

February 2015



# THE TRAIL COMPANION

a Newsletter of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail



## The Bridge of the Gods

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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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## THE TRAIL COMPANION

**Acting Superintendent**, Dan Wiley

**Columns:**

**Trailhead**, Neal Bedlan

**Trailscares**, Ryan Cooper

**Guest Contributor**, Darian Kath

Would you like to contribute an article or feature to *The Trail Companion*? Share the good work you are doing.

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](mailto:lecl_communications@nps.gov)

Cover photo: View of the Columbia River from the Bridge of the Gods. Photo by Renee Tkach.

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# National Park CENTENN

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National  
Park Service™  
CENTENNIAL

## From the Superintendent The NPS turns 100 in 2016

The National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday on August 25, 2016, and every American has a role in making our celebration a success. This is more than a one-day celebration; the efforts started some time ago and will last through 2016. The nationwide campaign is launching this spring.

The National Park Service Centennial Goal is to:

*CONNECT with and CREATE the  
NEXT GENERATION of park visitors,  
supporters and advocates.*

Working toward these goals, the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation are collaborating with partners and stakeholders to help every American enjoy new opportunities for fun, learning, and exploration through the National Park System. Of course that includes the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Find a way to start celebrating the centennial today by using the Next Century for Parks website to obtain partner toolkit materials and additional guidance for efforts at the national, regional, program, and park levels.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is just beginning to develop ideas on how we and our partners can engage people all across the Trail to connect with and create the next generation of Trail visitors, supporters and advocates. We will have a plan in place for the Centennial Celebration by the end of this Fiscal Year, September 31, 2015. I know many of you are interested in supporting this goal and have ideas how we can achieve such an important accomplishment. Please contact Karla Sigala at [karla\\_sigala@nps.gov](mailto:karla_sigala@nps.gov) to share your ideas.

**DAN WILEY**  
Acting Superintendent

# Little Known Facts

## About the Lewis & Clark Expedition


### The Lewis & Clark Expedition and the Louisiana Purchase

There is a durable popular notion that the Lewis and Clark Expedition was originally fielded for the purpose of exploring the Louisiana Purchase. Well . . . . .

Yes and No. Actually, it was set in motion by President Thomas Jefferson months before the United States even knew France was willing to sell the vast western wilderness known as Louisiana and before the 15 million dollar deal was struck by America's negotiators in Paris at the end of April 1803.

In a secret message to Congress on January 18, 1803, Jefferson sought congressional authorization of an expedition into the trans-Mississippi area "for the purpose of extending the external commerce of the U.S." As originally conceived, the venture was to consist of 10 to 12 military volunteers and a commanding officer. The initial emphasis on confidentiality reflected concern for the fact the expedition would be operating in foreign-controlled territory (which was true at the time). Congress approved the president's request and appropriated \$2,500 to fund the secretive operation.

After Meriwether Lewis, the president's personal secretary, was appointed commanding officer of the expedition, he spent the next five or so months making preparations to take his command into the field. He acquired weapons and related accoutrements and collected a small mountain of supplies and equipment, including a wide range of Indian gifts and trade goods to smooth his way westward. It was during that time, at the behest of President Jefferson, Lewis also



received tutorials in botany, biology, medicine and celestial navigation from some of the nation's leading natural scientists in Philadelphia.

On July 4, 1803, a day before Lewis pushed off from Washington, D.C. for Pittsburgh where he was to take possession of his flagship, a specially designed 55-foot keelboat, President Jefferson received official confirmation of the signing of the Louisiana Purchase treaty between France and the U.S. That stunning development changed the whole complexion of the expedition, effectively shifting it from a military reconnaissance into a foreign-controlled region to that of an exploration of American-owned territory (at least to the Continental Divide). Only at that point was the Lewis and Clark Expedition committed to exploring key portions of the Louisiana Purchase and beyond.



**SOURCES:**

Stephen E. Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996), pp. 59-101.

