The Signature News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10

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.”

End of the Season 2016

Photo by: Jonathan Peart and Laura Yourd

Goodbye and Best Wishes...

Jonathan Peart

We've just completed my fourth season as the Executive Director of the Friends of Pompeys Pillar. And like the changing of the seasons, change is happening at our organization. I am leaving my position at the end of July and moving on to new things in my life. I wanted to say goodbye and say thank you to all the members, volunteers, donors and supporters of Pompeys Pillar National Monument.

It has been my pleasure to help move the Friends of Pompeys Pillar from an all-volunteer organization to one with paid staff members. The transition has proved to be beneficial to the organization and to Pompeys Pillar National Monument. Change is not easy and we’ve had our growing pains along the way but I am proud of our organization and our strong partnership with the Bureau of Land Management.

I thank the Friends of Pompeys Pillar Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to serve in this role for the past three and a half years. It has been my pleasure to serve and work with a Board filled with such wonderful people. I want to thank the Monument Managers with whom I worked, Jeff Kitchens and David Lefevre. As a support organization for Pompeys Pillar, we must work in partnership with the BLM and the Monument staff to accomplish common goals. Working together, we have done that.

I’d also like to thank the VISTAs who have served the Friends of Pompeys Pillar, Penny Feltner and Laura Yourd. Without them, there would be no Teacher Tote Program to the detriment of all the low-income children who have had classroom visits and visits to the Pillar.

A grateful thank you to Linda Farnes for her successful management of the Gift Store at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. Linda was the right person to come along at the right time when we were seeking a new manager in 2013. We had record sales this year, and she and the volunteers under her supervision, deserve all the credit.

Finally, I want to thank all the volunteers who have helped make Pompeys Pillar National Monument such a great place to visit. Volunteers are the lifeblood of any nonprofit organization and that is especially true with the Friends of Pompeys Pillar volunteers. The volunteers at Pompeys Pillar are simply the best and it has been my pleasure and privilege to work with you. Thank you for all you do on behalf of Pompeys Pillar National Monument.

So I bid you a farewell and hope to see you around town and maybe at Pompeys Pillar. Pompeys Pillar is such a great place that you may even see me there as a volunteer down the road.

In the meantime, please give Neal Gunnels a warm welcome as the incoming Executive Director of the Friends of Pompeys Pillar. He takes the helm on the 31st of October. I know you’ll like working with him so please welcome and help him as he begins a new chapter in the long, proud history of the Committee for the Preservation of Pompeys Pillar/Pompeys Pillar Historical Association/Friends of Pompeys Pillar.

Mark Your Calendars in 2016!

Study Group: 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 7:00 pm at the Friends Office

All Year Long: Pompeys Pillar is open to walk-in traffic for you to enjoy!

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Editor: Jodi Kinn
A Word from Dave Lefevre, Monument Manager

Winding Down and Moving On

The end of the season is always a bittersweet time. Work slows down and life becomes a little more peaceful, but it’s always kind of hard to accept that you will be stuck in the office for the next 6 months after enjoying a fun summer in the great outdoors. It is also a time of report writing and documentation, which allows you to reflect on all the accomplishments that were achieved throughout the season.

I’m not going to list everything here, but the following is a sampling of the work we accomplished:

• We delivered over 1500 educational programs and tours for school groups and visitors
• We installed new riverwalk signs and even added a couple.
• We built two new dugout canoe for use in a new interpretive center
• We had a very successful Clark Days event
• We stabilized and replaced the entire floor of the boardwalk
• We planted over 160 new trees and shrubs
• We participated in at least six community activities, such as the Strawberry Festival and Get Outside Montana events
• We collected $30,000 in permit fees and hosted the Big Sky State Games bicycle race
• We installed a new river overlook platform
• We improved the nature trail with bark surfacing
• We stained the visitor center and 5 outbuildings
• We gave all of the landscaping a face lift with new gravel and plantings

The list goes on and it is something that all of our staff and volunteers should be proud of.

This was one of the most fun seasons I’ve had in my career and it’s due to the experiences that I had with many of you. You have probably heard me say that the best thing about my job is meeting the public and especially the volunteers who dedicate themselves to serving their country and communities.

This year was especially fun, because everything was so new. I made many new acquaintances and friends along the way. I learned so much from everyone, stuff that I will take with me wherever I go.

