



# Nature News

Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center

Fall 2016

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Chair

Kristin Stanford

### Secretary

Peggy Leopold

### Treasurer

Jeanette Luecke

### Board Members

Lisa Brohl

Susan Byrnes

Marsha Collett

Kate Ptak

### Education

### Director

Jackie Taylor

## Wildlife Center Hours

Open  
Memorial Day to  
Labor Day  
11am-5pm  
OR  
By Appointment



## Nature Camp 2016

By Jackie Taylor

The Nature Camp mission is to encourage children's natural curiosity of the outdoors by engaging them in fun and educational activities.

The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center has successfully been doing this since 2003 for youths 4-14 years old, reaching out to over 100 campers each year to help them learn about the Lake Erie Islands ecosystem. Topics we have covered over the years have included bats, snakes, turtles, fish, butterflies and moths, slugs, caves, and much more. This year Nature Camp learned all about trees and birds!

**Intro to Nature Camp** (age 4) and **My First Nature Camp** (ages 5 and 6) met for three days. On the first two days camp was at the Wildlife Center. Lester Peyton and Kate Zimmerman from the Black Swamp Bird Observatory came and did programs on owls and showed the kids different nest types such as hummingbird, robin, bank swallow, Baltimore oriole, and others. Our campers had the opportunity to touch the different nests and feel the different nesting materials birds use such as; webbing from spider webs, mud held together with saliva, grass, sticks, and even



garbage. On the third day of camp Ranger Kathy Holbrook hosted camp at Perry's Monument. She had a variety of activities for the kids so they could learn more about trees and the benefits they provide for us and wildlife. We even had the opportunity to go to the top of the monument. It was a beautiful day and we could see all the way to Canada.

**Nature Camp** (ages 7 and 8) met four days. They discovered nature at the State Park, South Bass Island Lighthouse, Perry's Monument, and Jane Coates Wildflower Trail. All of the campers received Rite-in-the-Rain field notebooks so they could draw, sketch, and write what they observed each day at camp. Long time birder Paula Ziebarth came and showed the kids different bird nests on the island, like purple martins, swallows, chickadees, and a few others we found along the trails.



Nature Camp 2016 continued on pg. 2



We used binoculars to get a closer look at the birds and their behaviors. She showed the kids how she monitors nests on the island, and how we can help our birds through conservation. The last day of camp was at Perry's Monument with Ranger Kathy Holbrook, she had activities on owls, then took the campers outside to listen to the different bird calls, and to spot birds on the monument grounds. She also had the kids go on a nature walk looking at the trees and learning how they have important benefits for all of us.

**Environmental Adventure Camp I.** (ages 9 and 10) and **Environmental Adventure Camp II.** (ages 11-14) met four



days. The first day Lester Peyton came back with Ryan Jacob from the Black Swamp Bird Observatory. They met us out at Scheeff East Point Preserve to band birds. We banded goldfinches, tree swallows, and a yellow warbler! We did catch a European starling too, but of course we did not band it because that is an invasive species. The second day we enjoyed a kayaking adventure from Kayak the Bay. Before we headed out onto the water we talked about safety, gear, parts of the

boat, paddling, and what happens if we fall out of our kayak. We paddled around Gibraltar Island and into the inlet by the bay. The third and fourth days EAC I. camped out at the State Park. For some of the campers it was their very first time ever camping! EAC II. Camped out on Middle Bass Island at the State Park. Our transportation to MBI was on the Miller Ferry! We did a moth program, kept cool with much needed swimming, and enjoyed the starry skies before we called it a night.

We would like to thank all the presenters mentioned above as well as Glen Cooper and Russ Brohl for being the chase boats for our kayaking days. Thanks

to our hardworking staff Lisa Brohl, Jackie Taylor, Kate Ptak, Debbie Larcey, Addison Torrence, Austin Halterman, Jenna Prahst, and wonderful assistants and volunteers Tatyana Kowalski, Kathy

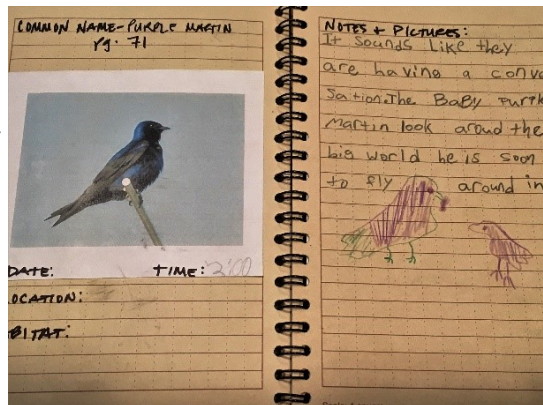


Weber, Valerie Chornyak, and Gene Zajac! We could not put camp together without all their great ideas and support!

