The Signature News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 12

Mission Statement:
“To preserve and protect Pompeys Pillar National Monument through education, interpretation, and special projects, and to support the BLM in its management of the site.”

Mark Your Calendars in 2015!

November 11th: Study Group @ 7:00 pm
February 11, 2016: Pomp’s Birthday
July 30, 2016: Clark Days
All Year Long: Pompeys Pillar is open to walk-in traffic for you to enjoy!

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Editor: Jodi Kinn

A Great Season at Pompeys Pillar

Jonathan Peart

Seems like we were just getting ready for the 2015 opening and now the season is over for another year at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. It was a successful season filled with challenges, changes, informative education and interpretation and fun. Approximately 33,000 people visited the Pillar from opening day till the last day of the season.

As we always do before important events at the Monument, we arranged some TV and radio interviews to talk about the upcoming season. Imagine our delight when KULR 8 wanted us to do the interview at the Pillar for their Wake Up Montana program….at 6 A.M. Monument Manager, Jeff Kitchens, and I met the reporter at a 5:45 A.M. and we had several live segments on that day. It was an early morning start a few days before the kick off.

On opening day we hosted a volunteer spring cleanup which really made the Pillar grounds attractive for the season to follow. One thing we hear consistently is how nice the Monument looks. Along with the BLM Rangers, Linda Brewer worked throughout the season on landscaping and was awarded the first annual, Golden Shovel Award.

In early June, Jeff Kitchens informed us that he had accepted a position as a Field Manager in Bend, Oregon. The news that we had been expecting but feared was upon us. He stayed with us through Clark Days and Dave Lefevre was named Acting Manager.

During the season, aging cottonwood trees were removed, school groups came to the Pillar, visitors from around the world were exposed to the story of Clark on the Yellowstone, Cub Scouts came and planted trees and worked on merit badges and a daily tour bus brought visitors to Monument late in the afternoon. Clark Days came and went as over 1,000 people helped us celebrate the 209th Anniversary of Captain Clark’s visit to the Pillar in 1806.

The gift store, under the talented and dedicated leadership of store manager, Linda Farnes, set a new record for store sales. Only Linda would have thought of selling bark from the cottonwood trees that were taken down. And people bought the bark! We are very fortunate to have Linda as our gift store manager and we thank her for all her hard work.

For the second year in a row, the Friends catered lunch for 50 supporters of St. Labre Indian School. On the last day of the season, we, along with the BLM, hosted three events. In the morning, volunteers planted trees and worked on other landscaping projects. In the early afternoon, we held our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic for our wonderful volunteers and the last event of the day and the season was our Honor Garden Ceremony. We inducted ten individuals into the Honor Garden by placing bricks with their names into the garden.

Shortly after the season ended, Acting Manager Dave Lefevre was named the new Manager of Pompeys Pillar National Monument. The Friends look to build on our relationship with Dave that began when he took the reins from Jeff the day after Clark Days. Congratulations, Dave!

We thank all our members and supporters who help to make all of this possible. We are grateful to you for your support and ask you for your continued support as we work through the winter months to get ready for the 2016 season.

Finally we extend our gratitude and thanks to all the 2015 volunteers. What a great group of people who work on a regular basis to enhance the visitor experience at Pompeys Pillar. A big thank you to all the volunteers and we look forward to working with you again in 2016.
A Word from Dave Lefevre, Monument Manager

Planting Seeds for the Future

As the season changes so does the focus of the Monument programs. Following a busy summer full of tour groups, volunteer projects, and the daily work of maintaining the grounds and facilities for the over 30,000 visitors, we are engaging in an effort to build on existing partnerships to further develop our educational programs. Some great work has been done by the Friends VISTA volunteer, Penny, who developed a program that will provide teachers with resources for their classroom, and our first ever Teacher on Public Lands, Megan, who developed lesson plans that tier to state benchmarks and standards. Their work, combined with newly implemented Every Kid In a Park program, will help us reach more school children than ever before. Great work ladies!

Calling All 4th Graders

The Every Kid in a Park program is an exciting new opportunity to attract school children and families to enjoy their public lands. The program offers a free annual pass to every 4th grader in the U.S. that will gain them (and their family) admission to any Federal fee site in the country. Fourth graders have always been a focus for our educational programs, because it is the year that they begin studying Montana history, including Lewis and Clark. Our programs offer an exciting opportunity to meet educational goals, while immersing students in the history through field trips to the Pillar. We hope that every kid in the Billings area will take advantage of this program and I can’t think of a better place to do it than Pompeys Pillar.

