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Lake Erie Islands
Conservancy
Presents



GREEN SCENE

Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2021

Rusty Patched Bumble Bee and Pollinator Habitat Restoration on Lake Erie Islands, Ohio

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC) has signed a cooperative agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service-Partners for Fish and Wildlife (USFWS-PFW) Program to administer \$50,000 of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Interagency Great Lakes Basin Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Funds. The



Photo: Rusty patched bumble bee feeding on wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Photo Kim Mitchell; USFWS

USFWS will coordinate with LEIC staff and partners on project site selection, technical assistance and paperwork completion. The purpose of this collaborative effort between the USFWS-PFW Program and the LEIC is to restore and enhance approximately 50 acres of habitat for the rusty patched bumble bee, on the Lake Erie Islands located in the western

Lake Erie basin near Sandusky, Ohio. Upland, wetland and shoreline habitat resources will be targeted for habitat restoration and enhancement on private and publicly owned lands located on the Lake Erie Islands (to include: Kelley's Island, Put-In Bay, Catawba, Gibraltar, South, Middle and North Bass Islands

(Continued on page 9)

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.... Arthur Market is the youngest Island Green Week participant showing up with his mother for a walk at the Massie Cliffside Preserve!

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Island Green Week 2021— Benjamin Woods Preserve Dedication *By Lisa Brohl*

On Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 2:00pm the Benjamin Woods Preserve was dedicated with about thirty residents and members attending.

Put-in-Bay Township Park District chair Kelly Faris welcomed everyone and spoke to the group about the mission of the Park District. Park Commissioner Lisa Brohl thanked all who helped make the Benjamin Woods Preserve a reality. Lisa Benjamin spoke for her family of their happiness in seeing the Preserve happen and working with the Park District and Conservancy to preserve their land. She thanked the Conservation Fund and an



Photo: Katherine Benjamin cuts ribbon at entrance to trail while Kendra Koehler, Lisa Brohl, Lisa Benjamin, Diane Benjamin Wantz, Joe Wantz, and Kelly Faris watch.

anonymous donor as well as many others for their assistance with this project. AmeriCorps

(Continued on page 8)

A Gift From Mary Morrison



Photos: Left—Margie and Pat enjoying the Stargazing Cruise for Island Green Week; Right—Margie and Pat at the Massie Cliffside Preserve

Twenty years ago, we received notice that our Lake Erie Islands Conservancy had been named as a recipient of a charitable remainder trust from Mary Morrison. We were very honored to be named by Mary! Though Mary passed away in 2011 at the age of 94, we have kept in touch with her daughters Margaret Morrison and Patricia Marida and put them on our newsletter mailing list so they could see what we do.

Twenty years goes by quickly and now 116 acres of protected property later, the Mary L. Morrison Charitable Remainder Trust produced a donation to our Lake Erie Islands Conservancy to be used for land protection. Pat and Margie came to the island recently during Island Green Week for a visit to see what projects we may have for land protection. They decided that we could choose the project to fund and we will include the names of their parents, Mary and Edward Morrison, as donors.

Ed was born and raised on South Bass Island, and he and Mary spent their

retirement summers on the island. Mary was a great resource and welcoming face at the Erie Islands Library for many of us. We often shared what birds, flowers or other natural phenomena we had observed. Margie spent time studying at OSU Stone Lab and taught science at Van Wert High School for 35 years prior to retirement. She now enjoys living near the Edge of Appalachia in Southern Adams County, Ohio. Pat is a retired pharmacist and lives in Columbus. Mary and Ed raised their daughters on a 250-acre farm near Stryker in Northwest Ohio.

The Morrisons have a long history on Put-in-Bay. Ed's grandparents, James and Fanny Morrison, built a home on the island. Ed's parents, Clifford and Martha Morrison, raised their two sons in that home. Margie and Pat spent a lot of time at their grandparents' home on Langram Rd.

We are tremendously grateful for the very thoughtful gift! It will be put it to good use for a land protection project on South Bass Island.

New Interpretive Signs at Cooper's Woods

Photos: When you are out and about taking a walk in the woods, Cooper's Woods that is, keep a watch out for these beautiful new interpretive signs! "The Trees in Cooper's Woods" and the "Large-Flowered Trillium" signs were created by our AmeriCorps Intern Regan Monnett and the "Where The Caves Are" sign was created by Marc Wright.

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Music Fest Brings Music and Art Back to Lonz Winery

A wet day was anticipated for everyone associated with the Middle Bass Music Fest. It had rained every day for a week and was raining during set up Saturday morning but by the time the North Coast Goats came on the stage to play "I Can See Clearly Now, The Rain Has Gone" things started to clear up. By 2 PM the sun was out and what started out dark, dreary, windy and cool became a glorious sun splashed day on Middle Bass Island. The people came out to celebrate. Not only did we have good weather but great music, food, Art and community participation. Everyone was looking for an excuse to get out and do something fun and fun we had.

An estimated 1600 people showed up at Middle Bass Island State Park, reminiscent of years gone by on the Lonz Winery property. The festival showcased the ODNR's creative restoration of this iconic venue with live music on the Lonz Patio and adult beverages provided by Heineman

Winery and Catawba Island Brewing. Guests participated in art projects on the manicured lawn under stately trees, and local food trucks including the famous Port Clinton Rotary Perch Wagon and Jimmy G's BBQ were set up adjacent to the Lonz Pavilion. This event kicked off the first service available at the Island Grind in the Lonz Press House, which has been converted to a coffee/wine bar with creative food offerings.

