

Founding of the Idaho Chapter

From its inception in 1983, the Governor's Lewis & Clark Trail Committee focused on issues that threatened the historic integrity of the Lewis & Clark trail route through Idaho. John A. Caylor of Boise was the first chair of the committee and was shortly followed by James R. Fazio of Moscow after the untimely death of Professor Caylor.¹

Governor John Evans, who signed the executive order creating the committee, was a solid supporter of activities related to the trail and its history. However, it was realized that the continuity of any committee appointed by a governor is precarious. It was therefore decided to create a chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation to assure continuation of the work to protect the trail and to add the strength of a nationwide interest group to the effort.

Ottis Peterson – 1st Chapter President

On October 19, 1985, at the Powell Ranger Station of the Clearwater National Forest, 13 members of the Foundation – most of them also members of the governor's committee – signed a petition to the Foundation for a "new entity financial grant." The petition was subsequently approved, with officers of the new Idaho Chapter being: Ottis Peterson, president; James F. Hammersten, vice-president; and Audrey Peterson, secretary-treasurer.

The first newsletter was sent out by James Fazio in spring on 1986 announcing the first official meeting of the chapter (to be jointly held with the governor's committee) in Boise on May 3. The first major goal of the new chapter was bidding to host the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation's annual meeting in 1990 during Idaho's Statehood Centennial.

Gavel Passes to James Fazio

On September 27, 1986, the Idaho Chapter and the governor's committee held meetings in Salmon along with a field trip to Lemhi Pass. It was at this meeting that the Chapter president's gavel passed to James Fazio due to the unfortunate condition of Ottis Peterson losing his eyesight.²

A joint meeting with the Traveler's Rest Chapter of Montana was held on September 26, 1987 in Lolo, Montana with a field trip to Packer Meadows near Lolo Pass. At Powell Ranger Station, the chapter business meeting adopted by-laws for the organization. This was the first of many joint chapter meetings Idaho has participated in.

From July 29 through August 1, 1990, under the guidance of President Jim Fazio, the 22nd annual meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation took place in Lewiston with the

¹ A detailed account of the early actions and successes of the committee can be found in the March, 1986 issue of *We Proceeded On* (page 18).

² On April 22, 1989, Jim Fazio was elected as president, Duane Annis as Vice-president and Judy Space as secretary-treasurer.

theme “Lewis and Clark in the Land of the Nez Perce”. Attendance totaled 307 and the members enjoyed field trips to Chief Timothy State Park, George Hatley’s appaloosa ranch, “Long Camp” in Kamiah, “Canoe Camp” in Orofino and a dinner stop in Weippe with a sign dedication where Lewis and Clark met the Nez Perce. Other highlights of the meeting included a play by the Idaho Repertory Theatre of “Riversong”, a day with the Nez Perce at the tribal center in Lapwai and Jim Fazio receiving the Foundation’s Appreciation award recognizing his “support to the Foundation in its endeavor to preserve and perpetuate the lasting historical worth of the Expedition.”³ Banquet speaker, Dr. Carlos A. Schwantes of the University of Idaho, closed the meeting – the first annual meeting held in Idaho.



Jim Fazio addresses the 1990 crowd at Canoe Camp; “Lewis and Clark in the Land of the Nez Perce” – 1990 meeting logos.

Duane Annis takes the Presidency

On August 2, 1990, at the conclusion of the annual meeting, Duane Annis, vice-president, assumed the presidency of the chapter as Jim Fazio left the state for a three year appointment as director of the National Arbor Day Foundation’s educational institute. Duane put out a couple of newsletters, scheduled then cancelled a meeting. Most members needed some time off after all the work put into the national meeting in 1990.

Steve Lee elected President

In the spring of 1992, State Treasurer Lydia Justice Edwards and Ruthann Caylor, both concerned with the lack of activity of the chapter, organized a spring meeting for Boise on April 25th. The first order of business was the election of new officers due to the desire of the current officers to retire. Elected as chapter president was Steve Lee.⁴ Under Steve’s guidance, the chapter again scheduled traditional meetings in the spring and fall.

