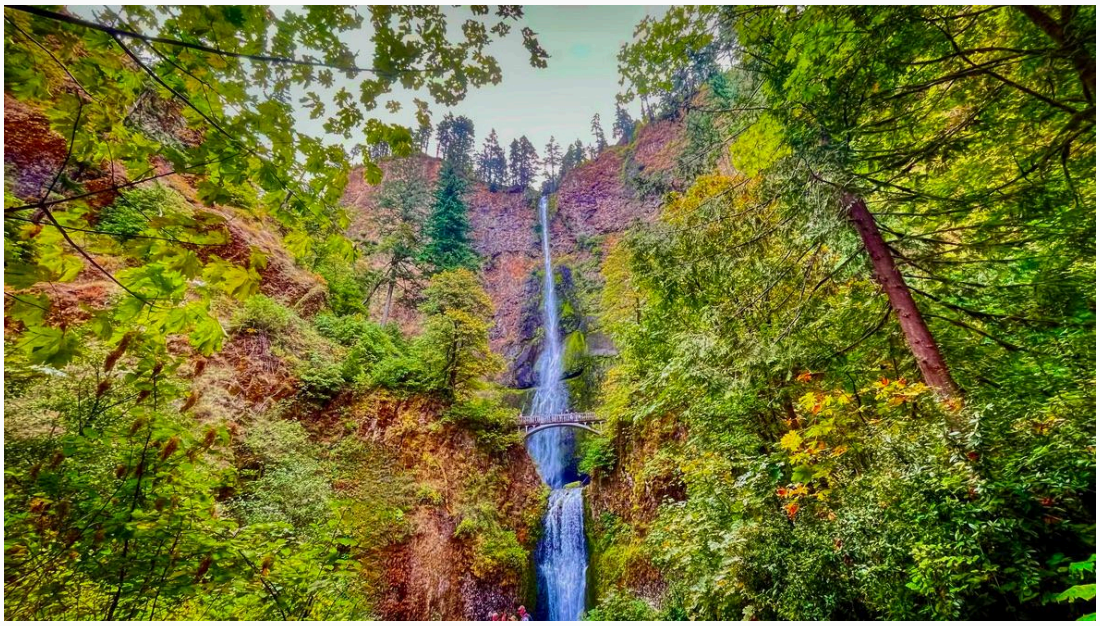
[View Entire Newsletter]

Lewis & Clark Trail News

Bringing the Trail to Life

OCTOBER 31, 2026



Multnomah Falls

Photo courtesy of Rick Chromey

Long before Lewis and Clark reached the Columbia River in 1805, the Multnomah people had established thriving villages in a landscape of abundant waters, rich fisheries, and towering waterfalls.

LCTA Oregon Chapter and Fort Clatsop Host First Annual Teacher Workshop



Educators and museum professionals from Oregon and southwest Washington gathered October 24 at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park's Fort Clatsop Visitor Center for the first annual teacher workshop hosted by the LCTA Oregon Chapter in partnership with the National Park Service.

The half-day professional development program offered five credit hours and practical approaches to teaching Lewis and Clark history, American geography, and cultural heritage through interactive, inquiry-based learning. Participants included K–12 teachers, homeschool educators, museum professionals, curriculum specialists, and teacher candidates.

Presenters included Alisha Hamel, president of the LCTA Oregon Chapter; Jon Burpee, superintendent of Lewis and Clark National Historical Park; Tom Wilson; and park staff Alicea Powell and Julie Tennis. Sessions introduced educators to Discovery Boxes containing artifact replicas, primary source analysis, scavenger hunts, and ways to incorporate Fort Clatsop's resources into classroom instruction, both in person and virtually.

A central theme was the importance of teaching tribal history respectfully and accurately. Participants explored the value of collaborating with Indigenous communities and emphasizing Native perspectives when teaching the Corps of Discovery and its journey across the continent.

The setting provided a direct connection to the expedition's history. Educators toured the reconstructed winter encampment where the Corps spent the winter of 1805–1806, met with park interpreters, and learned about the site's living history programs and curriculum resources.