Roy E. Appleman, *Lewis and Clark's Transcontinental Expedition, 1804-1806* (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1975), pp. 28-49.

**H. CARL CAMP, Ph.D.**  
Volunteer, Retired

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# The Trailhead

## Walking on the Bridge of the Gods

The Bridge of the Gods is a large bridge that spans the Columbia River between Cascade Locks, Oregon and Stevenson, Washington. The bridge is heavily used by motorized vehicles but much less so by pedestrians. Even though it's not designed for it, the toll bridge does allow for hikers and cyclists to cross the bridge for a \$.050 toll fee.

The bridge is a common crossing point for Pacific Crest Trail hikers and is where the **Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail intersect**. I was able to experience a walk on the Bridge of the Gods this past summer. I have to admit it was a little scary with the traffic, but the views are absolutely amazing.

A recent movement is looking at the possibility of making the bridge friendlier to non-motorized users such as hikers, runners, walkers, bikers, and possibly even equestrians. A group has been formed to look into the feasibility study to determine if modifications can be made to the bridge to allow for an additional pedestrian crossing. The group consists of The Friends of the Columbia Gorge, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, the City of Stevenson and the Port of Cascade locks.

An engineering firm will be conducting the feasibility study in the near future. Be sure to check out our Facebook page for any new developments.

**NEAL BEDLAN**

Outdoor Recreation Planner



*Outdoor Recreation Planner Neal Bedlan crosses the bridge.*



*A conceptual rendering of an adaptation for non-motorized use on the Bridge of the Gods.*



*Walking the Bridge of the Gods on foot.  
Photo by Renee Tkach.*



*Pedestrian and logging truck share the bridge.*



*Bridge Walk 2013.*

# Trailscapes

## A New Story Map

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is proud to announce the release of our latest Story Map entitled **Lewis and Clark's Scientific Discoveries: Animals**. This map was developed by Rachel Daniels, the Trail's Natural Resources Program Manager and displays the animal species that were first described for science by Lewis and Clark during their epic journey of 1804-1806.

An accompanying map entitled **Lewis and Clark's Scientific Discoveries: Plants** was developed by Daniels and released last fall.

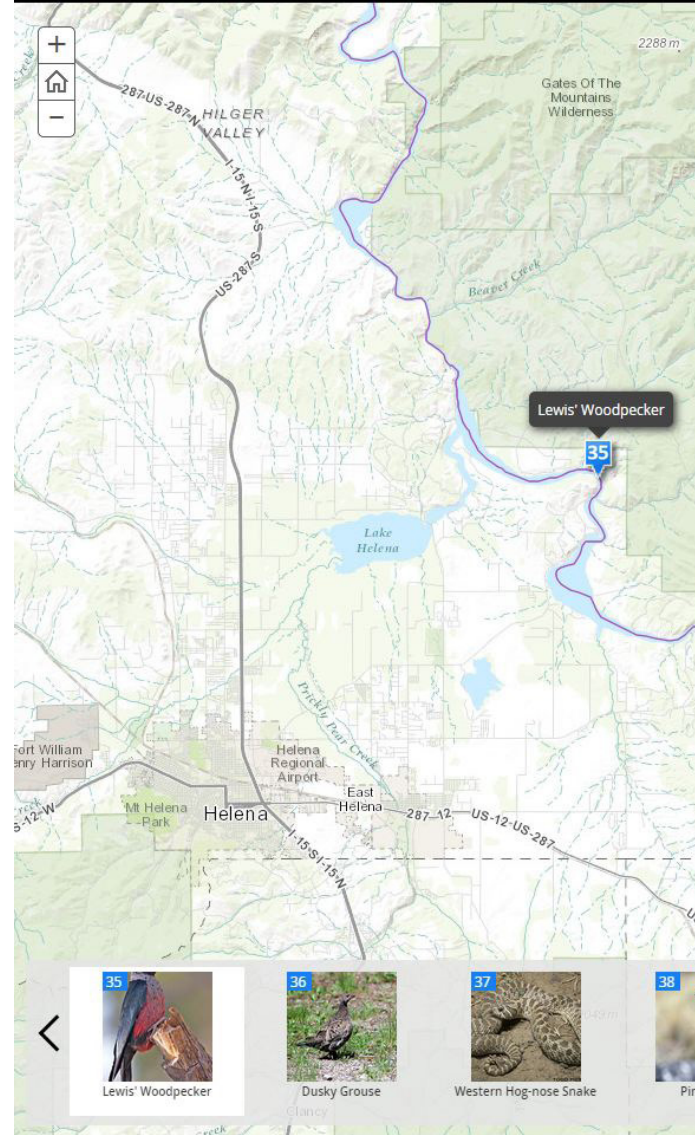
These Story Maps are unique in that they display dynamic and interactive mapping interfaces alongside photos and text regarding each species. Map users are able to interact with the map and zoom to areas of interest, select species of interest to view more information, and share the maps with others.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail will be developing even more Story Maps in the future. Please visit the National Park Service ArcGIS Online website to view the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Story Maps in the Featured Map Gallery.

