

Seaman Statue Dedicated at Interpretive Center

The Lewis and Clark Foundation dedicated a life-size bronze statue honoring Seaman, the Newfoundland dog that accompanied the Lewis and Clark Expedition during the Interpretive Center's 13th Anniversary celebration on May 1.



Photo above: Margaret Halko and Carol Mungas unveil the new Seaman statue.

Photo at right: Several Newfoundland dogs pose wearing their red bandanas, next to the new Seaman statue.



Helping unveil the statue were Carol Mungas and Margaret Halko, widow of the late Joe Halko, the artist who created the piece. The Foundation presented Margaret with an Artist's proof of the smaller Seaman bronze, and expressed appreciation for her contribution to the project.

The project was inspired by Dr. James and Carol Mungas, whose Newfoundland dog Windsor was a regular in the early years just after the Center opened. Windsor typically came to Center two days a week, and was enormously popular with visitors. In fact, Windsor was listed as an official Interpretive Center volunteer.

Dr. Mungas was an amateur sculptor in his own right, and offered input as Joe Halko worked to create a likeness of Windsor. Both men were good friends who had in common a love of sculpture. Within a few weeks after the smaller Seaman model was completed, Joe suffered a stroke, and then passed away a few months later. The Seaman piece was Joe's last sculpture.

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Ethnobotany Program Teaches Native Plants to Children

During the past school year, 31 children from the Gifted Education program in the Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) were immersed in a program titled Ethnobotany: Past and Present Uses of Plants by Montana Tribes.

The Lewis and Clark Foundation submitted the grant and served as grant coordinator and administrator, working in partnership with the GFPS Gifted Education program.

The program involved a significant research project with students from eight Great Falls elementary schools in grades 2-6, who learned to identify native Montana plants and discover how different native plains tribes used the plants for nutritious, medicinal, utilitarian, and ceremonial purposes.



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For information regarding bequests, gift annuities and planned giving, please direct inquiries to Jay Russell, Executive Director.

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Staying Relevant In A Changing World



**Jay Russell, Executive
Director Lewis and
Clark Foundation**

One of the challenges facing 21st century museums is relevance: how do we stay relevant to an evolving world and the hastening pace of change?

What are we doing with exhibits and outreach to reflect the change that is unavoidably upon us? Here's a quick summary of some of ways we are tackling this:

Exhibits: Static, text-heavy exhibits make it increasingly difficult to attract younger electronic-oriented audiences with shorter attention spans. How can we make the visitor experience at the Center meaningful to a new generation caught up in information overload?

Working with Center Director Elizabeth Casselli and her staff, the Foundation has been exploring options for new and innovative exhibit ideas. Recently we received funding for LCIC Interpreter Darian Kath and I to visit a number of Montana museums, and gather exhibit ideas incorporating new technologies. We hope to use some of these ideas as we develop and update exhibits at the Center.

Education: Museums are educational tools in our communities; how can we take our Lewis and Clark story and make it relevant to audiences around us? The past few years we have been engaged in two dynamic collaborative projects with the Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS), and in the process furthering their goals and ours.

We are just now completing our year-long "Best Practices" grant program in collaboration with the Montana Historical Society and the Office of Public Instruction in Helena – and what a great

learning opportunity it has been for 31 Gifted Education students from 8 area elementary schools (see related article on page 1).

I had the privilege of personally accompanying these young students and GFPS staff on their field trip to Ft. Belknap where they spent the day learning from tribal elders and other scholars, on how our early native peoples used various plants indigenous to our area. What a unique part of the Lewis and Clark story we were able to teach these kids.

Our Field Investigations program reaching out to all 1700+ Great Falls Middle School students has invigorated learning on the grounds outside the Center, and turned the space into one big outdoor laboratory, where these young citizen scientists are studying the flora, fauna and the waters of the adjacent Missouri River – much as the Corps of Discovery did 206 years ago. The National Park Service is our major partner and funder for this 3-year program.

Social Media: We have recently started a Facebook page under Lewis and Clark Foundation, and if you are a Facebook follower, I would encourage you to "like us." Our website is under construction again, with new tabs reflecting added educational programming and incorporating the Portage Cache Store. We just recently acquired our QR Code, printed at the bottom of this column, and you can use your smart phone to scan the QR Code for direct access to our website. Please sign up to be a subscriber to receive updates.