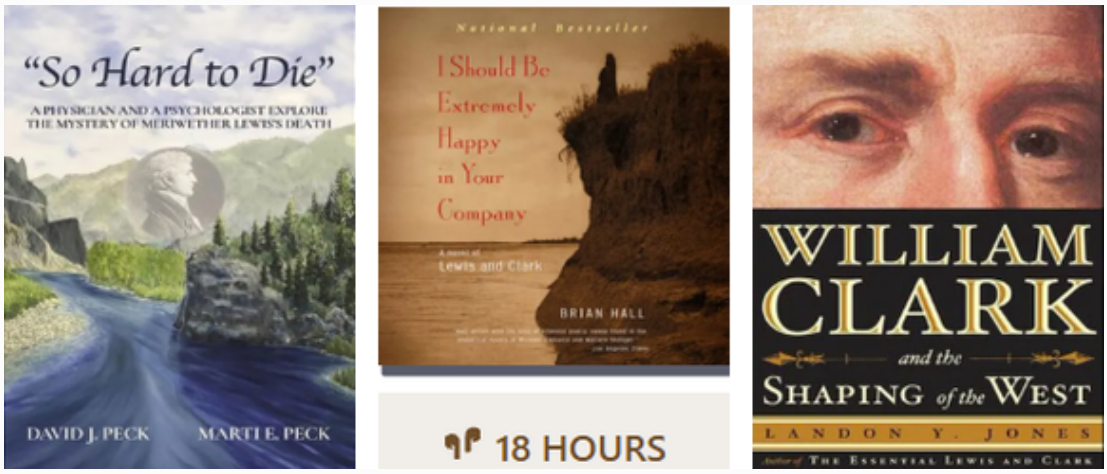
The workshop also recognized Bill LaCombe as the first Educator of the Year. A video highlighted his outstanding work engaging students in activities on the Columbia River, demonstrating how experiential learning can bring history to life. Andrew Demko, a teacher at Rainier Middle/High School, thanked the LCTA Pacific Northwest Region and Lewis and Clark National Historical Park for creating an

opportunity for educators to learn and collaborate.

The workshop reflects LCTA's commitment to education and partnerships that help teachers connect students with the people, places, and diverse perspectives that shape the Lewis and Clark story.

Plans are underway for the next workshop in October 2027. Watch Trail News for details.

Have you checked out the William P. Sherman Digital Library?



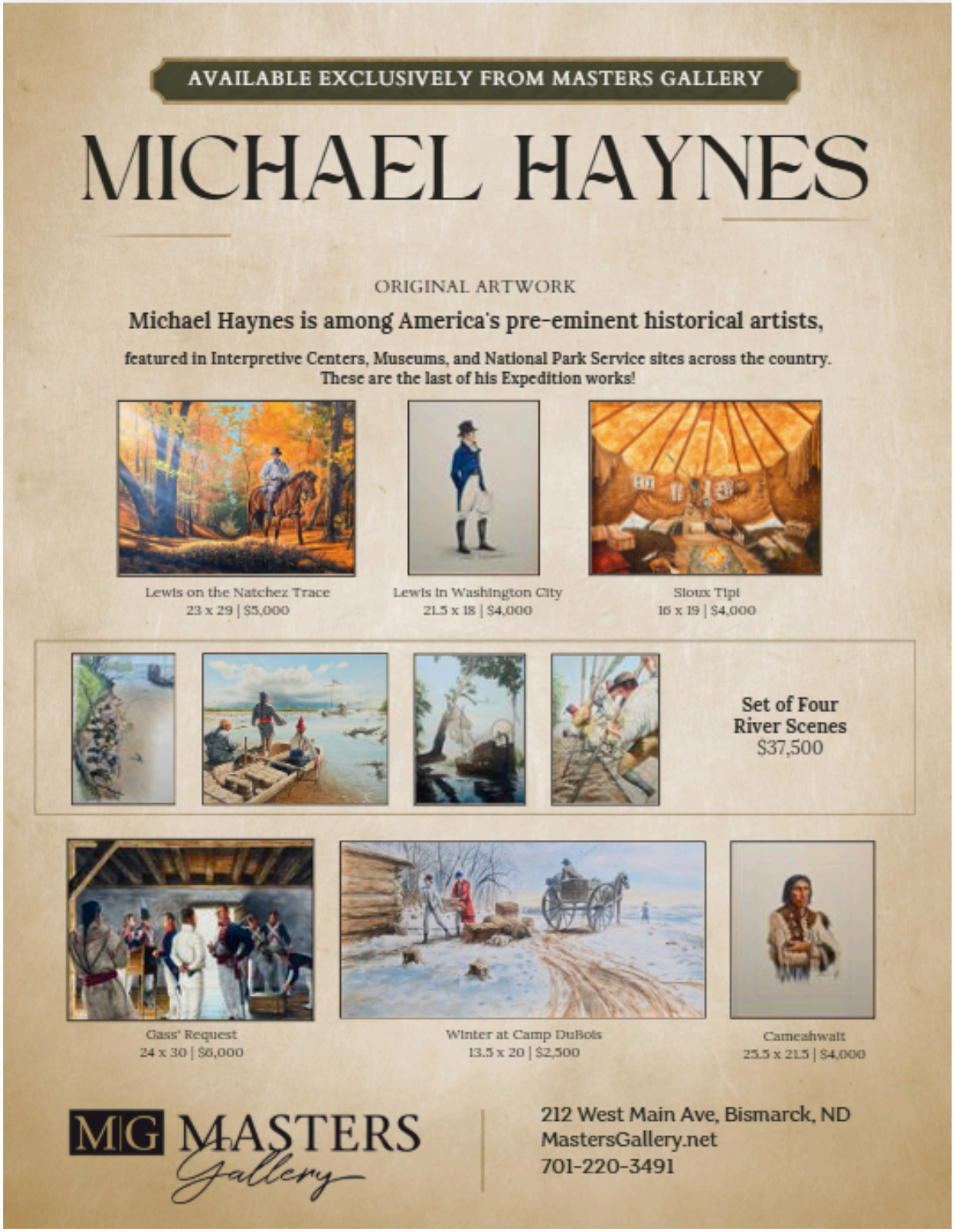
The LCTA Sherman Digital Library is now available through the Libby website and app, providing members with convenient access to a growing collection of Lewis and Clark-related books and other digital resources. The initial collection includes more than 80 titles, with both eBooks and audiobooks available.

