A new year is a time for a fresh start and a new perspective on life or any endeavor one desires to undertake. It is also a time for reflection and to be thankful for what we have and have accomplished. In this same vein of thought I would like to thank the Friends of Pompeys Pillar board, all the wonderful volunteers, the BLM staff and Jonathan Peart for all the help and hard work that has been put into this organization to bring us to where we are today. We have a wonderful and very vibrant organization thank you all that are involved!

As the new Executive Director I am not coming in to make drastic changes but I have come in to continue to develop programs that are in place and continue to build and strengthen the Friends group. I am very fortunate to have inherited such a great board, staff, group of volunteers and of course the amazing Monument that Pompeys Pillar is. I enthusiastically look forward to new challenges and opportunities. I also look forward to meeting you all and undertaking this journey and process together.

I am always accessible, I have an open door policy you can come and visit me at our office at 1523 14th St W Suite 2 Monday-Friday 9-5 or by appointment, during the summer months you will often be able to find me Monument. If you are in the area of the office please come by just to get acquainted!

I look forward to working with everyone and having a great summer season!

Neal Gunnels
Executive Director
Friends of Pompeys Pillar
406-969-5380 Office Phone
406-647-3808 Cell Phone

Happy New Year!
Neal Gunnels

Photo by: Jonathan Peart
"Interpretation is an art; any art is to some degree teachable." - Freeman Tilden

A new year is upon us. A new year brings with it the promise of new hopes, a sense of fresh renewal. A chance to reinvent ourselves and grow in the direction that the wind may take us. I keep this feeling in mind as I continue to look towards the 2017 season at Pompeys Piller, and I simply can not wait to begin sharing that amazing place with people from all over the world. To be honest I do not have much news to share with you as we continue to plan things out. I am excited for this month, as Neal, several of the Rangers and myself will be traveling up to Great Falls to have an opportunity to tour the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and several other sites in the area. We plan to Liaise with some other organizations there and hope to be able to bring some new ideas home with us.

First off, I want to take a second to address some rumors that have found their way into the office. There are those who believe, possibly due to staffing, that volunteers will now be required to clean bathrooms and collect trash. I have complete assurance that this is indeed FALSE. Our day to day operations and expectations of volunteers will not change. We are still asked to provide top quality interpretation, guest services at the gift shop, grounds or whatever else you wish to provide at the site. If one of you wishes to volunteer to help the staff with these details, I am sure they would be happy, but rest assured you will not be required to perform any duty in this manner.

Second, I want to share with you my ultimate goal with these articles. I look to this as another opportunity to share insight and training into the interpretive field. Topics will vary between interpretation itself, as well as historical lessons about the site and related topics. The most important thing to remember as interpreters is that learning never ends. I encourage each of you to continue to learn more about all the things associated with the site as your time and interest allows, both historical and natural. This being said, you don't have to know everything to be effective. An important phrase every interpreter must learn is, "I don't know." Never try to talk through something you don't know because you are afraid to lose your audience. In fact it will have the opposite effect. There is a very important catch however...you should only say it once on a subject. If you have to use the phrase, then you have given yourself some homework! For me, that is the most exciting moment.

Lastly, we would like to invite any volunteers, but especially those who focus on interpretation to join us for a pre season training session so that we can cover our new focus and give you some educational tools to better prepare us for the upcoming season. We will have two meetings if you are unable to make one or the other. The first will be on March 3rd at 3:00pm. The second will be on Saturday March 11th at 1:00pm. The location will be at the Friends of Pompeys Piller office. We will send out a reminder of the dates, times and location closer to the events. The trainings in March will be the same and you will only need to attend one of those dates. These will be directed mainly at interpretation volunteers, but anyone, especially those working at the store are encouraged to attend. This training is in addition to our annual general volunteer training which is scheduled for April 21 and 22. Again you are only needed to attend one of these days in April. The training in April will be interactive and some time will be spent outside, so please dress accordingly. As always, please feel free to email me anytime at kgtinka4@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you and beginning our journey into the new season.
Once the leaves fall, Pompeys Pillar changes its character entirely. There is stillness that comes from the atmosphere, rather than from the absence of people. For folks who walk in during this quiet season, the natural history of the site steps into the spotlight. The interpretive center, which is the focus and funnel during the summer, becomes an observer. The remarkable aspects of the rock become even more apparent without competition from the lush cottonwood gallery. Every time I go to the Pillar in the winter, I am struck by the stillness and the beauty, and I never get tired of it.

I am also amazed by the number of visitors who are willing to brave the icy temperatures to experience Pompeys Pillar. When the highs were below zero, there were still people walking in. This season is ripe with opportunity to expand visitor experiences at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. The possibilities are not limited to merely extending our hours of operation, but also include expanding available experiences: from seasonal activities such as cross country skiing and snowshoeing, to interactive interpretive programming, the “off-season” at Pompeys Pillar National Monument is full of latent opportunities waiting for us to seize them. The fun awaits…

Sonni Hope
Outdoor Recreation Planner/Visitor Use Program Lead

Photograph by Jeff Kitchens, 2012
Volunteer Spotlight

The Volunteer Spotlight for the January quarter is Laura Yourd! Laura is the VISTA Volunteer for the 2016 season and did a fabulous job! She is on her way back to Minnesota and we will all miss her dearly.

Good luck, Laura and thank you for all of the hard work you brought to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar!

Rumors Floating Around

There has been a rumor floating around the office for the last month or so and we would like to take the opportunity to clarify this so that there is no confusion.

The rumor is that Volunteers will have to start cleaning interpretive center restrooms and/or pit toilets. This rumor is most definitely false. Unless volunteers would wish to help out in this way, these duties will not be required from the volunteers. Volunteers are able to do what they wish to do out at the Pillar. Some perform maintenance duties such as mowing or weed eating. Others work in the gift store and/or perform interpretive programs. These are all very helpful and needed tasks. Cleaning restrooms is not a volunteer duty.

Thank you for letting the office know about this and we are glad that this rumor is getting cleared up.

New Members

Stan and Debbie Sternberg
Marjorie Stoick
Shirley Reiter
Steve Kramer
Terry Smith
Eugene and Roberta Allard
Gerald and Roslyn Lenander
Gary Moore
Sue Delger
Nora Buchholz

Donations:

Huntley Project Lions Club
Nemont
The Jensen Foundation
Study Group

The next study group will be held on **February 8th 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:

- **Lewis and Clark Among the Indians** by: James Ronda (continuation from January)

Subjects for March and April will be determined at the meetings.

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 Neal know through either phone or email.

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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**

Tally of game killed on the expedition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>1001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elk</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bison</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antelope</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Horned</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geese</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouse</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plovers</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolves</td>
<td>18 (only 1 eaten)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Dogs</td>
<td>190 (purchased)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list does not include countless smaller game or more exotic animals such as hawk, coyote, fox, crow, eagle, gopher, muskrat, seal, turtle, crab, salmon and trout.

Source: [https://www.siu.edu/MLTE/Thematic%20Units/Lewis%20and%20Clark/lewis_and_clark_fun_facts.htm](https://www.siu.edu/MLTE/Thematic%20Units/Lewis%20and%20Clark/lewis_and_clark_fun_facts.htm)