



# The Nature Center Stream

W I N T E R

The Seasonal Newsletter of the MK Nature Center

2 0 1 4



## MK NATURE CENTER FRIEND'S GROUP

*Dave Cannamela, MK Nature Center Superintendent*

According to the experts, creating a friends group is the first thing a nature center should do. While that recommendation is intended primarily for the full-fledged non-profit type nature centers, it also applies to us, even though we are a state agency/non-profit hybrid. One would think that forming a friends group would be a simple thing. Supporters give you money, you make them a friend, add them to a list, and give them something in return. Typically nature centers will offer free admission as a perk of being a member. Well, we're already free, so complimentary admission passes are not an option. That leaves our newsletter, invitations to our potlucks, and our friendship as things we can offer. Fortunately, people who donate to us generally aren't looking for anything in return. We just think a little token of our appreciation is the right thing to do. Then there's the issue of what to do with longtime volunteers and people who have made substantial donations to the Nature Center – surely they deserve to be in the friends group. So, we created the classification of Honorary Friends for them. Well, we found ourselves getting all tangled up in the grey area, so here's what we're gonna do. The friends group will be an annual membership group, much like it is for other groups, like Ducks or Trout Unlimited, the Boise Bike Project, etc. So, you can choose to be a member at just about any level you like and your membership will be good for one year – And we're going to put everyone on the same schedule so that the membership will end on December 31st, no matter when you join. Other donations of cash or materials are gladly accepted. Both types of donors will be recognized in our newsletters. See the donor list in this issue, on the last page.



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



## PUSH MY (DONATE NOW) BUTTON!

Thanks to the hard work of Rebecca Wagner, Eric Stansbury, Lynn French, Ann Dehner, Pam Laughlin, and Tricia Hoffman, the MKNC now has a functional “Donate Now” button on its website... and some folks are using it! As many of you know, working for the government (whether state, local, or federal) is a very special experience. Everything we do seems to be more interesting than you might think is necessary. When you hit the “Donate Now” button on the MKNC website, you are redirected to the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF) website where you can then choose “MK Nature Center” in a drop down list of project options. Because the Foundation is our non-profit (or 501(c)(3)) representative/partner, they provide several services to us, one of which is facilitating online (as well as other) donations with a credit card. So, don’t freak out or get confused when you get redirected! The Foundation has been around as long as the MKNC. In fact, the Nature Center is the Foundation’s flagship project. Naturally, you can still donate to the MKNC the good old-fashioned way – directly to us in person or via mail – but if you prefer to do it online with your credit card, go through IFWF’s website. ([www.IFWF.org](http://www.IFWF.org)).

MORRISON KNUDSEN  
**NATURE CENTER**  
BOISE, IDAHO

600 South Walnut, Boise, Idaho 83712  
Phone: (208) 334-2225

- [Programs & Tours](#)
- [Stream/Walk](#) - Open Sunrise to Sunset, Every Day
- [Volunteer](#) | [Web Cams](#) | [Newsletters](#)
- [Visitor Center & Gift Shop](#) - Tuesday-Friday — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Saturday-Sunday — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Closed Mondays
- [Meet the Staff](#)

[Donate to the MK Nature Center!](#)

IDAHO Salmon & Steelhead Days  
Held every September

## PAYETTE BREWING CONTINUES COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Payette Brewing shows their community support through donations and their Kegs4Kause events (our September date was wonderful, thank you again to all who came by!) but they also established their Busted Wagon Holiday IPA in 2011. The recipient of the Busted Wagon opportunity receives 100% of the proceeds from sales of the holiday brew. The MK Nature Center submitted an application in October. We were runner-up but wanted to say congratulations to the National MS Society Utah-Southern ID Chapter for receiving this year’s Busted Wagon funds. Cheers!

# FIFTEEN YEARS OF HARD WORK, DEDICATION, LABORS OF LOVE, AND FRIENDSHIPS BUILT

*Dave Cannamela, MK Nature Center Superintendent*

Susan Ziebarth will soon “celebrate” her 15th anniversary as a Department employee, but she has been major force at the MKNC for longer than that. She began her downhill slide in the winter of 1998 when she came here as a volunteer to help rebuild the stream. She’s been covered in paint, sheetrock mud, dust, dirt, muck, and animal poop ever since. She is a supervisor, psychologist, plumber, painter, carpenter, electrician, native plant specialist, gardener, irrigator, artist, social worker, exhibit designer/builder, educator, mentor, and more. She’s moved every rock and log in the place at least once and has planted and replanted almost every plant. The most often heard comments among her peers refer to how incredibly hardworking she is and the fact that she always seems to be here. She has been here at every hour of the day and night at some point, and she’s been here around the clock on several occasions. We’ve stopped trying to understand or explain her unyielding tenacity. Her skills, talents, genius, artistic abilities, and muscle could have landed her a good job – instead she took a job here and it has made all the difference in the world to the MKNC. Honestly, the MKNC would not be what it is today without her and we would not have such a treasured friend.



