

Washington State Chapter, LCTHF, Inc.
www.wa-lcthf.org

Worthy of Notice

September 2006 Newsletter
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"Commemorating the Bicentennial"

NOTE: At the time of publication of this issue of *Worthy of Notice*, President Gary Lentz was involved with the huge Columbia Complex fire in Southeastern Washington. Though not a firefighter, his efforts in the form of support and use of the Lewis and Clark State Park as a base for those working on the fire have been exemplary. In that view, I have forgone the usual "President's Message" and have replaced it for this issue with the information and schedule of events for the Regional Meeting organized by the national foundation to be held in Vancouver, WA on November 4, 2006. Since we are co-hosts, it would be gratifying to see as many chapter members as possible attending. Please plan to attend. ED.

LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

REGIONAL MEETING
Co-hosted by the Oregon and Washington Chapters

November 4, 2006

Water Resources Education Center
4600 S.E. Columbia Way ~ Vancouver, Washington
www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/watercenter/wrec/index.htm

- 9 a.m. Registration and refreshments
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and introductions
- 9:45 a.m. Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation presentation
Wendy Raney, Foundation Director of Field Operations
- 10:30 a.m. Chapter Presentations
- Oregon Chapter
 - Washington Chapter
- 11 a.m. Volunteer Opportunities on the Trail (tentative)
- 11:30 p.m. Lunch (Boxed lunches will be available for \$10. Please specify ham beef or veggie sandwich in your RSVP. Includes sandwich, salad, fruit, cookie and drink)
- 12:30 p.m. **"What Thomas Jefferson learned from Alexander Mackenzie?"**
Robert Carriker, professor of history, is in his thirty-eighth year of teaching at Gonzaga University where he has twice won scholar awards. Together with his wife, Eleanor, he has published on a variety of topics, most notably in the fields of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Columbia River and the Jesuit missionaries. (Continued on page 5.)

Plucker Meadows Meeting Notes, April 30, 2006

Wednesday April 30th 1806

we continued our rout N.30 E. 14 ms. through an open level sandy plain to a bold Creek 10 yds. wide. this stream is a branch of the Wallahwollah river into which it discharges itself about six miles above the junction of that river with the Columbia. It takes it's rise in the same range of mountains to the East of the sources of the main branch of the same. It appears to be navigable for canoes; it is deep and has a bold current. there are many large banks of pure sand which appear to have been drifted up by the wind to the height of 15 or 20 feet, lying in many parts of the plain through which we passed today.

Captain Meriwether Lewis

A band of intrepid explorers gathered two hundred years later on the banks of this same "bold Creek" to experience the sights and sounds of the Corps of Discovery. Investigating history with modern-day conveniences, the LCTHF-Washington State Chapter met at Plucker Meadows on the Touchet River. The weekend campout provided a unique opportunity to study nature that was common to our undaunted heroes.

Despite the cultural changes that have transpired in the past two hundred years the attendees were immersed in a study of our past. After arriving from various parts of the Northwest, camp was set up in a grassy bend of the river on the Plucker Ranch. Steve Plucker arranged to have a replica of a period army bivouac set up in the meadows - appreciated by early morning risers that gathered around the smoldering campfires. The surroundings and crisp April morning ambience transported the students of Lewis and Clark to a time in our nation's past.

As the sun rose over the range of mountains to the East a picture of nature at its most splendid moment unfolded. A Great Horned Owl that stood guard over its nest with two owlets hooted her last nightly exaltation from a nearby tree on the banks of the gurgling stream. A lone Coyote yipped its morning howl and retreated to its haunts. Morning Doves cooed and the familiar Meadow Larks' refrain welcomed the arrival of a new day. The grandeur of the morning was punctuated by the flights of ducks, geese and a lone Heron that rose from their night's rest on the river to start their day's activities. The calliope was joined by the badgering sounds of Magpies and Crows that brought to life the tweeter of many Wrens and Sparrows from the brush. Interposed across the sky was the silent flight of flocks of Swallows gathering breakfast.

