



The Trail Companion

A Quarterly Newsletter

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail



November 2015

Tracing the courses of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail stretches through 11 states. The Trail winds over mountains, along rivers, through plains and high deserts, and extends to the wave-lapped Pacific coast. In this diversity of landscapes, visitors to the Trail create their own journeys of discovery.

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Phone
402 661-1804 - visitor center
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facebook.com/lewisandclarknht

 **Twitter**
[@LewisClarkTrail](https://twitter.com/LewisClarkTrail)

 **YouTube**
youtube.com/lewisandclarknhtnps

THE TRAIL COMPANION

Superintendent, Mark Weekley

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 at: lecl_communications@nps.gov

Cover photo: Kids enjoy dissecting owl pellets at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Photo courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

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National Geographic Society *Geotourism*

From the Superintendent



Mark Weekley

For the past several years, I have been working with a group who wanted to increase all types of recreation along the Mississippi River. This really appealed to me because I truly

believe that if you wish to help people

care for America's natural and historic resources, they need to know about them and appreciate what makes them special.

Over time this group formed a partnership with the National Geographic Society to launch a geotourism project. I was a bit skeptical that such a project could succeed on something as long and diverse as the 2,320 miles of the Mississippi River. *However, I was very interested in this effort because I knew that if was possible, it might just be great idea for the 3,700 mile long Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (Trail).* The good news is that the Mississippi Geotourism Project is well on its way to becoming a reality with a launch date of next spring. Having seen this project develop I am excited about the possibilities such a project could bring for the Trail.

The National Geographic Society website defines geotourism:

...as tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place—its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and

the well-being of its residents. Geotourism incorporates the concept of sustainable tourism—that destinations should remain unspoiled for future generations—while allowing for ways to protect a place’s character. Geotourism also takes a principle from its ecotourism cousin,—that tourism revenue should promote conservation—and extends it to culture and history as well, that is all distinctive assets of a place.

When I read this I saw several concepts that fit very well with the goals of many Lewis and Clark organizations. I believe a project like this would do great things for the Trail, its partners, and the public. The advantage of a project like this is that the content is developed at the local level. This allows the people who know the area best to provide the information. While the focus of this project would be sites related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, it would also provide an opportunity for local businesses and organizations to put their information on the site so that visitors can quickly find lodging, restaurants and shops that are unique and special to the area. Some of advantages of the geotourism approach as outlined on National Geographic Society’s website are:

Geotourism is synergistic. *All the elements of geographical character work together to create a tourist experience that is richer than the sum of its parts, appealing to visitors with diverse interests.*

It involves the community. *Local businesses and civic groups join to provide a distinctive, authentic visitor experience.*

It informs both visitors and hosts. *Residents discover their own heritage by learning that things they take for granted may be interesting to outsiders. As local people develop pride and skill in showing off their locale, tourists get more out of their visit.*

It benefits residents economically. *Travel businesses hire local workers, and use local services, products, and supplies. When community members understand the benefits of geotourism, they take responsibility for destination stewardship.*

It supports integrity of place. *Destination-savvy travelers seek out businesses that emphasize the character of the locale. In return, local stakeholders who receive economic benefits appreciate and protect the value of those assets.*

It means great trips. *Enthusiastic visitors bring home new knowledge. Their stories encourage friends and relatives to experience the same thing, which brings continuing business for the destination.*

The process of creating a geotourism project leads to the creation of local or regional geotourism councils who help guide and direct the project. This could help create a high level of connectivity between the NPS, other federal land managers, as well state, tribal, and local groups. This type of connectivity was strong during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, but has not been sustained. I would like to change that. The actual products that are developed vary from project to project, but a website is the fundamental platform for all these projects. National Geographic also offers a host of other products such as maps, mobile applications, and much more. But like many great undertakings, there is price. A project like this takes money, time, and a commitment from the NPS and folks along the Trail. We are still in the process of evaluating this project but I am optimistic that we will be able to make this happen. Please look for more information in the coming months. ■

MARK WEEKLEY
Superintendent

Anita B. Gorman *Discovery Center*

The Missouri Department of Conservation invites you to visit the **Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center**, a unique, hands-on urban conservation education center in the heart of Kansas City. Just a short walk from the Plaza shopping area, the Discovery Center is at the confluence of culture and conservation.

