

Fall 2018, Volume 48, Issue 1

#### Inside This Issue

No problem has been more at the forefront of our daily lives in Southwest Florida this year than the red tide and blue-green algae blooms that have created enormous ecological and economic damage across our beautiful area. While solving Florida's water quality problems is a long-term and very complex challenge, there are things each of us as individuals can do to begin to turn things around. Please read our article "Take Action for Clean Water!" in this issue and take steps to be part of the solution!

Lemon Bay Conservancy has a long history of working to improve water quality. We are doing so today with our work to expand the wetlands at Wildflower Preserve and add nutrient-filtering native plants at this old golf course property. Improving that water is of particular importance because the ponds in Wildflower flow out through Lemon Creek into Lemon Bay. You'll find an update on a significant new challenge to our work on this major habitat restoration project inside.

LBC board member Adam Cummings has contributed an informative article to this issue on the importance of *Comprehensive Planning and Good Growth Management*. You'll also find articles about our latest scholarship award recipient, two of our LBC volunteer board members, the schedule for nature walks and special events in the coming season, and much more.

For the last 48 years, LBC has been working to protect our environmentally sensitive lands and waters. But, none of our work is possible without your ongoing support, both through your time and through your financial contributions! Volunteers run our organization! We need help on committees, on our board of directors, in doing field work at Wildflower, in pulling tarpon nets, and in a range of other capacities. Please contact the office and volunteer your skills. It's fun and fulfilling!

We have many new funding challenges ahead. Please see our membership and fundraising appeals on the pages inside and send in your contributions today! Membership renewals submitted now will apply through year-end 2019 and we have a special Wildflower fundraising appeal with a November 27<sup>th</sup> deadline to receive matching challenge funds. By contributing now, you will also help us reduce the expense of separate fundraising mailings in the months ahead.

Thank you for helping to protect our environment and for supporting Lemon Bay Conservancy!



# Our Goal: The preservation, protection and acquisition of natural areas important in maintaining the ecological balance of Lemon Bay and adjacent waters

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#### **OFFICERS**

#### **Jim Cooper**

Interim President 941-830-8922 president@lemonbayconservancy.org

#### **Irene Slattery**

Vice President 941-830-8922 vp@lemonbayconservancy.org

#### **John McCurley**

2nd Vice President 941-830-8922 2vp@lemonbayconservancy.org

#### Jim Cooper

Interim Treasurer 941-830-8922 treasurer@lemonbayconservancy.org

#### **DIRECTORS**

Eva Furner, Adam Cummings, Buffy Crampton

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Lemon Bay Conservancy, Inc. 150 S. McCall Road Suite 2 Englewood, FL 34223 941-830-8922 Ibconservancy@comcast.net

Stay in touch at our Website www.lemonbayconservancy.org



## 2018 LBC Scholarship Winner



LBC Vice President, Irene Slattery, and LBHS senior, Haleigh Niles.

Haleigh Niles, a 2018 graduate of Lemon Bay High School, is the winner of this year's **Elsie Bracken Environmental Scholarship**.

Haleigh is a dedicated STEM science student. She is attending Washington University in St. Louis Missouri to pursue a degree in Environmental Science and Conservation.

Haleigh was a member of Environmental Club and Science National Honor Society while a Lemon Bay High School student and graduated with a 4.25 weighted science GPA.

## New Office Manager

Earlier this year, we bid farewell to our previous office manager, Sharon Olford, as she decided to return to Colorado, and welcomed our new office manager, **Mary Birchfield**.

Mary just completed 6 months with our organization. Her professional background is in Accounting and Business Management with degrees from both Edison State College and AIU in Atlanta, Georgia. Mary is also a small business owner in Charlotte County where she runs a small accounting company.

Mary is enjoying her position here at LBC and diving right in! As this is her first time at a non-profit organization, she has found that this is definitely where and what she wants to be doing.

