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# Lewis & Clark Trail News

## *Bringing the Trail to Life*

April 5, 2025

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*Richard Hunt*  
*Executive Director*  
*Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance*

### Quick Links

[Become a Humanities  
Washington Speaker](#)

[Women in Nature](#)

[Pomeroy Foundation Grants](#)

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Kansas City](#)

[LCTE Event Calendar](#)

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[LCTA Photo Contest](#)

Exploring the journey of Lewis and Clark is more than a study of history—it is an immersion into the values of courage, perseverance, and leadership that continue to inspire us today. Thomas Jefferson described Meriwether Lewis as possessing “courage undaunted,” with a firmness and perseverance of purpose which nothing but impossibilities could divert from its direction.

This unshakable resolve defined the Corps of Discovery, propelling them through uncharted lands and immense challenges.

Their expedition is more than a tale of exploration; it is a testament to bold vision, teamwork, and an unyielding drive to seek the unknown. Their journey reminds us that great achievements require risk, resilience, and collaboration, and that the challenges we face today can be met with the same adventurous spirit that guided them over two centuries ago.

As we reflect on their legacy, let us carry their

[Oregon Heritage Virtual Summit](#)

[Oregon Museums Association  
Annual Conference](#)

[Falls of the Ohio Foundation New  
Executive Director](#)

example forward—embracing obstacles with courage, curiosity, and determination. Like Lewis and Clark, we press onward, guided by discovery and perseverance.

We proceed on.

## Connect to Something Bigger!

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance (LCTA) is dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and sharing the rich history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

By donating, you become part of this vital mission—helping to protect the trail's heritage, promote public awareness, and ensure that future generations can experience this remarkable chapter in American history.

[Donate now](#)

Be part of the journey that shaped a nation.



### Join Us in Preserving History

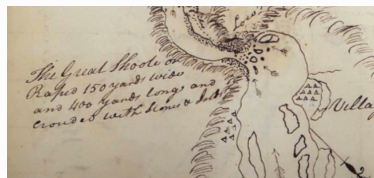
The Lewis and Clark Trail is more than a path—it's a living, breathing journey through America's past. By donating today, you help safeguard this legacy, support meaningful education, and connect people to the spirit of exploration.



#### Watch [Building the Team](#)

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



#### Watch [Braving The "Great Shute"](#)

On a bitterly cold morning with strong northeast winds, the Corps of Discovery faced one of their most grueling challenges—the *Great Shute of the Columbia River*. This final, arduous portage marked their passage through the last



#### Watch [Courage Undaunted](#)

Before embarking on the legendary journey into the uncharted West, Meriwether Lewis underwent extensive training to prepare for the challenges ahead.

Explore how President Thomas Jefferson tasked Lewis with leading the

recruitment, training, and preparation of the men who would embark on the legendary expedition.

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

major rapid on their journey to the Pacific.

In this video, David Gary from the [American Philosophical Society](#) offers a rare and fascinating look at Clark's original handwritten journal, the printing plates used to publish the expedition's accounts, and the first edition of the printed journals.

Corps of Discovery—and how his rigorous studies in natural sciences, medicine, and navigation equipped him for the expedition's many trials.

More great content from our grant awarded to the [Shenandoah Center for Immersive Learning](#)



Join via  
Zoom

May 18, 2025  
3 PM MDT

## How many Calories?

What were the energy demands to pole a barge up the Missouri River?

Join us for a free [on-line lecture](#) presented by Andrew Creer who will use current data to hypothesize energy requirements of the Corps of Discovery and provide comparisons to modern data highlighting the limits of sustained physical activity.

Andrew Creer is a professor specializing in exercise science and is currently serving as the department chair for Exercise Science & Outdoor Recreation at Utah Valley University.

