



THE TRAIL COMPANION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





Clockwise from top left: 1) Park Ranger Rachel Daniels takes her turn at signing her pledge to work collaboratively for the preservation of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. 2) A young student does the same, taking his time with the quill pen and ink. 3) Chris Howell and Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs pose for the camera before the press arrives. 4) Bryant Boswell as Meriwether Lewis and Bud Clark, descendant of William Clark - in full dress uniform.

Lewis and Clark Trust Announces its Formation

A New Partnership with the National Park Service

On April 19, 2012, at the National Park Service's Midwest Regional Office, Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs and James (Jim) Mallory announced the formation of the Lewis and Clark Trust, Incorporated. The organization also announced its intention to establish administrative offices within the City of Omaha. The Lewis and Clark Trust (the Trust) was established to secure financial assets to help preserve and promote the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (the Trail), as administered by the National Park Service. The Trust is also in support of the eastern extension of the Trail currently under study and referred to by many as the Lewis and Clark Eastern Legacy. Through partnerships, philanthropy and education the Trust will work to preserve and promote the entire Trail, coast to coast, for future generations of Americans.

Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs, Chair of the Board for the Trust and daughter of the late historian and best-selling author Stephen Ambrose, is an accomplished researcher in her own right. She authored *The Lewis and Clark Companion: An Encyclopedic Guide to the Voyage of Discovery*, as well

as many articles on the value of engaging younger audiences in the history of the Lewis and Clark Trail. "The Trust will help secure financial assets that make all of this possible. One of my main reasons for starting the Lewis and Clark Trust is the danger I see of losing the next generation," explained Ms. Ambrose Tubbs. "We need to actively engage them [younger audiences] in the history, preservation and stewardship of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail or it will quietly disappear from our collective memory. We need to use every tool at our disposal to raise awareness about the Trail while placing it into the proper context so that students are continually learning the lessons the Expedition can teach us about teamwork, leadership and enlightenment science."

Trust Board member Jim Mallory commented, "A great nation deserves great historic trails that tell the story of our nation's beginning. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, like the Lewis and Clark story, must be preserved for present and future generations so that the lessons of the Lewis and Clark era are not lost. Those values teach perseverance, shared

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Cover Photo and Above: Trust Board member Jim Mallory addresses the press and visitors as he announces the formation of the Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc. He is joined beginning on the far left by Mike Reynolds, NPS Midwest Regional Director; Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs, Chair of the Board; and Mark Weekley, Superintendent for Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and staff. NPS Photo.

Lewis and Clark Trust, continued

responsibility, and the spirit of collective accomplishment, all of which still benefit our society after more than 200 years.”

National Park Service’s Midwest Regional Director, Mike Reynolds, enthusiastically welcomed the new organization. “Today’s announcement is good news for the National Park Service. We are committed to collaborations with the Lewis and Clark Trust. This relationship is a great example of how we want to work with our partners.”

“It is through partnerships like this that the National Park Service is able to more effectively administer the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. We are delighted to welcome this new friend into our circle of partners and are excited about the potential

of reaching younger and more diverse audiences across the 3,700 mile Trail,” said Mark Weekley, Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. “It is our privilege to join efforts with the Lewis and Clark Trust to look to the future . . . and the many possibilities that lie ahead of us.”

Also speaking at the well-attended outdoor ceremony were Steve Oltmans, Chief of Staff for the Omaha Mayor’s office, and Jim Greisch, Economic Development Council Chairman for the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. Each congratulated the leadership of the Lewis and Clark Trust on the successful formation of their new organization and heartily welcomed the establishment of its headquarters in the Greater Omaha area. ■

Watch the Video

Lewis and Clark Trust Press Conference

18:35 min

<http://youtu.be/JAfHXIeF1xQ>

Lewis and Clark Trust Press Conference Photos



Mike Reynolds, NPS Midwest Regional Director, speaks about the importance of partnerships.



Lewis and Clark Trust announces its formation during a press conference at the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska, also headquarters of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



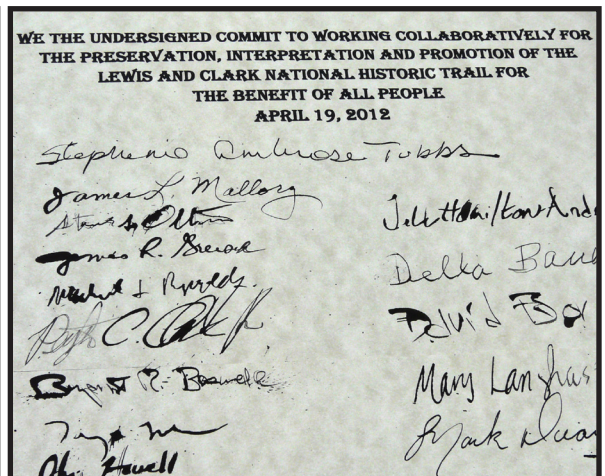
Members of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles in formation. NPS Photo.



