

Focus on Animals

THE MIKAL KELLNER FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS NEWSLETTER ▲ NOVEMBER 1996

MKFA PROGRAMS WORKING TO BENEFIT ANIMALS

BY KELLY KUNTZ, CHAIR, MKFA ADVISORY COUNCIL

This year showed great progress in the planning and development of the *Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and Nature Park*. The rehabilitation center will replace the deteriorating wild animal shelter on Custer Avenue in Helena, and will be part of a new site adjacent to Spring Meadow Lake State Park. The Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals (MKFA), working in partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, approved the preliminary master site plan for the project. Davidson/Kuhr Architects P.C., Great Falls, was awarded the contract for the master site plan and has worked closely with public and private agencies to design a wildlife rehabilitation and release facility for Montana's orphaned and injured wildlife. This year MKFA was awarded several grants for the wildlife center which brings us closer to the \$500,000 match needed for construction to begin - we're almost halfway there.

In this edition of "Focus on Animals", we will update you on the wildlife center plans and fundraising campaign, as well as news of other MKFA activities that benefit both wild and domestic animals. ▲



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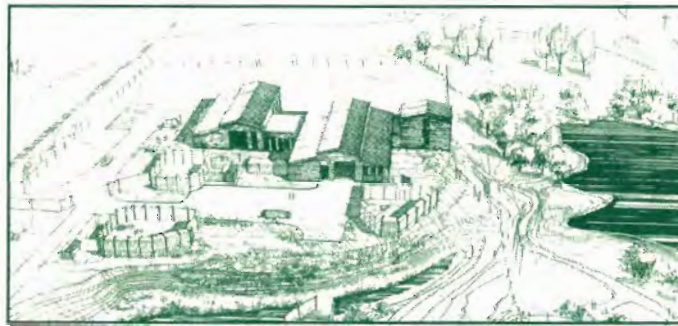
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Shown above is a preliminary sketch of how the historic Stedman Foundry buildings may be utilized at the new Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and Nature Park.

GOVERNOR VOICES SUPPORT FOR FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

Governor Racicot supports the public/private partnership between MKFA, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the USDA Forest Service to build a new wildlife rehabilitation center.

In a statement released by the governor, he said, "I am very supportive of the mission of the Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals. Through its educational efforts, grass roots and community-based involvement and genuine care of animal welfare, the Foundation has made the commitment to work with government to solve a problem. This type of positive approach will enhance our state by providing important educational programs related to wildlife and habitat management and ensure that proper care and treatment of injured wildlife is delivered so that this public resource can be enjoyed by all. Partnerships that focus on achieving a common goal like the one between the Foundation, FWP and USFS are important to maximizing state fiscal resources, as well as responsibly and responsively involving the public in addressing a problem. The challenge lies in effectively putting the combined funds, mission and goals of each of the organizations together to develop a facility that will improve the State's ability to treat wild animals and educate the people of Montana and its visitors." ▲



ADOPT-A-SPECIES PROGRAM POPULAR WITH KIDS

To educate today's youth about the importance of understanding and preserving the natural world, MKFA introduced a school program called "Adopt-a-Species." Helena's elementary schools wanted to participate and each chose one species of Montana wildlife to study. Students will spend the next school year doing research on wildlife habitat and why their adopted species is critical to the ecosystem.

Results of the studies will be compiled and displayed at the new wildlife center. Participating schools and their adopted Montana animals include: Broadwater (black bear), Bryant (river otter), Central (bald eagle), Four Georgians (wolf), Hawthorne (red



▲ Students will be studying many of the wild animals that will be cared for at the new wildlife rehabilitation center in Helena. Shown above are orphaned and injured animals brought to the Custer Avenue Animal Shelter.



▲ The Adopt-a-Species program provides many opportunities for field trips and guest speakers. Above, Vince Yannone, retired FWP Conservation Educator, talks to students about wildlife.

tailed hawk), Jefferson (moose), Jim Darcy (mountain goat), Kessler (bison), Lincoln (mountain lion), Ray Bjork (bobcat), Rossiter (black footed ferret), Smith (grizzly bear), Warren (red fox). ▲

WILDLIFE HABITAT DEPENDS ON OPEN SPACE

JEFF HERBERT, CHAIR, MKFA HABITAT COMMITTEE

The Foundation has been involved with developing an inventory of open space resources within the greater Helena area. The goal of this effort is to provide a data base that can serve decision makers in land-use planning issues.

The Open Space Bond that passed in the November election goes well with our project as it will provide a funding mechanism to protect or enhance a variety of open space areas. These could include lands adjacent to Mt. Helena and Mt. Ascension, hiking and biking trails, urban parks and playing fields, stream corridors and wetlands. A citizens advisory council will provide recommendations to the City Commission on the expenditure of the Open Space funds. The Foundation's inventory could serve an important role in this decision making process.

The first report of the MKFA habitat inventory identified cover types in the greater Helena area (including urban developments, subdivisions, dryland pasture, native grassland, wetlands and woodlands). Task Two

GRANTS BOOST WILDLIFE CENTER CAMPAIGN

In October MKFA was awarded \$66,968 from the Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program (TIIP) for the new wildlife rehabilitation facility. The wildlife project was one of 33 applicants for \$350,000 in state bed tax money available for TIIP projects. Six grants were approved. The program is designed to assist the development of Montana's tourism-related infrastructure.

The wildlife project, in addition to providing a model facility for animal rehabilitation, will include wildlife viewing areas, a visitors center, and education and interpretive displays and programs. The Foundation thanks the Governor's Tourism Advisory Council for choosing the project to receive the TIIP grant.

