

CAROLINA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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July 2020

President's Note

This is an extraordinary time. The threat of the virus continues, and we have to think carefully about all our interactions with others. I regret that we will not see each other at the annual meeting in Charlottesville, but clearly it was the best decision to make the change to a virtual meeting. I urge all members to take advantage of the virtual meeting on August 2-5. (Information on how to sign up for the virtual meeting is shared on page 5 of this newsletter.)

Comparisons with the expedition are difficult, but I think about the Corps of Discovery at Fort Clatsop for several months during the winter of 1805-06. Wet and cold, too much time indoors, and so eager to start back east, they left too early.

Please keep safe and healthy. You are in our prayers.

Trent Strickland, President

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Note: Thanks to Tom Dillon for arranging permission to reprint this review.



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EXCERPT FROM THE JOURNALS: Independence Day at the Great Falls July 4, 1805

[Clark]

A fine morning, a heavy dew last night, all hands employed in Completing the leather boat, gave the Party a dram which made Several verry lively, a black Cloud came up from the S. W, and rained a few drops I employ my Self drawing a Copy of the river to be left at this place for fear of Some accident in advance, I have left buried below the falls a Map of the Countrey below Fort Mandan with Sundery private papers the party amused themselves dancing untill late when a Shower of rain broke up the amusement, all lively and Chearfull, one Elk and a beaver kill'd to day. our Tar kill like to turn out nothing from the following cause.

[Ordway]

July 4th Thursday 1805. a beautiful clear pleasant warm morning. the most of the men employed putting the sections of the Iron boat together &C. one of the hunters went on bear Island a Short time and killed an Elk and a beaver. we Saved the Skins and Some of the meat. we finished puting the Iron boat together and turned hir on one side to dry. it being the 4th of Independence we drank the last of our ardent Spirits except a little reserved for Sickness. the fiddle put in order and the party amused themselves dancing all the evening untill about 10 oClock in a Sivel & jovil manner. late in the evening we had a light Shower of rain but did not last long.—

[Gass]

Thursday 4th. A fine day. A part of the men were busily engaged at the boat, and other in dressing skins for clothing, until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when we drank the last of our spirits in celebrating the day, and amused ourselves with dancing till 9 o'clock at night, when a shower of rain fell and we retired to rest.

[Whitehouse]

July 4th Thursday 1805. a clear beautiful morning. the most of the men employed putting the Sections of the Iron boat together &c. &c. one of the hunters went on bear Island^[2] and killed an Elk and a beaver. we finished putting the Iron boat together and turned hir up to dry. towards evening our officers gave the party the last of the ardent Spirits except a little reserved for Sickness. we all amused ourselved dancing untill 10 oClock in the evening. at which time we had a light Shower of rain, the party all in good Spirits keeping up the 4th of July &c. as Independence.—

Thursday July 4th This morning we had Clear weather, the most of the party were employed, putting the Sections of the Iron boat together &ca.— One of the hunters went over to bear Island, and killed an Elk, and one Beaver; we finished putting the Iron boat together, and turned her bottom up to dry.— Towards evening Our officers gave the party the last of the ardent Spirit that we had (excepting a little that they reserved for sickness)— We amused ourselves with frolicking, dancing &ca. untill 9 o'Clock P. M. in honor of the day. In the Evening we had a slight shower of Rain, but it soon cleared away, & we had fine weather—

Book Review: André Michaux

André Michaux in North America: Journals and Letters, 1785-1797

University of Alabama Press, 2020

ISBN: 978-0-8173-2030-0

7 x 10, 608 pages, \$54.95 hardback

Reviewed by Gail Fishman

The triumvirate of Charlie Williams, Eliane M. Norman and Walter Kingsley Taylor has brought the French botanist, André Michaux (March 8, 1746 – October 11, 1802) to life again.

From the first paragraph of the fine Foreword penned by James E. McClellan III, readers will eagerly dive into the sumptuous years of Michaux's expeditions in North America. Sumptuous, not because of riches and finery, but because of the botanical wealth of the land he explored more than two centuries ago.

Long anticipated, the editors have delved deeply into extant letters Michaux wrote and that were written to him as well as his surviving notebooks and journal. They carefully translate each word, plotting the dates of his various routes, including diary entries from people he visited, painstakingly matching the plants noted by Michaux with the corresponding modern name, carefully tracing the personality of the man whose driving passions were plants and respectability.

André Michaux was the eldest son of Andre and Marie-Charlotte Barbe Michaux. The elder Michaux managed a farm at Satory on the royal domain in the park of Versailles. Andre and his younger brother attended school, where Andre studied the classics and languages. His education lasted fewer than four years because the boys' father assumed his sons would one day take over the farm.

At age 23, André Michaux married Anne-Cecile Claye, who was from a wealthy family. After Anne-Cecile died in 1770, probably from complications of childbirth, Andre was saturated with heartache. His fascination and curiosity about botany healed his heart and set him on his life's desire – not wealth, but to be accepted and respected for his hard work and to bring prominence to France. Who could have guessed that years later, another upheaval, the French Revolution, would change the future for Michaux and France?