Students use a quill pen to sign a pledge to work together for the preservation of the L&C Trail. All in attendance were invited to sign.



From left: Bud Clark, Dan Wiley, and Rachel Daniels share stories. NPS Photo.



People lined up to show their support by signing and pledging their support. It's the beginning of a new partnership.

Discovery Expedition of St. Charles Shares Lewis and Clark History with Omaha Students

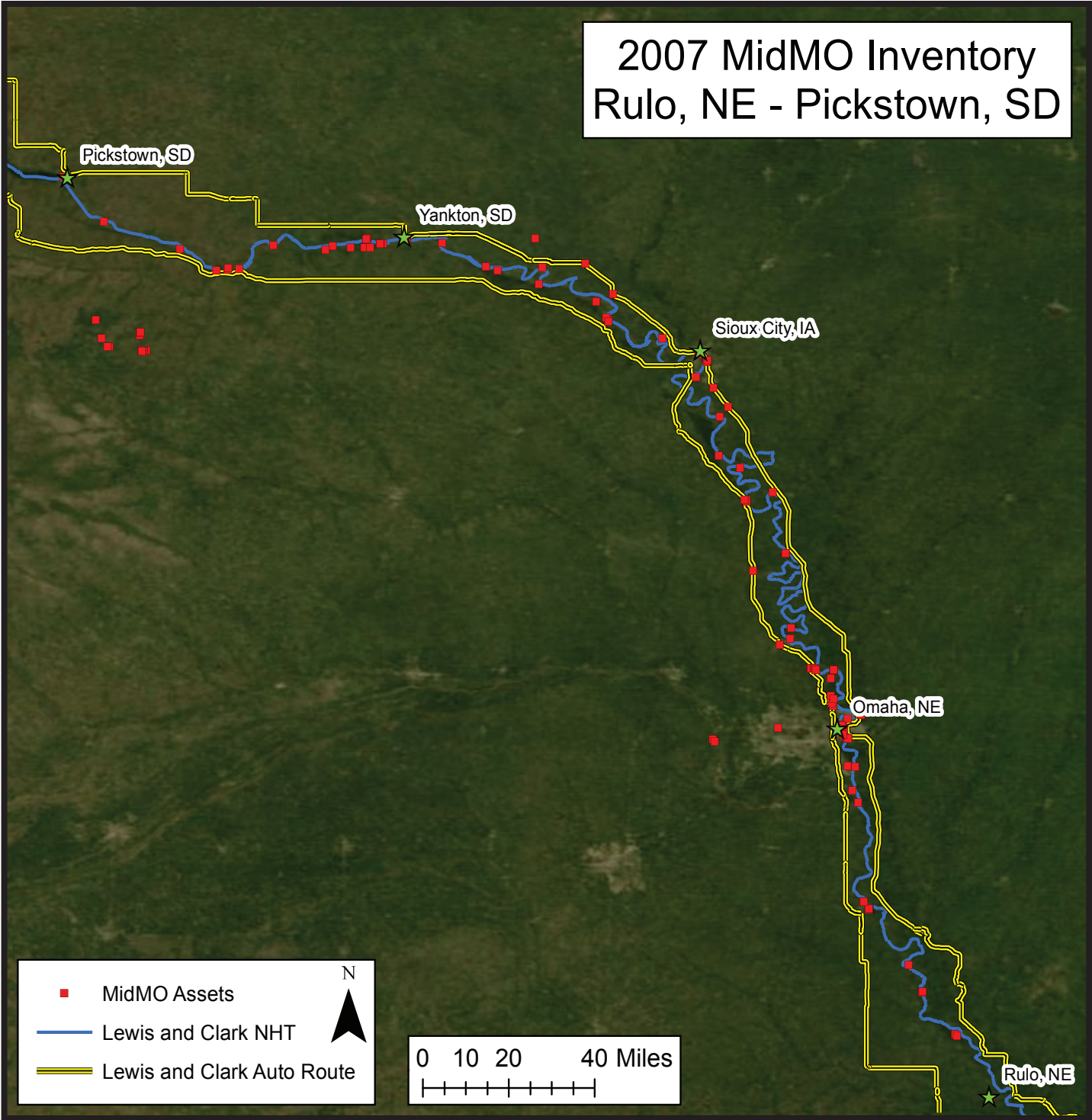
Following the press conference, members of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles (DESC) offered living history programming to the visiting public and to students and parents of the Nebraska Christian Home Educators Association.

