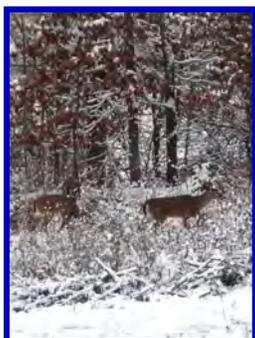




# UPDATE

## WINTER FESTIVAL January 9, 2016



A bus will be available to shuttle attendees between the Visitor Center (VC) and the Town of Stark Building.

### 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

- Face Painting for Children – La Farge School Art Students: VC Lobby
- Interactive Snow Carving – Martino Studios: Northeast of VC
- Chainsaw Carving (Aaron Larson) Demonstration: North of VC

### 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- **NEW!** Snow Block Treasure Hunt: Northeast of VC
- **Kickapoo Silent Auction** – KVR Education & Events Program Fundraiser: VC Classroom
- Candy Cane Tree Treasure Hunt – Starts at Old Harris Rd. Trailhead: North of VC
- Tube Snow Tunnel: North of VC
- Horse-drawn Bobsled Rides: West of VC & **West of Town of Stark Building**
- Self-guided Ice Cave Hike – West Ridge Trail: **West of Town of Stark Building**
- Snowshoe & Ski Tent – Bluedog Cycles: South of VC
- Skating & Sledding – Some equipment available for use: VC Grounds
- Concessions by Friends of the KVR & Brewdog: VC Meeting Room
- Concessions by La Farge Community Child Care Center: **Town of Stark Building on Corps Rd.**

### 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM • Ho-Chunk Winter Game – The Snow Snake Competition: North of VC

### 10:30 – 11:30 AM

- **NEW!** Animal Tracks Craft for Children – Mary Szepi, KVR Instructor: VC Deck
- Archery Instructional Workshop – KVR Instructors: Garage & Shooting Range East of VC
- Tri-state Alaskan Malamute Club Sled Dog Race: **West of Town of Stark Building**

### 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM • Ice Caves Presentation & Guided Hike: **Town of Stark Building on Corps Rd.**

### 11:00 – 11:30 AM • **NEW!** Stories for Children – Mary Mulvany-Kemp, Librarian: Ciporoke (round dwelling) North of VC

### 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM

- **NEW!** Safe Solar Sunspot Viewing with Telescope – KVR Astroeducators: VC Deck
- Ho-Chunk Winter Game – The Snow Snake Competition: North of VC

### 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM • Chili & Bread Contest Sampling – La Farge Lions Club: VC Exhibit Area

### 12:00 – 1:00 PM

- **NEW!** Stories for Children – Gina Rae, Librarian: Ciporoke (round dwelling) North of VC
- **NEW!** Winter Ecology Talk & Walk – Cathy Chybowski, KVR Instructor: **Town of Stark Building on Corps Rd.**

### 12:00 – 3:00 PM • Tri-state Alaskan Malamute Club Sled Dog Weight Pull: **West of Town of Stark Building**

### 1:00 – 2:00 PM

- **NEW!** Urban Fox Research Project – David Drake, UW-Madison Professor: **Town of Stark Building on Corps Rd.**
- Storytelling for All Ages – Tracy Chipman, Professional Storyteller: Ciporoke (round dwelling) North of VC
- Snowshoe Hike – Ken & Michelle Workowski (some snowshoes available): Meet near Snowshoe & Ski Tent South of VC
- Archery Instructional Workshop – KVR Instructors: Garage & Shooting Range East of VC
- Ho-Chunk Winter Game – The Snow Snake Competition: North of VC

### 2:00 – 2:30 PM • **NEW!** Stories for Children – Rita Wachuta-Breckel, Librarian: Ciporoke (round dwelling) North of VC

### 2:00 – 3:00 PM

- **NEW!** Planet Walk – KVR Astroeducators & Space Camp Students: **Meet at South End of Old 131 Trail**
- Ho-Chunk Winter Game – The Snow Snake Competition: North of VC

### 2:00 – 4:00 PM • Local Beer & Wine Sampling – Hillsboro Brewing Company & Vernon Vineyards: VC Exhibits

### 2:30 – 4:00 PM • **Kickapoo Quick Auction** – Bid on local goods and services. Education Program Fundraiser: VC Lobby

