



# Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 7, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
SHAWN SALAMONE 440-871-2900 EXT. 207

## **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY LINKS STARGAZERS ACROSS THE GLOBE LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER BRINGS THE CELEBRATION TO NORTHEAST OHIO**

Bay Village, Ohio --- Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is joining stargazers around the world in celebrating the *International Year of Astronomy*. This year – 2009 – marks the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first astronomy observation through a telescope. "A staggering 135 nations are collaborating to bring the Universe closer to Earth... a spectacle of cosmic proportions," according to the sponsoring organizations, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The *International Year of Astronomy's* theme, "The Universe, yours to discover," mirrors Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's tag line, "Discover the Universe in Your Backyard!" Walter R. Schuele Planetarium Director Jay Reynolds says the Center will contribute special programs to the thousands of events being held across the globe throughout the year.

The official international Opening Ceremony will take place in Paris on January 15 and 16. The Schuele Planetarium is kicking off the local observance at *Monthly Skyquest* programs on Saturdays throughout January, including the 17, 24 and 31 of the month at 2 p.m., with a 7 p.m. program on January 17. You can mimic Galileo following the 7 p.m. star show, with free telescope viewing available, weather permitting. Reynolds says, "We plan to partner with other local space science groups to highlight the *International Year of Astronomy* throughout 2009. It's a space science event!"

In February, *Monthly Skyquest* programs will focus on the exciting plans by NASA to return to the brightest object in our night sky. As NASA prepares to launch a U.S. moon probe in February, Schuele Planetarium star shows will explain this first step toward the goal of returning humans to the surface of our moon. *Skyquest* programs on February 7, 14, 21 and 28 will also reveal some of this probe's surprising photographic targets. As always, the telescopes will be out for free viewing after the 7 p.m. shows, which take place only on the first and third Saturdays (February 7 and 21), weather permitting. You can catch a *Monthly Skyquest* program at 2 p.m. every Saturday.

Also in the Schuele Planetarium in January and February:

- **Twinkle Tots** is a popular program that includes the toddler in your family. Watch lights dance across the sky and learn what's new in space. This program, on Thursdays & Saturdays at 11 a.m., is \$1 per person, including infants.

(continued)

- **Stellar Stars** - Grab your passports and tour our solar system! This program is great for children 2 years and up and takes place Wednesdays at 11 a.m. & Saturdays at Noon. Tickets are \$2 per child.

- **Backyard Astronomy** delights family audiences of all ages on Saturdays at 1 p.m. Explore the winter night sky as it appears from your very own backyard! Admission is \$2 per person.

Planetarium tickets are available at the front desk 30 minutes before the program begins on a first-come, first-served basis. With the exception of Twinkle Tots and Stellar Stars, programs may not be appropriate for very young children who are unable to sit through a 30-minute presentation. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is located at 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village. For more information, visit the Center's website at [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org) or call (440) 871-2900.