



THE TRAIL COMPANION

A NEWSLETTER OF LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



Remington Nature Center
of St. Joseph, Missouri pg. 14

From the Superintendent

The Lewis and Clark Trail, A Tapestry of Indian Trails
by Mark Weekley, Superintendent

When I was kid I would go hiking in the woods of Northern Minnesota with my father near where he grew up. He tried to teach me how to find trails and how to distinguish a game trail from an old logging road or from a human trail. I wish I had paid more attention to him, but I was a kid mostly interested in where we were going rather than the path that we followed.

One thing I do remember were his recollections about the trails that he and many others believed were used by American Indians to portage between the Mississippi River and various lakes in the area.

He knew a lot about how game moved through the forest and how a person would have to travel to get from one point to another.



Superintendent Mark Weekley on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, east of Missoula, Montana.

Topography often directed how a person would travel from one place to another.

My dad also grew up with a number of American Indian children who shared what their parents had taught them. I believed what my dad told me was correct and I was awestruck to be on paths that had been used by people for hundreds, if not thousands of years.

I was also a sad to realize that the use of these trails was coming to an end.

Recently, I had a chance to travel to Western Montana and visit camp sites and trails used by the Lewis and Clark Expedition. I was traveling with Dan Wiley, the Trail's Resource Stewardship manager, a group BLM employees, and Dr. Steve Russell, a retired professor from Iowa State University. Dr. Russell has spent more than 20 years trying to determine as precisely as possible where the Expedition traveled and camped. Much of his work has required studying the journals and other documents with great care. This combined with a great deal of time spent on the ground trying to verify what he learned from written/printed sources. He also grew up in this area. Dr. Russell, like my father, understood how people and animals

moved from place to place in the wild. This understanding combined with historic documents and a personal knowledge of the area, allows Dr. Russell to make a very

compelling case about where he believes the Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled and camped.

While it is amazing to walk in the same places that the expedition did, the bigger story for me is that when we do

this we are also walking in the footsteps of Native peoples. Footsteps that did not pass only once or twice in the early 1800s, but countless thousands of times over thousands of years. This does not diminish the impact or importance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, but adds to the richness and helps place the Expedition in a deeper context. This helps me to remember that Lewis and Clark were not blazing a trail where there was none, but were weaving together a route using the roads, paths, rivers and trails that had been used by the American Indians who went before them. I believe one of the many important lessons we can learn from the Lewis and Clark Expedition is to remember and appreciate those who came before us and helped create the path we are traveling on today. ■



Trail sign near Alice Creek on the Helena National Forest.

Trailscapes

Take a Hike (in the Columbia Gorge)!

by Ryan M. Cooper, Geographer

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail visitors can now plan hiking trips in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area using a new interactive 3D-Google Map developed by Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

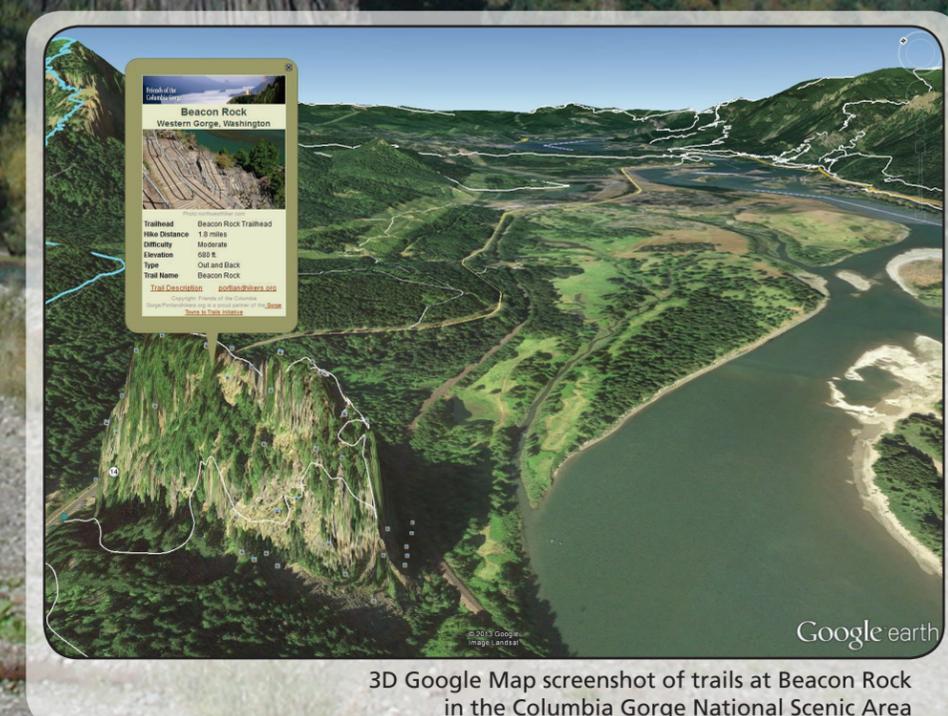
The online map gives users a birds-eye view of the many trails, trailheads, and waterfalls found within the National Scenic Area. The 3D map allows prospective hikers to understand the type of terrain they will encounter in the Gorge. Information boxes display the name of the trail, information on the difficulty level, elevation gain and loss, as well as pictures of the trail and links to more information.