### LCTA Grant Awards in Action

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance's 2025 Stewardship Endowment Grants help 15 organizations focus on speakers, events, displays, brochures, and other creative projects that tell the expedition's story. Here is a look at two of the grants:

#### Falls of the Ohio River Foundation

At the Falls of the Ohio River State Park Interpretive Center in Indiana, a \$5,000 grant to the Falls of the Ohio Foundation will be used to give visitors easier access to a popular Lewis and Clark statue.



Made by the late sculptor Carol Grende, the larger-than-life bronze statue is often called the “handshake statue.” It shows Meriwether Lewis and William Clark reaching out to shake hands when the two friends met up near Falls of the Ohio River in 1803.

The statue is a significant educational feature for visitors, including 3,000 local students annually, who go to the interpretive center to learn about the expedition and other information.

View a video about [Falls of the Ohio River State Park](#).



## Travelers' Rest Connection

Travelers' Rest Connection, which provides visitor services at Travelers' Rest State Park near Missoula, Montana, will use a \$4,000 grant to promote a creative exhibit of 34 kites inspired by the Lewis and Clark explorers.

The exhibit, which opens April 13, was organized by Terry Zee Lee, a nationally renowned kite designer and flyer. During the opening festivities, she and mascots from Missoula community organizations will fly kites. Kids will be able to color their own kites to fly.

For the exhibit, kite builders throughout the U.S. researched Lewis and Clark quotes and fashioned a fascinating flying history of the expedition. The designs give tributes to people, events or natural resources encountered by the explorers. The kites will be displayed at the Travelers' Rest visitor center and other public places.

For more information about the exhibit's April 13 opening festivities, [click here](#) to see the details posted on the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience events calendar.

Watch [Terry Zee Lee](#) talk about kites, art and history.

## Share the Adventure!

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[Sign Up Link](#)

Every week, twenty new viewers subscribe to  
The *Lewis and Clark Trail News*

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.

Did you know that Sacagawea and Toussaint Charbonneau stayed at Fort Osage in 1811 after their visit with William Clark in St. Louis? Now, you can walk in their footsteps and discover the rich history of this significant site.

A highlight of the 2025 LCTA Annual Gathering in Kansas City, Reconstructed Fort Osage will be a featured field trip. Join us September 14–17, 2025, for an unforgettable experience filled with history, discovery, and camaraderie. Don't miss it!

[Registration and Information](#)

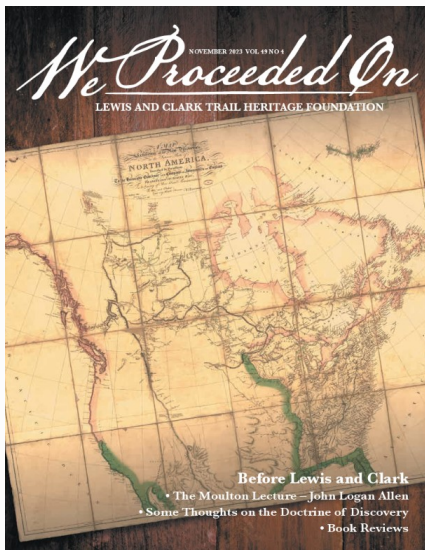


Did Sacagawea Sleep  
Here?

