



# The Nature Center Stream



S U M M E R

The Seasonal Newsletter of the MK Nature Center

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## Migratory Bird Day Art Contest Winners

*Cloe Crowe was the first place winner from White Pine Elementary School.  
More winners on page 6.*





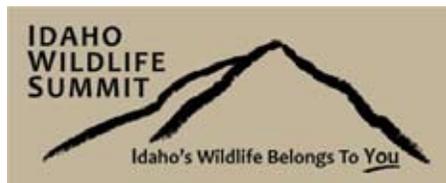
## TWO NEW TILES AND A VERY GENEROUS DONATION

*Dave Cannamela, MK Nature Center Superintendent*



We owe a great big thank you to Glenn and Leslie Hadden for their very generous donation. Glenn and Leslie “commissioned” the production of two new tiles for our wall at the back of the auditorium. So we not only have a new Dogwood and Douglas Fir to add to our collection, we also have \$1500 to support our mission. These two tiles will be hung next to four tiles donated by their relatives, the Beattys and the Andersons, when the Nature Center was built. The Hadden, Beatty, Anderson tiles now include a nice mix of flowers and pines: dogwood and Douglas

fir (Leslie and Glenn), wild rose and blue spruce (Jean and Glenn Beatty), syringa and ponderosa pine (Hazel and Andy Anderson). With the addition of these tiles, our wall is now full! The tiles were designed by Cristina Watson.



August 24-26

The Summit will provide the opportunity for us to have a conversation with Idahoans who care about wildlife. Hunters, trappers, anglers and other wildlife conservationists enjoy wildlife in many ways and they are deeply interested in how it is managed. Early last year, Fish and Game Director Virgil Moore laid out for his staff the agency’s dilemma: legal mandates and public expectations have outgrown funding sources. Now Moore wants to lay it out for the rest of Idaho. He wants to discuss how to meet those mandates and expectations without infringing on the agency’s mission of stewardship of wildlife to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing and trapping. He wants to hear ideas and look for common ground on which to develop a plan for the future. The Wildlife Summit is scheduled on August 24-26 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise.

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/summit>

# MOVING ON

It is always a little sad when people leave the Nature Center, but endings can make great beginnings. We wish these three the best of luck in their new beginnings. They have all helped move the Nature Center forward in their own special way and they will all be missed.



Cass Meissner is a wildlife educator at the Nature Center and leads our volunteer program and plans our events. Cass came to MK in 2007 as an Americorps participant and was later hired at the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 2008. Late that same year, Cass was hired at the Nature Center as a Wildlife Educator specializing in event planning and volunteer management. Cass has a wonderful way of teaching and interacting with kids. Her creativity shines through in everything she does from a simple Streamwalk tour to public events. Cass helped the MKNC staff problem solve, think outside the box and try new things...she always pushes the boundaries of what we think we can do. Her creativity and planning skills will take her far on her next adventure and we will miss her.



Keith Carter, (aka “fun guy”) came to MKNC through BSU’s GK-12 program. His year here at the Nature Center has helped us understand just how important FUNGUS is to all of us on a daily basis. Keith is a mycologist at BSU who studies fungus. In this photo, Keith is teaching about bats at Riverside Elementary School. He proved to be a very diverse teacher this year! We thank Keith for all his participation and great teaching during this busy year. Keith will be defending his Master’s Thesis graduating (we hope) and moving on to the working world. We wish him and his family the best.



Yozora Tadehara (Yo) also joined us for a year through the GK-12 program at BSU. Yozora brought her expertise in raptor biology to the Nature Center and helped us deliver programs about songbirds, falcons, owls and pretty much anything else we asked her to teach. Her enthusiastic presentation style was a hit with kids and teachers alike. Her competitive side motivated her to teach more programs at MK than the GK-12 students did the year before. Way to go, Yozora! Yozora will also be defending and graduating this summer and we wish her success in her next adventure.

## STUFFED FISH ARRIVE AT MKNC



Thanks to the excellent work of Rachel Linquist, we have new stuffed fish! We found Rachel through a friend of a friend and we are glad we did! Rachel designed, sewed and painted the fish for the Kid's Corner in the Visitor's Center. The old fish, that she replaced had served their time and were worn and weak from all the kids picking them up and flinging them around.



Sockeye Salmon

Chinook Salmon



White Sturgeon

# GRANT AWARDED TO MKNC

MK Nature Center received a grant from New Belgium Brewing Company (NBB) in May. NBB's Local Grants Program began in 1995 when it was established that for every barrel of beer produced, \$1 would be given to non-profit organizations in the communities where they sell their beers. To date, New Belgium has donated more than \$5 million. In 2012, they will donate \$700,000 to programs in 29 states.

