



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
[SHAWN SALAMONE](#) 440-871-2900 EXT. 207

“PEOPLE POWER” CELEBRATED AT LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER *VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED FOR AN ASTOUNDING 11,400 HOURS OF SERVICE!*

Bay Village, Ohio --- Lake Erie Nature & Science Center on Saturday celebrated the impact of “people power” on Saturday, as about 300 volunteers were recognized for putting in an astounding 11,400 hours in 2008. “Our volunteers contribute to virtually every facet of our organization,” said Director of Development & Community Relations Renee Burslem. “Whether it’s animal care or special events, education or administration, they allow us to take our non-profit mission to the next level.”

A number of volunteers were singled out for special recognition on Saturday including 2008 Adult Volunteer of the Year, Kristi Latham, who served in leadership roles for the Center’s annual Family Fun Fest and for the Center’s Annual Benefit Auction. The 2008 Student Volunteer of the Year, Sean Waitkus, was honored for tireless hours spent as a weekend Naturalist Assistant. Waitkus was also the only volunteer to reach the top, “Gold Level” in The President’s Volunteer Service Awards, putting in more than 250 hours in 2008. The national President’s Volunteer Service Awards honor Americans who, by their commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

A number of other teenagers involved in the Naturalist Assistants Program were honored as well, including seven graduating High School Seniors who received scholarships from the Women’s Board and others who achieved Silver and Bronze Level President’s Service Awards. The Center acknowledged service at three thresholds of hours, based on age. “The gift of time is precious,” said Volunteer Coordinator Julie Mistur. “We appreciate the tremendous value of our volunteer contributions.”

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center provides wildlife exhibits and rehabilitation, planetarium and nature education programming to more than 180,000 visitors every year. Although the Center is located in Huntington Reservation, it is a separate, non-profit organization and is not supported by tax dollars. “Community support for our mission, through the donation of time and money is crucial to our success,” said Board President Patrick Mazur.

The Center is currently recruiting volunteers to help children at Wild Summer Reading Camp in July and August. Volunteer opportunities are listed on the Center's website at www.lensc.org and you can fill out a volunteer application online as well.