



NATURALLY CONNECTED

Fall – Winter 2023



EXCITING PLANS UNDERWAY FOR THE WILDLIFE GARDENS

Seeing animals is a treasured experience for people of all ages at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. Families and groups enjoy up close encounters with native wildlife free of charge, 7 days a week. Students work alongside our specialists to learn first-hand how we care for our resident animals and rehabilitation patients. Visitors find assistance for injured animals at the Center to be rehabilitated and released back to the wild.

Covering 20,000 square feet behind Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, the Wildlife Gardens are beloved by people of all ages for the up close encounters with our many resident animals including skunks, hawks, a bald eagle, crows, owls, and peregrine falcons. The Wildlife Gardens also house some wildlife patients, out of view of the public, in special structures to help them regain strength before release to the wild. Last renovated in 2000, the Wildlife Gardens are well-used and affected by weather and time. To improve experiences for visitors, the Board of Directors has launched the Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project after several years of planning and fundraising.

The Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project will create more engaging learning experiences about native animals, provide ample space for students to learn alongside our wildlife specialists, and raise visibility of wildlife rehabilitation efforts. The Project will remove and replace exhibits and structures, improve the quality of animal habitats, widen pathways to provide space for school groups, replace the protective perimeter fence, and increase sustainability. Estimated to cost \$1,500,000, the Project will be Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's largest capital investment in our free offerings for the public.



Learn more and support the Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project at www.lensc.org/wildlife-gardens-project.

EXCITING PLANS UNDERWAY FOR THE WILDLIFE GARDENS CONTINUED

As an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization, the Center relies on donations and grants to support day-to-day operations in addition to capital improvements. Renovations will be funded entirely by private donations from our visitors, foundation grants, and corporate contributions. Designing and planning has been underway during spring and summer, and we anticipate to break ground for the Project by year end.

Learn more and support the Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project at www.lensc.org/wildlife-gardens-project.

People increasingly need ways to connect with and learn about nature, and to find professional assistance for injured animals. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center helps to meet their needs by providing wildlife rehabilitation services, information for the public, engaging nature programs for all ages, and live animal exhibits indoors and outdoors in the Wildlife Gardens. These informal experiences, all of which will be enriched by the Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project, help people develop connections with wildlife, and gain an awareness of their existence in our surrounding landscapes.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SUCCESS STORY!



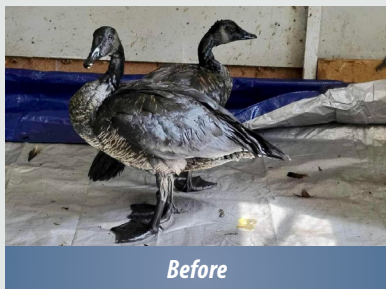
Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist Tim Jasinski and Wildlife Volunteers care for oiled birds

In July, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's wildlife specialists treated waterfowl affected by an oil spill in the Tuscarawas River. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife worked to contain the oil spill, rescue impacted wildlife, and bring animals to our facility for care.

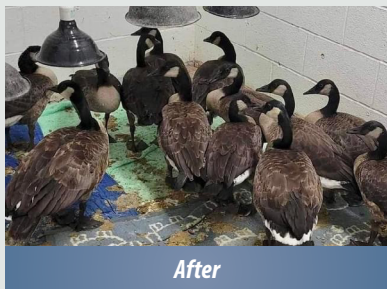
Our dedicated staff members, interns, and volunteers washed 26 Canada Geese, administered fluids and medication, and provided food and housing for several weeks. The Canada Geese were released back to the wild on August 13, 2023.

Thanks to the generous support of our community, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center quickly responded and made a critical difference in an urgent situation.

Did you know? On average, it takes 30 minutes to remove oil from each bird!



Before



After

To receive assistance for an injured animal, please call 440-871-2900 or email wildlife@lensc.org.



9/2/1952 – 2/10/2023

Remembering Christine Weiss Pfeil

We celebrate the life of Christine Weiss Pfeil who joined our staff in 2009 and connected countless people with nature throughout her career. Her early childhood explorations outdoors led to a life filled with continuous discovery and sharing her passion with others through environmental education. Always ready to inform and engage others about natural history and sustainability, Chris taught thousands of field trips and public programs at the Nature Center, and other organizations for whom she worked and volunteered. She made a lasting impact by encouraging all of us to learn about and value our backyards, wildlife, conservation, and connectedness.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, FUNDERS, AND SPONSORS

Grateful visitors from near and far contribute more than \$250,000 collectively each year!



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Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is an independent nonprofit organization funded by donations and grants as well as community involvement.

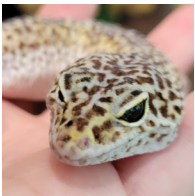
THE BENEFITS OF NATURE-BASED LEARNING FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

As we celebrate the fall season, preschoolers and their families are discovering the wonders of nature at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center.

