



# The Badger State Chapter

Meriwether Lewis



of:

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.



William Clark

April 2004

Number 10

**During this time in history:** (Excerpts from the journal of William Clark, taken from Jim Rosenberger's "Daily Calendar")

April 2, 1804; Mr. Hays and Amdol arrive from Cahokia by land. In the evening, Maj. Nicholas Jarrot's boat come up on his way to Prairie du Chien loaded with provision for sale at that place...

April 3, 1804; I wrote a letter to Mr. John Campbell of Prairie du Chien by Mr. Hay and the Gentlemen bound to that place. Those Gentlemen set out at sunrise...

April 17, 1804;...Making a mast fixing awning and packing pork today...Completed packing fifty kegs of pork and rolled and filled them with brine. Also packed one barrel meal and one bushel parched corn of an inferior quality...

April 21, 1804; ...At three o'clock a cannon was heard up the Missouri. Soon after Mr. Choteau arrived with 22 Indians. We saluted them and after staying one hour, Capt. Lewis and myself set out with them to St. Louis...

April 30, 1804; A fair day. All hands at work. Mr. Hay nearly finish packing up goods...

**Good news! the 2005 day to day calendar has been printed. Order yours now from Jim Rosenberger, or pick one up at the April meeting.**

## Lewis and Clark in Missouri Passage through Missouri prepared crew for its epic journey. by Shannon Cave

Lewis and Clark moved through what would become the state of Missouri in about 10 weeks, but this area was both a launching point and an important testing ground for the rugged explorers that comprised the Corps of Discovery. They learned lessons here that helped prepare them for their expedition to the Pacific Ocean and back.

As early as 1792, Thomas Jefferson dreamed of sending an expedition up the Missouri River and on to the Pacific ocean. He knew how important it was to explore the western frontier of our young, developing nation. He believed that resources in the west could fuel growth and help secure peace for the entire country.

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 accelerated plans to send a group of explorers into the region west of the Mississippi River. Jefferson directed his personal secretary Meriwether Lewis and Lewis's friend, William Clark to lead an expedition to the lands west of the Mississippi River.

Jefferson wrote more than 2,000 words of instructions to Lewis before the Corps of Discovery departed. The full text of his instructions is available at <lewisandclarktrail.com/legacy/letter.htm>, but instructions began:

"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."

The expedition members wintered at Camp Dubois on the east bank of the Mississippi River during the winter of 1803-04. They departed on their epic voyage up the Missouri River on May 14, 1804.

Historians typically focus on Corps of Discovery events that occurred west of Missouri. In doing so, they omit some good stories and key events. The trials the expedition faced in Missouri had the potential to

*Story from Missouri Conservationist. Copyright 2004 by the Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri. Used with permission.*



Moreau River, June 4, 1804  
Artwork courtesy of Michael Haynes  
<http://www.mhaynesart.com/lclimitededition.html>

Continued on page 2

about the entire mission. Instead, they laid the foundations of caution, determination and teamwork that allowed the expedition to proceed toward a successful conclusion.

Lewis, for example, nearly fell to his death only a few miles from St. Charles. Had he not survived, the mission likely would have been scrapped. More than once, the expedition's keelboat narrowly escaped destruction. While in Missouri, the crew also had to resolve disciplinary problems and learn to work as a team. Here they also met Indian bands and traders of mixed nationality, constantly gathering critical information about what lay ahead.

In Missouri, even before the expedition officially departed, the explorers found their first botanical species previously unknown to science. They discovered the Osage-orange tree (*Maclura pomifera*) across the river from their winter camp on March 26, 1804.

Their first documented "new species" of animal was the eastern wood rat (*Peromyscus gossypinus*), noted in what is now Callaway County. In what is now the northwest corner of the state, Lewis and Clark first heard the calls of a coyote. In 1804, coyotes were not known in Missouri, or east of the Mississippi. Today they live in all of the lower 48 states. Expedition journals often mention wolves, black bears, cougars, bison and elk. Near today's Kansas City, the explorers also saw flocks of colorful Carolina parakeets, a species now extinct.

At Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, a new overlook allows visitors to see the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, the starting point of the expedition.

