

MONTANA Naturalist

Spring/Summer 2015

TO PROMOTE AND CULTIVATE THE APPRECIATION, UNDERSTANDING AND STEWARDSHIP OF NATURE THROUGH EDUCATION

What's in a Name?

The Intricacies of Blackfeet Naming

The Legacy of a Naturalist | Urban Wildlife Habitat | Summer Camps at MNHC

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Cover – Vivid Indian paintbrush catches a ray
of Montana sunshine. Photo by Nelson Kenter,
www.kenterphotography.com.

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tidings

Despite the sad lack of snow in February and March

and the too-early arrival of spring, I got to enjoy a little return to winter recently while hiking in Blodgett Canyon in the Bitterroots. It was a chilly Wednesday morning and my husband and I had the sweet satisfaction of being the only

hikers on the trail. As we hiked beneath half-blue, half-cloudy skies, snow began to swirl down on us in fat flakes, obscuring our western views and adding to the dusting already on the ground. I felt that rush of contentment that comes so often when I'm exploring wild places, a deep gladness that I was right there, at that moment, feeling the tingle of snowflakes hitting my skin and then melting away, their beauty ephemeral.

I've experienced more of those moments lately, triggered, perhaps, by the change in season. The moon surprised me this month, going from half to nearly full in that abrupt way it does sometimes, so that I looked up in wonder one evening to see it shining round and bright in the twilight sky, dancing amongst high wispy clouds. Another day I spent an hour watching a Pileated woodpecker excavate a hole in an aspen snag, its red head moving with methodic precision, tossing out sawdust in bursts upon the wind.

Sometimes the world simply demands that we pay attention.

And it's easier to pay attention to the natural world when we're out in it in the first place, like Angela Mallon, a lifelong naturalist who learned to love nature from her mother (page 4), or like Rosalyn LaPier, whose rich Blackfeet heritage finds supernatural meaning and connection in the natural world (page 6). There are many ways we can pay attention, from training our eyes to look for the unique shape of tasty morel mushrooms, as Rachael Alter does each spring (page 14), to noticing the wild creatures in our own backyards and working to create better habitat for them (page 13).

Spring in Montana: wildflowers are blooming (page 9), birds are returning to mate and nest, trees are putting out leaves and blossoms, and soon we'll be surrounded by every imaginable shade of green. There's plenty to pay attention to...and you never know what magical moments you might find.

Happy exploring!

Allison De Jong

EDITOR

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PHOTO: ALLISON DE JONG

A snowy spring day in Blodgett Canyon.

CORRECTION:

In *Loving a Landscape: Drama on the Rocky Mountain Front* by Tom McKean in the Winter 2014-2015 issue, there was mention of both ponderosa pine and whitebark pine, neither of which is found in the areas mentioned; the correct species is limber pine. Thanks to botanist Peter Lesica for pointing this out.



Legacy

BY ANGELA MALLON



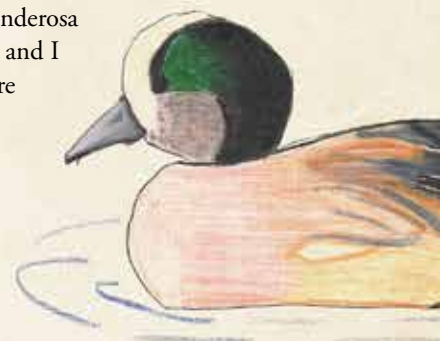
I am two years old and we are flying tandem down an icy one-lane road on a runner sled. My mother, the pilot, overcorrects rounding a corner and suddenly we are airborne, a parabola of polyester snowsuits and woolen hats arcing over the plow berm into the draw below. The sky is a kaleidoscope of naked riparian branches—aspens and willows and elderberry—and then it is nothing but white, as I plunge headfirst into a snowdrift. I can hear the muffled fright in my mother's voice as she hauls me out by one foot, checking me all over for injury as I start to giggle, and then she is laughing with me. We posthole back up the steep bank to the road, retrieving our sled along the way from a clump of brush. Snow starts to fall. Later that day she will measure how much has accumulated on the flat railing in front of our house, a day in a year in decades of precipitation records she has kept to mark the abundance or scarcity of our dry gulch's most precious resource.

I am six years old, and it is spring. I have a little brother now. Sometimes he toddles along with us, and sometimes my mother carries him, but I walk the whole way. We trek beyond the barn along the western fence line of our homestead into the steep woodland reserve pasture where the cattle rarely go. By this time my mother has taught me the names and faces of the most common spring flowers—fairy face, and cat's paw and woods' rose—but today we seek something more rare. Underfoot, the ponderosa pine needles are still moist on the shaded north slopes, and in the remotest corner near the brass survey marker, we find them. Violets. They are deep purple with white-striped centers that twinkle at us like stars. I marvel that she knows their secret hiding place, so tiny and fleeting are they in that semi-arid,

hardscrabble landscape. I know without being told that we do not pick these flowers, as we do the more common ones. My mother is teaching me that we do not need to possess rare things, that our privilege is simply in knowing where they exist.

I am 18 years old, and it is the summer before my first year of college. The US Forest Service pays me eight dollars and twenty-six cents an hour to walk the hills surrounding my home. They are different now, though, transformed by fire, mostly charred where they were once green, their jagged rocky profile revealed with the shroud of forest burned away. My job is to count seedlings, to mark the boundaries of units that will be replanted the following spring, and to assess the condition and survival rate of previous years' plantings. My family's own homestead was burned in the same event three years before, and we are well versed in the lexicon of post-fire recovery. At the end of each day I return home, sunburned and painted with black ash from a hundred brushes against the trunks and branches of ghosts. I give my mother a status report in the language of names particular to our place: "There's good survival in planting units on McKenzie Ridge...Potato Creek burned so hot only fireweed grows there...the crew saw a bear in Palmich Canyon today." It is strange to see the once-familiar face of our country altered beyond recognition, but this land is teaching us lessons about resilience. Already, the mule deer have returned to the upper canyon in droves to feed on bunch grasses flourishing under the newly opened forest canopy, and the ponderosa pines my mother, brother, father, and I planted the spring after the fire are knee high.

I am 26, and it should be fall, but here in the southern hemisphere, the seasons are flipped on end and more



DRAWINGS BY ANGELA MALLON

subtle, the shifts in day-length modulated by proximity to the equator. As we waited in the airport the day I departed for this place my mother took a deep breath and said, "I hope you love it so much that you never want to come back," setting me free to wander deeper into the cosmic curiosity which she herself had planted in me as a child. And I do love it here, the landscape with its strange red clay soils and broadleaf forests so diverse that the pine woodlands of my childhood are a monoculture by comparison. I fall easily into the habits of knowing a place, learning the names of trees and flowers, the rhythms of seasons wet and dry, and the habits of enduring sub-tropical summer humidity and winters without central heat. In the native language here, the words for "contentment" and "being located in a place" are the same, speaking to the truth that home and happiness are mirror images. Here, I understand for the first time that to know a place intimately is to find home, no matter where in the world we go.

