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### Montana natural history center plans auction

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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This release is available electronically on INN (News Net.)

Oct. 30, 2000

**Contact:** Janel Queen, executive director, Montana Natural History Center, 243-0405.

### **MONTANA NATURAL HISTORY CENTER PLANS AUCTION**

#### **MISSOULA-**

The Montana Natural History Center's annual gala fund-raiser will offer the chance to enjoy dinner, desserts and champagne while bidding on everything from unique nature art to weekend getaways.

Proceeds from the annual Down by the River auction support the natural history education efforts of MNHC, in association with The University of Montana, at The Nature Center at Fort Missoula.

The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Missoula Country Club with a social hour featuring hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and viewing of live auction items. Quick-draw artists will provide entertainment while creating unique pieces for the live auction.

A dinner of carved roast beef and turkey and a variety of salads will be served at 7:15 p.m. During dinner, a door-prize drawing will be held and the Montana Natural History Center's volunteer of the year will be honored. Dessert and champagne also will be served.

At 8 p.m. the live auction begins with auctioneer Kevin Gardner. Items on the block include:

- a sous chef dinner party with Christine Littig at Red Bird
- a Glacial Lake Missoula necklace hand-crafted by Nancy Bugbee

-more-

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- a Michel Colville butterfly jacket
- a weekend for four at the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch near Choteau
- a butterfly crib or lap quilt made by Kathy Thomas
- a long weekend for four at the MoonCrest Ranch near Yellowstone National Park
- a birdwalk for four with local naturalists Dick Hutto and Sue Reel
- a kid's adventure pack filled with nature goodies
- a private wine- and cheese-tasting party
- a retreat at a national historic register home in Nova Scotia.

Auction tickets are \$30 for MNHC members and \$35 for non-members. Raffle tickets for a one-of-a-kind Barney Jette butterfly pendant are \$5 each or six for \$25. Both are available by calling The Nature Center at Fort Missoula at 327-0405 before Nov. 10.

Those who purchase auction and raffle tickets by Nov. 3 will be eligible for a drawing for three months of personalized floral arrangements from Bitterroot Floral.

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JQ/ps  
Local, Ravalli Republic, Bitterroot Star  
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