



History of
Chatcolab: Northwest Leadership Laboratory
1949 - 2014
An Idaho Non-Profit Corporation

Chatcolab: Northwest Leadership Laboratory Overview:

2014 is the 66th year for this Idaho based Leadership Laboratory and non-profit corporation. It is focused on leadership education in a natural setting using recreation as a framework. It serves the 13 western states. Chatcolab is a blend of the recreation laboratory idea that was born in the early thirties at Walden Woods, Michigan and an older model for education the "Chautauqua" from New York. It is dynamic, yet slow paced and fosters contemplative, as well as, experiential learning. Originally for individuals 16 and older, it now includes families, so adult leaders can bring children and grandchildren, neighbors, or friends who wish to learn leadership. Concurrent adult and youth programs are offered. All participants experience lifelong learning in a natural and 'positive' atmosphere of sharing philosophies, humor, knowledge, and ideas.

This lab developed as a vision shared by "out westerns" from Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana who had attended Black Hills Recreation Laboratory in 1948. Their vision has been richly sustained by many labbers over the years, notably Vernon Burlison, Extension Forester in the Colleges of Forestry [Now the College of Natural Resources] & Agriculture at the University of Idaho and Don Clayton, a Presbyterian minister from Moscow Idaho.

Chatcolab History

From 1949 to 2014 a Northwest Leadership Laboratory has been held primarily in Idaho. Oregon and Washington State have hosted three labs. Each lab is unique! It is planned, organized and implemented annually by volunteer non-profit board members & leaders from the western United States & Canada using a modified Chautauqua type format. The most important idea which has brought so much enthusiasm out of so many people for 66 years can be experienced in one word – **SHARING**.

Planning meetings for a Northwest Recreation Laboratory started in 1948 by a committee from Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana. The first formal Lab was held at Heyburn State Park on Lake Chatcolet in Idaho in 1949. Created in 1908, Heyburn State Park is the oldest park in the Pacific Northwest. Towering ponderosa pines give way to flower-filled meadows and placid waters. Visitors can enjoy the peaceful serenity of cottages, cabins and campsites and admire the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps who built many buildings within the park in the 1930s. The name Chatcolab is derived from the name of the lake and the fact that this is a



66th Annual Leadership Laboratory, June 14 -20, 2014

laboratory situation. The lab was held at the Hayburn Youth/4-H Camp from 1949 to 1975. Chatcolab still embraces the Pacific Northwest pioneer spirit, Chautauqua, and Walden woods ideas inspired by its' first Chairman, Don Clayton a Presbyterian Minister from Moscow, Idaho.

This Northwest learning lab has never been by or for specialists. It has been an effort to stimulate and enthuse a community of learners by exposure to best recreation and leadership methods and ideas. Stress has been placed on learning by participation and encouragement. The sharing of duties is encouraged whenever possible by having lab in a camp site situation where duties and problems made practical application of chore sharing a necessity. Leaders have been chosen very often, not as true experts in their fields, but rather as guides to help other leaders on the way. The "Spirit" of Chatcolab is: Knowledge, Philosophy, Ideas, Humor and Sharing.

A balanced mix of recreational professionals, academic experts, support staff, and youth volunteers always makes for the best lab and stimulating interaction. Over the years Western Cooperative Extension Directors and 4-H have used this leadership lab for the professional development for volunteers, staff and faculty. Girl Scouts, Parks & Recreation, Corrections Systems and Senior Center Program directors also have come to this lab from across the west. If you are a leader you are invited!

Chatcolab is a Western Chautauqua and Recreational Leadership Laboratory. A Chautauqua is an adult education movement in the United States, highly popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Chautauqua assemblies expanded and spread throughout rural America in the Mid-1920s. The Chautauqua brings entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers and specialists of the day. Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt is quoted as saying that Chautauqua is "the most American thing in America."

Chautauqua stands out among the residential, independent adult centers for learning in the Nation. Founded in 1874 at what is now Chautauqua Lake, New York, its origin and growth are part of the history of adult education. Now over 100 years old it continues to draw adults and families to summer programs with their emphasis on culture, education and recreation (Atwood 1970). Chautauqua plays a unique educational role today, offering studies on a vacation level, a more serious level and a professional level. In addition, there are enhanced learning opportunities within Chautauqua's other programming. Music, the arts, religion, recreation and the pursuit of knowledge are all available. Younger and older students often share learning experiences in an open, congenial atmosphere. Children and young people are also provided with their own special programs.



