

Goal Reached For Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve!



Photos: Above—Lisa Brohl accepting donation check from Scott Jackson of The Goat Biergarten Lower Right—Some Board Members! Front row: Colleen Kerkay, Peggy Leopold, Marsha Collett, PIBTPD Board member Kendra Koehler, and Lisa Brohl Back row: Bruce Miles, Brian Alford, Kelly Faris

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy is excited to announce that we have reached our fundraising goal to purchase the Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve. The Put-in-Bay Township Park District will be closing on the two-acre woods first and then the remaining 4.5 acres of buildings, field, and lakefront in the next few months. Financial assistance for the project has come from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, the Park District of Ottawa County, the Julene M. Market Fund, and other sources.

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy also received a number of donations from private individuals as noted in our New and Renewing member section. The LEIC is extremely grateful to all of you donating to this project!

The LEIC is grateful for the generosity of Scott and Caroline Jackson for their donation of the proceeds of beer/food sales at the Biergarten at the Goat on Saturday May 20, 2023, \$5,333.71 in all!! The location gave us a great spot to hold a basket raffle and silent auction to raise an additional \$12,000!! Thanks to Kendra Koehler and Colleen Kerkay for assembling baskets and to Susan Thwaite at the Picnic Basket, Kevin Daily and Mary McCann at the Boat House, Dan Savage at the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society, Kendra Koehler and others for the donations for the baskets. Kendra and crew worked their usual magic in making them beautiful!! Amy Huston also did a wonderful job of taking the donated silent auction items and

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.... When one is out in the freezing cold rain planting a tree, we can all have hope for the future! Well done Liesl Jackson!! (See Page 4!)

dressing them up for presentation that day. Thanks to Julene Market at the Miller Boat Line, Helen Brohl, Russell Brohl, Lisa Brohl, Susan Byrnes, Brian Alford, Kendra and Jeff Koehler, Ed Heineman, Jill Cerny Kirby, Travis Kowalski, Rick and Paula Ziebarth, Val Chornyak, Karl and Patty Lo Presti for donating items/services for

(Continued on page 4)

In This Issue:

Grants Received!	2
Grant Challenge	2
Meet AmeriCorps Intern	5
Volunteers Needed	6
Spring Bird Banding Totals	10
Mammals of the Bass Islands	14
LEIC PIBTPD Wish List	16

Upcoming Events:

Fall Bird Banding	3
Middle Bass Music Fest	7
Island Green Week	9
Parasitoid Release Program	20



Dorn Foundation Award

By Lisa Brohl

The Randolph J. and Estelle M. Dorn Foundation awarded the Put-in-Bay Township Park

District a grant in the amount of \$50,000 toward the cost to purchase the Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve in April. \$25,000 was awarded now with a second \$25,000 in 2024. We are very grateful to the Foundation for the support of our land protection efforts now, as well as in the past!



OSS Grant

By Lisa Brohl



Photos: Left—OSS Director Gary Baty presenting Put-in-Bay Township Park District Commissioners Lisa Brohl and Kelly Faris with labels for the recycling barrels Right—Garbage/Recycling containers

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District was awarded a grant from the Ottawa Seneca Sandusky Solid Waste District to purchase two new garbage/recycling containers for the Duff Woods and Morrison Woods Preserves. They are made with recycled materials by the Bright Idea Sign Shops. We have enjoyed all of our benches, containers and signs made with recycled materials from Bright Idea. We are thankful to the OSS Solid Waste District for the support!

Challenge Grant for Duff Homestead

By Lisa Brohl



Photo: Duff Home

We have received a \$20,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor if we can raise the matching \$20,000 by September 15. This grant will be for the restoration

of the Duff home for adaptive reuse as a visitor contact station for the Park District. It will also serve as office space for the Park District and the Conservancy, which are both currently housed in the Put-in-Bay Township Port Authority building at the airport. The garage and out buildings will serve as a base of maintenance operations for the Park District.



OCCF Grant

By Lisa Brohl



Photos: Left—Julene Market presenting Lisa Brohl the award Right—Lisa Brohl of the Conservancy, Renee Fultz of the LEINWC, Wendy Chamber of the PIBCC, and Julene Market of the OCCF. All three entities received grants from OCCF on June 15!



The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Ottawa County Community Foundation at the annual grant breakfast held this year on June 15 at the Catawba Island Club. Chair Lisa Brohl was on hand to accept the award from Ottawa County Community

Foundation board member Julene Market. The award will assist with the funding for our 2023 AmeriCorps Intern program. Thanks to the continued generous support from the OCCF! We also wish to thank John and Paula Ladd for the generous donation toward this program as well.



Shores & Islands Ohio Grant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shores & Islands Ohio

Jill Bauer, Public Relations Manager

Phone: 419.625.9495

Email: jill@shoresandislands.com

SHORES & ISLANDS OHIO AWARDS DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO AREA PROJECTS

SHORES & ISLAND OHIO, June 15, 2023 ---

Shores & Islands Ohio, the tourism marketing organization for Erie and Ottawa counties, is proud to announce the second year of awards in the organization's Destination Development Grant Program, launched in 2022. The grant program is a major component of Shores & Islands Ohio's strategic plan, which focuses not only on promoting the region as a visitor destination, but also on supporting efforts to enhance it for visitors and therefore, residents alike.

A committee evaluated all applications and determined recipients and award amounts based on a project's ability to attract and engage visitors, serve regional tourism partners, and foster additional economic growth for their communities and the region. This round's total award investment for 23 Ottawa County-based recipients is \$100,000. For Erie County-based businesses, there were 28 recipients with a total investment of more than \$360,000. In both counties each recipient is required to contribute an equal or greater amount to their project as the grant provides.



Photo: Amanda Smith Rasnick of Shores and Islands Ohio hands Lisa Brohl of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District the Destination Development grant award letter for \$7,156 for the Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve. We really appreciate the support!

Grant recipients are planning a variety of projects with the awarded funds – aesthetic improvements; improvements in accessibility; creation of new tourism products, exhibits, and businesses; creation of signage; historical restoration and renovations; painting murals and other public art; and more.

Erie County grant recipients represent businesses and organizations in Berlin Heights, Huron, Kelleys Island, Milan, Sandusky, and Vermilion. They are: Beagle Bay Knotworks, Charles Herndon Gallery, Contenta Holdings, CRUSH Wine Bar, Erie & Anchor, Erie MetroParks, Everwild Spirits, Firelands Adventure Tours, Gathering Grounds, Great Circle Properties,

(Continued on page 19)

SHORES&ISLANDS_{OHIO}

Lake Erie Islands Fall 2023 Bird Banding Schedule

Tom and Paula Bartlett will be banding birds on the islands again this fall. Below are the dates and times when you can come and visit the banding station to see the birds up close! All activities noted below are open to the public.

*All dates and times subject to change

September 9th South Bass Island – evening set-up
September 10-13 Banding 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM
September 14 Banding 6:00 AM to noon
Takedown nets and equipment afternoon

September 16 Kelleys Island – evening set-up
September 17th-21st Banding 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM
September 22nd Banding 6:00 AM to noon
Takedown nets and equipment afternoon

September 23rd Middle Bass Island – evening set-up
September 24th -29th Banding 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM
September 30th Banding 6:00 AM to noon
Takedown nets and equipment afternoon

October 12th Kelleys Island – evening set-up
October 13th-31st Songbird Banding 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM
October 13th-31st Owl Banding Sunset to ???

November 1st – 15th
Songbird Banding 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM
November 1st – 21st Owl Banding Sunset to ???
November 3rd -5th Kelleys Island Owl Festival

December 1st – 17th
Feeder Banding / North Pond Banding TBD
Owl Banding TBD
December 17th
Lake Erie Islands Christmas Bird Count
Owl Banding Sunset to ???

For Kelleys Island-Long Point-Jones Preserve Banding
Drive to Long Point and park to the left 100 yards before the gate and walk in.

For Middle Bass Island—Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve Banding
This is located at the end of a private drive. Please drive through the gate to park near the banding station and avoid blocking the entrance.
Do not park in private drives outside the gate.
RSVP to Hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com or leiconservancy@gmail.com.

For South Bass Island—The Vineyard-Scheeff East Point Preserve Banding
Turn right at Bird Banding sign just before Scheeff East Point Preserve and drive back toward red barn to park.

H. Thomas Bartlett
1833 South Winfield Drive
Tiffin, Ohio 44883
hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com
(419)447-0005 (H) (567)-278-2300 (C)

Purple Martin Banding!

July 6th at 10am at
Scheeff East Point Preserve

Join Lisa Rock and volunteers from the Green Creek Wildlife Society as they band the purple martins that return every year to the two nesting gourd rigs at the preserve. This is a great opportunity to get a close look at purple martin young and help with nest material changes!



Come on out!

Conservancy Pollinator Project By Lisa Brohl

OSU Stone Lab Research Experience for Undergraduate student Kevli Sheth from Centre College, Kentucky is working with Lisa Brohl on the Conservancy pollinator project. Kevli will do the pre-monitoring for the privately owned grass plots that will be converted to pollinator habitat with funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service as well as post-monitoring for the successful projects on Kelleys Island.



