

Final Report for Kelleys Island Audubon Club, Project SG127-00
Natural Resource Protection and Ecotourism Promotion

Executive Summary: Through this Lake Erie Protection Fund grant the Kelleys Island Audubon Club (KIAC) has been able to print two brochures, one on the North Pond Nature Preserve at Kelleys Island State Park and the other called Kelleys Island Treasures with a nature map and descriptions of seven of the island's unique natural sites.

The grant allowed KIAC to expand public relations efforts to promote ecotourism including establishing a web site , updating the news release contact list, designing display boards and increasing presentations about the natural resources of Kelleys Island. Twenty volunteers called "Audubon Ambassadors" were trained to assist with questions and interpretation of our unique natural areas.

Problem Statement: Kelleys Island has many unique natural features including: two nature preserves, the North Pond and the North Shore Alvar; two historically important sites, the Glacial Grooves and the Inscription Rock; and threatened flora and fauna such as the endangered Lake Erie watersnake and the northern bog violet.

The island's major economic base is tourism. Thus the need to both protect these valuable natural resources and to promote ecotourism becomes evident.

Method: This project provided funds for KIAC to:

- a. develop and print two brochures highlighting the natural resources and preserves of Kelleys Island;
- b. promote and expand ecotourism on Kelleys Island;
- c. and train volunteers to provide interpretive information and answer questions about the unique natural features of the island.

Results:

a. A new Kelleys Island Treasures brochure with a nature map and highlights of seven unique natural and historical sites was designed and produced. The North Pond Nature Preserve brochure was revised and printed.

b. A web site was developed (www.kelleysisland.ws) and links established to several appropriate sites. Display boards were designed and placed at the Chamber of Commerce, the Artist's Coop (on Neuman's Ferry Line dock), and the Sweet Valley Trading Post and Butterfly Kingdom. A traveling display board is available for use in presentations, for meetings and local festivals. The contact list for news releases was expanded and updated which has increased the press coverage of KIAC events.

Also, though not a direct result of the grant, partnerships and outreach activities have increased. We have formed a partnership with the Kelleys Island Historical Association and established a Butterfly Trail and have been assisting the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy as they begin their organization as just two examples.

c. Two trainings were held for Audubon Ambassadors one on June 4, 2000 and the second on July 16, 2000 with 20 total participants. A slide presentation on "Kelleys Island- A Natural Paradise " was developed and used for the trainings and since has become part of several other presentations. A follow-up interpretive walk was held and materials packet put together to further support the efforts of these volunteers.

This grant has greatly increased our capacity to fulfill those parts of the KIAC mission that address bringing into closer association those interested in the conservation of natural resources of Kelleys Island and also furthering the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of ecology. Thank you for your support!

From Dr. Judy DuShane, Project Director, PO Box 42, Kelleys Island OH
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