Sam Hooper was awesome showing off his guitar talent with tunes such as Robin Trower's "Too Rolling Stone". The life of the party was the Chardon Polka Band. Their hilarious antics, lively performance and fantastic music got the audience up out of the their chairs singing and dancing the afternoon away. They perform traditional polka music but also offer wonderful interpretations of other musical styles. Cat's on Holiday wrapped up the day with their own adaptation of Zydeco, folk, and rock music. They were a perfect ending to a great day. Sonic Boom featured the talents of Jeff Rice who played Piano, organ, flute, saxophone, accordion and several other instruments adding a unique dimension to their sound.

The Ohio Arts Council "Arts Tent" was a huge success. Eight guest artists were on hand to teach, demonstrate and share their love of art with music fest attendees. There were lessons and demonstrations in Rug Hooking, Weaving, Painting on rocks and glass, punch needle. There was one scary moment when a strong wind came along and picked the Art tent up off the ground. The artists and guests all hung on long enough for Dave Bugoci and crew to come over and secure the tent before it collapsed down on them.

(Continued on page 14)



Photos: Row 1—Emcee Peter Huston; Volunteer Coordinator Ann Hicks and her son Michael Hicks Row 2—Middle Bass Island Senior Men's Club selling tickets; Conservancy supporter Val Kowalski with fellow former Lonz employees enjoying the day; LEIC volunteer Sue Ungvarsky at table; Festival guests catching one of the performances Row 3—Russ Brohl, Bruce Miles, and Lisa Brohl; Jody Frimel sporting Conservancy swag; Artists at work with Festival Visitors; Bruce and Kim Miles Row 4—Volunteer Bartenders with Darren Dunning giving tips to Conservancy. Thanks gentlemen!; A band view of Music Fest crowd; Kate Richardson and Leah Bilski all smiles at Lake Erie Islands Conservancy table; Bruce Miles, Dave and Linda Bugoci, and Megan Uhinck taking a break at the Festival Row 5—Beautiful view down the Lonz Patio and of the gorgeous day; Lonz Pavilion rocking; Russ Brohl with aluminum recycled from Music Fest; Bruce Miles, Jerry Schrenk, John Schanz, Dave Bugoci, and Lisa Brohl on cleanup duty Photo Credits on pg. 14

Pampered Purple Martins *by Madame WingNut (aka Paula Ziebarth)*

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy has purchased vent caps for the purple martin rigs at the Scheeff East Point Preserve as recommended by Paula in this entertaining article! We are grateful for the great care Paula takes of the purple martin and tree swallow housing on the islands!



When July rolls around, our Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows are finishing up their nest season, but Purple Martin young are in various stages of development with most fledging by the end of the

month. Purple Martins only have one brood per season. In over 20 years working with this species in different colonies throughout the state, I have learned that diligent monitoring and nest changes are very important for the success of these birds. Every year during hot and humid weather, I have discovered life threatening conditions in many nests due to wet nests.



Nests will look dry on top, but when I feel with my fingers at the base of the nest, they are wet. This wetness wicks up into the top layers over time, causing wet filthy undercarriages on the young, feather degradation and often death if left unmanaged. I monitor many different styles of housing and have found the problem worse in plastic gourds and aluminum housing. This problem is especially bad in horizontal plastic gourds (long tunnel entrances).



For years, I had operated on the recommendation that housing should not be lowered after eldest young were 22 days of age (Purple Martins generally fledge at day 28) to prevent premature fledging. Operating this way involved some significant chick mortality due to wet nests and “jumpers” – birds leaving housing before they could fly due to poor nest conditions and poor health. Purple Martins that leave nests before they can fly will generally not survive as adults usually will not feed them on the



ground. For the past several years, I have monitored nests every 5-7 days regardless of age, changing nests on 28-day old birds if they need it. To safely do this, you need to have good data, quickly blocking any compartments where young are 22 days or older as you lower housing. I use rags with a long string attached to block entrances; it is very important to leave those in for about 5 minutes after housing is raised again. When performing nest changes, young over 10 days of age are gently placed in a deep 5 gallon bucket lined with pine straw and a towel placed over the top. This keeps older young from pre-fledging, calms them down, and keeps birds out of the sun. Some of my favorite moments during nest changes on public sites involve the helping hands and wonder of children that drop by to see what we are doing.

This year, I was determined to figure out what was causing wet nests and life-threatening conditions at the end of the nest cycle.



In true citizen science fashion, I embarked on an experiment that I hoped would show me. I had two hypotheses:

- 1) The young themselves were causing the moisture buildup due to runny feces -or-
- 2) Rain water was getting in the gourds.



The little experiment I did during the end of July proved that both of these hypotheses were incorrect. I kind of love it when I'm wrong... science.

Results were consistent in different colony sites, but the 24-gourd rig (Troyer vertical gourds with short tunnel openings) I monitor at Deer Haven Park in Delaware, Ohio showed me what was happening. Fellow Purple Martin monitor Jim Lane and I instituted the “pamper protocol”. On Monday, July 19 we cleaned out old wet nest material from active gourds. Then we put diapers on the floors and covered them with dry white pine straw. Half of the gourds had the diapers placed absorbent side down and the other half had them placed absorbent side up. I thought this would help show us where the moisture was coming from. On Friday, July 23 I checked nests for moisture. I was careful to do this during a span where there had been no rain. Not a drop, so that variable was not part of the experiment. What I found surprised me.

