



See page 2



Welcome!

On behalf of the board of directors of the new Southern Prairie Region, I want to welcome Lewis and Clark friends Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and part of Illinois! I also want to welcome you to this first issue of the Southern Prairie Region's newsletter.

Your membership in the Southern Prairie Region—one of several regions recently established by the national Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LewisandClark.org)—is determined by your residence in your application for membership filed in the LCTHF's national office in Great Falls, Montana. (Please note: You are still entitled to your membership in any region. The Southern Prairie, for example, has some members residing outside of the region; they will continue to be Southern Prairie members unless choosing otherwise.)

Under the new regional structure, local chapters will continue to exist for now. The Southern Prairie has two chapters: Missouri-Kansas Riverbend in the Kansas City area and Greater Metro St. Louis. Most events will be conducted by the region and most communication to you will come from the region.

You should have already received a letter from LCTHF president Lou Ritten explaining the change to a regional structure. If you haven't, please send me at email at SouthernPrairie@LewisandClark.org.

Membership and membership renewals in the Southern Prairie Region and other LCTHF regions and chapters are now through the national organization: LewisandClark.org/join. If you have questions about our new region or other issues related to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, please email me at SouthernPrairie@LewisandClark.org.



Our goal is to get people together to learn about Lewis and Clark, participate in events and especially have fun. Our Region plans to have several programs annually, some by Zoom, and at least one program each year in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri...and maybe, too, in Texas, Arkansas and Illinois if host volunteers appear.

See the calendar of upcoming events on page 4 of this newsletter. Also look at page 2 to learn information about a very special event that will be held May 14 in Jefferson City, Mo.,. It'll be a fun time with excellent educational opportunities. You don't want to miss it.

We are particularly interested in promoting an event in the city of Pryor, Oklahoma, where **Sergeant Nathaniel Pryor** lived and died. He was a fascinating person and a great asset to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. After the expedition, he fought in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, married an Osage woman, and ran an early-day trading post near the community that now bears his name.

Historian and scholar Gary Moulton, editor of the *Journals of Lewis and Clark*, is scheduled along with other fine speakers to present on Saturday, June 4, at Pryor's Graham Cemetery where Sergeant Pryor is buried. Details about the program will be finalized in April, but we hope you will lock in that weekend on your calendar now. I encourage you to read and study more about the life of Nathaniel Pryor.

New things are always happening, new developments, new perspectives. Friends make excellent Lewis and Clark people. Please ask your friends to consider joining.

Finally, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your interest in Lewis and Clark...and for being a member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and the Southern Prairie Region. Have a most enjoyable 2022!

--Dan Sturdevant, Chair, Southern Prairie Region

Join us May 14 for a fun, educational Lewis and Clark event

The Southern Prairie Region will hold a Lewis and Clark event May 14 in Jefferson City, Mo. It will be a day of learning, memories and time with friends who share an interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Missouri history.

Missouri Ties: Ms. Jimmy Mohler, former ranger on the Lewis and Clark Trail and currently a study leader on Road Scholar Lewis and Clark tours, will speak on "Missouri's Post-Expedition Ties to Lewis and Clark Explorers." She will give us a glimpse into the lives of three expedition members: Robert Frazer, who, back in Missouri, loved to tell stories of his adventures; George Shannon, who practiced law in Missouri; and John Colter, the mountain man of legend who moved to Missouri after tiring of harrowing experiences as a trapper in the west.

Sugar Loaf Rock: James Denny, author of *Lewis and Clark in the Manitou Bluffs Region*, will briefly speak about "Sugar Loaf Rock: In the Steps of William Clark." An historian with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for 33 years, Denny co-authored with James D. Harlan the *Atlas of Lewis and Clark in Missouri*, a meticulous compilation of maps of the expedition through Missouri along with photos and a distillation of each day's journey.



Sugar Loaf Rock. Photo by James Denny

Schedule

11 a.m. to noon: Capitol tour begins, by the Missouri State Museum.

Noon to 1 p.m.: Catered lunch by Old Brick House Deli, Scheppers Distributing Company, 2300 St. Marys Blvd, Jefferson City.

1 p.m. to 2 p.m.: Missouri ties presentation.

2 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.: Sugar Loaf Rock presentation.

2:20 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Sugar Loaf Rock field trip.

Field Trip (Attendance limited to 18

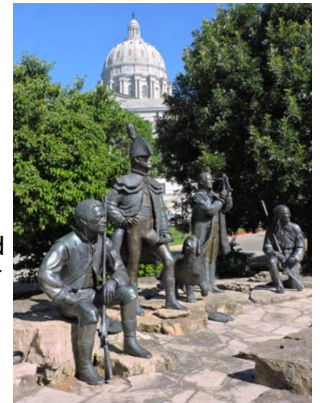
people): Weather conditions permitting, a field trip to the massive Sugar Loaf Rock will follow the presentation. This trip is an exceptional opportunity to, as Denny says, "walk in the footsteps of William Clark," and no one is more knowledgeable about that than Denny himself.

