

Summer 2012

# Lake Erie Islands Chapter Black Swamp Conservancy

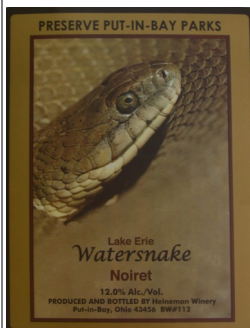
## *Our Mission:*

*To encourage conservation and Protection of Natural and Agricultural Lands in the Lake Erie Islands for the Benefit of Future Generations.*

## New Wine Release at Heineman's Winery

Heineman Winery on South Bass Island has released a new wine — the Lake Erie Watersnake Noiret. Noiret is a dry, red wine with notes of green and black pepper and aromas of raspberry, blackberry, and mint.

The Heineman Winery was founded in 1888 by Gustav Heineman, a German immigrant. Since that time, five generations of the Heineman family have operated the business, producing fine quality wines on this 1500 acre island in the western basin of Lake Erie. The limestone based soil and long frost-free growing period, tempered by the lake waters, provide an ideal condition for the raising of grapes. Years ago, it was customary for Put-in-Bay School to close for two weeks in late September and early October so school children could help harvest the grape crop.



Two dollars from the sale of each bottle of this wine is donated by the Heineman Winery to the Put-in-Bay Township Park District. The purchase of this wine helps in the efforts to protect habitats for the Lake Erie Watersnake and other wildlife at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve and the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve on South Bass Island.

Put-in-Bay Township Park District is a governmental agency dedicated to safeguarding unique areas that preserve the natural heritage of the Lake Erie Islands.

## **Ladd-Brookner Bench Dedication**

### What's All the Fuss over the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve?

Someone in John Ladd's family is turning 80! A family reunion is scheduled for June 22-23, 2012. Don't worry, it's not a Parker, Market or Heineman reunion and most of us have mellowed out! If all the above would ever get together - look out - a real PIB bash would occur! John is the son of Nate and Katherine Brookner-Ladd.

About the Scheeff East Point Preserve and the Ladd connection... It was 15 acres of the homestead of the Conrad and Katherine Bruchner (Brookner). They are John's great-grandparents and grandparents of 5 generations of the Ladd-Brookner family. Paul and Chris Ladd's children are the fifth generation living presently on the island

Conrad and Katherine came over on separate ships from the West German town of Waldorf-Baden in 1857. Other early Islanders immigrated from this area also such as East Point Vineyard owners, L. Mueller in 1853, Burgraff in 1858, and K. Ruh in 1854. Conrad and Katherine were reunited after the long voyage and were married in Sandusky, Ohio. Conrad told a story of his ship mate, Jacob Astor, who later became a millionaire and the builder of the New York hotel, Waldorf Astoria. As grape growers, they first occupied a property presently owned by the Ohlemacher family.

Several years later, they purchased and moved to the 15 acre East Point property, built

their home and established their vineyard. This property is now known as the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve.

Conrad later sold off 5 acres, but it is now also part of the preserve which is owned by the Put in Bay Township Park District. The present three park commissioners are Kelly Faris, Chair, Lisa Brohl and Kendra Koehler.

Conrad and Katherine raised six daughters and finally a son, Peter Brookner. Peter purchased eleven acres and built his home down the road, near the present East Point Cottages. Peter told of having Mr. Anheiser Busch



## **Upcoming Events and Interests**

Ladd-Brookner Bench Dedication June 23 11 am Pg 1-2

Purple Martin/Banding June 23 9am Pg 3

Stone Lab Lectures Pg 9

Meteor shower Pg 10

MBI State Park Walk-June 23 2pm Pg 10

Nature Camp Reg. Update Pg 10

Wild Tuesday Pg 12

Membership Form Pg 15

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visit him to sample his home-made wine. He remembers the Busch family vacationing at the Hotel Victory.

Peter married Amelia Meyers and they had one child, Katherine in 1901. She married Nathan (Nate) Ladd who was born in 1899. That union created six children including two sets of twins: Mary and Harlow, and Jim and John, as well as Robert and Georgia.

John's home, located at 484 Catawba Ave, is the old homestead of Nate and Katherine Brookner-Ladd. Nate Ladd's family goes back to early New England, but his great-grandfather, Harlow, first arrived in the Sandusky-Huron area about 1850. Nate was the youngest of five children.

Nathan Ladd's father, Walter H. (born in 1855,) came to the island and married the widow, Elizabeth Smith (born in 1855.) Walter worked and owned Ladd's Boat Livery on Fox's dock which is now the Jet Express dock. They lived on the site of the present Grand Islander Hotel.

Now it's time for a ghost story! Nate had a half sister, Edie Smith, whose twin brother, Jamie Smith, drown at an early age. Edie lived at home as a recluse and spiritualist until the 1940's. Edie often told us, "Don't move, Jamie is here with us as a light hovering over your heads." When Roger Parker built the hotel, I told him, "Don't fill in the basement, Jamie lives there. He could move up to the rooms." We don't know if Tim Niese knows about Jamie!

**Now back to the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve. There will be a gathering on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 11:00 AM. We will dedicate a memorial bench that faces Ballast Island and is near the homestead site of Conrad and Katherine Brookner. The beautiful bench reads: "In Memory of Conrad and Katherine Brookner's Homestead, circa 1858."**



The bench was graciously donated by Georgia Ladd McVean. Thank you, sister! We are so pleased that four generations will be present at the reunion. Most of the cousins have not seen each other since they were small children at their grandparents, Katherine and Nate Ladd's, 50th wedding anniversary in 1972.

As you may know, I have fond feelings for the nature preserve site and for all of my island memories. I gave only vocal support to the acquisition of the beautiful preserve. We all owe a great amount of gratitude to those who put so much tireless effort into achievement of the preserve. After two heartbreaking unsuccessful efforts, the third one was the charm.

