
Lewis & Clark Trail News

Bringing the Trail to Life

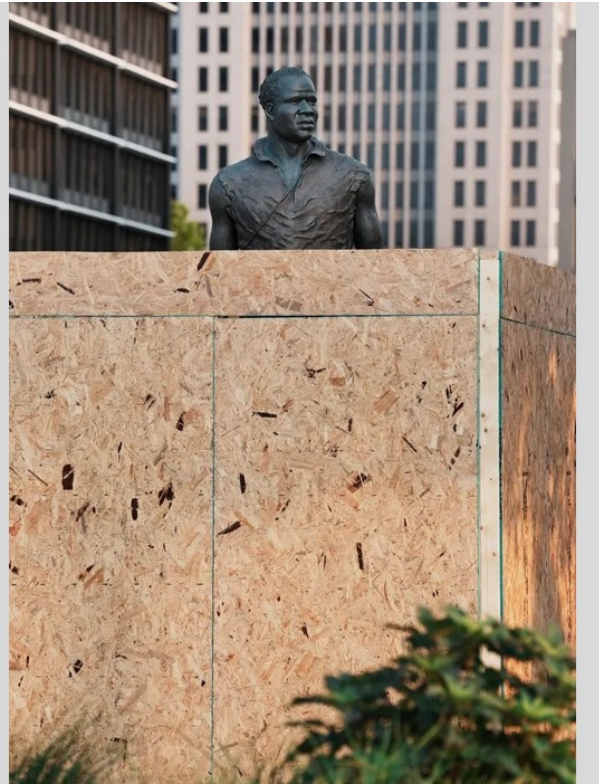
June 14, 2025



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York Statue Vandalized



In late May, vandals attempted to saw off the hand and rifle of the York Statue on the Belvedere in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. The eight-foot bronze sculpture, created by acclaimed artist Ed Hamilton and unveiled in 2003, honors [York](#)—the enslaved African American man who played a vital yet historically underrecognized role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Following the act of vandalism, the city swiftly enclosed the statue in a plywood barricade to prevent further damage while repairs were made. On June 5, the barricade was removed, revealing the restored sculpture and marking the completion of the restoration work. Security cameras were installed to help increase security around the statue.

Commissioned by the City of Louisville to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the York statue remains a powerful symbol of resilience, remembrance, and recognition. It pays tribute to a man who, despite being enslaved, helped shape one of the most consequential explorations in American history.

A Message from Hasan Davis

Friends,

Last week, the nation got another glimpse of something I've experienced for years: The story of York still unsettles people.

The recent vandalism of Ed Hamilton's powerful statue of York, standing watch over the Louisville Belvedere, wasn't just an act of damage to bronze and artistry. It was a reminder of how fragile memory can be—especially when it comes to the lives and legacies of Black Americans who gave everything but were promised nothing.



And like the attack on the prominent bust of York that appeared in Portland Oregon's Mount Tabor Park a few years ago, this was a strike at memory. At legacy. At truth.

For over 25 years, I've worked in schools, juvenile facilities, museums, and public spaces across this nation, sharing stories that too many of our history books skip. For that quarter-century, I've stepped into York's story as a Living History interpreter. I've carried his voice, his grief, his humor, and his dignity into rooms where he'd never been allowed when he was alive. I've stood in his shoes before thousands of students, educators, and community members, trying to give voice to someone who history tried to silence. And even now, 220 years later, some would rather this memory remain still, hidden, wounded. But, as America prepares to commemorate its 250th anniversary, we will not let that happen.

York was the only Black man on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He proved himself, A soldier, A hunter, A diplomat, A brother in the storm. Forced into service he endured, contributed, and sacrificed to prove he was more than up to the task. He crossed mountains and rivers for a country that denied his basic humanity. And like so many, when the great journey ended and the mission complete, he was denied the very freedom he helped mythologize for an entire nation.

But still, he stands.

