

## An Eagle Has Landed

Winter Exhibit 2009

Tuesday, February 3 through Sunday, April 9.

- *Climb in a kid-size eagle nest!*
- *Investigate eagle vision!*
- *Be an eagle parent with plush eaglet puppets and eggs!*
- *Learn how an eagle's talons work as you catch your "dinner"!*
- *See how your arms match up to an eagle's wingspan!*
- *All this and more at our 2009 Winter Exhibit!*



Our temporary winter exhibit this year will feature the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States. Visitors will learn about eagles, their eggs, nests, wings, talons, and more. The exhibit will be open during regular Nature Center hours. Free admission. (Donations appreciated). Closed March 2.

Kids and adults alike will learn about eagles as they engage in these fun activities. So be sure to stop in and find out what makes these majestic animals so special.

### Live Eagle!

Don't miss this special day! To celebrate the opening weekend of our 2009 Winter Exhibit, an eagle is coming to visit LVNC.

The eagle, a female named Deshka, will be presented by SOAR, a raptor rehabilitation and education organization in Earlville, IL.

**Saturday, February 7th • Noon to 4:00 pm**

### Creature Feature — Page 3

**Bald eagle**

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*



### LVNC Notes...

Due to safety considerations, ice skating and sledding are not allowed in Terrace View Park.

If you haven't picked up your completed Coloring Contest pictures yet, be sure to stop by. Remember every entry received a participation ribbon.

Pictures and ribbons will be held at the Nature Center until January 3rd. Check out the LVNC website to see the winning entries.

The Nature Center will be closed:

Dec. 24 & 25

Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

Apr. 10 & 12

May 25

***We are also closed the first Monday of each month.***

## Woodland Wildflower Teaching Area



Paul Butkovitch, an Oakbrook Terrace resident and former LVNC Safari Club participant, recently undertook an Eagle Scout Service Project by renovating a section of Terrace View Park that had become overgrown.



Paul (above left with shovel) planned and coordinated the project: obtaining the necessary tools and materials; rounding up some other scouts to help with the work and a couple of adults (including his father) to manage the power tools. Paul and his crew cleared back the tangled undergrowth and weeds, cut and installed log benches and “mushroom” seats,

and mulched the area. He will return in the spring to finish the landscaping.

The last picture shows the result: a teaching area with a circle of seats and benches that we will use for our classes and programs.

## Have a cool pet?

Do you know anyone with an unusual or interesting pet or other animal? We are looking for some new animals for our Wild Wednesday program next summer. Presenters will receive a small stipend for bringing their animal(s) to the Nature Center on a given day and doing three or four short informational presentations. Pettable animals are preferred but not required.

### Nature News Winter 2008

Nature News is published three times a year in April, August, and December by the Oakbrook Terrace Park District.

An electronic version of current and back issues is available on the Nature Center website (pdf format). Sign up for the mailing list to receive an email with a direct download link when a new issue is available.

Editor: John Stoddard

## Staff updates

**James Geraci** left us at the end of July to join the Army. He had been a Program Assistant at the Nature Center for about two and a half years.

James completed boot camp at Fort Benning, Georgia in November. Following four weeks of paratrooper training he'll be heading overseas after the first of the year. We wish him well!

**Catherine Schlichting** joined LVNC in July as an Environmental Educator. Kate graduated from the College of Wooster in Ohio with a degree in Biology and also completed an internship at the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

**Katherine Gassmann** started in August as a Program Assistant. Kat is a student at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn.

## Photo credits

Page 3; nest: [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us)

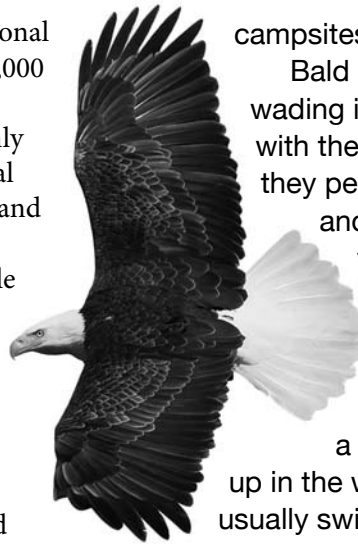
# Bald eagle

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

When the bald eagle was adopted as our national symbol in 1782, there were an estimated 100,000 of these majestic birds in the lower 48 states. By 1963 this number had been reduced to only 400 breeding pairs, mostly as a result of illegal hunting, habitat destruction, lead poisoning and DDT contamination.

