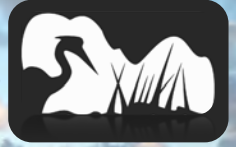


# ISLAND

Lake Erie Islands  
Conservancy  
*Presents*



# GREEN SCENE

Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2023

## Duff Homestead Closing and Challenge Grant!



Photo: Lisa Brohl of PIBTPD, Judy Twarek-Bickley of Hartung Title and Al Duff at the purchase of the 4.5 acres owned by Allen Duff, Walt and Susan Duff, and Gail and Marvin Duff

area is a prime birding site. The Homestead site will also have a pollinator site. A variety of trees with funding from the Beth Garsteck Cueto Fund will be planted.

The location has 150 feet of lake front property which is a nursery for yellow perch, sunfish, and native minnows. The shoreline also has a unique undisturbed submerged plant community which supports a remnant habitat for fish like bowfin and gar.

The LEIC has received a very generous \$20,000.00 challenge grant from an anonymous donor to refurbish the home. In memory of her husband Robert, Dianne Smith donated \$5,000.00 toward this challenge and an anonymous donor also donated \$5000.00. We are so grateful for these gifts and we are looking for additional donations to meet this challenge. Please be sure to contact the Conservancy at [leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com) or 419-366-2087 if you can help us out!

(Continued on page 12)

### 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.... Linda Shull's grandkids visiting seemed like a perfect opportunity to recruit some energetic hands to help maintain the preserves! (See Page 13!)

### In This Issue:

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Photos: Left—Lisa Brohl and Walt and Sue Duff at the purchase of the two acres of woods. Right—Sara Hill and Jannah Wilson of the Parks of Ottawa County presenting Put-in-Bay Township Park District Commissioner Kendra Koehler with a grant check toward the purchase of the Duff Homestead

# Ottawa County Parks

## Visit *By Lisa Brohl*

Jannah Wilson and Sarah Hill of the Ottawa County Parks visited Put-in-Bay in August. They attended the August meeting of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District and then toured the two preserves they have funded with grants in the past – the Massie Cliffside Preserve Access Drive and funds toward the purchase of the Duff Homestead Preserve. We are grateful for the funding and it was wonderful to meet Jannah and Sarah.



Photos: From Top—PIBTPD Commissioners Kelly Faris, Kendra Koehler, Lisa Brohl, Parks of Ottawa County Staff Jannah Wilson and Sara Hill; Jannah Wilson and Sara Hill in front of the Duff Vineyards we hope to acquire; Jannah Wilson and Sara Hill at the Duff Homestead



## 8<sup>th</sup> Middle Bass Island Poker Kayak Day Another Great Success!



*By Tina M. Larson*

Another great success!

Warm and cool temperatures, wind, rain, clouds, and sunshine hardly describe the mosaic of weather encountered as participants in the MBI Poker Kayak Day paddled only on the East side of the Island this year. The small group generated \$380 to benefit the Middle Bass Island preserves of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District!

Ian Douglas of Cleveland, OH won the first prize of round trip ferry tickets for two adults and a vehicle, courtesy of Miller Ferry! Jacob Ackerman of Wooster, OH won the second prize of a generous gift card, courtesy of the Middle Bass General Store! And Courtney Tschantz, also of Wooster, won third prize of a bag of frozen shrimp from Costco!



This year's small but fun event just would not have happened without the small army of willing wonderful and caring volunteers and promoters. A thousand appreciative thank-you's go out to:

- Cheryl & Brian Beal, Betsy & Jim Brohl, Lisa & Russ Brohl, Adrianna Burghardt, Jerry Chaplik, Kim Egner, Rob Greene, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Tina & Dave Larson, Lynda & Ken Leque, MBI General Store, MBI State Park Marina, Miller Boat Line, Ohio DNR, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Put-in-Bay Gazette, Dawn & Jerry Schrenk, TMP Architecture, U.S. Coast Guard, Sue & Jim Ungvarsky, and Western Reserve Land Conservancy.



Photo: Adrianna (Anna) Burghardt giving Parasitoid Wasp Presentation at Put-in-Bay Town Hall

## AmeriCorps Intern Adrianna Burghardt Presentation on Parasitoid Wasps

*By Lisa Brohl*

AmeriCorps intern Adrianna (Anna) Burghardt gave a power point presentation at the Put-in-Bay Town Hall on Wednesday August 2 on "Parasitoid Wasps: Here to Save the Ash Trees." About a dozen interested island residents came to hear the presentation and ask questions about this important effort. To see a copy of this presentation, check it out on our website at

[www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org](http://www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org).

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# Parasitic wasps released on islands to fight Emerald Ash Borers *By John Hageman*



Photos: Gerald Shanley helping with Parasitoid Wasp delivery for our forests-protection from emerald ash borer; Ash tree showing signs of distress after being infested with Emerald Ash Borers; Log with pupae of Parasitoid Wasps

In 2002, people began seeing lots of sick and dying Ash trees in the Windsor/Detroit area. After some investigations by the U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors, the cause was determined to be from an invasive insect called the Emerald Ash borer (EAB).

This destructive pest was likely present in shipping pallets brought over from China since the early 1990's. The EABs subsequently spread throughout North America, despite Ash tree transport restrictions, quarantines and Ash tree eradication programs designed to contain them.

The illegal transport of EAB-infested firewood and nursery stock trees regularly jumped outside the quarantine borders. Infested woods adjacent to rest stops along major highways offered convincing evidence of this method of spread.

EABs have decimated the Ash tree populations in most of the eastern states; have more recently crossed the Mississippi River; and are currently in over 40 states and provinces, including those first detected this year.

According to the U.S. Dept of Agriculture (USDA), "In addition to its value to the timber industry and the forest ecosystem, Ash was one of the most popular landscape trees because of its tolerance of a range of environmental conditions and resistance to pests.

Ash was the most commonly planted tree species used to replace elm trees decimated throughout North America by Dutch elm disease and for new residential and commercial developments.

The estimated cost of treating, removing, and replacing 37.9 million ash trees in urban and residential settings from 2009-2019 was estimated at \$25 billion."

In Ohio, Ash tree species collectively made up between 10-12% of the upland forest population and closer to 50% in wetter soils, such as ditch banks and wetland margins before the EOB invasion.

With their natural spread restricted to ½ to 2 miles by flying, I had hoped that the isolation of the Lake Erie islands would spare their abundant Ash trees from the same fate.

Unfortunately, campers travelling on the ferries to Middle Bass, Kelleys, and South Bass Islands brought firewood that was infested with live larvae and the insects quickly spread and killed most of the Ash trees on the islands.

Luckily, lots of seeds that have been deposited into the woods from the prolific trees have produced new generations of ash trees that will help perpetuate the species from imminent extinction, but mature trees are much rarer.

After determining that no native insects would effectively prey upon EABs, 3 species of parasitoid wasps from their native ranges in China and 1 from Russia have been selected to date by the USDA to test for liberation into North America.

So far, 6 million of these non-stinging wasps, that only prey on Emerald Ash Borers, have been released into 29 states. They are being raised in the U.S.D.A. Emerald Ash Biocontrol Rearing Facility in Brighton, Michigan.

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy's AmeriCorps Intern, Adrianna Burghardt, a Senior studying at the University of Dayton, led a project this summer to release 3 of the species into areas of high Ash tree densities on South Bass and Middle Bass Islands.