Products: We're looking at ways to expand our Portage Cache product line, and are getting ready to launch a new line of apparel that is fun and educational, yet relevant to the story and our audiences. By the time you receive this newsletter, we should have a number of new designs and products on store shelves pertaining specifically to our Interpretive Center and the Lewis and Clark story here at the Great Falls of the Missouri.

We were blessed with a number of unique and noteworthy events recorded in the journals – it is up to us to tell that story with greater relevance to new audiences. And we are looking to do just that.



Ethnobotany Program Teaches Native Plants to Children

Continued from pg. 1

Students began the project at the start of the school year in a botany workshop at the Interpretive Center and gained field experience from the Center's staff. Later that month, students took a day-long field trip to the Ft. Belknap Reservation, where they had an opportunity to learn about ethnobotany from students at the White Clay Immersion School. Several plant experts who are members of the Nakoda, Aaniiien (Gros Ventre and White Clay), and Blackfoot tribes presented plant samples and discussed native perspectives and uses for their plants.



Each student chose one plant to research, with their work published in April in a book titled *Ethnobotany of Native Montana Plains Tribes*. The book may be viewed by going to blurb.com and clicking "bookstore" and then typing the title *Ethnobotany of Native Montana Plains Tribes*. The books are also available through the Portage Cache Gift Shop in the Interpretive Center.

"This was a great opportunity for the foundation to expand its reach and programs"

Students also created two sets of trunks filled with activities they had created to help others learn about the ethnobotany of Montana plains tribes. These trunks may be used by museums and schools, and are available on loan through the Lewis and Clark Foundation.

Mary Rearden, Gifted Education Coordinator for GFPS said, "Our students had a fantastic opportunity to connect with other children from a different community. They were able to travel to Ft. Belknap to meet people they never would have otherwise met. They were able to learn, eat, and play with students attending the White Clay Immersion School. They learned the history of the White Clay people from Sean Chandler, and they learned about ethnobotany from Cheryl Morales, who had studied and applied the uses of native plants."

"We had the wonderful treat of learning about plant usage from an elder, Minerva Allen, who had gathered and used plants with her grandmother and aunts, who in turn had learned from their mothers and grandmothers." "This was a great opportunity for the foundation to expand its reach and programs," said Jay Russell, Executive Director for the Foundation.

"The students were able to take two field trips to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, and then present their research at the Center's Sunday Sampler day in April, and again at the GFPS STEM expo."

The Best Practices in Museum Education: Museums and Schools as Co-Educators grant program is a joint collaboration between the Montana Historical Society and the Office of Public Instruction. The project's goal is to promote Indian Education for All, Montana's constitutional mandate to recognize "the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians and ... to provide education preserving the cultural integrity of each Montana tribal nation."

Photo: Minerva Allen (seated) shows plant samples to students on Ft. Belknap field trip. Sean Chandler (standing) spoke to the students earlier in the day. Students especially enjoyed making rope from dogbane after hearing the story of the Lewis and Clark expedition members losing their rope and learning from the Indians how the plant could be used to make a very strong rope.

Seaman Statue Dedicated at Interpretive Center

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Dr. Mungas also passed away in January 2011, before the large statue was cast. His wife Carol served as a key speaker for the dedication, recounting the warm memories of Windsor's time at the Center. Program Interpreter Darian Kath also spoke on the role Seaman played as a part of the Corps of Discovery. Several Newfoundland dogs were also on hand for the ceremony, and each participating dog received a souvenir "Seaman My Hero" bandana.

The larger life-size Seaman was primarily funded through sales of a smaller 11-inch bronze, sold in a limited edition of 100. The Foundation still has a few bronzes available at the Portage Cache Store.

Halko is well-known for creating the Heritage Honkers geese sculpture at the Region Four Headquarters for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and for the CM Russell Museum's Buffalo Hunt project.

Seaman belonged to Capt. Meriwether Lewis, and played a unique role in the Corps of Discovery. He was a Newfoundland, a huge, shaggy black dog purchased by Lewis for \$20, a large sum of money 200 years ago. He served as a good hunter and guard dog during the expedition.

For more information on the
Lewis and Clark Festival and
Mission Mountain Wood Band
concert, log on to
www.lewisandclarkfoundation.org



Kid's Corps Activities

Discovery Day Camp (Friday, June 24th)

- * 9:00 a.m.–12 noon | Grades 3 - 6
- * \$20.00 per child (some scholarships available)
- * Kids will hike the river's edge, create crafts, and tie-dye shirts while learning about the legacy of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Register by calling the Lewis and Clark Foundation (406) 452-5661.

