

Missouri State Parks Gear Up For Lewis And Clark Bicentennial

by Susan Flader

A welter of plans and preparation during the past several years will come to fruition during the coming year as Missouri state parks play a key role in the national Lewis and Clark bicentennial. Events in Missouri will begin November 16 at Charleston, commemorating the transit of the expedition from the Ohio to the Mississippi River, and continue up the Mississippi and then the Missouri. There will be national "signature" events, community events, and dedications of several new state parks and historic sites along the way, all pegged to the progress of the expedition through Missouri 200 years ago.

Planning for the complex series of events during 2003-2006 began more than five years ago under the



2001 the role has been filled by state park director Doug Eiken. Other park division staff helping to coordinate activities of the commission and its task forces are Frank Wesley and Larry Larson and historian Jim Denny, along with numerous others working on bicentennial preparations as part of their other duties. For a website detailing plans for Missouri as well as links to other Lewis and Clark websites, check www.lewisandclarkmo.com.

In addition to events within the state, Missouri has had a role in national activities already underway, including the opening commemoration January 18 at Monticello of Jefferson's request to Congress for \$2500 to fund the expedition, at which portions of a University of Missouri-commissioned musical drama, "Corps of Discovery," were performed. The entire opera, featuring a cast composed entirely of university students and alumni, received its world premiere May 2-4 in Columbia to enthusiastic acclaim. On August 31, replicas of the expedition's 55-foot keelboat and two pirogues, built by the not-for-profit Discovery Expedition of St. Charles and manned largely by Missouri volunteers, will leave Pittsburgh for the trip down the Ohio River.

When the re-enactors begin their ascent of the Mississippi River in November, they will participate in a commemoration of the expedition's landing at Louis Lorimier's trading post in Cape Girardeau November 23. Then they continue upriver to a campsite near Trail of Tears State Park, where a new overlook has been

Louis Lorimier was a French Canadian who had supported the British and their Indian allies during the American Revolution. His trading post on a branch of the Miami River had been burned by men under the command of General George Rogers Clark (brother of expedition co-leader William Clark) in the early 1780s. Lorimier then relocated to Spanish Louisiana in the late 1780s with a group of Shawnee and Delaware Indians, who became known as the "Absentee Shawnee."

Meriwether Lewis described Lorimier as a cheerful man with a thick, long mane of hair that fell nearly to his knees. He guessed Lorimier was about 5 feet 8 inches tall and about sixty years old, but had scarcely any gray in his hair. Lewis was also much taken with Lorimier's mixed blood Shawnee Indian wife and their handsome children. Lewis later secured an appointment to the recently founded United States Military Academy at West Point for two of Lorimier's sons.

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UPOP Returns For Another Successful Summer



Learning about nature is fun, practical and important. As youth discover the natural world and come to love and understand it, their futures look brighter. Encouraged by the success of last year's program, the Missouri Parks Association, The Open Space Council and the Green Center partnered to make the 2003 Urban Populations Outreach Project in St. Louis a reality.

The St. Louis UPOP 2003 effort was headquartered once again at the Green Center in University City. Each of the six groups spent a half-day at the center and a full day at a Missouri state park. Under the guidance of Michael Nelson, assisted by Kathy Bayless and Alicia Boelhauf, 204 urban youth from low-income families rediscovered their connection with the natural world.

The day at the Green Center was an orientation to open the vectors of sight, sound, touch, and the imagination. Following introductions of the staff, the theme "Make The Connection" and the only rule "Be Kind,"

children were divided into small groups to play a "Bird, Frog and Squirrel" game in which each group was told to act like their secret animal to find their family. A sensory walk through the Green Center's prairie, wetlands and woods was followed by a snack and an environmental art project. Artist Chris McClarren designed projects that reinforced the theme and incorporated the information gained through their senses during their hike. Children used recycled magazines to create dreamscapes, recycled containers to create drums, and participated in a cooperative group project with paper and oil pastels to create imaginary creatures.

Assistance from Americorps volunteers provided encouragement and individual attention and also inspired staff to recruit volunteers for next summer.

