



# Les Cheneaux WATERSHED NEWS

.....promoting the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainability of our water-based resources.

SPRING 2021

LES CHENEAUX WATERSHED COUNCIL

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1

## 2021 News and Plans

*Highlighted in this Issue*

- 🔴 **Water Rise Impact**
- 💧 **Office Move**
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- 💧 **Bats**
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- 💧 **Recycling**
- 💧 **Blastomycosis**
- 💧 **Government Island**
- 💧 **Inland Seas**

For details on most topics, see our website:  
[www.lescheneauxwatershed.org](http://www.lescheneauxwatershed.org)

## LCWC HAS MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION!

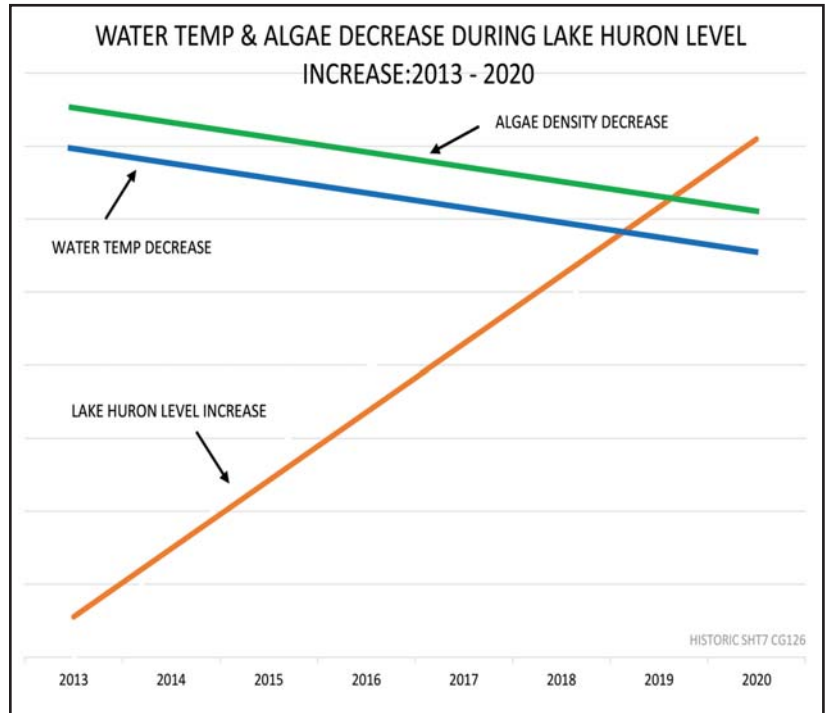


We are now located in the Les Cheneaux Centennial home of Guy Hamel at 232 E M-134, across from the high school.

A decision by the Chamber of Commerce to move their office led LCWC to this opportunity. We thank Autore Oil for being a supportive landlord during the past several years. Our new office will be functional in April.

**A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS!**

## WATER'S UP, TEMP & ALGAE ARE DOWN



Most everybody is aware that Lake Huron has risen at a record rate from 2013 through 2020. More obvious signs of the over 67 inch rise have been physical issues of shore erosion and structural failure.

Incursion of that volume of cooler, nutrient-poor water into our channels has also affected our rooted aquatic plants, algae densities, fish habits and the invertebrate communities.

The above chart reflects the drop in annual, Island-wide water temperature during this period.

The influx of high water volumes from Lake Huron has doubled water depth in some of the more shallow bays and has been reflected by decreased free-floating algae (plankton) concentrations. Decreased plankton in the food web has a cascade of adverse effects in our aquatic ecology.

A detailed report on this topic will be available on the Les Cheneaux Watershed Council website in March.

## WILDLIFE AROUND THE ISLANDS

*A juvenile Bufflehead (Bucephala albeola) rests on a Tree Swallow house.*



# NUISANCE WEEDS & INVASIVE FISH

Please do your share to control the nuisance weeds every season.



