

| BY FRAN P. MAINELLA |

THIS ISSUE OF COMMON GROUND marks a new beginning for this flagship cultural resources publication of the National Park Service. We are widening the magazine's focus beyond archeology and ethnography to offer a multidisciplinary look at all aspects of cultural resource management and historic preservation. We've added "Preserving Our Nation's Heritage" to the name to reflect this new scope. | **COMMON GROUND:**

PRESERVING OUR NATION'S HERITAGE will continue to provide readers with quality articles on initiatives, approaches, and projects—and the people behind them. Innovation, creativity, and collaboration will be celebrated and the highest standards of excellence encouraged. Published quarterly, the magazine will take a close-up view of preservation in the national parks, on other Federal lands, and in cities, states, and neighborhoods across the Nation. | **THIS INAUGURAL ISSUE** reports on the bicentennial celebration of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's Corps of Discovery. Hundreds of communities, states, nonprofits, tribes, and Federal agencies are participating in the four-year-long commemoration of the grand expedition charged by President Thomas Jefferson with discovering a water passage to the Pacific Northwest. Exemplifying a virtually seamless network of parks, sites all along the route will celebrate their connection to Lewis and Clark—and to each other.

COMMON GROUND WILL be joined this fall by the re-engineering of yet another popular National Park Service publication, *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*. Evolving from the proud 25-year tradition of its namesake—*CRM* magazine—the journal will become an authoritative resource of professional, peer-reviewed articles offering the latest in research, thoughtful pieces on emerging issues, and reviews of exhibits, books, techniques, and technologies across the cultural resource disciplines. Both publications will be available on the National Park Service website. | **PLANS ARE** also underway for an online clearinghouse to share best practices and approaches as well as a new monthly digital newsletter on grant opportunities, new laws and policies, and other timely topics. See the back cover of this magazine for more information and an invitation to subscribe.

THESE INITIATIVES are part of our commitment to meet the high standards that Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton has set for

the Department of the Interior and for us all. The Secretary has made the "Four C's"—Consultation, Communication, and Cooperation, all in the service of Conservation—the cornerstone of her tenure. The changes come in response to suggestions solicited from our colleagues, partners, and other stakeholders nationwide on how we communicate with the heritage community. | **THOUGH THE CHANGES** have been a long time in coming, they couldn't have been more timely. On March 3, First Lady Laura Bush announced the President's "Preserve America" initiative in a speech to the National Association of Counties. Developed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at the direction of the White House, a key part of the initiative is an executive order directing Federal agencies to develop partnerships to improve the preservation and protection of historic properties. | **IN ADDITION**, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has launched a national campaign to raise public awareness of preservation. A series of public service announcements, created in partnership with the Ad Council, is running in newspapers and being broadcast on television and radio. The Trust has also forged a partnership with HGTV to air programming on preservation projects.

IN HER REMARKS on Preserve America, the First Lady underscored the importance of the initiative stating, "America is blessed with historic architecture, landscapes, and communities. Every one tells a story about the past and provides insight for the future. But to prepare for the future, we must remember our history."

TODAY, OUR FUTURE is full of challenges unthinkable before September 11, 2001. By remembering our history, we can find wisdom in the words that still reverberate through Independence Hall. We can find courage in the stories of the brave soldiers at Valley Forge. We can find inspiration in the lasting accomplishments of the Southwest's ancient cliff dwellers. We can find strength in the determination of American pioneers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their guide, the young Shoshone mother Sacagwea. We can find resolve in the audacity that drove the Wright Brothers to defy gravity and to fly. By remembering our history, we can reaffirm our belief in the resilience of the American people. | **REMEMBERING** history has never been more important. Our work to preserve history has never been more necessary. We stand together, on this our common ground.

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