

# LEMON BAY NEWSLETTER CONSERVANCY

SUMMER 2016 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 1

## Our Goal:

The **preservation, protection and acquisition of natural areas** important in **maintaining the ecological balance of Lemon Bay and adjacent waters**

## In This Issue

From the Editor	1
Kids Tarpon Tourney	2
STEM Camp at Wildflower	3
Wildflower Restoration	4
What's up in the Watershed?	8
Funding the Future	8
The 2016 Giving Challenge	9
Your Support is Vital	11
Thank you to our Volunteers!	12

## IN THIS ISSUE

A lot has been happening at Lemon Bay Conservancy this summer! Although this is considered by many to be the “off” season, LBC is going full speed ahead with our many projects. Work has begun in earnest to restore Wildflower Preserve to its original, natural state. With grant monies from NOAA and SWFWMD, the face of Wildflower is changing from an exotic-ridden jungle to a true sanctuary for native plants and animals. Be sure to read Eva Furner’s report on the restoration process and learn what’s in store for the future of Wildflower Preserve.

Also, look for Percy Angelo’s article “What’s Up in the Watershed” to find the latest information on environmental happenings throughout Charlotte County that impact our Lemon Bay neighborhoods.

Late spring and early summer were filled with fun events: the guided boat tour with Dr. Bill Dunson, Earth Day planting, the Wildflower volunteer dinner, STEM Camp, the Kids’ Classic Tarpon Tournament, and the on-going tarpon tagging project have kept our members busier than ever! We hope you will enjoy the photos and articles that follow.

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, Lemon Bay Conservancy depends on our volunteers, membership support, and donations to carry out the important work of preserving and protecting our coastal environment. The task is enormous, and your donations are crucial to our success.

On September 20, Lemon Bay Conservancy will be participating in the 2016 Giving Challenge sponsored by the Community Foundation of Sarasota and the Patterson Foundation. This is a one-day, 24-hour event. During this time every dollar up to \$100 donated to LBC will be matched by the Patterson Foundation. It is a wonderful opportunity for our members and friends to see the impact of your generosity and to help us continue to make good things happen in our coastal community. Please read about the Giving Challenge in this newsletter, and join us for the Challenge on September 20-21. **You can make a difference!**



Officers

**Jim Cooper**

*Interim President*

941.830.8922

president@lemonbayconservancy.org

**Percy Angelo**

*Vice President*

941.830.8922

vp@lemonbayconservancy.org

**Irene Slattery**

*2nd Vice President*

941.830.8922

2vp@lemonbayconservancy.org

**Hilary Dahms**

*Secretary*

941.830.8922

secretary@lemonbayconservancy.org

**Jim Cooper**

*Interim Treasurer*

941.830.8922

treasurer@lemonbayconservancy.org

#### **DIRECTORS**

Eva Furner, John McCurley,  
Carol Dorshimer & Adam Cummings

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Hilary Dahms / Committee Chair  
newsletter@lemonbayconservancy.org

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Lemon Bay Conservancy

Lemon Bay Conservancy, Inc.  
2980 Placida Rd., Suite 201  
Englewood, Florida 34224  
941.830.8922  
lbconservancy@comcast.net

Stay in touch at our Website  
[www.lemonbayconservancy.org](http://www.lemonbayconservancy.org)



## Gasparilla Island Kids Classic Tarpon Tournament



### **These happy anglers caught and released a total of 31 tarpon during the Kids' Classic**

The winds blew and the tide ran strong for the 2016 Gasparilla Island Kids' Classic Tarpon Tournament held on Boca Grande on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. First held in 2011, the Kids' Classic has raised over \$180,000 for a host of children's charities in S.W. Florida. The tournament is open to youngsters 15 years old and under. It places special emphasis on responsible fishing practices, good sportsmanship, conservation, and appreciation of our local tarpon fishing history and traditions. It is the main fundraiser for Boca Grande Charities, Inc.

