

# ISLAND

Lake Erie Islands  
Conservancy  
Presents



# GREEN SCENE

Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2020

## Cooper's Woods PRESERVE!

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization, is pleased to announce the purchase on March 31, 2020, of 18.46 acres of wooded property on South Bass Island. The area, commonly referred to as Cooper's Woods, was purchased from the DeRivera Park Trust. The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC) is a 250-member organization "dedicated to the conservation and protection of natural and agricultural lands in the Lake Erie Islands for the benefit of future generations."

Now celebrating 20 years of island habitat protection, the Conservancy began in 2000 as a chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy. The



Photos: A "Save Cooper's Woods" transformed once the effort became successful! Insets Counter Clockwise—Cooper's Woods Closing Day; Cooper's Dutchman's breeches; Hermit Thrush-Photo by Tom Bartlett; Lead Morph of the Eastern Red-backed Salamander

LEIC was granted separate nonprofit status in 2015.

(Continued on page 14)

### 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 is Ella Kostura enjoying an up close look at lead morph of the red-backed salamander in Cooper's Woods Preserve. More on pg. 7!

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## Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve Addition-Cleveland Parcel Purchased and Preserved



Photo: Beautiful Cleveland Reef Photo by Neal Hess

On May 29, 2020, the Put-in-Bay Township Park District (PIBTPD) purchased 2.83 acres of lakefront on the eastern most point of Middle

Bass Island from the Cleveland family. This makes our current preserve of 8 acres almost 11 contiguous acres of wooded shoreline-superb migratory bird habitat. It has been the site of Tom Bartlett's bird banding operations since 2009. We are also excited that the PIBTPD and Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC) have been able to preserve over 113 acres now on the Bass Islands.

These lands are being conserved, in part, by funding and technical assistance made available

(Continued on page 18)

## Lesser Celandine *By Lisa Brohl*

This spring I attended the Ohio Invasive Plant Council meeting where one of the topics was the invasive plant-Lesser Celandine. Wow, I thought, I was glad we did not have that on the island. While delivering plants and trees from our Conservancy sale later this spring, Linda Bugoci of Middle Bass asked me to identify a yellow flower in a low spot near her garden. And Teddi Keith-Morris asked about a plant on the edge of the woods at East Point. Both ended up being Lesser Celandine!

Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*, also known as fig buttercup) is native to Europe, northern Africa, western Asia, and Siberia and was brought to the United States as an ornamental plant in the mid-1800's and first escapees reported in Pennsylvania in 1867. In Cleveland, Ohio, lesser celandine was planted in flower beds of (just) two residences in the 1970s. It escaped the confines of those two yards, and less than 40 years later, it had taken over nearly 300 acres of parkland along the Rocky River. More than half of that had lesser celandine cover of more than 50%, leaving little room for native vegetation). Lesser celandine can grow in all kinds of light, moisture, and soil conditions, divides and spreads to form a thick mat, emerges very early in the growing season, blooms early, and has no (or few) natural enemies here in America. This non-native invasive belongs to the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae, and is sometimes called "fig buttercup" with the "fig" refers to the shape of the underground tubers, referred to as bulbils. Bulbils can give rise to new plants and are perfectly suited for being picked-up in the dew claws of deer. Indeed, deer are a major mover of lesser celandine and play a pivotal role in carrying this invasive plant to new locations.

Recommendations for eliminating small colonies includes digging and destroying plants along with the tubers. Since it can be very difficult to remove all of the tubers from the soil, The larger the infestation, the longer it will take to wipe-out this stubborn weed. The non-selective herbicide glyphosate (e.g. Roundup) is an effective choice given its ability to translocate from the targeted leaves to affect the tubers. Herbicides targeting the spring foliage is the most effective way to prevent more lesser celandine.

Keep in mind that established colonies are supported by huge numbers of underground tubers which requires multiple applications over a number of years to finally exhaust their energy input.

**Lesser Celandine made the list of plants from the Ohio Invasive Plants Council considered invasive in the State of Ohio effective January 7, 2018. These means it is illegal to sell the plant. If you see this plant on the island, please either dig it up or herbicide it to stop its spread.**

**This is a good example also of why you should not throw your landscaping waste in the woods of natural areas-these bulbils or roots may have been**



Photo: Lesser Celandine in flower

present and could easily spread. Be especially careful with any plant material or soil you may bring from the mainland to the island.

Check out these references below for more information on the plant.

<https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1212>

<https://urbanecologycenter.org/blog/invasive-plant-to-watch-lesser-celandine-ranunculus-ficaria.html>

<https://oipc.info>

## Jam and Jelly Fundraiser! *By Lisa Brohl*

Russell Brohl II of My Great Aunt Ethel's Jams and Jellies is offering \$1 to the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy for every jar sold. Contact Lisa Brohl for jams and/or jellies at 419-366-2087 or [leiconservancy.org](http://leiconservancy.org).

We have made over \$50 on the sale already! Thanks to those who have purchased already!!

(Options include: strawberry rhubarb jam, habanero pepper jam, mixed berry Chambord jam, red cabbage, and more!)



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

Please see page 23 for details.

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# Spring Warbler Fallout *By Lisa Brohl with Ken, Jennifer, and Cameron Farber*



Photos: Clockwise—Cerulean warbler; Magnolia warbler, Cape May Warbler; Common yellowthroat Photos by Ken Farber

Late afternoon on Friday, May 15, 2020, Lisa Brohl was birding at the lighthouse on the west end of South Bass Island. It had been days of east or northeast winds, holding up the neotropical migrating birds heading north. They usually travel best with a south or southwest wind. But the birds were feeling the strong urge to get to the breeding grounds in the north to vie for nesting spots there. So despite winds from the wrong direction and spotty rain showers, the birds had moved the night before and were tired and feeding low in the trees. Emerging midges or Chironomids fed the exhausted birds. At the lighthouse, fourteen Indigo Buntings were on the ground feeding with White-Throated and White-Crowned sparrows. All of the thrushes were seen in the woods—Hermit, Wood, Swainson’s, Gray-Cheeked, and a Veery. Usually, these birds arrive at different times, but they were all seen in the same area at the same time.

Simultaneously, as Lisa was birding on the west side of the island, the Farber family, Ken, Jennifer, and Cameron, were birding on the east end at the Scheeff East Point Preserve. A light consistent rain had begun as they headed down the trail on the west edge of the preserve. Initially, warblers were spotted high in the trees, but as they approached the sand beach on the south side of the island the trees were full of birds at every level. Birds were rarely get a glimpse of or only see the underside of were at eye level in the trees. The Hooded and Cerulean warblers were within arms-reach, flitting around as usual but in no hurry to depart. Also up close, flitting from tree branch to tree branch were many Chestnut-Sided, Blackburnian, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, Northern Parula, Cape May, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped, as well as Common Yellowthroat warblers. Many least flycatchers

and one scarlet tanager joined the party. Over a two hour period, turning but not moving more than a few feet over 20 different warblers were identified. Quite a spectacle as the birds fed between rain showers. Enjoy these beautiful photos taken by Ken of that magical day. This is what is known in the birding world as a fallout—and we were lucky to be in the right place and right time to enjoy it! We are so fortunate that our Lake Erie Islands are right along the birds migratory pathway and that we have protected wooded habitat near shore for the birds to rest and feed. And remember those huge clouds of midges that we find annoying fuel these tiny beautiful birds! The abundance of insects here and further north is what prompts birds to migrate north from their wintering grounds in the tropics to feed on the rich protein source of insects for their young. What a treasure our insect populations should be treated as!

## Freshwater Sensations

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419-366-1036

[www.freshwatersensations.com](http://www.freshwatersensations.com)



## Welcome to The Boardwalk!

341 Bayview Ave  
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419-285-3695

[www.OhioVacationLand.com](http://www.OhioVacationLand.com)  
440-315-6000



**Lee Hisey**  
Lake Erie Islands

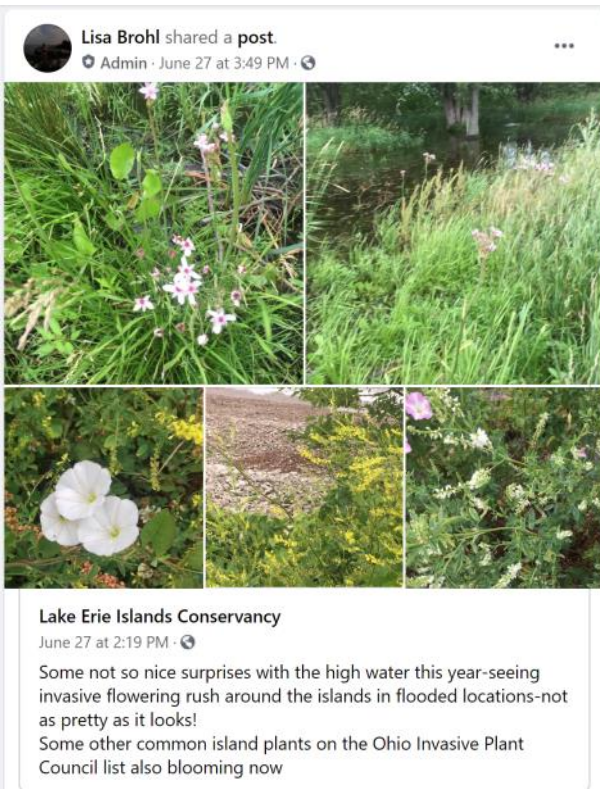
## GLIA Summit 2020 Postponed *By Lisa Brohl*

The Great Lakes Islands Alliance has cancelled their 2020 fall meeting on the Lake Erie Islands due to Covid-19. We will be hosting this meeting instead in the fall of 2021. The LEIC had received an Ottawa County Community Foundation grant to help with expenses of this meeting. We are encouraged to apply again next spring for this important fall meeting.



