



National Calendar of Lewis and Clark Events

March, April and May 2024

Here are the Lewis and Clark events across the nation. They will all be fun and educational!

Quick Peek at the Lewis and Clark Events around the nation

Details about each event can be found on pages later in this calendar

| Dates | Event | Location |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| March 2 | Christopher Preston talks about Tenacious Beasts.at Traveler's Rest | Missoula, Montana |
| March 6, 13, 20, And 27 | Mouth of the Platte study group of Lewis and Clark journals | Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska |
| March 12 | Mary Jane Bradbury presentation about Meriwether Lewis' mother | Great Falls, Montana |
| March 20 | Mouth of the Platte Chapter monthly meeting and luncheon | Council Bluffs, Iowa |
| March 23 | Dr. Kyle Chattleton talk on "Lewis and Clark, and the First Council on the Bluffs" | Omaha, Nebraska |
| March 28 | A talk about rising sea levels at the intersection of nature and culture | Astoria, Oregon |
| April 3, 10, 17, and 24 | Mouth of the Platte study group of Lewis and Clark journals | Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska |
| April 11 | Reception to view sculptures by Richard V. Greeves | St. Charles, Missouri |
| April 13 | Zoom book discussion on <i>Fortune's a River</i> by Barry Gough | Zoom |
| April 16 | Jack Christ talk on "The Louisiana Purchase: How the Dominoes Fell into Place" | |
| May 11-12 | Departure Weekend at Camp River Dubois | Hartford, Illinois |
| May 17-19 | Hawken Classic at Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Museum | St. Charles, Missouri |

Note: Please visit the calendar on the [Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation website](#) to see if more events become listed during the upcoming month. Unless otherwise noted, all events are free.

Have an event for the Lewis and Clark calendar?

Email the information to garykimsey55@gmail.com by the 15th of the month. [Click here](#) to see what type of details to send in. **Remember: 15th of the month deadline.** Calendars are distributed on or about the first day of the month.

March Events

- **March 2 (Saturday):** Travelers' Rest Connection near Missoula, Montana, will conclude its Winter Storytelling Series. This is a time based on the Séliš tradition of sharing stories during the cold winter months.

Today, Christopher Preston will talk about Tenacious Beasts.

His talk begins at 11 p.m. (Mountain Time) at the Travelers' Rest State Park Visitor Center. The talk is live at the visitor center and on Zoom. The fee to see a talk is \$5 but is free to members of the Travelers' Rest Connection. [Click here](#) to view past talks.

Christopher teaches environmental philosophy at the University of Montana, Missoula. His expertise revolves around the idea of the Anthropocene, the epoch in which human influence is everywhere.

He studies emerging technologies for their impact on the human-nature experience, as well as restoration and rewilding efforts. His award-winning



Christopher Preston

book, *The Synthetic Age: Outdesigning Evolution, Resurrecting Species, and Reengineering Our World*, has been translated into six languages. His latest book, *Tenacious Beasts: Wildlife Recoveries That Change How We Think about Animals* (February 2023), offers hope for recovering species as well as lessons about how to live with them.

- **March 6, 13, 20, and 17 (Wednesdays):** The Mouth of the Platte Chapter's study group will meet on these days from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Central Time) to study the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Anyone with an interest about the expedition is welcomed to attend. For more information contact, Keith Bystrom, knbystrom68@gmail.com.

For various reasons, there is a new location schedule for the meetings:

- The meetings on March 6 and March 13 are at Our Savior's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall ("OSL"), 600 Bluff Street in Council Bluffs.
- The meetings on March 20 and March 27 are at The Heritage at Sterling Ridge ("SR"), 1111 Sterling Ridge Drive, (about 126th and Pacific Street), Omaha, Neb.

The study group meetings are open meetings with coffee and treats. The first hour is a time of sharing Lewis and Clark experiences by each participant.

The second hour is devoted to reading and discussing entries in *The Definitive Journals of Lewis and Clark - Volume 7* edited by Gary Moulton.