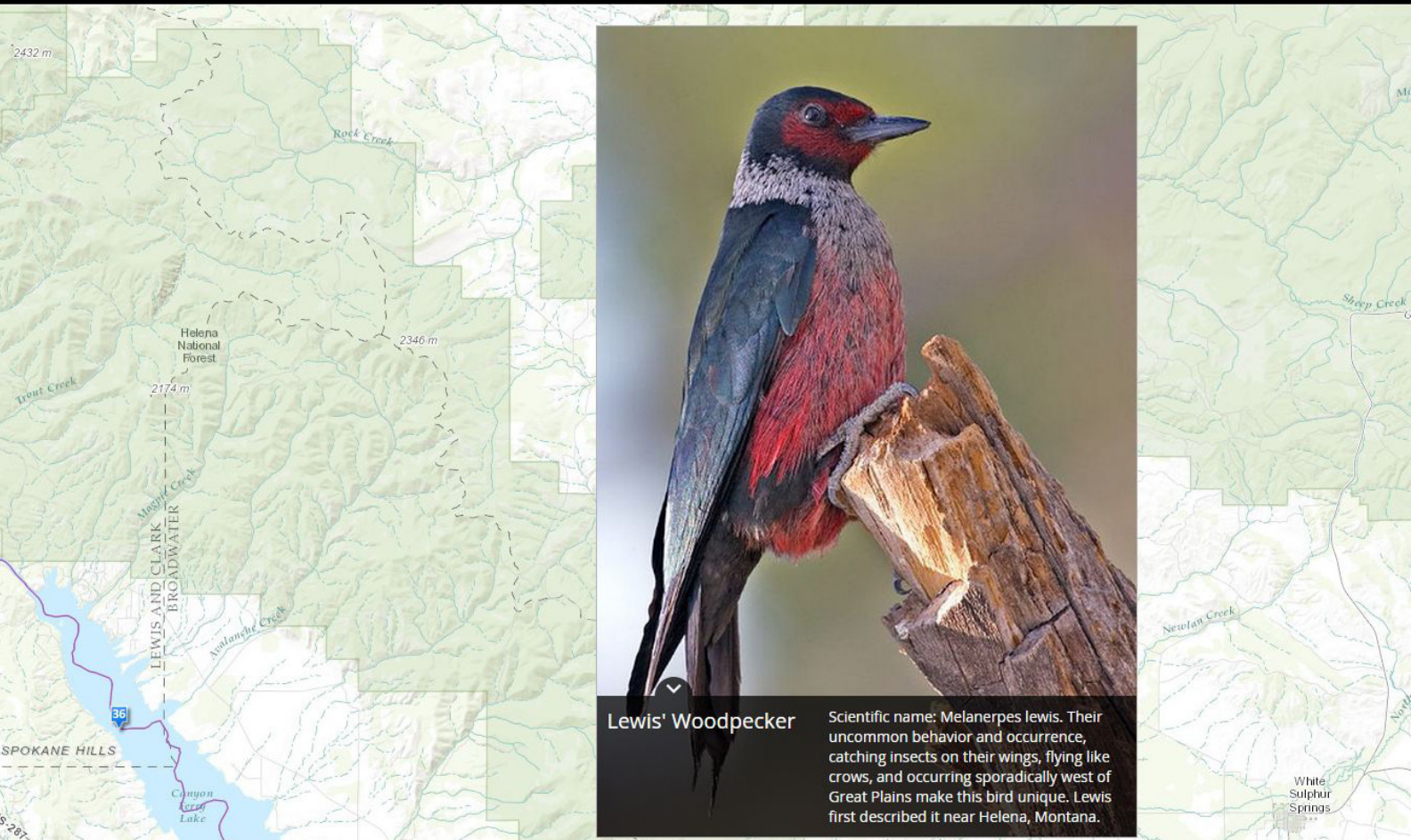
**RYAN M. COOPER**  
Geographer

### Lewis and Clark's Scientific Discoveries: Animals

This map displays the animal species that were discovered by Lewis and Clark on their epic





**Lewis' Woodpecker**

Scientific name: *Melanerpes lewis*. Their uncommon behavior and occurrence, catching insects on their wings, flying like crows, and occurring sporadically west of Great Plains make this bird unique. Lewis first described it near Helena, Montana.

39 Mountain Goat

40 Clark's Nutcracker

41 Western Mourning Dove

42 Stellar's Jay

43 Franklin's Grouse

44 Pygmy Horned Toad; Short-horned Lizard

45 Columbian Ground Squirrel

46 Western Tanager

*Lewis and Clark's Scientific Discoveries: Animals* is a map application that displays animal species that Lewis and Clark first described for scientific purposes during the Expedition. Link for this map: <http://ow.ly/IY8Z6>.

## What Is A Story Map?

*Story maps use geography as a means of organizing and presenting information.*

*They tell the story of a place, event, issue, trend, or pattern in a geographic context.*

*They combine interactive maps with other rich content—text, photos, video, and audio—within user experiences that are basic and intuitive.*

# Happy Trails! Gail Gladstone



Please join us in bidding farewell to our Cultural Resources Specialist, **Gail Gladstone**. Gail has been selected to be the Cultural Resources Program Manager at **Acadia National Park** in Maine.

She joined the Trail in 2011, spearheading research efforts on cultural and historical landscapes along the Trail, collaborating with State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and leading the process of identifying High Potential Historic Sites.