In addition to the TIIP award, MKFA has also received the following grants for the wildlife center:

Philip Morris Companies Inc., in conjunction with each of their five operating companies (Kraft Foods, Miller Brewing Company, Mission Viejo Company, Philip Morris International and Philip Morris USA) awarded \$5,000. Our thanks to John Delano, Helena, for his endorsement of the project.

Turner Foundation Inc. awarded a general support grant to MKFA for \$5,000. The Turner Foundation supports environmental activities directed toward preservation of the environment, conservation of natural resources and protection of wildlife. Thanks to Vince Yannone for his participation in this grant application.

The Ruth and Vernon Taylor Foundation granted \$2,500. Special thanks goes to Catherine S. Campbell for her grant recommendation.

MKFA would also like to recognize major individual donors whose gifts will make a difference: **Pauline Allen**, for her foresighted gift of an annuity trust; the **Olive Marin Estate** gift which in part is designated for the wildlife center; **Eugene and Barbara Croissant** who gave a generous gift; and **Hope Stevens** for ongoing support of the wildlife center through the **Fanwood Foundation**.

A complete list of our donors since the last newsletter is included in this edition's honor recognition page. The Foundation is grateful to the many friends who so lovingly give to the care of animals, both domestic and wild. ▲

VETERINARIAN'S GENEROSITY HELPS PETS AND PEOPLE

Helena veterinarian Arla Barkemeyer is a woman of compassion and generosity. It was a dream of hers to be able to help pets who needed unexpected, sometimes extensive medical care that their loving owners could not afford. She also wanted to help stop the overpopulation of cats and dogs, an ever-increasing problem. And she was determined to find a beneficial way to use fees generated from euthanizing pets, a sad but necessary part of veterinary practice.

In 1992 she put together a plan for an ongoing gift program through MKFA that would make her dream come true, and at the same time put euthanasia fees to work helping animals in need. The euthanasia fees generated from her clinic, the Animal Center, are donated to MKFA for use in the emergency funds and spay/neuter programs. MKFA sends a card to each bereaved pet owner notifying them of the donation made in memory of their pet and explaining how the funds are used.

For the past four years, Dr. Barkemeyer's ongoing gifts have provided the funding for the MKFA spay/neuter and emergency funds programs. Recently, donations topped the \$23,000 mark!

More than 150 pets have benefited from funds earmarked specifically to help pet owners meet unexpected veterinary expenses. Often persons applying for assistance have experienced some financial hardship and cannot cover emergency treatment of a sick or injured family pet. Most pet owners will send a donation to the Foundation when they are able. This assures that the program can help as many pets as possible.

Assistance is also available for pet owners who can't afford to have a pet altered. Since the inception of the program, more than 520 cats and dogs have been spayed or neutered.

Through her contributions to the emergency funds and spay/neuter programs, Dr. Barkemeyer has touched the lives of more than 670 pets and the people who love them. Her hope now is that other veterinarians will join in supporting the programs so that more animals can benefit. Interested veterinarians can request information and materials by calling MKFA at (406) 443-6532. Individual donations are also welcome and can be sent to MKFA, P.O. Box 389, Helena, MT 59624-0389.▲



Dr. Barkemeyer in surgery at the Animal Center.

Kids For Wildlife Corner

KIDS RAISE MONEY FOR WILDLIFE CENTER

Four elementary schools participated in after-school fundraising activities inspired by the "Adopt-a-Species" program.

Broadwater Elementary School students held penny harvests this



Mikal Kellner, center, accepts donations for the new wildlife center from Lincoln Elementary School students Teana Smoot and Kris Doughty. Teacher Larry Hansen helped make the presentation.

year totaling \$400. Students are enthusiastic about having a wildlife center to visit and seeing their adopted species - the black bear!

Central Elementary School students donated \$50 to the wildlife center from their after-school ice cream store profits. They are studying the bald eagle as their adopted species.

Jefferson Elementary School students put their artistic talents to work for wildlife and held an art auction at the Holter Museum in Helena. Sales totaled \$350, which was donated to MKFA. The moose was chosen as their adopted species.

Lincoln Elementary School students collected pennies, nickels and dimes reaching \$200 for a donation to the wildlife center project. Lincoln students chose the mountain lion as their adopted species. The mountain lion is also the school mascot.

MKFA extends a heartfelt "thanks" to these students for their contributions to help build a new Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and Nature Park and appreciates the enthusiastic response by students and teachers to the "Adopt-A-Species" program.▲



WILDLIFE HABITAT

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of the study will describe wildlife values associated with each cover type. This year more field work was completed, checking the cover types and delineation of the project study area and incorporating this information into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coverage, a computerized mapping program. Final tasks will include mapping specific locations in the study area that are important to wildlife, and determining the ownership of mapped wildlife habitat sites to include in a reference database. This data base will be available to the City of Helena, Lewis & Clark County, the Helena Open Space Committee, interested conservation organizations and the general public.

Financing for the project includes matching funds from the Cinnabar Foundation, City of Helena, Last Chance Audubon Society, Prickley Pear Sportsmen's Association and the Liz Claiborne & Art Ortenberg Foundation.▲

▲ Focus on Animals



Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals

Yes! I want to help build a better future for animals. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution.

\$100.00

\$50.00

\$25.00

Adopt-a-Species Program

Emergency Funds Program

Helena Area Habitat Study

Spay/Neuter Program

Unencumbered (As needs exist)

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Project

I am interested in receiving information on your pledge campaign for building the new **Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and Nature Park.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Please make checks payable to the Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals (a tax-exempt, non-profit organization) and mail to PO Box 389, Helena, MT 59624-0389.

Thank you for your contribution, every gift is appreciated!



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Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals
P.O. Box 389
Helena, MT 59624-0389

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