For the fourth year in a row, Lemon Bay Conservancy was the designated Kids' Tournament Conservation and Habitat Preservation sponsor. LBC was honored to receive a conservation grant of \$3,000 from Boca Grande Charities while our education partners, the Charlotte County School System, received \$14,000 for the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Camp Initiative that takes place at LBC's Wildflower Preserve.

A festival atmosphere prevailed throughout the day as families and friends enjoyed games, food, music and an interactive art show. At 5:30 p.m. the registered anglers took to the water in teams of four kids per boat. There were 32 registered boats, each manned by a volunteer captain, mate and 1-2 adult observers. By 8:30 p.m., the teams had caught and safely released 31 tarpon. What an exciting day for these anglers, and what a wonderful way to fund some great causes!

Jim Cooper



# S.T.E.M. Camp at Wildflower Preserve

Despite a wet start, 30 students from L. A. Ainger Middle School and Lemon Bay High School participated in a successful STEM (Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics) Camp on site at Wildflower Preserve from June 7<sup>th</sup>-June 15<sup>th</sup>. The students, under the direction of teachers Susan Chabot and Andy Green from Lemon Bay High School and Brad Gibson and Natalia Shea from L.A. Ainger, used Wildflower Preserve and the surrounding waters as an outdoor laboratory to conduct research for a wide variety of environmental projects.

Several incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders are working on a water quality study to monitor nutrient levels in the ponds at the Preserve before, during and after the restoration process. This will provide valuable data for the restoration project going forward. The students also collected live samples of marine life to stock the new aquaculture lab at Lemon Bay High School. A number of students are planning to participate in the Florida State Science Fair using the project materials developed during this year's STEM Camp studies. We wish them good luck!

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from Boca Grande Charities from the proceeds of the Boca Grande Kids' Tarpon Tournament, and from Mr. Bill Klettke, Babcock Ranch Inc., and LBC supporter Mrs. Pat Chapman that made the 2016 STEM Camp possible! Here are some scenes from STEM Camp 2016.



Fun on Kayaks!



Water sampling at Wildflower



Catching critters



Collecting Marinelife Samples



# Wildflower Preserve Habitat Restoration

by Eva Furner, LBC's Wildflower Preserve committee chair

## Phase 1: Invasive Species Removal

In June, Lemon Bay Conservancy reached a major milestone with the start of construction activities on our habitat restoration project at Wildflower Preserve. The initial phase of the project, invasive species removal, is now underway.

The equipment being used to clear dense areas of invasive Brazilian Pepper is a specialized piece of heavy machinery called a Hydro Ax. It is equipped with a forestry mulching mowing head. With an experienced operator, the Hydro Ax can clear up to two acres of pepper in a single day's operation, while still leaving native trees in the same area standing. (To see a video of the Hydro Ax at work, visit our LBC website at [www.lemon-bayconservancy.org](http://www.lemon-bayconservancy.org).)

In addition to the Hydro Ax, the contractors are using chain saws to remove invasive growth close to existing native plants and to fell larger invasive trees, including Australian Pines and Melaleuca. Periodically, through the next year, licensed professionals will also be onsite using herbicide applications to limit re-growth of undesirable species. While it can seem sad and a bit shocking to see the removal of large areas of growing vegetation, clearing invasive species is a necessary first step in preparing the land for replanting with native trees and shrubs.

*For safety reasons, Wildflower Preserve trails and land areas are closed while work is underway and until such time as inspections show that the areas are again safe for visitor use. It is very important to respect these closures and stay well clear of the construction activities.*

As the weather cools in the fall, our LBC trail guides will be offering guided tours into the preserve to allow our members and visitors to see the work in progress and to learn more about our restoration plans.

## Phase 2: Wetland Improvements and Expansion

The second exciting phase of the Wildflower Preserve habitat restoration project is modifying and expanding the freshwater and estuarine wetlands at the preserve. This

phase is scheduled to go out for bid in the fourth quarter of 2016, with construction beginning shortly thereafter.