That's what makes this statue important. It's not just about bronze and stone. It's about the record. It's about refusing to let another Black life be written out of the story. York's presence challenges us to remember that this nation has always been built on the backs, and with the brilliance, of people who were never given proper credit. From Indigenous peoples whose care and presence of these lands for millennia has been bulldozed, and immigrants who fueled and fed the industrial revolution, to the Africans human trafficked to build and maintain the entire infrastructure of a new nation, our stories can no longer be sanitized.

This act of vandalism couldn't silence York's story. But serves as a call to amplify it louder than ever, a demand we teach it more boldly, tell it more fully, and ask ourselves

why honoring Black history still feels threatening to some.

So, while someone may have carved into the statue's arm, they didn't wound York. They simply revealed just how difficult we have made it to erase historical memory, and how much work we still must do to properly celebrate it.

York stood resilient, with dignity, in service, gazing into the face of injustice. Today, he stands as a symbol of what it means to persist, even when history has tried to forget you. This act of vandalism doesn't silence York's legacy. It reminds us how necessary it is. This is not a moment for outrage alone... It's a moment for resolve. An opportunity to amplify York's name, his story, and what he represents.

We will not back down from telling these truths. And we will not let York be erased, again. York deserves that much. And honestly, we do too.

In purpose and hope,
Hasan Davis, J.D.
Hope Dealer | Educator | Living History Interpreter
www.hasandavis.com

[Watch Hasan Davis portray York](#)

Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance [Annual Gathering](#)

Kansas City, Missouri
September 14 - 17

[Register Now](#)

Early Bird Registration Ends July 31st



Jimmy Mohler

Jimmy Mohler, a life member of LCTA, will be the opening speaker during the morning of the Annual Gathering's first full day on Monday, September 15.

Jimmy's talk will be inspirational, a perfect way to start three days of learning about the explorers while visiting sites, listening to speakers, and, of course, having fun. Her presentation will focus on what she calls "the beautiful literature and poetry inspired by the Missouri and Columbia rivers, and their tributaries."

Although he was not officially known as a poet, Meriwether Lewis was a poet at heart in the way he wrote many of his journal entries, Jimmy said. Part of her talk will compare "how his writing evokes images and emotions that rival those of other authors and poets."

Jimmy is a member of the LCTA Southern Prairie Region. She took the lead in recent years in "ground truthing" Lewis and Clark interpretive markers throughout the region, partnering with local and state park personnel to improve or replace a number of worn or defaced markers. With base funding from a LCTA grant, the partners also contributed labor and money to greatly increase the number of improvements.

Jimmy had a 25-year career as a CPA and teacher with an emphasis on financial crime prevention in the U.S. and overseas. She shifted some of her professional energies to working at historical sites. Her interest in the expedition blossomed as she began work in 1999 as a seasonal ranger on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

News

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[Remembering Ray Yeager](#)

Grants

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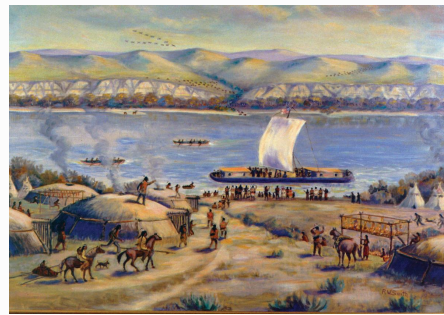
[Expedition Timeline](#)

[Tent of Many Voices](#)



Watch
[Fueling the Expedition](#)

What were the energy demands to pole a barge up the Missouri River? Watch this recorded Zoom lecture featuring Dr. Andrew Creer from Utah Valley University as he answers that question by using current metabolic data to hypothesize energy requirements of the Corps of Discovery.



Watch
[To the Mandan](#)

The 6th installment created by the Shenandoah Center for Immersive Learning.

The Corps of Discovery leaves the encounter at Bad River with the goal of making it to the Mandan Villages before winter freezes the Missouri River.



The world's longest nonstop, non-motorized river race will launch July 8 on the Missouri River at a Lewis and Clark site in the Greater Kansas City Area and head downstream 340 miles across the state of Missouri to end on July 11 at another Lewis and Clark site.

In its 20th year, the Missouri American Water MR 340 is hosted by Missouri River Relief, a nonprofit organization that encourages people to explore, enjoy, restore and care for the river. The race helps illuminate the importance of rivers.