As the sun rose in a clear blue, cloudless sky the modern day explorers were experiencing the same sights and sounds that were an every day happening for the Corps of Discovery as they traveled on the "Overland Trail." Plans were quickly laid to get out on the trail and hike the ancient route used by Native Americans to access, from interior settlements, the fishing grounds on the Columbia River. The same "road" used by the Lewis and Clark Expedition was utilized by fur brigades and settlers of the region. The trail was later used by the military for a wagon course and a stagecoach route used the same byway.

Today the "sandy plain" has been transformed into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the state. However, the "large banks of pure sand" are still there; the larger ones were not cultivated. Despite the appropriate foot gear worn by the trekkers, hiking along the trail, still visible even in the fields of cropland, was trying. Patches of Prickly Pear and the soft sandy soil would have been demanding in leather moccasins, as realized by a member that hiked in period costume. The welcome sight of a watercourse (the day's first source of water for the corps) was hindered by a steep rocky descent to the campsite. By the time the modern expedition reached the beckoning campsite (and lunch) a real appreciation for the hearty voyagers of the past was realized.

After an afternoon chapter meeting the participants enjoyed the scholarly camaraderie around campfires and discussed the many aspects of Lewis and Clark discovery. That evening the wind started and the weather turned cool. Lewis' assumption was correct - those sand dunes were made by the wind. Not to be deterred, some stayed outside their cozy campers (modern transportable camps on wheels) and surveyed the stars. The same constellations looked down on the corps as they rested for their next day of travel.

The next day, in a matter of an hour, our transportable camps had traversed along the approximate route traveled in two days by the corps. Along the Touchet River spring was just starting in the riparian bottomlands. The woody riparian forest species noted by Lewis still grow along the banks where not affected by farming activity. Blue Elderberry with its brilliant green leaves was leafing out amongst the sprouting Cow Parsnip. On the drier slopes stands of sagebrush and rabbitbrush with bunchgrass can still be found. Nobody was tempted to try Cous (*Lamatum cous*) – pronounced “cows” – that is the spring staple of Native American’s diet. Seeing the many varieties of plant life one can only marvel at Lewis’ power of observation.

Our destination was the campsite of May 2, 1806, on Patit Creek. The community of Dayton can take pride in their identification of the expedition’s campground. It is the best representation of exactly how the Corps of Discovery would have looked in camp. The iron figurines of every expedition member, their horse herd, and their Native American guides are very impressive. After the usual Kodak moment the participants in the weekend’s events departed for their comfortable lodgings at home – a much shorter itinerary than our heroes’ quest.

(Submitted by Doc Wesselius. Edited for WON, 2006)

Special Note: Host of the April meeting, Steve Plucker, is good to his word. Steve donated \$120 of the proceeds from the weekend campout to the chapter. We are much indebted to Steve for his continuing support. Thanks very much, indeed. ED.

Below: Chapter members at a LC Trail marker on the plain above Plucker Meadows. From here the Corps dropped down into the Touchet River Valley and Plucker Meadows.



Ocian In View

"Lewis and Clark Beyond The Bicentennial"

November 10 – 12, 2006 on the Long Beach Peninsula

Speakers will include great, great, great grandson of Captain William Clark

LONG BEACH PENINSULA, Wash. -- The 'Ocian in View' speakers series will return to the Long Beach Peninsula on November 10, 11 and 12, 2006. Inspired by the depth of Lewis and Clark history in Pacific County, the event will include lectures, interpretive tours, educational programs and more, with a focus on the Lewis and Clark legacy.

Leading off the weekend will be a presentation by Peyton 'Bud' Clark, the great, great, great grandson of Captain William Clark. While showing remarkable images of the trip, Clark will share stories of the return voyage from the Pacific Ocean to St. Louis, Missouri, in 2006 by the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, with whom Clark portrayed his ancestor Capt. Clark. The lecture will be at the Ilwaco Heritage Museum, Ilwaco, at 7PM, on Nov. 10. Tickets for this and all 'Ocian in View' lectures are \$10 and will be sold at the door. Seating is limited to 200 people and doors will open at 6:15PM.

Ever-popular interpretive tours will be offered on Nov. 11 and Nov. 12 starting at 9AM and ending at 1PM. Highly regarded and talented speaker, Rex Ziak will lead one tour to significant historical sites on the Washington side of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. The tour will include stops at Dismal Nitch and Station Camp -- sites that make up the new Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park. Jim Sayce, Washington State Historical Society, will lead his tour group to Dismal Nitch, Station Camp, Clark's ocean campsite, and the Confluence site. Tours are \$30 per person and reserve well in advance. Please call 360-642-3446 for availability and reservations.

