



The Nature Center Stream



Spring

The Seasonal Newsletter of the MK Nature Center

2010

MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

DON'T MISS FACE-TO-FISH DAYS!

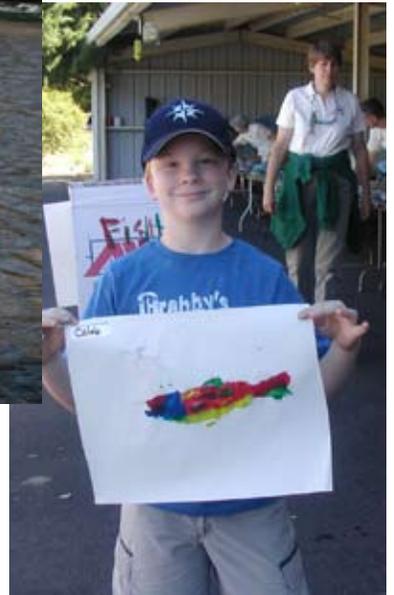
What is your favorite face-to-fish encounter? Come to the MK Nature Center for Face-to-Fish Days; try gyotaku; get in the Boise River; put your nose on the glass; take the Streamwalk. Learn more and have some fun at this brand new signature anniversary event as we showcase all of your favorite programs. We are celebrating 20 years of "face-to-fish" encounters at this not-to-miss anniversary special event!

We are seeking event sponsors and volunteers for this event. Please contact Cass Meissner by e-mail at cass.meissner@idfg.idaho.gov or by phone at **208-287-2901**.

Event schedule coming soon. Date: **July 8, 9 and 10 2010**. Time: **9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Cost: **Free**. Donations welcomed!



BBQ Friday night and
Ice Cream Social
Saturday!



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This year the MKNC celebrates 20 years of service to the community. Of course we are all about education, and at MK, education comes in many forms. It is most recognizable in our classroom and in the hoards of students being lead on the Streamwalk, or down to the Boise River for a Class in the Creek program. But education also looks like Susan covered in mud teaching some “walk-on” customer about our native plants or mink or herons. And it looks like someone in the nature center lobby learning about Pacific Lamprey or Lonesome Larry or crayfish. And education looks like one of our many events: Creatures of the Night, International Migratory Bird Day, Idaho Salmon and Steelhead Days.

In this, our 20th year, we reflect on our purpose and progress, and perhaps more importantly, we build for the future. With continued help from our supporters and volunteers, we will produce two new major events. On July 8-10, Face-to-Fish Days will offer our programs to the general public so they too, can enjoy what 10,000 students experience every year. On September 16, we will host the first-ever Dinner at the Nature Center, a fundraiser to provide the support we need for enhanced performance. A catered sit-down dinner will let you, for a price, have dinner at your favorite nature center location- the waterfall, the bridge, the hummingbird/butterfly garden or maybe even Dave & Sara’s office, definitely a unique experience. As always, our success will depend on our dedicated constituency. Thanks in advance for your help with these birthday events.

MK HOSTS ROD LOANER PROGRAM

Idaho Department of Fish and Game’s Rod Loaner Program has been around for more than 15 years. Created to entice Idahoans to GO FISHING, the program provides FREE fishing rods and offers an educational fishing license to participants.



MK Nature Center is the newest host for the Rod Loaner Program. Stocked with 24 fishing poles, hooks, bait and bobbers, MKNC can provide groups with all they need to go fishing at nearby Parkcenter Pond or any other local fishing destination.

Our first participants were students from Boise’s Jr. High Schools. Twenty students braved the blustery day and tried their luck with fishing. Two of our Master Naturalist volunteers, Louis Dewitt and Tom McGrath, helped the kids load their worms and cast into the water. Nobody caught a fish that day, but the kids did not seem to care. They sent Louis and Tom beautiful thank you cards expressing their joy with learning how to fish.



Idaho Master Naturalist Louis Dewitt and a Jr. High Student fish at Parkcenter Pond.

Sierra, a Jr. High Student and Master Naturalist, Tom McGrath put on the worm,

MK PAINTS THE TOWN!

On February 19th, MK Nature Center staff, Idaho Master Naturalists, and Laura Stewart's sixth grade class from Roosevelt Elementary School finished a 140 foot mural in downtown Boise.

The mural is on the wall that borders the large hole on the corner of 8th and Main Street.

The Boise City Department of Arts and History manages the mural space for the city and gave MK Nature Center the opportunity to advertise our 20th anniversary with our signature swimming fish. Thank you to Josh Olson from the Boise City Arts and History Department, ACHD, Craig Ballhagen from GUILD Mortgage, and Home Depot for helping create the downtown mural space.



Top photo, Boise Mayor, Dave Beiter (left) and IDFG Deputy Director, Virgil Moore (right) help celebrate the mural. Middle photo, Master Naturalists Patty McGrath, Ken Coleman, Tim McNeil, Kathyl Glass, and Sharron Johansen pose in front of the mural after helping paint it. Bottom photo, Laura Stewart's sixth grade class from Roosevelt Elementary School celebrate their work of art.



EVENTS



For more information on all these events, call MK Nature Center 334-2225 or email Cass Meissner at cass.meissner@idfg.idaho.gov

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April 17, 2010 Be Outside Day 2:00-4:00 pm FREE

Come to the MK Nature Center and enjoy outside activity stations for Be Outside Day. Make a mud pie, inspect tree bark up close, watch birds from a bird blind, take a micro hike and more. Volunteers and nature center staff will be making this 3rd Saturday program a fun day to learn!