The day at the state park was a field trip to reinforce environmental concepts even further, and for most of the children provided their first adventure outside the city limits. Special thanks go to the following state parks and agencies that



Performing Arts Center.

UPOP was also active in Kansas City this summer for the fourth consecutive year. Under the direction of Shalonn Curls, more children than ever experienced our state parks and one lucky group spent an overnight at a group camp at Knob Knoster State Park. Watch for a story in a future issue of *Heritage*.



The Missouri Parks Association has contributed initial funding toward support of this year's UPOP programs in St. Louis and Kansas City, and more than 120 members have

contributed an additional \$4,500. Generous contributions were also received from the Mag Foundation and the law firm of Shook, Hardy and Bacon in Kansas City.

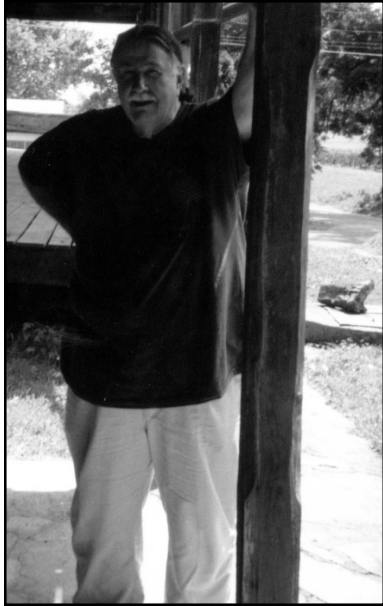


Rucker Retires After Thirty-Six Years With Parks

In 1963, Booker H. Rucker began a ninety-day research project that stretched, with a few initial interruptions, into thirty-six years of service to Missouri's system of state parks and historic sites. MPA passed a resolution (printed below) honoring him on his retirement from the Division of State Parks on May 30, 2003.

As a graduate student in archaeology, Rucker completed his three-month study of the steam engine shed at

Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site. During subsequent summers, while he taught school, he worked on other research projects at First State Capitol and Washington State Park. In 1965, parks director Lee C. Fine offered him a permanent job



Booker H. Rucker

in the central office in Jefferson City. By 1971, he had been promoted to chief of historic sites under the direction of Orval Henderson, assistant director for history.

Throughout the 1970s, Rucker supervised programs, including law enforcement, concessions, interpretation, and recreation. From 1979-1989, he served as director of historic sites and historic preservation. During the 1990s, he was chief of interpretive programs, and, after 1993, he was in charge of cultural resource management.

During his career, he said, "It was my great privilege to preside over the development of the expansion plan which analyzed our state in terms of theme, chronology, and geography, and proposed the creation of a statewide system of historic sites and museums to portray the broad sweep of our historic legacy."

James Baker, site administrator, Felix Valle State Historic Site in Ste. Genevieve, said, "The state historic sites system owes a lot to Booker Rucker."

Missouri Parks Association Resolution: On The Retirement Of Booker H. Rucker

Whereas,

Booker H. Rucker will retire from the Missouri Division of State Parks on May 30, 2003, concluding thirty six years of service to the State of Missouri and its system of state parks and historic sites; and,

Whereas,

Over the course of his three and one half decade career, Booker Rucker has performed a very broad range of duties including the investigation, management, interpretation, and administration of the rich cultural resources of the state historic sites, and of all the state park lands; and,

Whereas,

In addition, Booker has over the years acquired an unmatched breadth and depth of knowledge regarding Missouri's cultural heritage, and applied that knowledge toward the perpetuation of our cultural assets as a living legacy for the people of the state; and,

Whereas,

Booker has for many years been the respected voice within state parks, and state government generally, for the proper and respectful stewardship of our cultural and archival resources, and in the process has himself become a living landmark as the cultural resource conscience and institutional memory of the state park agency; and,

Whereas,

Booker has since the very beginning of the Missouri Parks Association, always been the association's staunch friend and supporter, assisting and encouraging us from our early efforts to become organized and established, arranging and leading fascinating field trips, and in particular, devoting long hours and exemplary leadership in the public campaigns on behalf of the Soils and Parks Sales Tax; and,

