The Madison-Gallatin Chapter’s Participation in Montana State University’s Leadership Fellows Certificate Program, by the Leadership Committee; David Steinmuller, Linda Grimm, Lisa Lenard, and Jeanette Hall

Many students visited the MWA table during MSU’s leadership program signup meeting in August. MWA participated in MSU’s Leadership Foundation Program as a board initiative to foster and encourage participation in MWA by millennial and post-millennial outdoor enthusiasts. From the students’ eager response to our call for participation, this seems to be a natural alliance.

Eleven students, mostly freshman, selected MWA as the nonprofit they wanted to work with. Dr. Stephanie Lindsay, Director of the Leadership Fellows Certificate Program, reported, “The biggest takeaway that I get from every student who worked with MWA is that they love the organization, and they want it to flourish. I would say that they would become more involved with it, perhaps permanently, if there were more opportunities for young people to be involved.” This was emphasized by the comments of one of the students who wrote that “MWA could create a better social media presence within MSU as well as the University of Montana” and “MWA is a great friendly organization but they need to have a presence in the younger generations that live in the lovely state of Montana.”

Students enrolled in the Leadership Foundations course participated in two required activities: attending at least one meeting of the Madison-Gallatin Chapter’s Board of Directors and participating at an orientation session where we outlined MWA’s mission and vision, strategic plan, chapter structure, and website. To fulfill the course’s 20-hour minimum obligation, they were encouraged to choose from many other experiences including:

- Learning how we use social media, Google Drive, Eventbrite (now the Classy platform) and other communication channels for advertising, promotion, and general communication among members, chapters, and the general public.
- Joining Wilderness Walks
- Volunteering as Wilderness Stewards
- Working as Wilderness Trail Crew members
- Helping at MWA’s table at the weekly Saturday morning June-September Gallatin County Farmers’ Market
- Attending events sponsored by the Montana Wild Collective at MSU, MWA’s unofficial student chapter

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- Helping at Chapter membership events (house parties, annual meeting, etc.)

By no means did every one of the 11 students participate in all the above. However, a significant number volunteered for each. The Leadership Fellows Certificate Program proved a valuable learning experience for both the student volunteers and the MWA committee members who took away important lessons on outreach to an eager, cooperative, bright group of younger wilderness advocates.

2020 Winter Walks

Listed below are the winter offerings in our chapter's area. You can register for these walks at wildmontana.org/discover-the-wild/wilderness-walks/2020-winter-adventures.

Saturday, January 11th: Brackett Creek, Bridger Mountains (Cross-country ski)
Miles/Difficulty: 4-6 miles/Moderate

Sunday, February 9th: Hyalite Cross-Country Ski Tour
Miles/Difficulty: 4 miles/Moderate

Saturday, February 22nd: Great Bear Trap Canyon Family Adventure (Snowshoe)
Miles/Difficulty: 6 miles/Moderate

Saturday, February 29th: Lava Lake (Snowshoe)
Miles/Difficulty: 6.2 miles/Strenuous

Saturday, March 7th: GPS Training (Indoors)
Miles/Difficulty: 0 miles/Easy

Sunday, March 8th: Lava Lake (Hike)
Miles/Difficulty: 5 miles/Moderate

MWA group at Lava Lake in March 2017
Meet Your New MGC Board Members

At the Madison-Gallatin Chapter annual meeting in November, elections were held for Board members. The following new Board members were elected in addition to returning Board members, Roger Jenkins, Lisa Lenard, Richard Lyon, Tom Ross and David Steinmuller.

**Doug Bartholomew**  An active hiker and skier, over the past six years, Doug has been active in trail crew work in wild areas. He and his wife did five projects with MWA-CDT, two in Yellowstone National Park, two in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and one in Glacier National Park. Very active in the Chapter’s Trail Stewardship efforts, Doug as also worked on other trail maintenance projects, working with MWA, the Madison-Gallatin Trail Stewardship Project, and a project in Yellowstone with the Continental Divide Trail Coalition.

**Mikaela Howie**  Mikaela is an adjunct faculty member at Montana State University in Ornithology, and an Assistant Lab Manager and Field Biologist with the Yellowstone Ecology Research Center. She feels that her background prepares her well for agendas that have a scientific basis and believes that her connections in the scientific community could prove to be useful in making or maintaining collaborations with other organizations with similar goals as MWA - wildlife corridors, public lands protections, etc.

**David Laufenberg**  David grew up in Wisconsin, and has a BS in Conservation from UW – Madison. While an undergrad, he became more politically active and volunteered for the League of Conservation Voters, and founded and was the first president of the Students for Bird Conservation. He has worked for the Wildlife Conservation Society in Montana, the Avian Science Center, Hawkwatch Int’l, and Montana Audubon, as well as a naturalist guide for the Yellowstone Association. Most recently, he completed his M.S. from the Ecology Dept. at MSU.

**Lisa Trankley**  Before retiring and moving to Bozeman five years ago, Lisa practiced environmental law in California, at the Center for Law in the Public Interest, the California Energy Commission, and 30 years at the California Attorney General’s Office. Her practice covered all sorts of federal and state environmental laws under several attorneys general, and consisted mainly of enforcement litigation. Lisa believes wilderness is valuable in many ways, as an opportunity for recreation and spiritual renewal for people and as habitat for wildlife. She appreciates MWA’s realistic approach to advocacy while maintaining its principles.
Upcoming Events — Mark your Calendar

January 16th (Thursday) 7:00 p.m. Wilderness and... Human Nature

Local science writer Gary Ferguson and social, cultural psychologist Mary M Clare will show how we humans actually are here as wilderness ourselves, and how the presence and wisdom of wild nature offers reliable guidance for whatever is coming our way.

Fireside Room, Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 West Graf Street, Bozeman (off South 19th Avenue)

February 15th (Saturday) 7:00 p.m. Winter Wildlands Alliance Backcountry Film Festival at Lone Peak Cinemas in Big Sky, Montana.

Co-sponsored by our very own Madison-Gallatin Chapter, and produced each year as a celebratory, backcountry community event by the Winter Wildlands Alliance, the 15th Annual Backcountry Film Festival film line-up is full of snowy, cinematic adventure sure to inspire both the local backcountry and general communities. This is our chapter’s biggest fundraiser of the year.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the screening beings at 7:00 p.m. Admission is $15 and can be purchased at the door.

February 25th 7:00 p.m. Wilderness and ... Hiking on Canada’s Baffin Island

Jeff Shryer, conservationist, retired wildlife biologist and world traveler will present a program on hiking in this remote, spectacular terrain. Baffin Island is off the northeast coast of Canada, and features both breath-taking scenery and year-round wildlife.

Fireside Room, Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 West Graf Street, Bozeman (off South 19th Avenue)

March 24th (Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. Wilderness and .... “A Wild Land Ethic, The Story of Wilderness in Montana”

Several years in the making, A Wild Land Ethic is a book that celebrates Wilderness in Montana. Our local Chapter has helped financially to publish the book, and has contributed writings and photos. A presentation of the book will be made by its principle editors, Dale Burk and Wayne Chamberlain. It will also be possible to purchase books following the program.

Fireside Room, Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 West Graf Street, Bozeman (off South 19th Avenue)