I am 35 and I have settled again in the Intermountain West, seven hours east of the place of my birth. I am a forester now by profession. Like many, I am a transplant here, but I have found home in the names of this country, its

*...I have found
home in the names
of this country, its
peaks and valleys,
its trees and rocks
and flowers...*



LEFT: A young Angela and her new little brother on a camping trip.



RIGHT: Angela showing off her day's catch.

peaks and valleys, its trees and rocks and flowers so similar to those of my childhood. My mother and I arrange a reunion, a Master Naturalist course in Glacier National Park. If there is such thing as a star pupil in a class like this, she is it. She knows the names of most of the flowers, spots Firestone Pass waterfowl long before any of the rest of us, and is generous and self-effacing with the other students. Seeing the lovely sketches in her field journal, I am encouraged to try, and find that I too can passably replicate the curves of a plant's conductive tissue and the variegated colors of a bird's feathers.

In this learning environment, I consider the difference between my profession and being a naturalist. To my mind, forestry is my discipline. Being a naturalist is my heritage. Long before my formal education began, I had already internalized the cycles of snow and sun, the names of the organisms in the world around me, the dynamic and resilient character of ecosystems, and a profound attachment to place. As a forester, I display a certain scientific and objective detachment. As a naturalist, I can no more separate myself from nature than I can from my mother. This way of seeing the world, of finding home in the knowing of place, is woven through me. It is her legacy. 🐾

—Angela Mallon lives at the base of Missoula's North Hills with her small blonde Paraguayan dog. The majority of her naturalist observations are made from a running path at a brisk lope, although she is known to pause occasionally to indulge her newfound fascination with botanical sketching.





BY ROSALYN LAPIER

My grandmother, Annie Mad Plume Wall, named my daughters, Abaki and Iko'tsimiskimaki, when they were both babies. I wanted both of my daughters to have Blackfeet names in an effort to return and restore the Blackfeet language into everyday use. In the past, of course, it was common practice in Blackfeet society to name children when they were babies. However, today, since most Blackfeet give their children American names at birth, the practice of giving a "Blackfeet name" has changed. My parents named me Rosalyn at birth, but when I was a young child my grandmother also gave me her Blackfeet name, Otahkoisinopaki. And, like many Blackfeet names, all three of these names describe elements of the Blackfeet natural world.

A misconception exists regarding the names and naming of Native Americans. People often ask me, “Did your grandmother see something in nature and name you after it?” Many people believe that Native people named their children based on the first thing seen in nature after the baby was born, or on the child’s personality and its corresponding natural entity—the “Dances With Wolves” theory of naming. In reality, both the process of naming and the names themselves are far different from this popularly-held belief, and are complex to explain.

The Old Ways

In the past each Blackfeet person had only one unique name; the Blackfeet did not use family or surnames. Today it is difficult to imagine living in an entire community with hundreds to thousands of people, all with their own singular individual name. But it was their names that made the Blackfeet stand out individually within their strongly communal society.

The Blackfeet believed that children’s destinies and even their fates were determined by several factors, most importantly their names. Encoded within a child’s name was a relationship with both the supernatural world and a supernatural ally, the latter helping the child fulfill her own talents, abilities and calling in life. A

supernatural ally might be an animal, plant or other element that serves as an intermediary between the human world and the supernatural, speaking or negotiating on behalf of a person. For example, if it was snowing too much one would not directly ask the “Snow Maker” to make it snow less, he would instead ask his supernatural ally to speak to the “Snow Maker” on his behalf.

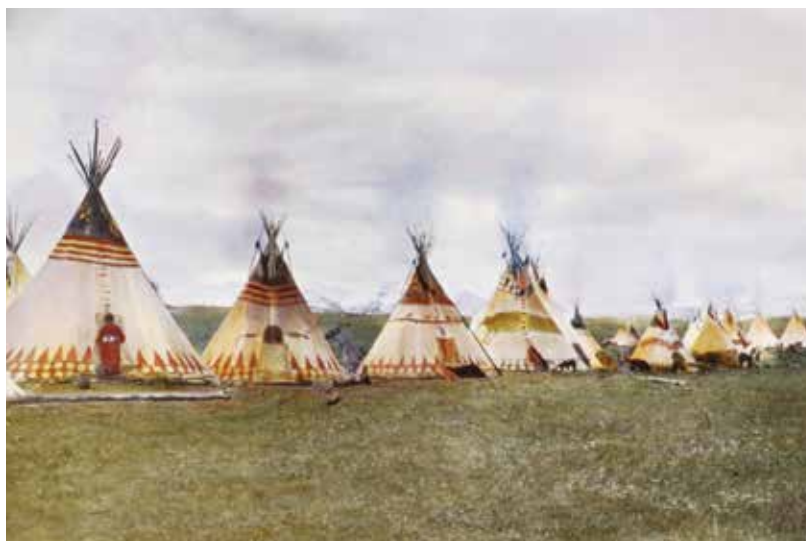
Names were given carefully by a prominent person selected by the family. Giving a name was considered both an honor and a responsibility. The giver of the name took the task seriously, often praying to his or her own supernatural ally, and taking time to contemplate carefully before providing the family with a name.

Most names carried with them a story of their origin, a relationship with a supernatural ally, sometimes a song or a prayer for the supernatural ally, perhaps supernatural power or ability, and, most importantly, supernatural protection for the child throughout his life. The Blackfeet did not believe in “luck” or approaching life in a haphazard way. They believed that life was lived with purpose and intention, was guided by the supernatural, and that the foundation for all this was found within one’s name.

Sacred Economy

The Blackfeet have a cultural concept that historian William Farr described as a “sacred economy.” Within this sacred economy the Blackfeet bought and sold objects both tangible and intangible that held supernatural power or an ally relationship. Living one’s life alone without supernatural assistance was considered unthinkable. There were, therefore, several processes in place for acquiring supernatural assistance. The most difficult and least sure method was to go and seek it on your own. The far more certain process was to purchase it from another, who could attest to its proven success.

Large tipis in the Blackfeet inner-circle, early 1900s. Image is a hand-colored glass lantern slide by Walter McClintock.



The Blackfeet considered names intangible objects that held supernatural power.

The Blackfeet considered names intangible objects that held supernatural power. Therefore, in the past, when a family asked a prominent person to name their child, they paid the person. However, they did not pay the person for the honor of giving the name; they paid the person for the name itself and its related supernatural connection. Once a person owned a name, she could use it for as long as she saw fit and then sell it to another. The buying and selling of names, as objects of supernatural power in a sacred economy, was common practice in the

old days. The Blackfeet considered it tantamount to stealing if someone took a name without first paying its owner for it. Such an act was not only morally wrong but could potentially generate the ire of a supernatural ally.

The practice of naming differed based on gender and the age of the recipient. In the past, women typically owned only one name throughout their lives. This was in part because the Blackfeet viewed women as creators of life and as living closer to the supernatural world, thus not needing to seek out additional supernatural assistance. Sometimes women did receive another name, but this was often to observe a deed or honor.

The Blackfeet viewed men differently. Unlike women, men owned several names throughout their lives, hoping, with each new name, to acquire a closer relationship with the supernatural world. Men often had a childhood name, a name in their young adulthood, and so on, acquiring a new name each time they progressed through another stage of life. But even though a man might own several names throughout his lifetime, he only used one name at any one time.

