

C Headwaters Current

Volume 18, Number 2, May, 2010



Flowing With the Current

Regional Advisory Group is Planned

Updates by Laddie Elwell

The Headwaters Science Center staff and board need your ideas as planning continues for an exciting future. We hope that some of you will be interested in working as volunteers toward the development of the new HSC and will come in or call to leave your names and contact information. You will have an opportunity to take part in bringing an important asset to northern Minnesota!

Headwaters Science Center had planned to start on the detailed design of a much-needed new facility this year and was included in the bonding bill that Minnesota's House of Representatives and Senate passed and sent to Governor Pawlenty for his signature. Though he had been informed about the 23-county-plus regional area served by HSC, the Governor saw it as a "local project," and explained his line-item veto of the Center in his letter to the legislature by saying that "The bill contains too many appropriations for local projects, which are funded while some statewide priority needs are disregarded."

There may be an opportunity to approach the State for partial funding for design in 2011, according to area legislators.

In addition to serving the general public, HSC serves schools and other groups in northern Minnesota and is a regional tourist attraction. It also works with other regional nonprofit organizations in helping them to serve their clients. In 2009 the Center served almost 30,000 visitors, many of whom traveled over 150 miles to Bemidji.

Future plans for the Science Center include increased collaboration with Bemidji State University, Bemidji Technical College, regional tribal colleges, and a number of local and regional nonprofit organizations including the Early Childhood Initiative and other social and environmental groups. The new Center will have an astronomy facility that will be available for use by other educational institutions, and intends to provide research opportunities for college students and school students at the middle and high school level with particular emphasis on water resources, biology, child development, and education.

Recent studies show that the United States has fallen from its foremost position as a leader in scientific fields and now ranks well behind many nations in turning out college graduates in science-based fields. Research indicates that a majority of K-12 students have mediocre introductions to the processes and fields of science. Early and pleasurable exposure to science is important in

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COMMUNICATION

A Hands-on History



Sponsored by



Paul Bunyan Telephone™

June 5

Exhibit Grand Opening!

The first phase of HSC's new Communications Exhibit is ready for use. The working telegraph has been a popular attraction throughout the winter, with many visitors busy sending Morse Code messages from one station to the other. The telegraph segment, sponsored by Paul Bunyan Telephone, is the first of many that will feature the history of communication from smoke signals to present-day wireless technology.

The official grand opening of the exhibit will be Saturday, June 5. By that time we'll have prototypes for signage and informational displays on which we will welcome comments in order to improve the presentation for its final configuration.

Throughout the afternoon on that day we'll have coffee, punch, and snacks for all visitors. There will be door prizes, gifts, and special discounts in the store.

Creative Genius Wanted!

Camp Invention® at Headwaters Science Center needs your help! The Hatched virtual world is disappearing and we need you to help build a new marketplace for the avatars! You'll also get to use real tools to take things apart, like old VCRs and phones, and see what's inside! Then, you'll have to explore alternate sources of energy to power your own motorized pet!

You'll find lots more fun things to do at Camp Invention. Camp will be held on August 2-6 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, and will be presented by local teachers for girls and boys entering grades 1-6. Camp director: Chris Tolman.

This national, non-profit science and creativity enrichment program is offered by HSC in collaboration with Invent Now Kids and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The Camp is for children entering grades 1-6. **Register with a friend to receive \$25 off the base price of \$210.** The registration fee includes a Camp Invention T-shirt. Availability is limited, so visit www.campinvention.org or call 800.968.4332 to reserve your child's spot today!



Reef News

HSC would like to thank all those who have made donations for the ongoing maintenance of our saltwater tank. It has allowed us to purchase an electronic controller to monitor and adjust the heater, chiller, and fan setup as well as replace the filters in our RO (reverse osmosis) setup for maintaining water quality. Careful and consistent maintenance and monitoring are crucial to the long-term success of a saltwater aquarium, whether it is managed for fish or as a reef tank such as ours. This is both time consuming and expensive. We very much appreciate your help in financing this beautiful addition to our exhibits.

Can you help our rabbits?

We thought both of our calm and touchable bunnies were male. We have since discovered that the white bunny is male but the black bunny is female. They have become very attached to each other (you should see them snuggle) and we would like to keep them together without the consequences (babies). It costs \$90.00 to neuter a rabbit. We are looking for a kind-hearted soul to donate the cost of the operation so we can keep our bunnies together.

Thank you!

HSC maintains an international sand collection.

As you plan your various stycations or vacations, please keep us in mind. When legally possible, if you go where there is native sand; we would love a sandwich-baggie-sized sample. Let us know from where it came, who collected it, and when it was collected. If you know any geological information about the sand, that is helpful also. Our collection spans over 100 samples from around the world. We appreciate your contributions!

(Flowing with the Current, continued from page 1)

encouraging youth to enter such fields. Many adults do not see the science that surrounds them in their everyday lives, nor do they understand the importance of knowing some basic biological and physical facts in the maintenance of personal health.

