



Newsletter

Spring 2019

www.littlelagoon.org

**Next meeting:
Tuesday April 23,
2019**

5:30 p.m.

**Gulf Shores Activity Center
260 Clubhouse Drive**

Little Lagoon Benefits from Restore Money Projects

Take note the Change in Meeting Date! Little Lagoon Preservation Society (LLPS) members and the public are invited to attend a quarterly meeting. P.J. Waters, Extension Specialist/Interim Director, Auburn Marine Extension & Research Center, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, MS-AL Sea Grant Consortium, will provide details on the large-scale oyster gardening project including plans for “the farm” and “moveout” infrastructure plus plan management and work to be accomplished. Dan Bond, City of Gulf Shores (COGS) Environmental/Grants Coordinator will brief us on the latest Restore Money projects to include large scale oyster gardening, shoreline and marsh restoration, septic tank conversion, canal remediation, hydrodynamic modeling, and water quality determinations.

LLPS will meet on Tuesday, April 23, 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

The last dredging cycle was completed January 2, 2019, and winter storms have rapidly filled up the sediment traps just north of the bridge and added to the flood shoal sands in the north/northeast part of the pass (picture 1). ALDOT/Brett Webb/Mark Acreman were contacted on concerns the pass may close during the spring, but LLPS received no response. The intention was to also talk about the flood shoal sands at a proposed get



together. A meeting is being planned for the near future with Mark Acreman (COGS) and Don Powell (ALDOT) to discuss the shoal sands. The pass appears to be close to a trigger (latest 120 sq. ft. minimum cross section area) with the channel north of the bridge hugging the wall (picture 2), and some shoaling north of that area and at the mouth of the pass. The NE flood shoal sands appear to be forming an island (picture 1) and appear to be migrating to the east which may negatively affect the COGS new fishing pier east of the pass.



Oyster Gardening Update

For 2019 oyster gardening, we have 48 volunteers signed up to grow oysters. We have had several drop outs and several additions to the program, but generally the same dedicated souls to nurture oyster gardens. Membership e-mails and some local media advertising did not grow our effort, so it appears we have come close to maxing out demand for the product. If Little Lagoon ever gets “classified” for oyster consumption volunteers will likely be coming out of the woodwork to grow oysters. But until that time . . . We will meet at Mo’s Landing on Sat. April 27th (tentatively at 9AM) for our usual pre-gardening seminar to be conducted by PJ Waters. Will hand out 27 new cages, gardening clips and rope. As usual, drinks and lunch will be provided. For Zone Captains, a meeting in the very near future is planned to discuss all the particulars. The concept is to maximize volunteer gardening production by having a checklist for best practices which each Captain will follow and recommend to gardeners in their respective zone when checking oyster gardens.

Committee Activity Updates

Outreach:

- **Watershed Management Plan (WMP)** A small group of local watershed stakeholders met on Tuesday Feb 19, 2019 in Orange Beach (OB) to discuss/strategize the best way to initiate the WMP planning process. Ron and Dennis attended the meeting with COGS, City of OB, Baldwin County, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in anticipation of beginning the Watershed Management Plan for Little Lagoon. First up in the meeting was a discussion on how the State Park should be included in the planning process. Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) boundaries put it in the OB planning area whereas it rightly belongs in the Lagoon watershed planning. There was agreement the Park Lakes would be included in the Lagoon planning process and document. Another topic for discussion at the meeting was beginning the process of contractor selection, currently ongoing. Other details to be worked out include how to manage, studies to be done, infrastructure, and best practices.
- **LL Restoration Project** – LLPS will probably be involved in all aspects of this project. COGS currently putting in place management for each aspect of the project. In the past we have referred to one project component as septic tank removal. More appropriate

would be “septic tank conversion” as removal of the tank is not always practical. 300-400 septic systems have been identified around Little Lagoon for possible conversion.

- **Laguna Cove property acquisition** – COGS is close to working out details on purchasing the property. Likely done deal by early summer? Dennis plans to discuss the benefits of the current plan versus the alternatives with West Beach Property Owners Association on 27 Apr 2019 at 12 noon at the Gulf Shores Activity Center.
- **Out Reach** – LLPS was represented by Brooke at the Theodore Leadership Conference on Monday, Feb 25th. She talked to approximately 550 kids from 7 high schools about the benefit Oyster Farming and water filtration in LL and Mobile Bay. She was impressed that many of them had heard about the projects from the Hudson Bay/NY Harbor, so they were very interested that we had a project as such in our own backyard. A list of students was gathered that would like to be more involved with the Oyster Gardening in some format. Some for school projects, others for their personal interest in eco-science. She believes future events can be very beneficial for LLPS. Brooke also represented LLPS at the Ballyhoo event sharing space with Alabama Coastal Foundation. For the upcoming Zydeco Fest. (April 20, 10AM till 6PM, Waterway Village), Brooke plans to share space with “Share the Beach” and promote LLPS membership and efforts. **We need some volunteers to help Brooke man a table and promote LLPS. If you would like to help, please reply to the e-mail when you receive your newsletter or contact Dennis at 942-2233.**

Membership

2019 Dues are now being collected. Please make sure you have submitted your dues for 2019. \$25 for one-year membership gives you updates on Little Lagoon health and ongoing efforts to preserve the Lagoon for years to come. LLPS policy is to deactivate members that are more than 2 years in arrears on membership dues. You can pay by snail mail and a check or by using PayPal: <http://littlelagoon.org/membership> Thank you.

Financials

January 1, 2019 thru March 31, 2019	
Starting Balance	\$49,276.76
Total Income	
Total Expenses	
Ending Balance	

Due to lack of regular access to the LLPS Web page and financial data module we may need to consider doing something different for the future. We would hope to retain our current manager who crafted our “one stop shopping” website but need to have fixes/functionality given all that is going on with LLPS. We hope to have a financial analysis in the near future. More to come.

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 _____

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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.

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