



Idaho Museum of Natural History



3D Printers Produce PPE

The Museum lead the campus wide effort to use its 3D printers to make emergency face masks and other protective equipment. We delivered 100 masks, 100 mask straps, and 50 face shields to the Pocatello Police Department, 36 face shields and 60 mask straps to the Idaho State Veterans Home Pocatello, and 358 masks, 378 ear savers, and 500 acetate sheets for the face shields to Southeastern Idaho Public Health. [Read Full Article.](#)

From the Director



“This was a challenging year for everyone, and I’m grateful to the staff and students who work tirelessly to make the Museum a vital part of our community. Nationwide, museums were badly affected by the pandemic, with 1 in 5 expected to close permanently. We are thankful here at the IMNH for the continued support by the State of Idaho, and our close partnership with the staff, faculty and students at Idaho State University. We are grateful to our local community who have demonstrated through sponsorships, donations and attendance that the IMNH is a valued institution in Pocatello. When we reopened at the end of June, creating a safe and sanitary space for the public was, and still is, our top priority. This resulted in curtailing many of our educational programs and events - this was the first year without Science Trek in over 30 years.

Despite these limitations, visitorship to the gallery grew and even exceeded numbers from the fall of 2019, underlining the community’s desire to have safe activities to share with the family. Visitors enjoyed making stop-motion movies in *Animationland* and seeing out *Skulls* in a new way. We’ll keep adapting to provide enriching experiences for kids of all ages and make you proud of Idaho’s natural world.”

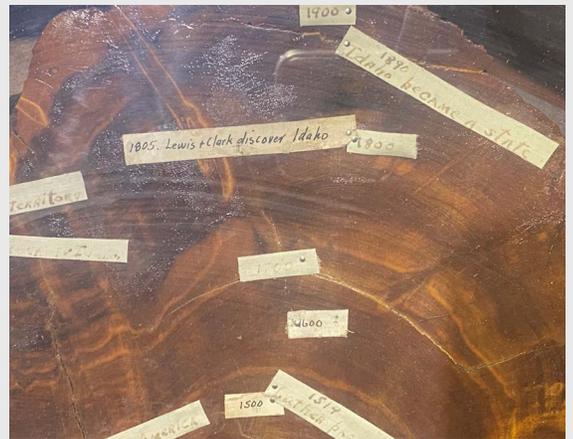
Look to Nature

This year was very disruptive to routine, and in many ways felt isolating. Here’s a couple of ways turning to nature helped me, and worth remembering in 2021.

1. Getting into Nature is Easy. More than ever, I have appreciated taking walks around my neighborhood or up in the surrounding hills either with my family, the dog or alone. There’s so much to observe, smell, and appreciate when we slow down and get outside. Urban birdwatching was the best distraction in April. Watching our birdfeeders swell with lazuli buntings, evening grosbeaks, goldfinches, and house sparrows was better than anything on Netflix.

2. Find Perspective with History. The acute stresses of this year were very real and, at times, overwhelming. I found some comfort in stories and objects reminding me that time is long, that better days are coming.

Look to tree rings as a simple example. Each year of growth shows the highs and lows of life; you might even see that the tree recovered from a fire season. This wood cutting from 1926 resonated with me. The tree grew in Hells Half Acre near Blackfoot and lived for 1650 years! Plenty of ups and downs are recorded in this resilient conifer. Come see this amazing specimen on display in our forthcoming exhibit *This Is Idaho*, opening May 2021.



Take care of each other and be well,
— Leif Tapanila, Museum Director

Serving Our Mission

Exhibit visitors

2,700

Education programs served

2,170
children

Digital engagement

12,977

Student internships

21,300
hours

Endowment funds

\$102,841

Nature of Idaho radio audience

200,000



EDUCATION | Trout in the Classroom

The Museum brought its education program to the students this year to supplement their remote learning. Over 175 students were given virtual field trips through the gallery, and the staff held Facebook Live lectures on topics ranging from Antarctic paleontology to archeology to bugs. We can't wait to return to in-person learning, but 2020 taught us that we can reach a wider audience in Idaho with remote learning. This will give new options for the Museum to serve Idahoans.

oMEGA Project

The Idaho Virtualization Lab produced 3D models of 36 species of large mammal from the collections of the California Academy of Sciences and Berkeley. This digital collection, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, is available free to the public on the website Morphsource.org and includes polar bear, giraffe, elephant, rhino, and this oryx.



