



# The Nature Center Stream



S P R I N G

The Seasonal Newsletter of the MK Nature Center

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## WILDLIFE GALLERY GETS FACE LIFT

The MK Nature Center received some much needed funding from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Bureau in 2011. This money is helping remodel our wildlife gallery. Our impressive taxidermied mounts will now be situated in a beautifully painted and constructed habitat. Local artist Ward Hooper is the mastermind behind the project. Susan Ziebarth, Dave Cannamela and countless other employees and volunteers have pitched in to paint, sheetrock, plaster, and build.

This room remodel signifies an effort to teach people about the North American model of Wildlife Management and Conservation. The way North America manages wildlife is unique around the world and successful!

Wildlife, in our model, is in the public trust as opposed to being privately owned. Wildlife conservation is paid for by sportspeople buying licenses and permits to hunt, fish, and trap wildlife.

Stay tuned for the announcement of our open house to celebrate our newly remodeled room! A special thanks to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Bureau!

Stay tuned for our open house!



*Susan Ziebarth, sheet rocks in a new wall near our snake cage. The background, painted by Hooper represents the Idaho desert.*

*MK Nature Center-Your Face-to-Fish Connection*

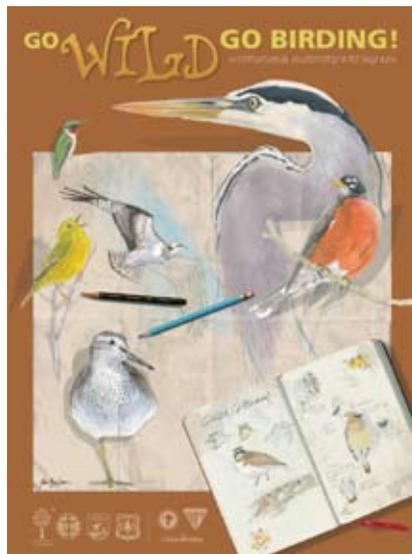


## DAVEY GOES TO DC

*Dave Cannamela, MK Nature Center Superintendent*

It was crowded! Because the Nature Center hosts two GK-12 students, I was invited to and funded for the GK-12 national conference in D.C. in March. The conference brought together GK-12 students from all over the country to spotlight their work and discuss and explore the efficacy of the GK-12 program. (The program, funded by the National Science Foundation, puts scientists in the classroom for the benefit of both the grad student and the K-12 students.) Almost 700 graduate students attended: I was amazed to see the volume and diversity of projects these “kids” are working on. Despite my introverted nature, I met and chatted with many of them. I was encouraged by their enthusiasm and outgoing personalities. It occurred to me that the program was putting the right “kids” in the classrooms. That certainly applies to the BSU students in the program who have been teaching with us at MK, the Foothills Learning Center, and the Boise Watershed. A thank you to Dr. Karen Viskupic of BSU who coordinates the program and made it possible for MK to participate in the GK-12 program and get me to the conference. Notably, at the conference, she facilitated a session on Outdoor Education that was very well received.

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY-MAY 14TH



Bird enthusiasts of all ages, come enjoy International Migratory Bird Day. Visitors can GO Birding, do some owl pellet investigation, watch wood carving demonstrations, play in bird Olympics, get face painted, do some nature arts, and more.

Get WILD at our new woodpeckers and waterfowl stations. The Anser Charter School Kindergarten students will once again be selling their hand-made bird cards, as well as showcasing student bird projects. Biologists and experts from Boise National Forest, Idaho Bird Observatory, Idaho Fish and Game and Golden Eagle Audubon Society will be on hand to share their expertise. Picnicking will be available in the formal backyard of the nature center.

When:  
Saturday, May 14

Time:  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cost:  
Requested  
donation - \$1.00.

### Scheduled Events

- Live Bird Banding - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Birds of Prey Program (live birds) - 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Burrowing Owl (live bird) - 11 a.m.
- Guided Bird Walks (along Boise greenbelt) - 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

# UNPLUGGED AND OUTSIDE!



**April 25-30, 2011**

On average, children spend more than 40 hours a week in front of a “screen” (TV, video games, computers). By the time the average person reaches the age of 70, he or she will have spent the equivalent of 7 to 10 years watching TV. Spending too much time in front of the “screen” is associated with numerous negative consequences. For example, children who watch more TV are more likely to be overweight and perform poorly in school.

## **Unplug and Be Outside Community Activities:**

*Unplug and Be Outside* is a *Be Outside, Idaho* week long community event that encourages families to “unplug” from the TV, video game consoles, computer games and go explore outdoor activities. For a full list of community activities that promote being active outdoors and nature visit [www.unplugandbeoutside.com](http://www.unplugandbeoutside.com)

## **Unplug and Be Outside Passport Card:**

Look for the *Unplug and Be Outside* passport card or download a passport on the *Unplug and Be Outside* website. Children who attend three or more events during the *Unplug and Be Outside* week will be entered to win drawing prizes.

