

Focus on Animals

THE MIKAL KELLNER FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS NEWSLETTER ▲ OCTOBER 1997



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MKFA FUND-RAISING BENEFITS ANIMALS

BY KELLY KUNTZ, CHAIR, MKFA ADVISORY COUNCIL



Gov. Marc Racicot presented a \$66,968 check to MKFA, from "bed tax" funds to benefit the Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. L-R: Senator Sue Bartlett, Cindy Utterback, Governor Racicot, Kelly Kuntz, Dr. Peter Blouke, Shirley Gannon, Senator Mignon Waterman.

Thank you! Your generous support of the Foundation in 1997 allowed us to continue working for animals, both wild and domestic. This issue of "Focus on Animals" will update you on our domestic animal programs, wildlife rehabilitation center fund-raising events and other activities sponsored by the Foundation to benefit animals.

Major contributions to the wildlife rehabilitation center fund-raising campaign, such as the \$66,968 award from the Montana Commerce Department's Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program (TIIP) in January, helped reduce

the loan for the wildlife center site at Spring Meadow Lake. Additional gifts to date include a \$40,000 combined cash and in-kind grant from Lee Foundation and Helena Independent Record, and \$10,000 grants

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CELEBRITY JACK HANNA WILL BE GUEST SPEAKER AT MKFA BANQUET



Jack Hanna, host of the hit syndicated TV series "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures", will be guest speaker at the MKFA wildlife banquet on October 4th.

Many wildlife enthusiasts thought it would be hard to top our previous wildlife banquet with Jim Fowler of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" television fame, but be prepared to be dazzled! The Foundation has a wild evening planned October 4th with Jack Hanna, host of the syndicated television series "Jack Hanna's Wildlife Adventures".

At the forefront of wildlife education and conservation for years as director of the Columbus Zoo in Columbus, Ohio, Jack Hanna put the Columbus Zoo on the map. Through television appearances, books and video programs, Hanna has a special talent for conveying the wonders of zoology and nature. An entertaining naturalist and adventurer, he has appeared on PBS, The Family Channel, The Discovery Channel, and is a regular guest on "Good Morning America," "The Late Show With David Letterman," and other major TV programs.

Through "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures", Hanna takes millions of viewers (the program is viewed in 34 countries) on exciting journeys to learn about animals and the places they inhabit.

While he sees many exotic animals around the world, Hanna says, "I get the biggest thrill from animals in our own country. At my cabin in Montana, my greatest pleasure is watching the wildlife."

Join the Foundation at the Helena Civic Center for an evening of fun, dinner and silent art auction on Saturday, October 4th. The event starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person. Reserve a table for 8 and receive a 10% discount. Call MKFA at 443-6532 for more information. ▲



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ROW-ROW-SINK YOUR BOAT!



SPRING MEADOW LAKE CARDBOARD CUP REGATTA

The first annual Spring Meadow Lake Cardboard Cup Regatta in Helena on Saturday, July 12, was a splashing success. Over \$1,000 in proceeds from the event went to the MKFA fund-raising campaign for construction of the new Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation center.



Thanks to all the boat builders and crews who paddled, sailed – or swam, pushing soggy vessels – across Spring Meadow Lake. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the USDA Forest Service did a great job of coordinating the event. Also thanks to the judges and the many community volunteers who helped with registration and posting of winners. Awards included “Most Spectacular Sinking”, “Most Creative Theme Boat” and “Most Enthusiastic Crew”, among others. Prizes were donated by Helena area merchants. The crowd had a great time and everyone wants to enter a boat next year! ▲



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The First Annual Spring Meadow Lake Cardboard Cup Regatta was a fun, have-a-good-time race to raise money for the wildlife center.

No matter how fast, slow, big, small, sensible or outrageous the boat, each entry was applauded with great fanfare.



Shirley Gannon, on behalf of MKFA, accepts a Montana Historic Preservation certificate from Governor Marc Racicot. The historic Stedman Foundry buildings at the site of the new wildlife center have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

MKFA FUND-RAISING BENEFITS ANIMALS

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from the Turner and Burlington Northern-Sante Fe foundations. The total match needed for the first phase of the project is \$500,000 for building renovation and \$250,000 plus interest for the property. Over \$240,000 has been raised to date.

