

Idaho Chapter Newsletter-LCTHF

October 2019



Photo by Steve Lee

Annual Meeting in St. Louis Missouri

By Laurie Brown

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation meeting this year was in St. Louis, Missouri, September 22-25, 2019. We had fun times cruising the Mississippi River, visiting the famous St. Louis Arch, seeing some of the original journals, visiting the Missouri Historical Research Center, Missouri History Museum and taking tours of the city.

Next year the Annual Meeting will be in Charlottesville, VA on Aug 2-5, 2020. You don't want to miss this as we will be in Thomas Jefferson territory!



Photo by Laurie Brown



Lolo Work Week

By Geoff Billin

Photos by Geoff Billin & John Benjes

2019 was the tenth anniversary of the Idaho Chapter performing trail maintenance on the Nez Perce / Lewis and Clark hiking trails that interweave with the Lolo Motorway in the Bitterroot Mountains.

Seventeen volunteers spent about one thousand hours brushing 18 miles of foot and horse trails at the end of July. Happily, we had five first-time workers, all of whom worked hard and did well. The work at 6,000 feet was wearing but casualties were minimal: some strained muscles. Although there were still many trees toppled by winter weather, work by LCTHF volunteers in previous years meant that much of our work was "touching up". This year we had a young Forest Service Trail Specialist with us for four of the five working days; this made the work for our older crew much easier and safer.

Our agreement with the Forest Service is not just for trail clearing, it calls for the rebuilding of informational signs along the Lolo Motorway. In separate trips a smaller group of workers took several trips into the mountains to enhance the sign frames built last year as well as remove signs at the eastern end of the Motorway and replace the posts and beams that support the signs. We added the refurbishment of a three-sign stop along US Highway 12 to our workload, and we plan to reinstall those signs this fall. There are two signs and supports far along the Motorway that remain to be done, with work planned for next summer when the area is again free of snow.

We seek folks to be a part of the Lolo Work Week held in late July. You don't have to be a young hero to participate. For more information write to loloworkweek@gmail.com



John Fisher's Presentation at St Louis

John Fisher spent about a half hour discussing the expedition's large dugouts known as "pirogues" and "barge" (also known incorrectly as a keelboat), recently at the annual meeting in St. Louis. With only a half hour

while on the tour boat of the Mississippi River, Fisher outlined the highlights of his research from over the past ten years, and challenged the audience to provide evidence to the contrary.

Briefly, the expedition's barge was flat bottomed, was called a "barge" by all the journalists and others like Judge Thomas Rodney who visited Lewis in Wheeling as he came down the Ohio. The expeditions journalists well knew the differences between a barge and a keelboat because four of them called twelve other different boats that they met on the expedition keelboats.

About seven years ago Fisher published an extensive peer reviewed article in the quarterly journal of the Museum of the Fur Trade discussing the definition of Pirogue during that era, (a very large dugout). A careful study of the Moulton journals shows lots of evidence they were dugouts. Records show that tulip poplar grew to dimensions of more than 195 ft. in height and diameters more than twelve feet, more than sufficient to produce giant dugouts.



John was also awarded the Glen Bishop Award on the last evening of our meeting. It was an appreciation award for the many thousands of dollars' worth of artifacts that John provided to the L & C Discovery Expedition of Saint Charles through purchase and donation.

Photo by Phillipa Newfield

Riding With Lewis and Clark

On April 13, 2019, Doc Wesselius gave a talk on a study of the journals of the Corps of Discovery to determine the equestrian

saddles used by the expedition. Native American saddles were also documented in the journals.



Doc Wesselius is a retired veterinarian who has spent his life working with horses and currently volunteers his pack string for back country trail maintenance. Doc is an active LCTHF member and he serves on the Board of Directors of the Washington State Chapter.

Richard Scheuerman presents... John Mullan & The Northern Overland Trail

Historian, Dick Scheuerman, gave a talk on the John Mullan Trail on Oct. 10, 2019 at Colfax at the Whitman County Library. In the wake of Lewis & Clark came John Mullan and the Northern Overland Trail.

Scheuerman, a popular speaker who has authored numerous books and articles on regional Native Americans, pioneers, and immigrant history, now turns his attention to path finder Lt. John Mullan. The intrepid frontiersman led an expedition of nearly 100 surveyors and roadbuilders in 1860 to construct the first wagon road across the northern Rocky Mountains. Connecting Ft. Walla Walla with the headwaters of Upper Missouri River steamboat traffic at Ft. Benton, Montana, Mullan's "Northern Overland Road" is still visible in many places across eastern Washington.

Scheuerman has collaborated extensively with historian-businessman Alex McGregor and photographer John Clement to document the remarkable story of this legendary 625-mile frontier route that was used by some 35,000 travelers in the 1860s. The road would become the principal route for substantial portions of the Northern Pacific Railroad and I-90 freeway.

CHAPTER WEBSITES

The Chapter website may have information you may be interested in. Listed below are the main areas of interest.

Home page <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org>:

Lolo Work Week 2019 information

Lolo Work Week photo website <https://photos.app.goo.gl/w5VTzEGrzTyGe3y67>

L&C in Idaho:

Interactive Google Map: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/sites>

Pine Creek to Lenore by Chuck Raddon: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/features/peck.php>

Coulter Creek by Chuck Raddon: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/features/potlatch.php>

L and C in Orofino by Chuck Raddon: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/features/orofino.php>

Chapter Calendar: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/events>

Newsletters:

Select Feature Articles: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/news/features.php>

All issues since 1986: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org/news/index.php>

UPCOMING EVENTS

LCTHF 52nd Annual Meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia 2020

August 2-5, 2020

Details on the LCTHF website.

2020 Chapter dues are \$10.00 per individual. The Idaho dues form is on the last page of this newsletter. We are a 501 (c) 3 and donations are tax deductible.

Members are also encouraged to join the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. Here is the link for the Foundation dues website.

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=lewisandclark&id=8>

And at last, the dues page. If you have not submitted your Idaho dues yet this year, please do so. Your dues help to pay for our programs and fees incurred during the year.

Thank you for reading the newsletter!!

Laurie Brown

Idaho Chapter President

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

Idaho Chapter Dues Form

Be a part of the journey of discovery! Join the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Dues are \$10.00 per person.

Make your check payable to: Idaho Chapter LCTHF.

Send this membership form, along with a check to:

Holly Crawley
7325 South 5th West

Idaho Falls, ID 83404

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Thank you. Your dues are appreciated!