



# THE TRAIL COMPANION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



## Volunteers Count!

Pgs. 6-7

# From the Superintendent Who Manages the Trail?



Mark Weekley, Superintendent

At times I meet visitors who are confused by the fact that there are so many different organizations that play a role in the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The Trail has many important Lewis and Clark facilities which are not managed by the National Park Service, but by numerous federal and state agencies, tribes, and various non-profit and private organizations. For example, in Great Falls, Montana, the

US Forest Service Manages the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, while it is the Bureau of Land Management that manages Pompeys Pillar National Monument near Billings. In North Dakota, the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation manages the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. In Nebraska City, Nebraska, the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Center was built by the National Park Service, but is now owned and operated by a local foundation. While these and many other sites and organizations are important parts of the Trail, they are independently managed and operated.

So how the NPS “manage” a 3,700-mile trail that runs through 11 states and hundreds of different jurisdictions, with thousands of land owners? Understanding the role that the National Park Service plays in the

operation of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (Trail) can be a bit difficult unless one understands that the Trail’s role is to be an administrator of the Trail not a manager. This is an important distinction.

Unlike a more traditional park where most of the land within its boundaries is owned by the NPS, trails do not own most of what they are assigned to protect. In spite of this difference, the overarching goals are very similar. In the simplest of terms, most trails and parks in the NPS are focused on resource stewardship, education, and public enjoyment.

The ways in which these goals are achieved, however, can be very different. Not owning land fundamentally changes how we achieve our goals of resource stewardship, education, and public enjoyment. In the

most basic terms, we have been given a huge responsibility for one of our country’s most important historic resources, but must fulfill this responsibility through collaboration with others. This approach ensures that we administer the trail with both public and private organizations and individuals. This at times can be challenging, but is also highly rewarding.

A key to our success is outreach and communication with others who are connected to the Trail. This outreach helps direct our work, areas of research, and the nature of the technical assistance we offer to those that have an interest in or a direct connection to the Trail. As you read the various articles in The Trail Companion you will see examples of some the work we are doing in our effort to achieve the responsibilities set forth in our legislation. ■

# People News

## Welcome Dawnisha Bullion



We are honored to welcome **Dawnisha Bullion** as Administrative Assistant. She has lived in Omaha her entire life and has two children ages 17 and seven. She has held various positions with the Omaha Veteran's Affairs hospital. Her administrative experience totals over 10 years as an Administrative Officer, Patient Service Assistant, and as a Medical Support Assistant.

In 2010, she decided to take time off from government service to fulfill a long standing dream of starting her own catering company called It's All Good. She is still fulfilling her dream part-time but is enthusiastic about her new career at the National Park Service and looks forward to the new experiences. ■

## Welcome Jennifer Morrell



**Jennifer Morrell** was born and raised in California where there was no shortage of the beauty of creation from the rolling oak woodlands of the Santa Ynez Valley, where she graduated from high school, to the ocean waves of the Pacific Coast and the rugged mountains of the Sierra Nevada. An insatiable desire to explore and hike these beautiful places led Jennifer to seek a career that she never thought one could get paid to do.

She started at Biola University in Southern California and finished her A.A. in Liberal

Studies at Alan Hancock College. From there it was to northern California where the Coast Redwoods surrounded the campus of Humboldt State University.

Upon graduation with a B.S. in Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation, Jennifer headed to Yellowstone National Park for her first seasonal position as an Interpretive Park Ranger. "For the last ten years it has been nothing short of a great adventure, but by the grace of God I've worked in some of the most beautiful places of our country from Yellowstone to Glacier, to Yosemite, to the National Mall in Washington D.C., to Mojave National Preserve and now to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail."

Currently working on a Master's Degree in Parks and Recreation Management, from Slippery Rock University, Jennifer hopes to continue a career that focuses on preserving the very best of this country's natural and cultural resources. ■

## Ronni Whitmer Retires



**Ronni Whitmer**, Secretary from 2006 to 2012, has retired. While we are happy that she will be able to sleep in a little more, and spend more time with her friends and family, we will miss her and her dedication and passion for the Trail and the National Park Service (NPS).

Ronni served 15 years as an NPS employee, but in fact she has been a key part of the NPS most of her life. Even when she was not employed

by the NPS she was still served as a volunteer and as the wife of NPS employee, Guy Whitmer. And what is she up to now? Working as a NPS volunteer, of course.

Ronni's insight, wisdom, and sense of humor helped others to understand the perspective and culture of the Trail and the National Park Service. In addition to being the Trail Secretary, Ronni was also a sounding board for new ideas, a sage advisor and a friend to many. We all wish her all the best.

