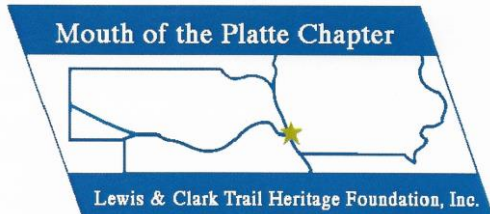


Mouth of the Platte Chapter Newsletter

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

"Keepers of the Story~Stewards of the Trail"

March 2023 Edition



Dear Mouth of the Platte Members and Friends:

First, "Thank you!" In December, I asked you to consider a financial contribution to MOP. Twelve people collectively contributed \$900 to MOP in response. Well done!

Second, "Thank you" to all those who contribute time and energy to organizing, leading, and participating in MOP-sponsored events. About a dozen people follow Jim Christiansen's leadership in our Wednesday morning Study Group every week; many of them devote hours in preparing and leading sessions on the Journal entries we study. Several are supporting Harlan Seyfer's leadership in restoring the wayside exhibits in our area to tell the Lewis and Clark story.

This "Thank you" continues. Keith Bystrom puts in untold hours as a director of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) and as Chair of that organization's Northern Plains Region (NPR) Board of Directors. Shirley Enos put in an incredible number of hours supporting *A Walk through Time* and the construction of the new keelboat exhibit at the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center, and her hours at the Center's monthly *Saturday with a Soldier* event connect with many people. Ann Woolard is indefatigable in her campaign to organize our monthly luncheons and edit this awesome newsletter.

Third, "Thank you" to so many of our charter members and long-time members who laid the foundation for MOP and who continue their support with attendance at our meetings and special events. That base supports the success we presently enjoy.

A new era in our story is evolving as we adapt to the changes in the LCTHF and in our membership structure. MOP continues to be one of the most active chapters of the LCTHF and in the NPR. Of the 128 members of the NPR, MOP has 30 members, the Sergeant Floyd Tri-State Chapter has 21 members; the other 77 NPR members have no chapter affiliation. Choosing a chapter affiliation does NOT restrict a member in any way, nor does it cost more. The member benefits by receiving more information about opportunities, and the chapter benefits by receiving a portion of the dues paid to LCTHF. Your continuing participation and support will keep MOP a vital part of this area's Lewis and Clark story. Thank you, everyone!

Sincerely yours,
Don Shippy, MOP President
shippydv@msn.com

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Ninety pages. That's all we've covered since the last newsletter (November 2022). The Expedition is in Washington and Oregon in the last month of 1805. You might say, "The Expedition isn't GOING anywhere. Nothing is happening! How can you possibly spend so much time on one place?" At first glance, our pace appears yawningly slow. Ahh...but appearances can be deceiving! This snail's pace bears a strong resemblance to mining gold; members' research yields valuable nuggets of insight.



Sacagawea at the Ocean by John Clymer



Sacagawea's curiosity: a Beached whale on Oregon Coast

For example, on November 30, Don summarized the WPO article *Is it Possible to Know Sacagawea?* (Vol. 48, Number 4). He also summarized *20 Little-known Details about the Woman Who Saved the Lewis and Clark Expedition* by Ken MacDonald. Keith summarized *This Day in History...November 19, 1752: Happy Birthday, George Rogers Clark* from Mystic Stamp Company. Peg summarized *Indigenous Continent* by Pekka Hämmäläinen. On that day, we read about the Expedition being pinned down with "a hard Storm" (Ordway) and having to move camp because of the tide rising "higher than it commonly did at this place" (Whitehouse).



Fort Clatsop Area



The Salt Works at Seaside, Oregon

On December 7, MOP Board members summarized information from the previous evening's Board meeting. Shirley summarized information on Chinook Chief Comcomly and his daughter, Ilchee, who was a seer. Jim summarized a Smithsonian special on *Mighty Ships*, which led Keith to describe the circumstances that require knowledgeable pilots familiar with the mouth of the Columbia River to be "helicoptered" onto visiting cruise ships to guide them safely through the bar. There are over 40 islands in this area. The Expedition was having trouble hunting because the area was so "thicketty" (Whitehouse), cold and wet. As Don observed, "Trees, trees everywhere, but not a limb to burn!"



Jim leads Study Group



“Thicketty” Woods



Denny & Steve ponder rugged terrain

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At least the Natives “behaved friendly to us” (Whitehouse)--not like our national memory of this day in 1944! Steve entertained us with an account of HIS method of observing Pearl Harbor Day; as a history teacher, he helped his students to manufacture paper airplanes and led them on Kamikaze raids of other teachers’ classrooms. Gass observed, “The whole of the day was wet and unpleasant” ...and, in the following entry, he added, “We...had a very wet night.” Keith’s response: “They just left Dismal Nitch. They thought THAT was bad! Tongue Point is worse!” After Natives insisted on trading for beads, Shirley got to talking about beaded jewelry and happened to mention the use of teeth in Native jewelry. Nothing would do but that, on December 14, Ann would bring earrings made by her brother using human teeth! (We all have our quirky relatives!) Not to be outdone, Steve brought his collection of cottage cheese glasses, each of which bears an historical picture, including one of meeting the Indians at the Council Bluff.



Biddle Bear at Fort Clatsop Gate



Betty and Biddle with Sacagawea

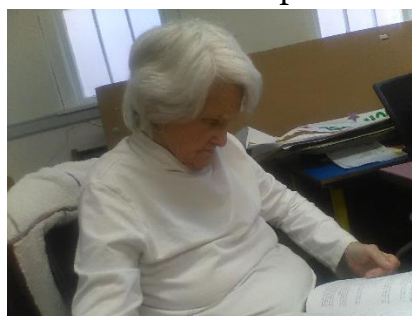


Notice the chimneys on the men’s quarters!

On a more serious note, on December 14 we spent some time teasing out the differences between rails and ducks. Paula summarized the WPO article on the *Geology of the Far Upper Missouri* (date unknown). Don was leading. When someone observed the heft of Don’s packet of handouts, he rightly observed, “Well, colored pictures are cheaper than golf!” No one would argue with that, since we are the beneficiaries of his extensive research! We found the Corps eating pounded “Sammon” left over from Great Falls, “anxiously waiting for the arrival of Captain Lewis,”(who was searching for fort site).



King Rail (feet not webbed)



Betty (webbed or not?)



Canvasback Duck (webbed)

We took a 2-week break for the Christmas/New Year holiday and came back together on January 4, glad to have Jim still walking and talking in our midst after his car was totaled on Christmas Day. The Corps may have been having trouble bringing home elk for dinner, but Tom's friend wasn't! Tom shared a picture of his 6-foot 7-inch friend standing next to a trophy elk he'd shot—the rack was as tall as the man! Jim summarized his reading of Dayton Duncan's *Out West*. Peg summarized her 3-week trip to the East Coast, including a visit to Monticello, the Philadelphia Art Museum (Peale), and the American Philosophical Society. (They wouldn't let her see the Journals!) Steve summarized *Through Indian Eyes* (Readers Digest). Tom summarized *Custer's Last Eight Days* by Nathaniel Philbrick. These are book-loving, history-crazy people!

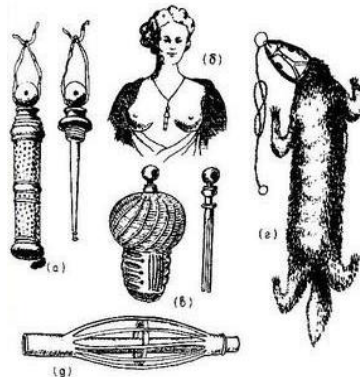


Elk

Finally! The Corps connected with a substantial herd of elk. At first, Joseph Field brought back only the bones. The Corps eased into eating elk meat by starting with bone soup. The problem they found was the inability to satisfactorily preserve the meat. The weather was too warm and wet to freeze the meat or dry it, the wood was so wet that smoking wasn't working, and they had just run out of salt to make jerky. Lewis finally returned, and he had found a great site for winter quarters. All this while, the Indians had been coming and going from the soggy Expedition camp. In fact, that's been both a blessing and a trial: they brought food to sell, but their prices were too high. Some couldn't be trusted not to steal, but, since they hardly wore any clothes, it was pretty easy to search them. Unlike the Plains Indians, they were experienced in trading with whites. They actually wanted to trade for the Corps' spoiled leftover Great Falls pounded salmon. While the Natives were at their own winter quarters near the beach, the Corps took advantage of their absence to "borrow" planks (puncheons) from their summer houses in order to roof the new fort. Perhaps it was poetic justice that, along with the planks, the explorers got a whole lot of the Indians' fleas!



Magnified flea



Flea traps worn under clothes



A bad case of flea bites

On February 1, 2023, Shirley was thinking back to buffalo: the French fur traders coined the word for this animal from their word for cow (*boeuf*). Did you know that one bison cow yields up to 90 lb. of pemmican? Did you know the Canadian government passed a law limiting the number of bison one *metis* could kill in a year? Likewise, did you know the Audubon Society was formed to prevent the wholesale slaughter of birds? Did you know that mosquitoes pollinate cacao and blueberries? Well, these are things Study Group has learned. What keeps us researching is any random question generated by our reading and discussion. Did the Natives use bearberry leaves to make tea? Some member will come back next week with the answer.



Tom, Ginny, and Shirley listen to Keith's research

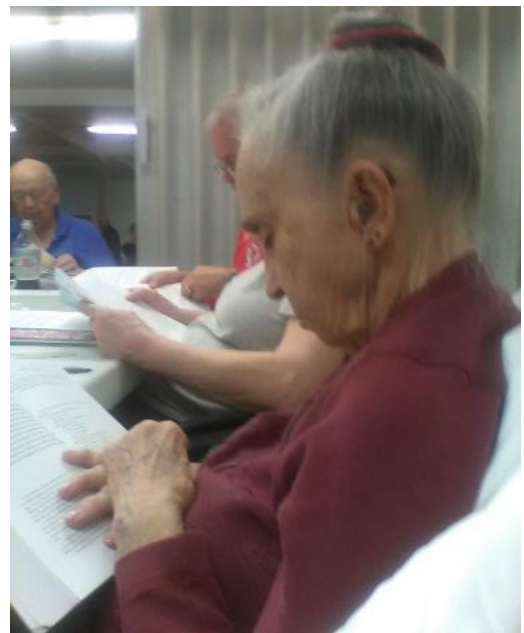


Bearberry Leaf Tea

One final lesson worth mentioning is Steve's summary of the Salt Camp. His handling of this passage really drew back the veil on history...how the explorers did it and why. It didn't hurt that he brought salted nut rolls and salted caramels to drive his point home!

Along with the Corps, Study Group members learned that "Into every life a little rain must fall." For Denny, that rain was the loss of his dear father on November 17, 2022. We grieve with Denny for sure, and with Don for the loss of his sister. Thankfully, we also celebrate with Betty the birth of her 26th grandchild...and the baseball victories of Tom and Ginny's grandson...and the hunting/trapping success of Don's 8-year-old grandson...and the return of Mary Langhorst to Study Group. In Mary's words, "Those other folks don't know what they're missing!" -ADW

Welcome Back,
Mary!



Supplement to Study Group: Short-tailed Weasel (*Zumestela eriminea*) 7

Pound for pound, the short-tailed weasel is one of the most courageous animals alive. This mammal measures seven to fourteen inches in length and weighs roughly five ounces. Although solitary and nocturnal by nature, it sometimes may be seen during the day, as well, foraging in the swamps, fields, and farmlands where it lives.



Weasel



Range



Weasel in burrow

The weasel is carnivorous, eating both cold and warm-blooded animals. Where mice and rats are abundant, the weasel's diet consists almost entirely of them. A nocturnal feeder, it searches open woodland areas, swimming and climbing trees in pursuit of its prey. A weasel can subdue prey as large as a rabbit, chicken, or goose. Farmers must take great precautions to keep weasels out of their poultry enclosures. A weasel is capable of slipping through a hole as small as one inch in diameter. If a weasel is able to slip its head through an opening, it will have no difficulty in getting the rest of its body through as well. If its head does not fit the opening, the animal will not attempt to pass through. Because the weasel is able to squeeze through such small spaces, few burrowing rodents are safe.



Weasel escaping heron



A weasel can kill animals larger than itself.



Ermine with preferred prey.

The weasel strategically employs speed of attack as one of its major weapons. Because of its small size, any hesitation on its part could mean defeat. On one occasion, a golden eagle was found dead with a weasel embedded in its neck. Apparently, the eagle, which was considerably larger, under-estimated the ferocity and persistence of its foe. It flew down to attack and seized the seven-inch animal. As it lifted the weasel off the ground, the weasel struck back with lightning speed, sinking needlepoint teeth into the eagle's neck. With each effort the surprised eagle made to shake the weasel off, the weasel's teeth sank deeper until they reached their vital target. The bird plummeted to earth, killed not by size but by sheer swiftness of action. Once the weasel is engaged in a conflict, it will either persist until its opponent is subdued or the weasel is killed. The weasel does not consider retreat as an option.



