



Les Cheneaux WATERSHED NEWS

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

SPRING 2023

LES CHENEUX WATERSHED COUNCIL

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1

2023 News and Plans

Highlighted in this Issue

- ◆ Kayak Launch
- ◆ Invasive Cattail
- ◆ Blastomycosis
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- ◆ July 4th Parade
- ◆ Gov't Island Trails
- ◆ Phragmites
- ◆ Inland Seas Sail
- ◆ Bats
- ◆ Pitcher Plants

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL
WHO SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS!

Invasive Cattail Growth Control Measures



Pearson Creek Outfall at M-129.

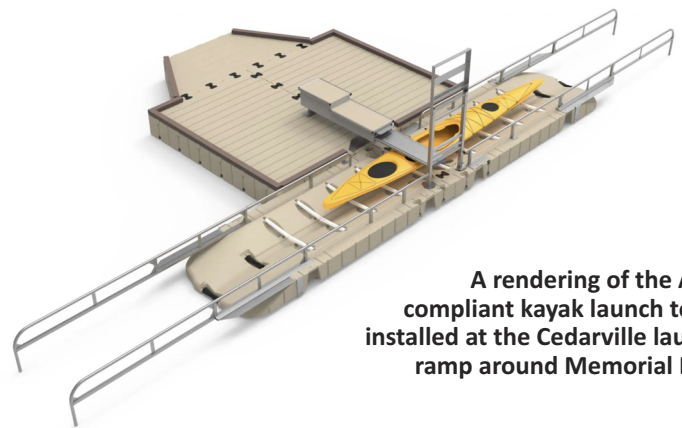
Above, a CISMA team uses mechanical cutters to remove **invasive cattail** (*Typha X glauca*) at the Pearson Creek outfall.

The purpose of this cutting was to demonstrate the efficacy of underwater cutting to manage *T. X glauca*. Observations four months after cutting indicated the technique was successful in Les Cheneaux waters and additional management is planned.

A long range objective is to reduce the density of *T. X glauca* and to restore the **native cattail** (*T. latifolia*) as well as improve spawning habitat.

Project: Kayak Launch... Success!

An ADA-approved kayak / canoe launch is scheduled for installation at the Cedarville launch ramp around Memorial Day. The Watershed Council, in conjunction with Clark Township and support from LCCF, LCIA, MEA, businesses and private donors have sponsored the effort. A similar launch is planned for Hessel, pending the harbor upgrade. *Thanks to Laurel and Mike Jellison for heading this project.*



A rendering of the ADA compliant kayak launch to be installed at the Cedarville launch ramp around Memorial Day.

Several Carnivorous Plants Can Be Found in EUP



Pitcher plants (*Sarracenia spp*) such as the one above can be found locally in moist locations. The enticing flowers are shown on the left and the “pitcher” is seen on the right. Insects are attracted to the slippery pitcher and slip to the bottom where enzymes digest the bodies, thereby providing nutrients for the plant.

The pitcher is one of several carnivorous plant species found in the EUP.

For details on most topics, see our website:
www.lescheneauxwatershed.org

LCWC 2023 ACTIVITIES — FROGFEST: JULY 8TH | ISEA SAIL: JULY 8TH & 9TH | ANNUAL MEETING: JULY 20TH

Find Us on Facebook: Les Cheneaux Watershed Council | LCWC Office Phone: 906-484-3031 (Machine Answer)

How Low? How Fast? The Good And Bad News About The Lake Huron Water Level

The graph below reflects the rapid rise in Lake Huron (LH) level from the record low of 2013 to the record high in 2020. The Bentley boathouse image gives a real-life view of our Les Cheneaux water level between 2013 and 2020. Since reaching the 2020 record high level, the rate of LH drop has been faster than the unprecedented rate of rise as can be seen visually in the graph.

How low will the Lake Huron level go and how soon?

Mathematic models suggest that the LH level could decline even lower than the 2013 record. Regardless of predictions, we must deal with the present reality in Les Cheneaux.

To read an expanded discussion of the impact of lower LH levels on Les Cheneaux water quality from 2020 through 2022, log onto lescheneauxwatershed.org and click on "Library". From there, choose "Water Quality" and select "WQ13".

The Army Corps of Engineers predicts that the July 2023 LH level will be within 4-8 inches of the level in our channels experienced in July 2022.

