



# Course & Communication

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION, LCTHF  
ALASKA – IDAHO – OREGON – WASHINGTON

*"The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river, & such principal stream of it, as, by it's course & communication with the water of the Pacific ocean may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent, for the purposes of commerce."*

Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis, June 20, 1803

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation now provides all-in-one membership in the Pacific Northwest Region & your state Chapter. Visit the LCTHF website or call 888-701-3434 to join or renew! (See page 11 to learn more.)

[lewisandclark.org/join/](http://lewisandclark.org/join/)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Idaho News                                    | 2  |
| Oregon Roundup                                | 3  |
| On & Off the Trail in Washington State        | 4  |
| In Memoriam: Dick Hohnbaum                    | 5  |
| SW Washington History Day Contest             | 5  |
| 15 Cultural Protocols - Visiting Native Lands | 6  |
| Dates to Remember                             | 10 |

**SUBMISSION  
DEADLINE FOR  
NEXT ISSUE:  
MARCH 15th**

## WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING TACOMA, WA – FEBRUARY 7, 2026

The Washington State Chapter of the LCTA will hold our annual gathering on Saturday, February 7 at the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, WA. We will meet in the 5th floor board room.

The day will begin with coffee and pastries, and our fundraising silent auction at 10:00 AM. We'll have our business meeting at 10:30, followed by the program, "Fifteen Pounds of Peruvian Barks and Two Ounces of Gum Camphor": Two Doctor-Captains and the Corps of Discovery," presented by Barb Kubik.

At 1 pm, the Washington State Historical Society docents will provide us with an intimate look at the new exhibit, "This is Native Land." This exhibit is the result of years of collaboration with the historical society, the state's tribes and historians! It is an outstanding addition to the museum! The exhibit showcases the tribes' complex histories and cultures, and the historical society's extensive collections.

The day will end with a casual, no-host lunch if people are interested.

If you plan to attend, please consider bringing something to donate for the silent auction. Many of us have Lewis and Clark

items to spare — books, souvenirs and more. The silent auction raises funds to help pay for gift memberships, our annual prize for the state's National History Day contest, and various programs and projects we support. Bring your items for the Si-



lent Auction, along with cash or check-book to purchase auction items.

Meeting location:

Washington State History Museum  
1911 Pacific Avenue  
Tacoma, Washington  
1-888-238-4373  
[washingtonhistory.org](http://washingtonhistory.org)

*Submitted by Barb Kubik.*

## IDAHO NEWS

BY GARRY BUSH, IDAHO CHAPTER PRESIDENT

The Idaho Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Alliance is alive and well.

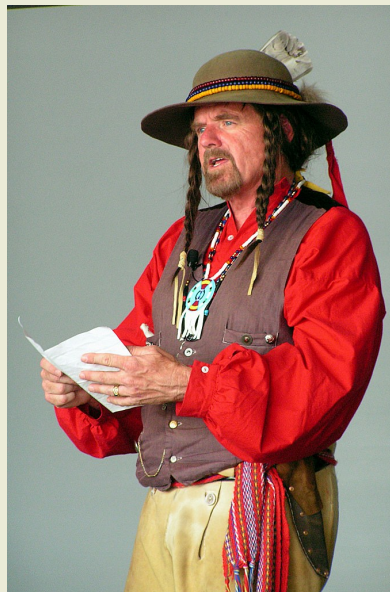
Idaho Chapter members have been attending Zoom meetings with Richard Hunt, finalizing the partnership with Runner's Edge in Missoula to host a 20-mile trail run from Lolo Hot Springs to the summit and back, culminating in Nez Perce Tribe and L&C interpretive events at the Hot Springs on September 5, 2026.

LCTA has obtained grants for L&C Trail Stewardship work along the Lewis & Clark / Nez Perce Tribe - Bitterroot Mts. / Lolo Pass trail system.

**John Fisher** (L&C Medicine authority) and **Garry Bush** (Charbonneau historian) will help celebrate "Pomp's" 221<sup>st</sup> birthday. *"Medicine along the L&C Trail, Madame Charbonneau & Pomp."*

This talk will take place February 21, 2026, 1:00 pm at the Nez Perce Historical Park (NPS), Spalding, Idaho

The Idaho Chapter's next meeting will be in April 2026.



