

# Lewis & Clark Trail News

## Bringing the Trail to Life

March 22, 2025



*Richard Hunt  
Executive Director  
Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance*

### Mystery Update

Following up from the last newsletter—one of the mysteries is beginning to unravel. Thanks to Chuck Flood, who shared 1866 stagecoach maps and timetables, I now have a clearer picture of the routes across northern Nevada and southeastern Oregon that Jean Baptiste Charbonneau likely traveled during the final days of his life.

It's truly exciting to have access to such invaluable resources and the support of fellow history enthusiasts eager to help uncover the past. This is just one example of the many rewards that come with being a member of The Alliance

*---connections that bring history to life!---*

Still looking for that spot in Iowa...

### Quick Links

[LCTA Annual Gathering  
Kansas City](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

[National Park Week](#)

[Apply for LCTA  
Trail Stewardship Grants](#)

[Willard Family Reunion](#)

[Vimeo Short Film Grant](#)

[Missouri River MR340 Race](#)

[Confluence Project](#)

**AN OFFICIAL TABLE OF DISTANCES.**—  
The following table of distances from Star City, Nevada, to Boise City, Idaho, has been furnished from General Halleck's Headquarters. The public can rely upon the figures, they having been determined by Government officers appointed for the purpose:

Star City.	Miles.
Dun Glen.....	Estimated.....18
Humboldt Bridge.....	Measured.....23.46
Toll House.....	.....10.9
Willow Point.....	.....8.68
Cane Springs.....	.....13.5
Rebel Creek.....	.....14.72
Camp McDermitt.....	.....23.86
Summit Springs.....	.....24.78
Dry Creek, First Crossing.....	.....15.18
Dry Creek, Second Crossing.....	.....11.15
Owyhee River.....	.....10.11
Owyhee River Ferry.....	.....3.4
McWilliams' Rancho.....	.....7.9
Inskips-Cow Creek.....	.....10.99
Forks of Road.....	.....8.3
Camp Lyon.....	.....10.33
Ruby City.....	.....13.88
Babbington.....	.....7.18
Snake River River.....	Estimated.....21
Boise City.....	.....36
<b>Total Distance.....</b>	<b>285.32</b>

# THE PLACER HERALD.

AUBURN, JULY 7, 1866.

**DEATH OF A CALIFORNIA PIONEER.**— We are informed by Mr. Dana Perkins, that he has received a letter announcing the death of J. B. Charbonneau, who left this county some weeks ago, with two companions, for Montana Territory. The letter is from one of the party, who says Mr. C., was taken sick with mountain fever, on the Owyhee, and died after a short illness.

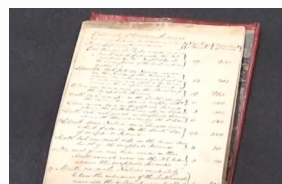


Join the Alliance

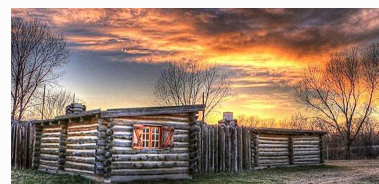
Support the Alliance



Watch  
[Looking West](#)



Watch  
[Lewis and Clark Documents](#)



Watch  
[Building the Team](#)

In 2024, four students and their instructor set out from Shenandoah, Virginia, headed to the Oregon Coast to capture the essence of the historic journey of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, bringing it to life through a compelling series of video episodes. [Shenandoah Center for Immersive Learning](#)

Join us for Episode One: Jefferson and Looking West, where Lewis and Clark interpreters and scholars set the stage for the Corps of Discovery's daring expedition. This episode introduces the vision, challenges, and camaraderie that shaped what could be considered the greatest buddy movie of all time.

### [American Philosophical Society](#)

Lewis and Clark's journey is often celebrated for its scientific discoveries, but their expedition was just as much about people as it was about plants, animals, and geography. Among the most significant records they kept was a manuscript listing the names of the different Native American nations and tribes they encountered.

This document, now housed in the [American Philosophical Society](#) in Philadelphia, provides a rare glimpse into the Indigenous communities along their route.

This enumeration of Native peoples offers crucial insight into the complexities of westward expansion.

Join us as we journey back to the winter of 1803-04 at Camp Dubois, where Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began building the team that would make history.

This video explores how the Corps of Discovery took shape, highlighting the recruitment, training, and preparation of the men who would embark on the legendary expedition.