Weasel with lizard



Weasel Skull



Even a juvenile will bite!

Under normal conditions, the short-tailed weasel will not attack a man, but, if the animal is cornered or pursued, it will boldly retaliate regardless of the size of its opponent. Because of its lightning speed, it is almost impossible to pick up the animal without being bitten. The weasel does not hesitate to use its needle-sharp teeth when man interferes by coming between it and the food it seeks. On one occasion, a man unknowingly interfered with a weasel's search for prey, and the determined animal lunged toward him. Surprised by the attack, the man tried to grab the animal, but the weasel clamped its teeth into his thumb. The man's attempts to dislodge the tenacious jaws of the weasel were fruitless. Until the weasel was killed, it could not be removed.

Although a weasel's eyes are employed to a certain extent in hunting, a weasel does not depend on them as much as its nose, relying predominantly on its sense of smell. By sniffing the air with its sensitive nose, it will pick up the slightest scent, whether fresh or old. With this scent, the weasel begins a tireless pursuit of its quarry and doggedly unravels the trail. Its single-minded tracking has caused it to run past a downwind rabbit in clear view while following the scent of a trail which was made earlier. The weasel's endurance and determination ensure it a high degree of success.



Weasel: summer coat



Same animal: two different color phases



Ermine: Winter coat

An ermine is a weasel. The name ermine refers to the weasel when it is in its white winter coat. In late autumn when leaves begin to fall and rain turns to snow, the weasel sheds its summer coat of light brown and replaces it with lustrous white fur. The white coat helps the animal to blend with its surroundings, giving it an added advantage against predators during the lean winter months. The coat returns to its brown shade in early spring. Centuries ago, use of ermine skins was reserved for nobility. Members of royalty used the fur to accent their robes. Characteristic black flecks which dotted the trim were taken from the tail of the pelt.



Lewis' ermine coat



Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation



Elizabeth's coronation robe

(Source: Character Sketches, Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts (1976), pages 129-136.)

**December 20 (Willa Cather Library): John LaRandeau**

Topic: *In Search of the Source of the Missouri*

I'm wondering if John LaRandeau felt the extra weight he was carrying on December 20, 2022, as he made his way one more time to the Utmost Reaches of the Missouri: MOP members were hanging on his every word. Prior to listening to his fine, detailed explanation of the true source of the Missouri River, well documented with photographs and maps, we would have said we knew the Missouri River's birthplace, much like those acrobatic cartographers mentioned by Nell and Demetriades in their November 2002 *We Proceeded On* article. John loaded us up and carried us 298.3 miles from the junction of the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin Rivers to a spring hidden in the recesses of Centennial Valley in Montana and discovered by Jacob Brower on August 29, 1895. Actually, John carried us four miles farther, to the rock seep finally pin-pointed by Lillian Hackett Culver on September 26, 1895. What a thrilling journey it was!

As an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a life-long lover of "all things Missouri River," John hankered to know where the first molecule of Missouri River water set off downstream toward the Gulf of Mexico. In 2001, while preparing for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial observance, he used his annual leave to draw up a hiking plan and satisfy his burning curiosity. This first hike of discovery began on Red Rock Pass Road in Montana and lasted 12 long hours (seven in and five out). Instead of only quenching his thirst, the headwaters became something of an oasis in John's soul. He found himself a lovely hiking partner, wife Ann, and has made the trek ten times since 2004.

John says a hiker can approach the headwaters from either the Montana or Idaho side. For the 12-hour hike, he started on the Montana side. The Idaho side approach begins at Island Park. A short drive up Sawtell Peak Road puts a hiker at Mt. Jefferson Trailhead for a less demanding 1.5 mile journey to the seep. While he has never seen beaver, sometimes John has seen moose, and he always carries bear spray! He recommends hiking in late July or early August to avoid the bears. He also says there is still snow in the mountains into June.

Through maps and photos, John helped us visualize that molecule of H₂O starting at Lillian's seep and making its way via Hell Roaring Creek, Red Rock Creek, the Upper/Lower Red Rock Lakes, Red Rock River, Lima Reservoir, Horse Prairie Creek, Clark Canyon Reservoir, Beaverhead River, Big Hole River, and Jefferson River, before joining the Madison and Gallatin Rivers to become the named Missouri River. The river distance from Brower's Spring to the ocean is a total of 3,745 miles.

During the Q & A session following John's presentation, it was remarked that the Ultimate Source appears to arise on the wrong side of the Continental Divide. After puzzling over that awhile, I finally decided that lines of a map don't determine the gravitational flow of water. Topography does. If the Continental Divide, in general, passes through two peaks, it is quite likely that, on a local scale, a particular slope might divert some water in apparent contradiction to the map.

Listeners posed several excellent questions:

*Keith asked if Tony Demetriades knew the history of his property when he bought it. John said he knew the spring was close by. At 92 years of age, Tony leaves the 10,000-foot elevations during the winter, but still likes Jeffersonian politics.

*Jack asked where the Missouri becomes "the Big Muddy." John said that is at the Platte River, though the Missouri turns muddy in South Dakota. In fact, in many studies, the Missouri River is greenish.

*Peg asked about the snow level. John said there's always snow in the Alaska Basin. Ice flows out of Hell Roaring Creek.

*Keith asked why we don't give the Missouri's name to the river below the junction of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. John said discovery progressed from East to West, so to early explorers the Mississippi appeared the main river. This last comment led John to remark that the name of the Missouri River was actually taken from Marquette's 1673 map -- Ouemessourita (wemessyrit) -- and means "people of the Wood Canoes." We'll have to invite John back to tell us the rest of that story!

Thanks for a very informative, entertaining presentation, John. You and Ann enjoy such vibrant good health that we might have mistaken you for Ponce de Leon, except that you FOUND that Fountain of Youth!

-ADW



Topic: Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Visitor Center Facilities and Programs

Director Doug Friedli of the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center in Nebraska City began his presentation with a reference to how Meriwether Lewis liked to climb to the highest points in order to get an overview of the surrounding territory. Clark made those climbs occasionally, too, though he was principally in charge of the boats. During one such climb in Nebraska, Clark's response was utter amazement at the "boundless prairie" he saw, so much so that he dropped his gun and forgot what he was doing. This morning, my response to listening to Doug speak has been similar. Let me elaborate.

As promoter of the entire Mid-Missouri region, Doug first introduced us to the 175th Anniversary Celebration of the Mormon Battalion. He brought brochures. Since childhood, I've known about the Mormon movement west and about the Mormons traveling on one side of the Platte River, separated from the main throng of pioneers, who traveled on the other side. On several occasions I've also visited the Mormon Trail Center Winter Quarters in Omaha. Why did I never realize that the Mormons also camped just across the Missouri River from the Nebraska City area? Or that they "established the first wagon route to the Pacific Coast, linking the east with Southern California" (from the brochure)? Inattention on my part, I guess. Doug certainly got my attention!

Sojourners in a strange land need a knowledgeable guide. Doug served MOP members in that capacity. Many of us are confined to our citified existence and don't see what's right before our noses, environmentally speaking. Doug invited us to step outside and breathe the fresh air that Lewis and Clark so savored. He said he saw twenty Bald Eagles as he traveled along I-29 this morning. How many must our Expedition members have seen? Along the stretch from Nebraska City to Omaha, probably one eagle every time they looked up! And certainly they remarked the songbirds and lesser birds of prey in the same area. The MRBVC sits, perched, on a bluff in the riverine environment, ready to accommodate visitors twelve months of the year. I don't just mean human visitors. Yes, the human visitors will find its glass walls and climate-controlled spaces a comfortable place to immerse themselves in the science, history, and art of Lewis and Clark. But, in addition, Center staff makes sure the outdoor bird feeders are full all year long. Even during the winter, fabric-clad visitors are only a pane of glass away from the Center's feather-clad ones. The Center capitalizes on this proximity with "Brown Bagging with the Birds," a weekly winter Friday noon event. It's not uncommon to lunch in view of fourteen species of feathered diners. Do you know a child who likes Bingo? Brown Baggers play "Bird Bingo" as they relax near the windows.

These air-borne visitors serve as ambassadors for the great outdoors. Humans lured outside by them find much to delight; MRBVC trails are walk-able year-round, shady in summer, bracing in winter. It's easy to imagine yourself two centuries back in time, especially when your earth-muffled footfalls finally turn back from the river bluff vista to the snug earth Indian lodge, nestled nearby on the verdant hillside. Adventurers will appreciate the reproduction Keelboat moored at the Center's front door, no fare required. No matter one's age, to walk aboard a vessel that might have carried the explorers gives fresh insight into their service.

While a one-time visit may satisfy the family just passing through, it's worth considering an annual membership: the Center is alive with activity all year. Doug guided us through a calendar replete with opportunity:

- **January 1: American Hiking Society's annual First Day Hike** – What a great way to honor that New Year's resolution!
- **January/February (every Friday noon): Brown Bag with the Birds**
- **February 25 (Saturday, 10-1:30): Workshop on Watercolor Painting** – Conducted by Artist Steve Snell, who paddled and painted the entire Missouri River—Three Forks to St. Louis--in 2022. **(If you miss this workshop, catch a similar workshop by Todd Williams later in the summer (date TBD)).**
- **March 4 (Saturday): Artifacts Show.** Native American arrowheads and pottery and many other types of items unearthed by farmers working the land.
- **April – October: Second Saturday with a Soldier.** This is a plein aire activity on the Center grounds. Interact with Soldiers and Mountain Men. Handle Furs and 19th Century gear. Make seed bombs or rope.
- **May 29 (Monday, Memorial Day): Fantasy RV Tour.** Meet folks “sailing” their fancy RV Keelboats along the Lewis and Clark route!
- **August 16 (Wednesday): Explorers' Birthday Party** (Clark – 1770, Lewis – 1774). Enjoy cake and a Missouri River-themed featured speaker.
- **September 16-17 (Saturday & Sunday): Applejack Festival/Lewis & Clark Reunion #19.** In addition to the usual “Second Saturday” activities, there will be a featured speaker, and the White Pirogue will be visiting from Plattsmouth to “float” in the Nebraska City parade.
- **December 27 (Wednesday): Christmas for the Birds.** Learn to mix up the secret bird-feeding recipes that MRBVC uses!

In keeping with the Center's function as local gateway to the full Lewis and Clark experience, Doug shared news of other 2023 Plains opportunities: Mid-Mo brochures, Geo websites, and the year-round *Lewis and Clark Today* Bicycle Trail between Sioux City and Hamburg, Iowa.

He also recommended seeing the traveling LCTHF display *Maps of Lewis and Clark* at Ponca State Park (20 miles northwest of Sioux City) from August 28 to September 30.

MOP members got to see Butch Bouvier's brand new model of the Camp DuBois Fort (pictured) that Doug transported from the Center for our perusal. It will be on display in perpetuity at the Center.

Sometimes it takes drivers 45 minutes to get from Point A to Point B in Omaha. Next time you find yourself chafing at an Omaha stoplight, turn the steering wheel south down Highway 75 and escape to the Missouri River for an afternoon. The Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center welcomes you year-round! Thanks, Doug, for the delightful presentation! -ADW

Butch Bouvier with Camp DuBois Fort



Sandra Renner (See CFRA, page 12) Erin Schoenberg



Topic: *Center for Rural Affairs Makerspace Initiative*

(photos on pages 11 & 38)

It was a beginning. On February 21, twelve MOP members and guests met with representatives of the [Center for Rural Affairs \(CFRA\)](#) to learn about the Center's initiative for indigenous people in Nebraska. While CFRA has been serving rural Nebraskans for 50 years, this momentous undertaking only began in 2010, when Little Priest Tribal College (LPTC) initiated a conversation with them about creating a vision for a food oasis. Later that year Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) invited CFRA to begin training in gardening skills with the Santee Sioux. CFRA began to use the NICC campus as a place in which to come together with [Native community members](#), both to identify their needs and to offer training in vegetable gardening techniques, soil amendments, growing of traditional foods, food preservation techniques, orchard planting, etc. This work later included the Omaha through NICC's Macy campus. The Center prepares [video recordings](#) of some of these training sessions and makes them available online. Success in raising vegetables and fruits has led to the availability of surplus produce to be shared and preserved. As more community members have engaged with the Center, their natural entrepreneurship has led to earned income by way of selling excess produce at Farmers' Markets.

