

ISLAND

Lake Erie Islands
Conservancy
Presents



GREEN SCENE

Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2018

Press Release: CRITICAL BIRD HABITAT ON LAKE ERIE ISLANDS PROTECTED

NEWS RELEASE

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Images: <https://bit.ly/2z7edpP>

***Acquisition of 13.4 acres on Middle
Bass Island protects wildlife habitat
and increases recreation
opportunities***

OTTAWA COUNTY, Ohio (September 10, 2018) — [Put-in-Bay Township Park District](#) and [The Conservation Fund](#) announced today the conservation of 13.4 acres of critical migratory bird habitat on Ohio's Lake Erie Islands. The protection of this land, which comprises two parcels on Middle Bass Island, will ensure that its forest and wetland ecosystems remain intact and will provide increased recreation opportunities for island visitors.

"We are happy to announce that adding these 13.4 acres of protected land to the Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve brings our total protected area here to almost 30 acres," said **Kelly Faris, Chair of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District.**

Each spring, millions of birds fly north to nest in the United States and Canada. Western Lake Erie, and particularly the Bass Islands, are important resting and feeding areas for their migratory journey. More than 110 species of bird have been

(Continued on page 8)

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....
Sometimes.....the Future Generations
we speak of benefiting aren't
necessarily of the two-legged variety...
—More details on page 9!

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Photo: Middle Bass Island Migratory Bird Habitat Photo courtesy of Ivan LaBianca of The Conservation Fund

Chimney Swifts *By Paula Ziebarth*

Chimney swifts are the only member of the swift family occurring in the east. These birds are very strong flyers. They eat insects and drink from pools of water in flight.

As summer draws to a close and the swifts have finished raising their young, these fascinating aerial acrobats begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in the fall. Some roosts may consist of an extended family group of a half a dozen birds or so, but the larger sites can host hundreds or

even thousands of swifts! Here on South Bass Island, a couple years ago, a roost of over 200 birds was recorded during migration at the OSU Aquatic Visitor Center chimneys.

As the daylight dwindles, listen for their twittering call, look up and you may see them, rapidly beating their wings, catching their last meal of flying insects before retiring for the night. Due to their declining population, these



birds are on the conservation watch list. A Swift Night Out is a continent-wide conservation monitoring project that helps researchers measure the population of swifts. This night is held usually over the first weekend of September. This year we had very strong winds and rain so no birds were observed at the OSU Aquatic Visitor Center chimney. Keep this in mind for next year as this is a great citizen science project to do with kids. Learn more at www.chimneyswifts.org.

Artisans Fair 2018 *By Christine Ontko*



This summer was a wonderful summer for Island Artisans to gather each week and share their creations with visitors and locals,

too! Each Wednesday in DeRivera Park, tents were popped up and tables were placed inside. Items such as: jewelry, sail bags, paintings, jams, herbs and balms were strategically displayed and sold.

A small fee from each vendor was collected and donated to the LEIC each week. Not only were funds raised, but awareness of all island goodness was shared each week, too! Visitors learned of our nature trails, while purchasing a

homemade jam. They learned about our Nature Center and what goes on there, too. Joining us from time to time was the Perry Group and guests to our island learned of this organization and all they support. Visitors purchased locally made items and got to speak with the artisans, too, who told them of island life and all the wonderful happenings of the Lake Erie Islands.

This summer, we learned a lot! Next summer changes will be made in order to accommodate more vendors and to attract more shoppers, too. Our plans are to secure a spot across from Frosty's and Pasquale's to grab more foot traffic. But, of course, we'll have to gain permission. If not, then we'll keep it in the same spot, which was across from The Boathouse.

Dates for next year will be Thursdays: June 20th, July 18th, August 15th

Island Green Week is an extra week in which vendors can choose to participate starting on Monday-Wednesday in the Town Hall. The Fair will take place from 11-4, which were the hours we noticed more shoppers.

We WANT MORE ARTISANS! If you live, work, or have family on a Lake Erie Island here and have a hidden talent, please contact Christie Ontko at freshwatersensations@yahoo.com.

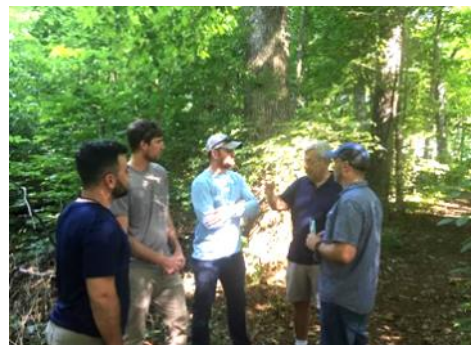
Thank you so much for supporting us this summer!



Photos: Top—Christy Ontko and her Freshwater Sensations Bottom—Roger Parker of Perry Group at Artisans Fair

Conservation Fund Visit

Kelly Faris shows representatives of Embridge Energy and Peg Kohring of the Conservation Fund around Coopers Woods August 14, 2018. Conservancy members Tedi Pertner and Jim Brohl also showed Embridge Energy representatives and Peg Kohring projects they have helped sponsor on Middle Bass Island the same day.



Photos: Peg Kohring and Representatives of Embridge Energy at Coopers Woods with Kelly Faris



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 to go directly to the Amazon Smile website!



Become an LEIC Member for just \$25 for an entire year!

Please see page 15 for details.

