



General Manager's Report

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Quote



"Thank you for the inspiration to rent a fire lookout from an episode we saw last fall. What a great adventure!" Kristen

July Iconic Idaho Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to our July winners: Darin Hlavinka, Ken Miracle, Evan Miller, Eric Holbrook, Christian Rogers, and Fudo Jahic. And thanks to this month's judges: Link Jackson, Chris McNaught, Bob Bales, Aaron English, and Scott McDaniel. We had many wonderful Honorable Mentions also. Go to *Outdoor Idaho's* facebook page to see all of the winning photos: www.facebook.com/outdoor.idaho.



Idaho Public Television Boise Facility Floods

Anyone who was in the Treasure Valley on Wednesday, July 8, knows that there was a record-breaking rainstorm that dumped more than 1.22 inches of water in just a few minutes. Unfortunately much of that rainwater rose over the sidewalk and came down our south loading ramp, flooding offices and editing rooms in the tech level of the building on Orchard Street. In order to prevent electrocution and damage to our master control equipment, we had to turn off main and backup power to the facility, taking all programming statewide off the air. Staff and disaster cleanup crews jumped into action and the main water was sucked up in a couple of hours. But unfortunately when the equipment, which is designed to operate 24 x 7, was powered back up, a number of critical components failed, and it took us all night to work around that dead equipment and get all our programming back



to normal. In addition, enough water damage occurred that all the office furniture and equipment had to be removed and sheetrock in some offices replaced. In the end, more than \$50,000 of equipment was damaged and will need to be replaced. We appreciate the dedication of our staff, the building owner and his crew, the folks at ServPro, Beck Construction, and others for helping get through this mess. We also appreciate the patience and understanding of our viewers statewide whose programming was interrupted during this unfortunate event.



Our IdahoPTV Productions

Behind the Stories

“The Frank”
By Bruce Reichert
July 15, 2015



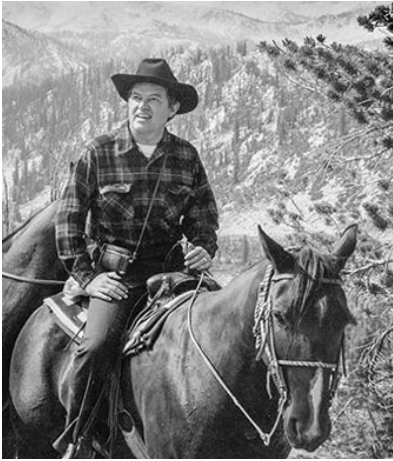
—*Outdoor Idaho* “The Frank” aired Thursday, July 23, and Sunday, July 26

Here’s the thing that impressed me while researching the history of the Frank Church wilderness. It wasn’t the politicians who were the prime movers, as it seems to be with, say, the Boulder-White Clouds wilderness proposal.

No, it was a small group of committed individuals, led by outdoorsman Ted Trueblood, who pushed for this wilderness. They came up with the boundaries as early as 1973, and then refused to budge from the 2.3 million acre number until their bill passed in 1980.

The major politicians of the day — most notably, Democrats Senator Frank Church and Governor Cecil Andrus and Republican Senator James McClure — thought that locking up that much acreage was just not going to fly.





“It was a case of sort of training the politicians, to bring them along,” historian Dennis Baird told us. He was a member of the River of No Return Wilderness Council, the prime movers of this particular wilderness bill. “Unlike the case of many wilderness areas, this one got bigger over time in the eyes of the politicians. That’s maybe one of the great miracles of the fight for the River of No Return. It didn’t shrink. It got just a little bigger in every iteration.”

Another thing that impressed me was the generosity that Republican Senator Jim McClure showed to his colleague Democrat Frank Church. After Church was defeated in 1980 — in part because of his support for the River of No Return wilderness — and as he was dying from cancer, Senator McClure asked his Senate colleagues to rename the area the Frank Church River of No Return wilderness.

President Reagan signed the name change into law in 1984, a few weeks before Church’s death. What a gracious thing to do and one of those bipartisan gestures that, unfortunately, you don’t hear much about these days.

