Bonneville Lock and Dam celebrates Lewis and Clark in April

Portland, Ore. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will commemorate the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 9 and April 10 at Bonneville Lock and Dam.

The expedition visited Bradford Island – named Brant Island by the explorers – on their return from the Pacific Ocean in 1806.

The Corps visitor centers on both the Oregon and Washington shores will offer films and interpretive activities Saturday and Sunday highlighting the Lewis and Clark expedition. The award winning film, “Lewis and Clark, Confluence of Time and Courage,” will be among the films shown.

At the Bradford Island Visitor Center park rangers will discuss the expedition’s plant discoveries and preservation of specimens, events in the Columbia River Gorge, how Army values aided in the success of Lewis and Clark’s mission and how the Corps of Discovery survived the long journey across the country.

Some other activities scheduled for April 9 and 10 include:

1) Rediscover Lewis and Clark with Major Alisha Hamel of the Oregon National Guard.

   Come hear some Lewis and Clark stories, see a grizzly bear paw print, use a sextant, or try on a uniform coat and hat. The Discovery Box has exact replicas of items taken on the expedition or encountered along the way.
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2) The Yakama Indian Nation will have a special exhibit set up with information about the Yakama nation and special tribal events scheduled this year, as well as items from their museum store.

3) Dick Cassidy will present a first person narrative of the lowest-paid member of Lewis and Clark's expedition, Jean Baptiste LePage, for whom the Corps’ LePage Park was named. LePage was an independent beaver fur trapper who signed on with the Corps of Discovery at Fort Mandan during the winter of 1804-05.

While visitors enjoy these special programs, they can also view the visitor center’s existing exhibits on Lewis and Clark in the Cascade Mountains, view our Pacific Northwest map of Lewis & Clark sites and see prints about the expedition by noted western artist, Charles M. Russell. Lewis and Clark educational materials and products are available for sale in the Bonneville Book Store in the Bradford Island Visitor Center, sponsored by the Northwest Interpretive Association.

Guided walks into the powerhouses are available on both sides of the dam. Visitors to either visitor center can also catch an underwater, fish-eye view of migrating salmon and steelhead as they make their way to upstream spawning grounds and hatcheries from viewing windows on both sides of the river.

Historic Fort Cascades Trail and the Hamilton Island trial await visitors interested in a scenic walk and views of area wildlife.

Bonneville Lock and Dam is located 40 miles east of Portland. From Portland, follow Interstate 84 to exit 40 to reach Bradford Island visitor Center, or follow Washington State Route 14 to mile post 40 to visit the Washington Shore Visitor Complex.

For further information call (541) 374-8820 for visit our web site http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/b/home.asp.