So thank you all very much for everything you did for the Pillar and for welcoming me into the mix. It is with a heavy heart that I must tell you that I have accepted another job in the Billings Field Office and won’t be managing Pompeys Pillar in the future. It was a very hard decision for me to make, because I loved this job and it will be really hard to find anything quite as fulfilling and enjoyable to keep me busy. I could have easily spent a several more years here, but opportunity came knocking and I made a career move that I hope will pay off in the long run. I’ll miss seeing all your smiling faces and spending time on the ground interacting with visitors. But I’ll still be nearby, so please keep me in mind for future volunteer and social events.

Thanks again for making my short time here so productive and enjoyable.
I hope to see you all out at the Pillar sometime soon.

All the best,
Dave Lefevre
Hello!

The season is finally over! It was a fun albeit rainy day for National Public Lands Day, with beautiful weather for the volunteer picnic and Honor Garden Ceremony. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and make for such a fun day! I have received a grant from the Centennial Youth Foundation and plan on purchasing some more educational items for the Tote Program. If anyone has any idea about great elementary aged themed tools, please let me know! Now that school is in session, schools will be taking class trips to the Pillar and requesting volunteers to visit classrooms. This is a perfect opportunity to showcase the amazing piece of history that occurred at Pompeys Pillar. As per usual, I am always looking for volunteers to who would be willing to visit schools using our Teacher Tote Program, if this interests you please email me at pompeyspillar-VISTA@gmail.com or drop by the office.
Volunteer Spotlight

Linda Brewer just completed her second full year as a volunteer at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. As a result of her work as a grounds keeper and landscape artist, the grounds have never looked better. Linda brought her skills as a Master Gardener to the Pillar and the results are spectacular! Linda volunteers two to three days a week at the Pillar and thanks to her dedicated efforts, the Pillar has never looked better.

Meet the New Executive Director!

The new Executive Director of the Friends of Pompeys Pillar is Neal Gunnels. Neal comes to the Friends after three years as the Curator/Director of the Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture. Neal brings an educational background to the organization. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and will soon complete his Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. He has had a variety of experiences in his working career and his talents and experience will be highly beneficial to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar and Pompeys Pillar National Monument. Please welcome Neal to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar.

Transparency

We’ve received a request for information about our financial operations. As an organization that operates in the open with transparency, we welcome such inquiries. Our IRS Form 990 is listed at Guide Star. The website is https://www.guidestar.org/profile/81-0482194. You will have to sign in to the site but it is free to do. Our IRS Form 990 for 2015 will be filed by our accountant in the new few months.
Study Group

The next study group will be held on **November 9th 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:

- **What’s the Deal: Jefferson, Napoleon, and the Louisiana Purchase** by: Rhonda Blumberg

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

If anyone would like to be on the reminder email list, please let Jonathan know through either phone or email.

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Become A Member:
www.pompeyspillar.org/membership

Become A Volunteer:
www.pompeyspillar.org/volunteer

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Lewis and Clark: Fun Facts

In September 1804, the Corps met the Teton Sioux further west and during that encounter one of the chiefs demanded that the Corps give them a boat before being allowed to pass. When the Corps refused, the Tetons threatened violence and the Corps prepared to fight. Before serious hostilities began though, both sides retreated.
Honor Garden Ceremony

On a very pleasant afternoon on the last day of the season, the Friends of Pompeys Pillar and the BLM hosted the third annual Honor Garden Induction Ceremony. In addition to the names of inductees mentioned in last month’s newsletter, we had planned a surprise for one of our own committee members. At the end of the ceremony, we announced that a brick would be placed in the Honor Garden honoring long-time volunteer Sheryl Stout. Sheryl has volunteered in the Gift Store at Pompeys Pillar since 2003. It was a well-deserved honor for her to have a permanent brick with her name on it in the Honor Garden. And….it was fun to surprise her with her special honor.

Volunteer Appreciation

On the last day of the season, the Friends of Pompeys Pillar thanked the volunteers by hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at the Pillar. The weather is wonderful and the camaraderie was even better. Individual awards included:

- Rookie of the Year: Kalman Tinka
- Gift Store Volunteer of the Year: Rachel Lehmann
- Interpreter of the Year: Steve Kramer
- Over all Volunteers of the Year: Roger and Pat Otstot

Thanks to all our volunteers. Without you, the Monument would not be such a great place to visit. Thank you for sharing our part of the Lewis & Clark Expedition with visitors from around the world.
On a chilly, rainy Saturday morning, over 30 intrepid volunteers and Rangers planed approximately 100 trees at Pompeys Pillar. The weather was less than desirable, but the spirits of all the volunteers and Rangers were high and happy. The digging was easier because of the wet soil, according to many of the workers, which made things a little easier that day. The Friends of Pompeys Pillar provided a BBQ lunch for the hungry workers just as the rain was beginning to stop and blue skies emerged. Thank you to all of the volunteers and BLM Rangers that braved the rough condition for the better of Pompeys Pillar National Monument.
A Goodbye to Jonathan...