Freshwater Sensations

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Island Green Week Success! *By Lisa Brohl*

Island Green Week 2018 was a great success with all the exciting events that took place! A planning meeting was held on September 20th for 2019 and tentative dates are August 3-10, 2019. Here are a few of our highlights from Island Green Week 2018!

Massie Cliffside Night Hike

Renee Market led a night hike with 12 participants during Island Green Week on Friday, August 10 at 7:00pm at the Massie Cliffside Preserve. It was a beautiful sunset followed by a walk through the darkened forest with fireflies flashing and the sounds of tree frogs, cicadas, crickets, and katydids. We had about 12 people in attendance and the Conservancy got a new member that night from one of our visitors.



MBI Forested Wetland Preserve Dedication

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District dedicated a new trail at the Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve during Island Green Week. At 1:00pm on Sunday, August 5, Park District Chair Kelly Faris welcomed everyone to the new Preserve. Commissioner Lisa Brohl thanked all those who assisted with the project. Lake Erie Island Conservancy Board Members Nancy Welter and Bruce Miles helped cut the ribbon for the new trail. Former residents Earl, Thurid, and Greg Campbell walked and enjoyed the new trail with other Middle Bass and South Bass residents. Everyone met for a cake reception at the Middle Bass Island State Park Pavilion. About twenty were in attendance.



Group Photo: Front-Michelle and Gary Hermann; Second-Samantha Newhouse, Renee Market, Jim Ungvarsky, Tina Larson, Marcy Miles Gough, Jim Aurelio; Back-Thurid and Earl Campbell, Nancy Welter, Kelly Faris, Russ Brohl, Kim and Bruce Miles, Jay Faris, Lisa Brohl; Others in attendance earlier were Karen Cummings and Ed Gudenas Photo by Gordon Barr



Jacob Ackerman had the highest winning hand with two aces to snag the first-place prize again this year in the MBI Poker Kayak Day fundraiser to benefit MBI Preserves in the PIB Township Park District! Courtesy of Miller Ferry, Jacob and his wife Lindsey will receive round trip tickets for two adults plus vehicle to MBI!

With a pair of queens and a king high, Dawn Schrenk won second place prize of a \$35 gift card courtesy of the MBI General Store!

A pair of queens and a 10 delivered a package of Costco steaks to Joan Eischen! All kayakers braved one-foot waves, full sun, warm temperatures, and brilliant sunshine to make the trip completely around the Island. This was the kick-off event for this year's Island Green Week.

He Did It AGAIN!

By Tina Larson



4th Middle Bass Island
Poker Kayak Day Results

Many thanks to our sponsors: Julene Market of Miller Ferry, Joe Hart and Eddie Sheller of the MBI General Store, Dave Larson of TMP Architecture for copies, and to Lisa Brohl of the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy and Susie Clipp of the MBI State Park and Jim Roesch of the MBI Volunteer Fire Department for items for the goodie bags.

Heaps of thanks, too, to our many volunteers who made the event work by helping with registration, attending stops to hand out poker cards and treats, spotting for safety, and assisting at the hot dog cookout at the end: Karen & Tony Dolejs, Gary & Michele Herman, Lee Hisey, Dave Larson, John Schrenk, Jim Ungvarsky, Butch & Diane Wrocklage, and AmeriCorps Intern Samantha Newhouse! It could not have happened without you.



EcoTour Trail Visits



Photos: The first photo is the Troiolo family from Kenilworth, England...here to visit. In the photo are Roberto, Tracy, Luca, Laura, and Daniel visiting the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail during Island Green Week. The second photo is the Troiolo children with LEIC board members Linda And Joe Shull. The last photo is of Scott and Nicole Clement from Washington DC with Lisa Brohl at Jane Coates.

Cooper's Woods Update

Our Proposal and Stewardship Plan for the purchase of Cooper's Woods has been approved for an award of \$1,042,500 from The Conservation Fund's Leach XPress Account, one of the funding sources for the Ohio Forested Habitat Request for Preproposals. We also hope to apply for Clean Ohio Conservation Grant funds for the purchase, with applications due October 26. We have signed a Letter of Intent with the DeRivera Park Trust to purchase the property and are currently working on a Conditional Purchase Agreement with them.



Photo: Early signs of Autumn at Cooper's Woods Photo Collage by Julene Market

LEIC Winter Bird Seed Sale



Have your winter bird seed supply delivered to your island residence! We will be selling Winter Bird Seed to benefit Lake Erie Islands Conservancy again this fall. Titgemeier's Feed and Garden Stores will be supplying us with the following types of seed: niger/thistle, black oil sunflower, and mixed birdseed of several grades. Titgemeier's is a family owned feed and garden store in business since January 12, 1888 at 701 Western Avenue in Toledo, Ohio. A most unusual store, their products range from grass seed and fertilizer to pet, wild bird, and brewing supplies.

To order:

Check out our website at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org in October or call Kelly or Marty Faris at 419-285-4772 or kemlar@thirdplanet.net. Forms will also be at the store, library, and other island locations. Orders will be taken until November 1 with delivery in mid-November.

Samantha Newhouse—AmeriCorps Intern-Summer 2018



Photos: Helping at the Artisans Fair—See more on page 11!

Please summarize all of your project work completed for your entire term of service. Which of these projects are you most proud of?

