

ISLAND

Lake Erie Islands
Conservancy
Presents



GREEN SCENE

Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2017

Dodge Woods Preserve a Welcome Addition!

by Lisa Brohl

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District closed on the 3.5 acre Dodge Woods parcel on February 21, 2017. It was purchased with a Clean Ohio

Conservation Fund with matching funding coming from the John Dodge family, the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, and the John Ladd family.

This spring we will have a sign and bench at the location for the use of visitors to the island with a trail in the near future. We are excited about this new very visible preserve and invite everyone to stop and enjoy the shade on the corner of Langram and Thompson Avenues!



Photos: Above Left — Lisa Brohl with Judy Twarek of Hartung Title signing in Port Clinton Above Right — John Dodge and Bridget Wise signing all the way down in the Keys!

Our Mission:

To encourage conservation and Protection of Natural and Agricultural Lands in the Lake Erie Islands for the Benefit of Future Generations.



FUTURE GENERATIONS

Speaking of Future Generations.... here's a photo of Ella Kosture, Hope Cooks, and Kate Byrnes at Kate's Booth at the Christmas Bazaar! How Fun!!

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Put-in-Bay Township Park District Receives Grant from The Conservation Fund

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District received an Ohio Forested Habitat Fund grant from the Conservation Fund to protect habitat for migratory birds. The Park District will use the funds to purchase and preserve wet wooded areas on Middle Bass Island to provide resting habitat for birds during the migration season. This is in addition to a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant and a Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program grant to purchase property near where the Park District owns 12 acres already. We are excited to be a part of this opportunity!



Photo: Burgundy Bay wetland habitat

Bass Islands Audubon Christmas Bird Count

by Lisa Brohl



The annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count was held on the Lake Erie Islands on Sunday, December 18, 2016. The lake was starting to freeze and open water was restricted to the east side and pockets in the Bay and at the South Bass Island State Park. The winds were brisk from the northwest with temperatures at -3 C in the morning. It was a relatively quiet day in the woods. Waterfowl numbers were down as the lake was freezing. We were unable to visit Green Island due to ice on the lake.

Highlights for the South Bass count were 243 tundra swans with most found at Chapman's Point, as well as a variety of waterfowl including common goldeneye, bufflehead, mallard, black ducks, redheads, canvasback, ring-necked ducks, gadwall, hooded mergansers, red-breasted mergansers, and ruddy ducks. A northern pintail was seen on Friday at the Scheeff East Point Preserve. A common loon was found by Sharon Gray and

Richard Gump in the last open water at the South Bass Island State Park. Carmen Trisler's feeder yielded a common redpoll, purple finch, and winter wren.

The calm evening of the count was great for listening for owls—8 great horned and one eastern screech owl were counted this year on South Bass. Raptors included 6 bald eagles, 4 red-tailed hawks, sharp-shinned, Cooper's hawks, and a northern harrier. One of the red-tailed hawks was seen perched on the sign at the Massie Cliffside Preserve with an injured wing-but not injured enough for it to be caught to take to rehab-it flew into the woods!

The most numerous bird counted were scaup at 1206 (126 which identified as lesser scaup) followed by European starlings at 773. Large numbers of starlings, brown-headed cowbirds, red-winged blackbirds,

(Continued on page 11)



Photos: Counterclockwise: Karen Wilhelm and Elizabeth Heineman at Massies Cliffside Preserve; Perry's Monument by Elizabeth Heineman; Karen Wilhelm, Lisa Brohl, Elizabeth Heineman warming up a bit; Red-tailed Hawk by Elizabeth Heineman at Massies; Tree Sparrow by Elizabeth Heineman; CBC Cranes 2016; Red-tailed Hawk on Massies sign by Elizabeth Heineman; CBC Fish Point 2016 Below: Northern Cardinal by Sumiko at Pelee Page 16: At South Bass Lighthouse during Christmas Bird Count by Lisa Brohl



Winter at Massie Cliffside Preserve



A HUGE THANK YOU to all who continue to help with this incredible preserve!



Photos: Courtesy of Kyle Brooks ©Kyle Brooks

Salamanders in Coopers Woods

Maggie Hantak, a PhD student at the Ohio University, Department of Biological Sciences, has been studying the salamanders in the Coopers Woods area for a few years. Here is information from her on the importance of preserving Coopers Woods for the salamanders.

"I do believe that the woods are important to keep intact. For my dissertation research I'm studying color polymorphism in the Eastern Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*). I'm looking to see if the color morphs (striped morph and lead morph) are diverging. I wanted to get several populations that varied in morph frequency including some all-lead populations. In Ohio, however, Cooper's Woods on SBI was the only population I could find that had all-lead individuals. I am aware of one other population like this in Ohio, but I have only seen a few salamanders there. So, this population has become very important for my research as it will demonstrate what the lead morph is like when it is released from competition with the striped morph. This could have huge implications for understanding this color polymorphism-which is widely studied itself. Prior to finding salamanders in Cooper's Woods, I did not have luck anywhere else on the island. For salamanders, this land seems to be the largest, least disrupted portion of land. If the land is developed hundreds or thousands of salamanders will die-they are estimated to have densities of ~3 individuals/m² in forested

habitats. Interestingly, there are also melanistic garter snakes in Cooper's Woods. Island populations have been shown to have a higher number of melanistic animals. So, destroying this unique snakes habitat without understanding its ecology would also be a shame.

-In addition to studying the ecology of this salamander, my advisor, Dr. Shawn Kuchta, has started studying the evolutionary position of this salamander through genetic means. Thus far, we have found that the salamanders from Cooper's Woods are more closely related to salamanders from Canada than salamanders from the rest of Ohio (currently all the same species, different clades). This is really interesting because it shows potential movement of these salamanders after glacial retreat-and has implications for other species. Our lab will send out a paper on this information to a peer-reviewed journal within the next month.

