



Friends of Governor Dodge State Park

4175 State Highway 23 • Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533

• www.friendsofgovdodge.org

Supporting Recreation, Education and Environmental Stewardship

SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

The grass is green and wildflowers are blooming at Governor Dodge! We all welcome the return of warm weather to enjoy our beautiful park. Recent and upcoming events include:



Winter Candlelight Event

Although we ended up competing with the Packers Playoff game, our January 15th Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe/Hike was attended by 425 people, who enjoyed relatively mild temperatures to hike or snowshoe the Lakeview Trail. Heavy rain around the holidays led to icy conditions with minimal snow cover on Cox Hollow Lake, so the event was on the Lakeview trail only. The bonfire and S'mores were popular, as always. ***Next Candlelight event will be our fall Candlelight Hike on October 8th.***



Garlic Mustard Pull-a-Thon

In celebration of Earth Day, students from Dodgeville High School joined Friends group members to pull garlic mustard along the Pine Cliff Nature Trail and removed litter from the campsites. This is the fourth year that students have volunteered their time to help limit the incursion of invasive garlic mustard into the beautiful Pine Cliff Trail natural area. Their efforts are much appreciated.



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Newcomers are always welcome to join the Friends at scheduled work days and in hosting special events at the park. We have work days on the second Saturday morning of the month, with activities including habitat restoration and invasive species removal, bagging firewood, installing signage, painting signposts, or other projects as requested by the park. Friends also host several special events throughout the year, with extra hands always appreciated. ***Below are dates of upcoming volunteer opportunities to "Pitch In" and help.***



Pitch In at the Park

- **2nd Saturday of the month** (*except August*) meet at park office by 9am
- **Smokey's Birthday Party:** Saturday, August 6th – early evening – help serve cake and ice cream
- **Dairyland Dare Bicycle Race:** Saturday, August 13th – host food & water stop for hundreds of riders – 6:30am - 10:00am at amphitheater picnic shelter
- **Candlelight Hike:** Saturday, October 8 – 4:30 pm – set candle bags, greet guests, serve snacks



Nature Center Planning Progresses

At the April meeting of the Friends Board of Directors, significant time was spent discussing goals for building a nature center at Governor Dodge State Park. Consensus was reached on several issues including most desirable location, need to incorporate green building features, incorporation of rotating or easily updating video displays as well as permanent displays, and probable time frames for design/approvals process. Friends group

members agreed to visit as many State Park nature centers as possible in the next few months and to bring back information on design features, displays and programming ideas to assist our group in our own planning process.



Endowment Fund Surpasses Expectations

Generous donations have moved our Natural Resources Foundation endowment fund beyond the “acorn fund” phase, which means that, as of next year, we will be eligible to utilize a small percentage of the endowment’s yearly earnings to fund projects benefiting the park. Gifts to the Natural Resources Foundation, designated to the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park Endowment Fund, are an excellent way to memorialize or honor loved ones, or to just say “thank you” for good times at a well-loved park. **Information on donating to our endowment fund is available on the Friends website, www.friendsofgovdodge.org**



Prescribed Burns at Governor Dodge

In traveling around the park, you may see evidence of the four prescribed burns held this spring. A total of 50 acres was burned, including prairie on both sides of Cox Hollow Road south of the park office, prairie across from the dump station at Twin Valley Campground, and an incomplete burn of the prairie at Stephens Falls (*eventually stopped due to rising humidity as the evening progressed*). Controlled burns encourage fire-loving prairie plant species to flourish, and reduce woody invasives such as Sumac and Locust. **Look for the wildflowers that should now be blooming on the previously blackened burn areas.**



Trail Pass Sales Benefit Friends

Under an agreement with the DNR, **the Friends of Governor Dodge are able to sell State of Wisconsin horse and bike trail passes**, with a portion of the \$20 sale price staying with our group. Last year, trail pass sales earned the Friends \$400, mainly through sales to horseback riders. **If you haven’t bought a trail pass and wish to do so, through the Friends, contact Jean Warrior: (608)497-0574. Your support is appreciated!**



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