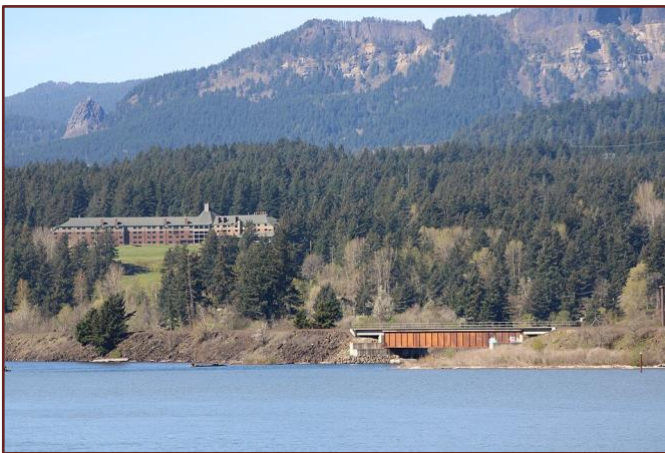




The Columbia Gorge: Bridging Cultures and Communities



Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA, is situated above the Columbia River. *Photo Courtesy Wikimedia Commons*

The Pacific Northwest Region's Idaho, Oregon, and Washington chapters are looking forward to welcoming the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance members and their colleagues and partners to LCTA's 59th Annual Gathering at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA, from August 27-September 1, 2027. Attendees are invited to explore key sites and stories of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's journey through the Columbia Gorge in the fall of 1805 and again in the spring of 1806 and of the tribal peoples who helped them. There will be opportunities for rugged hikes up Beacon Rock and gentle strolls around Maryhill Museum of Fine Art, engaging with the Pacific Northwest Living Historians at their encampment, listening to stories of the Gorge's geology, and cruising on the Columbia River Wednesday afternoon! Watch for more information and details in *We Proceeded On, The Orderly Report*, and lewisandclark.org. Submitted by Barb Kubik.

**THE GORGE
AWAITS**

LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL ALLIANCE
2027 ANNUAL GATHERING

AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2027

SKAMANIA LODGE
STEVENSON, WASHINGTON

lewisandclark.org/annual-gathering

Lewis & Clark
TRAIL ALLIANCE

Kentucky's Lewis County Back Story.

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance and artist Steve Ludeman recently collaborated on gifting Steve's watercolor print of "The Handshake" which depicts the meeting of Lewis and Clark at the Falls of the Ohio in 1803 to Lewis County, KY, named for Meriwether Lewis. The print, inspired by Carol Grende's statue of the same name in Clarksville, IN, and an explanatory plaque will be on permanent display in the courthouse in the county seat of Vanceburg, KY. The project had its inception when Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney Benjamin Harrison contacted the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance. Although the county commemorates Lewis as its namesake, he told LCTA CEO Richard Hunt that the courthouse contained no artwork or information recognizing Lewis' legacy. Richard contacted Steve, and the rest has become Lewis County history.



INSTALLATION AND DEDICATION Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney Benjamin Harrison and Lewis County Judge/Executive George Sparks unveil Steve Ludeman's "The Handshake" at the Lewis County Courthouse in Vanceburg, KY, on July 13, 2026, a joint gift from Steve and LCTA.

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Lewis County is where the thousand-

acre farmland of John and Harriet Radford (Clark's second wife) was situated about five miles west of Vanceburg on the Ohio River. Fincastle County, VA, was created in the early 1770s and extended from the current borders of Virginia west to the Mississippi River. Over time, that county became Kentucky County and then the state of Kentucky with three new counties. Those three counties eventually became divided into the current 120 counties. Kentucky formed Lewis County in 1806, a few months after Lewis and Clark's return to St. Louis. Clark was already another county in Kentucky, named for William's older brother George Rogers Clark. So the name of this county became Lewis in honor of Meriwether Lewis. *Submitted by Steven Blake*

IN MEMORIAM During his presentation at LCTA's 58th Annual Gathering in Great Falls, MT, last June, geologist and author John Jengo honored the memory of three Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance volunteers who helped him and countless others learn the details of the Lewis and Clark story. In the past several years, LCTA mourned the loss of Don Peterson of Great Falls (l), Jerry Garrett of St. Louis, MO (r), and Rob Heacock of Spokane, WA (center). *Photo by Steve Lee*





