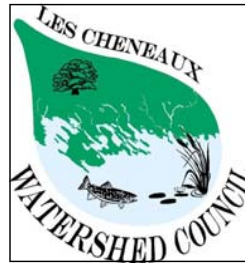


## LES CHENEAUX WATERSHED PROJECT

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
THE CHIPPEWA/EAST MACKINAC CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
AND  
THE LES CHENEAUX WATERSHED COUNCIL



### Road and Stream Improvements Planned

Preliminary engineering has begun for several road/stream crossings in the watershed. Plans are for work to be started this year for a crossing on State Avenue, where tons of road sediment (sand, gravel, silt) reach Pearson Creek and Cedarville Bay each year, destroying fish habitat.

Streambank restoration work is planned for three sites on Beavertail (Scotty's) Creek this fall. Beavertail is a little-known, quality Brook Trout stream right in our "backyard", and needs to be restored and protected. There is a significant acreage of public land along its banks. It belongs to all of us.

We are hoping also to restore several feet of streambank on McKay Creek near the old Boy Scout camp. McKay is also a quality Brook Trout stream where tons of sediment have dumped in the creek from these sites, destroying habitat. Let's hope fishing improves!

### Annual Meeting

You are invited to attend the Les Cheneaux Watershed's Annual Meeting on June 19, 2007. The business meeting will commence at 6:00 pm at the Clark Township Office. Call LCWC at 906-484-3031 for more information.

### Website In Development

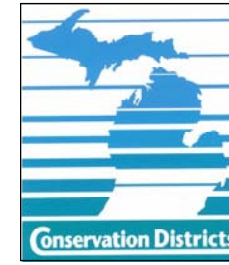
Want to know more about your watershed? How's the fishing? What is the DNR up to? Is the local environment really going to heck in a hand basket?

The Les Cheneaux Project is collaborating with Land Information Access Association to develop a water quality website! Hopes are for a website where the community can access environmental research reports; land information; and updated local, state, and federal project reports affecting our area. All will be accessible with a few key strokes on your computer. Our goal is to make information more accessible so we can make better decisions in managing our local resources. Stay tuned.

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## LES CHENEAUX WATERSHED NEWS



MAY – JUNE 2007

LES CHENEAUX WATERSHED PROJECT

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

### The Watershed Project

Old timers used to say, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!" This theory still holds true for protecting water quality in the Les Cheneaux Islands. The Les Cheneaux Project is a partnership between the Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District and the Les Cheneaux Watershed Council and several local organizations. We will attempt to prevent future degradation of water quality and cure some expensive problems that have existed for years.

Prevention of water quality degradation will be in the form of an information and education campaign. This will increase awareness that water quality protection begins at home in our everyday household practices and land use decisions. Workshops and other educational presentations will be held along with development and distribution of educational material. We are providing technical assistance to Clark Township officials to better prepare for future protection of our precious water resources as they improve the Master Plan and zoning ordinances. We are also working with Little Traverse Conservancy to increase awareness for landowners for long term protection of critical lands important to water quality and aquatic wildlife.

The Watershed Project will cure several old, expensive problems on Pearson, Beavertail, and McKay Creeks. We will replace several failing culverts and stabilize hundreds of feet of eroding embankment and streambank. These are expensive cures that could have been prevented with proper planning and design — an "ounce of prevention" long ago would have saved a "pound of cure" today.



Pearson Creek at State Avenue

### Cedarville Bay Restoration

The Les Cheneaux Watershed Council (LCWC) will soon take a stab at the weed problem in Cedarville Bay in the form of the Eurasian Milfoil Weevil, which will be "planted" in Cedarville Bay early this summer. With the help of several local and regional contributors, LCWC reached their funding goal for this year's planting of the bugs.

Hopefully, weevil populations will prove the demise of existing Eurasian Milfoil beds and restore navigation through the Bay, sans weed-choked propellers.



Road/stream crossing improvements on State Avenue and Meridian Road will work in concert with this to address the excess sediment in the Bay.

Eurasian Milfoil Weevil

In addition, project partners continue to look for alternatives for discharging Township wastewater into the Bay, including land spraying and deepwater discharge. The main obstacle continues to be funding, since leading alternatives will require significant resources to implement.

