



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

SPRING 2018

Naturally CONNECTED



New Exhibits for Children and Families

Among the many live animals, the make-your-own constellation display and the ever-popular log, children and families visiting Lake Erie Nature & Science Center will have even more to enjoy. Two new exhibits have been installed to encourage children and adults

to learn about our native species overhead and underwater.

“What is your wingspan?” invites children to compare their own arm span with the wingspans of native birds such as blue jay, mallard, red-tailed hawk and eagle. Positioned at a young learner’s level, the exhibit creates a colorful hands-on learning experience, and a fun photo opportunity.

“Native Fish of Lake Erie” highlights many of the species living in our Great Lake, along with their size, ecological region and other fun facts. The display was designed in collaboration with Ohio Sea Grant to encourage reading and conversation as young children explore the Center’s live animal exhibits with their families.

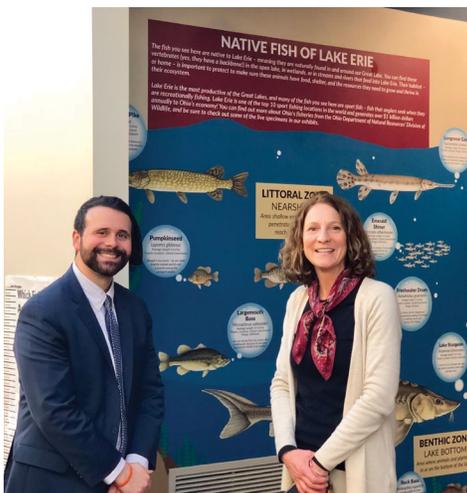
Visitors will also notice

improved content for all indoor live animal displays including the habitat and diet of the animals.

These exhibit improvements were made possible through the generous support of the Cleveland Foundation and individual donors.

The Center educates and inspires children and families to understand, appreciate and take responsibility of our natural world. Among the 166,000 people the Center serves each year are walk-in visitors who enjoy its indoor and outdoor exhibits with free admission.

“The exhibits have been readily welcomed and enjoyed by children and families visiting the Center every day,” says Executive Director, Catherine Timko. “They are a perfect complement to our preschool classes, school field trips and seasonal family events.”



Stephen Love, Program Officer at the Cleveland Foundation, and Catherine Timko, Executive Director at the Center, pictured in front of the new “Native Fish of Lake Erie” exhibit.

Women's Board



The Women's Board of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center continues to support the organization and its mission through service, community awareness and fundraising.

Started in 1954 by six women, the Women's Board has grown to over 25 members of all ages, skills, experiences and talents.

The Women's Board recently initiated a Crafts Committee to assist the Center's teachers by preparing materials for classroom activities. On school holidays, members of the Women's Board sponsor a cocoa and cookie café to provide visitors of the Center with refreshments in between special planetarium shows and animal encounters. All proceeds help fund the Center's education programs, wildlife rehabilitation services and animal care.

For more information about joining the Women's Board, please call 440-871-2900 or visit www.lensc.org.

Artwork for Animals

"Mom, I think I'm good at art. Can I do that to make money?"

This is the question Eliza Andrews asked her mother after a visit to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's animal exhibits.

Last fall, Jennifer Andrews brought her daughters Eliza and Fiona to the Center to learn about native wildlife and see the animals up close. Eliza, 4 years old, especially took a liking to the resident Bald Eagle. After learning about the Center's wildlife rehabilitation program, Eliza asked her mother how she could help.

Wild Pals, the animal adoption program of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, gives people the opportunity to contribute to an animal's medical care, food and



Wildlife Specialist Taryn Leach presents Eliza her Wild Pals certificate in front of the Center's Bald Eagle exhibit.

maintenance.

Eliza's creative spirit and compassion for animals inspired her to draw, paint and accept donations for her artwork to become a Wild Pal. Jennifer agreed to match each dollar her daughter earned, with some pieces selling for almost \$30 each.

After receiving the Wild Pals donation, the Center invited Eliza and her family to accept her certificate at the Bald Eagle's exhibit and meet Wildlife Specialist Taryn Leach to learn more about her favorite bird.

"It was such a pleasure to meet Eliza and the entire Andrews family," said Leach. "I would like to thank them for their generosity, support and most importantly their kindness in sponsoring our Bald Eagle."



Eliza created drawings, paintings and pottery to raise money and support the Center's resident Bald Eagle.



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

Alumni Spotlight: Bob Westfall

Bob Westfall is a Quantitative Geneticist and Biostatistician at Pacific Southwest Research Station representing the USDA Forest Service for 35 years. Westfall grew up in Bay Village and stayed involved with Lake Erie Nature & Science Center throughout his childhood.

Below is a reflection from Westfall on how his experiences with the Center as a young student shaped his career.

The person responsible for initiating my path into forestry and beyond was a librarian.

In sixth grade, we were assigned to write a report on a scientific career. At the time, science was



Westfall on a two-day field trip studying American Pikas.

my least favorite subject. The librarian knew of my interest in the outdoors and provided me with literature on forestry. In spite of the heavy emphasis on the sciences in forestry programs at the time, I was hooked.

