From the Mayor's Desk

I hope all had a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year's Day. It is a very busy time of the year and we all are probably going to enjoy some down time.

To back up a little, on November 23rd the Annual Memorial Park Christmas Lighting took place and was attended by many families. Santa arrived on time, thanks to the Kelleys Island Volunteer Fire Department, and I believe he made many children very happy. I would like to thank all the contributors for a beautiful lighting display and making this annual event come together as it did. The Christmas Potluck on December 8th was also a success. It was very well attended and a great time was had by all.

Memorial Park Christmas Decorating Party

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. With the start of 2019 it seems like the lake may make several island residents unhappy with it not freezing. The boat is still transporting people and vehicles until the middle of January. We have started checking homes and so far everything looks good. On the elderly check program, it seems like mostly everyone is off the island for the winter but, we'll keep checking on the ones that stayed behind.

I would like to address several items that arose towards the end of 2018.

First, I strongly encourage everyone to get out and vote or run for office in the November 2019 election on Kelleys Island. I believe by getting involved a difference will be made.

In regards to the issues that came up, I will, for the last time, defend the character of my department, the officers and myself as the Chief of Police.

I have worked in Law Enforcement for 23 years. I've been in charge of three different police departments over these twenty-three years. I hold three college degrees in: Police Science, Criminal Justice and Administration. At this time, I'm also working towards receiving my PELC (Police Executive Leadership College) and CLEE (Certified Law Enforcement Executive) certifications. As I come closer to my retirement, I would also like to obtain my Law Degree. That being said, you will find no other person as qualified, that enjoys his career on Kelleys Island, makes the Kelleys Island Police Department his priority, and cares as much about the people and community of Kelleys Island. I took an oath and I will stand by that forever.

So, let's start off with the

Letter from the Chief:

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Please turn to page 2

Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative Barge

The tower at the Transfer Station is up and it is ready to go. I have been informed that they will return in spring to complete clean up and landscaping.

Finally, Frontier Communications have added three “D Slams” to provide better internet service. The three locations: Pauline Drive, Melody Lane and Monaghan Road at Ward, will be connected by fiber optic lines to the main office across from the water tower. This will add 96 ports at each, 288

Village Pump in Chicago

Village Pump employees enjoyed their time off visiting Chicago

please turn to page 7

Kelleys Life now online at www.kelleysisland.com/kelleyslife
From the Mayor's Desk

continued from page 1

total, to make available more internet access for customers who want to use Frontier as a provider. It will increase the speed to a minimum of ten megs up and three megs down with no lag time in the summer because of the volume of users. Pauline Drive has been completed and the other two to be completed in the spring. Frontier will also be adding a loop, fiber optic to the school which will enhance the schools capability to have more units on line with greater speeds.

Ron Elbar, Mayor

Kelleys Island
Brewery News

This time of year has us looking at 2018 and the highlights from our lawn parties and our daily operations from the past season. With the Chopchinski and the Alexander families leading the memories, we are so grateful to have been able to share time and enjoy the beautiful south shore of the island with our new and old friends. Although we don’t host the larger weddings anymore (120 is our limit now), our lawn is the most spacious and friendliest location to have your wedding or any gathering on Lake Erie. From the 65th wedding anniversary to the 70th birthday party and all the surprise and themed parties in between, we were happy that so many people from all over were able to enjoy our island hospitality.

2019 is looking to be our greatest year ever. The cottage is renting Thursdays through Sunday or Sunday through Sunday. We are taking reservations and sending contracts until March 15 and then again after April 30. Be sure to get your favorite date reserved as soon as possible. If you haven’t stayed there but always wanted to, make it a dream come true during our 20th Brewaversary Year!!! That’s right this year is 59 for Jay in business and our 20th as a brewery. Can you believe it? We have enjoyed the reminiscing and I am surprising him with 15 copies of his first book, Look at it This Way, for the holiday.

Look for the next issue of the Kelleys Life for our updates. We will also be sharing a lot of news on Facebook, so if you aren’t on there with us yet, please follow us for a lot of fun this upcoming season. Bioblitz and Earth Day will be here before you know it. Part of the best part of being the Kelleys Island Brewery is being committed to the ecology and the natural conservation efforts for our island and its surrounding home, Lake Erie.

In such a tumultuous year, processing the lessons and the kindness extended to us will be always in our hearts. We thank each employee and each customer and family member, the ones who help us each year to be better because you Feel the Love. Thank you and may 2019 be healthy, green, inclusive and full of fun. Maholo!!!
Kelleys Island Community Chest – Absolutely! KI

Community support has allowed us to make contributions to both the Kelleys Island Police Department and improvements to the downtown Memorial Park. Last year we donated an animated Santa park display, along with garland and wreaths for the lamp posts, to the Kelleys Island Fire Department for Memorial Park decorating. The plan is to continue with improvements to the Memorial Park.

