

On The Trail

A local chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.
www.lewis-and-clark-kansas-city.org



Lewis and Clark Trail Superintendent Visits Kansas City

Mark Weekley, Dan Sturdevant, Pat Traffas and Ross Marshall at the Independence, Missouri, National Frontier Trails Museum. The occasion was the visit by National Park Service's Mark Weekley to Kansas City to explore the Lewis and Clark sites in our area. Mark is the Superintendent of the National Park Service's Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. More information about the National Trail is found at: <http://www.nps.gov/lecl/index.htm>



Lewis and Clark Book Club to discuss *Fort Osage: Opening of the American West*, March 28

We'll meet at the Cafe at Briarcliff Village, north of downtown on March 28 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss *Fort Osage: Opening Of The American West*, by Rhonda Wooldridge, published by Independence Press in Independence, Missouri, in 1983. The Mid-Continent Library has 12 copies available as of this writing and is also available on Amazon.com.

We have invited the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City to join us. In the early 1940s, the Native Sons were the primary civic organization that arranged for the construction of the replica Fort Osage which we now celebrate, and the Native Sons continue their promotion of this national historic site.

With questions & discussion; all are welcome even if you haven't read the book.

No reservations required. You may email Jil Brown at jbrown032001@comcast.net or call her at 816.331.8528 if you have questions.

The Cafe at Briarcliff Village is at 4125 N. Mulberry Drive, Kansas City North. Their phone number is 816.505.5557.

Directions to the Cafe:

- From downtown Kansas City, drive north on 169 Highway/Broadway extension across the Broadway bridge.
- Exit at Briarcliff Parkway.
- Turn left at the bottom of the ramp and proceed under the highway.
- Drive two blocks to Mulberry.
- Turn right and up the hill to the Briarcliff Village Shops.
- Turn right into the shopping area.
- The Cafe is in the middle of the shops.

February 5th Dinner Program

Save the date and please send your check!

An Excellent Dinner & Lewis and Clark Program, Saturday, February 5, Cascone's North.

Your check is your reservation. Please RSVP as soon as possible as we need to have a head count by Tuesday, February 1. Please mail your check for \$30 per person to: Lewis and Clark Riverbend Chapter

1220 Washington #301
KCMO 64105

Terry Hobbs and Ross Marshall present On the Trail in Nez Perce Country, their 2010 Lewiston, Idaho, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Program.

This was a terrific program in Idaho from July 31 through August 4, 2010.

Also in the program is a report on planning for Sacagawea at Fort Osage from Clarence Stessman. This event is for the April 23, 2011 Bicentennial Program!

Program details:

* Cascone's Italian Restaurant, 3737 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City North. 816.454.7977

* Cash Bar at 5:00 p.m. (Bar is separate from the dinner).

* Review of personal photos and events from 2004 through 2010

* Dinner, \$30 per person, 6:00 p.m. Italian Food: order from choice of two entrees, Chicken Limonata or Lasagna, plus a salad, and dessert and coffee or tea. Tip is included in the \$30.

* Program 7:00 p.m.

Contact Dan Sturdevant at dan@sturdevantlawoffice.com.

You may bring a spouse or friend(s) who is not a member of the chapter, in fact we hope to recruit new members who you may wish to invite. Please reserve the time now and send your check!

President's Note

Members, please reserve on your calendars now and then please come to our upcoming events: Saturday, February 5, Dinner and Program (see page 1), Monday, March 28, Bookclub (see page 1), and especially, Saturday, April 23, Sacagawea at Fort Osage (see page 4).

Dan Sturdevant

The Way To The Western Sea by David Lavender

University of Nebraska Press

\$18.95; Bison Book Paperback edition

ISBN 0-8032-8003-3

Reviewed by Kyle Carroll

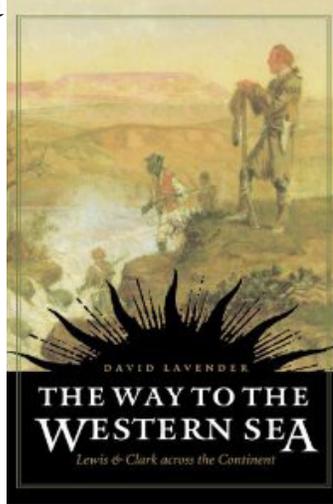
Several years ago I read a book by author David Lavender called *The First In The Wilderness*. It was good writing and accurate, so when I came across Lavender's *The Way To The Western Sea* on Amazon.com for a bargain price, I ordered it. I'm glad I did.

It is the journey of Lewis and Clark from Lavender's perspective. It is a familiar story to many Lewis and Clark devotees but it is worth the read for several reasons. Lavender's background as a historian and his research of the fur trade allows him to set the stage for the expedition's epic journey in an enlightening, somewhat different way in context with the world-wide market for furs and the impact that had on other countries interest in claiming the western part of the continent.

The book was first published in 1998, so he was writing, researching and forming his opinions prior to the bulk of Gary Moulton's seminal work being available. His handling of the journals is unique and interesting. For example, in the chapter Against the Flow, he writes about the explorers substitute salve they made when they ran out of what they had brought with them.

"they concocted another out of pine resin, bear oil, and—of all things—bees wax. (there were no bees in the American West in those days. Clark, acting on impulse, had purchased this wax from a Tillamook Indian he met on his venture down the coast to buy whale blubber. Originally it had been part of the cargo of a Spanish ship that had gone aground and broken up on Nehalem beach. The Tillamook Indians dug chunks of the stuff up for years.)"

