



Laffite's Cove Nature Society

Ben Hock, President of The Laffites Cove Nature Society (LCNS) asked that Laffites residents remember that Laffites canals are private, yet under an Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) permit. LCNS oversees Laffites canals.

Here are a few important things to remember.

- The canals are constructed with a ledge along the bulkhead. Boats should stay in the middle of the canal and not get near the bulkhead when turning around. They are seeing boats coming dangerously close to bulkheads and eroding that soil ledge, turning up a lot of sand with their propellers. This destroys the ledge and harms the bulkheads. Slow turns and staying in the middle of the canal is required to prevent damage. Areas near the ends of canals tend to be shallower. You may want to turn before getting to the ends of canals. The end of Windlass and Binnacle have large culverts that protrude out into the canal. Your boat hull will want to stay clear of those. We have seen boats going at a fast rate of speed at night until they realize the canals end and we do not want to see a boat flying over Eckert.
- Eroding ledges fill in the canals. Shallower water is more prone to fish kills that we have seen recently on some of the canals. The shallower water has less oxygen and the heat affects the fish to a greater degree.
- Marsh grass along the edge of the canals is required by the USACE permit. The LCNS requires marsh grass to remain there. Anyone removing the marsh grass is in violation of the USACE permit and LCNS deed restrictions. We do not want to see USACE requiring a re-planting along all bulkheads. If required, it would be awfully expensive for each homeowner.
- The marsh grass has several benefits in addition to being required by USACE and LCNS; protects the bulkheads from wave action; baby fish and crabs as well as bait fish live in the marsh grass; gives Laffites canals a unique, environmentally friendly aspect.
- All canals in Laffites Cove are no wake zones (idle only).
- Cameras are being placed to capture boat numbers of boats violating the no wake zones.
- Please do not remove the No Wake buoys, they are the property of LCNS.
- Please do not clean fish and throw the remains in the canals. Those attract alligators to your dock. Best practice is to freeze and take out to the bay on your next trip to toss in the bay (minus plastic) .

You can do your part to prevent unnecessary dredging costs by adhering to the above. Since the canals are privately owned, dredging would be a private cost for Laffites. Pirates Cove homeowners are incurring large costs to replace bulkheads. Since everyone is responsible for replacing your own bulkhead, let's be good neighbors and respect the no wake rules to keep Laffites canals and bulkheads in good shape.

Ben Hock
President
Laffites Cove Nature Society