This past year we were able to replace the benches that were removed from the playground area. We also placed new picnic tables in Memorial Park. Thank you to those who have made generous, personal contributions to our fund.

As well as community contributions, our organization has been promoting Kelleys Island over the last seven years. We have participated in numerous travel shows including: Columbus, Cincinnati, Chicago and Cleveland. These shows have been very successful in making vacationers more familiar with our area and what we have to offer. It is our hope that all Kelleys Island businesses have profited from our efforts.

Kelleys Island Community Chest, P.O. Box 391, Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438

Absolutely! KI would like to express our thanks to the community for supporting the Annual Harvest Fest and the Police Chase – Half Marathon.

The Police Chase – Half Marathon in November attracted over 70 registered runners. The newly added 5-K Run attracted additional participants. Participation has been increasing each year, making the event very successful.

Ellee Foster: Overall female winner of the Kelleys Island 5-K race

J & J Sales

We offer sales and service on the following items:

- JET BOATS Yamaha
- PWC (jet skis) Sea Doo, Yamaha and Kawasaki
- SxS & ATV Kawasaki, Yamaha, Honda, Can Am, Suzuki
- MOTORCYCLE Yamaha, Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki
- 3 WHEEL Spyder Roadsters by Can Am
- SNOWMOBILES Yamaha and Ski Doo

+ We offer fiber glass repair on PWC and Yamaha jet boats.
+ We can convert SXS units to be island legal for on road use.
+ We can pick up or deliver to any of the ferry docks and the Port Clinton airport.

419 734 2754
Rt 53 North, Port Clinton

Visit our web site: POWERSPORTS360.COM

419 433 2523
Sprowl Road, Huron

Kelleys Island’s Finest Docking & Dining Destination

Dockage • Restaurant & Bar • Golf Cart Rental • Marine Store

419-746-2668 portsidemarinaki.com

Dockers

Waterfront Restaurant & Bar

Ellee Foster: Overall female winner of the Kelleys Island 5-K race
Memorial Park Christmas Decorating Party

The Kelleys Island Volunteer Fire Department and numerous volunteers spent the afternoon decorating Memorial Park for the Christmas Season. They did a fantastic job as always. This year, they were fortunate to have beautiful weather.

The Fire Department was also provided with a very generous donation of two LED Crab Pot Christmas Trees and new Candy Cane lights to line the walkways. With all the new additions, the park looked the best ever.

The decorations are put in place a couple of weeks prior, but not too far in advance for the annual Park Lighting Celebration on Friday after Thanksgiving when, upon Santa’s arrival, the park lights up. This tradition gives the community something to look forward to and marks the beginning of the Kelleys Island Christmas Season.

Everyone is welcome to take part in the decorating. The Fire Department always welcomes islanders, visitors and their families to participate in the fun. Those who participate are rewarded by being included in the annual group photo.

Thank you to the Kelleys Island Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Chief Bobby Skeans and all of the volunteers that pitched in to create Christmas on Kelleys Island.

Kelleys Island School

After a seven-year hiatus, the Kelleys Island High School officially reopened in September of this year. Our newly-enrolled student is Liam Neu, who moved from Lima, Ohio. Liam is sixteen years old and a sophomore at our school. His main interests include: playing video games, “taking things apart in order to see how they work”, hanging out with friends, watching scrambled eggs, cold weather, satisfying his sweet tooth with his favorite candy, starburst. Liam is a Life Scout and his hope is to earn the rank of Eagle Scout within the next year. He has already logged volunteer hours toward this goal, painting Kelleys Island fire hydrants and volunteering time working with the younger kids in the Kelleys Island Elementary School.

Liam loves animals and hopes to get a dog soon. He is most excited to live on the island this winter and witness the freezing of the lake. When asked what he enjoys about attending school on the island, Liam cited the flexible schedule and the tutor-like teaching style. Liam lives on the island with her parents, Trudy and Todd, and is often visited by older brothers, Lars and Erik.

Liam is instructed in his English/Language Arts course by Miss Hannah Kulka at: Hkulka@kelleyslmk.com. During last year’s two-day December deer-gun season, Liam loves animals and hopes to get a dog soon. He is most excited to live on the island this winter and witness the freezing of the lake. When asked what he enjoys about attending school on the island, Liam cited the flexible schedule and the tutor-like teaching style. Liam lives on the island with her parents, Trudy and Todd, and is often visited by older brothers, Lars and Erik.