Finally, project partners continue to promote the positives of Cedarville Bay. It's a coastal wetland with habitat that supports perch, pike, and other fish species' spawning. It serves as nursery habitat for forage fish (minnows) and their food (mayflies, caddisflies, etc.). It also provides food and shelter for waterfowl (Mallards, Swans, Black Terns, etc.).

As Cedarville plans for its future, we are promoting a stewardship ethic that recognizes the need to accommodate the bay's natural ecosystem while we use and develop it. Our future prosperity depends upon natural resources that attract people who desire a place to visit where nature survives.



The Les Cheneaux Watershed Project

A partnership between the Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District and the Les Cheneaux Watershed Council

## Pharmaceutical Waste OUT of our Community!

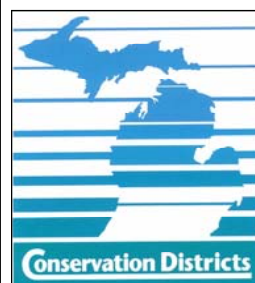
Thanks to community members who participated in the Pharmaceutical Collection. On April 21, 2007, approximately ten pounds of expired prescriptions that would probably have ended up in our water supply were properly disposed of by a recycling company. Included in the disposed drugs were hormones, painkillers including vicadin, nitroglycerin pills, blood thinners, blood pressure, thyroid and allergy medications to name a few. Additionally, several dozen over-the-counter drugs were turned in at the collection. The Les Cheneaux Watershed Project was proud to partner with UP Earth Keepers and the Superior Watershed Partnership on this important project.

## Poking at a "Sleeping Bear"!

There's a sleeping bear in the Les Cheneaux Islands that the project partners are poking at this year: failing septic systems!



It's estimated that at least 10 to 30 percent of septic systems in the state are failing to effectively treat household waste water after we flush our toilets! In effect, that wastewater is reaching our drinking water (groundwater) and surface water (Lake Huron and tributaries) untreated, threatening our health and safety. Fortunately, there is a lot we all can do to improve the situation, especially in our Island watershed. Stay tuned for the recently developed septic system handbook and workshops. This will help guarantee that when you flush your toilet, you can rest assured that all is well and your "sleeping bear" is no longer a problem.



## What is a Conservation District?

**Conservation Districts** are local non-profit groups consisting of a locally-elected board of directors with small staffs who help landowners and communities with managing their natural resources, including forests, farms, water bodies, etc. Districts originated in the Dust Bowl days to help farmers improve land management practices to conserve critical soils needed for crop production. Districts have evolved to help with forestry, fisheries and wildlife, and other natural resource management issues.

## Well, Well, Well

If you drained your water pipes last fall, the health department recommends that you disinfect your water system before use.

Under normal operation, an electric water pump draws ground-water from the well and maintains water pressure within the storage tank and piping. Pressurization forms a physical barrier that protects drinking water against entrance of contaminants. When the system is drained and depressurized, bacteria, viruses, and other disease-causing organisms can find their way into the water system. The water can become contaminated without noticeable change in taste, odor or clarity.

You can hire a licensed professional or disinfect the water system yourself. To do it yourself, there are important safety precautions. You will be working with both water and dangerous voltages of electricity and caustic materials.

The health department recommends that you use the following disinfection method:

- Turn off electric power to the pump at the circuit breaker.
- Wear rubber gloves, rubber-soled footwear, and goggles.
- Close gate valves so the disinfecting solution will bypass your water softener and other water treatment equipment. Chlorine can damage this equipment. Disinfect these devices separately using the manufacturer's instructions.
- Remove the cover to the well-head. Examine wires and connections for potential electrical hazards.
- For each 50 feet of well depth, obtain one gallon of 5.25% unscented chlorine bleach. For example, a well 200 feet deep would require 4 gallons of bleach.
- Add bleach to a minimum 5 gallons of water. Pour chlorine solution into well. Keep power off when adding chlorinated solution. Stay upwind of mixing containers and the well. Do not use more bleach than recommended.
- Turn on power to pump. Run hose back into well, rinsing the casing, pitless adapter, and drop pipe for 15 minutes.
- Run all faucets (cold and hot) until you smell bleach. Check each water tap (cold and hot) for bleach presence.
- Don't run water for at least 4 hours (overnight, if possible).
- Remove majority of chlorine by running outside faucets into protected areas (away from lawn, landscaping, streams, and lakes). Do not pump chlorinated water into your septic system.
- Continue pumping until system is free of chlorine residual.
- Run inside faucets (hot and cold) into buckets to clear internal lines of any chlorine residual.
- If no residual is present, obtain bacteriologic samples.

