



The Orderly Report

Come to LCTA's 58TH Annual Meeting! Great Falls, MT, June 21-24, 2026

Great Falls, MT, is THE place to be for the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance's 58th Annual Meeting from June 21-24, 2026, an exciting mix of nationally renowned speakers and field trips to never-before-available Lewis and Clark sites planned by LCTA's Portage Route Chapter. Dr. Robert Peck, Curator of Art and Artifacts and Senior Fellow at Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, will be the Moulton Lecturer, the ninth speaker to so honor Gary E. Moulton, editor of *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*. Geologist and LCTA member John Jengo will complement Dr. Peck's talk in discussing his new book on the geology of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with special reference to Sulphur Springs.

Longtime LCTA member John Fisher will present "In Search of Lewis' Plant Press," in which he details the images and documentation from major botanists and naturalists and describes the construction of leather-bound plant portfolios and Lewis' plant collection at Drexel/Academy of Natural Sciences. John retired in 2002 after 34 years of teaching natural sciences classes at Lewiston (ID) High School. His focus on hands-on learning led to his collecting thousands of natural science specimens and period artifacts with which he filled dozens of Lewis and Clark Discovery Trunks among them his medical chests featuring more than 80 actual medications and period instruments. He has made the trunks and medicine chests available – free of charge – to historical interpreters, medical professionals, schools, museums, and visitor centers across the country for the past 22 years. John's latest publication, *Medicines of the Fur Trade and Lewis & Clark Era*, is in its fourth printing. He was the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution's *Historic Preservation Medal* in 2024.



The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, managed by the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, stands above the Missouri River in Great Falls, MT, near sunset on July 16, 2023. 2023 was the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center's 25th Anniversary. *USFS photo by K. McCartney.*

The meeting planners are also considering two day trips: a guided bus tour along the portage route, including Defeated Drain and other areas on private land normally off limits to the public, and a guided bus tour to the National Historic Landmark town of Fort Benton with a stop overlooking Decision Point at the confluence of the Marias and Missouri rivers.

Come early for the 36th Annual Lewis and Clark Festival which kicks off Friday evening June 19 and continues all day Saturday June 20. The *Waking the Dead* tour of Highland Cemetery on Sunday June 21 features presentations by live reenactors at gravesites throughout the cemetery. On June 26 and 27, Montana's new \$100 million Montana Historical Society Museum celebrates its grand opening in nearby Helena. Please visit lewisandclark.org for meeting program, registration, and hotel information. *Submitted by Jay Russell*

Tour the Forts of Western Ohio!

Join members of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance on May 15-18, 2026, for a curated, expert-led motor-coach tour of the forts of western Ohio associated with the post-Revolutionary War period and the Northwest Indian War. Both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark spent time in the area during their military careers.



Treaty of Greenville Monument



Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historic Site

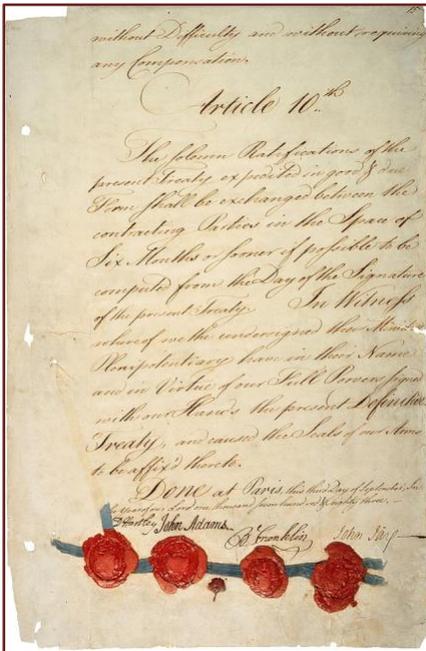
Sponsored by LCTA's Great Lakes Region, the tour begins with arrival at our staging hotel near the Cincinnati airport on Friday evening May 15. On Saturday May 16, we depart by coach, tracing General Anthony Wayne's 1794 march north. Highlights include Greenville, OH, where Lewis and Clark witnessed the signing of the Treaty of Greenville, formally ending the conflict, and a visit to Fort Recovery. On Sunday May 17, the itinerary includes Defiance, the Fallen Timbers Battlefield, and Fort Meigs in Perrysburg. The day concludes with an evening dinner cruise on the Maumee River. On Monday May 18, we follow the reverse route of William Henry Harrison's 1813 campaign, including a visit to the site of the Loramie Trading Post, destroyed by General George Rogers Clark during the Revolutionary War, before returning to our starting hotel. Each day will include additional stops of interest.

