

ISLAND

Lake Erie Islands
Conservancy
Presents



GREEN SCENE

Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2020



You're Invited

Everyone is cordially invited
to the
Dedication
of

Cooper's Woods Preserve
on

Thursday, Sept. 24th, 2020
at 2:30 p.m.

in the Preserve Parking Lot

Adjacent to Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church
on Catawba Ave., Put-in-Bay, Ohio

Immediately following the dedication, please join us for light refreshments at the Goat Restaurant on Catawba Ave., Put-in-Bay, Ohio. Masks must be worn and social distancing will be observed.

The dedication is sponsored by the Put-in-Bay Township Park District, The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy and the Goat Restaurant.

The Conservancy will also hold a short meeting at 3:30 p.m. at the Goat Restaurant to elect board members and officers.

Cooper's Woods Preserve and MBEPP-Cleveland and Manderbach Dedication Dates Announced!

Come celebrate the dedications of several of our newest preserved areas! You can catch the Cooper's Woods Preserve Dedication on Thursday, September 24th and you can catch the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve-Cleveland and Manderbach Dedications on Thursday, October 1st (make sure to check out the invitation photos shown here).

The old saying, "It takes a village." really rings true when you consider the effort that went into preserving Cooper's Woods! What a great way to celebrate that and 20 years of preserving island treasures like Massie's Cliffside Preserve, Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve, and many more!!

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

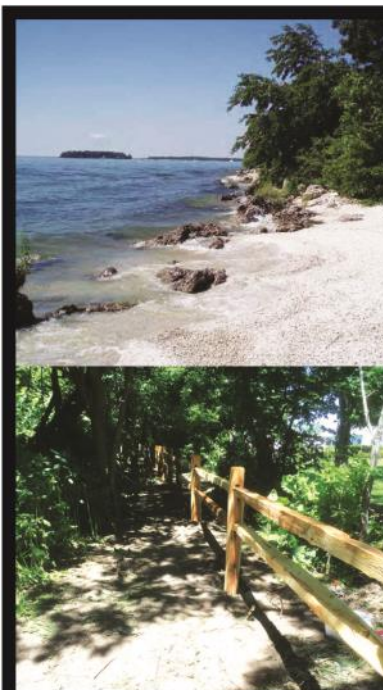
Speaking of Future Generations.... Here is Alana Shaffer watering some of the new trees planted at Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve! More about the "planting party" on pg. 13!

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Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve-Cleveland and Manderbach Dedications October 1st, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District and Lake Erie Islands Conservancy are excited to announce there will be a dedication Thursday, October 1st, at 2:00 p.m. at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve to dedicate the newly acquired Cleveland and Manderbach tracts. A new kiosk and sign will be unveiled and light refreshments served. Additionally, there will be bird banding at the Preserve for visitors to enjoy!

RSVP by email at leiconservancy@gmail.com or text or call at 419 366-2087. Please be reminded there is no public parking at the preserve which is accessed by foot, bicycle or kayak. Masks must be worn and social distancing will be observed.

Ohio Division of Wildlife—Wildlife Diversity Partners Meeting *By Lisa Brohl*



Photo: 2021 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp Photo by Deborah Morrison

LEIC Chair Lisa Brohl participated in the annual Wildlife Diversity Partners meeting held by the Ohio Division of Wildlife By zoom this year on August 28, 2020. The meeting was opened with a talk by Division Chief Kendra Wecker from her front porch. She was happy to announce that the Division has been working on the purchase of 40,000 acres (31,000 to Division of Wildlife and the remainder to the Division of Parks) of AEP property in southeast Ohio. The area will be known as the Appalachian Hills and will be the Division of Wildlife's largest contiguous property in Ohio! She also mentioned that the Recovering America's Wildlife Act which was attached to the Transportation Bill cleared the House and is waiting in the Senate. This Act will provide funding for State Wildlife programs which have provided funding for our island projects in the past. LEIC, PIBTPD, and LEINWC are in support of this effort.

Kendra mentioned the difficulties of COVID-19 but that outdoor recreation has boomed as a result. Fishing License sales have gone up 11% and youth license sales of hunting and fishing have gone up as well. Paddle sports are exploding with 45% of Boat License sales in Ohio now coming from non-motorized craft like canoes and kayaks! The Ohio Division of Wildlife is working on their new website to be available soon. Check out their new app [HuntFishOH \(https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/hunting-resources/huntfishoh-mobile-app\)](https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/hunting-resources/huntfishoh-mobile-app)

to buy licenses, wildlife diversity stamps, and download maps of State Wildlife Areas. The mobile app is available for Android and iOS users and can be found in the app store.