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Nearly 10,000 Deer Checked

Ohio’s hunters checked 9,625 white-tailed deer during Ohio’s 2018 two-day deer-gun hunting season, December 15-16, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). During last year’s two-day December deer-gun season, 14,115 deer were harvested. Hunters still have opportunities to participate. The 2019-2020 Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations or at wildohio.gov.
Kelleys Island 2019 Calendar of Events

MARCH
16  50th Birthday Party  Village Pump

APRIL
6    Early Bird Party  Village Pump
13   Job Fair  Peeper's
20   Spring Wine Fling  KI Wine Co.
21   Bio Blitz for Earth Day  KI Brewery
27   Blessing the Brewery  KI Brewery

MAY
4    Derby Day  Island-Wide
5    K.I.P.D. Cops & Bobbers  Portside Marina
11   EMS Spaghetti Dinner  Peeper's
18   EMS Safety Forces Day  Casino Parking Lot
18   K.I.P.D. - Meet the Officers & Cook-out  Casino Parking Lot
19   Nest with the Birds  Audubon Club
19   K.I.P.D. Car Wash  Police Department
29   Ohio Bike Week  Island-Wide

JUNE
7  - 9  Bacon Fest  KI Wine Co.
9    5 & 10K Run/Walk  Seaway Marina
14 - 15 Razzles Volleyball Tournament  Caddy Shack & Island House
15 - 22 Ohio Craft Beer Week  Village Pavilion
17   International Student Dinner  Island-Wide
21 - 23 Navy Weekend  Herndon Galleries
22   Summer Solstice Soiree  KI Wine Co.
23   M.A.W / Horseshoe Tournament  Village Pavilion
29 - 30 Mad River Bike Tour  Island-Wide

JULY
6    3 on 3 Russ Wilson  Ball Field
13   KI’s Got Talent  Burlington Village
19   21 Island Fest  Memorial Park
22   26 Vacation Bible School  Zions United Methodist Church
26 - 28 Film Fest  Ball Field & Town Hall

AUGUST
2    Justin Horseshoe Tourney  KI Wine Co.
3    Make-a-Wish Poker Run/Dockers
4    Make-a-Wish Swim  Portside Marina
4    Cops & Bobbers  Portside Marina
4    Arts & Crafts Fair  Historical Museum
9 - 10 Homecoming – KILA  Village Pavilion
11   KIPD 4th Annual Pig Roast  Memorial Park
12   International Student Dinner  Village Pavilion
17   Boat Lights  Dockers
24   Poker Run / Dice Roll  Peeper's

SEPTEMBER
1    Glacial Glimpses  Audubon Club
7    Treasurer Island Day  Island Wide
7    Butterfly Fest/Yard Sale  Historical Museum
8    KIPD Car Wash  Police Department
14   Wine, Art and Food Fair  KI Wine Co.
14   Kayak Poker Paddle  Island Adventours
21   Feathers & Foliage  Audubon Club
28   Harvest Fest  Memorial Park
28   Lobster Fest  Village Pump

OCTOBER
5    Oktoberfest  KI Brewery
12   19th Annual Chili Cook-Off  KI Brewery
16-20 Murder Mystery  KI Venture Resort
19    Trunk or Treat – Seaway Marina  Island House Parking Lot
19    EMS Pumpkin Carving  Peeper's
19    Kid's Halloween  KI Brewery
19    Family Hay Ride-KILA  4-H Camp
19    EMS Terror at Town Hall  Town Hall
26   Adult Halloween  Island-Wide
26   Day of the Dead Celebration  KI Wine Co.

NOVEMBER
1 - 2  Owl Fest  Audubon Club
10   Half Marathon & 5K  KI Venture Resort
29   Thanksgiving Pot Luck  Village Pump
29   Annual Park Lighting-KIPD  Memorial Park
30   OSU Tail Gate Party  Village Pump
30   Sights, Sounds & Scents of the Holiday  KI Wine Co.
Thanksgiving Weekend is an Annual Celebration of Friends, Family and Christmas

Thanksgiving weekend on Kelleys Island has become an annual tradition for islanders, seasonal residents and those that just love it here.

After enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with our closest friends and family, Friday evening drew everyone downtown to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season. The Village Pump hosted a Potluck dinner that was great fun for the family, good food, and conversation amongst friends.

Kelleys Island Volunteer Fire Department sponsored the annual Memorial Park Lighting. The lights and sirens of the fire truck brought families to the Memorial Park in anticipation of seeing Santa. Upon his arrival, the park lights were turned on, adding to the excitement and holiday cheer. Children rushed to meet with Santa, excited about giving him their Christmas wish list. After the families visited with Santa and admired the Christmas light display, they headed to the Captain’s Corner for some holiday fun. There was hot chocolate, cookie decorating, a holiday craft donated by Robin Benvenuto, and coloring provided for the children.