Members can explore the library, browse the catalogue, and begin enjoying the collection at: Sherman Digital Library

Access to the William P. Sherman Digital Library is an exclusive LCTA member benefit. If you are not currently a member, we invite you to join and take advantage of this new resource, along with the many other benefits of LCTA membership.

Join LCTA

If you have difficulty accessing the Digital Library or have questions about your account, please contact LCTA at info@lewisandclark.org or 406-454-1234.



[Masters Gallery]

New Lewis & Clark Substack Articles

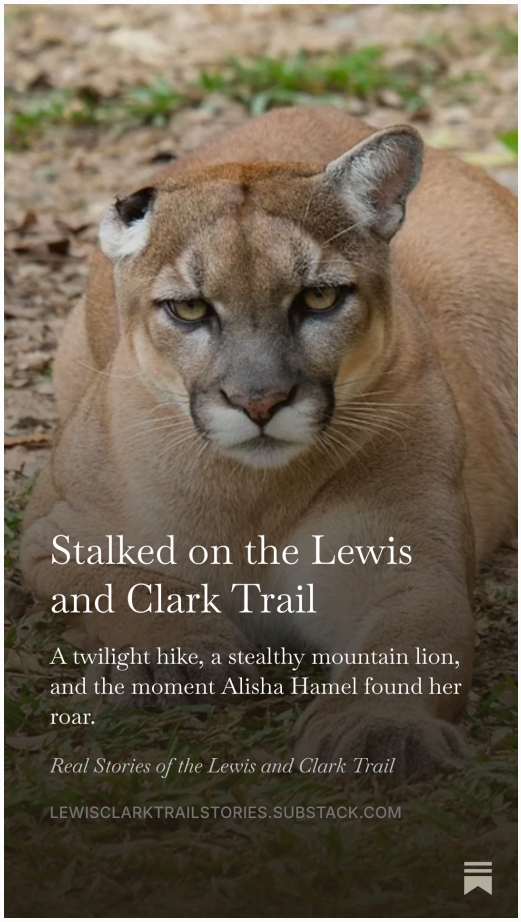
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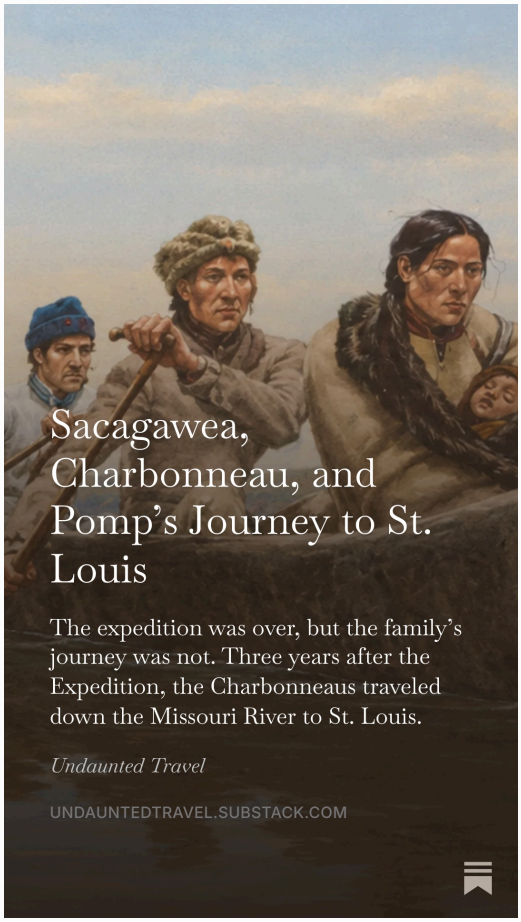
Since it is October, the season when strangers knock on your door and are not who they seem to be, here's a true tale about that time horror came knocking on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Across the Columbia River from Yellepit's Walla Walla Village, William Clark had watched Umatillo people on the far bank hurry back to their lodges "as fast as they could run." At the first sight of Clark's party of strangers, the Umatillo people were afraid of them. And it was about to get a lot scarier.