## EnviroScience to Treat Invasive Plants/Trees on Island Preserves this Summer *By Lisa Brohl*

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District has entered into contracts with the consulting company EnviroScience to restore our island preserves by removing invasive plant species. At Middle Bass, scientists will remove the invasive amur honeysuckle, white mulberry, and English Ivy from the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve and Cleveland Addition and common reedgrass from Petersen



**Photo: Facebook post by Lisa Brohl showing island invasives (Clockwise—flowering rush; another view of flowering rush; white sweet clover; yellow sweet clover; field bindweed)**

Woods and the adjacent Kuehnle State Wildlife Area and PIB Port Authority area north of Deist Rd. The common reedgrass is being flooded out this year with the high lake levels and so should be easier to control.

EnviroScience will visit South Bass Island to remove invasives like amur honeysuckle, tree of heaven, and wintercreeper from Cooper's Woods Preserve area. If there is extra time and funds, they will tackle English Ivy at our Victory Woods lots and callery pear, multi-flora rose, crack willow, and reed canary grass at our Scheeff East Point Preserve.

Removing the non-native invasive plants opens up areas for native trees and plants to get a toe hold and thrive, thus restoring our island woods to a more natural forest type and allowing native wildflowers more space to grow.

Part of the invasive plant removal is funded at specific preserves with grant funds available with our property purchases through the Conservation Fund. We also have some grant funds to spend from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative with the National Park Service.

We will continue our efforts with volunteers to remove the invasive garlic mustard from our preserves. For more information on this, contact Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087.

## Island Big Trees *By Lisa Brohl*

Carmen Trisler sent us this photo of a White Oak at their home on Put-In-Bay that is 162" in circumference at breast height (dbh.) Burns Pierce thinks it may be the oldest tree on the island.

If you know of any other very large trees on the Lake Erie Islands, please share.



## We will miss you Gene and Pam! *By Lisa Brohl*



Members Gene and Pam Zajac recently moved from their East Point home to Sagamore Hills. We all enjoyed Gene's astronomy programs—both for Nature Camp, Road Scholar and island residents in the winter. Pam was always there to help and we loved the stockings with coal she made from Massie's to sell at the Bazaar. Gene helped also with the clean up of the Massie Cliffside Preserve making tables from the wood of the Bruckner barn there. We wish them luck in their new life in Sagamore Hills—we will miss you!

# Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Tote Bags for Sale *By Lisa Brohl*



To celebrate our 20th year of land preservation, the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy now has recycled canvas tote bags made in the USA for sale for \$20

We also have a variety of tote bags made by Jill Cooks from sail cloth that we have for sale as well. Images of these are attached. Larger bags are \$30 and the small bag is \$20.

If interested in purchasing any of these, please contact Lisa Brohl at phone or text at 419-366-2087 or e-mail at [leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com).

Now you can support the conservancy in style! A special thanks to all who participated in the creation of these beautiful bags!



*Photos: Top Left—John Ladd donating his sails for bags; Top Right—John and Paula Ladd with bag made by Jill Cooks from their sails; Bottom Row—Sail Cloth Hand Bag; Sail Cloth Tote Bag; LEIC 20th Anniversary Recycled Canvas Tote Bag. Buy one for you and gift one to a friend!*



## T-Shirts Featuring LEIC!

Any season is a great time to pick up an LEIC t-shirt! Here are new t-shirts in kids sizes and a new look for our adult tees. Still made in the USA of organic materials at LakeScreen Printing in Lorain, Ohio. Contact Lisa at 419-366-2087 or [leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com) if you would like to purchase one.

AND/OR

An annual LEIC membership gives someone our quarterly newsletter and info on our programs. A donation to our Land Protection Fund in someone's name is a great gift that keeps on giving with the purchase of new preserves for us all to enjoy!



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## Arbor Day 2020 *By Kelly Faris*

With the COVID 19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions of public gatherings and other restrictions, Arbor Day activities for 2020 were canceled. The Arbor Day Foundation has waived the requirement of an Arbor Day celebration from the recertification process for the Tree City designation. The Village of Put-in-Bay trees for Arbor Day 2020 were planted without the public attending. An American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) was planted at the Village Bathing Beach. A Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), a Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and an Ohio Buckeye Tree (*Aesculus octandra*) donated by Scott Sneller) were planted at the "Tree City" area near the Put-in-Bay Post Office. Enjoy the trees and we hope to have a public gathering again next spring!



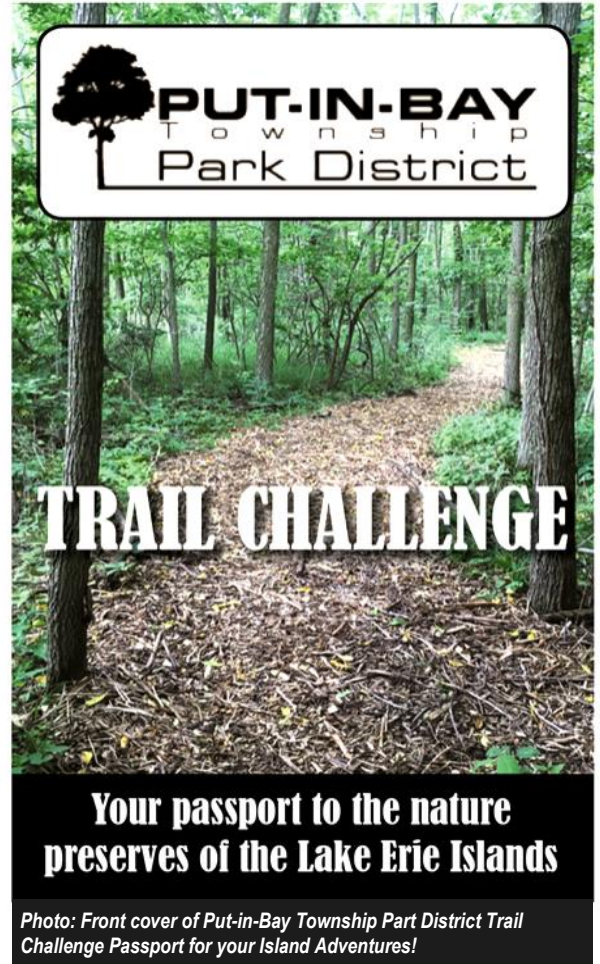
Photos: Flowering Dogwood at Village Tree Commission Arbor Day Site; Kelly Faris Planting on Arbor Day

## Trail Challenge Continues *By Lisa Brohl*

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District will again be holding their Trail Challenge. Visitors to the island can pick up the Trail Challenge booklet at any of the preserves, the Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce, or at Freshwater Sensations gift shop.

If they walk each of the Park District's trails and get a stamp in their booklet at each, they can redeem the booklet for a prize from Christi Ontko from Freshwater Sensations.

Thanks Christi for a great way to get folks out to see our preserves! Thanks also to Kristin Parrish and Brian Cultice for their work on the publication last year.



## LEIC and PIBTPD Wish List

2020 brings a lot of excitement to the preserves as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary! There are a multitude of ways to get involved this Spring! Do let us know if you can help out with any of these items at [leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com) or 419-366-2087. Or you may have skills you wish to contribute—please call!

- New members! Check us out at [www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org!](http://www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org!)
- Larger Office Space,
- Assistance sorting, organizing office.
- Volunteers Always Needed-spread mulch on trails, removed downed trees and pick up litter-garlic mustard pulling, amur honeysuckle removal-all preserves.
- Website and Social Media Assistance
- Adobe, Access, and Arc GIS Programs or volunteers with these skills.
- Recycled Copying Paper, Ink for Printers (Brother LC 61, HP 970XL, HP 971XI-must not be generic)
- Golf Cart for Summer Transport of tools

and personnel.

- Assistance with trail layout, construction, parking, mulching and signage with extension of the trail or boardwalk at the Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve and the Lawrence Evans Preserve
- Bicycle rack for the Cooper's Woods preserve. The approximate cost of \$800-you can have your name put on the top of the bicycle rack.
- Two Benches for Cooper's Woods preserve. The approximate cost installed is \$2,500.00.
- 4 small lots adjacent to our Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve

## Bass Islands Bird Banding Wish List

Maybe you can't make it out to the islands on the bird banding dates but you still want to help. Here's how!

Please don't feel like you need to buy the entire count needed for each item. Whatever you can do will help! Do let us know if you can help out with any of these items at [leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com) or 419-366-2087.

