

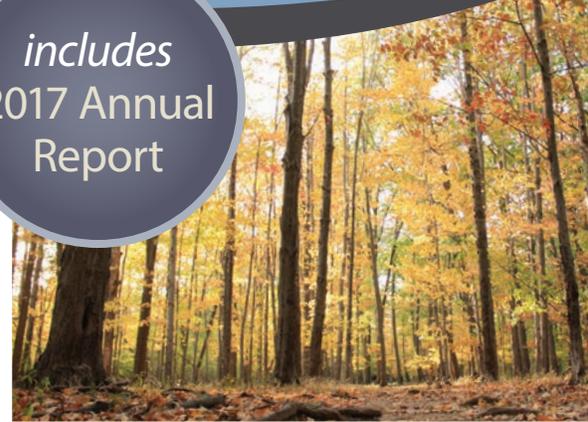


Lake Erie Nature &  
Science Center

FALL 2017

# Naturally CONNECTED

includes  
2017 Annual  
Report



## Pre-K, The Nature Way

Since its founding in 1945, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center has connected young children with the wonders of the natural world. The Center's instructors and natural history resources encourage preschoolers' inherent curiosity by bringing lessons to life as they meet and touch resident animals, see the vivid night sky in Schuele Planetarium and hike surrounding nature trails, even to nearby Lake Erie.



Nature Nuts Preschool Program

Its renowned nature-based preschool programs serve over 1,400 children ages one to six each year through classes in three specially designed classrooms, where experienced instructors integrate all areas of Ohio's Early Childhood Outcomes including science, math, literacy and the arts. The surrounding 100-acre parkland and access to Lake Erie serve as an extended outdoor classroom, making the Center uniquely positioned to influence the next generation's understanding of local wildlife and conservation efforts.

What sets the Center apart from other museums and nature centers is the large scale impact of its preschool programming. Children's weekly visits blossom into nearly 15,000 hours of preschool engagement, making the Center a leader in early childhood nature

programming in the Northeast Ohio region.

Many preschoolers return with their families to enjoy the Center's planetarium shows, family programs and free live animal exhibits, giving them a learning experience that will inspire a lifetime of discovery.

My child's love for adventure and his unquenchable thirst for understanding and exploring the world began at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. Thank you for providing wonderful experiences for families and shaping children's lives to make this world a better place each and every day.

—Bridget Baumgartner

## New Space Science Exhibits

In March 2017, the Center unveiled a new planetary display and interactive constellation exhibit. Located next to Schuele Planetarium, the new exhibit features two informative panels for all visitors to enjoy. "Constellations Through the Seasons" provides hands-on education for little ones, as they can move magnetic stars to replicate popular constellations or create their very own constellations. "Did You Know?" features a beautiful image of a spiral galaxy while sharing fascinating astronomy facts for all ages. Special thanks to The Hershey Foundation for its generous grant to help make this exhibit possible.



## Schuele Planetarium Celebrates over 20 Years of Engaging Children and Families

Home to one of the two public access planetariums in Northeast Ohio, the Center's Walter R. Schuele Planetarium prides itself in creating developmentally appropriate programming for children and families.

"We are one of the few institutions offering public programs in space science for the early childhood audience," says Director of Education, Darci Sanders. "It's wonderful to see grandparents, parents and children all able to enjoy themselves and learn together."

Designed collaboratively by planetarium and preschool staff, shows such as Twinkle Tots and Stellar Stars make use of the planetarium's technical capabilities to build a foundation in space science for children ages zero to six. The Center's 30-foot dome, equipped with LED lighting and a state-of-the-art sound system, captivate little ones with color recognition, interactive activities and favorite songs. Planetarium Specialists Katy Accetta and Monica Marshall engage preschoolers by highlighting familiar objects in the Earth's sky and using the digital projector to visualize other planets in the Solar System, constellations, asteroids and the occasional comet.

The community has taken notice, as Schuele Planetarium brings the fascinating realm of astronomy to nearly 16,000 children and adults each year. Strong and regular attendance to preschool shows inspired the creation of a new public program called Family Adventures in Space. This offering gives

grandparents, parents and children the chance to take a trip through the Solar System, learn about NASA missions and explore different constellations together.

"When we moved to a Cleveland suburb, our family was thrilled to discover that Lake Erie Nature & Science Center offers planetarium shows for the youngest of space enthusiasts," says Maureen Wise. "Learning about the solar system on a big, captivating screen with friendly planetarium staff has solidified my son Jude's fascination and knowledge of our universe."



The planetarium at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center has opened the whole universe to my son, Grayson. Not a day or night goes by that we don't look up to the sky with wonder and amazement.

—Maria Skliros

The Center isn't stopping here. This fall, families can enjoy a new early childhood program, "Space Nuts," for children ages four to six where they will explore a new astronomy topic each week.