Thanks to our supporters - The Put-in-Bay Recreation Committee, Miller Boat Line for passage for speakers and for transportation to Middle Bass Island, Captains Glenn Cooper and David Dress, crew Doug Wilhelm, Don Massey and Bo Teminuk. The Ohio Division of Wildlife for books, CD's, magazines and tattoos, The Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory for support, our staff and volunteers at LEINWC for copying and stapling, and Sarah Toole and Jeanette Luecke for handling all of the registrations. Thanks to those who provided food and supplies for the campouts!

We really appreciate all the help we get in teaching kids about the beautiful islands they live and play on! With the **100 plus kids who participate in Nature Camp at the Bay each year**, we are bursting at the seams at the LEINWC. Please 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!





## Another Great Summer

Jackie Taylor

The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center had another eventful and very successful season! We would like to thank everyone who helped support our mission, to promote conservation of and education about the flora, fauna, and lands of the Lake Erie Islands ecosystem.



This summer our **Wild Tuesday** out-reach and education programs had the highest visitation each week than we have ever had in the past years! The purpose of these programs is to educate visitors about Ohio's native wildlife by providing an up-close and often hands-on interactive experience.



We had an amazing group of speakers who came to help make this happen: Josh

Dyer from Crawford County Parks - Salamanders, Kathie Holbrook from Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial- Invasive Species, Kristin Stanford from The Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory- Snakes, Gene Zajac from The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center- Sun, Jackie Taylor from The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center- Turtles, Candy Sarikonda from Monarch Watch- Butterflies, Jan Ferrell from Gorman Nature Center- Owls, Debbie Nofzinger from Sandusky County Park District- Bats, Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory - Fish, and Judy Semroc from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History- Dragonflies. These programs are sponsored by: Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center, Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, The Ohio State University's Stone



Laboratory, and Miller Boat Line. Thank you for the much needed support!

As most of us remember, the weather that was predicted for the night of the **Stargazing Cruise** was supposed to be rainy and cloudy but the prediction was just that... and thankfully it was wrong. There was a slight breeze, about 75 degrees at sunset, there was a nice lightning show to the south of us but we had extraordinary clear skies for viewing the stars! Around 200 people came aboard the Miller Boat Line's MV South Bass to enjoy the event. Snacks were provided by the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy, and wine from Heineman's Winery. Jay Reynolds and Gene Zajac were big assets. They roamed among the passengers to answer questions and tell stories about the



constellations, moon, and stars. Jay and Gene are astronomers and both have worked in planetariums. Plus, we were able to see twelve of the Lake Erie Islands during the cruise. A special thanks to Miller Boat Line, Captain Glenn Cooper and David Dress, and Deck Hand

Doug Wilhelm for donating their time! We would not have been able to do this without their help! We would also like to thank everyone who came out to support the Wildlife Center that evening!

The success of the 4<sup>th</sup> **Annual Pig Roast** for the Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center is a reflection of the increasing dedication and enthusiasm from the volunteers and donors who helped to make the event great. Each year the event is hosted at the Goat Soup and Whiskey. The yummy food was

donated by island businesses: Topsy Turveys, T&J's, Frosty's, Put-in-Bay Brewery, and Tippers. Amy Huston made all of the desserts, Pepsi donated all of the water, and the Put-in-Bay Fire Department provided the tables! Rob Hard cooked the Pig, and had assistance from Pinky Batt. The entertainment was provided by Ray Fogg and Drew LaPlante. (Article Continued on pg. 4)







Special thanks to everyone who helped us set up, clean up, and during the event: Debbie Larcey, Jackie Taylor and her mom Rhoda Taylor, Kate Ptak, Peggy and John Leopold, Marsha Collett, Amy Huston, Mark Nemec, Tim, Jean-

ette, and Matthew Luecke, Jenna, Sue, and Steve Prahst, Kristin Stanford, Sandi Glauser, Russ and Lisa Brohl, and Glenn Cooper. The auction items that we had donated were very nice! Mark Nemec made a bench from a Jenny Lind bed frame that was stunning and Steve Nemec donated two tickets to Cedar Point. Jessie Green donated a handmade Ohio necklace with Lake Erie sea glass and the Put-in-Bay Biplane was a nice addition many people bid on. Susan Byrnes donated one of her necklaces she made on South Bass Island and a beautifully framed wildflower photo. Christie Ontko donated merchandise from Freshwater Retreat and Remedies. Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center with the help of Glenn Cooper and Jackie Taylor donated a trip for two to North Bass Island to tag Monarchs and enjoy the island. Keith Folk from Rattlesnake Island donated a trip for two people for dinner and a tour, and Glenn Cooper provided transportation for this event. The Luecke's donated Tim's handmade wooden sculpture of Perry's Monument made from island cedar wood, and Sandi Glauser made an exquisite quilt! A special thanks to Maria Stameva, Sue Amrine, Bob and Jean Hilt, Janet Bergan, and Adohr Corporation for their special donations.

The Wildlife Center Board of Directors includes: Chair- Kristin Stanford, Secretary- Peggy Leopold, Treasurer- Jeanette Luecke, Board Members- Lisa Brohl, Susan Byrnes, Marsha Collett, Kate Ptak, and Education Director- Jackie Taylor.