Garry Bush in the persona of Toussaint Charbonneau



PHOTO BY JOHN ORTHMANN

John Fisher displays the medicine of the Corps at Heritage Days in Pasco, WA

### IDAHO CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

President: **Garry Bush**  
 Vice President: **Steve Lee**  
 Secretary: **Cheryl Essary**  
 Treasurer: **Holly Crawley**  
 Past President: **Laurie Brown**

## THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL ALLIANCE

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, JUNE 21-24, 2026

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER, AND LEARN MORE ONLINE:  
[lewisandclark.org/annual-gathering](http://lewisandclark.org/annual-gathering)



### Course & Communication

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Region of the LCTHF  
 Editor: John Orthmann Email: [privatejwhitehouse@gmail.com](mailto:privatejwhitehouse@gmail.com)  
 Publisher: Rennie Kubik  
 Region website: [pnw-lcthf.org](http://pnw-lcthf.org)  
 Foundation website: [lewisandclark.org](http://lewisandclark.org)



## OREGON ROUNDUP

BY ALICIA HAMEL, OREGON CHAPTER PRESIDENT

What a winter, but luckily not as bad as the Expedition's winter at Fort Clatsop where it rained almost every day and the meat spoiled almost as soon as it was killed. Speaking of Fort Clatsop, we had a great annual meeting there with amazing food catered by Fulio's in Astoria. I hope I had the chance to say hi to you at the meeting. I look forward to seeing you on the trail this year.

We had the opportunity to welcome three new board members to the Oregon Chapter board: COL (Ret) Mark Rathburn (my old boss in the Oregon National Guard), Andy Demko (a great Social Studies teacher in Rainier) and Krista Price. Krista has decided that she can no longer



serve on the Oregon Chapter board, so we are looking for her replacement. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the Oregon Chapter board. I am looking for people who want to invigorate our chapter and work on increasing our membership numbers.

Look for invite to go on a hike for March 15<sup>th</sup>. See you all again soon.

Alisha Hamel,  
Oregon Chapter President



PHOTO BY STEVE RAMBERG  
Alisha Hamel

### OREGON CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

President: **Alisha Hamel**  
 Vice-President: **Lyn Trainer**  
 Secretary: **Mark Johnson**  
 Treasurer: **Ted Kaye**  
 Directors:  
     **Lisa Commander**  
     **Andy Demko**  
     **Nancy Dunis**  
     **Thelma Haggemiller**  
     **Glen Kirkpatrick**  
     **Krista Price**  
     **Mark Rathburn**  
     **Jon Burpee, ex-officio**  
     **Hannah Crummè, ex-officio**  
     **Larry McClure, ex-officio**



PHOTO BY FRED AND OSCAR KISER  
Celilo Falls circa 1903

## PNW REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Glen Kirkpatrick** — Chair  
**Ted Kaye** — Treasurer/Finance  
**Gavin Anderson** — Webmaster

**Cheryl Essary** — Vice-Chair  
**vacant** — Calendar Coordinator

**Holly Crawley** — Secretary  
**Rennie Kubik** — Communications  
 Director

## ON & OFF THE TRAIL IN WASHINGTON STATE

BY BARB KUBIK, WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

I love our newsletter, **Course & Communication**! I love the way our editor, John Orthmann, puts it together with a combination of news, presidential columns, stories [of the story and of the Trail], and updates for our meetings, field trips and other activities. I love the way John, with the three chapter presidents, and the regional board of directors, guide us as we wrestle with the issues we all face:

- membership growth
- meeting locations and programs
- trail stewardship
- curating personal libraries as our members downsize.

Huzza John!

I love I can use my column to reach all of you, my friends, my fellow Trail trekkers and armchair explorers, and map makers; writing this column is like talking with you on the telephone [or via email], old and dear friends!

We're looking at an exciting and busy year, and frankly, we need your help! Despite the passing of Rob Heacock last year, we have decided to "proceed on" to plan the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of

### WASHINGTON STATE LEADERSHIP

President: **Barb Kubik**  
 Vice President: **Sue Strachan**  
 Secretary: **vacant**  
 Treasurer: **Steve Lee**  
 Past President: **Steve Wang**  
 Directors at-large:  
**Lauren Danner**  
**Rennie Kubik**  
**John Orthmann**  
*[1 position currently vacant]*



the Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance. The theme is "The Columbia Gorge: Bridging Cultures and Communities" and the dates are August 28-September 1, 2027. We are currently in negotiations with Skamania Lodge for rooms and meeting spaces.

How can YOU help with the planning?

- Larry McClure is looking for vendors for the Vendor's Fair—book sellers, crafts, regional foods. WSU Press has already said yes! Remember, the LCTA adheres to the National Park Service's policies re: tribal crafts, meaning local tribal craftspeople only.
- We're looking for suggestions for sponsors, financial supporters and grants. Would your company help us?
- We're looking for ideas [and donations] for "swag bags"—small gifts, maps, brochures and etc. to fill them.
- We'll want a few, topic/site-specific articles for **We Proceeded On**, beginning in early 2027.

