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**OUR MISSION**

The mission of the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center is to promote conservation and education of the flora, fauna, and lands of the Lake Erie Islands ecosystem.

**LEINWC**

**2014 Visitor Log**

Visitors came to the Wildlife Center from **36 states** and **9 countries**

**Monarch Roosts and Migration**

Candy & Kasey Sarikonda



Our family journeyed to the Lake Erie Islands the weekend of September 13th & 14th. The kids wanted chocolate and a fun weekend on the island, and I wanted to document the monarch migration on South Bass island. I brought Journey North flyers with me, and my LEINWC naturalist friend Jackie Taylor and I peppered the island with flyers--restaurants, hotels, The Butterfly House, ferry, etc. We had a mission to document the monarch migration in and around the islands.

My kids, hubby and I arrived at the Miller ferry dock on Catawba Island, ready to load our car and ride across to South Bass island. It was miserably cold, 56F, with strong winds out of the north, easily 20-30 mph sustained gusts. Bone-chilling cold. The winds were so strong that waves were crashing over the ferry dock, and the ride across was a bit rough--our daughter got seasick for the first time ever while crossing. White caps everywhere, easily 4-6 ft waves. But we made it safely, no sweat for seasoned ferry captains.

We arrived to the island, got a quick bite to eat, and headed to the east side of the island to meet up with Jackie. I saw a monarch in the restaurant parking lot, one crossing the road near the Butterfly House, and one crossing the road as we left Jackie's. My hopes rose--monarchs flying around in the interior of the island, bad weather--I knew chances were good that monarchs were gathered at the lighthouse.

We got to the lighthouse grounds, and found a few monarchs nectaring in the sunflower field and Waystation. I figured they would roost closer to 4 pm, so we left to visit the downtown playground. We returned around 3pm, and more were gathering to roost. A local family has a private drive to their home, where monarchs often roost in the trees along the driveway.



The owners very kindly give nature center staff permission to tag and photograph monarchs there. I walked up the drive, and my jaw dropped. I shrieked. Dozens and dozens of monarchs. I texted Jackie--"Get here NOW." I took photos, hubby videotaped with his cellphone. I started counting individual butterflies, and had just reached 200 when Jackie walked up--I had only counted about half the roosts. There were about 350 monarchs along the driveway, and my husband counted another 50 or so flying in the trees by the lighthouse and flying deeper into the tree canopy where he lost sight of them. It was awesome! I felt like I was at Pacific Grove.

We left for a short while, returning about 1 1/2hrs later to see what was going on. Monarchs closer to the ground had moved higher. Those that were mid-canopy had stayed put. The wind was easing up at the lighthouse, but still a strong breeze. It was quiet, warm and still by the tree-lined driveway where most of the roosts were.

Another cold night, and we awoke to a cool cloudy morning. By 10 am, it was still only 55F. Around noon, it finally warmed up to 58F, and monarchs started leaving the roosts and heading to the sunflower field or Waystation to feed. There were dozens, and Jackie tagged about 50 of them. Visitors to the lighthouse grounds noticed the monarchs, and Jackie and I held several impromptu talks with visitors, and encouraged them to report sightings on Journey North (JN). I taped a JN flyer to the entrance pole of the lighthouse grounds. People really enjoyed seeing the roosts, and were very interested to learn more about tagging and the migration through the islands.

As the day went on, the skies cleared and the sun came out more and more. Winds calmed. I knew the monarchs would leave. We returned to the lighthouse grounds after lunch, and several visitors greeted us, reporting that monarchs were nectaring on the plants alongside the cliff (next to the water). I knew the monarchs were leaving. We returned about 5 pm, and found only a few dozen monarchs remaining. It was a good day to cross the lake, just 3 miles to the mainland! The ferry ride home was smooth and warm, kids had a much better time this trip. Smooth sailing for us and the monarchs!



(left) Bob Cummings won the Raffle to Rattlesnake Island! He brought his daughter Kelly and son-in-law Eric Halterman to dinner to join him. Thanks Glenn Cooper for the boat ride over!



(right) Chloe Nostrant & Austin Halterman helped stop invasive species by pulling honeysuckle for an afternoon at the Wildlife Center!