Please let me know how else I can help. I've enjoyed studying the salamanders in Cooper's Woods, and it was our lab's hope that someone after me would like to continue studying this population.

Best,
Maggie Hantak, Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Biological Sciences
Ohio University
Phone: (216) 548-0951



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Organic Seed Sale Benefits Conservancy

By Lisa Brohl

Thanks go to Amy Huston and the Put-in-Bay Environmental Club for sharing the profits from an organic seed sale in January. Amy offered organic, non-GMO garden seeds for sale to benefit both organizations. We really appreciate your help Amy and the chance to get just the seeds we want delivered to us here on the islands.



Photo: Conservancy Chair Lisa Brohl and Judy Twarek of Hartung Title closing on a two lot donation in Victory Park on South Bass Island.

Donations for the Future

by Lisa Brohl

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District has accepted the donation of two lots in Victory Woods and soon will accept a lot in the Clipper Cove area of the Burgundy Bay development on Middle Bass Islands. The Park District already owns lots in these areas for protection of island habitat.

If you own property in either of these areas you are not going to build on, consider a donation to the Park District. All donations are tax deductible-and would save valuable wetland habitat on Middle Bass and the unique woodland habitat on South Bass.

LEIC and PIBTPD Wish List

Thanks to everyone for the response to the last wish list! We are very fortunate to have such a great support! Let us know if you can help us out with any of these items at leiconservancy@gmail.com or 419-366-2087.

- Architect or Engineer for Petersen Woods Boardwalk project drawings, donations for helical supports for boardwalk.
- Assistance with trail layout, construction, parking, mulching and signage with the Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Area (Burgundy Bay and former Schneider tract)
- Interpretive Signs (\$200 each-can add donors name) and Entrance Sign, for the Middle Bass Forested Wetland Preserve
- Interpretive Signs for the Massie Cliffside Preserve, Jane Coates Wildflower Trail, or Scheeff East Point Preserve (\$200 each-can add donors name)
- Recycled Bicycle Rack (\$700) and Bench (\$2,000) for Dodge Woods-can have any commemorative message you want on bench or rack
- Website and Social Media Assistance
- Mapping Assistance for Grants and Reports
- Laptop, Word, Adobe programs and fireproof filing cabinet for new office
- Assistance with placing bird nesting boxes in our preserves.
- Additional Funding or Donations for an AmeriCorps intern- shared with LEINWC and PIBTPD-have received generous donations of \$1,400 so far.
- Assistance with Purple Martin Rigs, Tree Swallow Boxes at Scheeff-need some brush removal near boxes and rigs, assistance for Paula Ziebarth in setting up , monitoring and taking down boxes
- Volunteers to spread mulch on trails and pick up litter-Massie Cliffside Preserve
- Part-Time Employee funding



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LEIC Native Tree & Plant Sale

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC) is now taking orders for native trees and plants for the islands. We are using Riverside Native Trees and Natives in Harmony for our native tree and plant sale. Buying and planting native trees and shrubs is a great way to provide quality habitat for the birds, butterflies, moths and other wildlife on the islands. We are promoting the planting of native trees and shrubs because our native animals are adapted to feeding on these plants and using them for shelter. By planting native species you are making your land more attractive to birds, bees, butterflies, moths and a host of other desirable species. This fundraiser will be used to support the LEIC land preservation and restoration programs!

Trees: All native trees and shrubs for sale are sold in 3 gallon containers or size noted below. The varieties available are Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Basswood, Common Hackberry, and Silver Maple. Shrubs offered are Silky Dogwood, Hoptree, Buttonbush, Pasture and Swamp Rose, and Common Elderberry. All these trees and shrubs are native to the islands and will thrive in this environment. They have been grown from Ohio seed stock by Riverside Native Trees in Delaware, Ohio.

Plants: LEIC is also selling over 30 varieties of native perennial plants and flowers from Natives in Harmony from Marengo, Ohio. An order form is available at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org or by calling Lisa at 419-366-2087. Beautify your yard and support the Conservancy!

Orders may be placed until May 1 and Island delivery will be arranged. For those on Middle Bass who wish to order, a pick up on Middle Bass will be set up as well.

If you need additional order forms or have any questions, please contact Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087.

Native Tree and Plant Order Form

Send to: LEIC, P. O. Box 461, Put-in-Bay, OH 43456




Please make checks payable to LEIC-Add \$5.00 for shipping/handling - Thank You for your support!!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Riverside Native Trees Selection

	TREES	Qty	Size	Cost	Total
	Northern Red Oak - well drained		2-3'	\$25	
	Swamp White Oak - wet areas		2-3'	\$25	
	Chinquapin/Chinkapin Oak - wet or well drained - high ph		2-3'	\$25	
	Bur Oak - can withstand drought or wet conditions		2-3'	\$25	
	Basswood – moist, rich well-drained soils, bees and birds love		2-3'	\$25	
	American Sycamore - wet, banks and bottomlands		2-3'	\$25	
	Silver Maple – moist and fertile soil, swamps, streambanks, bottomlands		2-3'	\$25	
	Total				

	8' TREES	Qty	Size	Cost	Total
	Swamp White Oak - wet areas		8'	\$100	
	Chinquapin/Chinkapin Oak - wet or well drained - high ph		8'	\$100	
	Bur Oak - can withstand drought or wet conditions		8'	\$100	
	SHRUBS	Qty	Size	Cost	
	Hoptree - wet or well-drained, sun to partial shade <small>photo "Hoptree (Ptelea trifoliata)" by Elena Stikins</small>		2-3'	\$25	
	Common Elderberry - moist soil, creates clump quickly, sun <small>photo "Common Elderberry" by Jason Stalings</small>		2-3'	\$25	
	Silky Dogwood - moist soil, poorly drained, tolerates shade well <small>photo "Silky dogwood (Cornus obliqua) fruit(s)" by Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org</small>		2-3'	\$25	
	Buttonbush – shorelines and swamps, full sun, flowering poor in shade or dry soil <small>buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) flower(s)" by Franklin Bonner, USFS.net, Bugwood.org</small>		2-3'	\$25	
	Total				