In addition, the rock is under private ownership and is no longer visible from the river. It is a special treat to see this otherwise inaccessible outcropping mentioned not only in the journals, but also by other early explorers.

Capitol Tour (Attendance limited): The day will begin with a tour of the Missouri State Capitol conducted by the Missouri State Museum. The capitol is famous for

its halls of artwork that depict the character and history of Missouri, including the Lewis and Clark adventure, and the Thomas Hart Benton room.

Lunch and RSVP: For the catered lunch and presentations, we will meet at Scheppers Distributing Company, 2300 St Marys Blvd, Jefferson City. Please be prepared to pay for the lunch (\$13.50) by cash or check, but all other events are free. **Please send an RSVP for the tour, lunch and field trip by May 5 to SouthernPrairie@LewisandClark.org. All members of the public are welcomed.**



Corps of Discovery monument at Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City

A view to appreciate

**Clark's Hill/
Norton
State
Historic
Site:**

Showing the muddy Missouri River with 2019 flooding in the distance.

Photo: Linda Vogt



A quiet respite, this site near Jefferson City, Mo, features a half-mile trail along the river up to the outcropping where Capt. Clark stood on June 2, 1804. He wrote that the view from the bluff, which then overlooked the Osage and Missouri Rivers, was a "Delightful prospect."

Members honored in Kansas City

The Southern Prairie Region's Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter held its annual luncheon in January. Thirty-one people attended the event—clearly a lower than usual attendance due to Covid.

Susie Taylor and her son's family, as well as Jimmy Mohler, were honored for their work in restoring and preserving Lewis and Clark historical markers. Susie and her son's family replaced display panels at the Lewis and Clark Historic Park at Kaw Point in the Greater Kansas City Area. Jimmy has monitored signs in the chapter's area in northwest Missouri and parts of western Kansas.

There are about two dozen signs in the area. Funding for signage updates is provided by the Riverbend Chapter, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and National Park Service.

Unfortunately, Covid took a toll on the luncheon beyond lower attendance. Two scheduled speakers were unable to attend due to Covid infections. So, after the luncheon, about 20 of the attendees drove to the Kanas Underground Railroad and Wyandotte County Historical Museum for a tour.

Grants fund film series and museum at the Discovery Expedition

The [Discovery Expedition of St. Charles](#) recently received two grants from the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Stewardship Endowment.

A \$7,500 grant will go toward an educational film series produced by the Discovery Expedition. The series will include 11 episodes and bonus material.

Discovery Expedition chairman Jan Donelson says, "This series brings the journey of Lewis and Clark to life for a new generation of students."

To view the trailer for the series, [click here](#). If you are reading a paper version of this newsletter, type this link into your computer's browser: <https://vimeo.com/641645316/49f8066535>.

The second grant of \$7,500 will update animal and plant displays in the Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum. "This grant allows us to better educate about the role of Lewis and Clark as pioneering naturalists," said executive director Bob Foster.

Check out the Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum newsletter by clicking on this link or pasting it into your computer browser: <https://conta.cc/3za4fzh>.

Share your photos and stories

Please email us your Lewis and Clark photographs, stories about your experiences along the trail, and any thoughts you have about the expedition, the explorers and their times that you would like to share with others through this newsletter.

We're especially interested in your experiences along the regions encompassed by the Southern Prairie. Email your information to:

SouthernPrairie@LewisandClark.org.

And you can go farther with your photographs. The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is looking for photos to include in its 2023 calendar.

The contest, for amateurs only, has five categories that you can submit in: landscape, people on the trail, historic Lewis and Clark sites, public Lewis and Clark art, and flora and fauna.

April 30 is the deadline to submit photographs for possible inclusion in the calendar. For more info about the calendar photos, rules and entry form, go the foundation's website at LewisandClark.org.

Note: there is no deadline for the Southern Prairie newsletter; send at any time.

Goodbye, Rolland Love

We're saddened to report the death of Rolland Love, author of books and short stories; entertaining speaker, actor and storyteller; and enthusiastic Lewis and Clark re-enactor. He passed away January 20 at the age of 82. He was a resident of Overland Park, Kansas.

Rolland was one of the re-enactors who played the role of expedition member [Silas Goodrich](#) during the 2003-2006 national celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Rolland and other re-enactors were part of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Mo., the re-enacting corps of the [Lewis and Clark Boat House and Museum](#) in St. Charles.