Photos: Left—Chris Ashley of the Kelleys Island State Park, Jackie Taylor of the Kelleys Island Field Station with her AmeriCorps intern Charlotte Peng of Kenyan College and Kevli Sheth survey the projects at Kelleys. Above—Kevli visits sites on South Bass Island



Below is a link for a blog about our Massie Cliffside Preserve and the Shores and Islands Grant that provided access road funds. We appreciate the support for our Put-in-Bay Township Park District and our preserves!

<https://www.shoresandislands.com/blog/post/the-massie-cliffside-preserve-is-truly-a-gem-of-a-spot-to-visit-on-south-bass-island/>



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Arbor Day 2023—Our 15th! *By Kelly Faris*



Photos: From Left—(l to r) Tree Commission Member Kendra Koehler, Aaron Schaffer, Liesl Jackson (with a speck of dirt in her eye), and Caroline Jackson. The group tries to keep the Tree City Flag from blowing away.; Caroline Jackson chasing down a blowing tree container; Caroline Jackson, Kendra Koehler, and Liesl Jackson planting the sycamore tree; Eastern Redbud tree planted on Arbor Day 2011

There is a saying about the weather when planting a tree: If the weather is miserable for humans, it's good for the tree!

The Bur Oak Tree and the Sycamore Tree that were planted during the 15th Annual Arbor Day Celebration at the Arbor Day site near the Post Office should grow and prosper better than any other tree planted by the Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission. It was raining! It was blowing! It was cold!

Caroline Jackson and her daughter, Liesl Jackson, along with Kelly Faris dug the holes while a hardy group, consisting of Kendra Koehler, Jeff Koehler, Cal Jackson, Marty Faris, and Aaron Schaffer, cheered them on.

After the brief ceremony, the small group enjoyed pizza provided by Kendra Koehler. The group huddled under the back hatch of her Dodge Caravan.

Wood from the Bur Oak is used for flooring, fence posts, cabinets, and barrels. Acorns can be eaten boiled and raw. Native Americans used the

bark to treat wounds, sores, and rashes; wood from the Sycamore Tree is used for butcher's blocks, boxes and crates, furniture, and musical instruments.

The Village of Put-in-Bay is recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree Commission continues to meet the four requirements for the award: a tree commission, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget, and an Arbor Day celebration.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization whose mission is to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. The Council of the Village allocates \$500.00 annually for the purchase of trees and other items to celebrate Arbor Day.

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

Board Member Kristin Stanford joins ODW

Team Wildlife,

I am pleased to share that Kristin Stanford has joined the Ohio Division of Wildlife as the Wildlife Diversity Coordinator. Kristin will oversee operations at the Put-In-Bay Hatchery Aquatic Visitor's Center, develop partnerships focused on wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and serve as a liaison on wildlife diversity issues with other governmental agencies. Kristin holds three degrees from Northern Illinois University. Her master's thesis evaluated an urban population of plains garter snakes and her doctoral dissertation researched the demographic parameters of the Lake Erie watersnake. Most recently, Kristin has worked as the Education and Outreach Coordinator at the F.T. Stone Laboratory with The Ohio State University. There, she coordinated research, education, and outreach. She also oversaw the nationally renowned Lake Erie watersnake conservation and research program. In her free time, Kristin enjoys spending time outdoors on the island where she resides with her family including her five children. Kristin will be based in Ottawa County and will begin on June 20. She will report to Assistant Chief Haines. Welcome, Kristin!

Todd Haines, Ohio Division of Wildlife



Photo: Kristin Stanford with some of her very slithery Lake Erie watersnake friends

(GOAL REACHED Continued from page 1) auction. Thanks to Stacy Clink, Patty Lo Presti, and Colleen Kerkay who sold raffle tickets and assisted bidders with the silent auction. Brian Alford was MC for the auction—we found a hidden talent as an auctioneer in our Conservancy board member.

Once again, the LEIC really appreciates everyone who bid, bought raffle tickets, brought checks, and came to eat or drink that day at the Goat! It was a fun and productive afternoon.

See details on Page 2 for a \$20,000 challenge grant on page you can still help with and photos from the Biergarten Fundraiser on Page 13.

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Introducing AmeriCorps Intern Adrianna Burghardt



Hi, my name is Adrianna Burghardt and I am the 2023 AmeriCorps Intern for Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, as well as the Put-In-Bay Township Park District. I grew up in Troy, Ohio where I graduated in the spring of 2020.

This fall I will be going into my senior year at the University of Dayton where I have spent the last three amazing years. I am an active member in the sustainability club, Vice President of UD's Equestrian team, and an officer in my sorority, Kappa Delta. Next spring, I will be obtaining my Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology and hope to pursue my masters after graduation.

I am super excited to learn and work under Lisa Brohl and Renee Fultz this summer in the Lake Erie islands community. This is my second summer living on the Island, as I am also employed by Frosty's with Kim Stoiber-Morrison and Ryan Stoiber. I look forward to taking data on the Purple Martin and Tree Swallow populations here on South Bass Island in addition to helping teach younger generations about the importance of conservation at Nature Camp. I also hope to



Photos: Adrianna (Anna) Burghardt diving right in to make sure the purple martins have a nice nesting home; Anna checking more nest gourds of purple martins; Adrianna Burghardt checking the tree swallow boxes at the Scheeff East Point Preserve

create a project of my own to benefit not only the people of Put-in-Bay but the wildlife populations as well.

Thank you to Lisa and Renee for this amazing opportunity and I'm excited for a summer full of learning.

Parasitoid Releases to Control Emerald Ash Borer By Lisa Brohl

In May and June, the Put-in-Bay Township Park District has released parasitic wasps reared by the USDA to control the emerald ash borer at their preserves on Middle Bass and South Bass Island. The parasitoids were produced and supplied from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) EAB Parasitoid Rearing Facility in Brighton, Michigan. For parasitoid information please call 866-3222-4512.

For more information on these and other efforts across the country check

out https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/downloads/eab-field-release-guidelines.pdf.

Green Ash had almost disappeared in our preserves except for young trees below the age where attacked by the emerald ash borer. Blue Ash were on their way out. It is hoped that we will see regeneration of our ash trees on the island as a result of the release of these parasites. These are released as adult *Spathius galinae*, *Tetrastichus planipennisi* as pupae in ash logs, and *Oobius agrili* pupae in oobinators hung in trees.



Photos: Clockwise from Upper Left—LEIC Member Murphy Harrington helps put up ash logs with parasitic wasp pupae at the Dieperink Tract at Middle Bass Island; Adult Wasps were part of the release; AmeriCorps intern Adrianna Burghardt puts up pupae of *Oobius agrili* at the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail area; Oobinator with pupae installed and ready to release emerging adult parasitoid wasps; OSU REU intern Kevli Sheth releasing adult parasitoid wasps in our MBI Forested Wetland Preserve; PIBTPD employee Chris Helman ready to put oobinators up at the Schneider Tract; AmeriCorps intern Adrianna Burghardt at Morrison Woods with newly installed oobinator

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Duff Woods Preserve Erie Islands Library Program

By Lisa Brohl



Photo: Karen Wilhelm and Lisa Brohl at Duff Woods

Karen Wilhelm, Lisa Brohl, Mark Nemec and Susan Ferguson met at Duff Woods Preserve on June 5 to pull garlic mustard—four bags were removed from the trail! It's a start to restoring the wildflowers at this beautiful preserve. Lisa also pulled one Dame's Rocket—also on the invasive list in Ohio.

Earth Day Garlic Mustard Pull

By Lisa Brohl

Thanks to all who came out on Earth Day to pull invasive garlic mustard at the Cooper's Woods Preserve! Kendra Koehler for organizing, Susan Byrnes, Maria Loud, Nick Kujala, Susan Ferguson and the Put-in-Bay Police for pulling!!



Photos: Trillium; Sue Ferguson and Nick Kujala on Earth Day; Village Police officers pull garlic mustard

Founders Day 2023 LEIC Conservancy Booth

By Lisa Brohl

The Conservancy had a table of sales and literature as well as a table of nature coloring pages for the Founders Day 2023. Thanks to Linda Rence, Linda Parker, Jean Hilt, and Jill Cerny Kirby for helping set up and man the booth! It was a beautiful day!



Photos: Linda Rence helping set up; Linda Parker taking a turn manning the booth; New PIBCC sign in DeRivera Park with island preserves

Scheeff East Point Preserve Clean Up with Erie Islands Library

By Lisa Brohl



Photos: Above—Anna Burghardt, Karen Wilhelm, Missi Kowalski, Sue Ferguson—Great example of dog on 6-foot leash! Left—Susan Ferguson, Lisa Brohl, Missi Kowalski, Doraine Toms with bags of debris picked up

On Monday, June 26, 2023, at 9:00am the Summer Reading Program of the Erie Islands Library met at the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve to pick up the lakeshore. Karen Wilhelm of the Library, Lisa Brohl and AmeriCorps intern Anna Burghardt of the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy were joined by Susan Ferguson, Missi Kowalski, and Doraine Toms. Thanks all who helped out! The shore always receives new garbage from the lake so nice to have it removed!