Gourds with absorbent side down had diapers soaking up some dampness and you could feel it in only four days time. Pretty wet actually. The water barrier on the top of that diaper seemed to keep the nest dryer and keep it from wicking into the material so these nests and young looked good.

Gourds with absorbent side up had moisture trapped on floor under the diaper and some pretty damp nests starting. The absorbent side of the diapers were relatively dry so that wetness was not coming from bird excrement. I was still flummoxed because where the heck was the moisture coming from if it didn't rain? Then I touched the inside wall of the gourd and felt the moisture there. The inside of lids were also wet.

Condensation! In Ohio, we get some extremely warm and humid weather during late nest season. We also get some cool nights and when the dew point is reached, water vapor from the air will change to its liquid form and condense on any slick surface like the inside of a plastic gourd. Have you ever sat on wet plastic lawn furniture on a summer morning? Have you

(Continued on page 6)

Photos: Left Top-Bottom—Helping hands make nest changes fun.; Copper mug with cold drink at outdoor bar shows condensation at work.; Young Purple Martin is getting its first nest change. This bird is in excellent condition.; Pampered Purple Martins in experimental gourd with diaper under nest material. Birds and nest are dry.; Upper Right—Equipment needed for nest changes includes good data, a deep bucket, and... diapers? Lower Right—Older Purple Martin young getting late nest change due to filthy wet nest. You can see the dirty undercarriage on this bird.

Purple Martin Banding on South Bass Island *By Lisa Brohl*

We had 75 people stop and see the purple martin banding at the Scheeff East Point Preserve on July 1, 2021. Thanks to our banding crew from the Green Creek Conservation Society-Lisa Rock, Rhonda Miller, and Dave Wilkins as well as our own Paula Ziebarth, Tom and Paula Bartlett, Peggy Leopold, new member LEIC member Desiree Erdody, AmeriCorps intern Regan Monnett, and Lisa Brohl. We really appreciate the passage for banders from Miller Boat Line too! It was a great morning with over 200 purple martin young banded! And A few adults at the South Bass Island Lighthouse who were banded there two years before-proving how important it is to maintain these boxes. These purple martins make the round trip journey back to South Bass because of our rich insect resources to feed those babies. Think of that the next time you are annoyed with our mayfly and midge hatches!



Photos: Clockwise—Tom Bartlett and Regan Monnett; Desiree Erdody and Peggy Leopold; Purple martin young in the nest; Brian and Ednalyn Ladd and family; Rhonda Miller and Lisa Rock; Paula Ziebarth with adult martins from the SBI Lighthouse; Lisa Rock bands purple martin young for visitors

Winter Wild Bird Seed Sale *By Lisa Brohl*

Have your winter wild bird seed supply delivered to your island residence! And make \$\$ for the Conservancy at the same time!! **Delivery will be in mid November.**

We will be selling Winter Wild Bird Seed to benefit the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy again this fall.

Titgemeier's Feed and Garden Stores will be supplying us with the following types of seed: niger/thistle, black oil sunflower, cracked corn and mixed birdseed of several grades. If you have a special order, let us know and we can try to accommodate you!!

Titgemeier's is a family owned feed and garden store in business since January 12, 1888 at 701 Western Avenue in Toledo, Ohio. A most unusual store, their products range from grass seed and fertilizer to pet, wild bird, and brewing supplies.

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



Photo: Carolina Wren Photo by Elizabeth Heineman

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Conservancy Annual Meeting 2021

We will be holding our Lake Erie Islands Conservancy annual meeting on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 2:00pm at the Heineman Winery. We will be electing our board and reviewing another successful year and making some exciting announcements about land protection projects!!! Enjoy a potluck cookout meal. Bring your own table service and a dish to share. We will provide grill food and wine. Paula Ziebarth will talk about attracting purple martins and tree swallows to your yard.

RSVP to Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087 or leiconservancy@gmail.com.

(PAMPERED PURPLE MARTINS Continued from page 4)

grabbed your binoculars from your air conditioned house to spot that elusive rare bird in your yard on a hot, humid summer day only to have them fog up on you? Appreciate the condensation shown in the picture of this copper mug at an outdoor bar. The very cold drink inside and warmer humid air outside caused major condensation on the outside of this slick surface with water running down the sides of the mug and pooling on the bar. Flip this picture in your mind and think about cooler air on the outside of that gourd and warm bird bodies and warmer air on the inside pulling the moisture out of the air and doing the same thing on the inner surfaces of gourds.

I consulted Purple Martin landlords on some of the Facebook groups and they were seeing the same thing in their plastic gourds. Brad Biddle introduced an interesting insight, "The amount of moisture released from the birds lungs from respiration is tremendous. I learned all about that working in the poultry industry. It's a staggeringly large amount of water." So things that exacerbate the condensation problem inside slick walled plastic gourds or aluminum housing could be bird respiration (additional humidity), bird body heat (higher air temperatures inside gourd), number of birds (larger broods = more humidity and body heat), high humidity of ambient air, and some bird excrement perhaps. Morning dawns bright and

clear and the older young pack themselves into the tunnel of the gourd, begging to be fed and essentially blocking off most of the ventilation that would help dry out the nest. While they are in the tunnel, they defecate and run their damp undercarriages into the mess. All of these things create a miasma within that gourd that is most unpleasant, and life threatening if left unmanaged.

