

On The Trail

A local chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.
www.moksriverbend.org



Scenes Of Visionary Enchantment: Reflections on Lewis and Clark

by Dayton Duncan

Reviewed by Kyle Carroll

A few months ago, I made a trip to Nashville and took along **Scenes of Visionary Enchantment** to read. I was fortunate that I did so, as I was delayed on the return trip. I had the perfect antidote; seventeen chapters of Duncan's "reflections" made me almost wish for a longer layover.

More a revisiting than a retelling of the story of the Corps of Discovery, Duncan's book reintroduces us to people and places along the trail, reflects on events that occurred during the expedition, and offers constant—and constantly entertaining—insights into why, two centuries later, the saga of Lewis and Clark continues to exert such a powerful hold on our national imagination.

Most of the vignettes were written in preparation for speeches for an event or dedication along the Lewis and Clark Trail. Some were fleshed out later for the book, but all of them give the reader the effect of having sat through one of Dayton's uplifting, heartfelt in-person presentations. I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed this book. Duncan is, above all, a gifted story teller. His story-telling talents and his incurable passion for the Lewis and Clark story are infectious.

The essay in chapter 8, "scenes of visionary Inchantment," (Lewis' spelling) was written in memory of Stephen Ambrose and was one of my favorites.

Carolyn Gilman of the *Great Plains Quarterly*, writes, "For decades, Lewis and Clark have been blessed with eloquent chroniclers who have retold their story in far more dramatic ways than the participants did themselves. But no writer—not DeVoto, not Ambrose—

continued on page 2



From the left: Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Lewis, and Clark (portrayed by descendant Bud Clark) at the August 2007 National Convention

National Convention

"Reporting to President Jefferson 1807" Annual National Meeting of Foundation

This August 8, 2007, presentation at a restaurant, in Charlottesville, Virginia, featured the reports of Lewis and Clark and the clever speeches of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe. This was a fitting highlight of the annual meeting of the annual Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation national meeting. The William Clark impersonator, shown on the far right of the photo, is "Bud Clark" a real descendant of William Clark.

The annual convention featured three days in the Charlottesville area, including a private reception and a tour of Monticello, and erudite Lewis and Clark research and speeches.

Local chapter members attending this national program were: Karen Seaberg, the incoming national President of the Foundation, Sherry Leonardo, Chris Howell, Dan and Mary Lee Sturdevant, Lorna Haynesworth, and "Chick" Stessman.

The 2008 Annual Meeting will be held in Great Falls Montana in August 2008.

November 2007 Program

Benton paints Lewis and Clark

The chapter met at the Missouri Department of Conservation Discovery Center on November 6 for a program arranged by Board Member Marty Kreamer. Steve Sitton, Site Administrator for the Thomas Hart Benton Home, at 3616 Belleview, presented photographs taken by Mr. Benton on his 1965 trip through Nebraska, the Dakotas, and Montana.

Steve brought with him a reproduction of Mr. Benton's painting, "Lewis & Clark at Eagle Creek," painted from the Montana location Mr. Benton viewed. The meeting was attended by chapter members as well as people who had actually known Benton. After the meeting, members gathered at the M & S Grill on the Plaza. We think Mr. Benton would have heartily approved! Many thanks to Marty for organizing this event.

Scenes of Visionary

Enchantment

continued from page 1

tells this story with the flair and passion of Dayton Duncan.”

River Bend Chapter members will recognize the view of the Missouri River on the cover of the book as being from the observation Deck at Weston Bend State Park. Pick up a copy of this book. It's worth the effort.

Scenes of Visionary Enchantment:

Reflections on Lewis and Clark

Published in 2004, 202 pp.

\$22.00 ISBN 978-0-8032-1724-9



Dayton Duncan is an award-winning writer and documentary filmmaker and the author of eight books, including *Out West: A Journey through Lewis and Clark's America* and *Miles from Nowhere: Tales from America's Contemporary Frontier*, both available in Bison Books editions. His most recent book, *Horatio's Drive: America's First Road Trip*, is a companion volume to Ken Burns's documentary film about the first trans-continental automobile trip.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Chapter meeting at Cascone's Restaurant. Social hour at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by the program at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 31, 2008

A full day bus tour, with Ross Marshall, tour leader. The tour travels north from Kansas City along the expedition's path and back. More information will be available in the next edition.

Thursday, June 26, 2008

6:00 p.m., Lewis and Clark Park at Kaw Point, Kansas City, Kansas. The 204th year program, commemorating the 1804 three-day visit of the expedition to the confluence of the Rivers in what has become metropolitan Kansas City. Program details will be available in the next edition.

Monday, September 15, 2008

12 noon, Lewis and Clark Point, at 8th and Jefferson in downtown Kansas City. A presentation commemorating the 202nd year since the 1806 return trip visit of the expedition to the area.

Notes from the Chair

Fred Sawin has become Treasurer of the chapter. "There is about \$6,000 in a bank account, but members certainly need to re-up when they receive their annual membership dues statement in January 2008," said new Treasurer Mr. Sawin. Thanks go to **Steve Black**, who well served as Treasurer through the many transactions that occurred during the Bicentennial years.

Thanks to **Jennifer Scott**, who built and updated the chapter website, along with **Steve Kaub**, for a couple years. **Keith Krieger** has become the new webmaster, as Keith's prime business is computer instruction. You may reach Keith by using the "Contact Us" link on the web site, or by email at krieger@lab188.com.