Thanks go out to the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, county, township, village, state, federal, and private supporters and too many others to mention. Very important was the vote of local support for the creation of a park district by our own township residents. Finally, thanks to the generosity of Rose Scheeff's last minute critical funding, the purchase of the property was made possible.

Paula and I hope that anyone acquainted with my family can find the time to stop by and see them. My children, Kate, Matt, Brian, Paddy, and Nate, will be at my home and next door at the Anchor Inn. Please talk to the weather gods to send us clear skies and fair winds. Naturally, I've brewed an extra batch of champagne, Nate Ladd's style. I hope I haven't bored you with my memories. I didn't tell everything as some things at PIB stay at PIB. Damn little though.

Sincerely, John Ladd

***We at LEIC-BSC wish to acknowledge John and Paula Ladd and Georgia Ladd McVean and family for being our staunchest supporters over the years! John has been working hard to promote every LEIC-BSC project and has brought us many opportunities. Georgia has been a constant source of support and encouragement from afar. Thank you John, Paula, Georgia and all of the Ladd family!***



## PIB Receives Tree City USA Award

The Village of Put-in-Bay was recognized as a Tree City USA recently at the Northwest Ohio awards ceremony co-hosted by the Mercer County Villages of Rockford, Coldwater, and Fort Recovery and their Tree Commissions. This is the third time that the Village of Put-in-Bay has been honored with this nationally recognized award.

The awards were presented to the Tree City USA communities by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry at the Rockford Community Building. The title of "Tree City USA" was bestowed on the Village of Put-in-Bay for its ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the quality of life through a comprehensive street tree management program.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry acts as a guiding force in helping a community to become qualified as a Tree City USA. The Urban Forester recommends a community to the Arbor Day Foundation for this standing. In order to achieve the title and the honor, a community must meet four standards: A Tree Ordinance; an active Tree Commission; a comprehensive urban forestry program supported by a minimum of two dollars per capita; and an annual Arbor Day proclamation and activity.

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

# An Eggscellent Spring on South Bass Island

By Paula Ziebarth



Scheeff rig

This spring marks the third season for the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve Purple Martin colony. A new 24-gourd rig was installed last spring and Purple Martins are using every compartment. As of this writing in early June, the birds have laid 124 eggs in the rig and 23 have hatched so far.



Purple Martin nest

Good Purple Martin colony management takes some work and the most important task of a landlord is keeping nonnative European Starlings and House Sparrows out of the housing. Both species are highly aggressive and outcompete native cavity nesting birds for nest sites by entering housing and killing adults, eggs and/or young. Good management involves lowering housing every 5 to 7 days and checking for problems. I had my hands full the third week in April when a mass of European Starlings decided the rig was theirs. 17 Starlings and 2 eggs have been removed from the housing this spring. We are experimenting with Starling excluder entrances on some of the gourds and may convert them all to excluder entrances next year.



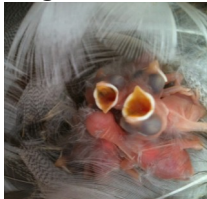
Tree Swallow nest



Purple Martin hatching

Darlene Sillick is planning on coming to the island to band young Purple Martins on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. At that time, we will also be changing nesting material to keep the parasite load down in nests. This increases successful fledging rates and keeps the colony healthier. ***Anyone interested in learning a little about Purple Martins, helping us age nestlings and/or change nests can meet Darlene and I at the Scheeff Purple Martin rig at 9 am on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.*** If it rains, we will try for the same time the following day.

Children are more than welcome.



Tree Swallow hatching

The Tree Swallows at Scheeff are very busy also. This warm spring weather has provided for a lot of food for them. Their diet is mostly comprised of small flying insects and they gorged themselves on the recent midge hatch. The abundance of insects could be why I am seeing above average clutch sizes in nests. Tree Swallows laid 76 eggs in the 12 nest boxes at Scheeff and 53 of those eggs have hatched so far.



Tree Swallow

## Welcome Roberta

Roberta Jones will be trying very hard to fill in for Sandy at the LEINWC this summer, though she realizes they are big and much beloved shoes to fill. Roberta has been coming to Middle Bass for 60 years and lives in Columbus in the winter. She has participated in Nature Camp for many years and has been an interpretive ranger at the Monument. She has a degree in Interpretive Education from Metro State Univ. in St. Paul, MN, where she finished her degree while living there for a few years. She worked at the Ohio Historical Center for many years both before and after Minnesota, doing in-house and outreach programs. She gave about 35 different natural history programs in schools, summer camps, preschools, libraries and even nursing homes--just about anywhere! Her latest position was giving tours and developing programs at the Ohio Statehouse. She thought she was retired but is very excited about being at LEINWC instead!



## LEINWC March Visitors



Photo by Andrea Irland

Our first visitors of the year to the LEINWC on March 27 were BSC volunteer and Forest Woods manager Terri Gorney and her friend Randy Lehman site manager of the Limberlost in Indiana. Terri and her mother had been Road Scholar participants a few years ago. The Limberlost is a 1500 acre site of wetlands preserved in memory of one of Gene Stratton Porter's books, Girl of the Limberlost.

## Hear-Ye Hear-Ye—Ohio Clean Bill

On June 11, 2012, Ohio Governor Kasich signed the mid-biennium review bill, HB 487, **LEAVING INTACT \$42 MILLION IN CLEAN OHIO FUNDING!** This is exciting news as the Clean Ohio Conservation grant program has been critical to the preservation of island lands for the LEIC-BSC and the Put-in-Bay Township Park District!