For our program, some of us hiked into the Bighorn Crags area of the Frank. And two of my friends took small cameras and hiked from the western side of the Frank to the eastern side, a journey of about 60 miles. You’ll see some of their trek in our show.



Hiking is great, but in some parts of this wilderness, it’s best to fly in or to travel by jetboat; and Frank Church knew that. As he wrote in a 1979 letter to a constituent, “I make no apologies for my commitment to assuring that this spectacular area can be seen and enjoyed, whether the access is by horseback, on foot, via jetboat, or small plane.”

Both Church and Ted Trueblood wanted people to be able to use and enjoy the area. I’m guessing they would have had a hard time with some of the purists of today who are emphatic about no airplanes or jetboats in the Frank.

One other impressive thing about the Frank: its size. Whether you float the 100 miles of the Middle Fork or the 85 mile wilderness section of the Main Salmon; or whether you hike into Ship Island Lake in the Bighorn Crags, you have merely scratched the surface. In this majestic landscape, wild animals can live their entire lives without ever seeing a human. It’s that big.

“I think this is something the nation looks at as their magical wilderness,” said biologist Isaac Babcock, after spending a year in the Frank. “Things happen all over the place out there, these really unexpected things, and you can’t see that anywhere in the world anymore.”

And certainly part of the “magic” of the Frank has to be that it even happened at all. “The right people came together at the right time,” explained attorney Jeff Fereday. “There was certainly serendipity there.”

How else to explain the largest forested wilderness in the lower 48, in a conservative state like Idaho?





Asteroids and Comets

—Airs September 15 at 2/1 p.m. MT/PT



Asteroids are small, rocky objects left over from the formation of our solar system. Comets are leftovers too, made of dust, rock and ice. These small worlds can tell us what the early solar system was like. Brian Jackson, Assistant Professor of Physics at Boise State University, and Camille Eddy, BSU NASA Microgravity team lead, will answer students' questions about asteroids and comets.

Public Television in the News



Outdoor Idaho takes on 'The Frank'

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Jeff Tucker, Jay Krajic and Peter Morrill (left to right) at Ship Island Lake in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Tucker and Morrill hiked in with cameras to document their 60-mile journey. Krajic and other crew members met the two at Birdbill Lake before hiking over to Ship Island Lake, which executive producer Bruce Reichert called "one of the coolest places in Idaho."

In its upcoming episode, Outdoor Idaho took on perhaps the state's most expansive topic; The Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

The episode, called "The Frank," will air on Idaho Public Television on Thursday at 8 p.m. and again Sunday at 7 p.m.

Executive producer Bruce Reichert said he was fascinated by the sheer size of The Frank, but that's also what made the project difficult. The 2.36 million-acre roadless wilderness is some of the most pristine country found in the lower 48, but that also makes for limited access.

To tackle the giant, Reichert said he took multiple angles; talking with biologists who studied in the Frank Church, shooting aerial footage from helicopters and hiking into Ship Island Lake among them.

"We've really tried to explore The Frank in a lot of different ways so that you're seeing it from the perspective of many folks," Reichert said.

Reichert also used footage taken on an arduous journey by current and past employees of Idaho Public Television. Last summer, Jeff Tucker and Peter Morrill hiked 60 miles through the wilderness, documenting their journey.

Reichert said part of what interested him in the project was the history of The Frank. Led by legionary conservationist Ted Trueblood, the River of No Return Wilderness Council fought for the designation despite many in Idaho being opposed to conservation.

"We are now the proud owners of the largest forested wilderness in the lower 48," Reichert said.

TVKIDS weekly WorldScreen.com



Young Viewers Go Wild for Wild Kratts

By Joanna Padovano

Published: July 24, 2015

NEW YORK: TV Kids discusses the animated wildlife series Wild Kratts with Chris Kratt, the show's co-creator and co-star, and Natalie Osborne, the managing director of 9 Story Media Group.