# Thanks to all of our Volunteers!

*Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. ~Author Unknown*



(left) Thanks Russ Brohl for all of your help at the Wildlife Center this year! You are a big asset to the Wildlife Center, Nature Camp, and helping with the fundraiser setting up and taking down/cleaning up at the Goat.



(Top) Glenn Cooper was our chase boat for the kayaking adventures during nature camp, thanks for using your boat and taking the time to keep everyone safe!



(left) Bob Glauser for helping move and stabilize the cave display at the Wildlife Center, and be our nice Boat Captain during our fishing adventures at nature camp!

(Bottom) Thanks to Zoly Urge for coming to the nature camp kickoff party and talking about the great cave project he and his classmates did much work on!

**Volunteers at the Wildlife Center!**  
**Brad Titchener**  
**Cecilia Glauser**  
**Hannah Lentz**  
**Marsha Vanscoy, & Doris Hubschman**

Yardworks for mowing at the NWC ~ Sue Bixler, Kate Ptak, & Peggy Leopold for helping with various jobs ~ John Franks & The crew from Marjorie Book Continuing Education Center for spreading mulch ~ Toledo School for the Arts painting cave display ~ Paula Ziebarth for bird monitoring at the NWC.



## Sponsorships for LEINWC

Lake Erie Watersnake– Business  
**Bruce Miles- Miles Products**  
 Monarch Butterfly– Family  
**Tim & Jeanette Luecke**

## Building Foundation Donors

Bill and Sue Latham  
 Richard Gump ~ Susan Amerine  
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 Lenore Frederick  
 Amy Huston ~ Denny & Vicky Boyer  
 James & Constance French  
 Eddie & Ricki Herdendorf  
 Kayak Rendezvous



## The Fundraiser was A SUCCESS!

The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center made progress towards funding our new addition. We need more space to provide more education for youth and adult visitors to our islands as well as the local community.



The success of the Hog Roast- Fundraiser for the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center (LEINWC) is a reflection of the increasing dedication and enthusiasm from the volunteers and donors who helped to make the event great. "Thank You!" We look forward to working with everyone again in the future. Thank you to everyone coming and supporting the Wildlife Center. Hope everyone had a nice

Scotty, Caroline, & everyone at the Goat for helping to make this event happen. The space is perfect, and everyone was great to work with.

Topsy Turvey for providing the coleslaw & salad

PIB Brewery for the potatoes

### **T&J'S FOR THE BEANS**

Crew's Nest for the napkins, plates, & cups

The PIB Fire Department for all of the tables Rob Hard and Pinky

Batt for the pig

Heineman's Winery for 3 bottles of wine and for palettes

for under the new cave display

Perry Fun center for free admission to their activities and donation of Glass Butterfly

Boardwalk for \$100.00 in Boardwalk bucks & DELICIOUS shrimp platter

Miller Boat Line for 4 Adult Round-Trip Passenger Tickets

The Re-Sale Shop for donation of Boy Scout box and other items for the auction

Donald Massie for the Michigan Tickets

Tom Mumford from Bassett's on Catawba Island helped with buns & lemonade.

Kate Ptak for organizing the "Out of the Box" auction

### **KENDRA KOEHLER, PEGGY LEOPOLD, LISA BROHL, AND AMY HUSTON WHO HELPED SET UP THE AUCTION**

Roger Fulton for helping with the drinks

All the artists and creative people who provided the boxes!

Kim Miles~Celeste Mycoskie ~ Nature Camp Kids ~ Mark Nemece

Ruthanne McGookey ~ Marylou Ramsbottom ~ Macy Ladd

Seven Students from the Toledo School for the Arts~ Sally Duffy

Kerry Burris~ Sandi Glauser ~ Janet Bergen~ Lisa and Russ Brohl

Anonymous Friends!

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**  
THE ISLAND BAND!  
WE KNOW YOU DID IT FOR THE



With this kind of teamwork our addition will soon be completed!!