Whereas,

Booker has ever borne his high offices and responsibilities in the lightest and most cheerful manner, and always brought to his labors and good works the saving grace of jovial humor and learned wit;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved,

That the Board of Directors of the Missouri Parks Association, on behalf of all of our members, and on behalf of all Missourians who value and benefit from the great cultural treasures of the Missouri State Park System, hereby expresses our warmest thanks and heartiest congratulations to Booker H. Rucker for his long and distinguished career of service to the state, and extend to him and the Rucker family our sincere wishes for a long, productive, and happy retirement, with the hope that he will continue to favor this board with the good fellowship and sage advice that we have had the privilege and pleasure to enjoy for so many years.

Attest:

Ron Coleman, President
May 30, 2003

("Lewis & Clark" from Page 1)

developed, and through a proposed national French Colonial Heritage Area anchored at the state historic site in Ste. Genevieve (see *Heritage*, April 2002), where Clark and his men camped in the common field two miles south of the relocated town on December 3. Lewis and Clark wintered at the mouth of River DuBois (Wood River) on the Illinois shore across from the confluence with the Missouri. St. Louis was still in Spanish hands at the time, hence their encampment in American territory on the east bank.

Truth be told, the actual site of Camp DuBois is now in St. Charles County, Missouri, as a result of shifts in the channel of the Mississippi River over the centuries. Though the Missouri location was long suspected by those who have studied channel migration, the sites of Camp DuBois and other Lewis and Clark camps in Missouri have now been accurately determined—to the considerable consternation of a

number of river communities that have long proclaimed sites—through a remarkable historic landscape mapping project led by James Harlan of the Geographic Resources Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia, in cooperation with the Missouri State Archives and numerous historians, including the park

division's Jim Denny. Using original public land surveys, surveyor's field notes, and other documents from the early nineteenth century in tandem with modern GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technology, the project mapped not only the locations of rivers and other natural and cultural features but also the historic vegetation of the period. The results, described in a *National Geographic* article in April 2002, may be viewed on-line at lewisclark.geog.missouri.edu and in an *Atlas of Lewis and Clark in Missouri* by Harlan and Jim Denny, forthcoming in October from the University of Missouri Press.



This detail of a 1799 map by George Victor Collot depicts the region around Ste. Genevieve around the time Lewis and Clark passed through. Courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection

The Missouri historic maps have become the envy of other states along the route of the Lewis and Clark expedition and are the basis for a series of more than ninety interpretive markers that will soon be installed in state and community parks, along the Katy Trail, and on various riverine properties of the conservation department. Jim Denny is coordinating the interpretive sign project for state parks and communities, assisted by Jeff Durbin and Boonville historian Bob Dyer. Ironically, there is no marker planned for the St. Charles County site of Camp DuBois.

Another of the ironies of the myriad Lewis and Clark commemorations has been the

"Set out this morning before Sunrise, at 3/4 of a mile passed the mouth of a Small Creek Called Gabia [Gabourie], at the mouth of this Creek is the landing place for the Tradeing Boats of St Genevieve, a Small town Situated on the Spurs of the high land at 3/4 of a mile distant nearly South This Village contains (as I am informed) about 120 families, principally French...."

William Clark, December 4, 1803

near eclipse, except in southern states like Louisiana and Arkansas not on their route, of a related event that was arguably more important than the expedition, the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. The treaty for purchase of the entire area west of the Mississippi to the Continental Divide was negotiated in spring 1803, after Jefferson commissioned the Lewis and Clark expedition, but the transfer from Spain to France and then, the next day, from France to the United States, was not consummated in St. Louis until March 9-10, 1804. Lewis and Clark were in attendance, so one of the fifteen national signature events of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial (and the first of four in Missouri)

will be the Three Flags Ceremony in St. Louis, March 10-14, 2004. There was no federal legislation, commission, or funding mechanism for the Louisiana Purchase bicentennial as there was for Lewis and Clark; hence the relative neglect. Perhaps it was felt that what America needs today are heroes.

