

# FRIENDS *Connection*

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## *Scott Lind – The Project Guy*



***“Ecological preservation, land restoration, and environmental education are my top priorities.”***

projects, you need to learn about the decade-long odyssey he and his wife Marla undertook back in the 1990s. Scott and Marla, a veterinarian, owned 28 acres of land in Hollandale, WI. In 1993 they learned of an opportunity to acquire a 19th century Queen Anne mansion for ‘free,’ with just one catch. It had to be moved from La Crosse to a different location. Scott and Marla, along with a few dozen of their favorite volunteers, dismantled the 6,800 square foot building and a separate timber-frame barn, filling seven semi-trailers with historic woodwork and fixtures. After getting the material relocated to Hollandale, it took six years to rebuild the home and barn. Scott and Marla finally moved into the reconstructed home in 2006.

Scott has loved nature since he was a kid, even though he didn’t know much about botany, forestry, or land management. Any green plant or pretty flower he saw on a hike seemed like a positive presence. Once he learned about the ecological impacts of invasive species, though, “The scales fell from my eyes. Now anywhere I go I see how pervasive and damaging some plants are, and how they disrupt the entire food chain.” And thus Scott’s next big project, ecological restoration, began. He spent several years clearing the Hollandale property of Siberian elm and other invasive species to restore the oak savanna and prairie.

Perhaps it’s not surprising that Scott Lind likes to get immersed in big projects. After all, he spent his career as an electrical engineer, designing complex lighting and electrical systems for commercial buildings. But that only scratches the surface – Scott really likes big projects, and the KVR benefits as a result.

To understand just how much effort Scott puts into his

Scott and Marla moved to Ontario in 2017, and he brought the same gusto for projects to the KVR. With the generosity of his engineering firm, Mead & Hunt, Scott recruited several co-workers to help in local cleanup efforts after the 2019 flood, including removal of a commercial walk-in cooler from the Kickapoo River.

Scott joined the KVR Management Board in January 2021, serves on the Land Management Committee, and helps KVR employees with brush management and invasive species removal. He also played a crucial role in the construction of KVR’s Prairie Springs classroom in 2021. According to Julie Hoel, a fellow KRMB member and volunteer on the classroom, “Scott Lind WAS the Prairies Springs Classroom build! He served as the general contractor, procurement director, main carpenter, and, of course, electrical engineer. He recruited friends and family to help and recorded everyone’s contributions of labor and materials. Of the 2000+ hours of volunteer labor, over half of that was Scott...and that was just at the site. It didn’t include all the phone calls and calculations when he got home. KVR and Kickapoo Valley Forest School were extremely lucky to have Scott’s skill and desire to serve on this project.”

Asked about his skill in persuading so many people to volunteer with him on so many different projects, Scott said, “People like to volunteer if you make it easy for them. Give them a specific task, for a specific amount of time, maybe a few hours, and folks will say ‘I can do that.’”

Scott is also providing his expertise in electrical engineering in the effort to obtain recognition of KVR and Wildcat Mountain State Park as an International Dark Sky Park. In addition to revising the lighting management plans and retrofitting outside light fixtures at the two properties to comply with Dark Sky Park requirements, Scott also hopes to be a resource for anyone in the surrounding area who wants to make their outdoor lighting more ‘Dark Sky’ friendly.

As Scott explains it, “Ecological preservation, land restoration, and environmental education are my top priorities now that I am fully retired. I’m deeply troubled by the damage our society has inflicted on the land, and I recognize that I have been a part of that as an electrical engineer. Spending my time now to restore the land around me and mitigate some of that damage is a sort of penance for me.”

*Joan Peterson is a Friends board member who lives in La Farge with her husband Kurt and their dog and two cats.*

## Friends at Work and Play



**Volunteer Gardeners Enjoy the End-of-Season Dinner** (clockwise) Joan Kent, Geri Hall, Sheila Johnson, Kim Wahl, Jan Gremban and Julie Hoel; Karen Theis and Georgia Everson; Julie Hoel and Louise Muller.



**Holiday Happening 2021** (clockwise) Joanne Shird's baguettes; Cookie Walk volunteers Marcia Bader, Marcia Carlson, Sam Riedl, Jan Gremban, Beth Unger, Sally Colacino, and Karen Theis.