Read the Article



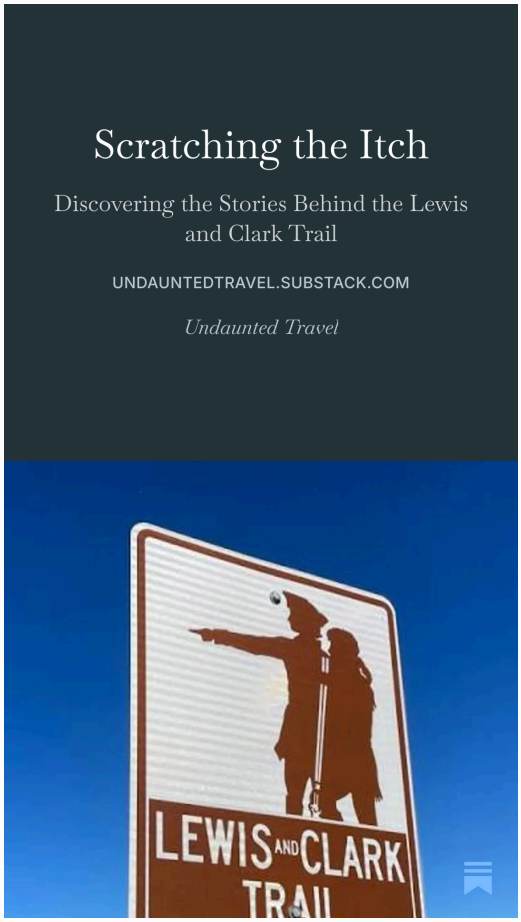
A few interpretive signs. A short hike. A chance to follow in Meriwether Lewis' footsteps. That was the plan when Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance member Alisha Hamel and her nephew stopped at Montana's Alice Creek trailhead. With daylight fading, a decision along the trail would turn an ordinary outing into an experience neither would forget. Here is Alisha's story—a reminder that along the Lewis and Clark Trail, history isn't the only thing that can stop you in your tracks.

Read the Article



In the summer of 1806, after more than two years of travel across the continent, Sacagawea returned to the Mandan-Hidatsa villages with her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau, and their young son, Jean Baptiste. The boy, affectionately called Pomp by William Clark, had traveled to the Pacific Ocean and back before he was two. His mother had endured illness, dangerous river crossings, mountain passes, hunger, and the daily demands of caring for an infant on the move.

