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Lewis & Clark Trail News

Bringing the Trail to Life
July 11, 2026



Photo Courtesy American Prairie

Scenes from the 2026 LCTA Annual Gathering in Great Falls





The [Annual Gathering Photo Album](#) is available for both viewing and uploading your favorite images from the event.

2026 Annual Gathering Sponsors



Future State Report Available for Reading

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance has completed its comprehensive Future State planning process, establishing a strategic roadmap to strengthen the organization and expand public engagement across the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Developed with input from members, partners, volunteers, and organizational leaders, the plan outlines eight key initiatives, including enhanced support for local chapters and programming, modernization of membership and technology systems, expanded educational and digital resources, new national programming opportunities, growth of the Digital Sherman Library, stronger partnerships with affiliated organizations, and diversified revenue strategies.

The complete Future State report, including detailed recommendations, implementation priorities, and measures of success, is available through the link below.

[Future State Report](#)
[Engagement Survey Analysis Report](#)

Missouri River Paddlers Trail 43 to Be Dedicated July 18 Broadwater County, Montana



The Broadwater County Trails Team invites the public to celebrate the dedication of the new Missouri River Paddlers Trail 43 on Friday, July 18, at 10 a.m. at the Lower Toston Dam Recreation Area, immediately below Toston Dam in Broadwater County, Montana. The ceremony will be followed by an inaugural community float on one of the Missouri River's most scenic and accessible stretches.

Designated through the Broadwater County Trails Vision Plan completed in 2025, the Missouri River Paddlers Trail 43 extends from Lower Toston Dam to the Indian Road Day Use and Campground near Townsend. The route features four well-

developed public access sites, making it ideal for paddlers of all experience levels, including canoeists, kayakers, rafters, tubers, and motorized boaters.

The dedication comes just one week before the anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's passage through this section of the Missouri River on July 25, 1805. Organizers hope to establish the inaugural float as an annual stewardship event, combining recreation with river cleanup, site monitoring, and maintenance of trail signage in partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.



Missouri River at Townsend, MT

The Broadwater County Trails Team welcomes community members, paddling enthusiasts, Lewis and Clark Trail supporters, and visitors to attend the dedication and inaugural float. The event celebrates not only a new recreational opportunity but also the preservation and stewardship of an important segment of the historic Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Read the [Trail Plan](#)

Missouri Humanities Welcomes New Executive Director



Missouri Humanities is thrilled to announce the appointment of Jami Wade as its new Executive Director!

Jami brings with her an extensive background in nonprofit leadership, education, development, and civic service. She is a lifelong Missourian who has most recently served as Executive Director of Missouri River Relief, a four-state conservation organization dedicated to connecting people through exploring, restoring, and caring for the Missouri River.

Lewis & Clark Film Series

Key moments in the early days of the Lewis & Clark Expedition come to life in a new series of short films produced by the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, MO.

The first release was featured in the November 2022 issue of “We Proceed On” publication by the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance and is now available for viewing. For museums, classrooms and other uses, we also have higher resolution versions available for licensing or purchase.

TO WATCH THE VIDEOS

[CLICK HERE](#)



The Journey Continues Film Series



by Discovery Expedition / Lewis & Clark Boat House

Playlist • 13 videos • 237 views

Produced by the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, MO,
this series of short films depicts key moments from [...more](#)

▶ Play all

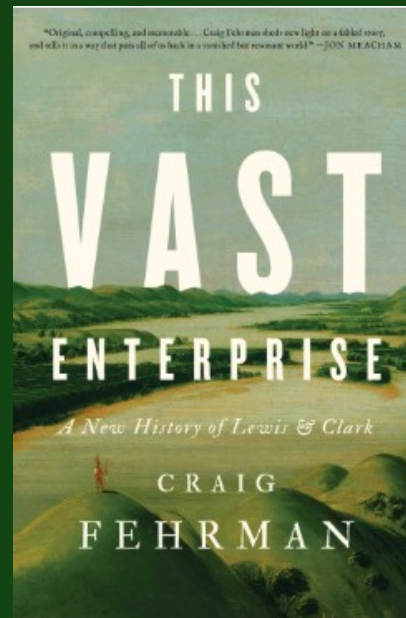


LCTA Zoomcast Library

[William Clark](#)
[John Ordway](#)

