



# WILD TIMES

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Ribbon cutting ceremony opening the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in July 1983.

## SILVER *and* GOLD

By Ann Bugeda, Chief of Interpretive Services

Is it possible to enjoy both Silver and Gold celebrations in the same year? It is at Lake Metroparks Penitentiary Glen Reservation, where both the Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center and Lake Shore Live Steamers are celebrating 25 years of service (silver) and Lake Metroparks is celebrating 50 years of forward thinking early leadership, conservation and education accomplishments and the history of the parks (gold). Park visitors have enjoyed historical park tours, living history programs, historical displays and photographs and the human stories intertwined with some of our lesser-explored park areas.

This year our good friends and excellent volunteers of the Lake Shore Live Steamers celebrate their silver anniversary. LSLs operates the miniature steam powered railroad that puffs and pulls train cars of visitors through the woodlands of Penitentiary Glen Reservation.

Many beautiful Sunday afternoons find railroad enthusiasts (young and old!) enjoying the fun of the ride and the beauty of the hemlock forests along the edge of the gorge. Since the first public train ride was offered in July 1983, almost 200,000 people have ridden the rails at Penitentiary Glen Reservation.

Our first public Lake Shore Live Steamers train ride was the same afternoon as the original ribbon cutting for the park district's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. A ribbon cutting and dedication was followed by facility tours, train rides and an outdoor concert. Committed to the first aid, care and release of injured and orphaned Ohio wildlife as well as education programs about wildlife and conservation, the center has grown in expertise and outreach over the years. The Center was rededicated in 2002 as the Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center and now cares for more than 2,000 animals each year with an approximate release rate of 50%. Educational efforts now serve a 13 county area in northeast Ohio and thousands of people have received our conservation message.



The early days of Lake Shore Live Steamers.

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TO SEE WHAT THE FUTURE BRINGS!**