

Idaho Chapter Newsletter-LCTHF

May 2018



Photo by Steve Lee

Lolo Work Week

By Chuck Radon & Geoff Billin

Some years ago, I approached a friend about joining a volunteer work party. "Have I got a deal for you." I said. "You get and your wife get to spend a week camping in the woods and you both will work your fannies off clearing trail. You have to provide camping gear and transportation and all you'll get is food, memories and perhaps a few blisters." The Lolo Trail Work Week turned out to be one of their better experiences.

Work Week is initially daunting: the campsite is at "NoSeeEm Meadows" which conjures clouds of biting insects and the road getting there crosses a place known as "The Rocks from Hell" which gives our 4x4 pick-up a workout and increases my wife's pucker factor. We are isolated: no cell phone coverage and three hours from the nearest electric outlet. But the goal of keeping the trail open for others and the challenge of persevering in relative wilderness brings us a sense of accomplishment.

About 25 committed volunteers are roused at 6 am, fed breakfast at 6:30, pack their own lunch, get a quick briefing on the plan for the day, and head out to work at 7:30. The work is mostly short sections of trail one to three miles in length and located a few miles from camp over that poor excuse for a road. We work in small crews of 3 to 7 people mostly cutting small ¼ to ½ inch diameter limbs that grow into the trail from the side. To clear a section of trail takes thousands of cuts from long handled pruners. Occasionally we find a tree across the trail and if small we cut it by hand and wrestle it out of the way. If too large we make notes and a chain saw crew comes by later in the week and cuts it. Some crews have repaired the outhouses, signs, and a cabin found along the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark Corridor.

I love to go to the mountains for the change from our normal lives. Living for a week in that environment is worth the hassle getting there. Bright fields of Bear grass blooms add to the stunning vistas from the ridge line trail to provide even more "ah" inspiring views. There's a "Fairy-land" section of trail thru bogs and meadows on the wet north side of the ridge. The trail-side brush is huckleberries and somehow many of those little blue berries appear in our morning pancakes. During the week we visit places like Post Office with its special rock-cairns and Smoking Place where Lewis and Clark's Nez Perce guides

stopped them to smoke and to look at the grand vista of mountains around them. There's time to think and talk about those who have used the trail: from Native Americans to the Corps of Discovery to prospectors to the Civilian Conservation Corps to those who savor recreation and seek to understand history.

Camp life is focused on a big 12 x 24 open sided tent housing the kitchen and food area. Food is simple but ample. We eat in our own lawn chairs around a campfire. Several folks bring guitars for folk singing, tell lots of stories and some terrible puns. Everyone has their own tent and sleeping gear set up in an opening in the timber surrounding camp. No RVs are here – the “road” keeps them out. People who volunteer for this kind of work come from all walks of life: empty nesters, retirees, teachers. Some are local, some are from far away, but they are all very interested and interesting and many return year after year. Weather in the mountains always is interesting too. A bright sunny morning can be followed by an afternoon thundershower followed by an inch of sleet at dark after which the stars come out and it turns really, really cold.

The 2018 Lolo Trail Work Week runs from Sunday, July 22 to Saturday July 28. We meet in Orofino Sunday morning to load all the camp gear and food in our vehicles and then caravan to the camp site. Work is Monday thru Friday, and we pull up camp and head home on Saturday. The work is organized by the Idaho Chapter, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation using a grant from the Idaho Governor's L&C Trail Committee using Sacagawea license plate funds, and other funding sources. For more information, lots of photos of past years and an application view the chapter's web site at lewis-clark-idaho.org and click on Lolo Work.

Lolo Work Week Volunteer Information

Geoff Billin

Hello Lolo Work Week volunteers,

It's again time to consider and plan for a week of service and enjoyment on the Lolo Trail. This year's work week is scheduled for Sunday July 22 through Saturday July 28.

The general plan is the same as previous years:

- We will leave Sunday morning for camp, stopping for supplied lunch along the way.
- We'll set up individual camps and the common camp facilities, eat, then discuss the work to be done..
- Each day from Monday to Friday teams will depart camp to work on trail segments. Days will start about 6:00. Volunteers will make their own lunches to eat on the trail. Daily assignments should have the team back in camp by 4:00. Afternoon snacks will be provided. Adult beverages will be self-provided and self-cooled. Supper will be followed by discussion of the work done and to be done. Entertainment follows.
- On Saturday we will break camp and return to civilization. Most likely, those who wish will get together for a celebratory supper.

