

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter

Number 45



Winter 2011

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Candlelight Ski – January 28, 2011

The annual popular winter event, the Candlelight Ski, will be held on January 28, 2011 from 6 - 9 P.M. The Red Cedar State Trail and the Stokke Trail will be lit with luminaries. Also again this year, there is the opportunity to snowshoe on an illuminated trail at neighboring Riverside Park. With the snow that we have had this season, it shapes up to be a great night to enjoy these winter activities. The Red Cedar State Trail will be open for skiing from the Depot to the illuminated ice wall, about 1.5 miles. We ask walkers to be respectful of the groomed Red Cedar State Trail and refrain from walking on it. For those wishing to ski, it is advisable that you bring your own skis. Limited ski rentals will be available from Stout Adventures by calling at 232-5625, in advance. The Stokke Trail will be cleared to provide the opportunity for those wishing to take a candlelight walk. For those interested in snowshoeing, either bring your own snowshoes, or free snowshoes will be provided by the Menomonie School District for everyone in the family to snowshoe at Riverside Park.

The Depot will be open and staffed with volunteers who can provide information about the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. Of interest are the many displays in the Depot. Passes will not be required that evening; however, yearly trail passes will be available for sale. Also, for sale, will be Red Cedar State Trail merchandise.

After skiing or walking, warm up with a cup of hot chocolate provided by Swiss Miss and join everyone around the glowing bonfire. It is a fun time for the whole family to experience the joys of winter. This event is organized by the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills, ConAgra and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

A Free Night of Fun for All!!

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

After nearly three years without a property manager the DNR recently hired Calvin Kunkle for the Red Cedar and Chippewa River State Trails and Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area. I would like to welcome Calvin to our area and look forward to working with him on the opportunities for improving our local state properties.

Our two local State Foresters, Rob Strand and Jay Jordan, have spent a considerable amount of time and effort at Hoffman Hills the last couple of years. The timber harvest they have managed will bring long-term health to the pine stands and will enhance the visitor experience by widening the trail system in some areas. Thanks to Rob for providing the following synopsis of the timber harvest.

All the cutting and hauling are done for this project. We were generally happy with how the cutting turned out, although there were some problem areas due mainly to the wet weather and soils that occurred this summer and fall. The best-formed, most healthy trees have been left in the stands, and the plantation "row" effect will diminish as an understory of oak, maple, and white pine develops in many areas.

The trails should be in good shape for winter grooming and skiing, but they will need to be finish-graded and seeded in the spring. There are also some areas within the pine plantations that were rutted excessively by the heavy logging machinery. The contractor will come back in the spring to repair the rutted areas. We will keep the sale contract in effect, and retain the contractor's performance bond, until the rutted areas are repaired.

We did see to it that the trail corridors winding through the pine plantations were opened substantially, which should help provide better snow cover for skiing. We also had the contractor clear a very wide swath on the main trail going west from the group camp to provide room for eventual trail reconstruction in that segment. Plans are in the works to move that section of trail slightly south in order to get it up out of the low area where water runoff tends to concentrate.

All told, there were 605 cords of white pine, 370 cords of red pine, and 105 cords of mixed hardwood timber cut on the project. This will bring a total of \$38,210.26 in revenue when final payment is received. The pine stands will not be thinned again for about 12 years. In the meantime there will be other opportunities for managing some of the hardwood stands on the property if circumstances allow it. I won't provide any further comment on the trail reconstruction/relocation plans - but rather defer to Cameron and others in the know to comment on that. If needed, DNR Forestry can assist in setting up a contract for getting additional trail corridor areas cleared.

We hope to see you all at the Candlelight Ski.

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/Bill Kryshak

Revenue from the sale of Trail Passes for 2010 totaled \$1,957.20 for the sale of 559 annual passes and 2,098 daily passes. The Friends group receives 10% of the cost of the pass with the Chamber of Commerce retaining a similar 10%; the remaining 80% goes to the DNR.

The Friends Group acknowledges the receipt of \$150 in memorial funds in memory of Karl Young. Donors included Annette and John Taylor, Marie and Richard Vomela, Carol and Dale Seppa, Marlene Jones and Nancy Mussetter. Thank you donors.

DNR Notes

Introducing the New Property Manager for the Chippewa and Red Cedar State Trails and Hoffman Hills Recreation area - Calvin J. Kunkle

I was born and raised on a small farm in south west Iowa in a little town called Menlo. I spent as much time as I could outdoors and after high school I used this passion for the natural resources to start a job with the local county conservation board. I spent the next 4 summers working between Adair County and Hancock County maintaining wildlife areas and campgrounds. During this time I got a degree from a 2 year college in North West Iowa and later transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I graduated from there in 2004 with a bachelors degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management.

After college I spent six months working for the Iowa DNR under the AmeriCorps Volunteer program. If you're not familiar with this program, it's an opportunity for people to gain experience in their particular career interest while promoting community awareness and getting people involved in the outdoors. While there I worked on wetland/grassland restorations projects and general management of wildlife areas. I took this experience and obtained a job with the Wisconsin DNR at the Navarino Wildlife Area. This area is located west of Green Bay about 40 miles and runs along the Wolf River. The river is well known for its walleye fishing and sturgeon spawning runs. Managing properties along this riparian corridor had many challenges and I hope to use my knowledge gleaned from this experience in managing the Red Cedar/Chippewa River State Trails, and Hoffman Hills Recreation.

Thank you for this opportunity to tell you a little bit about me. In the future I look forward to meeting members of the friends group and working to protect these unique resources.

