

Governor Dodge equestrians *Spring Clean* riding gear



With spring just around the corner, area horse riders of all ages gathered on Sunday, March 10 to brush off their dusty saddles and spruce up their riding gear. Sponsored by the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park Equestrian Committee, the event was held at Dodger Bowl and featured saddle maker Craig Wiegand of Twisted Fork Saddle Shop, Eagle, WI. Craig explained the basics of saddle construction, how to do a basic safety check of equipment, and demonstrated how best to clean and condition leather tack. He offered recommendations on products that work well and ones to avoid. Over 20 participants scrubbed and polished while chatting about summer riding plans. It was saddle cleaning made fun! For more information about the Friends of Governor Dodge – Equestrians visit www.GovDodgeEquestrians.com.

In the photos above are (clockwise from top left) Craig Wiegand talks to the group; Grandmother Kay Fritsch of Dodgeville helps her granddaughter Megan Johnson of Watertown; Susan Blansett works on her saddle; Wendy Verhulst and daughter Azaela (age 9) of Peosta, IA are getting instructions from Craig Wiegand.

Little Azaela is an alumni of the group's 2016 Horsin Around Kids Camp. She went from starry eyed horse lover to proud horse owner! The group feels they may have played a part in that.