In Memoriam: Keith Kvenvolden. The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance mourns the loss of longtime member Keith Arthur Kvenvolden, a distinguished scientist and world-renowned geochemist, who died on October 25, 2025, at age 95. Born and raised in Cheyenne, WY, Keith received a degree in geophysical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 1952 and earned his PhD in geology from Stanford University in 1961 on a scholarship from his employer Mobile Oil. While at Stanford, Keith met and married Mary Ann Lawrence on November 7, 1959, and turned his attention to geochemistry. With an interest in the Apollo Space Program, he accepted a position at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, CA, where he led the team of scientists in analyzing the moon rocks brought back to Earth by the Apollo astronauts. In 1975, Keith joined the U.S. Geological Survey as project leader of the Organic Geochemical Lab with a focus on marine-based research. Traveling aboard research vessels, he used the principles and techniques of organic geochemistry to solve problems involving the environment, energy, and climate change. Keith's research took him from the waters off the coasts of Australia and Peru to the Arctic and Antarctica. Over his 28 years at the USGS, Keith became a world authority in his field, producing ground-

breaking research on subjects as wide-ranging as the natural gas content of permafrost in Alaska and the Arctic Ocean, the role of gas hydrates in contributing to global climate change, the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and the amino acid geochemistry of bone in the La Brea Tar Pits among many others. He was honored by numerous fellowships including in the Geological Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The Explorers Club, and The Geochemical Society.

Keith and Mary Ann joined the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation in 2000 and became members of the California Chapter in 2005. In 2006, Mary Ann was secretary. Keith agreed to serve as treasurer and continued as such for the next 16 years. Together with LCTHF members Walt (1928-2015) and Pat (1935-2023) Hartinger, he and Mary Ann were among the founders of the Northern California Lewis and Clark Book Club, open to everyone interested in the history of the American West, which met in members' homes every six weeks. The Kvenvoldens traveled the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail by car, attended many LCTHF Annual Meetings, and loved to explore the world, meet new people, and learn their stories. Keith, preceded in death by Mary Ann, is survived by daughter Joan Kvenvolden Lewis, son Jon Kvenvolden, their partners Garth Lewis and Susan Pepper, and grandchildren Sean, Jake, and Ella Lewis. Keith was a man well-regarded for his keen intelligence, his humor, and his modesty to which the members of the California Chapter and then the Southwest Region can heartily attest, especially as to the latter quality. As Rabbi Moses ben Maimon, known as Maimonides, said in the 12th century: "All things in moderation, except modesty." Keith was the living embodiment of that wisdom. May he rest in peace.

TELLY AWARDS Shenandoah University and the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance have earned two prestigious 2026 Telly Awards for their collaborative immersive media project, Lewis and Clark VR.

The project received a Silver Telly Award in the "General-Student" category, recognizing outstanding immersive, interactive, or mixed reality work created by students enrolled in academic programs. It also earned a Bronze Telly Award in the "General-History" category for excellence in immersive storytelling focused on historically important events and people.

Developed through a partnership between Shenandoah University and the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, Lewis and Clark VR uses virtual reality technology to bring the story of the Corps of Discovery to life through immersive historical interpretation. The project reflects a growing effort to connect new audiences to the Lewis and Clark Expedition using emerging technologies, experiential learning, and digital storytelling.

The Telly Awards, established in 1979, honor excellence in video and television across all screens and receive more than 13,000 entries annually worldwide. The recognition highlights both Shenandoah University's innovation in digital media education and the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance's commitment to expanding public engagement with history through cutting-edge interpretive experiences.

In Memoriam: Mary Langhorst.

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance mourns the loss of longtime member Mary Therese Langhorst, a devoted Catholic educator, mother, and lifelong learner, who passed away recently at age 82, leaving behind a legacy of faithful service, adventurous spirit, and deep love for her family, students, and friends. Chris Langhorst wrote movingly of his mother's passing: "This is Mary's son, Chris. I am with her now at Bergen Mercy. She is resting peacefully and without pain. She is now on a journey she has been preparing for her entire life, and it was a fine morning indeed. Thank you everyone who joined Mary on the Trail. She truly loved being part of it."



Mary Langhorst with Biddle Bear, her companion at every Lewis and Clark gathering. *Photo by Jan Jensen*

Born with a calling to teach, Mary began her career in 1964 and served in a variety of classrooms before spending 25 years at St. Mary's School in Bellevue, NE. After retiring in 2006, she continued teaching ESL to Sudanese refugees. Mary's passion for history—especially the Lewis and Clark Expedition—shaped much of her life beyond the classroom. She traveled extensively along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, volunteered with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, helped organize national meetings, served as a docent and National Park volunteer, and became affectionately known for bringing "Biddle Bear" to all events. She was also deeply engaged in local history, supporting the Sarpy County Museum and helping create a children's art wall and crafts for the Lewis and Clark monument at Haworth Park.



