

WREN.

Summer 2009

Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Newsletter

“Bigger and Brighter” Times Ahead for Wildlife Rehab

As part of our continued efforts to improve our services and our facility, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is planning a complete makeover and expansion of the animal rehabilitation area of our basement. Our last building renovation and expansion in 1998 focused on our public areas. Now, it's time we address some of the growing issues with the areas behind the scenes, including our basement rehab facility.

Rehab is squeezed into the same 450 square feet we occupied in 1998, when we treated about 500 animals. Now, we treat almost twice that many! Our growth means we have almost no storage close at hand, not enough elbow room to effectively utilize all our dedicated volunteers, and are forced to stack animal cages one on top of another. The lighting and ventilation are also far from optimum.

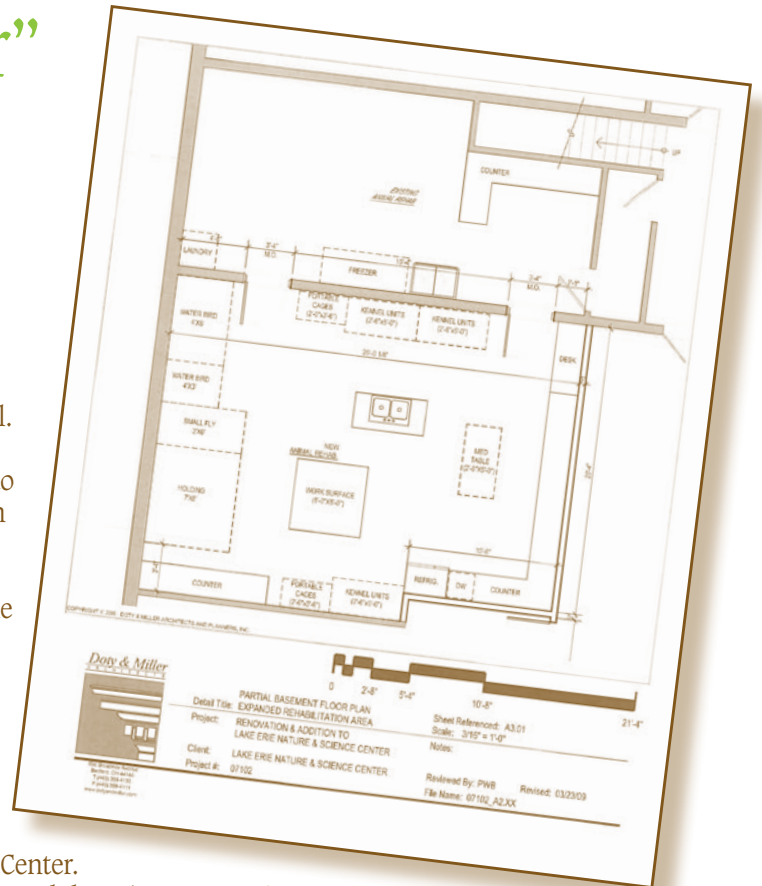
The good news, as you can see from the proposed blueprints, is that we're planning to more than double our current rehab space! Our currently used operating space will serve mostly as cage and supplies storage and as an area to house laundry machines, freezers, and basin sinks. We'll

be upgrading the flooring, lighting, plumbing, and ventilation as well. We'll also have a separate area to do paperwork and an intercom system to communicate with the rest of the building.

We're excited about these improvements and others that we have planned for Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

Of course, we'll need donations – both in-kind and monetary – to help us along toward this goal of a bigger, better, brighter rehab facility.

The time frame for accomplishing this expansion and refurbishment is spread out over the next few years due to the current economic impact on fundraising and foundation grant giving. However, as soon as we're financially able to take these plans from the drawing board to reality, we will, for the benefit of the non-profit mission we all share.



To donate to the project, call Development Director Renee Burslem at (440) 871-2900 x206.

MISSION STATEMENT

The non-profit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates and inspires each of us to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural universe.

Eastern Striped Skunk

Do you have a heart for wildlife?

Join Partners in Wildlife Rehabilitation

You or your business can be part of an elite group that partners with us to offer free wildlife education and rehabilitation to our community. Your \$500 in annual support will provide much needed funds for medical services and supplies, food, and animal care supplies.

We'll show our gratitude by giving you a year's worth of recognition on a prominent front lobby sign visible to the Center's 100,000+ visitors, on our dynamic and popular website and through exposure in publications mailed to more than 1,000 readers and emailed to another 1,400. Most of all, you gain the good feeling that comes when you make a difference in our community!