Learn From the Past

Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery serve as your symbolic hosts. Make sure to take time to view the 1804 Missouri River as depicted in a wall mural. A half scale keel boat and full scale dugout canoe offer a glimpse of what Lewis and Clark river travel was like.

Workshops

The Discovery Center offers six workshops where you can experience hands on conservation programs like native plant gardening, aquatic education, native wildlife, nature art and much more. You can also learn important outdoor skills related to camping and hiking.

Pat Whalen guiding school students on a nature hike. Photo courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation.



Care for the Present and Shape the Future

The Discovery Center has many green features like bio swales, solar, and a water recycling system. The facility does a good job of showing how buildings and landscapes can work in harmony with nature.



Anita B. Gorman
**Conservation
Discovery
Center**

Hike and Play

Your visit is not complete without a hike on the Wild Side Walk where you may spot a turtle and get a chance to bird watch. Families will want to make a stop at Sycamore Station which is a hands-on natural playground. Kids will enjoy climbing on large logs and building forts.

Click **HERE** to view the
**2015-2016 Discovery Center
School Programs.**

Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center
4750 Troost Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64110
816-759-7300
www.MissouriConservation.org

Monday-Friday: 8am to 5pm. *
*open until 7pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday
of each month

Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month:
9am – 4pm

Blake Asher helps teach students about Lewis and Clark. Photo courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation.



Trailscapes

Sculpture in the Wild

The community of **Lincoln, Montana** may not be the first place that comes to mind when you think of internationally renowned art. However beginning in 2014, the area has been host to respected sculptors from around the world who are inspired by and engaged with the history, culture, and landscape of the Blackfoot Valley.

As part of the 2014 sculpture symposium, artists such as Steven Siegel (USA), Jorn Ronnau (Denmark), Alan Counihan (Ireland), Jaakko Pernu (Finland) and Kevin O'Dwyer (Ireland) were invited to create works of art

using local materials from the community's economic and cultural traditions.

Each artist was hosted by a local family and project participants regularly gathered and spent time with members of the community, sharing meals, ideas, and experiences. Volunteers shared their time, energy, and good humor to help the artists realize their vision. During the 3 weeks of the sculpture symposium, school children from the Blackfoot Valley were provided with the opportunity to spend a day making their own sculptures from materials found within the forest landscape.



Picture Frame by Jaakko Pernu of Finland. NPS Photo.



A Gateway of Change by Jorn Ronnau of Denmark made from Ponderosa Pine, goldleaf, and stone. NPS Photo.

As a result of the sculpture symposium, the **Sculpture in the Wild International Sculpture Park** was born on a 26-acre woodland site.

This year, artists from across the United States, the United Kingdom, and Ireland are participating in a second sculpture symposium. New art installations are being created and students from 12 different schools in the Blackfoot Valley are visiting the sculpture park to meet the artists and learn about creating sculptures.

As traditional industries such as mining, logging, and ranching have declined in recent years, the community of Lincoln is reflecting

on the unique local history and landscape as well as looking towards the future.

The Sculpture in the Wild International Sculpture Park has become a creative outlet and provided a potential economic boost in Lincoln. Visitors who once stopped in Lincoln to fill up their gas tanks on their way to and from Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks are now beginning to see the community of Lincoln as a destination in its own right.

Perhaps it won't be long until the Blackfoot Valley is known worldwide for its rich history, beautiful scenery, and priceless works of art ■

RYAN M. COOPER
Geographer



Jordan Reeves of The Wilderness Society standing in front of the sculpture entitled *Montana Memory: Re-Imagining the Delaney Sawhill TeePee Burner* by Kevin O'Dwyer of Ireland. NPS Photo.



Hill and Valley (2014) created by Steven Siegel from 30,000 lbs of newspaper, 28 pine lodge poles, and 400 lbs of nails. NPS Photo.

Volunteers *make the Trail tick*

Did you know that in terms of volunteer contributions, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is one of the top contributors for the entire National Park Service?

Maybe you did, but when I started in June as the Student Conservation Association's Centennial Volunteer Ambassador for the Trail, I had no clue. I honestly didn't know what to expect from the Trail at all, but I was fortunate enough to travel in my first four months – to get out there and see what it's all about.

