

# Help us give *Boris* a BIGGER HOME!

*Boris* has adjusted well to his home at the Wildlife Discovery Center. To make sure he continues to have the best life possible, we want to build an addition to his cage so he has ample room to run and exercise.

The cost of this expansion will be approximately \$25,000. Thanks to a generous donor, we are \$5,000 closer to that goal.

Please join us in this expansion project. Make checks payable to the **Wildlife Discovery Center** and earmark for the ***Boris* FUND**.

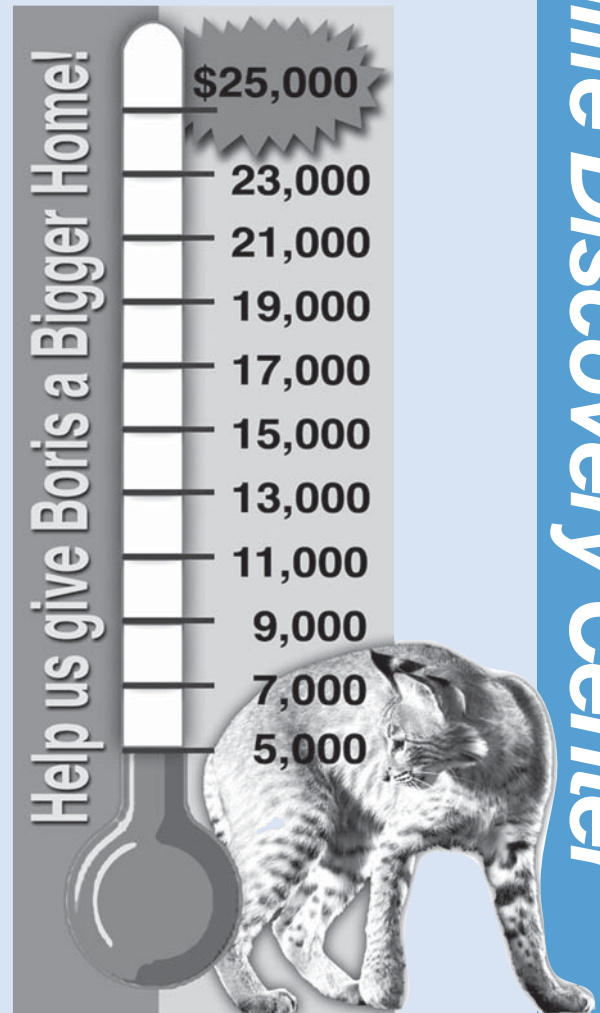
**Mail donations to:**  
**WDC, c/o Rob Carmichael,**  
**1401 Middlefork Drive,**  
**Lake Forest, IL 60045.**

If your business would like to help sponsor this addition, contact WDC's Curator at [carmichr@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:carmichr@cityoflakeforest.com) for more details. Donations are fully tax deductible through the Friends of Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Foundation.

## ABOUT *BORIS*

*Boris* was born in captivity on April 11, 2009 by a private breeder. The original owners, who were traveling dog performers in a circus, took him in as a pet but soon realized that this wild cat was not happy and that he needed a much better place to live. The WDC was happy to give *Boris* a new home. He was about one year old at the time.

*Boris* LOVES the change of seasons, from swimming in his pool in the summer to playing in the snow in the winter. He also enjoys having visitors. *Boris* is nocturnal and takes long naps during the day. If you come in the morning or early afternoon, you'll have the best chance of finding him awake. *Boris* is NOT releasable because he is imprinted on humans. Additionally, he was front-paw declawed by his previous owners.



## REPTILE RAMPAGE 2012

**One of Chicagoland's largest education-only reptile shows!**

Don't miss out on one of our community's most popular events! 100's of reptiles and amphibians from public and private collections will be showcased by many expert hobbyists and professionals. There will be animals for people to touch and hold. See



venomous reptiles in locked cages. "*Bubba*" the world famous alligator will be on hand! We will also have a special patch activity for Scout groups, a variety of arts and crafts for children, food and refreshments, silent auction and more. All proceeds will help the Wildlife Discovery Center continue to bring high-quality care to their animals. Here's the info (NO PRE-REGISTRATION, pay at the door):



**When:** Sunday, March 11  
**Where:** Lake Forest Recreation Center  
**Time:** 10am to 4pm  
**Fee:** \$8 adult, \$5 child  
**Hosted by:** Wildlife Discovery Center  
**Sponsor:** BTG International Inc.