DESC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to rediscovering the legacy of Lewis and Clark by promoting education and the study of American history through discussions and living history demonstrations.



Photos by Betty Kluesner, courtesy of Discovery Expedition of St. Charles

2007 MidMO Inventory Rulo, NE - Pickstown, SD



Trailsapes

On the Road Again

by Rachel Daniels, GIS Technician

With the catastrophic flood of 2011 becoming a distant memory, and the Missouri River Valley slowly but surely returning to normal, it is time to get back out on the Trail. As the Resources Stewardship division for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail it is our mission to protect and preserve the Trail and its associated resources and assets. In order to accomplish this effectively and efficiently we have to know what's out there, we have to know what we're fighting for, and what better way to do that than to get out on the Trail and see for ourselves?

This spring and summer we will be focusing on data collection along the Trail from the Sioux City, Iowa to Pickstown, South Dakota reach of the Missouri River. A portion of our efforts will be dedicated to collaborating with local authorities from the Middle Missouri River Lewis and Clark Network (MidMO) on updating an inventory they originally conducted in 2007. The MidMO inventory covered 136 Lewis and Clark assets from Rulo, Nebraska to Pickstown, South Dakota and includes GPS points of each location as well as photographs and other attribute information.

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On the Road Again, *continued*

With guidance from the MidMO local authorities, we will be locating previously undocumented assets as well as bringing the data collected in the 2007 inventory up to our current documentation standards. Our current standards for documenting assets include collecting accurate GPS coordinates, and capturing a series of digital photographs embedded with latitudinal and longitudinal information representing the 360° view from each asset location.

During the winter of 2011-2012 we inventoried the Rulo to Omaha, Nebraska stretch of the Trail and successfully recorded 33 previously undocumented Lewis and Clark assets. Nine assets

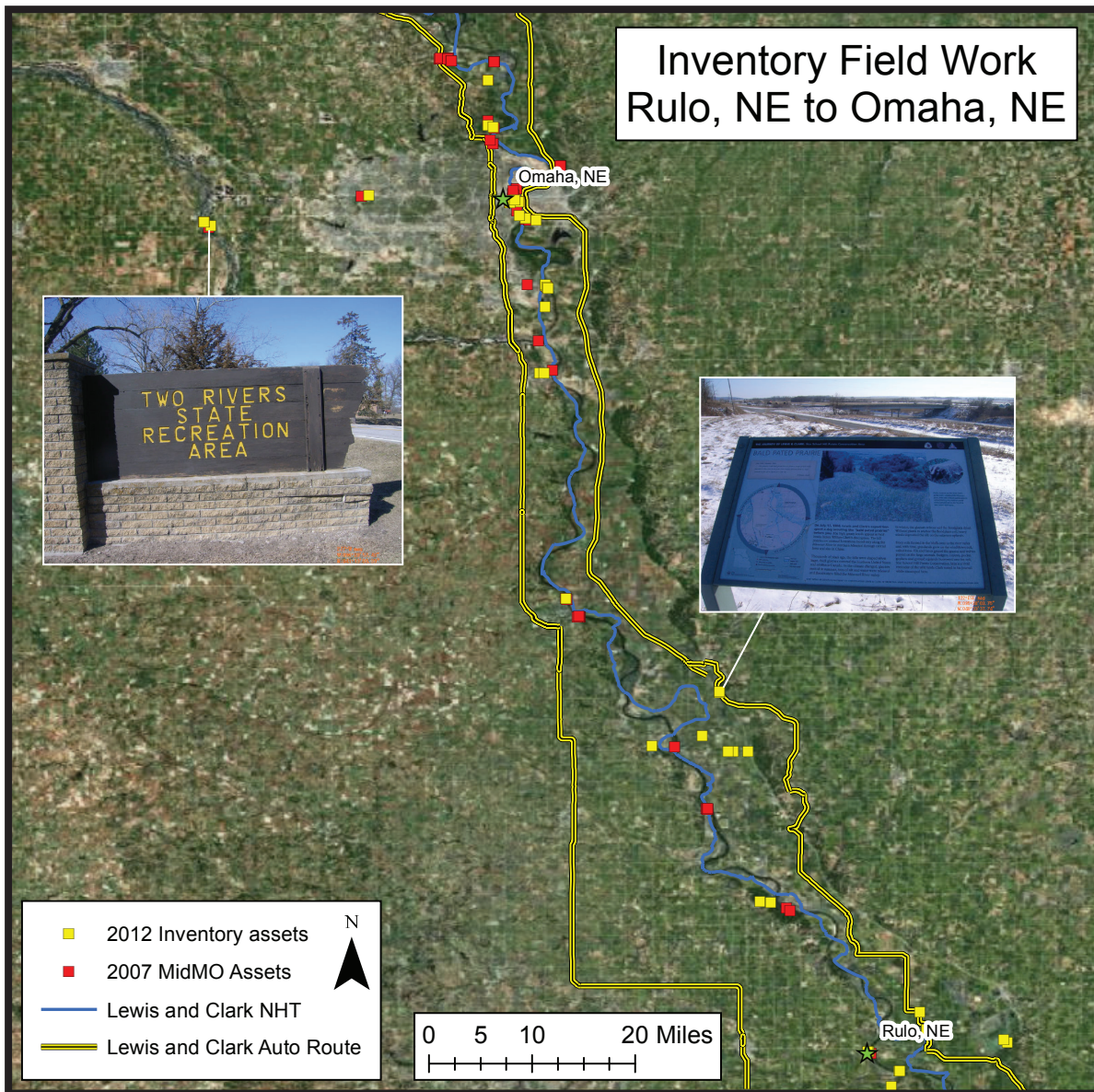
previously documented in the 2007 MidMO inventory were also updated to comply with our current documentation standards.