Tree Leaf Photos obtained from "What Tree Is It?" - OPLIN-OHS/CC BY 3.0 (CC) BY-NC-SA

Natives in Harmony Plant Selection

Plants – 2.5” Pots	Quantity	\$4.00 each	Total	Plants – 2.5” Pots	Quantity	\$4.00 each	Total
Nodding Wild Onion - sun, will grow in rocky ground, summer				Stiff Goldenrod - full sun, moist to somewhat dry, late summer to early fall			
Canada Anemone - sun or shade, damp, late spring-early summer				Cardinal Flower - full sun to shade, moist to wet, summer			
Thimbleweed - shade or sun, will grow in rocky ground, early to mid-summer				Great Blue Lobelia - part shade to full sun, wet, late summer-fall			
Boneset - full to partial sun, humus-rich, wet to moist soil, late summer to early fall				Virginia Bluebells - shade, woodland, spring			
Wild Columbine - rocky, sun or part shade, spring				Square-Stemmed Monkey Flower - part shade to full sun, moist to wet, summer			
Blue Flag Iris - partial to full sun, wet to moist, late spring to early summer				Great White Trillium - moist humus-rich soil, shade, mid-spring to mid-summer			
Swamp Milkweed - part shade or sun, wet areas, summer				Obedient Plant - sun, moist, summer, hummingbirds, butterflies			
Common Milkweed - full sun, moist to dry, all soils but prefers rich loamy soil, early to mid-summer				Virginia Mountain Mint - part shade to full sun, rocky, summer			
Downy Wood Mint - full to partial sun, loamy to rocky, drought-tolerant, early to mid-summer				NATIVE TO OHIO but not BASS ISLANDS			
Sharp-lobed Hepatica - light shade, well-drained, loamy, soil can contain rocky pieces, mid-spring				Purple Coneflower - part shade to full sun, late summer			
New England Aster - part shade or sun, late summer to fall				White Turtlehead - sun, wet areas, late summer-fall			
Blue Vervain - part shade to full sun, late summer to early fall				Foxglove Beardstongue - full sun to part shade, summer, bees, hummingbirds			
Black-Eyed Susan - full to partial sun, moist well-drained fertile soil, mid-summer to early fall				GRASSES - 2.5" Pots	Quantity	\$4.00 each	Total
Dutchman’s Breeches - dappled to light shade, moist conditions, rich loamy soil, early to mid-spring				Big Bluestem Grass - Sandy to loamy soils, full sun or partial shade			
Winged Loosestrife - full sun, wet to moist soil, poorly drained, mid to late summer				Canada Wild Rye - full sun, prairie, any type of dry to moist soil, draws butterflies, pollinators			
Common Blue Violet - partial sun to light shade, moist loamy soil, prairie or woodland, mid to late spring				Purple Love Grass - full sun, dry barren soil, late summer to early fall			
Hairy Beardtongue - sun, fields and open areas, summer				Virginia Wild Rye Grass - tolerant of shade, moist soil			
Bergamot Tea - full to partial sun, moist to dry sandy or loamy soil, fields and thickets, mid-summer to fall				SHRUBS – 2’ Pots	Quantity	\$20.00 each	Total
Starry False Solomon's Seal - partial sun, moist to slightly dry, late spring				Prairie Rose - well-drained soil, good sunlight, needs support			
Blue-Eyed Grass – partial to full sun, moist well-drained to rock gardens, early summer				Swamp Rose - moist soil, creates colony/clump			
Totals				Totals			

Tracking Sparrows and Warblers Across Lake Erie *By Kate Habrel (shared by Julene Market)*

From the Great Lakes Echo, GLERL, CILER, December 8, 2016

Researchers have discovered that more sparrows and warblers fly northeast to Canada in spring by island-hopping across western Lake Erie than those that fly over open water in the lake's center.

Such flight patterns are increasingly important to know as various groups consider building off-shore wind farms on the lake, energy experts say. Ohio's wind energy project, Icebreaker, recently received a \$40 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to place six wind turbines 8 to 10 miles off Cleveland's coast – in the path of some migrating birds. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2018.

While wind turbines produce clean energy, they may disrupt the flights of migratory birds. Knowing where and when they cross can minimize disruptions and avoid bird casualties. A new study found that more birds, especially sparrows, fly over water near a chain of islands in the western side of the lake. This suggests that when sparrows decide to cross Lake Erie, they're more likely to use the islands than fly directly over it on a route that lacks stopping points..

"That can hopefully guide the placement and operation of those wind farms," said David Gesicki, a doctoral candidate in the department of biological sciences at Bowling Green State University, and lead author of the study. "As a scientist, that's something we really hope we can push more and more toward."

Birds in the study were more likely to cross over land than over water. Sparrows, the study suggested, were more likely than warblers to attempt an open water crossing. Warblers were equally likely to go directly over the lake or follow the coast.

These songbirds migrate from their winter locations in the U.S. Gulf Coast and Mexico. Lake Erie is an important stop on their journey northeast.

"They reach the Great Lakes, and they basically need to make a decision: Do we cross the lake or do we try to take a detour?" said Verner Bingman, a professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

That choice is partially influenced by the location of Lake Erie's islands.

An archipelago stretches across the western side of the lake from Sandusky Bay in Ohio to Pelee Island in Canada.