# Wildlife Intern Accepted into Top-Ranked Veterinary Program

“I knew at a young age that I wanted to be a veterinarian,” says wildlife intern Mary Swiger. “My experience at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center has not only reaffirmed my desire to work with wildlife, but has provided me with a path toward pursuing this dream.”

Director of Wildlife, Amy LeMonds, created the Center’s wildlife internship program in 2014 to provide college students with education and experience in various fields related to wildlife



Swiger is pursuing her degree this fall with an interest in wildlife and exotic species.

rehabilitation, animal care and wildlife education. “Upgrading the wildlife rehabilitation facility which was made possible by the recent comprehensive campaign, led to an opportunity to develop hands-on learning experiences for students and further the fields of wildlife education and rehabilitation,” says LeMonds.

Swiger began her internship with the Center in March 2015 where she worked alongside Wildlife Staff to assist with the cleaning, feeding and daily care of over 100 different species, including the Center’s resident animals and wildlife rehabilitation patients. After the completion of her internship, Mary maintained her relationship with the Center by volunteering once a week.

“It has been amazing to watch Mary grow in her experiences here at the Center,” says LeMonds. “She truly took advantage of every learning opportunity we could

offer her. I anticipate that Mary will be successful as she pursues her career and I am pleased to know that wherever she ends up, she will continue to share our mission with others.”

Last April, Swiger was accepted into The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, one of the top-ranked and most highly competitive veterinary programs in the country.

I will be forever grateful for the experiences Lake Erie Nature & Science Center has offered me and for all of the help that they have provided me on my path to becoming a veterinarian. Working at the Center has given me a love and appreciation for wildlife that I never knew existed.

–Mary Swiger

## Your Donation Makes a Difference

Your donation helps provide free admission, free wildlife rehabilitation services and exceptional programs for children and families. As a nonprofit organization, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center relies on personal donations as well as grant funding. To make a donation and show your support, please visit our website at [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org) or call us at (440) 871-2900.

## Trash Transformation

Congratulations to Nina Wilkinson, Girl Scout Northeast Ohio Troop #70285, for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, “Trash Transformation.”



Nina Wilkinson

collected trash from local parks to create a fish sculpture that illustrates the negative impact of litter on native wildlife in Lake Erie. The sculpture is currently on display in Ohio Sea Grant’s Marine Debris Exhibit at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center  
Statement of Activities

For the year ended  
June 30, 2017

# Annual Report

for the year ended June 30, 2017



SUPPORT AND REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Program and class fees	\$456,763	-	-	\$456,763
Government grants	\$175,772	-	-	\$175,772
Contributions and grants	\$388,990	\$74,644	-	\$463,634
Special events	\$79,019	-	-	\$79,019
Membership	\$20,905	-	-	\$20,905
Donated services and supplies	\$19,230	-	-	\$19,230
Facility rent in-kind	\$324,000	-	-	\$324,000
Miscellaneous income	\$11,520	-	-	\$11,520
Investment income for current operations	\$104,743	\$41,250	-	\$145,993
	\$1,580,942	\$115,894	-	\$1,696,836
<b>Net assets released from restrictions</b>	\$204,598	(\$204,598)	-	-
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	\$1,785,540	(\$88,704)	-	\$1,696,836
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries, payroll taxes and benefits	\$858,873	-	-	\$858,873
Other employee costs	\$17,024	-	-	\$17,024
Fundraising	\$33,597	-	-	\$33,597
Educational programs and services	\$54,872	-	-	\$54,872
Campaign funded capital renovations	\$122,531	-	-	\$122,531
Wildlife rehabilitation and animal care	\$45,892	-	-	\$45,892
Building maintenance and utilities	\$188,219	-	-	\$188,219
Depreciation	\$6,447	-	-	\$6,447
Insurance	\$15,713	-	-	\$15,713
Technology	\$63,651	-	-	\$63,651
Marketing	\$33,015	-	-	\$33,015
Professional fees	\$15,188	-	-	\$15,188
Facility rent in-kind	\$324,000	-	-	\$324,000
Total expenses	\$1,779,022	-	-	\$1,779,022
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	\$6,518	(\$88,704)	-	(\$82,186)
<b>OTHER CHANGES:</b>				
Investment return in excess of amounts designated for current operations	\$11,221	\$156,489	-	\$167,710
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	\$17,739	\$67,785	-	\$85,524
<b>NET ASSETS, JULY 1, 2016</b>	\$791,838	\$3,441,474	\$20,000	\$4,253,312
<b>NET ASSETS, JUNE 30, 2017</b>	\$809,577	\$3,509,259	\$20,000	\$4,338,836

Audit prepared by Card, Palmer, Sibbision & Co.



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is a nonprofit organization funded by donations, class fees and grants including Cuyahoga Arts & Culture through county residents.

