

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 48

Winter 2012

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Lack of Snow will not stop the Candlelight Event!

There is snow in the forecast as I write this , but even if there is not snow, the annual popular winter event, the Candlelight Ski, will be held on January 27, 2012 from 6 - 9 P.M. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/ Hoffman Hills will illuminate as much of the Red Cedar Trail and Stokke trail as we are safely able to. With snow, there will also be an illuminated snowshoe trail at neighboring Riverside Park. For those interested in snowshoeing, free snowshoes will be provided by the Menomonie School District for everyone in the family. Of course, you can use your own snowshoes. With snow, the Stokke Trail will be illuminated to provide the opportunity for those wishing to take a candlelight walk past the small ice wall . The Red Cedar State Trail will be illuminated for skiing from the Depot to the illuminated ice wall, about 1.5 miles. This is a designated State Ski Trail and walkers are asked to be respectful of the groomed Red Cedar State Trail and refrain from walking on it. Limited ski rentals are available from Stout Adventures by calling at 715-232-5625, and picking up the skis in advance. The Depot will be open and staffed with volunteers who can provide information about the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. It is filled with historical and nature displays. Take this opportunity to purchase your year pass, or a Red Cedar Trail tee shirt. The Chamber of Chamber of Commerce will be available to answer questions about the area. The DNR will be at the event to help out and answer questions you may have about the Red Cedar Trail or Hoffman Hills. Passes will not be required that evening. After skiing or walking, warm up with a cup of hot chocolate provided by Swiss Miss and join everyone around the bonfire. This is a fun time for the whole family to experience the joys of winter. The event is organized by the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills, ConAgra Foods and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. If you would like to help out during the evening please go to our website (redcedarhoffman.org) and contact a board member.

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Trail Manager's Report

Cal Kunkle

Well so far it's been a slow start to the year. Lack of snow and warm temperatures have closed down the ski trails. The mild weather hasn't slowed down the ice wall though. The recent weather has provided an opportunity to walk the Red Cedar Trail and see this natural wonder as well as enjoying the trails at Hoffman Hills.

Last year was a busy year as work has begun at Hoffman Hills to reroute a washed out trail, the beginning of the oak savanna restoration, and getting some new much needed equipment. Work on the trail reroute has begun but had to be stopped as winter neared. Construction will start back up in the spring with plans in place for additional reroutes and widening of trails. Construction may continue into fall or even next spring. This work will include a timber sale to clear the new trail corridors for the reroutes as well as trail widening. Additional information will be included in the next newsletter. Work will also continue on the oak savanna project as we're hoping to plant another 5 acres next spring. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to seeing some warm weather. Right now though, we're hoping for snow! Not just for the candle light ski event but also for some bonfires at Hoffman and to use our new John Deere Gator. Yep, the Gator came in right after Christmas. You skiers and groomers out there I'm sure are rejoicing, as am I. If you want to look at it in person please come to the candle light ski event.

As a new year begins we look forward to new challenges and new rewards. Thanks for your time and hope to see you all for some good winter fun.



President's Report

Doug Voy

The Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe/Walk is fast approaching even if the snow is not. We are looking forward to a fun family event and a little more snow is all we need.

The DNR had purchased a John Deere Gator with a cab and tracks to be used for grooming trails at Hoffman as well as watering the Oak Savannah. Many thanks to John Taylor and the Optimists, Bill Butsic of the Hoffman foundation, Linda McIntyre of the Community Foundation of Dunn County, Barb Gorman of the Friends, and Calvin Kunkle, the property manager of Hoffman Hills. The Gator will be at the Candlelight Ski for anyone wanting to get a look at it. The Optimists and the Friends group will be hosting a candlelight Snowshoe/Bonfire at Hoffman Hills on the January 28th from 6-8pm on the west side of the Oak Savannah. We will be burning some of the large piles of leftover branches from the logging of the Box Elder trees. We hope to see you all at one of these events.

Right in the Middle of Winter Events

Chamber

The Greater Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center, Main Street of Menomonie, Inc., Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts and local Artists, invite you to visit Menomonie and enjoy our events right in the middle of winter! For more information go to the Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center website:

<http://www.menomoniechamber.org/>

Friday, January 27	Candlelight Ski
Saturday, January 28	The North American Working Dog Club Pull Optimist Club Bonfire at Hoffman Hills
Sunday, January 29	"Siren's of the 60s" at the Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts
Friday, February 3	Peter Phippen at the Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts
Sunday, February 5	Super Bowl Game
February 9, 10, 11	Valentine's Art Fair at the Witt Gallery
Saturday, February 11	National Straight Line Snowmobile Racing on the lake Pardon Fashion Show Winter Farmer's Market A Day at the Snow Park Dunn County Fish and Game Fishing Contest
Saturday, February 18	Youth Hockey Mites Tournament
Sunday, February 19	Menomonie Wedding Fair at Vision Quest North American Ice Fishing Circuit (NAIFC) Comes to Menomonie!
Friday, February 24	NAIFC Ice Fishing Seminar
Saturday, February 25	NAIFC Kids Ice Camp Optimist Club Bonfire at Hoffman Hills
Sunday, February 26	NAIFC Tournament Day & Weigh In

**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.



Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills

Join Today!

(or renew your membership)
Dues for 2012 (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 | |
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Special Contribution to the CC Ski Grooming Fund _____