

Board of Directors
Chairperson: Lisa Brohl
Vice Chairperson: Claudette Moore
Secretary/Treasurer: Kelly Faris
Board Members
Lianne Genzman, John Ladd,
Bonnie Petro, Carol Richardson

Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy

P.O. Box 461, Put-in-Bay, OH 43456 419.285.5811
LEIC_BSC@cros.net

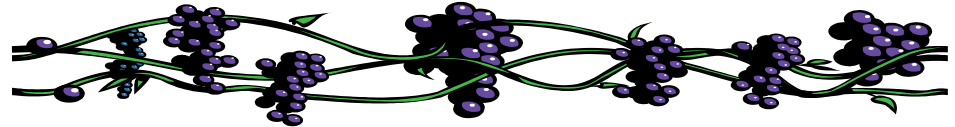
April 2003

Attention Shoreline Property Owners

The Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy (LEIC-BSC) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife (ODNR-DOW) have signed an agreement on Lake Erie water snake conservation easements for the Lake Erie Islands. ODNR-DOW has granted some monies to the Lake Erie Islands Chapter to use for expenses associated with securing donated easements (ex. survey or appraisal costs) on the Ottawa County portions of the Lake Erie Islands. The grant is from the state's Wildlife Diversity program. More money could become available through additional grants. **A meeting will be held on Saturday May 17, at the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society at 10:00am to discuss this easement program. Gary Miller from Eastman and Associates will discuss how these easements could provide tax benefits for the land owner.** Kristin Stanford aka the snake lady from Northern Illinois University will show how these easements will provide protected habitat for the threatened Lake Erie water snake. Carolyn Caldwell of ODNR-DOW will also be present to answer questions about the state's support of the grant program. Providing habitat through easements could be an important part of a recovery plan for the snake.

A conservation easement is a restriction that a landowner can voluntarily place on their property. It is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land conservancy that permanently protects its conservation values. A building envelope can be reserved for future construction within an easement. An easement can be placed on either a portion of a property or the entire property. A landowner keeps the title to the property and there is no public access. An easement can be written for each individual landowner. Any donation of a conservation easement is tax deductible. The

easement program



EAST POINT UPDATE

The developer's option to buy the East Point property expired on March 31 and Put-in-Bay Township initiated contact with the property owners again. The Township has given the property owners a 30 day deadline to accept their offer for the property as our grant funds will be lost in June. They are awaiting word from the owners. However, developer Tony Valore had a meeting with adjacent East Point property owners to discuss his plans to develop the property in April. Thanks to all of you who wrote letters recently against any proposed zoning change or subdivision of the property-ever 200 letters have been received by officials so far. Thanks for all the help and support we have received from you our members and the community! We will keep you updated on the situation.

Nature Camp at the Bay for 2003

The LEIC-BSC and LEIHS will sponsor two sessions of nature programs for island youth ages 6-11. The goal of the nature camp will be to develop a healthy regard for nature and the outdoors here on the Bass Islands. The first session will be June 23, 24, and 25 and the second session August 12, 13, and 14. The classes will meet from 1:00-3:00 p.m. each day except as noted on the schedule. The cost will be \$25 per youth for each week. Family rates are available. To obtain a schedule and registration form, please call Susie Cooper at the LEIHS 419-285-2804 or Lisa Brohl (LEIC-BSC) at 419-285-5811. Registration forms and schedules can also be picked up at the museum. Sign up deadline for the first session is June 9 and July 28 for the second session.

WEEK 1

6/23 - Swamp Stomp and Snake Tales
6/24 - Tree Talk and Insect Hunt
6/25 - Middle Bass State Park Safari

WEEK 2

8/12 - Fossil Find, Rock Hunt, & Shoreline Scramble
8/13 - Wet Wild & Water-Bound-Lake Erie Play Day

BOARD MEMBER MOVES ON

WE ARE SAD TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR VICE CHAIRMAN CLAUDETTE MOORE WILL SOON BE MOVING WITH HER HUSBAND RALPH TO SCOTT'S BLUFF, NEBRASKA. WE WISH THEM WELL AT THEIR NEW PARK LOCATION. WE WILL MISS HAVING CLAUDETTE'S EXPERTISE ON OUR BOARD, ESPECIALLY HER WRITING AND PUBLISHING SKILLS! THANKS FOR ALL YOUR GOOD WORK, CLAUDETTE!