Because of its importance as staging area for the expedition, St. Louis will host five major national exhibitions beginning in December and January: an exhibit on the Wood River/St. Louis/Cahokia phase of the expedition at the Museum of Westward Expansion beneath the Gateway Arch, a plant life exhibit at the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Lewis and Clark National

Bicentennial Exhibition (organized by the Missouri Historical Society, with more than 500 original artifacts) at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park, an exhibit on Clark's slave York at the Black World History Museum (with related exhibits and events during Black Heritage Month in February at a number of state park and community museums), and the National Park Service's traveling Corps of Discovery II exhibition.

The Corps II exhibition will visit a number of other communities in Missouri, with some visits timed to coincide with the upriver progress of the reenactment. One aspect of Corps II is "A Tent of Many

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Meramec 25th Anniversary

Celebration Of A River Saved

By Ron Coleman, MPAPresident

Many of our beautiful Missouri State Parks are located along the Meramec River today. Thousands of acres of parkland were the direct result of the vote that led



to the de-authorization of the Meramec Dam project 25 years ago in 1978. The Missouri Parks Association assisted in funding several events this summer to celebrate keeping the Meramec a free flowing stream.



Pictured at two of the events are the *Augusta Bottoms Band* (lower left) entertaining folks at the Hickory Ridge Conference Center in

Meramec State Park and Oz Hawksley and his wife, Dorothy, (above) at the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center in St. Louis on August the 8th. Dr. Hawksley, author of *Missouri River Waterways*, was a guest speaker at the event.

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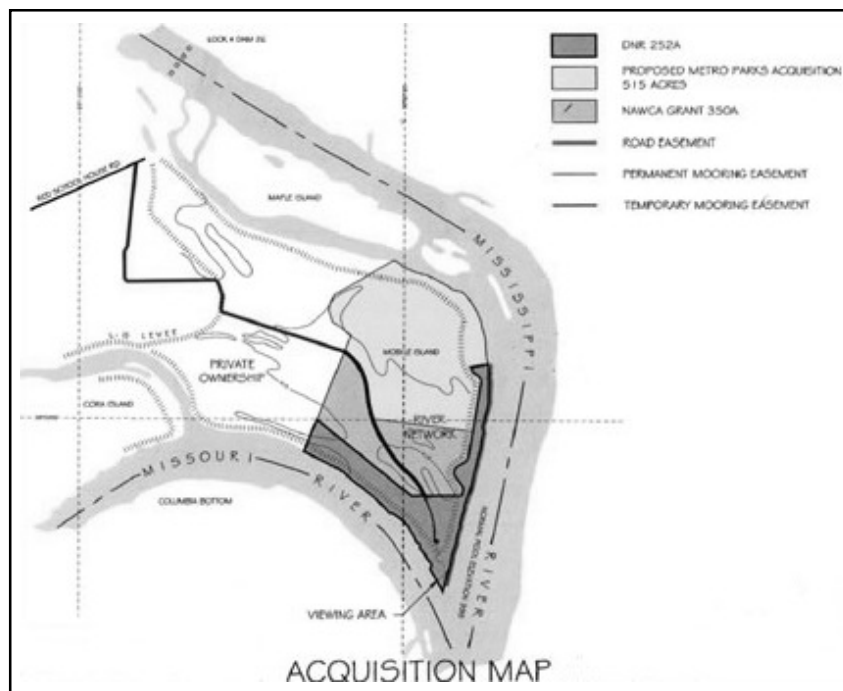
Voices," a venue for local programming related to the multi-ethnic dimensions of the expedition and of Missouri, which is being facilitated by the park division under the leadership of Larry Larson. This programming assistance, along with a spin-off of the Missouri Historical Society's national exhibition, focussed on Lewis and Clark in Missouri, will be available for schools, state park visitor centers, and community museums on a schedule being worked out by park division staff at the Missouri State Museum. The Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission has awarded nearly \$1 million in Corps of Discovery grants to communities and organizations throughout the state for their own events and programming, in which many park staff members will also be participating.

