

Caverns Stargazing Campout

On Friday, September 4th, Lewis & Clark Caverns will again host “Star Gazing Under the Caverns Sky” with Thomas Satterly. Satterly is one of our favorite presenters and we are happy to have him back for our Eighth annual stargazing campout. He will have a large reflecting telescope on hand to give everyone a chance to gaze upon some unique features of the night sky. Besides star gazing Satterly will offer some wonderful interpretation on how people enjoy the night sky.

The program is \$6 per vehicle for non residents. Camping in the group use area is \$4 per person with advanced registration (5 and under free) and includes a breakfast at the campground’s pavilion the morning of Saturday September 5th. Campsites are limited for this wonderful family opportunity so sign up as soon as possible. The programs begin at 8:30 pm and campers can start setting up their site at 6:30 PM.

Reservations are required for the special event campout & breakfast for more information call (406) 287-3541

All regular campground programs and naturalist walks are free to Montana Residents

Non residents are required to pay a \$6 day use fee, or be registered campers at the park to enjoy these programs



Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park Interpretive Events Summer 2015



Cave Tours offered daily

May 1 to September 30

Tour Times:

May 1 to June 14: 9:00AM to 4:30PM
June 15 to Aug 19: 9:00AM to 6:30PM
Aug 20 to Sept 30: 9:00AM to 4:30PM

Tour Fees: Adults: \$12
Children 6-11: \$5
Children 5 and under: free



About the Cave Tour

Situated between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is an excellent stop along the road as well as a premier destination. The cave tour is the interpretive focus of the park and approximately 50,000 people a year enjoy the tour. It continues to be the park’s biggest draw. The cave is one of the most decorative in the Northwestern United States and is the only show cave in Montana.

Cave tours take around 2 hours and require 2 miles of walking including a three-quarter mile hike to the cave with 300 feet in elevation gain. Inside the cave stooping and bending are required and there are 600 stairs most of which are downhill. Visitors are encouraged to bring water with them during the warmer months, but no other food or drinks are allowed inside the cave. Photography is allowed in the cave, but a flash is needed for good pictures. The cave is electrically lit and flashlights are not necessary. Sturdy rubber soled walking shoes and a sweater or light jacket are highly recommended for the 50° cave.



Cathedral Room

Special Interpretive Events

Bat Week

Due to the success we had the last few years, August 4 to August 8 will be our fifth annual Bat Week at Lewis & Clark Caverns. There will be two special tours, “**The Misunderstood Bat**” will occur on Tuesday the 4th and Wednesday the 5th at 6:45. Bat programs will be held Thursday and Friday night in the campground featuring bats and the important roles they play in our lives. For fees and reservations please call.



Townsend's Big-eared Bat

Birding Day

This summer Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park will again host a day for the birds. Our fifth annual birding day will be on June 13th meeting at 8:00 AM at the Main (lower) Visitor Center. We will be visiting the park’s different bird habitats throughout the morning through several short hikes. Several birds uncommon to this region are found in the park as are some of Montana’s best known birds making a great combination for new and experienced birders.

Other Opportunities

If you are bringing a group to the park for a special occasion you can request a naturalist program for a fee. Call ahead for fees and availability. Topics include: the history, geology, flora, fauna and even archaeology of the park and the area.

Special programs require advanced registration. Space is limited so call (406) 287-3541 to make a reservation today.

Friday Night Campfire Programs

- May 22 8 PM “Exploring Caves in MT Backcountry”
James Cummins, NSS Member
- May 29 8 PM “Songs of the Working Class”
William Rossiter, **HM**
- Jun 5 8 PM “Geologic History of SW Montana”
Rob Thomas, Geologist, UM Western
- Jun 12 8 PM “The Bozeman Trail”
Jim Jarvis, Historian & Storyteller
- Jun 19 8 PM “Sidesaddles and Geysers”
M. Mark Miller, **HM**
- Jun 26 8 PM “Montana’s Heritage in State Symbols”
Carla Wambach, Environmental Educator
- Jul 3 8 PM “Songs We Used to Sing”
Janet Zimmerman, Musician
- Jul 10 8 PM “Medicine and Lewis & Clark”
Dr. David Peck, Author & Researcher
- Jul 17 8 PM “Horns, Antlers and Prongs”
Vanna Boccadori, FWP Biologist
- Jul 24 8 PM “Fur Company Trade War”
Dr. Clayton Marlow, MSU Professor
- July 31 8 PM “Nature Songs”
Donna Weldon, Cave Guide/Musician
- Aug 7 8 PM “Bat’s of Montana”
Lewis Young, Wildlife Biologist
- Aug 14 8 PM “Bear Aware”
Rebecca Skeldon, USFS
- Aug 21 8 PM “The Boulder Batholith”
Richard Gibson Geologist and Guide
- Aug 28 8 PM “Bannack: Where it All Began”
John Phillips, State Parks Ranger

