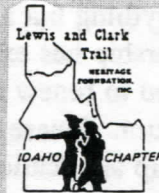


Idaho Chapter Newsletter

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.



November 1999

Chapter Elects New Officers and Board of Directors

Idaho Chapter members met and elected new officers and board members at the meeting on September 18, in Dayton, Washington.

Our meeting was held after the joint meeting with the Washington Chapter where we dined on fry bread, meat, corn, beans and rice and other potluck fare. Park Ranger Gary Lentz spoke about the medical aspects of the expedition and the group toured campsites for the 1806 return trip. We enjoyed the get-together immensely and would like to thank the Washington members for inviting us and contributing to the success of this meeting.

Following the festivities, the Idaho Chapter met for a business meeting. Election of officers was the first priority. Anne Schorzman (Boise), was elected President, Mike Venso (Lewiston), became Vice-President and Carlana and Brian Miller are the new secretary/treasurers.

Supporting the new officers are the newly elected Board of Directors: Pete Sozzi (Salmon), Sue Hottois (Lewiston), Chuck Radon (Orofino), Ruthann Caylor

(Boise) and Steve Lee (Lewiston).

Other business items included a discussion about what to sell at the vendor's fair at the national meeting in Dillon. Suggestions were varied; a scarf (bandana style) with our logo, a blanket raffle and calendars featuring pictures of the trail. If other members have ideas or suggestions, email Anne at SchorzA383@aol.com.

A motion was made and passed to increase Chapter dues \$5 beginning in the year 2000. It was also suggested to pursue more joint meetings with the Washington and Oregon Chapters and potentially to work with them on a tri-state guidebook. Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 23, in Boise**. Plan to attend!

Be Y2K Compliant Treasurers Warn

Brian and Carlana Miller, the new secretary/treasurers would like you to check the mailing label on this newsletter. They ask, "Do you see some numbers in parentheses that look like a date? Is the date from long, long ago?"

If so, you are **not** Y2K compliant and we need to hear from you. If the date on your label is

Upcoming Events

Jan. 21- Governor's Lewis & Clark Trail Committee Meeting, Boise, Statehouse Inn.

Jan. 23 - Chapter Meeting, at the home of Ruthann Caylor, 317 Hulbe, Boise, 4:00 p.m. 208-344-7075 for directions.

Jan. 24 - Legislative Reception, Boise, (members will receive invitation and map in January) 5-7 p.m.

March 1-3 - CSLCBC Symposium, "Passages 2000", Lewiston (see article this newsletter).

April - National Bicentennial Council Meeting, Kansas City.

April/May - Governor's Lewis & Clark Trail Committee Meeting, Lewiston.

June 16-18 - Lewis and Clark in the Land of the Nez Perce Symposium, LCSC.

August 13-16 Annual meeting in Dillon and Chapter Meeting.

August - Governor's Lewis & Clark Trail Committee Meeting, Salmon.

Salmon & Lewiston to Receive Funding

Receipt of \$75,000 for the Salmon area and \$500,000 for the Clearwater/Snake region may be imminent. The funding comes from the federal government and was requested through the office of Senator Larry Craig.

The funds were requested to begin implementing the next phase of the regional bicentennial plan completed last spring in the Clearwater/Snake area and to fund a feasibility study for a proposed Sacagawea Interpretive Center in Salmon.

According to Lorraine Roach, president, CSLCBC, the idea is to do "nuts and bolts" programming to help local communities and the Nez Perce Tribe prepare for the bicentennial.

A follow-up meeting will be held on December 3, at Senator Larry Craig's office in Boise to discuss funding projects that have been submitted to the Governor's Lewis & Clark Trail Committee.

anything but a 99 or 00 your membership has expired. We would like you to renew it **before** the millennium. Please fill out the membership application and forward it to the address on the cover of this newsletter.

Chapter Welcomes New Bicentennial Coordinator

Chapter members welcome Keith C. Petersen whose major task will be to coordinate and implement a statewide Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemoration plan over the next seven years.

Budgeting for the new position and operation of the Lewis and Clark office in North Idaho was recommended by former Gov. Phil Batt, supported by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne and authorized by the 1999 Idaho Legislature.

Keith, an interpretive specialist, will work under the auspices of the Idaho Historical Society, the designated lead agency for the commemoration and will follow guidelines established by the Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee. The new regional office will be The Idaho Lewis and Clark Information Center located in space donated by Lewis-Clark State College in downtown Lewiston.

Petersen's background well prepares him for the job ahead. He was instrumental in helping Idaho better prepare for the 1990 Idaho Centennial and wrote a handbook on preparing for historical celebrations. He has also written a number of historical books.

