

More Island Habitat Preserved! *By Lisa Brohl*

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District has closed on additional preserve acreage on both Middle Bass Island and South Bass Island since our last newsletter.

On Middle Bass Island, over 2 acres of wetland forest habitat was added to the Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland

Preserve with a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources through the Natureworks grant program. The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy provided the 25% matching funds-raised from the 2022 Middle Bass Music Festival. The Park District is applying for a permit to extend the current walking path from Fox Rd. to Fairway Drive over the new parcels that were purchased. Thanks to



Photos: Left—Conservancy board member Colleen Kerkay with Natureworks sign on the Hahn purchase-MBIFWP Additions. Right—Large silver maple in the MBI Forested Wetland Preserve—by PIBTPD employee Chris Helman

Leah Bilski, Neal Hess, and Carl Hahn for assistance with this project. It adds habitat to what is a beautiful 40 plus acre woods with large cottonwoods and silver maples—wood ducks visit the pond in

spring and resident great-horned owls are seen or heard here often.

On South Bass Island, 2.12 acres of island woods and wildflowers were protected with a purchase by the Put-in-Bay Township Park District with a grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund.

(Continued on page 7)

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....
PIB Panthers Senior Joe Blumensadt took time out of his busy schedule to design several educational signs for the Conservancy. Thanks Joe!!!

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Upcoming Events:

MBI Music Fest	9
Native Plant/Tree Sale	10-11
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Photo: Large display of Dutchman's Breeches and White Trillium at Victory Woods lots

Wildlife Diversity Conference 2024 *By Lisa Brohl*

The Ohio Division of Wildlife sponsored a great conference on March 14, 2024. Former Conservancy board member Kristin Stanford did a great job coordinating this year's conference titled "Build It and They Will Come," in her new role as Wildlife Diversity Coordinator. Lisa Brohl and Jill Kirby from the Conservancy attended – heard great talks, made lots of good contacts, and found lots of natural history items to purchase as well.

A nice touch this year – all the island group's tables were together! Felicia Grooms and Isabella Lause represented The

Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory. Hayley Rinearson and Emily Beal were there for the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center. Lisa Brohl and Jill Kirby manned the Conservancy and PIBTPD table with newsletter editor Michelle Pennington. Within such close proximity, we could entice visitors to take a class at Stone Lab, visit the LEINWC or attend Road Scholar, or tour our preserves and have fun at the Middle Bass Island Music Fest. We had interest in our AmeriCorps internship as well from attendees.



Photos: Clockwise from Left—Jill Cerny Kirby manning the Conservancy booth; Island Group Photo – Isabella Lause, Felicia Grooms, Jill Kirby, Lisa Brohl, Emily Beal, Michelle Pennington; Wildlife Diversity Coordinator Kristin Stanford with Wildlife Administrator Erin Hazelton; Island Birdbander Tom Bartlett giving a presentation on Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding; Michelle Pennington working on the native tree/plant sale form between listening to talks

AmeriCorps Intern for the Island-Sign Up! Or Donate! *By Lisa Brohl*

LAKE ERIE ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD INTERNSHIP



Spend your Summer advocating for and preserving the scenic and natural areas at a unique Island area. This intern will receive a range of experiences that will give them a glimpse into operations and communications of a non profit, park district, and nature center open to the public by creating and running an educational program, handling live animals, invasive species control, publishing educational and marketing content, and more depending on the skill set and interests of the intern. *Preference to those with island housing, ferry pass may be provided.

POSITION DETAILS

- Location: Put-In-Bay, Ohio
- Positions Available: 1 Internship
- Position Dates: June - August 2024
- Pay Rate: \$600/week
- Benefits: \$1,459.26 education award, loan forbearance, access to our Member Assistance Program, uniform shirts, on-the-job training, and professional development opportunities

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Questions? Contact accrecruiting@conservationlegacy.org



The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, Put-in-Bay Township Park District, and Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center will be sharing an AmeriCorps intern through a partnership with Appalachian Conservation Corps for the 2024 Summer. We have had great experiences with our interns bringing new ideas and fresh faces to our programs in the summer. We have had a great internship program starting with Colleen O'Brien in 2011 and including Leah Bilski, Carmen Levand, Jackie Taylor, Chloe Nostrant, Jenna Prahst, Samantha Newhouse, Emma Young, Olive O'Rourke-Scherf, Regan Monnett, Kenneth McArtor, and Adrianna Burghardt. Each brought their special talents and left us with finished projects we now enjoy! The intern goes back with a new appreciation of our island resources.

We are looking for applicants for this AmeriCorps Environmental Steward Intern for the summer of 2024. It is a ten week program working a minimum of 30 hrs. per week. Interns are provided a stipend of \$600 weekly and a Segal Educational Award of \$1,459.26 at the completion of the internship-to be used for qualified student loans or tuition. The intern will work on projects like trail maintenance, invasive plant management, grant writing, design of signs and brochures, social media, wildlife and plant surveys, nest box monitoring, etc. for the Conservancy and the Park District depending on the skill set of the intern. For the LEINWC, the intern can assist with tours, Wild Tuesday, Nature Camp, exhibits, community events and outreach. Applicants must be at least 17 years old. Preference is given to university students but a high school education is all that is required to use the education award. **It is preferred to have island housing.** To take a look at the Appalachian Conservation Corps Internship program, go to their website at www.appalachiancc.org/individualplacements.

To apply, go to AmeriCorps Intern for the Island-Sign Up! Or Donate! <http://tinyurl.com/americorp2024>.

We are looking for donations toward this great program as well! If you are interested in donating, contact Lisa or send a check to LEIC, P.O. Box 461, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456 with AmeriCorps on the memo line. You may also use our PayPal at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org but designate for the AmeriCorps intern program. If we are unable to get an intern that has island housing already, we would welcome housing for an intern as well.

Duff Vineyard Update *By Lisa Brohl*

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District has been very fortunate to be able to complete the first two parts of our purchases from the Duff family. The Duff Woods Preserve is now open to the public with a walking trail and small parking area available since 2023. The Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve was purchased last year and we have been working to get it open to the public with a dedication planned for Saturday, August 3, 2024 at 1:00pm during Island Green Week.

This leaves the final and third phase of our plan to be completed—the purchase of the Duff Vineyards from Susan and Walter Duff. The Put-in-Bay Township Park District currently holds a purchase agreement on the parcel until the end of December 2024 with a purchase price of \$1.1million. We have a pledge for \$25,000 from the Randolph J. and Estelle M. Dorn Foundation and have been looking at other grants and opportunities to finish the purchase. Additionally, we have been in conversations with the DeRivera Park Trust regarding a storage space for

their equipment on site in exchange for some funding.

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District will also be putting a 1 mil levy on the ballot this fall to complete this purchase and support our preserves. We will have informational meetings before November.

Jim and Sandy Yelensky trimmed the grapes this spring with Susan and Walt working to clear the cut vines. It had been three years since the grapes were trimmed so it was essential to the health of the vineyard to be done this winter. The Yelensky's worked hard and had the expertise to get job done—we really appreciate their skill and caring.

It would make a beautiful spot for weddings, events, grape tours, nature study, and more. This is our dream and we continue to work toward that dream. Please let us know if you have ideas or sources of funding for this project. We have set up a Deed website to garner donations. Donations can also be sent to Put-in-Bay Township Park District, P. O. Box 177, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456.



Photos: Top—Sunset over Duff Vineyards Second Row—Walt Duff out clearing vines from rows: Sandy Yelensky trimming Duff Vineyards Bottom Row—Jim and Sandy Yelensky taking lunch break: Jim Yelensky trimming catawbas at Duff Vineyards: Susan Duff running the tractor for vine pickup



April is Native Plant Month—First Ohio, Now All 50 States!



<https://www.ohionativeplantmonth.org/ohio-native-plants-of-distinction>

[Help Celebrate Ohio Native Plant Month!](#)

2024 Ohio Native Plants of Distinction -



Tulip Poplar Liriodendron tulipifera Winterberry Holly Ilex verticillata Wood Poppy Stylophorum diphyllum Honeysuckle Vine Lonicera sempervirens

LEAP Native Plants - <https://www.leapbio.org/resources/native-plants>
Find Fast Facts for 30 native plants selected by LEAP over the years. Check out the [Tree Selector Tool](#) to select the best tree for your planting needs.

Check out the [Native Plant Nurseries Locator](#) to find plants for your gardens.

Updates on National Native Plant Month <https://nationalnativeplantmonth.org/>

Passed in Senate - S.Res. 603 was agreed to with Unanimous Consent on March 20, 2024, Introduced in House - 03/20/2024 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.



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AmeriCorps Intern for 2024, Spark Good Grant *By Lisa Brohl*

We are happy to report we just received \$500 toward our AmeriCorps intern program for 2024 from the Walmart Spark Good program! We are thankful for the support!

We are still taking applications for this year's position. We will hopefully be making a decision soon. This 10-week intern is shared with the Conservancy, Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, and the Put-in-Bay Township Park District.

We are still looking for more donations toward this great program to make it happen. If interested in contributing, you can send checks to LEIC, P. O. Box 461, PIB, OH 43456 with AmeriCorps Intern on memo line or use the donate button on our website with a note that it is for AmeriCorps. Any questions, let us know.

See information on the AmeriCorps Intern program on p. 2 of this LEIC Newsletter.



Grants for the Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve *By Lisa Brohl*

The Park District of Ottawa County grant for the Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve includes \$44,336.50 of funding for a new handicapped accessible entrance for the Visitor Contact Station as well as the creation for a new birding trail in the woods off Lakeview. It will include the mulching, fencing, signage, and a bicycle rack for the area as well as junk removal from the woods. We really appreciate their generous support of our preserves! The following also received grants in this 2024 round.

- ★ Danbury Township, Meadowbrook Marsh
- ★ Village of Clay Center, Park Mower
- ★ Village of Oak Harbor, Friendship Park
- ★ Village of Genoa, Veterans Memorial Park
- ★ Ottawa County Fair Board, Ottawa County Fairgrounds

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District were also the recipients of a \$3,000 Shores and Islands Ohio Destination Development

Grant for the Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve. This grant will pay for a bicycle rack, an exhibit on mussels and the rest will go toward gravel and grading the entrance and brochure racks.

All of these granting agencies will be recognized on a plaque with other donors at the entrance door with other donors to the restoration/adaptation of the Duff Homestead into a Visitor Contact Station/ office space.

