



## Howell Nature Center

[www.howellnaturecenter.org](http://www.howellnaturecenter.org)

# NATURE NEWS

Heal. Grow. Be Wild.

Spring 2017

**SOAR THROUGH THE TREES ON OUR ZIP LINES  
CLIMB TO NEW HEIGHTS ON OUR OUTDOOR CLIMBING TOWER  
NAVIGATE MID-AIR OBSTACLES ON OUR HIGH ROPES COURSES**

Olivia Wood, Adventure Education Coordinator



Our High Adventure Program at the Howell Nature Center aims to empower you and adults through engaging experiences that assist participants in the understanding of themselves and their relationship to others. The growth of this exciting program has enabled us to reach even more nature lovers and thrill seekers. With the addition of many new high ropes and zip line elements over the years, we have something for everyone!

As we begin 2017, the Challenge staff (as we like to call our High adventure facilitators) are gearing up and getting excited for this year's new High Adventure Programs. The two newest elements are Giant Swing and Triple Experience.

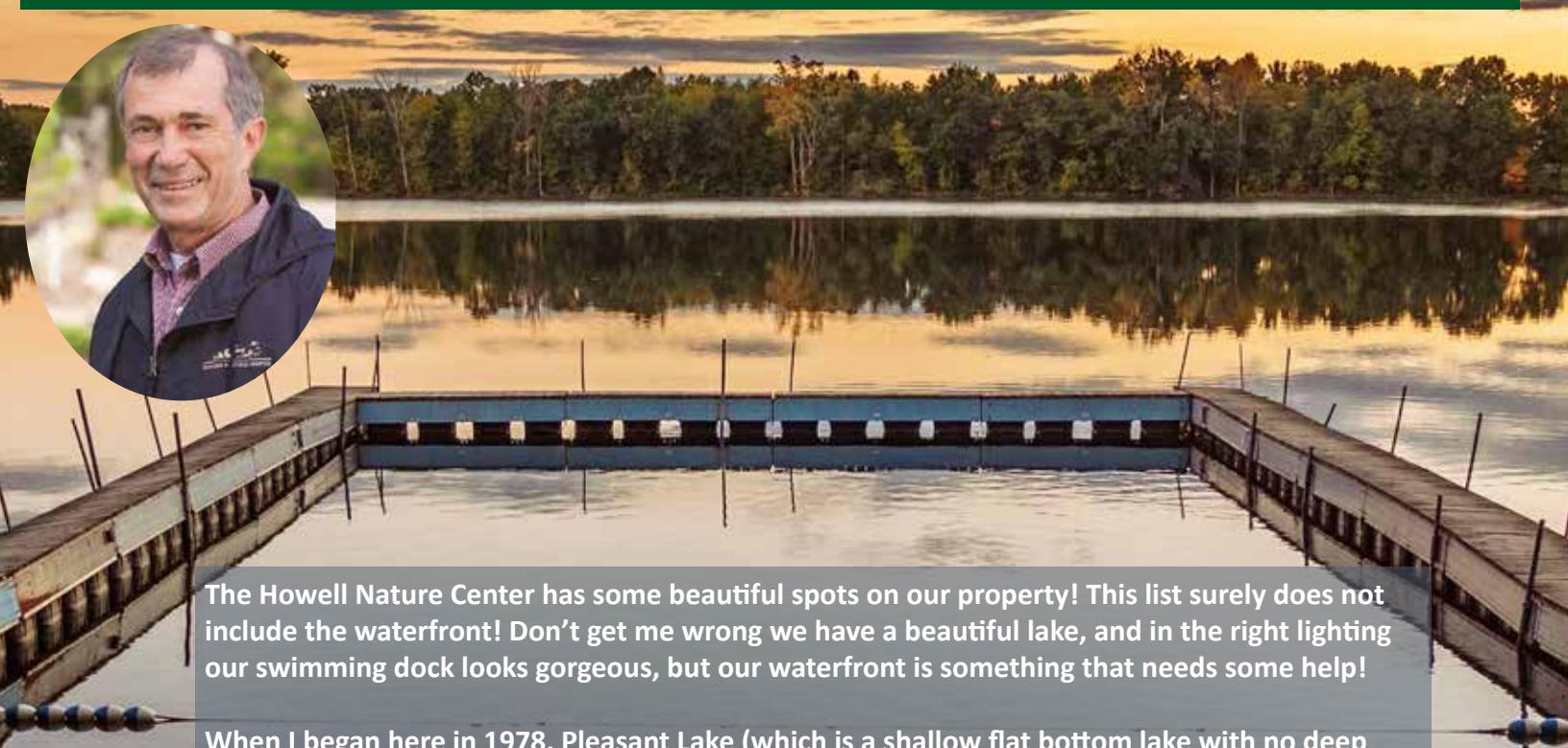
The Giant Swing is an adventure unlike any other! You will gear up and be lifted in the air up to 40 feet! When you are ready to swing, you will release yourself, to start swinging through the sky. If you would like to see the giant swing in action check out our YouTube Channel, just search "Howell Nature Center" on YouTube, to get a better look!

