



# Les Cheneaux Islands Association

November, 2020

1158 S Park Ave, Cedarville, MI 49719 ~ 906-484-2558  
lescheneauxislandsassociation@gmail.com ~ www.islandsassoc.org



## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

MIKE PATRICK

### SECRETARY/ TREASURER

JOHN (BO) HESSER

### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

PAUL TABOR

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

LINDA SCHEPPERLY

## ADMINISTRATION

### BOARD SECRETARY

ESTHER ENGLE

### MANAGER

MARK ENGLE

### DIRECTORS

NINA ABNEE

BARBARA AUGENBLICK

JOHN BENTLEY

ROSEMARY CONROY

BARBARA FAVRET

GRETCHEN MAHONEY

SEAN MURRAY

SUSAN POOL

DAN REELITZ

DAN TONCHI

## President's Letter

Mike Patrick

### *Greetings from the LCIA*

I would like to start out with a big thank you to our past president, Jim Keighley, for his leadership over the past two years. Also, thank you to the LCIA Board and Committee Members for all their time and efforts this year. Great job! Thank you everyone!!

This fall we still find ourselves battling the coronavirus and, with that said, the flu season has started. So, with winter approaching, don't forget to get your flu shot, follow social distancing guidelines, wear masks, and stay safe!

On a lighter note, the water level has been fluctuating but has gone down several inches, which should be good news to our members with docks and boathouses. Winter, however, can be pretty unpredictable as far as how snow and ice will effect our docks and boathouses. This brings up the point that our local contractors are slammed with work, so consider contacting them as early as possible for any work you want or need done next year.

In closing, if you have any questions, get ahold of Mark or Esther. They both do a great job and will do their best to get an answer for you.

So, don't forget ... Get your flu shot, practice social distancing, wear a mask and stay safe!!

Looking forward to seeing you next spring.

## Manager's Report

Mark Engle

### Weather & Water Update

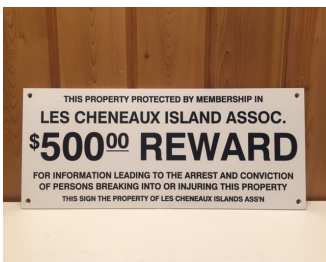
Autumn colors in the Les Cheneauxs are falling to the ground as wind and rain help trees shed their leaves. There were several frosty mornings in early October, but temperatures have remained above freezing for the most part. The big story has been the persistent rain fall that has kept us very saturated for several weeks.

In spite of a wet fall, Lake Huron has gone down 3 inches in the past month and down 2 inches compared to this time a year ago. There have been several days of significant fluctuations. We are still 30 inches above the long term monthly average for October. The outflow of water from Lake Superior into the St. Mary's river is expected to be above normal for the rest of October. The US Army Corps of Engineers' projection for the next month, however, is another 3 inches lower.

### Property Inspections

LCIA property inspectors began bi-monthly checks the middle of September. Inspectors reported many LCIA members were still at their Les Cheneaux residences during September and early October in which case, they do not leave an inspection card.

Property owners can aid the inspection process by displaying the LCIA Reward sign in a prominent location. Also, the green (911 emergency sign) property identification number should be visible either from a road or from the water to aid the inspectors in locating and identifying the properties on their inspection routes. Having the green signs visible is very important in order for township emergency services to be able to identify properties.



### Aids to Navigation

LCIA buoys are still in place at this time, however, they will soon be removed in which case, use caution while boating. The U.S. Coast Guard buoys have been removed for the season. When all buoys are gone from the water, extra care should be taken when traveling by boat.

Even with high water and much boat traffic, our buoys stayed in place for the most part this summer. Thanks to Steve Honnila and Viking Boat Harbor for their dedication in tending LCIA navigational aids.

### Fish & Game

Fishing was good in September with some nice catches of perch observed in Snow's Channel and around the Hessel pier. Northern pike fishing was excellent in early September in Hessel Bay, Musky Bay and Government Bay. Trophy size small mouth bass were caught at Connor's Point and the middle entrance. Some good catches of walleye came from Snow's Channel and Islington Channel.