The most recent study that was conducted in Michigan and several northeastern states showed that these parasitoid wasps are killing 20-80% of the EABs in Ash trees up to eight inches in diameter.

With fewer EABs infecting Ash trees, they have been successfully regenerating in areas where the wasps were released.

The release of these parasitic wasps gives some hope for restoring some of the Ash tree population on the islands and elsewhere where the EABs have decimated our local woodlots.

<p><i>The Put-in-Bay</i>  <b>Gazette</b>          Ohio's Oldest Island Newspaper  <b>(419) 635-5243</b></p>	<p><b>Shop</b> the <b>Resale</b>          Downtown Put-in-Bay          Behind LEIHS Museum  <b>419-341-2725</b></p>	
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## 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 subject to change, cancellation, weather, etc. – Call if in doubt! Banding beginning ½ hour before sunrise.

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

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

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

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

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

Dec. 1st – 17th Feeder Banding / North Pond  
Banding TBD  
Owl Banding TBD  
Dec. 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](mailto:Hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com) or  
[leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com)  
(419)447-0005 (H) (567)-278-2300 (C)



## Purple Martin Banding 2023! By Lisa Brohl

Lisa Rock, Susie Charlton, Cheri Novitski of the Green Creek Marsh Conservancy together with Paula Ziebarth, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy board member, and AmeriCorps intern Anna Burghardt banded the purple martins at the Scheeff East Point Preserve on Thursday, July 6 with visitors observing. 154 young birds were banded at the Scheeff East Point Preserve with 56 banded from the South Bass Island Lighthouse colony. Other birds were banded at the residence of Paula Ziebarth and Lisa Brohl. Thanks to Miller Boat Line for passenger fare for our banders and to Heineman Winery for a case of water for the volunteers.

Photos: Top—Lisa Rock, Paula Ziebarth, Susie Charlton, Cheri Novitski at the Brohl residence after banding; Middle two photos—Young purple martins at the Brohl rig; Bottom—Cheri Novitski, Lisa Rock, Paula Ziebarth, Lisa Brohl, Susie Charlton, and Anna Burghardt enjoying a break after a long hot day!

## Lake Erie Awareness Day By Lisa Brohl



Photo: Bruce Miles manning the table at the LEIC Station at Cooper's Woods Preserve

Lake Erie Awareness Day held on Thursday August 10, 2023 with six stations on South Bass Island. Folks got stamps at each station to get a special bag from the event and a chance to win a raffle prize basket.

Special thank you to all of the partners who made Lake Erie Awareness Day successful: Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory, Ohio Clean Marinas & Clean Boaters Programs, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, H2Ohio,

Lake Erie Foundation, Great Lakes Islands Alliance, The Ohio State University, Ohio State - College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, National Park Service, South Bass Island State Park Campground, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, Eriesponsible Inc, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, and Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau.

Our Conservancy station was at the Cooper's Woods Preserve educated the public on invasive plants on the island-winter creeper, amur Honeysuckle, and garlic mustard. Each visitor got a LEIC drink koozie with stickers and free admission from the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society. Thanks to Kelly Faris, Stacy Clink, Sarah Cochran, and Bruce Miles for manning the table that day-50-60 folks stopped by and some made donations to our Conservancy as well!

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# LEINWC and Stone Lab Team Up to Study the Mammals on PIB Township Preserves

By Amy B. Alford

This summer the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center supervised a Stone Lab Research Experience for Undergraduates Student to evaluate the mammal community of South and Middle Bass Islands. Juan Flores, an undergraduate student from the University of Notre Dame was advised by LEINWC Volunteer Research Coordinator, Amy Alford, and Director, Renee Fultz.

Though his study was comprehensive, Juan, (like everyone else on the Islands!) was really interested in determining the population size of White-tailed Deer on the Islands as well as observe Fox Squirrels on South Bass Island (Fox Squirrels are believed to only inhabit Middle Bass Island). Surveys began in June when Juan divided Cooper's Woods, Ladd Carr Wildlife Woods, Massie Cliffside, Scheef East Point, and Middle Bass Island East Point into sections where he surveyed for White-tailed Deer, Raccoon, Red Fox, and Coyote scat (yes, poop!), established camera trap stations, and recorded bat echolocation calls. Juan also recorded the antler configuration for each White-tailed Deer buck he observed and counted every doe and fawn observed either on camera traps, while walking along transects in the preserves, and while driving around the Islands.

While that elusive Fox Squirrel was never found on South Bass Island, Juan was able to determine that the White-tailed Deer population on South Bass Island is currently around 48 individuals or 20 deer per square mile. An interesting observation during the survey was that a majority of the bucks he observed were located in and around Cooper's Woods. Male White-tailed Deer will often form 'bachelor groups' during the summer to either form breeding hierarchies or to allow fawns to graze in higher quality habitats with less predators. Juan also found evidence of coyote (via scat) in Cooper's Woods and few fawns suggesting does were rearing young away from predators. During the study only two does and three fawns were observed on Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve and by Island residents. However, a buck was captured on a camera trap in August.

Juan also detected at least 9 species of bats on the preserves, Gibraltar Island and at the South Bass Island Lighthouse, some of which are migratory and endangered species. This is great news because it indicates the Islands are important for global biodiversity! Stone Lab and the LEINWC continue to monitor bat activity on South Bass, Middle Bass, and Gibraltar Islands, so stay tuned!

The million dollar question however is "how many deer should South Bass Island have?" The carrying capacity, that is how many deer the Island can support, is dependent on numerous factors including food availability, predator occurrence, and

Island residents' attitudes to having deer on their property. However, for a well-managed deer population with ample food resources, biologists suggest a density of about 15-30 deer per square mile and the average density of deer in Northwest Ohio is about 15 deer per square mile. The current South Bass White-tailed Deer population seems to be at a normal population level.

But remember, we (and the deer of course!) are on an Island and life isn't always normal. Juan's research was just the beginning of a multi-year project to get a better understanding of the deer population and how it is regulated by food availability, predators, and the ability of deer to migrate between Islands and the mainland either by swimming or ice. The Nature Center will have two opportunities this winter for Island residents to monitor and report deer on their property. First, the Nature Center has numerous trail cameras to loan and hope to have cameras monitoring any deer movement on ice this winter. Second, Juan developed a simple deer pellet survey to estimate deer activity on the Islands. So, if you are interested in borrowing a camera (or have a trail camera already!) or counting deer poop this winter, contact Amy at leicommunityscience@gmail.com.

Figure 1: Presence of large mammal species on the Bass Islands. Figure created by Juan Flores

Presence/Absence of Mammals on the Lake Erie Bass Islands										
	White-tailed Deer	Black Squirrel	Gray Squirrel	Red Squirrel	Coyote	Cottontail Rabbit	Raccoon	Red Fox	Coon	White Deer
Cooper's	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Massie Cliffside	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jane Cooper	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scheef East Point	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middle Bass East Point	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Bass Island	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middle Bass Island	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Figure 2: A curious buck at Scheeff East Point. This deer actually opened the camera!



The Ohio State University REU\* students with their advisors on the day of their final presentations. Upper row: Advisors Lisa Brohl, Amy Alford, Justin Chaffin, and Zachary Steffensmeier. Lower row: REU Students Kevli Sheth, Juan Flores, Alexandra Kushnir, and Emma Pierce.

Congratulations and well done to all the students for their hard work this summer!

