

Friends

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2011
Volume 8, Issue 2

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF **FRIENDS OF THE KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE**
tel: (608) 625-2960 web: kickapoofriends.org



Friends' Gift Shop - open for business!

Walk into the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center and you will be surprised to see an interesting array of gift items in the area that previously had displayed mostly books and CDs.

Now you will find hand-carved wooden pens; twig pencils; stuffed animals including bears, possums, squirrels, skunks, and eagles; more candles, plantable cards, Reserve logo mugs, sketch books and pads imprinted with the Reserve's name; butterfly kites, T-shirts, children's' books, bird calls, photo cards, tea towels, and much much more. Proceeds from the gift shop are used to support the Reserve.

The Friends' Marketing Committee, chaired by Nancy Foudray, decided to expand the gift selection, and in March Nancy and committee member Janet Kruk traveled to the Minneapolis Gift Mart. In particular, they were looking for gifts for kids. Some additional items were purchased locally, and more local purchases are planned for the fall when the shop will be stocked for the holiday season.

Brisk sales in May were chiefly made to groups of students visiting the Reserve, and Friends' volunteers were trained and on hand to assist with purchases when large groups were at the Reserve.

Friends' volunteers are needed to clerk the gift shop in the future during KVR events. Members who are interested in volunteering in the gift shop, or to serve on the marketing committee, please contact Nancy at 627-1345.

Friends to host hospitality tent at the Star Valley Memorial July 4

If you plan to drive old highway 131 on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve on July 4, be sure to stop for a cookie and cool drink at the Star Valley Memorial. The hospitality tent will be open from 12 noon until 3 p.m. The

Memorial is a popular stopping place, and last year many visitors sipped lemonade and rested on the rustic benches as they admired the beautifully-

kept garden tended by KVR staff, Bernice Schroeder, and Brian Turner.



Kickapoo Country Fair is opportunity for Friends of KVR

This year, the Friends will have a beverage booth at the one-day fair, to be held Saturday, July 30 at Organic Valley HQ in La Farge. Members Marcy West and Karen Brandl will co-chair the event, which will need volunteers from 9 am-10 pm, as well as for set-up and take-down. Email Marcy West at Marcy.West@Wisconsin.gov to volunteer.



A beautiful day contributed to the success of this year's Spring Fling. KVR Friends' volunteers contributed desserts and salads, and members of both organizations (Friends of KVR and the Santa Teresa Sister City group) shared duties and participated in the event. This year, a raffle and a silent auction were added to the festivities. Proceeds were increased to \$2121 for each reserve's group (last year's share was \$1150). A bird walk and plant walk were also very popular. Later, Dan Hazlett presented a live raptor program.

Special thanks to Jack and Maggie Lee, who donated meat for the burgers and beer. Maggie, a Friends of KVR board member, also served as co-chair of the event. Many donations were received for the silent auction. Maggie commented that she was pleased with how well everyone worked together to make a wonderful event. **Thanks to all**

who helped, donated, or participated in any way. Raffle winners were: Kayak – Eric Haney, Richland Center; Fly Rod & Reel – Jim Knutson, West Bend and La Farge; Binoculars - Gerard Froh, Milwaukee.



PHOTOGRAPHERS! PLAN AHEAD ~ Friends of KVR will again present a digital photography exhibition featuring images of the Reserve, the driftless area, and life in the Kickapoo Valley. Specific information will be available in the September issue of the Friends' newsletter.

Friends & KVR Calendar of Events

TO REGISTER, when required, or to volunteer, or FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call 608-625-2960 Visit <http://kvr.state.wi.us> or email: kickapoo.reserve@krm.state.wi.us

Wednesday, June 29

Driftless Dialogue IV:

How to Make \$ on a Small Acreage Farm

It is possible to convert the small acreage into an alternative source of income by choosing the right crops, following a few production guidelines and adopting the right marketing tools. Presenters: Erin Silva, Organic Production Specialist with the UWi Dept. of Agronomy; Jim Munsch raises beef cattle in Coon Valley; Greg Welna grows asparagus, rhubarb, winter spinach, winter livestock feed and raises beef cattle and llamas near Boaz. Refreshments and socializing at 6:30 pm. Talk begins at 7:00 pm.

NEW!

