

The Official Newsletter of the "Friends of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve"

***Between Fences* EXHIBIT AND PROGRAMS DRAW VISITORS TO THE RESERVE**

Despite some brutal winter weather conditions, the *Between Fences* exhibit and accompanying programs drew nice crowds to the KVR Visitor Center during the exhibit's stay from January 11th through February 16th.

The largest crowds attended the various programs that were held on opening and closing weekends. Lynne Heasley's presentation, titled "Invisible Fences", drew the largest crowd for a single event as over 110 folks overflowed the meeting room to hear her speak on Saturday, January 12. On the previous evening, nearly ninety had participated in the Opening Night Reception. On the closing day, Saturday, February 16, near capacity crowds came for morning and afternoon programs featuring performances by students from La Farge Schools. Stuart Stotts led

La Farge elementary students in a program of original songs that morning. La Farge High School Forensics Team members also packed the meeting room in the afternoon with a choral reading and original songs based on "The People Remember" oral history project.

Despite less than ideal weather conditions, Rob Nurre's presentation as *The Surly Surveyor* on January 19, and Curt Meine's presentation, "Fences on The Land", on February 2, drew nice and appreciative audiences.

All students from La Farge Schools were able to view the exhibit on February 7.

An estimated 1,500 people viewed the exhibit while it was at the Reserve. The Friends of the Reserve served as local host.

WINTER WEATHER AND LARGE CROWD INSURE SUCCESSFUL KVR WINTER FESTIVAL

WinterFest-2008 at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve was a huge success thanks to nearly ideal winter weather conditions and record-setting attendance. Unlike past years when alternate activities had to be scheduled, abundant snow and winter temperatures provided a perfect backdrop for the WinterFest events, held on Saturday, January 5.

A large number of entries for both the bread and chili making contests provided spirited competition. The lobby was packed for rousing bidding at the

Kickapoo Quick-Auction that raised big money for KVR education programs.

Outdoor events such as skiing, skating, and the mutt races went off without a hitch; and the sled dog teams could race and have their pulls this year due to the ideal snow conditions.

Next year, WinterFest will be held the second weekend of January, so mark your calendar for January 10, 2009.



Rendezvous Coming to the Reserve

Take yourself back to the era of the fur trappers as the Kickapoo Valley Reserve hosts a Rendezvous on May 10 & 11. The encampment will be centered near Bridge 14 on County highway P between La Farge and Rockton. Camp participants will be dressed and will camp in pre-1840 authentic regalia.

Area school groups will be invited to the Rendezvous on May 8 & 9 to participate in various activities and demonstrations.

The camp will then be open to the public for the weekend.

Activities will include hawk, knife & spear contests, primitive bow & arrow competition, open fire cooking competition, and rifle, shotgun, pistol, and smooth bore shooting demonstrations.

Admission is free to all events at the Rendezvous, which is partially sponsored by the Friends of the Reserve.



KVR SUMMER CLASSES OFFER VARIETY FOR STUDENTS

A variety of classes will be offered this summer at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve for middle school and high school students.

The very popular middle school Adventure Day Camps will run for two weeks beginning June 16. Taught by veteran KVR instructors Angie McCauley and Lisa Culpitt, these fun week-long sessions offer students a variety of learning experiences in an outdoor setting. They fill up fast, so register now!

High school age students will have four classes to enjoy beginning the week of July 14.

Getting Up To Speed: The Math & Science of Riding a Bike will be taught by Andy Gorrill, a new instructor to KVR. This class, running through July 18, will allow students to improve their biking skills while learning how things work. Students do need to furnish their own mountain bike and helmet.

Nature in Mind: Exploring American Nature Writers will be held on July 21-25 and be taught by Matt Urch, another new instructor at the Reserve. The class will explore how a wilderness area like the Reserve can inspire great writing.

Where in The World II: GPS in the Reserve – This popular class returns with Dan Hanley leading students on hiking, biking, and canoeing on the Reserve aided by GPS units. The class will run from July 28 through August 1.

Pioneer Connections, taught by Kevin Alderson, will allow students to experience the early ways and techniques of settlement and surveying in the Kickapoo Valley using original journals, survey notes and maps. The class will run from August 4-8.

All high school classes may be taken for credit at some area schools. Check the Reserve web site for more information.



(above) – Sponsor representatives Louise Hemstead and Brian Rude assist Brad Steinmetz, Friends' President & Ron Johnson, KRMB Chair in the wire-cutting ceremony for **BETWEEN FENCES**.