An optional extension day on Tuesday May 19 offers the opportunity for guided exploration of other sites in the Cincinnati area via private vehicle, among them the site of Fort Washington, William Henry Harrison's grave and museum, and Big Bone Lick State Historic Site in Union, KY, the recognized birthplace of American paleontology. Both Lewis and Clark conducted digs there at the behest of President Jefferson.

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The cost of the excursion is \$375, excluding hotel accommodations, one meal on your own, and any expenses you incur on the optional tour day. Registration and full payment are due by April 1, 2026. We expect this tour to sell out, so do not delay in signing up. However, the tour is subject to cancellation if minimum participation is not met. For additional information and tour registration, please contact Lou Ritten at lritten01@yahoo.com.



1783 Treaty of Paris, last page.
Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Founding Era Documents On Tour. The National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC, announced that beginning in March documents important to the founding of the United States will travel to eight cities around the country on the "Freedom Plane." The documents range from pre-1776 resistance to British rule to the writing of the Constitution in 1787. The Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights will remain on display at the National Archives Building on the National Mall in hermetically sealed, bullet-proof cases that are lowered into secure vaults each night.

The earliest traveling document is the Articles of Association adopted in 1774 by the first Continental Congress, the "first unified act of resistance" that urged colonists to boycott British goods. There are also the 1783 Treaty of Paris signed by John Adams, John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, and the British negotiator David Hartley which recognized the United States as a sovereign nation. Standing in for the Constitution are a draft copy printed during the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and a tally of the votes approving the document.

Among the challenges in organizing the traveling exhibit were finding relevant documents that had not already been promised to semiquincentennial exhibits around the country and identifying museums that satisfied the geographic, security, conservation, and logistical requirements including free admission. The first stop is the National World

War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, MO, where the documents will be on exhibit from March 6-22. The last stop will be the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle from July 30-August 16. The other venues are Atlanta, Los Angeles, Houston, Denver, Miami, and Dearborn, MI.

Neal J. Bedlan Selected as Superintendent of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance is delighted to welcome Neal back into the fold as the new superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LECL), stretching 4,900 miles from Pittsburgh, PA, to the Pacific, even as we bid a very fond farewell to outgoing Superintendent Mark Weekley.

Neal is a Nebraska native. He holds a BS degree in Political Science from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a Master's degree in Public Management from the University of Nebraska at Omaha School of Public Administration. Before joining the National Park Service, Neal was supervisor for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. He began his NPS career over 17 years ago as the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, later serving as the Senior Leader of Interpretation, Education, Visitor, and Volunteer Services. Since 2022, he has been the LWCF Regional Program Manager.

"I'm excited to return to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail," Neal said. "It's an honor to collaborate again with the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, as well as to work with the dedicated staff who make it all possible. The Lewis and Clark Trail is a national treasure—rich in history, culture, and natural beauty—and offers unparalleled opportunities to the public for exploration, recreation, and connection with our history."

Bedlan enjoys spending time outdoors hiking, fishing, and hunting. When he's not exploring the outdoors, he values time with his wife Cari, their three children, and two granddaughters.