The map was developed after two years of painstaking work in an effort that Kevin Gorman, Executive Director of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge describes as “a labor of love.” Ellen Dorsey, a former Portland

State University student and Geographic Information Systems Intern with the Friends of the Columbia Gorge created the online map using information from land management agencies as well as GPS data collected by hikers. Friends member Jeffrey Mills made the map “web-friendly” and Maegan Jossy, Outdoor Programs Coordinator for the Friends, helped organize data collection from hikers and volunteers.

Staff at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail also played a role in the map’s development by providing trail data and technical support. As Kevin Gorman explains, “Literally hundreds of people have helped on this.” Additional features are planned for the Google Earth map in the future, including information on the status of trails, salmon runs, wildflowers, and waterfall views. ■

Access the 3D Columbia Gorge Trail Map at:
<http://gorgefriends.org/article.php?list=type&type=89>



3D Google Map screenshot of trails at Beacon Rock in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area

On right: Beacon Rock State Park, Washington. Photo courtesy of Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

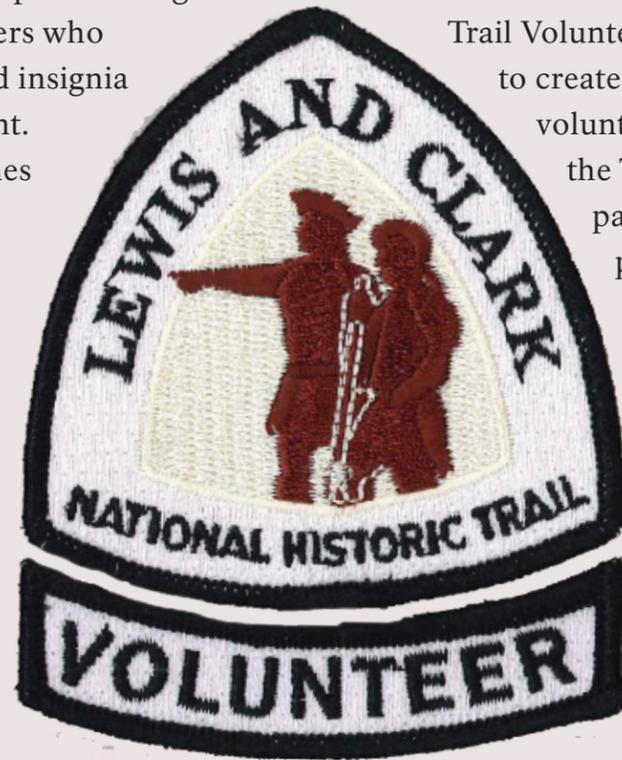
Volunteers-in-Action Trail Volunteer Patch

by Nichole McHenry, Volunteer Program Manager

Volunteering creates a national character in which the community and the nation take on a spirit of compassion, comradeship and confidence.

Brian O'Connell

The National Park Service patch emerged with a group of park rangers who wanted their uniforms and insignia to make a unique statement. Today, embroidered patches are used by government (including uniforms of the military, emergency services and other specialized workers), sport teams and companies in the private sector to denote one's rank, job or specialized unit. Youth, scouting and volunteer groups often wear clothing emblazoned with embroidered patches as their insignia.



The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Volunteer Patch was designed to create a uniform identity for volunteers as they serve along the Trail. The goal of this patch is to strengthen the pride of Trail volunteers, unify and remind them they are working for the mission of the National Park Service, as well as for the goals and vital projects of the organizations for which they are volunteering; reminding them that the work they do in their hometown is part of a nationally significant story that is told by other volunteers who may be

hundreds of miles from them. It is our aim that their work and their identity will be recognized by the visiting public and other Lewis and Clark volunteers as connected to the National Park Service through this patch.

It goes without saying that Trail volunteers play a vital role, not only in teaching and preserving the stories, but also in protecting valuable resources. Designed to appeal to long-time volunteers as well as a new generation of volunteer stewards, the Patch features the iconic symbol of Lewis and Clark pointing west. The Patch expresses the continued gratitude of the National Park Service to you, our partners, and to your volunteers. The patch is a great way to offer recognition, incentive and identity for the valued Trail volunteers. ■



Volunteer George McDanel proudly wearing his patch.
Lewis and Clark State Historic Site, Hartford, Illinois.

Getting the Patch is Easy!

Contact Volunteer Program Manager Nichole McHenry at: (402) 661-1810 or by email at nichole_mchenry@nps.gov.



The Trailhead

A New Designation

by Neal Bedlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Missouri National Recreation River Water Trail designated as a National Water Trail by the U.S. Department of the Interior

The Missouri National Recreation River (MNRR) Water Trail is 147 miles of river between Fort Randall Dam to Sioux City, Iowa. The MNRR Water Trail allows paddlers to experience some of the last natural stretches of America's longest river. The water trail includes wild and scenic stretches of the Missouri River and scenery that Lewis and Clark recorded in their journals more than 200 years ago. The MNRR Water Trail has 27 different access points, each with trailhead signs that provide the paddler with regional information and also interprets the natural and cultural history of the particular segment of the river.