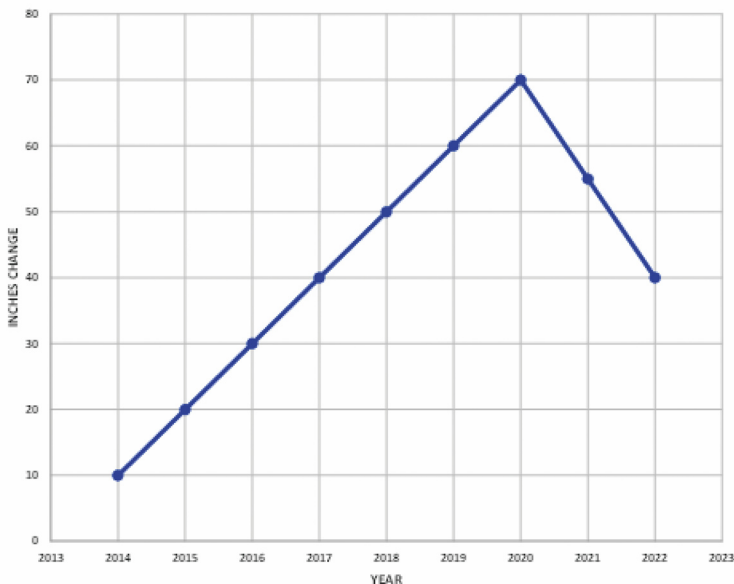


Bentley Boathouse, Fall 2012



Bentley Boathouse, Summer 2020

RATE OF LAKE HURON LEVEL CHANGE: 2013-2022 (inches)



On the plus side of declining LH level is that lower water in the present range reduces stress on Les Cheneaux shorelines, docks and boathouses.

That's the good news.

However, the growth of non-native plants, both submerged (e.g. **Eurasian watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum***) and emergent (**non-native cattail, *Typha X glauca***) increases due to less inhibitory plant stress from higher lake levels.

Increased density of non-native plants significantly reduces the diversity of our submerged and emergent flora. Areas with reduced diversity are less able to respond to adverse environmental challenges.

As non-native plant growth increases it is important that shoreline property owners take measures to minimize the growth and spread of these plants to maintain the health of our aquatic ecosystem.

Blastomycosis: Awareness & Communication Key to Preventing Infection



Morel Mushroom

Morel mushrooms and the Blastomycosis fungus are biological cousins. The morel is a succulent morsel but the *Blastomyces* species can be highly pathogenic, especially to dogs. Both of these fungi are found locally.

A well-received seminar on Blastomycosis (Blasto) was sponsored by the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation and Hessel School House last July to make the public more aware of Blasto infections of dogs, especially in northern Wisconsin, northern Ontario and the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Animal owners, veterinarians and physicians are becoming more aware of Blasto infections and, as a result, many more dogs survive the infection than in previous years. Humans, especially if immunocompromised, can become infected, though it is rare.

Again, awareness and good communication with your vet is key!



Blastomyces dermatitidis

For more details see the LCWC and Les Cheneaux Community Foundation websites, at lescheneauxwatershed.org and lcicf.org



FrogFest 2022



FrogFest 2022



Gerry pulling July 4th parade entry.

2022

Les Cheneaux Watershed Council Activities



Dan preparing to decommission the Cedarville Harbor artesian well.



View from SW side of Government Island.



Government Island Spring trail brushing crew.

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](https://www.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 _____

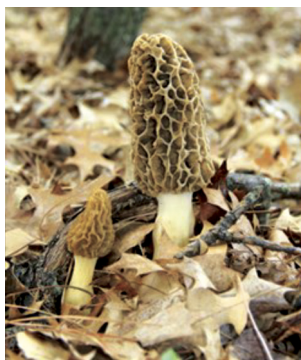
Send check to: LCWC • PO Box 578 • Cedarville, MI 49719

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

These common Morel mushrooms of the *Morchella* genus of fungi are favored local delicacies.

They are related to an also local, but not so desirable, fungal cousin.

Details inside!



LES CHENEaux WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



Non-native Phragmites infestations in the Les Cheneaux Islands are down significantly thanks to help from CISMA (Three Shores Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area of Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce Counties). CISMA has assisted LCWC in managing our non-native phragmites outgrowths during the past twelve years.

Thanks to CISMA, LCI is on a maintenance program whereby they help manage new patches that appear annually. Phragmites stands are expected to expand as the water level decreases.



Phragmites stand.

Inland Seas Education Association (ISEA) has added a new three-masted schooner to its fleet, the *Alliance*. At 105 ft, she is longer than the 77 ft *Inland Seas* two-masted schooner which ISEA has sailed to Les Cheneaux for the past seven years as part of ISEA community education. The *Alliance* is scheduled to conduct their LCI training sessions from Hessel July 8th & 9th. She will sail twice a day while providing a unique, educational and fun experience for children and adults. The



ship's crew provides a hands-on experience in water research 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

LOCAL BAT POPULATIONS.

Our data show that overall bat activity for all local bat species has increased during the past three years. Total bat detections at fixed monitoring sites increased 34% from 2021 through 2022. This will be our 6th season to monitor local bat populations. Because it is also known as a "flying insect trap", the bat of most Les Cheneaux interest is the Little Brown Bat (LBB) which was among the species most decimated by the White-Nose fungal disease during the past ten years. LBB detections are among those observed to have increased during our monitoring period. **Please continue to report your sightings to LCWC BatMan Scott Myers.** Your input will help improve the accuracy of our bat counts and locations.