## THANKS FROM NATURE CAMP AT THE BAY 2014

### Lisa Brohl

The Nature Camp kids on South Bass enjoyed learning all about Water this summer!-including a water festival day at LEINWC, learning about aquatic invasives with Ranger Kathi Holbrook (getting their Junior Ranger Badge) and all about turtles with Jennifer Heemeyer from OSU Stone Lab with a guest appearance from Steve Stapleton's pet turtles. Wetland Day was a big but muddy hit for everyone this year- whether it was the pre-schoolers at LEINWC or the Adventure Camp exploring Terwilligers or Pinky's Pond. Thanks Coopers for access! The older campers enjoyed a kayaking/geocaching adventure with Jen Miller, Karen Wilhelm and Tom Galbraith, fishing with OSU, Paul Ladd, Russ Brohl, and Bob Glauser, and camping at South Bass Island State Park with a record 30 kids for the Adventure Camp .Gene Zajac held a star night for our Campout and it was actually clear enough for the kids all to see Jupiter!

We would like to thank all these presenters mentioned above as well as Glen Cooper for his kayak chase boat and Pat Chrysler for fishing equipment use, Thanks to our hardworking staff Lisa Brohl, Jackie Taylor, Kate Ptak, Kim Miles, Chloe Nostrant, Hailey and Austin Halterman and wonderful assistants and volunteers Paige Hill, Tatyana Kowalski, Hannah Lentz, Carol Roberts, Valerie Chornyak, Carolyn Young, and Gene Zajac! We couldn't put camp together without all the great ideas and lots of support! Big thanks to John and Peggy Leopold, Zoly Urge, Valerie Chornyak, Hannah Lentz, Leah Bilski, and Jodi and Bob Frimel for their help with the Opening Party for Nature Camp! Thanks to Zoly Urge for bringing the Cave Research Display from his class at Put-in-Bay High School to share with Campers and Parents that day!

Thanks to our supporters the Put-in-Bay Recreation Committee, Miller Boat Line for passage for speakers, the Ohio Division of Wildlife for books, magazines and tattoos, the OSU Stone Lab for support, Valerie Chornyak and Kate Ptak for stuffing prize bags, our staff and volunteers at LEINWC for copying and stapling, and Sarah Toole for registration. Thanks to Valerie Chornyak and the Put-in-Bay Senior Center for their help with filling and chilling our water bottles.

Thanks to those who provided food and supplies for campouts-Michelle Lagor, Karen Edwards, Deana Butler, Suzanne Kostura, Rachel Riddle, Laura Coviello, Betty Bliss, Heidi Ladd, Christie Keyes, Jill Cooks, Steve Riddle, Emily Deeks, Doraine Thoms, Carol Roberts, Valerie Chornyak, and Gary Noble.

We really appreciate all the help we get in teaching kids about the beautiful islands they live and play on! With the **100 kids who participate in Nature Camp at the Bay each year**, we are bursting at the seams at the LEINWC. Consider a donation to our Building Addition Fund so that we can have a nice screened, covered porch on the back of the Center to accommodate more Nature campers in all weather!



## LEINWC Sponsorship Form

**Categories- all will get free newsletter!**

**Black Squirrel \$15.00 Individual Member**- Unlimited admission into LEINWC

**Monarch Butterfly \$25.00 Family Member**- Unlimited admission, 5% discount off of Nature Camp

**Lake Erie Watersnake \$100 Business Member**- Unlimited admission, includes ad in each newsletter and a link on our web, 10% discount off of Nature Camp

**Bald Eagle \$500 Life member**- Unlimited admission, 25% discount off of Nature Camp, Name on a tile on the Eastern Fox Snake that will be displayed outside of the building

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 sponsorship, I would like to donate to:***

***Nature Camp Fund***

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center, to be used only for expenses and equipment related to the Nature Camp Program.

I understand that I will receive a *Certificate of Donation* for income tax purposes.

***Building Addition Fund***

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to build an addition for the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center.