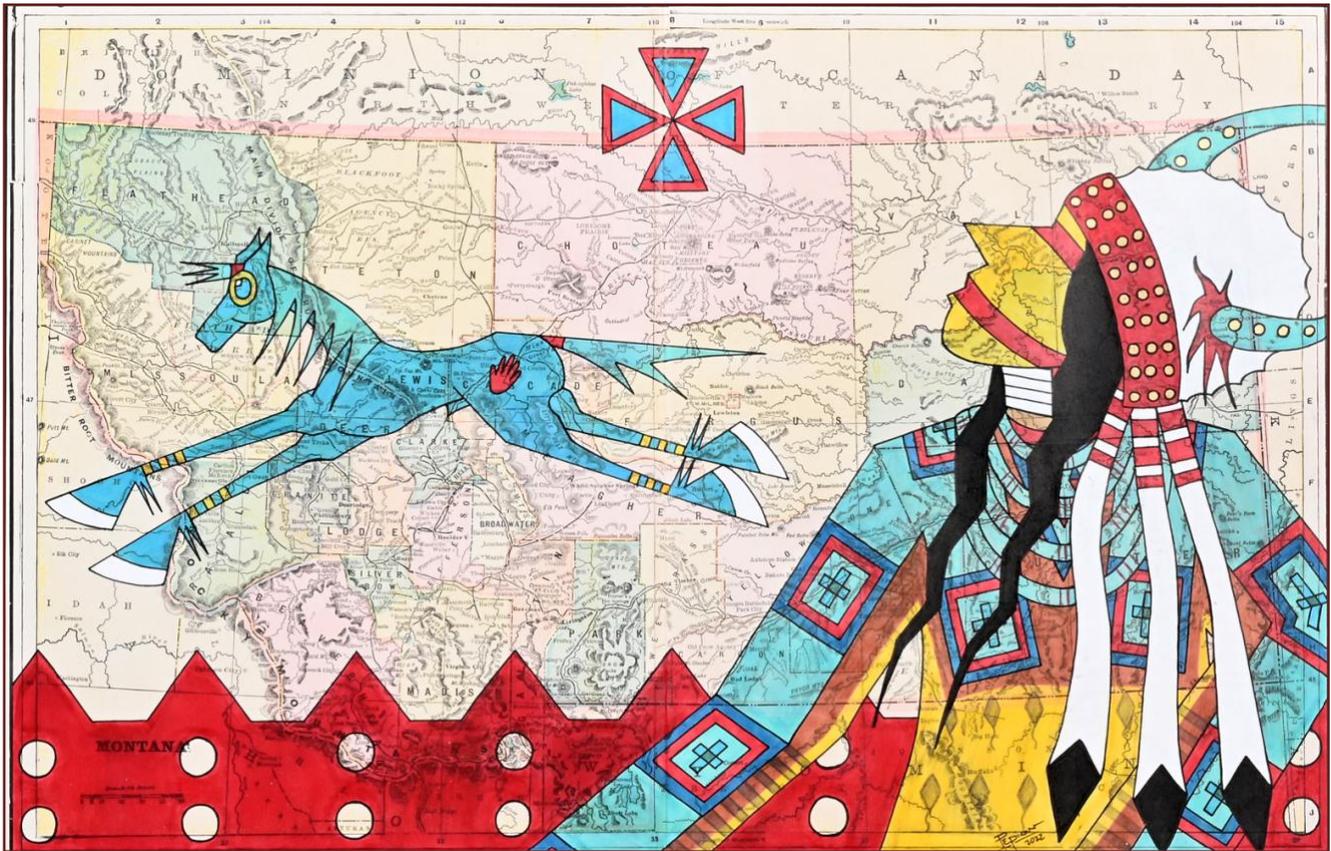


Superintendent Neal J. Bedlan
Lewis and Clark National
Historic Trail

Autry Museum of the American West Mounts New Exhibits

Creative Continuities: Family, Pride, and Community in Native Art

Featuring selected works from the Autry Museum of the American West's Native American collections, *Creative Continuities: Family, Pride, and Community in Native Art* explores the meanings embedded in three aspects of Native culture: Knowing, Create, and Transference. Three contemporary Plains Indian artists and Native culture bearers—John Pepion (Blackfeet), Brocade Stops Black Eagle (Crow), and Jessa Rae Growing Thunder (Dakota/Nakoda)—consider their relationships with works created by their Ancestors.



John Pepion (Niitsitapii [Blackfeet/Blackfoot]), *Our Land*, 2022. Ink on antique map. Museum purchase, 2022. 17.1

The three artists each curated a section of the exhibition and commented on artwork originating in that community in terms of one of the three concepts at the heart of the exhibition. Through this unique pairing of cultural objects and stories, *Creative Continuities* aims to demonstrate the variety of Native American culture, history, and tradition that crosses tribal boundaries, past and present. The exhibit will be at the Autry Museum of the American West, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles, CA 90027 until June 27, 2027.

