



The Trail Companion

A Quarterly Newsletter

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail



August 2015

Tracing the courses of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail stretches through 11 states. The Trail winds over mountains, along rivers, through plains and high deserts, and extends to the wave-lapped Pacific coast. In this diversity of landscapes, visitors to the Trail create their own journeys of discovery.

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THE TRAIL COMPANION

Superintendent, Mark Weekley

Would you like to contribute an article or feature to *The Trail Companion*? Share the good work you are doing.

We will be happy to accept your article for consideration in future issues. *The Trail Companion* is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November.

Please contact the Editor, Karla Sigala at: lecl_communications@nps.gov

Cover photo: Conceptual rendering of Missouri River research station. Courtesy of EXis design shop and Nebraska Watershed Network, UNO

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Why Become a National Historic Trail?

From the Superintendent



Mark Weekley

What would have happened if Congress had not created the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (Trail) in 1978? In all likelihood, the story of the expedition could still be told, the routes and paths that Lewis and Clark took could still be retraced. Even the familiar brown signs along the highway would still be there (at least for while). Trail history could still be commemorated, studied, discussed, and retold even without the creation of a national historic trail. Organizations that are focused on Lewis and Clark could still gather and travel along the historic route.

So why is it that so many people worked tirelessly to have the Lewis and Clark Trail become an official national historic trail? Why are other groups working just as hard today to have the trail they care about become a member of this exclusive club?

I recently had a chance to attend an amazing and well-attended symposium that focused on Chief Standing Bear. Much of the energy of this event was focused on the goal of having Congress designate the routes and paths that Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Indians traveled as a national historic trail.

If you are like most Americans you probably know very little, if anything, about Chief Standing Bear or why his story is enormously and profoundly important to our nation. I doubt I would if I did not live in Nebraska or have the job I have. This story is not often told or discussed. The fact is very few people know this story or the larger story of the Ponca Indians and Chief Standing Bear. For example, did you know that even after 140 years, the citizens of Neligh, Nebraska still keep their promise to the Ponca Indians to protect and care for the grave of an 18 month old Ponca girl who died on the trail? I will leave it to you study this amazing story (and I really hope you do). I suspect that if this trail had been recognized years ago as a national historic trail you would be far more familiar with this part of American history.

One of the key reasons so many people want Congress to create a Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail is that they want to have what Lewis and Clark Trail supporters have.

Those who know the story of Chief Standing Bear want people to know this story and to understand the tragedy, courage and honor this story represents. Becoming a national historic trail not only puts a trail on the map, but it also puts the story on the map. Being officially designated by law as a national historic trail is a very long and extremely difficult process. Trails that

get this designation gain a high level of recognition and respect. These trails and the stories that are associated with them represent truly important aspects of our nation's history. Becoming one also brings with it a federal agency (generally the National Park Service) with a staff dedicated to the protection, interpretation, and enjoyment of the story and the trail. This means there is a partner and an advocate for this piece of history for the long haul.

Being an national historic trail helps make history relevant and tangible. This is in part why we work so hard to protect and care for so many special places and buildings in our country. Walking across any of our nation's battlefields or through the homes of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King jr, or in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark gives us a connection to the past that helps make history and the lessons learned real.

In short, history matters and it matters even more when people know about it and understand it. While not every trail or aspect of our history needs a physical place or Congressional designation to protect and recognize it, some of our most important places do. They need and, in fact, deserve such a designation. ■

MARK WEEKLEY
Superintendent

Missouri River

Exploration Continues

As set forth by President Thomas Jefferson, scientific documentation of the natural environment was critical to the mission of the Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery Expedition. When the Corps set out up the Missouri River in 1804, their quest for exploration along this amazing river was only the beginning.

Throughout the Expedition, Lewis and Clark recorded 178 plant and 122 animal species previously not known to science. They also documented countless other observations and completed a map of the Missouri River drawn by Captain Clark. The wealth of information collected by Lewis and Clark was invaluable.

