



Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center

Charlottesville, Virginia

Summer 2012

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTINUES



As construction moves ahead at the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center site, the LCEC Board of Directors has launched a new pledge campaign to raise the remaining 15% of the capital goal. "Pledges can be made for any year, or for two or more years, from 2012-2015," says Christopher McLean, President of the Center. "We are approaching individuals and foundations, and any gift is significant."

McLean emphasizes the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center as a way to bring the community to the Rivanna River and to allow visitors to experience local history, not just learn it. "We're a river center and a hands-on center for kids with carpentry, compassing, and outdoor activities being at the heart of what we offer. We teach the skills of exploration, and we also complete the story of our local history...with Lewis being born in Char-

lottesville, and Clark's family homestead near our site... Visitors can build boats, take boats to the river, and hike on land Jefferson knew well." Jefferson built wing dams on the Rivanna River to make it more navigable, and evidence of those dams is very close to the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center. Jefferson's work on the Rivanna was a *continued on reverse page...*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DELEGATION VISIT



NPS Delegation Leader Ian Shanklin interviews LCEC Board Member Sally Thomas.

A National Park Service team came to conduct a survey of the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center and take GPS points for their new map. The survey is part of a congressional study of the East Coast roots of the Expedition. Congress is considering extending the Lewis &

Clark National Heritage Trail east, which would greatly increase promotion and tourism of the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center. Monticello was also interviewed by the team. The Center is poised to be a prime attraction for travelers on the Trail.

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precursor to his launching of the Expedition. Lewis and Clark's efforts were to a large degree about making North America navigable.

"I got involved with the Center because I'm interested in the environment," says McLean, "and having a place for people to enjoy nature, particularly the river, is the best way to ensure stewardship. I also enjoy finding links between land and the past." McLean is a principal at Signature, a financial services firm, but he also locates unknown historical sites. For example, he recently found evidence of a Civil War encampment.

McLean has donated to the Center through his family's charitable fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. Additional capital contributions to the Center include foundation gifts from

the Perry Foundation, the Batten Foundation, the Charles Fund, the Watterson Foundation, and other donor funds from the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, such as the Gieck Fund.

Enhancement grants from the Virginia Department of Transportation, the same grant program that helped build the Saunders Monticello Trail at Monticello, provided approximately 50% of the total cost of the project. That cost encompasses concept development, site planning, the contract price of 1.3 million with Mathers Construction, and additional expenses such as rock removal and necessary soil improvement. "We need \$200,000 to bring this project to completion," says Executive Director, Alexandria Searls. "Explore, Create, Build, Reflect. Those are our

core activities. We've been doing them well at our temporary facility, but the building of a state-of-the-art sustainable Center will allow us to serve a greater number of people and counties."



Puppeteering at the Charlottesville 250 Festival of History, in June ... Lewis's dog, a friend on the Expedition, given by Home Front Chapter donor Helen Markwell.



Students from St. Anne's Belfield Create Logos for the new Center

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President: Christopher L. McLean; Vice-President Sally Thomas; Executive Director Alexandria Searls
The Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center is a 501 (c) (3) corporation.

The Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center is proud to announce the donors who have begun the campaign to name the Center's beautiful terrace after one of its founders, Kay Slaughter, former Mayor of Charlottesville, and environmental lawyer, professor, and writer.

DONORS TO THE KAY SLAUGHTER TERRACE

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Collecting feathers during a children's hike at the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center

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