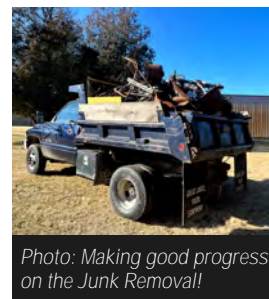


Photo: Making good progress on the Junk Removal!

Earth Week Island Style! *By Lisa Brohl*

Erie MetroParks is holding an Earth Day Extravaganza at Osborn Park on Saturday, April 20 from 11-3 with lots of activities! The LEINWC, LEIC, and

PIBTPD will share a table that day, so stop by. We will need volunteers for that day as well with our booth hosting an activity for visitors and getting

the word out on our programs.

On Monday April 22, 2024, we will host a fun walk at the Cooper's Woods Preserve. Start for 1 mile walk will be at 3:30pm and the start for the longer Trail Walk will be at 3:45pm. There will be water bottles and other prizes for participants as well as refreshments following the walk/run. Sign up ahead of time by emailing leiconservancy@gmail.com or 419-366-2087.

We are also offering the Earth Day Challenge this year again for those individuals who want to get out and pick up litter or garlic mustard etc. on their own. The attached Challenge form can be turned in for a prize at the end of Earth Week April 20-26, 2024.

Our islands always need a little extra loving to get cleaned up for the season—come on out and help us with either the Earth Week Challenge or the Trail Walk!

Earth Week Checklist April 20-26, 2024



Initial this list and send picture of completed checklist to Lisa Brohl to win a prize! Help the Earth, one island at a time! Eligible for Panther Pride! Sponsored by the LEIC and LEINWC

Send pictures by April 28 to leiconservancy@gmail.com or Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087

Sunday April 21: Spring clean up at the Nature & Wildlife Center 10am-2pm, sign up ahead of time by emailing leinwc@gmail.com

Monday April 22: Fun Walk at the Cooper's Woods Preserve. Start for 1 mile walk will be at 3:30pm and the start for the longer Trail Walk will be at 3:45pm. \$5 suggested donation. There will be water bottles and other prizes for participants as well as refreshments following the walk. Sign up ahead of time by emailing leiconservancy@gmail.com or 419-366-2087.

Friday, April 26: Arbor Day Celebration at the Village of Put-in-Bay Arbor Day Tree Commission site at 4:00pm (beside Post office.) Help plant a Sugar Maple and Common Hackberry.

Pull 1 bag of Garlic Mustard

Pick up 1 bag of garbage

Pre-order from LEIC Native Plant Sale (optional)



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ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY

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"ALL THINGS WILD AND THEN SOME"

Duck Stamp Judging

By Lisa Brohl

Conservancy Chair Lisa Brohl was one of the Duck Stamp judges in February in Columbus. There were five judges that made a tough decision with all the beautiful artwork. The bufflehead was chosen by the panel shown here. Lisa met up with Janet Stearns working the Ducks Unlimited banquet—she had an entry of a ring-necked duck this year.



Photos: Top—Wetland Stamp judging team 2024 (Cathann Kress, Dean of OSU College of Food, Ag, and Env. Sci.; Rick Johansen, Decoy Carver from Port Clinton; Reece Nickol, Ducks Unlimited Ohio Policy Chair with winning entry of bufflehead by Ray Easton; Lisa Brohl, Put-in-Bay Township Park District; and Dick Rhode, Decoy Carver from Port Clinton) Bottom—Lisa Brohl with Janet Evans Stearns from Middle Bass with her ring-necked duck entry

Ohio Natural History Conference

By Lisa Brohl

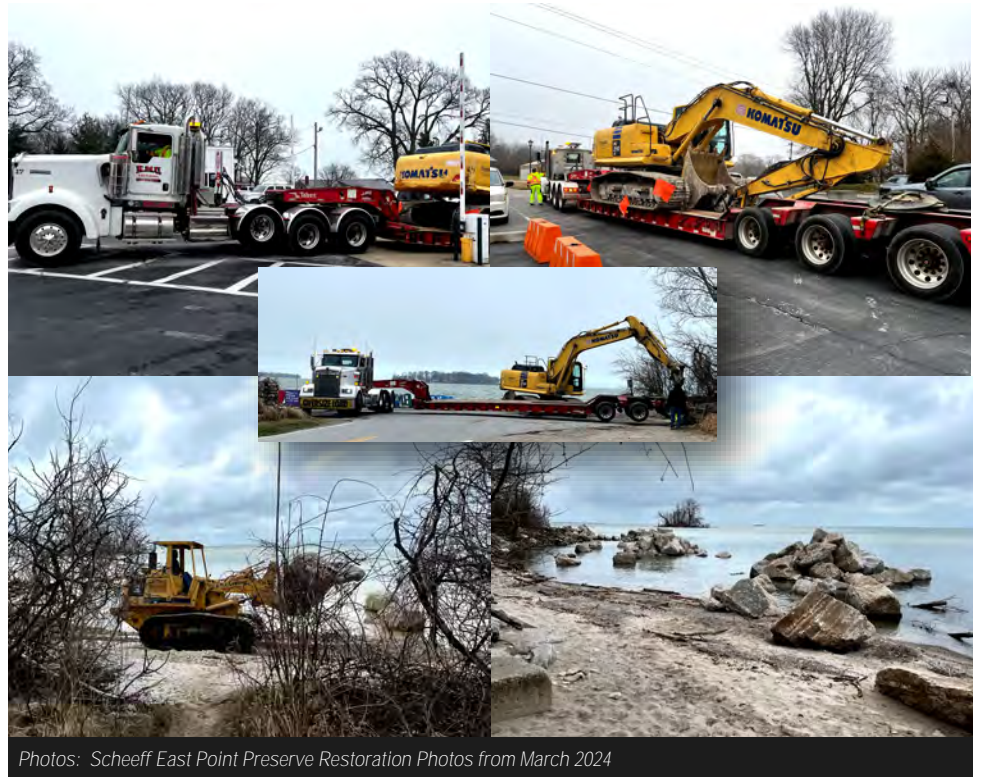


LEIC Chair Lisa Brohl also attended the 2024 Ohio Natural History Conference titled "Biological Research from Future Conservation Leaders" by zoom in February. The conference featured Dr. Derek Hennen as the Keynote.

The most interesting session for us was one on the effects of white-tail deer browse on native plants/trees. This is something LEINWC REU advisors Amy Alford and Renee Fultz may have a student study in our preserves this year.

Scheeff East Point Preserve Shoreline Restoration and Park Spring Closure Update

By Neal Hess



Photos: Scheeff East Point Preserve Restoration Photos from March 2024

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District announces that construction has begun this spring at its Scheeff East Point Preserve, which has resulted in the temporary closure of the Scheeff East Point Preserve Park. The end of Columbus Ave. (State Route 357), a popular summertime turnaround and hangout spot, will also be closed during construction and the last public turnaround point will be the Massie Cliffside Preserve parking lot, which is also on Columbus Ave. Signs will be posted accordingly during the park and road closures.

The purpose of this project is to restore the Scheeff East Point Preserve shoreline, which has experienced severe coastal erosion resulting in significant land and habitat loss. The Park District and its contractors will be implementing a nature-based restoration project, which will stabilize the eroding shoreline with natural materials, while also improving habitat for a variety of fish, bird and other native species.

The Scheeff East Point Preserve park and road closures will be temporary and they will reopen as soon as construction work is completed. Construction commenced in March and should be completed by June; however, the exact

construction schedule will vary based upon the timing of the receipt of the final permits. Updates regarding the park and road closure timeframes will be located on the Park District webpage, which is www.putinbayparks.com.

We appreciate your understanding and support during this closure and we look forward to providing Put-in-Bay residents and visitors with an improved park setting once the project is completed.

This shoreline restoration project is being funded grants from three different sources: a National Coastal Resilience Fund grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), and an Emergency Erosion Assistance Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

The ODNR Emergency Erosion Assistance Grant also funded the improvements to Deist Road on Middle Bass Island through a collaboration between Put-in-Bay Township and the Park District.

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Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Year End Financial Report Jan 1, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023			Land Protection Fund		
Page 1 of 3			Page 2 of 3		
General Fund Balance: Jan. 1, 2023 \$159,569.70			Balance: Jan. 1, 2023 \$42,023.46		
Income:			Income:		
Donations	\$56,418.81		Donations	\$65,476.01	
Life Membership	\$6,000.00			\$65,476.01	\$65,476.01
AmeriCorp	\$5,790.00				\$107,499.47
Sales	\$9,441.67		Expenditures:		
Support Dues	\$13,495.44		Land Purchase	\$ 101,021.00	
Misc	\$109.00		Duff Homestead Pres		
Plant/Tree Sales	\$4,635.21			\$101,021.00	\$101,021.00
Bird Seed Sales	\$4,454.00				
Middle Bass Music	\$30,629.24				
Interest	\$3,542.73				
			Balance: December 31, 2023		\$6,478.47
	\$134,516.10	\$134,516.10	Stewardship Fund		
		\$294,085.80	Balance: Jan. 1, 2023		\$3,525.00
Expenditures:			Income:		
Signs/Benches	\$9,663.91		Donations	\$95.00	
Office Supplies	\$1,219.40			\$95.00	\$95.00
Newsletter	\$2,472.40		Expenditures:		
Legal/Insurance	\$1,882.00		Site Review	\$0.00	
Postage	\$712.29			\$0.00	\$0.00
Symposium	\$346.82				
Transportation	\$516.26		Balance: December 31, 2023		\$3,620.00
Duff	\$47,498.69				
LB Stipend	\$16,000.00		General Fund		\$166,644.69
JK Stipend	\$8,750.00		Land Protection Fund		\$6,478.47
Program Supplies	\$3,803.95		Stewardship Fund		\$3,620.00
Bird Seed	\$3,175.65				
Plants/Trees	\$4,191.00		TOTAL ALL FUNDS		\$176,743.16
AmeriCorp	\$5,790.00				
Web Site	\$350.00				
Brochure	\$1,130.36				
Calendar	\$1,024.28				
MB Music	\$18,914.10				
	\$127,441.11	\$127,441.11			
Balance: December 31, 2023		\$166,644.69			

LEIC Year End Fiscal Report 2023

Brokerage Account Edward Jones, Port Clinton, Ohio		Page 3 of 3
Opening Date	Dec. 15, 2023	
17 Shares of Fed Ex Stock		
Opening Value	\$ 4,545.20	
Change in Value	\$ (244.71)	
Value: Dec. 31, 2023	\$ 4,300.49	
Total All Funds:	\$ 181,043.65	

Garlic Mustard Challenge 2024 By Lisa Brohl



The City of Green near Akron, Ohio, the Portage Park District and Stark Parks have issued the Put-in-Bay Township Park District and Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, a challenge as to which community can pull the most garlic mustard in a day! We have accepted the challenge but need your help and lots of volunteers. Here on South Bass there will be two sites this year-Cooper's Woods Preserve and Michael Pucak from the South Bass Island State Park will hold a second pull there.

