



# Nag News

## Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen

In Partnership With



Volume 47

October 2020

Issue 10

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### BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN MISSION STATEMENT

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness areas.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government, state and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new back country horsemen's organizations.
6. To cooperate with other B.C.H.A. organizations.



**DEADLINE FOR THE  
Nov 2020 NAG NEWS is  
5 p.m. Nov 11, 2020**

**SUBMIT YOUR  
ARTICLES AND ADS TO:**

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\*To improve accuracy please  
confirm all ads by deadline date.

### *A Message from Our President*

#### Greetings Members:



I feel so proud to be a member of our chapter and our spirit to accomplish all we have this year. Considering all the concerns around the Covid outbreak, we are proud to report another productive trail maintenance season. Almost 67 miles of trail were maintained. We provided 151 miles of stock support, carrying 1185 pounds of goods. Areas in and around trailheads and horse camps were cleaned, as well as tree and brush removal from trails and water bar repairs. Thanks to our project leaders Jan Bullock, Dan Brandborg, Ed and Christy Duggan, Julie Schram and Joe Kirkland and to all that participated in these important projects. We have already started planning for next season. If you have ideas about trail work that is needed or new trails to consider, please let Dan Brandborg or Lionel Lavallee know. We will be meeting with the Forest Service in early 2021 as we plan the upcoming season.

For those that turned in their RTP information, \$4,000 will be coming back to those individuals.

You have seen that we are moving to virtual general membership and board meetings. Attendance at in-person meetings during the last few months has been very low compared to our pre-Covid in-person meetings. I encourage your participation because we have important business to conduct. The Zoom platform chosen by your Board will permit virtual voting on items including the November election of officer and directors. We will be posting instructions for logging into these meetings on Facebook and in the Newsletter each month. Remember you must participate in the meetings to vote and have a say in our business. Please watch for these meeting instructions.

Gene Merrell, president

COMMITTEE	CHAIRS AND MEMBERS	CONTACT
<b>Audit</b>	Nancy Pollman	406-546-6492
<b>Budget</b>	Candace Erickson	
<b>Audio-Visual Equipment</b>	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
<b>Election &amp; Nominations</b>	Katie Williams	531-0688
<b>Equipment &amp; Inventory</b>	Chris Grove	381-7600
<b>Fair</b>	Bill Black/Mark DeGrazier	363-6834/777-1234
<b>Fundraisers</b>	Ed Bullock	907-575-7878
<b>RTP Grant Committee</b>	Lionel Lavallee	640-1242
<b>Historian</b>	Laura McManus	642-3018
<b>Issues</b>	Lionel Lavallee	406-640-1242
<b>Memberships</b>	Kathy Stroppel-Holl	961-0096
<b>Newsletter</b>	Lionel Lavallee	640-1242
<b>Packing Clinic Scholarship</b>	Chuck Miller	961-5453
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Rebecca Jones	415-264-5457
<b>Programs</b>	Philip & Pam Torgerson	360-4933/360-3201
<b>Projects</b>	Dan Brandborg/Lionel Lavallee	381-5643/640-1242
<b>Social Marketing</b>	Susan Slempe	821-2017/381-5910
<b>Sunshine</b>	Cindy Beck	360-1165
<b>Trail Rides</b>	Jan Bullock	907-242-9853
<b>Training</b>	Bonnie Morgan	381-9021
<b>Education Committee</b>	Ed Duggan & Christy Schram-Duggan	369-3140/360-5947
<b>Website Design</b>	Nancy Pollman	406-546-6492

### **Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen 2020 Officers & Board**

<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
Gene Merrell 208-310-6326	Dan Brandborg 381-5643	Christy Schram-Duggan 360-5947	Sandra O'Brien 907-529-1315

#### **Directors:**

Ed Bullock (2020-21) 907-575-7878	Lionel Lavallee (2019-20) 640-1242
Jan Bullock (2019-20) 907-242-9853	Mike Costanzo (2020-21) 375-1340
Ed Duggan (2019-20) 406-369-3140	Julie Schram (2020-21) 961-2457
Joe Kirkland (2020) 802-2286	Dan Maiyo (2020-21) 208-940-2887
Tim Meyer (2019-20) 907-440-0841	

**Past President:** Karen Philips 406-961-0101    **State Chairman:** Sherri Lionberger 208-691-6218

**State Directors:**    Chuck Miller (2018-20) 961-5453  
Lionel Lavallee (2020-21) 640-1242

**Alt State Director:**    Taylor Orr (2020) 930-5838

## OCTOBER BRBCH MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

October meeting will be held virtually @ 7pm through **Zoom**. See Emails, which provide guidance. Also, a dry run virtual meeting is set up for Tuesday, for those individuals who may be new to Zoom or just want to brush up a little.

**Program Speaker:** None

Editor's  
Note....

**Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and social distancing rules**, there will not be a printed, mailed version of the September issue of Nag News. If you are aware of a fellow member who doesn't have Internet access, please print up the web version for their benefit.

Thanks, from your editorial staff.



## ST. JOHN'S WORT SPREADING RAPIDLY IN RAVALLI COUNTY

Ravalli County Weed District

St. Johnswort is a rapidly spreading weed in Ravalli County, primarily on the west side of the valley. The Ravalli County Weed District works hard to educate our landowners on how to control this noxious weed on their own property. Here is some great information about this noxious toxic plant.

St. John's wort, also known as "common St. Johnswort", "Klamath weed", "common goatweed", and "tipton weed." It prefers poor dry, gravelly, or sandy soil in full sun. It can be found primarily in right-of-ways, roadsides, meadows, dry



pastures, rangelands, fields, open woods, waste places, and disturbed ground.

