

## Fall Highlights

MDF hosted a *High Tea* accompanied by music of the Sagittarius Trio at Moose Creek Cabin in September. The weather was beautiful and turnout substantial as folks enjoyed chamber music in the woods.

You could almost hear a shaman chanting in the moonlight while on the hike into Hellgate Pictographs in September. There was a full contingent of hardy hikers that made it into view the pictographs before dark. But after walking further up the canyon to enjoy fall colors, the return to canyon depths in deep evening shadows brought out a hint of what the shamans may have experienced.

Water quality monitoring, ecology hikes, wildlife education, and a tour of Charter Oak Mill and Mine were carried out by 130 CR Anderson sixth graders at the end of September. 65 students in the morning and again in the afternoon made it challenging to get in all of the “good stuff” that educators had ready for them.

Mt. Helena Ridge Trail was the outing for 140 sophomores from Capital High School. Reg Hegeman, Health & PE

teacher, made arrangements with MDF to serve as “naturalists” and chaperones on this 6.5 mile trip. Many of the students had never hiked the trail before, and though the hike was fast with little time for “naturalizing” because of time constraints, the students had a great experience. We expect there will be many return visits as students learn more about their “place.”



Capital High sophomores on Mt. Helena Ridge Trail

Sam Chapman represented the Foundation at the MEA MFT Conference that was held at the Great Northern Town Center in Helena. Her presentation was based on inquiry based education incorporating the Flying Wild Curriculum (birds) and was well received by educators.

October is the month for ghosts and goblins and the Moonlight Hike did not disappoint. With over 50 participants, Ken Soderberg, interpreter extraordinaire from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, partnered with the Foundation as a ghostly apparition and gave the participants a little background into what the life of a miner might have been like. With cider and goodies around the campfire, this is one of our most popular and festive moonlight hikes.

Again, we are looking forward to winter—snowshoeing, skiing, hiking, snow science, and survival—just a few of the things that will keep us going and growing over the next couple of months.

*Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!*



*The Montana Discovery Foundation believes that hands-on experiences in nature will lead people to value and promote our natural resources, which will ultimately make our community a better place to live. If you have an interest in any of the events or would like more information, please call. 495.3718 or 495.3711*



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*connecting nature and community  
through education*

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Cummings Cabin near Lincoln where winter survival class will be based. See inside for more info.

The community naturalist

Fall/Winter 2010



MONTANA DISCOVERY FOUNDATION

The Community Naturalist

## Highlights & Happenings

Dear Friends,

After a busy summer and early fall, and with a little breather before Snowschool kicks off, it is time to reflect on the past year’s successes. For the Montana Discovery Foundation there have been many and we know we couldn’t have done it without your support and involvement. We have already reached a record number of participants for the year. With the expansion in events and activities, we have also added many volunteer hours with a value of over \$33,000 that boosts the bottom line to prove worth and create match money for much-needed grants and agreements.

As we head into the holiday season and think of celebrations, it is time to give thanks—to all of you. You have given us a great year and we are looking forward to playing and working with you as the Montana Discovery Foundation continues its mission to encourage all to learn more about their place in all seasons of the year. Snowshoeing, skiing, hiking and learning more about where you live are just some of the upcoming opportunities coming your way. Please check out the schedule of events and mark your calendars for lots of winter fun.

We hope you’ll continue to get outside and play with us—any time of the year.

Giving thanks,

*Debbie Anderson Samara Chapman*

## Survivor—Montana Style

On December 11 & 12, MDF, Helena National Forest, Lewis & Clark County Sheriff, the Helena Outdoor Club, The Base Camp, and the Carroll Adventure & Mountaineering Program are sponsoring workshops for the public on Winter Survival skills. These workshops will teach traditional and modern methods for travel and outdoor survival during the cold season. New for this year is the option for spending the night in a shelter constructed during the first day of the class.

Join instructor David Cronenwett for one or both courses, “Introduction to Winter Survival” and “Intermediate Winter Survival.” The workshops focus on the essential needs for short-term survival in winter. Skills and concepts to be featured include:

- Defining survival situations
- Dressing for the cold
- Tool use and maintenance (knife, axe and saw)
- Fire-making, using modern and primitive methods
- Shelter and sleeping options
- Emergency snow travel methods
- Knots and binding craft
- Subsistence options and survival kits  
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RESERVATIONS:  
495-3718 OR 495-3711

- December 11/12**—Winter Survival with David Cronenwett at Cummings Cabin near Lincoln  
Moose Creek Cabin on Rimini Road west of Helena. 444-2615 \$\$\$
- December 17**—Moonlight hike or snowshoe at Moose Creek Cabin, Rimini Road. Hikes leave at 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00 PM RSVP
- December 30**—Helena Family Fun (Mom's Club) 1 pm Tenmile Picnic Area
- January 4**—Snowschool
- January 6**—Snowschool
- January 11**—Snowschool
- January 13**—Snowschool
- January 17**—Snowschool: Flesher Pass TH between Helena and Lincoln. 10 AM to 2 PM. RSVP
- January 19**—Moonlight Hike on top of MacDonald Pass. 7 to 9 PM RSVP
- January 20**—Snowschool
- January 25**—Snowschool
- January 26-27**—Snowschool: HMS 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at Great Divide
- February 1**—Snowschool
- February 3**—Snowschool
- February 5 & 6**—Snowschool— Beyond BOW with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. 9 AM to 3 PM.
- February 8**—Snowschool
- February 10**—Snowschool
- February 11, 18, 25**—Kid's College at Jim Darcy Elementary School. 1:50 to 2:50
- February 15**—Snowschool
- February 16**—Snowschool: Moonlight hike around Willard Creek Loop. Elkhorn Mountains south of Helena. Meet in Clancy at by 6:30 PM. Walk will be from 7:00 to 9:00 PM RSVP
- February 17**—Snowschool
- February 17**—Science Night at 4-Georgians
- February 21**—Snowschool—Carl Creek Trail in Deep Creek Canyon, Townsend Ranger District. Offered through Old Baldy Continuing Education Program, Townsend School District. 266-5512 \$\$\$
- February 24**—Snowschool
- February 29**—Charter Oak X-Country Ski/Snowshoe Tours. Groups leave the parking area on the Little Blackfoot River Road every hour between 10 AM and 12 PM
- March 1**—Snowschool
- March 3**—Snowschool