I have been helping Lisa Brohl and others advertise for, promote, set up, work at, and tear down our new Artisans Fair that we have been hosting in the park every Wednesday to help support and get the word out about our Conservancy. I have also been helping Jackie prepare and organize the paperwork for the Nature Camps that she has been offering during the summer. One of my favorite projects has been helping Paula age, monitor, and band the Purple Martins at one of the preserves on the Island. It is very rewarding to see the baby birds grow up and know that we are helping them prepare for their long journey down to Brazil. I have also been helping Jackie out at the Nature Center with the register and the trails at our preserves have been keeping me busy with making sure they are clean and ready for our guests. I have been posting current and upcoming events for the Conservancy and I have helping stuff and address newsletters. I have also offered a nature walk at Massie Cliffside Preserve. We had 34 volunteers come to the Nature Center at the end of June and I was able to help them clear the trail in the backyard, rebuild a bug "hotel", weed Garlic Mustard, and trim some trees back.

In the second half of my internship I had a walk on a preserve of the island where I would invite the public to join me on an informative stroll through the land. I also helped out with the Middle Bass Island Music Festival by manning a booth about the Conservancy. The Middle Bass Island Poker Kayak Day was an additional event that I assisted with. In addition to monitoring the Purple Martins, I was able to help with bird banding a few times. I also had online responsibilities, such as posting on Facebook and the Conservancy website about upcoming events, making flyers about the walks that I offered, and helping out at the Wetlands Dedication on Middle Bass. I also helped at the Pig Roast that was a fundraiser for the Nature Center. Overall, I had a wonderful experience this summer and I am grateful for the opportunity to give something back to such an amazing community.

What have you learned about conservation or natural resource management?

Over the course of this summer I have learned that conservation takes time, money, and consistent effort on the part of the community to save land, but every little bit is worth it because it is so much easier to preserve something than to try and rebuild it later. Conserving is not as simple as buying a piece of land, you need people to write and receive grants and donations to buy the land and more money and volunteer help to restore and upkeep the land so that people will be able to visit and enjoy it all year long.

What have you learned about working with your host agency/organization? Did you learn a new skill or interest?

It has been great to be able to be a part of both the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy and the Lake Erie Island Nature and Wildlife Center. I have really enjoyed all of the work that I have been able to do with them, including trail maintenance, bird monitoring and banding, attending dedications, teaching children about wild animals, helping at the Middle Bass Island Music Festival, and Pig Roast fundraiser, and maintaining habitats and helping with various events. Some skills that I have developed include being able to set up bird catching nets, mulching and trimming trails, posting events on Facebook and the Conservancy website, creating flyers to advertise walks and donation boxes on the island, being a better public speaker, and learning about the animals in the Nature Center.

(Continued on page 11)

South Bass Island Bird Report

By Paula Ziebarth, LEIC Board Member, Ottawa County Area Contact Ohio Bluebird Society

The nest season is over. Native breeding birds did well in nest boxes and Purple Martin housing located on the island.

Tree Swallows winter farther north than other species of swallows and return to their nesting grounds before other swallows come back. They can eat plant foods as well as their normal insect prey, which helps them survive the cold snaps and wintry weather of early spring. This season, nest boxes that I monitor fledged 154 Tree Swallows. Homeowners interested in housing these birds can readily attract them next March with a nest box mounted on pole with predator baffle.

Purple Martins, North America's largest swallow, return to the Lake Erie islands in early April. 494 young fledged from housing I help monitor on South Bass Island this year. They are currently staging in large roosting flocks and will soon wing their way to their wintering grounds in Brazil.

2018- Birds Fledged

TRAIL	TRES	BARS	HOWR	HOFI	PUMA	EUST*	HOSP*
Airline Drive	58	12	0	3	141	0	11
Borchart					76		
Duggan	0	0	0		45	0	1
Jane Coates Wild-flower	0	0	7		0	0	0
Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve	76				212		22
South Bass Island Lighthouse	13				20		1
Wildlife Center	7	0	0		0	0	1
TOTAL	154	12	7	3	494	0	36

TRES = Tree Swallow; BARS = Barn Swallow; HOWR = House Wren; PUMA = Purple Martin

* Non-native European Starling (EUST) and House Sparrow (HOSP) attempts. No non-native birds fledged from housing.

The Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® Trail

By Karen Wilhelm

The Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® Trail is open in Dodge Woods Nature Preserve on the corner of Thompson and Langram Rds. and waiting to be visited by both visitors and islanders alike. Presently the book on display is In a Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming, a resident of Toledo. This month's selection was sponsored by Ahoy B&B and Veronica Van Ness, Put-in-Bay School counselor. Sometime in mid-September, we plan to change the book, which will be sponsored by the Vacation Bible School children and the adult volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who has had a hand in making the StoryWalk® a reality. Mark Wilhelm needs a high five for working to attach the frames to the poles and then taking time on a hot, humid Sunday to assist in placing the first storybook in the frames. A very special shout goes out to Richard Gump, Scott Ferrell and Alec Lydon. These men worked several hours four days in a row to install the frames and the poles along the trail. Despite the "rocky" start as they dug the holes, their mission was accomplished. Please take a moment to thank these men for their dedication to the community of Put-in-Bay when you see them.

Thanks also to the Ottawa County Community Foundation, Walmart and Julene Market for their support as well as those that sponsored posts-Mike and Anita McCann, Historic Park Hotel, Goat Restaurant, Chris and Kathy North, Karen Wilhelm, Laurie Miller, and Mary Draguelis in memory of Cindy Altoff, American Legion, Put-in-Bay Senior Center, Boardwalk, Mojito Bay/Put-in-Bay Brewery, Jennifer and John Miller, Bayshore/Island Grocery, Put-in-Bay Property Owners, Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce, and other books sponsored by Ahoy Bed and Breakfast, in memory of Bob Ramsbottom, Janice Williams, and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy.