I am not suggesting that people put diapers in their gourds. This was an experiment and not a solution. The best mitigative measures I can think of are to increase ventilation during warm humid months and raise nest off floor and away from the walls of gourd to prevent condensation from soaking into nest material and allow better drainage. Good ventilation will reduce the temperature and humidity differential between the outside air and the inside air of the gourd, reducing condensation and increasing airflow to dry out some of the moisture in the gourds. Next season, when hot, humid weather begins in mid-June, I plan to put vent caps on all my plastic gourds and install a fine mesh hardware cloth platform under nest change material to keep nests dryer and allow for better drainage.

Are my Purple Martins a little pampered? Yes! They Depends on me (sorry).

Bluely yours,

Madame WingNut

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Lee Hisey
Lake Erie Islands

Fall Bird Banding Schedule

Come Visit and See the Birds!

Master bird bander Tom Bartlett and his wife Paula Bartlett will be on the islands this fall for bird banding. All activities noted below are open to the public. They ask that visitors maintain social distancing, especially unvaccinated individuals. Wearing of masks by visitors is encouraged. Monitor for any covid related changes at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org

There are hundreds of songbirds that stop on their migration south to feed on the abundant insect resources of the Lake Erie Islands. Although not as colorful as in their breeding plumage in spring, the warblers, thrushes, and other birds are just as fascinating to see up close. The islands are an amazing place to witness this annual migration of birds, monarch butterflies, dragonflies, and bats!

The Vineyard-Scheeff East Point Preserve

Turn left at the Vineyard sign just before the Scheeff East Point Preserve and drive back toward the red barn to park.

Monday-September 13th 6:00am to 3:00pm—See Report to Right
 Tuesday-September 14th 1:00pm to 3:00pm—See Report to Right
 Wednesday-September 15th 1:00 to 3:00pm—See Report to Right
 Thursday-September 16th 6:00am to 3:00pm—See Report to Right
 Friday-September 17th 6:00am to 12:00pm—See Report to Right

Kelleys Island-Jones Preserve

Drive to Long Point and park to the left 100 yards before the gate.

Sunday-September 19th 6:00am to 3:00pm
 Monday-September 20th 6:00am to 3:00pm
 Tuesday-September 21st 6:00am to 3:00pm
 Wednesday-September 22nd 6:00am to 3:00pm
 Thursday-September 23rd 6:00am to 3:00pm
 Friday-September 24th 6:00am to 12:00pm

Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve

This is located at the end of a private drive. Please drive through the gate to park near the banding station.

Do not park in private drives outside the gate. RSVP at 419-366-2087 or leiconservancy@gmail.com so we can arrange parking.

Sunday, September 26th 6:00am-3:00pm
 Monday September 27th 6:00am-3:00pm
 Tuesday September 28th 6:00am-3:00pm
 Wednesday September 29th 6:00am-3:00pm
 Thursday September 30th 6:00am-3:00pm
 Friday October 1st 6:00 am-12:00pm

Kelleys Island Scheele Preserve and Jones Preserve

October 14-31 Songbirds banding during Day at Jones Preserve 6:00Am to 3ish
 Saw-whet Owl banding 7:00 PM to ??? at Scheele Preserve
 November 1-15 Songbirds banding during Day at Jones Preserve 6:00AM to 3ish
 November 1-22 Saw-whet Owl banding 7:00 PM to ??? at Scheele Preserve



Photos: Top Right—Veery 10,000th bird banded on South Bass! Above L-R—Visitors closeup view of Veery; Road Scholars and guests at Banding Station; Veery held by Tom and Paula Bartlett; Lisa Brohl with Veery

2021 Fall Road Scholar – Bird Banding Program

South Bass Island, Ohio

Dates: September 13 through September 17

Location: Vineyard B & B

Staff: Tom Bartlett; Bander (Federal Permit: 21624)
 Paula Bartlett, Lisa Brohl, Andy Jones, and John Lortz ;
 Extractors and scribes Ken Farber, Teddi Keith-Morris and Janet Stearns; Assistants and/or scribes

Guests: 143 (22 Road Scholar participants; multiple times...)

Birds Banded

3 Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1 Nashville warbler
5 Downy Woodpecker	5 Black-and-white Warbler
4 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 Mourning Warbler
1 Alder Flycatcher	2 Common Yellowthroat
2 Blue-headed Vireo	6 American Redstart
5 Red-eyed Vireo	4 Cape May Warbler
4 Black-capped Chickadee	8 Magnolia Warbler
6 Veery	4 Bay-breasted Warbler
39 Gray-cheeked Thrush	2 Blackburnian Warbler
122 Swainson's Thrush	3 Chestnut-sided Warbler
1 Wood Thrush	60 Blackpoll Warbler
7 American Robin	8 Black-throated Green Warbler
2 Gray Catbird	2 Black-throated Blue Warbler
5 Ovenbird	12 Northern Cardinal
2 Northern Waterthrush	

29 Species Banded	331 Banded individuals
5 Banding Days	515 Net hours of effort
9 Recaptures	3 Escapes/released birds
1 Casualties	343 Total birds handled
0.6 Birds banded per net hour	0.29% Casualties per bird handled

Red = New species banded for South Bass Island

Bold = Uncommon species banded for South Bass Island

(1 Eastern Screech Owl was also banded at Massie Cliffside Preserve)

10,000th Bird Banded on South Bass



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AmeriCorps Intern Farewell



Photos: Above—AmeriCorps Intern Regan Monnett at Massie Cliffside Preserve; Right—Paula Ziebarth, Regan Monnett, and Lisa Brohl at Regan's farewell lunch!

