



WREN.

Summer 2008

A newsletter for

wildlife rehabilitation, education and news

Meet Our Wildlife Staff

In the last edition, you met Dave Wolf, Director of Wildlife, Amy LeMonds, Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist, and Megan Tadiello, Wildlife Rehabilitation Coordinator. In this issue, we'll introduce the rest of our wildlife staff: Wildlife Specialist Derek Skapes and longtime Animal Care Specialist, Ken Miller.

Ken Miller began working at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in 1989. He oversees the care of our exhibit and education animals. Before starting his career here, Ken volunteered for The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo (from 1982-1989) taking care of raptors, reptiles, parrots and farm animals.

As you can imagine, Ken's knowledge of animals is immensely diverse based on the different species he has worked with. He enjoys working here because it gives him an opportunity to work with his hands - either with the animals or on one of his many projects involving cage improvements.

Derek Skapes became a paid employee at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in 2007. His involvement with us started as a student volunteer. While attending North Olmsted High School, Derek was part of a com-

munity service program called SITES, where students volunteer for four months.

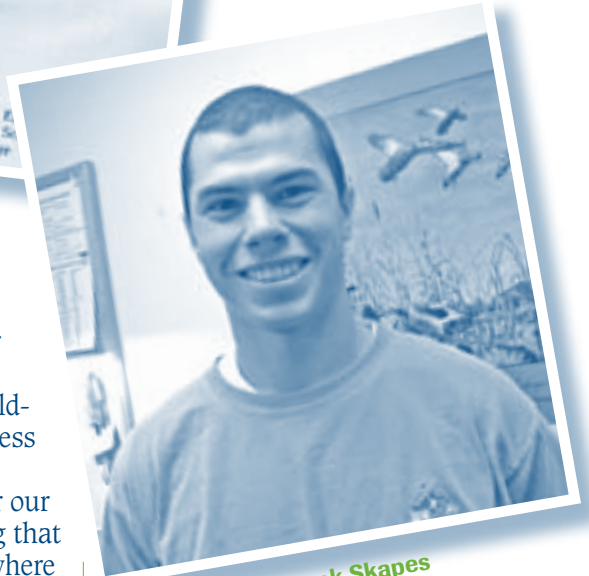
After Derek graduated from Baldwin Wallace with a B.S. in Business and Environmental Studies, we hired him as a summer intern for our rehabilitation program. Following that internship, Derek headed west, where he was employed with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife working on stream restoration and native plant and animal studies, as well as giving wildlife tours.

In his current position at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, Derek super-

vises the Naturalist Assistant Program on the weekends. He also works with our exhibit and program animals and in wildlife rehabilitation.



Ken Miller
Animal Care
Specialist



Derek Skapes
Wildlife Specialist

MISSION STATEMENT

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates Northeast Ohio children and the community at large through engaging classes, hands-on discovery, specialized planetarium programming and up-close wildlife experiences that inspire appreciation of and responsibility for our natural universe - one participant at a time.



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

Wild Turkey

Our featured animal on exhibit for this issue is our pair of Wild Turkey. Turkeys are the largest game bird in Ohio. Males are much larger than females and can weigh up to 30 pounds while females weigh about 15 pounds. Turkeys spend their days walking around on the ground looking for food. They feed mainly on grains, fruits, seeds and insects. At sunset, they fly up into the tree branches where they spend the night.

April is the peak mating season during which male turkeys, called toms, perform elaborate displays for the females, called hens. The courtship involves the tom strutting around gobbling and grunting. The tom fluffs out his body feathers and spreads out his tail feathers to make himself look as large as possible. Wild Turkeys are polygamous and only the dominant

male will mate. The hen will choose to mate with the tom with the most impressive display.

Our male turkey was donated to us from a farm in the summer of 2004. We purchased our female in the fall of 2007. Together they are quite amazing, especially during courtship in the spring.

Turkeys are the largest game bird in Ohio.

Wild Turkey populations have undergone dramatic population changes. Prior to the arrival of English settlers, Wild Turkeys roamed freely across the U.S. The population was estimated to be in the millions. Due to habitat destruction and over-hunting, turkey populations dwindled nationwide and it's esti-



Hen turkey in front. Tom turkey in back displaying feathers.

mated that by 1904 there were no Wild Turkey left in Ohio. Since then, habitat restoration programs and conservation laws have allowed the turkey population to rebound. In fact, turkeys have proven to be quite adaptable birds and now are commonly seen in suburban and urban areas. There's a possibility you could see a Wild Turkey in your own backyard. However, if you don't, you can see a pair at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in our deer pen.

What is the Average Cost to Rehabilitate an Animal?

- Each animal we receive in our rehabilitation program requires its own specialized care. No two animals are ever the same. Therefore, the average cost is a general estimate of what we do on a daily basis.
- We receive over 1,400 animals a year.
- At any given time, we can have over 30 animals in rehabilitation a day.