Today, the wetlands at Wildflower consist of several freshwater ponds that were dug as part of the old golf course layout and portions of tidal Lemon Creek. The ponds are located in the eastern and central sections of the preserve. Lemon Creek runs north and south along the western side of the preserve.

Lemon Creek is an estuary, meaning a place where fresh and salt water mix. The creek receives tidal saltwater flows from Lemon Bay through culverts that run under Placida Road. It receives freshwater flows from rain and from the ponds to the east. Mangrove backwaters like Lemon Creek serve as important nursery sites for a vari-



**An impressive machine** (Photo: Eva Furner)

ety of fish species (including tarpon and snook) and for many other species (such as blue crab). Mangrove creek acreage has declined dramatically over time due to construction pressures and these losses represent a major threat to the long-term health of the many species that rely on this habitat. As part of the Wildflower restoration project, we will be reversing a small portion of these losses by adding nine acres of new estuarine wetlands within the preserve and improving the tidal flow between the creek and Lemon Bay.

The restoration project will also improve the freshwater wetlands within the preserve. Today, the old golf course ponds have steep sides and interconnecting underground pipes. Water flows into the ponds through storm water drainage from the surrounding communities and many of the ponds have high nutrient levels that negatively impact water quality. As part of the restoration, we will be modifying many of the pond edges to eliminate steep sides and create gradual banks where native wetland plants will be added to help filter excess nutrients from the water and provide cover for wildlife. Underground connections between the ponds will be removed and above ground flow ways will be added. The changes will improve the existing freshwater areas and add five acres of new freshwater wetlands to the preserve.

### Phase 3: Native Wetland and Upland Plantings

As various sections of the wetland expansion and improvements are completed, the next step in the res-



**The new view from Placida Rd.** (Photo: Jim Cooper)

toration process will begin. The newly contoured areas will be replanted with native wetland species. At varying elevations along the wetland borders, a variety of plantings will be used.

In the estuarine habitats, plans call for smooth cordgrass in the low marsh areas, and saltmeadow grass, black needle rush, and seaside paspalum in the high marsh.

In the freshwater areas, planned low marsh plantings include sawgrass, softstem bulrush, arrowhead, alligator flag, pickerelweed and Gulf Coast spikerush. The upper marsh plantings will include saltmarsh bulrush, seashore paspalum, canna lily, maidencane, blueflag iris and soft rush.

Transitional zones near the wetland areas will be planted with sand cordgrass and muhly grass. A small island in one of the freshwater ponds will be planted with bald cypress and red maple.