We wish to congratulate her and wish her well in her new position - Happy Trails, Gail! We will miss you!

# Happy Trails! Nichole McHenry



Join us saying goodbye to our Volunteer Program Manager **Nichole McHenry**.

Nichole has been selected to be the Program Manager for the Relevancy, Diversity, Inclusion, and Recruitment Team in the **National Park Service's Midwest Region**.

She is a 22-year veteran of the National Park Service, having joined the Trail in 2008 after working in such parks as Independence National Historical Park and Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site.

Best wishes on your new journey. You will be missed - Happy Trails, Nichole!

# Happy Trails! Joanne Ryan



In just one short week we bid farewell to Park Ranger **Joanne Ryan**. Joanne will be making her way south to Oklahoma to serve as the Environmental Educator at the **Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge**, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Joanne joined the Trail 2011 and has been a key member of the interpretive operation for the Omaha Headquarters Visitor Center and also served as the bookstore manager.

Her creativity and energy will surely be missed. Congratulations and best wishes.

Happy Trails, Joanne!

# Welcome! Julie Blanchard



We welcome Park Guide **Julie Blanchard** to our team. She comes to us all the way from warm and sunny Haleakala National Park!

A native of Indiana, Julie graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Earth Science and holds a Master's degree in Information Systems from the University of Phoenix. It was during her time at ISU that she realized that she wanted to work for the NPS to educate the public about our nation's parks.