### 3:00 – 4:00 PM

- Storytelling for All Ages – Tracy Chipman, Professional Storyteller: Ciporoke (round dwelling) North of VC
- Ho-Chunk Winter Game – The Snow Snake Competition Playoffs: North of VC
- Mutt Sled Ride – You bring the dog and child, we provide the sled & harness: **West of Town of Stark Building**

**Free and open to the public. Activities subject to change due to weather conditions.  
Dogs must be on a leash. Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

## What's Happening!

- Dec. 19—String Ties Christmas Show—5-10PM
- Dec. 24-25—Visitor Center Closed
- Dec. 26—Christmas Bird Count
- Dec. 31—Pheasant Season Closes
- Dec. 31-Jan. 1—Visitor Center Closed
- Jan. 7-Feb. 25—Thursdays, Kickapoo Valley Youth Ski Club—3:45PM—Registration Open
- Jan. 9—Winter Festival
- Jan. 12—Land Management Mtg.—5:30PM
- Jan. 16—Cross-Country Ski Workshop—1PM
- Jan. 21—KRMB Mtg.—7PM
- Jan. 23—Dam Phunski Cross-Country Ski Race—10AM
- Jan. 23—*Stargazing: Winter Trails by Light of the Wolf Moon*—6PM
- Jan. 30—Ice Cave Hike—12:30PM
- Feb. 1-Mar. 26—Creative Communities Art Canvas Project
- Feb. 4—Education & Tourism Mtg.—5:30PM
- Feb. 5-26—Fridays, Winter Homeschool Workshops—12:15PM
- Feb. 10—*Driftless Dialogue: Snowy Owls*—6:30PM
- Feb. 18—KRMB Mtg.—7PM
- Feb. 19—*Stargazing: Winter Trail by Light of the Snow Moon*—6PM
- Feb. 20—Ice Cave Hike—12:30PM
- Feb. 27—Ice Cave Hike—12:30PM
- Mar. 4—Creative Communities Art Canvas Exhibit Grant Opening—6PM
- Mar. 5—Early Catch & Release Trout Season Opens
- Mar. 5—Creative Communities Art Experience—9AM
- Mar. 5—Ice Cave Hike—12:30PM
- Mar. 8—Land Management Mtg.—5:30PM
- Mar. 17—KRMB Mtg.—7PM



## WINTER RECREATION

by Jackie Yocum, KVR Staff

Winter (preferably with snow) allows for popular recreation opportunities on the KVR. As much as we don't like driving in the snow or plowing it or shoveling it, we sure do love playing in it! After all, we do live in Wisconsin; and what could be better than getting outdoors at any time of the year!

**Cross-Country Skiing:** KVR staff grooms approximately 9 miles of Cross-Country Ski Trail. In most areas the trails are groomed for both skate skiing and Nordic. For cross-country ski trail conditions, visit our website, Facebook page or call the Visitor Center.

**Fat Tire Biking:** Fat tire bikes are allowed on a portion of the KVR on a trial basis. "Fat Tire" bikes are non-motorized, pedal bikes with tires of 3 ¾ inches wide or wider. The area open to Fat Tire Bikes for winter riding is located on the east side of the Reserve. Fat Tire Bikes must stay on designated trails or adjacent public roadways. Designated trails will be posted Open to Fat Tire Bikes in the winter but are subject to closure due to adverse weather and/or temperature. The trail closures will be posted through signage at the Cut Off Trail head, east of the Rockton Bridge and at the Big Valley Trail head off of County P east. Fat Tire Bike trails are open January 1, 2016 thru March 15, 2016. The following criteria must be in place for the Fat Tire Bike Trails to remain open: 1) frozen ground; 2) three or more inches of snow; 3) temperatures 25 degrees or colder.

**Snowshoeing & Winter Hiking:** Winter Hiking and Snowshoeing are great ways to get out and enjoy the KVR. Hiking and snowshoeing are allowed anywhere on the property. Be mindful of the dangers of what looks to be a "frozen river". Winter trail maps are available on our website and at the Visitor Center. Reminder to hikers and snowshoe enthusiasts, when traveling along the groomed Cross Country Ski Trails, please use only the ungroomed edge.