In 1804, the Mississippi River flowed in the middle of what is now the conservation area, so there is little doubt that the expedition crossed some of this land by water. Its members reconnoitered and hunted the same lands on foot or horseback as they hunted around their winter camp a couple of miles north. Lewis, along with other members of the expedition, kept journals with which to report their findings back to the President. While in Missouri, they wrote that the landscape "is beautiful, bountiful and a good place to build homes." Their journals enthusiastically describe the lush forests, expansive prairies, oxbow lakes and rich grasslands along the Missouri River. The writers spelled "beautiful" in many ways (even "butifull"), but the word was their common adjective for lands of the future state of Missouri.

People today often don't fully appreciate the power, the beauty and the hazards the Missouri River once presented. Lewis and Clark encountered a river that had no upstream dams, dikes or riprapped banks to control its flow or its floods. Even through the 19th century, the naturally flowing river devoured hundreds of steamboats, and many pilots who traveled the river once chose never to return. Today the river is tame by comparison, but it still requires skill to navigate.

**(Lewis and Clark in Missouri continued on page 5)**

## **Lewis and Clark National Bicentennial Exhibition by Mary Butts**

Tom and I visited St. Louis and were fortunate to view the Lewis and Clark National Bicentennial Exhibition. First of all our son who lives in St. Louis, joined the Missouri Historical Society, so we had vouchers to view the exhibit. It was very difficult to reserve a time (a cost involved as well) so we went down to the Museum at 9:30 for a 10:00 a.m. opening. We were fortunate that there were two openings at 10 so we didn't have to wait.

BUT before we could view the exhibition, we had to find the museum! The directions were not very clear unless you were coming from the East. We came from the West on Highway 40 and knew Forest Park had the St. Louis Zoo. We followed the signs to the zoo and then followed the directions to the museum. The receptionists gave us a map which helped a little and we did find our way back to our son's home.

At the beginning of the exhibition, you receive a set of ear phones and a box. All the exhibits are numbered and it's a simple matter to dial up the appropriate message. Each exhibit is marked to its authenticity with a small sun. There are also displays where you can sit and watch a program. There are over 90 numbered exhibits with additional information printed near the exhibit. Tom and I took approximately 2 and a half hours and could have stayed longer, but our legs and patience gave out. There were also school groups visiting. The high school students were using headphones, but the younger children were lead by a guide who gave a narrative. Overall it was a fabulous experience. Since this is the only display in the central time zone, it was very convenient. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$6 for children (6-18). I would not recommend it for children under 10.

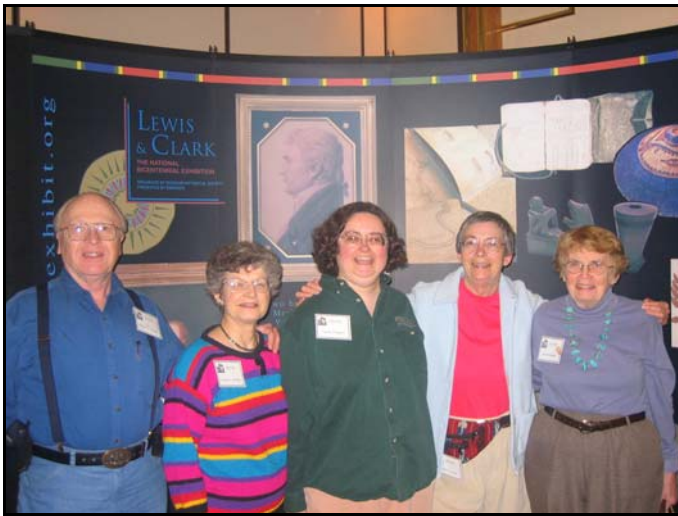
There are two gift shops. One is a general gift shop and the other is dedicated to Lewis and Clark. There was a wide selection of materials. A very poor selection of clothing was available. We were told there would be merchandise on the Internet. However, only a very few items were listed when I checked recently, there was a very expensive jacket, a hat and little else. There were some interesting articles such as a compass, books for children and some stuffed prairie dogs.

Questions or requests for material may be presented at our next meeting on the 24th or by e-mail at [mbutts@excel.net](mailto:mbutts@excel.net).

