



# The Nature Center Stream

Spring

The Seasonal Newsletter of the MK Nature Center

2009



Oliver Hunter (2nd grade) donated a bluebird box to MK Nature Center. Thanks Oliver!

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## International Migratory Bird Day

MKNC invites you to come celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday May 9th from 10 am - 4 pm. The visitor center and grounds will be teeming with fun activities, speakers, bird viewing scopes, and hopefully, BIRDS! Bird banding demonstrations, live owls, crafts, and face painting will also be available.

This year's theme, *Celebrate Birds in Culture* is sure to bring new and exciting features to the day!

For more information contact Cass Meissner at 287-2901 or [Cass.Meissner@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:Cass.Meissner@idfg.idaho.gov).



## Native Plant Sale



Syringa (above) and prickly pear cactus (right). Photos by Susan Ziebarth, IDFG.



Celebrate Earth Day by planting wildlife friendly, drought tolerant native plants. This sale gives YOU an opportunity to choose from a large selection of plants, talk to knowledgeable botanists and help the Idaho Native Plant Society and MK Nature Center.



By planting native Idaho plants, you help build habitat for wildlife, conserve water and energy, and enjoy the beauty native plants have to offer.

The sale will be held at MKNC on Saturday April 25th from 10 am-2 pm.

## Dave's Two Cents



### Satchmo had it Right!



Dave and his pup Chelsea enjoying the planet.

It starts with something very simple, like my morning walk around the nature center. I see the same wood ducks and mallards and Canada geese I see all the time. I hear some newly-arrived song birds. I see all the plants I see everyday, most of which now are just considering spring. I think to myself, "what an incredible planet." I'm just seeing this teeny weeny speck of it. I get to thinking of all the stars and planets in the universe, and here I am, here *we* are on this one planet that has all of this incredible biodiversity and these finely tuned ecosystems- we get to be a part of it. What is that, a-cajillion chance? I mean, think about it. Think about all of the cool stuff on this planet (even the rocks). The tropics, antartica, the deserts, the oceans! Black and white birds that can only "fly" under water and waddle hundreds of miles. Fish that live in fresh and salt water. Numerous animals that navigate across continents with more skill and less technology than we do. Animals with complex communication and social skills. Plants are another story...let's see... they capture "light" and turn it into food. And that, in a nutshell, is why I love this planet.



### DIG IN is accepting sign ups for Spring 09

DIG IN is a new program designed to get students out in the garden. Learn about plant growth, pollination, insects, food production, and more!

The weekly schedule is as follows; beginning March 30—May 19, 2009. Themes vary per week. Groups of 15 students and under can be accepted.

Tuesdays: 4:00pm—5:30pm / planting and lesson  
ages 9—12 \$ 3.00 per person

Wednesday 4:00pm—6:00pm / Nature arts in the garden  
ages 9—12 \$ 3.00 per person

Thursday 9:30—10:30 am / stories in the garden  
preschool \$ 1.00 per person



Contact Cass Meissner to schedule your group. 287-2901 or [cass.meissner@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:cass.meissner@idfg.idaho.gov)

## Volunteer Opportunities

### MKNC Work Day-April 18

Our annual work day will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 10 am -1 pm. Please sign up with Cass.

### International Migratory Bird Day-May 9th

Join the fun! Help out with the celebration. There are many tasks to choose from. Contact Cass Meissner at [Cass.Meissner@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:Cass.Meissner@idfg.idaho.gov)







## Idaho Department of Fish and Game Morrison Knudsen Nature Center

*Idaho's Face-to-Fish  
Education Center*

600 S. Walnut St.  
PO Box 25  
Boise, Idaho 83707  
Phone: 208.334.2225  
Fax: 208.287.2905  
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/mknc>

Sara Focht, Editor  
208.287.2906  
[sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov)

The MK Nature Center is a conservation education facility owned and operated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. We serve close to 200,000 visitors each year and teach more than 10,000 school children in our education programs. Our funding comes in large part from federal aquatic education grant monies, non-game funds from license plate sales, **and private donations from people like you.** Thank you for your continued support of the MK Nature Center.

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