\*Stone Lab's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Fellowship Program is a competitive comprehensive research internship that attracts students from across the country to learn how to conduct real, in-the-field research alongside top scientists. Over eight weeks, participants use scientific equipment, explore the Lake Erie islands, and collect important data to

Figure 3: A young doe at Ladd Carr Woods



Figure 4: Juan installing an acoustic bat monitor at Cooper's Woods.



help solve the most pressing issues for the Great Lakes region. Learn more about the program here:

[Research Experience for Undergraduates \(REU\) Fellowship Program | Ohio Sea Grant \(osu.edu\)](https://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/reu) or <https://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/reu>.

## A Comprehensive Study of Mammals of the Bass Islands

Juan Flores, Dr. Amy Alford, Renee Fultz

### Deer Population Estimates

The deer population estimates generated by both the pellet count surveys and the visual encounter surveys had vast differences between the two, even when the regions were changed to estimate the population of a smaller region. According to the US forest service, the suggested deer density for a healthy population is between 15 deer/square mile to 30 deer/square mile (Hanberry 2021). Using both the pellet count survey and visual encounter survey the deer estimates are within the range described by the US forest service, however, to accurately determine if the deer population on South Bass Island is at a healthy level there is further research necessary to determine the carrying capacity of the island. Although the deer estimates from both surveys suggest that the deer population is at a healthy range according to the US forest service, it may be that the carrying capacity for the island is lower than the regions that the forest service studied.

Furthermore, the population of deer seemed to be concentrated in specific regions of the island and not spread out to take advantage of the entire area. To begin with, the island seems to be separated into two different

regions due to the partial geographic barrier that is created by the construction taking place. This barrier could be causing a disruption in the gene flow, and therefore the populations were also calculated for each region. According to the visual encounter surveys, the deer density for both sides of the island is within that healthy range described by the forest service but using the pellet count surveys both sides of the island are at a very low density. This barrier on the island has possibly limited the deer to certain regions of the island, especially those that are on the eastern side of the barrier. In order to determine if there is a disruption in the gene flow, further research would be needed to track the deer to determine if they travel across the barrier created by the construction.

The deer on the western side of the island still aren't very spread out, despite having access to the majority of the island. During the visual encounter surveys, it was discovered that a large portion of the deer on the western side of the barrier are largely concentrated in and around the Cooper's Woods area. Previous research has suggested that male ungulates will go to specific areas during the summer months in order to maximize their growth and minimize damage to their antlers. The

areas that the male deer can minimize damage to their antlers are typically areas that are more open and can lead to a bigger predation risk (Main and Coblenz 1990). When the male deer leave, it allows the does and their offspring to take advantage of the resources in areas that are more suitable for raising young. On South Bass Island the area that the male deer tend to go to is the Cooper's Woods area, this area is more open than other places on the island, but there is also a larger predation risk as it is one of the few areas that coyote were seen. As the male deer gather at Cooper's Woods, it creates a high density of deer in a small area, which can lead to issues in the future such as overexploitation of the resources in the area by the deer if the population were to get too big. A high density of deer in a small area could also pose significant risk to the deer population because they would be at a much higher risk for parasites and disease because of their proximity to other deer. In order to determine the healthy populations of deer and to minimize the risks to the deer population more research should be conducted to better understand and to be able to make management decisions that could maintain or create a healthy deer population. or create a healthy deer population.

## Pre- and post-monitoring pollinator habitats at Middle Bass, South Bass, and Kelleys Islands

Kevli Sheth, Lisa Kutschbach-Brohl

**ABSTRACT** The rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) is a federally endangered bumble bee native to the upper midwestern and eastern United States (Xerces Society). The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, with funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, will establish pollinator habitats to support *B. affinis* individuals and other pollinators. The five total pollinator habitats have not yet been established on Middle and

South Bass Islands, so they were pre-monitored and compared to two already established pollinator sites at Kelleys Island. The monitoring procedures at each site consisted of a habitat assessment to determine habitat quality, a plant survey to determine native plant coverage and richness, and an insect survey to determine insect family richness and percentage of pollinator taxa at each site. As expected, the established/post-monitored

pollinator sites at Kelleys Island ranked higher on the habitat assessment form, indicating better habitat quality. The established sites also had greater native plant percent coverage and richness. The results of the insect survey were inconclusive. More specific and useful results may require bumble bee or pollinator-specific sampling methods so the insects can be identified to species level.



REU Content Continued on next page...

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## (REU) PROJECTS 2023 Continued

### Rusty-patched Bumblebee Pollinator Habitats Research Continues

By Lisa Brohl

REU student Kevli Sheth worked with Lisa Brohl on a comparison of our proposed Rusty-patched bumblebee pollinator habitats with those already established on Kelleys Island. The abstract of her research is presented here with figures. You can see her complete presentation and paper at our website at [www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org](http://www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org). Kevli was wonderful to work with and has left us a wealth of pre-monitoring information to move forward with our Conservancy pollinator work funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Thanks to the property owners for access as well as OSU Stone Lab for the support. Special thanks to Jackie Taylor at the Kelleys Island Field Station and Chris Ashley at the Kelleys Island State Park for transportation and knowledge shared on this project.



Photo: Kevli Sheth at the Kelleys Island Monhegan Rd. site with her Malaise insect trap. Special thanks to the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center and Amy Alford for the loan of the trap for Kevli's research.



Semester at Stone Laboratory Students Davina Huddleston and Ophelia Kruse assisted LEIC Pollinator Project Research Experiences for Undergraduates student (REU) Kevli Sheth with her work at Kelleys Island. Davinia and Kevli are shown here at the pollinator habitat at the airport at Kelleys Island – It was beautiful this year.

## Farewell to Summer and Welcome to Fall! *\*\*See page 16 for additional details*

### Back to the Wild—Monday, September 11 at 3:15 p.m.

Back to the Wild will be on the island on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 3:15pm at the Put-in-Bay Town Hall to have a program for the public with critters from their Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Located in Castalia, Ohio.

This program is sponsored by the Put-in-Bay Recreation Committee, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, and the Miller Boat Line. Come on out and learn more about Ohio's wildlife!

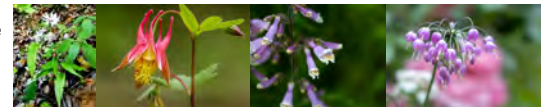
### Conservancy Annual Meeting—Sunday, September 17 at 2:00 p.m.



Meet us at the Heineman Winery on Sunday September 17, 2023 at 2:00pm for the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy annual meeting followed by a cookout/potluck. Grill food will be provided, bring a side dish or dessert to share as well as your own table service for a green party. We will be reelecting Conservancy board members as well as reflecting on

a year of land preservation. RSVP by calling or texting Lisa at 419-366-2087. We will also have native perennials for sale that day and a short program by Jill Kirby and Chad Machinski on Native Plants/Trees.

Come join us!



### LEIC Fundraiser at the GOAT!—Sunday, October 1 at 12:00 p.m.

Woody's Harvest Fest will take place on Sunday, October 1st, from noon to 5 p.m. at Das Lokal, the Biergarten at the Goat. Enjoy a traditional turkey dinner for \$20 and listen to polka music from Phil Yan's Polka Band while enjoying an imported beer or glass of wine. 100% of all sales will benefit the Duff

Homestead renovation and/or vineyard purchase. Woody Widmar was a longtime member of the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. So come out, have fun and support this worthy cause for the Conservancy and Park District.



