



Les Cheneaux WATERSHED NEWS

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

SPRING 2024

LES CHENEUX WATERSHED COUNCIL

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1

2024 News and Plans

Highlighted in this Issue

- ◆ 20th Anniversary
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- ◆ Inland Seas Sail
- ◆ Local Bats

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



LCWC 20TH ANNIVERSARY

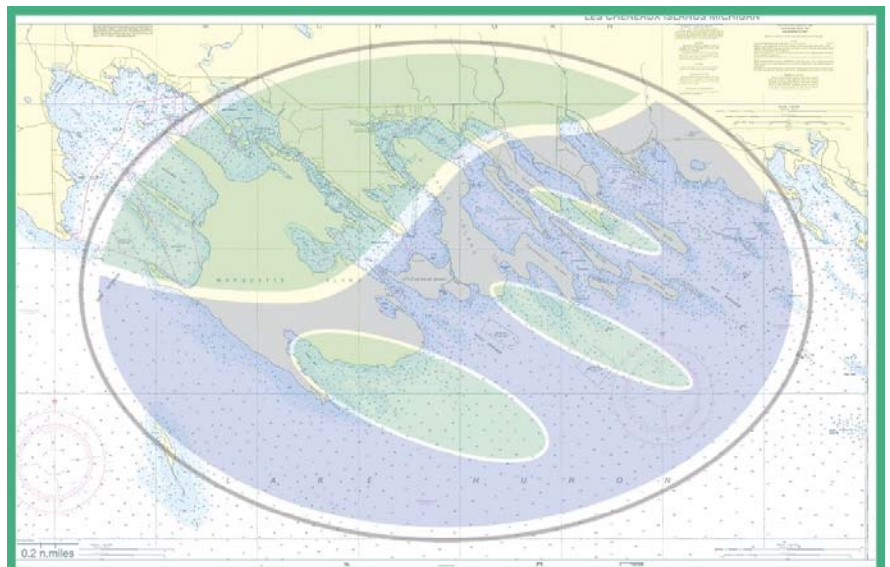
Celebrations at FrogFest and
our Annual General Meeting!

LCWC 2024 ACTIVITIES

FROGFEST: JULY 13TH

ANNUAL MEETING: JULY 18TH

ISEA SAIL: JULY 27TH & 28TH



Find Us on Facebook: [Les Cheneaux Watershed Council](https://www.facebook.com/LesCheneauxWatershedCouncil)

How Low? How Fast? News About the Lake Huron Water Level

The photos and graph appearing on this page reflect the rapid rise in Lake Huron level from the record low of 2013 to the record high in 2020 and shows the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) predicted level for July of 2024. How low will the Lake Huron level drop and how soon?

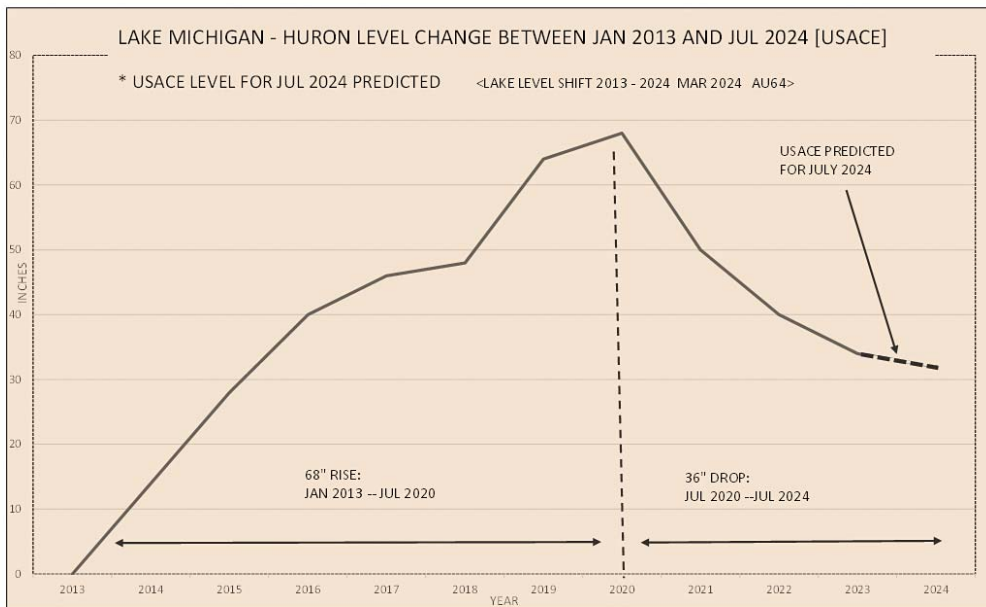
The most credible mathematic models suggest that the Lake Huron level could decline even lower than the 2013 record. Regardless of predictions, we must deal with the present reality in Les Cheneaux. To read an expanded discussion of the impact of lower Lake Huron levels on Les Cheneaux water quality from 2020 through 2022, log into: lescheneauxwatershed.org, click the Library tab, choose Water Quality, and select WQ13.



