

FORT CLATSOP HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

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BECOME A MEMBER!

The Fort Clatsop Historical Association was established November 29, 1963 as a non-profit organization for the purpose of supporting National Park Service educational and interpretive activities at Fort Clatsop. The Association receives no public funds nor is it supported by any private endowment. If you are not already a member please consider purchasing an annual membership at this time.

As an Association Member you will receive a 10% discount on most bookstore purchases. You will also receive by mail our catalog and quarterly newsletter.

Yes, I want to be a FCHA Member!

⇒ \$25 Individual Name _____
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Please make check or money order payable to Fort Clatsop Historical Association. To purchase a membership using your VISA or MasterCard call (503) 861-4452.



THE FORT CLATSOP
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S
MISSION IS TO PROMOTE
FORT CLATSOP AND
ENHANCE THE PUBLIC'S
UNDERSTANDING OF THE
LEWIS AND CLARK
EXPEDITION & ITS
SIGNIFICANCE

FORT CLATSOP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

HOLDING DOWN THE FORT

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3 SPECIAL EDITION MARCH 2006

FORT CLATSOP—RETURNS!

In 1954-55 a group of private citizens and service organizations built a replica of Fort Clatsop to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's stay on the Pacific Coast. This civic minded action led to the creation of Fort Clatsop National Memorial and ultimately to the creation of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. On October 3, 2005 the replica Fort Clatsop burned to the ground as a result of an accidental fire. Through enormous public support and the work of over 615 volunteers a new Fort Clatsop is being constructed. The walls of the new Fort are up, the flag is flying and people can visit this touchstone to our past. Those who have visited Fort Clatsop before will see some changes with the new Fort Clatsop. The 1955 replica was built with a high degree of pride and craftsmanship that created an evocative experience. As a result the fort lasted for over 50 years. In building the new fort we are striving for the same goals and to try to incorporate some of what we have learned in the last 50 years about forts and historic buildings from Lewis and Clark's time.



LEGACY OF THE BICENTENNIAL

A signature accomplishment of the bicentennial is the creation of the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park. The park extends along 40 miles of the rugged Pacific Coast and rings the mouth of the mighty Columbia River. The park is a partnership between the National Park Service, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department. The park encompasses twelve units including; Cape Disappointment State Park, the site for a Memorial to Thomas Jefferson, Fort Columbia State Park, Station Camp, Dismal Nitch, Fort Stevens, Fort Clatsop, Netul Landing, Fort To Sea Trail, Sunset Beach, The Salt Works, and Ecola State Park. Start your visit at one of the park's two main visitor centers at Fort Clatsop or Cape Disappointment.

As part of the creation of this park almost 1,500 acres of new lands have been added to these park units. All of these additions have come from willing private land owners, non-profits like The Conservation Fund and Fort Clatsop Historical Association, and Clatsop County. New additions to the public park land include; the corridor for the Fort To Sea Trail, Netul Landing and Netul River Trail, Dismal Nitch, Station Camp, and Sunset Beach State Recreation Area (and Fort To Sea Trailhead). These new parklands are sites for new recreational and educational facilities and sites for important habitat restoration projects that will be described elsewhere in this newsletter.

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SUPERINTENDENT, LEWI NHP

Dear Friends of the Park;

Since January 2003 we have been commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Thanks to the forethought, creativity, leadership and energy from community leaders (many of them volunteers), elected officials, business people, local, state and federal government agencies and many volunteers the bicentennial has been the catalyst to leave a lasting legacy. In this issue of *Holding Down The Fort* we are providing a short summary of some of the many legacy projects that have been completed or are underway. As the bicentennial commemoration draws to a close I hope that you will join me in celebrating this new legacy from the Corps of Discovery.



Chip Jenkins
Superintendent
Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

FORT TO SEA AND NETUL RIVER TRAILS

When they arrived on the southern banks of the Columbia River, the Corps of Discovery set about building a fort, hunting for elk and exploring the land nearby. One of its main goals was to find a route to the sea.

