



The Nature Center Stream

SUMMER The Seasonal Newsletter of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game MK Nature Center 2017



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Summer brings new faces to the Nature Center. William Lodge (left) joined the Nature Center for 30 hours as part of his community service requirements at Bishop Kelly High School. Erin Kemner (right) is a summer intern this year. Erin has impressed us with her hard work ethic!



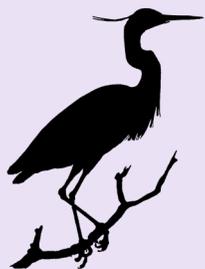
Grace Gould (left) was a summer intern last year and returns this year as a part-time employee. Grace will be a senior at Boise High this fall. Welcome to the crew, Grace!



Mack Leith (right) is a longtime friend and volunteer of MK Nature Center. Mack is pictured here holding George, our gigantic gopher snake. He stopped in to say goodbye, as Mack is moving to Ohio after

growing up in Boise and befriending all of us at the Nature Center. He will be missed.

All our employees, volunteers, and supporters bring something unique to the Nature Center. Whether they stay for a week or ten years, we know the contribution they make to us and the experiences the Nature Center gives to them help shape us all.



Nature Center Notes

Vicky Runnoe, Conservation Education Supervisor, IDFG



Summer is upon us and I find myself looking back at spring and wondering where it went? A look at our program counts tells me where much of the time was spent. During April and May, 2,209 students with 805 parents in tow attended 79 programs. Eight off-site programs had 2,572 people stop by tables hosted by nature center volunteers and staff. And 420 people specifically attended our Spring Wildlife Celebration while others stopped by on their way to the ever-popular Idaho Native Plant Sale. Volunteers bustled about assisting in myriad ways that are vital to nature center operations. In between, we kept a watchful eye on the rising river, the pond's water level and our outflow pipe.

We dodged rainstorms and wondered if it would ever warm up. Summer bird residents arrived, adding their songs and neotropical colors to the backdrop of spring---yellow warbler, lazuli bunting, western tanager. Black-chinned hummingbirds arrived with the blooming of the Butterfly and Hummingbird garden. Sturgeon left the depths of the pond to slowly swirl in the shallows. Butterflies are now fluttering, ants are marching and spotted fawns daintily follow their mothers as they quietly walk the grounds.

Summer is bringing with it a flurry of projects. From adventures in irrigation system replacement to a brand new display to the installation of a new piece of public art, much is happening around the nature center. We hope you will stop by for a visit and ask you to forgive the temporary messes our projects will cause. When they are done, we hope you will enjoy them.

Friends Group Buys New Fish

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, IDFG

Thanks to Friends of MK Nature Center, we have a new set of native fish replicas for visitors to handle and examine. It is not as if you can order these types of things on Amazon or go pick them up at a store. These are hand made, custom-ordered replicas that are sewn and hand painted for authenticity. Our local seamstress friend, Rachel Lindquist, made our first set many years ago and has created them anew as the first batch wore out after being handled by thousands of visitors. Thanks to FOMKNC and Rachel for helping us keep these fish looking good for visitors to enjoy.



MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

Spring Wildlife Event Volunteers

Sue Dudley, Wildlife Educator, MKNC

Once again, volunteers came out in droves to help us put on our spring wildlife event. On April 29th, the Nature Center hosted a public event and our volunteers helped set up, staffed educational booths, greeted visitors at a welcome table, and helped clean up. We appreciate our enthusiastic and helpful volunteers!



Photos by Sue Dudley, MKNC

Summer Education Interns

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, IDFG



Jasmine Brooks is our 2017 IDoTeach Intern from BSU. Jasmine grew up here in the valley and enjoys hunting, fishing, snowboarding and other outdoor activities. She is a secondary science education major, but has enjoyed teaching younger students during her time at the Nature Center. Jasmine likes interacting with the rest of the members of our teaching

team, and loves to see the animals that frequent the nature center during the spring and summer. Jasmine is a naturally talented educator and we are lucky to have her enthusiasm, positive attitude and teaching skills for another several weeks.



Isabel Robles is a Doris Duke Fellow working for us this summer through the University of Idaho College of Natural Resources. Isabel's major is International Studies with a minor in Natural Resources. This combination is perfect for her as she would like to work for an NGO that helps people in developing countries and the environmental issues they face.

During her experience so far, Isabel has enjoyed the plants and animals she sees on the Nature Center grounds. While observing educational programs and staffing educational booths, she has identified some of her strengths and skills she would like to work on. Isabel is providing on-site education stations this summer in our courtyard, a feature we don't usually have available. We appreciate the way she interacts with visitors and helps them learn more about wildlife in Idaho.