The designation process can be lengthy; it took MNRR nearly one year to complete the application for designation. A water trail committee helped with the 18-page application which highlights that the entire water trail and all the access points meet the national water trail standards. The application also showcased the numerous educational and interpretive programs offered and the river clean-up efforts. When finished the application contained more than 30 letters of support from various partners and supporters.

The MNRR Water Trail committee includes but is not limited to the following active

participants: Missouri River Institute, Missouri National Recreational River-National Park Service, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail - National Park Service, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks; Missouri River Futures; Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Izaak Walton League of America; Sierra Club; and the cities of Yankton and Vermillion, South Dakota.

The U.S. Department of the Interior started designating National Water Trails in 2012. Currently only 14 Water Trails have the national distinction. The MNRR Water Trail is looking to gain some promotion and some additional protection from the designation.

For more information about the National Water Trail designation go to:
<http://www.nps.gov/watertrails/>

For more information about the MNRR Water Trail please visit:
www.mnrrwatertrail.org.

The MNRR Water Trail is the first on the Lewis and Clark NHT to be designated a water trail. If you are interested in learning more about the process and discussing the advantages of the designation please feel free to contact me at neal_bedlan@nps.gov. ■

19th Century Geo Engineers Influence the Course of History

by Jennifer Morrell, Park Ranger

Who would have fathomed that one family, over the course of two centuries, would have such an impact on the economic, political, social, and natural resource status of multiple nations. Their influence, directly and indirectly, spurred westward expansion in North America and their lives served as the most valuable commodity for trade and commerce at that time.

The family is Castoridae, more commonly known as the beaver. Weighing in at 40-60 lbs., the American Beaver is the largest rodent in North America. Its thick and lustrous pelt was sought after by trappers and traders trying to meet a broad demand for felt hats in Europe between the early 1600s and the mid-1800s. Eighty thousand beaver annually were taken from the Hudson River and western New York between 1630 and 1640¹ and by 1838 the species was at the brink of extinction.

John Watson, in the *Annals of Pennsylvania* said this, “Gentlemen’s hats, of entire beaver, universally cost eight dollars.”² - Converted to today’s prices this would be around \$185. It was a fashion item for the elite of Europe while a staple of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery a century later. On April 19, 1805 Captain Lewis wrote in his journal, “The beaver of this part of the Missouri are larger, fatter, more abundant and better clad with fur than those of any other part of the country that I have yet seen...”³

The beaver tail, approximately 16” in length and primarily fat was considered a delicacy to many. But its value extends beyond commerce, trade, and sustenance to the role the species plays as an

extremely efficient geo engineer. Advocates of the Castoridae family praise its ability to: build and maintain wetlands, prevent erosion, raise the water table, create ecosystems that break down toxins and pesticides, and purify water. Others refer to them as pests for: flooding roads, cutting down trees, plugging road culverts and causing flash floods when dams break; yet, their tenacity and diligence is unparalleled.

In fact, the world’s largest beaver dam, in Northern Alberta, Canada, as seen from space in 2010, was 2,790 feet – more than twice the length of the Hoover dam.⁴ The second largest was 2,139 feet located in Three Forks, Montana – the headwaters for the water route of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The American beaver is a fascinating animal, a mover and shaker along the great waterways of our nation. Thankfully its populations have recovered since silk surpassed the demand for felt in the mid-1800s. Today, the 19th century engineer continues his work in the riparian enclaves of America to the amazement and sometimes chagrin of us all. ■

¹Hays, W.J. (Sept 1871). “Notes on the range of some of the animals in America at the time of the whitemen.” *The American Naturalist* 5(7):25-30.

²Watson, John F., *Annals of Pennsylvania*, Vol 1 (1857) Ch. 15-18.

³The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. 2005. U of Nebraska Press / U of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries-Electronic Text Center. 5 Oct. 2005

⁴The Telegraph. May 4, 2010. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/canada/7676300/Worlds-biggest-beaver-dam-can-be-seen-from-space.html> Retrieved July 26, 2014.



Ode to Baby Beaver

by Jennifer Morrell, Park Ranger

Nature's little logger,
An engineer at heart
Whose razor-sharp incisors
Cut Cottonwoods clean apart.

With speed and keen precision
The logs you placed with care
To bade the rivers flow
That proved the perfect snare.

Your tail, like a spade,
Smoothed the mud about the logs
Till the dam held tight together
Like the wheels in a cog

Oh nature's little logger
Your work was so well done
That two-leggeds now strive to replicate it
In the heat of the noonday sun.

The dams upon the Muddy Mo
Will never compare to yours
Nor the sacrifice of your ancestors
Measured in tons of furs.

Today, we lay you down to rest
For your service here is done.

Tomorrow may you paddle best,
In the Creator's river run.

Beaver Bio

- Average life span – 10-12 years
- Monogamous (mates for life)
- Litter of 2-4 kits born annually
- Lives in colonies of several families, approximately 18 animals
- Juveniles remain with the colony for about two years before dispersing
- Can remain submerged for up to 15 minutes
- Swims up to 5mph
- Can chew underwater by creating a tight seal with their lips
- Eyes have nictitating membrane to protect them while open underwater
- Tail is used as a four-way rudder, stores fat, and because it's hairless aids in regulating body temperature
- Hind feet are extensively webbed for swimming, with the claws on the first and second toes split in two for grooming purposes
- Crepuscular (active primarily at dawn and dusk)



Photo by Steve Hersey, Flickr

Remington Nature Center

A Gem on the Lewis & Clark Trail

by Jill Hamilton-Anderson, Education Specialist



Life-sized woolly mammoth exhibit at the Remington Nature Center.

