



LAKE WAVES



20TH EDITION

Mission Statement

A community initiative dedicated to preserving the water quality and biodiversity of the globally rare and imperiled Lake Powell ecosystem through education, habitat restoration, watershed-based planning, and community partnerships

IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Vice-Chair - 2
Lake Powell Cleanup - 3-5
Donor Thank You - 6
T-Shirt Sponsors- 7
Education & Outreach - 8



Snakes as Neighbors - 9
Bird Report - 10
Lakewatch - 11
OFW Fact Sheet - 12
Membership - 13
JOIN LPCA! - 14

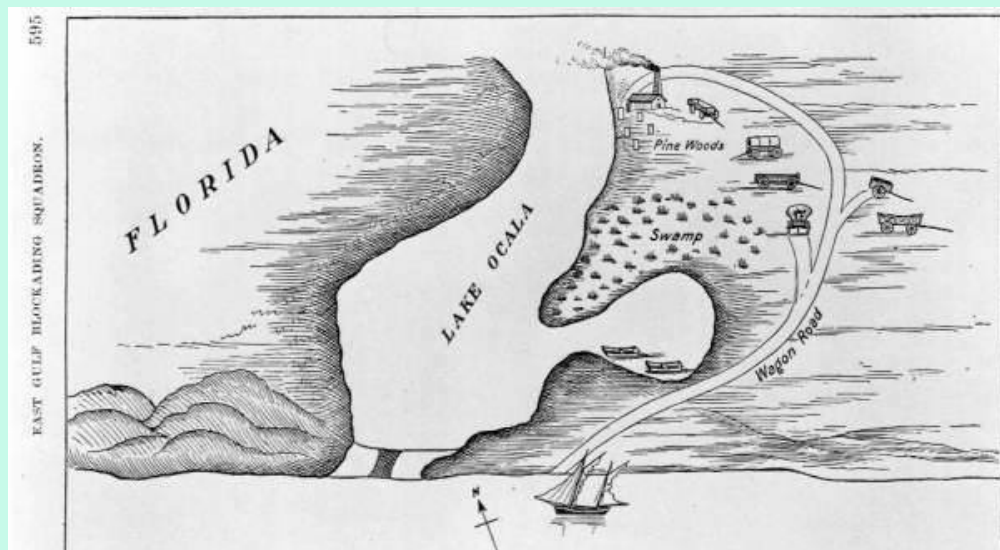
LPCA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!





Top: 2005 Lake Powell Community Alliance Founders:
Emily Ellis, Richard Bryan and Chris Forman

Bottom: 1863 map depicting Lake Powell as Lake Ocala which at that time was a major producer of salt during the Civil War. During Avondale Mills times, it was also known as Loch Lomond. The true origin of the name Lake Powell remains a mystery.



Letter From The Vice-Chair

Dear Lake Powell Friends & Allies,

This year we celebrate 20 Years of Lake Powell stewardship!

What began as a group of concerned citizens coming together as a result of some eye-opening water quality data has evolved into a community of allies with a strong passion to protect our waterway. The foundation is set to perpetuate that passion through the next twenty years and beyond. We need your help to make that happen, especially with the intense growth of our Lake Powell community.

While preparing this newsletter, I was reminded of our rich history as I took a deep dive into our Lake Powell archives. Civil War Saltworks. Early homesteads and hotels. Shipwrecks, ghosts, and gators... I found myself pondering how our legacy will live on. Will the next generation of lake lovers carry that torch further? I truly hope that will be the case. We must maintain a resonant voice to speak up and secure our lake's heritage.

Back to that "eye-opening" data from twenty years ago, we had recorded some unusually high spikes in nitrogen and phosphorus in our Lakewatch samples. We went on to identify the source and it was rectified. As of today, our latest LakeWatch data indicates a slight trend downward in our nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll levels. This is generally a positive indicator of improving water quality; however, it is imperative that we remain vigilant in our management of stormwater runoff, wastewater, fertilizers, excess nutrients, urban pollution, erosion and such.

In the back of this newsletter, you'll find our Membership Roster and an application to JOIN LPCA. Please consider joining us in our mission to preserve and protect Lake Powell.