The New Ways

Names and naming changed at the turn of the 20th century. The federal government and religious groups on the Blackfoot reservation worked hard to assimilate Blackfeet into American culture. It was at this time, during my grandparents' childhood, that many Blackfeet adopted new American first names, usually Christian, and incorporated their Blackfeet names, translated into English, as their last names. At the turn of the last century, these unique individual names became the Blackfeet surnames (in their English translation) that you still hear today in Montana: Aimsback, Mad Plume, No Runner, Spotted Bear.

However, even with this attempted assimilation, the Blackfeet continued to name their children with Blackfeet names. Today, most Blackfeet have two names: their legal American name, with a first and last name, and their individual Blackfeet name.

Over the past century a new process for naming has emerged. To a certain extent, most modern Blackfeet acquire a name in the same way that the Blackfeet did in the past. Sometimes a family asks a prominent person in the community; however, more often an elder from within their own family gives a child a name. And families often respect the same protocols of the old days. When I was given my Blackfeet name as a child, my mother invited all the elders in our family, held a family feast and paid the elders for my name.

When I was a child, my grandmother named me Otahkoinopaki, or "Yellow Swift Fox Woman." Much later in life, my grandmother gave me a second name, Kitaiksisskstaki, or "Not Real Beaver Woman." My grandmother gave me this second name because I was the first grandchild in the family to go away to college and to graduate with a degree, and she considered this an honor for the family. My grandfather named my older brother Iòkimau, which is a shortened form of the word Ixtáìòkimau, or "To Make Pemmican." According to the old ways of the Blackfeet, my brother and I now "own" our individual names. In addition, in the future we are the only people who can "sell" them. The Blackfeet today consider names as carefully guarded family treasures or family heirlooms.

Return to Old Ways

There are some young Blackfeet, such as my daughters, who are returning to the old ways. Instead of going by an American

name, my daughters have gone by their Blackfeet names their entire lives, and their Blackfeet names are also their legal names. (However, by law they must also have a surname.) The meaning of their names is multifaceted and would take another article to explain fully, but I can provide a general understanding.

My eldest daughter's name, Abaki, translates as "Winter Weasel" or "White Weasel Woman." The Blackfeet valued natural

Annie Mad Plume Wall, the author's grandmother, with the author's daughter. Annie Mad Plume Wall gave her great-granddaughter the Blackfeet name Abaki, or "White Weasel Woman."



The Blackfeet today consider names as carefully guarded family treasures or family heirlooms.



"Salmon Colored Supernatural Fossilized Shell Woman," a name derived from a type of mussel (*Pyganodon grandis*) found in the Missouri River in Montana. Religious leaders used the shell of this mussel in their ceremonies. For example, if a young man wanted his sweetheart to fall in love with him, he could go to a religious leader, who would use the mussel shell to perform a ceremony which would change the feelings of the sweetheart. The Blackfeet valued the mussel's ability to change human nature or behavior.

So Blackfeet names are more than just a description of the natural world; they are a reflection of a deeper understanding of relationships between the supernatural and the natural. The Blackfeet left nothing to chance, including their names. In choosing names, they sought out relationships that could help alter, change or influence their daily lives. Blackfeet names are unique and carry with them a connection to that transformative world, as well as the power to influence a person's destiny, provide protection, and define a person's place in her family and her role in life. 🦊

—Rosalyn LaPier (*Blackfeet/Métis*) is a faculty member of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Montana.

Wonderful Wildflower Walks around Missoula

Want to bask in the multi-colored glory of Montana's wildflowers? They can be found from March to August (though prime viewing is usually in May and June) in parks and forests, hillsides and mountaintops. Here are a few of our favorite spots:



Waterworks Hill

Despite the seeming barrenness of this exposed ridge, Waterworks Hill is awash with color in April, May and June. In April, look for bright little yellowbells, purply shooting stars, tiny pink douglasia, and the gleaming white of Missoula phlox on its pale green cushion of leaves. May and June bring the dazzling pink of bitterroots, our state flower, mixing with the deep periwinkle of penstemon and the pale pink and off-white of buckwheat blossoms rising above their silvery leaves. Vivid yellow groundsel flowers are scattered in golden pockets across the hillside, and let's not forget the deep yellow and orange of the occasional blanketflower... Even the best photographs can't quite capture the full glory of this rainbow of wildflowers—you'll just have to experience it for yourself.

Directions: From Broadway in Missoula, turn north on Madison Avenue, then a soft right onto Greenough Drive (going over the railroad tracks). Go under the I-90 overpass, and shortly after take a left on the dirt road up to the parking area.



Buckwheat



Woods Gulch

The first couple of miles of this trail in the Rattlesnake Recreation Area take you through a somewhat wetter habitat than you'll find in much of the surrounding area. The trail rises fairly steeply through a mixed-conifer montane forest, and in and among the trees are a plethora of wildflowers, blossoming radiantly in May and June. As many as 52 different species have been found to be in bloom at one time! This is a great place to amble slowly, because lovely flowers are waiting at every turn—fairy slipper orchids, side-flowering miterwort, a veritable army of trillium, glacier lilies, lupine, paintbrush, fairybells, kittentails, false Solomon's seal...and dozens of others.

Directions: From Broadway, go north on Van Buren, which turns into Rattlesnake Drive. Stay on Rattlesnake Drive for about 3 miles, and then turn right onto Woods Gulch Road (instead of turning left onto Sawmill Gulch Road which takes you to the main Rattlesnake trailhead). The trailhead is a half mile up the road, with limited parking.



Fairy slipper orchid



St. Mary Peak

St. Mary Peak is one of the most accessible 9000+ foot peaks in the Bitterroot Mountains, and at the summit, which is about 3.5 miles (and an elevation gain of 2500 feet) from the trailhead, you can not only gaze upon endless miles of wilderness but admire the myriad alpine wildflowers that make their home there, and which usually peak in late June and early July. There are the wide white bowls of mountain avens blossoms, tiny bell-shaped mountain heather, gorgeous periwinkle alpine forget-me-nots, bright pink douglasia, and, lower down, flowers such as snow-lover and phlox.

Directions: Going south on Highway 93, go about 3.5 miles south of Stevensville and turn right (west) on Indian Prairie Loop Road. Take this for 1.3 miles to the St. Mary road, where you'll turn right and go north for half a mile, then take the first left (going west) on FR 739. When the road forks less than a mile later, take the right fork onto St. Mary Peak Road, which you'll stay on for 10.3 miles (keeping to the left at the unsigned turns) until you reach the trailhead, which is typically accessible by car from about May to November. The trailhead has a pit toilet and plenty of parking.



Alpine forget-me-nots

get outside calendar

MNHC Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, noon - 4 p.m.

Admission Fees: \$3/adults (18+),
\$1/children (4-18), \$7/family rate
Free/children under 4 and MNHC members

Programs for Kids

April 23 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program,
10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

April 30 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program,
10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

May 7 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program,
10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

May 9 UM Wildlife Society's Wildlife Extravaganza at MNHC, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
This family-friendly event inspires wildlife stewardship through exhibits, presentations, and interactive activities and games. Free.

May 9 Family Discovery Day, Noon-4:00 p.m.
Naturalist Scavenger Hunt. Free.