We hope you will stop by to visit Mary. Our usual business hours are Monday-Thursday, 10-2. Schedules sometimes change, so please call ahead to make sure Mary is available to meet you.

Mary Birchfield, Office Manager at the Lemon Bay Conservancy office

## Take Action for Clean Water!

Since October 2017, an intense red tide bloom has been moving with the winds and currents along our Southwest Florida coastline, wreaking ecological and economic havoc from Naples to Clearwater Beach. For all of us who live, visit and work in our beautiful area, the impacts have been enormous. And, the worst part is that no one can predict how long the red time bloom will last or when it might return to our shores.

It is well-documented that red tide blooms have occurred along our coast for many centuries and that the red tide organism (*Karenia brevis*) is always present in low quantities in our local waters. Scientists aren't sure what causes an intense bloom like the one we have been experiencing this year. Various groups point to agricultural and mining impacts, to Florida's population growth, to climate change, and to a variety of other factors. But, one element that almost all researchers agree on is that excess nutrients in our coastal waters are a contributing factor.

Excess nutrients in Lake Okeechobee are also causing enormous problems by feeding massive blue-green algae blooms that are clogging freshwater rivers and waterways. The problems occur when excess lake water is released downstream by the Army Corp of Engineers. The blue-green algae dies when it reaches salt water, where many scientists believe the excess nutrients in the algae decompose and are eventually taken up by the red tide organisms, contributing to the intensity of our current red tide bloom.

So, what can we do to improve Florida's waters? We can fight at the personal and political levels for clean water by focusing on reducing nutrients, specifically phosphorous and nitrogen, in our water.

At the personal level, we can reduce the release of phosphorous and nitrogen related to our daily activities. Here are some specific actions to consider:

- If you have a <u>septic tank</u>, be sure it has been inspected and is working properly.
- Reduce or eliminate use of <u>fertilizers</u> in your yard, condominium grounds, golf courses and other areas. If you decide to fertilize, follow county regulations on when, where and how much fertilizer to apply. Do not fertilize close to water bodies.
- Plant <u>native plants</u> whenever possible and consider replacing existing non-natives with native species. Native ground covers can be good alternatives to St. Augustine grass. Once established, natives require little or no irrigation or fertilization.
- Prevent <u>yard debris</u> (leaves, plants and grass clippings) from washing into storm drains.
- If you live adjacent to a <u>pond or storm water drainage</u> that feeds to a natural water body, consider creating a non-grass plant buffer zone adjacent to the water and planting wetland plants along the edges of the water. The plants can absorb nutrients into their root systems and reduce the flow of nutrients downstream.
- Insure "poop" from dogs and other pets is picked up and disposed of properly.

At the political level, we can use our voices and our votes to tell our political representatives that clean water with reduced nutrient loads is important.

• Speak Out for Clean Water. Tell your current political representatives that improving Florida's water is important to you. Tell them to take action to improve Florida's water quality by funding and building the long-planned reservoir to hold excess water from Lake Okeechobee, by mandating reduced levels of nutrient runoff from agricultural and mining operations, by adopting stricter home fertilizer regulations, and through other "clean water" initiatives. Don't let this topic slip to the background in the months and years ahead.

Continued on Page 4

## Clean Water - Continued from Page 3

Be a Clean Water Voter. In the upcoming election, make clean water a key
decision factor in your voting decisions for candidates at the local, state and
national levels. All three levels have roles to play in improving our water
quality. Look for specific actions that the candidates propose to take and
scrutinize their past records with respect to water issues.

To learn more about red tide and Florida water issues, an article recently published by National Geographic provides a very good overview. You can find it online at <a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2018/08/news-longest-red-tide-wildlife-deaths-marine-life-toxins/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2018/08/news-longest-red-tide-wildlife-deaths-marine-life-toxins/</a>

Improving water quality is a complex and critically important issue that must be addressed on multiple fronts. Water quality is critical to the future of our beautiful area. It's critical for our ecosystems, our health, our economy, and our tourist industry. Let's all work together to improve it!

