

update

KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE NEWSLETTER



Photo by Amy Dvorak

Celebrating 25 years of Preserving and Protecting

A Rededication Ceremony and Reception was held on June 7, 2025, at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center to commemorate 25 years of the work of so many to preserve and protect the cultural and natural resources of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

Thank you to all who attended this momentous occasion. There were over 175 attendees who enjoyed remarks from Ho-Chunk Chief Clayton Winneshiek, a representative from Senator Tammy Baldwin’s office, Senator Brad Pfaff, Representative Tara Johnson, Friends of KVR President, Ashley Baker, and KRMB Member Bill Quackenbush. KRMB Secretary, Luke Zahm expertly led the gathering as Master of Ceremonies.

Delectable food was donated by Driftless Cafe and Cowboy David’s Bakery. Drinks, socializing and music were enjoyed by all. A nod of continued appreciation to our valued and steadfast supporters who provided commemorative gifts for attendees: Wonderstate Coffee, Go Macro, Organic Valley, Ho-Chunk Nation, and Friends of KVR. As they say, “ A good time was had by all”.



Special thanks to:
Ho Chunk Nation
Friends of KVR
Driftless Cafe
Cowboy David’s Bakery
Go Macro
Organic Valley
Wonderstate Coffee
for contributions
supporting the
celebration



Photo by Jackie Yocum



WHAT'S HAPPENING

- June 23-27 | Where the Wild Things Are Camp 9am-2:30pm
- June 23-26 | Kinder Camp 9-11:30am
- June 26 | KRMB meeting 6pm
- July 4 | Old Highway 131 Trail Vehicle Tour 12-4pm
- July 4 | Friends of KVR Old Hwy 131 Tour reception 10am – 4pm at the Visitor Center
- July 4 | Driftless Dialogue: Driftless Memories 5:30-7:30pm
- July 7-11 | Four Elements Camp 9am-2:30pm
- July 7-11 | Wonder Wanderers Camp 9am-2pm
- July 7-11 | Kinder Camp 9-11:30am
- July 8 | Land Management Committee Meeting 5:30pm
- July 13 | Friends of KVR Garden Tour
- July 14-18 | Wilderness Adventure Camp 9am-3pm
- July 14-18 | Nature Nuts Camp 9am-2:30pm
- July 17 | KRMB meeting 6pm
- July 21-25 | Black Ghost Fly Fishing Camp 9am-3pm
- July 21-25 | Trail Trekkers Camp 9am-2pm
- July 21-24 | Leadership Trail Camp 9am-3pm
- July 28-Aug 1 | Black Ghost Fly Fishing Camp 9am-3pm
- July 28-Aug 1 | Wilderness Adventure Camp 9am-3pm
- Aug 4 | Finance Committee Meeting 9am
- Aug 4-7 | Waterways Camp 9am-3pm
- Aug 4-7 | Wild World of Plants Camp 9am-2pm
- Aug 13 | Driftless Dialogue – Indigenous Stories - Dugout Canoe
- Aug 21 | KRMB meeting 6pm
- Oct 3 | Friends of KVR Pasta Supper 5pm
- Oct 4 | Dam Challenge Triathlon
- Dec 6 | Friends of KVR Holiday Happening 1pm
- Jan 10 | Winter Festival

Directors Discourse

BY JASON LEIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I would like to thank everyone who came out to support and celebrate with us at the 25th Anniversary Celebration on June 7th. I would especially like to thank our partners at the Ho-Chunk Nation, past and present Board members, past and present staff, and past and present elected officials that turned out. It was great to catch up with all of you and you should be very proud of what we have accomplished together over the past 25 years. It was a great reminder of why we need to protect and preserve what we have on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve for future generations.



KVR Staff aka tent crew!

For those of you who were unable to attend, we did video the presentation and it will be available soon to view on our website. As summer is in full swing, so are our summer camps and all the outdoor fun that goes along with them.

We've been seeing many fawns in the area and numerous turtles have come up to the Visitor Center to lay their eggs. We received 1600 milkweed plants through a grant, so if you are looking for something to do, give us a call and we'll put you to work, the monarchs will thank you! Hope you are having a great start to your summer.

Jason



25th Anniversary guests arriving



KVR 25th Year Rededication Ceremony

Value in Protection

If you haven't ventured out to the woods lately... WHY NOT? We are seeing great things as the season unfolds with each new day bringing new discoveries.

