

Lake Erie

Kelleys Island

Title: Kelleys Island Audubon Club Migratory Bird Study Program

Source: Kelleys Island Audubon Club, www.kelleysislandnature.com

Date: 7-13-2004

The Kelleys Island Audubon Club sponsors the migratory bird study program to document the importance of Kelleys Island to migratory birds. The Club implements bird banding, monthly bird censuses, education and outreach activities, a yearly birding festival, and a website. More than 250 species of birds have been documented on the island, resulting in its designation as an Audubon Important Bird Area.

Title: Significant Habitat at North Shore Alvar State Nature Preserve

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources website:

www.ohiodnr.com/dnap/location/alvar

Date: current

North Shore Alvar State Nature Preserve on Kelleys Island is the finest of the few such sites in Ohio. Alvars are horizontal exposures of nearly barren limestone or dolomite which were exposed by glaciers and are kept open by a variety of environmental factors. The name "alvar" is derived from a Swedish word for similar landforms near the Baltic Sea. On Kelleys Island, the alvar is scoured by wind, waves, and ice. Only a few specially adapted plant species can survive in this hostile terrain. Some of these unusual species on Kelleys Island are northern bog violet (an endangered species), balsam squawweed, Kalm's lobelia, and Pringle's aster. The alvar also features shallow glacial striations. Other Ohio alvars are found on the Marblehead Peninsula. Most of these have been disturbed or destroyed by quarrying and other human activities. Extensive alvars are found only in Michigan, New York, and Ontario.

Title: Significant Habitat at North Pond State Nature Preserve

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources website:

www.ohiodnr.com/dnap/location/NorthPond

Date: Current

North Pond State Nature Preserve is a nearly pristine wetland with a channel leading to Lake Erie at the North Bay on Kelleys Island. The pond was formed as the lake receded from its ancient shoreline. North Pond represents one of the very few natural wetlands directly connected to Ohio's "great lake," which remains in a natural system. Virtually all of the wetlands in Lake Erie's western basin have been impounded by dikes and are artificially controlled. This aquatic ecosystem harbors a fascinating assemblage of plant and animal life, as many of these species may be viewed from the boardwalk.

Arrowheads, swamp rose mallow, bulrushes, pond-lilies and many other wetland plants occur in the marsh.

Lake Erie is famous for the tremendous numbers of waterfowl migrating through in the spring and fall. A birder visiting North Pond during these seasons will be rewarded by sightings of numerous species of ducks and other water birds. The 30-acre preserve features a boardwalk and observation tower.

Gard Island

Title: Gard Island Inventory and Monitoring

Source: Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toledo, personal communication

Date: 2003-ongoing

Field surveys, ecological inventory, and site mapping of island physiography, topography, sediments, vegetation and species as basis for environmental monitoring efforts, possible conservation efforts, educational benefits, stewardship and community engagement activities. Some initial information gathering and background research has been initiated by the University of Toledo (property owner of the island) with additional studies to continue in 2005.

North Bass Island

Title: State purchases portion of North Bass Island

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources website:

www.ohiodnr.com/news/apr04/0422northbass

Date: April 2004 to present

In April 2004, the State of Ohio acquired 589 acres, or 87 percent, of North Bass Island in Lake Erie for \$17.4 million, using a nearly equal match of state and federal funds. The state plans to preserve the island's natural setting by offering low-impact recreation such as primitive camping sites, hiking trails, and opportunities for hunting, fishing, swimming and nature study.

The acquisition area includes nearly 2.5 miles of undeveloped shoreline, 58 acres of natural coastal wetlands, unique geologic features, and numerous state and federal endangered species. The island has also been known since the mid-1800s for its vineyards, which today occupy less than 85 acres. Aware of the historic and economic importance of grape production on the island, the state will continue lease arrangements with a local producer to grow and harvest grapes on a portion of the property.

Middle Bass Island

Title: State Purchases Portion of Middle Bass Island

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources website:

www.ohiodnr.com/parks/parks/middlebass

Date: May 2000 to present

In May 2000, Ohio Governor Bob Taft announced the state's acquisition of 124 acres of lakefront property on Middle Bass Island, protecting an increasingly rare expanse of coastal open space and providing a major new addition to the Ohio State Parks system. The state is negotiating to acquire additional property on the island in 2004. The site's natural features include nearly one mile of Lake Erie shoreline, a harbor and 212-boat marina, natural areas with endangered plant and wildlife species, wetlands and unique geological features known as glacial grooves.

Plans for initial development of the new state park are being developed and will likely include improved fishing access, day-use recreation facilities and nature trails. Long-range plans could include campgrounds and other lodging options, swimming beaches

and other facilities. A comprehensive feasibility study of proposed park facilities is underway and will be available for public review in the last half of 2004.

