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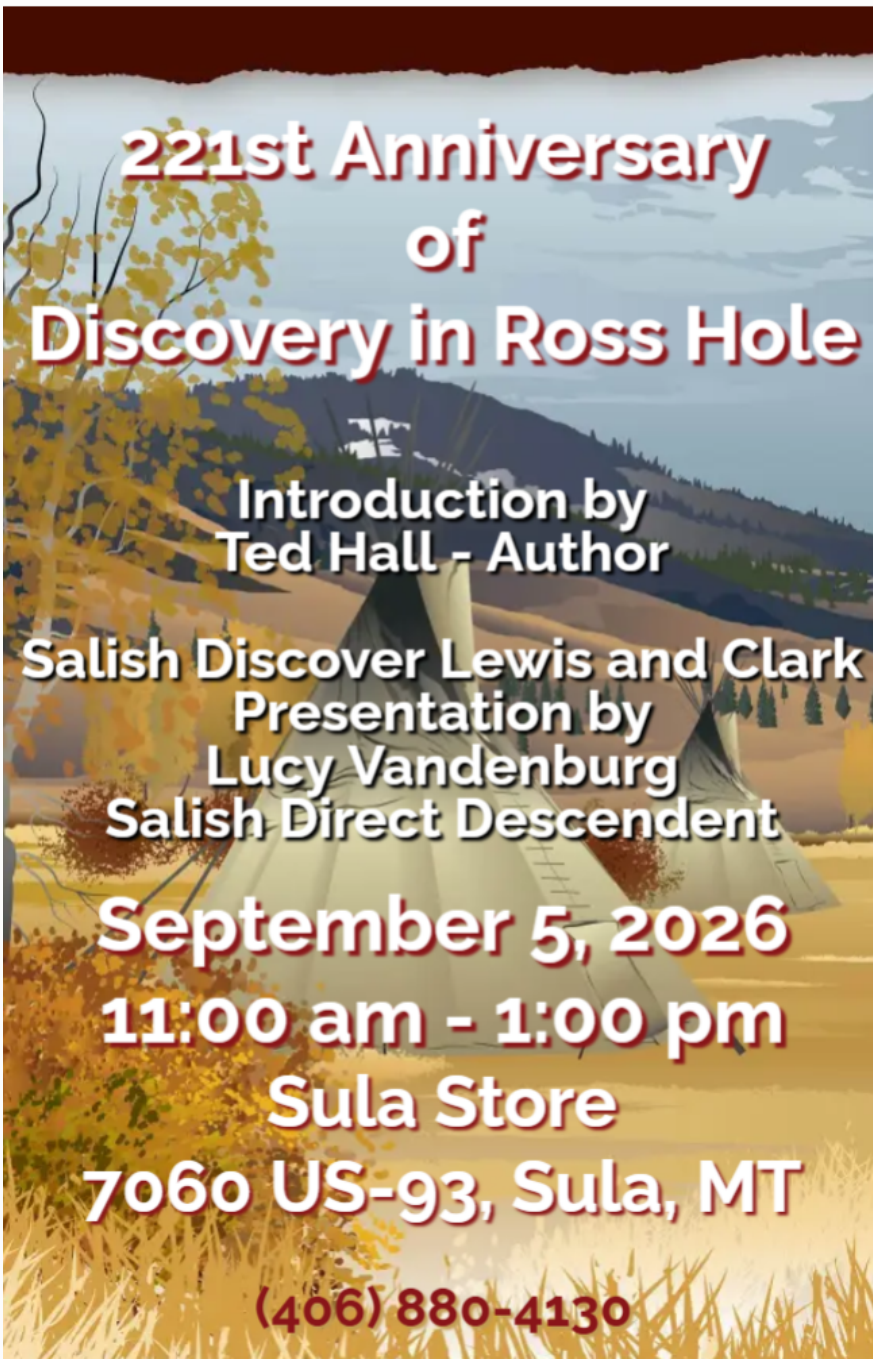


Lewis & Clark Trail News
Bringing the Trail to Life
August 22, 2026



Naked Lady flowers at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center
Sioux City, Iowa

Photo courtesy of Sara Olsen



221st Anniversary of Discovery in Ross Hole

**Introduction by
Ted Hall - Author**

**Salish Discover Lewis and Clark
Presentation by
Lucy Vandenburg
Salish Direct Descendent**

September 5, 2026

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sula Store

7060 US-93, Sula, MT

(406) 880-4130

[More Information](#)

Lewis & Clark Trail Resurvey Zoomcast

August 23, 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time



A reminder that Brigit Rooney of the Smithsonian Institution will share insights from the recently completed [Lewis & Clark Trail Resurvey Project](#).