There is such a big problem with the garlic mustard out-competing the native wildflowers in Cooper's Woods—we need help! The best way to get rid of it is to hand pull it before it goes to seed. It pulls easily just after a spring rain!

Michael Marefka of EnviroScience will be here Saturday May 4th from 9:00 am–12:00 pm at the Cooper's Woods parking lot to arm us with strong garbage bags. Come for whatever time you are available. Volunteers will head into the woods after an educational session on what garlic mustard looks like and how to pull it. We will fill our bags, take them back to the

parking lot for weighing before dumping into a dumpster for removal so that seeds are removed from the site. Weight will be calculated as total pounds pulled and pounds per volunteer hour. The grand prize for winning this friendly competition is bragging rights and a sense of accomplishment!

Bring garden gloves to wear if you can. Some folks have had a rare allergic reaction to the strong garlic scented oils in the plant. We will have some garden

gloves for those who need them still. We will also have cold drinking water in a large cooler container—please bring your own water bottle for a refill!

And remember you can take some garlic mustard home to eat—great in chip dip, pasta, salads, etc. Just do not take it home to plant!!!

There will be a prize for each person pulling at least two bags of garlic mustard and a grand prize for those pulling the most that day. Register by emailing leiconservancy@gmail.com or by texting Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087. Walk-ins welcome but registering will help us in planning for prizes.

This Challenge and the Earth Week Challenge (see page 4 for details) will help us to restore the native plants and animal community of the Cooper's Woods Preserve and others.

NOTE: Participants may pull garlic mustard at our other preserves and bring to the Cooper's Woods Preserve or South Bass Island State Park for weighing.



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I'm Likin' Lichens! By Tina Larson

Lichens (pronounced "likens") are unique organisms on this third rock from the sun! They are algae and fungus existing in one shape. Microscopic green algae (usually *Trebouxia* or microscopic blue-green algae (usually *Nostoc* or *Stigonema*) within a lichen manufacture sugars by photosynthesis. The alga and fungus use these sugars to grow together forming a new body (thallus) that looks completely different than the fungus or the alga growing alone!

Long recognized as a life form, lichenology is still not widely studied beyond identification. In the mid-1700's Linnaeus called lichens "the poor trash of nature". His *Species Plantarum* of 1753 remains the basis for nomenclature. As recently as 1967 a paper proclaimed a "self-destruct" theory about trees producing fungus themselves and that, when exposed to much light, the fungus develops some green cells. There was also a theory of mutualism. Today lichens are recognized as a case of parasitism: fungal haustoria (microscopic thread-like projections) penetrate algal cells to absorb nutrients from them; the algae get nothing they could not get on their own. Both the fungus and the algae can continue to reproduce independently.

Colors may often be subtle to discern but are a key factor in identification. Practice helps! Lichen colors range from orange to yellows to a host of grays, brown, even black. (See color photo) Chemistry can assist identification! Lichen species consistently produce unique chemicals regardless of collection site. A tiny drop of three different reagents applied to the surface of seemingly identical lichens can accurately distinguish between species (routinely *Parmelia*, *Cladonia*, *Physcia*, *Cladina*). (11 minute you tube video "Lichen Identification Using Chemical Spot

Testing" by Humbotany excellently shows the process.) The adventurous and patient soul, with access to some very nice lab equipment and other reagents, can be rewarded by the sight of a spectrum of colorful lichen crystals otherwise invisible by a technique called thin-layer chromatography! Some lichens fluoresce, as do many other life forms, so it may be fun to take a UV flashlight along on a dark walk.

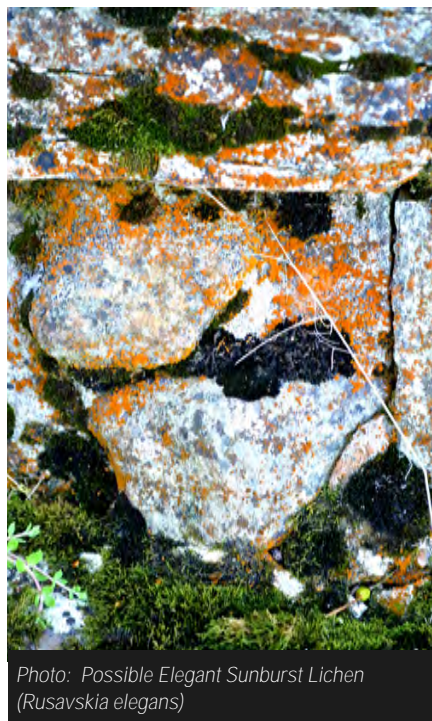


Photo: Possible Elegant Sunburst Lichen (*Rusavskia elegans*)

While there is a copious amount of vocabulary to describe lichen growth forms, they generally fall into one of three major categories. Nearly all live attached to a surface of stone, wood, or bark. (Exceptions: soil, man-made materials!) "Crustose" lichens seem indeed crusty and are pretty much impossible to remove from the surface without destroying them. A close look at almost any piece of a sidewalk will show how this looks. "Foliose" lichens have leafy lobes that may be tightly, loosely, or barely attached to a surface by thread-like rhizines. The upper surface appears clearly different from the lower surface. "Foliosus" is Latin for leafy. "Fruticose" lichens have

been called bushy, shrubby, hairy, or club-like. They have branches that grow perpendicular to the surface. The branches can be tubular or flat, standing up or hanging down. They are not leafy and the upper and lower surfaces do not appear clearly different.

Lichens grow VERY slowly (average .5-8mm/yr around here) and some individuals are hundreds of years old! So please collect only in pictures or with your mind's eye.

Uses for lichens vary widely! Dyes of yellow, red, orange, brown, and purple can color wool. Lichens are sensitive to air pollution. Mapping species' locations over time can indicate changing levels of air quality. Some lichens are used as pharmaceuticals, for example antibiotics and expectorants. The great variety of acids in lichens

pretty much keeps them from being eaten, however, if you are a caribou you probably eat close to seven pounds a day in the winter! Another lichen in the desert can actually be used to make bread. It may have had a role in the biblical 'manna from heaven'. Other lichens can be eaten raw, fried, or used to thicken soups. Don't forget those green-dyed lichens in craft stores used as mini-trees in miniature train layouts, town models, and floral arrangements. Some lichen-crusted rocks and boulders decorate gardens.

There are some beautiful color field guides available now to help one explore and find lichens nearby. Once they are noticed they are hard to ignore! Their names are not terribly important but if you choose to learn some, I highly recommend using the scientific ones because the same lichen can be given countless common names by anyone who chooses to do so. That's not a bad idea unless you want others to know what you are talking about! Lichenportal.org is loaded with technical detail.

I hope you are "likin' lichens" now, too, or at least thinking about these unique little-understood organisms.



1. *Xanthoparmelia parietina* (p. 31); 2. *Acarospora chlorophana* (p. 31); 3. *Cetraria canadensis* (p. 45); 4. *Letharia columbiana* (p. 96); 5. *Xanthoparmelia cumberlandia* (p. 42); 6. *Parmelia florentina* (p. 34); 7. *Pseudoparmelia caperata* (p. 34); 8. *Parmotrema linctum* (p. 66); 9. *Cetraria obtusum* (p. 57); 10. *Parmelia sulcata* (p. 73); 11. *Cetraria ellaria* (p. 134); 12. *Vexillum ruscipolium* (p. 131); 13. *Leptogium cymosum* (p. 154); 14. *Collema nigrescens* (p. 157). Magnification about X3/4.

Photo: "Characteristic Lichen Colors": How to know the Lichens, 2nd edition, by Mason E. Hale

(MORE ISLAND HABITAT Continued from page 1)

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy provided the matching funds. These woods in the Victory Woods area are not publicly accessible at this time but protect valuable habitat for migratory and resident songbirds, Eastern

Fox Snakes, melanistic Eastern Garter Snakes, and a beautiful wildflower display in the spring. They are a unique forest type with the Sugar Maples and American Basswood mixed with Common Hackberry and Blue Ash due to the dolomite outcrops here. Thanks to Neal Hess and the Adler family for working with us on this grant.

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South Bass Island Bird Report *By Paula Ziebarth, LEIC Board Member, Ottawa County Area*

Contact Ohio Bluebird Society



Photos: Clockwise from left—Airline Road - Paula's front yard Purple Martin rig; Purple Martin nest at Scheeff; Purple Martin nest at Duggan's; Anna Burghardt monitoring Purple Martins at Scheeff; Tree Swallow nest and eggs (unusually large clutch); Barn Swallow nest and eggs on Paula's house; House Wren nest and eggs; House Wren young at Dodge Woods Preserve

The Purple Martin colonies at Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve, South Bass Lighthouse, Duggan's and my home rigs on Airline Road continue to do well. For those unfamiliar with successful Purple Martin colonies, proper habitat is necessary for success. South Bass Island has excellent habitat for them. Lake Erie breeds a myriad of flying insect species that allow them to thrive and raise a family. Housing must be at least 40 feet from any tall trees to protect them from marauding hawks and owls.

Purple Martin housing should be monitored every 5 to 7 days to check on the progress of the birds and to deal with any problems found during the nesting cycle. Three of the biggest challenges are attempts to take over colonies by non-native, invasive House Sparrows; extreme extended cold or rainy weather events; and nest hygiene. European Starlings are also an aggressive non-native nest site competitor but have been mostly excluded from housing by using Starling Resistant Entry Holes. Many Purple Martin landlords use pesticides in nest compartments to control insect and mite infestations found in nests. I do not do this, preferring to replace nesting material with soft, dry white pine needles once or twice during the nest cycle to eliminate most of the pests found in nests and provide young birds with clean nest material during their 28-day stay in their nest compartment. This year we used vent caps during the hot summer months for the gourds at Scheeff and the Lighthouse and this helped greatly with nest hygiene, providing much needed ventilation to keep nest material dry during late summer periods of high heat and humidity.

Purple Martins are North America's largest swallow. A Purple Martin's diet consists solely of flying insects. These birds consume a lot of them during their 4 to 5 month stay in Ohio. I would like to extend a special thank you to AmeriCorps intern Anna Burghardt for her help monitoring the birds and collecting data. This year's young and their parents are getting ready for their big migration from Brazil, making the long (over 4,000 mile) trip to

their nesting grounds. Purple martins are already returning to the southern states, and we expect them back with us the first week of April.