Join us in saying thank you to our current Partners in Wildlife Rehabilitation

David Francati, DDS & Sherry Waters, DDS

Hofmann Plumbing

Cynthia Monjot

Share in our mission or encourage someone else to become a Partner by contacting Director of Wildlife Programs, Dave Wolf, at 440-871-2900 ext. 203 or Davew@Lensc.org.

One of the most striking animals on exhibit in "The Wildlife Gardens" here at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is our Eastern Striped Skunk. Unlike most of our wildlife exhibit animals, this skunk was never injured but simply born on a wild animal farm. Our skunk is unable to spray because it was de-scented at the farm.

Wild skunks, as well as our skunk, are omnivores; which means they eat both plants and meat. We feed our skunk a variety of food including insects, peanuts, leafy greens, mixed vegetables, various fruits, cat food, dog food and various types of meat. In the wild, skunks will eat anything from garbage to small animals to berries and other plant parts. In the spring and summer, skunks eagerly seek out worms, grubs and insects which live underneath the grass.

Skunks thrive in an urban setting because of the food sources that are available, as well as the shelter provided by human structures and

landscaping. If you find a skunk digging in your yard, there is a good chance you have grubs living in the soil beneath the grass. There is no good way to prevent the skunks from digging, except to eliminate the grubs.

In our skunk exhibit, you will notice that we have constructed a log pile as well as what appears to look like the corner of a deck that would be built off the side of



A skunk's favorite pastime: rooting through leaf litter for insects

your house. The reason for this is to show that our suburban backyards make excellent skunk habitats. They love dark, quiet and dry den sites and our decks and porches provide those. They also

like to eat insects they find in the woodpiles we maintain. And our open downspouts provide them with water to drink.

You can see our skunk in its exhibit across from the Mink in our backyard "Wildlife Gardens."

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 financial support for the Center's work for generations to come. You can create a lasting legacy.

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

Renee Burslem
Director of Development & Community Relations
at (440) 871-2900 ext. 206.

Visit www.lensc.org (support us/planned giving) for more information.

2008 Rehab Species List

The following is the list of species brought into our Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program in 2008, reflecting the diversity of species in our Northeast Ohio backyards.



BIRDS

- Am. Black Duck
- Am. Crow
- Am. Goldfinch
- Am. Kestrel
- Am. Robin
- Am. Woodcock
- Baltimore Oriole
- Barn Swallow
- Barred Owl
- Belted Kingfisher
- Black & White Warbler
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Blue Jay
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Brown Creeper
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Canada Goose
- Canvasback
- Cedar Waxwing
- Chimney Swift
- Common Grackle
- Common Nighthawk
- Common Snipe
- Common Yellowthroat
- Cooper's Hawk
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Downy Woodpecker
- E. Bluebird
- E. Screech Owl
- Empidonax Flycatcher
- European Starling
- Field Sparrow
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Gray Catbird

- Great Blue Heron
- Great Horned Owl
- Green Heron
- Hermit Thrush
- Herring Gull
- Horned Grebe
- House Finch
- House Sparrow
- House Wren
- Least Bittern
- Lesser Scaup
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Long-eared Owl
- Magnolia Warbler
- Mallard
- Mourning Dove
- Myrtle Warbler
- N. Cardinal
- Ovenbird
- Peregrine Falcon
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Red-shoulder Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Ring-billed Gull
- Rock Dove
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Song Sparrow
- Swainson's Thrush
- Swamp Sparrow
- Tufted Titmouse
- Turkey Vulture
- Whimbrel
- White-throated Sparrow
- Wilson's Warbler

- Winter Wren
- Wild Turkey
- Wood Thrush
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Yellow-shafted Flicker

MAMMALS

- Big Brown Bat
- Deer Mouse
- E. Chipmunk
- E. Cottontail
- E. Fox Squirrel
- E. Gray Squirrel
- House Mouse
- Long-tailed Weasel
- Meadow Vole
- Raccoon
- Red Bat
- Red Squirrel
- S. Flying Squirrel
- Silver-haired bat
- Virginia Opossum
- White-footed Mouse
- White-tailed Deer
- Woodchuck

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

- Am. Toad
- Bullfrog
- Common Snapping Turtle
- E. Box Turtle
- E. Milk Snake
- Green Frog
- Midland Painted Turtle
- Red-eared Slider

