

Cooperative Learning at PCMS

Part 1-

This past February we attended Port Clinton Middle School's Science and Technology Class as guest lecturers, and we began a collaborative learning project with the class focusing on our upcoming king rail research at the Conservancy. Several of our electronic calling systems that serve to attract rails to our trap locations were malfunctioning and after walking the kids through the electronic components we then left the non-working boxes with the class who is currently working on fixing the problems and even developing improved designs.



Part 2-

Once our rail trapping is underway this spring we will be hosting the same science and technology class for a day of rail trapping at the Conservancy. The novel aspect of this project is integrating the applied technology and conservation components. Despite being local kids, none of the students had ever heard of Winous Point before our guest lecture, and we are very excited about the opportunity to show them our marshes and hopefully a state endangered king rail.



Winous Point
Marsh Conservancy

**March 2015
Newsletter**

Winter Waterfowl Banding

Winter 2015 black duck trapping started with bang as we were able to catch 40 birds on our first 2 trap nights; however, the brutally cold temperatures have slowed down our efforts considerably since then. Total banded ducks to date include:

- 6 black ducks
- 86 Mallards
- 126 Redheads
- 35 Canvasbacks
- 13 Lesser Scaup
- 32 Ringnecks

This work is conducted in cooperation with the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the Black Duck Joint Venture that is using data from our banded black ducks to investigate survival rates for different black duck sub-populations. A special thanks to Mike Picciuto and Tom Kashmer of Sandusky Co. Parks (top photo) who spend a ton of time in adverse weather conditions assisting our trapping efforts.



Grant Status Updates

Despite the bitter cold temperatures and massive snowdrifts it has still been a busy and productive winter for the Conservancy. January and February contained a number of deadlines for various funding opportunities that we have been pursuing to meet some of our research and marsh management goals. We have submitted the majority of our grant applications for the upcoming year at this point and we are beginning to receive some notifications about the status of those requests (See below for a list of successful and still pending grant applications).



Grants Received in 2015

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Phragmites Control (\$88,559)
- Webless Migratory Game Bird Fund; King Rail Research (\$15,100)
- ODNR Banding Analysis (\$25,000)
- ODNR Cooperative Agreement; Duck Banding and Wetland Ground Truthing (\$48,300)
- Black Duck Joint Venture (\$2,000)
- ODNR King Rail Satellite Transmitters (\$3,100)

Pending Applications in 2015

- Upper Mississippi River Great Lakes Region Joint Venture; King Rail Research (\$9,400)
- Upper Mississippi River Great Lakes Region Joint Venture, Mallard and Gadwall Metabolic Energy Study (\$15,182)
- North Star Telemetry (\$6,000)
- Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (\$8,000)
- Wildlife Conservation Club Competitive Partnership (\$5,000)
- GG Wade Foundation (\$5,000)



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Lake Erie Marsh Manager's Association Meeting: March 18, 2015,

Winous Point Marsh Conservancy Meeting : May 2015

Great Lakes Partner's Forum: May 20-22, 2015

Port Clinton Middle School Rail Field Trip: April/May 2015

Fremont Outdoor Adventure Club Rail Field Trip: April/May 2015