Thank you, Jonathan for everything that you have done over the last 4 years for the Friends of Pompeys Pillar! You will be missed!
2016 Members
Bruce and Susan Barrow
Gen Becker
Linda Brewer
Helen Bryson
Michael Clark
Bill Cole/Cole Law Firm
Nancy Curriden
Irv and Esther Cuthbertson
Hank and Kay Deming
Ron and Nancy Deming
Melody Dobson
Thomas Doneker
John and Patricia Eastman
Brenda Eichele
Alyssa Francis
Candice Forrette
Susan Gilbertz
Jim and Peggy Good

Thanks to our Volunteers and Members
Neal Gunnels
Carmen Hall
Case Haslam/M.L. Schuman
Anthony Hayman
Ellen Hilde
Judy Hugelen
Imag'N That Embroidery
Julie Jackson
Joe and Temia Keel
Nancy Kemler
Daniel Keyes
George King
Jodi Kinn
Jeff Kitchens
Dan and Marlene Krum
Mike and Carol Lamphier
Charles and Ruth Lechner
Rachel Lehmann
John LeVar
Arle and Armand Lohof
Robert and Susan Lubbers
Richard and Cheryl Mankle
Michael J. Marsh/RASE LLC
Jenn Mayrand
Jerry Michaels
Kirk Michaels
John Moorhouse
Mark Morse and Teresa Darnielle-Morse
Mary Jo and Jerry Nosler
Roger and Pat Otstot
Jonathan Peart
Derry Pence
Mike Penfold
Margaret Ping
Sherri and Ron Ramseyer
Janet Scheevel
Norman Schoenthal
Ann Sheene
Don Stanaway/A&I Distributors
Don Stephens
Sheryl Stout
Loris Tangvik
Judith Wallinder
Bill and Lisa Weaver (Baskin Robbins)
Stanley C. Wells
Gloria and Milt Wester
Stephen Whisner
Jimmy R. Vanzant

2016 Donations
Estate of James Michels
Petie and Leslie Boothroyd
Susan Gilbertz
Mike Lamphier
Rachel Lehmann
Jonathan Peart
Bill Yourd/
Cindy Buttleman
Judith Wallinder
John and
Patricia Eastman
Hank and Kay Deming
Jimmy Vanzant

In Honor Of
The Morris and Winterowd families in honor of Milt and Gloria Wester’s 50th Wedding Anniversary
Milt and Gloria Wester in honor of Helen Bryson and all Pompeys Pillar Volunteers
Jonathan Peart in honor of Helen Bryson’s 90th Birthday

2016 Grants
Billings Community Foundation
Joyce Jensen/Jensen Foundation
Centennial Youth Foundation (First Interstate Bank)

2016 Staff
Jonathan Peart - Executive Director
Linda Farnes - Gift Store Manager
Laura Yourd - VISTA

2016 Volunteers
Susan Barrow
Gen Becker
Leslie Boothroyd
Pete Boothroyd
Linda Brewer
Helen Bryson
Colleen Cooke
Molly Dennis
Bobby Denton
Mary Denton
Hank Deming
Kay Deming
Larry Field
Brenda Eichele
Ellen Hilde
Judy Hugelen
Eileen Jensen
Joyce Jensen
Carolyn Jones
Nancy Kemler
Jodi Kinn
Steve Kramer
Carol Lamphier
Mike Lamphier
Rachel Lehmann
John LeVar
Arle Lohof
Cheryl Mankle
Rich Mankle
Jerry Michaels
Jim Nichols
Trisha Nichols
Pat Otstot
Roger Otstot
Dennis Patton
Beth Rosh
Steve Rosh
Jeff Sherman
Sheryl Stout
Kalman Tinka
Meghan Turner

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

Dave and Stephanie Lefevre and Jonathan Peart in honor of Evelyn Deming
Susan Barrow, Helen Bryson, and Milt and Gloria Wester in Honor of Eva VanArsdale
Jonathan Peart in honor of Margaret Ping
Helen Bryson in memory of Jim Stout

2016 In-Kind Gifts
Ann Shesne
Bob Rightmire