And I know, we'll need many more worker bees as the meeting comes together in the next 18 months!! Later, we'll be talking about the programming we want.

One of my "huzzas" this month goes to the **Postal Annex at Salmon Creek** [Vancouver, WA]. As per the request of some of our members who prefer a mailed copy

of **Course & Communication**, the staff at Postal Annex provides copy and mail services for those 30+ members, promptly, graciously, and affordably! A big huzza to Beth and her young workers!

Don't forget our chapter's annual meeting on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. We'll start at 10 am with coffee and cookies, followed by the business meeting and programs. At 1 pm, the state historical society docents will provide us with an intimate look at the new exhibit, "This is Native Land." If you are interested, we'll end the day with a casual, no-host lunch!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the Troutdale [OR] Historical Society's "History Pubs at



Rennie and Barb Kubik at Pillar Rock

McMenamins" at the Edgefield McMenamin's Blackberry Hall [2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale]. Doors open at 6 pm; programs begin at 7 pm. There is a \$5.00/person fee. Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, Zachary Stocks, the executive director of the Oregon Black Pioneers, will present his program, "A Man Called York." If you missed Zach's program at the Oregon Chapter's Christmas party, I encourage you to catch it here!

Until then, may our new year be filled with new trails, new stories, and new friends!

Proceeding on,  
 Barb Kubik, President

## RICHARD C. HOHNBAUM 1932 – 2025

Dick Hohnbaum, who helped reconstitute the Oregon Chapter in the late 1990s, died December 15<sup>th</sup> at age 93 in Salem, OR.

Dick served as treasurer for many years, keeping meticulous records and mastering computer software to create Chapter materials. He and his wife Cathy attended events until health limited participation.

A lifelong educator, his love of history was not only for Lewis & Clark but he also volunteered regularly at Willamette Heritage Center in Salem, where he portrayed missionary Jason Lee, which grew out of his lifelong leadership in the Methodist church.

Dick joined the initial chapter board in 1999, was treasurer 2000-2016, and retired in 2018, serving a total of 19 years. He reveled in decorating the annual holiday dinner with festive placecards and table dé-

cor and produced the chapter newsletter for its first 8 years.

Submitted by Larry McClure & Ted Kaye



PHOTO BY TED KAYE

Dick and Cathy Hohnbaum in 2011

## LEWIS & CLARK GARDEN CORPS LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Do you enjoy spending time outdoors? Do you have gardening experience or an interest in learning more about gardening and local native plants? Come join the new Volunteer Garden Corps at the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in Astoria, OR.

Garden Corps members will work closely with park staff to support and maintain the park's native demonstration gardens and landscaped areas including the ethnobotanical garden, raingarden, pollinator patch, and other areas of high visitor use. These duties include regularly weeding undesirable species, pruning and trimming plant material, watering, chipping garden paths, collecting seed, and assisting with planting native plants. No prior experience is necessary to participate; our staff will provide training and guidance on all aspects of the position as well as personal protective equipment and necessary tools.

Some aspects of the position will utilize integrated pest management principles which include manual, mechanical and chemical removal of invasive plant species. This may include the use of unrestricted herbicides, and mechanical tools. This work may also include use of kayaks to access aquatic plants.

Sessions are typically planned for Thursdays from 1:00pm - 4:00pm PST. Volunteers DO NOT need to attend every session to participate!

Want to join the Garden Corps? Call 503-861-4424.

**Source:** [www.nps.gov/lewi/getinvolved/volunteer](http://www.nps.gov/lewi/getinvolved/volunteer)

## SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL HISTORY DAY CONTEST

BY BARB KUBIK

I am writing to all of you, as staff and/or volunteers associated with heritage organizations/museums in southwest Washington with a "save-the-date" notice for the 2026 Southwest Washington History Day contest. The contest is set for Saturday, March 7, 2026 at I-Tech Prep at 16100 NE 50th Avenue in Vancouver. Many of you have graciously volunteered for this day-long event in the past, or you have encouraged your staff, board of directors, volunteers and/or members to spend the day with us. We hope you will do the same again this year!

The theme for this year's History Day is "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History," a theme which coincides with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. If you would like more information about the theme, especially for your organization's newsletter, you can check out the National History Day website at [www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org).

