

A photograph of a forest floor covered in pine needles and small green plants. Several white mushrooms with light brown stems are scattered across the ground. The background is a blurred forest with tall trees.

ANNUAL REPORT *Twenty Twenty Four*



Montana Natural History Center

Dear Friends,

In early February, MNHC member Peggy Christian joined a field seminar at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch at Yellowstone National Park, where she struck up a conversation with fellow participant Kyle Wonders. It didn't take long for Kyle and Peggy to realize that in addition to their love of Yellowstone, they shared a kinship with the Montana Natural History Center community.

"We were sitting around the table talking," said Kyle, "and suddenly there was this MNHC connection!" Peggy and Kyle are both certified Master Naturalists and longtime volunteers with MNHC.

It's not surprising that these two would cross paths in one of North America's most cherished landscapes. Their desire to keep learning, teaching, and building deeper relationships with nature is common among our supporters. This kind of community connection is at the core of our programs and mission, and drives our work every day.

In 2024 that work included:

- Reaching more classrooms through our Visiting Naturalist in the School program.
- Sharing Montana's unique natural history with visitors to our state.
- Welcoming over 900 out-of-state guests to the Center, including visitors from 16 different countries.
- Bringing back Naturalist Trivia Nights.
- Removing fees for our miniNaturalist program, making it free and accessible to any child with a curiosity for nature.

We also welcomed new faces on staff, and I joined MNHC as Executive Director. We brought back our Fall Banquet and Auction, which proved to be our most successful fundraiser to date. That success and the renewed energies reflect MNHC's legacy and strong community in western Montana and we are so grateful and humbled by the support.

This annual report highlights not just the numbers, but the bonds – both old and new – we build with our Montana community each day through our shared respect and stewardship for our natural world.

You'll hear more from Kyle Wonders in our featured Montana Naturalist spotlight. And you'll read more about the programs and people that make up the MNHC community. You're one of them, and we're grateful to work and learn alongside you in this wild, wonderful place we call home.



Marilyn Marler
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2024 BUDGET

(Actual Expense \$925,794)

Total Net Assets

\$1,706,230

Funding

Additional Revenue **19%**

Business Donations **11%**

Grants **27%**

Program Fees **20%**

Individual Donations **27%**

Income Loss..... **-\$51,749 or 6%**

Expenditures

Facilities **1%**

Publications & Outreach **4%**

Management..... **6%**

Exhibits **14%**

Development **10%**

Community Programs..... **8%**

Summer Camps **19%**

Fundraisers **8%**

School Programs **29%**

\$ raised in license plate sales

\$13,990

*The mission of the
Montana Natural History Center
is to promote and cultivate the
appreciation, understanding, and
stewardship of nature through education.*



Cue the 2024 highlights:

In 2024, the Montana Natural History Center engaged over **10,750** people of all ages through our education programs, volunteerism, community events, and partnerships, providing our community with high-quality instruction and connection to nature.

\$17,010 awarded in scholarships. MNHC is dedicated to expanding accessibility to our programs to connect adults and children to nature, regardless of their financial situations.

Over **8,500** followers on our social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and BlueSky.

234,000 page views of our website's educational content. Nearly half of our page views were educational posts from Field Notes and our naturalist blog. Our top education site visits were: Flowers - the Fibonacci Sequence; Avian Adaptations; The Wonderful World of the House Sparrow; Make Your Own Phenology Wheel; and The Amazing Brain Plasticity of the Black-Capped Chickadee.

IN THE NEWS

The *Missoulian* featured our STEEM Collaborative's visit to the Thisted property in Ninemile Valley, stewarded by conservationist and educator Betty Thisted. MNHC's *Allosaurus* exhibit with paleontologist Jason C. Poole in partnership with Elevation Science Institute, and the front page story welcoming of our new Executive Director Marilyn Marler, were also featured in the *Missoulian*.

Our 2024 Programs



2,807
students were
impacted by our
educational programming
in person, online, in
homeschool, and
beyond!