# The “New” Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center!

By Kristin Stanford

Five years ago, a rare opportunity drifted over to South Bass Island. Former islanders, Stan and Joey Wulkowicz, offered to sell their 1.8 acre woods and donate the Alaskan Bird & Wildlife Museum to the Lake Erie Island Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy (LEIC-BSC), as long as the property was maintained as a museum. With the primary mission of preserving island lands, the LEIC-BSC could easily justify the pursuit of funds to purchase the 1.8 acre woods. However, they knew that owning and operating a museum was a bit more of an undertaking. That being said, generous opportunities such as this don't come around very often. Many of us at the LEIC-BSC recognized that a Lake Erie Islands nature museum, with wonderful landscaped grounds, nice patch of woods and an amazing taxidermy collection, would give us the perfect place to teach visitors about the beautiful islands we live on. But would we be able to do this on our own?

Fortunately, the LEIC-BSC was able to obtain the assistance of a local organization with more than 20 years of experience regarding the dos and don'ts of a successful museum operation! With the gracious support and assistance of museum director, Susie Cooper, along with the board of directors of the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society, a partnership was forged between the two organizations. Susie, and board members Maggie Beckford and Kendra Koehler, along with LEI-BSC chair Lisa Brohl, and board members Bob Russell, Carol Ferguson, Valerie Mettler, Kristin Stanford and member, Doris Hubschman, formed the “Nature Museum Committee”, with the intentions of pursuing a natural history museum for the islands. LEIC-BSC board members Susan Byrnes and Peggy Leopold later joined the committee in 2009. This committee operated under the 501-3(c) status held by the LEIHS, but maintained a separate fiscal structure with the intention that this new nature center would eventually branch out on our own.

After a preliminary agreement was drafted and signed between the two entities in the fall of 2007, an intensive fundraising campaign was initiated which focused on the sale of honorary square meters for the property. While tirelessly pursuing donations, we were able to open the museum under a lease arrangement with the Wulkowicz's in May of 2008 with part-time assistance from LaVon Swinehart, Laura Shaffer, Keith Hanson and Sandi Glauser. Many additional individuals were instrumental in getting the facility up and running after being closed up for more than five years. Within the first eight months we raised enough funds through honorary deeds and private donors to purchase the property and officially named it “The Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center”. In October of 2008, more than 50 people attended a celebration of the purchase and a dedication of the building. A bronze plaque next to our front entrance reads:

*"This building is dedicated in honor of donors Stanley Edward Wulkowicz and Joan Wulkowicz. Their remarkable effort has resulted in this magnificent collection of North American wildlife, fish and birds. The people of the Lake Erie Islands are forever indebted to them for their generous gift that future generations may appreciate these natural wonders."*

A sign was also placed on Put-in-Bay Road which reads:

*"Wulkowicz Woods-These woods are preserved in honor of donor Stanley Edward Wulkowicz and in memory of his father Stanley Wulkowicz who wanted to preserve this property for his son and for island wildlife."*

By 2009, we were ready to open our doors for a full season, and what a season it was! We hired one of our many volunteers, Sandi Glauser, as our full-time museum manager. We were also fortunate recipients of an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant which allowed us to hire a Wildlife Program Coordinator, Tyler Lawson. This was also our inaugural year of our ‘Wild Tuesday’ programs, which have become a popular family attraction in the summer. With the help of grant funds from the Runzheimer foundation, Tyler and his father, Keith Lawson built a frog pond for the LEINWC in the back yard during the fall of 2009. We have already used the pond on multiple occasions for Nature Camp and Wild Tuesday's, and have several new resident green frogs. We also used funding from the Runzheimer grant and Body Shop Foundation to purchase and install a storage building on the property.

Over the following two years, we continued to build upon these programs and our team of amazing volunteers who tirelessly dedicated their time and energy to make the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center better and better. In the spring of 2011, the LEINWC committee and LEIC-BSC board member Marsha Collett started the long and tedious process of applying for separate non-profit status for the LEINWC. In January of 2012, we received the official acceptance of our application from the IRS, acknowledging the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center as its own separate non-profit entity. The current board members of the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center are Kristin Stanford (Chair), Valerie Mettler (Vice-chair), Peggy Leopold (Secretary) and Lisa Brohl (Treasurer).

This year, LEINWC hopes to begin another intensive fundraising campaign to build an addition to the museum. This will allow us to expand our collection of native Ohio wildlife, including a section for live animal displays, an outdoor classroom area and a dedicated business office. All of these things are sorely needed as we continue to grow. Besides

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monetary donations, we are always looking for new volunteers to assist in a multitude of ways including giving museum tours, helping with Wild Tuesday, landscaping and web updates.

Thanks to the direction and tireless efforts of Susie Cooper, the board members of the Historical Society and many volunteers we have grown and are now able to completely function on our own. Over the past month, we have been working on an official separation of the LEINWC from the LEIHS. We know that the road ahead will be challenging but we are so very thankful to be able to walk on our own. It is difficult to express how much gratitude the members of the LEINWC have for the assistance and support we continue to receive from Susie and the board of the LEIHS. We look forward to continuing to partner with the LEIHS for many years to come! We hope that all of the members of the LEIHS are proud to know they belong to a dedicated group that share a vision and a passion for educating people about all the wonderful aspects our islands have to offer.

**THANKS TO THE INDIVIDUALS & ORGANIZATIONS LISTED BELOW FOR FINANCIAL DONATIONS, VOLUNTEER HOURS OR ASSISTANCE WITH OPERATING THE LEINWC.**

Our sincerest apologies to anyone we inadvertently left off the list. We couldn't have done this without you all!

