



Friends of Governor Dodge State Park

4175 State Highway 23 • Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533

• www.friendsofgovdodge.org

Supporting Recreation, Education and Environmental Stewardship

SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

The season of wildflowers is in full bloom at Governor Dodge. Get out for a hike and see how many varieties you can spot. Guides to Wisconsin wildflowers, birds, and trees are for sale in the Friends shop at the Cox Hollow concession stand, along with other educational books and children's activity items.



Office Prairie Interpretive Trail Open

To learn more about native flowers and prairies, check out the interpretive trail at the prairie near the park office. Newly installed signs explain prairie ecology and the role of prairies in Wisconsin history. This is an easily accessible hike and a great way to better understand what is above and below as you walk through a prairie.

Deer Cove Kiosk Display Installed!

The Friends are delighted to announce that the long-anticipated, professionally-rendered, graphic display on Native American history in the Governor Dodge region is finally in place. Located on the north side of the road just after the Cox Hollow boat landing, the kiosk was built by the Friends two years ago, and the display was created in consultation with the State Archaeologist. After viewing the display, take a short hike on a marked trail to the Deer Cove rock shelter, the site of significant archaeological finds described in the display.

Stephens Family Homestead Project

Descendants of the Stephens family, who settled in the 1800's on a farm above Stephen's Falls, have done much research about their family farm's history, as well as other farms now incorporated into Governor Dodge. Discussion has begun on a project to illuminate the human history of the "pioneer era" in the park, perhaps with a kiosk or signed trail around the site of the old Stephens homestead.

Another Great Earth Day

34 Dodgeville High School students and Earth Day volunteers pulled garlic mustard, painted campground signposts, and bagged firewood in the park on Earth Day, giving 100 hours of volunteer service in just one morning. *Thanks to all who turned out to help!*

New Volunteers to be Pinned



The Friends have voted to award a Governor Dodge commemorative lapel pin to each new volunteer at their first workday. Upcoming opportunities to earn a pin include hosting Smokey's birthday party the evening of August 7th and staffing a watering station in the park for the Dairyland Dare bike ride the morning of August 14th. **Helping hands are needed for both. Call the office or check the website for further information.**

Fall Candlelight Hike Saturday, October 9th

Save the date - for this fun and picturesque event on Columbus Day weekend! This is a very busy weekend for camping in the park and usually has great, crisp, fall weather for a twilight hike and bonfire. **Volunteers are always needed to set up the candle bags and staff our Friends welcome booth.**

Firewood Sales Could Fuel Future Nature Center

Sales of locally harvested firewood by the Friends are up this year, as we reap the benefits of the firewood storage building built last summer. With Emerald Ash Borer precautions limiting the distance from which wood can be brought into the park, we expect our **"Friendly Firewood"** to continue to sell well, and are beginning to envision how best to utilize the proceeds to benefit the park. Top of the current list is a nature education and interpretive center. What a great boon it would be for the park to have a space for expanded permanent nature displays, classroom/meeting room or rooms, and possibly a naturalist's office. We are in the very early stages of planning for this major project, and are currently seeking input from all interested parties on potential uses, design considerations, grant-writing, and fundraising strategies. We have already received some monetary gifts earmarked for the nature center, and further contributions are welcome (*and tax deductible!*).

Park Hero to the Rescue Once Again!

Friends of Gov Dodge volunteer **Duane Deutmeyer** received the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks 2009 Park Hero Award. **On July 9th he "came to the rescue" once again.** As he was finishing up his work at the Park, a call came into the Park Office from trail rider, who had a flat tire on her horse trailer not far from the park. Area service stations were all busy and not able to get there for two hours. Of course, Duane was right there, ready to lend a hand. **THANKS DUANE!**



2010 Membership Renewal Form

Please mail this completed form along with your check to:

Friends of Governor Dodge State Park, 4175 State Hwy. 23, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Name _____

Address _____
street

city/state/zip

Phone () _____
area code

E-Mail _____

Membership Options

- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$20.00
- Corporate/business \$50.00
- Additional donation \$ _____
- I am unable to join the Friends today, but I would like to make a donation \$ _____
- Please send me information about the Friends of Governor Dodge Endowment Fund.



All donations are tax deductible!

I would like to get involved with Friends projects. Please contact me about:

- Invasive species removal efforts
- Firewood preparation & sales
- Visitor education & interpretive programs
- Volunteer recruitment
- Nature Center planning and fundraising