



# The Nature Center Stream

S U M M E R

The Seasonal Newsletter of the MK Nature Center

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## NATURE CENTER PARTNERS WITH IDAHO FOOD BANK!

The MK Nature Center partnered with the Idaho Food Bank this summer to provide fun, educational activities at their Picnic in the Park sites.

The Idaho Food bank serves nearly 900 free sack lunches every weekday during the summer as part of the Picnic in the Park Program. This program targets families that receive free or reduced-priced school lunch during the school year. It is an attempt to provide nutritious lunches for any child (1-18) who wants one!

There are 20 free lunch sites in the Treasure Valley each day, sponsored by the Food Bank and more sites sponsored by other organizations.

MK Nature Center staff and volunteers provided gyotaku (fish printing), feather printing, fishing casting lessons, track painting, and butterfly crafts at 8 locations in June.



*BSU student intern Rebecca Wagner (left) helps kids at the Picnic in the Park Program create a feather print after they finished their sack lunch from the Idaho Food Bank. Master Naturalists Laura Doty, Martha McClay, and Mike Webb, in addition to employees Rebecca Fritz and Sara Focht helped with the program.*

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



# MK NATURE CENTER A NATURAL FORCE

Many of you probably read Rocky Barker's front page Statesman article on Sunday June 19th. The point? The MK Nature Center and places like it are becoming increasingly important and relevant in a world in which people are more disconnected from nature than ever before. Richard Louv, who coined the term Nature Deficit Disorder to describe the physical, emotional and psychological impact of this disconnect, visited the MKNC in 2008. He recognized immediately the potential of this place to combat this growing problem. The nature center grounds, programs, events, and people are all integral to facilitating the connection of people to nature. We provide the landscape for Mother Nature to work her magic. We see it every time people encounter a fox, sturgeon, fawn, or Chinook salmon. Distinguished Oberlin College author and teacher David Orr, who is most recognized for his expertise in environmental education and green design, sees nature centers as a notable force in this reconnection effort " . . .nature centers are among the jewels of American culture, uncelebrated, greatly loved, and well-positioned now to do heroic kinds of things, in a quiet and unassuming way."

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## FACE TO FISH DAYS-JULY 8TH-9TH

Join us for this great family education event. Get face to fish with Idaho's premier aquatic wildlife, try some gyotaku, take a streamside walk, and wade in the Boise River with our Class in the Creek educators. Available for purchase this year will be fish printing on t-shirts, with games and prizes for the kids. Bring a picnic dinner or lunch and enjoy some time at your local nature center.

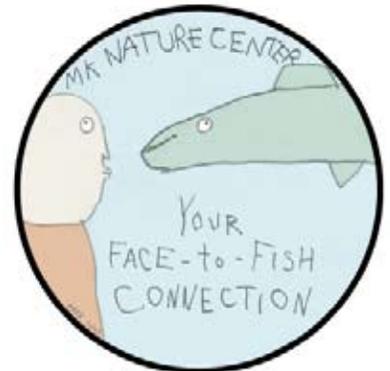


Sturgeon spotting is a favorite activity at the Nature Center!

YOU MUST SEE THIS YOU TUBE VIDEO:

[http://youtu.be/hiZR2YSXu\\_s](http://youtu.be/hiZR2YSXu_s)

Friday, July 8 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm  
Saturday, July 9 from 9:00am – 2:00pm  
Cost: requested donation of \$ 1.00 per person



MK Nature Center-Your Face-to-Fish Connection

# MAKING ROOM FOR CUTTHROAT TROUT



*Peter Cannamela (left), Dave Cannamela, (middle) and Rebecca Fritz (right) electroshock the rainbow trout in the Alpine Lake. Numerous other staff and volunteers waited along the banks to run the fish to the pond. Photo by Alessa Cantaboni.*

Nearly 30 rainbow trout were removed from the Alpine Lake in mid-June to make room for Idaho's state fish-the cutthroat trout!

The 100 cutthroat placed in the Alpine Lake were raised right here at the Nature Center in our aquatic lab. The fry (babies) came from the McCall fish Hatchery in summer of 2010.

Rainbow trout often out-compete cutthroat trout, that is why the rainbows were removed. Come see the new fish in the Alpine Lake...they are little now, but they will be growing throughout the summer.

## FAREWELL TO MICAH AND BRIAN



**Above:** *Micah captivates Parkside pre school students in a lesson about the changing seasons.*

**Right:** *Brian gets mobbed by kindergarteners while passing around a wolf pelt.*



Brian Stark and Micah Scholer have been with us a whole year now, and it is time to say goodbye! BSU and the National Science Foundation brought them to us through the G K-12 Program. Together, Micah and Brian taught 160 programs over the course of one year! Wow, what a help; they are both top-notch educators! Not only did they teach programs, they brought in fresh ideas and perspectives to the rest of the MKNC staff. We will truly miss them!

