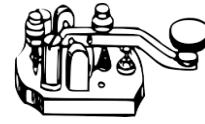




## Coconut Telegraph

December 2022



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**The LGPOA board would like to extend HOLIDAY GREETINGS and a MERRY CHRISTMAS to you!**



### New Year's Eve festivities

**Put it on your calendar! There will be New Year's Eve festivities. Please check Facebook and the LGPOA website for details. Thank you.**



**What is this? *Helianthus debilis* Beach sunflower; dune sunflower**

The beach sunflower is a fast-growing ground cover that tolerates salt, sand, sun, and dry conditions. It also attracts butterflies. You may want to consider using this plant to beautify our island. Check out this link for more information. [beach dune sunflower Helianthus debilis.pdf - Google Drive](#)

**Bocilla Island Conservancy**

The LGPOA was contacted by Linda Cotherman of the Bocilla Islands Conservancy (BIC) with information about their organization. BICI is a public, non-profit organization working in partnership with residents of the Bocilla Islands Chain which includes Don Pedro, Knight, Little Gasparilla & Thornton Key. They are an organization dedicated to the long-term preservation of open, undeveloped spaces and natural habitats on the Bocilla Islands Chain.

Through their fundraising efforts, they have been able to purchase properties to keep open green spaces in a natural condition, create conservation easements to help reduce property taxes, install mini reefs at private docks to help improve water quality, and educate their supporters in using native plants & xeriscaping (landscaping designed for areas susceptible to drought where water conservation is needed.) They also have a program to help preserve & protect the gopher tortoise population which includes a person who is licensed to handle the relocation of the tortoises when necessary.

For more information you can check out their website:

[HOME | BICI \(bocillaislandsconservancy.org\)](http://HOME | BICI (bocillaislandsconservancy.org))

**Bagster removal**

The board is strongly encouraging homeowners to have Evan (352 303 9882) or Taylor (941 268 6809) remove the debris bags from your yards and neighboring areas ASAP. They are charging \$200 to pick up the bag, transport and unload it to a barge, transfer it to the mainland, then unload it into a dumpster. We have no idea when (or if) the county will be on the island to do this job. Please do not overfill the bags. Handles should be together to allow for pick-up. Thank you.



**LGI property owner and insurance agent is happy to answer your questions:**

Darren Howard owns a large insurance agency in Sarasota. He is willing to help islanders navigate their policies, answer questions, explain deductibles, coverages, etc. He is not wanting to write any insurance on the island or quote any new business, but only to help answer policy questions for those who may be having trouble navigating the complex insurance process post-hurricane.

His cell is 941-232-1454. Islanders can call him with questions, but during the week, please call any time after 5pm as he is handling claims, etc. for his clients during the workday. Weekends islanders can call him anytime!



**Fire Department Report**

Currently, there is no burn ban. This means we can burn in barrels, pits or on the open ground. The fire must be smaller than 8 feet in diameter. There are rules that WILL be followed or the individual's right to burn will be revoked immediately and indefinitely!

1. No burning of biological waste, hazardous waste, asbestos containing materials, mercury containing devices, pharmaceuticals, tires, oil, asphalt, roofing materials, tar, plastics, garbage, or other non-natural trash. This will include all shingles, soffit material that is not wood, vinyl, siding, all furniture.
2. Fires are allowed between 9:00 am EST and out (no new material) 1 hour before sunset.
3. There must always be a water supply at the fire.
4. The fire will always need at least 1 person attending it. If you need to step away, ask someone to take your place. If no person is available, put the fire out.
5. When the wind begins to pick up to 10 to 12 mph, let the fire burn out. Do not keep feeding the fire with new material.

Both law enforcement and I WILL be watching, these rules are not negotiable, and deviation will not be tolerated in any way. Do not burn in the pathways and do not block pathways with any debris. These orders are set by the State of Florida out lined in the Florida administrative codes 62-256 51-2 and subsection 62-293.320 (3).

## **Public Adjusters**

The LGPOA has been receiving a lot of questions about public adjusters. (PAs) What is a public adjuster? When do I need one? How do I find one that I can trust? Michael Vitale from Builder's Perspective was nice enough to put together a series of videos on these topics for the islanders. You can find more information at the link below, and view the videos on the Little Gasparilla Facebook homeowner's page. Please direct questions to him in the comment section on the Facebook page, in the comments below the video, or you can message him directly. We will post follow up videos on the Facebook page as well. Michael Vitale is a PA, but he is consulting with us for free to hopefully clear up some mis-information. This information can help us make sound decisions for what is best for us as individuals.

[lgi.bppa.com](http://lgi.bppa.com)



## **Vegetation Regrowth and Replanting**

As vegetation debris is starting to be removed, we need to start thinking about replanting and what happens with the now newly open spaces. As we all know, Brazilian Pepper and Australian pines are invasive species. These plants will re-grow and take over the open spaces that were created, and we need to prevent this from happening. What should we plant? Have you heard of native plants, xeriscaping, and sustainable planting. We could have some fun using these ideas.