It's not easy to figure out such flyways. Researchers measured the birds' night flight calls to see which species and species groups went where. Each species has a unique call that can be analyzed with computer software. Gesicki collected the data in spring of 2012 and 2013. He recorded calls from along Ohio's Lake Erie coast, the Cleveland Water Intake platform and West Sister Island.

"With the audio recorders, we get a sense of where some species are dropping out and just refusing to cross," Gesicki said. "A computer screen has really allowed us to see these tiny calls that are fractions of a second long."

Thanks to these calls, Gesicki found a large number of white-throated sparrows crossing the lake at West Sister Island. The number of birds crossing over water there was higher than the number going over land.

West Sister Island might provide a convenient stepping stone for white-throated sparrows across Lake Erie. Further study is needed determine if that is the case.

"I don't really have an explanation for that, but it's really quite a striking finding," Bingman said. "It might've been a one-time occurrence, but it was just peculiar."

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Fungi Photo by Melody Many



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Swallows Over the Bass Islands *By Paula Ziebarth*



If you are interested in native bird conservation, consider becoming a member of Swallows Over the Bass Islands (SOBI). I started this initiative last

year in partnership with the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. It is an informal group with no membership dues, just a willingness to provide nest sites for native swallows while keeping the birds safe from predators.

The Bass Islands contain wonderful breeding habitat for native swallows. Those found in most residential settings include: Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows and Purple Martins. All of these native birds are impressive flying insect eaters so provide wonderful natural insect control.

To help nesting Tree Swallows, I recommend:

1. Install nest box(es) with 1 ½" entry hole in most open area of your yard away from brushy or heavily wooded areas. Installation on free standing pole with predator baffle is required (i.e. never mount a nest box on a tree or fence post). Tree Swallows will nest comfortably 22 yards apart, and even closer on the Bass Islands. You can install a number of boxes for them if you have the land area and desire.
2. Install a House Sparrow (HOSP) management box in your yard. This will be a nest box placed near a stiff needled evergreen tree, near your house, or near shrubs or trees where HOSP have been seen roosting or congregating. No predator baffle is needed for this box mount. If willing to actively control HOSP with inbox trapping, you will need a Van Ert Universal Sparrow trap. I buy these in bulk and can get you one at a discount or you can purchase your own at:

(Continued on page 9)



Photo: Pat Thwaite and former PIBTPD commissioner Marv Booker enjoy new benches at Massies Cliffside Preserve

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Lighthouse Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Party *By Lisa Brohl*

We had a fun Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC) party at the South Bass Islands Lighthouse on December 14, 2016 with the hardy souls who came out anyway with the gale force west winds. Appetizers were provided by the Ohio State University Stone Lab who did a beautiful job decorating and hosting the event. A 10th anniversary Put-in-Bay Township Park District (PIBTPD) cake made by Dennis and Agnes Uszak was enjoyed by all. We had a champagne toast from Heineman's Winery to mark the anniversary. Kendra Koehler brought chocolate cups from the Goat to drink the champagne from. Ham and salmon prepared by Russ Brohl was provided by the LEIC along with many tasty potluck dishes.

A visit from Santa brought bottles of Heineman's Pinot Grigio for Put-in-Bay Township Park District board Members Kelly Faris, Kendra Koehler, Lisa Brohl and past member Marvin Booker. The PIBTPD and OSU Stone Lab are partners with the Conservancy on many land preservation projects. The Conservancy wishes to thank all of our partners and members for support over the past year!

Among those that attended were Russ and Lisa Brohl, Kelly and Marty Faris, John and Paula Ladd, Kendra and Jeff Koehler, Dustin Heineman, Kira Hubner, Ed and Paula Hubner, Sharon Gray, Marsha Parker, Kerri Carnicom, Dorain Toms, Valerie Chornyak, Mother Mary Staley, Jean Hilt, Jessie Green and Aaron Hill, Kristin Stanford, Mary Ann and Bernie Myers, Craig Geinheimer, Marsha Collett, Linda Parker, Dianne and Bob Smith, Marv and Eric Booker, Julene Market, Tom Thanasiu, Pinky Batt and Sue Amrine.

Christmas Bazaar a Huge Success!

By Susan Byrnes

Despite the weather, the Christmas Bazaar held on Dec 8th was another huge success! Thanks to the twenty three local vendors present at the Town Hall: LEIC, LEINWC, PIB Township Park District, OSU Stone Lab, PIB Girl Scout Troop, PIB Class of 2020 and 2023, Judy Bahney, Russell Brohl, Rick and Christina Brown, Susan and Kate Byrnes, Jill Cooks, Mysti Duff, Sue Duff, Dusty Dykeman, Kelly Faris, Jessie Greene, Patty Frederic, Caroline Jackson, Billy and Ally

(Continued on page 15)



Potluck Pics

Photos: Top to Bottom— Conservancy Potluck 1; Chair Lisa Brohl with Santa; Former PIBTPD Commissioner Marv Booker with PIBTPD Chair Kelly Faris; Dennis and Agnes Uszak with cake; 10th Anniversary Cake; Marv Booker; Kendra Koehler Conservancy Potluck 2; Conservancy



Bazaar Pics

Photos: Top to Bottom— Carolyn Koehler Jackson and Ella Kostura; Carolyn Conrad, Jessie Greene Hill, Sue Thwaite; Christina and Ric Brown; Donna and Elaine Martens; Gene Zajac, Tom Thanasiu, Monk Nemec; Jill Cooks; Susan Byrnes cleaning; Kate Byrnes; and Liam and Allie Market

(SWALLOWS Continued from page 7)

<http://www.vanerttraps.com/products.htm>

You may prefer to remove HOSP eggs as a management scheme. This is not best practice as these non-native birds often depredate native nesting birds. It is very important that you do NOT allow HOSP to reproduce in any nest boxes on your property.

