

MISSOULA BUTTERFLY HOUSE AND INSECTARIUM

2018
ANNUAL REPORT

2018: A Year of Growth, Opportunity, & Extreme Bugs

By Jen Marangelo, Founding Board Member



In 2009, I started the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium with three other founding board members around a table at Break Espresso. Since day one, our dream has been to open a tropical butterfly house and insectarium in Missoula, MT. And in 2015, we took our first big step in that direction by proudly opening the Missoula Insectarium as the first part of our vision.

As you might expect from a growing organization, each year has been better than the last. And thanks to your help, 2018 was certainly no exception.

Going beyond our school field trips, exhibits, and special programs, last year your support helped us “spread our wings” a little further. We introduced you to a host of new animals. In June, we unveiled a new exhibit focusing on the development of extreme animal weapons. It was the first year we were able to offer summer camp scholarships. We expanded our educational outreach by producing an insect themed podcast (Bug Bytes) with Montana Public Radio. And thanks to you and a growing number of partners, we had our most successful year of fundraising.

But what really stood out in 2018 is something you’ve heard about, but largely took place behind the scenes. It was a year where a partnership we’ve developed with the Missoula County Weed District and Extension Office expanded from collaboration on pollination and insect biocontrol education programs to the solidification of a plan to achieve the long-term dream that started our organization a decade ago.

A 2,500 square foot tropical butterfly house. Twice our current exhibit space. A larger classroom. And grounds that include an outdoor classroom, pollinator and wildflower demonstration gardens, and more. Combined with the host of education programs and opportunities our county partners offer, all of this will be housed in a new facility at the Missoula County Fairgrounds. This partnership is part of the first phase of exciting renovations that will be transforming our Fairgrounds in the years ahead.



So, was 2018 a busy year? In addition to all of our education efforts, not a week went by without a meeting (or two) with our county partners, the architects, or the builders in solidifying our plans. It was a year that saw a dream that began over coffee take a BIG turn toward reality. And it was a year that set the stage for the exciting months and years ahead.

On behalf of all of your two, six, eight, and many-legged friends at the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium, thank you for being part of this dream and for your support and enthusiasm for our buggy mission. Together, we’ve come a long way. And together, the exciting journey continues. 🦋

OUR MISSION

The Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium inspires an appreciation and understanding of insects and their relatives through educational programs and innovative science exhibits featuring live invertebrates.



2018 In "Reviews"

From general visitation to the 118 field trips we conducted (ranging from pre-K to a college zoology class), we welcomed a wide variety of visitors through our doors in 2018. And while each visitor was exposed to a similar learning environment, individually they walked away with their own personal experiences. For some it stoked their existing enthusiasm for insects. For others it may have simply diluted their fears. But in either case, the unique experience our education programs provided made an impact. Our goal is for every visitor to walk away with a greater appreciation for the wondrous creepy crawlies we share our planet with and a desire to learn more.

We obviously think the Insectarium is amazing! But don't just take our word for it. Here's what some visitors had to say throughout 2018:

“What a treasure your organization is for Western Montana. We cannot wait to return.”

“One of the best things I have had the privilege to enjoy here in Missoula. Great staff, and all of the beautiful creatures were outstanding.”

“Excellent place for FUN and LEARNING!”

“Took a group of kids and did a lesson led by the staff and it was first class!”

“Exceptional staff! Their knowledge and delivery of information was spot on. It is an inviting place and has many insects for all to explore. This place is a Missoula gem!”

2018 STATS: Education Programs



FIELD TRIPS

118 Classes/Groups



BUGS & BREWS

8 Lectures for 458 Attendees



WHAT'S BUZZIN' REPORTS

103 Local Species Photographed & ID'd



BUG APPETIT DINNERS

105 Adventurous Diners

Accessible Education Project Making our unique education opportunities available to all segments of our community.

24 field trip scholarships to Title 1 schools (477 visitors)

8 summer camp scholarships awarded

1,258 visitors on 4 free admission days

60 visitors through the national Museums for All Program

160 free passes distributed to organizations serving youth and families

2019: The Year Ahead

This is it! This is what we've been working toward for the past decade. 2019 will prove to be THE year where our dream of a tropical butterfly house takes a big leap toward reality. And as you can see from this artist rendition, the new home we are working toward will be amazing.

But, as you know, great things don't just fall into your lap. And rarely does the timing of opportunities perfectly line up with all the other things happening in life. We definitely have a "few" things to accomplish in the year ahead and need to address some short-term challenges as we move forward.

First ...we're moving. Initially, the lease for the Insectarium's space was set to end in June. However, our landlord agreed to give us two additional months (until the end of August). While two months is not a lot, it's pretty significant in terms of allowing us to comfortably wrap up our field trips for the school year, run our summer camps, and take advantage of the busy summer months.