Other highlights of the program include the following:

- An insightful and riveting talk by Rex Ziak, author, raconteur and cinematographer, on events that occurred after the Corps of Discovery's return. The talk, entitled "1806: What happens next?" will take place at the Ilwaco High School, at 7PM, on Nov. 11;
- Returning special guest, Gary Lentz, will offer an educational talk called the "Instruments of Discovery" at the Ft. Columbian State Park Theater in Chinook, on Nov. 12 at 2PM. Use of the octant, sextant, compass, chip log, hydrometer, and more will be discussed. Admission is free;
- The recently re-designed Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Cape Disappointment State Park will host an open house on Nov. 11 and 12 from 10AM to 5PM;
- Tours of the recently unveiled Confluence site, designed by Maya Lin, will be offered on Nov. 10 and 11 at 11AM and 2PM, and on Nov. 12 at 2PM;
- A seafood dinner prepared by the Chinook Tribe will be presented at the Ilwaco Heritage Museum on Nov. 11 from 4 to 7PM. Cost is \$15 per person and includes regional seafood, salad, Indian fry bread, dessert and beverages. Tickets for seniors are \$13 and, for children under 12 years of age, they are \$5;
- "O How Horrible is the Day" open house will be held at the Knappton Cove Heritage Center on Nov. 11 from 1PM to 4PM;
- Chinook Tribe, Lewis and Clark and Maritime Explorer exhibits will be on display at the Ilwaco Heritage Museum, which will be open from 10AM to 4PM on Nov. 10 and 11, and on Nov. 12

from noon to 4PM. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$2.50 for youths (age 12 to 17) and \$1 for children (age 6 to 11).

'Ocian in View' is presented by a consortium of regional non-profit organizations led by the Pacific County Friends of Lewis & Clark and the Ilwaco Heritage Museum. For more information on the program, please call 360-642-2805 and for available lodging, call the Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau at 1-800-451-2542 or access the Peninsula's website at www.funbeach.com. Lewis and Clark information is available at www.lewisandclarkwa.org.

For further information, you may contact:

Carol Zahorsky
Public Relations for the Long
Beach Peninsula Visitor's Bureau
360-446-3645
carol@zahorskypr.com

or

Una Boyle
Executive Director
Long Beach Peninsula Visitor's Bureau
1-800-451-2542
una@funbeach.com

Come and enjoy the weekend of fun on the beach with Lewis and Clark!

Regional Meeting (continued from page 1)

1:30 p.m. Break

1:45 p.m. **Musical performance including songs from Jefferson's era and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.**

Andrew Emlen and Jeffrey Reynolds

This 90-minute performance begins with the musicians in Colonial clothing performing music that Thomas Jefferson would have enjoyed. The second half of the performance features the musicians in buckskin, playing a variety of music that Expedition members likely would have played on their journey.

3:15 p.m. Conclusion

Directions to the Water Resources Education Center:

From I-5 northbound or southbound: Take the Camas Highway 14 exit. Within a quarter of a mile, take Exit 1 (Vancouver Nat'l Historic Reserve). Turn right (south) at foot of ramp. Travel under the railroad berm. At the traffic signal, turn left (east) onto Columbia Way. Continue along Columbia Way past Marine Park. At the traffic circle, turn left (north) and follow the drive. Parking is available.

From I-205 northbound or southbound: Take the Vancouver Hwy 14 exit. Travel approximately four miles to Exit 1 (Vancouver Nat'l Historic Reserve). At the traffic signal, turn left (east) onto Columbia House Blvd. Proceed parallel to Hwy 14 and stay in the middle lane to the highway underpass intersection. Travel under the railroad berm. At the traffic signal, turn left (east) onto Columbia Way. Continue along Columbia Way past Marine Park. At the traffic circle, turn left (north) and follow the drive. Parking is available.

From downtown: travel toward the river (south) on Columbia Street. Proceed under the I-5 Bridge and continue on Columbia Street which will become Columbia Way. Travel through the intersection and continue along Columbia Way past Marine Park. At the traffic circle, turn left (north) and follow the drive. Parking is available.