3. Monitor both nest boxes every 3 to 7 days and keep data. Data can either be manually entered on monitoring sheets and mailed to me at end of nesting season or entered in Cornell NestWatch online database that I can set up for you (preferred).

To help nesting Barn Swallows, I first recommend discouraging them in places you don't want. Barn Swallows do not nest in nest boxes. Rather, they build a nest with mud and feathers on almost vertical surfaces of human structures, on top of light fixtures, etc. Bird spikes can be effective deterrents. Mechanical "attack spiders" also work well.



If willing, encourage them to nest on human structures over areas where you do not mind bird droppings. On my house, I installed narrow pieces of wood on front of house above

landscape beds to give them a little platform to place their mud nests.

To help nesting Purple Martins, I recommend installing artificial nesting gourds with Starling Resistant entrances. It is important to protect birds from climbing predators with a predator baffle, especially on the Bass Islands where bird eating snakes are prevalent. Proper habitat for these birds is key. If you have any tall trees within 40 feet of location you want to install Purple Martin housing, it is wrong habitat for these birds. Open areas and water front property is great. Visit Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve during spring and summer months to view thriving Purple Martin colonies. All 48 of these gourds had Purple Martins use them last year. You will also need to install a Tree Swallow nest box about 10 feet from your Purple Martin housing to attract Tree Swallows to nest there instead of claiming the Purple Martin rig.

A lot of substandard, and downright terrible housing is sold in hardware stores, bird specialty stores, and online. I recommend anyone interested in hosting Purple Martins get a catalog from Troyer's Birds' Paradise. This is an Amish company so they have no website. Call 1-800-872-0103 to get a free catalog. This company has the best price and best quality Purple Martin equipment out there. Make SURE to order Starling Resistant entry holes on any housing or gourds you order. Also order a trap that fits housing to capture non-native House Sparrows as they depredate native cavity nesting birds. A Purple Martin rig is a big investment so do it right. You need to be able to safely lower and monitor compartments every 5 – 7 days, so rope/pulley system or winch is a must. NO telescoping poles.

If you want to join SOBI, I am happy to make recommendations for siting your housing and train you to monitor your nesting swallows. You may want to start with just a couple nest boxes to help Tree Swallows, or may be ready to start your own Purple Martin colony. I can train you how to remove non-native House Sparrows if you are willing to actively control them. I also hope you will share data with SOBI. Data gathered from this project could help with grant writing for bird conservation projects and help researchers learn about bird breeding success and trends on the Bass Islands.

Paula Ziebarth
paulaz@columbus.rr.com
Ottawa County Area Contact
Ohio Bluebird Society
614-323-7566

NOTE: We hope to have Lisa Rock and Tom Kashmir visit the Bass Islands and band the purple martins at the Scheeff East Point Preserve this summer in the rigs that member Paula Ziebarth maintains. We received the rigs with a grant from the Columbus Zoo with the assistance of member Darlene Sillick. If you have purple martin or tree swallow nesting boxes on the islands and would like to monitor them or have the birds banded, let us know. We will post when they will be banding so everyone can come and watch!
Lisa

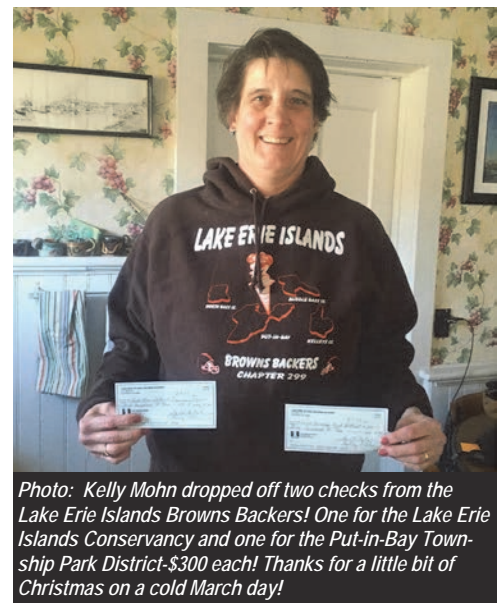


Photo: Kelly Mohn dropped off two checks from the Lake Erie Islands Browns Backers! One for the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy and one for the Put-in-Bay Township Park District-\$300 each! Thanks for a little bit of Christmas on a cold March day!

Brown Backers Grant THANK YOU!!

by Lisa Brohl

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy and the Put-in-Bay Township Park District were both awarded \$300 grants for their land preservation efforts by the Put-in-Bay Browns Backers Club! We are grateful for the local support of the group!

AmeriCorps Intern for the Island—Please Donate

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Put-in-Bay Township Park District, and Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center will be sharing an AmeriCorps intern for the summer to assist with our land preservation and educational programs. We have had great success in the past with our interns providing youthful energy and ideas to our programs. It is not without cost however so we are looking for donations toward this expense. If you are interested in donating, contact Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087, leiconservancy@gmail.com, or sending a check to LEIC, P.O. Box 461, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456 with AmeriCorps on the memo line. We are putting together a Generosity Facebook campaign as well. We have had great interns in the past with Colleen O'Brien, Leah Bilski, Carmen Levand, Jackie Taylor, Jenna Prahst and Chloe Nostrant who each brought their unique talents to our programs! Help us out in continuing this AmeriCorps tradition this summer!

and I am looking forward to being back to help in even more ways. I have always loved helping and taking care of animals and the environment and I am excited to make a difference with this position with Environmental Stewards.

Welcome to AmeriCorps Intern Samantha Newhouse!



