



MONTANA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Public Programs

September 2023

Cosponsored by the Lewis & Clark Library

120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Library's Large Meeting Room

Recordings will be posted on the [MTHS YouTube channel](#)

Thursday, September 7

Thugs and Thuggery:

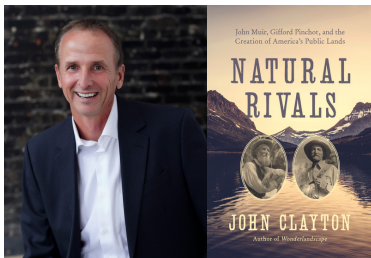
Montana Union Bosses Behaving, Badly?

Presentation by Rich Aarstad



Montana has long held the reputation of being the bastion of organized labor in the Rocky Mountains, seeing the birth of its first union in 1866. Organized labor helped build the Montana we know and love today, but there were some rascals, scoundrels, and criminals along the way. As we commemorate Labor Day, join Rich Aarstad in a romp through a century of Montana labor leaders who were charged with “behaving badly”, and judge for yourself whether they did in fact stray outside the boundaries of law and decency.

Currently serving as State Archivist, Rich Aarstad has worked at the Montana Historical Society since 2001. He earned his M.A. from the University of Montana, focusing on Montana's labor history.



Thursday, September 21

Where Did Our Public Lands Come From?

Presentation and book signing with John Clayton

Although many people today think of public lands as an American birthright, their very existence was at one point in doubt. In honor of Public Lands Day, join John Clayton in discovering an origin story for public lands...one that has a climax in Montana! John will draw on his experience writing *Natural Rivals: John Muir, Gifford Pinchot, and the Creation of America's Public Lands*, and copies of his book will be available for purchase.

An outdoor enthusiast and the author of five books, John Clayton is an independent author, journalist, essayist, and sustainable-business content developer based in Montana.