**Serving Lunch at Winterfest 2022** (from left) Sally Colacino; Patty Kinsey, Marcia Bader, Karen Theis, Jayne Collins, Carolyn Steinmetz, Sam Riedl and Paige Huber.

## FRIENDS EVENTS

Check the KVR website for updates:  
[www.kickapoovalley.wi.us](http://www.kickapoovalley.wi.us).

### Earth Day Clean-up

**Saturday, April 23 10 am**

Meet at the Visitor Center. Safety vests and bags provided. KVR volunteers will be working on the Friends Adopt A Highway segment on Hwy. 131 from Harris Rd to Hwy P. Register to volunteer: [kvr.state.wi.us/Get-Involved/Volunteer](http://kvr.state.wi.us/Get-Involved/Volunteer). Earth Day general clean up period is April 16-23.

### Spring Fling

Canceled for 2022 due to Discovery Center construction.

### National Trails Day

**Saturday, June 4**

Check KVR website, [www.kickapoovalley.wi.us](http://www.kickapoovalley.wi.us) or Friends website, [www.kickapoofriends.org](http://www.kickapoofriends.org) for details. Enjoy guided hikes or walk on your own. Food trucks will be on site. Rain or shine!

### Garden Walk

Check KVR or Friends websites for date and locations.

### Drive the Old Hwy 131 Trail

**Monday, July 4 Noon-4 pm**

Open house at the KVR: enjoy a leisurely drive on Old Hwy 131. One-way traffic from south to north – to enter, follow Seeleyburg Rd. to Corps Rd. Stop in for cookies and lemonade at the Visitor Center.

### Dam Challenge

**Saturday, Oct. 1**

Over 100 volunteers are needed to support the race. Mark your calendar now to be part of this great event.

### Annual Photo Contest

**Entries Due Oct. 14**

Submit photos of the KVR Sept. 1-Oct. 14 at the Friends website, [www.kickapoofriends.org](http://www.kickapoofriends.org). Judges select 12 finalists; vote for your favorite entries during the month of November. Winners will be announced at Holiday Happening.

### Annual Meeting

Check KVR or Friends websites for date and details

### Holiday Happening

**Saturday, Dec. 3**

Check KVR or Friends websites for time and details.

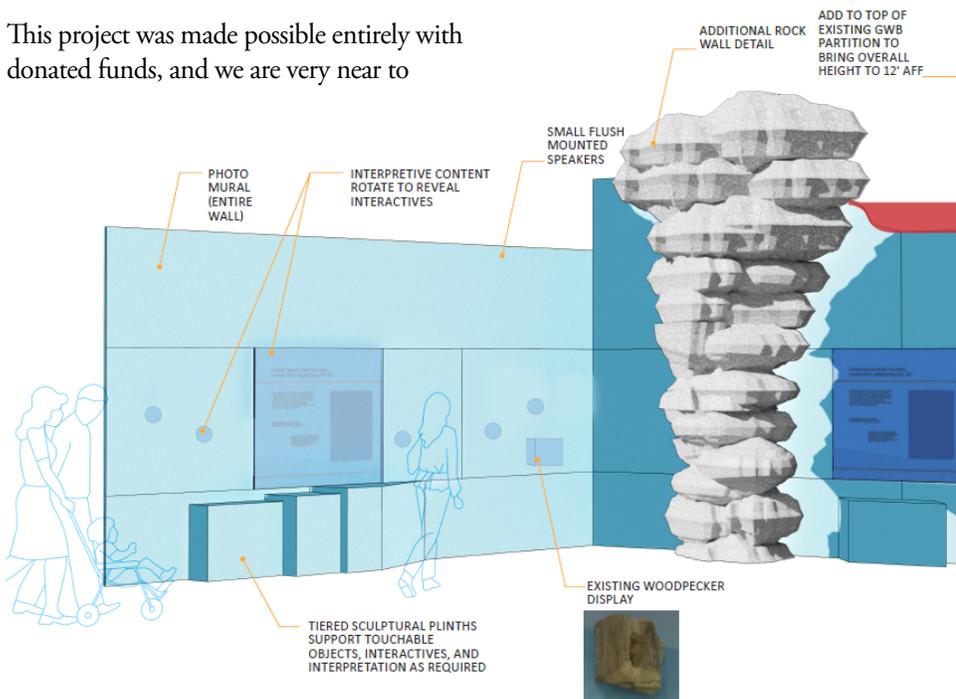
## Educational Exhibit Upgrade to be Completed This Summer