Mary Langhorst with Gary Moulton

A woman of many interests, Mary enjoyed photography, quilting, beading, collecting historical and family artifacts, writing a family history, and traveling to historic sites, national parks, and cities across the country. She was also an avid fan of the Kansas City Wizards soccer team for whom she volunteered for many years to promote major league soccer. Mary is survived by son Christopher Langhorst (Amy); son-in-law James Cann; grandchildren Claire Langhorst and Nicole, Allison, Alex, Michael, and Anthony Cann; sister Kay Elliot (Bob); and sister-in-law Nancy Hietter.

Mary is remembered with affection and admiration by all who knew her.

Becky Feagan, fellow Lewis and Clark enthusiast and teacher:

Mary and I developed a school play about the Lewis and Clark Expedition for our parochial school in 2004. She taught fifth grade and always had a focus on Native Americans. Hence her students portrayed them while my fourth graders portrayed the Expedition members. We even had a keelboat made by a parent which could roll across the gym floor as the Expedition members traveled their route. Mary was also well known at local and national Lewis and Clark meetings/dinners as "the lady from Nebraska who always had her Biddle Bear with her." She knew so many reenactors. In October 2024, I took her to the Bellevue marina along the Missouri River to see her "friends" as she called them, the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, and their keelboat. She was in her walker and not feeling well, but that didn't stop her from seeing her friends and Seaman. She thoroughly enjoyed that outing as she lived in Omaha in a senior residence.

Keith Bystrom, Secretary of LCTA and President of the Mouth of the Platt Chapter:

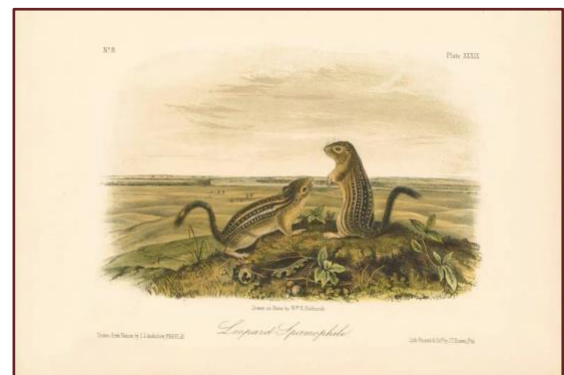
Mary loved learning about and educating others about the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. She served as an officer of the MOP Chapter and participated in our weekly Study Group Discussions until declining health prevented her from joining. Mary had created a magnificent library of resources on Lewis and Clark and Native Americans, including her teaching materials, and donated much of it to the silent auction at LCTA's Annual Gathering in Kansas City, MO, in 2025, which she attended with her son Chris. I first met Mary in Billings, MT, when I was on my 2017 Retirement Adventure. As part of traveling the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, I attended my first Annual Gathering of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. I have attended all Annual Gatherings since then, and Mary's many friends always ask about the wonderful lady from Nebraska who brought Biddle Bear to all the meetings. They will be sad to learn of her passing. Mary was held in high esteem by all her friends in the Lewis and Clark organizations as the quintessential Keeper of the Story and a Steward of the Trail. May she Rest in Peace and Proceed On to her heavenly reward!

Audubon and Lewis and Clark. Today, John James Audubon is celebrated as America's greatest ornithologist for his book *The Birds of America* and other avian studies—but he remains far less well known for his late-career work with mammals in *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*.

Many of Audubon's publications were inspired by the observations made by Lewis and Clark during their Expedition. But how did this happen? According to the Lewis and Clark digital archive, *Discover Lewis & Clark* (lewis-clark.org), Audubon first met the boatmen and interpreters who traveled with Lewis and Clark in 1811. Their tales portrayed the untamed Western frontier, creating a lifelong fixation in Audubon that ultimately led him to spend the next 30 years trying to retrace their steps and catalog the wilderness they left behind.

Lewis and Clark described dozens of birds and mammals during their 1804-1806 Expedition, and Audubon would often cross reference the explorers' written journal descriptions. One of the drawings in particular (Plate 39) was of two 13-lined ground squirrels (*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*). The leopard spermophile, as it was known in Audubon's day, is a small rodent with alternating light and dark stripes interspersed with yellowish spots. Audubon traveled up the Missouri River in 1843, which retraced a portion of the Lewis and Clarke route. It was during this journey that he painted the 13-lined ground squirrel in the company of his son John Woodhouse Audubon, with a bend in the Missouri River in the background. The scenic backdrop of that drawing captured Fort Union, the historic fur trading outpost where Audubon lived and worked for several months during his western tour.