## New "Responsive" LBC Website

It's only been a few years since our last major update to the Lemon Bay Conservancy Website, but technology and internet usage have changed a great deal. So, we are revamping our site to use techniques referred to as "responsive" website design.

Responsive design is intended to optimize your viewing experience by adjusting your view to match your device's screen characteristics and orientation. So, for example, if you view our new site on your computer, you'll find that the information is presented in a very different format than when you look at the same page on your mobile phone.

Our updated site is scheduled to launch on November 1st. Our web address remains the same: www.LemonBayConservancy.org

## LBC Volunteer Profile: John McCurley



John McCurley is currently serving as a member of the board of directors for Lemon Bay Conservancy and as our 2nd Vice President.

John is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a degree in Business Marketing. He was employed for 33 years by the 3M Company, working in various sales management and Sr. Account management positions.

John was involved in local government in Mason, Ohio from 1989 to 2005. He served for 16 years on City Council and Planning Commission, with four of those years as Mayor. (At that time Mason was the fastest growing city in Ohio.)

John has also served on various civic and local school

committees in Warren County, Ohio. He is an active member and past President of Kiwanis Club, and past President of the Board of The Sanctuary at Cape Haze Condo Assoc. John was a key organizer and participant in the opposition to development of the Wildflower Golf Course, which is now Lemon Bay Conservancy's Wildflower Preserve.

John first became a Florida property owner in 1989 and has maintained a residence in our area since 2008.

## Wildflower Preserve Restoration Project Update

Work began earlier this year on the wetlands expansion and improvement phase of the Wildflower Habitat Restoration Project. As she has from the initial stages of this project, Stephanie Powers, Senior Environmental Scientist with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), is serving as overall restoration project leader. The District and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are LBC's two major funding partners for this effort, committing \$825,000 and \$422,500 respectively toward this significant restoration initiative.

The District selected Diversified Professional Services (DPS) as the prime contractor for the wetlands restoration and native planting work. The DPS crew is nearing completion of vegetation clearing work in areas where land elevation changes are planned for the expanded and reconfigured wetlands.

The DPS team has taken special steps to conserve natural resources wherever possible. Gopher tortoises within the construction zone have been relocated. Large oaks and pines near the construction boundaries are being protected and design changes considered to save trees where possible. Over 50 mature cabbage palms that were within the designed construction limits have been moved to nearby locations outside the project path.



Cabbage palm relocation at Wildflower

Our next planned step in the restoration project was to begin excavation of the new estuarine wetland areas. However, we have encountered an unexpected issue that will delay this work. In conducting soil tests in preparation for selling excess excavated soil for offsite use, elevated concentrations of arsenic were discovered in some

of the soil samples.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element in Florida soils, particularly in our area. Some of the concentrations detected, although higher than the nominal state "residential" standard, may be indicative of background conditions, and would not require a "clean up." However, some of the arsenic may be the result of the use of herbicides and pesticides on the old golf course for course maintenance. Additional investigation of the site is needed to determine whether any clean up work will be required to address site conditions for our contemplated use, or if it can be resolved by some other means.

Now that contamination has been found, soil movement plans must stop while we complete site assessment work and develop mitigation plans. We anticipate that the assessment work will include soil and ground water testing. Based on the test results, mitigation strategies will be defined and reviewed with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

In recognition of LBC's nonprofit mission and the environmental value of the Wildflower restoration project, two experts with deep skills and experience in dealing with similar issues have agreed to provide pro bono services to develop the mitigation plans for Wildflower. Laurel Lockett, a partner with the law firm of Carlton Fields, will provide legal services. Laurel's practice area focuses on environmental law and more specifically remediation and redevelopment of contaminated sites. Keith Tolson, a toxicologist and senior principal environmental scientist with Geosyntec, will guide the sampling and mitigation planning efforts. Both have significant prior experience with arsenic contamination and golf course sites. Our deep thanks to Laurel and Keith for leading this work!