The CFRA works primarily with the Omaha and the Santee Sioux Tribes in Nebraska. CFRA strives to respect the cultural and spiritual traditions of the tribes. Workshops are family-oriented (Children come, too.) and always involve a meal. CFRA has focused on bringing back lost tribal knowledge by including community members who still remember traditional practices. Partnership has been essential to the success of CFRA involvement, as approval of tribal elders is one element of developing trust among these people who have suffered systemic exclusion.

The CFRA initiative uses classrooms and auditoriums as gathering spaces for tastings and various demonstrations, for example, how to use produce and techniques of food packaging, labeling, and marketing. Community members also gather to share knowledge of traditional culture, crafts, and skills, such as foraging. One notable example of partnership success was a bison kill about three years ago; certain clan members still knew and were able to share the traditional practices.

CFRA derives funding from competitive grants (primarily from the USDA), private foundations, and endowments. CFRA functions as a provider of small business loans to applicants who do not qualify for standard bank loans. These applicants are as diverse as meat and poultry processors, hair salons, small farms growing a non-traditional crop, or [bakeries](#). One cultural difference the lending program has encountered is lack of understanding of credit—the idea of spending more than you have.

Questions from audience members regarding bee-keeping, land ownership, tribal relationships, etc., revealed a number of issues for more exploration. Mouth of the Platte Chapter members desire to know more, and we appreciate that Erin and Sandra did not shame us for asking questions. They provided names, topics, and website links for further research. We can all benefit from understanding the effect of the intergenerational trauma endured by these tribes. Erin and Sandra also made the point that financial donation is one way to increase the scope of CFRA programming for the tribes. Donations of any amount can be sent to: CFRA, 145 Main Street, P.O. Box 136, Lyons, NE 68038-0136.

Greg Wagner of Nebraska Game and Parks Commission summarized the situation well. His forebears in Nebraska ALWAYS shared food with tribes moving through their 1800s farm because, as they said, "After all, we [whites] took their land." **This presentation was at least a beginning.**

[Click here to sign up for the CFRA newsletter.](#)

[Click here to link to the Indigenous Artists Cooperative.](#)

[Click here to link to Taylor Keen's Sacred Seed organization.](#)

-ADW

MOP Board Meeting Minutes Summary

December 6, 2022; January 3 and February 7, 2023

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Treasurer's Report: Checking: \$2,151.71. Savings: \$2,858.42. LCTHF Grants (2) for Interpretive Wayside Exhibits: \$7,628.48. MOP members donated \$900 to MOP in December and January. In addition, January dinner receipts made up the shortfall from our December catering bill.

Membership: LCTHF list shows 30 MOP members in good standing, so MOP will receive \$300 back into our treasury via Northern Plains Region. LCTHF sends renewal letters to expiring memberships. Keith and Don continue to court Northern Plains Region members who have not declared a home region. LCTHF has tentatively approved MOP Bylaws Revision, pending minor revision of membership wording.

Dinner Meetings: December 20: Noon at Willa Cather Library. Program: John LaRondeau on *The Ultimate Source of the Missouri River*. Soup and Sandwich Bar catered by HyVee. John's maps and photos showed up well on the library's huge projection screen. With 16 reservations for lunch and only 10 attendees, leftover food was donated to an organization that serves homeless veterans. Thanks to Mike Bednarz for transporting the leftovers.

January 17: 11:30 at Willa Cather Library. Program: Doug Friedli, Director, on *Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center Facilities Updates and 2023 Programs*. Soup and Sandwich Bar catered by HyVee. Doug gave us a very timely, informative preparation for the upcoming travel season. MRBVC will begin fund-raising soon for a full-size replica of the Camp DuBois Fort to be built on MRBVC grounds by Butch Bouvier and crew.

February 21: 11:30 at Willa Cather Library. Program: Erin Schoenberg and Sandra Renner from Center for Rural Affairs on *Native Makerspace Initiative*. Meal by Lil' Willie's Catering and Pomp's Birthday Cake by Paula Imes.

Future Dinner Meetings: March 21: 11:30 at Willa Cather Library. Program: Dr. Richard Fruehling on *Medical Problems on the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. Meal catering: TBD.

April 18, May 16, June 20: 6:00 p.m. at Pizza King in Council Bluffs. Programs under consideration: 1) speaker on Ft. Atkinson/Pelican Point, 2) speaker on Illumination Center (science center), 3) Mark Weekley of NPS, 4) J. Greg Smith of Mid-Mo, 5) viewing of the YouTube Video regarding creation of LCTHF Map Exhibit, 6) auction of members' excess Lewis and Clark paraphernalia. Jim Christiansen will prepare a questionnaire for our next meeting to solicit members' ideas for future programming. Don will also distribute the questionnaire by e-mail.

Lewis & Clark Interpretive Wayside Exhibits: Harlan Seyfer applied for and received a \$2,100 grant from LCTHF to create two more panels for MRBVC: the Keelboat and Seaman. Two panels have been already been fabricated and delivered. Cass County Historical Society and Two Rivers State Park will erect the two exhibits. A dedication ceremony is being planned. Caitlin Campbell is developing the five remaining panels of our original LCTHF grant.

Relationship with Cass County Historical Society, Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Visitor Center, and defunct Western Historic Trails Center: CCHS will help erect one exhibit. MRBVC will put a video from Butch Bouvier's 2022 Timeline Event on their website. Ann made a transcript for it. MOP Board will recover MOP items from WHTC.

Study Group: Still meeting regularly. We just celebrated Christmas at Fort Clatsop and established our Salt Camp.

LCTHF Northern Plains Report: NPR Board meets by Zoom. MOP Board is exploring the possibility of sharing a joint event with SF/TS at Ponca State Park during the exhibition of the LCTHF Maps (August 28-September 30).

Southern Prairie Region Note: LCTHF has approved SPR to host the 2025 Annual Meeting. Omaha is approved as a pre- or post-meeting site. In coming months, MOP Board will consider what our level of involvement might be.

Newsletter: In the future, MOP Newsletter will include more SF/TS and NPR news. Next issue: May.

Facebook Page: Keith Bystrom posted CFRA luncheon advertisement. To post: contact a board member.

Submitted by Ann Dunlap Woolard, MOP Board Secretary

(firedogpoet@yahoo.com)

Submitted by LCTHF Board Member Keith Bystrom

As a Board Member of LCTHF, I have learned more about Lewis and Clark history and how it is currently presented by the many partners of LCTHF. Here are some of the highlights of my recent participation on the LCTHF Board.

2023 Annual Meeting. The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) is looking forward to its 55th Annual Meeting to be held June 27-30, 2023, in Missoula, Montana, at the Holiday Inn - Downtown Missoula. This recently renovated hotel on the banks of the Clark Fork River will serve as the headquarters for the Annual Meeting. The program includes a Welcome Reception, Speaker Sessions and Walking Tours on Wednesday and Thursday; Dinner and Moulton Lecture on Wednesday; Bus Tours on Friday; and a Farewell Dinner & Event at Travelers' Rest State Park on Friday. Travelers' Rest marks the intersection between cultural and natural history. Along the banks of Lolo Creek, attendees will explore the landscape used for centuries by indigenous peoples and visited twice by the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. It is home to a wondrous diversity of plants and animals. The Travelers' Rest Connection is a host for the LCTHF Annual Meeting. It supports Travelers' Rest State Park through outreach, advocacy, and educational experiences connecting the past to the future. Optional pre- and post-meeting tours are available to see:

- *Lewis & Clark Over Lemhi Pass: From the Headwaters of the Missouri to Beaverhead, Camp Fortunate to Travelers' Rest* (3 Days).
- *Walk in the Footsteps of the Expedition at Lost Trail* (1 day).
- *Lolo Trail Motorway Excursion* (1 Day).
- *Lewis and Clark Festival at Great Falls, LCTHF HQ, and Gates of Mountains Boat Cruise* (2 Days).
- June 30 – July 2: The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, MT is celebrating 25 years! Come join them as they have a 3-day encampment with activities and programs (3 days).

For Registration and more detailed information about the LCTHF Annual Meeting, check out the Annual Meeting home page at: <https://travelersrest.org/events/55th-annual-meeting-of-the-lewis-clark-trail-heritage-foundation/>

Grant Funding: LCTHF annually provides grant funding to organizations from its Trail Stewardship Endowment and its partnership with the National Park Service to replace Bicentennial era signage on the Lewis and Clark Trail. This past year the LCTHF Board has granted funds in the total amount of \$138,787.04. Our Mouth of the Platte Chapter has received two of those LCTHF grants, one in the amount of \$7,500 and another in the amount of \$2,100, for replacing interpretive signage that was damaged or destroyed during the 2019 flooding. Interestingly, other Omaha/Council Bluffs area organizations have also received Trail Stewardship grants. Washington County Historical Society and the city of Fort Calhoun received a total of \$14,149.04 for an external mural project and recreational park repair.

LCTHF Spring Ballot. Each spring, LCTHF members vote prior to the Annual Meeting on membership-related ballot issues. As a member of the LCTHF Governance Committee, I have participated in recruiting qualified candidates for the three board positions that are up for election this year. I have also worked with the Governance Committee to identify and select the next set of officers for LCTHF. As an attorney, I am often called upon by my organizations to review their bylaws when new issues confront the organization. This year, I helped the Governance Committee develop an amendment to their bylaws regarding the term for the LCTHF Board's Secretary and Treasurer. In addition to board positions and officers, this year's Spring ballot will also include a proposed amendment that removes the term limits for these two positions and clarifies the length of their terms. When MOP members receive the ballot, they may feel free to contact me and I will explain the ballot. Thanks, in advance, for participating in LCTHF voting.

Curriculum Guide. LCTHF is searching for a Curriculum Guide Editor! This is one of the more interesting items from my LCTHF Board membership. It is vital to the education mission of the

LCTHF. The Curriculum Guide Editor will update our 22-year-old Curriculum Guide, *An American Legacy: The Lewis and Clark Expedition Curriculum and Resource Guide for Middle and Junior High Schools*, to fit current classroom standards, historic knowledge, and cultural resources, and the Editor will be accessible to all educators. This is a part-time, temporary contract position. Any interested person should contact Sarah Cawley at LCTHF (director@lewisandclark.org or 406-204-7504). **15**

Strategic Planning. The Board this year is also undergoing a process of strategic planning for the organizational LCTHF. President Jim Sayce has coordinated with Kelly Rupp, a consultant from LeadToResults LLC, in Washington, to take the Board and staff through the strategic planning process. Mr. Rupp has engaged the members of the Board in a process to share perspectives, express needs, set expectations, and firm our direction for the future of LCTHF. He has met by Zoom with members of the Board, as well as many of our key stakeholders, such as the National Park Service, selected Chapter and Region leaders, Tribal organizations, and leaders of similar organizations, such as the Arizona Trail Association, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, and the Oregon California Trails Association. In April, the board meets in Portland, Oregon, in person, and our Strategic Planning goal is to review a draft of possible goals, objectives, and strategies and to pursue agreement on supporting the update to our existing 2018 strategic plan. The ultimate goal is to approve a new strategic plan for distribution at our 2023 Annual Meeting.

American Indian and Alaskan Native Tourism Association (AIANTA). Sarah Cawley announced at our last Board meeting that she is starting to build a relationship with AIANTA, an organization whose mission is to define, introduce, grow, and sustain American Indian, Alaska native, and native Hawaiian tourism. The goal is to honor the traditions and values of the native tribes. One of LCTHF's goals for many years has been to improve our relationships with native tribes along the Lewis and Clark Trail. Working closely with AIANTA would give us direct ties and connections with the tribes in North America. Sarah's initial goals are to work towards co-hosting an annual tribal tourism event along the Lewis and Clark Trail, to encourage conversation within and among the tribes, to encourage tourism, and to encourage the tribes to tell their own stories about Lewis and Clark. The LCTHF Board is excited about this new initiative and how it could lead to improved relationships with native tribes.

I enjoy my volunteer work for LCTHF and look forward to hearing from MOP members who have comments, questions, or ideas about how to improve the organization.

Proceed On,

KEITH BYSTROM

Vice-President, Mouth of the Platte Chapter

Chair, Northern Plains Region Board

Member, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Board

phone: 515-451-5045

e-mail: knbystrom68@gmail.com

Wanted to borrow:

Brochure created by MOP for the
2011 LCTHF Annual Meeting in Omaha

If you have one, please contact a MOP Board Member

Northern Plains Region

Submitted by Keith Bystrom, NPR Board Chair

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The Northern Plains Region (NPR) of LCTHF is making progress in its organization, communication, and planning. The NPR Board of Directors is currently made up of six members: Keith Bystrom and Don Shippy (both from the Mouth of the Platte Chapter); Denny Leonard and Doug Davis (both from the Sergeant Floyd Tri-State Chapter); and Ron Laycock and Bill Stevens (from the now-dissolved Encounters On The Prairie - South Dakota Chapter). Keith Bystrom is the Chair, Denny Leonard is the Treasurer, and Lynn Davis has been volunteering as our Acting Secretary during our Zoom meetings. The current NPR membership list on December 31, 2022, indicates:

- There are 127 LCTHF members in the NPR.
- There are 5 main NPR states, listed with membership: Nebraska (34); western Iowa (25); South Dakota (25); western Minnesota (15); North Dakota (15). Other states with registered NPR members are: Missouri (2); Colorado (2); Arizona (1); Idaho (1); Indiana (1); Maryland (1); Michigan (1); and Ohio (1).
- The Sergeant Floyd Tri-State Chapter (SFTS) has 22 LCTHF members.
- The Mouth of the Platte Chapter (MOP) has 30 members.