Facebook and Twitter Are New Online Sources For Rehab News

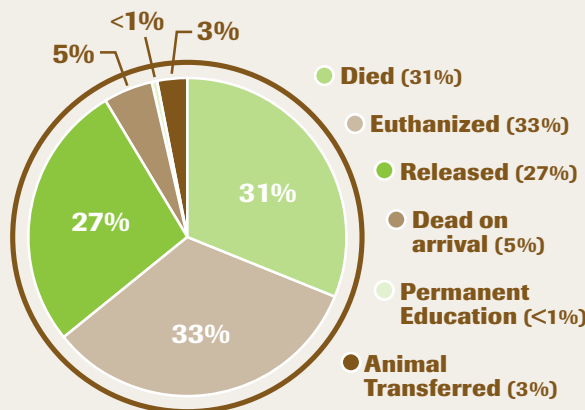
Want ongoing, behind the scenes information about rehab at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center? Between issues of WREN, stay connected online. We share pictures and tell some of our notable rehab stories on our Chirp & Chatter blog and now, on our Facebook fan page and to our Twitter followers. We recently announced a public rehab owl release using Twitter and created a photo album of rehab patients on Facebook.

You can find links to our Facebook page, Twitter profile and Chirp & Chatter on our homepage at www.lensc.org. By the way, you can also recruit your friends to support our non-profit mission using our Facebook Causes page. See you online!



In addition to the above animals we received for rehabilitation, we also immediately returned 295 animals right back where they came from without needing any human interference. Almost all of these were healthy wild babies.

Outcomes of 2008 Rehab Patients



Northern Saw-whet Owl

This winter, we successfully rehabilitated a Northern Saw-whet Owl. A concerned individual found it in Cleveland in the middle of the road on February 22. Upon our exam, we discovered that the owl had fractured its scapula (similar to our shoulder bone). We wrapped the Saw-whet's wing and secured it to the body. It is amazing how fast bird bones can heal. This owl's bone healed in just 5 days! After a few weeks of exercise in a flight cage, the bird was ready to return to the wild.

On March 26, we had Master Bander Gary Fowler place a small band on the leg of the owl. North American Bird Banding is a government program that tracks the movement and survival of birds. If you find a banded bird, you should report it to 1-800-327-BAND. Later in the day, with a small crowd gathered, we released the Saw-whet into the woods behind Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

While Saw-whet owls are rarely found here in the summer, they are common winter migrants in Ohio. They are the smallest of Ohio's owls weighing about as much as an American Robin. Despite their small size, they are excellent hunters. During winter months they will hunt and kill more than they can immediately eat, saving a stash for tough winter times. They will thaw their saved food by sitting on it or "incubating" it like they would their eggs.

If you would like to see more of our rehab activities, check out our Chirp & Chatter blog at www.lensc.org.



Wildlife "Matters"

Q:

"A baby squirrel ran right up to me. It almost seemed like it wanted to crawl up my leg! What should I do?"

A: The answer is simple really. Don't do anything at all to encourage this behavior and, in fact, you can help by discouraging the squirrel from approaching humans.

Believe it or not, this behavior is actually quite normal for a baby squirrel. Every spring and fall we receive this exact question over and over. Many times a baby squirrel will try to run on top of your feet, or up your leg, or even just follow you around. They seem to have absolutely no fear of humans. The reason for this lack of fear is not completely understood other than the squirrels are simply in a learning stage of life and don't yet know that approaching humans is a dangerous or bad thing to do.

You can help them learn this important lesson by scaring or startling

them. On the surface, this may seem mean, but it's actually the nicest thing you can do for them. You may even be saving their lives by teaching them to fear humans. Methods include clapping your hands, making loud noises, or even running at them. Above all, do not try to feed the squirrel or coax it to come closer, however tempting. These actions will reinforce the wrong message and may even result in death if the squirrel approaches the wrong person.



Remember, human interference during the learning stages of any wild animal can be extremely harmful to the animal, both in the short term and for its long-term survival. Letting wildlife live and learn on their own or with their mother makes the most sense. Ultimately, nature's way is almost always the best solution to wildlife dilemmas.

Adopt-an-Animal

THANK YOU TO ALL THESE ANIMAL ADOPTERS
FROM OCTOBER 16, 2008 THRU APRIL 14, 2009



SPONSOR

ANIMAL ADOPTED

Academy of St. Adelbert
Girl Scout Troops
Anna Beth Aylward
Julia Aylward
Davin, Tanner &
Caden Amy
Mrs. Jennifer Austin

Tortoise/Box Turtle
Domestic Rabbit
Domestic Rabbit

Isaac Ballou
Robert and
Gretchen Balogh
Thomas Benedetto
Rachel Boyko
Joe and Amy Burchfield
Enzo Carlozzi
Tim Caton
Barbara Coatney
Sheila E. Clogg
Danielle Cooke
Mitchell Cooke
Coursen Family
CRL - Lakota Tribe
Maya Sophia Deasy
Alison Laing Driver
Kelsey Farr
Eleanor L. Gates