According to Steve Guerber, Executive Director of the Idaho State Historical Society, "Keith will become very active in helping local organizations and communities in the Clearwater/Snake and Lemhi County areas as they prepare for the upcoming bicentennial."

Welcome aboard, Keith.

Passages 2000 Slated for March 1-3 in Lewiston

The second annual Lewis & Clark Bicentennial conference, "Passages 2000: Getting It Done", is scheduled for March 1-3, 2000, at the Red Lion Hotel in Lewiston. The conference is being hosted by the Clearwater-Snake Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Committee (CSLCBC) and will include participants from Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon.

The event will focus on helping communities meet their needs for bicentennial projects including infrastructure improvements, emergency services, events, interpretive facilities, etc. The conference will be a workshop format, with experts to provide technical assistance and representatives from state and national groups who will offer advice and support.

For a conference registration packet, call Lorraine Roach, at 208-983-2175 or email lroach@micron.net.

*proceeding on through a
beautiful country*

Pride takes elbow

■ Volunteers put in a weekend of work to polish Lolo Motorway area.

By ERIC BARKER
OF THE TRIBUNE

ROCKY RIDGE LAKE — Wilbur Schenk scattered a handful of grass seed on an old path that rings the lake here.

Schenk, from Eugene, Ore., joined about 50 other volunteers for the annual Take Pride in the Clearwater work weekend Saturday in an effort to spruce up the campground that sits just off the Lolo Motorway.

He heard about the weekend and how much fun it is from a friend while wintering in Arizona and joined the crew this year to check it out for himself.

"I think it's great," he said. "I always wondered how these campgrounds came to be here and now I know."

Schenk, who is retired, said he'll be back next year.

"I got to keep busy," he said. "If you don't keep busy you'll dry up."

Take Pride in the Clearwater was born 13 years ago from a nationwide program called Take Pride in America.

The local version mixes a love of the outdoors with volunteerism, and has outlived its federal counterpart. For years outdoor enthusiasts have gathered each summer to help maintain the recreation facilities on the forest.

North Fork District Ranger Doug Gober said when funding for the federal program died, interest was strong among local volunteers so they and forest administrators kept the program alive.

The Clearwater forest helps fund the work with recreation dollars. Volunteers are fed two meals, dinner on Saturday and breakfast Sunday in exchange for lending a little elbow grease.

In recent years the workday has concentrated on the historic Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark Trails that run adjacent to the 500 Road, known as the Lolo Motorway. Use on that road is expected to escalate as the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition approaches.

Although Lewis and Clark never visited Rocky Ridge Lake, they passed nearby. And despite the lack of a visit by the explorers, the stop will be a popular one for those who travel the 500 Road. It has one of the only toilets on the historic backcountry byway.

Volunteers installed a new log toilet at the site Saturday. They also worked in intermittent rain showers and fog to carve out a handful of campsites at the lake. In the past, the small campground did not have well-defined campsites, according to Gober, and campers parked their vehicles wherever they could.

"I always wondered how these campgrounds came to be here and now I know."
Wilbur Schenk, volunteer

grease

MONDAY

August 16, 1999

LEWISTON
MORNING
TRIBUNE

The volunteer work crew ringed the campsites with large boulders to discourage campers from trampling new spots. They also worked to erase some of the ghost trails around the lake by seeding and placing rocks in the unofficial pathways worn by campers and anglers. The many trails were replaced by one main trail. The crew also erected new picnic tables, and fire rings will be added to the campsites.

The annual Clearwater work weekend usually takes place in mid-July but at that time this year the road and campground were still inundated with five feet of snow.

Because of the postponement, fewer volunteers showed up this year but about 50 were able to make the work day. Three generations of the

Roach family from Kamiah have attended most of the Take Pride in the Clearwater work days. Saturday, Harry Roach, his son, Dean and wife, Shirley, and their sons, Kevin, 18, and Craig, 14, worked at the lake.

"It's just kind of a family tradition," said Harry Roach.

Gordon Hawkins Jr. of Kamiah has been to every Take Pride in the Clearwater weekend and is a proud member of the Camp Creek Bunch, a group of friends who like to camp, recreate and volunteer together.

"That's the hardest-working bunch of people that volunteer," he said.

While the volunteers worked,

Norm Steadman, who is Weippe mayor, and a Clearwater National Forest employee, slaved away under yellow rain tarps at the group's camp along the 500 Road, preparing dinner for the work crew. He planned dinner for 90 and spent part of the day desperately recruiting passers-by to help eat all the food.