\$6,860 in scholarships awarded to VNS schools

1,554 students in the VNS program

38 volunteers gave their time to VNS classrooms

Our staff provided **910** hours
of direct instruction



YOUTH PROGRAMS

VISITING NATURALIST IN THE SCHOOLS (VNS)

For over 20 years, MNHC's Visiting Naturalists in the Schools have connected Montana students with nature in their own backyard.

Visiting Naturalist in the Schools (VNS) connects professional naturalists with fourth-and fifth-grade students in classrooms across Montana. Each student is provided with a journal to document observations, practice nature journaling, and enhance their reading and writing skills. Our naturalists play a vital role in teaching and mentoring students by fostering ongoing inquiry and curiosity about the natural world.

The VNS curriculum aligns with the Next Generation Science Standards while also supporting goals in literacy, critical thinking, and communication. In 2023, the MNHC teaching staff initiated a comprehensive redesign of the existing VNS curriculum.

This exciting new curriculum was implemented in 2024 and incorporates both Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and scientific practices. A shared respect for the environment is fundamental to both knowledge systems, emphasizing our responsibility as stewards to care for the land through sustainable practices and conservation in a spirit of reciprocity.

What teachers and students are saying about VNS:

"Thank you for the incredible organization and the amazing work you all put into this curriculum! Thank you a million times over for an absolutely incredible program! Kids love learning how to be a naturalist and how to embrace wonder in their natural surroundings."

-Sharon Jones, Lewis and Clark VNS classroom

"I really appreciate you visiting us. I always learn the coolest stuff! I want to teach my sister about the pine marten like you did!"

- Student from Victor to VNS instructor

TEACHER BENEFITS PROGRAM

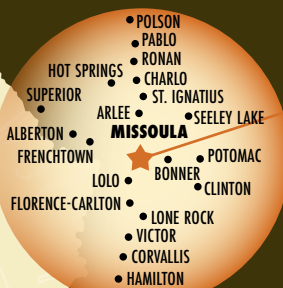
All K-12 teachers actively employed in a public or private Montana school are eligible. Benefits include:

- **FREE** individual membership
- **Special invitations** to educator events and trainings
- **Discounts** on museum tours and classroom naturalist presentations

See the full list of benefits on our website.

142
teachers
are
enrolled
in this
program.

32 schools served with **70** classrooms participating



MISSOULA SCHOOLS

Chief Charlo	Lowell
DeSmet	Paxson
Franklin	Rattlesnake
Hawthorne	Russell
Jeannette Rankin	Sussex
Lewis and Clark	Target Range



LEARNING AT THE CENTER

The **MININATURALIST PRE-K PROGRAM** engages young children in the exploration of the natural world through fun, hands-on activities and games. The program emphasizes observation, sensory skills, and imagination to cultivate a positive connection with nature at an age when children are just beginning to investigate the world around them.

NEW EXHIBITS AT MNHC IN 2024:

- Naturalist Field Station: Featuring the Salmonfly Project
- Fossil Prep Lab with Jason C. Poole/Elevation Science Institute

MUSEUM FIELD TRIPS

Using our natural history exhibits, interactive discussions, and hands-on activities, MNHC naturalists provided guided programs for students participating in a field trip to our Center. Organizers can choose from a variety of age-appropriate activities designed to promote nature education through engaging interactions.

487 children
and their grownups
participated in the **30** fun
and imaginative programs
we hold every Monday from
September to May that are
free and open to
the public.

**MNHC hosted 38 field trips
and nearly 700 students**

SUMMER CAMPS

OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CAMPS

Our full-day, week-long, nature-themed camps for Pre-K through 5th grade ran all summer long! We explored the outdoors, learned about science and nature, went on daily field trips, and had a lot of fun! Our Outdoor Discovery Day Camps continue to be accredited by the American Camp Association.

232 kids participated in **30** camps
(3 camps a week for 10 weeks)

6:1 student-to-instructor ratio (or lower!)

\$9,700

was awarded in
summer camp
scholarships
to children
in need

STEEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENT, AND MATHEMATICS) CAMP

Our STEEM Summer Institute continues to provide unique opportunities for middle-school girls and non-binary students in our community through hands-on and real-world experiences with local leaders. Through this program girls build trust, confidence, and courage in the fields of science, technology, engineering, environment, and math. These fields have a disproportionately lower percentage of PhDs earned by females; we aim to close that gap and inspire the next generation of female scientists. 2024's STEEM themes were: Conservation & Wilderness Management, Zoology, and Hydrology.