She started her NPS career in 2001 as a seasonal at Golden Spike National Historic Site and Timpanogos Cave National Monument working in interpretation. Her first permanent position was at Dinosaur National Monument as the Administrative Technician. Welcome, Julie!

# "a few low hackburry"

Along their journey, the Corps of Discovery encountered two species of Hackberries. The genus, *Celtis*, is in the family, Cannabaceae—same family as Hemp and Hops. The two species noted by the Expedition were Common Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*, and Netleaf Hackberry, *Celtis reticulata*. Both species are noted for their elm-like leaves and warty, light gray bark. Both produce small purple berries which are edible but rarely eaten by humans. Netleaf Hackberry was noted by the Corps on 11 Oct. 1805, within Nez Perce territory. No



Common Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*  
Photo courtesy of MPRB Forestry

Its official description wasn't made until 1824 by John Torrey.

Common Hackberry was recorded several times along the lower Missouri in the western limits of its range. In these journal references, it always occurred among a listing of other species—Oak, Ash, Walnut, Coffeetree, Maple, etc. As a tree, this species can attain the height of 90 feet, but 50 feet is average. Not new to science at the time, Common Hackberry was scientifically described in 1753.

Both Hackberries adapt well into horticulture. In fact, Common Hackberry is widely planted as a street tree in the city of Great Falls, Montana where I currently live. It has a high tolerance for air pollution and has great benefits to wildlife. Its major downfall is its susceptibility to leaf galls. Not necessarily detrimental to the tree, it can be aesthetically unsightly. Netleaf Hackberry may be not reliably hardy for this area, but shows very good drought tolerance.