We still need a few volunteers for our Middle Bass Island Music Festival on Saturday July 15. This event is one of our best Conservancy fundraisers!! Join in the fun and help make it one of the best ever this year!

Ann Hicks is leading up a great team of volunteers working to make it happen but she could still use a few more to help walk through the bathrooms, take out garbage and recycling, etc. Please contact Ann at hicksigma@gmail.com if you can help out!

We also have space for vendors at \$25/table and could use some artists to help at the Arts Tent with art activities. Please contact us if you can help or know someone with special talents that can. Contact us at leiconservancy@gmail.com or 419-366-2087.

Middle Bass Music Fest 2023 Coming SOON to an Island Near You!

Lonz's Winery Patio and Pavilion is the place to be on Saturday, July 15, 2023 when the Middle Bass Music Festival rocks the island. It's going to be a great time with live music, an artist tent, food trucks, beer, wine, and all your neighbors hanging out enjoying some Middle Bass Island charm.

This year we are excited to have four amazing bands. One of the absolute best Reggae bands in the Midwest, The Ark Band, will be making their inaugural appearance. Also new to the island this year is The Good, the Bad, and the Blues – a Toledo based band with a blend of soulful blues, spicy gospel and a little bit of funk. Returning to the stage is the high energy, swampy Cats on Holiday. Their blend of zydeco and rock will please any crowd. Rounding out the lineup for this year is festival favorites, The North Coast Goat, playing their interpretation of classic rock, blues and country music.

When you get hungry you can enjoy BBQ from Deet's, Mexican from Gess Who Tacos or the burgers from the Island Grind. To quench your thirst, get some beer from Twin Oast Brewing or wine from Heineman's. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the lawn seating in front of the new Lonz's stage.

The Middle Bass Music Fest is brought to you by denotations and assistance from The Middle Bass Dock Company, The Middle Bass State Park & Ohio Department of Natural Resources, The Island Grind at the Lonz Winery Presshouse, Ohio Arts Council, Dark Side Operations, Middle Bass Men's Club, Bass Islands Charters, Miller Boat Line and your Lake Erie Islands Conservancy www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org Lake Erie Islands Conservancy will be the recipient of any proceeds from this event. They will also be selling tee shirts, hats, koozies, tote bags and handing out

a variety of information on our island activities and preserves. Learn about how you can help preserve island property for future generations.

We will have tables available for local artists to sell their creations. Please contact Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087 or at leiconservancy@gmail.com to reserve a table. We still have space available in our artist tent for activity leaders and looking for a few volunteers to assist with artist and festival activities.

There will be an extra Miller ferry at 7:00 PM leaving from Middle Bass to take back attendees-no cars.

HOW DO YOU GET TO MIDDLE BASS?

There are several ways to get to Middle Bass Island that don't involve your own boat or swimming.

The best option is Miller Ferry from Catawba. www.millerferry.com

Take the 9:15 AM, 11:15 AM or 1:15 PM Miller from Catawba to Middle Bass main dock, across from Lonz's. Return to Catawba on the Miller at 5:15 PM or 7:00 PM.

Or take the Jet Express from Port Clinton to Put-in-Bay. This is another great option from the mainland. As mentioned above, to get to the show, first take the Jet Express to Put-in-Bay. From Put-in-Bay, take a water taxi to Middle Bass Island. When returning this route also works well because the Jet Express runs boats back to Port Clinton late into the night.

Website: <https://jet-express.com/the-jet-express/>

The Sonny S Water Taxi from Put-in-Bay leaves from The Boardwalk and takes you to the main dock across from Lonz's.

See you on Middle Bass Island. It's going to be a fun day—and a great way to support the Conservancy!

Cats on Holiday • The Ark Band • The North Coast Goats • The Good The Bad and The Blues

MIDDLE BASS MUSIC FEST

Saturday, July 15, 2023 **Noon to 7:00 PM** **Lonz Winery Patio & Pavilion**

Art, Food, & Drinks

Free Admission

Scan for more information or to make a donation to the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. All festival proceeds benefit the Conservancy.

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2023 Island Wide Garage Sale—LEIC Style *By Lisa Brohl*



We had a very successful day at the home of John and Paula Ladd during the Island Wide Garage Sale on May 13. We made just under \$400 that day from rummage, native plants, jelly, and LEIC items. Thanks to help in setting up and pricing from Pat Thwaite, Kelly and Marty Faris and moving tables from Cameron and Ken Farber. Really appreciate Susan Byrnes coming to help with the sale all day and to Carol Roberts for helping us take everything down. And last but not least the great hospitality of the Ladd family! We appreciate all who brought goods for sale and that came to shop!



Photos: Top Row—Annie Parker dropping off rummage to John Ladd for the sale. Together they share over 180 years of island experience!; Pat Booker pricing items for garage sale; Carol Roberts helps pack up Middle Row—Carol Roberts and Lisa Brohl carrying the native plants that were for sale; Pat Thwaite Booker, Kelly Faris, and Marty Faris helping with set up. What would we do without them!; Former AmeriCorps intern Jenna Prahst and her mother Sue Prahst stop by to drop off more goodies for sale! Bottom Row—Cameron and Ken Farber moving tables; Lisa Brohl and Susan Byrnes styling their Conservancy t-shirts; We had great visitors to our yard sale with Mark LeKanka dropping off a donation check for the Duff Homestead.

Natures Nursery *By Lisa Brohl*



Photos: Melissa Wyper with Greta the Opossum; Melissa Wyper and Jamie Forebush with box turtles; Island kids and moms enjoying the show

Over 40 adults and children enjoyed a program by Nature's Nursery on May 4 at the Put-in-Bay Town Hall. Jamie Forbush and Melissa Wyper brought a box turtle, an albino northern cardinal named Carl, and an opossum named Greta to share with the audience. They talked about their wildlife rehabilitation work and wildlife habitats with the audience. Thanks Lake

Erie Islands Conservancy, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center and the Miller Boat Line for sponsoring this program. We look forward to hosting Back to the Wild this fall-mark Wednesday September 13 for a program on your calendars.

ISLAND GREEN WEEK

Put-in-Bay | Middle Bass | Kelleys Island

AUGUST 5th - 12th 2023

SAT 8.5

LAKE ERIE ISLANDS NATURE & WILDLIFE CENTER - PIB -

11am-5pm | Cost: \$4 Adults, \$3 Children & Seniors, \$10 family. See the newly renovated Nature & Wildlife Center with the beautiful indoor turtle pond, wildlife viewing window, and so much more! A must do for every family! Located on MEECHEN RD, A must do during Island Green Week.

OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY!

SCIENCE SATURDAY - KI -

11am-1pm | Cost: FREE. Science Saturdays is a partnership between Kelleys Island State Park, Kelleys Island Audubon Club, and the Kelleys Island Field Station. This is a weekly series of events throughout the summer that feature interactive exploration centered around a particular topic. Families and learners of all ages are invited to explore firsthand science fun during this free drop-in event. Complete Schedule of Science Saturdays at <https://www.kelleysislandfieldstation.org/>

NATURE WALK WITH DR. ADAMS - PIB -

1pm-3pm | Cost: FREE. OSU's Dr. Rachelle Adams and her team will be leading a fun-filled educational nature walk at one of South Bass Island's beautiful preserves. Dr. Adams is a leading ant researcher and will also be leading an "ant hunt" after the walk that people are free to join. She will be collecting some ant specimens to take back to her lab to identify the species, so we can get a better sense of what ant species we have on the island!

SUN 8.6

HOTEL VICTORY GROUNDS LANTERN TOUR - PIB -

7:30pm | Cost - FREE. South Bass Island State Park will host a Lantern Tour of the infamous Hotel Victory grounds. This family event starts with a beautiful sunset and ends at the Hotel Victory Swimming Pool Pavilion.

MON 8.7

MBL STARGAZING CRUISE - PIB -

8pm | Cost - Adults \$25, Kids \$15. The Miller Ferry cruise will leave from the downtown Miller Boat Line dock on Put-in-Bay just before sunset. The stars will light up the sky as an astronomer engages with the guests, sharing information about the night sky, planets, and stars. **Bring your own chair & beverages.**

Tickets available starting in July at the LEINWC or by calling 419-285-3037.

TUE 8.8

WILD TUESDAY - PIB -

1pm-3pm | Cost - FREE. Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center. Nature's Nursery will have a variety of animals and reptiles on display for education. Wild Tuesday features live animals, colorful crafts for children, and educational opportunities for all ages! If your curiosity is peaked, we invite you to visit all our Wild Tuesday Events throughout the summer, we look forward to being WILD with you.

WED 8.9

AQUATIC VISITOR CENTER TOURS - PIB -

10am-5pm | Cost - FREE. In a 1-hour tour, people of all ages can explore Lake Erie's complex ecosystem through experiential activities and tanks of live fish. Children under 16 can borrow fishing gear and fish for free off the pier.