Fawns emerging on shaky, pencil thin legs to frolic in their first rainstorm. The steady work of a cliff swallow building their mud nest, just in time to hold their brood. A walk in the woods is different each time. We value each experience and opportunity we get to preserve and protect the amazing Kickapoo Valley Reserve, we hope you do too!



Mycena leuciana - orange mycena along Wintergreen Bluff Trail

Seasonal Field Notes



Snapping turtle nest: Warmer incubation temperatures produce female hatchlings, while cooler temperatures result in males.

Welcome Jesse - KVR Police Officer/Property Manager

My name is Jesse Haney and I am the newly hired Police Officer and Property Manager. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve the State of Wisconsin by working for the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. I am a native of the Driftless area, growing up just outside of Norwalk, WI. My background is primarily in Law Enforcement, I spent the last 10 years working in federal law enforcement specializing in Conservation Law Enforcement at Fort McCoy, WI. I passionately feel an important part of conservation is enforcement; conservation regulations and laws are created by the experts to ensure that the resources are protected, and law enforcement's role is to ensure that the measures taken are practiced.

I grew up partaking in outdoor recreation. I have fond memories on the water with my dad fishing lakes all over the north woods. As a child I frequently camped in the woods behind our house with my friends and have a strong appreciation of nature. I enjoy hiking and camping with my family. Being a lifelong resident of Wisconsin I feel vested in the natural resources of the state and have a passion for preserving them for future generations. I am glad to have the opportunity to be part of the KVR team.



Jesse Haney & Family



Green Snake in a material pile

Education Corner

GOOD NEWS

“The joy this immersive nature camp brings my son is immeasurable!”

LEARN MORE ABOUT SUMMER CAMPS...

Spring Wrap up

BY AMBER BURCH - KVR STAFF

Spring was a busy one for KVR Education. For the month of May alone, 15 school groups visited the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Many of them chose to participate in our stewardship program, where students learned about invasive species and how they impact a habitat. That learning was promptly followed up by a rousing few rounds of tug-a suckle, a game of tug-of-war with invasive honeysuckle bushes along the Visitor Center Loop. The plants were tough, but these kids were tougher! Thanks to their hard work, many native habitats will be restored back to the landscape!



Nature Bound spring session

Nature Bound Book Program

Shout out to those who have donated books to the Nature Bound Book Program and KVR Education Libraries! Thanks to: Driftless Books & Music, Lawton Memorial Library, Friends of the Hillsboro Library and McIntosh Memorial Library! Also, Bookshop.org doesn't show us who the donors of any given book are, but we are grateful for each you have given! If you're interested in donating a book to our KVR Education Library or to our Nature Bound Book Program for students of our multi-week programs, click the following link to view the books on our wish list!



NATURE BOUND

Kickapoo Valley Reserve
ENVIRO-EDVENTURE
PROGRAMS



Summer Camp - Black Ghost Fly Fishing

Summer Adventure Camps

Summer is just beginning but we've been celebrating it for a few weeks now! With 17 summer camps, we've got at least one camp running nearly every week between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We're excited to offer camps with different topics and activity levels for campers ages 2 through 17 and love seeing their excitement and intrigue grow at the world around them. From the big pine trees to the little water bugs, our campers are realizing there is something to marvel at everywhere you look!



Full nature immersion camps for all ages

2025 Summer Adventure Camps

- Ages 2-3 Forest Friends - completed
- Ages 4-5 Kinder Camp - up next!
- Ages 6-7 Wonder Wanderers, Trail Trekkers
- Ages 8-10 Where the Wild Things Are, Art Sprouts, Nature Nuts, Four Elements
- Ages 11-14 Wild World of Plants, Wilderness Adventure Camp
- Ages 11-17 Camp Inspire - completed
- Ages 13-17 Leadership Trail Camp, Black Ghost Fly Fishing, Waterways Camp

 **REGISTER NOW**

Education Corner

GOOD TO KNOW

Summer Camp registration is open. There are spots available in upcoming camps! Register your child today!

