



Les Cheneaux Islands Association

Spring Newsletter

May ~ 2019

1158 S Park Ave, Cedarville, MI 49719 ~ 906-484-2558 ~ lcia@cedarville.net ~ www.islandsassoc.org

President's Letter

Jim Keighley

Greetings from the LCIA!

After a tough, long winter – summer is approaching. The ice is gone with just a few of the bigger snow piles still visible, peepers are out in the evening, ferns are unrolling and shooting up, young bird families are hatching, Coast Guard Buoys are placed, and LCIA buoy placement has started - the majority will be placed by Memorial Day (thanks Steve Honnila & his crew at Viking).

With the heavy snow and high plow piles – the deer were able to eat cedar from branches much higher up on the trees than normal. You may find smaller trees you wrapped to protect against normal deer browsing eaten above the wrapping.

Some thoughts on LCI tourism.

- We need to be finding ways to develop our tourism for the next generation. Various studies show interest declining in the activities that our current tourism was built on (fishing, hunting, power and sail boating, and snowmobiling).
- Interest is growing in fat tire biking, hiking, birding, kayaking. The common threads are these activities are multi-season and they don't require use of

petroleum products or large capital outlays for equipment or trucks & trailers to haul it. Equipment for these is transported via a car-top or bumper carrier – not big trucks pulling trailers.

- Marquette and Copper Harbor have transformed their tourism around fat tire biking. Motels and resorts are filled much of the year. Subaru's with bike racks fill their parking lots. Marquette has an extensive trail network developed. Traffic in Copper Harbor now is largely fat tire bikers.

Two examples of LCI effort towards future tourism:

- Our LCI Friends of the Trails group is working on making the old Peek-a-boo Trail a fat tire bike trail while Woods & Waters Tours in Hessel will be selling and renting fat tire bikes.
- A new (hopefully annual) event will happen Sept 8. An Odyssey SwimRun will be held in LCI. This is an elite athlete endurance event that will start in McKay Bay and end at Spring Lodge beach. The 23 mile course includes 8 swim segments and 9 run segments thru the islands. Runners from all over the country and maybe beyond will participate. Check out the

race website: <https://www.odysseyswimrun.com/lescheneaux/course> or Google Odyssey SwimRun Les Cheneaux. It is a cool event and would be a huge asset to our LCI annual event calendar.

A reminder – please give some thought to who in your circle of family and neighbors you could invite to join the LCIA. We have been holding steady for a few years at about 475 total members. Are your kids signed up as Associate Members?

Please feel free to contact me about anything you would like to talk about.

Thanks. Jim Keighley,
keighleyja@gmail.com
906-484-2369.

LCIA Board of Directors Meeting Dates for 2019

Wednesday, June 5, 9:00 a.m.
Monday, July 8, 9:00 a.m.
Friday, August 30, 9:00 a.m.
Community Room
Cedar Cove Assisted Living

Annual Business Meeting
Thursday, August 8, 4:00 p.m.
Commons Room, LC Cheneaux Community School

Annual Dinner
Thursday, August 8, 5:30 p.m.
Community Center

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Manager's Report

Mark Engle

Water & Weather Update

Winter appears to be over but has left its mark in several different ways - buildings collapsed under a very heavy snow load, outdoor water spigots, propane gas lines, electric service lines, metal chimneys and mast heads were sheared off when the heavy snow slid off roofs; trees lost branches during more than one freezing rain event. Property owners should do a careful inspection of all structures and the surrounding area.

Lake Huron's cup runneth over! We are nearing the 1986 all time high water mark. Lake Huron is currently 6 inches lower than 1986 but projections are for a rise of 3 inches by June 10. It appears (per Corps of Engineers projections) that high water will persist through the summer months.

Late winter and early spring temperatures have been relatively cool. The last 50 degree day in 2018 was October 29 and the first 50 degree temperature in 2019 was April 19. The low thermometer reading for the past winter was in the minus 25-30 range not including wind-chill.

LCIA Property Inspections

Property inspectors braved the tough conditions of winter (and spring) making the bi-monthly reports as best they could. We are fortunate to have a crew who are dedicated to keeping us informed regarding the well being of properties in outlying areas. It is not easy to describe the efforts made by inspectors during the past winter! Inspections conclude on May 30. If you get a chance to thank your inspector, please do.

LCIA Aids to Navigation

LCIA buoys are being installed in spite of bad weather condi-

tions. Buoy tender, Steve Honnila and his crew, were out setting buoys today, May 16, during driving wind and rain. Steve is to be commended for his work which includes setting, pulling, maintaining and storage of 125 buoys.

Fish & Game

Some good perch fishing occurred through the ice in mid-March. Local ice fishermen who are quite secretive about their fishing habits, did say that perch were readily available.

Splake fishing in the islands has become very popular with many good sized fish taken (8-12 lbs). 30,000 splake were planted in Hessel in April while there was still ice cover.