The perennial, upright forb typically grows one to two feet tall with numerous stems and somewhat woody at the plants base. Stems are reddish in color and can be single or multiple with two opposite longitudinal ridges. The stems can branch many times towards the top of the plant.

Leaves are lance-shaped, opposite on the stem, and on

to two inches long with smooth margins. Each leaf contains tiny pinpoints of holes which are visible when held up to the light. Flowers are yellow and star-shaped with five petals. Tiny black dots can be found along the edges of the petals. Those tiny black dots are the black oil glands. Flowers are found in clusters at the ends of the stems and are one inch or less in diameter. Seeds are three sectioned pods filled with many dark brown seeds. Each plant can produce up to 100,000 seeds. St. Johnswort reproduces by an aggressive root system and by seeds.

The sticky seed capsules can be dispersed short distances by wind and longer distances by water and adhering to humans and animals. First year the plant does not produce flowers or seeds, and it may take two to several years to reach maturity. Flowering occurs from late spring through autumn. The seeds germinate throughout the spring and summer or following autumn rains. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for several years.

St Johnswort is native to Asia, Europe, and northern

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Africa. The plant was introduced to the United States on multiple occasions by European settlers interested in the plant's medicinal properties. It is believed that the weed escaped cultivation in Pennsylvania in 1793. St Johnswort was established in many western states by the early 1900s. This plant is toxic to livestock when consumed and especially light-colored skinned animals. It can cause light sensitivity, as well. St. Johnswort is on the state weed list as a Priority 2B.

Management tools are limited: Hand pulling will cause the remaining roots to grow and spread and create new plants. However very small infestations can be controlled by hand-pulling and digging, done diligently throughout the year and for up to 10

years. Pulled plants should be burned to destroy the seeds and root system. Mowing is ineffective because it will not sufficiently stress the plant. Tillage will not work; it will spread the plant further. If you are considering herbicides to treat the St. Johnswort, or have any questions about St. Johnswort or other noxious weeds please contact the Ravalli County Weed District at 777-5842.

### **Donate to BRBCH just by shopping at Amazon Smile**

Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen has been issued a donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation. Once per year, the AmazonSmile Foundation issues donations to all registered organizations that have earned donations, even if the donation amount is below the \$5 minimum.

We can increase donations for Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen by reminding you, our supporters to do your Amazon shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). If you're a first time shopper to Smile, simply go to the link, sign in with your amazon password, and select "Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen" as your charity.

### **FROST ON PASTURES**

Horse owners should take precautions when grazing pastures after the first killing frost. Frost damaged pasture species can have higher concentrations of nonstructural carbohydrates, leading to an increase in the potential for founder and colic, especially for horses diagnosed with EMS, PSSM, laminitis, obesity or Cushings. To reduce the chances of adverse health effects, we recommended horse owners wait one week before turning horses back onto a pasture after the first killing frost.

Info and picture shared from University of Minnesota Equine Extension Program.





### Roast Grouse with Crimini-Portabello Cream Sauce

*For all you Upland Bird  
hunters out there.*

#### Ingredients

##### Grouse:

- 4 grouse, dusky, blue, or ruffed
- 4 Tbsp. butter, softened
- 8 strips bacon

##### Sauce:

- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 20 oz. Crimini and Portobello mushrooms, trimmed and sliced thin
- 1 shallot, minced
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 3 sprigs thyme
- 12 cup cream
- 1 Tbsp. bourbon
- 1 Tbsp. fresh thyme leaves, chopped
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### Instructions

1. **PREPARE YOUR GROUSE:** Trim off the wing tips, tail, and pull out the feathers against the grain. Pluck all feathers from your grouse, and use a lighter or torch to singe off the remaining down on the skin. Gut your birds, rinse thoroughly, and then pat dry with a paper towel. You can also skin as part of general field prep and ignore most of this.
2. **ROAST YOUR GROUSE:** Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Rub each bird with softened butter. Salt and pepper, especially inside the body cavity. Wrap 2-3 bacon slices around each grouse, depending on how big your birds and bacon slices are. If your bacon doesn't stay in place, tie it with butcher's twine. Set each bird in a roasting pan. Roast in the oven until the grouse is browned and bacon is crisping, about 25 minutes. Remove to a plate and let rest, covered loosely in tinfoil, while you make the sauce. Resting your birds is critical to the proper distribution of the juices within the meat.
3. **MAKE YOUR SAUCE:** Melt 2 Tbsp. butter in a large pan over medium-high heat. Add the sliced mushrooms and a dash of salt and sauté, stirring



frequently, until the mushrooms release the majority of their moisture and begin to smell fragrant. This should only take about 5 minutes. Reduce the heat to medium and add the minced shallot. Sauté until softened, and until most of the moisture has gone out of the pan, about 4 minutes. Add the chicken stock and thyme sprigs and simmer until the liquid is reduced by half. Pour in the cream and bourbon and simmer until the sauce thickens. Should take about 3-5 minutes.

4. **SERVE IT UP:** Spread the sauce onto your plates, and rest a grouse in the

**Minutes  
Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen  
General Membership Meeting  
September 17, 2020**

**&**


**Minutes  
Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 1, 2020**

**Due to time constraints and new meeting format, minutes for the past General and Board Meetings will be included in the October Virtual Meeting for the General Membership**

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# Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen



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## **NEXT BRBCH MEETING**

**Thursday, October 15th**

**Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting at 7:00**