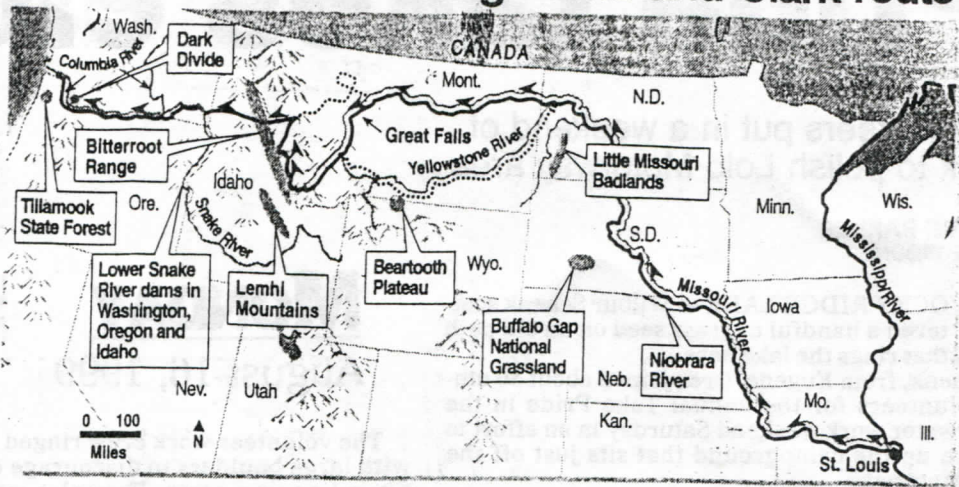
"You boys are going to stay and eat some horse meat, aren't you," Steadman joked as he prepared steaks for the hungry workers.

He says the meat, beef steak, is a young colt, not some old stray like the Lewis and Clark expedition shot and ate when it passed near by in 1805, cold, hungry and lost.



Development threatens sites along Lewis and Clark route

From May 1804 to September 1806, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled along the Missouri, Columbia, Snake and Yellowstone rivers in search of a land-and-water passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The Sierra Club has identified sites along their route that it considers at-risk from development. Some of the sites:



Source: The Sierra Club, USA TODAY research

Dave Merrill, USA TODAY

Sierra Club launches project to save, restore Lewis and Clark trail

By Patrick McMahon
USA Today

SEATTLE — The Sierra Club is launching an ambitious five-year campaign today to protect and restore millions of acres of wilderness along the route explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled through the West almost 200 years ago.

The nation's oldest and largest grass-roots environmental organization has identified 34 sites in eight states for attention as it kicks off a multimillion-dollar plan called "Wild America: Protecting the Legacy of Lewis and Clark."

"There's a whole lot gone and a whole lot left," Sierra Executive Director Carl Pope said. "This is the premier land preservation and restoration opportunity that Americans are going to have in the first decade of the 21st century."

The project comes as the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's 1804-06 expedition approaches. Their journey is being celebrated in the media and in events from St. Louis to Oregon, where they became this nation's first cross-country travelers to glimpse the Pacific Ocean.

Thursday night, the History Channel premieres an hour-long documentary on the Missouri River with Stephen Ambrose, author of the Lewis and Clark biography "Undaunted Courage."

"Considering the trip was as exciting as a trip to the moon 200 years ago, every small town along the route has come down with bicentennial fever," Idaho lawyer Tom Keefe said. His hometown, Kamiah, was where the expedition camped for nearly a month after the Nez Perce Indians saved the explorers from starvation.

"There's likely to be millions of people traveling the route in the next decade," said John McCarthy, conservation director of the Idaho Conservation League, "and to the extent we have some legacy left, the time is right" for the Sierra Club effort.

Idaho, which gets substantial attention in the Sierra Club plan, "has some

of the greatest unprotected wild lands in the lower 48 states that look just the way they did when Lewis and Clark came through here," McCarthy said. However, "every year, we're losing hundreds of acres to development."

Jim Young, a Sierra Club official in Seattle and a co-author of the plan, said it seeks to permanently shield undeveloped lands such as the Beartooth Plateau in Wyoming, the Bitterroot Range along the Idaho-Montana border and the Dark Divide roadless area in Washington state. The Sierra Club also wants to ban road building and logging in roadless areas, to protect grizzly bear, salmon and bison habitats, to keep off-road vehicles out of sensitive areas and to bar oil and gas

leasing in pristine areas. The club also proposes to remove earthen sections of four dams on the lower Snake River and to protect prairie dogs in South Dakota's Buffalo Gap National Grassland.