And even though a few states and many miles later I still feel as if I've barely scratched the surface of the Trail ethos, one of the biggest rewards has been the ability to meet so many of the essential volunteers who make it special. Few visitors to the Lewis and Clark

Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Montana, for instance, can forget the vivacious Phyllis, who collects the entrance fee, and sends them on in to Jim Meade, a legendary volunteer docent. Jim has worked over 7,000 hours at the Center, where he met Phyllis – now, they're married.

Other retired couples keep campgrounds safe and fun by becoming seasonal hosts, like at Cape Disappointment State Park in Washington and the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in Montana (and they could use more – check your local site or [state parks'](#) website for information on applying).

And then there's Sharon at Sacajawea State Park in Pasco, Washington, who was a



All images courtesy of Sacajawea State Park, Washington
2015 Heritage Days

campground host, fell ill, and turned lemons to lemonade by extending her stay—by years. She has totally reinvigorated their volunteer base, recently helped found **Friends of Sacajawea State Park**, and a month ago pulled off the very successful annual event Heritage Days, which brought over 6,000 visitors to the park in a weekend.

Volunteers, who help manage the vast and complicated conglomerate that the Trail is, are some of the real unsung heroes. Spending an hour with Jonathan Peart, who manages the **Friends of Pompey's Pillar** outside of Billings, Montana, was one of the most valuable early experiences I had along the Trail while trying to make heads or tails of how to make a volunteer program tick.

Our volunteers are superstars – look no further than here at the Omaha headquarters, where Ken comes in twice a week to do any number of odd jobs. But we're not the only ones who rely on him; Ken also volunteers at the Union Pacific Museum and Omaha

Visitors' Bureau, which has led to valuable relationships with them and the community.

And these are just a handful of examples off the top of my head. I just did the volunteer data roundup for the past fiscal year, so I know better than anyone how many Phyllises, and Jims, and Sharons, and Jonathans, and Kens there are out there – each special by themselves, but incredible when working together. Over 4,000 volunteers pitched in to help the Trail this year, contributing over 150,000 hours. Using the independent sector formula, volunteers provided the trail with over three and a half million dollars of labor this year.

On the Trail, every day should be volunteer appreciation day. Please thank the volunteers you know today! ■

CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW

Student Conservation Association
Centennial Volunteer Ambassador



LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

FY15 VOLUNTEER REPORT

Today, visitors can follow the approximate route of the Corps of Discovery by exploring the trail. Each year, the trail benefits from the dedication of thousands of volunteers. Here's just a few facts and figures from the past year about the people who make the Trail a special place.

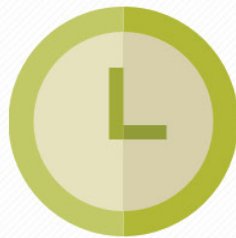
In the past year,
we counted



4,573

volunteers along
the trail.

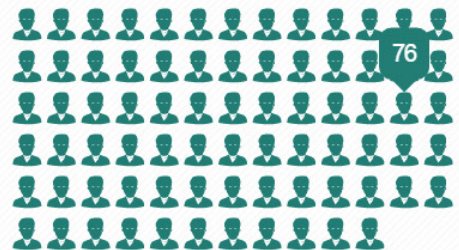
Combined, they
contributed



157,096

hours in service.

That's the
equivalent of over



75

fulltime staff
members...

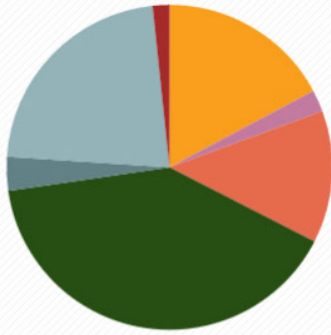
... which converts to a labor value of



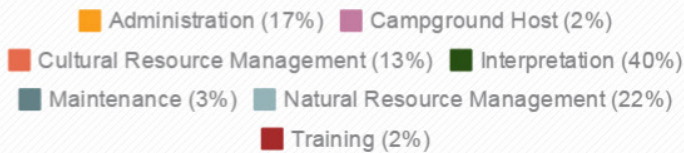
\$3.5 million

(but really, they're priceless.)

What did they do?



Collectively, Trail volunteers did just about everything you can think of -- trailblazing, education programs, desk duty, campground hosting, organizing and hosting events, river cleanups, and much more.



