

## Velosophie – An Optional Activity for 2018 GIBT Participants

Velosophie, a sort of “book club on a bike,” has been part of the Grand Illinois Bike Tour since 2005 and is unique to multi-day bike rides. Originally planned by and discussions led by staff from *Illinois Humanities*, volunteers now choose the theme, reading materials, our nightly gathering spot, and lead the discussions. Still the basic format is unchanged with a heavy dose of mostly fiction, great literature, philosophy, history, classics, poetry, essays and the occasional non-fiction offering. Travel in general and bike riding specific literature can be included, but are more the exception than the rule.

This year on GIBT 2018 our theme will be “Abraham Lincoln,” inspired by both the geography and history of the roads we will be riding and places we visit. With this in mind, here is the reading list for Velosophie 2018:

Sunday- "Lincoln" (2012 Steven Spielberg, movie)

Monday- "Land of Lincoln" (2007 Andrew Ferguson, book)

Tuesday- A special IDNR naturalist presentation in Springfield

Wednesday- "Robinson Crusoe" (Daniel Defoe, book)

Thursday- Poetry night: Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd (bible); Sonnet 18 Shall I compare thee to a summers's day (Shakespeare); A mans's a man for a' that (Robert Burns); The Raven (Edgar Allen Poe); The Chambered Nautilus (Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.), followed by Lincoln speeches: Gettysburg Address, Second Inaugural, Farewell Address at Springfield, IL

So, you can see right off a new twist where we will discuss a movie. If you object to a 2.5 hour interpretation of the great man by Stephen Spielberg, you can opt out and read the 916 page book on which it is based: "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" by Doris Kearns Goodwin. A discussion of how the movie and book differ might be interesting.

Robinson Crusoe and our poetry reading choices might seem a little out of place, but include a book and writers who inspired, influenced and entertained Lincoln himself. Maybe you will hear a little of these various writings in the words that he spoke.

We will try to meet at 4:30pm each night at the GIBT campsite's meal site before dinner on the nights noted above. On Tuesday night we will give up our time slot for a special IDNR presentation. It is always helpful when discussing books, movies or readings to come prepared, but this does not trump enthusiasm for the topic or personal interest, so everyone is invited to participate.

For more information or if you have a comment or suggestion you can contact me at:

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Enjoy your readings and training rides and we'll see you June 10.