

APRIL 2021, Coconut Telegraph

Checkout this issue with information you will not want to miss!

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From Pede Fraser:

Sea Turtle Patrol season starts May 1, 2021. If you are interested in participating in the Sea Turtle Patrol, you must attend a Beach Survey webinar. The last webinar will be April 6, 2021 from 6 - 9:00 pm.

Anyone interested in participating in the Sea Turtle Patrol may contact Pede Fraser at 941-830-0990 for assistance in signing-up for the webinar.

****Annual Meeting UDPATE**

From Vice President, Rhonda Olson:

This year's Annual Meeting has been scheduled for April 10th at 11am. Unfortunately, due to Covid we will hold our board meeting without inviting membership. Minutes will be posted by April 24th for your review.

****Police Protection for Busy Months**

From President, Richard Leydon, Jr.:

In coordination with the Charlotte County Sheriff's office, LGPOA hired off duty police officers for the weekends of March 19th and 26th. They teamed up with Deputy Prummel and patrolled the island. There were no incidents to report.

LGI will have additional coverage this weekend April 2nd.

**** LGPOA Annual Membership Drive**

From Membership Chair, Dawn Bokar:

Happy Spring! Thank you to all of you who responded so quickly with new and renewal memberships! If you have not received your membership packet you can renew online and safely pay via PayPal. Also, if you did not receive the mailing, please double check your billing address with Charlotte County as we received a record number of returned mails that had an island mailing address used for tax billing.

Thanks for your support of the LGPOA! www.LGPOA.org/membership

****Boating with Paddleboarders and Kayakers in the Bay**

From Vice President, Rhonda Olson:

Boaters should use good seamanship in regards to kayakers and paddleboarders when in or out of the channel. It's nice to slow down because your wake can affect them. Imagine yourself in the kayak or on the paddleboard you see and act accordingly.

Paddle Boarding Safety

Did you know the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has determined that a paddleboard is a vessel in most situations and is required to have the same safety equipment as other small human-powered vessels such canoes and kayaks? If using a paddleboard:

1. Unless the paddleboard is being used within a "swimming, surfing or bathing area," the paddleboard must have a USCG-approved life jacket for each person and a sound-producing device on board while on the water.
2. Although persons on the paddleboard are not required to wear the life jacket while on Florida waters (unless they are less than 6 years of age), it is advisable to find a comfortable life jacket that you can wear or easily carry while on the water.
3. A "sound-producing device" is a small whistle or horn that can be heard for a least one-half nautical mile. "Referee-type" whistles or other similar devices that can be attached to your life jacket work well.

4. If you are operating in limited visibility or at night, you will also need a flashlight or lantern that produces a white light. It should be displayed to approaching vessels in enough time to prevent a collision. The light should not be continually displayed.

This information on required equipment for paddleboards is general information and is not intended to address every situation on the water. For more information on required safety equipment for boats, please visit MyFWC.com/Boating.

Kayak Safety - same as paddleboards except:

Registration is a requirement for all kayaks using a gas or electric motor. It isn't required if the kayak will be paddled.

****Hurricane Tips Needed for the LGPOA Website**

From Vice President, Rhonda Olson:

We'd like to post a list of hurricane tips on the LGPOA website for members specific to our island.

Most of us are familiar with the links below on Hurricane Preparedness Week, which is May 9-15th this year, but these suggestions don't take into consideration that we live on a bridgeless, barrier island, which results in unique situations.

Let's help each other out! Please take a minute to submit your LGI-specific tips for islanders about before, during, and/or after a hurricane. All suggestions can be submitted to twrhonda@gmail.com.

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>

<https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

****Island Services**

From Island Services Chair, Jennifer McCullough:

Tired of Brazilian Peppers and Australian Pines on your property? Element 4 is a biodegradable poison that can be sprayed on these trees. The park service uses the product to eliminate exotics, and the LGPOA has purchased Element 4 for the

island's use. You can either spray the poison on the stumps or "skirt" the tree before cutting it down. Skirting consists of cutting a ring around the base of the trunk and spraying the poison on it while it's still standing. The tree will then die and be easier to remove.

Special note: Australian Pines can be skirted and left in place as a habitat for the many the island animals. This habitat would attract many of bugs and birds. The birds then eat the bugs and break off dead branches for building nests and raising their young.

Call or text 303-809-0493 to make an appointment. Bring a plastic spray bottle to take some Element 4 home.

****Environmental Committee Update**

From Vice President, Rhonda Olson:

Turtle nesting season begins May 1st and lasts until October 31st. As a result, nothing can be left on the beach overnight including chairs, shade tents, sand toys, or animals.

Also, please keep lights to a minimum towards the beach. A few years ago, I was on the beach when some hatchlings were released. There was a beach house without their shades pulled about 25 feet away. The home had very bright kitchen lights. About two of every ten hatchlings headed away from the beach and towards the house. I saw firsthand the impact of lights on their trip to the water.

Until our permit is attained there will be no staking or recording of nests.

Please feel free to email me at robinturner63@gmail.com with any information you would like to see in the next month's Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of each month. The content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Robin Turner-Grimshaw