

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL NEWSLETTER



Number 30

005

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(715) 233-5624

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Jim Janowak, Trail Manager
(715) 232-1242

Candlelight Ski – January 27, 2006

The annual popular winter event, the Candlelight Ski, will be held on January 27, 2006 from 6 – 9 P.M. The Red Cedar Trail and the Stokke Trail will be lit with candles. The Red Cedar Trail will be open for cross-country skiing from the Depot to the ice wall, about 1.5 miles. The Stokke Trail will be cleared to enable those wishing to take a walk. For those wishing to ski, it is advisable that you bring your own skis. Limited ski rentals will be available from Stout Adventures by calling, 232-5190, in advance.

The Depot will be open and staffed with volunteers who can provide information about the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills. Of interest are the many displays in the Depot. Passes will not be required that evening; however, yearly trail passes will be available for sale. Also, for sale, will be Red Cedar State Trail merchandise.

After skiing or walking, warm up with a cup of hot chocolate provided by Swiss Miss and join everyone around the glowing bonfire.

This event is organized by the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail, Swiss Miss and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Trail Pass Fees

Daily.....\$4

Annual.....\$15

- Pass purchase required before using trail; use self-registration stations on the trail
- Pass is good for all Wisconsin state trails.
- Same fee for residents and non-residents.

TREASURER'S REPORT**TOM KILGORE**

**FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL
INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR - 2005**

OPERATING ACCOUNT:**EXPENDITURES:**

Room Rent - City of Menomonie	\$	72.00
Annual Meeting - Best Western	\$	476.51
Food / Beverages	\$	51.08
Projects: C11Gazebo/Benches/Waterfall area	\$	1,412.30
Printing-"Become a Friend" Brochure	\$	229.30
DNR: Water cooler	\$	620.00
DNR: Rockslide repair	\$	500.00
DNR: Gift Trail Pass	\$	15.00
WI Ornithological Soc,-Bird Conservation Mentor Prog.	\$	605.00
Insurance	\$	377.00
Bureau of Endangered Rec-Bird Trail printing	\$	2,000.00
Chamber-D. Anderson summer employment	\$	3,500.00
Printing	\$	314.03
Postage and Box Rent	\$	366.28
Annual Meeting - Speaker Expenses	\$	256.76
Hoffman Hills Grooming Fund	\$	500.00
Office and Administration	\$	88.57

TOTAL EXPENSES 2005**\$ (11,383.83)****REVENUES:**

Books, Patches & Passports	\$	128.00
T-Shirts \$580.00 for 2004, \$678.00 for 2005	\$	1,258.00
Memberships \$1,495.00 for '05, \$90.00 for '06	\$	1,585.00
Trail Passes	\$	2,074.30
Donation - Woman's Club	\$	100.00
Donation - Margaret Swanson	\$	100.00
Donation - ConAgra	\$	5,000.00
Donation - Glad Meyers	\$	500.00
Donation-Deborah Morse-Kahn	\$	5.00

TOTAL REVENUE 2005**\$ 10,750.30****NET DECREASE IN CASH FROM 2005 BUSINESS****\$ (633.53)****PLUS: BEGINNING CASH BALANCE - JANUARY 1, 2005****\$ 16,183.29****ENDING CASH BALANCE - DECEMBER 31, 2005****\$ 15,549.76****TRAIL SIGNING STEWARDSHIP GRANT ACCOUNT****UNCHANGED BALANCE THROUGH 2005****\$ 2,280.37****HOFFMAN HILLS GROOMING SUB-ACCOUNT:****Donations 2005****\$ 825.00****TOTAL COMBINED BALANCE - DEC. 31, 2005****\$ 18,655.13**

TRAIL MANAGER'S REPORT **JIM JANOWAK, DNR**

I wanted to thank Bill Dingwall of West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT) for the great family oriented outdoor education programs he has been providing this year at Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area and other parks in our region.