Hoofbeats in History: Horses and the Lewis and Clark Expedition

By Doc Wesselius

Two hundred years ago the Corps of Discovery was in winter quarters at their Fort Mandan on the Missouri River, in today's North Dakota. It was at this time that the expedition leaders began to grasp their future need for horses. Previously, the two captains could hardly have realized the extent to which they would become horse traders, horse breakers, horse trainers, horse managers and horse doctors.

Was the expedition properly prepared with the skills, know-how, or plans for the inclusion of horses in their exploration? Probably not. Despite the era, not all American citizens owned or were familiar with the use of horses for transportation. Notwithstanding the inherent horsemanship skills of many soldiers, the corps was an infantry military unit. Both Captain Lewis and Captain Clark had been frontier military officers and had military experience with horses. Some of the members of the expedition also had competence with horse, especially the civilian scout employed by the corps. However, most corpsmen that volunteered for the mission were chosen because of other skills than horsemanship.

Pre-expeditionary planning for the journey did not foresee any compelling need for horses or for training the corpsmen in horse management. The exploration route was expected to be almost entirely on the Missouri and Columbia rivers. Conventional wisdom presumed that the Continental Divide was comparable to the Allegheny Mountains in the East. The relatively narrow rise separating the two watersheds could be easily portaged without the need of horses.

Their Indian hosts informed the captains about the formidable Rocky Mountains and the need for horse land transportation. The captains also began to understand how crucial horse trafficking had become amongst the natives. During the winter horses had to be borrowed or rented to pack buffalo meat in sleighs across the snow covered prairie. Horses were valued so much by the village-dwelling Indians that they were reluctant to loan them even for procuring food; horses were not for sale. To help bring meat back to the fort it was necessary to barrow a horse from a British agent of the North West Company. It soon became apparent why Indian horses were not sold or even rented. The captains had to buy the horse that was lent to them after it was stolen by a roving band of horse raiders.

Hunting buffalo required traveling on the snow-frozen prairie several miles away from the earth-lodge villages. To prepare for the hunting trip the corps' blacksmith had to make horseshoes and nails and the carpenters constructed wooden sleighs. After the horses were shod a detachment of eighteen men was sent out on the hunting foray. They returned to the fort minus the horses; a larger consignment of Sioux stole their horses. With the potent forces of guns and horse mobility the Sioux controlled trade on the Northern Plains. Lewis and Clark had already discovered that the Sioux closely guarded their control of the trade network on the Missouri and quickly learned about the role that horses played in the exchange of goods.

By the start of the 1800s the horse had completely changed the culture of the Plains Indians. In the short span of a century, horses stolen from Southwest Spanish settlements, in today's New Mexico, had grown into large herds owned by the now nomadic tribes. Horse trading for guns was worth the long trek to the Canadian trading posts. Stealing horses was an honorable pursuit among the mounted prairie tribes. Their roving equestrian life gendered a warlike spirit. Warfare and horse stealing developed into a glorified game plus a way of gaining honor and prestige. With horses the nomadic tribes became mounted hunters and fighters beyond compare. To maintain their fragile balance of power the Sioux organized horse stealing raids against anybody that possessed horses; including their village-dwelling middlemen.

Horses were traded for agricultural produce grown in the earth-lodge villages. The nomadic tribes found it convenient to include the permanent villages in their trade network and horse stealing raids. Therefore, village-dwelling tribes closely guarded their horses while they were grazing on the open prairie. When horses were not feeding they were tied near the entrance of the owner's earth-lodge; at night they were kept inside. During the winter months cottonwood trees were cut down to collect bark and branches to feed horses.

While at council with Mandan and Hidatsa war chiefs, Lewis and Clark learned the importance of horses in the changing culture of the earth-lodge villages. Horse ownership equated with prestige and wealth. Sedentary tribes utilized horses to hunt buffalo further away and with far greater prowess. As a beast of burden the horse brought back quantities of dried meat and hides. Buffalo hides were central in

the trade between the village-dwelling tribes and the Canadian fur companies that brought trade goods to the native settlements on the Missouri River. The earth-lodge villages were the centers of trade on the Northern Plains; however, the Sioux controlled the import of British-made guns.