Hello! My name is Samantha Newhouse and I am from Toledo, Ohio. I am currently an undergraduate student at Bowling Green State University and I am majoring in Biology with a specialization in Ecology and Conservation. I have been coming to South Bass and

Gibraltar Island for Historical weekend with my family for as long as I can remember and my favorite part has always been visiting the Herpetology room in the Stone Laboratory on Gibraltar. Last year I was able to volunteer with the Stone Lab during Historical weekend to help educate visitors about the various snakes and other cool things on the Islands,

LEIC 2017 Lake Erie Bass Islands Bird Banding / Avian Study Schedule

Tom and Paula Bartlett will be banding birds on the following dates for the public to come and visit. Please let us know if you are planning to visit by e-mailing Tom at hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com or Lisa at leiconservancy@gmail.com. We need to make sure that you are parking in the right location and can give you directions. Please do not park on private property without permission. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the birds up close!

Spring

April 22*-28 Middle Bass Island, Spring Bandout, East Point Preserve
 April 29*-30 South Bass Island Bandout, Vineyard B&B and Scheeff Preserve
 May 7 South Bass Island Bandout, Vineyard B&B and Scheeff Preserve

Fall

September 13*-15 Road Scholar – Bird Banding; South Bass Island Vineyard B&B and Scheeff Preserve
 September 24*-29 Middle Bass Island, Fall Bandout, East Point Preserve

* These will be setup days with limited banding

Bird Banding Totals 2003-2016 by Tom Bartlett

Species	Island:	SBI	MBI	NBI	Total
Mourning Dove			3		3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			2		2
Black-billed Cuckoo	1				1
Eastern Whip-poor-will			1		1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	31	3			34
Sora	1				1
American Woodcock			1		1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1				1
Cooper's Hawk			1		1
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	1			4
Belted Kingfisher			1		1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	2			4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1			2
Downy Woodpecker	47	30	4		81
Northern Flicker	6	1			7
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	3			5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			6		6
Acadian Flycatcher	1				1
Willow Flycatcher	2		1		3
"Trail's" Flycatcher	2				2
Least Flycatcher	19				19
Eastern Phoebe	7	6	8		21
Great Crested Flycatcher			1		1
Eastern Kingbird	16	3	1		20
White-eyed Vireo	4				4
Blue-headed Vireo	8	3			11
Warbling Vireo	13	2			15
Philadelphia Vireo	1	2			3
Red-eyed Vireo	2	14			16
Blue Jay	58	17			75
Purple Martin	55	6			61
Tree Swallow	228	48			276
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	21				21
Barn Swallow	91	4	13		108
Black-capped Chickadee	49	43	1		93
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	21			26
White-breasted Nuthatch	5	2			7
Brown Creeper	2	4			6
House Wren	58	15			73
Winter Wren	1	13			14
Marsh Wren	1				1
Carolina Wren	8	10	1		19
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8	5			13
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	18			19
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	76	36			112
Eastern Bluebird			1		1
Veery	20	1			21
Gray-cheeked Thrush	37	66			103
Swainson's Thrush	138	137			275
Hermit Thrush	31	52			83
Wood Thrush	15	1			16
American Robin	412	155	56		623
Gray Catbird	114	13	5		132
Brown Thrasher	13	8			21
European Starling	12	8	50		70
Cedar Waxwing	9	1			10
House Sparrow	77				77
House Finch	78	6	5		89
Purple Finch		1			1
American Goldfinch	33	15	10		58
Ovenbird	54	23			77
Louisiana Waterthrush		1			1
Northern Waterthrush	19	7			26

Species	Island:	SBI	MBI	NBI	Total
Golden-winged Warbler		1			1
Blue-winged Warbler		8			8
Black-and-white Warbler		22	4		26
Tennessee Warbler		6	11		17
Orange-crowned Warbler		2			2
Nashville Warbler		62	22		84
Connecticut Warbler		2	3		5
Mourning Warbler		4	1		5
Kentucky Warbler		3			3
Common Yellowthroat		55	6		61
Hooded Warbler		2			2
American Redstart		17	12		29
Cape May Warbler		1	5		6
Northern Parula		1	1		2
Magnolia Warbler		34	19		53
Bay-breasted Warbler		1			1
Blackburnian Warbler		1	1		2
Yellow Warbler		171	29	59	259
Chestnut-sided Warbler		12	1		13
Blackpoll Warbler		25	60		85
Black-throated Blue Warbler		18	18		36
"Western" Palm Warbler		58	10		68
Yellow-rumped Warbler		135	64		199
Black-throated Green Warbler		15	7		22
Canada Warbler		3	1		4
Wilson's Warbler		5	1		6
Yellow-breasted Chat		2	1		3
Eastern Towhee		3	3		6
Chipping Sparrow		7	2	4	13
Clay-colored Sparrow		1			1
Field Sparrow		11	4		15
Savannah Sparrow		1	3		4
Nelson's Sparrow			1		1
Song Sparrow		8	10		18
Lincoln's Sparrow		40	7		47
Swamp Sparrow		27	22		49
White-throated Sparrow		250	73		323
White-crowned Sparrow		36	5		41
Dark-eyed Junco			5		5
Scarlet Tanager			2		2
Northern Cardinal		124	56	4	184
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		17	1		18
Indigo Bunting		15	3	6	24
Dickcissel				1	1
Red-winged Blackbird		1359	364	278	2001
Common Grackle		286	40		326
Brown-headed Cowbird		49	19	7	75
Orchard Oriole		12	11	2	25
Baltimore Oriole		133	43	11	187

	SBI	MBI	NBI	Islands
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Total species banded	4944	1776	527	7247
Recaptures	627	235	18	880
Net Hours	7053.25	5807.25	778.5	13639.00
Birds banded per net hour	0.70	0.31	0.68	0.53
Nets (maximum)	8-20	7-23	8-9.5	7-23
Banding Days	132	71	24	227
Years	14	8	7	
	(2003-2016)	(2009-2016)	(2010-2016)	

H. Thomas Bartlett Federal Permit # 21624
hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com

Spring into something good...

