

# Carolina Chapter Newsletter

A Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

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## **President's Note**

We have a very special fall meeting scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25, in Asheville, N.C. The theme of the meeting is science, mainly botany. To be more precise - botanical exploration. We will be learning about the botanical discoveries of both William Bartram and Meriwether Lewis. Those of us who love the Lewis and Clark Trail will learn about another trail - the Bartram Trail.

Chapter member and Asheville area resident Carol Arnold has done an outstanding job of organizing what is shaping up to be a very outstanding meeting. She has arranged for a national expert on Bartram, Dr. Dan Pitillo, to be our main presenter. We will tour a Bartram exhibit at the Smith McDowell House History Center and have a guided trail walk with a Bartram focus at the North Carolina Arboretum. These activities will be spread over two days with Sunday morning being open for church attendance or rest.

The Asheville area is beautiful any time of year but especially so in late October when the autumn leaves are at their peak. There are lots of things to see and do in Asheville and throughout the North Carolina mountains. I look forward to seeing you in Asheville on October 24 and 25.

**Trent Strickland, President**



## **Table of Contents**

- 1 President's Note
- 2 Fall Meeting
- 2 Member Spotlight
- 3 Member News - New Members
- 3 Bryan Sibley's Trail Report
- 4 Photo: Louisburg Dedication
- 5 Bartram Links and Info
- 6-7 Bryan Sibley Photos
- 8 Calendar of Events
- 8 Directions to Fall Meeting

Carolina Chapter, LCTHF / 306 McLean Street / Hamlet, NC 28345

## FALL MEETING

The fall meeting will be held October 24 and 25 in Asheville, N.C. On Saturday, 24th, the meeting will begin at 11:00 am at the Gondolier Restaurant, located at 1360 Tunnel Road in east Asheville. The Gondolier's phone number is (828) 785-1645. See page 4 for directions.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Dan Patillo, a national expert on William Bartram. His presentation is entitled "Lone Bartam's Travels in the Southeast is Similiar to Lewis' Into New Territory." Dr. Patillo is a native of Henderson County, NC, where he grew up on a dairy farm. He is now retired after a forty-year career teaching biology/botany at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. His interests lie in continuing botanical collecting in Western North Carolina. He has been an active member of the North Carolina Bartram Trail Society since its establishment in 1977.

The meeting will also include an update from chapter member Russ Eagle on the HBO mini-series on Lewis and Clark currently being filmed in Canada, and chapter president Trent Strickland will give a short presentation on the plants of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The meeting time at the Gondolier Restaurant will include a self-pay lunch and should conclude at about 1:45 pm. After a short drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway, the meeting will continue at the nearby N.C. Arboretum for a William Bartram focused walk. Dr. Patillo and Arboretum staff will lead the walk that will begin at 2:30 pm. If needed, the group will car pool from the Gondolier to the Arboretum. The Saturday portion of the meeting will conclude with the Arboretum walk.

Sunday morning the 25th will be open for church attendance or driving on the Blue Ridge Parkway. At 2:00 pm the meeting will resume with a tour of the Bartram exhibit at the Smith-McDowell House Museum located at 283 Victoria Road (on the campus of Asheville-Buncombe Technical College). The Bartram exhibit is entitled "Bartram Journey: The 1775 Journey of William Bartram to Western North Carolina." Light refreshments will be available after the museum tour.

## MEMBER NEWS

### Member Spotlight: Carol Arnold

Carol Arnold of Arden (part of greater Asheville) has been a member of the Carolina Chapter since 1998 and served as vice-president for several years. Carol grew up on a farm in central Alabama. She completed nursing school in Florida where she met her future husband, Ron. She and Ron lived in Texas, Alabama, and upstate New York as Ron pursued his aerospace career. Ron and Carol have three children and 5 grandchildren. Her nursing experience was in orthopedics, neurology, and pain management, specifically intraspinal analgesia.

Carol's interest in Lewis and Clark began in 1998 when she planned a vacation "out west." She used the old National Lewis and Clark trail map to plot their journey. One of the first stops was Hohenwald, Tennessee, where she thought a memorial was taking place for Meriwether Lewis on that day in October but sadly learned that it was a huge flea market. She sat beside Lewis' grave in dismay and apologized to him for the disrespect that was being shown by folks that did not seem to understand the significance of the broken column at his grave. At that point Carol knew she was "hooked." With every stop on the trip she became more involved with the story. She has been a student of the expedition ever since, attending many annual meetings and volunteering with several bicentennial signature events.

Carol is the chief organizer and planner of the fall 2015 meeting that will be held in Asheville on October 24 & 25.

**Member News Continued on Page 3**

## **Member Bryan Sibley Reports from the Trail**

I have been an avid fan of the saga of Lewis & Clark for years. I have read "Undaunted Courage" a couple of times ... and decided that I would retrace the trail as much as possible. Of course I drove the roads that closely followed the Missouri River, crossed the Lolo Trail across the Bitterroot Mountains, and followed the Columbia River all the way to Astoria, Oregon.