The Mouth of the Platte Chapter's designated meeting dates and locations for its study group and the dates in the expedition's journal entries to read for those meetings are:

- On March 6 at OSL: The reading will cover May 24-27, 1806.
- On March 13 at OSL: The reading will cover May 6-7 and 28-29, 1806.
- On March 20 at SR: The reading will cover May 30-31, 1806.
- On March 27 at SR: The reading will cover June 1-3, 1806.

Note: During the winter months study group meetings may be canceled due to inclement weather. Please contact Keith Bystrom if you plan to attend and the forecast includes snow.

- **March 12 (Tuesday):** Mary Jane Bradbury will present a program titled, *A Mother's Journey: The Life of Lucy Meriwether Lewis Marks* at 7 p.m. (Mountain Time) in the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Montana.

Admission to the program is free.

For people unable to attend the program in person, it is also available online through a Zoom link. To get the link, contact Portage Route Chapter board member Zeke Leeds at zeleeds1221@gmail.com, with "PRC Program" written on the subject line.

While the story of Thomas Jefferson's Corps of Discovery is engrained in the history of our nation and essential to our understanding of the past, the largely unknown story of Lucy Meriwether Lewis Marks—the mother of Meriwether Lewis—offers critical insight into our understanding of the intrepid explorer. Lucy Meriwether was born into wealth on a plantation in Virginia in 1752 and grew up to raise her own family during and after the uncertain era of the American Revolution.

A woman both of her times and ahead of her times, Lucy was determined to fulfill the role expected of upper-class women at the turn of the 19th century while remaining independent and dedicated to her own pursuits.



Mary Jane Bradbury in period dress as Lucy Meriwether Lewis Marks.

She managed a large plantation household, including dozens of enslaved people, and followed her passion for healing and the natural world, all while remaining fiercely devoted to her son.

Mary Jane Bradbury's program is an interpretation of Lucy's life and journey as the mother of one of the most famous men of his day and is rooted in the humanity and the realities of the early antebellum South.

Dressed in period clothing, Mary Jane gave her presentation on Lucy at last summer's annual meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation—to great reviews from the audience. It's a program well-worth attending to learn more about Lucy and Meriwether's family background and that time in history.

Mary Jane has been a storyteller and historic interpreter in the Rocky Mountain West for more than 30 years. A member of Humanities Montana and Colorado Humanities speakers bureaus, and an artist in residence for the Charles M. Russell Museum and the Montana Historical Society, she holds a masters in speech communication from Regis University. She lives in Helena, Montana.

The program is part of the Ida Johnson Lecture Series. It is funded by Humanities Montana in partnership with the Portage Route Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

For more information: Jay Russell, jstuartruss1805@gmail.com or (406) 799-8183.

March 20 (Tuesday): The Mouth of the Platte Chapter will hold its monthly meeting and luncheon at 11:30 a.m. (Central Time) at the Pizza Ranch at Council Bluffs Metro Crossing, 3505 Metro Drive, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Jean-Claude Overstreet will give a presentation on French-Canadian boatmen (*voyageur/coureur du bois*). He will introduce meeting attendees to songs used by the boatmen. Besides the history of the boatmen, Jean-Claude can talk about trying to get accepted for an 18-man canoe crew re-enactment in Racine, Wisc. For more info: Keith Bystrom, knbystrom68@gmail.com.

- **March 23 (Saturday):** The [Durham Museum](#), 801 South 10th Street, Omaha, Neb., presents *Lewis and Clark, and the First Council on the Bluffs*, a conversation led by Dr. Kyle Chatteleton, one of the museum's educators, at 1 p.m. (Central Time). Join Kyle for a discussion about the significant meeting in 1804 between the Corps of Discovery and members of the Otoe and Missouri Nations. The museum's entry fee or membership is necessary to be admitted. No advance registration is required.

- **March 28 (Thursday):** The Lewis and Clark National Historic Park in Oregon and Washington is collaborating with the Fort George Brewery + Public House and the North Coast Watershed Association on a monthly talk series called Nature Matters, a time of lively conversation about the intersection of nature and culture.