***Wishing you all a
Happy & Healthy 2026!***

Sincerely,

Emily Ellis

LAKE POWELL COMMUNITY ALLIANCE COASTAL CLEANUP

BY NORMAN CAPRA

The 2025 LPCA Lake Powell Cleanup once again demonstrated how much can be achieved when our community comes together to help maintain Lake Powell's beauty, water quality, and its designation as an Outstanding Florida Water. Volunteers from our local neighborhood and other environmental organizations joined the Lake Powell Community Alliance on September 20th for our 13th annual "Keep it Clean" event. Our cleanup is affiliated with the Annual International Coastal Cleanup. LPCA coordinated closely with St. Andrew Bay Watch, the St. Andrew & St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program, and Bay County officials to conduct the cleanup and ensure all collected material was disposed of properly.

Registration sign-in and team assignments helped us track cleanup teams on land and water to ensure every group returned safely. The first 50 volunteers received a free T-shirt. We registered 126 volunteers, including the mayor of Panama City Beach, who worked very hard, filling garbage bags with carelessly and thoughtlessly discarded trash, household items, and construction materials.



Cleanup teams were assigned areas along the shores of Lake Powell and Phillips Inlet, extending to the beaches along the Camp Helen boundaries and Pinnacle Port. Some volunteers cleaned several miles of shoreline, while others working in areas around the park focused on picking up smaller but environmentally significant trash, including cigarette butts, bottle caps, and pieces of microplastic that required more refined approaches.

There was a major difference in our cleanup this year. A large apartment complex currently under construction in a formerly beautiful, wooded area contiguous with Lake Powell Park. This project has not made everyone happy, including the author of this report. The LPCA reached out to the developers to ask for permission to clean a large amount of trash that had accumulated along the park border. As a result, on cleanup day they sent in a hardworking crew who did a very good job. This is a good sign that they may be willing to work with us and be good stewards of our neighborhood.

Lake Powell and multiple smaller coastal dune lakes, located in Bay and Walton County, are rare, fragile habitats that need active protection, especially with the dramatic increase in population and development in the Florida Panhandle. These shallow lakes sit just behind the dunes and periodically connect directly to the Gulf, creating a unique mix of fresh and salt water that supports fish, birds, and plants in a uniquely biodiverse environment. When people leave trash, disturb vegetation, or build too close to the shoreline, this balance can quickly break down and harm the wildlife that depends on it.

With reduced green space to clean this year, we relied more on boats, paddleboards, and kayak teams to clean the shorelines of the lake, the inlet, and the Camp Helen beaches. Working in small teams, they collected plastic bottles, food wrappers, discarded fishing lines, and construction debris that had washed into the lakes or blown in from nearby development. Removing this litter helps keep wildlife from getting tangled or poisoned, and it also prevents plastic from breaking down into tiny pieces that can remain in the water and sand for years.

After weighing the mountain of collected trash, all participants were invited to join our traditional group picture and share a pizza lunch along with stories about the adventure of their cleanup efforts. The day's activities concluded with our chance drawing for many wonderful gifts provided by local businesses and an impressive number of talented individual artists and hobbyists who support our environmental goals. We greatly appreciate the contribution of time and effort from our volunteers and partners and look forward to working with everyone next year.



A few days after the event, the county reported that we had collected 2207 lbs. of trash and debris, which added to our cumulative total now approaching 36,000 lbs. The cleanup data from volunteers who used the Clean Swell app has already been posted on the Ocean Conservancy Tides database. The data sheets are still being compiled, and these results will be reported on our new LPCA website soon.

The Lake Powell Cleanup and other cleanup efforts in our area highlight how rapid development and growth can affect water quality and increase erosion around the dune lakes. As more land is cleared for buildings and parking lots, rainwater runs off faster, carrying soil, fertilizer, and trash into the lakes. Stormwater impacts are a major concern of the LPCA and arguably the greatest threat to Lake Powell water quality. Looking forward, we hope to foster cooperation with our neighbors, developers, and local government to preserve at least some of the reasons we all moved here in the first place.



