

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter

Number 44



Autumn 2010

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Board of Directors

Doug Voy, President
Tom Kilgore, Treasurer
Jane Butsic
Barb Gorman
Bill Kryshak
Joe Hagaman, Webmaster
Dale Seppa, Newsletter Editor
(715) 233-5624

DNR Representatives

Scott Erickson
Michael Rivers
Penny Thiede-Klish

The Friends Group sponsors three big events yearly to promote the Trail and Hoffman Hills. They include the National Trail Day, the Annual Meeting and the Candlelight Ski. This past summer, two of those events were held.

National Trails Day - June 5, 2010

The celebration of National Trails Day (NTD) this past June drew a very large crowd. There were programs for the entire family to enjoy. The day started with a nature walk led by Dennis Weibel. Then the experiences of the voyagers were presented by 3 Pieces, the Voyager (Jim Swanson). Kenton Whitman and Rebecca gave a presentation on snakes and everyone had the opportunity to touch them or hold them. Bill Dingwall got the kids involved in his presentation on owls entitled "Guess Who Gives a Hoot". A popular feature this year was an exhibit of raptors including eagles from the University of Minnesota Raptor Center. Bad Cat Bicycles and Simple Sports were there to check over your bike including checking for safety. The DNR provided booklets, pamphlets, nature cards and posters on a number of related subjects. Needless to say, it was an enjoyable day for the whole family.

Annual Meeting - June 10, 2010

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills was held at the EconoLodge Inn & Suites. As is customary, the evening started with a few brief presentations by Board Members reporting on the past years activities and future plans. The highlight of the evening was a program entitled "Wildlife Action: A visit to Crex Meadows". It was presented by Dale Bohlke, an avid nature photographer and Crex Meadows volunteer. It featured incredible wildlife action that was recorded at Crex Meadows. It made everyone want to visit Crex Meadows. Crex Meadows Wildlife Area is located in Burnett County, just north of the Village of Grantsburg. At 30,000 acres, Crex is the largest state owned wildlife area in Wisconsin.

President's Report***Doug Voy***

There has been much change in the Friends group over the years. In the last few years Friends group has been fortunate to have a great group of people that have made our events and board meetings very productive and enjoyable. Two of our long-serving Board members, Tom Kilgore – Treasurer, and Dale Seppa – Newsletter Editor, have decided to retire from our group. Their service and willingness to pitch in with many tasks is the essence of volunteering.

Tom always brought a great sense of humor to our meetings as well as a detailed report of our financial condition and membership list. He consistently monitored our PO Box and mailed out newsletters and membership cards as well as purchasing and delivering several hundred candles for the Candlelight Ski/Hike/Snowshoe event. We are fortunate that Bill Kryshak has agreed to take over the position of Treasurer. Please join me in thanking Tom for his stewardship of the Friends finances and welcoming Bill to the position of Treasurer.

Dale has brought a tireless work ethic to our Friends group events. Planning the annual meeting, publishing newsletters, taking meeting minutes, creating posters and helping at virtually every volunteer effort, including the many Buckthorn eradication sessions I've talked him into. I wish I could say that we have someone who could take over the tasks that Dale has regularly completed, but at this time we are not that fortunate. It will probably take several volunteers to take over these duties anyway! Luckily Dale has graciously agreed to continue to help out with the annual meeting and the candlelight ski events. If you or anyone you know would like to help out with our newsletters or meeting minutes please contact me or any of the Board members.

The DNR staff has been through many changes over the last couple of years as well. Bill Hewitt has decided to retire after many years in maintenance of the Red Cedar Trail, Chippewa River Trail and Hoffman Hills. Bill has been very helpful to the Friends group by allowing us use of tools for cutting buckthorn, the blue truck for hauling it away and providing a warming fire at the candlelight ski. Bill has also been very responsive when depot workers get a report from patrons that a tree is down across the trail. Bill's good nature and willingness to accommodate the Friends group will be sorely missed. Tim Fasbender, who is also a member of the Menomonie Fire Department, was hired earlier this year to do maintenance. When you see Tim at the trail or Hoffman Hills, please say hello and thank him for the great job he does in maintaining our recreation areas.

