



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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NORTHEAST OHIO STUDENTS ACHIEVE BACKYARD HABITAT CERTIFICATION *LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER STUDENT PROJECT RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION*

A group of 24 Northeast Ohio Elementary School Students have seen a year of hard work (and fun!) building a wildlife habitat at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center pay off with national certification. The students in Grades 1 -4, who participate in the Center's "After School Adventures Club," received approval from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) designating their garden project as a Certified Wildlife Habitat.

The recognition goes to individuals or groups who follow specific NWF guidelines for creating a garden area that provides food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young, in addition to incorporating sustainable gardening practices. At a Tuesday, April 27 celebration, Center Executive Director Catherine Timko cut the ribbon on the habitat which is enhanced by a student-constructed water feature.

The best part of the year-long experience for 4th grader Adam Goyetche of Westlake was, "all the hikes we did collecting items and observing where animals live." Adam said the class has already observed a nest being built high in the trees in the newly certified habitat.

Center Education Specialists Bev Walborn and Jennifer Lee said they are proud of what the students learned in the hands-on project. "The kids were involved in experiences that created a real awareness and a connection to the wildlife that share our backyards," said Walborn.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is a regional resource featuring a wide variety of natural and space science educational offerings for all ages, a planetarium, more than 100 live animals on exhibit and wildlife rehabilitation. For more information on the Bay Village nonprofit, visit www.lensc.org or call 440-871-2900.

Information about the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Habitat program is available online at www.nwf.org.