66th Annual Leadership Laboratory, June 14 -20, 2014

The Chatcolab lab founders were also influenced by David Henry Thoreau of Concord, Massachusetts. Who taught school intermittently from 1837-1841. Thoreau is best known for his book *Walden* (1854); which expounded the doctrine of simplification - his ability to "live off the land" on Walden Pond for two years. Thoreau's profound respect for nature and *Walden* indirectly inspired the "naturalist/environmentalist" movement and J.R. Crouse to create his Utopian community *Walden Woods* in Hartland, Michigan. In 1931 Mr. Crouse conceived the plan for the Hartland Area Project. The objective was to bring the privilege of music, drama, handicrafts, library service, health and welfare work to the residents of the rural area surrounding Hartland. The Hartland Area Project is one of many evidences of J. Robert Crouse's whole-hearted philanthropy. His faith in humanity and his desire for the enrichment of life has endowed the Hartland Area with the Cromaine (District) Library, the Music Hall, Walden woods, Community Life newspaper, and in earlier days the Hartland Area Crafts. Chatcolab becomes a Hartland Community for one week each year.

From 1976 - 2003 the lab was sited at Washington State University Camp Roger Larsen, near Worley, Idaho until it was sold to the Couer D' Alene Tribe in 2003. The camp was named for former director Roger C. Larson, a long-time WSU physical education faculty member. Over the years it has served as a camp for youth with handicaps, leadership development and for teacher training. WSU's College of Education had managed the camp since 1955. Many WSU, University of Idaho, Montana State University and Oregon State University faculty, staff, and students, as well as, 4-H Volunteers. Many adults and children from throughout the Pacific Northwest participated in learning & leadership activities at this site. Several service clubs, non-profits, including Chatcolab and other community organizations were uniquely associated with the camp for over 20 years, contributing materials and many hours of volunteer time annually.

From 2005-2014 Chatcolab has been held at Twinlow Camp & Retreat Center, a camping and retreat ministry of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is located on pine-covered grounds on glistening Lower Twin Lake approximately 5 miles north of Rathdrum, Idaho. Twin Lakes are two fresh water mountain lakes connected by a shallow, narrow channel. Twinlow, a camp and retreat center " A camp for all seasons", is a ministry of the United Methodist churches of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. It exists to promote the mission of the church and encourage education, recreation and community for children, youth and adults. Twinlow offers opportunities for individuals and groups of diverse abilities, racial and cultural backgrounds. For more information go to: <http://www.twinlowcamp.org/>



66th Annual Leadership Laboratory, June 14 -20, 2014

The first Recreation Laboratories ("Rec Labs") were formed in the 1940's and 50's by those involved in recreation leadership who discovered that sharing of ideas and methods could be best accomplished through practical hands on experience as opposed to classroom teaching. Over the years, dozens of Rec Labs have been formed and disbanded throughout the country. Today, a handful remain, including Chatcolab. Chatcolab is closely associated with Black Hills Recreational Leadership Laboratory with many of our labbers sharing resources and experiences annually. Redwood Recreational Leadership Laboratory and Great Lakes Recreational Leadership Laboratory have also contributed speakers and members over the years.

Purpose of Chatcolab: Northwest Leadership Laboratory¹

Chatcolab, Incorporated exists for the sole purpose of assisting leaders of youth and adult groups to develop their individual leadership abilities. The primary means of accomplishing this purpose is to hold an annual leadership development laboratory in a camping situation. The objective of the laboratory is to provide instruction, guidance and inspiration in an atmosphere that is made conducive to the development of the individual's leadership abilities through sharing ideas, knowledge and humor, with friendly concern.

Philosophy of Chatcolab: Northwest Leadership Laboratory

Chatcolab Leadership Laboratory is designed as a stimulating experience for people who are interested in learning how to lead recreation in fun and exciting ways. This is a unique experience for youth leaders, senior center staff, youth development professionals (teachers, students, Extension, and 4-H), church leaders, camp counselors, ANYONE!! The Lab is a group living experience in which there is an exchange of ideas and techniques in the field of leadership and recreation. The lab is a retreat from daily routine. Group unity flows as individuals develop together in work and play. Major emphasis is placed in joy and fellowship. New knowledge and abilities gained through the sharing of creative activities lead to mental, emotional and spiritual growth. As a result of lab experience individuals recognize opportunities for good living...By Sharing One's Self Freely.