Learn about the challenges they faced, the skills they honed, and the bonds they formed during the cold months along the Mississippi River.

Thanks to the staff at the [Lewis and Clark State Historic Site](#) for sharing this production.



## Consider This with Chuck Sams

### The relationship between people and public lands

Join Oregon Humanities live at the [Pendleton Center for the Arts](#) on Wednesday, April 9, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. for an onstage conversation about the relationship between people and public lands with Chuck Sams, former director of the National Park Service.

In conversation with Adam Davis, Sams will explore how public interest informs public policy. To purchase tickets (\$15 each) or request no-cost tickets, please use [this form](#)

Can't make it to Pendleton? Tune in from home! The conversation will be broadcast live, for free, on the Oregon Humanities [YouTube channel](#).



## LCTA Grant Awards in Action

School districts along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and in other areas of the nation typically teach fourth graders about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. With this in mind, the Lewis & Clark Alliance last year updated its [Corps of Discovery Curriculum Guide](#) to help educators teach about the expedition.

This year the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance's [Stewardship Endowment Committee](#) awarded grant funding to two projects focusing on fourth-grade students. The organizations conducting the two projects are among 15 that received 2025 LCTA grant funding.

### Missouri River Relief

The [Missouri River Relief](#) (MRR) received \$10,000 to provide fourth-grade students with field trips on the Missouri River during the annual [Missouri River Days](#) in late April and early May.

These trips will provide over 600 students from 11 school districts in Boone and Cole Counties, MO, with first-hand experience on the waterway. Guided by Missouri River Relief (MRR) educators, students will explore the river's natural beauty, learn about riparian ecosystems, fisheries, and discover local connections to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

One activity is a "Through the Eyes of An Explorer" experience where students review sketches from Lewis and Clark's journals and then—in the spirit of how these journals so often referred to Nature's beauty—learn to create their own watercolor sketches.



[View](#) a video of fourth-grade students during Missouri River Days.

### Nez Perce County Historical Society

The [Nez Perce County Historical Society and Museum](#), Lewiston, Idaho, received \$1,000 to provide stipends for reenactors, local historians, tribal participants and storytellers to present at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual fourth-grade Rendezvous, a time that gives students an in-depth look at the Lewis and Clark Expedition and local history.

The May 8, 2025 Rendezvous for fourth graders in the Lewiston School District will show how Lewis and Clark and local history are important in their education.

[View](#) a previous Rendezvous.

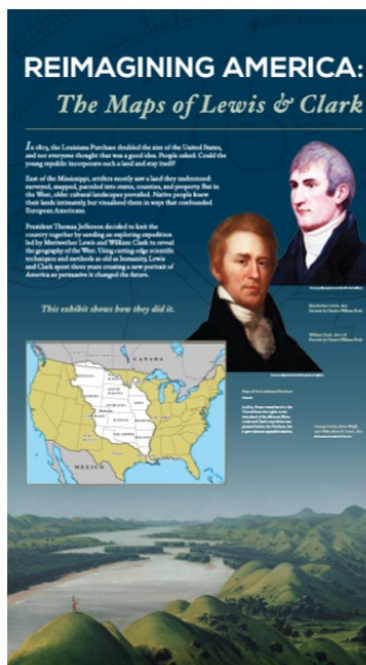


## Share the Adventure!

The *Lewis and Clark Trail News* newsletter is growing every day! Since we launched, over 300 new subscribers have signed up to stay informed about the latest Trail happenings, events, and exclusive content.

Help us expand the community by sharing the newsletter with your network. Simply provide this sign-up link to friends, family, and fellow Trail enthusiasts:

<https://lewisandclark.org/news>



## Reimagining America: The Maps of Lewis and Clark



This traveling exhibit – available to libraries, museums and interpretive centers across the US uses large-scale reproductions of historic maps, photos, and explanatory text to show how American looked before the journey of Lewis and Clark, and what it looked like after.

**The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance Reimagining America Map Exhibit is available for booking at your facility beginning June 2025.**

Lightweight, easy to assemble vinyl banners on collapsible frames  
Ships via commercial carrier  
Requires 500 square feet or 60 linear feet of indoor space  
Available for 6-week exhibit duration  
Rental Fee \$25/week plus \$50 deposit

For information or to schedule – email [gkline@lewisandclark.org](mailto:gkline@lewisandclark.org)

Learn  
more

## Become a Trail Ambassador with the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance!

Are you passionate about history, adventure, and storytelling? The Alliance is seeking dedicated volunteers to serve as Trail Ambassadors—champions of the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience who bring its history to life.