During their youth, Chris Kratt and his brother Martin used to spend every Sunday night watching a wildlife documentary series. That interest in animals inspired both siblings to pursue careers in zoology. Eventually, the pair decided to enter the world of children's television, co-creating and co-starring in such live-action wildlife shows as Kratts' Creatures and Zoboomafoo. At some point, the brothers came to the conclusion that their live-action programs, while successful, were missing something.

"We would go around the world and film animals and we were getting great wildlife footage of animals doing really interesting things, but there were always behaviors that we knew animals did that we just couldn't capture on film," says Chris Kratt. "Even if you were there for years on end, there's just no way to capture something like a battle between a sperm whale and a giant squid that happens way down deep in the ocean."

It was that realization that led Chris and his brother to co-create and co-star in Wild Kratts, an animated series that gives them the ability to illustrate all the fascinating behaviors that they were unable to get on camera in real life. "Animation allows us more freedom in storytelling," says Kratt. "We can have all kinds of fun adventures that you can't really do in live action."

Wild Kratts is aimed at youngsters between the ages of 4 and 9. The half-hour adventure comedy follows animated versions of the Kratt brothers as they explore wildlife around the globe. In the show, the siblings' characters have "creature power" suits that allow them to experience what it's like to be a variety of animals.

"No matter what animal you look at, that animal's special ability or creature power is pretty much always connected to some kind of science concept," says Kratt, who also writes and directs episodes with Martin. "For example, the peregrine falcon being able to fly so fast, they're harnessing the power of gravity, so we can talk about gravity. We did an episode about electric eels, where we were able to talk about the science concept of electricity.... So through creature powers, we're also teaching about science."

Now heading into its fourth season, Wild Kratts first premiered on PBS Kids in the U.S. in 2011 and on TVO, Knowledge Network and Télé-Quebec in Canada. The show is co-produced by Kratt Brothers Company and 9 Story Media Group. It is distributed in the U.S. and Canada by Kratt Brothers Company and internationally by 9 Story. The program is currently broadcast in more than 180 countries around the world and has been translated into 18 languages.

"Wild Kratts has sold incredibly well globally," says Natalie Osborne, 9 Story's managing director. "It's a [hit] show in the U.S. and also performs extremely well in Germany, the U.K., Spain and Latin America." Among the series' many international broadcast partners are Germany's Super RTL, Discovery Kids in Latin America and Asia, Pop in the U.K., Ireland's RTÉ, Canal Panda and TV3 in Spain, Portugal's SIC and Noga in Israel.

"There are many aspects that make Wild Kratts a global success," says Osborne. "First and foremost is the Kratt brothers' signature brand of passion, energy and knowledge about animals, which makes the show incredibly appealing to children. Kids really connect with the characters and feel like they want to hang out with them or be one of them. The sibling relationship between Chris and Martin is also highly relatable."

"I think the concept of creature powers is resonating internationally," says Kratt. "Every kid—and many adults—likes to think about what [it would be like] if they had some of these abilities that animals have."

Beyond the small screen, Wild Kratts has been building up its merchandising and licensing presence. "M&L activity on Wild Kratts has been gaining considerable momentum over the last year," says Osborne. "The brand now has toys, books, home entertainment, digital games, live shows and more! There are new licensees being signed all the time." Among the property's current licensees are Wicked Cool Toys with plush, role-play products and action figures, and Random House with publishing. "There are a lot of other items coming out in the near future," says Kratt. New partners include In Character with Halloween costumes, Decopac with cake toppers and Pressman with games and puzzles. There are currently three Wild Kratts apps available for download, with a fourth slated for launch in the fall.

Continued expansion is on the horizon for the franchise, with the main goal to keep helping kids and families learn about animals, according to Kratt. "We hope to do a feature film at some point and put out more products," he says. "There will be a Christmas special this holiday season, that'll be airing in November, as well as another hour-long [deep-sea adventure] special that'll be airing in 2016."

Kratt adds: "The show inspires either the kid or the entire family, in many cases, to go out on their own adventures and explore the world. Kids are even teaching their parents and their teachers things about animals that their parents and teachers didn't know, and that's really empowering for kids. So anything we do with the franchise, we're keeping that in mind, that idea of really sharing the amazing things about the natural world."