This data is based on the reporting of 25 of our great partners. A special thank you to:

Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center (WA)
 Fort Atkinson State Historic Park (NE)
 Fort Osage NHL (MO)
 Fort Walla Walla Museum (WA)
 Friends of the Columbia River Gorge (OR)
 Friends of Pompeys Pillar (MT)
 Healthy Rivers Partnership (Missouri River)
 Knappton Cover Heritage Center (OR)
 Lewis & Clark Boat House & Nature Center (MO)
 Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center (MT)
 Lewis & Clark State Historic Site (IL)
 Lolo Pass Visitor Center (ID)
 Omaha Visitor Center (NE)
 River Relief (Missouri River)
 Rock Bridge State Park (MO)
 Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural & Educational Center (ID)
 Sacajawea State Park (WA)
 Sgt. Floyd Museum (IA)
 The Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (trailwide)
 Upper Missouri River Breaks NM (MT)
 Western Historic Trails Center (NE)



THANK YOU!



Get in touch:
 Charlotte Murtishaw
charlotte_murtishaw@nps.gov
 (402) 661-1834

We love our volunteers!

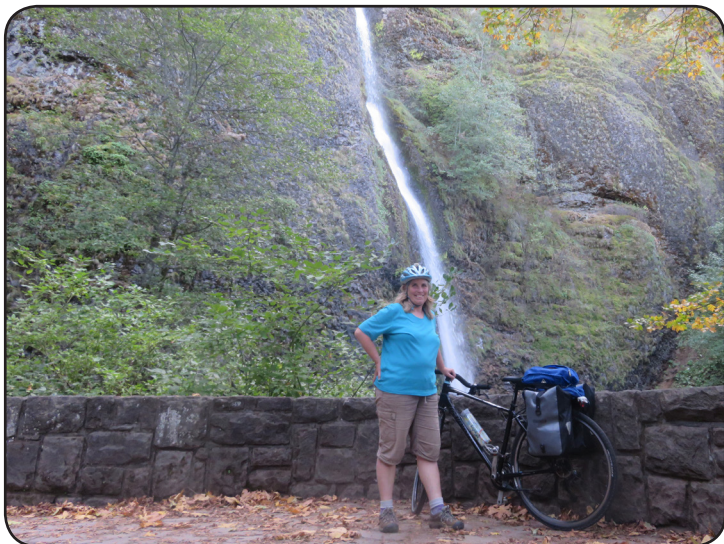


Cycling the Historic Columbia River Highway



The Columbia River Gorge in Oregon and Washington is one part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail that is renowned worldwide for its spectacular scenery, unique history, as well as numerous recreational opportunities for visitors. During peak season, however, visitors are often faced with large crowds, congestion, and traffic issues. One key to having a safe and enjoyable experience in the Columbia Gorge while avoiding the crowds is to do a bit of research before you go. When [Linda Hill](#) decided to take a cycling trip from Portland to The Dalles last month, she developed a plan that would help make her journey a unique and memorable experience. During her trip, she visited with the Park Manager at the Mark O. Hatfield Visitor Center, who was so impressed with her strategy that he suggested she write about her trip preparation. Linda took that advice and what follows is her description of the journey, reprinted with permission.

~Ryan M. Cooper.



Linda at Horse Tail Falls
All images courtesy of Linda Hill.



Linda entering the Mosier Tunnels.

I spent 4 wonderful days in early October 2015 cycling 100 miles from Portland to The Dalles along the [Historic Columbia River Highway](#). This was my dream ride to celebrate my 61st birthday and I savored every moment.

The location of the small towns along the route let me slow down to a very enjoyable rhythm of 20 to 35 miles per day. This pace gave me time to stop whenever I wanted to chat with people and enjoy the views, waterfalls, tunnels, plateaus, and a few of the many trails along this stunningly beautiful bikeway.

Even though there are plenty of campsites along this route, I decided to stay in a few of the many motels in Troutdale, Cascade Locks, and Hood River. This decision meant that I didn't have to carry much gear and I had a comfortable bed to sleep in each night.

By traveling weekdays instead of on the weekend, the traffic was very light on the portions of the historic highway that are shared with cars. The ride from Troutdale to Cascade Locks is probably the most beautiful day of cycling I have ever had.