The expertise of the MidMO group has been vital to the success of such an undertaking for this reach of the river and will continue to be so until we complete our inventory efforts for this portion of the Trail. We must capture and preserve these Lewis and Clark assets through GPS locations and photographs for our records, the public's knowledge and for the benefit of future generations before they are lost forever.

Look for updates to this project in a future edition of *The Trail Companion*. ■



From Left to Right: Rachel Daniels, Evelyn Orr, and Dan Wiley at the MidMO quarterly meeting, March 2012 at the Lewis and Clark NHT Headquarters. Evelyn was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to the inventory project as the local MidMO authority from Rulo to Omaha, Nebraska.



What is a Lewis and Clark Asset?

A Lewis and Clark asset is anything that represents Lewis and Clark or the Expedition. In this case, a Lewis and Clark asset refers to any interpretive media along the Lewis and Clark NHT or the designated auto tour route that describes Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery Expedition.

Interpretive signs and panels, statues, monuments, plaques, historic markers, and public access sites such as boat ramps, parks and campgrounds that interpret the Lewis and Clark story are all considered Lewis and Clark assets.



Salmon Youth - Leaders in Stewardship

by Gina Knudson, Executive Director - Salmon Valley Stewardship

The Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled through Lemhi County, Idaho 205 years ago and wrote extensively about local Shoshone culture, fauna and flora, and the surrounding rugged landscape. Intact segments of historic trail treads, some followed by the Corps of Discovery, remain visible at Discovery Hill, a popular recreation area less than 1 mile from the small town of Salmon.

Salmon Valley Stewardship, a nonprofit conservation organization, has been working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Salmon Field Office to improve the visitor experience while raising awareness about some of the fragile cultural and natural resources of the area. Gina Knudson, director of Salmon Valley Stewardship, credits BLM recreation planner Liz Townley with the concept of using an audio podcast along a 1-mile trail to provide interpretation for hikers. Better yet, the podcasts are being written, narrated, and promoted by area high school students.

“I love the idea of involving students with technology that seems more relevant to them than a paper brochure to tell the story of our area’s important Lewis and Clark history, geography, botany, and

the care that’s needed to avoid damaging these cool resources,” Knudson said.

Nellie Bunce, Salmon Valley Stewardship’s coordinator for the podcast project, has been working directly with Salmon High School students. “I see this podcast as the first step in creating an interpretive environment here in Salmon that is as interactive as our youth. The students have been fun and inspiring to work with. The real success story with this project is that we are all learning as well as teaching.”

Students are putting the final touches on narration, and before the end of the school year will help Salmon Valley Stewardship upload the podcast to iTunes and other accessible sites. The Lemhi County Museum and the Sacajawea Educational, Interpretive and Cultural Center will have iPods available to visitors with the podcast loaded and ready to guide them on the trail.

“We so appreciate the support of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Partner Support Program,” Knudson said. “They’ve been great about not only providing some funding for the project, but also encouragement and technical expertise.” ■

Left: Marshall, a junior at Salmon High School, helps survey the location of the 1-mile interpretive loop that will have numbered stations corresponding to podcast segments. Information will be relayed about Lewis and Clark’s experience in the area in 1805, geography tidbits, wildlife information, and cautionary tales about the damage unauthorized motorized use could cause to the important resources. Photo courtesy of Salmon Valley Stewardship.