*Clockwise starting in upper left: Susan takes the 6 foot sturgeon out of the stretcher and welcomes him to our pond. Susan is George’s biggest fan and she likes to show him off. Susan played a huge role in the remodel of the Wildlife Gallery. Inside the aquarium! Middle: Susan stands still for a rare moment.*

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

# VOLUNTEER DINNER

Volunteers and supporters: mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 5th, 2014 from 6:30-8:30 PM!

Please join MK Nature Center staff, volunteers, and supporters for a potluck dinner to celebrate the connections made by all to the Nature Center mission. The celebration will be a potluck this year with the MK Nature Center providing a main dish. The theme is "Comfort Foods." We look forward to a fun gathering and getting to know you better! Be ready to mingle...

For more details, to sign up for a dish, or to help out in another way, contact Jessica Gordon at 208-287-2901 or at [jessica.gordon@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:jessica.gordon@idfg.idaho.gov).

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

### *ALEX GIORGIANNI*

If you have visited the MK Nature Center in the last 6 months, you may have seen Alex Giorgianni working in the compost pile, along the path, or in the garden. He works quietly but diligently and helps us with all sorts of daily tasks and ground maintenance. Alex comes to the Nature Center through a work training program, much like Job Corps. The program places Alex in work situations where he can gain experience, build a resume, and work toward an independent living scenario. He is so very motivated to this end and enjoys the opportunity to be able to volunteer, gain experience, and help others while in the process. In the milder months, Alex also works in Emmett, Idaho for a cabinetry and construction company. His talent with hands-on work goes well with his passion for health and athleticism. In his free time, he takes long-distance runs in the Boise Foothills and at home, does calisthenics, and lifts what free weights are available at home. After Alex saves up enough money to move out on his own, he would someday like to follow in his father's footsteps and enroll in the Citadel (Military College of South Carolina). We thank Alex for his consistent, hard work in 2013.



### *FRED SCHMIDT*

Fred Schmidt, recently retired from the Idaho Historical Society, showed up at our door several weeks ago looking for something to do. No problem, what's your skill set? To our good fortune, Fred has some impressive carpentry and construction skills; he retired from designing and building displays at the historical museum. Fred did a great job fitting our utility trailer with a sturdy, removable box. Now we can haul more stuff! Thanks Fred!



*Heaping with junk, as any good trailer should!*

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

## LECTURE SERIES

The MK Nature Center is pleased to support BSU's Spring 2014 "Interdisciplinary Explorations: The Idea of Nature" Public Lecture Series. The goal of the series is to promote interdisciplinary inquiry and foster dialogue across the BSU campus and the community, based on the premise that big questions need interdisciplinary answers. The free Lectures start at 6 pm in the Student Union Building on the Boise State University. To attend the reception with appetizers and a no-host bar, you must obtain a free reception ticket. While you are there, stop by the MK Nature Center table and say hello! We hope to see you!

For tickets to the receptions or information about free parking, please contact Dr. Harvey at [samanthaharvey@boisestate.edu](mailto:samanthaharvey@boisestate.edu). Any additional questions, please contact Jessica Gordon at [jessica.gordon@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:jessica.gordon@idfg.idaho.gov) or 208-287-2901.

### **February 12, 2014**

**"After Nature: Living in the Anthropocene" - Jedidiah Purdy, Robinson O. Everett Professor of Law, Duke University**

Human beings have changed everything in the world. There is no longer such a thing as a Nature that comes before us, no natural, pre-human order for us to restore. How shall we think about environmental law, politics, and ethics in this situation?

### **March 13, 2014**

**"Emily Dickinson and Science" - Richard Brantley, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida**

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) took her cue from the scientific method. "Experiment escorts us last," she wrote. Just as her understanding of temporal and spatial change channeled geology, so her sense of the sublime consulted astronomy. Her grasp of the bald, cold truth of life's struggle out-Darwined Darwin. Thus she thrilled and shuddered in nature's creative and destructive presence.

### **April 24, 2014**

**"Getting to the Roots of the Matter: Trees in 19th Century Literature" - Susan Oliver, Senior Lecturer in English, University of Essex, England**

From the medieval greenwood to plantation forestry, nineteenth-century poetry and fiction is filled with references to trees. Susan Oliver looks at ecological crisis and the complex relationship between people and woods as trees were replaced by grass in a rapidly changing world.

# MK WISH LIST

We rely on generous donations from our supporters to bring you the best Nature Center experience possible. When we can get items donated rather than having to take money from our budget, we can then put that money towards education programs, Nature Center development, parties, and other needs.