**Ice Skating & Sledding:** Weather and temperature permitting, the KVR maintains an Ice Skating rink located just north of the Visitor Center Parking lot. When there is enough snow, a sledding hill is groomed just north of the Visitor Center near the Ciporoke. Bring your own sleds. There is no fee to enjoy the ice rink or the sledding hill.

**Ice Cave Trekking:** The 'Ice Caves' are ever changing and growing throughout the winter. Please note there are no marked or maintained trails to the Ice Caves on the KVR. Trekking to view them is considered a strenuous hike, with slippery, steep slopes and the potential of deep snow. Visitors are welcome to self-guide to the Ice Caves with maps available on our website or at the Visitor Center.

Information on all trail conditions can be found on the [KVR Website](#), Facebook page, or by calling the KVR Office—(608)625-2960. Trail permits are required for all visitors over 16 years old.

**Snowmobiling:** New!!! Beginning with the 2015-16 snow season, all snowmobiles operating on a Wisconsin snowmobile trail or corridor must display a valid snowmobile trail pass whether

registered in Wisconsin or another state. For more details and where to get a pass, please access this link to the DNR website, <http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/snowtrailpass.htm>. For snowmobile trail conditions throughout the state, please visit <http://www.travelwisconsin.com/snowreport/snowmobile>. For a map of the Vernon County Trails, follow this link: <http://www.vernoncounty.org/parks/docs/VCTrailMap.pdf>.

**Winter Star Gazing:** Yes, the stars do come out in the winter; and you don't have to stay up past bedtime to view them! KVR has the dark skies you need for some amazing stargazing. Check the KVR website or call the Visitor Center for more information on winter stargazing on the Reserve. So much to do this winter on the KVR! Let it SNOW!

## UPDATE ON RESERVE PROJECTS...

**Jason Leis, Property Manager**—The Kickapoo Valley Reserve will be conducting a hardwood thinning this winter. Along with thinning, we will also be cutting an area of aspen to promote new growth and create habitat for ruffed grouse and other birds. Wayne Wallace Logging out of Ontario has the contract to do the work. They will start as soon as the ground freezes up good. The area of the hardwood thinning is along the West Ridge Trail, approximately one mile out from the Maintenance Building. This portion of the trail will be the haul road for equipment and logs. This portion of trail is also used to get to some of the ice caves and is part of the State snowmobile trail. Hikers need to be aware that there may be heavy equipment on the trail, and we are hoping that we don't need to close the snowmobile trail during the harvest.

**Ben Johnston, KVR Staff**—Many pollinating species—birds, bees, butterflies, etc., are showing population declines, primarily due to loss of habitat. Recent efforts have been made to improve these habitats in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

With hope of promoting monarch butterfly and other pollinators, volunteers helped collect 4.5 lbs. of prairie seed during this past fall. The seed mix included 20 forb (“flower”) species and some short prairie grasses (Little Bluestem, Side Oats Grama, Prairie Dropseed). Since milkweed is critical for survival of the monarch butterfly, the mix contained higher concentrations of swamp, butterfly and common milkweed seed.

A one-acre plot located along Old Highway 131 Trail (south and east of the Star Valley Memorial) was prepared for the project. The La Farge CLC children faced the bitter winds of a gloomy Thursday to help distribute the seed, using the top-secret “Three Finger Prairie Seed Pinch” method. The seeding

(cont. p. 4)

## NATURE NOTES

by Barbara Duerksen, KVR Instructor

### Winter Birds

Many people don't think of winter as a great bird watching season, but it is actually a good time to enjoy and study birds. The insect eaters have migrated south, so there are fewer species to learn to recognize. Birds are more visible with snow cover and no leaves on the trees. They cluster around feeders, so you don't have to go far from the house to be entertained all day.

Some birds from up north come here to spend the winter. Juncos, American Tree Sparrows, and Purple Finches are common winter feeder birds. Some winters are good for more unusual birds like Common Redpolls, Red Crossbills and White-winged Crossbills, who come south when seed production is poor farther north. Redpolls may show up at your feeder. Crossbills feed on cone seeds – look for them in areas that have mature pines with a good cone crop.