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## **Badger Chapter Members Attend Bicentennial Symposium in St. Louis**

Five other Badger Chapter members had the opportunity to view the exhibit that Mary Butts has written about, while in



St. Louis to attend the 4th and final, annual Symposium about the Corps of Discovery, put on by the National Park Service. Attending were Bill & Marcia Holman, Harriet Peppard, Judy Coccia, and Norma Kolthoff

## Missouri Quarter

The Missouri quarter was the fourth quarter of 2003, and the 24th in the 50 State Quarters® Program. Missouri became the 24th state on August 10, 1821, as a part of the Missouri Compromise. The Missouri quarter depicts Lewis and Clark's historic return to St. Louis down the Missouri River, with the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch) in the background. The quarter is inscribed "Corps of Discovery 1804-2004."



While much of the state's history is tied to the mighty rivers that flow through it, the "Show Me State" got its nickname because of the devotion of its people to simple common sense. In 1899, Rep. Willard D. Vandiver said, "Frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I'm from Missouri. You've got to show me." It is easy to imagine President Thomas Jefferson saying "show me" as he sent Lewis and Clark forth on their trek into the uncharted Louisiana Purchase territory. Their 8,000-mile journey westward and back, which some claim was the greatest U.S. military expedition ever, began in St. Charles, Missouri -- just 20 miles west of St. Louis -- in 1804 and ended when they returned to St. Louis, Missouri in 1806.

In February 2001, Governor Bob Holden announced the selection of the Missouri Commemorative Quarter Design Committee and requested statewide design submissions. During the month of March, the state received more than 3,000 concept submissions. The Missouri Commemorative Design Committee, composed of a team of experts, selected twelve finalists. The twelve finalists were pre-

sent to the public, who chose five concepts to forward to the United States Mint. The concepts included representations of the Pony Express, the nation's westward expansion, Lewis and Clark, and a riverboat. From the candidate designs that the United States Mint returned to Governor Holden, "Corps of Discovery 1804-2004" was chosen by an online vote.

## President's Message

As a chapter in good standing with the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, our purpose has been to encourage, support, and undertake projects that stimulate and advance public knowledge and awareness of the historical, social, and cultural significance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. For some time now, our chapter and its board of directors have been searching for a worthy project to promote and contribute time and funds to, especially in light of the Bicentennial.



David Bubier

Our objective was to find a project where, even as a small chapter in a non-trail state, we could have a meaningful impact and hopefully contribute to a project that had some Wisconsin connection to the expedition story. Jim Rosenberger and I think we have found that worthy project!

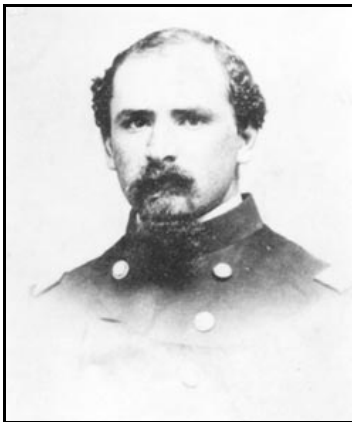
It has been 111 years since the discovery of the Charles Floyd journal in the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives. In early 2003 the Floyd Journal was digitally scanned in high resolution as part of the American Journeys project. These images were shared with the Friends of the Wisconsin Historical Society in April of 2003. The result was a decision to pursue publication, but the necessity of releasing the book in the summer of 2004 before the anniversary of Floyd's death created serious logistical problems and a very short timeline. Because of the value of the project, the University of Oklahoma Press agreed to include the book in their existing schedule in order to meet the deadline.

Jim Holmberg, noted Lewis and Clark author, editor and researcher, has agreed to become the editor of the Floyd book, however the project is in need of funds... and we feel our chapter can contribute between \$750 to \$1,000 from our treasury to this worthy *Wisconsin* project. I will be proposing such to the board of directors and membership on April 24. I invite you to come and hear Chuck Hatfield, Foundation and chapter member and project leader from the Friends of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, provide us details on the project and on the scope of the publication. It is a project worthy of the Badger State Chapter!!

David Bubier

## What'd Ya Know...?

Eston Hemings Jefferson was born to Sally Hemings, (sometimes spelled Hemmings) a slave owned by Thomas Jefferson, in 1808. He grew up in Virginia. Eston and his wife Julia had two sons, Beverly and John, and a daughter, Annie. The family stayed in Virginia until Sally's death in 1835. They then moved to Ohio and in 1852 moved once again to Madison, Wisconsin, where they took the name of Jefferson. Eston died in 1856.