Puppet show for Kiddos (Saturday, June 25th)

Sponsored by Central Plumbing and Heating

- * 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m | Children pre-K - 2nd grade
- * Bring your little ones for an hour of educational entertainment with puppets! This fun and interactive learning experience introduces youth to the adventure of Lewis & Clark and the animals they encountered. Show followed by hands-on projects. Adults should plan on accompanying children.

Kid's Trout Fishing Pond (Saturday, June 25th & Sunday, June 26th)

Sponsored by Scheels

- * 11:00am – 4:00 pm
- * The West-slope Cutthroat Trout was first discovered in the Missouri River the same day Captain Lewis arrived at the Great Falls. Kids can try their luck at catching a fish or simply observe them in the above-ground habitat.

Lewis & Clark Authentic Encampment (Saturday, June 25th)

Sponsored by Great Falls KOA Kampground

- * 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- * Roll up your sleeves; you're in the army now! Join the Lewis and Clark Honor Guard for endless activities!

Off-site Adventures

Birding with the Best (Saturday, June 25th)

Sponsored by Montana Milling, Inc.

- * 6:30 a.m.
- * Meet at Giant Springs State Park
- * See both neo-tropical migrating birds, as well as year-round birds of the Missouri River corridor and prairie.



Festival Fun Run 8 km and 1 mile (Saturday, June 25th)

- * 8:00 a.m. start time
- * \$12.00/person in advance and \$14.00 the morning of the event \$10.00/person for family of four or more
- * Start your day with a brisk walk or fun run along the River's Edge Trail and Lewis and Clark Nature Walk. Registration by calling 590-1094 or on the morning of the race.

The 22nd Annual Lewis and Clark Festival

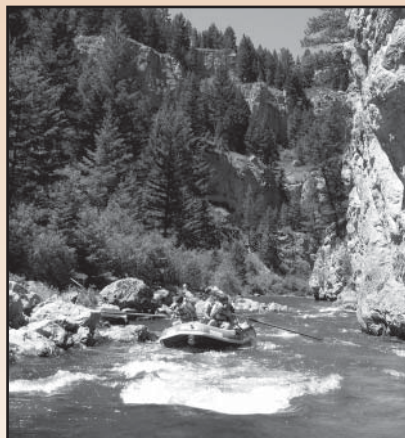
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Missouri River Adventure Float (Saturday, June 25th)

- * 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- * \$105
- * Experience 16 miles of breath-taking scenery from your front row seat in a Missouri River Raft with Craig Madsen's Montana River Outfitters. Enjoy an exhilarating float from Morony Dam to Carter's Ferry and soak up the sun and saga. Register by calling (406) 452-5661.



Sulphur Springs Hike (Saturday, June 25th)

- * 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- * Join a member of the Interpretive Center staff for a guided hike over the Sulphur Springs Trail.

Food & Fun for the Whole Family

Festival Opening Ceremony (Friday, June 24th)

- * 12:00 noon
- * Join the Lewis and Clark Honor Guard and the Great Falls City Mayor in a short ceremony above the mighty Missouri River and open the 22nd annual Lewis and Clark Festival with a BANG!

Lewis & Clark Authentic Encampment (Saturday, June 25th)

Master Crafters Marketplace (Saturday, June 25th & Sunday, June 26th)

- * 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- * Learn techniques from a master! Watch Montana's Master Crafters at work as they demonstrate quilt making, spinning and weaving, blacksmithing, woodworking, and much more.

Mission Mountain Wood Band Sponsors:

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Two Medicine Lake Singers and Dancers (Saturday, June 25th)

Sponsored by MSU-Great Falls

- * 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.
- * Experience traditional dancing and drumming with award-winning performers and narrated by members of the Blackfeet Tribe. Learn the fancy dance, grass dance, chicken dance, jingle dance, and traditional dance.

Captain's Mess (Friday, June 24th & Saturday, June 25th)

- * 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- * Plan lunch or just refresh yourself with a cold drink. Oh, what the Expedition would have given for a mid-day snack!

Gene Hickman (Saturday, June 25th)

- * Noon, 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- * Sit back and relax as Gene Hickman teaches you the basics of Indian Sign Language.

