

# Les Cheneaux Watershed Council Newsletter



Volume 1 No. 1 February 2007

## Weed-eating weevils are coming to Cedarville Bay.

This summer Les Cheneaux Watershed Council will be introducing weed-eating weevils (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) to Cedarville Bay to begin controlling the weed growth. Some fifteen thousand voracious aquatic weevils, each the size of a sesame seed, will be stocked in Cedarville Bay to feed on the rapidly growing and invasive Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*).



Eurasian watermilfoil from Cedarville Bay

The weevils are native to lakes of the northern United States and are known to feed primarily on different varieties of milfoil. They have been used successfully for milfoil control in lakes of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota as well as several other states since 1998.

A two year project is planned to assess the effectiveness of using weevils for Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) control in Cedarville Bay. In similar projects conducted in Michigan, an immediate effect has been seen during the season of introduction and a more widespread impact on the EWM has been observed during the second season.

Usually, smaller numbers of weevils are introduced during the second season during which time weevils stocked the first year have begun to spread from the original planting site. Years three through five have generally seen successful control of the EWM as the weevil movement increases. When EWM growth is brought under control the weevil populations are then expected to rise and fall with the growth of the EWM.

Funding for the weevil project has come from the community. Dozens of individual contributors have supported this first step at addressing Cedarville Bay ecology issues. In addition the following organizations have contributed to the \$24,000 first year project cost: Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, Les Cheneaux Islands Association, Les Cheneaux Islands Wildlife and the Mott Foundation.

Thank you and stay tuned!

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See pages 2 & 3 for:

- *New Watershed Implementation Project*
- *Frog Fest 2007*
- *Contact and Membership Information*

*Protecting and Preserving Our Les Cheneaux Watershed*

**Les Cheneaux Watershed Implementation Project  
Begins February 1!**

On February 1, 2007 Mr. Pat Carr and the Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District will return to Cedarville to begin working on our Les Cheneaux Watershed Implementation Project. The State-funded program consists of several watershed protection projects to be completed over the course of the next three years.

This program is a continuation of the project planning phase conducted from 2002 through 2004, where Carr worked with representatives from Les Cheneaux community to develop the *Les Cheneaux Watershed Management Plan* and to establish the *Les Cheneaux Watershed Council*.

Carr will work with the Council, other organizations, and landowners to establish a long-term protection program for our Les Cheneaux Watershed resources.

Specific objectives include:

- o Provide technical assistance to Clark Township Officials to improve water quality protective content in the township's land use regulations.
- o Coordinate with Little Traverse Conservancy to provide landowners with long term land and water protection strategies.
- o Assist landowners to improve wastewater management.
- o Provide education and information to landowners to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and reduce pollution sources and causes.
- o Reduce soil erosion and wildlife habitat loss and improve fish habitat near road/stream crossings, shoreline, and along area streams and inland lakes.
- o Improve public, web-based accessibility to important water quality information.
- o Facilitate hazardous waste clean up

**Frog Fest  
Hopping Your Way In May**

Springtime in the Les Cheneaux Islands is a fresh and magical time, filled the promise of teeming new life in our pristine forests and sparkling waters of our 36-island archipelago. The season is marked by a symphony of frog and toad calls, which gave birth to Frog Fest, slated this year for, May 18th – 20th.

Come join us in celebrating amphibian calls so loud they've been described as "deafening," while learning more about the wetlands and marshes that amphibians call home.

Frog Fest will offer several field trips, one to a hidden alvar and shores where rare wildflowers and ferns grow, one to Nature Conservancy property for an early morning bird watching expedition and another to the Birge Preserve to listen to the amphibian calls. Tours will be guided, and are a fun way to see some of the area's best-kept natural secrets. Opportunities abound all weekend, for learning more about Les Cheneaux Area's rich natural resources. You won't want to miss the speakers on Friday evening.

Get up close and personal with live hands-on reptiles demonstration or take your family on a Geocaching adventure. Great food, socialization and live music, skits will wind-down Saturday evening, Les Cheneaux style.

Other highlights include kayak tours, hands-on educational booths, and storytelling and fun kids games for children. Don't miss the large array of decorated frogs at local businesses and homes, part of a community art project. A brochure will feature the different frog sponsors and each frog location along with all activities.

-More on Frog Fest...pg. 3

*Protecting and Preserving Our Les Cheneaux Watershed*

*---Frog Fest cont'd*

Frog Fest is sponsored by Les Cheneaux Watershed Council and Chippewa East Mackinac Conservation District, both of which are devoted to protecting the area's water resources for present and future generations.

For more information, contact Wendy Wagoner at 906.484.2415, [Creekside@cedarville.net](mailto:Creekside@cedarville.net)

Mark **MAY 18, 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar!  
Invite your friends and spread the word!  
It's family fun for everyone!

*Project volunteers are welcome!*

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By Email: [lcwatershed@cedarville.net](mailto:lcwatershed@cedarville.net)  
Or visit our website:  
[www.lescheneaux.com/watershedproject](http://www.lescheneaux.com/watershedproject)

LCWC Membership dues

- \$15 .....Basic Membership
- \$25.....Spring Peeper
- \$50.....Green Frog
- \$75.....Tree Frog
- \$100.....Leopard Frog
- \$500.....Blue Heron
- \$1,000.....Wetland
- \$\_\_\_\_\_.....Water Guardian

LCWC Board of Directors

- Christine Perreault...President
- Richard Serfass.....Vice President
- Wendy Wagoner.....Treasurer
- Pat Carr.....Recorder
- Bob Smith
- Linda Hudson
- Amy Polk

<p>Membership Form for 2007</p> <p>Your Les Cheneaux Watershed Council is a 501 c 3 non profit organization</p>	
Name(s): _____	
Permanent address: _____	
(mailing)	(street)
(state)	(postal code)
Phone: _____	email: _____
Seasonal address: _____	
Phone: _____	email: _____
Please make checks payable to LCWC.	Mail forms to our PO Box 578 in Cedarville.