Waterfront property owners are encouraged to manage invasive aquatic weeds in their riparian areas.

Whereas Eurasian watermilfoil has not clogged our channels during recent years, it still persists in our waters. The milfoil growth at this boathouse was clearly neglected by the owner last season. Waterfront property owners are encouraged to manage invasive aquatic weeds in their riparian areas. None of us want to experience a repeat of the 2010-2012 milfoil carpets in our waterways. Lower water will be coming and so will excess weed growth.



Michigan Tech milfoil researcher



This aquatic plant was common on many shorelines last season. It is called Water Smartweed and is similar to Floating-leaf Pondweed. It is more prevalent some years than others. It is not considered an invasive plant, rather it fills an ecological niche that recently became available. You may also see it growing on shore in a larger, hairy and darker green form. If it becomes nuisance you can rake it away.



Although the size of invasive phragmites beds have diminished during times of high water, many beds still persist, both on the shoreline and in wet upland areas. Times such as now, when the remaining plants are stressed, are ideal for effective control.

Mike Stoll will work with CISMA personnel this season to coordinate phragmites management in Les Cheneaux.

**Bat Update:** In 2017 the Watershed Council began monitoring our local bat populations to determine how the once numerous "Little Brown Bats" (LBB) had survived the fungal infection that has devastated bat populations of multiple species nationwide since 2006.

In addition to being highly efficient, nocturnal, flying insect traps, the LBBs are the species that caused many of us to keep tennis racquets handy at the bedside during summers past. LBB are still the most numerous among local bat species around buildings, a favored habitat.



A second monitoring unit shown here was added in 2020 to gather additional data allowing improved detail of our bat activities. Overall, Scott Myers has detected eight of the nine bat species native to Michigan. He will report his findings during the 2021 Aldo Leopold program.

Thanks to those who have reported bat sightings to Scott during the past few years. With your input, added data and corresponding with university contacts, Scott hopes to learn more about the overall health of our local LBB colonies that are such an important part of our Les Cheneaux ecology.

## ALERT!

### Ruffe WATCH



Meet the Eurasian Ruffe ("ruff"). According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service this invader competes with native fish for food and habitat. They can be caught on hook & line and are sometimes thought to be a weird perch. *In fact, they are devastating to perch populations.* They were introduced via ballast water in Duluth in the 1980s and have now made their way to the St. Mary's River and to Thunder Bay in the Alpena area. For more information contact the USFWS in Alpena (989) 356-5102. *Should you catch one, freeze it and contact the USFWS in Alpena.*

## Les Cheneaux Watershed Council Events

FrogFest - Saturday, July 10th at Heritage Park

Annual Meeting July 8th

FrogFest is held annually on a Saturday in July with our primary interest being to engage the community, especially the young, and to raise awareness of the rich natural legacy to be enjoyed right here in Les Cheneaux by just stepping out the door!

Watershed Council Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9th at the Clark Township Community Center.







**Blastomyces dermatitidis**

The photo above shows the causative fungal organism of Blastomycosis (Blasto). Blasto infections of dogs continue to occur in northern Wisconsin and the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Awareness of symptoms and early treatment are key for animal recovery and survival. Animal owners, veterinarians and physicians are becoming more aware of Blasto infections and, as a result, many more dogs survive than in previous years. Humans, especially if immunocompromised, could become infected, though it is rare. Again, awareness and good communication with your vet is key! For more details see the LCWC and Les Cheneaux Community Foundation websites.



The Council's memorial to long time member, Bob Dunn. Sherlund Excavating contributed the rock and the anchor was offered by Jack Edwards. BreezeSwept helped move the rock in place, Dan Reelitz did sculpting details and Bill Kurtz designed the plaque.



A masked Gerry VandeVusse helped make the 2020 4th of July parade a success.



**GOVERNMENT ISLAND**  
Council members were joined by US Forest Service staff last year while brushing the Mike Mahoney hiking trail.