The weekend was topped off with the Tail Gate Party at the Village Pump. The annual event featured plenty of food, entertainment, fun and, of course, the annual Village Pump Tail Gate Party photo.
The Landowners of Kelleys Island invite everyone to attend their yearly Homecoming Event on August 19th at 3 p.m. Event is held rain or shine, kids bring your parents and wear your Halloween costume to share in the fun, food and games and prizes!!

Reminder to KI/A Board members to attend the board meetings on April 20, May 18 (Welcome Back Pot Luck at 6 pm at the Pavilion, June 15, July 20, August 17 and September 21 with the Annual Meeting followed by the Board Meeting.

Log on to our website at http://www.kila.rocks for the latest news, videos and updates.

Letter from the Chief:

January 2019

Dear Kelleys Island Residents and Visitors,

As the Chief of Police, it is my duty to ensure the safety of our community. In the past year, I have been committed to maintaining the highest level of service to the residents of Kelleys Island. I want to take this opportunity to update you on the progress we have made towards this goal.

First of all, I want to thank all the residents who have contributed to the success of our police department. Their support has been crucial in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Secondly, I want to report on some of the initiatives that have been implemented to improve our service. One of the major initiatives has been the acquisition of new cruisers. These cruisers are more powerful and have features that make them better suited for our needs.

In addition, I have been able to reduce the budget for the past year, which has allowed us to operate more self-sufficient. I have also been able to avoid going over budget, which has been possible due to the efforts of my officers and staff.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to all the residents who have contributed to the success of our department. Your support is invaluable and I am committed to continuing to provide the best possible service to everyone.

Sincerely,

Chief of Police, Shawn M. Craig/

Respectfully Yours,

Chief of Police, Shawn M. Craig

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Galleries and Sculpture Garden

114 Laylin Lane, Kelleys Island

Galleries and Garden open weekends
11am - 4pm and by appointment

Charles Herndon

GALLERIES AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

114 LAYLIN LANE, KELLEYS ISLAND

Galleries and Garden open weekends
11am - 4pm and by appointment

CharlesHerndon.com phone: 419.746.2249

Jan./Feb. 2019

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continued from page 1
Leslie Korenko

We can’t believe we missed putting our column in the last issue of Kelleys Life. That means we have quite a bit of catching up to do. If you follow us on Facebook (Kelleys Island History Museum) you join over 1500 other people who get our news first (and some other cool posts).

August – The Murder Mystery Masquerade was a huge success. Almost all the tickets were sold and, judging from the smiles on everyone’s faces, everyone really enjoyed themselves. Attendees were very busy snapping photos and there are over 100 on our website: www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org. The weather was perfect, the New Orleans themed dinner was a tasty delight, and the murder? It sure was a shocker! We’re sure there are just a few people we really have to thank:


We probably forgot some people – and for that we apologize. Everyone asks if we will do another big event in 2019 – probably not. It might take us that long to recuperate!

Our Museum - Thanks to all our great volunteers – they often go above and beyond the call of duty (Thanks Mary Wilke for plugging the toilet and Tom Pliett for suggesting then building the new gate). It is difficult to imagine that we do as much as we do with only volunteers: staffing the museum and parsonage, doing minor repair work, even some major repairs, maintaining the gardens, setting up and organizing the displays, and so much more. Rain or shine, our volunteers are there for us.

Our Island visitors - They came from 27 states and several countries including Portugal, Australia, France, India, Turkey, New Zealand and Canada. Each year our visitor count increases by about 5%.

By the way, we had 2,128 visitors sign in at the museum (but more people came through the door that did not sign in). Almost all the tickets were sold and, judging from the smiles on everyone’s faces, everyone really enjoyed themselves. Attendees were very busy snapping photos and there are over 100 on our website: www.KelleysIslandHistorical.org. The weather was perfect, the New Orleans themed dinner was a tasty delight, and the murder? It sure was a shocker! We’re sure there are just a few people we really have to thank:


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The Board members, who also do a bit of volunteering, would like to take a minute to thank all of our volunteers for their outstanding service: Teri Behrends, Jay Campbell, June Campell, Ed Frindt, Lisa Fujita, Sue Golias, Ferne Gorchester, Cindy Herndon, Linda Hostal, Bobbie-Joe Kennedy, Janet Killam, Bruce Korenko, Leslie Korenko, Knut Lahrs, Tom Lawson, Cindy Herndon, Linda Hostal, Bobbie-Joe Kennedy, Janet Killam, Bruce Korenko, Leslie Korenko, Knut Lahrs, Tom Pieratt, Denise Randazzo, Greg & Dee Dee Ritchie, Jodie & Scott Smith, Dawn Soldner, Stephanie Soldner, Fred & Elizabeth Stueber, Tom & Sonia Taylor, Chris Yako.