- 12 - poles sets with rebar (@ \$18 per set of 2/ \$108)
- 5 - owl nets (@ \$120/ \$600)
- 60 - AA batteries
- 60 - AAA batteries
- 5 - printings of yearly report (@ \$40/\$200)
- 10 - yearly sign laminations (@ \$5/\$50)
- 2 - 9M X 30 mm songbird mist nets (@ \$130/\$260)



## **The Dodge House**

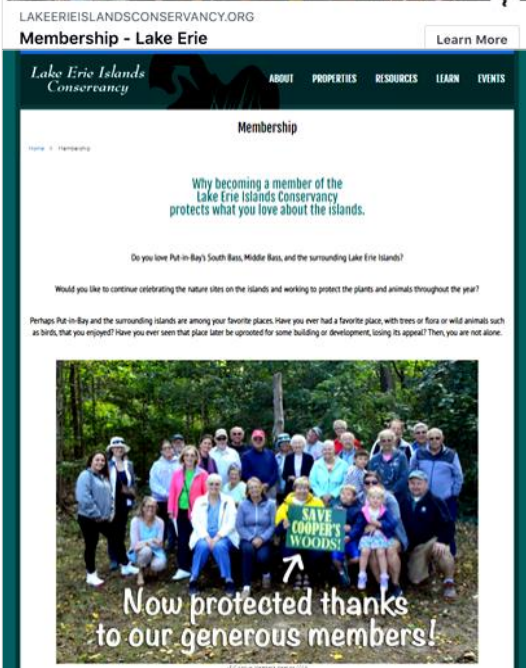
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# New Membership Webpage

By Lisa Brohl

Kalen Cap did Facebook promotional work for us this spring and it was much needed! Thanks for your expertise! He and webmaster Jamie Berger and membership committee member Linda Shull put together the Facebook appeal and web membership landing page. (Linked screenshots of both efforts shown or go to <https://lakeerieislandsconservancy.org/membership/>)



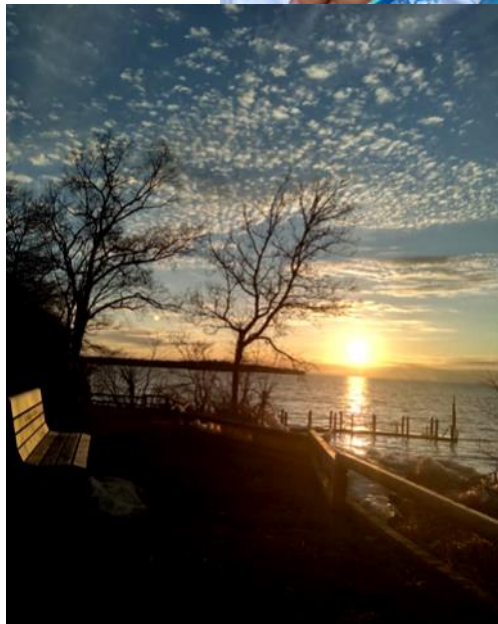
# Get Out and Enjoy!!

By Lisa Brohl

Remember to get out and enjoy our trails and preserves this summer. They are a great place to enjoy nature and stay socially distanced. Here are photos of Lisa Brohl out with her grandchildren, the Trunk sisters and birder extraordinaire Cameron Farber. Cameron helped the girls find earthworms and small Lake Erie watersnakes at the Scheeff East Point Preserve. The high water on the trail made for great wading and duck watching!

Lucas and Ella Kostura visited Cooper's Woods Preserve with their grandmother Susan Ferguson and other island kids for garlic mustard pulling and salamander viewing beneath the logs there. This was a great season for morel mushrooms for lots of islanders as well.

Visitors especially like the Massie Cliffside Preserve with access for fishing and benches for sunset watching. We are grateful for the donations visitors leave in our boxes at the preserves.



Photos: Clockwise—Lisa Brohl with grandchildren and Cameron Farber on an impromptu walk at Scheeff EPP; Annabelle Trunk with a squiggly earthworm; Lucas Kostura with a discovered salamander; A Massie Cliffside Preserve Sunset by Sandy Funtal; Ella Kostura enjoys looking at the lead morph of the red-backed salamanders in Cooper's Woods Preserve while pulling garlic mustard this spring.

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# Lake Erie Islands Conservancy 2020 Bird Research *By Tom and Paula Bartlett*

The spring of 2020 was much different than a normal spring. For the last 18 years, Tom Bartlett and his banding team have come to the islands to study the birds using the islands during migration. This was done using mist nets, trapping the birds collecting data on them, banding them with a numbered metal band, and releasing them. It has always been open to the public and for participants of the Road Scholar programs which come to the islands. This year most of the research has been curtailed because of the COVID-19. Tom's main banding station at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve in southern Seneca County had to be closed. The preserve is open to the public and access could not be controlled. They banded March 14 and over 20 visitors showed up. It first appeared we would have the same problem on the islands as The Bird Banding Laboratory protocol stated no visitors or banding on public lands which could not be closed to the public. On Kelleys Island, they band on land owned by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, so access was strictly controlled and no visitors were allowed. They also worked with the Kelleys Island mayor on when and how they could band. So the third week of April, they were able to band on Kelleys but snow on 3 of the 7 days hampered their efforts. Working with the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy and the Put-in-Bay Township Park District they were able to band on Middle Bass and on South Bass. Middle Bass involved closing the East Point Preserve during the banding times. On South Bass they band on private property at the Vineyard B & B. Again, at both sites weather was not the greatest for bird migration but at least some data was collected. The public was very cooperative and adhered to the no visitors rule without complaint but I am sure they were disappointed.

On Kelleys Island there were only 4 of us in April. The bad part was it snowed 3 out of the 7 days so we only banded 107 birds. Summer Tanager was good though. Photo attached. On Middle Bass Island we had 5 volunteers. Banded 44 species and 285 individuals. Pine Warbler was the best, my first ever and we did 2! On South Bass there were only 4 of us. Banded 39 species and 283 individuals. Best birds were a male Hooded Warbler and 9 year old Common Grackle. One note of interest from



South Bass. Our number 1 banded bird was Red-winged Blackbird (which is normal). Last Thursday we had some southerly wind. The female Red-winged Blackbirds left. On Friday and Saturday, we did not capture a single female. Plenty of males but no females were captured or viewed in the area. On Sunday we captured one female and saw one other. The females seemed to have left on Thursday night and no other females replaced them... Sometimes it is not what you capture but what you don't.

Below are some statistics on some recaptured birds from other years. Most of these birds are coming back to the same location each year-or not leaving. Attached are the full list of birds banded this spring.

I can't remember a late spring banding when we had snow 4-5 days during the period. I still have my long underwear on...

Thanks for the help from our trained volunteers-scribes and extractors; Paula Bartlett, Lisa Brohl, Teddi Keith-Morris, and Nancy Welter and for addition special help from Russ Brohl and Bob Stausmire for moving equipment from island to island. We appreciate the assistance of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District, Dr. William Cleveland, and the Barnhill family for the use of their properties to collect the data. Thanks to the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Brohl and Miles family for assistance with lodging.

Middle Bass:

- 1 - 6 year old Northern Cardinal
- 2 - 5 year old American Robins
3. 1 - 4 year old Northern Flicker which was originally banded in McComb County, Michigan on May 26, 2017.

South Bass:

1. a 9 year old Common Grackle
2. 2 6 year old Red-winged Blackbirds
3. a 6 year old Common Grackle
4. 2 5 year old Red-winged Blackbirds

	Kelleys Island April 18 - 23	Middle Bass Island April 24 - May 1	South Bass Island May 4 - 10	TOTAL
Cooper's Hawk	1			1
Red-bellied Woodpecker		1	2	3
Downy Woodpecker	1	1		2
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	1	9		10
"Trail's" Flycatcher			1	1
Least Flycatcher		2	6	8
Eastern Phoebe		1	1	2
White-eyed Vireo		1		1
Blue-headed Vireo		4		4
Warbling Vireo			1	1
Blue Jay		5	9	14
Tree Swallow		7		7
Barn Swallow			1	1
Black-capped Chickadee		1	7	8
White-breasted Nuthatch		1	3	4
Brown Creeper	13			13
House Wren		8	6	14
Carolina Wren	1		2	3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		1	2	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	27	6		33
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	30	47	26	103
Swainson's Thrush		1	1	2
Hermit Thrush	18	15	6	39
Wood Thrush			2	2
American Robin	3	31	41	75
Gray Catbird			4	4
Brown Thrasher		2		2
European Starling		4		4
House Sparrow		1		1
House Finch		2	2	4
American Goldfinch		2	3	5
Chipping Sparrow		1		1
Field Sparrow	1	1	1	3
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	1	1		2
White-throated Sparrow	1	21	3	25
Song Sparrow	1			1
Lincoln's Sparrow		1		1
Swamp Sparrow		2		2
Eastern Towhee		1		1
Orchard Oriole			1	1
Baltimore Oriole			7	7
Red-winged Blackbird		68	83	151
Brown-headed Cowbird		1	6	7
Common Grackle	1	12	22	35
Ovenbird			1	1
Northern Waterthrush		3		3
Blue-winged Warbler		1	1	2
Black-and-white Warbler		1		1
Orange-crowned Warbler		1	1	2
Nashville Warbler		2	9	11
Common Yellowthroat		1		1
Hooded Warbler			1	1
Cape May Warbler			2	2
Yellow Warbler			5	5
Black-throated Blue Warbler			1	1
Palm Warbler (Western)		5		5
Pine Warbler		2		2
Yellow-rumped warbler (Myrtle)	5	2	2	9
Black-throated Green Warbler		3		3
Summer Tanager	1			1
Northern Cardinal	1	2	5	8
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			1	1
	Kelleys Island	Middle Bass Island	South Bass Island	TOTAL
Total Species Banded	17	44	39	62
Total Individuals Banded	107	285	283	675
Banding Days	4	7	7	18
Recaptures	22	74	73	169
Escapes/releases	0	0	8	8
Casualties	2	0	0	2
Total Birds Handled	128	359	363	850
Net Hours of Effort	395.50	689.75	737.00	1822.25
Birds banded per net hour	0.27	0.41	0.38	0.37



Due to the COVID-19 State of Ohio Protocol  
No Visitors are allowed into the Bird Banding Station!