At the 1992 fall meeting in Salmon, Penny Raddon suggested a project for the chapter to undertake. The chapter membership agreed to this proposal and the chapter commissioned Bev Davie of Orofino to complete a Lewis and Clark themed quilt, raffled it off with the proceeds going to place a Lewis and Clark video in school districts in Idaho. The quilt traveled to the annual meetings in Collinsville, Illinois, and Missoula, Montana with stops in between resulting in an adequate number of tickets sold. At the Missoula gathering, Mr. Matt Nowak won the quilt. The proceeds allowed the chapter to place two Lewis and Clark videos (one from the Foundation and one from the National Park Service) in every school district in Idaho plus two additional districts in Asotin County, Washington. Several individual schools also requested copies and they were provided.

On the national Foundation scene, former chapter president Jim Fazio assumed the presidency for the 1992-1993 term.⁵

³ Idaho honorees prior to the formation of the chapter included Ralph Space in 1978 (Award of Meritorious Achievement) and Marcus J. Ware in 1983 (Distinguished Service Award).

⁴ Also elected were Charles Raddon, vice-president, and Ruthann Caylor, secretary-treasurer.

⁵ Jim served as 2nd vice-president in 1989-1991 and 1st vice-president in 1991-1992.

In 1993, the chapter partnered with the BLM, Salmon National Forest and the Backcountry Horseman to host a National Trails Day event on the Lewis and Clark trail in Lemhi County. A large turnout enjoyed the historical interpretation, a bus tour to Lemhi Pass, a horseback outing and hiking on the trail. (The 1993 brochure for this event was featured in the American Hiking Society's national summary report as a fine example of publicity for a NTD event.) The next year, the Chapter again partnered with the BLM on National Trails Day for a work party on the trail in Lemhi County.

Beginning in 1994, the Idaho Chapter began hosting small social events at annual meetings for chapter members and Foundation friends. One of the highlights of these events was the get-together in Stevenson, Washington, where the special guests included *Undaunted Courage* author Stephen Ambrose and Moira Ambrose. Also at the annual meetings, the chapter, partnering with the Nez Perce County Historical Society, sold T-shirts featuring the design of the 1930s Lewis and Clark highway marker, in order to raise additional funds

On November 11, 1994, the chapter gathered in Lewiston to attend the dedication of Lewis-Clark State College's Centennial Mall featuring bronze statues of Lewis, Clark and Twisted Hair. The chapter also agreed to donate funds to help finish the project and had a brick with the chapter name placed on the donor entryway wall. The brick is still in place in the Centennial Mall. In 1995, the chapter again made a donation, this time to the Nez Perce Tribe who raised funds to purchase the "Spalding-Allen Collection" of Nez Perce artifacts that were recalled from the Nez Perce National Historic Park Visitor Center. The 19 items had been collected by the Rev. Henry Spalding in the 1800s and eventually ended up under the ownership of the Ohio Historical Society.⁶



J. Wilmer Rigby explains the location of trail at National Trails Day event in 1993; Group at joint Idaho-Washington meeting in 1998.

The 1995 annual Foundation meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia honored chapter member J. Wilmer Rigby of Salmon with its award of meritorious achievement. This award recognizes "outstanding contributions in bringing to this nation a greater awareness and appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition."

The May 30, 1998 meeting was a joint event with the newly-formed Washington Chapter. After a morning business session and lunch at Chief Timothy Park, the group visited local Lewis and Clark sites in the valley and ended the day with dinner at the home of LCSC President Jim Hottois and Sue Hottois. The next year, the chapter would again hold joint meetings in Stevenson, Washington, on July 17, 1999 with Gary Moulton as speaker (Idaho, Oregon and Washington chapters) and in Dayton,

⁶ In May, 1995, Steve Lee, Chuck Raddon and Ruthann Caylor were re-elected to their chapter positions.