Recently, I visited one of those places on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail that is a local gem, but may not be known outside of that local area. This one is located in St. Joseph, Missouri, or “St. Jo.” A city of approximately 70,000 and the county seat of Buchanan County, it sits along the Missouri River across from Atchison, Kansas to its west, Omaha, Nebraska to its north and Kansas City, Missouri to its south. St. Jo has a developing riverfront area with about 10-miles of greenway along the banks of the

a heavy Cloud and wind from the N W. detained us untill after Sunrise at which time we Set out and proceeded on very well, passed the nemahar which was low and did not appear as wide as when we passed up. Wolf river Scercely runs at all, at 3 P. M we halted a little above the Nadawa river on the S. Side of the Missouri to kill Some meat that which we killed a few days past being all Spoiled. Sent out 6 hunters they killed and brought in two Deer only, we proceeded on a few miles below the Nadawa Island and encamped on a Small Isld. near the N. E. Side, haveing Came 40 Miles only to day, river rapid and in maney places Crouded with Snag's. I observe on the Shores much deer Sign— the [mosquitoes?] are no longer troublesome on the river, from what cause they are noumerous above and not So on this part of the river I cannot account. Wolves were howling in different directions this evening after we had encamped, and the barking of the little prarie wolves resembled those of our Common Small Dogs that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the party believed them to be the dogs of Some boat assending which was yet below us. the barking of those little wolves I have frequently taken notice of on this as also the other Side of the Rocky mountains, and their Bark so much resembles or Sounds to me like our Common Small Cur dogs that I have frequently mistaken them for that Speces of dog— The papaws nearly ripe—. William Clark, Thursday 11th Sepr 1806

The city of St. Joseph understood that this natural abundance wasn't lost and its history is rich. They also believed there was a need to reconnect the citizenry, particularly the young people, to the wonder and awe of the natural world around them and to this history. That is when it endeavored to bring a nature center to the riverfront to benefit future generations and educate them about these things. The Remington Nature Center was born.

mighty Missouri River that attracts a variety of recreation opportunities. This “Riverwalk” connects the downtown area to the more rural and natural areas upriver.

Lewis and Clark passed this area twice and referred to it as St. Michael's Prairie. On the return trip Clark remarked in his journal of the abundance of this area's waterways, deer, and the persistence of the coyote's howl, although at that time he referred to it as a “prairie wolf.”

Mary Robertson, Communications Manager for the city of St. Joseph, and Chuck Kempf, Recreation Programs and Facilities Manager at St. Joseph Parks, Recreation and Civic Facilities, agreed to share this excerpt from their 2011 article about the Remington Nature Center. It illustrates how very special this place is to the community of St. Joseph and as a gem on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

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Remington Nature Center, *continued*

"The nature center features 13,000 square feet of exhibit space, a conference room that accommodates 147, a resource room, laboratory, concession area, gift shop, wildlife viewing area, outdoor river viewing patios, and administrative offices. The basement of the facility provides a significant amount of equipment and material storage space, as well as an area to store and prepare exhibits.



Area students entranced by the exhibits and learning all about nature in their community. Photos courtesy of City of St. Joseph, Missouri.

Encounter a life-sized woolly mammoth and calf as you enter the nature center. Examine rare woolly mammoth bones excavated in Missouri. Observe native Missouri River fish in a 7,000-gallon aquarium, stand shoulder-to-shoulder with a bison, and confront a 600-pound black bear. Kids and kids-at heart can explore a beaver dam, observe a functioning beehive, and gaze out at the Missouri River and native wildlife through the expansive windows. Watch as Missouri animals make tracks in the sand before your eyes; hear the call of the eagle and learn about its habits. Meander through time as you witness how civilization from 10,000

B.C. to the turn of the 20th century has impacted nature. Experience the sights and sounds as you stroll city streets in the mid-1800s. Learn revolutionary farming techniques used by Native Americans in the Mississippian Period; see how pottery was first made during the Woodlands Period; camp in the fur trapper tent and shop for goods in the trader cabin. Imagine how early-man made spear points and stone tools during the days of the woolly mammoth, as you observe more than 1,200 Native American artifacts unearthed right here in the Midwest. Stop by the theater and see a production of *Westward Migration*, as it recounts the story of the California Gold Rush and journeys west to Oregon. Listen to the story of the Sunbridge and the Sacred Hills.

The nature center showcases the Missouri River and its force in the development of northwest Missouri, as it relates to travel, transportation and trade. During your visit, you will learn the impact humans have had on the landscape and environment while exploring what you can do to make a positive impact on the world.

Outside, stand on the banks of the **Mighty MO (Missouri River)** and get lost in the westward migration or the exploration of **Lewis and Clark**.