Travels along the Trail Lead to Appreciation and Understanding

by Mark Weekley, Superintendent

A recent study determined that visitors to the National Parks contributed more than \$31 billion to local economies in 2010. In addition to dollars spent in local areas, the NPS study shows that approximately 258,000 jobs are supported through tourist visits to National Park service sites. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar was recently quoted in a press release, “Our National Parks and other public lands continue to be economic engines that produce and support jobs in communities across America.”

Now for the big news. This study did not include the positive economic impact of the nation’s 28 national historic and scenic trails. Just imagine the numbers if this study had considered the impact of the millions of visitors to the nation’s historic and scenic trails. Clearly, the results of such a study would be impressive. Even without an official study we know trail tourism is

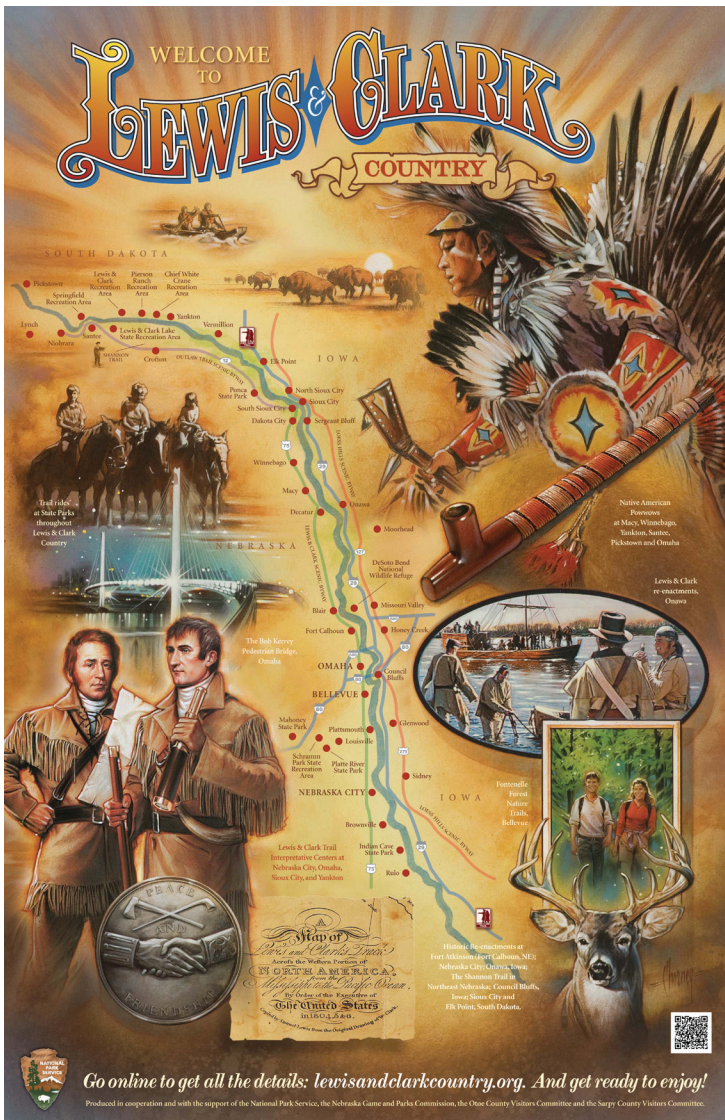
huge, but I believe it could be even bigger if we and our partners renew our efforts to remind people of the trails and what they have to offer.

Besides the economic benefits of getting people to the trails it is even more important in terms of education and recreation opportunities. Appreciation begins with understanding and awareness. Each community along our National Trails has heritage it wishes to honor and share. When people visit communities and the natural and historic sites that lie nearby the Trail they are more likely to develop a sense of ownership that encourages protection of such places.

In an effort to help encourage visitation, tourism and understanding, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail has partnered with many organizations - the Middle Missouri River Lewis and Clark Network,

the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the Otoe County Visitors Committee and the Sarpy County Visitors Committee - to fund a promotional campaign lead by an Omaha firm, J. Gregg Smith and Associates. The campaign's goal is to develop a creative new approach for promoting the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail along the Iowa and Nebraska boarder. This effort will use print ads, posters, widow decals, brochures and a web site, www.lewisandclarkcountry.org, to encourage visitation and provide information to key sites along the Trail in this area. If the campaign is successful this year we will encourage the same approach to be used in all Trail states.