As we work to resolve the contamination issues, it's important to remember that our Lemon Bay Conservancy members, donors and volunteers didn't create this problem. But, now we "own it" and we are committed to addressing it. Even with the donated services mentioned above, LBC will encounter a range of new expenses that are not part of our current habitat restoration funding and that will need to be paid in the weeks ahead. Please consider adding a special donation to your year-end LBC contributions to help us cover these significant incremental costs as we move forward!

## Toast to the Coast: Our Annual Fundraising Gala

For 2018, our annual fundraiser *TOAST TO THE COAST, BRUNCH AT THE BEACH* took place on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful Manasota Beach Club on Manasota Key. Guests enjoyed mimosas, excellent food, raffles and a live auction. Smooth jazz was provided by Mark Dupuy and the Lemon Bay High School Jazz Combo entertained under the direction of Philip Eyrich.

Jimmy Dean, publisher of Harborstyle Magazine introduced our "toasters" Buffy Crampton, Jim Cooper, Bob Cooper, Adam Cummings, Andy Green, Lorrie Konopasik, Eva Furner, and Philip Eyrich. Each spoke on a particular interest/focus of the Conservancy's efforts to improve the environment. Guests raised their glasses as each "toast" ended, and we were all reminded of LBC's mission to preserve the fragile ecosystems from Lemon Bay to Charlotte Harbor.

Live auction items featured fine art, rare whiskeys, boat cruises, vacation getaways, and of course LBC's Great Blue Heron sculpture, which is auctioned off annually. We applaud our patrons who "raised their hands" for LBC.

As Conservancy members know, every dollar we spend must first be raised and our annual *TOAST TO THE COAST* is very important to our success. Our dedicated committee of volunteers wishes to thank all generous sponsors and donors. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's *TOAST*.

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

#### TOAST TO THE COAST 2019 COCKTAILS ON THE GREEN

Lemon Bay Golf Club

## Sunday, January 20th 2019



## **Upcoming Nature Walks & Special Events**

#### **Nature Walks:**

Again this season, our highly-skilled naturalist guides will be offering a series of free, guided nature walks. Locations, dates and walk leaders are as follows:

#### Stump Pass State Park, 9 - 11:30 am

A 2.5 mile nature walk from the Stump Pass State Park parking area to the pass at the southern tip of Manasota Key. The park is located at the south end of Manasota Key, 900 Gulf Blvd, Englewood, FL 34223. Park entry fee is \$3.00 per vehicle.

- Walk leaders: Charlie & Jayne Woodruff.
- Walk dates (all on Thursdays): Nov. 1, Nov. 15, Dec. 6, Dec. 20, Jan. 10, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 14, Mar. 28

# Blind Pass (Middle Beach) Park, 9 - 11

A study of the entire community ecology of a barrier island ecosystem and the parts that birds play. A short two hour walk reveals very nice examples of diverse coastal habitats (mangroves, upland hammocks and beaches.) Blind Pass Park is located on Manasota Key at 6725 Manasota Key Rd, Englewood, FL 34223. Meet at 9 am on the northern side of the parking lot.

- Walk leader: Bill Dunson
- Walk dates: Dec. 18 (Tues.), Jan. 15 (Tues.), Feb. 14 (Thurs.), Mar. 12 (Tues.)

#### Myakka State Forest, 9 - 11 am

A short two hour loop walk along the Gordon Smith Trail reveals many interesting aspects of natural hydric pine flatwoods. The variation in animals and plants depends in large part on previous fire history and the hydroperiod. We will identify all animals and plants seen and discuss how bird life is affected by community ecology. Myakka State Forest is located at 2000 S. River Rd, Englewood, FL 34223. Note that this is NOT Myakka State Park but the state forest. There is a \$2 entry fee. Meet at 9 am at the parking lot adjacent to the office and approximately one mile from the highway...