Desert Dreams and Coastal Currents

Desert Dreams and Coastal Currents traces the parallel rise of Southern California and the Southwest as hubs of artistic innovation—and calls attention to the lasting impact their legacies have on how we still see and experience these places. Around the turn of the 20th century, artists seeking subject matter that felt at once recognizably American yet untainted by the industrial modernism of East Coast cities flocked to places like Laguna Beach in Southern California or Taos and Santa Fe in Northern New Mexico. These different but complementary impulses became the basis for organizations such as the California Art Club (founded in 1909), the Taos Society of Artists (founded in 1915), and the Laguna Beach Art Association (founded in 1918), fostering a sense of shared artistic values based on regional character.

The images they generated—of sun-washed hills, dramatic deserts, and portraits of Pueblo life—have influenced regional identity, artistic production, and tourist expectations ever since. By showcasing historical work alongside contemporary art that reimagines these traditions, *Desert Dreams and Coastal Currents* speaks to the ongoing exchange between art and place that continues to influence how we see the West today. On exhibit at the Autry Museum of the American West until March 29, 2026.



Franz Bischoff (1864-1929), *The Docks at San Pedro*, c. 1900. Oil on canvas. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Parks. Autry Museum 2008. 48.1.

Future Imaginaries: Indigenous Art, Fashion, Technology

Future Imaginaries: Indigenous Art, Fashion, Technology explores the rise of Futurism in contemporary Indigenous art as a means of creating alternative futures and advocating for Indigenous technologies in an inclusive present and sustainable future. More than 50 artworks are on display, creating unexpected encounters between contemporary Indigenous creations and historic Autry works. Artists such as Andy Everson, Ryan Singer, and Neal Ambrose Smith challenge pop-culture icons by Indigenizing sci-fi characters and storylines; Wendy Red Star places Indigenous people in surreal spacescapes wearing fantastical regalia; Virgil Ortiz creates his own space odyssey, *ReVOlt 1680/2180*, in a site-specific installation. By intermingling science fiction and Indigenous technologies across a diverse array of Native cultures, *Future Imaginaries* envisions sovereign futures while countering historical myths and stereotypes. On exhibit at the Autry Museum of the American West until June 21, 2026.

New Giving Opportunities for a New Year

In this new year of 2026, get a jump start on your financial and philanthropic planning, and give yourself peace of mind while also supporting the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance. There are a number of ways to give to LCTA and its programs.

Reduce Your Taxes—Give From Your IRA!

If you are 70 ½ years old or older, you can transfer directly from your IRA to the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance (LCTA) without paying income taxes on the withdrawal. This is known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Not only does this method provide a tax benefit for you, it also makes a substantial impact on LCTA's operations and helps LCTA fulfill our goals. Satisfy your annual required minimum distribution (RMD): A gift from your IRA directly to LCTA counts toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution.

Give this information to your tax adviser:

1. Contact your IRA administrator and request a direct charitable transfer to the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
2. Provide your IRA administrator with our Tax ID number which is 51-0187715.
3. Mail the check to Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403.
4. Inform LCTA headquarters of your contribution so we can express our gratitude and provide you with verification of receiving the contribution.

Gifts by Bequest

The new year is an excellent time to review and update your estate planning documents. With just a few easy steps, you can ensure that your loved ones are taken care of while also helping to secure the future of LCTA by including LCTA in your will or trust, a gift that costs you nothing now.

Gifts by Beneficiary Designation

Whether you are considering gifting assets from a bank account, investment account, retirement account, or life insurance policy, naming LCTA as a beneficiary of a financial or insurance account is easy. By simply completing a beneficiary designation form with your account or insurance administrator, just a few minutes of planning can make a lasting impact on the LCTA programs most important to you.

Let Us Help You

To request additional information or to schedule a no-obligation conversation with LCTA Executive Director Richard Hunt, please contact him at director@lewisandclark.org. We look forward to helping you achieve your charitable goals for 2026!



National Bison Day at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site. LCTA Ohio River Chapter members Janice Wilson, Jerry Wilson, and Lorna Hainesworth present the ORC's check to Bison Herd Manager Claire Kolkmeier for the care and feeding of their adopted bison for another year. Big Bone Lick State Historic Site, the "Birthplace of American Paleontology," is located near Union, KY. Both Lewis and Clark visited the site at Jefferson's request.

If you would like to include your Chapter or Region's events in our next issue, please email your information to Philippa Newfield at philgor@aol.com by May 1, 2026. All Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance members automatically receive TOR electronically as part of their membership. The cost of receiving a paper copy of TOR is \$6.00 per year. If you wish a paper copy of TOR, please include your payment when you renew your LCTA/Region membership.