In addition, Isabel has helped us with several groups who have requested tours in Spanish. Before Isabel arrived, we were not able to provide this service!

Room Remodel Coming Soon

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, IDFG MKNC



BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

We cannot wait to show you our room remodel. After nearly 12 years, the middle room in the Nature Center is getting remodeled. The money is generously being provided by the Hunter Education Program within IDFG and is being spearheaded by Wildlife Educator, Adare Evans. Adare has big plans for this space and we are excited to have it done by the end of the summer. Be sure to stop in or tune in to our fall newsletter for the results!

Conservation Officer Brings Live Animal to NC

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, MKNC

Region 3 District Senior Conservation Officer, Bill London, shows nature center visitors the beaver he rescued from a window well in SE Boise. Bill has a knack for talking with the public and treated our visitors to an “up-close-and-personal” view of the beaver, as he explained what beavers do in nature and why they are important. He also explained how wildlife and people living in the same place does not always work out. Bill was on his way to release the beaver far out into the forest where it could thrive.



MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

Signs of Summer

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, MKNC



The longest day of the year has come and gone and the Nature Center is in full summer mode. These are the signs of summer to come enjoy while they last!

Top row: Monarch butterfly, penstemon. Middle row: orange globemallow, blue flax. Bottom row: prickly pear cactus, mule deer fawn, blanket flower.



Mule deer fawn photo by Brian Lawless. All other photos by Vicky Runnoe, IDFG.



Outreach Events Staffed by Volunteers

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, IDFG MKNC

The MK Nature Center is asked to participate in outreach events throughout the year. These events usually consist of having a booth or educational table at an off-site event that helps participants learn about the Nature Center and what we have to offer. Clearly, these are awesome opportunities for us to reach out and meet new people and invite them to come visit our 5 acres of



wildlife habitat. However, outreach events are costly, both in time and money so we often cannot attend every event to which we are invited. This year, however, volunteers, Master Naturalists, and our AmeriCorps Member, Brian Lawless, have all been helping us by staffing booths at outreach events. This fiscal year, we were able to attend 18 outreach events compared to just 8 the previous year.

Top Photo: Idaho Master Naturalists Diana Parker and Gail Kirkpatrick staff an educational booth at the Boise Coop's Anniversary Celebration in June. Above Photo: Idaho Master Naturalists Don Carlin and Sonya Jenson staff an informational booth about the Nature Center at the Wells Fargo Employee Green Fair. Right: Kids enjoy learning to shoot homemade bows and arrows at International Museum Day staffed by AmeriCorps Member, Brian Lawless and Idaho Master Naturalists Bronwyn Myers and Cindy Marlow.



MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

Friends of MKNC Accomplishments

Joyce Harvey-Morgan, Board Member, FOMKNC



Wow!! That’s all we can say about the riparian mosaic being installed on one of the fish walls along the streamwalk at the MK Nature Center. Created by local artist Anna Webb and funded by the Friends of MK Nature Center and the Boise City Department of Arts & History, it will be available for viewing from July 13 on. It will be a gorgeous piece of public art at the Nature Center and a wonderful educational resource as well. The Friends of MK Nature Center is grateful to our many donors who have helped to make this possible.

In addition, the Friends group supported this past year’s AmeriCorps member, Brian Lawless, who has been a terrific educational resource at the Nature Center. And we will support another AmeriCorps member in the upcoming year. This position helps to provide expanded educational programming for the community.

Speaking of grateful, we are also grateful to our donors who contributed to the Friends group through this year’s Idaho Gives campaign. As a result, we are well on our way to moving forward with our next big project, updating the interpretive signage at the Nature Center. See a list of our generous donors on page 10.

If you’re not already a member of the Friends of MK Nature Center, please consider joining us and supporting the important work of the MK Nature Center. You can do so through our website — friendsofmknc.org— or email us at friendsofmknc@gmail.com, and we will send you a reply envelope.

The following people volunteered their time to the MK Nature Center between April 1-June 30th 2017. MK Nature Center receives an average of nearly 500 volunteer hours monthly. Thank you!!