Discovery Center construction will soon be underway, with updated exhibits to “bring the outside in” and showcase the incredible cultural and natural resources present on the KVR. Fully revamped displays and new exhibits will endeavor to educate visitors in an interactive and appealing manner. New features include a dark sky projection system, interactive species identification stations, an introduction to the Ho-Chunk history and cultural attachment to the land, and an interactive touchscreen for visitors to learn about farm families who lived on the property and the impacts of historic floods.

This project was made possible entirely with donated funds, and we are very near to

achieving our goal of \$600,000. Thank you to all who have provided support for this project in recent years. We hope you’ll stop by to check out the new exhibits, and derive satisfaction from the lasting impact your generosity will have on KVR visitors for many years to come. Construction is set to begin in April, with completion expected by late August. Please keep your eyes peeled for word of the project completion and the opening of this wonderful new addition to our Visitor Center.

*KVR Executive Director Scott Walter*



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*We wish a warm welcome to the following new members!*

(September 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022)

*The Friends are grateful for all renewing members. Your continued support keeps the KVR's education programs strong.*

Julee Caspers Agar  
 Carolyn & Robert Behrens  
 Jeff Bernardy & Jen Gasperini  
 David & Jenelle Boyer  
 Tiffany Cade & James Fackert  
 Marcia & Leif Carlson  
 Elise Christensen  
 Mary Lou Clayton  
 Jayne Collins  
 David Ebbert  
 Judith Eness  
 Eby Family  
 Michael & Michelle Goebel  
 The Grain Bin (Collyn Bjornstad)  
 Jeff & Moira Hastings  
 Vered Holl  
 Jenifer Hunter  
 Bruce & Laurie Juppe  
 Amy Klusmeier  
 Heidi Knapp  
 Lucas & Stephanie Kuntz  
 La Farge Chiropractic  
 Brian Larson  
 Allison Mendoza  
 Jenna Morin  
 Jody Rader & Nate Cress  
 Odile Nelson  
 Betty & Larry Ottesen  
 Julie Paus  
 Stephanie Pedretti & John Saunders  
 Dick Peters  
 Ken & Karen Powell  
 Todd Reavis  
 John Sullivan  
 Sharon Swiggum  
 Mar Thompson  
 Catherine & Dave Thurston  
 Becky Tomten  
 Ryan Wagner  
 Lisa Widner  
 Patrick Williams  
 Tom & Lori Willie  
 Rachel Wilson  
 Bill Wright  
 Scott & Kelly Wywialowski  
 Grant & Helen Zitzmann



### Gardens Wanted...

**Share the beauty you've created in your yard!** The KVR Friends are looking for gardens for this year's Garden Walk. They don't have to be perfect! If you'd like to participate, please contact Joan at [JoanRohlf@msn.com](mailto:JoanRohlf@msn.com).

**Attention Volunteers!** KVR Friends will host a volunteer appreciation gathering Friday, May 13, 4:30-6:30 pm. Visit [www.kickapoofriends.org](http://www.kickapoofriends.org) and watch your email inbox for more details in the upcoming weeks.

## KVR Frog Walk Tuesday Continues

With five seasons completed, the Kickapoo Valley Reserve’s Frog Walk Tuesday, the 2022 edition, began Tuesday, March 22 and will continue until July 19.

For this weekly Tuesday evening stroll, participants meet at the south gate of Old 131 Trail. “The start time is 15 minutes after sunset. Kind of confusing since the time changes each week. The first FWT sunset is 7:16 pm, and the last FWT sunset is 8:39 pm. Check the almanac for times. Frogs do their best calling after dark; therefore we want to be there at dark”, says FWT regular Ben Johnston. After a brief meet-&-greet, attendees take a short walk on Old 131 Trail to the ponds just north of Bridge 18, the official FWT listening spot.