Photo: Kent McGrain, Grandson of LEIC board member Linda Shull enjoying the new storybooks!



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Middle Bass Music Festival 2018 *By Bruce and Kim Miles*



Photos (Clockwise): Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director James Zehringer welcomes everyone to the Middle Bass Music Festival at the Middle Bass State Park with Peter Huston, Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce ambassador as emcee; Island Band; 50-50 Winner Nancy Tanner—Thank you Nancy for your donations to the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy!!! Nancy generously donated most of her 50-50 winnings-what a wonderful gift! And a wonderful person!; Bruce and Kim Miles, winners of the trip up to the top of the Lonz Winery tower; Hard working sponsor and LEIC volunteer Lee Hisey; Lisa Brohl and Samantha Newhouse at the LEIC Booth; Attendees enjoying the Music Fest on the Patio; Nice shot of the beautiful Lonz Winery Tower by Lee Hisey

The entire Middle Bass community came out on July 14th to volunteer, participate and support our second Middle Bass Music Fest. We couldn't do it without our volunteers, vendors, musicians, food trucks operators and even the folks who provide lodging. There is a lot going on behind the scenes that is necessary to make this event happen.

Our sponsors included The Middle Bass Dock Company, Lake Erie Shores and Islands, The Hisey Group-Howard Hanna, The Middle Bass Island Yacht Club and South Shore Marine. We also need to acknowledge The Ohio Department of Natural Resources who provide a wonderful space for us to hold the event.

The weather was hot, but no rain and lots of drinks being served. As many people know, we ran out of beer twice and wine once, yet through the courageous efforts of a few enterprising people we got back in business and kept the taps and wine flowing. Thanks to Heinemans Winery and the Catawba Island Brewing Company. It's hard to estimate how many people joined the event this year. We've heard anywhere from 800 – 2000 guests. Regardless, it was a huge success and a wonderful event for our island community.

We started off with a bang by having the ODNR Director Jim Zehringer on hand to start the proceedings and begin the day with a great endorsement of what we are trying to achieve. It was thoughtful for Director Zehringer to show up in person to wish us well. He also offered a silent auction item of four people taking a trip to the top of the Lonz Winery Tower.

The event raised over \$4,000.00 that will be used in our continued development of Lake Erie Island Conservancy projects and for our Middle Bass Island Conservancy projects.

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Winter is Here! Time to Think Outside the Box

Being a good steward of our native cavity nesters doesn't stop when nest season is over. In 2018, as soon as the calendar marked the new year, winter hit with a vengeance in Ohio. Winter is the time to think outside the box. How can you help Eastern Bluebirds and other feathered friends during the bleakest months?

Provide shelter during cold winter months. Winterize nest boxes by blocking vents with felt window insulation or other insulating material that does not leave a sticky residue. I also like to place a layer of dried pine needles on the nest box floor to provide a nice roosting option for Eastern Bluebirds and other cavity nesters during cold winter nights. Brush piles and old Christmas trees can provide shelter in your yard also. I set our used Christmas tree near the bird feeding station to provide shelter for birds during winter months.

A source of unfrozen water is important for birds this time of year. You can purchase heaters for your bird bath or purchase a bird bath with a built-in heating unit. I highly recommend the latter. Eastern Bluebirds and other species will drop by for a drink.

If you have not already done so, consider planting some native plants in your landscape that will provide food for birds. Berry producing plants such as winterberry holly, chokeberry and bayberry are examples of plants that provide berries for Eastern Bluebirds and others during winter months.

Bluebirds swallow their food whole and cannot crack a seed. If you want to set food out at your bird feeding station for them, they can eat shelled sunflower seeds, chopped peanuts, Zante currants, chopped raisins, etc. Mealworms are always a favorite of Eastern Bluebirds. Some people feed dried mealworms this time of year although birds prefer live food. Feeding mealworms during winter months can get rather expensive. I prefer setting out homemade suet mix crumbles for the birds during fall and winter.

Different suet recipes can be found on www.sialis.org website. I have set out Bluebird Banquet for the birds for many years and many different species love this food, Eastern Bluebirds especially. Most ingredients can be found at the grocery store. Zante currants are in the same aisle as raisins. Make sure to buy corn meal, NOT corn meal mix which has leavening in it. I purchase peanuts, sunflower chips and cakes of Simply Suet from Wild Birds Unlimited to use in recipe, melting suet cake in microwave in a 2-cup glass Pyrex measuring cup which makes it easy to pour.

Bluebird Banquet (Linda Janilla Peterson)©

- MIX 1 cup peanut butter
- 4 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup unbleached or whole-wheat flour
- ADD 1 cup fine sunflower seed chips
- 1 cup peanut hearts (or finely ground nuts)
- 1/2-1 cup Zante currants (or raisins cut in halves, or chopped dried cherries)

DRIZZLE and STIR IN 1 cup rendered, melted suet.

Cool.

Resulting mix will be crumbly and should have bean/pea sized lumps from the drizzling of the melted suet. If too sticky after cooling, mix in a bit more flour. If too dry, drizzle in more melted suet. Refrigerate any mix you are not using to prevent suet from turning rancid.