Thanks to local judges like yourselves, our students have done well at the state and national contests, in part because of your thoughtful and meticulous comments. We hope you will consider judging again, or that you will encourage your staff, members, and volunteers to do so for us.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Barbara J. Kubik—Historian**  
Southwest Washington Regional  
History Day Contest  
10808 NE 27th CT  
Vancouver, WA 98686  
[Barbjkubik@gmail.com](mailto:Barbjkubik@gmail.com)  
(360)-546-5949



# 15 Cultural Protocols to Know Before you Visit Native Homelands in the U.S.



**AIANTA**  
American Indian Alaska Native  
Tourism Association

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), the only national organization dedicated to advancing cultural heritage tourism in Native Nations and communities across the United States, is sharing 15 cultural protocols travelers should know before visiting Native homelands in the U.S. While every tribe and region of Native America is different, follow these general guidelines for visiting Native lands.

Each tribal nation in Native America makes the decision on how best to balance community and tradition while providing visitors with enjoyable experiences. However, to avoid misunderstandings or violations of our traditions, tribes ask that visitors follow a basic code of conduct. In doing so, tribes can ensure the protection of sacred and ceremonial areas, including the preservation of historical artifacts.

## Which term is preferred, American Indian, Native American or Indigenous?

All terms are generally acceptable, although many individuals have a preference. "American Indians" specifically refers to indigenous people of the lower 48 states, while "Native Americans" encompasses Alaska Natives as well. Native Hawaiians are distinct from "Indians" and are their own unique people with ancestral ties to their homelands. To delve deeper into Hawaiian culture and protocols, visitors can consult the [Ma'ema'e Toolkit](#), a resource developed in collaboration with the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. "Indigenous" is more internationally favored.



## What do Native peoples want to be called?

A key aspect of understanding cultures different from your own is through asking questions and actively learning about them. When referring to multiple individuals with different tribal affiliations, both "American Indians" and "Native Americans" are acceptable terms. However, when referring to individuals, it is preferable to use the name of their specific tribe whenever possible or available. Here are some examples:

- He is a Navajo commissioner.
- She is a citizen of the Nisqually Indian Tribe.
- He is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

It's important to note that many of the tribal names commonly known are not the names the people refer to themselves as. For instance, "Nez Perce" is a colonizer-assigned misnomer, whereas "nimilpuu" is the preferred term, meaning "the people" in their own language.

## What is Indian Country?

Indian Country refers to the many self-governing and sovereign Native American communities in the U.S., including Native American reservations and trust lands. Federally recognized tribes and the United States have a government-to-government relationship. As sovereign nations, they create and enforce their own laws, determine citizenship, and license and regulate activities in their jurisdictions. Native Americans are also United States citizens and have the right to vote. There are also state recognized and unrecognized tribes, while some Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian people have unique status.



## How many tribes and Native Americans are there in the U.S.?

There are 574 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages. A federally recognized tribe is an American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that has a recognized government-to-government relationship with the U.S. Additionally, there are more than 60 state-recognized tribes, which allows for a degree of self-determination at the state level but not at the federal level. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2021, there are 7.2 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives living in the U.S., including those of more than one race.

## Where is Indian Country?

All of America is considered Indigenous homelands. Due to treaties and forced displacement, the establishment of reservations, etc. were created. Today, the term "Indian Country" refers to this land base, while Natives continue to maintain their connection to their homelands beyond these borders. More than 56 million acres make up Indian Country, an area that when combined would be roughly the size of Great Britain. This area is spread across 326 Indian lands, including reservations, rancherias, pueblos, and villages. The largest is the 16-million-acre Navajo Nation Reservation that stretches across three states in the Southwest, and the smallest is a 1.3-acre parcel in California where the Pit River Tribe's cemetery is located. Many smaller reservations are less than 1,000 acres in size. Some reservations represent tribes' ancestral lands while others were created by the federal government to forcibly resettle Native Americans away from their homelands. Not all federally recognized tribes have reservations.



## Can I visit any reservation?

Many reservations welcome visitors and have recreational, historical, and cultural sites and events to share with the public. All the attractions, experiences, and accommodations listed on [NativeAmericaTravel](#) are open to the public. Other tribes prefer not to have tourists or require that visitors register at a tribal office. When in doubt, visit the tribal government website to understand if and where visitors are welcome. When visiting any reservation, you are considered a guest and should respect the privacy of the residents and adhere to the tribe's laws.

# 15 Cultural Protocols to Know Before you Visit Native Homelands in the U.S.



**AIANTA**  
American Indian Alaska Native  
Tourism Association

## Do Native Americans share a common language?

Hundreds of languages were once spoken among indigenous people of North America, but today, English is the most common language used at home, school, and work. American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians originate from diverse cultures, each with its own language passed down through oral tradition over thousands of years. Presently, about 200 of these languages still exist, but many have only a few speakers remaining. Various tribes are actively engaged in revitalizing their languages and striving to increase the number of speakers among their members.



