



Heal. Grow.
Be Wild.

Howell Nature Center

www.howellnaturecenter.org

NATURE NEWS

Heal. Grow. Be Wild.

September 2016



THANK YOU.

Richard Grant, CEO

Upon writing this article I have been so impressed and humbled to see all of the donations, and the outpouring of support in response to our call for financial help with our Wildlife Rehabilitation efforts. We have had over 350 donations so far with more coming in by the minute, which again is so cool!

But there is one donor that stands out to me: His name is Jonathon, he is a middle school camper in our Day Camp program. Yesterday, Johnathon's parents gave him \$5.00 to spend in the camp store. Now our store is full of trinkets, candy, and other items that a middle schooler would have a great time spending every last penny!

However, that same day Channel 4 was out filming a segment about the need for financial help for the wildlife program. Jonathon saw the Channel 4 van, and asked what they were out for, when he was told their reason, he made a beeline for the store and deposited his \$5.00 with a staff person to donate toward the wildlife fund! There are still many wonderful people in the world who give their talents, time and money to make a difference. In this case they also come in all ages, thank you Jonathon for making my day!

HEAL. GROW. BE WILD.

FROM THE DESK OF DICK GRANT



Richard Grant, CEO

On Saturday, September 3rd, the Scorpions Motorcycle Club paid us a visit.

At 12:30pm over 50 Harley-Davison's came cruising in the front gate, demanding to see the person in charge that day! Actually, it was a happy visit and yes we knew they were coming, they too had heard that the Wildlife Department needed help and they had collected over \$1200 of cash and materials to donate to the cause. After the donation many of them stayed to take in the Wildlife Park and other facets of the center.

After the motorcycles left I thought about all the different people that we touch, and the thread that bonds so many people together and came up with this: Wendell Berry, a famous American novelist once said "The earth is what we all have in common". This statement is

so true, whether your bike has a motor or not, whether you are a Republican or Democrat, a hunter or anti-guns, a liberal or conservative, regardless of ethnicity, race, age, sex, we all have the common thread of nature that we all hold as a special place in our hearts. This common thread or bond, if you will, is the reason the Howell Nature Center is here, celebrating this connection with everyone and teaching love and respect of the natural world to even make that bond stronger among everyone.

Peter Schriemer, who not only is a board member, but also a professional filmmaker, put a 6 minute video together to tell the story of the Howell Nature Center, if you have not seen it yet please check it out, it not only is a wonderful piece, but it really tells the story of the Howell Nature Center and how we change lives and keep that thread and bond strong that we all have with the natural world. (HNC Supporting a Legacy: <http://bit.ly/2cFjMwJ>)

A WILD AND WONDERFUL SUMMER!

Wildlife Director, Dana DeBenham

Wildlife rehabilitation is a roller coaster in the best of times but this year has topped them all. Baby Season is always our busiest time when half of the year's patients arrive in just 3 months. An army of college interns and volunteers are on hand to get all the orphans cared for, mature and ready to release.

This year our numbers sky-rocketed! By the end of July we had taken in over 2400 animals, more than the TOTAL for any entire year previously. We will surely surpass 3000 by year's end. The overload created an enormous strain on our resources and funding. With heavy hearts, we announced we would need to close our doors for at least one week in mid-August to cut costs and catch up. Would we need to limit the species we take? Would we be forced to charge a fee for their care? The very future of the rehab program was in question.

Then our prayers were answered. We put out the announcement that our expenses were up and we needed to shut down temporarily. We needed to raise \$15,000 just to get over this immediate hump. The media picked up the story and the response was overwhelming. Our supporters got the word out on social media as well and before we knew it, over \$70,000 had been raised by all the kind-hearted wildlife lovers who know our work and appreciate what we do!

On behalf of all the Wildlife staff and volunteers, THANK YOU! We could not be more grateful to the amazing response in our hour of need! This is clearly a vital community service that is respected by the greater community. Unfortunately, it is also an expensive service that struggles every year. Not receiving any government funding, we do rely on the generosity of the public to continue our mission to help injured wildlife. But there are so many ways to help us: attend our special events, donate an auction item for A Wild Wonderful Night, Adopt an Animal, volunteer or buy your Christmas tree here. All these actions go to support the Wildlife Program at the Howell Nature Center.

We are blessed by the tremendous public support for this program... let's keep it going for another 34 years!



UPCOMING EVENTS!

ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRE
PRE-REGISTRATION,
SOME REQUIRE WAIVERS
Contact the Welcome Center
or look online at
www.howellnaturecenter.org
for more info.

Online Registration
Available Here!!! 
Follow the QR CODE!



