



The Nature Center Stream



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

2018



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2018 3-4

Community
Partnership

Evening 5

Lectures for
Adults

Saturday 6

Programs for
Kids

Nature Center 7

Highlights

Creatures of 8
the Night

New Signs 9

Bird Seed Sale 10

Donors and 11
Supporters



Children's Art Contest Winner

Joyce Harvey-Morgan, FOMKNC Board Member



The Friends of MK Nature Center held a children's art contest this summer—to create an image for our new t-shirt. Austen, who was only 4 years old at the time, won our grand prize and drew a beautiful fish, which is now decorating our t-shirts. Congratulations and thank you, Austen!



MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

Nature Center Notes

Vicky Runnoe, Conservation Education Supervisor, IDFG



With the passage of the autumnal equinox, fall has officially arrived. Each day, we are reminded that autumn is indeed a season of change. Yellow, orange and red leaves now dot the trees and we listen for the telltale chips of newly arrived juncos at the feeders. Another obvious change this fall is the addition of our new interpretive, welcome and entry signs. Like the changing leaves, this project had many phases, each unique, challenging and exciting.

The first phase involved the amazing fund-raising efforts of the Friends of the MK Nature Center, without which, the new signs would still be only a dream. Nature center staff spent countless hours identifying topics for each sign, writing text, editing and editing some more. The project's graphic designer, Stephanie Inman, was the model of patience and creative energy, helping turn our sometimes vague and occasionally specific ideas into attractive visual art. Next was the removal of the old signs, conducted by a hardy group of

volunteers who seemed to thoroughly enjoy their role of demolition crew.

And then came the holes. Not just small holes, but BIG holes of 12" X 24" excavated through the accumulated fill and antique garbage of what was once Boise's dump. This was a huge part of the project which would require grit and determination. Never ones for turning down a challenge, several Master Naturalists stepped up and just went for it! Using shovels, a post hole digger, rock bar and one old bowl (ask Sara), the holes were dug! The concrete crew sighed gratefully when they arrived to see the beautiful holes that they did not have to dig themselves.

With the concrete poured, colorful splashes of signs began popping up all over the grounds as the staff from Trademark worked on installation. Over several weeks, all the signs were installed with the large entry signs the last to be placed. Finally, it was done and wow---are we ever pleased with the result! But without all the hard work of so many dedicated people, this project would have never happened or taken much longer than it took to complete. Many of you reading this newsletter donated your time, hard work and money to this project; without you, it could not have happened. On behalf of the nature center staff and all our current and future visitors, thank you! We hope you visit us soon to see the beautiful changes your donation has made possible.



This new sign about ecological niche reminds us that each and every member of a team plays a part to complete a project. All the parts are important, just like in nature.



Top: Gary Hundt and Howard Sheppa help remove old signs. Bottom: Nan McGrath and Bonnie Urresti remove old signs and prep the area for the new sign holes. Photos by MKNC.

2018 Community Partner Projects

Susan Ziebarth, MKNC Wildlife Educator, Habitat and Grounds Project Manager

We had another successful spring and summer with the help of several area community-minded groups lending a hand to help maintain the Nature Center grounds and habitat.

Many thanks to all of you for your generous support.



Standing next to the completed pergola from left to right: Susan Ziebarth, David Armstrong, Keith Pearson, Jessica Fisher, Don Boren, Hannah Sinanovic and Jen Landers (in front)

BSU Hearts and Hands EdR Volunteer Workday April, 2018

When Keith Pearson, maintenance manager of a new BSU housing facility contacted me in early spring about offering a group of skilled maintenance staff to work on a construction type project at the Nature Center, I told him it was like getting a phone call from Santa. We chose the difficult, physically demanding job of replacing 28 year old rotting beams supporting pergola “overhead” slats at two viewing windows.

Within six hours, the crackerjack team removed and replaced the two overheads including adding many new 4x4 slats. Wow, this was like Christmas!



EdR is the Education Realty Trust. They finance, build and manage collegiate housing across the US. This group works in conjunction with Boise State in a partnership with housing and resident life.



