



Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date



Committed To Preservation

Animal Planet to Use MWF as Centerpiece in Jeff Corwin's New Series

A film crew for the cable channel *Animal Planet* was at the Montana Waterfowl Foundation during the last week of August to document our Trumpeter Swan reintroduction program and to highlight various site improvement activities. Jeff Corwin, the star of the network's popular *Corwin's Quest*

show was also on hand to coordinate activities for his new series *Corwin's Conservation Planet* which is scheduled to air next spring.

The first show in the series will highlight construction activities at MWF on a new aviary, wood duck nesting boxes and the predator-safe fence around the property. Special attention will be given to our Trumpeter Swan program. All through the show, action will cut back to MWF to monitor progress. Members of the Kicking Horse Job Corps Center and the Montana Conservation Corps helped in building these projects.

MWF president John Jarvis and board member John Grant spent lots of time in front of the camera. Janene Lichtenberg, a wildlife biologist for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, was also prominently featured.

Kate Davis, president of Raptors of the Rockies, was instrumental in arranging the documentary and also had an opportunity to promote her organization on the show. MWF is very grateful for her support.

There was also a great deal of support from local merchants whose help was very much appreciated. It was an enjoyable experience for everyone.

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Jeff Corwin and the crew from Tigress Productions after a long day's shoot at MWF.

- Future Plans for the Foundation include:**
- Expansion of our 'predator safe' area
 - Drilling for an additional artesian well to feed a pond (besides the 7 ponds in current use) designed especially to benefit native 'diving ducks' such as redheads, canvasbacks, harlequins and ring-necked ducks
 - Four Wheel ATV Grounds Maintenance Vehicle
 - Expanding aviaries for native 'dabbling ducks, teal, pintails, mallards, wigeons, shovelers and wood ducks.

Web Page Up and Running - www.mtwaterfowl.org

The MWF is proud to announce that our web page is up and running with a variety of information that features many interesting facts about the foundation including our mission, history and current happenings. In addition, you will find a gallery of pictures of the many species currently inhabiting the thirty acres. All photographs were taken by John Jarvis. A very special thanks goes out to our webmaster, Casey Frisbie. Casey is based in Houston, TX and has been updating the web page regularly. In addition to Casey's web page talents, he is also a fine artist with his own material that can be viewed at www.3dfix.com. The foundation has many contributors, but as a result of Casey's hard work and dedication, the MWF can be viewed by folks around the globe. Thanks for everything Casey!



Kate Davis – Featured Friend of the Foundation

Kate Davis has supported the Montana Waterfowl Foundation right from the start. We would not be nearly as successful without her knowledge, enthusiasm, talent, and generosity. Her commitment to conserving and teaching about our wildlife resources, a trait that has made her Raptors of the Rockies a treasured organization that has helped MWF in more ways than we can count.

Kate's generosity and creativity have benefited our program in untold ways. As artist, scientist, educator, humanitarian, and entertainer, she has played a critical role in our success. A film she produced about MWF aired on TV in Missoula and she made the contact with Jeff Corwin and Animal Planet for us. We've also benefited greatly from Kate's knowledge and technical assistance in wildlife propagation, rehabilita-

tion, and habitat management.

With her responsibilities at Raptors of the Rockies, we are amazed and impressed by the time and energy she has to share. With care and feeding of the birds, maintaining and developing the facilities, and conducting educational programs it almost seems outside of human possibility that she has time for anything else.



Learn more about her program at www.raptorsoftherockies.org.



Kate Davis with her Peregrine Falcon, Sibley (above), her Redtail Hawk sculpture (left), Miles the Owl (top right), and the Sandhill Crane sculpture she donated to MWF on Jeff Corwin's TV show .



A dozen or so of her taxidermy mounts (birds, mammals and fish) are prominently displayed in the Schoolhouse along with posters she's produced and copies of her book *Raptors of the Rockies*. She and Sally Phillips, (her mom) have donated funds through the years to help us maintain our diverse collection of captive waterfowl.

Thank you very much , *Kate* !





Education — Priority One at the Foundation



At the Montana Waterfowl Foundation, education has been our primary mission from the start. With the continuing School House improvements along with the many ground projects which include new aviaries, additional fencing projects and the introduction of new species, the educational benefits have surpassed our wildest expectations. Starting in 1984 when the MWF was founded, the various students, both children and adults have averaged around five-hundred per year. During 2005, we have surpassed the 600 student mark. The increased number of students are the result of many factors, not the least of which are improved educational facilities due to school house improvements, the creation of a user friendly web page, and the many volunteers who have made significant

contributions. Perhaps our best advertising is word of mouth. Many classes visiting from local and regional schools, along with organizations such as the Audubon Society have played a large part in the increased visitation. In addition, our web page has a kids section that has been instrumental in learning more about our services prior to visitation.