Second, the Triple Experience is a combination of our zip lines, our sixty foot climbing tower, and the giant swing. To start, you will get the opportunity to climb one of the tallest outdoor climbing towers in the state of Michigan. After that we will lead you to our longest zip lines on property, both zips are 500 feet long! Finally we will take you to the Giant Swing where you will fly through the air after being lifted 40 feet into the trees! The Triple Experience is great for those who want a full day of action.

The High Adventure season begins March 25! Howell Nature Center provides many High Adventure Programming options including Zip Lines, Zip Tours, High and Low Ropes Courses, as well as one of Michigan's tallest outdoor climbing towers. Check out our 'Upcoming Events' pages inside, and see participant requirements and available spots on our website to book your next adventure today.

## FROM THE DESK OF DICK GRANT:

Richard Grant, CEO



The Howell Nature Center has some beautiful spots on our property! This list surely does not include the waterfront! Don't get me wrong we have a beautiful lake, and in the right lighting our swimming dock looks gorgeous, but our waterfront is something that needs some help!

When I began here in 1978, Pleasant Lake (which is a shallow flat bottom lake with no deep holes and sits on the water table) wasn't much more than a big, mucky mud puddle. After investing in weed control, a deep water well, and help from Mother Nature, we have turned that big puddle into a really nice lake full of fish, turtles and other wildlife.

Over the years we have also developed a small but nice swimming area (pictured here), but with our growth over the years, it's time to really make this area a place not only for better swimming but also relaxing on lovely decks and truly enjoying the beauty that Pleasant Lake has to offer. We recently developed plans that would increase the outdoor sitting with beautiful observation decks, a way to address the erosion issue that currently exists, and protocols for revamping the swimming area to be safer, and more enjoyable for swimmers.

The cost for the entire project is about \$90,000 and to date we have raised almost half of the money needed! If you would like more information on this exciting project, please drop me a an email ([rgrant@howellnaturecenter.org](mailto:rgrant@howellnaturecenter.org)) and I would be happy to share the details. Together we can provide the beauty and fun that waterfronts can share with everyone old and young!



Bring Alexandria's Nature Bus and our live raptors to your school for FREE!



The Spirit of Alexandria Foundation is offering a \$465 grant for this unique and exciting 2 hour program.

Follow the link to apply: <http://bit.ly/2IMH6in>

# UPCOMING EVENTS!

**ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION**  
Contact the Welcome Center or look online at  
[howellnaturecenter.org](http://howellnaturecenter.org) for more info.

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



\*\* Online registration available

## Spring Break Day Camp\*\*

**March 27-April 31**

For K-8th graders. We'll have a blast rain, snow, or sun! Your child will experience programs such as: survival scavenger hunt, mythbusters live animal presentation, zip lines, capture the flag, and archery! 8AM-5PM \$42/Camper/Day or \$185 for a full week of fun! Overnight Camp March 30 (\$35) for 2nd grade and up. See our website for more details. Register by contacting our Camp Registrar Natalie at [natalieh@howellnaturecenter.org](mailto:natalieh@howellnaturecenter.org)

## Little Critters Pre-school Program \*\*

**See calendars for open registration dates**

For nature lovers ages 3-5. Children will explore a new nature themed topic through hands-on activities, stories, songs and play. Each program includes a LIVE animal appearance! See website for schedule of animals, hosted 10AM to 11AM & 11:30AM to 12:30PM, \$6/child and adult pair. Pre-registration required and no drop-offs.