Photos: Clockwise from Left—Summer Tanager by Paula Bartlett; Chuck-wills-widow at Kelleys; Yellow-breasted Chat (YBCH) at Kelleys; Middle Bass Banding Station; COVID-19 Sign; Pine Warbler at MBI by Paula Bartlett Facing Page—Hooded Warbler at SBI



## Native Plant and Tree Sale Thanks *By Lisa Brohl*

The native plants and trees arrived in May from our Conservancy sale. Thanks Gale Martin of Natives in Harmony, Dr. Daniel Struve of QRST Nursery, and Ed Kapraly of Riverside Native Trees for working with us on the sale and to board member Ken Farber for the transport!! And to all

who purchased trees and plants. We still have some swamp milkweed left as well as switch grass and fox sedge for something different for your landscape.



Photos: Ken Farber picking up plants from Gale Martin at Natives in Harmony; Ed Kapraly of Riverside Native Trees; Sandi Glauser and Lisa Brohl unload native plants at Catawba; Sara Booker receiving her button bush from Ken Farber

## New Board Member Dave Bugoci *By Lisa Brohl*

We are happy to announce that David Bugoci joined our LEIC board recently. Dave Bugoci grew up in the Cleveland area and he had his own boats on Lake Erie even before he could drive a car. He fostered a love of the lake's western basin and the islands with his wife of 35 years and two adult children. He has used his electrical engineering degree to support the design, construction, and operation of many drinking water, reclaim water, industrial process water and environmental projects around the country. Dave is a registered Professional Engineer in several states, and holds a Project Management Professional national certification. Dave has also achieved a 100 Ton USCG Master Merchant Marine license. He retired recently and now lives on Middle Bass after 15 years of being a "cottager" there. He is excited to continue supporting nature and



environmental issues for the Lake Erie Islands area via the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. Dave has been working with the Middle Bass Music Festival, a fundraiser for the Conservancy.

## Preserve News

*By Lisa Brohl*



LEIC member Woody Widmar giving his membership donation to Conservancy chair Lisa Brohl just outside of the new Cooper's Woods Preserve. Photo by Marty Faris

Keep the memberships/donations coming to help protect preserves like the Cooper's Woods Preserve! Thanks for all the help and support everyone!

Please contact Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087 or try out our new membership page here: <https://lakeerieislandsconservancy.org/membership/>

## Cleveland Cleanup *By Lisa Brohl*

On Saturday June 20, 2020, Michael Hopkins, Nancy Welter, Jeff and Colin Marshall removed the old boat trailer and cradle from the newly purchased Cleveland Parcel. It will be a beautiful addition to our preserves. Thanks to all who got this done!!



Photos: Digging out the junk; Piling boat cradle on top of old boat trailer; Michael Hopkins with Jeff and Colin Marshall; All loaded in right-away and set to haul off!

# 50th Anniversary of Earth Day Celebrated with Week Long Challenge!

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC) and the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife (LEINWC) center would like to thank everyone who helped take part in our Earth Week challenge picking up one bag of garbage at our preserves and picking up invasive garlic mustard from our preserves.

Participants were Paula and Greg Ziebarth, Susan and Kate Byrnes, Simona Michaels, Ava and Michelle Heineman, Maria and Mia Hristovski, Gabby and Roman Hess, Susan Ferguson, Ella and Lucas Kostura, Lyla and Tali Stiedl, and Joe Blumensaadt. They will receive prizes from the LEINWC, LEIC, and the Village Tree Commission.

Thanks everyone! We will still take volunteers to help pull garlic mustard! This time of year it is the second year rosettes to pull-see attached photo. It makes great chip dip, lasagna, soup etc. once you have pulled it! If you need help identifying it give us a call at 419-366-2087 or check out our website at [www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org](http://www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org).



**Photos: Clockwise—Garlic Mustard-First Year Rosettes; Ava Heineman pulls garlic mustard in Cooper's Woods Preserve; Ava Heineman with more garlic mustard; Lylah and Tali Stiedl and Joe Blumensaadt pull garlic mustard at Jane Coates Wildflower Trail; Mia Hristovski and Ava Heineman pulling garlic mustard together during Earth Week; Roman and Gabby Hess pick up garbage for Earth Day; Susan Byrnes, Maria Hristovski, Michelle Heineman, and Simona Michael with loads of bags; Gabby and Roman Hess pulling garlic mustard; Simona Michael with her Earth Week Challenge garbage; Ella and Luca Kostura picked lots of garlic mustard; Greg Ziebarth, our garlic mustard pulling master!**

# Great Horned Owls in DeRivera Park *By Lisa Brohl*

During the Covid-19 crisis, a lot of islanders spent more time outdoors walking and looking more closely at our wildlife than ever before. I got a lot of calls about all the exciting discoveries. Mandy Sbola and Bo Temniuk called to report a great horned owl (GHOW) nest in DeRivera Park. It was a great spot for viewing for everyone high in a tree. The park was nice and quiet this spring, so great for the owls. Everyone could drive by and stop to look up at the owls – a pair and two young birds.

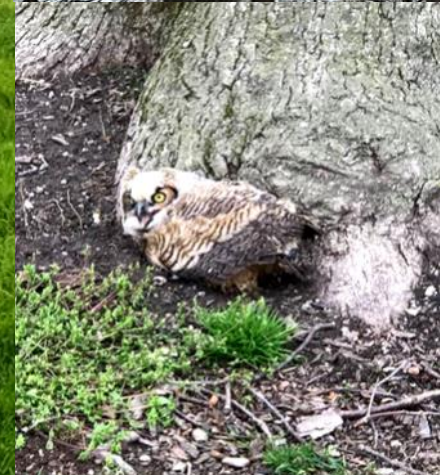
On May 1, I got a call from Mike McCann that one of the owlets was on the ground across from the Round House. I was leaving the island, so I quickly called Back to the Wild for advice. The young bird was still far from fledging so Mike called Terry Jenkins of Ohio Edison and Terry was able to place the owl back up in the hole with his sibling!

On May 18, I get a call from Nancy Tanner that there was an owl under a golf cart at the park. She and Aaron Schroeder had been watching it for a while as visitors had pointed it out to her earlier. I called Sheri and Bill Kowalski to come down and check it out. Sheri and Bill have the Kevlar gloves and large cage needed to move raptors for a trip to Back to the Wild if needed. Bill donned the gloves and removed the bird from under the golf cart – lots of beak snapping going on and it could fly a little. The bird was close to fledging but not quite ready. Back to the Wild advised that with the upcoming weather that night (wind and thunderstorms) that we get the bird back in the hole one more time if we could. It was Terry to the rescue again who placed the owl up in the hole again with the help of Michael McCann. The bird was still safely in the hole the next morning.

The owl family has moved on as the birds fledged. But what entertainment and great photo moments we had this year! Enjoy the photos and thank you Terry Jenkins for all you do for us!!!

If you believe you have found injured or orphaned wildlife, always look for parents nearby and call Back to the Wild with questions before you do anything at 419-684-9539.

Support Back to the Wild—great partners of ours at <https://www.backtothewild.org/>.



Photos: Clockwise—Great Horned Owl (GHOW) adult in DeRivera Park by Elizabeth Heineman; GHOW owlets peeking out at their admiring public by Elizabeth Heineman; Home sweet home by Terry Jenkins; Owlet out for a walk in the park on May 1 –Photo by Terry Jenkins; Aaron Schroeder with young great horned owl; Terry Jenkins in Bucket Truck on May 18th; Young owl on May 18; Bill Kowalski with young great horned owl

# Cavity Nesting Birds of South Bass Island

By Paula Ziebarth

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

Residents and visitors to the islands can't help but notice that we have a lot of birds here. Our healthy insect populations translate into healthy bird populations. Whether you enjoy birdwatching or providing and protecting nest sites for native birds, you will find plenty of them to enjoy here on the islands.