The date for the 2020 Wildlife Diversity Conference will be March 2, 2021 but the format is still undecided. The last few years it has been attended by over 900 individuals interested in wildlife diversity and is a great resource.

Logan Oates is now heading up the social media for ODOW-a very important and busy position with COVID! ODOW now has Facebook for not only the Division but also Hunter, Explorer, Angler. They have an Instagram, Twitter and a new LinkedIn.

Laura Kern spoke of ODOW Research efforts which have included the first Bald Eagle nest survey since 2012 done this past year. Results can be found at https://ohiodnr.gov/static/documents/wildlife/wildlife-management/baldeaglereport2020census_final.pdf

Ottawa County led the state with 90 nests. Over 700 bald eagle nests were documented by this Citizen Science Report.

John Navaro of the Fish Management and Research Division reported a new publication Crayfish of Ohio by Roger Thoma will be available in early

(Continued on page 9)

Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Tote Bag, T-shirts for Sale *By Lisa Brohl*



Photo: LEIC Member Carol Roberts modeling new LEIC sailcloth bags by Jill Cooks.

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.

We have both solid color Conservancy t-shirts for adults made in the USA with organic cotton and tie-dyed print shirts for kids for sale as well. \$20 each (see below right).

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. They will also be available at the September 24, 2020 annual meeting/Cooper's Woods Preserve dedication.



LEIC T-shirts Available!

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 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!



Photo: LEIC board members Marsha Collett and Nancy Welter with gifts of appreciation from the Conservancy

Thanks Lake Erie Islands Conservancy board member Nancy Welter for your assistance on our Middle Bass projects and your hard work in Middle Bass Music Festival! Nancy has moved from Middle Bass to Huron, Ohio. You will be missed-good luck with your new ventures! She will join our advisory board for the Conservancy so she can still share her expertise with us all.



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NEWS INFORMATION PHOTOS

PiBDaily

www.putinbaydaily.com

Thank You Jamie! *By Lisa Brohl*

The Conservancy would like to sincerely thank webmaster Jamie Berger of the Cranky Pressman and Graphite and Lead companies for his great work on our website. Jamie revamped our site in 2015 and has maintained it ever since. Jamie's great knowledge of web tech, imagination, and keen eye for detail has kept us improving and moving forward with our Conservancy image. We appreciate all his efforts and look forward to continuing to work with him on our Middle Bass Music Festival promotion. Jamie designed the Music Festival t-shirts with the Benny on Bass character that everyone loves! Watch for them in 2021! Jamie has done great work for our Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center also

CRANKY PRESSMAN



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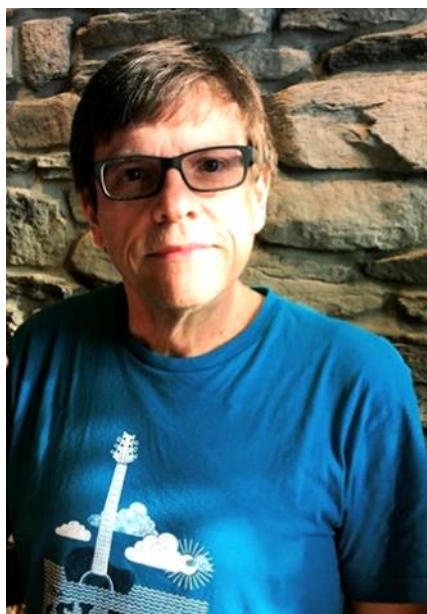


Photo: The infamous "Cranky" Jamie Berger!

publishing our bird lists. Keep him in mind for other future work you may need at jamie@crankypressman.com or www.crankypressman.com.

Native Tree Sale *By Lisa Brohl*

More native trees getting good homes! LEIC Board member Ken Farber delivering hop trees to Dorthy Baker in July. Kelly Faris with new tree for the Village Bathing Beach ordered by the Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission. Art and Suzie Otermat ordered two oaks for the High Shores property. Thanks to Riverside Native Trees and QRST for working with us and for our customers!



