

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Story Tips – Vol. 2

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Here are some feature story ideas to draw people's attention to why Stephen Ambrose called us "The gem along the trail."

1. Peyton "Bud" Clark (great great great grandson of William Clark) presents PowerPoint program at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 2, 2005, as part of the opening reception (6:30-9 p.m.) for "From Artifacts to Art" during the EBS multi-museum exhibits opening. Exhibit will be up through October 30, 2005.

2. Ritchie Doyle and David Jolles present "Manifest Scrutiny," a humorous look at the Lewis & Clark expedition, in our outdoor amphitheater in association with "Explore! The Big Sky". It's also part of our regular Friday evening Lawn Chair series each Friday evening through Sept. 2, 2005.

3. Learn about Meriwether Lewis through the eyes of Dollie Madison, George Shannon, Henry Dearborn, and Andrew Ellicott - four people, each of whom knew Meriwether Lewis in a different capacity: one as a friend; one as an employee, one as a military superior; and one as a student. Dick Boss, son of the builder of the Boss model boats of the expedition, coordinates our June 24, 2005, Chautauqua performance in place of the usual Friday evening Lawn Chair Program. Dick also portrays one of the characters: George Shannon. Dick also is a temporary employee, coordinating Forest Service efforts to offer quality interpretation throughout Region One of the Forest Service through the end of the bicentennial.

4. Iron Boat replica on the front prairie is on loan from Harpers Ferry. Your contact here at the interpretive center is Lynette Sriver. Other than one of the Lewis and Clark Honor Guard encampments (and not all of them, by any stretch), this is the best place for visitors to see the iron frame boat and learn about it in 2005 – and maybe longer.

5. Wayside exhibit signs at the Interpretive Center. We installed 8 new ones outdoors here at the Interpretive Center in 2005: on the overlook trail upstream of the center; on the grasslands trail downstream of the center, on the sidewalk system leading down to the riverside, and along the riverside. These tell parts of the story we just can't tell as well from indoors, including the importance of the role of landscape - especially land, water and wildlife - in the expedition story.

6. Wayside exhibit signs along the new Sulphur Springs Trail in 2005. Seven (3 at kiosk at trailhead; four along the trail, including one on the handicap accessible spur near the beginning of the SST). Waysides tell the story of the role of the landscape and the river in this part of the journey, including the role the water in the spring played in the recovery of Sacagawea. This summer we will have temporary signs in each of the waysides. By fall, we expect the permanent panels to be installed. People will be able to enjoy the signs during the June 4, 2005, guided walk to Sulphur Springs, starting with a carpool from the Interpretive Center at noon. This trail was a joint project with support from USDA Forest Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PPL Montana, Montana Conservation Corps, State Trails Grant, Bureau of Land Management, and

River's Edge Trail Inc. A number of local photographers allowed us to use wildlife images at no-cost, including Rodney Schlecht, and Fay Schaller. Several images on the panels also came from Travel Montana's photographer Donnie Sexton, who also would make a nice feature; follow her on one of her trips around the state gathering images for use promoting Montana throughout the world.

7. Dugout Days camps for kids. Steve Schaller, our education coordinator, is offering three week-long camps for kids in July and August, but what's really cool is we also have an agreement with Malmstrom Air Force Base that provides an exclusive week-long camp on the base July 25-29, 2005.

8. In our role of assisting our sister agencies provide interpretive services to their customers, several of our employees provide programming on the Helena National Forest and the Missouri River Breaks National Monument this summer 2005. Your contact on our staff is Jeff LaRock, supervisory interpretive specialist. Contact on the Helena National Forest is Sarah Scott. Contact at BLM is Mark Schaffer.

9. From June 1 through July 4, 2005, interpretive center visitors who attend our 1 or 2 p.m. interpretive activities get a brand new patch - while supplies last. After July 4, the only people who can get the patch are children 9-12 years of age who successfully complete our Junior Explorer packet for that age group while they're here at the Interpretive Center with their parents.