So while activity at the visitor center is slowing down, our staff is busy gearing up for a new wave of field trips and classroom programs. For everyone else, it is a great time to visit the Pillar to enjoy the wonderful weather we’ve been having, the fall foliage, and the rare opportunity to relax at the Pillar without the crowds. Thanks again for a great year and I hope to see you out there soon.

All the best,
Dave Lefevre
Penny’s VISTA Corner

The kids are back in school and I’ve been hard at work creating material for the Friends’ Pompeys Pillar Teacher Tote Program. For those unfamiliar with this new initiative, the Pompeys Pillar Teacher Tote Program is an extension of the Friends’ on-site educational efforts and aims to bring fun, interactive activities into the classroom. Thousands of children come to Pompeys Pillar on school field trips, and many visit throughout the year with their families. The Pompeys Pillar Teacher Tote Program will provide materials and lessons for hands-on enrichment activities to enhance the field trip experience and make for a high impact visit!

This summer, with the help of some amazing teachers, we created 5 different lesson plans that highlight the interesting natural resources, cultural significance and fascinating history surrounding Pompeys Pillar. These lesson plans will be used to create 10 “Teacher Totes”: big bags filled with teaching aids, props and activities. Once completed, these bags will be available for teachers to borrow for use in their classroom throughout the school year. In addition, our volunteers will have opportunities to take the bags into schools for classroom presentations. Our hope is that with classroom visitors and fun activities, the Teacher Tote Program will keep kids engaged and excited about Pompeys Pillar all year long!

With a generous grant from the Billings Downtown Exchange Club and funding from the Friends of Pompeys Pillar Board of Directors, materials for the Teacher Tote Program are in the process of being purchased and assembled. If you are interested in learning more about the Teacher Tote Program, or would like to be a classroom volunteer, please contact us at info@pompeyspillar.org or call the office at (406) 969-5380.
Volunteer Spotlight

Our Volunteer Spotlight for the month of October goes to Linda Brewer! Linda has worked incredibly hard out at the Pillar in keeping the grounds looking their best! As a new volunteer for the 2015 season, she has proven herself to be invaluable to the Ranger staff as well as the Friends family of volunteers!

Linda received the first annual Golden Shovel Award for her efforts to keep the Pillar looking beautiful. Thank you Linda for all that you have done and we hope to see you next season!

Don’t forget to Volunteer and/or become a Member for the 2015 Season!!
We Are Now on Twitter!!! Please Follow @FriendsPillar

Volunteers of the Year

The Volunteers of the Year Award for the 2015 season was awarded to Hank and Kay Demming!

Hank started volunteering in 2006 and Kay followed shortly after. Hank has been a huge asset to the organization. He volunteers in the gift store and gives interpretive talks on the Pillar at the signature as well. Hank also serves on various committees and is currently President of the Board.

Kay has been a volunteer in the gift store and helps out with other committees and events such as Honor Garden, Riverwalk, and the St. Labre catering event just to name a few.

Both Hank and Kay are extraordinary assets to the Pillar and they both help make the Pillar a better place for visitors and staff. The Friends would like to extend a big thank you to Hank and Kay for all that they do!
**Study Group**

The next study group will be held on November 11th at 7:00 pm in the conference room at the Friends of Pompeys Pillar office located at 1523 14th Street West, Suite 2. The subject for this study group is:

- **The Life and Times of Nathaniel Hale Pryor** by: Lawrence R. Reno

A group of 5 study group attendees went to the archives and a second date for more archival research will be scheduled at a later date. The Friends would like to extend a special thank you to David Wade for the tour of the archives. It was absolutely wonderful for him to give his time to the group in that way.

Please come and join us for the interesting discussion and conversation that takes place during these meetings. We hope to see you there.

**Wish List:**

The Friends of Pompeys Pillar is calling on all of our cherished Volunteers and Members. The copy machine in the office has died. If anyone knows of or has one that can be donated to the Friends group, please call the office and give Jonathan the information. Thank you so much for stepping up and helping us solve this dilemma.

