

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 50 - Fall 2012

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Annual Meeting and Pot Luck

The annual meeting of The Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills was held at the Depot on September 9, 2012 at 4:30 PM. It was a picture perfect day, with warm sunshine wafting through the trees as old and new friends arrived for the potluck meal. Doug Voy brought brats that were perfectly grilled as the evening progressed. The meal was delicious with many salads, side dishes and sweet treats. New attendees were introduced and a lively conversation was had by all.

After the meal, the annual meeting was held and there was active discussion around the trail systems, their use, and future projects. An all-encompassing thank you by the Chamber to the Friends for helping out at the depot through the summer months and Calvin gave his thank you on behalf of the DNR for the help the organization provides in the maintenance and upkeep of the trails. With a joint effort many continue to enjoy the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills Recreation area. Thanks to all who help through their financial support or volunteer hours!

Board of Directors

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

DNR Representatives

Scott Erickson
Michael Rivers
Calvin Kunkle
Penny Thiede-Klish

Volunteers

Mother Nature brought great weather for National Trails Day on June 2, 2012 and the Red Cedar State Trail was the host to many activities promoting its beautiful trail. Once again, there were many great exhibits. Many people assist to make National Trails Day an enjoyable experience for the young to the old. It is always hard to do a thank you so as not to miss any one person who contributes their most appreciated time. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills thanks all the volunteers who contributed and to Calvin Kunkle, the DNR trail property manager for the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills. Marcia Mason, who manned the welcome booth was once again invaluable. The "try fishing" was a huge hit and Calvin made more than one new youngster fishing friend. A thank you to Becky Iverson who assisted the youngsters as well in their fishing endeavors. Jane Butsic, a former board member of the FRCST/HH, has been a committed volunteer in the planning and implementing of National Trails Day. Her experience as a teacher has provided a valuable educational perspective on ideas of events for National Trails Day. A very big, appreciative **thank you** to Jane. Again, thank you to all of the volunteers, presenters, Calvin, and the Optimist Club for making National Trails such a successful event.

Trail Manager's Report

Cal Kunkle

Another bike season over and a new ski season coming up. I even heard a ski resort in Minnesota opening up for the October 6th weekend, the first in the country this year. Hopefully it's a good sign (for others not so much) for things to come. It seemed like such a long summer (I guess since summer started in March this year) but it gave us time to get some much needed work accomplished between all of our volunteers and DNR staff.

The DNR did get the new ski/hiking trail on the east side of Hoffman Hills completed. A group of volunteers helped clear away some rocks and roots left over from the construction, which really helped out. Work will hopefully continue with two more reroutes planned for this fall. A timber sale was completed in the two new sections along with some trail widening work in other areas. Construction is planned for late October through November until we get some significant snowfall. DNR staff also kept busy with cleaning up wind and storm damage along the Red Cedar Trail. We did have some concerns raised about ruts along the Red Cedar Trail. Staff graded the trail in the spring but the dry weather during that time hardened the trail so much the grading didn't work as well as expected. This appears to have been a problem throughout the state as other trail managers have said the same thing. If we get some moisture this winter it will give us another opportunity in the spring to smooth out the rough spots.

Spring will likewise bring new prospects to Hoffman Hills. We're planning two prescribed burns to rejuvenate the south prairie and to establish a new prairie planting west of the existing oak savanna. With the help of the Youth Optimist we were able to collect 25 pounds of prairie seed this year, which will be planted in the new prairie next year. Along with this seed and the donations to the oak savanna fund we'll be able to provide a very diverse seed mix for our new prairie.

These projects will provide all kinds of opportunities to help out in the future. Look for current volunteer needs further on in the newsletter and keep an on eye out for other postings. Again, a big thanks goes to everyone that has donated time and/or money to make these areas a great place to visit.

Enjoy this beautiful fall and see you on the trails.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Kryshak

Our 2012 membership collections have been \$1,469.00 with half of the business collections going to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. That amount was \$450.00 leaving \$1,019.00 added to our previous balance for operations. We also receive a share of the dollars collected for trail passes which will be coming before the end of the year so we should be good financially going into next year. I would like to point out that memberships are down the last few years so we will be working next year to try to reverse that trend. As of September 30th we have \$2,434.66 in our operating cash account and \$1,138.00 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.

President's Report

Doug Voy

We had a wonderful summer at the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills. The National Trails Day event in June was again well attended. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out with this event, especially Diane Simon and her crew for providing tasty lunches.

At Hoffman Hills the new northeast black trail rerouting was completed by DNR crews. Final cleanup of rocks and roots was provided by Tom and Linda Walsh and Yvonne Vaughn and her sister. Several trail-widening logging operations were completed this summer as well. The local Pheasants Forever youth chapter led by Kevin Lannon did a great job of clearing and raking the "roller coaster" trail east of the maintenance shed and were able to get a nice view from the tower at the end of our work day. These volunteer groups play an important part in keeping the Hoffman Hills trail system in good shape for all to enjoy. There are more logging operation cleanups to be done this fall. Please contact me or any board member if you are interested. Contact info is at redcedarhoffman.org.

Jane Butsic has decided to retire from the Board of the Friends group after many years of service and will be sorely missed. She did much of the organizing of our National Trails Day event and the Candlelight Ski night. Jane also did most of the newspaper articles and announcements concerning the Friends group. It is very difficult to replace such a dedicated volunteer but we need to try. Please contact any of our board members if you or anyone you know is interested in serving with a fun group to keep the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills the recreation areas we all enjoy.

Cross-country ski season is just around the corner and we will, hopefully, have enough snow this year.

The grooming at the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills is done by volunteers so if you or anyone you know is interested in helping out please contact us.