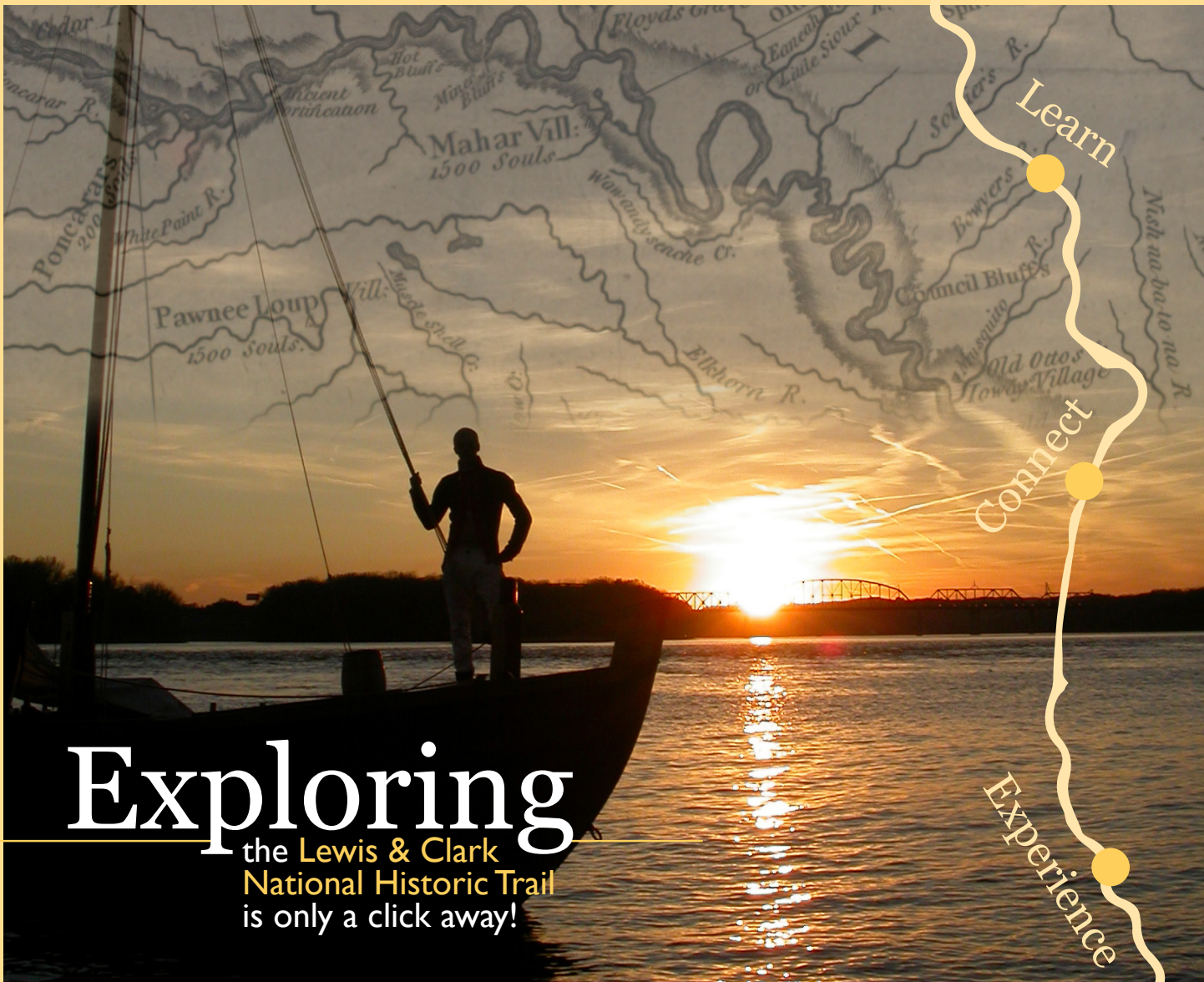
## DARIAN KATH

Interpretive Ranger  
Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail  
Interpretive Center ■ US Forest Service  
Great Falls, Montana



Netleaf Hackberry, *Celtis reticulata*  
Photo courtesy of Bri Weldon

information other than "a few low hackburry" was provided by Clark. If a sample was taken, it would have been a holotype (type specimen) and another new species would have been added to the botanical collection. Perhaps it was and subsequently destroyed by an inundated cache. Clark was correct in calling it "low," for this species grows generally as a large shrub or small tree. It also has its characteristic deep veination, hence the name, "Netleaf." The Corps encountered it in its northern limits of its range—typically it is a riparian species of the Southwest.



# Exploring

the Lewis & Clark  
National Historic Trail  
is only a click away!



### Interactive Trail Atlas

[www.lewisandclarktrailmap.com](http://www.lewisandclarktrailmap.com)

### Mobile Trail Atlas

[lewisandclarktrailmap.mobi](http://lewisandclarktrailmap.mobi)

Personalize your exploration using this portal into the geography of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Zoom into your area of interest, choose from a variety of different map layers, display backgrounds of your choice, and create your own custom maps.



### Story Maps

[nps.maps.arcgis.com/home](http://nps.maps.arcgis.com/home)

Learn about the stories of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail through a combination of interactive maps and rich multimedia content for a unique user experience.

### Website/Email

[www.nps.gov/lecl](http://www.nps.gov/lecl)

[lecl\\_communications@nps.gov](mailto:lecl_communications@nps.gov)



### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/lewisandclarknht](http://www.facebook.com/lewisandclarknht)

Connect with unique people, places, and stories on all things Lewis and Clark by joining the Lewis and Clark community on Facebook. View and share pictures, videos, news, and content along the entire Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



### Twitter

[www.twitter.com/LewisClarkTrail](http://www.twitter.com/LewisClarkTrail)

Want to know what's happening out on the Trail? Follow us on Twitter to find out about events, programs, and the latest news happening at our National Park Service Visitor Center in Omaha, Nebraska and across the trail.



### YouTube

[www.youtube.com/lewisandclarknhtnps](http://www.youtube.com/lewisandclarknhtnps)

Watch videos of the Trail staff and partners in action on our YouTube page.

Explore the Visitor Center in person at:

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Headquarters  
601 Riverfront Drive | Omaha, NE 68102 | 402.661.1804