STEEM survey results:

- At the beginning of the program, participants indicated they knew, on average, 2-3 women and/or non-binary people in STEEM fields. Participants who attended the whole program week met and interacted with at least five or more of these underrepresented adults in the STEEM fields, thereby at least doubling most participants' connections to women and/or non-binary adults in the STEEM fields.
- About 74% of participants felt they connected to at least one woman or non-binary adult in the STEEM fields after meeting them in the program.

"I just loved all of the creativity and time the speakers put in. I loved the Jocko fish hatchery."

"One thing I learned is that hunting can actually be part of conservation."





792 adults participated in nature writing and nature journaling workshops, lectures, field days, and other adult programming in 2024.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Learning and nature exploration aren't just for kids! We provide nature-based education for adults who are fascinated by the natural world and want to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Montana's wild places and creatures, become better writers, and hone their artistic abilities. Here are a few of our featured programs for adults.

MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

The **MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM** is designed for adults who want to stoke their curiosity, deepen their knowledge of the natural world, and give back to their communities in new ways.

We offer a range of programs to fit the needs of a diverse community, but all the classes share a common goal of providing participants with the skills to interpret Montana's flora, fauna, and landscape. In 2024 we continued to offer both in-person and online versions of this course.

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

100+ Master Naturalists volunteered **7,435** hours in their communities and participated in **2,012** hours of continuing education.

In 2024, Montana Master Naturalists gave back to their communities by volunteering across the state, nation, and even internationally through environmental education nonprofits, in national parks, in stewardship, and data collection as citizen scientists including: eBird, East Rosebud Lake Association, MNHC, Swan Valley Connections, Flathead Bio Station, Montana Mother Project, Claire Ratcliff Adams Education Associate Space Science Institute, and so much more!

\$450 in scholarships awarded to Master Naturalist participants

135 individuals certified as Master Naturalists in Montana

99 Montana Master Naturalists certified at Montana Outdoor Science School, Sacajawea Audubon, Glacier Institute, Yellowstone Forever, Swan Valley Connections, and The O'Hara Commons and Sustainability Center

36 Montana Master Naturalists certified in Missoula



MNHC MASTER NATURALIST SPOTLIGHT:

Kyle Wonders

"You should probably get your Master Naturalist certification."

This is what the director of the EVST department at the University of Montana said to Kyle Wonders in early 2022. Kyle had just finished his freshman year and a summer internship in rural Wisconsin working with raptors and rural landowners. It was a rewarding yet challenging experience where communications were sometimes clouded, and stubbornness interfered with building trusting relationships. Kyle mentioned a particular call from a farmer well after dark who was bringing in a bird caught on his property.

"I kept correcting him about calling a Red-tailed Hawk a 'chicken hawk' and it got us nowhere except in an argument," said Kyle. "These communities already have such a strong relationship with the environment and can be our strongest advocates, but I was really caught up in the scientific details of the work I was doing and failed to meet that person where he was at the time. I still think about him. Very regularly."

Back in Montana, Kyle's time in Wisconsin stuck with him and he wasn't sure where he wanted to go next with his environmental studies, or if a Master Naturalist certification through the Montana Natural History Center was an important part of his education journey.

"Going into the course, I wasn't sure what I was going to get out of it. I had taken ornithology, mammalogy, and plant courses, and felt really comfortable with the science of things," said Kyle. "But the group learning was so unique. It was a collaborative learning experience,"



said Kyle. "[Instructor] Christine wasn't just walking us through how to be a Master Naturalist. We learned from each other." Entomologists learned from geologists. Geologists learned from entomologists, explained Kyle. "We were a diverse group sharing our experiences with nature in an intimate way. **We were experiencing each others' passions together.**"

Kyle knew this was the kind of learning and teaching he wanted to reproduce when sharing the natural world with others – the science is important, but perhaps of greater value is the opportunity to learn from one another, to connect with one another. It was a lesson first introduced in rural Wisconsin: learning with others is what building a community and connections is really all about.