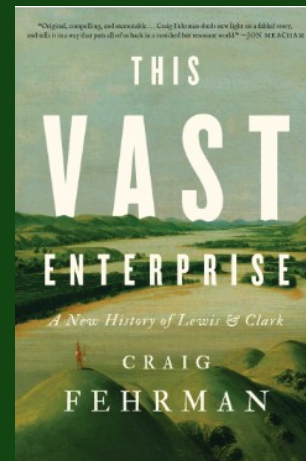
A Zoom link will be emailed to all registered participants prior to the event. Event will be live: 5 p.m. Eastern, 4 p.m. Central, 3 p.m. Mountain, 2 p.m. Pacific.

[Register Here](#)

This Vast Enterprise

Watch the Video Interviews on
[William Clark](#)
[John Ordway](#)

[Bookshop.org](#)



Meet Craig Fehrman at one of these Book Festival Events

August 25 / Westfield, IN: Westfield Washington Public Library. **Free — details here.**

September 1 / Bloomington, IN: Morgenstern Books. **Free — details here.**

September 25–27 / Harbor Springs, MI: Harbor Springs Festival of the Book. **Register here.**

October 3 / Norfolk, CT: Haystack Book Festival. **Free — register here.**

October 19 / Mt. Horeb, WI: Mount Horeb Public Library. Free — details to come.

October 20 / Milwaukee, WI: Milwaukee Public Library. **Free — register here.**

November 10 / St. Charles, MO: St. Charles Public Library. Free — details to come.

April 13, 2027 / Portland, OR: Oregon Historical Society. **Register here.**

April 14, 2027 / Seattle, WA: Seattle Public Library. Free — details to come.

April 15, 2027 / Boise, ID: Boise State university. **Free — register here.**

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.



A Backward Map That Changed Everything

The story behind the plate used to print an 1814 map that shaped Americans' understanding of the trans-Mississippi West.

Real Stories of the Lewis and Clark Trail

LEWISCLARKTRAILSTORIES.SUBSTACK.COM



At the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, a remarkable piece of the Lewis and Clark story survives not only on paper, but in copper. David Gary, the APS's associate director of collections, shares the history of the engraved plate used to print William Clark's landmark 1814 map—a map that gave Americans one of their first sweeping views of the continent Lewis and Clark had crossed.

[Read the Article](#)



Lewis & Clark's First Bestseller Wasn't Written by Lewis or Clark

His diligence got him elected sergeant, but his book sparked Lewis' public outrage.

Real Stories of the Lewis and Clark Trail

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One man in the expedition knew how to build, write, supervise—and how to make himself impossible to overlook. A vote along the Missouri elevated him after tragedy struck the Corps of Discovery, while a slim book written by him after the expedition drew the ire and fury of Meriwether Lewis himself. In the end, he outlived them all. Who was this soldier, carpenter, reluctant literary provocateur, and final living witness to the remarkable journey west?

[Read the Article](#)

You Can't Know Lewis & Clark Without York

Part III – From Camp River Dubois to Fort Clatsop

UNDAUNTEDTRAVEL.SUBSTACK.COM

Undaunted Travel



York: Part 3

This article concludes our three-part exploration of York's remarkable journey—from his early life in Virginia, through the Clark family's move to Kentucky, and now into the westward journey that would carry him across the continent.

[Read the Article](#)

The Lewis & Clark Trail's Unexpected Detours

Part One: From Pittsburgh to the Missouri Valley

UNDAUNTEDTRAVEL.SUBSTACK.COM

Undaunted Travel



The Lewis & Clark Trail is filled with places that tell the story of the Corps of Discovery—forts and campsites, museums and monuments, historic communities, and landscapes that remain remarkably recognizable more than two centuries after Lewis and Clark passed through....

[Read the article](#)

Apply for a Trail Stewardship Grant

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance is pleased to announce that the 2026 Grant Program is now open for applications. Grants are available in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and are intended to support stewardship, interpretation, education, preservation, and other projects that advance the understanding and appreciation of the Lewis and Clark National Historic trail.

[Apply here](#)



Saturday, September 12, 2026



3rd Annual

One KC

Kansas River Cleanup

One River. One Day. One KC.

Learn more and sign up at
www.bit.ly/2026OneKCRSVP



Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance Presents National Awards

At its recent Annual Gathering in Great Falls, Montana, the Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance recognized the following individuals and organizations for their outstanding dedication, leadership, and contributions to the Lewis & Clark Trail and its communities.