A tree swallow's plumage is iridescent blue/black back with a white underbelly. These birds primarily eat small flying insects. Each Tree Swallow family consumes more than 300,000 flying insects during the nesting season. Tree Swallows usually raise one brood per season, but we are seeing more late second nest attempts in Ohio, likely due to climate change. Tree Swallows overwinter in the southern states and Central America. They leave South Bass Island about a month before the Purple Martins.

2023— Birds Fledged

TRAIL	TRES	BARS	HOWR	PUMA	HOSP*	EUST*
Airline Road	92	18		137	11	4
Duggan				29	1	2
Woodland Trails (Jane Coates, Dodge Woods and Wildlife Center)	18		19		1	
Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve	74			169	5	1
South Bass Island Lighthouse	14			59	1	
TOTAL	198	18	19	394	19	7

TRES = Tree Swallow; BARS = Barn Swallow; HOWR = House Wren; PUMA = Purple Martin; BCCCH = Black Capped Chickadee

* Non-native House Sparrow (HOSP) or European Starling (EUST) attempts. No HOSP or EUST fledged from housing.

Homeowners interested in housing Tree Swallows can readily attract them in March with a nest box that has a 1-1/2" hole mounted on a pole with predator baffle. Purple Martins return to the islands the first week of April

(Continued on page 9)

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Weather or not, Middle Bass Music Fest 2024 *By Peter Huston*

Can you believe it's just a little over three months to the 2024 Middle Bass Island Music Festival July 13th? If you missed last year's music fest because of the weather, don't let the rain and wind keep you away this year. We persevered and had an amazing standing room only day of music, arts and food under the picnic pavilion dancing the day away.

We are ready to do it all over again, and with a little help from the weather gods, we will have more great food and music. LEIC board member and Middle Bass Music Fest band curator Bruce Miles has put together another amazing line up of toe tapping bands.

The **NORTH COAST GOATS** (<https://www.facebook.com/northcoastgoats/>) lead off again with their #goatsrock blend of old-time rock 'n' roll, classic rock and Motown hits from the 60s, 70s & 80s – and you know they will not disappoint!

Tip of the cowboy hat to our music meister Bruce. He found a real Texas tornado in **TALL PAUL & WESTERN DRAWL** They celebrate the spirit of dance hall Western Swing music, playing roadhouse standards, along with cowboy songs and ballads. It's pure uptown fun with a Texas drawl. Tall Paul & Western Drawl, honoring the swing tradition but with modern musical twang. (<https://www.facebook.com/TallPaulWesternDrawl/>)

Third up this year at the MBI Music Fest is Cleveland blues rock favorite, award winning, harmonica driven, blues based, roots, rock and soul music' stylings of **COLIN DUSSAULT'S BLUES PROJECT**. The band was formed in Cleveland, Ohio in May of 1989 by lead singer, songwriter, harmonica player Colin Dussault. In addition to Dussault, the [band's current lineup](#) consists of guitarist Jim Feeney, bassist John Atzberger, pianist Brent Lane and drummer Steve Zavesky. (www.colindussault.com)

DRY REEF-This year's featured island groove band will take you away to the warm breezes and summer days on the beach. A chaotic blend of summer sounds - playful melodies, bubbling harmonies and bright, refreshing instrumentals. Like that first smell of lake air as you ferry to Middle Bass on a friday afternoon. (www.dryreefband.com and <https://www.facebook.com/Dry.Reef/>)

(SOUTH BASS ISLAND BIRD REPORT Continued from page 8)

and proper housing in wide open habitat will attract them. It is very important to make sure housing is not opened up until they do return to help prevent non-native House Sparrows and European Starlings from taking over housing; both aggressive species often kill our native cavity nesting birds inside nest compartments. Purple Martin and Tree Swallow housing should be monitored weekly and that means installing Purple Martin rig on a pole with rope and pulley, or winch system for easy access.

SATURDAY JULY 13, 2024

NOON TO 7 PM



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BASS MUSIC
FEST**

NORTH COAST GOATS

TALL PAUL AND THE DRAWL

COLIN DUSSAULT'S BLUES PROJECT

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Lake Erie Islands Conservancy



Don't miss the 2024 Middle Bass Music Fest, hosted by the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, on the grounds of Lonz Winery. It's free to get in. Come enjoy great music, a hands-on arts tent, shop local vendors and dine on delicious food. Sponsored by the Middle Bass Island Dock Company and the Island Grind.

Predator baffle is extremely important as our eastern fox snakes and raccoons are great climbers and love to eat birds. Eliminating non-native House Sparrows or Starlings that try to nest in housing is also very important to prevent native birds from being killed.

House Wrens like to nest in wood-edge habitat, and we have nest boxes sited for them at Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and Dodge Woods Preserve. Residents living in wooded or wood edge habitat can easily attract House Wrens by setting out nest box for them with a 1-1/8" entry hole. This size hole will accommodate these small birds and exclude larger species.



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LEIC Native Tree & Plant Sale ORDER FORM

The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC) are taking orders for native plants and trees for the islands. We are using Natives in Harmony and Riverside Native Perennials for our native plant sale as well as plants grown from Middle Bass seed by Chad Machinski. We are also offering trees from Riverside Native Trees, Quail Ridge Specimen Trees (QRST), and Thin Place Native Trees. Buying and planting natives is a great way to provide quality habitat for the birds, butterflies, moths, and other wildlife on the islands. We are promoting the planting of native trees and shrubs because our wildlife are adapted to feeding on these plants and using them for shelter. This fundraiser will be used to support the LEIC land preservation and restoration programs!

Plants: LEIC is selling varieties of native perennial plants and flowers from Natives in Harmony from Marengo, Ohio, and Chad Machinski. You can use the order form provided for the list of native plant plugs. You can order ahead to make sure you get what you want, or we will have them for sale locally at our events in spring.

New this year are native perennials in larger sizes through Riverside Native Perennials. You can order these by using this website <https://riversidenativeperennials.com/> and use the code LEIC to assure the Conservancy gets credit for the sale. Over the course of the spring, they will be adding an additional 100 species of native perennials so please check in from time to time to see what additional plants have come online. **NOTE:** During checkout, please choose "fundraiser only" for shipping prior to the "order by date" as these will all be delivered to the island. When ordering directly from Riverside Native Perennials after the below "order by date", shipping will be direct to you with the associated charges applied.

Trees: Use the order form for trees and make sure to call for price (cfp) about those larger size trees from QRST.

Order forms for native trees and a list of individual native plants are available at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org or by contacting Lisa at 419-366-2087 or leiconservancy@gmail.com.


















Beautify your yard and support the Conservancy! Orders may be placed until **May 1**, and we will arrange a pickup/delivery on the island in May. For those on Middle Bass who wish to order, a pickup on Middle Bass will be set up 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 _____

Address _____











Phone _____ Email _____









Plants Names and Info	2.5" Plug (\$3) Qty.	Plants Names and Info	2.5" Plug (\$3) Qty.
Natives in Harmony Plant Selection – Ohio Seed Stock (Order from Lisa Brohl - 419-366-2087)			
 Black-Eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>) - full to partial sun, moist well-drained fertile soil, mid-summer to early fall		 Great Blue Lobelia (<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>) - part shade to full sun, wet, late summer-fall	
 Boneset (<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>) - full to partial sun, humus-rich, wet to moist soil, late summer to early fall		 Hairy Beardtongue (<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>) - sun, fields and open areas, summer	
 Blue Vervain (<i>Verbena hastata</i>) - part shade to full sun, late summer to early fall		 Northern Blue Flag Iris (<i>Iris versicolor</i>) - partial to full sun, wet to moist, late spring to early summer	
 Cardinal Flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>) - full sun to shade, moist to wet, summer		 Purple Coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>) - part shade to full sun, late summer	
 Common Blue Violet (<i>Viola sororia</i>) - partial sun to light shade, moist loamy soil, prairie or woodland, mid to late spring		 Square-Stemmed Monkey Flower (<i>Mimulus ringens</i>) - part shade to full sun, moist to wet, summer	
 Dense Blazingstar-Lake Erie (<i>Liatris spicata</i>) - full sun, sand to clay, medium to moist, birds, butterflies, hummingbirds		 Winged Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum alatum</i>) - full sun, wet to moist soil, poorly drained, mid to late summer	
 Gray-headed Coneflower (<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>) - part shade to full sun, late summer-fall, moist soil			
Chad Machinski, Middle Bass Island Seed Stock Selection (Order from Lisa Brohl - 419-366-2087)			
 Clammyweed (<i>Polanisia dodecandra</i>) (MBI stock) - full sun, medium to wet, barren sand, gravel, or clay, drought tolerant		 Short's Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum shortii</i>)** (MBI stock) - part shade or sun, loamy, rocky soil, late summer to fall <small>**Symphyotrichum shortii (L. ind.) photo by G.D. Bebeau CC BY 3.0</small>	
 Rough-leaved Goldenrod (<i>Solidago rugosa</i>) (MBI stock) - part shade to sun, drier to wet, clay, rocky, late summer to fall		 Wild Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>) (MBI stock) - rocky, sun or part shade, spring	
Quantity Totals	Plugs	Quantity Totals	Plugs
Price Each	\$3.00	Price Each	\$3.00
Native Plant Totals		Native Plant Totals	