Today, Kyle works as field educator for Yellowstone Forever where he gets to share the treasures of the Park with people from all over the world.

"People are always teaching me – they make observations about things I might

have overlooked. This is an everyday experience in the park," said Kyle. "We never stop learning. It's something I try to remember as an educator. Just because you're the educator doesn't mean you're not learning. I'm a better educator now, because I was a worse educator in the past."

As an environmental educator, Kyle does have something important he hopes to teach others no matter where they live or how they currently interact with their natural surroundings:

"Every day in Yellowstone is a super dynamic day; Yellowstone is a landscape dictated by wilderness. But most people don't have the opportunity to come to Wyoming or Montana. That doesn't mean they cannot connect with nature.

"I've never been to a place where I haven't been able to find the wild in the land. Even in a very manipulated landscape, the wildness persists. Learn from listening to the world around you. It becomes so clear that nature is all around. In birds singing. In the wind blowing through foliage."

"I've never been to a place where I haven't been able to find the wild in the land."

Whether you're in downtown Chicago or New York City, or the rural farmland of the midwest or the United States' first national park, "change the way you look at the landscape," said Kyle. "Wherever you are you can connect with nature."





Congratulations Christine Morris!

MNHC's Community Programs Coordinator, Christine Morris, was awarded the National Association of Interpretation's (NAI) Master Frontline Interpreter Award for her mastery of interpretive techniques, program development, and design of creative projects. Christine leads our Master Naturalist program at MNHC. Speaking of NAI, MNHC hosted their annual Heartland Regional Workshop in Missoula, Spring 2025.

FIELD NOTES WRITING WORKSHOP

Every week since 1991, *Field Notes*, written by naturalists, students, and listeners, has inquired about Montana's natural history. In 2024, **52 *Field Notes* aired on Montana Public Radio**, many written by participants in our *Field Notes* writing workshops.

The *Field Notes* Writing Workshop is an online 6-part class where participants research, write, and workshop *Field Notes* together. This course is designed for experienced and new writers alike.

Field Notes airs two times per week on *Montana Public Radio*: Wednesday at 3:53 p.m. and Saturday at 11:53 a.m. *Field Notes* is also available as a podcast! Subscribe wherever you listen to your podcasts.

12 people participated.



"This course was just excellent. Really. Couldn't have been better. The instructors' skill, positive attitude always, and the terrific care they took with each person's feedback and suggestions made this a stupendous course."

- Jan VanRiper, Fall 2024 Workshop Participant



Center Exhibits and Experiences

THE SALMONFLY PROJECT

Installed in November 2024, our newest exhibit at MNHC is in partnership with the Salmonfly Project, a Missoula-based conservation organization founded by Dr. Jackson Birrell and James Frakes. Their mission is to conserve aquatic insects for future generations through research, monitoring, education, and sound management and restoration practices.

A stop at our Center's Field Station invites people to learn about the Salmonfly Project's important work, the vital role aquatic insects play in our ecosystem and economy, and how you can get involved in conservation efforts! Visitors get hands-on experience with this exhibit where you can test your aquatic insect identification skills, create your own flies at our fly-tying station, and observe a variety of species up close.

DINOSAURS AT MNHC: 150 MILLION YEARS IN THE MAKING

In partnership with Elevation Science Institute, MNHC welcomed paleontologist Jason C. Poole at the Center to prepare and conserve dinosaur fossils collected in southern Montana, including the *Allosaurus*. Visitors watch and learn from Jason onsite, as he works thoughtfully and carefully to prepare these 150-million-year-old fossils. Jason spent 27 years at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia working on new specimens from three continents. A talented paleo-artist, his work has been published in *National Geographic* and also appears in many museum and private collections.

OUT-OF-STATE VISITORS

MNHC had roughly **900** visitors from out of state, **73** of whom were international visitors from **16** different countries: Australia, Barbados, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Switzerland, Ukraine.

The 12 states and territories we haven't had visitors from yet are: Nevada, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Michigan, Rhode Island, Delaware, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa. We hope to see you at the Center in 2025!

