



Lewis & Clark Trail News
Bringing the Trail to Life
November 15, 2025



Upper Missouri River near Hole in the Wall

LCTA member Cathy Milne captured this wonderful image of her husband hiking in the famous Upper Missouri Breaks, near the White Cliffs on the Missouri River in Montana.

The Lewis and Clark explorers were surprised, amazed and fascinated by the rugged landscape of this entire region as they slowly moved upstream in May 1805.

Cathy's photograph is one of 14 winning photos that are published in the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance's 2026 calendar. The calendar is for sale for \$20 as a fundraiser for LCTA programs. [Order yours now.](#)

Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance

Step Into History with Lewis & Clark VR!



Experience the Legendary Expedition Like Never Before

Ready for adventure? Take a journey through time with *Lewis & Clark VR*—the immersive virtual reality experience that brings the expedition's epic people, places, and events to life! Explore historic sites, interact with virtual artifacts, and uncover fascinating stories narrated by experts—all from the comfort of your classroom or home.

Proudly sponsored by the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance and created by the talented students at the [Shenandoah Center for Immersive Learning](#), *Lewis & Clark VR* is your ticket to a dynamic learning experience. Discover more at [SCIL](#) and download the app today at [Meta](#). Don't just learn history—live it!

The Future is Here

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance Virtual Reality app is now available for download from the Meta Horizon store. Thanks to our partnership with [Shenandoah Center for Immersive Learning](#), you can experience the inside of an earth lodge, winter at Fort Mandan, and stand inside the cabin of a keelboat barge. Share the news widely!

[Meta Store](#)

Two for the Trails



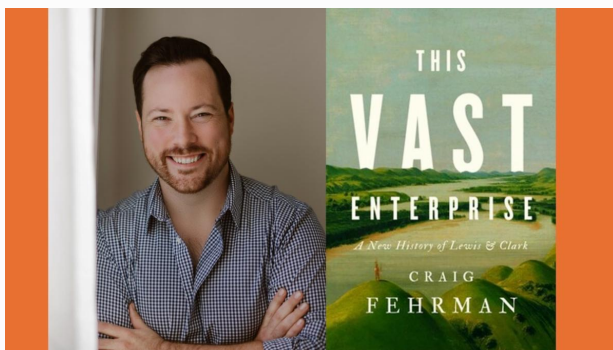
The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance has launched a major initiative to restore and revitalize public access and interpretation along the historic Lolo Trail in Montana and Idaho, and we're pleased to share an important early milestone: the project has been awarded a \$10,000 "[Two for the Trails](#)" grant from [Athletic Brewing Company](#).



Selected from a competitive pool of 504 applicants nationwide, this grant will support the initiative's 2026 activities—beginning with a thorough evaluation of trail conditions and signage, followed by trail-clearing efforts, and concluding with collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service to repair and replace damaged markers and interpretive signs.

This work is being strengthened by strong local support from the [LCTA Idaho Chapter](#) and the [Travelers Rest Connection](#), as well as key partners including [Lewis and Clark Trail Adventures](#) and [Runner's Edge Missoula](#). Longtime LCTA member Chuck Raddon serves as the spiritual godfather of this important work. As the initiative moves forward, the Alliance will offer multiple opportunities for public involvement, from the Lolo Challenge Trail Run to volunteer stewardship and trail-clearing days designed to reopen obstructed segments and enhance the visitor experience.

We invite you to join us—by volunteering, participating in events, spreading the word, or [supporting the Alliance](#)—as we work to ensure that this iconic corridor, used for centuries by Native peoples and later by the Lewis and Clark Expedition, remains vibrant, accessible, and inspiring for generations to come.



This Vast Enterprise

More than seventy-five viewers joined the recent videocast to hear Craig Fehrman share fascinating insights into his upcoming book and his fresh approach to telling the Lewis and Clark story—blending new information with an updated

perspective.

The session was recorded and is now available on the LCTA YouTube channel. If you missed it live, this is your opportunity to catch a compelling presentation.

[Watch](#) - *This Vast Enterprise* Videocast

Day by Day Radio Episodes



November 15, 1804

*all hands work at their huts untill 1 oClock at night— Swans passing to the South— but
few fowls water to be Seen— not one Indian Came to our fort to day*
—William Clark

To listen to the Day by Day broadcasts for a certain day of the expedition, go to our educational website, [Discover Lewis & Clark](#)

Originally aired by [Yellowstone Public Radio](#) during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial observance in 2004-2006, these 627 radio episodes parallel the expedition dates starting May 14, 1804, and ending September 25, 1806. They are narrated by Hal Hansen, scripted by Whit Hansen and Ed Jacobson, and produced by Leni Holliman.