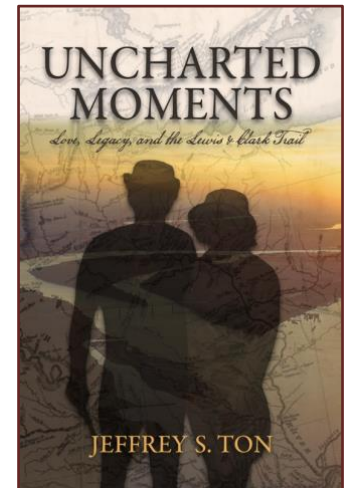
At the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers in present-day North Dakota, Fort Union was later rebuilt based on Audubon's and other artists' renderings among them Paul Kane and George Catlin. The Corps of Discovery camped near there on April 25, 1805, and on a return journey in 1806, and noted the spot's potential as a major trade location linking two river "highways of commerce." Fort Union was built years later by John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company in 1828, serving as the most important trading post on the Upper Missouri from 1828 to 1867. Many North Plains Indian tribes peacefully coexisted and traded buffalo robes and smaller furs for goods from all over the world including cloth, guns, knives, cookware, beads, and blankets. Today the location is preserved and reconstructed as the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site and serves as an official part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. *Submitted by Eleanor Hoang*



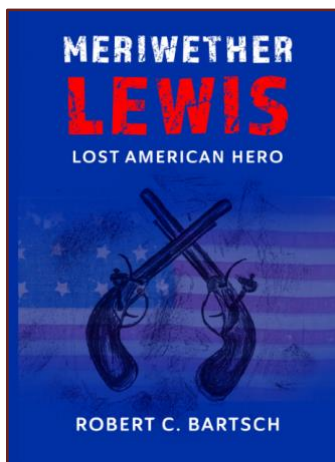
John James Audubon, *Leopard Spermophile*. Also known as the 13-lined ground squirrel, the two small rodents are overlooking a bend in the Missouri River near its confluence with the Yellowstone and site of Fort Union in present-day North Dakota.

From Trail Traveler to Story Teller. In January 2003, my wife Carmen and I attended our first Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event in Monticello, VA. Like thousands of others, we were drawn by a fascination with the Lewis and Clark Expedition and an opportunity to experience history in a more personal way. What followed were six years of travel along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. We attended Signature Events, visited historic sites, met historians and interpreters, and formed lasting friendships with people from across the country who shared a common interest in the Expedition and its enduring significance.

More than a series of destinations, the Trail became a shared adventure that shaped our marriage, expanded our understanding of the American story, and introduced us to a remarkable community of people. The Bicentennial has continued to affect our lives because the commemoration sparked a deeper exploration of the Expedition, leadership, and personal transformation. The lessons derived inspired the publication of *Uncharted Moments: Love, Legacy, and the Lewis & Clark Trail* in 2026, a memoir reflecting on our journeys from Monticello to Astoria and many places in between. They also became the foundation for leadership programs I now facilitate, using stories and lessons from the Lewis and Clark Expedition to help leaders navigate their own "uncharted moments."



The publication of the book has emphasized the Bicentennial's lasting legacy: myriad opportunities to learn, explore, and connect. Since the book's publication, it has been gratifying to hear from fellow trail travelers and members of the Lewis and Clark community. Their messages and memories have reminded me that the true impact of the Bicentennial lives on through the people whose lives were enriched by the experience. For Carmen and me, what began as an interest in Lewis and Clark became one of the defining journeys of our lives. The miles traveled, sites visited, and stories learned were important, but the lasting gift was something else entirely: the people we met, the friendships we formed, and a deeper appreciation for how a shared passion for history can connect strangers across time and distance. *Submitted by Jeffrey S. Ton*



Why I Wrote *Meriwether Lewis: Lost American Hero*.

Growing up in St. Louis, a short mile from where the Lewis and Clark saga began and later played out, their story became a natural part of my world. I struggled to learn to read as a boy, but the tales of western exploration and the adventures of Lewis and Clark combined with canoeing, hunting, and camping in the Ozarks, opened the outdoors—pulled me out there and never let go. Lewis and Clark became my first heroes.

As the years went on, I read everything I could find about the Expedition. During graduate work in South Africa, I discovered Wilbur Smith's sweeping historical novels which focused my appreciation for how powerful well-told history can be. Back home, I read most of the new books on Lewis and Clark. Gradually, I noticed a shift: Meriwether Lewis was being portrayed as having a dark side, even during the Expedition itself. The heroic leader I had grown up admiring was being recast as a troubled figure.

