

# NEWSLETTER

www.governorknowles.org



## Friends Build Tie System for New Horse Camp

Ground will be broken this year for the new Trade River Equestrian Campground. With 41 campsites, this long-awaited facility will greatly enhance access to the Forest's more than 40 miles of equestrian trails.

The Friends is taking the lead to ensure that the campground is safe by installing horse tie systems and fire rings for each campsite. Tie systems will ensure that horses are properly secured and the rings will help keep fires in safe designated areas.

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$23,000. We recently won an \$11,500 grant for the project and will be raising another \$11,500 in the coming year. The Friends will also coordinate installation of the tie systems by our members as volunteers.

## What's Up in the Forest?

Forest Superintendent Dan Thill

### Existing Trade River Campground

A number of improvements were made in 2006 to the campground, including: six new fire rings; a new information board; a new fee box that is less susceptible to theft; and an expanded turnaround at the far end of the camp. This was also the first year a camping fee was required, helping reduce destructive and illegal activities. We are committed to providing a well maintained campground and to continuing to improve the facilities.

### New Trade River Equestrian Campground

Details are still being worked on but we plan to start construction this year and have the new camp completed for use in 2008. Plans include 41 trailer camping sites. To stay within budget we are making adjustments. For example, we had much of the timber removed and chipped last spring – saving close to \$10,000. Although the area looked rather bare, there is now new growth aspen over 6 feet high. When the new campground opens, the existing Trade River camp will be for day use only and camping will not be permitted.

Continued..

### Adopt-a-Trail

This program is primarily for the Trade River Equestrian Trails. We have two segments available for sponsorship. Please contact me if you are interested. Looking over the first year, seems things went pretty well. We do have a couple signs we will be replacing because of misspellings. On one segment, 9 garbage bags of litter were picked up. Having extra eyes for our trails assists Forest staff to keep them safe and is much appreciated.

### Trail Fees

Your trail fees are used to improve the trails that you use. Some of the projects already funded include: replacement of the deck and installation of new railings on the Trade River Horse and Snowmobile bridge; relocation and construction of the trail east of the Trade River; and fencing and looping the Red Trail near Wolf Creek. Addressing some of the erosion problems on the River Trail is high on our list for new projects.

Have questions or comments? Contact us at 715-463-2898 or Daniel.Thill@dnr.state.wi.us.

## Saddle Up for the Forest June Trail Ride

Trail riders dream this time of year of warm summer outings. As you make your plans for the summer, make sure you circle June 2 for the 2007 Saddle Up for the Forest ride.

Participants will ride a route up and down hill-sides, through pine and oak forests and across creeks. Riders recruit friends and family to sponsor them on the ride. Proceeds from the ride will help build tie systems at the new Trade River Horse Camp.

For more information, check out [www.GovernorKnowles.org](http://www.GovernorKnowles.org) or contact Lisa Doerr at 715-557-0384 or [lisadoerr@northernlakesfarm.com](mailto:lisadoerr@northernlakesfarm.com).

### Tips for Riding the Forest

Leave your shoes at home. One chore you can skip when getting ready to ride the Forest is shoeing your horse. The soft, sandy trails are a horse hoof's dream.

## Come One and All!

### 2007 Friends' Annual Meeting

This year's meeting will be held at the beautiful new headquarters building of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. We will start out with social hour beginning at 6 pm. There will be hor'duerves and beverages and a chance to look over the latest plans for the new Trade River horse camp. The meeting will start at 7 pm. Come meet your fellow "Friends" and help us plan for another busy year of work enhancing Governor Knowles State Forest.

March 8, 2007

Social Hour 6:00-7:00 pm

Meeting 7:00 pm

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Headquarters  
401 North Hamilton Street  
St Croix Falls, WI

Check Out Our  
New Website  
[www.governorknowles.org](http://www.governorknowles.org)

## It's That Time Again!!

Nothing happens without support from people like you who love to ride in the Forest. Please help us continue to enhance and protect this remarkable jewel. **Donate today!**

## Facts about the Forest

- \*Created in 1970
- \*Includes 32,500 acres
- \*20,000 acres owned by the Wisconsin DNR
- \*270 parcels privately owned