Title: State gets additional \$1 million for Middle Bass Island harbor

Source: Port Clinton News Herald

Date: 9-7-2004

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources was awarded more than \$1 million to purchase an additional 17 acres on Middle Bass Island for development of a public marina. The National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund provided the money to promote preservation and the ideals embodied in public park areas. In addition, the State was awarded \$45,000 in Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grants from the Fish and Wildlife Service to install a pumpout dock at the marina, and to reprint clean vessel practices in the Ohio Boat Operators Guide and the Ohio Boating Education Course.

Title: Preservation of Petersen Woods

Source: Lake Erie Islands Chapter, Black Swamp Conservancy, personal communication

Date: 7-13-2004

The Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy (LEIC-BSC) formally closed on the Petersen Woods property on Middle Bass Island on March 3, 2004. This is the first successfully preserved land for the Conservancy founded in 2001. The 1.5 acre wet woodland is near Kuehnle State Wildlife Area and will add to the protected wetland acreage there. The woods provides habitat for the Bald Eagles that have nested at the airport across the street as well as shoreline habitat for the federally threatened Lake Erie water snake. A dedication program will be held later this year. The acquisition was funded with grants from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, and the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy as well as funds from the LEIC-BSC. Contact Information: Lisa Brohl, Chair, LEIC-BSC, P. O. Box 461, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456 419-285-5811
leic_bsc@cros.net

Turtle Island

Title: Turtle Island development delayed

Source: Toledo Blade

Date: 5-7-2004

Two developers are planning to develop a tourist facility on the 1.5-acre island, which straddles the Ohio-Michigan line, approximately 4 miles northeast of the mouth of the Ottawa River. The island was purchased by the developers in 2002. Currently, the island contains an old lighthouse, which guided ships through the area until 1904, when the Toledo Harbor Light replaced it. The proposed development has been delayed by local permitting issues, and confusion over which state has jurisdiction over the island.

Green Island

Title: Green Island, past, present, and future

Source: Lake Erie Watersnake Newsletter (<http://midwest.fws.gov/Reynoldsburg/>)

Date: Sept. 2002

In 1961, the U.S. Government's General Services Administration turned over 15.8 acres of Green Island to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, who now manages the land as a wildlife refuge. The remaining 1.3 acres of the island, including an automatic navigation light, are owned by the U.S. Coast Guard. The State has a "hands-off" management policy for the island, and is letting it revert to a natural state. The island's interior is now mostly composed of trees and undergrowth, while portions of the shoreline contain alvar habitat— limestone bedrock and unique vegetation that can grow right out of the rock, even in the absence of soil.

The island is composed of limestone bluffs covered with vegetation and lots of poison ivy. Amidst the trees on the western side of the island, one can glimpse the skeletal ruins of the old stone lighthouse, now long abandoned. Winding through the trees and overgrown vegetation, the only sign of human occupation on the rest of the island is a long, narrow, perfectly straight sidewalk, no beginning or end in sight, leading from the ruins to a long-lost boathouse. Land snail shells blanket the ground, trees and vegetation grow thick, and the sounds of bird calls and crashing waves fill the air. Creatures that inhabit the island include: cormorants, gulls, herons, and other birds; an inordinate amount of land snails; mammals such as mice, raccoons, and deer; and fish—the waters surrounding Green Island are known to be some of the most productive walleye waters in the entire lake.

Green Island is not just rich in natural history; it has an important place in cultural history, too. The island, along with Middle and South Bass, were originally owned by the Edwards family of Connecticut. In 1851, the United States government purchased the island from the Edwards to construct a lighthouse on the property. The first lighthouse on Green Island was built in 1855 and was tended by Col. Charles Drake, who lived in the house adjacent to the lighthouse. During a severe New Years Eve storm in 1863, the wooden lighthouse caught fire and was destroyed. The lighthouse was later rebuilt with stone in 1865, and remained in operation until 1939. The structure, whose crumbling remains are still present, was later gutted by a fire set by vandals. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. An automatic light tower was built in 1939 to replace the stone lighthouse, and still operates today.

West Sister Island

Title: Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge boundaries expanded to include islands

Source: House Bill H.R. 289, www.theorator.com/bills108/hr289.html

Date: 1-8-2003

West Sister Island is the most western island within the Bass Island Archipelago, located about 27.3 km (17 mi) west of the Bass Islands. This island, Ohio's only federally designated wilderness areas, is owned by the USFWS and managed as part of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. This 0.28 km² (70 ac) island is densely vegetated and inhabited by a number of colonial nesting water birds. The purchase boundary of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge was recently expanded by Congress to include all islands in the Bass Island Archipelago. To date, no additional island land has been purchased. In addition, the same bill expanded the purchase boundary of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