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117 ADDISON
6+ Bdrm Island Home In the Heart Of The Kelleys Island Historic District. Located Between Ferry and Downtown. Just Steps Away From A Secluded Public Sand Beach Just Below Innskeeper Rock. $590,000

204 MCGETTIGAN
WOW!! This Is A Must See! This 5+ Bdrm, 6.5 Ra Modern Style Home Has Spectacular Lake Views From Almost Every Room! Strong Rental History at Both a Bed and Breakfast and Short-term Vacation Rental! Now $890,000

113 MAPLE - TWO-4-ONE
Unique Property Features a 3 Bld, 1 Bath House (984 Sq. Ft) and 1 Bed, 1 Bath Cottage (713 Sq Ft) $227,500

Please visit KelleysIslandRealEstate.com and I Love LakeErie.com for All New Listings and Price Reductions

131 LAKE COURT
Island Starter Home With Lake Access Just 500 Feet Away! This 3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bath Home Rents On A Double Wide Lot (152x153) On Island’s Southeast Side. New Roof and Hot Water Tank. $194,900

224 LINCOLN
Bright, Airy and Casually Sophisticated 4 bedroom, 2.5 Bath Home w/ Water Views Near Airport. Lot is 0.66 acre (126x131) On Private Road. Now $317,750

111 W. LAKESHORE, UNIT #8E
Recently remodeled first floor, 2 Bed, 2 Bath unit. Handicap accessible/friendly. $206,500

314 DIVISION
This 5 Bedroom, ZERO Bath - Fixer Upper Is Located Between Downtown and the Kelleys Island School. 1.47 ACRE LOT. $164,900

128 FERNWOOD
4 Bdrm, 3 BA, 2 Living Rooms, Board Game Room, Lrg Deck, Direct TV, Spacious Yard For Outdoor Activities (647 Acres). Turn-Key Home Currently Operated As An Income Producing Vacation Rental. Everything Stays. $234,900

133 DIVISION STREET
One Of A Kind Two Family Home In K.I. Historic District. Built In 1855. Zoned 2-Family - Each Flr/Unit has over 1650 SqFt., Garage avail. at additional price. $449,900

LOT #12 VALERIE TRAIL
100 x 176 Buildable Lot on Dead-end Street - Water Tap paid ($7000 value) NOW $38,900

REDUCED 15K

REDUCED 40K

LOT 50-51 FAIRVIEW
100x162 Buildable Lot - City Water is Available - Sew & Soil Review Has Been Performed $24,999

LOT 111-112 FERNWOOD
100 x 141 Buildable Lot On Island’s Southeast Side $26,500

LOT 202 MCGETTIGAN
The 100 x 225 (5 + Acres) Lakefront Lot. Panoramic Lake Erie Views. SD Road Between the House and Lake Erie. Lot Has W/DeS Water/ Wastewater System Installed and Water Tap-In Fee Has Been Paid. $364,900

LOT 638 WOODFORD
Corner Lot Is Ready To G0P Two Bedroom Septic System Is Installed
$47,900

LOT 128 FERNWOOD
4 Bdrm, 3 BA, 2 Living Rooms, Board Game Room, Lrg Deck, Direct TV, Spacious Yard For Outdoor Activities (647 Acres). Turn-Key Home Currently Operated As An Income Producing Vacation Rental. Everything Stays. $234,900

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REDUCED 20K
Mike George and Marty McCafferty

No, the Island Doesn’t “Close” in Winter

Jordan Killam

Greetings from the Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau’s outpost in Toledo! It was around late September when those calls started coming in. The calls from the curious people wanting to know about what happens on our island in the dead of winter. They typically go something like this:

“Kelleys Island Chamber of Commerce, how may I help you?”

“Oh, hi. I was just wondering... when does the island close for the winter?”

“Well, it doesn’t actually close. Approximately 150 people live here throughout the winter... but when the lake freezes over, the ferry boats stop running until the thaw awakens life and the island businesses take a recess until spring, if that’s what you mean.”

“You mean they’ve got stuff going on over there in the winter?”

Absolutely! Ice fishing, art class, fitness class, community potlucks, and Wii bowling tournaments name a few. There are even places to stay, too!

“But how do you get there?”

By airplane. Or maybe a snowmobile.

“That sounds like fun!”

“It sure is!”

“Oh, hi. I was just wondering... how do you get there?”

By airplane. Or maybe a snowmobile.

“Absolutely! Ice fishing, art class, fitness class, community potlucks, and Wii bowling tournaments name a few. There are even places to stay, too!”

“By airplane. Or maybe a snowmobile.”

“Kids always ask to come over here in the winter?”

“Absolutely! Ice fishing, art class, fitness class, community potlucks, and Wii bowling tournaments name a few. There are even places to stay, too!”

“So, by airplane. Or maybe a snowmobile.”

“Kids always ask to come over here in the winter?”

