

# HOOT OWL

## A Newsletter for the Kelleys Island Audubon Club

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### President's Message

*By Pat Hayes*

All four seasons are delightful on Kelleys Island. The winter quietude is best for many, but my time is spring. The island's fresh warm breezes bring life back. Wildflowers, including the Lakeside Daisy, remind us of what is to come. Warblers and morels. Muddy boots and tilling gardens. Faces old and new. All happy to be part of this so-longed-for season.

Our first Kelleys Island Audubon Club (KIAC) meeting is Thurs., May 19. *Nest With the Birds* starts two days later on the 21st. If you are new to Kelleys Island, we would love for you to join us for our monthly meetings. They are held on the third Thursday each month May through October. A guest speaker will educate us about our island.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Bird Banding Highlights

In 2021, for the 26<sup>th</sup> year, Tom and Paula Bartlett continued their Avian Research Project on Kelleys Island, much to the delight of those who visited them at the banding stations on Jones Preserve and Scheele Preserve. Once again, COVID restrictions were in place, but by observing social distancing, wearing masks and limiting the number of volunteers and visitors, a successful banding year was achieved.

Passerine Banding (songbirds) on Jones Preserve began mid-April and lasted through May for the spring. During that time, 1,232 individual birds were banded spanning 64 species, including 20 species of warblers. Fall banding returned for a week in September and again mid-October through mid-November, with an additional 1,582 individual birds being banded. Highlights in 2021 included two Sharp-shinned Hawks, a Cedar Waxwing, a record number of a variety of warblers, including Magnolia, Blackpoll, and Tennessee Warbler as well as large numbers of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

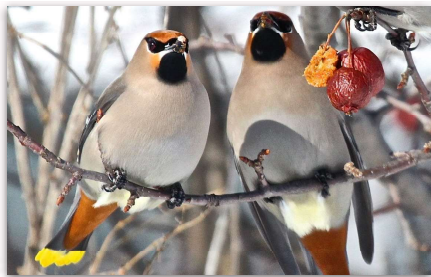
*(Continued on page 3)*

Pictured: Bartletts & Friends with 100,000 bird | Tom Bartlett



## May 19: First KIAC Meeting

**Allison Cusick** will kick off the KIAC season with our first monthly nature program, Thursday, May 19.



Cusick is the former Chief Botanist for the State of Ohio. After retiring, he moved to Pittsburgh where he is a Research Assistant at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. On Kelleys, Cusick researched the rare plants in the North Pond and Alvar and was instrumental in getting these two areas designated as Nature Preserves. He also helped in designating the Lakeside Daisy as an endangered plant nationally.

The program is free and open to the public. Call 419-746-2258 for more info.

**Potluck: 6 p.m.** Bring a dish to pass, your own table service and beverage.

**Program & Meeting: 7 p.m.**

**Location:** Community Park on Addison St. (Inclement weather: meet at the school)

*(President's Message continued)* Bring a dish to the potluck that is held right before the meeting and program. Our diverse group of members have one thing in common: keeping our island healthy for all the reasons we love it. Natural areas and preserves are priceless. Read our Treasure Brochure to find these places.

The summer flies by. Our meetings are well attended and our potlucks superb. Summer is for swimming. Go to the beach. Be on the lookout for white pelicans that nest at our end of Lake Erie.

In the fall, bird banding is very popular. As the season lingers, get ready for owl banding. Wow, what a wonderful program! Tom and Paula Bartlett have conducted this research for 20 years and entertain and educate with a wonderful wit and style that impresses young and old. A great educational experience and special way to end the birding season.

Nature is ever changing all year long on Kelleys Island. Any season is a great time to take a hike and while you're at it...look up for eagles.



Barb Schnittker & Cathy Coffman with Saw-Whet Owls from record breaking night

Nov. 4, 2021 | Paula Bartlett

(Continued from cover) Fall Saw-Whet Owl banding at the Scheele Preserve and Kelleys Island State Park property occurred over 32 nights mid-Oct. through mid-Dec. During that time, 122 Northern Saw-Whet Owls and 3 Eastern Screech-Owls were banded. There were lots of records set during Owl banding this year, including back-to-back nights of record setting Saw-Whet Owl banding: 29 on Nov. 3 and 40 on Nov 4! The biggest highlight occurred on Oct. 22 when the Bartletts banded the 100,000th bird in their career, fittingly a Northern Saw-Whet Owl.