Apple Earth Day Community Volunteer Day

April, 2018

Volunteers Grant Patton, McKailey Burchett, Penny Bullock, Jeremiah Wallace, Mary Coleman, Marcus Weeks, Kristen Vanderbilt, Sydnee Morehouse, Isak Rodenhiser and Justin Vanderbilt came in two shifts to help clear some of the “back 40” of dead limbs and vines.

The Apple team helped fill a 30 yard dumpster with the woody debris. The Nature Center sends its old wood and organic materials to a local recycler, to be ground in to mulch and reused in landscapes.



MWI Animal Health's C.A.T

(Community Advocate Team)

April, 2018

C.A.T. focuses on engaging MWI associates and connecting them to volunteer opportunities around the Treasure Valley.

The garden crew spent their volunteer hours in the native plant garden liberating firecracker penstemon from the tangle of weeds and grasses. The hummingbirds waiting for those flowers were most grateful!



Pictured from left to right: Lisa Smith, Liz Brodie, Jeanette Young and Kim Holt.



Go Wireless! Call Center Volunteer Days

June, 2018

Over three days, employees of the Go Wireless call center volunteered their time doing some gardening, weeding, tiny fish hauling, aquarium cleaning and snake holding (photo to the right).



Photo front to back: Corey Magrera, Kadra Lewno, MaryAnn Lott, Breyan Sande, and Deion Aguon. Other volunteers not pictured: Joe Archuleta, Ariel Bozz, Amy Stanger, Vince Anedondo, Angelica Burns, Debbie Anderson, Andrea Huggins, Carmon Calvo, Amy Goldthorpe and Dillon Yant.

Wells Fargo New Hire Volunteer Day

August, 2018

This group of newly minted bankers came for a day of cutting dead limbs, removing watercress choking the stream and cleaning up rocks around the holes for our new interpretive signs. It was a beautiful day and their help was much needed.



Thank you Chris Woodall, Stephanie Hagadorn, Kim Hartman, Skylar Henderson, Hilary Scofield, Aryel Gutierrez, Justin Barroso, Richard Grunberg, Julissa Araujo, Alysha Phillips, Robin Lee, McKayla Nevers, Matthew Schanry and Holly Constantineau.



Lecture Series at MK Nature Center-FALL



October 24-Idaho Fish and Game's Digital Citizen Science Projects- by IDFG Digital Librarian, Brent Thomas. I don't know what this talk is going to be about. Pancakes, salad, and roadkill? Brent will show us some of IDFG online citizen science projects and tell us how they are working.

November 8th-Idaho's Intriguing Orchids by Idaho Fish and Game Botanist, Lynn Kinter. Idaho is home to 28 native orchids. They occur in a surprising array of color, shapes, and sizes, from the pink fairy slipper that is only a few centimeters tall, to the peach and green stream orchid that is about a meter tall. A few lack leaves and chlorophyll and parasitize other plants. Some attract and funnel insect pollinators in unusual ways. Come learn about these fascinating and lovely wildflowers!

December 13th -Woodpeckers! by Forest Service Ecologist, Jon Dudley. Come learn about the breeding ecology of Black-backed, White-headed, and Lewis's woodpeckers and current woodpecker research in dry, mixed conifer forests of Oregon and Idaho.

*Lectures are designed for adults, are free, and open to the public. All lectures are 6:30-8 pm.
MK Nature Center 600 S. Walnut Street, Boise, ID 86712 (208) 334-2225*



AmeriCorps Position Filled



Tess Wolfenson standing near Thousand Island Lake in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Photo by Tess Wolfenson.

Tess Wolfenson, our 2017/2018 AmeriCorps Member will be back for a second term at the MKNC. Tess proved to be flexible, patient, positive, and equipped with a good sense of humor (all qualities needed to succeed on the education team at the Nature Center).

After her first year as an AmeriCorps Member, Tess headed out on an adventure of hiking 130 miles of the John Muir Trail in California.

Friends of MKNC provides the financial support we need to host an AmeriCorps Member. Tess starts her second term at the MKNC on October 1 and we couldn't be more pleased.



Wildlife Weekend Programs for Families with Kids!



October 20th-HOO Lives in Idaho?-Did you know Idaho has 14 different species of owls that either nest here or migrate through? Take a look and listen to each one and discover the ways owls are the same and how they are different. Wrap it all up with dissecting an owl pellet to see what the owl ate for dinner! \$2.50/person. 1 pm -3pm. Limit 50 people.