	TREES	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>
Riverside Native Trees Selection (Order from Lisa Brohl - 419-366-2087)					
	Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i> - moist but well-drained soil, strong valuable timber	<i>Qty</i>	2-4'	\$35	<i>Total</i>
	Black Willow <i>Salix nigra</i> - can withstand drought or wet conditions	<i>Qty</i>	3-6'	\$40	<i>Total</i>
	Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> - can withstand drought or wet conditions	<i>Qty</i>	1-3'	\$30	<i>Total</i>
	Pussy Willow <i>Salix discolor</i> - prefers wetter areas but tolerates drier conditions	<i>Qty</i>	4-6'	\$40	<i>Total</i>
	Silver Maple <i>Acer saccharinum</i> - moist and fertile soil, swamps, streambanks, bottomlands	<i>Qty</i>	3-5'	\$40	<i>Total</i>
	Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i> - wet areas	<i>Qty</i>	1-3'	\$30	<i>Total</i>
Chad Machinski Trees-MBI Stock (Order from Lisa Brohl - 419-366-2087)					
	Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> - can withstand drought or wet conditions	<i>Qty</i>	1'+	\$20	<i>Total</i>
	Ohio Buckeye <i>Aesculus glabra</i> - tolerates partial shade and almost any soil except dry	<i>Qty</i>	1'+	\$20	<i>Total</i>
QRST-Ohio Seed Stock-20-gallon containers-2" caliper trees—call for price/size (cfp) (Order from Lisa Brohl - 419-366-2087)					
	Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i> - moist but well-drained soil, strong valuable timber	<i>Qty</i>	2" C	cfp	<i>Total</i>
	Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> - can withstand drought or wet conditions	<i>Qty</i>	2" C	cfp	<i>Total</i>
	Chinquapin/Chinkapin Oak <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> - wet or well-drained, high ph, rocks	<i>Qty</i>	2" C	cfp	<i>Total</i>
	Northern Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i> - well drained	<i>Qty</i>	2" C	cfp	<i>Total</i>
	Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i> - moist and fertile soil, well-drained, can tolerate poor, rocky soil	<i>Qty</i>	2" C	cfp	<i>Total</i>
	Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i> - wet areas	<i>Qty</i>	2" C	cfp	<i>Total</i>
	American Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> - wet, banks and bottomlands	<i>Qty</i>	2" C	cfp	<i>Total</i>
	White Oak <i>Quercus alba</i> - can withstand drought or wet conditions	<i>Qty</i>	2" C	cfp	<i>Total</i>
	Total	<i>Qty</i>			<i>Total</i>

All Tree Leaf Photos obtained from "What Tree Is It?" - QPLIN-QHIS/CC BY 3.0



	SHRUBS	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>
Riverside Native Shrubs Selection (Order from Lisa Brohl - 419-366-2087)					
	Common Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> - moist soil, creates clump quickly, sun	<i>Qty</i>	2-3'	\$25	<i>Total</i>
	Meadow Rose <i>Rosa Blanda</i> - roadsides, moist to dry soil, full sun	<i>Qty</i>	2-4'	\$30	<i>Total</i>
	Hoptree <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> - wet or well-drained, sun to partial shade	<i>Qty</i>	3-6'	\$40	<i>Total</i>
	Pasture Rose <i>Rosa carolina</i> - poor to rock soil, full to part sun, pink blossoms Jun.-Sep.	<i>Qty</i>	2-4'	\$30	<i>Total</i>
	Prairie Rose <i>Rosa setigera</i> - medium to wet, well-drained soil, full sunlight to part shade, needs support (photo courtesy of Riverside Native Trees)	<i>Qty</i>	1'	\$20	<i>Total</i>
	Roughleaf Dogwood <i>Cornus drummondii</i> - moist soil, sun	<i>Qty</i>	2-3'	\$25	<i>Total</i>
	Swamp Rose <i>Rosa palustris</i> - moist soil, creates colony/clump	<i>Qty</i>	2-3'	\$25	<i>Total</i>
Chad Machinski Shrubs-MBI Stock (Order from Lisa Brohl - 419-366-2087)					
	Halberd-leaved Rose Mallow <i>Hibiscus laevis</i> - full to partial sun, wet to moist, loam, silt, or some sand, mid-summer to early fall	<i>Qty</i>	1'+	\$20	<i>Total</i>
	Swamp Rose Mallow <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> - moist to wet, full sun	<i>Qty</i>	1'+	\$20	<i>Total</i>
QRST-Ohio Seed Stock 3-gallon size (cfp) (Order from Lisa Brohl - 419-366-2087)					
	Ninebark - drought tolerant, full sun to part shade, clay, loam	<i>Qty</i>	1-2'	cfp	<i>Total</i>

	TREES	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>
Thin Place-Ohio Seed Stock (Order from Lisa Brohl - 419-366-2087)					
	Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> - can withstand drought or wet conditions	<i>Qty</i>	3 Ga.	\$40	<i>Total</i>
	Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> - can withstand drought or wet conditions	<i>Qty</i>	15 Ga.	\$80	<i>Total</i>
	Northern Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i> - well drained	<i>Qty</i>	5 Ga.	\$60	<i>Total</i>
	Northern Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i> - well drained	<i>Qty</i>	15 Ga.	\$80	<i>Total</i>
	Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i> - wet areas	<i>Qty</i>	3 Ga.	\$40	<i>Total</i>
	Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i> - wet areas	<i>Qty</i>	5 Ga.	\$60	<i>Total</i>
	Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i> - wet areas	<i>Qty</i>	15 Ga.	\$80	<i>Total</i>
	White Oak <i>Quercus alba</i> - can withstand drought or wet conditions	<i>Qty</i>	3 Ga.	\$40	<i>Total</i>
	Total	<i>Qty</i>			<i>Total</i>

Trees/Shrubs Total \$		Plants Total \$		Grand Total \$	
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Spring Bird Banding Schedule

Come Visit and See the Birds!

Tom and Paula Bartlett will be banding birds on the islands again this spring. 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. They will start at Kelley's Island on April 6th and then move to Middle Bass on April 27th and then on to South Bass on May 4th coming back to Kelley's Island on May 18th.
*All dates and times subject to change

Kelley's Island-State Park
920 Division Street, Kelley's Island, OH 43438

Saturday, April 6th Setup Late Day
Sunday, April 7th 7:00am-2:00pm
Monday, April 8th 7:00am-2:00pm

Kelley's Island-Long Point-Jones Preserve
Drive to Long Point - park to left 100 yds before gate and walk in.

Saturday, April 20th Setup Late Day
Sunday, April 21st 6:00am-2:00pm
Monday, April 22nd 6:00am-2:00pm
Tuesday, April 23rd 6:00am-2:00pm
Wednesday, April 24th 6:00am-2:00pm
Thursday, April 25th 6:00am-2:00pm
Friday, April 26th 6:00am-12:00pm -Teardown Aft.

Middle Bass Island—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 and avoid blocking the entrance.

Do not park in private drives outside the gate.

RSVP to Hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com or leiconservancy@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 27th Evening Setup
Sunday, April 28th 6:00am-3:00pm
Monday, April 29th 6:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday, April 30th 6:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday, May 1st 6:00am-3:00pm
Thursday, May 2nd 6:00am-3:00pm
Friday, May 3rd 6:00am-12:00pm -Teardown Aft.

South Bass Island—The Vineyard-Scheeff East Point Preserve

Turn right at Bird Banding sign just before Scheeff East Point Preserve and drive back toward red barn to park.

Saturday, May 4th Evening Setup-Barnhill's
Sunday, May 5th 6:00am-3:00pm
Monday, May 6th 6:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday, May 7th 6:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday, May 8th 12:00pm-3:00pm
Thursday, May 9th 6:00am-3:00pm
Monday, May 13th 6:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday, May 14th 6:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday, May 15th 12:00pm-3:00pm
Thursday, May 16th 6:00am-12:00pm -Teardown Aft.

Kelley's Island-Long Point-Jones Preserve
Drive to Long Point - park to left 100 yds before gate and walk in.

Saturday, May 18th Setup Day
Sunday, May 19th-Friday, May 24th 6:00am-2:00pm
Monday, May 27th-Thursday, May 30th 6:00am-2:00pm
Friday, May 31st 6:00am-12:00pm -Teardown Aft.

Bird Box Banding—Kelley's Island June 11 &
Middle Bass Island June 12
Follow-up Banding Kelley's Island and Middle Bass—TBD

Spring 2024 Banding Done!

H. Thomas Bartlett
1833 South Winfield Drive, Tiffin, Ohio 44883
(419)447-0005 (H) (567)-278-2300 (C)
Federal Bird Marking and Salvage Permit # 21624



9th Middle Bass Island Poker Kayak Day!



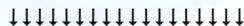
Sat., August 10, 2024

12 p.m.– 4 p.m.

(Rain Date Sunday, Aug. 11th)

To BENEFIT signage for the MBI preserves!
(part of Put-in-Bay Township Park District)

To HIGHLIGHT the coastal MBI preserves and the
MBI State Park!



Kayakers start and finish at the Middle Bass Island State Park west beach. **(No starts later than 1:00 pm).** The paddle around the island includes three additional stops (the State Park Marina, the MBI East Point Preserve, and the Kuehnle State Wildlife Area/Petersen Woods Preserve). A welcome packet at the start has a description of the course and information about the stops. Stops are staffed with volunteers for safety and to distribute poker cards and snacks. The finish has a cook-out with hot-dogs, chips, and bottle of water while 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners are determined.

Start no later than 1:00 P.M., depending upon your kayaking leisureliness! (Well, there IS a finish time limit.)

◆ (Direction and sequence of stops subject to change due to lake and weather conditions.)

◆ Do feel free to get out and walk around at any of the stops!

Because of people's different schedules and kayaking abilities, one need not be present to win! (We'll tell you!)

- ◇ 1st prize: Round trip ferry boat tickets for 2 adults and 1 vehicle (for PIB or MBI)
- ◇ 2nd prize: Gift card to Middle Bass General Store
- ◇ 3rd prize: Bag of frozen shrimp from Costco

1. Mark your calendar.
2. Fill out registration form. (you will get map and kayak # at start)
3. Sign "Waiver and Liability Release" form.
4. Mail or hand registration form + signed release + check/money order payable to: "Put-in-Bay Township Park District" to:

Tina M Larson
1245 North Shore Drive
Middle Bass Island, Ohio 43446

Questions? Email: tmlarson@umich.edu
(Sorry OSU & MSU fans...) or call: 248-320-4529

Cost is \$20 if pre-registering and \$25 on-site day of the event – BUT YOU CAN DONATE MORE TO BENEFIT THE PRESERVES!!

In case you're feeling generous to fund whole or in part: consider a large entrance sign \$1500; 17"x22" interpretive trail sign \$200; (donor name/s on signs included); recycled plastic bench including name/s info inscription & installation \$2000.

For registration forms, go to <https://tinyurl.com/MBIpkd2024>, or stop at the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center or at the Middle Bass Island State Park or e-mail at tmlarson@umich.edu or leiconservancy@gmail.com.

Deadline to register early for this awesome event is August 6th!

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Put-in-Bay Township Park District's newest preserves on Middle Bass Island.

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Early Spring Bugs & Blooms—An iNaturalist Community Science Project

iNaturalist <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/early-spring-bugs-blooms>

Looking for photos of insect pollinators on cut-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*) and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)! Photos of either plant throughout their lifecycle are appreciated too!

I am a **M.Sc.** student hoping to gain insight into species interactions across the range of these plants. Cut-leaved toothwort in particular is understudied, so your contribution is highly valued. You could be documenting something never before seen!

