



The Nature Center Stream



W I N T E R

The Seasonal Newsletter of the MK Nature Center

2 0 1 1

DONATIONS KEEP MKNC AFLOAT

Dave Cannamela, MKNC Superintendent

Thirteen year old Zachary Clayton stopped by the Nature Center on December 10th (with his mom Jennifer) to give us a check for \$144 as a donation “to help the nature center teach the public about the environment.”

Steve and Jennifer Clayton have been coming here with their kids, Zach and Naomi, for several years now. They are long-time supporters, volunteers, and friends. A few years ago I helped Zach with a sculpin project for school. He thanked me with cookies and a note; the note is still hanging above my desk! Zach loves the nature center, hence the donation. Naturally, it's very cool to have a 13 year old boy make a donation like this of his own doing, but there's a story within the story. Why \$144? Well, 144 is a multiple of 18. In Hebrew each letter has a numerical equivalent. The Hebrew word for life, chai, has a numerical equivalent of 18. So, Zachary, being the awesome kid that he is, decided to give a portion of the money he received for his Bar Mitzvah to the nature center. Eight times 18 to be exact.

A great big thank you to Zachary for his thoughtful donation to MK Nature Center. We depend on donors like Zach to meet our budgetary needs each year!



Zachary Clayton hands over his donation to Dave Cannamela, MKNC Superintendent.

MK Nature Center-Your Face-to-Fish Connection



E-HOLIDAY CARDS GREEN ON YOUR BEHALF

Dave Cannamela, MK Nature Center Superintendent

There's nothing like opening holiday greeting cards, catching up on the annual family news, seeing how the kids and puppies have grown over the last year, and then displaying the cards around the house. And then, for many of us, especially in the Nature Center family, there's the "sustainability conflict." We love holding a paper card in our hands, but we hate seeing all that paper being used. The good news is sustainability and responsibility do not have to be absolute; moderation goes a long way toward effective stewardship. So, as you know, the Nature Center has taken the tact of using email when we can, while not completely abandoning "real" cards, letters, thank yous, newsletters etc. Receiving an electronic holiday greeting is no doubt somewhat disappointing, but knowing you are still on the list and doing your part to reduce consumption should provide some consolation and even inspiration. We're all adapting to the E-world (but I'm still not on facebook!)

MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection



Happy Holidays

2011 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

Thank you to all the photo contest entries for 2010. Here are just a few of the first place winners. To see all winners in all categories, visit our website at

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

or come in to MKNC and see the photos displayed!



Top right: First Place in the "Aquatics" Category - Ray Greene

Above Left: First Place in the "People Enjoying Nature" Category- Dan Foote

Above Right: First Place in the "Arachnids and Insects" Category - Kent Miller

Right: First Place in the "Macro" Category - Kent Miller

Below: First Place in the "Abstract/Artistic" Category- Sandra Vistine-Amdor



2011 photo contest rules and categories are the same! Please contact Sara Focht for details. Photo deadline is December 1, 2011.

Sara.Focht@idfg.idaho.gov

LIVE WILDLIFE CAMERA INSTALLED!

Are you sitting at your desk at work, wishing you could be strolling through the Nature Center enjoying the beautiful trees, bubbling creek and serene water? Well, now you can visit the Nature Center....or parts of it at least, from any computer! Our three live camera angles allow you to peek in on interesting happenings on the MKNC grounds. In the spring, the camera will be spotlighted down on a goose nesting in her box. Watch all spring as the eggs are cared for and finally hatch. Other times, the camera will be pointing down toward our apple tree where we tend to get a lot of wildlife action. Yet another angle is our most popular, the underwater view! This view allows you to see Idaho native trout and suckers, mountain whitefish and salmon swimming in the alpine lake. If you are lucky and view the camera at the right time, you might even see a crayfish ambling by. Check out the new camera soon and often! <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/mknc/fishCam/>



*Rainbow trout by Leslie Selgestad-
First Place winner of the 2010 MKNC
photo contest in the "Fish" Category.*

WEBCAM SPONSORS NEEDED!

Our webcam live streaming costs about \$30/month! We are seeking webcam sponsorships to help us stretch this service far into the future. By becoming a webcam sponsor, you will help provide the opportunity for people all over Idaho and the nation to look in on the MKNC and learn about nature. Your name or business will be acknowledged on the webpage where viewers go to see the live streaming.

Interested in becoming a webcam sponsor? Call Dave Cannamela at (208) 287-2902 or david.cannamela@idfg.idaho.gov.

IDAHO TAX CHECKOFF BENEFITS WILDLIFE AND MKNC



Consider making a donation to nongame wildlife in Idaho. The ONLY two ways to financially support animals that are not hunted, fished, or trapped is by donating on your Idaho State Income Tax form or purchasing an Idaho wildlife license plate.

MKNC is a direct beneficiary of the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund! But if that is not enough, Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, Pygmy Rabbits, native amphibians and reptiles and songbirds are just a few of the species that benefit from this donation.

Remember, IDFG receives NO tax dollars and nongame animals receive NO hunting and fishing license sales dollars, so donate via your Idaho State Income Tax form today!!

DONATIONS. See instructions, page 9. I wish to donate to:			
35. Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund	*	36. Idaho Children's Trust Fund	*
37. Special Olympics Idaho	*	38. Idaho Guard and Reserve Family ...	*
39. American Red Cross of Greater Idaho Fund ..	*	40. Veterans Support Fund	*
41. Idaho Foodbank	*	42. Opportunity Scholarship Program ...	*
43. Enter total donations. Add lines 35 through 42		43	00
44. TOTAL TAX PLUS DONATIONS. Add lines 34 and 43		44	00

On the second page of Idaho Individual Tax form 40, line 35 gives you the opportunity to donate to the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund. This fund supports 95% of Idaho's wildlife species (animals that cannot be hunted, trapped or fished). Besides purchasing a wildlife license plate for your car, this is the only way to donate to this fund.

Left Photo: Pygmy Rabbit by Wendy Estes-Zumpf
Middle Photo: Great Gray Owl by Terry Thomas
Right Photo: Woodhouse Toad by Bruce Haak

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION POTLUCK DINNER



Wednesday, February 9th 6 pm

We love our volunteers. Please join the nature center staff for an evening of celebration for all our volunteers. Whether you have volunteered once or many times during the year, you are invited! Spouses and friends welcome.

RSVP to Cass Meissner at cass.meissner@idfg.idaho.gov or at 208-287-2901

Please bring a potluck dish to share.

REMEMBERING KENNETH I. JOHNSON

Susan Ziebarth, MKNC, Wildlife Technician

Kenneth I. Johnson passed away December 19, 2010. He was a volunteer tour guide at MK Nature Center from 1990 to 2005.

He spent many hours a week at MK Nature Center along with his wife Mary Johnson, who volunteered at the Nature Center front desk.

We remember and appreciate Kenneth for his volunteer service and dedication.



Left: Ken leads a group of kids around the Streamwalk. Right: Ken helps a student wrap George the Gopher Snake around his neck as classmates jealously look on.