

INPS STATE ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES
Island Park Meeting
Sah-Wah-Be Host Chapter

WHEN: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 26, 27, and 28, 2009

WHERE: Buffalo Campground, Group Loop E, Island Park, Idaho.
Island Park is approximately 80 miles northeast of Idaho Falls on Hwy. 20.

Attached to this email are **maps** of the Island Park area to show how to find Buffalo Campground from U.S. Hwy. 20 and the location of the field trip sites.

Group Loop E of Buffalo Campground allows a maximum of 150 occupants and 35 vehicles. There will be plenty of room for all registered and for any latecomers who may still want to attend. There are 16 individual campsites with picnic tables and fire pits. Some have paved parking wide enough and long enough for RVs. Hopefully, tenters and RVers will share those sites. Additionally, a large group area has plenty of room for more tents. Even though there are not tent pads there, the ground is flat and very accommodating for tents. There are six 16-foot-long picnic tables, but they are not covered. If anyone has rain or sun covers (pop-up shelters, rain tarps, etc.) and can bring them, that would be great. We have a way of covering at least two tables at this point. As we all know, we have had lots of rain this month and at this point it is hard to say what the weather will hold that weekend. There is also a volleyball set-up and nice horseshoe pits, and the campground will provide horseshoes and the volleyball equipment.

There are two **bathrooms** with flush toilets and a dirty water container as well as two large garbage bins.

The Island Park area has been deemed "**Bear Country**" this year. This campground does not have bear-proof containers, so they do have some rules that must be followed:

- 1- No coolers left out at night.
- 2- No toiletries or food in the tents.
- 3- No food in the fire pits. Barbeques can be left out but food should be completely burned off.

Lock valuables in your cars and **lock your cars** if you are leaving them unattended (have had vandalism).

If you have **firewood** and can bring it, do so. You can buy firewood, but there is not a lot accessible to just pick up in the campground.

Because of all of the rivers, creeks, and lakes, there are lots of **mosquitoes** this time of year at Island Park. Plan to bring good repellent so that you can enjoy all of the outings.

Bring sturdy shoes, hat, layered clothing for rain or sun, suntan lotion, flashlight and any thing else that may make your stay more enjoyable.

The campground has been rented for Thursday through Sunday nights. If you want to come on Thursday, please do; INPS is footing the **camping fees** for Thursday through Saturday night. The Sunday night fee will be shared by those who wish to camp overnight Sunday.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, HARRIMAN RANCH HISTORIC TOUR (4:00–7:30 pm)

Brief History: In 1880, Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) officials formed the Oregon Short Line Railroad to give the UPRR a transcontinental connection with Portland, Oregon. In 1898, wealthy railroad officials purchased the Thurburn (Thurmon) Ranch homestead. The official title of the property became "The Island Park Land and Cattle Company." Because of the owners' affiliation with the railroad, the ranch was nicknamed "Railroad Ranch" and was a favorite vacation spot of

the Harriman and Guggenheim families. Subsequently the area was deeded to the people of Idaho by Roland Averell Harriman, who stipulated that the park would be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. It was opened as Harriman State Park in 1982.

Wildflowers and wildlife abound, with elk, moose, beaver, muskrats, bald eagles, osprey, trumpeter swans, and other waterfowl frequently seen. Henry's Fork, a world-famous fly-fishing stream, winds through the meadows of Harriman State Park. The park is open year-round for day use only. In winter it is a favorite site for cross-country skiing.

Our annual meeting registration form stated that all who wish to go on the Harriman Historic Tour are to **meet at Buffalo Campground Loop E at 4:00 pm to carpool**. This is because there is a \$4-per-car fee unless the car has an Idaho State Park sticker. If you have the state park sticker and have room for extra people, please email Janet Bala at balajane@isu.edu to let her know how many you can take, so that she can determine how many additional stickers to purchase for others. The distance from Buffalo campground to the Harriman Ranch parking lot is about 10.4 miles. The tour will be led by one of the park rangers starting at 4:30 pm at the "Jones' House." The ranger will show us around the ranch, including inside a few of the buildings, and will tell us the history of the ranch and its previous owner, Roland Averell Harriman. (More questions, call Harriman locally 208-558-7368.) The tour will last about an hour, after which Ruth Moorhead of Sah-Wah-Be Chapter will lead a plant walk in the meadows and riparian area by Henry's Fork. We should be back to the campground about 7:00 pm for the evening's events.