Read the Article

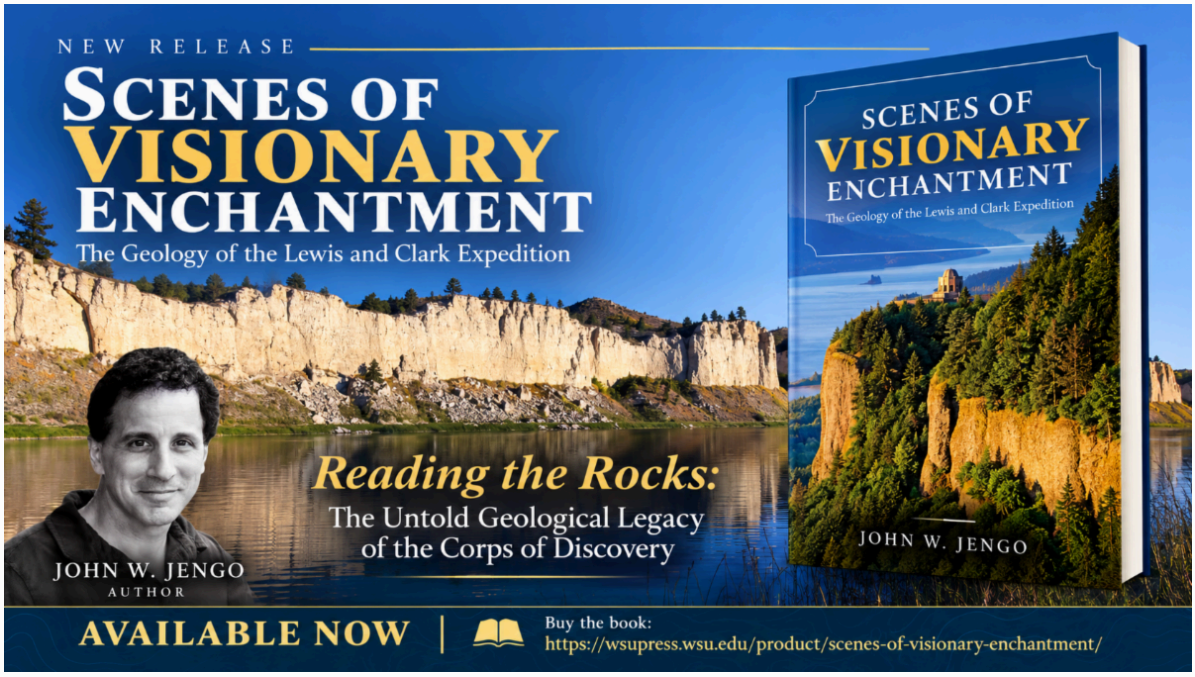


You're driving along a two-lane highway, following a river through a valley somewhere along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

The scenery is beautiful, traffic is light, and you're making good time toward your next destination. Then you spot a small brown highway sign pointing toward a historic site.

You slow down, turn off the highway, and follow a gravel road to a place you might otherwise have passed without a second thought.

Read the article



Scenes of Visionary Enchantment, John Jengo's new book on the geology of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is now available for purchase.

Play Lewis & Clark Trivia



Photo by Robert Heacock

On Oct. 31, 1805, the Corps of Discovery was heading down the Columbia River toward the Pacific Ocean. On this day, the explorers sighted a marvelous natural feature. Here's how William Clark described it in his journal entry:

"…a remarkable high detached rock Stands in a bottom on the Stard [starboard, the navigator's right] Side & about 800 feet high and 400 paces around."

He called it "the *Beaten* rock." But today it goes by another name.

What is the name used today?

1. Great Stone of the Columbia.
2. Sentinel of the River.
3. Beacon Rock.
4. Watchman Rock.
5. Petrified Haystack.
6. The Big Bump Over There.

Here's a hint.

Submit your answer

The answer to the trivia game in the last Trail News was "drying salmon," an important survival activity for Indigenous People living along the Columbia River.

Ten readers submitted correct answers. When more than one person submits a correct answer, we hold a drawing to determine the winner. In this trivia game, Benjamin Rangel was the winner. He will receive a list of Lewis and Clark books to choose one as his prize.

Day by Day

Clark's contraction



Image derived from an original photo © 2024 by Richard Hunt. Used by permission.
Today, modern houses sit atop this rock.

October 31, 1803

On or near this day, the expedition passes Hanging Rock, an old Ohio River landmark near present Rockport, Indiana. Also near this date, Clark's contraction of the muscular

system was removed by the doctoring of Meriwether Lewis.