## What is there to do in Indian Country besides gambling?

About a third of federally recognized Native American tribes have gaming operations, but there is much more to experience in Indian Country. Come meet the people behind the adobe dwellings of the Southwest, the buffalo herds of the Northern Plains, the exquisitely carved totems of Alaska, and all the Indian Country in between. Native American geography and heritage are diverse and very much alive, offering visitors a multitude of authentic experiences grounded in history. While many tribes continue to face economic hardships as a result of historical injustices, Native Americans are proud people with many stories to tell.

## Burial grounds and religious ceremonies are sacred and are not to be entered.

Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are hospitable and generous in nature. However, spiritual teachings, sacred ceremonies, and burial grounds are not openly shared with the public. Native peoples are proud of their teachings and their heritage. These have been passed down by their ancestors and represent thousands of years of individual histories. Your patience and understanding of their traditions and cultures are appreciated.



## What are the guidelines for photography on Native lands?

It is a respectful practice to ask for permission before taking any photos on Native lands. Unless you see a sign posted on the premises, always ask before photographing or recording an individual, an event, or activity, as there are some reservations that prohibit photography, videography, or the use of drones. Some may require a paid permit.

## Always be aware of your surroundings by being attentive to signage and obey individual tribal rules and regulations.

Weapons, drugs, and misuse of alcohol will not be tolerated. Please respect the privacy of residential communities. It is always a good idea to ask about the local laws beforehand.



## What are some important things to consider when planning to travel to Indigenous lands?

As with all travel planning, a good starting point is to research the communities you plan to explore and then be prepared to ask questions on site. Contacting each Tribe or Native Nation before you go is also a great idea to see if they're welcoming visitors or hosting sacred events on a particular day, not open to the public.

## Do not pick up or remove artifacts or objects.

Remember, artifacts and objects found on Native lands belong to the land and its people. If you see something that is of interest, ask your guide if they're able to teach you about it. Consider investing in art from a tribal artisan as one of the many ways you can support the tribe while bringing home a memento from your visit (beadwork, basketweaves, pottery, clothing, canvas painting, and much more).



## Are there resources to help me plan my trip to Native America?

AIANTA created the NativeAmerica.travel website to share the unique experiences available to travelers throughout Native Nations and communities. Today, it is the leading travel resource for travelers planning trips to native destinations, and for tribes and native enterprises looking to grow Indigenous tourism as a means of economic development. Visitors interested in learning more about Native culture can visit [www.nativeamerica.travel](http://www.nativeamerica.travel) and can learn more about AIANTA at [www.aianta.org](http://www.aianta.org).



## Buying authentic arts and crafts.

Under the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, all American Indian and Alaska Native art and craft products must be marketed truthfully regarding the Native American heritage and tribal affiliation of the artist or craftsman. To ensure you are buying authentic art, follow these buying tips:

- Request a written guarantee or written verification of authenticity
- Get a receipt that includes all the vital information about your purchase, including price, maker, and maker's Tribal affiliation
- Realize that authentic handmade pieces may be expensive. If a price seems too good to be true, be sure to ask more questions about the item and its maker
- These tips are provided by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board (IACB). For more tips, visit their website at [www.doi.gov/iacb](http://www.doi.gov/iacb).

### About AIANTA

For more than 26 years, the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) has served as the only national organization dedicated to advancing cultural heritage tourism in Native Nations and communities across the United States. Established by tribes for tribes to address inequities in the tourism system, AIANTA is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit governed by an all-Native board of directors and serves as a united voice for the \$15.7 billion Native hospitality sector. AIANTA's successful legislative work led to the industry-changing Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act (NATIVE Act) funding in 2018, as Indian Country Tourism was recognized through federal appropriations via NATIVE Act implementation. AIANTA's mission is to define, introduce, grow, and sustain Indigenous tourism that honors traditions and values. Native Nations and communities who are looking to start or expand their cultural tourism footprint can find resources at [www.aianta.org](http://www.aianta.org) and visitors interested in learning more about Indigenous culture can visit [www.nativeamerica.travel](http://www.nativeamerica.travel).



# HIKING THE FORT TO SEA TRAIL

BY GLEN KIRKPATRICK

On a dark, stormy and wet November 2006 morning, Doc and Deb Wesselius met my wife, Paula, and me at the Fort Clatsop parking lot. The day was perfect to experience the Fort to the Sea trail in conditions similar to what Clark must have experienced in December of 1805. Doc and I bundled up and put on our rain gear for the hike over Clark's "dividing ridge" while Paula and Deb took off in our truck campers to leave one camper at the entrance to Camp Rilea on the west side of US 101. After dropping off the camper, the girls were going to take the other camper to a local bakery/cafe for coffee and conversation while Doc and I hiked the trail.