The purpose of New Belgium's Environmental Stewardship Grants Program is to serve and connect with the communities where we sell their beers. They aim to cultivate relationships and support those making an impact. Their goal is to improve the health of the planet and inspire others to joyously embrace sustainable choices. We are happy they recognized MK Nature Center as a place where we get families outside and connected with their community and nature. We used the money to help fund International Migratory Bird Day and to buy supplies for our new living roof bicycle shed.

An additional thank you to Martha and Scott Sliney, who found the grant, wrote it and were successful at bringing the much-needed funds to the Nature Center.



# TWO MKNC EMPLOYEES RECIEVE AWARDS

*Dave Cannamela, MK Nature Center Superintendent*



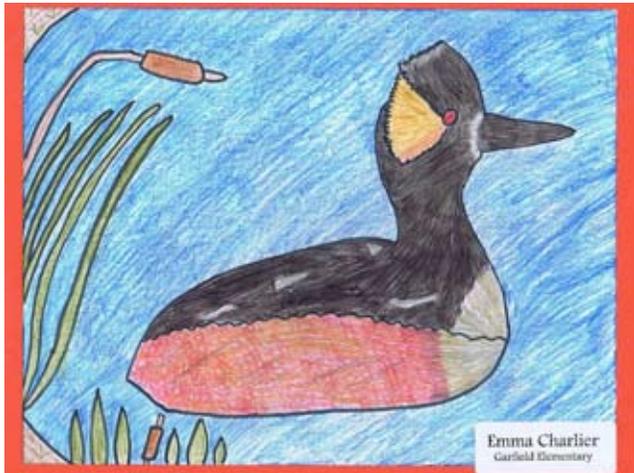
Yay! I love it when justice is served. Sara Focht and Susan Ziebarth were honored with Employee of the Year awards this year. Anyone familiar with the Nature Center knows how deserving these two are. All of our employees are amazing! Congratulations to Susan and Sara.



*Idaho Fish and Game director Virgil Moore awards Susan (left) and Sara (right) their awards at an all employee meeting.*

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

# MIGRATORY BIRD DAY ART CONTEST WINNERS



Top row: Merganser, by Emma Charlier. First place winner from Garfield Elementary

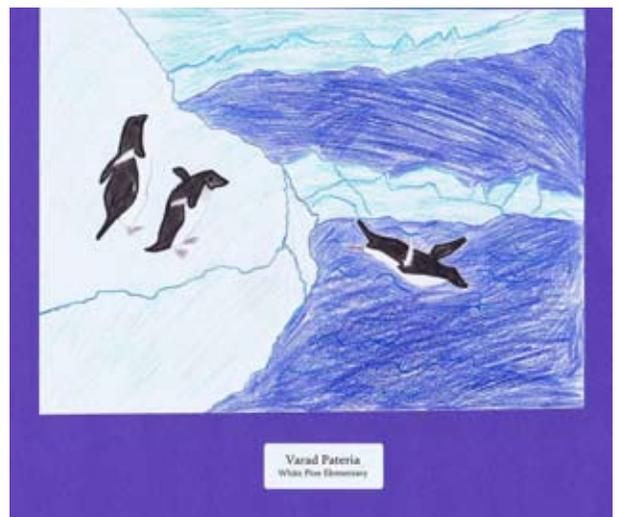
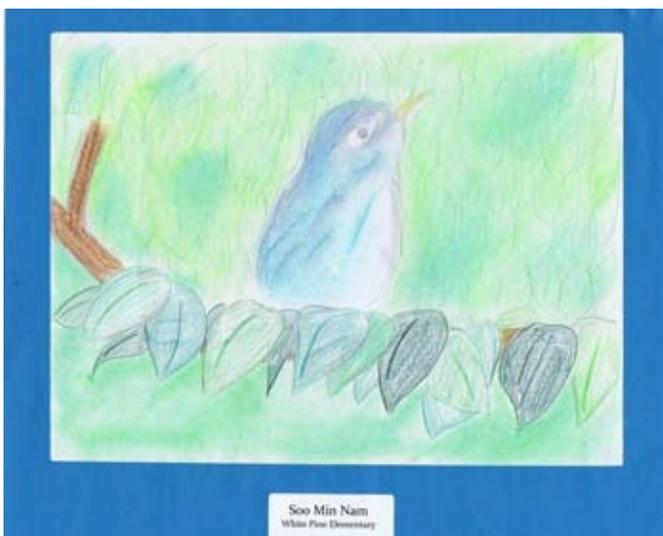
Hummingbird, by Lauren Summers. Second place from Garfield Elementary.

Middle Row: Waterbird, by Maddison Heimback. Third place from Garfield Elementary.



Bottom row: Bluebird, by Soo Min Nam. Third place from White Pine Elementary.