In spite of the culmination of the Bicentennial years, interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Trail is still very strong. Unfortunately, many of the outstanding publications and visitor guides developed during the commemoration are no longer being produced. Consequently, there is a distinct need to help visitors discover new sites, vibrant history, and the stories of the gateway communities that lie along the Trail. ■



Little Known Facts of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

by Dr. H. Carl Camp



The Mishap at Brunot's Island

Events attending the launch of the Lewis and Clark Expedition were not all that auspicious. Meriwether Lewis had spent the last few weeks of July and all of the month of August, 1803, cooling his heels in Pittsburgh while fretting and fuming over the repeated failures of his alcohol-besotted boat-builder

to deliver his keelboat as promised. When he finally was able to take possession of the vessel the morning of August 31, he hastily loaded his cargo of supplies and equipment, brought his temporary 11-man crew aboard and pushed off down the drought-shrunken Ohio River.

Barely three miles from the dock, Lewis brought the keelboat to shore on Brunot's Island where a group of people invited him to stop for a while. The gathering probably included some of his friends and acquaintances. Once ashore he decided to demonstrate the power and accuracy of the air gun he had acquired in Philadelphia. He "charged it [filled the air chamber and loaded it] and fired it myself seven times fifty-five yards with pretty good success." Apparently he then let some of the men try their skill as well. Big mistake!

Obviously shaken, Captain Lewis recorded the subsequent incident in his journal: "Mr. Blaze Cenas being unacquainted with the management of the gun suffered her to discharge herself accidentally [T]he ball passed through the hat of a woman about 40 yards distant cut[t]ing her temple [W]

e were all in the greatest consternation [and] supposed she was dead [I]n a minute she revived to our enespressable satisfaction, and by examination we found the wound by no means mortal or even dangerous..." Undoubtedly, Lewis would have heaved a nervous sigh of relief upon receiving that diagnosis. He soon thereafter called the crew back aboard the keelboat and proceeded on down the river to his rendezvous with destiny.

Ironically, the Lewis and Clark Expedition began on a note of accidental bloodshed and concluded on a similar note when Private Pierre Cruzatte accidentally shot Captain Lewis in the buttocks while the two were hunting elk in western North Dakota territory barely two months before the expedition ended its historic journey in St. Louis. Truly a curious twist of fate! ■



Colby Wrasse is a biological science technician with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Columbia, Missouri. For the past decade he has monitored the fish communities of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. USFWS Photo.

Catfish Lore and Legend along the Lewis and Clark Trail

by Colby Wrasse, USFWS

The Missouri River is renowned for the big catfish that call it home. While monitoring the river for endangered pallid sturgeon, we at the Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office sometimes cross paths with large blue catfish in the 50-100 pound range, and we know that there are even bigger catfish out there.

In 2010, an angler caught a 130 pound blue catfish from the Missouri River near St. Charles, Missouri – a new world record at the time. In fact, big catfish in the Missouri River are nothing new and historical reports tend to suggest that giant catfish were at one time more common and likely reached even greater maximum size. Take this entry from Meriwether Lewis’ journal in which he describes a 128-pound catfish and the unique method used to weigh the fish.

On our return which was at 5 m after 1 Oclock we were a little surprised at the apparent size of a Catfish which the men had caught in our absence altho

we had been previously accustomed to see those of from thirty to sixty pounds weight we ditermined to asscertain the weight of this fish after taking the following dementions of it— (see chart below) I have been informed that these fish have been taken in various parts of the Ohio & mississippi weighing from 175 to 200 lbs. weight which from the evidince of the subject above mentioned I have no doubt is authentic—

Lewis November 16, 1803

	F	Inches
Length—	4	3 ¼
width between the eyes—	1	1
Circumpherence arond the head just above the first fins and lower extremity of the gills being the large part of the fish	3	9
The dementions of the mouth when opened to the ordinary, or easy practicable width was From the center of the lower to the upper jaw—	0	8
Width from side to side—	0	10
Weight—		
Head—		44
Enterals [entrails]—very emty—		14
other parts of the carcase		65
The loss of blood, its lying out of the water six hours in the sun, & the waistage from the circumstance of being obliged to weigh it in small draughts not having any method of weighing entire may be estimated at, at least		—5
Total weight—		128

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Not only does Lewis thoroughly document the 128 pound catfish, but he also mentions reports of even larger fish. So how big can blue catfish get? That's a matter of some debate, but we do have historical evidence of giants caught in the late 1800s. In 1879, J.G.W. Steedman, chairman of the Missouri Fish Commission, found a 144 pound and a 150 pound blue catfish in a St. Louis fish market. Even more amazingly, William L. Heckman in his book *Steamboating, Sixty-Five Years on Missouri's Rivers*, reported a 315 pound catfish being caught shortly after the Civil War. While I would love to see a catfish this size, it is hard to fathom a catfish more than twice the size of the biggest we have swimming in our rivers today. Many times with catfish it's hard to tell where the truth ends and the storytelling begins. For example, take these two journal entries from Patrick Gass and Joseph Whitehouse, members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Saturday 25th. Two of our men last night caught nine catfish, that would together weigh three hundred pounds.