Stroll down Riverwalk, learning about area history and nature on information signage. Head south to make your way to downtown St. Joseph, stopping first by the developing Living History Preserve that, when completed, will depict the history of the area in a natural setting. The north section of the Riverwalk will take you to Heritage Park

Softball Complex, where you can catch a high-energy national championship or kick-back recreational game of slow pitch. Look to the east toward the sacred hills of the Loess Hills Bluffs. The Native Americans used this area of peace for treaty-making, healing of the wounded, and passing into the afterworld. Spend an afternoon identifying the native trees or wandering through the gardens at the nature center's outdoor exhibits. Explore butterfly rain gardens, a



hummingbird rain garden, a sensory garden, wetlands and a geological walk-through. The Remington Nature Center of St. Joseph offers both educational and interactive programs on animal/wildlife education and cultural programs that feature Native

As we learn of places like the Remington Nature Center, we like to share them with our Trail audience. Consider these sites your cousins, as they are all part of the greater Trail family; pass the word along and perhaps visit these places yourself and share your experiences with us and others. ■

Learn more

City of St. Joseph: <http://www.stjoemo.info/index.aspx?nid=250>

Trails info: <http://alltrails.com/tracks/saint-joseph-riverwalk>

<http://choosesaintjoseph.com/tag/missouri-river-walk/>

<http://choosesaintjoseph.com/tag/remington-nature-center/>

Photos on flickr: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsjXvsaSe>

American Indians of northwest Missouri. Regular activities, targeted for the younger visitors, include Second Saturday Story Time, Last Saturday Craft and Friday Fish Feeding Frenzy. Children, of all ages, enjoy the weekly feeding of the aquarium fish. Other activities include a mock archaeological dig, an artifact show and an annual member's event.

Vital to the success of the nature center and its programs are the volunteers. A variety of opportunities exist for volunteers, including gardening, assisting with facility tours and programs, exhibit and educational research, community outreach activities, and providing assistance with special events.

Since opening on November 1, 2008, the nature center has filled a void in local nature education and related visitor-based activities. The nearly 70,000 visitors to the center, since opening day, can attest to that. Visit the Remington Nature Center of St. Joseph, where history and nature collide, and where "X" marks the spot of a treasure of mammoth proportions that will continue to inspire the community and visitors for the next 160 years."

Little Known Facts of the Lewis & Clark Expedition

by Dr. H. Carl Camp

Captain Lewis Conquers the Ohio, Riffle-by-Riffle



H. Carl Camp, Retired Volunteer

While waiting impatiently in Pittsburg for the completion and delivery of his specially designed keelboat, Meriwether Lewis wrote a letter on July 22, 1803, to President Jefferson explaining his state of readiness to launch the much anticipated voyage of discovery and the reasons for the seemingly endless series of delays. He closed with these words: “The current of the Ohio is extremely low and continues to decline, this may impede my proceeding, being dete[r]mined to get forward *though I should not be able to make a greater distance than a mile pr. day.*” [Italics added]

Such dogged resolve! Little did Lewis suspect the difficulties that lay in wait for him and his crew.

Another five weeks were to pass before he took possession of his flagship. On August 31st, he hurriedly loaded his supplies and equipment onto the keelboat and a pirogue and struck out down the drought-shrunken Ohio with a temporary crew of eleven, plus his Newfoundland dog, Seaman. The river was even lower than it had been just a few weeks earlier. Shortly after passing Brunot’s Island, the keelboat foundered on what Lewis initially characterized as a “ripple.” (Later in this leg of the journey he settled on the term “riffle,” which was the common usage among experienced rivermen; it signified a shallow patch of water – technically, a shoal.)

When empty, the keelboat drew three feet of water; fully loaded, it drew about four feet according to most sources. As he had been warned by veteran rivermen from the area, Lewis soon discovered that the river in many places was too shallow to float the vessel. In his journal that first day out, Lewis described the difficulties they confronted: “[We were] obliged to get out all hands and lift the boat over about thirty yards ... we

passed another ripple. Past another bear [bar] or ripple with more difficulty than either of the others....”

Over the next two weeks, hardly a day passed without mention of the crew’s continuing struggle to wrestle the keelboat over and through a succession of riffles. The men were frequently in the sluggish water shoving, tugging, pushing – even lifting – the keelboat through the shallows. At least once they had to use a shovel and their oars to dig a channel through gravel and sand for a considerable distance before the unloaded boat would float free.

Some days there was but one such episode; more often, however, multiple shoals had to be surmounted in a single day. Three were common. On September 6th there were eight! The water-logged men, including the captain, were exhausted. Upon several occasions the water was so shallow and the distance to be traversed so great that the men could not budge the stalled vessel – not even after its cargo had been transferred to additional pirogues Lewis was forced to buy. Not to be denied, the resolute – but amateur – mariner hired teams of oxen, or horses, from local farmers to drag the boat over the worst of the riffles.

Although he was always gratified to be underway once more when rescued by the extra help, on September 2nd Lewis vented his rising level of impatience and frustration in the pages of his journal: “. . . obtain one horse and an ox, which enabled us very readily to get over [the riffle] payd the man his charge, which was one dollar; the inhabitants who live near these riffles live much by the distressed situation of traveller[s]

. . . charge extravagantly when they are called on for assistance and have no philanthropy or contience [conscience]....”