A change from 2017 is that no sign work is planned during the week; it will be done at a different time by a small crew.

Chuck and Penny are on an extended trip and so won't be as involved in planning until June. Susan, Priscilla, Kris and I have started the planning process.

It appears that the Idaho Chapter has sufficient funds to finance the trip so it looks like there will be no charge for returning folks but you'll still need to cover the cost of getting to our jumping off point in Orofino.

This year brings some conditions for participation. I have always been concerned about safety and risks. These changes are to make the week more enjoyable and less risky for all of us:

- Chainsaws will only be used if the sawyer possesses a valid (current) National Sawyer Certification Card. This has been a requirement for our volunteer work since 2016 and we have failed to meet it. I am looking into ways for the sawyers among us (with decades of experience) to easily obtain certification. Note that certification includes training in First Aid and CPR.
- Participants are responsible for arranging transportation: to and from camp and to daily assignments. Last year we were near to not having enough vehicles and I am delegating the transportation planning to you. Depending upon who's coming there may be a need to rent/borrow good vehicles. If you are willing to be responsible for arranging transportation, reply to all.
- Each participant will be a paid-up member of the (national) Lewis Clark Heritage Trail Foundation and the Idaho Chapter. Individual dues are \$49 and \$25. "Scholarships" were offered last year and may be available this year.
- Last year some people were concerned about not being physically able to do strenuous trail work. While trail work is the highest priority, there's also a need for a limited number of people to help with logistics by driving vehicles and watching over camp. If you want to be one of those few you should contact me soon.
- Last-minute additions to the crew in previous years resulted in leader disturbance. We want to minimize this, perhaps by saying "No" to requests after June 30.

In the nine years of Lolo Work Week many of the same people have come back again and again. This year there should be room for another five or so people. This is your opportunity to recruit trail workers.

So that we can firm up plans please let me know by May 20 whether you plan to participate or not.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

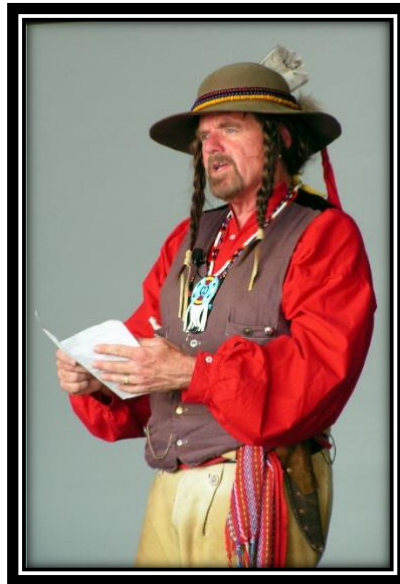
Geoff Billin

Please contact Geoff Billin if you are interested in joining our crew!!

*“Toussaint Charbonneau looks back at
Lewis & Clark, Pomp and Tsakaka-wias”*

How this historian interprets a complex character
By Garry Bush

On Saturday, February 10, 2018, Garry Bush gave a presentation on Toussaint Charbonneau at the Nez Perce National Historical Park Visitor Center at Spalding, Idaho. Garry was dressed in his buckskins and gave a very interesting account of Sacajawea’s husband.



***Around the World with Medals, Money,
& Furs: Before, During and After Lewis & Clark
By John Fisher***

This was the presentation that John Fisher gave on March 10, 2018 at the Nez Perce Visitors Center. He had some of the rarest medals in US

history the result of a year's research by noted L & C historian, John Fisher. John also brought some furs to show.



Interpreting Varied Histories: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

By Dr. Amy Canfield

Amy joined us on April 14, 2018 with her talk about the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail and how it weaves in with our larger US history.

“In many ways, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is symbolic of the larger history of the United States. Combining aspects of westward expansion, contact between Euro-Americans and American Indians, diplomacy, sovereignty, exchange (both material and cultural), the story often gets lost behind the romanticization of the expedition. The Corps of Discovery has become a part of our national mythology, but the reality behind the story proves just as compelling as the national memory of the two-year expedition.”

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 2018 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

Lolo Trail Work Week – July 22 – July 28, 2018.

Weenie Roast after our meeting in September. Location is the park at Spalding. Everyone welcome.

LCTHF 50th Annual Meeting in Astoria, Oregon – October 7-10, 2018

Details on the LCTHF website.

2018 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!