Photo by Greg Taber

Distinguished Service Award
Duane Buchi, USDA Forest Service

Meritorious Achievement Award
Kari Sliva

Friends of the Trail Award

Meritorious Achievement Award

Harry Mitchell Family

Norman Anderson

Trail Stewardship Award
Lewis and Clark Foundation

Appreciation Award
Mark Meyer

Trail Stewardship Award
Thomas Elpel

Certificate of Appreciation
Lewis and Clark Honor Guard

Robert Betts Library and Archives Award
Barbara J. Kubik

Certificate of Appreciation
2026 Annual Gathering Planning Committee

Play Lewis & Clark Trivia

One man in the Lewis and Clark Expedition knew how to build, write, supervise—and how to make himself impossible to overlook. A vote along the Missouri River elevated him after tragedy struck the Corps of Discovery, while a slim book written by him after the expedition drew the ire and fury of Meriwether Lewis himself.



In the end, he outlived all of his expedition companions.

Who was this soldier, carpenter, reluctant literary provocateur, and final living witness to the remarkable journey west?

If you're scratching your head for an answer, check out the [August 18 article](#) on the "Real Stories of the Lewis and Clark Trail."

Each week, the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance publishes two articles on Substack—one related to what happened on the trail and the other (Undaunted Travel) that offers good advice on traveling segments of the trail today. You can read and subscribe for free, or subscribe for a small fee that helps out the LCTA.

[Submit your answer](#)

The answer to the trivia question in the last *Trail News* was "Grizzly." Expedition members killed two bears near Oswego, Montana, one of which measured nine feet, one of the largest bears ever seen by Meriwether Lewis.

Seventeen readers submitted the correct answer. When more than one reader submits the correct answer, a drawing is done. The winner was Roger Nemeth. As a prize, he will be sent a list of Lewis and Clark books to choose one from. The books on the list are all used but in excellent condition.

Lolo Reconnected Anniversary Celebration



Travelers' Rest Connection is proud to partner with the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance in their efforts to restore wild sections of the trail between Lolo and Lewiston, Idaho. This summer, groups of volunteers spent several days clearing trail, removing downed trees, and repairing signs. Use the QR code to learn more.



AN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF LEWIS & CLARK ON THE LOLO TRAIL

Saturday, September 5, 2026

10 am to 2 pm

Travelers' Rest State Park, Lolo

Gallery Games

Ursus Horribilus: The Grizzly Bear Illustrated

Guided Tours

Archaeology of Travelers' Rest

Hands-On History Demonstrations

Historic Firearms

Cooking with the Corps

Journaling Workshop

with Missoula Writers' Collaborative

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Virtual Reality

by Shenandoah Center for Immersive Learning

For more information, visit www.travelersrest.org or call 406-273-4253

Lewis & Clark
TRAIL ALLIANCE





Salmon River

© 9 September 2008 by Kristopher K. Townsend

Day by Day Radio Episodes

[Drouillard](#) returns to [Fortunate Camp](#) with a bag of roots that a [Lemhi Shoshone](#) family left behind, and [Lewis](#) describes the foods it holds. Midday, [Cameahwait's](#) People arrive, and he and Lewis exchange food and horses.

[Clark](#) is on the [Salmon River](#) looking for a place to make canoes, but high hills lining the river make travel difficult. He describes [Clark's nutcracker](#)—a bird new to science, and [Sgt. Gass](#) describes a bread made from [sunflower](#) seeds, pitseed goosefoot, and [serviceberries](#).

[August 22, 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.

Artists Adrift on the Ohio River



In July, a crew of musicians and volunteer paddlers embarked on the inaugural "Artists Adrift" float on the Ohio River between Madison, Indiana, and Louisville, Kentucky. Co-hosted by [Ohio River Way](#), River City Paddle Sports, and Catfish Williams of Ludlow, KY, the musicians' retreat aimed to help the artists tell the story of the river's soul.. Along the way, they camped, cooked, swam, and made a whole lot of music together.

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Words of the Expedition

"Tent"



Our modern use of the word typically relates to a shelter for sleeping outside or for covering something. The origin of the word “tent” is obscure; it probably originated in the Old French period from the 8th century to the mid-14th century or from Medieval Latin with the word “tentorium,” meaning “tent made of stretched skins.”

In Lewis and Clark’s day, “tent” also referred to a medical treatment—a roll of lint or linen used to keep a wound open, promoting drainage and allowing new tissue to form from the inside out.

On May 5, 1806, as the expedition moved along the [Clearwater River](#) in what is today’s state of Idaho, the explorers camped near [Colter’s Creek](#) (today’s Potlatch River), not far from two Nez Perce lodges that housed at least 38 families. Extremely low on trading goods, the explorers were unable to trade with the natives for vittles other than cous bread and dried roots.

However, the scenario quickly changed once the captains opened their medicine chest. They soon had more than 50 applicants seeking medical treatment. The captains would only provide medical assistance if the payment was made in horses or dogs for food.

As Lewis related in his journal for that day, Clark treated one woman for “an abscess formed on the small of her back promised a horse in the morning provided we would administer to her accordingly Capt. C. opened the abscess introduced a *tent* and dressed it with basilicon (a salve of such ingredients as resin, yellow wax, and lard).”

