



Heal. Grow.  
Be Wild.

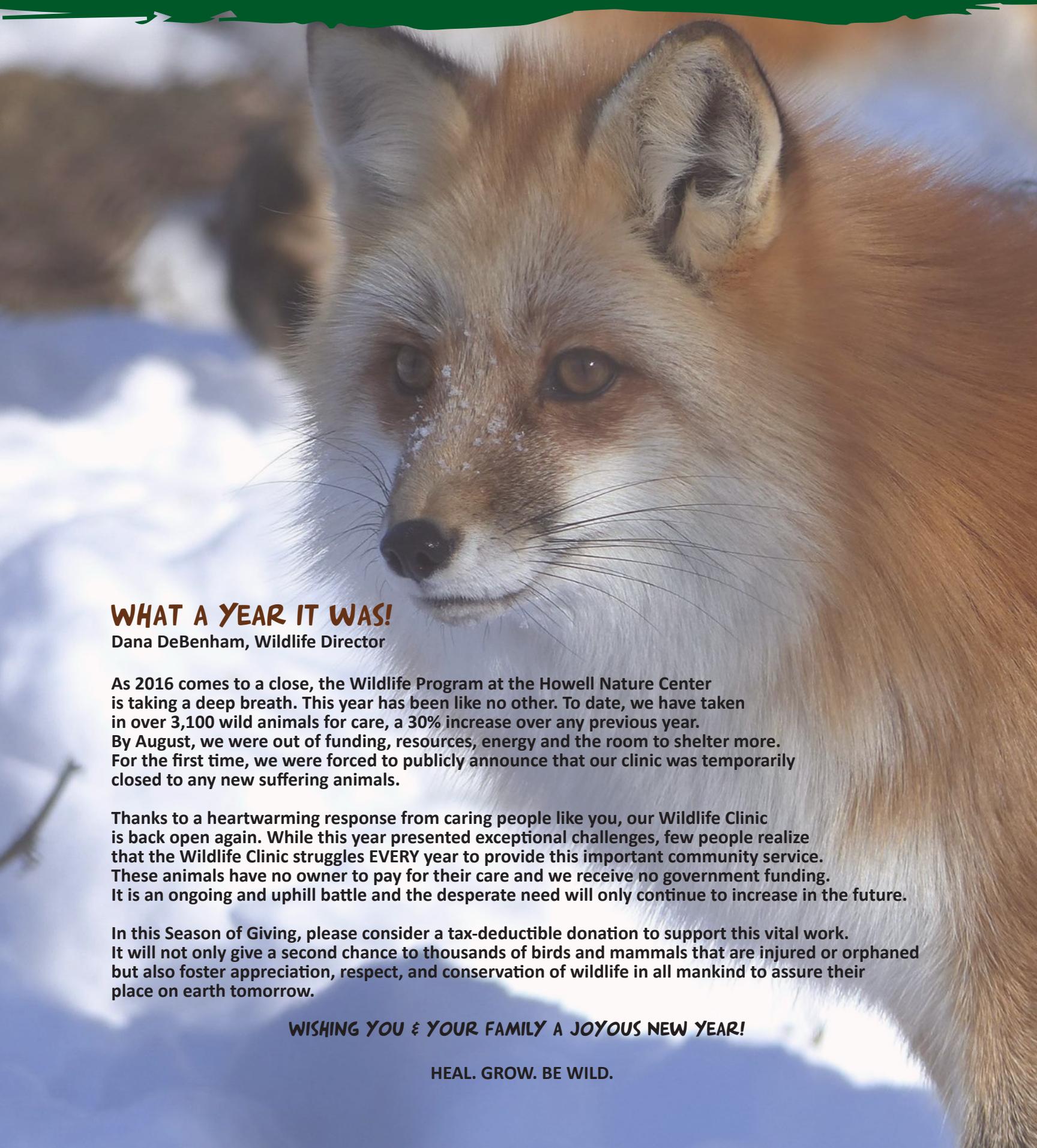
Howell Nature Center

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

# NATURE NEWS

Heal. Grow. Be Wild.

