

Idaho Chapter Newsletter-LCTHF

October 2017



Photo by Steve Lee

The Lolo Trail Work Week-2017

By Geoff Billin & Kris Townsend

The 2017 Lolo Work Week, a highlight of Idaho Chapter summer activities since 2009, was again a success. Nineteen workers, only two of whom were new, camped in tents (mostly) at NoSeeUm Meadows near Sherman Peak, thought to be the place where in 1805 the Corps of Discovery's spirits were revived when they saw plains to the west. For five days our spirits were high as we worked on trails and signs so that other forest visitors could better understand and experience the terrain and the history.

Financial support for 2017 came from the Idaho Governor's Bicentennial Commission, the United States Forest Service, and a bequest from the estate of John W. Sproat Jr., a Lewis and Clark enthusiast from Ohio.

Most of us worked in crews of three to five to clear 31 miles of the Lewis and Clark Trail and side trails, replacing location signs, cutting brush, and removing dozens of trees that had fallen across the path since last year. While working there was time to see, hear and smell the forest, to behold the vistas, and to contemplate the marvelous journey of the Corps of Discovery. We were assisted on Tuesday and Wednesday by Adam, a Trails Supervisor from the Forest Service. Our crews located and reported large logs across the trails and Adam removed them with his chainsaw (which our workers were not authorized to use). He also walked the trails about three times faster than we



did! Two Forest Service administrators visited during the week as well. A few workers spent three days renovating seven large interpretive signs erected for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial in 2004-2006: Indian Post Office, Howard Camp, Saddle Camp (3 signs), The Smoking Place, and Greensward Camp. Harsh winters had damaged the frames from which the signs hung, and the Greensward Camp sign had disappeared. Vital to the job, during those three days Dick Monaghan drove his backhoe over

the rocky and rutted Lolo Motorway for 20 miles – at about four miles per hour.



Our weather was exceptional: this year it didn't rain! In previous years we experience thunderstorms and hail. All told we spent just under 600 hours making the trails more usable and the signs more likely to be seen.

We worked hard during the day, rising at 6:00 for a scrumptious breakfast then heading for work assignments by about 7:30. Teams were generally back to camp by late afternoon and folks were able to rest and take care of personal things before a filling supper. After supper we were treated to music and recitations, and were off to bed by 8:30 or 9:00 to be ready for the next day. Some time was available for other activities. Kris Townsend, accompanied by others, was able to



spend some time researching potential paths that the Corps of Discovery followed on their westward journey. And several members took time on Friday to pick huckleberries that were just ripening.



It was a pleasure to have so many skilled, willing people contributing to keeping the trails open and the signs repaired. We expect to do a Work Week in 2018, and invite you to join us. More information should be available in the spring.



A picture of Janet exploring and enjoying No-See-Um Creek on one of our days off. On that hike, we met a professional guide taking 8 people down the trail on a “Lewis and Clark” hike. Because many wonder if anybody is using the trail our Chapter maintains, it is notable that they were there and very thankful for the work we were doing.

The Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation would like to thank the family/estate of John W. Sproat for their generous contribution to the Idaho Chapter for the Lolo Trail maintenance. We appreciate it!

The 2017 Annual Meeting

By Laurie Brown

The Annual Meeting on July 23-26 in Billings, Montana was both informational and fun. We had many interesting lectures including one about the discovery and excavation of Clark's Canoe Camp. We had an awesome exhibit of kites in our conference room that many related to the Lewis and Clark expedition. Artist Charles Fritz also made a presentation and his paintings were for sale. One day was spent out at Pompey's Pillar. There was time to explore the Pillar and reenactors were giving presentations. They actually skinned a beaver and different parts of the beaver were handed out to the crowd for us to examine. Various field trips were offered such as the Yellowstone Float Trip, an excursion out to the island to see the Canoe Camp and a visit to Pryor's horse crossing site. We had an Idaho Chapter meeting one evening. Dick Fichtler spoke about the MOU we had just signed for the Idaho Chapter and it's significance to our chapter. Pat Rathmann is now our vice president and program coordinator and Sue Buchel is the new secretary. Evenings found us at pubs, ice cream shops and restaurants.

New Partnership Benefits Lewis and Clark Trail in Idaho

By Bob Russell

(Salmon, ID) The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Idaho will financially benefit from an agreement recently signed between the Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee (IGLCTC) and the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF).

Both the IGLCTC and the LCTHF are charged with administering separate grant programs devoted to the Lewis and Clark Trail. The IGLCTC administers grant funds mostly generated by the sale of Idaho's Sacajawea vehicle license

plates. The LCTHF, a national organization based in Great Falls, Montana, allocates grant funds from interest generated by their Bicentennial Trail Stewardship grant program which was created during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial a decade ago.