Project Created by: [swilhelm](#) - January 12, 2024

What pollinates early spring blooms?

Contribute to a statewide survey of the pollinators for cut-leaf toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*) and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

This is a chance to document pollinator activity on the understudied native spring wildflower, cut-leaf toothwort, and its possible competitor, garlic

mustard. You could be documenting something that has never been seen before!

Photos taken by community scientists will aid in informing conservation management decisions that will protect diverse communities of spring wildflower populations and the pollinators. Through this work, we will be contributing to research that will allow us all to enjoy these species for many years to come.

How can you participate in this project?

Be out and about in nature this spring (mid-March through May). This could be as simple as taking a walk at a local wooded park, nature preserve, or even in your own backyard!

Submit photos of insect pollinators on the flowers of either study species (cut-leaf toothwort AND/OR garlic mustard) pictured below to iNaturalist.

(Continued on page 16)

Summer's next, but Spring is where it's at!

Arbor Day—Friday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m.



On Friday, April 26, 2024, 4:00 pm, the 15th Arbor Day Celebration will be held at the Village Arbor Day site adjacent to the Put-in-Bay Post Office.

The Council of the Village of Put-in-Bay has allocated funds for Arbor Day expenses. During the celebration, members of the community will plant a Sugar Maple tree (*Acer saccharum*.) Sugar maple trees are important as sources of syrup and wood. Maple wood may be used for bowling pins, bowling alley lanes, pool cues, butcher's blocks, furniture, and some baseball bats. The Cherokee Indians produced a purple dye from Maple bark and used it to dye cloth.

At the urging and determination of Julius Sterling Morton, a newspaper editor, the first Arbor Day Celebration was held on April 10, 1874, in Nebraska. Today, Arbor Day is a national holiday here in the United States. Arbor Day is also celebrated throughout the world.

The tallest tree in the United States is the "General Sherman," a giant sequoia, located in Sequoia National Park, California. The tree is 275 feet tall.

The oldest tree in the United States is a Great Bristlecone pine, located in the White Mountains of California. The tree is over 5,000 years old and is believed the oldest living tree in the world.

Mr. Maxwell Schrimpf, State Service Forester, will attend the Put-in-Bay Arbor Day Celebration. He will plant a tree in recognition of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' 75th Anniversary this year.

Put-in-Bay, Ohio, has been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to the goals and principles of the Arbor Day Foundation: a tree commission, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. Members of the Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission are Lisa Brohl, Kelly Faris, and Kendra Koehler.



Back to the Wild Visit—Wednesday, May 8 at 3:15 p.m.

Back to the Wild will be on the island on May 8, 2024 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!

Island Wide Garage Sale—A PIBTPD and Conservancy Fundraiser Events!! Saturday, May 18 from 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

We will be having a sale at the Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve on Saturday May 18 as part of the Island Wide Garage Sale to benefit the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. If you have items you would like to donate for us to sell, please bring them down that day. The address of the Duff Homestead is 630 Bayview Avenue, Put-in-Bay, OH 43456.

We will also have items from the Duff home and buildings as well as Conservancy gear for sale that day as well. Contact Kendra Koehler at 419-341-2725 with questions. Stop on by that day for some great finds!

We will also have a second Island Wide Garage sale on May 18 at the John and Paula Ladd house at the corner of Erie and Catawba Avenue to benefit the Conservancy. Call 419-366-2087 to drop off stuff ahead of the sale. We will have rummage, LEIC sales items, and native plants for sale there.

Pic of Lisa Brohl and Susan Byrnes from 2023 IWGS!



2024 Conservancy Calendars Still Available! By Lisa Brohl

You can still get your 2024 Lake Erie Islands Conservancy calendars featuring island preserves with photos by island photographers for yourself or they also make nice gifts too! They are now on sale for \$10 and are available at

the Island Hardware Store, the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center gift shop or by calling or texting Lisa Brohl at 419-366-2087. They can be mailed for an extra \$3. Don't miss picking one up. They have maps showing the island preserves and include lots of seasonal nature info as well as important Conservancy and Island Partner dates for 2024!



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Rudy Cooks



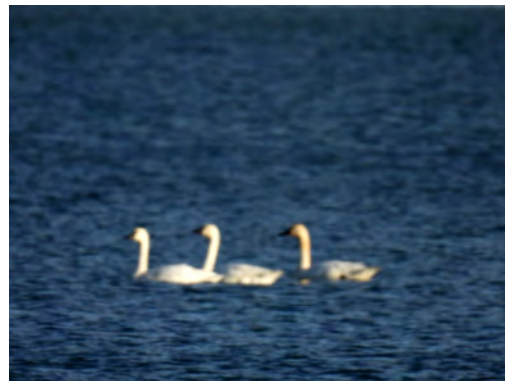
Lake Erie Islands Christmas Bird Count 2023 *By Lisa Brohl*



Photo: Mid-December morning island shoreline beauty for the Lake Erie Islands Christmas Bird Count 2023

The Lake Erie Islands Count Circle of the 123rd annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count was held on December 17, 2023 with people participating on Middle Bass, South Bass, Kelleys and Pelee Island. This is one of the oldest citizen science efforts around-and a fun tradition to get out and enjoy our islands wild places in a quieter time of year! Thanks to all who helped out and those property owners who allowed us access for the day

The day started out with rain and with an open lake, ducks had not congregated in large numbers that day. Total for all four islands together was a respectable 81 species and 8,780 individual birds counted. Good diversity but lower numbers this year.



Photos: Above Left—Count Week Tundra Swans Found by Dino Uszak Top Right—Belted Kingfisher by Elizabeth Heineman Bottom Right—Elizabeth Heineman at Cooper's Woods Preserve

bird unfortunately was the House of English Sparrow at 227, showing up in large numbers at feeders and a large group at Heineman's vineyards. These non-native birds take over nesting habitat from cavity nesting birds like Eastern bluebirds, purple martins and tree sparrows.

Second most numerous were waterfowl-with 216 Canada Geese-another species that has adapted well to man made environments-like the large

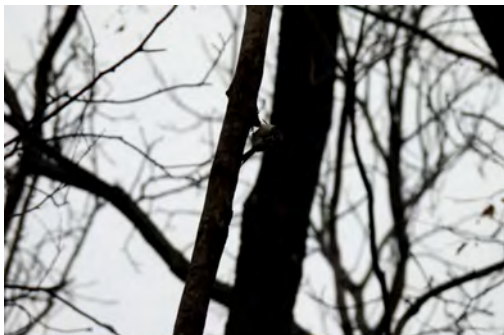


Here on South Bass Island, we counted 1,309 birds of 40 different species from dawn to dusk. Lisa Brohl, Emily Beal, Elizabeth Heineman, Julene Market, drove and walked around the island to tally waterfowl and land birds. The most numerous

Species Name	Species	Total	KI	SBI	MBI	Pelee
Snow Goose	1	1	0			1
Canada Goose	1	1130	531	216	23	360
Tundra Swan	CW	CW		CW		
Northern Shoveler	1	1	0			1
Gadwall	1	74	20			54
American Black Duck	1	1	1			
Mallard	1	167	78	52	2	35
Greater Scaup	1	14	13		1	
Lesser Scaup	1	43	42	1		
Scaup species?		35	10			25
Surf Scoter	1	1	1			
White-winged Scoter	1	1	1			
Bufflehead	1	539	194	105	42	198
American Goldeneye	1	241	100	3	19	119
Hooded Merganser	1	2	0			2
Common Merganser	1	118	106		12	
Red-breasted Merganser	1	806	618	73	11	104
Merganser species?		100	100			
Waterfowl species?		20	20			
Mourning Dove	1	12	0	8	2	2
Wild Turkey	1	44	0			44
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	2	0			2
Pied-billed Grebe	1	2	1			1
Horned Grebe	1	10	9	1		
Killdeer	1	1	1			
Bonaparte's Gull	1	14	9	2		3
Ring-billed Gull	1	252	178	48		26
Herring Gull	1	193	110	43		40
Great Black-backed Gull	1	6	5	1		
Gull species?		54	0	8		46
Common Loon	1	14	14			
Double-crested Cormorant	1	3	0	3		
Great Blue Heron	1	7	0	1		6
Turkey Vulture	1	3	3			
Bald Eagle	1	30	12	5	3	10
Northern Harrier	1	1	0			1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	CW	CW		1
Cooper's Hawk	1	6	1	4	1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	CW	CW	CW			
Red-tailed Hawk	1	8	1	2		5
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	0			1
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	10	9			1
Great Horned Owl	1	11	5	4		2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	2	1			1
Belted Kingfisher	1	4*	2	2		
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	1*	1			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	28	16	9		3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	7*	6			1
Downy Woodpecker	1	65	26	27	2	10
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	0			1
Northern Flicker	1	54	24	5	5	20
Merlin	1	1*	1			
Blue Jay	1	71	15	18	4	34
American Crow	1	111	85	23	3	
Black-capped Chickadee	1	275	181	57	15	22
Tufted Titmouse	1	3*	0	3		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	4	4			
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	46	16	18	2	10
Brown Creeper	1	35	12	13		10
Winter Wren	1	10	7	2		1
Carolina Wren	1	36	13	1	14	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	54	40	14		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	6*	6			
Eastern Bluebird	1	19	13			6
Hermit Thrush	1	39	37			2
American Robin	1	252	185	27	15	25
Gray Catbird	1	1*	1			
European Starling	1	2513	94	144	75	2200
Cedar Waxwing	1	93	18			75
House Sparrow	1	439	160	227	22	30
House Finch	1	111	85	10	1	15
Purple Finch	1	9	6			3
American Goldfinch	1	68	25	35		8
Eastern Towhee	1	1	0			1
American Tree Sparrow	1	18	12			6
Fox Sparrow	1	6	6			
Song Sparrow	1	17	7		9	1
Swamp Sparrow	1	5	3			2
White-throated Sparrow	1	135	117	5		13
White-crowned Sparrow	1	1	1			
Dark-eyed Junco	1	71	9	46		16
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	1	1			
Red-winged Blackbird	1	12	12			
Rusty Blackbird	1	1	1			
Common Grackle	1	4	3	1		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	21	21			
Northern Cardinal	1	152	71	42	32	7
Total Species	81	81	67	40	23	54
Total Bird Count		8780	3537	1309	315	3621
Mileage		270	87	23	24	136
Car		227.5	74	10	23.5	120
Foot		42.5	13	13	0.5	16
Time		77.25	23	20	4.25	30
Car		45.75	13	7	3.75	22
Foot		31.5	10	13	0.5	8
Owling						
Mileage		13.5	10	3.5		
Time		2	1	1		
Participants		28	7	7	1	13
Parties		19	4	6	1	8
Feeders		17	3	13	1	3

Lake Erie Islands Christmas Bird Count
 Year 36 for this count Compiler - John Pogacnik
 CW = observed during Count Week but not on Count Day
 Bold = Uncommon species for islands Count Week Species = 2
 Red = Record High Count Red & * = Ties Record High

(Continued on page 15)



shinned hawk at the feeders of Carmen Trisler and Jim O'Donnell. Marsha Parker had been reporting tundra swans before the count but they were not present count day. Dino Uszak called with swans behind the monument during the count week period so Elizabeth and Lisa met him there for photos.

