

Camp River Dubois Dispatch

2nd Quarter Official Newsletter of the Lewis & Clark Society and the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site Volume 8 Issue II

Manager's Corner: by Brad Winn

Well, first things first, There has been a lot of buzz recently about the possible merger of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. What will this mean for our site? First of all, I am not completely convinced that this will in fact happen. It was attempted about 4-5 years ago and stopped at the last hour. That being said, I can say that we are indeed preparing to move forward with the merger. I am honestly not sure at this point that it will mean a heck of a lot for us regarding hours of operation, admission fees, etc. What I think will take place is a slow transition over the next calendar year driven largely over the status of the state wide budget. Long term I would imagine everything is on the table and nothing at this point surprises me anymore regarding where we might be heading. In the short term, we intend to continue to move forward with our events, interpretive and education programming and our top fiscal responsibility remains the repair of Camp River Dubois.

It has certainly been a busy spring thus far. I would venture to guess that the number of our groups and certainly our outreaching programming numbers are up. The mild weather has also played a large role in the increased attendance we have seen this year. Kudos to the staff and volunteers for maintaining a high quality presentation for the visiting public. I recently attended a program put on by the National Park Service about the state of the National Trail's interpretive plan. We are right on track with the NPS' vision for the future of the trail and I think with this new revitalization of the Trail importance we should see a nice uptick in visitation in the next few years.

Bottom line, Lewis and Clark are still very relevant to our national and state story. We improve every year with regards to our recognition along the

trail as a top tier facility. I cannot say how proud that makes me feel to be a fellow steward of the important legacy started with the Lewis and Clark Society of America.

President's Corner: by Rex Maynard

While Captain Lewis was the most qualified medical practitioner of the Expedition, today his procedures and methods would be considered barbaric, detrimental and often times worse than the ailment they were supposed to cure. What were his qualifications? His mother, Lucy Meriwether Lewis Marks had a vast knowledge of traditional folk remedies and medicines. She passed that knowledge down to her son. He was well read, knew the latest medical theories and had associated with the great thinkers of the new republic. He had a scientific mind and great confidence in the ability of science and reason to solve the problems of the world. He was, after all, the protégé of America's great Renaissance man, Thomas Jefferson. With all those qualifications, he still had great holes in his medical knowledge and needed some help.

While in Philadelphia in preparation for the great trip, Lewis met with America's leading physician, a man who had served as the Surgeon General of the colonial army, who had signed the Declaration of Independence and had been a confidant of Washington, Jefferson, Adams and Franklin. Not only had Dr. Benjamin Rush been all these things, he had studied in Edinburgh, Scotland with the great physicians of Europe.

Rush gave Lewis a set of instructions for keeping his men healthy and a list of medicines to take on the trip. Three of these medicines are most interesting. The first was laudanum, whiskey mixed with opium. Not only did it relieve all pain, it relieved almost all sensation.

The second medicine was Peruvian Bark, ground up skin from the Cinchona tree of South America that worked wonders on the scourge of the river countries, malaria. They did not know why

Peruvian Bark relieved this dread disease, they just knew that it did. In many cases they would prescribe the bark for many illnesses other than malaria in the hopes that its healing properties would benefit the patient. Lewis took 15 pounds of this powder, the largest amount of any medicine to go on the Expedition. In 1820, chemists isolated an alkaloid now known as quinine from Cinchona bark. Quinine reigned for more than a century as the one successful treatment of malaria.

The third medicine was an invention of Dr. Rush himself. As did all educated men of medicine, he adhered to a theory of wellness that seems very strange today. They did not know about germs or infection or even the need for washing their hands. They believed that a person became ill when the body became unbalanced in its makeup. In order to bring the body into balance, methods were used to induce sweating, bleeding, vomiting and bowel purging in the patient.

He called his creation Dr. Rush's "Bilious Pills". A pill was composed of 10 grains of calomel, which is a mercury and chloride combination and a powerful laxative all by itself. To that was added 15 grains of jalap, from the roots of a Mexican plant, also a powerful laxative all by itself. This combination was so effective at purging the bowels that the men did not call them "Bilious Pills" but "Dr. Rush's Thunderbolts". A person did not take these pills in a trifling manner, but stood ready for fast and immediate effects. Time and again, these men who were consuming a meat heavy diet were issued this efficient and effective purgative.

But mercury is poisonous, a person might say, it would kill them. Yes, that is true, although the most dangerous aspect of mercury is the fumes. Hat makers would hand rub mercury into hats to make them waterproof. Breathing the fumes gave many of them an occupational hazard of brain damage, which inspired the term "Mad as a Hatter". Fortunately for the men, and unfortunately for Captain Lewis, swallowing the mercury laden pill was less dangerous than dispensing it time after time as the trip pharmacist. In addition, the pill worked so quickly that it journeyed through the digestive system and little mercury was absorbed.