Nutritional analysis: Protein 12.7%, Carbohydrates 45.9%, Fat 32.7%, Fiber 5.9%

To keep European Starlings from mobbing your feeders, suet mixes should be placed in a mealworm feeder or other starling proof feeder if possible. This picture of my Evergreen Bluebird Feeder shows Eastern Bluebirds enjoying suet mixes during a cold winter day. I prefer the plastic-coated mesh sides to plexiglass sides. Plexiglass sides can be confusing and frightening for birds if they try to exit through the clear sides. Additionally, when feeding suet mixes, plexiglass quickly gets smeared with fat, so you cannot see the birds well. It is very important to keep the food in the center of the floor or European Starlings will be able to get to it. To do this, I have velcroed a plastic desk organizer tray to center of floor. With tray added, my feeder allows many points of ingress/egress for Eastern Bluebirds, Carolina Wrens, and other small birds. Woodpeckers of all sizes are still able to access food with their long tongues (fun to watch), but Starlings cannot.



It is wonderful to provide food, water and shelter, but if you are willing to think outside the box a little more, you can help native cavity nesters even further by using repeat bait traps to capture non-native invasive House Sparrows and European Starlings during fall and winter months. Natural food stores become scarce as winter marches on. Eliminating some of these non-native avian competitors leaves more food in the wild for our native birds and other wildlife. By reducing their numbers, you also reduce competition from these aggressive non-native nest robbers next spring. Both House Sparrows and European Starlings are known to attack and kill native birds in nest boxes and/or natural cavities.

Best results with repeat bait trapping vary with the two species. The type of bait used and best season for trapping are different for House Sparrows and European Starlings. My favorite traps work well for either species. Blaine Johnson's Deluxe Repeating Sparrow Trap can be purchased online at www.sparrowtraps.net. This durable, well designed trap will serve you well. I have had mine for over 10 years. This is a true repeating trap and does not require resetting. Keeping live decoys (live House Sparrows or European Starlings) in the trap attracts more of their kind and seems to dissuade native birds of other species from venturing near. I place trap on ground near bird feeders or under tree birds like to roost in. Decoys are well fed and watered and covered during the night with waterproof mat.

(Continued on page 12)

documented on Middle Bass Island, including the black-and-white warbler, Tennessee warbler, threatened yellow warbler and several other warbler species. In addition, the 13.4 acres of preserved land are home to multiple species of snake, including the eastern fox snake and melanistic garter snake, both of which are Species of Concern in Ohio. The Lake Erie Islands also serve as a breeding area for migrating monarch butterflies, a species that's endured significant population losses in recent decades.

This conservation effort will also help protect the water quality of Lake Erie. The ground underneath the Lake Erie Islands is porous, so any pollution caused by development on these islands can easily reach the surrounding lake through this permeable rock. The newly-protected land also adds to the acreage already under protection as part of the nearby Middle Bass Island State Park.

"We are very excited to be working to preserve these wet forests on Middle Bass for visiting birdwatchers, hikers, and researchers, as well as island residents," said **Lisa Brohl, Chair at Lake Erie Islands Conservancy**, which has worked with the Put-in-Bay Township Park District to conserve land throughout the Lake Erie Islands.

These lands are being conserved, in part, by funding and technical assistance made available as voluntary mitigation for habitat impacts anticipated to arise through construction of Enbridge's Access South, Adair Southwest, and Lebanon Extension Projects in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and The Conservation Fund. Additional funds were provided by the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, implemented through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

"Last year Senator Portman and I fought to ensure the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was at full strength so communities could continue their important work of keeping Lake Erie clean, stimulating tourism and the local economy, and preserving critical wildlife habitats like this one in Put-In-Bay," said **Senator Sherrod Brown**. "This is exactly the kind of project this program was meant to support."

"As co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, I have fought hard to fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative because it has proven to be a successful public-private partnership that has helped combat the greatest threats to Lake Erie's water quality and ecosystem," said **Senator Rob Portman**. I am pleased that GLRI funds are being used to protect Lake Erie's islands, which will help prevent pollution and protect critical habitat for more than 110 species of birds. I will also continue my work with Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) on the Migratory Birds of the Americas Act, which will promote long-term conservation, research, and habitat protection for more than 350 species of migratory birds, many of which migrate through Ohio and Lake Erie each year."

"I commend the hard work of the Put-In-Bay Township Park District and The Conservation Fund for its success in protecting this critical migratory bird and wildlife habitat so that everyone can enjoy it," said **Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Co-Chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force**. "This effort was made possible, in part, thanks to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which we fought hard to defend against cuts. Tourism helps drive the economy on Ohio's North Coast and our Lake Erie Islands are unique gems in this coastal crown. We must continue to be steadfast in protecting and preserving them for future generations."

"Enbridge is committed to enhancing the quality of life and environmental protection in the communities where we do business including Ohio and the greater Great Lakes Region," said **Adam Parker, stakeholder engagement supervisor with Enbridge**.

"Our goal is to assist in the protection of lands and waters that have been identified as conservation priorities, valued for their wildlife habitat and other natural resources," said **Peg Kohring, senior associate for conservation services at The Conservation Fund**. "The protected acreage will ensure that local wildlife have access to key habitat and local residents have access to beautiful recreation areas. We're happy to have worked with Put-in-Bay Township Park District and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy to make this project possible."