- Walk leader: Bill Dunson
- Mar. 22 (Fri.)

#### **Special Events:**

#### **Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival -November 17**

LBC will have an exhibit at the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival.

This year's festival is being held at Laishley Park, 200 Laishley Court, in Punta Gorda from 10 am to 3 pm on Saturday, Nov. 17. The event will include educational exhibits, live animal exhibits, a kids' zone, nature art vendors, native plant vendors and food vendors. The nature festival is free and it's a great way to have fun and learn more about our local environment.

#### **Englewood Beach Waterfest - November** 17 & 18

Englewood Beach Waterfest is expanding their focus this year on the environment and conservation. The new Family Conservation Center, sponsored by the Ron & Matt Smith Agency of State Farm Insurance (long-time) LBC members), will host events and activities for kids and adults in a large tent area at Englewood Beach on November 17 & 18. The idea is that visitors to the power boat races scheduled that weekend will stop by the conservation area to cool off and learn more about our environment.

Mote Marine is scheduled to bring six different hands-on exhibits. LBC is planning to join other environmental exhibitors, including the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Peace River Wildlife Center, and the Lemon Bay High School Aquaculture Club. The Shark Brothers are scheduled to visit on Saturday and there will be a variety of games for children. The conservation area will be open 10-4 both days.

#### LBC's 2019 "Toast to the Coast" Fundraiser - January 20, 2019

On Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4:30 pm, LBC will host our annual "Toast to the Coast" fundraising event at the Lemon Bay Golf Course. More details on this fun event will be announced shortly! In the meantime, please save the date on your calendar. If you'd like to receive a call when tickets go on Walk dates: Jan. 25 (Fri.), Feb. 22 (Fri.), sale, just let the office know at 941-830-8922.

## LBC Volunteer Profile: Buffy Crampton



Buffy Crampton is a former President of Lemon Bay Conservancy who graciously agreed to rejoin the board of directors in 2017.

Buffy is a long time activist involved locally in environmental projects and programs. She grew up in Englewood, Florida on Manasota Key attending Englewood Elementary School and Out-of-Door Academy in Sarasota. She received a BS in Biology and Elementary Science Education from Beloit College in Wisconsin. She taught at the Mystic Aquarium in CT and the American Museum of Natural History Natural Sciences Department in New York City before returning to Florida in the 1980's.

She has served on the Englewood Water District Board of Supervisors (an elected position), as Florida Branch Director of the American Literal Society, and as a volunteer for the Manasota Key Sea Turtle Patrol. Buffy helped initiate the Coastal Cleanup in Sarasota County, has taught in elementary schools for the Venice Audubon Society Bird Program, and has conducted local classes and walks on the coastal environment.

After sending her daughter to local schools and off to college in Philadelphia, she has been running her family's resort business, the Manasota Beach Club, on Manasota Key. She has helped expand the business to a year-round resort and opened it up to local groups for annual events and fundraisers. At the Club, she hosts a seasonal Monday Lecture Luncheon Program focusing on environmental topics. Families have come back to vacation at the Manasota Beach Club for five generations because of the special natural setting, low key atmosphere, and all-inclusive plans.

Buffy comments that it is an honor to serve again with LBC and be a part of the important environmental projects in the area, and to try to create a sustainable ecological business for the future of Manasota Key, Lemon Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

## New Memorial Bench Program

A new memorial and honor opportunity will soon be available at Wildflower Preserve.

Beginning when restoration work is complete, LBC volunteers will be constructing a new trail network through the restored habitats at the preserve and the LBC board has approved a new bench design for memorial and honor benches to be placed along the trails and at scenic overlooks.

The 5-foot long benches are made by a local manufacturer with recycled plastic and stainless steel fittings. Each bench will be placed on a stabilizing base. A stainless steel plaque will contain a message from the bench donor.