My professional life in veterinary pathology trained me to look closely, question assumptions, and follow evidence wherever it led. When I read the Expedition journals edited by Gary Moulton with that same critical eye, I focused on the actions and achievements of the two captains and didn't find the darkness others claimed. Then I turned to the accounts of Lewis' death. The accepted story seemed to unravel. No eyewitnesses. Conflicting versions and contradictions from the only source, Mrs. Grinder. I came to believe the information stemming from Grinder's Stand was unreliable. I looked closely at Lewis' post-Expedition accomplishments and found him to be a competent governor. That's exactly when I decided to write this book: to show Meriwether Lewis in the evidence-based light he deserves. *Submitted by Robert C. Bartsch*

Seniors and Anesthesia. Getting older means acquiring more wisdom and life experience, but also having the possibility of more health problems and the likelihood of requiring surgery. One of the biggest concerns seniors have with surgery is the fear of anesthesia. As an anesthesiologist with more than 25 years of experience in caring for seniors in the community hospital setting, the most common questions I get are: 1) Are my risks of dying while under anesthesia greater due to my increased age and medical problems? 2) Will it take me longer to wake up and get back to normal activities? 3) Will I have long-term memory loss or cognition problems?



A patient visits with her anesthesiologist before surgery. The monitor between them displays the patient's heart rate, blood oxygen content, respiratory rate, and blood pressure during the entire anesthetic continuum.

prolonged sedation and fatigue for several hours — even days later. Aging also reduces blood flow throughout the body so all organs such as the liver and kidneys work more slowly. This contributes to slower metabolism and slowed clearance of all medications, which prolong the effects of all drugs. Therefore, all seniors are inherently more sensitive to all our anesthetics; this can easily lead to oversedation. I use the guidelines of the American Society of Anesthesiologists which emphasize careful titration of medication doses rather than a standardized dose approach.

Overall, modern anesthesia is extremely safe. All anesthesiologists have extensive education and training, and our medications keep getting better and more effective, with fewer side effects such as nausea. Anesthesiologists, mindful of the effects of aging and vigilant with careful monitoring throughout the surgery, make sure our senior patients do very well. The anesthesiologist's goal is to minimize the stress of surgery to protect and preserve the patient's heart, lungs, and other vital organs as much as possible.

There are many ways your anesthesiologist can take the best care of you. If you are worried about anesthesia, express your concerns during your preoperative discussion and let your anesthesiologist know how much alcohol you drink and what other recreational drugs and medications you take. You can also ask if there are other options for anesthesia besides general, depending on the surgery. For example, all lower total joint replacements (knee and hip) are performed primarily under spinal anesthesia. We can also perform nerve blocks in various areas of the body for anesthesia as well as postoperative pain control. Sedation with only intravenous medication for minor surgeries instead of general anesthesia (inhalational) provides for a fast recovery. If you are concerned about anything at all before your surgery, have that conversation with your anesthesiologist who can reassure you and customize a plan for you to achieve the best outcome. *Submitted by Betty Lee-Hoang MD, FASA*

These are all valid concerns, and your anesthesiologist works to optimize safety and reduce the risks of prolonged sedation, delirium (short-term confusion), and postoperative cognitive dysfunction. Administering anesthesia to older adults requires a gentle touch on the part of the anesthesiologist. While it is true that advanced age can entail greater risks, there are also many ways to limit them including the use of ultra-short-acting opioids and sedating drugs. And as with all patients under any kind of anesthesia, anesthesiologists are watching their patients' vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate and rhythm, blood oxygen level, carbon dioxide, temperature, and more) from before surgery begins until after the operation's conclusion.

Aging changes human physiology in predictable ways. As the body ages, it loses muscle mass and has a higher proportion of body fat. Consequently, many of our fat-soluble anesthetics tend to accumulate, leading to

In Memoriam: Bea Olsen. Kevin Olsen remembers his wife Beatrice Anderson Olsen, longtime Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance supporter and direct descendant of Alexander Hamilton Willard.

Bea was born in Ithaca, NY, to Sydney and Florence Anderson. Her mother was a Spaulding which is where the Willard line comes in. Sydney was on sabbatical from the University of California Cooperative Extension to obtain his MA at Cornell University. Florence was also at UCCE, and that's how they met. When they married, they weren't allowed to work in the same office so Florence went on to a career in teaching middle school. Bea would have been the fifth generation in her family to be born in California and took some chiding from her relatives for breaking the streak. When her father completed his degree at Cornell they returned to Santa Barbara. Five years later he advanced into public service with UCCE and was transferred to University of California Berkeley in 1954. The family moved to Lafayette, CA, where Bea grew up along with her sister Lorinda, 2 1/2 years her junior, who currently resides in Olympia, WA.



Bea Olsen among Colorado's autumn aspens.