### Watch for Winter Bird Seed Sale!—October

Watch for Winter Bird Seed Sale on our website and in the Put-in-Bay Gazette which will start in October with delivery in November. Not only will you be helping the birds throughout the winter, you'll be helping the Conservancy raise much needed

funds for all the important work happening throughout all the seasons!

### LEINWC/LEIC Holiday Bazaar—Thursday, November 16 at 3:00–7:00 p.m.

The Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center with the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy are bringing back our traditional Holiday Bazaar on Thursday, November 16 from 3-7 at the Put-in-Bay Town Hall.

Finish up your holiday shopping with unique gifts from local small businesses

and artisans. The Conservancy will have its 2024 calendars for sale and the Nature and Wildlife Center will bring their gift ideas! For interested vendors: \$10 per space Call or text Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087 or email at [leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com) to reserve your spot!

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# Mammals of Bass Islands—Part 2 *By Madame WingNut (LEIC Board Member Paula Ziebarth)*

In the last issue of the newsletter, I introduced white-tailed deer, squirrels and white-footed mice. Here are a few more of our Bass Islands mammals. Get to know them and love them... from a distance. Amazing as they all are, they have teeth. Never habituate wild mammals to humans.



Photo: Raccoon Put-in-Bay by Susan Byrnes

## Raccoons

Sometimes referred to as “trash pandas” or “trash bandits”, the most distinguishing characteristics of the raccoon are the black mask across its eyes and its bushy tail with 4-10 black rings. These omnivorous mammals are not picky eaters, dining on a wide variety of fruits and nuts, corn, small animal and insect prey, fish, trash, and roadkill.

Raccoons prefer to den in tree cavities, but will live in caves, storm sewers, deserted buildings, etc. They generally have one litter of 3 – 7 young per year. They have an average lifespan of 3 years in the wild, with the oldest known raccoon having a lifespan of 16 years.

Almost entirely nocturnal, some people never see them, but they are prevalent on the islands. Raccoon baffles are extremely effective to keep these mammals from accessing bird feeding stations or nest boxes. A good raccoon baffle will prevent them from climbing up poles to smack the sugar water out of your hummingbird feeder or eating adult birds/young/eggs in nest boxes set out for tree swallows or purple martins. You can make your own baffle with a 24” long round section of 6” to 8” diameter galvanized steel ducting or stovepipe. They are also sold commercially.



Photos: Raccoons—Cooper's Woods by Paula Ziebarth

Raccoons can carry many diseases and parasites that can be transmitted to humans and domestic animals. Make certain animal feed and trash cans are inaccessible to them. These large mammals do not have many natural predators. Coyotes, large hawks and owls sometimes hunt them.

## Eastern Chipmunks

Eastern chipmunks were introduced to South Bass Island in the 1970's. These small rodents are diurnal (active during daylight hours). They are about 10 inches long including their tail. The fur is reddish-brown and their body is distinguished with white underparts and 5 dark stripes, stretching along their back, from shoulders to rump, alternating with 4 light colored stripes. They also have cheek pouches which are used to carry food stores into their burrows.

They live in open deciduous forests and at the edge of woodlands. They also live in wooded residential areas. Eastern chipmunks are primarily herbivores, eating fruit, seeds and nuts. They sometimes complement their diet with insects, earthworms, slugs, bird eggs and mushrooms.

These animals are highly territorial, protecting the area near their burrows. Burrows consist of multiple entrances and underground tunnels which are connected to each other. When preparing for cold winter months, eastern chipmunks will stuff their cheek pouches full of seeds and nuts and head into their burrow where they will hoard food. One chipmunk can gather as many as 165 acorns in a day. During the winter months, they enter their burrows and sleep for long periods of time in a state of torpor where their body temperature and heartbeat decrease. They wake up for brief periods in warmer weather to access their food stash. Around mid-March, they leave their burrows when the weather warms up.

The word "chipmunk" is thought to originate from the high pitched "chip-chip" sound that this animal often produces. When I hear this sound, I am sometimes fooled and think it is a bird. I would love for someone to do a size comparison between our island eastern chipmunks and those on the mainland. The island animals appear larger to me.

The eastern chipmunks in my yard have a fun escape strategy when my dog runs out. They jump into the downspouts on the corners of my house for safety. They are excellent climbers for a terrestrial mammal and I can hear their little toenails working hard in the downspout when the dog rounds the corner. Yes, it sounds like fingernails on a blackboard.

## Eastern Cottontail Rabbits

Eastern cottontail rabbits are one of the most plentiful mammals on the islands. Present in many parts of the islands, they are most active early in the morning and early evening. These herbivores enjoy grass, clover, dandelions and other plants during the growing season. During winter months, they will eat tree bark and twigs. They especially enjoy tender shoots and vegetable gardens. If they are eating your cherished plants, repellent sprays are effective. A low garden fence will also keep them out if secured properly.



Photo: Eastern Cottontail Bunny by Paula Ziebarth

Eastern cottontail rabbits have red-brown or gray-brown fur, long ears, large hind feet, and a short, fluffy white (cotton) tail. The fur on its underside is white. Their kittens have a white blaze on their forehead but that disappears as they mature. Rabbits can have 1 to 7 litters of 1 to 12 young in a year, averaging about 17 kits per year.

Rabbits have excellent vision and are able to see behind them. They do have one blind spot which is located right in front of their nose. As prey for many larger animals, this vision serves them well along with strategies to avoid detection. When chased by a predator, eastern cottontail rabbits will run fast in a zig-zag pattern, lay their ears back and stay low to the ground. They will also freeze and remain motionless to evade predators... fools my dog every time.

## Coyotes

Both coyotes and red fox frequently cross the ice between the islands and the mainland. Much maligned, coyotes are actually one of my favorite mammals. Although not native to Ohio, these animals have populated all 88 counties in Ohio. They are one of the few mammalian species that self-regulate their population in an area – a behavior that should serve them well in an island ecosystem.

Coyotes are a medium-sized wild canid with slender legs, small feet, erect pointed ears, and a

(Continued on page 9)



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"ALL THINGS WILD AND THEN SOME"

narrow pointed muzzle. The majority of coyotes are gray, though some have a rusty brown or off-white coloration. The coyote stands about one and one half to two feet tall and is between 41 to 53 inches long. Males are larger than the females and weigh anywhere from 20 to 50 pounds.

Coyotes are omnivorous. They are primarily nocturnal, hunting at night. They hunt year round. Typical foods include



Photo: Coyote from night camera

small mammals (rabbits, mice, chipmunks, squirrels), vegetables, berries, nuts, carrion and even deer. According to Dr. Stan Gehrt from Ohio State University, 42% of their diet consists of small rodents; 18% consists of rabbits; 1% is cats. If a coyote were to only eat rodents, one would eat about 4,000 in a year's time.

In areas where high white-tailed deer populations have caused the forest understory to be depleted (deer grazing everything from ground up to where they can reach), coyotes have taken 80% of fawns born. With understory gone, fawns are easy to find - a wonderful natural control for high deer populations. Coyotes are great controllers of Canada Geese as well.

A coyote "pack" consists of 2 to 8 adults. Coyotes are monogamous and only the Alpha pair breed January - March. They only have young once per year - pups are born early May to early June. Litter sizes average 4 - 7. Coyote litter size is dependent on food availability and pressure from hunting (repopulating with larger litters when hunted). In areas where food supply is lower, they have been known to delay sexual maturity to the age of three years. All the adult coyotes in a social group care for the young so they are very successful. "Pack" is actually a misnomer because

they seldom hunt large game. Coyotes mostly hunt individually or in pairs and the bulk of their diet is comprised of small rodents. The major purpose of the "pack" is to protect young and protect territory from other "floater" coyotes.

