Mission Statement:

“To develop the historic potential of Pompeys Pillar National Monument, the site of the only remaining physical evidence on the trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-1806.”

Pompeys Pillar National Monument Is Open!

Bring your families and friends and come visit our own national monument in southeast Montana. The season at Pompeys Pillar is in full swing. Many school groups have visited the Monument during the month of May. The BLM staff and the Friends of Pompeys Pillar volunteers have been educating about and interpreting the many aspects of the Pillar for students and other visitors. Daily tours are available for the visiting public. The BLM has done a great job focusing on interpretation for our local area youth. We look forward to visiting students coming in September.

For the rest of the summer, volunteers and BLM staff will continue their interpretative activities to provide the best possible experience for our visitors. Clark Days are just a little over a month away. There will be free overnight camping on Friday and Saturday nights will the bulk of the activities taking place on Saturday, July 25th. The day will start with a pancake breakfast with Clark's Return at 9 A.M. to kick off the day. There will be cowboy musician/poets, music, the Elk River Brigade raising the colors as well as performing throughout the day. Food will be available during the day and the Clark Days will end with a bonfire and ghost stories. We hope everyone will come out and enjoy your national monument.

As you might imagine, there is a need for help to put on this event. If you can help, please let me know. In addition to the regular visitors who come to Clark Days, the BMW Motorcycles of America riders are visiting Billings the week of and including during Clark Days. It is possible that we will have thousands more visitors at Clark Days. The Friends of Pompeys Pillar will be responsible for fee collection during the event as well as doing many of the logistical tasks. Please help if you can.

Promotion is one the activities that the Friends of Pompeys Pillar do on behalf of Pompeys Pillar National Monument. We will be promoting the Pillar and Clark Days at the Strawberry Festival downtown on June 13th and at the Heart and Sole Run on June 20th. If you’d like to help and share your enthusiasm and love of the Pillar, please help out by volunteering at these events.

We are grateful for all the support we receive from all of you on behalf of Pompeys Pillar. We thank you, our volunteers, members, supporters and donors. Please continue your support for the Friends of Pompeys Pillar and our national monument.
One of my favorite things to do each morning in the summer when I arrive at the Pillar is to walk through the lower area, underneath the large cottonwoods. Early in the day the birds are active, the marmots and playing, and the scene is serene. In my time at Pompeys Pillar I have found beehives in tree trunks, watched raccoon families peering out of their holes down at me, and listened to various woodpeckers tapping away for insects. The cottonwood groves of Pompeys Pillar are a special resource and one I am quite fond of.

As a forester, I know that most of these majestic giants are not long for this world. Cottonwoods remain vigorous for about 80-90 years. In this time they can become quite large, like those near Pompeys Pillar National Monument (PPNM). Some of the largest trees recorded in the United States (plains and eastern cottonwoods) have been 80-90 feet tall and over 6 feet in diameter. Once a tree, like a Cottonwood, gets close to the end of its life cycle it becomes more susceptible to damage and decay by insects, disease, storms, and other factors. Furthermore, each time a tree is injured in its life, whether naturally or by the hand of human, it also has a higher likelihood of decaying and dying sooner.

At PPNM, many of the larger cottonwoods have been dated from the 1890s to late 1920s. Ranging in age from 85-125 years many of our old trees are in decline or getting close to their end. Aiding them in their demise are a number of other issues including lightning scars, animal damage to roots, and limb removal scars, which have allowed diseases to attack and cause decay. Since 2011, I have seen at least 10 large cottonwoods come down from storms and/or other factors. I have seen innumerable large limbs fall, several of which have damaged property, created debris issues, or threatened human lives. One of the most notable was during Clark Days a couple years ago when a large cottonwood limb broke above one of the sidewalk areas, hanging precariously until we were able to remove it.

Hazard trees, which many of our older cottonwoods are considered, are nothing to take lightly. On average, at least 100 people each year are killed by a tree or limb falling on them. Hundreds more are injured. Since 2010, over a billion dollars in damage to property was caused by hazard trees each year in the U.S. At PPNM a number of trees have been or still may be a threat to human life and property.