Pelee Island

Title: Pelee Island natural areas

Source: Pelee Island Heritage Centre, pimuseum@mnsi.net

Date: 6-2004

Pelee Island, Canada's southernmost property, is a 4,000 ha island with less than 300 permanent residences, and approximately 22% of its area under natural cover. The island supports three nature reserves: Fish Point, Lighthouse Point, and Stone Road Alvar Complex. A number of habitat restoration projects are underway on the island, including a 40 acre wetland restoration by the Wilds of Pelee Island, a red cedar savannah restoration by the Pelee Island Winery, and several private woodlot, wetland, and prairie grass restoration projects. The Pelee Organic Demonstration Farm supports a sustainable agriculture display as well. A number of research projects are ongoing on the island to monitor some of the rare species that occur here, including migratory bird banding and censuses, endangered snake surveys, and rare turtle surveys.

Gibraltar Island

Title: Island is home to Science and research

Source: Great Lakes Radio Consortium

Date: 8-30-2004

Gibraltar Island, owned by The Ohio State University, is home to a Lake Erie's research laboratory known as Stone Lab. The island, fortified by the historic Cooke's Castle, hosts students studying such topics as algae, zebra mussels, invasive species, pollution, shoreline erosion, and other ecological lake issues. The 7-acre island has a rich history. First inhabited by Jay Cooke, a banker and investment broker that supported the Union Army during the Civil War, the island was then sold to Franz Stone in 1925, who eventually donated it to the University. The University hopes to eventually renovate the 15-room Cook Castle into a research conference and education center.

Middle Island and Port Colborne Lighthouse

Title: Chemical Analysis of Gull Eggs

Source: Personal files of Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region (Burlington and Downsview)

Date: 7-23-2004

These sites are several of 15 throughout the Great Lakes and connecting channels where Herring Gull eggs are collected annually for toxic chemical analysis. Other biological studies on chemical impacts are also occasionally conducted on these islands by the Canadian Wildlife Service as well.

Whiskey Island

Title: Cuyahoga County to buy part of Whiskey Island

Source: The Plain Dealer

Date: 12-8-2004

Cuyahoga county Commissioners have agreed to spend \$6.25 million to purchase 62 acres of Whiskey Island, a peninsula on the shores of downtown Cleveland, to convert it into a lakefront park. The proposed park may include a lakeshore boardwalk, observation tower, volleyball courts, nature trails, and a boat launch.

Western Lake Erie Islands

Title: Buoyancy on Lake Erie: Median price on islands jumps 51% in 5 years

Source: The Toledo Blade

Date: 6-27-2004

The median price of homes on the Lake Erie islands of Put-in-Bay, Catawba, and Kelleys has risen 51% in the past 5 years, to approximately \$208,250. The median price is the point at which half the houses cost less and half cost more. On Put-in-Bay, Kelleys, and Johnson's Islands, few waterfront houses are available for under \$300,000.

Title: Western Lake Erie Islands and Reefs Site Conservation Plan

Source: The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Chapter, Western Lake Erie Islands

Date: 6-2004

- Identification and Protection of Priority Sites. Ohio Chapter staff have been working with the Black Swamp Conservancy/Lake Erie Islands Chapter, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State University, and others to identify and map high priority sites for protection, determine parcel availability, and develop strategies for funding and securing parcels. The Ohio Chapter contributed \$10,000 to Black Swamp Conservancy for acquisition of Petersen Woods, a 1.55 acre parcel on the north shore of North Bass Island that provides habitat for bald eagles and the Lake Erie water snake. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources purchased 589 acres on North Bass Island as a state nature preserve.
- Protection of Pelee Island, Canada. Ohio Chapter staff visited Pelee Island again in May 2004 to meet with staff from Nature Conservancy of Canada, Pelee Island Bird Observatory, the Wilds of Pelee, Pelee Island Heritage Centre, and others to evaluate potential acquisition sites and further develop our fundraising strategy to secure top priority sites.
- Lake Erie Islands Field Guide and Survey. The Ohio Chapter, working in partnership with Lake Erie Coastal Ohio, helped secure \$29,500 from the Lake Erie Protection Fund to develop a **Lake Erie Islands Field Guide and Survey**. The project will increase awareness of the islands' natural and historic resources, encourage nature-based tourism and compatible development practices, and engage more people in conservation efforts. A draft outline of the guide has been developed and a committee meeting to develop text and graphics was held in June, 2004. Completion of the field guide is expected in Spring 2005.
- Protection of Migratory Bird Stopover Sites. Ohio Chapter staff helped Great Lakes Program staff secure \$70,000 (over 2 years) from The George Gund Foundation to identify and protect high value sites that sustain migratory birds. The project will focus on the critical areas needing protection in Ohio's western Lake Erie basin while also building an overarching strategy for protecting critical bird stopover sites throughout the Great Lakes region. A team of public and private organizations, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, and Ohio and Michigan Departments of Natural Resources will be working with TNC in this effort.
- Lake Erie Wetlands and Watersheds Implementation Team (LEWWIT). Due to the potential impacts from mainland activities on the habitat of the islands and nearshore bedrock reef communities, Ohio Chapter staff recently became involved in the LEWWIT. A team of public and private organizations is working together to identify

and implement habitat conservation projects within the Lake Erie wetlands and watersheds of Northwest Ohio. Ohio Chapter staff are facilitating a discussion between Ohio EPA and the LEWWIT to address issues pertaining to wetland permits and wetland restoration.