Lake Erie Islands Conservancy nature preserves are a wonderful place to enjoy different species. Three of our native cavity nesting species are very busy right now at Scheeff East Point Preserve and Dodge Woods Preserve.

Purple Martins are North America's largest swallow. They overwinter in South America, traversing over 4,000 miles each spring to return to us. These birds had a difficult start this spring. 6 adults were found dead in the Scheeff colony on May 16<sup>th</sup> due to the unseasonably severe cold, wet weather we had. Death tolls were much higher in other parts of Ohio. A Purple Martin's diet consists solely of flying insects. When temperatures dip below the mid-forties, flying insects stop moving. Wind and/or rain compounds the problem and many birds starved to death. Luckily, the weather turned and the island is pumping out midges and other flying insects so they are doing quite well now. On June 13, I counted 198 eggs in the

gourd rigs at Scheeff. Eggs will begin hatching on June 17<sup>th</sup> and that usually coincides with the mayfly hatch (ain't nature grand?!) here on the islands.

Tree Swallows occupy all 16 nest boxes at Scheeff and are doing exceptionally well this year also. I have seen more 8-egg clutches than ever before. This is an unusually high number. Tree Swallows laid 109 eggs and 99 of those have hatched so far. I like to describe these birds as ethereal. They make a beautiful nest lined with soft white feathers; adults have sleek blue/black plumage with white underbelly and they are aerial acrobats. Each swallow family consumes more than 300,000 insects during the 45-day period when their nest box is used.

House Wrens have eggs and/or young in all 5 nest boxes at Dodge Woods Preserve. They laid 31 eggs and 18 have hatched so far. Listen for their bubbly song as you enjoy the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® trail. My son and I really enjoyed the new book, "The Amazing Bone".

I am happy to get people started hosting native cavity nesting birds in their own yards. I can recommend nest boxes, proper siting and predator protection. For those interested in housing Purple Martins, I always recommend they start with Tree Swallows to get an idea of monitoring requirements and how to keep the birds safe. Feel free to contact me at [paulazbird@gmail.com](mailto:paulazbird@gmail.com) if you are interested.



Photos: Top Row—House Wren Eggs and Nest at Dodge Woods Preserve; House Wrens at Dodge Woods Preserve; Tree Swallow Eggs at the Scheeff East Point Preserve; Bottom Row—Purple Martin Eggs at the Scheeff East Point Preserve; "The Amazing Bone" book on the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® Photos by Paula Ziebarth

## ISLAND BIRDS



Photos: American Bittern in Jean Burgess' yard May 8; Baltimore Oriole (BAOR) by Kelly Faris; Eastern Mockingbird by Sandy Funtal; Indigo Bunting at Luella Kacirek's feeder; Scarlet Tanager at Barb Chrysler's feeder May 2020

Lisa Brohl, Chair of the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, stated, "These lands are being conserved, in part, by funding and technical assistance made available by TC Energy and its subsidiary Columbia Gas Transmission's Leach XPress Pipeline Project in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ohio and The Conservation Fund; Additional funding was provided by the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund; the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy; and private donor Judy Prinz in memory of George, Grace, and John "Bullet" Borman."

Ms. Brohl further stated, "We appreciate the support of the South Bass Island community."

She added, "Many thanks to Judy Twarek-Bickley of the Hartung Title Agency, to conservation realtor Neal Hess for his funding research for the purchase, to legal advisor Marsha Collett, and to the Put-in-Bay High School Environmental Club for standing up for Cooper's Woods. We were glad to have the cooperation of the DeRivera Park Trust with the sale. We are grateful to the Friends of Cooper's Woods who under the leadership of Roger Parker, have campaigned relentlessly since 1997 to keep Cooper's Woods a protected preserve."

**Cooper's Woods History and Ecology**

Cooper's Woods is named after the Cooper Family who built Cooper's Restaurant and Winery after World War II, now the Goat Soup & Whiskey. Over the years, the restaurant changed hands, but the family retained the woods until 1997 when it was sold to the DeRivera Park Trust, the group that owns and takes care of most of the park in downtown Put-in-Bay. The Trust also owns the public dock between the Village's public docks. The DeRivera Park Trustees managed the woods up until recently when they had the chance to sell it to the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy.

Cooper's Woods is a living laboratory for the local Put-in-Bay High School science classes and Environmental Club with some of the students mapping the caves and putting organisms on I-Naturalist. It has also been extensively studied over the years by the Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory with publications (Forest Communities of South Bass Island, Ohio. Ohio Journal of Science, 724):184-210 by E. S. Hamilton and J. L. Forsyth,

1972, and on the Forest Composition of the Lake Erie Islands by Boerner, The American Midland Naturalist, 111 (1), 1984) and used by their Ecology and Local Flora classes.

The upland forest composition here is unique to the Lake region, more closely resembling forests found on morainal ridges farther north than those on the nearby mainland till plain.

Wittenberg University and the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves have mapped and inventoried at least two wild caves (Cedar Cave III and IV) within Cooper's Woods. Cooper's Woods has a diversity of wildflowers and is the best spot on the island for large-flowered trilliums, a wildflower that in other areas has been decimated by white-tailed deer.

Protecting this land will preserve the natural habitat for a variety of animals. In particular, this wooded acreage provides habitat for the important population of the lead morph of the Eastern Red-backed Salamander. The existing all-lead morph population in Cooper's Woods is extremely rare, an anomaly from the normal range of this species. In addition, this land is likely a hibernation site for the state threatened Lake Erie Watersnake. Uncommon melanistic morphs of the Eastern Garter Snake and the Eastern Fox Snake, species of concern, also inhabit Cooper's Woods. The Bass Islands are a major flyway for migratory songbirds as documented by the bird-banding efforts of Tom Bartlett.

Remember that your membership, donations, and volunteer work is what made this all happen and continues to drive our Conservancy efforts to preserve land on the Lake Erie Islands!!! This preservation marks our 20<sup>th</sup> year of working toward this goal!!

Watch for details about a dedication of the Cooper's Woods Preserve this fall!

For further information: Lisa Brohl, Chair, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. (419) 285-5811 or 419-366-2087, or search for Cooper's Woods on our website at [www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org](http://www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org).



**Photos: Top Row—Judy Twarek-Bickley at closing for Cooper's Woods; Judy Twarek-Bickley of Hartung Title, Kendra Koehler of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District, and Lisa Brohl of the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy as the Cooper's Woods Preserve was transferred to the Park District with all present deed restrictions and a conservation easement to be held by the Conservancy Bottom Row—A very happy Park District board at the Cooper's Woods Preserve. Kendra Koehler, Chair Kelly Faris, and Lisa Brohl. Photo by Marty Faris; Photo of the PIB Gazette front page announcing the successful purchase of Cooper's Woods**



# 5th Annual Island Green Week—Summer 2020

Island Green Week Press Release 2020

Put-in-Bay, Ohio

Name of Event: Island Green Week

Hosted on: Put-in-Bay, Middle Bass Island

Dates: August 1st-8th, 2020

Event Contact Information:

Phone: Renee Market 419-708-5798

Email: [RBrasher3@gmail.com](mailto:RBrasher3@gmail.com)

Address: Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center PO Box 871 Put-in-Bay, OH 43456

Website Address: [lakeerieislandswildlife.com](http://lakeerieislandswildlife.com)



## Event Coordinators, Description of Event, & Sponsors

*Island Green Week, 2020* is a celebration of natural beauty, ecology, and history and will run from August 1<sup>st</sup> - August 8<sup>th</sup>. The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, OSU's Stone Laboratory, the Put-in-Bay Township Park District and the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society have collaborated to produce a mixture of Ecotourism, Adventure Travel, Agritourism, and History sponsored by the Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce, the Put-in-Bay Gazette, Miller Boat Line, Jet Express, Park Hotel, Frosty Bar, Cameo Pizza, The Boardwalk, and Lake Erie Shores and Islands.

**ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND CANCELLATION DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

## Calendar of Events August 1-8, 2020

Events are located on 3 separate islands. Put-in-Bay and Middle Bass Island. Please make sure you are checking the **correct date, time, and island** for events when making travel plans.

### ⇒ *Historic Lonz Winery Tours, Middle Bass Island*

**Saturday August 1, Sunday August 2, and Saturday August 8** 11am to 4pm on Saturday, 11:00am to 3:00pm on Sunday, Middle Bass Island; Cost - FREE. Participants will be able to tour the iconic Lonz Winery Cellars, Lonz Boat House, and the grounds of the Lonz Mansion as well as Middle Bass Island State Park and the newly renovated Lonz Winery Pavilions. [The Sonny-S Boat Line Inc. is available from the Boardwalk at Put-in-Bay to the main dock on Middle Bass. Sonny S. The Sonny S Ferry Prices are; One-way fares, CASH ONLY. Adults \(13+\)- \\$6.00, Children \(6-12\) \\$3.00, Children \(under 6\) Free.](#)

### ⇒ *Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, Put-in-Bay*

**Saturday August 1, Sunday August 2, and Saturday August 8** from 11am to 3pm. Cost – FREE Although the inside is closed due to construction, the back porch will be holding free programming with displays on the unique geology of the island, pollinators, and salamanders. Gift shop items & Island Explorer Packs will also be available! This is a must do during Island Green Week! More days may be added depending on construction status. Visit <http://lakeerieislandswildlife.com/> for updates and more information on events, school groups, or Nature Camp.