Other visitors from the north include Snow Buntings, who like the wide-open windswept ridge tops, Golden Eagles who hunt the forest edges for squirrels and turkeys, and Northern Shrikes perching on a wire or atop small trees looking for small mammals. The resident Great Horned Owls are early nesters. Keep an ear open for their low hoots after sunset, as the pairs advertise their territories.

Information about birds in our area, including Great Horned Owl calls can be found on the KVR Bird Website, at <http://kvr.state.wi.us/Natural-Features/KVR-Birds/KVR-Bird-List/>. Websites with good tips on feeding birds: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/attracting/feeding/>; [http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/feeding\\_birds.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/feeding_birds.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/)

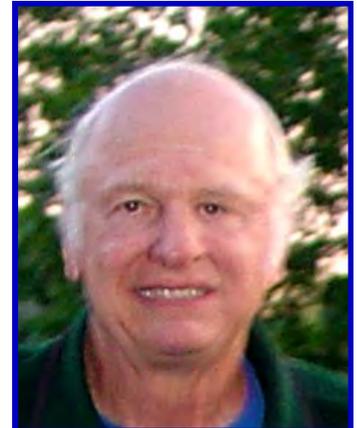


Photo by Dan Jackson

was successful, without losing a single finger to frost bite. Once fully established, the site will serve as a seed source for other plantings. If you would like to be added to the volunteer list for future stewardship projects and similar activities, contact the KVR office.



**FORMER KRMB MEMBER, SENN BROWN,** passed away November 17, 2015 in Madison. Senn's appointment to the Board as the Tourism and Education state-wide representative was confirmed by the state senate in 2001. He served on the KRMB in that capacity until his resignation in the spring of 2012. A celebration of Senn's life will be held at Olbrich Botanical Gardens from 1-4PM on Saturday, January 2. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to [Friends of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve](#), [MARC](#), or [Dreamweavers](#).



Started in 1900, the **Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** is the longest running Citizen Science project. After 115 years, the Count has grown to involve tens of thousands of volunteers at over 2300 locations throughout North America. Originally held on Christmas Day, surveys may occur on any day from December 14, 2015 to January 5, 2016. All birders are welcome to participate. Ideally teams will consist of 2-4 volunteers with a range experience levels. Beginners can help with driving and/or being spotters and counters. Experts are needed for species identification and mentoring of the beginners. This is an excellent opportunity for all birders to share stories and learn more about birds.

Some Local Counts....

Retreat: Thursday Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Chris West, Coordinator/Compiler  
[little\\_blue\\_birdie@msn.com](mailto:little_blue_birdie@msn.com)

Richland Center: Saturday Dec 19<sup>th</sup> Bob Hirschy Compiler  
[hirschys2@yahoo.com](mailto:hirschys2@yahoo.com)

La Crosse: Saturday Dec 19<sup>th</sup> Dan Jackson Compiler [dejackson2256@gmail.com](mailto:dejackson2256@gmail.com)

Upper Kickapoo (Norwalk, Wilton Ontario): Sunday Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Eric Epstein Compiler ([tickcity@centurytel.net](mailto:tickcity@centurytel.net))

La Farge Circle Saturday Dec 26<sup>th</sup> Ben Johnston Compiler  
[ben.johnston@wisconsin.gov](mailto:ben.johnston@wisconsin.gov)

# Friends

DECEMBER 2015, JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2016  
Volume 12, Issue 4

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF THE KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE

tel: (608) 625-2960

web: [kickapofriends.org](http://kickapofriends.org)



## NEW BOARD MEMBER & REORGANIZATION

**Larry Forkash, Member** - Larry and his wife Diana bought their rural setting, outside of Viola, in 1973. He taught at various public and private schools while raising a family. Gardening and being good stewards of the land are committed activities. Larry has attended many KVR functions and now wants to deepen his involvement in the mission and spirit of the Reserve. Left: Julie Hoel and Larry Forkash

**Janet Kruk, THANK YOU** - Larry replaced long-time board member and Secretary, Janet Kruk. She served on the Friends of the KVR board for two terms equaling 6 years. Some of Janet's contributions include heading the annual photography contest, newsletter and poster design, creation of the Friend to Friend event, being a superb event volunteer and photographer, and assisting with the gift shop.

