

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.

We plan to meet at 4:30pm each night at the meal site before dinner to discuss our readings. 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 7.

Here is the reading list for Velosophie 2020 – Grand Illinois Bike Tour (June 7 through June 12)
Litchfield – Lebanon – Edwardsville – Godfrey - Litchfield

Theme: Rivers

Readings:

“Life on the Mississippi” by Mark Twain

“Cahokia: Ancient America’s Great City on the Mississippi” by Timothy Pauketat

“Death on the Nile” by Agatha Christie

“Undaunted Courage: Meriweather Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West” by Stephen Ambrose. Or

“Lewis & Clark – The Journey of the Corps of Discovery” a 4 hour documentary by Ken Burns

Poetry night:

“At Black River” by Mary Oliver

“Beside the Waterfall” by Mary Oliver

“Death at Wind River” by Mary Oliver

“The Waterfall” by Mary Oliver

“The Song of Hiawatha (VII. Hiawatha’s Sailing)” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“The Negro Speaks of Rivers” by Langston Hughes

The books and videos are available at your public library and the poems are available on-line. If you haven’t read the materials but interested in the history of the area, we plan to host guest speakers to talk about Cahokia Mounds and the Lewis & Clark expedition.

Other resources:

Cahokia Mounds – potential guest speaker: Bill Iseminger, Assistant Manager, retired

<https://madison-historical.siue.edu/archive/items/show/1688>

Cahokia Mounds - <https://cahokiamounds.org/>

Lewis and Clark State Historic Site - <http://www.campdubois.com/>

Lewis and Clark State Historic Site – potential guest speaker: Brad Winn, Site Superintendent

Lewis and Clark journals - <https://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/>