### ⇒ *Island Explorer Packs, Put-in-Bay*

**EVERYDAY! August 1 – 8** Cost - \$15.00 Take an adventure around the island with activities and experiences at every stop! They come with explore gear, Binoculars, compass, flashlight, colored pencils and more! Over 5 Stops designed to enchant your day on the island and learn about our unique wildlife and geology of the Lake Erie Islands. Comes in a reusable tote bag. Available at the online shop or call for curbside pickup at Nature Center 419-285-3037. Visit <http://lakeerieislandswildlife.com/> for more information on events, school groups, or Nature Camp.

### ⇒ *Lantern Tour of Historic Hotel Victory Grounds, Put-in-Bay*

**Sunday August 2** from 7:30pm to 9:00pm; Cost - FREE. South Bass Island State Park will host a Lantern Tour of the infamous Hotel Victory grounds. This family event will start with a beautiful sunset at South Bass Island State Park and end at the Hotel Victory Swimming Pool Pavilion. The tour will highlight various still-existing features of the Hotel Victory, a history of the grounds, and exciting facts about life at the Hotel. Tour provided by Naturalist and Island Resident Renee Market.

### ⇒ *Eco-Tour, Put-in-Bay*

**Monday August 3** from 11am to 4pm; Cost- \$10.00 adult, under 18 FREE, on South Bass Island. Participants will start at The South Bass Island Lighthouse for a tour of the grounds! Participants will receive tour booklets, several goodies, freebies, and coupons from island businesses at the first stop, then head to Jane Coates Wildflower preserve for a tour, and wildflower lesson. Hour break for lunch, followed by a cave tour, and a hike through Massie Cliffside Preserve. The day will end at Scheeff East Point Preserve with a wine and cheese plate, a group photo, and a bird talk. Discounts at several restaurants, reduced entrance fees at attractions, and coupons for gift shops will be given to Island Eco-Tour participants. Proceeds will benefit the Put-in-Bay Township Park District and will be used to maintain and preserve island parks. Tour Guides will be Renee Market and Sarah Cochran, both

# 5th Annual Island Green Week—Summer 2020 Cont'd

(ISLAND GREEN WEEK Continued from page 15)

residents of Put-in-Bay, with years of insight, and natural resources education to share with all participants.

⇒ ***Stargazing Event, Put-in-Bay*** *\*Pre-Purchase of Tickets Recommended*

**Monday August 3** at 8pm; Cost - \$15. The stars will light up the sky as Cleveland State University instructor and astronomer, Jay Reynolds, will engage with the guests sharing information about the night sky, planets, and stars. Telescopes will be provided to offer guests an amazing opportunity to enjoy the show from outer space. **Bring your own chair, beverages, and food.** Proceeds will benefit the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center. Tickets are available at the Wildlife Center on Meechan Rd., or by credit card over the phone at 419-285-3037.

⇒ ***Tour of Historic Hotel Victory Grounds, Put-in-Bay***

**Tuesday August 4** from 1:30pm to 4:30pm; Cost - FREE. South Bass Island State Park will host a Tour of the infamous Hotel Victory grounds. This family event will start at the beautiful cliffs of South Bass Island State Park and end at the Hotel Victory Swimming Pool Pavilion. The tour will highlight various still-existing features of the Hotel Victory, a history of the grounds, and exciting facts about life at the Hotel. Tour provided by Naturalist and Island Resident Renee Market.

⇒ ***8th Annual Pig Roast & Raffle, Put-in-Bay*** *\*Pre-Purchase of Tickets Recommended*

**Wednesday August 5** from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Goat Restaurant; Cost - \$15 PICK UP ON SITE \$18 DELIVERY. Participants will be treated to a slow spit-roasted hog with tasty sides donated by local restaurants. There will be an online auction with a variety of unique island prizes such as: Ferry Passes, a biplane ride, gift certificates at local restaurants, and hand-crafted artwork. The proceeds from this event will benefit the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center. Tickets are available at the Wildlife Center on Meechan Rd., or by credit card over the phone at 419-285-3037.

⇒ ***Painting at the NATURE CENTER – Sunny Days Ahead, Put-in-Bay***

**Thursday August 6** at 6:00pm Cost - \$20.00. Come to the beautifully renovated Nature Center Back Porch for an evening of painting and nature. We will supply the materials and Mother Nature will supply the subject matter. Island artists will guide you to capture your subject on canvas. This event is open to ages 13+.

**BYOB event.** The proceeds from this event will benefit the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center. Tickets are available at the Wildlife Center on Meechan Rd., or by credit card over the phone at 419-285-3037.

⇒ ***Painting at the Lonz Pavilion – Brushing up with History, Middle Bass Island***

**Friday August 7** at 6:00pm Cost - \$30.00. Come to the beautifully renovated Lonz Pavilion for an evening of painting and history. We will supply the materials and Mother Nature will supply the subject matter. Island artists will guide you to capture your subject on canvas. This event is open to ages 13+. **BYOB event.** The Sonny-S Boat Line Inc. is available from the Boardwalk at Put-in-Bay to the main dock on Middle Bass. Sonny S. The Sonny S Ferry Prices are:

One-way fares, CASH ONLY. Adults (13+)- \$7.00, Children (6-12) \$3.00, Children (under 6) Free.

⇒ ***Historic South Bass Island Lighthouse Tours***

**Saturday, August 8**, 11am-5pm Cost: FREE. Tour the South Bass Island Lighthouse grounds, learn about its history, and see beautiful views including the Monarch Watch certified butterfly garden. On the National Register of Historic Places, this lighthouse is sure to impress.

**The following businesses have generously donated discounts, please support them during your visit to Put-in-Bay and Middle Bass Island.**

Ohio's Lake Erie Shores & Islands- <http://www.shoresandislands.com>

Heinemans Winery [www.heinemanswinery.com](http://www.heinemanswinery.com)

Park Hotel- <https://www.parkhotelpib.com>

Miller Boat Line- <https://www.millerry.com>

Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce- <http://www.visitputinbay.com>

The Boardwalk- <http://the-boardwalk.com>

Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory- <https://stonelab.osu.edu>

Island Bike Rental- [http://www.ibrcarts.com/public/bike\\_cart\\_rental](http://www.ibrcarts.com/public/bike_cart_rental)

Put-in-Bay Gazette- [pibgazette@frontier.com](mailto:pibgazette@frontier.com)

Put-in-Bay Historical Society- <http://www.leihs.org>

Jet Express- <https://jet-express.com>

E's Golf Cart- <https://www.esputinbaygolfcarts.com>

Ohio State Parks- <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov>

Frosty Bar- <http://frostys.com>

Cameo Pizza- <http://pitinbaycameopizza.com>

Transportation Discounts

**E's Golf Cart Rental-** \$10 off day rental, August 1-8th. For discount mention Island Green Week.

**Miller Boat Line,** - Discount to participants for passengers for Put-in-Bay and Middle Bass Islands.

**Island Bike Rental-** \$20 off day golf cart rental at the Jet Express and Lime Kiln Dock, Put-in-Bay on Monday to Friday ONLY. Mention Island Green Week.

Island Lodging Partner Discount

**Park Hotel,** <https://www.parkhotelpib.com> - August 3-6 Sunday through Thursday ONLY. Buy 2 weekday nights get 1 night FREE. **THIS DISCOUNT CAN ONLY BE RESERVED BY PHONE 419.285.3581.** Mention Island Green Week.

Commodore Resort Hotel, <https://www.commodoreresort.com/> - August 3, 4, and 5<sup>th</sup>, 10% Off all lodging.

**This Discount can only be reserved by PHONE: 419-285-3103,** must mention Island Green Week to receive discount.



# Introducing AmeriCorps Intern Olive O'Rourke Scherf *By Lisa Brohl*

Our AmeriCorps Intern chosen for the 2020 season is Olive O'Rourke Scherf. Olive will split her time and duties between the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center (LEINWC) and the Put-in-Bay Township



Preserves and at the Nature and Wildlife Center. Olive is a resident of Middle Bass Island and recently graduated from Lawrence Upper School. She will be majoring in Environmental Science at St. Mary's College this fall. Olive started with the Conservancy with Nature Camp at the age of 4. She has been a counselor for the LEINWC's Nature Camp the last few years as well as a volunteer for the Middle Bass Music Festival to benefit the Conservancy. Her parents are David Scherf and Shanny O'Rourke Scherf of Middle Bass. She has a love for wildlife, our environment, sustainability, gardening, music, reading, theater, and friends and family. Olive is quite excited to start off her job as the AmeriCorps Intern this summer!

