Extinction of experience?

Explore and discover

14 ways you can get involved

see back cover

Montana Natural History Center
Your Base Camp for Discovery

TO PROMOTE AND CULTIVATE THE APPRECIATION, UNDERSTANDING AND STEWARDSHIP OF NATURE THROUGH EDUCATION
A Special End-of-Year Message

The staff and board of the Montana Natural History Center would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone—individuals, families, businesses and foundations—who supported us this year—through volunteering, program participation, membership or donation. We especially are grateful to those who helped make our recent annual auction fundraiser such a success. But as 2006 draws to a close, we need to take this opportunity to remind everyone on our mailing list about the ongoing need for support.

Did you know that Montana Naturalist magazine is just one way M NHC reaches out to people of all ages with opportunities to learn about the natural world? M NHC also offers:

• A comprehensive website with natural history news, calendar listings, program information and links to related natural history sites
• An award-winning, school-based visiting naturalist program for 4th and 5th graders
• Special weekend and evening programs and classes for the general public
• An abundance of summertime camps for children aged 5-12
• The popular weekly radio program, Field Notes
• Educational trunk and other curriculum resources for teachers
• A Discovery Center with changing exhibits about the natural history of our area
• Customized on-site tours and programs for community groups of all ages
• An annual Clark Fork Watershed Festival for area 6th graders
• RiverFest, an annual community celebration of our local natural history and culture

Why we do it
Thanks to a society that often values the virtual over the actual we are faced with an increasing “extinction of experience.” We are part of an age that is more concerned about the mountain affecting cell phone coverage than about the mountain itself. Too many of us don’t know what it is to feel the wind on a mountain top or the rush of a river, let alone the joy of simple backyard discovery. But thanks to you and others who care about the natural world, M NHC is trying address this “nature deficit disorder” by connecting people with the outdoors.

From Summer Science Day Camps for kids to Visiting Naturalists in the Schools, from Saturday Discovery Days to Explorers Club outings, M NHC offers high-quality learning experiences that engage youngsters and adults alike in exploration and discovery. These meaningful experiences would not be possible without your involvement and support.

To focus our efforts and your investments on these powerful opportunities, we are challenging our own notions of what it is to be a “base camp for discovery” as our logo says. M NHC board and staff members are always looking for new ways to offer our participants you—more time in the field.

Thanks to you the Montana Natural History Center is making a difference. As research shows, the more we experience nature and learn about natural systems, the more likely we are to become stewards of the natural world for the future.

So, please read over the options on the back page and think about making a donation that is a bit of a stretch. We pledge that we will invest your money in the citizens of today and tomorrow, so that we all have opportunities to appreciate, understand and become stewards of Montana’s wild places.

With gratitude and warmest wishes for the holidays,

Staff
Marcia Hogan • Caroline Kurtz
Charles Miller • Lisa Moore • Jazz Rowell
Gabrielle Sivitz

Board
Hank Fischer • Ellen Knight • Ian Marquand
Anita Maxwell • John McKay • Marty Noyd
Alan Okagaki • Elizabeth Oleson
Rick Oncken • Susan Reel • Susan Roy

MONTANA NATURALIST | Cover photo, Pine Marten © Dan Hartman, www.wildlifealongtherockies.homestead.com
1. Become a member, make an unrestricted gift and/or choose to support one or more specific programs.

2. Fill out the address form below.

3. Send in the form with your check or credit card information.

All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________________
City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______
Phone ________________________________

☐ Enclosed are my MNHC membership dues of $______.
☐ Enclosed in my gift of $______ to support MNHC’s general operations.
☐ Enclosed is my gift of $______ to support specific MNHC programs.
☐ I am enclosing payment by check
☐ I would like to pay with a credit card (circle one): AMEX Visa Mastercard
Account Number ___________________________ Expiration date __________

Signature ________________________________
☐ I would like to pay by check
☐ Enclosed in my gift of $______ to support MNHC’s educational programs.
☐ I am enclosing payment by check
☐ I would like to pay with a credit card (circle one): AMEX Visa Mastercard
Account Number ___________________________ Expiration date __________
Signature ________________________________

Support MNHC in General
☐ Make an unrestricted donation of any amount.
$ __________

Support MNHC’s Educational Programs
☐ Nature Discovery Traveling Trunks
(Budget: $5,000/year.) These trunks are filled with interdisciplinary lesson plans, books, audio-visual materials and other resources that help educators bring the natural world to kindergarten through high-school audiences. $ __________

☐ Visiting Naturalist in the Schools Program
(Budget: $2000 per classroom per year.) MNHC naturalists currently lead more than 700 Missoula-area 4th and 5th grade students every month throughout the school year in outdoor exploration, understanding scientific processes and building naturalist skills. $ __________

☐ Summer Science Day Camps
(Budget: Covered by program fees. Costs range between $65-$190 per child per camp.) Activities engage young explorers and connect them to the natural world through hands-on learning that is fun and adventurous. Help us underwrite costs for less-advantaged participants. $ __________

☐ Clark Fork Watershed Festival
(Budget: $10,000/year.) Now entering its 13th year, hundreds of area 6th graders, teachers and volunteers participate in this annual outdoor celebration, focusing on ecology and place-based education in the Clark Fork Watershed. $ __________

Support MNHC’s Community Programs and Resources
☐ Montana Naturalist Magazine
(Budget: $8,000/issue.) A free, balanced source of natural history articles, profiles, photography and activities for all ages. $ __________

☐ Interpretive Exhibits, Special Presentations and Saturday Discovery Days
(Budget: $18,000/year.) Our visitor center contains evolving exhibits on Glacial Lake Missoula and Montana paleohistory; forest, riparian and prairie ecology; a children’s discovery room and more. Special lectures and Saturday Discovery Days offer opportunities for individuals and families to explore up-close the beauty and complexity of our natural world. $ __________

☐ Field Notes on the Radio
(Budget: $3,000.) Now in its 15th year, these weekly essays heard on public radio tell personal stories of nature discovery contributed by the community at large. $ __________

☐ Ralph Lee Allen Environmental Education Library
(Budget: $500.) A reference library of teacher curricula, books and field guides, audio and video resources, and herbarium specimens. $ __________

☐ RiverFest
(Budget: $1,000/year.) An annual celebration of our local natural history in partnership with other community organizations. $ __________

Montana Natural History Center
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120 Hickory Street
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www.MontanaNaturalist.org

MNHC is proud to be a member of Montana Shares. Check with your employer to learn how you can participate!