Photos: Susie and Art Otermat; Ken Farber and Dorthy Baker; Kelly Faris with bur oak for Village Bathing Beach

More Island Birds



Photos: Immature Bald Eagle at the Petersen Woods Preserve by Emmy Shook; Osprey at Sarah Toole's on West Shore; Indigo Bunting at Kit Knaser's feeder on Mitchell Road, Put-in-Bay; Black-crowned night heron at Petersen Woods

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for details.

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Trail Comments from Visitors! *By Lisa Brohl*

Jane Coates Wildflower Trail

Beautiful Place-So Serene! I want this in my own backyard!

Happy 50th Birthday F and D Thomas June 18, 2020

I wish the rest of the island was as peaceful as this. Beautiful short walk thru the woods.

Massie Cliffside Preserve

Nice walking trail beautiful!

Here many times. Love the view from the benches!

Best Spot on the whole island. Beautiful sunset spot! Butler PA June 2020

4 Year Old Birthday Walk. Beautiful and saw snakes with a view!

Dodge Woods Preserve

Wonderful Idea!

Came from Maine to visit your prestigious trail-Machias Maine heard on Google

Two from Kent Ohio listed their source of info as Julene Market!

Very beautiful! Saw 12 snakes. Nice walk!

Most counted snakes on their walk-one visitor said he saw one right below LEWS sign!

Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve

Best Kept Secret! Don't build Trail from the Road!-read about on MBI State Park board

My favorite place to come on the worst days.

Trail Challenge brought them-We are birders and hikers-this is a great place! Bay Village Ohio

Scheeff East Point Preserve

Pleasant Walk in the Woods on a beautiful sunny day 7/23/19 Jamestown NY

Most said they happened onto our parks but did see some mention Trail Challenge, PIB Gazette, Social Media, PIBCC Maps as other ways they heard about our preserves. How Exciting!

Background Photo: Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve Monarchs observed by Chris Helman during the 2018 "Monarch Invasion"

Black Witch Moth *By Lisa Brohl*

Quite by chance John and Peggy Leopold found this gem of a moth the evening of August 8, 2020 at their home at Put-in-Bay. It was a BLACK WITCH moth (*Ascalapha odorata*), normally found in southern states and as far south as Brazil. It is an irregular immigrant sometimes hurricane driven. So exciting! There was one other record on South Bass Island of an entomology student of Dr. Dave Horn's from Stone Laboratory. He found the moth for his collection at Perry's Victory spotlights one evening after a night spent downtown. Congratulations on a great find as reported on the Facebook group Mothing Ohio!



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PUMA Banding *By Lisa Brohl*

The Green Creek Wildlife Society and Paula Ziebarth arranged the banding of the young purple martins at the nesting gourd rigs at the Scheeff East Point Preserve on July 10. Tom Kashmer, Lisa Rock, Paula Ziebarth, Helen Hollis, Mike Laconis, and AmeriCorps intern Olive O'Rourke Scherf all pitched in to help. Tom Kashmer reported that 174 young purple martins were banded at the Scheeff East Point Preserve. They also banded 121 birds at Paula Ziebarth's house and 33 at her neighbors, Audrey Borchert and 11 at Lisa Brohl's, and 31 at the South Bass Island Lighthouse for a grand total of 404 banded for the day!

Thanks to Paula Ziebarth, Darlene Sillick and the Columbus Zoo for the great gift of the purple martin colonies! And to Paula and our volunteers for maintaining them! We appreciate the assistance of Miller Boat Line with passenger fare for our banders and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy for paying for the vehicle transportation.

More pictures at the www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org and enjoy videos from a camera inside the nesting boxes of Dave Marshall, a resident of the West Shore of South Bass Island. Thanks Dave for sharing! Purple martins are great to have around as they eat lots and lots of insects—even mosquitoes—timing their nesting around the abundant mayfly population!



Photos: Top—Purple martin rigs at Scheeff East Point Preserve entrance Middle—Young purple martin in bucket; Paula Ziebarth, Lisa Rock, and Mike Laconis Bottom—Tom Kashmer and Mike Laconis retrieving birds; Tom and Mike; Banding station; Young purple martin Photos by Olive O'Rourke Scherf

LEIC and PIBTPD Wish List

As we wander down the trails into fall, the trees will be changing colors all around us! There is still much work to do before winter gets an icy grip! Do let us know if you can help out with any of these items at 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!
- Historian for LEIC and PIBTPD
- Larger Office Space
- Office chair
- 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 971XL—must not be generic)

- Golf Cart for Seasonal 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 MBI East Point Preserve. The approximate cost is \$900—you can have your name put on the top of the bicycle rack.
- 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 or contact Lisa at 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)



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Phenomenal Phenology: Chimney Swift Staging *By Madame WingNut*

9-4-20

The dictionary defines “phenology” as “the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life.” I hope to write an article about the natural phenomena happening around us for each newsletter and this issue is all about Chimney Swifts, *Chaetura pelagica*.