Bentley Boathouse, Fall 2012



Bentley Boathouse, Summer 2020



The Bentley boathouse images above give a real-life view of our Les Cheneaux water level increase of 68 inches between 2013 and 2020. Since reaching the 2020 record high level, the rate of Lake Huron decrease has been faster than the unprecedented rate of rise as can be seen visually in this graph at left.

The Army Corps of Engineers predicts that the July 2024 Lake Huron level will be within 4-6 inches of the level in our channels experienced in July 2023.

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

In Memoriam: Mike Gay

In Memoriam: Sadly, Mike Gay, our good friend and supporter of the Watershed Council and FrogFest, passed last summer.

An avid naturalist, Mike was interested in all critters and plants that abound in Les Cheneaux. He was enthusiastic about FrogFest and was the main attraction for most all visitors.

Something many don't know is that Mike returned each of his display creatures to the exact place he found them a day or two before the FrogFest event.

Many remember him for his exotic tortoises and his alligators. He went out of his way to explain how his display animals fit in nature and how the visitors to his display could help preserve their unique habitats.



Thanks for the memories, good friend.....





**CLOCKWISE FROM
UPPER LEFT:**
FrogFest,
Kayak Launch in Use,
Government Island
Trail Cleanup Crew,
Coral Bell Orchid on
Government Island,
Trumpeter Swan Visit,
Trumpeter Swan Visit,
July 4th Parade.



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	☐ \$15	Leopard Frog	☐ \$100
Spring Peeper	☐ \$25	Blue Heron	☐ \$500
Green Frog	☐ \$50	Wetland	☐ \$1,000
Tree Frog	☐ \$75	Water Guardian	☐ \$_____

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

Animal, Vegetable or Mineral?



Bring your best guess to FrogFest.
Prizes for winners!

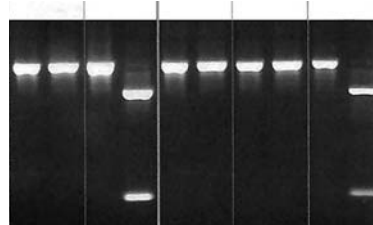
LES CHENEAUX WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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Non-native Phragmites infestations in LCI 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 for each of the past thirteen 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. In collaboration with Oakland University, CISMA has determined that some LCI phragmites stands which exhibit mixed visual properties between native and non-native species are **genetically non-native as depicted in the above black & white gel DNA image**. Non-native genes can impart more aggressive growth characteristics that results in reduced native plant diversity.



Inland Seas Education Association (ISEA) will once again be sailing our waters this summer for the 9th consecutive year. ISEA is scheduled to conduct their LCI training sessions from Hessel on July 27th & 28th. The **Inland Seas** 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



Our data show that overall bat activity for all local bat species has increased during the past four years. Total bat detections at fixed monitoring sites continue to increase each year. This will be our 7th 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 and was among the species which were decimated by the White-Nose fungal disease during the past ten years. Little Brown Bat 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.

Early season midge hatches provide much needed food for local bats and migrating birds.