Pushing the Boat

> . . . we turned into a narrow channel between the lower bar and the NW shore and preferred it; and it was very good till we got half way and then we found a riffle quite across it that we could not float over. We all turnd out and in a manner lifted the boat over . . . .
>
> —Thomas Rodney, 24 October 1803

LCTA Wins Idaho Travel With Care Champion Award

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance (LCTA) has been named the winner of Idaho's Travel With Care Champion Award, recognizing its commitment to responsible recreation and protecting Idaho's outdoor spaces.

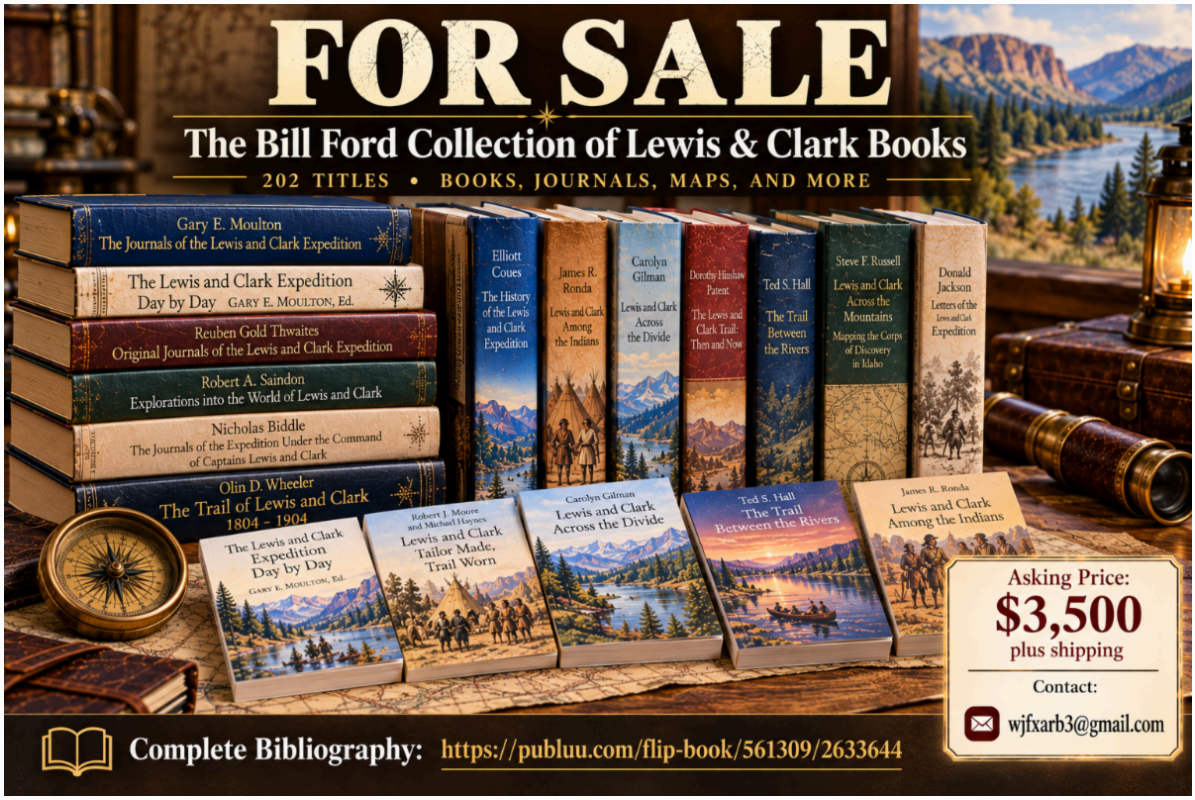
The award celebrates LCTA's work with partners to bring Lolo Reconnected to life. The initiative focuses on restoring and improving the historic Lolo Trail, traveled by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805, while enhancing public access and encouraging responsible trail use.



Through volunteer trail maintenance, clearing downed trees, improving trail conditions, and restoring signage, Lolo Reconnected brings together organizations and individuals committed to preserving this historic route for future generations.

The award recognizes not only LCTA's leadership but also the contributions of its many partners and volunteers. Their collaborative efforts demonstrate how historic trail preservation, outdoor recreation, and responsible stewardship can work together to protect Idaho's remarkable landscapes and bring the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to life.

