

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 49

Spring/Summer 2012

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National Trails Day - June 2, 2012

The Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills have a great day planned for National Trail Day, Saturday June 2nd. Activities are planned at the Red Cedar Trail, Depot Visitors center. The trail, always free for walking will be free for biking for the day. We will also encourage fishing at Riverside park as fishing is free for the day. Simple Sports will give bikes a quick tune up and safety check. Lunch will be provided by the Optimist. Lots of fun activities are planned for the day. Cookies and lemonade will be available all day starting at **10:00**. Penny and Melissa from the DNR will have a tent set up with activities, games and prizes for children throughout the day.

Dennis Weibel, local nature author, will lead a nature hike from the depot at **10:15**. Join Dennis and discover what is growing on the trail in June.

Board of Directors

Doug Voy, President
Bill Kryshak, Treasurer
Jane Butsic
Barb Gorman
Ellen Ochs
Nancy Flyen
Joe Hagaman, Webmaster
and Newsletter Editor

The Raptor Center from the University of Minnesota will bring eagles and other birds of prey. At **11:00** they will present a program and then answer questions and provide information about the birds. It is a real treat to see these huge birds up close.

Jim Swanson, the voyageur from the 1700s, will bring his canoe and discuss the importance of the rivers in the history of our state. Jim will be set up during the **morning**, demonstrating what a voyageur needed to survive the weather and rivers of Wisconsin.

Bill Dingwall, an outdoor educator with the Menomonie School System will be presenting *Who Gives a Hoot?* Everyone will be able to dissect an owl pellet and see what the owl ate. Bill will present his program around **1:00**.

DNR Representatives

Scott Erickson
Michael Rivers
Calvin Kunkle
Penny Thiede-Klish

DNR representatives will be on hand to answer any questions all day. The Chamber of Commerce will have the depot staffed and ready to answer any questions about the area. We have new tee shirts for you to purchase and you will be able to pay your dues at our welcome table. Members of the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail/ Hoffman Hills are still working on more ideas for the day. Join us to see what is happening on the trail.

The festivities end at **2:00**, but everyone is encouraged to walk, bike and use the Red Cedar Trail and to enjoy the view out at Hoffman Hills.

Trail Manager's Report

Cal Kunkle

It's been quite the start for spring, it goes from 80 degree days in March and then down to 40's for April. Well the good weather did get biking season going early. Now that bike season is getting going the DNR has hired additional help for the summer. You may meet Melisa Erwin who is now our new part time Visitor Services Associate or Dan Kilps or fulltime summer Laborer along the trails. Please welcome them in their new positions.

This spring also gave us good weather for some volunteer projects. We had another successful oak planting at Hoffman Hills with 100 trees planted and shelters erected for protection. I took a look this week and leaves are starting to develop on many of the oak trees. We also worked with a group of stout students from the national charity fraternity of Alpha Phi Omega picking up abandoned tires near the new tree planting at Hoffman Hills. The Red Cedar Trail didn't get forgotten as a group of Menomonie middle school students helped remove invasive species, cut trees in the prairie garden, and cleaned around the Depot.

And finally an update on the trail repairs at Hoffman Hills. Trail work will continue this spring and summer depending on when it stops raining. Some additional trails will be rerouted to make them more sustainable and flow better with existing trails. As part of this project a timber sale will be conducted to open up new trail corridors and remove hazardous trees. Signs will be put along access points to inform visitors of active work sites but it's also recommended to stay at least 300 feet away from heavy equipment operations.

I hope you enjoy these beautiful spring days along the trails. Spring wildflowers are really beginning to bloom, all sorts of butterflies are being seen, and many types of birds being heard.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Kryshak

Our 2011 membership collections amounted to a total of \$2,399.00 with half of the business collections going to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. That amount was \$644.50 leaving \$1,754.50 added to our previous balance for operations. We also receive a share of the dollars collected for trail passes which was \$1,635.20 for 2011.

As of April 30th we have \$4,783.91 in our operating cash account and \$713.00 for grooming at Hoffman Hills. Our Grant account has a remaining balance of \$124.00 and our Burr Oak Savanna/Hoffman Hills account has a balance of \$12,124.88.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: We rely a great deal on memberships for funding our operations so I would ask if you have not renewed yet for 2012, please consider doing so. This allows us to continue our funding for things like Earth Day and National Trails Day while also allowing us to help with many projects at the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills State Park. We thank you for your continued support.