Headwaters Science Center provides a number of programs for persons of all ages as well as workshops for teachers. Present space limitations prevent HSC from reaching its potential, though new exhibits and programs are in the planning stages. The new building will be built on land provided by the City of Bemidji along the Mississippi River between Lakes Irving and Bemidji. For more information about programs and activities at the Center, the web page is www.hscbemidji.org

Stargazing by Candlelight was an event HSC sponsored during Polar Daze. We actually did get to gaze at a few stars before the clouds moved in and obscured them. The candlelight was much more gratifying. People got together to build snow candles which we lit up with tea lights as the sun went down. Nice hot brats on the barbeque grill and hot drinks completed the atmosphere of camaraderie for those involved. The brats were donated by Rod's Meat Market. A nice selection of excellent teas was donated by the Tea and Gift Shoppe located in downtown Bemidji. Several volunteers assisted with construction of the snow candles and grilling the brats.

WANTED: Marketing Volunteer

Headwaters Science Center is interested in reaching out to more schools throughout the region. Programs have been presented regularly to schools in 25 Northern Minnesota counties, but we know there are so many out there who still do not know what we have to offer. We would like to spread the news of all the wonderful programs the Science Center has available, and the benefits to the schools and classrooms.

We'd like to find someone who can spearhead the effort of marketing our Center in this way. If you are that someone, please call (218-444-7258) or stop in and offer your services to one of our staff members. We have the information. We just need YOU to get it out there in an organized way.

Stay informed about the happenings at the Science Center by visiting our website at www.hscbemidji.org. The calendar link will give you up-to-date information about events and activities that are on the schedule, and other links on the site will give you detailed information about what's going on. If you'd like more, we'd love to answer your questions on the phone! Call us at 218-444-4472.

eCubed

Our first annual **e**levated **e**picurian **e**xperience was a success beyond our wildest imaginations! It was a truly amazing evening—relaxing and fun for the guests and well worth every ounce of energy put into its planning. There is no question that we will do it again next year and, although we are already dreaming up ways to make it better, we probably cannot make it bigger (until, of course, we have a larger new building in which to host it)! We are open to suggestions, and help, as we are already beginning the planning for **e3** 2011.

We cannot stop saying **THANK YOU**—to all who volunteered, to all who attended, and to all who gave donations of cash, services, and food to make this a success. Our local supporting businesses certainly deserve one more acknowledgment, and we hope you'll thank them as you patronize their establishments.

AmeriPride	Keg n' Cork
Applebees	Lueken's Village Foods
Arrow Printing	Marketplace Foods
Backyard BBQ	Midwest Dairy Association
Beehive Liquors	Minnesota Nice Cafe
Beltrami County Farm Bureau	Naylor Electric
Bemidji Downtown Meats	Northern Engineering & Consulting
Bemidji Jaycees	
Best Western	Paul Bunyan Broadcasting
Brigid's Cross Irish Pub	Paul Bunyan Telephone
Cabin Coffeehouse	Peppercorn
Cattails	Pinnacle Publishing
Dunn Bros	Raphael's
First National Bank	Renaissance Hearing Centers
Ground Round	RiverWood Bank
Hampton Inn/Green Mill	Red Lake Nation Foods
Harmony Coop	Tutto Bene
Insure Forward	Wild Hare Bistro



Summer TOTS

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Discovery SCIENCE

Beginning June 9, Tots-N-Science (for ages 3-5) and Discovery Science (for ages 5-7) will meet 10 times throughout the summer at the Science Center (except August 4). Sessions will cover a wide range of natural and physical science topics featuring stories, hands-on activities, and games to help children learn about the world around them.

Tots-N-Science will meet from 10-11 am on Wednesdays. Adults must accompany children. *Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Please call 444-4472.* Costs for Tots are as follows:

<u>Non-members:</u>	<u>Members:</u>
\$10 for 1 adult and 1 child	\$3 for 1 adult and 1 child
\$4 for each additional child	\$1 for each additional child.

Discovery Science will meet from 1-2 on Wednesdays. Costs are as follows:

<u>Non-members:</u>	<u>Members:</u>
Any 5 sessions - \$45	Any 5 sessions - \$40
All 10 sessions - \$85	All 10 sessions \$75

Minnesota Master Naturalists Program provides people with opportunities to explore the natural world, teach others about their passions, and conserve our natural resources. It is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Bell Museum of Natural History, and the National Science Foundation. For more information visit www.MinnesotaMasterNaturalist.org

Two HSC staff members, Chris Tolman and Anita Merritt, are certified instructors for this program. Instructors from HSC, Bemidji State Park, Itasca State Park, and the Minnesota DNR have conducted a class in one of Minnesota's ecological biomes—"Northwoods, Great Lakes." Weekly classes started early in February and finished in mid-April for a total of 40 hours of formal training. Twenty-two students graduated as certified Minnesota Master Naturalist Volunteers. Plans are in the making to present a class this summer either in the "Big Woods, Big Rivers" or the Prairies, Potholes" biome.