I'm hoping to get a report from the annual DNR fall assessment conducted in early October in the islands. I also am interested in some results from the on-going cisco (herring) research being done in the waters on the east end of the islands.

### LCIA Food Drive for Cedar Post Pantry

LCIA's Food Drive trailer is parked on M-134 next the Coldwell Banker office until the end of October. Thank you to all LCIA members who dropped off non-perishable food items again this year as they closed down their cottages and left for the season.

A special thank you also to Mary Baker who has been diligently emptying the food trailer and delivering items to the Cedar Post Pantry. Mary reports LCIA members have been very generous again this year and the donations have been very much appreciated.

**Thank you !!**

#### LCIA Board of Directors Meeting Dates for 2021

Friday, May 14, 9:00 a.m. (This will be a Zoom meeting)

Friday, July 9, 9:00 a.m. (Location/Zoom, to be determined)

Friday, September 3, 9:00 a.m. (Location/Zoom, to be determined)

#### Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 12, 4:00 p.m.

Commons Room, Les Cheneaux Community School

#### Annual Dinner

Thursday, August 12, 5:30 p.m., Clark Township Community Center

## From LCIA's First Vice President

*Paul Tabor*

One of the most cherished aspects of the Les Cheneaux Islands area is our strong sense of community and its amazing people. We are a hearty and caring bunch to put it mildly. The existence of the Les Cheneaux Islands Association in and of itself is proof of that. We care and we get involved!

To help ensure the community and membership understand the many ways to get involved, the LCIA board

and committee chairs thought it would be helpful to provide, publish and post an overview of each LCIA Committee and what it does. By offering some insight as to the purpose of each committee, we hope to educate on all the wonderful things that the LCIA does while also offering an open invitation to become involved in committees that might be of interest.

Joining one or more of our LCIA committees is sure to be a personally rewarding experience and it's just a wonderful way to deepen your connection with the Les Cheneaux Islands!

## LCIA COMMITTEES

### **BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE: John (Bo) Hesser, Chair**

The purpose of the LCIA Budget and Finance Committee is to track and report all income and expenses for the LCIA. Responsibilities include filing the proper forms to the IRS on an annual basis. The committee also constructs and obtains consensus for the next annual budget.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Robert Smith, Chair**

The purpose of the LCIA Environmental Committee is to keep our membership aware of the status, issues and concerns associated with the Les Cheneaux Islands recreational water quality as well as the diversity and resilience of our coastal wetland environment.

### **FISH & GAME COMMITTEE: Mark Engle, Chair**

The LCIA Fish & Game Committee has established a relationship with the state and federal agencies that manage the natural resources in the area. The purpose of the committee is to monitor and report on key research activities relevant to the Les Cheneaux area such as the annual DNR fisheries assessment that has been conducted for 50 years. The committee attempts to keep the membership informed of impacts to the health and the well-being of our native fish and animals. Many current LCIA members or their relatives became attracted to the Les Cheneaux area while on a hunting or fishing vacation.

### **HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: John Griffin, Chair**

The purpose of the LCIA Historical Committee is to research, gather and report information on local area historical facts and people of interest. Using its historical research information, the committee creates and provides a report at the LCIA Annual Meeting as well as briefings at the LCIA Board meetings, to remind us of people and events of the past that have come together to shape our present sense of community with appreciation of this beautiful place we call Les Cheneaux.

### **MARINE COMMITTEE: Steve Honnila, Chair**

The purpose of the LCIA Marine Committee is to ensure the navigable waterways of the Les Cheneaux Islands are well identified. To help fulfill this purpose, the LCIA Marine Committee annually identifies potential waterway hazards and then places ATON's (commonly recognizable system of aids to navigation) in the Les Cheneaux waterway to identify these hazards. Knowledgeable boaters will quickly recognize these ATON's which are positioned to help them avoid the hazards. Providing safe water activity is the ultimate goal of the LCIA Marine Committee.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Phyllis Rusk, Chair**

The purpose of the LCIA Membership Committee is to sustain current memberships and to encourage new members to join the LCIA. The LCIA relies on its members to implement its many community projects and activities: Inspections of seasonal properties, placement and maintenance of navigational waterway buoys, social events, water safety classes and environmental testing, just to name a few.