TVKIDS.WS WorldScreen.com

PBS Kids Introduces New Programming Lineup

BEVERLY HILLS: At its TCA presentation, PBS unveiled its full lineup and air dates for the PBS Arts Fall Festival, new episodes of Super Why! and an all-new Curious George movie.

The fifth season of the PBS Arts Fall Festival, a key part of PBS' Friday prime-time lineup, will return on October 9 at 9 p.m., with eight new weekly programs hosted by Gloria Estefan. The Festival is launching with Unity: The Latin Tribute to Michael Jackson, hosted by percussionist Sheila E. and featuring some of Jackson's greatest hits, interpreted by award-winning Latin artists. October 16 will see the broadcast of Live from Lincoln Center Presents Kern & Hammerstein's Show Boat in Concert with the New York Philharmonic. Great Performances: Billy Elliot The Musical will air on October 23, while on October 30, PBS will air Live from Lincoln Center Presents Danny Elfman's Music from the Films of Tim Burton (working title), featuring the scores from hit films including Batman, Beetlejuice and Alice in Wonderland. On November 6, Great Performances will feature Chita Rivera: A Lot of Livin' to Do.



Meanwhile, Tony Shalhoub stars in Live from Lincoln Center: Act One on November 13. November 20 will see a tribute to the award-winning songwriting team John Kander and Fred Ebb in First You Dream: The Music of Kander &

Ebb, and on November 27, Great Performances will feature another music giant with Andrea Bocelli: Cinema (working title). Masterpiece will showcase Broadway and Hollywood stars such as Vanessa Williams, Norm Lewis and Julian Ovendon.

“The fifth annual PBS Arts Fall Festival is a celebration of performing arts and music from the stage and screen, from the pop charts, and more. Gloria Estefan serving as this year’s host and a Latin tribute to the music of Michael Jackson are among the many highlights of this year’s festival programming,” said PBS’ president and CEO Paula Kerger. “The festival is an enduring testament to PBS’ longstanding commitment to the arts, which is reinforced with this fall’s lineup of our signature quality programming and exciting performances that will captivate audiences.”

“The Festival spans generations and genres with contemporary hits, Broadway legends and tributes to groundbreaking artists, with an additional spotlight this year on Latin music stars,” added PBS’ VP of programming and festival curator, Donald Thoms. “This season promises to be spectacular for the arts on PBS, and reinforces our commitment to arts and diversity programming.”

Starting on August 17, PBS Kids has plans to premiere new episodes of the Emmy-nominated animated preschool show Super Why! The series targets kids aged 3 to 6, teaching them about reading, the alphabet, word families, spelling, comprehension and vocabulary. “With a brand-new slate of episodes, Super Why! will delight families with entertaining, engaging stories just in time for the back-to-school season,” said Linda Simensky, the VP of children’s programming at PBS. “In this mystery-themed week, viewers will join the Super Readers as they solve puzzles and explore their origin stories, and gain the power to read along the way.”

In addition, PBS Kids will premiere the all-new movie Curious George 3: Back to the Jungle, also on August 17. The movie sees Curious George set out to take a trip to space, but he crash-lands in the African jungle, where he has fun adventures with new animal friends. The feature-length movie includes the voice talents of Angela Bassett and John Goodman, as well as music by the Plain White T’s.

“Curious George exemplifies PBS Kids’ mission: to spark children’s curiosity and nurture their excitement about exploring the world around them,” commented Lesli Rotenberg, the general manager of children’s media at PBS. “We know that families love Curious George, which is our number-one show for kids 2-8, and PBS Kids is excited to debut a brand-new movie from everyone’s favorite monkey this summer, featuring adventures, learning moments and humor.”

PBS Facts

- ⇒ 77% of all kids age two to eight watched PBS during the 2013-2014 season. (Nielsen NPower, 9/23/2013 – 9/21/2014)
- ⇒ An estimated 30 million students nationwide are impacted by PBS Learning Media.