

A DAY IN THE LIFE AT THE HOWELL NATURE CENTER WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CLINIC

Dana DeBenham, Wildlife Director

Many ask what is a “typical day” at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic. Although every day is different, we wanted to share a brief glimpse into what a day can look like.

First, it starts at 7:00 a.m. when our interns and volunteers start feedings – and more feedings – for the day. Dozens of baby songbirds’ gaping mouths greet the team, hungry for the first feeding of the day – the first of one every 30 minutes until nightfall. Next, fox, opossum, squirrel and cottontail babies are fed formula from bottles, syringes and feeding tubes. Then, orphaned baby deer are visited at the Fawn Barn three times each day to be bottle fed. Finally, injured adult owls and hawks are hand-fed if they are too weak to eat on their own.

Meanwhile, our team and specially trained volunteers start administering care to the injured. Medical charts are checked as antibiotics and pain killers are dispensed. At the same time, fluids are administered to dehydrated animals left on the side of the road too long. Turtles hit by cars have their shells gently taped back into place to fuse again. Wounds are cleaned and wings rewrapped. This all happens while special cases are shuttled to our amazing veterinary partner, VCA Countryside Veterinary Hospital, for x-rays or sometimes euthanasia to end their suffering.

For those animals who are recovering well, their day includes some fun activities. The team transfers owls and hawks to larger flight pens for pre-release conditioning. Our junior volunteer team herds hundreds of ducklings to outdoor pools for swimming. Plus, our coordinator equips our volunteer drivers with Google Earth maps and street addresses so they can release our successfully rehabbed patients in the exact area where the animal came from (which is best for adult animals).

During all of this, our Wildlife Helpline is ringing off the hook as our expert staff provides advice to concerned people trying to help local wildlife – we are all in this together! The hours are long, and the work physically and emotionally exhausting. However, for those of us who believe in wildlife rehabilitation, whether it is those who work here or you as our wonderful supporters, the incentive is clear. Without all the hard work and donations, these wild, innocent creatures, would have had no chance of survival at all. This is our reward at the end of every long hot summer day.

Thank you for helping us make this happen.



FROM THE DESK OF DICK GRANT:

Richard Grant, CEO

On June 2 I will celebrate my 39th year with the Howell Nature Center. I have enjoyed seeing everything grow from the ground up and to see so many falling in love with the Center, just like I did the day I stepped foot on this land many moons ago. Due to this, it is with mixed emotion that I share that as of December 31, 2017 I will be retiring as CEO of the Nature Center.

This place is truly near and dear to me and I will truly miss it. I have taken great joy when I'm out and about and someone notices my Howell Nature shirt and asks if I work there. After I say yes, they smile and say "we love that place." Each person shares a different personal experience like, "we bought our perfect Christmas tree there," or "my son loved camp there," or "we brought out an injured bird to you," and it goes on and on.

I think of these comments as it is always good to reflect about what the Howell Nature Center really is.

What makes the Howell Nature Center special is not the individual programs, but the sum as a whole. Our tag line is "Heal. Grow. Be Wild" and that is who we are. We are a place where wild animals are brought to heal. We are a place where families enjoy each other and grow in faith. We are a place of education, whether you are learning what a fledging is, or how to swim, or even how to identify poison ivy. We are a safe place for campers, families and wildlife to have fun and be wild.

No matter what part of the Howell Nature Center you relate to, know you have made an impact. Thank you for joining me in my journey at the Howell Nature Center. Moving forward, the Board of Directors will be starting a search for a new CEO. Please know we are all working together for a smooth transition to ensure the ongoing mission of the Center that we all love. Again, thank you for this wonderful time and I look forward to joining you as a guest of the Nature Center in the future.



HOWELL NATURE CENTER WATERFRONT UPDATE

We are almost there!!! We began our waterfront improvement project in March with new decks, erosion control, expanded swimming area and new dockage. The decks are complete and the final stage of the project – doubling the swimming area – is ready to launch in early June.

We are \$9,000 away from our goal of \$36,000! Please help us so we can finish by the time the first camper steps into the water in June. Call 517-376-9790 or mail a donation with a note "Waterfront Project." Thanks for the support!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION
Contact the Welcome Center or visit at
howellnaturecenter.org for more info.

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



**** Online registration available**

NEW FOR 2017 - Triple Experience**

See calendar for open registration dates

Grab a pulley, helmet and a harness and experience the best of our outdoor adventure challenges. You will have the opportunity to experience 2 of our longest Zip Lines, one of the tallest outdoor Climbing Towers in Michigan, as well as our very own all NEW Giant Swing! This program has a maximum of 10 people and participants must be 13 & up. \$45/person

Summer Day Camp**

June 19th-September 1st

American Camp Association Accredited for K-8th graders, our Summer Day Camp includes traditional camp activities: swimming, archery, canoeing, fishing and more. High Adventure included, come zoom through the air on a 500' zip line and climb one of Michigan's tallest outdoor climbing towers. Did we mention field trips to offsite locations and the nature center's very own Wild Wonders Wildlife Park? We'll have a blast rain or shine! See our website for more details and pricing. Register by contacting our Camp Registrar Natalie at natalieh@howellnaturecenter.org