We are looking forward to the Bartlett's return to the island in 2022 and being part of this very important research.



An American Redstart shows off its Fall plumage | Paula Bartlett

## Join in the Fun: Science Saturdays

This weekly series features interactive exploration centered around a particular wildlife topic. Families and learners of all ages are invited to explore hands-on science fun during these free drop-in events. Unless noted, all programs are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Labor Day.

A few scheduled topics include:

**May 28 | Plankton:** Dr. Doug Kane, Heidelberg University- Assistant Professor of Biology & Environmental Sciences Department, National Center for Water Quality Research

**June 4 | Viticulture:** Crooked Tree Vineyard, Janet and Steve Wermuth. Viticulture is the scientific study of grapes, most often with a focus on growth and production. *Meet at Crooked Tree Vineyard. Space is limited and advance sign up required. Sign up information coming soon.*

**June 11 | Snakes:** Dr. Kristin Stanford, OSU Stone Laboratory

**June 18 | Geology:** Ohio Geological Survey

**July 8 & July 9 | Moths:** Erie Metroparks; We will have a night program on Friday evening.

**August 27 | Pollinators & Pancakes**

**September 3 | Monarch Butterflies:** Tagging & Migration

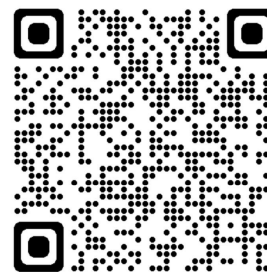
Additional dates include:

**June 25**

**July 2, 16, 23 & 30**

**Aug. 6, 13 & 20**

*Science Saturdays is a partnership between the Kelleys Island State Park, Kelleys Island Audubon Club & the Kelleys Island Schools Field Station.*



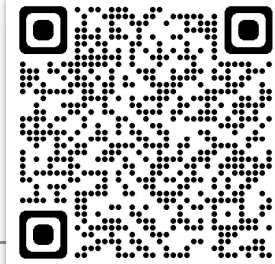
Kelleys Island Information



## Plan Your Adventure:

### An Overview of the Nature Preserves on Kelleys Island

*Did you know?* Approximately one third of Kelleys Island, over 800 acres, is protected land that's designated as a "Preserve." Visit [kelleyislandnature.org/preserves/](http://kelleyislandnature.org/preserves/) for maps and more details.



**North Shore Loop – Kelleys Island State Park.** This approximately one-mile hiking trail provides a pleasant and informative look at a diverse mix of Kelleys Island flowers, trees, shoreline, glacial markings and architectural history. One of the first sites on the trail is the remains of the Kelleys Island Lime and Transport Company's loader. The structure, built in 1888, was used to load crushed limestone into rail cars to be taken to the dock and limekilns. This area's limestone shoreline, known as an Alvar or limestone prairie, is part of the State of Ohio's Natural Areas and Preserves.

**East Quarry – Kelleys Island State Park.** This was part of a much larger quarry to the west of Division St. The Kelleys Island Lime and Transport Company began quarrying this area around 1933 and continued until 1940. Hikers and many wildlife species use the trails around the lake. The several miles of trails afford hikers a spectacular view of Kelleys Island trees, wildflowers, glacial markings and fossil preserves. Scattered throughout is a marvelous record of the marine invertebrate animals that abounded on the floor of the quarry. Glacial scraping marks can also be seen on the upper edges of the quarry and an abundant variety of birds have been spotted from Horseshoe Lake.



Horseshoe Lake: East Quarry | Barb Zeller

**North Pond State Preserve – Kelleys Island State Park.** The North Pond, a 30-acre sanctuary with forest, marsh and a hiking trail, is Ohio's only state-managed, lake embayment natural pond. The preserve features a mile-long trail partially covered by a recycled plastic boardwalk and a raised observation deck. The tallest trees in this area are cottonwoods and can attract nesting eagles. Standing on the observation deck is an ideal place to view the preserve. Dozens of bird species have been sighted throughout the area: from Chipping Sparrows, Purple Martins, Indigo Buntings, various warblers and Black-capped Chickadees at the trailhead; to an array of waterfowl, herons, Northern Kingbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds nearer the observation tower.