PANAMA CITY BEACH MAYOR STUART TETTEMER (IN BLACK)
PITCHED IN TO HELP OUR EFFORTS THIS YEAR



SEACOAST COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



**MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS**

*

**2026 LAKE
POWELL
CLEANUP
SEPT. 19TH**



HOSTS

Lake Powell Community Alliance
St. Andrew Bay Watch
Camp Helen State Park

PARTNERS

Bay County
Bay County Audubon Society
Wild Heron Homeowners Association
Pinnacle Port Community
Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
St. Andrew & St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program
Beach Mosquito Control District

T-SHIRT SPONSORS

Mike & Louise Poundstone
Seagrove Center Storage
Bay County Audubon Society
Seashell Signatures by Pamela
Squidly's Seafood
Bubba's Pizza

DONORS

UPS (Inlet Beach)
Daystar Cleaning
The Donut Hole
Amavida Coffee Roasters
Lake Powell Pizza
Ace Home Helpers
Carousel Supermarket
Dream Coast Auto Repair

DONORS (continued)

Suzanne Ganzak Carnill LMT CST
Advance Auto Parts
Capt. Charlie Paprocki
Seashell Signatures / Pam Finster
Emily Ellis Photography
Simon Group / Pier Park
30A Smiles / Dr. Derek Fleitz
Distillery 98
Bay Breeze Bait & Tackle
Grayton Beach Massage
Craig & Nancy McLaughlin
South Walton Eyecare / Dr. Bo King
Panama City Aquatic Center
Karen Key Smith - My Happy Ass Life
Beachy Beach Real Estate
Mold + Solutions LLC
Mary Jo Capra
Ripley's Believe It or Not!
WonderWorks
Aleigator Supply
Dive Locker
MarineMax
Half Hitch Tackle
Buddy's Seafood Market
Salty Sue's
Dusty's Oyster Bar
Shuckums Oyster Pub
Longhorn Steakhouse
Florida LAKEWATCH

13th Annual Lake Powell Cleanup

THANK YOU
to our
Partners,
Sponsors, & Donors
**YOU
ROCK!**



On behalf of our hard-working and dedicated cleanup volunteers, we wholeheartedly thank The Donut Hole for donating delicious donuts every year, the UPS Store (Inlet Beach) for printing our Donor Appreciation and Chance Drawing Prize Posters, Lake Powell Pizza for the mouth-watering pizza pies, and Amavida Coffee Roasters for coffee and cold brew!

We have many behind-the-scenes volunteer positions available each year. If you'd like to be more hands-on in the production of the annual Lake Powell Cleanup, or if you would like to be a sponsor please let us know...

2025
LAKE POWELL CLEAN-UP
T-Shirt Sponsors



MIKE & LOUISE POUNDSTONE



Seashell Signatures

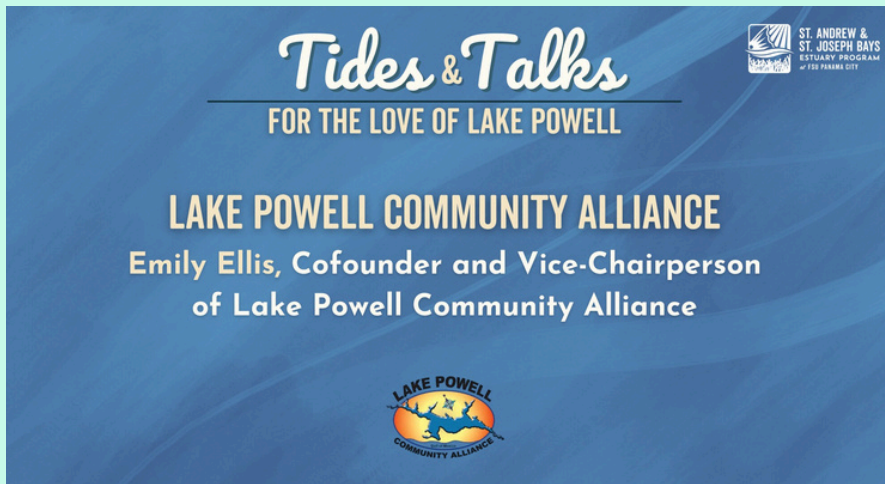
By Pamela



(240) 217-8292
pamfinster@gmail.com



Education & Outreach...



In November Emily Ellis gave a Lake Powell presentation for the “Tides and Talks” series - a dynamic community meeting hosted by the St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program.

Chris Crider is a life-long Bay County resident and the newest board member of the LPCA. He has been an active Lakewatch volunteer sampling Lake Powell and is now a Qualified Stormwater Inspector. Chris completed the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Stormwater Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspector Training Program in July of 2025.

“I grew up enjoying all of the beauty and fun Lake Powell offers. I joined the LPCA to do everything I can to ensure future generations will have the same opportunities to experience this extremely rare ecosystem unspoiled.”

Chris showed a strong interest in furthering his education regarding development-related stormwater protocols. The LPCA sponsored Chris for the program. He went right to work putting his training into use for our community!