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| Frost Parker Foundation<br>Randolph J. and Estelle M. Dorn Foundation<br>COSEE Program, Great Lakes<br>Pheasants Forever Inc., Erie-Ottawa-Sandusky<br>Chapter #291<br>Firelands Audubon Society<br>Runzheimer Foundation<br>Body Shop Foundation<br>Sue Amrine<br>William & Carol Assman<br>Ellen & John Ballas<br>Kenneth & Fran Beck<br>Mary Beckford<br>John & Janet Bergan<br>Joy & Jeff Berquist<br>Robert Berodin<br>Sue and Greg Bixler<br>Judy and Robert Bransome<br>Sandra & Jeff Brausch<br>Don Breier<br>Russ & Lisa Brohl<br>Jeanne Burgess<br>Jeff Bykowski & Karen Klein<br>Mike & Susan Byrnes family<br>Gary & Carol Coates<br>Susan & Glenn Cooper | Molly, Kathy, & J. R. Domer<br>Allen Duff<br>Diana J. Dutt<br>Ryan Ek<br>Betty Eppley<br>John Eschen<br>Carol & Andy Ferguson<br>Fred & Eleanor Fether<br>Dave & Linda Frederick<br>Roger and Cliff Fulton<br>Stan Gebhardt<br>Sandi Glauser<br>Robin and Jessie Greene<br>Richard Gump<br>John Hageman<br>Keith Hanson<br>Carl & Leanne Harrison<br>Elizabeth Heineman<br>Mike & Karen Hoggarth<br>Donald Hubschman<br>Doris & Jerry Hubschman<br>Amy & Peter Huston<br>Island Transportation- Carolyn Miller<br>Sharon Gray<br>Missy Kempton<br>Richard B. King family<br>Kendra & Jeff Koehler<br>Dan and Valerie Kowalski | Eric Kraus, The Natural Resource<br>John & Stephanie Kreager<br>Joe & Liz Kutschbach<br>Heidi Ladd<br>Lake Erie Island Trading Company, LLC<br>Rod & Susan Lawrence<br>Keith, Jennifer and Tyler Lawson<br>Don Leitch<br>John & Peggy Leopold<br>Gregory Lipps Jr.<br>Tim & Jeanette Luecke<br>Steve Malone<br>Dorothy Maringer<br>Julene Market<br>Mary Ann Market<br>Stephanie McGee & Jason Crain<br>H. E. Merritt<br>Valerie Mettler<br>Bruce and Kim Miles<br>Celeste Mycoskie<br>Diane Nemec<br>Colleen O'Brien<br>Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory<br>Christine Ontko & family<br>Art & Suzanne Otermat<br>Linda Parker | Devon Peoples<br>George & Michele Poulus<br>Kate Ptak<br>Robert & Mary Lou Ramsbottom<br>Fritz & Pam Rudolph<br>Bob & Nancy Russell<br>Roman & Susan Sapecki<br>Candi Sarikonda<br>Laura Shaffer<br>Sarah & Trey Sheehan<br>Fran Spofford<br>Kristin Stanford & Matt Thomas<br>Brad & Zoe Titchener<br>Mike Stiedl & Diane Duggan<br>LaVon & Lorin Swinehart<br>Kathy & Nick Tagliaferri<br>Pat Thwaite & Marv Booker<br>Leslie Taylor<br>Thomas & Norma Tompkins<br>Pat Wenckus<br>James & Karen White<br>Debbie Woischke<br>Henry & Caroline Wood<br>Yard Works<br>Richard Zura |
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Kim Miles and Roman Sapecki

## Earth Day at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve

Volunteers Bruce and Kim Miles, Ron Helman, and Roman Sapecki spent Earth Day cleaning up the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve. The trail was mulched and rerouted to avoid a beautiful patch of blooming trout lilies, the snake hibernacula was covered with a layer of donated mulch, and refuse removed from the site. The area around the newly donated picnic tables, brought to us by John Glauser and donated by the Put-in-Bay Township Trustees, was cleaned up as



Trout Lilies

well. Tedi Pertner has volunteered to monitor the trail for the Park District this summer. The area is accessible by kayak and canoe with a nice nature path to walk. Thanks to all for the help at this new preserve owned by the Put-in-Bay Township Park District!

## Native Plant and Tree Sale

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Native Plant and Tree sale a success this spring-Susan Byrnes, Paula Ziebarth, Peggy Leopold, Sandi Glauser, Lisa Brohl and to Jan Hunter at Naturally Native and Ed Kapraly at Riverside Native Trees for working with us!

# Volunteers This and That

Eighteen people braved the cool temperatures on April 21 to come and pull the invasive garlic mustard plant from the woods of the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center. Twenty-six 33 gallon garbage bags were filled and removed that day. Conditions were good for pulling after a rain the night before. A large area on the hillside is now just native appendaged waterleaf, sweet cicely, and bloodroot instead of being choked with garlic mustard. Thanks go out to Nick and Christine Schoenle, Alexandra Knauer, Paula and Greg Ziebarth, Kathy Holbrook from Perry's Victory, and a family reunion from Montana, Wyoming, Maryland and Michigan for pulling, and to Lake Disposal for helping us get rid of the plant!



Alexandra Knauer

Former island resident Stacey Powers visited the LEIC-BSC and LEINWC this spring to share nature programs ideas. Stacey will be working with a Montessori nature program this summer and gave us some good ideas for our Nature Camp.



## Obrigado!

Dave Frederick and granddaughter Ellie Ketcham stopped for a visit to the LEINWC recently. Dave donated an elk call that makes a noise just like the bugle of an elk to use at the Center. Roberta Jones is shown accepting the donation.



The DeColores Montessori Jr. High School pulled garlic mustard on May 8 for the LEIC-BSC at the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail with science teacher Karen Heinrichs. They made a donation to LEIC-BSC for the program on invasive plants presented by Lisa Brohl.



Roger Fulton swept and power washed the porch at LEINWC this spring. Roger will be volunteering his time at the LEINWC desk again this summer.



Board Member and spider expert Valerie Mettler manned the LEIC-BSC booth at the Earth Day celebration in April. She is pictured with National Park Service employee Kathie Holbrook.