As you may remember, the LCTHF reorganization that created the regional system also created one dues structure for all LCTHF members, the required dues to be paid directly to the national LCTHF. LCTHF then returns a portion of the received dues to each region based upon membership numbers within that region. Each region has the authority to provide support to any local chapter within its region. In December 2022, the NPR Board approved an annual end-of-year distribution to each NPR chapter of \$10 per LCTHF member who has designated that chapter as "primary." Entity Members (such as libraries, museums or interpretive centers) are not counted for purposes of this distribution, since their events benefit all who travel the Lewis and Clark Trail, and their dues support the entire Northern Plains Region. Based on this policy, on February 6, 2023, the NPR Board agreed to distribute the following to our two local chapters:

- Sergeant Floyd Tri-State Chapter has 22 members. \$220.00
- Mouth of the Platte Chapter has 30 members: \$300.00.

On December 16, 2022, LCTHF held an initial meeting by Zoom for all Chairs of the nine LCTHF regions. All regions except the Southeast Region were represented. Keith Bystrom attended for NPR. It was a good meeting; Sarah Cawley, Executive Director of LCTHF, was able to communicate policies and procedures that are currently being developed to improve the organization and operation of the regional system. The meeting allowed regional representatives to communicate to LCTHF both concerns and issues that have arisen during the implementation of the new reorganization policy. Issues that were discussed included:

- Timeliness of membership lists
- Availability of regional leadership contact lists to all regions
- Budgeting at the regional level
- Use of LCTHF tax ID for purposes of setting up regional bank accounts
- Technical support for regional newsletters, websites, and social media presence
- Common insurance-related issues
- Scheduling of regular regional chair meetings

LCTHF agreed to set aside a time at the Annual Meeting each year where the regions can meet with their members who are in attendance. The registration materials for the next annual meeting to be held in Missoula, Montana, currently show this opportunity is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, at 3:30 PM. NPR members should review the final schedule for the location of this important regional activity. For more information, check out the LCTHF Annual Meeting homepage at: <https://travelersrest.org/events/55th-annual-meeting-of-the-lewis-clark-trail-heritage-foundation/>

From August 23 to September 30, 2023, the LCTHF national traveling exhibit, *The Maps of Lewis and Clark*, will be on display at Ponca State Park on the Missouri River in Northeast Nebraska. In conjunction with this exhibition, the NPR Board is investigating the possibility of developing a region-wide weekend event. All Northern Plains Region members and other Lewis and Clark enthusiasts would be welcome. Stay tuned for more information about this NPR event.

Keith Bystrom, Chair
LCTHF Northern Plains Region Board of Directors

EXCERPT OF TIMELINE 2022 VIDEO TRANSCRIPT
(POSTED TO MRBYC WEBSITE)

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Dean Slader: There's a spirit among people who do this. We are a weird breed of cat.

Bob Baker: Yeah. The distance between now and the time that we re-create is knowing that there have been things that have been lost because of the modern...and...again, we are in the point of re-creating something that had previously existed...again...research or discovered...and then being able to discern what is even just slightly newer...

In our study we find out, in some ways, how they used to think about things...very keen about energy saving...everything from where you were walking with what in your hands all the way down to how you make a candle last longer.

Dean: Mm-hmm.

Bob: And so all that becomes very prescient to the individual that we are re-creating. Trying to bring that to the light of the visitor that comes to an event such as the Timeline might seem a bit daunting, but it's not hard if you're in a setting that is not industrialized. And you can actually draw them back in time, if you will...let them focus on just where you are at. And if we bring something out that looks primitive, and they want to know what that is, we'll explain that nothing to replace it has been invented yet, so this is what I have to use....I've had numerous people ask me if I have ever felt like I was born in the wrong century. If I was living...If I would be more comfortable living then than what I am doing now. You mentioned about the hardships. I'm comfortable with being a 21st century individual re-creating 18th century...19th century examples.

Dean: I would encourage them to attend and encourage them to spread the word to all of their friends...to come and visit because they will never see anything exactly the same. Innovations have taken place. Self-improvement in our presentations, and the presentations are different because you are asked different questions....Interactions with people have improved with our own experience, and those just simply doing this, so it is...time in a bottle...and we throw the bottle out into the ocean of the public and hopefully they grab ahold of a little bit of it and keep it to take away.

Bob: Yes. And when they open it, stand back just a little bit...

(all laugh)

Bob: ...because if it has been in there awhile, it may jump out at you! What I want to do is invite anyone who hears this...sees this...to come and visit. If you have visited in previous years, come and bring someone else with you, and watch their eyes light up when they see something explained for the first time. Or...hear the sounds of the different things we demonstrate, from hammering on an anvil to firing a flintlock. These are all parts of our history that they need to experience and feel and smell for themselves. And there will very likely be the opportunity to perhaps even feel and see close up.

Dean: And take part themselves.

Tom Bansen: Definitely. Help to make history...make the journey from the book to reality. **Make it real.**



NOTED IN PASSING

Tony Hunolt

Charles Antone "Tony" Hunolt: (February 27, 1934 – December 24, 2022) Born at home in Leonard, Missouri. Graduated from Shelbyville, Missouri, High School. Tony attended Hannibal La Grange College on a basketball scholarship. He graduated in 1954, despite having his right leg amputated for osteosarcoma in 1953. Tony graduated from the University of Missouri in 1956 with a degree to teach agriculture. He taught Vocational Agriculture in Elliot, Iowa, and New Market. Tony married Ruth Thompson on June 2, 1962. The couple had two children. After marriage, Tony attended Northwest Missouri State University through the University of Missouri and graduated with a Masters' degree. He served as Principal in New Market 1968-1969. During the years 1969-1996, Tony taught Vocational Agriculture, FFA, and Hunter Safety courses. He also was an active member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Lions' Club, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, and the Mouth of the Platte Study Group.

Book Reports

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***Lewis and Clark: Doctors in the Wilderness* by Bruce C. Paton, M.D.**

Pages 46-47

When word got out around the world that there was a wonderful new method of protecting people against the most feared of diseases [smallpox], doctors everywhere started to demand vaccine. In Europe Dr. Jean de Carro introduced vaccination in Vienna as early as 1799. By 1800, vaccination had spread to Paris and throughout the British fleet in the Mediterranean. A year later it was being administered in Russia under the direction of the widow of Czar Paul I.

While the Lewis and Clark expedition was crossing the continent, a Spanish physician, Francisco Xavier de Balmis, was conducting one of the most remarkable, single-minded crusades in the history of medicine. He had worked for many years in New Spain and had seen many cases of smallpox. After he returned to Spain he persuaded King Charles IV, whose daughter had died from the disease, to allow him to lead an expedition back to the colonies to introduce vaccination. Balmis left Spain in 1803 on a ship carrying twenty-two young orphans as the carriers of vaccine, and the rector of the orphanage. During the voyage the vaccine was passed from child to child. Thirty-nine months later Balmis returned home, having circumnavigated the world. He introduced vaccination to the Canary Islands, Venezuela, Guatemala, Bogota—where more than fifty thousand people were vaccinated—Havana, and across the Pacific to Manila, Batavia, and eventually to Macao in China. Japan excluded all foreigners, and vaccination was not accepted there for another fifty years.

There is no indication that Jefferson knew what was happening elsewhere in the world when he urged Lewis to take with him some of the “kinpox.” With a wider vision of the possibilities, he would most surely have insisted, rather than suggested, that vaccination be part of the mission. When the British introduced vaccination into India, a high authority wrote back to England that this measure had greatly enhanced the popularity of the British government. The same surge of popularity perhaps would have occurred among the American Indians had Jefferson’s plan to vaccinate the native population come to fruition. As things turned out, American Indians were frequently afraid of the white man’s medicine and often refused vaccination. The one tribe that did accept vaccination, the Sioux, added greatly to their strength by being protected from smallpox.

Fortunately, The Lewis and Clark expedition did not encounter any of the smallpox epidemics that periodically swept through the Indian populations along the Missouri and up the West Coast. If they had found themselves in the middle of an epidemic, many of the men would have become infected and the expedition would have imploded, because the men had not been protected. It is surprising that the crew was not protected, because Lewis had been vaccinated and Jefferson was a strong promoter of vaccination, and the efficacy of vaccination was already well accepted.

In addition to smallpox, yellow fever was another plague that caused public panic. When “yellow jack” struck, a long shadow lay across the land. However, this was not a disease that Lewis and Clark were likely to meet. It was restricted to the East Coast ports and the Caribbean. It did, however, play an important part in the history of the Lewis and Clark expedition. It confirmed Rush’s view that bleeding and purging were good treatments, and it defeated Napoleon, indirectly bringing about the Louisiana Purchase.

The remainder of this book is interesting and very readable, if not extremely novel in content. —ADW

Students of the Lewis and Clark Expedition who like to challenge themselves to broaden their scope of history might like to look at an expedition that took place just before the Corps of Discovery--the Mackay and Evans Expedition. It was important and valuable. The Mackay and Evans Expedition to the Mandans from 1795-1797 provided much geographic and Indian-related information to the folks in St. Louis. Mackay headed west when the Expedition reached the Omaha Tribe, and Evans continued on toward the Mandans. This expedition was generated and funded by the Spanish and didn't get much notice in the U.S. This book detailing this expedition includes much detailed map data. It's a somewhat tedious read. One interesting note: Lewis and Clark traveled in their own back yard until they reached the Mandans. It has been said that they should not be considered explorers until they left the Mandan village.

Submitted by Jack Christ



Check out this website:



If [Dog Mountain](#) had existed in 1806, Meriwether Lewis would probably have memorialized Seaman [there](#):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOQrBgDT-Zc>



Thieving Time

[1951]

Now, thieving Time, take what you must—
 Quickness to hear, to move, to see;
 When dust is drawing near to dust
 Such diminutions needs must be.
 Yet, leave, O leave exempt from plunder
 My curiosity, my wonder!

by Mark Antony de Wolfe Howe (1864-1960)

*On inner curiosity:
 Do you want to know
 who you are? Act!
 Action will delineate
 and define you.
 -Thomas Jefferson*

Harlan Seyfer

As the *Corps of Volunteers for North Western Discovery*¹ proceeded past the Platte-Missouri Confluence, it remained in familiar territory. As Charles Hoffhaus wrote, “During the first half of the route, the French *voyageurs* on the expedition were merely showing Lewis and Clark what had been their own backyard for over a century. ... That idea that [the Americans were] ‘exploring’ country they and their fathers and grandfathers had traversed annually for decades would surely have struck them as a good joke.”² Despite this awareness of the land being travelled – or perhaps because of it – there were at least two discoveries the captains were slow to realize they had made and to document.

On Friday 20 July 1804, William Clark noted in his journal,³ “I killed an emence large yellow Wolf.” The expedition had earlier that day passed the mouth of Weep Water Creek.⁴ The next evening (after a brief excursion up the Platte River), Clark wrote, “Proceeded on. Passed the mouth of Papillion or Butterfly Creek, 3 miles on [west side] a large Sand bar ... Camped above this bar on [the west side]. A great number of wolves about us all night.”⁵ Over the years, the Missouri River has moved itself farther east, where humans “controlled it” beginning during the Great Depression. The camp site today would be just east of Offutt AFB, approximately where Harlan Drive is today, plus or minus a hundred yards or so.⁶

Gary Mouton noted that the “gray wolf, probably *Canis lupus nubilus*, was a Lewis and Clark discovery.”⁷ The boys have been credited with discovering both the plains gray wolf and the coyote (*Canis latrans latrans*)⁸ The Latin, *Canis latrans* translates as “barking dog.”

Of the expedition’s journal keepers, Joseph Whitehouse recorded the expedition’s first contact with a wolf on Monday 25 June 1804, “Got on our way at hard Scrable Perarie passed two creeks [near present day Kansas City, Missouri], a litle above the latter two wolves appeared On Shore A man from on board of the

¹ Moulton, Gary E. (ed.) and Thomas W. Dunlay (asst. ed.), *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Volume 3, *Up the Missouri to Fort Mandan: August 25, 1804 – April 6, 1805* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987), p. 14.

