

FRIENDS OF THE RESERVE Honor the Past

Nostalgia and local history are celebrated by the reprinting of the Kickapoo Pearls and "Homecoming at the Reserve," an exhibition of historical photographs of the area, opening on Friday, July 3.

Kickapoo Pearls

A LOCAL HISTORY CLASSIC IS RELEASED

Mark your calendars for Friday, July 3 at 7 pm. That's when the latest publishing venture of the Friends of the Reserve, a re-publication of Kickapoo Pearls, will be released.

This collection of area history, first published in the late 1970s, will be introduced to the public again at a program and reception at the KVR Visitor Center. The new book will be on sale at that time.

This reprint includes forwards by Dail Murray and Dana Strobel Van Hoesen, both contributors to the original "Pearls." Read about colorful characters and tales of
(cont. p 2)



Homecoming at the Reserve

Pictures of the Kickapoo of the past, collected and generously shared, await you at Homecoming at the Reserve. This Friends-sponsored event provides a visual history of the area through the eyes of those who lived it.

From families to farms to floods to fun - these photographs cover all that was important. You can see these pictures at the Reserve Visitor Center Friday, July 3. The doors open at 6 pm. The photographs will be on display through Sunday, July 5.
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PHOTOS: Contributed. L - Kickapoo Stump Dodger. Man standing on a log. R - Fay Gibson and Mr. Black

Summer camps offer exceptional outdoor experiences: You can help!

Friends of the KVR provides support for a variety of educational programs, including the summer camps, now underway. Some camps still have openings. Complete information including detailed descriptions of classes at: <http://kvr.state.wi.us>

SPONSOR A CAMPER!

You can help kids in need experience a Summer Adventure Day Camp at the Reserve this summer. Your support can make a difference in these times of need (photo below from Adventure Camp 2009).



Give a scholarship in your name or as a gift in another's name. Prices range from \$25 to \$120 for the variety of Reserve summer programs. Make checks out to the Friends of the Reserve. For more information on supporting KVR summer camps, visit <http://kvr.state.wi.us> or call (608) 625-2960.

cont. from p 1 **Kickapoo Pearls**

life in the Kickapoo Valley over the years. The reprint is in the original over-sized format, 200+ pages, and includes such stories

as "Lucky Bones, Twister the Indian Doctor, Drifters and Floaters: Hobos on the RR," and "The Pickle Station Gets Railroaded." The new publication has the look and feel of the original and is beautifully bound. Friends of KVR board member, Chuck Hatfield, oversaw the project.



Copies are on sale for \$25.

RECEPTION **Friday, July 3, 7-9 pm** **Reserve Visitor Center**

The public is cordially invited to a reception and short program for the introduction of the Kickapoo Pearls and the photo exhibit, Homecoming at the Reserve. The Friends will provide refreshments.



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Homecoming at the Reserve

Hundreds of photographs were submitted for this exhibition. From quaint family portraits to picturesque scenes of the countryside to stunning aerial views of farms now long gone, this exhibit truly represents a photographic history of the area. Friends of KVR board member, Brian Turner, organized this event and scanned the hundreds of submissions. In addition to the exhibit, a power point presentation will be shown at the July 3 reception, and a CD and reprints will be available on order.

Volunteers: If you would like to help set up, hang prints, or dismantle the show, please call Brian Turner, event coordinator, at 435-6951, or the Reserve at 625-2960.



PHOTOS: Contributed. L - Rockton Coronet Band, around 1900 R - Obert threshing machine

Friends & KVR Calendar of Events

Wednesday, July 1 6 pm

Road Clean-up **Volunteers Needed**
Meet at Reserve Visitor Center

Friday, July 3

Kickapoo Pearls reprint Reception,

Program 7 pm (see p 1, 2)

July 3-5 Homecoming at the Reserve

Saturday, July 4 Noon – 4:00 pm

Drive on old Highway 131 La Farge to Rockton. Start on S. entrance to Reserve; enter from Corps Rd. and Seeleyburg Rd.

Saturday, July 25—Sunday, July 26

6th Annual Kickapoo Country Fair

Music, art, exhibits, food, workshops.



Hosted by
Organic
Valley in
La Farge.
**Volunteer
opportunity:**
Friends
food booth.

moderate walking tour of the dam site. Meet at the KVR Visitor Center.



ONGOING: Wednesday Evening Garden Party: **Volunteers:** Bring a favorite tool and a snack to pass, if desired. The KVR Visitor Center perennial garden. Wednesdays, 6:30 pm. All are welcome, no experience needed.

Saturday, July 25 9:30 pm – Midnight Star Gazing with members of La Crosse Area Astronomical Society. Five telescopes

will reveal galaxies, double stars, star clusters, and gaseous nebulae.

Friday, August 7

Moonlight Ride Meet 8:30 pm at Willow Camp. Questions? Contact Jackie Yocum (608) 528-4222.

Saturday, August 29

Wetland Gems of Western Wisconsin Celebration of W. Region Wetland Gem Sites. In Partnership with Ho Chunk Nation, Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Field Trip included.



Saturday, October 3

Dam Challenge Triathlon

7-mile Paddle, 14-mile Pedal, 3-mile Run
For more information visit <http://kvr.state.wi.us/damchallenge>. **Volunteer opportunity:** Friends hosts spaghetti dinner **October 2.**

Saturday, July 25 10:00 am - Noon

Dam History Tour

Join Brad Steinmetz, local historian, for a short presentation on the history of the La Farge Lake and Dam Project and then a



Friends of KVR Board of Directors News

Meetings in May and June dealt with the coordination of several recent and upcoming events and projects sponsored by the Friends of KVR. Additionally, the board is setting up an office in the KVR maintenance building to house the new archival system. A part of the Nuzum grant is for training for the system, which will be used to study and document past and future activities at the Reserve. The board also discussed the roles of the various board committees in order to plan more efficiently and coordinate efforts. These committees recruit members and volunteers, choose and purchase items for the Friends' gift shop, as well as plan events, publish books, maintain the website and newsletter, and work with Reserve staff to further the goals of the KVR.

The Friends purchased a painting from the La Farge High School Art Show for display at the Reserve. Show here is "View from Blackhawk Rock" by Samantha Herken. The painting is a highly-textured work inspired by a photograph taken on a family hike.

Friends of the
Kickapoo Valley Reserve
S3661 St. Hwy. 131
La Farge, WI 54639



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July 2009

Friends of KVR

SPRING FLING raised hundred\$ thanks to Friends

In spite of chilly weather, on Saturday, May 9th, Spring Fling attracted over 125 people for an afternoon and evening of fun, food, friendship, and learning--as had been advertised.



The Friends of the Kickapoo Reserve and the Sister City Project/ Nicaragua raised a total of \$1,565 to support educational programs in the two reserves. This money included 125 dinner sales, plus other contributions and a donation of meat and beverages by Jack and Margaret Lee. Money raised was split equally between the Kickapoo Reserve Education Program and the schools in the Chacocente Wildlife Refuge, Santa Teresa, Nicaragua, with each getting \$782.50.

Volunteers from both the Friends of KVR and the Sister City worked together to make this a memorable and profitable event.

THANKS TO ALL who participated, presented, entertained, and volunteered in any way.



Note of Interest: Check out images and recorded bird song of local species at: <http://kvr.state.wi.us/birds>. The pages were created by KVR staff, Ben Johnston, and Friends member, Barb Duerksen, using donated photographs. Friends members, Pat Roth and Jay Roth-Reynolds, assisted in this project.