Michelle Andrew	Barb Forderhase	Erin Kemner	Aubrey Smith
Bianca Andrew	Eugene Fuller	Max Larimore	Lorna Snowden
Steve Berg	Amanda Gailbreath	Mitch Levenhagen	Ethan Sorensen
Tracey Bish	Shawnie Geisler	Ron Lopez	Julie Steele
Trace Blackstone	Janna Gray	Kevin Malloy	Al Straessle
Andrea Blomquist	Patti Gregor	Cindy Marlow	Sandy Sweet
Don Brigham	Marylee Hale	Cheryl Minckler	Joe Terry
Ann Brueck	John Hanna	Bronwyn Myers	Karen Walsh
Erika Buchanan	Laurie Hansen	Anna Nyman	Hedi Ware
Don Carlin	Ray Heady	Valerie Ray	Carol Wike
Susie Carlson	Lance Hebdon	Amanda Richael	Dave Wike
Corrine Christ	Tricia Hebdon	Barb Recla	Kevin Wilson
Seth Davis	Katie Hebdon	Emily Rigg	Judy Wojcicki
Patrice Davies	Tim Hebdon	Susan Riley	
Nancy Dewitt	Linda Jarsky	Doug Rose	
Margit Donhowe	Erika Kaszczyszyn	Arleen Schaeffer	

MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

Thank You For Supporting MKNC

The following people donated to the MK Nature Center directly (**bold**) or to the FOMKNC between April 1 and June 30th, 2017. Donations come in the form of money, goods, services, or other in-kind donations.

JoAnne Anderson	Dana Gross	Dale and Bonnie McOmber	Timothy Sandor
Shelley Anderson	Willow Hahn	Mac McOmber	Tony Sandor
Joel Ayers	Maria Halberstadt	Joel Mercier	Kelly Schnebly
Robyn Barber	Cynthia Harrison	Michelle Meyers	Kirsten Severud
Marypat Barr	Joyce Harvey-Morgan	Patrece Meza	John Sheldon
Lindsay Biedel	Vicki Havens	Wade Miller	Jana Shields
Michael Bixby	Sara Hegerle	Debi Mitchell	Martha Sliney
Andrea Blomquist	Charles Herrington	Patrick Mitchell	Aubrey Smith
Bert Bowler	Jessica Hewett	Pam Moon	James Smolinski
Klaus Brown	Bill Horton	Rebecca Morgan	Dorothy Snowball
Erika Buchanan	Sally Hughes	Jillian Moroney	Jason Steele
David Butzier	Jody Hull	Jillian Moroney	Julie Steele
Marie Callaway	Kay Hummel	Colleen Moulton	Mike Stefancic
David Cannamela	Jean Jablonski	Gay Munday	Benjamin Studer
Martin Caples	James Jameson	Bronwyn Myers	Lorrie Suess
Luis Castaneda	Kaci Jensen	Patricia Myers	Richard Swain
Bruce Cherny	Ron & Betsy Jones	Jenna Narducci	Timothy Swisse
Janet Conley	James Just	Bryan Nickels	Rochelle Sykes
Robert Cooney	Linda Kahn	Sue Normandin	Alex Takasugi
Douglas Copsey	Don Kemner	Karen Ogden	Greg Therriehn
Cynthia Coulter	Scott Ki	Hilda Packard	Robert Tinstman
Lois Crane	Sharon Kiefer	Claire Page	Ray Toronjo
Summer Crea	Cecilia Kinter	Dean Park	Susanne Vader
Gregg Crockett	Gail Kirkpatrick	Diana Parker	Mallorie Vail
Janet & Thomas Davis	Clayton Krall	Amy Parrish	Bradley Vandendries
Ann DeBolt	Marylee Krebs Hale	Carol Peart	James Wagner
Nancy DeWitt	Vicki Kuebler	Lynelle Perry	Laurel Wagner
Dixie Durham	Sandra Lambert	Nancy Phillips	Rebecca Wagner
Douglas Elli	Elizabeth Lane	Richard Plov	Cristina Watson
Michael Farley	Mathew Lane	Debra Purcell	Kristi Weekley
Larry Farnes	Amanda Laib	Edgar Randol	Brigitte Weick
Spencer Farrin	D. Linfood	Elissa Reid	William Whelan
Sara Focht	Leanne Lloyd-Fairey	Evan Richards	Wild Birds Unlimited
Bob & Lauri Foss	Marie Lowery	Kelly Richards	Sandra Wilkinson
Laura Foss	Ethan Mansfield	Ryan Richards	Grant Wilson
Rebecca Fritz	Heidi Marotz	Steve Richards	C. Wiss
Charles Gay	Scott Marotz	Ronald Rollston	Teresa Wolfenson
Mary Geagan	Alyson Martin	Jeanette Ross	Alberta Woodall
Annalyn Gerard	Stephen Mauss	Patricia Rowan	Dawn Yantek
Michael Gillespie	James McCallum	Valerie Rudd	
Kristin Gnojewski	John McCarthy	Victoria Runnoe	
Leroy Godlove	Luana McCauley	Jim Ryan	
Rhonda Goldston	Mary McGown	Cynthia Sanders	
Jessica Gordon	Kevin McLaughlin	Alberta Sandor	
Kristen Gray	Bonnie McOmber	Michael Sandor	