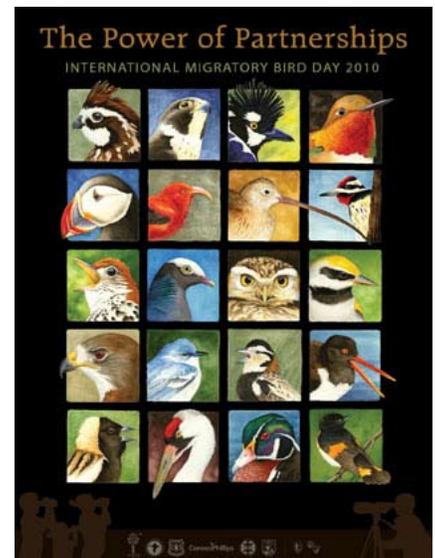
April 18, 2010 Silent Secret of Snakes 1:00pm \$5/person over 3 years of age

Wildlife educator Frank Lundburg will present a special program for the public with live snakes including both exotic and native species. Lundburg educates the public on topics such as the care and safe handling of reptiles as well as the natural history of the animals. Rattlesnake awareness and outdoor safety will be covered as well.

April 24, 2010 Idaho Native Plant Sale
See back page article

May 8th, 2010 International Migratory Bird Day 9am-4pm \$1.00 donation

Join the MK Nature Center staff educators, volunteers, and partners for a day of learning activity stations, live bird presentations, birding walks, face painting, nature arts, wood carving demonstrations, netting and bird banding, prizes and fun for the entire family. Picnicking will be available. Our partners for 2010 include; Idaho Bird Observatory, Bureau of Land Management, Boise National Forest, Golden Eagle Audubon, Idaho Master Naturalist Sage Brush Steppe Chapter, Idaho Watchable Wildlife, Anser Charter School, Borah High school students and more.

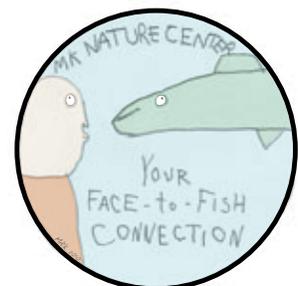


June 12, 2010 Free Fishing Day 9:00am 2:00pm FREE

Come to the Park Center Ponds for a day of free fishing. The MK Nature Center will be on hand with gyotaku (fish printing). Idaho Department of Fish and Game Fishing Trailer will have loaner fishing rods available. BBQ lunch, activities and prizes !

July 8, 9, 10th, 2010 Face-to-Fish Days

See front page article



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BILL HOPKINS-SIMPLY THE BEST!



Linn French, upon learning of Bill's passing said it best; "They just don't make 'em like that anymore, do they Davey?" No Frenchy, they sure don't. Bill was ever gracious and kind. He always had something positive and informative to offer. He created a very calming, encouraging and loving atmosphere about him. Needless to say, everyone loved Bill, and those of us at the Nature Center were doubly blessed by being counted as family.

On one of Bill's last visits to the MKNC, he sat on one of our "pews". He was on a walker then and having some trouble getting up and down. Well somehow the question came up, "So how are you doing Bill?" Bill, only as he could deliver it, then remarked, leaving us with some very sage advice, "I'm ok as long as I keep my fanny above my knees". And with that a new Nature Center mantra was born. So even as we struggle to keep our heads above water, we remember to keep our fannies above our knees.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



We are happy to introduce Mami Maeda from Japan. Mami volunteers at MK Nature Center as part of the Intensive English Program at BSU. She has been sent to Boise by the company that employs her, Itochu, to improve her English (which is already very good) and study business and culture. She staffs the front desk, helps with inside chores, and assists MK staff with prepping for programs. Mami has a bright and cheerful personality and we are happy she has joined team!

The MKNC gift shop has new wildlife bandanas. Choose from Animal Tracks, Birds of Prey, Butterflies, Songbirds, Hummingbirds, Wildflowers and a bandana that is a game board for an outdoor game!

We have new children's umbrellas, wildlife masks and bookmarks. Your purchases at the MKNC gift shop help support our educational programs. Shop soon and often!

WILDLIFE BANDANAS-NEW AT OUR GIFT SHOP!



DON'T MISS THE 2010 NATIVE PLANT SALE

Many people are switching over to NATIVE PLANTS? Why? Because they are beautiful, they attract watchable wildlife, they improve wildlife habitat, they use less water, and they are part of Idaho's natural heritage.

Planting local, native plants can be an enjoyable task, except when you are trying to find these plants at local nurseries. Many local nurseries don't carry native plants. No need to worry, the Pahove Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) will be hosting the famous annual Native Plant Sale on April 24th, 2010.

This hugely popular fund raiser gives area native plant enthusiasts an opportunity to choose from a large selection of plants, talk to knowledgeable botanists and help support the INPS and the Nature Center. This year, we have ordered MORE plants, so lines will be shorter and check-out should be smoother.

On April 23rd, there will be a pre-sale for "members only" from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. Only *Current members* of the Pahove Chapter can shop on this day. Memberships can be purchased at this pre-sale event.

Call Susan for details or directions to the Nature Center: **208-867-6188**



You can buy a native syringa bush at the native plant sale (pictured above and to the right). The syringa is Idaho's state flower, is very fragrant in the spring and attracts butterflies!