REACH OUT HERE



Summer Camp - Wild World of Plants

On 8600 Acres

GOOD TO KNOW

Recreation Reminders

- Leave No Trace
- Camp in designated spots only
- All dogs must be on leash
April 15- July 31
- Horse & bike trails are subject to closure in wet conditions
- Day or Annual Passes are required
- E-bikes are not allowed without special permit
- Parking passes at river landings are required
- State Park or Trail Passes do not apply on the KVR

Trail Talk - Little Canada

BY MACEY WOOD & COLENE GREFE - KVR STAFF

As field crew members of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, we get to explore all the trails, but Little Canada is one we always look forward to working on. We're usually out there doing trail checks or maintenance, and even though we've been on the trail many times, it never gets old.

Little Canada is full of that deep-wood peaceful vibe. The trail winds through tall pines and thick green undergrowth that make it feel like you're in the middle of nowhere, in the best way. In some spots you can see the ponds that are off the beaten path. It's cool and shady, high above, with patches of moss growing on the trees and vines winding down from the tops of the trees. There are wildflowers that pop in the spring and summer, but the sides of the trail are mainly covered in different types of ferns. It's one of the quietest and calmest parts of the Reserve.

When we're out there, we see and hear all kinds of wildlife, deer, turkeys, birds, frogs, owls, and sometimes even a fox if you're early enough in the day. The air smells fresh, and there's always something moving in the trees. It's a great reminder of why this place matters and why we do what we do.

In our opinion, Little Canada Trail is definitely one of the most beautiful trails on the KVR. If you're looking for a quiet spot to walk or ride, take in some scenery, and maybe see some wildlife, this trail is worth the time. We're out there regularly and still stop just to take it all in.



Swans with cygnets on the Visitor Center Pond



Western Forktail Damselfly

Wild Parsnip

BY AMY DVORAK - KVR STAFF

What is it: Wild parsnip, or *Pastinaca sativa*, is an invasive herbaceous perennial in the carrot, or Apiaceae, family. The rosette, or lower, leaves are pinnately compound with 5-15 broad, ovate to oblong leaflets. The stem leaves are alternate with 2-5 pairs of opposite, sharply toothed leaflets. The flowers are numerous yellow flowers in 2-6" wide umbels at the tops of the stems and branches. It can grow to 5' tall. The fruits are flat and smooth.

Where is it found: This species is most often found in grassland areas near or along roadsides; however, it also invades prairies, oak savannas, old fields, and pastures. It can grow in nearly any habitat type except very shaded areas. It is widespread in Wisconsin. The KVR works to control this invasive near our trails and campsites. It was first discovered in Wisconsin prior to 1900!

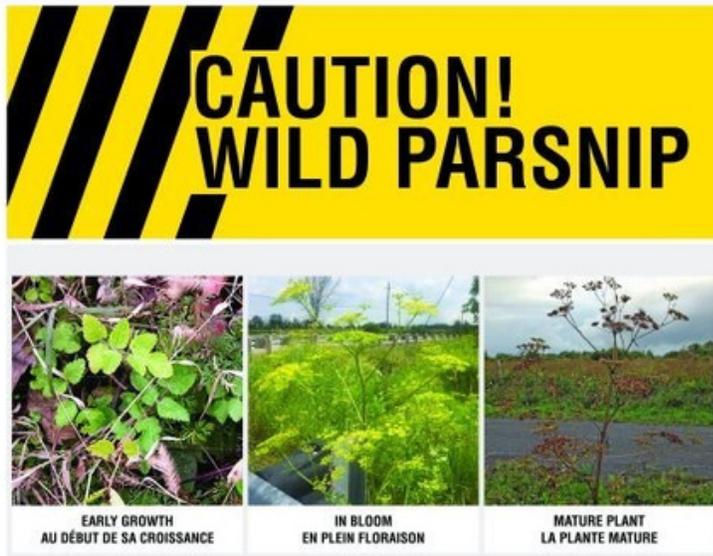
Notable information: When the sap of wild parsnip makes contact with the skin, it can cause severe rashes, blisters, and skin discoloration known as phytophotodermatitis when exposed to sunlight. Always wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, pants, boots, and eye protection when working near this plant.

On 8600 Acres

GOOD TO KNOW

Pro Tip: Work after sunset on wild parsnip control. Handle the plants confidently when there is no sunlight.

LEARN MORE



Lookalikes:

- Golden Alexander, or *Zizia aurea*, is shorter and its leaves only have 3-7 leaflets.
- American cow-parsonip, or *Heracleum maximum*, has white flowers. The leaves are deeply lobed, rather than pinnately compound like wild parsnip. Note that this species also causes phytophotodermatitis. The fruits are hairy.
- Great Angelica, or *Angelica atropurpurea*, has similar pinnately divided leaves, but they are on a 2-4" stalk while wild parsnip leaves are stalkless. The flowers are white to green in color, and the fruits are hairy.