The 2016 summer staff was AMAZING! Thank you to Victoria Grams, Addison Torrence, Joe Byrnes, Karen Dolejs, Renee Foltz, Volunteer Brad Titchener, and Americorps Intern Jenna Prahst and her mom Sue for helping too! This was such a dynamic group of people who provided so much to the Wildlife Center!

It is hard to believe that summer is over, and we are changing gears and already thinking about the 2017 season! We are thankful that we had such a great season of events and programs and happy that we have such a large group of support.

## **Bird Boxes at the Wildlife Center**

*Thank you Paula Ziebarth*

At the Wildlife Center we have several bird boxes. During the summers Paula Ziebarth has been monitoring boxes on South Bass Island. Before the birds fledged- or "left the nest", her reports were as followed:

**Box #1** (Butterfly Garden) – Tree Swallows (TRES) were fledging on June 12th.

**Box #2** (On Hill) – 4 TRES about 11 days old – we were able to take a quick peek of the babies with visitors for a few days!

**Box #3** (By Frog Pond)- House Wrens (HOWR) had 7 eggs. We also opened and took a look at the nest to see the stick nest and eggs.

**Box #4** (triangular box on tree) – TRES had 6 naked young that were about 4 days old on June 12th. The young felt cold to the touch and lethargic. We were able to move them to a nest near by, where they could be taken care of.



## **Founders Day**

The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center had a booth in the park at Founders Day. We had an activity area with nature themed activities for kids. Jackie Taylor was able to use a variety of activities that have been used in past years from our Nature Camps

and Wild Tuesday programs.

The pictures are of Crystal Bykowski Jurkiewicz of Ottawa Lake, MI and Put-in-Bay and her daughter Olivia (4). Crystal sent an email with these photos saying "Olivia had a great time, the kids activities and all the freebies (for adults) made for a fun day"



## **Lake Erie Wing Watch 2016**

*Things with Wings*

The **Lake Erie Wing Watch** is a family birding event held every other year in either Erie or Ottawa County. This year the celebration titled "Things with Wings" was held Saturday, September 17th at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge with talks, tram tours, hikes, vendors and more. There were hikes at four locations on Sunday, September 18th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. As part of Wing Watch, on Saturday, September 17th, Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center's Jackie Taylor gave a talk at 11:00 am at the ONWR on Monarch Butterflies. Lisa Brohl from the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy spoke on Dragonflies at 4:00 pm at the ONWR and led a walk on Sunday, September 18 at the South Bass Island Lighthouse from 9:00 -11:00 am looking for migrating songbirds, monarchs, and dragonflies.

For more information go to- <http://www.friendsofottawanwr.org/lake-erie-wing-watch.html>





# "GUEST BARTENDER"

## FUNDRAISER FOR LAKE ERIE ISLANDS CONSERVANCY

**AT THE REEL BAR**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016**  
**6:00 TO 9:00 PM**

PLEASE COME & ENJOY A MEAL AND/OR A  
DRINK TO SUPPORT THE CONSERVANCY

THE GUEST BARTENDERS WILL BE MEMBERS OF  
THE LAKE ERIE ISLANDS NATURE &  
WILDLIFE CENTER

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**12.8.16**  
**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Mark your calendar for this year's holiday shopping extravaganza - the Christmas Bazaar on Thursday, Dec 8th from 3pm to 7pm at the Town Hall. Artists and crafters will be selling their wares at the Town Hall. A few of the items for sale this year include PIB jewelry, island photography art and notecards, island memorabilia, baked goods and festive foods, and much more.

Come out, SHOP LOCAL and visit with friends - all while getting a jump on your holiday shopping. The bazaar is sponsored by:

*The Lake Erie Islands Conservancy*  
*The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center.*

Any questions, contact Susan Byrnes  
e-mail: byrnespib@frontier.com  
call 419-285-2306.

## Lets Go Krogering!

**The LEINWC IS PART OF THE  
KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS  
PROGRAM!**

Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card  
handy and register your card with the  
**Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife  
Center**



- Enter NPO #-54153 or name of organization
- select organization from list and click on confirm.

All of the reward points will go toward the  
Wildlife Center Building  
Addition Funding!

Register online at  
[krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)

## LEINWC's Little Free Library

By Lisa Brohl

The Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center is home to a nature themed *Little Free Library* this year! Check out the website [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org) for listings around Ohio and the country. Dr. Carmen Trisler has one in her yard and past vice president Valerie Mettler told us all about the little libraries in Marion, Ohio where she now sits on a Library board. We are hosting one of the free lending library for Nature books, field guides, and children's books. There are no posted hours-just come and borrow a book or too, the case is unlocked. Casey Carty has built ours and the location is registered and marked on the Little Free Library web-site. Look for advertisements on our Facebook and website for updates on themes of books in the "Library".