Raptors-Another Sign of Spring

Put-in-Bay Raptor Watch

By Kathy Staley

Because little was known of raptor migration west of the Allegheny Mountains and east of the Rockies, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) began a study of raptor migration along Lake Erie in 1991. As Lake Erie is a major physical barrier to migrating raptors, they concentrate in this area.

It was thought that the Bass Islands were not in any way connected with this migration as the birds tended to migrate along the shoreline rather than cross the lake. Island resident and LEIC-BSC member Stan Wulkowicz, of course, knew better. In 1994, he began documenting the spring migration of hawks, eagles, vultures, etc. that came from the mainland and continued north to their nesting grounds over the islands. Some hawks stop to hunt on the islands. Turkey vultures roost in large numbers and feed on the shores.

The data the BSBO gathers is then passed on to the Hawk Migration Association of North America and will be used to aid in preservation of habitat and for environmental education. Lisa Brohl and Kathy Staley are trying to fill in the shoes of Stan in this year's Raptor Watch to keep the data current for the islands.

From March 12, 2003, (when we began the Watch) through the first of April, we have consistently seen turkey vultures (up to 80 per day) and Red-tailed Hawks (up to 15 per day). We have also seen several Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Red-shouldered Hawks. We have seen four Bald Eagles, a couple of Northern Harriers, a couple of American Kestrels and one Rough-legged hawk during our count. We have yet to see any Broad-winged Hawks or Osprey, which we should see by the middle of April.

During this survey, we have had the good fortune to see the return of some of our favorite spring birds including Killdeer, Meadowlark, Phoebe, Bluebird, Tree Swallows, along with Great Blue Herons. We have also enjoyed the migration of waterfowl especially Bufflehead, Common Golden-eyes, Lesser and Greater Scaup, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necks, and Common, Hooded, and Red-breasted Mergansers. We were even lucky enough to see six Surf Scoters off the lighthouse point! What a wonderful place we have to watch spring bird migration! And so important to keep habitat available for these migratory species to use!

LEIC-BSC Raffle Winners

Our LEIC raffle tickets were drawn at the LEIHS closing party in September 2002. Roberta Jones from Little Canada, Minnesota won the first prize of an Interlake Steamship trip for four. Roberta is a familiar face around the island as she has a summer home on Middle Bass. Anthony Bagnick from Lake Ariel, Pennsylvania won the second prize of a charter with Ladd's Marina. Bill Market won the third prize a Kelly Faris original photo. \$5,000 in profit were made on the raffle. Thanks to Interlake Steamship Company, Ladd's Marina, and Kelly Faris for their donations and thanks to all who sold and bought tickets! John Ladd and Elizabeth Heineman were our big sellers



ELDERHOSTEL PROGRAMS

LEIC-BSC will sponsor natural history programs for the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society's Elderhostel program. Bird walks Mon - Wed 7:00 a.m. each week. Evening programs at PIB Town Hall. Public welcome.

5/12, 5/19, 6/2 - Brad Titchener "Birds of South Bass Island" 7:00 p.m.

5/13 - Kristin Stanford "Lake Erie Water Snake" 7:00 p.m.

5/20 - Tom Bartlett "Warblers Crossing Lake Erie" 7:00 p.m.

5/21 - Tom Bartlett Bird banding demo (Barnhill Vineyard) 7:00 a.m.-12:00PM. Join for any length of time during the morning to watch!

6/3 - Dr. Carmen Trisler "Dragonflies of the Bass Islands" 7:00 p.m.