Clay Jenkinson summed up my desire to do the trip this way: "We often think of life as journey. The Lewis & Clark story reminds us of this journey. Many of the wonders, challenges, dangers, and excitement in life's journeys can be found in the different experiences of the expedition."

As I departed on this journey alone, I determined to contemplate my own life. I could see myself in Meriwether Lewis in many respects. What he did and all he accomplished I could only dream of doing. With all the luxuries, technologies, comforts, etc. that we experience today there is a tremendous respect and debt of gratitude we all owe to Lewis & Clark and the Corps of Discovery. They had will power, grit, determination, bravery ... and so much more ... that our society has lost sight of.

As I left North Carolina and headed westward, I planned my first stop at the Meriwether Lewis National Monument just south of Nashville, TN. I wanted to pay my respects to this great man. The Pioneer Cemetery is on beautiful land, surrounded by the old Natchez Trace, Grinders Mill remnants, and of course a monument to Lewis.

**Continued on Page 5**

# **MEMBER NEWS**

## **Continued**

### **New Members**

**Montana Thrasher** of Jefferson, Georgia, grew up in Pennsylvania and Georgia and for the past eleven years has served as a police officer for the city of Gainesville, Georgia. He and his wife Whitney have two sons, Landon, age 5, and Hudson, age 1.

Montana's interest in Lewis and Clark began in his teenage years and he describes himself as an avid, and at times fanatical, enthusiast in the history of the expedition. Of special note is the fact that Montana lives near the site where Meriwether Lewis lived with his family when his mother and stepfather lived in Georgia for several years.

The Carolina Chapter welcomes Montana and thanks him for his service as a police officer.

**Bryan Sibley** of Newport, N.C., works as a media consultant with Halifax Media. He has a work background in audio-video production, having worked for station WCTI - TV in New Bern, N.C., for 12 years as production manager. He lives with his wife and two daughters on a 20-acre farm.

Bryan has been reading and studying about Lewis and Clark for five years and in June of this year he followed the Trail by vehicle. His account of this trip is contained in this issue of the newsletter and begins at left. The Carolina Chapter welcomes Bryan.





Karl Pernell, Mayor of Louisburg, joins our President Trent Strickland at the May 23 dedication of the Richard Warfington/Lewis and Clark marker at Joyner Park in Louisburg. Maury York, Director of the Tar River Center for History and Culture, wrote an excellent article about our chapter meeting in Louisburg on May 23. His article was published in the May 28 issue of the Franklin Times.

## **Bryan Sibley Reports Continued**

Unfortunately I did not get to spend much time in St. Louis. I had to get moving on for a short stay in Lincoln, NE with relatives. I have previously visited the awesome museum beneath the Arch. If I ever do the trip again, I will certainly spend a few days in St. Louis and St. Charles.

Headed north to the Dakotas, another planned stop was Sgt. Charles Floyd monument near Sioux City, Iowa. This is the only person who died during the expedition. His gravesite atop a high bluff, overlooking the Missouri River, was quite spectacular.

I decided to travel on some of the back roads through South & North Dakota. The drive was easy, and very relaxing. North Dakota has the best Rest Areas I have yet seen. They are manned with personnel that are talk to you and share materials about Lewis & Clark that make the travels enjoyable.

Certainly a highlight of the trip, in North Dakota, was my stop at Fort Mandan. A tour guide walked me through, as I marveled at the replica that now stands. Then it was into Montana on Hwy 2. It was a long drive to get to the major stops.

One of my favorite stops was in Loma, MT at Decision Point. As I sat alone atop that bluff and gazed out at the junction of the Missouri and Marias Rivers ... I could only wonder at the trials and days spent by the crew deciding the correct route. It was at that overlook that I could spend some private time in personal meditation myself concerning upcoming decisions.

I stayed in Missoula, MT as I prepared to cross the Lolo Trail across the Bitterroot Mountains. The drive was spectacular. Wildlife was everywhere. I contemplated all the hardships the Corps of Discovery endured while crossing those mountains.

I made the drive all the way to the junction of the Columbia River.... I followed it all the way to Astoria, Oregon. What a spectacular drive! The scenery through the Gorge, the Dalles, the waterfalls, etc. was awesome.

I spent a lot of time along the Pacific Ocean. My first venture took me to Fort Clatsop. It was all I expected and more. The authenticity

of the fort is well preserved. I went down to Seaside along the coast. The fog never lifted, and I was not able to get a good view of the ocean.

I crossed to the Washington side and visited Cape Disappointment and the beaches nearby. There was much to see. I went to the Dismal Nitch. I went also to Long Beach to see Clark's tree. And then I took the long trek back home.