Here is a popular volunteer team Richard Gump and John Ladd at the Scheeff East Point Preserve picking out sites for benches.



Brad and Zoe Titchener stuffed envelopes for the Middle Bass Nature Camp mailing in June. Brad has been busy volunteering at LEINWC as well.



## Welcome Leah!

Leah Bilski has been hired as the Americorps Intern shared by the LEINWC and LEIC-BSC this summer. Leah is currently a sophomore attending Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida and is majoring in Biology and Environmental Studies. She has volunteered with LEIC-BSC's Nature Camp programs on Middle Bass Island as a counselor and also with the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in Bay Village, Ohio as an animal caretaker. Leah enjoys being outside, working with wildlife, and spending time at her summer home on Middle Bass. She would like to thank Americorps and Lisa Brohl for the wonderful opportunity to work as an Environmental Steward on the Lake Erie Islands.



On a nice day in May, volunteers were at it again at the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve with Bruce Miles and Bob Perusek installing signs to mark boundaries and the new trail.

Andrea Irland of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and AmeriCorps intern Heather Furman visited the island on April 27 to discuss a possible Lake Erie Islands paddling guide with Lisa Brohl. Andrea also heads a committee working on a Lake Erie Paddling Guide in the state of Ohio.



# And Then Some More!



Alex Mooney, Gina Goebel, Cara Nicholson, Becca Fulton, Mike Many, Katie Dunlap, Marc Wright, Leah Orlowski, Brock Bodenbender, Kelly Stevens, Joe Bodenbender, Ty Winchester, Mike Bova, James Whited, Ashley Rill, (not Pictured) is A.J. Mason

Put-in-Bay Employees Care, a new organization started by Ty Winchester and Marc Wright, joined Lisa Brohl at the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail on Wednesday, May 30. They mulched the back third of the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and amazingly pulled 64 bags full of garlic mustard from the trail area. Before their work, the trail was almost impassable due to the tall garlic mustard from our unusual warm spring. As the plant was almost ready to drop its seed,

the timing was critical! Before the pulling and mulching, you could hardly see where the trail was, and now it will be a pleasant walk. They then visited the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center and mulched there also! So get out and enjoy the trails this summer and thank the Employees Care group if you see them. Thanks also go to Richard Gump, Burns Pierce, and the Nelson Tree Service for the donated mulch.

In June, they visited the Scheeff East Point Preserve by kayak from Kayak the Bay and picked up ten bags of garbage!



Jack and Henry Genzman have been volunteering as Trail Monitors for the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and the Scheeff East Point Nature Trail this spring. They also

cleaned out the tree swallow boxes for the birds and checked on the trees planted last fall at Scheeff.



The volunteer team of Paula Ziebarth and Darlene Sillick are at it again! Here they are at Middle Bass School fixing up tree swallow houses made by Nature Camp participants so they can be placed in a new grid at the Middle Bass Island State Park. Cecilia Glauser has volunteered to monitor the boxes. Paula has also been busy with the purple martin boxes at Scheeff East Point.



Devon Peoples will be giving tours again this summer at the LEINWC



Kate and Joe Byrnes have been busy this spring volunteering. Kate spent some time pulling garlic mustard at the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail and both Kate and Joe folded and mailed the recent LEIC-BSC newsletters.

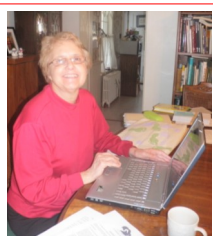


Volunteer Sue Bixler is at it again! This time she brought new tubs for the Nature Camp program and moved educational materials stored at the LEIHS to their new home at the OSU Stone Lab.



Ron Helman removed a canoe that washed up on the beach recently at the MBI East Point Preserve. Ron and his family also mow the trail for us at the Preserve as well. Much appreciated!

Sarah Toole has been taking care of the Nature Camp at the Bay registration this spring for the LEIC-BSC.



Abby King, a Stone Lab student and employee from 1997 and 1998, came to visit the island recently and took a tour of our preserves with Kristin Stanford. Abby helped out by moving daffodils and tulips from their old location near the shoreline to the area around the bench at the Scheeff East Point Preserve to beautify the entrance. Thanks Abby! Come visit again!



*What would we do without our Volunteers! They are no less important if not captured in a photo here! Thanks also to Sandi Glauser and Lianne Genzman for newsletter pick-up. A big thanks to Yard Works who continue to make sure our lawn at LEINWC looks great and to Burns Pierce who helped with tree trimming when needed at the Jane Coates Wildflower Trail this spring! We also heard that Americorps intern Leah Bilski had Alex Barr out pulling five bags of garlic mustard from the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve.*



Tom Bartlett (standing) has been banding birds in the Bass Islands since 2003. Andy Jones on left is from Cleveland Museum of Natural History

# Road Scholar

By Kelly Faris

Road Scholar is a not-for-profit organization that provides opportunities for adults to learn, discover, and travel. Operating in all 50 states and many foreign countries, the Road Scholar program provides hands-on activities and behind-the-scenes experiences.

For the last ten years, the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society and later the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center have hosted a Road Scholar program. The LEIC-BSC has sponsored some of the natural history programs including the birdbanding.

This spring, the Road Scholars worked with Tom Bartlett for a "hands-on" and "behind the scenes" experience. Tom Bartlett from Tiffin, Ohio, has been researching and banding birds in the Bass Islands since 2003.

Road Scholars helped set up "Mist Nets" at the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve and on property owned by Mark and Barbi Barnhill. A Mist Net looks like a volley ball net. The nylon mesh is 3 meters (over 9 feet) high and 12 meters (over 36 feet) long. 16 nets were used.



Group at tent set up near Barnhill's barn to band birds.