The DNR management of the trails in our area has also had some changes. Scott Erickson, the property manager for the last 2 ½ years has been promoted – though he will remain property manager at Lake Wissota State Park – and Mike Rivers of Brunet Island State Park is now the property manager of Hoffman Hills, Red Cedar and Chippewa River State Trails. The DNR in Madison is in the final (we hope) stages of hiring a Ranger who will be our direct contact in the future.

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Meeting Schedule***Everyone is Welcome***

Regular Meetings ---First Thursday of the months of Jan., March, May, Sept., Nov.

Time: 7 P.M.

Place: Leisure Services Center (Senior Center), Menomonie

WEB Site: <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>

Treasurer's Report***Tom Kilgore***

Our 2010 membership collections amount to a total of \$3,210.00 collected with half of the business collections going to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. That amount was \$975.00 leaving \$2,235.00 for operations.

Besides the business members listed elsewhere in this newsletter, we have 6 Contributing Memberships, 24 Families, 14 Individuals and 1 new Lifetime membership for 2010.

After determining exactly what the Internal Revenue Service was up to with their change in reporting for "Tax Exempt Organizations," Forms 990-EZ were filed before the October 15th deadline for tax years 2007, 2008 and 2009 with a check for one hundred dollars submitted to put us in good graces with them. With few expenses expected for the rest of 2010 and another Trail Pass and Merchandise payment from the Chamber expected, we should be in good shape to fund next year's projects, starting with the Candlelight Ski in late January.

DNR Notes***Red Cedar State Trail - Penny Thiede-Klish, DNR***

We would like to take this opportunity, to thank all the many dedicated volunteers! Without you, the Depot Visitor Center would not be what it is today. Bill Dingwall's outdoor education programs were a real treat for the children this season. Visitors commented on our "gem" of a trail; some saying they will be making this an annual event for their family holiday.

After some Fall flooding, the Red Cedar Trail has been reopened. Our dedicated maintenance team worked for several days around the County Y trail crossing so our visitors will be able to view the beautiful Fall colors.

We continue to operate the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills with a vacant Manager/Ranger position. Consequently, we greatly appreciate any effort and work that volunteers can do for us and our trail visitors!

Hoffman Hills - Michael Rivers, DNR

The heavy summer rains created numerous erosion problems to the trails at Hoffman Hills. Most of the smaller ones have been repaired, but one segment-a long downhill at the east end-was severely damaged and has been closed. This particular segment runs down the bottom of a valley and is unsustainable, so staff identified a re-route which they were hoping to complete yet this fall. Unfortunately, due to conditions and time constraints, they are not going to be able get the work done this fall, so this 0.7 mile segment will have to remain closed for the upcoming ski season.

Cross-Country Corner***Barb Gorman***

It will not be long and the colors of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills will be replaced by a beautiful blanket of snow; hard to believe with the wonderful fall weather that has been provided. The cross-country skiers are looking forward to another good ski season on the Red Cedar State Trail and at Hoffman Hills. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills has been blessed with having an organized, dedicated and fun group of groomers. The groomers keep both ski areas in prime condition. Due to various reasons, some of the groomers will not be available for the 2010-2011 ski season, particularly at Hoffman Hills. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills is looking for a few additional people who would be willing to take on the challenges of grooming at Hoffman Hills. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Barb Gorman: 235-1725, gorbadd@charter.net. To those who groomed last year and to the new groomers for the Red Cedar State Trail – THANK YOU!

Although volunteers do the grooming, expenses for grooming are still incurred. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills has an established grooming fund. Money from this fund is used to pay for badly needed repairs of the grooming equipment. It also helps to pay for signs, educational materials and other expenses. Donations to the grooming fund are always welcomed and appreciated. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, see the form on the last page of this newsletter.

