



Lake Erie Islands Conservancy

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Our mission is to encourage conservation and protection of natural and agricultural lands in the Lake Erie Islands for the benefit of this and future generations.

Protected Properties and Ongoing Projects

Lake Erie Water Snake-Ohio Division of Wildlife Conservation Easement Program

We operate a program of conservation easements to provide habitat for the Lake Erie watersnake and other wildlife on private property. Our first easement was located on the western shore of Kelleys Island and is now held by our parent organization the Black Swamp Conservancy. Contact us if you are interested in taking part in this program to preserve privately owned habitat with no public access.

Petersen Woods-Middle Bass Island-1.5 acres-purchase

Acquired in 2004 with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant with matching funds from LEIC-BSC, the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and the Division of Wildlife. The wet woods borders Lake Erie on the north and the Kuehnle State Wildlife Area to the east. It was dedicated in the fall of 2004 with the Petersen family present.

Lawrence Evans Property-Middle Bass Island-.75 acres-purchase

This property was acquired in 2006 with Ohio Division of Wildlife Diversity and LEIC-BSC funds. The emergent wetland is located between Kuehnle State Wildlife Area and Petersen Woods. We hope to complete a boardwalk and observation platform for an Eagle Scout project for the boundary of the property with Petersen Woods. Deed Restrictions were placed on this property in 2017 to match those of other protected parcels on Middle Bass.

Prokesh Property-Middle Bass Island-Burgundy Bay-donation

This wet woods of less than 1 acre was donated in 2006. It is adjacent to property owned by the Middle Bass Island State Park. It is hoped that more wet woods can be preserved by donation or purchase in this area. Deed Restrictions have been placed on the property with the Burgundy Bay Association so that no building can occur on site.

Ladd Carr Wildlife Woods-South Bass Island-2.1 acres-purchase

Acquired in 2006, with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant and matching funds from Georgia Ladd McVean, Mary Ladd Carr, and Richard Gump. The property is protected through deed restrictions from the Clean Ohio grant. The wild hyacinths and Dutchman's breeches are beautiful in the spring!

Jane Coates Wildflower Trail-South Bass Island-3 acres-purchase

Adjacent to Ladd Carr Wildlife Woods, this property was acquired in 2007 from the La Plante and Woischke families with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant with matching funds from donor Vince Cox in memory of Jane Coates. Trail construction in May 2008 by Corp Respond, Richard Gump and volunteers with funding raised by Julene Market. Jim Speck and John Jaeger of the Toledo MetroParks assisted with trail design. Deed Restrictions were placed on the property through a Clean Ohio grant. The footpath entrance and small parking area are located on Put-in-Bay Road near the Mapleleaf Cemetery. The Trail was dedicated July 9, 2008. An interpretive sign on wildflowers was purchased by Gary Coates and installed in 2018. A brochure rack is at

the trail head and two bird nest boxes were installed by Paula Ziebarth and Darlene Sillick on the trail in 2016. Recycling containers from an Ottawa Sandusky Seneca Solid Waste District Grant were installed in August 2018.

Jane Coates Wildflower Trail Addition-South Bass Island-2 acre purchase

Two additional wooded acres to the north of the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail was purchased with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant, Nature Works grant, and donations from foundations and individuals. It was dedicated on Earth Day, 2010 with a commemorative bench on the north end of the Wildflower Trail.

Woischke Purchase-2 acre purchase-An additional two wooded acres to the north of the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail Addition was purchased with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant in December of 2014. This purchase brings the total of protected woods to 9 acres including the Ladd Carr Wildlife Woods and the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and Addition. The Trail may be extended into this area in the future. Matching funds were provided through the Lake Erie Islands Critical Habitat grant application which included funds from the LEIC-BSC. A cave and old home foundation may be on this property.

Gump Woods-South Bass Island—Victory Woods-donation

This wooded property was donated by Richard Gump in 2008. Although the property is less than 1 acre, it is hoped that more donations or purchases can be made in the Victory Woods area. The beautiful wildflower display and proximity to Lake Erie shores provide habitat for migratory songbirds. A rare beetle was found nearby by Dr. Kip Will.

Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center-South Bass Island-donation & purchase

The Center includes 1.2 acres of woods with two cave sites, .5 acre with North American Wildlife Museum. The former Alaskan Birdhouse Museum and contents was donated by Stan and Joey Wulkowicz with the purchase of woods with funds from Foundations and private individuals. It was dedicated October 18, 2008. Formerly operated under the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society with a joint board with LEIC-BSC members, this property is now operated by its own nonprofit organization since 2012. A frog pond, bald eagle's nest exhibit, nature trail and phenology and butterfly gardens have been added. The Center is open weekends in May and September and every day from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Put-in-Bay Township Park District- Our members petitioned and requested a Township Park District be set up to obtain grant funds for the Scheeff East Point project. Judge Moon appointed Kelly Faris, Lisa Brohl, and Marv Booker as commissioners. The PIBTPD was affirmed by a ballot initiative in November of 2007. Current commissioners are Kelly Faris, Lisa Brohl, and Kendra Koehler. The LEIC serves as an advisory board for the PIBTPD. The Park District now holds ownership of all the preserves with deed restrictions and conservation easements in place to insure that they remain protected.

Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve-South Bass Island-9 acres-This was a joint project with Put-in-Bay Township Park District, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy. The purchase was secured with a Section 6 , U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grant for \$1.8 million. A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant and donations from the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, the Ohio Division of Wildlife, First Energy Foundation, Sandusky Eagles Foundation, and private individuals. It was named for major donor Rose Scheeff and was dedicated August 16, 2008. A footpath is maintained by neighbor Mark Barnhill, native trees donated by Brad and Zoe Titchener and Stan and Connie Wulkowicz. Two purple martin rigs have been purchased with conservation grants from the Columbus Zoo by Darlene Sillick. The boxes for a tree swallow grid were constructed by Wally Hall and were installed and maintained by Paula Ziebarth. Benches were purchased by the Smith and Ladd (Bruckner) family and a new entrance and fence by Brad and Zoe Titchener. A new educational kiosk should be completed in June 2015 with funds from the Ottawa County Community Foundation, the Ottawa, Seneca, and Sandusky Solid Waste District grant, and private donations through a booster.com campaign by Kalen Cap. Doris Hubschman donated additional signs and Julene Market a bicycle rack. We have had assistance with maintaining the

trail and parking from Ken Farber and John Anderson. A new bench was installed by the family of Wally and Jean Hall in 2018. A chimney swift tower and interpretive sign was built and installed by Casey Carty with funds from donor Karen Jennings in 2018 with assistance from Eric Booker, Richard Gump, and Ken Farber. An interpretive sign in memory of Martha Marquard was placed on the trail on migratory birds in fall of 2017. Recycling containers from an Ottawa Sandusky Seneca Solid Waste District Grant were installed in August 2018.

Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve-Middle Bass Island-8 acres

This kayak accessible shoreline preserve was dedicated in October of 2010. The property is owned by the Put-in-Bay Township Park District and was purchased with the assistance of the Trust for Public Land. The property is protected with a conservation easement by the Black Swamp Conservancy. Funds for the purchase came from a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Ohio Coastal Management Assistance Grant, the Sandusky Eagles Foundation, Friends of Magee Marsh, The Frost Parker Foundation, Firelands Audubon, and private donations. The property's home and garage was removed with a restoration grant from the Lake Erie Protection Fund and donations from the BSBO Young Birders. A walking trail is in place and maintained by Ron Helman and Bruce Miles. Annual bird banding efforts by Tom and Paula Bartlett and Dr. James Marshall have led to a management plan for a variety of habitat for migratory birds and the Lake Erie watersnake. A watersnake hibernacula has been constructed on site. Signs are at both the road and lake entrance. An access sign on the dock was funded by LEIC-BSC. An osprey platform was erected on site in 2013 by the Ohio Edison crew. It was funded by the Ohio Young Birders and assembled by Andy Slaine and Marv Booker. Interpretive signs were installed in 2014 designed by Chloe Nostrand and paid for by Jim and Betsy Brohl and the LEIC-BSC.

Costello Tract-Middle Bass East Point Preserve-Middle Bass Island-4 acres

This four acre parcel was purchased with a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant by the Put-in-Bay Township Park District in 2013. The grant was written by the Black Swamp Conservancy with assistance and some funds from the Lake Erie Islands Chapter. The BSC holds a conservation easement on the property. The wooded four acre parcel is t-shaped with frontage on Norman, South Shore and North Shore Drives and is in close proximity to the MBI East Point Preserve. It adds to the acres protected for migratory birds, LEWS, and 2 species of concern, the eastern fox snake and the melanistic phase of the eastern garter snake.