TOURS AVAILABLE WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY!

11TH ANNUAL

PIG ROAST & RAFFLE - PIB -

6pm-9pm at The Goat Biergarten | Cost - \$20 Pre-Purchased, \$25.00 on site. Join us at the Goat Biergarten for a delicious slow-roasted pig along with tasty sides donated by local restaurants while enjoying live music by Lucas Guy. Try your luck at the 50/50 raffle or enter to win one of the amazing raffle baskets! Tickets available starting in July at the Nature & Wildlife Center.

THU 8.10

GIBRALTAR ISLAND TOURS - PIB -

10am-12pm or 1-3pm | Cost - \$10 per person. Transportation to and from Gibraltar is paid separately via the Boardwalk water taxi. This is a wonderful experience for every member of the family. An hour-long guided tour of Gibraltar Island, home to Jay Cooke's Castle, Commodore Perry's 1812 Lookout, Stone Lab's classrooms and more. For more information call 419-285-1800 or visit ohioseagrant.osu.edu/visit.

LAKE ERIE AWARENESS DAY - PIB -

10am-4pm | Cost - FREE. Lake Erie Awareness Day brings you the magic of Lake Erie's history, culture, and natural resources. Spend the day touring the island while learning about Ohio's greatest water treasure. Visit multiple education stations where you will learn about island history, native plants and animals, the dangers of plastic pollution, and boating safety. Fun giveaways and a great day in nature awaits you. Go to all the stations and be entered to win a fabulous island themed prize. Visit <https://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/news/calendar/2023/08/10/toiep/lake-erie-awareness-day> for station locations and more information.

FRI 8.11

SBI LIGHTHOUSE TOUR - PIB -

11am-5pm | Cost - FREE. Discover information about the area's history and the most pressing issues facing Lake Erie before accessing the top of the lighthouse tower to see an expansive view of Put-in-Bay. Visitors can climb the stairs to take in a magnificent view of Put-in-Bay from the top of the tower, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

LONZ WINERY CELLAR TOUR - MBI -

4:30pm | Cost - FREE. Tour the famous Lonz Winery Cellar and Grounds. This family event will start with a guided tour through Lonz Winery Cellar and end at the Island Grind Press House with the option to purchase refreshments. The tour will highlight various still-existing features of the Lonz Compound, a history of the grounds and the winery, and exciting facts about life on Middle Bass Island.

HOMECOMING - KI -

Cost - FREE. Homecoming is an event sponsored by Kelleys Island Landowners Assoc. and serves as a weekend for those who love this island to enjoy fun, food, and entertainment. The festival will last 2 days! All Homecoming events will take place at the Kelleys Island Pavilion, on Addison St.

SAT 8.12

POKER KAYAK DAY - MBI -

12pm | Cost: \$20 pre-registration, \$25 on site. Kayakers start and finish at the Middle Bass Island State Park west beach (no starts later than 1pm). The paddle around the island includes three more stops (State Park Marina, MBI East Point Preserve, & Kuehnle State Wildlife Area/Petersen Woods Preserve). A welcome packet outlines the course and has information about the stops. Stops are staffed with volunteers for safety and to distribute poker cards and snacks. Finish with a cook-out while 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners are decided. Registration is available at <https://bit.ly/3tcE7A5> Deadline to register is August 6. Proceeds benefit the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. (Rain Date August 13)

IGW Put-in-Bay Middle Bass Kelleys Island 2023



Spring Bird Banding Reports (South Bass, Middle Bass, & Kelleys Island)



South Bass Island 2023 Spring Bandout May 7 - May 18

Week 1	Week 2	Species	Week 1	Week 2	Species
1	3	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	13	9	Orchard Oriole
2		Red-bellied Woodpecker		9	Baltimore Oriole
4	2	Downy Woodpecker	158	40	Red-winged Blackbird
1		Yellow-shafted Flicker	3		Brown-headed Cowbird
1		Eastern Wood-Pewee	28	8	Common Grackle
4	2	Least Flycatcher	10	4	Ovenbird
1	1	Great Crested Flycatcher	3		Northern Waterthrush
4		Blue-headed Vireo	2	1	Black-and-white Warbler
3	3	Warbling Vireo	2		Tennessee Warbler
14	2	Blue Jay	11	1	Nashville Warbler
10	3	Tree Swallow	1	2	Common Yellowthroat
4		Black-capped Chickadee	1		Hooded Warbler
6		Red-breasted Nuthatch	6		American Redstart
8	1	House Wren	2		Cape May Warbler
11		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		Northern Parula
6	3	Veery	1	13	Magnolia Warbler
2		Gray-cheeked Thrush	19	3	Yellow Warbler
4	14	Swainson's Thrush	1	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler
4		Hermit Thrush	1	1	Black-throated Blue Warbler
27	21	American Robin	7	1	Palm Warbler (Western)
20	14	Gray Catbird	1		Palm Warbler (Yellow)
2		European Starling	6		Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
1		American Goldfinch	1	2	Black-throated Green Warbler
2	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	1		Scarlet Tanager
5		Swamp Sparrow	5	2	Northern Cardinal
11		White-throated Sparrow	1	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
1		White-crowned Sparrow	1	1	Indigo Bunting

53 (49, 35)	Species Banded	104 (54, 50)	Recaptures
610 (434, 176)	Individuals Banded	6 (6, 0)	Escapes/released birds
720 (494, 226)	Birds handled	0 (0, 0)	Casualties
1069.5 (600, 469.5)	Net Hours of effort	0.57 (0.72, 0.37)	Birds banded per net hour
194 (128, 66)	Visitors/participants	0.70 (0.83, 0.48)	Birds handled per net hour

Red = new species/race banded on island

Bold = Uncommon species banded on island

Banding Highlights:

Banding was somewhat below normal due to northerly and north-easterly winds for days on end. It was a below normal banding spring on all the islands. Highlights for South Bass Island were the Eastern Wood-Pewee, 2 Great Crested Flycatchers, 1 Hooded Warbler, and 1 Scarlet Tanager. The bird of the spring for the island was the Yellow Palm Warbler banded May 16. This is the eastern race of the Palm Warbler. We generally get the Western Palm Warbler. The Yellow Palm Warbler usually hugs the east coast line, rarely coming in more than 100 miles so even eastern Pennsylvania rarely sees them.

Recaptures:

The 104 recaptures represent 88 individuals of which 84 were banded by us. 2 individuals, Purple Martins, were banded by Tom Kashmer and his Green Creek Wildlife Society team. The other two are currently unknown. One recapture of note was of a Downy Woodpecker which we banded on May 5 and recaptured on May 9. It was banded on Middle Bass Island and then recaptured 4 days later on South Bass Island!

Our oldest individual was an American Robin banded May 1, 2016. The second oldest individual was a Red-winged Blackbird banded June 20, 2017. There were three individuals which were a minimum of 7 years old, six individuals which were a minimum of 6 years old, and six individuals which were a minimum of 5 years old. We had one bird banded in 2016, one in 2017, eight in 2018, five in 2019, one in 2020, twelve in 2021, twenty-two in 2022, and 38 earlier in 2023.

Observations:

The banding team also tries to record all the species of birds observed during the daily operation of banding. This week we observed 94 species at the Vineyard B & B area. There were other species observed on the island but our records are only for this area while we are there. Unusual or uncommon species observed included Common Loon (late migrant), American White Pelican, Green Heron, Red-headed Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo (uncommon migrant), Yellow-throated Vireo (uncommon migrant), Red-breasted Nuthatch (late migrant), Gray-cheeked Thrush (early migrant), Eastern Towhee (uncommon migrant), Prothonotary Warbler (rare migrant found by one of the Road Scholar participants), Hooded Warbler (uncommon migrant), Cerulean Warbler (rare migrant), and "Yellow" Palm Warbler. The "Yellow" Palm Warbler is an eastern race of the Palm Warbler. Our common race is Western Palm warbler. The "Yellow" Palm Warbler rarely occurs more than 100 miles inland from the coast.

