

BACK TO THE WILD

A rock for a rocker



Register photo/ROBIN HECKER

George Gast holds up a memorial to his son Scott while wife Melanae and son Bryan Gast stand beside him at Back to the Wild.

Back to the Wild honors late musician with stone marker

By **ANDY OURIEL**

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MARGARETTA TWP.

Scott Gast's life passions greatly ranged: music, faith and especially family.

But he also deeply cared for all creatures.

"Scott loved animals," his

father George Gast said. "Not only was he kind to people, but to animals as well. If dogs were barking at each other or at people, all Scott had to do was go up to them and they would calm down. I don't know how to explain that."

Even after his death, Scott's living legacy continues to help

animals stay alive.

After the frontman for the CoCoBeanOs died in an automobile crash last November, Scott's family asked people to donate money toward worthy causes.

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Want to help?

■ Mail donations to Back to the Wild at P.O. Box 423, 4505 Bardshar Road, Castalia, OH, 44824.

■ Learn more: call 419-685-9539, go to backtothewild.com.

GAST

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Among the places where donations went: Back to the Wild, a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation center, which helps return injured or sick animals to their natural habitats. The center runs as an independent operation and depends solely on donations to keep afloat.

In Scott's memory, Back to the Wild received about \$2,000, which went toward nursing many of the 2,500 or so animals the center treats each year.

To show their appreciation, volunteers on Wednesday gave the family a tour of the Margaretta Township facility.

They also donated a paver for Scott, a 2002 Margaretta High School graduate. The brick will get placed in a wildlife walkway, a prominent area near a bald eagle and other animals.

"We just wanted to acknowledge Scott and his family with this memorial," Back to the Wild founder Mona Rutger said. "When people visit, they'll know that Scott was one of the true friends to wildlife and our cause."

The paver reads:

Scott G. Gast

Musician — Banker

April 13, 1984

Nov. 2, 2014

A wonderful, caring person —
always kind — with a big smile who
loved all animals.



A paver brick was dedicated in honor of Scott Gast on Wednesday at Back to the Wild in Margaretta Township.

Register photo/ROBIN HECKER

OFFICER

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Put-in-Bay resident Scott Bellinger and Put-in-Bay Resort owner Mark Mathys previously told the Register they thought Lampela and Korossy were using social media to harass and intimidate people from coming forward with complaints.

Someone using the name "Bruce Kroger" on Facebook posted disparaging information about Mathys and village councilman Jeff Koehler before the page was deactivated.

It's unclear if Bellinger and Mathys' claims against Korossy are related to the witness intimidation complaints Tomaro checked on after Lampela was charged in March.

Ottawa County Sheriff Steve Levorchick's full report into Lampela's alleged misconduct is still kept under wraps by the attorney general's office. Tierney cited an exemption that would let them keep the full investigative report secret. The report likely won't be released until after Lampela's trial. The same exemption is being used to keep details from the public about Korossy's alleged wrongdoing.