Two national signature events and a related state park dedication in May will commemorate the expedition's departure from Camp River DuBois May 14 and its stay in St. Charles May 16-20. As reported in *Heritage* (April 2001 and January 2003), the state has acquired land for a new 1118-acre park on the point of land separating the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers past which the expedition sailed May 14. The new Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones Confluence Point State Park is expected to be dedicated that day, especially now that the park division has received a \$1.66 million grant from the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District to build a four-mile access road to

the point. Other developments will be minimal, since the point is subject to flooding, but there will be a link to the cross-state Katy Trail, for which Ted and Pat Jones provided initial funding, and to other hiking/biking trails on both sides of the Mississippi in the metropolitan area. The Katy Trail, which also runs past First State Capitol State Historic Site on the river in St. Charles, has been designated as part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, along with highways on both north and south sides of the river.

Lewis and Clark formally organized the Corps of Discovery in late May on an island near present-day Hermann, where Deutschheim State Historic Site now commemorates German settlement there in the 1830s. On June 2, Clark climbed a hill near the expedition's camp at the mouth of the Osage River to reconnoiter the surrounding country. The hill has recently been preserved as the 13-acre Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site, which will be dedicated in early June 2004. Around June 4, the day the Corps of Discovery passed the future site of Jefferson City, the state bicentennial commission will dedicate a larger than life-size sculpture of Lewis, Clark, York, Drouillard and the dog Seaman near Jefferson Landing State Historic Site. The memorial is being crafted by Columbia artist Sabra Tull Meyer. After passing the site of Jefferson City, Clark debarked at a creek he called Zoncar (today's Workman Creek) on the left bank to check out reports of lead ore on a nearby hill, now thought to be Sugar Loaf Rock, currently on private land to which the park division is trying to arrange for public access.

"Proceeding on" upstream, the party noted the Pierced Rock Natural Arch, visible from the Katy Trail, and passed the Manitou bluffs near Rocheport, where Clark recorded the Indian pictographs he observed on the projecting rock through which the tunnel on the Katy Trail now passes. On June 9 they passed the "Prairie of Arrows," the location of Arrow Rock State Historic Site, and then on June 15 camped near the site of the former Missouri and Osage Indian villages now interpreted at Van Meter State Historic Site. They had a particularly grueling time with the river currents as they passed the site of the future



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Battle of Lexington, finally reaching the mouth of the Kansas River in what is now Kansas City on June 26. A national signature event complete with fireworks over the Missouri River will be held in Kansas City and nearby Fort Leavenworth and Atchison, Kansas, July 3-4 to commemorate the crew's celebration of Independence Day in the American West.

Actually, the expedition had already left Kansas City, passed the site of Weston Bend State Park (where the keelboat ran aground on a sandbar), and reached the vicinity of Lewis and Clark State Park by July 4, when they celebrated by firing their cannon. They camped the night of July 3-4 on the west bank, but from the Harlan map we know that the actual site is now on the Missouri side of the river. A new interpretive exhibit will likely be dedicated at Lewis and Clark State Park around July 4. On a twenty mile day of relatively smooth sailing the Corps of Discovery passed—and marveled at—the site of Big Lake State Park July 13; and on July 18, after having dined the night before on fresh

deer and catfish, they passed beyond the bounds of what is now Missouri.

Retracing their route on their return downstream in the summer of 1806 the crew traveled much faster, entering the future state of Missouri on September 9 and reaching St. Louis September 23, the date in 2006 for the final national signature event in St. Louis. By that time it is hoped that a measure will be on the November ballot for renewal of the Parks and Soils Sales Tax, if necessary having involved the circulation of initiative petitions and the certification of signatures, and that the citizens of Missouri—having been inspired anew by the heritage of their state and its park system—will vote to approve it.



Photo courtesy of the Division of State Parks

Historic Montauk Mill at Montauk State Park -- site of MPA's 2003 Annual Meeting



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For Lewis & Clark Celebration(p1)
MPA Plans Trip To Montauk (p7)*

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