Today, over 200 years later, we still have much to discover about the Missouri River. The effects of modern development and agriculture on the Missouri River since the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition remain largely unknown, but next year we will take a giant leap forward.

American Heroes Park in Bellevue, Nebraska will be host to a 250 square foot river research station spearheaded by Alan S. Kolok, Ph.D., a professor in the University of Nebraska at Omaha's (UNO) Department of Biology and the director of UNO's Nebraska Watershed Network.

The new river research station will incorporate the remaining wall of the dilapidated Kramer Power Plant adding historic integrity to the design of the station. The station will draw water from the river and analyze its chemical makeup, in particular the impact of agricultural chemicals such as atrazine, as they flow into the longest river in the United States.

The station, operating from American Heroes Park, will not only serve to unravel mysteries of the Missouri River, but also serve as a catalyst to greater community engagement. Not only does the venue offer

significant interpretive opportunity for students as well as the general public, but the station itself also serves as a model to be replicated Missouri River-wide, which means it has the potential to lead to new partnerships and natural resources studies trail-wide. Stay tuned for more information regarding this exciting new development on the Missouri River. ■

RACHEL DANIELS

Natural Resources Program Manager



Conceptual rendering of Missouri River research station.
Courtesy of EXis design shop and Nebraska Watershed Network, UNO

Trailscapes

Meet the Switchback Kids



Meet Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, also known as the Switchback Kids. They are a couple of modern-day adventurers who decided to leave their nine-to-five jobs, press pause on their lives, and set out on a journey to explore all 59 U.S. National Parks and the Lewis and Clark Trail.

They struck upon their idea while hiking a trail in Kansas City last April, after itching with cabin fever from a long winter. Rather than simply throwing caution to the wind and spontaneously setting out on their trip, they followed the example of Lewis and Clark and took their time to plan and prepare by researching all of the National Parks and analyzing the possibilities for such a journey from every angle.

During their preparation they found out they were not the first people to have such an idea. In fact another couple from Kansas City, Don and Shelly from 59NationalParks.com, were embarking on the same type of journey. Though at first they were disappointed that they were not the pioneers they thought they were, Cole and Elizabeth became friends with Don and Shelly, whose example helped them turn

their dream into a reality. Once they decided the trip was on, they never looked back.

As avid outdoor enthusiasts, Cole and Elizabeth plan on spending a year on the road and will be camping, hiking, biking, kayaking, and adventuring in each of the parks. Perhaps most importantly, they don't want to keep these experiences to themselves. They would rather share their experiences with the world to promote National Parks and inspire other people – particularly young people – to explore the National Park System. They will share pictures, videos, stories through their blog and on social media so that people are inspired to get out there and have their own adventures.

During their trip planning they learned that the National Park Service will be celebrating

its 100th anniversary in 2016. The National Park Service Centennial "Find Your Park" campaign fits perfectly with Cole and Elizabeth's goals to promote parks to the next generation of visitors and stewards. Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail will be following the Switchback Kids along on their journey and will be sharing social media posts with our followers about their adventures. We hope you too will be inspired to get out there and #FindYourPark. Stay tuned for more on the Switchback Kids in future issues of The Trail Companion and on our Trail Facebook and Twitter pages, as we highlight Cole and Elizabeth's adventures over the next year! ■

See page 11 for more information.

RYAN M. COOPER
Geographer

Meet the Switchback Kids

U.S. Forest Service Presents *Enduring Service Award* to Jim Meade



Jim Meade, left, is being presented with the Enduring Service Award and a Smokey Bear Pendleton blanket by Jeff LaRock, right, Interim Center Director.

The U.S. Forest Service and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Montana are proud to announce that **Volunteer Jim Meade** has been presented with the Enduring Service Award. This award recognizes an individual, group or partnership who has given significant time and talent over many years to the Forest Service and exemplifies dedication to Caring for the Land and Serving People on Forest lands.