Russ Brohl, Kit Knaser, Ruth Scarpelli, Michelle Heineman, Carmen Trisler, Sarah Toole, Maryann, Anita, and Elizabeth McCann, Susan Ferguson, Walt Duff, Gay Pippert, Randi Wertenbach, and Kristin Stanford each watched their feeders and yards that day to record the birds and woodpeckers who came to visit. The best feeder birds was a winter wren seen by Carmen Trisler at her feeders and the tufted titmice seen at the feeders of Kit Knaser and Kristin Stanford. We were noticeably short on sparrows except house sparrows and a few white-throated sparrows out in the field.

On Middle Bass, Teddi Keith Morris walked and drove the island and watched her feeder all on her own to tally a total of 315 birds of 23 different species with the most numerous birds being European Starlings with 75. She found common mergansers as well as song sparrows missed on South Bass.

Pelee Island got the only northern shovelers, hooded mergansers, snow goose, wild turkeys, ring-necked pheasant, northern harrier and rough-legged hawk, eastern towhee hairy woodpecker and most of the blue herons for the count-thanks to all the field, forest, and wetland habitat and eagle eye observers 3621 birds of 54 species were counted. Pelee's most numerous birds were 2200 starlings outnumbering the waterfowl-usually the highest numbers on the island. Participating in the count were compiler Rob Tymstra (compiler) Ron and Lynn Tiessen, Sumiko Onishi, Graeme Gibson, Lisa and Brian Kipp, Vern and Michelle Taylor, Matt and Alyssa Staples, Lauren Luxton, Mack Feltz, Feeder watchers: Ford and Stephanie Crawford, Karen and Buck Foster.

The observers at Kelleys were the only ones to find surf scoter, white-winged scoter, black duck, 14 common loons, killdeer, gray catbird, merlin, fox sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, ruby crowned kinglets, brown-headed cowbird, rusty

lawns along the Put-in-Bay waterfront and at Perry's Victory. There were still bufflehead, red-breasted mergansers, mallards, and a few goldeneyes found that day but not in the numbers they had been even a few days. Three double crested cormorants were still present in the Bay. Five bald eagles were seen-will be interesting to see how many nests this year? Reports of nesting activity in three places on island so far. Count week birds were a sharp-



Photos: Top Left—Brown creeper photo by Elizabeth Heineman Middle Left—Elizabeth Heineman, Lisa Brohl, and Emily Beal Bottom Left—Pelee Participants Top Right—Emily Beal at Scheeff Bottom Right—Lisa Brohl and Emily Beal meet after the Christmas Bird Count

blackbird, red-winged blackbirds, and yellow-rumped warblers-all good birds to see this time of year. At Kelleys, the most numerous bird was the red-breasted mergansers at 618 with a total of 67 species and total number of 3537 birds counted. Participants were John Pogacnik, Tom and Paula Bartlett, Tyler McClain, Mariah Sherer, Sean Williams, and Chris Ashley.

The numbers of great blue heron, fox sparrows, and pied-billed grebes were records for the Lake Erie Islands Count Circle. The numbers of tufted titmouse, ruby-crowned kinglets, merlin, yellow-bellied sapsucker, red-headed woodpecker, and belted kingfisher, were ties to previous records.

Final results and species counts will be posted on the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy website at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org Thanks to everyone for participating! Great work from all!

Wasps for the Woods By Lisa Brohl



Photos: Left—Oobius agrili: emerald ash borer (EAB) egg parasitoid Photo by Jian Duan, ARS USDA Center—Eulophid wasp (Tetrastichus planipennis): successful biocontrol for EAB Photo by David Cappaert, Bugwood.org Right—Photo showing size of adult Eulophid wasp (Tetrastichus planipennis) Photo by Bill McNee, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District will again be releasing parasitoid wasps reared by the USDA into a few of our preserves on South Bass and Middle Bass this summer of 2024. The wasps

will parasitize the emerald ash borer beetles that have been killing our island ash trees. Adrianna Burghardt will return to assist Lisa Brohl with the program on South Bass at Morrison Woods and the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail. Park District employee Chris

Helman and Conservancy member Gerald Shanley will help Lisa with the project at Middle Bass at the Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve. In 2025, the Park District will need to

monitor the preserves to see if the wasps are still present and have had any impact on the beetles. We hope to participate in the OSU Stone Lab REU program again then.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) parasitoids for this release site were produced and supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture's, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), EAB Biological Control Program. For more information please visit their website at: www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/eab.



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 hats and 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.

LEIC and PIBTPD Wish List

Exciting things happening in the preserves already this spring and we can't wait to get going on so much more. Hopefully you can tell by the long wish list below that we have lots of big projects (and small ones too!) that we need lots of help with. 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 or 419-366-2087. New members—Can always check us out at 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.
- Interpretive Signs (\$250 each) for Duff Woods Preserve.
- Brochure Racks for Visitor Contact Station at the Duff Homestead
- Land Protection Fund Donations
- High Resolution GPS Unit for Preserve Monitoring
- AmeriCorps Intern Fund for 2024
- Two signs for Duff Homestead – Duff Family History for Entrance, Freshwater Mussels for Visitor Contact Station
- Help with Scheeff East Point Bulletin Board
- 2 Mist Nets for Owls- \$700
- 5 Songbird Mist Nets—\$1300
- Donations to the PIBTPD for painting, electrical work at the Duff Homestead.
- Donation of Trees/shrubs/plants for back of Duff Homestead Birding Trail – restoration and screening.
- \$\$ to purchase the Duff Vineyard.
- Volunteer Labor or Donations Toward Retrofitting House for New Office Space (see attached list)



- ✓ 570' of cedar tone split rail fencing
- ✓ 20) 2x6x10 non treated
- ✓ 4) 4x4 base plates
- ✓ 16) 2x6 joist hangers
- ✓ 5) 4x8 roof sheathing
- ✓ 2) 10' white drip edge
- ✓ 80"x90" bilco cellar door access kit with extensions.
- ✓ 4) 4x4x8 Treated
- ✓ 20' of roof flashing
- ✓ 2) 2x8x10 non treated
- ✓ 16) H1 rafter ties



Attention Nature Lovers and Photo Buffs: Interested in submitting your Conservancy nature photo(s) for the 2025 LEIC Calendar? See instructions and details below!

- Send all of your Conservancy related entries to LEICPhotoSubmit@gmail.com with "2025 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!! 2025 Submissions close October 31!

(EARLY SPRING BUGS & BLOOMS Continued from page 13)



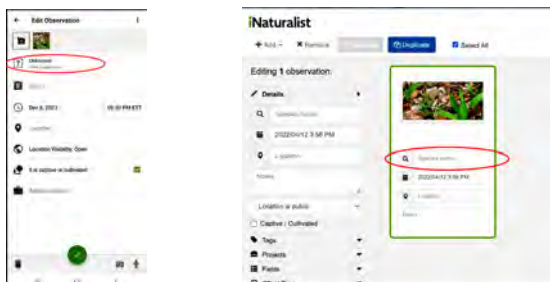
Cut-leaf toothwort flowers and leaves (Missouri Dept. of Conservation, University of Wisconsin – Madison) and garlic mustard flowers and leaves (Sierra Club – Maryland Chapter, Mississippi Dept. of Conservation & Watershed Institute).

There's an iNaturalist project for that!

If you identify your observation as containing either of these plants, it will be automatically added to the project Early Spring Bugs & Blooms.

You can ensure the addition of your observation to the project by identifying cut-leaf toothwort or garlic mustard, by common or scientific name, in the search bar highlighted below in red. Be sure to enter the date and location of your observation to the best of your ability and comfort.

Here's what that will look like on the mobile app and desktop respectively:



What's cut-leaf toothwort? Why does garlic mustard matter?

Cut-leaf toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*) is a native North American mustard found from the Great Plains region to the east coast of the US and Canada. In the eastern portion of its range, specifically Ohio, the plant prefers established, mesic hardwood forest with thick leaf litter. Cut-leaf toothwort flowers from late March to early May, depending on location, and produces fruit and seeds from May until mid-June. Little is known beyond this about its ecological role or interactions.

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a widespread Old World native mustard that became highly invasive in North America after its introduction in the 1800s for use in herbal remedies. As of 2008, garlic mustard was spreading exponentially at a documented rate of 6,400 square kilometers per year. Aggressive spreading and the formation of monocultures make this plant especially damaging to native plant populations. Garlic mustard develops in a two-year cycle, flowering in the second year and then setting seed July through September. Like cut-leaf toothwort, garlic mustard prefers mesic hardwood forests.

These plants are closely related and share many physical features as a result, especially in the flower. They both have four white petals and six pollen producing structures called anthers. In many locations, these plants flower at the same time. Where related native and invasive plants share physical features and flower at similar times, disruption of natural processes can occur. In the case of cut-leaf toothwort and garlic mustard, this may manifest as pollination disruption, where garlic mustard has the potential to 'steal' pollinators away from cut-leaf toothwort, leading to reduced pollination success and reduced seed set for the native mustard.

Thanks in advance and happy wildflower hunting!

Preserve News!



Thanks to Eddie Sheller for mowing at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve for our habitat management.

Thanks to Marv Booker for financing the mowing at the Massie Cliffside Preserve so that all can enjoy the benches.

We appreciate Park District employee Chris Helman getting hiking trails cleared and ready at Middle Bass Island!



Park District Contractor Mark Lekanka and Lisa Brohl at Duff Homestead woods.

Thanks to the Put-in-Bay Township employees for taking care of the once a year mowing at the Scheeff East Point Preserve last fall.

Thanks to Yardworks who keep the entrances to our preserves looking great! Contracting for care for 2024.



Susan Byrnes donating a desk for the new office at the Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve.

Linda Parker donated shingles for the back porch roof of Duff Homestead.