## NEW FOR 2017 - Ride our Giant Swing\*\*

**See calendar for open registration dates**

Hop in to our harness and get pulled up to 40 feet into the sky to take a view of our beautiful landscape. You will release the swing yourself to experience the adrenaline pumping g-forces! \$15/person, pre-registration is required.

## Open Zip Line and Tower Days\*\*

**See calendars for open registration dates**

Climb one of Michigan's tallest outdoor climbing towers, and/or ride our 500 foot zipline! Climbing tower only, or one or two zip line ride packages available. (see website for details, waiver, and cost)

## High Ropes: North and South Pines\*\*

**See calendars for open registration dates**

Come and join us on our obstacle courses suspended by cables 25 feet up in the trees! All safety equipment and training provided by the for this three-hour adventure, which includes a 250-foot zip line ride at the end! (see website for details, waiver, restrictions and cost)

## Glacier Valley Eco Zip Line Tour\*\*

**See calendars for open registration dates**

Named for the natural features that are highlighted in this 3 hour adventure, the Glacier Valley Eco Zip Tour is a 7 zip, 1/2 mile ride. All training and equipment is provided for this program, for 4th grade and up weighing between 60 & 250lbs. Riders 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration & pre-payment required. ZIP AWAY! (see website for details, waiver, restrictions and cost)

## Breakfast with the Easter Bunny\*\*

**April 15**

Join us for a delicious pancake breakfast with sausage and all the trimmings. Children will get to visit with the Easter Bunny, receive a special gift, and enjoy an old-fashioned Easter egg hunt. Be sure to bring your camera! 9:30AM & 11:30AM (\$9/adults, \$7/child, children 2 and under FREE)

Please contact our Welcome Center to Register:  
517-546-0249 or [hcnc@howellnaturecenter.org](mailto:hcnc@howellnaturecenter.org)

## Scout Badge Workshops

**April 29 for Cub Scouts, May 17 for Girl Scouts**

Whether you're bringing a troop or an individual, there's something for every scout at the Howell Nature Center! Experience hands-on activities on our 270 acres of beautiful woodlands and meadows. This is a wonderful opportunity to earn badges in a FUN, CREATIVE, and OUTDOOR way! (\$12/scout, add a zipline ride for \$6) Pre-registration is required. Call 517-546-0249 to register. Please contact Emily DeLong at: [emilyd@howellnaturecenter.org](mailto:emilyd@howellnaturecenter.org) for details.

## Zoo Enrichment Days\*\*

**See calendars for open registration dates**

You'll build an enrichment activity with materials provided by the Nature Center, then watch as the lucky animal recipients 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!

## Bottles, Brushes, and Birds\*\*

**See calendar for upcoming dates**

Join us for our "Paint and Pour" style events! This BYOB 21+ adult-only event includes instruction from a talented artist, supplies for your own creation, and a live bird of prey model! \$40/person Pre-registration is required.

## Photography Workshops\*\*

**May 7, October 14 & 15**

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. Free lunch included, additional \$5 for a pre-workshop guided tour of Livingston County's only zoo! \$79/person/day \$25/non-shooting participant.

## Walk for Wildlife\*\*

**May 13**

Come enjoy a brisk 1 or 3 mile walk through our beautiful wooded trails and help support local wildlife rehabilitation and education! Requirements for many Cub and Girl Scout badges will be met as well. Cost is \$15/person or \$50/family of 4. The Tree House and Alexandria's Naturescape will be open and the start of our Annual Spring Flower Sales will begin this day as well!

## Camp Sampler\*\*

**May 13**

FREE to families new to our Day or Resident camps, but Pre-registration is required! Sample all the fun there is to be had at Howell Nature Center Camps! Meet our staff, and try our zip line, archery, and shelter-building programs!

For more info: (517) 546-0249 [www.howellnaturecenter.org](http://www.howellnaturecenter.org)

# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Little Critters: Kili the Bald Eagle 10AM-11AM or 11:30AM-12:30PM	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM Open Zip & Tower 11AM to 3PM
26 Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM	27 Spring Break Day Camp 8AM-5PM	28 Spring Break Day Camp 8AM-5PM	29 Spring Break Day Camp 8AM-5PM	30 Spring Break Day Camp 8AM-5PM Optional Overnight Pick-up 8AM Mar 31	31 Spring Break Day Camp 8AM-5PM	Notes:  Spring Break Day Camp Before Care: from 7AM After Care: to 6PM

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into the Universe  
is through a  
forest wilderness.