A significant number of native cab-

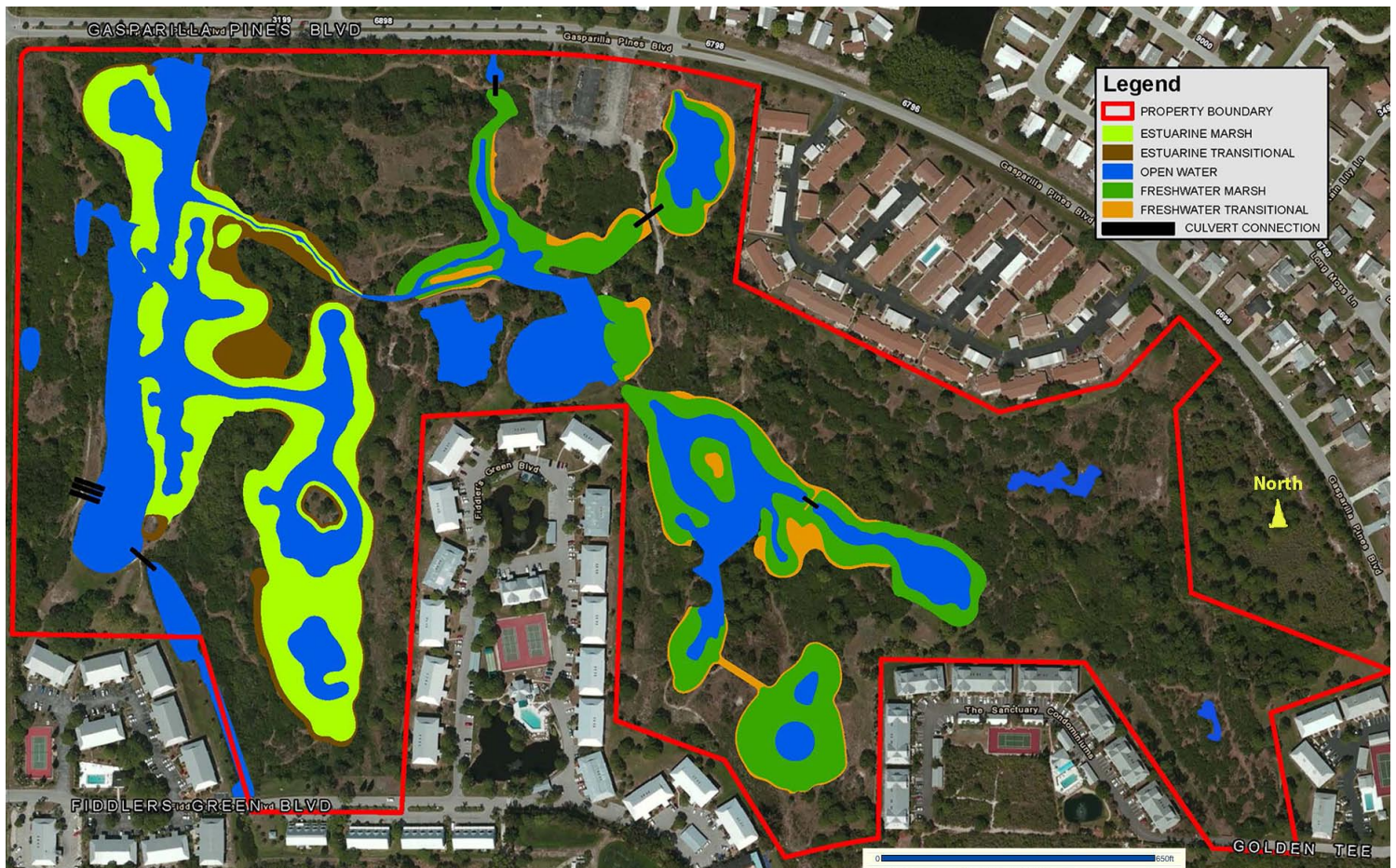
bage palms (also known as sabal palms) are growing in areas that will become new wetlands as part of the restoration. Unlike most plants, cabbage palms transplant well when they are larger. Therefore, plans call for moving up to 120 cabbage palms out of the future wetland areas to nearby upland sites.

By the summer of 2017, we should be ready to begin native planting work on the uplands within Wildflower Preserve. Plans call for over 7,000 trees and shrubs to be planted across 42 acres of uplands. The plantings are scheduled to include saw palmetto, gallberry, coco plum, Florida swamp privet, firebush, yaupon holly, wax myrtle, red cedar, and South Florida slash pine. While these initial plantings will be a major first step in restoring the uplands, as funds become available in the future, we hope to further expand the diversity of upland plantings by adding other native trees, shrubs and meadow plantings.

*continued on page 6*



## Wildflower Preserve Habitat Restoration *(Continued)*



**The reconfiguration plan**

### Phase 4: Ongoing Maintenance

For the first few years after the restoration project is complete, while the native plantings mature, quarterly maintenance will be required to prevent invasive plant species from returning. This will involve detailed work by professionals and volunteers to inspect every portion of the property and remove invasives as they begin to appear.