One of our favorite experiences occurred when an Episcopal Prep school, located in Portland, Oregon, downloaded the coloring book on the web. Over thirty students put their individual themes to the various waterfowl pictures and sent them to the Foundation. A particular favorite was the "Ghetto Goose" which had an urban - gothic theme. As our facilities and grounds projects continue to expand, we hope the number of students,

along with the diversity of visitors continues to keep pace as well. Thanks to all the teachers, group leaders and interested individuals for their continued

If you would like to contribute to the MWF you have a choice! Either go to the MWF web page at www.mtwaterfowl.org or fill out the flyer enclosed with this edition of the newsletter.





Spotlight on David Speer—SKC Photography Guru

When I first started making photographs in high school I was unaware at the time that photography would become something so important in my life. As I look back I realize that there were two important ingredients that when combined seemed to drive my camera. One was the excitement of being out in the world and secondly finding just the right place, if both these elements were aligned then picture magic could occur.



Photo by
Vonnie Alberts

Now years later, as a teacher, I watch closely those who study photography. There comes a moment when suddenly they realize their own visual magic. For four years I've taken my photography students to work at the Montana Waterfowl Foundation. When they arrive in this unique

setting initially they are caught off guard, but soon they start making decisions that are new departures and their own expressive journey begins.

The Montana Waterfowl Foundation site is a place where the artist experiences what the Impressionist painters of the 1800's came to value, being out in nature, taking in the experience and then making good work. My students do this time and again as we move from the classroom to the field and back and again. We are grateful for this place, a resource in which we can see so clearly how nature is arranged.

David J. Spear is a photographer and educator. He is the author of the monograph, 'Gas Smells But Not Like Skunks' (1991). Publication credits include the New York Times Magazine, German Geo, Granta Magazine and the Columbia Journalism Review. In 2000 he received the Howard Chapnik Grant for the Advancement of Photojournalism and in 1995 the Ernst Haas Photog-

raphy Educator of the year award. He was an instructor at New York University, Tisch School of the Arts in the Photography and Imaging, and the Undergraduate Film and Television Departments from 1989-2000.

In 1985 he developed the International Center of Photography's Community Outreach Program for underserved communities of New York City and was its primary instructor through 1997. In 2000 he moved to Montana He is currently working on the Flathead Reservation developing outreach projects for rural youth. He is a Montana Arts Council teaching artist and a part-time instructor at Salish Kootenai College. He teaches each summer at the Maine Photographic Workshops.



Photo by
Steven Hernandez

John Grant Talks Swans

To address one of its goals – enhancing native waterfowl populations, MWF is propagating Trumpeter Swans for release into the wild. In cooperation with tribal, state, and federal agencies, and other organizations, MWF is playing a key role in restoring this graceful giant to parts of its historic range in western Montana.

After being absent for most of a century, the largest of the North American waterfowl is once again living and breeding in the Mission Valley. Part of a captive flock of Trumpeters, which belongs to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and housed at MWF facilities is producing young that, along with others reared at a facility in Wyoming, are being released into the wild. People living in, or traveling through the Valley are now regularly treated to the sights and sounds of this majestic bird.

For the past several years, a productive swan pair has been raising young that are now in the wild! Other cygnets (young swans) hatched from eggs of this pair that were incubated and raised by surrogate parents have helped to multiply the success. The pair used as surrogates has been unsuccessful in producing fertile eggs of their own, but are still contributing to the program. When viable eggs from the producing swans are removed from their nest prior to the start of incubation, the pen, or female swan lays more. The "good eggs" that are taken from them are put in the nest of the surrogates in exchange for the infertile ones in their nest. After a bit of commotion from the disturbance, things settle down quickly, and the result is more Trumpeter Swans.

In 2003 the same surrogate pair "saved the day" for a clutch of swan eggs from the Blackfoot Valley when the pen was killed by flying

into a powerline late in the incubation period. The doomed eggs were rescued from the nest and rushed to MWF and put into the nest of the surrogates. Several days later they hatched. After being raised by the surrogates through the summer, they were returned to the Blackfoot and reunited with their father.

MWF is proud to be a partner with others working to ensure the survival of this species. We hope to continue into the future and are working to expand our capacity to contribute.





Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program—WHIP Grant

The Montana Waterfowl Foundation's Youth for Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) project was approved for funding by the USDA. The purpose of a Youth for WHIP is not only to install wildlife habitat practices, but to educate youth in the whole process from design to construction to implementation. The Trumpeter swan breeding ponds will be constructed in 2006. Classes were held last fall for students to learn design requirements for the ponds and swan habitat needs. Funding was also approved for predator safe

fencing, cross fencing for swan ponds, an artesian well, pipeline, flowing wetland and shrub planting. The Kiosk's and photography/artist blinds were not funded. The blinds may be built as part of Eagle Scout or community

service projects with lumber help from maybe Plum Creek. We still need to find funding for the Kiosk's. The WHIP project will be spread over 4 to 6 years so there's time to get these other things done too.



Meet the Board Of Directors

The MWF is fortunate to have a dedicated and diverse Board of Directors with unique backgrounds. The members include

John Jarvis—President and MWF Manager.

Doug Spicher—Treasurer

Dermot O'Halloran— Secretary

John Grant—Wildlife Biologist

Mark Warner—Charter Member

THANKS JILL

Special thanks go out to Jill Maynard for her incredible



donation of the MWF quilt which allowed the Foundation to be the recipient of the MCFG Grant. Her time and effort was most appreciated.

MWF Receives Montana Community Foundation Grant

The Montana Waterfowl Foundation applied for and subsequently received a grant of \$2,000 for improvements necessary to expand and upgrade the present schoolhouse facilities. Part of the grant has already been utilized to construct a new floor in the schoolhouse, followed by the installation of new carpeting. The improvements have already had regular visitation by various groups including local school groups, photography classes which have been well received by all. In addition, the schoolhouse has allowed for other functions including pot lucks and Board meetings. Future enhancements include the construction of restroom facilities and other improvements

that will allow the schoolhouse to be a centerpiece of learning at the Foundation. Special thanks go out to Catherine Cooney and the Board of the Montana Community Foundation for their continued support. Because of their kind donation, many groups will be able to enjoy the MWF and surroundings.





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Special Thanks

The Foundation would not exist without the many folks who have contributed over the years. It's impossible to name them all here. We apologize to those we've missed.

Kent Duckworth	Terry McDonald	Bill & Jenny Taber	Ronan Discount Carpet	SalishKootenaiCollege	Kicking Horse Job Corp
Kuba Germer	Tom Patch	Larry Singleton	Kevin Quinn	Joe McDonald	Mission Valley Printing
Clancy Williams	Lee Hurt	Montana Gardner	Bouma Post & Pole	Tim Jennifer McGinnis	HiddenMountainGallery
Dale Becker	Ann Walker	Alan Anderson	Flathead River Resort	Don Olsson Jr.	Pizza Cafe
Kate Davis	Mikey & Jill Albertson	Harold Anderson	Beth & Craig Blevins	OXO Foundation	Bill Rice
Bill Long	David Spear	George Mitchell	Backdoor Computers	Ronan Telephone Co	Greg Neudecker
Kris Tingle	Jill Erickson	Shiela Hancock	Greg Bjork	Bonnie Rice	Pheasant Lounge
Anna Jarvis	Phil Hamilton	Jim Betson	Larry &Vanessa Burton	Ranall McDonald	Blackfoot Challenge
The Miller Family	Corky Clairmont	Bollinger Family	Kristi Dubois	Carlos Rodriques	Jean Kluge
Joe & Sue Ball	Jeff Corwin	Casey Frisbie	Mark & Pam Gibbons	Tom Schultz	Willie&Patty Stevens
Dan Wadsworth	Tigress Productions	Tony Hoyt	Alan Grenier	Ace Sloan	Henry Normandean
Tom Hinz	S&K Technologies	Pat Smith	Harriman Fish Farm	Jackie Smart	Marc & Lucille Johnson
Larry Robertson	S&K Electronics	Monte Dolack	Harley Hettick	Terry& Carole Toppins	
Kathy Shore	Cenex	Mary Beth Percival	Ingraham Law Firm	Bernie Rosenblum	
Rhonda Whiting	Jermaine White	Amos Dahn	Sarah Jamieson	Merle Jore	
Rick Korf	George Chaussee	Peter Yegen Family	Barney & Nancy Jette	Alan Westerman	
Dick & Bev Douglas	Jane Nolan	Miles City Park Side	Janene Lichtenberg	Michael Barbary	
David Stinger	Milana Marsenich	Pifer Environmental	CSKT Tribes	Steve Hinck	