The event begins at Lewis & Clark Historic Park at Kaw Point Park, Kansas City, Kansas. The expedition spent from June 26 to June 29, 1804, at Kaw Point to hunt, repair and do other necessary work. The finish line is the Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Museum, St. Charles, Mo. The expedition remained in St. Charles from May 16 to May 21, 1804.

The MR 340 is expected to attract more than 700 racers who compete in categories from solo paddling in a canoe or kayak to dragon boats, which have 10 paddlers. There is even a category for stand-up paddleboarders. Depending on the category, the race generally takes 35 to 60 hours to complete.

Win or lose the race, competitors are celebrated at the Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Museum, which provides volunteers to assist racers with their crafts, an awards ceremony and a Finish Line Party.

[Watch a video from the 2024 MR 340](#)



MR 340 Participants

Neal Bedlan to serve as Acting Superintendant

Many in the Lewis and Clark community will recognize Neal Bedlan, who served with distinction as Chief of Interpretation for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail for more than six years. We're pleased to share that Neal is returning in a new role—this time as Acting Superintendant following the retirement of Mark Weekley. Welcome back, Neal—we're glad to be working with you again!



LCTA Grant Awards in Action

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance's Education and Scholarship Committee has provided a \$4,000 grant to the [Oregon Black Pioneers](#) nonprofit historical group to help fund a cultural festival in Portland that features the story of [York](#), the first Black person to travel into Oregon.



The funding will assist in the planning and launching of the October 16-24 inaugural York Fest. York-themed interpretive and educational programs will be held daily, hosted by different nonprofit partners. The festivities will include the premiere of a folk opera, "York the Explorer," that celebrates York's life and remarkable contributions to the expedition. "The York Fest will help amplify York's important story that has so often been overlooked in our country's history," said Alisha Hamel, LCTA board member and president of the Oregon chapter.

The LCTA Education and Scholarship Committee's grant was made available through the Burroughs-Holland Bicentennial Education Fund, which supports scholarly research, K-12 education, and youth programming related to the expedition and Native American nations that played a vital role in the expedition's journey. A portion of the fund is supported by the estate of Leandra Zim Holland, the author of *Feast And Fasting With Lewis & Clark: A Food And Social History*.

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Bringing the Trail to Life

April 5, 2025

Help us expand the community by sharing the

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newsletter with your network. Simply provide this sign-up link to friends, family, and fellow Trail enthusiasts.

Step Into History at Lolo Hot Springs June 27–28

Experience a lively, family-friendly celebration commemorating the anniversary of Lewis and Clark's historic visit to Lolo Creek—where they made the first recorded discovery of a hot spring in the American West. As Captain Lewis noted, "It caused a profuse sweat..."

Set at the scenic and storied Lolo Hot Springs Resort, this event honors both the legacy of the Corps of Discovery and the longstanding cultural significance of this place to Indigenous communities.

Experience the past through engaging interpretive programs, living history reenactments, guided walks, Native storytelling, and educational exhibits. Enjoy live music, local food, kids' activities, and of course, the chance to soak in the same mineral-rich waters once described by Lewis and Clark.



*"Come sweat where
history soaks in"*

Learn more at lolahotsprings.com

Well done, Karen Goering!

After an incredibly successful 45 years with the [Missouri Historical Society](#), Karen Goering retired in May.

During her tenure at the St. Louis-headquartered MHS, Karen held numerous important leadership positions, ranging from curator of art to interim director to managing director of operations and administration.

MHS president and CEO Dr. Jody Sowell considers Karen to be one of the most influential leaders in MHS history. "If there were a Mount Rushmore for Missouri Historical Society leaders, Karen Goering would surely be on it," Dr. Sowell wrote in an article published in the summer issue of MHS' *Currents* magazine.



Karen was involved in the opening of the MSH library and research center; the expansion of the Missouri History Museum; and, among other many projects, a successful effort to include the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum as part of MSH.