What makes a tree a hazard? Any tree that can negatively impact human life or property is considered a hazard. Trees can become hazards in one of three ways; damaged, decayed or dead limbs; compromised bowl or trunk; and/or damaged or unstable root systems. A hazard tree may have one or more of these issues, but may not be apparent unless you know what to look for. At PPNM we have trees with solid trunks, great crowns, and compromised root systems. There are trees with solid roots, yet the trunk and/or large branches in the crown are rotting from the inside out. Furthermore, we have some trees where the trunk and roots were good, but the crown is mostly dead or dying. In all of these instances the tree will eventually fall and, if it hits a facility, could damage it. These trees can also be a danger to people.

Therefore, in 2011, after several trees were damaged and/or downed by storms and flooding, a plan was established to deal with hazard trees and start the next generation of our cottonwood forest. The focus of this project has been to reduce the chance of a tree falling on a facility (e.g. the Interpretive Center) or hurting a person. Trees located in an areas where they could harm people or property, have been assessed for potential hazards. Trees away from developed areas have been left alone. In 2015 about a dozen trees were taken down throughout the lower area. Each one was a direct hazard to people or property. Each one either had numerous dead limbs, a decaying trunk, and/or compromised roots.

We understand that seeing these big trees come down is sad. It was sad for the staff and folks working to remove them. However, all those involved understood the importance of reducing hazards in areas regularly visited by the public. It may be hard to see a large tree come down. It would be catastrophic to see a tree fall into the interpretive center or amphitheater. It would be devastating to have a person injured.

However, the removal of the trees is only the first step. As many have noticed numerous cottonwoods and other hardwood species have been planted throughout the monument in the last three years. The idea behind this is to replant the future forest in the gaps created by hazard trees removed. This fall we will be conducting a large tree planting project throughout the lower area. For every tree cut we intend to plant 2-3 new trees. This type of project is both sustainable and will provide a multi-aged stand, which will be healthier and more resilient.

Thank you to everyone who expressed ideas regarding this project. Your interest and attention is appreciated. It shows the Bureau of Land Management staff along with volunteers and interns who have worked on this project that the trees matter. Please help us continue our work by coming out for the tree planting project later this year. Your efforts will help plant the forest of tomorrow.

Thank you.

Jeff Kitchens
Monument Manager
Penny’s VISTA Corner

School’s out, but that doesn’t mean the learning stops at Pompeys Pillar National Monument! I’ve been hard at work these past few weeks on some new educational opportunities, and I’m excited to share them with you! The Pompeys Pillar Teacher Tote Program is a new initiative that will provide teachers and volunteer interpreters with resources to bring fun learning experiences to students and visitors to the Pillar. Through canvas totes filled with teaching aids and educational activities, volunteers and teachers will create exciting in-class and out-of-class experiences that spark children’s imagination and inspire them to succeed in school.

I’ll be busy this summer, putting together activities and presentations to highlight the history, cultural significance, and natural resources at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. With a bit of luck, the totes will be ready to use by volunteers at the Pillar and teachers in the Billings area by this coming fall. In addition to being used by interpreters at the Pillar, volunteers will be recruited to visit classrooms and deliver presentations using the Totes, and teachers will also be able to borrow the Totes themselves, for use in the classroom.

The Teacher Tote Program has already received a generous $500 grant from the Downtown Exchange Club of Billings and additional funding for the program is being sought to complete a total of 10 totes this year.

Photo Contest

The Friends of Pompeys Pillar want to see your photos!

Send us your best pics from your visit to Pompeys Pillar National Monument. The most interesting and unique photos each month will be featured on our Facebook page, Twitter and in our Newsletter.

One outstanding photo will be chosen and awarded a prize!

To submit your photo, email it to info@pompeyspillar.org

Contest runs from May 2 to Sept 26, 2015.