About Put-In-Bay Township Park District

In 2006, the Common Pleas Court of Ottawa County, Ohio approved a petition to create the Put-in-Bay Township Park District as a local government entity. It was reaffirmed by the voters of the Bass Islands in 2008. Three Commissioners serve to manage and protect unique island habitats for the public to enjoy.

About Lake Erie Islands Conservancy

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy was founded as part of the Black Swamp Conservancy in 2000, receiving their own non-profit status in 2015. The mission statement of the Conservancy is to encourage conservation and protection of natural and agricultural lands in the Lake Erie Islands for the benefit of this and future generations. www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org

About The Conservation Fund

At The Conservation Fund, we make conservation work for America. By creating solutions that make environmental and economic sense, we are redefining conservation to demonstrate its essential role in our future prosperity. Top-ranked for efficiency and effectiveness, we have worked in all 50 states since 1985 to protect more than eight million acres of land, including nearly 65,000 acres in Ohio. www.conservationfund.org



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Monarch Invasion 2018 *By Lisa Brohl*



Photo: Village Park Monarchs observed by Susan Byrnes

It was a combination of good monarch populations this year, the height of the monarch migration season, and then a storm with wind and rain that brought large numbers of monarchs to take refuge in our island preserves on Saturday September 8 and Sunday September 9. There were concentrations in large trees out of the wind near the lake everywhere on the islands including Scheeff East Point Preserve, Massie Cliffside Preserve, and Chris Helman, Theodora Pertner, and Nancy Welter reported them at the Middle Bass East Point Preserve. They were found at many island and nearshore locations along Lake Erie. What a

gift to be able to watch! Jackie Taylor of the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center tagged monarchs at the South Bass Island Lighthouse that weekend and is asking for help in mapping this monarch butterfly migration.

Send the information by email to:

LEIMonarchs@gmail.com

Location- preferably GPS Location

Estimated # of Monarchs at your location

Dates at location (for example 9/7-9/10)

And pictures!



Photos: Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve Monarchs observed by Chris Helman

Nuts for Cooper's Woods...Literally *By Lisa Brohl*



George Gazdick just donated a case of his wonderful flavored nuts to sell to benefit Friends of Coopers Woods. We sold this case at our Artisans Fair which was typically held this summer in the Village Park across from the Boat House. George's nuts are also normally available at the Island Hardware Store, Topsy Turveys, and the Boat House party store. Thanks George!

Prothonotary Warbler Boxes for Middle Bass Island *By Evan Hart*



Boy Scout Evan Hart is currently in the final stages of assembling ten prothonotary warbler boxes. They are going to be installed at the Petersen's Woods Preserve and the new Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve in the very near future. Photo by Evan Hart.

Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve

Bird Banding Project

H. Thomas Bartlett (Federal Permit # 21624)

1833 South Winfield Drive

Tiffin, Ohio 44883

(419) 447-0005 (Home) or (419) 937-6255 (Paula) or 567-278-2300 (Tom)

hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com

Fall 2018 Banding Dates

All dates subject to change or rainout – Call if in doubt!

Banding time is 6:00 AM to Noon

August

18th – Saturday

19th – Sunday

September

15th – Saturday

16th – Sunday

23rd – Sunday

30th – Sunday

October

6th – Saturday

7th – Sunday

13th – Saturday

14th – Sunday

November

24th – Saturday

December

1st – Saturday

We may attempt additional banding dates during any week.

Other Banding Activities:

August 25th

Ohio Bird Banding Assn. meeting – Cleveland Museum of Natural History

September 17th – 22nd

Kelley's Island "Feathers & Foliage" Bandout – Jones Preserve

September 24th – 29th

Middle Bass Island bandout, East Point Preserve

October 1st – 5th

Middle Bass Island bandout, East Point Preserve – Week 2!

October 15th – 31st

Kelley's Island Saw-whet Owl and Long Point or feeder banding

November 2nd – 4th

Kelley's Island Owl Festival

November 1st – 11th

Kelley's Island Saw-whet Owl and Long Point or feeder banding

November 12th – 21st

Kelley's Island Saw-whet Owl and Long Point or feeder banding

October-December: Other owl and passerine banding dates may occur

Birding Activities or Events

August 25th

Ohio Bird Banding Assn. Fall Meeting, Cleveland Museum of Nat. History

September 22nd

Kelley's Island Audubon "Feathers & Foliage" Day

October 26th – 28th

Inland Bird Banding Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Mo

December 15th

Tiffin Christmas Bird Count

December 16th

Lake Erie Islands Christmas Bird Count

2019

December 31st

Carey Christmas Count

January 4th

Gypsum Christmas Bird Count

January 5th

Ottawa NWR Christmas Bird Count

All activities are open to the public

Address: 12250 Township Road 24, Carey, Ohio 43316

GPS Coordinates: 41° 00'23.29 N 083° 24'20.18 W

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See all of the Things With Wings details in our Summer issue, or on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LakeErieWingWatch). Lisa Brohl will be there sharing information about the LEIC Conservancy!



Lodge Dedication

LEIC board members Lisa Brohl and Nancy Welter attended the dedication of the newly remodeled Lake House at Isle St. George lodge on North Bass Island. The State Of Ohio will begin renting the lodge soon!

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419-285-6120

Training/Technical Assistance- Please describe your site orientation and the training you received. Is there additional training or information that might have improved your term?

