



# 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*

## FALL/WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

A surprise early November snowfall blanketed the park with more than five inches of snow on November 9th, sending a clear signal of the changing seasons. It's been a busy summer for the Friends, with more great activities and projects in the works for 2012.

### Park Continues Gold Seal Winning Streak

Governor Dodge has again been recognized by the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks for having *"the best of the best,"* in a Wisconsin State Park, winning this year for the *"Best Pet Area."* This is the 6th consecutive year the park has received one or more Gold Seal awards.

### Stephens Homestead Trail Opens

**Thanks to the generous efforts of the Stephens family, a new interpretive trail has opened in the park.** The trail leads from the Stephens Falls trail up the hill to the area where previous generations of the Stephens family made their home. Interpretive signs along the trail designate locations of homestead buildings. A kiosk, built by the Stephens family, with assistance from Friends volunteers Duane Deutmeyer and Chip Forrest, houses a professionally produced graphic display that tells the tale of this settler family. The Homestead Trail is a welcome addition to the educational opportunities available in the park. Next season, Friends volunteers will place pieces of antique farm equipment along the trail to further illustrate homestead life.



*A new kiosk tells the Stephens family story.*

### Smokey Bear's Birthday a BIG SUCCESS!

So many guests attended Smokey's birthday party on August 6th that cake and ice cream servings had to be down-sized! A highlight this year was the appearance of the Tower Hill Fire Control Unit's pumper truck and bulldozer. Young and old party attendees enjoyed seeing these impressive pieces of equipment up close. Thanks to Friends volunteer (and DNR Wildlife employee) Mike Dampf for making this happen.

### Dairyland Dare Bike Event Rolls On

On August 13, nearly 1000 bicyclists rolled through Governor Dodge State Park as part of the Dairyland Dare bike race. Riders come from all over the world to participate in this event. The food and beverage station in the park, staffed by Friends volunteers, was located at approximately mile 30 on the ride. After climbing the long

hill from Cox Hollow up to the amphitheater, riders were grateful for an opportunity to stretch legs, check route maps, and re-fuel for the rest of their ride.

### Fall Candlelight Hike

With gorgeous weather and park campgrounds full to the brim with Columbus Day campers, the 2011 fall candlelight hike was attended by record numbers. Mild temperatures, clear skies, and a bonfire with complimentary s'mores (provided by the Kiwanis Concession) made for an enjoyable evening for all.

### New Officers Elected At Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting started with a visit from Dairyland Dare organizers Stuart and Michelle, who presented the Friends with a check for \$360 for staffing the rest stop for Dare riders. After sharing a potluck meal, we reviewed our 2011 budget and activities and discussed plans for next year. **A new slate of officers was elected by unanimous acclaim:** President, Duane Deutmeyer, Vice President, Judy Ettenhofer, Treasurer, Skip Forrest and Secretary, Jan Spredemann. Thanks to outgoing President, Jim Spredemann, for his three years of leadership.

### Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe/Hike Set For January 14th

The 13th annual Candlelight Ski will be held on Saturday, January 14, starting from the Cox Hollow Concession. A bonfire and hot food will be available. Snow conditions permitting, a lighted trail will be set on Cox Hollow Lake. Contact the park office or see our website for information on volunteering for this and other Friends events and activities.

### Tax Deductible Gifts

Monetary gifts to the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park, or to the Friends Endowment Fund with the Natural Resources Foundation, are welcome. Your tax-deductible gift will provide funding for current and future recreational, educational and conservation projects at the park. Our perennial dream of building a nature center requires start-up funds for design and planning to begin. Please remember Governor Dodge State Park as you plan your year-end charitable giving.



### 2011 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