Gass, August

That's better than a 30-pound average. Not bad - and certainly believable, but it's much more impressive if you read Whitehouse's entry regarding the same fish.

Saturday August 25th some of our Men caught Nine Cat fish. 5 of them was very large, weighing on an average each 100 lbs.

Whitehouse, August 24, 1804

As you can see, stretching the truth a bit (or a lot) when telling a fish story is nothing new. In fact, there seems to be something

mythical about a big catfish that lends itself to exaggeration. As a child I heard stories of giant catfish below the dam in our local river. "Catfish as big as cars", they said. Legend has it that these leviathans frightened the SCUBA divers to the point where they refused to go back into the river. While I never fully believed these stories, there was always just enough plausibility to keep you wondering. As I began to travel across the Midwest, I heard the same familiar reports of giant catfish. It seems that every large river has a similar tale of a catfish as big as a man - or larger. In a sense, giant catfish are our Loch Ness Monsters; fuzzy pictures, a shady story, and enough local color to paint an interesting, if not very accurate, picture.

Maybe one day we will see the 175 to 200 pound catfish that Lewis reported. The arrow certainly seems to be pointing in that direction. The hook-and-line world record for blue catfish has been topped four times over the last eight years - most recently by a 143-pound behemoth caught last year in Virginia. Are we seeing these records fall due to an increase in the number of big blue catfish, or are anglers simply becoming better at catching big cats? It's likely a combination of the two. While it's true that anglers have better equipment and more information at their disposal today, it's also likely that conservation efforts may be allowing blue cats to live long enough to reach monstrous proportions.

Every year we at Columbia FWCO document thousands of baby catfish swimming the Missouri River. With wise use of this valuable resource, coupled with continued improvements in habitat and water quality, perhaps years from now one of those baby catfish will break the 200 pound mark. ■

Extras

The **Secretary of the Interior's 2012 Historic Preservation Awards** Committee is now accepting nominations for the recognition of employees of Federal Preservation Offices, State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and Certified Local Governments who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of historic resources.

Nominate someone today! [Click here](#) for more information.

So what does the Site Manager of Lewis and Clark State Historic Site in Hartford, Illinois do on his time off? Travel the Trail, of course. Read about his adventures on his two-week trek across America, following in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark.

www.lewisclarkandwinn.com



"Falls of the Ohio: Where they Met, Departed and Returned"

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation 2012 Annual Meeting is being hosted by the Ohio River Chapter. Join the Foundation on July 28 through August 1, 2012 in Clarksville, Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky.

For meeting details, go to: www.lewisandclark2012.com.



The Trailhead

by Neal Bedlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner

As a child I was very fortunate to have parents who gave me opportunities to experience our America. I grew up near the Oregon Trail in Nebraska. My parents would often show me where the actual wagon ruts could be seen on the Oregon Trail. As a child this gave me an outdoor recreational and educational experience that I will never forget. My imagination would wonder and take me back in time.

In the past couple years we have seen numerous movements to get youth outdoors, become more active, and get them “plugged-in” to nature. These efforts are important. Each of us can and should encourage youth to be more involved in outdoor activities. Youth will be the next generation of stewards of our natural world as well as our history and culture.