With the submission of your photo to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar, you give permission to the Friends to use it on Facebook, Twitter, the E-Newsletter, and other public promotional materials.
Volunteer Spotlight

The month of June’s Volunteer Spotlight goes to Gen Becker! Gen has helped in various activities such as helping get the gift store set up for the season, assisted with inventory in the gift store, participates on the book review committee, and filled in for shifts when others were sick or on vacation, which earned her the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2014.

Gen lives in Ballantine and is very pleasant and fun to be around. She’s been a great asset to the Pompeys Pillar Team and we hope to see her for many years to come.

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

Volunteers Needed!!!

Volunteers are needed for the following events:

- Strawberry Festival - June 13th, 8-4pm
- Heart and Sole Run - June 20th, 8-12pm

The days will be split into 2 hour shifts. There will need to be 2 volunteers per 2 hour shift for these events.

Please sign up by calling the office and letting Jonathan know if any of these shifts for these fun events interest you.

Thank you to all of the Volunteers for all of the amazing things that each and every one of you do for Pompeys Pillar National Monument.
**Study Group**

The next study group will be held on June 10th 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:

- **Tailor Made, Trail Worn** chapter 8-end by Robert J. Moore, Jr. and Michael Haynes

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

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**Clark Days Sponsorship**

We are starting to think about sponsors for the upcoming Clark Days celebration. If you know of anyone or any business that would like to take part in this celebration, please contact the office. Thank you for your support with the Clark Days celebration.

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**Become A Member:**

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

**Become A Volunteer:**

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

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**Lewis and Clark: Fun Facts**

[Clark]
Sunday June 8th 1806

Drewyer returned this morning from the chase without killing any thing. his horse left him last night and he prosued him near our camp before he caught him. The Sick Chief is much mended, he can bear his weight on his legs and recovers Strength. The Child has nearly recovered. The Cut nose and ten or 12 came over today to visit us, two of those were of the tribes from the plains of Lewis's river whom we had not before Seen; one of those men brought a horse which I gave a tomahawk which I had exchanged for with the Chief of the Clalahlah's [4] Nation below the Great rapids of Columbia, and broken-down horse which was not able to Cross the mountains. we also exchanged 2 of our

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**WE ARE UP TO 296 LIKES!!**

Help us reach our next milestone of 300 Likes by the beginning of the 2015 season!

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Source: [http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/read/?xmlsrc=1806-06-08.xml&_xslsrc=LCstyles.xsl](http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/read/?xmlsrc=1806-06-08.xml&_xslsrc=LCstyles.xsl)
Thanks to our Volunteers and Members

2015 Members

Sandra Anderson
Bruce and Susan Barrow
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
Carmen Hall
Carlota H. Holton
Julie Jackson
Joyce Jensen
Joe and Temia Keel
Nancy Kemler
Daniel Keyes
George King
Jodi Kinn
Mike Lamphier
Charles and Ruth Lechner
John LeVar
Arle and Armand Lohof
Richard and Cheryl Mankle
Michael J. Marsh/RASE, LLC
Jerry Michels
John Moorhouse
Mary Jo and Jerry Noser
Roger and Pat Otstot
Mark Pagano
Jonathan Peart
Mike Penfold
Margaret Ping
Donald Stanaway
Sheryl Stout
Jimmy R Vanzant
Bill and Lisa Weaver (Baskin Robbins)
Stanley C. Wells
Gloria and Milt Wester

2015 Staff

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

2015 Volunteers

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
Beth Rosh
Steve Rosh
Jeff Sherman
Sheryl Stout
Meghan Turner
Clint Valandra

2015 Grants

Nemont Telephone Cooperative
Billings Gazette - Jeans Day
Downtown Exchange Club

2014/2015 Donations

Anonymous
Helen Bryson
Baskin Robbins
Cold Mountain Pottery/AWARE
Hank and Kay Deming
Charles and Ruth Lechner

Memorials

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

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.
Reminder!!!!

Volunteer/Ranger Potluck after the Board Meeting on Thursday, June 11th.

The sign-up sheet for the Potluck is on the key cabinet in the break room at the Pillar. We hope to see you there!

School Groups and Volunteers