Everyone is aware of the general changes in season, from spring to summer to fall to winter. Some of us, bird nerds like myself, are aware of the timetables of different bird species. Some species remain with us throughout the winter while others migrate back to breed on the Bass Islands. Many of these have left us now to migrate south to their wintering grounds, but some birds are still getting ready for that journey and Chimney Swifts are one of these.

any evening. Try to get a count (I estimate in groups of ten) and let us know that you see! Fun to do with kids. The word is out and I understand that over 30 people were counting birds last weekend. Your bird counts are definitely estimates and I like to average the numbers from those counting with me. I submit this data for citizen science to ebird. You can let us know how many birds you count by posting on Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Facebook page.

Chimney Swifts are amazing birds. During daylight hours, they fly almost constantly, eating flying insects and even drinking on the wing by skimming the surface of the water with their bills. They cannot perch like most birds, but cling to vertical surfaces at night to rest. Their long claws are well suited for this purpose. Many people confuse them with swallows, but their closest avian relative is



Photos: Chimney Swift by Rob Curtis of Illinois; Screen capture from video of Chimney Swift Staging at The Aquatic Visitors Center on Put-in-Bay; Chimney Swift Nest by Bird Studies Canada

One of the most amazing natural spectacles you can see on the islands or elsewhere is Chimney Swift staging. Once the young leave the nest, Chimney Swifts from an area begin staging for their migration in the fall. They find a tall shaft, chimney or similar structure to drop into at night, clinging to the vertical walls, side by side conserving body heat and energy in preparation for their migration to their wintering grounds in the upper Amazon basin of Peru, Ecuador, Chile, and Brazil. Large industrial chimneys can accommodate hundreds or even thousands of swifts. We begin observing these roosts at the end of July, populations peak around the first week of September (on the Bass Islands) and birds are gone from the area by the end of October. On South Bass Island, the large chimney at The Aquatic Visitors Center serves as a roost for birds on the island.

I began counting Chimney Swifts in late August this year entering the industrial chimney at The Aquatic Visitors Center on South Bass Island. On 8-30-20 three of us counted 469 birds going in just after sunset. On September 6, that number increased to 511. A “bird tornado” formed over the chimney and they all dropped inside in about 20 minutes. Anyone can go out there and watch them during

actually the hummingbird.

They have a 12.5 inch wing span and they cannot tuck their wings in like most birds. One pair will nest in a masonry chimney (late April through July) if you leave chimney uncapped or provide cut-out in the cap to accommodate that wingspan as LEIC Chairman Lisa Brohl has done. Leave the damper closed during nest season so young don’t end up in your fireplace when they begin exercising their wings. These birds historically nested in hollow trees, but due to agricultural clearing of land and then loss of most man-made nesting sites due to chimney capping, this species has declined by 72% since 1966. Many conservation groups have erected Chimney Swift Towers to help these birds out and LEIC has a breeding tower located at Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve.

Sometimes called “flying cigars”, this wonderful euphemism captures the sight of their stubby bodies flanked by the rapid beating of strong wings. Listen for the twittering call of these birds overhead as they feed on flying insects, especially at dusk. Go to www.chimneyswifts.org to learn more about these fascinating birds.

(Continued on page 10)

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Dodge Woods Preserve Addition

By Lisa Brohl

We are pleased to announce that the Put-in-Bay Township Park District purchased an .7478 acre addition to the Dodge Woods Preserve on Friday with funds from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. It will be additional habitat and a buffer to the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® Trail in place now. Thanks to John Dodge family and Bridget Wise for working with us!! And thanks to all of you members who make the donations to keep making this land protection happen!

A special thank you to John for selling us his property at less than appraised value—a partial bargain sale. This qualifies as a tax deduction for him—can aid property owners who may have capital gains issues. It also helps our Park District as we have less \$\$ to raise—it qualifies as part of the 25% match required for Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grants. Something to consider if you have family properties that you would like to see the Conservancy or Park District preserve!



