



# Kickapoo Valley Reserve



## UPDATE



Winter 2012; Volume 16.4.1

### What's Happening!

- Dec. 19 - *Driftless Dialogue: Local Water Quality Efforts* - 6:30PM
- Dec. 20 - KRMB Mtg. - 7PM
- Dec. 31 - Pheasant Season Closes
- Jan. 9 - Land Management Mtg. - 5:30PM
- Jan. 12 - Winter Festival - 8-4PM
- Jan. 17 - KRMB Mtg. - 7PM
- Jan. 19 - Cross-country Ski Workshop - 1-4PM
- Jan. 26 - Dam Phunski - 10AM-1PM
- Feb. 7 - Education & Tourism Mtg. - 5:30PM
- Feb. 9 - Ice Cave Hike - 12:30-4PM
- Feb. 21 - KRMB Mtg. - 7PM
- Feb. 23 - Coiling with Walnut Petioles & Seagrass - 10AM-2PM
- Feb. 27 - *Driftless Dialogue: Birds & Habitats of the KVR* - 6:30PM
- Mar. 2 - Early Catch & Release Trout Season Opens
- Mar. 8 - Visiting Artist Event - 8AM-3PM
- Mar. 9 - Art Show & Sale - 8AM-4:30PM
- Mar. 13 - Land Management Mtg. - 5:30PM
- Mar. 21 - KRMB Mtg. - 7PM

### SEEKING WINTER FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS!!!



Contact the Reserve Visitor Center if you're interested in some frosty, fabulous volunteer opportunities! - 608/625-2960 or [kickapoo.reserve@krm.state.wi.us](mailto:kickapoo.reserve@krm.state.wi.us).



## Kickapoo Valley Reserve WINTER FESTIVAL JANUARY 12, 2013

All daytime activities held at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. State Highway 131, 1.5 miles north of La Farge. Activities subject to change due to weather.

8 AM – 4:30 PM: Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center & Exhibits open

9 AM – 4 PM: Skating, Sledding, Snowshoeing; Concessions

10 – 10:30 AM: Natural History Ice Caves Presentation

10 AM – 3 PM: Tri-state Alaskan Malamute Club Sled Dog Race; Snow Sculpture Demo; Horse-drawn Bobsled Rides; All Ages Archery; Snowshoe Exhibit; Games and Activities; Concessions; **NEW!** Ho-Chunk Traditional Songs by East Fork Singers

10:30 AM – 11:30 PM: Birds of Prey Presentation



10:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Natural History Ice Cave Guided Hike (difficult hiking, steep, slippery, etc.); Face Painting for Kids

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM: Chili & Bread Contest Sampling (small fee/person)

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM: **NEW!** Flintknapping Workshop; Winter Wildlife Presentation

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM: Children's Stories & Craft (3-6 yrs. w/parent)

1 – 2:30 PM: **Kickapoo Quick & Silent Auction** – Proceeds benefit the KVR Education Program; Chili and Bread Winners Announced

2:30 – 3:00 PM: Beaver Habitat Presentation (difficult hiking, steep, slippery, etc.); **NEW!** Ice Luminary Workshop

3:00 – 4:30 PM: Beaver Habitat Hike; Mutt Race



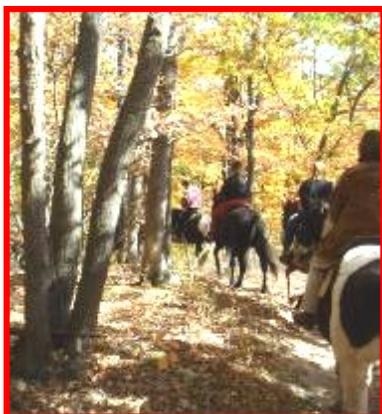
4:30 – 7:00 PM @ La Farge Community Center: Family Square Dance & Dinner sponsored by Driftless Folk School. Admission \$5/person or \$10 per family.

5:00 PM – 9:00 PM @ Wildcat Mountain State Park: Candlelight Hike & Winter Astronomy

**WINTER FESTIVAL**



**FALL TRAIL RIDE**



photos courtesy of Jackie Yocum



**OCTOBER 6, 2012**  
**Winner - Dan Goltz**  
**2 hours, 10 minutes, 9 seconds**



**Winner of the 1st Place**  
**Dam Challenge Raffle -**  
**Carol Willis**



## HUNTING SEASON WRAPUP

The hunting seasons are wrapping up, and it appears to have been a pretty successful season for hunters on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. The opening days of small game, bow deer, pheasant, and gun deer seasons saw a large number of users on the property. It was again a very safe season with no hunting accidents reported within the 8,569 acres.

This year we confiscated a number of tree stands on the Reserve. Hunters are reminded that portable tree stands and blinds may be used provided they are removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours. No person may cause damage to trees by the placement or erection of portable tree stands or by any other manner while climbing or hunting from a tree. Failing to follow this rule will result in confiscation of the tree stand and/or a \$200 fine. In addition to resource protection, the intent behind the rule is that someone cannot “stake a claim” to a spot on public property. The Reserve is also different from other public properties that are managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Kickapoo Reserve Management Board sets policy and rule for the Reserve, therefore the new DNR policy which allows placement of trail cameras on “DNR managed lands” does not apply to the Reserve. Trail cameras are not allowed to be placed on the Reserve.

