

FRIENDS *Connection*

THE NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF THE KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE • (608) 625-2960 • kickapoofriends.org • Volume 14, Issue 2

Paul Hayes puts Love of Nature into Action on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve

Paul Hayes knew in the fifth grade that he had an unusual love of nature.

It was then that his family moved from a bungalow in Chicago to a small farm 30 miles west of the city. “One day I was walking down the railroad tracks with a friend,” he recalls. “As we stopped on a bridge over a small stream, I saw a snail below. When I suggested we go down and look at it, my friend replied, ‘Why would you want to look at a snail?’”

Hayes is member of the KVR Management Board, the force behind the Weister Creek restoration project, county coordinator for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Survey, and has taught the Reserve’s Wisconsin Master Naturalist course.

In high school, he says he loved biology despite the fact he didn’t care for the teacher, who he describes as “kind of cranky.” He majored in biology at a small college in Memphis, and then received a master of science degree from St. Mary’s University in Winona under a post-Sputnik program that paid to educate science teachers. That’s where he met his wife Bernadette. “We were lab partners,” he recalls. “We shared the same microscope – it was very romantic.”

After college, they both taught high school science in Wilmette Illinois, and lived and raised two children just north of the Wisconsin border. Every weekend and vacation they could, they explored along the Mississippi River, often coming to the Driftless Area.

In 2000, they bought a farm on the west fork of the Kickapoo, where they built a home and retired in 2009. Hayes’ initial interest in Weister Creek was as a fisherman and Trout Unlimited member. But after joining the management board six years ago,

he recognized the potential for trout fishing and wanted to emphasize it as an attraction to the Reserve.

He and Bernadette sampled all the creeks on the Reserve, focusing on the bugs, which he says tell more about the water quality that a spot check or event sampling because they live in the stream year-round.

The Weister Creek restoration is in Phase 3 of a 5 year plan. At the start, a Department of Natural Resources sampling found 100 fish per mile, he says. “After one year we were up to 800 fish per mile.”

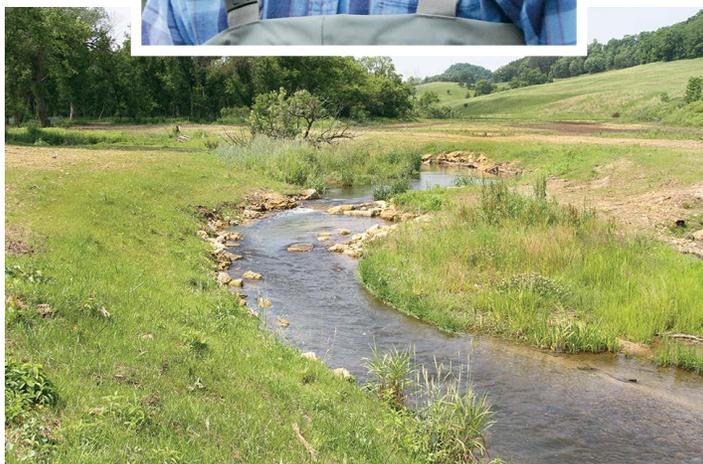
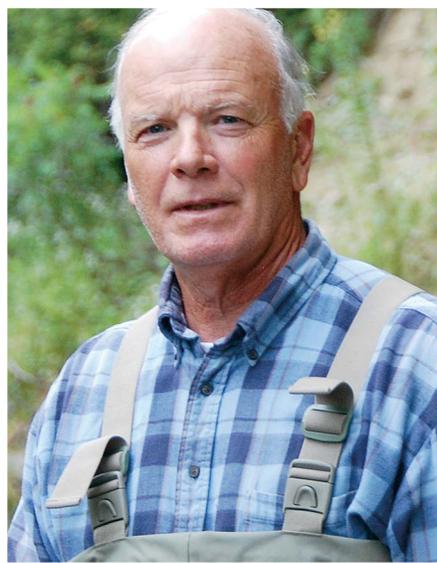
The work involved removing many trees because they cause erosion, resulting in a wide, flat area and muddy stream. The result of the restoration is a savanna, which provides some shade but enough sunlight so the bank could be stabilized. Hayes also realized that riprapping steep banks doesn’t work, and that it’s better to have a graded slope, rocking only the toe of the bank.

The mid-July storm tested the restoration. “After the storm, I walked and photo-documented the project area,” he says. “It is amazing how little damage there was. “It gives me confidence in the management. When the flooding comes, the water spreads out so the energy is dissipated and it

doesn’t do as much damage.”