Lake Huron

Bois Blanc Island

Title: Portion of Bois Blanc donated to local Conservancy

Source: Cheboygan Daily Tribune

Date: 4-20-2004

Jim Vosper, a man who spent his childhood on Bois Blanc, recently donated more than 600 feet of shoreline and an 80-acre nature preserve to the Little Traverse Conservancy. The island is located just north of Cheboygan and southeast of Mackinac and Round islands. Bois Blanc is approximately 12 miles long and 6 miles wide at its widest point. Historically the island was used for logging and tourism. The donated property provides critical habitat for migratory waterfowl and supports populations of the state threatened massasauga rattlesnake. The mission of the Conservancy is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of Northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment.

Title: Bois Blanc offers natural get-away

Source: Detroit Free Press

Date: 8-22-2004

Bois Blanc, a 24,000-acre island mostly owned by the State of Michigan, provides ample opportunity for experiencing all the natural wonders of a wild Great Lake Island. Miles of forested trails, inland lakes, swamps, boating, fishing and hunting opportunities, primitive campsites on the shore of Lake Huron, and abundant wildlife abound on this island. 71 people live on the island year-round, and the island hosts one restaurant/store/tavern/real estate office, rental cabins, a bed and breakfast, historical museum, lighthouse, historic Victorian homes, a post office, two churches, and a school. The islands relaxed, natural, isolated atmosphere makes it a great vacation spot for those seeking to escape the business of everyday life.

Little Charity, Scarecrow, Big Charity, and Thunder Bay Islands

Title: Vegetation inventory on Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Date: 12-11-2003

Little Charity, Scarecrow, Big Charity, and Thunder Bay Islands, all part of the Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge, administered by the USFWS, will be subject to a vegetation inventory. The \$30,000 project was funded by a Coastal Management Program Grant. The inventory will describe the different types of vegetation communities on the islands, which will in turn be used to promote more effective habitat management.

Chantry and Double Islands

Title: Chemical Analysis of Gull Eggs

Source: Personal files of Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region (Burlington and Downsview)

Date: 7-23-2004

These sites are several of 15 throughout the Great Lakes and connecting channels where Herring Gull eggs are collected annually for toxic chemical analysis. Other biological studies on chemical impacts are also occasionally conducted on these islands by the Canadian Wildlife Service as well.

James Island

Title: Couple donates conservation easement to protect James Island

Source: The Mining Journal

Date: 8-22-2004

David and Paula Bardsley have donated a 15-acre conservation easement on James Island to the Nature Conservancy, and plan to donate the remaining 11 acres soon. The couple purchased the 26-acre island, composed of 6,600 feet of Lake Huron shoreline, for a retirement home in 2001. The island provides habitat for wildlife such as mink, otter, deer, fox, bobcat and beaver, and supports large wetland areas. The conservation easement will forever protect the natural character of the island and the plants and animals that inhabit it.

Manitoulin Island

Title: Development of a private windfarm on Manitoulin

Source: Schneider Power Inc., www.schneiderpower.com

Date: May 26, 2004

A 20 megawatt, 10-turbine wind power development is proposed on private property near Providence Bay on Manitoulin Island. Test turbines will first be erected and tested for a 120-day period, after which Schneider Power will complete the installation of the 10 real turbines. The electricity generated will be sold to Ontario utilities.

Lake Ontario

Wolfe Island

Title: Wind turbine farm to locate on Wolfe Island, Important Bird Area

Source: The Kingston Whig-Standard

Date: 4-5-2004

A \$400 million wind farm, composed of up to 150 turbines is about ready to be constructed on Wolfe Island, Ontario. The project is just waiting for the province to supply it with energy. If successful, the Canadian Renewable Energy Corp and Canadian Hydro Developers, Inc. will build on four sites on the island: along the Bateau Channel, the Big Sandy Bay area, the central plain area, and the highlands area. The project will create up to 300 megawatts of power, which will feed Ontario's power grid. Wolfe Island is known as a globally significant Important Bird Area for its large congregations of waterfowl, land birds, and birds of prey.