Fortunately, we will be receiving two new fellows this year. Stay tuned to the fall edition of the STREAM to find out who they are.

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

# TURKEY RUG DONATED

THANK YOU!!

Dane Cook, a Senior Conservation Officer (IDFG) in Salmon, Idaho donated a beautiful turkey rug to the Nature Center. Thanks to Dane, his wife Patti, and daughters Kaylie (left) and Leah (right).



## TO EAT AND BE EATEN



This marmot took up residence in our community garden area by the parking lot this spring. We enjoyed seeing him for a few weeks.

We stopped seeing him about the time we started seeing a red fox around! Hmm-nature at its finest!

In Idaho we have two varieties of marmots; yellow-bellied marmots and hoary marmots. Here in Boise, we have yellow-bellied marmots. Hoary marmots live at higher elevations.



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# MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2011 DONORS



*Thank you to the US Forest Service, Wild Birds Unlimited, Cabela's, and Flying M Coffee for their generous donations! Their donations served as raffle prizes at this year's International Migratory Bird Day event in May!*



*International Migratory Bird Day was a huge success-nearly 1000 people attended. Susan Ziebarth (left) shows visitors our resident burrowing owl. Sandy Sweet (right) hangs up wet feather prints at International Migratory Bird Day.*

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# 3RD ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Have you taken any photos at the MKNC in the last year? Enter them into our photo contest.

All entries must be:

- Digital
- Taken at MKNC
- Taken by an amateur photographer
- Sent to [sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov) by December 1, 2011
- Accompanied by permission for MKNC to use the photo for publicity
- Must not have been entered into previous MKNC contests

Photos will be placed and judged in the following categories:



- Abstract Artistic
- Aquatics
- Arachnids and Insects
- Birds
- Education
- Fish
- Macro
- People Enjoying Nature
- Plants
- Seasonal
- Wildlife (nonbird)

*Pink Flowers -first place in the plant category 2010 - by Kent Miller. MK Nature Center Pond - first place in the aquatics category 2010 - by Ray Greene.*

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## EDUCATION UPDATE

June 30th ends our fiscal year at MK Nature Center. Looking back on a very productive and busy year, of which to be proud. We provided 250 programs to nearly 8000 students!



## PATH IMPROVEMENTS!



Before

In June, the path around the north loop of the Nature Center was resurfaced. Instead of bumpy broken pavement, we now have smooth crushed gravel!



After!

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# 15TH ANNUAL IDAHO SALMON AND STEELHEAD DAYS! SEPTEMBER 7-9!

2011 represents the 15 year anniversary of Idaho Salmon and Steelhead Days! Idaho Salmon and Steelhead Days is a 3-day celebration designed to increase awareness and appreciation for salmon and steelhead resources in the region among the Treasure Valley's fifth grade students. We do this by focusing on "hands-on," outdoor learning programs to teach students the biology, history and economic and cultural significance of fish and fishing. The program is held at the Morrison Knudsen Nature Center located adjacent to Idaho Fish & Game headquarters at 600 S. Walnut St., Boise.

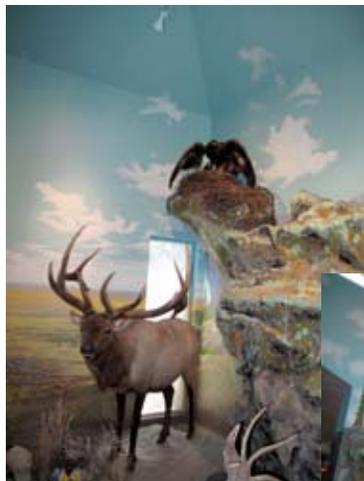
Thursday, September 8 is the public barbeque night, which features a great grilled salmon dinner, live music and fun for the entire family. More information can be found at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/ssdays/>.

Since 1997, nearly 25,000 students and teachers have participated! In the year 2009 alone, we had 1878 students, representing 32 different schools, attend. Our program also includes outreach to the student's parents and teachers, last year some 350 attended. The program has become a hallmark event in the area and so popular that we had an additional 26 classes on our waiting list.

Volunteers are needed for this event, please contact Cass Meissner to sign up at [cass.meissner@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:cass.meissner@idfg.idaho.gov) or 208-287-2901.



## NEW ROOM OPEN FOR VIEWING!



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