November 17th Turkeys!- Gobble Gobble! Thanksgiving is almost here. Come learn about wild turkeys, how they live, what they eat and some of their interesting adaptations. Make a turkey take-home craft to put up at Thanksgiving. \$2.50/person. 1 pm-3pm. Limit 60 people.

December 1-Bird Seed Sale Fundraiser and Family Activities-Pick up some holiday gifts at our nature-themed gift shop, buy some bird seed, watch bird presentations, and do a fun craft! All this happens on December 1st ! See Facebook or our website or page 10 of the newsletter for details.

*Contact sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov if you have questions.
Programs are designed for families with children prek-7th grades
MK Nature Center 600 S. Walnut Street, Boise, ID 86712 (208) 334-2225*

Sagebrush-steppe Chapter Celebrates 10 years

MK Nature Center, along with the City of Boise and the Idaho Botanical Garden sponsor the Sagebrush-steppe Chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalist Program. 2018 is celebrated as the chapter's 10 year anniversary. The local chapter has nearly 150 members! These participants have donated 19,734 hours toward conservation in Idaho over the last decade.

The Idaho Master Naturalist Program is a program for adults that combines classroom and fieldtrip education sessions with conservation-themed volunteerism. There are eight chapters across the state and over 900 members state-wide. Idaho Master Naturalists volunteer for a variety of agencies and organizations to help with citizen science, conservation education, administrative work, habitat stewardship and running their local chapters.

Enrollment information for 2019 can be found here:

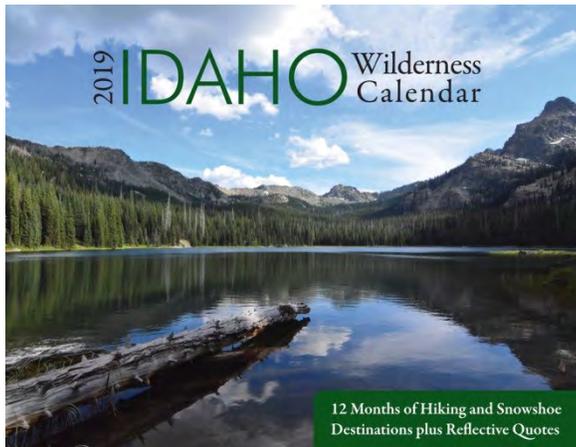
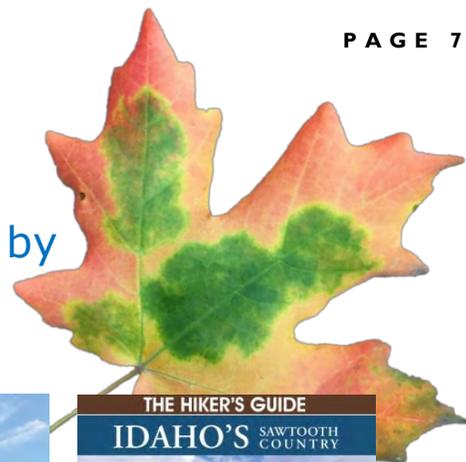
<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/sites/Wildlife/IDMasterNaturalist/Boise/Master%20Naturalist%20Brochure/2019.Idaho%20Master%20Naturalist%20Enrollment%20Form.pdf>

We thank all the Master Naturalists who help us in every facet of Nature Center operations!

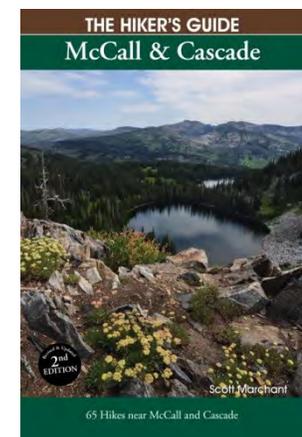


Shop at the MK Nature Center Gift Shop This Fall

Check out the new books and calendar by local author, *Scott Marchant*



Did you know that all gift shop profits go toward our educational programs and the day-to-day operations of the MK Nature Center?



22nd Annual Salmon and Steelhead Days



IDFG Fisheries Biologist, Chris Harrington helps students learn how salmon fit into Idaho's natural world at the Salmon Ecology Station. Photo by Sue Dudley.

