Idaho Nonprofit Excellence Award 2015

The Latah Trail Foundation of Moscow, Idaho was awarded the 2nd Annual Idaho Nonprofit Excellence Award at the 12th Annual Idaho Statewide Nonprofit Conference in Boise on September 15, 2015. Latah Trail Foundation was one of six recipients of this prestigious award. The statewide recognition of its accomplishments is something that “the foundation is very proud of,” says Executive Director of the Latah Trail Foundation, Tom Carroll, who accepted the award on behalf of the foundation and was “very honored to have been recognized for its achievements by the Idaho Nonprofit Center.”

“We are so pleased with the fantastic response from the community and impressed with the many moving stories in the 2015 nominations,” said Janice Fulkerson, Executive Director of the Idaho Nonprofit Center, which organized the awards. “We know that nonprofits make a difference in communities across Idaho every day and these awards recognize the contribution of the nonprofit sector.”

The Idaho Nonprofit Center received 197 completed nominations during the 2nd Annual Idaho Nonprofit Excellence Awards process. A total of 135 organizations were nominated across the state (some were nominated more than once) with six nonprofits honored with the 2015 Nonprofit Excellence Award.

Continued on page 5…
The much-anticipated Latah Trail Foundation biannual dinner-auction is scheduled for Friday April 22 at the Best Western-University Inn in Moscow.

Volunteers on the planning committee are already soliciting donations of goods, services, and travel packages for the fundraiser. If you or someone you know has something to offer, please contact LTF Executive Director Tom Carroll (latahtrail@gmail.com, 208-874-3860) or Nancy Chaney (nchaney@moscow.com, 208-882-9350) for pick-up. Let us know, too, if you'd like to volunteer to help.

Past auctions have been lots of fun and have generated significant support for Latah Trail projects. Donations are tax-deductible. Back by popular demand, Ron Landeck and Buddy Levy are sure to astound as our returning tag-teaming auctioneers. More details will follow as we get closer to the date. Keep an eye on our Latah Trail web site latahtrailfoundation.org for updates. We hope that you, your friends, and family can join us. Please mark your calendar now for a fun-filled evening with good company and good vibes for a very good cause. And dust-off those party shoes!

100K Club Kick-off Party

Troy native and long time Moscow resident Jay Hunter gave LTF his idea of forming a 100K Club to attract 100 people willing to donate $1,000 each, thus raising $100,000 to support the Latah Trail. To that end, LTF held a two-hour cocktail party at the fabulous Meadowinds Castle on Paradise Ridge. Forty-one people attended the party raising over $14,000 for the trail. The goal of this year-long campaign is to raise 100K, so we are well on our way. If anyone is interested in joining the club please send your check in the amount of $1,000 to the Latah Trail Foundation, P.O. Box 9344, Moscow, Idaho 83843.

Participants at the party enjoyed a slide show featuring the history of the Latah Trail Foundation, past and present, along with skillfully played chamber music provided by Harmonia Trio, comprised of Diane Worthey on viola, (continued on p. 4)
Rich Wesson  The Interstate Highway System was a huge success by providing efficient ground transport throughout the nation, nourishing a growing economy and an uneasy military in need of easy domestic mobility. The auto dominated our culture and motorized travel seemed the sole focus of the system. That is changing. More and more, people want to get out and explore the world, no longer satisfied with being a passive audience to a passing landscape framed in a windshield, and they're motivated by health and aesthetic reasons to earn their enjoyment through exercise. Trails, the original transportation network, are coming back. Nationally and locally, walking and biking, we are rediscovering a love for fresh air and a breath of the natural world.

People love trails, trails attract people, people attract commerce. Just as with all travel ways, economic opportunity follows the users as their needs are recognized and met. The amenities that trails provide attract tourists, businesses and workers, students and college professionals. The enhanced community connectivity makes it all good all around for the locals as well.

Our local trail system, first the Chipman Trail, then the Latah Trail and a network of urban pathways winding through Moscow and Pullman, is now approaching the (continued on p. 4)
(Continued from p. 3, Interstate Highway) potential to become a true Regional Trail Network. The Moscow Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA) has carved out an impressive mountain bike maze with the gracious cooperation of local private landowners on Moscow Mountain. The Latah Trail Foundation is making tentative steps past Troy to extend down Bear Creek Canyon, hopefully some day to connect with the existing Ed Corkill Memorial Trail between Kendrick and Juliaetta. From there it is only natural to press on, somehow, to Arrow Junction just as the Lewiston levy trails creep upriver to the same destination.

The Pullman Civic Trust is spearheading a campaign to extend the system to Colfax along a state owned rail line that is deemed no longer needed for rail service. The corridor, following along the beautiful South Fork of the Palouse River, will either be railbanked and converted to a trail, or it will be abandoned and off-limits to public use forever. The decision will likely come within the next couple of years. A National Parks Service grant will help explore the issue early next year and citizen input is vital to help move along the vision for an uninterrupted ribbon through the Palouse from Colfax to the Potlatch River canyon.

