



## Newsletter

Fall 2019

[www.littlelagoon.org](http://www.littlelagoon.org)

**Next meeting:  
Thursday  
October 17, 2019**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Gulf Shores Activity Center  
260 Clubhouse Drive**

### What Lives in Little Lagoon?

Have you ever wondered about all the different critters living in Little Lagoon? Beneath the waterbody surface is a remarkable ecosystem teeming with life. Our guest speaker, Craig Newton with the Alabama Marine Resources Division, will share with us shrimp, fish, and crab diversity and abundances at our quarterly Little Lagoon Preservation Society meeting. Specifically, he will update us on their latest findings concerning Blue Crab, Shrimp, Speckled Trout and Southern Flounder populations. Craig will also provide us with a community composition analysis evaluating long term changes in the types of animals residing in Little Lagoon. Major Jason Downey and Lt. Troy Fisher with MRD Enforcement will also be there to address any questions concerning recent creel limit changes in our coastal waters.

LLPS member meeting is on October 17, 2019 5:30 p.m., at the Gulf Shores Activity Center. The first half hour of the meeting provides an opportunity to meet, mingle and enjoy refreshments. The program begins at 6 and will include a question-and-answer period.

### Little Lagoon Pass Update

Since our last membership meeting the pass has remained at least minimally compliant with the court order. Nature has managed to stave off pass channel closure for a prolonged time frame. There have been plenty of boats accessing the Gulf via the pass over the last 3 months. There have also been a few instances of trigger conditions being reached caused by shoaling at the pass mouth, but nature has "blown open the channel" and kept it in compliance each time. The channel still appears to be near trigger point north of the bridge and along the west wall of the pass. Westerlies likely still a big factor. The smallest cross section measurement for the Pass channel is 120 sq ft. Trigger amount is 90 sq ft.

### Oyster Gardening Update

Lots of comments about how big the oysters are this year. Measurement data concurs. We're looking at robust oyster growth and apparently a healthy crop for this growing season. Oysters are now big enough to allow for light pressure washing, and a growth spurt is likely with cooling temperatures. Clearing mud and other soft fowling will lighten the weight of your

gardens. If you haven't split your oysters into 4 cages yet, please do so before they become too heavy! Oyster pick up is scheduled for Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am at Dennis's house just like last year. And, like last year, we need pickup trucks and ample volunteers to spread out the work and try to have everyone finished by noon. Please consider helping and **contact Dennis if you can do it!** Betting we will have lots of full cages this year and a good crop.

## Committee Activity Updates

- **Watershed Management Plan (WMP)** Ron and Dennis were appointed to serve on the WMP Steering Committee and Leveraging Partners Committees. First meeting for both committees was on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. They had a review of committee member obligations and commitment and acceptance by committee members. Future meetings are to be monthly on the second Wednesday of each month, 1 – 2:30 PM. Geosyntec created a sign-up link for the community to get information on the watershed planning efforts and it has been posted on the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) website: [http://www.mobilebaynep.com/the\\_watersheds/little\\_lagoon\\_perdido\\_pass](http://www.mobilebaynep.com/the_watersheds/little_lagoon_perdido_pass) . Promotional videos were taken throughout the watershed and video is being edited and compiled. Thanks to Laurie Eberly, Chan, Robert, and Dillie Wammock for their participation. During the leveraging partners meeting, watershed participants put project information on a Google Earth Map to compile all that is going on for all partners in the plan. Dennis populated with LLPS projects. All about ideas and information sharing. Climate change vulnerability assessment, coordination on sediment sampling locations, leveraging of planned Perdido Bay work, literature review, watershed characterizations, and watershed conditions are all ongoing work. Next quarter planned accomplishments: Projects that were identified in the leveraging partners meeting will be digitized and communicated in a way that can be shared and amended (i.e. GIS Storyboard). • Promotional video to be shared on social media, • Draft of the Watershed Characterization submitted to MBNEP, • Schedule the first large community engagement meeting, • Hold three steering committee meetings. It should be about 18 months to complete the WMP.
- **LL Restoration Project** Update from Dan, City of Gulf Shores (COGS)- Project refinements and changes are ongoing and must be approved by 3 entities- Treasury, State and COGS. Things are not happening as fast as many would like, but some parts should be finalized by the end of the year.
- **Laguna Cove property acquisition** – Deal was to close mid to late Sept. Closed. Next step is project modification/approval for dune restoration and beach mouse habitat restoration. The project will also involve cleanup before dune restoration by sifting the sand to remove gravel that washed into the area from driveways during Hurricane Ivan. Still to come, public hearings for input on the park.
- **Outreach** Gulf Shores High School Earth Science teacher Krista Marcum has expanded her classroom involvement (~120 students) to include Water Quality, phytoplankton, Bacteria monitoring and data interpretation at Dennis's pier and the Lake Shelby weir. She and her students are also maintaining 4 gardens (16 cages) at Dennis's pier. LLPS submitted the paperwork again for the project with Republic Services Community Grant of \$3,500, but just found out Republic cancelled grant

