



Friends of Governor Dodge State Park

4175 State Highway 23 • Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533

• www.friendsofgovdodge.org

Supporting Recreation, Education and Environmental Stewardship

SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER

Great things are happening in 2009 at Governor Dodge State Park!

Endowment Fund Launched

On May 21st, the Friends of Governor Dodge signed an agreement with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation to launch our very own endowment fund, under the umbrella of their organization. Gifts from several members augmented the initial contribution by the Friends. Once a sustainable balance has been reached, income will be distributed each year to the Friends to help pay for programs and projects at the park. An endowment fund offers a safe, permanent home for memorial gifts or legacy donations to benefit the park. For more information, check our website (www.friendsofgovdodge.org) or look for endowment fund brochures in the park office.

Local Firewood Keeps Emerald Ash Borer Out Of Our Park

Now that Emerald Ash Borer has been found in more areas of Wisconsin, purchase of locally produced wood for campfires is more important than ever. The Friends group is working with the park to expand availability of disease-free, local wood. While the regular vendor will continue to sell firewood at the campgrounds during designated hours, "**Friendly firewood**" will be available at other times. We have secured funding and permits to construct a firewood storage building across from the park office. Site preparation is now in progress. **Volunteers will erect the building during the week of July 12.** *Please contact Duane Deutmeyer to schedule a time to help, at (608) 574-2825 or duane.deutmeyer@landsend.com. **No tool-wielding experience or special skills required!***

Earth Day at the Park

On April 22nd, volunteers gathered at Gov Dodge to help improve our little corner of the world. Forty five volunteers from Dodgeville High School, along with four Friends, pulled over 100 bags of garlic mustard at Enee Point, while 18 people from Lands' End pulled garlic mustard in the group camp sites. Five volunteers from the high school bagged 180 bags of Friendly Firewood.

Springhouse Brochure Published

The second in a series of self-guided hikes produced by the Friends, this brochure explains the history of these "Pioneer Refrigerators" and leads visitors to three springhouses remaining in the park. With original artwork, and incorporating quotes from elders who grew up living with springhouses on area farms, we think this is a fascinating glimpse into the history of Governor Dodge. Brochures are available at the park office.

Deer Cove Kiosk Display

Under the guidance of the State Archaeologist, a permanent display is being created for the Deer Cove Kiosk, describing the cultural history of the park and the lives of Native American inhabitants. The kiosk was constructed by the Friends in 2007, and we are happy that it will house a museum quality, permanent educational display. As you drive from the park office approaching Cox Hollow beach, watch for the kiosk on the left after the boat landing. The permanent display should be in place this summer.

Naturalist Interpretive Programs Get Boost

The Friends are pleased to once again donate \$1000 to the park for naturalist hours and supplies over and above the hours funded by the state budget. We are also delighted to announce that we were awarded a \$1000 grant from the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks to benefit the park interpretive programs.

Horse Trail Improvements

Two perennially problematic and unsustainable sections of the equestrian trail have been re-routed and are open for this riding season. A change in the inner loop will bring riders along the shore of Twin Valley Lake and to the concession stand area at Cox Hollow. At our June workday, Friends volunteers installed a hitching rail at a newly created equestrian picnic area behind the Cox Hollow concession. From here, a short trail will return riders to the horse camp. The second set of trail changes involve the outer loop, where the re-routed trail in the far southwest corner of the park passes through a prairie, established last season, and includes a hard-bottomed water crossing.

Pitch In At The Park

Volunteers are needed monthly to assist with invasive species removal, firewood preparation, and other activities identified by park staff. Dates are July 11, August 8 (*Smokey's Birthday Party*) and September 12. Please mark your calendars and come join the Friends for fun and productive outdoor activity



2009 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