Pike and walleye season opened on May 15. The LCIs have a large pike population which is feeding heavily on the invasive goby specie. Some very good catches of pike have been reported.

The annual DNR Fisheries Workshop was held at the Clark Township Community Center on April 30. Double crested cormorants were a topic of discussion. Michigan DNR fish biologists and USDA Wildlife Services reported on the status of cormorants in the islands. Since a court ordered stoppage of cormorant control in 2016, biologists estimate a 90% increase in the fish eating birds in our area. Also reported was the possibility that cormorant control could be as much as 4 years away as the US Fish & Wildlife Service researches the relationship of the birds and fish.

It was a tough winter for the local deer herd. Deer could be seen chewing on anything edible; they are amazing survivors. Deep snow hindered their movement to confined areas where there were well used trails which makes them more vulnerable to predators. Wolf and cougar sightings were reported in the Cedarville/Hessel area.

Environmental Committee Report

Bob Smith, Chair

Cheneaux Islands and reflected high quality water for recreational purposes as has been the case since this type survey began in 2001. Analytical values for all test sites were within range of samples quantified by the Univ Mich Biological Station during the previous five seasons.

The relationship of three variables: Total Phosphorus, Soluble Reactive Phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a was different than expected in 2018. Samples from the same test sites will be compared in 2019 to determine if 2018 result were an exception to past findings or an indication of a new trend.

A detailed report can be found on the LC Watershed website at: lescheneauxwatershed.org. From the home page, move to Library and then scroll to the title as it appears here.

Cormorants at Crow Island. As of this writing there are 450 -500 cormorants on Crow Island. Gulls share the island in numbers of about 800-900. No other birds have been sighted as residents.

First Aid Kits Aboard. A reminder to keep a good quality first aid kit on board even on short trips. Last summer a good first aid kit saved a quirk injury from becoming serious. Although an errant fish hook is usually the reason for digging into your kit, it is prudent to be certain your kit contains functional aids for the rare event it might be needed

Publicity Committee Report ~ 2019 Summer Activities

Rosemary Conroy

Aldo Leopold Festival

May 30 - June 2, 2019 Check out more information at <https://www.aldoleopoldfestival.com/>

Book Club

Margy Long will be the facilitator for the LCIA Book Club for the 2019 summer season. The format is to read your own books and discuss those you have read with others at the meetings. The meetings will be held at Hessel School House and Avery Arts and Nature Center 3206 W. Cedar Rd., Hessel, MI 49745 at 10 o'clock on the following Wednesdays: **June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24 and August 7, August 21, August 30, September 4.**

July 4th Parade

The 4th of July is on a Wednesday this year. We are looking for volunteers to help with the ideas and workers for the float and for volunteers to walk in the parade.

Water Safety and Youth Boating Certification

Youth Boating Certification Classes will be held at the Great Lakes Boat Building School on **Tuesday and Wednesday, July 9 & 10 and August 6 & 7 from 6-9 pm.**

Nature Walk

On Tuesday, **July 23 and August 20** Pat Wilson will conduct a nature walk. These are always informative and interesting, with rave reviews from those who have participated. Those who are interested in this activity will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Cedarville Foods, and rides can be consolidated at that time. We will proceed to the selected site or sites at that time. Children are welcome and encouraged to participate; walks will be selected based on ease and length and should finish by 1:00. It is suggested you bring hand lens and insect repellents. Ticks seem to be an increasing problem.

Food Drive

The LCIA annual food drive will kick off on August 1st and will continue until approximately November 1st, 2019. Once again, many thanks to Jeri and John Griffin for the generous use of their trailer, which will be placed at the parking lot of John's office at Coldwell Banker located at 101 W. M134. This is a good way to benefit others in our community. It also provides a way to clean out your own pantry before you leave the Les Cheneaux area for the season. This has been a successful program for four years and we thank you for participating in this worthwhile endeavor.

Website Information

Our Facebook page is up and running, thanks to Alan McCord and Ann McKee. "Like" us at <https://www.facebook.com/islandsassociation> We already have 1.4K "Likes"! Alan and Ann also are continuing with the LCIA Twitter account as well as the LCIA website: www.islandsassoc.org. Check them out.

News from LCIA's Social Committee:

Save the Date for the LCIA Annual Dinner! Thursday, August 8th at the Community Center

The Social Committee has already started to plan this year's Annual Fundraising Dinner. The speaker this year will be Mark Snyder from the Carmeuse Quarry. It will be very interesting presentation about this industry located within our island wonderland. Details and reservation information will be included with your membership dues notice.

The Food Drive trailer will be parked at the Community Center that evening and we hope all attendees will bring a donation of one or more non-perishable canned goods.

Would you like to be a part of putting together this fun-filled event? The Social Committee could use some more volunteers for the planning, as well as, extra hands during the set-up, dinner and clean-up. If you would like to find out more about joining the LCIA Social Committee or help out with the fundraising dinner please contact lcia@cedarville.net / 906-484-2558.



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