² Wood, W. Raymond, *Prologue to Lewis & Clark: The Mackay and Evans Expedition*, Volume 79, American Exploration and Travel Series (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2003), p. 138; Hoffhaus, Charles E., *Chez les Canes, Three Centuries at Kawsmouth: The French Foundations of Metropolitan Kansas City* (Kansas City, Mo.: Lowell Press, 1984), p. 127.

³ All journal entries are transcribed using the journalist’s original (often creative) spelling, grammar, and punctuation. A few annotations [in brackets] are added for clarity.

⁴ Moulton, Gary E. (ed.) and Thomas W. Dunlay (asst. ed.), *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Volume 2, *From the Ohio to the Vermillion: August 30, 1803–August 24, 1804* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1986), p. 397; Wood, Gertrude, *Lewis & Clark in Cass County* (Kearney, NE: Morris Publishing, 1996), p. 18.

⁵ Moulton, Vol. 2, p. 402.

⁶ Plamondon II, Martin, *Lewis and Clark Trail Maps: A Cartographic Reconstruction*, Vol. 1, *Missouri River between Camp River Dubois (Illinois) and Fort Mandan (North Dakota) -- Outbound 1804; Return 1806* (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2000), Map #64, p. 88; Moulton, Vol. 2, p. 404n10; Wood, W. Raymond, *An Atlas of Early Maps of the American Midwest*, Part II, Illinois State Museum Scientific Papers, Vol. XXIX (Springfield: Illinois State Museum, 2001), pp. 17-18 and Plate 19B [Pierre-Jean de Smet, S.J. May 1839]; Daniel Henry Ehrlich, “Problems Arising from Shifts of the Missouri River on the Eastern Border of Nebraska,” *Nebraska History*, 54 (1973), 340-363.

⁷ Moulton, Vol. 2, p. 399n5.

⁸ Cuttright, Paul Russell (Paul A. Johnsgard, Intro.), *Lewis and Clark: Pioneering Naturalists* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003), pp. 87, 440.



Adult Plains Gray Wolf

Present day zoological name: *Canis lupus nubilus*

white Peiroug [perogue] went ashore Shot One of them[.]”⁹ Five days later (Saturday) in today’s Wyandotte County, Kansas, Whitehouse recorded sighting abundant wolves.¹⁰ Sergeant Charles Floyd in his journal on the same date observed that he too had sighted a wolf, “Saw a very large wolf on the sand beach this morning.”¹¹ Their boss Clark on this date, recorded that he too “Saw a very large wolf ... on the Sand bar this morning walking near a gange of Turkeys.”¹² Gary Moulton noted that this was “Presumably a gray wolf, *Canis lupus* ...”¹³

Both Lewis and Clark were well aware that the wolf of the plains that they were encountering was different than the wolf found along the Atlantic seaboard. Realizing it was a different subspecies they used the word “large” to distinguish it from its eastern cousin. They also realized that the “small wolf” they encountered was a second, new subspecies – we know it today as the coyote.

Despite the wolf’s prevalence, neither Lewis nor Clark got around to fully describing the animal until the explorers were near Wolf Point, Montana, on Sunday 5 May 1805.¹⁴ Lewis noted,

“The large wolf found here is not as large as those of the atlantic states. they were [*sic*] lower and (heaver) thicker made shorter leged. [Lewis may have intended to say they were heavier set with shorter legs] their colour which is not effected by the seasons, is a grey or blackish brown and every intermediate shade from that to a [cream] coloured white; these wolves resort [mostly to] the woodlands and are also found in the plains, but never take refuge in the ground or burrow ... We scarcely see a gang of buffaloe without observing a parsel of those faithfull shepherds on their skirts in readiness to take care of the mamed & wounded. the large wolf never barks, but howls”¹⁵

⁹ Moulton, Gary E. (ed.), *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Vol. 11, *Journals of Joseph Whitehouse (May 14, 1804 – April 2, 1806)* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), p. 30.

¹⁰ Moulton, Vol. 11 (Whitehouse), p. 33.

¹¹ Moulton, Gary E. (ed.), *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Vol. 9, *Journals of John Ordway (May 14, 1804 – September 23, 1806) and Charles Floyd (May 14 – August 1804)* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995), p. 18.

¹² Moulton, Vol. 2, p. 333.

¹³ Moulton, Vol. 2, p. 335n1.

¹⁴ Plamondon II, Martin, *Lewis and Clark Trail Maps: A Cartographic Reconstruction*, Vol. 2 of 3, *Beyond Fort Mandan (North Dakota/ Montana) to Continental Divide and Snake River (Idaho/ Washington) -- Outbound 1805; Return 1806* (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2000), Map #188, p. 55; Gale, Kira, *Lewis and Clark Road Trips: Exploring the Trail Across America* (Omaha: River Junction Press LLC, 2006), pp. 236 (Campsite #288).

¹⁵ Moulton, Gary E. (ed.) and Thomas W. Dunlay (asst. ed.), *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Vol. 4, *Fort Mandan, North Dakota, to Three Forks of Missouri River, Montana: April 7 – July 27, 1805* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987), pp. 112-113.

Because humans then played a minor role in the wolf's plains habitat, the explorers found these creatures relatively unafraid of them. On 29 May 1805, Lewis noted, "Capt. C. who was on shore killed one of them with his espontoon."¹⁶ An espontoon, carried by eighteenth-century infantry officers, was a lance six feet long by one and a quarter inches in diameter, capped by a foot-long iron tip.¹⁷

"The small woolf or burrowing dog of the praries," Lewis wrote describing what we know as the coyote, "are the inhabitants almost invariably of the open plains; they usually asociate in bands of ten or twelve sometimes more and burrow near some pass or place much frequented by game; not being able alone to take deer or goat they are rarely ever found alone but hunt in bands; they frequently watch and seize their prey near their burrows; in these burrows they raise their young and to them they also resort when pursued; when a person approaches them they frequently bark, their note being precisely that of the small dog. they are of an intermediate size between that of the fox and dog, very active fleet and delicately formed; the ears large erect and pointed the head long and pointed more like that of the fox; tale long; the hair and fur also resembles the fox tho' is much coarser and inferior. they are of a pale redish brown colour. the eye of a deep sea green colour small and piercing."¹⁸

"Both wolves and coyotes were seen during the expedition between southeastern Nebraska and the Pacific Coast; both were called 'wolves' and often were not distinguished," observed UNL zoologist Paul Johnsgard in 2003, "Captain Lewis described the [large] wolf well, pointing out that it differed from the smaller coyote in not taking refuge in the ground or in a burrow."¹⁹ Although accurately described by Lewis, "The prairie race (*nubilis*) of the gray wolf was not formally named until 1823."²⁰ Likewise the small wolf (coyote) was not formally described until 1823 also.

Lewis's descriptions of the wolf and coyote were sufficiently detailed that Thomas Say, zoologist with Major Stephen Long's 1819 and 1820 expedition, had no trouble recognizing them. Say carried a copy of Biddle's 1814 edition of the Journals.²¹ In the Long expedition's final report, published in 1823, Say wrote, assigning them their zoological names, that "prairie wolves (*Canis latrans*) [coyote] roam over the plains in considerable numbers, and during the night, the principal season of their hunts, they venture very near to the encampment of the traveler."²² Of the wolf (*Canis nubilus*) Say observed, "The aspect of this animal is

¹⁶ Moulton, Gary E. (ed.) and Thomas W. Dunlay (asst. ed.), *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Vol. 4, *Fort Mandan, North Dakota, to Three Forks of Missouri River, Montana (April 7 – July 27, 1805)* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987), p. 217.

¹⁷ Tubbs, Stephenie Ambrose and Clay Straus Jenkinson, "Espontoon" in *The Lewis and Clark Companion: An Encyclopedic Guide to the Voyage of Discovery*, forward by Stephen E. Ambrose (New York: Henry Holt, 2003), p. 104; Hunt, Robert R., "The Espontoon: Captain Lewis's Magic Stick," *We Proceeded On*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (February 1990), pp. 12-18.

¹⁸ Moulton, Vol. 4, p. 112.

¹⁹ Johnsgard, Paul A., *Lewis and Clark on the Great Plains: A Natural History* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003), p. 43.

²⁰ Johnsgard, *L&C on Great Plains*, p. 44.

²¹ Lewis, Meriwether and William Clark (Nicholas Biddle, ed.), *History of the Expedition Under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark, to the Sources of the Missouri*, 2 volumes (Philadelphia: Bradford and Inskeep, 1814), p. 207 [description of small wolf (coyote) and gray wolf]; Biddle, Nicholas (ed.) John Bakeless (Intro.), *The Journals of the Expedition Under the Command of Capts. Lewis and Clark to the Sources of the Missouri, thence across the Rocky Mountains and Down the River Columbia to the Pacific Ocean, Performed During the Years 1804-06 by Order of the Government of the United States* (reprint, New York: The Heritage Press, 1962), Vol. 1, p. 127 [description of small wolf (coyote) and gray wolf]. Quotations are from the former.

²² Say, Thomas, "Animals—Sioux and Omawhaw Indians—Winter residence at Engineer Cantonment," Chapter IX in James, Edwin (compiler), *Account of an Expedition from Pittsburg to the Rocky Mountains, Performed in the Years 1819 and '20, by order of the Hon. J.C. Calhoun, Sec'y of War: Under the Command of Major Stephen H. Long.*

far more fierce and formidable than either the common red wolf, or the prairie wolf, and is of a more robust form. ... It diffuses a strong and disagreeable odour, which scented the clothing of Messrs. Peale and Dougherty, who transported the animal several miles from where they killed it to the cantonment [Engineer Cantonment south of Fort Atkinson].”²³ 23

On 18 September 1804, Clark had an epiphany moment, when he noted in his journal, “I Killed a prairie wolf to day about the size of a Gray fox with a bushy tail the head and ears like a Fox wolf, and barks like a Small Dog — *The animal which we have taken for the Fox is this wolf, we have seen no Foxes* [emphasis added].”²⁴ Clark realized the expedition had discovered a new species.

Also on the 18th, John Ordway entered in his journal, “George Drewyer killed a prairie wolf Some[what] larger than a fox. Long teeth & of a different description from any in the States [etc.].” Noting also, “the Bones of the wolf was taken apart and Saved as well as the Skins of them both in order to Send back to the States next Spring, with the other curiosities we have or may have.”²⁵

Later on 15 February 1806, while wintering over on the Pacific coast at Fort Clatsop, Lewis described a third species of wolf “the large brown wolf,” which Moulton identified as “*Canis lupus fuscus*”.²⁶ The large brown wolf was abundant in the Cascade Mountains, but – sadly – it became extinct by the 1940s.²⁷

“The wolves disappeared from the northern plains,” Johnsgard lamented, “as quietly, and almost as quickly, as snow melting in spring. Most of the wolves were gone from the central and northern plains by the 1890s, contemporaneously with the disappearance of the bison herds. In Nebraska, they were nearly gone by 1900, and they had completely vanished [from Nebraska] by 1920.”²⁸ As the wolf was eliminated, it was replaced by its distant canine relative: the more adaptable and sagacious coyote.²⁹

Paul Cutright in his book *Lewis & Clark Pioneering Naturalists*, commented, “The [eerie], discordant whines, yelps, and barks of the coyote accompanied Lewis and Clark to the Pacific and back. Because these

From the Notes of Major Long, Mr. T. Say, and Other Gentlemen of the Exploring Party, Volume 1 of 2 (Philadelphia: H. C. Garey and I. Lea, 1823), pp. 165-200, viz. p. 168.

²³ Say, “Animals,” p. 169; Since Say’s day, the zoological taxonomic system has been reorganized and made internationally consistent. Say’s *Canis nubilus* is today *Canis lupus nubilus* (genus, species, subspecies).

²⁴ Moulton, Gary E. (ed.) and Thomas W. Dunlay (asst. ed.), *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Vol. 3, *Up the Missouri to Fort Mandan: (August 25, 1804–April 6, 1805)* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987), p. 86; Thwaites, Reuben Gold (ed.), *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, Volume 1 (1804-01-30 to 1805-05-05) (New York: Dodd, Mead, & Co., 1904), p. 155.

²⁵ Moulton, Gary E. (ed.), *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Vol. 9, *Journals of John Ordway (May 14, 1804 – September 23, 1806) and Charles Floyd (May 14 – August 1804)* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995), p. 61.

²⁶ Moulton, Gary E. (ed.), *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Vol. 6, *Down the Columbia to Fort Clatsop (November 2, 1805–March 18, 1806)* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995), pp. 312-313, 315 and p. 317n3. Coues discussion is informative from a not-entirely outdated perspective [Coues, Elliott (ed.), *The History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark*, in 3 Volumes (New York: Francis P. Harper, 1893, Reprint, New York: Dover, 1965), Vol. 3, p. 846, p. 846n43].