Why Native Plants Matter April 27 at 7:00 PM

Join us on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at the Put-in-Bay Town Hall at 7:00pm to hear Gale Martin's presentation "Why Native Plants Matter." Gale operates Natives in Harmony, a plant nursery dedicated to the production of native wildflower, forbs, and trees..... Natives in Harmony provides the plants for our annual LEIC Native Plant Sale.

Gale will focus on why native plants are so important for garden and restoration efforts and then focus also on her own growing efforts....



Middle Bass Island Bird Bandout April 23-29

The Middle Bass Island Spring Bandout and Training will be held April 23-29 on Middle Bass Island. Tom and Paula Bartlett and assistants will be at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve banding daily that week. Come on out and watch!

Please contact Tom at hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com if questions or you wish to attend. We need to be careful to park within the gate so as not to obstruct local private drives.

Arbor Day Celebration at DeRivera Park April 28 at 4:00 PM *By Kelly Faris*

Once again, Put-in-Bay, Ohio, has been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to the goals and principles of the Arbor Day Foundation.

Put-in-Bay achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Put-in-Bay's Annual Arbor Day Celebration will take place on Friday, April 28, 2017. The Council of the Village of Put-in-Bay has allocated funds for Arbor Day. On Arbor Day this year, a bur oak tree will be planted on the waterfront at DeRivera Park at 4:00 PM. A bur oak is

a hardy choice to be planted along the island's rocky shoreline. The bur oak will replace a maple tree that died at this location

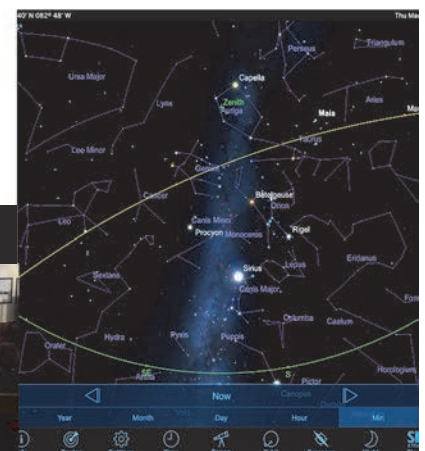
The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization whose mission is to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. Information is available at arborday.org.

Members of the Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission are Lisa Brohl, Kelly Faris, and Kendra Koehler.



Zajac Gives A Couple More Stellar Constellations Programs *By Lisa Brohl*

Local Solar Ambassador Gene Zajac gave a great program on Winter constellations in January and another one on Spring constellations in mid-March. Gene explained the history of select constellation names and how to find them as well as other celestial objects in the sky. Conservancy volunteer Melody Many assisted with setup and tear down. We are lucky to have such great resources in our community!



Photos: Below are some great shots from both Astrology Programs! Photos by Lisa Brohl



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A Special THANKS...



Now that's a tiny home I can get into!

Brian Hovey has some unique handmade bird feeders at his residence on South Bass. He and Sandi have quite a spot for birds and wildlife.



Here's another use for that black pipe!

Gene Zajac made and installed guards for all the new trees at the Massie Cliffside Preserve.



Big gifts come in small packages!

Melody Many helped with visitors to the Massie Cliffside Preserve and took photos for our LEIC Facebook.



Shouldn't you get winter break, Del?

Thanks to Del Taylor and the Township for the good late season mowing for migratory bird habitat at the Middle Bass East Point Preserve.



Keri helping us keep a fresh "face"!

Keri Carnicom took photos for our LEIC Facebook page.



Will Richard ever be done with the mulch?

Richard Gump moved mulch onto the trails at Scheff and moved one of our fences so that a larger mower can get through.



Removing trash brings quite the treasure...

Tom Thanasiu and Sue Amrine helped remove more garbage from the Massie Cliffside Preserve-you can see everything once the leaves are down in winter!



Travis yells Timber! to clear two trees on the trail!

Travis Kowalski removed two large trees down on the trail at the Massie Cliffside Preserve.



Warm Newsletter but still cold outside!

Valerie Chornyak helping to distribute LEIC newsletters.



Purple Martins need their space too....

Kelly Faris took down the tree that was crowding out our purple martin rig at the Scheff East Point Preserve.



Behold our Bird Banding Beauty Barb Barnhill with Bartlett's Binder!

Special thanks to Barb for hosting our bird banding crew each spring and fall at the Vineyard-she is shown here holding the latest report from Tom Bartlett on 2016 banding efforts.

THANK YOU!



Dear Anonymous: THANK YOU!!

We are grateful to an anonymous donor for a great new copier/scanner for our joint LEIC/PIBTPD office.



Make sure to recycle Dave!

Dave Washtoc helped us carry a new stand and our new copier to the office that LEIC and PIBTPD are now sharing at the Put-in-Bay Airport.

New and Renewing Members

Friends

Chris Armbrecht
Mark and Barbi Barnhill
Sue Bixler
Phoebe Borman
Tracy Burgess and Sohail Sayeh
Carl Cooper
Bob Cummings
Karen Cummings
Mike and Pat DiGiacomo
John Doller
Judy DuShane
Martha Dykes
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Tina M. Larson
Annie Parker
Linda Parker
Dave and Bonnie Petro
Bob Reynolds
Sarah Toole
Nancy Welter
Gene and Pam Zajac

Friends Membership with Newsletter

Ad

Gump Builders-Richard Gump
Dodge House-Sharon Gray
Duff's Workshop-Duff and Katrina Spatafore
Erie Island Carts-Sharon Gray
First National Bank
Howard Hannah-Hisey Realty-Lee Hisey
Jet Express
Lake Erie Islands Trading Company-Roman and Susan Sapecki
Miller Boat Line
Northern Exposure Investments-Joe and Suzanne Kostura
Penny Plus Shop-Mark Nemeč
Yardworks-Val and Dan Kowalski