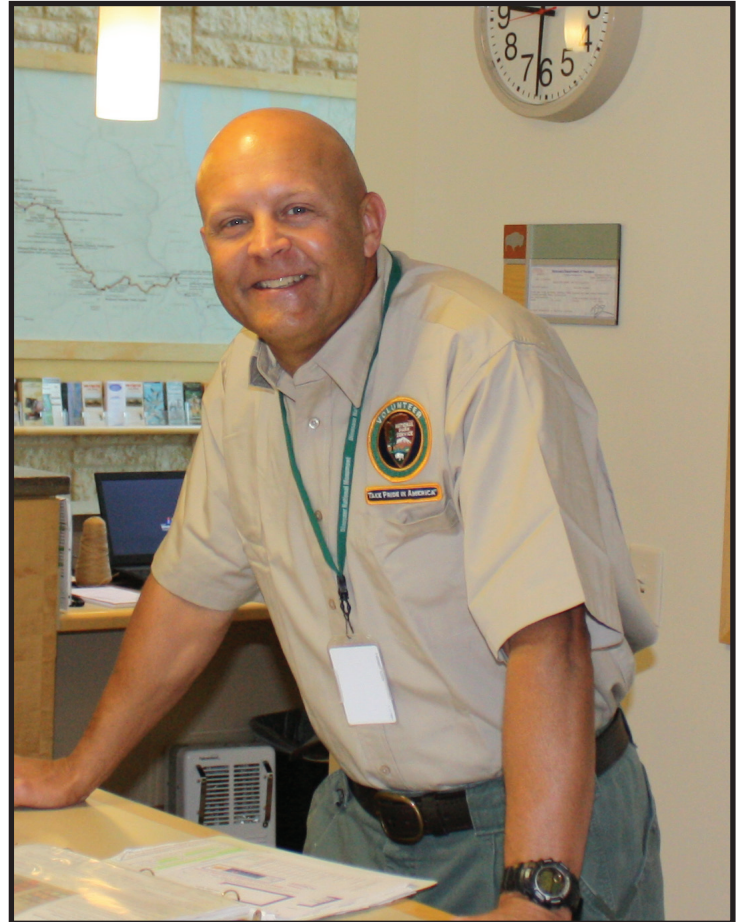
I believe that trails are one of the best ways to get youth involved in the outdoors. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and other historic trails not only provide great outdoor recreational opportunities,

but also provide an added bonus. Stories of historic events can go hand-in-hand with recreational experiences. Informing children of tales of history while they are experiencing physical challenges can spark the child’s imagination, taking them back and helping them to actually imagine what that history might have been like. The experience of walking in the footsteps of history creates unforgettable experiences for our future stewards. Hiking, biking or paddling alone is a great endeavor, but actively making the connection to the historic trail adds a unique bonus to a memorable experience.

The next time you are planning to get outside, think of how you can experience the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and remember to give a child an opportunity for recreation and encourage them to use their imagination by vicariously experiencing the Lewis and Clark Trail. The next generations of stewards depend upon us to provide them with relevant recreational experiences today. ■



Cynthia Martin, VIP



Kenneth Wilkinson, VIP



Volunteers-In-Parks, Cynthia Martin and Kenneth Wilkinson, bring their expertise to Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail during a much-anticipated program. In partnership with the National Park Trust, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail staff and volunteers welcomed students and teachers from Council Bluffs, Iowa. The success of the program is due largely to our dedicated volunteers.

Both volunteer hours, visitation, and interpretive program statistics are being recorded using the new Partner Networking and Data Collection Portal. End-of-year reporting will be facilitated by this new portal. We invite you to give it a try - it was designed for you!

A New Data Collection Portal Start Using it Today

by Nichole McHenry, Volunteer Program Manager

Are you always scrambling to gather statistics? Have you ever wondered what's happening along the trail? Do visitors often ask where they can volunteer on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail? Are you looking for new ways to generate statistical reports?

Well, do we have news for you! Over the past six months, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail has worked closely with a design firm to create a secure, customizable system that is user-friendly and serves a variety of purposes at no cost to you.

The *Partner Networking and Data Collection Portal* was designed with trail organizations in mind. It will assist in making the tasks of capturing data and reporting easier throughout the year. It is our hope this Portal provides you with beneficial information and is a utility in helping maintain and track your records.

Through this Portal we will collect valuable data for annual reports submitted to our Washington Office which highlight your

good work. Volunteer managers, visitor center supervisors, natural resource specialists and those in other programs areas will have the ability to use the Portal to monitor volunteers, record and track visitor center statistics and the day-to day operations of trail sites. Program managers will be able to maintain both basic and specific information on each volunteer and track volunteer hours for recognition events.

Trail organizations can generate reports, organize data, keep track of volunteer statistics, special events and post volunteer opportunities. Additionally, the Portal serves as a searchable database for upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and training events offered by various trail organizations.

We would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who attended the unveiling and Portal training on April 16, 2012. If you were not able to attend, we encourage you to browse our website for a recorded demo and find out how the portal can serve you and your organization. Please visit our website www.nps.gov/lecl. Contact us to get signed up and start using the Portal today. ■

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In an effort to better serve you, we are taking steps to improve our mailing list. To conserve resources, much of our communication efforts have transitioned to digital format. Periodically we still send hardcopy announcements on various topics. Having an accurate email and surface

mailing address 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 the Editor at (402) 661-1826 or at: lecl_communications@nps.gov.

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