Over 2,200 local 5th graders attended the 22nd Annual Salmon and Steelhead Days in early September at MK Nature Center. Program attendees learn:

- Anadromous fish life cycle
- Salmon ecology
- Salmon history and cultural importance
- Dangers and disturbances that effect salmon
- What salmon eat and who eats salmon

Thank you to the Salmon and Steelhead Days Committee, all our partners and volunteers!

Creatures of the Night

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, IDFG

Employees of Peak Alarm get to see a side of the Nature Center that no one else gets to see! Patrolling the Nature Center at night has led to many interesting wildlife encounters, to say the least. Recently, Peak Alarm’s Tony Rynearson found a male mule deer seemingly in distress...and rightfully so! There was an orange extension cord wrapped tightly around the animal’s antlers and dangling in front of his face. Tony phoned his co-worker Kelly Helm, the police, and MKNC staff while trying to keep his eye on the buck, but finally the animal traveled away before help arrived. IDFG conservation officers were notified and about a week later, biologists were able to locate, tranquilize, remove the cord and release the otherwise healthy animal. It turns out, there were many calls to IDFG about this animal!

Thanks to Tony and Kelly at Peak alarm, other citizens who called, and IDFG conservation officers and biologists who helped in this detangling operation.



Left: Mule deer with extension cord. Photo by Tony Rynearson. Middle: IDFG biologists Rick Ward and Katie Oelrich wait for the sleep reversal drug to wear off. Right: The cord...the tools.

Justin Seamons

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, IDFG MK Nature Center

Justin joined the MKNC team last May and has proven to be a hard-working member of our team. Justin was born and raised in Fruitland, Idaho and graduated from Boise State University with an undergraduate degree in environmental biology. His career interests include sustainability and conservation, so working at MKNC and FORK (a locally sourced and owned restaurant) are a good match for now!

Justin does about everything at the nature center from staffing the visitor center and store, to grounds work, caring for the live animals, customer service and general maintenance.

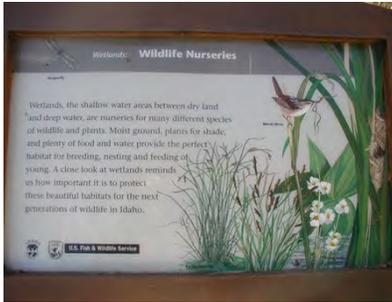
When not working, he enjoys backpacking, photography, fly fishing, watching sports, and discovering new music. His favorite thing about the Nature Center is its ability to provide a place for nature within the city of Boise and also foster a connection between the visitors and the natural world around them. In Justin’s words, “I love that I get to work for a place that values the importance of education and community engagement.”



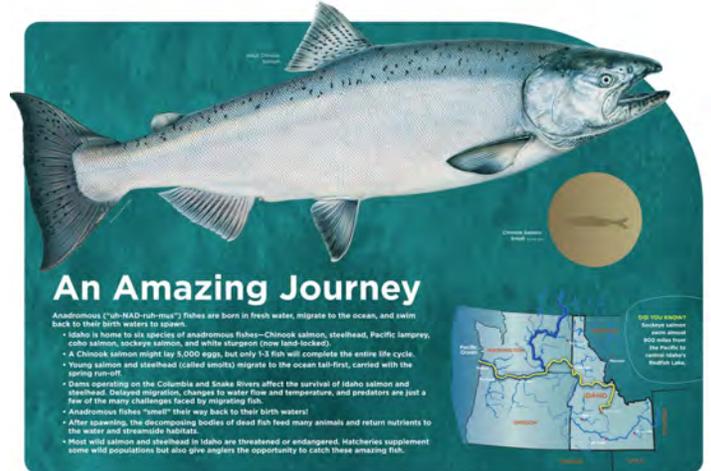
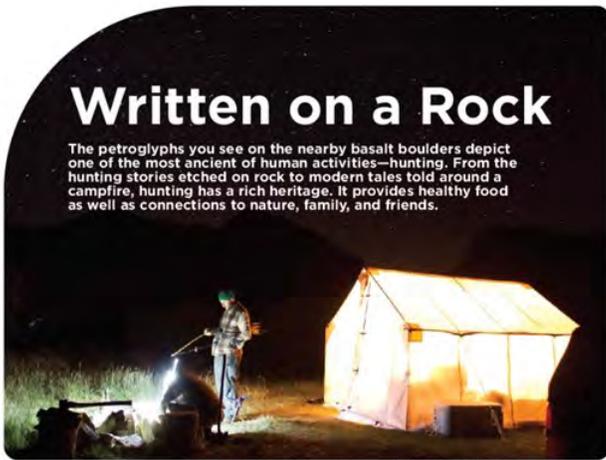
Then and Now

