



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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BAY VILLAGE READERS LOG 4,800 SUMMER HOURS TO 'ADOPT' AN OWL *Library Summer Reading Program Earns Support for Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Owl*

Bay Village, Ohio --- A record 1,968 Bay Village library patrons spent more than 4,800 hours wrapped up in a good book this summer, earning a long-term "adoption" of the Great Horned Owl that resides at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. The Friends of the Bay Village Cuyahoga County Library branch agreed to fund the owl adoption fees as an incentive in the library's "Eco Quest" summer reading program.

Bay Children's Librarian Susan Ballard presented a check for \$300 to Center Wildlife Director Dave Wolf and applauded the effort by avid readers of all ages. "Our summer readers exceeded their reading goal," she said. "The large number of hours enabled the readers to adopt the Center's Great Horned Owl for an entire year! We're also grateful to the Friends of the Bay Village Library for funding the owl's care."

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's *Adopt An Animal* program allows wildlife lovers to help pay for the care and feeding of the dozens of animals on exhibit and used in teaching and outreach. Wolf said, "We're thrilled to see the dedication of everyone who read for our owl. These creatures inspire people in many ways."

Adopt An Animal sponsorships are available for as little as \$5 per month, with the Great Horned Owl's adoption fee set at \$25 per month. Later this fall, the Center plans to offer special "Go Wild" adoption packages that include limited-edition premiums like a mug. Animal adoptions are a popular holiday gift and the "Go Wild" packages are timed to coincide with the year-end gift-giving season.

A sign will be posted on the Great Horned Owl exhibit, acknowledging the adoption by the Bay Village Library summer readers. People or groups that Adopt An Animal for six months or more have their names featured on the exhibit. Of course, "adopted" animals stay at the Center, but donors can visit them during regular Center hours, daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.