The birds fly into the net and become entangled. A normal day averages about 50 birds;

however, one day this spring over 200 birds were captured. The birds are weighed, the wing span measured, and the age and sex recorded. The birds are then banded. Each bird band is unique and can be used for research when the same birds are trapped in other areas.

Once the data was collected and the bird banded, a Road Scholar gently releases the bird into the air.

Under the auspices of the US Geological Survey, Tom has a Federal permit to band birds.



John Lortz removes a yellow warbler from the mist net



John Lortz, who has worked with Tom for 16 years, prepares to release a gray cat bird



Becky Foster, a Road Scholar from Lockport, New York, prepares to release a yellow warbler.



Photo By Susan Byrnes

## 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary



Brad and Zoe Titchener celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on June 8. The Titcheners have been very generous and supportive of the Lake Erie islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy, Put-in-Bay Township Park District, the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, and the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society. Congratulations and thank you....

# GUEST LECTURES AT STONE LAB

All lectures begin at 7:45 PM and conclude at approximately 9:00 PM. Each lecture is preceded by a short lecture on current research at 7:00 PM. Members of the public are welcome and can take the Put-in-Bay Water Taxi (at their own expense) from the Boardwalk Restaurant Dock at 6:30 PM or 7:15 PM before each lecture. A short tour of Gibraltar Island will be provided before the lecture.

The public can view the lectures and research briefs via a live web seminar from any computer with internet access. Connection is simple and fast. Those interested in more information about the webinar option and getting the log-in information for specific lectures should send an email to [stonelab@osu.edu](mailto:stonelab@osu.edu).

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6/28 | <i>"OEPA Update/40th Anniversary"</i> <b>Scott Nally</b> , Director, Ohio EPA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|      | <i>Research Brief: "Development of Nutrient Biotic Indices Using Fish Assemblages"</i> <b>Dr. Thomas Simon</b> , Adjunct Associate Professor with Indiana University                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 7/5  | <i>"Perry's Monument: Why We Should Care About the War of 1812"</i> <b>Blanca Stransky</b> , Superintendent, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, National Park Services                                                                                                                                                                |
|      | <i>Research Brief: "Lake Erie walleye movements and the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observing System (GLATOS)"</i><br><b>Chris Vandergoot and Richard Krauss</b> , Research Fishery Biologist with the Ohio DNR and U.S. Geological Survey Research Fishery Biologist and Field Station Supervisor at Lake Erie Biological Station; respectively. |
| 7/12 | <i>"USGS Science – Partner driven Research: Huron–Erie Corridor, Asian Carp, and Harmful Algal Blooms"</i> <b>Leon Carl</b> , Regional Executive, U.S. Geological Survey, Midwest Area                                                                                                                                                               |
|      | <i>Research Brief: "Impacts of lake amenities on population, employment, and housing markets in the Great Lakes region"</i><br><b>Dr. Elena Irwin</b> , Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics at the Ohio State University                                                                            |
| 7/19 | End of 5-Week Course Session – No Lecture                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 7/26 | <i>"Great Lakes – Great Opportunities"</i> <b>David Ulrich</b> , Executive Director, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|      | <i>Research Brief: "Being a Knauss Fellow: a unique educational experience for students who have an interest in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources"</i> <b>Erin Sams</b> , Ohio Sea Grant Knauss Fellow                                                                        |
| 8/2  | <i>"The Day Science Saved the Great Lakes"</i> <b>Cameron Davis</b> , Senior Advisor to the Administrator (Great Lakes), U.S. EPA                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|      | <i>Research Brief: "The economic impact of birdwatching along Lake Erie"</i><br><b>Dr. Philip Xie</b> , Associate Professor / Director within the School of Human Movement, Sport, & Leisure Studies at Bowling Green State University                                                                                                               |

## Nature Camp at the Bay! Register Now!

Nature Camp at the Bay registration is still open for our programs in July. To register, forms are available at the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center and at [www.lakeerieislandsbsc.com](http://www.lakeerieislandsbsc.com). Nature Camp is sponsored by the Put-in-Bay Recreation Committee, the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy, and Miller Boat Line. Please call Sarah Toole at 419-285-8125 about registration and Lisa Brohl at [419-285-5811](tel:419-285-5811) on camp activities.

### **July 9-12 Nature Camp at the Bay (ages 6-8)**

**Session A 8:30-10:30AM**

**Session B 10:30AM-12:30PM**

**Session C 1:30-3:30PM**

**Session D 3:30-5:30PM**

### **July 16-18 My First Nature Camp (ages 4-5)**

**Session B 9:30-11:00am**

**Session C 11:00am-12:30pm**

### **July 16-20 Environmental Adventure Camp 2 (ages 11-14)**

### **July 23-27 Environmental Adventure Camp 1 (ages 9-10)**

**Session A AM with cookout on last day**

**Session B PM with overnight campout on last day**

## *Middle Bass Nature Camp Family Program*

*Meet at the Middle Bass Island State Park Marina Office at 2:00pm on Saturday, June 23, for a guided walk through the State Park following the proposed Walking Guide.*



## Flowering Dogwood Tree

A Flowering Dogwood Tree, planted as part of the Arbor Day Celebration in 2011, has burst into bloom. The Flowering Dogwood is one of the 13 Arbor Day trees planted along Langram Road near the gas station.

The Dogwood is a hard, dense wood. Over the years, the wood has been used for golf club heads, mallets, tool handles, and butcher's blocks.

To celebrate the gift of cherry trees by Japan to Washington, D. C. in 1912, the United States sent to Japan this year 3,000 dogwood trees.

## PERSEIDS METEOR FAMILY PROGRAM

Monday August 13, 2012 Meet at Dusk (approx. 9:30pm) at the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve. Join Gene Zajac to view the Perseid Meteor Shower on South Bass Island!