HM designates “Humanities Montana” presenters.

For further information on Friday Night Campfire Programs contact the park at (406) 287-3541

Thursday Night Ranger Programs

Thursday evening programs will be presented by Park Ranger Tom Forwood and other park staff. These programs focus on the history, ecology and geology of the park and surrounding area. These programs cater to visitors of all ages and experience levels. All talks meet in the campground amphitheater or at the Main (lower) Visitor Center @ 8:00 PM. For further info call (406) 287-3541 or email fwptforwood@gmail.com.

Other Special Programs

We will once again be offering a special **Bat Tour** on Saturday May 16 at 6:30 PM. The Bat Tours are \$12 adults and \$5 children 11 and under.

Birding By Ear: On Sunday May 24 at 11 AM Park Ranger Tom Forwood will present a free workshop program featuring phonetics, recordings and listening to the park’s resident wild birds. The last portion of the workshop will be a moderate hike to one of the park’s best birding areas.

After Dark Programs: Three special late night events will be held this year as well.

“Let’s Go Owling”: Friday May 1 at 8:30 PM
“Things that go Bump”, a special night walk returns on Thursday July 2nd at 9PM, preceded by a Night Sounds Program at 8PM.

Perseid Meteor Shower Tuesday August 11 at 9:30 PM we will be meeting in the campground amphitheater for the largest meteor shower of the summer. For all night programs it is recommended that you bring warmer clothing, bug spray and something to eat and drink. Flashlights are also recommended for After Dark programs, but not needed.

Music by the Caverns

After a trial run of two music days last summer this popular event is back to become an annual tradition. Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park will be hosting 3 full days of music this summer. Music by the Caverns will be held on June 20, July 26, and August 30. These day long events will feature a diverse collection of local talent performing a variety of different musical styles. These performances are free to Montana residents and registered campers. Please call the park for further information. (406) 287-3541

Saturday Naturalist Walks

Our naturalist led walks feature the diverse wildflower and bird species of Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park. As always changing of the season and the different park ecosystems will be highlighted. The walks will be held at different times, so please check times or call Tom @ (406) 287-3541

This season all walks will meet at the park’s Main Visitor Center east of the campground.

May 9. 10:00 AM, “DanMor Gypsum Mine Loop”
A longer hike from the campground out to the park’s historic gypsum mine that features flowers, birds and other wildlife along the way (2.5 miles)

May 16. 1:00 PM, “The Nature Loop” a short easy walk along the park’s riparian nook. (.25 miles)

May 23. 9:00 AM “The Upper Loop” Great birding, good flowers and more on this fairly rigorous hike. (~4 miles)

May 30. 9:00 AM “The Greer Gulch Loop” a hike on our park’s oldest trail for many great wildflowers, birds, great views and more. (2.2 miles)

June 6. 8:30 AM **National Trails Day**, Join us to help with trail work or weed pulling to improve the trails we all use and love.

June 13. 8:00 AM “6th Annual Birding Day” We will have walks throughout the day to some of our best habitats to see many different park birds. (3+ miles spread out)

June 20 9:00 AM **TBD**

June 27. No Hike this Week

July 4. 9:00 AM “Works of the CCC” An Independence Day hike to visit a couple important pieces of park history. Between the stops at two CCC projects we will also check out a stretch of the park with strong biodiversity.

