



Friends of Governor Dodge State Park

4175 State Highway 23 • Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533
• www.friendsofgovdodge.org

Supporting Recreation, Education and Environmental Stewardship

Fall 2008 NEWSLETTER

It's been a great season at Governor Dodge. We hope you found time for some summer fun at the park. Need ideas? **Check out the "60 Fun Things to Do at Governor Dodge" flyer** now available in the park office, compiled in honor of the park's 60th Anniversary.



Collect Pins?

Pick up an activity brochure at the office and earn a beautiful Governor Dodge collector pin by participating in hikes, workdays, and other park events. Get your brochure stamped at the office as you complete each qualifying activity. Pins may also be purchased without an activity log for \$6.



Smokey and Governor Dodge Celebrate Joint Birthdays

August 11th was the date for the perennially-popular Smokey the Bear Birthday party. This year, Smokey shared the limelight (*and cake*) with Governor Dodge State Park as we celebrated 60 years since the founding of the park. In addition to a visit by Smokey himself, the party featured the debut of park naturalist Sherry Van Haren's latest creation, the "S'more Game." Participants learn about the flora, fauna, and special features of the park while earning "ingredients" for their s'mores.



Fall Candlelight Hike

A new addition to the Friends activity calendar this year is a fall Candlelight Hike, on Saturday, October 11th from 5-8 pm. Candles will light the 1.5 mile Lakeview trail. A guided hike will begin at 5 pm, departing from the Cox Hollow Concession stand area, or hike at your own pace. Food and beverages to enjoy by the bonfire (*including s'more kits*) will be available at the concession. The S'more Game will be set up earlier in the day, and those who earn a coupon can exchange it for a real s'more kit at the Candlelight Hike.



Friends Earn \$1000 Naturalist Grant

We were delighted to receive this grant from the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks. The extra dollars have helped to fund activities celebrating the 60th birthday of the park, and to develop new interpretive materials and naturalist programs.



Self Guided Hike Series Launched

The Friends recently published the "Small Cave" brochure, the first in a series of self-guided hikes and tours. As budget constraints limit opportunities for live, in-person naturalist programs, we are capturing our park naturalist's knowledge on paper so that visitors can enjoy hikes to special destinations in the park on their own schedule. Illustrated with original art, our Small Cave brochure has gotten rave reviews from users. "Springhouses" is now in progress, and will highlight three different springhouse styles still visible on homestead sites in the park. The Pioneer Cemetery and Scenic Highlights brochures are planned for 2009.



Firewood Sales Fight Emerald Ash Borer and Support The Friends

With Emerald Ash Borer now in Wisconsin, purchase of local wood for campfires in State parks is more important than ever. The Friends group sells firewood at the park office when the campground vendor is not on site. Besides keeping the ash borer out of our park, this is a great source of income for the Friends. We are planning to build a permanent firewood storage building near the office in 2009. Your donation to the Friends will help us secure matching grant money for this project. Revenue from firewood sales could help fund a nature center, naturalist programming and other future enhancements for the park. Send your gift now to help invest in the future of Gov. Dodge!



First Annual Garlic Mustard Pull-a-thon

On May 3rd, the First Annual Garlic Mustard Pull-a-thon pitted volunteers from Dodgeville High School and River Valley High School with huge results. Despite cold, drizzly working conditions, 28 students competed to pull a combined total of nearly 1300 lbs of garlic mustard from the Pine Cliff Nature trail. Pizza donated by FOGD President, Denise Marino and her husband, Herb Paaren rewarded the volunteers as the garlic mustard bags were weighed and the results tallied. **River Valley was declared the winner** by a narrow margin, pulling 50lbs/person to Dodgeville's 49.2lbs/person. We look forward to a spirited re-match in 2009!



Governor Dodge State Park Loves Its Volunteers!!!

There are many ways in which you can help support Governor Dodge State Park. Join with your fellow park lovers to assist the Friends with various volunteer activities. You'll be rewarded with new friendships, a closer look at Gov. Dodge, and a great feeling of contributing to the future of the park. **All it takes is 3 hours of your time** to help with one *Pitch In at the Park* on a Saturday morning, or to assist with another of our ongoing projects. **Other activities you could help with include:**

- ❖ Help prepare or set up candle bags for candlelight hike or ski
- ❖ Pull invasive plants
- ❖ Bag firewood for sale by the Friends
- ❖ Recruit friends or family for Pitch In at the Park days
- ❖ Serve cake at Smokey's birthday party

If you'd like to volunteer even 3 hours with the Friends, please complete the form below and turn it in at the park office, or mail to: FOGD - 4175 State Hwy. 23 - Dodgeville, WI 53533.

HAPPY FALL!



2008 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 \$ _____



All donations are tax deductible!