



Living Science program director Nerri Neill puts a baby nurse shark back into a pool after giving children an opportunity to pet it.

Kids spend vacation with sharks

By Susan Buck
staff writer

IF YOU'RE a kid, it's an unusual way to spend your holiday vacation — with sharks.

Thirty youngsters who participated in the Holiday Science Semester Camp at the Living Science Foundation in Novi did just that last week during a marine biology laboratory.

They dug into salt water tubs for sea anemones and sponges, patted a nurse shark that swam along the edges of a kiddie pool and still wanted more.

LSF is in its ninth year of school education. It's a traveling road show of sorts that visits gifted students. The foundation brings a petting zoo of exotic animal and aquatic life into schools and unfolds new kinds of life before youthful eyes.

AT THURSDAY'S session, program director Terri Neill and classroom interpreter Karen Wendt (who fills the communication gap between animals and humans) provided leadership to the class, which split into two groups.

"Animals that don't have backbones are made up of cartilage like your nose and ears," Neill said.

"I have a Freddie Krueger sponge in the back, it's a finger sponge," Wendt said. "You'll see it."

Wendt talked about how pieces of natural sponges can, when split apart, rejoin.

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(classroom interpreter Karen) Wendt said.

"Have you ever seen a jelly fish?" Wendt asked her group.

"I have a poker card of one of them," responded one child.

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gross eaters," Wendt said.

In a back room, Neill showed the shedded skeletons of aquatic animals. "Get that good slime," Neil said.

"Yuehhh," groaned the youngsters.

Cousins Jenna Tremblay, 8, of Farmington Hills and a Detroit Country Day student, and Benjamin Harwood, 7, of Farmington Hills and a Roper School student, as well as Rachael Yost, from the state of Maryland, were enthralled with a calico crab.

Harwood said that attendance at the science camp was his family's Hanukkah gift to his cousins.

"I LIKE this camp a lot," Harwood said, "better than any other camp I have ever been to."

Neill explained the difference between natural and man-made, square sponges. "Those are the kind that are used for limos," a child said.

"Jelly fish, coral and sea anemones are hollow-gut animals," Neill said. That means that they spit out the food they can't use.

Then the youngsters saw the nurse sharks, so named because it sounds like they are nursing. They grow to 15 feet in length.

"Did you see all the shark jaws at the front door when you entered?" Neill asked.

"More people have been bitten by nurse sharks than by any other shark."

For a brief time, the wide-eyed youngsters entered a strange, new world.



SHARON LEM/EUX/staff photographer
Evan Rubin, 7½, of Farmington Hills, looks at some sea horses in a jar.

Attention-getting trials make name for attorney

Continued from Page 1

the rest of their adult lives in prison is a heavy one, Kaluzny said. His barometer is that if he can go home after a trial and sleep that night, he's done his best.

"I CONSCIOUSLY try not to judge my clients. They want you to believe they're innocent. Whether you believe it or not, you go and defend them," Kaluzny said. "Each client deserves the best representation possible."

Client Steven Soman Jr., a former West Bloomfield resident, is accused of 49 counts of rape, robbery and burglary involving 10 victims, ages 12-61, in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township and Independence Township in late 1978 and spring 1988.

Client Bruce Christopher Michaels, of Pontiac, is one of two teenagers accused of kidnaping and killing Wanda and Glen Farr of Rochester Hills last month.

Both cases have drawn immense scrutiny from the media.

Kaluzny is getting used to the large volume of media calls following his recent cases, though he avoids talking about the cases or clients outside of what already has taken place in the courtroom.

In a case a year ago, Kaluzny defended a woman who swore that she was hearing voices telling her to kill her mother-in-law. She was convicted of second degree murder.

These cases are difficult for the families of the defendants, the attorney said, because there is no feeling of empathy for them or a place to vent their frustration with families of victims.

JURIES ARE another tough facet of a defendant's trial, regardless of whether the case has a lot of publicity or not, because the panel is there to convict, Kaluzny said.

"You ask questions in voir dire (the jury selection) to eliminate obvious prejudices but you still have that burden to overcome. Juries try to be fair, but they assume the person is guilty. As the defense attorney, I try to be aware. I want to see the defendant get a fair trial."

The numerous media calls are answered, but Kaluzny still feels uneasy and is concerned about "ethical questions" of that type of publicity. He is particularly sensitive about the number of interviews given.

"If I were to ask for a change in venue for one of the cases because of pre-trial publicity and the judge were to see that I might have generated some of that public-

ty, it would make the motion more difficult," Kaluzny explained.

While tip-toeing on those grounds, Kaluzny said he "gets a kick out of" his parents, wife and two sons enjoying the media attention the cases have given him.

"IT'S AMAZING how many people read the papers," the attorney said, adding that his sons' friends comment on his appearances on television news as well.

But the road from his youth in Detroit to his Birmingham law offices has not been a straight line. He originally intended to spend his career as a teacher rather than a barrister.

Kaluzny graduated from Cooley High School, got his bachelor's degree in physical education and began an eight-year stint with the Southfield Public Schools. He served as a gym teacher and then, after earning a master's degree in guidance and counseling, became a school counselor.

As a newlywed, he entered the Detroit College of Law in 1968.

"My poor wife was left alone a lot. She was very supportive and encouraged me to go to law school but she put up with a lot. I worked during the day and then went to school at night. Weekends were for studying and watching sports on television," he said.

With graduation in 1972, he got a job in the Oakland County prosecutor's office, though in law school he had never planned on practicing criminal law.

HIS FIRST day in the office, County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson handed him 14 cases. He stumbled through that first day, not knowing where to stand or how to call a case but that day began a five-year stint.

"I loved trials," he said. "And as a prosecutor, you're the good guy — you're on the side of law and order. The defense attorney is seen as the bad guy. People want to know how we can defend people like that — until their kids get in trouble."

Kaluzny went to the "other side" in 1977 when he and Young formed their partnership. Being a partner and an active attorney still means long days and few vacations. His 19-year-old son is contemplating entering law school after graduating from the University of Michigan, though dad is offering some advice.

"I love what I do, but I told him to go into negligence — that's where the money is. Those kinds of attorneys are driving Porsches."

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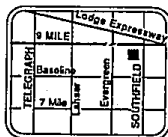
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Golf range on Hills border rejected

A 20-acre golf driving range proposed for a historic site on the Farmington Hills border was denied by neighboring Livonia Dec. 20

The Livonia City Council unanimously killed a proposal which would have turned acreage at Greenmead Historical Village on Eight Mile Road into a driving range. The proposal was made by

Livonia real estate agent Louis Rosayne.

The council also voted 4-3 to study future uses for the 102-acre Greenmead site. It asked for reports from Mayor Robert Bennett, the parks and recreation commission, the historical commission and the historic preservation commission.

Livonia councilman Robert Blahip, who has opposed other uses

for Greenmead including soccer fields, also opposed even asking for additional reports. "I don't want to send out any signal... that we ought to spade the ground at Greenmead," he said. "Greenmead should be left alone."

Greenmead is on the south side of Eight Mile, just west of Halsted/Newburg.