Spring 2023 Bird Banding Team:

Tom Bartlett	Paula Bartlett
Lisa and Russ Brohl	Ken, Cameron, and Donovan Farber
John Lortz	Shane and Laura Roberts
Ken Shelton	Nancy Welter
Dr. Kelly Williams	



Photos: From top—Chris Helman holding a tasty morsel of Morel mushroom; Murphy Harrington about to release a bird; Tom Bartlett showing a young visitor one of the banded birds; Visitors to the banding station having fun

Photos: Visitor releasing bird; Murphy Harrington; female and male Baltimore Oriole; Yellow-rumped warbler (Audubon's race); Dianne Smith releasing bird; Warbling vireo



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Rudy Cooks
Lake Erie Islands

**Middle Bass Island
2023 Spring Bandout
April 30 - May 5**

1 Mourning Dove	2 American Goldfinch
2 Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 Savannah Sparrow
1 Red-bellied Woodpecker	2 Song Sparrow
3 Downy Woodpecker	1 Lincoln's Sparrow
3 Yellow-shafted Flicker	6 Swamp Sparrow
3 Eastern Phoebe	7 White-throated Sparrow
4 White-eyed Vireo	1 White-crowned Sparrow
4 Blue-headed Vireo	77 Red-winged Blackbird
1 Yellow-throated Vireo	18 Brown-headed Cowbird
5 Blue Jay	7 Common Grackle
6 Tree Swallow	1 Ovenbird
10 Red-breasted Nuthatch	5 Northern Waterthrush
1 White-breasted Nuthatch	1 Black-and-white Warbler
13 House Wren	2 Nashville Warbler
2 Winter Wren	1 Common Yellowthroat
28 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6 Yellow warbler
1 Veery	10 Palm Warbler (Western)
12 Hermit Thrush	1 Palm Warbler (Yellow)
17 American Robin	1 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
1 Gray Catbird	3 Northern Cardinal
5 European Starling	1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
1 House Finch	
42 Species Banded	73 Recaptures
275 Individuals Banded	3 Escapes/released birds
352 Birds handled	1 Casualties
506 Net Hours of effort	0.54 Birds banded per net hour
73 Visitors/participants	0.70 Birds handled per net hour
Red = new species/race banded on Island	
Bold = Uncommon species banded on Island	

Banding Highlights:

109 species and 5798 individuals have now been banded on Middle Bass Island over 15 years. The only unexpected individual was a "Yellow" Palm Warbler we captured on April 30. This is a race of Palm Warbler that usually only is found along the east coast of the United States. It is very rare more than 100 miles in from the Atlantic coast.

Recaptures:

The 73 recaptures represent 60 individuals of which 59 were previously banded by us. One individual appears to have been banded by another bander. We are waiting on that data. Of the 60 individuals, 32 were banded in previous years. An after-second year male Red-winged Blackbird was banded by us in 2014 as an after-second year male so it is a minimum of 10 years old. A second after-second year male Red-winged Blackbird was banded by us in 2016 making it a minimum of 8 years old. A female Brown-headed Cowbird was originally banded by us in 2017, making it a minimum of 8 years old. One individual, a female Red-winged Blackbird was recaptured with a band that does not appear to be one of ours and we are waiting to hear back from the Bird Banding Laboratory. Of the 32 recaptures, 1 was from 2014, none from 2015, 1 from 2016, 5 from 2017, 0 from 2018, 2 from 2019, 1 from 2020, 3 from 2021, and 19 from 2022. One other interesting recapture was of a second-year male Downy Woodpecker which we banded on May 3. We recaptured it May 9 at our banding site on South Bass Island.

Observations:

The banding team also tries to record all the species of birds observed during the daily operation of banding. Unfortunately we missed the mark this spring due to too much going on. This week we observed 73 species at the East Point Preserve. There were other species observed on the island but our records are only for the preserve while we are there. Unusual or uncommon species observed included Common Loon (late migrant), American White Pelican, Osprey, Merlin (uncommon migrant), White-eyed Vireo (uncommon migrant), Yellow-throated Vireo (uncommon migrant), Red-breasted Nuthatch (late migrant), Winter Wren (late migrant), Savannah Sparrow (uncommon migrant), and "Yellow" Palm Warbler. The "Yellow" Palm Warbler is an eastern race of the Palm Warbler. Our common race is Western Palm warbler. The "Yellow" Palm Warbler rarely occurs more than 100 miles inland from the coast.



Spring 2023 Bird Banding Team:

Tom Bartlett
Paula Bartlett
Lisa Brohl
Russ Brohl
Chris Helman
Teddi Keith-Morris
Tina Larson
Ann Shelton
Ken Shelton
Janet Stearns
Nancy Welter



Photos: Clockwise from top—Group Photo: Top Row-Chris Helman, Nancy Welter, Janet Stearns, Teddi Keith Morris, Paula Bartlett, Ken and Ann Shelton Bottom Row-Tom Bartlett, Tina Larson, Lisa Brohl; Swamp Sparrow; Ovenbird; Yellow Warbler; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Common Yellowthroat; Rose-breasted Grosbeak Far Left—Russ Brohl cooking hotdogs; Morel mushrooms from Chris Helman
Bird Banding photos provided by Ann Shelton, Paula Bartlett, and Lisa Brohl

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Spring Bird Banding Totals... (See previous two pages for more!)

Location: USA Islands - Kelleys, South Bass, Middle Bass
Date Time: Spring 2023

		KI	SBI	MBI
1	Mourning Dove			1
11	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	5	4	2
3	Red-bellied Woodpecker		2	1
1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		
9	Downy Woodpecker		6	3
5	Northern Flicker	1	1	3
10	Eastern Wood-Pewee	8	2	
19	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	19		
1	Acadian Flycatcher	1		
16	Alder Flycatcher	15		
3	"Trail's" Flycatcher	3		
10	Least Flycatcher	4	6	
3	Eastern Phoebe			3
3	Great Crested Flycatcher	1	2	
1	White-eyed Vireo			1
1	Yellow-throated Vireo			1
8	Blue-headed Vireo		4	4
7	Warbling Vireo	1	6	
5	Red-eyed Vireo	5		
23	Blue Jay	2	16	5
19	Tree Swallow		13	6
6	Black-capped Chickadee	2	4	
17	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	6	10
1	White-breasted Nuthatch			1
29	House Wren	7	9	13
2	Winter Wren			2
83	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	44	11	28
13	Veery	3	9	1
5	Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	2	
76	Swainson's Thrush	58	18	
29	Hermit Thrush	13	4	12
1	Wood Thrush	1		
72	American Robin	7	48	17
45	Gray Catbird	10	34	1
2	Brown Thrasher	2		
9	European Starling	2	2	5
1	Cedar Waxwing	1		
1	House Finch			1
3	American Goldfinch		1	2
3	Chipping Sparrow	3		
1	Savannah Sparrow			1
2	Song Sparrow			2
11	Lincoln Sparrow	5	5	1
12	Swamp Sparrow	1	5	6
21	White-throated Sparrow	3	11	7
2	White-crowned Sparrow		1	1
2	Orchard Oriole		2	
36	Baltimore Oriole	14	22	
21	Brown-headed Cowbird		3	18
275	Red-winged Blackbird		198	77
44	Common Grackle	1	36	7
17	Ovenbird	2	14	1
10	Northern Waterthrush	2	3	5
5	Black-and-white Warbler	1	3	1
4	Tennessee Warbler	2	2	
1	Orange-crowned Warbler	1		
16	Nashville Warbler	2	12	2
12	Mourning Warbler	12		
16	Common Yellowthroat	12	3	1
1	Hooded Warbler		1	
41	American Redstart	35	6	
2	Cape May Warbler		2	
4	Northern Parula	3	1	
60	Magnolia Warbler	46	14	
1	Bay-breasted Warbler	1		
1	Blackburnian Warbler	1		
35	Yellow Warbler	7	22	6
10	Chestnut-sided Warbler	8	2	
9	Black-throated Blue Warbler	7	2	
20	Palm Warbler (Western)	1	8	11
2	Palm Warbler (Yellow)		1	1
11	Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	6	1
3	Black-throated Green Warbler		3	
21	Canada Warbler	21		
9	Wilson's Warbler	9		
1	Scarlet Tanager		1	
16	Northern Cardinal	6	7	3
3	Rose-breasted Grosbeak		2	1
18	Indigo Bunting	16	2	

Kelleys Island (KI)

Days 15
Net Hours 1557.25
Birds banded per net hour 0.29

South Bass Island (SBI)

Days 9
Net Hours 1069.50
Birds banded per net hour 0.57

Middle Bass Island (MBI)

Days 4
Net Hours 506.00
Birds banded per net hour 0.55

	KI	SBI	MBI
Total Species Banded =	54	53	42
Total Individuals Banded =	223	210	123

Spring 2023 Islands Total = 586

Spring 2023 Total Species = 77

Beginning Date 23-Apr
Ending Date 31-May

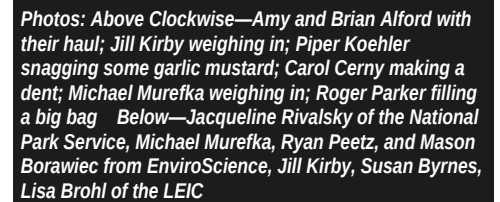
2023 Garlic Mustard Challenge *By Jill Cerny Kirby*

On May 6th 2023, fourteen volunteers gathered at Cooper's Woods Preserve and Duff Woods preserve to pull a total of 254.6 lbs. of invasive garlic mustard during the annual Garlic Mustard Challenge issued by the City of Green near Akron, Ohio. During the challenge, Portage Park District managed to pull 262 lbs. from Shaw Woods in Ravenna Township with 14 volunteers. The other participant, Stark Parks reported 50 volunteers pulling 4,860lbs.

Garlic mustard spreads easily by wind and by foot traffic. It appears early in the Spring and blocks the light and space our native biodiversity needs to grow. The best way to remove garlic mustard is by hand before it goes to seed.