The Spirit of Chatcolab: Northwest Leadership Laboratory

- This is a sharing camp, with no distinctions of leaders from campers, pupils from teachers.
- This is a fellowship separated from any sponsoring institution and self-perpetuating by some process of democracy.
- Goals must be for the enrichment of life and not merely to add skills and information to already busy folk.
- This recreation Laboratory would invite attendance from diverse vocations and never seek uniformity for its campers.
- Those who gather assume cooperation in complete sharing as a way of life.

¹ Constitution of Chatcolab, Incorporated, an Idaho Non-profit Corporation, as amended 2008
August 4, 2014

Goals for 2014 Chatcolab

- A. For all Chatcolab participants to gain new knowledge and leadership abilities through the sharing of creative activities that lead to mental, emotional and spiritual growth.
- B. For all Chatcolab participants to experience, gain skills and a greater awareness of our 2014 theme "**Chatcolab In Bubbling Over**" in their own lives, in their family and in their communities
- C. For all Chatcolab participants to enrich their lives, using all aspects of the camping facility, especially the natural environment.

Objectives of 2014 Chatcolab²

Objectives of Chatcolab Incorporated:

1. To bring together people of various ages, from numerous backgrounds to work together in cultivating their leadership skills through recreation
2. To provide the time, space and resources in order to attain the goals of the membership.

Objectives for All Lab, In Depth, Keynote and Mini Workshop Resource Presenters:

3. To focus on the natural resource and practical science aspects in materials, instruction and delivery.
4. To present material/information to labbers in manageable form so they can "pass it on" to others.
5. To use a variety of media for presentation to meet the diverse abilities of the labbers.
6. To provide a pleasurable atmosphere for learning experiences (have fun!).
7. To give labbers an opportunity to show individuality.

Objectives for Labbers:

8. To develop and learn five new skills during the annual Chatcolab experience.
9. To understand the data/information presented and be able to demonstrate or implement it to at least one other group during the year.
10. To gain new knowledge and leadership abilities through the sharing of ideas that lend to mental, emotional, and spiritual growth.
11. To share the Chatcolab philosophy of knowledge, humor, ideas with each other.

² Approved by Chatcolab Board of Directors July 2004; Revised and Approved July 2005, Boise, Idaho; Amended Certified by the Idaho Secretary of State, July 2009

Chatcolab Overview

Chatcolab is a blend of the recreation laboratory idea that was born in the early thirties at Walden Woods, Michigan and an older model for education the "Chautauqua" from New York. 2009 is the 61st year for this Idaho based leadership laboratory and non-profit corporation. This lab developed out of the College of Forestry at the University of Idaho and a Methodist minister's vision in 1948. It is focused on leadership education in a natural resource setting using recreation as a framework and serves the 13 western states. It is slow paced and reflective....families come with adults who wish to continue their lifelong learning in an atmosphere of sharing.

Summary of Chatcolab History

From 1949 to 2014 a Northwest Leadership Laboratory has been held in Idaho, Oregon or Washington State and chaired by volunteer non-profit board members & leaders from the western United States using a Chautauqua format. The most important idea which has brought so much enthusiasm out of so many people for almost 66 years can be experienced in one word – **SHARING**.

Chautauqua stands out among the residential, independent adult centers for learning in the Nation. Founded in 1874 at what is now Chautauqua Lake, New York, its origin and growth are part of the history of adult education. Now over 100 years old it continues to draw adults and families to summer programs with their emphasis on culture, education and recreation (Atwood 1970). Chautauqua plays a unique educational role today, offering studies on a vacation level, a more serious level and a professional level. In addition, there are enhanced learning opportunities within Chautauqua's other programming. Music, the arts, religion, recreation and the pursuit of knowledge are all available. Younger and older students often share learning experiences in an open, congenial atmosphere. Children and young people are also provided with their own special programs.

Chatcolab is a Western Chautauqua and Recreation Laboratory. A Chautauqua is an adult education movement in the United States, highly popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Chautauqua assemblies expanded and spread throughout rural America in the Mid-1920s. The Chautauqua brings entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers and specialists of the day. Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt is quoted as saying that Chautauqua is "the most American thing in America."