Dr. Gehrt also stated that it is nearly impossible to remove coyotes from an area. If you kill individuals or even an entire "pack", new ones will take its place shortly. "Floater" coyotes are always on the move throughout territories, looking for a home with a new pack. Unlike deer, raccoons, and Canada geese, coyotes will never overpopulate an area. Since floaters are often first year animals, killing resident coyotes can actually result in population increases if a sexually mature first year animal comes in to fill that niche.

Although coyotes are naturally very shy animals, co-existing well with coyotes should involve maintaining a healthy fear of people and not habituating them (i.e. never feed them or attract them). If you spot a coyote on your property, remove all "attractants" to deter the coyote from returning. This includes not feeding pets outside and cleaning up around the grill or birdfeeder. Cats and small dogs should be kept inside, especially after nightfall. Motion-sensitive lighting is helpful to keep wildlife away from your home at night.

### Red Fox

This small canid has also reached the islands by crossing the ice. With their amazing red fur and bushy tail with a white tip, they are truly a gorgeous animal. Adults only weigh 8 to 15 pounds. Red foxes are monogamous breeders. Breeding occurs in January - February. Gestation lasts 51-53 days and young are born in February - April. Litters typically consist of 5 or 6 kits and usually only one litter is born per year.

Red foxes typically live in wooded areas that also have open brush lands. I have seen one at the Put-in-Bay Airport on various occasions during the summer months.

These predators feed on mice, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, birds, frogs, insects, fruits, and some grasses. Red foxes do not hibernate. They are primarily nocturnal creatures, though they are sometimes found hunting during daylight hours. Red foxes hunt alone and live as pairs or in small family groups.

### Gray Fox

There has been a reported incidence of a gray fox on South Bass Island. These mammals are most active from late evening until dawn. Unlike red foxes, gray foxes will readily climb trees to evade predators or to hunt (island resident reported this), easily jumping from branch to branch.

Similar in appearance to the red fox, an easy way to tell them apart is by looking at their tails. Whereas red foxes have a white tipped tail, gray foxes have a black tipped tail.

### 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](http://ohiodnr.gov)

Interviews with 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".

## NEW! LEIC Fall Native Tree/Plant Sale By Lisa Brohl



Believe it or not, fall is a wonderful time to plant native trees and perennials! The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy will be selling trees native to the island from

Ohio stock from Riverside Native Trees in 2 sizes—3-gallon less than 4' and 3-gallon greater than 4'.

We are also offering trees from QRS Trees in a 20-gallon size for those who want big trees in a hurry and Ed Kapraly of Riverside Native Perennials is still running his fundraiser for us—LEIC is the code to order from a large selection on their website and you can pick up or they will ship your order directly to you!

We have something new this fall too. Middle Bass seasonal resident Chad Machinski has raised native perennial wildflowers from Middle Bass seed that are available as well this fall. The plants

are beautiful. Thank you Chad!

To see additional details and reserve your plants and trees, check out our order form on the next page or on our website at [www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org](http://www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org), or you can call Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087.

We may also have some assorted perennials from Scioto Gardens where our Advancement Coordinator Jill Cerny Kirby works as well to sell at our annual meeting on September 17 at 2:00pm at the Heineman Winery.

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# LEIC's New Fall Native Tree & Plant Sale ORDER FORM

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC) is now taking orders for native trees and plants for the islands. We're using Riverside Native Trees and Quail Ridge Specimen Trees, and some home-grown natives for the sale. Also, Riverside Native Perennials still has the LEIC code\* active for us. Buying and planting native trees and shrubs in the fall is also a great way to provide quality habitat for the birds, butterflies, moths, and other wildlife on the islands. We're promoting the planting of native trees and shrubs because our wildlife are adapted to feeding on these plants and using them for shelter. By planting native species, you're making your land more attractive to birds, bees, butterflies, moths, and a host of other desirable species. This fundraiser will be used to support the LEIC land preservation and restoration programs!

Trees: Native trees and shrubs for sale in 3-gallon containers. The varieties available are American Basswood, American Sycamore, Black Willow, Bur Oak, Common Hackberry, Sandbar Willow, Silver Maple, Sugar Maple, Swamp White Oak, Wild Black Cherry. Shrubs offered are Buttonbush, Common Elderberry, Hoptree, Ninebark, Pasture Rose, Prairie Rose, Rough-leaved Dogwood, Silky Dogwood, Smooth Rose, Swamp Rose Mallow. Trees for sale in 20-gallon containers: Bur Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Sugar Maple, Swamp White Oak, and Sycamore. All these trees and shrubs are native to the islands and will thrive in this environment.

Plants: LEIC is also selling a few varieties of native perennial plants and flowers homegrown by Chad Machinski from Middle Bass seed including Hairy Beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*), Nodding Wild Onion (*Allium cernuum*), Short's Aster (*Symphotrichum shortii*), and Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadense*).











\*If you're looking for larger native plants, Riverside Native Perennials still has the LEIC Code active for ordering directly from them with shipping throughout the continental United States! Please use the link here: <https://riversidenativeperennials.com/shop/> and the LEIC Code during checkout for LEIC to receive credit for the sale!

Order forms are available at [www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org](http://www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org) or by contacting Lisa at 419-366-2087 or [leiconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com).

Beautify your yard and support the Conservancy! Orders may be placed until Oct. 1 using the order from below (and through the end of 2023 using the LEIC code at Riverside Native Perennials), and we'll arrange a pickup/delivery on the island. For those on Middle Bass who order, a pickup will be set up there as well.





Send Order Form and Payment to: LEIC, P.O.Box 461, Put-in-Bay, OH 43456  
Please make checks payable to LEIC-Add \$5.00 for shipping/handling - Thank You for your support!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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	TREES	Qty	Size	Cost	Total
	American Basswood – moist, rich well-drained soils, bees and birds love		4-5'	\$40	
	American Sycamore – wet, banks and bottomlands		1-2'	\$30	
	Black Willow – can withstand drought or wet conditions		2-3'	\$30	
	Bur Oak – can withstand drought or wet conditions		2-3'	\$30	
	Common Hackberry – moist and fertile soil, also accepts variety even rocks and hillsides		2-3'	\$30	
	Sandbar Willow – moist to wet, temporarily tolerates standing water		4-6'	\$35	
	Silver Maple – moist and fertile soil, swamps, streambanks, bottomlands		4-6'	\$35	
	Sugar Maple – moist and fertile soil, well-drained, can tolerate poor, rocky soil		3-4'	\$30	
	Swamp White Oak – wet areas		1-3'	\$30	
	Wild Black Cherry – moist but well-drained soil, strong valuable timber		4-6'	\$35	
	Total				

