

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL & HOFFMAN HILLS NEWSLETTER



Number 38

Autumn 2008

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TRAIL MANAGER'S REPORT

SCOTT ERICKSON, DNR

The summer season on the Red Cedar Trail and at Hoffman Hills went well as visitation seemed to be high with many hikers and bikers out enjoying these wonderful resources. We were able to complete several projects along the trail that include: replacement of several culverts, concrete work at a spillway/culvert, hazard tree removal which is continuous, addition of a bench at Hoffman Hills currently in a planning stage and replacement of the decking boards and railing on the bridge over the Chippewa River.

As we look forward to the coming winter season we will be recruiting a group of volunteers to help with the grooming of the cross country ski trails at Hoffman Hills. We are beginning to gather a list of volunteers that may be interested and thinking about a grooming training session which we would like to hold in early December.

The Property Manager position responsible for the Red Cedar State Trail, Chippewa River State Trail and Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area stationed in Menomonie remains vacant but we are hopeful that it will be filled in the coming year. For this year I have been fortunate to have several experienced employees (Penny Thiede-Klish, Bob Goers, Bill Hewitt and Erin Middendorp) working on the trail and at Hoffman Hills. They have done a wonderful job along the entire trail system and at Hoffman Hills.

We appreciate each and every one of you and thank you for your continued support of Wisconsin's finest resources!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Manager & Park Manager at Lake
Wissota State Park
(715) 232-1242

WEBMASTER

Joe Hagaman

**JUNE 7, 2008 - NATIONAL TRAILS DAY &
MENOMONIE/DURAND AWARENESS DAY**

This year for a first time, in conjunction with National Trails Day, the cities of Menomonie and Durand added to the festivities by celebrating Menomonie/Durand Awareness Day. The purpose of Menomonie/Durand Awareness Day was to promote the usage of the Red Cedar State Trail and the Chippewa Trail which links the two cities. After a brief morning shower, it was a beautiful sunny day and a few hundred people came to enjoy the festivities.

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills and DNR trail staff planned several special programs. At the Depot, programs included: nature talks by Gretchen Yonka and Jennifer Dippel; Bad Cat Bicycles and Simple Sports were there to check bikes including checking for safety; nature walks lead by Dennis Weibel; a garlic mustard pull by Katie Harrington; and music provided by Jude Marion.

The cities of Menomonie and Durand provided free shuttle service for those who did not want to complete round trips on the trail by having scheduled shuttle stops in Menomonie, Downsville and Durand. The Mayor of Menomonie led a group ride from Menomonie to Durand and, at Durand, the Pepin County Board Chair led a group ride to Menomonie.

Many people took the opportunity to view the displays in the Depot and to purchase Friend's merchandise, including the newly designed T-shirts. The DNR provided booklets, pamphlets and posters on a number of related subjects. The Friends Group provided free lemonade and cookies. For those who worked up a larger appetite, Damon and Julie Anderson from the Silver Dollar Saloon grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.

To make an event like this successful requires the time and work of many volunteers. Thanks to all of you!!!

**AD HOC BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY PLANNING COMMITTEE
MARGY HAGAMAN**

The County Board has adopted Bike Routes for Dunn County. A map is still in the process of being developed that includes the bike routes and the names of the roads that will be available on the Dunn County website as well as on the Red Cedar Trail website. A small subcommittee is working with the Chamber of Commerce to make maps available by next spring that will be 'biker friendly'. As roads are being resurfaced, consideration will be made to add bike lanes. There is also a small group that is exploring safer alternative access to the Red Cedar Trail along or around County Road D. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL & HOFFMAN HILLS MEETING SCHEDULE

Everyone is Welcome

Regular Meetings ---First Thursday of the odd months (Jan., March, May, July, Sept., Nov.)

Time: 7 P.M.

Place: Leisure Services Center (Senior Center), Menomonie

WEB Site: <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>

**JUNE 10, 2008 - ANNUAL MEETING
FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL & HOFFMAN HILLS**

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills was held at the Holiday Manor Inn & Conference Center on June 10, 2008. As is the custom, the meeting started with a few brief presentations by Board Members and the DNR Representative reporting on the past years activities and future plans and activities. Scott Erickson was introduced as the acting Trail Manager for the DNR succeeding the retirement of Jim Janowak. Future potential projects and the value of volunteers during this time of low funding were especially emphasized.