In Montana, there is a place called Travelers Rest which was a campsite recorded in the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The exact location of the campsite was in dispute until archaeologists found traces of mercury in the soil.

They found the latrine of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Because of the military protocols followed for sanitation purposes, the direction and distances to the camp were successfully calculated. In the eastern states, signs indicate "George Washington slept here." What do you think the signs say about Lewis and Clark out west?

STORE OF DISCOVERY NEWS:

by Karen McDanel

We have new items in the store that include: finger puppets – a river otter, a bobcat and a firefly that actually lights up. We have soapstone buffaloes, bears and eagles, which make a nice knick-knack. We have maps of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and note cards of eagles and maps. There are new necklaces as well. We are working on getting decals and stickers about Camp River Dubois.

Sales have been good this year as we try new items. If you have any suggestions, please contact Karen or Vicki at 251-6244. As always, we could use a few new volunteers.

Event Comments:

by Pam Imes

May 6th was the 2nd annual Vintage Base ball games. The weather was so perfect for the games it was unbelievable. There was around 100 people off and on all day to watch the 1860 games. It is something very unique to watch and is right in our back yard. If you missed the games, they will be back next year. The Alton Giants will be the host of this annual event. So bring your chairs, sit, relax and cheer on your team next year.

Well, this was the year of great weather. Not a drop of rain and it sure made things go so much easier. We had great attendance on both days. For Education Day there were 750-4th graders. The artisans and volunteers were again so amazing at what they do. Education Day went off as planned and with all the great help from everyone, it was a huge success. I want to thank each and every one of you that helped me with this event. I couldn't do it without you.

Every school has turned in their survey and they all marked yes to come back next year. Education Day will be May 11th and Point of Departure May 12th and 13th 2018. So mark your calendars.

This year on Saturday of the event, Tim Desherlia, George Waldram and Jim Mewes (my expert carpenters), put in a beautiful window on the east side of the Settler's Cabin. Jim made the window with reproduction glass and is now making one for the south window. So come on out and see it sometime. It adds so much light to the cabin now. Thank you guys for all your hard work. Everyone have a safe, healthy and happy summer.

Upcoming Special Events:

***Hummingbird Festival:** July 22, 2017
Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Lewis and Clark State Historic Site will once again be one of the official Illinois Hummingbird Festival locations sponsored by the Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders. From 9:00 a.m. until noon, Saturday, July 22, 2017, visitors to the site are invited to attend an informative, indoor program about hummingbirds. Later in the morning, visitors may go outside to view the banding of any hummingbirds that are captured.

Visitors may “adopt” a hummingbird at no charge at any of the banding events, will receive an attractive signed certificate, be given the privilege of releasing their adopted bird (if enough birds are captured), and will be notified if their birds are ever recaptured.

***Total Solar Eclipse:** Date: August 21, 2017
No official start time.

Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site, 4372 Park Rd., Ellis Grove, IL 62241. Phone for information: 618-251-5811 Free Parking at Ft. Kaskaskia.



The moon will come between the earth and the sun. Partial phase starts at 11:50 a.m. and totality starts at 1:18 pm for a duration of 2 minutes 37

seconds. (You can only safely view the eclipse by using solar eclipse glasses with an optical density of 5 or greater.)

***Music Festival:** Date: Sept. 9, 2017
Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Musicians will perform traditional music of the late 1700s and early 1800s. 10:00-4:00 p.m. Local favorites, The Harmans, will perform 11 & noon. As always, our local favorites will be performing in the lobby

***Frontier Dog Walk:** Sept. 9, 2017
Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Saturday, September 9, stop by the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site and Confluence Tower for the fourth annual Frontier Dog Walk! Walk along the river levee from the L&C State Historic Site to the L&C Confluence Tower.

***Arrival at Camp River Dubois:**
Dec. 9 & 10, 2017. 10a.m.-4p.m.

The special event celebrates the 213th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's arrival at Camp River Dubois. Since Camp River Dubois has been shut down for safety reasons there will be no re-enactors outside for this event. Exhibitors will be inside displaying rocks and minerals, antique tools, and actual artifacts from the Lewis & Clark period. The War of 1812 artillery unit will display and interpret their cannon. Also, in case of Emergency, Dr. Imes will be ready. Now, Dr. Imes' knowledge only covers 19th century medicine, but I hear he is very fast at removing small frost bitten fingers and toes.

Volunteer News: by Cindy Upchurch

Mark your calendars for Dandelion Oct. 6, 2017, for the volunteer dinner at Julia's Banquet Center, East Alton. This will be our 3rd year dining at Julia's. Doors will open at 5:30-food will be served at 6.

In addition, mark your calendars for August 21, 2017. That is the date for “The Great American Eclipse”! Southern Illinois is the best area in the whole United States from which to view the event.

As a result, our site is partnering with Fort Kaskaskia for this celestial special event and is expecting a capacity crowd. There is free parking and lots of open space for viewing. Site volunteers, Pam Imes, and myself are going down to assist the Fort Kaskaskia site manager, Chester Wintergerter, with parking cars. We will look so cool in our neon vests, directing traffic.