Zoo Enrichment Day - Pumpkin Party**

October 1st

You'll build an enrichment activity with materials provided by the Nature Center, then watch as the lucky recipients — foxes, coyotes, mink, bobcat and others — exhibit such natural behaviors such as foraging, exploration, locomotion, and social interaction. Recommended for ages 5 & up, children 17 & under must be accompanied by a paid adult. Early Registration: \$7 per person until the Wednesday before the event. \$10/person thereafter. (see website for details)

Woof for Wildlife**

October 2nd

HNC will go to the dogs for a 5K trail walk with your best four-legged friend. Registration includes a dog bandana and contest prize packs will be available for best dressed pooch and coolest trick! All voting done by crowd participation! \$15/dog. One dog max per walker. (see website for details)

Fall Colors: Photography Workshops**

October 15th and October 16th

Learn inside tips from professional photographer Steve Gettle on all aspects of the best ways to photograph birds of prey at the Howell Nature Center. Photos of our birds have been published in field guides, books, calendars, and magazines. Learn how to make compelling, memorable, professional-quality photographs. \$85/person/day (see website for details)

Howl-ween at HNC**

October 29th

Come celebrate with the Wild Wonders Wildlife Park for a spooky night of fun! Trick or Treat our Wildlife Park, (candy provided) and come dressed to impress for our critter costume contest and enjoy a FREE Live Animal Presentation of our creepiest critters! (see website for details)

A Wild Wonderful Night Gala**

November 1st

Join us as we celebrate local cuisine and support local wildlife. Cocktail attire and cash bar. All proceeds benefit wildlife education and rehabilitation programs at the Howell Nature Center. Enjoy live and silent auctions, gourmet food tasting and live jazz. Hear all that the year has brought us, and see a slideshow of our most outstanding rehabilitation cases, and have your photo taken with one of our many of our animal ambassadors at our live animal display. \$60/person or see our website for sponsorship and group packages.

Please contact our Welcome Center to Register:
517-546-0249 or hcnc@howellnaturecenter.org

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Zoo Enrichment Day: Pumpkin Party 10AM to NOON
2 Woof for Wildlife 9AM to NOON	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Little Critters: Gilly the Barn Owl 11:30AM-12:30PM	12	13	14	15 Photo Workshop 9AM to 3:30PM
16 Photo Workshop 9AM to 3:30PM	17	18	19	20	21	22 Cub Scout Badge Workshop 9AM to NOON 1PM to 4PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Howl-a-ween 4PM-7PM
30	31					

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Bob and Patti Shaw
The clearest way
into the Universe
is through a
forest wilderness.
John Muir



HEAL. GROW. BE WILD.

Show your support for the largest wildlife rehabilitator in the state of Michigan!
Donate risk free online at: howellnaturecenter.org/wildlife/wildlife-rehabilitation/
Or see our Wildlife Clinic Wishlist link at the bottom of the webpage!



www.facebook.com/howellnaturecenter

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 A Wild Wonderful Night Gala Event	4	5
6	7	8 Little Critters: Ebony the Turkey Vulture 11:30AM-12:30PM	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Tree Sales Begin! 9AM to 4PM	26
27	28	29	30			

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SAVE THE WILDLIFE 5K RUN/WALK
Featuring Wapi the beaver!



September 17th
Online registration
open NOW!

Race day registration at 9AM
with a live wildlife encounter!
5K Run/Walk at 10AM
Little Critter 1 mile 11AM

**LOOKING FORWARD TO
THE HOLIDAYS!**

Check out our website for upcoming
Christmas events including
Live Animal Displays, Critter Crafts,
Breakfast and Hayrides with Santa and
tons more winter wonderland magic
than ever before!

Critter Crafts
Available at Woof for Wildlife and
Howl-a-ween Celebrations!
It's art, crafts, and collectibles made by our
Wildlife Staff, Volunteers and Animals.
Always wanted a painting created by a
Porcupine, or a pillow covered in owls?
Come out and peruse our goods in the
Welcome Center to get a taste of what
we're all about!



**Support the Nature News and
SEE YOUR AD HERE!**

Please email
katelynl@howellnaturecenter.org
for more information!

Special Thanks! On behalf of the people and animals that we serve, Thank You! Whether you've shared your time and talents as a volunteer, or your treasure as a donor/sponsor, we are grateful for your generous support.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Hayrides with Santa	3 Hayrides with Santa
4	5	6	7	8	9 Hayrides with Santa	10 Hayrides & Breakfast with Santa
11 Breakfast with Santa	12	13 Little Critters: Tortoise and Hare 11:30AM-12:30PM	14	15 HNC Volunteer Christmas Party	16 Hayrides with Santa	17 Hayrides & Breakfast with Santa
18 Breakfast with Santa	19	20	21	22 Camp Frosty!	23 Camp Frosty!	24
25 Camp Frosty!	26 Camp Frosty!	27 Camp Frosty!	28 Camp Frosty!	29 Camp Frosty!	30 Camp Frosty!	31

Tear away lower portion to send your love to the Howell Nature Center

YES! I would like to support the Howell Nature Center with a tax deductible gift to:

- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Wildlife Education
- Campership
- Facility Maintenance and Improvement
- Endowment Fund
- Please contact me about Planned Giving Opportunities

Name (18+): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

OR Name as it appears on card: _____

Account # _____ Exp. Date mo. _____ yr. _____ CVV2 code: _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____ Date: _____

Giving online is easy, fast and secure.