Over time, as the native growth becomes denser and the invasive seed bank decreases, the plant maintenance requirements will lessen, but ongoing vigilance to protect the native habitats will always be required. As landowner, Lemon Bay Conservancy will also

be responsible for ongoing mowing and management of the trail network within the preserve and for management of other issues such as the damage that wild hogs can produce.

### Habitat Restoration Project Funding

By now, you are probably wondering how a relatively small, local non-profit like Lemon Bay Conservancy could possibly design and fund a project like the Wildflower Preserve habitat restoration. The answer is: we have lots of help, both from you, our members and donors, and from our grant partners. And, while most of the project is funded, we still have a variety of funding needs that remain to be

covered.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) is providing professional project leadership for the restoration, \$750,000 in initial project funding, and an anticipated incremental \$75,000 in funding currently in final budget review. The resources that the District is bringing to bear on the project are impressive. Scheda Ecological Associates, a very experienced restoration design firm, was engaged by the District to create the project design. Senior environmental scientist, Stephanie Powers, with SWFWMD's Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program, is serving as overall project manager, coordinating the plan-

ning and implementation work. The SWFWMD funding is part of the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative, which requires matching funds from the fund recipient. LBC provided its funding share for the initial \$750,000 in project funding through its purchase costs for Wildflower Preserve. In 2017, LBC will be required to provide \$75,000 in matching funds to complete the incremental funding. So far, thanks to generous contributions and pledges from key donors, we have raised \$66,000 of the \$75,000 required. In order to avoid dipping into LBC contingency funds, we are currently seeking \$9,000 in incremental funds to complete our matching funds requirement.

Our second major grant partner in the restoration project is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Our \$422,500 grant is one of six awarded nationwide under the 2015 NOAA Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grant program.

Leslie Craig, Southeast Region Supervisor of the NOAA Restoration Center, commented on why NOAA selected our project for funding: "The Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants Program was created to help develop healthy and sustainable coastal ecosystems. This project was selected because it will restore a mosaic of coastal habitats, reestablish tidal connectivity, remove exotic species, and enhance a Preserve that can provide recreational opportunities for many to enjoy. We look forward to partnering with the Lemon Bay Conservancy to achieve all of the outcomes envisioned from the project." When you add it all up, our LBC team and our partners have committed \$2,072,500 to purchase and restore

Wildflower Preserve! We thank everyone involved for their time and dedication to this project.

### **Other Projects: Enhancing Our Human Experiences at the Preserve**

Wildflower is a nature preserve and the restoration project will make it a wonderful place for plants and animals. But, we also want to provide a beautiful place for our members and visitors to observe nature and learn about the environment. To improve the human experience at Wildflower, there are a variety of projects that we envision but do not yet have funded.

One key project is the placement of a bridge over the creek. The bridge would cross over the flow way between the new eastern creek area and the existing western prong of the creek. It would create access for our trail guides to lead tours around the creek without doubling back onto trails previously covered, allow for improved "loop" hiking trails, and provide observation

points for photography and nature study. If we can build the bridge before the new wetland areas are opened to tidal flow, we can save money on construction costs. So, we are actively looking for donations and grant sources that would allow us to build this bridge in parallel with the estuarine wetland expansion that will begin in late 2016 or early 2017. The funding hurdle is significant. The estimated bridge cost is \$25,000 to \$35,000. Other projects that we envision include raised, wooden observation platforms near the wetlands, interpretive signage and recycled plastic benches along the new trail network, wood duck nesting platforms in the freshwater wetlands, a new brochure to describe butterflies in the preserve, and sculptures in the butterfly habitat.

It's an incredibly exciting time to be an LBC contributor and to watch as our efforts transform Wildflower Preserve into a wonderful native habitat and an exciting resource for environmental education!