Jim Meade has volunteered at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center since June of 1998 and in those years has amassed over **7,500 hours** of volunteer service. The jobs and tasks performed by Jim are wide and varied.

As an Exhibit Hall Docent, Jim helps visitors enjoy the Center by answering their questions and enhancing their knowledge of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. As a Front Desk Docent, he assists visitors in many ways to create a pleasant and informative climate for visitors. As an Interpreter, Jim created and presented new interpretive talks such as "The Great Cross Country Race" about John Colter's lifesaving race with the Blackfeet Indians and "Some Assembly Required" about Lewis' Iron Boat.

He has provided support at all of our annual special events including the Winter Warmup Program, Film Festival, Sunday Sampler, Anniversary, Riverside Voices, Star Party Extravaganza, and Voices in the Shadows. Jim has also presented off-site Lewis and Clark programs for the School for the Blind and on-board a traveling train with the "Trails and Rails" program.



Jim teaching navigation skills to student

Over the years Jim has earned 10 Volunteer Passes for the many hours he has contributed to helping make the Interpretive Center the number one attraction in Great Falls.

Jim also serves the volunteer corps by being a member of the committee that selects our "Volunteer of the Quarter."

Whether working, training, educating, or just plain "helping out," Jim has made himself an integral part of the family of volunteers that make up the majority work force of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. This Center is a better place because of Jim's willingness to volunteer his time in service to others. **Congratulations Jim, this award is well deserved.**

BOB BROWN

Resource Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator
U.S. Forest Service
Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

Welcome *Dan Jackson*



Please join us in welcoming **Dan Jackson** as the Cultural Resources Program Manager for Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Dan began his National Park Service career in 2008 after receiving a BA in History from Marietta College.

Prior to joining Lewis and Clark, he worked as a Landscape Historian for the Midwest Regional Office Cultural Resources program.

An Ohio native, Dan and his wife Gretchen have two boys, Miles and Bram. Some of his favorite pastimes include hiking, running, reading, and art.

Ryan Kephart



Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail welcomes Park Guide **Ryan Kephart**. Ryan was born in Minnesota where he grew up in the North Woods. He first moved to the Great Plains to attend Saint John's University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in History and Theatre.

After graduation Ryan moved to China where he spent a year teaching English as a second language at Southwest University in Chongqing.

While new to the National Park Service, Ryan is by no means new to public service, having carried mail for the postal service for two years in Saint Paul, Minnesota through rain, sleet, and primarily snow.

Ryan is currently working on a Master's Degree in History at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln where he studies American Expansionism. This fits well with his new duties exploring and interpreting the history of the Corps of Discovery.



Follow the Switchback Kids on their journey!

Blog: <http://switchbackkids.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Switchbackkids>

Instagram: @SwitchbackKids

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/switchbackkids>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjfyTREpbPvolS-RsMyaHcA>

Vine: <https://vine.co/u/1116218767484096512>

2015 Teacher Seminar

Lewis and Clark: An American Epic

The Lewis and Clark Trust, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the University of Montana hosted 26 teachers, K-12, at a 6-day seminar lead by Dr. Elliott West, University of Arkansas and other knowledgeable scholars, including our own Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs.

This years teachers were from all corners of the nation, New England to California and Washington to South Carolina with a contingent from New York City. The teachers learned from primary source material with comparisons from the Tribal story of Lewis and Clark. Each teacher wrote and shared

a lesson plan that they will use in the class room at their school. Rain at Travelers' Rest and on the Lolo Trail did not diminish their enthusiasm.

These teachers and their students will preserve the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Lewis and Clark Story for future generations.

JIM MALLORY
Vice Chairman
Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.



Enjoying the rain on the Lolo Trail.



From left: Dr. Elliot West, Lois MacMillan, Dr. Harry Fritz, and Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs.