²⁷ Wolf Stuff, “Cascade Mountain Wolf,” <<https://wolf-stuff.com/blogs/wolf-facts/cascade-mountain-wolf>>, accessed 2022-12-27.

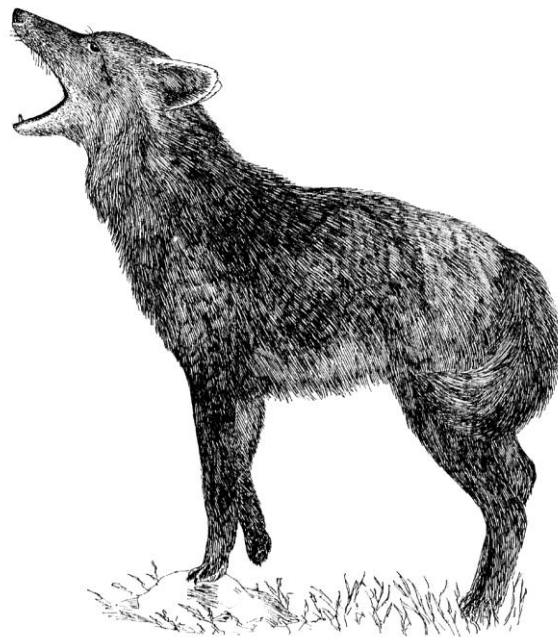
²⁸ Johnsgard, Paul A., *The Nature of Nebraska: Ecology and Biodiversity* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001), p. 180.

²⁹ Johnsgard, Paul A., *Prairie Dog Empire: A Saga of the Shortgrass Prairie* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005), pp. 56-60.

sounds so resembled those of the dog, the members of the party often insisted they were hearing that animal.”³⁰

When was the last wolf in Southwest Nebraska sighted? That is not an easy question to answer. In 1881 Hank Athy in South Bend wrote the editor of Plattsmouth’s *Nebraska Herald* that “Mr. Kleiser and Son and hired man on Friday, dug out a den of wolves and captured seven young wolves; the old ones got away.”³¹ As noted above, wolves do not burrow. Mr. Athy did not distinguish between coyotes and wolves. By 1920 the distinction was still not being made when the *Plattsmouth Journal* reported “F.W. Schliefert dug out a half dozen young *coyotes* from a hole in the ground out on Lawrence Twiss’ place Sunday. ... The mother *wolf* escaped” (emphasis added).³²

Today there are wolves in Southeast Nebraska; they can be seen in the Simmons Wildlife Safari, turn south off of I-80 exit 426.³³



Adult Coyote Howling

Present day zoological name: *Canis latrans latrans*

— Johnsgard, *Nature of Nebraska*, p. 70

³⁰ Cuttright, Paul Russell (Paul A. Johnsgard, Intro.), *Lewis and Clark: Pioneering Naturalists* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003), p. 85.

³¹ “How are You Mr. Wolf”, *Nebraska Herald*, 1881-04-21, p. 2(1). The editor apparently agreed that the coyote was a species of wolf.

³² “F.W. Schliefert dug out ...,” *Plattsmouth Journal*, 1920-05-10, p. 5(5).

³³ Lee G. Simmons Wildlife Safari, *Wolf Canyon*, <<http://www.wildlifesafaripark.com/wolf-canyon>> (accessed 2023-02-10).

“Fire was considered sacred because it was so essential to the welfare of man.”

(World Book Encyclopedia, 1970)

Fire, in one form or another, was a constant companion to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In our study of Gary Moulton’s *The Definitive Journals of Lewis & Clark*, we have learned lots about its uses by the Native Americans. For example, on June 25, 1806, Lewis wrote: “last evening the indians entertained us with Setting the fir trees on fire. they have a great number of dry limbs near their bodies which when Set on fire create a very Sudden and emmence blaize from bottom to top of those tail trees. they are a boutifull object in this Situation at night. this exhibition remide me of a display of firewoks. the nativs told us that their object in Setting those trees on fire was to bring fair weather for our journey—.”

Our focus today is on the prairies and plains. On July 20, 1804, Clark wrote: “The Soil of Those Praries appears rich but much Parched with the frequent fires.” Moulton’s footnote for Clark’s statement reads: “The frequency and occasionally the magnitude of prairie fires was noted by the Corps of Discovery as they entered the Great Plains. The fires were ecologically important wherever grass growth was abundant to prevent secondary growth. They were set by lightning or accidentally by humans, or often Indians set fires purposely for signaling or for improving grazing. The party noted those different types of fires and understood their purposes.”

When Lewis and Clark crossed the continent, there were several times that Expedition members saw smoke ahead in the distance and recorded in their journals that they thought the Native Americans had intentionally set afire the prairie, or some other area, as a means of warning one another of the Expedition’s approach. On July 22, 1805, Gass wrote: “They told us they had seen the same smoke, which we had discovered a few days ago, and found it had been made by the natives, who they supposed had seen some of us, and had fled, taking us for enemies.” In other passages, the purpose of setting fires was to call a tribe together for council or some other joint action, such as travel to bison hunting grounds. On August 31, 1805, Clark wrote: “The Countrey is Set on fire for the purpose of Collecting the different bands, and a band of the *Flatheads* to go to the Missouri where They intend passing the winter near the Buffalow.” In still other passages, the purpose of setting fires was to refresh the prairie by stimulating new growth. On March 29, 1805, Clark wrote: “The Plains are on fire in view of the fort on both Sides of the River, it is Said to be common for the Indians to burn the Plains near their villages every Spring for the benifit of ther horse, and to induce the Buffalow to come near to them.”

This last purpose resonated with me, as I had made a trip to Ord, Nebraska, in 2017 with a group of “Women in Agriculture” from the [Center for Rural Affairs](#) (CFRA). This group of farming-oriented women spent the day learning about how intentional (prescribed) burns are used by farmers to destroy invasive cedars and refresh growth of desirable grasses in pasture areas. After a short orientation session in an Ord meeting room, we piled into our vehicles and caravanned to a windswept hill some distance from town. We were able to compare side-by-side the quality of forage available to livestock in two fields, one that had been burned and one that had not. In another location, we stood on the brink of a bluff and looked down into a wooded gully to observe how fire had been used to clear out bottom brush to open up the area for grazing by cattle.

Moulton’s footnotes for March 6, 1805, explain that the Natives set grasses on fire to refresh the prairie by stimulating new growth: “This mention of early spring prairie fires set intentionally to improve the growth of prairie grasses and attract the buffalo to graze was only one of the several reasons for purposefully setting the fires. See July 20, 1804 [quoted above]. Some authorities believe the fires account largely for the lack of woody vegetation on the plains.” As vivid as the CFRA memories are for me, I had never personally struck a match to wood or grass to intentionally clear an area of land. That all changed on December 4, 2022.

This narrative begins on September 13, 2022, when I visited [Glacier Creek Preserve](#) at 148th and State Streets in Omaha to tour The Barn and watch biologist [Tracy Coleman](#), the Preserve’s Outreach/Administrative Specialist, use her antenna to track micro-chipped snakes. That’s a story for another day! Tracy introduced me to [Jon Soper](#), the

Preserve's Land Management Specialist, and invited me to sign up as a Preserve volunteer to collect seeds and/or assist with prescribed burns both at the Preserve and elsewhere, which I did most readily. In due course, I began to receive e-mails alerting me to those opportunities. All I had to do was submit a volunteer waiver form, tell staff I was willing to help on a specific date and time, and show up dressed for the weather. Preserve staff would tell me what to do from there. A couple of burn dates came and went because something about them proved unsuitable: rain was forecast, or the temperatures were cold enough to freeze the water in the hoses (pretty hard to run ice through a water pump!), or the wind was gusting at over 15 mph. Finally, December 4 was a "GO." Preserve staff filled two water tanks, one holding 180 gallons on a truck and the other holding 65 gallons on a 4-wheeler, and assembled all the gear needed for nine people to manage flames for the better part of a day: yellow fire-retardant suits, yellow helmets with transparent visors, gloves, hoses, pumps, canisters of fuel, matches, rakes, flappers, walkie-talkies, cameras, wire grids, battery-operated trimmers, paper grocery bags, black plastic garbage bags, lunch, snacks, and drinks.

This particular burn was held at the Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center (ENREC) belonging to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Jon wasn't kidding when he said he sure hoped we finished burning all six plots in one day; it's a LOT of work to get everything ready and make the 45-minute drive to the research site south of Mead, Nebraska! So, we set to work with a will.

The University's grass research plots (each plot 30 yards square) near Mead are separated by fire lanes just wide enough to drive a truck through. We unloaded the 4-wheeler with its water tank at the edge of the field and positioned it on the southeast corner of the first plot. The truck with its tank took a position on the northwest corner. While some of us unrolled one hose per tank toward the northeast corner, others raked the plot perimeters to remove litter that might serve as windblown torches (spreading sparks accidentally), and a third group collected three samples of grass for later lab study. Grass sampling involved positioning a 12"X20" wire frame on the ground in specific locations within the plot and using a battery-powered trimmer to give the 240-square-inch rectangle a "haircut." The clippings from each frame were then stuffed into labeled paper grocery bags, with all three clippings from each plot placed into a black plastic garbage bag. The plastic bag keeps the grass from drying out before it is later weighed, oven-dried, then re-weighed in the lab by Dr. Tom Bragg, the burn supervisor and Director of Glacier Creek Preserve. The clippings, collected since the 1980s, provide data on the amount of fuel and the fuel's moisture content at the time of the burn, thereby revealing any changes over time.



When everything was in readiness, Jon turned on the pumps, we gathered at the northeast corner and threw a little dry grass in the air to determine wind speed and direction. The plan was to start at the northeast corner and ignite separate fires along the north and east edges of the plot, creating easily controlled backfires (fires burning slowly into the wind). To get started, two people (lighters) with drip torches (specialized fuel canisters) dribbled a little fuel (a mixture of diesel and gasoline) on the grass at the very corner of the plot. Jon struck a match, and the dance was on.



Tracy and Ray (an experienced volunteer) held the nozzles of their respective water hoses on opposite sides of the burn. A judicious pressurized squirt now and then kept wayward embers in check. Jon and Randall (another volunteer) dribbled fuel one yard at a time along the north and east edges of the plot. The flame crept into the plot from the edges, folding the adjacent grasses into its embrace. Tracy backed westward along the north edge of the plot as I pulled her hose back and out of her way (keeping it straight and orderly) and watched her intently, to be ready to feed hose back to her if she needed to backtrack to blast an errant tongue of flame. Another volunteer served the same function for Ray on the east side of the plot. The lighters reached opposite corners at approximately the same time and turned their 90 degree angles to continue lighting toward the southwest corner. This synchronous movement keeps the flames moving toward each other and toward the center of the plot so that the perimeter of flame eventually runs out of fuel as it closes the loop on itself. The two individuals manning the hoses worked to arrive at the southwest corner at the same time, where they stood monitoring with eagle eyes the demise of the burn, watching for flare-ups from smoldering grasses near any edge. Slowly, slowly, any individual plumes of smoke subsided, expiring either by starvation or smothered by a heavily booted foot pressing a 12-inch-square rubber flapper firmly over the persistent embers. The whole process took about half an hour, start to finish.



Time for a snack break. Then, we moved the tank vehicles and did it again.

The second plot was a repeat of the first. During the third burn, Joe and I switched jobs, so I got to “light again” (Jon’s exact words, repeated every few seconds) yard by yard along the north edge. Wind that had been variable southeast-south-southwest suddenly gathered itself for a surprise extra push. Flames from the crew on the opposite side responded to the extra oxygen by quickening their pace. Flames create their own wind, too, so the modest loft we had been experiencing only moments before, suddenly erupted into flames towering over the plot. To keep the flames from overwhelming the west side of the burn, Jon quickly lit the remainder of the west edge of the plot, which ensured that the inward march of his flames would close the loop away from the plot’s west boundary.



These burns were our morning's work, moving from north to south, burning plots that have been burned each fall since 1980. After a half-hour lunch break on the south end of the field, we began to work back toward our vehicles at the north end. The first two afternoon plots had only been burned every fourth year, so they had denser vegetation: four-plus years of growth accumulation instead of one. These two four-year plots included a few slender volunteer trees (up to eight feet in height). The four-year burns took a little longer and burned a little more intensely, but the afternoon progressed without incident. Rabbits fled the flames. Wild fowl soared overhead. In all, it was an idyllic afternoon to be outside. Overheard comment: if we had done these burns in the spring (which is the case for some other plots), there would be a 1-inch growth of new grass on each plot before the week's end. These fall burns will remain a black and tan chessboard for the next four months.