What happens after August? While we won't be replicating the Insectarium experience we've provided for the past 4 years, thanks to our friends at the Montana Natural History Center we'll have a small exhibit area with some of our critters on display. We're also searching for new office space and have a great opportunity unfolding that will accommodate the rest of our animals and provide space to continue some of our special programs. We'll share more details as this opportunity solidifies.

What about field trips and programs? To maintain the strength of our education programs, we'll be doing a 180. Without the Insectarium as a field trip destination, instead of classes visiting us we'll be packing up some of our bugs and heading into classrooms. We'll also be setting up "pop up exhibits" in coordination with some of our partners to help ensure you have plenty of opportunities to get your "bug fix".

And to make the big transition to our future home possible, we're in the process of launching a capital campaign for our new facility ...allowing us to achieve our long-term dream of opening a tropical butterfly house. We'll be sharing more of the details once the framework of our campaign is finalized and underway.

As you can see, there's a lot on our plate for the months ahead. And YOU are an important part of the equation. Just as it took the support and enthusiasm of friends like you to open the Insectarium a few years ago, your partnership and support in the exciting journey ahead will be more important than ever.

Share the dream. Be part of the community buzz that will be critical in making this a reality. And together we'll create a truly unique education destination and resource for our community, our schools, and visitors to Missoula.



2018 STATS: Animal Exhibits

In 2018, we took care of 85 different species of animals. These included:



13 species of tarantulas



5 species of cockroaches



10,000 European Honey Bees



10 species of butterflies



11 species sporting extreme animal weapons

VISIT US!

218 E. Front Street
Missoula, MT 59802
406-317-1211
info@missoulabutterflyhouse.org
missoulabutterflyhouse.org

2018 FACILITY STATS

13,102 Total Visitors 1,120 Volunteer Hours

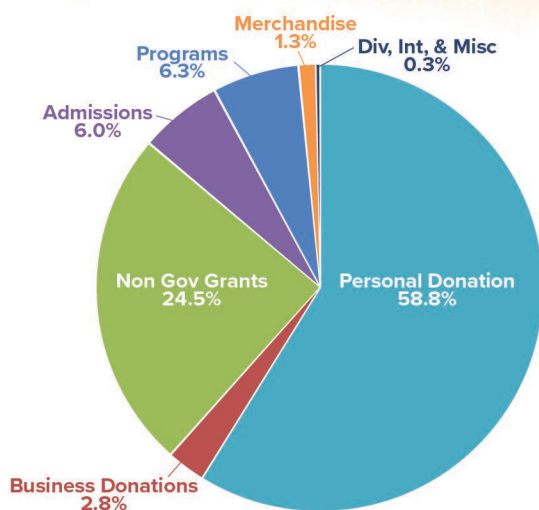


COME LEARN ABOUT THE LITTLE
 THINGS THAT RUN THE WORLD!

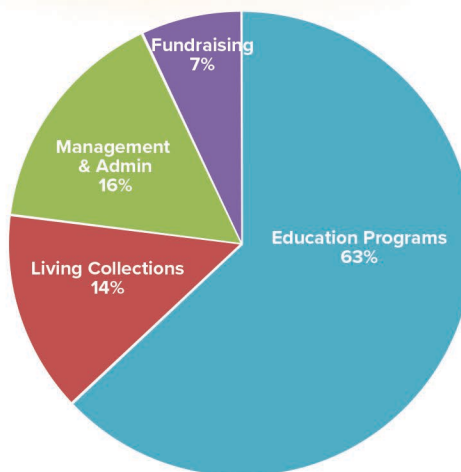
2018 FINANCIALS:

As of 12/31/18, the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium's assets totaled: **\$240,971.76**

Total income: \$444,074



Total Expenses: \$277,730



Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium Board of Directors

Marcy Allen, *President*
 Independent Consultant

Jennifer Boyer, *Treasurer*
 Certified Registered
 Nurse Anesthetist

Larry Brehm
 Architect, L.K.Brehm, A.I.A.

Lisa Verlanic Fowler, *Secretary*
 Teacher, Florence-Carlton School

Glenn Marangelo
 Development Director, Missoula
 Butterfly House and Insectarium

Jen Marangelo
 Executive Director, Missoula
 Butterfly House and Insectarium

Megan Robson, *Vice-President*
 Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway
 HomeService Montana Properties

MISSOULA BUTTERFLY HOUSE & INSECTARIUM STAFF

Allison Dehnel
 Museum Interpreter

Jen Marangelo
 Executive Director

Brenna Shea
 Lead Animal Keeper

Carolyn Taber
 Museum Educator

Erin Gleason
 Lead Animal Keeper

Glenn Marangelo
 Development Director

Rose Marchak
 Animal Care Intern

Quinn Staats
 Work Study Student

Karen Weaver
 Admissions Associate

Madeleine Hull
 Museum Interpreter