On September 16, 1803, the little flotilla had made it past Parkersburg, Virginia (in today’s West Virginia) and encamped near the town of Belleville. That is the last date on which Lewis mentioned any encounters with the troublesome riffles. By that time he had logged at least 39 instances of their having to overcome riffles of varying degrees of difficulty. It’s impossible to give a definite count due to Lewis’s practice of referring to “several riffles” as the days of exhausting labor mounted. After 16 days of travel (they had rested from their debilitating struggles one whole day at Wheeling), Lewis and his crew had covered barely more than 200 miles of the 1,100 or so to the river’s junction with the Mississippi.

Despite the toll the Ohio had taken on Lewis and his men, he could take satisfaction from the fact that he never had to settle for only “one mile pr. day.” The captain had passed his first rigorous test: except for the Falls awaiting him at Louisville, he had conquered the Ohio – riffle-by-riffle. At last he was truly on his way westward! ■

Sources:

Stephen E. Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996), pp. 107-117.

Gary E. Moulton, ed., *The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, 13 volumes (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1983-2001), vol. 2, pp. 59-83.

Proposed Eastward Extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

by Peggy W. Crosson, Chair, Lewis and Clark Eastern Legacy Trail Project
and Regional Committee, Mountain Valley Preservation Alliance, Inc.

History and Background

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail became a reality in 1978 when Congress passed the National Parks and Recreation Act that amended the National Trails System Act of 1968. Since then, thousands upon thousands of visitors world-wide have traveled the trail wholly or partially to try and relive the experiences of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and the Corps of Discovery. The existing trail begins in Wood River, Illinois and extends west for approximately 3,700 miles to the Pacific Ocean. It commemorates the determination and courage of the diversified group of about 30 individuals who spent almost three years between 1804 and 1806 exploring and studying the vast Louisiana Territory and the native cultures of those homelands the expedition passed through.

The popularity of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail has boosted tourism and yielded a positive economic impact on many American communities along the westward trail. Studies show that Americans alone spend approximately \$525 billion in travel a year¹, and that between 2005 and 2011, outdoor recreation has consistently grown annually by 5%². It is not surprising then that in 2004, Congress directed that a National Historic Landmarks “theme study revision” be conducted to identify, evaluate, and make recommendations about Eastern

Legacy historic sites and other resources that were connected to Lewis and/or Clark both before and after the Expedition in the Eastern United States.

However, generating new tourism dollars in the east was not the only reason for the growing interest in expanding the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. In 1996, author Stephen Ambrose published *Undaunted Courage*. Its focus is the Expedition’s leader, Meriwether Lewis, and gives attention to his eastern heritage, as well as to the personal lives and connections of both explorers to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to other eastern states. Since then, the book continues to be popular, experiencing a number of reprints in the past seventeen years including a recent Kindle edition in 2013.

Undaunted Courage and other subsequent like publications galvanized the need for better understanding the whole framework around the two explorers’ lives, not just the Expedition itself, but their experiences and relationships before and after as well. In 2008, The National Park Service was directed by Congress to conduct a “Special Resource Study” to assess the suitability and feasibility of adding the Eastern Legacy sites and possible route segments to the existing Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Criteria for National Historic Trail Designation

As outlined in the National Trails System Act, a trail must meet the following three requirements to qualify as a national historic trail. {Ref. NTSA, Section 5, Historic Trails, (b) 11}

(A) It must be a trail or route established by historic use and must be historically significant as a result of that use. . . A designated trail should generally accurately follow the historic route, but may deviate somewhat on occasion of necessity to avoid difficult routing through subsequent development, or to provide some route variations offering a more pleasurable recreational experience. Such deviations shall be so noted on site. Trail segments no longer possible to travel by trail due to subsequent development as motorized transportation routes may be designated and marked onsite as segments which link to the historic trail.

(B) It must be of national significance with respect to any of several broad facets of American history, such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns. To qualify as nationally significant, historic use of the trail must have had a far reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture. Trails significant in the history of Native Americans may be included.

(C) It must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. The potential for such use is generally greater along roadless segments developed as historic trails and at historic sites associated with the trail. The presence of recreation potential not related to historic appreciation is not sufficient justification for designation under this category.

Special Resource Study Implementation

The Special Resource Study being conducted by the National Park Service encourages a partnership arrangement with local communities interested in exploring the possibility of participating in a Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail experience. It will assess the feasibility of such a potential Trail extension based on the potential viability of likely partners and will engage the public and stakeholders for input regarding potential historic sites and route segments.

Funding for the Special Resource Study was appropriated in 2009/2010, and soon after, the National Park Service began holding a series of public workshops. On March 3 and 4, 2012, the Virginia public workshop was held at the Natural Bridge Hotel and Conference Center and drew participants from the counties of Botetourt, Rockbridge, Augusta, Albemarle, and beyond. Participants were able to 1) see and comment on preliminary study corridors for historic route verification; 2) review the overall study area in the state of Virginia as well as individual segments of study route corridors; and 3) learn about the study process that included the National Trails System Act (NTSA) criteria for National Historic Trails. Breakout sessions were held to explore topics more in depth such as possible trail route options, “what” the trail could be/look like within the identified segments, and who would potentially be involved in making the trail a reality.