## Webster Sisters Visit Scheeff Preserve

Article and Photos By Kelly Faris

Jane Webster Garofalo of Oxford, Ohio, and Lois Webster Mack of Plymouth, Ohio, try to visit the Island every year. Their parents were Paul and Josephine Webster. They are two of the five Webster sisters who were born and raised on South Bass Island. Their father, Paul operated a boat for the Ohio State University at Gibraltar Island. Roy Webster was their uncle and operated a winery and raised grapes at Put-in-Bay, and he

eventually purchased the Andrew Schiele home which he made into the legendary Castle Inn. With their cousin, Irene Webster Bykowski, they spent many hours roaming the fields and vineyards at the Bay. (The Castle Inn burned in January 1982.) Jane graduated from Put-in-Bay High School in 1942 and Lois graduated in 1944.



In addition to attending the Put-in-Bay School Alumni Banquet, the two wanted to see a bench at the Put-in-Bay Township Park District Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve. The bench recognizes the marriage of their sister Gail Webster-Smith and Bud Smith, who were married at St. Paul's Church on May 31, 1953.



Jane, 87, and Lois, 85, bounced in a golf cart down the path at the Preserve to view the bench. They also walked to the gravel shoreline and enjoyed views of Lake Erie.



Lois's daughter, Mary Jo, and her husband Kim

Carter drove the two sisters to the Island. As a young girl, Mary Jo used to collect beach glass along the shoreline at the Preserve.

## Sandi Goodbye-Job Well Done

We are very sorry to report that Sandi Glauser will not be at the LEINWC this summer. We will miss her expertise in giving tours, taking care of gardens, planning programs such as the Plant Exchange, coordinating volunteers, and generally taking care of everything at LEINWC so that our board was worry free! We really appreciate all the hard work that she put into the place in the last few years which were a huge growing period for our Center. We would not be where we are today if not for Sandi's efficient work and talent. We wish Sandi well at her new full time job! Thank You Sandi! We will miss you!



Sandi, (far Right) with Friends

### *Bench Dedication and Bird Banding on June 23*

*Join us on Saturday, June 23 at the Scheeff East Point Nature Preserve for two events!*

*At 9:00am, see Darlene Sillick and Paula Ziebarth band the purple martin young in the rig near the parking area. Weather date is Sunday. A nice opportunity to see the young birds up close.*

*At 11:00am, the Ladd family will dedicate the bench purchased in honor of the Brookner-Ladd family. Should be a great day!*

# Back to the Wild

Article and Photos By Susan Byrnes



Mona Rutger

Mona Rutger and Heather Yount of Back to the Wild visited the Put-in-Bay Town Hall on May 2 for two shows. One was for the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center's Road Scholar program and one was for the Put-in-Bay community. They brought raptors, snakes, a flying squirrel, and other wildlife ambassadors from their wildlife rehabilitation center in Castalia, Ohio. About forty



Heather Yount

people enjoyed the second show. Thanks to the Put-in-Bay Recreation Committee and the LEIC-BSC for sponsoring the event!

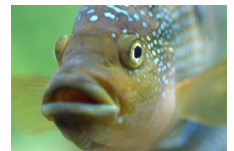
## Get WILD on Tuesday's at Put-in-Bay!

The Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife center is excited to announce the continuation of our WILD Tuesday programs beginning on Tuesday June 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00pm. The programs will continue every Tuesday thereafter (same time) through August 21<sup>st</sup>. The goal of our WILD Tuesday programs is to educate our visitors on Ohio's native wildlife by providing an up-close and often hands-on interactive experience. Cost for each program is FREE, although your donations are appreciated and help us to bring in our special guests. So come out, bring the kids and get WILD in a good way at Put-in-Bay!

### 2012 Wild Tuesday Program Schedule



**June 19<sup>th</sup>: Something's Fishy.**



**June 26<sup>st</sup>: Alien Invaders!**

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Totally Turtles!**

**July 10<sup>th</sup>: Ssslitherin' Sssnakes**

**July 17<sup>th</sup>: Beautiful Butterflies!**

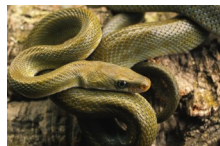
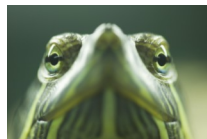
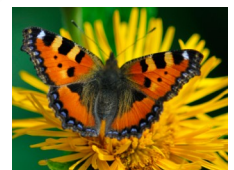
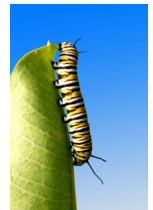
**July 24<sup>th</sup>: Goin' Batty!**

**July 31<sup>st</sup>: Who's Whoo? (Owls)**

**August 7<sup>th</sup>: Amazing Amphibians!**

**August 14<sup>th</sup>: Creepy Crawlies**

**August 21<sup>st</sup>: For the Birds**



# New and Renewing Members

## Friends

Stephen and Jill Cooks  
Jennifer Farber  
Lianne and Paul Genzman  
Sue and Bill Latham  
Margaret and Michael Naylon  
Josh and Christy Noble  
Linda Parker-with newsletter ad  
Darlene Sillick  
Thomas C. Snyder  
Ed Tancock

## Supporters

Tim and Jane O'Brien  
Sue and Greg Bixler  
Judy Bransome  
Terry and Lynda Heaton

## Contributors

Gary Coates  
Peggy and John Leopold  
Bernie and Mary Ann Meyers  
Ann Petcoff

## Stewards

Jerry and Doris Hubschman  
Fritz and Pam Rudolph

## General Fund Donation

Stewart Bernstein  
Firelands Chapter, National Audubon Society  
Suzanne Kostura  
Darlene Sillick

## Nature Camp Fund Donation

Jennifer Farber  
Kira Hubner  
Mary French  
Margaret and Michael Naylon  
Josh and Christy Noble

## Land Protection Fund Donation

Jim and Betsy Brohl (Middle Bass project)  
Stephen and Jill Cooks

## LEINWC Donation

Sue Gorney and Randy Lehman  
Printer, ink cartridges and laptop-Anonymous Donor

## Clean Up in May

The entire Crew of The Goat Soup and Whiskey collected twenty-two bags of trash from the highways and byways of Put-in-Bay Village and the Township this past May. Scott Jackson, owner of The Goat, said that this is the fourth year for the clean-up. He and his crew are happy to help and he thanks all of the community members who joined in the clean-up.