Susan Byrnes was our top garlic puller for the day weighing in with a 41 lbs. removed. She was followed closely by Carol Cerny with 38.5 lbs. and Brian Alford with 26.9 lbs. Other volunteers included Susan Ferguson, Amy Alford, Roger Parker, Piper Koehler, Lisa and Mike Berens, Jacqueline Rivalsky of the National Park Service at Perry's Victory, Liesl Jackson, Ryan Peetz, Mason Borawiec, and Michael Marefka of EnviroScience, and Jill Kirby. Prizes for the event were provided by Cameo Pizza, The Goat Restaurant, William Krejci, Barry and Phoebe Koehler, The Lake Erie Islands Historical Society and Resale Shop, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, and Kendra Koehler.

We are seeing the beauty of our native Spring ephemerals take hold where garlic mustard has been pulled in years past. Although the challenge event has passed, we invite you to remove and discard garlic mustard anytime you spot it passing through the preserves. There are still plenty of first year rosettes to pull. We are so grateful to our volunteers!



Photos: Above Clockwise—Amy and Brian Alford with their haul; Jill Kirby weighing in; Piper Koehler snagging some garlic mustard; Carol Cerny making a dent; Michael Murefka weighing in; Roger Parker filling a big bag Below—Jacqueline Rivalsky of the National Park Service, Michael Murefka, Ryan Peetz, and Mason Borawiec from EnviroScience, Jill Kirby, Susan Byrnes, Lisa Brohl of the LEIC



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Board members Susan Byrnes and Ken Farber doing their part for the cause



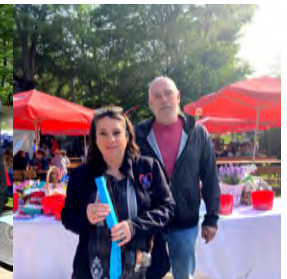
Cameron Farber winning a silent auction item—purple martin watching with Paula Ziebarth



LEIC members Jan and Jim Anteau, Joe Cerny, Gary and Fran Poe



New Owners of Travis Kowalski's donated bar stools



John and Dona Mitchell Buying Raffle Tickets



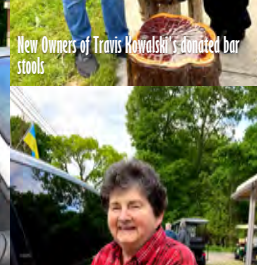
Debbie Bianchi, Peggy Leopold, Susan Byrnes, John Leopold, Carol Cerny, Mary Ann Myers



Rick Price winning a silent auction win donated by Yellow Line



Kelly and Marty Faris with Ty Burgess



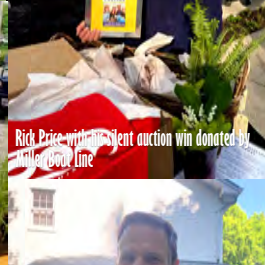
Jeanne Burgess dropping off donation check



LEIC Board Member Brian Alford receiving Silent Auction



Stacy Clink selling raffle tickets



Steve and Jill Cooks enjoying the day



Don Lutz Barco pouring beers at fundraiser



LEIC Board Member Paula Ziebarth Helping the Cause



Amy and Brian Alford supporting the cause



Roger Parker shopping at the Silent Auction



Roger Parker making donation with silent auction purchase



LEIC and PIBTPD Members at the Fundraiser: Front Row— Colleen Herkay, Kendra Koehler, Elizabeth Heineman, Marsha Collett; Lisa Brohl Back Row—Kelly Faris, Bruce Miles, Brian Alford

Biergarten Fundraiser for Duff!

What an incredible show of support for the PIBTPD and LEIC during the Biergarten At The Goat Fundraiser for the Duff Homestead! Great fun was had by all and we raised some much needed funds in the process.

Thanks again to Scott and Caroline Jackson for their support and hospitality at the Goat for the fundraiser.

We are happy to report that the Put-in-Bay Township Park District also closed on the first two acres of the Duff Homestead on June 30th! We hope to close on the remaining 4.5 acres in the next month!!!

Thanks to all for the truly wonderful community support for our island preserves!



Biergarten At The Goat!



Lisa Brohl with Conservancy Member Peter Bob Solon with a great new hat



Kendra Koehler and Patty Lo Presti making tables



Kathy and Chris North bringing donation check for Duff Homestead



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Mammals of Bass Islands—Part 1 *By Madame WingNut (LEIC Board Member Paula Ziebarth)*



Photo: Deer in Vineyard by Susan Novak Byrnes

Throughout Ohio's history, mammal species have been extirpated from the state and reintroduced. Populations of different species have inflated and dwindled (often due to overhunting)... and ballooned again. Too many of this one, too few of that one. Of course, mammal populations vary by region and the Bass Islands are especially fascinating. With an island's small land mass, and the inability for many species to move on or off that island, an island has a rather unique ecosystem. Where the land meets the water and the water meets the sky, a special eco-bubble exists for island mammals to saunter, scurry and soar.

Some of my favorite people are mammals. In addition to islanders and visiting bipedal hominids, the Bass Islands are home to white-tailed deer, eastern gray squirrels (including melanistic "black" morph variant), eastern fox squirrels, white-footed mice, raccoons, eastern chipmunks, eastern cottontail rabbits, coyotes, red fox, gray fox, muskrats, beaver, mink, bats, domestic dogs and cats.

One of the most intriguing revelations for me, however, is what we DON'T have. Although the Ohio mainland has these mammals, we DON'T have Virginia opossums, striped skunks, woodchucks (groundhogs), red squirrels, southern flying squirrels, voles, moles, or shrews. A long trek across the water or over the ice is not feasible for many animals. I am imagining a woodchuck with all four legs splayed out on the

ice or a longish shrew shuffle... not going to happen.

Each island mammal species has a history and a special place in the ecosystem here. A species will be loved by some and loathed by others. Often overpopulation of a species can move it from the beloved to the beleaguered category.

You may observe our island mammals living in your yard, but I challenge you to adopt a different mindset. You are actually living in their yard and your home is the big box structure in the middle of their yard. A strange dichotomy exists within the human heart: the ability to love a thing, and the ability to hate a thing. In the eco-bubble we all call home, we can co-exist with our fellow mammals in harmony, and manage wildlife as need be.

Let me introduce you to our Bass Islands mammals.

White-tailed Deer

The white-tailed deer is Ohio's state mammal. White-tailed deer are good swimmers and have been spotted regularly swimming in Lake Erie or crossing the ice in winter months. From the mainland to the islands, they have made it here on their own. When we built our house on South Bass Island in the early 2000's I remember tales of Millie the deer.

Elizabeth Heineman recalls Millie arriving on the island in June 1999. She was first seen down on

the rocks near the South Bass Island Lighthouse. She still had some white spots, so she was a young animal. She was all by herself and she quickly befriended people on the island. Elizabeth says Millie had quite the crush on Rich Hahn. She would peek in Rich and Noreen's windows, and would take walks with the Hahns and their dog Corky. Millie would also chase the tour train. Elizabeth believes Millie did not know she was a deer.



Photos: Left—Rich Hahn with beloved friend Millie the Deer Right—Michael Nicoloff with Millie the Deer

PLEASE NOTE: Millie was an anomaly—a solitary animal that was habituated to people. White-tailed deer and other wild mammals can be extremely dangerous and should never be approached directly. If you encounter an animal behaving abnormally, please notify the proper authorities.

Rich Hahn remembers that Skip Duggan first spied Millie swimming to the island toward the South Bass Island Lighthouse in June 1999. Skip told him she was accompanied by another young deer, but her companion did not make it to shore. Millie allowed herself to be hugged by people and she would look both ways for traffic before crossing the street. Millie would head down the Hahns' driveway on her way to Alan Duff's field. She would stop by to visit and Rich believes she thought she was a dog. Corky and Millie were best friends. When Corky was older, the dog had a stroke. That night, Millie slept under the bedroom window.

Millie received her name due to her arrival so close to the date of the millennium. Many island residents fell in love with this beautiful, friendly doe. "Millie was in my yard!" "She's so sweet! We saw her last week. What a special sight!" My tulips bloomed; rose bushes thrived; hostas gleamed.



Photo: Stag by Susan Novak Byrnes

Millie's buck swam over the lake to South Bass Island in the fall about four or five years after her arrival. Millie discovered that she was, in fact, a white-tailed deer. Elizabeth believes she gave birth to twins the following year.

(Continued on page 15)

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"ALL THINGS WILD AND THEN SOME"

I'm not hearing about Millie or her wonderful descendants lately. My tulips were eaten to the ground this spring for the second year in a row and deer found the tomato garden last summer. Nowhere is the human/wildlife conflict felt more acutely than with large animals like the white-tailed deer. Last fall, I saw a group of seven making their way through a vineyard.