## Historical Perspective

Clark established the trail December 8-10, 1805. Construction of Fort Clatsop had just started and Clark was determined to find the most direct route to the sea coast. He left on the 8th with five men. Late in the day they shot an elk and used the skin for cover to shelter them from the rain that night somewhere on the Clatsop Plains. The next day Clark proceeded to the ocean; his party spent the night with the Clatsop Indians at a village of four lodges, located on the west bank of the Neacoxie River where it emptied into the Pacific. Today, that branch of the Neacoxie that flowed to the ocean no longer exists. The location of the village is in the vicinity of Slusher Lake. Since the time of Lewis and Clark, the beach has accreted approximately 1,830 feet farther west due to the construction of the Columbia River jetties. Clark made a second trip to

the ocean and the salt works with 12 men on their way to obtain whale meat early in January, 1806. On that trip he took another route, using canoes to go out of Young's Bay and up the Skipanon River before traveling overland. Lewis never did make the trip from Fort Clatsop to the ocean. In all, there were 31 documented trips from the Fort to the coast for salt and to hunt, either by trail or via trail and water.

The route Clark established to the sea coast follows a ridge be-

## Back to Hiking the trail

The trail leaving Fort Clatsop travels west initially across a flat area. For those who hiked the route before the trail reconstruction, the new trail avoids the clay pits and all traces of civilization have been removed. On the trail you can imagine that you have stepped back in time to conditions similar to 1805. Soon the trail starts to climb the ridge between the two creeks and passes a parking lot. The trail is all



tween two creeks to the crest of the north-south "dividing ridge." From the summit, Clark's maps show two trails to the Skipanon drainage where they meet to cross the main Skipanon River. From this river crossing, the route went around the lower end of Smith Lake, and traveled southwest crossing the east and west Neacoxie River. Closer to the coast, the group encountered the branch of the Neacoxie that no longer exists that emptied into salt water.

nicely graveled and graded with wide foot bridges. Ascending Clark's "dividing ridge," the trail follows an old road that has been graveled.

Even though it was a blustery wet day, we were dry under the forest canopy. We were soon peeling off our extra layers of clothing. Upon reaching the summit of the "dividing ridge" we came upon a viewing platform where the trees had been removed, allowing a view

(Continued on page 9)



## FORT TO SEA TRAIL (CONT.)

(Continued from page 8)

to the sea coast.

We had traveled 1.5 miles, all on a wide ADA accessible graveled trail, to the viewing platform. From Fort Clatsop to this point, the route of the trail very closely followed Clark's route of December 8, 1805.

From the viewing point to the newly constructed underpass of Highway US 101, the trail is all new and takes a more southerly route than the original route taken by Clark. The trail builders can be forgiven for departing from Clark's route, because the new trail avoids all signs of modern development, allowing the hikers to imagine the scene as it was viewed by the Corps of Discovery.

The descent of the west side of the "dividing ridge" is steep, but the trail is well graded, graveled, and built with great care to fit into the topography. At the base of the ridge, the trail encounters wetland "slashes and bogs" as described by Clark that form the Skipanon drainage. The trail carefully circumnavigates the wetlands and crosses the creeks on well constructed bridges. All the trail work has been done with extensive use of erosion control materials and fits into the landscape beautifully.

After traveling another 2.5 miles from the viewing platform at the crest of the "dividing ridge," the trail passes under US 101 and enters Camp Rilea. Coming out of the underpass, we spotted Doc's camper parked at the church near the entrance of Camp Rilea, where our spouses had left it. Our wives were nowhere to be seen. As I started to



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
Fort to Sea Trail viewpoint

climb into the camper I looked down to wipe my feet. I was pleasantly surprised to see that my feet were dry and not even muddy. Doc measured a dram of spirits and poured it into coffee from a thermos, and we celebrated a successful end to our hike while we waited for our spouses to return.

From the underpass, the trail continues another 2.25 miles to a parking lot at Sunset Beach. This segment of the trail is through the sand and shore pine woods of the Clatsop plains. The total length of the trail is 6.25 miles.

The Fort to the Sea trail traverses varied landscapes including deep woods, the "dividing ridge," extensive wetlands and the Clatsop Plains. It avoids most modern development and approximates the historic route of the Corps of Discovery. The trail is graded and landscaped to fit harmoniously into the natural surroundings and is a great addition to Fort Clatsop. Lastly, it makes for a wonderful outing, even in the most severe weather.