## **CALLING ALL PATRONS OF THE ARTS**

### **Art At The Preserve**

In addition to the physical transformation going on at Wildflower Preserve, we hope to tap into the transformative beauty of nature to create a venue for art and sculpture within the Preserve. The Preserve in its new configuration is full of beautiful spaces that inspire artistic expression. We hope to create a sculpture garden to feature the work of local artists, and we invite all interested parties: members, friends, and artists to join us in this exciting endeavor. The Arts Committee wants to hear your ideas and suggestions. Please contact the Lemon Bay Conservancy office at 941-830-9822 to find out how you can be involved!



## What's Up In The Watershed?

**Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan revisions and density concerns.** Charlotte County is continuing its efforts to weaken environmental protections for the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) contained in the county Comprehensive Development Plan. These protections center on wetlands, wildlife, buffer zones and population density. In 2015, the County proposed a broad amendment to relax these protections. The amendment was successfully challenged by the Friends of Cape Haze, Inc., an environmental organization serving the Cape Haze peninsula. The Friends' appeal resulted in the withdrawal of the proposed changes. However, two months later, the County re-proposed the same changes in three separate stages forcing three separate legal actions.

The first stage involved a range of issues including commercial strip relaxations, land use, boundary changes, and possible vacation of access to public water bodies. Friends of Cape Haze appealed, and the appeal was resolved in the spring of 2016. The settlement cut back on some changes and provided more precise language to limit some of the most troubling changes.

*continued on page 10*

## Funding for the Future: How You Can Make It Happen!

Despite all the grant money coming in for the Wildflower Preserve Habitat restoration, Lemon Bay Conservancy still needs your donations!

We still need to raise \$9,000 to complete our matching grant commitment to SWFWMD for Wildflower Preserve, and we have many other funding needs, both large and small. For example: \$400 will print a brochure describing butterfly species and host plants in the preserve; \$20 will buy seed for the feeders in the bird observation area; \$750 will place a recycled plastic bench along a preserve trail; \$200 will buy a new educational sign; \$4,000 will buy a new trail mower; \$40,000 will fund a year's worth of maintenance for invasive species; and \$25,000 to \$35,000 will build a bridge for better pedestrian access near the restored wetlands.

While we have made great strides in our efforts to preserve, protect and improve our coastal environment, we need your contributions to support our ongoing operations and other key Conservancy projects, including our partnership with the Charlotte County School District for the annual STEM Camp at Wildflower, our juvenile tarpon research projects, our educational

programs and our continued advocacy for environmental preservation. Every dollar helps us do more!

On September 20, 2016 Lemon Bay Conservancy will be participating in the 2016 Giving Challenge. This one-day event sponsored by the Patterson Foundation and the Community Foundation of Sarasota will provide matching funds for all donations made to LBC during the 24-hour period beginning at 12:00 noon on September 20. Please read on to find out how you can double the power of your donation on this special day!

### Get All the LBC News

Have you been receiving our emails about events, nature walks and environmental news? If not, we don't have your email address! Please send a quick email to [lbconservancy@comcast.net](mailto:lbconservancy@comcast.net) to let us know how to reach you.





## 24-Hours to Make Your Donations to LBC Soar! 2016 Giving Challenge!

**B**eginning at noon on September 20<sup>th</sup>, Lemon Bay Conservancy will be participating in the 2016 Giving Challenge. Each of you can be the one to make a difference for LBC during this exciting 24-hour donation event!

Each individual contributing to LBC during the 24-hour Giving Challenge will have your donation matched by The Patterson Foundation. If you did not donate to LBC during last year's Giving Challenge, your 2016 donation (up to \$100) will be matched 2:1 by The Patterson Foundation! So, your \$25 donation will become \$75. Or, your \$100 donation will become \$300.

If you did donate to LBC during the Giving Challenge last year, your 2016 donation (up

to \$100) will still be matched 1:1! So the value of your contribution will double! This is a remarkable opportunity to leverage the value of your donation to provide the most benefit possible for Lemon Bay Conservancy!