Stan Lawson served as Editor of "On the Trail" from 1998 through 2006, and always in a fine professional manner. Stan got a better job recently that limits his participation as newsletter editor. Keith Krieger came on this year and produced the excellent July 2007 "On the Trail" edition of the newsletter and we hope will Keith will continue in this capacity.

Elsewhere Noted

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources opened the Missouri River Water Trail site at <http://www.missouririverwatertrail.org>. Inspiration for the project rose from the communities along the Missouri River revitalizing their riverfronts for the bicentennial.

The site provides canoers and paddlers with tools to plan their float down the river in the steps of Lewis and Clark.

The site includes commentary about the relationship between Jefferson's thinking about the role of the Missouri River in expanding the reach of the nation, and Lewis and Clark's role in executing Jefferson's plan.

The site includes a comprehensive set of links to Lewis and Clark resources on the web, as well as information for river lovers and paddlers.

More information about the River Trail and the web site may be found in the Fall, 2007, issue of Missouri Resources. An online version may be found at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/magazine/index.html>

River Bend Chapter Membership Application		Membership levels
Name _____		\$5 Full-time student
Mailing Address _____		\$15 Individual
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		\$25 Family
Phone _____ E-mail _____		\$50 Non-profit organization
		\$100 Corporation
National Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Member? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		Additional donation of \$ _____
Signature: _____		Total amount enclosed \$ _____
Return this with a check for your membership payment, made payable to Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter, to: Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter 1220 Washington Street, Suite 301 Kansas City MO 64105		

Paw-paw trees grace Kaw Point

Gordon Kempf

I joined the Riverbend Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation in 2001. I became extremely interested in Paw Paws after reading several books about Lewis and Clark noting their encounters with the fruit, and because the tree was indigenous to my farm in west central Missouri. I bet that Lewis knew about Paw Paws from his herbalist mother.

The University of Missouri at Columbia Center for Agroforestry, directed by Dr. Kenneth Hunt, generously made available three correctly pollinated Paw Paw trees. These trees were used in Lewis and Clark presentations celebrating the bicentennial. I also received a punch recipe which blended Paw Paw pulp, ice cream, and orange juice.

In September 2003, the trees were displayed, commented upon, examined, and the two gallons of punch disappeared! The Paw Paw trees were transplanted at my house in November 2003.

There were times when I was alone at my grafted pecan farm that my imagination got the best of me, generating a Paw Paw creature with frightening exotic sounds in the Osage valleys, who threatened all men and beasts.

In September 2007, I visited with Mike Calwell about the transplanting for the three Paw Paw trees. Kaw Point was selected as the site. On October 28, 2007, Dwaine Knott and George Vesel dug three holes at Kaw Point and then travelled to my residence in Clay County, Missouri to dig up the three trees for the movement and transplant to Kaw Point.

The trees were severely pruned to offset the transplant shock. The root balls were watered and covered for the short trip. The trees were not deeply rooted and not dense, which made the task easier. It was strongly recommended that the trees should be watered and not allowed to dry out.

Finally, we must recall that final Lewis and Clark passage from the Kansas City area to St. Louis in 1806. They wanted to move quickly. Up to that point in the journey, hunters went out in advance of the party and arranged a meeting point with the main crew to cook and prepare the hunters' catch. To save time, the company agreed to subsist on Paw Paws with no stopping.

On Friday, the 19th of September, 1806, the men were subsisting on paw paws and they made 52 miles. One of the men, J. Potts, "complained very much of one of his eyes which is burnt by the Sun". Shannon also complained of his forehead and eyes. On Saturday, September 20, 1806, three men were unable to row from the state of their eyes. It became necessary to leave one of the crafts and divide the men into the other canoes.

We now know the residue from the exterior of the Paw Paw actually caused the temporary blindness as they wiped the sweat from their eyes and forehead.



Transplanted Paw-paw trees at Lewis and Clark Park at Kaw Point

Please Welcome Our New Members

Proving the vitality of Lewis and Clark, we welcome new members

Chris Howell, Topeka, Kansas;

Jerry Garrett, St. Louis Missouri;

Rusty and Paula Leffel, Shawnee

Mission, Kansas.

Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter

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The Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter supports the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation at the local level through events, activities, programs, promotion and protection of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail. In addition, the local chapter encourages local interest in the expedition and related historic sites.

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Photo and graphics credits:

Page 1: The Presidents with Lewis and Clark courtesy of Dan Sturdevant

Page 2: Dayton Duncan photo courtesy of Kyle Carroll

Page 3: Paw-paw tree photo courtesy of Gordon Kempf

Questions, comments, corrections, or submissions may be emailed to Keith Krieger, krieger@lab188.com

In this issue:

Paw paws grace Lewis and Clark Park at Kaw Point, by Gordon Kempf,

Kyle Carroll reviews Dayton Duncan's *Scenes of Visionary Enchantment*,

November 2007 chapter meeting notes, and

A recap of the National Convention in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Upcoming events:

Saturday, February 2, chapter meeting at Cascone's Restaurant, 3737 North Oak Trafficway. Details on page 2.

40th Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, August 10 – 13, 2008, Great Falls, Montana. Details at www.lewisandclark.org, and click "Annual Meeting"

This newsletter is also available on the chapter web site in Adobe Reader/pdf format. Look for the link in the left-hand column.

And please add www.moksriverbend.org to your favorites for news, updates, and information about upcoming events.

For membership information, check <http://www.moksriverbend.org>, or call the Chapter Chair, Dan Sturdevant, at 816-421-4783