## Wine in the Garden to Support The Americorps Intern

The event could not have been a success with out the help and support from Steve, Sue , and Jenna Prahst. They organized and contributed their time towards the event. With special thanks to: Lisa Brohl for setting up and donating a nice gift basket, Kendra Koehler, Debbie Larcey, Sandi Glauser and Marsha VanScoy, for working at the event from start to finish, Amy Huston for donating yummy food and matching funds, Gordy Barr also donated toward the event and the Goat for donating ice!

Pictured: Kendra Koehler, Sue, Steve, and Jenna Prahst





# Jack-O'-Lantern For Wildlife

When carving your Halloween pumpkins, create a Jack-o'-lantern for wildlife by making an extra-wide mouth. Fill it with birdseed, cracked corn, peanuts, pumpkin seeds, and other wildlife treats.

## JACK-O' -LANTERN OBSERVATIONS

List the criters that use the pumpkin, and make notes of what they are doing– eating, perching? And, the nice aroma– What does Jack smell like after a few weeks?

1. CRITTER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. CRITTER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. CRITTER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. CRITTER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. CRITTER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Hooray For Decay!

A Jack-O'- Lantern can get even scarier looking once Halloween is over and it is left out in the weather. Mild days and cool nights mixed with seasonal rain will set the stage for decomposition.

Decomposition is the process of breaking down organic material, such as dead plants and animal tissue, into smaller parts. Decomposers (Bacteria, fungi, earthworms, and a variety of other organisms) these organisms carry out the decomposition process. The organic material created by decomposition is an important part of soil.

After Halloween, set your Jack-O'- Lantern outside and let the pumpkin begin to rot. Check out your pumpkin daily. Take photos or make sketches at different intervals to record the changes. The pumpkin will be a food source for a host of insects and worms.

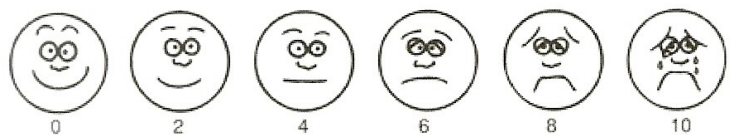


Slugs enjoying the rotten pumpkin!

## STINK-O'- LANTERN OBSERVATIONS

What does Jack smell like after a few weeks? On a scale below write the number that best fits what you smell. Mark 1 if Jack smells pretty good, and 10 if he smells awful.

Days: \_\_\_\_\_







Betsy Brohl of Middle Bass and Delray Beach, Florida volunteered at the LEINWC this fall



Sue Prahst helped at the Wildlife Center in a variety of ways this summer. Thank you so much for all of the nice help!



Thank you to Glenn Cooper for the transportation to Rattlesnake Island and Keith Folk for the nice raffle item to benefit the LEINWC. Travis and Misi Kowalski won the raffle! Glenn Cooper and Jackie Taylor are pictured with them.

## SPONSORS

### **BLACK SQUIRREL**

Joseph Link

### **MONARCH BUTTERFLY**

Walter Duff

Stephen & Natalie Price

Josh & Christy Noble

Kristen & Josh Hooper

Ken & Trish Kowalski

### **BALD EAGLE**

Mr. Mark Nemec

James & Sally Duffy

### **GENERAL FUND**

Mark Nemec

Julene Market

International Shipmasters Association-Cleveland Lodge

Mary and Skip Skuggen

### **BUILDING FUND**

Joseph Link

Bruce Miles

Richard Gump, R. Gump Builders

Judy Semroc

Doris Hubschman

Mark Nemec came to us this summer asking for our logo. I wondered what he would like it for, but gave it to him without hesitation. So this is what he did with it, put it on his awesome car. What a great idea. Thanks Mark.



Arbor Inn B&B

A Quiet Couples Retreat

419-285-2306

[www.arborinnpib.com](http://www.arborinnpib.com)



## Road Scholar

By Lisa Brohl



*The Spirit of the Lake Erie Islands* Road Scholar week was fun filled with nineteen participants from six states. With group leaders Valerie Chornyak and Lisa Brohl, they toured the island by tour train, visited Perry's Victory and IPM, The Ohio State University Stone Lab and Aquatic Visitor Center, caves, wineries, and the LEIHS. They watched Tom and Paula Bartlett band birds at the Vineyard, and learned about bats from Debbie Nofzinger. On Thursday, they traveled to Kelleys Island with Pat Chrysler and Russ Brohl on the *West Reef*, visited the glacial grooves, quarries, Inscription Rock, and had a great perch lunch at Camp Patmos. They were entertained in the evening with lectures by Gene Zajac, Kristin Stanford, and Dr. Larry Krissek.