**Scheele Preserve.** One of five parcels of land on Kelleys Island owned and managed by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. This 24-acre preserve is home to a small forest of the island's only rock elm trees. This Ohio-threatened species is found in only in four other locations in the state. Many additional trees, butterfly weed, tufted vetch and green milkweed can be seen while strolling through this beautiful and well-preserved tract. Fox snakes and a variety of birds, including the Eastern Screech Owl, Black-capped Chickadee and the Orchard Oriole, have been noted in this preserve.

**Ed Curilla Preserve.** This 15-acre preserve is owned and managed by the Kelleys Island Park Board. The preserve contains three acres of Great Lakes Alvar which is characterized by exposed limestone bedrock, thin soils with high pH levels, and sparse vegetation. The 1/2-mile trail provides access throughout the property's forests, wetlands, and globally unique Alvar habitat, which supports rare plant species. These habitats provide important resources for migrating birds, reptiles, amphibians, dragonflies, damselflies and other wildlife. Along the trail, there is an

overlook to the adjoining quarry; hikers will find informational plaques detailing island history.

**Huntley-Beatty Preserve.** This 59-acre preserve provides visitors with opportunities to hike and explore the unique ecological and geological features of the island. Surveys have revealed a dozen State Endangered plants growing on this property, including Caribbean spike-rush, Philadelphia panic-grass and Lakeside Daisies that bloom every spring. The long pond, called The Cut, was created when the preserve was an activity quarry and provided water for the steam engines.

**Quinn Preserve.** This 18.5 acre preserve protects the only Red Cedar forest habitat in Ohio. From the trails, hikers can see one of the three eagle nests that are located on the island.

**Jones Preserve (Open for select events only).** Between 1976 and 1982, brothers Thomas and Brooks Jones donated this parcel of Long Point to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. It totals 21 acres and juts from the island's northeast corner. This area is a vital stopover site for migratory birds crossing Lake Erie – particularly warblers, which prefer mature forests close to the lake. Since 1996, the Jones Preserve has been a key research site for certified bird-

bander and Museum Research Associate Tom Bartlett. Tom, wife Paula, and other volunteers have mist-netted and banded spring and fall migrants here since 1996 and continue to provide educational opportunities at banding events during the migratory seasons.



Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Paula Bartlett



Bird Banding on Jones Preserve | Paula Bartlett

# Summer Nature Camp on Kelleys Island

## A hands-on opportunity to discover the “Wonders of Water”

This summer, Kelleys Island Nature Camp is inviting campers ages 4 to 14 to learn more about the “Wonders of Water.” Campers will investigate the ecology of Lake Erie, home to many microscopic and large animals. They’ll learn more about the animals who depend on the lake for food by getting up-close and hands-on learning experiences through water exploration, fish dissection, kayaking and more!

Staff from Erie Metroparks, The Ohio State University’s Stone Laboratory, Ohio Geological Survey, and Ohio Sea Grant will be joining the Nature Camp Crew to make the camp fun, engaging and educational.

The Nature Camp mission is to *“Encourage Children’s Natural Curiosity of the Outdoors by Engaging Them in Fun and Educational Activities.”* We appreciate all the support and assistance we receive in teaching kids about the beautiful islands they live and play on! With the 80 plus kids who participated in Nature Camp last year, we are excited for Nature Camp 2022!

**Please see the registration form for more details.**

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Water is the thread that connects us all,  
especially on an island surrounded by it!