Just visit <http://www.howellnaturecenter.org/support/donate>



CAMP IS WILD

Matt Grant, Program Coordinator



When I hear the word wild, many things come to mind. Here at the Howell Nature Center we not only have wild animals but we have wild children as well. Not chaotic, crazy wild children but children wild about nature, wild about discovery and wild about camp. September marks the end of summer where we just finished up 12 weeks of Day Camp and 8 weeks of Overnight Resident Camp. At times, it was pleasantly wild, with most days having well over 180 children at camp, at times it was a bit wild but most importantly fun. It was truly an amazing summer filled with wild adventures and self-discovery.

Speaking of self-discovery and self-growth, we had a camper this summer who came last year, she was in middle school and was terrified of heights. I sat with her group as she stared down the wild 60-foot climbing tower. I asked her if she had done it before, and she replied with "I did, but I was too scared and only got a few feet off the ground".

I ask her what her goals were on this day and she said "I'm going to overcome my fear and get all the way to the top". I smiled and turned my gaze to a couple other campers, and after about 10 minutes I heard a swelling of loud noises and cheering. I turned to look at the wall and the camper that I had just previously talked with about her fears was touching the very top of the climbing tower, she had done it! She came down with a big smile on her face, and with a whole crowd of fans that knew she had overcome something that has possibly been on her mind all school year.

Camp is full of these wild amazing moments, and there were hundreds of moments this summer. Camp can be wild, but through the energy and enthusiasm one may just find there is more to camp and that it can truly shape and mold the lives of those who attend.

A WONDERFUL PLACE TO WORK

Katelyn Lewis, Wild Wonders Supervisor

The Wildlife Department at the Howell Nature Center oversees the Wild Wonders Wildlife Park and the largest Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic in the state of Michigan. The Park is home to 75 permanently injured animals who are unable to survive in the wild, many of which were once patients in our Wildlife Clinic. The Clinic is responsible for the care and rehabilitation of over 3000 injured and orphaned animals every year. These two departments which feed, medicate, clean habitats, and organize wildlife releases operate with less than ten full or part time staff. We depend on our volunteer base to function. Hundreds of people volunteer every year to be a part of our mission. Those who can't volunteer their time offer supplies or cash donations to help us keep our doors open. Without these people we would not exist. From work camp crews, to cage adopters, to volunteer feeders, clean-up groups, Eagle Scout projects, and wildlife fosters, we have found there is almost nothing our volunteers wouldn't do to help.

One of our more recent volunteers, Andrew, began volunteering in our Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic after finding an opossum who had been hit by a car. He thought if he could help this individual, why not give four or five hours of his Saturday each week helping hundreds of other wildlife in need. Autumn, a high ropes facilitator at our climbing courses, volunteered to help in Wild Wonders to feed the animals after spending a semester interning here and falling in love with our permanent residents. Judy, who now serves on our board of directors, started twelve years ago, feeding owls in Wild Wonders after a visit with her niece and an almost instant desire to be a part of these animals lives. She now helps to train our interns and volunteers to feed and clean enclosures, she loves our birds of prey the best but has a special place in her heart for every living creature we care for.

We are so grateful for the connections we have made and the many faces that make up the Wildlife Department at the Howell Nature Center. Without these individuals, we could never Heal, Grow and Be Wild.

For Volunteer Opportunities please contact Laura Kniffen at Laurak@howellnaturecenter.org





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Be Wild.

Howell Nature Center

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Hours of Operation

Monday - Sunday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Wild Wonders
Daily 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



*In Memory of Pico
April 2006 - September 2016*

You're Invited!

A Gala Event

Thursday, Nov. 1st, 2016



Johnson Center, Cleary University, 3750 Cleary Dr., Howell, Mi. 48843

6p.m. Thursday,
November 1st, 2016

Live & Silent Auction
Live Jazz
Gourmet Food Tasting

Join us as we celebrate local cuisine and support local wildlife. Cocktail attire & cash bar. All proceeds benefit wildlife education and rehabilitation programs at the Howell Nature Center.



Our Wildlife Mission

is to rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife in order to return physically and socially healthy birds, mammals, and reptiles to their natural environment and to educate area citizens about the wild animals that share our world.