Hey, come on folks! What if this was in your yard? Leave No Trace!

After Dark Activities

GOOD TO KNOW

Half the park is after dark!

[LEARN MORE](#)



Invitation to a Night Walk

BY SUSAN CUSHING - MASTER NATURALIST & DARK SKIES ADVOCATE

Are you interested in a summer adventure? How about seeing something especially beautiful, or unusual? Would you like to be inspired, or maybe challenged just a little? All that and more is available to you in a stroll through the summer night.

When you're visiting the KVR plan your activities to include sunset and some of the night. The Old 131 Trail is the perfect place to learn about what's going on in Nature after dark. It offers easy walking through marsh, woods, fields, past ponds and over the river. At any time of year this trail is visited by birds and animals that live here. The diversity of trees and other plants create many small ecosystems to explore.



Not familiar with walking in the dark? It's worth exploring. Here are some ideas to make it easy.

First, turn your phone off! Walk out from your car or campsite just far enough to be in the dark, then stop and simply watch for a while. It takes a few minutes for the life around you to return to activity after human movement so the less you move the more you see. To protect your night vision use a red light if necessary. Breathe, watch and listen. You can enjoy the night by simply doing this. In the dark your hearing, sense of smell and touch are enhanced. Does the air temperature change from place to place? What does your nose tell you about the plants around you? Can you smell the water, the trees or the field of grass?

Amid all the life along the trail, there may be special surprises such as a field full of lightning bugs, or the falling stars of a summer meteor shower, or a muskrat family swimming on the pond. Do you hear birds, or insects calling? A turtle on her way to another pond, bats catching a meal on the wing, a coyote singing in the distance allow a glimpse of the life all around you. Each one may offer a special experience not easily found during daylight hours.

For more adventure walk slowly along the trail, stopping frequently. Pay attention to your hearing, sense of smell, and how your feet feel on the ground. These things are important for being comfortable walking in the night. The more often you walk at night the more you will find those magical moments no one can plan for or guarantee, but that are there for anyone with curiosity and patience.



Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center Garden

Drive the Driftless - Garden Tour

Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve invite everyone to join in on the 2025 Drive the Driftless Garden Tour.

Tour inspiring gardens around the area while supporting the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

Date: Sunday, July 13, 2025

Time: 10am to 4pm

Tickets: \$15

[Purchase tickets online](#) or at the KVR Visitor Center



Friends of KVR Call for Volunteers

Friends of KVR is excited to announce a new direction for the biannual newsletter! Starting this fall, you can get all of your FoKVR updates alongside the KVR newsletter, including volunteer spotlights, event recaps, human interest stories, and more. The fall newsletter's features will include:

- FoKVR volunteer spotlight: Tell us about your work and let us celebrate your contributions.
- Ask a Friend: What are your favorite winter spots on the reserve?
- Featured photos: Send us photos you've taken at Friends events or while visiting the KVR, and we'll feature them in future issues.
- KVR memories: Tell us about a cherished memory of the KVR, like a friend you made at an event, something you learned, a moment of peace, etc. Feel free to include a photo if you'd like.

As part of this effort, we are also looking for volunteers with an interest in writing and/or interviewing for the sections above. If you are interested in writing, interviewing, or being featured, please email info@kickapoofriends.org.

We would like to thank Joan Kent and Susan Reed for their tireless work on the newsletter over the years, and all of the volunteers who have helped us spread the word about Friends of KVR.



Check out the new bike repair station at the Visitor Center! This addition is made possible by the generosity of Friends of KVR members!

thank you



Friends of KVR News



OLD 131 TRAIL OPEN
ONE WAY VEHICLE TRAFFIC
ANNUAL HISTORIC TOUR

JULY 4TH

NOON - 4PM

Friends of KVR host a reception with cookies and cold drinks at the Visitor Center during the July 4th Old Hwy 131 Driving Tour. Everyone is welcome to stop in.



New T-Shirts in the Gift Shop!





Naturalist Notes

GOOD TO KNOW

Explore dark sky lighting and take action to protect the night sky.

LEARN MORE HERE

Dark Sky Lighting at the KVR - Golden!