	SHRUBS	Qty	Size	Cost	Total
	Buttonbush – shorelines and swamps, moist soil, full sun, flowering is poor in shade or dry soil		2-3'	\$30	
	Common Elderberry – moist soil, creates clump quickly, sun		2'	\$30	
	Hoptree – wet or well-drained, sun to partial shade		3-6'	\$35	
	Ninebark – drought tolerant, full sun to part shade, clay, loam		1-2'	\$30	
	Pasture Rose – dry to moist soil, full sun to part shade		2-3'	\$30	
	Prairie Rose – roadsides, ditches, dry hills, and prairies, full sun to part shade, tolerates alkaline, clay, drought		1-3'	\$30	
	Rough-leaved Dogwood – moist to slightly drier, full sun to part shade, white berries		2-3'	\$30	
	Silky Dogwood – moist to slightly drier, full sun to part shade, blue berries		3-5'	\$35	
	Smooth Rose – shorelines to rocky slopes, moist to drier, full sun to part shade		2-3'	\$30	
	Swamp Rose Mallow – moist to wet, full sun		1-3'	\$30	
	Total				

	20-Gallon Root Bags (Sold by Caliper Inch)	Qty	Size	Cost	Total
	Bur Oak – can withstand drought or wet conditions		20 Ga.	\$160	
	Chinquapin/Chinkapin Oak – wet or well-drained, high ph, rocks		20 Ga.	\$160	
	Sugar Maple – moist and fertile soil, well-drained, can tolerate poor, rocky soil		20 Ga.	\$160	
	Swamp White Oak – wet areas		20 Ga.	\$160	
	American Sycamore – wet, banks and bottomlands		20 Ga.	\$110	
	Total				

	Fall Plants (Raised by Chad Machinski from MBI seed)	Qty	Size	Cost	Total
	Hairy Beardtongue ( <i>Penstemon hirsutus</i> ) – sun, well-drained fields and open areas, summer		plug	\$3	
	Short's Aster ( <i>Symphotrichum shortii</i> ) – moist to dry, rocky soils, thicket, late summer to fall		plug	\$3	
	Wild Columbine ( <i>Aquilegia canadense</i> ) – rocky, sun or part shade, spring		plug	\$3	
	Nodding Wild Onion ( <i>Allium cernuum</i> ) – sun, will grow in rocky ground, summer		plug	\$3	
	Total				

Tree Leaf Photos obtained from "What Tree Is It?" – OPLIN-OHS/CC BY 3.0

# MBI Music Festival 2023

The Middle Bass Music Festival held July 15, 2023 at the Middle Bass Island State Park Lonz Pavilion was a great success. Great music, food, and a good crowd despite the weather! Approximately 1,500 people enjoyed the sounds of the North Coast Goats, Red, White and Blues Band, The Ark Band, and Cats on Holiday. Great food was available from the Island Grind, Deet's Barbecue, and Gess Who Tacos. Heineman's Wine and Twin Oast Brewing Company provided delicious beverages with sangria being served this year! Art demonstrations were done by Amy Huston and rock painting with Christine Tomasch took place on the Lonz Terrace.

We were grateful to our sponsors of the event the Middle Bass Dock Company, The Island Grind, Ohio Arts Council, Darkside Operations LLC, South Shore Marine, and Bass Island Charters, LLC (Inter-Island Charters.) We appreciated the cooperation and support from the Middle Bass Island State Park for the event.

A special thanks to Lucy Schneider for designing this year's posters, and the following for donating time/service/in-kind donations: The Men's Club of Middle Bass for ticket sales, Dieperink Rentals, Anchor Lane Inn, Patty Echko, MBI Volunteer Fire Department for set up and tear down help, Miller Boat Line, B and C Tent Rental, Mike Fountain, emcee Peter Huston, Laura Schanz, Lisa Green for basket sale, We had great vendors including Shannon McDonald and the LuLaRoe team, Helen

Brohl, Mary Betz with Mary Bears, Jim Siemer, Becky Cantu, Middle Bass Island Yacht Club, and the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center. We also appreciate the great photographs shared with us by Sully Zhao.

Conservancy member Ann Hicks signed up and managed the volunteers for the entrances as well as the t-shirt and 50/50 sales. Her son Michael was the top raving seller of 50-50 tickets for us again this year. The team of Eric and Halterman, Ann Shelton, and Laura Zabak sold \$1,366 in tickets for the 50/50 raffle! The winning ticket was Val Hunter who received \$863. Gatekeepers Lynn and Doug Price, Jan Sadowsky, Jenny Archibald, Kathy Chamberlain, Kris and Jennifer Ganey, Lorie Zabak, Linda Rence, Kiersten Curtis, Val Hunter, Terri Cardinal, Russell Brohl, Ed Malaska, and Patty Mazanec, kept folks orderly and entering quickly.

T-shirt and Koozie Sales were a good money maker-thanks to Laura Hnat, Kathryn Lucky, Danny and Lori Messmer, Joe and Joanne Grace and Cheryl Beal. We still have just a few t-shirts, hats, and koozies for sale if you need a special Christmas present.

We are grateful to Sue Ungvarsky, Teddi Keith-Morris, Cheryl and Emily Beal, and AmeriCorps intern Adrianna Burghardt for manning the LEIC table and help setting up.

Board member Darren Dunning coordinated volunteers Mike and Matt Yako, JC Smith, Teddi Keith-Morris, Glen Schettine, Patty Echko, Valter Vidas, Nate Rettig, Halayna Startsun, Nancy Welter, Michele Meloche, Jennifer Snapp, Bryan Roth, Patty Echko, Chris Berezny, Jane Haeger, Ed Schaffer, Jake Kerkay, Alex Kerkay, Jennifer Spencer, Chuck Kiraly, Mike O'Toole, and Sydney Campanaro to serve beer and wine to our festival customers. Special thanks to Patty and Dave Nuttall for getting everyone started with Heineman's wine.

We thank our Festival Committee of Board member Bruce Miles, Lisa Brohl, Jane Wolnick, Darren Dunning, Ann Hicks and especially chair of the committee Board Member Colleen Kerkay for her great job organizing this year!

It was truly a beautiful day and great event and we are grateful for the support of this important fundraiser for our Conservancy. Past music festivals made possible matching funds for the Cleveland Tract acquisition (MBI East Point Preserve), the purchase of boardwalk bridges for the trail at the MBI Forested Wetland Preserve, and to match a Natureworks grant to acquire more parcels for the MBI Forested Wetland Preserve. This year's funds will be earmarked for more Middle Bass Island land preservation projects.



Photos: Top Row—Teddy, Piper and Greta Koehler Photo by Susan Byrnes; Cats on Holiday Photo by Sully Zhao; Red White and Blues Band Photo by Sully Zhao; Ark Band Photo by Sully Zhao; Bruce Miles with the North Coast Goats Photo by Sully Zhao; Middle Row—Attendees dancing to Cats on Holiday; Sound Team hard at work!; Bruce Miles while playing with the North Coast Goats Photo by Sully Zhao; The Ark Band entertaining the crowd; It was quite the rainy day!; Emily Beal, AmeriCorps Intern Adrianna Burghardt and Cheryl Beal manning the Conservancy table. Photo by Lisa Brohl; Bottom Row—Music Festival Attendees Enjoying Artwork Photo by Susan Novak Byrnes; Clean Up Crew-Colleen Kerkay, Greg and Ann Hicks, Chris Helman, Jennifer Spencer, Lisa and Russ Brohl, and Bruce Miles; Middle Bass Men's Club members Check Meck Ken Shelton, Dave Nostrant, Kerm Gill selling tickets Photo by Lisa Brohl; Festival Manager Colleen Kerkay accepting a \$300 donation from Gess Who Tacos Owner Rich Gessner Photo by Lisa Brohl; Vendors -Mary's Bears and Becky Cantu; Peter Huston doing a great job as our MCI Photo by Sully Zhao



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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](http://www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org).