Today, at 7 p.m. (Pacific Time) in Fort George Brewery + Public House in Astoria, Ore., Carl Hendrickson, a NOAA coastal management fellow with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, will give a talk about methods to promote sea level rise adaption planning at the local level. Astoria is located at the mouth of the Columbia River that flows into the Pacific Ocean.

The vagaries of sea levels in the Columbia River estuary often plagued the Lewis and Clark Expedition and other early voyagers. Forward progress of Corps of Discovery, for example, was impacted time and again due to bad weather, river currents *and* the rise of sea levels—nothing, of course, like today's potential for permanently rising sea levels due to climate change.

[Click here](#) for more information about the March 28 talk and the talks in April and May.

April Events

- **April 3, 10, 17, and 20 (Wednesdays):** The Mouth of the Platte Chapter's study group will meet on these days from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Central Time) to study the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Anyone with an interest about the expedition is welcomed to attend.

For various reasons, there is a new location schedule for the meetings:

- The meetings on April 3 and April 10 are at Our Savior's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall ("OSL"), 600 Bluff Street in Council Bluffs.
- The meetings on April 17 and April 24 are at The Heritage at Sterling Ridge ("SR"), 1111 Sterling Ridge Drive, (about 126th and Pacific Street), Omaha, Neb.

The weekly study group meetings are open meetings with coffee and treats. The first hour is a time of sharing Lewis and Clark experiences by each participant.

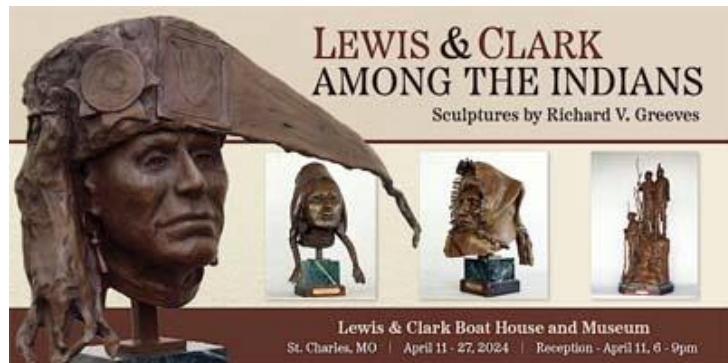
The second hour is devoted to reading and discussing entries in *The Definitive Journals of Lewis and Clark - Volume 7* and 8 edited by Gary Moulton. Note: On April 17 the Study group will begin readings from Volume 8.

The Mouth of the Platte Chapter's designated meeting dates and locations for its study group and the dates in the expedition's journal entries to read for those meetings are:

- On April 3 at OSL. The reading will cover June 4-6, 1806.
- On April 10 at OSL: The reading will cover June 7-9, 1806.
- On April 17 at SR: The reading will cover June 10-11, 1806.
- On April 24 at SR: The reading will cover June 12-16, 1806.

For more information contact Keith Bystrom, knbystrom68@gmail.com.

- **April 11 (Thursday):** Join other Lewis and Clark enthusiasts from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Central Time) at the [Lewis and Clark Boat House and Museum](#) in St. Charles, Mo., to immerse yourself in the incredible world of the explorers as you see extraordinary sculptures by the late Richard V. Greeves. The St. Louis-born sculptor was inspired by the Lewis and Clark Expedition to honor the Native people who were at the center of the journey.



Tickets are free, but please [register now at Eventbrite](#). For more information, please contact Robert Foster, director@lewisandclarkboathouse.org.

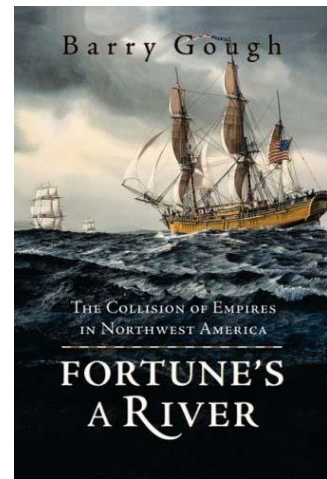
The event will begin with a reception. Speakers will offer brief presentations about the artist, the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the process of skillful craftsmanship used to create the sculptures.

