

Focus on Animals

THE MIKAL KELLNER FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS NEWSLETTER ▲ FALL 98 - SPRING 99



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1998-99 FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES PROMOTE ANIMAL WELFARE

Kelly Kuntz, Chair, MKFA Advisory Council

Many of the Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals projects benefiting domestic and wild animals are nearing goals set for the coming year. The Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center is by far the largest project that MKFA has undertaken since the Foundation's beginning ten years ago. In 1995 the Montana Legislature approved a private/public partnership between Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), USDA Forest Service and MKFA to raise the necessary funds to move the



Terri Haaga, Montana Community Foundation Grants Officer, presents a \$2,000 check to Kelly Kuntz, Chair, and Cindy Utterback, Vice Chair, MKFA, for conservation projects at the new Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center.

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REGATTA SAILS INTO THIRD YEAR

The Third Annual Spring Meadow Lake Cardboard Cup Regatta to benefit the Wildlife Center will be held July 10, 1999. A variety of races and heats are open to all ages, community organizations and businesses. The Regatta is a fun family event, so make a date to come out to Spring Meadow Lake State Park and join in the festivities. Prizes include the Most Spectacular Sinking Award, the Most Creative Theme Boat, the Most Attractive Boat, the Most Enthusiastic Crew and the Kiddy Cup.



Everyone had fun at last year's Annual Spring Meadow Lake Cardboard Cup Regatta. Shown above are some of the participants and their floating cardboard creations.

Craig Marr, Helena Resource Office, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, reminds boat builders who have an eye on the Third Annual Spring Meadow Lake Cardboard

Cup Regatta that it is never too early to start building those creative crafts! Registration forms will be available through Marr's office. For more information call (406) 444-4720. ▲



MKFA EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE BENEFITS LEWIS & CLARK HUMANE SOCIETY

When the Lewis & Clark Humane Society called MKFA in October for help it was truly an emergency. There was no room at the Society's animal shelter for 53 dogs taken by the County in a cruelty case. Some of the dogs needed immediate veterinary care; all needed temporary refuge. MKFA

opened its doors to provide shelter in a building at the future home of the new wildlife rehabilitation center. The Foundation also provided funds to help cover veterinary care and other costs.



Lewis & Clark Humane Society volunteer comforts one of the 53 dogs taken in a cruelty case.



The mixed-breed dogs, including puppies, were transported from Arkansas to Montana last summer. Concerned citizens contacted authorities who obtained a search warrant and found deplorable conditions. The dogs were chained in a building without adequate food or water and were standing in their own excrement — and most of the animals were terrified of human touch.

A court order was obtained to put the dogs in the temporary care of the Humane Society.

In December, the owner was found guilty of cruelty to animals and the dogs were awarded to the Society. The dogs are being spayed and neutered with financial help from MKFA and other donors. Several of the dogs have been adopted, but many more are waiting for permanent homes. For more information call the Humane Society at (406) 442-1660. ▲

LIMITED EDITION PRINT SALES BENEFIT WILDLIFE

Montana artist Robert F. Morgan donated his painting titled *“And We Are All Friends”* to MKFA to raise funds for the new Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The painting of Napi, the “Old Man” of Blackfeet legend, surrounded by animals symbolizes the project in an especially meaningful way. Prints from the limited edition of 250 are available at \$150 each. Each print purchased helps to build a better future for Montana's wildlife. To order your print or obtain more information, please contact MKFA at (406) 443-6532 or P.O. Box 389, Helena, MT 59624.





Amy Teegarden, Helena Forest Service, shows a student one of the many wild animal skull exhibits from the Adopt-A-Species program.

ADOPT-A-SPECIES POPULAR IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



Students at Helena's Broadwater School with an adopted friend, a gift from MKFA for their fund-raising efforts for the new wildlife center.

The Adopt-A-Species program began its third year in September with nine elementary schools in three counties joining the program - schools in Lincoln, Wolf Creek, Townsend, Montana City, Clancy, Elliston, and three in East Helena. Expansion of the program was made possible by a grant from the National Forest Foundation. The program has now reached over 5,000 students in 22 schools.