May 14 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program,
10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

May 16 Saturday Kids' Activity, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Rad Reptiles & Amphibians. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

May 21 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program,
10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

May 28 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program,
10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

June 4 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program in the Park, 10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

June 20 Saturday Kids' Activity, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Awesome Osprey. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

July 2 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program in the Park, 10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

July 11 Saturday Kids' Activity, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Animal Locomotion. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

July 16 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program in the Park, 10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

August 6 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program in the Park, 10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

August 15 Saturday Kids' Activity, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Montana's Curious Cats! \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

August 20 miniNaturalists Pre-K Program in the Park, 10:00-11:00 a.m. \$3; \$1 MNHC members.

Adult Programs

April Gallery, all month.
Santos Fuatos: Wildland Fire Photography.






April 25 Naturalist Field Day, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Snails and Slugs of Remnant Forests. \$80; \$70 MNHC members. Registration required.

April 29 Secret Science Night, 7:00 p.m.
Naturalist Trivia with DNRC Forest Pest Management Team. \$4 suggested donation; MNHC members free.

May 1 First Friday Gallery Opening, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Gail Trenfield: Reflections of the Natural World: The Beauty and Light of our Lakes and Rivers. All month.

May 6 Evening Lecture, 7:00 p.m. Small Forest Carnivores with Adam Lieberg. \$4 suggested donation; MNHC members free.

May 7 Teacher Workshop: Schoolyard Native Plants and Pollinators, 3:00-6:30 p.m. \$5.
Registration required.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div>April</div> <div><div></div><div>April Gallery, All month. Santos Fautos: Wildland Fire Photography.</div><div>19</div></div>	<div></div> <div>26</div> <div>27</div> <div>28</div>	<div><div></div><div>Volunteer Naturalist Training, 3:30-5 p.m. VNS Field Trip Training.</div><div>22</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>miniNaturalists Pre-K Program, 10-11 a.m.</div><div>23</div></div>	<div>24</div>	<div><div></div><div>Naturalist Field Day, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Snails and Slugs of Remnant Forests.</div><div>25</div></div>	
<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div><div></div><div>Secret Science Night, 7 p.m. Naturalist Trivia.</div><div>29</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>miniNaturalists Pre-K Program, 10-11 a.m.</div><div>30</div></div>	<div>May</div> <div><div></div><div>First Friday Gallery Opening, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Gail Trenfield: Reflections of the Natural World. All month.</div><div>1</div></div>	<div>2</div>
<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div><div></div><div>Evening Lecture, 7 p.m. Small Forest Carnivores.</div><div>6</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>miniNaturalists Pre-K Program, 10-11 a.m.</div><div><div></div><div>Teacher Workshop: Schoolyard Native Plants and Pollinators, 3-6:30 p.m.</div><div>7</div></div></div>	<div>8</div>	<div><div></div><div>UM Wildlife Society's Wildlife Extravaganza, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.</div><div><div></div><div>Family Discovery Day, Noon-4 p.m. Naturalist Scavenger Hunt.</div><div>9</div></div></div>
<div></div> <div>12</div> <div>13</div>	<div><div></div><div>Evening Lecture, 7 p.m. The Last Rhino: Education and Vietnam's Wildlife Conservation Crisis.</div><div>12</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>miniNaturalists Pre-K Program, 10-11 a.m.</div><div><div></div><div>Volunteer Work Party, 4-6 p.m., Native Plant Garden at the Fort.</div><div>14</div></div></div>	<div>15</div>	<div><div></div><div>Saturday Kids' Activity, 2-3 p.m. Rad Reptiles and Amphibians.</div><div>16</div></div>		
<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div><div></div><div>Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter Meeting, 4 p.m.</div><div>19</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>miniNaturalists Pre-K Program, 10-11 a.m.</div><div><div></div><div>Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden, 4:30-6 p.m. Mini Gardens.</div><div>21</div></div></div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>
<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div><div></div><div>miniNaturalists Pre-K Program, 10-11 a.m.</div><div><div></div><div>Volunteer Work Party, 4-6 p.m., Native Plant Garden at the Fort.</div><div>28</div></div></div>	<div>29</div>	<div><div></div><div>Naturalist Field Day, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Birding by Ear.</div><div>30</div></div>	
<div>June</div> <div><div></div><div>June Gallery, All month. Karen Savory: Whimsical Nature.</div><div>31</div></div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>
<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div>	<div><div></div><div>Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden, 4:30-6 p.m. Spiral Rock Gardens.</div><div>10</div></div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>
<div>Summer Outdoor Discovery Camps</div> <div>June 15-19 Mini Biologists (Pre-School) Jr. Survivor (Grades 1-3) Mineral Madness (Grades 3-5)</div> <div>15</div>	<div>16</div>	<div><div></div><div>Summer Master Naturalist Course, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on W, Th, F, M, T. June 17-19, 22-23.</div><div><div></div><div>Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter Meeting, 4 p.m.</div><div>17</div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Volunteer Work Party, 4-6 p.m., Native Plant Garden at the Fort.</div><div>18</div></div>	<div>19</div>	<div><div></div><div>Saturday Kids' Activity, 2-3 p.m. Awesome Osprey.</div><div>20</div></div>	

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<div>Summer Outdoor Discovery Day Camps</div> <div>See Imprints for details, page 16.</div>							
<div>June 22-26</div> <div>Predator Prowl (Grades K-1)</div> <div>Go Fish! (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Theatre and Nature (Grades 3-5)</div> <div>22</div>		23	24	<div></div> <div>Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden, 4:30-6 p.m.</div> <div>Active Gardens Designed for Play, Music, and Science.</div> <div>25</div>	<div></div>		
<div>June 29-July 3</div> <div>Montana Mammals (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Rockin' Rocks I (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Bugs and Slugs (Grades 3-5)</div> <div>29</div>		30	<div>July</div> <div></div> <div>July Gallery, All month. Karen Savory: Whimsical Nature.</div> <div>1</div>		<div></div> <div>miniNaturalists Pre-K Program in the Park, 10-11 a.m.</div> <div>Volunteer Work Party, 4-6 p.m., Native Plant Garden at the Fort.</div> <div>2</div>	3	4
<div>July 6-10</div> <div>Nature's Music (Pre-School)</div> <div>Nature Art (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Wild Explorers (Grades 3-5)</div> <div>6</div>		7	8	9	10	11	
<div>July 13-17</div> <div>Incredible Insects (Grades K-1)</div> <div>Tracks and Scat (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Animal Adventures (Grades 3-5)</div> <div>13</div>		<div></div> <div>Cheers for Charity at Draught Works, 5 p.m.</div> <div>14</div>	<div></div> <div>Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter Meeting, 4 p.m.</div> <div>15</div>	<div></div> <div>miniNaturalists Pre-K Program in the Park, 10-11 a.m.</div> <div></div> <div>Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden, 4:30-6 p.m.</div> <div>Understanding Soil.</div> <div>16</div>	17	18	
<div>July 20-24</div> <div>Micro Meanders (Pre-School)</div> <div>Things With Wings (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Into the Wild (Grades 3-5)</div> <div>20</div>		Berries begin to ripen		<div></div> <div>Volunteer Work Party, 4-6 p.m., Native Plant Garden at the Fort.</div> <div>23</div>	<div></div> <div>Naturalist Field Day, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</div> <div>Fens: Their Flora and Fauna.</div> <div>25</div>		
<div>July 27-July 31</div> <div>Hooray for Habitats! (Grades K-1)</div> <div>Fire Camp! (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Hooked on Fishing (Grades 3-5)</div> <div>27</div>		28	29	30	31	<div>August</div> <div></div> <div>August Gallery, All month.</div> <div>Killdeer Collective.</div> <div>1</div>	
<div>August 3-7</div> <div>Waddling Waders (Pre-School)</div> <div>Rockin' Rocks II (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Wild About Water (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Outdoor Adventures (Grades 3-5)</div> <div>3</div>		<div></div>		<div></div> <div>miniNaturalists Pre-K Program in the Park, 10-11 a.m.</div> <div></div> <div>Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden, 4:30-6 p.m.</div> <div>Seed Collecting.</div> <div>5</div>	<div></div> <div>First Friday Gallery Opening, 4:30-6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Killdeer Collective.</div> <div>6</div>	7	8
<div>August 10-14</div> <div>Wonderful Wetlands (Grades K-1)</div> <div>Jr. Naturalists (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Bazillions of Bugs (Grades 1-3)</div> <div>Super Scientists (Grades 3-5)</div> <div>10</div>		11	12	<div></div> <div>Naturalist Field Course, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</div> <div>Wetland Vascular Plants. Aug. 13-14</div> <div></div> <div>Volunteer Work Party, 4-6 p.m., Native Plant Garden at the Fort.</div> <div>13</div>	14	15	
16	17	18	<div></div> <div>Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter Meeting, 4 p.m.</div> <div>19</div>	<div></div> <div>miniNaturalists Pre-K Program in the Park, 10-11 a.m.</div> <div>20</div>	21	22	