For more information, visit: [www.wildlifediscoverycenter.org](http://www.wildlifediscoverycenter.org)

# Wildlife Discovery Center

at Elawa Farm

## Meet Nature Eye-to-Eye

Interactive displays and education, with an emphasis on wildlife conservation

The Wildlife Discovery Center is a unique combination of nature center, wildlife sanctuary, museum, and biological station set on a historical farm along the beautiful Middlefork Savanna in Lake Forest, Illinois. What a treasure!



### SUPPORT THE WILDLIFE DISCOVERY CENTER

#### Become a PARTNER

Our mission at the Wildlife Discovery Center is to inspire new generations to become guardians and advocates of our natural world. We do this through innovative eco-based programming aided by an amazing cast of resident animals.

By supporting the WDC, you will play an important part in our work. You will help us:

- Host over 20,000 visitors annually
- Care for 150 animals in museum-quality exhibits
- Bring high quality interpretive programs to 10,000 people annually
- Continue developing captive breeding and husbandry techniques to help save threatened and endangered species
- Assist local, state, and federal agencies in reptile and raptor rescue projects
- Remain a high-quality educational resource for the region

To become a WDC PARTNER, contact Rob Carmichael, Curator, at 847-810-3663 or email Rob at [carmichr@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:carmichr@cityoflakeforest.com).

*Winter is a magical time to visit the WDC. Rent a pair of skis or snowshoes at the Rec Center and head out to the Middlefork Savanna!*

### Sponsor An Animal

A.D.O.P.T. (Animals Depend On People Too) provides an opportunity to help a wonderful animal in need. When you sponsor one of our animals you will be providing critical funding to help us take care of our animals: food, veterinary care, vitamins, enrichment toys, and various supplies. We take great pride in providing our animals with the best in care from our expert staff.

Fee is only \$25/year and you will get a beautiful certificate along with some detailed information about your sponsored animal. We will also have special days for people sponsoring an animal where you can interact with the staff and the animals (depending on the animal). For more information on sponsoring an animal go to [www.wildlifediscoverycenter.org](http://www.wildlifediscoverycenter.org)

Hands-on programs for all ages!

City of Lake Forest Parks & Recreation  
[www.wildlifediscoverycenter.org](http://www.wildlifediscoverycenter.org)

## The Wildlife Discovery Center is a place where you can meet nature eye-to-eye!

Welcome to the Wildlife Discovery Center! With the help of our resident animals, we offer you the opportunity to learn about our natural environment. We bring you:

- Education programs for all ages
- Chicagoland's finest public reptile exhibits
- One of the largest public displays of venomous reptiles in the Midwest
- Outdoor raptor, kookaburras, bobcat, and turtle pond
- Youth wildlife conservation classes
- Creative school field trips
- Eco-based summer camps
- Group presentations at the Center
- Traveling animal presentations at off-site events
- Wildlife field trips and birthday parties
- Lecture series and bird watching for adults
- Elawa also features beautiful gardens and Food Network Celebrity Gale Gand

**NOW FREE ADMISSION!**



**OUR MISSION: To build new generations of guardians and advocates for all wildlife and their habitat through sharing, caring, research and many adventures in conservation education.**

*"Trap" the American Alligator*

## Come to the Wild Side, Become a Member

When you become a member of the Wildlife Discovery Center, you are supporting wildlife conservation and habitat preservation. Your support also helps us continue to give our resident animals high-quality care and allows us to remain actively involved with local, national and international wildlife conservation projects.

### Benefits of Membership include:

- Members Night potluck dinner
- Special member e-Newsletter
- 10% off any items bought at the WDC store
- Special behind-the-scenes tours and sneak previews
- 25% off two classes during the year (not including camps)
- Membership card

See our website for more details and on-line form:  
[www.wildlifediscoverycenter.org](http://www.wildlifediscoverycenter.org)

## EXHIBITS at WDC

The Wildlife Discovery Center is home to several raptors that help us teach about wildlife conservation. These birds include: Curly the Red-tailed Hawk, Navajo the Harris Hawk, Squirt the Screech Owl, Mac the Barred Owl and Humble the Great Horned Owl. We also have an outdoor turtle pond, a bobcat named Boris and a butterfly garden.

We also have two feathered teachers, Kookaburras Aussie and Hariett, natives of Australia, that delight many visitors with their boisterous laughing calls.