If you wish to send a note or card to Ronni, you may send it to us and we will make sure it gets to her. Don't be surprised if you run into Ronni the next time you visit a park, we expect she will stay connected to the National Park Service for many years to come. ■

## Welcome Miki Griffen



We are pleased to welcome **Miki Griffen** as the new Secretary for Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Miki is new to the National Park Service but not to government service. Miki served for six years in the United States Army as a Human Resources Specialist in Germany.

Miki is finding the culture and traditions of the NPS to be different than those of the military, but the skills and training she gained in the military are serving her extremely well. Miki and her husband, also a veteran, have two young children. Please join us in welcoming Miki to the NPS and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. ■



Cynthia Martin



Ronni Whitmer



Adam Wegener

Greetings! I am pleased to introduce you to Jennifer Morrell, a new addition to Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. She has been working directly with the volunteers you see featured here and was eager to share their good work. Like many of you out there have experienced, the time and resources volunteers provide helps us to meet our mission, reaching the public in so many ways. I encourage you to send us an article, we will be happy to feature your volunteer program, just as Jennifer has done so here. Please contact me at nichole\_mchnery@nps.gov. - Nichole McHenry, Voluntter Program Manager

# Volunteers, You Count!

by Jennifer Morrell, Park Ranger

*Not everything that counts can be counted. And not everything that can be counted, counts. -Albert Einstein*

Intentional, deliberate, willing, and voluntary all describe the character of individuals whose actions may not be as measurable as some, but are undoubtedly priceless.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) hosts the most comprehensive annual collection of information on volunteering and civic life in America and they have done some counting. According to CNCS's 2011 report, 64.3 million Americans volunteered in 2011, totaling almost 7.9 billion hours, at an estimated economic value of \$171 billion. As Wendy Spencer, CEO of CNCS states, "Volunteering and civic engagement are the cornerstone of a strong nation."

Among the 51 states, Iowa ranks third and Nebraska ranks sixth for volunteer service, contributing to the Midwest's 1,748.36 million hours. Those hours may be a means of counting what counts, but as Einstein expressed, not everything that counts can be counted. Those hours also represent numerous intangible benefits that volunteers give to our society every year.

Here at the Headquarters for the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, we have a cadre of dedicated individuals who give of their time and talents to perpetuate the cultural and natural history of the Lewis and Clark story. [Carl Camp](#), a retired history professor, has served in numerous capacities

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## Volunteers, *continued*

over the last 10 years as an interpreter, writer, teacher, and representative of the National Park Service (NPS). **Carolyn Fiscus**, a professor at Little Priest Tribal College shares her native Winnebago culture through song and cultural demonstrations. **Ken Schlueter**, a retired Union Pacific employee and journalism major, contacts hundreds of visitors each season while roving the riverfront. **Cynthia Martin**, a professional illustrator and artist, brings her flare for design and creativity to our bulletin boards and activities. **Adam Wegener**, a business administration graduate, inventories, stocks and records with deft detail our association bookstore products. **Ronni Whitmer**, a recently retired

NPS secretary, has taken on the task of organizing and cataloging our staff library.

Each one adds a dynamic dimension to our staff and extends our ability and resources to reach the public in a meaningful way. As a frontline interpreter, over the years I have had the privilege of supervising, working alongside, and being mentored by some of these incredible people. I say incredible because volunteers come with a unique perspective to the work they do, it's not driven by money or by necessity, it's driven by the internal satisfaction they receive from giving to others. That's something that can't be counted, but in no uncertain terms – counts! ■



Ken Schlueter



H. Carl Camp



Carolyn Fiscus

# Visitor Center Spotlight

## The Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center

by Jennifer Morrell, Park Ranger



Interpretive Center animatronics and mural exhibit depicting Sgt. Floyd's funeral. NPS Photo.

The young boy stood entranced as the movements and voices of animatronics, depicting Meriwether Lewis and William Clark near the grave of the only Corps fatality of the Expedition, brought to life an integral piece of American history. While a textbook often provides information that can be read and understood, a tangible experience provides an opportunity to engage all of one's senses and make a lasting impression. For Lewis and Clark and the 33 other individuals who traveled 8,000 miles over 28 months across what is now 11 different states, their journey inevitably made a lasting impression on them and

the hundreds of American Indians they encountered.

How does one even begin to understand their stories or to explore such an extensive resource? Such a trip is a daunting distance to navigate and plan for someone who wants to follow in their "footsteps." Many don't attempt the whole distance in one trip, but rather focus on specific sections at a time. The same holds true for how we attempt to provide relevant experiences and understanding of this historical event that would change this country and its inhabitants forever.

Designated in 1978, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail networks with federal, state, local, non-profit and tribal entities whose goal is to provide the type of memorable experiences that literally transport one back to the events, the landscape, and the "language" of the early 19th century.