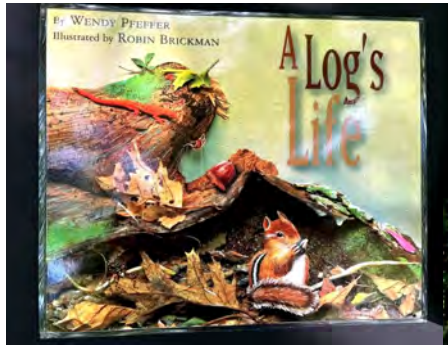
## LEIC and PIBTPD Wish List

It is so hard to believe fall is coming fast upon us! Even so, the Conservancy still has lots of work to do in preparation for winter and the coming spring. If you are willing to help, 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! 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](mailto:leiconservancy@gmail.com) or 419-366-2087. New members—Can always check us out at [www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org](http://www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org)!

- *Volunteers Always Needed—spread mulch on trails, removed downed trees and pick up litter—garlic mustard pulling, amur honeysuckle removal—all preserves.*
- *Volunteers needed for Tabling Events, Office, and Digital File Organizing.*
- *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 Summer Transport of tools, people.*
- *New Bicycle Rack for the Duff Homestead Preserve—\$900*
- *Interpretive Signs (\$250 each) for Duff Woods and Duff Homestead Preserves.*
- *Help with Scheeff East Point Bulletin Board*
- *AmeriCorps Intern Fund for 2024*
- *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*
- *Acoustic Bat, Cicada, Frog, and Bird Monitors, approx. \$2,500 for all with licensing and software*
- *Land Protection Fund Donations*



## A New StoryWalk® Book to See! By Lisa Brohl



Check out the new book “A Log’s Life” by Wendy Pfeffer on the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® at the Dodge Woods Preserve. Thanks to Karen Wilhelm from the Erie Islands Library and her husband Mark Wilhelm for getting it installed and maintaining the walk for us all to enjoy!



Photos: Top Left—New StoryWalk® Book at Dodge Woods Bottom Left—Mark Wilhelm installing page of new book Bottom Right—Linda Shull’s granddaughters visiting the trail

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](mailto: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!! 2024 Submissions close October 31!

(DUFF HOMESTEAD Continued from page 1)

A bench for the site is being purchased by Patty and Carl Lo Presti, and a second bench has been purchased by Neal and Carla Hess. A dedication of the Duff Homestead will be held in the spring of 2024. The final phase of the Duff Homestead is – hopefully – the purchase of 11 acres of pristine vineyards, antique outbuilding, an orchard, and a garden. A bald eagle’s nest is adjacent to this property.

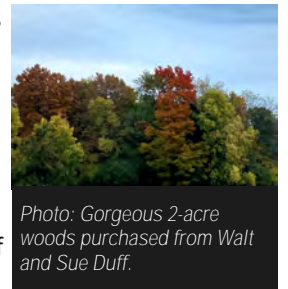


Photo: Gorgeous 2-acre woods purchased from Walt and Sue Duff.

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# Preserve News!



Photo: Multiple trees blocking the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail; Tree uprooted by benches at Massie Cliffside Preserve.

Thanks to PIBTPD employee Patrick Green for clearing trails at Scheeff and Massie while PIBTPD contractor Mark Lekanka was busy moving the rest of the downed trees (or rerouting our trails around them) after the two nights of rain and wind in late August! Great Team we have!!! Thanks to Chad and Brian Machinski for clearing our trail at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve and to Brad Weigand and Bill Junkins who cleared the entrance and helped Chris Helman clear the throughway between North Shore and his property used for mowing the preserve. We appreciate all the volunteer efforts led by Ken and Ann Shelton and PIB Township employee Eddie Sheller to get the road cleared and organize volunteers. Thanks to Chris and Tom Bartlett for getting the bird banding net lanes cleared and ready for banding at the end of September.



Here is Chad Machinski with the four flats of native plants that he grew from Middle Bass seed for sale. Chad currently works for a Michigan Audubon. Thank you, Chad.

Garrett Geldine helped clean up the trail portions at Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and Cooper's woods preserve that Mark Lekanka had previously rerouted and cleared of downed trees. This view is of a enormous Common Hackberry that was down at Cooper's.



AmeriCorps Intern Adrianna Burghardt and Lisa Brohl removed invasive Wintercreeper<sup>1</sup> and English ivy from Jane Coates Wildflower Trail/Ladd Carr Preserve.

Unfortunately, it easily spreads from private yards to our preserves.

<sup>1</sup> *Euonymus fortunei*, the spindle, Fortune's spindle, winter creeper or wintercreeper, is a species of flowering plant in the family Celastraceae, native to east Asia, including China, Korea, the Philippines and Japan. It is named after the Scottish botanist and plant explorer Robert Fortune. *E. fortunei* is highly invasive and damaging in the United States, causing the death of trees and forest in urban areas. Source: [Euonymus fortunei - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euonymus_fortunei)

# A Special THANKS...



Linda Shull and Marsha Collett out monitoring our brochure boxes at our preserves. Linda Shull's grandkids wee helping out when they were visiting—Calista, Elenora, Maeva, and Cecilia Mcgrain from Arlington, Ohio.



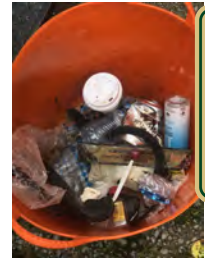
Patty and Dave Nuttall with Middle Bass Music Fest sign and Jessica Reidner Mohn helping Lisa Brohl try to get our LEIC, PIBTPD, and LEINWC flags in the air for Good Morning



America's show from the South Bass this summer.



Conservancy Newsletter Editor Michelle Pennington with the Island Green Week Special Edition—They were very nice!



Ever faithful Susan Ferguson still patrolling our preserves and picking up the endless supply of litter frustratingly left behind by the many visitors, including the four-legged ones. In fact, signs will be going up soon reminding people to keep their dogs on leash!



Many thanks to Paula Ziebarth for all her work with Purple Martin and Tree Swallow nest boxes over the years!

Here she is with our AmeriCorps Intern Adrianna Burghardt, who she mentored this summer.

PIBTPD Commissioners Kendra Koehler and Kelly Faris with volunteer Jim Speck looking at Duff Homestead



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# New and Renewing Members\*

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Desiree Erdody  
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Bruce Miles  
Kelsey Reider  
Rebecca Romich  
Patrick Shepherd

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Mike Gora, LLC  
Art and Suzie Otermat  
Steve and Sue Prahst  
Mary Schilstra  
Scott Smith

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Candy and Wes Baker  
Marsha and Ray Collett  
Debby Parker

## Steward

Elizabeth Daly

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English Pines-Liz Knauer  
Jet Express-Kelly Freimark  
The Candy Bar

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Employer Match-First Energy  
Foundation-M. Dianne Kestler  
-Betz  
Angie Martens  
Toddy and Jim McMonagle  
Giving Fund  
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Chris and Kathy North  
Zoe and Brad Titchener  
Ann Douglas Williams in honor of  
Lisa Brohl  
Facebook Birthday from Artemus  
Adam

Facebook Birthday from Corey  
Barnicle  
Facebook Birthday from Gina  
Balduff  
Facebook Birthday from  
Shannon McDonald  
Signs by Margaret Morrison and  
Pat Marida for Morrison  
Woods