Title: Update on Wolfe Island Wind turbine farm
Source: Canadian Renewable Energy Corp. (CREC)
Date: 4-1-2004

CREC has entered into an option agreement with Canadian Hydro Developers, Inc. to jointly develop the Wolfe Island Wind Project, a potential 300 megawatt (MW) wind power project on the island, near Kingston, Ontario. The project is expected to be comprised of five 60 MW phases.

Snake Island

Title: Chemical Analysis of Gull Eggs
Source: Personal files of Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region (Burlington and Downsview)
Date: 7-23-2004

Snake Island is one of 15 sites throughout the Great Lakes and connecting channels where Herring Gull eggs are collected annually for toxic chemical analysis. Other biological studies on chemical impacts are also occasionally conducted on these islands by the Canadian Wildlife Service as well.

Snake, Salmon, and Pigeon Islands

Title: Double-crested cormorant census
Source: Personal files of Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region (Burlington and Downsview)
Date: 7-23-2004

Every year since 1979, the Canadian Wildlife Service has censused nesting double-crested cormorant nests on Snake, Salmon, and Pigeon Islands in Lake Ontario.

Thousand Islands

Title: US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to support Waterfowl Production Areas and easements in Thousand Islands region
Source: Tom Jasikoff, Refuge Manager Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and St. Lawrence Wetland Management District
Date: 11-30-2004

The Service has prepared a conservation proposal to gain the authority to acquire waterfowl production areas and easements in Jefferson County, NY, which includes the Thousands Islands region, as part of the St. Lawrence Wetland Management District. This will enable the Service to protect important island habitats and shoreline habitats along the St. Lawrence River and eastern Lake Ontario.

Lake Michigan

Northern Lake Michigan

Title: USGS Publishes maps of Lake Trout Spawning Sites in N. Lake Michigan
Source: USGS, <http://pubs.usgs.gov/imap/i2800/>
Date: 2-25-2004

The U.S. Geological Survey has published maps entitled, "Visualizing the Geology of Lake Trout Spawning Sites: Northern Lake Michigan." These maps indicate significant spawning habitat around Gull, Trout, and High Islands, Dahlia Shoal, Boulder Reef, and Little Traverse Bay.

North Manitou Island

Title: Endangered piping plover protected on N. Manitou Island

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Date: Feb. 2003

A \$15,000 grant from the USFWS Coastal Program will fund the National Park Service to undertake a predator management program on North Manitou Island and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Seashore during the 2003-2005 piping plover breeding season. The plover is a tiny shorebird, listed as Federally endangered in the United States. The bird nests along sandy beaches on the Great Lakes during the late spring, and migrates south during the winter. The plover is threatened by predation, human disturbance, invasive vegetation, and shoreline development. The current (2003) nesting population in the Great Lakes is approximately 50 pairs.

Cat Island Chain

Title: Cat Island chain to be restored

Source: Green Bay News Chronicle

Date: 3-18-2004

\$300,000 will be provided for restoration of an island in the Cat Island Chain, in Wisconsin's Green Bay. The money for the project will come from a Natural Resources Damages Assessment (NRDA) recently completed for the Fox River and Green Bay. The NRDA settlement resulted in \$55 million for ecosystem restoration projects, including the Cat Islands project. Funding will go toward the design and construction of Island 3 of the proposed Cat Island Chain. The 30-acre island will provide nesting and feeding habitat for birds and migratory waterfowl. It will also reestablish aquatic vegetation in the island's 600-acre wave shadow, which will create new fish spawning and feeding habitat.

Big Sister and Gull Islands

Title: Chemical Analysis of Gull Eggs

Source: Personal files of Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region (Burlington and Downsview)

Date: 7-23-2004

These sites are several of 15 throughout the Great Lakes and connecting channels where Herring Gull eggs are collected annually for toxic chemical analysis. Other biological studies on chemical impacts are also occasionally conducted on these islands by the Canadian Wildlife Service as well.

Renard Isle (Kidney Island)

Title: Brown County Harbor Commission approves plan to take ownership of Renard Isle

Source: Green Bay Press-Gazette

Date: 1-12-2005

The Brown County Harbor Commission approved a proposal to take ownership of Renard Isle, a 55-acre man-made island offshore of Green Bay's Bay Beach Amusement Park. The island was a dump site for millions of cubic yards of dredged sediments contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, a byproduct of the papermaking process. The facility was filled by 1983, but recent proposals call for adding more dredged material to the top of the island. Various plans for the island have been discussed, and include campgrounds, amphitheatres, parks, marinas and festival grounds. Neither Green Bay nor Brown County is anxious to own the site because of the long-term liability associated with the contaminated sediments.

Cana, Plum, and Pilot Islands

Title: Door County Islands envisioned as tourist, wildlife havens

Source: Green Bay Press-Gazette

Date: 11-6-2004

The U.S. Coast Guard is moving ahead with plans to transfer three Door County island lighthouse properties into permanent tourist attractions and wildlife refuges. The Coast Guard completed a \$863,000 cleanup of lead and fuel contamination on the 565-acre Plum Island recently, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to add the island to the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge. In addition, the Service would also take ownership of nearby Pilot Island, which is inhabited by cormorants and a deteriorating lighthouse. The Door County Parks Department has applied for ownership of Cana Island.

