

Duff Homestead Closing and Challenge Grant!

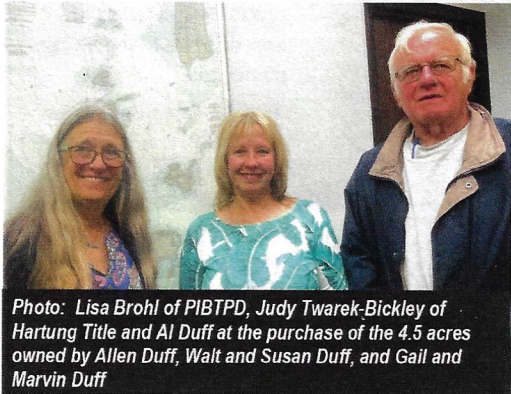


Photo: Lisa Brohl of PIBTPD, Judy Twarek-Bickley of Hartung Title and Al Duff at the purchase of the 4.5 acres owned by Allen Duff, Walt and Susan Duff, and Gail and Marvin Duff

Put-in-Bay Township Park District recently closed on 6.5 acres of property commonly referred to as the Duff Homestead Site. Thanks to all who have contributed or donated to this effort and the Duffs for working with us!

The property includes the historic Duff home which will be refurbished as a visitor center and an office for the Park District and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC). The two acres of wooded property will eventually have a walking trail. This wooded

area is a prime birding site. The Homestead site will also have a pollinator site. A variety of trees with funding from the Beth Garsteck Cueto Fund will be planted.

The location has 150 feet of lake front property which is a nursery for yellow perch, sunfish, and native minnows. The shoreline also has a unique undisturbed submerged plant community which supports a remnant habitat for fish like bowfin and gar.

The LEIC has received a very generous \$20,000.00 challenge grant from an anonymous donor to refurbish the home. In memory of her husband Robert, Dianne Smith donated \$5,000.00 toward this challenge and an anonymous donor also donated \$5000.00. We are so grateful for these gifts and we are looking for additional donations to meet this challenge. Please be sure to contact the Conservancy at leiconservancy@gmail.com or 419-366-2087 if you can help us out!

(Continued on page 12)

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



FUTURE GENERATIONS

Speaking of Future Generations....
Linda Shull's grandkids visiting seemed like a perfect opportunity to recruit some energetic hands to help maintain the preserves! (See Page 13!)

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Photos: Left—Lisa Brohl and Walt and Sue Duff at the purchase of the two acres of woods Right—Sara Hill and Jannah Wilson of the Parks of Ottawa County presenting Put-in-Bay Township Park District Commissioner Kendra Koehler with a grant check toward the purchase of the Duff Homestead

LEIC Items and Gift Ideas

There are organic Conservancy t-shirts in new colors (\$20), new Made in USA Conservancy hats (\$25), Sailcloth and organic cotton tote bags, and Middle Bass Music Fest beverage cozies available for sale. Consider a Conservancy membership or donation to our Land Protection Fund for a gift that keeps on giving into the future! www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org.

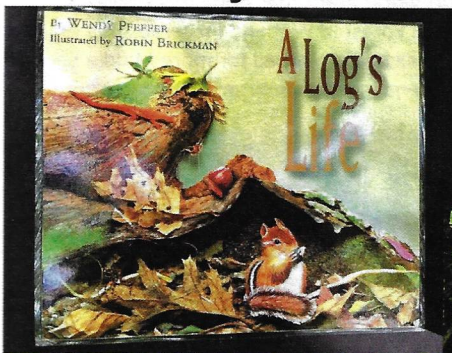
LEIC and PIBTPD Wish List

It is so hard to believe fall is coming fast upon us! Even so, the Conservancy still has lots of work to do in preparation for winter and the coming spring. If you are willing to help, we accept donations of your time and skills or if a monetary gift works better, that is wonderful too. We are grateful for any and all! Please be sure to let us know if you or anyone you know can help out with any of these items at leiconservancy@gmail.com or 419-366-2087. New members—Can always check us out at www.lakeerieislandsconservancy.org!

- **Volunteers Always Needed—spread mulch on trails, removed downed trees and pick up litter—garlic mustard pulling, amur honeysuckle removal—all preserves.**
- **Volunteers needed for Tabling Events, Office, and Digital File Organizing.**
- **Website and Social Media Assistance**
- **Adobe, Access, and Arc GIS Programs or volunteers with these skills.**
- **Recycled Copying Paper, Ink for Printers (Brother LC 61, HP 970XL, HP 971XI—must not be generic)**
- **Golf Cart for Summer Transport of tools, people.**
- **New Bicycle Rack for the Duff Homestead Preserve—\$900**
- **Interpretive Signs (\$250 each) for Duff Woods and Duff Homestead Preserves.**
- **Help with Scheeff East Point Bulletin Board**
- **AmeriCorps Intern Fund for 2024**
- **High Resolution GPS Unit for Preserve Monitoring**
- **Mist Net Pole and Hardware for Bird Banding—approx. \$100**
- **Volunteer Labor or Donations toward retrofitting house for New Office Space**
- **Acoustic Bat, Cicada, Frog, and Bird Monitors, approx. \$2,500 for all with licensing and software**
- **Land Protection Fund Donations**



A New StoryWalk® Book to See! By Lisa Brohl



Check out the new book “A Log's Life” by Wendy Pfeffer on the Put-in-Bay StoryWalk® at the Dodge Woods Preserve. Thanks to Karen Wilhelm from the Erie Islands Library and her husband Mark Wilhelm for getting it installed and maintaining the walk for us all to enjoy!



Photos: Top Left—New StoryWalk® Book at Dodge Woods Bottom Left—Mark Wilhelm installing page of new book Bottom Right—Linda Shull's granddaughters visiting the trail

Attention Nature Lovers and Photo Buffs: Interested in submitting your Conservancy nature photo(s) for the 2024 LEIC Calendar? See instructions and details below!

- Send all of your Conservancy related entries to LEICPhotoSubmit@gmail.com with “2024 Calendar” in the subject line. Pics for the Newsletter can be sent there too—just be sure to specify!
- Include the photographer's contact info (name, email, phone, etc.), a short description of subject and details. Make sure to include where/when the photo was taken. Minimum Size: 300 dpi at 11.5” wide by 9” tall.
- If selected, you'll receive photo credit and 1 calendar!

We can't wait to see all of your wonderful submissions, so go enjoy the seasons of the preserves: spring, summer, fall, and winter!! **2024 Submissions close October 31!**

(DUFF HOMESTEAD Continued from page 1)

A bench for the site is being purchased by Patty and Carl Lo Presti, and a second bench has been purchased by Neal and Carla Hess. A dedication of the Duff Homestead will be held in the spring of 2024. The final phase of the Duff Homestead is – hopefully – the purchase of 11 acres of pristine vineyards, antique outbuilding, an orchard, and a garden. A bald eagle's nest is adjacent to this property.



Photo: Gorgeous 2-acre woods purchased from Walt and Sue Duff.

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