We were grateful to share AmeriCorps intern Regan Monnett with the LEINWC for the summer! Regan helped out with so many things we stopped counting and best of all she helped design the wonderful new signs going up at Cooper's Woods and Benjamin Woods! (See Page 2). Paula Ziebarth and Lisa Brohl are shown here as we took her out to brunch before she left in appreciation. We wish Regan the best back at University of Michigan this fall.

(LOVELY DEDICATION Continued from page 1)

Regan Monnett spoke of her experiences this summer. Katherine Benjamin cut the ribbon to the trail entrance with her family. Everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by Heineman Winery, the Picnic Basket, Kendra Koehler, Linda Shull, and Peggy Leopold. We are excited to have this area open to the public. A nature trail joins the Langram Rd. parking lot with the Cooper's Woods Preserve trail loop. Interpretive signs will be installed along the trail.

The following were in attendance: Lisa Brohl, Jeff, Kendra, Barry, Greta, Teddi, and Piper Koehler, Kelly and Marty Faris, Bil, Megan and Zeke Gau, Susan Byrnes, Peter Huston, Patti and Carl Lo Presti, Peggy and John Leopold, Bill and Joyce Slough, Carol and Rich Roberts, Dianne and Bob Smith, Dave and Linda Frederick, John Ladd, Dustin Heineman, Roger Parker, Val Chornyak, Jody Frimel, Doraine

Toms, Art and Susie Otermat, Carol and Kurt Miske, Jeanne Burgess, Lauren and Colleen Mooney, Andy VanCamp, K. Roach, C. Parsons of the National Park Service.



Photos: Left—Patti and Carl Lo Presti on bench they donated Above—Benjamin Woods Preserve and trail is officially open for business! Upper Right—Dedication Invitation Lower Right—Photo of wonderful refreshments



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WE NEED YOUR HELP

Spearheaded by Karen Wilhelm of the Erie Islands Library and with a great deal of community support and enthusiasm, StoryWalk® was created in the Dodge Woods Preserve of Put-in-Bay Township Park District. StoryWalk® is a series of 17 stands displaying pages of a children's book. StoryWalk® is designed to encourage children's appreciation for reading and the environment.

Over the last few weeks, Put-in-Bay Township Park District unfortunately – and sadly – has experienced cases of vandalism.

An individual, or individuals either sawed through a 4" metal post and removed one of the StoryWalk® signs at the Dodge Preserve or rammed it with a golf cart or RV. The stand and frame were donated to the Erie Islands Library by the Put-in-Bay Post of the American Legion. Replacement cost for a stand and page frame is approximately \$525.00. A second stand and frame have now been vandalized as well. It appears someone tried to pull the post from the ground and broke it off, leaving the sign behind on the ground. This stand and frame was donated by the Put-in-Bay Senior Center.

A reward is offered of \$1,000 for the arrest and prosecution of the vandals.



All Park District Preserves and the parking lots of the Preserves are closed at night. Anyone who sees activity at night in the preserves or in the parking lots of the Preserves are asked to call the Put-in-Bay Police (419) 285-3962.

A huge thanks to The American Legion and the Put-in-Bay Property Owners Association who have both donated funds to the Put-in-Bay Township Park District to replace the two broken StoryWalk® signs and posts.



Photo: One of the two damaged StoryWalk® signs

(RUSTY PATCHED BUMBLE BEE Continued from page 1)

= Project Area) in the counties of Erie and Ottawa, in northwestern Ohio. These islands have been identified by USFWS as 5th and/or 6th tier priority grids across the historical range of the rusty patched bumble bee (<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/insects/rpbb/PrioritiesMap.html>).

Habitat restoration and enhancement work for this collaborative effort within the identified Project Area can include pollinator seedbed preparation on private and/or public lands, as well as planting of native grasses and wildflower seeds, and installation of wildflower plugs. The GLRI funding will be used for seedbed preparation work (i.e. seedbed preparation could include disking, spraying, mowing; purchase and application of herbicide for seedbed preparation), and purchase of native grasses and wildflower seeds and plugs. This habitat restoration and enhancement work will occur in collaboration with the Lake Erie Island Pollinator Partnership Consortium, which includes several partners (i.e. Kelleys Island State Park, Kelleys Island School, Kelleys Island Field Station, Ohio State University Stone Laboratory, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, Lake Erie Island Conservancy, ODNR-Division of Wildlife, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative, USFWS-PFW Program).

A committee of partner organizations including these partners will be set up to evaluate potential projects and will meet this fall to talk about priorities. The LEIC will provide cost-share funding of up to \$5,000 per potential pollinator habitat projects. Funds for administration of the grant and monitoring of the pollinator habitat projects have been included in the \$50,000 and are to be administered by the LEIC. If the pollinator habitat project is located on private property, the private landowner will sign a USFWS PFW Landowner 10-year agreement with the USFWS for oversight of the project. On all potential pollinator habitat projects funded through this grant, the landowner/s are expected to contribute towards the completion of the project, which

could be in the form of additional funding needed, contribution/supply of materials, equipment usage, and/or in-kind services.