Lake Superior

Wilson and Barr Islands

Title: Wilson Island for sale, \$5.85 million

Source: Globe and Mail

Date: 6-25-2004

The 2,000 hectare Wilson Island—a heavily forested, rocky expanse with 29 kilometres of shoreline is the biggest privately owned island in an archipelago that has been largely earmarked by Ottawa [Canada] for preservation as a marine conservation area. Creating a rare opportunity to buy island property in the greatest of the Great Lakes, huge Wilson Island on Superior's north shore has been put on the market for \$5.85-million (U.S.) -- a price that is just a ballpark figure and completely open to negotiation. Deer, caribou and bears roam the untouched forest, which has always been deemed unfeasible for logging and has matured to the point where quite a few trees have fallen to lightning strikes or diseases of age. The island also has marshes, cliffs, a sandy beach and three natural harbours within easy boating distance from Rosport on the mainland. Historically, the island was owned by a succession of mining and forestry companies that never did any digging or chopping there, but since 2000 it has been in the hands of a numbered Ontario corporation controlled by a Milwaukee investor. If this is too rich for your blood, Wilson Island's much smaller neighbour, Barr Island, is also for sale for a mere \$269,000. Barr Island is only 22 hectares, with 2.6 kilometres of shoreline. It sits southeast of Wilson Island and its south shore is exposed to the buffeting of wind and waves.

It is uninhabited, unserviced and home to two sets of native archeological artifacts whose importance has yet to be determined. These are described in a Parks Canada report as "a rather extensive alignment of rock cairns radiating in two or three lines from a central rectangular pit structure."

South Twin and Raspberry Islands

Title: Sandscape restoration on Wisconsin Islands

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Date: Feb. 2003

A \$15,000 grant from the USFWS Coastal Program will fund the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to undertake a sandscape restoration along the shores of Lake Superior on South Twin and Raspberry Islands, Wisconsin.

Isle Royale

Title: Wolf-moose interactions on Isle Royale

Source: Associated Press

Date: 3-8-2004

Rolf Peterson, a wildlife biologist with Michigan Tech University, has been studying wolf-moose predator-prey interactions on Isle Royale National Park every winter for 34 years. Recent trends show a moose population that has been in decline for 3 years, and a gray wolf population that has increased. Peterson attributes the population fluctuations to global warming, which has caused significant stress on the moose, and resulted in a winter tick infestation that has weakened individual moose. The warmer weather also limits moose foraging in the summer. This makes them weaker, more disease-prone, and less able to fight off wolf attacks. Although population fluctuations are natural and occur regularly, if moose numbers drop too low, it could create problems for the wolf population, especially if the resulting food shortages came on top of a disease epidemic or other stressful situation.

Clough Island

Title: Clough Island proposed golf resort

Source: <http://www.businessnorth.com/viewarticle.asp?articleid=838>

Date: 5-6-2004

Developer Northwood Oaks, LLC., has proposed a project that would turn 370-acre Clough Island in Lake Superior into an upscale neighborhood with an 18-hole golf course, hotel, ferry dock, and gondola. Currently, the island has no sewers, electric, or other utilities, and the proposed project is expected to cost around \$300 million. Since 1956, Clough Island (also known as Whiteside Island and Big Island) has been mostly devoid of human habitation. It has served as virtual public property, hosting mostly hikers and campers. It's one of the last remaining places in the St. Louis River estuary with long stretches of unaltered shoreline, the kind of habitat crucial for young fish and certain types of birds. The developers have not yet filed for regulatory permits, but when they do they will have a long road to negotiate. The location within the environmentally sensitive river estuary, and the proposed construction of a small bridge from the mainland for emergency and golf cart-type vehicles will require permits from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the city and

possibly the U.S. Coast Guard. Several types of wading birds like herons and the endangered piping plover use the shallow bay shoreline areas. The shorelines also are important as nurseries for fish, providing young fry with places to hide and collect food. The Nature Conservancy attempted to purchase the property, to maintain it as a natural area, but was outbid by the developer.

Title: Update on Clough Island development

Source: Duluth News Tribune

Date: 2-20-2005

Debate continues over whether or not to develop the 315-acre Clough Island into a golf resort, or to leave it in its natural state, protecting the natural resources that currently exist there. The Mayor of Superior supports the plan, which is projected to bring tourists and significant tax revenue to the city. Environmental regulators and conservation groups argue that the natural resources of the area, including wetlands, endangered species, fish spawning habitat, and natural shorelines may be adversely impacted by the development plans. At the same time, the State DNR has applied for grants to purchase the island and put it into conservation.