I hope you all enjoy the fall season and look forward to seeing you at the Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe/Hike at the Red Cedar Trail on Friday, January 25th from 6-9pm. Look for more details in our January newsletter.

Cross Country Skiing

Barb Gorman

The FRCST/HH is looking forward to snow falling time. We are fortunate to have a pool of dedicated volunteers who provide the grooming service. And, the FRCST/HH are thankful to now be able to provide the groomers with a safe **and** warm, gator to pull the grooming equipment. The former machine used was an antique snowmobile. The grooming equipment might not be quite as antiquated as the snowmobile, but it is close. One of the next projects for the FRCST/HH will be finding funds to replace the tracking equipment. The cost will be about \$5,000. All ideas on this are welcomed!

Much work is being done on the ski trails at Hoffman Hills. The new ski trail that was built and is a reroute due to the old trail eroding, is completed. Check it out if you are hiking at Hoffman Hills, it is looking great- can't wait to try it on skis! More trail work continues on other trails to widen and reroute erosion problems. Calvin and Doug have spent a lot of time on this - Thank You!

The two trails continue to have many users. Hoffman Hills has experienced a lot of hikers on the weekends the past month. And no matter what the weather, people are out enjoying the Red Cedar State Trail. Hopefully, both areas will soon be skiable. If you are interested in grooming, let Barb Gorman or Calvin Kunkle know. The DNR provides an excellent training session before grooming begins.

Annual Meeting Minutes - Sept. 9, 2012**Nancy Flyen**

Members present: Doug Voy, Ellen Ochs, Nancy Flyen, Calvin Kunkle, Joan Friedenfels, Joe Hagaman

Nancy provided the updated treasurer report.

- Calvin Trail Report:
 - Volunteer Activity (Hoffman Hills Trails)
 - Need 6 volunteers to clean NE Black trail: Remove roots and rocks, etc. Calvin is hoping to have this completed before the ski season begins. The agreed upon date is October 29 @ 10 AM. Meet in the overflow lot if you would like to help.
 - Young optimist club speaker will be at Hoffman hills on October 5, the kids will be let out of school for the event. Scavenger Hunt collecting prairie seeds for new project next spring –planting wild flowers.
 - Could do more brush burning when the snow falls.
- Ellen reported on Meet Menomonie @ Stout
 - The Chamber and Friends of the Red Cedar shared a table at the event. Emily (a graduate student who has been helping the Friends group) handed out tee shirts and baseballs. Brochures on Menomonie were handed out as well. At the end of the evening a drawing was held for trail passes. The event was a big success. A discussion was held if it would be beneficial to coordinate with Stout Adventures for the event.
- Depot Parking Lot: The new grant cycle is approaching. A discussion was held on whether we should pursue applying for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant for paving and striping the Depot parking lot. The deadline is November 15.
- Joe agreed to update the web page, we should remove the Trails Day information and add:
 - Candle Light Ski (January 25, 6-9 PM)
 - Remove Jane Butsic's name as a board member
- Newsletter
 - Recipient list needs to be updated to ensure that we have all the members' current names, addresses, and phone numbers.
 - Fall newsletter: Articles should be to Joe Hagaman by October 12.
- Hoffman Hill Groomer needs to be updated. An 84" groomer will cost us \$3595 w/o shipping, an additional \$1350 for a track setter. There is no funding available at this time we should look for possible grant opportunities to cover the cost of the groomer.
- Who will groom the trails? We may need a new person to groom this year since the prior groomer may not be available. We are looking for volunteers.
- Joan and Calvin both said thanks for the summer volunteers who manned the depot and thanked Doug for all the coordination work.
- Joan is also looking for volunteers for the Welcome Center at the Menomonie Rest area. This Welcome Center is the first center welcoming visitors coming into Wisconsin from the West.

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.

Meet Menomonie Event - Sept. 5, 2012

Ellen Ochs

Committee: Ellen Ochs, Emily Matthies (and friends Kenny & Emily) with help from Doug Voy, Calvin Kunkle (DNR) & Joan Friedenfels

Chamber of Commerce, through Joan, offered us a share in their table at this event in return for "manning" it with our volunteers. (Otherwise, a table can be reserved for \$95.)

In discussions with Doug & Cal, and by e-mail with Emily, it was determined that to capture attention, we needed a "hook," so we bought 2 trail passes as prizes & Emily made the drawing box & designed the slips. Emily also contributed & designed a tri-fold for display, & we got photos from her collection & from Cal for it. Doug recommended that we take some t-shirts for prizes as well, & Cal found some Smoky Bear baseballs for us to give away. When I went to pick these up, he loaned me a stuffed Snowy Owl too. We used the "Friends" banner as a table skirt, & I brought fabric as table cover. I also took our brochures for the trail, for the Chippewa trail, for the "Friends", and for Hoffman Hills. I contacted several businesses which rent equipment such as bikes, skis, canoes & tubes, & with their permission we printed a flyer with that info. Emily designed it. The Chamber contributed stacks of their business guide, & lodging leaflets, plus a new tall self-supported banner. The event ran from 5 to 7 pm. We could start setting up at 3:30. I was told that 750 students went through. Due to the outgoing friendliness of our young volunteers, we had 97 entries for the drawing, and many more students stopped to talk & ask questions. Kenny & I arranged a signal based on # of entries that would trigger me blowing on a wooden train whistle, & we'd give out a shirt or ball. (Gave out 5 shirts, 9 balls.) The passes were drawn at the end. Winners: Cody Madsen and Angie Kochan. Arrangements were made later to deliver the passes – successfully.

Next year: 1) we should be sure to put our website on the handout sheet.

2) We need student volunteers for this – contact StoutAdventures? (do not e-mail them. They don't answer.)

3) Buy one prizeworthy item for drawing. They don't know what trail pass is.

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.

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.

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 _____