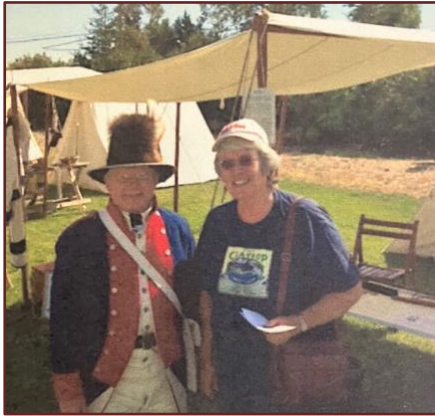
Bea attended schools in Lafayette through her junior year of high school and spent her senior year in Denmark as a foreign exchange student through the American Field Service. Having earlier travelled throughout Europe and Japan, adventure travel became a theme for her. She traveled frequently to all of the continents including Antarctica, to all U.S. states except Texas and Alabama, and all 58 counties in California. At UC Davis Bea obtained a BS in biological sciences, MS in avian science, and an advanced teaching credential. She taught poultry science at Cal Poly Pomona, worked on a sailing ship for one year in the Caribbean which conducted research on humpback whales, then taught middle school math and science for two years at the Burgundy Country Day School in northern Virginia, and was the school's summer camp wildlife and nature expert which she loved because this was her area of expertise. Bea went on to obtain her MA in biological sciences from Chico State University in order to secure a permanent job with the U.S. Forest Service as a wildlife biologist in Challenge, Springville, Willows, and Clovis, CA. After 20 years with the Forest Service, she transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a wildlife biologist based in Fresno, CA, a position she held for 10 years before retiring in 2008. We were married in 1993 and lived outside of Clovis in Fresno County for 29 years before moving to Fairfield, CA.

Willard was Bea's fourth great grandfather. She is descended through Willard's daughter, Eliza Martha Willard. Bea's aunt Carol Benner, sister of Bea's mother Florence, was the main driver of the family's interest in their connection to Willard and the Lewis and Clark story. Bea's sister Lorinda also was an active genealogist for many years. Although four of Bea's cousins have the same relationship to Willard as she, Bea evinced by far the most interest in this special family history. Carol Benner and husband Bob were also Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation members for many years.

It wasn't until Bea's adulthood, however, that she herself became involved with the LCTHF in the late 1990s and started attending meetings. There was a lot of interest in descendants of Lewis and Clark Expedition members in the 1990s. We also followed the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail on some of our vacations and would spend time at visitor centers and exhibits. While we did not hike the Trail extensively, we did spend considerable time hunting down Grasshopper Creek in Montana, a 51 mile-long stream that empties into the Beaverhead River in Beaverhead County. More famous as the site of the state's first major gold strike on July 28, 1862, it had been named Willard Creek at the time of the Expedition but was renamed not too long afterwards. We learned this was customary when geographical naming information wasn't as widely circulated – unless your name was Lewis, Clark, or Sacagawea or a couple of the other more notable members of the Corps of Discovery. Those place names tended to stick.

We had Willard get togethers with other descendants including Karen Willard at around the time of the Bicentennial. We also had a large multi-day gathering in Franklin, CA, in April 2016 organized by the LCTHF's California Chapter as Willard is buried in the Franklin Cemetery. The only time we went back east (further east

than Montana) for Lewis and Clark was to attend the 2009 meeting in Olive Branch, MS, and we went to LCTA's meeting in Kansas City, MO, in 2015. Except for Bea's aunt Carol Benner, Bea was the only Willard descendant from the Eliza Martha line who participated in LCTA's Annual Gatherings.



Bea Olsen with reenactor and LCTA member John Hess in Franklin, CA, burial site of Bea's ancestor and Expedition member Alexander Hamilton Willard who came to California in 1852 at the age of 75.

Carol Benner acquired a large Lewis and Clark collection of books, pamphlets, papers, and memorabilia. Some of the pamphlets and papers relating to Willard were written generations ago. One folder contained plat maps of Willard's holdings in Sacramento County from his time there. There were also more contemporary maps showing where Willard's property would be now: e.g., the current-day Interstate 5 bisects his ranch. All of the books, folders, and papers were handed down to Bea from her aunt Carol. Bea offered LCTA's William P. Sherman Library and Archives the right of first refusal and was ultimately successful in donating the entire collection to the Elk Grove Historical Society Museum in Elk Grove, CA. The museum had a large exhibit shortly after the donation and has since moved all of the materials down to the basement where they could be made available to scholars for primary-source research.