Summer Resident and Excursion Camps**

See calendar for open registration dates

This Christian overnight camp is open to K-12th grades. Days are spent swimming, canoeing, crafting, playing outdoor games (including Gaga Ball, of course!), enjoying campfires, learning archery and so much more. In addition, campers are challenged by choice in our High Adventure courses, ziplines and climbing tower. Campers enjoy modern lodging complete with attached bathrooms and air conditioning. Each week has a different theme to choose from, and many camps include off-site activities. See our website for more details and pricing. Register by contacting our Camp Registrar Natalie at natalieh@howellnaturecenter.org

SOA Nature Camps

See calendar for open registration dates

The Spirit of Alexandria Foundation was created to carry on the legacy of Alexandria Bennett, a little girl whose passion for nature and generosity was evident to everyone around her. Through the foundation, it is her family and friends' mission to help children experience nature and all its wonderment. Full camp scholarships available. See our website for more details. Register by contacting our Camp Registrar Natalie at natalieh@howellnaturecenter.org

Follow the Feeder

June 17th and August 19th

Recommended for Kindergarten and up, this program is an interactive guided tour of Wild Wonders Wildlife Park that follows our Wildlife Park Supervisor as she feeds and cares for many of our wild residents. Approximately two hours in duration. Children must be accompanied by an adult. See our website for details. (\$5/guest, \$15/family of four. Includes admission to Alexandria's Nature Scape and the Wild Wonders Wildlife Park).

Open Zip Line and Tower Days**

See calendar 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 calendar 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 HNC 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 calendar 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)

Zoo Enrichment Days**

See calendar 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

Photography Workshops**

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.

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

For more info: (517) 546-0249 www.howellnaturecenter.org

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Register online at howellnaturecenter.org for our events or contact our Welcome Center to Register: 517-546-0249 or hcnc@howellnaturecenter.org				1	2	3 Triple Experience 12PM-4PM Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM
4 Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM	5	6	7	8	9	10 Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM
11 Open Zip & Tower 11AM to 3PM	12	13	14	15	16 Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM	17 Open Zip & Tower 11AM to 3PM Follow the Feeder 1PM-3PM
18 Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM	19 Summer Day Camp: Summer kick-off	20	21	22	23 Open Zip & Tower 11AM to 3PM	24 Triple Experience 12PM-4PM Open High Ropes South Pines 1PM to 4PM
25 Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM Resident Camp: Amusement and Adventure Excursion, grades 9-12	26 Summer Day Camp: Wet, Wild and Wacky	27	28	29	30	Notes:

SUMMER DAY & RESIDENT CAMP ARE WEEK-LONG THEMES!

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Bob and Patti Shaw

"I feel like I'm
 nothing without
 wildlife.
 They are the stars.
 I feel awkward
 without them."

- Bindi Irwin



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HEAL. GROW. BE WILD.

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Summer Day Camp: Holiday Mash-up	4	5	6	7 Zip Tour 1PM-4PM	8 Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM
9 Bottle, Brushes and Birds begins at 3PM Zip Tour 9-12PM 1-4PM Resident Camp: see notes	10 Summer Day Camp: Zip Away Resident Camp: High School Extreme Camp, grades 9-12	11	12	13	14 Resident Camp: You and Me Camp, grades K-2	15 Open Zip & Tower 11AM to 3PM
16 Triple Experience 12PM-4PM Open High Ropes North Pines 1PM to 4PM	17 Summer Day Camp: Wild About Animals SOA Nature Camp I: grades 3-5	18	19	20	21 Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM	22 Giant Swing 10AM-12PM 1PM-3PM
23 Resident Camp: Junior Zookeeper Camp, grades 3-6 Middle School Extreme Camp, grades 6-8 Zip Tour 9-12PM, 1-4PM	24 Summer Day Camp: Ultimate Sports	25	26	27	28	29 Triple Experience 12PM-4PM Open High Ropes South Pines 1PM to 4PM
30 Open Zip & Tower 11AM-3PM SOA Nature Camp: Rocks, Rivers and Waterfalls Excursion, grades 7-10	31 Summer Day Camp: Shark Week	Notes: Resident Camp: Amazing Adventures Camp, grades 3-6 Reaching Higher Adventure Camp, grades 6-8 West Coast Cruise Excursion, grades 7-10 CIT Camp, grades 11-12				

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, 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



Two Locations to Serve You!

Wild Birds Unlimited
9610 Village Place Blvd
Brighton, MI 48116
(810) 522-5520

Wild Birds Unlimited
47760 Grand River Ave
Novi, MI 48374
(248) 374-4000

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



Albert Schweitzer said,
"It doesn't matter if an animal
can reason. It matters only that
it is capable of suffering and that
is why I consider it my neighbor."