Homeowners should test drinking water for coliform bacteria. An annual test is recommended (or more frequently if the taste, odor, or water clarity changes). Coliform bacteria (common in the intestines of warm-blooded animals) indicate potential for disease-causing organisms in the water supply. Water sample bottles are available at the Clark Township office, the Watershed office in Cedarville and at your local health department.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, July 14, 2007

The Les Cheneaux Watershed Council and Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District will be providing the opportunity for community members to dispose of their household hazardous waste on Saturday July 14, 2007. The collection will be held in the parking lot of the Clark Township Building on Blind Line road and contracted with the Drug and Laboratory Disposal, Inc., a licensed transporter and treatment, storage and disposal facility to take the household hazardous waste.

Start looking in your garage, basement, out buildings and even under the kitchen sink for items you would like to dispose of on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Items for disposal may include: drain and oven cleaners, rug and upholstery cleaners, moth balls, ammonia cleaners, detergents, bleach, acid and solvent based polishes, stains, strippers & thinners, glues, wood preservatives, chemistry sets, photographic chemicals, gun cleaning solutions, antifreeze, fuels), pesticides (insecticide, herbicide, fungicide), batteries (button and dry cell), and oil based paints (not latex paint, see below).

Ammunitions, explosives and compressed gas cylinders can be taken with advance arrangements. For information or advance arrangements regarding these items, call the project office 484-3031. Items **NOT** taken: smoke detectors, radioactive materials, yard debris, tires, asphalt, ceiling tile, roofing shingles or general trash.

Latex paint may be disposed of in the sanitary landfill **AFTER** it has been dried out. For small amounts, open lid and dry out or add sawdust or kitty litter. For larger amounts, paint the largest item you plan to take to the dump or spread the paint out on newspaper until it is dry. It can then go into the trash.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Les Cheneaux Watershed Council invites you to become a member of our growing organization. The Council is engaged in many activities in the Les Cheneaux Watershed Project that promote conservation, education, protection, restoration, and sustainability of the water based resources within our watershed.

If you are interested in becoming involved or if you just want to keep informed through our newsletter, please send your membership request to our office in Cedarville. Please make checks payable to LCWC.

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| \$15    | Basic Membership |
| \$25    | Spring Peeper    |
| \$50    | Green Frog       |
| \$100   | Leopard Frog     |
| \$500   | Blue Heron       |
| \$1,000 | Wetland          |
| \$____  | Water Guardian   |

Les Cheneaux Watershed Council  
P.O. Box 578  
Cedarville, Michigan 49719  
Phone: 906-484-3031



This Non-point Source Pollution Control project has been funded in part through the Michigan Non-point Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement 2006-0109 to the Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District for the Les Cheneaux Watershed Implementation Project. The contents of the document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

## Frogfest 2007

On behalf of the Les Cheneaux Watershed Project, **thanks** to all who participated with Frogfest 2007. It was a resounding success at creating awareness to the importance of our area's aquatic wildlife and habitat and water quality protection.

So many people and businesses helped with time, donations, and support. There were at least 16 local artists, 24 businesses, 24 organizations, 41 individuals, and our local school system involved for the protection of water quality!! Frog Fest 2007 was not only about environmental sustainability, it was about community sustainability!

Over the course of three days from May 17 through the 19th, young and old alike were provided opportunities to experience our watershed and learn why we should work to protect it. There were field trips, musicians, scientists, displays, an art auction, and a cake and ice cream social on entertainment night! What a great way to celebrate our environment and learn how to protect it! See you in a couple years.....