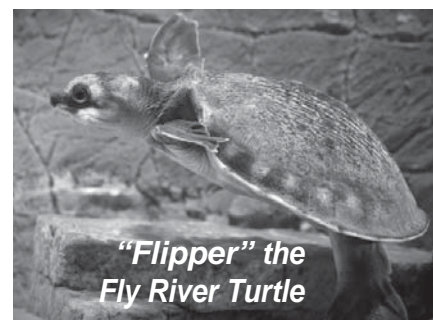
## Main Exhibit Room

This room features crocodilians, turtles and tortoises, lizards and snakes including rarities such as the Siamese Crocodile, the Gila Monster and Beaded Lizards.

## Grass is Rattling Exhibit Hall

Housed in museum quality natural settings, this room features one of the largest free public displays of venomous reptiles in the Midwest. This hall is dedicated to educating visitors about the true nature and importance rattlesnakes play in our world. In addition to animals from around the world, this exhibit includes the Eastern Massasauga, Timber Rattlesnake, Cottonmouth and Southern Copperhead, four snakes that are native to Illinois. Other reptiles include the mysterious King Cobra, the beautiful Green Mamba and other surprises!

## Discover the Middlefork Savanna Interpretive Trail



*"Flipper" the Fly River Turtle*



## Educational Programs

### SAVANNA SECRETS

Calling all little explorers! Come search for signs that mysterious creatures really do exist right here at the Middlefork Savanna. We'll use this wonderful playground to unlock lots of amazing secrets of the natural world. We'll also spend time exploring the fantastic creatures living at the Wildlife Discovery Center. Sign up for one class, or as many as you like. The opportunities to explore nature are endless! Dress to be outdoors! We will even learn some fun winter lifetime skills like snow shoeing!

**Loc:** ELAWA Farm, Southeast Classroom - WDC

**Age:** 4Y - 6Y  
**Fee:** R: \$82 NR: \$98

**Instr:** L. VanVlissingen

Code	Day	Time	Date
28990	Tue	9:30am-11:00am	Jan 10-Feb 14
28991	Tue	1:00pm- 2:30pm	Jan 10-Feb 14
28992	Tue	9:30am-11:00am	Feb 21-Apr 03
28993	Tue	1:00pm- 2:30pm	Feb 21-Apr 03
28994	Tue	9:30am-11:00am	Apr 10-May 15
28995	Tue	1:00pm- 2:30pm	Apr 10-May 15



**"Sid" the Black Throated Monitor**

### CRITTER CLUB

Get ready to trek to the Middlefork Savanna and our own nature trails as we search for muskrat mounds, fox dens, frog ponds, and much more! We'll also uncover fantastic mysteries about the resident animals at the Wildlife Discovery Center. This is a fun after-school club where kids become wildlife experts in no time! We will spend time indoors and outdoors so dress for the weather! We'll even strap on snow shoes when the conditions are just right!

**Loc:** ELAWA Farm, Southeast Classroom - WDC

**Age:** Gr K - 2  
**Fee:** R: \$82 NR: \$98

**Instr:** L. VanVlissingen

Code	Day	Time	Date
28980	Mon	4:15pm- 5:45pm	Jan 09-Feb 13
28981	Mon	4:15pm- 5:45pm	Feb 20-Mar 26
28983	Mon	4:15pm- 5:45pm	Apr 09-May 14



**"Humble" the Great Horned Owl**

### OWL PROWL AT THE WDC

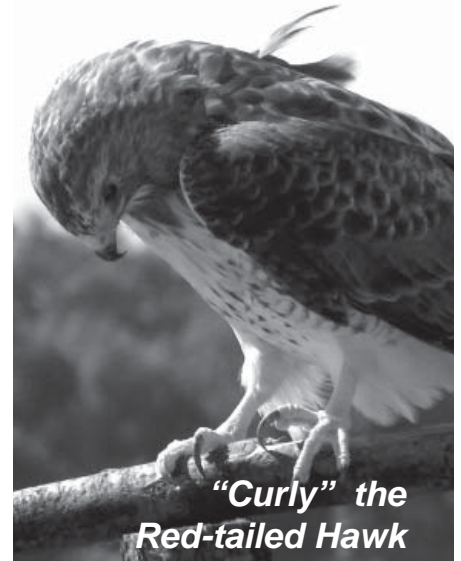
Enjoy an evening with the WDC Staff and Linda Breuer of Barnswallow as we immerse ourselves into the life of our native owls. We'll start with an indoor presentation by Linda and Rob Carmichael as we share some live examples of native owls. We'll then learn some basic 'hoots' and then head out into the oak savanna and try our hand at calling in an owl or two. We'll head inside afterwards and enjoy some hot chocolate, some goodies, and the WDC exhibits will be open to see how our animals behave at night! Dress appropriately! This will be a Full Moon night; perfect for seeing and hearing owls!