There is no guarantee that trail systems will continue to grow to meet the desires of the citizenry. Legislation passed in October that would have eliminated the middle 135 miles of the John Wayne Trail, an undeveloped trail east of the Columbia river that coupled with the more developed Iron Horse Trail on the west side, stretches across Washington State from North Bend to Tekoa, almost to the Idaho border near Plummer.

Fortunately, the trail was saved solely because a typo negated the provision secretly added to the appropriations bill that was approved by an unsuspecting legislature. Citizen support may keep that trail intact as talks are currently underway with the sponsoring legislator and various stakeholders. Comments regarding that issue are being solicited by Rep. Joe Schmick, the sponsor of the provision. Overwhelming proponent advocacy is the only way the John Wayne Trail and our more local Colfax trail will prevail as cost, benefit and property issues are explored.

Considered in an appropriate scale, regional trail networks are as vital to our nation as the Interstate Highway System. They must be nourished or they will not grow.

Happy Trails Happy Trails Happy Trails Happy Trails

(continued from p. 2, 100K Club) Amy Browse on cello, and Inka Kingsley on violin. Patricia Brehm from Kitchen Counter Caterers provided delicious hearty appetizers and Terry Eckwright from the Wine Company of Moscow selected a wonderful array of wines and beers for purchase. One World Café generously provided coffee for the evening. Thanks to Antone G. Holmquist for photographic services.

Kudos to Charlene and Ernie Brannon for donating the use of their fabulous Chapel for our event. And a hearty thank you goes out to an anonymous donor who covered the cost of the event, including a donation to Meadowinds nonprofit that supports science education among indigenous North Americans. Finally, a huge thank you to the initial fourteen 100K Club Members. Kudos to all.
(Continued from p. 1 Excellence Award) All 135 nominated nonprofits were recognized in a presentation at the Nonprofit Excellence Awards Dinner on September 15th with the six honorees recognized on stage and presented with the award.

“The Excellence Awards are designed to highlight the tremendous services nonprofits across Idaho deliver every day that contribute to the quality of life and economy,” said Janice Fulkerson, Executive Director.

All recognized organizations received their nomination by someone in the community who believed deeply in the services provided. Each organization also submitted both quantitative and qualitative information, in addition to operational documentation regarding 990 tax filings and board governance.

The Idaho Nonprofit Center represents the interests of the 5,500 charitable nonprofits in Idaho, the 52,000 nonprofit employees, and the 425,000 volunteers acting as a vehicle of information, a convener of leaders and allies, and a bridge between the nonprofit, public and private sectors.

Happy Trails     Happy Trails     Happy Trails     Happy Trails     Happy Trails

Wildlife Margaret Dibble

Riding between Moscow and Troy is always wonderful for the fantastic scenery and every now and again one gets a bonus in the form of wildlife sighting. It might be just a ground squirrel making its brief appearance in the spring or maybe a cottontail panicked at the sight of a bicycle. Watch out for the cottontails. Imagine that a bike-bunny collision would be rather like a deer-car collision, not good for either party. Watch out for the garter snakes, too; in the spring they come out to lie on the nice warm asphalt. Fortunately, I’ve always managed to miss them and shoo them off the trail, but it’s been close. Deer are common, bounding away through the wheat fields waving their white tails. I have seen coyotes in the distance and I’m still hoping for a bear. Look for red squirrels, carrying fir cones half as big as themselves, as you descend towards Troy.

Last summer, I was startled to see a snow shoe hare. I had no idea that they occurred around here. I was coming up the trail from Troy and it was sitting by the side of the trail. No one could mistake it for a rabbit. It was much larger and darker in its brown summer coat, sat more upright and its enormous ears were tipped with black. In contrast to the excitable cottontails it calmly nibbled a bit of grass before it leisurely hopped off the trail and into the bushes.

To see a moose, head for Bear Creek Canyon; there have been many sightings. Bear Creek Canyon is the best for birds, too. There is a lot of cover and few people, best to go on foot while looking for birds, the loose gravel is treacherous on a bicycle if you don’t watch the ground.  (continued on p. 6)
(continued from p. 5, Wildlife) Look around Little Bear Creek; a beaver has been busy gnawing down a large aspen. Although the creek dries up in summer, perhaps young steelhead hide in the depths of beaver ponds until rain and snow fill the creek again. Look for tracks when it snows. I like to think those were otter tracks that I saw on the ice last winter.

So keep a lookout when you ride the trail, remember, the best ride is not always the fastest. Do let us know about your wildlife sightings on the Trail either on Facebook or email latahtrail@gmail.com. See you on the Trail!