We wish to thank Julene Market, John and Paula Ladd, Helen Brohl, Mary Brohl Nahan, David and Barb Nostrant and Joseph and Judith Janicki for their donations toward the AmeriCorps intern program.



preserves and at the Nature and Wildlife Center. Olive is a resident of Middle Bass Island and recently graduated from Lawrence Upper School. She will be majoring in Environmental Science at St. Mary's College this fall. Olive started with the Conservancy with Nature Camp at the age of 4. She has been a counselor for the LEINWC's Nature Camp the last few



Photos: Counterclockwise—Olive O'Rourke Scherf; Olive at Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve; Olive with donor Julene Market; Olive coming to work on first day

## Time to Party!! *By Lisa Brohl*

**Cooper's Woods Preserve  
and Middle Bass Island  
East Point Preserve  
Addition Dedications**

**& 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Lake Erie Island  
Conservancy Party**

# Coming soon!!



We will be postponing the August 2 dedication of the Cooper's Woods Preserve until the fall due to concerns with COVID-19. We will be planning a party for the 20th Anniversary of the Conservancy as well as the Cooper's Woods Preserve on South Bass. We will also plan a dedication of the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve Addition (Cleveland parcel) for

this fall as well. This has truly been a year to celebrate. If anyone would like to serve on a committee to plan these two events, contact Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087, 285-5811 or [leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com).

**Photos: Above—Cleveland Tract of MBIEPP; Below—Lisa Brohl at Cooper's Woods on closing night! CONGRATULATIONS!!**



(MIDDLE BASS ISLAND Continued from page 1)

by TC Energy and its subsidiary Columbia Gas Transmission's Leach XPress Pipeline Project in partnership with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Conservation Fund. The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund provided a large grant through their District 5. The remainder of the funds were provided by the Put-in-Bay Township Park District and donations from the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. We wish to thank the Cleveland family for working with us on the purchase, Neal Hess as conservation realtor, Marsha Collett as legal advisor, and Judy Twarek-Bickley of Hartung Title for her assistance.

Schmidlin Construction will be installing a split rail fence along the northern edge of the parcel, removing metal debris and an old storage barn for the park district. Because the old barn was home to bats, Casey Carty built a bullet bat house that will be put in place on site for the bats. We will eventually extend the current foot path through the Cleveland parcel as well. This summer EnviroScience will be visiting the preserve to remove some invasive trees and plants such as amur honeysuckle, callery pear, and English ivy.



**Photo: Judy Twarek-Bickley at closing for Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve Addition**

We are very excited to be able to preserve this beautiful terminus of Middle Bass Island. The rocky shores and reef that extends from the point are important fish and mussel habitat and great for shoreline fishing. The wooded shores are a perfect stopover habitat for migratory birds. The woods are an interesting mix with many Ohio Buckeye and Kentucky Coffeetree. Now the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve is almost 11 acres for walking, birding, and a stop on the Lake Erie Islands Water Trail. Paddle on over and enjoy the area! Closest kayaks for rent are from the Middle Bass Island State Park.

## Scheeff East Point Living Shoreline Project *By Lisa Brohl*



**Photo: Blair Trunk on trail at Scheeff East Point Preserve**

Our Scheeff East Point Preserve has been especially hard hit with the high water levels of Lake Erie this year. A lot of trees have been knocked over along the shore and the walking trail along the lake's edge has been moved inland.

We have been exploring a restoration/erosion project for the preserve titled Scheeff East Point Living Shoreline Project. We have been invited to the next round of grants for the National Fish and Wildlife Federation's Coastal Resiliency Program due June 25. EnviroScience has done a shoreline survey for us and is preparing a plan to help restore the wetlands and shoreline forests onsite. The Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory has old photos of the area which show a small ponded wetland near the point. This year the entire northeast corner of the preserve has been underwater all year with lots of wetland plants popping up. A boardwalk through this area would be a wonderful addition.

Please don't hesitate to contact Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087, 419-285-5811 or [leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com) if you can help design and/or build!



## 6<sup>th</sup> Middle Bass Island Poker Kayak Day!



### Cancelled for 2020 Planning for 2021!

#### Middle Bass Poker Kayak Day Cancelled By Tina M. Larson

Many thanks to Miller Ferry and to the MBI General Store for their wonderful support for this annual event to benefit the Put-in-Bay Township Park preserves on Middle Bass Island!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic: the challenges of social distancing for people

(especially with the nice weather!), the ease of viral transmission with laughing, talking, and joyful shouting, and the fact that most of our traditional volunteers are in a higher risk group, we're cancelling this year's event. However, it will be ROBUSTLY revived in 2021!!!

Please spread the word on any website Activity lists you may have. Thank you for your interest in this event, and we hope you and yours stay WELL!

## Monarch Island USA By Kelly Faris

Put-in-Bay Township Park District has become a member of Monarch Watch and has designated South Bass Island and Middle Bass Islands as "Monarch Islands." Hundreds of thousands of Monarch butterflies migrate through the islands each year.

The Monarch butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of people. The monarch annual cycle is quite extraordinary since it involves an overwintering phase that follows a long fall migration, a remigration in the spring and a succession of generations before the start of the next fall migration. This pattern is even more complex since it involves overlapping generations and a total of 4 migrations. Yes, 4 migrations.

In the last twenty years, the Monarch butterfly population has declined by 90 percent.

Based at the University of Kansas, Monarch Watch is a cooperative network of students, teachers, volunteers and researchers dedicated to the study of the Monarch butterfly and its spectacular fall migration.

The Park District will provide habitat for the Monarch and support and encourage the survival of the Monarch butterfly by reestablishing native milkweed plants and nectar plants. The milkweed plant, in particular, is an absolute necessary for the existence of the Monarch. The Monarch lays its eggs on milkweed.

"Monarch Island" signs have been placed at different locations on the Islands.

Put-in-Bay Township Park District protects and preserves unique areas that enhance the heritage of the Lake Erie Islands.

## Middle Bass Music Fest Update By Bruce Miles



After a lot of thought the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy has elected to cancel the Middle Bass Music Fest set for July 18, 2020. We were continuing to count on things getting back to normal but what is "normal" anymore? So in order to be prudent and safe we are going to just plan on 2021 for our next event.

We'd like to thank our sponsors for their support The Middle Bass Island State Park, The Middle Bass Dock Company, Lake Erie Shores and Islands, Ohio Arts Council, and of course all

our food and beverage providers Jimmy G's BBQ, the Port Clinton Rotary Perch Wagon, Stan Gebhart, Heinemann's Winery and Catawba island Brewing.

Our music this year – Cat's on Holiday, Sam Hooper Blues, The Island Band, The North Coast Goats and Sonic Blast. We are going to miss seeing everyone at the winery property.

Count on us being there in July 2021. Go to our web site for additional info on this and next year's event. [www.mbimusicfest.com](http://www.mbimusicfest.com)



Photo: One of the Monarch Island USA signs ready for installation

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# Summer at the Preserves a little different this year but still—Family Approved! \*See page 24 for additional details

## Purple Martin Banding Wednesday, July 8 *By Paula Ziebarth*

Tom Kashmir and Lisa Rock of the Green Creek Conservation Society will be here on the island on July 8, 2020 to band our purple martin colonies at the Scheeff East Point Preserve as well as at other island locations. We will be posting multiple videos of the banding on our website [www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org](http://www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org) and Facebook (both group and non-profit page for LEIC and one for PIBPTD)

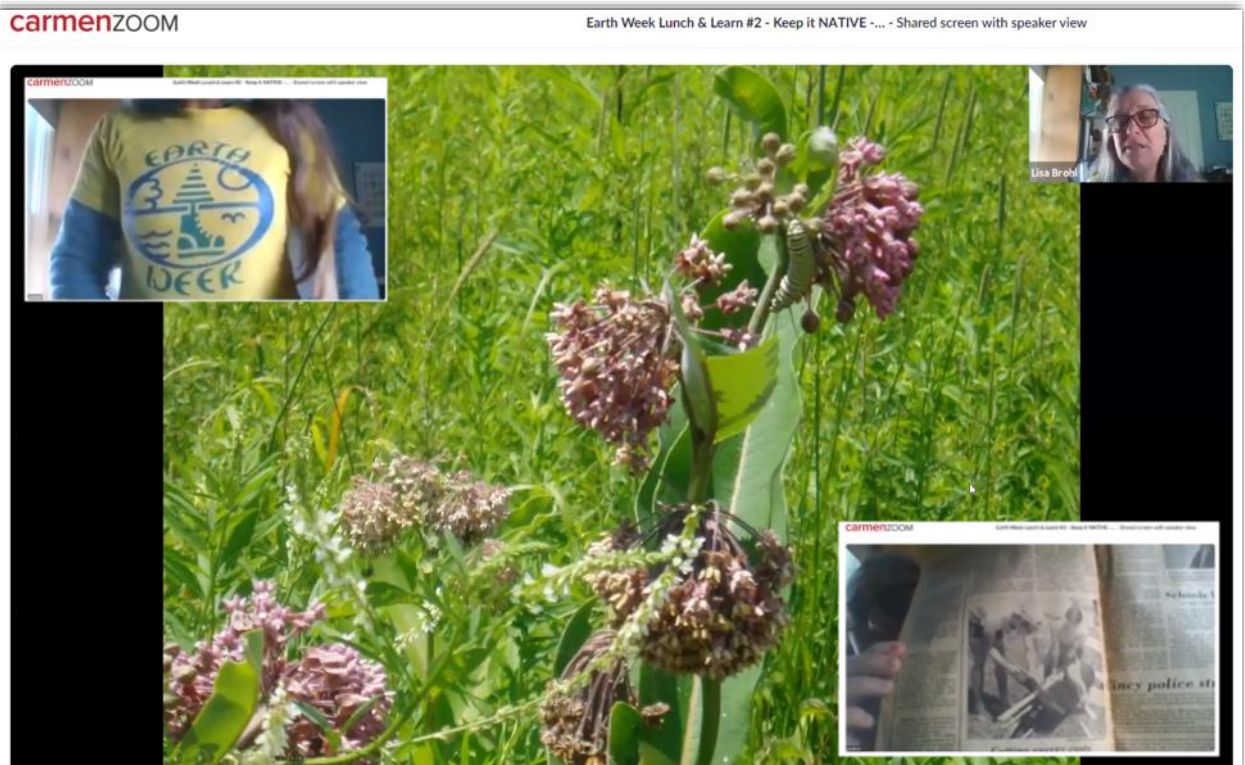
shortly after the event. We hope to do this in person again in 2021! If you have a colony of purple martins on South Bass Island, housing that can be easily accessed and have them properly protected with a stovepipe predator baffle, Tom and Lisa would be interested in banding your birds also. Contact us at [leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com) to arrange it.