*The Photography of the Lake Erie Islands* group was led by Tim Daniels and Nina Harfman. They visited the many island scenic locations: South Bass Island Lighthouse, churches, barns, vineyards, Scheeff East Point, Massie Cliffside Preserve, and the Butterfly House-as well as photographing sunset, sunrise, and the panoramic views from the top of Perry's Victory. They enjoyed a day trip to Middle Bass Island for bird banding and visits to the historic Town Hall, School and cemetery with a great pizza lunch at the Middle Bass General Store. Dianne Smith and Lisa Brohl were group leaders. Both groups enjoyed hospitality at the island's bed and breakfasts and great

food with Chef Mike at the Crews Nest! Thanks to all who help make Road Scholar happen-coordinator Susan Byrnes, Miller Boat Line, and Put-in-Bay Taxi.

### Road Scholar Coordinator's Report By: Susan Byrnes

2016 marks the 16th year that Road Scholar has Offered Programs on Put-in-Bay. Three fascinating Road Scholar learning adventures, sponsored by The Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center, are offered:

1. The ever-popular birding program offered in early May - experiencing the spring bird migration on the islands and shores
2. A fabulous photography program offered in spring and fall, taking advantage of colorful Put-in-Bay and all its natural beauty
3. A full week of history and natural history activities for which the island is well known for offered in the fall

#### 2017 Road Scholar programs:

April 30-May 5 #12641 Lake Erie Birding: The Islands and Shores

May 7-12, #12641 Lake Erie Birding: The Islands and Shores

May 14-19 #21772 Photographing The Splendor of the Lake Erie Islands

Sept 10-15 #1804 The Spirit of the Lake Erie Islands: The Drama, The Beauty, The Science

Sept 17-22 #1804 The Spirit of the Lake Erie Islands: The Drama, The Beauty, The Science

Sept 24-29 #21772 Photographing the Splendor of the Lake Erie Islands

For additional information and to enroll in any of these Road Scholar programs, visit [www.roadscholar.org](http://www.roadscholar.org) or call 1800.454.5768

---

# #GivingTuesday 11.29.2016

This Year on November 29, 2016 The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center Is Participating in #GivingTuesday, a Global Day Dedicated to GIVING!

#GivingTuesday is held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving to kick-off the holiday giving season and inspire people to collaborate in improving their local communities and to give back in impactful ways to causes you support.

**To learn more please visit [givingtuesday.org](http://givingtuesday.org)**

We joined #GivingTuesday as a way to support the Building Addition Fund so we can continue to grow our programs. We average 8,000 visitors per year, as well as several hundred Nature Campers, nearly one thousand attendees of our Wild Tuesday programs, and around one hundred Road Scholar participants. We are growing rapidly and need more space to sustain our educational center as well as to run our programs for youth and adults who visit the LEINWC and attend our programs.

We are seeking assistance to help fund our building addition. We hired an architect who has prepared drawings of the addition to be built in two phases. We have set up a Building Addition Fund for which we have solicited pledges and donations in the local Put-in-Bay Gazette, the LEINWC Nature News, electronic media, and from our Nature Camp parents. In addition, very successful fundraisers have been held during the summers of 2013- 2016 at the Goat restaurant organized by Wildlife Center staff. Currently we have raised over \$55,000 for our Building Addition Fund totaling all of these activities and two remaining pledges. The total cost of this project is projected to be \$200,000 and we are still in need of \$145,000 more to accomplish this goal. Phase I will consist of approximately 814 square feet that will be new display space to educate visitors about the islands' ecology as well provide a more hands-on and up-close experience at the LEINWC. The addition will also include a much-needed office and a library to support our work. Phase II of the addition will be a 40' X 20' new covered deck on the back of the existing building to improve our Wild Tuesday programs, Nature Camp activities, and other events.

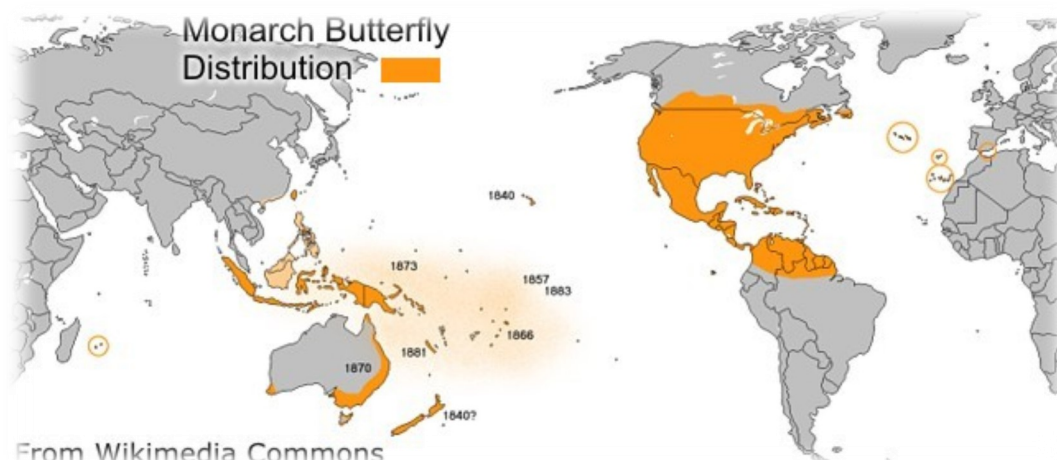
This project will help carry out the LEINWC mission of promoting conservation and education about the local ecology of the islands for local residents and visitors. If you have any questions or feedback about our project, we would be happy to answer them.