May 13 Evening Lecture, 7:00 p.m. **The Last Rhino: Education and Vietnam's Wildlife Conservation Crisis** with Marilyn Marler. \$4 suggested donation; MNHC members free.

May 20 Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter Meeting, 4:00 p.m. Free & open to the public.

May 21 Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden, 4:30-6:00 p.m. **Mini Gardens: Maximizing Small Space for Natives and Edibles.** \$4 suggested donation; MNHC members free.

May 30 Naturalist Field Day, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Birding by Ear.** \$80; \$70 MNHC members. Registration required.

June 5 First Friday Gallery Opening, 4:30-6:30 p.m. **Karen Savory: Whimsical Nature.** All month.

June 11 Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden, 4:30-6:00 p.m. **Spiral Rock Gardens.** \$4 suggested donation; MNHC members free.

June 17-19, 22-23 Summer Master Naturalist Course, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on W, Th, F, M, T. \$395; 2 college credits available. Call 327.0405 to register.

June 17 Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter Meeting, 4:00 p.m. Free & open to the public.

June 25 Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden, 4:30-6:00 p.m. **Active Gardens Designed for Play, Music, and Science.** \$4 suggested donation; MNHC members free.

July Gallery, all month.

Karen Savory: Whimsical Nature.

July 14 Cheers for Charity at Draught Works, 5:00 p.m.

July 15 Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter Meeting, 4:00 p.m. Free & open to the public.

July 16 Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden, 4:30-6:00 p.m. **Understanding Soil.** \$4 suggested donation; MNHC members free.

July 18 Naturalist Field Day, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Native Wildflowers.** \$80; \$70 MNHC members. Registration required.

July 25 Naturalist Field Day, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Fens: Their Flora and Fauna.** \$80; \$70 MNHC members. Registration required.

August 6 Fort Missoula Native Plant Garden, 4:30-6:00 p.m. **Seed Collecting.** \$4 suggested donation; MNHC members free.

August 7 First Friday Gallery Opening, 4:30-6:30 p.m. **Killdeer Collective.** All month.

August 13-14 Naturalist Field Course, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Wetland Vascular Plants.** \$190; \$180 MNHC members. Registration required.

August 19 Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter Meeting, 4:00 p.m. Free & open to the public.

Volunteer Opportunities

April 22 Volunteer Naturalist Training, 3:30-5:00 p.m. **VNS Field Trip Training.** Learn how to teach kids about the flora and fauna of western Montana during the May Visiting Naturalist in the Schools field trips for 4th & 5th graders. No prior experience necessary.

Volunteer Work Parties at the Fort Gardens, most Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Come help out in our Native Plant Gardens and spend time learning while you work with our Native Plant Gardener and Naturalists!

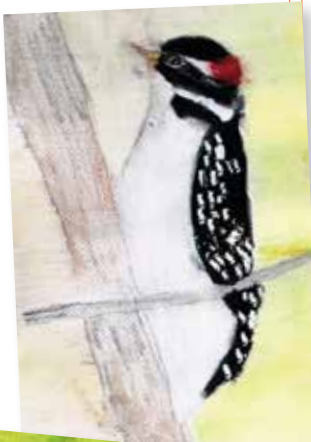
May 14, May 28, June 4, June 18, July 2, July 9, July 23, July 30, and August 13

get outside guide

Kids' Corner

Two of our VNS teachers, Susie Graham and Jennifer Carlson at Chief Charlo Elementary, had their students create a field guide, *The Birds of Moose Can Gully*. Though they completed this project a couple of years ago, the field guide is still in use, and we wanted to showcase the students' work! Here's a sampling.

Downy Woodpecker
by Sapphire Taylor



Dark-eyed Junco by Kira Casselman



Calling All Kids!

Do you have any nature art, photography, poetry, or stories you'd like to share? We'll be showcasing kids' work in every issue in our "Kids' Corner"—and here's your chance for that work to be yours! Send submissions to Allison De Jong, Editor, at 120 Hickory Street, Missoula, MT 59801 or by email to adejong@montananaturalist.org.



A grazing encounter between two spiral galaxies—a Hubble Heritage image

PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Star Light, Star Bright, What Stars Am I Seeing Tonight?

Montana's big sky offers great star gazing opportunities, but did you know there's a new place to learn about what you're actually seeing up there? The University of Montana has a brand-new Star Gazing Room in the basement of the Payne Family Native American Center, and is offering several planetarium shows a month this spring and summer. These family-friendly shows provide a tour of Missoula's night sky, teach what planets and constellations are visible, and finish up with a fascinating topic (Are there other planets in the galaxy that can support life? What's a red dwarf? What are scientists currently learning about our solar system?) chosen by the evening's presenter. Tickets are \$6 for adults/\$4 for children, and they sell out fast, so buy yours soon! The Star Gazing Center can also be booked for school groups and private events. Visit www.cas.umt.edu/physics/Outreach/ for more information and to purchase tickets.



MNHC PHOTO

Get Outside with Naturalist Field Days!

MNHC has another great lineup of Naturalist Field Days coming your way this spring, summer and fall. Spend a one-of-a-kind day with local experts learning about Montana's slugs and snails or exploring the intricacies of bird calls. Study local geology, get up close and personal with wildflowers, and uncover the mysteries of fens. Naturalist Field Days are a unique way to learn about various topics in depth, combining informative lectures with hours spent out in the field, exploring the flora and fauna around Missoula and beyond.