Habitat projects could include:

1. Restoration of prairie and pollinator habitat for rusty patched bumble bee, Monarch butterfly, other native bees, grassland nesting birds and other local wildlife.
2. Reforestation on upland and shoreline sites to provide habitat and food resources for pollinators, migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and other wildlife.
3. Restoration of wetland habitat sites to provide habitat and food resources for pollinators, migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and other wildlife.

Target species include pollinators like the rusty patched bumble bee, Monarch butterfly, migratory songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, Indiana Bat and Long-eared Bat.

Successful pollinator projects have already been undertaken through the Lake Erie Island Pollinator Partnership Consortium on Kelleys Island, at Kelleys Island State Park, Kelleys Island Field Station and Kelleys Island School, and on Put-In-Bay, at the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center and at the Ohio State University Stone Laboratory. Chris Ashley, Jackie Taylor, Renee Fultz and Kristin Stanford worked closely with USFWS-PFW State Coordinator Lori Stevenson to complete these projects.

We are grateful to Lori Stevenson for the opportunity to collaborate and complete these pollinator habitat projects, and with her retirement at the end of September, we look forward to continuing this important pollinator habitat work while coordinating with USFWS PFW Private Lands Biologist Jeff Finn from Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

Please contact Lisa Brohl, LEIC, at 419-366-2087 or leiconservancy@gmail.com with any questions or if you have an area where you would like to restore/enhance and/or increase pollinator or wildlife habitat.



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*Island Green Week 2021
 MBI Poker Kayak Day Resumed with
 6th Annual Event! By Tina Larson*



A small but mighty group was happy to participate in the Middle Bass Island Poker Kayak Day after its cancellation last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic! Every cent of Registrations goes to benefit the Put-in-Bay Township Park District's preserves on Middle Bass by helping to pay for signage. This year's winners were Jerry Schrenk (1st prize: RT ferry tickets for two adults and a vehicle), Esther Fetzer (2nd prize: gift certificate to the MBI General Store), and Jacquie Adams (a bag of frozen shrimp from Costco). Many thanks to Julene Market for donating the ferry tickets and to Joe Hart and Eddie Sheller for donating the General Store gift card. They have donated these prizes all six years we've held the event!! We just couldn't pull off this event without the help of so many, so I am proud to recognize this year's team: Lisa Brohl, Sue

Ungvarsky, Dawn Schrenk, Leah Bilski, Regan Monnett, Ken and Linda Leque, Betsy and Jim Brohl, Shannon McDonald, Olive O'Rourke Scherf, Kim Egner, and some unidentified young men who helped move a picnic table into shade! Thanks also to the MBI State Park for use of their beaches. The State Park and the MBIYC both had registration forms there. And a big thank you to Dave Larson of TMP Architecture for making and donating lots of photocopies for us!

Photos Above: Clockwise from left—Poker Kayak Day Team; Stop Four Volunteers Sue Ungvarsky, Dawn Schrenk, Olive O'Rourke Scherf; First Person In Julie Beachler; Christine McKay and Linda Butler ready to paddle Center Photo—Third place winner Jacquie Adams, first place winner Jerry Schrenk, second place winner Esther Fetzer

Beautiful Donation to be Raffled at Holiday Bazaar!



Photo: Beautiful "Poinsettia" quilt donated by Tracy Burgess

We will be selling raffle tickets again for this beautiful hand knitted table covering from Tracy Burgess, made from repurposed yarn in a mitered cross design "Poinsettia", as well as her homemade gift tags at the Holiday Bazaar.

Submit Your Photos!

Attention Nature Lovers and Photo Buffs:

Interested in submitting your Conservancy nature photo(s) for consideration for the 2022 LEIC Calendar?



See instructions and details below!

- Send all of your Conservancy related entries to LEICPhotoSubmit@gmail.com with "2022 Calendar" in the subject line. Pics for the Newsletter can be sent there too!
- 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. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at 11.5" wide by 9" tall.
- If selected, you'll receive photo credit and 2 calendars!

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

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Preserve News! *By Lisa Brohl*



Long time Conservancy supporters Linda and Mark Seaman visit the Scheeff East Point Preserve this summer.



The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy and Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission enlarged and placed more wildflowers on the Sneller Garden with help of Patty Lo Presti



Lisa Brohl is shown with our first AmeriCorps intern Colleen O'Brien on a visit home from Washington State.



A new bench for MBI Volunteers at the MBI East Point Preserve—Thanks PIBTPD and the Bartlett's



Travis Kowalski and Fox Stone Products work on Massie Lane at the Massie Cliffside Preserve.



New Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Wendy Chambers visiting Scheeff East Point Preserve this summer to learn about our preserves.



A late night golf cart crashed our fence and pushed our Lake Erie Islands Water Trail sign out into the lake from our Scheeff East Point Preserve this summer. It was a stolen golf cart so we have no one to pay for the damages.



Visitors to the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail enjoying the Trail Challenge.



AmeriCorps intern Regan Monnett visiting Scheeff East Point with Sarah Kitson of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy on their annual monitoring visit.



New gravel at entrance of MBI East Point Preserve.



Blue Ash are beginning to disappear from our Jane Coates Wildflower Trail due to the emerald ash borer.