President's Report

Doug Voy

We've had wonderful spring weather to enjoy the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills. I hope you get a chance to come to the National Trails Day event on June 2nd.

We are having an annual meeting/picnic on Sunday September 9th at 4:30pm at the Depot Visitor Center and all are invited to attend.

There was a special dedication of a sign for the Don and Nona Schley Oak Savannah at Hoffman Hills by John Taylor of the Optimist club in April. The Oak Savannah would not have been possible without the Schley's generous donations.

A few volunteer projects have been going on at Hoffman Hills. Many thanks to Dennis Spader of the Optimist club for helping with the burning of brush in February as well as helping Menomonie High School students clear brush on Earth Day. Dennis also did a great job organizing volunteers to plant another 100 Bur Oaks a few hundred yards west of the observation tower. The protective tree shelters can be seen from the tower. Special thanks to the Colfax Comets 4-H club for providing so many volunteers. Thanks also to Diane Simon of the Optimist club for providing some very tasty box lunches for the volunteers. Ethan Young of the UW Stout chapter of the charity fraternity Alpha Phi Omega organized a cleanup of some discarded tires near the new Oak Savannah.

The Menomonie Middle school brought about 15 students and teachers to the Red Cedar Trail in April to help with parking lot sweeping, removing some brush and cutting some invasive Buckthorn. Thanks to Wal-Mart for providing two helpers with this project.

Trail rerouting at Hoffman Hills will be going on this summer to help with the many washouts that have occurred over the last several years. Please use caution when equipment is in operation in these areas.

The Depot Visitor Center is open on Saturday and Sunday from 9 to 5 and will be open Monday through Friday from 10 to 4 after Memorial Day through Labor Day. Stop in and see the displays and the educational materials we have. The DNR Wild Cards and Wisconsin Explorer booklets are very popular with children.

If you would like to help out with volunteer projects or working in the Depot Visitor Center, please contact me or any of our board members. We are listed at redcedarhoffman.org.

I hope you enjoy the summer and the natural world at the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills.

Thank You**Barb Gorman**

Although Mother Nature was not kind in providing an abundance of snow this past winter, the volunteer groomers once again did a great job keeping both the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills in good skiing condition. Bill Kryshak, John Wesolek and Bruce Jordan kept conditions on the Red Cedar State Trail skiable for many weeks. The snow angels were looking over the Red Cedar State Trail as there was plenty of snow available for the Candlelight Ski. Roger Magnuson and Paul Sterk enjoyed using the new Gator grooming machine at Hoffman Hills. They looked very comfortable in the enclosed heated cab of the machine. Thank you to all of the volunteer groomers, you make the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills great places to enjoy cross-country skiing. The Gator was put to good use on April 21, 2012 when more oak trees were planted for the Oak Savanna project at Hoffman Hills. The Candlelight Ski that was held in January 2012 was again a success. Many folks attended and enjoyed walking on the lit Stokke Trail, skiing on the Red Cedar State Trail or snowshoeing in Riverside Park. The FRCST/HH extends a hearty THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who make this event happen. This year some of the candles went out due to the rain that fell after the candles had been lit and set in place. The candles that remained glowing were a battery operated version. More of these will likely be used for future events. Thank you to Bill Butsic for his generous donation of the battery operated candles. Thank you also to the DNR staff of Calvin, Penny and Bill, who helped make the Candlelight Ski well organized and enjoyable for all who attended.

Grand Prix Bike Race**Barb Gorman**

Mark your calendars, the Grand Prix bike race is returning to Menomonie on June 16, 2012. This event has something for everyone. As amazing as it is to watch the racers fly past, there are activities occurring downtown for the young and old. If you are feeling ambitious, join the Gran Fondo ride, the course the racers ride. Or, if a route a little less challenging is more to your liking, there will be spectator rides available. Many activities for children and youths are provided in downtown Menomonie. The events and activities will be advertised and information books are available at the Chamber office. Come join the fun on June 16, 2012.

Webmaster Report**Joe Hagaman**

The Friends website use has remained about the same over the past year. So far in 2012, the page views per month have been averaging 1200 to 1400 for about 15,000 total visits in the past year. Check it out for yourself at <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>. You will find all sorts of information that will help you enjoy our two premier recreational destinations in the county. For you on-road bikers there is also a page showing the Dunn County Bike Routes just developed this past year

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.

**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 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Lifetime | |

Special Contribution to the CC Ski Grooming Fund _____