Schneider Parcel-Middle Bass Island-7.33 acres This seven acre parcel was purchased through the WRRSP program through the OEPA with the assistance of conservation realtor Neal Hess for the Put-in-Bay Township Park District in 2014. It is a good example of a forested wetland (Great Lakes limestone plain forest) and successional forest habitats on Middle Bass Island. It provides habitat for migratory songbirds, eastern fox snake, and salamanders. There is currently no public access until trails and parking can be developed.

Middle Bass Forested Wetlands-Burgundy Bay Tract-6 acres-This parcel was purchased with WRRSP funds in April 2015 for the Put-in-Bay Township Park District with the assistance of conservation realtor Neal Hess from the Burgundy Bay Association. The parcel has frontage on Fox Rd. for an eventual parking/trail access. It is currently undeveloped wet woodlands with habitat for salamanders, migratory songbirds, frogs, and wetland plant communities. Additional lots have been purchased nearby from the Burgundy Bay Association and private property owners for another approximate 4 acres.

Massie Cliffside Preserve-South Bass Island-approx. 7 acres-The Massie's Cliffside Preserve was purchased in May 2015 with a grant from the Lake Erie Islands Critical Habitat Clean Ohio Fund for the Put-in-Bay Township Park District with matching funds from the WRRSP program, the LEIC, and private donors. It includes 265 feet of Lake Erie shoreline with cliffs and the state threatened harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*.) A walking path to the lake and benches have been installed on site. The dock is available for fishing and as a stop on the Lake Erie Islands Water Trail. The Park District was awarded a Natureworks grant and Ohio Coastal Zone Management Grant to remove the buildings, install parking and trails, and replant trees. Removal of the

buildings was completed in early 2016 with assistance from Richard Gump, Put-in-Bay Investments, Miller Boat Line, Lake Disposal, and Fox Stone Products. Conservation realtor Neal Hess oversaw grant efforts. Restoration plantings of trees from Riverside Native Trees and plants from Natives in Harmony was completed in the fall of 2016. The trail was laid out by Ken Farber, cut by Richard Gump, Eric Nowak and Nicky Fresch, and mulched by Boy Scout and OSU Buckeye Hop volunteers all in 2016. The Massie Cliffside Preserve was dedicated on August 7, 2016 with unveiling of the entrance sign, interpretive sign at the second parking area, and a bench in honor of Lisa Brohl. Four benches were installed with funds from donors-the Martens family, Farber family, North family and Ladd Brookner family. Bike racks from the original cottages were cleaned and put in place. Brochure and donation boxes and an interpretive sign purchased by Kalen Capp were installed in 2017. Recycling containers from an Ottawa Sandusky Seneca Solid Waste District Grant were installed in August 2018.

Knam Parcel-4 acres on South Bass Island, adjacent to the Massie Cliffside Preserve. This four acre parcel was purchased in March of 2016 with a CELCP –Great Lakes Initiative grant received by the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. Len Knam patiently waited from 2006 til the present for our Conservancy/Park District to purchase and preserve this parcel. This wooded parcel will bring the total area protected in the area to 11 acres and will increase the area available for birdwatching, walking, and nature study.

Middle Bass Forested Wetland Addition-12 acres-The Put-in-Bay Township Park District received a CELCP grant and a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant in 2016 to purchase an additional 12 acres of wet woodland adjacent to the other parcels already owned. On January 11, 2018, the PIBTPD closed on seven acres from the Dieperink Family. The Put-in-Bay Township Park District made 5.2 acres purchase on Middle Bass Island in spring of 2018 with funds from the Conservation Fund. It is immediately adjacent to the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve We hope the other two purchase will be completed in late 2018 with a total of over 30 acres then available for walking trails on Middle Bass. A new trail as designed by Lisa Brohl and Theodora Pertner and installed by Schmidlin Construction with a parking lot and interpretive sign (donated by Jim and Betsy Brohl) was completed in the summer of 2018. A bicycle rack donated by Julene Market was put in place. A dedication was held August 5, 2018 as part of Island Green Week with a cake reception after at the Middle Bass Island State Park picnic pavilion. The ribbon was cut by Kelly Faris, Lisa Brohl, Bruce Miles, and Nancy Welter. Donors Jim Brohl, the MBI Poker Kayak Paddle Event, and in memory of Dan Martin Sr. helped purchase the sign for the location.

