

<b>Code</b>	902013
<b>Subject</b>	Rich Horton
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Interviewer</b>	
<b>Abstract</b>	Richard Horton, longtime Director of the Shaker Lakes Nature Center, talks about the history of the Center and describes in detail many of the educational programs, public events and fund-raising campaigns, staff development programs, and conservation campaigns carried out by the Center during his tenure. Additionally, Horton offers his own insights on environmental education and parks management. Interview contains biographical information.

**minutes:**

- 0 Introduction, early love of outdoors
- 1 \_\_\_\_attended Hiram College, advisor Dr. James Barrow, biology
- 2 \_\_\_\_Teaching Life Sciences and Earth Space Science at Warrensville Jr. H.S.  
\_\_\_\_Teaching Life Sciences and advanced Biology at University School in lower grades, working summers at Shaker Lakes Nature Center, Gary Nelson: First full time director of
- 3 SLNC  
\_\_\_\_Gary Nelson as a naturalist prankster and early influence to Horton's life as nature
- 4 educator
- 5 Horton becomes director of summer programs for SLNC in 1975
- 6 SLNC staff in 1970s and 1980s
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- 8 Development of programming at SLNC: beginning of preschool programming- Nature Nursery
- 9 \_\_\_\_extensive Saturday programming for kids and families, Shaker history, Shaker dancing  
\_\_\_\_Celebration of Light, Halloween Enchanted Forrest attracts tremendous crowds in
- 10 inaugural year  
Cleveland Public Schools experiences financial problems and closes all outside programming,
- 11 has a negative affect on SLNC  
SLNC staff and program development: first naturalists hired, schools contracted to use
- 12 SLNC
- 13 \_\_\_\_Sequential and developmental experiences for public elementary students
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\_\_\_\_growing staff development, growth of Earth Education, mission of environmental
- 15 education
- 16 \_\_\_\_Earth Keepers program: labs, fun and meaningful experiences, teaching conservation
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- 18 \_\_\_\_children educating parents about conservation,
- 19 Docent lead programming at SLNC
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- 21 Doan Brook
- 22 \_\_\_\_Doan Brook Water Commission: development of land management plan
- 23 Expansion of original SLNC building and grounds: best and worst aspects, description
- 24 \_\_\_\_growth of SLNC leads to plans for new building expansion  
\_\_\_\_All Peoples Trail: barrier-free trail, gift of annonymos donor, mostly elevated
- 25 boardwalk, helped preserve the marsh land
- 26 \_\_\_\_Schmidt-Copeland design firm
- 27 \_\_\_\_Sterns Memorial Trail: addition of new bridges, preserving land
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- 29 \_\_\_\_Growth of the center, Board development, evolution of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_struggle over direction of the SLNC between Horton and Board, Horton steps down as  
30 director of SLNC  
31 Working with public school systems, Volunteers and Docents: diversity of interests

32 Women's Committee of the Shaker Lakes Nature Center: started the first gift shop at SLNC  
33 \_\_\_\_\_Women's Committee brings in own programing and takes on major fundraising  
34 \_\_\_\_\_The Party in the Park annual fund raising event  
35 Fund raising for SLNC: annual fund, development of membership, capitol campaigns  
36 \_\_\_\_\_grant writing success  
Park users creating own trails lead to damage of natural areas, Need for SLNC to create  
37 specific trails  
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Partnership with Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, Cleveland. White Aimer Fish: sterile,  
39 non-native species, introduced to control algae problems  
40 failed to successfully reintroduce frogs to SLNC, Two Major Floods  
41 Two major floods in two years  
42 Staff and Volunteers: High quality, dedicated, skilled, rewarding experiences  
43 40th Birthday Celebration of SLNC  
44 SLNC collaboration with Cuyahoga Valley National Parks Association  
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