## LEIC's Lisa Brohl Featured Speaker for The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's Green Team *By Michelle Pennington*

The Green Team at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in a big way this year. The Green Team focuses on sustainability initiatives for research, education, and patient care groups for all of the medical center. It is important to understand that, for us, sustainability means to foster environmental responsibility with new solutions and careful use of our resources. To commemorate the special 50th Anniversary, we decided to do our first-ever Lunch and Learn Series. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our Lunch and Learns quickly converted to a weeklong Webinar Series!

Invitations to speak went to these five amazing organizations/agencies.

**Day 1** brought Dr. Chris Winslow of OSU's Stone Laboratory who presented "Stone Laboratory: a Research and Education Destination Like No Other!" Stone Lab is OSU's fresh water field station on Gibraltar Island in Put-in-Bay harbor. **Day 2** brought Lisa Brohl of the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy who presented "Keep it NATIVE - and Why it Matters!" Lisa gave a very informative talk and provided a wonderful lead-in for the next day's speaker. Lisa also teaches *EEOB 1910: Introduction to Biological Studies - Local Plants* for OSU's Stone Lab every year! (See Inset Photos for a couple more of Lisa's exciting OSU connections!) **Day 3** brought Michael Retterer of the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative who presented "Pollinators 101: All you can, where you can!" It was a fantastic presentation about how many native pollinators depend on native plants as shared during Lisa Brohl's talk the



Photos: A slide showing a Monarch Caterpillar on swamp milkweed from Lisa Brohl's Native Plants talk; Left Inset—Lisa sporting her Earth Week t-shirt from 1979! Right Inset—Lisa showing the photo of her, John Lane, and Dave Crosby from a front page article on the first Earth Week in a 1979 OSU Lantern!!

previous day! **Day 4** brought Brenda Metcalf of the Environmental Education Council of Ohio who presented "Earth Day: Celebrate Yesterday - Actions for Today!" Brenda provided some neat history on Earth Day and shared some important tips to help preserve the environment! To wrap up the week of exciting presentations, on **Day 5** Ryan Bourgart of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency presented "Ohio's Environment: Overview of Statewide Environmental Conditions". Ryan's presentation was full of Ohio's environmental history and what the Ohio EPA's focus is today.

For a limited time, you can still catch the entire OSUWMC's Green Team Earth Week Webinar Series and see the bios for each speaker by going to <https://si.osu.edu/WMCearthday>.

What would we do without the Byrnes family?

# A Special THANKS...

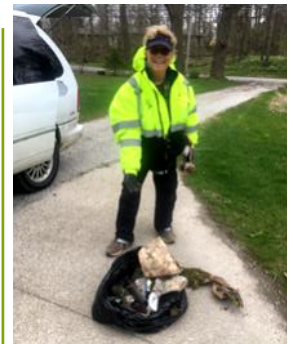


Joe and Mike Byrnes cleared downed trees from our trails this spring and removed tree of heaven from the Dodge Woods Preserve for Panther Pride.



### The Dynamic Volunteer Duo-Paula and Greg Ziebarth!

Greg and Paula Ziebarth were out early getting our purple martin rigs ready at the Scheeff East Point Preserve and putting new baffles on the tree Swallow boxes. They spent so much time at Dodge Woods and Cooper's Woods pulling garlic mustard—they are professionals!!



Susan Ferguson has been busy cleaning up garbage on our preserves.



Kate and Susan Byrnes spent some time cleaning up the Massie Cliffside and Scheeff East Point Preserves this spring.

Susan Byrnes is always out with her camera taking great shots for our grants, newsletter, Facebook!



Kate Byrnes folded, labeled, and mailed the spring LEIC newsletters this year.

**Thanks to all of you!!! We will miss our trail monitor Joe now that he is graduating from high school!**



Lisa Brohl was out this spring checking out the prothonotary warbler nest boxes and cleaning them for this year.

Looks like we had nesting house wrens and black-capped chickadee in them last year at the Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve-Burgundy Bay Tract and tree swallows at the Lawrence Evans Preserve shown here.



Thanks to Chris Helman, Cody

Burkey, Luke and Jennifer Spencer for all the mowing and removing a downed tree on trail at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve this spring. This is the crew that keeps the trail and preserve looking good for all of us to enjoy!! We can't thank them enough for their constant maintenance of our trails at the MBIEPP.

Gerald Shanley took care of a downed tree on the MBI East Point Preserve in the spring—luckily the only damage we had after the big storm.



Karen Wilhelm sprayed the poison ivy on the trail at the Dodge Woods Preserve with an ecologically safer herbicide of epsom salt, Dawn Dish detergent, and vinegar to make it safe for the users of the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® trail.

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Kostura Family-Joe, Suzanne, Ella, and Lucas  
Carl and Chris Krueger  
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## Donations in Memory of Muriel Sneller

Lisa and Russ Brohl

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Patrick Lawrence, for signage on Middle Bass  
Jen Miller through the United Way of Greater Toledo  
Robert A. Reuter Living Trust  
Joseph Rutter  
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With Plant Orders-Linda Bugoci, Dorothy Baker, Carol Roberts  
With Tote Order-Stacy and Alan Clink

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Zoe and Brad Titchener

## THANK YOU!

*Correction: In the 2020 Spring Newsletter listing for General Fund donations, the names listed were Joe and Suzanne Kozura. The correct names are Joe and Suzanne Kostura. We regret the error.*



*Don't forget! Become an annual sponsor of our newsletter for \$100. Place an ad in our newsletter and receive an annual Friend Membership FREE! Call 419-366-2087*

Background Photo: Great Horned Owl (GHOW) in DeRivera Park by Elizabeth Heineman




Photos: Tree Swallow (TRES) perching on box; Beautiful TRES pair Photos by Kelly Faris

## LEIC Membership Form

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

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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!**



## IN MEMORIAM

Muriel Sneller



We will miss LEIC member and local birder Muriel Sneller. Muriel passed away on March 20, 2020. We saw Muriel for many years at the Erie Islands Library where she helped us all find books we liked and regaled us with stories of her outdoor travels. We all enjoyed recycling our aluminum cans for the library with Muriel. Muriel was an early founder and frequent participant of the Audubon Christmas Bird count on the island. She has been a supporter of the Conservancy and her son Scott is a member as well. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, the Put-in-Bay Township Park District, the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society, or the Ottawa County Humane Society.

## Wetland Early Summer Blooms *By Lisa Brohl*



*Photos: Upper Row—Longbeak buttercup; Several flowers of Longbeak buttercup Lower Row—Cursed crowfoot; Swamp dock*

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Lisa Brohl

Michelle Pennington

Stay active and get some much needed fresh air with LEIC events—keep checking our website and Facebook pages for more info!



**August 1-8, 202 for Island Green Week**

**Fall 2020 for Anniversary and Preserve Celebrations—Stay tuned!!**

**July 17, 2021 for Middle Bass Music Festival**



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



## Important Announcement

**\*\*All LEIC associated Events scheduled for the coming months could potentially be cancelled due to the current COVID-19 global pandemic. Please watch Facebook or the LEIC Website (<https://lakeerieislandsconservancy.org/>) for updates.**

**Please Note:** While we are hoping you and your family are taking appropriate measures to stay safe as we all navigate this challenging time, please remember that the Island Preserves (<https://lakeerieislandsconservancy.org/maps-of-the-lake-erie-islands/>) are all open and a wonderful place for you to get out and get some fresh air and exercise with your family. *(Please remember: If you're taking your pets with you, make sure to follow posted rules—on leash, use provided doggie bags, etc.)*

**Please maintain a recommended distance of 6 feet from other preserve visitors while on the trails and do not congregate as a group in the parking areas. Also, please refrain from touching benches or brochure boxes with your hands unless using sanitizer.**

**If you would like to support our conservation efforts, click [here](#) or go to our website shown above and look for the Donate Button.**