John Muir

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Register at [nordbros.com](http://nordbros.com)

**HEAL. GROW. BE WILD.**

# April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Zoo Enrichment Day: I'm no fool! 10AM to 12PM Open Zip & Tower 11AM to 3PM
<b>2</b> Zip Tour 9AM-12PM Bottle, Brushes and Birds (21+) Begins at 3PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Open High Ropes 1PM to 4PM Giant Swing 10AM-12PM 1PM-3PM
<b>9</b> Zip Tour 9AM-12PM or 1PM-4PM Giant Swing 10AM-12PM or 1PM-3PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Little Critters: Dorsey the Porcupine 10AM-11AM or 11:30AM-12:30PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Breakfast with the Easter Bunny 9:30AM & 11:30AM
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Open Zip & Tower 11AM to 3PM Giant Swing 10AM-12PM or 1PM-3PM
<b>23</b> Zip Tour 9AM-12PM or 1PM-4PM Giant Swing 10AM-12PM or 1PM-3PM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Zip Tour 9AM-12PM or 1PM-4PM Cub Scout Workshop 9AM-12PM or 1PM-4PM
<b>30</b> Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM	Notes:					

## LOOKING FOR A CORPORATE RETREAT OPTION THAT YOU AND YOUR CO-WORKERS WILL REMEMBER FOREVER?

The Howell Nature Center offers open spaces, high adventure, team-building, or wildlife programming, and outdoor venues to make your retreat a remarkable one! After business is taken care of, explore 270 acres of unique terrain with your co-workers to unwind and relax. Contact our reservationist Sally Grant for more information: 517-376-9352 or by email at [SallyG@howellnaturecenter.org](mailto:SallyG@howellnaturecenter.org)



Wild Birds Unlimited  
Nature Shop

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(810) 522-5520

Wild Birds Unlimited  
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(248) 374-4000

Show your support for  
the largest wildlife  
rehabilitator in the state  
of Michigan!



"Never believe that animals suffer less than humans. Pain is the same for them that it is for us. Even worse, because they cannot help themselves."

~~ Dr. Louis J. Camuti~~

**Kathleen M. Goetsch**

Attorney at Law



Elder law, Animal law,  
Arbitration, Family,  
Estate planning

121 S Barnard St # 6, Howell, MI 48843  
Phone: (517) 546-4134

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.

# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Giant Swing</b> 10AM-12PM 1PM-3PM
7 <b>Photography Workshop:</b> Images that Communicate 11AM to 4PM Zip Tour 9AM-12PM or 1PM-4PM Giant Swing 10AM-12PM or 1PM-3PM	8	9 <b>Little Critters:</b> Garden Party 10AM to 11AM 11:30AM to 12:30PM	10	11	12	13 <b>Camp Sampler</b> Walk for Wildlife Starts 10:30AM Open High Ropes 1PM to 4PM Giant Swing 10AM-12PM or 1PM-3PM
14 <b>Zip Tour</b> 9AM-12PM or 1PM-4PM <b>Giant Swing</b> 10AM-12PM or 1PM-3PM <b>Bottle, Brushes &amp; Birds</b> - Begins at 3PM	15	16	17	18	19	20 <b>Zip Tour</b> 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM
21 <b>Open Zip &amp; Tower</b> 11AM to 3PM <b>Giant Swing</b> 10AM-12PM 1PM-3PM	22	23	24	25	26	27 <b>Open High Ropes</b> 1PM to 4PM <b>Girl Scout Workshop</b> 9AM-12PM or 1PM-4PM <b>Giant Swing</b> 10AM-12PM or 1PM-3PM
28 <b>Zip Tour</b> 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM	29	30	31	<b>Flower Sales begin May 13th!</b> Alexandria's Naturescape and Treehouse will all be open the beginning of this month too!		

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Giving online is easy, fast and secure.**

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



Heal. Grow.  
Be Wild.