“Contrary to popular belief, Wisconsin frogs do not say Ribbit,” explains Sharon Miessner, a somewhat regular attendee. “Each species is identifiable by its unique call. After listing each species calling, we give each an index score.” The data is contributed to the WI Frog and Toad Survey, a statewide citizen science program for monitoring phenology, abundance, and population trends.

Andrew Badje, WI Frog and Toad Survey Head Frogger, praises the KVR’s FWT efforts: “Having such consistent data is important for the program... five years, wow! I mean it’s not 30 years’ worth of data, but you have to start somewhere. The loyalty and data quality from this group is superb, almost as trustworthy as my dog Wade. I hope the KVR’s FWT will continue into the next millennium.”

New frog walk regular Tom Miron adds, “Frogs call in a particular order, all based on the warming of water temperatures. Each week you just never know who will be calling.”

Since relying on the frog calls for identification, new froggers are awarded a cheat sheet card with frog mnemonics to help with distinguishing species. Yet, Cathy Chybowski, a Frog Walk Tuesday staple, insists that the walk is an excellent time to hear additional sounds of nature at dusk and into night. “It’s not just frogs: woodcocks, owls, coyote,

raccoons, willow flycatchers – you just never know what will speak up. The geese and sandhill cranes often fly over our heads, making a whole lot of racket as they come in for the night.”

FWT has documented eight species at the so-called Bacon Ponds, a name reference to the Bacon family that once lived in the vicinity. “We are missing the Bull, Cope’s Gray Tree, Mink and Blanchard Cricket,” Johnston attests. “Of the missing four state species, only the Cope’s Gray is anticipated as a possibility. But one never knows.” Although known in other areas of the KVR, the Leopard Frog was only confirmed in 2021 during the FWT.

Attendance is generally three to seven folks, yet 18 participants came for the first FWT of 2019. Unfortunately, there was still ice on the pond. Speaking on condition of anonymity, one participant from this particular 2019 evening said, “Yeah I was there. It was quite lame. No frogs. Why call it Frog Walk when there were no frogs. Totally lame. I never went back.”

On the other hand, despite the 45 minute drive to and from, Sarah Chapman comes from Tomah, faithfully each week. “Yeah, I get the long distance award. I know, how cool is that? Friends in Tomah think I am



March	April	May	June	July	August
	Wood Frog				
	Chorus Frog				
	Spring Peeper				
	Leopard Frog				
	Pickerel Frog				
	American Toad				
	Gray Treefrog				
	Cope’s Gray Treefrog				
			Cricket Frog		
			Mink Frog		
			Green Frog		
			Bull Frog		

## Plant Walks Scheduled

KVR Plant Lookers will have monthly walks on the second Saturday of the month beginning April 9, starting at 9 am, to learn about plants and any other things that grow in the KVR.

Participants will use Bailout Trail for our 2022 study. Returning to the same site each month will hopefully develop a knowledge of plant identification at various growth stages.

Topics may include native vs. invasive, edible vs. delicious, medicinal vs. poison, shrub vs. tree, grass vs. sedge, etc. Bring field guides and other references to this learning opportunity for all who attend. The last Plant Walk will be in September, unless regular attendees decide to meet in October.



Elliptic shin-leaf  
(*Pyrola elliptica*)

nuts, but they are the ones who are missing out.” Sarah says she often comes with nature-related questions in hopes to stump Cathy. “Not yet, but I will get you one of these days, my pretty,” she sneers with a ‘wicked witch of the west’ tone. “I share blurry pictures of birds for her to identify; she still knows the answer, or at least she gives some solid clues or hints.” Since her enrollment in the FWT program, Chapman has also learned that tree frogs secrete a slime substance when you handle them. “Turns out the frog [goop] burns your eyes, if you get it in em,” laughs Sarah.

Frog Walk Tuesday only cancels for severe or threatening weather, like thunderstorms or tornadoes; a light rain is ideal for frogging. The unspoken rule is ... if it is raining and

## Forest School Celebrates Milestone

The KVR Education Program has celebrated completing half of the Kickapoo Valley Forest School's inaugural year.

A public charter school sited on the KVR, the school was created through a partnership between the KVR and La Farge School District, and will expand next year to welcome another group of children to forest schooling.