Bert Fleming, the founder

of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, encouraged and guided my path to forestry. She enrolled me in a forestry camp at Tar Hollow State Park, the summer following graduation. After two years of service in the U.S. Army, I entered the forestry program at Michigan State University and kept tabs with Bert on my experiences in the program and throughout my summer work with the Forest Service.

I value the Center's work in carrying out Bert's mission to educate children and families about the natural world.

Where did Lake Erie Nature & Science Center lead you? Share your story by emailing catherinet@lensc.org.

Nature's Night Out Save the date for our annual benefit **Saturday, August 25, 2018**

A decorative banner for the annual benefit event. It features the text "Nature's Night Out" in a stylized font on the left, the event details "Save the date for our annual benefit Saturday, August 25, 2018" in the center, and silhouettes of several birds perched on a branch on the right. The background is a dark blue gradient with small white stars.

Your IRA can benefit Center programs with extra benefit for you!

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are 70 ½ years of age or older, you can make a distribution from your IRA directly to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center through an IRA charitable rollover.

What is an IRA Charitable Rollover?

The IRA charitable rollover is known as "qualified charitable distribution." A qualified charitable distribution is money that individuals who are 70½ or older may direct from their traditional IRA to eligible charitable organizations. There

is a cap of \$100,000 for charitable distributions from individual IRAs each year.

What is the benefit to you?

The charitable rollover is considered part of the Required Minimum Distribution. You may exclude the amount distributed directly to an eligible charity from your gross income.

Is an IRA charitable rollover considered a charitable deduction?

No. Donors benefit by not having to include the amount contributed directly from their IRA to a

qualifying charity in their gross income. However, because donors exclude this contribution from their gross income, they cannot take a charitable contribution deduction for the contribution.

It's Easy to Do:

In order to make a distribution from your IRA to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, please provide instructions to your IRA custodian. To obtain electronic transfer information or with other questions, please contact Catherine Timko, Executive Director, at 440-471-8353.



Lake Erie Nature &
Science Center



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Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is excited to share that our organization has been awarded the top 4-star rating by Charity Navigator for our commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency. Learn more at charitynavigator.org.

Preschool Partnerships Thrive

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's nature-based programming continues to reach new audiences through preschool partnerships.

Director of Education Darci Sanders and Preschool Coordinator Teece Lester saw an opportunity right across Wolf Road to partner with Glenview



Center, a non-profit, tuition-based program serving children from infancy through fifth grade.

Each week, Glenview Center teachers and enrolled preschoolers walk to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center for Cabin Critters, a one hour experience that includes encounters with live animals, engaging science activities and quality time investigating the great outdoors. Preschoolers are also given the opportunity to visit the Center's Schuele Planetarium to explore the night sky.

"Our partnership with Lake Erie Nature & Science Center has been more successful than I could have ever imagined," said Dorothy Chadwick, Executive Director at Glenview Center. "As a full-day child care, our families often miss out on nature-based

programming due to work obligations and busy schedules. Our parents are thrilled to provide their children with opportunities to learn about their natural environment, local animals and the night sky at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center."

At Glenview Center, teachers are noticing their preschoolers expressing more interest in the natural world around them.

Our children ask more questions about turtles, frogs and other native wildlife. We now plant more flowers to attract local pollinators like bees and butterflies.

—Dorothy Chadwick, Executive Director at Glenview Center

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 or call us at (440) 871-2900.



FOOTPATH FOUNDATION

Last fall, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center welcomed a group of preschoolers for a field trip generously funded by a grant for Footpath Foundation, a nonprofit organization that serves

underprivileged youth by providing meaningful outdoor experiences.

The preschoolers enjoyed meeting native animals, exploring the night sky in Schuele Planetarium and visiting the Center's free animal exhibits and natural history displays.

The Center looks forward to partnering with Footpath Foundation to provide more children with the opportunity to make lasting connections to the natural world and to build a lifelong passion for discovery.





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   

Spring Forward

Amy LeMonds, Director of Wildlife

Spring is almost here and wildlife reproduction will soon be at its peak.

If you encounter baby wildlife this spring, remember that baby animals are rarely abandoned in nature. Mothers will often leave their young unattended for a variety of reasons. For instance, a fawn lying quietly by itself with no mother in sight is perfectly normal. Deer do this to protect their young, as the presence of an adult would attract the attention of predators.

Baby wildlife does not need to be protected from the natural dangers in their lives. Children, predators and automobiles are all

a natural part of their urban and suburban environments. Baby wildlife must grow up among these circumstances in order to learn how to successfully co-exist with them. Growing up in the wild is dangerous, but removing animals from their parents can be equally as detrimental to their survival.

A common myth surrounding baby wildlife is that mothers will abandon their young due to the scent of humans. In fact, most birds have little sense of smell! While mammals have a strong sense of smell, human scent is not nearly enough of a danger signal to cause mothers to abandon their hormonal and maternal behaviors.



A baby bird with skin still visible or only covered in downy feathers should be placed back in the nest or in an artificial nest. If fully feathered but unable to fly, the bird should be left alone to learn critical survival behaviors.

If you have questions about baby wildlife this spring, please call the Center's expert Wildlife Staff at 440-471-8357.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is a member of the *Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association*, the *National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association* and the *International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council*. The Center performs wildlife rehabilitation services under permits from the *United States Fish and Wildlife Service* and the *Ohio Division of Wildlife*.