**Photo: John W. Jefferson, grandson of former President Jefferson and his slave, Sally Hemings.**

Courtesy of:  
Wisconsin Veterans Museum  
30 W. Mifflin St., Ste. 200  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 267-1799

His son, John Jefferson, ran the American House Hotel in Madison with his brother Beverly's help in the 1850's. In 1861 John became a major in the 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. After sustaining two wounds and receiving two promotions in three years of service, Eston mustered out in late 1864 and moved to Memphis, Tennessee to run a cotton shipping company. Beverly served three months with the 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Infantry and returned to Madison to buy the American House and Capitol House Hotels. In 1869 he founded Jefferson's Transfer Line.

The idea that Thomas Jefferson might have had a child with one of his slaves

was first publicly rumored in 1802 in a Virginia newspaper by his political enemies alleging that Sally Hemings, the "African Venus," had borne him several children. The rumors continued through Jefferson's presidency without any comment from him. It was his policy never to publicly comment on attacks on his personal character. "As to federal slanders, I never wished them to be answered, but by the tenor of my life..." was his answer.

Historians have always debated the issue since that early time until recently. In 1998 a genetic connection was confirmed between Sally's son Eston and Thomas Jefferson. DNA tests proved Eston had a "Y" chromosome unique to the Jefferson family. However, even today, while DNA evidence has proven Eston had a Jefferson "Y" chromosome, there is room for argument! The original DNA report only concluded that Thomas Jefferson was *more likely* than two of his nephews to have been the source. Descendants of Sally Hemings have always believed that was the case.

Whether you believe genetic evidence, family oral history, scholarly debate or simply popular belief, it appears that Madison is the final resting place of several direct descen-

dants of one of the Founding Fathers of this great country... Thomas Jefferson. What'd Ya Know!!

**David Bubier**

References: Wisconsin Veterans Museum. State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Burstein, Andrew *The Inner Jefferson*, Charlottesville, Virginia; University Press of Virginia, 1995

## Letters from my cousin, Patrick Gass, On the Voyage of Discovery

Dear Bill,

From time to time I'll try to write you a letter about what we have been doing during the month. (I will also use many of these thoughts in my Journal.) This one is about building our 1804 winter quarters in Nov.

*Saturday 3rd.* A clear day; we continued building, and six men went down the river in a periogue to hunt. They will perhaps have to go 30 or 50 miles before they come to good hunting ground. The following is the manner in which our huts and fort were built. The huts were in two rows, containing four rooms each, and joined at one end forming an angle. When raised about 7 feet high a floor of puncheons or split plank were laid, and covered with grass and clay; which made a warm loft. The upper part projected a foot over and the roofs were made shed-fashion, rising from the inner side, and making the outer wall about 18 feet high. The part not inclosed [sic] by the huts we intend to picket. In the angle formed by the two rows of huts we built two rooms, for holding our provisions and stores.

Your cuzzin,  
**Patrick Gass**

*Note: Bill Holman, a Badger Chapter member and the editor of this journal, is the second cousin four times removed, of Patrick Gass. He has offered these "letters from the trail", which must have been held up in the mail.*



**Drawing used by permission of artist Michael Haynes**

Sergeant Patrick Gass uses an adze to square a log from building Fort Mandan in this vignette. Gass was an example of a soldier with extra talents, which included great skill at carpentry. Gass probably directed the construction of the Corps of Discovery's three winter encampments. He is shown here wearing an old round hat with cockade, woolen vest, linen shirt with sleeves rolled up, and "coarse linen" fatigue trousers. This scene was consciously created to echo a figure in the woodcut in the 1811 Patrick Gass journal titled "Captain Clark and His Men Building a Line of Huts."



## Tax Deductibility of Dues and Donations

The Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization as defined in section 501(c)3 of the IRS code. The Foundation is in the process of filing a group tax exemption that will include LCTHF chapters who *elect* to use the Foundation's non-profit tax identification number. In order to implement this "election" our chapter needed to obtain an EIN (Employer Identification Number) number from the IRS before we could make application to the Foundation to use their non-profit tax identification number. This election needed to be filed with the Foundation by April 20, 2004.