Bob Russell, Chair of IGLCTC said “ This Memorandum of Understanding provides the framework for our two organizations to jointly fund trail stewardship projects along the length of the Lewis and Clark Trail in Idaho”. President of the LCTHF Philippa Newfield added “ It is essential that organizations such as ours coordinate on trail stewardship projects in order to bring significant financial resources to important work along the trail. LCTHF has similar agreements with the National Park Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. When these partners all work together we can bring significant resources and expertise to needed trail work!”

The agreement was signed by Ms. Newfield and Mr. Russell on July 25th at the LCTHF Annual Meeting held this year in Billings, MT.

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Five Reasons to Join the Trail Heritage Foundation.

By Sue Buchel

Several Idaho Chapter members have not seen fit to support the national organization. That’s okay, but I’m thinking maybe it is because they don’t realize what great things the national Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation does as “Keepers of the Story, Stewards of the Trail” at a national level.

For just \$49 (\$69 for a family), our Idaho Chapter members could enjoy receiving the Foundation’s premiere quarterly publication, *We Proceeded On* and have emailed or mailed to them *The Orderly Report* newsletters, but would, possibly, be joining an effort that has recently:

1. Provides about \$50,000 a year in Trail Stewardship grants to local chapters or communities.
2. Has started an Educational Grants program that supports schools and/or scholars of all ages.
3. Has completed evaluation of its archival holdings and has posted numerous finding aids at its home website, www.lewisandclark.org.

4. Has taken over management of the acclaimed reference website, "Discovering Lewis and Clark" at www.lewis-clark.org which sees hundreds of visitors a month.
5. Sponsors, through its chapters and active members, exciting regional and annual meetings to explore the Lewis and Clark Trail up close and personal.

I could go on . . . but I'm hoping these 'nudges' are sufficient. Try it, you'll like it – President Jefferson and the Corps of Discovery would be proud! Here's the link to join up (or renew):

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=lewisandclark&id=8> or send your check in to LCTHF, PO Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403 (include your email, address and phone contact information. Or call! [406-454-1234](tel:406-454-1234) and talk to someone on the staff.

Sue Buchel
Idaho Chapter Secretary

CHAPTER WEBSITES

The Chapter website may have information you may be interested in. Listed below are the main areas of interest.

Home page <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org>:

Lolo Work Week 2017 information

Lolo Work Week Slide show

Links to Lolo Work Week photo galleries

L&C in Idaho:

Interactive Google Map: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/sites>

Pine Creek to Lenore by Chuck Raddon: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/features/peck.php>

Coulter Creek by Chuck Raddon: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/features/potlatch.php>

L and C in Orofino by Chuck Raddon: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/features/orofino.php>

Chapter Calendar: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/events>

Newsletters:

Select Feature Articles: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/news/features.php>

All issues since 1986: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/news/index.php>

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017/2018 Idaho Chapter Speakers

October 14, 2017 - Nez Perce Tribal Historian presentation on the meeting with Lewis and Clark from the tribal perspective at the Nez Perce Visitor.

November 11, 2017, 11:00am – “Wind Hard From The West” by Robert Heacock at the Nez Perce Visitor Center

December 2, 2017 - Robert Heacock in Boise. Meeting time and place pending.

February 10 - Pomp Reminisces About his Mother Sacajawea by Garry Bush at the Nez Perce Visitor Center.

March 10 - Lewis and Clark Trail Sites Through Idaho by LCSC Historian Amy Canfield either at the Nez Perce Visitor Center or LCSC

April 14 - The Food of the Lewis and Clark Corp of Discovery by John Fisher including Nez Perce food stuffs at the Nez Perce Visitor Center

2017 Chapter dues are \$10.00 per individual. The Idaho dues form is on the last page of this newsletter. We are a 501 (c) 3 and donations are tax deductible.

Members are also encouraged to join the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Here is the link for the Foundation dues website.

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=lewisandclark&id=8>

And at last, the dues page. If you have not submitted your Idaho dues yet this year, please do so. Your dues help to pay for our programs and fees incurred during the year.

Thank you for reading the newsletter!!

Laurie Brown

Idaho Chapter President

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

Idaho Chapter Dues Form

Be a part of the journey of discovery! Join the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Dues are \$10.00 per person.

Make your check payable to: Idaho Chapter LCTHF.

Send this membership form, along with a check to:

Holly Crawley
7325 South 5th West
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Thank you. Your dues are appreciated!