He and Bernadette’s volunteer work on the Reserve makes their retirement more fulfilling because it allows them to use their training to support their interest, Hayes says. “We live a life which has many different facets and here in the Kickapoo Valley, they all come together.”

Contributor Joan Kent is a retired journalist who lives in Stark township with her husband Don and their cats Liza and Misty.



Holiday Happening December 2



Friends of the KVR will welcome the holiday season with their annual Holiday Happening on Saturday, December 2 at the Visitor Center. It will be a busy day beginning with the Friends **Art and Craft show** at 1 pm. Driftless Carvers will offer demonstrations throughout the afternoon. Shoppers can expect to find jewelry, cards, ornaments, soaps, specialty foods and other gift items.

The **Cookie Walk** also begins at 1 pm and continues until the goodies are gone! Come early for the best selection from many local bakers!

Local musicians will begin performances at 2 pm. Stop by to hear the Viroqua Bell Choir, Kickapoo Schools Carolers, Brookwood and La Farge High School bands and Pam Hughes's string students. A concert by Whiskey Chicken will begin at 6:30.

The Friends will also offer a **Soup and Salad** dinner beginning at 4:30. The meal is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children age 12 and under.

A silent auction of **seasonal decorative baskets** will be going on from 1-7 pm. Make your home beautiful with one of these!

Finally, the winners of the 2017 Friends **Photography Contest** will be announced at 6:15 before the Whiskey Chicken performance.

All proceeds from this event support educational activities and trail maintenance at KVR. We look forward to seeing you there!

Call for Arts and Crafts!

Table space is still available for artists who are Friends members to sell their work at the Holiday Happening on Saturday, December 2 from 1-4 pm. No table fee is required and no commission is taken. You are responsible for your own cash box. We are happy to showcase the work of our talented members!

Contact Julie Hoel at juliehoel@icloud.com if you are interested in participating.



2017 Holiday Happening Friends member and crafter Margaret Webster (top left); Kickapoo Carolers (bottom left) entertain with holiday favorites; (right) tough choices at the Cookie Walk!

BOARD CANDIDATES

Presenting 2017 nominees for a three-year term on the Friends of the Reserve Board:



Marcia Bader has lived and worked in the Kickapoo Valley since 1971. She is now retired, after managing the LaFarge Medical Clinic for 32 years, and with more time available she looks forward to more involvement in KVR and Friends activities. She enjoys year-round hiking in the Reserve, traveling, knitting and spinning. She is thankful for the treasure we have in the Reserve.



Peg LaMartina grew up wandering the hills and playing in the creek of her grandparents farm in south-eastern Wisconsin. This was the beginning of many nature experiences that eventually brought her to the beautiful Kickapoo Valley area in 1996. Her love of the natural world, and wanting to share it with children, sparked her interest to become a part time instructor at the Reserve. She is happy to play a small part in supporting the KVR through serving on the Friends Board. This will be her second term.

The election of Board members will be held during the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 28, 2017.

New Gift Shop Manager



We are happy to announce that LeAnne Mlsna of Cashton will be the new manager for the Friends Gift Shop at the Visitor Center. She has experience with volunteer

organizations as well as previous experience running her own store. In her spare time, LeAnne enjoys going to auctions and doing yoga. LeAnne has lived in the area all her life and is looking forward to spending more time at KVR.

LeAnne's first task will be stocking the shelves with new items for the holiday season. **Volunteers are still welcomed on the Item Selection Committee and for restocking and rearranging the display.** Contact LeAnne at leannemlsna@gmail.com if you are interested.

Flood Clean-Up *Many thanks to Friends of all ages....with two legs or four....who helped with various flood clean-up activities.*



Gardeners wrap up another season! *A hardworking group of Friends meet every other Tuesday evening to keep the Visitor Center Circle and Star Valley gardens looking beautiful. Many hands make light work and a good time is had by all! More weed pullers and mulch haulers are always welcome!*

Friends Grants Disbursed

Last spring, the Friends Board called for requests from our Friends membership and staff for mini-grants for new programs and activities. In June, we awarded funding for four programs:

Van rental for camp program	\$1,750	Resources for the Lichen Project	\$ 400
Sunday Family Hiking Program	\$ 700	"Year of Ancient Wisdom" activities	\$2,000

Summer camp programs were enhanced by the availability of an extra van to easily deliver campers to locations throughout the Reserve. It was also used to help with flood recovery activities. Susan Cushing purchased resource books and upgrades for the Lichen Project website.