# Annual Report

for the year ended June 30, 2017



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

## Total Number of People Served:

# 166,560

### 101,896 Walk in visitors

Visitors enjoy free admission seven days a week to see indoor and outdoor exhibits about natural history, space science and wildlife.

### 23,325 Preschool program participants

The Center's early childhood programs build on children's inherent curiosity about the world and include session classes, planetarium shows, critter encounters, nature hikes and field trips for local preschools.

### 16,514 Family program attendees

For four generations, families have been enjoying high quality time together at the Center celebrating the seasons, building traditions and creating memories. Planetarium shows, animal encounters, nature hikes and special events encourage lifelong learning for all ages.

### 14,388 Students from Kindergarten to College

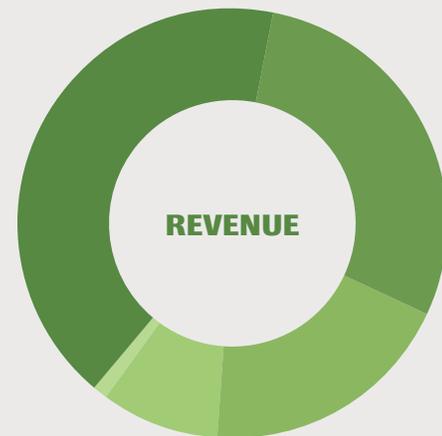
The Center's live wildlife exhibits and dual projection system planetarium have become a hands-on learning landscape for students throughout Northeast Ohio. Students further their interest in nature and science with field trips, summer camps, after school programs and service learning initiatives.

### 5,863 people served with wildlife information and rehabilitation services

Wildlife rehabilitation and information services are offered free to the public through the intake of ill or injured animals and responses to phone inquiries.

### 4,574 Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts

The Center offers 73 programs for Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts as they earn badges and further their program advancement.



- 42%** Grants and donations
- 29%** Class and program fees, membership dues
- 19%** Facility rent in kind
- 9%** Investment income
- 1%** Donated services and supplies



- 49%** Payroll and employee benefits
- 18%** Facility rent in kind
- 16%** Capital Projects
- 7%** Facility, operations and technology
- 6%** Program materials, wildlife food and supplies
- 4%** Fundraising and marketing

## Board of Directors Serving July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

**William Nowak**, *President*  
**Phil Callesen**, *Vice President*

**Gary Garling**, *Secretary*  
**Bill Watkins**, *Treasurer*

Chuck Aquino  
Jeff Barlow  
Bruce Cady  
Katie Colacarro

Jason Emch  
Eric German  
Allen Kacenjar  
Jeffrey Lauderdale

Colleen Lowmiller  
Trudy Pauken  
Lisa Roth  
Zach Stephens

Jo Theis  
R. Scott Thomas  
Allen Waddle  
Jeffrey Whitesell

Karen Huhndorff, *Ex-Officio*  
Wendy Weirich, *Ex-Officio*



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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### Our Mission

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

Follow us on   

## Center Honors Volunteers of the Year

The Center recognized Colleen Bumba and Justin Willard with Volunteer of the Year awards at its 2016-2017 Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on August 17.

Each year, the Center celebrates its many volunteers who are vital in helping the Center to fulfill its mission to educate children, families and students and provide wildlife services. The Center’s Volunteers of the Year are those extra special people who consistently demonstrate teamwork, reliability, responsibility and leadership within the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Volunteer Program.

Colleen Bumba, D.V.M., originally from Kaneohe, Hawaii, was

recognized as “Adult Volunteer of the Year” for her dedication to helping in the Center’s wildlife rehabilitation program. She began volunteering with Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in 2015 after retiring from practicing small animal veterinary medicine at Detroit Dover Animal Hospital.

Justin Willard, of Sheffield Village, was recognized as “Student Volunteer of the Year” for his commitment to the Center’s distinctive Project Wildlife program. Willard participated in the Center’s programs as a child and applied for Project Wildlife during his freshman year at Lutheran West.

“Colleen, Justin and all of our volunteers help to make Lake Erie

Nature & Science Center a treasured destination for children, families, students and people seeking help for injured wildlife,” says Executive Director, Catherine Timko. “The Center is able to serve more than 166,000 people annually with exhibits, programs and animals because of dedicated volunteers who work alongside our paid, professional staff. We are grateful for their skill and enthusiasm.”



Colleen Bumba



Justin Willard



Eastern Hellbender

## Endangered Species on Exhibit

A young Eastern Hellbender, Ohio’s largest amphibian and North America’s largest salamander, is now on display at the Center for children and families to watch grow up to 29 inches in length. The new exhibit highlights Ohio’s efforts to protect the species and educates the public about the importance of water quality. Thank you to The Bay Village Foundation for supporting the exhibit.