Joyce Harvey-Morgan, FOMKNC Board Member

Wow!! Have you seen the new signs at the Nature Center? The Friends of MK Nature Center has completely re-done all the interpretive signs, large welcome signs and information signs and created a new donor recognition wall. The signs are bold, colorful, engaging and fun! Many thanks to our donors for their generosity—many individuals and families, area businesses and the following foundations: Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, Morrison Knudsen Foundation, Harry W. Morrison Foundation, Idaho Salmon & Steelhead Days, Idaho Women’s Charitable Foundation and the College of Idaho Student Philanthropy Council. And many thanks to our fantastic artist Stephanie Inman and our fantastic manufacturer, Trademark! If you haven’t already done so, be sure to go see the beautiful new signs soon!



THEN NOW



FRI. NOVEMBER 30TH & SAT., DECEMBER 1ST 2018, 9AM – 5PM



MK NATURE CENTER

HOLIDAY

BIRD SEED SALE

600 S. Walnut Street • Boise, Idaho 83712



Wild Birds Unlimited of Boise has been our faithful partner and supporter from the beginning. They continue to supply high quality seed for what is one of our most successful and popular fundraisers.

Wild Birds Unlimited will be donating 15% of their feeder & suet sales during the event, back to MK nature Center.

As usual, several varieties of seed will be available to feed your favorite birds. WBU will have the latest in bird feeding supplies available.



Saturday Dec. 1st Activities for the whole family

Backyard bird feeding – It's for the birds – 11:30
Live Bird Presentations -12:30, & 1:30pm
Free take home kids' crafts -11 to 2pm

All Proceeds Support the MK Nature Center!

Contact Sue Dudley with questions: sue.dudley@idfg.idaho.gov or 208.287.2900

Donors and Volunteers



Larry Amen
 Sherri Calle
 Shane Heinrich
 Barbara Horwitz
 Jeff McElwee
 Jacklyn Murphy
 Hilda Packard
 Jim Ryan
 Wild Birds Unlimited

Supporters listed here donated directly to the MK Nature Center between July 1 and September 30th 2018. Donations come in the form of money, goods, services, or other in-kind donations. Donors to Friends of MKNC are not listed.



The following people volunteered their time to the MK Nature Center between July 1 and September 30th.

Michele Andrew
 Julissa Araujo
 Justin Barroso
 Pam Bly
 Marianne Bowman
 Libby Burtner
 Holly Constantineau
 Alice Crockett
 Patrice Davies
 Seth Davis
 Brent Davy
 Jeremy Emerson
 Breann Evans
 Janna Gray
 Richard Grunberg
 Aryel Gutierrez

Stephanie Hagadorn
 Marylee Hale
 Kim Hartman
 Skylar Henderson
 Gary Hundt
 Steven Jennings
 Sandy Kurka
 Brian Lawless
 Robin Lee
 Ron Lopez
 Kate Markham
 Nanette McGrath
 Sue Moeller
 Jackie Murphy
 Terri Muse
 Bronwyn Myers

Tom Neale
 Mikayla Nevers
 Karing Nial
 Alysha Phillips
 Amanda Richael
 Emily Rigg
 Christen Sapnas
 Abigail Sasso
 Arleen Schaeffer
 Klaudia Schaller
 Matthew Schanus
 Hilary Schofield
 Howard Sheppa
 Stuart Shoemaker
 Tom Todrank
 Bonnie Unresti



Join Friends of MK Nature Center at the Sculpin level (\$500), Trout level (\$1000), Sockeye Salmon level (\$2000), or the White Sturgeon level (\$5000). At these levels, you get your name on the school of donors wall. 100% of your donations goes back to projects and enhancements at the MK Nature Center!

www.friendsofmknc.org/donate