Winter 2016



## WHAT A YEAR IT WAS!

Dana DeBenham, Wildlife Director

As 2016 comes to a close, the Wildlife Program at the Howell Nature Center is taking a deep breath. This year has been like no other. To date, we have taken in over 3,100 wild animals for care, a 30% increase over any previous year. By August, we were out of funding, resources, energy and the room to shelter more. For the first time, we were forced to publicly announce that our clinic was temporarily closed to any new suffering animals.

Thanks to a heartwarming response from caring people like you, our Wildlife Clinic is back open again. While this year presented exceptional challenges, few people realize that the Wildlife Clinic struggles EVERY year to provide this important community service. These animals have no owner to pay for their care and we receive no government funding. It is an ongoing and uphill battle and the desperate need will only continue to increase in the future.

In this Season of Giving, please consider a tax-deductible donation to support this vital work. It will not only give a second chance to thousands of birds and mammals that are injured or orphaned but also foster appreciation, respect, and conservation of wildlife in all mankind to assure their place on earth tomorrow.

**WISHING YOU & YOUR FAMILY A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!**

HEAL. GROW. BE WILD.



It was during one of the few snowstorms we had last winter. I was sitting behind my computer looking at the cold and snow outside and couldn't help to feel a little depressed being a guy that likes green grass and flowers, but also looking at my budget sheet with all the projects and expenses ahead for 2016 and the red numbers I was staring at, everything seemed a little daunting!

Well, as Annie says, "the sun will come out tomorrow," and it did as 2016 is concerned. Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, our supporters, and the hard work of our paid staff and volunteers, we not only met our financial and program projections, we smashed them!

Here in bullet points are just a few notable accomplishments for 2016:



- Built a new bathroom building for our day visitors
- Finished a beautiful addition to Snowshoe Lodge
- Treated the most animals ever! Over 3000!
- Held a successful Emergency Appeal campaign for wildlife rehabilitation funding in August
- Grand opening of our wonderful Spirit of Alexandria Treehouse
- Record numbers in our summer camping and school camping programs, over 51,000 attendees!
- Updated and added two exciting new elements in our High Adventure Program
- Raised a record amount, over \$56,000 gross with our gala event, A Wild Wonderful Night
- Record numbers for day visitors this summer and fall



2016 will definitely be looked at as not only the year where we saw a record amount of guests and "wildlife patients" but a year where we were able to start to build for the future. So what is the future you ask? Some tasks ahead for 2017.....

- Because of the increase in usage our buildings will need some much needed maintenance and updates to keep up in "like new" condition
- Some improvements in wildlife care facilities is also badly needed to keep up with the added amount of wildlife coming to us for help
- Some infrastructure improvements to driveways, parking areas, and other areas as well
- Improvements to the waterfront area; with better swimming, additional seating and erosion control is planned

In closing, these are just a few major items on our list for 2017, speaking of daunting.....it is.....but with the continued assistance of our outstanding supporters such as yourself, we will make it a reality!

Have a blessed Christmas and a great New Year!



If you would like to be a part of the legacy that is the Howell Nature Center, please use the tear away

donation card below the February calendar in this edition of the Nature News to send your gift.

For more information on areas of greatest need, please contact me at [rgrant@howellnaturecenter.org](mailto:rgrant@howellnaturecenter.org)

# 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

## **Hayrides with Santa\*\***

**See calendars for open registration dates**

On Fridays and Saturdays this December, come and meet Santa and his friends for an evening filled with hayrides around our beautifully lit property, caroling, and come back to a toasty warm cup of cocoa & cookies to decorate. Don't forget to tell Santa what you want for Christmas, and you may get a gift! \$7/child, \$9/adult

Pre-registration is required - reserve your seat with Santa today!

## **Breakfast with Santa\*\***

**See calendars for open registration dates**

Come meet Santa for some breakfast and fun! Bring along your Christmas lists for a meet-and-greet session with the Clauses, as well as a delicious, hot breakfast made just for you. Crafts and presents are waiting to get you in the holiday spirit!