## *New Picnic Table for MBIEPP from Township Grant*



*Joey Wolf of the Put-in-Bay Township wrote a grant from the Ottawa, Seneca and Sandusky County Solid Waster District for purchasing tables made with recycled materials. The benches were placed at the Senior Center and EMS on South Bass and at the Middle Bass Town Hall and the Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve on Middle Bass. Thanks for a beautiful table!*

# Arbor Day Celebration

Photos and Article By Kelly Faris



Ohio Buckeye Tree

The Village of Put-in-Bay Tree Commission held its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbor Day Celebration on Friday, April 27, 2012, at 4:00 PM in DeRivera Park. This year the Commission planted two Ohio Buckeye Trees.

The Tree Commission of the Village of Put-in-Bay was created by Ordinance 931-08 on May 12, 2008. The mission of the Tree Commission is to study and oversee the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public places. Each year the Tree Commission holds an Arbor Day Celebration. The Village Council allocates \$400.00 annually for the purchase of trees and other items to observe Arbor Day.

The first Arbor Day Celebration was held in Nebraska in 1872. This year Arbor Day will be observed in all 50 states as well as a host of foreign countries.



PIB School Environmental Club (l to r) Gunner Auger, Zoly Urge, Dallas Mohn, and Wyatt Auger.



Inscribed Rock

The Tree Commission has planted lilac, magnolia, witch-hazel, eastern redbud, and flowering dogwood trees. The Village of Put-in-Bay is recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City USA Community." The Tree Commission works closely with the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy and the Put-in-Bay Township Park District.

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

## Plant Exchange Re-Cap

By Sandi Glauser

The third annual plant exchange was held Saturday, May 12 at the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center. This event is co-sponsored by the PIB Garden Club and the Nature and Wildlife Center. Plants and trees that were pre-ordered from the previous LEIC-BSC newsletter and supplied by Naturally Native Nursery were available for pick up at the same time.



Board member and master gardener Peggy Leopold gave an informative slide show on "Invasives in the Garden". Several attendees were surprised by how quickly some of these invasive plants can change the entire landscape. Garlic-Mustard is an invasive plant that is a problem on the island, especially at the Jane Coates Trail and behind the Nature Center. As an incentive to help rid the island of this plant, and as a tie-in to Peggy's talk, anyone who came to the plant exchange with a bag full of pulled garlic-mustard received a native plant in return.

Judging by the number of stuffed trash bags surrounding our trash can, it was a good idea.

Carol Ann Erford, another master gardener from Toledo was also on hand to answer any questions about identification or the care and handling of plants at the exchange.

Each year we offer a small assortment of garden-themed items as raffle prizes. The proceeds from the sale of tickets are divided evenly between the PIB garden Club and the Nature and Wildlife Center.

A BIG thank you goes to all the people who volunteered their time to make this event happen. Including Kelly Thomas who heard about the exchange from the internet and drove all the way from the Akron area with a car overflowing with plants to trade. Thanks also to the PIB Volunteer Fire Department for the use of their chairs during the guest lecture. This was also the first time several islanders got to see the new stairs leading down to the nature trail behind the museum. Kudo's to Richard Gump and his crew for doing such a fine job making it safer to reach the lower level of the yard. We will do it again next year...the second Saturday in May...and look forward to seeing you there!

## LEIC-BSC Membership Form

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

\_\_\_\_\$25 Friend \_\_\_\_\$100 Contributor \_\_\_\_\$500 Patron \_\_\_\_\$50 Supporter \_\_\_\_\$250 Steward \_\_\_\_ \$1000 Life

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

**Island** Address PO Box \_\_\_\_\_ Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent** Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Island Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

### **Land Protection Fund**

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp 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.

### **Nature Camp Fund**

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Nature Camp Fund, organized and directed by the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy.

### **Stewardship Fund**

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

*Please make checks payable to (LEIC-BSC) Lake Erie Islands Chapter Black Swamp Conservancy*

*Please Send to: PO Box 461, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456 All donations are tax deductible **Thank You!***

## Middle Bass Eco-tour and History Tour August 15

The Put-in-Bay Township Park District will host a Middle Bass Eco-tour and History Tour on Wednesday, August 15 at 9:00 a.m. See Middle Bass as you have never seen before! We will take you places you have never been!



Photo by Rick Hacker

Tickets will be \$160 per cart for LEIC-BSC members and \$200 per four person golf cart for non members. The number of carts are limited so reserve your space now by calling Kendra Koehler at 419-341-2725. Bring your own 4 passenger golf cart to take over on the downtown Miller Ferry at 9:00 a.m..

This fundraiser for the new Park District will help to purchase and maintain fencing, interpretive signs, trails, and restoration on the Park's preserved properties.

Highlights of the tour include the new Middle Bass East Point Preserve, the new facilities at the Middle Bass Island State Park, the bald eagles nest at the Middle Bass Airport, the Kuehnle State Wildlife Area, Petersen Woods, the historic Payer Estate,

and much more. Included are guided tours to all these locations as well as a commemorative booklet. Lunch is on your own. The Middle Bass Town Hall will have grilled sandwiches for sale. Local vendors and organizations will have tables and a local archeological exhibit will be on display. Join us for an unforgettable day!

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