Manitou Island

Title: Manitou Island Bird Survey Project

Source: [http://www.manitouislandbirdsurvey.org/](http://www.manitouislandbirdssurvey.org/)

Date: 5-17-2004

The Manitou Island Bird Survey project, monitoring breeding bird populations and migratory bird use on the island, is run and funded by Copper Country Audubon Society. Through May 2004 the group has made 8 visits to Manitou Island totaling 30 days of observation. Work is done by volunteers. 163 species have been recorded on Manitou Island and 88 species have been noted as possible, probable, or confirmed breeders. The island is a significant pathway for migrating passerines.

Apostle Islands

Title: Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Proposed to be Federal Wilderness Area

Source: Duluth News Tribune

Date: 9-2-2004

The National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior has proposed to designate 80% of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore as federal wilderness. The proposal has been printed in the Federal Register, and it is expected the President Bush will propose the legislation to Congress. The islands, often referred to as the "Crown Jewel of Lake Superior" are significant for their wild character and natural habitat. The wilderness designation will prohibit mechanized vehicles and development, although boats will still be allowed to dock on the islands. The park's mainland unit, areas around docks and visitor facilities and historic sites, such as lighthouses, have been excluded from the wilderness designation. All of Sand, Basswood, and Long islands are also excluded from the designation. More than 10,000 comments have been received on the proposal, and 98% of these have been in favor of the designation.

Title: Apostle Island National Lakeshore (AINL) to propose new fire management plan

Source: The Daily Press and the National Park Service:

www.nps.gov/apis/parkhq.htm#documents

Date: 2-24-2005

AINL is proposing a change to its fire management plan that would allow for fires to burn in certain situations. Lightning-caused fires would be allowed to burn, so long as they stayed within prescribed parameters. Other portions of the plan would allow for prescribed fires in the park in order to reduce fuel accumulations. Public comments on the plan will be accepted through March 25, 2005.

Title: Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Friends Group organized

Source: The Daily Press, www.friendsoftheapostleislands.org

Date: 4-8-2005

Friends of the Apostle Island National Lakeshore has been organized to promote an appreciation for and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage and the natural environment of the Apostle Islands. Their number one goal is to develop a fundraising program to help support some of the activities on the islands. The group is composed of over 100 individuals and is open to anyone who loves the islands. Projects initiated to date include research on a historic fishing community on Rocky Island, providing a part-time ranger at Meyer's Beach, publication of the annual park newspaper, funding the popular park lecture series, and the publication of a hardcover picture and narrative book about the islands in honor of the 35th anniversary of the creation of the National lakeshore.

Granite Island and Agawa Rocks

Title: Chemical Analysis of Gull Eggs

Source: Personal files of Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region (Burlington and Downsview)

Date: 7-23-2004

These sites are several of 15 throughout the Great Lakes and connecting channels where Herring Gull eggs are collected annually for toxic chemical analysis. Other biological studies on chemical impacts are also occasionally conducted on these islands by the Canadian Wildlife Service as well.

Lake St. Clair/Detroit River

Grassy Island

Title: Grassy Island contaminant assessment

Source: US Fish & Wildlife Service, <http://midwest.fws.gov/grassyisland/>

Date: 7-14-2004

Grassy Island is a 72-acre island located in the Detroit River, and is now included in the recently established Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) used this island as a confined disposal facility (CDF) to deposit contaminated sediments primarily from the Rouge River. From the years 1961 and 1982, over three million cubic yards of dredged sediments were deposited into Grassy Island. Grassy Island and its surrounding shoals currently provide habitat for fish and wildlife

resources in the lower Detroit River. The island is located along the migration corridor for many bird species including osprey, bald eagle, ducks, geese, swans, and peregrin falcon. In addition, the surrounding waters provide a diversity of habitats from shallow slow water shoals to deep flowing water with rocky shorelines thereby supporting a diverse warmwater fish community. As the Grassy Island CDF was constructed without an impermeable liner or cap, the Service is concerned that wildlife in direct contact with the island are being exposed to contaminants and that contaminants may be "leaking" into the Detroit River. The Service is currently moving forward on plans to more fully characterize the risks from the identified contaminants and evaluate the feasibility of several approaches to both remediate contaminant risks and enhance long-term benefits of the area for fish and wildlife.

Mud Island

Title: Mud Island donated to National Wildlife Refuge System

Source: Detroit River Remedial Action Team

<http://www.msue.msu.edu/wayne/detroitriver.html>

Date: January, 2001

In January 2001 National Steel Corporation donated Mud Island to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to become part of the Wyandotte National Wildlife Refuge. The land donated includes approximately 18 acres of upland and 19 acres of submerged bottomland. Mud Island is located immediately offshore of John Dingell Park in Ecorse, Michigan. Mud Island lies within one of the United States' most significant staging areas for diving ducks like canvasback and scaup. The island will be maintained in perpetuity in its natural state and managed for wildlife and wildlife-dependent uses such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography.