We have acquired an EIN number (EIN 57-1201280) and as chapter president I have submitted an application to the Foundation to "elect" to be included in the Foundation's group exemption.

*What does this mean to you, the membership? One of the advantages of such an election is that Badger State Chapter dues and donations are now tax deductible.* Because of our election we are now a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and certain other requirements apply. This means we must change our fiscal, membership and financial reporting\*\* year from calendar year (January 1 to December 31) to the Federal fiscal year (October 1 to September 30.)

As it affects the membership, this means that with a change in the chapter bylaws, our next chapter dues will be due for the period October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005. It will also mean newly elected chapter officers would serve terms beginning on October 1, 2004. The chapter's board of directors may decide to modify that requirement this year (new officers may serve a 9-month first year from January 1 to September 30, 2004.) We may elect to pro-rate membership dues or elect to "waive" chapter dues for that 9-month period to facilitate the transition.

**David Bubier**

\*\* Requires a statement of income and expenses for the year by September 30, 2004.

## Newsletter articles



Got an interesting article about the Lewis and Clark Expedition or someone who shares our interest in "The Journey" that you would like to share with others through this newsletter? Then write to either Dave Bubier at dbubier@merr.com or Bill Holman at wghmch@chorus.net. If you don't have e-mail, call Dave at (608) 846-8716. If you include a picture with your article, we will be happy to return it upon request.

## Election Results of Amendment to Bylaws

The following amendment to Article III, Section 4 of the bylaws was approved by a membership vote of 38 to 0.

**SECTION 4:** Should a vacancy occur during the term of any Officer or Director, for any reason, at the direction of the President, it will be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to submit a candidate to the full Board of Directors. Upon a majority vote of approval by the full Board of Directors to appoint the candidate to the vacant position, the candidate will take immediate office and complete the term of the vacancy.

In the event the office of President becomes vacant mid-term, the Vice President will become President in accordance with Article III, Section 1(B). The new President will then fill the office of Vice President using the process set forth in this Section 4.

Thanks to everyone for a great response!

**Harriet Peppard**

### (Lewis and Clark in Missouri continued from page 2)

In 1804, the Missouri River was generally wider and shallower, and its flow was much less uniform. Today's river is pinched by levees, dikes and riprap to maintain a narrow, deep and fast flowing channel. The natural river had roaring rapids, huge eddies, islands and backwaters.

In some ways, upstream travel in keelboats and canoes would have been easier then because the force of the current varied across the wide river. Expanses of shallow water allowed a crew of wading men to pull the boats along with ropes. In fact, eddies in the river sometimes helped move boats upstream.

However, keelboats often "grounded" on those same shallows. Other hazards included sand bars that constantly shifted, banks that unexpectedly caved in, and dislodged trees. These trees often became "sawyers," logs lodged in the mud with jagged limbs pointing downstream. They could rip holes in any passing boat.

The expedition faced a steep learning curve. Only a few days out, its boat lodged on a sand bar. When the sand shifted, the current ripped the boat loose and spun it around three times before the crew regained control. Had it rolled over and been torn apart in the current, or had its hull been splintered by a sawyer, the expedition might have ended right there.

**(Lewis and Clark in Missouri continued on page 6)**



**Ordway's Mast**  
Artwork courtesy of Michael Haynes  
<http://www.mhaynesart.com/lclimitededition.html>

In early June, 1804, Sgt. John Ordway lost control of the keelboat and ran it under a low-lying limb, breaking the mast. In this scene the men try to avoid the mishap, some dressed in regulation military white and others, probably some of the Nine Young Men from Kentucky, wearing brightly colored civilian shirts.

### **(Lewis and Clark in Missouri continued from page 5)**

As they ascended the lower Missouri, the crew learned how to navigate the river and depend on one another. By the time they left the borders of what would be Missouri in July 1804, this group of young, inexperienced soldiers had become an experienced, efficient and indomitable crew of rivermen.

The expedition made careful records and maps of the river and lands nearby. Lewis usually walked on shore. Clark commanded the boats. Hunters on horseback ranged inland. They all gathered and reported information. Wherever they could, the leaders climbed to high points to get a clear view up and down stream and take precise angular readings.