Susan Jacobson, Director of Clearwater County, Idaho Economic Development accepted the award on behalf of LCTA



The Bill Ford Book Collection is for sale. This is a unique opportunity for a library, historical institution, researcher, collector, or Lewis and Clark enthusiast to acquire a substantial collection of books devoted to the Lewis and Clark Expedition and its enduring legacy.

Whether you are building a new research library, expanding an existing collection, or deepening your personal library, this collection offers an opportunity to bring together a wealth of literature about the Expedition, its people, and the history of the American West.

Bibliography - Email Contact

Ohio River Chapter
Brings Lewis and Clark History to Salt Festival



Chapter President, Mike Loesch, at the display exhibit table

The Ohio River Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance (LCTA) brought expedition history to life at the 42nd Annual Salt Festival, held October 16–18, 2026, at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site in Union, Kentucky. Located along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the site offers a direct connection to the early exploration of the Ohio River Valley and the scientific interests that helped shape the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Big Bone Lick holds a special place in the story of the expedition. In September 1803, Meriwether Lewis stopped in Cincinnati and then traveled to Big Bone Lick while making his way down the Ohio River to meet William Clark at the Falls of the Ohio. Lewis visited at the request of President Thomas Jefferson, who was interested in the area's fossil discoveries and their significance to understanding the natural world. In 1807, Clark also visited Big Bone Lick at Jefferson's request, continuing the president's efforts to investigate the site's remarkable natural history.

Four Ohio River Chapter members represented LCTA during the three-day festival. Mike Losech displayed his collection of Lewis and Clark-related artifacts and materials, with assistance from Lorraine Losech and Janice Wilson. Jerry Wilson helped operate the site's salt furnace, demonstrating the process of making salt—a central part of Big Bone Lick's historical significance.

Friday, October 16, was Education Day, welcoming nearly 2,500 students for hands-on learning and historical interpretation. Saturday and Sunday brought members of the public to the festival to explore the site's history, exhibits, and demonstrations.
The chapter's participation provided an opportunity to connect visitors with the Lewis and Clark story while highlighting the important role that local sites and regional partners play in interpreting the National Historic Trail.

Mark Your Calendar: National Bison Day — November 7



The Ohio River Chapter will return to Big Bone Lick State Historic Site on Saturday, November 7, to celebrate National Bison Day. This year marks the 10th year chapter members have participated in the event.

Bison are an enduring symbol of the American landscape and an important part of the natural history encountered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The expedition's observations of wildlife contributed significantly to the nation's early understanding of the West's diverse ecosystems.

The November gathering continues the chapter's tradition of bringing Lewis and Clark history to the public through engaging programs and partnerships at one of Kentucky's most distinctive historic sites. Visitors will have another opportunity to explore the connections among the expedition, the region's natural heritage, and the continuing story of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Words of the Expedition

“Turn”



For the Lewis and Clark explorers, the word “turn” meant more than changing direction or indicating someone's turn in an activity—the most common uses of the word today.

The word also meant “taking a walk” or “going for a turn,” meaning moving around and returning, typically for a short walk for exercise, fresh air, or reflection. The meaning evolved from “turnian” (to rotate, revolve, change direction), used in the Old English Period from about 400 A.D. to 1100 A.D. Today, we typically use this meaning in phrases like “I’m going to take a turn around the block before dinner.”

On June 30, 1806, near Travelers’ Rest (not far from today’s Missoula, Montana), on the expedition’s return to St. Louis, Meriwether Lewis noted in his journal that John Shields took a turn (although Lewis misspelled the word) around the site where the expedition had paused to dine: “…Shields took a small tern and killed a deer.”

Artwork: Computer-generated.