I received training to be able to post on Facebook as an administrator for the Conservancy and to be able to post on the Conservancy website. I was also taught how to set up bird nets for bird banding and how to properly monitor birds and record data for that and then post it on NestWatch. As for the Nature Center, I was taught all of the opening and closing details along with how to work to cash register and give people guided tours through the building if they requested it. I also learned how to input special event tickets for our fundraisers. And, I learned how to work a weedwhacker for the Conservancy. I do not believe that I needed any additional training to be able to succeed in this position.

Partnership/Collaboration Development- Please list any relevant partners in your work (individuals or organizations other than your host-site that aided you in your work). Please note whether these partnerships existed prior to your arrival, or if you initiated these partnerships during your term.

We worked with the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center so that I could work at the Nature Center as part of my internship, and we collaborated with Paula Z. to monitor Purple Martins. OSU kindly hosted me for a living space and I worked with the Put-in-Bay Township Park District as well. These partnerships existed prior to my arrival.

Community Outreach and Volunteer Engagement- Does the local community seem involved and/or interested in your project or organization's objectives? Did your project involve the local community or address a community need? Please discuss how you feel your project impacted and improved the community your organization serves.

The local community is involved and interested in the Conservation and Nature Center's objectives and our projects involved them. It addressed a community need by keeping land undeveloped and wild. Keeping land undeveloped and turning it into preserves serves the community by providing a nice, family-friendly place to bring children to show them the importance of nature and wildlife. I am excited to say that we are coming closer to keeping Coopers Woods undeveloped as well.

What's next; describe your plans after your term. Are you interested in staying engaged with Conservation Legacy and the Stewards program as an alumna of the program?

I plan to go back to college for my Senior year. I volunteer at the Herpetology Lab on my campus and I look forward to taking many science classes this coming semester. I would be interested in staying engaged with Conservation and Legacy and the Environmental Stewards program as an alumni of the program. I may even try to come back and help out again next year.

Samantha,

Thanks for your hard work, enthusiasm, smiles, and so much more. We were very lucky to get you two years in a row and know that you have a very bright future ahead of you. I enjoyed working with you and hope to hear how you are doing soon!

Lisa Brohl, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Chair



Samantha Newhouse—LEIC AmeriCorps Intern Pics



Photos: Helping pick up trash at the bathing beach; Helping serve pork at the Pig Roast fundraiser with Renee Market; Manning the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy booth at the Middle Bass Island Music Fest; Helping at the Artisans Fair; Great volunteer group Joe Link!; Helping band birds!

The Put-in-Bay
Gazette
Ohio's Oldest Island Newspaper
(419) 285-3645

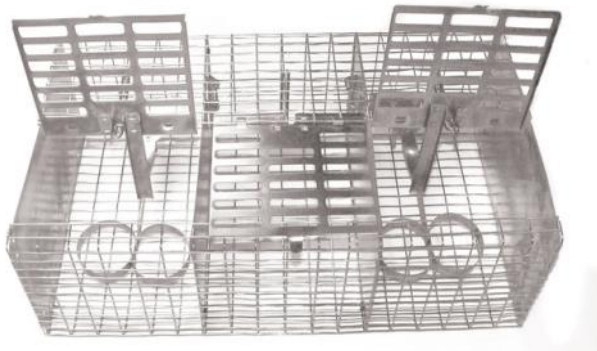
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Another wonderful trap is a compact 3-compartment unit. Purple Martin Conservation Association sells Songbird Essentials Wire Sparrow Trap online at www.purplemartin.org. Birds are trapped in the two outside compartments, with the middle serving as a small holding chamber for a decoy or two. This trap requires manual resetting. Although it doesn't happen often with live decoys in trap, all traps must be carefully monitored to make sure any native birds are released immediately.



House Sparrows are easily trapped late summer (after nesting season winds down) through late fall. Baiting traps with white millet, cracked corn or white bread works well. Juvenile birds are most easily trapped, and the more decoys you get, the more they pile in.

European Starlings cannot be captured until temperatures drop below freezing and there is snow cover on the ground. This usually doesn't happen until the first or second week in January. It is important to deny them access to feeders to insure they move on to bait traps. It is common to capture over 20 per day when weather conditions are good. My good friend Connie and I have a friendly competition going. I captured 174 European Starlings during the first half of January. I believe Connie caught more. She doesn't count them, but the heft of her bag indicated that she did. To trap Starlings, bait traps with peanut butter and/or suet crumbles. I keep two decoys overnight. Once temperatures get above freezing, you will not catch any more. Humanely dispatched non-native species can be frozen and delivered to local wildlife rehabber to be used as food for injured wildlife if your local rehabber accepts them.

I hope you will think outside the box this winter and stay warm doing it!

Bluely yours,



Madame WingNut



An unforgettable view of a Great Horned Owl welcomed Kathy Mock on 27 Apr at Massie Cliffside Preserve, Ottawa.

Photo: Great Horned Owl stats and photo shared from The Ohio Cardinal Magazine Spring 2018 edition published by Ohio Ornithological Society

Massie Cliffside Visitor "Captured"

Kathy Mock visited Massie Cliffside Preserve this Spring and was lucky enough to "capture" this incredible photo of a Great Horned Owl standing guard. Kathy submitted her picture to The Ohio Cardinal and it was published in the Spring 2018 issue! Thanks for sharing Kathy!

You can find The Ohio Cardinal at <http://ohiobirds.org/> and we are certain that the Ohio Ornithological Society would welcome new members!



419-285-GOAT(4628)

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A Special THANKS...