Conservancy Swag and More! *By Lisa Brohl*

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy still has recycled canvas tote bags made in the USA for sale for \$20. They are a great gift for any season! We still have a variety of tote bags made by Jill Cooks from sail cloth that we have for sale as well. Images of these are to the right. Larger bags are \$30 and the small bag is \$20.

We have koozies in two colors from the Conservancy's 2021 Bass Island Music Festival we are selling for \$2 each. They would make good stocking stuffers! If you would like one, see us at the Holiday Bazaar or contact Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087. We will also have Cooper's Woods t-shirts designed by the Put-in-Bay Environmental Club for sale for \$20.

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

If interested in purchasing any of these for yourself or a gift any time of the year, please contact Lisa Brohl by phone or text at 419-366-2087 or e-mail at leiconservancy@gmail.com. Of course, the gift of a year membership with the LEIC would be a great option too (See note below right)!



LEIC and PIBTPD Wish List

What happened to Summer? It seems like it flew by, but we still got a lot done and had LOTS of visitors to the Preserves! Feel like a volunteer activity with the family? Want to get the Preserves ready for Winter? Do 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. Or you may have skills you wish to contribute—please call! New members—Check us out at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org!

- Larger Office Space
- Assistance sorting, organizing office.
- Website and Social Media Assistance
- Paper Shredder
- Volunteers Always Needed—spread mulch on trails, removed downed trees and pick up litter—garlic mustard pulling, amur honeysuckle removal—all preserves.
- Land Protection Fund Donations
- 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.
- New Bicycle Rack for the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail—approximately \$900—can have name on rack

LEIC T-shirts and Hats



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

AND/OR

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

A few activities to brighten up your Fall!

*See page 16 for additional details

Fall Bird Banding! See Dates and Times on Page 7

Master bird bander Tom Bartlett and his wife Paula Bartlett will be on the islands

this fall for bird banding. Check out the schedule and come join us!

Conservancy Annual Meeting, September 26

We will be holding our Lake Erie Islands Conservancy annual meeting on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 2:00pm at the

Heineman Winery. See Page 6 for additional details.

Holiday Bazaar Saturday, October 16

Holiday Gift Shopping! Local candles, photos, paintings, jewelry, woodworking, organics, wreaths, cards, soaps, sweets... come and see what your neighbors have been making. Sponsored by LEIC & LEINWC. To have a \$10 table, leave a message for Sarah at 285-4448. We loved having an outside Bazaar last year at the Goat Biergarten, so we are doing it again! Rain location is the Goat open porch. Saturday, October 16th, 11 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



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

Please see page 15 for details.

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A Special THANKS...



Thanks to Stacey Clink for picking up our Island Green Week flyers in Toledo and bringing them home.



Tony Diebert of Eriesponsible, Shannon McDonald of the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, and Josh Dykstra of Eriesponsible at the Plastic Free Day held at Scheeff East Point Preserve held on August 13.



PIBTPD employee Chris Helman made quick work of large trees that came down during one of our wild summer wind storms at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve.



Leah Bilski for helping out with LEIC table at the MBI Music Fest. She also took lots of pictures for us there too! See more on Pg. 3!



Kent McGrain helped his grandmother Linda Shull refill brochure boxes here at Dodge Woods Preserve!



Betsy and Jim Brohl cleaned the interpretive signs at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve recently. Betsy is shown here at the Massie Cliffside Preserve with her friend Adele Straub.



Thanks Susan Bixler for picking up summer newsletters! Also to Lisa Brohl and Regan Monnett for getting them mailed.



Board member Linda Shull and her grandchildren Calista, Maeve and Elenora McGrain shown here folded and mailed our membership renewal reminders in July.

Lisa Brohl at the Huron Boat Basin for the Lyman Boat Owners Association in August. The Conservancy was invited to have a table to show off our preserves for visiting boaters.



Susan Amrine and friend Robin picking up garbage at the Scheeff East Point Preserve. Thanks to Susan for always helping with shoreline cleanup too!



Susan Byrnes volunteering and taking photos



Burns Pierce took out a downed tree blocking the path at our Scheeff East Point Preserve the day of the Purple Martin Banding Program. His truck is a familiar site both here and at the Cooper's Woods Preserve where he has helped remove some downed trees also.

New and Renewing Members

Friends

Aimee Arent of Trash to Treasures
John Berninger
Jean Cabral
Bob Cummings
Desiree Erdody
Heather and Gregory Fraunhoffer
Gloria Kindt
Donna Martens
Mike McCabe
Bruce and Kim Miles
Maria Pope and Rob Hard 2022
Joe Rutter

Supporters

Susan and Greg Bixler
Krissy Hart
Tamara Jones
Linda Parker
Cherilyn Shurtz
Loretta Smith
Scott Smith

Contributors

Sara Booker
Helen Brohl
Susan and Walt Duff
Roger and Jackie Gargano
Jean Hilt
Rose Kahler
Joan H. Kempf
Laureen Mooney
Ken and Mary Schilstra

Alberta Stoney
Jackie Taylor and Glenn Cooper
Carmen Trisler

Stewards

Todd and Jen Blumensaadt-2022
Sally and James Duffy
Joe and Suzanne Kostura
Robert Jellison and Irene Yamashita