FRIDAY NIGHT, POTLUCK SOUP: (about 7:30 pm)

For anyone interested, we will have a potluck dinner consisting of a pot of shared soup. Everyone please bring a can of soup to add to a large pot of "soup d'jour," as well as your choice of breads, cheeses, sides, or whatever would be good to eat with the soup. If you want to bring your favorite wine, we could have a wine tasting while we are at it! Sah-Wah-Be chapter will supply a large pot for the soup and a cache-cooker for cooking it. After dinner we can build a campfire, as President Janet Benoit is contributing the fixings for **S'Mores!** So bring your marshmallow sticks if you have them.

SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS:

Field Trip 1: Upper Mesa Falls Area (8:30 am – noon)

Janet Bala, State Vice-President and former Local Flora instructor at Idaho State University will lead a nature walk to the Upper Mesa Falls Area. The group will leave from Buffalo Campground at 8:30 am and should be returning to the campground between 12:00-12:30 pm. Mesa Falls is approximately 26 miles from the Buffalo campground, about 30 minutes by car. From Hwy 20, Scenic Byway 47 leads to Mesa Falls Recreation Area, owned by the US Forest Service and co-managed with Harriman State Park. As there is a \$5.00 per car entrance fee, we again should try to carpool. The good thing is that those who pay that fee there won't have to pay another at Harriman State Park for the dinner and meeting Saturday night. Mesa Falls Recreation Area offers views of the power and beauty of the Upper and Lower Falls of the Henry's Fork. We will likely see osprey, peregrine falcons, and eagles nesting in the area. Paved walkways and wooden stairs make viewing safe for all. An interpretive center houses exhibits of the geology, river ecosystem, and plants and animals of the area. There are several improved hiking trails in the area.

Field Trip 2: Sawtelle Peak (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm)

Rose Lehman, USFS Caribou-Targhee botanist, grew up in this area of Idaho and will lead a trip to Sawtelle Peak. The group will leave from Buffalo campground at 1:00 pm and should return around 5:00 pm. The time frames of Trip 1 and Trip 2 do not overlap and thus would allow those who are interested to do both. From Buffalo Campground the Sawtelle Peak cut-off road is north about 7.0 miles on Hwy 20. After turning west (left) onto the Sawtelle Peak road you will travel approximately 13 miles, winding upward 3,440 feet in elevation to the top of the peak. Elevation at the top is 9,866 ft. The view from up there is spectacular!

The road up Sawtelle Mountain provides an opportunity for many people to enjoy a drive up from valley sagebrush meadows to an alpine peak with views of the Island Park caldera, Island Park Reservoir and Henry's Lake. Two or three stops along the road and at the peak will allow botanizing within different plant communities (e.g., lodgepole, subalpine, whitebark pine, alpine and tall forb). Where participants will spend most of our time will depend on the weather, snowline, and the best elevation for the flowers - which will be abundant. **Safety First:** The Sawtelle road is well maintained to provide access to a radar facility at the peak. The road receives a lot of recreational traffic and is a climb. Please carpool with drivers who feel comfortable on a road with a grade and intimidating views. Be sure that you safely park when stopping to view wildflowers along the way and stay mindful that other drivers are on the road. The peak is at a high elevation and exposed, so be prepared for sudden changes in the weather and chilly, windy weather even during the summer months. This year, we will find snow lingering in places. Water to drink and a warm jacket are recommended. Check these websites for more information: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/intermountain/SawtellPeak/index.shtml> and http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/ashton_island_park/.

Field Trip 3: Henry's Lake and Flat Ranch (9:00 am – ca. 2:30 pm)

Wendy Velman, BLM botanist and candidate for next state president of INPS, will lead a field trip surrounding the famous Henry's Lake and also a side trip to The Nature Conservancy's Flat Ranch. The trip will start from Buffalo campground at 9:00 am and should end back at the campground between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. This trip will include driving from site to site and easy walking. The trip will be in the riparian areas, so come prepared to possibly get wet and deal with mosquitoes. A few rare plants might be spotted along the way. Bring a lunch and water, because the trip will last from 5 to 6 hours. Websites with more information: <http://www.free-press.biz/Island-Park/attractions.html>; <http://www.free-press.biz/Island-Park/Henrys-Lake.html>; <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/idaho/preserves/art8967.html>.

SATURDAY NIGHT CATERED DINNER , SPEAKER, BUSINESS MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS at Harriman State Park Boys House: (5:00 pm ~ 10:00 pm)

Saturday night events will start at 5:00 pm at "The Boys House" in Harriman State Park. All need to **park in the parking lot and walk** down the trail less than ¼ mile to the Boys House. (Bring your flashlights for the walk out.)