**Loc:** ELAWA Farm

**Date:** Feb 10  
**Time:** 6:00-9:00pm  
**Age:** 8-100Y  
**Instr:** R. Carmichael  
**Fee:** R: \$15 NR: \$18

**Note:** Dress for indoor and outdoor activities

Code	Day	Time	Date
29167	Fri	6:00pm-9:00pm	Feb 10



**"Curly" the Red-tailed Hawk**

### ANIMAL CARETAKER PROGRAM

Can't get enough of animals? Then join us for a fabulous mentorship program. The Wildlife Discovery Center's professional staff teach you all about our resident animals and how we care for them. In addition to helping with behind-the-scenes operations, you'll have a weekly 'reptile rap' session with staff and learn some of the exciting secrets about these amazing animals. We'll also take your learning outside as we discover the wildlife that makes the Middlefork Savanna home. For more information contact Rob Carmichael, Curator at [carmichr@cityoflakefores.com](mailto:carmichr@cityoflakefores.com).

**Loc:** ELAWA Farm, Southeast Classroom - WDC

**Age:** 10Y - 11Y  
**Fee:** R: \$82 NR: \$98

Code	Day	Time	Date
28984	Wed	4:30pm- 6:00pm	Jan 11-Feb 15
28987	Thu	4:30pm- 6:00pm	Jan 12-Feb 16
28985	Wed	4:30pm- 6:00pm	Feb 22-Mar 28
28986	Thu	4:30pm- 6:00pm	Feb 23-Mar 29
28988	Wed	4:30pm- 6:00pm	Apr 11-May 16
28989	Thu	4:30pm- 6:00pm	Apr 12-May 17

**LFRec.com**

Register On-Line

Anytime.....Anywhere...

## Meet the Wildlife Discovery Center Staff

Although the animals that reside at the WDC are the stars of our place, it's our amazing and talented staff that ensure that our "stars" are pampered and well taken care of. Each staff has their favorite animal and here are a few of their's:

**Rob Carmichael (Curator of the Wildlife Discovery Center):** Boy oh boy that's nearly impossible to answer. I love them all equally but there are a few that I seem to have a special connection with: "Thai" the King Cobra who I have raised from a hatchling and now he's over 9-feet long. He and I have a special "relationship" that is actually pretty neat. "Curly" the Red-Tailed Hawk is the first raptor I ever worked with and now 12 years later he's still teaching me the ropes! I thoroughly enjoy free flying him and we're best buds. And, despite being a herpetologist, I have to admit I have fallen in love with something of the Feline kind: our resident Bobcat named "Boris". All I can say is that he provides many hours of amusement and we are as close as a human and animal can be...fascinating creature!



**Lindy Van Vlissingen (Animal Keeper, Naturalist, Camp Director and Group Coordinator):**

I am torn between the very social rhinoceros iguana who tilts her head when curious and closes her eyes when touched, to the very secretive, cautious eastern screech owl who you want to hug, to the graceful bobcat who blends in so beautifully to the surrounding fields. But I am also crazy about the leaf-tail gecko and the colorful gaboon viper. Moms don't have favorites!

**Sandra Kooper (Marketing Coordinator):** My favorite animal at the WDC is Curly the Red-Tailed Hawk. Why? To me, hawks are such incredible symbols of power and freedom. They teach us how to soar above everything to get a clear view of the "big picture." In spite of his tough start in life, Curly is so vocal and just seems to be glad to be alive. He is an incredibly beautiful bird with so much to teach visitors.



**Gavin Brink (Animal Keeper, Instructor):** As Founder of SoLA (Snakes of Latin America), I am biased towards Latin American animals. Last year our resident pair of Eyelash Vipers I care for had babies that I thoroughly enjoyed raising. That was a fun and rewarding task getting in touch with my "maternal" side.

**Rebecca Brezinsky (Animal Keeper, Outreach, Instructor):** My favorite animal at the WDC is our Green Tree Python. While working with him, I've enjoyed watching his caudal lure or "wiggling his tail" when he wants to attract prey. When he's not thinking about food you can see him coiled on his perch.