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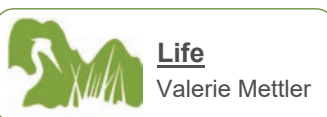
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Linda and Rudy Rence
Mark and Linda Seeman
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Muriel Sneller
Dianne S. Szabo
Debbie Woischke

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Sara Booker
David and Jacquie Clark
Gary and Carol Coates
Ray and Marsha Collett
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Bob Krause
Susan Latham
John and Peggy Leopold
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John and Louise Titchener
Carmen E. Trisler

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Dean E. Sheldon, jr.
Mary Ann McCann in memory of Connie French and Norm Hines



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Stewardship Fund Donation

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Land Protection Fund

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Nate Ladd, Rob Roy, Brian Ladd, Padraic Ladd, Matthew Ladd
Kathryn Ladd Fitzcharles in memory of grandparents Nathan and Kathryn Ladd
Marge Pristas
Padraic Ladd in memory of L. Paul Kirby

Additional #GivingTuesday

Donations

John Allen
Tom Brennan
Mary Jo Cartledge-Hayes
Bob Cummings
Sharon Gray
Krissy Hart
Robert Krause
Tina Kutschbach
Laureen Mooney

Donations in Memory of Dr. Bill

Latham

Yardworks-Dan and Valerie Kowalski
Mary Ann McCann

Donations to Bird-banding Nets-

Memory of Don Harrington

Lisa and Russ Brohl
Put-in-Bay Local School District-Sunshine Fund-Jane Ruthsatz

Generosity Bench Campaign Donors

Anonymous
Michael W. Smith

Middle Bass Project Donations

Jim and Betsy Brohl
Michelle and Andy Goodhart, Susan Meyer, CJ and Dan Ress, and Jeanine Steinle in memory of Danny Martin, Sr. (father of Danny and Jenny Martin)

Book Sale Donations-Quotes About Boats, Lakes, Seas, and the Shore by Sara Booker and Audrey Sheehan

Sara Booker -\$50

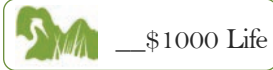
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LEIC Membership Form

Membership Notices are sent out annually-
this is for new memberships-share with your friends

\$25 Friend \$50 Supporter \$100 Contributor

\$100 Friend/AD \$250 Steward \$500 Patron



Name _____

Spouse/Companion _____

Island Address PO Box _____ Put-In-Bay, Ohio 43456

E-mail _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Island # _____

In addition to my membership, I would like to donate to:

Land Protection Fund

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, to be used only for expenses related to the purchase of land.

I understand that I will receive a *Certificate of Donation* for income tax purposes.

Stewardship Fund

I would like to donate \$ _____ to the Stewardship Fund to help maintain those properties owned by the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy.

Please make checks payable to (LEIC) Lake Erie Islands Conservancy

Please Send to: PO Box 461, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456

All donations are tax deductible.

Thank You!

New and Renewing Members Continued

Donated Copier

Anonymous

AmeriCorps Intern Donations

Doris Hubschman
John and Paula Ladd
Dave and Barb Nostrant
Marge Pristas

Massie Cliffside Preserve Bench

Donation

Chris and Kathy North in memory of father
George Evans

THANK YOU!

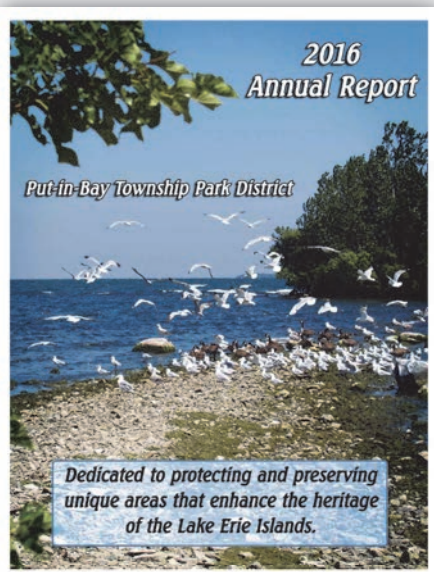
(CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Continued from page 8)

Market, Donna and Elaine Martens, Kelly Mohn (Browns Backers) and MaryAnn Myers. Thanks to our sponsors - the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center and the Village of Put-in-Bay for use of Town Hall. And last, but not least, thanks to all the islanders who came out to shop and the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society and ReSale Shop, Blu Luna, Old Forge, Reel Bar, Tippers and Topsy Turvey for being open for the event!

The Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center share the table rent with the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy as well as getting an opportunity to meet and mingle with members of the community.

Support LEIC through Amazon Smile!

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy website sports a new ad for the Amazon Smile website. Shopping here will send donations to the LEIC account. Click the box below to go directly to the Amazon Smile website!



PIBTPD 10 Year Report

By Lisa Brohl

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016. In honor of that anniversary, the Park District put together a special annual report on the accomplishments of the last ten years. This report will be distributed in the June edition of the Put-in-Bay Gazette and is available at the Library, Island General, and on the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy website, www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org. Copies were mailed or e-mailed to all of our LEIC members.



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John Dodge

Newsletter Editors

Lisa Brohl

Michelle Pennington

Lots of events coming up this fall and winter—keep checking our website and Facebook pages for more info!



June 12 for Lake Erie Islands International Conservation Cultural Consortium

August 5 for Middle Bass Kayak Poker Paddle

August 5-12 for Island Green Week

August 9 for EcoTour



A **HUGE** Thanks to Bostwick-Braun for printing assistance!!



At South Bass Lighthouse during Christmas Bird Count by Lisa Brohl