2015 Naturalist Field Days:

Time: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., **Cost:** \$80/\$70 members

April 25: Remnant Forests, Snails, and Slugs with Paul Hendricks

May 30: Birding by Ear with Brian Williams

July 18: Native Wildflowers with Greg Peters

July 25: Fens: Their Flora and Fauna with Kristi DuBois

August 13-14: Wetland Vascular Plants with Peter Lesica

(1- or 2-day class option. Cost of first day only is \$80/\$70 members; cost for both days is \$190/\$180. Second day is more technical and involves travel to multiple field sites and one-on-one instruction.)

September (date TBA): Geology with Bruce Baty



community focus

David Schmetterling and Marilyn Marler's garden is a haven for wildlife.

people to both better understand and create habitat for urban wildlife. Topics include the benefits of native plants, gardening for pollinators, how to set up nesting boxes, and many more. Another focus is creating opportunities for direct action, such as planning a native plant rescue, coordinating stream or trail cleanups, and working with local agencies to convert parkland to wildlife-friendly landscapes.

Missoula is already well on its way to earning its certification. Aside from being a vibrant and environmentally-oriented city with a population who loves to get outdoors, it has myriad organizations already doing great work. The Montana Native Plant Society holds a native plant sale each year and several local nurseries deal exclusively in native plants or have ever-growing native plant sections. The Clark Fork Coalition holds an annual river cleanup, and other organizations host trail maintenance workdays, weed pulls, and other stewardship opportunities. City planners are continually working to promote healthy habitat that works with urban human populations. Sixty private homes already sport the official "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" signs and many more meet qualification standards but haven't yet certified. More and more schools are adapting their curriculum to include place-based education and creating their own schoolyard habitats. It is an exciting and wild time to be living in the Garden City! 🦋

Want more information? Check out www.nwf.org for tips on making your yard more wildlife-friendly, to certify your home, or, if you're not from Missoula, for information on how to certify your neighborhood, city or county as a Community Wildlife Habitat.

—Darcy McKinley Lester is an AmeriCorps member serving as the Wildlife Habitat and Sustainability Educator for the National Wildlife Federation. When she's not thinking about the urban wildlife interface or gardening with wildlife, she can be found running, skiing, or climbing in the mountains.

Embracing Missoula's Wild Side: Creating Habitat for Our Urban Wildlife

BY DARCY MCKINLEY LESTER

Walk down any street in Missoula and you're liable to see all kinds of wildlife, from deer to eagles to butterflies. When you live in Missoula and have grown accustomed to being surrounded by wildlife and wilderness, it's almost easy to forget the unique diversity of the area and how lucky we are to live in relative harmony with wildlife (although I do sometimes wish the deer would stop eating my garden).

Missoula is currently looking to get that dedication to wildlife nationally recognized through Community Wildlife Habitat certification. A program through the National Wildlife Federation, the Community Wildlife Habitat certification promotes and encourages city-wide environmental stewardship through individual and community action. It's a program that, upon completion, will give Missoula yet another tick on the "Awesome Place to Live" list. But more importantly, it is an opportunity to bring environmental stewardship organizations together and foster community-wide ownership of Missoula's amazingly diverse wildlife. Certification is also an opportunity to address the ever-growing threat of habitat loss and form closer ecological relationships with pollinators,

songbirds and other desirable urban wildlife.

So what does Missoula have to do to earn this certification—and how can you help?

Individually, Missoulians are encouraged to look at what they can do for wildlife in their own back yards, whether it be installing a birdbath, setting up a nesting box, reducing pesticide and herbicide use, or gardening for wildlife, with the ultimate goal of providing all the necessary elements of wildlife habitat: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. They can then, for the small fee of \$20, register their home with NWF as a Certified Wildlife Habitat on the National Wildlife Federation website (www.nwf.org/certify). Ultimately, Missoula needs at least 200 homes, five schools, and six common areas to be Certified Wildlife Habitats.

The community action aspect is focused on environmental education and community projects and is led by a local Habitat Team, which offers resources for



Bird houses are an easy, inexpensive way to provide shelter for native birds.



CREATIVE COMMONS: JOHANNES HARNISCH, 2009

The Search for the Elusive Morel

BY RACHAEL ALTER

My first spring in Montana, on a foray in the woods to find and document water invertebrates, I came across my first puffball mushroom of the year. At that exact moment, my focus shifted. Mushrooms! It's spring, and spring + mushroom = MORELS!

I started creeping along (so as not to scare the morel) and began my hunt. The area seemed perfect for the find—the trillium were out, the moss was moist, there were plenty of downed trees, and a mix of fir and pine. However, the temperature had been quite moderate; could the soil be over 42 degrees (the magic temperature for a happy morel)? My brain said, "No, too cold!" but my heart (and stomach) said, "Yes! Keep hunting!"

I did find fairy slipper orchids, my other favorite spring pop-up. Much more colorful than a morel, and, one could argue, more beautiful, but then, you can't cook a fairy slipper in butter and cream... So begins the spring obsession.

Morels are prized by gourmet cooks, but this commercial value aside, they are hunted by more than those trying to make a buck or two for their wonderful flavor and the thrill of the hunt. The problem with morels is that there are no rules. Focusing on the Rocky Mountain region alone, you can find them along rivers in cottonwood groves, on south-facing hillsides under snowberry bushes, bare north-facing slopes, scattered in the charred remains of a forest fire, under healthy fir and pine trees, even in old orchards. Everyone has her own theory on where and when to find them. One thing is sure: springtime is the start of the season, and when the weather warms and the soil temperatures increase, the morel

hunters begin gawking at every patch of trees, no matter the elevation or conditions.

True morels belong to the genus *Morchella*. Here in the West, they are generally lumped into two types: yellow and black. Once found, the distinctive honeycombed cap is not likely to be forgotten. When identifying morels, remember that the lower edge of the cap will be fused to the stalk, and that both the caps and the stems are hollow—this will help you from keeping a false morel.

As my hunt continued, I slowly made my way down the path and stopped to take a picture. There! A beautiful bunch of three! The morel fairy had kindly showed me the way. Then I wondered how many I'd passed. Which is another dilemma in morel hunting: once you find one, you don't know if you should continue down the same path, or trace back, hoping that a different angle will reveal more of the delicious morsels.

I ran (yes, literally ran) back to my car to get a collecting bag. You never know when those little buggers may pick up and move themselves, so it's important to move quickly! You may spot one, then look back up, and it could take you five minutes to find it again.

I had recently moved to Montana from Idaho, and I had been worried that I might not be able to find that perfect place in my new state. But I knew that, once I had successfully become one with the morel, I might just discover the best spot ever—and nothing can match that excitement.

Let the spring morel fever commence! 🍄

—Rachael Alter grew up in eastern Idaho, camping, fishing, and exploring the wild with her family. She participated in the 2012 Master Naturalist course to learn more about her new home in western Montana, and continues to enjoy all the outdoor opportunities that this place has to offer.