André Michaux traveled in a time of uncertainty. He adapted to each situation that did not go as planned, and his notebooks recount his adaptability and his extreme attention to botany. He digs up trees, he collects seeds, he writes letters, he arrives back at the Charleston garden and the next day sows the seeds, he logs the miles traveled for most days, he remarks about good places to stay, he packs shipments to France. Literally he only refrained from his tasks when fever or another illness struck, and then not for long.

Because the book is so well researched and the routes of his explorations so well defined, it would be possible to follow his tracks to see what he saw. But if one is not so inclined, settle in with this book and travel with André Michaux as he roams through a country lightly settled; understand his relationship with native guides and with other people from all walks of life; experience the obstacles of many rainy days, freezes, floods, lack of food, often trepidation about the unfamiliar surroundings. There's even a slight glimpse into the trials of being the single parent of a recalcitrant teenaged boy.

Readers will appreciate the history unfolding around Michaux as the United States began to grow and the intrepid, enthusiastic, self-sufficient and determined French botanist tirelessly worked to discover familiar plants, as well as those not yet described. This is a book to savor, to read slowly and with careful attention to the excellent notes. Keep several bookmarks handy. In the end, Michaux, the man for the ages, as named by Charles Kuralt, will come alive again.

Gail Fishman is a ranger at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in Florida and the author of "Journeys Through Paradise," about naturalists in the Southeast. This review originally appeared in The Traveller, the newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference.

New Member: Betty Mullins

Here's another in our profiles of recent new members to the Carolina Chapter, this time featuring Betty Mullins of Greer, South Carolina:

I grew up on a ranch in Choteau, Montana, and we summered the livestock in an area close to Browning, Montana. I was fascinated by the monument outside Browning. As a young child, I knew nothing about Lewis and Clark. My parents explained to me how they traveled through the mountains and ended their journey in Astoria, Oregon. I was hooked. Later, as a military wife, I continued to learn as we traveled and moved.

I have always loved history and traveling, so one year my significant other and I drove the last of the Lewis & Clark route, making many stops along the way. I will never forget being at the Mandan site in North Dakota. We finally made it to Astoria, where we spent time learning and absorbing more about this amazing accomplishment.

A couple of years ago, I reconnected with Phyliss Yeager, also from Choteau, and was surprised to learn about her connection to Lewis & Clark. It was through Phyliss that I became even more interested.

I look forward to becoming more involved. Now that we are living part-time in South Carolina, I hope to attend meetings and conferences, and perhaps even a trip on the Missouri River.

Donation to Mobile Map Exhibit

There was strong support for our chapter's donation to the Mobile Map Exhibit. The exhibit will be made available to visitor centers, schools, libraries, and state and local historical societies. Our donation resulted in two notes of thanks.

From Philippa Newfield, past President of LCTHF: *To the Carolina Chapter, you have the thanks of the LCTHF for your contribution to "Reimagining America: The Maps of Lewis and Clark." As you see, the work of our foundation has been ongoing despite the pandemic.*

And from Lou Ritten, LCTHF President: *Thank you for your most thoughtful donation which has been directed to fund an original and innovative mobile map display entitled "Reimagining America: The Maps of Lewis and Clark Expedition Traveling Exhibit." Your gift is a testament to ensuring the mission of LCTHF to foster the Lewis and Clark legacy for future generations and helps us honor our commitment as Keepers of the Story - Stewards of the Trail.*

Wayne Madry to lead Diversity Committee

During its June 2020 meeting, the LCTHF Board unanimously approved the creation of a Diversity Committee. President Lou Ritten appointed Carolina Chapter member Wayne Madry as Chairman. Wayne will be responsible for appointing committee members and for implementing its objectives. These include developing among diverse communities an understanding of and appreciation for the historical significance of the Lewis and Clark expedition; ensuring that LCTHF is cognizant of and takes into account diverse viewpoints when making decisions and in both its internal and external communications; and increasing the representation of diverse peoples among LCTHF membership. For more information, or to make suggestions for the committee, contact Wayne at wmadry2002@yahoo.com, or Lou Ritten at lritten01@yahoo.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2020 Annual (Virtual) Meeting

The 2020 Annual Meeting, hosted by Charlottesville's Home Front Chapter, will take place from August 2 through August 5. Due to the conditions and challenges of Covid-19, this will be a virtual meeting. For details, visit the LCTHF website at:

Lewisandclark.org

To register for the virtual meeting, go to:

<https://lewisandclark.org/meetings/>

CHAPTER DUES

All chapter members are asked to forward their annual dues payment to Jim Hendrix, our Chapter Treasurer, at P.O. Box 2094, Cashiers, NC 28717. Dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families.

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. Digital photos for publication are welcome as well.

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RUSS EAGLE: NEWSLETTER EDITOR