In addition to horses, firearms changed the character of the Plains Indian. No other manufactured article was more coveted by Plains Indians than the gun. Equal exchanges of one musket for one horse occurred in the early intertribal trade. The cultural change in the village-dwelling tribes reflected the Siouan control for availability of both the two major trade items. Mandan and Hidatsa warriors conducted buffalo hunts with the bow and arrow; guns were reserved for warfare. They mostly rode bareback or used a padded saddle without stirrups. The Northern Plains horseman guided his mount with his knees; leaving his hands free for weapons.

Horses enabled the village-dwelling tribes to pray against tribes that did not have guns for protection. Raiding forays as distant as to the Rocky Mountains were routinely conducted. It was on one of these raids that history began for the third most recognized name with the Corps of Discovery. Part three of *Hoofbeats in History* will study the role that Sacagawea played in the Corps of Discovery's acquisition of horses.

(Chapter-member and horseman Doc Wesslius has written a thirteen-piece assessment of the Horses of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He has graciously shared them with us. Thanks, Doc. WON, 2006)

LCTHF Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO

The annual meeting for 2006 will be the final meeting of the bicentennial. The timing and location coincide with the return of the Corps of Discovery to St. Louis on September 23, 1806. Though there are other "get-togethers" scheduled for later on that relate to various events that occurred after the return, this is it as far as THE bicentennial is concerned. Next year's meeting will be the kick-off of the third century in Philly.

If you haven't already made your arrangements, there is still time. Plan to attend the festivities of the "last mile!"

And remember, this is the lead-in to the final Signature Event of the bicentennial also. Plan on taking in both events while in St. Louis.

Regional Meeting. Vancouver, WA

This is a regional meeting of the Oregon and Washington chapters to go over current issues facing the foundation, and a time to address future issues. Wendy Rainey will be the foundation representative and will fill us in on what is happening and what the outlook is for the future of the foundation and the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Plan on attending this informative meeting and show your support for The Trail. Mark your calendars for Nov. 4th at the Water Resources Education building by the Columbia River. (See page 1 for information and driving directions.)

Washington State Chapter Fall Meeting, Columbia Hills State Park

The next chapter meeting will be October 21st at the Columbia Hills St. Pk. (formerly Horsethief Lake St. Pk. – the sign still says this!). The meeting will begin at about 11:30 with lunch at the campfire area by the lake. However, for those who can, get there before 10:00 for a tour of the native petroglyphs and pictographs that are normally "off limits!" Meet Gary Lentz at the lower parking lot by the glyphs display at 10:00 sharp.

Following the tour will be the lunch meeting and the presentations from about 1:00 to 3:00. There will be presentations on native use of local plant material for making cordage and other items, fire-making as well as medicinal "salves." Join us for an interesting day above the Celilo Falls area.

If you have a canoe, bring it too! The lake is a great place to paddle and see flora and fauna the natives used.

Camping and lodging are available in the area.

Join us for a fun weekend!

Future Events for the Washington State Chapter

- Sept. 15-16, 2006** – Candlelight Tour of Ft. Vancouver National Historical site. Reenactments of life at the fort. For information, call 360-816-6200; www.nps.gov/fova/visitevent.htm.
- Sept. 18-19, 2006** – Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO. This is the lead-in to the last Signature event of the bicentennial the following five days. Make your plans to attend.
- Oct. 21, 2006** – Washington State Chapter fall meeting to be held at Columbia Hills State Park (formerly named Horse Thief Lake St. Pk.). See page 7 for more information.
- Nov. 4, 2006** – LCTHF Regional Meeting, PNW version. See page 1 for the particulars.
- Nov. 10-12, 2006** – *Ocian In View* on the Long Beach Peninsula. There will be speakers, tours and a banquet to fill in the whole weekend. See page 4 for all the information and contacts.
- Feb. 2007** – Annual Business Meeting, Washington State Chapter. Washington State Historical Society Museum in Tacoma.

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
128 Galaxie Road
Chehalis, WA 98532



September 2006 Newsletter



The mission of the LCTHF is to stimulate appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contribution to America's heritage and to support education, research, development and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience.