\$7/child, \$9/adult Spaces fill up fast, pre-registration required.

## **Snowfest\*\***

**January 21, 2017**

Sled on in from 12:00 to 4:00 in all manner of winter fun to beat the "winter blahs" including outdoor sports, indoor games, wildlife presentations and tours, and zip lining (events will be weather dependent – here's hoping for snow!). Great for families and visitors of all ages! \$8/child, \$10/adult, \$35/family. Additional \$5 charge per zipline ride or cross-country ski rental.

Pre-registration is required.

## **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. The second Tuesday of every month September to June!

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.

## **Photography Workshops\*\***

**February 11, May 7, October 14 & 15, 2017**

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. Topics include Photographing Birds of Prey, Images that Communicate, Creating an Image, and Through the Seasons. Free lunch included, additional \$5 for a pre-workshop guided tour of Livingston County's only zoo! \$79/person/day \$25/non-shooting participant.

## **Owl Nights\*\***

**January 27 & 28, February 4, 17 & 18, 2017**

See a live owl presentation, take a night hike to call for owls, & learn how these creatures communicate. This program is recommended for Kindergarten and up. \$7/child and \$8/adult, pre-registration is required.

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



\*\* Online registration available

## **Camp Frosty**

**December 22 & 23, and 27-30, 2016**

Keep your kids busy over winter break and help them beat the winter blahs! 8AM to 5PM daily and optional overnight Dec 29th for an additional charge. \$40/day/camper and \$5 for before & after care, each session. Pre-registration is required. See our website for camp schedule & items campers should bring!

## **Winter Skills: Scout Workshop**

**February 25, 2017**

Calling all Scouts! Our brand new Winter Skills Workshop is open to Scouts of all ages, with activities to suit all interests! These activities satisfy a wide variety of badge requirements. Pre-registration is required. 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!

## **Cadette Owl Nights\*\***

**January 20 & February 3, 2017**

Learn about native owl species, and earn your Cadette Night Owl patch. Take home a souvenir Howell Nature Center patch too! \$12/scout, pre-registration required. See website for details!

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

**January 22, 2017 & February 19, 2017**

If you made a New Years' resolution to try something new, or love to be creative, join us at 3:00 for our first "Paint and Pour" style event! 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.

## **Natural Attraction\*\***

**February 12, 2017**

Our first-ever Valentine's event for adults (21+) 5PM-8PM will include wine and refreshments, trivia & couples' games with prizes, and some fascinating presentations about wild courtship rituals & the nature of chocolate (with chocolate tasting). \$30/person or \$50/couple, pre-registration is required.

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

## December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>CHRISTMAS TREE SALES – WHILE TREES LAST!</b> <b>NOVEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 24!</b>				1	2 Hayrides with Santa	3 Hayrides with Santa Zoo Enrichment Day: Christmas with the Critters 10AM to 12PM
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 10AM-11AM or 11:30AM-12:30PM	14	15 HNC Volunteer Chirstmas Party	16 Hayrides with Santa	17 Hayrides & Breakfast with Santa
18 Breakfast with Santa	19	20	21	22 Camp Frosty! 8AM-5PM	23 Camp Frosty! 8AM-5PM	24
25	26 Camp Frosty! 8AM-5PM	27 Camp Frosty! 8AM-5PM	28 Camp Frosty! 8AM-5PM	29 Camp Frosty! 8AM-5PM Optional Overnight Pick-up 8AM Dec 30	30	31

### SPECIAL EVENTS AT HOWELL NATURE CENTER Beth Baumgartner, Special Events Coordinator

Here at Howell Nature Center we are always looking for ways to connect our visitors to each other, to nature, and to the spirit of the season, and this winter we have several events planned for guests of all ages to help you beat the winter blues! Kick off 2017 with a bang in our coming winter events, for a variety of ages!