The question is: how do you tell such a story? How do you effectively interpret such a journey? This year I had the opportunity to discover how several visitor centers have endeavored to meet that

challenge. Some, such as the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center at Great Falls, Montana and the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Washington State, do an incredible job at telling the whole story; while others, such as

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"Spirit of Discovery"  
by Pat Kennedy, 2002.  
Sculpture at  
Interpretive Center  
entrance.

## The Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, *continued*

the Sacajawea Interpretive Center and the Interpretive Center in Sioux City highlight a specific individual or event that is unique to that area.

In this edition of the Trail Companion we highlight **The Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center**, opened in 2002 to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804. Together with the Betty Strong Encounter Center, built in 2007, this 20,000 square-foot cultural complex holds to a mission of “commemorating a history of encounters.” Director, Marcia Poole, believes in making those encounters personal ones. Poole’s research and own published writings make a unique connection between the history of the Corps of Discovery and the people of Sioux City, specifically the Stockyards Company. What is the

connection you may ask? The answer can be found at the Interpretive Center along with interactive displays that connect you to the personalities and pilgrimage of the Corps of Discovery. Try your hand as a French boatman (engage), as a private, a hunter, an interpreter, or even a captain if your abilities and character warrant such a role. Take a seat in the Keelboat Theater and enjoy a presentation on exploration or native cultures. Or like the young boy captivated by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, relive the event of Sergeant Floyd’s death or the adventures of Seaman the dog through animatronics set amidst mural masterpieces.

If you’re looking for points of interest along the Lewis and Clark Trail, the Sioux City Interpretive Center is one not to be missed. ■

## Watch as Lewis and Clark reflect on loss and hardships.



Start your Interpretive Center visit here by choosing your role for the journey ahead.

Video clip of animatronics exhibit at the Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.

To visit and for more information:  
**The Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and The Betty Strong Encounter Center**  
Located on Sioux City's Riverfront, Exit 149 off I-29  
900 Larsen Park Road  
Sioux City, IA 51103  
(712) 224-5242  
FREE ADMISSION

[www.siouxitylcic.com](http://www.siouxitylcic.com)

# Little Known Facts of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

by Dr. H. Carl Camp

## President Jefferson Vetoes Lewis's Risky Excursion



H. Carl Camp, Volunteer

In a long letter to Meriwether Lewis on June 20, 1803, President Jefferson presented in great detail his instructions and expectations for the upcoming expedition into the trans-Mississippi wilderness. Shorn of the multitude of details, the following oft-quoted passage from that letter succinctly summarizes the central idea behind the venture.

*The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river, & such stream of it, as, by it's course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce.*

The president's voracious appetite for all manner of factual, observable data is amply on display in this remarkable document. Submerged in the welter of details was a subsidiary aspect of the mission that has been largely ignored by later observers, but it obviously did not escape the attention of Mr. Jefferson's ambitious protégé. About midway through the letter, the reader encounters this additional assignment:

*Altho' your route will be along the channel of the Missouri, yet you will endeavor to inform yourself, by inquiry, of the character & extent of the country watered by it's branches, & especially on it's Southern side.*

*... But if you can learn any thing certain of the most Northern source of the Missisipi, & of it's position relatively to the lake of the woods, it will be interesting to us.*

Following a series of frustrating delays in Pittsburgh, Lewis had pushed off down the drought-shrunken Ohio on August 31, 1803, with a temporary crew of 11 aboard a 55-foot keelboat and a pirogue. After

battling and overcoming a succession of progress-blocking shoals over the ensuing weeks, Lewis and his men were in Cincinnati by October 3rd. There they rested from their strenuous labors for about a week. Lewis finally had time to think about his prospects for advancing the objectives of the expedition. At the conclusion of a long letter to the president, his politically attuned and ever-dutiful former secretary announced the following plan to make up for lost time.

*As this Session of Congress has commenced earlier than usual, and as from a variety of incidental circumstances my progress has been unexpectedly delayed, and feeling as I do in the most anxious manner a wish to keep them in a good humour on the subject of the expedition in which I am engaged, I have concluded to make a tour this winter on horse-back of some hundred miles through the most interesting portion ad-joining my winter establishment; perhaps it may be up the Canceze River and towards Santafee, at all events it will be on the South side of the Missouri. Should I find that Mr. Clark can with propriety also leave the party, I will prevail on him also to undertake a similar excursion through some other portion of the country, which, if it does not produce a con-viction of the utility of this project, will at least procure the further toleration of the expedition.*

Taking alarm from the risks implicit in such a venture, particularly that of going into Spanish-held territory in the direction of Santa Fe, the president responded with these orders on November 16th:

*...you must not undertake the winter excursion which you propose in yours of Oct. 3. Such an excursion will be more dangerous than the main expedition up the Missouri, & would, by an accident to you, hazard our main object, which since the acquisition of Louisiana, interests every body in the highest degree. The object of your mission is single, the direct water communication from sea to sea formed by the bed of the Missouri & perhaps the Oregon. ...neither of you should be exposed to the risques by going off of your line.*

The president, of course, had planted the idea of gathering reliable information about the country drained by the Missouri River's tributaries in his original instructions. However, he took a more cautious stance once the expedition was proceeding toward its ultimate jumping-off point at the mouth of the Missouri. On their commander-in-chief's orders, Lewis and Clark would not deviate from the designated line of march – at least, not until the return journey when they divided the Corps of Discovery into two contingents in order to explore the Marias and the Yellowstone. ■

SOURCE: Donald Jackson, ed., Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents, 1783-1854, 2 volumes (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1978), vol. 1, p. 61, p. 63, p. 131 and p. 137.

# A Video for You

## *Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail: Partnerships for the Future*

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail partners with federal, state, tribal, and local governments and non-profit organizations to promote stewardship through education, interpretation, resource protection, and recreation.

Use this video as a tool to further the Trail's mission of preservation, while simultaneously helping you to promote the work of your organization.

You can use it locally and regionally, in a setting that will enhance your relationship with the public you serve.

We invite you to explore each of the formats: the full-length version and a short version. A 30-second public service announcement is also available on our YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/lewisandclarknhtnps>.

Show your supporters, stakeholders, and community how you play a major role in the protection of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

For a DVD, please contact Karla Sigala at [karla\\_sigala@nps.gov](mailto:karla_sigala@nps.gov).

### Full-length version, 16:32

<http://youtu.be/M0y4lndmj1U>

### Short version, 5:35

<http://youtu.be/vS1V5oOcIj0>



Photo courtesy of Slingshot Sports

# The Trailhead

## What is SUP?

by Neal Bedlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner

SUP, or **Stand Up Paddleboarding**, is an exciting total-body workout that is rapidly gaining momentum. It's fun, easy, and a good fit for beginners and pros alike. With its roots in Hawaii, SUP has recently grown in popularity for its ease of use and health benefits, not to mention the great views of the water and landscape from the standing position. New and improved board designs allow the beginner to jump right on the board without much practice. SUP is very popular on the Columbia River and will more than likely be increasing in popularity along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

I always think of how Lewis and Clark used the most current advances for their time to help make the expedition a success. Would Lewis and Clark trade in the dugout canoes of yesterday for stand up paddleboards today? I had the opportunity to try stand up

paddleboarding this summer near Hood River, Oregon. I discovered a program called *SUP Thursdays* that is free and open to the public. On Thursday evenings, during the months of June, July and August, you can give stand up paddleboarding a try.

*SUP Thursdays* is sponsored by local Windance Board Shop and Slingshot Sports. All you need to do is show up. They will fit you with the proper life jacket, paddle, and board. After a short 10-minute instruction they walk you down to the water to get you started.

It is recommended that you start out paddling on your knees, until you get familiar with the board and your center of gravity, which is higher as compared to other paddling sports. It does feel different and uses different muscles than in other paddle sports. It will not take long before you are off on your own getting the full

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## SUP, continued

experience of SUP. I was surprised by how easy it was to maneuver and stay afloat. It does work the calf and thigh muscles that normally aren't used in walking or running. Don't be surprised if you feel the burn after a while. I look forward to giving SUP another try in the near future. If you are interested in the *SUP Thursdays* program, contact Windance Board Shop in Hood River, Oregon for details.

Stand up paddleboarding isn't just for calm waters – the more experienced paddler take on anything from rapids to ocean surf. Similar to kayaking or canoeing, SUP has very low impact on

the natural resources and uses the same access points as other paddle sports. Stand up paddleboarding can provide a great recreational experience and workout.

Don't be surprised to see this paddling sport catch on along the Trail. And next time you're looking to actively experience the Lewis and Clark Trail from the water, you might want to try stand up paddleboarding for a new perspective. Talk to your local outfitter and give it a try. As always, get outside and actively experience your Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail! ■

## Watch Stand Up Paddleboarders on the Columbia River.

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0fPjsvujYI>



NPS Photo

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can reach you effectively. Please take this opportunity to either subscribe or update your contact information and provide us with your interests. For questions, contact Karla Sigala, Editor at (402) 661-1826 or at: [lecl\\_communications@nps.gov](mailto:lecl_communications@nps.gov).

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## We'd Like to Hear From You

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 for questions at:

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