Photo: Judy Twarek-Bickley of Hartung Title and Lisa Brohl of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District at closing



Invasive Reminder

By Lisa Brohl

Make sure to remove any of the invasive Purple Loosestrife wherever you see it. It may be pretty to look at but is very bad news for native plants. In fact, the Ohio Environmental Council says that Purple Loosestrife crowds out at least 44 native plant species, including the federally endangered wild orchids and swamp rose mallow. Learn more at <https://theoec.org/blog/purple-loosestrife-lythrum-salicaria/>.

Great Blue Heron By Lisa Brohl

Lee Hisey called Lisa Brohl in August with a report of a great blue heron who seemed to be sick on Middle Bass at the Hazard's condominiums. A call went into Back to the Wild, a wildlife rehabilitation center in Castalia, Ohio for advice. If the bird could be transported to the Center, they would see what they could do. Teddi Keith Morris and Bob Stausmire picked up Lisa and Russ Brohl to meet Lee. Lisa was able to catch the bird and she and Russ transported it by boat to South Bass and then to Catawba on the Miller Ferry. There she was met by Lynda David and her neighbors Charlie Miller and Julie Modrzejewski who drove the bird to Back to the Wild. Thanks to the rescue team and to Miller Boat Line for help in rescuing the bird. Unfortunately, the bird was so emaciated and weak that it did not make it. Back to the Wild does wonderful work—we are lucky to have them here in our community! They have provided us with a pet carrier and Kevlar gloves to use for transports. Check them out at www.backtothewild.org.



Photos: Clockwise—Great Blue Heron being transported; Lee Hisey and Theodora Keith Morris; Lynda David and her neighbors Charlie Miller and Julie Modrzejewski drove the bird to Back to the Wild

LEIC Requests Historian By Lisa Brohl



Historian: “An expert in or student of history, especially that of a particular period, geographical region, or social phenomenon”

LEIC is looking to membership to designate an historian among us! This person does not have to be an expert! We want the history of LEIC documented in timeline stories. There are many old newsletters and documents to mine from. There are also a score of old newspaper clippings that could be featured in the monthly newsletter as throw back gems.

Many members also have bits of the history that could be woven into these timeline pieces...It needs to be compiled into one document and updated as our journey continues.

There is NO PRESSURE or time frame for this role – contact Linda Shull or Lisa Brohl if you are interested.

South Bass Island Bird Report

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

The nesting 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. In addition to their normal flying insect prey, they can eat some berries when they return to us which helps them survive the cold snaps and wintry weather of early spring. In 2020, nest boxes that I monitor fledged 203 Tree Swallows. Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve and my home boxes fledged a record number of Tree Swallows this season with quite a few large broods of 8 young in some boxes. New predator baffles, barrier pest control for ants and wasps, and an abundance of flying insects this year helped these birds do very well. Homeowners interested in housing Tree Swallows can readily attract them next March with a nest box mounted on a pole with predator baffle.



Purple Martins, North America's largest swallow, return to the Lake Erie islands in early April. 404 young fledged from housing I help monitor on South Bass Island this year. AmeriCorps intern Olive O'Roarke was a big help monitoring birds at Scheeff this season. Purple Martins are currently staging in large roosting flocks and will soon wing their way to their wintering grounds in Brazil.

House Wrens like to nest in wood-edge habitat and we have nest boxes sited for them at Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and Dodge Woods Preserve. They really took to the 5-box trail at Dodge Woods this year, fledging 34 young.

2020—Birds Fledged

TRAIL	TRES	BARS	HOWR	PUMA	EUST*	HOSP*
Airline Road	82	20		143		15
Duggan				39	1	3
Woodland Trails (Jane Coates, Dodge Woods and Wildlife Center)	7		34			1
Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve	99			194		6
South Bass Island Lighthouse	15			28		3
TOTAL	203	20	34	404	1	28

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.