AVERAGE COST

Medicine	\$1.00 per day
Caging	\$1.00 per day
Medical Supplies	\$2.00 per day
Food	\$3.00 per day
Time	\$8.00 per day

TOTAL \$15.00 PER DAY

Please send your donation today!

Donate Online at: www.lensc.org
CLICK ON "SUPPORT US"

Your will can make a difference

While Lake Erie Nature & Science Center very much needs your support today, we ask you to **consider including the Center in your will.**

Through your will and other means of planned giving, you can extend your support beyond your lifetime and help ensure adequate financial support for the Center's work well into the future.

If you would like to learn more about opportunities to provide for the Center in your will, please contact:

Renee Burslem,
Director of Community Relations & Fundraising,
at 440-871-2900 ext. 206.

We are seeking a sponsor for this publication

One issue sponsorship \$2,500
One year sponsorship \$5,000 (two issues)

Have your name printed on every page of this newsletter!

Baby Raccoons... Can I Raise Them?

You hear a constant purring and chattering in your chimney or attic. Upon further investigation, you find four tiny baby raccoons. You wonder what you should do?

Many people come across baby animals every year. Our Center works very hard to educate the public about the natural history of each animal in an effort to keep baby animals with their mothers. The only time we ever want to interfere and raise the babies ourselves is if they are ill or injured, or we are completely positive, which is very hard to confirm, that the babies are truly orphaned. Unfortunately, every year we still have baby raccoons, called kits, brought to the Center that are taken from their mothers in the wild.

Because of the threat of human illness and the lack of legal and appropriate release locations, the Ohio Division of Wildlife states, "raccoons that originate from Cuyahoga County cannot be rehabilitated and must be euthanized." Each county in Ohio is different. For Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, that means that we cannot rehabilitate raccoons, neither adults nor babies. If the animal is injured to the point where it cannot survive in the wild, we are permitted to euthanize the animal. If the raccoon has an injury that allows it to survive in the wild, we encourage you to leave the animal alone to attempt to heal on its own.

Most of the time, the raccoons we see are babies that a person has found living somewhere on their property, such as in a chimney, under the deck, or in an attic. Raccoons choose these locations as cozy and safe places to have their babies, but it's understandable that most people do not want raccoons living in these places. So, what do you do? We strongly encourage people to take the babies back and leave them for their mother to retrieve.

You can humanely evict the mother raccoon from the area (see the "Wildlife Matters" part of this newsletter, page 5) and then attempt a reunion.

Before you attempt a reunion, be prepared to place a wire-mesh cap on the chimney, or something else that will keep the mother from going back into the chimney once she retrieves her babies.



"raccoons that originate from Cuyahoga County cannot be rehabilitated & must be euthanized."

Then, simply place the babies in a closed box with a large hole cut in the side (so that the mother can get in), close to where the family was living. Once the mother discovers where her babies are, which she will do by hearing their cries, she will go back for them and carry them one by one to an alternate nest site. Mammals (and birds) are very good at retrieving their

babies, especially raccoons. If, after 24 hours, the mother has not returned, you can bring the babies in to be humanely euthanized. It is important to give the mother plenty of time, as euthanasia is the only other option.

You may be tempted to raise the babies yourself; however, this is illegal and baby raccoons need very specialized care. They require a specific type of formula and, if raised improperly, can develop metabolic bone disease. Once they grow up, raccoons need to be taught how to find food in order to survive in the wild. This means feeding them a natural diet of small animals such as mice, rats, frogs, lizards and songbirds, as well as eggs, fruits and vegetables. As you can see, the list of natural foods is quite extensive and they must be familiar with it all. Raccoons also need to know how to avoid predators such as dogs, owls, cats and even cars and humans. To survive in an urban and suburban environment, a raccoon **MUST** be afraid of humans. A raccoon, which casually approaches people, is likely to be captured and killed because it gives the impression of being a sick wild animal. It is not possible to teach raccoons how to be afraid of most of these things in captivity, which could ultimately lead to their death in the wild.

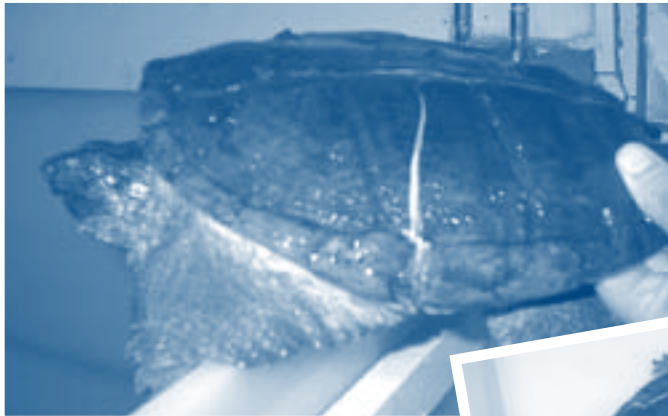
Lastly, raccoons are wild and will always remain wild. Even though they may be helpless and adorable as babies, they will grow up to be strong adults with an instinct to be wild. This instinct may drive them to show undesirable behaviors such as biting, growling, climbing (on everything), and trying to get outside.