# The Monarch Butterfly- *Danaus plexippus*

By Jackie Taylor

Monarchs are native to North and South America, but they dispersed to other parts of the world around the mid 1800's. They were first seen in Hawaii in the 1840's, and had spread throughout the South Pacific by the 1860's. About ten years later the first monarchs were reported in Australia and New Zealand (See Monarch Distribution Map).



From Wikimedia Commons

As the last Ice Age receded 20,000 years ago the populations in southern USA and northern Mexico grew, as did their range, and the length of the annual migration. This was the result of melting glaciers, newly uncovered habitat, and colonization of that habitat by milkweed. Today the North American monarchs fly up to 3,000 miles, migrating from southern Canada to central Mexico in the fall, and their grandchildren returning to Canada in the spring (See Monarch Spring and Fall Migration Map).

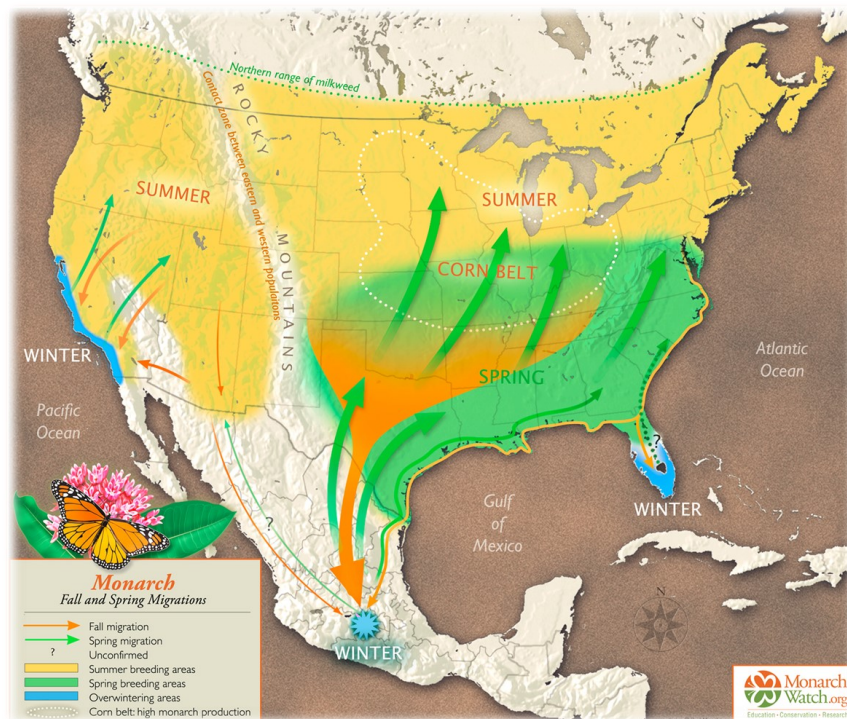
The migration is a central part of their lifecycle, which is complicated. Monarchs emerge and hatch throughout the year and different generations have specific behaviors that are tailored to accomplish specific goals so they can succeed as a species. The monarchs emerging in the spring and summer become reproductive within a few days, whereas the monarchs emerging in the fall go into a state of suspended development of the reproductive organs called *reproductive diapause* (See Monarch Butterfly Annual Lifecycle). This is all controlled by the nervous system and hormones.

When the late summer/early fall generation emerges they are physically and behaviorally different from the summer/breeding generations. They are focused on migrating, rather than mating. This is triggered by shortening day length, lowered temperatures, and the dying host plants. These cues act to let the Monarchs know it is time to migrate south to central Mexico. This generation will fly all the way south to Mexico, and spend their winter roosting in trees at a very few specific sites in Mexico and southern California. Around mid-March, as the days become longer and warmer the monarchs will become more active and begin a 3-5 week period of intense mating activity. After this, they leave their roosts in Mexico and fly north looking for milkweed plants on which to lay their eggs on.

Monarchs once were abundant enough to need a large area for overwintering. Only twenty years ago the butterflies covered 18 hectares, or 50 acres. More recently, the population fell to the point that they only used 0.67 hectares (1.65 acres) in the Mexican forest during the winter of 2013-14- the worst winter roost recorded to date. To have a better understanding of what is happening I can review the last several years:

- The spring of 2012 monarchs arrived to the northern breeding areas in decent numbers, but the summer was very hot and dry. These weather conditions dried up milkweeds and nectar plants (their food) leading to a decline in the overwintering roost.
- 2013 there was a cold dry period in May, the monarchs did not begin to move north until late. Again there was no food for them when fall/migration time came, and the numbers continued to drop.
- 2014 the numbers were the lowest that have ever been recorded at .67 hectares. This was due to the continued loss of habitat and the declining numbers due to weather.
- 2015 the overwintering roost increased favorably and continued to rise. The “word” was out that the monarch butterfly was close to endangerment. Conservation efforts in Canada, USA, and Mexico helped to bring overwintering numbers up.
- 2016 the overwintering population was double the population in 2014. Sadly, because of a storm this spring many monarchs did not survive.