“Absolutely! Ice fishing, art class, fitness class, community potlucks, and Wii bowling tournaments name a few. There are even places to stay, too!”

“If you’re wondering how to get to Kelleys Island in the winter after the ferry boats stop running, please contact our friends and Chamber members at Griffing Flying Service. They have special packages to the Lake Erie Islands and will happily answer any questions you may have about flying to our island. Call (419) 734-3460 to schedule your next winter excursion to Kelleys or any other Lake Erie Island!”

A very special project began in December that was five years in the making. Hancock Wood, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, removed the electric cable installed in 1970 that stretched underwater from Marblehead to the island piece by piece. A new cable was installed and was tandem with another existing cable, which was connected in 2003. The new cable is designed to improve reliability and increase capacity of the electrical service to the island. The new cable will also serve as a backup in case the 2003 cable should fail. Additionally, cable contains a fiber-optic component.

The new Chamber board is working diligently to promote tourism to the island even though the summer season is far away. Therefore, they have planned to establish a Kelleys Island presence at the Progressive Cleveland Boat Show at the IX Center, which takes place over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend [January 17-21]. In fact, Sunday of that weekend has been designated Kelleys Island “Sunday Funday”. Local businesses like Portside Marina, Docker’s Waterfront Restaurant and Bar, Seaway Marina, and Second Home & Garden will have booths at the show. Entertainment will be provided by local favorites, The Distractions and Steve Brownell. We invite you to bring your friends and family to the boat show to check out our island contingent!

Finally, a theme for Island Fest 2019 (which will be held July 19-21) has been determined. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the iconic Woodstock music festival, the event committee has decided upon the theme “Summer of Love”. The festival will still contain all its necessary components - food vendors and artisans, live entertainment, a street dance, a parade, and fireworks, but with a sixties rock n’ roll feel! Bring on the tie-dye, peace, and love!

The Chamber Office’s physical location may be closed, but we are welcoming you to call us at 419-746-2360 or email info@kelleysislandchamber.com if you have any questions about island life or the 2019 season. Enjoy your winter and stay warm!
Kevin Noon
A sharp individual

Kevin Noon using the repurposed 1923 Singer treadle sewing machine

Kevin was taught to sharpen tools by his father before he started school. Since then, he has honed his skill to produce the finest edges on knives and other tools using a variety of methods but prefers to use the repurposed 1923 Singer treadle sewing machine that you can watch him use when he comes to Kelleys Island to sharpen your scissors, garden tools, or any other item you have that needs his special touch. Kevin sharpens all kinds of things including garden tools, mower blades, even manicure tools.

Exceptional Walleye Hatch Recorded for Lake Erie’s Central Basin

12/19/2018 Ohio DNR in Wildlife

Columbus, OH – Preliminary results from the fall trawl survey in Ohio’s portion of the central basin of Lake Erie show an exceptional hatch of walleye and an average hatch of yellow perch, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

The ODNR Division of Wildlife’s results from the 2018 survey indicate that young-of-the-year walleye catch rates were the highest recorded in the past 20 years of the central basin trawl survey (32 fish per hectare). This year’s results, combined with the excellent 2015 year-class, will ensure adult walleye abundance in the central basin will continue to increase.

Trawl survey results for yellow perch indicate the hatch was the highest observed since 2014 (40 fish per hectare) and just below the long-term average (45 fish per hectare) for the central basin. In the individual management units, the western portion of the central basin (Huron to Conneaut) was 51 fish per hectare, above the average of 42 per hectare. The index in the eastern portion of the central basin (Fairport to Conneaut) was 28 fish per hectare, below the average of 42 per hectare.

Because of low oxygen conditions that are often present in the central basin, trawl surveys are conducted later in the year than in the western basin of Lake Erie. Annual trawl surveys assess fish communities from Vermilion to Conneaut. Specific target species for the fall surveys include young-of-the-year and yearling yellow perch and walleye. Ohio central basin survey results, along with data collected by agencies from New York, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada, provide biologists with an initial estimate of how many young fish will enter the fishable population two years later.

During the upcoming months, assessment data from all Lake Erie agencies will be combined to estimate the hatches and population size of walleye (lake-wide) and yellow perch (individual basins) of Lake Erie. These estimates will be utilized in the process to determine the fishable population size years later.

Information on the ODNR Division of Wildlife’s Lake Erie research and management programs, fisheries resources, fishing reports, maps and more are available at wildohio.gov.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiowildlife.gov.
Ice Fishing

Fishing

Ice fishing opportunities can be found in a variety of inland lakes and ponds, and Lake Erie as well, but the “Big Lake” warrants special consideration. For a variety of reasons, including safety, many anglers hire a licensed ice fishing guide who can set them up in the protective shelter of a shanty and help them locate fish. For those targeting walleye, use minnows on rigging lures or blade baits. For those targeting crappie, use minnows or crappie "rigs" tipped with shiners. For those targeting walleye, use minnows on rigging lures or blade baits. For those targeting walleye, use minnows on rigging lures or blade baits. For those targeting walleye, use minnows on rigging lures or blade baits. For those targeting walleye, use minnows on rigging lures or blade baits. For those targeting walleye, use minnows on rigging lures or blade baits.