The KVR is taking action to further reduce contributions to increasingly bright local night skies by replacing nearly all of the outdoor fixtures and adding controls to minimize when they are on. Lights we use to navigate at night are available in various colors. We talk about lights being “warm” or “cool”. The lights at the KVR are now “warm” GOLDEN!!



Downward pointing, warm, outdoor lighting on the deck

Thanks to Friends of KVR for funding the dark sky friendly lighting changes at the Visitor Center and the KVR Maintenance Building. Also, a big thank you to [Kickapoo Valley Dark Sky Initiative](#) for their tireless efforts to provide the most innovative information and product suggestions.



Shielded, warm, outdoor lighting at the Visitor Center



Outdoor lighting at the KVR before



Outdoor lighting at the KVR after



Shielded warm lighting



Night sky view from the Visitor Center deck

THE KICKAPOO VALLEY DARK SKY INITIATIVE OBTAINED 501(C)(3) STATUS TO CONTINUE THE WORK NEEDED TO BRING DARK SKIES BACK TO THE KICKAPOO VALLEY. WATCH FOR UPDATES ON HOW TO JOIN, DONATE AND GET INVOLVED IN PROTECTING OUR DARK SKIES





Are you Tuned in?

BY CATHY CHYBOWSKI - KVR NATURALIST

Like humans, wildlife communicate with their voices. In mid-winter, listen for the deep hooting of the great-horned owl followed a month or two later by the “who cooks for you, who cooks for you all” of the barred owl. By day, one can hear the chattering of squirrels and nearly every night, the howling of coyotes. Chickadees and cardinals sound off at this time too with both male and female cardinals singing in a duet, and the drumming of woodpeckers and ruffed grouse echo throughout the land. Spring is when nature really begins to sing. As the ice recedes from the lakes and the water warms to 46 degrees, three species of frogs emerge from their winter slumber. Air and water temperatures determine when the males begin to call in order to attract females. These are not subtle songsters! Listen carefully, for the chorus frog sounds similar to running your fingernail down a comb, wood frogs chime in with a hoarse quacking and a full chorus of spring peepers sounds like sleigh bells ringing. This early season cacophony yields to the leopard and pickerel frogs with their unique “songs”— mostly snores and grunts. The toad’s long trill, often heard by mid-May, is perhaps the most musical of the amphibian voices. The green frog chimes in with its “twang of a loose banjo string,” and the bullfrog performs the final act with its deep resonating foghorn like call.

As the avian migrants begin to arrive in March and April, the spring cacophony intensifies with added tweets, trills, peeps and whistles. Robins, bluebirds, skeins of honking geese, and red-winged blackbirds are

among the first to arrive, or perhaps they never left to begin with. Who can ignore the song sparrow’s cheerful “hip hip hoorah guys, spring is here” song? The unison call of the sandhill crane, the trumpeter swan’s bugling, the courtship song of the woodcock and fox sparrow’s clear whistles are true signs of spring. As the season progresses, the musical notes of the meadowlark, field sparrow and bobolink dominate the grasslands. Nighthawks and whip-poor-wills fill the night with repeated nasal peenting and whip’-poor-will’ sounds.

Songbirds learn to sing the song of their species using a specialized voice box called the syrinx. Each species has a repertoire of calls and songs used for different purposes. Many of the warblers sing one song to warn competing males to stay away and another song for courtship. The two-branched syrinx enables some birds to make two pitches at once; the wood thrush can sing rising and falling notes at the same time resulting in beautiful flute-like music. Catbirds, brown thrashers and mockingbirds can mimic other bird songs, and even cats and car alarms. By mid-summer the insect musicians fill the soundscape with chirps, trills, whines and buzzes. Grasshoppers and cicadas sing only by day, katydids only at night and field crickets sing day or night. Insect song speeds up as the temperature Type increases. Curiously the snowy tree cricket’s chirp can be used to estimate the air temperature. Count the number of songs in 13 seconds and add 40 to get the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit..

Naturalist Notes

GOOD TO KNOW

Get the Merlin App!!

[IDENTIFY BIRDS HERE](#)



Wood thrush from Westborough Community Land Trust



Volunteer Spotlight

Everybody Wins!