Business Membership with Ad

First National Bank
Donations/Grants
Nate Ladd and Rob Roy
Filing Cabinets-Susan and Mike Byrnes, Sarah Cochran and Peter Huston
Suzanne and Joe Kostura-sign in honor of Susan Ferguson
Joe Rutter-monthly donations
Mike Gora
Marv and Pat Booker

Land Protection Fund

Suzanne and Joe Kostura
Margaret Morrison and Patricia Ann Morrison Morida

Donations in Memory of Pam Niese Hughes

Katherine Benjamin
Laureen Mooney

Life Members

John Baker
Mark and Lisa Berens
Lisa Benjamin
Marv and Pat Booker
Ron and Audrey Borchert
Jon D. Brausch
Sandra Brausch
Jim and Betsy Brohl
Russ & Lisa Brohl
Linda and Dave Bugoci
Valerie Chornyak
David and Jacquelyn Clark
Alan & Stacey Clink
Gary and Carol Coates
Ken and Jennifer Farber
Frederick Fether
Christian L. Geiss
Richard Gump
Scott Jackson
Judy and Joseph Janicki
Karen A. Jennings
Mary and Tom Katzenmeyer
Bob Krause

John & Paula Ladd
Georgia MacVean
Julene Market
Elaine and Howard Martens
Mary Ann McCann
Michael McIntyre and Elizabeth Heineman
Valerie Mettler
Greg Millat
Mark Nemec
Chris and Kathy North
Roger & Mary Parker
Mary Ann and Rich Plewacki
Hank & Gayle Polcyn
Carol Richardson
Richard and Carol Roberts
Fritz and Pam Rudolph
Ken and Ann Shelton
Mary L. Staley
Kristin Stanford
Matt Thomas
Carley Tobias
Yardworks-Valerie and Dan Kowalski
Zoe and Brad Titchener

THANK YOU!



Don't forget!

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Background Photo: MBI Music Fest

(MUSIC FEST Continued from page 3)

The Middle Bass Music Fest is brought to you by the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy but there are many, many individuals and organizations that make this event possible. The chief shout out goes to our volunteers. These people dedicate their time to make this event work. Some folks give us a few hours at the event and some folks provide many hours preparing for and during this event. Everyone is important and we are grateful for their participation. We are also grateful to the vendors who rented a table, all the people who come out and enjoy the event, and the people who purchase drinks and souvenirs or make donations that support the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy.

Our number one financial sponsor has been and remains the Middle Bass Dock Company. Without the Dock Company's financial support the music fest would not take place. If you see Jim Roesch, tell him "thank you".

Other organizations we'd like to recognize include The Island Grind, The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, The Ohio Arts Council, Lake Erie Shores and Islands, the Middle Bass Senior Men's Club, and the Miller Boat Line whose cooperation is vital to get everyone on and off the island.

The event is run as a community outreach for the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy. When you travel about Middle Bass and South Bass, you'll see our entrance signs showing all of our wonderful publicly accessible preserves and trails. The Conservancy partners with the Put-in-Bay Township Park District to preserve natural and agricultural lands on the Lake Erie Islands. All funds raised by this event will be used on Middle Bass for land conservation.

For news on the 2022 Music Fest please refer to our web site www.MBIMusicfest.com or our Facebook Page.

(Photos Credits from Pg. 3: Lisa Brohl of LEIC, Rick Sockel, Bruce Miles, and Leah Bilski)

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In addition to my membership, I would like to donate to:

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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/>



IN MEMORIAM

John Melvin Glauser



John Melvin Glauser of Middle Bass passed away this summer after a long battle with cancer. John was always helping others and had taken a special interest in the wood duck boxes at the Kuehnle State Wildlife Area and Peterson Woods/Lawrence Evans Tract. We will miss John and his assistance with our Conservancy projects.



IN MEMORIAM

Scott Pugh



South Bass Islander and man about town Scott Pugh gave up his battle with cancer on September 14, 2021. His business, Put-in-Bay Electric and his family were long time supporters of our Conservancy. He will be greatly missed by all of us!!! Memorial contributions go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Land Preservation Fund-Make A Donation For the Future Now!! *By Lisa Brohl*

We have several land preservation opportunities open to our island community. We know that when there is a chance to preserve more forests, shoreline, and wildlife for our residents and visitors we must take action now while it is present!

There are Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant funds available for our District 5 Natural Resources Area Council with grant applications due on October 29, 2021. Our Conservancy will be making donations toward matching funds for these opportunities. If you are interested in contributing, we accept any donations to our Land Protection Fund to work on these projects. Large donations may give donor naming rights for preserves or special mention on our preserve signage or benches. We also

have some smaller parcels adjacent to preserves already owned by our partners the Put-in-Bay Township Park District that we would like to see preserved. Any questions, let us know.



Photos: Beautiful views of the recently preserved Cooper's Woods
Photos by Michelle Pennington

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Newsletter Editors

Lisa Brohl
Michelle Pennington

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



November 30, 2021 for Giving Tuesday

December 19, 2021 for Lake Erie Islands Christmas Bird Count



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



Important Announcements

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

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

Special Tax Note: Those who make cash donations to public charities will be able once again to deduct those donations on their 2021 tax return, even if they take the standard deduction and don't itemize their return.

This is an extension of the charitable tax deduction on 2020 standard deduction tax returns. The difference between the 2021 and the 2020 charitable deduction is that in 2021 the deduction allowed will be up to \$600.00 for those who are married and file jointly. (versus \$300.00 per return in 2020).