The **catered dinner** will start at 6:00 pm and is being catered by Grandpa's Southern BBQ from Idaho Falls, Idaho. The menu consists of Bar-B-Q chicken and pork loin, coleslaw, baked beans, and broccoli casserole. Dessert will be provided by members from the Sah-Wah-Be chapter. The caterers will serve coffee and water and it is ok to have alcohol, so you may bring whatever you like to drink. **We can no longer take reservations for the dinner but you can still come and attend the talk by Jennifer Whipple and the Annual business meeting afterward.** At 7:30 pm our guest speaker, **Jennifer Whipple, Yellowstone National Park botanist**, will address "Where the Ash Falls; from the Idaho Snake River Plains to the Yellowstone Hotspot: Rare Plants in the Yellowstone" and will include a PowerPoint presentation.

Jennifer began her Yellowstone Park career as a seasonal naturalist/interpreter during the summers of 1974 and 1975. After finishing her Master's degree at Humboldt State University, she went back to the Park to work in the herbarium and then as a biological technician for the research office. In 1993 she officially became the park's botanist and has been living in the park ever since. Jennifer will be talking about some of the rare plants as well as endemics found in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Yellowstone's flora is generally typical of the Central Rocky Mountains, although the geothermal systems found in the Park add an unusual component to the vegetation found throughout the Greater Yellowstone area. With her vast experience and years of working in the Park, we are sure to be educated as well as entertained and eager to go to the Park ourselves.

At approximately 8:30 pm, the INPS **annual business meeting and election of officers** will commence and will conclude the evening.

SUNDAY INPS BOARD MEETING: (8:00 am ~ 9:45 am)

The quarterly INPS board meeting will start at 8:00 am at the Island Park Ranger Station (approximately .3 miles from the campground). We will have conference call capabilities and a speaker phone. The board meeting should be over in plenty of time for everyone to participate in the float trip or the field trip into Yellowstone Park.

SUNDAY FLOAT TRIP – BIG SPRINGS STRETCH OF THE HENRY'S FORK: (10:30 am ~ 1:30 pm) **Please note the float trip is full**

Ruth Moorhead, instructor for Sawtooth Science Institute, and **Rose Lehman**, botanist, will be your tour guides for a 2-3 hour float down the Big Springs stretch of the Henry's Fork River. Floaters should get on the water by about 11:30 am to avoid the afternoon winds. Plan to leave the campground by 10:30 am if you have your own boat. If you are planning to rent canoes or other boats from Mack's Inn, be advised that they do not do reservations, so you will need to secure your rental that morning, and it is first-come/first-served. (Canoes are \$29.00 for the float.) The rental includes oars and life jackets, and they will shuttle your boats to the Big Springs drop-off area but only 10 boats at a time and on a first-come-first-serve basis. If you don't have your own canoe or you are not an experienced boat-person, you may want to consider joining the Field Trip to Yellowstone.

SUNDAY FIELD TRIP TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK: (10:30 am ~ ?)

Jennifer Whipple, with help from **Wendy Velman** and **Janet Bala**, will lead a field trip into Yellowstone National Park. The group will carpool and leave the campground after the Board meeting (about 10:00 am). Again, there are fees to go into the Park, but Park entrance is free if you have a Golden Age Passport, Golden Eagle or the equivalent, such as the Interagency Annual Pass, Interagency Senior, Interagency Access, and will apply to all the passengers in the car. So, if you have one of these, be sure to bring it. Jennifer plans to take us on a trail called Cougar Meadows located about 7 miles from the West Yellowstone Park entrance. We will enjoy the Madison River, meadows, Douglas fir forest, and talus slopes. There will be time after the botanizing trip to continue further into the Park to visit Old Faithful and other geyser basins, the many paint pots, Yellowstone Lake and Falls, or to drive up to Mammoth to see the terraced terrain and to visit the Park Museum. Along the way you may see bears, elk, bison, and perhaps even wolves, if you're lucky! Remember that our group site in Buffalo Campground is available for Sunday night camping if you want to spend the day in Yellowstone and then come back and camp overnight.

Sah-Wah-Be Chapter is excited to be hosting this year's annual meeting to show off "our" part of Idaho. We are looking forward to meeting new friends and reacquainting ourselves with

members from all over Idaho. We believe that everyone will enjoy the scenery and the many wildflowers and native flora in this area. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call or email Janet Bala (208-235-1352, balajane@isu.edu), or any of the other committee members.

See you all soon!

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE: Janet Bala, Chairperson (235-1352, 317-3824); Linda Johnson (Sah-Wah-Be President, 716-0218); Wendy Velman (221-8170, 709-2381); Barbara and Mel Nicholls; Rose Lehman; Ruth Moorhead; Pauline Havens; Catalina Steckbauer