Dodge Woods Preserve-3 acres-The Put-in-Bay Township Park District received a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant to purchase 3.5 acres of woods from John Dodge. Our match for the Clean Ohio program came from a bargain sale from Mr. Dodge, a \$15,000 donation from the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, and \$2,000 donation from John and Paula Ladd. We closed on the property in February of 2017. A sign, bicycle rack, brochure and donation boxes, and small trail are available. The property was dedicated on August 5, 2017. The ribbon was cut by Michelle and Ava Heineman with Kendra Koehler and Lisa Brohl. Recycling containers from an Ottawa Sandusky Seneca Solid Waste District Grant were installed in August 2018. In August of 2018, the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk was installed on the trail by Karen Wilhelm of the Erie Islands Branch of the Ida Rupp Library. Members of the community sponsored individual signs/pages as well as Julene Market and the Ottawa County Community Foundation with Richard Gump, Mark Wilhelm assembling and installing the trail. Books to be read by children will be changed periodically by the Library. It is very popular!

Burgundy Bay Lots-4 acres--Fifteen small lots (10' x 750') totaling just under four acres were purchased with funds from the Lake Erie Islands Critical Habitat Clean Ohio Conservation Fund and CELCP grants in 2016 and 2017. These lots are immediately to the south of the Middle Bass Forested Wetland-Burgundy Bay Tract purchased in 2015.

Foley Donation-2 lots-The PIBTPD received the donation of two lots in Victory Woods from John P. and Ellen Foley. Gump Construction was hired to remove the old cottage on site. The Foley family agreed to pay \$400 in closing costs. March 13, 2017. Lot 46 and Lot 48 of Victory Woods.

Watson Donation-.5 acre-Maribeth Watson donated a .5 acre parcel of wet woods off of Anchor Lane on Middle Bass Island on June 14, 2017. It is immediately adjacent to the Prokesh parcel. Both parcels have no road access currently as the subdivision within Burgundy Bay was never constructed. PIBTPD paid all closing costs. Deed restrictions were placed on the parcel at closing so that no construction will ever take place in exchange for release from utility fees from Burgundy Bay.

EDUCATION

Nature Camp-MOVED TO LEINWC in 2013

The Nature Camp Program is a series of day camps focusing on the unique island environment and is designed for children ages 4 to 16. Classes are limited to 20 students and are led by teachers and specialists in the field of science. Each session is designed for the student's specific age group and programs vary each year. This popular program was started by the LEIC-BSC in 2003 and was moved to the new Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center nonprofit in 2013.

REU Research Program-The Put-in-Bay Township Park District has participated in the REU program for undergraduate students at the Ohio State University Stone Laboratory. In 2017 Student Camille Manoukian studied the forest composition after the death of green ash trees at the Schneider and Dieperink Tracts. She found a high percentage of invasive trees including amur honeysuckle and buckthorn filling the gaps. Her findings were part of a poster at the Ohio Academy of Science in April 2018. In 2018, student Matthew Monteith studied forest composition at the Schneider and Dieperink Tracts after the amur honeysuckle and buckthorn had been removed by EnviroScience with a grant from the **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**. He also looked at soil composition of the two sites. Lisa Brohl was the advisor for both studies and will oversee a student in 2019.

Road Scholar (Elderhostel)-The LEIC helps to sponsor educational programs for the Road Scholar Program held annually by the Lake Erie Nature and Wildlife Center. This includes an annual visit by Back to the Wild and bird banders Tom and Paula Bartlett.

Events

The LEIC annually sponsors a **Native Plant Sale, Winter Bird Sale, and Christmas Craft Bazaar** as well as other community events. We assisted the Put-in-Bay Township Park District with the creation of the new **Lake Erie islands Water Trail** and were the recipient of proceeds of **the Middle Bass Music Festival** in 2017 and 2018, organized by Bruce Miles. The Middle Bass Dock Company were the main sponsors in 2018 with Nancy Welter as manager. We have assisted with **Island Green Week** in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

AMERICORP INTERN

The LEIC has sponsored an AmeriCorp intern annually since 2011 (Colleen O'Brien, Leah Bilski (shared with LEINWC), Carmen Levand, Chloe Nostrant, Jenna Prahst, Samantha Newhouse (2017-2018.) This has allowed us to have a greater presence in the community during the busy summer months (10 week program.) They have written grants, maintained trails, designed signs and brochures and provided educational walks for the public.

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PUT-IN-BAY TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT

PARTNERS WITH PERRY'S VICTORY AND IPM AND OSU STONE LAB