Call us regarding any situation with injured animals, baby animals or nuisance animals before attempting to do anything. We will instruct you as to what is best for the animal and for your situation. 440-871-2900, x 204



We need volunteers that are handy with a hammer to construct some hide boxes and perches for the wild animals in the rehabilitation program here at the Center. If you are interested, please contact Megan Tadiello, Wildlife Rehabilitation Coordinator, at (440) 871-2900 x 204 or megan@lensc.org.

“Slow Down - There’s Something in the Road!”



Deep crack in shell of Snapping Turtle awaiting repair.



Top view of cracks in shell. Note the two on the right side of the turtle's shell and one on the left side.

This Common Snapping Turtle was brought to the Center on May 4, 2008. It was hit by a car in the Rocky River Reservation. The impact fractured its shell in multiple places. One of the cracks is very large and may require surgical pins to fix. The turtle is on injectable antibiotics to treat an infection before the shell can be closed. It will take over a year for the shell to heal.

The beginning of May is when turtles begin to seek places to lay their eggs. For water turtles, this means coming out of the water and finding a good nesting spot on land. Sometimes they move a great distance and are more prone to being hit by cars during this time of the year. If you see a turtle crossing the road, drive carefully to avoid hitting it. If you want to help, and can do so safely, you can move

the turtle to the side of the road in the direction it was heading. If you take it to the side it just came from, it will start crossing the road again. A turtle is very persistent in getting to the exact spot it wants to go in order to lay its eggs.

We'd like to thank Dr. Frank Krupka, of Avon Lake Animal Clinic and Dr. Michelle Newkirk, of Lakewood Animal Hospital, for their time in helping with the care of these animals.

Conclusion to Abused Red-tailed Hawk

The Red-tailed Hawk that was featured in our Winter 2007 edition was released in March 2008. After months of new feather growth and learning how to hunt for live food, this “abused” Red-tailed Hawk was able to return to the wild.

**Help us
rehabilitate
wildlife!**

Partners in Wildlife Rehabilitation

For \$500 per year, you or your business can be part of this elite group helping us operate our wildlife rehabilitation program. **We** receive much needed funds to offset fees for medical services, medical supplies, animal food, and animal care supplies.

You receive a year's worth of advertising exposure to our more than 115,000 visitors and to all the readers of our publications. And, of course, the additional benefit of knowing that you are playing a role in the betterment of our community.

We are grateful to our current Partners in Wildlife Rehabilitation

**Dr. David Francati &
Dr. Sherry Waters, DDS**

The Herbruck Family

Hofmann Plumbing

KeyBank

Cynthia Monjot

*If you know of any person or any business, which may be interested in joining this program, please contact
Director of Wildlife, Dave Wolf,
at 440-871-2900 ext. 203 or
Davew@Lensc.org.*

Wildlife “Matters”

There is a raccoon in my chimney, how can I get rid of it?



Raccoon coming out of a non-capped chimney. The other chimney has a wire-mesh cap to prevent animals from getting inside.

Many people believe that you can simply trap a nuisance animal and relocate it to a different area. Not only does this not solve your problem, it is against the law to release a trapped animal in a different area. The Ohio Division of Wildlife states, “ALL raccoons, skunks, coyotes, fox and opossums trapped or captured under authority of the Nuisance Wild Animal Regulation must be released again on the homeowner’s property or euthanized by the Nuisance Trapping Permit Holder NOT a rehabilitator.” So what can you do that will solve the problem?

The first thing you need to do in any nuisance animal situation is try to establish why the animal is there. In this case it is simple. The raccoon is using the chimney as a home, possibly to raise her young. Next, you need to evict the raccoon. You can humanely do this by making the area as stressful as possible. Use flashlights or spotlights to brighten the chimney. Leave these on for 24 hours a day. Combine this with another stressor such as a bad smell. Place a bowl of ammonia at the bottom of the chimney. Do this also for 24 hours a day. The other option is to use sound as a stressor. Use a battery-operated radio turned up

as loud as you can handle it, for 24 hours a day. It is best to use a combination of these stressors and you MUST be persistent. You must keep the stressors in place non-stop until you are sure the animal is gone. If you put the stressors there, then take them away, the animal will learn they are not a threat. If they are constantly there, the raccoon will feel unsafe and will WANT to leave.