Photos: Above-Large Tree Swallow clutch of 8 eggs; Left-Purple Martins hatching at Scheeff; Right-House Wren chicks at Dodge Woods

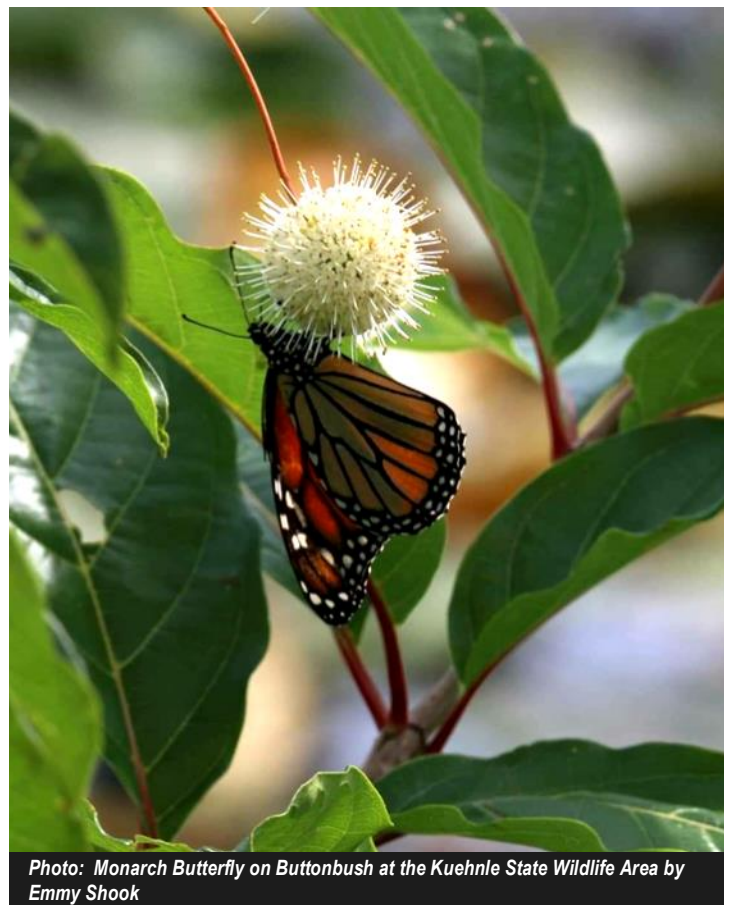


Photo: Monarch Butterfly on Buttonbush at the Kuehnle State Wildlife Area by Emmy Shook

(OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE Continued from page 2)

2021 and continuing work with lake sturgeon reintroduction and acoustic fish monitoring.

Private landowner Al Blythe gave a talk on restoring your home and yard. He mentioned the most important things to remember are to manage and eliminate monocultures such as grass, get rid of invasive plants where possible, maintain plant diversity and edge and always plant native plants whenever possible. Native plant diversity equals wildlife diversity! Great Advice!

Time was given for each entity to provide a slide and update on their activities. Lisa represented the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center and the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. Division Chief Wecker referred to our efforts at preserving Cooper's Woods as an example of the perseverance needed to protect wildlife habitat!

There was a chat board where all exchanged information. Great tips were given. One was ways to keep birds from colliding with windows- www.birdsavers.com and www.featherfriendly.com.

Matt Shumar of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative mentioned their publication Managing Small Forest patches for Birds: A Guide for Ohio Landowners was available online at <http://obcnet.org/healthy-forest-management/small-patch-forest-management/>

Keith Lott of the USFWS discussed work on possible threatened and endangered species, Monarch CCAA as well as possible threatened or endangered status for 3 bat species-little brown, tri-colored (formerly eastern pipistrelle), and northern long-eared bat.

The most fun part of the meeting is getting to vote on the beautiful photographs for the Wildlife Legacy Stamp each year. This year's photo subject was the Northern Cardinal. Consider buying this stamp each year to help fund Wildlife Diversity projects. Benefits of owning a stamp include a discount on State Park Lodges. Well worth the cost of the stamp!! <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/buy-and-apply/gifts-and-mechandise/wildlife-legacy-stamp>

AmeriCorps Intern Report *By Lisa Brohl*

We were happy to have Olive O'Rourke Scherf as our AmeriCorps intern shared by our Conservancy, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, and Put-in-Bay Township Park District this summer. Time goes fast and we wish Olive good luck with her studies at St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana this fall! We enjoyed working with her and she will continue some projects from college.



Photos: Clockwise—Olive O'Rourke Scherf and Paula Ziebarth; Olive at Petersen Woods Preserve; Renee Fultz, Olive Scherf and Lisa Brohl

(PHENOMENAL PHENOLOGY Continued from page 7)

Valerie Chornyak submitted questions and I will try to answer them here:

Q- "What time do they come out of the chimney in the morning?"