A Special Thank You to Paul Peltier

Every year the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills work to improve the ski conditions on the Red Cedar State Trail and at Hoffman Hills. One particular area has focused on reducing the amount of damage done by people walking on the groomed ski trails. At Hoffman Hills, users seem to be unsure about the location of the walking and snowshoe trails. With the support of the DNR, new signs have been made to assist users. The signs were made and donated by Paul Peltier. He did an outstanding job on the signs. Paul donated his work and the supplies. Paul has been a long time supporter of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. He is a special person who always works to improve his community. He generously gives of his time and his skills. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills is fortunate to be a recipient of his commitment. Thank You Paul!

Fall is Falling

*'Tis Autumn again,
The leaves are falling.
The acorns are falling.
Our morning light is falling.
The temps are slowly falling.
Bright evening lights are falling.
Snow will be falling
And Northern lights will be falling.
Oh, no, the sky is falling!
Watch out!*

Volunteer Coordinator Notes***Doug Voy***

The Depot Visitor Center and the Red Cedar Trail were privileged to have a great group of volunteers working at varied tasks this year. From working in the Depot to eradicating Garlic Mustard and Buckthorn to helping with National Trails Day and other activities there have been hundreds of hours put in by volunteers who helped make our Trail the pleasant and beautiful place that it is.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Depot Visitor Center is staffed, on weekdays, by volunteers who sell trail passes, answer questions about the Trail and Menomonie, stock display racks and keep the Depot clean. We had a great group again this year, including some who have volunteered for many years and some who agreed for the first time to help out. I would like to thank Don Kuether, Ray Barlow, Joe and Margy Hagaman, Tom and Linda Walsh, Jane Butsic, Jan Harvey, Steve Hakes and Dennis Weibel for working a weekday shift. We were fortunate to have several substitutes to fill in when needed and I would like to thank Steve Cole, Bill Kryshak, Steve Vandeberg, Debbie Wright, Mary Jean and Lee Nicholls and Mary and Eldora Andrus for helping out when needed.

Garlic Mustard and Buckthorn have been removed by the truckload this year by a dedicated group of volunteers who want to keep the Red Cedar Trail the diverse natural area that it is. In June a boy scout troop from Glenwood City led by Kevin Schmit spent three hours pulling Garlic Mustard. Katie Harrington, Dale Seppa, Fred and Lynn Shaw, Dick Vomela, Bill Kryshak, Joe Harrington, Jane Butsic worked at removing Buckthorn.

We also had a Work Play Earth Day cleaning session at the Depot in May, a group of High School Students clearing branches at Hoffman Hills on Earth Day, National Trails Day and our annual meeting.

If you or someone you know would like to participate in any volunteer activities, please contact me through redcedarhoffman.org.

A Note from the Editor

As a Member of the Friends Group, periodically, you receive a Newsletter by mail. This provides you with news, activities and up-coming events related to the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. You will still periodically receive newsletters by mail; however, less often. The Friends Group has a WEB site which is updated in a much timelier manner. <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>

We have decided to make more use of this WEB site by also not sending out paper copies of every newsletter, and instead, informing you by postcard when an issue of the newsletter has been added to the WEB site. Current plans are to mail paper versions twice a year: at the beginning and at the middle of the year. You are encouraged to explore this WEB site as there are a number of items of interest.

Business Membership Barb Gorman & Tom Kilgore

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills continues to be fortunate with the memberships of several Dunn County businesses. All memberships are important to the Friends' group as this support helps to improve and sustain the two beautiful nature areas. Businesses have shown an extra commitment to help the Friends and become members. Please support the business members of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills:

Bad Cat Bicycles

McCoy Development

Cardinal Glass FG

Menomonie Farmers Union Co-op

Cedar Corporation

Phillip M. Steans, S.C.

ConAgra Foods

Phillips Plastics Corporation

Dr. Dan Wood, DDS, S.C.

Wal-Mart Corporation

Gentle Dental Care

Xcel Energy

Heritage Builders, Inc

3M Corporation

Jackie Hunt Insurance Agency, Inc.