Goodrich was the expedition's foremost fisherman and noted for his ability to trade with Indians for food for the explorers. Watch this [2016 video of Rolland's re-enactment](#) of Goodrich. Or [click here to read](#) the transcription of Rolland's presentation.

One of Rolland's favorite places was the Lewis & Clark Historic Park at Kaw Point at the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas rivers in the Greater Kansas City area. The Lewis and Clark explorers camped there June 26-28, 1804.

Rolland became interested in Kaw Point more than two decades ago when he read an article in a local newspaper that said volunteers were needed to spruce up the site.

He went on to volunteer huge amounts of time at the park. His involvement with Kaw Point—he was a board member from 2000 to 2013—helped foster his passion for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. As a re-enactor, he lectured at schools, libraries, clubs, theaters, and retirement homes. He did radio and video interviews.

Rolland's latest involvement in a project—a fictional book named *A Spirit Journey with Lewis and Clark*—was published in January, not long before he passed away. He was a contributor to the book authored by his good friend Dewayne Knott, who is also a Lewis and Clark re-enactor. Rolland and Dewayne once wrote a play about Lewis and Clark that they performed in Kansas City.

Written for young adults as well as adults, the book is about a spiritual connection between Meriwether Lewis and the spirit of a 14-year-old Native American boy. It's an insightful work that keeps the reader turning pages. The book is available on Kindle and Amazon.

"Rolland provided ideas that I then authored," Dewayne said about the book. "His writing days were over, but he believed in the concept of the book and wanted it written. I included him as co-author because if he hadn't encouraged me to write the book, it never would have been written. It gave him much relief to know that it was a finished product. The last few months of his life he was holding on until it was published."

[Click here](#) to read Rolland's obituary.



Rolland Love in character as Silas Goodrich during a 2016 performance.

New things for you

Whenever a new program is launched, there are always new things to offer. Such is the case with the new Southern Prairie Region. Here's a look at what's new:

Facebook: Our Facebook page is completed. You'll see the latest news and be able to post your own Lewis and Clark photos and information so others can enjoy them. Once you log into Facebook, type the page's name into the Search feature: Southern Prairie Region of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Newsletter: Expect to see it every quarter either via email or your regular mailbox. Please submit your photo and stories for possible publication, and your comments—we love to hear from you and your Lewis and Clark experiences. We prefer sending it via email (less costly), but we'll still offer to send it by the postal service.

Email address: SouthernPrairie@LewisandClark.org.

Website: The website will soon be completed. More information later.

Board of Directors: With a new region comes a new board. The Southern Prairie Region encompasses the chapters of Greater Metro St. Louis (in cooperation with the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles) and Missouri-Kansas Riverbend (Greater Kansas City and surrounding areas). So to create a new board of directors, we drew as much as possible from the current leadership of the chapters. Here is the board:

- Dan Sturdevant, chair, Kansas City.
- Kay Schaefer, vice chair, Kansas City.
- Linda Vogt, communications, Jefferson City.
- Yvonne Kean, treasurer, Olathe, Kansas.
- Ed Eller, St. Charles, Mo.
- Mimi Jackson, St. Charles, Mo.
- Gary Kimsey, newsletter, Independence, Mo.

Please note: If you have an interest in sitting on the board, please send an email to Dan Sturdevant at SouthernPrairie@LewisandClark.org.

Calendar of Events

Note: Some of the following events in the Southern Prairie are still in the planning stage—the unfinalized events below are marked as “*Still in Planning Stage.*” Our May newsletter will have finalized information.

You will also find finalized information on the Southern Prairie's Facebook page and website (once it's completed in the next month), as well as in the national Lewis and Clark calendar of events emailed to you on the first day of every month by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

April: *Still in the Planning Stage:* Alan Perry will talk about Lewis and Clark and the American Indian Policy. This will be either a live or Zoom event (or possibly both). Since this is scheduled to take place prior to the May newsletter, we will email you information once the event is finalized.

May 14: Lewis and Clark event in Jefferson City, Mo. Ms. Jimmy Mohler and James Denny will be the speakers. Tour of Sugar Loaf Rock. See page 2 for details.

June 4: Honoring Sgt. Nathaniel Pryor at the cemetery where he is buried in Pryor, Oklahoma. Gary Moulton will talk about Sgt. Pryor. Members of the Osage Tribe will likely be present.

June 18: *Still in the Planning Stage:* Southern Prairie representatives will give a short talk at the opening of the Ben Holladay Days in Weston, Mo. Dewayne Knott, a Lewis and Clark reenactor, will staff the Southern Prairie booth. Southern Prairie members are needed to volunteer at the booth. Send an email to: SouthernPrairie@LewisandClark.org

Return Address:
22464 W 112th St,
Olathe, KS 66061

**Address Correction
Requested**