Schoolyard Native Plants & Pollinators Teacher Workshop

Enjoy an afternoon at the Montana Natural History Center Native Plant Garden and Classroom at Fort Missoula. Learn about organizations across Missoula that can help create or enhance a native plant garden at your school. Whether you are adding native plant features to a vegetable garden or taking advantage of a small plot on your schoolyard, you can be attracting and providing valuable habitat to pollinators. Teachers will receive hands-on activities that meet educational standards and can easily be integrated into the classroom. You will learn about pollinators, get experience in the garden, and come away with lots of resource materials and free native plants!

Thursday, May 7th, 3:00-6:30 p.m. Snacks and light dinner provided. OPI credit available. Call 327.0405 to register.

New ID Nature Workshops coming to a school near you!

After a few pilot programs last fall, our ID Nature Program is off and running! This spring and summer we're offering our first **ID Nature Workshops** showcasing brand-new curriculum developed by ID Nature Coordinator Amy Howie. This first workshop in the "Exploring Montana Ecosystems" series will focus on Montana's ever-changing weather and climate and provide teachers with hands-on, inquiry-based activities to use in their own classrooms. All parts of this series will be based on Common Core Science Standards and will provide teachers with tools and resources to teach nature-based concepts focusing on various components of the many ecosystems that surround us. The ID Nature program utilizes the Polycom Teleconferencing system to provide interactive distance-learning programs that are available across the state of Montana.

Visit us online at www.MontanaNaturalist.org or contact us at 327.0405 to learn more about ID Nature and how to get your school involved!



MNHC PHOTOS

SPOTLIGHT:

Let us introduce you to a couple of new faces at MNHC!

Ramey Kodadek joined us this March as our new **Development & Marketing Director**.

She grew up in the Bitterroot Valley and earned a degree in Journalism from the University of Montana in 2003. After graduation, and a few months off to travel in South America, Ramey began working at Youth Homes. During her 10-year career at Youth Homes Ramey held a variety of program and development positions and was the Development Director for the past five years. Ramey's passion for fundraising comes from helping make the community a better place for children and families, and she's excited to do that by working at MNHC! Ramey, her husband Jesse, son Evan and dog Lopez love getting outside to enjoy all the fun activities the mountains offer year-round.

Amy Howie holds the brand-new position of **ID Nature Coordinator**, working to develop great nature-themed workshops for teachers and students through our new video conferencing technology. Amy has spent the last 12 years teaching middle and high school science, with her last six years spent exclusively teaching in a virtual environment using the latest in online curriculum and technology. Amy received her B.A. in Human Sciences from Grand Canyon University and went on to get her M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Denver. Amy is thrilled to use her online teaching skills as well as develop curriculum for the upcoming ID Nature Programs. Amy and her husband are outdoor enthusiasts and spend much time with their girls exploring the Montana wilderness. Some of Amy's greatest passions are mountain biking and hiking rugged trails wherever they exist!



PHOTO COURTESY RAMEY KODADEK

PHOTO COURTESY AMY HOWIE

imprints

Summer Outdoor Discovery Day Camps



Discoveries galore await your children outside this summer! Dive into fun with our Summer Outdoor Discovery Day Camps for kids of preschool age (3-5) through 5th grade. Our full-day, week-long camps engage children in the study of nature through field trips, arts & crafts, and scientific exploration. Teens can gain experience in outdoor education through our Leaders in Training Program. Camp themes and content are geared toward students entering the grade levels noted in the fall of 2015.

Full payment due upon registration. Registration is confirmed ONLY after full payment is received. Registration fee includes a **\$50 non-refundable administrative fee per camp.** Call 327.0405 or visit www.MontanaNaturalist.org to register today!

Camps begin and end at MNHC near McCormick Park at 120 Hickory Street in Missoula. Camps include local field trips to surrounding natural areas.

Summer Camp Program Hours

All camps run Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Before and after care is available free from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Cost

Preschool camps: \$195/members, \$220/non-members

Kindergarten-5th grade camps: \$175/members, \$195/non-members

Animal Adventures camp with Animal Wonders: \$200/members, \$220/non-members

Wild Explorers camp: \$200/members, \$220 non-members

Into the Wild camp: \$205/members, \$225/non-members

Register before June 1st and save 10%!

Scholarships are available.

MNHC memberships can be purchased annually for \$50 per family.

Group Size

Preschool camp enrollment is limited to 12 children per camp with 3 adult supervisors.

Grades K-5 camp enrollment is limited to 14 children per camp with 2 adult supervisors.

Pre-School Camps

For children ages 3-5

\$195/members, \$220/non-members

Mini Biologists

June 15-19

What's a biologist, and what do they do? We'll answer those questions and explore some of the fascinating habitats around MNHC. We'll study insects, mammals, scat, and tracks, and learn how to use naturalist tools like microscopes, insect nets, and hand lenses.

Nature's Music

July 6-10

Animals may not play piano or guitar, but they make music all the same. We'll spend the week learning about sounds we hear in nature every day. We'll craft our own musical instruments, learn to make sounds like chickadees and crickets, and sing some songs about nature.

Micro Meanders

July 20-24

This week, we'll poke around and learn about all the rocks, blades of grass, insects, and other fascinating things we find. We'll investigate the garden outside MNHC using our hand lenses, make up stories about critters we observe, and look under every rock we can find to see who might be living there.

Waddling Waders

August 3-7

We'll spend this week seeking out the different kinds of animals that live in water, find aquatic invertebrates, use nets to catch fish or crawdads, and get our feet wet in a very shallow and safe pond.

K-1st grade

\$175/members, \$195/non-members

Predator Prowl

June 22-26

Are humans predators? Can you name three predators that live in Montana? And what is a predator, anyway? We'll answer these questions and more, learn about some surprising predators found here in Montana, and look at some real predator skulls.

Incredible Insects

July 13-17

Insects are everywhere, and we're going to find them. We'll make our own insect nets to catch terrestrial insects, learn the ins and outs of metamorphosis, and make an insect habitat that we'll add our finds to every day.

Hooray for Habitats

July 27-31

We're surrounded by different habitats, and we're going to explore around MNHC, Fort Missoula, and Council Grove to see what makes each site an excellent place to live for the critters found there. We'll catch insects, look for tracks, and learn about some of the birds that live in the city.

Wonderful Wetlands

August 10-14

This week we'll spend some time getting our feet wet. Every day we'll explore exciting, nearby aquatic habitats. We'll wade, try out the fishing poles, look for aquatic invertebrates, and learn about how important water is to all living things.

1st-3rd grade

\$175/members, \$195/non-members

Jr. Survivor

June 15-19

This week we'll learn some important outdoor skills. We'll spend the week learning about building shelters, how to stay safe and not get lost, how to build a fire, and how to use a compass and read a map. We'll also learn Morse code, try out the fishing poles, and make some delicious ice cream.

Go Fish!

June 22-26

Learn about stream ecology, fish in Montana, and how to catch the big one. We'll also learn about aquatic invertebrates and how they are important to fish. We'll visit local streams and ponds, kayak at Harpers Lake, create our own tackle boxes, and use waders, nets, and fishing poles to reel in adventure.

Montana Mammals **June 29-July 3**

This week, we'll learn all about Montana's mammals! We'll take a trip to the Bison Range to look for our largest mammal and spend the week learning about mammals that live nearby. We'll also take a trip to the Zoological Museum at the University, make our own tracks, and study skulls.