The decision I felt best about, though, was to make use of the Columbia Area Transit (CAT) Dial-A-Ride Service to get around the yet-to-be

reconnected ten mile stretch from Wyeth to Hood River. After watching the ODOT videos about the plans for the final ten miles of trail, I had no interest in attempting to share any part of I-84 with huge trucks hurtling along at 80 miles per hour. I was especially worried about the narrow section around Shellrock Mountain that is described by park rangers as 'frightening' and 'harrowing.'

What a relief to find out about CAT and their bicycle friendly buses. I simply called 541-386-4202 a couple of days ahead and booked an early morning ride from Cascade Locks to Hood River. Then after being shuttled around the scary part, I hopped on my bicycle and spent a wonderful day riding up the easy five percent grade to the West Mark O. Hatfield Trailhead and then on to the famous Mosier Tunnels, the town of Mosier where bike racks are works of art. I climbed up and up some more to Rowena Crest and then rode the swooping loops down toward The Dalles.

At the end of my trip, I caught the scheduled CAT bus service from The Dalles back to overnight in Hood River and then the next morning I caught the bus back to Portland.

LINDA HILL
Portland, Oregon



Columbia Area Transit shuttle that helped Linda avoid the dangerous section of her ride.



I-84 is a high traffic area in the Columbia River Gorge that presents dangers for cyclists.

Calling All 4th graders

www.everykidinapark.gov



As part of President Obama's commitment to protect our nation's unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them, the Obama Administration launched the new Every Kid in a Park program.

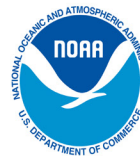
Fourth graders nationwide can visit the **Every Kid in a Park website** to obtain a pass that provides free access to students and their families to all federally managed lands and waters – including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries.

It's easy! Students log onto the Every Kid in a Park website and complete the interactive activity that the National Park Service has developed in conjunction with Scholastic. Once the student completes the online activity they are able to print out a paper

voucher. This paper pass can be used in lieu of the admission fee for federal lands and waters. The paper pass is good for the entire vehicle that the fourth grader arrives in, meaning the pass will cover the entire family, so long as (the fourth grader is present).

This pass is valid from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016. In addition, if the fourth grader would like to exchange their paper pass for a more durable 'keepsake' Fourth Grade Annual Pass, there are numerous locations that will have the durable pass. Visit <https://store.usgs.gov/pass> to find a location near you.

We encourage you to visit the website - there are resources for parents and educators too. Get out there and enjoy! ■



Lewis and Clark Resources



Honoring Tribal Legacies

www.HonoringTribalLegacies.com

A guide for designing curricula for future generations. Rigorous high quality demonstration curricula and two essential volumes that answer the questions: "Why design curriculum Honoring Tribal Legacies" and "How does one design curriculum Honoring Tribal Legacies?"



Tribal Legacy Project

lc-triballegacy.org

A digital archive of tribal perspectives. Recorded inside the Tent of Many Voices at the Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future traveling exhibit during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial 2003-2006.



Website/Email

www.nps.gov/lecl

lecl_communications@nps.gov



Facebook

www.facebook.com/lewisandclarknht

Connect with unique people, places, and stories on all things Lewis and Clark by joining the Lewis and Clark community on Facebook. View and share pictures, videos, news, and content along the entire Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



Twitter

www.twitter.com/LewisClarkTrail

Want to know what's happening out on the Trail? Follow us on Twitter to find out about events, programs, and the latest news happening at our National Park Service Visitor Center in Omaha, Nebraska and across the trail.



YouTube

www.youtube.com/lewisandclarknhtnps

Watch videos of the Trail staff and partners in action on our YouTube page.



Interactive Trail Atlas

www.lewisandclarktrailmap.com

Mobile Trail Atlas

lewisandclarktrailmap.mobi

Personalize your exploration using this portal into the geography of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Zoom into your area of interest, choose from a variety of different map layers, display backgrounds of your choice, and create your own custom maps.

Story Maps

nps.maps.arcgis.com/home

Learn about the stories of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail through a combination of interactive maps and rich multimedia content for a unique user experience.



Where on the Trail?

Do you know where this is?

Tweet your response @LewisClarkTrail

Or email your answer to: LECL_Communications@nps.gov