

If you host it, they will come

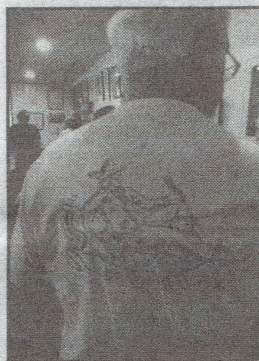
By Deb Gaskins

Greater Des Moines Volkssport Association celebrated its 30th Anniversary the weekend of April 18-19 with lots of fun, fitness, friendship and especially lots of good food! On Saturday we had 108 walkers do the featured Sherman Hill Seasonal Walk that goes by Terrace Hill (Governor's Mansion), Salisbury House (Iowa's English Castle, qualifies for Food for Thought Special Program) and historic Woodland Cemetery where many people are buried that were important in Des Moines and Iowa history. At noon we had a nice program and a large potluck.



We had 14 charter members attend who had done (or probably organized) GDMVA's first Volkswalk in 1985 and we had a few new members join. We had people from nine states; Arizona, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, the head "Tator" Mary Ptacek from Nevada, Wisconsin and, of course, Iowa. And boy did they come to walk!

That evening we had 39 walkers go to Madrid (Iowa, not Spain) and walk in a light rain to the spectacular High Trestle Bridge, which is lit up at night. The rain allowed us to enjoy it more since we didn't have to contend with all the bikes that normally would have been on the trail. Many out of town guests did our other two anniversary seasonals, Drake and Snusville walks, while in Des Moines. Of course there are always some overachievers (and you know who you are!) who even did some of our other YRE or Seasonal walks. A big shout out to Missy McBride who brought a large contingent from the Illinois-Missouri-Kansas clubs and promoted our event heavily on Facebook.



We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who attended our Anniversary Celebration. Thanks to everyone who did a walk or more, brought food or supplies for the potluck, contributed money, helped set up or clean up afterwards, worked at the registration table, gave a speech, promoted our event in any fashion, designed a walk, donated door prizes, traveled to Des Moines or helped in any other way to make our celebration a big success. It was great fun to see old friends and reminisce, and make new friends and new memories. I was delighted the next few days after the weekend to see all the photos that were posted on Facebook by all of my new "friends." My phone sounded like it was popping popcorn with all the notifications!

And one last note. Our three Anniversary Seasonals and 30k bike are all sanctioned through the end of June. So you can still get in on the fun by stopping in Iowa on your way to or from the convention in Oregon. We also have 14 other YRE and Seasonals Walks and one Seasonal Bike on the High Trestle Trail. If you like John Wayne, a new museum is opening up Memorial Day weekend in Winterset dedicated to him. Plus you can also see the Bridges of Madison County while you are here. I hope to see you all soon on the trail, either here in Iowa or in Oregon in June. ☺