The goals of the Stormwater, Erosion, and Sedimentation Control Inspector (FSESCI) Qualification Program are to better educate installers and inspectors on proper Best Management Practice (BMP) selection, installation, layering, and maintenance; and to train and qualify inspectors to correctly inspect BMPs for use during and after construction so that impacts from uncontrolled erosion and sedimentation on the construction site are minimized.



Snakes as Neighbors



Many people have a deep-rooted phobia of snakes; our cultural traditions and stories often set up snakes as the “bad guys,” and this fear is reinforced in children. Snakes, however, are some of the most harmless and misunderstood wildlife. Check out the snake information here to learn the benefits of having snakes as neighbors and ways to peacefully co-exist with them.

Did you know...



Snakes are one of the most effective forms of pest control around the home! Many species of snakes prey on small rodents that can spread disease or damage your garden.



Snakes play the role of both predator and prey, which helps maintain the balance of our ecosystem and promotes biodiversity.



A gentle spritz from a garden hose will usually be enough to encourage a snake to move out of an area without harming it.



Few snakes are aggressive by nature, and as noted herpetologist Clifford H. Pope reminds us, “snakes are first cowards, then bluffers, and last of all warriors.” Most snakes want to avoid something as large as a human, and would prefer to get well out of our way!

Call a professional if you need to remove a venomous snake from a high-traffic area with children and pets.

It's illegal to kill snakes in Virginia unless there is an imminent threat to one's personal health and safety.



For more information, visit www.wildlifecenter.org/snakes-neighbors

What NOT to do:

- Never kill a snake. Killing a snake doesn't help keep more snakes away.
- When hiking or climbing or when working in wooded areas, don't put your hands and feet in places you can't see. Snakes often hide under logs and in crevices.
- Don't keep a wild snake as a pet; keep wildlife in the wild where they belong.
- Don't attempt to handle venomous snakes. If you don't approach the venomous snake to handle, remove, or kill, you'll eliminate any chance of being bitten.

Still Feeling Wary?

Here are a few tips for minimizing interaction with your snake neighbors:

- Know the places you're most likely to encounter snakes: in piles of rocks, wood, and other debris; tall grass and under leaf cover in the woods; in cracks and gaps under sidewalks and porches
- Learn basic identification skills to put your mind at ease about whether a snake is venomous and poses any danger. (Only 3 out of 30 snakes in Virginia are actually venomous!)
- Search for entry points to the home and seal holes and cracks; mouse-proofing your home will also effectively snake-proof it!

Birding Around Lake Powell

By Mary Jo Capra



On April 26th, a Hudsonian Whimbrel was documented at the inlet and on our June survey we spotted a Green Sea Turtle by the small bridge on the trail to the beach.



Please consider joining us on our monthly survey. We LOVE beginners! The more eyes we have looking for birds, the more we see. To get reminders, email us at lpca08@gmail.com THANKS for your HELP!!

I have long reported on our monthly species survey at Camp Helen State Park. The survey was started in 2011 with Bill McCandliss furnishing the Bird Sighting Book to Camp Helen. Our group has used the book as well as other visitors to the park. The book has been repaired several times over the years and is being replaced in January. It will be placed in the new visitor's center at Camp Helen once the center is completed.

This year two new species were added to the list of bird that the LPCA group has observed at Camp Helen SP bring our total number of species to 200. The species added are Dark-eyed Junco and Sedge Wren. The Dark-eyed Junco was reported in January. It is a unique sparrow that is found in the western United State year-round and uncommon bird for this area, although it can be observed in the winter months. The Sedge Wren was reported in October. Sedge Wrens are also winter birds for our area. It is generally found in damp areas. This one was by Lake Bessie in the park.

In September, a Long-billed Dowitcher was observed on the beach. This was not the first time one was observed at the park, but there was much conversation and correspondence whether the bird was a Long-billed or Short-billed Dowitcher. Emily's photo settled the discussion with the eBird reviewer.

In addition to the species count at Camp Helen SP, the Lake Watch team counts the birds observed during the monthly water sampling. Although the Lake Watch data has been collected for many years, our eBird data only goes back to 2018. Our count for Lake Powell is 97 species. All but 2 of them have been observed during our counts in Camp Helen SP. The additional species identified during Lake Watch are Mallard and Boat-tailed Grackle.

We are grateful to all who volunteered to join us the last Saturday of the month at 6:00AM to complete the survey. Please consider joining us. The more eyes we have looking for birds, the more we are likely to see. Want to join us on our monthly survey?

