

Lewis & Clark-Spirit Mound Trust News

February 1995

Grant Application & Pledge Drive

In a few weeks the Spirit Mound Trust will apply to the State of South Dakota for "Transportation Enhancement" grant funds. The State is required to make these federal funds available for a variety of projects, including acquisition and preservation of scenic or historic sites.

In order to save the unique historic site of Spirit Mound from erosion and eventually to restore it as a native tallgrass prairie preserve, we will request funds to purchase as much of the Spirit Mound summit area as possible. This will be a great first step for the project and will go a long way towards actually stopping the erosion, that has increased in recent years on the top and steep sides of the Mound.

Although there is a very good chance that the request will be approved, based on the grant criteria and the four million dollars available for projects, there is a 20% local matching requirement that severely limits the amount we can ask for. The matching funds and pledges contingent on the grant approval, must be in hand by the application deadline of March 1, 1995.

Thus, we are asking everyone interested in saving Spirit Mound to pledge an amount to help increase our matching funds for the grant. Every dollar pledged now means that the amount received from the grant will be four dollars greater. This is a tremendous opportunity to leverage our private contributions. Please use the form on the second page to make your pledges. If the grant is not approved, your pledges will be void.

Other Grants

We are exploring other grants and funding options, and there is growing optimism that the project will ultimately succeed. The coming bicentennial of the expedition, mentioned below, and an exploding interest in prairie preservation auger well for our efforts.

In August, the Trust made a \$10,000 grant application to the South Dakota Community Foundation. Although this first request to the foundation was not approved, it may be resubmitted in 1995.

In October, the Trust requested a \$2,000 National Park Service grant to develop and print a presentation document describing the significance of Spirit Mound and the goals of the project. Although we haven't received official notification, it appears that this grant will be approved shortly.

Governor's Lewis & Clark Centennial Commission

On September 20, 1994 Governor Miller called all interested communities and organizations to a conference in Pierre to start planning for the Lewis & Clark Centennial in 2004-2006. Trust members Bill Farber and Paul Putz attended the meeting and told the assembled group about our project. We hope that the Governor will appoint at least one trust member to the planned centennial commission.

Wildflowers & Rare Butterflies on Spirit Mound

Recently we've found that there are many different varieties of native wildflowers and grasses growing on a five acre prairie remnant located on the west side of the summit. This 'Spirit Mound Prairie' has never been plowed and it will someday form a core area for the tallgrass prairie restoration of the entire half-section site. In order to encourage growth of the native species, the South Dakota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy conducted a spring burn on part of the area in early May, 1994.

This past summer several regal fritillary butterflies were seen on wildflowers here. The presence of this species, which must have prairie plants to survive and consequently has become quite scarce, confirms the value of the Spirit Mound Prairie as a natural area.

Spirit Mound Postcards & Prints

This past summer the Trust published a postcard of Spirit Mound including a brief narrative about the Mound and the project. The 4"x 6" cards feature an attractive color photo of the Mound taken from the west side. They can be purchased for \$1 each by stopping in to Davis Drug or USD Book and Supply in Vermillion, or by writing to the Trust.

There are about 100 remaining copies of the 500 original limited edition prints of the painting *Lewis & Clark's Spirit Mound* by Ron Backer. These prints (overall 22" x 25", image size 17" x 20") are still available from the Trust for \$50. Also, our South Dakota Centennial Print, number 89, autographed by numerous state dignitaries and notable visitors, is still waiting for a purchaser at \$10,000.

Spirit Mound Run

The Annual Spirit Mound Run was held September 18th. The run covers the distance from the Mound to Cotton Park in Vermillion, approximating the expedition's path on August 25, 1804. Coverage of this year's run was broadcast on the evening news by Channel 9 in Sioux City.

Membership Dues... are due

Membership in the Lewis & Clark-Spirit Mound Trust is \$10 per year. The Trust has very few sources of on-going support other than these dues. We are going to put the membership on a calendar-year basis, with all memberships coming due January 1. If you sent your dues in this fall, your membership will be paid through December 1995. If you did not respond to our mailing in September, please do so now. The Trust is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, No. 93-0921345; all dues and contributions are tax deductible.

We will be cleaning up our mailing lists this winter and deleting the names of those we haven't heard from. Please continue your support of the effort to save this unique historic and natural resource.

LEWIS & CLARK-SPIRIT MOUND TRUST

501(C)(3) - No. 93 - 0921345

PLEDGE FOR TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT MATCH

I (We) pledge _____ dollars to be used by the Lewis & Clark-Spirit Mound Trust as matching funds for the Trust's 1995 request to the State of South Dakota for Transportation Enhancement grant funds. This pledge is contingent upon the approval of the grant.

signed _____ name _____

_____ address _____

date _____



Mail or deliver
\$10 Annual Membership or
Pledge to:

Lewis & Clark - Spirit Mound Trust
c/o S.D. Historical Preservation Office
3 East Main St.
Vermillion, South Dakota 57069