As an Ambassador, you'll help:

**Curate Trip Inspirations:** Share your favorite Trail adventures to inspire and guide fellow travelers.

**Write and Share Stories:** Contribute engaging blog posts, newsletter features, and personal reflections.

**Connect with the Community:** Represent the Trail at events and speaking engagements for civic and cultural groups.



Join us in preserving and promoting the legacy of the Trail. Your voice and passion can make a lasting impact!

Contact: [director@lewisandclark.org](mailto:director@lewisandclark.org)

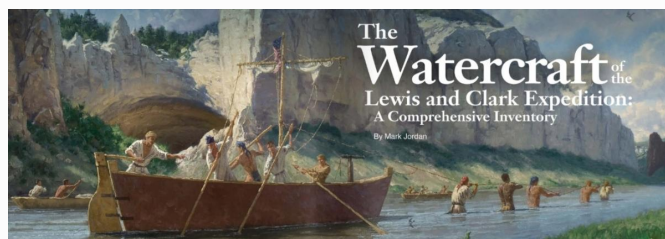


For 50 years, the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance has published *We Proceeded On*—a quarterly journal named after the Captains' habit of concluding many journal entries with this inspiring phrase. Known among LCTA insiders as "WPO," this esteemed publication has become a cherished source of insightful research, compelling stories, and fresh perspectives on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

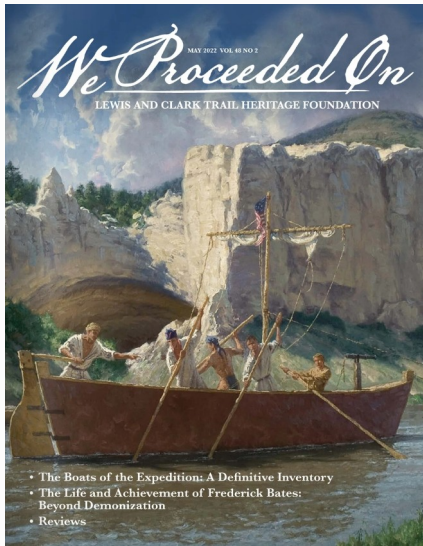
As an LCTA member, you'll receive each new edition of *We Proceeded On*, connecting you to this legacy of exploration and discovery.

Browse this complimentary previous edition and experience this rich archive for yourself—you may find it's just the inspiration you need to [join](#) and receive the latest issue!

Read the article  
[\*Boats of the Expedition\*](#)



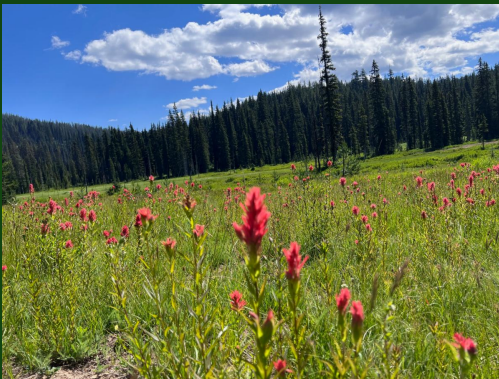




Read  
[We Proceeded On](#)  
 May 2022

Mark Jordan has been a canoeing and kayaking aficionado for almost fifty years. He has canoed extensively in the United States, and across Canada, all the way to Hudson Bay. He has canoed and kayaked in Central and South America, Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica.

His love of canoeing brought him to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which he has studied for the last forty years. He teaches and lectures on the Expedition and in 2020 received the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation's Meritorious Achievement Award for his teaching and lecturing.



## Explore & Preserve the Lolo Trail

### Join Our Summer Tour!

The Idaho Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance invites you to camp along the historic Lolo Trail and help maintain its interpretive signs this summer. This self-supported trip (i.e. bring your own food and gear) includes two weekend outings:

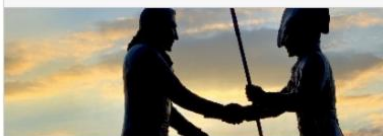
- **June 20-22, 2025 (West Side)** – Camp near Musselshell Meadows and visit sites like Lewis and Clark Grove, El Dorado Creek, and Rocky Ridge.
- **July 11-13, 2025 (East Side)** – Camp near Powell, Idaho, exploring Lolo Pass, Snowbank, Bear's Oil and Roots Camp, and more.

This trip blends trail preservation with immersive history, retracing Lewis and Clark's rugged journey across the Bitterroot Mountains from Lolo, Montana, over Lolo Pass to Weippe, Idaho. While inspecting and repairing interpretive signs, we'll also explore some of the most significant Corps of Discovery sites along the Lolo Trail. Expect rough, dusty roads—high-clearance vehicles with durable tires are recommended. LCTA membership is not required to participate in these outings.

If you are interested in participating - contact Chuck Raddon at [idahoclarkie@gmail.com](mailto:idahoclarkie@gmail.com).

New [Trip Inspirations](#) along the Ohio River

### Louisville – Southern Indiana Falls of the Ohio



Explore the Falls of the Ohio, a key site in the Lewis and Clark story along the Ohio River near Louisville. Walk in the footsteps of Meriwether Lewis, William and his brother George Rogers Clark while discovering the fossil beds...

**Stops:** 7

**Distance:** 22 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)

### Louisville to Owensboro Along the Kentucky Shore



On October 26, 1803, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark boarded their military barge and for the first time during the expedition, moved as a team down the Ohio River. Completely on the Kentucky side of the river, this trip meanders...

**Stops:** 6

**Distance:** 154 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)

### Owensboro to Cave-in-Rock

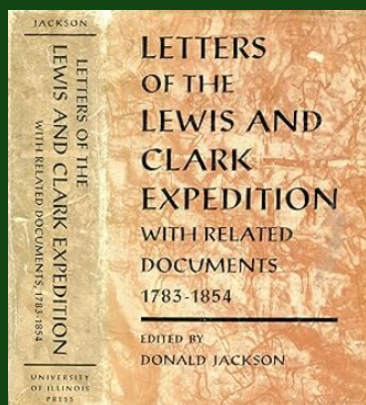


Follow the Lewis & Clark Expedition as they move down the Ohio in early November 1803. Starting in Owensboro, Kentucky, visit ancient Indigenous mounds and pioneer river towns in both Indiana and Kentucky and end at one of the hideouts...

**Stops:** 7

**Distance:** 111 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)



## Free Books in Philadelphia

for Lewis and Clark Enthusiasts

Are you a fan of the Corps of Discovery and looking to expand your collection? A longtime Trail Alliance member is downsizing their bookshelves and generously offering several Lewis and Clark related books for free to fellow history lovers in the Philadelphia area!

Available titles include:

If you're interested, contact [director@lewisandclark.org](mailto:director@lewisandclark.org) to claim a book. Don't miss this chance to add these fascinating reads to your collection!

*Only One Man Died: The Medical Aspects of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* – E.G. Chuinard

*Common to this Country: Botanical Discoveries of Lewis and Clark* – Susan H. Munger

*Lewis and Clark: Pioneering Naturalists* – Paul Cutright

*Meriwether Lewis* – Richard H. Dillon

*Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* – Edited by Donald Jackson

## Upcoming Featured Events on the [LCTE Events Calendar](#)



March 27, 2025  
Audubon State Park  
Henderson, KY



April 8, 2025  
USFS Interpretive Center  
Great Falls, MT



May 10, 2025 - May 11, 2025  
Lewis and Clark SHS  
Hartford, IL



[The Making of an American](#)

Pulitzer Prize-winning scholar and historian Richard Rhodes will be presenting on his book, "John James Audubon: The Making of an American"

[Lewis and Clark at Three Forks](#)

Join historian and retired high school history teacher Norm Anderson to learn more about Lewis and Clark at the Three Forks of the Missouri.

[Departure Event](#)

Mark the departure of Lewis & Clark as they set out on an expedition of discovery! Reenactors, historic artisans, and more will commemorate this important date in Illinois and American history.

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## Exciting news from our Agents of Discovery Alliance Team

In addition to our signature Mission at the USFS Interpretive Center in Great Falls, we have additional Missions available across the length of the Trail including;

[Historic Locust Grove - Louisville, KY](#)

[Cape Disappointment State Park - Ilwaco, WA](#)

[Falls of the Ohio State Park - Clarksville, IN](#)

[West Bank Park - Great Falls, MT](#)

Stop by any of these sites to play today!



### Photo Contest Deadline



Capture the beauty of the Lewis and Clark Trail! Enter by May 31, 2025 for a chance to win and have your photo(s) shared in our 2026 calendar. Share your adventure and inspire others!

[Enter the Contest](#)

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[lewisandclark.org](http://lewisandclark.org)



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