If you made a New Years' resolution to try something new, or love to be creative, register for our Bottles, Brushes and Birds events on January 22 and February 19 at 3:00 pm. This 21+ adults-only program combines this popular "paint and pour" style art program with our unique and gorgeous wild residents. Join us for more beautiful birds at our Owl Nights in January & February as well as the first Photography Workshop of the season, Photographing Birds of Prey, on February 11! If you're hoping to get your kids more involved with nature, try our Little Critters programs (ages 3-5) or Zoo Enrichment Days (ages 5 and up) on for size! See the calendars for available dates and themes!

We are also introducing a couple of once-a-year special events, including Snowfest on January 21st from 12:00-4:00pm and our Natural Attraction Valentine's Day themed event February 12th from 5:00-8:00pm. Snowfest includes all manner of winter fun to beat the "winter blahs," including outdoor sports, indoor games, wildlife presentations and tours, and zip lining (events will be weather dependent – here's hoping for snow!). Our first-ever Valentine's event for adults (21+) will include wine and refreshments, trivia and couples' games with prizes, and some fascinating presentations about wild courtship rituals and the nature of chocolate. Whether it's an intimate couples' night or a fun day for the whole family, the Howell Nature Center has a special event just for you!



## January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Little Critters: Awesome Opossum 10AM-11AM or 11:30AM-12:30PM	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Cadette Owl Nights 5PM to 8PM	21 SNOWFEST! 12PM to 4PM
22 Bottle, Brushes and Birds (21+) Begins at 3PM	23	24	25	26	27 Owl Nights 7PM to 10PM	28 Owl Nights 7PM to 10PM
29	30	31				

### **2017 DAY CAMP THEMES & DATES**

Offering camps for grades Kindergarten - 8th grade.

\$40 per day -OR- \$185 per week

2nd sibling ONLY \$34 per day -OR- \$155 per week

**Week 1:** June 19-23 Summer Kick Off

**Week 2:** June 26-30 Shark Week

**Week 3:** July 5-7 Holiday Mash Up

**Week 4:** July 10-14 Zip Away

**Week 5:** July 17-21 Wild about Animals

**Week 6:** July 24-28 Ultimate Sports

**Week 7:** July 31-August 4 Wet, Wild, and Yucky

**Week 8:** August 7-11 Blast from the Past

**Week 9:** August 14-18 Ropes, Cables, and Carabineers

**Week 10:** August 21-25 Junior Zoo Keeper

**Week 11:** August 28-Sept 1 Best of Camp

### **2017 RESIDENT CAMP THEMES & DATES**

Weekly prices vary. See website for details.

**High School Extreme Camp- July 10-14**

For campers entering grades 9th-12th

**Elementary/Middle School Camp 1- July 23-28**

For campers entering grades 3rd-5th/6th-8th

**CIT Camp-July 23-August 4**

For campers entering grades 11th and 12th

**You and Me Camp- July 14-16**

For families with campers entering grades K-2nd

**Elementary/Middle School Camp 2- July 30-August 4**

For campers entering grades 3rd-5th/6th-8th

**Lakeshore Adventure Camp- August 6-11**

For campers entering grades 7th-9th

**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.

## February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Groundhog Day! Celebration and activities to be announced!	3 Cadette Owl Nights 5PM to 8PM	4 Owl Nights 7PM to 10PM Zoo Enrichment Day: Cupid for Critters! 10AM to 12PM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Photography Workshop: Photographing Birds of Prey 10AM to 4PM
12 Natural Attraction (21+) 5PM to 8PM	13	14 Little Critters: Woody the Woodchuck 10AM to 11AM 11:30AM-12:30PM	15	16	17 Owl Nights 7PM to 10PM	18 Owl Nights 7PM to 10PM
19 Bottle, Brushes and Birds (21+) Begins at 3PM	20	21	22	23	24	25 Winter Skills: Scout Workshop Find our more!
26	27	28				

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>



Heal. Grow.  
Be Wild.