Excluding
Montana, we
had visitors from
**42 states
+ D.C.**



DEI: We committed to building a diverse community which is inclusive of people from all backgrounds. The Montana Natural History Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, age, citizenship status, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, mental illness, or physical illness. This nondiscrimination policy applies to employees, volunteers, participants, and all aspects of our operations.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Montana Natural History Center is located within the traditional homelands of the *Tat'áyaqn* (Bitterroot Salish) and *Qlispélix*^w (Kalispel) peoples who have lived here since time immemorial. MNHC is dedicated to the recognition of the first peoples of Missoula and the integration of Salish language, culture, and Indigenous knowledge into our programming and Exhibit Hall.



[FUN]DRAISING EVENTS

MNHC hosted two fundraisers and one friendraiser in 2024. We hosted our Spring Luncheon to raise funds for our summer camp scholarship fund at the Visser residence and raised over \$21,700.

We also brought back our Fall Banquet & Auction to the University Ballroom where we had the pleasure of hosting nearly 320 guests. 2024's auction was our most successful ever, raising over \$207,000 for MNHC's educational programming. Our auctioneer kept the crowd engaged in friendly bidding wars, while our Teaching Naturalists made their way to the tables, quizzing guests on their Montana natural history knowledge. Thanks to all who attended, volunteered, donated, and helped make this evening such a success!

In December we hosted a Holiday Bazaar and community gathering to celebrate the renewed energy at MNHC! We invited 10 local artists and craftspeople, provided good food, hot drinks, and a holiday cookie feast complete with MNHC staff, board, and volunteer favorite family recipes that we shared with lucky patrons.

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers, board members, and committee members are invaluable to our organization and are integral to the success and high quality of our programming. Thank you to each and every volunteer who donated their time in 2024!

We are always looking for more volunteers, and we offer a wide range of opportunities. From helping at the front desk or assisting with VNS field trips to adding your creativity and ideas to our Spring Luncheon or Fall Banquet & Auction, we are sure there is a great fit for you! See our website for more information.

We had **133** volunteers
donate **1,710** hours in 2024.

463

members in

2024.

Let's get to **570**
in **2025!**

MEMBERSHIP

Become a member today and enjoy the following benefits:

- Unlimited **free** admission to our Center, Kids' Discovery Room, and Nature Adventure Playground

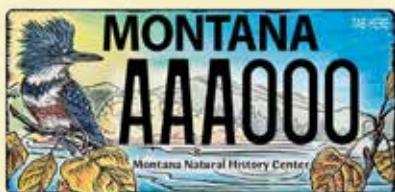
• **Discounts** on classes, programs, lectures, and summer camps

- Annual subscription to *Montana Naturalist* magazine

Through the Association for Science-Technology Centers, MNHC members receive reciprocal free admission to over 350 other science centers in cities including Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Denver, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, and more! For the full list, go to astc.org.



MONTANA NATURALIST magazine published 2 new issues, with articles exploring mountains and fossils in the Bighorn Basin, earthworms and memories, Montana's ancient rivers, gossiping crows, outdoor accessibility, and more! **10,500 magazines** were distributed locally and to national subscribers.



LICENSE PLATES

MNHC's new license plate design became available in February 2024. First time cost of the plate is \$52 and includes a \$30 donation to MNHC. The renewal fee is \$30 per year, all of which goes to MNHC! Available at your local County Treasurer's office. Artwork is by the talented Claire Emery.

*You don't have to wait until
your current plates expire.
Upgrade today!*

\$13,900 raised
in license plate sales!

466 plates sold

MAKE A GIFT

Support our critical work of educating future conservationists and our community with a gift today. Or consider making a recurring monthly contribution! Learn more at montananaturalist.org/ways-to-give

Consider including MNHC in your estate plans.

Please consider MNHC in your estate planning. Help us connect people with nature for generations to come.