"Do we really need another book about the Lewis and Clark expedition? Over the past two centuries, hundreds of titles have charted the journey. And yet, after reading "This Vast Enterprise," by Craig Fehrman, my answer is an emphatic yes." *New York Times*

[Bookshop.org](#)



New Lewis & Clark Substack Articles

If you haven't already, we encourage you to explore [Real Stories of the Lewis and Clark Trail](#) and [Undaunted Travel](#), subscribe to receive future articles, and share your favorite stories with friends, family, and fellow Trail enthusiasts. Every new reader helps expand awareness and appreciation of the Lewis and Clark story.

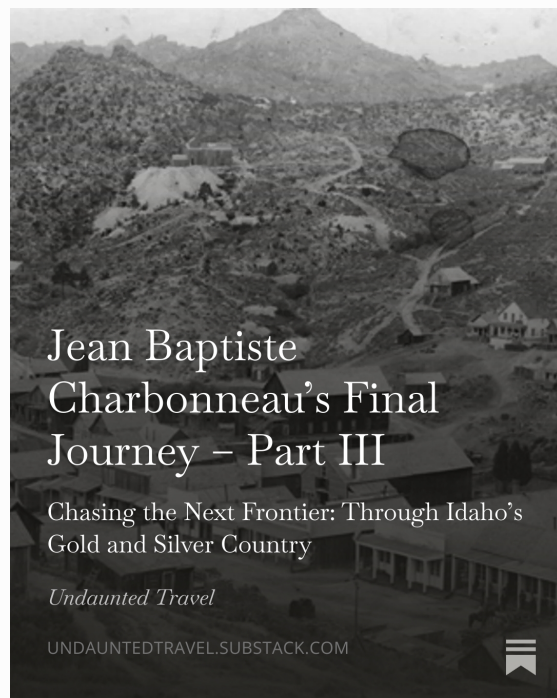


What Jefferson Left Off His Headstone

From a simple epitaph to a complex republic, what 250 years of independence has taught us about America's founding idealist

Real Stories of the Lewis and Clark Trail

LEWISCLARKTRAILSTORIES.SUBSTACK.COM



Jean Baptiste Charbonneau's Final Journey – Part III

Chasing the Next Frontier: Through Idaho's Gold and Silver Country

Undaunted Travel

UNDAUNTEDTRAVEL.SUBSTACK.COM



By [Harry W. Fritz](#)

Thomas Jefferson's epitaph is the grossest understatement in American history. He wrote it himself, and it can be seen today on his gravestone in the family cemetery at Monticello:

Nothing of his political or diplomatic career, as delegate, governor, minister, secretary, vice-president, president. Nothing as scientist, architect, naturalist, linguist, or philosopher-statesman. Nothing of the West—of Louisiana or Lewis and Clark.

[Read the Article](#)

Few Americans of the nineteenth century experienced as much of the expanding frontier as the son of Sacagawea and Toussaint Charbonneau.

For most of his 61 years, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau lived where maps were unfinished and opportunity lay just beyond the next mountain. Born during the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805, he grew up under the care of William Clark in St. Louis, traveled through Europe as a young man, trapped beaver in the Rocky Mountains, guided emigrants west, interpreted among diverse cultures, and joined the California Gold Rush.

[Read the Article](#)

From Juvenile Delinquent to Hope Dealer: Watch Hasan Davis' Inspiring Story

One of the most powerful moments from the 2026 Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance Annual Gathering came when acclaimed storyteller, attorney, and York interpreter Hasan Davis shared the remarkable journey that shaped his life.

In this compelling presentation, Hasan speaks candidly about growing up as a troubled youth, the choices that led him into the juvenile justice system, and the mentors who helped him discover a different path. His story is one of resilience, transformation, and purpose—a journey that ultimately led him to earn a Juris Doctor degree and dedicate his life to inspiring others. Today, Hasan describes



himself as a "Hope Dealer," using history and storytelling to help people see new possibilities in their own lives.

Whether you've heard Hasan speak before or are discovering him for the first time, this presentation is moving, authentic, and unforgettable. It is a reminder that history isn't

just about the past—it has the power to change lives today.