This book would be a good purchase for anyone, whether familiar with Lewis and Clark or brand new to it's appeal. Lavender's style, breadth of knowledge and as always, the Lewis and Clark story make this book worth reading.



New Lewis And Clark Observation Tower At Camp Dubois

JIM SUHR Associated Press

HARTFORD, Ill. - The harrowing trek of explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark across uncharted America two centuries ago took perseverance - as did construction of an observation tower that overlooks the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and will bear their names.

Opened in May, a decade after the landmark was conceived, the 180-foot-tall building with twin towers gives visitors a panoramic gander at the spot where the rivers meet and, to the south, a view of the St. Louis skyline and its glistening Gateway Arch.

The observation tower complements the nearby Lewis and Clark State Historic Site commemorating Camp Dubois, where explorers who accompanied Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were trained and equipped before sojourning west at President Thomas Jefferson's behest.

Construction of the tower proved almost as difficult as the exploration it commemorates: Work stuttered as organizers struggled to cobble together the \$5 million needed from local and state sources. Frequently stormy, wet weather didn't help with the largely outdoor project.

"It was a long time coming," said Bob Schwandner, the project's superintendent for general contractor Jun Construction. "The interest is pretty high, and I think it'll be received well. It'll be something I hope a lot of people enjoy."

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River Bend Chapter Membership Application

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

National Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Member? Yes

Signature _____

Return this with your membership payment, made payable to Missouri-Kansas

River Bend Chapter, to:

Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter

1220 Washington Street, Suite 301

Kansas City MO 64105

Membership levels

\$5 Full-time student

\$15 Individual

\$25 Family

\$50 Non-profit organization

\$100 Corporation

Additional donation of \$

Total amount enclosed \$

Annual Dues Due in January

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The tower includes entry-level murals that resemble a giant jigsaw puzzle with more than 2,200 tile pieces. The interior has a visitors' center, and landscaping includes a fountain that shoots water from the middle of a huge, concrete compass.



An elevator in one tower takes visitors to the highest of three railed viewing decks. The other tower has stairs. The whole thing sits on a 4.5-acre stretch bisected by a bike trail and skirted by heavily traveled Illinois Route 3.

Hartford officials broke ground on the project in late 2002 and expected it to be completed by Dec. 12, 2003, the bicentennial of the explorers' arrival at Camp Dubois (they later traveled along the Missouri River, across the Rocky Mountains and to the Pacific Ocean).

Delays forced planners to adjust their sights on christening it by late 2006, when a group of re-enactors retracing the original expedition's two-year path were to complete their trip and return to southern Illinois. That opening didn't happen, either.

But now, the tower is open for business. See more at <http://host.madison.com/travel/regional>

IF YOU GO

What: Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower has three observation decks accessible by either stairs or an elevator. The tallest, 150 feet off the ground, gives visitors a panoramic view of the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

Where: Near Hartford in southwestern Illinois, just northeast of St. Louis, along Illinois Route 3.

Hours: The tower is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from noon to 4:30 p.m. Sundays.

Cost: \$4 for adults, \$2 for children.

Please Welcome Our New Members

Roger and Sandy Slusher,
Lexington, Missouri
Cate Taylor, Independence,
Missouri

*Missouri-Kansas River Bend
Chapter
1220 Washington, #301
Kansas City MO 64105
lewis-and-clark-kansas-city.org*

The Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter supports the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation locally through events, activities, programs, promotion, and protection of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail. The chapter encourages local interest in the expedition and related historic sites. Please send stories, ideas, and photos to Kyle Carroll, On the Trail Editor.



Kyle Carroll
Maysville, Missouri
816.449.5452
kylec@centurytel.net



Fourth Graders at Fox Hill Elementary School in Kansas City North, including Mrs. Everly's class, assembled for a Lewis and Clark talk by Dan Sturdevant recently. They were great!

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Please use our Lewis and Clark website, <http://www.lewis-and-clark-kansas-city.org>. Feel free link to our site, and encourage other groups and organizations to do so. Linking improves our standing in search engine results, and additional links help direct general inquiries to our website and the Kansas City area.



At the September 15, 2010, Annual Lewis and Clark Point Program. This time at River Bluff Park at 5th and Beardsley Road, rainout. But hardy Steve Kaub, Elizabeth Castillo, and Maximus were present.

Save the date: April 23, 1:00 p.m., for Sacagawea Bicentennial Program at Fort Osage

Saturday, April 23 at 1:00 p.m. at Fort Osage is our Sacagawea Bicentennial program. Chapter Member Chick Stessman and his committee have arranged for a program and partial funding towards a new, \$2,000 bronze Sacagawea plaque to be placed at Fort Osage. We invite you to participate in the program. Watch for details as to this program. Please come and reserve the time, as Fort Osage is about 45 minutes east of downtown Kansas City.

This Bicentennial commemorates Sacagawea's stay at Fort Osage in April 1811.

Contributions from chapter members are solicited towards the cost of this plaque. Please send your donation to the chapter office and label it "Sacagawea Plaque." (We are a 501(c)3 organization.)

More information about Fort Osage may be found at the Fort Osage National Historic Monument website: <http://www.fortosagenhs.com>, Sibley, Missouri.

For membership information, check <http://www.lewis-and-clark-kansas-city.org>, or call the Chapter Chair, Dan Sturdevant, at 816-421-4783

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