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DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge A Summer of Learning

by Ashley Danielson, Visitor Services Specialist, DeSoto NWR



This summer, DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge partnered with the Omaha Public School (OPS) district to host educational field trips for students participating in summer school. OPS hosts an enrichment summer school for students across the district and this presented an excellent opportunity for the refuge to reach students from all over the urban Omaha area.



Omaha Public Schools students learning all about THEIR local national wildlife refuge.



Throughout the summer, 1255 students from diverse backgrounds came to learn about the wildlife and habitats of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. Students participated in a variety of educational and recreational activities including fishing, wildlife observation trail hikes, wildlife scavenger hunts and time in the visitor center and Steamboat Bertrand museum.

By touring the visitor center exhibits and refuge, students learn about the Lewis and Clark expedition, exploration and settlement of the west and the impacts on the environment. Given the historical context, students are better able to understand the mission of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge to restore and maintain native habitats that are important for the survival of migratory birds and other native wildlife species.

These visits were accomplished through a combination of staff-led and self-led trips and helped the refuge extend the message of wildlife conservation to students from the greater Omaha area. By partnering with summer school programs, staff was able to serve many more students than through a traditional refuge-led summer camp format. This partnership is part of the refuge's commitment to reach out to the urban audiences in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro area to help connect those populations with their local national wildlife refuge. ■

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is just 25 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska. It is located in the migratory bird corridor of the Missouri River floodplain. It provides essential habitat for resident, migratory and endangered species. Learn more at: www.fws.gov/refuge/Desoto.

Administrative Officer Moving On

Please join is in congratulating Lee Smith as she embarks on a new adventure as the Deputy Comptroller for the Midwest Region in Omaha, Nebraska. She will be certainly missed - her contributions and dedication as Administrative Officer to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail are truly appreciated. Best wishes!



Lee Smith, Administrative Officer

I can't tell you what a pleasure it has been serving as the administrative officer for the Lewis and Clark NHT these past six years. Like any good trail, it has had ups, downs, some clearly marked areas, some confusing spots, some areas of easy access, other areas that are difficult to navigate, and most of all lots of interesting things to do and learn along the way. What fun to take the journey with such a lovely group of motivated, friendly, hard-working individuals who each bring their own style, and history to this amazing trail.

Hands down, the best part of working on the Lewis and Clark trail is leaving with the sense that for the last six years, I didn't just have a group of co-workers, partner groups, and volunteers, I had a group of amazing friends. I fully believe that I wouldn't be able to make this change without you and all the support you have provided me over the years.

From the incredible living history groups, who brought the story to life in front of our eyes, to beautiful visitor centers, which provide special places where people can grow their appreciation for the Lewis & Clark story, I have had my own journey of discovery. I have no intention of stopping that journey now. My exploration and adventures will only continue throughout the years as my husband and I continue to travel, hike, bike, and drive along the trail with our minds turned toward the story of this group of explorers and all the amazing people they interacted with along the way. I wish you all a fond farewell and leave you with these words:

Have fun, laugh lots, assume good intent, and always remember...

If It's Not Fatal, It's Fixable!!! ■

Eastward Extension, continued

Organization of Proposed Trail Routes

The organization of a major national historic trail route via smaller "trail segments" is important for both historical and management reasons if and when the proposed Lewis and Clark Trail Extension is approved. As of this writing, 23 "major" trail segments have been identified within the proposed eastward extension area, and within each major segment, one or more sub-segments have also been identified. For example, in the State of Virginia, the major trail segment in the Great Valley "generally" follows Route 11, beginning east of the Cumberland Gap, traversing southwest central Virginia to Augusta County. Several other major segments in the state cover historic travel corridors between Charlottesville, Richmond, Washington, D.C. and portions of Northern Virginia including Winchester. As noted above in Trail Criteria A, the authentic trail route and routes in sub-segments may deviate for several reasons. As such, there is no simplistic way to describe a very complex topic which can frustrate the public in their quest to know exactly where "our trail route is."

The Lewis and Clark Roanoke – Staunton Trail Segment Regional Committee was invited by the National Park Service to participate in two separate activities that would help move forward the completion of the Resource Study and ultimately, the draft of the Bill that will be submitted

Mountain valley Preservation Alliance, Inc. is an independent, self-sustaining non-profit regional preservation organization that offers assistance and support to the western Virginia counties of Botetourt, Rockbridge, Augusta, Alleghany, and Bath in their efforts to preserve the history of their communities.

to U.S. Congress for approval. The first was being actively involved in the initial Scoping Review of the Special Resource Study as presented on the National Park Service website. Representatives from the four counties evaluated the data provided for their specific county in April 2014, then met together to share their findings in May, 2014. The second task, now in process, is to design an "operational" model for a trail segment. The task will draw from existing organizational frameworks that have been comprised by other communities with a vested interest in and support of a national historic trail.