**Jessica Wadleigh:** I am currently attending Elmhurst College majoring in Biology. I have a dream of becoming a herpetologist. I love cryptic coloration in animals, so some of my favorite WDC animals include the Gaboon Viper and the Copperhead as well as the beautiful Panther Chameleons. Working with birds of prey is also an important part of my life. I completed a raptor management course that has helped me to better understand how to work with them. Working at the WDC allows me to learn as much about these animals from experts and through hands on experience that I could not receive anywhere else.



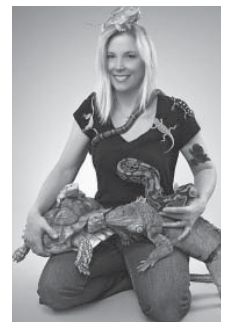
**Matthew Most:** I'm a visiting graduate student and intern at the Wildlife Discovery Center. In 2008 I graduated from Loyola University of Chicago with a Bachelors of Science with an emphasis in Ecology. Following graduation in 2008, I decided to further my education and obtain a graduate degree in Herpetology from Loyola University. I'm completing my Master's research concerning the Eastern Garter Snake population on LFOLA and City property near Elawa Farm and I enjoy sharing my passion for native herptofauna with many of our visitors and students.



**John Bellah:** I have always enjoyed working with animals, reptiles in particular. I'm hoping to continue on with Graduate School doing research on reptiles, specifically on endangered species. Currently, I'm a senior Biology major at St. Xavier University. I enjoy working at the WDC because of the wide variety of animals that I get to interact with and learn from.



**Deb Krohn:** I graduated in 1996 from Iowa State University with a bachelor's in Wildlife Biology and a specialization in Environmental Education and have been a professional naturalist ever since. My love for reptiles and amphibians brought me to the WDC where my favorite animals are Flora, the rhino iguana, and Sid, the giant blackthroat monitor.



## SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Enhance your curriculum with a field trip to the Wildlife Discovery Center. Students in grades K-12 can learn about wildlife conservation through our creative programs, with the help of over 150 of our resident animals. **Start planning an eco-based learning experience today!**

## ANIMALS ON THE GO

Looking for a special guest or two for your event? The animals of WDC can travel to your gathering and bring you a fun, entertaining, interactive, and educational event all rolled into one. Prices range from \$150-\$800. **Give us a call and we can help you plan a spectacular event.**

## WILDLIFE BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Looking for a unique and totally "wild" party? The Wildlife Discovery Center has the perfect room to hold your gathering, with kitchen facilities, if needed. You can also plan to visit our incredible animal exhibits. Prices range from \$275-\$375. **To book your party contact Rob at [Carmichr@cityoflakeforest.com](mailto:Carmichr@cityoflakeforest.com) or call 847-810-3663.**



## Visiting the Wildlife Discovery Center

Come see one of the finest public reptile exhibits in the area as well as outdoor raptor, bobcat and Kookaburra exhibits. During our regular visiting hours, you can talk with our animal keepers and meet some of our amazing animals.

### INDOOR EXHIBIT HOURS\*

**Friday and Saturday:** 10:00 am-4:00 pm

**Sunday:** Noon-4:00 pm

*\*Closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1*

### OUTDOOR ANIMAL EXHIBITS

Open year round

### INDOOR EXHIBIT ADMISSION

**Thanks to a generous donation the WDC is now FREE ADMISSION!**

Donations are always welcomed and appreciated to help us take care of our animals.



## EARN SCOUT BADGES

The Wildlife Discovery Center's extensive reptile collection makes us particularly qualified to help Boy and Girl Scouts meet the requirements for the Reptile and Amphibian badge and a number of other activities.

We can also help you earn eight additional merit badges, including:

- Bird Study
- Camping
- Fish and Wildlife Management
- Mammal Study
- Nature
- Orienteering
- Pets
- Tracking



**Minimum group size:** 10

**Fee:** R: \$5 and NR: \$8

**Information:** Contact Lindy VanVlissingen at 847-331-9832

*NOTE: There is an additional \$5 fee for each patch.*

The Wildlife Discovery Center is located at:

1401 Middlefork Drive  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

847-810-3663

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



**Thank you to some of our great friends & partners:**

- Chicago Wilderness
- The Negaunee Foundation
- The Max Schewitz Foundation
- Lake Forest Open Lands Association
- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- Lake County Forest Preserve
- Kinnucan Tree Experts & Landscape Co.
- Pasquesi Home and Gardens
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- LF Jr Garden Club
- Open Lands Chicago
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- Knauz Motors
- BTG International Ltd.
- Lake Forest Hardware