This year we released approximately 1,980 pheasants on the Reserve. The pheasants are provided through the Poynette Game Farm and dropped off here at the Reserve for us to release. Our last release of birds was December 5. Pheasant season ends December 31. Other seasons that are still going on are fall turkey season which ends December 31, bow deer ends January 6, squirrel hunting ends January 31, and rabbit hunting ends February 28. Coyote hunting is open year-round. Trapping season is also in full swing with raccoon and fox hunting and trapping ending February 15, muskrat and mink trapping ends February 28, and beaver trapping ends March 31.

## LET IT SNOW!

As the snow starts to fly, we are switching out the wheels on our ATV for tracks. We will be grooming ski trails again this year, with about seven miles of trails planned. A map of what will be groomed is available at the Visitor Center and on our website. You can get on the trails at the Visitor Center, Old 131 at CTH P, Old 131 near Rockton, Old 131 at the south gate by the dam, and Star Valley Road. Old 131 and Star Valley Road will be groomed for both skating and diagonal striding. There is a trail around the dam, and a couple others off of Old 131 that are diagonal striding only. We generally need a six-inch base before trails will be groomed for skiing. Snowshoeing and hiking are allowed anywhere on the Reserve, but please do not hike or snowshoe on the groomed cross-country ski tracks or snowmobile trail.

A trail pass is required to hike, snowshoe, or ski on the Reserve. We have a large selection of youth and adult snowshoes at the Visitor Center. Adults can check them out for \$2.50 a pair per day and the youth sizes are free to use on the Reserve. We also have a limited number of skis available to use for free. Check snow conditions via the Wisconsin Tourism website, <http://travelwisconsin.com>. Let's just hope we get snow this year!

## NATURE NOTES

by Paul Hayes, KRMB member

The Citizen Scientist: In recent years universities and governmental agencies have developed programs that enlist the help of citizens to contribute to our understanding of the environment. Here in the Kickapoo Valley the birding community participates in the **Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, Project Feeder Watch** and the annual **Crane Count**. The KVR has opportunities for monitoring bats, amphibians and reptiles and native plants. The **Valley Stewardship Network** has an active water quality monitoring program as well as monitoring mussels and invasive species.

Some of these efforts are simple lists and counts of organisms. Most, however, allow for ranking of each species which then allows for calculation of a quality index. For example all native Wisconsin plants have been assigned a value from 1 – 10 with 1 being a common native weed and 10 indicating a species that requires a pristine environment. Data collected by citizens are entered into state-wide, national or international data sets which are available to professional scientists and resource managers. For example, Cornell University's **e-bird** records over a million bird sightings every month and is using this data to document the environmental impact of climate changes.

To get involved, “google” any of the bold items above, check out the DNR web site or talk to Kickapoo Reserve staff.



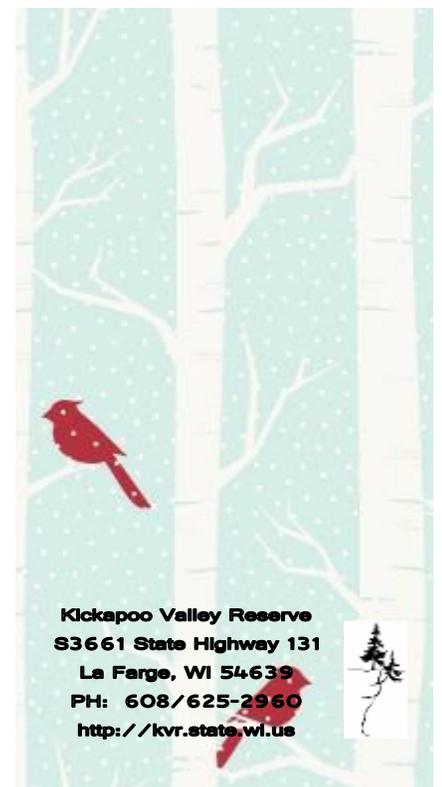
## FAREWELL TO OUR FRIEND...

Chuck Reynolds, of rural La Farge and a good friend of the Reserve, passed away Thursday, December 6, at the age of 65. Chuck especially enjoyed biking the Old 131 Trail on the Reserve; and, with his wife Patricia, raised four boys who frequent the Reserve as well.

Chuck was a constant volunteer for events at the Reserve, was an original board member of the Friends of the Reserve, and served as Treasurer of that organization for many years. He was a kind and gentle man and will be missed by all who knew him.



Chuck's photo - courtesy of Janet Kruk



**Kickapoo Valley Reserve**  
**S3661 State Highway 131**  
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**PH: 608/625-2960**  
**<http://kvr.state.wi.us>**