A – Those who know me will understand that I have never actually counted them coming out of the chimney because it begins very early in the morning. I have been told that some may begin coming out just before dawn and others, warm and cozy and snuggly (temperatures in chimney due to their body heat can be 70 degrees warmer than outside air temperatures on cold nights) in their roost chimney may not come out until later that morning (like me...) That is why we count just after sunset because they all drop in at the same time before it gets dark.

Q – "Will they be there tomorrow? Weekend?"

A – YES! Show starts every evening from about 10 minutes after sunset until dark from late July through about mid-October.

Q – "How do you know they are here?"

A – Historically, they will use large chimneys like this one and you just have to find "the" chimney in your area. I believe all of the chimney swifts on South Bass are using this chimney to roost right now and others from surrounding islands might as well (not sure). In other parts of Ohio or the country, look and listen for the activity at dusk near large industrial chimneys.

Q – "Where do they go during the day?"

A – Right now, they are patrolling the airspace around the island, eating small flying insects all day long. Amazing, endless energy. You

can help these birds by eliminating use of pesticides or allowing a pair to nest in your chimney in the spring/summer months.

Q – "Is it the same group?"

A – Yes and no. The same ones on the island will pack in the chimney, but they will begin to head south and do this over a few weeks time. Some new ones may come from the north as some of these head south. Really not sure, but I think this is right.

C- "Everyone was fascinated. Some live so close and never knew." (Valerie Chornyak)

C- "You have no idea how much this meant to me. It was a highlight of my summer!!!!!" (Sara Booker)

Madame WingNut is LEIC Board Member Paula Ziebarth. She is also an Ottawa County Area Contact for the Ohio Bluebird Society

MBIEPP Improvements *By Lisa Brohl*

We are excited to watch as things shape up at our new addition to the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve-the Cleveland Tract. Old barn removed, new bat house installed, fencing up, and new trail cut. The Park District worked with Schmidlin Construction on this project. They have also been installing our signage at other preserves on the Middle Bass Island. We have been happy to partner with Karl Schmidlin and Schmidlin Construction on these projects. We were shocked and saddened to hear of his passing this past month-he will be missed! Thanks to Del Taylor for doing our late season mowing at the preserve as well.



Photos: Clockwise—Homon helping; Along new fence at Cleveland; New fence at Cleveland; Path at Main Gate; Homon shoveling; Newbat house

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Lee Hisey
Lake Erie Islands

Fall Adventures Await—And maybe a sale or two! *See page 16 for additional details

Island Wide Garage Sale—Saturday, September 26

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy will be participating in the Island Wide Garage Sale to be held on Saturday September 26, 2020 from 9:00am to 5:00pm with tables at the John and Paula Ladd residence at the corner of Catawba and Lorain Avenue. We will have t-shirts, tote bags, and jams and jellies for sale. If you would like to donate any items for sale that day, please bring in a box with your name with

suggested pricing that morning at 8:30am. We will ask that you pick up later anything that does not sell. Stacy Clink will be organizing for us. Questions contact her at ? or Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087 or leiconservancy@gmail.com. The Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center will also have sales items at our location this year for purchase.

Winter Wild Bird Seed Sale—Now through November 1

Have your winter wild bird seed supply delivered to your island residence! We will be selling Winter Wild Bird Seed to benefit the 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, cracked corn 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.

Please get your order in before November 1 to have it delivered to your island residence. To order, check out our website at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org or call Kelly or Marty Faris at 419-285-4772 or kelmar@thirdplanet.net or leiconservancy@gmail.com. Delivery will be in mid November.

A Special THANKS... (We had so many helping we had to add a section!!)



LEIC Board Member Linda Shull and her husband Joe shown here were out stocking our preserve boxes with LEIC brochures and PIBTPD Trail Challenge booklets. We are appreciative of the donations in the boxes at Scheeff East Point Preserve, Massie Cliffside Preserve, and the Dodge Woods Preserve. Linda and Olive were out in August too taking care of the recycling bins and the brochure boxes.



Suzie and Art Otermat have been taking good care of the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and the Ladd Carr Wildlife Woods. They removed 4 buckets of glass and metal cans and bottles from the woods in one weekend!



Burns Pierce took down a black cherry hanging high over the trail at the Cooper's Woods Preserve after a recent windstorm. He also took down a problem tree at Jane's Trail. Thanks, Burns for your continued support!