A dozen of Greeves' bronze busts and other figures depicting the people of the West will be showcased. His work beautifully depicts the cultural exchanges, challenges and triumphs that unfolded during the Lewis and Clark period in history.

- **April 13 (Saturday):** The Northeast Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation will have a Zoom book discussion on Saturday. The discussion, which goes from 1 p.m. to 1 p.m. (Central Time), is about chapters 7 to 10 of *Fortune's a River: The Collision of Empires in Northwest America* by Barry Gough. For the Zoom link, please contact Judy Okun, judyokun1@gmail.com.

Fortune's a River is considered by some historians and others to be the most authoritative and readable account to date of just how British Columbia became British and how Oregon, Washington and Alaska became American.

Barry Gough was a professor of history at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario until his retirement in 2004. An expert on the maritime history of the Pacific Ocean, he has published widely on Anglo-Canadian naval subjects.



- **April 16 (Tuesday)** The Mouth of the Platte Chapter will hold its monthly dinner meeting at 6 p.m. (Central Time) at a location to be determined (check in the upcoming April 1 Lewis and Clark calendar for the location). The presenter is MOP member Jack Christ who will discuss the diverse factors which led to the surprising purchase of the Louisiana Territory by the United States in 1803: *The Louisiana Purchase: How the Dominoes Fell into Place*. Jack will also offer a brief review of the States in 1803. **Note:** MOP's practice is to have monthly luncheon meetings during the winter and changes to monthly dinner when Daylight Savings Time provides more light in the evenings. For more info: Keith Bystrom, knbystrom68@gmail.com

May Events

- **May 11-12 (Saturday-Sunday):** The Lewis & Clark State Historic Site near Hartford, Ill., will hold its annual Departure Weekend Celebration to commemorate the departure of the Lewis and Clark Expedition from Camp River Dubois on May 14, 1804. The celebration is held at a replica of Camp River Dubois and an adjacent Lewis and Clark museum.



The free event, always a fun time for the family, commemorates the important 1804 date in Illinois and American history. It features demonstrations of artillery, muskets, candle making, fiber arts, cooking, and more. Volunteers will exhibit the replica of the white pirogue the expedition journeyed in.

For more information about the event, [click here](#), and, for about the 1804 departure, [here](#).

- **May 17-19 (Friday-Sunday):** The annual [Hawken Classic](#) will be held at the [Lewis and Clark Boat House and Museum](#) in St. Charles, Mo. The event is to celebrate the Hawken rifle's contribution to American history and features guest speakers, historical displays, vendors and other attractions.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn not only about Lewis and Clark by touring the Boathouse and Museum but to find out more information about the Mountain Men historical period that came almost immediately after the expedition.

The Hawken rifle was developed in the 1820s by the [Jacob and Samuel Hawken](#)



The Hawken Rifle and Samuel Hawken, who died on May 8, 1884, at the age of 92, in St. Louis. He was buried at [Bellefontaine Cemetery](#), about 200 yards from William Clark's gravesite. Brother Jacob died in 1849; his burial site is unknown. Artwork by Hawken Classic.

brothers and manufactured and sold in St. Louis, Mo. It became the most popular rifle for fur trappers, traders, clerks, and hunters. The price of a Hawken in the 1820s was about \$25, which doesn't seem much now but back then was a hefty sum.

Just a tidbit of modern history: The 1972 film, *Jeremiah Johnson*, that starred **Robert Redford** as a **mountain man** who acquired a Hawken rifle from a dead man, generated an interest in replicas and an increased popularity of muzzleloaders used by modern hunters.

To learn more about the Hawken rifle, [click here](#).



This monthly calendar of Lewis and Clark events throughout the nation is brought to you by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and telling the story of the expedition.

The organization has members living all along the 4,900-mile Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and elsewhere throughout the nation and world.

[Learn more](#) about the organization. [How to become a member](#) (membership is inexpensive).