67th Annual Leadership Laboratory, June 13 -29, 2015

Planning meetings for a Northwest Recreation Laboratory started in 1948 by a committee from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. The first formal Lab was held at Heyburn State Park on Lake Chatcolet in Idaho in 1949. The name Chatcolab is derived from the name of the lake and the fact that this is a laboratory situation. Chatcolab embraces a pioneer spirit as Chautauqua and Walden woods of the west inspired by its' first Chairman, Don Clayton a Methodist Minister from Moscow, Idaho

The Chatcolab lab founders were also influenced by David Henry Thoreau of Concord, Massachusetts. Who taught school intermittently from 1837-1841. Thoreau is best known for his book *Walden* (1854); which expounded the doctrine of simplification - his ability to "live off the land" on Walden Pond for two years. Thoreau's profound respect for nature and *Walden* indirectly inspired the "naturalist/environmentalist" movement and J.R. Crouse to create his Utopian community *Walden Woods* in Hartland, Michigan. In 1931 Mr. Crouse conceived the plan for the Hartland Area Project. The objective was to bring the privilege of music, drama, handicrafts, library service, health and welfare work to the residents of the rural area surrounding Hartland. The Hartland Area Project is one of many evidences of J. Robert Crouse's whole-hearted philanthropy. His faith in humanity and his desire for the enrichment of life has endowed the Hartland Area with the Crouse (District) Library, the Music Hall, Walden woods, Community Life newspaper, and in earlier days the Hartland Area Crafts. Chatcolab becomes a Hartland Community for one week each year.

This Northwest learning lab has never been by or for specialists. It has been an effort to stimulate and enthuse a community of learners by exposure to best recreation and leadership methods and ideas. Stress has been placed on learning by participation and encouragement. The sharing of duties is encouraged whenever possible by having lab in a camp site situation where duties and problems made practical application of chore sharing a necessity. Leaders have been chosen very often, not as true experts in their fields, but rather as guides to help other leaders on the way. The "Spirit" of Chatcolab is: Knowledge, Philosophy, Ideas, Humor and Sharing.

A balanced mix of recreational professionals, academic experts, support staff, and youth volunteers always makes for the best lab and stimulating interaction. Over the years Western Cooperative Extension Directors and 4-H have used this leadership lab for the professional development for volunteers, staff and faculty. Girl Scouts, Parks & Recreation, and Senior Center Program directors also presently come to this lab from across the west. If you are a leader you are invited!

History of Chatcolab

The recreation laboratory idea was born in the early thirties at Waldenwoods, Michigan. A meeting had been scheduled for recreation leaders, and all arrived except the people who were to conduct the meeting. A snowstorm prevented their arrival. The group decided to carry on that meeting by exchanging their own ideas and experiences, and developing recreation methods and ideas for their own groups.

They spent several days together before the roads were cleared for them. At the end, in analyzing what had been accomplished, they decided that their method of sharing information, ideas, and techniques had been useful in their. They decided to hold another meeting. The enthusiasm for the "laboratory" method was so great and contagious that others heard about it. Applications came from many people who wished to share this experience with them.

In several years time, the group had grown so large the originators felt that it was necessary to reduce its size. They felt that its maximum usefulness and effectiveness could be obtained only in small groups that could be quickly integrated into sharing situations in a laboratory format. Consequently, they agreed to break up and form other laboratories entirely separate, except in inspiration, from the parent group. Some of these labs made great progress while others were less successful.

One of these labs was Camp Idhuhapi at Loetta, Minnesota, which later became the Northland Recreation Leaders Lab. This in turn was the inspiration for others, one of which was formed by a group principally from Nebraska, North and South Dakota and Montana. Twenty-seven interested people donated a dollar, and with this \$27 a committee planned the first Black Hills Lab to be held in October 1946 at Box Elder Camp in the Black Hills near Nemo, South Dakota. They decided on a fall lab, usually at the end of September, since Northland was held in the spring.

The first Recreation Leaders Laboratory established five principles, which have served as guidelines for nearly all subsequent groups:

1. This should be a sharing camp, with no distinctions between campers or pupils from teachers.
2. This should be a fellowship separated from any sponsoring institution and be self-perpetuating by democratic process.
3. Goals must be for the enrichment of all life not merely to add skills and information.
4. Recreation Leaders Laboratory would invite attendance from diverse vocations and never seek uniformity for its campers.
5. Those who come assume cooperation in complete sharing as a way of life.

Born in the midst of a depression when time was more plentiful than money, through the years when time and money were diverted to other purposes, on to times of economic growth when money was more plentiful than time, and now a period when we have neither time nor money – recreation laboratories have continued to survive.

California. More than a three-year period finally culminated the start of the Redwood Lab.

In May 1956, the top-most section of the Chatcolab Candle, which represents sharing, was presented to Mary, Kay and Carl for the beginning of the new Redwood Lab. A committee was formed in 1955 and the members met at Camp Sylvester (Stanislaus Co. 4-H Camp) November 12-13, 1955 to set the plans and dates for the first Redwood Recreation Laboratory to be held at Camp O-ONGA in Southern California. The lab was canceled one week before it was scheduled to start due to inadequate registration.