Wish List –

- 4" plastic pots
- metal or wood working tools
- vacuum cleaner
- 20-30 cup coffee maker
- raptor food (call for details)
- plastic food & animals for program use
- first aid kit
- clean empty pop bottles with caps
- live compost worms (red wrigglers)

Once again James and Anita are busy starting heirloom vegetable and native wildflower seeds under grow lights in the basement. The vegetables will include various tomatoes and peppers. The wildflowers will be bergamot, anise hyssop and columbine. As the plants reach reasonable size, they will be hardened off and offered for sale in front of our building.

Science Club

Beginning June 10 Summer Science Club (for ages 8-13) will meet 10 times throughout the summer at the Science Center from 2-4 on Thursdays (except July 8 & August 5). Activities will cover a wide range of physical science topics. Costs are as follows:

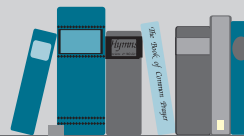
<u>Non-members:</u>	<u>Members:</u>
Any 5 sessions - \$50	Any 5 sessions - \$45
All 10 sessions - \$95	All 10 sessions \$85

Homeschool Friday Science Classes

On the third Friday of each month, September through May, HSC conducts a science class for homeschoolers from 2-4 pm. While geared to homeschoolers, these classes are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Prices will vary dependent upon the class. Each class is a combination of presentation and hands-on experiences. The tentative lineup for fall classes is:

- September: Mississippi River
- October: Microscopes
- November: Brains
- December: Global Warming

Call us or visit our website (www.hscbemidji.org) for additional information and prices. If you would like to be put on an e-mail list for homeschoolers, please contact Anita at 218-444-4472 or contact@hscbemidji.org. You do not have to be a homeschooler to participate in these classes.



the Book Nook

Spring has definitely arrived and summer is on the way. This could mean only one thing ... fishing opener is almost here! Check out our book store to do some aquatic brushing up.

Fishing Minnesota: Angling with the experts in the land of 10,000 lakes by Greg Breining

Fly Fishing Minnesota's Trout Lakes: A guide to Minnesota's lakes managed for stream trout by John Hunt

The Lake Pocket Book by Nancy Phillips, Martin Kelly, Judith Taggart and Rachel Reedes.

Mississippi Headwaters Guide Book: A guide book to the natural cultural, scenic, scientific and recreational value of the Mississippi River's first 400 miles.

Mississippi River Headwaters Coloring Book by Pat Oldham and Laddie Elwell

Peterson Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes by Lawrence M. Page and Brooks M. Burr

SCIENCE BITES



When an adult lion roars, it can be heard up to 5 miles away!



Please Join Us on Facebook

If you are a Facebook user or want to be, we invite you to join our Headwaters Science Center "group." This is an opportunity for us to get feedback from visitors, keep in touch with members and friends about events, new exhibits, etc., and generally communicate with people having similar interests in science education.

If you are currently a Facebook user, just go to this site and click on the join button:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&ref=search&gid=125132094393> or go to your page and type in Headwaters Science Center in the search pane at the top. Then bookmark it for quick access. Invite your Facebook friends to join as well.

If you are new to Facebook, go to www.facebook.com and sign up with a password. You can get to the HSC page by typing our name in the search pane. Then create a bookmark and visit the HSC page every day to see what's going on and contribute your thoughts and ideas.

Annual Memberships:

Individual - \$35 Family - \$60

Entry Fees for Non-Members:

Children ages 2-11 - \$3.00

Adults and youngsters 12 and over - \$5.00

Maximum charge per single household family - \$25.00

Children under 10 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Please inquire about fees for groups, birthday parties, or other special events that you might require!

Annual Membership benefits:

*Free unlimited entry to the exhibit hall

*Discount of 50 cents on every \$5 purchase

*Reduction in many program fees

*Admission to 322 other science centers or museums.

To become a member, stop in to pick up your membership cards, or clip and fill out the form on page 4 of this newsletter and we'll be happy to mail them to you!

www.hscbemidji.org

Headwaters Science Center Personnel

Executive Director: Laddie Elwell

Financial Officer: Jim Elwell

Board of Directors:

Paul Swenson, President	John Hawthorne
Vange Anderson	Frank Hazard
Julie Bengtson	Kurt Long-Voelkner
Denise Black	Greg Oja
Roger Davis	Del Olson
Wendy Greenberg	

Floor Director: Chris Tolman

Store Manager: Peggy Nygaard

RiverWatch: James Owens

Programs: Kitura Main

Newsletter: Julie Bengtson

Collections: Anita Merritt

Webmaster: John Mathisen

Other Staff: Richard Johnson, David Garrett, Jaqi Main,
Phil Nelson, Jaime Thibodeaux

If you are receiving *The Current* for the first time or are a new member of Headwaters Science Center and you would like more information about the Center, please call us at (218) 444-4472 or stop in at 413 Beltrami Avenue, Bemidji, Minnesota.

HOURS

Monday through Saturday • 9:30-5:30 Sunday • 1 - 5
(Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Day, & Easter)

Our Mission . . .

The Headwaters Science Center's mission is to provide intellectual stimulation and enjoyment for all children and adults in its northern Minnesota service area with scientific and technological interactive displays, exhibits, and programs otherwise unavailable in the region. The Center will work with regional educational organizations and relevant community entities to assure that exhibits and activities will enhance and supplement educational programs.