Jean Beck suggested the Sunday Family Hike program modeled after what she had seen in Europe. Fifteen hikes were scheduled June 18 - September 24, led by several staff members. The hikes drew both local and visitor families. This was an excellent addition to KVR programs!

Janet Kruk's proposal for "A Year of Ancient Wisdom" celebrates the customs, knowledge and gifts of the past and their contributions to modern life. These events will be woven into regular 2018 programs like Winterfest. A culminating daylong event is also being planned for later in the summer.

KVR staff also implemented two other submitted ideas: A trail section suggested by Barb Dueholm was added to make a loop near the bird blind, and a larger sink was installed in the classroom to make clean up for many activities easier.

The Board will continue to seek ideas for funding in 2018.

2017 NEW MEMBERS

Another Record Year!

In 2017, a new record of 284 KVR Friends memberships were purchased. It is wonderful to see so many people doing so many things at our beautiful Reserve. Here's a huge thank you to those who renewed their support, and a warm welcome to the following new members.

Justin Dorschied
 Mark Glatfelter
 Brian & Shannon Parsons
 Polly Cisco
 Susan & Harlan Gleason
 Kate Lyman & Jack Longert
 Donn & Laurie Lind
 Mark & Jennifer Brave
 Jeff & Allyson Hastings
 Bill Hughes
 Phillip & Katee Christenson
 Beth & Ashley Thayer
 Jessie & Mark Johannek
 Jill Carroll
 Steven & Martha Querin-Shultz
 Kara & Todd Gebhardt
 Jacqueline Baschiera
 Carol Anne Kemen
 Laura Berger
 Tom & Kathie Wheeler
 Laurie Feller
 Janet & Kermit Bekkum
 Peder & Lily Arneson
 Greg & Carolyn Vaneks
 David Oldenburg
 Jon & Suzie Howe
 Fred & Renee David
 Jeffery Turinske
 Mark & Sue Running
 Richard & Bonnie Running
 David Jacobson
 Terry & Carol Theis
 Jessica Mc Ginnis & Rodney Calkins
 Sarah & Gary Nickelatti
 Scott Lind
 Marnie Hofmeister-Pooley
 Shel Hyett
 Steven Timm
 Linda Parrish
 Judith Main
 Shana Meshbeshier
 Chuck Smith
 Joe McDaniel
 Joseph Volz
 Julia Buckingham
 Jordan & Tori Marshall
 Elizabeth Lange
 David Kries & Mary Broderick
 Christin Cleaver
 Scott Ulrey & Sam Riedt
 Barbara Sydnor

2017 Annual Meeting and Hearts Flooded with Appreciation!

You are invited to attend the 2017 Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, October 28 at 6 pm at the KVR Visitor Center. Our hearts are always full of appreciation for the contributions made to support many activities at the Reserve. But this year, our hearts are FLOODED as we also celebrate the extra effort of many volunteers who helped with the clean up after the flood in July.

Joanne Shird will prepare a meal of hearty appetizers and delicious desserts. **Please RSVP to Joanne at joannes@mwt.net or 608-625-2768 by October 20th.**

Live music will be provided.

The Annual Meeting will precede the dinner beginning at 5:30. We will conduct our regular yearly business and elect two board members. Your attendance is important!



9th Annual Photography Show & Contest!

Submit up to three favorite photos of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Entry deadline is 9 pm October 14, 2017. Not a photographer? Then participate by voting for Best-In-Show at the Reserve in November. Winners in each division (Adult and Student) will be named at the Friends' Holiday Happening December 2, and each awarded a \$50 prize. Full details and photo entry at kickapoofriends.org.

FRIENDS EVENTS

Annual Photo Contest
Entry deadline Oct. 14

Flood Clean Up Benefit
Sunday, Oct. 15 11 am-2 pm

Organic Valley Headquarters, La Farge. Lunch and local musicians; free will offering benefits KVR flood recovery efforts.

Annual Meeting & Appreciation Dinner
Saturday, Oct. 28 5:30 pm
Held at the KVR Visitor Center.

Paint with Friends
Saturday, Dec. 9 6-9 pm

Unleash your inner artist! Create a winter scene on canvas to keep or give as a holiday present. Supplies included. \$30/person.

Holiday Happening
Saturday, Dec. 2 1-7 pm

Winterfest
Saturday, Jan. 13 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Family winter activities, both inside and out! Chili and bread contests, auction! Funds raised support education programs. Volunteers needed!