White-tailed deer are crepuscular, mostly active near dawn and dusk. White-tailed bucks may live 15-20 years in the wild. Does live around 20-25 years. Fawns are born from mid-May through July. Does usually have one fawn in their first breeding year and can have 2 or 3 fawns per litter in subsequent years. Only the males have antlers, and a healthy buck will shed them during winter months each year. Our Ohio "buckeye" gets its name from our white-tailed deer. Native Americans called the nut "hetuck," which means "buck eye". The markings on the nut resemble the eye of these beautiful animals.

If white-tailed deer are eating your landscape, deer fencing (8 foot tall recommended) or repellent sprays work to keep them away from cherished plantings. Deer resistant plants are a good idea. On the mainland, where we have a herd of 7-9 white-tailed deer traipsing through most days, I have discovered some plants that they will not touch: boxwood, marigolds, daffodils, peonies, hellebores, shasta daisies, melampodium, snapdragons, zinnias, bleeding heart, sweet alyssum, lily of the valley, foxglove, lamb's ear, iris, poppies, lavender, herbs, mint, horseradish, and garlic. These are all plants that I grow that deer will not touch.

Squirrels



Photo: Melanistic Eastern Grey Squirrel shared by Amy Alford

In the 1950's, rat poison was set out at the South Bass Island dump to kill Norway rats. Most of the eastern gray squirrels were killed by the poison as well. After the dump debacle, Romer Stoiber introduced several "black" squirrels from Michigan's Belle Isle in the Detroit River to increase the squirrel population. "Black" squirrels are actually a melanistic eastern gray squirrel.

Melanism is an increased amount of black pigmentation in an animal. Although rare in most parts of Ohio, squirrels with this genetic mutation are thriving on South Bass Island. There must be some selective genetic advantage to this coloration in our island ecosystem, perhaps some camouflage advantage or darker fur keeping them warmer than the non-melanistic gray squirrel in the northern portion of their range.

Eastern fox squirrels reside on both North Bass and Middle Bass Island, but Lisa Brohl is unaware of any on South Bass Island.

Both species of tree squirrels reside in hardwood forests and mature trees in parks, cemeteries, and suburban yards. Squirrels are rodents. They eat the nuts, seeds and fruit of trees, which are collectively known as "mast." A healthy fall mast crop translates to a healthy squirrel population. Eastern fox squirrels subsist on mast, but will also eat grain. Our squirrels are active all winter long. They do not hibernate.

In the spring, when I open up my purple martin housing (predator baffle removed for the winter), I often find black walnuts cached in compartments. I've also found nuts in our backyard grill, shoved in cyclone fences and other interesting places. Of course, squirrels bury many nuts for their winter stores and do not find them all, providing a valuable tree planting service throughout the islands.

Squirrels can be kept out of bird feeders or bird housing with a good stovepipe predator baffle. When excluding squirrels, make sure to follow the 5, 7, 9 rule. Install feeder or nest box on a free-standing pole with stovepipe predator baffle that has top set at least 5 feet from the ground. Pole should be at least 7 feet from tree trunk, fence or building squirrel can launch from. Top of feeder or nest box should be at least 9 feet from overhanging tree branches that squirrel can drop from.

White-footed Mice

These tiny mammals weigh in at 15-25 grams, the weight of 5 sugar packets – sweet! Prolific breeders from March through October, these little guys will have 2 to 4 litters per year with an average of 4 young per litter. Most white-footed mice live less than a year in the wild because they are food for so many other animals. This translates to nearly a complete turnover of the mouse population annually.

White-footed mice do not hibernate, and they will store seeds and nuts and other goodies for the winter. Coinciding with their fall caching habits, I once had white-tailed mice discover a sealed bag of Halloween themed M&M's in the basement closet. They chewed through the bag

and stashed Cookies and Screeem M&M's in our boots, under couch cushions and in a long map tube case.



Photo: White-footed Mouse by Paula Ziebarth

The traps came out because the mice had breached their yard and entered my human home.

When trapping mice, I never use poison baits or glue traps. Both are inhumane. Poisoned animals can end up dying in your walls or become food for a non-target animal that will also become poisoned, or a non-target animal could access the bait directly (reference the rat/squirrel 1950's dump debacle). Many years ago, my neighbor almost killed his dog when she dug up and ate some poison bait that he set out for chipmunks. The dogs' lifespan was severely shortened as a result.

Mice do pose a health risk for people. They can carry ticks that spread Lyme disease in humans and can harbor the hantavirus. If you need to dispose of a mouse nest, wear a good respiratory mask, gloves, and wash hands well.

In the wild, white-footed mice control populations of some harmful insect pests like gypsy moths. They are also a very important part of the ecosystem as a food source for many different species of animals.

Sources:

Knebusch, Kurt. *The Ohio State University. "Mammals of the Island Region". September 1985.*

Gehrt, Stan and Titchenell, Marnie. *"Mammals". The Ohio State University. Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Manual. (2016): 228-252.*

Ohio Department of Natural Resources website: ohiodnr.gov

(Continued on page 16)



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LEIC Items and Gift Ideas

There are organic Conservancy t-shirts in new colors (\$20), new Made in USA Conservancy hats (\$25), Sailcloth and organic cotton tote bags, and Middle Bass Music Fest beverage cozies available for sale. Consider a Conservancy membership or donation to our Land Protection Fund for a gift that keeps on giving into the future! www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org. Please see the "Thank You for Membership" article below by Jill Cerny Kirby for more gift ideas!

LEIC and PIBTPD Wish List

We have finally welcomed summer and now we would like to welcome you to the preserves along with a special invitation to help keep them in the best shape possible. If you are willing, we accept donations of your time and skills or if a monetary gift works better, that is wonderful too. We are grateful for any and all! We are certain visitors to our Preserves will be just as grateful as us for your help! Please be sure to let us know if you or anyone you know can help out with any of these items at leiconservancy@gmail.com or 419-366-2087. New members—Can always check us out at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org!

- **Volunteers Always Needed:** spread mulch on trails, remove downed trees and pick up litter—garlic mustard pulling, amur honeysuckle removal—all preserves.
- **Website and Social Media Assistance**
- **Volunteers needed for Tabling Events, Office and Digital File Organizing.**
- **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 Summer Transport of tools and people**
- **Land Protection Fund Donations**
- **New Bicycle Rack for the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail**—approximately \$900—can have name on rack
- **Interpretive Signs (\$250 each)** for Duff Woods or Morrison Woods Preserves.
- **Help with Scheeff East Point Bulletin Board**
- **AmeriCorps Intern Fund for 2023**
- **High Resolution GPS Unit for Preserve Monitoring**
- **Mist Net Pole and Hardware for Bird Banding**—approx. \$100
- **Volunteer Labor or Donations toward Retrofitting House for New Office Space**

(MAMMALS Continued from page 15)

George H. Harrison. "Squirrel Wars: Backyard Wildlife Battles & How To Win Them", February 2006.

Interviews with Elizabeth Heineman, Rich Hahn, and Lisa Brohl

About the Author: Paula Ziebarth began writing her advice and educational column "Ask Madame WingNut" for The Ohio Bluebird Society's quarterly journal, "Bluebird Monitor"

in 2010. She adopted the moniker "Madame WingNut" because she enjoys working with native cavity nesting birds and the people who love them.

Join us on our Facebook page: Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. Post pictures of mammals and tell us how many white-tailed deer you are seeing. Any special mammal sightings or stories to share?

More mammals to come in the next issue of LEIC's "Island Green Scene".

Thank You for Membership By Jill Cerny Kirby



The LEIC has been able to have an incredible first half of 2023 partnering with the community and making strides towards important

conservation goals such as the Duff Homestead Preserve. This has been made possible through our members. By choosing to become a member or renew your

membership to the LEIC you are supporting the stability of the organization and helping to ensure our treasured island ecosystems are protected now and in the future. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2023, we hope you will choose to do so soon and that we can count on your continued support. Memberships also make a great gift! If you have a friend, family members, or know someone with a passion for the islands consider supporting their interest by giving a membership in their name. Thank you to all our members, with your support we know the second half of 2023 will be one to remember.



Attention Nature Lovers and Photo Buffs: Interested in submitting your Conservancy nature photo(s) for the 2024 LEIC Calendar? See instructions and details below!

- Send all of your Conservancy related entries to LEICPhotoSubmit@gmail.com with "2024 Calendar" in the subject line. Pics for the Newsletter can be sent there too—just be sure to specify!
- Include the photographer's contact info (name, email, phone, etc.), a short description of subject and details. Make sure to include where/when the photo was taken. Minimum Size: 300 dpi at 11.5" wide by 9" tall.
- If selected, you'll receive photo credit and 1 calendar!

We can't wait to see all of your wonderful submissions, so go enjoy the seasons of the preserves: spring, summer, fall, and winter!!

Success with the Native Plant Sale By Lisa Brohl

Thanks to all who purchased native plants this spring as well as to Natives in Harmony and Riverside Perennials who helped us with our sale! We appreciate Jill Cerny Kirby and Ken Farber for picking



Photo: Jill Cerny Kirby with native plants

up plants and trees for the islands. We still have a few native plants and grasses left—they will be for sale at the LEINWC.