Fort Kaskaskia, Ellis Grove, IL is 4 miles north of Chester. The Pierre Menard home is planning on being open this special day as well.

Congratulations!!! Our interns/volunteers Sterling Beckman and Liz Papp have been hired for the summer/fall by Cahokia Mounds. Best wishes on the new jobs. We're so proud of you.

L&C Tribute: Joyce Bort



Joyce Bort, 74, died on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at Alton Memorial Hospital. She was born September 15, 1942 in Bunker Hill, and growing up on a farm in Dorsey, Illinois. She married Jerald "Jerry" Bort on June

15, 1963 with whom she shared the joy of raising their two children and 53 years of marriage.

Joyce was retired from Roxana Community School District after 28 years and had previously worked at Owens Illinois Glass for 9 years. Joyce enjoyed traveling with her husband in the U.S. and abroad, gardening and staying active. She loved and enjoyed her family and grandchildren very much.

Joyce and Jerry were members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Wood River. Joyce had previously, served on the Altar Guild and as a Sunday school teacher. She was a member of the Lewis and Clark Historic Society and a volunteer for many years at the L&C State Historic Site. She also volunteered at both Alton Memorial and OSF St. Anthony's Hospitals. They both volunteered every Monday at the Great River Museum, Lock and Dam. She was a past member of the Alton Service League receiving the "Silver Bowl Award" for her dedication and service. They also had enjoyed their time as

"Friends of the Fox" theatre. She currently served on the Rosewood Heights Improvement Board.

A private burial was held at Bunker Hill Cemetery.

What is it?

1. European settlers introduced this herb to the New World where the Native Americans quickly used it.
2. If you place this plant in a paper bag with unripened fruit, the flowers and leaves release ethylene gas to help ripen the fruit quickly.
3. The juice of this plant applied externally to fight bacteria and it helps to heal wounds.
4. It is used for the treatment of gall bladder, kidney and urinary disorders, liver ailments, jaundice, constipation, chronic joint and skin complaints, gout, and acne.
5. The leaves are full of vitamins A and C and you can make salads from the leaves but make sure the flowers aren't developed yet.
6. This is an herb.
7. You can make tea from the roots for heartburn.
8. The blossoms are made into wine, and when dried the roots are ground, roasted, and brewed into a coffee like beverage.
9. It produces its seeds with or without pollination and spreads the seeds wide and far.

What's the name of this herb? The answer is place somewhere within this newsletter. So you will have to read the issue very carefully.

L&C Junior Explores Camp:

Kids Camp for ages 9-12 will again be in June from the 19-23, 2017. It will be Monday-Friday starting at 8:30AM until 3:30PM. Applicants provide their own lunches each day. This week long camp will be held inside the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and grounds. If you know of any grandchildren that may have an interest in learning the history of the Lewis & Clark Expedition call the Lewis & Clark Community College to register them at 618-468-7000 or online at www.lc.edu/ccl or by fax at 618-468-2310.

Lewis & Clark State Historic Site Volunteer Application

NAME (Print, Last, First, MI) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BEST WAY TO CONTACT YOU: HOME _____ WORK _____

CELL/MOBILE _____ EMAIL _____ @ _____

NAME OF EMPLOYER (If employed): _____

EMPLOYMENT TITLE: _____

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: _____

Do you prefer to work in the (Circle the best answer.)?

Interpretive/Visitor's Center Store of Discovery Camp River Dubois Special events

Please circle the days and times of the week you can volunteer. (Monday and Tuesday are seasonal.)

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

All Day or AM (9am – 1pm) or PM (1pm-5pm)

Number of hours you estimate you can volunteer: Weekly _____ Monthly _____

Other information you feel pertinent to your application: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY CONTACT'S NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS: HOME _____ WORK _____

CELL/MOBILE _____ EMAIL _____ @ _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please submit application to: Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, Attention Volunteer Program, #1 Lewis & Clark Trail, Hartford, IL 62048. Thank you for your interest in the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site. Have a great day!

Commemorating the Point of Departure Since 1957



Lewis and Clark Society of America
 #1 Lewis & Clark Trail
 Hartford, IL 62048
www.lewisandclarksociety.org
 Phone: 618-251-5811

Lewis and Clark Society of America Membership Information

The Lewis and Clark Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about the immense importance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The dues structure is:

Student	\$10	_____	Make checks payable to Lewis and Clark Society of America and mail to #1 Lewis & Clark Trail, Hartford, IL 62048. Members receive a 10% discount on items purchased in the Store of Discovery, located at the Lewis & Clark State
Individual	\$20	_____	
Family	\$30	_____	
Business	\$45	_____	
Non-Profit Organization	\$35	_____	

Please complete form and return to Lewis and Clark Society of America:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

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 Hartford, IL 62048*

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