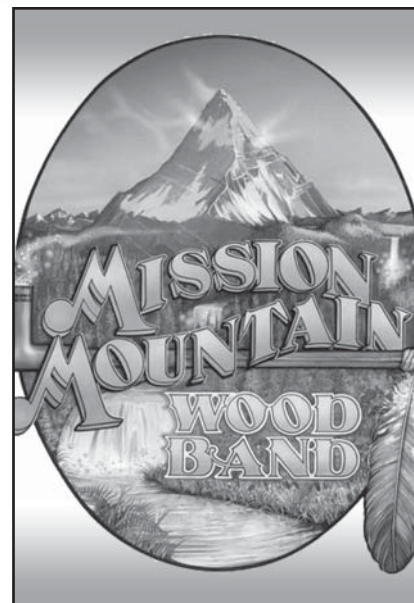
Author Book Signing (Sunday, June 26th)

- * 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- * Pick the minds of several local Lewis & Clark aficionados.

Re-living the Memories

Mission Mountain Wood Band Concert Revival (Friday, June 24th)

- * \$25 in advance, \$30 at the gate
- * 7:00 p.m., gates open at 5:00 p.m.
- * Re-live the high-energy and harmonies of the Mission Mountain Wood Band at an outdoor concert against a breath-taking Missouri River backdrop. Bring a lawn chair and come early to take your place outdoors under a Montana Big Sky sunset. Show goes on rain or shine, so dress appropriately.
- * Concessions available from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Beer and wine available with ID). No coolers or outside beverages permitted.



All proceeds benefit the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center operations.

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Eagle Beverage
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Note: On Friday evenings in the summer, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center offers a series of evening programs on different subjects relating to the Lewis and Clark story called Riverside Voices. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket to the amphitheatre. Programs move indoors in the event of inclement weather. Contact: (406) 727-8733

JULY EVENTS

- 1 Friday / Riverside Voices Program, 7 pm FREE event, Mary Ellen Ertle with "American Buffalo - to the Edge of Extinction and Back"
- 8 Friday / Riverside Voices Program 7 pm FREE event, TBA
- 9 Saturday / Sulphur Springs Trail Hike, 9 am – 1 pm, FREE event, Advance Registration Required, meets at Interpretive Center
- 11 Monday / Dugout Days Camp (for Grades 1-3), 9 am – 4 pm, Cost: \$50 per camper, Advance Registration Required
- 15 Friday / Riverside Voices, 7 pm FREE event – Tom McCormack with "Native American Music and Storytelling"
- 22 Friday / Riverside Voices, 7 pm FREE event - Mary Murphy with "Remember Me: Women, Quilts and Montana History"
- 23 Saturday / Sulphur Springs Trail Hike, 9 am – 1 pm, FREE event, Advance Registration Required, meets at Interpretive Center
- 29 Friday / Riverside Voices, 7 pm FREE event, Keely West, TBA

AUGUST EVENTS

- 1 Monday / Dugout Days Camp (for Grades 4-6), 9 am – 4 pm, Cost: \$150 per camper, Advance Registration Required. Week-long camp, August 1-6, Includes Missouri River Float/ Camping Trip Friday - Saturday

- 5 Friday / Riverside Voices, 7 pm FREE event – Hal Stearns with "Some Favorite Montana Tales"
- 6 Saturday / Sulphur Springs Trail Hike, 9 am – 1 pm, FREE event, Advance Registration Required, meets at Interpretive Center
- 12 Friday / Riverside Voices, 7 pm FREE event – Shaina Robbins with "Bird Woman or Boat Puller: Sacagawea"
- 19 Friday / Riverside Voices, 7 pm FREE event – Richard Ellis with "Changing Image of Native Americans in Film"
- 20 Saturday / Sulphur Springs Trail Hike, 9 am – 1 pm, FREE event, Advance Registration Required, meets at Interpretive Center
- 26 Friday / Riverside Voices, 7 pm FREE event – Neal Lewing with "Singing the Lewis and Clark Legacy"

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 2 Friday / Riverside Voices, 7 pm FREE event – Darian Kath with "The Death of His Excellency, Governor Lewis"
- 3 Saturday / Sulphur Springs Trail Hike, 9 am – 1 pm, FREE event, Advance Registration Required, meets at Interpretive Center
- 16 Friday / Star Party, 6 pm – 10 pm, FREE event – a star-gazing experience with large telescopes set up for public viewing, hosted by the Central Montana Astronomy Society