For Elliston student Tanner Horne, the Adopt-A-Species program is "a neat way to learn more about wolves and their habitat." In his article published in the Elliston School community newsletter, Tanner added, "We didn't really adopt a wolf, we are just learning about the wolf. The program is also to make the students interested in the educational opportunities at the Spring Meadow wildlife rehabilitation and education center, and to raise interest about the endangerment of animals." Tanner quoted Elliston teacher Mrs. McKeever who likes the program because it "provides our school free materials and first-hand resources from people who specialize in habitat preservation and restoration."

Students in the program become partners with wildlife, using their knowledge and creativity to teach others about wildlife. They develop projects such as poems, articles, and wildlife art to carry their messages. A traveling display of these projects will visit schools, libraries, the Capitol Rotunda, and the Montana Environmental Education Association's annual meeting. Students' articles and editorial letters will be featured in Montana newspapers and WOW (Wild Outdoor World) magazine.

Program development and coordination is the result of the dedication of Mikal Kellner, (MKFA Advisory Council), Carla Wambach (Project Wild wildlife educator) and Amy Teegarden and Lydia Wilson (Helena National Forest). Grants and donations have allowed partners for the program - MKFA, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and Helena National Forest - to provide each school with reference materials, posters of adopted species, speakers and storytellers, education trunks, and associated materials and films. ▲



From right to left: "Walkin' Jim" Stoltz, wildlife educator and entertainer, with Hope and Bob Stevens whose donations to MKFA made possible Stoltz's school programs in 1998 and again in 1999. Stoltz holds the Bob Morgan Napi print presented to him by MKFA.



Students used puppets of their schools' adopted species to deliver their wildlife message in song when they performed at the 1998 Helena Chamber of Commerce annual banquet.



MIKAL KELLNER RECEIVES AWARDS

In December Mikal Kellner received Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park's (FWP) "Ambassador for Wildlife Award." Better known as "The Vinnie," this award was established in honor of Vince Yannone who for many years served as FWP's wildlife rehabilitator and conservation educator.

The nomination, submitted by Foundation Vice-Chair Cindy Utterback, emphasized Mikal's "tenacity and energy" in implementing the Adopt-A-Species program in the Helena area elementary schools. In accepting the award, Mikal expressed hope that the award would draw attention to the need for the new wildlife rehabilitation center, and said the Adopt-A-Species program is an example of the education programs that will come out of the new center. She quoted Annette Berkovits of the Wildlife Conservation Society who said: *"All of our efforts to conserve wildlife are for naught if we fail to sow the seeds of an environmental ethic in the next generation."*

Mikal was also honored by the Soroptomist International Heritage Club of Helena for her professional/voluntary accomplishments in preservation and safety of animals. ▲



COLD SPRINGS SCHOOL AND THE VISITING BEAR

Missoula, Montana

A cinnamon-colored black bear cub visited Cold Springs School one morning to see what he could see. The children looked out of the window and couldn't believe that he would want to go to school. After all, baby bear cubs should be with their mothers. There was much discussion among the children as FWP responded to the principal's call. It was determined that the cub was orphaned, so it was tranquilized and transported from the school.

Teacher Pamela Frasier's 4th grade class was anxious to know where the little cub would be taken and what his future held. FWP explained that the cub would be taken to Helena to their wild animal shelter. Steve McMorran, manager of the shelter, assured the children that the bear was a healthy cub and would be a candidate for the shelter's denning program. During the time a cub is at the shelter it puts on two to three times the weight it would as a free-roaming bear of the same age. When the cub is ready to hibernate it is taken out to a wilderness area and placed in a den created by shelter workers. The extra weight allows the cub more time to learn how to forage on his own when he wakes up from hibernation. Steve also told the children about the new wildlife rehabilitation center that is going to be built. The class thought that was great and collected \$60 for the new shelter. In response, MKFA provided the class with a poster-size photo of "Cinnamon" and educational materials about bears and their important place in our environment. ▲



"Cinnamon" became a celebrity for awhile but is just as happy to be heading back to his natural habitat thanks to the FWP wildlife denning program.



1998-99 Foundation Activities

(continued from page 1)

state wild animal shelter from Custer Avenue to a site adjacent to Spring Meadow Lake State Park in Helena. MKFA will complete a land exchange with FWP in 1999, allowing money from the subsequent sale of FWP land to be reinvested in the project. The matching-funds challenge for the building campaign will be near completion after the land exchange. In addition, MKFA and the Kessler School District have agreed to share costs for a new sewer line that both facilities will use. The Foundation's goal is to begin construction on the new wildlife center in the year 2000.