*La Farge High School Forensics team members perform "When The Fences Came Down" as part of the **BETWEEN FENCES** closing day program.*

WELCOME TO NEW FRIENDS

The Friends of the Reserve would like to say WELCOME to the following new members for 2008:

Roger & Diane Hanson-Viroqua, Inn at Lonesome Hollow/Pete & Nora Knapik-Soldiers Grove, Ben Johnston/Gina Rae-Wilton, Brian & Kristen Matakis-Oak Park, Il, David Oldenburg-Sparta, Jerry & Liz Quebe-Soldiers Grove, Joel Johnson/Evan Jones-Viola, Barbara Duerksen/Stein&Nelson Goering-Richland Center, May & Tom Rondeau-Blue River, Barbara Kettner-Viola, David & Rachel Toeppen-Mt Prospect, Il, Jane Sacho-Hillsboro, Don Foy/Joan Kent-LaFarge, James Oldenburg-LaCrosse, Carmen & Katie Stout-Stoughton, Chuck & Kathie Stelzner-Viola, Penny Lindstrom/Will Beatty-Viroqua, Nancy Jo Dillman/Fred Moh-Baraboo, Sue & Jim Blanchard-Oconomowoc



FRIENDS & KVR CALENDAR

- April 9 – Starry Sky Astronomy Program – 7:30 pm
- April 12 – Nature Art Series II – Begin to Draw with Colored Pencils – 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
- April 19 – Spring Clean-Up & Earth Day Celebration at the Reserve
Annual Cleanup – 8 am-noon
Environmental Film Screening – 6-7 pm
Nature Walk – 7:30-8:30 pm
- April 21 – Earth Day Celebration – 8:30 am-12:30 pm for 7-11 yr. olds
- April 23 – Land Protection Options for Private Property – 7 pm
- May 3 – Nature Art Series III – Field Sketching – 9:30 to 4:30
- May 10-11 – Rendezvous on the Reserve
- June 16-20 – Adventure Day Camp – middle school students
- June 23 – Friends of the Reserve Board of Director’s meeting – 7 pm
- June 23-26 – Kickapoo Reflections – Adult Ed. Class
- June 23-27 – Adventure Day Camp II – middle school students
- July 4 – Old Highway 131 open to vehicle traffic
- July 7-11 – Exploring the Outdoor Classroom – Adult Ed. class
- July 14-18 – Riding A Bike – H.S. field school class
- July 21-25 – Exploring Nature Writers – H.S. field school class
- July 28-Aug 1 – GPS in the KVR – H.S. field school class
- Aug 4-8 – Pioneer Connections – H.S. field school class
- Oct 4 – Dam Challenge Triathlon on the Reserve



Adult Education Classes at the Reserve

Two adult education classes will be offered at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve this summer. Each two-credit course can be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit through UW-La Crosse.

Kickapoo Reflections: Integrating Bookmaking, Text & Visual Expression With The Natural Environment, another in the outstanding courses in art education at the Reserve, will be held from June 23-26. Participants will create a beautiful hand-bound book containing their reactions to and reflections of the Kickapoo Valley. Multiple methods of adding words and images to the book will be experienced.

Chuck Hatfield & Brad Steinmetz return once again to teach **Exploring The Outdoor Classroom**. This popular class with area teachers allows participants to gain direct experiences in geology, human history, and natural resources using the Kickapoo Valley as a model classroom. The class will be held the week of July 7-11.

This year, for the first time, students may qualify for a stipend to defray costs for these classes. Contact the Reserve at (608) 625-2960 for more details.

Each of these courses may also be audited at a non-credit reduced fee.



Part of the Smithsonian exhibit, *BETWEEN FENCES*, which was on display at the KVR Visitor Center from January 11 through February 16. Local hosts for the exhibit were the Friends of The Reserve.



BETWEEN FENCES PROGRAMS

Newsletter -
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Kickapoo Valley
Reserve
S3661 St Hwy 131
La Farge, WI 54639
Phone:
(608) 625-2960

KVR Friends
S3661 St Hwy 131
La Farge, Wis. 54639

E-Mail:
bcstein@mwt.net

Website:
kickapoovalley.org

KVR is on the Web at
<http://kvr.state.wi.us>



(Top Left) Curt Meine presented *Fences on the Land*
(Top Right) Lynne Heasley talked about *Invisible Fences* on opening weekend
(Bottom Left) Stuart Stotts & La Farge students sang original songs about fences
(Bottom Right) Rob Nurre, performing as *The Surly Surveyor*

NATURE ART SERIES CONTINUES AT RESERVE

A series on nature drawing held on Saturdays at the Reserve will continue on April 12 and May 3. Taught by artist Monica Jagel, the series will include drawing in colored pencils as well as field sketching. There is a \$40 fee for each session and a limit of 15 participants. Check at the Reserve web site for more information.



Have you renewed your Friends' membership for this year? Check the mailing label on the newsletter's mailing envelope. Does it say '08?

EARTH'S STARRY SKY ASTRONOMY PROGRAM

Join in a night of star gazing on Wednesday, April 9 at 7:30 pm. Led by members of the La Crosse Area Astronomical Society, participants will receive hands-on guidance in finding and viewing celestial objects in the night sky. Attendees will also receive a "star wheel" or planisphere to take home and use anytime of the year.

The La Crosse Area Astronomical Society is a group of amateur astronomers dedicated to promoting amateur astronomy in the area. They will share a variety of different types and sizes of telescopes. The Kickapoo Valley Reserve, working to become an internationally recognized Dark Sky Preserve, offers an excellent place for night sky viewing. Meet at the KVR Visitor Center.