Sponsors and Partnerships



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Networth Financial

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Western Montana Clinic

HOLIDAY BAZAAR VENDORS

Brian Christianson
Angie Evenden
Erynn McNeill
Michelle Nowels
Jason C. Poole
Breze Schmitz
Cass Stoltzfus
Katherine Stone
Kate Wasem
Adelheid West

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Goodnight Missoula
Megan Towhig
SterlingCRE Advisors
Nancy Winslow and Doug Webber

Wine provided by:
Lolo Liquor and Wine

*We could not
operate without the
generous support of
our many supporters
and partners.*

*We thank you
for all your
ongoing support!*



COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Animal Wonders	Girl Scouts of Montana & Wyoming	Montana Office of Public Instruction	The Red Willow Learning Center	Public History Program, School of Education, Outdoor Program UMBEL
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival	Glacier Institute	Montana Osprey Project	Soil Cycle	Outdoor Program UMBEL Bird Banding
Bitterroot Trout Unlimited	Holistic Contentment	Montana Outdoor Science School	spectrUM	Unseen Missoula
Boys and Girls Club	Home ReSource	Montana Public Radio	Stitches Screenprint and Embroidery	USFS, Lolo National Forest, Missoula Ranger District
Clark Fork Coalition	International Wildlife Film Festival	Montana State Parks	Swan Valley Connections	Watson's Children's Center
Clark Fork Watershed Education Program	Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium	Montana Watercolor Society	Swiftwater Safety Institute	Western Montana Astronomical Association
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) (Bison Range; Dog Lake)	Missoula Fire Lab	MPG Ranch	Travelers' Rest State Park and Travelers' Rest Connection	Wild Skies Raptor Center
Empower Montana	Montana Audubon Center	MSU-Flathead Reservation Extension Office	University of Montana: Bird Ecology Lab, Ecology and Organismal Biology, Environmental Studies Department, Herbarium, History Department, Historical Research Associates, Paleontology Center, Philip L. Wright Zoological Museum,	Wild Wanders
Five Valleys Audubon	Montana Discovery Foundation	National Wildlife Federation		Wind River Bear Institute
Five Valleys Land Trust	Montana Environmental Education Association	Open AIR		Working Dogs for Conservation
The Flagship Program	Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks	Owl Research Institute		Yellowstone Forever
Free Cycles	Montana Native Plant Society - Clark Fork Chapter	PEAS Farm		YWCA
Friends of the Children		Raptor View Research Institute		Zootown Arts Community Center
Friends of the Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge				

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND SUPPORTERS WHO DONATED TO MNHC IN 2024

Allez!	Don & Andrea Stierle	Jason Poole	Montana Art & Framing	Runner's Edge
Acorn Naturalists	Double K Ranch	Jen Barnes	Montana Folk School	Run Wild Missoula
Amy Shawley Paquette	Double Tree / Finn	Joane Bayer	Montgomery Distillery	The Sapphire Gallery
Atelier Nail Spa	The Dram Shop	John Rimel	Mountain Meat Shares	Sapphire Physical Therapy
Bake Sale Cookies Etc.	Ed Stalling	Just My Type / Donna Erickson	Mystery Ranch	Scheels
Bedrock Sandals	El Diablo	Kallie Moore	Nancy Seiler	Shakespeare & Co.
Ben Burda	Eva-Maria Maggi	Karen and Brian Sippy	Nancy Ventresca	SMMS LLC
Bernice's Bakery	Fact and Fiction	Kathy Thomas	Native Yards Landscaping	Smoke Elser
Betty's Divine	Fairmont Hot Springs	Kelli VanNoppen / Valley House Woodworking	The Nature Conservancy	Soup Farm
Biga Pizza	Five on Black	Kelly Dix	Nectar Candy	spectrUM Discovery Area
Big Dipper	Gale Sherman	Kettlehouse Brewing Co.	Northern Rockies Research & Educational Services	Spruce Missoula
Big Sky Brewing Co.	Gary Fee & Jo Burris	Kristi DuBois	Noteworthy Paper & Press	Susan Fletcher
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival	Gild Brewing	Larry DePute	onX Maps	The Sweet Palace
Bill Gabriel Estate	Glacier Ice Rink	Le Petit Outre	Pangea Restaurant	Sweetwater Travel Company
Birdie Thatcher Charming Interiors	Glacier Restaurant Group	Liquid Planet at the Book Exchange	Pat Jamieson	Tagliare Delicatessen
Bitterroot Flower Shop	Golden Artist Colors, Inc.	Logjam Presents	Patagonia Outlet	The Trailhead
Black Coffee Roasting Co.	Granite Peak Orthodontics	Maclay Ranch	Plonk	The Vespiary
Blue Heron Nature Tours	Great Harvest Bread Company	Meadowsweet Herbs	Radius Gallery	Wendy Ninteman
Book Exchange	Grizzly Athletics	Michelle Nowels	Randy Zielinski	Western Cider Co.
Boone & Crockett Club	Grizzly Liquor	Missoula Butterfly House & Insectarium	REI	Winding Pine Pottery / Kara Shapiro
BZook Ceramics	Haddon Hufford	Missoula Symphony Association	Rhonda Callison	Xplorer Maps
Cabela's	Silversmith	Molly Sutton Garden Services	Rich Adams Fine Art	Yellowstone Dog Sled Adventures
Carol Seiler	Hindu Hillbilly & Rivulet Apiaries	Montana Ace	Rick Oncken	Yellowstone Wildlife Profiles
Cate Campbell & Lee Metzgar	Home ReSource	The Garden Place	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	
Cynthia Swidler	Hunter Bay Coffee		Rocky Mountain Eye Center	
David Easter	International Wildlife Film Festival		Roxy Theater	