Mary Regan and Emily Ronsee returned to Chatcolab in May 1957, bringing their section of the candle with them. It was placed back on the Chatcolab candle and again presented to Mary and Emily at the closing ceremony of Lab. They went back to California more determined than ever for Redwood to become a reality. And so it did! Jones Gulch, south of San Francisco was the location of the first Redwood Lab in April 1958. The sharing section of the Chatcolab candle became the base of the Redwood Candle with a real redwood trunk. Chatcolabbers Walt and Sally Schroeder, and Leila Steckelberg (who made the Redwood Candle at the first lab) went down to help the new lab off to a flying start. There were 43 labbers including staff and resource people that year.

In April 1959, the second lab was held at Mendocino City, with 50 people attending. Not even an Asian flu epidemic, a "fast" trip down a very narrow, rough and crooked mountain road late at night, or a broken collarbone, could dampen the enthusiasm of those attending.

The first two labs were held in the redwoods, but in 1960 the decision was made to hold the lab at Old Oak Youth Camp. It was also there in 1961 where a free will offering was taken to purchase a beautiful piece of gold bearing quartz which Ken Hoach presented to the Chatcolab board in May (to be placed in the new recreation hall fireplace) in appreciation for all the moral and financial help and support that they had given this lab.

Since the center section of our original candle became the base of the Redwood Candle, in 1958 the remaining part was melted down and molded into a new large candle and four small ones to represent "Spirit" of Chatcolab – knowledge, philosophy, ideas, humor and sharing. These, fused together again, are the candles we still use in our ceremonies.

The possibilities of becoming an incorporated group were discussed at the October 1968 board meeting in Moscow, Idaho, with the board accepting the proposal. Vern Burlison was instrumental in getting the corporate matters completed so that on May 15, 1968 during Chatcolab, the articles of incorporation were notarized at St. Maries, Idaho. In 1980 the non-profit status was received from the IRS through the efforts of Betty Schuld.

As can happen in any organization, the plans and expectations were becoming too caught up in the past and "getting into a rut." The "family groups" were getting too strong and activities were based on duties, rather than people. Don Clayton, one of the original planners of Chatcolab, now in Wisconsin, attended the October 1969 planning meeting in

oneself the latent abilities that ones' everyday environment never uncovers. In this discovery anyone can become a better man or woman, a more efficient leader. The wide opportunity to gain manual skills and training experiences, though of lasting value, shall be considered secondary to the foregoing.

The basic objectives were formulated more than 50 years ago and still hold today. "Participants in Chatcolab Recreation Laboratory have the opportunity to uncover, utilize, and share these talents themselves which are perhaps laying dormant by:

1. Getting to know people with similar interests by working together.
2. Encouraging participation in "trying-out" situations.
3. Sharing recreational experiences and skills with both amateurs and professionals.

The basic idea which brought so much enthusiasm out of so many people can be expressed in one word – SHARING. The learning at Lab has never been by or for specialists. It has been an effort to stimulate and enthuse by exposure to methods and ideas. The focus has been on learning by participation and encouragement. The sharing of duties and problems made the practical application of chore sharing a necessity. Leaders have been chosen very often, not as true experts in their fields, but rather as guides to help other leaders on the way.

At Great Lakes Recreation Leaders Laboratory held May 5-10, 1978, at Camp Pinewood on Echo Lake (15 miles east of Muskegon, Michigan) the "true" story of the birth of recreation labs was made known. This story follows:

The many fine Rec Labs now going, held all over the United States, received their inspiration and beginning years ago in Chicago.

Lyn Rohrbaugh, Owen Gree, Chester Dower, and Chester Graham (all ministerial students) decided that the National Recreational Association was not meeting the needs of the churches and other non-professional groups. So they organized the first Educational Recreation Institute held in Chicago in June 1926-27. It was moved to Wheeling, West Virginia in 1928-29. Next it went to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and then to Waldenwoods (near Howell, Michigan) from 1931 through 1934.

As the group grew larger and people became eager to share inspiration, training and fellowship with people in their own localities, it was decided to discontinue the meeting in Waldenwoods and give people an opportunity to start new labs.

The Michigan group met for two years at the Folk School in Grant, Michigan. After that the Michigan area did not have a Lab until Arden Peterson, Marian Hermance, Bernice LaFreniers, Gould Pinney, Ray Lamb and Jim Halm went to the Black Hills Recreation Lab in 1951 and came back with such great enthusiasm that a Great Lakes Recreation Leaders Lab was started at Twin Lakes in 1951.