## Snow Flake T-Shirt

**Materials**—Permanent marker, paper, cardboard, white cotton tee-shirt, tacky glue, sponge brush, fabric paint.

1. Use a permanent marker to draw a thick-lined snowflake template on the paper.
2. Place the template over the cardboard and slip both inside the shirt, center them behind the upper front of the garment. You should be able to see the template through the shirt.
3. Using a thin line of tacky glue (about 1/4 inch wide), trace the snowflake design onto the shirt. Let it dry for 10 minutes, then fill in any gaps with additional glue. Let the glue dry completely, until it is transparent (approx. 3 hours).
4. Dip the sponge brush in the paint and dab around the snowflake, completely covering the surrounding area. Use less paint toward the outer edge of the design. Let the paint dry overnight.
5. Soak the tee in warm water for about 10 minutes or until the glue softens. Peel off the glue and let the shirt dry, then follow the package instructions to set the fabric paint.



## Participant Profile: Ti Dahlseide



Ti (from right) with daughter Casey and granddaughter Nicole snowshoeing with MDF.

to try it too. The three of us participated in a snowshoe workshop and were totally hooked. We now have our own snowshoes. And when the snow melted that first year, we continued on the hikes and other outings offered by MDF and have appreciated discovering the many hiking opportunities in our area. We often return to hike them on our own and with others and have some favorites that we do regularly.

I feel blessed that my daughter, Casey, and granddaughter, Nicole, and I can enjoy these experiences together. The MDF outings have increased Nicole's appreciation of our environment. This past summer she chose to work with Montana Conservation Corps doing restoration work and clearing trails.

## Survivor (continued from page 1)

The courses will be limited to 30 students per day. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Students will spend the entire course outdoors and will work around an open fire, so please dress accordingly.

Participants should also bring food, a cup for hot beverages, snowshoes (if snow conditions exist), a small notebook and a sturdy knife. High quality, inexpensive, Swedish knives will be available from the instructor for \$10 to \$15. For those wishing to spend the night, a good sleeping bag and other appropriate gear (including 2 lunches, dinner and breakfast) is required. An equipment list will be provided at the time of making the reservation.

### 1. Ti, you have joined MDF for many moonlight hikes and other activities. Can you tell us why?

My first experience with MDF was a moonlight snowshoe hike in February, 2008. Snowshoeing was something I had been interested in trying. That first snowshoe outing was magical. The moon was full and it was like walking through the forest under a streetlamp. When I told my daughter about it, she was excited for her and my granddaughter

### 2. What is your most memorable outdoor experience?

Very tough choice; but, if I have to pick, I would say it was during an early fall trip that my husband and I took several years ago down the Pacific Coast Highway. One morning we walked along an isolated Oregon coast beach -- the sky was blue and clear, the sand was smooth and the waves were incredibly powerful as they crashed up against the rocks. Later that same day we strolled through the Redwoods, which have a power of their own and, with the colorful fall undergrowth, the whole afternoon just glowed.

Of the MDF hikes, two particular favorites for the three of us are Hellgate Canyon and the Continental Divide Trail on top of McDonald Pass.

### 3. What do you like to do outside?

I particularly enjoy the MDF hikes and snowshoe events and do quite a bit of other walking, hiking and snowshoeing aside from MDF. When my husband was alive, I enjoyed the opportunity to camp, boat and fish. I enjoy rafting or tube floating on the Missouri. When I get the chance, a walk on a beach is a favorite. I also enjoy working in my big, beautiful yard, then enjoying a glass of wine on the deck after the hard work is done.

### 4. What do you see as the greatest threat to the outdoors? What is the greatest hope?

My responses to both of these questions go hand in hand. My wish is that our generation makes it a priority to do all we can to protect and preserve our planet's outdoor recreational areas so future generations are able to enjoy them as we do. I would like to believe that someday Nicole will have the opportunity to share her enjoyment of our great outdoors with her own children and grandchildren.

Instructor, David Cronenwett, has studied primitive living and wilderness skills as student and staff at Boulder Outdoor Survival School (BOSS) in Boulder, Utah and with master woodsman Mors Kochanski in Alberta, Canada. David has taught outdoor survival seminars for the University of Montana and other organizations throughout the region. He lives in Choteau, Montana.

To register for the workshop or for more information, contact: Samsara Chapman, Montana Discovery Foundation, 406.495.3718, samsarachapman@fs.fed.us or go to [www.montanadiscoveryfoundation.org](http://www.montanadiscoveryfoundation.org) for registration form.