program due to lack of interest by the community. Apparently, LLPS were the only ones to submit a grant project funding request.

- **Website** – Our long-time website provider discontinued hosting our website before Turk-Reno rolled out our new one. No current website and no financial module are available now. Lloyd Moore is working on getting Quick Books populated with data and up and running. Not an easy task. Kudos to Lloyd! By end of this week or next week, the new Web site should be up. Dennis will be using “Mail Chimp” to send Newsletters. Excel may also be the choice instead of QuickBooks for Financials, which has modules for GUI and other business process needs. Lloyd Moore is investigating options for our membership/financial management needs
- **Coastal Cleanup Mo’s Landing**- LLPS was asked somewhat last minute to be Zone Captain for Coastal Cleanup at Mo’s Landing on 21 Sep. Dennis could not handle the responsibility and Greg stepped forward as Zone Captain. Outstanding job by Greg! Brooke, Steve, Harry, Lloyd Moore and the COGS also volunteered to make it happen and we are grateful for the team effort. A great success as 80 volunteers picked up 800 lbs. of trash despite rain during the clean-up. Many have commented on what a great job Greg did for the Coastal Cleanup. He had way more responsibilities than originally advertised, including a mountain of paperwork, plus the rain. Greg will share his lessons learned with whoever does it next year. Notably, Rouses donated water, Paradise Marine sent a barge which collected a lot of trash and Go-Go Kayaks brought kayaks. Hot dogs and hamburgers were served and paid for by LLPS.
- **Elections**- Robert, Barney, Chandra, Greta (alternate) are all willing to serve another term. Board approved the nominations and will present at the member meeting for a membership vote.

### Other Items of Interest

We are sad to inform you that Robert Charles Neibling (Bob) departed his life on Sept. 22, 2019 at the age of 85. Bob was a Washburn University graduate, Air Force Veteran, father, husband for 57 years, and an active volunteer with two local civic groups. He was a founder, first Treasurer and brought Little Lagoon Preservation Society into the digital age. Bob loved service to his country, fishing, wilderness hiking and travelling. His service was on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> in Foley and family have asked that any donations be to Wounded Warriors, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital or a charity of choice. We will dearly miss Bob and all he has done for us.

### Financials

<b>July 1, 2019 thru September 30, 2019</b>	
Starting Balance	<b>\$52,832.57</b>
Total Income	\$2,184.90
Total Expenses	\$3,641.93
Ending Balance	<b>\$51,375.54</b>

Notable expenses: Oyster gardening \$2,196, WQ \$679.67, Coastal Cleanup food \$236.74.

We invite you to be a part of preserving Little Lagoon for generations to come. Your support is crucial if we are to preserve and protect this unique environment. Please join us as a member of Little Lagoon Preservation Society



Members receive a quarterly newsletter, meeting notifications, and updates regarding special issues.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Email allows us to keep our costs down so that a greater percentage of your donation may be applied toward our goals. Your email will be used by LLPS only to distribute newsletters and any important LLPS communications.*

#### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

\$25    \$50    \$75    other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

\$10

#### BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

\$200    other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Business members are eligible to place a logo on LLPS brochures and a link to their web site on the LLPS site, [www.littlelagoon.org](http://www.littlelagoon.org).*

**Please complete this form and mail it with your check payable to LLPS  
Little Lagoon Preservation Society  
P. O. Box 3193**