**Editors Note: Some of Bryan's Photos are included on the following two pages of this newsletter.**

### **Report on National Meeting**

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual LCTHF National Convention, entitled "Across the Wide Missouri," was held on August 1-5 near the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers in Kansas City, Missouri. Four Carolina Chapter Members, Jesse and Shirley Alford, Lorna Hainsworth, and Palmer Midgett, were in attendance. Jesse Alford reports that the meeting emphasized Lewis & Clark sites from Kansas City up to St. Joseph, that the presentations were impressive, and that the hotel accommodations and food were excellent.

### **Learn More about Bartram and the Lewis and Clark Herbarium (plant collection)**

To learn more about William Bartram and the plants from the expedition see the following websites:

[www.ncbartramtrail.org](http://www.ncbartramtrail.org)

[www.plantsystematics.org/reveal/pbio/LnC/LnCpublic.html](http://www.plantsystematics.org/reveal/pbio/LnC/LnCpublic.html)

Also, see H. Wayne Phillips book, *Plants of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*.





The Fort Clatsop replica in Astoria, Oregon (above), and the Meriwether Lewis Monument on the Natchez Trace south of Nashville (Photos by Bryan Sibley).



**MERIWETHER LEWIS**  
**1774-1809**

BRITAIN THIS MONUMENT ERECTED UNDER LEGISLATIVE ACT BY THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, A.D. 1848 IN HONOR OF THE HERO OF MERIWETHER LEWIS, A CAPTAIN IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO FUGITIVE SUPERVISOR, SENIOR COMMANDER OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION, AND GOVERNOR OF THE TERRITORY OF LOUISIANA.

IN THE CHINA BARGE, THE BRIG OF WHICH ARE STILL RECEIVABLE, 230 YARDS SOUTH OF THIS ONE THE SITE OF VOLCANIC EROSION AND LASTING ACCIDENTARY GAVE TERRACEDLY AND WETTERABLE TO ITS CLASH ON THE NIGHT OF OCT. 11, 1804.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE MONUMENT ACT, CONTAINS THESE SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS: "GREAT CARE WAS TAKEN TO IDENTIFY THE GRATE GEORGE MENSA, ESQ., AN OLD SURVEYOR, WHO SECOND VERY CAREFULLY ASCERTAINED WITH THE LOCALITY HE POINTED OUT THE PLACE, BUT TO MAKE ASSURANCE SURE THE GRATE WAS RE-OPENED AND THE UPPER PORTION OF THE SKULLTON EXAMINED AND SUCH EVIDENCE FOUND AS TO LEAVE NO DOUBT OF THE PLACE OF INTEREST."





The replica of Fort Mandan in Washburn, North Dakota (above), and Decision Point near Great Falls, Montana (Photos by Bryan Sibley).



## **Calendar of Events**

### **WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH LEWIS & CLARK?**

#### **FALL MEETING**

The next Carolina Chapter meeting is scheduled for October 24-25, 2015 in Asheville. More details are on page 2, and directions are at the right.

#### **OTHER MEETING NOTES**

The 2015 Annual Meeting was held in Kansas City, MO on August 1-5, 2015. The 2016 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Harper's Ferry, WV on July 24-27, 2016. Continue to monitor the national LCTHF website at [www.lewisandclark.org](http://www.lewisandclark.org) for details as they become available.

## **Swap and Share**

If you have a Lewis and Clark book or item you would like to share with other chapter members, please bring it to the October meeting.

## **Membership Dues**

Members are reminded to please pay their yearly dues, which are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. You can bring your payment to the next meeting, or you can mail your dues to our Treasurer, Jim Hendrix, at P.O. Box 2094, Cashiers, NC. 28717.

## **Directions to Gondolier Restaurant**

Gondolier Italian Restaurant  
1360 Tunnel Road  
Asheville, NC 28805  
(828) 785-1645

#### **From I 40:**

Take Exit 55 toward Hwy 70 (Tunnel Road) Go ¼ mile. Turn left on Tunnel Road. Go 1/4 mile. Gondolier Restaurant will be on your right

#### **From Blue Ridge Parkway:**

Exit Parkway to go East on Hwy 70 (Tunnel Road) about Mile Marker 382.4. Go East on Hwy 70 about 1 mile. Gondolier Restaurant on your left.

#### **From I 26:**

Exit I 26 to I 40 East. Go I 40 East to Exit 55. Turn left toward Hwy 70 (Tunnel Road). Go 1/4 mile. Turn left on Tunnel Road. Go 1/4 mile. Gondolier restaurant will be on your right.

## **Hotels in the Asheville Area**

Many tourists come to the North Carolina mountains in late October to enjoy the mountain scenery and the color of the fall leaves. It's important to make motel reservations early. Be prepared to shop for a reasonable rate, as motels near the Parkway raise their rates the last weekend in October. A list of motels near Biltmore Square Mall will be sent in a separate email.

This newsletter was produced by the Carolina Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. To submit or suggest articles for upcoming issues, please contact Russ Eagle at [RussEagle@mac.com](mailto:RussEagle@mac.com). Digital photos for publication are welcome as well.

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Russ Eagle: Newsletter Editor