2024 STAFF

Kellen Beck, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Fern Bodnar, MUSEUM YOUTH PROGRAMS COORDINATOR
Nora Christy, TEACHING NATURALIST
Beth Conway, MARKETING & EVENTS COORDINATOR
Alyssa Cornell, COLLECTIONS MANAGER
Allison De Jong, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR & EDITOR,
MONTANA NATURALIST AND FIELD NOTES
Ryan Mahar, TEACHING NATURALIST
Marilyn Marler, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Christine Morris, COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COORDINATOR
Kevin Niehaus, TEACHING NATURALIST
Jennifer Robinson, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & PROGRAMS
Siana Smith, FRONT DESK ADMINISTRATOR
Eleva Ulev, GARDEN MANAGER
Erin Vielbig, TEACHING NATURALIST

2024 SEASONAL STAFF

Olivia Anderson, VNS FIELD INSTRUCTOR
Elsah Bechtold, SEASONAL NATURALIST
Connor Dow, SEASONAL NATURALIST
Malinda Gaudry, VNS FIELD INSTRUCTOR
Anna Kerins, SEASONAL NATURALIST
Kaylin Lilly, VNS FIELD INSTRUCTOR
Caroline Reel, VNS FIELD INSTRUCTOR
Libby Riddle, VNS FIELD INSTRUCTOR
Sarah Tarajos, VNS FIELD INSTRUCTOR
Ashley Wilson, SEASONAL NATURALIST

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Peggy Christian
Kelly Dix
Gary Fee
Hank Fischer
Ian Foster
Katie Guffin
Caroline Kurtz, VICE PRESIDENT
Nicole Rieker, TREASURER
Graham Roy, SECRETARY
Mandela van Eeden

MOVED ON TO NEW ADVENTURES IN 2024

In 2024 we had the following staff and board move on to new adventures. We are grateful for the time and talent they shared while at MNHC.

STAFF

Thurston Elfstorm, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kate Folkman, TEACHING NATURALIST
Alyssa Giffin, CAMPS COORDINATOR
Pat Little, DONOR RELATIONS MANAGER
Andrea Panagakis, SCHOOL PROGRAMS MANAGER
Scott Pankratz, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lauren Spaeth, TEACHING NATURALIST
Emma Swartz, TEACHING NATURALIST

ROTATED OFF BOARD

Cheryl Carrington
JoAnn Ducharme
Erim Gomez
Liz Kohl
Eva-Maria Maggi
Ed Monning
Ashley Parks
Nancy Seiler

Cover: Glacier NPS

Acorns: T. Davis Sydnor, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Cup lichens: NPS / Tim Rains

Skull, Owl, Mouse, Moth, Crow: DepositPhotos.com

Back Cover: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

All other images: MNHC



Montana Natural History Center

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