

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 51 - Spring 2013

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NATIONAL TRAILS DAY - SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST

BIKE for FREE! FISH for FREE! Saturday and Sunday, June 1 & 2!
(Of course you can walk the trail for free any time!) Come and enjoy the Red Cedar Trail and all the GREAT activities at the Depot offered by the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail on **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**, Saturday, June 1st, starting at **10 am**. Bicyclists can get a quick free tune up and safety check from "Simple Sports". Free cookies and lemonade will be available for everyone all during the event, and the DNR will have a tent set up with activities, games and prizes for children and Trail information for adults throughout the day. They will have a free fishing event for children.

Dennis Weibel, local nature author, will lead a nature hike from 10 to 11 am, starting at the Depot. Join Dennis and discover what is growing on or flying over the Trail in June!

The Raptor Center from the University of Minnesota will bring live eagles and other birds of prey, presenting a program about these amazing creatures from 11am to 1 pm, answering questions and providing photo opportunities.

You've seen the survival shows on TV. Want to try it yourself? Learn to survive in the wild as Kenton Whitman gives a fun, hands-on presentation of wilderness living skills, from building shelters to making fire to finding good things to eat. Kenton is the Nature writer for The Dunn County News, and runs ReWild University, a wilderness survival school right here in Menomonie!

The Depot will be staffed by the Chamber of Commerce, and ready to answer any questions about the area. You'll be able to pay your dues at our Friends of the Red Cedar Trail/ Hoffman Hills table, and tee shirts will be available for sale. Join us to see what's happening on the Trail!

The festivities end at **2:00pm**, 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

A couple things to report on for this issue. Sydney Gropp has been hired for visitor services and Larry Sprague for maintenance. We completed two prescribed burns at Hoffman to maintain grassland habitat. This is also the beginning of our new prairie planting that will be happening this summer. Stay tuned for further updates as progress continues. Trail improvements will also continue at Hoffman as we try to widen trails and remove hazard trees. The late winter snowstorm has caused major damage along all 40 miles of the Red Cedar and Chippewa River Trails. We got the trails back open but there is still a lot of debris and trees down along the side that staff will be cleaning up for quite a while. Due to time spent opening the linear trails, staff have not been able to make it out to Hoffman. Staff will be working to open the trails and picnic areas as soon as possible. This time of year a lot of things happen quickly. We're planning to drag the Red Cedar Trail to remove ruts and footprints and reset some culverts that have frost heaved up. This will cause temporary trail closures but will really improve the trail in the long run. Staff will also be opening up bathrooms and getting the Depot ready for bike season.

Because of limited staffing and workload we're asking for your help this year. We will not be doing regular trail checks so please report any fallen trees or other damage to the manager's office at:

715-232-1242 or calvin.kunkle@wisconsin.gov

A reminder the DNR Parks Program manages the Red Cedar Trail from south of Highway 29 to the junction of the Chippewa River Trail, the Chippewa River Trail from Short Street in Eau Claire to the junction of the Red Cedar Trail, and then Hoffman Hills Recreation Area. Please report any problems on the Junction Trail in Menomonie to the city of Menomonie's Parks Department, any problems on the Chippewa River Trail north of Short Street to the city of Eau Claire's Parks Department, and any problems on the Chippewa River Trail from Durand to the junction of the Red Cedar Trail to the Pepin County Highway Department.

Thanks again to all the volunteers and have a great biking season!

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Treasurer's Report

Bill Kryshak

Our 2012 membership collections amounted to a total of \$2,204.00 with half of the business collections going to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. That amount was \$550.00 and we received donations specifically for grooming of \$470.00 in 2012. We also received a share of the dollars collected for trail passes which was \$2,022 for 2012.

As of April 30th we have \$6,107.30 in our operating cash account and \$1,613 for grooming at Hoffman Hills. We were surprised and thankful to receive a donation of \$1,525.81 from the Brunstad Family Foundation which went into our operating account – thank you very much. 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**

Greetings Friends! I trust that you all made it through the long winter but spring is finally here and summer quickly to follow. We have had a few changes to the Board and I am sad to announce that Bill Kryshak has resigned his position as treasurer but has graciously agreed to continue grooming the Red Cedar Trail for the 2013/2014 ski season and Candlelight Ski. Bill has been a great asset for the Friends group and I thank him for his contributions and cordial demeanor in all his dealings with our group. With that stated I am pleased to announce that Nancy Flyen has agreed to take over the position of treasurer. Thank you Nancy!