Washington, in September 18, 1999, at Lewis and Clark Trail State Park (Idaho and Washington chapters).⁷

On August 1, 1998, upon the invitation of Carol MacGregor, the Idaho Chapter organized a retreat at Carol's Raspberry Ranch near Cascade, Idaho. The governor's committee members were included in this event and Steve Lee and Sue Hottois, event coordinators, issued the challenge to all attendees to bring ideas for the upcoming bicentennial. This event drew members from all over the state and the resulting planning session and its camaraderie helped launch the very successful Idaho commemoration.

Throughout the years, the chapter and governor's committee worked essentially as one. Although technically they were separate organizations, the same individuals were involved in both and the goals of both organizations were essentially identical. As the bicentennial approached, the governor's committee was enlarged and took on the role of leadership within the state.

Anne Schorzman takes charge for the Bicentennial

On January 24, 2000, the Idaho Chapter hosted a reception in Boise for Idaho legislators at Anne Schorzman's home. With the bicentennial approaching, the chapter felt this would be a great opportunity to showcase Lewis and Clark to legislators to help solicit their support. Programs by chapter members Mike Venso (showing slides from his recent retracing of the trail journey) and Julie Fanselow, author of a Lewis and Clark guidebook, highlighted the event.

At the annual meeting in Dillon, Montana, in August, 2000, former chapter president Steve Lee was selected as Foundation treasurer.



Hiking Sherman Peak in 1998; Meeting Sergeant Gass at Lewis and Clark Trail State Park in 2001; Cleanup at Arrow Junction in 2002

On June 2, 2000, members joined with Oregon Chapter members in Jordan Valley, Oregon, to restore the Jean Baptiste Charbonneau gravesite to a suitable condition after many years of neglect. The chapter also provided the materials needed for the restoration work.

In 2001, Sue Hottois was selected as an at-large member of the Foundation's board of directors.

On December 8, 2001, the Oregon Chapter hosted Idaho and Washington Chapters at a special event titled, "Christmas at Fort Clatsop". Idaho Chapter members enjoyed traveling to and from the event in a chartered bus stopping in Portland for a tour of the Lewis and Clark collection at the Lewis and Clark College library. After presentations by all chapters at a joint meeting, everyone enjoyed walking along the fort grounds and quarters watching re-enactors plying their crafts. In the evening, members gathered for a meal in Astoria.

⁷ Elected in September, 1999, were President Anne Schorzman, Vice-president Mike Venso and Secretary-Treasurer Carlena and Brian Miller.

In 2002, the chapter sponsored the first of three teacher's workshops in Salmon funded by National Park Service's Challenge Cost Share grant. Partnering with the Idaho Department of Education to select teachers, some 25 to 30 teachers attended each year. The 2003 session occurred on the Lolo Trail and at Fort Clatsop in Oregon in 2004. An additional grant from the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Community Assistance program helped fund the last two years.

Vice-president Mike Venso, working with the Nez Perce Tribe, organized a clean-up day in May, 2002, at Arrow Junction (Colter's Creek). This area had been used as a dump at one time so there were many truckloads of trash hauled out of the site. This area is where the expedition had canoes swamp in October of 1805 and a Jefferson peace medal was found near here.

In 2003, Steve Lee was awarded the "Appreciation Award" from the Foundation at the annual meeting in Philadelphia at the conclusion of three years of serving as Foundation treasurer.

In north central Idaho, the chapter joined with the Nez Perce National Historic Park and the Clearwater-Snake Bicentennial Committee, with support from the governor's committee and the Idaho Humanities Council to commemorate "Pomp's" birthday on February 12, 2005.⁸ A similar event was held in 2006.