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2021 Nature Campers head for the water



Hands-on exploration is a part of every Kelleys Island camp

## Kelleys Island Nature Camp Registration Form 2022

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parents Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Month/Day/Year-Check Age Requirements-Must be of Age by Camp Date)

Island Address-Include Dates This Address Should Be Used \_\_\_\_\_

Home or Mailing Address-Include Dates This Address Should Be Used \_\_\_\_\_

Island Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size (circle one)	YOUTH- SM M L XL	ADULT- SM M L		
<b>(X) Preferred Camp Session(s)</b>	<b>Dates:</b>	<b>Times:</b>	<b>KI Resident:</b>	<b>Nonresident</b>
___ Intro to Nature Camp (4yrs.)	June 27-July 1	9-10AM	\$15.00	\$30.00
___ My 1 <sup>st</sup> Nature Camp(5-6yrs.)	June 27-July 1	10:30-11:30AM	\$15.00	\$30.00
___ Nature Camp (7-8yrs.)	June 27-July 1	12:30-2PM	\$15.00	\$30.00
___ Environmental Adventure Camp I (9-10yrs.)	June 27-July 1	2:30-4:30PM	\$15.00	\$30.00
___ Environmental Adventure Camp II (11-14)	July 4-8	10AM-12PM	\$15.00	\$30.00

**If you are a Kelleys Island Audubon Club Member you will receive a Nature Camp discount!**

**KIAC Membership Level** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount discounted** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed After Discount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You have my permission to use photos of my child participating in Nature Camp. NO NAME will be used with online photos of Nature Camp.

\_\_\_ Kelleys Island Life \_\_\_ Kelleys Island School Website \_\_\_ Facebook \_\_\_ Kelleys School Newsletter

**Make checks to Kelleys Island School. Mail to Nature Camp Program PO Box 349 KELLEYS ISLAND, OHIO 43438**

### Permission Form

I fully understand that the nature of recreational and educational activities associated with Nature Camp includes an inherent risk of danger, which may result in personal injury or harm to my child. I grant permission for my child to participate in the program and activities of Nature Camp at the Bay, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Kelleys Island School and Field Station, its staff, directors, employees, Agents and/or representatives from any claim for any injury or damage which may result from my child's attendance at and participation in the Nature Camp at the Bay. I authorize emergency medical treatment if none of the above-named emergency contact persons can be reached at the time of an emergency.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Kelleys  
Island  
Audubon  
Club





## 2022 Kelleys Island Audubon Club Annual Membership Form

- ☐ **Giant Swallowtail** \$15.00 Annual Individual Membership:  
25% Nature Camp Discount
- ☐ **Northern Saw-whet Owl** \$25.00 Annual Family Membership:  
50% Nature Camp Discount
- ☐ **Monarch Butterfly**- \$100.00 Annual Business Membership:  
75% Nature Camp Discount, and a Certificate of Appreciation.
- ☐ **Lakeside Daisy** \$500.00 Lifetime Membership:  
100% Nature Camp Discount

**In addition to my membership, I would like to donate to:**

**Nature Camp Fund**

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Kelleys Islands Nature Camp, to be used only for expenses and equipment related to the Nature Camp Program.

**Donation to Memorial Fund**

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation to Pape Memorial Fund** (Natural Science Library) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Avian Study of the Birds of Kelleys Island**

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the collection, management, and the relaying of information from banded and marked birds on Kelleys Island.

**Pollinator Fund- If you wish to donate to this fund, please send a separate check along with the membership.**

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Kelleys Island Pollinator Habitat for Conservation, Education, and Research of the Kelleys Island's pollinators.

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to Kelleys Island Audubon Club PO Box 42, Kelleys Island, OH 43438**

The Kelleys Island Audubon Club is a 501 (c)3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*The mission of the Kelleys Island Audubon Club is to bring into closer association those interested in the study of wild birds and in the conservation of natural resources of Kelleys Island; to further the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of ecology; and to cooperate with other organizations having similar objectives.*

Pat Hayes – President, Barbara Zeller - Vice President, June Campbell – Secretary, Jean Kuyoth – Treasurer,  
Jim Zeller, Lori Hayes, Jackie Taylor, Chris Ashley, Virginia Coyne, Tom Pieratt

***Find us online at: [KelleysIslandNature.org](http://KelleysIslandNature.org)***

## Pollinator Update: An Abundance of Life

The pollinator project got off on the right foot in spring 2021! After planting native seed mixes in summer 2020, we were waiting for the first signs of success. The seeds remained dormant until they received the necessary rain; in spring 2021, it finally came. Most of the plants we anticipated came to life: Black-eyed Susan, Big Bluestem, Milkweed, Blue Vervain and Grey-headed Coneflower.