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 sup-

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Zoo Enrichment Day: Melon Madness 10AM to 12PM Zip Tour 9-12PM & 1-4PM
6 Triple Experience 12PM-4PM Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM	7 Summer Day Camp: Blast from the Past Resident Camp: Lakeshore Adventure Camp, grades 7-10 SOA Alumni Nature Camp, grades 4-6	8	9	10	11	12 Zip Tour 9-12PM 1-4PM
13	14 Summer Day Camp: Ropes, Cables and Carabeneers SOA Nature Camp II grades 3-5	15	16	17	18	19 Triple Experience 12PM-4PM Open High Ropes North Pines 1PM-4PM Follow the Feeder 1PM-3PM
20 Zip Tour: 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM SOA Nature Camp: Mackinac Mitten Excursion grades 7-10	21 Summer Day Camp: Junior Zookeeper	22	23	24	25	26 Open Zip & Tower 11AM to 3PM
27 Zip Tour 9AM-12PM 1PM-4PM	28 Summer Day Camp: Best of Camp	29	30	31	Notes:	

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

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

- ☐ Wildlife rehabilitation and education
- ☐ Camp scholarships for low-income youth
- ☐ Facility maintenance and improvement
- ☐ Please use where my gift is needed most
- ☐ Please contact me about Planned Giving Opportunities

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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

CHRISTIAN OVERNIGHT RESIDENT CAMP – THE CHANGE THAT HAPPENS

Matt Grant, Program Coordinator

“What? Cell phones aren’t allowed at camp?” From Sunday to Friday campers at our Christian Overnight Resident Camp are without their cell phones, electronic devices and televisions as they spend days with future friends and the natural world. The initial worry about no technology quickly fades as the distractions of their home lives and technology disappear, and their focus of nature, of simplicity and of faith emerges.

In the bible thousands of years ago, Jesus spent much of His life in the wilderness. There Jesus would pray and would find perfect focus connecting Him to God His Father in Heaven.

The very same thing can and does happen here. As campers sit around the campfire, God is moving. Many campers meet God for the first time or gain a greater sense of closeness with Him.

Throughout my 18-year camp career I have seen hundreds of children grow closer to the heart of God. This can take on many forms. One camper shared that back home he had felt alone with no support and hope. His parents were divorced and he hardly saw his mom with whom he lived with. After listening to the camp messages and connecting through prayer he found that support and hope within a loving God. On the last day of camp he asked me for a bible and to pray with him so that he could be strong and continue the connection with God back home. For other campers, the phrase I hear most often is, “I feel closer to God at camp than anywhere else.”

Within our Christian Overnight Resident Camp we have five main goals; to build leaders, to have fun, to cultivate friendships, to build self-worth and most importantly assist in the development of faith in God. We achieve this through a combination of activities: Some that challenge us such as zip tours and climbing tours. Some that provide new opportunities like fishing and archery. Some that provide time for community building and quiet reflection like campfire worship songs and personal reflection time. All of which help us create bonds both with God and other campers that will last a lifetime.



**INTERESTED IN SENDING YOUR CHILD
TO CHRISTIAN OVERNIGHT RESIDENT CAMP?**

Visit us online at www.howellnaturecenter.org
or call 517-546-0249.

To request a campership application, or for more information,
please contact our Camp Registrar Natalie Hassan
at natalieh@howellnaturecenter.org.



Heal. Grow.
Be Wild.

Howell Nature Center

1005 Triangle Lake Rd.
Howell, MI 48843

Return Service Requested

Hours of Operation

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Wild Wonders Wildlife Park

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10AM - 5PM

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THANK YOU COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER FLINT!

Using the \$5000 grant to expand our waterfowl care facilities we have been able to successfully handle the over 20% increase in injured and orphaned juvenile waterfowl we are experiencing so far this year. To date we have received more than 300 goslings and ducklings for 2017 and expect many more to come! Thank you again Community Foundation of Greater Flint!



VISIT THE HOWELL NATURE CENTER for a FUN-filled and relaxing day in NATURE!

ALEXANDRIA'S NATURE SCAPE (Open May – October):

A fully fenced in natural play area including fun activities such as a kid-friendly waterfall and splash pond to play in, natural forts to build, trails to explore and life size spider webs to climb. The Nature Scape includes The Treehouse - a 7,000 sq. ft. wheelchair-accessible play area high in the trees featuring two satellite platforms, coloring and exploration tables, bird viewing stations, swings and rope ladders, and a bouncy bridge!

WILD WONDERS WILDLIFE PARK: Open daily 10-5, you will find over 65 native permanently injured Michigan wildlife like fox, porcupine, coyotes, groundhogs, opossums, owls, hawks, falcons and more in habitats specifically designed to mimic each animal's natural environment. Newly designed interpretive signs enrich self-guided as well as naturalist-guided tours!

NATURE ZONE: A hands-on interpretive space based on nature in your own backyard. Designed by local artist and author Michael Monroe, the Nature Zone includes our turtle pond, live flying-squirrel habitat and fun activities stations.

HIKING TRAILS: Enjoy multiple hiking trails around the property. Leashed dogs are welcome on the trails (note that dogs are not allowed in the Wild Wonders Wildlife Park).

For more activity details, please contact our Welcome Center at 517-546-0249.