Interpretation and outdoor education has always been one of the corner stones of Wisconsin's state park mission. Unfortunately, it has also been historically the first to get cut during a budget crunch. The current economic and political climate has us in one of those crunches again. In fact in the past 20 years there has really only been a few times that the parks operation budget included money for a naturalist. Most of our interpretive program has been provided by visitor service staff that had an outdoor education themselves and an interest in sharing it. We have had many volunteers lead special tours and The Friends of Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills have provided grants to do educational programs. But our latest and greatest provider has been West Wisconsin Land Trust. They are leaders in many aspects of conservation efforts in our region and this year they hired Bill Dingwall as Education Director. His programs are very active, high energy and very kid oriented (including us big kids). He is knowledgeable in a wide range of topics and knows how to get everyone involved. If you are looking for something fun, and at the same time educational, I would suggest getting in touch with him. It's certainly worth your while and the kids will be having so much fun they may not even notice they are getting an education to boot.

Thank you Bill for keeping up a great Wisconsin legacy...a desire to enjoy, understand and preserve our precious natural resources.

For a current schedule of classes or more information, contact West Wisconsin Land Trust's Education Director at (715) 235-8850 or bdingwall@wwlt.org, or visit www.wwlt.org.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL

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

THE DEPOT VISITOR CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION

May 1 until Memorial Day, Labor Day through Oct.	Memorial Day through Labor Day
WeekdaysClosed	Weekdays10 A.M. – 4 P.M.
Saturday - Sunday 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.	Saturday - Sunday & Holidays 9 A.M. – 5 P.M

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR ARTISTICALLY CREATIVE MINDS

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail will be offering new T-Shirts for sale this year. It is planned that these T-Shirts would have a new graphic design. If you are interested in designing the graphics, please contact Jane Butsic (715-235-1749)

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CORNER**BARB GORMAN**

Photo by Jim Janowak

Hopefully by the time Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail are reading this, there is plenty of snow on the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills for the cross-country skiing enthusiasts to enjoy. Thanks to the efforts of several volunteers, new benches were installed along the Red Cedar State Trail this past summer. One of the benches is between the one and two-mile mark – a convenient location for a skier to sit and take in the beautiful view of the Red Cedar River. Another bench was installed at the waterfall after the eleven-mile mark. The benches have been good additions to the trail.

The Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills continue to enjoy lots of users. Both areas are wonderful resources for the community. Skiers have been fortunate to have two excellent trails to enjoy their sport. The Red Cedar State Trail's terrain can accommodate skiers of all abilities, from beginners to those who like having the distance available for an endurance ski. Hoffman Hills offers a more challenging terrain with trails for the beginning skiers to those who enjoy the hills that cause elevated heart rates.

Skiers have been fortunate to have the trails available and well groomed in years past. However, the trails have been affected by the budget cuts to the DNR. Grooming of the Red Cedar State Trail is being done completely by volunteers. Area skiers thank Ron Pfiffner and Bruce Jordan for all the time and energy they have given to grooming the Red Cedar State Trail. Skiing over a newly groomed trail is bliss!

Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail have been groomed to accommodate both strides of skiing, diagonal stride and the skate stride. The trails are groomed for two sets of diagonal tracks – the most recognized tracks by skiing and non-skiing folks. These sets of tracks are set along the outermost side of

(CON'T)

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CORNER (CON'T)**BARB GORMAN**

the trails and look like two long, endless lines. Because the space in between the long two sets of tracks does not have the parallel lines, people often mistake the area as being ungroomed and available to walk on. This middle section has actually been groomed for the skate stride. It often looks like it has been “raked” or has a series of ridges on it. Footprints, especially those made from boots with a deep lug sole, cause significant damage to the grooming and potentially unsafe conditions. Skate stride skiers alternately skate off one ski. Getting a ski tip caught due to the impression the boot sole makes can cause a fall.

It is disheartening to see a ski trail that has been perfectly groomed by volunteer effort and time be damaged by hikers/walkers. Skiers pay a fee to ski on the Red Cedar State Trail and at Hoffman Hills. It has been frustrating for skiers to experience an increase in fees and a decrease in services. It is also frustrating to see non-paying walkers/hikers damage the grooming that is subsidized by the fee skiers pay. Signs are posted at several locations along the trail, noting the trail is for cross-country skiing only from Menomonie to Downsville. Walking/hiking/running is available north of Highway 29 and south of Downsville.

Grooming for Hoffman Hills has become even more of a challenge due to DNR budget cuts. Additional donations will be needed in order to groom all the trails at Hoffman Hills. Hiking/walking/running is also not allowed on the ski trails at Hoffman Hills. Walking/hiking/running is allowed on trails at Hoffman Hills that are located by the lower parking lot and west of the park road. Ski trail ambassadors and additional signs will be used to provide education on areas available for walking/running/hiking and skiing.

Cross-country skiing on the Red Cedar State Trail and at Hoffman Hills offers a glimpse of nature’s finest. Eagles, owls, animal tracks, wild turkeys, osprey, all keep you company while enjoying a ski outing. The ice fall on the Red Cedar State Trail in January with its shimmering hues of blue, the cold crisp air and the silence of your skies skimming over the diamond glistening white painted ground cannot be described, it is there to experience.

Help Needed:

Due to DNR budget cuts, grooming of the cross-country ski trails at Hoffman Hills needs to be subsidized by donations. Monetary donations can be sent to FRCST (Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail), P.O. Box 628, Menomonie, WI 54751. Include a note that the donation is for grooming at Hoffman Hills as a separate grooming donation fund has been established. Checks can be made out to FRCST. Thank you for your support.

Wanted: Trail Ambassadors

The Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills are very well known and, consequently, attract people from a wide area as well as many first-time visitors. The duty of a Trail Ambassador is to make their experience as enjoyable as possible by answering questions about the areas, assisting users and being alert to their needs, comments, complaints, etc. The program was started this past year with two volunteers and the experience demonstrated that this was a well received service. The reward is that, besides getting out and enjoying these facilities, you meet other enthusiasts, many of them with interesting stories to tell. Trail Ambassadors can ride, ski or walk, depending on the situation, a few hours any day. They will be identified by wearing a volunteer vest and having a friendly smile.

A Trail Ambassador sets an example by being model users of these recreational facilities, practicing excellent etiquette and obeying all rules and regulations. In addition, they should help keep them neat and clean and report any maintenance concerns, fallen trees, debris on trail, etc. The Trail Ambassador is not responsible for enforcing DNR regulations.

As a volunteer, a Trail Ambassador will have to fill out the following paperwork:

- Volunteer Agreement form;
- Depot Volunteer Hours Time Sheet.

For more information on becoming a Trail Ambassador for:

- The Red Cedar State Trail, contact Dale Seppa (715-233-5624);
- Hoffman Hills, contact Barb Gorman (715-235-1725).

BIKE TUNE-UPS

Now is the time to get your bike tuned up to avoid the spring rush at the bike shops. Some may even offer incentives to do it now before then. The enjoyment of your biking experience is enhanced by making sure that your bike is in good working order, the tires are properly inflated, etc. Also, for safety sake, it is important to ensure that the brakes are properly adjusted and in good working order.

Available in the Depot Visitor Center

- 100% Cotton T-Shirts.....\$10 - \$18
 - Red Cedar Trail Patches.....\$5
 - The Red Cedar Suite.....\$7
 - Wisconsin State Park Passports \$15
- Sales benefit the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail

A WINTER AFTERNOON

**Kick, swish, tap; kick swish, tap; kick, swish, tap
The rhythm is constant, encouraging, inspiring me
along.**

**My legs move with the rhythm, they are eager to
follow my skis on a trek across the lake.**

**The day is brilliant, a sun breaking through the
gray clouds that have just painted a new coat of
white below. Blue sky beyond.**

**Fishermen bend over their murky holes in the ice,
eager faces peering down.**

**Cars and trucks heading across the highway of ice.
A deep grumble comes up out of the lake, is it the
Loch Ness Monster?**

**Birds overhead racing the wind, do they know how
free they are?**

**This outdoor afternoon is just fantastic, I turn back
into the wind, my skis bring me home.**

The Happy Skier

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL

FRCST Members		Membership Type	FRCST Members		Membership Type
3M Corp	Jim McSweeney, Plant Mgr	Larger Corporation	Larson	Harlyn	Individual
Alexander	Beth	Family	Malen	Susan & Richard	Family
Anshus	John S.	Individual	Menomonie Woman's Club		Donation
Bammert	Karen & Frank	Family	Morse-Kahn	Deborah	Individual
Barb Anderson and Charles LeFevre		Contributing	Neuman	Deb, Jim & Jacob	Lifetime 4/01
Barnard	David	Individual	Ochs	Ellen & Fred	Family
Biggs	Jean	Individual	Olson	Connie & Dennis	Contributing
Bjornerud	Gloria & James	Lifetime 4/97	O'Neill	Jean	Individual
Bunce	Marjorie	Contributing	Pearson	William R.	Individual
Burdick	Barbara & Frank	Family	Pfiffner	Ron	Family
Burton Barnard & Bea Bigony		Family	Riordan	Mary & Dan	Family
Butsic	Bill & Jane	Family	Samenfink	Mr. J. A.	Lifetime 10/00
Carlin	Joann	Lifetime 5/97	Sanna Dairy/Conagra, Bill Bustic, Mgr		Larger Corporation
Cedar Corporation		Small Business	Sawin	Judy	Individual
Celt	Nina	Individual	Schlub	Patricia	Lifetime 9/00
Cole	Vicki and Steve	Family	Schwartz	Lynn & Paul	Family
Colson	Diane & Bob	Lifetime 5/02	Schwebs	Jill & Lee	Family
Diser	Peg & Phil	Family	See	Lynne & John	Family
Dybvik	Ann & Bruce	Family	Seppa	Carol & Dale	Family
Fairchild	Alex	Individual	Sommers	Wesley	Lifetime 1/00
Flom	Barb & Gene	Lifetime 6/92	Spinti	Beverly & Robert	Lifetime 5/98
Foote	Margaret	Individual	Stokke	Charles & Luella	Lifetime 2/00
Ganzemiller	Judy & Jack	Lifetime 2/99	Swanson	Margaret & Robert	Lifetime 1/00
Gorman	Barb & David	Family	Talen	Emma & Gerald	Lifetime 7/95
Hall	Susan & Pinckney	Family	Tenorio	Debra & James	Family
Hedlund	Bobbie & O.K.	Contributing	Thomas	Barbara & Hank	Lifetime 5/01
Henry	Patricia & Jeffery	Family	Walker	James	Lifetime 7/95
Hoffman	Marian & Richard	Lifetime 9/99	Walker	Patricia & Dr. James	Contributing
Howarton	Renee	Individual	Welsch	Ronald	Contributing
Jax	Judy & Joe	Lifetime 5/04	Werner	Bonna	Lifetime 3/95
Jeatran	Esther	Individual	Werner	Bonna	Individual
Jordan	Candy & Bruce	Family	Werner-Decker	Sarah	Lifetime 8/96
Kilgore	Sue & Tom	Family	Wesolek	Debbie & John	Family
Klatt	Richard & Arlene	Lifetime 7/92	Young	Karl & Marie	Family
Koch	Marie & Neil	Family	Zien	David	Individual
Kropp	Dennis	Individual			
Kryshak	William J.	Individual			
Lang	Marion & Warren	Family			

REGRETS .. I WONDER IF OTHER PEOPLE HAVE AS MANY REGRETS AS I HAVE ...
- CHARLEY BROWN

FRIENDS OF THE
RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL
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 3)

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL

Join Today!

(or renew your membership)
Dues for 2006 start January 1st

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

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 | |

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