Learning about Travelers' Rest State Park.

Three Legacies

Lorraine, Charlotte, & Mike

From 2003 to 2006, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (Trail) held a very key role in what became the bicentennial commemoration of the Corps of Discovery Expedition. The bicentennial created renewed interest and engagement with the legacy of the trail.

It was during this time the Trail made a commitment to create and renew relationships with tribal communities. Communities whose trade networks and homelands the Corps of Discovery used to complete their task of travelling to the Pacific and back.

Trail staff set out to facilitate tribal involvement in a very meaningful way.

This herculean endeavor required the commitment of elders, community leaders, moms and dads, aunts and uncles, and our children. Because of this involvement, many children have forever been impacted by the success of bringing the tribal voices to all people.

I obtained permission to reprint the following newspaper story about three of those impacted by being a part of relationship building, our (Roberta and my) children.

RICHARD BASCH

American Indian Liaison

College students win esteemed summer internships

by Matt Nagle

Reprinted with permission from the Puyallup Tribal Newspaper.

Siblings, and college students, Lorraine Basch, Charlotte Basch and Mike Briden are learning more of the world through summer internships in Washington, D.C. and Reno, NV.

Lorraine Basch, a junior studying political science at Pacific University, was chosen for an internship in Washington, D.C. working for Congressional Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-Oregon). Lorraine's work with Rep. Bonamici included being a secretary and tour guide, greeting guests, maintaining the office and answering phone calls. "I was often asked to attend briefings and to write memos to the appropriate staff member," Lorraine said. "Part of my job was also to draft letters to constituents."

A politics and government major, Lorraine said she has always been drawn to history and politics. "Although I was undeclared until my sophomore year. I knew that I wanted to be a politics major after my first U.S. and World Affairs class." She credits both of her grandfathers for inspiring her to fight for justice.

"My mother's father, Rueben Wright, participated in the Northwest fishing rights movement in the 1960's. This has



Lorraine Basch

inspired me to fight for the rights that were taken away. My father's father, Clifton Basch, helped to raise me as a compassionate yet passionate person. With these two traits, I have found myself needing to act against injustices," she said.

While Lorraine is still developing her exact career goals, becoming an attorney working on Native American social justice intrigues her greatly. "In the long run, I am not sure of the exact path that I will take, but I hope to serve the Native American community by fighting for what is right. Through the law, I think that tribes can navigate a path to raise up their members, and especially youth, to be healthy and successful in today's society. I want to help make this happen."

Charlotte Basch is completing her Master's degree at Columbia University in New York in museum anthropology. She will hold an internship position at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian's (NMAI) Community and Constituent Services department.

"Most of my work centers around strengthening and building relationships between tribal museums and communities and the NMAI," She said. "At the moment I am working with tribal museums to create

exhibition or resources announcements for the NMAI's Tribal Museum listserv. The listserv has over 200 individuals and organizations that are interested in the tribal museum world."

Charlotte's career goal is to assist tribal nations in preserving and restoring tribal cultures. After receiving her BA degree in anthropology, she felt like she needed to decide whether to follow a more policy-based track or a cultural one. "I decided that my own interests leaned more toward cultural education," Charlotte said. "I have heard and experienced some rough interactions with mainstream museums on the topic of Native objects and cultures so I thought museum anthropology could provide me with some insights on Native representation and preservation policy and education. I like to think that this degree will help me to be a stronger advocate for Native voices in all places where Native people are represented."



Charlotte Basch

Ultimately, Charlotte said she would love to work in cultural preservation and education programs in the Pacific Northwest, whether with tribes or related organizations. "I'm somewhat in a transition period so I'm applying for jobs everywhere but culture

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education programs are so important to the preservation of the beautiful traditions our ancestors passed down to us and I'd love to be a part of that continuation," she said. Like her sister Lorraine and brother Mike, Charlotte's grandparents have inspired her in countless ways.