Thanks to a remarkable partnership of private businesses, county, state and federal government and non-profits you can now follow the Corps' forays by hiking the new Fort To Sea Trail and explore the homeland of the Clatsop Indians. The 6.5-mile trail (13 miles roundtrip) traverses a surprising and diverse range of landscape — deep woods and dense bogs, flowing grasslands and coastal dunes as it winds its way to Sunset Beach on the Pacific Ocean.

The trail from the visitor center to Clatsop Ridge (about 1.5 miles) is handicap accessible. For a shorter hike, consider making the ridge your destination and return to the Visitor Center for a 3 mile roundtrip or check out the new Netul River Trail.

Walk the new 1.25 mile Netul River Trail along the banks of the Lewis and Clark River and you are likely to get a good view of some wildlife. Bald eagles, elk and river otter are residents or just enjoy a good view of Saddle Mountain and Astoria. The trail runs between Fort Clatsop and Netul Landing. You may start your walk at either end.

The Netul River Trail is handicap accessible with low grades and a compacted, crushed gravel surface. There are two bridges (65 foot and 165 foot) and over 300 feet of boardwalk. Restrooms can be found near each trailhead. The construction of the trail was funded through National Park Service entrance fees and a portion of the trail alignment was purchased with a grant from the Port of Portland.

REFLECTIONS ON THE BICENTENNIAL: A CULTURAL LEGACY

Written by Deborah Wood, Cultural Resources, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

Preparation for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial provided a unique opportunity for the people of the Lower Columbia River. It gave us a chance to step back and think about what we wanted to gain from this experience, to identify what was most important to us, and to decide what our legacy would be for the future of this region. As we vocalized our thoughts within our separate organizations, we found we could not move forward without each others' help. As we planned our Bicentennial events, we found we had a greater story to tell. Over the last two years, as we watched each Lewis and Clark commemoration move across the nation from Monticello to the west, we found an answer to our own questions. The 1804-1806 expedition was a cultural legacy, and we have joined that ongoing journey to gather historic information, study the natural world around us, learn from other cultures, and record and preserve this information for those who come after us.

The creation of the new Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks brought together twelve sites in two states to acknowledge and commemorate the legacy of Thomas Jefferson's Corps of Discovery. The expansion created new partnerships and friends, and as we developed these sites together over the last two years, we have learned about the history of the people who lived here before us, about those who settled the area, and those who continue to live and work on the Lower Columbia. For example, the new Fort to Sea Trail provides a recreational experience to park visitors, and an opportunity for hikers to study and learn about the plants and animals that inhabit this landscape. It is also a cultural legacy. As part of the federal compliance requirements for developing the trail, the park conducted historic research. We found the trail has evolved over time from an animal track, to a Clatsop hunting trail, to Lewis and Clark's trail to the Pacific, to a wagon road for 19th century travelers, and finally to a logging road to allow access to the forests of Oregon. It is a rich story of exploration and settlement.

The Station Camp project is another example of recovering the past. As the park and its partners began to develop the site and create a river front park, archeological investigations during federal compliance uncovered the remains of a Chinook plank house. The discovery was a wonderful opportunity to recover information about the Chinook people who lived there and the early fur trade on the Lower Columbia. Compliance projects have also given us an opportunity to gather historic information about Dismal Nitch and Fort Clatsop.

The park's cultural resource staff played an active role in the research and development projects at Station Camp, the Fort to Sea Trail, Netul Landing, the Netul River Trail, and at Fort Clatsop. Park cultural staff worked closely with the Clatsop Nehalem people to assist them in their cultural revitalization project, helped develop the new Visitor Center film "A Clatsop Winter Story", assisted the Chinook with research and protection of tribal objects, and expanded and rehabilitated the park's research library and museum collections.

Our journey does not end on March 23 as we commemorate the departure of the Lewis and Clark expedition. We will continue to work together to recover the past and preserve it for the future. That is our legacy.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Beginning with the October '05 issue of *Holding Down the Fort --Fire Destroys Fort Clatsop Replica--* monthly special editions have been sent to Fort Clatsop Rebuild volunteers and donors. In April, the Fort Clatsop Historical Association's newsletter will be returning to its quarterly format. Editions will once again be mailed exclusively to FCHA members. If you would like to continue receiving copies of *Holding Down the Fort* please consider becoming a member at this time. Annual memberships start at just \$25 and entitle you to a 10% discount on most products in the Association bookstore.