**Howell Nature Center**

1005 Triangle Lake Rd. // Howell, MI // 48843 // 517-546-0249

# CAMP IS COMING!

Matt Grant, Program Coordinator

During the winter months the HNC Environmental Education Department is quiet, and summer seems like a dream far away. That's why it is exciting to think that in just four short months our summer camps will be in full swing! Whether it is our Day Camp, our Christian Overnight Camp, or the Spirit of Alexandria Nature Camps, camp is a life-changing adventure. Campers come together to make new friends, grow their self-esteem through new challenges and adventure activities, and discover nature by encountering wildlife and the world out from in front of a glowing iscreen. Camp is invaluable and my personal hope is that all children have the opportunity to experience it.

At the Howell Nature Center, we never want finances to be the reason a child does not attend. For our overnight summer camps, we offer camperships, or partial scholarships, to ensure campers have the experience of nature and community in way unlike any other. Camperships are possible thanks to the generosity of churches and individuals. You can help send a camper to camp this year by giving directly to the Howell Nature Center or contacting your church.

To request a campership application, or for more information, please contact our Camp Registrar Natalie Hassan at [natalieh@howellnaturecenter.org](mailto:natalieh@howellnaturecenter.org).



# WILD ABOUT SPRING!

Dana DeBenham, Wildlife Director



Winter can be a quiet time for many departments at the Howell Nature Center but not for the Wildlife Program! For 365 days a year, our staff and volunteers in both Wild Wonders and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic are coming in to care for animals, clean enclosures and keep them all warm and comfortable. We don't have time to hibernate!

All winter the Wildlife Clinic continues to get injured adult birds and mammals from across Michigan. Some patients, like turtles, cranes, vultures and songbirds, who were still recovering from their injuries at the time of hibernation/migration, must be overwintered. Others come in with new injuries or emaciation and frostbite brought on by our harsh Michigan weather. Among our many patients this winter were a great horned owl caught in a leg-hold trap, an emaciated horned grebe, a barred owl with a wrist injury and an adult coyote caught in a fence. And now it's time to gear up for SPRING!

For the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic, that means hundreds of orphaned babies will soon be arriving. We were fortunate to get a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint to build a new waterfowl caging system outside the clinic. This will help alleviate the overcrowding we experienced last year...we took in over 500 ducklings in the month of June alone!

In Wild Wonders, we are getting ready for the thousands of visitors who arrive with the warmer temperatures. Our ambassadors who would normally hibernate or migrate are coming back outside from their warmer winter indoor housing. The grounds are being raked and the exhibits are getting a deep cleaning. We have also begun construction on our new Flying Squirrel Habitat as our 5 residents will be moving out of the Nature Zone.

The Nature Scape and Tree House are also getting some exciting new additions for 2017. Coming soon: Nature Backpacks that can be borrowed for some on-site kid-friendly nature exploration. These will include binoculars, magnifying glasses, field guides, butterfly nets and more. Look for the Nature Scape to open toward the end of April! Happy Spring!



Heal. Grow.  
Be Wild.

# Howell Nature Center

1005 Triangle Lake Rd.  
Howell, MI 48843

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Permit no. 823

## Hours of Operation

Monday - Sunday

9AM - 5PM

## Winter Hours (after Dec 28th)

9AM - 3PM

## Wild Wonders Wildlife Park Open Daily:

10AM - 5PM



## KATHLEEN BURKE, WILDLIFE CLINIC VOLUNTEER

Spring is coming and with it brings hundreds of baby animals that are sick, injured or are alone due to weather or loss of a parent. We rely heavily on your financial generosity for the food, medicine and supplies we need to assist the helpless wildlife that will be brought in during the next several months. We appreciate your kind support in the past and ask for your help again. Thank you!!!



[www.spiritofalexandria.org](http://www.spiritofalexandria.org) - (810) 599-0106

The Spirit of Alexandria Foundation was created to carry on the legacy of Alexandria Bennett, a little girl whose passion for nature was evident to everyone around her. It is in this spirit and passion for nature that the Spirit of Alexandria Foundation helps connect children to nature, hoping to feed the passion for nature and ecology. As a 501c3, the foundation has raised over \$1M because of the generosity of all the people who believe in the legacy of a little girl.

over 180,000 connections to nature through our nature related programs  
NATURE BUSES NATURE SCAPE NATURE CAMPS SCHOLARSHIPS TREE HOUSE