There was also one welcome surprise: Philadelphia Panic Grass (*Panicum philadelphicum*). This small annual grass is listed as threatened in Ohio but has come up strong in several plots. Seed for this plant was not available for purchase. It came up on its own when freed from competition with non-native plants. Another less-welcome surprise was Common Mullein, with its tall spikes. It also took advantage of being freed from competition and soil disturbance.

In late winter, we moved up mowing in an attempt to knock back unwanted invasives. Roughly a third of each plot will be mowed this year, with the another third mowed next season.

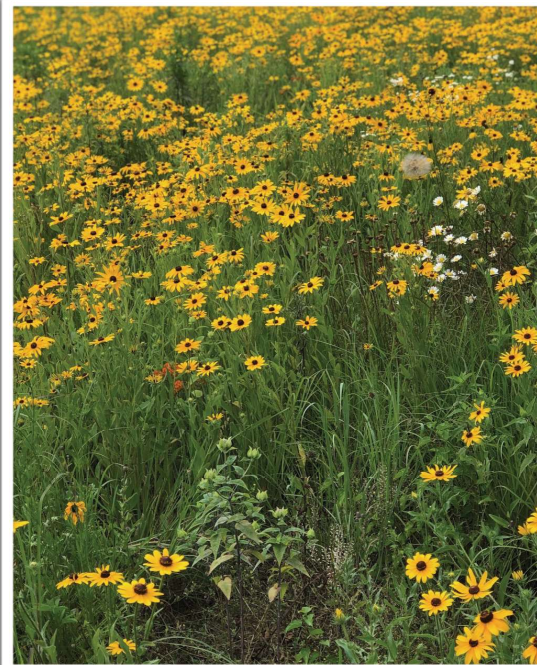
This past year gave us the opportunity to survey some of the wildlife taking advantage of the plots., including pollinator species. We identified at least five species of bees and twenty species of butterfly. Monarch butterflies found the milkweed and nectar producing flowers attractive. Many were seen, and we were able to tag over a hundred as part of ongoing research on the Lake Erie Islands. Dragonflies, birds and mammals have been seen in and around the plots -- around six different species. Deer use the tall grass to bed down while several types of small mammals hide from hawks and other predators. We hope to continue more precise monitoring this year.

This winter's abundant snow will add moisture and nitrogen to the soil, bringing more life in the spring. We expect fewer Black-eyed Susans, but more in the way of coneflower, milkweed and grasses. Invasives should be getting pushed out as well.

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**Be sure to visit the fields to enjoy the fruits of our efforts! The main field, located across from the airport, offers a perimeter path where visitors can walk around to observe the pollinators in action.**

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Pollinator Field | Chris Ashley

Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Paula Bartlett



## Hummingbirds:

### A Fan Favorite on Kelleys Island and Beyond

As spring returns to Kelleys Island, so will many migratory birds, including the popular and entertaining Ruby-throated Hummingbird. After wintering in Florida, Mexico and Central America, these solitary birds migrate north, some embarking on a non-stop journey across the Gulf of Mexico, to reach their breeding grounds in the U.S. and Canada. Many people throughout the Midwest, including Kelleys Island residents, will put out feeders to provide the nourishment needed to survive. Unlike some birds that form breeding pairs, male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will establish a territory ahead of the arrival of the females. They then court multiple females within that territory, aggressively challenging any competition from other males.



Rufous-tailed Hummingbird | Bartlett

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the most common hummingbird seen east of the Mississippi River and the only species known to be on the island. Throughout the rest of the world, however, there are nearly 360 different species of hummingbirds. They range in size from the smallest "bee hummingbird" at 2" (5cm), to the largest "giant hummingbird" at 9" (23cm). All hummingbirds are known for the audible humming sound created by their beating wings, their ability to hover in place while feeding, and fast flying (up to 34 mph) and diving speeds (about 50 mph). Hummingbirds have a high metabolism to support this speed but can reduce their metabolism dramatically at night or when food is not available, entering a deep-sleep state.