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Preserve News!



Research Experience for Undergraduate advisors Amy Alford and Renee Fultz are working with student Juan Flores to inventory mammal populations on the islands including White-tailed Deer, Gray and Fox Squirrels, and Bats. They are using our LEIC preserves on South and Middle Bass Islands to conduct their research.

This summer's research will be a launching point to develop more community-led wildlife monitoring efforts for the Islands. Juan will be a senior at The University of Notre Dame where he is majoring in Biological



Sciences with a concentration in Ecology and Environmental Sciences. Amy is also leading wildlife research efforts at the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center including insect monitoring a Scheeff's East Point Preserve. She and Director Renee Fultz of LEINWC are heading up some citizen science efforts as well. Check it out at www.lakeerieislandswildlife.com

Photos: Amy Alford, Kevli Sheth, Emma Pierce, Juan Flores, Lisa Brohl at Cooper's Woods Preserve; Juan Flores, Kevli Sheth, and Amy Alford at the Scheeff East Point Preserve. Amy is measuring insect diversity and biomass as part of a study on habitat for swallows.; Juan Flores at Cooper's Woods.



OSU Stone Lab student Debbie Hurlbert of Newark watching birds at Scheeff East Point Preserve. She was visiting our preserve with her fellow Stone Lab classmates!



Conservancy member Bill and Judy Tucholsky visited Cooper's Woods in June. Bill is shown here viewing fence damage with PIBTPD contractor Mark LeKanka at Cooper's Woods.



Check out the new book at the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk at the Dodge Woods Preserve. Thanks to Erie Islands Library and Mark Wilhelm for getting it put up in the frames.



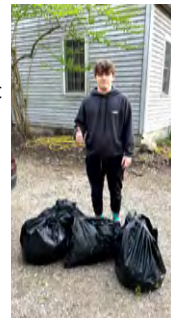
The Put-in-Bay Township Park District is accepting bids for the shoreline restoration projects at the Scheeff East Point Preserve and at the Middle Bass Islands East Point Preserve. A pre-bid meeting was held at both sites in April.

Photo: PIBTPD Commissioner Kendra Koehler and Chris Day of K. S. Associates greet visiting companies.

A Special THANKS...



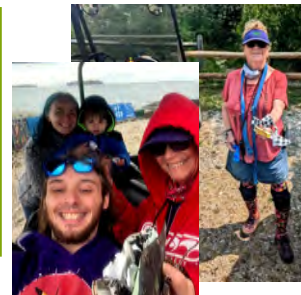
Doug Stiedl of Put-in-Bay High School pulled garlic mustard for us at the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail near his home in May for Panther Pride hours. We appreciate his work during his busy senior year!



Patty Lo Presti has graciously taken on the job of writing thank you notes for our Conservancy! It has been a big job lately with all of the successful fundraising so we are grateful to Patty!! She is pictured here with Kendra Koehler who also has volunteered a lot this spring!



Linda Shull has been out and about distributing brochures to our preserves.



Susan Amrine has been busy again helping Paula Ziebarth with purple martin and tree swallow monitoring and picking up garbage at our preserves.

Here she is with Tim, Alyssa, and Xavier who were visitors to Scheeff on Earth Day and she has been picking up garbage there this month.



A big thank you to former Put-in-Bay Township Park District commissioner Marv Booker for continuing to pay for the maintenance of the grassy area around the benches at the Massie Cliffside Preserve. Thanks Marv for your work on the Park District and your continual support of our projects!

Lisa Brohl accepting donation from Evelyn Newell for Duff Homestead at a Spring Bird Banding event of all places! Thanks Evelyn!



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Joe and Linda Shull in memory of D. J. Parker
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NEW Life Members:

Jill and Steve Cooks
Dr. Robert Jellison

THANK YOU!



Don't forget!

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*This list reflects memberships and donations since our last newsletter. All Life Members are listed in side box.

Background Photo: Veery banded on South Bass Island 2023



Photos: Lisa Brohl giving a gift from the Conservancy to the amazing John Ladd; Lisa Brohl, Peggy Leopold, Paula Ziebarth, Marsha Collett, Kelly Faris, Kristin Stanford with John Ladd saying a big THANK YOU!; Board member Kristin Stanford pouring John some bubbly she brought!

Thank You John Ladd!

By Lisa Brohl

The Conservancy recognized John Ladd for his 22 years of service on our board at our June meeting! John was on the original board and did so much to get us started!! The board presented John with Heineman Wine purchased by board member Marsha Collett and two wine glasses with the LEIC logo purchased from Jessica Krueger's Etsy shop. Check out the bicycle rack at the Morrison Woods Preserve for another thank you to John! We really appreciate everything John, Paula and family have done for our Conservancy-will miss him at our monthly meetings but you should be able to retire at 90! Thanks John!

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

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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/> or use your phone camera
on the QR Code shown here!



IN MEMORIAM



Tom Kashmer

Tom Kashmer of the Green Creek Wildlife Society passed away on June 6, 2023. Tom had been banding our purple martins on South Bass Island for a number of years with his team. The public enjoyed the chance to see the birds up close and the data has been wonderful to have. We will miss Tom's efforts here on the island and elsewhere. Memorial contributions go to Green Creek Marsh Conservancy, % Jeanine VanderLaar, 5110 CR 41, Helena, OH 43435 or Sandusky County Park District, 1329 Tiffin Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420.



IN MEMORIAM



David John "DJ"
Parker

We were saddened to hear that David John Parker (D. J.) passed away on June 8, 2023 after a battle with cancer. D. J. had been a long time supporter of our Conservancy and was often seen walking with his mother in Cooper's Woods. Or riding his bicycle everywhere. We will miss conversations at the post office and at the ice cream store on different environmental topics. A special day was held at D. J.'s ice cream parlor on June 19, 2023 where friends and family met for lunch and ice cream! D. J. had created a beautiful space there with the grape arbor, milkweed and other pollinator plantings for all to enjoy. Memorial contributions go to the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, P. O. Box 461, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456.

(SHORES & ISLANDS Continued from page 2)

Harbourtown Trading Co., JBRIV Properties, Kelley's Island Wine Co., KJJS Holding LLC, Lake Erie Arms, Motel 6-Huron, North Coast Rockin' Ranch, Plaz Vilka, Quarry Hill Orchards, Sandusky Education Foundation, House of Donuts, Sandusky Milan RV Park, Sandusky Power Squadron, Captain Montagues, Small City Taphouse, SolSTAY, SOS Wines, and Vermilion Rotary.

The Ottawa County recipients represent a variety of projects in Elmore, Genoa, Graytown, Marblehead, Port Clinton, and Put-in-Bay. Receiving Ottawa County grants are: 101 Things to Do at Put-in-Bay, Brown's Dairy Dock, Put-in-Bay Township Park District, Flourish Flat, Frosty Bar, The Gristmill, Hot Dogs to Go, Island House Condo Association, Kelli and Company, Lakeside Chautauqua Foundation, Main Street Marblehead, Marblehead Soap Co., Parks District of Ottawa County, PIB Cabins, PIB Watercraft, Pickle & Chips Field Trip, Red's Summerhouse, Spa Catawba, The Forge, The Mockingbird on Mill Road, Tri-Motor Heritage Foundation, Village of Genoa, and Whimsy & Blue.

"We are elated to once again be able to offer this support to such a large number of projects across the Shores & Islands Ohio region," said Amanda Smith Rasnick, Shores & Islands Ohio Destination Development Director. "We look forward to seeing these projects through fruition and the benefits to

their operations, their communities, and the entire region."

For more information on this grant program or the Shores & Islands Conference & Event or Sponsorship grant programs, contact Destination Development Director Amanda Smith Rasnick at amanda@shoresandislands.com.

###

ABOUT SHORES & ISLANDS OHIO

Shores & Islands Ohio is the Midwest's favorite getaway. This coastal destination boasts 152 miles of Lake Erie shoreline, the best fishing on the Great Lakes, welcoming communities, rich history, a wine trail, and an abundance of family-friendly attractions. World-famous Cedar Point Amusement Park calls it home, along with Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, other indoor and outdoor water parks, animal parks, sports venues, and more. Visitors enjoy ferries and cruises to Put-in-Bay, Middle Bass, and Kelleys Island. One of the country's best areas for spring and fall bird migration, the area is overflowing with natural beauty and opportunities for outdoor recreation. More at SHORESandISLANDS.com

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What a summer we have in store for you! Keep checking our website and Facebook pages for more info and any last minute event updates!



October 27, 2023 for Ohio Invasive Plant Council Research Conference in Columbus

December 17, 2023 for Christmas Bird Count



Important Announcements

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us at the Put-in-Bay Town Hall at 1:00pm on Wednesday, August 2 for a talk by AmeriCorps intern, Adrianna (Anna) Burghardt on "Parasitoid Releases to Control Emerald Ash Borer on the Bass islands." Anna has been assisting with the release at our PIBTPD Preserves on South and Middle Bass. A great opportunity to hear more about this program.



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