Email: lpca08@gmail.com

BELOW: BONAPARTE'S GULLS AT CAMP HELEN STATE PARK ON 2-22-25





LAKEWATCH CAPTAIN VINCE DISCIULLO AND CREW - CHRIS FORMAN, SCOTT & LAURA SPANFELNER

LAKEWATCH Florida

LAKEWATCH is a team effort in which volunteers work with researchers at the University of Florida to collect basic information and contribute to the understanding of Florida lakes. Want to Volunteer? Let us Know! Or visit <http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu>

Please support St. Andrew Bay Watch. (<http://standrewbaywatch.org>) and the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) (www.basinalliance.org). These organizations coordinate the LakeWatch program so that the monthly sampling of Lake Powell may continue.

Our LPCA LakeWatch volunteer crew is growing! Thank you to Chris Crider, Harry Feilner, Charlotte Long, Morgan Carolan, and Scott & Laura Spanfelner. We appreciate your time and effort!

Hoist the Flags! Now you will see our samplers out on the water. Just look for the LAKE POWELL COMMUNITY ALLIANCE and UF LAKEWATCH flags flying from our stern. Give a honk of support when you see the crew in action!

The LPCA maintains memberships with the Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS), the Friends of Camp Helen State Park, St. Andrew Bay Watch, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance and the Ocean Conservancy. We partner regularly with Bay County Audubon Society. In 2008, LPCA members were recognized and received the Scott Driver Award for Citizen Activism from FLMS.



Vince Disciullo's Captain's Log 2025, Lake Powell

The monthly sample taking of our beautiful Lake Powell continues on strong going into its 29th year. This past year was no different than previous ones with the challenges of weather, crew availability, and the occasional equipment malfunction. No matter the challenge, the LPCA Lakewatch crew did what they had to do to in fulfilling our monthly obligation.

A special shout out to our volunteers who came off the bench to support us during months we were short on crewmembers and my boat. LPCA member Morgan Carolan, provided support on an as needed basis, thank you Morgan! Scott Spanfelner stepped up and provided his boat in support of our Lakewatch activity in October, thank you Scott!

Our efforts in doing the lake sampling continue to include our diligent oversight of ever-changing activities we notice going on around Florida's largest coastal dune lake. 2025 continued to bring change to our lake's landscape with increased real estate development of new homes and boat dock construction. We will continue our efforts in providing the appropriate attention necessary, and hope it garners the attention of all Lake Powell residents and those responsible for the projects.

Our lake sampling is a wonderful opportunity to help mother nature in whatever way possible in preserving Lake Powell. Come join us in our continued support of monitoring our beautiful coastal dune lake. If interested in helping support our lake sampling, please let us know! Email me at vinnyd53@gmail.com or text 850-630-0009.

Forward and onward, but never straight into 2026!

Captain Vince



Fact Sheet on OUTSTANDING FLORIDA WATERS (OFWs)

Section 403.061(27), Florida Statutes, grants the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) the power to establish rules that provide for a special category of waterbodies within the State referred to as “Outstanding Florida Waters” that are worthy of special protection because of their natural attributes.

Implementing Agency

DEP is the agency that conducts the rule-making to designate a waterbody as an OFW; however, each OFW must be approved by the Environmental Regulation Commission (ERC), a seven-member citizen’s body appointed by the Governor.

Regulatory Significance

In general, discharges regulated through a permitting program of the DEP or a Water Management District (WMD) that are proposed within an OFW must not lower background ambient water quality. For purposes of an OFW designation, background water quality is the water quality a year prior to OFW designation or the year before a complete permit application, whichever water quality is better.

DEP and the WMDs cannot issue permits for direct discharges to OFWs that would lower ambient water quality. In most cases, this deters new wastewater discharges directly into an OFW, and requires increased treatment for stormwater discharging directly into an OFW. DEP and the WMDs also may not issue permits for indirect discharges that would significantly degrade a nearby waterbody designated as an OFW. The applicable permitting program rules should be consulted to determine the specific programmatic requirements related to discharges into an OFW. In addition, activities or discharges within an OFW, or which significantly degrade an OFW, must meet a more stringent public interest test. Such activity or discharge must be “clearly in the public interest” compared to the less stringent “contrary to the public interest” test. For example, activities requiring an Environmental Resource Permit

September 2021 Page 2 of 5

(ERP), such as dredging or filling within a wetland or other surface water or construction/operation of a stormwater system, must be clearly in the public interest, if within an OFW, instead of not contrary to the public interest.