It wants a federal wilderness designation for the Little Missouri Badlands in North Dakota to protect the area from oil and gas development. It wants the same designation for the Lemhi Mountains in Idaho, home of Lewis and Clark's Shoshone guide Sacagawea. It also wants Tillamook State Forest in Oregon, now earmarked for logging, to be saved as a state park.

In Nebraska, it seeks greater water-quality protection statewide and better management of the Niobrara River by the National Park Service.

New laws and regulations are needed to accomplish much of what the Sierra Club has outlined. Another key part of the plan is to generate public support for a proposal President Clinton recently announced to protect roadless areas in national forests, Young said.

It is not known what the project would cost corporations or individual states.

The plan calls for elimination of some revenue-making activity such as lumbering and oil and gas exploration and would stymie some recreational development.

A Lewis and Clark revival hits the Northwest

High Country
News

Sept. 27, 1999

■ History buffs search for heroes and find a region invaded by weeds and other tourists

While tracing the steps of Lewis and Clark, Judy Anderson has stopped off at two dozen places where the explorers walked nearly 200 years ago. Among these, Pompey's Pillar, a lonely landmark on the plains of southeastern Montana, remains fixed in her memory. There, immortalized behind Plexiglas, she saw William Clark's signature carved into soft sandstone. For Anderson, a retiree from Minnesota, it was a fascinating link with the past.

"You can climb to the top and see the view he saw," she says.

Until recently, Anderson could have traveled the entire trail without meeting anyone on a historical journey like her own. Even though the route was named a National Park Service historical trail in 1978, it has remained largely the domain of Lewis and Clark history buffs. But as the 2004-2006 bicentennial nears, the anniversary is attracting a new generation of travelers captivated by Lewis and Clark history.

Jim Fazio, a University of Idaho professor and member of the national Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council which is helping to plan the bicentennial, explains the fascination: "A lot of people are looking for heroes."

The popular Ken Burns PBS television special, along with Stephen Ambrose's book, *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West*, get much of the credit for sparking the nation's interest in the Corps of Discovery.

"You've got to understand that 2 million copies of (*Undaunted Courage*) sold. A history book normally sells 20,000 or 30,000 copies. That's how popular it is," says F.A. Calabrese, interim superintendent of the Lewis and Clark Trail for the National Park Service.

With help from local donors, the U.S. Forest Service built the 5,500-square-foot Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Mont., in 1998. Though the center expected no more than 70,000 visitors in its inaugural year, more than 100,000 people walked through its doors.

Just upriver, crowds are appearing on the Wild and Scenic stretch of the upper Missouri River in eastern Montana. Last year, this area saw 34 percent more river travelers than in 1997. National Park Service sites along the Lewis and Clark trail report a 25 percent increase in visitors during the same time period. Two years ago, there were only 12 river outfitters on the river; today, the BLM reports that number has more than doubled.

"We have no permit system as of yet, but I imagine we'll be doing that shortly," says Buck Damone of the Bureau of Land Management in Lewistown. "It's not drastic yet, but we're concerned what it's going to be in 2006."

It's a boon

In the forests of north-central Idaho, Triple O Outfitters has found a new clientele. As elk hunting has declined in Idaho's Lochsa country, the

outfitting company has begun leading Lewis and Clark history trips in the Clearwater National Forest. It expects 120 clients this year.

"I'll tell you, there's a lot of interest," says owner Barb Opdahl, who adds that the bicentennial has come at the perfect time. "If we had to rely on (hunting) right now, we definitely would not be in business."

All along the route, chances to relive the Lewis and Clark experience are popping up. In North Dakota, the state historical society is inviting tourists to spend winter nights at Fort Mandan, where the Corps of Discovery endured blizzards and below-zero temperatures during the winter of 1804-1805.

The National Park Service has proposed a novel way of telling the story of Lewis and Clark: a park on wheels. Dubbed "Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future," this small convoy of three semi-trailers would trace the historic route for three-and-a-half years, making occasional detours in the off-season to bring the traveling, \$29 million museum to cities. Plans call for a dazzling laser show and high-tech satellite uplinks. With help from what's known as the Lewis and Clark Caucus in Congress, the National Park Service could win

funding for the project this year.

Historians such as Fazio hope that scenic portions of the trail are recognized without lining them with roadside attractions.

"My fear is that the agencies might try to overreact and get in on the development bandwagon," he says.

A wilderness 200 years later

As more people take to the trail, land managers like Damone are reminding travelers that though places such as eastern Montana are still wide open, people from the time of Lewis and Clark would be startled by the changes.

"The biggest change they would see is the weeds. The noxious weeds. People who come here (today) wouldn't notice that. But Lewis and Clark would," Damone says.