The Giving Challenge donation window is only open for 24-hours, from noon on September 20<sup>th</sup> to noon on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Go to [www.GivingPartner-Challenge.org](http://www.GivingPartner-Challenge.org). Search for Lemon Bay Conservancy and make your donation of \$25 or more. Only online donations made through the website qualify for matching funds.

If we have your email address or you've "liked" our Facebook page, you'll see reminders from LBC about the Challenge as the date approaches. Would you like us to call and remind you when the event starts? We can

do that too! Just call the LBC office at 941-830-8922 or send us a note at [lbconservancy@comcast.net](mailto:lbconservancy@comcast.net) with your name and the phone # you'd like us to call!

The 2016 Giving Challenge is presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation, as well as support from Manatee Community Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, and the Herald-Tribune Media Group.

Throughout this newsletter, you've learned about how LBC is working to improve our local environment and about the many ways we can put your donations to positive use. Please "be the one" to lend your support to LBC by donating during the 2016 Giving Challenge.

*(What's Up... Continued from page 8)*

The County's second stage of changes involves density (the number of residential units per acre) and transfer of density units (TDUs). The proposal would remove the limitation that prevents transfer of density to more vulnerable parts of the CHHA, such as Placida. There is concern that available and unused density located further north on Gasparilla Road could be moved to the Placida area where it would have a much more serious impact on coastal resources and evacuation times.

Evacuation times are already far in excess of allowable standards. The statutes set a 16-hour evacuation time; while the calculated times for all but the lowest level storms are over 40 hours. This is of special concern to those at the end of an evacuation route, such as residents in Placida and Boca Grande. The risk is even greater where the evacuation route can be cut off by flooding as along Gasparilla Road or the Boca Grande Causeway.

The TDU regulations currently state that density cannot be moved from a less restrictive to a more restrictive FEMA flood zone. This provision generally protects Placida, because it is in a higher-rated flood zone than areas further north. Friends of Cape Haze has requested that the language of this straightforward regulation be included in the Comprehensive Plan itself. The reason being that the Comprehensive Plan functions as more of a constitution and is harder to change and therefore provides more permanent protection than a

regulation, which is easy to change. The fact that the County has refused to make this addition to the Comprehensive Plan is troubling. The County has announced that it will conduct three public roundtables to discuss density and transfer of density issues. The first was held June 9 and two more are scheduled for August 5 and 19. At the first roundtable, there was representation from citizens and groups on both sides of the issue: those who supported the language limiting transfer of density, and those who hold TDUs or potential TDUS whose TDUs might become less valuable with the addition of this language to the comp plan.

Despite the County's commitment to proceed through the public roundtable process, it has, without public input, proposed an amendment to the RAPID density rules. The changes are complex, but they would appear to be designed to support workforce and student housing and market rental housing. There is no definition of market rental housing, so the scope of these amendments is unclear. It is concerning that this effort is proceeding outside the public roundtable process. This proposal was brought to the Planning and Zoning Board on July 11. The third section of proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan concerns wetlands protection and has not yet been scheduled for presentation.

**Mercabo purchase.** Wonderful news came in early 2016 when the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association announced that it had successfully

raised over \$20 million, in essentially two months time, to purchase the former Mercabo property at the corner of Placida Road and the Boca Grande Causeway. GICIA is already proceeding to turn the property into a nature preserve. The amount raised was spectacular, but also impressive was the very large number of individual donations from on and off the island.

**Protections along the Peace River.** On the Peace River front, the Sierra Club challenged the Mosaic South Fort Meade mine permit several years ago and reached a settlement with Mosaic which called for 1) expanding the area of preservation around to Peace River in the neighborhood of the mine; 2) buying the Peaceful Horse Ranch at the intersection of the Peace River and Horse Creek and preserving it as a state park; and 3) donating an additional sum of money for preservation along the Peace River. The first two steps were accomplished shortly after the settlement. The third has finally been completed with the purchase of a conservation easement along the river. The owners of the conservation easement property had been trying for years to protect it, but weren't able to afford to simply donate it. The conservation easement solution will protect the property while providing some benefit to the owners. It is a wonderful example of a win/win solution.