Volunteer opportunities on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve are plentiful. From stewardship and habitat improvement projects to folding brochures, there are opportunities for nearly everyone. It is a wonderful opportunity to get outside in nature, do good for our wild areas, right before your eyes! Interested in helping with education programs at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve? We can hook you up! We have a full schedule and can always use extra hands. Reach out to us for more information 608-625-2960



Wisconsin Challenge Academy Cadets



Student Stewardship Projects



Stewardship Volunteers. Photo by Jackie Yonson

We've spent some "quality time" in the woods already this growing season. Crews and volunteers attacked invasive species including garlic mustard and honeysuckle. A special thanks goes out to Organic Valley for sharing their employees for over 400 volunteer hours so far in 2025, with more volunteer days to come! When you see those yellow volunteer vests out there, make sure you tell them THANK YOU!

We initiated a great stewardship program this spring to benefit both the KVR and visiting school groups. Youth learned valuable stewardship lessons, plant id, saved their school some money, explored team building and benefited habitats within the KVR all in the same program. Everybody wins!

If you're interested in volunteering for habitat improvement or other stewardship projects, send us an email at Kickapoo.reserve@krm.state.wi.us or visit our Volunteer page <http://kvr.state.wi.us/Get-Involved/Volunteer>

Honoring Ho Chunk Culture



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

2025 HO-CHUNK NATION

SUMMER SOLSTICE

CULTURE EVENT

FRIDAY
JUNE 20TH

10:00 AM
TO 4:00 PM

KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE CENTER S3661 WI-131
LAFARGE, WI 54639

EVENT ACTIVITIES

Food Foraging Tours | Traditional Food & Drink |
Lacrosse Games | Men's Moccasin Games |
Women's Kasu Games | Environmental/Cultural
Education Walks | KVR Environmental Display
Tables | HCN Artisan Tables

Contact us: Bill.Quackenbush@ho-chunk.com |
Clayton.Winneshiek@ho-chunk.com | Ken.Lewis@ho-chunk.com |
Eliza.Green@ho-chunk.com

What's Happening



OLD 131 TRAIL OPEN
ONE WAY VEHICLE TRAFFIC
ANNUAL HISTORIC TOUR

JULY 4TH

NOON - 4PM
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE
608-625-2960

July 4th Vehicle Tour

Old Hwy 131 Trail

Noon - 4pm

Enter off of Corps Road

One Way - South to North

Driftless Dialogue Lecture Series

Driftless Memories

Sharing stories from the past of our land and people

Presenter: Brad Steinmetz

Date: July 4, 2025

Time: 6pm

Location: KVR Visitor Center

Indigenous Stories - Dugout Canoe

Sharing indigenous knowledge and stories of the river and dugout canoe.

Presenter: Bill Quackenbush

Date: August 13, 2025

Time: 6pm

Location: KVR Visitor Center



Driftless Dialogue presents

Driftless
Memories

Sharing stories from the past of our land and people

with Brad Steinmetz

July 4, 2025
Socializing at 5:30pm
Talk at 6pm

Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center
S3661 State Road 131
La Farge, Wisconsin 54639

Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve

Summer Phenology

PLANTS

CANADA ANEMONE OR WINDFLOWER (ANEMONE CANADENSIS)



Where to find: These pretty flowers grow in moist to wet meadows and streambanks. Explore the Big Valley Trail between Bridges 9 & 10 to find some. The plants can grow up to 2 feet, making them easier to spot.

Fun Fact: Windflowers are a host plant for the veiled ear moth (*Loscopia velata*) and the one-lined Sparganothis (*Sparganothis unifasciana*). They provide pollen to a wide variety of native bees, and also attracts predatory and

parasitoid wasps that prey on common insect pests. Canada windflower *Anemone canadensis* from New England Wild Flower Society

COMMON MILKWEED (ASCLEPIAS SYRIACA)



Where to Find: Common Milkweed is, well, common! You can find it in many locations in KVR. Since it is a prairie plant, a good hike to spot it is along the West Ridge Trail at the south end of KVR.