Safety Tips

- Know the ice fishing regulations for where you are fishing.
- Make a checklist of things you will need to have fun and be safe.
- Consider leaving a “float plan” with someone who knows that you will be out on the ice, indicating where you plan to fish, where you plan to park your vehicle, and when you plan to return home. For boaters, this is common practice, and for ice anglers, it’s not a bad idea either.
- Once the freeze is on, check the most recent ice fishing reports, or make a quick stop at the local bait shop to find out what’s biting and where. As always, be safe when you head out on the ice and for more information, please call 1-800-WILDLIFE or contact your local Wildlife District Office.
- If you fall into the water, remain calm.
- Slip your loose boots off to better tread water.
- Use ice awls to pull yourself out of the water.
- If no ice awls are available, call for help and try “swimming out” by letting your body rise up to firm ice and crawl out.
- Stay flat, distributing your weight on the ice.
- Keep your clothes on once out of the water. This will keep you insulated.
- If someone else falls in the water, send someone who knows of a nearby phone for help and try “swimming out” by letting your body rise up to firm ice and crawl out.
- If someone else falls in the water, REACH using a stick or fishing pole.
- THROW a rope or PFD.
- ROW or push a boat.
- GO call for help.

Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative

History

Electricity was common in U.S. cities in the early 1930s, but the countryside was left in the dark. Almost everyone in rural areas was a farmer. They had to pump water by hand; light came from coal oil lamps. Wood or coal stoves heated homes, and dish water and food. It was indeed a labor-intensive life.

Despite farmers’ pleas, privately owned power companies said serving rural areas would be too costly because the houses were too far apart and farmers would not use much electricity.

Then the Rural Electrification Administration was formed in 1935 to administer a program to encourage rural electrification and to lend low-interest money to any group or organization to provide goods or services, like a farmer’s market food co-op or financial services credit union co-op. Electric co-ops were formed in much the same way to provide electricity to rural areas abandoned by for-profit electric utilities.

There are no Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative customers. Our Members-Directors give an equal voice in the co-op’s direction and certain rights that are quite different from those who are customers of a for-profit utility, owned by shareholders.

Electric Cooperatives are:

- private, independent electric utility businesses
- owned by the members they serve
- incorporated under the laws of the state in which they operate
- owned by the members they serve
- governed by a board of trustees, elected from the membership, who set policies and procedures that are implemented by the cooperatives’ professional staff

Nearly 1.000 rural electric co-ops own and maintain nearly half of the electric distribution lines in the U.S., which cover 75 percent of the nation’s land mass and provide electricity to 36 million people.

In Ohio, there are 25 electric co-ops serving more than 320,000 homes and businesses in 77 of Ohio’s 88 counties.

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Kelleys Life
6th Annual Kelleys Island Owl Festival, Another Success!

H. Thomas Bartlett

The weekend of November 2-4 was the 6th Annual Kelleys Island Owl Festival sponsored by the Kelleys Island Audubon Club and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The festival has been timed to occur at the peak of migration for Northern Saw-whet Owls. This year, Ted and Paula Bartlett have been banding birds on Kelleys Island since 1996 and they have been targeting Northern Saw-whet Owls since 2003. Since 2003, over 700 owls have been banded. The primary banding location has been the Cleveland Museum of Natural History’s Jones Preserve in the morning and owl banding at the Scheele and North Pond Preserves. In addition, Ted Hayes, of the Kelleys Island Audubon Club, led an Owl Provel at the North Pond Preserve on Saturday night. Over 30 people attended this walk. At the owl banding activities, 43 owls (41 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 2 Eastern Screech-Owls) were captured and at the songbird banding 103 songbirds of 15 species were captured. Attendance was tough to keep but, minimum numbers were 345 people at all the activities with over 100 people at each of Friday and Saturday evening events.