The LCIA offers **Inspection Memberships**, **Commercial Memberships**, **Supporting Memberships** (for those who do not require property inspections, but want to support LCIA initiatives), and **Associate Memberships** (for additional family members and co-owners who would like to receive LCIA information, mailings and newsletters.)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE : Jim Keighley, Chair**

The LCIA Nominating Committee is responsible for recruiting, screening and nominating new and potential LCIA officers and directors. All nominees are then formally voted into the LCIA officer and director positions by the association members at the LCIA annual meeting (typically held in July).

**PAST PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE: Jim Keighley, Chair**

The purpose of the LCIA Past Presidents Committee is to follow-up on the status and well-being of those who have faithfully and previously served as President of the LCIA. The committee is responsible to report the passing of any past presidents to the LCIA Board so they might be remembered with some form of tribute or memorial. The committee is also responsible to organize a "Past Presidents event" the week of the LCIA Annual Meeting. These camaraderie events are designed to keep our past LCIA heritage alive and well.

**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: Susan Pool, Chair**

The purpose of the LCIA Publicity Committee is to publicize the good works of the LCIA with the intent of broadening membership and support in the community. Historically the activities have included participation in the July 4th parade and hosting an information booth at the Les Cheneaux Islands Antique Boat Show in August.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Linda Schepperly, Chair**

The purpose of the LCIA Social Committee is to coordinate the LCIA Annual Dinner, and other social events sponsored by the association. Coordination of these events includes but is not limited to the following tasks:

- Acquiring all permits, licenses, and insurances
- Contracting caterers
- Reserving event space
- Planning and engaging keynote speakers
- Contacting local businesses for donations
- Finding and arranging volunteers to help
- Designing and distributing marketing materials

**TOWNSHIP LIAISON COMMITTEE: Diane Patrick, Chair**

The purpose of the LCIA Liaison Committee is to create a link between the Clark Township government and the LCIA. Responsibilities of the committee include attending Clark Township meetings and reporting any newsworthy issues to the LCIA Board. The LCIA Board will often use the information gathered to keep our general membership aware of key factors facing our association, our community and surrounding area.

**YOUTH BOATING CERTIFICATION AND WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE: Dave Robertson, Chair**

Since the LCIA promotes and encourages water and boating safety, it is only fitting then that we created the LCIA Youth Boating Certification and Water Safety Committee. The purpose of the committee is to facilitate the teaching of basic boating knowledge and skills in a classroom setting, coordinated with the Mackinac County Marine Deputy. The LCIA covers the costs of the classes. So the class is free of charge to the community, regardless of LCIA membership.

Youth graduates of the class receive a boating certificate, which the State of Michigan requires for a 12 to 16 year old youth to operate a watercraft over 6 Horse Power. Each youth graduate receives a Life Jacket with the LCIA Logo, compliments of the *Trip Abnee Memorial Fund of the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation*. Any youth who takes the Michigan Boaters Safety Course online and presents the Boaters Safety certificate from the online class to John Griffin at the Coldwell Banker Office will receive a Trip Abnee Memorial LCIA Life Jacket. The Fund was initiated by the Abnee Family in Honor of Trip, LCIA Past President and originator of the LCIA Youth Boating Class.

The LCIA welcomes contributions to the tax deductible fund (lcommunityfoundation@gmail.com ~ 906-484-2484).

***If you would like more information or would like to join a committee, please feel free to contact the committee chair. Contact information is available by phone or email from Board Secretary, Esther Engle: 906-484-2558, lescheneauxislandsassociation@gmail.com.***