Thank You Friends' Business Members

The Depot Visitor Center Hours of Operation

May 1 until Memorial Day, Labor Day through Oct.

Memorial Day through Labor Day

WeekdaysClosed

Weekdays10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Saturday - Sunday 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Saturday - Sunday & Holidays .. 9 A.M. – 5 P.M

Please Note: The Depot is closed from November until May.

Dues Reminder

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills is a non-profit support organization dedicated to enhancing the recreational and educational opportunities by sponsoring, promoting and funding many activities as well as participating in projects that help to maintain and improve the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. The Friends group derives its funding from dues paid by individuals and businesses, donations, grants and a percentage of trail pass revenues. These funds provide resources for interpretive programs, volunteer workdays and community events such as the Annual Candlelight Ski. As a reminder, dues can be paid by using the form on the last page of this newsletter and mailing to the address indicated. As a dues paying member, you will receive a membership card, newsletters and information on Friends activities.

Thank You for your support.

Interested in Volunteering

The Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills are indeed treasures that we locals enjoy as well as the many visitors that they attract. With State Funding cut-backs for trails, the role that volunteer groups play is becoming increasingly important. There are a number of opportunities available where help is needed. Some of the opportunities include eradicating invasive species, working on exhibits, gardening at the depot, repairing bird houses, trail projects, working in the depot, becoming a trail ambassador, or helping with special programs such as the Candlelight Ski and National Trails Day. If you are interested, or have any questions regarding volunteering, contact any of the board members. You will be rewarded knowing that you had a hand in preserving and maintaining these resources. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills would like to thank all of you who have volunteered in the past on various projects. Thank You.

Donation Information

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills have always been blessed with the willingness of its members and the community to volunteer their time and help with projects.

Also, from time to time, many have chosen to make special monetary gifts. For those wishing to make special monetary gifts, they can be sent to our mailing address: FRCST, P.O. Box 628, Menomonie, WI, 54751. Money received by donation for specific purposes will be subject to approval of the Friends Board of Directors before it is expended for the specific purpose. A Life Time Membership would be provided to a donor for any memorial donation of \$150, or more. In the case of memorial funds, a minimum contribution of \$250 is required for the addition of a plaque. The Friends express our thanks and appreciate the generosity of all donors.

Merchandise Available in the Depot

New T-Shirts are this year:

Green Short Sleeve ... \$15

Blue Long Sleeve \$18

In addition, there are previous years T-Shirts in orange, gray, beige in some sizes.

Books

Critters of Wisconsin. \$5. This is a small book with great pictures of mammals and birds commonly seen in Wisconsin. This book is great to carry in your pack or to give to a child.

The Red Cedar Suite \$5. This book is by Menomonie's Jerry Bowker and Robert Schuler. The beautiful black and white photos by Jerry are enhanced by the poems by Robert.

For \$15.00 you can purchase the Wisconsin State Park Passport Book. This is a fun souvenir for the state park visitor. You put stamps from each state park in the book as you travel around the state.

Menomonie Water Bottles are available for only \$1.00.

Sales benefit The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills.

Trail Pass Fees

Daily\$4

Annual\$20

Pass purchase required before using trail for biking or skiing.

Pass is good for all Wisconsin state trails.

Use self-registration stations on the trail.

Same fee for residents and non-residents

*Friends of the
Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills*

P.O. Box 628
Menomonie, WI 54751

Don't forget to get your annual trail pass

Everyone is welcome to
attend meetings of the
Friends Group.
(See Schedule on Page 2)



Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills

Join Today!

(or renew your membership)
Dues for 2010 (Jan. – Dec.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Annual Memberships Include:

- Membership Card
- Newsletters
- Information on Activities

**Make checks payable to:
Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail
P.O. Box 628
Menomonie, WI 54751**

Check One:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Small Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Medium Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Large Corporation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Supporting | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Lifetime | |

Special Contribution to the CC Ski Grooming Fund _____