Farther west, in the Columbia River Basin, environmentalists trying to restore the river's salmon runs are instilling a sense of what's been lost over the last two centuries by using the journey's observations as an environmental benchmark.

"In 200 years, a profound change has taken place," says John Osborn of the Lands Council in Spokane, Wash. "(The commemoration) allows us to see this river and these issues by starkly contrasting what we see today and what Lewis and Clark saw 200 years ago."

One voice was missing

Allen Pinkham of the Nez Perce Tribe says the history of the expedition has left out details that ought to be told as the nation relives the experience.

For instance, the Lewis and Clark route followed the Nez Perce Ni Mi Pu Trail, which linked the salmon-rich mountain streams with the buffalo herds of the plains. The trail runs 100 miles through Idaho, from around Kamiah to Lolo Pass, and then east through Montana to the Plains. A new museum planned for the reservation would help complete the story of Native Americans' contribution to the expedition, says Pinkham, a member of the national Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council.

Lewis and Clark Trail

HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

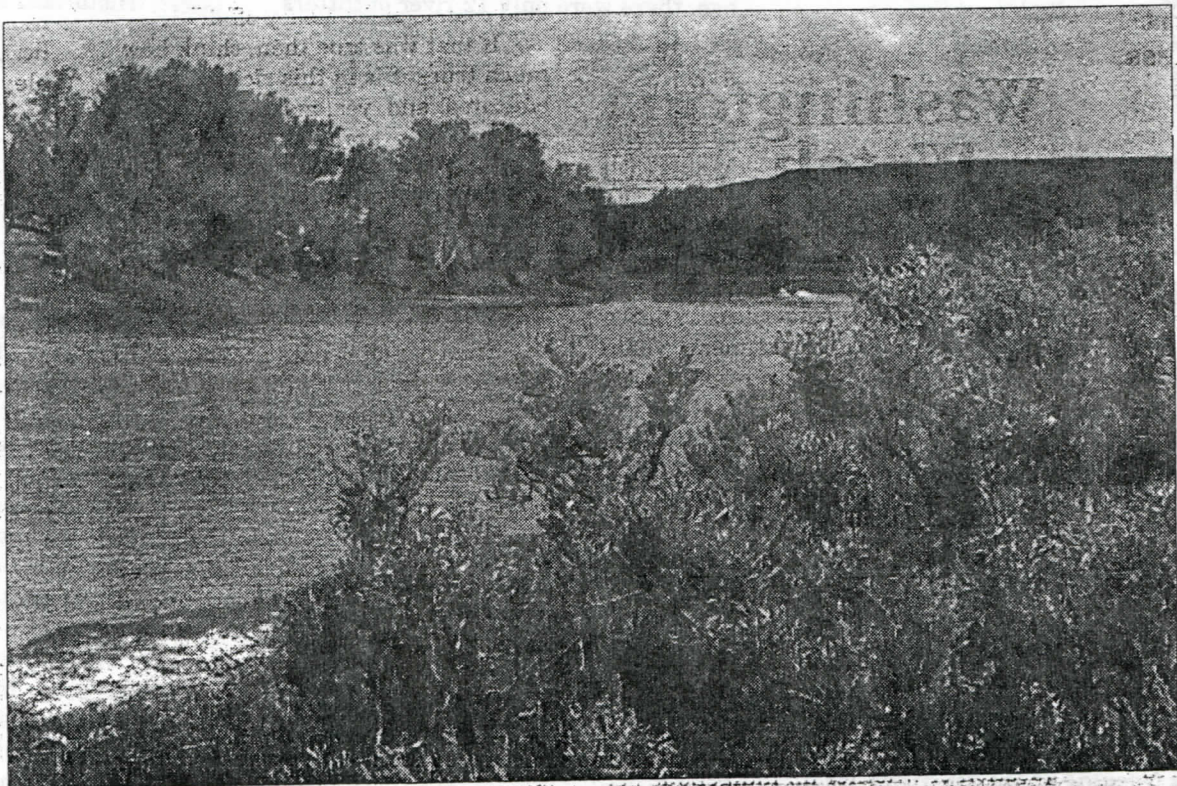


As for the bicentennial, Pinkham says the tribes are planning a commemoration of their own, but it will not be festive.

"The Indians aren't going to celebrate this Lewis and Clark thing," he says. "To us, Lewis and Clark certainly aren't heroes."

— **Dustin Solberg**

Dustin Solberg is a former HCN associate editor.



DRAWING CROWDS: The Missouri River's wild and scenic stretch (Larry Beckner photo)