(See the Graph: Monarch Colonies at Overwintering Sites in Mexico)

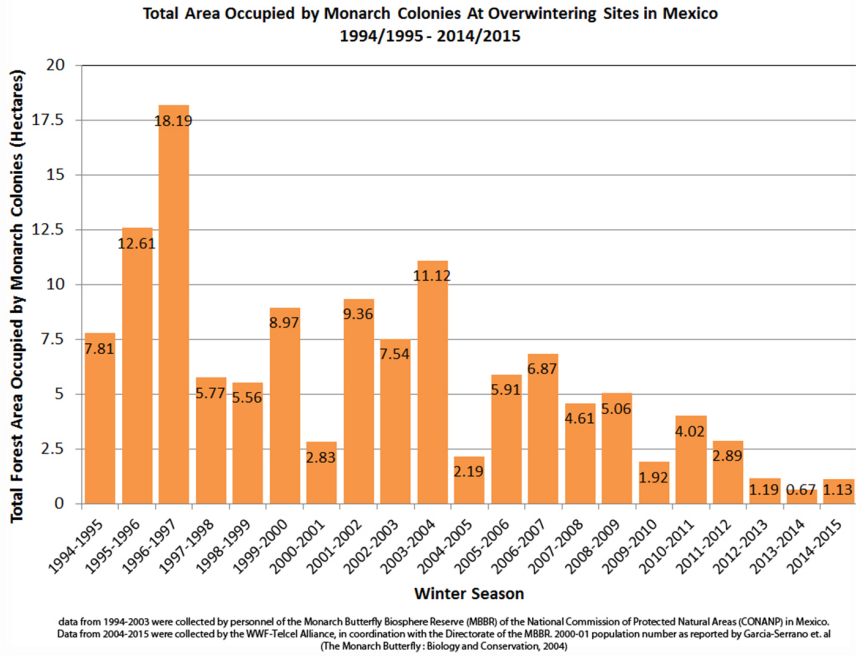




This summer breeding reports were low, as well as the fall migration reports. According to many conservationists the 2017 overwintering population will be similar to 2014. Again, because of the storm this spring many monarchs did not make it from their roosting sites in Mexico before they could reproduce creating a low number of the first generation breeding monarchs. Also we have once again had a very warm summer and fall. These temperatures caused the monarchs to migrate a month later than in years past. As these late migrant butterflies head to Mexico it will be harder for them to find nectar and food, and therefore the overwintering populations are predicted to be lower than 2 hectares this winter.