Belle Isle

Title: Natural shore stabilization project at Belle Isle

Source: Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative,

<http://www.tellusnews.com/ahr/softeng.html>

Date: Spring, 2001

Belle Isle is a 980-acre island park located in the Detroit River. Belle Isle has 8 million annual visitors and is the largest island park in the United States. Due to shoreline erosion concerns, demonstration projects using soft engineering techniques were undertaken at several locations on the island, including Lake Muskoday and Blue Heron Lagoon. Soft engineering included planting of native wetland plants, shoreline plants, and seeds, and removal of invasive plants such as *Phragmites*. Project benefits include: shoreline protection and stabilization; erosion control; demonstration of non-point source pollution control practices; habitat enhancement; community involvement; and cost savings. Total cost of both projects was \$54,000.

Title: Construction of sturgeon spawning habitat on Belle Isle

Source: Personal communication from Dr. Bruce Manny, U.S. Geological Survey, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Date: 2003-2006, Construction of the sturgeon spawning habitat will occur in June 2004.

With \$504,743 from the NOAA Coastal Restoration Grant Program, the Great Lakes Fishery Trust and other sources, Michigan Sea Grant is leading a consortium of federal, state, local, university, and nongovernmental agencies and organizations in construction of three lake sturgeon spawning reefs [of broken limestone, cobble, and coal cinders], a robust monitoring program to document fish use of the area before and after construction, and a public education program. The project's goal is to enhance a remnant, healthy, and self-sustaining native population of State-threatened lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) in the Detroit River. The entire project is being documented as a template for enhancement of lake sturgeon populations throughout the Great Lakes.

Title: Belle Isle Aquarium to close after 101 years

Source: The Detroit Zoo, www.detroitzoo.org

Date: 3-3-2005

The Detroit Zoo's Belle Isle Aquarium will close on April 3, 2005, due to declining visitation, budget shortfalls, and necessary upgrades to the ageing facility. The Detroit Zoological Institute plans to move forward with the proposed Belle Isle Nature Zoo, which will include freshwater aquariums, lodge, amphitheatre, and indoor and outdoor exhibits of native Michigan wildlife.

Fighting Island

Title: History of Fighting Island, restoration of shoreline

Source: Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative,
<http://www.tellusnews.com/ahr/softeng.html>

Date: current

Originally settled by the French during the 1700s, this 1,500-acre island has had numerous owners. It was in the late 1700s Native Americans named it Fighting Island because it was used by them to attack passing British ships. In the mid- to late-1800s, several prize fights were held on the island. Today, Fighting Island is privately owned by BASF Corporation. A variety of prairie plants, wetlands, and wooded habitats exist on the southern end of Fighting Island. Pheasant, turkey, deer, fox, rabbit, owl, and numerous other animals live on this island in growing populations. The most recent ecological improvement to Fighting Island has been demonstrating soft engineering of shorelines. BASF, working in partnership with Essex Region Conservation Authority, has designed and implemented soft engineering practices at several sites along the shore of the island. In each case, the shoreline was stabilized, aquatic habitat enhanced, shoreline sinuosity increased, runoff decreased, and aesthetic appearance improved.

Title: Chemical Analysis of Gull Eggs

Source: Personal files of Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region (Burlington and Downsview)

Date: 7-23-2004

Fighting Island is one of 15 throughout the Great Lakes and connecting channels where Herring Gull eggs are collected annually for toxic chemical analysis. Other biological studies on chemical impacts are also occasionally conducted on these islands by the Canadian Wildlife Service as well.

Grosse Ile

Title: Natural erosion control at Grosse Ile

Source: Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative,
<http://www.tellusnews.com/ahr/softeng.html>

Date: 2002

The Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy is an independent, non-profit corporation founded in 1993 by Island residents to preserve in perpetuity significant land and water resources within the community. In the summer of 2003 the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy, in partnership with the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative, rehabilitated 280 feet of shoreline at the Grosse Ile Nature Area using soft engineering techniques. The second phase of this project involves completing the remaining Detroit River shoreline restoration at the Grosse Ile Nature Area using this soft engineering technique. It is planned for 2004. Estimated cost of completing the shoreline is \$80,000

St. Lawrence River

Strachan Island

Title: Chemical Analysis of Gull Eggs

Source: Personal files of Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region (Burlington and Downsview)

Date: 7-23-2004

Strachan Island is one of 15 throughout the Great Lakes and connecting channels where Herring Gull eggs are collected annually for toxic chemical analysis. Other biological studies on chemical impacts are also occasionally conducted on these islands by the Canadian Wildlife Service as well.