Wednesday, June 29—Wednesday, August 3 Yoga for Kids

Yoga is a wonderful way to encourage a child's confidence, flexibility, grace, concentration and body awareness. Come join us for a fun-filled, 6-week program of outdoor yoga at the Reserve. Your child will learn the poses of basic yoga, meditative movement and breathing practices which help calm the mind and relax the body. We'll incorporate song, story and

games to make yoga poses fun, and easy to remember, while cultivating an awareness of our interconnectedness with nature. Yoga mats will be provided. Instructor Kumari Sky is a Certified Integral Yoga teacher. Wednesdays 10-11 am. Ages: 4-8. Parents and caregivers are welcome to participate with their child. (No cost for accompanying adults). Fee: \$30/child.

Monday, July 4

Hospitality Tent at Star Valley Memorial

12 noon - 3pm

Old highway 131 will be open for car travel. See page 1 for details.



Last Chance to Register!

Monday, July 11—Friday, July 15

Making It Home in the Kickapoo Valley: Cultural Tour for Teachers

This week-long tour explores a beautifully and culturally rich area of rural southwestern Wisconsin, examining land and water issues and seeking a deeper awareness of how people

connect with the land. The tour is specifically designed for the needs of K-12 teachers who wish to incorporate local culture into their classrooms. Tour faculty and guest speakers include scholars, cultural and natural resource specialists, artists, musicians and local residents. Graduate credit is available.

Saturday, July 16

Kickapoo Valley Geology

Presentation 10am-12pm

Learn about the valley's geological layers and how they've become what you see today. Hike (1pm-3pm) – Venture out on the Reserve to observe geological features. Attendees will need to carpool to different locations on the Reserve. Instructor: Kelvin S. Rodolfo, Prof. Emeritus Dept. of Earth & Environmental Sciences U. of IL at Chicago. Please pack a sack lunch. Price: \$10/\$9 KVR Friend. Reg. deadline: July 1

Saturday, July 30, 2011

Kickapoo Country Fair Organic Valley HQ, La Farge

Volunteer at the Friend's beverage booth and help raise money for Friends of KVR. See page 1 for details.



Friends of KVR Board of Directors' News

The Board of the Friends of the Kickapoo Valley met in April and again in June 2011.

In addition to planning for upcoming events, the board voted to have representatives from the marketing committee purchase products for an expanded Friends' Gift Shop. The board also voted to hire a bookkeeper, Gina Rae, to keep track of funds.

At the June meeting, the board voted to provide \$1000 to Driftless Dialogue. There was a discussion about putting out a "free will offering" container at the



pre-Dialogue buffets to offset the food's cost rather than cutting back on food offerings.

The Friends now have 69 Family, 21 Individual and 2 Business memberships for a total of 92 members so far this year. Memberships are for the

calendar year. All members are invited to attend Friends' board meetings. The next meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 9, 7 pm.

Photos: (l-r) Collage by Rachel Purvis purchased at the La Farge School Art Show, Board members at the Spring Fling: Margaret Lee preparing food, and Patti Knowler purchasing a raffle ticket.

Friends of the
Kickapoo Valley Reserve
S3661 St. Hwy. 131
La Farge, WI 54639



If you haven't already...
RENEW YOUR 2011 MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Page 4

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Friends of KVR

This is what community looks like

By Joan Kent

I parked our truck in the turn-around at the Reserve and glared at the huge piles of mulch and manure. They'd been sitting in two of the parking places for about a month, carefully covered with blue tarps, waiting for spring to burst through this never-ending winter.

Today was going to be the day. We'd lined up 13 volunteers, including men, to wagon, shovel and rake the piles into the gardens. But as I got out of the truck, the strong cold wind almost knocked me over.

"It's never going to happen," I thought. "No one is going to come out in this to haul poop and shredded wood." I hauled out my tools, figuring I'd soon be putting them back in the truck. But then Nancy and Rodd arrived. And then Chuck and Peggy in their orange truck with flames on the side. Then Geri and Steve, with a huge wagon in the back. Within moments, the turn-around was filled with vehicles, and fifteen people, bundled in jackets scarves and hats, had started to work.

No one said much. They just pushed wheelbarrows and carts up to those piles, shoveled in the stuff and dumped it into the gardens, where others carefully raked it around the plants. At one point, I looked up and almost cried at the sight. "**This,**" I thought, "**is what community looks like.**"

Volunteers are always needed to help with the community garden. Please email Joan at: donjoan@mwt.net or call 625-2339 to receive notices of Tuesday night garden work parties.



ALL PHOTOS: J KRUK UNLESS NOTED