By the 2023/2024 school year we will be at full capacity with 64 students grades 4K-2nd. This new exciting endeavor has been accomplished through the help of the KVR Friends 501c3 status and a generous grant from Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Foundation. The foundation will acquire another small classroom space like the current Prairie Springs classroom. You can expect to see construction beginning this spring.

Winter brought lots of media attention to our little school. If you missed any of it you can check out the KVFS website to get caught up: [www.kickapoovalleyforestschool.org](http://www.kickapoovalleyforestschool.org).



And if you haven't yet seen their smiling faces, we wanted to introduce you to Summer Willis and Michelle Lange who are new at the KVR. Summer joined us to work half-time as the KVFS office manager and half time providing visitor services at the KVR front desk. A Kickapoo Valley native who hails from a large family, Summer is an avid outdoorswoman and enjoys spending time with children. She believes strongly in the vision of providing education that fosters connection to the land and is honored to be part of the KVR/KVFS team.



Michelle has been hired as the half-time Education Assistant and is primarily focused on scheduling visiting school groups and helping with summer camps. She recently retired from 29 years as a public educator teaching high school English. She discovered the Driftless area a few years ago when she and her husband bought a cabin in Gays Mills, and they moved here permanently last fall. An avid animal lover, mother and grandmother she looks forward to discovering new life in the area and serving the community through her work at the KVR.

*Jonel Kiesau, KVR Education Director*

### **Frog Walks** *continued*

you will be miserable being out in the rain, just stay home. However, missing a week without proper notice nor valid excuse will lead to shunning by the group. "That's right if you don't show up for a Tuesday, we belittle you, call you names, insult your cooking skills...until you show up again, then we are glad to see you and forget about your previous absence. At that point it is all just water under the bridge," Chybowski clarifies.

"Yeah, if you don't want to be dissed, don't be missed" Chapman chimes in.

"Therapeutic. Zen. Peaceful." are the words Jim Deline, Frog Walk Tuesday regular uses to describe the event. "A really nice relaxing and enjoyable time to soak up the last light of the setting sun and to watch it all come down in harmony."

*Ben Johnston, KVR Staff*

## 2021 Friends Photo Contest Winners

Despite all the issues of last year, photographers found and documented beautiful scenes in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

Winners of the 2021 Photo Contest are 'Milky Way Over Ho Chunk Bridge' by John Rummel, 'Sunset' by Jolynn VonGinkel, 'ISS Flies Over KVR' by Angela Copper and 'Hoot Owl Trail' by Cyndie Rauls.



Visit the Friends' website to enjoy all of the entries: [www.kickapoofriends.org](http://www.kickapoofriends.org).

It's not too early to start gathering snapshots for this year's contest, so take advantage of the spring weather to explore the KVR with your camera! Deadline for 2022 Photo Contest entries is 5 pm, October 14.

## Volunteer Opportunities

KVR Volunteer Gardeners meet every other Tuesday in season to keep the gardens at the Visitor Center looking great, and about four times a season to tend the memorial gardens at Star Valley. Come join us, and learn from other gardeners while you make the world more beautiful. Each session ends with refreshments and conversation on the deck. Contact Joan at donjoan@mwt.net to get notifications.

### Like to play in the dirt?



### Like to greet people?

Volunteers are needed to greet people attending the Garden Walk. Look for the sign-up sheet in your email before this year's Walk.

### Good with a camera?

We need photographers to capture actions at Friends' events. If you have photos to share or would like to be a photographer, contact Susan at susanrdesign@gmail.com.



### Like to Cook?

Good food from appetizers to desserts is a tradition at KVR events. Contact Sally at sallycolacino@hotmail.com to join the crew of home cooks.

### Want to be in on the action?

Friends prepare, serve, and clean up at KVR events. Many hands make little work so it's done in a jiffy. Contact Sally at sallycolacino@hotmail.com for details on event preparation, or just join in to help afterwards.

## Looking for a gift?

The KVR Friends Gift Shop, which is open during Visitor Center hours, is a great place to find items celebrating the Driftless. You'll find the work of area artists, items with the KVR logo, and items geared to boys and girls, campers and hikers. New items include mystery stories set in the Driftless by a Viroqua author, and additional towels from Monica Jagel.

To suggest a gift item focusing on this area, please leave a message at the KVR front desk, 608-625-2960.



*New towel artwork from Monica Jagel*