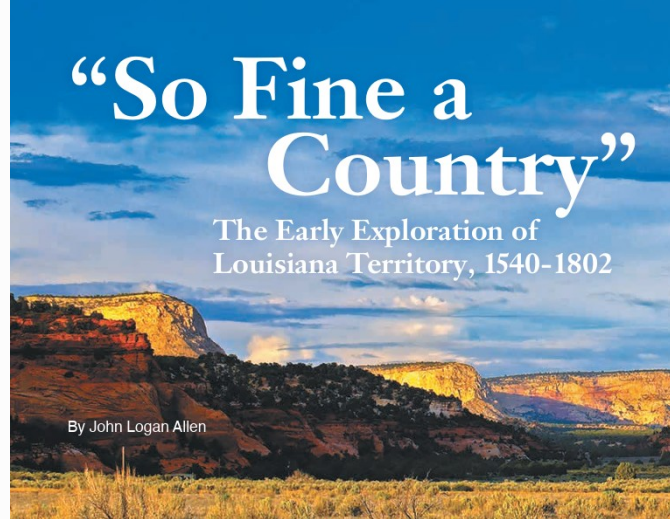


For 50 years, the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance has published *We Proceeded On*—a quarterly journal named after the Captains' habit of concluding many journal entries with this inspiring phrase. Known among LCTA insiders as "WPO," this esteemed publication has become a cherished source of insightful research,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

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  
[We Proceeded On](#)  
 November 2023



*excerpt from John Logan Allen's article...*

In the late 1940s, after completing his Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the Rocky Mountain fur trade, Across the Wide Missouri, the brilliant and iconoclastic historian, essayist, novelist, and conservationist Bernard DeVoto set out to write a book on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. For several summers, he and his wife Avis (famous in her own right as collaborator with Julia Child on Mastering the Art of French Cooking) retraced much of the route of the Expedition from St. Louis to the Pacific and back. By the time the couple had completed their travels and DeVoto had finished his archival research, he was prepared not only to begin his book on Lewis and Clark but also his widely-acclaimed condensation of the Lewis and Clark journals

## [Trip Inspirations](#)

<p>Great Falls, Montana Portage Route</p>  <p>On June 13, 1805, Capt. Meriwether Lewis encountered the Great Falls of the Missouri and knew that the left branch at Decision Point was the true Missouri River. Further exploration revealed that a total of five waterfalls in the area...</p> <p>Stops: 9 Distance: 47 miles</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW INSPIRATION</a></p>	<p>Great Falls to Townsend The Mountain Gates Part 1</p>  <p>On their way to the Headwaters of the Missouri in July 1805, the Expedition journalists described passing through several "gates"—narrow, mountainous constrictions in the Missouri River. This trip stops at the first two, known today as Tower Rock and Gates...</p> <p>Stops: 7 Distance: 145 miles</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW INSPIRATION</a></p>	<p>Jefferson and Beaverhead Rivers The Mountain Gates Part 2</p>  <p>This adventure starts where Sacagawea was captured as a child and ends where she was reunited with her Lemhi Shoshone People. It starts at the Missouri River headwaters, then up the Jefferson River and through its canyon, and up the...</p> <p>Stops: 6 Distance: 116 miles</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW INSPIRATION</a></p>
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## Remembering Ron Laycock... a legacy of leadership and kindness

We are saddened to share that Ron Laycock passed away on March 17, 2025, at the age of 90. A dedicated supporter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance, Ron gave his time, expertise, and financial support to strengthen the organization. Ron served in many leadership roles, including vice president,



president (2003–2004), and as a member of the Library and Bicentennial Committees. He also represented the Alliance on the Bicentennial Commemoration Council and was honored with the Distinguished Service Award for his selfless contributions.

Additional tributes to follow in The Orderly Report

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



April 12, 2025  
Mead Museum  
Yankton, SD

### [Peace Medal Unveiling](#)

An original Jefferson Peace Medal on loan to the Mead Museum in Yankton, SD will be unveiled on April 12th as part of the Journeying Forward: Connecting Cultures exhibit.



April 12, 2025  
Origin Hotel 1001 Riverfront  
Kansas City, MO

### [Lewis and Clark Social](#)

You're invited to a fun Lewis & Clark social gathering in Kansas City, Mo. for all Lewis and Clark enthusiasts and LCTA members



May 6, 2025  
L&C Interpretive Center  
Great Falls, MT

### [Columbia River Canoe Project](#)

Special Screening of *The Columbia River Canoe Project* follows cousins Robert Lester and Braxton Mitchell as they attempt a 1,300-mile canoe expedition from the Continental Divide near Butte, Montana, all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

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



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