Donors will have the opportunity to work with the LBC trail design team to plan the location for their bench within the preserve. The fee per bench will be \$650.00.

If you would like to place a memorial or honor bench, please call the office at 941-830-8922.



## Comprehensive Planning for Good Growth Management

By: Adam Cummings

Feel the rush, the excitement, the unbridled exuberance that is comprehensive planning! Okay, so maybe not, but we should care about it. What is "it?" It is the process by which we capture our collective community vision and use our resources in the most efficient, effective manner we can to bring that vision into reality.

All too often citizens and decision makers alike treat comprehensive planning as a philosophical discussion of "big government" versus freedom. It is neither of these things. It is the process that allows that discussion to be better informed.

One of the best examples of this was published by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) in 1998. This organization is currently at risk of being eliminated by having its funding withdrawn in the very near future. The study was originally created by Charlotte County / Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). It was awarded recognition by the National Association of MPO's for the best transportation planning of any small MPO in the United States that year. The concept in hindsight seems obvious, and yet it is rarely used to this day.

Rather than looking at growth trends and other moving targets, this study simply asks the question, "what happens if we do nothing?" What happens if we simply wait for growth to occur and people to come build the homes and businesses they are legally entitled to build today with no changes to our existing comprehensive plan or zoning map. The results were astounding.

Little Charlotte County with a current population of 182,000 would become a city larger than the current population of Tampa. Doing nothing results in over ½ million people living in Charlotte County with insufficient commercial, insufficient industrial, insufficient parks, insufficient everything and everyone needing to drive ever increasing distances for basic daily necessities. That matters because when someone needs to drive twice the distance to the grocery store, that produces the same results as having twice as many cars on the road. That produces twice as many tons of hydrocarbons and other pollutants, twice as many accident fatalities and far more lane miles of roads with far more runoff with far fewer opportunities for pollutants to be filtered out of that runoff.

The study illustrated how doing nothing results in \$14 billion of transportation costs. However, implementing 3 environmental land acquisitions, public transit (with a fixed route component), pedestrian facilities and commercial nodes within existing vacant residential areas:

- reduces the \$14 billion cost to \$6 billion
- reduces hydrocarbon emissions by 118 tons
- reduces per capita peak season daily drive time by 4 hours
- saves 64 lives per year

We've established that smart comprehensive planning can provide substantial benefits with fewer taxpayer funds, but at what other costs? As a society we abhor the idea of big brother government taking the land of individuals unless it is absolutely necessary. I've heard many times the recurring theme of, "it's one thing to take someone's land for a road, but not just to put up another store!" Putting commercial operations in the middle of existing vacant residential areas will reduce drive distances in the future. One well planned acre now can avoid 4 acres being taken for road right of way in the future.

A final example is the Wildflower Preserve. That project may not have happened without the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (RPC). The Charlotte Commission had voted to approve hundreds of potential condos. Only the RPC had the expertise and the records to prove that the land did not have those rights and the applicant knew that when he bought it. The Commission reversed its decision thereby keeping the price low enough to acquire for preservation.

Successfully managing our growth through effective comprehensive planning is the most powerful tool we have to protect our environmental and economic assets. So why have we cut our comprehensive plan to bare minimums? Why are we not aggressively supporting our regional planning agencies like the RPC and CHNEP both of which are at risk of losing all funding? Why have we virtually eliminated the state agency in charge of comprehensive planning? We should demand well researched, effective plans that will produce decisions providing the greatest good for the lowest cost. Grandpa always said, "boy, you should measure twice and cut once."

## "Let's Make It Right!" Special Campaign for Wildflower

As reported earlier in this newsletter, we have encountered a new and unexpected challenge at Wildflower Preserve in the form of soil contamination issues. We know this isn't an exciting topic for a donation request, but we ask your help in addressing this challenge and continuing on with our important habitat restoration work at the preserve!