Several precautions kept us safe: nine pairs of eyes searching for errant sparks, redundant water sources (for that one instance where a nozzle popped off and left a hose without a pressurized water stream), judicious planning, and strict adherence to safety protocol. Would I burn again with this crew? You bet! In a heartbeat! The Native Americans would have been amazed to see a burn done this safely! -ADW

For a lyrical, Meriwether Lewis-like reaction to a "first burn experience," see Conor Gearin's essay at [Prairie Smoke. Great Plains Fire Science Exchange](https://gpfirescience.org/who-we-are) at <https://gpfirescience.org/who-we-are>
Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium at <http://www.tposfirescience.org/>

How times have changed!

World Book Encyclopedia (1970) also says:

"Fires in fields destroy crops and ruin land for grazing.

They can also permanently spoil land for farming by burning away the vegetation."

There is no mention of prescribed burns in this 1970 "authority."



Harlan Seyfer recently saw this U-Haul Van in Plattsmouth.

Wouldn't the story of Lewis and Clark have been different

if they had had access to something like this van???

By Marilyn Lester

In the same year that Meriwether Lewis was born, 1774, in Virginia, another baby boy was born halfway around the world in Prussia. He would have some similar experiences that Lewis had in trekking across treacherous terrain. Isaac Regehr was born in 1774 to a family in a Mennonite community in Western Prussia. The Mennonites were a religious group who came to Prussia because of persecution in the Netherlands. Their many disagreements with the established church created much dissension and brought severe persecution. Because of this persecution, people moved to various parts of Europe including Prussia, northern Poland. Mennonites were hard-working and industrious people. In the Netherlands, they had learned how to reclaim swampy land to make it productive for agriculture. In Prussia, they did the same thing in the Vistula River area near the Baltic Sea. Catherine the Great, originally Princess Sophia Fredericka Augusta of Stettin, Prussia, when she was en route between her home and Moscow, no doubt, heard about this community of people who lived so differently. She probably passed by the area many times, heard of their hard work, and saw their success in producing crops in the former swamp land.



Catherine the Great (1762-1796)

When Princess Sophia converted to the Orthodox religion, she became Grand Duchess Catherine Alexeyevna. Later, after the overthrow and assassination of her husband, Peter III, Catherine became Empress Catherine. During her reign (1762-1796), Russia annexed the Crimea region in 1784. Upon visiting the area, she realized that the great Russian steppes needed to be populated, and what better group to make the land productive than the Mennonites she had encountered in Prussia? In 1786 Empress Catherine extended the invitation to the Mennonites in Prussia to come to develop this land.

Besides owning their own tract of land, she offered them exemption from military service (they were pacifists), religious freedom, their own schools, and continued use of their own language,¹ all of which were very important to the community of Mennonites. These people immediately sent two men to scout the land and assess the possibilities. On their way back they stopped in St. Petersburg and met with the authorities there, including Catherine the Great herself.² Empress Catherine supported the Mennonites immigrating to Southern Russia, but at the same time, she did not support an American explorer [encouraged by Jefferson], Ledyard, to traverse Russia on foot to walk around the world. She had him deported from St. Petersburg before he even got started across the vast Russian Siberia.³

In 1788, the first eight Mennonite families loaded their covered wagons and headed to Russia. After eleven long weeks on the trail, they arrived in Dubrovna and wintered there before moving on.⁴ Four hundred families followed and settled on the banks of the Chortiza River, a tributary of the Dnieper River. The people were pouring in from Prussia, and by 1800 this small community became an area with 15 separate villages. A second colony was established one hundred miles to the south called Molotschna.

About that time (1811) Isaac Regehr's parents passed away, and now, Isaac and his wife, Gertrude, and their five children were free to follow the rest of the community to Russia to obtain their own tract of land. A few

problems existed. Many of the people from their community had already moved to southern Russia, so there was no one to travel with; and, because Isaac was the poorest of the poor, he owned neither wagon nor horse. So, he decided they would make the 972 miles on foot with only his family. The family consisted of Isaac (13 years old), Johann (12 years old), Peter (8 years old), Marie (1 year old), and Elizabeth born that year in 1811. They packed all their belongings into a wheelbarrow and began the long trek.

The terrain was very much like what Lewis and Clark crossed. They followed riverbeds, trekked the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains, and plowed through the strange environment of the Russian steppe. Some people said the grass in the steppe was as tall as a man. That would not be a problem if you were on a horse, but walking was a different matter.

The weather was similar to the plains of central United States, similar to what Lewis and Clark would have experienced. They experienced extremes in temperature from summer to winter with a good amount of rainfall. The Regehrs probably set out on their journey in September sometime after their crops were in and arrived in Russia thirteen weeks later in late November or early December. They wintered in Chortiza and then continued down to Molotschna in Spring.

The colony in Chortiza was in Cossack territory. The name Cossack comes from the Turkic *kazak*, meaning “adventurer” or “free-man”. The Cossacks were semi-nomadic and mostly militaristic. They offered their military prowess to the Russian government in exchange for the opportunity for self-governance. The differences between the Cossacks and the Mennonites could not be more striking, and, yet, they co-existed in peace for many years.



Mennonite school children

After Catherine’s death, the Russian government became less and less sympathetic to the Mennonite way of life and there were threats of losing their religious freedoms, including their exemption from serving in the military. Because of that, the Mennonites began to think about moving to America and Canada. Again, they sent out delegations to assess the possibilities. They came back with glowing reports of fertile agricultural land and freedom of religion. In 1874 groups began to emigrate from Russia to central Canada and the central plains states of the United States, especially, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas, the same area scouted out by Lewis and Clark only 60-70 years before.



¹Voth, Norma Jost. *Mennonite Foods & Folkways from South Russia*, Vol. 1. Intercourse, PA, Good Books, 1990, p. 13.

²<http://mennoniteeducation.weebly.com/prussia-to-russia.html>

³Paton, Bruce C., MD. *Lewis and Clark: Doctors in the Wilderness*. Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, Colorado (2001).

⁴Voth, p. 13.

Resources:

Voth, Norma Jost. *Mennonite Foods & Folkways from South Russia*, Vol. 1. Intercourse, PA, Good Books, 1990.

Abram L. and Helena Regehr Family Book, compiled and published in 1999 by Ralph Regehr and Lyle Regehr.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/the-Steppe>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Cossack>

<https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/lewis-and-clark>

<http://mennoniteeducation.weebly.com/prussia-to-russia.html>



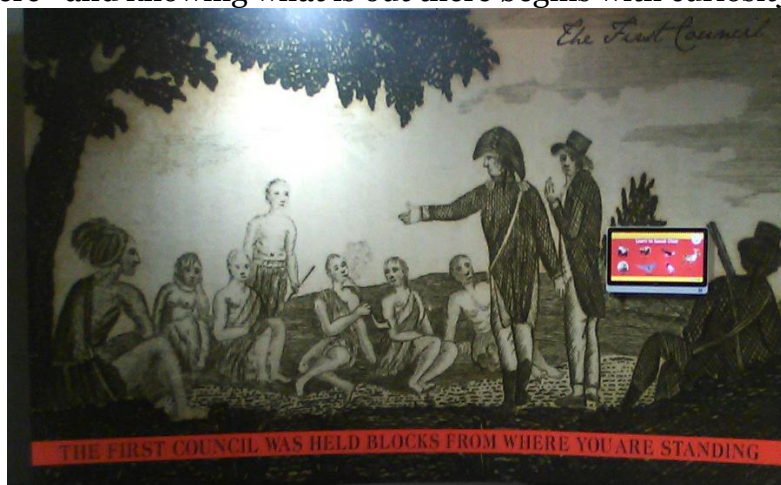
102 N. 14th Street
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023

Museum: a building, room, etc. for preserving and exhibiting rare, interesting, or typical specimens of works of art, science, invention, etc., or of antiquities, curiosities, or objects of natural history [Websters' Dictionary]

If you could give a beloved child one gift that would ensure his/her lifelong welfare, what would you give him/her? Health? Education? Money? Fortitude? All of these gifts would be important and beneficial, but is there something even more fundamental?

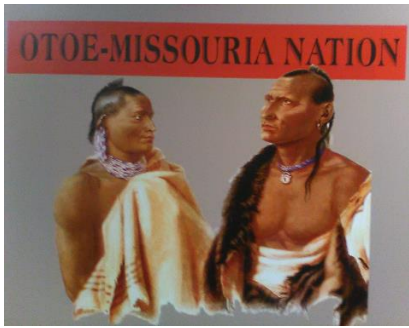
Thomas Alva Edison once said, "Genius [success] is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration." Wow! How can we give that crucial 1% ingredient? What is that? Where does it come from? How does it work? I'm curious. Aren't you? **Curiosity is the point.** There is no way to manufacture success out of "thin air," as it were. Inspiration begins with knowing what's out there...what the options are.

The word museum is derived from the Latin *mouseion*, which means "a place for the Muses or for study, a library, from *mousa*, a Muse" [Websters' Dictionary]. That's right. A museum is a library of 3-dimensional objects AND a place for the Muses. Isn't that revealing? Somebody saves a particular item because it is useful, unusual, important, beautiful, true, or amusing. The word "amuse" is derived from the Old French *muser*, "to gaze at, stare fixedly" [Websters' Dictionary]. Inspiration begins with looking—knowing what is out there--and knowing what is out there begins with curiosity.



"Okay," you might say, "What about the perspiration?" Let's take, as an example, the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Thomas Jefferson's curiosity set it afloat. In this case the 99% perspiration belonged to the Expedition members. Together, this group inspired a nation. In your child's case, you're going to have to supply the initial perspiration...you...and the museum staff.

Museum staff sweats? You bet they do, and I don't mean they need better climate control, though that's part of a museum's tools. Every exhibit is meticulously researched, verified, and documented. Every item is cleaned and restored. Every display is arranged, encased, and preserved. Every case fits a theme. Every theme fits a trend or time period or other major organizing principle.



Tribal members informed this display.



Grinding stone.



Extensive firearm exhibit.

32

The Washington County Museum, for instance, is a history museum: exhibits concern fossils/bones; Native Americans; the Lewis and Clark Expedition; the Fur Trade; the Homestead Act; Immigration; early practices in Farming, Banking, Business; Women's Suffrage; Prohibition; and Nuclear Power Generation.



Bison



Steamboats



Immigration



Wildcat Notes



Agriculture yesterday, today, and tomorrow



Prohibition and Women's Suffrage



Nuclear Power Generation

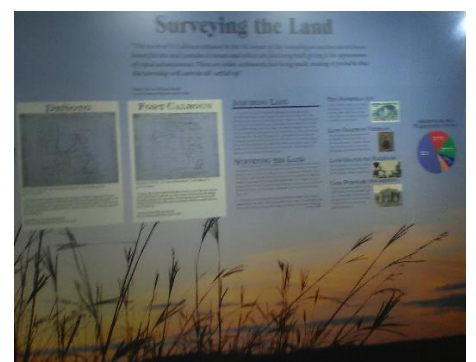
In addition to galleries of display cases, children will engage their other senses in an archeological dig box, on an interactive Ojibwa language computer, on furs, at a pioneer storefront, at an early bank teller window, and relaxing to the tunes of a short musical documentary.



Furs

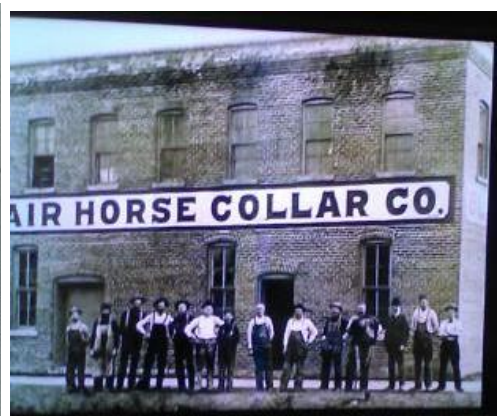


Computer language program created by the Tribe



Land Records

More extensive resources satisfy the older visitor's curiosity; the museum's research library has maps, photos, family histories, and various records (birth, marriage, death, cemetery, and land ownership). Museum staff will help in locating materials. In addition, the museum expands its reach by bringing in speakers from [Humanities Nebraska](#) to help Nebraska history live and breathe. The \$25 annual membership is a bargain.