Bea was an uncommon person in that she was a very good scientist as well as an outstanding artisan in arts and crafts. She was a weaver, quilter, and needle pointer and could do all manner of handwork. She also played several musical instruments and sang with several different choirs. As a member of the Clovis Community Chorus, she traveled to New York and sang at Carnegie Hall. Professionally she was the kind of person who has become increasingly rare: she worked to find solutions and could achieve

consensus with people with whom she disagreed. Bea would frequently bring two sides together to find common ground and develop outcomes where everyone got something, nobody got everything, and almost everybody felt it was a pleasure working with Bea to achieve results. Bea touched the lives of many people and will be missed by all of them. *Submitted by Kevin Olsen*

Nicandri Wins Portage Route Chapter's Memorial Award. David Nicandri's 2025 *We Proceeded On* article, "The Naming of Montana's Judith River: A Case Study in Journal Dynamics," was the sixth winner of the Portage Route Chapter's annual Memorial Award. The award was established in 2020 after four wonderful members of the PRC passed away in the span of a few months. The chapter's Board debated how to honor their long service and dedication to Lewis and Clark.



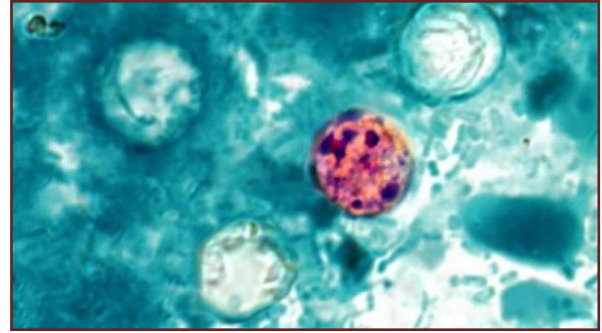
Ultimately, the Board decided to give an annual award of \$1,000 to the author of the most outstanding article published in WPO during the previous year. The award not only honors our members' contributions to the Lewis and Clark story, but it also provides incentive for people to submit articles for possible publication in WPO. Each year, the Board establishes an independent committee of local experts who read WPO's articles from the previous year and then select a winner.

Although we intended to present the award at the 2026 Annual Gathering in Great Falls, David's schedule necessitated an early departure, so we announced his win at the final banquet and mailed him the certificate and the check. After the package arrived in Seattle near David's home, its next leg was to Birmingham, AL. The

package did ultimately arrive at David's doorstep, but its 550-mile trip from Great Falls had grown to 5,400 miles, and it was more than a week late.

David's article is an example of the Lewis-Clark conundrums that still merit scholarly elucidation – and publication in WPO. The standard Judith River story had been that Meriwether Lewis followed Clark's lead when he named the Marias River after his cousin. David's article provides convincing evidence that it was Lewis who first named a river to honor someone personally close. Clark's naming of the Judith came much later – possibly after Clark had successfully wooed and married Julia Hancock. Amazingly, despite all the past research and writing, we still have more to learn about the Expedition. *Submitted by Norman Anderson*

Cyclosporiasis. *Cyclospora* is a microscopic single-celled parasite. When ingested by eating or drinking contaminated food or water, *cyclospora* infects and reproduces in the small intestine. Federal health officials have already tracked over 24,000 cases (with 13,895 laboratory-confirmed) of cyclosporiasis, primarily linked to contaminated iceberg lettuce from central Mexico. Forty-seven states have had outbreaks; the greatest number of cases is in the Midwest. The two confirmed deaths from cyclosporiasis in Michigan were in patients who were more susceptible owing to their underlying illness. The average number of cases per year is 2,800 with the peak season of outbreaks in the spring and summer. This is a record-shattering year, and no one knows why.



Cyclospora, a microscopic single-celled parasite. From the U. S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Classic gastrointestinal symptoms of watery diarrhea, bloating, cramping, increased gas, nausea, and appetite and weight loss occur a few days after the ingestion of the parasite. As there is nothing specific about these symptoms which are similar to those of other intestinal problems, definitive diagnosis of a parasitic infection is made by laboratory examination of a stool specimen. The treatment prescribed by physicians, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) sold as Bactrim, Septra, or Cotrim and taken twice a day for 7-10 days, is effective. Symptoms disappear within one to two weeks.

The best way to avoid this most uncomfortable disease is prevention through adherence to the principles of safe food preparation: wash hands with soap and water before and after handling raw vegetables and fruits; wash all vegetables and fruits with copious amounts of water before cutting or serving them; cut away and discard damaged or bruised areas on fruits and vegetables; cook food to 158 degrees F or higher to kill the parasite; refrigerate leftovers within two hours.