Rockin' Rocks I **June 29-July 3**

Jump into geology with this fun camp. We'll make our own fossils to keep, mine for gemstones, learn about the three different types of rocks, and find out what chocolate chip cookies can teach us about mining. We'll share what we've learned with a rock show for parents and other campers at the end of the week.

Campers will be exposed to peanuts in this camp.

Nature Art **July 6-10**

Join us for a fun week of creativity! First we'll visit the Museum of Art and Culture at the University and the Missoula Art Museum for inspiration. We'll make jewelry and art using natural materials, build an ecosystem of life-sized paper mâché animals, learn how to weave, and use our imaginations to the max.

Tracks and Scat **July 13-17**

Improve your stalking skills as we learn about tracking. We'll be on scat patrol as we explore local natural areas and look for signs of wildlife. We'll create our own track guides for future use, recreate bear scat using edible materials, and build a scent station to see who hangs around MNHC at night.

Things With Wings **July 20-24**

What's that soaring in the sky? Who's that doing all the honking on the ground? We'll spend the week identifying birds, learning bird calls, making kites, and discovering what makes these feathered dinosaurs so unique.

Fire Camp! **July 27-31**

Come learn all about the importance of fire in Montana. We'll visit the fire lab at the smokejumper's center; do some fun, educational fire experiments; visit Fort Fizzle, where we can see firsthand

the effects of a recent fire; learn about critters that depend on fire to survive; and learn how to build responsible fires where we might even get to roast some s'mores.

Rockin' Rocks II **August 3-7**

Jump into geology with this fun camp. We'll make our own fossils to keep, mine for gemstones, learn about the three different types of rocks, and find out what chocolate chip cookies can teach us about mining. We'll share what we've learned with a rock show for parents and other campers at the end of the week.

Campers will be exposed to peanuts in this camp.

Wild About Water **August 3-7**

August is the perfect time for watery wanderings. We'll explore aquatic habitats around Missoula and learn about the water cycle. We'll make sure to do some fishing, try out the kayaks at Harpers Lake, and learn all about those wacky critters who live in the water.

Jr. Naturalists **August 10-14**

This will be a great week of exploring hiking trails around the Missoula and Seeley Lake areas. We'll hike short trails every day, swim at Beavertail Pond, go fishing, play fun games and explore our wild surroundings, and get handy at using naturalist tools like compasses and maps.

Bazillions of Bugs **August 10-14**

Think bugs are gross? Think again! This week we'll investigate what makes insects so special. We'll do a mark-recapture experiment to try and estimate how many grasshoppers live at Fort Missoula, make our own insect nets to keep, go fishing with the help of some aquatic insects, and start our own live insect collections on Monday that we'll share in a show on Friday.

3rd-5th grade \$175/members, \$195/non-members

Mineral Madness **June 15-19**

Learn about the amazing geology of Montana. We'll spend the week exploring minerals and rocks through fun activities. We'll make our own fossils to keep, start a rock collection and identify the minerals in our rocks,

mine for gemstones, and visit the Granite County Museum in Philipsburg.

Theatre and Nature **June 22-26**

Produce a nature-themed play, including costumes and scenery, for parents and the other camps. We'll get inspiration from hiking and exploring outdoors and put on our play for the other camps and parents. We'll also visit an assisted living facility and perform our play there. Campers may use their artistic abilities for scenery creation if they do not want a speaking part.

Bugs and Slugs **June 29-July 3**

The world of invertebrates is full of incredible creatures. We'll spend the week looking for insects and other invertebrates using nets, hand lenses, and microscopes. We'll make our own bug nets to keep, see what we can catch using fishing poles and some lures designed to look like bugs, and set some (non-fatal) traps to lure bugs in.

Wild Explorers **July 6-10**

We'll spend our days exploring local trails in Seeley Lake and the Ninemile, and we'll spend Thursday night sleeping out under the stars. We'll kayak, fish, learn about native plants and animals, and practice Leave No Trace Principles.

This camp costs \$200/\$220 and features an overnight camping trip from July 9-10. Sleeping bags, pads, and tents are available for use; please reserve when you sign up for camp. Please let us know about any dietary restrictions when you register.

Animal Adventures **July 13-17**

This week we'll spend our days with Animal Wonders in Potomac learning about and meeting some native wildlife species. We'll also answer all your burning questions about animals and their behavior: Can you teach your turtle tricks? How about your fish? The skills we learn can be applied to any of our companions at home. *This special camp with Animal Wonders costs \$200/\$220.*

Into the Wild **July 20-24**

Spend a week in the woods that includes a fantastic overnight backpacking trip. We'll hike beautiful

trails every day and explore the world around us. We'll also learn about plants and animals common to our region as we get out and explore, and practice Leave No Trace Principles. This camp will include a tubing adventure and an overnight to a Forest Service cabin. Participants should be prepared for a 1-mile hike with a small pack.

This camp costs \$205/\$225 and features an overnight camping trip from July 23-24. Sleeping bags, pads, tubes, and tents are available for use; please reserve when you sign up for camp. Please let us know about any dietary restrictions when you register.



Hooked on Fishing **July 27-31**

Join us for this very exciting fishing camp. Learn about stream ecology, fish in Montana, and how to catch the big one. We'll also learn about aquatic invertebrates and how they are important to fish. We'll visit local streams and ponds, create our own tackle boxes, try out the kayaks, and use waders, nets, and fishing poles to reel in adventure.

Outdoor Adventures **August 3-7**

This is the Indiana Jones of camps! We'll learn about archery and spend some time on the range, do some fishing, orienteering and map reading, and explore some of the natural areas around Missoula. If you're looking for an action-packed week of learning new naturalist skills, this camp is for you!

Super Scientists **August 10-14**

What's the scientific method, and how can you apply it to hands-on, fun experiments? Come find out in this exciting camp! We'll start the week with some great experiments, then move on to developing some nature-inspired testable questions that YOU will get to find the answers to!

Teens! **Leaders in Training Program**

Teens ages 14-17 may volunteer for a Leader in Training position and gain experience working with children by assisting camp instructors with our preschool programs. Teens must commit to one day of training at the start of the summer and participate in at least one full week of camp as a junior instructor. Contact MNHC for more information.



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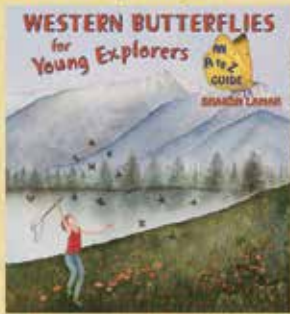


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Glacier Lilies in June

BY KARA ROBINSON

Multitudes march upslope in pursuit of retreating snow;
triumphant yellow tepals arched singularly sunward,
yet nodding stems bring stamens diving back to boggy earth.

Chorus of small flowers, heralds of spring's unfolding,
So quick to bow down again, even in their fullest bloom;
Embodiments of life, in all eternity ephemeral.

Kara Robinson is a public health nurse and aspires to be an ever-more mindful observer of the natural world. She and her husband, Mark, live in Missoula with their dog, Signe, and, soon, a baby daughter.



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Connecting People with Nature

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