



# Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, Ohio 44140 (440)-871-2900 [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org)

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**July 30, 2008**

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## **GOVERNOR STRICKLAND TO TOUR LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER**

Bay Village, Ohio --- Governor Ted Strickland will have a chance to interact with wildlife and children as he sees first-hand how Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates and inspires kids and adults to appreciate the natural world. The Bay Village non-profit organization has a 6-decade success story to tell during what is scheduled to be a 30-minute tour by Governor Strickland and State Representative Jennifer Brady on Wednesday, July 30.

The Capital Appropriations Bill, signed by the Governor in June, earmarked \$200,000 for future improvements at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. A planned expansion will accommodate the rising number of walk-in visitors and meet the growing demand for hands-on, interactive programs that include early childhood education, after-school enrichment, scout programs, summer camps and school field trips.

“We have a variety of programs that run waiting lists,” said Larry D. Richardson, Executive Director of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. “In addition to expanding our facility to meet that need, we want to expand our mission to motivate families in our community to go beyond simple appreciation for nature. We plan to show them how they can take action to care for the natural world.”

With more than 100 live animals on display, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center offers free admission, seven days a week. The Center’s free Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation program annually takes in 1,400 injured or ill wild animals and fields thousands of phone calls from people who seek advice about their wild animal neighbors.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center also teaches space science in the world-class Walter R. Schuele Planetarium and through a portable StarLab. The Center is located in the Metroparks Huntington Reservation at 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village. For more information, call (440) 871-2900 or log on to [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org).

### **Who will be conducting the tour:**

**Center Executive Director** (and birder) **Larry D. Richardson**

**Director of Development & Community Relations** (and preschool mom) **Renee Burslem**

**Board President** (and volunteer) **Patrick Mazur**

### **What you may see on the tour:**

- **Longtime Volunteer Docent, Jim Kolpien**, will be greeting visitors at the front door with our Great Horned Owl, “Rookwood.”
- **Wild Summer Reading Campers** will be dismissing as the Governor is arriving. The 4-week camp is a partnership with the Bay Village Public Schools. Students receive instruction from a reading specialist, one-on-one reading practice with teen and adult volunteers recruited by the Center, and “wild” fun for inspiration!
- **Veteran Preschool Teacher Teece Lester** will be interacting with children in her **nature-themed classroom**. (The kids have a proclamation for the Governor.) **Director of Education Darci Sanders** will also be on hand.
- **Director of Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Dave Wolf** will be teaching with live animals (including Red-tailed Hawk) in our **indoor Exhibit Hall**
- Our **Outdoor Wildlife Gardens and Live Animal Exhibits** will be open for touring (as they are, seven days a week, year-round!)
- **Planetarium Director Jay Reynolds** will be wrapping up the day in the world-class Walter R. Schuele Planetarium.

### **How \$200,000 in State Capital Funds Will Benefit Us:**

Expansion of our facility will allow us to meet the demand for popular programs and services that run waiting lists or sell out. At the same time, we plan to advance our mission to demonstrate grassroots sustainability... working to motivate our visitors and program participants to move from simple appreciation to action; to go beyond understanding to caretaking for the natural world. State capital funding is a vote of confidence that we hope to leverage to encourage others to support our expanded vision as well.

### **Program Background - Our Reach**

In addition to providing *free admission* to indoor and outdoor exhibits seven days a week, (drawing more than 100,000 visitors annually) we offer a variety of **Educational Programs** for all ages and stages including:

- **Early Childhood** programs feature our often wait-listed **Preschool Classes** and equally popular parent-child classes for 12 - 36 months.
- **After-school and weekend enrichment** for K – 4 and Junior Naturalists through grade 7
- **Summer Day Camps** for preschool - grade 6
- **Girl and Boy Scout Programs** – an expanding program of “learning and earning” for all ages
- **School Field Trips** that reinforce and illuminate specific Ohio Science Standards to high praise from school teachers
- **Family Programs** (some, like our interactive Meet An Animal, are free!)
- **Public Star Shows** in our planetarium, outdoor telescope viewing, plus, our portable **StarLab** Planetarium Programs that have reached out to thousands of kids in Cleveland, Lorain and beyond
- **Wildlife Rehabilitation** – a *free program* that teaches our community how to co-exist with wildlife (in person and through thousands of phone inquiries each year)
- **Naturalist Assistants Program** for teen volunteers (ages 13 – 18) who are trained to help with animal care (at least a one year waiting list to get in!)
- **Adult Birding Trips** are expertly guided local excursions, as well as International Expeditions
- **Adult Volunteer Program** includes Wildlife Presenters who supplement our staff in conducting engaging **Live Animal Outreach** presentations on site and in outreach.
- **Teaching Partnerships** with a variety of organizations include Ohio Sea Grant, NASA, Cleveland State University, Bay Village Schools, Dike 14 Education Collaborative, Regional Alliance of Science Educators and many more.