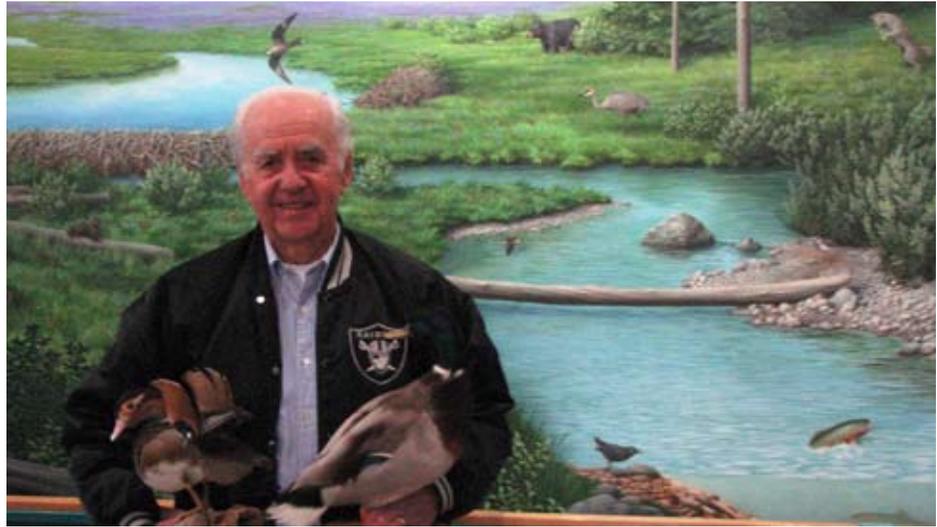
[www.unplugandbeoutside.com](http://www.unplugandbeoutside.com)



Photo courtesy  
Deniz Aygen



# DONATION OF TAXIDERMIED BIRDS



*A heartfelt THANK YOU to Donald L. Peters for his generous donation of taxidermied game birds to our collection. Don donated a mountain quail, Eurasian widgeon, cinnamon teal, and a mallard among others. We gained 16 mounts in all and they are lovely.*

For over 20 years Biomark has been a worldwide supplier in electronic identification technology to the fish, wildlife and other natural resource conservation communities.

## WEBCAM SPONSORS FOUND!

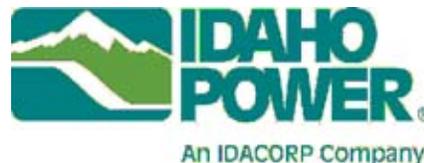
Biomark Inc., of Boise, generously donated enough money for us to pay for our webcam streaming for a year! Thank you to Dean Park and his employees for their continued dedication to the Nature Center!



<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/mknc/fishCam/>

## NEW LIGHTS!

Idaho Power came to the Nature Center and changed out all of our T12 lights for T8 lights. Not only are things a little brighter, these new lights save the Nature Center money and conserve energy! For a reasonable fee, the Nature Center is greener than ever!



*MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection*

# DONOR NEEDED TO BRING ANTELOPE TO THE NATURE CENTER



We have lions, wolves and bears, oh my! But we are missing one of Idaho's coolest mammals at the Nature Center. Lucky for us, a pronghorn antelope has been offered to us for the mere price of \$700! This is too good to pass up! We are looking for a donor or several donors to help us purchase this full running mounted antelope for our remodeled wildlife room. Contact Dave Cannamela if you would like to donate or know someone who might be able to help. [david.cannamela@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:david.cannamela@idfg.idaho.gov) or 334-2225.



It seems like there is never a dull day at the Nature Center! And to prove that point, on St. Patrick's Day, we got very lucky! A bobcat paid us a visit, sunning out in the open and wandering around on the path. Thanks to Kelly Sargent, an MKNC volunteer, for having these remarkable photos to share.

# THIRD ANNUAL MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING

In January, the Nature Center, along with the Foothills Learning Center and the Idaho Botanical Garden started their 3rd annual Master Naturalist Training.

This new group of Master Naturalists are as extraordinary as the last two groups. They are now, nearly done with their training and some have already begun their 40- hours of volunteer work.

For more information on the Master Naturalist Program, contact Sara Focht at [sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov)



*Clockwise from top right: Leanne Lloyd-Fairey (Sagebrush-steppe Master Naturalist) leads the 2011 Master Naturalists on a bird walk at the Idaho Botanical Garden. Master Naturalist Vickie Hawley gives a presentation on great horned owl pellets. Edna Rey-Vizgirdas, from the Boise National Forest, leads Master Naturalists for a day at Snow School. Jennie Rylie from the Foothills Learning Center leads an owl walk. A western screech-owl was found on the walk!*

# IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SALE

When:  
Saturday, April 30

Time:  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Idaho Native Plant Society, Pahove Chapter, invites you to celebrate Native Plant Appreciation week by planting wildlife friendly plants that are well adapted to our soil and climate.

The sale, at the MK Nature Center, gives area gardeners and native plant enthusiasts an opportunity to choose from a wide selection of native plants, talk to knowledgeable botanists and help support INPS and the MK Nature Center.

Questions? Call Susan at 867-6188 or visit the INPS website.



*Sticky geranium (left) and syringa (right) are both native flowers to Idaho and are available at the native plant sale along with native, grasses, forbs and shrubs. Photos by Cyndi Coulter.*



## Licensed HUNTERS/ ANGLERS

Hunting and Fishing license money goes directly to conserving and managing game animals and game fish.



## Tax Check-off Donor

On line 35 of Idaho State Income tax form, you can donate to the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund!



## Wildlife Plate BUYERS

A % of wildlife license plate sales to go Idaho's nongame program, securing funding for species that are not hunted, fished or trapped.

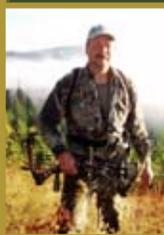


# Do YOU contribute to wildlife conservation?



## Hunting Equipment CONSUMERS

11% of the cost of bow hunting equipment, guns, and ammunition goes to the Federal Pitman-Robertson Fund, which in turn is distributed to the states for wildlife conservation.



## Fishing Equipment CONSUMERS

A % of the sales of fishing equipment, gas motorboats, and electric motors goes to the Federal Dingell-Johnson Fund, which in turn is distributed to the states for fisheries conservation and management.



*MK Nature Center-Your Face-to-Fish Connection*