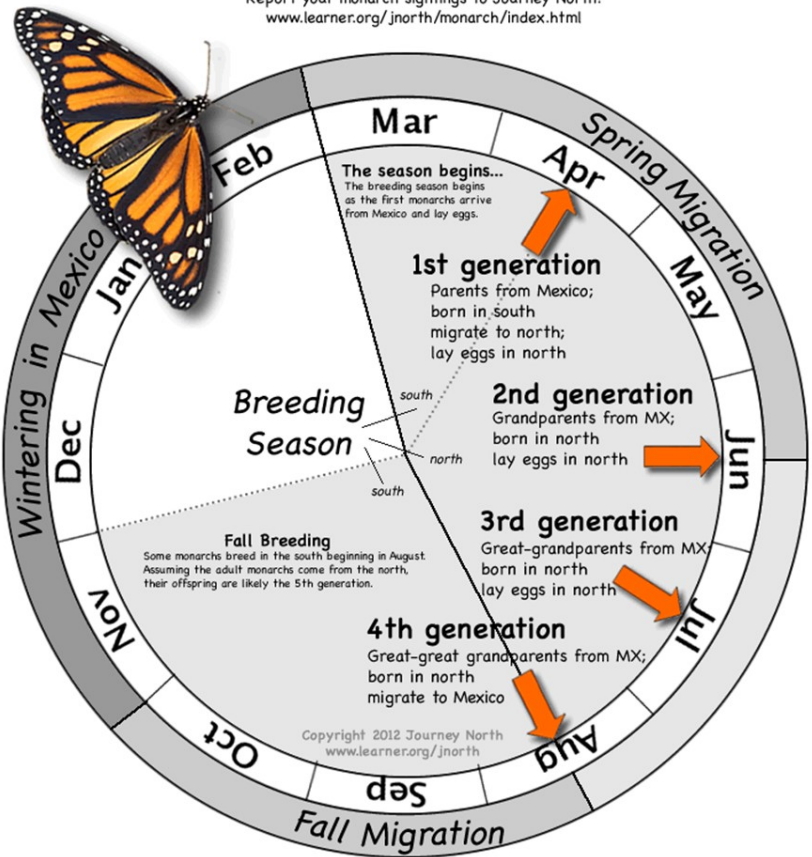


Through our outreach and education programs, events, and talks we have been able to educate visitors about monarch butterflies by providing an up-close and often hands-on interactive experience. Just this year we had Monarch Watch come to one of our popular Wild Tuesdays and do an event at the Wildlife Center in July reaching out to about 100 visitors that day. When Jackie Taylor went to Kelleys Island in August for their Annual Homecoming event, she was able to reach out to about 400 people that day! Every September thousands of Boy Scouts come to South Bass Island for Historic Weekend, and each year they come to the Wildlife Center. This year Jackie joined with the Ohio Bird Sanctuary to do a program for 500 Boy Scouts that day. Jackie also gave talks to the



### The Monarch Butterfly Annual Cycle

Report your monarch sightings to Journey North!  
[www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/index.html](http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/index.html)



Road Scholar participants and a talk for Wing Watch at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge reaching out to several people. By reaching out to this many people we are able to spread the importance of monarchs and how to help them. We have been collecting a variety of data to help understand migration routes, survival rates, and, conservation efforts. Since 2012 Jackie has been tagging on the Bass Islands, she has had eight of her monarchs successfully reach Mexico. She has been working with Journey North, Monarch Watch, Monarch Larva Mongering Project, and a variety of other organizations providing information and data about the breeding and migration seasons on the islands. Please take a look at our website to see her data, and other articles.







**(TOP)** Peter Huston had a showing of a film he helped produce “Grandma Gatewood’s, Tail Magic” early this summer. The film was played at the OSU’s Aquatic Visitor Center. The room was packed with islanders and visitors!



**(LEFT)** Lester Peyton from the Black Swamp Bird Observatory and **(BELOW)** Julene Market donated many books to our “Free Little Library” and the Wildlife Center this Summer and Fall. We have a variety of books to check out, stop by anytime!



**(TOP & RIGHT)** A few of the many kids and adults who came by to see Jackie Taylor when she was on Kelleys Island doing a program on Monarchs!



**(LEFT)** Rob Hard and Pinky Batt, cooking the pig for our Annual Pig Roast. This event has been held at the Goat the last 4 years! Thanks for everyone who has come out to support the LEINWC!



**(TOP)** Amy Huston, Amy has helped in a variety of ways over the years at the Wildlife Center sharing her ideas and educational skills. She also is a wonderful cook and baker. Amy prepared 200 desserts for the Pig Roast this year. Amy has been working with us as we continue to build educational displays at the Wildlife Center!

**(BELOW)** Visitors looking under microscopes at butterfly wings and snake skins during Open House this fall.



**(RIGHT)** Victoria Grams and Jackie Taylor worked together at the Wildlife Center this spring and summer. Victoria was a wonderful asset to the Wildlife Center this year! She was greatly missed when she had to return to veterinary school in the fall.



**(LEFT)** Karen Doljes from Middle Bass has worked for the Wildlife Center the last few years. Don Massey and Doug Wilhelm, who work for Miller Boat Line and who have helped at our stargazing cruises took Karen back to MBI this fall on Don’s boat!





**LEINWC**  
255 Meechen Rd.  
PO Box 871  
Put-in-Bay, OH 43456

Phone: 419.285.3037  
Email: leinwc@gmail.com  
Web: lakeerieislandswildlife.com  
Printed by: Bostwick-Braun

**First Island Son B&B**

419.285.4448  
Firstislandson.com

**YARDWORKS, INC**

140 Mikes Dr  
Put In Bay, OH 43456  
(419) 285-2147

**Mary Ann Meyers**

**Mary Kay Cosmetics**

817 Westshore Blvd. PO 316  
Put-in-Bay, OH 43456  
Home: 419.285.8485  
Cell: 614.565.6601  
www.marykay.com/flexibleflyers

The Lake Erie Islands Nature & Wildlife Center needs **MORE SPACE**. We are averaging around 8,000 people per year and growing at the LEINWC. We need MORE SPACE to continue to sustain our building as well as to run our great programs such as Nature Camp and Road Scholar at the center.

**2016 LEINWC Sponsorship Form**

***Categories***

- ☐ **Black Squirrel \$15.00 Individual Member** - Unlimited admission into LEINWC
- ☐ **Monarch Butterfly \$25.00 Family Member** - Unlimited admission, 5% Nature Camp Discount
- ☐ **Lake Erie Watersnake \$100 Business Member** - Unlimited admission, includes ad in each newsletter and a link on our web, 10% Nature Camp Discount
- ☐ **Bald Eagle \$500 Life member** - Unlimited admission, 25% Nature Camp Discount, Name on a tile on the Eastern Fox Snake that will be displayed outside of the building

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Companion \_\_\_\_\_  
**Island** Address PO Box \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

**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!**