On one such climb near St. Albans, Lewis slipped and took a near tragic tumble. A trail on Weldon Springs Conserva-

tion Area and a high point on Engelmann Woods Natural Area are near, and perhaps in sight of the bluff where he fell. Other great overlooks include new trails to the top of the bluffs at Grand Bluffs and Diana Bend conservation areas, and a new State Historic Site at Clark's Hill, overlooking Smoky Waters Conservation Area.

Thirty of the expedition members who left St. Charles in 1803 made it to the Pacific and back. Those returning, with the exception of York, Captain Clark's slave, received both pay and a warrant for land. Many chose Missouri land--first choice among many wondrous lands seen. Lewis became Governor of the Missouri Territory, but he died a couple years later. Clark became territorial governor and ran, unsuccessfully, in Missouri's first gubernatorial election. He was a key frontier figure in U.S. relations with Indians for more than three decades.

York remained several years in St. Louis before he left as a free man. George Shannon, who is buried in Palmyra, was the youngest soldier in the group and later became an attorney and Missouri State Senator. John Colter had many adventures out west, including making the first report of today's Yellowstone National Park. He later settled in Franklin County, where he was buried and some of his descendants live today.

After leaving Missouri in 1804, Lewis and Clark wintered in North Dakota. There, they added Toussaint Charbonneau, Sacagawea and their newborn son, Jean Baptiste, to the Corps of Discovery. She carried the baby to the Pacific and back. When he was older, his parents brought Jean Baptiste to Missouri to be educated. He later guided many important expeditions to the far west.

The Corps of Discovery was the first, but not the only, important expedition to explore Missouri. In 1806, while Lewis and Clark were still returning through the Rocky Mountains, Zebulon Pike went up the Osage River, exploring what is now western Missouri, on his way to Colorado. In 1818, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft explored the interior of the Ozarks. All these expeditions kept records and provided additional important information about our state and its natural resources.

### **Revisiting the Missouri River**

The bicentennial celebration of the Corps of Discovery offers a good reason to experience the river that Lewis and Clark traveled. Many communities along the river have comfortable riverfront parks where, after a few minutes relaxing on a bench, visitors can almost envision a keelboat appearing on misty water.

Many conservation areas preserve wetlands, oxbow lakes and bottomland forests that were common in 1804. Some features Lewis and Clark saw are hard to find. For example, the bottomland forests of today are much smaller and fragmented. Weston Bend State Park offers a striking overlook

of an old growth forest, which is preserved on Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

Oxbow lakes were common havens for waterfowl, wading and migratory birds as well as other wildlife. This same rich diversity can be found today at oxbows in Grand Pass, Cooley Lake and Little Bean Marsh conservation areas, or in Lewis and Clark State Park.

Almost all of Missouri's native prairies have been cultivated for many years, making prairie vistas described by the journals hard to find. The Conservation Department's Star School Hill Prairie, near Rockport, is one of several conservation areas where a visitor can see and begin to appreciate prairies like William Clark described. Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge also contains rich prairie land.

Traveling the river by boat will allow you to fully appreciate both the beauty and the hazards faced by the expedition. Motorboats make river travel easier, but the Missouri River still requires a healthy respect for safety. About 40 Conservation Department accesses to the Missouri, along with community owned and private ramps, provide many good options for launching boats on the river.

River sandbars are especially good places to explore. The river is constantly rearranging and uncovering materials and artifacts as it flows along. You might find a fossil from Montana, a fragment of a steamboat wreck, a bone from an Ice Age mammal, tools used by early native Americans, or at least some sense of wonder experienced by the expedition itself.

It's never far from a ramp to a quiet wilderness. Expect to be pleasantly surprised by the natural beauty of the river, its great fishing opportunities and the variety of wildlife viewing it offers.

**The "Missouri Conservationist" is the official monthly publication of the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, and can be contacted at P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102. We are grateful to them for their permission to reprint this story.**



### Treasurer's Report

As of April 1, 2004 we have \$1,788.22 in the Treasury, and there are 46 paid members in the Badger Chapter.

### =We're On The Web=

**This is the 4th issue of the Badger Chapter Newsletter to be available on the Internet. If you are not on the mailing list to receive the link, drop an e-mail to Bill Holman at: [wghmch@chorus.net](mailto:wghmch@chorus.net) ...we'll send you a link where you can find it and share it with your friends.**

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