Of Interest

[Christmas tree Permits](#)

[trailresearch.org](#)

[America250](#)

[Steamboat Arabia Closing](#)

Grants

[lithia4kids](#)

[Fenton Foundation](#)

[National Park Trust](#)

[Bolger \(Capital Projects\)](#)

Alliance

[Trip Inspirations](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

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Play Lewis & Clark Trivia



This year's Thanksgiving is on November 27. Two centuries ago, on November 27, 1805, the Lewis and Clark explorers were on the lower Columbia River and did not have much to be thankful for, due to horrendous weather and huge waves.

In his journal, William Clark wrote, "...the waves became So high we were Compelled to land unload and traw [sic] up the Canoes, here we formed a Camp on the neck of Land. ..." This "verry [sic] remarkable point" has an interesting history. It is commonly known today by the name given to it in 1792 by Lt.

William Broughton, who explored the lower Columbia during a sea expedition led by George Vancouver.

What is today's common name for the "neck" (point) of land?

[Submit your answer](#)

Yes, this is a tough question. Hint: If you can't think of today's name of the point of land, check out the November 27 date in our educational website: [Discover Lewis & Clark](#). The explorers huddled there for 10 days, a miserable time marked by horrible hunger and torrential rains. It is a remarkable story of grit and survival.

The trivia contest winner will receive a copy of *Wilderness Journey: The Life of William Clark* by William E. Foley. The book is a major contribution to the knowledge of the early history of the American West and, specifically, to a better understanding of Clark.

The trivia contest in our last newsletter had a question with two answers: What was the name of the winter fortification that the Lewis and Clark Expedition began building on Nov. 2, 1804, and in which state today is the site located? The answers are Fort Mandan and North Dakota.

Two dozen readers submitted the correct answer. When more than one person submits a correct answer, a drawing is done. The winner was Jerry Wilson. He will receive a copy of *Uncovering the Truth About Meriwether Lewis* by Thomas C. Danisi.

Missouri River Relief
Volunteers make a clean sweep at Bonnots Mill



With the help of 162 dedicated volunteers, a spirited cleanup effort took place on October 25 at Bonnotts Mill, where the Missouri and Osage Rivers converge. Organized by [Missouri River Relief](#) and working about a mile above their confluence, the group gave the riverbanks a well-deserved clean start—removing debris, hauling trash, and restoring the beauty of this historic stretch of the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Over the course of the day, volunteers and crew covered 12 miles of river and removed an impressive 3.85 tons of trash, including 140 bags of landfill waste and 100 discarded tires from the floodplains and backwaters. The work was muddy, energetic, and immensely rewarding for all involved.

Behind the scenes, the operation was powered by five Missouri River Relief boats, two Missouri Department of Conservation boats, and 39 crew members, who coordinated logistics to keep the cleanup running smoothly from start to finish.

Missouri River Relief is a recipient of Trail Stewardship Grants from the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance.



LCTA Oregon Chapter Holiday Dinner

Oregon Chapter members and friends will gather Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Netul Room at Fort Clatsop for the annual holiday dinner meeting.

Our main speaker will be Zachary Stocks, Executive Director of the Oregon Black Pioneers and seasonal

ranger at Lewis and Clark National Historic Park (Fort Clatsop). Zachary's presentation, "York, The Man", will tell the comprehensive story of York both before and after the Expedition. In addition, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Superintendent Jon Burpee will speak about developments at the park.

The dinner will be catered by Fulio's Restaurant in Astoria and will include wild caught salmon, elk meat and other tastes the Corps of Discovery would have preferred under better circumstances that Christmas in 1805.

Guests are welcome to attend.

Cost is \$20 payable at the door by cash, or a check made out to "Oregon Chapter, Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance."

RSVP by email: SlowPokeTours@gmail.com

BIG MEDICINE

YORK OUTDOORS

November 13, Livingston, Montana

November 19, Marietta, Ohio

November 30, Wethersfield, Connecticut

December 4, Helena, Montana

January 22, Provo, Utah

February 26, St. Peters, Missouri

February 28, Seaside, Oregon



New screenings being added - check the [Events Calendar](#) for updates





Tour historic Fort Leavenworth

LCTA members and guests are invited to a rare opportunity on November 21 to tour the historic Fort Leavenworth in Leavenworth, Kansas. The tour is hosted by LCTA's Southern Prairie Region and Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter.