**Reorganization** - Julie Hoel, President; Peg La Martina, Vice President; Don Nelson, Treasurer; Liz Daines, Secretary; Maureen Hysel, Member; Luke Zahm, Member; Larry Forkash, Member.

## Kickapoo Valley Reserve WINTER FESTIVAL January 9, 2016



## Volunteer Support Needed!

**GENERAL VOLUNTEERS:** Winter Festival is a big event on January 9<sup>th</sup> that requires volunteers for it to run safely and smoothly. Volunteer opportunities include dog handlers for dogsled race, tending warming fires, skating rink assistant, sledding hill referee, snow sculpture decorating assistant, etc.

**CONCESSION STAND VOLUNTEERS:** The KVR Friends will sell concessions at Winter Festival this year as a fundraiser from 10 am - 4 pm. Please consider volunteering an hour or two to help make this fundraiser successful.

**AUCTION ITEMS:** Proceeds from the Winter Festival auctions directly benefit the Education & Events Program at the KVR. Donations and frequent bids are greatly appreciated!

If you are interested in volunteering or have a donation for the auction, please contact Sadie Urban at [sadie.urban@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sadie.urban@wisconsin.gov) or 625-2967. Thank you!

## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the Friends of the KVR Annual Photography Contest! The Friends of the KVR appreciate all who entered and voted. Watch for a traveling digital picture frame highlighting contest entries from the past two years in your town. To schedule the traveling photo show contact [julievhoel@icloud.com](mailto:julievhoel@icloud.com).

Left: Best-of-Show Winner, Roger Hanson's "Light My Path"  
Below: Student Division Winner, Jennifer McNelly's "The Mighty Kickapoo"



## HOLIDAY HAPPENING RECAP

The Friends of the KVR held their annual holiday celebration on Saturday, December 5th. The event offered a craft sale; cookie sale; music concerts by local performers; silent auction; a soup meal for purchase; stargazing; photography contests awards; and music by Whisky Chicken. **Thank you to those who donated treats and volunteered!** Below: Viroqua Community Bell Choir



### 2016 NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS

[Print Membership Form](#) / [Renew Online](#)

Al & Laura Buss  
Barbara Duerksen & Stein Goering  
Larry & Diana Forkash  
Echo Valley Farm  
Lynn Foster  
Raymond & Michele Fronczak  
John & Linda Gambrell  
Donald Gore  
Steve & Geri Hall  
Chuck & Gwen Hatfield  
Paul & Bernadette Hayes  
John Heasley  
Julie & Gil Hoel  
Mark & Monica Jagel  
Don Foy & Joan Kent  
Mark Katz & Janet Kruk  
Marjie & John La Favor  
Aileen & Ron Luethe  
Erin Malone & Jason Vidas  
Herbert Paaren & Denise Marino  
Dave & Brenda Maxwell  
Gita McGee  
Sharon Miessner & Randall Juenemann  
Georgia Mommaerts  
Ruth Muller  
Don & Carol Nelson  
T. Ostenso  
Winston & Cheryl Ostrow  
Peggy & Chuck Pasker  
Joe & Carol Persons  
Kurt & Joan Peterson  
Susan Reed & Peter Schmidt  
Dave, Mary & Leeta Russell  
David & Barb Sarnowski  
Michael & Kelly Scheder  
Mike & Bonni Schmitz  
Larry & Anne Schoenemann  
Bernice Schroeder  
Joann Scribbins  
Freddie & Joanne Shird  
Nancy & PJ Sikorsky  
Mary Bennet & Daryl Skrupky  
Joyce & Kent Steinmetz  
Phil & Cathy Stittleburg  
Bruce & Emily Sytsma  
David & Karen Theis  
Hilda J Richey & Christine Violet  
Sue Weinauer  
Gary & Phyllis Winkler  
Deb & Larry Winzenried  
Nick & Tavniah Wroblewski  
Ole Yttri