Rat Snake
Great Horned Owl
Red Tailed Hawk
Tortoise/Box Turtle

Girl Scout Troop 869
Glenview Room 105
Emmett Gourash
Jeff Haniewich
Emma Harris
Bridget Hart
Sue Hill
The Johnson Family
Terry Kenneally

Eastern Screech Owl
Domestic Rabbit
Bald Eagle
Green Iguana
Domestic Rabbit
Raccoon
Raccoon
Turkey Vulture
Domestic Rabbit
Leopard Gecko
Flying Squirrel
Tortoise/Box Turtle
Flying Squirrel
Screech Owls
Domestic Rabbit
Domestic Rabbit
Waterfowl
Woodchuck
Leopard Gecko
Boa/Python
Woodchuck/Groundhog
Box Turtle/Ocean Exhibit
Domestic Rabbit
Green Iguano
Domestic Rabbit
Venomous Snake

SPONSOR

ANIMAL ADOPTED

Alex Klaben
Melanie Klaben
Matt Kocur
Jennie Koomar
Annie Korth
Anthony Kukich
Lakewood Adventure Guides
Betty Large
Hannah Grace Malbasa
Carolyn Mamere
Kaylie, Brennan,
Charlie & Owen McGurer
Leah Naylor
North Olmsted
SITES Students
Charlie Pausche
The Price Family
Elizabeth Rater
Payton Rater
Joseph and Sean Roesch
In memory of Dale Rosul
Maria Sandy and class
Meira and Morgan Simolin
Marilyn Spence
Abigail Stewart
Dave Taylor
Haylie and Charlotte Villao
Charlotte Rose Weiss
Bella and Drew Wynocker
Jack and Calvin Yeager

Piranha
Cockroaches
Red Fox
Domestic Rabbit
Cockroaches
Domestic Rabbit
Domestic Rabbit
Eastern Screech Owls
Tortoise/Box Turtles
Flying Squirrel

Domestic Rabbit
Domestic Rabbit

Bald Eagle
Box Turtles
Box Turtle
Chipola King Snake
Domestic Rabbit
Domestic Rabbit
Flying Squirrel
Skunk
Domestic Rabbit
Domestic Rabbit
Domestic Rabbit
Woodchuck
Domestic Rabbit
Skunk
Flying Squirrel
Domestic Rabbit

We Want To Hear From YOU

*Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in this publication?
Have a suggestion for an article? Have an opinion, positive or negative,
that you'd like to share with us?*



We're looking for input on this WREN Newsletter in an attempt to make it better for you. While we may not be able to implement every suggestion, we'd still love to hear from you. If you'd like to make any suggestions pertaining to this newsletter, please email them to AmyL@Lencs.org, leave suggestions on our voicemail (440) 871-2900 ext. 204 or write to: Amy LeMonds Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist Lake Erie Nature & Science Center 28728 Wolf Rd., Bay Village, OH 44140



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
Live Wildlife Exhibits and Rehabilitation

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www.lensc.org

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Donated Items we can really use!

The Kenneth A. Scott Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program admits more than 1,000 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
- Outdoor patio carpeting
- Ceramic heat bulbs
- Plastic grass doormats

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Dawn dish soap
- Paper towels
- Light bulbs
- 55 gal. garbage bags
- Zip-lock bags
- Batteries (all sizes esp. AAA)
- Masking tape & duct tape
- Trouble lamps
(with dome-type reflector)
- Scrub brushes
- Sponges with scrubber side
- Storage bins
- DustBuster

ANIMAL FIRST AID:

- Latex Gloves
- Vetwrap
- Rolled Cotton
- Gauze squares
- Rolled gauze (1" or 2" wide)
- Non-stick bandages
- Penlights
- Syringes and/or needles
- Infant incubator
- Bag balm
- Desitin
- KY Jelly

FOOD/NUTRITIONAL SUPPLIES:

- Jars of Baby Food (mixed veggie)
- Frozen or fresh vegetables
- Frozen or fresh fruit
- Frozen ground turkey
- Unsalted nuts
- Acorns
- Earthworms/Mealworms
- Reptomin
- Fresh or frozen fish
- Live feeder fish
- Live crickets
- Timothy hay
- Birdseed
- Guinea pig pellets

- Rabbit pellets
- Dry dog & cat food
- Lab mice/rats
- Avian hand-rearing formula
- Nutri-Cal
- Laxatone
- Reptile vitamins
- Peanut butter natural

GIFT CERTIFICATES

- True Value Hardware
- Heinen's
- Pet's General Store (Lakewood)
- Landmark
- Pat Catan's
- Michael's Arts and Crafts
- Sam's Club
- Giant Eagle
- Target
- Wal-mart
- Wild Birds Unlimited

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