Membership contributions have helped FCHA achieve several goals in preparation for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, such as land acquisition for Netul Landing and support of the Fort To Sea Trail project. Fort Clatsop and its programs will continue to benefit from your support after the culmination of the commemoration.

FROGS, NEWTS AND GIANT SALAMANDERS

An exciting discovery was made during last year's amphibian survey of newly added park lands: two species of giant salamander were found to inhabit several remote streams. Cope's giant salamanders were found in the park's Cape Disappointment, Wash. unit, and Pacific giant salamanders were located in the Fort Clatsop unit on the Oregon side of the Columbia River. Genetic tests have confirmed the identities of these two distinct species. These increasingly rare, large salamanders inhabit clear, coldwater streams and riparian areas of mature forests. A third uncommon forest stream inhabitant, the Columbia torrent salamander, was also found in both units during the survey. Altogether, eleven amphibian species have been documented within the expanded boundaries of the park. Surveys for amphibians and other species are a continuation of park service-wide biological inventory and monitoring efforts and assist resource managers with planning for habitat restoration projects and preservation of the park's natural areas. These findings are only a small but exciting example of what the new park lands mean for the long-term conservation of natural resources at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. For more information please visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/lewi and link to our 'Nature and Science' pages.



Northern red-legged frog at Cape Disappointment



Western red-backed salamander at Cape Disappointment

Park Amphibians:

northwestern salamander	<i>Ambystoma gracile</i>
Cope's giant salamander	<i>Dicamptodon copei</i>
Pacific giant salamander	<i>Dicamptodon tenebrosus</i>
ensatina	<i>Ensatina eschscholtzii</i>
Dunn's salamander	<i>Plethodon dunni</i>
western red-backed salamander	<i>Plethodon vehiculum</i>
Columbia torrent salamander	<i>Rhyacotriton kezeri</i>
roughskin newt	<i>Taricha granulosa</i>
Pacific chorus (tree) frog	<i>Pseudacris regill</i>
northern red-legged frog	<i>Rana aurora aurora</i>
bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>



KARL HAUGEN'S NATURE DRAWINGS

Many products in the Fort Clatsop Bookstore incorporate the artwork of NPS employee Karl Haugen. The bookstore sells note-cards and original sketches by Haugen as well as Bicentennial t-shirts that display Karl's drawing of Fort Clatsop. Those of you who made a donation to the fort rebuild fund received a thank you card decorated with his drawing of Fort Clatsop as well. FCHA has used his drawings in books, such as the title page of new *Plants of Fort Clatsop* and several drawings inside the smaller *Plants of Fort Clatsop* booklet.

Karl grew up in Walla Walla, Washington where his fourth grade teacher recognized his artistic talent. This teacher's encouragement led to a lifelong interest in drawing. Karl works in maintenance at Fort Clatsop and enjoys the time he spends working outdoors. At the park he is able to observe animals in their natural setting.

In his spare time Karl records these scenes in both pencil and watercolor. He hopes to spend more time pursuing this interest after he retires and is looking forward to attending artist workshops and learning from professional artists.

DESTINATION: THE PACIFIC AND THE EXPLORER SHUTTLE



The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Association developed a strategic plan that outlined goals and provided structure for Signature Event and other bicentennial planning. The mission was, "To develop and implement the signature Lewis and Clark Commemorative event that results in a lasting legacy for the Columbia Pacific Region." The plan identified legacy projects to support, provided an action-plan for producing the nine Signature Event components, noted community-wide preparations, and created an opportunity for increased community involvement through an endorsement program and marketing other bicentennial-related activities.

