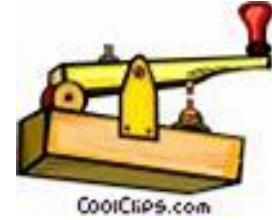




## Coconut Telegraph

January 2024



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### BOARD MEETING

- **LGPOA Director's Meeting**

The LGPOA Director's meeting was held on November 30, 2023. The minutes of the meeting are posted on the website.



- **Report from Deputy Prummell**

No criminal reports or chronic/repeat issues have been reported on LGI. I expect to be available on the island for the New Year's weekend.



- **New Year's Eve celebration taken from LGI Golf cart Facebook page.**

**LIGHTED GOLF CART PARADE 9PM**

Decorate your cart and meet at **Hideaway Condos beach access at 9pm.**

The parade ends at the golf cart shop!

**BAND AT THE GOLF CART SHOP 10PM**

**SMB Seamus McCarthy Band**

**BALL DROP AT MIDNIGHT**

**Be careful with the fireworks this year!!!!**



- **What Is This? Submitted by Laurie**

The Florida Lightning Whelk can grow to 16 inches long and has a left-handed opening. They mainly eat bivalves such as oysters and clams. They use a radula (tongue-like “saw”) to drill a hole in their prey. It is illegal to collect live whelks. Whelks lay their eggs in long casings with as many as 200 pouches and each pouch can contain up to 200 eggs. They are usually found on sand and mud flats. Whelks can also be a home for hermit crabs which inhabit the shell until a larger one is needed.

[Weekly “What is it?”: Whelk Egg Cases - UF/IFAS Extension Escambia County \(ufl.edu\)](#)

[Estuarine + Marine Waters – South Florida Aquatic Environments \(ufl.edu\)](#)

[Marine Life | FWC \(myfwc.com\)](#)

- **Island clean-up**



We would like to encourage everyone to do what they can to help clean up LGI. Bring a trash receptacle with you as you walk the beaches or the interior, or as you ride around and look for trash to pick up. Please do not put the trash in someone else’s yard. Also, do not put your trash in someone else’s dumpster bags. Take it with you off the island or call Evan at 941-830-1346. Remember, the dumpsters at the county ramp have been removed.

- Remember the Charlotte County public event on January 11 or complete the Online Survey for Bridgeless Barrier Islands Accessibility Study [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ISLANDS](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ISLANDS) (notice was sent out recently by mail)



- **Proper Use of Gasparilla Marina Dumpsters submitted by Richard**

I was recently contacted by Gasparilla Marina to head off a potential problem with the dumpsters provided by the marina. More specifically, the loss of these dumpsters due to misuse. The dumpsters are meant for Gasparilla customers and have been supplied to accommodate household and boat trash only. They do not charge extra for this luxury but conversely are charged dearly by Waste Management for the service. Additionally, Waste Management charges even more when improper items are placed in the dumpsters. The marina has for years provided extra dumpsters during busy times on the island. Even with this service, people place their garbage on the ground next to the full dumpsters rather than take it to an empty one. This misuse requires the marina to use additional resources to pick up and place the overflow trash in the empty dumpsters. This is unacceptable. The marina has also witnessed the dumping of large amounts of trash from rental properties on the Island. They know from whose boats and customers the trash is deposited. Unfortunately, this points to rental homes being a problem. I would suggest that rental homes use the Island Grocery and Trash Pickup Service to alleviate this problem from the marina. Gasparilla staff have consistently told me that the dumpsters are there for the Islanders, not for commercial and rental programs. **The bottom line is that islanders need to be aware that this problem is real, and we are in danger of losing the dumpsters at the marina.** Most people do not realize that this would require driving our household trash to either Laurel Road landfill in Venice or Zemel Road landfill in Punta Gorda which are over an hour away. The local Charlotte County transfer stations do not take household trash. **Please use the dumpsters as requested.** Our ability to easily dispose of our trash depends on it.

I would encourage rental homes to use the island trash pickup service. Evan's number (Island grocery Delivery and Trash Pickup) is 941 830-1346.



- **Rebuild Florida Hurricane Ian Housing Repair and Replacement Program Assessment**

Do you need additional assistance with rebuilding after Hurricane Ian? If so, take the Rebuild Florida Hurricane Ian Housing Repair and Replacement Program (HRRP) Assessment. This is the first step in applying for the funding allocated to Florida for recovery. The assessment will help FloridaCommerce identify potential applicants and determine their needs. Ctrl and click on the link below for more information. [Home \(site.com\)](#)



Eagles nesting on north end of island – picture submitted by Laurie

Send me your favorite picture and I will post it in the Telegraph! [jltremblay125@gmail.com](mailto:jltremblay125@gmail.com)



# Audubon | FLORIDA

Hello Eagle Neighbor,

Let me take a moment to introduce myself, I am an Audubon EagleWatch volunteer. You are so fortunate to have living near your home a nesting pair of American Bald Eagles. They return to their nest every year to mate and raise their eaglets. It is my privilege as a volunteer to oversee this process, and to ensure the safety of these magnificent birds.

The eagle nesting season starts October 1st and runs through May 15th. During this time it is very important that the eagles and their nests are not disturbed. Eagles may spook and leave the nest until they feel safe to return. Leaving the nest unattended for even 15 minutes can be lethal for their unhatched eggs or young eaglets, which depend on the parents to keep them warm and dry.



Photo: Joe Doherty

There are a few things we can do during the nesting season to make sure the eagles have the best chance at a successful season. Watching from a safe distance so as not to disturb them is best. Please refrain from any activity that creates a disturbance or may spook them from their nest, such as roof replacement, tree trimming, land clearing, drone use, or anything that makes a lot of noise or gathers large numbers of people close to nest. Activities like these may lead to nest failure and the unnecessary death of eggs or baby eagles.



Photo: Carlos Perez

Bald Eagles and their nests are protected by state and federal laws. Disturbing nesting eagles or removing a nest without a permit is a federal violation, punishable by up to \$10,000 in fines and possible jail time. In order to avoid disturbing nesting eagles, the US Fish and Wildlife Service suggests refraining from certain activities within 330ft of an active nest until the young have left the nest for the season.

Thank you for your care and cooperation in protecting this eagle family and providing a quiet and safe place for them to raise their young. If you observe any activity near the nest that is disturbing the eagle family, please report it via the Florida Fish and Wildlife Hotline at 888-404-3922. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

Questions or concerns please call FWC or volunteer.

FWC Hotline (888) 404-3922

Eagle Watch Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

Centennial Park  
Parks & Natural Resources Dept  
1120 Centennial Boulevard  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

941-613-3220

# Eagle Watching Etiquette

For the safest and least intrusive viewing experience, please follow these guidelines when observing or photographing nesting eagles:

- Use binoculars or a spotting scope to observe eagles closely. Photographers should use telephoto lenses.
- Do not stand directly under an eagle nest or in close view of the eagles. The recommended viewing distance is at least 330 feet.
- Once parked safely off the road, remain in or near your vehicle. Vehicles can serve as very effective “bird blinds”.
- Do not make loud or sudden noises. Avoid yelling, car door slamming, or horn honking.
- Move quickly and quietly to any designated observation areas.
- Never try to make eagles fly or stand up at the nest.
- Always ask permission before entering private property.
- Keep pets at home.

**Always give eagles and other wildlife the space they need. Please share your knowledge and set an example for others.**

Please feel free to email Laurie Tremblay at [iltremblay125@gmail.com](mailto:iltremblay125@gmail.com) with any information you would like to publish in the Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of each month. The content is reviewed by board members for approval before publication. Thank you.