July 5 9:00 PM “Return to Greer Gulch” a return to our park’s oldest trail for many great wildflowers, birds, great views and more. (2.2 miles)

Naturalist Walks cont.

July 11 9:00 PM “Bats on the River” A night walk to check out some of the park’s many bats.

July 18 9:00 AM “The Old Fire Rd” A hike to the view behind cave mountain. (1.5 miles)

July 25 8:30 AM “Mining and the River” We will take a short walk along the bank of the Jefferson River and follow it up with a 1.5 mile round trip hike to the park’s historic gypsum mine.

August 1 8:30PM “The Night White” One of the park’s largest flowers blooms late in the season and after the sun has left it’s petals. Come check out the White Blazing Star. (short walk)

August 8 9:00 PM “Spotted Bat” We will take a night walk centered on finding North America’s only audible echolocator, the Spotted Bat. (1 to 2 miles)

August 15 9:00 AM “Along the Jeff” A walk along the banks of the Jefferson River to see late season flowers.

August 22 **TBD** Nite walk

August 29 8:30 AM “Greer Gulch Loop” Another trip around the park’s most diverse 2 miles. (2.2 miles)

For walks less than a mile, distance is not noted. Times subject to change and other walks not listed above may become available. For more information on any of these programs contact Tom Forwood @ (406) 287-3541 or fwptforwood@gmail.com.





LEWIS & CLARK CAVERNS STATE PARK 2015 Friday Night Campfire Programs

| DATE | TIME | PROGRAM | SPEAKER |
|------------------|------|---|---|
| May 22 (Friday) | 8 pm | “Back Country Caving: Exploring Caves in the Mountains of Montana” This slideshow presentation will highlight the best of past and current cave explorations in Montana. Cummins is a 25 year veteran of such exploits and will share his insights. | James Cummins NSS Member & MT Cave Project Volunteer <i>Education Room, Main Visitor center</i> |
| May 29 (Friday) | 8 pm | “Sixteen Tons & What Do You Get?: Working Men & Women Sing It Like It Is” From "I've Been Working on the Railroad" to "Take This Job and Shove It," Americans have sung about work. The songs from union halls, mines, fields, factories, picket lines and jail cells are the soundtrack to an important part of American history, and they can still stir us. Bill Rossiter sings some of these songs and accompanies them on guitar, banjo and autoharp. | William Rossiter <i>Humanities Montana</i> Retired literature & folklore instructor <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| June 5 (Friday) | 8 pm | “Geologic History of Southwest Montana” This well known geologist (recipient of the prestigious Carnegie Foundations U.S. Professor of the Year Award & named Regents' Professor of the Montana University System) leads the program outlining the geologic history of the region. He is also the co-author of <i>Roadside Geology of Yellowstone Country</i> . | Rob Thomas Prof. of Geology U of M Western <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| June 12 (Friday) | 8 pm | “The Bozeman Trail” The Bozeman Trail has become legendary as the quintessential "go West young man" emigrant experience of the 1860s. Examine the brief, but illustrious history of the Bozeman Trail and its connections to the pursuit of gold, mining technologies, fertile farmland and so much more of the state's history. Through diary accounts, field observations, interviews, and historic maps Jarvis reveals how the Trail influenced the settlement of Montana. | Jim Jarvis Historian & Storyteller <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| June 19 (Friday) | 8 pm | “Sidesaddles and Geysers: Women's Adventures in Early Yellowstone” In the 19th century, hundreds of women risked being mauled by a bear, scalded in a geyser, or captured by an Indian to see the wonders of Yellowstone Park. Miller presents the very best of these travelers' tale, bringing the women's stories to life in their own words. He covers the period between 1872 when the park was established through the Model T era in the 1920s, describing how roads, railroads, and hotels altered "the Yellowstone experience." | M. Mark Miller <i>Humanities Montana</i> Independent Scholar <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| June 26(Friday) | 8 pm | “Montana’s Heritage in State Symbols” Experience some hands-on history as Wambach presents the items most associated with Montana. She'll recount some legends, the stories behind their selections and use lots of samples in this presentation. | Carla Wambach Environmental Educator <i>Education Room, Main Visitor center</i> |
| July 3 (Friday) | 8 pm | “Songs We Used to Sing” This Pony, Montana resident offers a musical trip down Memory Lane. Audience participation makes this a one-of-a-kind, interactive experience. Her song selections vary from folksongs to gospel, patriotic to secular. She invites you to take a book of her songs collection home to become songs we now sing. | Janet Zimmerman Musician & Teacher <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |

| DATE | TIME | PROGRAM | SPEAKER |
|--------------------|---------|--|--|
| July 10 (Friday) | 8 pm | <p>“Medicine and the Lewis & Clark Expedition” Dr. Peck, retired physician and author of <u>Or Perish in the Attempt – the Hardship & Medicine of the Lewis & Clark Expedition</u>, will present a 45 minute program on the medical aspects of the expedition with a question/answer session to end.</p> | Dr. Dave Peck Nationally Recognized Speaker <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| July 17 (Friday) | 8 pm | <p>“Horns, Antlers, & Prongs” What makes a horn a horn, an antler an antler and why are pronghorn antelope so different from deer, elk, moose, and bighorn sheep? Come learn and see for yourself the difference between the various headgear found on some of Montana’s big game species.</p> | Vanna Boccadori FWP Wildlife Biologist <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| July 24 (Friday) | 8 pm | <p>“Loss of Stream & Ecological Services: The Hudson Bay & American Fur Company Trade War” An interesting topic concerning the ecological impact of the fur trade. Marlow will discuss how beaver removal immediately following the Voyage of Discover left streams and native fisheries vulnerable to the impacts of mining and grazing.</p> | Dr. Clayton Marlow MSU Animal & Range Sciences <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| July 31 (Friday) | 8 pm | <p>“Nature Songs” Enjoy the outdoors and learn new facts about nature with park employee, Donna Weldon. Rekindle fond memories of singing songs around the campfire... songs you sang in scouts, bluebirds, camping, etc. This programs is for the young and young at heart!</p> | Donna Weldon Musician, Teacher & Cave Guide <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| August 7 (Friday) | 8 pm | <p>“Bats of Montana” A powerpoint presentation that focuses on this state’s 15 bat species, highlighting those found at the Park. With lots of natural history and biological facts, the program will also address why bats are ecologically and economically important, and how bats are captured with mist nets and then recorded with acoustic equipment (bat detectors). Information on White Nose Syndrome and its implications to Montana will be discussed.</p> | Lewis Young Master of Science in Wildlife Biology <i>Education Room, Main Visitor center</i> |
| August 14 (Friday) | 8 pm | <p>“Bear Aware” Learn all about the bears in the Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park area. Distinguish the main characteristics of each type plus how to deal with the wild in nature.</p> | Rebecca Skeldon Bear Aware Coordinator, Ennis Forest Service <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| August 21 (Friday) | 8:30 pm | <p>“The Boulder Batholith” A program focusing on the origins, variations, rocks, and minerals of the complex granite body that contains the mineral deposit at Butte, The Richest Hill On Earth.</p> | Richard Gibson Geologist/Butte Historian & Guide <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| August 28 (Friday) | 8 pm | <p>“Bannack: Where It All Began” Phillips will be addressing how the discovery of gold at both Bannack and Virginia City led to the founding of Montana. It takes visitors back to when Montana was a territory – the life, the challenges and the amazing stories that lead to Montana as the “Treasure State.”</p> | John Phillips Bannack State Park Ranger <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
| DATE | TIME | PROGRAM | SPEAKER |
| | | “Star Gazing Under the Caverns Sky” | |

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|-----------------|------|---|---|
| Sept 4 (Friday) | 8 pm | Campout & Breakfast call for information/reservations (406) 287-3541 Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park's special event combines stargazing and a family campout. Come early to set up camp before the scheduled program, which will last well into the late hours of the night. Using several telescopes, Satterly, Sheila Roberts and Craig Zaspel members of the U of M Western Environmental Sciences Department- present their interpretation of the evening sky. Group camping will be included and a pancake breakfast provided for the reservation fee (\$18MT Resident; \$28 non-resident). | Thomas Satterly Dept. Manager Environ. Sci., University of Montana Western <i>Campground Amphitheater</i> |
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