Casey Carty donated the lumber and constructed four Leopold style benches for birdwatchers—two for the Duff Homestead new birding trail. Thanks Casey!!



Ken Farber will be bringing a 10' table and chairs for our upstairs conference room.



PIB Park District Treasurer Courtney Blumensadt helping locate where benches should go at Duff Homestead.



Debris moved from the Duff Homestead woods for new birding trail by contractor Mark Lekanka.



Kenny Crawford and Mark Lekanka working at the Duff Homestead this winter.

Thank you!
for your donation



Former LEIC Board Member and Island Resident Valerie Mettler giving Lisa Brohl a check for a new bench at the Duff Homestead—Will read Donated by Valerie and Bruce Mettler.



Amy Alford donating rolled roofing for the back porch of Duff Homestead.

A Special THANKS...

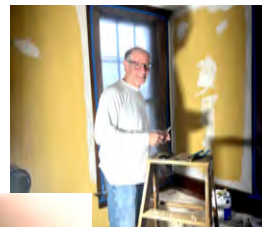


We are grateful to Conservancy members Tom Thanasiu and Bill Sulesky who began our move when they moved the Perry

Group office. The Perry Group will be renting an office at the Duff Homestead.

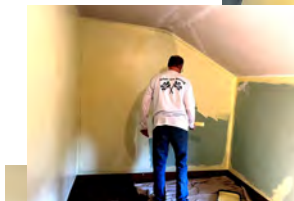


We owe Mike Byrnes for all the meticulous painting he did for us. Here he is painting the Perry Group office.



And

Here is Mike Byrnes painting the upstairs conference room at the Duff Homestead.



Mike Byrnes and Russ Brohl painted the dining room at the Duff Homestead this winter.

And

Mark Bruck helping us move from airport office to Duff Homestead while waiting for fog to lift.



What would we do without Paula Ziebarth and her son Greg? She has our purple martin rigs up for spring and the tree swallow grid ready.

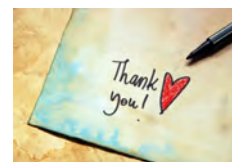


Craig Eriksen picking up garbage at the Scheeff East Point Preserve.

Also, Susan Ferguson continues to pick up garbage along our trails.



Conservancy members Russ Brohl, Mike Byrnes, Dennis Uszak, and Rudy Rence moved the second and last batch of stuff from our old Conservancy/Park District office at the Airport to the Duff Homestead.



Board Member Patty Lo Presti continues to write our thank you notes!

New and Renewing Members*

Friend

Judith Bransome
Tracy Burgess
Ann Condo
Cindy Dill
Judy DuShane
Martha Dykes
Patricia Fischer
Jackie Gargano
Bill Jellison
Susan Latham
Robert Lucarelli
Chad Machinski
Diane Nemec
Linda Parker
Kate Pilacky
Barb Prahst
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Puffenberger
Christine and Al Tielke
Phil Walton
Nancy Welter

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Janine Anteau
Milo Breitingner
Susan J. Ferguson
William and Megan Gau
Teddi Keith-Morris
Kathryn Knaser
Dave and Barb Nostrant
Tim and Jane O'Brien
David and Bonnie Petro
Eileen Prendergast
Marie Rader
Jeff Ramsbottom
Gerald Shanley
Bill and Joyce Slough
Joanne Sutton
Jerry Vydra
Janice Williams

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Tom and Paula Bartlett
Harry and Lisa Bircher
Joan Booker
Ray and Marsha Collett
Joan Copeland
Galen Guenther
Dustin Heineman
James Jagger Juknialis
Matt and Amy Kutschbach
Thomas Marsh
Mike Motyka
Brad Ohlemacher

Kristin Parrish
Gary and Fran Poe
Nathaneal Sayles
John Schrenk
Susan Seaburg
Mark and Linda Seaman
William and Penny Spanfellner
Alberta Stoney
Dr. Carmen Trisler

Steward

Rob Sylak

Business

Put-in-Bay Investments
Miller Boat Line
First National Bank
Arbor Inn-Mike and Susan Byrnes
Penny Plus Store-Mark Nemec
Jet Express

Land Protection Fund

Milo Breitingner
Helen Brohl
Jean Jansen
Robert Kraus
Susan Latham
Bill and Joyce Slough
Janice Williams

Stewardship Fund

Susan Latham

Donations in Memory of Bob

Russell

Lisa and Russ Brohl
Susan and Leonard Zucker
Kit Knaser
Bernie and Mary Ann Meyers

Donations in Memory of Ty

Burgess

Katherine Benjamin
Lisa and Russ Brohl
Stacey Burge
John and Pamela MacFalda
Julene Market
Jonathan McCoy
Mary and Roger Parker
Carol and Rich Roberts
Cynthis Skelton-Becker

Donations

David and Jacquelyn Clark
Charitable Fund



Life Members

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John Baker
Mark and Lisa Berens
Lisa Benjamin
Beverly Blietz
Marv and Pat Booker
Ron and Audrey Borchert
Jeff Brausch
Jon D. Brausch
Sandra Brausch
Jim and Betsy Brohl
Russ & Lisa Brohl
Doug and Karen Brown
Linda and Dave Bugoci
Drs. Earl and Thurid Campbell
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Jill and Steve Cooks
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Ken and Jennifer Farber
Eleanor Fether
Betty and Charles Finkbeiner
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Richard Gump
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Neal and Karla Hess and family
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Judy and Joseph Janicki
Dr. Robert Jellison
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Mary and Tom Katzenmeyer
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Dave and Tina Larson
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Peggy and John Leopold
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Julene Market
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Mary Ann McCann
Michael McIntyre and Elizabeth Heineman
Valerie Mettler
Bruce and Kim Miles

Greg Millat
Laureen R. Mooney
Mark Nemec
Chris and Kathy North
Marsha Parker
Roger & Mary Parker
Charles B. 'Pete' Pearson
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Drs. Cheryl Schurtz and Jacob Maciejewski
Ken and Ann Shelton
Joseph and Linda Shull
Mary L. Staley
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Matt Thomas
Zoe and Brad Titchener
Carley Tobias

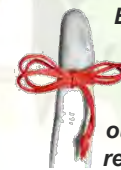


NEW Life Members:

Walter and Susan Duff
Jody and Bob Frimel
Carol and Kurt Miske
Colleen (Connie) Parker
Mike and Gina Trebilcock

Hal and Barbara Leitch Foundation
Tom Brennan-Lisa Brohl Birthday Fundraiser
McMonagle Giving Trust
James McMonagle
Bruce Miles for AmeriCorps Internship
Laureen Mooney-bench for Duff Homestead
Michelle and Joe Pennington-artwork for signs
Cans for Conservation-Robert Fletcher
Kim Pugh-Donation for Duff Homestead Wish List
Valerie Mettler-Bench for Duff Homestead
Casey Carty-Leopold Benches for Duff Homestead

Don't forget!



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THANK YOU!

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

Background Photo: Dutchman's Breeches at the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail—Photo by Jim Yelensky

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LEIC Membership Form*

Membership Notices are sent out annually-
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Check this box if you would like the
email only version of the LEIC Newsletter

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.

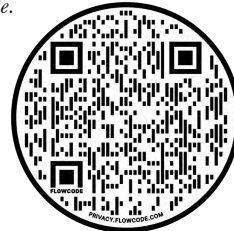
Please make checks payable to (LEIC) Lake Erie Islands Conservancy

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



Bob Russell

In January 2001, after the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy had just been formed, Bob Russell came to our board meeting and asked us to take a look at the property across from his home on East Point. It was a big project, but he was persuasive!

Bob soon joined the board and helped with the creation of what is now the Scheeff East Point Preserve. He and his wife, Nancy, were frequent volunteers, as was their granddaughter Molly Domer. He helped get the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center open that first year as well. Bob remained on our board until his retirement and was still on the LEIC Advisory Council.

He often came to visit at our bird banding station, purple martin nest boxes, and other projects across the street. Although unable to read our emails or newsletter because of his poor eyesight, he would want to know all about our latest projects and continued to offer advice and encouragement. We will miss Bob's sense of humor and constant support of our projects.

"Bob was such a joy in the board meetings and around town. His sense of humor and sarcasm was priceless. We were so fortunate to spend time with him," from advisory board member Valerie Mettler.

Memorial contributions can be made to Lake Erie Islands Conservancy or Put-in-Bay EMS, Put-in-Bay, OH 43456.



IN MEMORIAM



Ty Burgess

Conservancy member Tyrus W. Burgess, 88, of Put-in-Bay, passed away Sunday, March 3, 2024. He and his family have been members and supporters of our efforts and big purchasers of our winter bird seed every year! We will miss Ty's rare sense of humor and his love of

antique cars, Dry Catawba wine, and island history. Ty was retired from Perry's Victory and IPM where many of us enjoyed working with him. Memorial contributions may be given to Put-in-Bay E.M.S., Put-in-Bay Vol. Fire Department, or the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy.

Celebrating in Style *By Lisa Brohl*



Photo: Jim and Sandy Yelensky celebrating end of the trimming of Duff vineyard

Jim and Sandy Yelensky certainly earned a celebratory drink recently after they finished trimming the Duff vineyard in preparation for the spring growth.

You can learn all about the new Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve and get a tour of those wonderful vineyards on Saturday, August 3. See the invitation on p. 20!

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Colleen Kerkay - Peggy Leopold

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John Ladd - Julene Market - Linda Shull

Kristin Stanford - Nancy Welter

Newsletter Editors

Lisa Brohl

Michelle Pennington

LEIC Historian

Elizabeth Heineman

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Do you get excited when spring finally arrives? We sure do! Join us for our spring events and be sure to check out all the flowers blooming and the improvements going on at the Preserves! Keep checking our website and Facebook pages for more info and any last minute event updates!



July 13, 2024 for Middle Bass Music Festival

August 3, 2024 for Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve Dedication

August 3-10, 2024 for Island Green Week

August 10, 2024 for MBI Poker Kayak Day

September 15, 2024 for LEIC Annual Meeting



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DUFF HOMESTEAD AND BAYFRONT PRESERVE DEDICATION

Saturday, August 3 at 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Put-In-Bay Township Park District and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy will host a dedication for their new property, the Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve. The dedication will be followed by light refreshments and a tour of their new Visitor Center and offices. The property is home to native wildlife, a mature forestland, pollinator habitats and a new birding trail.

The Park District is working to purchase the adjacent Duff vineyard hosting several grape varieties. A guided walk through the vineyard will start at 2:30pm speaking on the Great Lakes' Fruit Belt and microclimates.