How much do we need? Until the assessment work is completed and the mitigation plans reviewed with the Florida DEP, we can't answer that question. The best case scenarios are less than \$50,000. The worst case scenarios could be much more. Of course, we will apply for every grant opportunity that we can find to help with the costs, but we will still need your help!

Two anonymous donors have stepped forward to commit \$4,000 in matching funds to this campaign. Theirs is a limited time offer. The 1:1 match expires on Giving Tuesday, November 27, 2018. So, please double the impact of your special donation for Wildflower by contributing before the November 27<sup>th</sup> deadline!

You can donate to the "Let's Make It Right!" campaign in any of the following ways:

- call the office at 941-830-8922, or
- mail in your donation using the form on page 11 of this newsletter, or
- donate online at our website: LemonBayConservancy.org/make-it-right

With your help, we'll get past this hurdle and complete our very valuable restoration work at the preserve! Any funds not needed for mitigation will be applied to other planned Wildflower projects.

## Take a Stroll with the Butterflies & Birds

Most of the Wildflower property will remain closed while we complete soil testing and other activities related to our wetland restoration project.

However, the butterfly habitat adjacent to the parking lot at 3120 Gasparilla Pines Boulevard will be open to LBC members daily. A variety of flowers are currently blooming and many types of butterflies are visiting.

Stop by on Mondays between 8 and 10 am and you can help our volunteers in maintaining the habitat or ask them questions about plants to place in your yard to increase your butterfly visitors.

Because our usual bird watching area will not be accessible this season, we will be moving some of our bird feeders to the butterfly habitat within the next few weeks. So, you can drop by to see the birds as well!

## Tarpon Research Volunteer Opportunity

Again this year, we will be conducting juvenile tarpon research during the winter season in association with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and we can always use volunteer help! The process involves deploying a 400' seine net by boat, pulling in the seine by hand, and counting and measuring the various fish species caught in the net. The captured fish are then returned to the creek.

The tentative schedule for monthly, Saturday "net pulls" is:

2018: Nov.17, Dec. 15

2019: Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 18

If you'd like to volunteer to assist, please contact Jim Cooper at 941-979-6258.

## Your Support is Vital!

Lemon Bay Conservancy is always fundraising: Giving Tuesday, fundraising events, annual memberships and donations. Every dollar we spend is a dollar we must raise. For 48 years, LBC has worked to preserve and protect our coastal environment. Your donations and membership dues will help ensure that future generations have these lands and waters to enjoy and that the remarkable species that live here will continue to thrive.

By mailing the membership form below (for membership thru year-end 2019) you'll save us the expense of mailing you additional membership renewal requests in the weeks ahead. You can also use this form to send us your year-end donations and your special donation as part of the "Let's Make It Right!" campaign for Wildflower.

Name:	act Information:
Address Line 1:	_
Address Line 1:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	
Telephone:	
City, State, Zip:	
Months at this address?	
y Membership Contribut	·
o \$35 Indiv	ridual O \$50 Household / Supporting O \$100 Patron O \$250 Benefactor  Conservator O \$750 Trustee of the Land O \$1,000 Keeper of the Land  O \$2,500 Guardian of the Land O \$5,000 Steward of the Land

**Thank You!** Please send your completed form to: Lemon Bay Conservancy, Inc. 150 S. McCall Rd, Suite 2 Englewood, FL 34223

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# Wildflower Preserve Groundbreaking



On a beautiful Saturday morning, April 28, 2018, an enthusiastic crowd of Lemon Bay Conservancy supporters gathered at Wildflower Preserve to celebrate the start of the Wetlands Restoration phase of the Wildflower Preserve Habitat Restoration Project.

We have lots of news and special events to tell you about! f you're not currently receiving our LBC email news articles, please contact the office to get your email address added to your account record.

You can reach us at 941-830-8922 or lbconservancy@comcast.net.