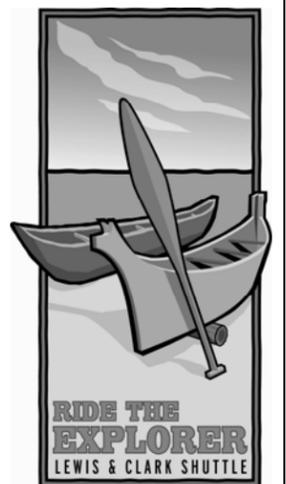
The Legacy projects they identified included: the creation of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, the completion of the Fort To Sea Trail, and several projects expanding space and services at the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center. These major projects have all been completed successfully. Eight of the nine Signature Event components for Destination: The Pacific were also completed successfully. Over 2,000 people attended the **Opening Ceremony** at Fort Stevens; venues were full at the 8 "**Ocean in View**" speaker programs; a foggy but good time was had by participants in **Consider The Columbia** event on Astoria-Megler Bridge; **Festival of the Pacific** at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds drew families to the very popular "Kids Corps" program where over 3,000 journals were made; **Corps II** facilitations in both Long Beach and Seaside made impressions on thousands of visitors; **Merry To The Fiddle** at the Liberty Theatre had nearly full houses; over

400 people attended the **Fort To Sea Trail Dedication**; and over 200 people arrived to commemorate **The Vote** on Thanksgiving Day. The ninth component, the dedication of Station Camp, was not fully realized because of significant archeological findings during early stages of the project.



Lewis and Clark Explorer Shuttle

With the anticipation of increased tourism for the bicentennial, Sunset Transit District, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Association, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Federal Highways Department, and Oregon Department of Transportation created a committee to design a transportation system to move visitors through the North Coast area. Building from the area's past experiences, both good and bad (traffic gridlock during the visit of the USS Missouri and shuttling visitors to the Crab Seafood Festival), the Lewis and Clark Explorer Shuttle was created. Wrapped with images from the Corps of Discovery and providing an audio narration on the Expedition in the area, the Lewis and Clark Explorer Shuttle is more than just a bus. The Explorer Shuttle is designed to encourage visitors to the North Coast to leave their cars at their lodgings and enjoy the beauty of the area. In 2004, 12 percent of visitors to Fort Clatsop came by shuttle. In 2006 the shuttle will continue to operate providing transportation from Warrenton campgrounds to Sunset Beach to Fort Clatsop. For more information on the Explorer Shuttle call 1-800-776-6406 or visit www.ridethebus.org.



PROJECTS IN THE FORT CLATSOP VISITOR CENTER

As one of the two main visitors centers for the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, the visitor center at Fort Clatsop is the gateway to the park for many. To meet the needs of our visitors we have been making a number of improvements at the visitor center that include: expansion of the bookstore, new orientation film and projection equipment, new exhibits, and new accessibility improvements.



In preparation for the bicentennial, the Fort Clatsop Historical Association enlarged the bookstore within the visitor center. This allowed room for the increase in Lewis and Clark scholarship that was published during the bicentennial period. It also allowed FCHA to offer a wider variety of products, from Native American artwork to a wide selection of clothing. The expanded wall space is used to display posters of the beautiful graphics that unify the different areas of the new park. These very popular poster images have also found their way on to other products, such as mugs, notecards, pins, patches, magnets, pencils, pens, and t-shirts. The Fort Clatsop bookstore has also overhauled its web site. The new web site www.FortClatsopBookstore.com allows shoppers to browse through all items in a category of books or products, or to search out a specific book by title or author. The site also has links to the park and its programs.

The park is now showing its brand new orientation film, "A Clatsop Winter Story," produced in cooperation with the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribe. New digital audio-visual equipment has been installed in the theatre to better capture the evocative spirit of the films. New exhibits include preserved specimens of plants from Fort Clatsop in the visitor center lobby and a traditional high-prow canoe on display under a shelter near the visitor center entrance.

To improve accessibility to the stories told at the park, several additions have been made. These improvements include; assisted listening devices for the films in the theatre, a new audio tour of Fort Clatsop for the visually impaired, and a Braille map of Fort Clatsop and surrounding grounds. The projection equipment upgrade, the audio tour, and the high prow canoe exhibit were all funded through National Park Service entrance fees. The new visitor center film was funded in part by the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program and by donations.