Over 20 meter long Blue Whale, scanned as part of oMEGA Project and is the most complete Blue Whale ever scanned.

Welcome Trista!

Trista Crook, MS, joins the Museum as Life Science Collections Manager.

Trista comes to us from Colorado and specializes in studying lichens.



Thank You Terri & Virginia



We want to congratulate two of our staff on their retirements in 2020. Terri Bergmeier, Development Director, helped reorganize our membership program and rekindle our relationships across the community. Virginia Jones, Education Coordinator, expanded our programs to reach more students, including rural and underserved parts of Idaho. We thank you both for your service and wish you the best!

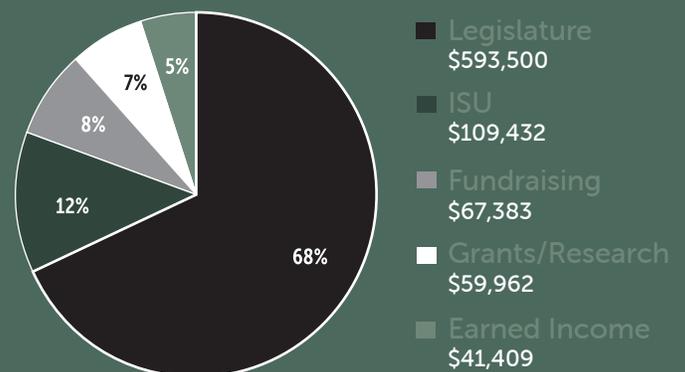
This Fall we opened Skulls, Everyone's Got One and the response from the community was overwhelming! Our visitorship grew and even exceeded numbers from fall 2019. We made our visitor's safety our number one priority,

"we felt very comfortable with the cleaning protocols and absolutely loved the video/audio exhibits. We'll be coming a couple more times in the near future because our kids are learning so much there, and they had a blast. Thanks for all you do!"

-Christopher E. IMNH Member



FINANCIALS





The Nature of Idaho

The Nature of Idaho starts its 3rd season this January with a great lineup of guests including Idaho astronaut Barbara Morgan and Dr. Scott Sampson of Dinosaur Train. Tune in Thursdays at 8:30 am on KISU 91.1 FM and find show archives wherever you get your podcasts.

Membership Rewards



Your annual membership to IMNH gives you free or reduced admission to over 300 museums and centers through the ASTC passport program. This is very handy if you travel outside our region: just search to see what museums participate at your destination and voila! **Join Today!**

2020 EXHIBITS



In the Shadows



Skulls: Everyone's Got One



Discover Natural Idaho



Animationland

RESEARCH

Idaho State University researcher Bruce Finney, will be using Idaho Museum of Natural History's herbarium plant specimens to study the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, causing a "greening" in northern latitudes as plants absorb more available carbon dioxide. This has some large implications in a time of climate change. Since plants are absorbing more carbon, that means less of it is in the atmosphere to further increase global warming.



Finney noted that only about half of the carbon that has been released into the atmosphere through carbon emissions has stayed in the atmosphere. Of the half released that is not in the atmosphere, about a half of it (a quarter total) is absorbed by the ocean. Most of the remaining carbon, about another quarter of the total, has been absorbed by the plants. **Read Full Article.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

This Is Idaho May 2021

Idaho is a wild mosaic of mountains, rivers, and plains offering majestic beauty and scattered resources that shape all who live here. We will be exploring what makes Idaho's land unique and how our State Symbols tell our story. Our Museum's experts and collections will reveal how the Gem State is a special place in America.

Discovery Room

Look for new and engaging hands-on modules exploring Idaho's rivers and waters.



F.M., Anne G., and Beverly B. Bistline Foundation



Thank You Sponsors



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