*Glen's travelogue appeared in the January 2007 issue of Worthy of Notice, the newsletter of the WA State Chapter. The late Tim Underwood edited the article for WON.*

*The Fort to Sea Trail is part of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. Hours, fees and other information may be found at the Park's website:*

[www.nps.gov/thingstodo/fort-to-sea-trail](http://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/fort-to-sea-trail)

### FREE DAYS AT WASHINGTON STATE LANDS

Washington State Parks and the Washington Departments of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and Natural Resources (DNR) offer several "free days" when a Discover Pass is not required to visit these lands. Here are the 2026 free days:

**Jan. 1: First Day Hikes; New Year's Day**  
**Jan. 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
**March 9: Billy Frank Junior's Birthday**  
**March 19: State Parks' 113th Birthday**  
**April 22: Earth Day**  
**June 6-7: Free Fishing Weekend**  
**June 19: Juneteenth**  
**August 9: Smoky Bear's Birthday**  
**Sept. 26: National Public Lands Day**  
**Oct. 10: World Mental Health Day**  
**Nov. 11: Veterans Day**

Free days apply only to day use (not overnight stays or rented facilities). Free days are valid at state parks and Washington State Departments of Natural Resources and Fish & Wildlife lands. Sno-Park permits are still required on free days at designated Sno-Parks during the winter season.

[parks.wa.gov](http://parks.wa.gov)  
[wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov)  
[dnr.wa.gov](http://dnr.wa.gov)

## ***DATES TO REMEMBER***

**All times are Pacific unless stated otherwise**

**September 2, 2025 through June 21, 2026** — Fort Clatsop Visitor Center on winter schedule. Visitor Center, park grounds, trails & fort replica are open 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Lewis and Clark National. Historical Park, 92343 Fort Clatsop Rd, Astoria OR 97103. Ph: 503-861-2471. [nps.gov/lewi](https://www.nps.gov/lewi)

**November 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026** — Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center on winter schedule. WINTER HOURS: open Wednesday thru Sunday 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., closed Monday and Tuesday. Camping at Cape Disappointment is closed entirely until late spring 2026 while the park undergoes major renovations. The L&C Interpretive Center, North Head Lighthouse area, Beard's Hollow, Waikiki Beach and the North Jetty will remain open during this closure. Check the state parks website for more information Cape Disappointment State Park, 244 Robert Gray Drive, Ilwaco, WA. Phone: (360) 642-3078. [parks.wa.gov/486/Cape-Disappointment](https://parks.wa.gov/486/Cape-Disappointment)

**February 7, 2026** (Saturday) 10:00 A.M. — Washington Chapter 28<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting (see page 1). Washington State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma WA. Phone: 1-888-238-4373. [pnw-lcthf.org](https://pnw-lcthf.org) [washingtonhistory.org](https://washingtonhistory.org)

**February 13, 2026** (Friday) 11:00 A.M. — "What Canoes Can Teach Us: Unlocking the Wisdom of Ancient Haida Canoes." Maritime Historian, Jason Rucker, shares the story of the Haida family on a mission to restore a Haida canoe of Southeast Alaska and their project using today's technology to scan, draw and model an ancient canoe to save and illuminate yesterday's technology and wisdom. Columbia River Maritime Museum, 1792 Marine Drive, Astoria OR. Phone: 503.325.2323 [www.crmmm.org](https://www.crmmm.org)

**February 16, 2026** (Monday) — Presidents Day. Free entrance to **National Parks**. **Forest Service** waives recreation fees at most day-use sites on NSF managed lands. **Bureau of Land Management** — on fee-free days, waiver applies to recreation standard amenity and day-use fees on BLM lands, including visitor centers, picnic/day use areas and National Conservation Lands units.

**February 21, 2026** (Saturday) 1:00 P.M. — "Medicine along the L&C Trail, Madame Charbonneau & Pomp" (see page 2). A presentation by John Fisher and Garry Bush celebrating the 221<sup>st</sup> birthday of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau. Contact Garry Bush for more information: [garrybush@gmail.com](mailto:garrybush@gmail.com). Nez Perce National Historical Park, 39063 US Hwy 95, Lapwai, ID. Phone: 208-843-7009. [www.nps.gov/nepe](https://www.nps.gov/nepe)

**March 5, 2026** (Thursday) 6:00 P.M. — "Inhabitants." Free screening of an award-winning feature documentary exploring Indigenous land stewardship across North America. REACH Museum, 1943 Columbia Park Trail, Richland, WA. Phone: 509.943.4100 [visitthereach.us](https://visitthereach.us)

**March 9, 2026** (Monday) — Billy Frank Junior's Birthday. FREE parking at Washington State Parks, Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and Natural Resources (DNR) lands.

**March 15, 2026** (Sunday) — Oregon Chapter Hike. Location T.B.A. — Chapter will send information by email when more details are available.