This year, the Annual meeting had two primary feature events. The first of which was honoring retiring Jim Janowak for his 29 years with the Wisconsin DNR and 22 of those years as Superintendent of the Red Cedar State Trail, Chippewa River State Trail, and Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area. Barb Gorman, representing the Friends Group presented Jim with a gift of a beautiful framed picture.

The Friends Group is indebted to Jim for his advice and guidance in fostering a mutual relationship with the DNR which have ultimately led to the enhancement of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills and, consequently, to the enjoyment of these resources.

Jim's DNR supervisors, Scott Erickson and Allan Middendorp presented Jim with plaques honoring him for his years of faithful and conscientious service to the DNR. Not only will the Friends Group miss Jim but also the City of Menomonie, Eau Claire, and surrounding communities who benefited from his leadership in fostering relationships.

The second feature of the evening was a presentation by Jim Schwiebert, Beaver Creek Reserve Naturalist. The subject of Jim's presentation was "Butterfly Gardening", with an emphasis on native Wisconsin butterflies. After describing the life cycle of a butterfly, he talked about host plants versus nectar plants and reviewed food sources for adult butterflies as well as considering other needs - basking and puddling areas, wintering areas. He pointed out some things to consider when choosing plants - height, color, etc... Then he took an in-depth look at specific native butterflies and their host plants and discussed ten of the best nectar plants and some other good attractor plants. He also discussed a few of the plantings that have been put together and used in their butterfly house at Beaver Creek Reserve, which he encouraged everyone to visit. His presentation was highlighted by beautiful pictures of butterflies and plants.

About 60 people attended the meeting and a number took the opportunity to sign-up as volunteers. We certainly thank all volunteers, both past and future.

The FRCST&HH would like to thank the Staff of the Holiday Manor Inn & Conference Center for their part in making the evening an enjoyable one.

FROM THE EDITOR**DALE SEPPA**

As a Member of the Friends Group, periodically, you receive a Newsletter by mail. This provided you with news, activities and up-coming events related to the Red Cedar State trail and Hoffman Hills. You will still periodically receive newsletters by mail; however, less often. The Friends Group has a WEB site which is updated in a much timelier manner.

<http://redcedarhoffman.org/>

We have decided to make more use of this WEB site by also not sending out paper copies of every newsletter, and instead, informing you by postcard when an issue of the newsletter has been added to the WEB site. Current plans are to mail paper versions twice a year: at the beginning and at the middle of the year. You are encouraged to explore this WEB site as there are a number of items of interest.

THANK YOU

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills has always been blessed with the willingness of its members and the community to volunteer their time and help with projects. This past summer, Katie Harrington led a group of volunteers in garlic mustard (an invasive specie) eradication. Volunteers included Myrna Berg, Dick Vomela, Jane Butsic, Doug Voy and Dale Seppa.

Also, from time to time, many have chosen to make special monetary gifts. The following gifts have been received in the year 2008:

GIFTS-DONATIONS

\$100.00	Gift-Anonymous for Brochures
\$250.00	Jill Falde in memory of her husband Dennis
\$50.00	Xcel Energy matching grant from Lee Schwebs
\$21.00	Silver Dollar Saloon--.from Trails Day
\$50.00	Barb-Bob Collins, Rhonda Van Pembroke in memory of Rich Malen
\$25.00	Gift-Sandra Nevin in memory of Cathy Simpson
<u>\$100.00</u>	Gift Cardinal FG
\$596.00	Total 2008 GIFTS

The Friends express our thanks to all volunteers and appreciate the generosity of the donors. 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.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CORNER

BARB GORMAN

Hopefully it will not be long and the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills will be open for cross-country skiing. Skiers would love to have another year of being rewarded by Mother Nature. Budget constraints continue to hinder money available for grooming and winter operations at Hoffman Hills. Volunteers will continue to groom the Red Cedar State Trail. It is anticipated volunteers will also be used for grooming at Hoffman Hills. Several people have offered to be trained to do the grooming at both trails. More volunteers are always needed! It is anticipated a training session on grooming will be conducted by the DNR in early December. Grooming at Hoffman Hills will be done by volunteers with assistance from the DNR. Donations will be used to cover the DNR staff time. If anyone is interested in volunteering for grooming, please contact Barb Gorman at 235-1725.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP BARB GORMAN & TOM KILGORE

It has been rewarding to see the number of business memberships increase over the past year. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills appreciate the support of the county's businesses to preserve these two nature areas. The number of people who use the two areas on a daily basis is just amazing. The two areas are unique for Dunn County and enhance the quality of life. The support of Dunn County businesses is very gratifying. Please support the business members of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills:

Vets Plus

Cedar Corp

The Creamery

Dunn Energy Cooperative

Heritage Builders

Legacy Chocolate

3M Corporation

Xcel Energy

Farmers Union Co-op

Red Cedar Medical Center

Phillips Plastic Corporation

Conagra

Phil Steans, Attorney

Bad Cat Bicycles

Gary Welch Construction

Jackie Hunt Insurance

RE-MAX Realty

Shefchik Builders

Main Street Framing

Cardinal Glass

Simple Sports

The Medicine Shoppe

THE DEPOT VISITOR CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION

May 1 until Memorial Day, Labor Day through Oct.

WeekdaysClosed

Saturday - Sunday 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Memorial Day through Labor Day

Weekdays10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Saturday - Sunday & Holidays .. 9 A.M. – 5 P.M

Please Note: The Depot is closed from November until May.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE DEPOT**JANE BUTSIC**

Did you go into the depot this summer to use the bathroom or get a drink of water? Did you wander into the display room? Every Wednesday through out the summer, I volunteer at the depot. I talk to people who come in about the displays. I encourage children to touch the furs and hornet's nest. I point out the chrysalis in the Monarch display. I tell strangers about Menomonie, where to get ice cream or lunch, how to find the Creamery or where to rent bikes. I also answer questions about the trail. I try to talk to those coming in from the trail to find out what they have seen. For a week or two there were swallowtail butterflies, sometimes people see the cranes, people often see the eagle that flies over the river. I meet many fun people, who come off our trail and tell me that it is the most beautiful trail they have ever ridden,

Most of the time this is a good way to spend a Wednesday afternoon, helping people and earning money for the friends group (through the sale of trail passes and tee shirts). Sometimes it is a boring job. I bring a book, I sweep away spider webs, I wash windows, and I try to straighten displays and keep busy, trying to find one thing every day to improve the depot.

I truly believe that the Red Cedar Trail improves my life. I have a place to ride, ski, and walk along the river. It is a place of changing beauty so every time I am on it, it is different.

I volunteer at the trail because the trail is important to me. I like to talk to people about the trail and it is a fun place to volunteer. Next summer the Chamber will again need volunteers to work one day a week, or to substitute when the regular volunteer can't make it. I encourage you to try it out; you'll be amazed where people come from to try the trail, the fun you will have talking to them and you will be helping the trail since all the money the Friend's Group earn goes back into the trail.

NEW AT HOFFMAN HILLS**BARB GORMAN**

There is a new addition at Hoffman Hills. A bench has been added at the top of the long, and long, and long outside hill! That hill has raised the heart rate of many skiers and hikers. Thanks to Don Olson, expert craftsman and avid cross-country skier, the top of the hill now has a place for folks to take a rest. After another grueling climb up this hill on skis, Don mentioned he often thought a bench should sit on top to provide some rest. His idea was timed with the announcement of Jim Janowak's retirement. For many years, skiers have enjoyed the time, commitment and quality of grooming Jim has provided at Hoffman Hills.

Skiers often commented that the grooming conditions at Hoffman Hills were as premier as the American Birkebeiner Trail, despite the very different grooming equipment. Don lent his craftsman expertise and time to build and install the bench. Thank you Don! Bob Goers of the DNR assisted with the installation – thanks Bob. The bench is dedicated to Jim, as signified on the plaque. We hope you get a chance to view the bench and enjoy it!



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, information on outings and 10% discount on Friends merchandise.

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.

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 2008 (Jan. – Dec.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Annual Memberships Include:

- Membership Card
- Newsletters
- Information on Outings
- 10% discount on Merchandise

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 | |