**Become A Member:**

[www.pompeyspillar.org/membership](http://www.pompeyspillar.org/membership)

**Become A Volunteer:**

[www.pompeyspillar.org/volunteer](http://www.pompeyspillar.org/volunteer)

**Lewis and Clark: Fun Facts**

The Spanish were (rightfully) concerned about what this expedition could mean for their territories just to the south of the Louisiana Purchase.

So they sent out four different parties to find Lewis and arrest him.

**WE ARE UP TO 322 LIKES!!**

Help us reach our next milestone of 350 Likes by the beginning of the 2016 season!
Thanks to our Volunteers and Members

Sandra Anderson
Bruce and Susan Barrow
Gen Becker
Pete and Leslie Boothroyd
Linda Brewer
Helen Bryson
Michael R. Clark
Bill Cole/Cole Law Firm
Nancy Curriden
Esther Cuthbertson
Hank and Kay Deming
Thomas Doneker
John and Patricia Eastman
Candace Forrette
Jim and Peggy Good
Neal Gunnels
Carmen Hall
Carlota H. Holton
Julie Jackson
Joyce Jensen
Joe and Temia Keel
Nancy Kemler
Daniel Keyes
George King
Jodi Kinn
Jeff Kitchens
Mike Lamphier
Charles and Ruth Lechner
John LeVar
Arle and Armand Lohof
Robert and Susan Lubbers
Richard and Cheryl Mankle
Michael J. Marsh/RASE, LLC
Jerry Michels
John Moorhouse
Mark Morse and Teresa Darnielle-Morse
Mary Jo and Jerry Noser
Roger and Pat Otstot
Mark Pagano
Jonathan Peart
Derry Pence
Mike Penfold
Margaret Ping
Donald Stanaway
Sheryl Stout
Jimmy R Vanzant
Bill and Lisa Weaver (Baskin Robbins)
Stanley C. Wells
Gloria and Milt Wester

2014/2015 Donations

Anonymous
Helen Bryson
Baskin Robbins
Cold Mountain Pottery/AWARE
Hank and Kay Deming
John Eastman
First Interstate Bank
First Interstate BancSystem Foundation
Anthony Hayman
Dr. Chad Kriskovich
Jeff Kitchens
Mike Lamphier
Jonathan Peart
Charles and Ruth Lechner
Ann Shesne
Belinda Strazzini

2015 Volunteers

Billings Metro VISTA Project:
   Jordan W.
   Walter B.
   Kaitlyn C.
   Denise B.
   Dan S.
   Stephen S.
   Shamentius L.
   Kelly M.
   Bruce Barrow
   Susan Barrow
   Gen Becker
   Leslie Boothroyd
   Pete Boothroyd
   Linda Brewer
   Helen Bryson
   Hank Deming
   Kay Deming
   John Eastman
   Larry Field
   Ellen Hilde
   Judy Hugelen
   Joyce Jensen
   Carolyn Jones
   Nancy Kemler
   Jodi Kinn
   Stephen Kramer
   Carol Lamphier
   Mike Lamphier
   Rachel Lehmann
   John LeVar
   Arle Lohof
   Armand Lohof
   Cheryl Mankle
   Rich Mankle
   Jerry Michels
   Michael Miller
   Jim Nichols
   Tricia Nichols
   Jerry Noser
   Mary Jo Noser
   Louise Olsen
   Pat Otstot
   Roger Otstot
   Barb Pollari
   RMC Office of Community Involvement
   Beth Rosh
   Steve Rosh
   Jeff Sherman
   Sheryl Stout
   Meghan Turner
   Clint Valandra

2015 Grants

Nemont Telephone Cooperative
Billings Gazette - Jeans Day
Downtown Exchange Club

2015

Jonathan Peart - Executive Director
Linda Farnes - Gift Store Manager
Penny Feltner - VISTA

Memorials

A great way to honor or remember someone is to make a donation to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar.

Susan Barrow and Helen Bryson, in Honor of Eva VanArsdale
Carmen Hall, in Honor of Guadalupe and Jesus Galvan

Wills

Leave a bequest to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar to help us further our protection of our National Treasure.
2015 Season in Pictures

Community Clean-up Day

St. Labre Indian School Catering

Volunteer Appreciation

Honor Garden Ceremony

National Public Lands Day

Photos by: Jonathan Peart