As for Karen's connection with the Lewis and Clark Expedition, not enough praise can be given for her involvement in the remarkable wealth of information and education provided by MHS through its exhibits, publications and [online searchable website](#) that offers more than 55,000

National Trails Day Adventure Celebrates History and Community

Two Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance outings marked National Trails Day on Saturday, June 7 with events that blended outdoor exploration and educational engagement.



Meriwether Lewis Chapter

In Tennessee, the Meriwether Lewis Chapter of the Southeast Region hosted a scenic hike at the Meriwether Lewis Monument in Hohenwald. Led by National Park Service Ranger Tandi Stephens, the group included energetic young participants from the Lewis County Public Library and Archives' Summer Reading Program. The event connected local families with both the natural beauty and the historical legacy of the area.



Southern Prairie Region

Meanwhile, on the plains of Kansas, the Southern Prairie Region partnered with the Trails Head Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association for a special program at Lone Elm Campground in Johnson County. Guests gathered to hear from educator and avocational archaeologist Garrett Seuser, who shared insights into the site's rich Overland Trail history.

Both events highlighted the Alliance's commitment to community, education, and the enduring legacy of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

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



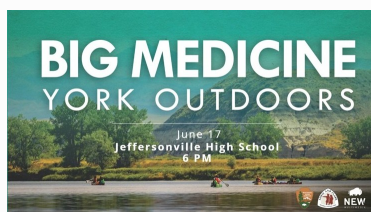
This trip blends trail preservation with immersive history, retracing Lewis and Clark's rugged journey across the Bitterroot Mountains from Lolo, Montana, over Lolo Pass to Weippe, Idaho. While inspecting and repairing interpretive signs, we'll also explore some of the most significant Corps of Discovery 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, idahoclarkie@gmail.com.

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



[Peace Medal Exhibit](#)
[Mead Museum](#)



[Big Medicine](#)
[Jeffersonville June 17](#)



[Free National Park Days](#)
[June 19](#)

2025 Bill Sherman Fellow Award



Past Sherman Fellow Award Winners (l-r)

Norman Anderson, Walt Walker, Phil Scriver, Bill Bronson, Jane Weber, Larry Epstein, Phyllis Frieze Meade

Congratulations to Bill Bronson, the latest *Bill Sherman Fellow Award* winner from the Portage Route Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance. He was selected by a committee of past winners for his decades long work with the Portage Route Chapter and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

He now serves as president of the national Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance. The chapters and regions coordinate Lewis & Clark educational programs and trail stewardship along the entire Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



The award is given to someone who emulates the spirit of one of the early members and benefactors of the Portage Route Chapter, Bill Sherman, whose favorite saying was “You can get things done if you don’t care who gets credit.”

Download the APP

**Traveling the Trail
this summer?**

Take the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience with you by downloading our mobile APP. Scan the QR code with your mobile device.

Photo Contest Deadline Extended

The deadline for the annual [LCTA photo contest](#) has been extended to June 30 to give

photographers time to submit photographs taken early this summer. Winning photos will be used as artwork in LCTA's 2026 calendar. Contest rules and entry form can be found on the [LCTA website](#).

Here are tips:

- Study previous winning photos to understand how and why photographers chose and framed their subjects. Click [here](#) to see past winners.
- The best camera is the camera you have with you (mobile phones included)
- Compose your shot. Fill the camera frame with the subject.
- Include something interesting in the foreground, use leading lines to draw the viewer's eye, frame your photo using the natural elements present, and explore color contrast between the foreground and the subject.
- Keep the background uncluttered with distracting objects, but don't forget about our category - *People on the Trail*.
- Finally, be creative and have fun!

Two previous winning photos shown here.. .



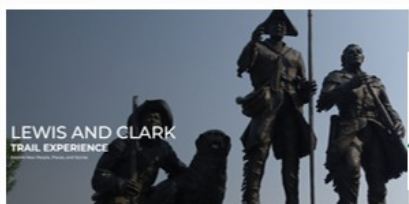
Landscape category (2022):
View of the "Ocian-O! the Joy" by Laura Labadia



Public Lewis and Clark Art category (2024):
Salmon, Idaho, by Tony Huhn



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