In determining whether an activity or discharge that requires an ERP permit is not contrary to the public interest or is clearly in the public interest, DEP or a WMD must consider and balance the following factors:

1. Whether the activity will adversely affect the public health, safety, welfare or the property of others;
2. Whether the activity will adversely affect the conservation of fish and wildlife, including endangered or threatened species, or their habitats;
3. Whether the activity will adversely affect navigation or the flow of water or cause harmful erosion or shoaling;
4. Whether the activity will adversely affect the fishing or recreational values or marine productivity in the vicinity of the activity;
5. Whether the activity will be of a temporary or permanent nature;
6. Whether the activity will adversely affect or will enhance significant historical and archaeological resources under the provisions of S. 267.061; and
7. The current condition and relative value of functions being performed by areas affected by the proposed activity.

See § 373.414(1)(a), Fla. Stat.



MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026

PARTNERS

St. Andrew Bay Watch
Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
Florida Lake Management Society
Bay County Audubon
Camp Helen State Park

SPONSOR

David Fleet & Becky Ferris

PATRON

Bill McCandliss
Norman & Mary Jo Capra
Vince & Joy DiSciullo *
Mike & Louise Poundstone
Ted & Louise Sommers *
Gary & Pam Finster
Bill & Charlotte Fowler
Scott & Laura Spanfelner
Mrs. Keesha Barrington Kerins
Greg & Edie Shafer
Frank & Lynne Sforza
Larry & Stephanie Bloyd

SENIOR / STUDENT / MILITARY

Richard Bryan (Honorary Posthumous)
Steve Austin
Barbara Austin
Richard Heck *
Gloria Turner

FAMILY / ORGANIZATION

Chris Forman & Emily Ellis
Jimmy & Jo Ann Stone
Don & Helen Schroeder
Trey, Stephanie, Lily & Hudson Howland *
Ted & Ginger Turnbough *
Chris Crider & Elizabeth Burke
Laura Garland *
Charlotte Long & Harry Feilner
Ben & Jean Evans
Clayton & Julie Iron Wolf *
Karla & Chris Gillan *

INDIVIDUAL

John Walters
Dean Minton
Annette Railey
David Phelps
Cindy Mulla
Joann Scully

MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE.

See membership application on next page.

*Indicates membership is valid through 2026

All others are due.

Thank You for Supporting the LPCA!



Please join us in our mission to conserve Lake Powell and her watershed. We need your help! Without your passion, the unique qualities of Florida's largest coastal dune lake are endangered. Together we can preserve this local gem so that our children and grandchildren can see and experience this rare ecosystem.

JOIN THE TEAM—KEEP IT CLEAN!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Sponsor — \$250

Patron / Business — \$100

Family / Organization — \$50

Individual — \$25

Senior / Student / Military — \$15

Additional Donation — \$ _____

WHAT'S YOUR PASSION?

(Circle All That Apply)

Outreach / Education

Computers / Clerical

Water Quality / Lake Cleanups

Bird Surveys / Field Work

Other _____

Mail completed form and donation to:

LPCA

P. O. Box 611112

Rosemary Beach, FL 32461

LPCA08@gmail.com



Meeting Times

The LPCA meets quarterly. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of January and September at 9:30 am in the Carillon Beach Meeting House. A Summer Picnic/Meeting is held in June and our Annual Meeting/Party is held in December.

Thank you to the Carillon Beach Institute for allowing the LPCA to use their beautiful Meeting House.

Want to join the LPCA Board of Directors? You may nominate yourself or someone you know. Let us know.

Your 2025 LPCA Board

CHAIRMAN - Chris Forman 850-625-4141

VICE-CHAIR - Emily Ellis 850-818-2262

SEC/TREASURER - Mary Jo Capra 850-532-9694

BOARD MEMBER - Vince DiSciullo 850-630-0009

BOARD MEMBER - Chris Crider 850-625-4413



2025 LPCA SUMMER PICNIC AT LAKE POWELL PARK
WE WERE HONORED TO HAVE
BAY CO. COMMISSIONER, CLAIR PEASE,
JOIN US THIS YEAR. (NOT PICTURED)

Lake Powell Community Alliance, Inc. is a charitable organization as determined by Section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code. A copy of official registration #CH22613 with the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services as well as financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services. Call 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement or approval or recommendation by the state.