A Lasting Legacy  Nancy Chaney

Margaret Littlejohn tread lightly on this earth, but left an impressive imprint when she passed away in March 2015. She touched countless lives. In her quiet, unassuming way, she accomplished a lot. Befitting Margaret's generous nature, her friends and family suggested that memorial contributions be directed to the animal shelter, Habitat for Humanity, or the Latah Trail Foundation. So far, the Margaret Littlejohn Memorial Fund (administered through the Latah Trail Foundation) has supported placement of a commemorative bench and tree along Moscow’s Paradise Path in Margaret’s honor. It will also be used to help develop the Blackbird Crossing meeting place along the Path by Highway 8 near Blaine, and support future improvements to the Latah Trail.

Margaret came to the United States as an infant, when her parents emigrated from Scotland. She became a U.S. citizen at age 4-1/2, and grew up on her family’s almond farm in California. She earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from UC-Davis in 1971, and began a

(continued on p. 7)
long career with the National Parks Service. Margaret arrived in Moscow in 1988, and served as the western coordinator for the NPS Visitor Services Project for the Cooperative Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho. By the time she retired in 2012, her work had expanded to include the entire national park system. She was passionate about her family, the natural environment, travel, community-building, and the wide-ranging friendships she forged over her life.

Margaret was generous with her time, talent, and personal resources. She served as an elder at the First Presbyterian Church, a member of the League of Women Voters, a volunteer for the Moscow Pathways Commission (Paradise Path Task Force), Tree Commission, Health and Environment Commission, the Active Living Task Force, the recycling/re-use working group, and the Phillips Farm Advisory Committee and Board. She earned a peer-nominated Mayor’s Service to Commissions Award in 2009. Even after her diagnosis of cancer, Margaret continued to chair meetings and address the City Council, and saw to it that worthwhile efforts moved forward. Because of her perseverance and teamwork, the Paradise Path Task Force attained its long-sought status as a full-fledged City commission. Because of Margaret’s diligence, Blackbird Crossing—too long in a holding pattern—is due to break ground in late 2015-early 2016. Through it all, Margaret advocated for the Latah Trail and the non-motorized transportation/recreation network of which it is part.

Margaret was my friend, and I know I’m not alone in missing her. She left a rich legacy, through the lives she touched, the trails she built, the habitats she preserved, and the beautifully optimistic outlook she always conveyed. Her smile and grace linger in my memory.

Colters Creek Winery Harvest 2015 - this October was a fun event where about 25 volunteers picked 4 tons of Cabernet Sauvignon grapes. This event brought in $1,200 for the Latah Trail Foundation. Thank you to all our volunteers and to winery owners, Melissa Sanborn and Mike Pearson, who make this opportunity available to nonprofits willing to pick. Hope to see you all next year for an even larger turnout. Can’t wait to drink a bottle of Colters Creek Cab 2015.

Fundraising Ideas for the coming eighteen months include grant writing; beer-music-BBQ party; filmed by bike film event; bi-annual dinner/auction; a relay team race on the Latah Trail; and possibly a golf tournament. These are just some of our ideas, and we are always open for suggestions. If you have a fun idea just give Tom Carroll a call or an email, or if you see me around town just give me a shout. Tom Carroll: latahtrail@gmail.com 208.874.3860

Our Vision for the near future is to extend the paved portion of the trail into Bear Creek Canyon. In relation to that, we are planning - in cooperation with Latah County - to have a well-publicized public meeting to discuss and address any questions and concerns folks may have. In addition, we’d like to see the Outdoor Classroom near the Summit, west of Troy, established; we look forward to the development of Blackbird Crossing near the old Tidymans and Alturas Technology Park on Hwy 8; strengthen our ties and communication of support with our friends at the Pullman Civic Trust in Whitman County and with the Lewis Clark Bicycle Alliance in the valley. We envision strengthening the regional trail network linking, Whitman, Latah and Nez Perce Counties and beyond.
Ways to Give are many and not limited to financial support. Volunteer hours are invaluable and always welcome. Let us know how you would like to volunteer and what you would like to do and we will do our best to help you realize this gift. Using and telling friends about our wonderful trail and the diversified environs that it runs through are very important. Post reviews on Trip Advisor, give Facebook shouts and use all other formats that you like including face to face real world interactions to promote positive vibes surrounding our beloved trail. If you would like to contribute financially, no gift is too small nor too large: any and every donation, any and every donor is valued. Thank you all so much for all that you have given of your time, skill, trail use and financial support in the past and we hope you will continue to support our goals and vision as our community moves forward through time and space. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP

$15 Living Lightly                      $100 Trail Advocate
$25 Individual                         $1,000 100K Club
$45 Couple/Family                      $250 Sustaining Member

$25 Individual                         $1,000 100K Club
$45 Couple/Family                      $250 Sustaining Member

Please let us know if you would prefer an electronic newsletter in the future. This newsletter will be posted on our website in mid-January. www.latahtrailfoundation.org

Latah Trail Foundation
PO Box 9344
Moscow, ID 83843
latahtrail@gmail.com
www.latahtrailfoundation.org

Save the Date: Fri Apr 22, 2016 Bi-annual Dinner/Auction