I am very excited about our upcoming events this summer and urge all of our friends and volunteers to attend. National Trails Day is just right around the corner on June 1st and we will be hosting an event at the Depot Visitor Center from 10-2pm. There will be an event at Hoffman Hills on July 27th and our annual meeting/picnic on Sunday September 8th at 4:30pm at the Depot Visitor Center and all are invited to attend. Hope to see you there!

The annual involvement of our local schools never ceases to amaze me and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Due to the excessive amount of storm damage on the trail this season, their assistance was necessary. The Menomonie Middle school brought 30 students and teachers to the Red Cedar Trail on May 13th to help with the removal of downed tree limbs, collection of litter, removal of leaves and debris outside of the Depot Visitor Center and trail. The students also assisted us with spring cleaning the inside of the Depot Visitor Center. Towards the end the kids were allowed inside of the Depot center to feed their curiosity and take full advantage of the educational materials and displays that it has to offer. It was a most productive day and the 6th graders took great pride in their volunteer work. Thanks Menomonie Middle School!!! We could not have done it without you!

The Friends group applied for and received matching funds for a \$20,000 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to buy prairie seed for a 30-acre addition to the existing Oak Savannah restoration at Hoffman Hills. The DNR has recently burned the area in preparation for prairie planting that will take place later this month. The Oak trees will be planted after the prairie is established in the next several years.

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 of all ages.

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.

Cross Country Skiing

Barb Gorman

It was a great ski season at both the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. Volunteer groomers once again did a fantastic job keeping trails at both areas in excellent skiing condition. Their efforts and the improvement to the trails at Hoffman Hills were noticed not just by the local skiers, but also by out-of-the-area users. Skiers from Minnesota and outside of Dunn County were again returning to Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail for cross-country skiing. Several skiers commented about the improvements and reported, "Hoffman Hills is back!" Thank you Bill Kryshak, John Wesolek, David Gorman, Dan Gainey, Paul Sterk, John Hutchinson, Jerry Porter and Kim Wentworth- you are the very best groomers! No one tipped over or went into the river . . . An additional thank you to Calvin Kunkle. Calvin did some grooming and kept the machines in working order. His support from the DNR partnership is crucial and much appreciated. The skiers thank you! Really, it is ok now not to have ski season any more and for biking to begin . . . it is May after all.

Webmaster Report

Joe Hagaman

The website for the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills has been totally revised. Check it out at <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>. If you have any corrections or suggestions for inclusion on the site, send them to Joe Hagaman hagamanj@uwstout.edu.

For you on-road bikers there is also a page showing the Dunn County Bike Routes. For you off-road bikers, check out the link to MAMBA.

Nature Valley Grand Prix

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 15, 2013** as the ***Nature Valley Grand Prix returns to Menomonie, WI.*** *Menomonie* will once again be host to Stage 5 of the Nature Valley Grand Prix professional bicycling road race. The Nature Valley Grand Prix is the top ranked stage race on the 2013 USA Cycling National Racing Calendar. This will be the Fourth time in the Festival's 13-year history that a stage race will roll through Wisconsin.

Dunn County has become known as a premier bicycle destination. The Chamber has been a driving force behind organizing the Menomonie Road Race. The Grand Prix offers family activities, great food, interactive expo events, stunt riders, amateur races and a kids fun race. The Nature Valley Grand Prix is a fundraiser for Children's Lighthouse of MN.

The Nature Valley Grand Prix runs June 12-16, with stops in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Cannon Falls, MN, Menomonie and Stillwater, MN. For more information about: http://www.naturevalleybicyclingfestival.com/Grand-Prix/Stages/Menomonie_RR

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.

Special Request - The Red Cedar Trail Office will open soon to sell passes for biking. The volunteer worker shifts are 3 hours and are either 10 AM until 1 PM or 1 PM until 4 PM. This involves weekdays only. Doug Voy is looking for willing volunteers. He will train you if you are interested. We also need substitutes for the Red Cedar Trail shifts Monday through Friday. Substitutes allow the regulars to cover their shifts when they have other commitments. You can always say no, so the more we have the better.

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 _____