



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, Ohio 44140 (440)-871-2900 www.lensc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Shawn Salamone 440-871-2900 EXT. 207

BAY VILLAGE WILDLIFE REHAB PROGRAM GEARS UP FOR ANIMAL OFFSPRING *Important and Timely Advice For Kids and Adults As Spring Wildlife Babies Arrive On the Scene*

Bay Village, Ohio --- The phone begins ringing nearly non-stop and there's a drastic increase in animals arriving at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Wildlife Rehabilitation intake. These are sure signs that spring has arrived at the Bay Village non-profit organization. Often, the rehab staff's best advice is, "Don't touch! Let wild animals be wild!"

"We are heading into our busiest season when spring animal babies dramatically increase the need for our services," said Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Wildlife Director Dave Wolf. "First and foremost, we work to get the word out that you should never touch any baby wildlife you may encounter, even in your own backyard." Wolf said people often needlessly interfere with new wild babies because they don't understand the natural development and behavior of the young animals and their parents. "We get a lot of folks who assume a baby is orphaned when in reality the animal parent is simply hiding from the humans," he said.

Wolf urges people to call for free advice before interfering with any wild animal -- adult or baby -- for the safety and protection of both the humans and the wildlife. The rehab staff can be reached at (440) 871-2900 ext 204. A free fact sheet, *I Found Baby Wildlife – Does It Need Help?*, along with Frequently Asked Questions about wildlife, are available on the Center's website at <http://www.lensc.org/wildlife/faq.htm>.

The Kenneth A. Scott Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program provides rehab services at no charge to the public, relying on donations to take in approximately 1,400 injured and ill wild animals each year, with the goal of release back into the wild. Center rehab staffers also field a staggering 4,000 phone calls annually, teaching callers one at a time how to coexist with wildlife. "We actually added the word "Education" to our program title last year to emphasize our mission to teach," Wolf said.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's rehab staff has been certified to perform wildlife rehabilitation by the International Wildlife Rehabilitators Council, receives continuing education, and has all of the appropriate state and federal permits required to perform wildlife rehabilitation.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is a donor-funded, non-profit organization dedicated to nature and science education, including a host of classes and programs, live animal exhibits and outreach and a world-class planetarium. It is located at 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village. For more information, log on to www.lensc.org or call (440) 871-2900.

-END-