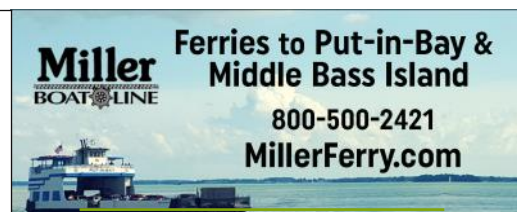


Sue and Jenna Prahst were out clearing brush from in front of the sign at the back entrance of the Massie Cliffside Preserve.

We are lucky to have Chris Helman at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve mowing the trails there. Thanks AmeriCorps intern Olive O'Rourke Scherf for keeping the trail into the Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve mowed this summer as well. We are happy that Bruce Miles retired to Middle Bass this year as he mulched the trail.



Ken Farber and son Cameron removed a large branch from the Cooper's Woods Preserve Trail there too after the storm. They also removed one that was down on Ken's Trail at the Massie Cliffside Preserve. Ken also helped with clearing the entrance to Dodge Woods!





A Special THANKS...



Karen Wilhelm's husband Mark installed directional arrows on the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® portion of the trail at Dodge Woods while Karen was working her magic with the non-toxic spray for poison ivy as seen in the last issue. (*Spray Ingredients: Dawn Dish Liquid, Vinegar, and Epsom Salts*)



Del Taylor did the annual mowing of the MBIIPP for a maximum habitat value. Thank you Del!



Thanks, Teddi Keith-Morris for babysitting these eastern red cedar for our Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve Cleveland Tract. The trees were donated by Kathy Kowalski of South Bass Island. This lively group planted the eastern red cedars at the MBIIPP Cleveland Tract this August-Ken and Ann Shelton, Tom and Paula Bartlett, Lisa Brohl, Olive Scherf, Nancy Welter and Teddi Keith Morris. This will make a future grove of cedars that hopefully saw-whet owls will love! Tom Bartlett and Nancy Welter also installed a Monarch Island sign at the preserve as well. Ken and Ann Shelton's grandchildren, Caleb and Alana Shaffer, watered the trees.



Susan Ferguson was out picking up garbage again at the Cooper's Woods Preserve.



The Put-in-Bay Township Park District has provided a Monarch Island sign for the great monarch habitat provided by Bill Duhigg on Fox Rd. on Middle Bass Island.



Russ Brohl and Bruce Miles did a great job mulching the trees at the MBIIPP Cleveland Tract.



Nancy Welter passed the gate key to the MBIIPP to trail monitor Teddi Keith Morris. They both do a wonderful job of keeping an eye on everything there!

We appreciate Julene Market for her thank-you note writing skills!

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Charles Hisey
Tommy Klatt
Karen Leadbetter
4 Others Anonymous



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THANK YOU!

Background Photo: Summer at Massie Cliffside Preserve

Cooper's Woods Work *By Lisa Brohl*

It has been wonderful watching as the new signs, fencing, bicycle rack, trail entrance mulching and benches are installed at the Cooper's Woods Preserve. It is watching a 23 year old dream come true! The Put-in-Bay Township Park District hired Gump Construction to do the work-a good partnership with Richard Gump, Kenny Fox, Eric Nowak, Nicki French, and shown here Luke Lydon working on the project.



*Photos: Clockwise—Luke Lydon working on trail;
New marked trail entrance; Kenny Fox and Richard
Gump prepping sign for install; Another view from beautiful trail entrance;
Luke Lydon mulching around Cooper's Woods informational sign*



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



___\$1000 Life

Name _____

Spouse/Companion _____

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Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

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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!

*To join LEIC online, please go to <https://lakeerieislandsconservancy.org/membership/>



Photo: Linda Shull issuing Membership Challenge

Membership Challenge *By Linda Shull*

We are the best advocates for our Conservancy and the future of land preservation on the Bass Islands! As a membership co-chairperson, I am asking each of you to invite a family member or friend to join the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. It is money well spent and the benefits to the members and conservancy are immense. Together we have done so much and the future is bright.

Speaking of bright, we have added THREE new Life Members this past quarter (see special section on pg. 14) and one, Carley Tobias, joined when he saw the [Facebook](#) request recently!!

Check out our website to join www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org! Or use the cut and clip membership form in this newsletter (above). We have extra newsletters to distribute if you need them.

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Newsletter Editors

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!



December 20, 2020 for Lake Erie Islands Count Circle—Audubon Christmas Bird Count

March 2, 2021 for Ohio Division of Wildlife—Wildlife Diversity Conference,

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.