"At the NMAI there is an exhibit titled 'Nation to Nation' that has a section on the fishing wars and the Boldt Decision. I remember walking into that room with my mom (Roberta Basch) and hearing her say that Tsapa (grandpa) would've never believed that their story would be in a museum in D.C. all these years later. My dad's mom lived and died fighting for the memories and traditions of her ancestors, even though they were never recognized by the federal government. Even when I get caught up in the stress of school or the buzz of the city I always try to remind myself that I'm where I am because of my Tsapas and Kayas."



Mike Briden

Mike Briden is a senior at Pacific Lutheran University, majoring in mathematics and statistics. He received a highly coveted research position in the Research for Undergraduate Summer Institute of Statistics in Reno, NV. "Right now a colleague and I re using concepts from probability to build mathematical models of networks such as

roads," he said of his internship work. "I originally wanted to do a degree in civil engineering but I found mathematics to be more interesting," he said. As for his career goal, he said work in the sciences or diving, or something that combines these two, appeals to him. "I think that a future in natural resources would be nice because they do a lot of scientific work while doing fun things like going to the river, riding around in boats, and diving."

Family support has been key to Mike's success, as it has for his sisters Charlotte and Lorraine. "My grandfather on my dad's side was always a tinkerer and built all kinds of handy contraptions so I think I got an interest in tinkering and learning from him," Mike said. "My grandfather Ruben (Wright) always treated others with respect so I try to do the same."

For any tribal member contemplating seeking higher education, Charlotte Basch has this advice: "Do it! We are so amazingly blessed to have the support of the Tribe behind us and it is so important that we get Native people into higher education so we can be our own voice. It's tough, of course, but it is so worth it. Remember to build yourself a strong support system. Whether it's family or friends or even Joyce (Tobolski, Higher Education Manager) and Angela (Shippentower, Higher Education Program Manager) in Higher Ed, someone is always rooting for you!"

Mike Briden's advice is to study what you enjoy. "Also, tech schools are a good way to learn a trade without committing years to education, he said. "I usually mark the beginning of my adult life with my time spent at Divers Institute of Technology. One doesn't need to be in a classroom to learn. People can learn things every day." ■

Lewis and Clark Resources



Honoring Tribal Legacies

www.HonoringTribalLegacies.com

A guide for designing curricula for future generations. Rigorous high quality demonstration curricula and two essential volumes that answer the questions: "Why design curriculum Honoring Tribal Legacies?" and "How does one design curriculum Honoring Tribal Legacies?"



Tribal Legacy Project

lc-triballegacy.org

A digital archive of tribal perspectives. Recorded inside the Tent of Many Voices at the Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future traveling exhibit during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial 2003-2006.



Website/Email

www.nps.gov/lecl

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Facebook

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Connect with unique people, places, and stories on all things Lewis and Clark by joining the Lewis and Clark community on Facebook. View and share pictures, videos, news, and content along the entire Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



Twitter

www.twitter.com/LewisClarkTrail

Want to know what's happening out on the Trail? Follow us on Twitter to find out about events, programs, and the latest news happening at our National Park Service Visitor Center in Omaha, Nebraska and across the trail.



YouTube

www.youtube.com/lewisandclarknhtnps

Watch videos of the Trail staff and partners in action on our YouTube page.



Interactive Trail Atlas

www.lewisandclarktrailmap.com

Mobile Trail Atlas

lewisandclarktrailmap.mobi

Personalize your exploration using this portal into the geography of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Zoom into your area of interest, choose from a variety of different map layers, display backgrounds of your choice, and create your own custom maps.

Story Maps

nps.maps.arcgis.com/home

Learn about the stories of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail through a combination of interactive maps and rich multimedia content for a unique user experience.

Where on the Trail?

Do you know where this is?

Tweet your response @LewisClarkTrail

Or email your answer to: LECL_Communications@nps.gov