Learn more about this May 5th day: [Read the day's entry in the Lewis and Clark online journals](#) and [Discover Lewis & Clark](#), which includes a brief radio broadcast about the day.

MR340 finish line party

In a tough year, with racers battling heat, headwinds, slow currents and storms, more than 300 finishers in the [Missouri American MR340](#) -- along with support crews, safety teams and fans -- partied at the [Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum](#) finish line celebration.

Thanks to all the devoted volunteers who kept the tacos and drinks moving and for offering a much-needed rest after a grueling few days.



The winning River Hawk Boat Shop team captured first place overall.

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

**Discovering
HISTORY**

Tanner O'Connor
Friday, September 4
Noon

In person at
Campus Martius Museum
& on YouTube: @campusmartiusmuseum

WCPL

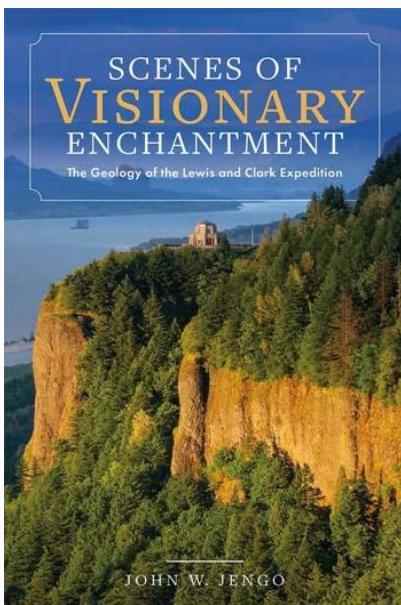


[Catch to Finish](#)
Marietta, OH
September 4

[Shifting Sands](#)
Columbia, MO
September 8

[Rock the Run](#)
Pompeys Pillar, MT
September 13

Scenes of Visionary Enchantment



John W. Jengo's nonfiction book—*Scenes of Visionary Enchantment: The Geology of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*—became widely available for sale this week.

Published by WSU Press, the book is a multi-layered work that combines historical interpretation and document analysis with an evaluation of early American science in the Jeffersonian era and John's episodic travelogue experiences along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Including vignettes from John's professional environmental career, the book is richly illustrated with more than 65 photographs taken by John during his 30 years of travel, research, and discovery along the Trail. His excellent skill as a photographer is well

recognized; he has been known to wait in the rain for hours for the perfect lighting to capture a feature of the Trail. He has won numerous times in the annual photo competition held by the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance (LCTA).

John, a long-time LCTA member, delved into a topic—geology—that has generally been overlooked by Lewis and Clark historians and enthusiasts. His book contextualizes and assesses the accuracy of the geological observations recorded by Lewis and Clark in their journals, as they attempted to fulfill President Jefferson's directive to report on the "mineral productions of every kind" along with botany, zoology, geography, and Native peoples along the expedition route.

In conducting his extensive research, John said he endeavored "to locate all the extant rock, mineral, and fossil specimens that they (Lewis and Clark) collected, conduct my own diagnostic testing of minerals along the Trail to ascertain the accuracy of the captains' rock identifications, and assess the lasting influences of this singular expedition on numerous 19th century explorers, geologists, and naturalists and the nascent mapping of the geology of the American West."

A thorough synopsis of the expedition is provided in addition to John's personal stories of his efforts to find the very same rock outcrops that the captains examined and "to stand with certainty in the very same spots where the captains once stood."

The book can be purchased directly from WSU Press or from online outlets such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble, as well as from independent booksellers like Powell's Books and ThriftBooks.

Discover more: In May, John gave a Zoom presentation for the LCTA about his book and the Trail's geology. [Check out the presentation.](#)

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 the unexpected.

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

[Answer](#)



The Last Word

The Columbia Gorge August 29–September 1, 2027
Skamania Lodge | Stevenson, Washington

Some places are more than a setting. They become part of the story. Next year, the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance Annual Gathering takes us to one of those places—the spectacular Columbia River Gorge. Our theme, “The

Columbia Gorge: Bridging Cultures and Communities,” reflects both the character of this remarkable landscape and the work that lies at the heart of the Alliance.

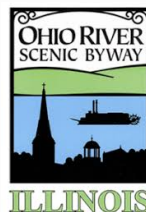
For thousands of years, the Gorge has been a place where people, cultures and ideas have converged. The Columbia River connected Indigenous communities long before Lewis and Clark traveled its waters, and today the Gorge continues to connect communities across the Pacific Northwest and along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

At Skamania Lodge, we will gather within that landscape—to explore its stories, experience its beauty, meet the people who care for its heritage, and consider how the Trail can build bridges to new generations and communities.

Save the date. Come experience the Gorge. Share its stories. And help shape the future of the Trail.

Richard Hunt

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