Fundraising efforts and grants for domestic animal projects are also an important part of the Foundation. The

emergency funds and spay-neuter programs have helped countless pets by providing pet owners with financial assistance. MKFA emergency assistance granted to the Lewis & Clark Humane Society helped care for over 50 dogs taken from an owner in an animal cruelty case.

Conservation education is another essential part of the MKFA mission. We were pleased to participate in the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, Leadership Helena's "Environment Day" and the Montana Community Foundation's 10th anniversary celebration. MKFA awarded a grant to the Lewis & Clark Library for a series of ZooBooks for children. And through our "Adopt-A-Species" program in

elementary schools, thousands of children learned about Montana wild animals and the importance of preserving habitat.

Your support made a difference! MKFA received record donations in 1998, including gifts to our endowment fund managed by the Montana Community Foundation. We are proud to thank our contributors by recognizing them on our donor page.

Our objectives in 1999 and 2000 are to continue to identify projects that promote animal welfare, prevent animal suffering and provide needed improvements for animals, both domestic and wild. Thank you for making it possible.▲

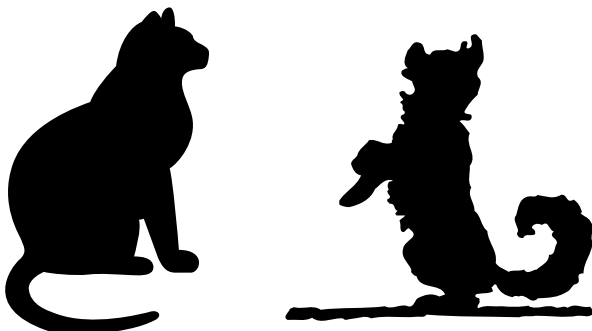
1998 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS

SPAY/NEUTER

A total of 143 dogs and cats benefited from this program. Pet owners received certificates from \$10 to \$90 depending on need. Total assistance given was \$3,410.

EMERGENCY FUNDS

Financial assistance for veterinary care benefited 76 pets - 41 cats and 35 dogs. Total assistance provided was \$4,881. ▲



MKFA WILDLIFE BANQUET SCHEDULED IN OCTOBER

Plan to attend the Foundation's third biannual wildlife banquet at the Helena Civic Center on Saturday, October 16, 1999. The banquet committee is busy planning a great dinner and silent auction and making arrangements for a celebrity appearance. The event will be open to the public.

Several celebrity guest speakers are being considered and as soon as booking schedules are confirmed we will make an announcement. Joan Embry, Goodwill Ambassador, San Diego Zoo is very enthusiastic about coming to Montana if her schedule permits. Embry is a frequent guest on television's "Tonight" and "Today" shows.

Past guest speakers have included Jack Hanna, host of the hit syndicated TV series "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures" and Jim Fowler of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom." The MKFA wildlife banquet has become a popular event in Helena.▲



ENDOWMENT FUND ESTABLISHED WITH MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals has established an endowment fund with the Montana Community Foundation. MKFA contributed \$10,000 of funds previously set aside for this purpose. To date, this fund has received almost \$7,000 of additional contributions - combined with earnings, our endowment is now worth almost \$20,000! This fund ensures that MKFA will continue to help domestic and wild animals in Montana in perpetuity.

You can reduce your Montana income taxes by contributing to MKFA's charitable endowment and taking advantage of a tax credit. The credit equals 50% of qualifying contributions, up to \$10,000 per donor per year. Contributions by individuals *and* businesses may qualify for the credit. Tax law can be complex and we recommend you consult with your tax advisor to see how you or your business can benefit from this credit while helping Montana's charitable endowments grow.

For details on how to give to the Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals Endowment Fund, please contact MKFA at (406) 443-6532 or the Montana Community Foundation at (406) 443-8313.

*MKFA 10th Anniversary
1989 - 1999*



Focus on Animals

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Focus on Animals is a publication of the Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals. It is published for the benefit of people who care about wild and domestic animals.



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