Penguins! by Varad Pateria. Second place from White Pine Elementary.



# NATIVE PLANT SALE-A SUCCESS!

*Susan Ziebarth, MKNC staff*



The Pahove Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society and the MK Nature Center hosted the 2012 Spring Native Plant Sale on April 28th. Native plants are purchased from growers such as Buffalo Berry Farm, Plants of the Wild, Draggin' Wing Farm, Perennial Favorites, Fourth Corner Nursery and some are donated by INPS members. The plants are organized on the sales tables into sections based on light requirements- from full sun to full shade. This, along with detailed signage about water and soil needs helps shoppers who are not botanists or experienced with gardening with natives find suitable plants for their yards.

Susan Ziebarth has been the organizer of this event for the past three years. The first year, the day before the sale, Susan made a trip in a 26 foot Ryder truck to Buffalo Berry Farm near Lake Fork, Idaho to pick up the plant order. Of course there were 50 mile an hour winds from Eagle to McCall that day. No ticket was issued by the sheriff who pulled the weaving truck over to find a terrified driver with cargo load of plants. The second year Dave accompanied her, and it snowed from Horseshoe Bend to Lake Fork. No incident with any sheriff that time. This year it was Susan, Dave and his friend Kerry, in blinding rain and moderate wind for most of the trip. Amazingly, no traffic tickets have been issued in those three years and there have been no mishaps with driving a huge high profile truck in crazy weather.

The sale was well organized and well attended; nearly sold out. Many thanks go to the skilled and dedicated volunteers of the Pahove Chapter, Sage Brush Steppe Master Naturalists, Nature Center, and CWI Horticulture interns who step in to lend a hand pulling this event together and making it a huge success. The deer only ate a few of the plants that were set out for the sale.



The Nature Center has additional native plants for sale, in case you missed the big sale. Stop by!

*Above right: Susan Zeibarth unloads the truck of native plants from Buffalo Berry Farms. Above left: Volunteers help arrange the plants before the sale. Left: Blue Flax and penstamen are some of the most popular plants sold at the Native plant sale...you can see why!*

# DELOITTE BOISE AND QUALITY TILE ROOFING INC BUILD BICYCLE SHED



Melissa Merritt from the Boise office of the worldwide financial services firm, Deloitte, instigated this project when she called to offer 40 volunteers for Deloitte Impact Day (June 9). “Jeez Louise, 40 volunteers on one day! With all the work there is to do around here, we couldn’t turn them down. One project that came to the top was a living roof bike shed for employees and customers alike. It was one of Sara’s hundreds of ideas. I got design help from Jon Whipple, one of our IDFG engineers, and Susan Zeibarth’s suggestions are always worth hearing. Deloitte supplied the building materials. Their volunteers scared me to death with their carpentry skills and I scared

them with my calculations, so it all worked out beautifully. Brian Hulse of Quality Tile Roofing Inc came to our rescue with a substantial donation of living roof, materials, advice, instructions and patience (let’s just say I challenged him). Notably, Quality has been there for the MKNC right from the start, their rubber lining is the foundation of our stream. Jackson Rice, one hard working 12 year old, helped dig the post holes and acquired some on-the-job carpentry skills. Kerry Overton (volunteer) and I burned our hands and knees last Friday afternoon laying the rubber membrane. A few details remain, but by fall Susan will have some things growing up there and hopefully there will be many bikes under cover. Thanks to all, from Deloitte and Quality Roofing Inc, to all the MKNC volunteers and employees.



*Top photo: pictured from left to right: Carlton Hurdman, David Cannamela from MKNC, David Mower, Ben Bird, Amanda Greif, Ivan Stahle, James Bird, Clark Reese, Darren Vanleulvan. Photo courtesy Deloitte. Bottom photo: Carlton Hurdman helps give the Nature Center Beaver Dam a face lift during Deloitte’s Impact Day.*

# RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

## SPECIES PROFILE

- Can be aggressive birds that sometimes dominate larger birds at feeders
- Cavity nesting
- Nuthatches are among the few non-woodpeckers that excavate their own nest cavities from solid wood
- Bark Forager for insects and spiders (beetles, caterpillars, ants, earwigs).
- Both sexes excavate the nest, but the female does most of the work. Excavation can take up to 18 days, with the cavity being 2.5 inches around and 8 inches deep.
- Nest are usually built in completely dead trees (snags), dead parts of live trees or trees with broken tops (They DO NOT like to use nest boxes)
- Both male & females apply conifer resin to entrance to deter predators.
- Breeding season April to May
- Clutch Size 2 to 8 eggs
- Incubate eggs for 12 to 15 days
- Both male and female tend to the young which fledge in about 18 to 21 days