

MONTANA Naturalist

Extinction of
experience?

Explore and
discover

14

ways you can
get involved

see back cover

This could
be your
LAST issue.

Find out why
inside.



Montana Natural History Center
Your Base Camp for Discovery

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 MNHC reaches out to people of all ages with opportunities to learn about the natural world? MNHC 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, MNHC 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, MNHC 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. MNHC 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.

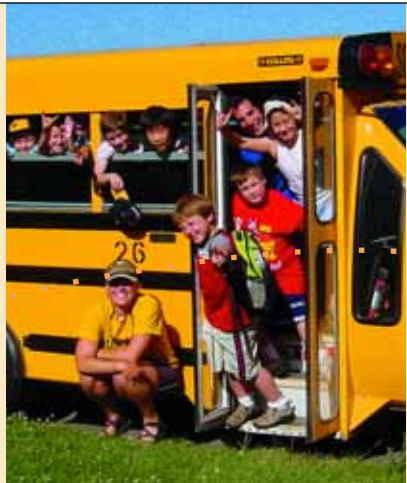
With gratitude and warmest wishes for the holidays,

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



Watershed Festival



Discovery Days



discovery center



visiting naturalist



classes

summer day camps

Please show your support by answering this once-a-year appeal.

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 _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Sign me up for the monthly email newsletter. My email address is _____.

I would like to volunteer! Please send me a volunteer application.

Please send information on making a planned gift or gift of stock.

Join MNHC in the exploration and discovery of the natural world and help foster a community that appreciates, understands and takes care of Montana's wild places.

Become a Member

Benefits include an annual subscription to *Montana Naturalist*, free visitor center admission, discounts on programs and in the gift shop, access to the Ralph Lee Allen Environmental Education Library. All memberships are annual.

Senior/Student Membership \$35

Basic Membership \$50

Business Membership \$250

Benefits include basic membership, advertising discounts in *Montana Naturalist*, a supporters link on our website, free meeting space (subject to availability), invitations to special programs and public recognition.

Explorers Club Membership \$1,000

For those who agree that the future of our communities and our world depends on people who understand and appreciate nature and who are able to make a larger commitment in support of this goal. Benefits include Explorers Club Only nature outings, basic membership privileges and VIP status at MNHC lectures and special programs.

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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