See all the events on the LCTE Events Calendar



US Capitol Christmas Tree
Various

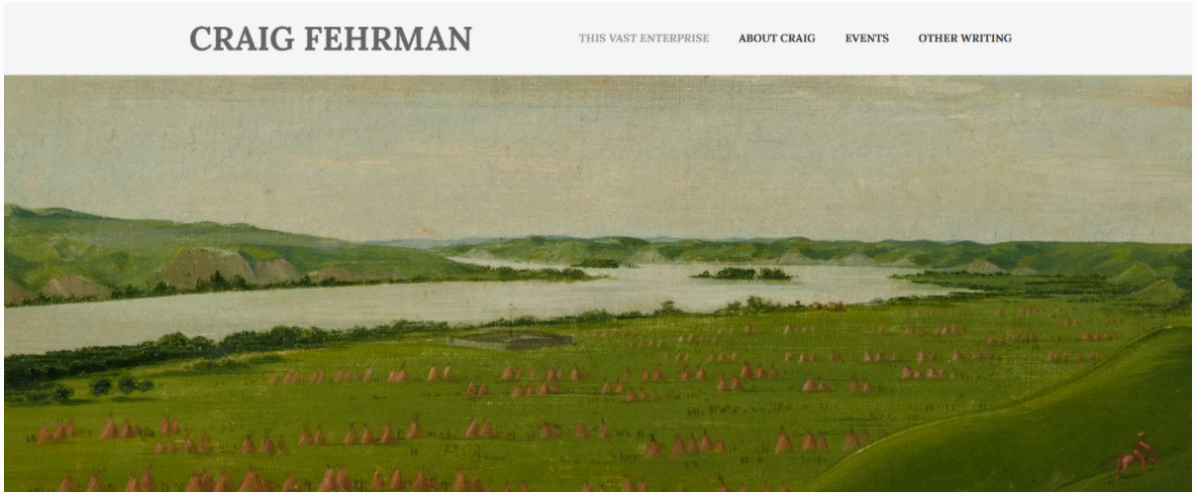


Grand Adventure Begins
Travelers Rest, MT



LCTA PNW Meeting
Maryhill Museum, WA

October 29 - December 25	November 1 - January 3	November 7



Upcoming Craig Fehrman Book Tour Dates

November 9 / Overland Park, KS: Johnson County Library Foundation.
November 10 / St. Charles, MO: St. Charles Public Library.
November 14 / Austin, TX: Texas Book Festival.
November 15 / Evansville, IN: Barnes & Noble.
November 22 / Indianapolis, IN: Barnes & Noble (The Shops at River Crossing).
November 24 / Louisville, KY: Barnes & Noble (The Shops at the Paddock).
December 3 / Richmond, VA: Virginia Museum of History & Culture.
April 13, 2027 / Portland, OR: Oregon Historical Society.
April 14, 2027 / Seattle, WA: Seattle Public Library.
April 15, 2027 / Boise, ID: Boise State University.

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

From the desk of the Trail Engagement Manager

As the newest member of the LCTA team, I wanted to take the opportunity to say hello and introduce myself.

I grew up in the Ohio River Valley, immersed in the history of the Clark Family from an early age. Like many of you, I got my Lewis & Clark start during the Bicentennial -- as a 9-year-old! I attended the 2006 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Homecoming at Historic Locust Grove, and I was the wide-eyed

history kid soaking in the inspiration. I caught the history bug and had to get involved.



I was honored to join the costumed interpreting cast at Historic Locust Grove, bringing history to life by portraying Ann Croghan, William Clark's niece. In high school I also competed in National History Day, led sessions at a local history camp, and for my Girl Scout Gold Award Project listed a Rosenwald School on the National Register of Historic Places and created a traveling museum exhibition about the Rosenwald Schools.

My plans to become a history major took a turn when mentors advised me to attend business school then bring my skills in management and marketing back to the history nonprofit world. That advice set me on a whole new path to journey eastward and gather the "supplies" I would need for my career. I attended the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania where I wrote my senior thesis on the "Financial Sustainability of Historic House Museums."

After Penn, I enjoyed five years of management consulting at the Boston Consulting Group, where I developed strategic plans and marketing strategies for my clients. My years at Penn and BCG really molded me into a strategist, and I am thriving most when I can bring my strategic mindset to the history world.

In my 2.5 weeks on the job to-date, I have learned that LCTA has some amazing people who are telling an unparalleled story and stewarding an incredible nation-wide trail. What an exciting organization to be joining!

That being said, I know this organization faces some challenges in 2026, from declining membership to unanswered questions on how to engage new audiences. One could say that I am *undaunted* - these are the challenges I have been thinking about throughout my academic and professional journey.

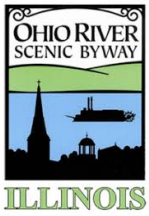
What excites me is the immense potential the Lewis & Clark Trail story and landscapes provide. I'm thrilled that it will be my job to find innovative ways to engage people on the Trail.

Proceeding On

Julia Bache Jacobs

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