



# Friends of Governor Dodge State Park

4175 State Highway 23 • Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533

• [www.friendsofgovdodge.org](http://www.friendsofgovdodge.org)

*Supporting Recreation, Education and Environmental Stewardship*

## SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER



***Spring has arrived and the summer lies ahead of us!*** The Friends of Governor Dodge State Park (FOGD) is looking forward to another full year of projects and activities as we ready ourselves for a busy summer season. Visitors should be aware that the park still shows scars of the June 2014 tornado, so as you hike those areas remember to stay on the designated paths. Although the destruction is evident, it is a sound reminder of the power of nature. Friends members, park staff and local volunteers have made extensive efforts on trail clearing this spring. **Many thanks to all who helped!**

At the end of last year we received approvals for adding small storage buildings at the Cox Hollow and Twin Valley Camp Host sites. Our Camp Hosts help to maintain the camp areas and these new buildings will provide a place to store and organize their equipment. New campground signs and gates, which will protect the bat habitat in park caves to stop the spreading of the deadly white nose syndrome, have also been approved.

Again this year we will fund the *Park Naturalist, Gayl Stuart*. Gayl will be hosting a great season of activities throughout the summer. Event details will be posted at the park office, throughout the campgrounds and on our website at: [www.friendsofgovdodge.org](http://www.friendsofgovdodge.org). The Friends will also sponsor our traditional Smokey Bear's Birthday and the Fall Candlelight Hike. Look for dates at the park office.

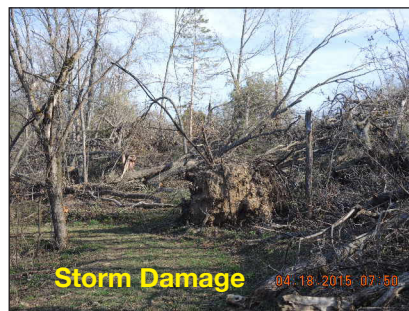
We continue to have workdays on the second Saturday of each month and have had great participation so far this year. If you would like to give back to a great natural resource, we can certainly use your help and will find an activity that would benefit the park – we are always looking for new volunteers.

We look forward to sharing Governor Dodge State Park with you and sincerely hope you enjoy the improvements the Friends have made throughout our park.

***Chip Forest, President FOGD***

### Park Work Day Report

Park visitors can once again enjoy portions of the Pine Cliff Trail loop, thanks to the efforts of FOGD volunteers. This popular trail, traversing a designated natural area, passes limestone bluffs, towering pines and dips down near Cox Hollow Lake, had been closed since the 2014 tornado tore through the area. Friends volunteers gathered for a workday in March with the goal of reopening the trail. Many FOGD members completed a chainsaw safety course to ensure everyone handling the equipment was properly trained. The hardworking group cleared fallen trees and branches, redirected part of the trail and installed new signage. Though a portion of the Pine Cliff Trail sustained severe damage and remains closed, much of the trail remains intact and beautiful. Hikers are encouraged to visit the park and enjoy the gorgeous scenery once again.



## Friends Sponsor 2015 Summer Naturalist Programs

Naturalist programs are scheduled on Saturdays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. *Naturalist Gayl Stewart* has planned a wide variety of daytime and evening programs.

**New programs for 2015 include:** ★ 2014 Tornado Damage and Clean-up ★ Paul Bunyan and the 1800s Lumberjack Culture Iowa County Astronomers' "Star Stories"

**Popular programs returning:** ★ Soaring Eagle Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (*with live raptors*)  
★ Black Bears Of Wisconsin ★ Reptiles and Amphibians ★ Universe In The Park ★ Monarch Butterflies

Check our website, [www.friendsofgovdodge.org](http://www.friendsofgovdodge.org), for specific dates.



## NEW Equestrian Group Forming

**Hello Trail Riders!** A new group of trail riding enthusiasts will be partnering with the Friends to help with equestrian projects at Governor Dodge State Park. The group's mission is to promote and enhance riding experiences at the Park – one of Wisconsin's premier trail riding destinations. The group is planning a "Get the Ball Rolling" fundraising event on May 31st. **A flyer containing details and registration information is available on the FOGD website: [www.friendsofgovdodge.org](http://www.friendsofgovdodge.org).**

### Short term goals are to:

- ★ Design and install safe, aesthetically pleasing mounting blocks at strategic locations in horse areas.
- ★ Finance a comfort stop (*porta potty*) at the Day Riders parking area throughout peak riding season.
- ★ Work on improvements at the horse camping area.

### Long Term goals:

- ★ Explore options for funding construction of a new horse campground.
- ★ Consider possibilities for adding additional horse trail miles.

If you are interested and would like to join us, **PLEASE email us at: [govdodgehorses@gmail.com](mailto:govdodgehorses@gmail.com)**

## Trail Pass Sales Benefit The Friends!

Through an agreement with the DNR, The Friends can sell State of Wisconsin horse and bike trail passes, with a portion of the \$20 ticket price remaining with FOGD. Money from ticket sales is used for trail improvements in our park. If you would like to buy your trail pass through the Friends, **contact Jean Warrior: (608) 497-0574.**



## Friends Membership Renewal Form

Please mail this completed form along with your check to:

Friends of Governor Dodge State Park, 4175 Hwy. 23 North, 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

Other \_\_\_\_\_

