

NEXT MEETING

May 8 at 7pm

'My Last Ride'

LeAnn Bednar from Alta, Wyoming coming to talk about her fathers Mexico - Canada pack trip that he made shortly after he was diagnosed with cancer and given 18 months to live.

[Cottonwood Retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road \[4752 South\]](#)

NEXT PROJECT

May 3 & May 17 (see p.2)

NEXT RIDE

May 31 Sheep Creek

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This President's Message is about how much I want and need your support for our monthly meeting and the excellent speakers who contribute their time and effort to come talk with us.

Last month we had an extremely interesting presentation by Rod Miller - one of the best known and most widely published western authors currently in print. What absolutely amazed me was that despite the advanced planning to arrange for him to come (six months in advance) and his own time to prepare and the numerous notifications - we had only five people there! Honestly - it was an embarrassment. We have had presenters come in the past that have left in disgust and disappointment without giving their presentation because virtually no one showed up.

This year (with the help of a few others) I have gone to great lengths to line up meetings and rides and service projects that would work for the group - and I need your support to come and be part of it.

For May, we are honored to have LeAnn Bednar from Alta, Wyoming coming to talk about her fathers Mexico - Canada pack trip that he made shortly after he was diagnosed with cancer and given 18 months to live. LeAnn will be traveling to Salt Lake just to meet with our group. Given our experience last month, I am trembling in my boots that we will disappoint her in the same way that we



disappointed Rod.

Please --- this is your chapter. Please --- support your chapter.

There is information about "My Last Ride" is on page 3. It's an amazing book.

Thanks, Paul

RSVP Needed:

Please email [kernpr@gmail.com](mailto:kernpr@gmail.com) to let me know you can attend 'My Last Ride' presentation by LeAnn Bednar

May 8 at 7pm

## MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCHU 2014 SCHEDULE



**May 3 Dimple Dell Service Project / Doris Richards** 801-694-4273© 801-484-3253 (w)  
"Purge the Spurge"

Please join in this high-profile Salt Lake County project. Meet at Wrangler Trailhead at 8 am for sign-in. Bring work gloves and a shovel. Salt Lake County will start the morning out with dinks and snacks, discount coupons, drawings for passes, free plants and more. This is an "on-foot" activity which will take about 2 hours, leaving time to return to ride later! Contact: Doris Richards: 801-694-4273 [ohioaninutah@gmail.com](mailto:ohioaninutah@gmail.com)

For more about the Spurge, see later article in this newsletter.

**May 8 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**  
LeAnn Bednar from Alta, Wyoming coming to talk about her fathers Mexico - Canada pack trip that he made shortly after he was diagnosed with cancer and given 18 months to live.

**May 17 Sandy Pride Day Project / Doris Richards** 801-694-4273© 801-484-3253 (w)

Details forthcoming in an email (or call Doris). For those who can spend a few hours early in the morning, there will be some trail work in either the western part of Dimple Dell or Brandon Canyon area.

**May 31 Sheep Creek Ride & Clean-Up / Scott and Doris Richards**  
801-694-4273  
[ohioaninutah@gmail.com](mailto:ohioaninutah@gmail.com)

**Be Ready to Ride at 10 am**  
Bring lunch and drinking water. There is water on the trail for the horses. Ride is moderate difficulty, about 5-6 hours. Horses need shoes.

**To get to the trailhead:**  
From I-15 south take exit 258 towards Price. Follow US 89 and then Highway 6 (Spanish Fork Canyon) to the Sheep Creek Turnoff, which will be on your left. This is marked with a sign that says 'Sheep Creek' and is very close to the Sinclair Station. Go up the road a mile and park on the left.

**June 12 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**  
**June 28&29 Payson Canyon / Cindy Furse**

**July 10 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**  
**July 11,12 Strawberry / TBD**

**July 18,19,20 Uintas / Women's Pack In Trip & Pack Out Project / Gina Levesque**

**Aug. 14 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**

**August 16 American Fork / Larry Newton**

**Sept. 11 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**

**September 20 Old Ephraim's Grave / Bill McEwan**

**Oct 9 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**

**October 11 South Willow / Tom McEwan**

**Nov 13 at 7pm Monthly Meeting**

**November 15 Stansbury Island / Paul Kern**

**Dec 11 Christmas Party & Auction**

## OTHER HORSE ACTIVITIES

**Competitive Trail Ride (donation to Veterans program)**

May 17 in Corner Canyon check in 9am Andy Ballard Equestrian Center in Draper. Details and Registration forms at [www.ahelpinghoof.org](http://www.ahelpinghoof.org) (News & Events)

