and Phyllis NeSmith**

If you've ever spent time in the NeSmith garden you would easily understand why writer, Thomas Becker and photographer, Max Kelly of Harbor Style magazine spent the day on island applauding Phyllis and Charles on their Florida Friendly Landscape™. With so many gardens to choose from in the region, it must have been quite a thrill to receive this kind of recognition. Congratulations Charles and Phyllis. Thank you for your love and commitment to the delicate ecosystem on Little Gasparilla Island. Below is a Link to the story in Harbor Style magazine.

<http://trendmag2.trendoffset.com/publication/?i=327972&p=35>

Note: Phyllis and Charles manage the distribution of the Garlon 4 herbicide that the LGPOA purchases for islanders' yard use. Garlon 4 is used to eradicate invasive plants like Australian Pines and Brazilian Peppers. For more information on how to obtain some for your use, contact Phyllis at [phlstory2@gmail.com](mailto:phlstory2@gmail.com).

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

If you are interested in learning about native plants that will grow well on Little Gasparilla Island, e-mail islander Jennifer McCullough at [rummyway@gmail.com](mailto:rummyway@gmail.com). Jennifer's nonprofit book is \$25.

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**\*\*Website:**

In case you missed it, the LGPOA recently launched a NEW "Blog Style" website!  
<http://www.lgpoa.org>.

We hope you will recommit to this useful tool for all island communications. A calendar of events, island weather stations and hurricane preparedness information are available on the main page with just one click.

If you would like one of your Island Pictures displayed on the website, please submit your electronic file to [maryloudavidson@yahoo.com](mailto:maryloudavidson@yahoo.com). Preferred images would be horizontal; image size must be at least 1500 PPI.

**\*\*LGPOA Poker Run to be held January 6th, 2017**

**\*\*Kids' Marine Clinic- This event was held Sunday, September 4th**

The weather was not cooperating so we postponed the event from Saturday to Sunday. The island was full of water, but everyone that had signed up was able to attend. It was definitely a success, seventeen kids got to collect critters from the sea grass, identify them and return them to the water in the bay. They found sea horses, crabs, starfish and lots of baby fish. They learned how important sea grass is and about the manatees and turtles we have in our area. We talked a lot about how participants can help protect these endangered animals and how fortunate we are to have them here on Little Gasparilla Island!

A special thank you to our volunteers, Janet Hinkle, Janet Furness, and Bob and Kim Milroy for making the day so special for the kids. The parents of the children really pitched in this year to make everything go smoothly as well. Thanks to Robert Hill for once again providing his homemade net which worked very well to collect the critters. Great photographs of the event will appear on the LGPOA website in the days to come thanks to Chris Stonebridge. James Lacascio (Al and Carol's son) deserves a big thank you for his help with the FWC permit. And last, but not least, thanks to Hideaway Bay Condos for always being so accommodating.

**\*\*International Coastal Cleanup – held September, 17th 2016**

More success! A group of islanders got together and cleaned the beach and the bay of debris from recent storms.

Thanks to the participants and also to Eldred's for allowing the dumpster for our use every year! Those who participated received a T-shirt from Keep Charlotte Beautiful.

**The 2017 Coastal Clean Up will be in April, hope you can make it!**

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## **\*\*Environmental Committee**

From Environmental Chair, Linda Soderquist:

### Sea Turtle Update

Our nesting island sea turtles had a banner year in 2016! We had 213 loggerhead nests and 2 green turtle nests this season. Nesting numbers have been increasing, up from a low of 75 nests in 2007.

Even though we had more nests this year, nest productivity was not as high as previous years, with coyote and armadillo predation taking the majority of nests in the north to central part of the island. Nests were also negatively impacted by the two tropical storms that brought high tides and big surf condition to the island.

Turtle season officially ends October 31st, so please continue to remove your furniture from the beach at night and do not allow lights to shine on the beach after sunset.

If you are interested in helping with turtle patrol next summer, please call Linda at 941 270 7994.

### Red Tide

Red Tide made an appearance on the island on September 25th. Red tides can last as little as a few weeks or longer than a year. They can even subside and then reoccur. The duration of a bloom depends on physical and biological conditions that influence its growth and persistence. These include sunlight, nutrients and salinity, as well as the speed and direction of wind and water currents. Wave action can break open red tide cells and release toxins into the air.

Please take precautions and avoid red tide areas if you have severe or chronic respiratory conditions, such as emphysema or asthma. Pets can be susceptible to the red tide neurotoxins. Manatees and sea turtles can also be harmed by red tide. Red tide toxins can accumulate in filter feeders such as oysters and clams, which can lead to Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning in people who eat contaminated shellfish.

Red Tide is monitored weekly at inshore and offshore sites. Look for reports at <http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide/>

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

(The LGPOA is not directly affiliated with the LGIFR, however is committed to circulating helpful information of all island activities.)

From Bob Weronik, President:

Happy October islanders!

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LGIFR has only one primary response vehicle, which needs to be used for emergencies. A need for our fire chief, who had no means to get around the island, was identified. In true islander style, a fundraising dinner was held with raffle prizes for all attendees. A little over \$4,000 was raised, enough to buy the chief a golf cart for his travels. A big thank you goes out to Pede and Bo Fraser for a job well done. Another thanks to the people of LGI for supporting such a wonderful event and bringing the island together. That's the spirit!

The new board has spent most of the last year pouring over regulations, requirements and the needs of our unique island, and have put forth many formal written plans and processes for a sustainable future. Just a few weeks ago, Chief Don Adams submitted over 20 new formal policies and procedures to gain full compliance.

The Board is doing their part. Now, we ask every able-bodied islander to lean in as well. We are not asking for folks to become certified EMTs and firefighters, although that would be amazing. No, we are asking for you to simply spend a few Saturdays with us this winter to attend some fun interactive on-island training. Our first step in becoming relatively self-sufficient is to form a county recognized Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Chief Adams has conducted a comprehensive review of all fire and EMS tasks and found many do not require certification or exhaustive training. The basics need to be covered for liability reasons and we need to give folks the tools and the information they need. This will also position us well to compete for grants to optimally equip our firefighters and stave off any assessment increases.

So stay tuned! CERT orientation is tentatively scheduled for November 26, 2016. Dates for the CERT training will be forthcoming and I hope to see everyone come together to keep our island united.

**Dates of Interest in October:**

October 2 Rosh Hashanah begins

October 10th Columbus Day

October 31st Halloween

October 11th Yom Kippur begins

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

October 3 Child Health Day

October 5th World Teacher Day

October 7th World Smile Day

October 15th Sweetest Day

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October 17th Wear Something Gaudy Day

October 17th National Boss's Day

October 21st Babbling Day

October 30th National Candy Corn Day

**The LGPOA Board and Committee Names and emails can be found on the LGPOA website. [www.lgpoa.org](http://www.lgpoa.org)**

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

Much appreciated! Rhonda Olson, [twrhonda@gmail.com](mailto:twrhonda@gmail.com).

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