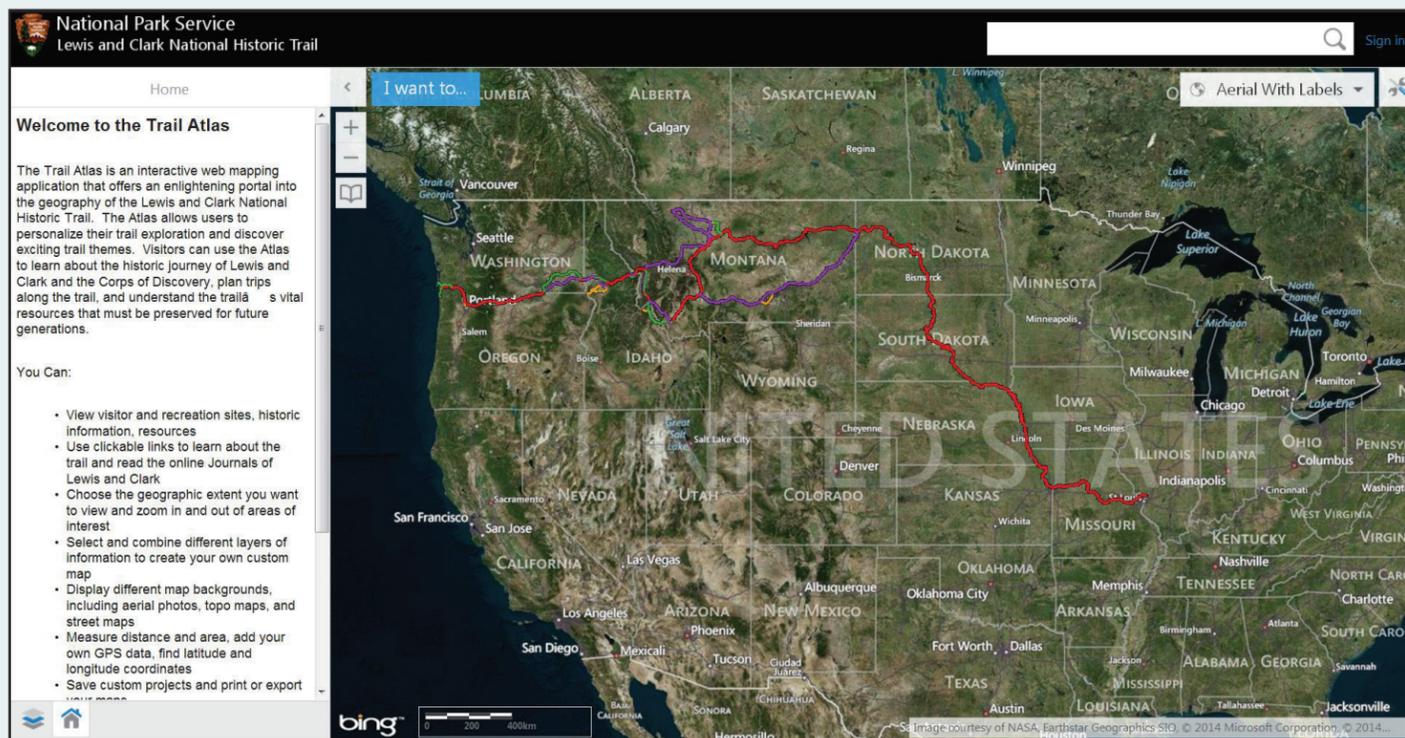
The process will also involve input from many Eastern Legacy Trail stakeholders. The operational structure will tout a citizen-driven and operated program that is supported by public-private partnerships. The target date for completion of the proposed Roanoke-Staunton operational model is November 1, 2014 and will be included in both the draft Eastern Legacy Special Resource Study for public review and comment and the final Special Resource Study that will be formally transmitted to Congress for ultimate determination regarding the potential Trail extension.

1 and 2 "The Outdoor Recreation Economy,"
Wednesday, June 27, 2012

The Trail Interactive Atlas Now in Mobile Version

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is proud to announce the release of a mobile version of the Trail Interactive Atlas! This new, lightweight mobile site is designed for use with smartphones, tablets, and other mobile devices and does not require the installation of Microsoft Silverlight or other plug-ins.

The tools and data layers have been scaled back in order to make the Mobile Atlas perform smoothly and quickly for visitors out along the Trail. The original Desktop Atlas site featuring more layers, robust tools, and other enhancements will also continue to be developed and supported in the future. ■



Trail Mobile Atlas

<http://lewisandclarktrailmap.mobi>

Trail Desktop Atlas

<http://www.lewisandclarktrailmap.com>

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will ensure that we can reach you effectively. Please take this opportunity to either subscribe or update your contact information and provide us with your interests. For questions, contact Karla Sigala, Editor at (402) 661-1826 or at: lecl_communications@nps.gov.

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Tracing the courses of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail stretches through 11 states. The Trail winds over mountains, along rivers, through plains and high deserts, and extends to the wave-lapped Pacific coast. In this diversity of landscapes, visitors to the Trail create their own journeys of discovery.

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We will be happy to accept your article for consideration in future issues. *The Trail Companion* is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November.

Please contact the Editor, Karla Sigala
at: lecl_communications@nps.gov

Lewis and Clark Trust Geodetic Marker installed in Botetourt County at the county courthouse in the fall of 2012. In partnership with Botetourt County, the Town of Fincastle, the Botetourt County Historical Society and Historic Fincastle, Inc.