**Extreme Horseman's Challenge**

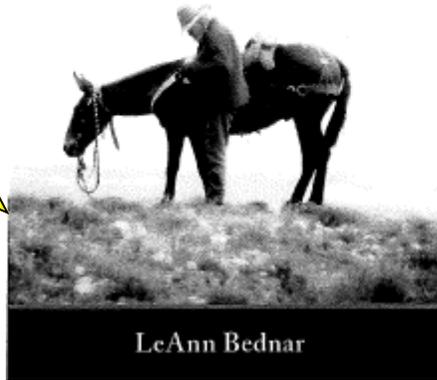
May 9-10 (Entries due May 2) Pegasus Event Center . [www.pegasuseventcenter.com](http://www.pegasuseventcenter.com) (see 'shows') Also June 20-21, July 12 (moonlight!), Aug 16, Oct. 3-4. Our very own Jill Wilkins (BCHU member) won this challenge in 2012. Check out her blog

[thepinkcow-girl.blogspot.com/2012/11/2012-extreme-horsemans-challenge.html](http://thepinkcow-girl.blogspot.com/2012/11/2012-extreme-horsemans-challenge.html)

## My Final Ride

The Thrilling Canada-to-Mexico Journey  
of Charles Morris Christensen

*A story of hope, perseverance, and triumph*



Available now at:  
**LeAnnBednar.com**

*My Final Ride* is the true-life story of Chuck Christensen's epic mule-back Canada-to-Mexico journey while battling stage-three bone marrow cancer/multiple myeloma.

Given eighteen months to three years to live and told he'll never ride again, Chuck crawls back on his mule and, with tears streaming down his face, vows to ride as far as he can. Along the way he faces mud bogs, giardia, broken bones, and deep discouragement; more than once he worries he'll have to put an animal down. With water and food scarce, his mules begin to eat cowpies; his horse, however, refuses, and begins to starve.

Ultimately, Chuck's success depends on his fixed determination to **never give up**.

LeAnn will be the featured speaker at our May 8 meeting. Please RSVP that you can attend!

## Dalmatian toadflax

<<<<<<THIS is one of the plants we will be purging on May 3 from Dimple Dell

*Linaria dalmatica ssp. dalmatica*



### Family: Scrophulariaceae

**Other common names:** Balkan toadflax, broadleaf toadflax

**Weed Class:** B

**Year Listed:** 1988

**Native to:** The Dalmatian coast of the former Yugoslavia to Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Crete, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Syria, Iran, and Iraq.

**Toxic:** not known to be

[additional photos](#)

### Why is it a noxious weed?

Mature plants are strongly competitive, especially with shallow-rooted perennials and winter annuals. Dalmatian toadflax causes negative impacts in pastures, rangelands, and natural areas, where it outcompetes natives or other desirable species.

THIS is one of the plants we will be purging on May 3 from Dimple Dell.

# Myrtle Spurge Fact Sheet

*Euphorbia myrsinites*

*Euphorbiaceae* Family



## Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** Inconspicuous flowers with showy yellow bracts.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Plants spread primarily by seed and are capable of projecting seed up to 15 feet.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Blue-green triangular shaped leaves with white milky latex.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** April - June.

**Warning!! All parts of myrtle spurge contain a caustic latex sap that can result in skin irritation, redness, swelling, and blisters. Caution must be taken not to get any of the sap on the skin or in the eyes. If contact does occur, rinse the area thoroughly.**

## Impacts:

- Myrtle spurge is an escaped ornamental that quickly crowds out native plants.
- Although it is touted as deer resistant and an extremely drought tolerant, it has escaped its original planting and is rapidly invading our foothills and wild lands along the Wasatch Front.
- It poses a threat to children and adults who come in contact with its caustic sap.
- Although Myrtle spurge is not a Utah State listed noxious weed, it *is a Salt Lake County noxious weed*, and therefore is restricted for sale within the county.

## Control:

- Small infestations can be controlled through multiple years of digging up at least 4" of the root.
- Myrtle spurge is best controlled in the spring when the soil is moist and prior to seed production.
- Make sure to dispose of all the plant parts in the garbage instead of composting.
- For larger infestations, myrtle spurge can be effectively controlled with products containing 2, 4-D and dicamba (i.e. Weed B Gon) applied in late fall.



A "Purge your Spurge" participant holds a bag of myrtle spurge.



Salt Lake County Weed Control Program  
[www.weeds.slco.org](http://www.weeds.slco.org)  
801-562-6466  
weeds@slco.org

**THE MONKEY'S VIEWPOINT  
BY HELENA SALZMAN**

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree,  
Discussing things as they're said to be.

Said one to the others, "Now listen, you two,  
There's a certain rumor that can't be true –

That man descended from our noble race.  
The very idea is a big disgrace.

"No monkey ever deserted his wife,  
Starved her babies and ruined her life,

And you've never known a mother monk,  
To leave her babies with others to bunk.