*Please make checks payable to (LEINWC) Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center*

*Please Send to: **PO Box 871, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456** All donations are tax deductible **Thank You!***

**FALL ROAD SCHOLAR Article & photos by Susan Byrnes**

The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center hosted a great week of Road Scholar (Elderhostel) programs about the history& natural history of the Lake Erie Islands, called The Spirit of the Lake Erie Islands: The Drama, The Beauty, The Science. The participants spent the day on Kelleys Island in addition to their time spent on Put-in-Bay. Many thanks to Ahoy, Ashley’s, English Pines and Arbor Inn for lodging, the Crew’s Nest for the fabulous meals and the island businesses for welcoming the Road Scholar groups at their attractions, and our evening speaker presentations by Solar Ambassador Gene Zajac, Dr. Kristin Stanford and Dr. Eddie Herdendorf. Also, many thanks to our group leaders Jackie Taylor and Lisa Brohl. To register for this program or our other two programs - Birding and a *New* Photography program, log on at [www.roadscholar.org](http://www.roadscholar.org) - program #1804 (History/Natural History), #12641(Birdiing) or #21772 (photography). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me 419-285-2306.



## MIDDLE BASS NATURE CAMP 2014– Tina Larson

The kids at the Middle Bass Nature Camp had a great time this year! The camp was sponsored by the Middle Bass Island Board of Education and was organized by the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center. The younger kids learned about wetlands, turtles, aquatic invasive species, and water! The older Environmental Adventure Camp kids enjoyed a swamp stamp, kayaking, and fishing, and overnight camping at the Roesch's. The older kids will be joining with those from South Bass to camp at the Kelleys Island State Park the last week in July. Bills will be forthcoming for that week.

Thanks to our instructors Lisa Brohl, Tina Larson, Kate Ptak, Jackie Taylor, Kim Miles, Hailey Halterman and assistants Maddie Hart and Adelaide Aquilla. Special thanks to Austin Halterman and our AmeriCorp intern Chloe Nostrant for serving as overnight chaperones for our campouts. Thanks to special guests Karen Wilhelm, Kathie Holbrook, Gene Zajac, and Jennifer Heemeyer for coming to teach the kids that week as well. Thanks to the Middle Bass State Park for use of the pavilion for our wetlands day. A special thank to the Middle Bass Town Hall for the use of their facilities, the Middle Bass School Board for their support, Miller Boat Line for passage for our speakers and employees, Valerie Chornyak and Kate Ptak for stuffing the last day bags, the Middle Bass State Park for the use of their porch and dock. The Ohio Division of Wildlife lent support through their donation of butterfly books, Wild Ohio magazines, and tattoos for the kids to enjoy. Thanks Kelly Halterman for nature camp mailings!

Jim Roesch was very generous again to let the EAC 1 Camp use his property for their overnight campout and to the Middle Bass Fire Department for the use of their porta potty. Glen Cooper donated his time to operate a chase boat for our Kayaking day and Pat Chrysler let us use some of his fishing poles and tackle for our Fishing day. Thanks to Anil Mullapodi for some AV help with our astronomy program.

Thanks to Bruce and Christi Calmer, Joy Amos, Jill and Don Hubbard, Marcy O'Loughlin, Heather Mullapodi, Rachel Rayburn, Beth Homen, Deanne Kovach, Maggie Hornbostel, Kristin Effinger, Robbie Schneider, Dawn Staschiak who contributed food for the campouts. Thanks to Michelle Ralofsky for the firewood for our campouts. We appreciate parent volunteers Jill and Don Hubbard, Tracy Aquilla, Joy Amos, Marcy O'Loughlin, and Maggie Hornbostel who helped out with meals during the EAC 1 campout. We appreciate the cooperation of our vendors the Middle Bass Ferry, the Middle Bass General Store, Kayak the Bay, the Ohio State University Stone Lab, and Island Transportation.

Thanks also to anyone we have forgotten as we really appreciate all the help we get in teaching the kids about the beautiful islands they live on!



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We're on the web & Facebook!

[Lakeerieislandswildlife.com](http://Lakeerieislandswildlife.com)



## Getting Wild on Tuesdays

We averaged around 70 people per week that came to learn more about Ohio's native wildlife!

Kate Byrnes and her cousin Lauren Novak at Wild Tuesday– Bats with Debbie Nofzinger from Sandusky County Parks ( photo by Susan Byrnes)



Joseph Byrnes sharing his lizards at Wild Tuesday with Chloe Lagor, Jack and Carolyn Young of Chalet at the Wildlife Center.( photo by Susan Byrnes)

Josh from Crawford County Parks came to talk all about Salamanders. Ella Kostura Loved it!