Once you are positive the raccoon is gone, you need to make sure that you eliminate the problem so you can prevent another animal from moving in. You can do this by putting a wire-mesh cap on the chimney. If you do not cap the chimney, another animal will move in.

It is very important that you are sure there are no babies left behind before capping the chimney. If you are unsure, call Lake Erie Nature & Science Center to learn about the natural history of the animal and to see if it may be breeding season. If there are babies, give the animal plenty of time to retrieve them and take them to an alternate nest site, which many mammals already have. If you close up the area before the mother has a chance to retrieve them, she may do more damage trying to get back to them.

If you ever have a question regarding any nuisance animal situation, please feel free to call Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL

Adopt one of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center’s animals on a monthly or yearly basis. When you do, your generous donation supports the care and feeding of that animal, as well as the other animals at the Center. Thanks to everyone who adopted an animal in 2007! **Adopt an animal online at: www.lensc.org/support/adoptananimal.htm**

ANIMAL ADOPTIONS FROM JAN 1, 2008 - MAY 5, 2008

Isabella Zanotti	Raccoon
Sabrina and Salina Fernandez	Striped Skunk
Chana Scofield	Barred Owl
Evelyn Tucker	Cooper’s Hawk
Gerald Moloney, for Jennifer Siekaniec	Box Turtle
Jodi Geduldig for Dickie Geduldig	Turkey Vultures
Kathy Breitenbucher for Marge Preslan	Bobwhite Quail
Jennifer Berkowitz for Brynn Berkowitz	Bald Eagle
The Millard’s for Alex Gould	Leopard Gecko
Abbi Rauscher	Leopard Gecko
Gerald Maloney Jr.	Venomous Snakes
Kumiko McLaren	Domestic Rabbit
Dawn Spolar for Nathan Spolar	Domestic Rabbit
Sara Steinman	Domestic Rabbit
Mimi Madrid for Alejandra & Angelica Madrid	Domestic Rabbit
Jessica Novotny	Domestic Rabbit
Lauren & AJ Hubach	Domestic Rabbit
Brownie Troop #237	Domestic Rabbit
Peggy Pierce for Bryan Stemm	Domestic Rabbit
Peggy Pierce for Casey Stemm	Domestic Rabbit
Roger & Marilyn Spence	Domestic Rabbit
Kristen Gould	Domestic Rabbit
Brownie Troop #740	Domestic Rabbit
Briwbue /Troop #157	Domestic Rabbit
The Way family for Luke Kacur	Domestic Rabbit
Allison Gallagher for Andrew Gallagher	Domestic Rabbit



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
Live Wildlife Exhibits and Rehabilitation

28728 Wolf Rd.
Bay Village, OH 44140

Donated Items we can really use!

The Kenneth A. Scott Wildlife Rehabilitation Program admits over 1,400 animals annually. This service is provided at no cost to the public. In order to continue to provide these animals with the best possible care, we are asking for your help! The following is a list of items used on a daily basis to feed, house and provide necessary basic medical care for these animals.

HOUSING SUPPLIES:

- Pine shavings
- Clay cat litter
- Pine bark mulch
- Cypress mulch
- Straw (dry!)
- Corn cob bedding
- Ceramic pet bowls
- Plastic terrariums
- Indoor/outdoor carpeting
- Ceramic heat bulbs
- Plastic grass doormats
- Reptarium

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Light bulbs
- 55 gal. garbage bags
- Batteries (all sizes)
- Masking tape & duct tape
- Trouble lamps (with dome-type reflector)
- Scrub brushes
- Sponges with scrubber side
- Storage bins
- Dustbuster

ANIMAL FIRST AID:

- Latex Gloves
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Vetwrap
- Rolled Cotton
- Cotton Balls
- Gauze squares
- Rolled gauze (1" or 2" wide)
- Non-stick bandages
- Penlights
- Syringes and/or needles
- Lab & surgical equipment
- Infant incubator
- Bag Balm
- Desitin
- KY Jelly

FOOD/NUTRITIONAL SUPPLIES:

- Baby Food (mixed veggies in jars)
- Applesauce
- Frozen or fresh vegetables
- Frozen or fresh fruit
- Frozen ground turkey
- Unsalted nuts
- Acorns
- Earthworms

- Mealworms
- Waxworms
- Reptomin
- Fresh fish
- Live feeder fish
- Live crickets
- Timothy hay
- Bird seed
- Guinea pig pellets
- Rabbit pellets
- Dry dog & cat food
- Lab mice/rats
- Avian hand-rearing formula
- Nutri-cal
- Laxatone
- Reptile vitamins

GIFT CERTIFICATES

- True Value Hardware
- Heinen's
- Pet's General Store (Lakewood)
- Landmark
- Target
- Wal-Mart
- Wild Birds Unlimited