## Land Protection Fund

Mary Schilstra

## Stewardship Fund

Mary Schilstra

## Donations in Memory of D.J. Parker

Cindy and Kevin Becker  
Marv Booker  
Mike, Susan, Joseph, and Kate  
Byrnes  
Kelly and Marty Faris  
Jean and Bob Hilt  
Kathryn Knaser  
Marty Linn  
Julene Market  
Ted and Joan McCann  
Art and Suzie Otermat  
Carol and Rich Roberts  
Sayeh Family-Tracy Burgess,  
Sohail Sayeh, Kaveh Sayeh,  
and Nema Sayeh  
Dianne Smith  
Kathi and Jack Spayde

## Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve Donations

Anonymous  
Patty and Carl Lo Presti  
Dianne Smith in Memory of  
Robert Smith

## Life Members

Anonymous	Betty and Charles Finkbeiner	Valerie Mettler
Patti and Raymond Arth	Dave and Linda Frederick	Bruce and Kim Miles
John Baker	Christian L. Geiss	Greg Millat
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Lisa Benjamin	Terence and Lynda Heaton	Mark Nemece
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Marv and Pat Booker	Scott Jackson	Roger & Mary Parker
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Sandra Brausch	Karen A. Jennings	Mary Ann and Rich Plewacki
Jim and Betsy Brohl	David Kaman	Hank & Gayle Polcyn
Russ & Lisa Brohl	Mary and Tom Katzenmeyer	Richard and Carol Roberts
Doug and Karen Brown	Valerie and Dan Kowalski	Fritz and Pam Rudolph
Linda and Dave Bugoci	Business Ad for Life-Yardworks-Val and Dan Kowalski	Drs. Cherylyn Schurtz and Jacob Maciejewski
Drs. Earl and Thurd Campbell	Bob Krause	Ken and Ann Shelton
Valerie Chornyak	John & Paula Ladd	Joseph and Linda Shull
David and Jacquelyn Clark	Dave and Tina Larson	Mary L. Staley
Alan & Stacey Clink	Hal and Barb Leitch	Kristin Stanford
Gary and Carol Coates	Patty and Carl Lo Presti	Matt Thomas
Jill and Steve Cooks	Julene Market	Zoe and Brad Titchener
Nancy Cruikshank	Elaine and Howard Martens	Carley Tobias
Marvin and Gail Duff	Mary Ann McCann	
Ken and Jennifer Farber	Michael McIntyre and Elizabeth Heineman	
Eleanor Fether		

 **NEW Life Members:**

# THANK YOU!



**Don't forget!**

**Become an annual sponsor of our newsletter for \$100. Place an ad in our newsletter and receive an annual Friend Membership FREE! Call 419-366-2087**

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

Background Photo: Virginia Mountain Mint with Bumblebees in Muriel Sneller Pollinator Garden

## Freshwater Science Opportunity!

BGSU Researcher and LEIC member Murphy Harrington under her advisor from BGSU has been recording infrared images of migratory birds as they passed over Middle Bass Island in comparison with an area near BGSU. She shared some of her work with us conducted over late summer/early autumn 2022 for the Spring 2023 Newsletter.

Webinar information and Registration Link in box on right.

## Do Islands Help Birds Migrate Across Lake Erie?

◆ Sep 13, 2023 ◆ 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm ET ◆

Many migratory songbirds cross Lake Erie during their nocturnal migrations. However, it's uncertain how the topography of the island archipelago in the central-western basin of the lake might influence the flight paths of these migratory birds.

Dr. Verner Bingman from Bowling Green State University has been investigating how nocturnally migrating songbirds use the islands as visual guideposts to maintain preferred flight directions, compensate for the negative effects of wind drift and potentially serve as landing refuge as birds end their migration on a given night.

The webinar is free, but registration is required to receive log-in information.

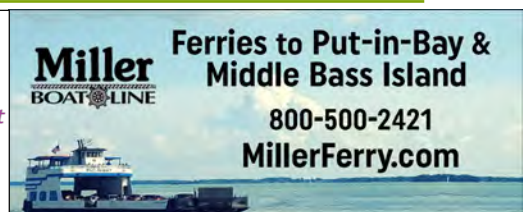
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# LEIC Membership Form\*

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

\_\_\_\$25 Friend    \_\_\_\$50 Supporter    \_\_\_\$100 Contributor  
\_\_\_\$100 Friend/AD    \_\_\_\$250 Steward    \_\_\_\$500 Patron

 \_\_\_\$1000 Life

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Companion \_\_\_\_\_

**Island** Address PO Box \_\_\_\_\_ Put-In-Bay, Ohio 43456

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent** Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Island # \_\_\_\_\_

## In addition to my membership, I would like to donate to: Land Protection Fund

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

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

## Stewardship Fund

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

Please make checks payable to (LEIC) Lake Erie Islands Conservancy  
Please Send to: **PO Box 461, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456**

All donations are tax deductible.

**Thank You!**

\*To join LEIC online, please go to  
<https://lakeerieislandsconservancy.org/membership/> or use your phone camera on the QR Code shown here!



## IN MEMORIAM

Edward Heineman



It is with very heavy hearts that we share long time LEIC supporter and member Edward Heineman passed away suddenly on Friday, September 1, 2023. He was always quietly behind everything we did—donating wine, merchandise, and support for our programs over the years as well as hosting our Wild Bird Seed Sale and many annual meetings. He will be sorely missed in our community. The family has planned a memorial service for Monday, September 11, 2023 at the Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church followed by time with the family and friends at the Put-in-Bay Yacht Club.

Included above is a photo of a recent social activity with members including John Ladd, John Dodge, and Bob Reynolds. We'll miss these fun afternoons and evenings with Ed and family at the winery. Also above is a photo of Ed and wife Michele helping with bird seed sale.

## Thoughtful Donations! By Lisa Brohl



Pat Maria and Margie Morrison visited the island during Island Green Week and brought a

check to purchase two interpretive signs for the Morrison Woods Trail!



Helen Brohl donated a paper folder for all of our LEIC mailings. Thanks Helen!

Barb Prinz visited our island preserves with Lisa Brohl this fall. Her mother had been a donor toward the Cooper's Woods Preserve in memory of her family.



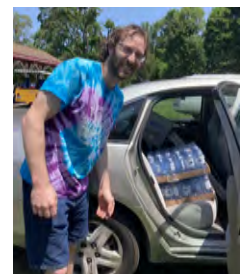
Patty Lo Presti prepared dinner for Kathy and Chris North and their friends from



their silent auction purchase at the fundraiser for the Duff Homestead.

They then presented Patty with an additional donation for the Duff Homestead!! Thank you Kathy and Chris! And Patty for good cooking! Thanks to Patty also for all of the thank you notes she writes for us!!

Thanks Dustin Heineman for always having a case or two of water for our events!



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John Ladd - Julene Market - Bob Russell  
Linda Shull - Nancy Welter

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Lisa Brohl

Michelle Pennington

**LEIC Historian**

Elizabeth Heineman

Summer's not the only time for fun on the islands! 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**

**November 16, 2023 for the LEINWC/LEIC Holiday Bazaar**



# Important Announcements

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**Lake Erie Islands  
Conservancy  
Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, September 17  
at 2:00 p.m.**



**ALL DOGS TO BE  
KEPT ON LEADS**

*Please remember: If you're taking your pets with you, make sure to follow posted rules— on leash, use provided doggie bags, etc.*

*Keep Your Dog on a 6' Leash  
PIBTPD Reg. 1.13 Makes It A  
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