Violet-Crowned Hummingbird

KIAC members who escape to warmer climates during the winter have spotted other interesting hummingbird species. In Arizona, common species include Anna's, Costas, Broad-billed and Black-chinned Hummingbirds. During the day, as many as 7 to 10 hummingbirds of these species can be seen diving, chasing and feeding. An unusual sighting in Phoenix this winter was a Violet-crowned Hummingbird. Known for its bright white underparts and bright red bill, this bird is more commonly found in Mexico and very southern Arizona. An exchange of pictures with the Bartletts confirmed the sighting farther north than expected. Those traveling to Central America have encountered species such as the Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, known for its striking chestnut colored tail.

Though the Ruby-throated Hummingbird may seem less exotic than some other species, it is still a treat to see. If you are lucky, you might be able to see Tom Bartlett band a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at the banding station and watch him hold the bird to nourish it prior to sending it on its way!



## Final Thoughts:

### There's a Poet In All of Us

Richard Pariza is an old friend of a KIAC Board Member. After many evenings of thoughtful discussions, Pariza shared that he is also a poet. **"Isn't everybody?" he asked.**

He explained that it is interesting to take an existing poem and add to it – which he had done with his favorite poem, Lord Tennyson's *"The Eagle."* He began reciting it:

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.  
The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;  
He watches from his mountain walls,  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

Pariza then added to the poem, explaining his inspiration behind the prose: "I could hear the eagle screech and see him circling above the ocean below. But what was he watching for? Was it just a meal, or was it another creature with its own intentionality? What was the prey thinking about in its dark world? How will this brief scene play out? I saw the freedom of the sky contrasting with the cold sea, meeting the open air. The eagle was hungry, and the fish longed to be transformed into the sky and sunlight, not to be conformed to this watery world." And so, Pariza continued on:

From soaring heights, he eyes his prey;  
A simple fish will die today,  
One flies, one swims, it's Nature's play.  
Instinctively he seeks the light;  
This fish who dares to dream of flight,  
Then breaks the waves with all his might.  
The talons strike, they seize his breast;  
And lift him to a hidden nest,  
To rip, devour, and then digest.  
The eagle now has had his feast;  
Fin flows to feather, beast to beast.  
One renewed, the other, released.



KIAC thanks the following members who contributed to this edition of *Hoot Owl*: Chris Ashley, Paula & Tom Bartlett, Lori & Pat Hayes, Tom Pieratt, Jackie Taylor, Richard Pariza, and Barb & Jim Zeller. A special thank you to *Hoot Owl* Editor, Julie Schuler, who has helped format, write and publish the 2021 and 2022 issues.

Kelleys Island Audubon Club  
P.O. Box 42  
Kelleys Island, OH 43438  
[www.kelleysislandnature.com](http://www.kelleysislandnature.com)

**REMINDER:**

*KIAC is a registered  
501 c(3) charity.  
Therefore, all gifts  
and donations to it  
are tax deductible.*

**Board Members:**

Pat Hayes | *President*  
Barbara Zeller | *Vice President*  
June Campbell | *Secretary*  
Jean Kuyoth | *Treasurer*  
Chris Ashley  
Virginia Coyne  
Lori Hayes  
Tom Pieratt  
Jackie Taylor  
Jim Zeller

## 2022 EVENTS & MEETINGS

**Subject to change: Check "Bird Kelleys Island" on FB or [kelleysislandnature.org](http://kelleysislandnature.org) for updates.**

MAY 21:	Nest with the Birds
MAY 29-SEPT 3:	Science Saturdays (see inside for more details)
JULY 16:	Celebrate KI Booth
JUNE 27-JULY 1:	Kids Nature Camp (see inside for more details)
JULY 4-AUG 8:	Kids Nature Camp (see inside for more details)
SEPT. 4:	Glacial Glimpses
SEPT. 17:	Feathers and Foliage
OCT. 13-NOV. 22:	Owl Banding, nightly
NOV. 4-6:	Owl Fest
NOV. 5:	End of the Year Party

**MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

MAY 19	JUNE 16
JULY 21	AUG. 18
SEPT. 15	OCT. 20