Thank you to the Marjorie Book Continuing Education Group for clearing the bathing beach plant box and weeding at the Massie Cliffside Preserve with Lisa Brohl and AmeriCorps Intern Sam Newhouse. Special thanks to Ben Brown, Bernie Schwarm, Dana Metcalf, Hannah Holderby, Jonathan Zill, Joe and Maria Link, and Melinda Schwarm for the help despite the sweltering weather!



It takes an island to get things done! Thanks Lily Thompson from Miller Boat Line for helping us get our land protection grant forms notarized!



Thanks to Ryan Harris and Ed Heineman for rescuing some baby birds and putting them back up in the nest this summer.



Jim and Betsy Brohl scrubbed and cleaned the interpretive signs at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve recently-we are now all ready for birders at the banding next week!



Thanks Richard Gump and crew for installing our new recycling containers for our Put-in-Bay Township Park District-funded by an Ottawa Sandusky Seneca Solid Waste District Recycling grant. Russell Brohl is shown here putting the tags on the containers and Melody Many shown helping to empty them this fall.



LEIC volunteer Gene Zajac made this table for the Ladd family from wood from their family barn that was removed from the Massie Cliffside Preserve. Thanks Gene and thanks John and Paula Ladd for your help with growing our preserves!

New and Renewing Members

Friends

Donna Martens
Mary Ann Meyers
Mary Brohl Nahan
D. J. Parker
Annie Parker
Joseph Rutter
Sue and Steve Prahst
Trash and Treasure Design-
Aimee Arent

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Tamara Jones
Dave and Barb Nostrant
Johnny and Rose Reising
Linda and Rudy Rence
Ken and Mary Schilstra
Joanne Sutton

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Steve and Jill Cooks
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Michael Durinsky III-First
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International
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Alan and Stacy Clink
Crew's Nest
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**THANK
YOU!**



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Alan & Stacey Clink
Frederick Fether
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Richard Gump
Scott Jackson
Judy and Joseph Janicki
John & Paula Ladd
Georgia MacVean
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Monarch Butterfly Invasion at MBI East Point Preserve—Photo by Chris Helman

Lots to do before the snow flies.....

Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Annual Meeting Party — Sunday, September 23 at 1:00 PM

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy will hold their annual meeting at the Heinemans Winery on Sunday September 23 at 1:00pm. Grill food will be provided, please bring a dish to share. RSVP to leiconservancy@gmail.com or phone or text Lisa Brohl at 419-366-

2087. It is a great time to learn about what the Conservancy has been up to and ways for you to get involved!

Fall Bird-Banding at East Point Preserve! — Week of September 23 (details below)

Tom and Paula Bartlett will be coming to the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve to band birds the week of the Sunday, September 23rd. Setup will take place on Sunday and they will be there every day from sunup to about 4:00 p.m. until the nets come down on Saturday, September 29. Come out and see what shows up in the nets!

Just show up and remember all banding activities are weather permitting. Please make sure to pull through the gates at the preserve to park to be sure that you are not parking on private property.

Plan a Fall Family Day Helping to Clean up the Preserves

Volunteers are ALWAYS NEEDED to spread mulch on trails and pick up litter—Massie Cliffside Preserve, Scheeff East Point Preserve, Dodge

Woods, Jane Coates Trail. If your family is interested in helping this Fall, contact Lisa Brohl—leiconservancy@gmail.com or 419-366-2087.

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



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Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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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!

(MUSIC FEST Continued from page 6)

By popular demand, we have agreed to host another music fest in 2019. The event will take place at the Lonz Winery property of the Middle Bass Island State Park on July 13, 2019. We have already confirmed that

Jimmy G's will return with his delicious BBQ and – We are also happy to report the Rosie's Rolling Chef will return in 2019 with their excellent assortment of Italian inspired cuisine.

Make sure to join us for the Middle Bass Island Music Festival July 2019! It's going to be awesome!



Photos (Top Row L-R): Artist Mike "Nelly" Nelson with his fish sculpture made with Lonz barrels and with silent auction winners Alan Stacy Clink! Thanks to both of you for your donations to the Conservancy!; Macay and Emily Hunter helping with the 50/50 raffle at the Middle Bass Music Festival. Thanks for your tech support too Macay!; Eva Petron and Jene Hunter selling t-shirts; Mac Bilski helping with the sound. Third generation LEIC volunteer! Like the hat! (Middle Row L-R): Jim Roesch, president of the Middle Bass Dock Company, supporter of the Middle Bass Music Festival and celebrating the Dock Company's 95th anniversary!; John Petron and Karl Steuk faithfully selling tickets; Alex Bastion and Dustin Heineman manning the Heineman Winery booth at the Middle Bass Music Festival (Bottom Row L-R): LEIC Board Member Paula Ziebarth, LEIC Volunteer Bob Cummings, and Festival Manager and LEIC Board member Nancy Welter All smiles at the end of a great festival!; The Brohl booth; Dee Fallon serving ice cream; The OntkOrganix Booth

PO Box 461
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Michelle Pennington

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



November 15, 2018 for Christmas Bazaar

November 27, 2018 for Giving Tuesday in Northwest Ohio

December 16, 2018 for Audubon Christmas Bird Count



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



New Recycling Containers Installed at Preserves!

We now have recycled plastic recycling containers designed by the Bright Idea Shop in place at four of our island preserves thanks to an Ottawa Sandusky, Seneca County Solid Waste District grant. Thanks to Richard Gump and crew for installing the containers as well! And, of course, to the visitors who seem to be using them too!