Take a few minutes to experience one of the most memorable presentations from the Annual Gathering and discover why Hasan Davis continues to inspire audiences across the nation.

[Watch the video today.](#)

Play Lewis & Clark Trivia



On June 13, 1805, as Meriwether Lewis was discovering the grand falls of the Missouri River at today's Great Falls, Montana, [Silas Goodrich](#), the expedition's principal fisherman, caught a half-dozen "very fine trout," ranging 16 to 23 inches in length, according to Lewis's journal.

Lewis wrote that the fish "precisely resemble our mountain or specked trout [*Lewis is referring here to the already known brook trout species*] in form and the position of their fins, but the specks on these are of a deep black instead of the red or gold colour of those common to the U.' States. these are furnished long sharp teeth on the pallet and tongue and have generally a small dash of red on each side behind the front ventral fins; the flesh is of a pale yellowish red, or when in good order, of a rose red.—"

The trout caught by Goodrich were a species new to science. In 1836, a naturalist gave this species the scientific name *Salmo clarkii* after William Clark. Then, in 1989, the name was reclassified as *Oncorhynchus clarkii*.

But let's step away from scientific terminology. What is the common name of this species of trout today?

[Submit your answer](#)

The winner of this trivia game will be emailed a list of Lewis and Clark books to choose one as the contest prize. The answer will be published in the next *Trail News* issue.

Read the explorers' journal entries for [June 13, 1805](#). Photo: From the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and published in [Discover Lewis & Clark](#).

2026 Photo Contest

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance 2026 Photo Contest is now open to submit your fantastic photos for judging and winners to be included in our annual calendar.

In 2024 Michelle Schwartz won with this *Headwaters of the Missouri* landscape. Entries will be accepted through August 1, 2026.



[Enter the Contest](#)



Firing a 6-pound Cannon
Fort Snelling, Minnesota

Day by Day Radio Episodes

At camp above the [Great Falls of the Missouri](#), [Lewis](#) reports strange booms like cannon and several [enlisted men](#) move tools and baggage to [Clark's](#) canoe camp near present Ulm, Montana. [Pvt. Whitehouse](#) steps on a [rattlesnake](#), and [mosquitoes](#) and [gnats](#) bother everyone.

[July 11, 1805](#)

Listen to the full library of [Day by Day broadcasts](#)

Originally aired by [Yellowstone Public Radio](#) during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial observance. 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.



[Montana River Safaris](http://www.MontanaRiverSafaris.com)

Words of the Expedition

Dub and Drum



Ornithologists and bird-hunters are most likely familiar with these two bird-related words. But most of the rest of us probably not so much—at least not in a unique way they are sometimes used today and definitely used in the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Today, “dub” is mostly used as verb meaning to add something to a film, TV production or soundtrack, such as “the film was dubbed in French.” “Drum,” of course, is typically used to describe pounding on something, like, well, a musical drum.

In Lewis and Clark’s time (and even today), the two words were used to describe the booming sound made by a gamebird beating its wings. Clark’s reference on June 26, 1806: “...the Indians informed us that neither of these [grouse] species drummed.” On April 15, 1805: “The [sharp-tailed grouse] male also dubb something like the pheasant, but by no means as loud.”

A male sharp-tailed grouse doesn’t drum with its beak or wings like a woodpecker. Instead, it rapidly stomps its feet as it spreads its wings, fans out its pointed tail and inflates air sacs on the side of its neck. The vibration of this action against the ground creates a low, thudding sound that carries across the prairie. The bird sometimes adds a cooing call and rattles tail feathers as it turns in circles to show off its plumage.

The reason behind all of this action? Pure courtship—a territorial, mating display meant to attract females and warn off rival males.

Teacher Workshop

The Lewis and Clark Fort Clatsop Teacher Workshop is designed for educators seeking creative ways to bring history to life for their students. Hosted at historic Fort Clatsop, one of the most significant sites associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition, this in-person professional development opportunity provides practical teaching tools, historical resources, and collaborative learning experiences that can be immediately applied in the classroom.