Clark Township and the Les Cheneaux Watershed Council (LCWC) are collaborating to establish a public water point and an ADA-compliant kayak dock at Cedarville Harbor. The water point will take advantage of a flowing well that is used by the harbor house and will be functional this spring. The kayak dock will be connected to the main dock. The Les Cheneaux Community Foundation (LCCF) has awarded a major grant, but funds are still needed for purchase and installation which will total close to \$40,000. A similar ADA dock is planned for Hessel Harbor following the upgrade in progress.

**LES CHENEAUX RECYCLES!**  
100 N. Mission Trail, just past Hill Island Rd.  
**OPEN MEMORIAL DAY - LABOR DAY**  
Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 8am to 3pm  
Saturday and Sunday, 8am to 6pm



**FOUR WAYS to provide continued financial support to LCWC with 501(c)3 status:**

- 💧 A check sent to our address with the form at right letting us know you'd like to join our membership
- 💧 PayPal through our website, [lescheneauxwatershed.org](http://lescheneauxwatershed.org)
- 💧 Through the **LC Community Foundation** directed to either our LCWC endowed or unendowed account.
- 💧 **Funds transferred directly from an IRA to LCWC.** This avenue is approved under the new tax code. For details, refer your tax advisor to the article, "How to Donate Your Required Minimum Distribution to Charity" from *U.S. News & World Report*.

<https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/iras/articles/2017-12-04/how-to-donate-your-required-minimum-distribution-to-charity>

**Re-new your membership with the LCWC today!**  
*We need your support to preserve the health of our waters!*

Basic Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	Leopard Frog	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Spring Peeper	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	Blue Heron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
Green Frog	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	Wetland	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000
Tree Frog	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	Water Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> \$_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Send check to: LCWC • PO Box 578 • Cedarville, MI 49719**



LES CHENEAX WATERSHED COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 578  
CEDARVILLE, MI 49719



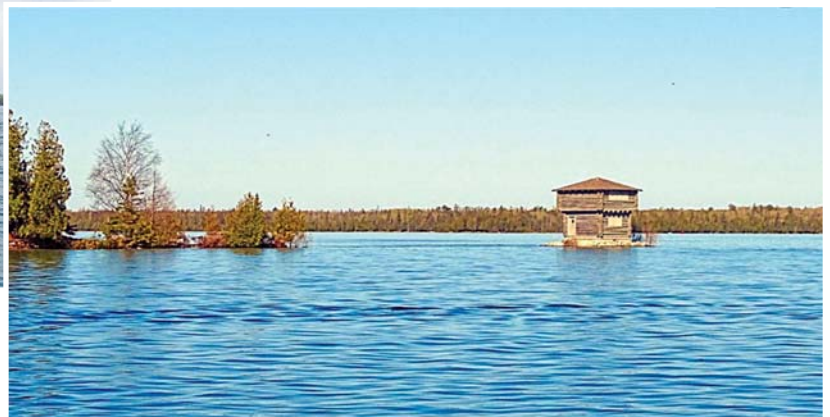
The green algae line on this rock shows the 2020 high water mark last July. Lake Huron level had dropped about 14 inches by October when this photo was taken.

LES CHENEAX WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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High Water of July 2020 as seen  
at Cove Island (left) and  
The Blockhouse off Long Island (below).



**SCHOONER, INLAND SEAS, RETURNS TO LES CHENEAX JULY 5-6, 2021**

Once again, we will be visited by the schooner, *Inland Seas*, in Hessel on July 5th & 6th. As before, she will sail twice a day while providing a unique, educational and fun experience for children and adults. The ship's crew will provide a hands-on experience in water research opportunities at multiple education stations as well as have participants take part in ship handling skills. The event is sponsored by our Watershed Council and is an activity of the Inland Seas Education Association (ISEA). **Ticket sales will begin in May.** Learn more about ISEA at [www.schoolship.org](http://www.schoolship.org)