*Philippa Newfield and Arend Flick,
Co-editors*

In Memoriam. The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance mourns the loss of longtime member Beverly Foote on October 30, 2025. Born on May 7, 1936, in Green Bay, WI, to Walter and Esther (Sinclair) Dreisow, Beverly grew up on a farm outside of Seymour, WI, before the family moved to Kent, WA. She completed a BS in Agriculture at the State College of Washington (1958) and became the first woman to earn a PhD in Agronomy at the University of Illinois (1961). Her research in plant science was published in *Plant Physiology*. Beverly married fellow graduate student Dan Foote, and the family settled in Charleston, IL, where Beverly taught Biology, Cartography, and Chemistry at Eastern Illinois University. While in Charleston, Beverly devoted her energies to historic preservation, natural resources, and the environment. A founding member of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Coles County (1978), she served as chairman of the Historic Preservation Advisory Council to the Coles County Regional Planning Commission and supported the historical renovation of the Coles County Court House and preservation of the Blakeman Bridge south of Charleston.



Beverly Foote

Beverly was an associate director of the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District (1975-1985) and helped form Grand Prairie Friends (1984), a not-for-profit conservation organization and land trust that now owns and maintains over 1,000 acres of original prairie and conservation land in east-central Illinois. She and Dan were founding members of the Embarras Volunteer Stewards (1994), a group that helps local public and private landowners preserve and restore native prairie and woodland sites. After retirement, Dan and Beverly moved to Champaign, Il, where they volunteered with Grand Prairie Friends and took long summer road trips, canoed the boundary waters in Minnesota, the wild and scenic Missouri River, and the Everglades, and participated in historical events along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Beverly, committed to improving the treatment of women in our society, did everything she could to ensure that no one would be neglected and disregarded as she had been. She was happiest when discovering and encouraging the curiosity, tenaciousness, and accomplishment inside every girl and young woman she encountered. In so doing, she left behind a great network of people whose lives she touched.

Beverly is survived by her sister Barbara, her children Carl (Tom West) Foote, Karen (David) Andsager, and Susan (Dan) Hara, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Her family is donating her Lewis and Clark books and memorabilia to the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance. "It is what she wanted," said daughter Karen.

Jean Baptiste Charbonneau in Arizona

How did Jean Baptiste Charbonneau come to be a clerk at the Orleans Hotel in Auburn, CA? An interpretive panel placed by members of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance at the Painted Rock Petroglyph Site 90 miles southwest of Phoenix, AZ, provides the answer. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the Painted Rock Petroglyph Site along the main corridor for travel through Arizona during United States' westward expansion protects an ancient archaeological deposit containing hundreds of symbolic rock etchings or "petroglyphs."



Prehistoric Rock Etchings at Painted Rock Petroglyph Site near Gila Bend, AZ. Photo by David Aungst.

A project of LCTA's Grand Canyon and California chapters, the panel at the petroglyph site presents a brief history of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, describing the mission of the Corps of Discovery and his time as a *"Member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804-1806"* and his later years as a *"Guide for the Mormon Battalion 1846-1847."* A note at the bottom states: "This panel was made possible through a grant provided by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and the generosity of volunteers from the Grand Canyon and California Chapters, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management." A special license issued to the chapters by the U.S. Mint allowed reproduction of the one-dollar "Golden Coin" with Sacagawea and young Pomp on her back. The completed panel was installed at the Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and dedicated on April 19, 2009, during a regional

meeting in Scottsdale, AZ.

It was Charbonneau's involvement with the Mormon Battalion that brought him to the deserts of southern Arizona and eventually onward to California. Although unfamiliar with the territory through which the battalion would proceed, he was hired in October 1846 by General Stephen Kearny and sent with prominent Southwest explorers Antoine Leroux and Paulino Weaver to join Colonel Philip St. George Cooke as guides for the Mormon Battalion's 1,100-mile trek from Santa Fe, NM, to San Diego, CA. One of the chief tasks assigned the Mormon Battalion by President Polk was to establish a wagon road that could take people to the United States' new acquisitions and deliver military supplies to the West Coast during the Mexican-American War. Charbonneau was a valuable addition to the battalion, and Cooke's diary mentions him 29 times during their 103-day expedition.



