



CEMETERY PRESERVATION WORKSHOP
Integrating Technology for Montana's Historic Cemeteries.

A three-day workshop focusing on the many technologies available to preserve, restore, and locate burial sites. From light detection and ranging (LiDAR) to ground penetrating radar (GPR), from burial detecting dogs to drone photography, and from archival research to using complex databases, we will showcase it all! Hosted by the **Montana History Foundation**, with generous funding from the National Park Service, this workshop will provide an overview of the many technologies available for cemetery historians and preservationists.

- Where:** Radisson Colonial Hotel
Helena, Montana
- When:** June 21-23, 2018
- What:** One day of classroom sessions &
Two days of hands-on demonstrations and tours
- Who:** Anyone interested in historic cemetery preservation

Cost: \$125 per person / \$65 for students

Register: <https://www.mthistory.org/cemetery-workshop/>.

Registration closes on May 15. ICF will be participating in the field training as well as doing two different presentations, come join us.



Snake Avoidance Training

We have been talking a lot about the training of our dogs in the past newsletters and a few weeks ago we had an unusual training present its self.

The dogs we use for our kind of search work tend to have very strong prey drive. Prey drive along with hunt drive give us the kind of dog that excels at doing detection work. Dogs have a natural interest in prey but we must teach them they cannot chase animals. It seems like a conflict, but we want them to focus their prey and hunt drive to our target scent.

While out setting up a training scenario Lynne E. saw this beauty sunning himself. She carefully caught him and brought him over to our group. I knew just what to do, we emptied a plastic box from one of the cars and placed him in it. We had two young dogs that had never come across a snake. As much of our work is in the wilderness we are always concerned about rattlesnakes. Some of our dogs have gone through rattlesnake avoidance training and also have the rattle snake venom vaccine. Finding a mad Gopher snake was an opportunity we could not miss.

Gopher snakes mimic rattlesnakes by rattling their tail. This snake was not very

pleased that we had disturbed his day. He put on a good performance by rattling his tail, striking along with his very loud hiss. We took each dog up to the box and waited for their natural reaction. All the dogs were clear that they did not want to have anything to do with our mad friend.

We thanked our Gopher snake friend and took him to a nice part of the wilderness and let him go. The great part of having young dogs learn about snakes from a mad Gopher snake is that although they can/will bite, they are not poisonous and cannot seriously harm them. By giving the young dogs the experience of a mad striking snake we hope that when they meet a rattlesnake they will remember their experience. I know the dogs smell the snakes and will avoid them. We have clearly seen that dogs who got to experience a mad snake are more aware and will avoid them. We want to give our young dogs every opportunity to learn the danger without having them harmed. It might save their life some day.

~Adela~



After searching an area with dense poison oak, John gives Kayle a quick rinse after working. This is just the first step, they will not be free of the oils until they are washed with soap. We use Dawn dish soap as it works great to get rid of the oils. Dogs do not get poison oak like we do after they rub up against the plant, but they can transfer the oil to people or other objects.



While we were enjoying our 75°F spring weather days in California, Lynne and Piper had to travel to Indiana to re-cert Piper's FEMA US&R HRD certification. Piper is one of a limited number of FEMA-certified HRD dogs in California that are trained and certified to help locate deceased people after a disaster. Lynne and Piper landed at 5:10pm and, because of a weather front moving in predicting snow, special arrangements were made to test them as soon she arrived. Piper passed, and then they headed off to the hotel to watch the snow from the comfort of their hotel room. Congratulations to both of them on a job well done, hurry back to California and warm up.
~Adela~

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www.ICFK9.org

We are happy to talk to you about your project and how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials. Email or call us.

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