**March 19, 2026** (Thursday) — State Parks 113<sup>th</sup> Birthday. FREE parking at Washington State Parks, Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and Natural Resources (DNR) lands.

**April (T.B.A.)** — Idaho Chapter meeting. Date, time, location and more will be emailed to members when available.

**April 1 through October 31, 2026** — Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center resumes summer schedule. Cape Disappointment State Park, 244 Robert Gray Drive, Ilwaco, WA. SUMMER HOURS: open daily 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Phone: (360) 642-3078. [parks.wa.gov/486/Cape-Disappointment](https://parks.wa.gov/486/Cape-Disappointment)

**April 22, 2026** (Wednesday) — Earth Day. FREE parking at Washington State Parks, Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and Natural Resources (DNR) lands.

**June 21-24, 2026** (Sunday through Wednesday) — Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance Annual Gathering. Great Falls MT. Go to the LCTHF website and watch the next newsletter for more information. [lewisandclark.org/annual-gathering](https://lewisandclark.org/annual-gathering)

Visit the LCTHF website for a nationwide calendar of events:

[lewisandclark.org](https://lewisandclark.org)





## Basic Memberships

- Basic memberships include *The Orderly Report* e-newsletter (e-TOR).
- Our quarterly journal, *We Proceeded On* is available via e-mail (PDF) and high-quality printed magazine.

One region is included for all members: Great Lakes | Montana | Northeast | Northern Plains  
| Pacific Northwest | Ohio River | Southeast | Southern Prairie | Southwest |

### Annual Supporter

\$18 Education (current students or teachers)  
\$25 Individual  
\$40 Family (two people at same address)  
The Orderly Report newsletter: e-TOR included (\$6 printed)

*We Proceeded On* quarterly journal:

- \$0 none
- \$20 e-WPO (e-mailed)
- \$40 e-WPO and printed

### Three-year Supporter

\$49 Education  
\$70 Individual  
\$115 Family  
The Orderly Report newsletter: e-TOR included (\$18 printed)

*We Proceeded On* quarterly journal:

- \$0 none
- \$50 e-WPO (e-mailed)
- \$110 e-WPO and printed

## Sustaining Memberships

Sustaining memberships include:

- One basic family membership
- One family region membership
- *We Proceeded On* (e-WPO and print version) and e-TOR and/or printed *The Orderly Report*
- Special recognition and gift

*Keepers of the Story,  
Stewards of the Trail<sup>SM</sup>*

### Annual Sustainer

\$100 Heritage  
\$150 Explorer  
\$250 Jefferson  
\$500 Discovery

### Lifetime Sustainer\*

\$1000 Steward  
\$2500 Captain  
\$5000 President

\*not available for institutions

## Region Options (for existing members only)

### Home Region Options

Premium Upgrades\*  
\$20 Canoe (1-year)      \$50 Canoe (3-year)  
\$40 Pirogue (1-year)      \$110 Pirogue (3-year)  
\$90 Keelboat (1-year)      \$260 Keelboat (3-year)

Newsletter Options

e-Newsletter included

\$10 printed (1-year) \$30 printed (3-year)

\* e-Newsletter and printed option included with all Premium Upgrades

### Additional Region Memberships

Besides your free home region, you can join as many regions as you wish with the following options:\*

\$10 Individual  
\$15 Family

Newsletter Options

e-Newsletter included      \$10 printed

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

P.O. Box 3434 • Great Falls • MT • 59403 • 888.701.3434 • 406.454.1234

[info@lewisandclark.org](mailto:info@lewisandclark.org)

Membership in the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation now provides all-in-one membership in the Pacific Northwest Region & your state Chapter. Visit the LCTHF website or call **888-701-3434** to join or renew!

**[lewisandclark.org/join/](http://lewisandclark.org/join/)**

## SPOTLIGHT

### SPOTLIGHT: THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL



PHOTO BY JOHN ORTHMANN

Above left: A chapeau bras officer's hat and a fatigue cap displayed by the Lewis and Clark Discovery Corps of Saint Charles, Missouri at their Kaw Point encampment during the 2025 LCTA Annual Gathering in Kansas City

PHOTO BY JOHN ORTHMANN  
Below: Detail of 2008 mural by Roger Cooke in downtown Seaside, OR



PHOTO BY JOHN ORTHMANN

Above: Detail of "Captain Meriwether Lewis" by sculptor John Patrick Jewell, at Joint Base Lewis-McCord near Tacoma, WA

#### *Course & Communication*

Pacific Northwest Region  
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation  
10808 NE 27<sup>th</sup> Ct  
Vancouver WA 98686

February 2026 Newsletter



The mission of the LCTHF is to stimulate appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contribution to America's heritage and to support education, research, development and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience.