



UPDATE



CREATIVE COMMUNITY ART EVENT

This recent event consisted of three components: an art canvas project, local artists demonstrating their craft with local high school art students on Friday and local artists demonstrating their craft with the public on Saturday.

February 1-March 26—Canvas Project - The Reserve purchased 350 6" x 6" art canvases with proceeds from the 2015 canvas auction. The Reserve distributed the canvases to local schools and libraries, and canvases were available for pickup at the Visitor Center. Over 300 canvases were returned and are currently on exhibit at the Visitor Center and available to purchase via an [online silent auction](#) through March 26th. Thank you to all the participants who helped create an impressive art exhibit at the Reserve. Please return blank canvases to the Visitor Center.

March 4—Artist Demonstrations with Students - Eight local artists demonstrated their craft with over fifty high school students from local schools. Each student was able to work with four different artists throughout the day. The event was sponsored by the KVR, Friends of the KVR, La Farge Lions, La Farge Schools, Kickapoo Photography Club, Brookwood Booster Club, Norwalk Lioness, Norwalk Lions, and Hillsboro School District.

March 5—Artist Demonstrations with Public - Attendees met four local artists, worked with them and their mediums for 90 minutes each, and took home art projects.



What's Happening!

- Jan. 1-Dec. 31—2016 KVR Trail Challenge
- Mar. 4-26—Creative Communities Art Canvas Exhibit
- Mar. 17—KRMB Mtg.—7PM
- Mar. 18—Equinox Stargazing—7-9PM
- Mar. 26—Ho-Chunk Black Ash Basketry—9AM-5PM
- Apr. 2—Pasque Flower Hike—1-3PM
- Apr. 9—Waterfowl Talk & Walk—1-3PM
- Apr. 9-10—Youth Wild Turkey Hunt
- Apr. 13-May 24—Spring Wild Turkey Season/6 periods
- Apr. 13—*Driftless Dialogue: Crossing the Driftless Area by Canoe*—6:30-9PM
- Apr. 16—Children's Spring Immersion—9AM-3PM
- Apr. 21—KRMB Mtg.—7PM
- Apr. 22—*Green Fire* Screening & Discussion—6-7:30PM
- Apr. 23—Earth Day Annual Highway Clean-up—8-11:30AM
- May 1—Equestrian & Mountain Bike Trails Open (*weather permitting*)
- May 4—*Driftless Dialogue: WI Diverse Wildlife*—6:30-9PM
- May 5—Education & Tourism Mtg.—5:30PM
- May 6—Trout Catch & Release Season Closes
- May 7—Trout Season Opens
- May 7—Spring Fling—3-9PM
- May 14—Spring Wild Edibles Hike—9AM-3:30PM
- May 19—KRMB Mtg.—7PM
- May 21—Tromp & Chomp—7:30AM-2PM
- June 1—Dam challenge Registration Opens
- June 6-16—Forest Friends Summer Camp—9-10:30AM
- June 6-16—Kinder Camp—9-11:30AM
- June 10—Family Campfire Program—6:30-8PM
- June 16—KRMB Mtg.—7PM
- June 18—Summer Solstice Stargaze—8-10PM
- June 22—*Driftless Dialogue: Impacts of Housing & Development on Bird Biodiversity*—6:30-9PM



TROMP & CHOMP TRAIL RUN

Join us - Saturday, May 21, 2016 - to participate, volunteer, or just watch the KVR's 8-mile and half marathon trail run. Racers will receive a race shirt and a post-race meal of local seasonal foods. Proceeds from this event benefit the KVR Education and Events Program. Registration Fees: 8-Mile Course—\$35 thru March 31, \$40 thru April 30, \$45 thru May 21; 13.1-Mile Course—\$45 thru March 31, \$50 thru April 30, \$55 race thru May 21. Refund/Cancellation Policy: Registration fees are non-refundable, and may not be deferred or otherwise transferred for any reason including race cancellation.

Camping/Lodging: The KVR offers primitive camping. In addition, there are many unique lodging opportunities in the area, visit driftless-wisconsin.com or travelwisconsin.com. Volunteers are needed for many different jobs. Please contact

Sadie.urban@wisconsin.gov or 608/625-2967 to volunteer.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT WORK

by Jason Leis, Property Manager

We had a pretty short winter this year. Temps didn't get really cold until the second week in January, and it warmed up fast by the end of February. This short winter has made it difficult for the loggers to get their work done, but they have a majority of the hardwood thinning completed. The warm temperatures have shut work down for at least a couple months. If you walk out the West Ridge Trail, it doesn't look very nice right now. Just know that the project is not completed, and it will be finished when things dry out. The remaining logs will be removed from the stands, areas will be cleaned up, and the trail will be tipped out so it drains. The trail will also be seeded down. Our crew will be doing the first steps to habitat improvement this summer. A dedicated crew will be concentrating on the monitoring and removal of invasive species in this newly impacted area. We will also be prepping the area to be planted with oak seedlings. It may not look the best right now, but it will be an area that provides diverse habitat and will attract more birds and wildlife than before the harvest.



TRAIL TALK

by Jackie Yocum, KVR Staff

Spring sightings are becoming abundant now. Sandhill Cranes are filtering back. Some robins arrived to get a little snow on their feathers. The geese and other migrators are filling the pond areas with their feathered families. Much of our time at the KVR has turned to planning for the 2016 warm weather season. The KVR strives to keep communication and education at the forefront for our visitors. We always welcome you to visit our website, Facebook page and of course call or stop in the Visitor Center; and we will be happy to assist you. Here are some key points to ponder when visiting the KVR.

Equestrian and Mountain Bike trails open for the season May 1—weather permitting. Users should note that trails will close throughout the season due to wet conditions. It is important to refrain from using natural surface trails in wet weather. Old 131 Trail and Star Valley Trail do remain open during wet weather trail closures. Trail closures occur to best preserve and protect the trails and surrounding areas. The KVR strives to provide trails that are highly sustainable and offer users the safest and most enjoyable trail experience possible. It is important that users abide by these closures, and we greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation in an effort to keep the trails in optimum condition.

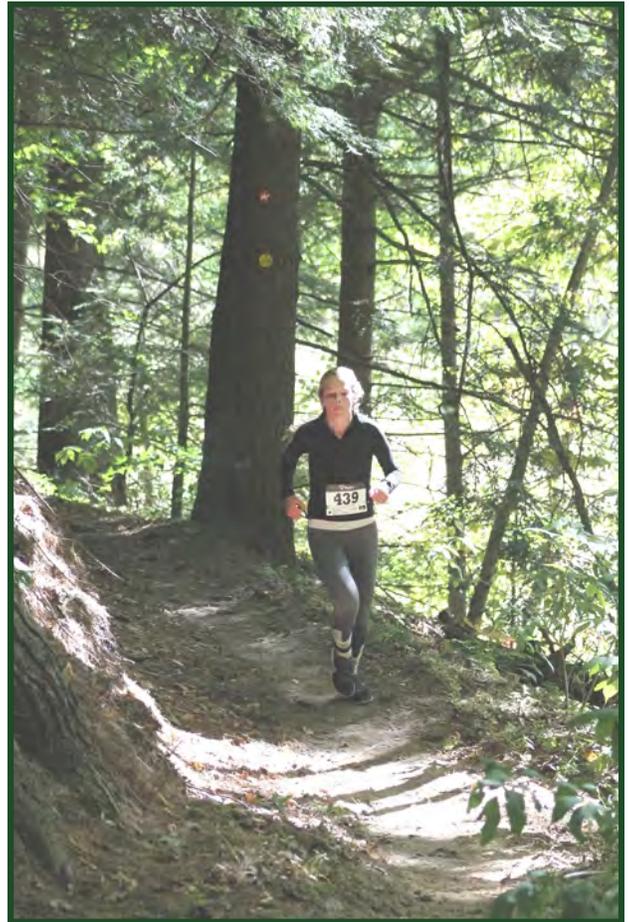
The crew will be busy doing maintenance on the trail system as soon as the weather allows. In the Fall of 2015 the KRMB (Kickapoo Reserve Management Board) voted to convert a few single use trails to shared use on a two year trial period. The trails included in that change are Cut Off Trail, Hoot Owl Trail, Big Valley Trail, Mule Trail and Ma & Pa's Trail. New maps have been printed and are available noting these changes. The crew will be updating the signage on these trails during the summer season. Good trail etiquette is always your responsibility as a user. It is one of the best ways to give back to the property. As always, practice the leave no trace principles. Pack it in – Pack it out!

As a reminder, all users and parking (except when hunting and fishing) are required to have and display a current year 2016 trail pass either in the form of an annual pass or day pass. You can get your trail pass at the Visitor Center or by visiting any one of the 15 Iron Rangers or self-registration stations located on the KVR.

Did you know that the KVR has an Adopt –A- Trail Program? Many of the trails have been adopted by local volunteers. If you or your group is interested in adopting a trail on the KVR, contact the Visitor Center for more information. Current volunteers are reminded to check their adopted sections soon and return their reports to the KVR Property Manager, Jason Leis.

New in 2016 is the KVR Trail Challenge—as if you needed another excuse to get out on the trails! Check out our website for more details on this fun and healthy challenge.

Hope to see you on the trails!



FROG WALK TUESDAYS

by Ben Johnston, KVR Staff

Each Tuesday evening, beginning April 5, through July 19, the KVR will host a short frog walk, in participation of the Single Wetland Frog Phenology Study, on behalf of the [WI Frog and Toad Survey](#). Park and meet at the south gate of the Old Highway 131 Trail. After a quick “tailgate” lesson on frog calls, we will walk to the ponds just north of Bridge 18 to hear and identify the species of frogs present. The appropriate data will be collected and reported to the Frog and Toad Survey Headquarters. Additional night sounds may be heard at no extra charge.

Start/meeting time is 15 minutes after sunset ([consult a sunset table](#)). Total walking distance will be 0.5 mile and the entire event should not last more than an hour. Attendance is free and open to anyone interested in hearing and identifying frog calls, or anyone else that might want to take a short walk with people who are interested in hearing and identifying frog calls. No registration is required. Fun for all ages. Cancellations will occur only for heavy rains and/or thunderstorms; a light rain is ideal for frogs. For more information, contact the KVR office (608) 625-2960 or ben.johnston@wisconsin.gov.



KVR Friends Update

MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2016

tel: (608) 625-2960

Volume 13, Issue 1

web: kickapoofriends.org

SPRING FLING ON MAY 7TH

The annual Spring Fling, an event co-sponsored by the Friends of the Reserve and the Richland Center – Santa Teresa Sister City Project, will be held at the KVR Visitor Center on Saturday, May 7th. Activities and events begin at 3 pm and include nature and bird hikes, family friendly activities, star gazing, great food, the Brew Canoe, music, silent auction and raffle. It's a day of fun, and a great FUNdraiser for both sponsoring organizations. Volunteers are needed to make this event a success. The Friends membership is also asked to provide 15 salads and 10 desserts. Call 625-2960 or email events@kickapoofriends.org to sign-up to volunteer or bring food. An entry fee of \$10 includes activities, food, and music. Kids 12 & under eat free.



Benefit for KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE & CHACOCENTE WILDLIFE REFUGE, NICARAGUA



Kickapoo Valley Reserve, S3661 State Hwy. 131, La Farge
(608) 625-2960 or email kickapoo.reserve@krm.state.wi.us
kickapoofriends.org ~ www.santa-teresa.wccnica.org



Be a friend...



Milder weather and the springtime activity in the natural world beckon us all outside. This is the perfect time to take advantage of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve!

Stop in the Reserve Visitor Center to join or renew your Friends membership for 2016. Membership payment can also be made online at www.kickapoofriends.org. Thank you for your support!

Why be a Friend of the KVR?

"The Friends of the Reserve are an incredible asset to the KVR in their support of events, education programs and special projects. As the KVR continues to grow in popularity, the support of KVR Friends truly enhances the spirit of the Reserve as a successful citizen-based project."

– Marcy West, Executive Director of Kickapoo Valley Reserve

The best benefit of a KVR Friends membership is the satisfaction of helping to preserve the Reserve for current and future generations. In addition, all members receive the following benefits:

KVR Annual Trail Pass ♦ Bi-Annual Friends Newsletter ♦ Friend Connection Electronic Newsletter
10% Discounts on KVR Workshops ♦ Gift Shop Member Only Sales



Bird Breeding Surveys

By Paul Hayes, Friend of the KVR

The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II (WBBA II) is a comprehensive survey of the distribution and abundance of nesting birds in WI. WBBA II will run from 2015-2019 and involve 1500+ volunteers, clocking 60,000+ observation hours, and reporting 200+ breeding bird species. The agencies responsible for WBBA II are WI Society for Ornithology, WI DNR, Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory, and the WI Bird Conservation Initiative.

Breeding Bird Atlas differs from a regular bird survey by focusing on specific behaviors providing evidence for breeding. Data will be submitted online via an E-bird portal.

The Atlas has identified 153 "Specialty Blocks" across the state - areas of high conservation value, unique habitats, or of especially high "ornithological significance" to breeding birds.

Two such specialty blocks cover parts of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve and Wildcat Mountain State Park.

Access to private lands is a limiting factor for obtaining quality data for the Atlas in areas where public lands are not present. Road side surveys are an option; but to identify and confirm certain species, surveys in large forest tracts or pastures and fallow fields are preferred. Providing land access to Atlas volunteers would be a significant contribution to the survey.

If you would like to participate in the surveys or offer private land for surveying, please contact KVR at kickapoo.reserve@krm.state.wi.us or (608) 625-2960.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mark & Karen Chaney - La Crescent, MN
 Fred Constalie - Westby
 Tim & Rae Ann Cooper - Batavia, IL
 Julie Melster & Michael Crawford - Tomah
 Stephen Weiser & Andrew Deppe - Wonewoc
 Denise Doerr - Viroqua
 Danniell & Janna Drier - Richland Center
 Travis & Amy Forgues - Westby
 Lynn Foster - La Farge
 Raymond & Michele Fronczak - Hales Corner
 Marlene Geary - Viola
 Donald Gore - Viroqua
 John Heasley - Lone Rock
 Marjie & John La Favor - Lakeville, MN
 Wanda Lewison - Readstown
 Ann Lundeen - Fall River
 Brenda Ludwig - La Farge
 Kathleen Dunn & Tom McInerney - Viola
 Georgia Mommaerts - Yuba
 Chis & Jodi Moxon - Camp Douglas
 T. Ostenso - St. Paul, MN
 Gayle Poplau - La Farge
 Thea Puntney - La Farge
 Annake Ramsey - Viroqua
 Susan Reed & Peter Schmidt - Viola
 Gregg Roberts - Westby
 Larry & Anne Schoenemann - Cottage Grove
 Dean & Rebecca Seitz - Tomah
 Nancy & PJ Sikorsky - Sparta
 Kelly Slentz - Viroqua
 John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl - Cashton
 Sharon & Jim Stroh - Wilton
 Kathleen Sullivan & Robert Jackson - Viroqua
 Gordon Sussman - Madison
 Bruce & Emily Sytsma - Viroqua
 Phil & Anita Tegan - Desoto
 Becky Tomten - Milton
 Dan & Mary Thonesen - Elroy
 Jeff White - Readstown
 Ole Yttri - La Farge

Too numerous to list, thank you to the 140 members that have renewed their membership!

GIFT SHOP NEWS

The KVR Friends Gift Shop is in the process of transitioning for the warmer season. Be sure to remember the nice assortment of items when shopping for gifts this spring and summer.