Or to pass them on from one another  
'Till they scarcely know who is their mother.

"And another thing, you'll never see,  
A monk build a fence 'round a coconut tree,

And let the coconuts go to waste,  
Forbidding all other monks to taste.

Why, if I'd put a fence around a tree,  
Starvation would force you to steal from me.

"Here's another thing a monk won't do –  
Get out at night and get on a stew.

Or use a gun or a club or a knife,  
To take some other monkey's life.

Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss,  
But brothers, he didn't descend from us!"

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**BCHU CONTACTS  
AROUND THE STATE**

When you join one chapter of BCHU, you've 'joined them all'. Paul Sloan, member of SW BCHU, went the extra mile or 10 for MRBCHU members this spring. Kristie Bennion, Karen Moyle, members of Mountain Ridge & non member friends called Paul Sloan of Southwest Chapter. He MET us west of exit 13. We had a lovely ride through the red & black rocks and desert blooms. I loved all the Sego Lilies in many & varied colors. Thanks, Paul!



MR BCHU SERVICE 2014 UPDATE

Our first unit service project for 2014 was on April 5 on the Jordan River Trail. 11 people rode from the Arrow Trailhead at 13800 South and trimmed intruding branches, cleared visibility at curves and removed an entire tree from the trail. We finished in time to beat the rain! Thank you, everyone for helping, and thanks to Kristi Collins for showing us this area. Several people commented that they were pleasantly surprised with the parking facility and separate equestrian trail in the area. Salt Lake County plans to completely finish this trail, keeping equestrians separate where possible, to the Utah County line, where a trail is in place.

We have 2 service projects scheduled for May, each working with Salt Lake County and/or Sandy City in Dimple Dell Park.



trail work and clean up to be done. Quite a few members are headed to the Pony Express swearing in later that morning, but if you can come to the project for an hour or so your help is greatly appreciated! Details will follow in an email.

**GOOD NEWS:** As a rough estimate, MRBCHU has worked about 50 trail work, educational, and administrative hours so far known. PLEASE jot down those "little things" you do weekly: attend meetings, clean up a trailhead, help keep an equestrian trail open, participate in community projects.

--  
 DorisRichards  
 801-694-4273(c)  
 801-484-3253 (w)

**Saturday, May 3 is Salt Lake County's "Purge Your Spurge" campaign.** See page 3 for more information. As homeowners know, spurge and other invasive non-native plants can take over a landscape quickly. We are seeing spurge and toadflax taking hold in Dimple Dell Park as well. Salt Lake County has organized a community effort to help stop these weeds from overtaking areas in the park. This project is best done on foot, is scheduled from 8 to 10 am and is a high visibility way for all park users to participate.

**Saturday, May 17 is the annual Sandy Pride Day.** The project we are targeting is Dimple Dell west of 1300 East, where there is some



## US FOREST SERVICE SEEKS TRAIL INPUT

Know of a trail that needs work? A trail that 'ought to be'? Ideas for projects on US Forest Service land that you think would be great? (and that BCHU might even help with). The Forest Service is seeking input on trails and ideas for trail projects.

Listen to this on KPCW  
[kpcw.org/post/forest-service-seeks-trail-improvement-proposals](http://kpcw.org/post/forest-service-seeks-trail-improvement-proposals)

Submission Form is attached with the email version of this newsletter



## BCHA 'KEEPING THE TRAILS OPEN FOR YOU'

Be sure to check out the new BCHA crowd funding effort and publicity on Keeping the Trails Open for You. The national site includes information and alerts on trails and trail issues. The featured trail this month is Notch Mountain Trail near Mirror Lake, in our own Uintas wilderness area. There are also a number of good educational resources on that page.

Check out  
[www.backcountryhorse.com](http://www.backcountryhorse.com)



## THANK YOU TO HORSE EXPO VOLUNTEERS!

Demo Dude in all his packing finery. Want to know more about how to tie this awesome Double Diamond Hitch? Check out my link to videos from the Travis Smith (Bridgerland BCHU) pack clinic:

[fridaystrails.wordpress.com/2011/03/08/packing-clinic-2010-2/](http://fridaystrails.wordpress.com/2011/03/08/packing-clinic-2010-2/)



## THANKS, BOB CAMPBELL!

March 13 MRBCHU Meeting  
Bob Campbell

About 2 dozen BCHU members had a great lesson in Western history from Bob Campbell, chapter member and owner of All About Coins in Sugar House. Bob brought artifacts from the Pony Express, including a mochilla lock and an original Pony Express Bible, thought to be one of 20 in existence. He dispelled some popular myths about the short-lived Pony Express (no, orphans were not particularly recruited.)



Bob took a look at Mormon history in the area, filling in some gaps that



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