2018 Kelleys Island Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Station Report

H. Thomas Bartlett

The fall of 2018 marks the 16 year of the Northern Saw-whet Owl banding. Our banding began on October 14 and ended on December 17. Saw-whet Owls are a migratory species which normally breed in the boreal forests of northern US and Canada. There are a few records for Ohio and in fact, two breeding records for Kelleys Island. In the 16 years of this station we have banded over 725 saw-whet owls and 17 Eastern Screech-Owls (which are non-breeding). 2018 was a record year for the station. 156 individual Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded this fall. Our previous record was 2012 when we banded 143 saw-whets. Northern Saw-whet Owls tend to have a cyclic migratory trend and peak each fours. 2012 was a peak year but 2018 wasn’t supposed to be as, 2016 was. Why we captured so many is still a mystery as mid-west station reported very low numbers and several had their worst years. In addition to the new owls we banded, we recaptured 13 foreign banded birds. These are birds which were banded somewhere else by another bander. We are still waiting to hear where three of those were originally banded. About half of the ten we know, nine were banded east of us. More of this year’s results will be in our annual report. And of the 156 banded owls, November 2, 2018. It was the second time this fall she was captured by us, so, may be springing the winter as well. In the photos, the first is Ada, a foreign exchange student attending Clyde High School in Clyde, Ohio this year. The high school science club was attending the Kelleys Island Field Station and visiting our banding stations. Ada has a first year female saw-whet on her arm which was the first one we banded this year on October 14.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which is safer, clear ice or cloudy ice?

This is actually a trick question: NO ICE IS SAFE! Regardless of how the ice looks, always proceed with caution since there are always thin spots on lakes and ponds. But, as far as which is safer, clear ice is more often safer than cloudy ice. It is very intimidating if you step out onto a lake or pond and can see clearly to the bottom. But with the way ice forms, the clearer it is, the less impurities and irregularities is has. So, just because one is clear and the other is cloudy doesn’t mean one is safer than the other. There is no one on the lake and I hear weird noises. Is that the sound of the ice cracking?

Not usually, the ice on a lake is in a difficult position: cold air above, warm water below, and only so much room to expand. So when ice forms, it will actually “sing.” This is the result of the ice pressing against itself as it expands. It is hard to describe, but with experience, you can distinguish between the muffled music of forming ice vs. the dangerous sound of ice cracking.

True or False: Speaking of water temperatures, the warmest water will be near the top since the sun can still warm the water.

False! Believe it or not, water can have different density depending on the temperature. Water is MOST dense when it is at 4°C (39°F). Instead of warmest water at the top and cold water at the bottom in summer, the warmest water in the winter will be at the bottom while the coolest water will be at the top. This cool water will eventually freeze first and become the first layer of ice. So when you start your day ice fishing, try putting your lure near the bottom first since that is where it is the warmest.

True or False: Why go ice fishing? The fish are “turned off,” so they won’t bite.

False! Just like everything else, fish need to eat to survive. They do eat less when for instance, the waters get cold since their activity level decreases. But they do need to eat enough to maintain their body condition, and make it to the spring when they will reproduce. So scale down the bait size, present it a bit slower, be patient, and that Fish Ohio-sized crappie might be on your line before you know it!

True or False: During the winter, aquatic vegetation dies off, and the lake bottoms are flat with no features or cover for fish.

False! Aquatic vegetation can last throughout the winter as long as sunlight can penetrate the ice. If you ever reel up some vegetation in the winter, and it is green, it is probably alive. However, if the ice is cloudy or there is an excess amount of snow on the ice, this can cause the vegetation to die off. If the die-off is severe enough, a “winter kill” of fish can happen since decomposing vegetation reduces oxygen in the water that fish need to survive.

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Kelles Life

Jan./Feb. 2019
**Fishing Tips**

Here are a few other pointers to keep in mind. Try to fish around other ice anglers so if you do fall through, someone might be there to help you get out. Remember to dress appropriately to prevent hypothermia and wear a life jacket or flotation suit when walking around on ice. Many anglers also bring along an extra change of dry clothes just in case of an emergency. Keep your cell phone available, but protected from the elements.

One of the great things about ice fishing is that tackle can be very simple and inexpensive. Short rods, light gear, light line, and small baits are the ticket. Some anglers also like to use small bobbers as strike indicators since strikes can be subtle. Tip-ups are a common addition to many ice anglers’ tackle, too. They come in a variety of designs, but essentially involve a spool of line hanging in the water with bait attached. Most store-bought versions feature a signaling device, such as a flag, that pops up when a fish takes the bait. In Ohio, anglers can have up to six tip-ups going at one time, and each must be labeled with the owner’s name and address.

Because fish don’t strike as aggressively in the winter, you’ll want to use lighter tackle, 10 pound test or less, and smaller baits. You can increase your odds by tying artificial lures with live bait. Sluggish fish are much more likely to hit on a minnow-tipped jig as opposed to one with a plastic worm.

Tip-ups are another common method of ice fishing and come in a wide variety of designs. Essentially, they involve a spool of line hanging in the water with bait attached. Most store-bought versions feature a signaling device, such as a flag, that pops up when a fish takes the bait. In Ohio, anglers can have up to six tip-ups going at one time, and each must be labeled with the owner’s name and address.

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