Finally, observe any food recalls such as the current recall by the CDC of iceberg lettuce obtained from Taylor Farms de Mexico. Recalled lettuce was distributed and sold in at least 27 states to consumers, restaurants, and retailers, including Taco Bell locations and Marketside-brand products at select Walmart stores. The merchants have removed the product.

In the absence of an outbreak of parasitic infection and contrary to popular/internet opinion, parasites aren't as common in North America as in other parts of the world. A similar misconception is that parasitic infection can be cured by a do-it-yourself "detox" cleanse. Once diagnosed, a parasitic infection can only be cleared by taking prescription medication prescribed by your physician. Prevention of a parasitic infection, as in the case of cyclosporiasis, requires observing good hand hygiene and safe food preparation. Do not self-diagnose or treat: see your physician if you have symptoms of cyclosporiasis especially as, if it's not cyclosporiasis, then you really need to know what's causing the symptoms. *Submitted by Jerry Reves MD.*



**A VERY, VERY
PRESIDENTIAL
BIRTHDAY**

Lou Ritten, LCTA Past President, celebrates his 66th birthday with LCTA Past President Jim Sayce and his wife Dian Sayce at T Paul's Supper Club in Astoria, OR. In adding her congratulations, LCTA Vice President Pat Traffas put it very well: "What could be better than celebrating a birthday ON the Trail WITH your Trail buddies?"

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 November 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*

Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance Presents National Awards at the 58th Annual Gathering in Great Falls, MT. LCTA recognized a number of people and organizations for their dedication and leadership.

Distinguished Service Award: Duane Buchi, USDA Forest Service Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, Great Falls, MT, for outstanding leadership at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in education, trail stewardship, and building partnerships.

Duane serves as the Director of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. Born and raised in Montana, he has been passionate during his 11 years at the Interpretive Center about bringing the Lewis and Clark story to diverse audiences. On any given day, he can be found with his team of partners, volunteers, and staff, seeking every opportunity to connect with his community and inspire the hearts and minds of over 50,000 annual visitors to the Interpretive Center and its retelling of the Corps of Discovery's epic journey. Duane has done an incredible amount for the Interpretive Center, the USDA Forest Service, and Central Montana. Under his leadership, the Interpretive Center has become the major economic driver for tourism in Central Montana, bringing \$3,000,000 in revenue to the local restaurants, museums, gas stations, and more, plus 10,000 bed nights a year for hotels.



Duane Buchi and Family. Photo by Greg Taber



2026 Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance Awardees with the 58th Annual Gathering Planning Committee. Photo by Greg Taber

Friends of the Trail Award: Harry Mitchell Family, Great Falls, MT, for their family's long stewardship of the Upper Portage Overlook and Campsite and their generosity in sharing the two sites with the public.

Trail Stewardship Award: Lewis and Clark Foundation, Great Falls, MT, for their support of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center and preservation of the Trail in Central Montana.

Trail Stewardship Award: Thomas Elpel, Pony, MT, for his leadership of LCTA's Jefferson River Chapter and their preservation of campsites near the headwaters of the Missouri River.

Robert Betts Library and Archives Award: Barbara J. Kubik, Vancouver, WA, for her long service to and advocacy for LCTA's William P. Sherman Library and Archives in Great Falls, MT.

Meritorious Achievement Award: Kari Sliva, El Mirage, CA, for serving as the driving force and visionary behind the launching of LCTA onto Substack.

Meritorious Achievement Award: Norman Anderson, Great Falls, MT, for his 20+ years of leadership in the Lewis and Clark Honor Guard and LCTA's Portage Route Chapter.

Appreciation Award: Mark Meyer, Kalamazoo, MI, for his leadership as Chairman of LCTA's Library and Archives Committee.

Certificates of Appreciation: Lewis and Clark Honor Guard, Great Falls, MT, for their authenticity in reenactment, education, and presentation of the colors for 40+ years.

Certificates of Appreciation: LCTA's 2026 Annual Gathering Planning Committee, Portage Route Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, Great Falls, MT. Submitted by Carol Bronson.

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Driven2Teach on the Missouri River. In June 2026, LCTA member and Brigham Young University professor Jay Buckley and his teacher cohort canoed the Missouri River and encamped at Lewis and Clark's May 31, 1805, Eagle Creek campsite amid the White Cliffs in Montana's Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, which Lewis described as "seens of visionary inchantment." Each summer Jay takes Utah K-12 teachers on study tours highlighting aspects of American history. Among their recent destinations have been Utah, Boston/Philadelphia, Civil Rights sites in the South, and Washington, DC. Today Eagle Creek Boat Camp is a popular destination for visitors. On private land and accessed by boat, the campsite has a recreation easement managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. There are dramatic hiking opportunities and some amenities available.