We are trying something new this year with an online wish list (link below) that our supporters can browse. We have added a few items to this list already and will add and subtract more as necessary. Items we've already added include small items like tape, crayons, and bird seed.

Large items like a new camera and a stackable washer/dryer are also on the list. Please note, you don't have to purchase these items from the Amazon website. If you want to purchase the items elsewhere or already have them, we will still accept them gratefully. This list is just an easy way for us to organize and specify types of items we need.

If you want to know our current greatest needs or are interested in contributing in-kind donations to the Nature Center, please call us at 208-334-2225. We hope this will help people find new and creative ways to give back to the MK Nature Center. Check back often for updates! Wishlist URL: <http://tinyurl.com/MKNCWishlist>

## WHAT DO CEREAL BOXES AND EARRINGS HAVE IN COMMON?

*Sue Dudley, Nature Center Gift Shop and Budget Manager*

The Jabebo Earring Company uses post consumer cereal boxes and makes the most incredible wildlife earrings out of them.

I had been looking for new sustainable products to bring into the gift shop when I came across this company. Jabebo is based in Pennsylvania. Kevin Abbot (the owner) and five employees work at his house; truly a cottage industry.

They create their own colorful, detailed designs and use die-cuts in the exact shape of the species to cut them out. They glue two pieces of the cereal box cardboard together and then cover them with a natural and renewable shellac to protect the earrings.

Each pair of earrings are purposely mismatched to show an educational element for each species. For example, one earring may show the male indigo bunting and the other the female. Some earrings may show a species of bird on one, while the other earring shows their nest.

If you would like to learn more about the earrings, email or call Sue Dudley at [sue.dudley@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:sue.dudley@idfg.idaho.gov) 208-287-2900, or stop in....they are going fast!



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

# BOISE LEGACY CONSTRUCTORS FOUNDATION PROVIDES SHELTER

*Tony Sandor of the Boise Legacy Constructor's Foundation hands Dave Cannamela (MKNC) a check to help fix the roof. We applied for the grant on Halloween and received the check 6 days later. Now that is fast!*



The four components of habitat: food, water, shelter and space, are the cornerstones of most of our lessons here at the MKNC. On Wednesday, November 6th the Boise Legacy Constructors Foundation, (BLCF, formerly the Morrison Knudsen Foundation) came through to help provide one of the four essentials. The BLCF awarded us a grant in excess of \$11,000. Coupled with an Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant of \$5,000, we will put a new roof over the MKNC visitor center. We are truly grateful to Tony Sandor who brought the opportunity to us, spearheaded the grant writing effort, and acted as our representative with the BLCF. In addition, we offer our most sincere and warmest thanks to Marlene Puckett, Frank Finlayson, and all of the members of the Boise Legacy Constructors Foundation. Naturally, we once again extend our thanks to IFWF, which has provided consistent support through the years.



*The ridgeline of the roof on the Nature Center is gaping. The raccoons have found it to be a pretty nice shelter. The grant for the new roof came just in time.*

# FISH AND GAME MARKS 75 YEARS SINCE INITIATIVE CREATED COMMISSION



November 8, 2013 marked 75 years since Idaho's first successful voter initiative created the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and placed the Fish and Game Department under its authority.

Over the coming year, Fish and Game will be hitting some of the highlights of its progress since 1938, covering a different vintage subject each week.

Though Idaho Fish and Game was created by the Legislature in 1899, for the first four decades the agency was run by a state game warden – most of whom were political appointees. No knowledge of wildlife or game management was required to be appointed. And when new wardens took over, they often replaced the deputies, regardless of their qualifications.

Using a 1912 amendment to the Idaho constitution that allows voters to put a proposed law on the ballot and enact it by majority vote, a group of sportsmen drafted a petition based on earlier proposed legislation. The petition called for a five-member commission of people with a demonstrated interest in wildlife and no more than three from any political party. Commissioners would hire a fish and game director and would have the authority to determine season and bag limits. Employees would be hired on merit and could be fired only for cause.

The initiative passed with a majority in every county – 118,000 votes to 37,442 – 76 percent of the total votes cast.

You can find Fish and Game and Idaho wildlife management history on the Fish and Game website <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/75th/>

# THANK YOU DONORS

## **FRJENDS GROUP MEMBERS 2013**

Edwina Allen  
Kevin & Mary Pat Barr  
Krissy Beoka  
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Trevor Bills  
Biomark, Inc.  
Mick & Joey Chase  
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Elaine Walker  
Judy Watterlin  
Laura & Robert Welton  
Wes Wills  
Joan Yost

## ***Other Donors (cash or in-kind donations)***

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Ted Trueblood Chapter  
(Trout Unlimited)  
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