Fun Fact: During World War II, the regular material used to stuff life jackets was in short supply, so milkweed floss (the fluff attached to seeds) was used as a substitute—it is about six times more buoyant

than cork! [Common Milkweed: Milkweed Uses and Natural Remedies](#) | [The Old Farmer's Almanac](#)

CRITTERS

MILKWEED TUSSOCK MOTH (EUCHAETES EGLE)



Milkweed Tussock Moth (*Euchaetes egle*)

Where to find: Once you find some common milkweed plants in KVR, look for caterpillars on the underside of leaves. They have bright black, orange and white fuzzy hairs, but don't touch them – their hairs can irritate your skin. [Meet the Milkweed Tussock Moth and](#)

[Caterpillar - Birds and Blooms](#)

Fun Fact: We usually associate Monarch butterflies with milkweed, but the Milkweed Tussock Moth caterpillars feed on milkweed plants too. Unlike Monarch caterpillars, Tussock Moth eggs are laid in a large mass. When the eggs develop into caterpillars, they can consume entire milkweed plants.

Euchaetes egle - Milkweed Tussock Moth | Prairie Haven

PAINTED TURTLE (CHRYSEMYS PICTA)



Where to Find: Usually we find turtles near one of the ponds or marshes in KVR, possibly sunning itself on a rock or even on Old 131 by Bridge 18.

Fun Fact: Female turtles will travel up to a mile away to find the perfect spot to lay eggs! The turtle pictured had climbed lots of rocks and ground in KVR to reach her nesting spot.

Phenology means 'the study of appearance' or the timing of seasonal events in nature.

BIRDS

AMERICAN REDSTART (S. RUTICILLA)



Where to Find: Redstarts naturally prefer "second-growth" forests with quickly-growing trees, so they are better adapted to human development activities than some other birds. They also like to hang around water, a good

place to find bugs to eat! You might find them near Bridge 13 on the Old 131 trail.

Fun Fact: Like other warblers, Redstarts will eat insects right off the leaf or branch. But Redstarts also hunt insects in flight (more than most warblers), competing with the masters of in-flight insect hunting, the flycatchers. [11 Facts About American Redstarts \(Photos\) - Bird Feeder Hub](#)

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (SPHYRAPICUS VARIUS)



Where to Find: Sapsuckers live in deciduous forests where they feed, especially on birches and maples. Ebird has a report earlier this year of seeing one near Bridge 9 in KVR. **Fun fact:** The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker frequently uses human-produced

materials to help in its territorial drumming. Street signs and metal chimney flashing amplify the irregular tapping of a territorial sapsucker. The sapsucker seems to suffer no ill effects of whacking its bill on metal, and a bird will return to a favorite sign day after day to pound out its Morse code-like message. [Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Overview, All About Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology.](#)



Former & current KRMB Chairs - Dick Wallin & Travis Downing.

25th Anniversary Rededication



Photographic timeline display of 25 years.



KVR Staff preparing for the event.



Photographic timeline display of 25 years.



The infamous KVR Brew Canoe!



Guests viewing the 25 year timeline.



June sunrise on Blackhawk Rock



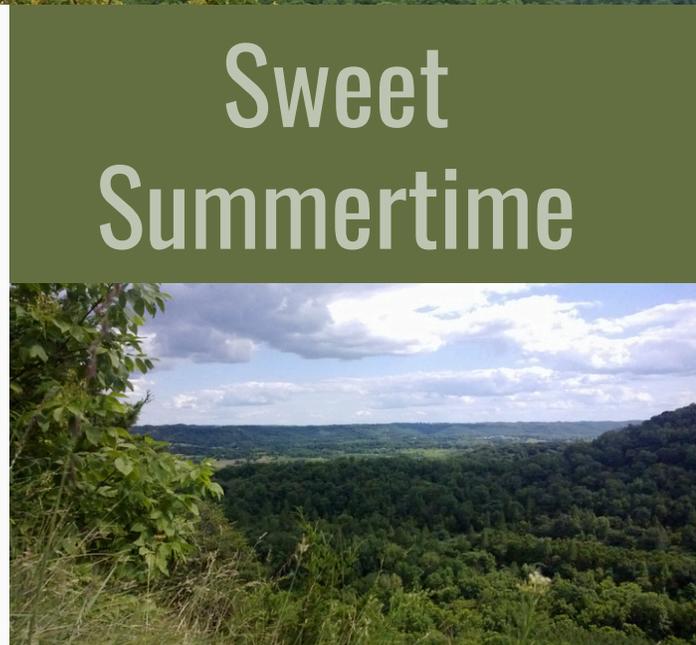
Momma Snapping Turtle laying eggs.



Beware of Wild Parsnip!



Summer Camp!



Sweet Summertime

Summer view from Hanson Rock.



Making Summer Camp memories!



Summer Camp - Black Ghost Fly Fishing - sign up now!