Legal protections such as the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, together with environmental regulations such as the banning of DDT in 1972 and the nationwide ban in 1991 on using lead shot to hunt waterfowl led to a remarkable recovery. By 2007 the bald eagle population had recovered to the point that it was removed from the Endangered Species List.

Today there are more than 7,500 breeding pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 states—including a growing number in Illinois.



campsites and picnics.

Bald eagles sometimes catch fish by wading into the water and grabbing the fish with their beak or talons, but more commonly they perch in a tree near the water's edge and swoop down to pluck a fish from the water in flight. They can reach a fish swimming six to twelve inches below the surface while remaining airborne. They can lift almost half of their body weight but occasionally they will hook a fish that is too large to lift and end up in the water. If that happens, the eagle can usually swim to safety but they do sometimes drown or succumb to hypothermia.



The bald eagle builds the largest nest of any North American bird. The nest is made from sticks and branches and may be lined with moss, grass, or pine needles. Eagles pair for life and will use the same nest



for many years, adding to it each year. Nests may reach ten feet in diameter, thirteen feet deep, and weigh more than a ton.

They prefer to build their nests in old growth trees that reach above the canopy but will use cliffs or even the ground if no suitable trees are available.



Although the bald eagle was chosen as our national symbol because of its long life, great strength, and majestic bearing, not everyone agreed with the choice. Benjamin Franklin, in a letter to his daughter, said: "*He is a Bird of bad moral Character*", noting that the eagle will often steal fish caught by smaller birds such as osprey. Franklin felt that the wild turkey would be a better choice.



Many people assume that the name "bald" comes from the eagle's white head that appears from a distance as if the bird has no feathers on its head. However, most authorities say that it comes from the Old English word *balde*, meaning white. The scientific species name also refers to this, deriving from the Greek *leukos* meaning white and *cephalus* meaning head.

The genus name *Haliaeetus* comes from *halo* (sea) and *aetos* (eagle). The eight species in this genus world-wide are collectively known as "sea eagles" or "fish eagles." Most of them resemble the bald eagle in having either a white head or tail (or both). One Eurasian species, the white-tailed eagle, is also known as the erne (or ern), a name well known to crossword puzzle fans.



Bald eagles are primarily fish eaters, but will utilize a variety of other prey including rabbits, beavers, muskrats, sea otters, ducks, geese, and even crabs. Prey species tend to be smaller than the eagle, but attacks have been documented on prey as large as great blue herons and swans. In hard times, bald eagles will also make use of carrion (dead animals). They have also been known to raid



## The Nature Center is free to the general public.

*Donations are appreciated*

Gifts to the Oakbrook Terrace Park District are tax deductible to the full extent of federal and state laws.

### Hours

#### Lake View Nature Center

Mon. to Fri. ....9 am to 4 pm  
(Closed holidays and the first Monday of each month)

Sat. and Sun.....Noon to 4:00 pm

#### Terrace View Park

Every day .....Sunrise to 10 pm

### Staff

Liane Knight	Superintendent
John Stoddard	Naturalist
Karen Ritter	Environmental Educator
Collin Verbick	Environmental Educator
Kate Schlichting	Environmental Educator
Katherine Gassmann	Program Assistant

## OUR MISSION

THE LAKE VIEW NATURE CENTER IS DEDICATED TO BRINGING FUN, HANDS-ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TO RESIDENTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO PROMOTE AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF THE

### Exhibits

Our hands-on exhibits and displays encourage visitors to:

- *Experience natural objects such as furs, feathers, turtle shells, skeletons, etc.*
- *Get a close-up look at living examples of local wildlife such as turtles, snakes, fish, spiders, insects, etc.*
- *Examine geological specimens such as rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, and our collection of sand from around the world.*
- *Browse our library of children's and adult natural history books and magazines.*

### School and Community Groups

The Lake View Nature Center is an excellent place to explore the natural sciences. We offer programs for all ages and grade levels. Give us a call or check our web site at [www.obtpd.org/lvnc](http://www.obtpd.org/lvnc) to learn more about the programs we offer.

### Parking

Our parking lot on Hodges Rd. has ten car spaces and one van-accessible disabled space. Street parking is not allowed on Hodges but additional parking is available around the corner on Monterey Ave. Be sure to keep your tires on the gravel as the police will ticket if they are touching the grass.

Parking is also available in the underground lot at Parkview Plaza on 22nd St. just west of Rte. 83. Turn in at the stoplight and follow the signs to the Fitness Center.

### Lake View Nature Center

17 W 063 Hodges Rd.  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181  
(630) 941-8747

[www.obtpd.org/lvnc](http://www.obtpd.org/lvnc)