We happen to have a horticulturalist named Bob Deegan on the island. You may know him as Castaway Bob. He is a native Southwest Floridian, and is passionate about plants. Castaway Bob is three generations removed from the original island pirate known as Don Deegan. You might recognize his name from his association with the great pirates, Don Pedro, and Jose Gaspar. These pirates were reported to have been active during the golden years of piracy in our waters and they claimed our island as their own. In his final escapade, Don Pedro Gilbert, for whom the state park was named, chased, then boarded the Mexican, an American brig, bound from Salem to Rio de Janeiro carrying \$20,000 in silver. Following the brig's surrender, a crew member asked Gilbert what was to be done with their captives. The pirate captain remarked, "Dead cats don't meow. You know what to do."

Castaway Bob started the Island Gardening Club a few years ago, and in homage to the great Don Pedro's final voyage, the location for the Island Garden club was named The Cat's Meow, because the island lives on.

With all the stress of the hurricane, the cleanup, and the rebuilding we can use something positive as a distraction. Castaway Bob has some good insight into how we should reclaim the island and plant sustainable vegetation that is appealing and fun. Below, you will find a link to Castaway Bob's Island Garden Club. If you would like to join, he will occasionally have free planting lessons and advice. He will also provide useful information on how and what to plant and how to do so to have the most success. Click the garden club link below for more information and to join. Stay tuned for more updates in the next Coconut Telegraph from Castaway Bob's Garden Club and adventures.

Let's replant the island! For starters.... Castaway Bob is giving away Coconut Palms & Foxtail Palms - free for the taking. Plant and Be Prosperous! Ahoy Mates!!

[LGI Garden Club](#) 727-410-6591



Muhly grass



Inkberry shrub

#### **Plant Island Friendly, Native Plants (repost from October Telegraph)**

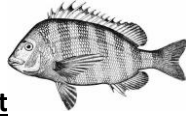
When re-planting, we hope you will consider using native plants. Native plants are beautiful, they provide food and shelter for our wildlife and by having adapted to the soil, rain patterns, temperatures, and pests of Florida, and they require minimal maintenance. Replacing exotic plants with native plants conserves water, reduces fertilizer and pesticide usage, and attracts wildlife.

The Australian Pine and the Brazilian Pepper, both invasives, can be killed by cutting and **immediately** spraying the stump with the Garlon 4 herbicide, available through the LGPOA. Cutting either one of these trees to the ground will not kill them. They will grow right back, so you must treat them with the Garlon 4 herbicide once they are cut to kill them. The herbicide should never be applied around open water as it is highly toxic to aquatic organisms. Minimum personal protection should include a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, and socks. Garlon 4 is provided free of charge to any island resident making a request. Please contact Jennifer McCullough at 303-809-0493 to procure a spray bottle for Garlon 4.

If you are interested in learning all about native plants that are appropriate for our unique barrier island environment, you can go directly to our LGPOA website or click on the link to a reference book specifically addressing native plants for Little Gasparilla Island.

[Native Plants For Little Gasparilla Island Florida – LGPOA](#)

Wishing you immense success in creating a beautiful and bountiful landscape.



### **Fishing Report**

Red tide is spotty in our area, but the fishing is still very productive. There's plenty of white bait, but shrimp can also be effective. Expect to find an abundance of trout on deeper grass flats with moving water. Near to shore the sheepshead have started to congregate around rocks and public reefs. While fishing near shore, keep an eye out for cobia coming by on the surface and have a flat line ready to pitch at them.

Tight Lines.

### **Ian Recovery Donations**

To Our Members:

For all those individuals, members, and friends of the LGPOA, who would like to make a financial donation to the island to help support our relief efforts, I would ask that you make a check out to the LGPOA. We will deposit it into our account and specifically earmark it for use in the island's recovery. The funds will be used on a case-by-case scenario to help the island move forward. An accounting of the funds and their use will be documented for the membership regularly.

The address to send any donations is: Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association, P.O. Box 3643, Placida, Florida 33946

Thank you for your support.

Richard Leydon Jr.

President

### **Debris Removal**

If you have not already signed up for debris removal, please do so now!!!! FDEM is accepting applications from private and commercial property owners who would like assistance for the assessment and removal of qualifying debris, including vehicles. Please note that you must attach pictures to the form before you can send it in.

To apply, visit [www.IanDebrisCleanup.com](http://www.IanDebrisCleanup.com) or call 850-961-2002. For information, call the Hurricane Ian Debris hotline 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on weekends or email [IanDebrisCleanup@em.myflorida.com](mailto:IanDebrisCleanup@em.myflorida.com).

Please feel free to email Laurie Tremblay at [jltremblay125@gmail.com](mailto:jltremblay125@gmail.com) with any information you would like to publish in the Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of each month. The content was reviewed by board members for approval before publication. Thank you.