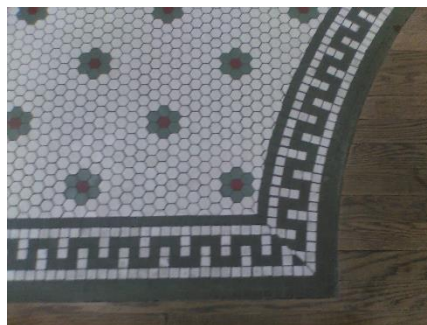
Washington County Courthouse Furnishings & Parquet floor George Neale's Mirror

Pioneer business

We can all help the Museum staff sweat less. Here's how: **give generously**. When Museum curator Faith Norwood takes your paltry admission fee (\$3 adults, \$2 children, \$1 school tour student), round it up to see her smile. Take your friends and out-of-town visitors. Museum Executive Director Julie Ashton expends the vast majority of her mental sweat in courting donors and writing grants. She does it because she loves it and believes in it. The [Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation](#) agrees. LCTHF has awarded the Washington County Museum \$6,600 to enhance their curb appeal; the grant will go toward "shrink-wrapping" the building in a layer of Lewis and Clark Art! Artist Martin Neberman, whose art is featured on the "Go Adventuring" Lewis and Clark Trail Maps, has consented to re-work his paintings to suit the shrink-wrapping process that will beautify the sides of the Museum (the original Fort Calhoun State Bank building). (The inside is already beautiful! See below.)



Fort Calhoun Bank Vault



1914 Fort Calhoun State Bank Tile Floor



Fort Calhoun State Bank Window

Want to know how they do that? Let your curiosity lure you to Fort Calhoun this spring to see. The process requires a balmy 55° day and a crew with heat guns. Here's the website to let you know when: <http://www.wcnemuseum.org>.

Give the gift of curiosity!
Visit a museum today: The child it inspires may be your own!

P.S. Thanks to [J. Greg Smith](#) for facilitating the grant for this Washington County Museum project!

[Cass County Historical Society Museum](#), 646 Main St., Plattsmouth, NE 68048 (402-296-4770)
[Durham Western Heritage Museum](#), 801 S. 10th St., Omaha, NE 68108 (402-444-5071)
[Fontanelle Forest](#), 1111 Bellevue Blvd. N., Bellevue, NE 68005 (402-731-3140)
[Ft. Atkinson State Historical Park](#), 201 W. 7th Street, Fort Calhoun, NE 68023 (402-468-5611)
[Glenwood Public Library](#), 109 N. Vine Street, Glenwood, IA 51534 (712-527-5252)
[Johnson County Historical Society](#), 3rd & Lincoln Streets, Tecumseh, NE 68450 (no phone)
[Johnson County Museum](#), 401 Broadway Street, Tecumseh, NE 68450 (no phone)
[Joslyn Art Museum](#), 2200 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68102 (402-342-3300) **CLOSED until 2024**
[Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Headquarters](#), Omaha Visitor Center, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, NE 68102 (402-661-1804)
[Mills County Historical Museum](#), 20 Lake Dr., Glenwood, IA 51534 (712-527-5038)
[Mormon Trail Center at Winter Quarters](#), 3215 State St., Omaha, NE 68112 (402-453-9372)
[Nebraska Historical Museum](#), 131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402-471-4782)
[Sarpy County Historical Museum](#), 2402 Clay St., Bellevue, NE 68005 (402-292-1880)
[Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Ctr.](#), 900 Larson Park Rd., Sioux City, IA 51103 (712-224-5242)
[Sergeant Floyd Monument](#), 2601 S. Lewis Boulevard, Sioux City, IA
[State Historical Museum of Iowa](#), 600 E. Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50319 (515-281-5111)
[Union Pacific Railroad Museum](#), 200 Pearl St., Council Bluffs, IA 51503 (712-329-8307)

**Thank you for your
Donations to MOP!**

Anonymous
 Della Bauer
 Keith Bystrom
 Jim Christiansen
 Tom and Ginny Conley
 Mary Jo Havlicek
 Neal Ratzlaff
 Don Shippy
 Ann Woolard

Thanks!

Thanks to
 Betty Smallen
 for sharing her
 Power Points!

**“THANK YOU”
 TO
 LCTHF
 FOR
 \$2,100 GRANT**

****AND****

**“THANK YOU”
 TO
 HARLAN SEYFER
 WHO
 SPEARHEADED
 THE
 APPLICATION
 PROCESS**

Thanks to Andy Woolard, who
 converts photos for use in this
 publication!

Thanks to the folks who
 submitted articles to this issue
 and to the staff at both Willa
 Cather Library and Ralston
 Baright Library who enabled
 its publication!

“Curiosity is one of the
 permanent and certain
 characteristics of a
 vigorous mind.”
 Samuel Johnson
 (1709-1784)

For more information contact:
Doug Friedli
Executive Director
Lewis & Clark Visitor Center
www.mrb-lewisandclarkcenter.org



Website:
www.LewisandClarkVisitorCenter.org
Address:
P.O. Box 785
Nebraska City, NE 68410
Telephone: 402-874-9900

WATERCOLOR PAINTING WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 25, 2023

10:00 am to 1:30 pm

Presented by Steve Snell, adventure artist

<https://www.steve-snell.com/adventure>

Steve painted scenes as he paddled 2,341 miles down the Missouri River in 2022, from Three Forks, Montana, to St. Louis.

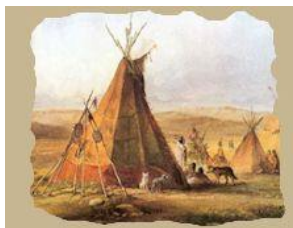
Steve will describe his adventure, show his paintings at different sites along the way, and teach the plein-air watercolor painting methods he used.

This event is free, but space is limited. Registrations are required.

Native American Artifact and Fossil Show

Saturday, March 4, 2023

10:00 am to 4:00 pm



Collectors will be displaying their private exhibits and collections of arrowheads, spear points, tools and pottery
1:00 pm: Hands-on activities for children (and adults) including pottery making, corn grinding, moccasin making



The Otoe-Missouria Native American tribes were living along the Missouri River in present-day Nebraska City area when Lewis and Clark camped here in July 1804.

1:00 pm: Special Presentation by **Wynema Morris**: *Understanding American Indian Tribal Governments*

This exhibition is for educational purposes only; no sales, purchase, or trade of artifacts or similar items is permitted on the grounds of Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Center. All displayed collections are cared for according to industry standards and with the utmost respect to their culture of origin.

This FREE program is part of a series of events sponsored by the Nebraska City Museum Association
www.nebraskacitymuseums.org and by a grant from Humanities Nebraska www.humanitiesnebraska.org



100 Valmont Drive
Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410
www.LewisandClarkVisitorCenter.org
402-874-9900

Date		Day of the Week	Time	<u>Event Description</u>
February 24		Friday	Noon	Brown Bagging with the Birds
February 25		Saturday	10:00 – 1:30 pm	Watercolor Painting Workshop: Steve Snell
March 4		Saturday	10-4	Native American Artifacts Show: Exhibition/Speaker
April 8		Saturday	10-4	Second Saturday with a Soldier: Re-enactors
May 13		Saturday	10-4	Second Saturday with a Soldier: Re-enactors
May 29		Monday	Call for information	Fantasy RV Tour
June 10		Saturday	10-4	Second Saturday with a Soldier: Re-enactors
July 8		Saturday	10-4	Second Saturday with a Soldier: Re-enactors
August 13		Saturday	10-4	Second Saturday with a Soldier: Re-enactors
August 16		Wednesday	Evening	Business After Hours: Lewis & Clark Birthday Celebration
September TBD		TBD	TBD	Plein Aire Oil Painting Workshop: Todd Williams
September 16-17		Saturday & Sunday (Applejack Festival Weekend)	All Day	Lewis & Clark Reunion #19: Parade, Re-enactors, Mountain Men
October 8		Saturday	10-4	Second Saturday with a Soldier: Re-enactors
November TBD		TBD	TBD	Fund-raising Dinner
December 27		Wednesday	Call for information	Christmas for the Birds
January 1, 2024		Monday	Call for information	First Day Hike

NEBRASKA
— GAME  PARKS —

General info: <https://outdoornebraska.gov/>

Parks: <https://outdoornebraska.gov/parks/>

Calendar: <https://calendar.outdoornebraska.gov/>

Educational Programming:
<https://outdoornebraska.gov/outdoorededucationprograms/>

Editor's Desk:

Several years ago, I was camped at Fort Kearny State Park and arose early from my sleeping bag to enjoy a quiet stroll in the cool of a summer dawn. Imagine my surprise when several large Nebraska Game and Parks Commission trucks pulling huge water tank trailers crept into the park and began to swarm with activity! These men were preparing for a day of visitors to a special event—especially children—who would come to learn more about what Nebraska has to offer. NGPC employees had been up WELL before dawn to collect specimens of Nebraska fish from our native waters into their massive portable aquaria and transport them to a live display in the park. Splendid! This effort was truly ingenious. Now I know how they manage their live display at the Nebraska State Fair!

Lewis and Clark recorded in their journals the wildlife and scenery of the pre-Nebraska Louisiana Purchase. As Doug Friedli mentions on page 10 of this newsletter, what we have here in Nebraska is jaw-dropping in its richness and intense natural beauty. The men of the Expedition recognized the quality of the environment, and it still awes folks whose curiosity draws them out on rural Nebraska highways and byways.

Thank you to the men and women of NGPC, who labor to preserve access to Outdoor Nebraska so that others may find refreshment and re-creation in its wonders. Thanks, especially, to Greg Wagner, who took time to tell me about using Native presenters at NGPC programs in parks around the state. The links above will help you find a program close to you.

By the way, a \$30 annual park fee equates to \$2.50 per month. You can't even buy a cup of coffee for that price!

Ann Dunlap Woolard, Editor
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firedogpoet@yahoo.com

Big Elk (Omaha)



L & C Trail Heritage Foundation
P.O. Box 3434
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: 406-454-1234
1-888-701-3434
Fax: 406-727-3158
www.lewisandclark.org

Mouth of the Platte Chapter Activities

Weekly:

Lewis and Clark Study Group

(You need not be a MOP member to attend study group.)

Meets: Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

600 Bluff Street

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Contact: Jim Christiansen (402-657-4600)

Monthly:

MOP Chapter Dinner

(You need not be a MOP member to attend dinners.)

Meets: Third Tuesday of the month

11:30 a.m. (winter only)

March 21: Dr. Richard Fruehling at Willa Cather Library

Location: 1905 S. 44th Street (at Center Street)

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Topic: Medical Problems on L&C Expedition

April – October Meetings: Third Tuesday of the month

Location: Council Bluffs Pizza King (varies)

5 pm Social Hour

5:30 pm Dinner

6:30 pm Speaker

Contact: Don Shippy 402-740-7851 or shippydv@msn.com

MOP Chapter Board Meetings:

Meets: First Tuesday of the month

March 7: 6 p.m. (Ann's house)

April 4: 6 p.m. (TBD)

May 2: 6 p.m. (TBD)

Annually:

June: Lewis and Clark Festival

[Lewis and Clark State Park, Onawa, IA](#)

July: Camp White Catfish Dinner

[Mills County Historical Museum](#)



"Pomp"

Jean Baptiste Charbonneau

Upcoming One-time Events

38

Our Chapter: See list Dinner Speakers at left

<https://www.facebook.com/MouthofthePlatte/>

Other Chapters:

Sergeant Floyd/Tri-State:

President: Brad Holder (712-541-0720)

bradholder60@gmail.com

Southern Prairie: SouthernPrairie@lewisandclark.org

www.facebook.com/SouthernPrairieRegionLewisandClark

President: Dan Sturdevant (816-679-5925)

Dan@sturdevantlawoffice.com

National Organization:

[\(LCTHF Calendar\)](#)

LCTHF 55th Annual Meeting: June 27-30, 2023

Location: Missoula, MT

Info: lewisandclark.org

[Link to LCTHF Zoom Presentations](#)

Other Organizations:

[Cass County Historical Society Museum:](#) Tues-Sat 12-4.

[Durham Western Heritage Museum:](#)

Tues-Sat 10-4. Sun 12-4.

[Fort Atkinson Living History:](#) May 6 & 7, June 3 & 4.

[Historic Downtown Plattsmouth Association:](#)

historicdowntownplattsmouth@gmail.com

March 25 (9-4) Hello Spring! Sip, Shop, and Stroll

[Joslyn Art Museum:](#) Closed until 2024

[Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center:](#)

Monday – Saturday 10-4. Sunday – 12-4 pm. (see p. 36)

[Mormon Trail Center at Winter Quarters:](#)

Every day 10-6.

[Nebraska History Museum Special Exhibitions:](#)

Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat 9-4. Thurs 9-8. Sun, Mon closed.

[Sarpy County Museum:](#)

Tues-Sat 10-4.

[Sioux City Lewis and Clark Center:](#)

Tues-Fri 9-5. Sat-Sun 12-5.

[Union Pacific Railroad Museum:](#)

Thur-Sat 10-6.

[Washington County Museum:](#)

Tues-Fri 9-5. Sat 9-1.



Mouth of the Platte Chapter
% Jim Christiansen
173 Bennett Ave, # 1180
Council Bluffs, Iowa, 51503