

2ND SATURDAY SERIES

Held at the Foothills Learning Center, 3188 Sunset Peak Rd.

- From 10 am to 2 pm, unless noted.
- All ages welcome! Activities for adults & children alike, unless noted.
- Program is FREE and no registration is required.
- Please leave your pets at home. Thanks!

DECEMBER 10 I'm Dreaming Of A Green Christmas

For the fifth year, the Foothills Learning Center hosts "I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas." For dozens of Treasure Valley families, this event is a can't-miss part of the winter holidays. Join us in creating holiday gifts, wrapping, gift boxes, and decorations all made from repurposed and natural materials. It's like Santa's workshop – and YOU are the elves.

JANUARY 14 Fun Furry Flyers

Did you know that bats find food with their ears, are nocturnal and can eat hundreds of mosquitoes in one hour? Fly over to the Foothills Learning Center on the second Saturday in February to learn more about the only mammal that can soar in the sky. Our resident graduate fellow Emerald Shirley leads the fun.

FEBRUARY 11 Cold Play

Bill London from the Idaho Fish & Game Department is an extraordinary teacher and storyteller. Learn from Bill how birds & game animals adapt to the challenges of a harsh Idaho winter. Compare the pelts of deer in summer and winter. Find out how animals are adapted to the changing seasons.

MARCH 10 It's The End Of The World as We Know It!

... and we feel fine! Resident geologist Bryant Ware will lead hands-on activities showing the cause and effect of geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, and more. It will be fun for all ages to explore the tremendous power of earth's unstoppable forces.

APRIL 14 It's a Hoot!

Each April the Great Horned Owl babies appear in Hulls Gulch. Spend a Saturday at the Foothills Learning Center as we learn about the owls of Idaho, then join us for a short hike to view the owls with binoculars and spotting scopes. This is a wonderful spring tradition.

MAY 12 The Social Network: The Remarkable World of Insect Societies

Sophisticated, intelligent, gardeners, mathematicians... why yes, we're describing insect colonies of course! Ants, bees, and wasps are amazing insects that form unique societies which are among the most sophisticated in the natural world with BSU graduate student Matt Schmasow we'll explore the remarkable world of insect colonies and get acquainted with a few societal species you can find right outside your back door. Students of all ages are also invited to get first-hand experience with our very own honey bee colony in our new observation hive!



The Story Trail

Wander with your preschooler on the gentle trail around the foothills Learning Center, read some fun nature-related stories and look for the many plants and animals that live here. Each month a different story is posted on our 10 child-sized reading platforms. Reading levels vary. The trail is open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. The trail begins along the split rail fence in the northwest corner of the parking lot (the one with the dandelion sculpture). We borrowed this idea from the StoryWalk™ Project created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library. Take a stroll and find these wonderful books:

JANUARY

Stellaluna

by Janell Cannon

FEBRUARY

Big Tracks, Little Tracks: Following Animal Prints

by Millicent E. Selsam,

illustrated by Marlene Hill Donnelly

MARCH

The Wolf's Story

by Toby Forward &

Izhar Cohen

APRIL

Owl Babies

by Martin Waddell

illustrated by Patrick Benson

MAY

Jam & Honey

by Melita Morales

illustrated by Laura J. Bryant

JUNE

A Bunny for All Seasons

by Janet Schulman

illustrated by Meilo So



LESSONS AND FIELD TRIPS

The Foothills Learning Center offers classroom lessons and field trips for pre-K through 6th grade. Taught by professional environmental educators and graduate fellows, the lessons cover a wide range of topics from owls to geology to camouflage. There is no charge for the lessons or field trips. Lessons, which are interactive and inquiry-based, are correlated to Idaho Content Standards. We welcome lesson requests from school teachers, home school groups, scout troops, service organizations, or anyone who wants to put together a group of eight or more students. Topics and age groups include:

- What are you – an animal? (K-2)
- Wild in the foothills (K-2)
- Can you see me? (1-3)
- Composting (1-3)
- Wise guys with night vision eyes (1-3)
- Earth stewards (2-4)
- Going to seed (2-4) Sept.-Nov.
- Habitat: it's for the birds (2-6)
- Hold your ground (3-5)
- Wild weeds (3-5)
- All wrapped up (3-6)
- Backyard composting (3-6)
- Household hazardous waste (3-6)
- Papermaking (3-6)
- Red worm composting (3-6)
- Crack, crumble, and carry (4-6)
- Geology of the foothills (4-6)
- The Scientific Method in action (5-6)
- Microclimates (6)
- Recycling and conservation (K-6)
- Air Quality (K-12)
- Service learning opportunities
- Sustainable building design tour
- Land conservation efforts in the Boise foothills (presentation)
- The Ridge to Rivers trail system-135 miles to explore (presentation)

For a full catalog of lessons and a lesson request form, please visit us at BoiseEnvironmentalEducation.org. You may also reach us by phone at 208-493-2530, or by email at flc-parks@cityofboise.org.

BSU GRADUATE FELLOWS AT THE FLC

For the fourth year, we are grateful to host graduate students from Boise State University as fellows at the Foothills Learning Center. This year we have three fellows, all supported by a grant to BSU from the National Science Foundation. They are:

- Emerald Shirley is a masters candidate in geology
- Matt Schmasow is writing his masters thesis in biology/ecology
- Bryant Ware is seeking an MS in geology.

These fellows are developing and presenting lessons, working with in-school and after-school groups, doing outreach including Second Saturdays, and generally being fabulous and inspirational members of the FLC staff. In return, we help them gain skills in teaching science to non-scientists, classroom management, and tailoring presentations to different age groups from pre-k to adults.

We want to thank our fellows, the faculty of the Geosciences and Life Sciences Departments at Boise State University, and the National Science Foundation for creating this amazing opportunity. Everybody is a winner!

New Public Art

Our newest piece of public art at the Foothills Learning Center is "Cat's Face Revival," a fantastic steel and glass mosaic sculpture



by local artist Reham Aarti. Located in the Native Plant Garden on the south side of our building, "Cat's Face Revival" represents new life arising out of fire. Search for the many mammals and birds represented on the trunk of a burned and healed tree (a cat's face). Many thanks to the artist and to Boise's Thompson family for funding this sculpture in memory of their mother and grandmother, Mary Ann Thompson.

About the Foothills Learning Center



The Foothills Learning Center is a place to learn about our local environment and about the foothills ecosystem in particular. Low-tech lessons include lots of outdoor experiences. Our goal is to connect children and adults with nature through enjoyable and educational programs. Our building is built with sustainable materials and technology. Landscaping is drought-tolerant and includes an interpretive native plant garden, a working vegetable garden, artistic elements, and a large play and learning area.

A brochure is available that will take you on a self-guided tour of the green features of our building and grounds.



LOCATION

3188 Sunset Peak Road
(Commonly known as 8th St. Road)
To get here, take 8th Street north through Boise's North End. From the end of the pavement go 1/3 mile farther.

CONTACT US:

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