The fort is considered a national treasure as the oldest continuously active fort west of the Appalachian Mountains. The event includes tours of the military's Lewis and Clark Center and 22 sites, including the Missouri River Overlook, a scenic and panoramic view of "The Highway to the West." In 1806, members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition scaled the bluff.

The expedition camped on a nearby island on July 1, 1804. In his journal, William Clark described the area as "a Butifull extensive Prarie" where "the French intended to Settle here once & brought their Cows and put them on those Islands."

The event includes lunch at a local Italian Restaurant and a talk by COL. (Ret.) Jay Haden, JA, USAR, a member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance, about his 30-year Army career, with specific highlights of his experiences at Fort Leavenworth, including the Combined Arms and Services Staff School and the Command and General Staff College Officer Course.

For more information, send an email by November 19 to Gary Kimsey (garykimsey55@gmail.com).



Join authors Drs. David and Marti Peck as they draw on their professional backgrounds as a physician and a clinical psychologist to provide an in depth analysis of the various theories that still swirl around Lewis's death.

[WATCH](#)

Words Worth Reviving:

The *Journals of Lewis and Clark* contain a language that feels raw, immediate, and strangely poetic. The spelling is eccentric, the phrasing inventive, and the tone often somewhere between military dispatch and wonder-filled diary.



thwarts

Thwarts add rigidity to the boat's structure, helping to distribute forces and maintain the hull's shape under load.

September 2, 1803

*find ourselvs stranded again suppose it best to send out two or three men to engage some oxen or horses to assist us obtain one horse and an ox, which enabled us very readily to get over paid the man his charge which was one dollar; the inhabitants who live near these riffles live much by the distressed situation of traveller are generally lazy charge extravagantly when they are called on for assistance and have no filantrophy or contience; passed the mouth of two little creeks to the north, called allfores a riffle a head; the boat rubbed for some distance but by geting out and pulling her on by the **thwarts** we got her over;*

Share the Adventure!



Lewis & Clark Trail News
Bringing the Trail to Life



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.

See all the events on the [LCTE Events Calendar](#)



[Big Medicine Screening](#)
Wethersfield, CT
November 30



[Le Reveillon](#)
Ste. Genevieve, MO
December 6



[Ft Osage Candlelight Tour](#)
Sibley, MO
December 13

Where on the Trail?



Our newest fun feature invites you to guess the location along the Trail.

The lewis-clark.org Airphoto Gallery provides the answer.

[Answer](#)

The Last Word

Purpose, Projects, and Our Path Forward

As we launch the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance's Future State Workgroup, I want to share a perspective that is shaping how we think about our organization's next chapter.

Nonprofits like ours are powerful because they are rooted in people—volunteers, members, and partners who give their time out of passion rather than obligation. That strength also presents a challenge: without a shared purpose and clear projects, even well-intentioned energy can become scattered. Research across the nonprofit sector shows that organizations with distributed volunteer networks thrive when they excel at two things:

- defining why they exist today
- focusing their efforts through concrete, achievable projects

Purpose provides the “why.” It aligns our motivations, sets our direction, and helps all of us understand what success looks like. When purpose is clear and contemporary—not just historical—it becomes the anchor that keeps an organization cohesive even as volunteers and leaders change.

Projects provide the “how.” They turn purpose into action. Well-designed projects give volunteers something real to do, create visible impact in local communities, and offer accessible on-ramps for new people who want to get involved. Within nonprofit organizations, projects are the engine of energy, innovation, and relevance.

For us, this connection between purpose and projects has never mattered more. The landscape around the Trail is changing: new audiences, new technologies, and new expectations for how nonprofits deliver value. The Future State Workgroup is designed to bring clarity to our mission today and to identify the signature projects that can carry that mission forward.

This is influential work—work that will shape the next era of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance. I am grateful to everyone already contributing their experience, creativity, and commitment. And if you feel called to be part of this important effort, **I invite you to participate by contacting our Future State Chair, Pat Traffas**, who is coordinating workstreams and volunteer engagement.

Together, we will build a stronger, more aligned, and more impactful organization—one that not only honors the past, but thrives in the future.

Richard Hunt

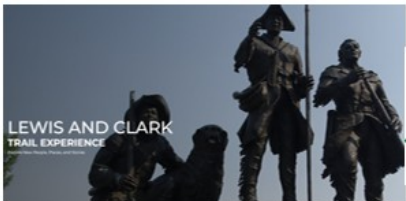
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