My contact information:

**Calvin J. Kunkle, Assistant Property Manager
Chippewa and Red Cedar State Trails, Hoffman Hills Recreation Area
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
921 Brickyard Road
Menomonie, WI 54751
phone: (715) 232-1242
fax: (715) 232-1277
e-mail: Calvin.Kunkle@wisconsin.gov**

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

What a wonderful early Christmas present the ski trails received- lots and lots and lots of snow! It is likely that by the time you read this, grooming of Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail has been accomplished due to the extensive amount of hours put in by the volunteer groomers. The amount of snow received caused considerable difficulty for the groomers. It took many man hours just to get the snow packed in order to be able to groom and set tracks. Several people worked long hours to get the grooming accomplished and many more contributed time and ideas to solve the snow depth problem. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills is very appreciative of all the effort, time and work. Thank you Bruce Jordan, Dan Haug, Bill Kryshak, David Gorman, Jim Tenorio, John Wesolek, Jerry Porter, Kim Wentworth, Craig Wilm, Dan Gainey, Roger Magnuson, Sean Bujold, Erin Endsley, Jane Butsic, Chris Ryder and Korey Maves. Chris spent several hours on the Red Cedar State Trail and at Hoffman Hills, as did Korey at Hoffman Hills, using their snowmobiles to pack down the trails. Every groomer was stuck numerous times and then had to shovel out the stuck equipment. And just when the groomers for the Red Cedar State Trail thought they could set tracks, the snowmobile broke down and went in for repairs. Both trails are getting closer than farther to being in excellent groomed condition. Thanks to all the skiers for their patience and a big THANK YOU to all the groomers.

Grooming cannot be accomplished without the assistance and support of the DNR. On December 18, 2010, the DNR conducted a training session for the groomers, covering safety and use of the grooming equipment. The DNR staff works closely with the groomers, ensuring an efficient operation. Thank you to Scott Erickson, Mike Rivers and Calvin Kunkle for your time in conducting the training and season long support.

Nature Valley Grand Prix Bike Race***Barb Gorman***

Mark your calendars - the 2011 Nature Valley Grand Prix bike race will come to Menomonie on Saturday, June 18, 2011. The turnout for the Menomonie stage in 2010 was tremendous. It is exciting for Dunn County to again host a stage of the race. More information will be available as the race day nears. It is anticipated the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills will again have a booth at the expo.

Cross-Country Ski Trails are for Skiing Only

Jane Butsic

The Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hill ski trails are being groomed for cross-country skiing. In the winter, the Red Cedar Trail is a State designated cross-country ski trail from the Depot trailhead to Downsville. This means that the trail is not open to walkers, snowshoes, or snowmobiles. The same is true at Hoffman Hills, though there is a designated snowshoe trail that winds through the prairie and up to the tower. This is not a loop trail so you should return via the same trail.

Why is it important to use the trails that are groomed only for skiing? The trails look like they would be good for walking, but there is no good place to walk on a groomed trail. There are two methods of cross-country skiing. The classic method of skiing uses the tracks that are set into the trail. One track is set to go out and one to come back or for two skiers to ski side by side. The skiers need the flat surface beside the track for pole placement. This flat surface is hard so that it prevents the pole from sinking, thereby, preventing the skier from losing his balance. The middle of the trail is used for the faster method of skiing called skating. Skaters push off their skis like an ice skater pushes off their skate. Just as a hockey player or figure skater needs smooth ice, the skating cross county skier needs a flat hard trail. Footprints ruin surface for both the classical and the skate skier. Every part of the groomed trail is important to the skier.

Cross-country skiers pay to use the trails. Every skier over 16 years old must buy a trail pass to ski. This money is not used for trail grooming. Volunteers do all of the grooming. These hardy souls go out in the cold and groom the trails after the snow. Most of the groomers are from the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills and Bad Cat Cycles. Financial support for the machines that groom the trails also come from the Friends of the Red Cedar Trails and Hoffman Hills. When someone walks, on the trail the volunteer has to go back out into the cold to groom again. Grooming has been especially difficult because of the amount of the first snow. Special snowmobiles and grooming equipment had to be brought in to groom the trails.

Menomonie is blessed with two fun cross country ski trails and everyone in the area should give skiing a try, but if you are outside walking or snowshoeing, please respect the skiers and use the trails in the city and county designated for walking, snowshoes and snowmobiles .

A Note from the Editor

As a Member of the Friends Group you will receive a Newsletter. This provides you with news, activities and up-coming events related to the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. Normally, three Newsletters are published each year. At the last Board meeting, it was decided to abandon the previous policy where those three copies included two paper copies mailed out and one copy would be distributed via the WEB page. It was decided to revert back to our previous policy. Therefore, now you will always receive a paper copy by mail. However, all newsletters (both past and present) are also available on our WEB page. The Friends Group WEB site is <http://redcedarhoffman.org/> You are encouraged to explore this WEB site as there are a number of other items of interest.

Business Membership Barb Gorman & Bill Kryshak

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.

2010 Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills Business Members

- | | |
|---|--|
| Bad Cat Bicycles | State Farm Insurance, Jackie Hunt |
| BOMAC Vets Plus | McCoy Development |
| Cardinal Glass FG | Menomonie Farmers Union Co-op |
| Cedar Corporation | Phillip M. Steans, S.C. |
| ConAgra/Swiss Miss Foods | Phillips Plastics Corporation |
| Dr. Dan Wood, DDS, S.C. | Wal-Mart Distribution Center |
| Gary Welsh Construction | Xcel Energy |
| Gentle Dental Care, Dr. Lisa Joyce | 3M Corporation |
| Heritage Builders, Inc | |

Thank You Friends' Business Members

<i>The Depot Visitor Center Hours of Operation</i>	
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 2011 (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 _____