
CAMP DISPATCH

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Junior Explorers

The Junior Explorers spent a week learning the history of Lewis and Clark. Activities scheduled for the camp were military drills, making and writing in their journal, sailing the White Pirogue to the confluence, candle and soap making, honing their camp survival skills, learning about the weapons of the expedition, water gun battle, and many more. On the final day of the camp they dress in period clothes and spent the day with us in the camp, making their own meal, playing period games and other activities. We invited their parents to stop by and see just what their children had been doing for that week and ended the day with a 15 minute marching drill performance.

The Lewis & Clark State Historic Site partnered with Lewis & Clark Community College to host a week long day camp this summer from June 25 – 29, as part of the College for Kids Program. The college has received many positive responses and was looking forward to next year's camp.

To the staff at L&C the camp was a great success and the counselors Joanne, Rex, and the others deserve a big round of applause in educating these rambunctious little ones. We wish to thank Ed Hamberg, Ron Stellhorn, Glenn Weaver, Margie Barban, Joan Sadorf, George McDanel, and Melissa Pinkley. We all had a wonderful time and plan to do another camp next year. Joanne enjoyed these children so much that she suggested having two camps next year. The staff got so excited that we hung her by her toes until she agreed to just one in 2008.

To all that helped, we "Thank you!"



Day campers' start their trek to the confluence in the White Program.



Brad Winn and his historic squirt gun during the infamous 07 water gun fight at the confluence.

New Construction:

Camp River Dubois Outbuilding:

The Staff at Lewis & Clark have been involved in constructing an outbuilding. The logs were prepped by Rex Maynard. Dennis Nichols, Lonny Fox, and (sometimes) Mike Stout had constructed the cabin in the shop. Eddie Brown, Bob Henry, Dennis, and Mike have assembled the outbuilding next to Camp River Dubois. We have the porch covering and doors to construct, and chinking of the outbuilding. This will be a tough task and we will need a lot of help. Please give Mike Stout a call at 618-251-5811. After it is finished, it will be a venue for blacksmithing and carpentry activities associated with the soldiers of Camp River Dubois. If you would like to volunteer for camp or demonstrations, please call the site for details.

Settler's Cabin (1806-1812):

The concrete work for the new settlers' cabin (aka Washer Woman's cabin) has been poured. By end of December the cabin should be completed. The cabin will provide a new venue to demonstrate American frontier life prior to the organization of Madison County. Pam Imes has been working on a couple of grants to outfit the cabin with furnishings and other period items.

Pam, Joanne, and the volunteers are looking forward to candle making, sewing, cooking, soap making and gardening. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact Pam, Joanne or Cindy at 618-251-5811. In addition, plans for another outbuilding similar to the one being constructed next to the camp will be placed next to the "Settler's Cabin." The building would provide needed storage and a shaded demonstration area.

Side Walk under Construction:

A new stone sidewalk is being constructed at the confluence by the staff from the teardrop drive to the flags and to the Continental Divide Stone, and to the observation sign looking over the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

Thank you for all your Effort:

The site would like to thank all the summer seasonal personnel for their assistance at the peak height of the tourist season. Thank you to Rex Maynard, Joanne Lenhardt, Eddie Brown, and Bob Henry. Your experience, good humor and hard work are so appreciated. Also, thank you to Lonnie Fox. We're sorry you couldn't finish out the season with us. We are so glad you are feeling better.

Ron Stellhorn, thank you for planting and tending the flax crop again this year.

Store of Discovery:

The store, operated by the Lewis and Clark Society, continues to offer new items. This spring's new items include: Deer figurine (\$6.95), candle holder (\$22.95) flute with leather sheath (\$5.50) and wildlife puzzles (\$9.95). If you enjoy working in a retail environment, please contact Ron Goldsmith at 618-251-6244 for volunteer opportunities.

New Exhibit:

In the lobby, there is a new display, Indians of Southern Illinois, by the Southern Partnership Project. The front side of the exhibit displays Paleo-Archaic, Woodland and Mississippian information. The back side displays information from European exploration and missionary work to the Trail of Tears, ending approximately 1850s. There is also a section that explores Indian rock art of southern Illinois with information provided by Mark Wagner.

The exhibit will be here through November and then it will travel to Cahokia Mounds, Collinsville. Early 2008, it will be on display at Belleville Public Library on East Washington Street.

If you have time to fill out a survey sheet, please turn it in at the information desk.

Joanne Rescued Me-ow!!!



Many volunteers have asked about the abandoned baby kitten that Joanne Lenhardt rescued this summer from the camp. Joanne spent many hours nursing Snicker Doodle whom was just under a pound when found. Snickers for short time had a bad cold and needed very special attention. Joanne was up every two hours to feed this lost kitten. Snickers, is doing well and weighs about 3 pounds. Asked how Snickers is doing, Joanne stated, "that Snickers is full of ***%*** and Vinegar!"

In a few weeks, the site may have to find homes for another litter of kittens. Just ask the staff, if you are interested in a kitty to adopt this fall.

Volunteer Notice:

Back Door

Please don't let or escort visitors, who want to tour the camp, exit by the back and side door. Delivery trucks are on the roll and the flagstone sidewalk is uneven. It seems quicker, but it is hazardous to walk on the flagstone.