VISIT THE CORPS, AGAIN!

Ten years ago a small group of National Park rangers and volunteers started investigating the possibility of providing a different kind of interpretation program at Fort Clatsop. They wanted to create a program where visitors would step back in time and meet the Corps of Discovery. This type of program required a dedicated group of volunteers willing to study the time period, the military aspects of the Corps, a particular member of the expedition, and how to effectively portray that character to visitors. They also needed to be willing to experience the cold and wet miseries of the expedition. Other volunteers were needed to prepare the visitors for their step back in time and to cook and feed the "explorers" during programs that often run several days long. With assistance of the National Park Service, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Association, Seaside Historical Society, and Fort Clatsop Historical Association, volunteers were trained and a series of programs were created. Through the programs "Wintering Over" at Fort Clatsop and "Salt Makers Return" in Seaside, thousands of people have interacted, traded and learned about the Corps of Discovery.

With seed money from the National Park Service and foundations, this group of volunteers is now creating a new non-profit, Pacific Northwest Living Historians, whose aim is to continue to provide living history programs in sites throughout the entire Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park as well as in communities in the Pacific Northwest. If you are interested in more information about this group contact Sally Freeman 503-861-4424.



RESTORATION PROJECTS AT NETUL LANDING

When the Lewis and Clark expedition wintered at Fort Clatsop in 1805-06, the river shoreline at Netul Landing was a mosaic of open marsh and forested wetlands. During the last century diking, road construction and industrial activity heavily impacted the site, and nonnative weeds such as scotch broom, blackberries, and reed canarygrass edged out native plants in many places. Park restoration objectives for the site have included the development of ponds and bioswales to collect and filter rainwater runoff and provide wildlife habitat, removal and control of invasive weeds, reestablishment of native vegetation, and preservation and protection of the site's existing native plant communities. Approximately two acres of wetland habitat have been created where asphalt and concrete were removed from the site.



Netul Landing as used as a log sort yard prior to restoration

To date, more than 100 students from Lewis and Clark and Warrenton Grade Schools, along with park staff and volunteers, have planted hundreds of trees, shrubs and other plants in formerly paved areas of the site. Park resource management staff and a regional NPS weed team have made considerable progress toward the eradication of scotch broom, English laurel and



Replanting effort with Re-Tree International and area schools

blackberries, and control efforts are ongoing. Areas seeded with native grasses and wildflowers in 2004 are beginning to naturalize. Native willows have been planted to provide shade along a small stream that shelters young coho salmon. Cattails and other wetland species seeded around the site's ponds and bioswales are thriving. Tree frogs, northern red-legged frogs and rough-skinned newts are already breeding in these new wetlands. Numerous dragonflies and several species of butterflies also frequent the wetlands and river shore in summer. Bald eagles nest across the river and are seen almost daily along its shores. River otter, waterfowl, shorebirds and many songbirds can be seen from the shoreline walkway and newly completed Netul Trail. Netul Landing is being transformed into a more attractive place both for wildlife and for human visitors. If you are interested in contributing to these and other restoration opportunities, please contact Scott Stonum, Chief of Resources Management at 503-861-4441.

"A CLATSOP WINTER STORY" SEEING THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION IN A DIFFERENT WAY

Five years ago, Charlotte Celiast Basch walked into her dad's office and proclaimed that she was not extinct. She had just watched the slide program shown in the Fort Clatsop visitor center. Charlotte, a Clatsop and a descendant of Coboway, (the Clatsop leader to whom the Corps of Discovery had given their fort) was upset that the program would declare that she no longer existed. Today in the visitor center a new film is shown.

"A Clatsop Winter Story" recounts the Corps of Discovery's stay at Fort Clatsop as told by Celiast, Coboway's daughter. Charlotte, who inspired the film, portrays her name sake Celiast. Celiast goes with her father to trade with the Corps and discovers both cultural differences and similarities. Celiast realizes life is changing for her people.

With funding from the National Park Service, production by Camera One, and collaboration and support from the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribe, "A Clatsop Winter Story" educates visitors about both the Corps of Discovery and the Clatsop-Nehalem People.