The Center is home to one of the first and largest nature-based preschools in the region with programs designed to build on children’s inherent curiosity. Our renowned preschool programs serve children ages 1 to 6 through classes in four specially designed classrooms, where children participate in hands-on, age-appropriate activities to support social, physical, and academic development. 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.

Studies show that nature-based early childhood education positively impacts children’s self-regulation, social skills, social and emotional development, nature relatedness, awareness of nature, and play interaction. In all of the Center’s preschool programs, highly skilled instructors integrate Ohio Early Learning Standards such as science, math, literacy, and the arts into fun learning experiences while fostering cooperative learning and social competence. The result is transformative: The Center fosters a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

Preschool registration is open and ongoing. Learn more and register at www.lensc.org/preschool-programs.



Classes at a Glance	Ages	30-week Session	15-week Session	Individual Class
Wild Things	1 – 6 with one adult			●
Forest Friends	1 – 2 with one adult		●	
Frogs & Polliwogs	2 – 3 with one adult		●	●
Nature Nuts	3 – 5	●		
Earthlings	4 – 6	●		●
Stepping Stones to Kindergarten	4 – 6		●	

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

SPACE SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

As one of two public access planetariums in Cuyahoga County, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's Schuele Planetarium brings the fascinating realm of astronomy to visitors of all ages. The Center offers 16 public shows per week, which are enjoyed by walk-in visitors, community groups, and school students on field trips.

Early childhood planetarium shows such as Twinkle Tots and Stellar Stars are designed in collaboration with preschool staff to be geared toward children ages 1 to 6. These programs serve as an introduction to the planetarium and space science, introducing basic concepts including the Sun, Moon, and stars.

"The Center is one of the few institutions offering space science programs for the preschool audience," says Planetarium and Program Coordinator Katy Downing. "We share age-appropriate constellation stories that are exciting and educational, and most of all fun. These experiences are enjoyed by the entire family and encourage an early interest in space science that can last a lifetime."

In addition to Schuele Planetarium's weekly schedule of shows, thousands of school students visit the Center each year for space science field trips. Earlier this year, a student-led, after school Space Club emerged in partnership with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School



District Oxford Hub. Local educator Erin Hill was familiar with the Center's offerings and initiated a monthly program for her

students. Each month, students in Grades K-5 explored different space science topics from robotic space missions to overviews of each planet in our solar system.

"The bus ride to the Center was always so exciting for our students, who wondered what they would learn in the planetarium that day," says Hill. "The Center provided fun and unique space science experiences including a family hike to explore our favorite planet, Earth! Space Club was a great partnership that we hope to continue in the future."

For adults and teenagers, Astronomy Club continues to grow in popularity at the Center. Planetarium Specialist and NASA Solar System Ambassador Bill Reed launched Astronomy Club in 2018 to provide a comfortable and social group for people interested in astronomy or space science. Each month, members meet at the Center to discuss current events in astronomy, computer science, emerging technologies, astronomy-related entertainment, and more.



"We have grown our membership from a handful of folks coming to learn about the night sky, to a large social group with a desire to not only find out new things, but to discuss their own interests and grow their own ability to share their enthusiasm with others," says Reed. "Whether you are a seasoned science academic, a working adult or parent curious about something you saw on the news, or a high school student with a passing interest, we hope to provide a place to learn, share, and have fun."



The next several months will be an exciting time for the local astronomy community, as Northeast Ohio will be treated to not one, but two solar eclipse events over the next year. A partial solar eclipse will occur on October 14, 2023 and a total solar eclipse occur on April 8, 2024. Stay tuned for more information at www.lensc.org/planetarium.



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

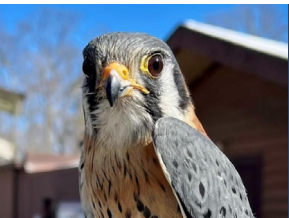
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Mission: Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates and inspires each of us to understand, appreciate, and take responsibility for our natural world.

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Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

NATURALLY CONNECTED

FAMILY PROGRAMMING AT A GLANCE

SCHUELE PLANETARIUM

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

11:30 a.m.	Twinkle Tots
12:00 p.m.	Stellar Stars

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

12:00 p.m.	The Little Star That Could
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SATURDAY

10:30 a.m.	Twinkle Tots
11:00 a.m.	Stellar Stars
11:30 a.m.	Mini Missions
1:00 p.m.	Sky Tonight
2:00 p.m.	Full Dome Show

NEW! LITTLE WONDERS OF WILDLIFE

Wednesdays, 10:30 – 10:50 a.m.

WONDERS OF WILDLIFE

Thursdays, 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Fridays, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Saturdays, 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

HALLOWEEN NIGHT HIKE

Friday, October 27, 2023, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Friday, December 15, 2023, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Learn more online at www.lensc.org/family-programs.

Free general admission | 7 days a week | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Visit www.lensc.org for more details.