Calendar for 2007 & 2008:

Labor Day: The site will be returning to 5 days a week; closed Monday and Tuesday. Sept. 3 is the last open Monday.

Music Festival: Sept 15
Traditional music of the late 1700s and early 1800s performed by musicians in period dress.

Flags over the Mississippi: Struggle for an Empire: Oct. 13-14.
This is a new event and will center on several military periods in America's history. Re-enactors will represent the Spanish, French, British, and American military from 1750-1812. On the evening of the 13 we will have "Camp by Candlelight, from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:
December 7, 2007 form 5:30-9:00 pm at the Godfrey Lewis & Clark College, the Commons Room.

Arrival at Camp River Dubois: Dec. 15-16
Experience the military life of the Lewis & Clark Expedition at Camp River Dubois in 1803-04. There will be a few demonstrators located inside the Interpretive Center.

Christmas Day: December 25
This year's Christmas falls on a Tuesday which coincides with our regular schedule day off.

New Years Day: January 1, 2008
This year's New Years Day falls on a Tuesday which coincides with our regular schedule day off.

Women Come By: January 26, 2008
This year's "Women Come By" will be an introduction to the "Settler's Cabin." On Saturday only from 10-4.

Garrison Weekend: March 8-9
Experience military life of the Lewis & Clark Expedition at Camp River Dubois in 1803-04.

Education Day: May 9. This event will not be open to the public, but expecting over 1 million 4th grade students. Ok, maybe about 750 students, but it seems like a million. These students will go from station to station learning many new, but old ways of the past.

Point of Departure: Camp River Dubois, May 10-11, this event will have demonstrations: such as blacksmithing, candle making, soap making, coopering, cooking and more.

Upcoming Special Event News: Lewis & Clark State Historic Site

“Music Festival”

The 5th annual Music Festival will be September 15 from 10 till 4 pm. Many of your favorite performers will be returning, including Melba Schmidt, Stan Horton, Nancy Lippincott, Lindell Blackford, Scott Miller and Wayne Schell. Performing in the theater at 11 and 1:00 pm will be Bradford Smith, flutist. The Alton Dulcimer Players will be performing in front of the interpretive center in the afternoon.

“Flags over the Mississippi: Struggle for an Empire!”

The Lewis & Clark State Historic Site has organized a new event titled “*Flags over the Mississippi: Struggle for an Empire.*” The theme of the event is centered on the European nations’ struggled to control the Mississippi River Valley and its natural resources. We are inviting re-enactors to represent European and American military units, and Native Americans between the time periods of 1750 to 1812. The event is on October 13 & 14, 2007, Saturday & Sunday, and will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm. Also, on the evening of the 13th there will be a candle light walk through of Camp River Dubois and the military encampments from 6:30-8:30pm. Re-enactment groups include: Cannon firing presentation from 10-10:45 Sat. & Sunday,

Milicia de San Carlos: (11-11:45 Sat. & Sun.) The military contingent represents the regulars of the Louisiana Regiment and the local militia. Both infantry and artillery are represented. Uniforms, civilian clothing, and equipment are authentic to the time period of the late 1700s. Their presentation at Lewis & Clark site will include a brief historical background on the importance of the Spanish presence in 18th and early 19th century St. Louis area. In addition to their historical presentation Artillery pieces will be on display and fired.

Les Companies Franche de la Marines du Forte de Chartres: (12-12:45 Sat. & Sun.) When hostilities broke out at the beginning of the French and Indian War the French Marines were the only French regulars in New France. They weren’t marines in the modern sense of the word, but the troops fell under the authority of the French ministry of the marine which was responsible for the administration of Frances American Colonies. The French Marines were independent companies of infantry. Most of their recruits came from France, but by the time of the French and Indian War, most of the officers were recruited from Canada. Their presentation will give a detailed description of the officer and soldier’s uniforms, and various other accoutrements. They will drill, parade, and fire their weapons by command.

The First Royal Regiment of Foote: (1- 1:45 Sat. & Sun.) This is the oldest Regiment of Foote in the British Army. Often times it is referred to as “Pontius Pilate’s Body Guard.” From 1757-1763 the regiment fought in North America during the French and Indian War. In 1757 the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Foot saw action during the capture of Louisburg and in 1760 they capture Montreal. Re-enactors will drill, discuss their uniforms, and fire their cannons.

Native Americans: (2-2:45 Sat. & Sun.) Native Americans re-enactors will include Jim Hart and Tony Gerard’s presentation at this special event will cover clothing, weapons, tools, lodging and utilitarian items used by the Prairie tribes in the 18th and early 19th centuries in Illinois and Missouri.

The Detachment: (3-3:45 Sat. & Sun.) William Clark and his men known as “The Detachment” arrived at what would become Camp River Dubois on December 12, 1803. Throughout the day “The Detachment” will be giving tours of Camp River Dubois and address visitor on the U.S. Army dress, weapons, and military life of a soldier. The Detachment will lead closing ceremony from 3:45-4 while cannons fire while camp flag is lowered.