Lemon Bay Conservancy holds some conservation easements and is considering expanding its efforts in this area. We hope to provide more information in the future.

Percy Angelo



# Your Support is Vital!

It seems that Lemon Bay Conservancy is always fundraising: the Giving Challenge, the Toast to the Coast, annual memberships and donations. Yes we are, and yes we **must**. Every dollar we spend is a dollar we must raise. For 45 years, LBC has worked to preserve and protect our coastal environment. Your donations will help ensure that future generations have these lands to enjoy and that the remarkable species that live here will continue to thrive. **Please help us, either through the online Giving Challenge or by mailing in your donation using the form below.**

<b>Lemon Bay Conservancy Donation Form</b>		
<i>To join or contribute online, go to <a href="http://www.LemonBayConservancy.org">www.LemonBayConservancy.org</a>.</i>		
<b>Primary Address and Contact Information:</b>		
Name:		
Address Line 1:		
Address Line 2:		
City, State, Zip:		
Email:		
Telephone:		
<b>Alternate Address (if applicable):</b>		
Address Line 1:		
Address Line 2:		
City, State, Zip:		
Months at this address?		
<b>My Donation:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: \$_____		
<b>Please make this a recurring donation:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Annually		
If you would like your donation to be applied to a specific project, or if this is a memorial or honor gift, please attach a note with your instructions.		
<b>Form of Payment:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> Check ( <i>Please make payable to Lemon Bay Conservancy, Inc.</i> )		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">           Credit Card Information:    <input type="checkbox"/> Visa    <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card    3-digit security code: _____            Card Number: _____    Expiration Date: _____         </td> </tr> </table>		Credit Card Information: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card    3-digit security code: _____ Card Number: _____    Expiration Date: _____
Credit Card Information: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card    3-digit security code: _____ Card Number: _____    Expiration Date: _____		
<b>Thank You!</b> Please send your completed form to: Lemon Bay Conservancy, Inc. 2980 Placida Rd., Suite 201 Englewood, FL 34224		
LBC is a 501(c) 3 Non-Profit. Contributions are, in general, tax deductible. Please consult your tax professional.		
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## Thank You to our Volunteers!

At our annual volunteer dinner in 2015, we introduced a new lapel pin designed to recognize volunteers who have served Lemon Bay Conservancy for five years. The "Class of 2015" included 19 volunteers.

At this year's dinner on March 23rd, we presented eight additional volunteers with their 5-year service pins. They are Roy Ault, Abbie Banks, Tom Duch, Gayle Duch, Pam Neer, Don Rippeon, Bob Winter and Ruth Wilson. In addition to all our regular volunteers, we extend our sincere thanks to Michael Haymans, Attorney-at-Law for his pro bono support in reviewing the contract for the first phase of the Wildflower restoration. His kind service has been invaluable.

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers! You're amazing! You make it possible for Lemon Bay Conservancy to achieve great things!



**A great group**

**The LBC 5-Year Pin**



Kneeling (L-to-R): Irene Slattery, Pam Neer, Kathleen Reguindin, Sondra Buchner, Carolyn Marlow, Jane Frentzel, Vanessa Smith  
Standing (L-to-R): Marj Hamilton, Per Christiansen, Eva Furner, Percy Angelo, Ken Marlow, Ruth Wilson, Bob Cooper, Maura Qualls, Carol Kress, Joe Gallagher, Don Hamilton, Sue Murphy, Bill Dunson, Penny Rieley, Margaret Dunson, Lucia Schatteley, Rick Kirkwood, Bob Hildebrand, Bob Winter, George Frentzel, Chuck Devette, Cheryl Tough, Roy Ault (partially hidden), Jim Cooper, Hilary Dahms  
**SEA - Saving land • Educating • Advocating**