Gib Floyd elected president

On May 16, 2005, Anne Schorzman and Larry Jones coordinated the bicentennial ceremony at the Jean Baptiste Charbonneau gravesite in Jordan Valley, Oregon. The ceremony included the laying of a special wreath at the grave. School children from Jordan Valley joined in participating in this special event.



Jean Baptiste Charbonneau's 200 birthday; Lolo Trail work party group shot; Workers on the trail – come rain or shine!

An event with Idaho and Washington Chapter members occurred on June 18 and 19, 2005 at Wendover Ridge on the Lolo Trail. Led by Gene and Molly Eastman, they hiked parts of the Lolo, Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce Trails. The Eastmans showed slides later at the Lolo Visitor's center.

Chuck Raddon takes over top spot

In 2007, Chuck Raddon was elected president at a meeting in Lewiston. Chuck ran for the post with an agenda of securing the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation's annual meeting for Idaho for only the second time.⁹ In 2008 the chapter received approval to host the meeting in 2010.

In 2009, the Idaho Chapter, in cooperation with the Clearwater National Forest, sponsored a full week work session on the Lolo Trail and most of the 18 volunteers came from Idaho or eastern

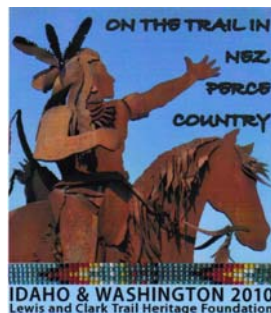
⁸ Gib Floyd became president of the chapter in 2005.

⁹ Elected as vice-president was Larry Jones; Janie Gottschalk as secretary and Holly Crawley was elected as treasurer.

Washington, but one came from Atlanta, Georgia, one from Las Vegas, Nevada, and four from California. For five days the volunteers cut brush on trails, painted signs and repaired backcountry toilets and toured sites along the trail.

The 2009 event was followed up with another. From August 7 to August 14, 2010, 16 participants spent a total of 1,068 hours brushing trails, restoring Liz Butte cabin, painting/maintenance of signs and enjoying some Lewis and Clark history while camping at the NoSeeEm Meadows area of the Lolo Trail. Another work party is scheduled for 2011.

The 42nd annual meeting in 2010 was an opportunity to showcase some spectacular parts of Idaho “On the trail In Nez Perce Country”. This was the theme of the meeting and, thanks to field trips that stretched 65 miles to the east (Heart of the Monster) and the Weippe Prairie, and 65 miles to the west (Patit Creek campsite near Dayton) a lot of area was enjoy by the 171 participants from 31 states. Pre-meeting and post-meeting jet boat trips also took participants 65 miles south to a seldom-



2010 Clearwater River tour participants pose in Orofino City Park; Pre-meeting and post-meeting trips to Hell's Canyon Ordway/Nez Perce village site

seen Lewis and Clark site – the Ordway site where three expedition members trekked to find salmon in 1806. Another enjoyable day was spent at Spalding Park that featured Nez Perce tribal dancers and Nez Perce horsemen. At the awards banquet, Barb and Harlan Opdahl received the Foundation’s meritorious achievement award for their long time devotion to Lewis and Clark on the Lolo Trail. The event drew rave reviews from the members and the low-cost event came in under budget at the end. This also marked the first time in the Foundation’s 42 year history that the meeting was hosted at a tribal enterprise and on an Indian reservation.

The year 2010 marked the 25th year of meetings, events, projects and friendships by the Idaho Chapter and its members. A look back shows a wide variety of activities throughout Idaho and the participation of young and old – eager to have an “on the trail” experience. However, while the bicentennial is over and the chapter has 25 years of history in the books, the Lewis and Clark trail is still located in Lemhi County and north central Idaho. The chapter continues to remain active and the members will continue to be drawn to that trail, to learn about Indian country and to learn the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

For more information on the Idaho Chapter, its history and future events check the website at: <http://lewis-clark-idaho.org>