**Howell Nature Center**

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

## ALL ABOUT CAMP!

Matt Grant, Program Coordinator

Archery  
Canoeing &  
Campfires,  
Oh My!  
Summer  
2016



In the 50 years that the Howell Nature Center has been around we have strived to provide experiences in nature. We developed a benchmark based Environmental Education Programming selection that coincides with the teaching standards of the state of Michigan. The ability to take a subject taught in school and take it outdoors to make it fun, personal, and educational is what makes this group of programs unique. Hundreds of school aged children visit the nature each year to participate in our Environmental Education Programs. Whether they come for a day or an overnight camp, our programming is beloved by these schools. Most of our schools visit either in the spring or the fall. They come from all over the state of Michigan, as well as neighboring states like Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

Our 60+ Environmental Education and Wildlife Programs include topics such as Pond Study, Nature Hikes, and live animal presentations. Educational tours of our Wild Wonders Wildlife Park provide exciting, and up close exposure to the natural world around us. We are also one of only four Heifer International Global Village Training Centers in the USA. The Global Village aims to educate students and adults alike about the causes and effects of hunger and poverty, and to empower those individuals to make a difference the lives of people in their own communities, and around the world.

Groups that visit also choose to engage in the offerings of our High Adventure and Challenge Department. With many options such as High Ropes, Climbing Tower and our 7 zip line course. We also offer Outdoor Education activities such as archery, canoeing and survival skills round out the camp experience. During our 2016 Spring/Fall Season we hosted a total of 14,214 school children, which has grown from 12,000 children in 2015. Every season brings us 5-10 brand new schools. They come to join the many that are already learning and discovering what The Howell Nature Center has to offer. We hope to see you or your school soon!

For more information on our Environmental Education School Group Programming visit our website!

## GROW WITH OUR SCOUT PROGRAM!

Emily De Long, Special Programs Coordinator



Here at the Howell Nature Center we are proud to foster growth in people of all ages and from all walks of life. Whether our guests experience personal growth by overcoming a fear of heights, learning about Michigan's wild animals, or even by making a new friend at a Scout event, we're happy to have been a part of that moment.

Through our Scouting Program, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts have many opportunities to earn badges and learn new skills from our knowledgeable staff. One hundred and fifty Scouts joined us at our Fall Badge Workshops, earning up to eight different badges. These badges covered a range of topics, from geology to archeology, trees to campcraft (knot tying, fire-building, and similar activities).

We have many more opportunities for our Scouts to discover and grow with in 2017. On January 20 and February 3, Cadette Girl Scouts can join us for Cadette Owl Nights. In this evening program, Scouts enjoy a live owl presentation, then go outside to listen for owls calling through the woods. By the end of the program girls will have satisfied requirements one through four of the Cadette Night Owl Badge.

On February 25, we're offering a brand new program to Cub and Girl Scouts of all ages. During our Winter Skills Workshop, we'll cross country ski, go sledding, and learn about Michigan's native wildlife. Back inside, Scouts can explore their creative sides with our arts and crafts tables, and practice for our all-Scout skit performances.

All programs require pre-registration - Please contact our Welcome Center to save your spot!



Heal. Grow.  
Be Wild.

## Howell Nature Center

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PINCKNEY, MI  
Permit no. 823

1005 Triangle Lake Rd.  
Howell, MI 48843

Return Service Requested

### Hours of Operation

Monday - Sunday

9AM - 5PM

### Winter Hours (after Dec 28th)

9AM - 3PM

### Wild Wonders Wildlife Park Open Daily:

10AM - 5PM



## GIVE A CAMPERSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS!

Are you looking for a unique gift for the child or grandchild in your life who seems to have everything? Give the gift of camp!

Whether it's a day in our Day Camp Program or an entire week of Overnight

Resident Camp, give them a gift they will never forget! Ziplining, High Ropes, Climbing Tower, Archery, Swimming, Hayrides, and Gaga Ball are just some of the activities that await for a summer filled with discovery, new friends, and fun.

To purchase a gift certificate for a day/week of camp contact our Camp Registrar, Natalie, at: 517-376-9341.



LOVE KIDS BUT DON'T HAVE ANY OF YOUR OWN?  
GIVE THE GIFT OF CAMP  
TO A CHILD IN NEED  
THIS CHRISTMAS!

Use the tear-away  
donation card inside!