The Foundation is also pleased to be the recipient of a Montana Historic Preservation certificate listing the Stedman Foundry Buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. The structures, located on the site of the proposed wildlife rehabilitation center, are some of the finest remaining examples of industrial 1800's mill buildings in the state. The buildings will be incorporated into the wildlife center's master site plan. ▲

MKFA SPAY/NEUTER & EMERGENCY FUNDS UPDATE

Our domestic animal spay/neuter and emergency funds programs began their sixth year of assisting pet owners in financial need to care for animals in emergency medical situations and to alter pets. Since January of this year, 77 animals (23 dogs, 54 cats) were altered, with MKFA providing a total of \$2,395 in assistance. Emergency veterinary care was provided to 22 animals (13 dogs, 9 cats) with MKFA assistance of \$1,458. For the past five years, funding for these important programs has come from ongoing gifts totaling over \$20,000 from the Animal Center in Helena, which donates euthanasia fees it receives. If you would like to support this program call 406-443-6532 or send donations to MKFA domestic animal spay/neuter and emergency funds programs, P.O. Box 389, Helena, MT 59624. ▲



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Kids For Wildlife Corner

Helena elementary students have added much to the wildlife rehabilitation center fund raising campaign. From "penny harvests" at Broadwater School to an art auction by Jefferson School, it all adds up!

Through the Adopt-A-Species program, students helped create the 1998 wildlife calendar. Proceeds from sales go to the new wildlife rehabilitation center. Calendars may be purchased for \$5 at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Helena National Forest office, Chamber of Commerce, Montana Book Company, and the Independent Record. They may also be ordered through MFKA (406) 443-6532.

In April, over 3,500 elementary students celebrated Earth Day, Wildlife Week and the International Wildlife Film Festival. Teaming up to present the special programs were representatives from MKFA, the USDA Forest Service, FWP and the Myrna Loy Center which showed a special wildlife film at each school. Forest Service Environmental Education



Teachers and parents help, too. Special thanks go to Jefferson School's Parent Teacher Council and parent volunteer Julie Mitchell (above), chair of Jefferson's art show.

Coordinator Amy Teegarden took the kids on an imaginary hike in the woods, explaining what's necessary for a safe trip, and how to enjoy nature to the fullest without doing harm. Betsy Spettigie, coordinator of FWP's Watchable Wildlife program, challenged kids to think of wildlife they've seen, to appreciate all wild creatures, and realize how lucky they are to live in Montana where wildlife is abundant.



Students were spellbound by the film, "The Biggest Bear". Narrated by a 5-year-old Alaskan boy, it showed the grizzly's struggle to survive, and the habitat necessary for it and other wildlife to live. In wrapping up the program, MKFA's Mikal Kellner told students that, just as the Alaskan boy provided a voice for the grizzly bear, they can use their voices to help wildlife by making others aware of their school's adopted species and the habitat it needs to survive. She congratulated the students on their work with each adopted species, and recognized those students whose artwork was selected for the Adopt-A-Species calendar.

Thanks to all who participated in the program - and a special thanks to the Myrna Loy Center and Les Benedict, who set up the film at each school. ▲



Jefferson Elementary School students and parents admire artwork at the Holter Museum. Students donated their art for a silent auction benefiting the wildlife center.



Jim and Bobbee Elliot of Helena with two of their loving pets.

SPECIAL-NEEDS PETS FIND HOME

Jim and Bobbee Elliott weren't always poodle lovers, but you wouldn't guess that from the contented canines that have the run of their house in the country. Some are purebreds, some are mixes, but each needed a home and the Elliotts cheerfully provide one, plus a lot of love and care. Several of the four-legged family members found their way to the Elliotts through the Lewis & Clark Humane Society and the Animal Center in Helena. Many are older dogs that require special care or daily medication for health problems that range from seizures to heart conditions.

The Elliotts have found that adopting older pets and those with special needs is very rewarding. While requiring a little extra care, these "special" pets give back boundless loyalty, fun and affection. ▲



NEW TAX CREDIT ALLOWS SAVINGS FOR DONORS

A new tax credit allows donors to pay less in Montana income taxes by contributing to Montana charitable endowments. The credit equals 50% of *qualifying contributions*, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per donor per year. Contributions by individuals and business entities may qualify for the credit. Qualifying contributions for individuals are planned gifts (e.g. charitable remainder annuity trusts, paid-up life insurance policies, etc.). Corporations and partnerships may contribute cash to charitable endowments. Tax law can be complex and we recommend you consult 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 the MKFA office at (406) 443-6532. ▲



Arnie Malina and his mother, who attended the Montana Governor's Award for the Arts. Malina was an honoree.

A SPECIAL FAREWELL TO ARNIE MALINA

MKFA bids a fond farewell to MKFA advisory board member Arnie Malina who has moved to Vermont. After contributing more

than 20 years to developing the very successful "Helena Presents", a program of dance, theater and art, and supporting community organizations such as MKFA, Malina will be taking on new challenges with an East coast performing arts company. In 1988, *Newsweek* magazine named Malina Montana's "unsung hero" for his many accomplishments in our state. He will be missed.▲



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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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