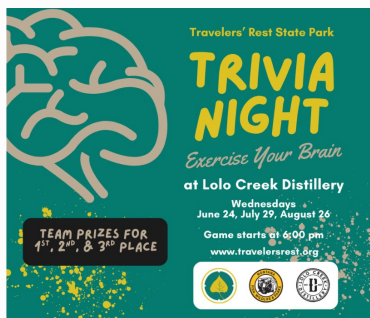
Participants will earn five professional development credit hours and enjoy a complimentary lunch while exploring innovative approaches to teaching American history, Indigenous history, geography, exploration, and cultural heritage.

Whether you teach elementary, middle school, high school, or informal education programs, this workshop will provide valuable resources and strategies to help students connect with the story of the Corps of Discovery and the people, places, and cultures that shaped the American West.

October 24 at 9 a.m. Fort Clatsop Visitor Center, Astoria, Oregon

[Registration](#)

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



[Trivia Night](#)

Lolo, MT
July 29



[Signature Day](#)

Pompeys Pillar, MT
July 25



[LCTA Great Lakes](#)

Minneapolis, MN
August 11 - 13

Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Museum Honored with 2026 Pillar of the Katy Trail Award

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance congratulates the [Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Museum](#) in St. Charles, Missouri, on being named a recipient of the 2026 Pillar of the Katy Trail Award, presented by Magnificent Missouri. The award recognizes organizations and destinations that enhance the experience of travelers along Missouri's renowned Katy Trail.



As part of the recognition, the museum received a \$1,000 award and a copy of Trails Across Missouri – The Katy and Rock Island by Dan Burkhardt. Located adjacent to the Katy Trail State Park and the historic Missouri River waterfront, the

Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Museum welcomes thousands of cyclists, hikers, runners, and heritage travelers each year.

The museum has become a popular stop for those exploring the Katy Trail, offering engaging exhibits on the Corps of Discovery Expedition and the history of the Missouri River. It has also partnered with the Big BAM (Bicycle Across Missouri) ride, helping introduce participants to the rich history and cultural heritage of St. Charles while showcasing one of Missouri's premier outdoor recreation destinations.

Where on the Trail?

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is filled with fascinating museums, breathtaking landscapes, and historic sites—but it also features its share of quirky roadside attractions.

This issue's "Where on the Trail?" spotlights one of these unexpected gems. Can you identify where this photo was taken?

[Answer](#)



Share the Adventure!



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.



Reconnecting More Than a Trail

Every organization needs a project that reminds us why it exists. For the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, that project is Lolo Reconnected.

The Lolo Trail is one of the most remarkable places along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Here, visitors can still experience a landscape that closely resembles what the Corps of Discovery encountered in 1805 and 1806. But this route tells a much older story. For countless generations, it served as a vital travel corridor for the Nimíipuu (Nez Perce) and other Tribal Nations, connecting the buffalo plains with the salmon rivers. The Expedition's successful crossing depended upon Indigenous knowledge, guidance, and generosity.

Today, sections of the historic corridor face growing challenges from storms, wildfire, erosion, fallen timber, and aging infrastructure. Lolo Reconnected is our commitment to restoring and preserving this extraordinary landscape through trail rehabilitation, improved signage, volunteer stewardship, and stronger partnerships with public land managers, Tribal Nations, and local organizations.

This is more than a trail maintenance project. It reflects the future of our organization.

For decades, the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance has preserved history through education, scholarship, and interpretation. Lolo Reconnected engages that mission by caring for the very places where history happened. As we approach the 225th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, we have an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy—not simply by commemorating the past, but by ensuring future generations can experience it firsthand.

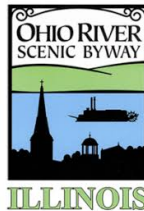
Every mile restored, every volunteer engaged, and every partnership strengthened reconnects more than a trail. It reconnects people with history, with the landscape, and with the enduring stories that continue to define the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Our two stewardship work events this summer mark the beginning of a renewed commitment to the Lolo Trail. They are the first steps in what we

envision as a long-term effort to restore, preserve, and share one of the most significant landscapes along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. In the months ahead, you'll learn more about the progress we're making—and the many opportunities to join us. Whether as a volunteer, partner, advocate, or supporter, you can play a role in reconnecting the Lolo Trail for future generations.

Richard Hunt

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lewisandclark.org



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