Pointing the Way. LCTA President Jim Sayce (l) and Board of Directors visit Painted Rock Petroglyph Site near Gila Bend, AZ, in April 2019.

Facilities: Painted Rock, amidst a Sonoran Desert plant community, has shaded ramadas, picnic tables, charcoal grills, and restroom facilities for day use. An adjoining campground offers 59 individual campsites. No potable water and electric hookups are available, but there are vault toilets and trash-collection stations. **Directions:** Exit Interstate 8 at Painted Rock Dam Road (Exit 102), approximately 12.5 miles west of Gila Bend. Travel north on Painted Rock Dam Road 10.7 miles to Rocky Point Road. Painted Rocks Petroglyph Site is 0.6 miles west of Painted Rock Dam Road on Rocky Point Road.

Lodging: Options in Gila Bend are sparse. More and better accommodations are available 36 miles north in the Sundance Area of Buckeye, AZ, or in and around Phoenix. *Submitted by David Aungst*

Celebrate America's 250th!

Some of our most historic cities are planning celebrations for the United States' semiquincentennial, our 250th anniversary. A majority of the activities will center around the Fourth of July.

Washington, DC

Beginning in late spring, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will have an exhibit entitled "In Pursuit of Life, Liberty & Happiness" of 250 objects representing the ideals of the Declaration including the portable desk on which Thomas Jefferson drafted the document. Visit americanhistory.si.edu for more information. During the week of July 4, the National Archives will host a multi-day, family-friendly event that will include live music, a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence, and viewing of the original document. Visit archives.gov. The National Mall will be the venue for a grand Independence Day Parade and then for "A Capitol Fourth," the annual concert and fireworks display. For updates, visit dc250.us/dc250/events/celebrations.

Boston

Boston Harborfest will offer free concerts at Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park on July 2 and 3. Visit bostonharborfest.com for more information. The Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular with music and fireworks is scheduled for the night of July 4 at the Charles River Esplanade. Visit bso.org/boston.pops.fireworks.spectacular.

New York

For a total tall-ship extravaganza, on the morning of July 4, 30 tall ships will sail, led by the Coast Guard barque *Eagle*, from the Verazzano-Narrows Bridge, past the Statue of Liberty, and up the Hudson River to the George Washington Bridge. Starting at 1:00 PM on July 3, another 30 tall ships will sail down the East River. Visit sail4th.org for information.

Philadelphia

The Wawa Welcome America Festival from June 19 to July 4 includes free events: a parade, fireworks, block parties, and a performance by the Philly Pops on July 3 near Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. For the latest information visit july4thphilly.com.



AND THUS BE IT EVER Washington Monument on the Fourth of July, Washington, DC. *Courtesy Wikimedia Commons*

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Willard Park Sign Dedication. Now children playing at Willard Park in Elk Grove, CA - and their families - will know for whom Willard Park is named, and why, thanks to three wayside signs organized by LCTA Southwest Region member John Hess and supported by Willard descendant Bea Olsen and her husband Kevin Olsen. John and the Olsens were on hand for the dedication at the park in addition to officials from Cosumnes Parks & Recreation and the Office of the County Supervisor, Southwest Region President Philippa Newfield, and California Chapter Past President Phillip Gordon.

Willard Park was named in honor of Lewis and Clark Expedition member and California pioneer Alexander Hamilton Willard. Willard was born on August 24, 1778 (according to his grave marker) in New Hampshire. He joined the army in 1800 as a blacksmith. At the age of 25, while on duty at Fort Kaskaskia in the Illinois country, he enlisted with the Corps of Discovery and worked as a blacksmith, gunsmith, and hunter. After the Expedition, Willard married Eleanor McDonald in Missouri and worked as a government blacksmith for the Lenape Delawares and Shawnees and a courier for Clark during the War of 1812. The family moved to Wisconsin in 1827, and then, in 1852, the extended Willard family joined a wagon train and moved to California when Willard was 74. He died at the age of 86, the next-to-last survivor of the Corps of Discovery, and is buried in the Elk Grove Cemetery where John also spearheaded the installation of three wayside signs about Willard with the support of Bea and Kevin Olsen and proceeds from LCTA's 2016 Annual Meeting in Harpers Ferry, WV.



SIGNING IN Southwest Region LCTA members host Willard Park sign dedication in Elk Grove, CA.